

Submission  
No 73

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

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**Date Received:** 4 November 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

# Stray Cat Management Proposal



CONNELLS POINT KITTIES

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AUGUST 2024

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# **STRAY CAT MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

Over the last 20 years or more, the stray cat population is a global problem and not isolated to Australia. Cats are prolific breeders and as a result all attempts by local councils, animal welfare groups and independent grass roots rescues are losing the battle in controlling the cat population. Much of the problem has centred around a lack of education in understanding the importance of desexing your animal, irresponsible owners allowing their cats to breed and finally, by people dumping undesexed cats they no longer want. People find it easier to abandon a cat than surrender it to an animal shelter as waiting lists are in excess of 12 months.

Despite the changes to the NSW Companion Animals Act in 2019 making it compulsory for all domestic cats and dogs to be microchipped prior to their reselling or rehoming, it is still not working. There is also a lack of understanding about the importance of desexing a cat, with as many as 10% of owned cats not desexed and being allowed to breed.

Research has indicated that to control the cat population requires a multi-pronged approach which involves a number of strategies, including educating the community, offering subsidised desexing programs and engaging with animal welfare and community groups. Seizing and destroying wandering/roaming cats has very little impact on controlling the cat population and is inhumane.

If governments are to humanely manage the cat population to ensure responsible pet ownership, manage unowned/semi owned cat colonies to minimise the negative impact to our native wildlife and greater community, a more detailed program that involves all key stakeholders needs to be implemented rather than just seeking an amendment to the Companion Animals Act to allow Local Council and its rangers to seize wandering or roaming cats.

### **1.1 Facts**

- In 2018-2019 Australian council pounds, rescue groups and animal welfare shelters took in 179,615 cats and kittens. Of these animals, 5% were reclaimed by owners, 65% rehomed and 28% (over 50,000) were killed.
- Council-operated pounds killed 46% of all cats and kittens admitted. Shelters killed 25%. One in four council pounds in New South Wales 67-100%.
- Approximately 80% of adult cats and 90% of kittens impounded by municipal councils are urban strays.
- In an Australian city of 100,000 residents, it is estimated there are around 6,000 stray cats. For example, the Georges River LGA with a resident population of over 150,000 people, therefore the stray cat population is approximately as high 9,000 cats.
- On average, one in 15-20 people in Australia feed daily a stray cat they do not perceive they own; most of these are not desexed. The urban stray cat population is steadily increasing as the human population increases.

## **2.0 TYPES OF CATS**

There are four distinct populations of cats in Australia based on their interaction with humans:

- 2.1 **Owned:** Owned cats are the most abundant group of cats in Australia, estimated at 4.9 million in 2021 up from 3.3 million in 2013. These are cats who live in a domestic household, are usually named, have a form of identification, depend on humans for their food, and over 90% are desexed. They may live totally indoors, outdoors, or a mix of indoors and outdoors. Management of owned cats involves implementation of responsible cat ownership principles and includes identification, desexing and containment.
- 2.2 **Semi-owned & Unowned cats:** Semi-owned and unowned cats or their ancestors were once owned by people. Their or their predecessors' origins were as abandoned, wandering or lost owned cats. They are thought to number approximately 710,000 individuals Australia-wide. Semi-owned and unowned cats are variably dependent on humans for food and shelter. They are more abundant in areas where food resources are available. Semi-owned cats are fed intentionally by well-meaning members of the public who do not perceive ownership for the cat. Unowned cats are not intentionally fed but are at least partly dependent on food from humans, e.g., by scavenging from human rubbish. Research suggests that approximately 3-26.5% of adult Australians may feed a semi-owned cat daily or less frequently. Many semi-owned and unowned cats are not desexed, identified, vaccinated or given parasite control.
- 2.3 **Feral (not present in urban areas):** These cats live independently of humans and, in Australia, are currently estimated to be 2.07 million in number, though this fluctuates between 1.4 – 4.6 million according to seasonal factors. They tend to be solitary, and their territory can be large and variable, depending on resources. They are successful survivors in harsh circumstances and their numbers are in balance with the available food sources, which vary with seasonal changes and land management practices.

It is important to stress, that most urban areas do not have feral cats, they have stray cats that are classified as semi owned or unowned. The majority of stray/roaming cats live either in residential or industrial areas and form colonies. Some colonies are fortunate and have a cat colony carer not affiliated with any mainstream rescue. These individuals take on the responsibility to manage their colony and will often feed, desex, provide medical treatment if needed, and wherever possible rehome kittens and cats. They rely on the support of members of the community who will offer to foster cats/kittens and provide financial support for food and medical treatment. In instances where cat colony carers do not have support of others, adult cats will often be caught, desexed and released back to where they are found, despite it currently considered to be against the law. However by returning these cats to their colonies ensures the “natural order” of the colony and limits new cats entering the colony with ease. These are also known as managed cat communities.

## **3.0 WHY CULLING STRAY CATS IS NOT EFFECTIVE**

Culling cats may seem like an easy solution to reducing the stray cat population, however there is research-based evidence that contradicts this argument. The reasons why culling stray cats is a bad idea are as follows:

- 3.1 Killing someone's pet: with an estimated 10% of owned cats not being microchipped or wearing identifiers, this means that you run the risk of killing someone's beloved pet and causing much emotional distress.
- 3.2 Negative Mental Health Impact on animal welfare workers, veterinary staff and rangers who are unnecessarily killing an otherwise healthy animal. Suicide rates amongst Australian vets are already alarmingly high. In fact, studies show that vets are four times more likely to die by suicide compared to the general population.
- 3.3 Inhumane treatment: Culling stray cats involves the deliberate killing of these animals, which is widely considered inhumane and goes against the principles of animal welfare and compassion.
- 3.4 High costs: Culling stray cats can be expensive, requiring resources for trapping, euthanasia, and disposal of the bodies. These costs can be substantial, especially if culling efforts need to be repeated periodically to maintain control.
- 3.5 Ineffectiveness in population control: Culling alone is generally ineffective in achieving long-term population control. Removing a portion of the population without addressing the underlying causes of population growth can lead to a rebound effect, where the remaining cats breed to fill the vacant niches, resulting in a similar or even larger population over time.**
- 3.6 Disruption of social structures: Culling disrupts the established social structures within cat colonies, causing increased stress, aggression, and territorial conflicts among the remaining cats. This can lead to negative impacts on the cats' wellbeing and behaviour.
- 3.7 Potential for cruelty and illegal activities: Culling programs may attract individuals who engage in cruel or illegal activities, such as poisoning or harming cats in unauthorised ways. This can lead to unnecessary suffering and a violation of animal welfare laws.
- 3.8 Public backlash and negative perception: Culling stray cats can generate strong opposition from the public, animal welfare organisations, and cat enthusiasts. The negative perception of culling as a cruel and ineffective method can damage the reputation of individuals, organisations, or government bodies involved in such practices.
- 3.9 Missed opportunity for education and awareness: Culling fails to capitalise on the potential for public education and awareness about responsible pet ownership, sterilisation programs, and the benefits of humane population control methods like trap neuter-release (TNR). It misses an opportunity to create long-term change and community engagement.
- 3.10 Potential increase in rodent populations: Stray cats play a role in controlling populations of rodents, which can have detrimental effects on public health, and local ecosystems. Removing cats through culling without addressing alternative methods for rodent control may lead to increased rodent populations.
- 3.11 Ethical concerns and moral implications: Culling stray cats raises ethical concerns and moral implications by disregarding the intrinsic value of animal life and resorting to lethal measures without exhaustively exploring alternatives. It conflicts with the principles of animal welfare and compassionate stewardship of the environment.

## 4.0 WHY MANAGED CAT COMMUNITIES ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Although there has been little formal research on managed cat community (MCC) (that includes trapping cats, desexing, microchipping and returning to their colony) programs, many of those involved in this program have seen evidence that cat populations will decrease over time if managed and monitored correctly. Other reasons to support include:

- 4.1 Long-term population control: Managed Cat Community (MCC) programs focus on managing the stray cat population over time by addressing the root cause of population growth. By sterilising cats through Trap Neuter Release, their ability to reproduce is eliminated, leading to a gradual reduction in the overall population.
- 4.2 Humanely addressing the issue: MCC programs promote a more compassionate approach to stray cat management by avoiding the need for lethal methods such as culling. This approach acknowledges the intrinsic value of every animal's life and strives to minimise suffering.
- 4.3 Behavioural benefits: Unlike culling, MCC programs do not disrupt the social structures of cat colonies. Instead, they allow the cats to continue living in their established territories, reducing territorial conflicts, stress, and related negative behaviours such as praying or fighting.  
*"In Australia, recent studies (Tan 2017; Swarbrick 2013) indicate that desexing and adoption or return of stray cats can be an effective and humane method of reducing urban stray cat populations, cat-related complaints, and pound and shelter intake. For example, median colony size decreased from 11.5 to 6.5 cats in just 2 years in 44 colonies (Tan 2017), and by 75% in one large colony over 8 years (Swarbrick 2013)"<sup>1</sup>*
- 4.4 Cost-effectiveness: In the long run, MCC programs can be more cost-effective compared to culling. While the initial investment might be higher due to the expenses associated with trapping, sterilisation, and vaccination, MCC programs address the issue at its core, minimising the need for repeated culling efforts and associated costs.
- 4.5 Disease control: MCC programs include essential veterinary care, such as vaccinations and health checks, which contribute to disease control in the stray cat population. By preventing the spread of infectious diseases, MCC helps protect both stray cats and other wildlife that might come into contact with them.
- 4.6 Public support and engagement: MCC programs often involve community engagement and volunteer efforts, fostering a sense of collective responsibility among citizens. This increased involvement and public support helps create a sustainable solution by encouraging responsible pet ownership and promoting awareness about the benefits of MCC.
- 4.7 Limiting cat abandonment: By addressing the issue of stray cat overpopulation through MCC, these programs help reduce the number of cats being abandoned in the first place. Education and outreach efforts associated with MCC can also promote responsible pet ownership, discouraging people from abandoning their cats.
- 4.8 Reducing nuisance complaints: Stray cats can cause nuisance complaints in communities, such as spraying, noise, and territorial disputes. MCC programs, by minimising the population growth and stabilising cat colonies, can alleviate these issues, leading to improved community relations and reduced conflicts.
- 4.9 Ethical considerations: MCC programs align with the ethical values of many Australians who advocate for the humane treatment of animals. By choosing a compassionate and

proactive approach, MCC programs respect the value of stray cats' lives, while still addressing the concerns surrounding population control.

