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JOURNAL
SPECIAL AUTUMN EDITION
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.
(Registered Charity CC. 17122)

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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, 29TH DAY OF MARCH, 1981, 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, 1980, General Meeting.
2. Business arising
3. Chairman's Report
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.

Thank you, City of Sydney RSL, for use of the meeting rooms.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the State Council, I wish first to express sincere thanks to the Society's co-patron, Sir Robert Askin, and Lady Askin, for their generous support; the members and well-wishers who dug deep according to their means, and gave handsomely to the ambulance and cats' home appeals; the ladies of the Auxiliary and other helpers who worked so hard to raise funds in response to those appeals; and, of course, the non-pareil, the welfare workers.

AMBULANCE & ANIMAL WELFARE

Since its inception last September, this service has continued to grow. The appeals for help have swollen so much in volume, that we have expanded the service in an effort to satisfy as many calls as possible within our capacity. Many calls for help have been referred to us per agency of the R.S.P.C.A., and the N.S.W. Animal Welfare League. Indeed, a branch president of the League requested aid which necessitated many extra miles of travel for our ambulance. The requests for help which pour in daily have increased in proportion to the word-of-mouth publicity it has received, which does rather prove how essential was its introduction. Though, of course, it is not the ultimate answer in the elimination of animal suffering, one can take comfort in the fact that many, many animals - mostly cats naturally - have benefited.

I was asked recently by a member of the Auxiliary; If our ambulance when on its rounds, came upon an injured dog, would its needs be attended to or was the service designed only for cats? The answer is: when the ambulance service was first formed, it was clearly expressed that no animal would be left to suffer if encountered by our welfare officers. Certainly ours is a cat ambulance. However, the people who operate this service, whether they be salaried or honorary, do this work because of their love for animals. They are prepared to succour any creature in trouble, be it furred or feathered. Several dogs have benefited from the activities of the welfare personnel but it must be realised that in the normal course of events, when calls are received requesting aid for animals other than cats, they are usually referred to those organisations best equipped to deal with the problem.

As stated earlier, we have expanded. Life member, Mrs. Lena Larsen, has been engaged to work 2 or 3 afternoons each week in the office, registering and collating calls for cat aid, which includes issuing desexing vouchers and arranging appointments for the ambulance. Mrs. Larsen, in an honorary capacity, handles much of the welfare work, using her own vehicle. This lady is also a voluntary helper in the shop. (One wonders what she does in her spare time). Member, Mrs. Kay Thomason, has also been engaged to work 2 afternoons in the office. At present she is also functioning on a part-time basis as a welfare officer on field work at the discretion of Vice-President, Mrs. Iredale, who has been appointed by Council as liaison between it and Welfare. Mrs. Thomason is a person efficient and experienced in the realm of animal welfare; we were pleased to secure her services. Mrs. Sandra Siebert now becomes chief welfare officer and if anything, her duties have become more arduous. However, she works hard with the ambulance because of her compassion for animals.

At this point I wish to make it clear that no requests for the ambulance service will be acceded to when made via the private phones of the welfare officers, unless it is a genuine emergency. A few thoughtless persons have developed the habit of making demands in this way at unusual hours. These calls have been of a trivial nature which required no emergency action and could often, with a little effort, have been handled by the callers themselves. The number to ring is 51-1011. If a call is made at an unusual hour, or the phone is unattended, a recording machine will take your message. This service is for helpless animals, not for those people merely wishing to help themselves.

Below is a brief analysis of the welfare work accomplished up to and including the week ending 8th February, 1981:-

Since the commencement of the service in late September, 1980, 1060 calls for help have been recorded; 195 of these are still on the books awaiting completion; 1480 cats have been transported in the ambulance - 230 of these were desexed and returned to their owners (177 desexing vouchers were also issued, making total desexings 407), 112 cats (all desexed or vouchers issued if kittens)

were found suitable homes. The remaining cats were either feral, wild, injured or seriously unhealthy, and had to be humanely destroyed. These figures do not take into account a small number of dogs picked up either for desexing or in an injured condition. Several cases of ill-treatment of animals were encountered - such as starvation, severe neglect etc. In most of these cases the animals were in such condition that they had to be humanely destroyed.

CATS HOME

A small sub-committee, composed of 3 Councillors, was formed to investigate the possibilities. To date no satisfactory prospect has turned up. Investigations are continuing with opinions being divided on the merits of a semi-rural location compared to an inner suburban property. The over-riding factor is that our funds must be spent wisely and no positive move will be made in any direction until we are sure in our ultimate choice.

It is disappointing to report that, apart from one or two suggestions which were followed up, no volunteers have come forward to serve on the sub-committee. You will recall that in the November, 1980, issue of the Journal, we appealed to members who felt they could help, to serve on this sub-committee. The invitation remains open; please give it some thought.

APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT

Council has prepared a submission to the N.S.W. State Government requesting a financial grant. The submission includes a description of the work the Society is doing, states our aims and objects, and stresses the need for upkeep of our ambulance service. We have offered to provide a small deputation, if required, to further put our case. At the time of writing I have nothing more to report on the matter other than - we can but wait and we can but hope.

COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

The State Council consists of 10 directors, leaving 2 vacant positions. Mrs. Smith, a tireless and diligent worker on behalf of animals, resigned her Co-Vice-Presidency in December. She retains, however, her position on two sub-committees. Mrs. Nancy Iredale was appointed to fill the vacant 2nd Vice-Presidency and Mr. Ronald Siebert was appointed as a Councillor.

Further along in this Journal you will come across an article prepared by our welfare officers. I am sure you will enjoy reading of their adventures.

For and on behalf of State Council

Bill Graham, President.

IN MEMORIAM

A donation in lieu of flowers in memory of member, Mrs. Page, who passed away January, 1981.

Inserted by Miss Dullo

A donation in memory of my beloved wife, the late Edith Thieben.

Inserted by Mr. R. Thieben

MEMORY LANE

Feb. 19th, "Rusty", 15 years "Coppery velvet and ermine". Beloved mate of
Eric & Dorothy Haines.

To the memory of beautiful little Cleo who met an untimely end on 30/10/80.
We'll never forget.

Inserted by "a sad owner"

In memory of "Woolfie", a very gentle little girl, who was put to sleep
15/10/80 because of cancer. We still miss our happy little girl.

Inserted by F.E. & R.J. Davin

To the memory of my beautiful Siamese, "Beau Royal" - and to all the other
lovely cats in my life, and 3 doggies: "Bunny", "Shadow" and "Sue".

Inserted by Stella Kelly

In memory of my dear little 11 months old "Suie".

Inserted by Mrs. P. Schott

CENTRAL COAST CALLING

Since November last, we have been kept continuously busy and
now well into February, the pace is beginning to slacken. The formation of the
Tuggerah Lakes/Wyong auxiliary has certainly helped to lessen our work load.

Where do all the deserted, dumped cats and kittens come from?
In these tempting holiday resort areas some folk bring their pet cat, often
to lose or leave her; many others welcome a pussy from the environment - feed
it, love it and then leave it. The result is always the same, a loud scream for
them to be collected, fed, housed and found homes. Would we could do it 100%
but this year even more, with heavy hearts, we've found it impossible.

FUND RAISING

Consisted mainly of a splendid street stall at Umina on
Australia Day week-end. Netted \$250. Mabel Rafe donated a huge toy fire engine
which, when raffled, netted \$90. We have an Easter Saturday stall teed up, also
the camera club hope to arrange a world tours slide viewing afternoon.

Have discovered another "blue ribbon" cake cook, Alma Wilson,
who joins Mabel in turning out super cakes and dainties. A word of thanks to
Betty Muir for her creation of fascinating novelties, Gwen for her garden patch
which raised \$107 and Kath and Doris who handle the kittens department,
accepting, treating and housing the little dears until homes are found. A word
of thanks also, to our overworked transport officers, John Rafe and Lindy; out
in all weathers; and of course June, wearing a path to and from the vets with
all our troubles. Stout Hearts, one and all. Finally a tribute to State
Honorary Secretary, Shirley Bowles, who cheerfully comes to our aid when we get
bogged down.

Dorothy Haines, Honorary Branch Secretary

WYONG AND TUGGERAH LAKES BRANCH NEWS

Since the beginning of December, we have placed over 90 kittens and had 20 cats desexed. A Mrs. Terlich from Morisset picked up a tiny kitten for her dog, which had lost all its puppies; it has now grown into a lovely kitten which, I am told, does everything but bark.

Gosford radio station, 2GO, has been a big help to us in finding suitable homes, by appealing on our behalf in their "Community Hour".

Our successful street stall held at The Entrance, plus donations from Mrs. Edmondson and life member, Pam Barry, have helped our branch remain in the "black".

Mrs. Mumford wrote an article for the "Gosford Star", called "Stray animals, a major problem", which brought a good response from the public.

Mrs. Edith Duport, Branch President.

CAT CATCHING CLASSICS AND WELFARE WOES

By Nancy Iredale and Sandra Siebert

A REAL PURR PERSON A very charming couple came to pick up a gorgeous, grey 4 months old female kitten as a gift for their daughter. Mother (poor lady) had never known a cat and was agreeing that it was a sweet kitten but would it lose that heavy breathing?

FUTURE SHOCK? Passed a bird sitting on the centre line of a busy road, 3 lanes of traffic each way. There were playing fields opposite, school children arriving for sport. Of course we investigated. It was a baby bird of a rather large variety and it had 4 Morton Bay figs pushed into its mouth and down its throat. It was suffocating. Makes you wonder what the young generation will do with the world.

