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JOURNAL

SPECIAL AUTUMN 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 Treasurer: Mrs. Judith Graham • Secretary: Mrs. Shirley Pikler

COUNCILLORS: Mrs. Leonore Bowman, Mrs. Sybil Cozens, Mrs. Kay Breen, Miss Denise Tierney,
Mr. Fred Meyers, Mr. Ronald Siebert.

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 7TH DAY OF MARCH, 1982, AT SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS, 103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE, COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M. (OPEN DAY AND REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW).

BUSINESS

1. Read and confirm Minutes of November, 1981, General Meeting.
2. Business arising.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. General Business.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of the member. A proxy need not be a member. All proxies must be in the 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.
P.O. 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**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

At the Extraordinary General Meeting held last November, it was suggested that consideration be given to holding all such meetings (with the exception of the Annual General Meeting) at our Enmore Headquarters. The reasons put forward by myself were; a more intimate and homely atmosphere would prevail, refreshments could be served combined with an "open day" whereby those attending could bring goods to the "Op Shop" or purchase same and, of course, it would give members the opportunity to see for themselves a close-up of our operations. It was further proposed that the meeting could be as brief as possible, thus allowing members to relax and enjoy the day in an informal way whilst questions on our activities and an inspection of the premises would be invited. As this proposal was greeted with general enthusiasm, it is therefore my pleasure to invite all interested to attend our E.G.M. and open day at Enmore on 7/3/82.

XMAS EMERGENCY SERVICE: During the Xmas period, extending between Xmas Eve and New Years Day, allowances had to be made for staff leave and a consequent cut-back on our Welfare Service. However, it was decided to keep at least one ambulance in service combined with persons to take emergency calls at our office during certain hours of the day (roughly between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.). An emergency roster, comprising several Councillors and one or two volunteers was organised as follows: Sunday 27th, Miss Tierney, Mr. & Mrs. Graham. Monday 28th, Miss Tierney, Mrs. Siebert, Mr. Graham. Tuesday 29th, Mrs. Pikler. Wednesday 30th, Mrs. Pikler and Mrs. Montgomery. Thursday, 31st, Mr. Meyers.

By this means we were able to handle most of the emergencies brought to our attention. In those cases where emergency attention was not required, we were able to advise or note the matter for the later attention of our Welfare staff. During the "off" hours our answering service advised callers where they could seek help. All in all, I think we managed to cover the situation reasonably well and I wish to especially thank 2 of our members, Miss Tierney and Mrs. Montgomery, for unselfishly giving up their time when most people were enjoying the pleasures of the holiday season. I also wish to thank Mrs. Francis who volunteered her services, but whom, in the event, we did not have to call upon.

SUBMISSION TO STATE GOVERNMENT:

At the time of writing, a submission is being prepared in the hope that we will receive a further grant from the N.S.W. State Government. Among the items put forward in this submission will be the urgent need for another large ambulance (thus freeing our smaller vehicle for volunteer emergency use), plus financial help with our running costs. We shall also be stressing - and we have the facts and figures to prove it - just how great is the community service we are providing.

"SNAPPY TOM" CATS OF AUSTRALIA APPEAL:

An approach has been made by Safcol to all State Cat Protection Societies in regard to the abovenamed promotion which, at the time of writing, was scheduled for approximately the middle of February. Basically, Safcol's campaign will be to utilise the media, chain stores etc., in organising a promotion wherein consumers will be asked to forward "Snappy Tom" labels to the various State Cat Protection Societies. The Societies will then be able to redeem the labels for a return of ten cents each. The benefits to our Society could be a return of several thousand dollars plus valuable media publicity. We are not being asked to endorse the product but will be given the opportunity to publicise our Society via T.V., National magazines etc.

In order to induce consumers to send in the labels, prizes consisting of interstate holidays are to be offered (by Safcol) and it will be stressed that those participating will be helping a very worthwhile animal charity. Naturally a tremendous amount of work will be involved in opening all the envelopes during the promotion, which is estimated to cover a period of eight weeks. However, the effort could be well worthwhile.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT'D)

Hoping to see you at the E.G.M. and open day. All welcome.

