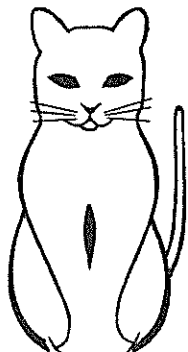


'CAT AFFAIRS'



MARCH 1983

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

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 PRESIDENT: Mr. Geoffrey Luton

HONORARY TREASURER: Mrs Judith Graham

COUNCILLORS: Mrs Leonore Bowman, Mrs Sybil Cozens, Mrs Elizabeth Francis,

Mrs Nancy Iredale, Miss Denise Tierney, (Hon. Asst. Secretary), Mr. John Kenny,

Mr. Fred Meyers. SECRETARY: Mrs Shirley Pikler.

LIFE GOVERNORS: Mr & Mrs L. Braby, Misses C. & E. Bryant, Mr A. Buchanan, Mrs B. Morrison,

Mrs S. Springfield, Mrs I. Tattersall, Miss D. Silins, Miss H. Heney

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: Mrs A. Gillham, Mrs D. Haines, Mrs B. Harvey, Mr W. Luton,

Mrs T. Nelson, Mrs J. Taylor, Mr G. & Mrs S. Cozens

MEETINGS

Due to the slender attendance at recent Extraordinary General Meetings, combined with the time, effort and expense involved in organising such meetings, State Council after much consideration, has decided to hold no further Extraordinary Meetings except where business that is truly extraordinary arises, or where circumstances require discussion and voting on special legislation etc. The Annual General Meeting will, of course, be held at the usual time in accordance with the Articles of Association and the Companies Act. Therefore no meeting has been scheduled for March as in previous years. However, should any member feel disappointed, they are cordially invited to attend the special "Bingo" day to be held on Sunday, 27th March at Enmore (refreshments included). For details, see Mrs. Cozen's article inside.

It is intended to keep up three issues of the Journal per year which will continue to inform members on all activities of their Society and other matters relevant to animal welfare.

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 NSW 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 or 651,2169 (not Sundays).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member: The past few months have seen a number of changes take place within our organisation. Due to one or two Councillors no longer attending meetings, several positions became vacant on Council. This then gave us the opportunity to welcome back and re-appoint to Council Mrs. Nancy Iredale, who has also re-commenced welfare work on behalf of the Society. Staunch supporter, Mrs. Elizabeth Francis, has also been appointed to fill a vacant Council position. Mrs. Miriam Harris kindly volunteered her services to help with some of the office work and has been of valuable assistance in this regard.

Welfare Officer, Mrs. Siebert, resigned her position last October. To fill the gap, two personable and efficient young women, Miss Joy Peachey and Miss Lee-Anne Porter, were engaged on a permanent part-time basis. Following a short training period and working on a three day roster system under the guidance of Senior Welfare Officer Sandy Moss, and with the assistance of Nancy Iredale, these young ladies have enabled us to carry on the welfare programme with scarce a break in the continuity of the operation.

With the departure of Mrs. Siebert it became essential to establish premises to hold cats awaiting homes. After exploring various avenues, our Treasurer successfully negotiated with member Mrs. Dorothy Foster, to construct a holding pen cum shelter on her cattery property at Dural, which is known as 'Dorothy's Cattery'. We have installed a phone, and every day excepting Sundays, Mrs. Foster is available to deal with all enquirers seeking a cat. Our Treasurer places advertisements in the Sydney papers every Saturday under the heading; Cats! Cats! Cats!, the intention being to drum up the maximum custom for these forlorn and unfortunate wee beasties.

The Northside branch of the Animal Welfare League also has a holding pen for cats at the same property and persons wishing to adopt a cat are free to choose one from either organisation.

All cats which we hold for homes are carefully hand-picked, not only on looks, but also for their affectionate nature and evenness of temperament. To pull out all stops in obtaining homes we are prepared, if required, to deliver cats to new owners anywhere within reason in the Metropolitan area. Most of the above of course, was explained in the special bulletin which was sent to all Sydney members just prior to Xmas. However, it is news to all new members and those residing outside Sydney - so, any of you who may know of some kind person who is willing to adopt a first rate cat, please advise them to call 651.2169. All cats guaranteed desexed, immunised, wormed and healthy. We ask a donation of \$25 to help cover part of the costs but all donations refunded if cat returned by dissatisfied client. Free delivery on request. Can we say fairer than that?

* * * * *

Unfortunately, it is a grim fact of life that we are now in the middle of a very bleak depression. With an appalling ten per cent of the work-force unable to find employment, more and more people appear to be getting rid of their pets. This is borne out in the number of calls we are now receiving requesting us to find homes for no longer wanted pets. When taking calls over the Xmas holiday period, the greater number were of that order. When advising such callers to try the Animal Welfare League the reply would be that the League had referred them to us! Catch 22, and fact is, animal welfare organisations just cannot fully cope with the vast number of unwanted animals without either resorting to wholesale destruction or ignoring the problem.

Very, very sadly, when times become hard, the first to suffer are the animals. A big problem for rescue organisations in lean times is that funds to help (never adequate at anytime) commence to dry up. To prove my point, take this extract from an article which appeared in 'The Australian' of January 14th: "The Animal Welfare League, unlike many other animal rescue organisations, does not kill its charges if homes aren't found for them after

a certain period. However, expenses are such that within the next few weeks they fear they'll have to form a sort of death committee which will vote on who must go." - Or the article called 'Survival 1983' written by Amanda Buckley which was published in the 'Sydney Morning Herald' on January 10th. A very concerned member drew our attention to this portion: "Take a cold, hard look at your pets. Pet food is one of the most expensive items on any shopping list. If you can't train the animals to eat leftovers you might consider doing without them. On the other hand pets have been shown to bring the blood pressure down, provide comfort in hard times and amuse the children. It's a matter for a clear-headed household conference." Tough, very; but that appears to be the trend now and for the foreseeable future. As stated earlier, the first to suffer are the animals.

In the periodical reports to members the intention has always been to keep the membership fully informed as to events and our progress. It would not now be fitting to give the impression that all will remain rosy and that hard times may not be looming ahead. Money is always needed, lots of it, if we are to continue with the good work we started almost three years ago. Some of our members have been more than generous in their kind support and we feel that more cannot be asked in that direction. We are going to require more Government assistance - our Treasurer has prepared a submission and we await the outcome. Having raised life membership to \$100 and pensioner membership to \$5 applicable from 1st June, (in accordance with the Notice of Motion, the resolution was passed by unanimous vote of members present at the November Extraordinary General Meeting), little more can be asked other than for members to give consideration to remembering the Society in their Wills.

With cut-backs occurring daily in all forms of business, it is difficult not to feel some concern for our future viability. However, we are still in the black, and while that remains so, we shall continue with our best endeavours for distressed animals. But, it is a time for caution and it would perhaps be apt to borrow a line from the immortal W.S. Gilbert's 'Pirates of Penzance': "with cat-like tread our cautious way we feel".....

