

**Submission  
No 114**

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

**Name:** Adrian and Janine Polhill

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Hello Committee,

I appreciate your time and expertise in reviewing and formulating the soon to be improved cat management legislation.

I remind of some horrifying statistics. In urban areas:

Feral cats kill 449 native mammals/birds/reptiles/frogs each year

Pet cats roam and hunt and kill 186 native mammals/birds/reptiles/frogs each year

(data from "Save our Species"). The kill rates for feral cats in regional and rural areas are much worse!

My wife and I, are alarmed and urge you to strengthen cat management legislation immediately. Our suggestions follow. Thank you.

Adrian and Janine Polhill

#### 1. Improve laws and promote responsible pet ownership

- \* Align all legislative requirements pet cats to be the same as for pet dogs. It will be much easier for Councils to explain to cat owners of their responsibilities and start the conversation with: 'cat containment should be the same for all pets (dogs, birds, etc) as well as cats'
- \* Upgrade the current cat management and containment regulations to be aligned with other states e.g. Victorian regulations where pet cats must be contained or kept indoors through out the day and night
- \* Make cat registration compulsory (as it is for dogs)
- \* Promote cat welfare and responsible cat ownership, in the same way and at the same time as promoting dog welfare and responsible dog ownership
- \* Develop specific information resources for multicultural communities and encourage Councils and vets to use existing multicultural engagement channels to reach different communities

#### 2. Increase cat desexing rates by providing:

- \* Financial incentives to trial and then promote high volume pet desexing clinics
- \* Rebates for residents using Council-based desexing programs
- \* Financial support for desexing options for low-income earning pet owners

#### 3. Expand cat containment

- \* Improve education programs for cat containment
- \* Provide cat containment support to councils to aid in the transition to the improved regulations
- \* Offer incentives for local organisations e.g. 'Men's Shed', 'Fix It Sisters', to assist residents in constructing safe and simple cat enclosures

#### 4. Reduce impacts of feral and unwanted cats

- \* Implement and monitor effective feral cat control programs that protect our declining populations of native mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs
- \* Engage and financially support researchers to ensure the best available feral cat control programs and technologies are implemented

\* Shorten the holding periods for unidentified cats in shelters and pounds to reduce the financial burden on these organisations

\* Promote and financially support targeted Capture, Desex, Adopt programs in 'hot spots' with high unwanted cat populations

The end