
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT – DOMESTIC DOG DESEXING VOUCHER POLICY

APPROVALS

POLICY NUMBER	PECS-POL-112	DOC.ID	4679372
CATEGORY	Community		
POLICY OWNER	Manager Community Education and Compliance		
APPROVAL DATE	18 November 2020	RESOLUTION NUMBER	6970

OBJECTIVE

To identify eligible persons and establish guidelines to assess requests for desexing vouchers to alleviate the impact of desexing costs on Isaac Regional Council residents who are in receipt of an approved government pension and/or have presented evidence of requiring support due to hardship to ensure responsible pet ownership.

SCOPE

This policy applies to eligible persons within the Isaac Region who are seeking a voucher for desexing a dog.

DEFINITIONS

TERM / ACRONYM	MEANING
Council	Isaac Regional Council.
Desexing	Surgical spay and /or neutering of a domestic dog.
Desexing Voucher	A voucher to the amount of \$100.00 awarded by Council to eligible persons to assist in reducing the overall cost of desexing a domestic dog.
Entire Dog	Non desexed dog.
Approved Hardship Recipient	An eligible recipient of reduced or waived fees under the Exceptional Circumstances Policy. Factors contributing to serious hardship generally include: family tragedy; financial misfortune; serious illness; impacts of natural disaster; and other serious or difficult circumstances. Determination of any case of “hardship” should be subject to the “reasonable person” test, i.e., would this be considered a case of hardship by a reasonable person. Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority to determine/approve this criterion.
Participating Veterinary Surgery	A veterinary surgery that accepts Council’s desexing vouchers.
Region	Area defined by the electoral boundaries of Isaac Regional Council.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to reducing the number of unwanted dogs within the region by providing eligible persons access to desexing services through the distribution of desexing vouchers.

ELIGIBILITY

Desexing vouchers are available to approved pensioners and war widow/ers who are in receipt of pension entitlements from Centrelink, Department of Veterans' Affairs or War Widow/War Widower pension/allowance or other identified person/s as approved by the CEO. Domestic Dog Desexing Voucher applications must be accompanied by evidence of current pensioner and/or war widow/er's allowance status or have been identified as an Approved Hardship Recipient by the CEO.

Approved Pensioner

An approved pensioner is a person who is:

- a. A resident of the Region; and
- b. An eligible holder of a Queensland Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or a Queensland Repatriation Health Card – for all conditions issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; and
- c. The owner of an entire dog (must be registered and microchipped if the dog is over 12 weeks of age).

Approved War Widow/ War Widower

An approved war widow/war widower is a person who is:

- a. A resident of the region; and
- b. In receipt of a War Widow/War Widower pension/allowance; and
- c. The owner of an entire dog (must be registered and microchipped if the dog is over 12 weeks of age).

Approved Hardship Recipient

An approved Hardship Recipient is a person who is:

- a. A resident of the region; and
- b. An eligible recipient of reduce or waived fees under the Exceptional Circumstances Policy; and
- c. The owner of an entire dog (must be registered and microchipped if the dog is over 12 weeks of age).

The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to approve an individual that meets this criterion on a case by case basis and in reference to relevant Council Policies.

If the dog is not microchipped when making the application, the owner is required to make an undarkening to microchip the dog at the time of redeeming the desexing voucher at the nominated vet clinic at their own cost. The voucher will be conditioned to reflect such.

Value of Voucher

The value of the desexing voucher is for the amount of \$100 for a dog.

Application for a Desexing Voucher

Application for desexing vouchers must be submitted to Council by the eligible person on the Domestic Dog Desexing Voucher Application Form and accompanied by the mandatory supporting documentation. Supporting documentation includes proof of current pensioner or War Widow/War Widower pension/ allowance status.

If an application is approved a desexing voucher is sent to the applicant with conditions.

If the application is refused, a letter is sent to the applicant within five business days of the decision being made.

Presentation of Desexing Voucher to Participating Veterinary Surgery

At the time the domestic dog is admitted for desexing, the owner must present the desexing voucher to the veterinary surgery. The owner is responsible for payment of any remaining fee in excess of the value of the voucher, directly to the veterinary surgery.

Participating Veterinary Surgeon Invoice

The participating veterinary surgery will accept the desexing voucher from the owner at the time of admission, sign the desexing voucher and forward an invoice to council for the desexing voucher amount once the desexing has been undertaken.

Conditions

The following conditions apply to the distribution and usage of desexing voucher:

- a. A maximum of two desexing vouchers within two years (for two dogs) are to be issued per household;
- b. Desexing vouchers must be used within the validity period specified in the voucher;
- c. The dog must be microchipped if not already to redeem the vouchers; and
- d. Only desexing vouchers issued by Isaac Regional Council can be used.

LEGISLATIONS AND RELATED GUIDELINES

- *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*

REFERENCES

ID	NAME
130	Exceptional Circumstances Policy
PECS-WI-155	Animal Management – Domestic Dog Desexing Voucher Work Instruction
PECS-FRM-398	Domestic Dog Desexing Voucher Application Form