



See the tear-out
pet registration
form at the back
of this newsletter
to register your
pet today.



FREE PET REGISTRATION

I'm sure you don't want to think about it, but what would happen if your beloved pet went missing? It is important to make sure that your pet is registered with Council and that your details are up to date to give your pet the best chance of being reunited to you!

WYNDHAM CITY IS OFFERING FREE REGISTRATION FOR THE INITIAL NEW REGISTRATION OF PETS UNTIL APRIL 10, 2017!

TOP 10 Cat Breeds and Cat Names in Wyndham

Are you wondering what type of cat to buy or adopt or struggling to think of what to call your new fur baby? Here are the top 10 cat breeds and names of cats in Wyndham.

CAT BREEDS

1.	Domestic Short Hair	2,785
2.	Domestic	1,151
3.	Domestic Medium Hair	703
4.	Domestic Long Hair	407
5.	Rag Doll	180
6.	Burmese	121
7.	British Short Hair	82
8.	Bengal	61
9.	Siamese	59
10.	Birman	57

CAT NAMES

1.	Bella	92
2.	Oscar	49
3.	Max	47
4.	Molly	47
5.	Charlie	44
6.	Missy	41
7.	Coco	40
8.	Leo	39
9.	Lily	37
10.	Simba	34

In this Issue

- Free Pet Registration
- Does Your Cat Have a Secret Life?
- Cat Breeding Season
- Compulsory Desexing for Newly Registered Cats
- Top 10 Cat Breeds and Cat Names in Wyndham
- Return from the Field
- Where Should I Buy A Puppy?
- Dog Profile – Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Keeping Chickens in Wyndham
- Off Lead Responsibilities
- MADI

Welcome

Welcome to our latest edition of Wyndham Paws. In this edition, important questions such as "Where should I buy a puppy?" and "Am I allowed to keep chickens in my backyard?" will be answered.

This issue will also provide you with useful information about responsible pet ownership - including a tear-off Pet Registration form - and information on off lead responsibilities and compulsory desexing for newly registered cats.

We are keen to hear from you. If you have any ideas or suggestions on topics that you would like to see in the next issue, please send them to Council via: mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Happy Reading!



Does Your Cat Have a Secret Life?

If you ask most cat owners if their cat wanders the neighbourhood, they will tell you that their cat never leaves their property and spends most of their day inside.

A recent program conducted in Lithgow in central-west New South Wales used global positioning system (GPS) devices to track the daily movement of a group of pet cats. The results of this research shocked some of their owners.

The program was designed to raise awareness about how far domestic cats could roam. Nearly 30 local pet owners showed interest in the program. However, as some animals refused to wear the harnesses fitted with GPS devices, the number of cats eventually tracked decreased to 13. The participating cats each wore the tracking devices for up to 10 days and in total, more than 100 cat track data sets were collected, each representing 24 hours in the life of the animal. The GPS points tracked by the device were plotted on aerial maps of Lithgow, creating a series of yellow lines that look a lot like a pre-schooler's scribble (see map below). The results were very fascinating, showing just how many times the cats roamed. Some of the cats stayed relatively close (10, 15 or 20 doors down), whilst one cat in particular travelled three kilometres from home.

Since the result of the GPS tracking program, residents have restricted the times they let their cats go outside. One resident, Mr Barnes said he was worried about how far his cats were travelling and the potential dangers such as traffic, fights with other cats and contracting feline AIDS. He has now bought his own GPS tracking devices and will continue to monitor the prowling of his pets.

Cat Movements Tracked by GPS



Where Should I Buy a Puppy?

One of the most asked questions for Wyndham City staff is, 'Where should I buy a puppy from so I know it's not coming from a puppy farm?'. The answer is pretty simple. Do your research!

If you decided to buy a puppy from a commercial business, it is important to be very careful and do your research first. Be cautious if you buy your puppy from the internet or a pet shop as you will have no guarantee where they came from. Find a breeder who allows you to visit the premises and see the parent animals and the conditions in which they live. The RSPCA's 'Smart Puppy Buyer's Guide' provides information on how to ensure that your puppy had a great start in life.

