

**Submission
No 395**

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

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Cats are such precious creatures & they reward us with so much more love & affection than what we could ever give them. ❤️

I adopted my first cat going back several years ago from a local whose Kitty just had her 3rd litter of Kittens, having previously known next to nothing about cats I did not even realise that cats can give birth to a lot more than just 3 litters in their lifetime, in fact just one cat can give birth up to 3 or even 4 times during the one year ! Gradually some puzzle pieces were sliding into place as I thought it was initially a bit rude of my landlord asking me to desex my cat ! I thought that's none of their concern & why should I do that since I would love to see a whole bunch of little "Charlie's" running around because he was just so adorable! I fell in love with this kitty in no time at all & nursed him each night in my arms, I thought of his life more important than my own, he brought so much joy to all our lives!

After doing some research on cats & meeting some locals who had cats I was alarmed to learn that young kittens can even give birth starting around 3 or 4 months of age !! I was shocked & that was putting it mildly & so I discovered why it is so important to desex a Kitty at the earliest age possible, this is why I think community education regarding cats is so important in this fight against keeping cat populations low so we don't have hundreds & thousands of poor Kitties abandoned & neglected in our communities fighting for survival, this could be in the form of billboards & posters posted in numerous places stating small but very important facts, such as cats can get pregnant from 3 months of age that's why it's so important to desex your cat, it's not common knowledge but it's a powerful statement right ? It is also very necessary that there are programs out there for pet owners to get their cats desexed for free or at least a very low fee, especially so for low income families who are really struggling to make ends meet, I can understand why they cannot afford normal desexing costs which are astronomical !! In some places such as Canberra costing \$500 or more with no relief in fees there anywhere, that is unbelievable! So I have rescue friends around Canberra that rescue many kitties off the streets, they take it upon themselves to pay for all the vet costs, they tell me they search everywhere for cheaper cost desexing but there's none to be found anywhere but they continue to struggle on somehow. I rescue poor Kitties on death row at pounds where they kill the poor cats very quickly if not rescued or claimed in time & recently my attention has turned to Darwin City Pound where rescuers say they have only 4 days to rescue this never ending stream of poor kitties before they are killed! That is extremely unfair on these precious & innocent creatures!! Add to that the astronomical fees that the community is charged for having a poor Kitty released from the pound which is literally hundreds of dollars!! This makes it impossible for most people to be able to rescue them because they just cannot afford it let alone all their vet & unnecessary registration fees on top ! Plus all the penalty fees if it is the person's pet, for not microchipping, registering & desexing their pet on time !! All these unfair fees are utterly unnecessary making it even more difficult for people to be able to afford their pets particularly so rescuers who are rescuing as many as possible before they are killed!! I know so many rescuers out there trying to feed & TNR (Trap, Neuter & Release) colonies of poor cats & then also continuing to keep them fed & healthy as possible, these amazing people need vet & food cost relief, they need as much financial help as possible!

These most precious & loving creatures need to be treated with love respect & compassion; it is not their fault they have been abandoned & left to fend for themselves on the streets, they shouldn't have to bear the brunt for their own nature, which is their quick breeding cycle & trying to survive with no help. The government should be funding either free or very low

cost desexing programs & especially so for rescue workers looking after colonies & myriads of poor Kitties on the streets. Also individuals in the community that are doing their utmost to rescue poor Kitties stuck in pounds, they should not be charged the huge fees involved with rescuing them if they can prove to get all their vetwork done & have them successfully rehomed, it would be a much better result all round for cats & the people who love them so, thankyou.