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

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Owned pet cats
# Attitudes to neutering pet cats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country &amp; proportion cats neutered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>77-91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>67-93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>41-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, S Mediterranean</td>
<td>‘Relatively Low’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>85-96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>7-19%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Snapshots**
**Survey bias**
**Within-country variation**
Factors affecting pet neutering

- Not thought about it
- Religious beliefs
- Education
- Ethnicity
- Should have one litter
- Owner age
- Owner sex (F>M)
- Too young
- Don’t believe in it
- Indoors or outdoors
- Legislation
- Cost
- Health implications
- Welfare implications

International Cat Care

isfm
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 website 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
- 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 euthanising 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

international cat care

ISFM
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