

**Submission  
No 1**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS  
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Robert Heron

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To the committee,

Here in Albury-Wodonga I'm fortunate to have a very thoughtful all seasons garden constantly shedding nuts and fruit that the birds love to eat. I have a resident sulphur crested cockatoo that likes to sample each citrus fruit individually. He likes the rind and albedo but spits it out in revulsion when he gets a mouthful of tart juice. He is hilarious to watch and even more so when he gets startled as he notices me staring at him. I have many pigeons, blackbirds and Myna birds in my backyard. The baby pigeons that have grown up familiar with my presence have grown on me. In the spring I get lots of native birds nesting in my yard. These species do not survive long due to the predominantly ground nesting or very near to the ground nesting behavior that makes them easy prey for cats.

Some unwelcome cats can take a hint and will hiss and complain when I chase them out of the garden. Some cats will not take a hint, run away, wait out of reach and repeatedly return when they think I am gone. These cats I hate the most. They will sit around the low hanging nests and individually pick each baby bird out of the nest to crunch it once, drop it and repeat. I do not like to watch this or to hear the parents screaming for an hour afterwards at the cat. This behavior is intensified when a female cat in oestrus is nearby as the males are seeking nuptial gifts.

Priority should be given to identifying and desexing domestic female cats. At the very least an amnesty program providing a free testosterone shot for female cats to abort oestrus would be a very nice thing. I would like to be able to abduct female cats and have a vet abort their oestrus in the spring then return them to the neighborhood -the owners none the wiser- so the males don't kill every last bird. I care about hearing wonderful bird songs and do not care if a cat owner wants kittens. Methods for counteracting the behavioral changes of the males such as Canine Appeasing Pheromone is used in canines would be helpful. Three bells on each collar and fines for misinformation spread deterring pet owners from putting collars in their cats. Bells strongly deter cats from hunting behaviour because it makes them feel non-sneaky. I've put bells on cats only for the bells to disappear the next day because some dogooder wants their cat to hunt freely. Higher fees for returning captured cats. Cats learn. Once it's captured once and the owner let off with a slap on the wrist it's going to remember not to get caught again. Cat bait stations that are unlawful to interfere with posted on every suburban street.

Cats are ugly and awful. All they do is sneak around in the shadows hissing at night and demand wet food. Compare this to a variety of birds with pleasant songs. It's absolutely terrible that it is unlawful to exterminate cats that can freely exterminate lovely birds. Exterminate all the brutes.