

Submission  
No 365

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

**Name:** Ms Jo Hobson  
**Date Received:** 20 November 2024

---

Suggestions to reduce cat numbers: All NSW cat breeders need to be registered. The NSW government needs to ensure that all cat breeders are registered in order to make sure that cat breeders are following all NSW animal welfare rules.

NSW cat breeders need to be regulated.

The NSW government needs to regulate all cat breeders in order to dramatically reduce the number of cats bred annually and to stop the cruelty that is often present in the industry. There needs to be unannounced government visits to cat breeding facilities to ensure that all the cats and kittens are being looked after according to best animal welfare rules.

There needs to be a mandated number on how many cats are allowed to be bred in NSW each year. The number allowed should tally with the number of expected new cat owners. The government should continue to encourage responsible cat ownership by ensuring that cats will be desexed soon after sale.

Stop the cruelty in the cat breeding industry

Currently female cats are often forced to have litter after litter in order to make more and more money for the breeders. Also some of the cat breeds have strange characteristics like short legs, flat faces or no hair that is not that good for the cats and may also lead to expensive Vet bills for the cat owners.

Additionally the breeding mother cat often lives in poor conditions where there is little or, no concern, for her welfare as long as she just keeps on producing kittens for the cat breeder. The health of the mother cat and the number of litters she has needs to be strictly regulated by the NSW Government.

The NSW government needs to oversee the sale of cats in pet shops and online in order to check that all sellers are legal cat breeders and not illegal operators. All cat breeders need to follow NSW regulated humane animal welfare conditions.

Cat owners: microchipping, registration and desexing

It is good that the NSW government encourages responsible cat ownership by requiring cats to be microchipped and registered with NSW Pet Registry. It is also good that the NSW government encourages desexing by applying a financial burden if a cat is not desexed. However, in some cases new cat owners may need some government financial assistance to pay for desexing and it would be good if the government would assist with desexing costs, if needed, by new cat owners.

Cats and wildlife

Cats need to be restrained and kept inside if they are known to kill wildlife. There needs to be monitoring of cats living near bushland areas where there is wildlife, and, if there are any feral cats about they need to be humanely euthanised. Cats living in suburbs and away from bushland areas should be allowed outside during the day if they are no threat to wildlife.

A National Animal Welfare Commission

It would be good if the NSW Government advocated for a National Animal Welfare Commission to ensure all states and territories have similar animal welfare laws that are regulated by the national body.

NSW and Victoria seem to be working on cat and dog regulations around the same time. For example, earlier this year Victoria also looked at the overpopulation of cats and put in new regulations and now NSW is catching up on their cat regulations.

Also the NSW government is currently conducting a proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Puppy Farming) Bill 2024 which follows the Victorian government 2022 regulations for puppy farms.

It would be good if there was a National Animal Welfare Commission and all states and territories had similar animal welfare laws enacted at the same time.

It would also be excellent if the Ministers for Agriculture in NSW and Victoria were not also the Ministers responsible for animal welfare.....this causes an obvious conflict of interest.

Currently NSW & Victorian Ministers for Agriculture are primarily responsible for the financial welfare of farmers and their responsibility for animal welfare is a secondary role. Australia needs a National Animal Welfare Commission to correct this clear conflict of interest so that there are real independent Ministers for Animal Welfare looking after the welfare of all animals be they pets, farm animals or wildlife.