

Submission  
No 419

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

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I have a 5 year old calico cat, a rescue. She loves to be outside, and gets very unhappy if contained. I have found that if I allow her access to outside between 7am and 5 pm, she is happy, she spends her day sitting in the sun.

I have found that she doesn't really hunt during the day, and containing her at night has meant she doesn't often bring me "presents" and those are usually mice and the small lizards that lose their tails.

Cats are not native, and they do kill wildlife, however they are not the worst offenders.

We are the top three worst causes of wildlife loss according to this table.

NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Dashboard 2022-23 Data:

Unsuitable environment: 413 incidents

Collision with motor vehicles: 310 incidents

Habitat changes: 52 incidents

Dog attacks: 98 incidents

Cat attacks: 37 incidents

Please don't mandate 24/7 cat containment, because people who are caring for stray cats may stop doing so if they fear being fined for not containing them. Please make desexing of cats (and dogs) easy and free, especially for those who are desexing a stray or feral cat. Desexed animals should be allowed to live their lives in peace, preferably homed and loved, but without fear of cruel treatment in any case. It's not their fault they are stray or feral.

Rescues are overwhelmed... please don't enact unsustainable standards that might mean more people surrender cats. Let's work on our own impacts on wildlife first... and go gently on cats and dogs.