Turning to the more optimistic, the letters to the Editor section appears to grow with each issue of the Journal. This is encouraging for it shows that members are taking an interest in their Society and in animal affairs generally. This is as it should be, for the Journal is produced by members for members. When as Editor, I changed the format of the old 'newsletter' to the present 'journal' several years ago, the intention was to encourage more members to air their views or tell their little stories. It has been perhaps a little slow in coming but now more and more interesting letters are arriving it is my intention to give as much space as possible to the 'letters' column. Keep them coming and be reasonably brief. Where space allows, we'll publish your letter.

WELFARE RESULTS FROM 1st JUNE, 1982 to 31st JANUARY, 1983

With two-thirds of our financial and working year completed, members will no doubt be interested in the progress results of the welfare section. They are as follows:

<u>Cats desexed:</u> 866	<u>Vouchers Issued:</u> 682	<u>Total effective desexings:</u> 1748
<u>Cats destroyed:</u> 1933	<u>Homes obtained:</u> 329	<u>Jobs completed:</u> 1156
Percentage cats found homes of cats surrendered:		14.5%

Miscellaneous: 22 dogs desexed; 1 destroyed; 1 home; 2 injured birds rescued and transported to zoo; 1 wild duck with broken leg rescued and transported to zoo; 1 baby orphan possum housed until old enough for release.

The percentage 14.5 of homes is, under the circumstances as experienced by those who perform this work, remarkably good, though reflective of grim reality and unsatisfactory only in that context. The wild duck a lone statistic among thousands of distressed animals might be dismissed by some as barely worthy of mention. To me however, it gave great satisfaction and a certain joyous feeling in that because of our welfare services, this small bird, one of the Earth Mother's wild creatures, obtained succour. The above figures do not take into account the work of the branches, and are for the headquarters area only.

After Hours Veterinary Service: I have been asked to bring to the attention of members that if at any time they require emergency treatment for their pet outside normal surgery hours, the number to ring is 771.3333. In which case they will be provided with the names and addresses of two vets on emergency duty in their local area. This I believe, is an A.V.A. innovation.

Bill Graham - Chairman
on behalf of the State
Council.

CENTRAL COAST CALLING - NEWS FROM WOY WOY BRANCH

We too have had a little 'cabinet reshuffle'. Dorothy, nearing eighty, has had to relinquish welfare and fieldwork but remains as Secretary. President Kath Robinson, has kindly consented to take over welfare; the recent busy season has not been quite so bad and she has achieved small miracles in the way of placing cats and kittens. It has taken a world of dedication to bring this about; we owe Kath a big debt of gratitude.

We had to lose the wonderful non-stop, cheery Gwen Arnold as Treasurer. Gwen, after battling on for four years with the accounts deserved a break. She continues however, in growing green and wonderful things for our stalls. Doris Jackson, with her book-keeping background, now takes over the Treasury.

Your reporter visited the Tuggerah Lakes-Wyong Branch recently and had a happy time with President, Edith Duport. Several of Edith's staunchest helpers have moved away, a great loss. However, backed up by splendid supporter in Treasurer, Elsie Watsford, Edith is performing a marathon of field work.

Special Thank you's to: Daisy Dysan, organiser of slides afternoons; Les Hastings, volunteer field work; Angela Richardson, transport; John Pope, help with stalls; Jo Harris, maker of lovely goodies; Joy Nicholson, transport; Sybil Cozens, goodies for our stalls; Rita Herrington and Rose & Ruth Brown, goodies for stalls and wonderful supporters, Joy Clemitson and Mary Miller.

Wanted: Genuine cat-lover join us here. Lovely home and gardens, all conveniences. Central Coast, free, in exchange for little love and caring with the pussies. Now - and when Dorothy's no longer here. Phone: (043)419 724.

Wishing all the brave souls who are facing up to 1983, success and fewer heartaches as a reward for all their efforts.

Dorothy Haines, Hon. Secretary, Woy Woy Peninsular Branch.

ARTICLE - by COUNCILLOR HON. WELFARE OFFICER - Nancy Iredale

About thirteen years ago, a large Concord hospital had a massive feral cat problem verging as it does on a swampy area. June Chapman, a C.P.S. member at that time, with the help of one of the supervisory staff, spent six years in reducing the population to twenty. Of course, as soon as they cleared one area, more cats were dumped. At this stage, June had some slight health problems and her helper transferred to another position, so keeping the population down to twenty was impossible. In four years, despite all her previous efforts, the number had grown to about ninety.

Gardeners were complaining, staff were annoyed about fouling, some poor creatures invaded the kitchen areas with dire results and June, with the help of a small but devoted band of women, spent hours feeding the starving creatures - leaving no time or energy to trap.

Some volunteers were called in and it took about six months of concerted effort to get the numbers down to twenty-five, still having to struggle with continual dumping. Somehow though, the scene has changed. We hope it is education and we certainly know it is perserverance on June's part.

There is now a fund for the pusses. People who were probably past dumpers now come to her and tell her of problems. These are attended to by the C.P.S. and don't have to become hospital statistics. There is even talk of wanting a few more cats. The twenty-five have been reduced by natural causes to ten. One old boy being fifteen no less. Staff seeing their ward pet having to wait for his lunch talk about getting "priorities straight" and clearly if these were the kind of cats who would permit it, the boys could have blue bows and the girls pink.

I take my hat off to a lady who has battled so many years to bring about this situation. She has her reward - this hospital is becoming a cats' heaven and not a cats' hell as it used to be.

On the now odd occation when cats are dumped it is reported immediately. But let's face it; June would know - not a whisker appears from under a ward but her antenna is out. Her material reward, apart from relief from a financial burden, is that she can arrive half an hour later at work and she now has a lunch hour.

OF CATS AND DOGS AND BIRDS AND THINGS (AND CABBAGES AND KINGS)

by the Editor.

Elsa and the Birds: Our sprightly little Abyssinian cat 'Elsa', somehow seems to attract the unwelcome attentions of birds - which is a switch on the usual relationship twixt bird and cat. In short, Elsa is the hunted.

Every morning, just as the first streaks of dawn commence chasing away the night-times gloom, Elsa leaps onto our bed in faithful and regular performance of her self-appointed duty as 'alarm-cat'. After successfully waking us by spirited jumping upon each in turn, followed by investigation of ears, noses and eyes, even attempting to lift tightly closed eye-lids with her tiny paw, Elsa's habit, after receiving much petting in 'gratitude' for disturbing our slumbers, is to take a pre-breakfast stroll out onto the roof through our upstairs bedroom window. She usually does not get very far. No sooner does that sleek little fox-like head poke through the window, when with whirring of wings and loud clacking of beaks, she is swooped upon by the feathered dive - bombers which inhabit the trees surrounding our place.

