

New tags to identify pets

Council has introduced metal registration tags for dogs and cats to help secure their safety.

The new 'lifetime' metal tags replace those made of plastic where identifying registration numbers would wear off over time causing delays in locating pet owners.

Current animal registrations expire on 9 April. The new registration year for our pets commences the following day, coinciding with the issuing of around 7000 new metal tags.

Coordinator Local Laws, Bruce Gardiner, is encouraging residents to renew their pet's registration to ensure they benefit from the services their payment helps to support.

"Registration assists in the speedy recovery of lost animals and in reuniting them with their owners," he explained. "It gives us the fastest method for contacting you in cases where your pet might have been injured or attacked by another animal.

In addition, your registration fees help provide important pet related services within your municipality, such as animal management and community education about responsible pet ownership."

Your animal registration fee ensures the following services and programs can continue:

- Lost and Found Animal Service - a guarantee that if your pet is found wearing its Council identification every attempt will be made to notify you of its whereabouts so that you may be reunited. (Check your renewal notice to ensure your contact details are up to date.)
- Animal Management - response to problems including reports of dog attacks or complaints about animals wandering on private property.
- Nuisance Service - to help solve animal barking, straying and spraying problems.
- Assistance with trapping and impounding feral or nuisance cats.
- Public education about responsible pet ownership.
- Monitoring and enforcement of legislation regarding minimum animal welfare standards in animal businesses. These include pet shops, Council pounds, animal welfare shelters, breeding and dog training establishments.
- General advice about pet care.

Council's Local Laws Officers conduct random inspections throughout the municipality to identify unregistered dogs and cats. Animal owners found with unregistered animals or animals with expired registration may be required to pay an on-the-spot fine.

Animal registration renewal payments can be made with a credit card online via Council's website, which is suitable for paying multiple animal renewals in the one transaction), in person at Council's Leongatha office, at Australia Post outlets, using the Bpay details on the renewal notice or with a credit card over the telephone.

For more information on the benefits of registration go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au or visit Council's website. You may also contact Council's Local Laws Team on 5662 9200 for further information regarding animal management issues.

Photo caption: Layla is proud to be showing off her new metal tag.

PR2005 15/3/17

For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953
communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au