## **5.0 HOW TO BEST MANAGE THE STRAY CAT POPULATION.**

If the government is serious about managing the stray cat population, it must be willing to invest in a multi-level approach as well as involve all relevant stakeholders.

### **5.1 Stakeholders include;**

- cat owners
- cat carers – people caring for stray and street cats.
- rangers
- conservation groups
- local, and state government
- animal welfare groups
- veterinarians
- scientists (including social scientists)
- researchers
- cat breeders and cat sellers
- educators
- landholders
- Evidence-based stakeholder engagement and education are essential. Behaviour change initiatives can be used to improve cat management strategies.

5.2 **Managed Cat Communities (MCC):** Implementing MCC programs is considered best practice for managing stray cat populations. Cats are trapped, sterilised, vaccinated, and returned to their original location, preventing further population growth, while allowing cats to live out their lives naturally. It would be recommended that these cats be registered to Council or an animal welfare group to allow for the effective management of cats, and to monitor colony changes.

5.3 **Desexing initiatives:** Promote and facilitate the desexing of owned and semi-owned cats to prevent unwanted litters. Offering low-cost or subsidised desexing services encourages responsible pet ownership and reduces the number of cats entering the stray population.

5.4 **Microchip and pet registration initiatives:** Promote and facilitate the microchipping and registration of owned and semi owned cats.

5.5 **Public education:** Conduct public education campaigns in several languages to raise awareness about responsible pet ownership, the importance of desexing, and the benefits of MCC programs. Educating the public can help prevent abandonment and increase support for stray cat management initiatives. This should be focused through Council community engagement channels as well as working with community groups and schools to establish regular and consistent education programs.

5.6 **Community engagement:** Encourage community involvement in stray cat management by establishing volunteer programs, neighbourhood watch programs, or community cat caretaker networks. Engaged communities can



actively participate in MCC efforts, monitoring cat colonies, and assisting with cat care. Work with other community groups and schools to encourage fostering of cats.

- 5.7 Collaboration with animal welfare organisations: Partner with local animal welfare organisations such as the Cat Protection Society, to leverage their expertise, resources, and networks. Collaborative efforts can help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of stray cat management programs.
- 5.8 Encourage Foster Cat programs: for children as part of the education program for responsible pet ownership. This is a great way for families to trial pet ownership before committing. Foster care should also be encouraged for our older community members living alone. There are many [health benefits](#) associated with pet ownership, however many [older people](#) are reluctant to own a pet for concern over its welfare in the instance that they can no longer care for their pet. Fostering offers companionship and peace of mind, and should the foster carer no longer be able to care for the cat, it will have somewhere safe to go.

*"In a survey of more than 2,200 young Scots ages 11-15, kids who had a strong bond with their kitties had a higher quality of life. The more attached they were, the more they felt fit, energetic, and attentive and less sad and lonely; and the more they enjoyed their time alone, at leisure, and at school".<sup>2</sup>*

- 5.9 Support local cat rescuer volunteers and groups with their adoption programs.
- 5.10 targeted intervention in hotspot areas: Identify areas with high stray cat populations or frequent complaints and implement targeted intervention strategies such as intensive MCC efforts, increased community outreach, and education programs. Focusing resources where they are most needed can yield more significant results.
- 5.11 Collaboration with veterinarians and veterinary clinics: Work closely with veterinarians and veterinary clinics to promote the importance of sterilisation, encourage participation in MCC programs, and provide low-cost or subsidised spay/neuter services. Building relationships with local veterinary professionals strengthens the overall impact of stray cat management initiatives.
- 5.12 Monitoring and evaluation: Establish a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of stray cat management programs. Regularly assess the impact, outcomes, and cost-effectiveness of various strategies to refine and improve future interventions. This ensures evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement in managing stray cat populations.

## 6.0 UNDERSTANDING OUR LOCAL CAT COMMUNITY CARERS

A survey was conducted for a week seeking feedback from people who are actively involved in any of the following in the local and surrounding Georges River Local Government Area:

- Caring for cat colonies
- Rescuing and rehabilitating stray and abandoned cats
- Fostering cats

The highlights of the survey are as follows:

- Over 80% of respondents care for cat colonies
- 40% care for 3 or more cat colonies
- The majority of cat colonies cared for are in Industrial (33.3%) and Residential (66.7%) areas.
- On average each carer spends \$17,631 per year to care for stray and abandoned cats. These carers are either self-funded or receive donations from supportive community members\*.
- Over 80% of cats rescued and fostered are either abandoned cats/kittens or come from colonies.
- **90% of respondents believe managed MCC programs and cat colonies will lead to an overall decrease in the cat population in the long run,**
- Over 50% of cats rescued are in foster care for over 6 weeks before they are adopted.
- The majority of foster carers foster between 11-20 cats per year.
- Over 40% of respondents spend over \$200 per month on their foster cats/kittens.
- **100% of respondents believe offering more affordable desexing would encourage more people to desex their cats.**
- **Over 70% of respondents believe that in order to encourage owners to microchip and register their cat, the process need to be both affordable and easy to do.**
- **Over 30% of respondents receive discount on medical treatment directly from their vet.**
- **None of the respondents received any subsidised support from local councils.**
- 95% of respondents are women and over 45% are aged between 45-54 years.

The research demonstrates that there is an active community of cat carers (including vets) who are making a positive impact in managing cat colonies and rehoming stray and homeless cats. The cats fostered by independent carers have a better chance of socialisation as there are no time pressures to rehabilitate a cat like there are in larger rescues. This therefore means that a high stressed or anxious cat has an increased chance of rehabilitation as there are no time restrictions of how long they can be in foster care. The research also highlights that the cat colonies are more common in areas where they are more likely to be reliant on humans (Residential and Industrial) for food, or it is easier to scavenge, therefore posing minimal risk to wildlife in the Georges River LGA. The research also demonstrates that more needs to be done to encourage desexing and microchipping cats by way of financial support. (Refer to attachment 1.0 for the complete survey).

*\* Note: The amount spent by colony cat carers is a conservative figure. Some respondents did not keep a record of their expenses and, where this occurred, an estimate of \$10,000 was assumed. One respondent claimed to spend over \$100,000 per year. Total calculated: \$335,000*

## 7.0 ACTION PLAN AND URGENCY

| Item | Strategy  | Actions  | Outcome  | Urgency   |
|------|---|--|--|-----------|
| 7.1  | Form a cat management committee by Local Government Areas   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage with relevant stakeholders to get a better understanding of all issues involved regarding effective cat population management.</li> <li>2. Develop a long-term strategy that effectively educates the community on responsible pet ownership.</li> <li>3. Develop a long-term strategy that better manages stray and homeless cats and minimises euthanasia as the only solution</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a more effective and long-term cat management program</li> <li>2. Increase in microchip registrations and desexing.</li> <li>3. A more positive community outcome. Better management of stray and homeless cat populations. Reduced need to kill healthy cats.</li> </ol> | VERY HIGH |
| 7.2  | Adopt a managed cat communities – that includes – desexing and microchipping homeless cat and then returning them to their colony in urban area. Community Cat Care Pilot Program | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Manage stray cats by adopting a MCC program in selected high density and industrial areas.</li> <li>5. Implement designated feeding stations away from vulnerable or nuisance areas</li> <li>6. Work with local vet for health checks</li> <li>7. Monitor cat population via documented and controlled reporting.</li> <li>8. Cats to be microchipped to either an animal welfare group or local council.</li> <li>9. Create volunteer group to care and maintain targeted colonies</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Better understand the stray cat population</li> <li>5. Decrease overall stray cat population and reduce births.</li> <li>6. Reduce disease spreading between cats.</li> <li>7. Potential rodent control</li> </ol>   | VERY HIGH |
| 7.3  | Desexing Initiatives  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Provide subsidised desexing programs for family-owned cats all year round.</li> <li>11. Work with local vets, and animal welfare groups</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Reduce unwanted cat births.</li> <li>9. Reduce dumping/abandonment of unwanted cats</li> <li>10. Potential access to financial support of programs via welfare group funding</li> </ol>  | VERY HIGH |
| 7.4  | Education Programs  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Develop education programs to target. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Broad Community and CALD</li> </ul> </li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Encourage responsible pet ownership – increases desexing and microchipping.</li> <li>12. Decreases abandonment.</li> </ol>  | HIGH      |

