

**Submission  
No 64**

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

**Name:** Mrs Virginia Burns

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To Whom it May Concern:

I live in an area where there are feral cats. Not a huge number, but for the 68 years I've lived here, there have always been a few!

They are rarely a problem.

I have successfully domesticated five feral cats to this point over the last three years! Sadly, two disappeared and never returned. We were almost to the stage I could get them into a cage to get to the vet for desexing!

Of the three I currently have, I have managed to have two desexed and now am ready for the third.

LET ME STRESS! TWO of these three cats were not feral! They were dumped, most likely because of the government's FAILURE to CONTROL LIVING COSTS ... it is VERY EASY to tell that these two cats have once enjoyed happy homes!

The third young cat was brought in as a tiny kitten by one of the male ferals who disappeared. He has grown up with me and is a very beautiful young cat with a LOVELY NATURE!

All these cats now sleep inside at night and through most of the day. They all wear collars and two of the three are desexed, with the third about to be!

I despise this cruel push to INDISCRIMINATELY eliminate feral cats, because AS I CAN PROVE, many of them are NOT! They have been dumped by people struggling to make ends meet.

They live a terrible life, often hungry despite the number of wildlife they are blamed with eating! If sick, they either survive or they die.

COMPARE HOW FERAL CATS ARE TREATED IN OTHER COUNTRIES! They are fed and cared for by local residents in many European towns and cities ~ Greece, Italy, Romania, and Croatia for starters! They are treated kindly and often fed/looked after by tourists!

ONLY in AUSTRALIA do we DEMONISE them and TREAT THEM SO CRUELLY!

I wish Emma Hurst all the very best in her fight against this!

Virginia Burns