



Media release

Office: 102 North Road, Yakamia
Postal: PO Box 484, ALBANY WA 6331
Phone: (08) 9841 9333
Fax: (08) 9841 4099
Record No: REL042/MR15116350

Date Issued: 22/12/2015

Authorised by: Mayor Dennis Wellington

Rangers trained to microchip impounded pets

City of Albany rangers have been trained in microchipping pets to comply with new State Government legislation and ensure impounded dogs or cats can be more quickly identified and reunited with their owners, or found a new home.

Albany City Council at its December meeting approved an additional fee of \$60 be added to the City's impound charges to recoup the cost of microchipping a dog or cat found without the identification technology.

Under new provisions in the Dog Act 1976, all dogs over the age of three months must now be microchipped before being released from the pound.

Prior to the new legislation, residents were given 7 days' notice to microchip their dog after its release from the pound.

The City is extending the compulsory microchipping to cats as well to ensure as many impounded pets as possible are registered and identifiable.

City of Albany Ranger Team Leader Colin Hyde said although residents were provided with 7 days to microchip their dog or cat, many were not taking the action often resulting in repeat infringements.

"We encourage Albany residents to be on the front foot when it comes to responsible pet ownership," Mr Hyde said. "Ensuring their pet is microchipped and registered will allow us to return them to their homes as soon as possible.

"We run a Pets in Pound web page that residents can check in the event their pet does go missing, however the easiest method of reuniting is by microchip as the chip cannot be lost or removed unlike a name tag or registration collar."

The City urges pet owners to visit their local veterinarian and have them microchipped and ensure they are registered with the City.

For more information on responsible pet ownership, please go to the City of Albany's website, www.albany.wa.gov.au.

Image: Rangers (from left) Matthew Musgrave, Team Leader Colin Hyde and Brendan Jellay.

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