NDN National Desexing Network

AN INITIATIVE OF: AWLQ Animal Welfare League Qld SPONSORED BY: Animals Australia nova

MEDIA RELEASE TEMPLATE

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National Desexing Month 2026 highlights growing need for affordable desexing services before spring

As cost-of-living pressures continue to affect households across Australia, the National Desexing Network (NDN) is encouraging pet owners to plan ahead and access affordable desexing services before spring.

Returning this July for its 22nd year, National Desexing Month (NDM) 2026 is a national awareness campaign aimed at reducing unwanted litters by connecting pet owners with participating veterinary clinics offering discounted desexing services and special promotions.

An initiative of Animal Welfare League Queensland (AWLQ), National Desexing Month brings together veterinary clinics, councils, animal welfare organisations and communities across Australia to promote responsible pet ownership and help make desexing more accessible.

Animal welfare organisations across Australia continue to see increased pressure during the warmer months, when shelters, rescue groups and foster networks often experience an increase in kittens and puppies requiring care.

Australian research has estimated that almost 180,000 stray and surrendered cats and kittens enter pounds, shelters and rescue groups nationally each year, reinforcing the importance of early intervention and accessible desexing programs that help prevent unwanted litters before they occur.[1]

A National Desexing Network spokesperson said many pet owners fully intend to desex their pets, but cost, competing household expenses or simply putting it off can delay that decision.

"National Desexing Month is about encouraging pet owners to act now rather than later. Prevention is always better than dealing with the consequences of an unexpected litter.

"Affordable desexing is about much more than preventing unwanted litters. It helps create better outcomes for pets, gives owners greater peace of mind and reduces pressure on shelters, rescue groups, veterinary services and community support programs."

For many pet owners, desexing can help prevent unplanned pregnancies, reduce the risk of certain health conditions and avoid the financial and practical challenges associated with caring for unexpected litters. Depending on their local area, pet owners may also benefit from reduced council registration fees and other incentives that encourage responsible pet ownership.

The National Desexing Network operates year-round, helping pet owners locate participating veterinary clinics offering discounted desexing services through its national online directory. More than 200 veterinary clinics are listed throughout Australia, helping pet owners access affordable desexing services and special offers in their local area.

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While National Desexing Month serves as an annual reminder to act before spring, the National Desexing Network continues to support pet owners throughout the year, recognising that breeding patterns can vary across Australia and that affordable desexing services remain important in every season.

National Desexing Month reflects AWLQ's commitment to prevention and early intervention, recognising that supporting people to care for their pets helps create stronger outcomes for animals and communities alike.

"Every pet desexed today represents one less opportunity for an unwanted litter tomorrow. When we help people access affordable desexing services, we're supporting pets, their families and the communities they live in. Better outcomes for animals begin with supporting the people who care for them."

Pet owners can search participating veterinary clinics and available offers by visiting www.ndn.org.au/desexing-directory/ and following the instructions provided on each clinic listing.

-ENDS-

For media enquiries and interview requests, please contact:

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About Animal Welfare League Queensland
Established in 1959, Animal Welfare League Queensland (AWLQ) is one of Australia's leading animal welfare organisations, providing care and support for thousands of animals each year.
Through prevention, partnership, evidence-informed practice and compassionate care, AWLQ works to create sustainable long-term outcomes for both people and animals.
AWLQ delivers a range of community programs designed to keep pets with their families, improve animal welfare outcomes and reduce pet overpopulation, including the National Desexing Network.

[1] *Chua, D., Rand, J. & Morton, J. (2023). Characteristics of Stray and Surrendered Cats and Cat Outcomes in Australia. Animals, 13(11), 1771. The study estimated that 179,615 stray and surrendered cats and kittens entered Australian pounds, shelters and rescue groups during 2018–19.*