

# Reasons to support non-surgical alternatives for pet, free-roaming, & feral cats?



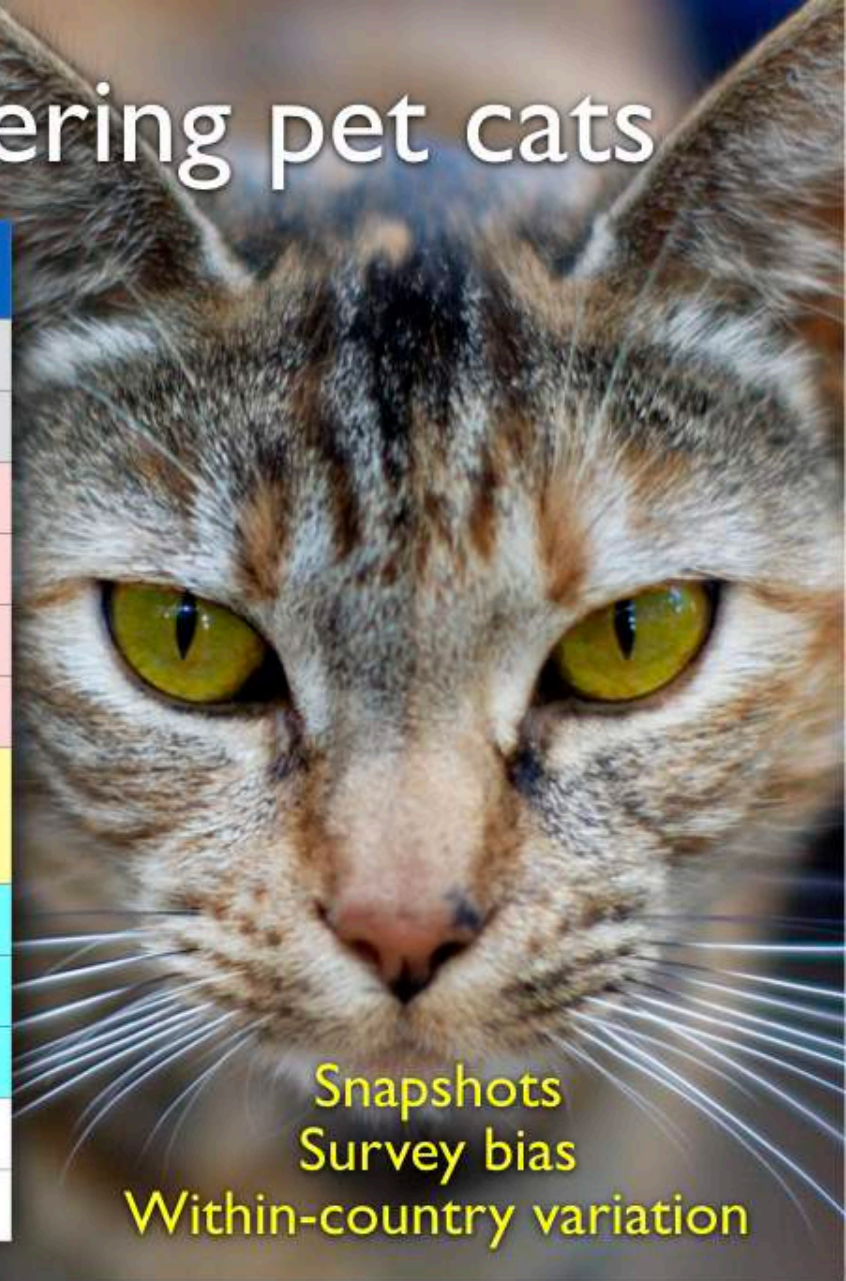
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# Owned pet cats



# Attitudes to neutering pet cats

Country & proportion cats neutered	
USA	77-91%
UK	67-93%
Denmark	86%
Ireland	76%
Italy	41-70%
France	61%
Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, S Mediterranean	'Relatively Low'
Australia	85-96%
New Zealand	92%
Israel	94%
Brazil	19%
Thailand	7-19%



Snapshots  
Survey bias  
Within-country variation

# Factors affecting pet neutering

Not thought about it

Religious beliefs

Education

Ethnicity

Should have one litter

Owner age

Too young

Don't believe in it

Indoors or outdoors

Owner sex (F>M)

Legislation

Cost

Health implications

Welfare implications

# Legislation on neutering in Europe

## Norway

Routine sterilization  
prohibited by  
Animal Welfare Act

## Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany

Removal of organs  
for human convenience  
discouraged

## Belgium

Neutering  
obligatory except  
breeding cats

# Improving reproduction control in pet cats

- > Low-cost non-surgical  
→ major impact
- > Also need to consider
  - > Education
  - > Religion
  - > Culture
  - > Ethics
  - > Legislation
  - > Attitudes
  - > Cost



# Pedigree cat reproduction control

- ◆ Temporary control of reproduction common
  - ◆ Megoestrol acetate
  - ◆ Other progestagens
  - ◆ Deslorelin
- ◆ Mostly for short-term control
  - ◆ Sometimes long-term
- ◆ Improved safe medical control of reproduction
  - ◆ Welcomed by many breeders
  - ◆ Temporary
    - ◆ Predictable, reversible
  - ◆ Permanent
    - ◆ Good alternative to surgery



