

## DOCUMENT 19: MICROCHIPPING ON A BUDGET

### A Practical Guide to Securing Legal Protection for Your Cats

In the current climate, a microchip is the only **Legal Property ID** recognized by the state. Without it, a cat can be classified as "feral" and targeted by government contractors. To protect the cats you feed, getting them "on the register" is the priority.

#### 1. Find a "Snip 'n' Chip" Campaign

The most affordable way to protect community cats is through the **SPCA's Snip 'n' Chip** campaigns.

- **The Cost:** Usually a flat fee of **\$10 to \$30**.
- **What you get:** This voucher covers the cost of desexing, the microchip, and **Lifetime Registration** on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR).
- **How to find them:** Visit **desexing.sPCA.nz** regularly. These campaigns move between regions (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, etc.) throughout the year.

#### 2. Low-Cost Vet Clinics & Grants

Several independent clinics and rescues offer year-round help for those caring for community cats:

- **Waikato:** *New Lives Animal Rescue* offers \$60 vouchers for desexing, chipping, and registration.
- **Auckland:** *Coast Pet Care* (Silverdale) frequently offers \$45 desexing and microchip specials.
- **Palmerston North:** The *Massey-SPCA Clinic* offers \$20–\$30 desexing which includes **Free Microchipping** for Community Services Card holders.

#### 3. Registering the Chip Yourself

If you have a cat that is already chipped but the details aren't on the system, you can fix this yourself for a one-off fee.

- **The Cost:** A one-time fee of **\$15.00** for the life of the animal.
- **The Database:** Go to **animalregister.co.nz** (NZCAR).
- **Tip:** Register the cat to a "Community Group" or "Street Collective" to share the legal responsibility.

#### 4. The Community "Chip-In" Strategy

Don't try to fund a whole colony alone.

- **Cost Sharing:** A \$30 voucher split between five neighbours is only **\$6 per person**.
- **Bulk Buying:** Talk to your local vet. They may offer a discount if you bring in multiple cats from the same street for "Property ID" chipping.

**A microchip is a legal barrier. Get them on the register before the March 2026 deadline.**

