



Government of South Australia
Dog and Cat Management Board



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Media Release

Subsidised desexing program to prevent unwanted cats

Mount Barker District Council, with funding support from the Dog and Cat Management Board, have joined forces with the National Desexing Network (NDN) and participating vet clinics to offer residents in need a subsidised desexing program to help prevent unwanted cats.

Mt Barker district residents on pensions or low incomes will be able to pay just \$50 to desex, and \$5 to microchip their cat under the scheme. Eligible residents will be issued a desexing voucher that can be used at one of the participating vets in the region.

Mt Barker Council's manager health & public safety, Jamie Tann encourages residents in need to take advantage of this proactive program.

"This initiative helps the whole community as it reduces the cost to council in collecting, holding and rehoming unwanted litters, and helps reduce cat nuisance issues and predation on native wildlife, Mr Tann said.

"Desexing not only helps to ensure fewer unwanted animals, but research shows that desexed animals can live longer and healthier lives."

The NDN currently manages year-round cooperative desexing programs for a growing number of councils around Australia.

Dr Joy Verrinder, strategic director of the National Desexing Network, urges residents to have their cats desexed between 2 and 4 months of age.

"Desexed male cats are less likely to fight, roam and spray, and female cats can become pregnant from just 4 months old and can breed continuously after that," Dr Verrinder said.

Subsidies are available while council funds last and residents who need support can phone the National Desexing Network on 1300 368 992 to find out if they are eligible.

Vets participating in the program are Mount Barker Veterinary Clinic and Balhannah Small Animal Veterinary Clinic.

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