

OVERVIEW FOR VETERINARIANS

[Dog and Cat Management Act 1995](#)
[Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017](#)

New SA Laws begin 1 July 2018

[Dogs and Cats Online](#)

Dogs and Cats Online is a new database combining all 68 Local Council dog and cat registers. Dogs and Cats Online will include information about microchips, desexing, assistance dogs, racing greyhounds and dogs with control orders.

Veterinary surgeons have new legal obligations to enter information onto Dogs and Cats Online.

Owners will be sent a renewal notice in July with a unique code and instructions on how to log on to Dogs and Cats Online.

Owners, or, after 1 July 2018 the microchip implanter, must add their cat's microchip details into Dogs and Cats Online.

Owners will have continuing obligations to keep their details, plus the details of their dogs and cats, up to date on this new system. Owners will be able to log in at any time to update their address, contact details, dog or cat location or ownership changes, etc. Changes inform their council registration and microchip contact details for all animals in their name.

Owner obligations do not detract from a Vet's obligation to enter information into Dogs and Cats Online.

There are no fees to access or upload information onto Dogs and Cats Online.

[New responsibilities and powers for Veterinarians from 1 July 2018](#)

From 1 July 2018 new laws in South Australia will require all dogs and cats to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or upon sale, whichever is the sooner. Dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 must be desexed by 6 months of age (subject to limited exemptions).

The changes to the legislation will also place new obligations on veterinarians to record information about the microchipping and desexing procedures they perform on Dogs and Cats Online.

In addition, veterinarians are given the power to grant exemptions from microchipping and desexing if the veterinarian is satisfied that to microchip or desex that dog or cat would pose an undue risk to its health or adversely affect its growth, development or wellbeing. Exemptions granted need to be recorded on Dogs and Cats Online.

Veterinarians are not required to

- Register dogs (and cats, if applicable) with Council
- Enforce mandatory microchipping or desexing (however advising people it is law would be advisable)
- Report non-compliance of desexing or microchipping or any other breach of laws.

Please see overleaf for the summary of legislative changes for veterinarians.

Overview for Veterinarians on the Legislative Changes

| Section of the Act/ Regulations | New Legal Responsibility or Power | In practice |
|--|--|--|
| Regulation 10(4)- requirements relating to the microchipping dogs and cats | Vets are required to enter microchip information details into Dogs and Cats Online. Vets can satisfy this obligation by ensuring clinic staff upload the required information on their behalf. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vet clinics will need access set up on Dogs and Cats Online. To arrange, visit dogandcatboard.com.au/for-vets and follow the link, or complete form. • Access to Dogs and Cats Online will be processed from June 2018. • Vet clinics will be able to create “users” profiles for staff in their clinic. |
| Regulation 12(8)- requirements relating to desexing dogs and cats | Vets are required to enter details of desexing procedures they carry out onto Dogs and Cats Online. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users will be able to search for animals and update the animal record on behalf of vets and/or microchip implanters within the clinic. • If there is no animal record in Dogs and Cats Online, users will be able to create a basic animal record that the owner can ‘claim’ and complete at a later date. |
| Regulation 13(2)- Exemptions from microchipping, desexing and selling a dog or cat | Vets powers to grant exemptions from microchipping or desexing a dog or cat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To grant an exemption, vets must be satisfied that to microchip or desex a dog or cat would: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) pose an undue risk to the health of the dog or cat, or (b) adversely affect the growth, development or wellbeing of the dog or cat • The maximum period of exemption for reason (b) is 18 months. At the end of the period of exemption another exemption can be issued if the vet is satisfied reasons for a further exemption exist. • Exemptions must be noted in Dogs and Cats Online against the animal’s entry. |
| Regulation 13(3)- Exemptions from microchipping, desexing and selling a dog or cat | Penalties apply for contravention of Regulation 13(2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemptions must only be granted if satisfied that to microchip or desex a dog or cat would pose an undue risk to the health of the dog or cat, or adversely affect the growth, development or wellbeing of the dog or cat. |

For more information, please visit www.dogandcatboard.com.au/for-vets