

## Desexing

All owners are encouraged to desex their animals. The cost of registration is a lot lower for desexed animals, and desexed animals grow up cleaner, healthier, quieter and are less inclined to roam.

Hunter Animal Watch is a voluntary organisation that aims to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs in the Hunter by offering financial assistance to people on low incomes to desex their animals. For further information contact 4966 4344 or 4964 1823.

Council will consider assisting with the costs of desexing in circumstance of genuine financial hardship. Contact Council on 4974 2000 for further information.



## Promoting responsible pet ownership

### Fines, notices and orders

After the release of your animal from the pound, you may receive further correspondence from Council about the incident that led to your animal being impounded. This may involve fines and/or notices and orders, depending on the circumstances.

### Further information

City of Newcastle  
Animal Management Facility  
75 Elizabeth Street  
TIGHES HILL  
4961 4852

RSPCA Rutherford  
6-10 Burlington Place  
RUTHERFORD  
4939 1555

Hunter Animal Watch  
139A Beaumont Street  
HAMILTON  
4966 4344 or 4964 1823

# Impounded animals



## Seizing a dog from its property

Council officers can seize a dog from its property if it has been involved in an attack within the preceding 72 hours and if Council believes that the dog is not able to be secured safely on its property. Council officers leave a notice of seizure on the property if this has occurred.

Council officers may seize a dangerous, menacing or restricted dog if an officer is satisfied dangerous, menacing and restricted dog control requirements have not been met.

A claim for release of a seized dog from Council's pound may be made only if Council is satisfied that the relevant control requirements are capable of being met.

For more information contact Transport and Compliance on 4974 2000 or visit:

[newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)

## Impounded dogs

Council officers will impound dogs when they are found straying. First priority is to return the dog home after contacting the owner if the dog is identified by a collar and tag and/or microchip.

Members of the public sometimes capture straying dogs and take them directly to the pound as well.

## Impounded cats

Members of the public sometimes set traps to capture cats suspected of causing damage to property or the environment and take trapped cats directly to the pound.

## How long are impounded animals held?

Animals that are not identified by a microchip are held at the pound for seven days. Microchipped animals are held for 14 days. Animals that remain unclaimed become the property of the RSPCA. Animals suitable for rehoming are then made available for purchase from the RSPCA Rutherford. Animals that are assessed as unsuited for health or behavioural reasons are humanely euthanised.

## Impound and sustenance fees

Council charges impound and sustenance fees to recover some of the costs associated with providing a pound service. Fees are charged on a daily basis, so the sooner an animal is claimed, the less it costs. All fees must be paid prior to the release of the animal.

Council will consider reducing or waiving impound and sustenance fees in circumstances of genuine financial hardship. Contact Council on 4974 2000 for further information.

## Registration fees

The NSW Companion Animal Act requires all impounded animals must be microchipped and lifetime registered prior to release from a pound. This includes animals that would otherwise be subject to an exemption, such as working dogs, greyhounds, or animals less than six months of age. Council is unable to waive or reduce these fees, however desexed animals are cheaper to register.

Please visit [www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/dogs-cats/nsw-pet-registry/microchipping-and-registration/](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/dogs-cats/nsw-pet-registry/microchipping-and-registration/) for all fee enquiries.