

**Submission  
No 18**

## **INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Miss Sharon Richards

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To Whom it concerns

A lot needs to be addressed regarding Animal Welfare. I believe there should be more funding by the State and Local Government, as the Rates are directly linked to the local areas, definitely more needs to go directly to animal welfare and a streamlining of administration needs to occur.

Overcrowding in regards to cats, is very possibly due to the fact, for 5 or 6 years, local councils, refused to take in cats if not microchipped and often even if microchipped, due to the Parvo outbreak in several areas, this was followed on by Covid restrictions. Therefor the cats were left abandoned, un-desexed and kept reproducing.

Regarding dogs, too many back yard breeders, and also registered breeders the same with the over breeding of cats .. Mainly small cross bred dogs that have taken preference over the original larger breeds, therefore these larger dogs are Predominately in larger numbers in the pound. RESTRICT THE BREEDING OF DOMESTIC PETS until the overcrowding has been solved.'

Also an increase in the number of facilities eg each council area to be responsible for their own Animal Welfare.

Laws and Regulations need to be rehashed. particularly in regards to cats. In the desexing and registration time limits fines, for older unowned cats, this law needs to be abolished,

Owned cats should not be free roaming, so that unowned cats can be more easily identified, desexed and then chipped into the street or area they are found, and registered to the local council,

TNR/Rehome would reduce the number of cats considerably, this is already being carried out to a limited degree, by volunteers,. This needs to be accepted , introduced and funded by the State and Local Government. Not doing TNR/R is a major contributor to the unowned cat population. Also the stress,grief and burnout that volunteers endure because they cant help all animals results in a huge increase in Physical and Mental consultation costs.'

To Summarise, the two most important actions that will reduce Animals in Pounds are

1. Cats TNR/Rehome of unowned cats ,not doing this is a major contributor to the numbers, ALSO keep in mind the VACUUM EFFECT regarding colonies.
2. Police and prosecute backyard breeders of dogs and cats, this also includes restricting registered breeders, until the overcrowding has been solved..