

Submission  
No 272

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

**Name:** Miss Angelina Bayer

**Date Received:** 22 November 2024

---

Please prioritise cat welfare and support humane management practices, including desexing and community education.

I suggest the following initiatives:

1. We have to raise awareness about the importance of desexing cats in communities. This alone is going to make a huge difference in controlling cat populations, as well as the health and safety of cats.
2. Please consider offering free desexing services, especially to support cat owners on low incomes who want to do the right thing but don't have the financial resources.
3. We should provide funding to no kill-rescues so they can provide free desexing services to communities.
4. Implement Trap Neuter Release (TNR) programs through legislation to manage and reduce stray cat populations. TNR has been proven to reduce cat overpopulation, e.g. in a Chicago Neighbourhood cat populations decreased by 55% thanks to TNR efforts.

Source: <https://www.alleycat.org/resources/trap-neuter-return-research-compendium/>

5. I am in favour of stricter regulation of cat breeding to prevent overpopulation. We already have many cats who are looking for a home and being either in a pound or a foster situation. Breeding designer cats should be heavily regulated, especially because these animals often have genetic defects and health issues. It is a well known and researched fact that "moggy" (mixed breed cats) lead longer and healthier lives. These cats are usually cats found in shelters and pounds and deserve a home and to be treated with respect and kindness.

There are many well-managed colonies in Sydney supported by hard working individuals and charities who do their outmost to improve the welfare of cats. Just killing these cats off is not a solution to the problem of overpopulation, it is also inhumane, unethical and cruel. This will only lead to the "vacuum effect", referring to the phenomenon of new cats moving into the area after humans have killed resident cats off.