|     |  |   |   |          |
|-----|--|---|---|----------|
|     |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pet shops</li> </ul>   | <p>13. Decreases unwanted pregnancies.<br/>14. Increases the chances of a lost pet being reunited with its family</p>   |          |
| 7.5 | Encourage Foster Care programs                           | <p>13. Encourage foster care programs for school children as part of an education program to teach responsible pet ownership.<br/>14. Foster care programs that provide support to seniors living at home alone</p> | <p>15. Reduce pet dumping.<br/>16. Increase adoptions from animal welfare and rescue groups.<br/>17. Health benefits of pet ownership including preventative health, decrease in loneliness and increased confidence.<br/>18. Reduces the number of cats in animal welfare shelters.<br/>19. Reduce the number of unnecessary killings of healthy cats.<br/>20. Allows for more time for a cat to adjust to a more domesticated environment</p> | MED-HIGH |
| 7.6 | Microchipping and registration of pet ownership programs | <p>15. Allow for discounted and free registration of cats both owned and semi owned.<br/>16. Allow for free registration of semi owned and owned cats to a welfare organisation or volunteer</p>                    | <p>21. Allow the registration of semi-owned cats to allow for better monitoring of populations.<br/>22. Increases chances of a lost owned cat being reunited with its family if correctly microchipped and registered.</p>  | HIGH     |
| 7.7 | Volunteer Cat Rescue Programs                            | <p>17. Develop Council run programs utilising volunteers who already run independent rescues or manage cat colonies to help better manage stray cats.</p>   | <p>23. Reduces pressure on animal welfare groups<br/>24. Increases the chances of a highly stressed/anxious cat to be rehabilitated and rehomed<br/>25. Forms part of the education program of responsible pet ownership<br/>26. Helps improve perception of cats</p>   | HIGH     |

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## REFERENCES

1. [Managing cats humanely and scientifically to reduce cat numbers, wildlife predation & costs](#)
2. [The Science-Backed Benefits of Being a Cat Lover](#)
3. [Management of cats in Australia, Australian Veterinary Association](#)

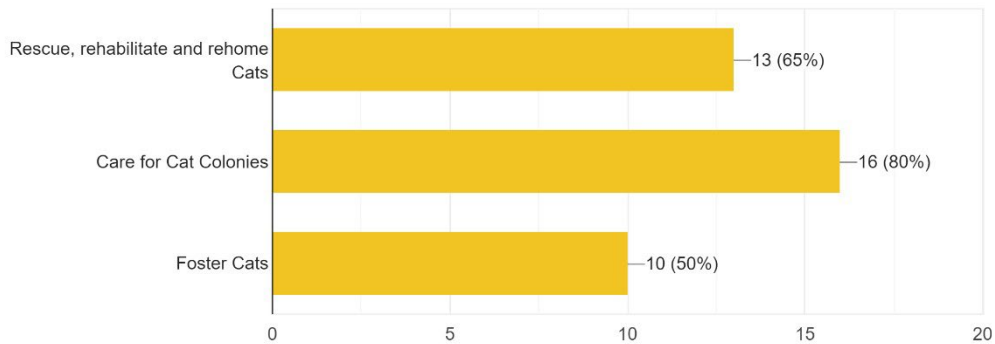
## ATTACHMENT

### Community Cat Carer Survey

As an active community member caring for homeless and abandoned cats your feedback is important to get a better understanding of the work you do. Please fill this quick survey as it will help shape a proposal to help manage stray cat populations without the need to unnecessarily kill them.

Do you (please tick all that apply)

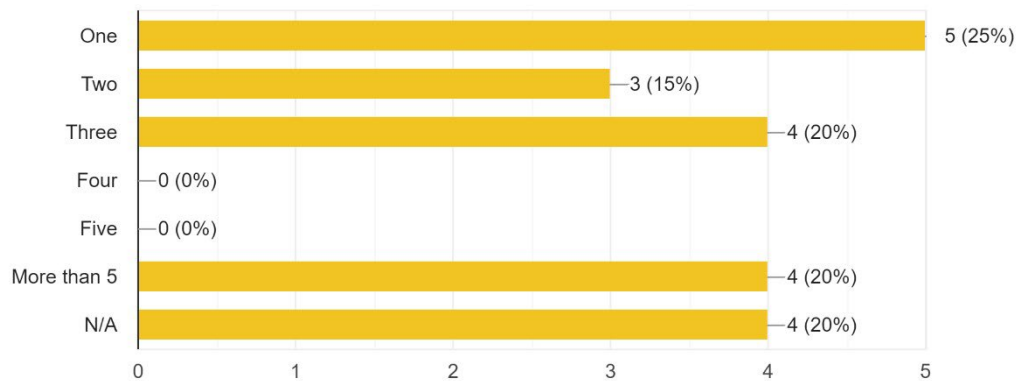
20 responses



### Section 1 – Cat Colony Carers

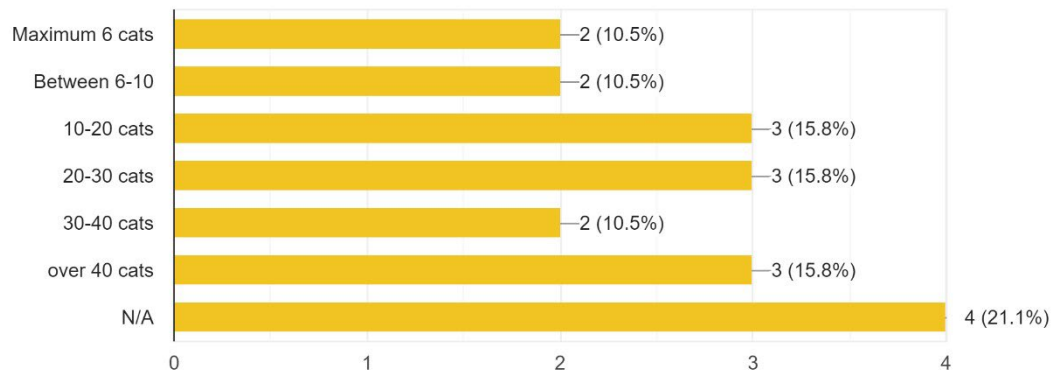
If you care for cat colonies - how many colonies do you care for

20 responses



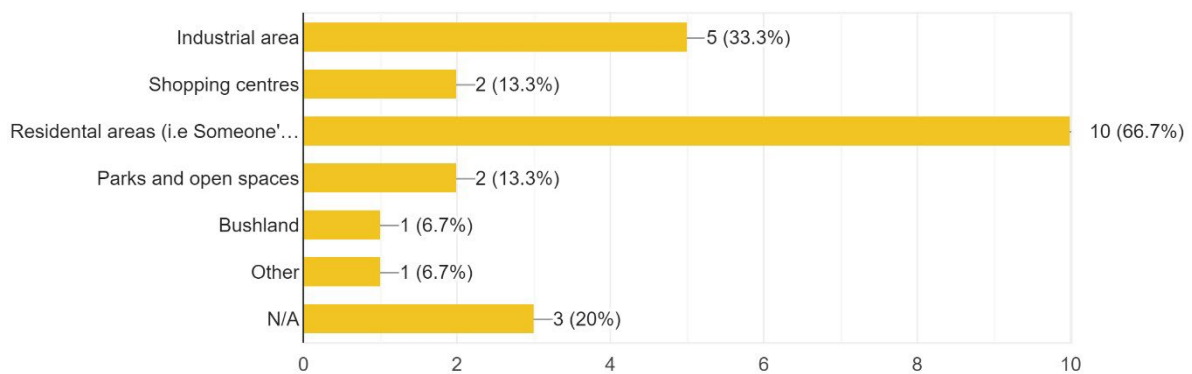
### How many cats in total for all your colonies do you care for

19 responses



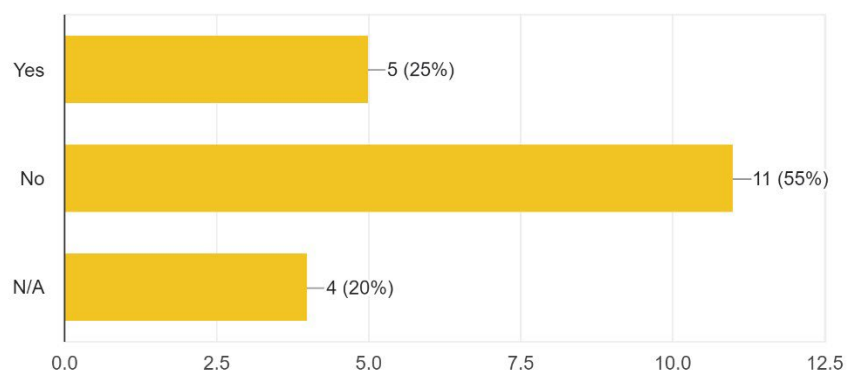
### Where are your colonies located (please tick all that apply)

