

Evidence-based research of highly successful programs offering free desexing should be considered an integral part of cat management plans. These desexing programs provide value for money, and return on investment, in reducing the number of cats, roaming cats, abandoned stray cats (semi owned or unowned), and impacts to wildlife.

The **Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) Community Cat programs** in Queensland in a number of Ipswich suburbs have been operating since 2021 targeting stray cats, including:

**“...desexing of urban stray cats... provided with other veterinary care, such as vaccinations and microchipping... if they are healthy and have been thriving outdoors, the cats are returned to where they live in their home territories... will also desex pet cats if their owners cannot afford to do so themselves... [and] adopting friendly cats and kittens found outdoors, increasing responsible pet cat ownership, decreasing abandonment and mediating resident conflicts involving outdoor cats.”<sup>i</sup>**

**“desexed over 2750 cats... achieved >30% reduction in cat intake & >50% less euthanasia”<sup>ii</sup>**

several research papers, international conference papers, a number of Australian submissions<sup>iii</sup>

The **Banyule Council desexing program** in Victoria<sup>iv</sup> included:

**“low-socioeconomic suburbs with the highest cat-related complaints and microtargeted at “hot-spots” ... decreases in impoundments by 66%, euthanasia by 82%, and cat-related calls by 36% over 8 years, with savings to council of AU \$440,660 for an outlay of AU \$77,490”**

**“...the traditional methods of trapping wandering and nuisance cats have not resulted in long-term reductions in cat-related calls to councils... It is recommended that urban cat management policies and programs are revised and, instead of being focused on a traditional compliance-based approach, are focused on being assistive, helping owners and semi-owners have their cats sterilized and identified with a microchip”**

The **Keeping Cats Safe at Home (KCSAH)** in NSW included key desexing programs.

The **Weddin Council KCSAH desexing program** offered free microchipping and desexing<sup>v</sup> which included:

Collaboratively working to achieve results for over 100 cats,

The view it **“represents the future of local cat management, it is the answer to reducing cat euthanasia rates and keeping cats out of pounds and shelters”.**

The **Parramatta Council KCSAH desexing program**<sup>vi</sup> included

An aim **“to locate unowned cat hotspots and engage with overwhelmed cat carers and volunteer cat rescue groups”**

Results where **cat-related nuisance complaints decreased by 49% and cats arriving at the council pound decreased by 41%.**

Anecdotal, **Campbelltown** and **Hornsby KCSAH desexing programs** also **critically included local carers and rescuers for semi owned and unowned cats.**

<sup>i</sup> <https://petwelfare.org.au/community-cat-program-faq/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://petwelfare.org.au/community-cat-program-news-2/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://petwelfare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Aust-Community-Cat-Program-2024-Report.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> Impact of a Local Government Funded Free Cat Sterilization Program for Owned and Semi-Owned Cats  
<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/11/1615>

<sup>v</sup> <https://weddinlandcare.com.au/milestone-for-keeping-cats-safe-at-home-project>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:4d1d5b58-63b5-4a70-8196-212fded377d1>