

NOVEMBER, 1981

# 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

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PATRON: The Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C., M.P.

OFFICE BEARERS: President: Mr. William Graham • Vice-President: Geoffrey Luton Esq.

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

COUNCILLORS: Mrs. Lenore Bowman, Mrs. Sybil Cozens, Mr. Ronald Siebert, Mr. Fred Meyers, Dr. Andrei Ross, B.V.Sc.

## 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 NOVEMBER, 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 March, 1981, 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.

**THANK YOU, CITY OF SYDNEY RSL, FOR USE OF THE MEETING ROOMS.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members will have noticed that for the first time in many years, the name of Sir Robert Askin no longer appears on our mast-head as Co-Patron of this Society. We deeply regret the passing of Sir Robert and extend to his widow, Lady Mollie, our sincere condolences.

Sir Robert was a lover of cats, (members will recall reading of 'Ginger' Askin in this journal) who, as a life member and Patron of our Society, was very encouraging and generous in his support. His last communication to our Council, written when gravely ill in hospital, reads as follows:

- Thank you very much for the card following my illness. It was very kind of you and it is cheering to hear from one's friends on these occasions.

I hope things are going alright for the Society and look forward to hearing of your doings when I receive the next magazine.

Thanks again and with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sir Robert Askin.

The Society has lost a friend. Vale Sir Robert.

## Anniversary

September 27th, 1981, marked the first anniversary of our animal welfare and ambulance operation. In the year that has passed since its inception, the service has grown considerably. From that first single animal ambulance, registered on 16/9/80, our Society now owns 2 complete and fully fitted-out ambulance units - the second made possible by the grant from the N.S.W. State Government. The credit for organising and directing our welfare service through its first difficult year belongs to Mrs. Nancy Iredale, who has now, to the regret of the State Council, resigned in order to return to her own private welfare work on behalf of animals.

## Welfare Results

The results as represented by our operations from 27/9/80 to 30/9/81, covering our first full year and including the figures from our 2 Northern branches, are as follows:

| <u>Cats</u><br><u>Desexed</u> | <u>Desexing</u><br><u>Vouchers</u><br><u>Issued</u> | <u>Homes</u><br><u>Found</u> | <u>Euthanasia</u> | <u>Jobs</u><br><u>Completed</u> | <u>Miscellaneous</u>  |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1649                          | 608   | 821                          | 4666              | 3748                            | 41 dogs desexed<br>5 dogs homes<br>15 dogs euth.<br>2 budgies homes |

These figures do not, of course, take into account the many trips made by the ambulance in response to calls requesting aid for injured or distressed animals. These figures, in the opinion of the State Council, and I am sure most members will agree, indicate that positive and worthwhile action is being undertaken by this Society in its endeavours to alleviate animal suffering and to try - the operative word is 'try' - to overcome the stray cat problem. Of course, we alone can never hope to accomplish this purpose without greater public awareness of the situation. For our part and to this end, we have had thousands of informative pamphlets printed which are distributed wherever it is considered they will do the most good, in an effort to educate the public on the importance, nay necessity, of having their domestic pets desexed, particularly cats.

## Appeal

Naturally, none of our work comes cheap. As can be seen from our last balance sheet, many thousands of dollars have been and are being spent on animal welfare. That is why we appeal to whoever will listen, to donate whatever they can spare, to help with the good being done by our welfare activities. In order to expand and keep our ambulances full time on the road we need the brass.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Cont'd)

Please don't take the attitude of one particular member who, after having already availed himself of help from our welfare ladies on more than one occasion, had the effrontery, when asked for a small donation, to opine that, "They've got plenty. I've seen the balance sheet". Frankly, that kind of member we can do without and being a member we are at a loss to fathom what he meant by "they". Moreover, the assets referred to by this gentleman generate working capital by which we help finance our operations. It should also be pointed out that our salaried personnel, apart from the very valuable and humane work they are performing, collect donations wherever they can and by so doing, help considerably to defray the cost of their employment.

Therefore, whatever you feel you can spare, whether it be nice, crinkly "lettuce" or goods for the 'op' shop, will be received with gratitude. Remember, all positions on Council are honorary, thus we ask not for ourselves but for the animals.

