

Submission
No 103

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Please, please do something about feral and domestic cats. We have friends who cannot have bird friendly gardens because their neighbours' cats come into their gardens. Five in one instance. We lived for a time near the Blue Mountains National park and the cat owners around us allowed their cats to roam freely in the park, day and night.

We have travelled extensively in Australia and have met cats in very remote locations even at Cocklebidy Caves on the Nullarbor Plain.

Cat owners don't seem to understand the fragility of our native species. They just want their cat to be happy. One neighbour informed us that when they went away on holiday the cat managed to fend for itself very well so they didn't have to worry. We reside near a reserve where cats are allowed to wander despite the echidnas, possums and various species of lizard. The kangaroos keep safe, their problem is dogs which also roam in the reserve. One observation I have made is that the local vets like to give kittens away to their customers. Could this be stopped. We know someone whose child was regularly given a kitten in this way and the more children you have the more kittens you end up with. This is madness.

We are not allowed to deal with this problem ourselves because it has become a criminal offence but what about the lizards and birds who are not given a voice. The discrepancy between a domestic animal and a native animal has got to be examined. Our neighbour's dogs can kill a kangaroo on our property with impunity but if the dogs kill a sheep, action is taken. Just as a cat may kill one of your possums with no action taken.

I am old so can something be done, please, before I die.

Thank you