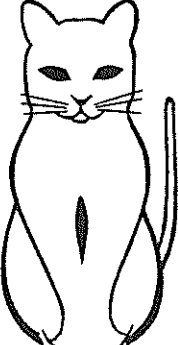


JULY 1982



JOURNAL OF

WINTER 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: D. TIERNEY

PATRONS: Lady Mollie Askin, The Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C., M.P.

OFFICE BEARERS: President: Mr. William Graham • Vice Presidents: Geoffrey Luton Esq., Mrs Kay Breen

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Judith Graham • Secretary: Mrs Shirley Pikler

COUNCILLORS: Mrs Leonore Bowman, Mrs Sybil Cozens, Mr Fred Meyers, Mr Ronald Siebert

Hon Asst. Secretary: Miss Denise Tierney

LIFE GOVERNORS: Mr & Mrs L. Braby, Misses C. & E. Bryant, Mr A. Buchanan, Mrs B. Morrison,
Miss N. Pike, Mrs S. Springfield, Mrs I. Tattersall, Miss D. Silins

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: Mrs A. Gillham, Mrs D. Haines, Mrs B. Harvey, Mr W. Luton,
Mrs P. Lynch, Mrs T. Nelson, Mrs J. Taylor, Mr G. & Mrs S. Cozens

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 1982, AT SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS, 103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE, COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M.

BUSINESS

1. Read and confirm Minutes of 1981 Annual General Meeting.
2. Business arising.
3. Annual Report.
4. Balance Sheet and Financial Statement - Treasurer's Report.
5. Election of Executive and Council 1982-83 term.
6. 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, accept nomination, or nominate others for positions on Council.

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 ANNUAL REPORT

Once again that time of year has arrived when all activities and events of the past financial year require to be assessed and presented in detail for the scrutiny and interest of all members and other interested parties; bearing in mind that our year commences on 1st June and concludes 31st May. The statistics of our work performance and other information which follows, are the records of those activities and events which fell between 1.6.81 and 31.5.82, with the most significant being the achievements of our ambulance and animal welfare service. As a comparison, the first years (80-81) results with this service are included in the analysis which appears below:

WELFARE RESULTS 80-81 (Ambulance established September, 1980)

	<u>Cats Desexed</u>	<u>Vouchers Issued</u>	<u>Cats Destroyed</u>	<u>Homes Obtained</u>	<u>Jobs Completed</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Headquarters	968 1371 effective	403	2894	333	2922	4 dogs homes 15 dogs desexed 10 dogs destroyed
Umina Branch	102	-	37	139	685	47 other treatments
Tuggerah Branch	103	-	2	237	N.A.	N.A.
TOTALS	1173	403	2933	709	3607+	

Cats and kittens satisfactorily placed = 19.5%
Overall effective desexings = 1576

WELFARE RESULTS 1981-82

	<u>Cats Desexed</u>	<u>Vouchers Issued</u>	<u>Cats Destroyed</u>	<u>Homes Obtained</u>	<u>Jobs Completed</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Headquarters	1520 2698 effective	1178	4272	368	4690	61 Dogs desexed 11 Dogs destroyed 1 Home for dog 5 Homes other animals
Umina Branch	111	-	77	112	N.A.	43
Tuggerah Branch	255	-	-	260	N.A.	N.A.
TOTALS	1886	1178	4349	740	4690+	

Cats and kittens satisfactorily placed = 14.5%
Overall effective desexings = 3064

The N.S.W. Government's \$10,000 grant last year for a second ambulance was money well spent, as per the following Headquarters analysis for 81-82, over 80-81 - 552 more cats were desexed, up 57%, 775 more vouchers issued, up almost 200%, 1327 more effective desexings, up almost 100%, 35 more homes found, up 10.5%, 1378 more unwanted, injured, wild and feral cats were destroyed, up 50.2%, 1768 more calls for help were satisfactorily completed, up 60.5%.

The overall results (Headquarters combined with Branches), were as follows: 713 more cats desexed, up 60.8%, 1486 more effective desexings, up 96.8%, 1416 more cats destroyed, up 48%. Although 31 more homes were obtained, which raised the percentage, 4.37 of actual cats placed, the percentage cats placed against those destroyed has fallen 5%.

The figures given here do not take into account the many emergencies which our ambulances attended. It should be added that all trapping of feral and wild cats is carried out only by Headquarters. The Branches are not involved in this activity due to lack of suitable facilities and transport.

ANNUAL REPORT

State Government Grant: As can be seen from the attached balance sheet, maintaining our animal welfare programme does not come cheaply; monthly veterinary expenses form a very large portion of our expenditure and what with spiralling inflation, the rising costs of postage, petrol, printing, stationery and vehicle maintenance, to note but a few, a considerable strain is put on our resources. Consequently, State Council lodged an appeal for financial assistance with the Minister for Sport and Recreation, The Honourable M.J. Cleary, whose portfolio takes in the Division of Animal Welfare. A reply was duly received from the Minister, the full text of which I have pleasure in presenting here:-

"Dear Mr. Graham,

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved a grant of \$8,000 to your Society for the 1981/82 financial year.

The invaluable assistance provided by the Cat Protection Society for the Community in the area of animal care and protection, especially in caring for stray and unwanted cats, is recognised and very much appreciated.

I have pleasure in forwarding the attached cheque for \$8,000 which is to be expended towards the salary of one (1) full-time animal welfare officer, specifically to participate in a programme to encourage the desexing of domestic animals and to promote Community education in responsible pet ownership.

At the end of the current financial year the Society is required to furnish to the Animal Welfare Division of my Department an auditors' statement certifying that the grant has been expended in accordance with the above provision.

I again take this opportunity of congratulating your Society on its praiseworthy achievements and I wish you continuing success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Cleary
Minister for Sport & Recreation "

Needless to say we are very grateful to the Minister and his O.I.C., Animal Welfare Division, Mr. Cashmere, for the consideration they have given to our submission and wish also to take the opportunity in this report, to express our thanks to the N.S.W. State Government, who, over the past 2 years, have not been deaf to our pleas for financial assistance.