Bill Graham
State President

FUND RAISING JOTTINGS

By Sybil Cozens

I thought you might be interested to hear how the shop is progressing. Jo Tomkin, auxiliary treasurer, reports that since 1st June, 1981, earnings have been \$10,290. This is all due to the ladies who work in the shop and all those kind folk who donated the goods. I think that's tremendous.

TEA LABELS:

Mrs. Harvey collected 1100 recently which were redeemed for a pyrex baking dish, a set of sherry, liqueur and wine glasses, plus a set of beer glasses. The manageress of Lan Choo was interested in our cause and donated further goods. So, keep sending labels to Mrs. Harvey.

MATERIALS FOR APRONS:

There is a very energetic lady in Bankstown who would like some cotton pieces to make up. If you have anything please call me or leave them at the shop for my attention. Wool also. Stocks are low and we need more for the coming winter season.

ANTIQUUE DOLLS:

One of our Pittwater Flora & Fauna members gave us an old doll recently (as well as 200 books) and through the efforts of my sister-in-law, we received \$200 for it as it was a collector's item. There's a lot of money in old dolls in fair condition - so, if you have an old doll in the attic you don't want, please remember the C.P.S.

CON STAN PRODUCTS

Skin care and make-up, vitamins and minerals. Household cleaning products. These products are organic and free from being animal tested. Mrs. Lee Shields-Rossit would like to hear from anyone interested to organise a demonstration party to promote the sale of these goods. 10% is earned for sales made. Mrs. Shields-Rossit can be contacted on 399-6722.

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 7th MARCH, 2.00 - 5.00 P.M.

Members of the ladies auxiliary committee have agreed to hostess the open afternoon which follows the Extraordinary General Meeting on this date. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served and the shop will be manned for a short time for the sale of goods. I will be on the premises from 1.00 p.m. to receive any goods for the shop, or aluminium cans, brass and copper for the metal bin and rags for the rag appeal.

HOUSIE SUNDAY 28th MARCH, 1982, 2.00 - 4.00 P.M.

Miss Olive Graham and Mr. & Mrs. Walsh have arranged a housie afternoon in the Council Room at Enmore on this date to aid the Cats' Home Appeal. Entrance; \$2 includes a book of 20 tickets. Prizes; assorted. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served. Reservations; Miss Graham on 642 6463 by 25th March. Members of the ladies auxiliary committee will open the shop at 4.00 p.m., for a short time for the purchase of the many bargains available. I will be on hand to answer any enquiries, receive goods or to show anyone around.

FUND RAISING JOTTINGS (CONT'D)

CATTERY INSPECTION SUNDAY 18th APRIL, 1982, 2.00 - 5.00 P.M.

Mr. & Mrs. Siebert are opening their cattery to enable members to see how our "homes for cats" operation works. (If you want a cat this is the day to get one).

The address is: 24 Croydon Road, Croydon. Very near Croydon railway station.

There will be a cake stall and a trading table of handcrafts. Afternoon tea and coffee will be served. If anyone would like to make a cake or do a piece of handwork for this function please ring me after hours on 427-3828. Also please let me know if you are coming - for catering requirements.

Ladies of the auxiliary will be helping on the stalls and serving the afternoon tea. Please do not ring Mrs. Siebert.

SOME WELFARE HAPPENINGS:

By Sandra Siebert

A call for help received from a woman in Dulwich Hill at 6.30 a.m.. Arrived 9.10 a.m.. In an upstairs flat I was shown a cat which had been run over 7 days previously. As the owner was a pensioner and had little money, she had been attempting to treat the cat herself. This poor animal was lying on a bed and had been there since receiving its injuries. It was in a dreadful condition with a broken jaw and I would think, quite a few internal injuries. It screamed when I picked it up. The woman was very upset and spoke very little English, so it took some getting through to her what must be done. I had this unfortunate animal humanely destroyed approximately 10.45 a.m.