15 responses



### Do you have people that help you manage your colonies

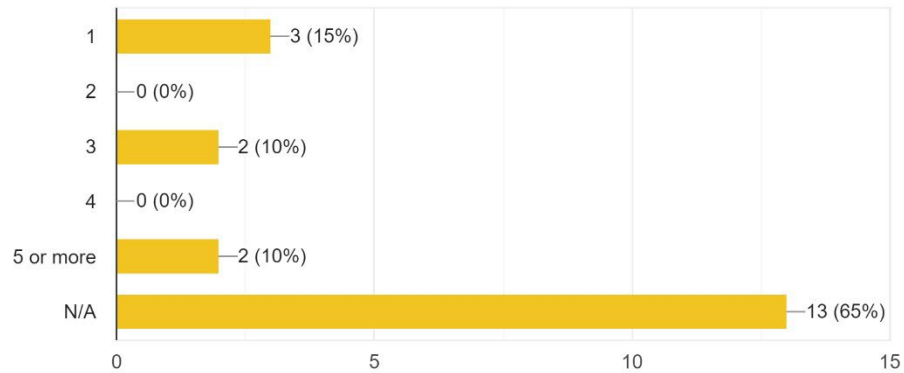
20 responses





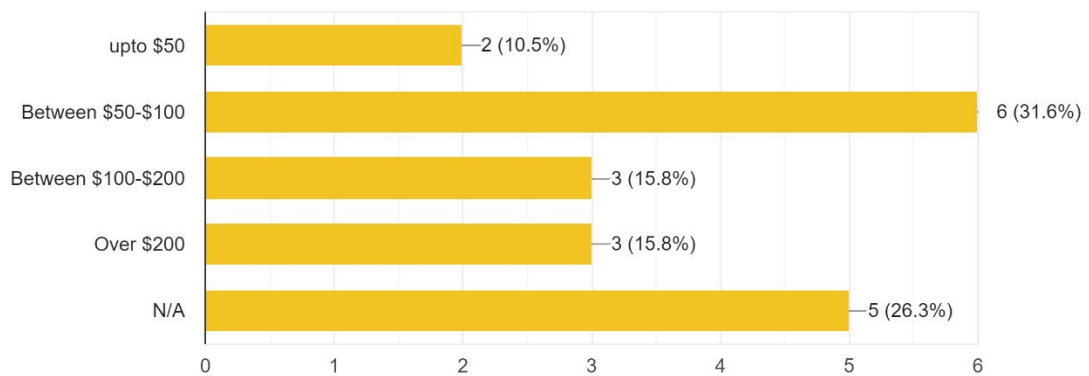
### How many people help you manage your colonies

20 responses



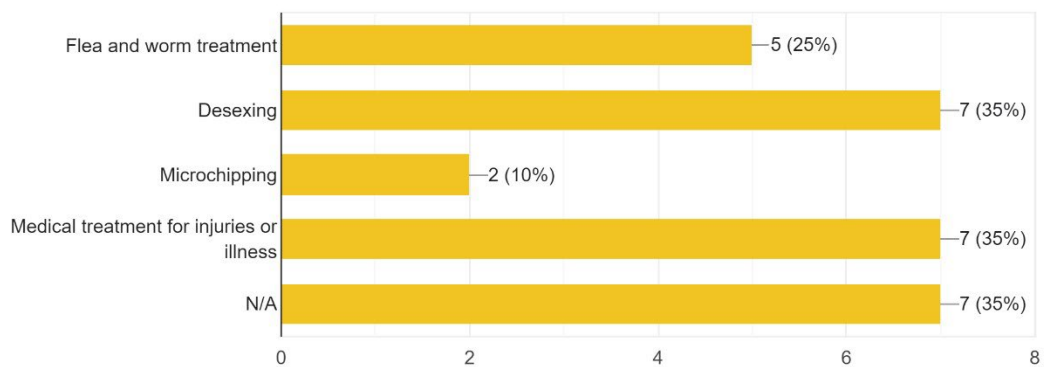
### How much do you spend on food managing your cat colonies each week

19 responses



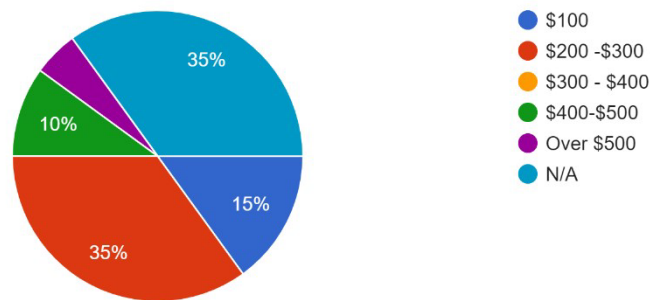
### Do you spend money on the following for the cats in your colonies (please tick all that apply)

20 responses



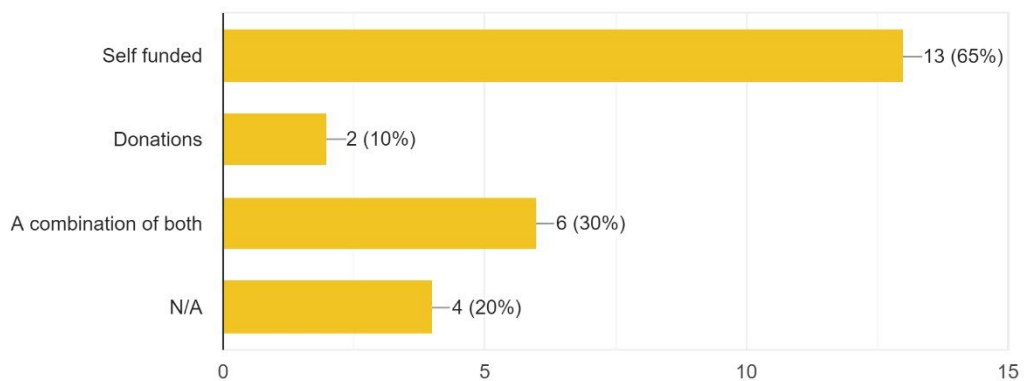
### How much money on average do you spend on medical supplies/treatment each month

20 responses



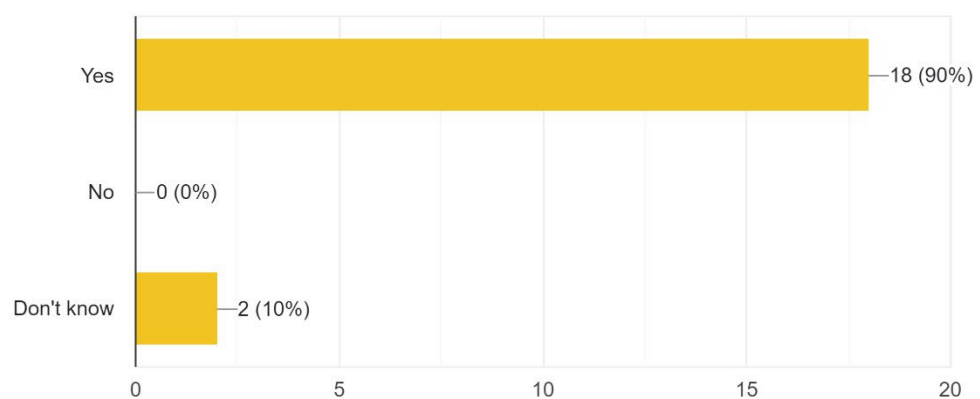
### How do you fund managing your cat colonies

20 responses




### Do you believe that TNR is an effective way to manage cat colony populations

20 responses



Please explain why your response to the above question 18 responses

- By desexing them will definitely help by reducing population, plus it's safer for them
- TNR helps stop the cycle
- Tis only way to fix the problem they need to be desexed to stop the cycle
- Because since I desexed cats my colony does not grow. It has reduced the breeding from the cats that kept getting pregnant otherwise it would have been out of control
- They need to be desexed
- Cats are territorial and therefore by keeping adult populations stable will eventually decrease over time. Stop the breeding cycle.
- Managing and desexing your colonies allows them to stay in the 1 area and not roam which minimises the chances of undesexed cats entering unmanaged colonies and breeding
- Cull and kill is cruel. TNR has been proven overseas to being down the cat population in a humane way.
- As long as councils ignore the plight of street cats and say , ' cats can roam' but do nothing to help them- killing is not helping them- then without the rescues and feeders and TNR groups the numbers will increase. The legislation that allows cats to roam and does not make desexing mandatory and essentially allows councils to absolve themselves from helping these cats is ridiculous and does nothing to help them!
- People complain that cats kill native wildlife, but in my experience neutered and cared for colony cats have no need to kill to eat, so far less chance
- Proof from Europe that this is the only way that works. By removing cats ( and killing them) others replace them. Not humain either.
- By desexing colony cats will reduce the decrease the cat population
- Cats breed out of control if not desexed yet instead of helping us desex them we are threatened with fines for TNR so we do it on the quiet. Cat colonies with feeders do not harm wildlife. It's a proven fact. If Councils offered free desex vaccinations and microchip/registration it would help carers take ownership in a community cat carer capacity. Colony carers should be encouraged and assisted not threatened with legal consequences for helping cats which have often been cruelly dumped or left behind by irresponsible owners when they move and desexing them to stop out of control breeding which also sees FIV spread as most undesexed street cat males are FIV positive.
- Once the cats are desexed the breeding will stop and the numbers won't multiply, without desexing we could end up with hundreds of extra homeless kittens.
- No one does anything, by me desexing these cats it stops them breeding
- Desexing will reduce the cat colonies
- Not all colony cats can be rehabilitated. Impounding and euthanising stray cats does not stem the tide of kittens and cats. Impounding animals puts a lot of pressure on rescue groups who need o find foster or furever homes. There are not enough homes for all the cats. TNR stops the cycle of cat breeding in a humane way. It is used successfully in other countries e.g. USA.
- People don't desex their cats - especially males in my area - so the kittens have kittens  

- At the moment cats are breeding out of control, TNR would reduce the amount of litters born if done with a high % it will reduce the population within 1 generation.

