

Submission
No 428

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 17 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Submission to Parliament: Public Opinion on Cat Population Control

Dear Members of Parliament,

I write to you today to express public opinion and propose actionable measures to address challenges in managing cat populations. Public sentiment increasingly supports humane, sustainable, and proactive solutions. I respectfully present the following key points for consideration:

1. Legalisation of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Programs

TNR programs are widely recognized as an effective method for reducing feral cat colony sizes. Legalizing and standardizing these programs would allow rescuers to address population control humanely and efficiently. Furthermore, providing resources and protections for TNR practitioners would empower these individuals and organizations to continue their valuable work in managing feral cat populations without fear of legal repercussions.

2. Funding Support for Desexing Programs

Rescuers and community organizations are often self-funded, relying on donations to run critical desexing initiatives. Establishing government funding or grants for these programs would alleviate financial strain and enhance their reach and effectiveness. This support would result in fewer unplanned litters, reducing strain on local shelters and minimizing euthanasia rates.

3. Assertive Action on Cat Hoarding

Cat hoarding presents significant welfare challenges for both animals and individuals involved. Assertive action is needed to address these cases through intervention programs that prioritize animal welfare without penalizing the cats. Community partnerships, including social services and veterinary care, can help mitigate hoarding behaviors while ensuring the animals are rehomed, desexed, or integrated into TNR programs.

4. Education and Support in Challenged Communities

Religious, socioeconomic, and cultural factors often exacerbate cat population challenges in certain areas. Tailored educational campaigns can promote responsible pet ownership, desexing, and humane population control practices. Coupled with accessible support services, these programs would foster long-term behavioral change and community engagement in cat population management.

Conclusion

The measures outlined above reflect the public's growing desire for humane, effective, and sustainable solutions to cat population control. Legislative and financial support for these initiatives would align with community values and improve animal welfare outcomes. I urge the Parliament to act decisively and compassionately in addressing these critical issues.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,