

Circular Details	13-54 / A360752 / 18 December 2013
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Companion Animals Staff
Contact	Innovation Team, Tel: 4428 4100, Email: dlg@dlg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to implement

Responsible pet ownership funding arrangements

What's new or changing

- From 1 January 2014, cat and dog registration fees are increasing and from 1 July 2014 will increase annually in line with the Consumer Price Index. Companion Animals Fund remittance arrangements are also changing. This is the first time that registration fees have increased since 2006.
- A range of other initiatives are being rolled out in 2014 to support councils to improve cat and dog management in local areas.

What this will mean for your council

- Councils will have increased funding and other resources to promote responsible pet ownership locally from 1 January 2014.

Key points

- The NSW Government is implementing measures to assist councils to deliver responsible pet ownership programs locally through:
 - increases to registration fees from 1 January 2014 and ongoing Consumer Price Index increases from 1 July 2014
 - a new council grants program over three years from 1 July 2014 which will assist councils to proactively manage companion animal issues, including through local micro-chipping and de-sexing programs.
 - a new register, to better encourage responsible cat and dog ownership and reduce the administrative burden on councils.
- The council grants program and register redesign will be funded through the Companion Animals Fund. This will require a temporary decrease in the proportion of registration fees remitted to councils from the Fund of 5% between 2014 and 2016.
- Importantly, these initiatives have been called for by councils to help improve capacity to deliver responsible pet ownership programs locally, and will benefit councils and local communities.
- In real terms, councils will gain an average increase in registration fee revenue of approximately 14% from 1 January 2014 and approximately 18% from 1 July 2014, rising annually in line with CPI each July thereafter.

Where to go for further information

- Further details about cat and dog registration fee increases are available in Attachment 1 and on the Division's website at <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au>.



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Increase to cat and dog lifetime registration fees and restricted/dangerous dog enclosure inspection fees from 1 January 2014

What is changing?

- Amendments to the Companion Animals Regulation 2008, commencing 1 January 2014, will see the first increase to cat and dog lifetime registration fees since 2006.
- The new fees are:
 - Desexed animal: **\$49** (from \$40)
 - Non-desexed animal: **\$182** (from \$150)
 - Breeder concession: **\$49** (from \$40)
 - Pensioner concession (desexed animal only) **\$19** (from \$15).
- Lifetime registration fees will be annually indexed to CPI from 1 July 2014.
- The prescribed maximum fee for council inspections of restricted and dangerous dog enclosures will also increase to **\$150** (from \$100) on 1 January 2014.

Impact on Companion Animals Register

- The Companion Animals Register will be modified on 1 January 2014 to allow councils to apply the new lifetime registration fees.
- Initially, both the old and new fee structures will be maintained on the Register to allow councils to correct registration details for existing records and catch up on data entry backlogs (ie: where fees have been receipted before 1 January 2014 but not entered on the Register).
- Councils and registration agents must not apply the old fee for any cat or dog registered on or after 1 January 2014.

Impact on Lifetime Registration Forms

- Councils and registration agents must use the *R2 –Lifetime Registration form* for the purposes of accepting cat and dog registrations.
- As fees will be annually indexed to inflation from 1 July 2014, references to the fee amounts have been removed from the updated *R2 – Lifetime Registration form*.
- Councils are requested to download or order the updated form (see below), and to manually cross out the reference to fees on any existing stock of forms they use.

Where to go for further information

- The updated fees and *R2 – Lifetime Registration form* can be downloaded from the Division's 'Cats and Dogs' webpage at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au. The form is also available to order (free of charge) from Fuji Xerox DMS. Further information about how to order documents from Fuji Xerox is available under the 'Forms' heading of the 'Cats and Dogs' webpage.
- Technical information relating to the processing of lifetime registration fees is available in the *Guideline on the Exercise of Functions Under the Companion Animals Act*, which also can be downloaded from the Division's website.