



Dr Jacquie Rand

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Emeritus Professor Rand graduated from Melbourne University in 1975, and worked in veterinary practice for 8 years before doing a residency and doctorate at the Ontario Veterinary College, Canada, followed by 3 years as a senior registrar at the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

She was appointed Professor of Companion Animal Health at UQ in 2001 and retired at the end of 2015 to head the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation, which is dedicated to saving pets' lives through research, education and advocacy. She has published over a 112 journal articles, authored 42 book chapters, and is editor of three books.

Currently, she is involved in research programs in shelter medicine aimed at preventing unwanted and problem pets, as well as ongoing research in in diabetes and obesity.

Abstract

Managing cats humanely and scientifically to reduce cats, wildlife predation and costs

Absence of effective Community Cat Programs to manage urban stray cats in Australia is the single largest issue leading to high cat-related costs for councils. Low reclaim and adoption rates for stray cats result in high levels of euthanasia which also have negative effects on staff mental health, leading to increased staff costs. By decreasing cat numbers and increasing the proportion of desexed cats, wildlife predation is also decreased.

Community Cat Programs incorporate desexing and adopting or returning healthy cats to where they were found, and diversion programs to stop the influx of cats that would otherwise be euthanased. New Australian research suggests that these strategies would be supported by the majority of the community, and these programs are largely funded by the community. Recent Australian research shows colony size decreasing a median of 31% over 2 years. However, they are currently require amendments to legislation to make them legal.