

# NDN Cooperative Desexing Program

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Animal Welfare League Qld  
National Desexing Network  
Getting 2 Zero



# City of Gold Coast (pop. > 570 000 people)

Largest city in  
Australia to achieve  
zero euthanasia of all  
healthy and treatable  
cats and dogs



# Reducing euthanasia rates in City of Gold Coast (Population 560 000)

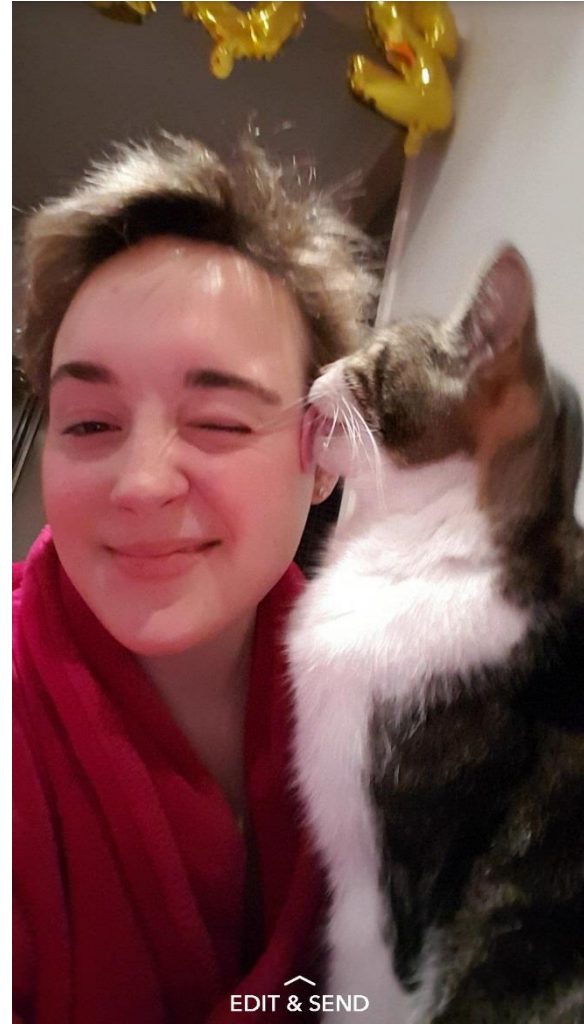
Euthanasia Rates	2001	2016/17
Dogs	32%	8%
Cats	57%	8%

# G2Z - 90% saveable

90% of all stray and abandoned animals in a given community are healthy and treatable cats and dogs

5- 10% of stray and abandoned animals in any city/shire may be deemed “untreatable” i.e.

- irremediably suffering, or
- have caused or likely to cause significant harm to people or other companion animals



# Getting to Zero (G2Z)

A national program actively providing FREE consulting, mentoring and support services in companion animal management and sheltering to governments and organisations

Helps you work toward a **90%+ save rate** by **reducing the number of animals who are stray, abandoned and euthanized in your community.**



# G2Z

## Developing and Supporting Community Responsibility

Whole community involvement in **preventing** unwanted cats and dogs i.e.

- local government
- animal owners
- non-animal owners
- breeders
- pet industry
- vets
- wildlife groups.



# The 4 elements of G2Z

1. COMMUNITY VET CLINICS & DESEXING PROGRAMS

**PREVENT  
ABANDONMENT**

4. COMMUNITY EDUCATION LEGISLATION & SUPPORT



**GETTING 2 ZERO**

2. SHELTER VET CLINIC

**SAVE EXISTING  
LIVES**

3. MAXIMISE REHOMING

Prevention of unwanted animals  
is the key

**DESEXING**

**DESEXING**

**DESEXING**

**DESEXING**





# Don't like surprises?

**DESEX YOUR PET!**

**July is National  
Desexing Month**

## Did you know...

- Desexed animals live longer and healthier lives
- Desexed pets are less likely to fight or get lost
- Desexed pets are more affectionate and become better companions
- Desexing reduces unwanted puppies and kittens being dumped or left in pounds and shelters
- Desexing is more affordable with the assistance of National Desexing Network



**Desexing saves lives.**

**NATIONWIDE LOW COST DESEXING DURING JULY!**



Ph: 1300 368 992  
Visit [ndn.org.au](http://ndn.org.au)



A proud initiative of  
**Animals  
Australia**  
the voice for animals



# NDN Cooperative Desexing Program

Ongoing  
targeted  
low cost desexing  
program  
to help those in need  
in your city/town



.