When these attacks occur, Elsa's efforts to advance out onto the roof are always frustrated and she retreats back through the window with an expression both chagrined and puzzled. Rather than attempting to assert cat authority over that of bird, Elsa cringes in awed embarrassment, realising full well that her behaviour is not according to the feline version of 'Hoyle'. A furious washing is then indulged in which is meant to convey disdain and unconcern, but which as every cat person knows, is merely a feeble cover-up for serious loss of face and acute embarrassment.

An event some few months ago, (which incidentally led to an exchange of diplomatic notes hand delivered to respective letter boxes) was the occasion when whilst I was seated on the verandah attempting to improve upon past efforts by writing something approaching literature for the Journal, a neighbour who is a very supportive life member of our Society, came by with three dogs on leads.

I was, as usual when writing on the verandah, surrounded by all four of our cats. (There is something about writing which attracts their interest and mischief). Yum-Yum clutching at the pen on each stroke, Tosca wallowing all over the paper, Elsa getting in the way generally, and Mang, the most sedate, seated nearby watching all the fun, when suddenly the peaceful rustic quiet exploded in great commotion.

It so happened that one of the dogs, naturally not being able to resist this golden opportunity to give a little hell to four cats who, in his doggy mind had absolutely no right to be enjoying themselves, had broken loose and at great speed made straight for the cats. Amid a cacophony of barks, growls, screeches and snarls, three cats disappeared like smoke into nowhere. The fourth, unlucky Elsa, was chased twice around the house before bounding to the very top of the big jacaranda by the front gate. The tree, being deciduous, was free of all leaves at the time and there Elsa perched in full view at the very tip of the topmost branch, hurling insults at the dog in the mistaken belief that she had reached a secure haven. Poor Elsa. In the excitement she had forgotten her old adversaries, the birds.

No sooner had I chased away the dog when a flight of six birds, of the species which I believe are known as 'noisy mynahs' came patrolling by. Hardly able to believe their luck, the birds circled above Elsa, then I imagine the leader gave a signal (may be something like, "right fellers, bandit at 6 o'clock low") for each bird peeled off, following the flight leader in dive bombing formation.

I expected each bird to pull up short in their zoom upon Elsa but 'twas not so. The leader continued straight on down, striking Elsa on head and neck with beak and claws. Each bird followed suit, hefty whacks on head, neck, back and ribs, with each blow clearly audible as a resounding 'thwack'.

Elsa had no defence or at least did not offer any. She just closed her eyes and clutched tightly to the branch. Meantime all my entreaties to Elsa to come on down fell on deaf ears, for she refused to budge.

As the 'tail-end Charlie' completed his dive, the flight reformed and the entire process was repeated. Those birds were determined to shift Elsa out of that tree which they obviously regarded as their territory - and they succeeded.

After three completed 'bombing' runs, Elsa had enough. She suddenly let go and came out of that tree in two gigantic vertical bounds. When she hit the ground she didn't linger but continued running on into the house. She didn't stop until she had reached the safety of the kitchen.

For a long time after, Elsa wasn't really fussed about venturing outdoors. Nowadays her idea of fun and instinct for hunting is confined to the harrassment of skinks and 'gronks' (frogs). Birds she doesn't want to know about. Nor do the other cats who from their hidey holes had witnessed the event. They're a tough breed of birds round our way.

IF YOUR CAT APPEARS HUNGRY BUT WON'T EAT From time to time, particularly when your cat begins to age, the occasion will arise when he or she will scamper in for dinner but upon taking a mouthfull or two, and perhaps chewing briefly with some reluctance, will lose further interest in the food.

When this happens it is wise to first closely examine the mouth. Over the years I have found on such examination, a loose tooth or build-up of tartar which is obviously causing discomfort and pain. A trip to the vet will soon fix the trouble with the removal of tartar or bad teeth. (A cat can lose most of its teeth but in no time at all will deftly manage its food without pain or undue awkwardness. Top cat, Yum-Yum, now getting along in years, has lost most of her teeth but eats with little trouble.)

Sometimes however, apart from illness, the trouble can be an injury to the mouth brought about by some external cause, so examine thoroughly. Recently, Tosca began to display a reluctance to chew despite evident hunger. Suspecting a bad tooth I gave her mouth the once-over. Finding teeth and gums in good condition, I was about to give up when I noticed damage to her tongue. One side had been sliced rather deeply by some sharp object. In this case the wound was healthy and actually healing, so apart from very finely chopped food and milk, no treatment was given. In two or three days she was eating as usual (very heartily).

In looking for the cause I found that the prong on the buckle of her collar was rather sharp. I have since filed it down and strongly suspect that when washing she may have caught her tongue in this object - a point to watch out for.

COLLARS ON CATS Apart from the various types of flea collars which some people seem to find of benefit to their animals, opinion appears divided on the usefulness and practicality of 'ordinary' collars.

The case against is that the collar could become snagged in a branch or other protuberance which could result in death or serious injury to the cat. (see also preceding para., sharp edges on buckles etc.)

However, while not of the school which approve flea collars for the reason that I don't like any animal permanently carrying a poisonous substance, I believe that in the long term it is worthwhile to have your pet wear a collar with identity disc for the following obvious reasons:

Although your cat may be a "homebody", there is always the chance that it may be chased or frightened by a dog or become lost for some other cause. (In this situation many a cat has been returned to a worried owner because it was wearing a collar carrying an identity disc with phone number inscribed.)

Should your cat be killed by a car or through some other misadventure, it is better to be notified of its fate than to enter into a long, fruitless search, without ever discovering the ultimate fate of the unfortunate animal. Your cat may even be injured some distance from home and if taken to a vet by some kind person, your chances of being notified would be very high if it were wearing an identity disc.

Then there is always the possibility that persons of ill intent, who for whatever reason, have intentions to injure, steal or make off with your cat, will hesitate when they realise that the cat is not a stray and has an owner. The above also applies where your cat may be impounded by local Council dog catchers.

Some examples: Several years ago a young couple from Sydney on holiday in a country town, were taking their cat on a lead for a walk. The cat slipped his lead and became lost despite the couple extending their holiday to search for him.

Quite some time later a woman resident of the town found the cat and contacted our Society. Because he was still wearing his collar with identity disc, we were able eventually to re-unite cat and anxious owners.

Then there was the case of 'Sultan', who after being lost for several months, wound up in a Central coast pound with the death sentence hanging over him. Because of his identity disc, Mrs. Duport, President of the Tuggerah branch, after much effort because the owner had moved, was successful in finding his mistress.

Top cat, Yum-Yum, in her younger days was very gregarious and disposed to wander. She had a fancy to enter the open garages of neighbours, (where she was often accidentally locked in) or to climb into the back of tradesmen's vehicles where she would take a nap. We were always concerned that she would be driven off to some unknown destination. It never happened but it was a relief to know she carried identification.

When choosing a collar for your cat, the most important feature to look for is an elastic insert which will cause the collar to 'give' if it becomes hooked or caught in some object. The type of collar I always choose is of soft leather with soft lining and no unnecessary metal studs. We always attach a small metal disc with our phone number and the cat's name inscribed.

