

NOVEMBER, 1980

JOURNAL

CHRISTMAS APPEAL EDITION

The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.

(Registered Charity CC. 17122)

P.O. BOX A523, SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000. Registered Office: 103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE, N.S.W. 2042. TELEPHONE: 51 1011

EDITOR: W. GRAHAM • EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: S. BOWLES

CO-PATRONS: The Hon. Sir Robert Askin, G.C.M.G., The Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C., M.P.

OFFICE BEARERS: President: Mr. William Graham • Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Celie Smith, Geoffrey Luton Esq.

Honorary Secretary: Mrs. Shirley Bowles • Honorary Treasurer: Mrs. Judith Graham

COUNCILLORS: Mrs. Leonore Bowman, Miss Thea Dullo, Mrs. Sybil Cozens, Mrs. Beulah Harvey, Mrs. Nancy Iredale

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 30TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1980, AT CITY OF SYDNEY R.S.L. CLUB, 569 GEORGE ST., SYDNEY, COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M.

BUSINESS

1. Read and confirm Minutes of November, 1979, General Meeting.
2. Business arising.
3. Report on Animal Ambulance and Cat Welfare Service.
4. Treasurer's Report
5. General Business.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of the member. A proxy need not be a member. All proxies must be in the Hon. Secretary's hands not later than 48 hours before the time of the holding of the meeting. Only financial members are entitled to vote.

REMINDER: Many members' subscriptions remain overdue. Unfortunately, the cost of printing and posting this Journal precludes us from sending any further Journals to unfinancial members. If you are unfinancial and wish to remain on our mailing list, please forward your annual subscription without delay to:

The Hon. Treasurer,
Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.
PO Box A523,
SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

All subscriptions become due on 1st June each year.

IF YOU CAN PLACE A CAT OR KITTEN IN A GOOD HOME, PLEASE RING OUR WELFARE SERVICE - 'PHONE 51 1011.

CHAIRMAN'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Fellow Members,

In accordance with the proposals that were put to those members who attended the A.G.M. held July last, and which were well received by them, I am very happy to be able to inform you, on behalf of State Council, that the proposed cat ambulance service is now a reality. I feel this is a wonderful step forward and I believe it to be the first such service of its kind to operate in the State of N.S.W.

The service commenced operations on Saturday, September 29th, 1980, and is being co-ordinated and run by Mrs. Sandra Siebert who was engaged on a full-time basis as office supervisor and animal welfare co-ordinator. Mrs. Siebert is being ably and efficiently backed up by Mrs. Nancy Iredale, life member and member of the State Council, who has very generously volunteered to share the duties and man the service on Mrs. Siebert's days off, thus guaranteeing a full 7 days per week service.

The full details of how the service was formed, how it functions and what it offers to provide are as follows:- Council, after considering the various options, purchased a new 1600 cc Toyota Hi-Ace van, fitted with all necessary safety features and air conditioning to ensure animals' well-being in hot or humid weather, at a cost of just under \$8000. The vehicle has been equipped with catching cages etc., and has been signwritten in large black letters with - Cat Protection Society of N.S.W., and bears the Society's cat logo. The registered office has been reasonably well organised, although some further fittings are still required to make the set-up ideal and complete. The telephone has been moved into the office and an answering service installed. The office has been also well stocked with literature and pamphlets on cat care, desexing and so forth.

Mrs. Sandra Siebert, whose qualifications are - she is a young, enthusiastic, keen supporter of animals' rights, is a very efficient, personable and courteous person who already had the required experience in field work and who comes highly commended by certain members of this Society, was eventually selected for the position. Mrs. Siebert indicated her willingness to take on what at times could be an arduous and often thankless task and after several interviews conducted by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bowles, and myself, and at a salary satisfactory to both parties, we were delighted to secure her services.

Mrs. Siebert's hours, because of the unusual nature of the position, will at times be erratic. However, she will man the office at certain periods throughout the day, taking and registering all calls for animal (cat) aid. The greater portion of her time will be spent driving the ambulance collecting stray, unwanted, abandoned, sick or injured cats; arranging de-sexings and placing cats and kittens in suitable homes. Because of her experience and demeanour, she has already attained a large measure of success and proficiency in the discharge of her duties. She will also bring much favourable publicity to the Society and will collect fees and charges for the service wherever possible. Her days on duty are Saturday through to Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday, Mrs. Iredale will take over. Naturally it is not expected that the service will be able to satisfy all appeals for help in very busy periods, but on such occasions they will endeavour to spread the load among other willing and acceptable field workers.

