

For immediate release

media release

DESEX AND THE CITY

August is National Desexing Month. Help Australia's animals and take your pet to an RSPCA NSW Veterinary Hospital during August for a 20% discount off pet desexing.

Every year, thousands of animals are euthanased across Australia because there are simply not enough homes for them. And while desexing certainly helps decrease the number of unwanted puppies and kittens received by animal shelters annually, it also assists in preventing life threatening illnesses.

"Desexing female dogs and cats actually helps decrease the incidence of breast cancer, as well as preventing ovarian and uterine cancer. It also prevents the chances of developing pyometra (an infection in the uterus) which is a life threatening condition," said Dr Magdoline Awad, RSPCA NSW Chief Veterinarian.

"Desexing also has similar benefits for male dogs, with the risk of some reproductive cancers, prostatic diseases, as well as perineal hernias reduced. There are also behavioural benefits for male dogs and cats. For male cats, desexing prevents many unwanted behaviours such as fighting and roaming which often leads to their demise through car accidents and injuries. Fighting also puts male cats at risk of developing FIV infection (or Feline AIDS)."

Desexing helps to:

- Reduce the risk of cancer and other diseases (such as pyometra in females and hernias in males).
- Stop the cycle of mating and unwanted litters which contributes to the problem of pet overpopulation.
- Lessen the need for pets to wander, fight and subsequently get injured or lost.
- Decrease the physical and nutritional exhaustion which affects over-breeding animals.

There are four RSPCA NSW Veterinary Hospitals – Sydney, Broken Hill, Rutherford and Tighes Hill, and a Veterinary Consultation Room at the RSPCA Care Centre in Rouse Hill. More information can be found at www.rspcansw.org.au



Media Contact:

Melinda Wills McHugh, Acting RSPCA NSW Media Manager

E: mmchugh@rspcansw.org.au

M: 0413 622 020

W: www.rspcansw.org.au

Left: All animals (like Jack pictured) cared for at RSPCA Shelters across the country are desexed before being rehomed.