



Australian
Pet Welfare
Foundation

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Improving the health and wellbeing of pets, people and their environments

Bella and Charlie Are Not the Problem—It's Us: The Real Causes of Wildlife Rescue in NSW

Key findings: Public discussion often focuses on pet cats as a major threat to wildlife. This study analysed 11 years of NSW wildlife rehabilitation records, covering 52,475 rescued animals from 158 threatened species. Cat attacks accounted for 0.6% of recorded rescues. More common recorded causes included entanglement, weather events, abandoned or orphaned young, unsuitable environments and motor-vehicle collisions. These records include only animals found and brought into care, not all wildlife deaths. The findings support targeted, proportionate and evidence-based action addressing the most common local causes of wildlife harm, which are largely human associated rather than relying mainly on blanket cat containment laws.

Article link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/16/14/2174>

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