LOVE IS BLIND Last year Rob Warner and I, whilst trapping in St. Marys, came across a lovely bitch. Most of her puppies had found homes but we took the last 4 or so. We extracted a promise to have mum spayed. Not many weeks ago we were called to take away her new litter, 7 glorious pups. So we said we would spay mum and would wait for payment (forever, I guess). Mum was taken to the surgery of concerned young vet in Blacktown, desexed, given new collar - the owner was simply asked to pick her up. We warned the vet we may have to come up and return the mum ourselves and this is just what happened. It can't be much fun for a dog, living with a man who doesn't care how many litters you have, or what happens to your pups, then can't be bothered picking you up after a free desexing. I hope she doesn't know all this because she loves him.

IMPRISONED CREATURES In a suburban back yard, attempting to catch a mother and full grown litter, we came across 2 beautiful ginger teenagers under an upturned wire basket, too small for them to stand up comfortably. Their little noses and ears were all scabby from rubbing on the wire. Clean, sweet creatures that we know them to be, they had used one end of their prison for a toilet. It was packed hard and high, and was smelly. A small piece of asbestos had been put on top of the cage, affording but a little shelter from wind, sun and rain - and we had just had a whole series of storms, wind and heat. Of course, I took them away, along with their wild mum and brothers and sisters. They were gloriously friendly - at least their captivity had made them that. What was the use of saying anything to the people who had captured them very young - "no speak English". Can you imagine the mother's anguish to see but not be able to get to her babies; and the babies, to see and hear their mum and their source of food.

It had a happy ending. They were bathed, desexed and found, I know, lovely homes. Weeks later we received a letter from the daughter of a lady who adopted one. He was gorgeous, they adored him, but they were worried

as he insisted on draping himself around Mum's neck while she did the work. How was she going to manage when he became an adult? We think they will work that one out.

SOME DO's AND DONT's Does anyone remember Gem Bohman? Here is an anecdote of hers: Gas and electricity servicemen are used to finding notes from customers advising them about various pets to be encountered in the house. But a recent note caused one man to do a double-take - and this is all he took! The note said: "heater is in hallway - do service. Dogs are in kitchen - do avoid. Guinea pig in hallway - do not squash. Cats everywhere - do take one home".

FINDING HOMES FOR CATS AND KITTENS should be lots of fun - but it isn't. Too often young desexed animals are being handed in to our welfare officers and they earnestly request members to ensure any homes they find are truly permanent.

One of the most common reasons for surrendering animals which they hear is the breakdown of a marriage. It appears that children are given a cat or dog to help compensate for unhappy homes. Then when the divorce takes place, the home broken up, the animals are discarded because they are too expensive to feed, can't be taken to a flat, etc.

Sandra recently walked into just such a situation. Mother and father were arguing about possessions, children etc., taking little heed of the distress of an eleven year old boy whose cat and dog she had been asked to collect.

He seemed unaware of the unpleasantness around him - his only concern was that his dog and cat should go to good homes. He had quite accepted the fact, poor mite, that they had to go. He did break down, along with Sandra, going down on his knees and hugging her around the legs while he pleaded for good homes for his two friends.

Surely it would have been better for this lad never to have been given the animals at all, so.....when placing a cat or kitten please ensure it really is a PERMANENT home.

FUND RAISING AFFAIRS

By Auxiliary President, Sybil Cozens

Many thanks to that stalwart band of sewers, knitters, crocheters and gardeners who keep our shop stocked; and the people who "trundle" their unwanted treasures to us. The cry is as always, please save everything for us - even one unwanted glass tumbler. We need to have goods on hand to keep our shelves and windows stocked.

BOOKS We have an outside contact who will buy our old or antique books for a good price. This also applies to some new books. On arrival at the "Op" shop they will be sorted into various categories and sold accordingly. Novels and paperbacks sell very well in the shop. so go through your bookcases - I did and found 300 I could happily live without.

STAMPS Please save all postage stamps and send or deliver to the shop. Likewise, we have affinity with a dealer and a willing worker who sorts the "unusual" ones into plastic envelopes for shop sale. If you can cut away some of the surplus paper from around the stamp - not too close - the perforations must not be touched - I know she would be pleased. If you are unable to do this, send them anyway.

WOOL AND FABRICS These are always in demand by our workers and can be left at the shop for my attention, or a phone call to me will ensure pickup (427 3828 after hours).

FUND RAISING Another successful "do" was organised by Dr. Louise Jones, with the quiet help of her husband, last December. The amazing amount of \$338.00 was raised by her and her band of very willing helpers. Many thanks, Louise.

