



Introducing...

Dr Jacquie Rand - Professor of Companion Animal Health, School of Veterinary Science, The University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland, Australia.

Professor Rand graduated from Melbourne University in 1975, and worked in 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.

Professor Rand was appointed Professor of Companion Animal Health in 2001 at the University of Queensland, Australia. She has published over a 100 journal articles, authored many book chapters, and is editor of three books.

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



Saving cats - An Australian perspective

Approximately 90% of cats arriving at Australian shelters are sociable, and most are treatable and rehomingable. Of cats arriving at shelters and municipal pounds nationally, approximately 30% are found new homes (similar to dogs), but only 4-7% are reclaimed (compared to approximately 30-35% of dogs), resulting in a euthanasia rate of approximately 54%, which is more than double that for dogs. Over half the cats entering into shelters are kittens and nearly 40% of kittens are from owned queens. Although over 90% of owned cats in Australia are desexed, 12-20% of owned queens that are ultimately desexed have a litter of kittens first. Euthanasia rates vary in shelters and pounds, and some pounds report killing 80-90% of cats, while others kill less than 50%. This talk discusses current strategies which are effective, and potential strategies that could be implemented in the Australian context which would save cat and kitten lives.