

Submission  
No 296

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

This is my submission:

Legalise Trap Neuter. There are many cats abandoned by irresponsible owners who will never be desexed, fed or safe. They give birth to numerous litters of kittens who will never have the luxury of a home and so this cycle continues. It's the world's number one cat management practice that the government chooses to ignore. Local councils see it works in their area as they stop getting complaints from the public, they see a reduction in street cats, and they don't have to kill cats. It's a win for cats, the community, and the government.

Mandatory desexing of cats is a must. Offer free desexing or low-cost desexing programs. This would help enormously to reduce the problem which in turn reduces the impact on pounds and shelters and the number of cats being euthanised. Educating the community about the benefits of desexing cats is also very important. I also believe that very strict fines should be applied if cats are not desexed.

Make cat breeding illegal. There is no such thing as responsible breeders. Pedigree cats are abandoned on the streets along with non-pedigree cats and the number is increasing.

Make funding available for local cat rescue groups who spend thousands of their own money and blood sweat and tears trying to save and help cats who are homeless.

Make the RSPCA spend a portion of their hundreds of millions of dollars they receive annually to helping to fix the issue by providing no or low cost desexing, advocating for TNR, and helping support local rescue groups.

Stop RSPCA killing cats that enter their shelters as soon as they come in the door. Their kill statistics speak for themselves with NSW having the worst kill rates.

Protect all cats, not just owned cats but unowned community cats so they don't fall victim to cat hate and cruelty. As Alley Cat Allies report here; <https://www.alleycat.org/victory-ohio-supreme-court-rules-all-cats-protected-as-companion-animals-informed-by-alley-cat-allies-amicus-brief/>

Ban the use of the term 'invasive species' of cats. This has created so much hostility towards cats.

Introduce very harsh punishment for animal abuse including large fines, prison sentences and lifetime bans on owning animals.

In this cost-of-living crisis where there are more people renting there needs to be more pet friendly rentals available. There are thousands of pets needing homes and rentals shouldn't be so restrictive. Pets are good for many reasons including being great company as well as providing health benefits for the owners.

Cats are great and they shouldn't be demonised. People are letting cats down by not having them desexed. In my opinion desexing cats should be the number 1 priority. The big organisations such as RSPCA and AWL should be helping more. Smaller rescue groups are already doing this but should be helped more financially. Councils and governments should also step up and help more financially with no or low-cost desexing programs. TNR should be legalised to help reduce the number of cats reproducing in the community.