RAFFLE This was won by D. Simonfi of Villawood; 2nd by G. Botfield of Winston Hills; 3rd by J. Mogg of Castlecrag. \$141 worth of tickets was sold.

BUS TOURS Would you please indicate on coupon below if this idea appeals. Perhaps a South Coast tour in May, with lunch at a Club, or picnic for the outdoor souls. A central city pickup can be arranged.

The C.P.S. of N.S.W.,
Box A523
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 2000

Please tick appropriate box

I am interested in bus tours - midweek weekend

I will come on a bus tour in May - Yes No.

I suggest
. as another way of raising funds.

I would be happy to organise private fund raising by way of -

House parties Fetes Bridge Raffles Other (tick where applicable)

NAME ADDRESS PHONE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your letter. I came across the poem and wondered if you would like to put it in your Journal sometime. I'll leave it to you; I thought it was rather nice. Very glad to hear about the ambulance.

Yours sincerely,
Stella Kelly

For Any Animal Lover

"I wonder, "Bo-Bo" what you think, Of us poor human creatures;
With furless bodies, rather pink, And plainer type of features.
Some people say you have no soul, Oh what a shameful libel!
If that were true, what use the goal, Foretold us in the Bible.
For how could we to blue pretend without our pets to cherish;
If death for them should mean the end, And they would merely perish.
No soul indeed, Shall you not rise? The answer needs no telling;
They've but to gaze into your eyes, And see the soul indwelling."

(Thank you for your contribution, Mrs. Kelly. I am sure many members will appreciate your poem and agree with its sentiment. The Ed.)

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a donation for the Cats Home appeal on behalf of Woolfie Davin. I have been a member for some years but being a shift worker, I have not been able to do much apart from the occasional donation. I have 5 cats now. I did have 6 but my little one went in October. My cats are all

desexed and are all alley cats. I took them all from people where I work as a favour, and I love them all. I am glad to have heard from you as I was afraid I had been dropped as a member. Keep up the good work.

Fay E. Davin.

(What a pity not all cat owners are as responsible as you, Mrs. Davin. Thank you for your letter. The Ed.)

The following letter was received by us sometime in November and is from "Anon". However, it contains a timely warning:-

If you could find space to insert this warning in a newsletter I would be very grateful. There is a flea rinse recommended by vets for rinsing dogs but which is a deadly poison to cats. Owners, besides myself, may not realise this. This rinse is called "Supradex" but I am also told that all other flea rinses sold commercially are equally toxic, apart from one called "Malawash". If you can't name product names, could you print a warning for cat owners to always check before they use any kind of flea rinse. Thank you.

(Upon receipt of the above warning, several lines of enquiry were followed and from the results of these enquiries we would like to offer this advice: - Please use commonsense when using any form of flea rinse. First seek veterinary advice and follow his instructions and the directions printed on the container label. Make sure that the rinse you use is suitable for cats and not meant for other animals only. Always remember, when most rinses are undiluted they can be deadly poisonous to humans and animals. The Pet Vet in the Sydney Sun of November 28th, gave this advice: Instructions should be read with particular attention to avoiding contact with hands. Most insecticide rinses are organic phosphates - they can be dangerous. One of the safest insecticides is pyrethrum in either shampoos or powder. Because fleas are such a problem for pets, control is essential - vacuuming thoroughly and regularly picks up the debris on which fleas feed. Regular brushing and combing of cats and dogs helps keep down the flea population but does not rid animals of fleas. Insecticide treatment is also necessary. Flea collars are relatively safe but children should be stopped from handling them.

In the same issue, the Sun carried this item (condensed): The N.S.W. Health Commission to-day issued an urgent warning against the use of the flea rinse "Suprex" which is prepared and sold by vets. Australian Veterinary Association, S.A. President, Dr. David Lindsay, said the drug was a highly toxic treatment used mainly as a sheep dip under the brand name "Chlorvenphinphos" --- "Suprex" was dispensed in poison bottles marked "poison", he added.

(A check with my own Vet confirmed all of the above. He advised using "Gamawash" or "Malatheon", properly diluted of course, as per instructions. Recently we gave our cats their annual flea and tick rinse bath with the usually highly satisfactory results. The product is "Malatheon" put out by Supreme Ethical Products. The bottle is marked "poison" and contains proper instructions for its use. It was supplied by our own Vet and is for sale to veterinarians only. I hope this information has been of some help. The Ed.)

Dear Mrs. Bowles,

Thank you for sending my wife and I Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting set down for Sunday, 30th November, 1980.

Unfortunately, our circumstances are such that we are unable to attend. However, we have both read the Report attached to the Notice of Meeting and feel constrained to send a donation to help with the funds (I think we are already on your books as Life Patrons, but if not, the donation will no doubt cover this).

With best wishes for continued progress.

