

Submission  
No 342

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 21 November 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

I think there are quite a lot of people that see a cute kitten in the shop and they buy them on the spot. They don't think through what it means to be a responsible pet owner.

Maybe pet sales should only be allowed after a cooling off period. For instance when you see a cat in the shop or online you contact the seller to let them know you are interested in the cat. You then need to complete a questionnaire that ask questions like: have you checked with your landlord that you can have a cat? Have you checked you aren't allergic to cats? Are you aware cats can live for more than 20 years? Are you aware cats need monthly flea and worm tablet & yearly vaccinations? Are you aware not all cats get on with other cats, dogs or children? Are you aware you need to register the cat with your local council & there is a fee involved with that? Are you aware you need your cat to be chipped & desexed? Are you aware more & more councils put legislation in place that cats are to be kept indoors - which means smelly litter tray in your house. Any other questions that make people think before they buy.

If the person still wants to go ahead with acquiring the cat, the seller will put a reservation on the cat and the buyer has to wait 5 days before they can take the cat home. The completed questionnaire needs to be forwarded to the council. And the seller can only sell the cat if the council approves the request.

It would be ideal of council office staff checks each application and follows up if there is something illegal going on; for example a person keeps buying cats every week; a seller sell cats without completing the paperwork or waiting 5 days before handing the animal over. But I'm guessing the budget might not stretch for that. Doing spot check on different sellers, will show that the council takes this matter seriously and you might get caught & fined.