

Submission
No 335

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

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Addressing the problem of increasing cat numbers.

To effectively address the cat numbers problem, the starting point must be to reduce the number of new cats coming into the world through breeding. The only way to do this is to ban the breeding and sale of animals by breeders, kitten farms, pet stores, and online operators.

The next step should be a large-scale desexing program. Compulsory desexing of cats, particularly those that are allowed to roam and also those that are homeless, is essential to stop the exponential increase in cat numbers.

Extensive and readily available desexing programmes made affordable via state government subsidies must be coupled with a legislation banning the breeding and sale of animals by breeders, pet stores, and online operators.

Cat containment policies should be enforced as cats can happily live indoors or in secure outdoor cat runs (or a combination of the two), provided they have access to enrichment.

Feral cat population management must be focused on humane ways of addressing the root cause of overpopulation, not employing cruel, dangerous lethal measures. Poisoning and shooting must never be options.

To summarise.. sale of animals by breeders, in pet stores, and online, and kitten farms, should be banned. There should be mandatory microchipping, a 24/7 cat confinement law together with Government funding of desexing programmes, adoption groups and shelters.

Public education about the importance of cat desexing, at-home confinement (including environmental enrichment), fostering, and adoption should be employed.

Finally, when euthanasia is necessary, it should never ever be by a cruel, inaccurate lethal method such as shooting and poisoning.