### **Experiments on Animals**

No doubt owing to the recent disclosures concerning certain activities of the R.S.P.C.A., many enquiries have been made of us in regard to our methods of destruction and whether cats for euthanasia are transported by us to the R.S.P.C.A. shelter. Without wishing to become involved, or to take sides in the dispute which has caused such dissension within the ranks of the R.S.P.C.A., and which incidentally, has caused much harm and suspicion to fall on all animal welfare organisations, we wish to make it known that this Society and the members of its Council are opposed in principle to experiments on animals and we do not hand over animals for this or any other purpose to other organisations.

As to our methods of destruction; when our ambulances pick up cats which have to be destroyed, they are conveyed as soon as possible to the premises of fully qualified veterinary surgeons where they are painlessly and in the most humane manner possible, quietly put down. (See article by Andrei Ross this issue).

Apart from attempting to bring a halt to the proliferation of unwanted and wild cats, one of our main aims in collecting such animals is to ensure that they do not fall into the hands of experimenters, greyhound trainers, dealers in cat skins and others of like ilk.

### **Tax on Pet Food**

We have always endeavoured, in the pages of this journal, to abstain from any hint of political, racial or religious bias. However, the recent injustice of a 17.5% tax on pet food impels me to remark that in my opinion, this was a heartless, unthinking act on the part of the Federal Government. The imposition of this savage tax makes the task of animal welfare bodies that much more difficult when it comes to finding homes for stray animals, not to mention the many pensioners who battle along trying to adequately feed a pet cat or dog which perhaps may be their only company. And what of those humanitarians, several of whom have contacted me on this issue, who feed hundreds of stray and homeless animals out of their own pockets?

My feelings are so strong about the injustice of this tax that I would inform members and others with a concern for animals, that the Liberal party has no animal welfare policy that is worth a hill of beans, whereas the Australian Democrats and the A.L.P. do have policies that appear to be worthwhile. I would further remind readers that when for the first time in its history this Society received a Government grant, that grant was forthcoming from the N.S.W. State Labor Government.

I regret feeling compelled to depart from policy by making political statements in this journal, but I also regret that it was not possible to publish them prior to the recent N.S.W. State elections.

### **Appointments to Council**

Following the elections at our Annual General Meeting in July, several positions remained vacant on the Council. Subsequently, Mr. Frederick Meyers and Dr. Andrei Ross offered their services and State Council were very pleased to appoint them

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Cont'd)

to fill the vacancies. Mr. Meyers is a man with a genuine concern for the welfare of animals and who has experience of Committee procedures, while Dr. Ross is one of our co-operating veterinary surgeons who will be able to advise Council on many aspects of animal care. Both are valuable additions to Council. Mrs. Judith Graham did not seek re-nomination to the position of Honorary Treasurer, but when no suitably qualified person came forward to fill the vacancy, she accepted appointment for a further term. The composition of State Council is now as it appears on the front cover of this journal.

### **Simon Townsend's Wonder World**

The Society received some good publicity on Thursday, 17th September, when a 10-minute segment of the above Channel 10 show, featured various day-to-day activities of our welfare section, combined with an interview with Chief Welfare Officer, Mrs. Sandra Siebert, in which she dwelt heavily on the subject of desexing your pet cat.

Included in the screening was an actual desexing of a female cat filmed in Andrei Ross' surgery. Dr. Ross explained this procedure and highlighted the fact that there was no pain involved in the operation. Another scene showed very appealing and well looked-after cats in the spacious and well-constructed runs where they are held pending homes at our private location. There were shots of Sandra Siebert and Sandy Moss transporting cats to and from the vet's. The girls were wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the Society's title which was good advertising. Thank you to Sandra Siebert for organising this event.

### **Gift to Society**

In September, Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Braby, who were not members at that time, made an extraordinarily generous gift to the Society of \$6,000. This was in appreciation of the work being carried out by our welfare section. Because of this handsome gesture, Mr. & Mrs. Braby have been made life governors of the Society.