For aesthetic reasons, Elsa's collars are green, brown or yellow to go with her tawny-red, lion like colouring. Blue is the only colour for Yum-Yum as she is the 'blond' type of tabby with white belly, legs and face. Tosca wears red as she is a 'brunette' tabby, and Mang, the half Persian, being of a multi-coloured reddish brown, wears green.

Fortunately, the cats do not mind wearing collars and every so often we remove them to give a good combing to the neck area. I think it very sad when a well loved pet is permanently lost - don't you?

THE STORY OF A WILD DUCK - By Welfare Officer, Lee-Anne Porter

The lady, Win Duncan, who I believe used to work in the Opportunity Shop, recently came upon a small wild duck with a broken leg on Malabar Beach. She found this wild creature fluttering helplessly among the rocks skirting the sand.

Win, who was not well at the time and is also a pensioner without transport of her own, was in a dilemma as what best to do. She decided to take the duck home, make it comfortable and then see what could be arranged.

After several fruitless days endeavouring to obtain help - the R.S.P.C.A. and other organisations being unable to afford assistance - Win finally contacted the Zoo who were willing to accept the bird if delivered to them. In desperation, Win Duncan rang our welfare service and help was immediately forthcoming. I was given the job, and the following day collected the duck and took it to the Zoo.

It was a dear little thing, very gentle and had become quite used to people and being handled; it even loved having its beak stroked. It had made itself at home in Win's bathroom in a special box with its own blanket and loved swimming in the bath.

At the time of writing I have another similar helpless bird to pick up on the morrow. What we wish people to know is that our ambulance service is prepared at all times to offer such help to small injured and helpless creatures and to transport them to where they can be cared for, or if necessary, humanely and painlessly put down to spare further suffering. Please remember, if it is in our power we will help any animal in distress - it doesn't always have to be a cat.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thought the enclosed cutting from our local paper would be of interest to you - if you do not already have it.

Congratulations on the last Journal - we were particularly moved by the "Crim, Coppers and Cats", story; do hope that, somehow, a message was conveyed to relieve the "Crim's" mind! The real criminals of this world include the persons responsible for the cruelty exposed in the attached, and the many dreadful cases encountered every day by your Welfare people.

Herewith a small contribution towards the "Crim" pussies 'de-sexing'. Kind regards to you and Mrs. Graham.

Sincerely Ruth Parker.

(It has been difficult to locate the present whereabouts of the gentleman primarily concerned, but a letter has been forwarded by our Secretary, informing him that his cats found good homes. Thank you kindly, Mrs. Parker. The Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

The Editor - Dear Sir,

I have just received the Xmas appeal edition of your Journal and finished reading your Editorial. I whole heartedly agree with the policy of humane destruction of unwanted cats and other cats for whom life would be only pain and suffering. My heart is always heavy when this is necessary, but that is the price we must be willing to pay in doing what is the most humane thing possible under the circumstances.

The one thought always comforts me and I point this out to other people, sometimes kind people, but opposed to humane destruction, even in the abovementioned circumstances, is this: the cat will suffer no more than if it was given a needle for an anesthetic for an operation. It certainly is the best we can do for so very, very many whose lives would just be misery until some other painful end was met eventually.

The disproportion between the great number of strays and unwanted animals and the small number of good homes available is the problem. To me it has always been a sad part of my life, relieved only by the immense joy of placing an unwanted stray in a good home or being able to take in another one myself.

Sincerely, Flora Douglas.

Dear Treasurer,

I have just been lent the November Journal of your Society, and have been much impressed, especially by the Editorial. I am appalled, but not, alas, surprised, to have read of the people who accuse your Welfare officers of cruelty in disposing of diseased and unwanted cats. One wonders what active steps such people take to protest about wars, poverty, famine and pestilence, not to mention factory farming and slaughtering animals to feed humans. The Editorial argued the case for responsible and humane killing with great persuasiveness. - Which leads to my application for life membership. I enclose my cheque for \$50.00.

Sincerely Bridget Gilling.

Dear Mrs. Graham,

I was most impressed with the last Journal which was full of interesting information and I warmly congratulate all those who do the hard work and keep the Society functioning. It has been my experience that in all organisations it is just a hard core that keeps active. As I am unable in the present circumstances to be of active assistance I enclose a cheque for \$100 to help with the expenses of your invaluable work. At present I am enjoying the company of a Burmese neighbour (cat), a most delightful creature full of talk and affection. With very best wishes.

Sincerely Mollie Askin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

(In this column, which has always been open to all members to air their views, we have never been selective in the letters that are chosen. The aim is to give an opportunity to all to express opinions whether they agree with our policies or otherwise. However, never before has there been such a unanimity of feeling, as expressed in the above three letters, in response to an Editorial. In that November Editorial we tried very hard to get a message across which we hoped would cause people to understand the problems with which we are faced, and also, how emotionally overwhelming those problems are. We can only say, from the response from both telephone calls and letters that we succeeded. It is a very heavy burden to be responsible for the destruction of so many animals and it can never be carried lightly. Until humanity becomes more enlightened in their understanding and treatment of animals, we can only do that which appears to us to be the most humane. Thank you very much to those of you who understand this. We are much encouraged by your response. The Ed.)

An amusing and friendly little note comes from member, Miss Dana Giedraityte -

Dear Friends - How are you? May you and all the felines have a good year. This comes from Mini (alias Greedy Guts) and Fluff (who will take notice only if called Darling), me too, I nearly forgot.

Well, my blondie (ginger) Darling (I will never forgive her) disgraced herself the other day in a taxi on the way back from the vet. The unusually eager miaow to the vet when he took her out of the cage wasn't a greeting but an urgent plea from the girl wanting to wash her hands after sitting for nearly 2 days in there listening to dogs barking everywhere. As she likes riding in buses and cars, I took her out of the basket in the taxi and then it happened, or began to happen. The taxi driver was a particularly elegantly dressed young Mediterranean gentleman oozing charm all over. He really never lost his charm, even when we got the hose, the Pine-o-clean, the paper towels, Phisohex, a bucket of warm water and soap of the stars - Lux, and proceeded in front of the house. After this free car wash, Fluff got a bath in a bucket with my choicest shampoo; then myself.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" of the day had a coupon for a free opera ticket for those who bought one. So that was the end of luxury seats at the opera as the paper was too wet. After using the electric heater to dry the miserable-looking b....., the heatwave that followed was a freeze. In the meanwhile, Mini got very jealous of all this attention and went to bed that night at the furthest end of the house, on concrete floor by the door. Gee, I don't know what makes people own cats (or vice versa).

I am collecting a parcel of odds and ends for you, things you might be able to sell.

Best wishes to all!

Dana and the 2 girls.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

Dear Sir,

I can't have a cat anymore, after having three run over. The first one used to lie on the road because it was warm, and we used to hunt her off, the same with the second one, and the third time that was it, never again. The two girls along the street have lost two also. There is less traffic now they have finished the by-pass but with a rise on the left and a hill on the other it is still dangerous for cats and I don't like shutting them inside all the time and that's what I'd have to do. It's awful isn't it? But that's what a lot of roads are like now and poor old puss will not look where she's going.

