

Dog Registration

Where does the money go?

Local councils use the money received from dog registration to:

- Provide an identification mechanism for all dogs allowing lost or injured dogs to be re-united with their owners;
- Provide an effective communication process with dog owners;
- Provide resources to develop dog management programs, events and to enforce legislation;
- Provide funding for the maintenance of pounds and shelters managed by the Animal Welfare League and the RSPCA, and to maintain their own council dog pounds;
- Provide funding for community education, administrative and research expenses of Councils;
- Encourage desexing by being able to provide a system of subsidising registrations for those owners whose dogs are desexed;
- Provide proof of ownership for dogs;
- Provide equipment, fencing, bag dispensers, etc for council maintained dog parks;
- Support by-law enforcement;
- Provide an efficient and acceptable service to the community;

Funds the Dog and Cat Management Board, which in turn provides local councils across the State with:

- information and advice regarding the Act and the responsibilities of councils;
- a conduit of information between State and Local Government;
- media communications campaigns to raise awareness of responsible dog and cat ownership;
- a range of brochures and publications which are then provided freely to the community, and
- a source of advice on matters relating to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Some people believe that income received from dog registration is spent elsewhere or is put into general revenue accounts held by councils. This is not the case. Section 26(3) of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 is clear: -

“Money received by a Council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs.”

Other council responsibilities are set out under the same section of the Act.