Yours sincerely, Sir Robert Askin

P.S. "Ginger Askin", who wandered into our garden over 18 years ago, when she was probably a little over one year old, is still running our house. She is the last of four cats we had originally, and although stone deaf and with only one eye, she still takes a keen interest in things. Only recently we were contemplating moving from our house (on account of the numerous steps) into a home unit. However, on enquiry, we found that animals were not allowed in the units, so we will be staying where we are.

("Ginger Askin's" longevity can be compared with that of "Ginger Bowman" whose 19th birthday was celebrated in the November issue of this Journal. We thank Sir Robert and Lady Askin for their generous support. The Ed.)

EDITORIAL

We have recently been reading "Slaughter of the Innocent", written by Hans Ruesch, and printed in paperback by Futura Publications Ltd. It was first published in 1979 and, therefore, should still be available. Our copy was obtained on loan from Hornsby Shire library. This book is not only a searing indictment of man's callousness but, perhaps more importantly, gives in comparison many instances of animals' devotion and altruism; not always necessarily to man and their own species, but other species as well. In the comparison man is shamed. It is a book which, in the words of Spike Milligan, is "a voice for the innocent of the animal world who, in the majority of cases, are dying painful deaths for a creature called Homo Sapiens who has time and again proved he is not worth it".

The following extracts were culled from the book, not to highlight the gruesome tortures that thousands of animals yearly are forced to undergo - for they would bring tears to the eyes of many readers of this Journal who care about animals - but to demonstrate the need, and why some people who care feel compelled, even when dispirited from setbacks, to carry on the fight for animal protection. Please read on -

The desire to protect animals derives inevitably from better acquaintance with them, from the realisation that they are sensitive and intelligent creatures, affectionate and seeking affection, powerless in a cruel and incomprehensible world, exposed to all the whims of the master species.

As a rule, those who protect animals have for them the same feeling as for all the other defenceless or abused creatures: the battered or abandoned children, the sick, the inmates of penal or mental institutions who are so often maltreated without a way of redress. And those who are fond of animals don't love them for their "animality" but for their "humanity" - their "human" qualities. By which I mean the qualities humans display when at their best, not at their worst.

Man's love for the animal is, at any rate, always inferior in intensity and completeness to the love the animal has for the human being that has won its love. The human being is the elder brother who has countless different preoccupations, activities and interests. But to the animal that loves a human being, this being is everything. That applies not only to the generous, impetuous dog, but also to the more reserved species with which it is more difficult to establish a relationship without personal effort and plenty of patience. But once a relationship is established, it is very rare that a naturally diffident animal will shift its affection to a new master. There have been a great many cases of cats that have let themselves die of starvation when they changed hands, even if the new hands were good ones. In them the attachment was stronger than their instinct.

The animals' great potential for affection for human beings never ceases to surprise those who experience it. French writer, Serge Golon, had such an experience with a gorilla baby that had been orphaned in the course of a hunt in the Belgian Congo. Already, the sight of the dying mother had filled Golon with remorse. Shot in the chest, she had touched her wound, and on seeing the blood on her hand, had burst into tears, like a human being. She looked at the hunters with pleading eyes; she had hidden her baby in the forest. The natives found it. It was a male suckling, and Golon took him to his farm and raised him with the bottle. The little one soon developed a strong attachment

to his adopted father, took food only from him and refused to play with anybody else. He lived at the house; from time to time he jumped on Golon's lap demanding to be petted. Every time Golon went out, the little one cried like a child. A year later Golon had to go to Brazzaville for several weeks and confided the little gorilla to the local veterinary. But while Golon was away the little one died. He had refused to eat after Golon's departure and had to be force-fed. The veterinary was convinced that the little gorilla had died of heartbreak. He used to spend hours on end looking at the road where his adopted father had left, while in Golon's house he would always look toward the forest that had been his homeland. One day he had escaped from the veterinary's house and had been found dead on the road to Brazzaville

Dr. George Hoggan, the English physiologist, related an incident he had witnessed in a laboratory. A small mongrel dog whose hindquarters were paralysed as the result of an experiment, had been removed from the operating table and left on the floor. He started dragging himself painfully towards a retriever that had been blinded a few days earlier for another experiment and was kept under observation. Its eyes had begun to putrify. The blind dog managed to pick itself up, tottered towards the half-paralysed little mongrel and wagged its tail. Nobody else in that laboratory seemed to notice the scene which prompted Dr. Hoggan to write: "The pathetic gesture of mutual sympathy put the human race to shame....."

