

Submission
No 252

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Helping the environment doesn't start with killing cats. It starts with us.

Humans are the main cause of our planet dying, our ecosystems being destroyed and our flora and fauna not being cared for.

Killing cats in order to protect our environment is like telling everyone to only drink from paper straws instead of plastic ones to save the oceans.

Yes we should all do our part for the planet. But maybe we should spend our time focusing on the multi billion dollar companies that pollute our earth year upon year with no consequences or effort to change? Or even focus on Taylor Swift and her frequent jet flights?

It is proven that cats are intelligent animals. They are adaptable to their environment and have the biggest hearts when given the opportunity to love. Unfortunately some of these poor felines have to learn how to survive on their own.

And whose fault is that?

Most of the stray cats in NSW are abandoned. This is usually due to rentals not allowing pets OR are the result of owners not desexing their own cats due to the costs.

Would you believe that the other day I was going through my mother's old receipts and I found one from the vet from 2009. You wouldn't believe how inexpensive it was to have our cat desexed and vaccinated. It was cheaper than a Sunday brunch in 2024. I was shocked.

If the government had a program to help with the costs of taking in a new cat, or even desexing a current pet in order to avoid more strays being born. It would change things expediently.

With the cost of living now days, people don't have the money to get their cats desexed.

People can also be very irresponsible when it comes to monitoring their cats access to the outdoors.

The amount of cats I see at night on the Central Coast is astonishing. They are all running around and mating, creating more cats that led to being dumped and becoming strays or taken to the pound.

There needs to be stricter laws on having a pet. Even perhaps anonymous submissions if you know of a family or household with unregistered, not desexed animals that stay outside all hours of the night. People like that should be fined. Which would hopefully lead them to making better decisions.

Now I disagree with cats being forced to stay inside. They are curious animals and deserve to soak in the sun and feel the summer breeze on their fur. But again it is the owners responsibility to make sure they are bringing their cat in before dark. Also making sure their cats are collared with a bell to avoid damage to wildlife! My boy has a tracking collar on him so I can make sure he is staying close to home. I use all of these methods and they have all been successful (He's never brought home dead animals or baby kittens at that)

With all these things implemented, the issue of stray cats wouldn't be so much of an issue anymore. The ball has dropped and it's time to pick it back up.

Why should these sentient animals suffer for our mistakes, our laziness and our lack of diligence!

In conclusion here are some of the things I think could help instead of murdering cats:

- * Fines for irresponsible cat owners
- * Government funding for desexing
- * Programs to help get them into homes. (Great company for old people, perhaps support animals?)
- * Rules and regulations around Cats having access to the outdoors (Must be in before dark, Must be collard)
- * Anonymous hotline/submissions to report irresponsible owners.
- * Rentals not being allowed to reject pets unless they have proven to cause damage.

Let's put the blame back on us. These animals don't have voices and they certainly don't have a choice. But we do for them, let's make the right ones.