

Submission  
No 352

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

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For context, I am a responsible cat owner, and have always had at least one cat since I was born. I currently own two cats, both rescues and both of whom are inside all the time.

My interest in putting a submission together stems from the care I have for these companion animals, and the concern I have for those who have been dumped and left to fend for themselves - becoming "feral".

First - domestic cats. I have been in the position when becoming a single mother of 4 children unexpectedly, I could not afford to desex my cat. I was extremely grateful for a council-based initiative where I lived at the time, that allowed me to desex her after she escaped, got pregnant and had one litter. I found good homes for each kitten, but was aware that I had inadvertently stopped those homes from homing a rescue cat each.

As an older and wiser owner, I make sure my cats are desexed and do not go outside, but they do miss the breeze, chasing leaves and having other enrichment. I have looked at how to build in a cat enclosure to my courtyard which would help. Subsidies, or government/council support for enclosures on free-standing houses and units would help provide enrichment for companion cats, and help owners feel better about keeping their cats from roaming.

For the lost cats - please provide support for non-kill shelters, who will re-unite or rehome stray cats humanely. Friends of the Pound are a good example in northern NSW, but their price for cats is high due to having to cover costs. The Animal Welfare League in southern QLD manage better.

For the dumped and scavenging cats - please support Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) programs. These allow rescuers to humanely reduce the population of a colony, by rehoming kittens and friendly cats, neutering all cats, and returning those who cannot be rehomed, who will eventually die without perpetuating the problem. This is the most humane way to solve the problem of feral populations, and the most likely not to have unintended consequences.

I love cats. This doesn't mean I don't understand the problems of feral cats and wildlife, and problem roaming cats. The measures above will solve these problems so please do consider them.

Kind regards,

Raina