

Submission
No 408

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

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The qualification of frontline experience in cat rescue places such people in a position of accumulated knowledge that cannot be learned from text or university degrees. I have been involved in cat rescue/rehabilitation for 45 years, both as an individual and alongside Animal Charities. The unanimous consensus of all workers in cat rescue is that the situation is not a cat problem but a human problem. Killing cats/kittens will eliminate abandoned breeding cats. Never. This has been repetitively proven time and time again. The cats are just the symptom of an irresponsible human society. They are societies reflection.

We all know to solve a problem one attacks the root, not the symptom.

If NSW Government sincerely wants to make a difference in addressing cat numbers, it must work in with Animal Rescue bodies statewide to subsidize cheap desexing and educating people, especially new immigrants, on cat ownership.

The obvious fact that the biggest problem areas are those of low social economic housing ect.

The penny must drop to how effectively the federal government must construct itself to combat these PEOPLE who neglect, abandon, breed cats in a repetitive annual cycle.

Stipulating a mandate law to contain cats 24/7 achieves nothing but more dumping of cats, perpetuating the problem.

It has long been recognized by well-seasoned cat rescue people/charities that the category of 'feral' is but a cliché that has been instigated for the purpose of a death warrant and to bypass the Animal Welfare Act.

Anyone who has witnessed a poisoned cat, any animal, has no reservations as to the blatant agony and suffering that being goes through.

Whatever the toxin - 1080, Pindone ect - it is totlly inhumane.

Abandoned cats have been given no choice but to try and return to their intrinsic state in order to survive. They are usually dumped when they are pregnant.

Whose fault?

WILDLIFE:

Essentially, demonizing cats for the decimation of Australian wildlife is pure scapegoating.

The use of psychological scapegoating to divert the blame of the true culprit is age old history.

Anyone who keeps their finger on the pulse knows Australia has a diabolical reputation for wildlife extinctions stemming from European colonization to this current day.

Urban areas of human infrastructure has very little wildlife roaming the streets.

It is internationally lambasted for continued wildlife habitat destruction with native logging and fossil fuel mining. Other countries have stopped.

The colonial debacle of wildlife V landholders is as intensive as ever with NPWS/DCCEEW dishing out thousands of permits for wildlife destruction on properties annually.

Stop blaming cats for Australian Government failure.