Among the repetitive, usually cruel experiments on "behaviourism", today so much in vogue, some have "scientifically" proved the animals' humanity. As reported by London's Daily Telegraph (Sept. 9, 1970), Dr. S.J. Diamond of Cardiff University College, investigating animal behaviour, found that one rat would press a lever to rescue another in danger of drowning. A monkey would renounce pressing levers which provided it with food if, at the same time, the use of the lever administered a shock to another animal. Thus, the monkey preferred going without food rather than hurting a companion. Dr. Diamond, probably astonished, drew the conclusion that "experiments of this kind seem to point to a kind of altruism in animals other than man". Any real knower of animals could have helped Dr. Diamond cut down on his electricity bill by letting him know that animals are endowed with a quality that is obviously entirely alien to vivisectionist researchers: compassion..... The German physician, Erwin Lieck, relates in "Gedanken eines Arztes" - "In an aquarium, a big lobster tumbles on its back and can't right itself owing to its heavy dorsal shield. Its companions rush to the rescue and, after numerous attempts, succeed in putting it back on its legs

In South America some rabbit-like rodents, the viscachas, damage the crops. Periodically, the farmers plug the exits of their underground corridors, imprisoning them. As soon as the farmers are gone, other viscachas come in large numbers and free them. This is a clear case of altruism and neighbours' love"

Many animals adopt little orphans. They even adopt the offspring of different species. Cats may nurse orphan puppies. Erasmus Darwin, who was Charles Darwin's grandfather, observed that when a lobster is vulnerable because it changes its shell, others keep constant watch over it. He had also seen pelicans regularly nourishing a blind companion, although it involved a flight of 30 miles to carry the fish from the sea.....

The monkeys carry to safety, at the risk of their lives, companions that have been wounded by hunters. Their grief over the death of a member of the group is so human, so touching, that many hunters never shoot a second monkey

Vivisectionists have revealed sides of the human soul that few sane people believed to exist. Some try to justify themselves with such sophisms as "the real pity is the pity for man" - proving how alien the concept of pity is to them; as if there were different kinds of pity. Nobody has ever explained why pity for one's own species should be more admirable than for other species..... But, mostly, whoever advocates compassion for animals doesn't do so in the belief that this is more important than to advocate compassion for humans, but because animals have neither voice nor vote, because the foulness is too deep, the hypocrisy that hides it is too shameful for the human race. And at the end it will emerge that by helping the animals we shall also have helped mankind.

In all the nations where animals are better protected, such as

Sweden, Denmark, Great Britain, the sick, the old, the unwed mothers and abandoned children are also better protected. There is only one kind of compassion. But it is not surprising that the champions of vivisection don't seem to know that whoever has compassion for animals is equally able to pity their fellow-man, provided they deserve pity.

Many anti-vivisectionists distinguished themselves for services to humanity - and so the first committee that founded in Great Britain the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals included mostly names already known for other humanitarian causes, such as William Wilberforce, chiefly associated with the abolition of the slave trade, and the two penal reformers, Fowell Buxton and James Macintosh

For the laboratory animal, death is the equivalent of mercy, of paradise. But most of them - except perhaps the apes - lack the concept of death; so they don't even have the consolation to know that an end to their suffering is sooner or later bound to come. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch of June 8, 1954, carried the picture and story of a little dog driven by its terror of the laboratory to leap to its death from a fifth floor window at the Washington University Medical School. Another dog died of a heart attack while being strapped to the operating board.

That these exercises, dating from the last century, are still in vogue today, emerges from an item in the Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin of August 26, 1973. It quoted Julie Mays, a registered nurse of Brigantine, New Jersey: "I would rather have a butcher slaughter my dog than have him fall into the hands of research scientists. Researchers are disguised as civilised people, but have the hearts and hands of barbarians. No matter what the means, no matter how grisly the experiment, they will claim the end result is justification. Their lives revolve around pithed frogs, scalded rabbits, decerebrated cats and dismembered dogs".

For all its inconceivable savagery and utter uselessness, animal experimentation keeps running wild in the medical schools of the so-called civilised world, increasing from year to year. How is it possible? The foremost reason is pecuniary gain. Vivisection is the type of "research" that enables "scientists" to obtain huge subsidies from government and private sources on the assumption that the more animals used in an experiment the more reliable the results may be. A giant experiment which lasted a number of years was used to prove a rule known to most school boys: but 15,000 animals were scalded to death to prove a point already known. Everything is possible, but one thing is sure, the sacrifice of 15,000 animals makes it much easier to explain where a large sum of money went than if only 50 animals had been used.