Another fantastic place to look is your local rescue groups or the Lost Dogs Home. There are many wonderful puppies, dogs, kittens and cats out there looking for new homes.

The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Bill 2016 was introduced to Parliament in October. The Bill introduces a range of amendments to the Domestic Animals Act 1994. These amendments deliver on the Government's election commitment to reform the dog breeding and pet shop industries in Victoria and better regulate the online sale of dogs and cats. For more information please visit www.vic.gov.au/pets

Dog Profile staffordshire Bull Terrier

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was brought into existence in the early 1800s and is a cross between the bulldog of the day and the old English Terrier (a breed which is now extinct). It was produced with the sole purpose of obtaining a dog with a longer, broader head than the bulldog and also able to combine strength and agility. The miners and ironworkers of Staffordshire began to foster the breed and the qualities of gameness, intelligence and loyalty were developed.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier can be an imposing dog with its strong, muscular body, intense stare, and powerful stance. Many are interested in the breed because it looks like a tough dog but are surprised to learn that the Stafford is a sensitive and loving companion who enjoys playing more than being tough. They see life as a joyful adventure and live it to the fullest.

With their short, broad head and muscular body, they resemble the other bull breeds such as American Staffordshire Terriers and American Pit Bull Terriers, but they are a breed unto themselves with distinct physical characteristics that set them apart, including size and ear shape.

As with all dogs, it is extremely important to ensure that you train and socialise them. This ensures that your pet is the best K9 citizen that it can be at home and in public.

Average Lifespan:
This dog can live up to 14 years of age

BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Adaptability	**
Good for Novice Owners	*
Sensitivity Level	****
Tolerates Being Alone	**
Tolerates Cold Weather	***
Tolerates Hot Weather	*
All Around Friendliness	****
Affectionate with Family	*****
Incredibly Kid Friendly Dogs	*****
Dog Friendly	*
Friendly Towards Strangers	*****
Health Grooming	***
Amount of Shedding	***
Drooling Potential	***
Easy To Groom	*****
General Health	***
Size	**
Trainability	***
Easy To Train	**
Intelligence	***
Prey Drive	**
Tendency to Bark or Howl	***
Exercise Needs	****
Energy Level	***
Intensity	***
Exercise Needs	****
Potential for Playfulness	*****



Cat Breeding Season



As the weather starts to become a bit warmer and the days begin to lengthen, un-desexed female cats start to come

on call. This is also known as coming on heat or into season. Their behaviour can appear quite alarming to anyone that has not seen a cat on heat before and can be mistaken for an injury or illness such as a urinary tract infection, a broken back or a behavioural problem. If you are unsure if your cat is in season, your veterinary health care team will be happy to provide advice.

Cats tend to be seasonal maters, although they may go into heat and produce litter at any time of the year. Typically the feline mating season begins around November

and runs through to March. Due to the changes in the environment and weather in the recent years, we have seen that mating season beginning in September and going through to April.

Cats can also have more than one heat cycle in a year, with female cats being able to reproduce once a night during this period.

During cat season, the Wyndham City Pound sees a large jump in the number of kittens that come in, jumping up from an average of 5 kittens a month to 103 kittens!

Compulsory Desexing for Newly Registered Cats

Cats being registered in Wyndham for the first time will now have to be de-sexed. This is part of a range of measures being implemented to reduce the number of impounded animals, prevent unwanted cat pregnancies and better manage strays.

Council is also keen to boost the number of domestic animal registrations to help with reuniting cats with their owners (see Pet Registration Form in this newsletter).

Desexing or sterilisation is a surgical procedure undertaken so cats are no longer able to come on heat or produce kittens. Apart from the prevention of unwanted kittens, de-sexing also has a number of medical benefits for your cat. When cats that are not de-sexed and stray, there is not only a risk of them getting pregnant, but there is also a very high risk of them getting hit by a car or getting injured. There is also a risk of picking up one of the potentially fatal feline viruses (feline Leukaemia or feline AIDS).

