

Submission
No 325

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 21 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

I am a cat owner of 52 years; I have kept and owned cats for nearly all of my sixty years of life. I believe I am a responsible pet owner, and I am certainly concerned for our native wildlife. I believe the only way forward is to make a curfew on cats during the hours between dusk and a couple of hours after dawn, letting cats out before the native animals have time to roost for the daylight hours is a recipe for disaster.

I live on a small holding in Bellangry NSW, I have 6 cats, this is not by choice, might I add, I inherited three cats from my elderly sister-in-law who now resides in an aged care facility, two of which have since died. One is still in our care, then we acquired two small, abandoned kittens due to someone dumping their, pregnant mother. After the mother cat was hit by a car, and subsequently killed, her three small kittens came to seek human help and sustenance, two of which we were able to catch and one that escaped capture and is still unaccounted for.

After trying to find homes for the kittens, I then had to give up on the idea due to the current housing crisis, so many cats and dogs had been surrendered there was just no room for the tiny kittens at the local shelter, so we ended up keeping them, along with our own three cats, whom are all desexed and vaccinated plus my sister in laws now only surviving cat, and the two new arrivals(the kittens) 6 are now in our care.

In my experience, damage to the native wildlife population can be greatly diminished by this simple act. My cats, I have learned have next to no impact on native wildlife if they are trained from tiny kittens to never go outdoors after dusk or just before dusk to be accurate, and until after dawn.

further to that all cats must be desexed, if they are to be companion animals, unless they are breeding stock owned by registered breeders. All breeding stock must be found responsible, decent forever homes and desexed by the breeder at the breeder's expense, after breeding from the animal has ceased or is no longer in the animal's (Cats) best life and health interests.

I think and believe that laws must be passed to make the dumping of animals (particularly Cats and Dogs) a jailable offence Or, at the very least a hefty fine

and disqualification from owning any type of pet or domestic animal for a said period of time. Microchipping is compulsory in NSW but so many don't do this, and fines should be incurred if it is found people haven't complied. There should be no exceptions for farmers and others undertaking a business and a no exceptions or exclusions attitude should be adopted by the said governing body that all animals including dogs should be registered with their local Council, So pet numbers can be monitored, and we should be able to ascertain an abandoned pet, Beit lost or stolen with precise precision, if a pet is not reported lost or stolen it should be assumed that pet if found by local authorities or surrendered by a member of the public that the animal has been dumped, unless it can be proved that the owner was actively seeking the whereabouts of the pet for reunion with its owner/owners, there should be hefty consequences.

I have worked for the RSPCA many years ago, I have volunteered for Animal welfare and have been a pet owner for many years, this in my opinion will go a very long way to addressing the problem of feral cats and the native wildlife populations decimation.

Food for your contemplation? I think native animals are about to take a massive hit from emerging EV numbers increasing, many more native animals will be killed, due to the very silent nature of electric vehicles, adding to the already disgusting road toll native wildlife

suffer every day of the year, the Elephant in the room that nobody seems to want to talk about.

Warm Regards

Concerned Cat owner and animal friend.