The U.S. Government granted \$100 million in 1940 for "research" at home and abroad, \$1 billion in 1949, \$8 billion in 1960, \$15 billion in 1970, \$25 billion in 1975 - and the temperature keeps rising. Here's how some of this tax money was squandered: \$30,000 to turn rats into alcoholics, under the pretext of curing human alcoholism, although in man alcoholism has deep psychological roots, whereas rats are by nature well-balanced teetotallers: \$1,000,000 to study the mother love of monkeys; \$500,000 to study the love-life of the flea; \$148,000 to find out why chickens grow feathers; \$1,000,000 to study the mating call of the mosquito; \$102,000 to study the effects of gin compared to the effects of tequila administered to Atlantic fish; \$500,000 to find out why monkeys clench their jaws in anger, \$92,000,000 for the costliest failure of them all, when Bonny, a small chimpanzee, was launched on an abortive space flight - with dozens of electronic sensors implanted in her brain and catheters in her arteries. Bonny was launched inside a bio-satellite programmed to last 30 days. But she soon became sick and was brought back to earth - dead. The big team of medical specialists on the space program were unable to find out why. A reasonable assumption would be that Bonny died of fear, misery, loneliness and despair. And certainly in pain.

While Government subsidies everywhere represent one major incentive to vivisection, another comes from the pharmaceutical companies. The vivisectionist method enables them to flood the world with their products - usually the same ones, in new combinations and with different names - which promise to repair the damages caused by the earlier products that have meanwhile

been withdrawn, having proven to be useless or harmful. A further powerful push to vivisection comes from a category that perhaps should have been mentioned in the first place - the sadists. If it is a mistake to believe that all vivisectors are sadists, it would be a far bigger mistake to think that sadism doesn't loom very large in this practice. Experimenters who crush dogs' legs in the Blalock Press - repeating an exercise in shock that has been done in medical schools hundreds of thousands of times, or hammer the testicles of cats to a pulp in order to see once again how that will affect their sex lives, done for 14 consecutive years up to 1976 at the New York Museum of Natural History - will always claim that they want to satisfy their "scientific" curiosity. Many people would call it sadistic curiosity. -----

I had not been awakened to the countless abuses animals are made to suffer at the hands of man when one of my fellow students at Zurich University, an otherwise quite civil young man, baffled me with the revelation that he hated cats so much that whenever he got hold of one he would bind it between his car bumper and a tree and tear it apart. He couldn't explain what caused this hatred, which he defined "instinctive".

Many people can't forgive a cat its independent spirit, its refusal to adulate man and lick the boot that kicks it. But the cat considers itself a guest, not a slave. Its affection cannot be bought with food, only with friendship and respect.

The cat is a complex animal, more difficult to understand, and therefore to appreciate, than the dog whose love for man is so boundless that he willingly submits to any injustice at the hands of his master. Some people like to own a dog mainly because having someone to order around flatters their ego. But cats don't pander to man's vanity. For George Bernard Shaw, "man may consider himself civilised in the measure that he understands cats".

On the subject of books, we recently enjoyed reading Mark Twain's autobiography and were intrigued by that part where he wrote of his mother:

"That sort of interference on behalf of abused animals was a common thing with her all her life; and her manner must have been without offence and her good intent transparent, for she always carried her point and also won the courtesy and often the friendly applause of the adversary. All the race of dumb animals had a friend in her. By some subtle sign the homeless, hunted, bedraggled and disreputable cat recognised her at a glance as the born refuge and champion of his sort - and followed her home. His instinct was right, he was as welcome as the prodigal son. We had 19 cats at one time, in 1845. And there wasn't one in the lot that had any character, not one that had any merit, except the cheap and tawdry merit of being unfortunate. They were a vast burden to us all - including my mother - but they were out of luck and that was enough; they had to stay. However, better than no pets at all; children must have pets and we were not allowed to have caged ones. An imprisoned creature was out of the question - my mother would not have allowed a rat to be restrained of its liberty".

Some things rarely change. Some weeks ago I found that our garden was being haunted by the most down at heel, disreputable, bedraggled and ugly cat imaginable - a young tom whose basic colour was meant to be white, with here and there an odd red patch, and who, like Cassius, wore a lean and hungry look. Now, of course, the rub is, our cats usually are intolerant of strangers on their territory and at the first foot-fall of a strange cat they are wont to set up a great banshee wailing the like of which more fearful than any howling ghost Tom Sawyer or Huckleberry Finn ever dreamt about. However, I was rather amazed to note that our three cats were treating him as though he was the prodigal. In the mysterious way of cats, silent conversations were taking place - sometimes referred to as the silent miaow - nose rubbing gestures of friendship, and most amazing of all, deferential invitations to share feeding bowls. Why? Especially when Solomon, the well-mannered Siamese, and Dudley, the inoffensive crippled cat, wander in for a bit of company they are chased out with howls of rage. Could this be feline altruism at its most noblest? Who knows?

Inevitably, "she who must be obeyed", posed the question: what were we to do about this bedraggled apparition? I avoided the issue at first with excuses such as "He probably belongs to a neighbour", or "Maybe we can find a home for him". However, this was nothing but wishful thinking for I knew that this cat had no home, and for a creature such as he, no refuge would ever be offered.

