

Submission
No 372

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 20 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

SUBMISSION RE: NSW GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS IN NSW

I fully support any government regulation which will mandate the containment of cats on the owner's property. The same laws that apply to dogs should also apply to cats.

The lax attitudes of many cat owners and the absence of any regulation cause unnecessary ill-feeling between neighbours. It's an extremely unpleasant situation that I live with and would like to see resolved via clear laws.

Also I have great concerns about the fact that large foreign cat breeds such as Maine Coon and Bengal have been allowed to be imported to Australia and are now being bred and sold via the Internet. I have even seen them advertised free for rehoming.

It's an extremely worrying thought that these breeds will inevitably escape and interbreed with the existing feral cat population. Feral cats are known to grow much larger than the domestic variety. Feral Maine Coons, Bengals and their crosses will create a wild population of large predators that will confirm the existence of creatures like the illusory "black panther" that is occasionally sighted on the periphery of Sydney.

Normal-sized Maine Coons and Bengals would easily kill a koala. The damage that their feral progeny could wreak on all our native wildlife doesn't bear thinking about.

It's a tragedy that this situation has been allowed to happen, obviously due to astonishingly lax biosecurity regulation at the Federal level. It is a continuing tragedy that these large cats are allowed to be openly bred and sold. The breeding and selling of these cats should be made illegal and all existing animals should be neutered.

20.11.24