### **Conclusion**

Before terminating this report, it should be recorded that the State Council wishes to express thanks to the ladies of the auxiliary for their continued efforts to ensure the success of the opportunity shop; Mrs. Lena Larsen for her very valuable all-round performance in shop, office and welfare; all those who have contributed in their various ways to make it all worthwhile; Mrs. Celie Smith for her welfare efforts in the far-off Penrith area and special thanks to member Mrs. Daphne McCallum, who in the absence of Mrs. Shirley Bowles, overseas, was a tremendous help to the Society in typing all the copy for this issue of the journal.

Bill Graham, State President  
on behalf of State Council.

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### **MEMORY LANE**

A donation in remembrance of part of our lives for 14 years, "Tom", who was put to rest through cancer.

Inserted by Mrs. Fay Saunders.

In loving memory of darling "Annabelle", 9 years old. Never forgotten.

Inserted by Mrs. E. White.

In memory of dear "Patches" and "Charlie Girl". Always in our thoughts.

Inserted by Mrs. C. Green.

A donation in memory of my two beloved cats, "Cooky" and "Priscilla".

Inserted by Mrs. C. Firps

MEMORY LANE (Cont'd)

A donation in loving memory of my many darling pet cats over the years, especially "Noo-nee-nay", and in appreciation of my present much loved, toothless, gentle "Peter". Also remembered, "Cooee-Jumbuck" and "Twasy-Woozie". 28 years with me.

Inserted by Mrs. Isabella Harris

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**WELFARE JOTTINGS**

By Sandra Siebert

Some months ago we received a call from a woman in the Mt. Druitt area. She wanted us to pick up an un-desexed mother cat and two six month old kittens, as she was moving to Brisbane in one week's time, or so she said. After ringing for several days with no answer, I decided it was best to call personally. On arrival at the Housing Commission complex, I couldn't seem to get any answers from any of the people around. I left cards in all the letter boxes with my phone number.

At 11.30 that night, a woman rang and informed me that the person concerned had moved out 6 days previously, apparently right after she rang our office. That night, on inspection, the neighbour discovered that the mother cat was locked in the premises and had been there for the whole of the time.

First thing next morning, I went to the Housing Commission office in Mt. Druitt, explained the situation and obtained the keys. I was then able to release the mother cat, who by this time was starving, give her some food and drink and put her in a cage. There was absolutely no evidence that any food or water had been left for her in the empty apartment. I managed to locate one of the kittens which had been locked in a neighbour's laundry, but of the other there was no trace. I left a cage with the neighbour who promised to call me as soon as she had caught the other kitten. The neighbour never rang and I called out there several times, knowing by then that this kitten was probably well and truly pregnant.

On my seventh visit, some eight weeks later, I collected the cage and reluctantly decided to call it quits as no-one would help or even seemed remotely interested in the little cat's welfare. I decided I would walk around the complex one more time, just in case. Sure enough, I found her - she had been ripped apart by an afghan hound, and was lying in the car park, dead.

I wrapped the body in newspapers and put her in the nearest Council garbage disposal. What a sad ending. It could have all been avoided if the mother cat had been desexed and if the owner had done the responsible thing by taking them to an animal shelter when she left for Brisbane or had she been truthful when she rang our office I would have gone there immediately.

Given a job by the office to catch a wild mum and big kittens in Panania, I rang several times but apparently the 79 year old lady was deaf.

One very wet Monday, (rain makes our job very difficult), I decided to drive out and see what the situation was. On turning into the street, I saw what looked to be a very sick and neglected dog staggering along the footpath. I stopped and tried to lure him with some food. To my horror, I observed that when the dog attempted to eat the food, it fell to the ground through his wind-pipe which had been torn open. Although vicious because of the pain he was suffering, I was able to make a close examination which revealed that the throat was open from ear to ear and badly ulcerated. The left side of the head was extremely swollen with a constant ooze of blood and pus dripping from it. I called the R.S.P.C.A. from a nearby house and was informed that someone would be sent immediately. Unfortunately, the dog had already wandered into the next street and I knew that by the time the R.S.P.C.A. arrived, both dog and I would be far away from the address given.