What must be understood and accepted is that in many cases cats cannot be placed, in which case they are humanely destroyed. But rest assured - if a cat can be placed these ladies will do their best.

After a suitable period of time it is our intention to collate all the data on what the service has achieved, not only for cats but as a community benefit also, and present the proven statistical evidence in a report to the appropriate authorities with the intention and hope of securing government aid for the work this Society is doing.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Cont'd)

If you are approached by someone with a plea for animal aid or you, yourself, have an urgent cat problem, the number to ring is 51 1011. If your call is unanswered, wait for the beep, then leave your message. Please state all details clearly, such as name, address, telephone number and brief details of the problem. The ambulance service will endeavour to do its best to overcome the problem.

I wish to thank all members of the Council for their resolve and compassion in agreeing to get this service off the ground and those of them who participated in the planning and other arrangements; Mr. Ron Siebert, a N.R.M.A. service man, who lent his time and expertise in the purchase of the ambulance and who has kindly offered to ensure its maintenance and has given much help in other ways; Mrs. Nancy Iredale, for her unselfish support and generous giving of her time; and a welcome aboard to Sandra Siebert, our first official welfare officer.

If you, the member, believe as we do, that the ambulance service is a humane and compassionate step forward, born out of a desire to provide some relief for distressed animals, then on behalf of those animals, we ask you to please give your financial support. The money you give will help to keep this service going and will alleviate suffering in many ways.

CATS HOME

An examination of our records shows that at a General Meeting of this Society held on 22nd May, 1973, the members present voted overwhelmingly that the establishment of a Cats Home should be one of our main aims. It was considered at that time, and I believe rightly, that there were not sufficient funds to allow for its immediate attainment and it was, therefore, agreed that it be worked for as a goal for the future. This, to my knowledge, has never been rescinded. Further, it was clearly indicated by the members who participated in the recent opinion poll, that a cats home or refuge was what they would dearly like to see established. The results of the poll did, in fact, reflect a ratio of 9 - 2 in favour.

Those members who attended that meeting way back in May of 1973, some of them long since passed away, were, perhaps, idealistic optimists who, some may say, had allowed wishful thinking to cloud their better judgement. But since that time others have come along, such as the immediate past-President, Mr. R. K. Carberry, who did much to further the interests of this Society and to make it financially viable. Because of the achievements and hard work of those people, I believe the future good envisaged in 1973 has now become the present possibility.

The establishment of a cats home will not, of course, be easy. There are many factors to consider and hurdles to be overcome. Finance, suitability of premises, local council approval, availability of transport, staffing etc., are but a few of the problems to be faced. For these reasons and also because I do not consider it proper that one person should shoulder all responsibility, or indeed be allowed absolute authority to decide on such important matters, it is essential that a panel or sub-committee of 3 or 5 be formed to deal with the initial investigations and planning. They would then be required to make their subsequent findings and recommendations known to the State Council. The members of a sub-committee may be drawn from Council, ordinary members, or a combination of both. They should be persons who are willing and able to seek out and inspect properties, arrange interviews, enter into negotiations, consult expert advice if necessary, engage in logical discussion and to draw up and present their recommendations to State Council. In accordance with the Articles of Association I, as President, am ex-officio a member of any sub-committee and as such I am at the members' disposal to do whatever I can to obtain a suitable cats home or refuge. But, the task will not be easy and I am going to need your help and brains. Therefore, I am throwing it open to all members who feel they possess the necessary attributes and wish to further the actuality of a cats home to offer their services to this proposed sub-committee. Please contact the Hon. Secretary or myself at the earliest. Any person who may know of any properties that could be considered as suitable are also requested to forward all details in writing c/- our usual P.O. Box address.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Cont'd)

OPPORTUNITY SHOP AUXILIARY

With the ambulance service a going concern and the cats home our next target, it is more essential than ever that the opportunity shop continues to thrive. It provides the life blood that is so needed to operate and maintain these worthwhile activities. More volunteers and goods are urgently and always needed. Can you help? There may be those among you who have held back because of insufficient motivation but, with our vastly stepped up activities as described above, this should no longer be the case. Now - I am not whining and pleading for myself but if I have to I'll whine and plead for the animals, so - Can you please help? If you are unable to offer physical help and you have no goods for the shop, then perhaps you may consider a donation to the Xmas or Ambulance Service Appeal.