PATRON: For a number of years, Sir Robert Askin was a patron of our Society and both he and his wife, Lady Mollie, were always interested in our progress and very encouraging in their support. On the untimely death of Sir Robert, State Council were unanimous in their feeling that it would be singularly appropriate and fitting to invite Lady Askin to take her late husband's place as Co-Patron. Lady Mollie Askin has responded to our invitation by very kindly and graciously accepting, and we are delighted to inform our members that she has now been installed as Co-Patron with State Premier, the Hon. Neville Wran.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL AND ANNUAL ELECTIONS OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCILLORS

The State Council of the Society is made up of office bearers; President, 2 Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer; Councillors, 7. At present 10 members are filling positions on the Council. Some of the present Council handle specialist jobs according to their qualifications and experience, e.g. Mr. Siebert as an experienced N.R.M.A. patrolman is transport officer and as such is responsible for the running and maintenance of our ambulances.

Miss Tierney, with her experience of typing and secretarial duties has been appointed as honorary assistant Secretary thus sharing some of our Secretary's

heavy load. Mrs. Breen, because of her experience and knowledge as a high school teacher, does much of our P.R., fills various speaking engagements, has appeared on T.V. and the radio on the Society's behalf and has been appointed by the Council to fill a vacant Vice-President position. Our Treasurer, Mrs. Graham, has had many years experience as an accountant and has managed the Society's funds in a very creditable manner over the past 3 or 4 years. And so it goes.

Inasmuch as a good Council team has been formed over the past 2 years, this is not to say that it is a closed shop and is run like so many other organisations, by a clique. All financial members of the Society have the right to nominate for any of the above positions and should any member feel they have something to offer in the way of specialised knowledge or experience, and are desirous to give up some of their time to the administration of the Society, they should not hesitate to forward their nomination.

In accordance with the Companies Act, the following information is given per nominations and proxy voting:-

The instrument appointing a proxy to vote shall be deemed to confer authority to demand a poll. A demand by a person as proxy for a member shall be deemed to be the same as a demand by a member.

A Director of a Company shall give notice in writing to the company if he is a Director of a Public Company, of the date when he attained or will attain the age of 72 years. A person of or over the age of 72 years may, by a resolution reciting the age of that person, being a resolution of which no shorter notice than that required to be given to the members of the Company of an Annual General Meeting has been duly given, passed by a majority of not less than three-fourths of such members of the Company as being entitled so to do, vote in person or, when proxies are allowed, by proxy.

The election of office-bearers and other members of the Council shall take place in the following manner:

- (a) Any two members of the Society shall be at liberty to nominate any other member to serve as an office-bearer or other member of the Council.
- (b) The nomination, which shall be in writing and signed by the member and his proposer and seconder, shall be lodged with the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (c) A list of the candidates' names in alphabetical order, with the proposers' and seconds' names, shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the registered office of the Society for at least seven days immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) Balloting lists shall be prepared (if necessary) containing the names of the candidates only. The order in which the names of the candidates appear on the Ballot Paper shall be decided by lot, and each member present at the Annual General Meeting shall be entitled to vote for any number of such candidates not exceeding the number of vacancies.
- (e) The Ballot shall be conducted by a returning officer appointed by the members present and assisted by two or more scrutineers elected at such meeting.
- (f) In case there shall not be sufficient number of candidates nominated the Council shall fill up the remaining vacancies.

Any member seeking election to a position on the Council should ensure that his/her nomination be in a form similar to that as set out below:-

"We, the undersigned financial members of The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. hereby nominate. for the position of"

at the election to be held at the Annual General Meeting of the said Society on Sunday, the 1st Day of August, 1982.

Proposer. Address.

Seconder. Address.

I, of
Born. being a financial member of the said Society do hereby agree to such nomination, and if elected, agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the ensuing twelve months from such election.

Signed. Date.

*President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Councillor.

SOME COMING EVENTS: An invitation has been received from Ms. Sue Arnold, Chairman, International Fund for Animal Welfare, to participate in a day to celebrate animals and the environment. Stalls, entertainment, overseas and Australian personalities to attend. C.P.S. to man own stall. Date: 3.10.82. Venue to be decided. Invitation has been accepted.

Spring and Autumn open days at Siebert residence. Cattery open for inspection. Stalls, refreshments. Jolly company. Dates to be announced.

*Talk to Abbotsford View Club on animal welfare and C.P.S. activities 26.5.82. Participants, Vice-President Kay Breen and Chief Welfare Officer, Sandra Siebert.

Talk to students of James Ruse Agricultural College. ditto above. Date to be fixed. Other talks and fund raising functions to be organised throughout the coming year. Details to be announced in following issues of the Journal.

* On Wednesday, 26th May, Vice President Mrs. Breen and Chief Welfare Officer, Mrs. Siebert, were guest speakers at the Abbotsford View Club. Mrs. Breen spoke about the history of our Society, its present day development, its aims and objects and the work we do. This last topic naturally covered our employment of 2 Welfare Officers, a part-time secretary, our ambulances and how the ambulances are used. Mrs. Siebert spoke about the day to day work involved in Welfare. Both stressed the need for public knowledge about the reasons for desexing domestic pets and asked the audience to help by spreading the word on this matter.

The talk was very successful and both ladies were informed that they would be receiving invitations to give future talks to various groups.

MEMBERSHIP: The total membership at the end of May, stood at 903; made up of 7 Honorary life members, 10 life governors, 275 life members and 611 annual members.

Unfortunately, with costs rising as enumerated earlier in this report, the present membership subscriptions result in little, if any, margin of profit for the Society. Pensioners fees of \$2 do not cover printing and postage of the Journal, annual fees of \$5 leave little over, while life membership at \$50 is no longer viable in the long term.

Because of this, it was debated in Council whether it should be recommended to raise the present membership fees. However, after careful consideration and also because it is not the Council's wish to place a burden on the pockets of those of our truly genuine pensioner members, and annual members who wish to support, but whose financial resources are not great, it was decided to hold membership subscriptions at their present level with the exception of

life membership. It is foreshadowed that a notice of motion will appear in the November, 1982 issue of the Journal, to the effect that as from 1st June, 1983, life membership should be increased from \$50 to \$100. This we feel is fair in that it gives those members who are considering becoming a life member, a full year to avail themselves of the opportunity to become one at the present \$50 subscription.

We do, however, wish to point out to members that our Society was established for the benefit of those beautiful people, dumb animals, and should not be confused with some kind of pet owners' club wherein certain advantages and amenities are available to the members.

For those of us who form the directorate of this Society, the very nature of our endeavours on behalf of animals, forces us to become beggars; in every issue of the Journal there is an appeal of some kind, we ask you and your friends to support our various fund-raising functions, we hold out the bowl of the mendicant on every possible occasion, and we go to the Government for grants. In short, we are pan-handlers.

