

**Submission
No 140**

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

Name: Ms Jenny Ankin
Date Received: 23 November 2024

As an ex veterinary nurse I am aware the cat population in NSW and Australia generally is out of control and in my case the Inner West suburbs of Sydney. However, I am aware of many other Sydney suburbs in desperate need of help. From my experience unless you adopt a multi tiered approach, the problem will not be solved.

Councils need to take responsibility for their local government areas (LGA's) and liaise with adjoining council LGA's, to deal with the cat populations. Councils need to educate residents about desexing, microchipping and care of their pets and to adopt cats and kittens from proper shelters. Councils need to set up and fund desexing programmes.

The biggest problem is irresponsible people! People who buy and sell cats and kitten, who abandon them, who don't desex or microchip or look after their pets.

The selling/swapping/free homes of kittens, cats and other animals should not be allowed by just anyone. You have no control whilst people are trading animals through social media and the internet.

No selling of kittens and cats by pet shops, unless like some, they are in conjunction with a welfare group or registered cat charity.

All cats must be desexed unless owned by a reputable registered breeder, who should be reporting and registering their cats and kittens to council on a regular basis and the details of who they have sold them to and proof of the cat or kittens desexing and microchipping.

As there are already so many cats in shelters, pounds, with welfare groups and registered cat charities, these animals should be prioritised over breeders kittens and cats. Ten's of thousands of cats and kittens are euthanised every year by shelters and pounds.

The nighttime containment of cats bordering reserves, state and national parks or at other times deemed necessary due to wildlife breeding. Consideration of neighbours, keeping in mind that cats need to be able to run, play and earth themselves, so should be allowed some outdoor time.

There has been some great success with trap/neuter/release (TNR) with colony/street cats. This method allows them to live out their life in their colonies, and are regularly fed by volunteers. This is a great option without having to needlessly kill thousands of cats and kittens. It is a humane way of letting them live their usually short lives with their colony, whilst the overall populations are being brought under control. Some of these cats have been able to be re-homed successfully. I believe the Animal Welfare League in Queensland had very good success with the TNR approach around Surfers Paradise.

All the above will go a long way to help solve the problem of abandoned cats and kittens, which can become feral and breed other feral cats.

I am totally opposed to the poisoning or shooting of any cat or kitten, this is inhumane, cruel and a dreadful way to die. We can do better than this, remember we are the ones that have caused this problem and we need to take proper responsibility for a humane response to this problem.

This is a State and Local Government responsibility, to educate residents about responsible ownership of cats and kittens, support funding for compulsory desexing and microchipping and support shelters and cat welfare groups to properly and comfortably house these forgotten pets until they are adopted by a new owner.

Thank you for considering my submission.