

FAQ Continued...

Why can't I pay my animal registration when I pay my rates?

Rates are due for payment in February, however renewal notices for Animal registration aren't sent out until early March, for payment on or before 10th April.

Do I get a new tag each time I renew my animal registration?

No. South Gippsland Shire Council now provides a metal 'lifetime' tag for your pet. These are a lot better and make it easier for members of the public to identify the tag number if they find your pet.

What if my pet loses its tag?

Please contact our Customer Service Team on 5662 9200 as soon as possible to arrange a free replacement tag. It is important that your pet is wearing its current tag when outside of your premises.

What if my pet's details change?

Please contact our Customer Service Team as soon as possible to update your information. It's important that we have the most recent contact and address details for you in case we need to talk to you about your dog or cat.

What if my pet dies?

Phone Council on 5662 9200 and they will ensure that your animal registration records are modified to reflect that the animal is deceased.

What if I move location, either within South Gippsland or to another municipality?

You will need to fill out an Animal Registration Change of Ownership And/Or Change of Animal Location form. This form needs to be signed and returned to Council so that your animal records can be updated or closed off. This form is available on Council's website.

What if I take on ownership of someone else's pet?

You will need to fill out an Animal Registration Change of Ownership And/Or Change of Animal Location form. This form needs to be signed, preferably by both yourself and the previous owner and returned to Council so that your animal records can be updated or closed off. You should also check with Council to ensure that the animal's registration is currently paid up.



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South Gippsland Shire Council

Responsible Pet Ownership



Information on owning a pet in
South Gippsland



Frequently Asked Questions

What are my responsibilities as a pet owner?

If you own a dog or cat, you must:

- Register each dog or cat you own
- Ensure each dog or cat you own is microchipped
- Make sure that each dog or cat wears a valid Council registration tag
- Keep your dog confined to your property
- Make sure your dog doesn't bark persistently
- Obey all Council order about having your dog on a leash or disposing of your dog's droppings
- Stop your dog or cat straying onto another person's property if that person objects
- Prevent your dog from chasing or attacking people or animals

Other people can object to:

- Barking dogs or noisy cats
- Dogs or cats creating a health risk
- Dogs or cats being repeatedly on their property without their permission
- Dogs wandering outside their owner's premises
- Dogs rushing at or chasing a person or animal
- Dogs attacking or biting a person or animal
- Excessive animal numbers



What are the penalties?

You can be fined for breaking the law in relation to dog and cat offences. Many offences are dealt with by a Council Officer issuing an 'on-the-spot' fine which can vary in amounts up to about \$295.

If the offence is more serious or if you keep committing the same offence, you may be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court. The fines following prosecution are much higher (often in the thousands) and the Magistrate could order you to pay court costs and damages as well. In the case of a dog attack, your dog may also be destroyed.

Ignoring your responsibilities as a dog or cat owner can cost you time, trouble and money.

Why must I microchip my pet?

Microchipping helps to keep your pet/s safe. From May 2007, State legislation states that councils must not register a dog or cat that has not been implanted with a microchip, including previously registered dogs and cats that move to South Gippsland from another municipality.

In 2009, the South Gippsland Shire Council introduced compulsory microchipping for all dogs and cats that reside within South Gippsland.



Why must I register my pet?

Every dog and cat over the age of three months that resides within South Gippsland must be registered with the South Gippsland Shire Council. Renewal registrations must be paid by the 10th of April each year. New dog and cat registrations can be made anytime throughout the year.

Registering your dog and cat is a safeguard against losing your pet. In addition, your registration fees help provide important pet related services within the shire such as animal control and community education about responsible pet ownership.

While it is your choice to register your pet with other animal welfare organisations which can offers you additional means of identification, registration with your local Council is compulsory.