

**Submission  
No 75**

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

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Killing or culling of cats is nothing more than pointless cruelty that all the evidence shows is just an ineffective waste of money. Many cats are not homeless but are part of a community that can easily be maintained and contained with Trap, Neuter and Release. For example, New York has a much larger number of community cats in Brooklyn, but these are effectively managed with kindness, see how they do this

<https://www.flatbushcats.org/>

older cats, who have spent much of their time in the community and are not really adoption ready, are caught, spayed, given a medical and released, while kittens are caught, spayed and socialised before being adopted out to their forever homes.

This graphic from Flatbush shows exactly the process for the success they have achieved; it can easily be repeated here.



With support, people will volunteer their time for this. The recent NSW Point Inquiry has recommended this as the preferred method to deal with community cats.

Mandatory indoor confinement of cats has been shown not to work, so why repeat this?

Educating communities about responsible pet ownership is essential. The 3 key points are

- Encouraging people about how to keep their cats safely indoors or contained within property boundaries, can help keep both cats and wildlife safe.
- Community outreach, media campaigns and school programs teaching pet care, the importance of spaying/neutering and safe indoor environments.
- Supporting local initiatives that help manage community cat populations through rehoming programs, targeted desexing and fostering and providing assistance for those people on low incomes to get their cat neutered.

Concerning local wildlife, cats are no where near as destructive as dogs and neither have the impact on wildlife that people do with their cars.

Cats do bring a lot of joy to people's lives, your definitions are too simplistic of "pet" & "feral". The impact of cats, particularly desexed cats, is very low, but if you have some Sky type news infomercial showing one cat at night with some poor animal it has caught as the evidence to sway public opinion, then you have approached this with the pre-determined message of "cats are bad".

Trap, neuter and release does work, it manages the population of community cats that people do take care. By helping people support those cats, you will encourage more responsible ownership, they will come forward.

On a personal note, one of our 2 cats, Roxy, was a stray who wandered into our lives on Christmas Eve, just 2 weeks after our other cat, Ollie, had passed away. We heard a meow around midnight & went to investigate and this little calico girl walked across the street, followed us down the path and into our house. We surrendered her to the RSPCA (she was chipped) and picked her up 21 days later when the owners could not be contacted. She is a wonderful little girl who never leaves our property, finding a warm place to sleep during the day and sleeping on the bed at night. We adopted another rescue cat, Mozart, who has some special needs being deaf, has zero interest in the local wildlife (be they native or not) and giving so much to us, asks for little in return.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I hope you will view it favourably