

**Submission  
No 289**

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

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I urge the committee to reject inhumane practices to control cat populations including baiting, trapping and cat containment. Instead the committee should propose kinder, humane practices including TNR, education and community outreach especially in disadvantaged areas.

In my own experience during the last ten years and, with help from several other individuals and discounted desexing vouchers, the cat colonies in a Sydney suburb near me have been desexed and have had no kittens for many years. The colonies are healthy, there are no longer complaints from neighbours and residents are supportive. Residents have volunteered to feed them and this brings kindness and a sense of community.

Inhumane baiting and culling practices have never been successful in the long term because it creates a vacuum effect where other cats will fill the areas and so the problems persist. TNR has been proven to be the most effective method of controlling cat populations. The cats no longer need to roam are healthier and their populations decrease. There is less pressure and stress on charities, rescuers, vets and vet nurses who have to deal with the consequences of neglect and abandonment.

Wildlife statistics from 2022-3 show that cat attacks on wildlife are not the primary cause of wildlife decline. Significantly, destruction of habitat is the main cause of wildlife population decline. Demonizing cats and suggesting that their destruction will stop wildlife population decline is misleading and takes the pressure off the real problem of habitat destruction.

Information, education and community outreach especially to disadvantaged areas to help people desex their animals at an early age significantly helps people and their well being. Especially during these times of cost of living crisis as I have found that people are forced to abandon their pets on the streets. If they had more help and support with vet and food bills this wouldn't happen. I also volunteer with ARC, a charity that distributes donated pet food to communities. If these sort of charities had more support they could reach more areas and support people to look after their pets.

More needs to be done to support and educate the community and this will lead to long term solutions instead of inhumane, cruel practices of control which only work in the short term.

As Ghandi said, how we treat other species is a measure of our humanity.