



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Is your pet missing?

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COOKTOWN

If your pet is missing, the first stop in trying to find them should be Cook Shire Council.

Council was often unable to contact the owners of un-microchipped and unregistered pets, Cook Shire Council Senior Animal Management Officer Stuart Renshaw said. "If we impound a wandering dog or cat, the first thing we want to be able to do is reunite it with its owner," Mr Renshaw said. "Unfortunately sometimes we can't contact the owner if your animal doesn't have a tag or a chip, so we would like to encourage everyone to contact us immediately if their pet goes missing."

Council has a 24 hour answering service, with trained staff in Cairns able to take information and pass it on to the relevant Council officer immediately in urgent situations or on the next business day for non-urgent enquiries. Council's compliance and animal management team can impound animals who are wandering, abandoned or who are the subject of a compliance notice that has not been met. "Contrary to popular belief, euthanasia is a last resort for impounded animals," Mr Renshaw said. "Animals are only euthenased if they are dangerous, unable to be rehomed or moved to a shelter or suffering from an injury or disease."

There is a \$60 release fee to get your animal out of the pound, plus \$10 per day that it was held. Animals without identification (microchip or rego tag) are held for three days, and animals with identification are held for five days. "Where possible we are flexible with those timeframes, but sometimes if the pound is full we need to remove animals quickly to make room for new impounds," Mr Renshaw said. Keep a lookout on Council's website and Facebook page if your pet is lost or for animals who are looking for their forever home.

For more information contact Council's Compliance and Animal Management team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444 or visit Council's website www.cook.qld.gov.au to check the pound register if your pet is missing.

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