

Policy Type	Corporate
Function	Animal Management
Policy Owner	Manager Environmental and Health Services
Policy Contact	Coordinator Environment and Health Projects
Effective Date	13 December 2022

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the assessment of applications for financial assistance towards animal de-sexing costs on Burdekin Shire residents who are experiencing financial hardship and to reduce the impact and cost to the Council and community in dealing with unwanted animal litters.

## Scope

This policy applies to eligible persons within the Burdekin Shire who are seeking financial assistance from Council towards de-sexing a cat or dog. The policy targets individuals who would not usually have their cats and dogs de-sexed due to cost affordability.

Where Council has identified ongoing animal management issues, a full subsidy may apply.

## Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To identify eligible persons within the Burdekin Shire to whom Council may provide financial assistance (i.e. subsidy) towards de-sexing a cat or dog.
- To reduce the number of litters and therefore the number of animals to be rehomed or euthanized.
- To reduce the costs associated with the euthanizing of animals.
- To have the Council approved veterinary firm provide the service.

## Policy Statement

Council is committed to reducing the number of unwanted cats and dogs within the Shire by assisting eligible persons to access de-sexing services through the provision of financial assistance in the form of a subsidy.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Applications for financial assistance for de-sexing a cat or dog must be submitted to Council by the eligible person on Council's *Subsidised Desexing Application Form (Dog/Cat)*. Supporting documentation will include:
  - proof of economic circumstances (i.e. employment status, pension, concession or health care card).
  - proof of animal ownership. (i.e. registration or microchipping documents)
- The animal identified in the application must be registered and microchipped in accordance with the requirements of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dog) Act 2008*.

- c) An adequate enclosure is required on the land where the animal is kept in accordance with the requirements of *Local Law No 2 (Animal Management) 2012* and *Subordinate Local Law No 2 (Animal Management) 2012*.
- d) The applicant is required to contribute the amount of \$30 towards the cost of de-sexing. This is to be paid to Council on approval of the application and prior to the de-sexing procedure taking place.
- e) The animal must be suitable for de-sexing as per advice from the veterinary surgeon. Any conditions imposed by the veterinary surgeon are to be addressed prior to the de-sexing appointment.
- f) Subsidy will be provided for a maximum of one animal per address per year or at the discretion of the Manager Environmental and Health Services.
- g) Participation in the program is strictly voluntary. Burdekin Shire Council assumes no risk for the health of the animal or for the outcome of the surgery. Any costs associated with unforeseen circumstances that arise with the animal's health during or after the operation will not be covered by the program.

### Assessment of Applications

- a) Applications will be assessed by Burdekin Shire Council.
- a) The applicant will be advised of the outcome of the application in writing.
- b) Prior to Council forwarding the approval advice to Council's nominated veterinary surgeon, the applicant is required to pay the \$30 contribution.
- c) It will be the applicant's responsibility to contact Council's nominated veterinary surgeon and make the required appointment for the de-sexing procedure.

### Veterinary Surgeon Invoice

- a) The veterinary surgeon will forward the invoice for the de-sexing procedure directly to Council for payment.

## Exceptions

The subsidy does not apply to regulated dogs.

## Risk Management

Any identified risks will be evaluated and managed in accordance with the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Policy and the adopted ERM Framework.

The policy addresses a risk of increased numbers of animal litters and the resulting impost on Council resources to regulate and respond to. A risk management approach is taken to the application and approval process – eligibility criteria is restricted and two Council staff are required to approve the applications.

## Legislation

*Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*  
*Local Law No 2 (Animal Management) 2012*  
*Subordinate Local Law No 2 (Animal Management 2012)*

## Definitions and Abbreviations

<b>Nominated veterinary surgeon</b>	Council preferred veterinary service provider based on a request for quotation process.
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## Related Documents

Reference Number	Document Title
ANI-FRM-0003 ANI-FRM-0004	Subsidised De-Sexing Application Form – Dogs and Cats

## Document History and Version Control

Title of Document	Animal Management De-Sexing Policy
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