

Submission
No 137

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 19 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee Members,
Charlie would have survived if we had good cat containment laws.

Charlie was a stray, a beautiful young gray female cat, very sociable. I and a neighbour began feeding her in the hope that she wouldn't prey on native animals. We put a bell on her. Meanwhile we tried to find an owner – local Facebook pages, talking to locals, an ad at the shops – no luck.

I believe she killed the ringtail possum & babies that I found an hour after feeding her. I've seen her stalking birds. I put a collar with 2 bells on her but she got rid of it. Another ringtail was cat-killed two doors away, and a blue-tongue lizard across the road. In a week. **Around the corner live bush stone-curlews, an endangered species. Their welfare is very important to me.**

Neither my neighbour nor I were willing to keep Charlie. The young woman at the pound told us emphatically that they would not take Charlie as she was neither injured, sick, nor starving. She emphasized that cats are free to roam. I made long phone calls to the RSPCA, they weren't interested either, as the cat was not being maltreated. Later they emailed that their wait list was over 12 months long. The RSPCA suggested I Visit the Pet Rescue website which contains a rescue directory for over 300 rescue groups and rehoming organisations nationwide. I will not phone up to 300 re-homing organisations, nor wait months. The phone calls and emails from the RSPCA clarified for me, that the least-worst option was to have Charlie euthanased. I am very sorry about that.

If 27 million people here are to co-exist with wildlife, we must contain cats 24/7 and it's good for the cats too. Please pay careful attention to the proposals of the Invasive Species Council, which I support.

Yours truly

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