Eventually, when I did make a decision, I had Mark Twain's mother in mind, the difference being that in this case it was not a human but other cats who had succoured the unfortunate one and he had instinctively recognised them as his champions. My interpretation of their silent miaows was this: "He is down on his luck and that is enough; he has to stay". I have since taken him to the vet, had him desexed, de-fleaed, examined and inoculated. We have named him "Ocker", but in memory of Mark Twain maybe we should have called him "Injun Joe".

NUTRITION AND YOUR CAT

By The Editor

A report recently received by me, alleges that a certain well known brand and variety of cat food contains an enzyme which destroys the vitamin B in a cat's body. The report goes on to state that several cats fed on this particular tinned food, died rather suddenly and within a short time of each other. According to my informant, a veterinary post mortem revealed that these cats were the victims of a serious vitamin B deficiency. Lacking further information or confirmation of the allegations at this time, I am unable to reveal the name of the product. However, if the facts as presented are correct, one would expect that the firm in question will react speedily to rectify the problem. In fairness, it must be stated that the wide range of products put out by this company enjoy a popularity and respect in the market place and I doubt that if one ensures a properly varied diet for one's cat there is too much to worry about.

When reports similar to the above are received, one is apt to wax indignant but it should be realised that labels on packages of cat food are often boastful and deceptive - not to mention the mind manipulators of the idiot box who would have us believe that cats can only remain contented and healthy if fed on a diet of slop, flogged to a gullible public by their own particular sponsors. It is wise to remember that the careful shopper can protect his pet to some extent by understanding the code. The labels "complete" and "balanced" are a measure of the nutritional value of the food. A balanced or complete diet contains all 5 major groups of nutrients (protein, fat, carbohydrate, vitamins and minerals).

In the case of the cats that died, I have not been able to ascertain whether their diet lacked variety. If this was indeed the case, then their deaths do not surprise me. As with man, the cat not only likes variety but needs it if it is not eventually to sicken and die. A cat fed solely on one particular product will not long remain healthy and it is foolish to feed one exclusively on packaged products. Nutritionally, a cat is just an under-sized lion. Domestic cats have the same nutritional requirements as lions and tigers; they all need large quantities of fat and protein and minimal amounts of carbohydrates - experts have agreed that protein is the most important element in the cat's diet.

Fending for itself, the cat will eat the fresh, raw meat of mice, rats, birds, fish, insects and lizards. Although a carnivore, the cats' hunting life gives it a balanced diet that includes the semi-digested cereal and vegetable matter in the stomachs of its prey.

Cats have maintained themselves over the centuries with or without help from humans and cat owners have been raising healthy pets since long before the days of commercial cat food, therefore, they must have been doing something right.

Apart from those owners who are either thoughtless, ignorant, misinformed or just too plain lazy to bother overmuch, most owners assure their

cats a balanced diet by feeding them a wide variety of foods. A varied diet is the next best thing to the menu a feral cat feeds itself in the wild.

Vitamins needed for disease prevention and the regulation of body processes occur naturally in foods. Normal kittens and cats who are fed properly and get out of doors do not need vitamin supplements. However, a veterinarian may prescribe vitamins for old, ill cats, or for housebound pets with limited tastes in food.

Cats require miniscule amounts of most vitamins and it is very easy to give a cat an overdose which can harm it. It is wise to avoid administering vitamins without veterinary supervision.

Since many of the vitamins that go into commercially prepared pet food can be lost through heat processing or long shelf life on supermarket shelves, variety is the best policy. A cat who eats a balanced diet of many different foods is unlikely to suffer any vitamin deficiencies.

In a booklet called "Cat Care", published by the American Humane Education Society, feeding instructions say that "Cats have a high requirements for fats, which they often enjoy in the form of meat scraps, butter, bacon and bacon grease". The booklet recommends cheese as an excellent source of both protein and fat.

The composition of cat milk itself gives a good indication of what the cat requires in its diet. Dr. J. P. Greaves at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London, studied the subject and found that cat's milk contains the following nutrient amounts per 100 grams of milk.

Protein: 9.5 grams, Fat: 6.8 grams, Lactose: 10.0 grams,
Calories: 142, Calcium: 34 milligrams, Phosphorus: 70 milligrams.

IN SUMMATION:

A varied diet of complete foods, along with periodic visits to a vet, should keep a cat healthy. Owners need to feed their cats "complete" or "balanced" foods, avoid limiting them to only one flavour or variety, and not administer supplements without the advice of a vet. Even though a pet cat has a lot in common with the lion, she lives in a human environment and has come to depend on tender loving care.

NOTE

In the above article it has not been the writer's intention to debunk all commercial cat foods, but to point out that even the best of them are, in themselves, not sufficient. Any correspondence received from members in response to this article will be welcome. It is our intention, in the next issue of this Journal, to discuss "dry foods - the case for and against".

SOURCE MATERIAL: "The Cat - History - biology - behaviour". "Cat Catalog".

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