

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Any form of cruelty to cats is intolerable, shameful and disgusting. It reflects a culture that is unkind, unintelligent and uncivilised.

Unfortunately, there are many hateful people that live in Australia, including NSW that would relish the opportunity to cause injury and suffering to cats. These types of vulgar people also enjoy killing. We CANNOT support this kind of mentality if we are to live in a society that is safe for cats, humans and anything else that breathes.

Instead, we should be supporting cat rescue organisations, and the many responsible and kind citizens of NSW who are doing incredible work for cat welfare, which also fosters the welfare of our native wildlife.

ALL cat breeders should be banned - with licences permanently revoked. It is an ugly business that makes profit from mothers, infants, and males that are confined and used. There are backyard breeders that are nothing short of criminals. Breeders perpetuate a horror story for domestic animals. Breeders DO NOT provide a service that contributes to animal welfare. There are so many cats that need homes, and this unethical business is making this problem worse.

Abusers of cats are criminals, and should face serious punishment. There should be a public record of animal abusers. As a citizen I want to know that I am not living near a criminal of this type particularly.

There should be big incentives and installation initiatives for people to enclose their yards with cat netting and include nourishing features within enclosed spaces. There are many innovative and simple methods and products available that ensure cats are safe, happy, and remain at home.

I personally know of a person that has rescued many cats from the streets, abuse, abandonment. I have 5 cats and ALL of them are rescue cats.

The first 2 are from a person who rescues, fosters and rehomes (Blue Mountains). This foster person personally funded everything to do with desexing, health and wellbeing of these cats. She was working full time and accommodated many rescue animals at her home which she modified extensively to help cats in need.

The next 2 were rescued from a breeder in Newcastle that was breeding cats and dogs from a car. There were 17 cats in the car and the police and local animal rescue organisations got involved, and removed the animals, which were all in very poor condition, many needing emergency medical attention. This LICENCED breeder created a beautiful website suggesting animals living in luxurious conditions awaiting their next home. Cats were advertised as special breeds, selling for \$500 each. This was entirely opposite to the truth. Can you even imagine the horrendous conditions of 23 animals living in a car? People like this are criminals and should at the very least NEVER be allowed to have animals again. Instead, they have changed their Facebook identity, face no consequences, and start again. It is left up to concerned members of the public to monitor the movements of such people. These people should actually be in jail.

The sale or 'rehoming' of cats and all other animals should be banned from social media and websites completely. It's a very ugly business supporting unthinkable cruelty. The ONLY way anyone should be able to adopt a cat is through a registered foster organisation and all adoptions should be recorded with information accessible on a central database so as to monitor people who adopt cats.

This brings me to my 5th rescue cat. A male Russian Blue kitten simply appeared in our backyard a few months ago. Emaciated, desexed, with claws cut down to nothing on all paws. We can't even imagine the journey this little one was on before he arrived at our home. No microchip. We spent a lot of money and effort to bring him back to health and integrate him into our home with 4 other cats. He had been severely neglected to say the least.

and probably dumped over our fence. A Christmas present no longer of any interest perhaps, with children not educated about how to play with a kitten and hence all claws cut to stop him scratching. We had to teach him how to scratch using a post because he had not been able to, and subsequently he developed a habit of chewing on plastic to relieve anxiety. Do we want more stupid people having access to kittens as gifts?

We didn't even think about taking him to a rescue organisation, because we know that are already overburdened. We do not have significant resources and we live in a rental house where we officially have only 2 cats. So this is what many people are facing in order to care for the cat population in NSW.

So many things need to change at so many levels. Encouraging cat haters will not help. Support cat rescue organisations. Support so many people like me. Support businesses that offer solutions for keeping cats happy at home. DON'T support breeders. DON'T support the sale or 'rehoming' of cats via social media or websites by breeders or individuals. Support reforms to rental laws so that carers of cats are not discriminated against or disadvantaged. Support reforms to the legal system for animal/cat abusers to face serious punishment. Support education about cats and their needs. Support regulating who can have animals. Support a publicly available database of animal abusers.

Thankyou.