Sunday 27th November. Information received re injured cat in Croydon. I called that day and on the Monday but found no sign. Returned on the Wednesday and after a little snooping around discovered the house where the cat was supposed to belong. On entering, I approached a foreign "gentleman" whose grasp of English was negligible. The cat came when called, a lovely, undesexed, black and white male of about 9 months old. It was extremely lovable and friendly. My examination revealed that both left legs were broken and there were cuts and lacerations all over its body. The worst wound was an untreated ulcer on the neck which penetrated to a depth of approximately 1½ inches. When I asked the man how long his cat had been in that condition, his reply was "many, many time, long time". Again it was very hard to make him understand that the cat should have had veterinary treatment and that I was taking it away and it would not be coming back. His main concern was that it wouldn't cost him anything. Cat destroyed.

Called 8.00 a.m. at nursing home at Belmore. Had been trapping there for about 2 weeks. On the 24th September, a neighbour was seen to shoot one of the pregnant cats which I had been trying to catch. A nursing sister called the R.S.P.C.A. and an inspector arrived but, as the cat was wild and badly injured, he couldn't catch it. Though there were witnesses, the man who did the shooting, of course, denied it.

It was eventually assumed that the cat had died but on the following Friday Sister K---- rang me to say that she had caught the cat which had been shot. This cat was shot through the hips and was paralyzed. She had also excreted all over herself. Worse, she had given birth to her kittens underneath the hospital sometime during the week and no one could get to them. We held a round-table discussion and decided we couldn't let her go to the kittens as she was in great pain and kept clawing the trap and crying. Unfortunately, the tiny kittens would take several days to die. I searched the hospital gardens in an effort to find a way underneath, but there was none.

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I left my home number in case anyone could locate the kittens over the long weekend. The staff heard them crying consistently during the night but no way could be found to where they were hidden. Sadly, there was never any way to help them. When the mother cat was destroyed, veterinary examination proved she had been shot.

(Editor's note: We regret that some members may be shocked by the events described above, but we make no apology for printing them. We want it known just what is entailed in our work; the kind of person with whom we often have to deal; the seamy, sleazy cruelty and the uncaring callousness which we are attempting to combat. To those who are at times eager to criticize, we would say this: Please ask of yourself, what would be your reactions if called upon to deal with any of the above? Therein perhaps lies the reason for our respect for those who engage upon such welfare work, for only a true love of animals could impel them to constantly face such tasks).

MEMORY LANE

In loving memory of our darling "Mark", put to sleep aged 13½ years and resting in the garden he loved so much. A faithful and loving companion who will never be forgotten by all who loved him.

Inserted by Enid Brown.

In loving memory of two beautiful Siamese cats that gave their owners such great joy and happiness. "Samantha" Tuchen and "Whizz" McMahon.

Inserted by Mrs. M. Tuchen

In loving memory of my two dear little friends, "Talc and Soot", whose devotion and trust I shall never forget, especially during our many travels.

Inserted by Betty Scrivener

In loving memory of all my cats.

Inserted by Mrs. P. Hetherington

A donation in memory of my friend "Tibbins". Put to sleep to end her sufferings from a tumour on 31/10/81, at age 20 years. Her companionship will always be gratefully remembered.

Inserted by Miss M. Norris.

IN MEMORIAM

A donation in lieu of flowers in memory of Mr. W. Smith.

Inserted by Mrs. L. Bowman & Mr. B. Hollingsworth

A donation in lieu of flowers in memory of Mr. W. Smith. "Vale Bill".

Inserted by Beulah Harvey

IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)

A donation in lieu of flowers in memory of Miss Merle Napier.

Inserted by Mrs. B. Robinson



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.

EDITORIAL

A little while ago, I was approached by our Chief Welfare Officer with the proposal that I might be interested in providing a home for another cat, in this instance a pure-bred Abyssinian. I pointed out that we really did not have room for another cat and that if we did, the vacancy would have to be filled by a common or garden alley mog, for they are the most desperate. After all, one would imagine, exotic, pure-breds should be easily placed and no doubt very few such were seeking homes. Not so, as I was to find out when Sandra enlightened me on the subject. This particular cat had been originally sold, undesexed, by an irresponsible breeder as not up to show standard, to a person who, when it became pregnant, had no further use for it. Thus the problem, as so often happens, was dumped in the lap of our welfare section.

On further enquiring into this problem of unthinking, irresponsible breeders of "exotics", I was disconcerted to learn that this uncaring attitude is not uncommon among the "fancy", as members of breeders' clubs are sometimes labelled. Naturally, the "seconds" that they reject for breeding or showing get first preference for homes and this adds to the already overburdened cat population.

