

Submission  
No 292

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

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The key to the control of cat populations is desexing. Desexing should be made mandatory and made free to those who cannot afford the cost. It should be made legal for veterinarians to impose desexing on any cat brought to them. Kitten farms should be banned and kittens should not be allowed to be sold in pet shops. It would be difficult to impose full restrictions on the breeding of 'breed' cats as some humans seem to be able to disregard the thousands of cats waiting for homes for something that they can 'show off' to others. These breed cats are often 'surrendered' to pounds and cat welfare organisations when humans decide they do not want them. Worse they are dumped and then breed. This is an area which needs extensive regulation. This of course also happens to 'moggie' cats but they would likely have been desexed if they were obtained at a pound or cat welfare organisation.

No cat or any animal should be subjected to the poisons laid out in their environment and/or the poison traps that cause immense suffering and long painful deaths. Euthanasia or hormonal control (birth control) are what should be used when necessary.

For many people keeping cats enclosed in a 'catio' or other enclosed area would deter the homing of cats due to the cost of the fencing needed or the 'catio'. For those who already have several cats this becomes complicated as a much larger area is needed and the cost increases. I do not think that most cats can live a reasonable life locked inside an apartment or a home however their well being can be greatly improved by an enclosure but financial assistance needs to be given when necessary.