In summing up it can be said that after the turbulence of the past year stability has been restored and we can now look forward to an expansion of the services we provide to improve the lot of animals; cats in particular. Our next step forward is to acquire that much needed cats home and following that, an expansion of our fledgling animal welfare and ambulance service.

This service which has only been in operation for no more than a fortnight at the time of writing, has already accomplished a great deal as a look at the resultant figures will show. The results are singularly pleasing when we consider the initial teething problems and the amount of time and effort required to launch the operation.

Over the period 27.9.80 to 10.10.80, the statistical breakdown was:- Calls for help - 65; Cases successfully completed - 39 (others are on the books and in the process of completion); Suitable homes found - 11; Collection of injured or unwanted cats which could not be placed and were humanely destroyed - 45; Cats picked up and desexed - 14; Desexing vouchers issued - 7. The figures given on de-sexing vouchers do not include those issued by the special de-sexing panel nor do they include the donations or contributions collected by the ambulance service. Those figures will be published in the end of the financial year analysis. As Chairman, it is my intention to ensure that in future a full and complete statistical analysis of our welfare work will be published in the Journal and open to the scrutiny of all members and any other interested parties.

On behalf of the members and the present Council I would like to thank those Councillors who retired and who gave dedicated service to our Society. I wish them well. I am sure that, as members, their efforts on behalf of animals will continue to bring credit to the Cat Protection Society. I would also like to congratulate the present Councillors on their election and thank them for their enthusiasm and support in helping to create our new welfare scheme.

It is now my pleasure to issue an invitation to all members and well wishers to attend an open afternoon at our Enmore Headquarters to inspect the ambulance and view the set-up. The "Op" shop will also be open for collection and sale of goods. The Hon. Secretary, other Councillors and myself will be in attendance to answer any further questions you may have or suggestions you wish to offer. Afternoon tea (tea or coffee and bikkies) will be available at \$1 per head. 2 P.M. till 4.30 Sunday, 7th December, 1980. All Welcome.

Bill Graham, State President.

ADVERTISEMENT



Contented Cat Inn Exclusive boarding accommodation for cats only. Run by member Mrs. Joan Parke. (Mr. & Mrs. Parke have taken over from Mrs. Foster). Council members, Mrs. Bowles, Mrs. Cozens and Mr. Graham, personally re-inspected the cattery under the new management and are happy to report that the same high standard has been maintained. This cattery is recommended to members for its sunny, spacious and clean runs. All cats are fed according to owners' instructions.
Location: 1403 Old Northern Rd. Glenorie (near Dural)
Phone: 652 1162 for further details.

DESEXING ASSISTANCE

By Celie Smith

Since the inception of The Cat Protection Society of New South Wales in the mid-fifties, with Mary Kay-Cooper as Founder and first President, financial assistance has been given to people in necessitous circumstances to enable them to have their cats desexed.

During the early years this assistance was, of necessity, meagre as the funds of the Society were low. As circumstances improved slowly more help was made available and, during the early sixties, a certificate system was introduced and continues to this time.

During the seventies, when Mr. R. K. Carberry was President, the finances of the Society increased considerably, mainly through legacies, so the Animal Birth Control programme was stepped-up.

The procedure for applying for assistance with desexing of cats is that a request is made by phone to (02) 51 1011, or in writing to P.O. Box A523, SYDNEY SOUTH. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is appreciated for reply, as our postage bill is very high. All particulars are required, such as age, sex, number of cats, full name and address of owner and telephone number if applicable. If pensioner, please state pension number. One does not necessarily have to be in receipt of a pension to receive assistance but, naturally, you will understand that our resources are still limited despite improvement in recent years, so we must restrict our welfare aid to those people who are in genuinely disadvantaged financial circumstances.

Many members of the Veterinary profession co-operate with this Society and to them we are most grateful. We, therefore, ask you to understand that your cat must be taken to the Veterinarian named on the certificate who will be the one closest to your home who is sympathetic to the aims and objects of our Animal Birth Control programme.

Selected members of The Cat Protection Society are, after approval by Council, empowered to consider requests and issue certificates for financial aid for desexing, and phone numbers will be found on the back page of the Society's Journal, but all enquiries may be made by phoning (02) 51 1011.