This is evidenced by the fact that very many of the enquirers responding to our "ads" ask for Persians, Siamese, Burmese and the like. This situation, brought about by persons, (often back-yard breeders) of execrable conscience, renders our task well nigh impossible. For sheer gall, effrontery, dishonesty of purpose and total lack of intelligence or feeling, the following incident perhaps best illustrates what I am saying:

Some time ago, our Chief Welfare Officer was invited to address a meeting of a certain breeders' club. During her talk she stressed the importance of ensuring that all "rejects" or cats bred for sale, are desexed or, in the case of kittens, buyers sign a declaration that this will be done when the kitten attains the proper age. She further appealed to the meeting that they take the trouble to see to it that all cats went to suitable and responsible owners, for as she pointed out, our Society was forced to destroy very many cats who would otherwise have found good homes if it were not for the utter thoughtlessness of some breeders. For her pains she was roundly

EDITORIAL (CONT'D)

heckled, even accused of callousness in the matter of putting down animals. All this amidst earnest and vociferous denials of thoughtlessness and righteous assurances that their cats all went to good homes and of course were desexed.

The denouement was not long in coming. Very shortly following this event, a call begging for help was received by our welfare section from none other than one of the breeders who had been among the most vocal and aggressive at that meeting. This "lady", if one should so dignify her, had, on a whim, decided to switch to breeding Himalayans and therefore had no further use for her stock of Persians. Could we find homes for them? An inspection by our welfare officers revealed that the unfortunate Persians were suffering from an infestation of fleas, badly afflicted with ear mites and their fur was badly matted and tangled. Their overall general condition was very poor. On being informed that largely because of her lack of care for her animals they would very likely have to be destroyed, this "back-yard" breeder gave an emotional display of wailing and weeping but could offer no other solution to the problem she herself had created. So much for this wretched woman but what of the unfortunate cats? In the event, after going to a great deal of trouble in caring for them, our chief welfare officer managed to secure good homes for 2. Unhappily, the remainder could not be placed.

A further problem, often encountered, is the idiot who seeks our help in desexing their female cat and then asks us to take away the kittens to which the cat has recently given birth. When asked why they allowed it to happen, the usual reply is that they thought it would be good for the cat. Others just hoped that somehow it would never happen.

Many problems come to us directly or indirectly from other animal welfare organisations. There was the person, a branch President of the Animal Welfare League no less, who called on us for assistance. It seems she had over-run her residence with unwanted cats and dogs and was in a hopeless quandary. When questioned as to why her own organisation could not provide assistance, her lame explanation was that they were full up and as they did not put down excess animals, it was suggested that we bear the brunt. We did of course. Not for the sake of this foolish woman, but for the animals.

I make no apology for revealing here that many, many cases are referred to us by the Animal Welfare League and the R.S.P.C.A. Why should this be so? Frankly, I believe it is because the type of service they provide in the grass-roots situation we are involved with, is totally inadequate to the need. Example: Over the Xmas period when I took a turn on the emergency service, a great many calls were received from persons living in distant suburbs. We would explain to them that they might try calling the R.S.P.C.A. or Animal Welfare League. The reply, invariably, was that they had already tried. The answer from the League apparently was that they were full up and the situation with the R.S.P.C.A. is that they will only call on certain days of the week and then only on the condition that the cats are secured in a wooden box. They certainly will not go to the trouble of catching or trapping the animals. One very distressed lady recently rang to inform us that a badly injured cat was in great pain on her front lawn. She had tried the R.S.P.C.A. but as it was a far northern suburb, they claimed it was too far to travel.

Now it seems to me that despite its fine claims of having the largest membership, its animal refuges etc., the Animal Welfare League is little more than an ostrich with its head embedded firmly in the sand. Pontius Pilate would have little on them if he were around today. When they're full up, the bubble bursts! As for the R.S.P.C.A., apart from their very worthy efforts regarding the transport of horses to Japan and other large issues, when it comes to the grass-roots, they can't or won't get off their butts. Because of the negative thinking of the above named titans of the animal welfare world, it is our belief that many animals are dumped because of the restrictions that are applied when people seek their aid. Our Society could be described as but middling in size if one compares membership and financial resources, but when it comes to effective handling in the manner of

collecting stray and unwanted cats, then we leave those others wallowing in our wake. It is appreciated that the organisations mentioned are generally fine and worthy in many ways, but should they wish to dispute the statements here raised, I am prepared to debate the matter with them at any time.