Our motives for doing these things would be varied; for some it might be to enjoy the company of other animal lovers, some may find it a means of projecting their personalities, others undoubtedly have an inbuilt community spirit, and mayhap there are those who feel that before the final spark is extinguished, they can go out with the feeling that they may have achieved some little good for fellow living creatures. But that is by the way. The motives are of little account if the end result is worthy.

Therefore, we have to leave it with you, the member, to judge the worth of our cause and if you do not find it wanting, then we can but ask each of you to extract from his purse according to his means. By this we do not ask the widow for her mite or the person of lowly means to go short, but those among you who may have a little brass to spare, or goods for the opportunity shop, will be welcome as the prodigal. You will receive nothing in return, just the promise that whatever you give will be used in the best way possible to the benefit of dumb and unwanted animals.

It should also be pointed out that we of the Council do not ask of others what we are not prepared to give. Councillors are all honorary and do not enjoy any special favours or privileges. There are no directors' fees and Councillors give of their time and travel at their own expense to meetings and other business of the Society. Because the floor of our oldest ambulance is badly corroded from the urine of the many thousands of cats which have travelled within it, one Councillor is at present engaged in the onerous task of grinding off the corrosion and renewing the floor. Another has developed housemaid's hands all the way to the elbows from many week-ends of scrubbing and cleaning our Enmore headquarters. And so it goes. Thus we leave our case to rest with you, the member.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS: We now come to that part of the report whereby the State Council is pleased to take the opportunity to express their grateful thanks to all those good people who by their special support and endeavours, have helped make 1981-1982 a successful year in furthering the cause of dumb animals.

As a group, the Ladies Auxiliary rate special mention for their efforts with the Opportunity Shop in raising more than \$18,000 which equals their best year. Thank you also to those members, supporters, friends and well wishers, who by responding to the "Snappy Tom" label appeal helped raise something like \$2,000. Both the Umina/Woy Woy and Tuggerah Lakes/Wyong branches worked very hard as they always have and our special sympathy goes to Edith Duport, President of the Tuggerah branch, who, despite the sad loss of her husband, did not falter in her work for animals. A successful "Bingo" day which raised \$122 was organised at Enmore by Mr. and Mrs. Walsh and Miss Olive Graham. Other successful events at Enmore were the open day and the recent fashion and dress parade organised by Sybil Cozens, ably assisted by Jo Tomkin and other stalwarts of the auxiliary who provided afternoon tea etc. One of the most successful events which had the biggest roll-up, was the Open Day

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Continued)

and Cattery inspection at Mr. and Mrs. Siebert's residence. A sum of \$541.76 was raised from donations, sale of goods and tea, scones and bikkies from the refreshment tent. The day was a marvellous success and gave members the opportunity to observe the ideal conditions under which cats and kittens awaiting homes are housed. Several cats also found good homes on the day and all feline "inmates" appeared to enjoy the jollifications.

Many thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Siebert and Mrs. Stirton for giving over their home for the day and for planning and organising the event. Mrs. Cozens, Miss Tomkin, Miss Kensey and Miss Easton helped make it possible by managing the refreshments and the stalls. It is anticipated that there will be further open days to "view the cats". Thanks to all who helped count and bundle the "Snappy Tom" labels and in the matter of individuals, we cannot let this opportunity pass without a thank-you to Mrs. Francis who has been a constant supporter of our various functions and who has volunteered her helpful services on many occasions; Miss Daina Silins who is also a wonderful supporter and who, because of a recent sizeable donation, has joined the select band of Life Governors of the Society; Gordon Cozens, the senior though silent partner of the Cozens duo, who has travelled thousands of miles carting goods for the shop and spent many week-ends patching and repairing at Enmore. To all of the above we can only say, thank you for a job very well done and if by some mischance a name has been omitted from this list, it is entirely the fault of the Chairman and he apologises for it. Our thanks to all those nice people at Concord Animal Hospital for their co-operation and, finally, as President and Chairman, I would like to conclude by thanking our Secretary, Mrs. Pikler, and all members of the State Council, for the diligence they have shown in attending to their duties in administration of the Society and for the quality and logic of their debate at the Council table.

Bill Graham, State President & Chairman

1981-82 Annual Report on behalf of

State Council.

WOY WOY/UMINA BRANCH REPORT (81-82 OPERATIONS)

This has been a year of achievement, good public relations, goodwill and respect in the community. Our Committee consisted of: President, Kath Robinson, Vice President: Daisy Dyson, Hon. Secretary: Dorothy Haines, Hon Treasurer: Gwen Arnold, Hon. Asst.Treasurer: Doris Jackson, Committee: Glad Hagan, June Brown, Betty Muir, Maril Morgan, Mabel Rafe, Carrie Almond.

Welfare cases dealt with during the 81-82 period have been incorporated in the State Council's Annual Report, but it should be noted that cats and kittens sheltered at our homes have been kept to a minimum. The decision is to hold them a maximum 3 months.

FINANCE: We were successful again this year in receiving a grant of \$500 from Gosford City Council and we are grateful to C.P.S. State Council for sending us \$200 in connection with the "Snappy Tom" label collection. All in all our position is sound. Much of our solvency is due to the boundless enthusiasm and happy raffling of Mabel and Carrie, who supplement the raffled articles with an array of "goodies" which makes their stand a real honey pot.

THANKS: Are due to Sybil Cozens who never forgets us and our needs; Betty Scrivener, needlewoman par excellence, Alma Wilson and Ellice Johnstone for their wonderful raffling gifts; our hardworking Committee with grand assistance from Alma Wilson, Pat Hedge, Dorothy Cartwright and Dorothy Jeanes; our good friend and auditor, Mr. Wells of Umina; Doris Jackson, who for many years has tended the unwanted kittens that are brought to us; Angela Richardson, for volunteering with transport carrying out numerous emergency trips to vets in support of our faithful transport drivers, Lindy, John Rath and June. A tribute of thanks also for the indomitable Gwen and Betty. Each stall

WOY WOY/UMINA BRANCH REPORT (Continued)

these ladies runs displays a wealth of plants, shrubs and young trees which Gwen has raised.

Greetings to all others who in one way or another are still fighting the good fight - From Dorothy Haines, Woy Woy/Umina Honorary Secretary.

FUND RAISING JOTTINGS By Sybil Cozens

OLD DOLL: A very avid Bankstown worker gave the Society an old celluloid doll and our thanks go to her. The private collector who bought the antique china doll mentioned in the last journal, was so impressed she bought it on the spot, even though she does not normally collect celluloid dolls. This particular doll was in very good condition.

