

## **Cat Collar Tips**

From 1 November 2013, Western Australian government legislation requires that cats be sterilised, micro chipped and registered with local councils. The City of Mandurah will issue tags upon the registration of a cat, which the cat will need to wear on a collar when outside of its property.

### **Choosing and fitting**

- When choosing and fitting a collar for a cat, consider the many different types available.
- Never use a fixed collar (without a stretch or break away mechanism) on a cat as they are more likely to get caught up or injure themselves given their adventurous nature.
- The collar should be snug enough not to pull over the cat's head easily, but loose enough for you to fit 'two fingers' between the collar and the cat's neck.
- Cut off long collar ends after fitting the collar, to prevent these from catching on anything outdoors.

### **Training you cat**

Your cat may not appreciate wearing collar at first, but with patience and consistency you can train it to accept a collar. Choose a calm time for your cat's first introduction to the collar and follow these easy steps:

**Step 1:** Put the collar on the ground so that the cat can investigate and play with it.

**Step 2:** Rub the collar on the cat's bedding so that it smells familiar.

**Step 3:** Try to put the collar on the cat after plenty of attention has been given to the cat. Once the collar is on, use reassuring words and plenty of treats to reward your cat. Let the cat get used to it for a little while before taking it off.

**Step 4:** Repeat these steps daily inside the house and gradually increase the length of time the cat is wearing the collar until it becomes more comfortable.

Short sessions, rewards and persistence are the key to success! You can also try putting the collar on just before giving the cat its dinner, to distract it from the fact that the collar is on. In the first few weeks, your cat may try to slip the collar off, whenever this happens simply put the collar back on and check that it is fitted properly. Eventually most cats will get used to wearing a collar.

If your cat cannot learn to tolerate a collar, keeping your cat inside the house at all times or in a fully enclosed outdoor cat run may be good options. These have other advantages, such as reduced risks of attacks by other cats, dogs, motor vehicle injuries or getting lost. Another benefit is that indoor-only cats do not pose a risk to wildlife.

Above information has been provided by the RSPCA.