It is our desire that members should be made fully aware of the fact that we are forced to destroy many cats. Thousands each year. Those that we put down are, in the main, absolutely unplaceable. Wild, diseased, injured, aged or sickly. And the inescapable fact is, there are comparatively very few good homes available. Would you give a cat to a person wishing to exchange a black one for a white one? Or one to a person wanting to hand in her cat because she decided she preferred "fluffy" ones and therefore wished to exchange for a Persian? These were just two of the responses to our weekly advertisements. We could possibly place many more than we do, but we are very particular as to whom we will let have a cat.

When the time does eventually arrive when we have our own cat refuge, members must be made aware that when it is full, and that would not be long, the excess cat problem will still be just as acute. Until there is much greater public awareness, tougher laws covering desexing and irresponsible breeders, more responsibility taught in schools, the problem will not disappear of itself.

Our Society does its best but we can only cover a small portion of the whole. There are times when one is tempted to give up in despair, for so great and overwhelming is the problem. We would like to see the "back-yard" breeder totally eliminated by the introduction of very steep licence fees combined with frequent and stringent inspections of their premises. Many pet shops and the market vendors of kittens should come under very strict scrutiny and should be similarly dealt with. (A complaint has been filed against one market vendor who has been signing inoculation certificates given to him by an unscrupulous vet). How many pet shop proprietors care or enquire as to the type of person purchasing pups or kittens? And if anything sensible is ever to be done about the exploding cat population, then it must be compulsory for all domestic cats to be desexed. Until such time as these things are done, societies such as ours will be forced to go on destroying thousands of animals.

Another matter members should be aware of is our policy in regard to collecting cats on request or those that are handed in. When persons surrender cats to our welfare personnel, it is explained to them that the probability of finding a home is very small. However, if the animal is at all placeable we do our best to secure a good home for it. No follow up is permissible and no further correspondence will be entered into once the animal is surrendered. There are occasions where people are reluctant to accept these conditions and subsequently change their minds about handing over the animal. Usually, within a fortnight, they call back exhorting us to take the animal for their efforts to find a home invariably end in failure.

Members and the public are once again reminded that no welfare calls will be accepted on private numbers. Persons seeking assistance must call 51-1011. If on answering service, give your name and phone number and our welfare personnel will get back to you as soon as practicable.

So there it is, laid right on the line. If anyone has a better solution we should be glad to hear from them or indeed, if they feel they can do the job better, I'll move over any time. It's a rotten job.

Oh yes, about the little red Abyssinian. "Elsa" is living with us and is doing fine since her abortion and desexing. Can't say "Yum-Yum", "Tosca" or "Mang" were altogether pleased. In fact "Tosca" took to roosting in the huge jacaranda in our front garden and would only come down for meals. However, as I write, they are all keeping me company on the verandah, waiting companionably for their dinner.

The Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Mr. Graham,

I am enclosing a cheque as a donation to the Society in memory of our beloved cat "Mark" who was put to sleep on December 21st, aged 13½ years. He was attacked by a dog and injured so badly the vet was unable to save him. My brother and I are absolutely heartbroken at losing him and our Christmas was very sad without him. We had loved and looked after him since he wandered into our home as a tiny kitten in 1968. He repaid us by being our faithful and loving companion ever since.

We have 3 other cats, all strays and equally well loved but losing "Mark" is a tragedy to us. If people would only obey the law and keep their dogs under control, this would never have happened.

Many thanks for your wonderful Society and may you continue your good work for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Enid Brown.

(Thank you, Miss Brown. We were sorry to hear about "Mark's" sad end. The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham,

I am a life member and I felt I had to write and say what wonderful people you are on your committee, especially the volunteer helpers you have working for you.

Unfortunately, owing to a health problem, I would love to do more for you but I feel that if I send the occasional donation, I am playing some small part in your organisation.