HOUSIE: Owing to the huge success of the Housie afternoon in March, the organisers, Miss Graham and Mr. & Mrs. Walsh, are planning another in July. Details 25th July, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, 2-4 p.m. The \$2 admission includes a book of 20 tickets. For reservations ring Miss Graham on 642-6463 by 21st July.

FASHION SHOW: Summer fashions will be paraded from "Moca International" presented by those dynamic girls, Maureen and Cynthia. Details: Saturday 18th September, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, 2 p.m. Admission is free but coffee and cake will be available at \$1 per head. There will also be a raffle. This is your big chance to complete your summer wardrobe at bargain prices. For reservations ring Sybil Cozens on 427-3828 after hours.

CATTERY INSPECTION: Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Siebert and their team of workers for a very successful day. Over \$500 was raised and 6 pussies found homes. Future such days are planned. Details following journals.

OPPORTUNITY SHOP: This financial year the shop eclipsed the wonderful first year takings when \$18,000 was taken. Thank you all for everything.

Some extracts from notes taken at Seminar held by JACOPIS Australia (Joint Advisory Committee on Pets in Society) at the R.S.P.C.A. Melbourne on 17th March, 1982.

Dr. Des. Hore, Director of Agriculture, Dept. of Agriculture, remarked that the legal status of cats is somewhat obscure and there is no Cat Act, but there are grounds for working towards a Companion Animals Act. We should concentrate on the benefits of cat ownership and stress that the ownership of animals involves responsibilities. It is only when these are abrogated that the consequences become apparent.

Dr. Mary Barton, Hon. Secretary of the A.V.A., said that there had been recognition over the last 10-15 years of man/animal companionship. Almost all the research done on this topic relates to dogs but some of the recent papers referred to cats. She said that the problem of stray cats had for too long been put in the "too hard basket" but that we now had the resources to handle it.

Paul Dahan, Councillor of South Melbourne Council and Chairman of the Working Party on Responsible Ownership of Domestic Pets, set up by the Victorian Municipal Association, is known as the "Cat Councillor" because of his efforts to do something about the stray cat problem. He asserted that the grass roots level should be with local Government. He said that if we turn a blind eye to the problem we are shirking our responsibility and that it is a mark of the standards of a Community how they treat their animals, and that if Communities do not show responsibility towards animals, ultimately there will be a day of reckoning, as with other aspects of Community life.

We should treat pets well and keep them in harmony with us. He pointed out that Councils have no general power to seize cats unless they are abandoned in which case they can destroy them. He says the legal status of cats is archaic and dates back to a law passed in 1632.

EXTRACTS (Continued)

Dr. Bruce Bennett, President of the Victorian Cat Protection Society, told the audience that we must stop comparing the cat problem with the dog problem. Few complaints are made to Councils about cats. These are: noise, odour, malnourished and ill cats. The problems are felt mostly by the cats themselves. What is the size of the problem? A survey claims that 800,000 cats are owned in Melbourne and 31% of people surveyed owned cats. Approx. 25% of cats in a population are strays; 60,000 were handled by animal societies in one year and there were about 1/4 million stray and unwanted cats in Melbourne.

How many cats are just fed and not claimed to be owned? This is the greatest source of stray cats in urban areas. Housing Commission properties - people should be able to keep a cat and the Commission could set conditions under which they may be kept. We have to demonstrate the benefits to the Housing Commission Minister.

Veterinarian, Dr. Daryl Hoffman, stated that veterinary surgeons have to educate people, and the schools must play a major role. Specific information will have its impact given sufficient time. There has been no contribution through legislation at all during the 13 years he has been practising. The C.P.S. has made a very significant impact on cat ownership. Their voucher system commits people who adopt cats to neuter them later on. This has been happening for a number of years and has produced a very good result.

Mr. Greg Brook reported on a survey conducted by the Petcare Information and Advisory Service: In this survey the people taking part were asked 70 questions. 81% owned neutered cats, 14% said they would let nature take its course. There is a hard core of irresponsible owners. 7% of people feel they have the right to dispose of their own cats, e.g. by drowning. 4% would turn kittens loose.

The Animal Welfare Committee of the Dept. of Agriculture in Victoria is doing a survey on the stray cat population. The overwhelming majority of people say cats should not be used in experiments. We have to minimise the problems - it is unrealistic to believe we can totally solve them.

Dr. Hugh Wirth, President of R.S.P.C.A. Victoria, stated that education, whilst it may be first and foremost, needs to be underpinned by legislation as well. Legislation is not only necessary to protect the animal, but also to protect the owner and the interests of the non animal owner in the Community. Every advance in animal welfare has only been gained by the animal welfare workers taking up single issue political action e.g. the issues of calf-roping and too many dogs being bred.

LEGISLATION WITH REGARD TO CATS: At present the cat is nothing more or less than a chattel. It is protected against cruelty by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Certain local Governments have enacted by-laws concerning cats. These are restricted to the number of cats per household that can be owned, and this is usually only invoked when there is a complaint from a neighbour.

The first option is to maintain the status quo. Some people say cats are only a problem in the rural areas. There are those who say we should do nothing in the legislative field because the problem is already being handled quite well by animal welfare societies. Others suggest that community education is all that is necessary to solve the problem. Dr. Wirth says that to do nothing suits vested interests who would see the cat better classified as vermin. There are pressure groups advocating that the cat is a blot on the community and should be exterminated.

The second option is really the other end of the "do nothing" one, i.e., to remove the Dog Act and replace it with a Companion Animals Act. Advocates of this suggest that all companion animals would be given legal status. Against this are those who say that this is not necessary and that the Dog Act is an unsuitable Act for a Companion Animals Act, as the enforcement of the Dog Act is already too difficult. But in advocating a Companion Animals Act, Dr. Wirth does not suggest that it should be a re-written Dog Act. He is talking about

EXTRACTS (Continued)

a radically new law that would clarify a whole range of issues of companion animals in the community i.e., their rights in the Community; compulsory neutering, financial reward for neutering; controls on pet owners, controls on pet shops, markets and back yard breeders.

Dr. Wirth suggested to the audience that they join him in a challenge to JACOPIS to go ahead right now and create (by various members meeting in Committee) a draft model Companion Animals Act. He said we should ignore all those who say it is impossible, and sit down and produce a draft for discussion purposes. It is by this means that many of these problems will suddenly be resolved and not in 20 years' time.

