



## Why desex my dog?

### The benefits of desexing

Along with the general responsibilities of being a good dog owner, desexing your dog is a socially responsible thing to do. The health and behavioural benefits of desexing will assist your dog to cope much better with stressful and challenging situations throughout its life. Additionally, desexing is currently the only widely available, effective and permanent method of preventing unwanted pregnancy and puppies and is supported by the Australian Veterinary Association.

The thought that a dog has to be sexually entire and perhaps reproducing at some stage of its life to be healthy, is not based on fact.

From 1 July 2018, your dog and cat must be microchipped. All dogs and cats born after this date must be desexed (exemptions apply).  
**For more information on the new laws, visit [dogandcatboard.com.au](http://dogandcatboard.com.au)**

### Desexing: the Fast Facts

- It reduces the tendency for aggressive behaviours towards people and other dogs.
- It reduces territorial behaviour.
- It helps control your dog's urge to wander.
- It reduces anti-social behaviours like leg mounting (humping), urine marking and oestrus bleeding in female dogs for 3 weeks every 6 months.
- It reduces the likelihood of cancer and other diseases of the reproductive organs - uterine, ovarian and mammary diseases in female dogs and testicular cancers, some prostate diseases, perineal hernias and adenomas in male dogs.
- It increases the likelihood of your dog enjoying a longer and happier life.
- It eliminates unwanted litters of puppies.
- It significantly discounts your local council dog registration fee.
- It's the socially responsible and accepted thing to do.
- It makes managing your dog easier and less stressful.

## We understand...

...that the health and behavioural benefits of desexing will assist your dog to cope much better with stressful and challenging situations throughout its life.



## What is involved?

Desexing is the surgical sterilisation of your dog under a general anaesthetic and only a qualified veterinary surgeon can undertake this procedure.

For female dogs, it involves the removal of the ovaries and the uterus via a small incision 5 -10cm long either along the abdomen or the flank (the side of the abdomen). For male dogs, it involves the removal of both testicles through a 2-3cm incision just in front of the scrotum. A tattoo can be placed on the inside of your dog's ear to signify it has been desexed.

Your vet will attend to the post-operative requirements of your dog and normally dogs are ready to go home a few hours after the procedure. Your vet will also give you detailed advice on how to properly care for your dog at home in the days following surgery.

Desexing does not affect the personality traits of your dog.

## What is the cost?

South Australian local councils currently offer a significant discount to the cost of council registration for dogs, based on their desexed and /or micro-chipped status.

Desexing and micro-chipping procedures can be undertaken by your vet during the same appointment and this can save you money and inconvenience. Your vet is also able to provide all the necessary paperwork to obtain your local council dog registration discounts.

## When and where to go?

When you bring your new puppy home, make an appointment with your vet. They will give your puppy a thorough health check, make sure there are no problems and discuss vaccination, parasite prevention, behaviour, micro-chipping and desexing at this first visit.

If you are buying your dog from a breeder who is a member of Dogs SA, you may find that they desex and microchip the puppy before you can take possession of it and all costs are included in the single purchase fee.

Alternatively, a great way to obtain a desexed and micro-chipped pet is from an animal shelter as they only offer desexed and micro-chipped dogs for rehoming. Many also undertake behavioural assessments of the dog, allowing the appropriate matching of personality with potential owners and their lifestyle.

## Desexing: a Good Owner tip

While the cost of desexing your dog will vary based on its sex, age and the fees of your selected vet, the cost is very small when compared with the benefits that come from it.

**To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit [dogandcatboard.com.au](http://dogandcatboard.com.au)**



An initiative of the **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD** and your local council. Council information and contact details can be located at [www.lga.sa.gov.au](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au) View the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* along with Information Sheets on selection, health, behaviour and care at [www.dogandcatboard.com.au](http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au)