Mrs. M. Tuchen

Dear Cat Protection Society,

I have got a poem for you, it's called "Faith My Cat".

Faith, my cat, lies in the sun, sun-dappled, sleepy eyed.
Her golden fur is soft and warm, and I cannot wake her
though I've tried.

Faith, my cat, lies dreaming of elusive birds to chase,
Of gentle hands to stroke her head, curled up alone in her
secret place.

Faith, my cat, is fast asleep, under the lilac bush on the grass.
No one can wake her from her dreams, not even the sparrows
that pass.

Faith, my cat, will go on sleeping. Until the sun fades away,
And the evening breezes are blowing, then Faith will come
home to stay.

Faith, my cat, will curl up on my lap next to the fire.
I'll stroke her gently, while slowly she'll yawn and tire.
Faith, my cat, will get sleeping again, for she's as lazy
as a cat can be!

But I'll hold her gently to my side, we're good friends,
Faith and me.

By Sarah Hope

(Sarah Hope is one of our junior members, of whom we have too few. Thank you Sarah. The Ed.)

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to receive the latest journal. I always enjoy reading its contents and it is gratifying to know that there is a group of people that share the same love and concern for animals as I do, especially since I work in a large office and there seems very few people that are concerned with the neglect and agony of animals.

Although not one of the prominent members, I try very hard to collect unwanted goods for the "Op" shop. So far I've managed to deliver every couple of months a few boxes of goods. It seems that a lot of people have a selfish attitude of preferring to throw their goods on the tip rather than give to a charity, which I find disturbing.

I feel I must comment on that section in the journal relating to the selfish member who said, "They've got plenty, I've seen the balance sheet", as ungrateful and disgusting. I do not share that attitude and as far as I am concerned, every member should contribute, if only in a small way.

A few fellow workers' cats recently had unwanted kittens. After they realised how difficult it was to place them I gave them the C.P.S. number and recommended they desex their cats and donate goods - which they did when the ambulance called. One lady requiring a cat called the C.P.S. and collected both mother and daughter cats, giving them an excellent home.

On my way to work last month I found a litter of very tiny kittens dumped amongst rubbish. Three were dead while of the 2 survivors, one had been stabbed and had a broken leg. My local vet said there was nothing he could do except put her to sleep. I still have the lone survivor. After unsuccessfully trying to place him in a home, we adopted him, making our total 4 cats - all desexed.

Yours sincerely,
Denise Tierney

(This young lady so impressed with her genuineness with the result that she has now been appointed to the Council. The Ed.)

Dear Editor,

Mine is the simple story of 2 cats - the latest addition to my "pussy family" and my first. The only thing they have in common is that they were both dumped. The latest, "Scottie", is a beautiful tabby and white part Persian, whom an officer of the C.P.S. rescued from a park in Manly. He has won a number of ribbons in shows and is much admired. He is no angel and likes to chew everything in sight, including me, but is much loved. Several people have expressed a desire to own him and have offered to buy him but, of course, he is not for sale. Nevertheless, his beauty didn't save him from being thrown out when he was a very lovely kitten.

My first cat was a large, ginger, feral tom, which I acquired when I was 3 years old. For months he had lived in the bush at Woonside where we then lived. He was very wild and considered to be very vicious and nobody could get near him. Imagine my mother's consternation when she discovered her offspring walking up the front path with him in her arms!

While we lived in that cottage, "Tommy" became part of our family and a docile pet. Unfortunately, on the day we moved away he was nowhere to be found. I was heartbroken but my uncle promised to find him and bring him down to us. But, with his young friend gone, "Tommy" went bush again and once more no one could get near him.

It is my belief that given a fair go, almost any animal will become a loveable, household pet.

Sincerely yours,
Olive Graham

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The Editor, Dear Sir,

These are my recollections of "Tibbins". One day in October, 1962, Mr. & Mrs. Versyden went for a walk. On the Cammeray golf course they found an injured cat with 3 dead kittens with her. They took the cat to the vet's to have her injuries treated and to have her desexed. She had 16 stitches in her back and some in her head and had 2 teeth removed.

