

Submission  
No 433

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

I am greatly concerned that 'cat management' will simply mean open season on cruelty. There are many people who are already cruel to animals (and we need a joint police /RSPCA database for this because people who hurt animals often hurt people too), and simply seeing cat management as curfews will open up an opportunity to legally harm or kill cats.

Imagine an open season on any cat, even ones with a collar and bell, after a curfew. No matter how careful you are, even if your cats are fully indoor, once in their lifetime a cat is probably going to slip out because someone accidentally left a window open, or they are scared just like a dog in a storm... but in this case, if found by someone, they could be killed legally.

We must be looking at proper management of cat populations without harming them such as the legalisation of TNR Programs, and support for the rescuers that focus on reducing colony sizes. This happens successfully in many other countries, so why not here.

Funding could be increased to rescues and vets who run public desexing programmes. This takes the money issue out of the equation for people who have a cat and also less kittens means less dumping.

As in other countries we can look at educational programmes and greater support in areas where there are large populations of "community cats". This way the cats reduce in numbers and people get the education about cats that means they will desex their cats and not allow them to wander.

I would also think that there could be educational and sponsored programmes on how to train your cats on harnesses and to have greater indoor enrichment. This way prospective cats owners can see that cats can live a happy and safe life indoors or out with you on a harness.

Yours sincerely,