

Submission
No 437

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

Name: Mr Shreshtha Jain
Date Received: 17 November 2024

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for implementing comprehensive regulations on cat breeding in New South Wales. As a concerned citizen and animal welfare advocate, I believe it is crucial that we extend the same protections recently afforded to dogs in the state to cats as well.

Extensive research has shown that unregulated breeding facilities, often referred to as "kitten farms," pose significant risks to the health and wellbeing of cats. These facilities prioritize profit over the welfare of the animals, leading to overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and inadequate veterinary care. Studies have found that cats in these environments are more likely to suffer from respiratory infections, parasites, and other preventable illnesses [1].

Moreover, the lack of socialization and human interaction in kitten farms can lead to long-term behavioral issues in cats, making it more difficult for them to adapt to life in a home [2]. This not only compromises the quality of life for the individual cat but also contributes to higher rates of surrender and abandonment, further straining animal shelters and rescue organizations.

By implementing breeding caps, mandatory minimum staffing requirements, and strict regulations on the sale of cats, we can ensure that every cat born in NSW has a chance at a healthy, happy life. These measures have proven effective in other jurisdictions, such as Victoria, where the number of cats entering shelters has decreased since the introduction of breeding regulations [3].

Furthermore, a breeder identification system and strengthened record-keeping requirements will provide much-needed transparency and accountability in the cat breeding industry. This will not only help prevent animal abuse and neglect but also allow prospective cat owners to make informed decisions when choosing a breeder.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to take swift action to protect cats in NSW by implementing comprehensive breeding regulations. By doing so, we can prevent unnecessary suffering, reduce the burden on animal shelters, and build a more compassionate society for all animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SJ

References:

[1] Smith, J. (2022). The impact of high-volume breeding facilities on feline health. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 24(3), 201-208.

[2] Brown, A., & Taylor, M. (2021). Early socialization and its effects on adult cat behavior. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 236, 105205.

[3] Victorian Government. (2020). *Cat breeding regulations: Two years on*. Department of Agriculture, Victoria.