

Submission  
No 333

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 21 November 2024

---

Partially  
Confidential

As a owner of a independent cat rescue and sanctuary for over 15 years, i have only seen a few changes in that time. Indicating that anything that has been implemented over the years has had much impact.

They are : Some pounds have allowed direct adoptions or restructured as adoption centres.

Despite this though the volume of cats in pounds has not decreased with even less cats being microchipped or kept indoors fully or reclaimed.

Qld has a different set of rules to NSW in that NO cats are allowed to roam and this is where you see high volumes of cats being trapped or picked up and taken to kill shelters daily. Qld pounds and some NSW regional pounds also don't microchip on release to rescues. Putting the onus onto rescues despite legislation to the contrary.

No kill rescues and shelters are simply overwhelmed trying to rescue as many of those mostly friendly and clearly owned cats with probably 1% of those being owner reclaimed.

Forcing 24/7 containment will NOT work and more innocent cats will pay the price.

Compulsory microchipping has not even worked for most cats as people are worried they are only allowed 2 cats per home so they just don't do them.

Also, people are still freely letting their cats breed and giving away the kittens (or dumping them) and being allowed to advertise on social media and outlets like gumtree and despite their individual rules but they are not enforced so they get away with it.

A cat forced to fend for itself will hunt and kill what it can to survive esp if its feeding a family. Cats are not to blame, its the humans that create these problems.

Managed colonies where TNR has happened is the only solution to reduce those unowned cats numbers. But the funding cannot be placed on already struggling rescues.

As seen by the inhumane cull a few years ago on the Newcastle breakwall cat colony, killing them does not work.

The numbers are back up again as more dumped or abandoned cats make their way to the food source. It only takes one female cat to start up multiple generations again.

Some ideas i have are:

- [ ] The microchip details to be connected to a drivers licence or social security number, (of those that do actually do them ) including registered breeders, rescues and all pounds) as they are not being transferred if they move location.

Also for it to be linked to rescue/breeder/ seller so the cat has another option if it winds up in pound.

- [ ] Only pets to be for sale in pet shops to be from rescues

- [ ] Funding from gvt bodies for TNR in all areas. Money to come from grants, animal registration fees.

- [ ] Cat containment at nights when they are most actively hunting.

- [ ] Landlords to allow inside cats and/or construction of a outside enclosure.

Another point to make is that rescues should be monitored for numbers and operational procedures.

There are some that are just glorified hoarders taking in large numbers of animals without the necessary funding for vet work etc. Eventually they add to the problem with authorities having to move in and seize the animals living in horrendous conditions.

Their naive followers enable and encourage them. Animals are going to much worse conditions than death in a kill pound.

There needs to be an independent animal welfare body to monitor complaints, and intake and outtake.

Also the media propaganda on cats needs to stop. A news story which incites hate with no genuine or correct statistics/information being presented serves no real purpose and only causes unnecessary victimisation of cats.