

Submission
No 399

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I volunteer as an admin for the Facebook page "Community Helping Campbelltown Cats" that has 26k+ followers.

We mainly help advertise the cats held at the Campbelltown Animal Care Facility but we also help with emergency situations whenever we can.

We see first-hand the impact of lack of affordable care for pets around here, especially access to desexing.

Also the impact of lack of accommodation options with more people needing to re-home or surrender their pets, which is heartbreaking for all.

People are reaching out to us every day for help. Good Samaritans who have found a pregnant cat, or a box of kittens, or a stray in bad shape, or someone managing a little colony who are desperate to have their charges desexed.... we try to help as much as we can but we are not a rescue. Mainly we give advice and point people to rescue organisations near us, knowing that their hands are full and the pound is full too.

We do however run our own local desexing program called "TNR- Project Compassion". The project is largely self-funded, with the help of vouchers from the Animal Welfare League.

Since the start 2 years ago, the program has helped desex 650 Campbelltown cats (and counting...). That's 650 community cats that were trapped, neutered and returned and you can do the maths on how many thousands of kittens were not born to a short life of misery as a result...

We are a small team of individuals and we can only dream of the things that could be achieved if this was reproduced at Council level (or even State level: yes, why not dream big?)

Our argument is that there are humane solutions available to manage numbers of community and stray cats.

Affordable and/or free desexing is most definitely a key point; also the acceptance of TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) as being a legal and plausible component of the solution that should be championed by all councils.