

**Submission
No 18**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Miss Sharon Richards

Date Received: 23 January 2022

Hi,

The main change needed, I feel is extremely important. is the Trap/Neuter /Release TNR of community cats.

The release should not be classed as abandonment , but instead is exactly as the word Release means Let go back to where the cat was trapped from.

Trap Neuter Release has been done all over the world with great success, with many cats/kittens rehomed or released back, if not able to be rehomed. We don't need bundles of money for research of this project, it is already proven.

We just need to GET ON WITH IT as the cat population keeps exploding.

Australia needs to wake up and take the blinkers off.

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The \$80 Fine/Fee for kittens/cats desexed older than 4 Months should be abolished for Rescue groups or if people can prove that they came by the cat, which is older than 4 months.

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Greater scrutiny should be directed at Back Yard Breeders, and follow up of such advertising eg on Gum Tree .

There needs to be a distinction between 1. URBAN CATS, which have had human contact and care at some time in their life, these cats are mainly found in built up area, industrial areas, streets etc. and 2, NON URBAN CATS which through generation after generation have had no human contact and are commonly found many kilometres out of built up areas or wilderness areas.

Thank you

Sharon Richards

To whom this Concerns (Everybody)

My submission Take 2 is more to do with Domestic Animal Welfare rather than Animal Welfare in general, so I hope my submission can be included

1. There needs to be a complete over-haul of the Companion Animal Act 1998, its had so many amendments, it is contradictory

2 More effort is required by local Councils in respect to unowned cat welfare, this has been neglected for many years, to the extent that the unowned cat population has exploded, sound cruelty free means could be implemented by the State Government. These Animals are sentient beings which have to rely on instinct for survival, unlike us humans who have been given intelligence and should be able to work out a sensible approach to reducing the unowned Community Cat Population.

3...Rescue Groups and individuals have been volunteering their time and money helping unowned and Injured Animals, without any Government Assistance. This takes it's toll on people, but more than time and money the biggest toll is on the Emotional and Psychological effect on these caring individuals who reach out and do what they can , but are limited by the sheer amount of Animals requiring help.

4. Community Cats. Trap/Neuter./Rehome/Release. Cats/kittens that can be soci alised, can be rehomed, other cats can be returned to their place of living, to live out their life, without reproducing, this eventually reduces the unowned cat population by natural attrition. This is being practiced in many places with great success, including some suburbs of Canberra. Important to understand the wording of RETURN is NOT Abandonment. Abandonment is when an Animal is DUMPED, not released, This part of the legislation needs to be cleared up., and TNR needs to be IMPLEMENTED without delay.. It is important to differentiate cats that are in Urban areas(Community Town Cats) and Cats which have been bred generation after generation in outback or wilderness area's where they have more than likely, never seen a human.

5. Domestic Pets in Rental Accommodation.. There is a massive amount of pets left to fend for themselves after a tenant vacates a property at the end of the lease or before, this is a major contributor to the unowned cat and dog population.

There needs to be measures implemented to ensure THE LEASING AGENT Lists all pets in the care of the TENANT on the lease with Animal Details eg Microchip number etc. If the Animals are not accounted for , the Laws are there to Prosecute.

Thank you