



Australian National Cats WA

Cat Act Submission 4th August 2019

Ancats supported the Western Australia Government by exploring ways to encourage cat owners to **early de-sex** and contain their cats, also including improving affordability for people on low incomes. Community education on early de-sexing cats should focus on the advantages to cat owners; de-sexed cats are less likely to wander, and therefore less likely to become lost or injured, or be involved in fights. They also generally live longer; healthier cats live longer they are more affectionate companions for humans. Free de-sexing could be offered to people who adopt and care for a stray cat or for those who are on the low social economic end of the scale.

Ancats supported the introduction of cat registration in WA to improve the management of cat welfare across Western Australia registration should have provided benefits such as enabling identification of lost cats and reunification with owners. As well as giving a more accurate account of the domestic cat population in Western Australia.

Sadly, the Cat act has not worked as local government has not targeted community education on responsible cat ownership. Its proven it's the non-pedigree cats who are the problem with unregulated breeding in the current form the cat act has made little difference to the cat numbers just look at the number of cats/kittens for sale on Gumtree very few are registered breeders and 95% of registered breeders are proactive at early desexing, please note some breeds need to mature a little more time to reach the veterinary needed weight required. Prescribed Registered Breeders need to be guided by veterinary advice on this.

Ancats believe uniform cat laws across all WA including suggestions and ideas on cat containment, would provide consistency across the all municipalities jurisdictions and make it easier to inform all residents about their obligations under with relations to the cat act. Several shires have different cat laws and is very hard to understand for some people just cannot understand the writing as it just so convoluted and hard. Simplify the wording make it easier to understand.

Compliance measures would be supported by Ancats to ensure specialist training for rangers and suitably outfitted vehicles to improve compliance measures. Currently there has been very little investment in specialist training for rangers on cat act compliance, and the correct cat act policy in containment of cats. Some shires rangers have very little tolerance to prescribed registered breeders, and some have been targeted relentlessly, to the point some breeders have found it to onerous and have given up breeding all together

Prescribed Registered cat breeders are not the problem of cats wondering many prescribed registered breeders spend thousands of dollars on just one cat for breeding therefore you will very rarely see pedigree cats wondering at large, unless due to unforeseen accidents. For example, here are some costs

- ✚ Purchase of a single breeding cat from overseas up to 10 thousand dollars
- ✚ Purchase of a single Australian bred cat \$1800-\$2500 depending on breed.
- ✚ Cost of weekday normal trading hours emergency caesarean \$800
- ✚ Cost of out of hours emergency caesarean \$3500 -\$4500

As you will see from the cost above this is why most that is almost 95% of registered cat breeders are very proactive with early desexing/microchipping of kittens before they leave the breeder, in

addition most prescribed registered breeders have purpose-built enclosures to house cats/kittens in here is a link to one such breeders enclosure

<https://www.facebook.com/jaiymeka/videos/654238111639827/> . Ancats have a strict code of ethics Ancats breeders code of Ethics can be viewed here <https://www.ancats.com.au/code-of-ethics.html>

Ancats believe more education on requirements for registration for domestic cats would also likely see an increase in the compliance of cat owners undertaking the required desexing/microchipping of their cats to avoid unwanted kittens desexing/microchipping BEFORE 12 weeks of age should be done. Its proven the voucher system is not working it's a complete failure the continues adds prove this point. It's been proven people specifically target those who sell not desexed to start breeding themselves this is part of the reason he vouchers system fails

Registered breeders prescribed under the act should not be forced to desex kittens that are being run on or considered being retained for future breeding purposes, or those that have not reached the required veterinary weight.

Ancats believe revenue raised from cat registration should support dedicated funding for community education and help improve the implementation of compliance measures for cat management and other cat related matters undertaken by any agency as since the implementation of the act there has not been any free seminars to give advice or assistance therefor we feel the Act is not a true reflection on what is actually correct in numbers.

We believe a program should be implemented with relation to compliance and enforcement, in conjunction with a public education campaign, using a system of warnings and information. Pursue repeat offenders for offences against the unregulated cat breeding. Again, its not registered breeders that are the problem

Ancats believe Government should explore improved systems for cat identification and reunification with cat owners, including the introduction of cat registration as part of a pet registration model and they should only be accepted if the cat is desexed/microchipped by written proof or by a tattoo in the cat/kittens ear only those who are desexed/microchipped should be able to be registered. With the exception for prescribed registered cat breeders with one of the prescribed registering bodies.

Cat registration should be consistent with the practices for dog registration, that is, new requirements that dogs are registered annually at no additional cost to owners. It is important that registration costs should not serve as a disincentive for cat owners to register their pets. Both cat and dog registration policies should take into consideration low-income families, with provisions for payment exemptions and/or reduced registration fees.

ANCATS again say it's not the prescribed registered breeders that are the problem we are over regulated and easy to find in addition we must follow the code of ethics set out by our registering body.

We pay several fees to become a registered breeder, we pay for every cat/kitten to have its birthright pedigree papers here is what our members pay. This excludes the cost of the breeder's cats that's outlined on the previous page

- 🚩 Yearly membership \$65
- 🚩 Breeders prefix \$85 this is for 5 years
- 🚩 Individual kitten registration \$30 (birth certificate)
- 🚩 Transfer of new owner kittens' papers (birth certificate)

You will find on Western Australia Gumtree ads over 85% of the ads are for domestic's cats/kittens not pedigree cats from registered breeders.

Compliance of cat management measures, including cat containment, would be easiest to implement if owned cats are registered and if cat containment exists right across WA.

Ancats suggestions:

- ✚ Stop the over regulation of Prescribed registered breeders
- ✚ Prescribed registered breeders must include their breeder's registration number in all advertisements.
- ✚ Prescribed registered breeders yearly license should include the number of cats for example **\$100** per year for 10 cats or less. **\$150** per year for 11/15 cats and **\$200** for 15 upwards. All cats must be microchipped and suitably housed so that they cannot wonder. All councils be required to charge the same amount we would ask this is written into state laws so if a breeder moves to a new house it does not cause an issue.
- ✚ Prescribed registered breeders should qualify for a breeder's license, we feel by leaving it to local councils could be onerous for them to decide whether you can have cats for breeding breeders must have the correct facilities in place for breeding
- ✚ Implement the procedures for breeder's application to be like the City of Gosnells and the City of Joondalup this is straight forward and easy to understand
- ✚ We need laws to protect Prescribed registered breeders and punish the backyard breeders.

We thank you for allowing us to comment and make submission to help Ancats Prescribed registered breeders, our new member Mrs Sandy Baraiolo was an integral member advising ministers on cats as you can find on Hansard

[http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard/hansard.nsf/0/5c3c5bda7276f87b48257906001df4d3/\\$FILE/A38%20S1%2020110906%20p6791b-6810a.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard/hansard.nsf/0/5c3c5bda7276f87b48257906001df4d3/$FILE/A38%20S1%2020110906%20p6791b-6810a.pdf).

We would be more than happy to assist you from a breeder's perspective, in addition we would be happy to have an around the table meeting with ministers to discuss the Cat Act, we look forward to working with you.

Yours Sincerely

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