



## **G2Z and Early Age Desexing receives support of Sentient, the Veterinary Institute for Animal Ethics**

Leading national Animal Welfare program, Getting 2 Zero, has received the support of the new veterinary organisation, Sentient ([www.sentient.org.au](http://www.sentient.org.au)). Sentient, the Veterinary Institute for Animal Ethics, is backing the Early Age Desexing of cats and dogs and has acknowledged that this G2Z recommendation is a vital tool in the quest to reduce euthanasia of unwanted pets. President of Sentient, Dr Katherine Van Ekert, says "Sentient supports the goals and principles of the G2Z program, which aims to decrease the rate of euthanasia of healthy and treatable cats and dogs within communities."

G2Z ([www.g2z.com.au](http://www.g2z.com.au)) aims to prevent the unnecessary euthanasia of thousands of unwanted pets each year by providing strategies, support and resources to those involved in animal management and welfare.

G2Z Coordinator, Nell Thompson, says "every year approximately 180,000 cats and dogs are euthanased in pounds and shelters across Australia. In many areas of the country there are great disparities between the numbers of pets being born each year and the numbers of responsible homes offered.

Cats in particular are prolific breeders able to produce 2-4 litters of 4-6 kittens from 4-5 months of age. Consequently greater proportions of cats and kittens are euthanased than dogs and puppies in pounds and shelters, with euthanasia rates around 60-70% in many places. The practice of desexing cats from 8-10 weeks of age prevents unplanned pregnancies and these unwanted cats from being born. "Dr Katherine Van Ekert, says: "We recognise that current scientific evidence has not demonstrated any significant short or long- term health risks to cats when desexing is performed from 8-12 weeks of age, compared to the traditional practice of desexing at 22 to 24 weeks." "Sentient therefore supports early-age desexing schemes as a strategy to reduce euthanasia of unwanted companion animals including dogs and cats."

There are many advantages gained from desexing pets including reduced vet bills for pregnancy associated illnesses, reduced vet bills from trauma related causes as pets are much less likely to wander, better behaved pets due to the absence of key hormones, reduced risk of diseases such as cancers and infections, reduced costs for care of offspring including food, vaccinations and other vet care and generally pets live longer and happier lives if desexed.

Nell Thompson says "we are delighted to have the public support of the veterinary-driven independent forum and lobby group, Sentient". "Their recognition of this issue being vital in the fight to save the lives of companion animals is essential."

*G2Z is a national program. For more information Nell Thompson can be contacted at [info@g2z.com.au](mailto:info@g2z.com.au) or 0427 981 759.*

Ends.