

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

**Organisation:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 23 October 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

## Introduction

is a Sydney-based, registered charity dedicated to rescuing and rehoming homeless cats. We understand the overwhelming burden of homeless cats in NSW and the strain it places on animal welfare organizations.

## The Problem

The current number of homeless cats in NSW is a significant issue. , alongside countless other rescues, witnesses the devastating consequences of uncontrolled backyard and street breeding firsthand. We urge the government to implement comprehensive strategies to address this problem and prevent more suffering.

## Proposed Solutions

We propose a multi-pronged approach:

**Mandatory Desexing:** We strongly advocate for mandatory desexing of all domestic cats. This is the most effective way to significantly reduce the homeless cat population.

**Mandatory Microchipping:** Mandatory microchipping of all cats, with owner information readily accessible, is crucial for reuniting lost pets and identifying irresponsible owners. Fines for non-compliance should be implemented.

**Financial Assistance for Desexing:** To address cost concerns, government subsidies or low-cost desexing programs can be established to make desexing accessible to all pet owners.

**Community Education:** Educational campaigns are essential to promote responsible pet ownership, including the importance of desexing, microchipping, and proper pet care.

**Regulation of Breeders:** Breeders should be monitored and controlled, with a minimum number of litters allowed per year. They should be required to report to the government annually. Otherwise ban the breeding completely for the next 5 years to help reduce the current numbers.

**Increased Awareness:** TV marketing, veterinary clinics, and schools should all help promote desexing and microchipping of all companion animals. They should be commended and rewarded in doing so to promote further education.

**Government Investment:** The government needs to invest in advertising campaigns to raise awareness about these issues and encourage responsible pet ownership.

## The Impact of Uncontrolled Breeding

The burden of uncontrolled breeding falls heavily on rescue organizations like [redacted]. Our resources are stretched thin, and the emotional and physical toll on volunteers is immense and many thoughts are suicidal.

## The Need for Stronger Enforcement

Current legislation regarding desexing and microchipping seems inadequately enforced. Stricter penalties for non-compliance are necessary to ensure responsible pet ownership. Additionally, stricter regulations for breeders, including licensing and accountability measures, can help prevent irresponsible breeding practices. Funding needs to go towards more staff to enforce these penalties.

## Conclusion

[redacted] urges the NSW government to prioritize mandatory desexing, microchipping with fines, and robust enforcement mechanisms. Combined with financial assistance, educational programs, and stricter regulations for breeders and owners, these measures can create a significant reduction in the homeless cat population and alleviate the burden on animal welfare organizations.

We believe that with a collective effort, we can create a more compassionate and responsible approach to feline well-being in NSW.

## Additional Information:

We have included a link to our website and social media pages for further information about our work.

We are happy to provide any additional data or insights based on our experience as a rescue organization.

We have also provided our previous financial year reporting. This type of reporting to the Government should be mandatory to all rescuers and breeders.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Sincerely,