What support would you like to receive to help better manage your cat colonies from animal welfare groups, local council or the community<sup>18</sup> responses

I would love to get a space where I can get most of the cats I care for in the street under a proper shelter , plus food worming treatment flea treatment and help with desexing

Free or subsidised desexing

Subsidised desex programs , help with litter and food

Desexing vaccinations and medical

They cats need to be desexed and rehomed

Money

Food donations, subsidised desexing and vet treatment

Free desexing and rougher cruelty/dumping laws

FeDiscount desexing and vaccinations

Council paid desexing, education in schools and community about community cats and the role of animals in general and very severe punishment for animal abuse ( leads many times to mass murderers)

More help with desexing , food . Flea and worm treatment

Free desexing vaccination desexing and community cat ownership registration and free vet care funded by Councils. This would reduce pound numbers and eliminate the costs of euthanasia. Prevention not murder is the only humane answer. Feral cats should be acknowledged as living beings with same rights as you or I. They don't want to be killed. We need better access to free desexing for all cats wether owned or unowned. The cat rescues are so full they can't take any new kittens, we need more funding for rescues tand fosters to take in more kittens that can eventually find proper homes.

Protection for the colonies, being allows to provide kennels and food in safe areas without worrying about any backlash, free or discounted desexing and microchipping. Subsidised vet care. Desexing should be made compulsory by council for all domestic pets.

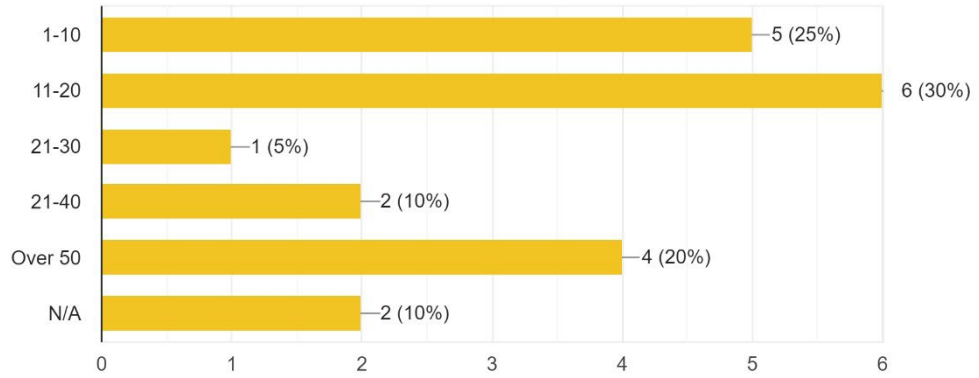
Free desexing

Cat colony carers need assistance with food, vet care and desexing. They also need recognition form animal welfare groups, local council and community through education. Desexing and rehoming.

## Section 2 – Rescue, Rehabilitate and Rehome Stray Cats

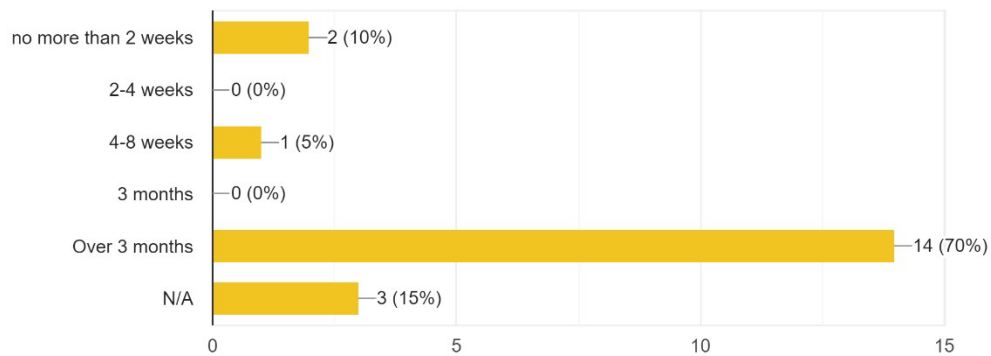
In the last 12 months how many cats/kittens have you helped successfully be rehabilitated and or get rehomed

20 responses



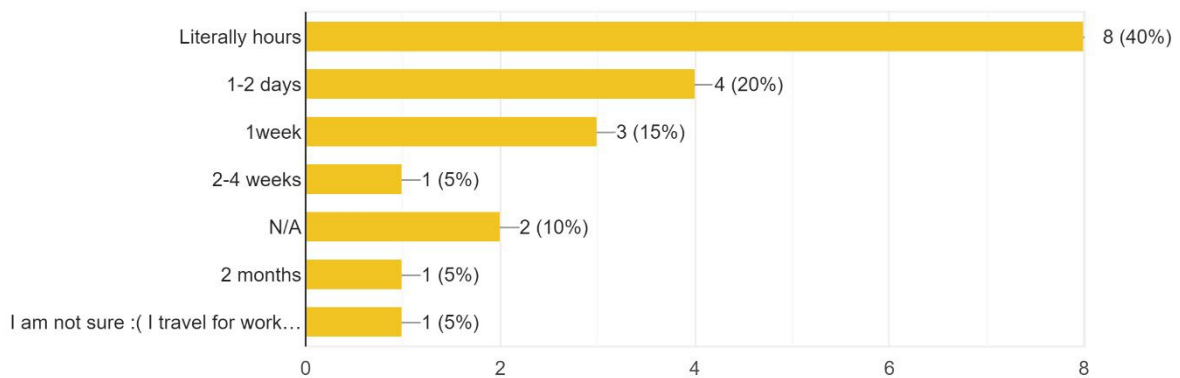
What's the longest time you have had to invest to help socialise a cat

20 responses



What's the fastest time it has taken a cat to become socialised

20 responses

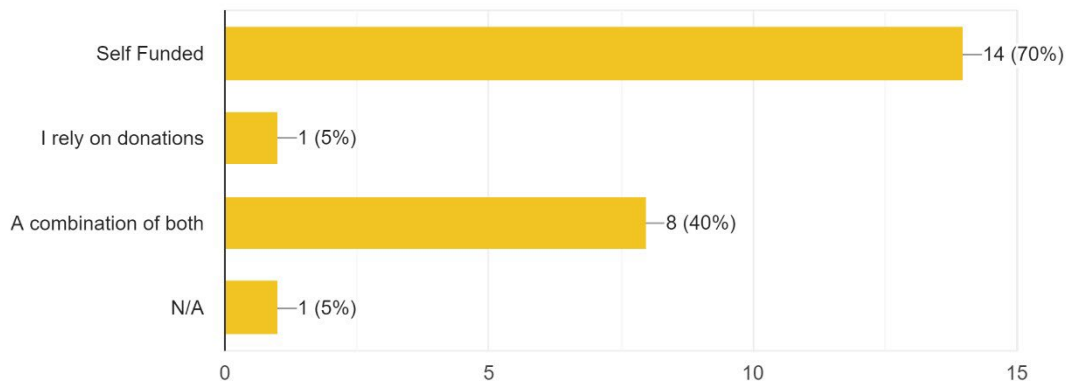


### How much money do you spend each year helping stray cats<sup>18</sup> responses

- Over \$20 thousand
- 1000
- Over 12000
- Lost count
- Haven't calculated
- \$4,500
- 50000 +
- \$5000
- Over \$100,000
- \$11000 at the very least
- 16000
- I can't keep count all depends on how many new cats appear and who gets sick and who needs dentals work
- \$45,000
- \$1500
- \$10000
- Over 4 000
- 1,000
- No idea - I just buy the food and feed them - I am not a rescue and really don't know what to do
- No idea, thousands

