



## Dr Michael O'Donoghue

Northern Representative  
Australian Small Animal Veterinarians

Michael O'Donoghue graduated as a veterinarian from UQ vet school in 1992 and worked in small animal practice, and is now working as a locum agent. Michael O'Donoghue has a special interest in the human animal bond and set up a business called "People and Pets" that coordinates a pet loss support service, is concerned about issues such as unwanted companion animals and pet friendly property.

Michael has been active member of the AVA (Australian Veterinary Association) since 2000, then joining the Queensland AVA executive in 2008, and was the Queensland President for 2015. Michael is also the Northern Representative of the ASAV (Australian Small Animal Vets)

### Abstract

#### **What Australian Vets are recommending for desexing cats and dogs**

Results of a survey of vets published in the Australian Veterinary Practitioner, September 2016, and how to engage with your local vet to reduce unwanted companion animals.

A large proportion of vets reported they would perform early age desexing (<16 weeks) if requested. A smaller proportion reported they would perform very early age desexing (<10 weeks) if requested. Anaesthetic risk was a major concern that inhibited vets from desexing earlier. Respondents reported they would be more inclined to recommend earlier desexing with greater support from the scientific literature.