

Submission
No 366

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

Name: Dr komathy sathiyapal

Date Received: 20 November 2024

It is very sad and cruel to kill the cats in order to reduce the stray cats. I am of opinion that killing cats to protect wildlife hasn't worked before. This is a human error to domesticate too many cats and have kitten farms to produce more cats for sale. There are previous reports that desexing programs are much more effective than killing. It is more effective to fund large scale desexing programs to conduct specially in areas of large homeless cat populations. There are sustainable and compassionate solutions.

The preferred solution is to initiate a community cat program which involves free desexing of cats, specially in the disadvantaged communities where homeless cat populations are high. This will prevent wildlife predation also. The Rand myth of domestic cats and urban wildlife provides evidence that desexing cats will solve the issues. We also have to consider the vacuum effect that when removing an animal from one area will result in new animals filling the space. Cat containment: Most cat owners keep their cat inside and some of them may not be aware of the new rules. The cat curfews backfire with some people leading to abandon their cats to avoid fines. Demonising cats also can cause harmful actions towards poor animals. This also can lead to unchecked cruelty. Strict mandated cat containment has shown to increase impoundments without actually solving the issue. The containment laws did not actually reduce the numbers of roaming cats, and did not make any difference. We have many examples that cat containment did not work in the past, e.g. in Yarra ranges, cat-related complaints rose after introducing cat curfew, similar rising incidents of impoundments in Casey (Victoria) also. The cat curfews are ineffective and not addressing the root cause of the problem. The best way to address the problem is to educate the owners about pet keeping. This can be done through media campaigns and school programs. To make awareness among the community is very important for wild life.