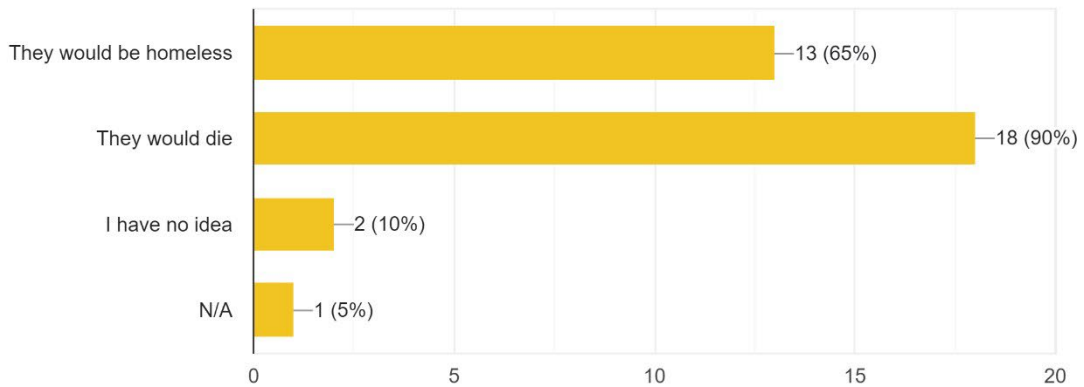
### How do you fund your care for these cats

20 responses



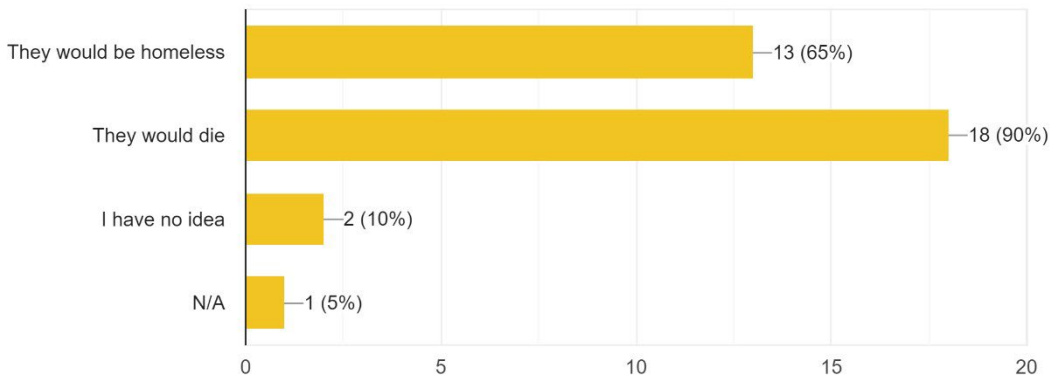
### If you didn't help these cats what do you believe would happen to them

20 responses



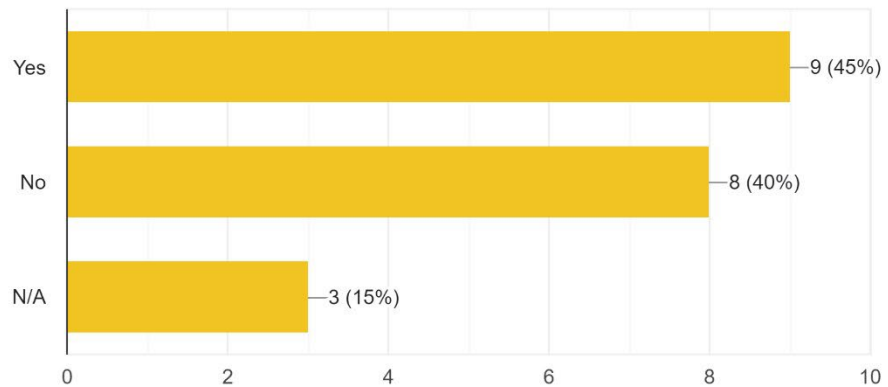
### If you didn't help these cats what do you believe would happen to them

20 responses



### Have you had any cats you weren't able to rehabilitate

20 responses

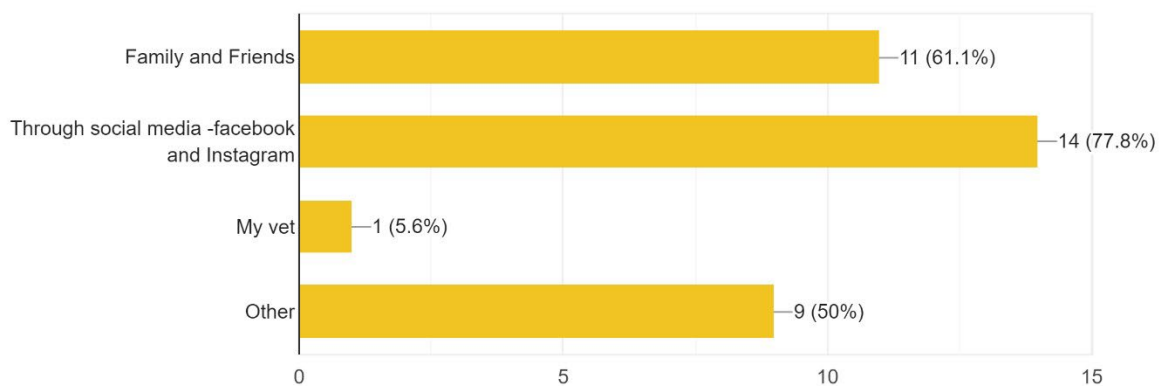


If you selected "yes" please tell us how many cats and where did the cat end up? 8 responses

- I had one that very anti social spitting hissing. He was desexed but has calmed down but still doesn't let you touch him. So successful in some way to calm but not in the being socialised and mixing with
- They ended up in the streets
- 6 went to a donation funded sanctuary or a safe managed colony
- I still have them, desexed chipped and registered to me.
- 7 cats and kittens not social enough to rehome yet
- Bring one person, I don't have the options to give all the street cats I manage the time, vet care or home they need hence TNR as the only other option
- 6 with me
- The cats still live on the roof of a nearby garage!
- She was taken in by another rescue.

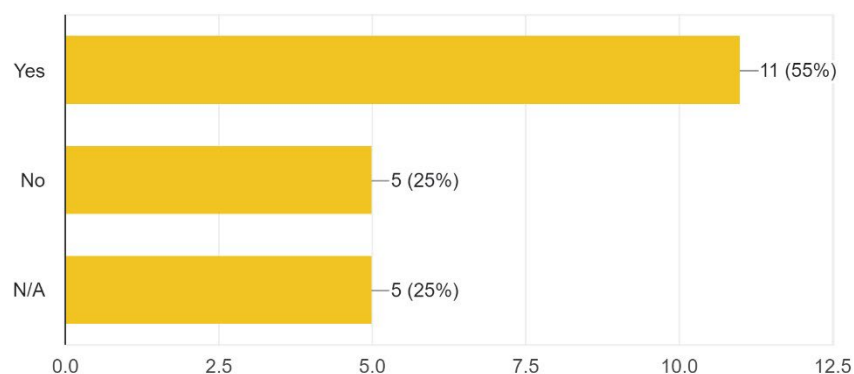
How do you find homes for your rescues (tick all that apply)

18 responses



Do you charge an adoption fee

20 responses



How much do you charge for adtopion 12 responses

- \$250
- Depends on age if cat



- 0
- \$300 for females and \$250 for males
- \$200-\$300 depending on age
- 200
- \$300 for fully vetted kittens and cats but less for older or special needs cats
- Usually \$250 just to cover SOME of the vet work
- \$200
- NA
- Sometimes to cover the desexing cost
- \$250 per kitten; \$165 older kitten; \$100 adult cat
- \$200

Is there any more information you would like to add.

8 responses

- No
- More support needs to be offered by people actually out there managing cat colonies and rescuing cats
- Free desexing for strays. Council to have land available for sanctuaries. Tougher cruelty and dumping laws. Education to religious groups who don't believe in desexing cats. Stop using cats as the scapegoats "killing wildlife " it's land clearing, mining, humans, cars, foxes, dogs and possums are just as responsible.
- The legislation needs changing and councils need to do more to help. The RSPCA needs to be forced to spend some of its millions to help rescues and give cats to rescues instead of killing rehoming cats. The RSPCA should not be protected and should be made to divulge its kill stats! Killing kittens with flu or a cat with a fracture when a rescue wants to take them to their vet for treatment is unethical, cruel and evil!
- Why is the government protecting them and giving them so much money when NO KILL; self funded rescues are saving and rehoming these poor cats?
- People introduced cats in Australia, God created cats, it is our duty to take care of the less fortunate

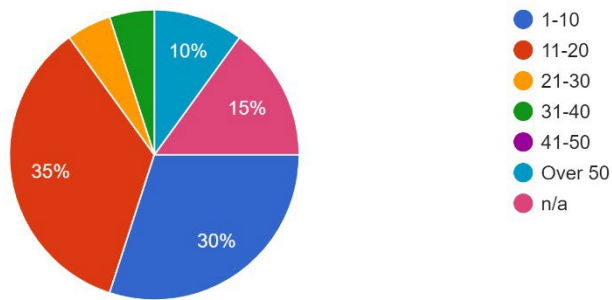
I am a foster carer with a small rescue Little Paws Kitten Rescue. I have also taken in strays in my neighbourhood

