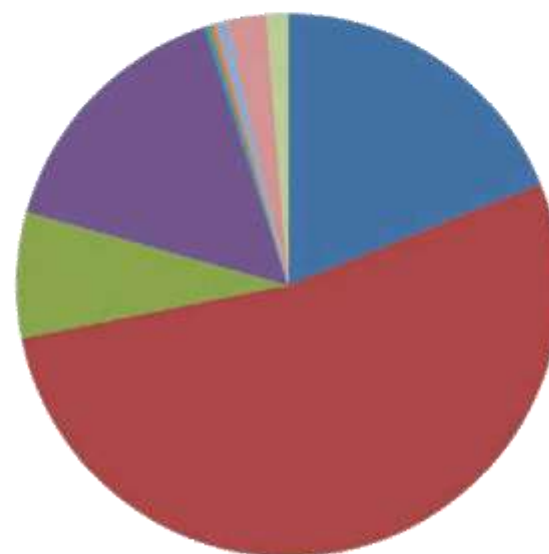


**Breakdown of registered cat population and registration fees**

*Sunshine Coast Region only*

	No <sup>1</sup>	Fee	Revenue	%
<b>Total registered cats</b>	<b>7,384</b>		<b>\$112,756.50</b>	
Desexed and microchipped cats (pensioner)	1,396	\$0.00	\$0.00	18.91%
Desexed and microchipped cats	3,910	\$12.50	\$48,875.00	52.95%
Desexed cats, not microchipped (pensioner)	553	\$19.50	\$10,783.50	7.49%
Desexed cats, not microchipped	1,155	\$27.00	\$31,185.00	15.64%
Feline Association (i.e. registered breeder)	25	\$32.00	\$800.00	0.34%
Microchipped cats, not desexed (pensioner)	24	\$41.00	\$984.00	0.33%
Entire cats, not microchipped (pensioner)	53	\$41.00	\$2,173.00	0.72%
Microchipped cats, not desexed	170	\$67.00	\$11,390.00	2.30%
Entire cats, not microchipped	98	\$67.00	\$6,566.00	1.33%

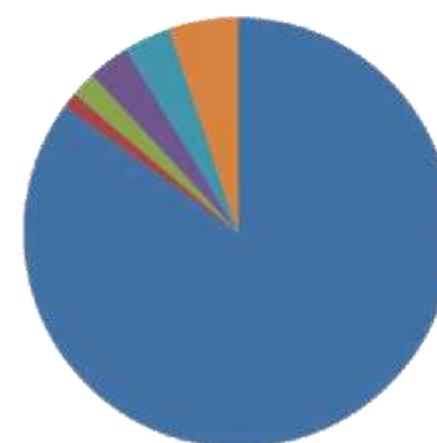
*Cats registered in the 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014 period (current 16 January 2014)*



**Customer request statistics**

*Please note the request information includes requests relating to the Noosa Council area*

Description (% indicates divisional % of regional requests)	Requests received between 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013	
<b>Total requests in relation to cats</b>	<b>788</b>	
Requests for roaming or impounding of cats	670	85%
Requests regarding cat registration	41	5%
Requests regarding animal permits for cats	28	4%
Requests regarding dead cats	25	3%
Requests for cats attacking other animals	15	2%
General enquiries relating to cats	9	1%



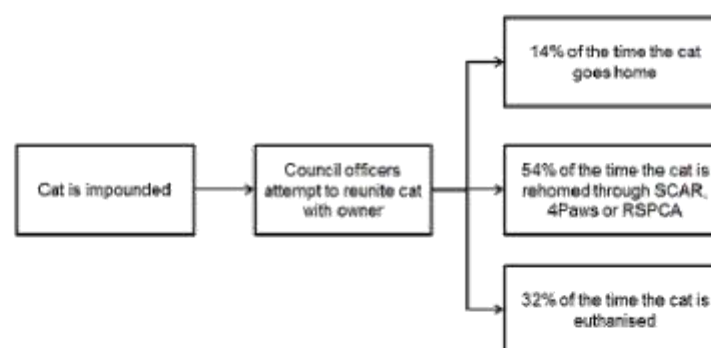
In 2013 the total number of requests relating to cats increased by 9% to 788 requests from 2012 (719 requests).  
 In 2012 the total number of requests relating to cats increased by 7% to 719 requests from 2011 (672 requests).

