

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

The state has so much to do in improving the quality of life for cats in our communities.

As a developed and civil society how we treat animals is extremely important. Human withholding all the resources which should be shared by both human and other species.

It is the humans fault introducing cats to the continent and cats have been socialised for thousand years so they should never be considered invasive species. They can be brought into homes and socialised, same as dogs.

There are so much the government should be doing and changing to help control cat population and the same time improve their wellbeing.

1. Legalise TNR- community feeders/ cat carers are working extremely hard to desex cats in their communities to reduce the number of unwanted cats. Yet the law prohibits these kind hearted people from doing so.

2. Free desexing of street cats by community members. Government should encourage free desexing of street cats to encourage adopting of unwanted street cats. The current costs of desexing , microchip and vaccination is expensive and desexing is the more expensive among all. This discourage people / cats owners to desex cats.

3. Remove Lifetime Registration Fee- the purpose of the fee collected by council is to improve welfare of pets in the local area. However the councils do not have humane and ethical policies in place to do their best for the animals including this on the street as stated. Instead they catch cats reported to the pound and most of them end up being put to sleep. Cat loving public are disturbed to know the fee they contribute is for the councils to kill animals. By removing the fee also reduce the cost of owning pets and encourage more people to keep cats off the street..

4. Ban the use of the term 'invasive species' of cats. Cats were brought to the country by human owners. Cat is a species that has been socialised with humans for thousand years. It is the humans fault of dumping undesexed cats so they had to fend for themselves and find food and breed not on their own will. But cats can be brought into the home and kept indoors. We cannot be this barbaric society with only one way to revolve the issue by killing.

5. Ban breeding and increase punishment for illegal breeding- breeding of some cats breeds are out right animal abuse. Scottish Fold, exotic cats, Persian cats, Devon , Rex they all have genetic mutations and suffer from health issues dire to that. Human breed them because of their look and disregard their suffering. There are a lot of surrendering of these cats, worse struggles dumping of these poor cats due to the time and cost for caring for them when they are sick. Imagine if one day some people like babies with Down syndrome is cute and decided to breed them for money. What kind of twisted mentality is that to breed a life with health issues for money. As a civil society this should never be allowed. The cat breeding industry has brought nothing to help the poor cats but burden for the cat rescue community to pick up the mess they have partly created.

6. Harder punishment for animal abuse especially torture.

7. Education- we need better education on how to respect animals and street animals including cats. Our country is full of migrants myself included. Yet some cultures don't respect animals. They do not respect cats and often refused to desex cats and let them roam to breed. We need different measures to help these poor cats with education being the strongest foundation of a long lasting measure to ensure our future generations are also involved in helping animal welfare.

8. Pet friendly rental bill- the rental market in the state is extremely pet hostile and leading to many pet surrender, worse dumping. Mandatory rental agreement allowing pets is crucial and conditions can be place to protect landlords, like mandatory pests control, and pet deposit.