The third option is a middle of the road one - to look at the Dog Act as currently in force and change those sections seen to relate to cats to include the cats, and assist the Councils to alleviate some of their problems. The present Government's attitude to new animal welfare legislation is to consult as many community groups as possible.

Dr. Wirth stated that the R.S.P.C.A., A.V.A. and JACOPIS supported compulsory neutering of all animals not kept for breeding purposes. He said that every municipality must have provision for cats in their pounds. The R.S.P.C.A. and other animal welfare societies are bending the non-existent laws by accepting cats even though they have no legal right to do so. The qualifications for doing this are that:-

- (1) the cat is abandoned which is very difficult to prove.
- (2) the cat is a menace to human life
- (3) the cat is a menace to human's property
- (4) the cat is suffering

The R.S.P.C.A. in Victoria keeps stray cats which are in reasonable health for as long as the Dog Act suggests for dogs. Other animal welfare societies said they have varying holding times for strays.

Monash University uses 800 cats which they get from people who say they are the owners.

There are two or three Councils in Victoria who are prepared to take responsibility for the stray cat problem.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: Dr. Hogarth-Scott summed up the general recommendations:-

- (1) The meeting saw some merit in JACOPIS drafting a Companion Animals Bill.
- (2) The Committee needs to research into the control of stray cats when viewed against the normal cat background and the attitudes of people.
- (3) The stray cats - whose responsibility are they? - a Government Department's? (possibly Local Government should take responsibility for them). Make it a Government issue.
- (4) Funding. Some regular funding basis should be set up by the Government to make funds available for shelters as the animal welfare societies can do the job better provided they are given the funds to help them. Pounds and shelters should be available in the community for cats.

The proceedings of the Seminar will go to the Animal Welfare Council of the Department of Agriculture.

PETS IN SOCIETY

On Monday evening, 7th June, several members of Council attended a talk delivered by Dr. Jacob Mosier, President, American Veterinary Association. The section of the talk of most interest to our Society was "pets in society" in which Dr. Mosier spoke on the sad trend of big city living where pets are no longer tolerated or wanted. More and more often, large blocks of units and old folks' dwellings are being erected with the restriction that no pets are allowed on the premises. Little or no thought is given to the fact that very often a pet animal is an old or lonely person's only comfort and is also a means of such unfortunates being able to discard their own worries and loneliness by concentrating upon the companionship and welfare of a well-loved pet.

It is a sad reflection upon our quality of life that such trends should be so prevalent, for according to Dr. Mosier, statistics show that the elderly, ill, victims of heart disease and so on, who have a pet animal, tend to recover or live longer than those who are denied or without this comfort. Even longterm, violent gaol inmates have become far less aggressive and more amenable to the conditions of their surroundings when allowed to own and become attached to a pet.

The following anecdotes related by Dr. Mosier are perfect illustrations:-

In one particular American city a large building project was under way which was designed for elderly persons of little means. Prospective tenants were invited to submit their ideas on what conditions of tenancy should apply. One old lady wrote stating that if she were not allowed to bring her cat with her to the unit, she would prefer to go on living in a tent with the company of her cat. The reason she gave was poignant; her cat was the only living thing that had touched her or cared about her for the past 3 years.

In a gaol for the criminally insane a prisoner serving two life sentences, who was notorious for his sudden rages and extreme violence, became completely transformed when allowed the companionship of a pet hamster. When interviewed, this prisoner stated that prior to his friendship with "Franklin" (the hamster) he was prone to overturn the table in the prison cafeteria and hurl his chair through a window if the food displeased him. He also indulged in violent bashings of other prisoners and brawls with warders. He explained that as a lifer he had nothing to lose and could only be sentenced to solitary confinement. With the advent of "Franklin" all was changed. He became so attached to the little animal and concerned for its welfare that he avoided all infringements which would land him in solitary and thus separate him from "Franklin". Moreover, with the hollow clang of the cell door opening which heralded the appearance of a warder, there were now friendly exchanges regarding "Franklin's" welfare where once there had been hostile eyeball to eyeball confrontation between prisoner and gaoler. In this gaol prisoners and guards were both agreed that a more kindly and tolerant atmosphere prevailed since the introduction of pet animals. (Editor's note: might be something for Mr. Rex Jackson to consider).

At the time of writing we have been approached by a long time member on behalf of a hospital matron. The story is that there is a cat-in-residence at this hospital who daily makes the rounds of the patients, giving each an encouraging meow and receiving a friendly pat in return. The patients are delighted to have the company of this cat which is probably more beneficial to their recovery than the ministrations of the visiting medico. Now the heavy hand of bureaucracy has come down with a resounding wallop demanding that this delightful animal be got rid of. We have communicated with the Health Dept., pointing out that in many hospitals in America, England and recently in Victoria, pet animals are being introduced into certain medical establishments for their therapeutic and recovery value to both elderly and child patients who are in an after-care situation. We have appealed for a stay of execution for this cat, pointing out that if it is not already desexed we will see to it, and that if desexed it will not proliferate and is unlikely to attract other cats to the hospital. (Editor's note: might be something for Mr. Laurie Brereton to mull over).

MEMORY LANE

A donation in memory of "Portia" - Inserted by G.M. Wooster.

A donation to the memory of my wonderful, dramatic, demanding but extremely loyal, "Henry Morgan", who died peacefully on 23.2.82, aged approx. 13 years. Now resting in the garden he knew so well. A faithful companion for 12 years, who I loved dearly and will never forget. Sadly missed, but with many happy and often hilarious memories. Big, black and beautiful. Rest in peace, old friend. You were one in a million!

Inserted by Dell Callinan

A donation in dear memory of "Beau Royal", my lovely Siamese.

Inserted by Stella Kelly

A donation in loving memory of "Tammy Wilson", killed on the road on 12.10.81 in the prime of life and the pink of health, not quite 6 years old. Much loved and terribly missed by her "aunties", neighbours and all the little children she kept company each morning while waiting for their school bus outside her home.

Inserted by Miss M. Wilson

A donation for the ambulance in memory of my darling "Sugar". Quiet Peace. 1976. Aged 17 years.

Inserted by C. Gordon

Remembering "Nicky" and "Rusty", both 14 years old. Always in our hearts.

Inserted by Eric & Dorothy Haines

IN MEMORIAM

A donation in lieu of flowers in memory of Miss Vicki Whyte.

Inserted by "Ro-sie"

In memory of Bert Duport, husband of Edith Duport, passed away April, 1982.