# NDN Cooperative Desexing Program

## The costs shared by:

- Owners
- Council
- Local Vet Clinics
- National Desexing Network



# How Cooperative Desexing Programs work

- Council budgets a set amount per year e.g. \$5000 - \$50 000
- directly subsidises desexing costs of residents in financial need i.e.
  - pension, concession
  - low incomes
  - large numbers of cats
  - residents willing to desex and adopt stray unowned cats



# G2Z Cooperative Desexing Program

CATS	Owner pays	Council Subsidy	Vet receives* Covers all costs incl wages
Male cat castration	\$35	\$55	\$90
Female cat spey	\$55 for first cat \$35 for additional cats	\$65 \$85	\$120



# Consistent conditions

- So low income earners can afford to participate:
  - 24 hour pain relief included
  - no requirement to vaccinate before desexing.
  - If animals are **pregnant or in season**, owners are not asked for additional payment. Instead **vets claim an additional \$55 from the Council Desex Fund.**



# NDN manages the program Free of charge to Councils!

- NDN invites all local vets to participate
- NDN receives owner calls and determines eligibility
- issue vouchers
- manage Council funding to reimburse vet clinics
- organise promotional materials



# Councils involved in NDN Cooperative Desexing Programs

- Currently 4 Councils in Queensland
  - Gold Coast (8 years), Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Ipswich City, and Fraser Coast
- 1 Council in NSW – Camden Council
- Other Councils considering for 2018/19 budget





# Focus on cats

- More prolific breeding rate of cats than dogs
- Double or triple euthanasia rates in most Australian states
- A greater proportion of unwanted litters of kittens than puppies in pounds and shelters.



# NDN Cooperative Desexing Program for dogs

Desexing subsidies can contribute to easier management of dogs too ie. dogs and puppies who are neglected, untrained and wandering

However, dogs are more expensive to desex and require a greater Council contribution.