Cats can safely be de-sexed from three months of age, which is when they are required to be registered with Council by law. Desexing at a young age can be less stressful for kittens than it would be for older cats, and they may recover more quickly.

Research has shown that de-sexed cats are less likely to stray or contribute to Melbourne's large population of wild cats. They are also generally healthier and less likely to exhibit nuisance behaviours, which in turn helps them to be more loveable and affectionate companions. The most important thing is they are unlikely to be abandoned by their owners!



Keeping Chickens in Wyndham

Keeping chickens as pets in your backyard is very simple provided you follow some simple rules. You will be rewarded with many benefits such as fresh free range eggs and a great disposal source for kitchen scraps.

So what are some of the simple rules that I need to follow in Wyndham?

- You are allowed to keep up to six chickens without requiring a permit.
- Roosters are prohibited. As we now all live close to one another, we need to be considerate of our neighbours, especially in the early morning.
- They must be kept in a suitable coop that is of adequate size for the number kept.
- The structure (coop) must be a minimum of 1.2m from the boundary of any adjoining premises unless the building or other structure has solid walls on the sides facing adjoining premises. It must not exceed 2.5 metres in height.
- The structure must be positioned at the rear of the property.
- Chickens are not permitted to free range around your property. If you have dogs

next-door, the chicken scratching near a fence line can excite a dog and it may attempt to get into your property. Even cats will attack chickens so you want to keep them in a coop.

- Ensure that chickens are kept in a secure manner to prevent them from getting out (or other animals getting in).
- Provide them with adequate shelter, food and water at all times.
- The structure must be kept in a clean, inoffensive and sanitary condition as to deter rodents.
- Ensure that the chickens do not produce noise or smells that cause any discomfort or inconvenience for your neighbours.

Keeping chickens is a great way to turn waste into food (make sure you investigate food that chickens can't eat) and they increase the nutrients and health of your soil while eating bugs, insects and sometimes mice. Not only are they great pets but you are also provided with a daily supply of sensational tasting eggs from a sustainable pet.

For further information or assistance please contact the Legislative Services Unit on 9742 0777.

Return from the Field

As of 1 July 2016, Wyndham City has sought to return identifiable dogs to their homes rather than impounding them. This approach aims to promote responsible pet ownership and educate dog owners, encouraging them to take all steps possible to securely confine their dog to their property.

Rangers in the field will return/re-unite registered and microchipped dogs found to be at large / wandering, to their rightful owners without impounding at the Pound (on the first occasion) if there is someone at home to receive the dog.

The new policy is set on a system where a registered animal owner is afforded more leniencies for responsible pet

ownership by way of having their dogs registered and with having no history of impoundment. Owners of pets will not be infringed for the animal being at large or charged pound release fees for a first time violation with the provision there has been no adverse or aggressive behaviour by their dogs.

However, owners of unregistered pets will be issued with infringements and will be required to register their dog at the Pound prior to release.

It is expected that free registration and the quick reuniting of registered and microchipped dogs will attract further registrations.

MADI

During the month of May, Wyndham City was privileged to be the first Council in Victoria to play host to the Lost Dogs Home new mobile pet care service 'MADI'.

MADI is an old Winnebago that has been converted into a mobile de-sexing van. Wyndham residents were pleased to take advantage of heavily discounted cat desexing, with all 60 spaces quickly booking out. Free microchipping was also offered, along with free registration for the first registration period. The aim of MADI is to reduce the number of stray and abandoned cats that arrive at the Lost Dogs Home each year. The van can easily travel to communities across the state with their mobile vet team and are able to de-sex up to 25 cats per day.