Mr. & Mrs. Versyden decided to keep her. They called her "Tibbins". Mrs. Versyden had to feed her every 30 minutes a little warm milk as "Tibbins" was very thin. Through love and kindness she became very fond of them. When they decided to return to Holland, she shared the life of Miss Munro, who gave her another good home for 4 years.

When I first came to live in Cammeray "Tibbins" was living next door. Neither of us thought we'd become great mates. When Miss Munro sold her house a year later, she gave "Tibbins" to me to mind until she could find her a home. When she couldn't I asked if I could have her. The first few weeks she was homesick and treated me with suspicion. But she soon settled down and became very quiet and relaxed. She even overcame her fear of men and towels, which may have been connected with the unpleasant experiences of her earlier life. When she was more confident in my company, she became quite playful. She loved chasing a screwed up piece of paper around the floor, preferring simple things to my more expensive offerings. When I came home from work each day I was assured of a warm welcome. She would always be waiting expectantly on the back steps for my arrival.

"Tibbins" had a gentle, effective way of telling me she was "hungry", by sitting by the 'fridge and licking her top lip, or by giving voice to a plaintive meow. I used to board her at the vet's when I went on holidays, which she intensely disliked. Once she gave me a feeling of guilt by her obvious reluctance to part from me, her eyes expressing such sorrow that it seemed to me she was fighting back tears. When I returned and had brought her home, she hid under the bed for about an hour, then at last emerging, she explored my flat as though for the first time. After she had settled down she went out into the garden, returning at intervals to assure herself that I had not again deserted her.

Even though "Tibbins" was afflicted with a heart murmur and a kidney ailment, she was still going strong until February, 1981, when a stroke led to a temporary loss of her usual vigour. Much to my relief she recovered almost completely, the remaining mark of her illness being a slight tilting of her head and occasional shakiness in her legs.

In October she lost her appetite, wasting into a shadow of her former self. The vet diagnosed a malignant tumour on the left side of her nose, which was inoperable. I was with her when she was put to sleep and her ashes are in the R.S.P.C.A. Crematorium at Yagoona, preserved behind a handsome plaque, my last gift to a loving companion of 7 years.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) M. Norris

(It has been suggested that "cat people" are closer to their pets than other pet owners. The above interesting and poignant stories certainly do not detract from that assertion. The Ed.)

WYONG AND TUGGERAH LAKES CAT PROTECTION: Committee: President E. Duport, Hon. Treasurer, E. Watsford, Hon. Secretary, E. Rogers. Members, G. Cummings, Joy Skinner, Vicky Skinner, M. Finch, Yvonne Moss.

We welcome new Committee members, Joy Skinner and daughter, Vicky, Yvonne Moss, Lois Sanders, along with other new members. Special thanks to Joy and Vicky Skinner who have kindly donated their time and effort helping unfortunate cats and kittens which were homeless and would have been put to sleep. Some of the kittens were suffering badly with malnutrition and had to be bottle fed.

WYONG & TUGGERAH LAKES CAT PROTECTION (CONT'D)

We are pleased to report that several of our adult cats were desexed by C.P.S. and placed in good homes, including a one eyed cat.

We again wish to express our gratitude to all our wonderful helpers and supporters; The Entrance Advocate Guardian, the Wyong Council who granted us \$200, 2GO Radio Station and all members who have helped us over the last year.

We have had a very successful year with desexing and finding homes for cats and kittens.

I wish to thank our Treasurer, Elsie Watsford, for the strenuous work she has put into fund raising and stall work.

Congratulations Dorothy Haines, Umina Branch, keep up the good work.

Let's make 1982 your year to do something for those who cannot help themselves.

Edith Duport, Branch President

JOTTINGS FROM THE CENTRAL COAST

1982 "Ring out the old, ring in the new...!"

It's still January...it's 100 deg.F. in the shade... but let's press on with our news.

APPRECIATION

From Wallsend (Hunter Valley) two busy, clever crocheters, Rose and Ruth Brown, relatives of our Marie Morgan, brought a consignment of gifts for our stall and raffling.... child size hand-crochet dressed doll, crocheted bags, trendy tablecloth, box small dressed dolls, room tidies, all beautifully crocheted - and after fine-crocheting round a dozen linen hankies. What a wonderful way of saying "You're doing a big job Woy Woy, and we'd like to help".

