



SAVE COMMUNITY CATS Rally 23 August 2025

Rescue to me is not a straight forward narrative anymore

What once held promise has been eroded. It has the ability to stifle our ambition, abrade our self-worth, confuse our motivations, our sense of perception and so often we struggle up from some dark place where we have been wounded and paralysed and we tell ourselves that we have had enough.

We tell ourselves it has come to a crisis and the time has come to make some hard decisions. Nobody, we tell ourselves, should have to sacrifice their whole lives, their mental and physical health and their financial status. We say enough is enough and we say it many times but we are not immune to the suffering and the answer comes back to us ;but who will help them if we don't?'

We need to acknowledge the social problem that this has become. It isn't just about the cats anymore, it is about the people impacted by it.

Councils want to look the other way, claiming to be in the crossfire between government laws, cat complaints, angry residents and the inferred and sometimes real environmental issues. Many councillors are indifferent. They don't reply to emails, they want to look the other way and they most often do. They see it as a government problem and they may be right.

These are weighty dilemmas that we all struggle to confront.

In my twenty-one years in cat rescue I have seen what it does to people. I have witnessed the broken relationships, the conflicts, the arguments, the helplessness and the pressures placed on the families of those involved.

I lost a friend to suicide and carried the guilt for a long time because I had somehow failed to see how her commitments to her rescued cats had exacerbated her mental condition.

I have counselled numerous others who have come to me because they somehow intuited that I knew what they were going through because I was going through it myself.

I am not a counsellor; I told my doctor recently. So, I have a referral now to somehow make sense of the tangled situation I find myself in.

In rescue you turn your house into a shelter. You give up your freedom to give them a life and you think about how that came to be, how you always thought at the beginning that you were making a difference. And you were but you had no idea that you would be left lugging the weight of it all and be abandoned by those who should have helped and who did not.

We give thanks to AWL for their long-standing support of rescue, without which things would be so much worse. We give thanks to the many who have supported what we do with their donations.

We implore the government to step in and to help us.

Margaret Dalziel, Catmint Cottage Rescue

<https://www.catmintcottagestreecatrescue.com.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CatmintCottageFelineRescue>