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**ORGANISATION MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

21 June 2021

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU COULD HAVE 10 CHILDREN A YEAR?**

**It’s the 17th National Desexing Month in July 2021 and (INSERT NAME OF ORGANISATION) is urging local residents to get their pets desexed.**

“Pet owners can play a vital role in preventing unwanted kittens and puppies, that cost communities thousands of dollars to manage, and sometimes euthanize, causing great heartache to shelter/rescue staff, volunteers and vets and great expense to the community,” (insert name of organisation manager) said.

“Community members who are feeding unowned stray or community cats can also take advantage of this opportunity of discounted desexing prices to get these cats desexed too.”

National Desexing Month was initiated by Animal Welfare League Queensland in 2005. Information and posters are sent to every vet, Council and animal organisation in Australia to encourage community-wide promotion and discounted desexing of cats and dogs.

Veterinarians who sign up to participate are listed on the National Desexing Network website ([www.ndn.org.au](http://www.ndn.org.au) ) so that all cat and dog owners can find out what special offers are available near them and contact the vet directly.

This year’s theme is “WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU COULD HAVE 10 CHILDREN A YEAR?” On average, dogs and cats can have a litter of 10 puppies or kittens per year, cats can be pregnant from 4 months of age and while still weaning their kittens. Once the cat breeding cycle starts, it is difficult to stop,” said Animal Welfare League Queensland’s Strategic Director Dr Joy Verrinder. “That’s why we recommend cat desexing prior to 4 months of age,” she said.

Desexing provides many direct benefits to companion animals and their carers. Desexed animals are less likely to spray in and around the house, or be injured while out looking for a mate. Desexed animals can be more relaxed and affectionate and, generally, live longer and happier lives,” said Dr Verrinder.

On average, 10,000 cats and dogs are desexed each year during National Desexing Month.

A list of participating vets and the incentives offered in National Desexing Month in July can be found at [***www.ndn.org.au***](http://www.ndn.org.au).

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**For details about local desexing offers:** (Insert name of organisation’s contact person and phone number)

**For further information on National Desexing Month:**

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