

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 13 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Domestic and feral cats aren't doing anything wrong or against the nature. They aren't seeking out native wildlife to kill or intentionally harming the ecosystem. Most cats didn't even have a choice in ending up as strays or feral animals, trying to survive. They were abandoned or given up or potentially even abused. they don't deserve to be put down, poisoned, trapped or killed for following their instincts as predators and trying to survive.

That being said, local floral and fauna shouldn't suffer either, as it's hugely important to Australian culture, ecosystem and environment.

I believe there should be stronger laws surrounding owning a cat

1) that collars with bells are mandatory

- there is a lot of outcry from pet owners and animal lovers that bells on collars injure cat's hearing or disrupt them, but that isn't always true. Both of my cats have collars with bells, and live a very happy and content life. The collar is not a hinderance or a consideration for them. A small bell, designed specifically for collar use, will not damage a cat's hearing or health and, should the cat get out, will be enough to alert native prey animals of the presence of a predator. For the consideration of 'cats will starve if they are outside but can't catch prey because of the bell', there is my second point:

2) Stronger laws surrounding keeping cats

- Domestic cats should not be wild, outdoor animals that can roam as they please. They are pets that are in our care, and share our home with us. People say that their cat cannot be 'indoor only' but that is false, all cats can be trained and learn to accept that indoor spaces are where they are to be kept. If going out, cats should be leashed, or only permitted outdoors in enclosures or 'catios' to let them experience the outdoors in a contained environment. We don't let dogs, hamsters or birds roam free, and cats should be exactly the same. this is not only for the safety of the wildlife, but for the safety of the cat