Yours truly Jill Kilpatrick.

(Every day, on my long drive to and from work on roads which are part semi-rural, I see many animals that have been killed; baby possums, cats, bandicoots etc. It is distressing, for many 'lunatic' drivers just do not care. Many small animals' lives would be spared, (along with humans') if the driving test also included an intelligence test. I like the sticker seen on some cars: "this car brakes for animals." The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham,

I received the very interesting journal yesterday and am tempted to tell you our little story. My husband and I have taken in and cared for so many strays for the past thirty-six years, when I arrived here from England. Some have died of various cat sickness, others through car drivers on a busy road. But always it just happened as soon as one was taken, another would turn up. I used to say, "I am sure as our 'Tiger Lil' or some such name passed over, she would say, if you need a good home stop off at the 'Murphys'" - one time we had four strays at once. The last of the four died of old age last year; he had been thrown over our fence a tiny, smoky-grey kitten twenty years before. When 'Big Boy' was showing signs of fading, a strange tom started to visit and sit near him. That is all he did, just come into our garden and sit near 'Big Boy'. After 'Big Boy' died he still came and eventually accepted a drink of milk and a little food from us. When I was confirmed as a Catholic I took the name of Francis, because of his love for animals. I can remember going to my doctor one day after a loss, I was upset and told the doctor what had happened. His reply was, "you can't worry about a cat, they don't have souls"! I nearly jumped out of my chair and said, "you can't tell me that an animal that gives so much love and company does not have a soul, they must have." - This seems a long episode but having read the current journal I thought you might be interested. Unfortunately, my husband and I are pensioners and far from well and no family to rely on, so we cannot be responsible for any more permanent pets, but when I can I will send a donation. I only wish I were well enough and lived nearer to your "op shop" to help. But thank you all for such wonderful work and love. God Bless ...

Sincerely Alice Murphy.

(Some of the 'old-timers' among our members, such as Mrs. Murphy, have spent a life-time aiding animals in their own quiet way. It is always a pleasure to hear from them and to receive their encouraging letters. Thank you Mrs. Murphy for your kind remarks and very nice Xmas card. The Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

MORE PRODUCT TESTING ON ANIMALS (from Australian Association for Humane Research.)

Dear Mr. Graham,

I must apologise for the delay in replying to the somewhat emotional letter from Lee Shields-Rossit, Consultant Con-Stan Industries, but I had to find out the facts from both Beauty Without Cruelty in Queensland and the Anti-Vivisection Union(S.A.) before writing again. It is interesting to note that she does not categorically state that Nutri-Metics are not tested on animals - she says that the Company (i.e. Con-Stan) does not "have any part in animal experiment or cruelty to animals in relation to this product." This is just the point at issue. Many firms, including Mary Quant and Estee Lauder have their cosmetics tested on animals by outside laboratories, and can then state that they themselves do not test on animals. As you will see in the letter from Con-Stan's President, Mr. Mulford J. Nobbs, dated January 11, 1980, he states: "Our Nutri-Metics are not tested on animals by us". This just will not do!

In over two years Con-Stan has not replied to six letters from B.W.C. Queensland requesting information about their testing procedures. Con-Stan has also been using a very old copy (1979) of FRAME'S "What Price Vanity" leaflet which listed Nutri-Metics as cruelty-free. These products were immediately removed from the FRAME list when we received such an unsatisfactory reply from Mr. Nobbs.

Furthermore, Con-Stan was deleted from the Anti-Vivisection Union(S.A.) list in 1979 and has not been included since. Two of the firms representatives in South Australia ceased using this old list only when they were legally constrained to desist. I understand that their President, Mrs. E.M. Fearnside, will be writing to you on this matter shortly. - We shall not include Con-Stan's products on our lists until we are absolutely sure that their products are not sent out to other laboratories for testing.

Sincerely Elizabeth Ahlston
President

FROM ANTI-VIVISECTION UNION (SA) INCORPORATED

Dear Mr. Graham,

With reference to the letter from Lee Shields-Rossit in your latest newsletter, I am sorry to have to tell you Nutri-Metics was deleted from our list of cruelty-free products in 1979.

We notified the company of this in 1981, and asked the Manager to instruct all representatives to cease using our literature.

We have an acknowledgement from Con-Stan (Nutri-Metics) saying that the company would not encourage any of its consultants to use our leaflets and "noting that the Company's name has been deleted."

The problems with cosmetics are many and time consuming. There are so many changes that it is difficult to be up to date all the time. However, if any firm can guarantee its products and all ingredients to be cruelty-free, Beauty Without Cruelty will be pleased to know about them - Secretary, Mrs. J. Sullivan, P.O. Box 5, Rosanna, Victoria 3084.


Sincerely Mrs. E.M. Fearnside
President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

(On the evidence as presented by the above two correspondents, it would seem clear that despite Con-Stan's acknowledgement that their products are no longer included on FRAMES cruelty-free list, and notwithstanding their being legally restrained from so doing, this company through one of its consultants, has attempted to lay claim to approval by distributing a leaflet they have no legal or moral right to use. - Without commenting on the ethics of Con-Stan, or the worth, or otherwise of their products, we leave any judgment in this matter to our readers. We would say, however, that in our opinion, Ms. Shields-Rossit is a sincere person who has apparently been misled or misguided by persons unknown, into forwarding to us a worthless and now discredited leaflet.

The testing of commercial products on helpless and dumb animals is a filthy business. There can never be any justification for it, and it is of no possible benefit to mankind. In the field of cosmetics it panders to the vain and enriches the avaricious who care little at what cost in suffering their profits are gained. - Published below is the authentic list of cruelty free cosmetics and other information which accompanied Mrs. Fearnside's letter. The Ed.)

ADVERTISEMENT



Phone: 651-2946

Exclusive
Boarding Accommodation
for CATS

Prop.
Mrs. DOROTHY FOSTER 29 Cranston Rd., Dural, N.S.W. 2158



YOUR COSMETICS.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some well-known cosmetic manufacturers test their products cruelly on live animals.

Truth in Advertising demands that the statement:-

"New, improved, scientifically-tested formula" - must be correct.
Scientifically tested for what? And how?

Force large amounts of face-cream or
mascara down the throats of dogs or
rats to see how soon half of them die.

This is known as the Lethal Dose 50 test

Apply adhesive tape to a guinea-pig's
shaved skin, repeatedly removing it
layer by layer with fresh adhesive
tape before applying 'after shave'
to the raw, exposed surface.

