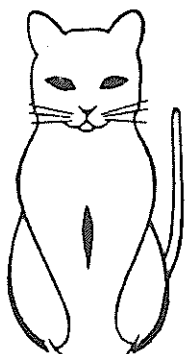


'CAT AFFAIRS'



DECEMBER 1985

# JOURNAL

XMAS APPEAL EDITION

**The Cat**

**Protection Society of N.S.W.**

(Registered Charity CC. 17122)

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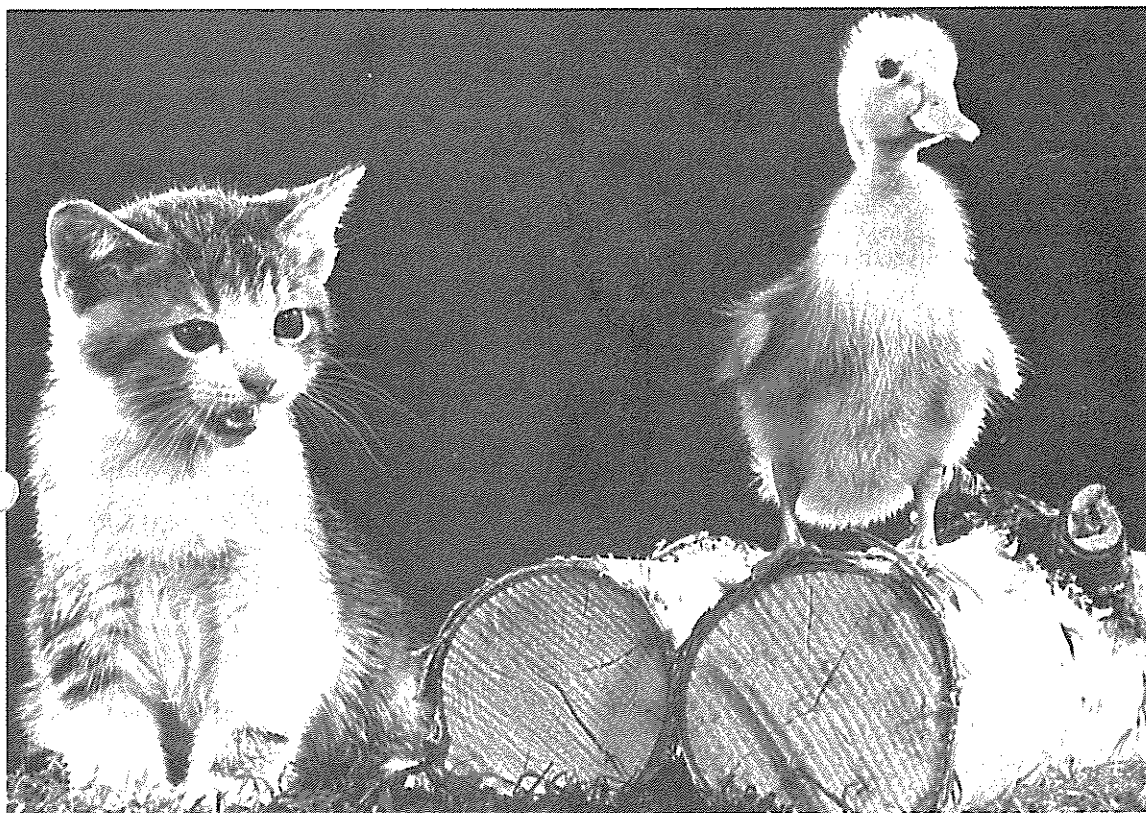
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*"What's this queer bird doing in our magazine?" (For more — see inside)*

**IF YOU CAN PLACE A CAT OR KITTEN IN A GOOD HOME,  
PLEASE RING OUR WELFARE SERVICE — 'PHONE 51 1011 or 651 2169  
PLEASE DO NOT RING 651 2169 ON MATTERS OTHER THAN THE  
PURCHASE OF A CAT**

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Members: It is with deep regret that I open this report with news of the death last August of a very gallant gentleman and colleague, Vice President, Fred Meyers. Fred had been ill for quite some time with a serious heart defect, but when not in hospital never missed a meeting or failed to take keen interest in the affairs and business of the Society. He was always cheerful; a likeable, gentle man of tremendous courage in great adversity. His passing has left a gap almost impossible to fill.

