

Submission
No 444

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I think TNR Programs should be legalised, and instead of making these rescuers pay for everything, they should be supported monetarily. Obviously there are a lot of small rescues and there needs to be some oversight to see that rescue organisations are genuine. Hoarding is a big problem.

There are already some great rescuers in NSW, with a lot of knowledge of this process. Obviously there is also a lot of cats, most rescues are overwhelmed with the need.

There needs to be community education about desexing and responsibility of pet owners. So many people are buying from irresponsible backyard breeders, these cats are often not desexed. People often leave cats behind when they leave a rental as they can't find somewhere that will allow pets. I know the strata laws have changed, but believe me if a Real Estate agent has a choice they will choose the person without pets. Hence the strays on the streets.

There also needs to be stringent rules around social media advertising of pets, breeders etc. I know you implemented that microchip information has to be shown on every advertisement, but everything is so easy to fake. Licensed breeders have been scammed by backyard breeders using their ID to send to buyers. There really needs to be more education on how to spot a fake site, breeder etc. There are some great resources around this by genuine rescues.

Speaking of backyard breeders, this is rife everywhere. We need some strong laws and enforcement, with large fines. People who make money from breeding animals won't stop until there are stronger actions to stop them. I'm not talking about large scale farms, but people who breed cats in their houses. I've seen ads locally, on lampposts, especially around this time of year.

There is also the possibility of a witch hunt mentality by unscrupulous people who believe every cat should die. I personally love cats, but think there needs to be humane ways of doing this that don't involve large scale killing sprees or encourage people to kill any local cat that happens to be outside.

There is a sanctuary in Canada (tinykittens.com) that documents their many years of TNR and adoption in a feral population of cats. Some areas where they have been working on TNR in the local farms they have achieved an amazing result with no kittens born some years. With the help of local farms they feed and care for these cats long term. They have taken on more areas as their methods have worked. Some cats are also rehomed as barn cats on other farms. It is worth reading their case studies.