



Barry Helem

Chair
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After an extensive career in the financial services industry in senior leadership roles, Barry decided to get off 'the hamster wheel' of corporate life and give back to the community by taking his corporate experience to the charity sector. Five years ago he made the transformational shift from banking and finance to animal welfare and is currently the Chief Executive of the RNZSPCA Canterbury & Marlborough branches in the South Island of New Zealand.

In addition to his 'day job', Barry is also Chair of the New Zealand Companion Animal Council (NZCAC). The NZCAC is an 'umbrella' organisation that has as members the key New Zealand stakeholder organisations engaged in animal welfare and urban animal management.

Abstract

A National Strategy to Manage Cats in New Zealand

The need to balance the benefits of cat ownership with the prevention of wildlife predation in New Zealand evokes strong and opposing views. In 2014, eight key national organisations came together and through a collaborative and proactive approach developed a national overarching strategy for responsible, compassionate and humane cat management in New Zealand. The principle vision of the strategy is for all cats in New Zealand to be responsibly owned and valued or humanely managed in a way that protects their welfare and the unique New Zealand environment.

This presentation will describe the principles of the strategy and how it address opposing views regarding the value of cats in the lives of New Zealanders.