

**Submission
No 94**

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Cabramatta Cat Colony Rescue

Date Received: 18 August 2023

My name is Lilly Froud and I Volunteer my services to Cabramatta Cat Colony Rescue which is a group of 5 Cat and Kitten Rescuers who work together collaboratively to help the Community in aid of rescuing many cats and kittens.

As you know there are countless problems in our areas with homeless cats and kittens who have been either dumped or abandoned. There are many kittens being born due the fact that the older cats being dumped are not desexed. Some of the health of the cats has deteriorated by getting cat flu, eye infections needing eye removal, teeth removed and other illnesses.

We currently receive the half cost \$40 to \$60 dollars for De Sexing rescue cats. This however only covers half the desexing costs and Volunteer Cat Rescuers such as myself can become out of pocket by hundreds of dollars extra. For example, I trapped a homeless cat at Fairfield Heights that had a bulging eye. The female cat I call Jessie was then desexed, vaccinated and had to have her eye removed. The cost was \$600.00. I also had another rescue cat at the same time who was getting desexed and had 3 teeth removed and the cost was \$700.00. As you can see this has caused some rescuers to owe Vet Fees in excess of \$2000.00 dollars at a time.

I have attached a spreadsheet of the costs of 1 rescuer as this reflects the same pattern across the board for the Volunteers who also spend their own money with feeding and caring too. We are asking the Fairfield Council and yourself if you could please at least cover the full Desexing Costs of male and female cats and kittens as soon as possible.

We believe it is our Duty of Care to ensure the safety of all involved and to the animals that have been abandoned and dumped in many areas sadly and negligently.

We hope you take the time and view the spreadsheets we have attached to this email which display all the costs just for 1 rescuer as an example.

Thank you

Lilly Froud