This Society exists solely on donations, subscriptions, sales at Opportunity Shop, raffles, functions etc., all money being raised by voluntary workers who give unstintingly of their time and effort. NO MONEY IS RECEIVED FROM ANY GOVERNMENT SOURCE, although we hope that this situation will change in the future and C.P.S. will become the recipient of an annual grant from the State Government similar to that now enjoyed by the R.S.P.C.A. and the Animal Welfare League; \$25,000 each per annum.

OPPORTUNITY SHOP

By Sybil Cozens

Our first year of trading. I have great news to tell you - from 3rd September, 1979 to 31st August, 1980, the amount received from the till was \$18,000. Isn't that wonderful! It is a credit to our Ladies who work so tirelessly in and for the shop. My personal thanks to all, and please keep up the good work. You may be interested to know what are our best selling items. Probably surprise you! Pots and pans, cake tins, bowls, drinking glasses and mugs, cups, saucers and plates - we can't get enough. Perhaps it's because of the number of bed/sits and flats in the area.

At the Ladies' Auxiliary General Meeting in July I was voted in as President for another year - so I'll do my best, girls. Two new members joined in - Mrs. E. Faul and Mrs. L. Bowman. Welcome. A retirement for Mrs. W. Duncan on account of illness - hope this year will see you fighting fit, Win.

RAFFLE

Please return your butts soon as this will be drawn on 30th November at the General Meeting.

FUND RAISING

A Luncheon and Dress Parade at Dr. Louise Jones at West Pymble on Saturday, 22nd November, at 12 noon. Cost \$5.00. Numbers are limited, so please ring me soon for bookings on 427-3828 after hours. Dr. Jones is donating all monies to the Cats Home Appeal.

"CENTRAL COAST CALLING"

WOY WOY DISTRICT GROUP

Greetings to our fellow members. Special congratulations to Sydney and the Councillors on initiating the cat ambulance, with its bright and capable driver/welfare worker.

A short report of our efforts since commencement of financial year to 17th October. Cats de-sexed - 35; Cats and kittens found homes - 40; humanely destroyed - 2; other vet. treatments - 21; Cats boarded in our own mini refuges - 45.

A glad welcome to new members Lorraine Sheah, Alma Wilson and Elise Johnson.

We desperately need people to care for and take in cats and kittens temporarily, pending homes being found for them. Thanks to Mrs. Finch, new member and also Marleen Minnis of Terrigal, who have both helped in this way.

Fund raising efforts, which included street stall in June and on Labour Day, have netted a total of \$567.

Laurels to June Brown for tirelessly collecting cans - handing in sizeable donations as a result.

May we please include our thanks to the following for their continuing help with stalls, donations and goods: Mrs. D. Scrivener, Glad Hagan, Eva Lloyd, Mary Goldrich, the wonderful Rafe family, Eric Haines and Alma Wilson.

From Dorothy Haines
Hon. Secretary

C.P.S. of N.S.W. Woy Woy District Branch, Umina

TUGGERAH LAKES/WYONG FIELD WORK & FUND-RAISING AUXILIARY reporting in -

Local cat lovers and "cat leavers" are keeping us fairly busy.

Our fund raising innings opened with a stall at Toukley Flea Market. We were well pleased with the result - \$154. At The Entrance on Saturday, 6th September, we ran a street stall - Mrs. Fitzpatrick's afghan rug helped swell the takings to \$128.

The Entrance "Guardian" gave us a good write-up. Mention was made of our serious aims of widespread de-sexing of cats and that this problem was the responsibility of the whole community.

More help and members is an urgent need here.

We wish to express our gratitude to all of our wonderful helpers and supporters: Mr. & Mrs. Testaz, Mrs. Quinn, Mrs. E. Kitchen, V. Garrett, Mrs. McCullough, Tony Rico, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Crabbe, Mrs. Raanhuis, our friend "Pauline" in the Pet Shop, and all our members without whose help it would be difficult to stock and organise our stalls.

Seasonal Effort. Commencing polling day, a most tempting Xmas Hamper choc full of goodies will be raffled prior to the Xmas season. Anyone wishing to have a flutter can buy a 20 cent ticket by ringing Edith Duport (043) 88-1414. No limit.

Friendly Greetings from Edith Duport, President.

Mrs. Graham, Hon. Treasurer, especially wishes to express, on behalf of the State Council, appreciation of the superb efforts and humane achievements accomplished by the ladies of the Central Coast.