Taking more food and a large bedsheet from the back of the ambulance, I tried to lure the dog to me again. From a couple of feet away I managed to slip the sheet lassoo-fashion, about him. I was then able to drag him into the back of the van. I knew it was hurting him but I decided it was the best thing to do as I could take him to the R.S.P.C.A. and have him put out of his pain rather than have him die a lingering death on the streets.

WELFARE JOTTINGS (Cont'd)

However, my problems were not over, as the dog jumped up at the back of my seat and, his head round between the seat and door, attempted in his terror to bite me. I realised I would not be able to drive leaning right over the steering wheel to avoid him, so I threw some food to the back of the van and, while he was attempting to eat it, I tied the sheet to the supports in the back of the van so he would not be able to reach me. It was not entirely satisfactory but it was better than nothing. However, the dog continued to growl and his manner remained very menacing.

I had notified the R.S.P.C.A. that I was on my way, and they had an inspector waiting to meet me in the car park. The R.S.P.C.A. vet was quite sick when he saw the dog's neck. He took some photos for their files and assured me he would put the poor dog down as soon as I had left.

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## Contented Cat Inn

Accommodation for cats only.

Run by Members, Mr. & Mrs. Parke - This cattery is recommended to members for its sunny, spacious and clean runs.

All cats are fed according to Owner's instructions.

Location: 1403 Old Northern Road, Glenorie (near Dural)

Phone: **652 1162** for further details.

### THE HIGH COST OF FEEDING YOUR PET - some facts on the pet food industry

In Australia, a staggering 230 million dollars a year is spent on prepared pet food.

We are, unquestionably, a pet-loving nation: 50% of all homes have a dog, 45% have a cat.

The estimated total expenditure by households on pet food is equal to 3% of all national grocery expenditure. Pet food manufacturers have certainly cashed in on this.

When pet owners scan the supermarket shelves, they can choose from an average minimum of 40 different brands (there are 207 different lines of pet food available throughout the country).

Choosing food on behalf of your favourite feline or canine is not always easy. Since the ultimate consumer cannot read or push a supermarket trolley, manufacturers appeal blatantly - aesthetically and emotionally - to the shopper.

A recent advertising survey found that while no-frills and no-name labels enjoy strong market penetration in such products as tissues, toilet rolls, peanut butter and laundry detergent, only 1% of shoppers said they would be prepared to buy a non-branded pet food.

So, pets on the labels are showstoppers and the range and sophistication of the food - rich liver entrees, country chicken or deep-sea salmon main courses and cheese or prawn biscuit snacks - stops just short of nouvelle cuisine. Which may explain why the most common pet problem, according to the Australian Veterinary Association, is obesity.

Among the several manufacturers of pet food, Uncle Ben's (Luv, Whiskas, Kit-E-Kat and Lassie, to name a few) is the largest, followed by Quaker, Arnotts and Carnation. The competition is fierce. Enormous amounts of time and money are spent in improved technology and advertising. The total annual advertising expenditure for the industry is \$4.5 million. Manufacturers spend about \$20 million a year on trade promotion alone.

New products are planned up to 3 years in advance. Most firms adopt two basic standards of testing a new product - in a controlled kennel situation and in-home testing, which is usually carried out by a market research company. With pet food, like baby food, you cannot get a response in the English language from the ultimate consumer.

Throughout Australia, a couple of hundred cats and dogs spend their waking hours sampling current products for quality testing and new products for palatability.

Some time ago, two representatives from our Society visited the testing cattery at Carnation's premises, where more than 40 dogs' and cats' reactions to pet food is monitored. The cats are kept in a cottage and the dogs - beagles and corgis - live in clean, light, albeit sterile, kennels, where they devour the products which have been tested for acid/alkaline levels, fat, fibre, ash, moisture, salt, calcium and other nutrients.

Carnation manufactures dry pet food - that is, packet food to which water is added. Although this type of pet food contains up to 21% protein, compared with 8% in canned foods, the animals probably wouldn't know the difference in this matter. For them, it all comes down to personal preference.