To Mrs. Betty Scrivener of Terrey Hills, our VERY BIG Thanks! Marvellous heavy cream linen Supper/Afternoon Tea set, all lavishly crocheted, in Roman Cut needlework, deep fine lace surrounds - what an exquisite labour of many, many months and trillions of stitches. Would we raffle it for "the cause"? WE WILL! with love and pride, Betty. Betty writes on the progress being made by Head Office in helping our little ones with the two ambulances... "just as pleased to read of your (Woy Woy) mighty efforts" (and some other nice things but spare our blushes!)

THANKS - per Kath, to Mrs. Berry of Narara for a lovely hamper of goodies for last stall. Cakes, biccies, sweets and fancy home-made candies... a keen surprise. She's a real sweetie!

Our big "Thank You" to Sybil Cozens for the many raffle and staff gifts, and to the fantastic coathanger ladies of H.O. for these wanted lines. We hope you will be proud of our efforts with them, and they are REALLY attractive. A welcome and thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Jeanes for help with the stall.

Grateful to a helpful hubby who makes super jam! Glad Hagan's Jim, who whipped up pots and pots of "Jim's Jams"..... a big hit!

Thanks to Bev. Carey, Umina, who is always bringing bags of saleable goods for the stalls, and potting up plants etc.

"LOST" CATS

Not so many cases of "lost" beautiful cats reported.... placed two seal point blue-eyed lovelies amongst others, recently.

WYONG & TUGGERAH LAKES CAT PROTECTION (CONT'D)

MEETING

Thanks were expressed to Mabel and Carrie who supported their raffle of the Wallsend Doll with jars of goodies AND a cake, with spectacular results. Plans finalised for street stall on Saturday, January 30th here, and a mention of the "Snappy Tom" TV labels contest. Members surprised and interested in the big spread in the "GOSFORD STAR" highlighting Dorothy's honorary Life Membership of CPS and a rundown of her life story and community activities, with, of course, a plug for aid in our efforts especially need for wheeled transport.

That's about it... feel somehow we don't really merit even all THIS space, eh, Mr. Ed?

FROM WOY WOY PENINSULA BRANCH CPS

by Dorothy Haines, Hon. Sec.

EXTRACT FROM GOSFORD STAR, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1982

Dedication to animals rewarded

WOY WOY Peninsula community worker of long standing, Mrs Dorothy Haines of Umina, has been awarded honorary life membership of the Cat Protection Society of NSW.

The award, for "sterling and continous services rendered," was presented to Mrs Haines at a meeting of the Wyong/Tuggerah branch of the society by ~~the~~ president, Mr Bill Graham.

Mr Graham commended Mrs Haines (pictured) for representing the society in the Gosford City area from 1975, doing fieldwork and fund raising, and finally setting up branches at Woy Woy and Chittaway.

Thanks to the work of Mrs Haines there was now a strong committee established to cope with the big problem of surplus cats, especially those abandoned by their owners.

"The big workload comes at the festive season when, unfortunately, the spirit of 'goodwill to all men' does not seem to include these unfortunate animals," he said.

Mr Graham said all appeals made to the branch on behalf of deserted animals were answered and endeavors made to place them in homes.

Desexing of all ~~the~~ cats was the best method of limiting numbers.

Increasing food costs and veterinary bills paid for cats in distress were growing problems for the society, Mr Graham said.

As a foundation member of the Animal Welfare League of NSW, Mrs Haines was very conscious of the plight of unwanted animals on the Central Coast.

With Mrs Lee Lucas and the late Mrs Mandy Andrews she formed the Animal Care Group.

Once this group was established Mrs Haines turned her main interest to the care and rescue of cats.

She joined the Cat Protection Society of NSW and after intense activity as the society's Central Coast representative formed the Woy Woy and Wyong branches.

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).

WANT HELP/WANTING TO HELP? REGISTERED OFFICE 103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE

PHONE 51 1011

ALL MAIL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO P.O., BOX A523, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 2000

**OPPORTUNITY SHOP: PHONE 516 2072 9.30 - 4.30 week days,
9.30 - 12.00 Saturdays.**

AUXILIARY

FUND RAISING: PHONE 427 3828 MRS. COZENS (AFTER HOURS)