Council hopes to have MADI back in our municipality soon, so keep an eye on both our website and the Lost Dogs Home website to book in: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au OR <https://dogshome.com/>

Off Lead Responsibilities



With the warmer weather fast approaching, residents will be heading down more frequently to the local off lead areas with their dogs. It is important to remember the responsibilities of pet owners. When using an off lead area, the person who is with the dog is referred to as the handler. The handler of a dog using an off lead area must comply with the following conditions of use at all times:

1. The dog must be and remain 'on lead':
 - a. Until both the handler and the dog have physically entered the 'off lead area'; and
 - b. When the handler and the dog exit the 'off lead area'.
2. The handler must have a dog lead in their possession at all times when in the 'off lead area'. The lead must be a chain, cord or leash and capable of restraining the dog.

3. The dog's current registration tag must be on the dog's collar whether the collar is on the dog or attached to the lead in the handler's possession.

4. When the dog is allowed 'off lead', it must remain in both visual and audible range of the handler at all times so that the dog can be effectively recalled to the handler when required.

5. When another person or another dog is approaching, the handler must recall their dog and effectively restrain it until the other person or other dog has moved on to a safe distance.

6. At no time must the handler allow the dog to enter any waterways that may be within the 'off lead area'.

7. The handler must ensure that the dog does not attack, chase or interfere with any wildlife in the 'off lead area'.

8. The handler must not allow any dog under their control to be 'off lead' if it is known to be:

- a. Dog aggressive;
- b. Person aggressive;
- c. Un-socialised with other dogs or animals;
- d. Attracted to objects in motion such as bicycle tyres.
- e. In season

It is also important to note that Wyndham City's Legislative Services staff regularly patrol areas to ensure compliance and directions from staff must be followed. Equally important is the need for all dog-walkers to pick up after their animal – everyone wants to enjoy our open spaces without stepping in an unwelcome mess!

To find your closest off lead area please visit <http://wyndev.com.au/mywyndham/>



LIKE US!

Have you checked out our Facebook page 'Wyndham City Living' recently?

facebook.com/wyndhamcityliving

The page includes useful tips and information on owning a pet in Wyndham.

If you would like to tell us what you would like included in the next edition of Wyndham Paws or what you would like to

see Wyndham doing differently in regards to your animals, complete the survey at:

www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/paws

While you're there, sign up to receive your free Wyndham City Living e-newsletter!

Application for Registration of Domestic Animal(s)

All registrations must be renewed by 10 April each year

Domestic Animals Act 1994 - All dogs and cats three months of age or older must be registered. The owner of a dog or cat who fails to register his/her animal may be liable to an infringement for each unregistered animal. You must be 18 years of age to register a domestic animal. If under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must register the animal in their name.

Return this form to Wyndham City, 45 Princes Hwy, Werribee (PO Box 197, Werribee, VIC 3030)

Owner's Details:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Given Name: _____ Surname: _____

Owner's Date of birth: _____ (To register a domestic animal, the owner must be over the age of 18)

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (mobile) _____

Owner's Previous Address (if applicable): _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Kept At Details:

Address where animal(s) is/are to be kept: (if different from above) _____

Address type where the animal(s) is/are to be kept at: (tick one box) ☐ Residential Property ☐ Commercial Property (Guard Dog)*

Do you already have an animal registered with Wyndham City Council? ☐ Yes ☐ No

A permit must be obtained to keep more than 2 dogs or cats on a residential property. For a unit/flat, a permit is required for more than 1 dog or 1 cat on the property. For more details or to obtain an application form please call Council or visit the [Wyndham City Website](http://www.wyndhamcity.vic.gov.au).

Animal(s) Details:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tick One Box Only	Animal 1				Animal 2				Animal 3			
Animal Type	Dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restricted * / Menacing / Dangerous	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Desexed <small>Copy of Certificate Required</small>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breed												
Colour/Marks												
Animal's Name												
Date of Birth of Animal												
Microchip Number <small>Copy of Certificate Required</small>												
Office Use:												
Tag Number												
Animal Identification (Proclaim No)												

Pensioner:

☐ Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card (Blue) ☐ Dept of Veterans Affairs Repatriation Health Card (Gold)

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Declaration:

I declare that all the above information is true and correct. If I am registering a dog(s) I declare that the dog(s) in this application have been correctly indicated as to whether they are, or are not a restricted breed or has been declared menacing or dangerous. (*restricted breeds are as follows – a Pitbull Terrier or American Pitbull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa or Perro de Presa Canario). I understand that approval of my application may be subject to conditions.

