

**Submission
No 87**

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Nell Stetner

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I have been a foster carer for a cat rescue for 4 years. The biggest impact on the number of cats coming into rescue is the number of residents abandoning cats because of housing or economic stress. The other biggest factor is the failure of owners to desex their cats resulting in many unwanted kittens. A cat may have kittens when still a kitten themselves and they can have 3 litters a year. I have to provide food and care for my foster cats. Some cats are not suitable to be rehomed so they have to stay with me long term, What is needed the most is for local councils and animal welfare groups to conduct desexing campaigns where the desexing is taken into the suburbs. The current practice of impounding cats does not top the endless stream of unwanted cats. Funding should be provided to local vets who have historically and directly rescued abandoned animals. Cat Rescue groups need reduced or subsidised vet charges for desexing and assistance with other animal health bills. They are taking on most of the burden of unwanted cats.

Australian Veterinary Association has recommended “formal provisions for veterinary practices reimbursement when receiving stray cats”.