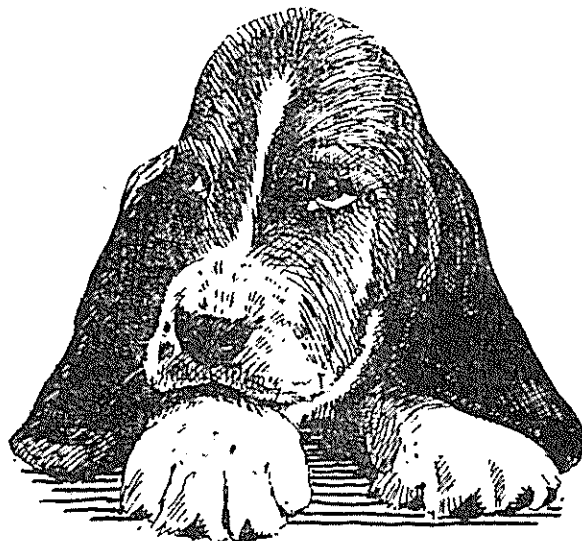
(Draize-Patch test).

Restrain rabbits in boxes, retract
their eye-lids with metal clamps,
and drip in shampoo.
Measure the inflammation that results.

(The Draize test).

? IF YOU COULDN'T COMMIT THESE CRUELITIES ?
- then are you buying cosmetics that have been tested in those ways?

THE ANTI-VIVISECTION UNION (S.A.) INC. BEGS ALL CONCERNED PERSONS TO
BUY ONLY FROM THE FOLLOWING MANUFACTURERS, who have assured us that
they do NOT test their products on live animals.



"BIOKOSMA" BY INTER-MEDICS*
EVANOL HAIR COLOURINGS
FLORIS PERFUMES & FLORAL PRODUCTS
"HOFELS" BY HOFELS PURE FOODS
"HYMOSA" BY NEW ERA LABORATORIES*
"INNOXA" BY INNOXA (ENGLAND)
"LEICHNER" BY INNOXA (ENGLAND)
SCHOLL (UK) LTD.
SCOTT & BOWNE LTD.
SURF SKI INTERNATIONAL
"TIKI" BY GR LANE
"WELEDA" BY WELEDA (UK)

"TOMS" BY TOMS (USA) Surveyed by BUVA 1980
"BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY" PRODUCTS
"MELTONE PRODUCTS, NORTH QUEENSLAND*
Surveyed by BWC (AUST) 1980 & Approved
BWC (UK)

Rivendell Products*
Creightons Products*
(*Ask for these at your Health Food Shop)

ISSUED BY: ANTI-VIVISECTION UNION (S.A.) INC.,
P.O. BOX 77, MARDEN. S.A. 5070.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont'd)

Note:

One member has mildly taken me to task for the continued use of the word 'Xmas' instead of Christmas. In case some members should feel offended by the abbreviation, I would like to point out that although sometimes regarded as a newfangled and vulgar abbreviation, Xmas had its origin in very ancient times. In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, written near the beginning of the twelfth century, the Old English word for Christmas begins with X. The Greek word for "Christ", from which the English derived, begins with the Greek letter chi, or X. X is thus a quite proper abbreviation for "Christ".

MEMORY LANE

A donation in memory of "Fay", a faithful chichuaua.

Inserted by Bill Kirkpatrick.

A donation in loving memory of a beautiful Siamese, "Samantha", who lived with us for only six wonderful years.

Inserted by Marie Tucker.

A donation in memory of "Mother Cat", a friend and much loved pet who was accidentally hit by my car on January 17, 1983. She had a wonderful life and died after twenty years. I brought her home from my local primary school when I was five years old. I am now 25. We will miss her.

Susanne & Gloria Briggs.

A donation in memory of "Rose" & "Snoopy". Two faithful friends for seventeen years.

Inserted by Gwen & June.

EDITORIAL

In November, we wrote at length on the subject of humane euthanasia of animals and of the reasons why this was made so unfortunately necessary for animal welfare organisations. The response to that Editorial from members, and others who later became members, was greater by far than any that had greeted earlier articles or Editorials. Gratifyingly, but somewhat to our surprise, there was no dissent to the points of view we presented.

In the matter of trapping stray and unwanted cats, one or two did ask, "why not de-sex such animals then return them whence they came?" The simple answer is that were we to adopt such a policy, we would need to be a "millionaire" society if one considers the enormous costs required to mount and maintain an operation of that nature. More importantly, (and sensibly) any action of that sort would be contrary to our concept of ethical conduct, for by so doing we would be returning homeless animals to a hostile environment, leaving them to scavenge and perhaps starve. In effect, we would be guilty - technically at least - of abandoning or dumping the animals.

All in all, the November Editorial appears to have had the desired effect of creating a better understanding throughout our Society, of the problems caused by indiscriminate breeding and by those who callously dump animals. If so, then the time spent getting it all across has not been wasted.

In December we put out a special bulletin to metropolitan area members, (some 600 odd were sent), the idea being to publicize our small cattery, and of course, with the fragile hope of securing more homes for selected and companionable cats. This generated a tremendous response from good-hearted members who either wrote or phoned to express support of that which we are endeavouring to achieve. Again, there was no dissent.

Xmas Eve morning was spent answering all those correspondents who were particularly affected by the bulletin which apparently damped a few eyes! Because of the comments and questions raised by those very worthy correspondents, I think it would be a good thing to quote a few relevant paras from our official animal welfare policy, so that all who are sufficiently interested to be reading this shall be better informed and assured as to our methods:

Clause I General (a) The Society's four main areas of animal welfare consists of: Succour of injured, distressed or sick animals (Mainly cats). Desexing assistance and advice by means of voucher and where necessary, ambulance transport; Placing cats in suitable homes and maintaining cats awaiting homes; Trapping unwanted, stray, abandoned or feral cats/kittens and the humane disposal of same.

(d) Each ambulance shall be equipped with all necessary safety items to ensure the well-being of the welfare officer and the animals that are transported. They may be supplied with such other equipment as the State Council may from time to time consider essential to the efficient and safe functioning of the welfare section.

Clause 2 Rescue of Injured Animals (a) Priority must be given at all times to calls appealing for help in aid of injured or distressed animals. Welfare personnel should respond with an absolute minimum of delay and cancel or postpone any other engagements they may be attending.

(b) If for some reason, welfare personnel are unable to respond to a particular emergency call, they should endeavour to enlist the aid of other animal welfare organisations.

(c) When injured animals are picked up, they should be transported in all haste (within the limits of safety and the traffic regulations) to the nearest vet to relieve their suffering it should also be left to the welfare officers' discretion to enlist the aid of other organisations if they consider that would be helpful.

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

J) At times, welfare officers may become emotionally upset at some of the incidents they are called upon to attend. They should take comfort in the fact that in the final analysis, they can feel justly proud of having played their part in relieving the suffering of helpless creatures.