*I also understand that if I have ticked that the dog will live on a commercial property that it will be declared a dangerous dog.

I understand that this registration is current from TODAY'S date until 10 April 2017, at which time I am required to pay the registration renewal provided by Council.

Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Privacy

The personal information collected on this form is in accordance with Section 18 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The information will only be disclosed as permitted by law, and in accordance with Wyndham City Council policy.

State Government Levy

The fees include the State Government Levy. Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Wyndham City is required to pay the State Government \$2.00 in respect of each registration or renewal fee for cats, and \$3.50 in respect of each registration or renewal fee for dogs.

Commercial Property

Any dog that is kept on a commercial property is be deemed to be a guard dog. Once a dog is deemed a guard dog/dangerous dog it is classified this for the life of the dog.

Off-lead Areas

A number of off-lead areas are provided around Wyndham for dog owners to exercise their animal(s) off-lead. For locations visit www.wyndham.vic.gov.au or call 03 9742 0777. Dog owners are reminded that when their animals are off-lead in designated off-lead areas, they must comply with the conditions of use under Wyndham's 'Dog Off-lead Order'. These conditions can be viewed on the Wyndham City website.

Lost Animal Register

If you have lost your animal, be sure to look on the Lost Animal Register on the Wyndham City website www.wyndham.vic.gov.au or contact the Wyndham City Pound on 03 8734 2758.

Further Information

For further information on animal registrations contact Wyndham City on 03 9742 0777 or visit www.wyndham.vic.gov.au

Annual Registration Renewal

You must renew your registration by 10 April each year

Change of Details

If you have changed any of your contact details or address please advise Council in writing so that we can amend our records. You can update your details on the Wyndham City website www.wyndham.vic.gov.au or by sending an email to mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Registration Renewal Fees:

Animal Registration Renewals are sent to owners at the beginning of March each year. Animal owners must ensure that payment is made to Council before 10 April. Failing to pay your renewal may result in an infringement of \$303.00.

Example of the Current Animal Registration Fees (Valid to 10 April 2017)

Dogs

	Regular Fee	Pensioner Fee
Dangerous / Menacing / Restricted Breed Dog/Guard Dog	\$216.00	\$216.00
Microchipped Dog – Non Desexed	\$150.00	\$ 54.00
Microchipped Dog – Non Desexed - Members of applicable organisations* - Working Dog** - Over 10 Years Old	\$ 48.50	\$ 22.00
Microchipped & Desexed Dog	\$ 48.50	\$ 22.00
Custom/Guide Puppy Training & Bona Fide Guide Dog	FREE	FREE

Cats

	Regular Fee	Pensioner Fee
Microchipped Cat – Non Desexed	\$ 108.00	\$ 54.00
Microchipped Cat – Non Desexed - Members of applicable organisations* - Over 10 Years Old	\$ 36.00	\$ 18.00
Microchipped & Desexed Cat	\$ 36.00	\$ 18.00

Evidence of Microchipping and Desexing

Microchipping	A copy of the Microchip Certificate or written advice from a qualified Vet that it would be detrimental to the animal's health to have a microchip implanted.
If a cat or dog is desexed	A copy of the desexing certificate from a qualified Vet.
If a cat or dog is not desexed	Evidence that the owner is registered as a domestic animal business; or Written advice from a qualified Vet that it would be detrimental to the animal's health; or A copy of a document or letter confirming the owner's membership and animal's registration with Australian National Cats Inc, Cats Victoria Inc, Feline Control Council (Victoria) Inc, The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy Australia and Victoria Inc, Australia Association of Professional Dog Trainers Inc, Delta Society of Australia, The Gentle Dog Trainers Association Inc, Dogs Victoria, Top Dog K9 Training Academy, or Four Paws K9 Training.