

Submission
No 359

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I have had problems with the cat population in my neighbourhood for a few years. My biggest issue with cats is that if one uses my yard as a toilet they all seem to follow suit. I guess nobody in my street owns a litter tray for their cat. Last year was the worst; I couldn't walk out of my house without smelling the stench of cat faeces and urine. So, over time I tried deterrents. First, I bought an ultrasonic unit which was useless. Then, I tried deterrent odours such as commercially manufactured sprays, concoctions from internet searches (bleach, ammonia), and citrus juices and peels to no avail. Chili powder didn't work either. After all these failed, I borrowed a (humane) cat trap from a friend and have caught three in the past six months or so, two of which I know were not microchipped. One of those, a female, was most definitely feral. I believe she had had kittens in my shed, but they disappeared after she was caught. I took all the cats to the pound and don't know if they were claimed or not.

Another issue with the cats being allowed to roam freely is the effect on the wild bird population. I have found piles of feathers and bird carcasses in my yard a couple of times and I know that cats are the reason. You don't have to be David Attenborough to know that cats are born hunters. Dog owners are required to restrain their dogs or keep them confined if not supervised so I don't understand why cat owners don't have to do the same.

Unfortunately, many don't understand the importance of neutering their cats either, so I believe the problem will only get worse exponentially unless some action is taken.