Clause 4 Finding homes for Cats and Maintaining Cats Awaiting Homes.

a) One of the most humane, appealing, worthwhile and compassionate aims of our Society is that which is given over to providing suitable homes for unwanted animals. Therefore, it should always be treated as a top priority and welfare officers encouraged to be on the look-out at all times for suitable homes and to place cats and kittens whenever possible

e) Advertisements shall be placed in various newspapers on a regular basis appealing for homes. Costs to be borne by the Society.

f) All adult cats awaiting placing shall be desexed and immunised prior to being placed. Where the cat is too young for desexing, a voucher shall be given to the new owner and the condition stated that when the kitten reaches desexing maturity, a welfare officer will contact owner and if necessary provide assistance i.e. transport etc. to ensure cat is ultimately desexed. Records shall be kept for this purpose.

g) Insofar as it is humanly possible to judge, all cats and kittens placed shall be healthy and sound. Animals not considered placeable because of temper, infirmity, age, etc., shall be at the discretion of the welfare officers as will their humane destruction. Authorised welfare officers shall also use their own discretion in regard to what constitutes a suitable home.

h) In the event that a person who has obtained a cat from the Society becomes dissatisfied with the animal for any reason, the Society is prepared to accept its return without demur, and if necessary refund the original donation. This is to safeguard against possible dumping or ill-treatment.

i) Ambulance transport is to be made available if by this means it will ensure an animal going to a good home.

k) State Council pledges that it will support the efforts of welfare officers in placing homeless animals.

Clause 5 Trapping Wild, Unwanted, Homeless or Feral Cats (and their ultimate disposal) a) When calls are received requesting that unwanted cats be trapped and collected, great care must be observed to ensure that the cats do not include domestic pets

b) Where such a request emanates from a private residence, the person seeking our services must sign a form stating. . . . that to the best of their knowledge and belief, none of the cats described on the form belong to a neighbour or have an owner. Similarly, if the caller claims the cat/s are their own, they must sign a form to this effect.

c) When the request is from an institution, government body, Commercial or factory premises etc., the person in charge must sign - etc.

e) If in the opinion of a welfare officer, any trapping job appears likely to include domestic pets or that it may be hazardous in that it could result in physical injury, legal action, verbal abuse, law-breaking, or could result in the welfare officer committing a legal or moral wrong, then the welfare officer must refuse such a job.

k) Monthly records of jobs must be kept by all welfare personnel, such records to be used in the compilation of our statistical analysis which shall be published from time to time in the Society's Journal.

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

L) Euthanasia shall at all times be carried out under veterinary supervision. There is more of course to the policy, but that is the heart of it. It concludes in part: The foregoing animal welfare policy of The Cat Protection Society of New South Wales, has been formulated with the intention of providing better protection of animals, their owners, welfare officers both honorary and in the employ of the Society, and the Society itself, in all the aforementioned areas of its activities. I hereby certify that the foregoing animal welfare policy was approved and adopted by resolution of the State Council, sitting in special meeting on the fifteenth day of October, 1981.

W. Graham - Chairman of Meeting.

Coming back to that which resulted from the special bulletin; from experience we were not too surprised when almost without exception, replies from members were of the vein that they were already fully extended in the number of cats they were able to maintain and care for. As usual calls for taking cats off other people's hands far outweighed those offering a home.

We well understand that among the cat admiring fraternity there would be little room for anymore. Anyone wanting a cat usually doesn't have to look very far, and mostly you don't find the cat, the cat finds you. It would be a sure bet that most of the cats sharing the bed and board of members, originally lobbed over the back fence or were found loitering in the garden - you all know how it is. Some bedraggled but appealing stray turns up, panhandles you with feline version of, 'brother can you spare a dime', receives a kind word, a pat or two, and perhaps a handout of tucker. He stays on hoping to be accepted into the household - and mostly is.

It was not with the intention of wishing more cats on our members that the bulletin was sent. Our aim was to seek all possible help in providing more homes by passing the word and in any other way that might be helpful.

A certain amount of success was attained. Apart from the many very kind members who sent generous donations to help with the costs of the enterprise, several contacted us to say that copies of the bulletin were being placed on bulletin boards in various places. Two members that we know of had our Ad printed in local papers as their Xmas contribution, and one unknown individual even had it tacked up in a Manly ferry. Much to our delight, some members in response to the appeal, went out to Dural and selected cats for themselves. One was ordered and delivered to the Mother Superior of a religious order.

What we would wish members to understand is that an incredible number of cats are surrendered to us by people who for various reasons, are no longer able to keep them. Some of those persons who surrender animals are quite genuine, others are not so genuine. Alas, far too many beautiful and very affectionate animals are abandoned by their (in)human owners and a great many of these poor bewildered beasties are rescued by our welfare personnel. What to do? Some of these cats are so beautiful in nature and temperament that we just have to place them.

We have cases where elderly people are moving on to a housing commission or church unit where they are not permitted to keep their cats. These poor old cats - often far too old to place - are tearfully handed over to our welfare girls who find such occasions very distressing; they end up having a good howl themselves. Others, uncaring, going o/seas for example, leave it to the last week or even day to notify us of the situation and expect us in some miraculous manner, to produce a home on the instant. Thus the burden of responsibility to do something for these animals is shifted onto our shoulders. We willingly take over that burden for the sake of the animal; the indifferent or uncaring owner we leave to their own conscience.

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

One such case concerned 'Yomo'. Yomo is a very dark brown, part Burmese, left behind by incredibly callous owners when they moved house from Castle Hill. He was taken in by our Society after neighbours heard his pitiful cries, following which a very kind person collected him and brought the matter to our attention. Only a little fellow about eight months old, he has, after being desexed through the Society, been residing at our home in the small cattery I constructed more or less for such emergencies. A voluble 'talker', with the most delightful and affectionate nature one could imagine; so appealing that there was never any question of even remotely considering putting him down.

Yomo, although not too wrapt in other cats, was just plain 'nuts' about human company. Each day upon my arrival home he would call insistently to me from his little cattery to come and play. We had not let him into the house for we felt it would be unkind to let him become settled and think he was 'home'. (we also are fully extended).

It needs little exercise of the imagination to understand the anguish, fear, loneliness, and bewilderment that small animals like Yomo go through when abandoned in such manner by two-legged morons who apparently have no conception that animals have feelings and experience many of the emotions of the human-kind. Yomo unhappily, though a beautiful, loving little creature, was neglected and abandoned. More unhappily, only one of so very, very many.

Over the Xmas holiday period I had already penned most of these words on Yomo in the present tense (realising of course, that they would not be read till March but hoping they would still be effective) and feeling just a little 'down' about the way in which so many animals are abandoned or dumped by their owners at this season of the year, or indeed, at any time.

Then on New Year's eve, in response to our local 'ad', a young lady called about Yomo. My description must have been glowing, for when she arrived she had already purchased cat food, kitty litter and basket. When they were introduced, Yomo put his paws about her neck and nibbled at her ear, (this is not poetic licence) it was a case of mutual love at first sight. As they departed through our front gate I knew that Yomo had at last found a heart more kind than those that had left him behind.

And so, in one small way which I suppose matters not much in the scheme of things, 1982 for me at least, came to a happy close.