Joan Miller



# Unowned cats



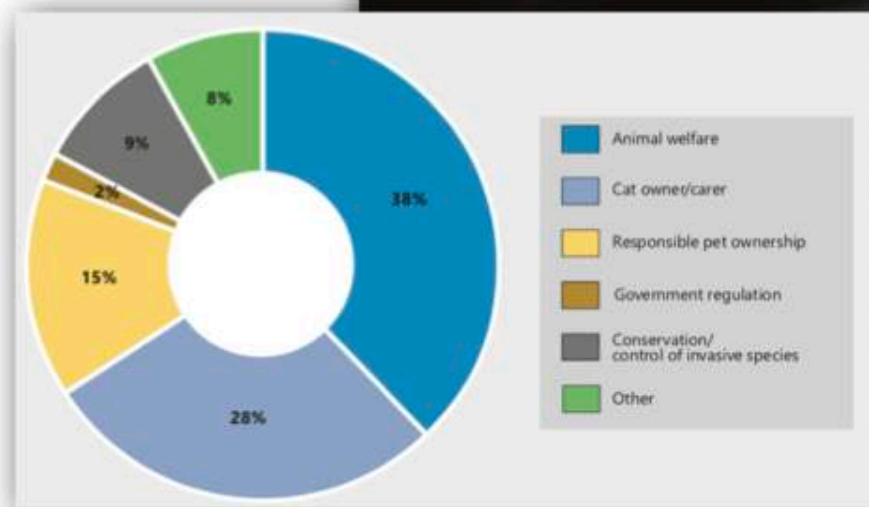
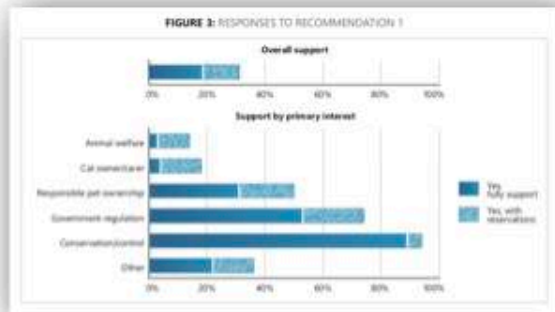


# Cat Control in Australia

- > Public consultation on best practice domestic cat management
  - > *National Feral Cat Task Force & Office of Threatened Species Commissioner*
- > Draft discussion paper May 2017 → 22 recommendations
  - > *Made available RSPCA Australia web site for 9 weeks*
  - > *Survey - broad range stakeholders → 1918 responses (email & online)*

# Cat Control in Australia

- ◆ All but one recommendation → majority support
  - ◆ 'Declaring feral cats as pest species under legislation ... to be adopted across all states and territories'
- ◆ Feedback on others
  - ◆ Final document → May 2018



# Cat Control in Australia

- ✓ **Define the populations of cats**
- ✓ **Consistent legislation across states, recognise cats sentient, protect from cruelty**
- ✓ **State-wide cat management advisory groups & council management plans**
- ✓ **Collaborate with welfare groups and other stakeholders**
- ✓ **Coordinated approach to feral and domestic cats**
- ✓ **Understand welfare when implementing management**
- ✓ **Recognise semi-owned cats as target group**
- ✓ **Trap & kill not long-term effective**
- ✓ **Evaluate TNR - target low-cost semi-owned cats**
- ✓ **↑ homes where cats allowed to be kept ↓ relinquishment**
- ✓ **Increase uptake of 24 hr cat containment & microchipping**
- ✓ **Mandatory pre-pubertal neutering**
- ✓ **Low cost neutering for owned cats**
- ✓ **Max 4 cats per household (neutered)**
- ✓ **Education owners/prospective owners**



# Managing semi-owned cats in Australia

- ~3-10% urban dwellers feed unowned cats daily
- Semi-owned cats largest proportion of urban 'strays'
- >50-60% cats in shelters semi-owned
  
- Management options
  - **Continue current situation**
    - = 'Farming' cats and euthanasing in shelters
  - **Large scale killing**
  - **TNVR (microchip, ear tip)**
    - Community Cat Diversion
    - Reduce shelter population (adoptable pets)
    - Already shown to be effective in Australia

# Potential problems in Australia

- > Scale of issue (but not as large as USA!)
- > AVA do not support TNR or ear tipping
- > Continued wildlife predation
  - > Poorly researched
  - > No evidence significant with urban cats
- > Cannot return/release trapped 'pests'
  
- > Availability of cost-effective non-surgical reproduction control
  - > As in other countries would transform community cat management



# Cat management in Sudan

- ◆ Large dog and cat populations
  - ◆ Stray / Semi-owned / Feral
- ◆ Pet 'ownership'
  - ◆ Dogs → becoming more common
  - ◆ Cats → still exceptionally rare
- ◆ Veterinary service industry
  - ◆ Very poorly developed
  - ◆ Production animal based
  - ◆ Limited small animal knowledge
    - ◆ Rabies
    - ◆ Toxoplasma
    - ◆ Surgery



# Cat population management in Sudan

- > Control of cat population desirable
  - > Cat welfare
  - > Human welfare
  - > Avoid nuisance
- > Problems
  - > Trapping
  - > Neutering
  - > Community care
  - > Education and training
- > Low-cost non-surgical would transform possibilities

# Non-surgical reproduction control

Cost

Trapping/  
ID

Education

Culture/  
Attitudes