

Submission
No 320

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I have always had cats, and like most Australians who live in the suburbs, they were allowed outside. My biggest concern with outdoor cats is that they suffer pain, significant injuries, stress, disease and brutal deaths when outside without supervision.

As a child, I had a favourite cat that I got as a kitten and when she was an adult got hit by a car. This resulted in her having to have a leg amputation. While I am glad that my parents were able to afford this expensive vet treatment, I know that many Australians cannot afford this sort of medical intervention. Especially now with the cost of living rising. Keeping cats contained to their owner's property would go a large way to protecting cats from pain and limb loss, and owners from large, unexpected vet expenses.

I am also concerned that this legislation is considering "large scale cat desexing programs". As someone who loves cats, I do not want them to suffer. I currently have 3 indoor, female cats. When they got de-sexed they were given a sedative that lasted 2 days to keep them from being too active and ripping out their stitches. I was also given painkillers to administer to them for multiple days after the surgery. I cannot even imagine the pain that stray cats would have to go through if they were subjected to abdominal surgery and then released without appropriate after care. This is barbaric to me. I do not agree that "large scale desexing programs" are kind or ethical in any way to cats, and I am very concerned for the animal welfare implications of this kind of plan.

Now that I am an adult, I have built a catio at my house to keep my indoor cats. This has enabled them to have some sunshine and fresh air, while staying safe from car accidents. I think that it is the responsibility of a cat owner to keep them safe and that all cats should be kept inside and giving access to a catio.