

BE RESPONSIBLE & HELP END PET OVERPOPULATION

desex

your pet in July
& everyone's
happy



Special LOW PRICES in July NATIONAL DESEXING MONTH

Cats: Female \$90 Male \$ 65

Dogs: Female \$170 Male \$125

(Conditions apply e.g. for pregnant or in-season pets and large dogs)

Available at the following Clinics: Bookings Essential:

Animal Welfare League Coombabah	Ph 5594 0111
Currumbin Fair Vet Surgery	Ph 5598 6565
Family Vet Pacific Pines	Ph 5580 6377
Green Cross Vets Palm Beach	Ph 5534 4688
Jacobs Well Vet Surgery	Ph 5546 1411
Ormeau Vet Clinic	Ph 5546 6205
Tugun Vet Surgery	Ph 5534 1928

To prevent unpermitted breeding and unwanted kittens, GCCC subsidies are available for cat owners with concession cards or in financial need. **Pay only: Female Cat \$40, Additional Female Cats \$25, Male Cat \$25.** Phone 5509 9001 to check eligibility for a voucher



www.awlqld.com.au

PETS

Q&A

THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

ANSWERS YOUR LETTERS

Dear Animal Welfare League,
I have 2 kittens – at what age should they be desexed?
Pam, Elanora

Dear Pam,

You should desex your kittens early, between 2 -3 months of age. Desexing your kittens at an early age will put a stop to unwanted litters. Cats can be pregnant by four months of age. They are then able to breed two to four times a year and may have up to six kittens each time. A cat can get pregnant again while still weaning the kittens, so it's better to desex early, so your cat doesn't get caught in this constant cycle of breeding.

Kittens also recover much faster from surgery than an older cats. There are long term health and behavioural benefits including less risk of mammary tumours, less urinary tract disease, less aggression and urine spraying, and more love and affection for you.

If your kittens are over four months old, get them desexed as soon as possible. They will be safer, happier and easier to care for as they won't want to roam looking for a mate. This will help prevent cat fights, abscesses and injuries and expensive vet bills plus the annual cat registration is also half price!

PUT A STOP TO UNWANTED LITERS

If you are breeding kittens, you need to get a Breeders Permit and under Gold Coast City Council Local Laws must now desex the kittens before selling them or giving them away. In 2010 Gold Coast City Council introduced these laws to help prevent the thousands of unwanted cats and kittens each year. You can be fined if you breed without a permit and do not desex your kittens.

Last year GCCC and AWLQ received over 2500 unwanted cats and kittens from Gold Coast residents. AWLQ is working hard at Getting to Zero (G2Z) killing of healthy and treatable cats and dogs, and has done a lot of desexing promotion which is gradually reducing the oversupply of kittens. Desexing your kittens before they have their first litter will help prevent other lovable cats being killed.

The many stray cats living in shopping centres, schools, factories and beaches on the Gold Coast need our help. Many of these were owned cats that have wandered and bred. It is difficult to prevent these colonies growing in size and to protect these cats from injury or early death. Prevention through desexing is the best answer. If you are feeding a stray cat, find out if it is owned and if not, adopt it and get it desexed.

Where to find vets who do early age desexing?

Traditionally, vets were taught to desex cats and dogs at six months of age, and some continue to recommend this. However because research has shown the benefits of desexing a kitten early, students are now being trained in this practice. Early desexing is recommended by many vet associations around the world.

There are 13 vet clinics on the Gold Coast that perform early age desexing. Find them at www.awlqld.com.au/events. Watch out for the next edition of *Life Gold Coast* to find answers to questions about desexing dogs.

If you have further questions about desexing, email info@g2z.com.au



These adorable kittens are available for adoption at the AWL Coombabah rehoming shelter. Phone 07 55099030 for more info.