

Submission  
No 52

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

**Organisation:** Animal Rehoming Tablelands

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We have been rescuing and rehoming cats and dogs for the past 12 years. Among some of the cats rescued were what are commonly called "feral" and have found that almost all of these cats have been receptive to rehabilitation and have been rehomed. As we have no native cats in Australia, there is no such thing as a "wild" cat. . . all cats in the wild in Australia are descendants of domestic cats. They didn't ask to be set free to fend for themselves and their offspring have had no other choice than to survive or die in the wild. Humans are responsible for their circumstances and humans should find a humane solution to the problem. We're not saying every unowned cat can be rehabilitated and rehomed, but every effort should be made to save the lives that can be saved or removed humanely. In many cases, the unowned cats live a desperate life on the brink of starvation and it would be better to have them kindly euthanized but many could be rehabilitated and make great pets. Just because they are lost and alone, doesn't mean that they should pay with their lives. The attached phot is Santaria. A "feral" cat trapped with her babies. She was wild and unmanageable until we spent time taming her. She was domesticated and kept as a pet for the last 11 years.