



Inner City Strays Inc.
innercitystrays@gmail.com
ABN 77 199 491 539
CFN: 2365
www.innercitystrays.com

WHO WE ARE

Inner City Strays Inc is a not for profit incorporated association. Our team work at reducing the numbers of cats living on the streets of inner Sydney by fostering them, providing all veterinary work and placing them in good homes. We support the internationally recognised 'Five Freedoms' of animal welfare:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress

WHAT WE DO

Our group works closely with the City of Sydney and recently acted as a satellite shelter thanks to funding received from the Office of Local Governments Responsible Pet Ownership Grant. This grant has allowed us, and the City, to humanely manage the stray cat population by providing fostering and veterinary costs for over 40 kittens. These kittens have all been desexed and are off the streets therefore reducing the number of breeding cats substantially. As a group we have effectively rehomed over 150 kittens in two years.

PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

- The Feral Cat Scan app allows people to pinpoint all sightings of cats whether rural or urban and we are alarmed to see people reporting cats in urban streets, more than likely a house pet. Whether the department takes these statistics into effect or not, the sighting is still pinpointed for all users to see.
- The website encourages the community to form groups, regardless of training or experience. We have received notification of the poisonings of street cats and conclude that the app is open to abuse from any member of the public. Declaring cats as 'pests' also puts all cats at risk.
- Since the announcement of the feral cat management plan we have been informed of several separate incidents of street cats being poisoned and notice an alarming increase in stories of cat abuse.



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CAT DIETS

Stray cats rely heavily on rodents and scraps and are used specifically for rodent control by both business owners and farms. We have found cats to be an inherently lazy species and if well fed will have little impact on the natural environment.

RECOMMENDED HUMANE SOLUTIONS

- We believe that a long term and life-affirming management policy for both stray and feral cats would be both a more humane and effective policy and therefore must be thoroughly investigated before any 'control' program is implemented.
- Culling cats ultimately creates a vacuum affect where the survivors will breed more efficiently. Culling is also an extremely short term solution, and for long term management we would also support an investigation into a trap neuter release scheme as well as the implementation of a standard governance of desexing all domestic cats.
- Public education and responsible pet ownership must be targeted for any management plan to be effective. Currently many people continue to not desex their pet cat and dump unwanted litters, pregnant cat or both mother and litter in the bush. Through no fault of their own these cats are then targeted. Mandatory and affordable desexing for all pet owners as well as a nationwide education campaign are humane solutions and focus on a long term solution.
- Trap Neuter Release programs have shown to be effective in many countries abroad and humanely allow the cats to live out their natural life cycle without breeding. We would support an investigation into a Trap Neuter Release scheme in Australia.

CONCLUSIONS

The loss of Australia's wildlife is without doubt due to extensive human development and loss of natural habitat. We would support initiatives that focus on humanely building safe, predator free wildlife corridors and humane solutions for cat management.