None of the animals could be called lean, and some of the dogs are retired show champions who have spent up to 10 years testing the products of Carnation and its rivals. All in aid of producing the best possible pet food for the general animal public.

The current growth of the manufactured pet food market can be divided into two main groups - wet (canned) and dry food. Dry pet food has enjoyed the greatest growth - an average of 10% a year for the past 3 years.

Industry spokesmen attribute this growth to a reaction against the increase in fresh meat prices over the period and to pet owners' desire for a quick and convenient means of feeding their pets.

For all the influence of the detailed and sophisticated product research, development and marketing in the pet food industry, its rate of sales is still closely allied to meat prices. When livestock prices go up, people tend to switch to canned food. They think it is cheaper than fresh meat. It isn't, but that's the way they perceive it.

Source Material: The Australian

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I hope the Editor will not have to censor this article, as I am about to talk on a delicate subject.

Recently called to pick up a glorious, white, long hair, miss to be spayed to find a very agitated 'owner' fearful of letting the operation proceed as she had seen Miss Coquette in the backyard on Saturday with a Tom. After we had established that from Saturday to Tuesday was not too long a pregnancy to be terminated, the lady confided that she really didn't think ANYTHING had happened because of the heart-broken cries that had followed Miss Coquette's banishment to the house. The reason for relating this incident is to implore readers, next time they are woken up by a caterwauling Tom, not to throw him a curse or a shoe, but compassion for his heart-broken state.

Nancy Iredale



Thought this rather cute. A fingerprint  
and a few strokes of the pen.

N.I.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the 'magazine' you send, I find it so interesting; and it is wonderful to hear of all you folk are doing for the protection of animals.

Yours sincerely,  
Jean Sinclair

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Dear Editor,

There are several things I wish to write about. The first is the introduction of the Ambulance Service.

From the March issue of the journal, I read with astonishment the number of calls for help. This clearly indicated the necessity for the ambulance. What a truly dedicated band of ladies who handle all the welfare work. The tireless effort and time consumed by the Council members and the (North) Coast workers is truly magnificent. I feel sure I speak for all our members in conveying to you our overwhelming gratitude.

As a recent member my contribution has been microscopic, but I am looking forward to the time (in a few years hence) when I will be retiring and living in an area where there is a good public transport system, which will enable me to become much more involved with the work of the Society. At present, I can only help a few little strays around here, which is a "life saver" for them.

The S.M.H. article, dated 10th May, 1981, about footballer Raudonikis and his "hatred for cats", horrified me and I was very glad to read, two weeks later in the same paper, the letters in reply to this article.

The other person who publicly stated his hatred for cats is Harry Butler, who suggested that all ferals should be wiped out by introducing a cat disease among them. In my humble opinion, he has got his "sense of values" mixed up! People of the ilk of these two persons are so dangerous in that they are giving people with the same feelings a license to kill.

This brings me to the exposure in the Sunday Telegraph of 7th June, 1981, about the pet stealing for pelts, and in the same paper, dated 14th June, about the betting on dog fights. What kind of cruel, sadistic, full-of-hate human beings are we breeding now? Unfortunately, these types are prolific in every country of the world and not only to animals, but to each other - foisting their feelings upon their children with such intensity that one can only feel disgust for the human race in general. These happenings of such horror leave me, and I feel sure, thousands of others, so sad and desolated.

What better vehicle to express my sentiments than through our own Journal to our own kind of people.

Very sincerely,  
Betty Scrivener

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Dear Sir,

A small note to tell you all I think you all do a wonderful, terrific and most kind service for our furry friends. They sure need all the help and understanding they can get. Please don't ever stop loving and being devoted friends to our mates.

Very sincerely,  
Lindy Coop



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

- "I would like to thank Lena who was so very kind to me over the telephone when I first reported that I needed some help, and I would like to add that I was totally impressed by the courtesy, efficiency and swiftness of the help that was given to me and my little timid waif.

Please find attached a donation of \$50 - one cheque being from my neighbour, Mrs. Schramm, who wanted to contribute as she felt it was part of her responsibility also, as not many people are interested in becoming involved in cleaning up the stray cat problem (particularly in home unit living).