MEMORY LANE

To the memory of my beautiful Siamese, "Beau Royal", who was put to sleep a year ago, aged 13. Sadly missed.

Inserted by Stella Kelly

A donation in memory of my 3 pussy cats, "Nuchurrita", "Honey" and especially "Pitusa".

Inserted by Miss N. Carradori

"Salome": So beautiful, so beloved. Never forgotten by G.M. & H.J. Thompson. Departed 27.6.77.

A donation to be credited to Cats Home Account in memory of our treasured timid tabby, "Mandy", who died from leukaemia on 23.7.80.

Inserted by W.G. & E.B. Smith

A donation in Cats Home Account in memory of Dan, found dead 8 a.m. Wednesday 1.10.80. Age unknown - came to share our lives two years ago when he was a battle-scarred old tom cat. Rest in Peace, old fellow.

Inserted by Bill and Celie Smith

MEMORY LANE (Cont'd)

In memory of our old "Bobbie", a stray who wandered into our place and received lots of love and affection till he had to be put to sleep.

Inserted by Mrs. G. Reynolds

Fond recollections of "Sookie", off-spring of an abandoned mother cat - a real "sook" by nature, who shared our home for 12 years.

Inserted by Shirley Bowles

CELEBRATION - A donation in celebration of "Ginger" Bowman's 18th Birthday.

Inserted by Mrs. Leonore Bowman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Am enclosing a cheque for \$80 as a small donation - \$40 of which I want to contribute towards the Ambulance Fund and the other \$40 to help those wonderful workers - the field workers!

Always look forward to the Journals, reading the members' letters, the humorous articles and the work being done by the North Coast branches. It is very heartening to read about the dedicated band of workers within the Society, with all the fund raising efforts to help our delightful little friends.

Yours sincerely,
Betty Scrivener

(Thank you for your kind thoughts and generous donation to the ambulance, Mrs. Scrivener. The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham,

I wish to sincerely thank you for your work on behalf of "The Cat Protection Society". Since becoming a member of this organisation, Umina (Woy Woy Branch, Mrs. D. Haines) I have become more aware of the need for the services you are working to establish. Here, on the Central Coast, new branches are being opened by dedicated people for the relief of unwanted cats. Being a holiday resort, the dumping that occurs is shameful. I feel it a privilege to belong to the "Society". Also, Mr. Graham, I wish to express my appreciation for "Newsletter", informative, interesting. Please would you convey my thanks to Mrs. Shirley Bowles for her work for her animal friends.

Enclosed a small donation towards the next "Newsletter".

Thanking you.

I am Yours Sincerely,
Mrs. E. M. Lloyd.

(We thank Mrs. Lloyd for her kind and generous remarks. Her appreciation of Mrs. Bowles' work is justified, and her thanks directed to myself, deeply appreciated tho' they are, have been more justly earned by many others who work so hard for this Society and our animal friends. Therefore, on behalf of those others I accept her kind remarks. The Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

The following letter was received by the Editor just a few days before Enid Burns' untimely passing. Mrs. Burns was a dedicated worker for animals and spent many hours on behalf of the Auxiliary, toiling in the opportunity shop. All animals have lost a friend. With sadness, and as a tribute to her memory, I herewith print her last "Letter to the Editor".

Dear Mr. Graham,

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your election as President of The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. I wish you a long and happy term of office, with the free co-operation and help of each and every member.

I know you have the welfare of cats at heart and I sincerely hope that the Society will be a power for good in the not too distant future.

With best wishes for the success of The Cat Protection Society.

Yours sincerely,
Enid Burns.

(We shall do our best, Enid. The Ed.)

The following clipping was sent in by the ladies of the Wyong/Tuggerah Lakes Auxiliary:-

"Tinkerbelle", an eight months old kitten went missing last Monday, and after an absence of several days his owner, Mrs. Joan Holloway, sent her children to look for him.

They found him all right - almost at the top of an 80 foot tree! After several phone calls, and the help of the President of the newly formed Wyong-Tuggerah Lakes Cat Protection Society, Mrs. Duport, the Wyong State Emergency Service agreed to come to the cat's aid.

It was a tense moment when Mr. Randall Sainsbury and Mr. Frank De Gail, began the long climb. Their ladder fell about 10 ft. short of the kitten which meant that Mr. Sainsbury had to climb the rest of the way. This task was made all the more difficult because a recent fire had scorched the bark, causing him to slip several times.

