

Submission  
No 313

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

Firstly, I grew up with pets: dogs, birds, cats and goldfish. Currently, my partner and I are proud cat owners. They enrich our lives by providing us with companionship and love. We don't have children so we find that our cats fulfill the human need to nurture and care for others. Felines, I think, are suited to inner city living because they like the safety of apartments. I have built our cats an enclosed patio on our balcony with levels for them to climb. They love spending time there, eating cat grass that I grow from seed especially for them. They enjoy watching the birds and insects that visit our rooftop garden. It's safe for them and for wildlife.

We volunteer at inner city cat community groups and have seen first hand the huge amount of work and also passion that these volunteers have for rescuing cats in unsafe situations and environments. Volunteers go out at night to trap cats to get them desexed, and also to address health conditions they have, such as rotten teeth or infected eyes. They also help female cats that are about to give birth, making sure that their kittens are not free to roam the streets and interbreed. My partner and I recently volunteered at Bunnings, cooking sausages and selling soft drinks in order to raise money for one of these community cat programs. He volunteers to drive rescue cats from foster homes to veterinary appointments. It would be nice if the government helped to fund community cat programs so that taxpayers like us don't have to spend our own money performing these services. It would also encourage more people to get involved to make a positive change in their local neighbourhood. They would meet like-minded people and maybe even form new friendships. None of this will be possible if we just euthanise cats. It lacks compassion and forethought.

I work as a teacher so I believe in the importance of education. It's also important that we acknowledge that street cats are not our only environment concern: habitat loss, discarded plastics, polluted waterways, collision with motor vehicles and dog attacks are all threats to wildlife. We need to get the message out to cat owners that desexing is vital. We also need to make desexing affordable, preferably free. Thank you for reading my submission.