Inserted by State Council

A donation in memory of Helen Tyes.

Inserted by Mrs. P. Healey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,

I have had so much pleasure in reading the "letters" from other animal lovers that I would like to submit one of my own. It again might encourage someone else to keep fighting to help and protect.

In my day to day living I run the Feline Club at work after having to fork out so much on my own in order to give vet.treatment to abandoned furries before they could be placed, as well as dogs and needing help. We try in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

our small way to help too and indeed, last Xmas managed a small donation from the Club too.

So many times I have needed help and it is your and now my Society, that came to my aid and I am eternally grateful.

My 4 furries are just 4 lucky ones... there are so many out there without a chance... but it is good to hear of some that have been saved in order to encourage others to realise how difficult the situation is.

My heart will always break when finally I have to call for help as I know it generally means having them put to sleep, but I will always try to find homes however impossible it seems. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely Dee James

Dear Mr. Graham

I would refer to the statement in a recent C.P.S. Journal that Con Stan Products have not been tested on animals. I think I should point out that cosmetic testing is an extremely complex subject and apart from the fact that many manufacturing firms are not able to confirm whether or not the raw ingredients have been tested on animals, a number of firms can claim that they do not test on animals themselves while, in fact, their products are sent out for testing in other laboratories.

I enclose for your information a letter we received from Mr. Mulford J. Nobbs, President of Con-Stan Industries. We were not satisfied with this reply and are not able to include Con Stan Products on our "what price vanity" list of Cruelty-free products.

I shall be happy to send you our most up-to-date list of cruelty free products which have been thoroughly investigated by Beauty Without Cruelty in Queensland.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Ahlston
President, Australian Association
for Humane Research.

Dear Sir,

Recently a friend passed on your Journal to me. I would like to congratulate you on the work you are doing for cats - I am enclosing cheque to join the C.P.S. - I do take exception to your criticism of the A.W.L. I was a foundation member and worked with them for 20 years, 18 of which as President of the Ladies Auxiliary, so I am not speaking without knowledge --- you are only concerned with cats, whereas the A.W.L. is greatly concerned with all animals. Our inspector, Mr. Mole, never left an animal to die, he took up floors, took out backs of chimneys, crawled under buildings and it was usually cats he did this for. Many times I have been in the office and have been asked for help for cats and have been told they could not get it from the C.P.S.

We are all doing what we can to help animals and in my opinion it is in bad taste and quite unfair to criticise any other organisation whose aim it is to help all animals. I would be glad if you could correct the impression you have given.

Miss L. Hamilton-Smith.

(To correct one impression; although primarily, our main concern is for cats, our policy on animal welfare is that no animal in distress will be passed up by our ambulance service. (See "animal welfare jottings" earlier editions of Journal). To correct another; it is recognised that very many sincere and dedicated people work for the various animal welfare organisations, e.g.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

Miss Hamilton-Smith and Mr. Mole, and no criticism was intended for such as they. However, in the day-to-day running of our organisation certain events occur which do lead to dissatisfactions on, let us say, an administrative level. At the time of writing, efforts are in train to meet with the A.W.L. in the hope that those differences can be resolved. I would be delighted if the outcome is satisfactory and should then be pleased to make any further corrections that may be necessary. Thank you Miss Hamilton-Smith for your letter presenting the other side of the case and for joining us. The Ed.).

Dear Mr. Graham,

With reference to your Editorial in the March issue. I feel compelled to protest your disparaging references to the A.W.L. and the R.S.P.C.A. I have no affiliations with A.W.L., although I am a member of the R.S.P.C.A. However, I feel that this in no way influences my feelings regarding your remarks, for I am a staunch member of the C.P.S. and contribute to and work in the Opportunity Shop. I was extremely unhappy with the situation which arose prior to your election as President.

I have admired many of the innovations introduced by you since that time. The general public as a whole appears to have little knowledge and often very little interest, in the cruelty inflicted upon animals - both domestic and wild; therefore the minority who do care and belong to the various societies working for the better treatment of all animals and bird life, should support each other in their common aims. Because one society may not approach this work with the same priorities as another in no way detracts from the fact they are all working, to the best of their ability, to alleviate the suffering of all animals and it ill becomes any one of these societies to criticise the other. Rather save our criticism for those who contribute to that suffering through ignorance, thoughtlessness, avarice and downright sadism.

Until all societies with similar aims support each other and present a united front against the uncaring and unthinking, our cause will never gain strength but dissipate itself with inter-society wrangling.

Yours sincerely
Mrs. E. Wearden.

(Very fair comment! It must be pointed out that mixed with the criticism, appreciation was expressed for the good done by fellow societies and this reiterated at the meeting following the March Journal. With regard to the R.S.P.C.A. the main criticism was of that organisation's out-moded and impractical insistence that animals for collection be placed in wooden boxes. It was our contention that many animals were dumped because so often this requirement could not be fulfilled. Our information now is that shortly following the Editorial, the R.S.P.C.A. abandoned the demand for wooden boxes. This being the case, we wholeheartedly withdraw our criticism and congratulate the R.S.P.C.A. on their enlightened attitude in abandoning this outmoded policy.

Without wishing to infer that the Editorial in any way influenced the R.S.P.C.A.'s decision, it should be pointed out that criticism can often lead to a change for the better and could sometimes apply to ones' own organisation. In the case of the A.W.L. our complaint originally stemmed from a letter which we directed to them more than a year ago, wherein it was alleged by us that certain treatment of animals within their own organisation was, in our opinion, inhumane.

We still await satisfaction regarding this matter. It could perhaps be argued by the above two contributors that the method of approach as expressed in the Editorial was not in the best interests. Without entirely agreeing, I respect the right of all contributors to express their views in these pages and thus accept the reproaches of both ladies, which I know were delivered in good faith. The Ed.)

P.S. See Editorial!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

Dear Mr. Graham,

I have just finished reading the latest Journal and felt I must comment on your Editorial. I believe you are on the right track about "greater public awareness, tougher laws covering desexing etc."

I wrote to Mr. Rex Jackson when he said compulsory desexing and stricter laws should be in practice, I asked him to please stick to his guns and see that these things do happen, but as usual all the ballyhoo has died down and I've heard no more. When will the stupid powers that be, wake up to the fact that the passing of a simple law of compulsory desexing for all pets, excluding registered inspected breeding places, where genuine people could obtain a wanted pet, would put an end to the suffering of animals and the ever increasing expenses involved in trying to help them.