About 2.30 p.m. "Tinkerbelle" came back to earth, rather shaken but a much wiser pussy."

(Sounds like a bit of a tall story to me! The Ed.).

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

By the Hon Secretary

It is now over a year since the Animal Welfare Advisory Council came into being. It was established by the Animal Welfare Division of the Dept., of Services to advise the Minister for Services on matters affecting the welfare of animals. The Animal Welfare Division was recently transferred to the Department of Youth and Community Services whose Minister now is the Hon. R.F. Jackson.

The specific functions of the Council are:-

- "(1) To advise the Minister on matters referred to the Council by the Minister in relation to:-
- (a) the establishment and maintenance of an effective and humane animal welfare programme in N.S.W.;
 - (b) The promotion in the community of a more positive and responsible approach to pet ownership;

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL (Cont'd)

- (c) the education of the community about the potential and actual problems which concern pet owners and about the remedies to these problems;
 - (d) existing and proposed legislation; or
 - (e) any other matter relating to the control and welfare of animals.
- (2) To initiate studies, with the approval of the Minister, on any matter affecting the welfare of animals or on any of the policies, practices or programmes of the Animal Welfare Division which are of concern to the Council and to make recommendations to the Minister thereon.
- (3) To report annually to the Minister on the activities and achievements of the Council."

The present members of the Council comprise representatives from the following organisations:- Australian Veterinary Association of N.S.W.; N.S.W. Vice-Chancellor's Conference; Animal Societies Federation N.S.W.; N.S.W. Animal Welfare League; R.S.P.C.A.; Pet Food Industry Association of N.S.W.; Local Government and Shires Association of N.S.W.; Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. The Chairman is Professor Rex Butterfield, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Sydney University.

Since its inception several major matters of interest to our members have been discussed. One of these is the Pilot Desexing Scheme. This programme was launched by the State Government after lengthy discussions with the Australian Veterinary Association and with their co-operation and support. The Scheme was given a trial period ending 10th June, 1980, and covered four metropolitan Council areas. The object of the campaign was to encourage desexing of dogs and cats. Co-operating veterinarians offered their services for 75% of the recommended fee, and the Government spent considerable funds in promoting the scheme by advertising in local newspapers in the chosen areas - Bankstown, Blacktown, Sutherland and Warringah - and by radio. Literature was published for distribution by the Councils concerned. Desexing certificates were issued by these Councils to residents on application and the certificates were then to be taken to the veterinarians. The results of the campaign are at present being assessed by the Government before a decision is made whether or not to continue and extend the Scheme to other Council areas.

Allied to this attempt to reduce the number of unwanted and stray cats and dogs a Sub-Committee of the A.W.A.C. has been formed to recommend other ways and means of controlling and reducing the surplus numbers of domestic dogs, cats and feral cats. Research is being undertaken both here and overseas before recommendations are put to the Minister.

Another major programme being dealt with by the Council is that of Education, and a Sub-Committee is discussing various aspects, some of which are:- an education kit on pet care for schools, including films; an extensive production of posters and brochures (multi-lingual) dealing with "your pet and the law in New South Wales", responsible pet ownership and pet care. It is hoped that these can be distributed through schools, at landing points in Australia, and with rates notices.

The draft of the proposed Animal Experimentation Act has occupied a great deal of the Council's time. It will be the first Act of its kind in N.S.W. and it is hoped that it will lead to a better deal for laboratory animals.

I have only dealt with the main topics which relate to the welfare of cats but, of course, all other animals, be they wild, domestic, or stock animals, birds and other living creatures are the concern of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council. Anyone wishing to communicate with the Council can do so by writing to the Secretary, Animal Welfare Division, Department of Youth and Community Services, 323 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

EDITORIAL

Having now donned my other hat as Editor, let's talk about cats; their foibles and the trouble they can land you in. I know most of you like to read about cats but in a Society such as ours most stories that come to us are of a tragic, cruel or depressing nature. On this occasion, however, I mean to dwell a little on the humourous, albeit factual, side.

My troubles all began about 15 or 16 years ago when, arriving home from work one evening, I encountered a tiny tabby kitten, doughtily holding at bay, with baby tiger snarls, a large, mongrel dog whose one immediate ambition was to tear the kitten limb from limb. I adopted that kitten; his courage sucked me in and, of course, from that time on I was hooked. If anyone at that time had suggested to me that I would one day be spending a great deal of my time writing about cats, my reaction would have been to assume they were short a few cups and saucers in their tea-set. So, here I am, all those years later, President, Chairman, Editor, copy boy and general dogsbody, or should it be catsbody? of this organisation, and I blame it all on cats, particularly that first little stray. He got me into all this. How some of you must hate that cat!

