

Submission  
No 482

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 22 November 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

I have extensive experience fostering cats, kittens and queens/litters that have either been surrendered or have been living on the streets - who are ultimately desexed and rehomed. I also love our wildlife and want to keep it safe - my cats are always contained to my home, to protect surrounding wildlife. Killing cats is not only cruel, but an ineffective and unnecessary response to the issue at hand.

The government should adopt an evidence-based approach to policy development in this area. Community cat programs that focus on rehoming, targeted desexing, TNR and community education have proven highly effective at reducing stray cat populations. These initiatives also ease the burden on councils, shelters and rescue groups, while supporting the well-being of vets, nurses and volunteers involved.

A NSW Government-commissioned report supports large-scale desexing programs instead, showing that killing programs are ineffective. The recent NSW Pound Inquiry has recommended a proactive solution: providing grants to councils and rescue organisations to fund large-scale, targeted desexing programs across the state, including community cat desexing in areas with large homeless cat populations, especially disadvantaged communities. These kinds of programs are a long-term, compassionate solution that reduces stray cat populations without demonising cats.

Educating communities about responsible pet ownership is essential. Encouraging people about how to keep their cats safely indoors or contained within property boundaries, such as in cat patios, can help keep both cats and wildlife safe. Community outreach, media campaigns and school programs teaching pet care, the importance of spaying/neutering and safe indoor environments. Supporting local initiatives that help manage community cat populations through rehoming programs, targeted desexing and fostering.

Finally, wildlife rescue data shows that cats aren't the primary risk to many threatened species. Key threats include habitat loss, vehicle collisions and dog attacks.

This is truly not an either/or situation. We can be effective AND cruelty-free in protecting both our wildlife and cats.

Thank you for considering my submission.