I'm sorry to bend your ear like this, but it makes me fume when other laws can be passed when it suits, yet this paramount solution to such an important issue gets pushed aside. Thank you for caring and producing such a fine Journal and would you please pass on my cheque to the Secretary.

Regards - Mrs. L. Harrington

(Thank you Mrs. Harrington, we are generally of your agreement. Thank you also for your kind remarks re Editorial and Journal; I was beginning to feel a bit lonely. The Ed.).

From Daina Silins we received a poetic contribution (a good one) composed by that inveterate writer of verse, song and story; "Anon": Dear Bill - a lady sent me a sad poem about a sad dog. The same could be said about a cat by choosing different words.

The meaning is the same; Here it goes:

With Love from a Lonely Dog

I wish someone would tell me, What it is that I've done wrong,
Why do I have to stay chained up, and left alone so long?
They seemed so glad to have me, when I came here as a pup;
There were so many things we'd do, when I was growing up.
The master said he'd train me, as a companion and a friend;
The mistress said she'd never fear to be alone again,
The children said they'd feed me, and brush me every day;
They'd play with me and walk me, If I would only stay.
But now the Master hasn't time, the Mistress says I shed;
She doesn't want me in the house, not even to be fed.
The children never walk me, they always say: "not now",
I wish that I could please them, won't someone tell me how?
All I had you see was love, I wish they would explain;
Why they said they wanted mine, then left it on a chain.

From "The Katherine Advertiser" Northern Territory.

Regards Daina

EDITORIAL

Seven or eight years ago, when, in what I have often looked back upon as a moment of aberration, I accepted a nomination from the floor and was duly elected to the Committee, I had not by the wildest stretch of imagination, considered it possible that I would still be around several years later, much less President and Chairman of the organisation.

A tyro in the realm of animal welfare, I had no conception of what was involved, the problems and complications which lay ahead and the battles which would have to be waged and are still being waged, to better the lot of not just cats, but all dumb animals. Many times during the long apprenticeship spent gaining a modicum of knowledge on what it was all about, I have felt like chucking it in

EDITORIAL (Continued)

and returning to being just a person whose interest in animal welfare extends little beyond enjoying the quiet companionship of one's own animals.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending upon the point of view, whenever I have felt this way, I have considered the fortitude and quiet determination of the many, very worthy people I have come to know, who, without quibble or complaint, continue to give of their best because of their belief that animals need friends, and have thus felt impelled to continue a little further along the way with them. Then there are the extraordinary issues which crop up outside the run of normal events which though they centre around animals, have more to do with injustices perpetrated against their owners. These, one becomes immersed in and thoughts of quietly retiring from the fray are momentarily forgotten.

One such issue was the "Wearne Case" where, by manipulating what they saw as loop-holes in the law, certain parties attempted to separate the Wearnes from their pet cats. With help from our solicitor, justice triumphed in the end and the Wearnes, happily, were freed from further worry.

The latest issue which is occupying our attention and which at the time of writing has yet to be resolved, is what might be termed "The Lord Howe Island Affair". Around the middle of May, a communication was received by us from a resident of the island requesting our help in protesting the administration board's decision to ban domestic cats from the island. Attached to the letter was a petition signed by the island's cat owners, who we are informed, form a majority of the residents.

Apparently, the trouble stems from the age old "cat versus bird" controversy and as spokesman for the cat group, the writer pointed out that rats constituted the greater threat by eating the birds' eggs, whereas the cats were instrumental in keeping down the rats. A gentleman who is a resident of the island, phoned us to point out that the damage caused by the domestic cats was minimal compared to the depredations of the feral cats, and that there was no objection to the humane destruction of the feral or wild cats or to the compulsory desexing of the domestic cats.

Because in our opinion it is unthinkable that our fellow citizens on Lord Howe island, or anywhere else for that matter, should be denied the right to enjoy the companionship of a pet cat, we have taken up the cudgels. I have had a preliminary discussion with the Officer in Charge, Division of Animal Welfare and a lengthy submission has been forwarded to the Minister suggesting certain control conditions which may be acceptable in effecting a just and equitable solution.

In our submission to the Minister we included an edited version of Adlei Stephenson's 1949 speech to the U.S. Senate, when as Governor of Illinois, he vetoed what became famous throughout the country as the "Cat Bill". It was entitled "An Act to Provide Protection to Insectivorous Birds by Restraining Cats".

Adlei Stephenson's concluding words could well be applied to the present dispute on Lord Howe, they were; "I am afraid this bill could only create discord, recrimination and enmity.....We are all interested in protecting varieties of birds. That cats destroy some birds, I well know, but I believe this legislation would further but little the worthy cause to which its proponents give such unselfish effort. The problem of cat versus bird is as old as time. If we attempt to resolve it by legislation, who knows but what we may be called upon to take sides as well in the age old problem of dog versus cat, bird versus bird, or even bird versus worm.

For these reasons and not because I love birds the less or cats the more, I veto and withhold my approval for Senate Bill No. 93" - we wholeheartedly concur with Adlei Stephenson.

To say that the March Editorial aroused some comment would perhaps be an understatement. Two ladies, (whose letters appear in this Journal) have exercised their democratic right by taking the opportunity to give the Editor some curry for his criticism of certain other organisations. They both point

EDITORIAL (Continued)

out, quite sensibly, that we should all co-operate and not indulge in fallings out (or should that be falling outs?). The Editor does not disagree with their sentiments but wishes to point out that the human condition being what it is, incidents will always arise which cause resentments to smoulder and tempers to flare. Being but human and thus not perfect, our decisions on certain courses of action may not always be the correct ones. Our original dissatisfaction with the Animal Welfare League over a certain incident is not disputed by them. We felt and still feel, that our original complaint was justified. We felt that they failed to communicate properly with us on the matter and in turn and to be fair, the Editor could have employed a more diplomatic means of conveying his complaints to the League.

The ladies who wrote voicing their disquiet, should now be pleased to know that our Chief Welfare Officer and myself have met with the League's President and several key members of that organisation. We were received with courtesy and were given a fair hearing in airing our complaints. The matter originally in contention has been overcome and in the course of our discussions we were reassured to discover that in many areas our policies coincide, and where they do not, there are no grounds for dispute. It was mutually agreed that in future, when problems arise and I have no doubt they will - both parties shall be amenable to discussion. There should now be no reason to prevent future co-operation and mutual understanding of the problems which from time to time beset our respective organisations.

