



DESEXING YOUR CAT OR DOG

Community safety is a priority for the WTA. To achieve this, the WTA endeavours to work with our community to educate pet owners on the responsibilities and requirements of owning a pet.

To assist the community in achieving this, the WTA offers incentives. Two key areas have been identified. Reducing the desexed animal registration fee for 2016/17 and offering four desexing programs per year.

Although it is not compulsory to desex your pet, it is encouraged.

Benefits of desexing

Females:

- Reduces the risk of mammary tumours.
- Eliminates the risk of tumours in the ovaries, uterus and cervix.
- Prevents other medical conditions such as pyometra.

Males:

- Reduces the risk of prostatic diseases.
- Reduces the risk of perianal tumors.
- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancers.
- Reduces wandering and aggression.

Myths about desexing your animal

Females should have a litter before being desexed.

For your pet's health this is not true, spaying a dog before her first heat will greatly reduce the risk of mammary cancer.

Desexing will make my pet put on weight.

Desexing is done at an age when rapid puppy growth is decreasing and diet control is necessary. Overfeeding and lack of exercise will cause your pet to gain weight.

Desexing a trained guard dog will reduce his/her ability to guard.

Guarding results from instinctive territorial behaviour. Desexing does not change your animal's instincts, in fact, they are less likely to become aggressive as they get older.

Pets become lazy after they are desexed.

There are no general changes in the character of pets after desexing. Young males however will be less inclined to mount objects and jump fences in search of mates.

In fact, desexed pets generally live longer and healthier lives. They are less prone to wandering, fights and less likely to get lost or injured. Desexing your animals assist in reducing unwanted litters and dumping, which is unethical as well as illegal and inhuman.

The WTA understands that desexing your animal can be costly, therefore we have teamed up with Tablelands Veterinary Service to offer discounted desexing programs running throughout the year.

For any further information regarding this fact sheet, contact WTA on 4030 9400.