Since that day all of our cats have been strays. Not for us the faithful Burmese, the affectionate Abyssinian or the companionable Siamese. Not that we do not want one but we know that such cats don't have to look for a home. In fact they are eagerly rushed with offers. So, it's the common old alley mog for us and will forever be so. Therefore, the cats I am talking about are just plain old common, once unwanted moggies. By the way, if my sentences seem rather jerky, it's because as I write little "Yum Yum" keeps jumping on the pad. I find that loud shouts of "Smack, Smack, Smack" do not really have much of a salutary effect. She just laughs her little cat laugh and now climbs onto my lap just to make it harder for one to write.

Our cats are very possessive when it comes to objects they have misappropriated as their own. Recently my wife bought a green woollen rug which is placed just inside our front door. "Tosca" was the first cat on hand when it arrived. She immediately claimed it as her own. She rolls on it, lolls on it, chews it, claws it and generally mistreats it. When the other cats appeared envious her answer in cat body language, of course, was "S'mine"! "Yum Yum" now feigns an exaggerated indifference, even abhorrence, to the rug. When she knocks on the door and is let in, she glances disdainfully at the rug, then rather than walk straight down the hall, takes a long detour around it. Last Sunday some relatives who don't like cats were coming to dinner. We have been working on them in the hope of changing their attitude, so it was essential that the cats be made to be on their best behaviour. I was made responsible for this onerous and well-nigh impossible task. Just as they were being welcomed by my wife at the front door, "Tosca" seized this opportunity by "chundering" her dinner all over the green rug right at their very feet. They still don't think much of cats and I got the blame for allowing it to happen.

Right now the Secretary and myself are not very popular with the Treasurer, and I'll tell you why. The thing is, "Yum Yum" and "Ming", both desexed females, are very popular with all the neighbouring desexed males who often pay friendly, if platonic, visits. Lately these males have taken to sneaking into the house and because of the inter-rivalry between them, leaving rather evil smelling reminders of their presence. I had been ordered by "She who must be obeyed" on no account to leave the back door open after feeding our 3 cats. All had gone well until last Friday when just as our cats had about finished their dinner, the Secretary rang. We had rather a lot of business to discuss and were some time on the phone. Consequently, I forgot all about shutting the back door. I had noticed or heard nothing unusual but my wife arrived home just as I was completing the call. Immediately a certain odour assailed her nostrils. Following the trail like a bloodhound on the scent (no pun intended), she discovered to both our horror that the intruder cats had had a right old party. They had sprayed their way up almost every bannister of the stairs, given the bathroom the once over and as a piece de resistance, liberally doused our bedroom, including the bedspread. A veil of silence must now be drawn over the Treasurer's remarks following the awful discovery, for I would not wish to offend the ears of any gentlemen readers. Suffice it to say that with true female

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

illogicality, the Secretary copped a fine old verbal caning for distracting me at the wrong time, whilst I received a very colourful description of myself. As I explained to the Secretary later; when in the wrong, which of course is rarely, I can usually come up with some sort of alibi, but on this occasion I felt like poor old Alfred. You know, the guy in the history books who goofed off and burnt the cakes.

Funny the twists our lives take. I sometimes wonder, what if on that evening 16 years ago, I had arrived home and found a large, ferocious cat mauling a small helpless puppy? Ah well, no doubt I would have still wound up in the dog house.

And with that I wish you all a very happy Xmas and leave you with this thought - if we of this Society have worked some good for animals in 1980, we'll do even more in 1981.

Bill Graham, 11th October, 1980

"IN DEFENCE OF LIVING THINGS"

Book Review by Shirley Bowles

This book has just been launched onto the market and was written by Christine Townend who is the Publicity Officer for Animal Liberation. She is also on the Committee of the Australian Association for Humane Research, Hon. Secretary of the Animals Societies' Federation (NSW) and Hon. Secretary of the newly formed Australian Federation of Animal Societies, and is on the N.S.W. State Government Animal Welfare Advisory Council. The foreword is by The Hon. Neville Wran.

In this book she describes in graphic terms the horrors of many forms of cruelty meted out to animals. The first few chapters deal with intensive live-stock farming and cover a pig farm, an abattoir, the Poultry Research Centre, a poultry processing factory and the suffering of intensively reared chickens.