Before consigning this affair to the realm of matters past, I should like to remark that on leaving the meeting I had the feeling that as a gesture of good-will, I would like to have a kind word to say about the League. As it was I had nothing to seize upon which would not sound contrived or shallow. However, fate, as so often happens, has a remarkable way of providing the necessary. Within 24 hours an incident occurred which involved the League and which has had more to do with increasing my respect for that organisation and its personnel than anything which came out of the meeting.

I should like to record it here: Against the odds, I was in the office when a call came in from the Kings Cross Community Centre informing us that an elderly lady had died some days previously in Darlinghurst. Her cats were locked in the house and desperate attempts had been made to succour them. The Public Trustee had been notified but they were not prepared to open the house for several more days, the police had also refused to break open the premises. Eventually, the Animal Welfare League was contacted; they succeeded in persuading the police to open up the premises then fed the cats and as I understand it, took over the responsibility for their welfare.

That was a fine thing, so; thank you Animal Welfare League, our "gripe" is forgiven and forgotten. Sorry I trod on some of your corns.

Dr. Wirth, President of the Victorian branch of the R.S.P.C.A., and other speakers at a recent seminar held in that State, (see article this issue), appear to be almost unanimous in calling for a Companion Animals Act and for more local government participation in dealing with the stray animal problem. As Dr. Wirth stated, societies such as ours are forced to bend non-existing laws in the matter of collecting stray cats. In short, we have little protection under existing legislation and as those who attended our Extraordinary General Meeting held last March would be aware, a court action is pending against our Society which could be directly related to lack of such legislation.

The bare bones of the matter are that several months ago our welfare section responded to a request from a caller who complained that several stray tom cats were constantly causing much nuisance in and about her residence and were also harassing and causing distress to her own desexed pet cat. When the cat in question was trapped by our welfare officer it was identified by our client as one of the worst offenders. Considered an animal suitable for adoption, the cat was desexed by a qualified veterinary surgeon at the Society's expense, the intention being to house it at our Cattery until a suitable home could be found. Due to this cat being of the long haired variety, it was not discovered till after the operation that it wore a disc with telephone number engraved. Had our welfare personnel been lacking in ethics, it is possible

EDITORIAL (Continued)

that the cat may have been returned clandestinely and there the matter would probably have ended. However, in the event, the supposed owners were contacted, a full explanation of events given, the cat returned in the ambulance and personally handed over to the persons claiming ownership. Those persons have now filed a demand for \$20,000 claiming mental distress to themselves and for loss of the cat's potential as a stud. Court delays being what they are, it could be quite some time before the case is heard and in the meantime it is not pleasant to have such a Damoclean sword hanging over our Society's head.

If this case should reach the courts, it would be unique as far as I am aware, and could have serious consequences so far as the future operations of those organisations which engage in the collection/trapping of stray or wild animals; particularly cats.

All who share our concern with that which we see as the inadequacies in the current animal welfare laws will surely agree that there are points about this particular type of court action which should be brought to the attention of all animal welfare agencies, government departments responsible for animal welfare, and most appropriately, members of the Animal Welfare Advisory Board. Therefore, it is mainly with those who are in a position to amend or recommend the introduction of further animal welfare legislation that we address the following observations and remarks:

1. A Companion Animal Act could help prevent similar court actions which, if successful, could lead to a spate of claims from those with an eye to the main chance and which must inevitably lead to animal welfare organisations abandoning trapping stray animals. The financial risk would be too great for organisations which rely on charity to fund their operations and must shift the onus back on to local council or government institutions where many people already believe it should be.
2. A law making it compulsory to desex domestic pets would also help prevent such actions and would have the added benefits of significantly reducing the proliferation of stray and dumped animals and would certainly lessen the unwanted intrusions of such animals on persons wishing only to enjoy their privacy and peace of their own surroundings. (Consider, if the animal collected by our Society had been a dog there likely would be no case and surely that section of the Dog Act where owners are made responsible for maintaining control of their animals was so framed for the above reasons?)
3. For several years our, and other societies have been calling for such laws and have been met with the reply that it is an encroachment on civil liberties and that in any case they would be too difficult to enforce.

Our reply to that argument is that many laws presently in force could be so described e.g., the present State Government agonised for a long time over the seat belt issue for the same reasons, yet we are most of us wearing seat belts whenever we ride in a car, and if ever there was a law that infringes on individual freedom, that one does. The introduction of random breath testing is presently being agonised over yet we will wager here and now that one more holiday slaughter on the roads will see that law introduced.

4. The argument that a law for compulsory desexing of domestic pets would be too difficult to enforce could be applied to many of our laws that have been in force for generations yet nobody in their right mind would suggest that they should be abolished. It could fairly be said that the drug abuse laws are not, and cannot be, adequately enforced; we are constantly informed by the media that tremendous amounts of prohibited drugs illegally arrive or are manufactured in this country. There is a law against armed hold-up yet there are many persons daily practising

EDITORIAL (Continued)

that profes that profession. For many years S.P. betting has been
unlawful yet who can't get set if they wish to bet
that way?

Because it is difficult to enforce such laws we do not say let us abolish them. What we do maintain is that the law is the law and although it may not always work in the way we would wish, and may in some cases be well nigh unenforcable, it is our contention that the majority of citizens are law abiding and will comply with most laws that are in force. And therefore; so it will be that just as most people accepted the seat belt law, will undoubtedly accept random breath testing, do not drink and drive, do not engage in drug abuse or armed hold-up, so they will accept a Companion Animals Act and compulsory desexing of domestic pets.

We close this Editorial with the statement that if that which is proposed by Dr. Wirth and his associates is introduced into animal welfare legislation it must result in an easing (not a remedy) of the stray animal problem and would also give some protection to societies such as ours who, in reality, are shouldering a burden which rightfully should be borne by government bodies or local councils. A further point which even many of our members may not be aware is that a great deal of our work is carried out in gaols, hospitals both public and private, various public institutions and a great many people are referred to us by local councils who are unequipped or not prepared to handle the stray animal problems in their areas.

Significantly, no council has ever offered to defray part of the cost when passing the buck.

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THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS HAVE NOT BEEN TESTED ON ANIMALS

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OPPORTUNITY SHOP	PHONE 516 2072 9.30 - 4.30 week days 9.30 - 11.30 Saturdays
(Auxiliary (Fund Raising	PHONE 427 3828 MRS. COZENS (after hours)

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

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I/We apply for Membership or Renewal of Membership of the Society for the year
commencing June, 1982.

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