

**RSPCA NSW Statement – Save Community Cats Rally 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025**

- On behalf of RSPCA NSW, thank you for inviting us to be part of today's event and for the tireless efforts of carers, rescue groups, and advocates across the state who are giving community cats a voice.
- We acknowledge the significant and ongoing challenges faced in managing unowned, free-roaming, and community cats across New South Wales.
- These issues are complex, emotionally charged, and often fall hardest on the shoulders of volunteers and grassroots organisations doing everything they can to care for animals that would otherwise be overlooked.
- RSPCA NSW sees this every day. Through our inspectorate, our shelters, our outreach teams and our community-based programs, we care for thousands of cats every year and work to prevent harm to many more.
- We know that better solutions are not only possible, but essential.
- That's why we continue to advocate for meaningful reform, most recently through our submission and appearance at the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Management of Cat Populations, and in our ongoing engagement with the NSW Government as it reviews the Companion Animals Act.
- We strongly support policies and investments that improve the welfare of both cats and wildlife, while also recognising the critical role that carers and rescuers play in their communities.
- RSPCA NSW is dedicated to improving the lives of all creatures great and small, and the Keeping Cats Safe At Home program delivers a win-win solution that benefits domestic and wild animals.

- The initiative is another example of how RSPCA NSW's One Welfare focus is working to shape compassionate communities that care for their animals, while collaboratively supporting councils and wildlife groups across the state to achieve better outcomes.
- RSPCA NSW's Keeping Cats Safe at Home, delivered in partnership with local councils and the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust, has demonstrated that with the right approach, we can achieve remarkable outcomes.
- In Parramatta, for example, nuisance complaints dropped by almost half and cat intake at the pound fell by more than 40%. In other areas, we've seen cat euthanasia rates plummet by over 90%.
- In Campbelltown alone, the program saw the pound reduce its intake of cats from over 1000 cats annually to less than 450 last year (a 59% drop), reducing cat care costs at that pound and reducing euthanasia rates by 81% after two years of desexing. These results are real, and they matter.
- We remain committed to growing and strengthening these efforts, and we're working to soon announce what comes next.
- I can assure you that there is more to come from our team, which will not solve the issue but expand our efforts to prevent harm to cats across the state and improve the welfare of these animals; while shifting the cultural mindset of communities to ensure they understand the needs of local cats.
- Our team is actively working on future initiatives that we believe will make a real difference.
- To everyone here today, thank you. Thank you for your care, your compassion, and your commitment to a better future for cats in NSW. You are part of the solution and so are we.
- Together, we can create lasting change.