To close off, the Society has left me with a very good impression and from the first phone call asking for help I felt that I had somebody else with me to take on the responsibility of what had to be done -"

Yours sincerely,  
Lee Shields-Rossit

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**Postscript to Report**

Readers may recall an item in a past issue referring to certain harassment employed against life members, Mr. & Mrs. Wearne, in that the managing agents of their unit were attempting to force them to dispose of their 2 pet cats. At the time we thought that the matter had been settled to the Wearne's (and our) satisfaction. However, the managing agents chose to pursue the matter and took the case to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Meantime I supplied Mr. & Mrs. Wearne with documents relevant to the case plus a letter stating certain facts. Our solicitor, Mr. Chris Harris, was also involved in the matter.

Mrs. Wearne has now informed us that the Consumer Affairs Tribunal quashed the case and further, she forced the agents to place notice of the quashing on the units' bulletin board.

I must confess to smug satisfaction at the chagrin of the agents and those tenants who were so persistent in their attempts to part the Wearnes from their beloved pets, for it is absolutely marvellous to have won in the cause of harmless animals and their owners. May we win many more.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

A donation in memory of my late sister, Mrs. Rose Illy, a former member of your Society and a cat lover.

Inserted by Mr. A. Hoffmann

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A donation in memory of my late mother, Mrs. Anne Thompson.

Inserted by Miss R. Thompson

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The State Council regret to inform members that our auditor, Mr. Ron MacGregor, of A.J. Williams & Co., passed away shortly after his retirement in July. His cheerful co-operation with the Society will be very much missed.

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A donation in lieu of a floral tribute in memory of Sir Robert Askin. I know he would like this.

Inserted by Mrs. G. Ferguson

IN MEMORIAM (Cont'd)

A donation in memory of my late mother, Mrs. Worthington, a devoted cat lover.

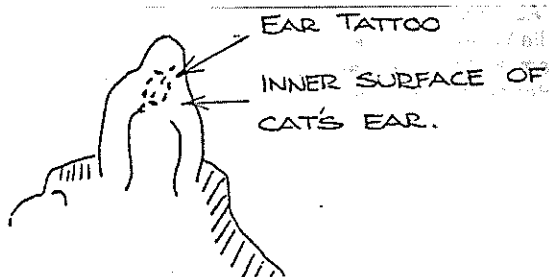
Inserted by Miss J. Worthington

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**EAR TATTOOING OF DESEXED CATS** - by Andrei Ross, B.V.Sc.

It is very important that all cats that have been desexed be identified as such by means of a tattoo, which is applied to the inner surface of the ear.

The tattoo itself is a circle approximately 8 mm in diameter with a straight line through the middle of it. (see Fig. 1)

FIG. 1



This symbol is internationally recognised as a neuter sign, i.e., that the animal has been neutered, another way of saying that it has been desexed.

The tattoo is applied in a few seconds using an instrument called a tattooer which is really a large clamp with fine needles at one tip. The clamp is applied to the cat's ear and squeezed, leaving an impression of the neuter sign. Special branding ink is then rubbed into the impression, resulting in the permanent ear tattoo on the desexed cat's ear. This procedure is carried out immediately after the desexing operation whilst the cat is under general anaesthetic. Consequently, the cat feels absolutely no pain or discomfort.

There are a number of important reasons why desexed cats (and dogs, for that matter), should be ear tattooed. These are as follows:

1. The tattoo identifies an animal as having been previously desexed and gives it the status of a loved pet. This is important in the event that the animal becomes lost. It has more of a chance of being saved or placed in a new home if it is wearing its "identity tag".
2. A new owner of a cat has no idea whether it has been previously desexed if there is no sign of a tattoo. Consequently, the animal is presented to a veterinarian who undertakes a desexing operation only to find, in some cases, that the animal had already been desexed. The result is wasteful, time-consuming for all concerned, expensive for the owner and temporarily discomforting for the cat.
3. The ear tattoo is permanent so there is no risk of it fading away with time. It is internationally recognisable and is by no means unattractive. It certainly does not disfigure the animal as some sceptics may suggest.

