

**Submission
No 81**

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

Name: Ms Ella Koch
Date Received: 7 November 2024

Cats are highly intelligent and independent creatures. Although we may love their company and antics it is vitally important that they be kept inside for many reasons that I'm sure you're aware of but I would like to reiterate. There are many problems with the world today and I'm sure that this and the environment is not at the top of the list. However, left unchecked, this issue may create and has already led to many problems.

Firstly, the impact of cats on the environment is catastrophic (no pun intended). Our native species are already severely under threat. On average, a cat that is let outside can kill 4,440 to 8,100 animals per square kilometre per year for the area they inhabit. Cats also have the capacity to roam kilometres away from their homes. That is thousands of lives lost, per cat, which is devastating. The effect of this is cats have been one of the largest contributors to the endangerment of native wildlife which destabilises our ecosystems. A distressing fact that has many ominous future applications.

The safety of the cat is also a primary concern. A feline does not have nine lives, and although they are smart, cats can be hit by cars (the most common cause of death), attacked or eaten by other animals, or exposed to diseases and substances that can incapacitate or kill them.

Also, many people cannot afford to vaccinate their cats against diseases. This means that they may be carriers of diseases that can affect both animals and humans, such as rabies and ringworm (zoonotic).

An initiative to keep cats safe and inside will also decrease the number of stray cats, which is currently estimated to be 2 - 6 million. Many of them find their way to vets or pounds, where they are euthanised or show up in deathly and inhumane conditions. As a foster carer for Peggy's Promise and Paws a Moment, I hope to see this issue resolved for the benefit of our community and our loveable felines.

This is not an attack on cats, who are very much a wonderful contribution to a home, but a plea to not allow their free reign to destroy many other beautiful aspects of our world and endanger lives. Thank you for your consideration.