**Impound statistics for cats**

*Please note the impound information may include some information relating to the Noosa Council area*

Calendar year	Cats impounded	Cats returned home	Cats rehomed through SCAR, 4Paws or RSPCA	Cats euthanised
2011	454	55 (12%)	242 (54%)	154 (34%)
2012	460	67 (15%)	264 (58%)	125 (27%)
2013	446	63 (14%)	241 (54%)	142 (32%)

On average a cat stays in the pound for 6 days (including weekends and public holidays), this costs council approximately \$390 per cat. Where a cat is rehomed or euthanised none of this cost is redeemed through impound or sustenance fees. In 2013 there were 446 cats impounded, only 63 were returned to their owner. This represents an estimated cost of \$149,370



In addition to the above information, data collected since August 2013 suggests that:

- 93% of cats which were impounded are not registered
- 97% of cats which were impounded are not desexed
- 81% of cats which were impounded are not microchipped

Recommendation				
<p><b>Proposal summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend existing cat registration fees be aligned with the existing dog registration fees</li> <li>Include a fee for cats which are not desexed, but are microchipped (this option is not in the current fee structure*)</li> <li>Continue to offer reduced fees for pensioners</li> <li>Continue to offer reduced fees for cat breeders which are registered with a state or nationally recognised breeding association</li> <li>Offers an option of Lifetime registration for desexed and microchipped cats</li> </ul> <p>* The Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 requires all cats born after June 2009 to be microchipped; this will not change with the removal of registration from the state legislation and the legislation was not retrospective. The proposed fee reduction for microchipping animals is to encourage cat owners who are not required to microchip their cat to do so.</p>				
<b>Benefits</b>		<b>Risks</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reward responsible pet ownership with lower registration costs and promotes a clear message that Council support and reward responsible pet ownership</li> <li>Provides an incentive for owners of cats which are undesexed or not microchipped to consider making the transition to a more responsible pet owner</li> <li>Increases the revenue relating to cat registration which can be allocated specifically to cat management. Based on the 2012/2013 registration fees this proposed change represents an approximate increase of approximately \$16,516.30 in the first year</li> <li><b>Without Lifetime registration this option</b> reduces the gap between revenue and costs in relation to cat management. Impounding of cats, which are not able to be returned to their owner, represented a cost to council of \$149,370 in 2013. The increase in revenue reduces this gap from \$36,613.50 to \$20,097.20</li> <li>Aligning fees for cats with dog registration fees may appease dog owners as domestic cats and dogs will be treated equally under the revised fee structure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Registration provides a number of benefits to cat owners by allowing Council to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide pound facilities and reunite cats with their owners</li> <li>Undertake a cat cage program for residents with nuisance cat problems</li> <li>Provide an additional contact register to assist Council with reuniting cats with their owners</li> <li>Provide education and promote responsible pet ownership to cat owners in line with the Domestic Animal (Cats &amp; Dogs) Strategy DRAFT through the registration and renewal process</li> <li>Provide enforcement in line with the Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2009</li> <li>Gain a holistic view of the cat population on the Sunshine Coast</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewals provide a prompt to animal owners to contact council about changes in their circumstances or animals. The loss of regular contact through renewals, for cat owners who choose lifetime registration may reduce the accuracy of the data in the registration system for some animals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>With Lifetime registration</b> this option increases the gap between revenue and costs in relation to cat management. Impounding of cats, which are not able to be returned to their owner, represented a cost to council of \$149,370 in 2013. The increase in revenue reduces this gap from \$36,613.50 to \$66,524.30</li> </ul>		
<b>Changes summary</b>				
Based on cats registered in the 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014 period (current 16 January 2014)				
	<b>No<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Annual Fee</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
Desexed cat with a microchipped (PID) – owned by a pensioner	1,396	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Desexed cat with a microchipped (PID)	311	\$12.90	\$12.90	\$4,011.90
Desexed cat – owned by a pensioner	553	\$20.10	\$20.10	\$11,115.30
Desexed cat	1,155	\$27.80	\$27.80	\$32,109.00
Non desexed cat – owned by a member of Qld Feline Association or similar state or national accredited association	25	\$33.00	\$65.90	\$1,647.50
Non desexed cat – owned by a pensioner <sup>#</sup>	77	\$42.25	\$105.10	\$8,092.70
Non desexed cat <sup>#</sup>	268	\$69.00	\$124.60	\$33,392.80
Lifetime registration for desexed & microchipped cats <sup>*</sup>	3,599	-	\$75.00 <sup>^</sup>	\$269,925.00
<b>Total registered cats</b>	<b>7,384</b>			<b>\$360,294.20</b>
<p>While this represents an increase in revenue in the first year of the introduction of Lifetime Registration as an option there will be a yearly decline of \$46,427.10. This will increase the gap between revenue and costs in relation to cat management. Impounding of cats, which are not able to be returned to their owner, represented a cost to council of \$149,370 in 2013. The ongoing decrease in revenue increases this gap from \$36,613.50 to \$66,524.30.</p>				

<sup>#</sup> Microchipped animals (which are not desexed) are not offered an discount under the existing fee structure, the reduction of these fees is calculated as a 15% discount of the full fee for an animal which is not desexed or microchipped.

<sup>\*</sup> For the purposes of the proposal Lifetime registration for desexed an microchipped cats is calculated based on a cat having an average lifespan of 15 years with an overall discount of 60% as council will not be required to produce a renewal notice each year.

<sup>^</sup> Fee is a once-off registration fee, there will be no further annual fee after selecting the "Lifetime registration" option.