

Submission
No 402

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 19 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.

I support promoting cat containment and the installation of cat enclosures and secure yards etc as it is safer for cats; if it is possible by cat guardians. However, I do not support mandatory cat containment. Mandatory containment will likely mean that many cats will suffer as a consequence and people who do not like cats will likely cause more harm to cats and trap/kill cats as they feel they have a right to do so. Councils will also likely have increased costs and shelters and pounds will also have considerably more strain when they are already over capacity and not managing.

I am a cat lover and also a licensed wildlife carer. In our suburban area in Sydney, I see more wildlife killed and harmed by loss of habitat, vehicles, people and dogs over those harmed by cats. Cats are being unfairly blamed for harming wildlife when they are not the main reason for wildlife being killed or harmed.

I fully support large scale (mass / high intensity) desexing programs for owned, semi owned and unowned cats are supported for their effectiveness in minimising cat populations. This is achieved by significantly limiting the breeding of cats, which also benefits each cat and the communities. Help with vaccinations would also be a good step.

These funded programs should be offered free for those on low incomes, carers and rescuers of semi owned and unowned cats (community cat rescuers), and areas of high intensity cat populations to make a rapid and effective reduction in numbers of cats.

The research and studies of highly successful free cat desexing programs were completed in a number of councils involving the APWF in Queensland, Banyule Council in Victoria, and the Keeping Cats Safe at Home (KCSAH) program managed by RSPCA for the NSW government.

Community cat rescuers do amazing and effective work helping cats; TNR programs should be legalised and supported as they are effective. Community cat rescuers not being recognised in the NSW Pound Inquiry, and it appears also not in this inquiry, is of great concern. These caring people are on the frontline helping cats and cat populations and finding homes for cats so their input and feedback is crucial to have an overall picture of what needs to be done to help cats in a kind and compassionate way forward using methods that are proven to be effective such as desexing programs and community education.

Mandatory cat containment will not be effective and will give cat haters the green light to be cruel and cause harm to cats who are the victims through no fault of their own. Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter to ensure that cats do not suffer more than they already are, and to ensure that more is done to help those people helping cats through desexing programs and community education.

Thank you.