The background stories to some of the cats we take in sometimes have an element of human tragedy or unhappiness about them. Take 'Mork' and 'Mindy', two pedigreed Siamese, male and female from the same litter. They belonged to a teen-age girl whose home broke up because of the separation of her parents. Forced to part from her beloved pets her tearful plea to us was, "please try and get them a home together as they have been inseparable since kittens". What to do? Can only inform young lady that we shall try but odds heavily against it.

Then lo, a family arrive at cattery to select only one cat, but on hearing the story decide to give both a home. Wonderful to be able to heal at least a little of the young girl's grief with such news.

Gratifying also to receive a letter from the young woman who took 'Yomo', in which she says: "Yomo the cat is doing well. He is the most loving, gentle animal, still talks a lot, sleeps on my bed at night, and is the best cat I ever owned".

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

And so, if by the very nature of our work on behalf of animals, it sometimes comes about that we are able to bring a small ray of happiness to those of the human-kind, then maybe it can be fairly said that our efforts have been doubly worthwhile.

The personalities of some of the cats we have awaiting homes at Dural really are outstanding. Another delightful pair co-incidentally named 'Mork' and 'Mindy' arrived together. One a little reddish coloured cat and the other a light grey tabby. Both very young with appealing natures. They have both been placed but in different homes.

One beautiful little 'dearie' arrived with no name but was named 'Possum' on the spot by our Treasurer. Every time we went to see the cats 'Possum' would try in the most endearing fashion to 'sell' herself. She had become a special favourite of the Treasurer and for days we waited most anxiously for her to be selected but nobody seemed to want her. Then came the day when a woman who was really only interested in an 'exotic', was unable to resist her appeal. And so it goes. One could go on and on about those animals desperately needing homes; perhaps I'm just trying to be a good salesman.

As should now be readily understood by members, cats such as those described above are merely representative of those selected as 'home material'. Even these are hard enough to place, and within the limits of our resources, man-power and lack of helpful legislation, there is nothing more that we can do for the majority other than the mercy of a humane end.

In the July, 1982 Editorial, we wrote of the pressing need for a companion animal act, legislation making it compulsory that all domestic pets be desexed. As stated in that Editorial, for several years our and other societies have been calling for such a law only to be met with the reply that it would be an encroachment of civil liberties and that in any case it would be too difficult to enforce.

Our words in July have proved truly prophetic, quote; "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". end quote. And so it has come to pass.

Figures suggest that random breath testing has had remarkable success in the short time of its operation. There is little doubt that this success stems from the enormous publicity given to the introduction of the tests and to fear of breaking the law - that is precisely our point.

As stated by one expert in his analysis of the statistics, the chance of a person over the limit being caught is only one in 27,000. But, as has been proven by the very small number of those so far apprehended, the majority of persons are obeying the law and will no doubt continue to do so because of fear of being caught and an innate reluctance to act in an illegal manner.

If a law were to be introduced making it compulsory that all domestic pets be desexed, we do not claim that all owners would comply or that all those not complying would be caught out anymore than not all drivers are remaining within the .05 limit or that no more than a small percentage of these are caught. What we do say is that just as it is claimed that the random breath

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

test law has significantly reduced the road toll, a domestic pet desexing law would significantly reduce the number of stray and unwanted animals and thus reduce the grim and appalling slaughter which so many animal welfare organisations are forced to undertake.

A great hubbub and concern has arisen because of the large number of persons killed annually in road accidents. Therefore, a law which is a threat to individual freedom - some might even call it a gross intrusion on human rights in that it requires citizens going about their lawful business to submit themselves to police detainment and testing simply because they might be guilty of an offence - has been introduced.

Because the number of voices (calculated in votes) calling for improved animal welfare legislation is relatively small, and because animals register so low on the scale of importance, (they have no vote) legislators apparently are not much concerned and are content to fob off those who are concerned, with specious talk of individual freedom, impossible to enforce etc. In our opinion, such reasoning has now been destroyed by the compulsory breath test law.

Mr. Wran has stated categorically that that law and the 0.05 limit is here to stay, he has implied that if it has saved lives the end has justified the means. We say that a law calling for mandatory desexing of domestic pets is far less an intrusion on the rights of the individual than the law Mr. Wran has so recently and successfully introduced, and if it were to enjoy but a small proportion of the success accorded the random breath test law, that end also will have justified the means.

What now is required is for all those animal welfare organisations concerned about the stray animal problem, to get together and make a concerted effort to seek further consideration of the matter from those who make our laws.

In the field of animal welfare, one often feels powerless in the face of indifference and human neglect of animals. If we were able to change the nature of things well, as the old tent-maker, Omar Khyyam, put it 800 or so years ago:

Ah Love! could thou and I with Fate conspire
To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire,
Would not we shatter it to bits - and then
Re-mould it nearer to the Hearts' Desire!

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 2000

(Administration

(Letters to the Editor

(Membership

PHONE 477.1316 MR. GRAHAM (after hours or weekends)

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)

HOMES FOR CATS

PHONE 651.2169 (ANY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAYS)

FUND RAISING TOPICS

By Sybil Cozens

Opportunity Shop: Thank you for responding to our President's plea for workers in the Opportunity Shop. Our roster looks healthier now, although there are vacancies still if you are interested. Don't forget to pass on those unwanted items especially kitchen utensils; we can't get enough.

Housie: Jim and Josie Walsh have organised another Housie afternoon at Enmore on 27th March at 2.00 p.m., \$2.00 admission includes a book of 20 tickets, and tea and "bikkies". How about it, Housie fans? Ring me for a seat on 427.3828.

Philippino Treasures: Mrs. Gwen Downing will talk of her work in helping underprivileged people of the Philippines build a better life for themselves through her sales expertise in Australia. I know you will enjoy her very interesting talk. Arts and Crafts in the fields of basketry, crochet, embroidery, table linen etc. will be for sale - plus crochet shawls, all lovely things for the home. Venue: 15 Best Street, Lane Cove. Date: 9th April, 1.30 p.m. Please ring me for a chair, on 427.3828.

Hon. Secretary
The Cat Protection Society of NSW
PO Box A523
SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

(Please cut out and return to
address shown.)

I/We apply for Membership or Renewal of Membership of the Society for the year
commencing June, 1983.

Subscription	\$50.00 - Life Membership	Enclosed cheque/P.O.
	\$ 5.00 - Annual Membership	for \$
	\$ 5.00 - Pensioner Membership	Please cross cheques and make
	\$ 2.00 - Junior Membership	payable to:

"THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W."

Mr.
Ms.
Mrs.
Miss Initials

BLOCK LETTERS

Address

Pension No. Post code.

Phone No. Signature. Date

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

(Please cut out and return to
address shown).

Enclosed is \$.....(cheque, M/O,P.O.) as donation to the:-

General Appeal \$.....

Ambulance Service Appeal \$.....

Mr.
Ms.
Mrs.
Miss First name or initial.

Address

Post Code

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.