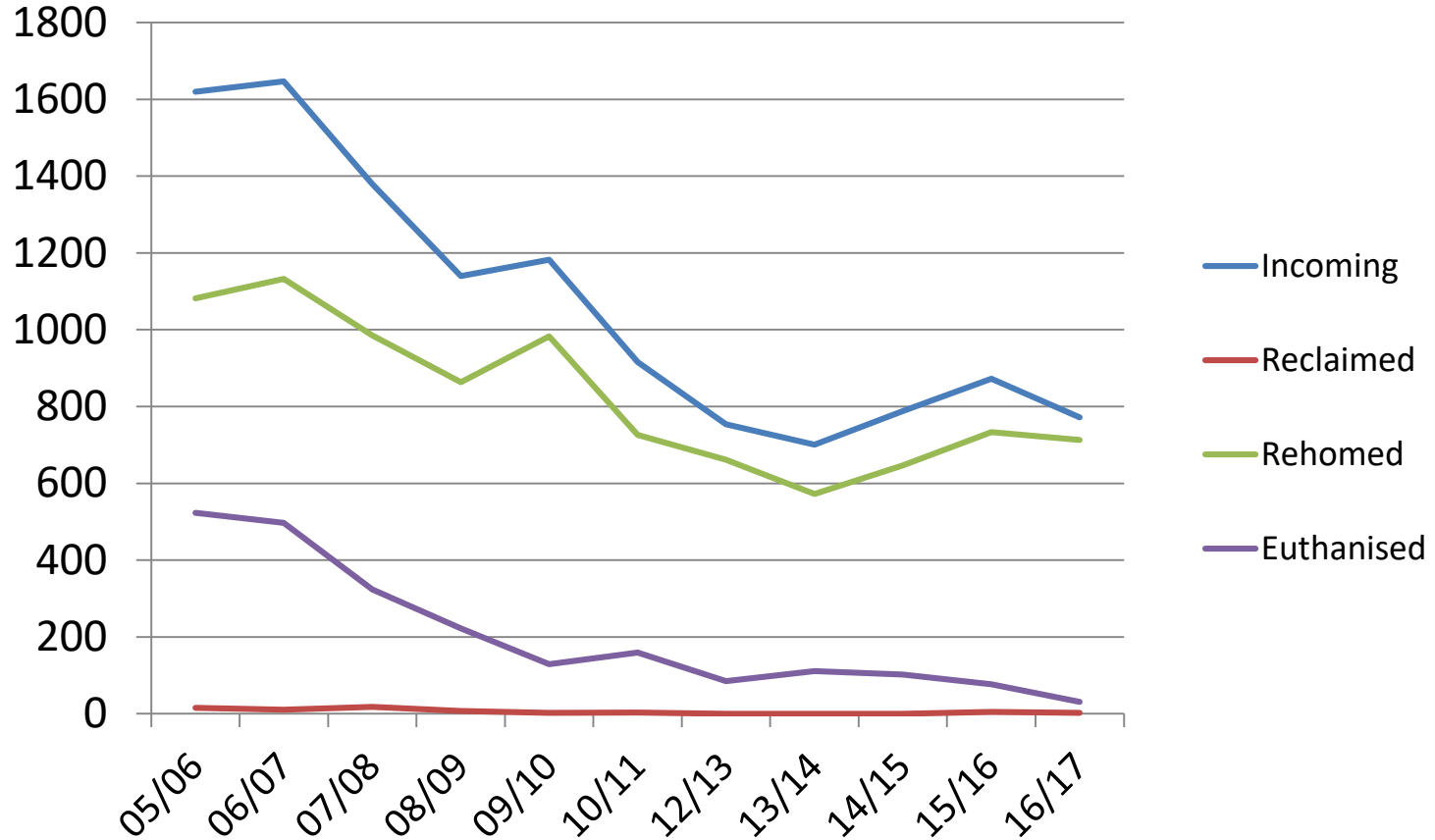


# Benefits of Councils funding desexing



# 1. Fig 2: Gold Coast Kittens 2005/6 - 2016/17

Note: 2011/12 not included due to change of data systems causing possible inaccuracies



# Desexing focus more effective to manage cats than registration / microchipping

<b>Cat Euth Rates</b>			
	2005/6	2014/15	Reduction
<b>NSW</b>	68%	62%	6%
<b>Gold Coast</b>	49%	17%	32%

## 2. COUNCIL SAVINGS BY FUNDING DESEXING SUBSIDIES

*\*These savings increase exponentially as for each prevented litter, thousands more kittens who would have been produced BY EACH CAT IN THE LITTER are also prevented.*

Cat management strategies	Collect/Hold/ Euthanase one cat/one litter	Council Desexing Subsidy (average) One cat	Savings by preventing one unwanted cat / or one litter	Savings in 1 year if 300 cats desexed (cost \$18 000), preventing one litter each *
<b>COSTS/SAVINGS</b> held 4 days(on average)	\$220/260	\$60	\$160/200	\$48 000
<b>COSTS</b> held 14 days (on average)	\$420/480	\$60	\$360/420	\$108 000

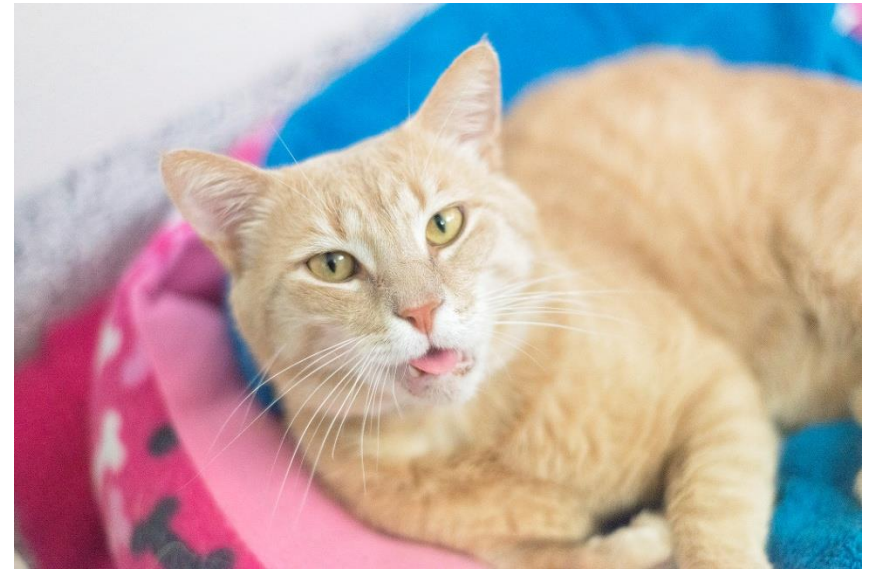
# 3. Positive animal management

- AMO's able to offer support rather than just fine and take animals away
- Greater job satisfaction
- Community support
- Todd Stosuy, Field Services Manager, County of Santa Cruz, CA, USA  
Proactive Community Animal Control
- <http://www.g2z.org.au/6th-national-g2z-summit-2015.html>  
AIAM invited speaker/workshop 2016



# 4. Help people comply with desexing/breeder permit laws

- SA, WA, Tas  
requirement to desex  
by 6 months
- Councils need to  
support those in your  
community who have  
limited capacity to  
desex their cats or who  
are trying to help a stray  
cat which has arrived on  
their doorstep





# RECOMMEND DESEXING PRIOR TO SALE OR TRANSFER

- City of Gold Coast Council model breeder permit system from 2010
- All breeders (purebreed, accidental) required to desex kittens prior to sale or transfer



# Why should kittens be desexed prior to sale or transfer

22% of OWNED female cats have an unplanned litter.