I consider the ear tattoo more than just an identity sign. I consider it is a symbol of love and respect bestowed upon the cat by a caring and protective owner.

Footnote: As a qualified veterinary surgeon and a member of the State Council of the Cat Protection Society, I would like to present a brief description of the painless method of euthanasia. I believe this is important, as many people are unaware as to what occurs when an animal has to be "put down".

Let me assure you that the method is very quick and completely painless. A hypodermic needle is inserted into the cephalic vein of the front leg of the animal and a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbitone is injected. The animal feels no pain or discomfort and passes away instantaneously. In the case of wild, feral cats which cannot be handled, the needle is inserted in the region of the heart whilst the animal is enclosed in a cage. Again, death is instantaneous and there is no pain or discomfort involved.

For many aged, neglected, badly injured or diseased cats, euthanasia is a welcome release from further suffering.

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**EDITORIAL**

**Care Of Your Cats When On Holidays**

When leaving home for an extended stay elsewhere - even for a week-end, adequate arrangements should always be made to ensure the well-being of your pets. If possible, have a friend or relative stay in the house, having given them full instructions on feeding, etc., (it is important also to leave your vet's name, address and telephone number), or take your cats to a reliable and well-run cattery. Naturally, some folk cannot afford boarding costs or may not be able to arrange a suitable "cat-sitter". In such cases one may be able to arrange for a reliable neighbour - one who has an understanding of animals - to see to food and water and keep a general eye on your pets.

Failing any of the above, one should either not have pets or not go away, for anything less is not acceptable to people who genuinely love their animals and are truly concerned for their welfare. Once having accepted the responsibility of pet ownership, one must be prepared to face up to the obligations that go with it.

Some pet owners, fortunately, are able to take their animals with them when they go away. Very many others take the attitude, particularly when it comes to cats, that their pets are well able to fend for themselves. Such deluded thinking is usually brought about for reasons of laziness or meanness by persons who are both callous and uncaring. Owners who really care for their pets and have compassion for animals generally, are aware that, tough though the cat may be, this small creature is going to be bewildered and suffer a sudden sense of loss on the sudden departure of its people - not to mention the callousness of expecting a cat that has enjoyed a life of sedentary house-bound ease, with regular meals provided, to suddenly become an adept provider of its own food and shelter. Apart from the uncaring cruelty involved, another sound reason for not leaving a cat to fend for itself, is the depredations it is bound to inflict when desperately hungry, on birds or any native wild-life. Especially so if one lives in a rural or semi-rural area.

Of course, taking your cats to a cattery can be a harrowing experience, especially if, like ours, they are imbued with a certain amount of low feline cunning, possessed of second sight and have no scruples when taking advantage of the foibles and bumbling ineptitude of their so-called owners.

On the occasion of our last holiday, the 3 cats who share our bed and board were duly booked in, well in advance, to a cattery which has some very large runs where they could all be together. The night before, cages were prepared, adequately lined with newspaper (in case of unfortunate accidents) and plans secretly laid to ensure that the cats would not twig to what was afoot on the morrow.

Came the dawn and with it the expectation that with such well-laid, foolproof plans, rounding up the cats would present no particular problem. After all 'Tosca', always last up, could be quietly nabbed as she lay dozing on my pillow where she mostly sleeps; 'Yum Yum' could be easily plucked from her perch on my rocker, which was her current sleeping posy, and it would be no effort to filch 'Mang', yawning drowsily, from her box on the verandah.

Well, the best laid plans so often backfire. There was no cat on pillow, no cat on rocker, no cat in box on verandah. There was also no response to calls for breakfast.

Could it be, I thought, that what I had long suspected was truly a reality? Those cats could understand much more of our conversation than they were prepared to let on. That, combined with a sixth sense that had put them on the alert. They were one jump ahead of the game and as far as they were concerned they weren't prepared to be incarcerated in any moggy gaol without putting up a stout resistance.

Those cats certainly made it tough. I had more trouble cornering them than the Man from Snowy River had when rounding up the 'Colt from Old Regret'.