She then leads the reader into the world of the laboratory animal. Many will weep silently over the miseries endured by animals such as cats, sheep, rabbits and rats in experimental laboratories. The chapter on Vivisectioning the Cat makes one recoil with shock that human beings could actually derive pleasure (as stated by the experimenters involved) from the type of experiment witnessed by Christine and so movingly depicted by her.

She also visited a rodeo and saw at first hand the tortures inflicted on the horses and cattle just for man's pleasure. It makes one ashamed to think that fellow Australians are so callous, and indifferent to the pain and torment they impose on living creatures in the name of sport.

The concluding section of Christine's book covers destruction of the wilderness and will be of interest to those concerned about our environment. (She is a member of the Colong committee - Wilderness Society).

This book is not for the faint hearted and her vivid portrayals will distress some people. However, anyone who wishes to be well informed on what is actually happening to animals in our own country would be well advised to read this very well-researched and revelatory publication.

Available from Angus & Robertson, and other booksellers.



Mark Twain

By Courtesy of Eric Gurney's "How to Live with a Calculating Cat".

CONTACT

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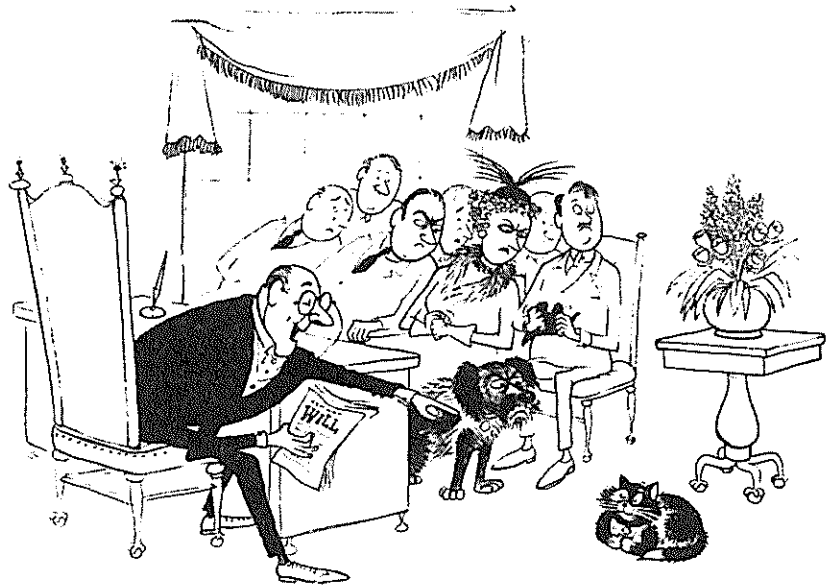
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(Letters to the Editor PHONE 477 1316 MR. GRAHAM (after hours or
(Membership week ends).

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(Fund Raising PHONE 427 3828 MRS. COZENS

"Undoubtedly the most unusual cat lover is the individual who, upon deciding he can't stand his relatives and what the hell he can't take it with him, chooses to leave everything to his cat, Tobermory. This poses an interesting problem, for cats, intelligence notwithstanding, do not have the necessary equipment to endorse the numerous cheques involved. True, they can be admirably employed in cancelling their cheques with their teeth. For this reason cats have to have trustees down at the bank, which is about the only time that people really get to know exactly what it is like to be employed by a cat."

Extract and sketch from Eric Gurney's "How to Live with a Calculating Cat".



..... and to my cat, one million tax-free pounds.

Hon. Secretary,
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.
PO Box A523,
SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

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WARNING: For those benevolent souls who choose to remember us in their Wills - make sure that you clearly state "The Cat Protection Society of New South Wales". Failure to include the words "of New South Wales" could, in all probability (as has happened to the R.S.P.C.A. of N.S.W.) result in your hard-earned money going into the Government's coffers instead! For any advice on the drawing up of Wills in our Society's favour (either whole or in part), the Chairman will be glad to help - 477-1316.

PLEA FROM THE HON. SECRETARY. DUE TO THE HIGH COST OF POSTAGE AND ENVELOPES, IF MEMBERS SENDING IN THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS WISH TO RECEIVE A RECEIPT WOULD THEY PLEASE ENCLOSED A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. OTHERWISE RECEIPTS ARE NOT SENT.

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