2014 South Australian Dog and Cat Management Board-commissioned study



# Cats can be pregnant by 4 mths

- Most owners (72% in the 2014 SA study) are unaware that cats can be pregnant from 4 months of age
- Two thirds of veterinary practices are not promoting the safety and benefits of desexing cats from 2-3 months of age  
(data from all veterinary clinics in Gold Coast City in 2010/11)



# Current AVA Position on age of desexing

- “Desexing can be performed from as early as **8 weeks of age** and at a **minimum of 1kg bodyweight.**”
- “**Veterinarians should recommend desexing before puberty** unless there is a valid reason to delay the procedure.”



# Cooperative Desexing Programs also Prevent Unowned/Feral Cats

SA Study 2014 -

- 46% of owned cats are not contained to their property at all times.
- Less than half of owned cats are desexed at 3-6 months
- Undesexed wandering cats can breed & contribute to the unowned cat population



# The community will help

The community will help you by adopting or rehoming stray and even unsocialised cats if they get help with desexing

Many of these frightened cats can become rewarding companions



# Developing Your Cooperative Desexing Program Step x Step – It's easy

1. Persuade Council to budget a set amount for the program (Summary and Benefits documents provided )
2. NDN contacts all local vets to invite to participate
3. Council pays budgeted amount to NDN who pays this subsidy to the vets
4. NDN provides materials for promotion



# Can't afford to desex your cat?



**Do you have a pregnant cat or an  
accidental litter of kittens?**

Camden Council, the National Desexing Network and  
participating vets are here to help those in financial  
need!

## Camden Council CAT DESEXING SUBSIDY\*

**YOU ONLY PAY...**

**FEMALE CAT \$55    MALE CAT \$35**

**ADDITIONAL FEMALE CATS \$35**

Cats should be desexed from 2-3 months  
old as they can become pregnant from  
just 4 months old.

**Ph: 1300 368 992**

\*For Camden Council residents only. Conditions apply; available while funds last.

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Advertise in Council newsletters, on social media, websites

# Can't afford to desex your cat?



City of Gold Coast with Animal Welfare League Qld, National Desexing Network and participating vets are here to help those in financial need!

## City of Gold Coast Cat Desexing Subsidy\*

**YOU PAY**

**FEMALE CAT \$55      MALE CAT \$35**

ADDITIONAL FEMALE CATS \$35

**Call today! Phone: 07 5509 9001**

\*Gold Coast residents only. Conditions apply.



Animal Welfare  
League Qld  
Est. 1959

CITY OF  
**GOLDCOAST.**





## Desexing subsidy across Gold Coast to reduce unwanted kitten increase

Animal Welfare League Queensland (AWLQ) and the City of Gold Coast Council are promoting a cat desexing subsidy to residents in need across the coast to stem the number of unwanted kittens.

“With kitten breeding season about to start, we urgently need everyone to desex cats before they can potentially have their first litter of kittens from just four months of age and up to three litters in just 12 months,” AWLQ Strategic Director Joy Verrinder said. .

“For every cat which breeds, there are eight or nine fewer homes for existing cats each year.”

From tomorrow (*Wednesday, November 9*) AWLQ’s National Desexing Network is promoting the Cooperative Desexing program for people struggling to afford to desex their cats.

**Nine clinics are participating across the length of the Gold Coast, including Arundel Vet Surgery, AWLQ Community Vet Clinic Coombabah, Companion Care Veterinary Surgery at Ormeau, Jacobs Well Vet Surgery, Pimpama Pet Vet, Pimpama Vet Surgery, The Pines Vet, Pet Wellness Centre in Burleigh, and Tugun Vet Surgery.**

“It’s a wonderful community support service being provided by these vets. We are so grateful for their generosity and goodwill, and encourage people to support them,” Ms Verrinder said.

# Procedure Continued

5. Cat owners phone NDN, to determine if eligible, offered a choice of participating vet clinics.

6. Desexing vouchers sent to owners with expiry date of one month



# Procedure Continued

7. Cat owners make appointment with chosen vet clinic
8. Give the voucher to the vet clinic at desexing appt, and pay their contribution.
9. Vet clinics return vouchers and claim form at end of month to NDN for reimbursement using Council funds.
10. NDN keeps records and provides reports as needed



# Councils

## Cooperative Desexing Programs

- NDN will need to increase its staff as more Councils come on board, so please notify us as soon as possible if you are thinking of budgeting for this.
- AWL SA have offered to contribute to NDN's extra staff costs to support this program in SA



# What's great about proactive Cooperative Desexing Programs

- Reduced costs to Councils
- Positive & ethical outcomes for
  - local governments
  - cats and dogs
  - Owners in need
  - non-owners
  - vets
  - wildlife



# Lots of other G2Z strategies

- Promote lost pet recovery techniques
- Most people don't know how to search for a lost cat
- Vary techniques based on whether their cat is:
  - indoor or outdoor
  - shy or friendly



# We look forward to helping you!

- Please introduce yourself to Nell and myself at our G2Z stand
- We would love to discuss your specific needs
- We are here to help!!





# Contact

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AWLQ NDN and G2Z

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