Of the three, 'Yum-Yum' was the easiest to catch. I eventually located her cowering in the cover of an azalea bush where she no doubt hoped her tabby stripes would blend in with the dappled shade and camouflage her, but as usual, her white mask gave her away. As I plucked her from her leafy hiding-place, she gave a few plaintive bleats but caused no further trouble.

'Tosca', on the other hand, proved to be a far more different proposition. After much fruitless searching and calling, I finally spied her atop our next door neighbour's tall and flimsy grape trellis and no amount of coaxing and cajoling could induce her to budge from her lofty eyrie. Eventually, I was forced to fetch an extension ladder from the garage - mindfull that all plans for an early departure were fast fading away. After much clambering about on the ladder in which a great deal of sweat and effort was expended, 'Tosca' was at last parted from her precarious perch and deposited in the cage. It was now two cats down and one to go.

'Mang', who could best be described as a matronly half-persian of somnolent and retiring disposition, chose on this occasion to belie her looks. Her usual timidity was replaced by a defiant and stubborn refusal to be captured. Her method when routed from her hidey-hole behind the shed, was neither to climb or seek a further hiding place, but to wait until the last moment before being pounced upon, then dart with extreme agility past one's outstretched hand until a safe distance had been attained.

This fiasco continued on for the best part of the morning. Eventually, scratched and bleeding from both cat and rose bushes, and against my better judgement, I called on wife to help. Wife then quietly approached 'Mang', mouthing some inanity such as "What has the nasty man been doing to my poor Mang?" Naturally - to my annoyance - the wretch of a cat calmly allowed herself to be scooped up and placed in the cage, but not before both cat and wife cast baleful glares in my direction.

After my wife had, none too gently, applied band-aids to my numerous wounds and contusions, the cages were loaded into the car and the cats' journey to the 'big house' began. As the familiar scent and scenery of accustomed territory receded, all three, by now thoroughly unhappy cats, commenced a caterwauling which no amount of soothing talk could quell.

Arrived at our destination, each cat had a numbered identification disc attached to its collar before being placed in their collective "cell". That done, my wife and I retreated guiltily from the looks of hurt reproach which were directed at us by three pairs of feline eyes from within the 'bars'.

Some people do become very attached to their animals. Although we enjoyed our holiday, we frequently wondered how the kitties were faring in their strange and unfamiliar surroundings - we were even eager at times for our holiday to end, just to get back and secure their release. To some, I suppose, this is stupid and perhaps eccentric, but I have never let that bother me.

We were rewarded on our return for the 'mogs' were overjoyed to see us. Little 'Yum', who had recognised our voices from some distance, began calling to us, and continued to 'chatter' happily all the way home. When the familiar landmarks of home came into view, all three cats brightened considerably and for the remainder of the day they were very demonstrative in their affection and showed no signs of resentment. Every bush, shrub and well-known object was sniffed and examined with an air of relief and complete satisfaction. In fact, they were as happy to be back with us as we were with them. - Have a good holiday.

The Editor

## FUND RAISING JOTTINGS From Sybil Cozens

Open Day: The day wasn't the best of days weather wise but about 40 people came to look, talk, take tea and buy in the shop. Some also brought lovely "goodies" for the shop. Thank you all.

Miss Olive Graham and her band of slaves were responsible for the delicious afternoon tea. Many thanks, Olive.

Raffles: Two ladies have organised their own raffles since going to press last and gave our Treasurer, Mrs. Graham, quite healthy cheques. On behalf of Council, thank you both.

Functions: I hope to announce the date of a fashion show in the March journal. If anyone wants to do something for earlier in the year, please contact me early Feb. for inclusion in this journal. Ring 427 3828 after hours.

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## CONTACT

FOR ALL ANIMAL WELFARE ENQUIRIES, INCLUDING AMBULANCE SERVICE AND DESEXING

RING 51 1011

Please do not ring this number on other matters as it is no longer connected with the "Op" shop. (If unanswered, leave message on answering service).

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OPPORTUNITY SHOP

PHONE 516 2072 9.30 - 4.30 week days

9.30 - 11.30 Saturdays

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(Fund Raising

PHONE 427 3828 MRS. COZENS (after hours)





