

**Submission
No 128**

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

Name: Bronwyn Walker
Date Received: 4 November 2024

From: Bronwyn Walker
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 11:34 AM
To: Animal Welfare
Subject: Submission to the inquiry into the management of cat populations in NSW.

I am a companion animal veterinarian with 25 years of experience working with both pet cats and wildlife.

I understand the complexities of the cat management issue and strongly believe in enabling local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats.

Animal welfare is the primary focus of my work. The welfare of pet cats is greatly improved when they are kept indoors or safely inside enclosures. Many of the reasons cats present to veterinary clinics relate to outdoor misadventure, the most devastating and common where I work being tick paralysis.

I work close to Ku-Ring-Gai Chase national park, yet a large portion of our clients allow their cats outside. Our clinic treats wildlife every day, with the typical treatment being euthanasia to end suffering. The most common reason for a ringtail possum to be seen by me is cat attack. Yet, the vast majority of native animals injured by roaming cats are never seen by people.

My home is close to a bushland reserve in Thornleigh, and each night many of my neighbours' pet cats freely roam my street, putting the lives of our remaining native animals at risk.

I recommend the NSW Government and the Animal Welfare committee support amendments to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats at a local level.

I ask the NSW state government to commit a minimum of \$9 million to fund compliance, education, desexing, identification and registration programs. And I support the calls for requirements that all local governments to develop companion animal management plans to protect wildlife, as is required in Victoria.

Thank you,

Dr Bronwyn Walker
BVSc (Hons) MANZCVSc (Small animal medicine)
Veterinarian
Pronouns: she/her

Greencross Vets Ku-ring-gai
Part of the Greencross Pet Wellness Company

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I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Guringai and Darug land on which I work and pay my respects to Elders past and present

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