

DESEX YOUR CAT EARLY TO SAVE KITTENS LIVES



The summer months provide Animal Aid Cattery staff with a lot of extra work in the shape of cute fluffy bundles, but it isn't all fun and games when it comes to caring for and rehoming the hundreds of kittens which end up on Animal Aid's doorstep each kitten season. The Animal Aid takes in approximately 100 kittens per week throughout the December-February period and turns away a substantial number due to a lack of space and facilities to care for them. Most of the kittens we receive come from private cat owners, many of whom are repeat offenders who let their cats breed every year rather than having them desexed.

The Animal Aid also receives kittens brought in by distressed members of the public who have found them dumped in bins, bush land, plastic bags and dump-masters. These kittens are often weakened and dehydrated and require vigorous veterinary attention to ensure they survive. The Animal Aid Cattery operates at a financial loss each year and can ill-afford to keep losing money as a result of the irresponsible cat owners who are not willing to desex their pets. Even worse than the financial cost is the emotional trauma which our staff suffer when making life and death decisions regarding the future of these kittens.

Some cat owners are genuinely unaware of how early female cats can begin cycling and fall pregnant if left to wander outside prior to desexing. The Animal Aid see new feline mothers as young as 8 months old (meaning many of these cats became pregnant before 6 months of age) which stresses the importance of early-age desexing or at least keeping your cat indoors until it has been desexed.

Cats are able to be desexed as early as 8 weeks old, and desexing them prior to reaching sexual maturity (5-7 months old) results in faster post-operative recovery times and fewer complications than risking desexing them during their first season or during pregnancy.

The Animal Aid Veterinary Clinic is running a Discount Feline Desexing Scheme in March and April to encourage responsible cat ownership and are extending our microchipping special (which coincides with the new government microchipping legislation, effective as of 1st May 2007) to promote microchipping at the time of desexing:

Female Cats: \$75.00* (Normally \$110.00)

Male Cats: \$55.00 (Normally \$85.00)

Microchipping at Surgery: \$25.00 (Normally \$40.00)

Microchipping at Consultation: \$30.00 (Normally \$40.00)

* An additional charge applies to cats which are pregnant or in season at the time of desexing.