

Submission
No 318

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

In January 2023, I got a “free” cat from a woman in my town. Her cat had had kittens. They were all allowed to roam outside along a busy main street. Their food was outside covered in flies. When I picked up our boy, he was covered in fleas, not vaccinated or microchipped but that very quickly changed once we had him.

In June this year, he was diagnosed with mediastinal lymphoma which the vet believed he could have been born with it. We were fortunate enough to have it diagnosed & tried to treat it, however, in the end we had to say goodbye. If our boy was born with it, there’s a high chance his brothers & sisters would suffer the same fate, that’s IF they found homes, IF they weren’t hit by cars. The family we got him from did not believe in vaccinations & probably weren’t interested in getting their cats desexed even after having multiple litters.

I wish I had more time with my boy, but there needs to be more subsidised desexing programs in place to ensure there are not unwanted litters being born. Vet fees are expensive enough as it is. It seems the more you try to do the right thing by your pets, the more money it costs. I also believe that there should be subsidised pathology testing and diagnostic imaging to determine the health of kittens as well to save the heartache later on

I believe there also needs to be more public education on how to treat & act toward stray/feral cats. There is a cat at my workplace who has either been mistreated or was born on the street. One of my coworkers has gained his trust over the last year by feeding him & he will come up to her. I have been giving him treats for about 3 months & he is very slowly adjusting to me. However, in the last couple of weeks, people have been messing with his food & water (I found a battery in his water bowl & smashed glass everywhere in the area he hangs around). He suddenly became very skittish & standoffish toward us both & we have had to change our routine so nobody messes with his things..

Our workplace would be devastated if anything terrible happened to him. He is very content where he lives & my coworker would like to adopt him once he fully trusts her but it takes time. People look at cats as lesser than dogs but cats are equal. People see stray/feral cats as pests. They have been left alone & are just trying to survive