- No
- 

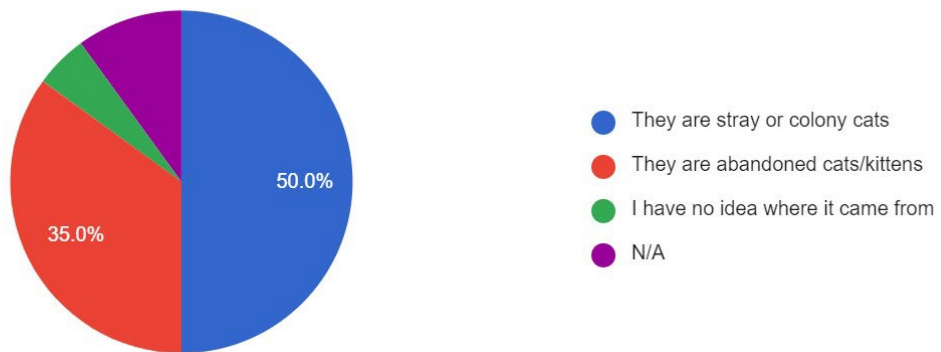
Section 3 – Foster Cats

In the last 12 months how many cats/kittens have you fostered

20 responses

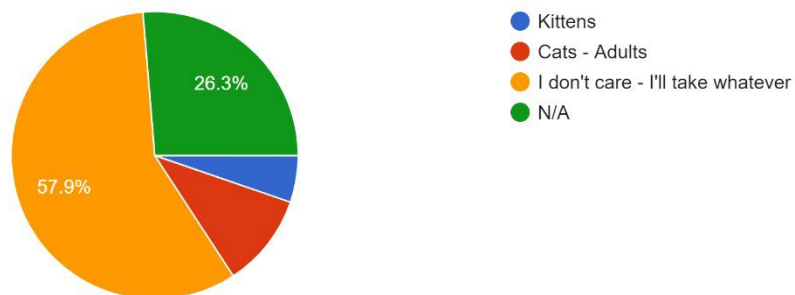


Do you know where your cats/kittens have from from



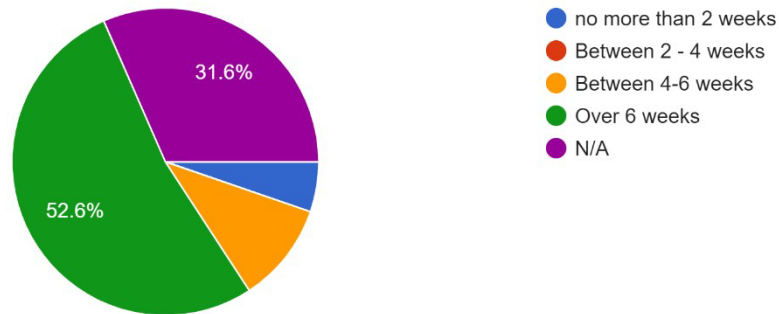
Do you prefer to foster

19 responses



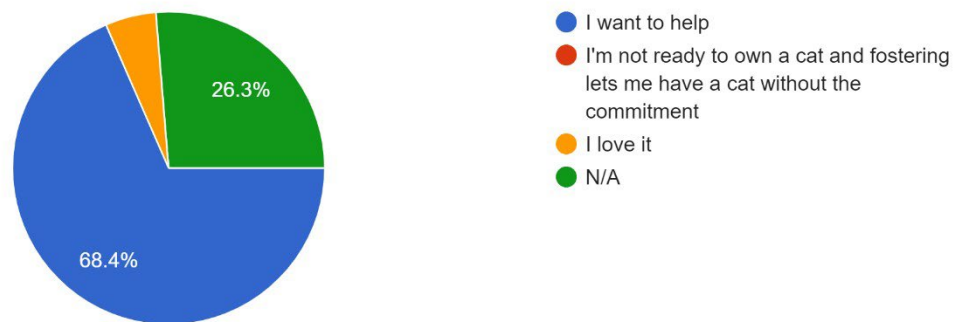
### On average how long does your foster stay with you before it gets adopted

19 responses



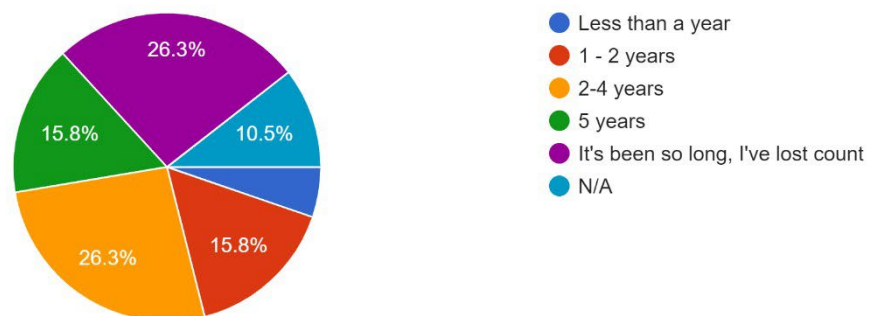
### Why do you foster

19 responses



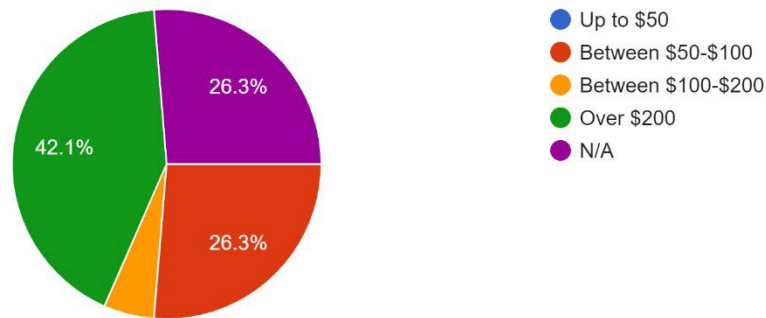
### How long have you been involved in helping cats

19 responses



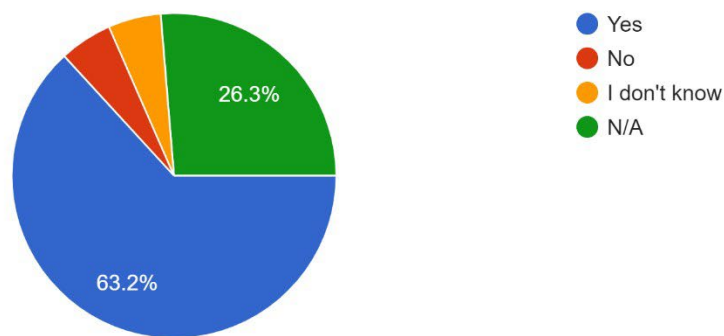
### How much money would spend on your foster cats in a month

19 responses



### Would you recommend fostering

19 responses



### What do you think would encourage people to foster cats<sup>14</sup> responses

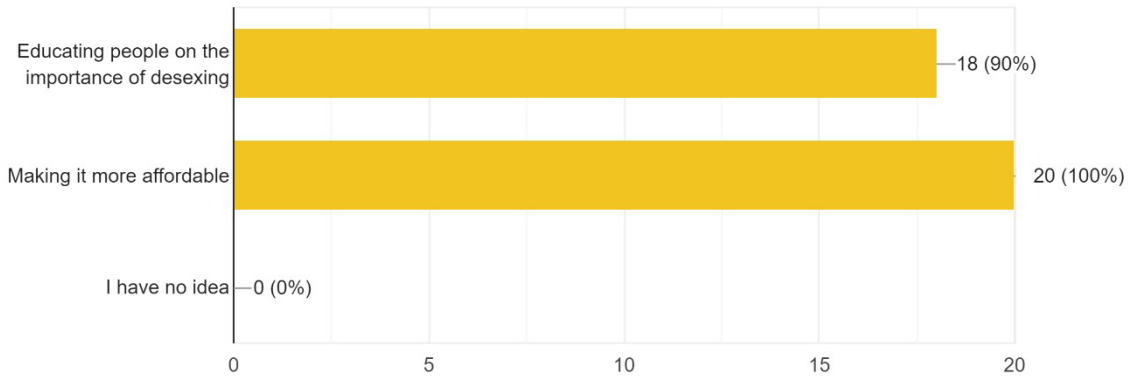
- I think many people would love to foster if someone can provide with food and medical treatment, as there are so many that can't afford to provide even food for them
- Support from Council / animal welfare organisations
- Help with food and litter
- If it's under a rescue or funding us available it will help so many who can't foster because of funds
- Self love
- More education on what's involved. Offering support to help transport cats to medical appointments as required. reaching a broader audience.
- If they received full support of food, litter, bedding etc and a small payment!
- It gives you an insight and hands on experience with nurturing, watching them improve and flourish, also animals are the purest love, and don't want anything in return
- The rewarding part is when you see the transformation. From being homeless street cat to beautiful healthy cat
- Help with food litter vet care.

