

CAT COSTS – OWNERS

Microchipping

Cat owners are likely to be charged between \$45 and \$70, with the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) advising that the average price charged by a veterinarian is about \$56 in the metropolitan area. If local government officers (rangers) become authorised implanters, this cost may fall. The cost of the materials to the vet or implanter is approximately \$30, including the initial registration on the database. This will impact most on low income earners, particularly those with multiple cats.

Collar and Tag

Cat owners will be required to pay for a collar and tag. An acceptable collar and tag will cost a minimum of \$15. Cat exhibitors may object to this option due to the friction of a collar on the cat's coat.

Registration

As a guide, the following fees are of relevance when considering the impact of registration on cat owners.

- Current dog registration fees applicable in Western Australia:
 - Unsterilised Dog - 1 Year Registration \$30.00
 - Unsterilised Dog - 3 Year Registration \$75.00
 - Sterilised Dog - 1 Year Registration \$10.00
 - Sterilised Dog - 3 Year Registration \$18.00
- City of Joondalup - proposed cat local law
 - \$10 per annum, and \$25 for three years for a sterilised cat.
- Logan City Council, Queensland
 - \$88 per annum for an unsterilised cat, and
 - \$39 per annum for a sterilised cat.

Sterilisation

The cost of sterilisation will only impact upon the 10% of cat owners that do not presently sterilise their cats. In relation to the magnitude of costs, the Cat Haven's stated fees are \$130 to sterilise a female cat (\$105 concession) and \$105 for a male (\$85 concession). The Cat Sterilisation Society states that the cost of desexing a female cat in Western Australia is between \$130 and \$195 with the average sterilisation fee of \$161.

Many local governments already provide a subsidy for the sterilisation of cats which can bring down the rate slightly. For example, the City of Stirling currently provides a subsidy that reduces the cost of sterilisation of a female cat to \$120.