

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Use**

**PETS CAN’T ADD BUT THEY DO MULTIPLY.**

**It’s the 15th National Desexing Month in July 2019 and local veterinary clinic <name of veterinary clinic> is urging residents to desex their pets, particularly cats, before the long breeding season in the warmer months.**

<Name, job title> says cats desexed in July are less likely to be pregnant or in-season, which makes it a quicker and easier procedure for cats and less costly for the owners.

 “It is also important to get cats desexed before they reach 4 months of age,” says <name, job title>.

Although most owned cats will be desexed, Australian research has shown that 22% of owned cats have an unplanned litter before being desexed.

 “Vets are often the first contact point for unwanted cat and dog pregnancies, so we know the heartache involved with unwanted litters.

“This is why we have joined veterinarians around Australia to provide discounts to encourage animal owners to get their pets desexed.

“Desexing also provides many direct benefits to owners and companion animals. Cats and dogs are less likely to spray in and around the house, or be injured while out looking for a mate. They are often more relaxed and affectionate and, generally, live longer and happier lives.”

“We encourage owners to make appointments early in the month so they don’t miss out,” says <name, job title>

National Desexing Month was initiated by Animal Welfare League Queensland in 2005.

Dr Joy Verrinder, AWLQ National Desexing Network Strategic Director, says information and posters have been sent out to every vet, Council and animal organisation in Australia every July since then to encourage community-wide promotion and support for desexing of cats and dogs, particularly before the spring breeding season.

“We appreciate the support of vets in this campaign. They play a vital role in the success of this campaign and by working together we can reduce the number of unwanted litters across Australia,” says Dr Verrinder.

Key statistics:

* Last year 227 vet clinics around Australia participated by offering low cost desexing. Many Councils and vet clinics also utilised the posters to promote desexing in their communities.
* Approximately 13,000 cats and dogs were desexed in just one month as a result of the National Desexing Month campaign.
* This represents an increase of approximately 3000 desexing operations from each of the previous two years.

Cat and dog owners can find out what special offers are available near them by accessing the National Desexing Network website at [www.ndn.org.au](http://www.ndn.org.au) from the last week in June.

-- ENDS --

**For further information or interview opportunities with <name of veterinary clinic> please contact:**

<Name>

<Job Title>

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