

Submission
No 487

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

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I urge policymakers to bear in mind that the proliferation of homeless and unsocialised animals is the result of human failures.

It is humans who continue to breed, buy and sell cats and kittens; humans who abandon their animal companions; and humans who fail to desex, contain and supervise their cats and kittens.

To then allow humans to shoot or poison the resulting cats and kittens (and any other animal unlucky enough to become an unintended victim) is cruel, inhumane and illogical.

Controlling Australia's cat population requires a multipronged approach that must rest first and foremost on stemming the flow of new cats and kittens via the enforcement of breeding restrictions.

This government should promote adoption and at-home containment of cats, and invest in desexing projects and education programs to inform the public about why there can be no such thing as a "responsible" breeder while homeless cat numbers continue to skyrocket.

Every animal bought from a breeder costs another animal in a shelter the chance of a loving home, thus forcing the euthanasia of thousands of animals in shelters. Council shelters are overflowing, putting pressure on staff and denying safe spaces to new animals in need.

Australian shelters and pounds are forced to euthanise some 50,000 healthy cats a year, yet 25% of cats – 1.32 million in 2022 – are still being purchased from breeders directly, or via pet stores.

Please look firstly at the humans who are creating these problems, before murdering the cats and kittens who are their victims.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.