- If they don't want the commitment and cost of a full time pet, this is the perfect alternative and it saves many lives too and helps rescues
- Lifting rental restrictions on pets. For example: fostering is a great way for young people (like students) that can't fully commit to their own pet yet but would still like the company of a pet. These young people often live in rentals where pets are not allowed though. Educating people about cats. The way stray cats are pictured currently, as "feral" dangers to precious wildlife is not at all encouraging people to help cats - let alone foster them in their own home.
- The companionship of cats; the sense of well being of helping.
- Not sure
- It's hard, I would encourage adoption

#### Section 4 – General Information

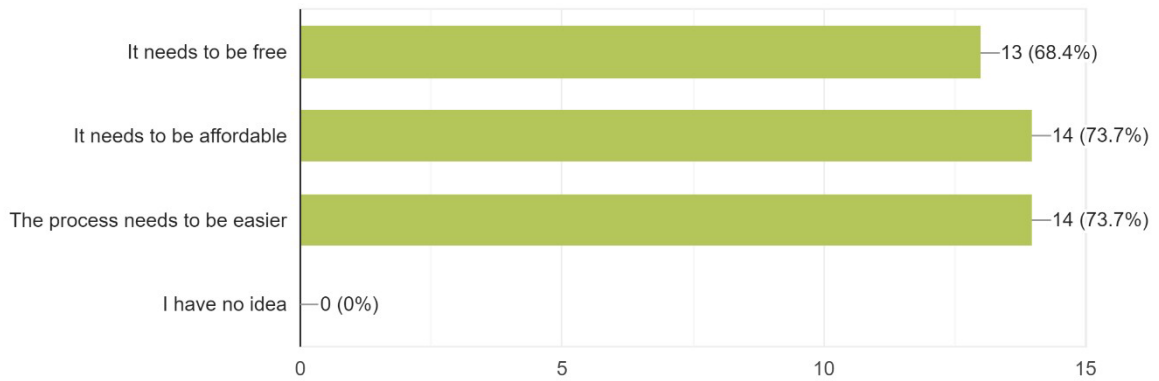
What would encourage people to desex their cats (choose all that apply)

20 responses



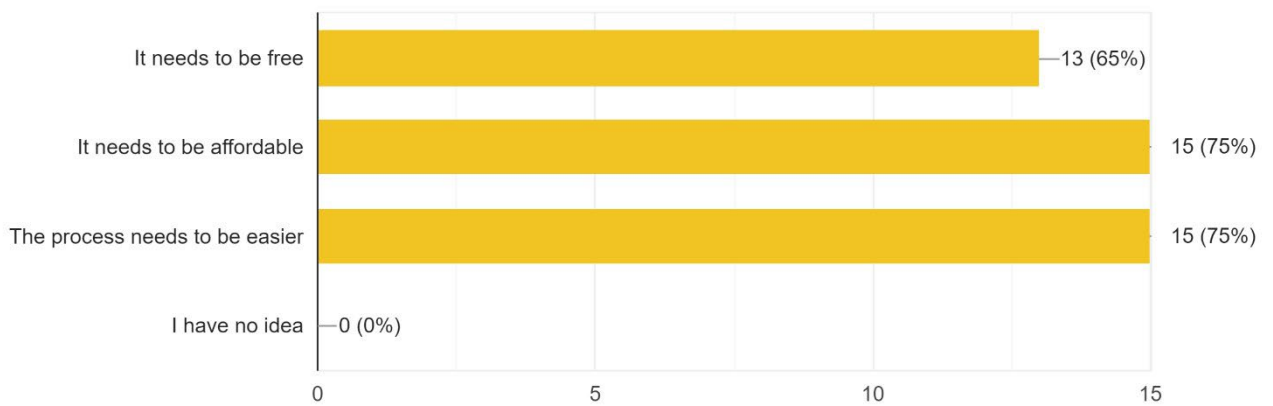
What will encourage people to microchip and register their cats (choose all that apply)

19 responses



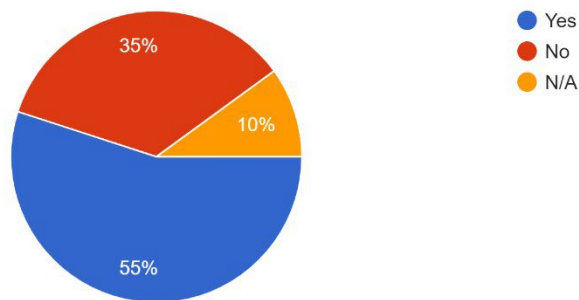
### What will encourage people to microchip and register their cats (choose all that apply)

20 responses



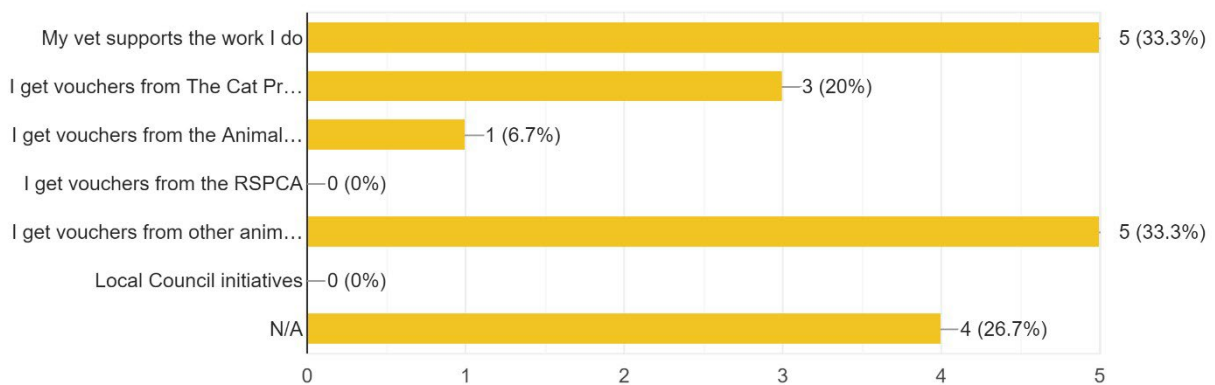
### For all the work you do, do you get discounted vet bills

20 responses

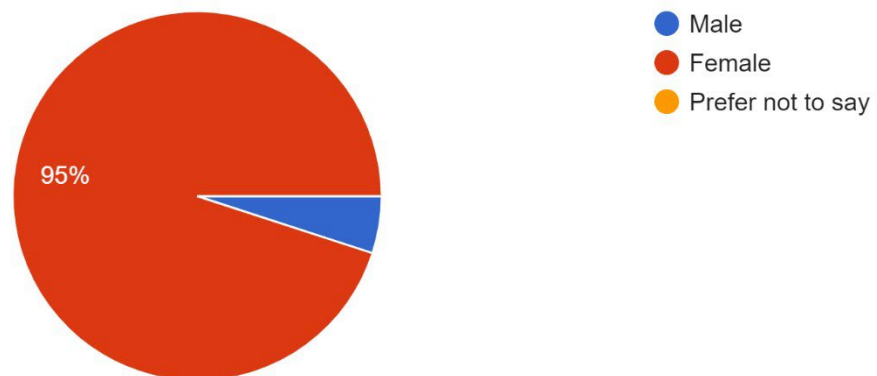


### If you answered yes, who provides the discount

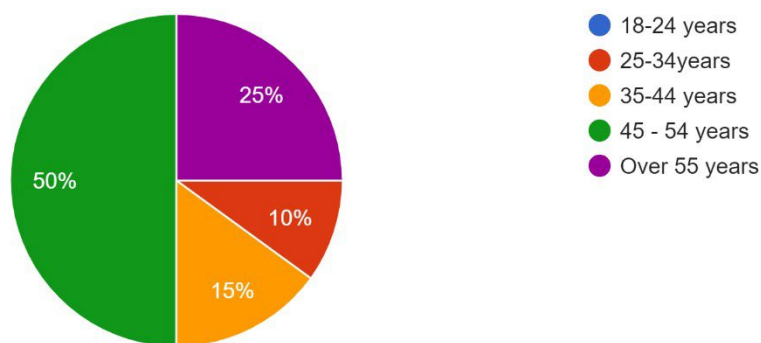
15 responses



Are you  
20 responses



What age group do you fall into  
20 responses



Is there anything else you would like to add 10 responses

- I only get discount for desexing but it still costs . Vaccinations help strays and alot die because can't get medical treatment hence why owners also should desex as some don't
- I need help
- There needs to be a collaborative approach between volunteers, rescues and councils. Targeted TNR programs should be developed to allow for better management of the population.
- SouthWest Animal Rescue Service (SWARS)
- Stop blaming cats for killing all the wildlife which encourages acts of cruelty. Blame humans, greedy corporations, developers, mining companies, dogs, foxes and possums.



- For too long the government has allowed councils to do nothing to help reduce the numbers of cats and kittens and pregnant cats being dumped in the street or offered on media platforms for free. These cats are unchipped and unvaccinated and undesexed. Even when you get the details of those posting, the RSPCA does nothing, the legislation

Re mandatory chipping is not policed and councils just say cats can roam and do nothing! The RSPCA just kills rehoming cats, refuses to give cats to rescues, hide behind privacy laws that really do not apply and yet receives millions from the government. Reputable rescues offer to take their vets but they refuse and their vet says the cats is suffering and they kill them! This is immoral and despicable and lacks transparency!

- No
- The problem regarding stray/abandoned cats especially in Sydney is not talked about enough and not known to the broader public. Before joining lost&found pet groups on Facebook last year, me and my partner weren't aware of this. None of our friends were either. It isn't talked about enough. People need to know and be educated about this.
- I think we need desexing vans to go out into the community and perform desexing and micro chipping as they do in 3 world countries.
- I would like to help stop the breeding cycle but I don't really know how! I asked for help from many avenues and was able to get a lady to help with a kitten with kittens but the other 2 kittens and the mother are still here! I don't know what to do or where I could take them even if I trap them :(

Thank you so much for all you do and your time to complete this survey.