The A.G.M. which took place on Sunday, 15th September, was attended by only 30 members, including the retiring Council. It is disappointing to find so few members able to spare the time to come along and hear the report of the Society's activities for the preceding year. Your comments and questions would be valued by the Council as a guide to future development... there were no new nominations and all previous Councillors were re-elected.

Once again we make the plea for any persons who may have some suitable qualifications or experience to consider offering themselves for a position on Council. As the Society's activities become more widely known so does the workload increase. None of us are becoming younger and a pessimistic glance into the future could see our Society faltering for want of a complete and energetic Council. This must not be allowed to happen to such a worthwhile and sound organisation.

## **Put Not Thy Trust In "Ethics" Committees:**

A report which appeared in The Australian of 7.11.85, headed "Animals Taken Illegally" continued as follows:- "Protected animals, including six Tasmanian Devils, were taken illegally for academic experiments", it was revealed in Hobart yesterday. The six devils and five other wholly protected animals were used without permit in a University of Tasmania experiment, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) found.

NPWS director, Mr. Peter Murrell, said the university had a quota of only eight devils for a series of experiments on brain temperatures.

The Animal Liberation group protested against the experiments last month, describing them as horrifying and futile.

Mr. Murrell said in a statement that during the recent controversy he became aware the university had captured more than its quota of eight devils prescribed in a permit issued in December, 1983.

The service could not lay charges because of the length of time that had elapsed since the offences.

Whenever voices are raised in protest, animal experimenters and their apologists are quick to point to ethics committees as the guaranteed

safeguard against abuses of the system. However, as reports such as the above (and worse) are not uncommon, are we not justified and vindicated in reiterating the view that "ethics committee" is no more than a misnomer for failure, fiasco, fraud and farce?

A contributor in the same issue of The Australian, after detailing many of the bizarre and frightful experiments carried out by academics on native and other animals in universities here and overseas, makes the point: Ethics committees are a farce, members consisting frequently of the very people involved in the research on wildlife.

The code of Practice is not adhered to, i.e. animals are housed under abominable conditions and experiments beginning months before permission is granted by the "ethics committee".

She concludes her letter... It would serve our consciences well to remember that Dr. Mengele, too, was a qualified academic as we remain silent on the present madness taking place at Australian universities.

At time of writing we are into summer's heavy waves of unwanted kittens and mother cats — an exercise we go through every year. Each Spring and Summer our welfare people try to cope with this tragic situation as best they can, but the fact is obvious — there is room for so much more education in the realm of desexing domestic pets. (Why, only recently while listening to the A.B.C. I heard the erudite and urbane Buzz Kennedy express concern at the thought of neutering cats). Unfortunately, even many of the worldly apply human values to animals in this regard — makes our work that much more difficult!

Does anybody want a kitten? No! Of course not; you cat people all have your share.

However, you can help, if means allow, with a contribution to our annual Xmas Appeal. No donation too small, none too big that we can't handle.

On behalf of State Council I wish every one of you a very happy Xmas and the best of New Years.

Bill Graham, President and Chairman.

# MEMBERS' FORUM

## Belling the Cat

Dear Sir,

I desperately seek assistance in dealing with the age-old problem of protecting the birds from the depredations of an otherwise estimable cat. Hitherto, I have decorated his collar with bells to announce his approach, but these have been lost one by one till now there are none, and I have scoured N.S.W. in vain for a replacement. You can buy any computer you like, but not a simple bell for the cat. Is there any source for such a commodity known to the Society; If so, would it be practicable for a large number to be bought, as a "bell bank" available in the Opportunity Shop and sold at a reasonable profit, thus proving of benefit to birds, cat owners, and the Society itself?

Frustrated,  
G.M. Thompson

Dear Sir/Madam,

Some time ago I phoned you because my cat was stuck up a tree and had been there almost 24 hours. Two of your people came out and had him down within minutes.

I haven't been able to thank you until now — I do appreciate what you did. Lucas is now about 8 months old and the most mischievous cat I have ever come across.

Thanks from  
Lynette Graham and little Lucas

Just to say thank you for a lovely pet. Winki was purchased from the Cat Protection Society on 15.5.82.

Pam and Kevin Dick.

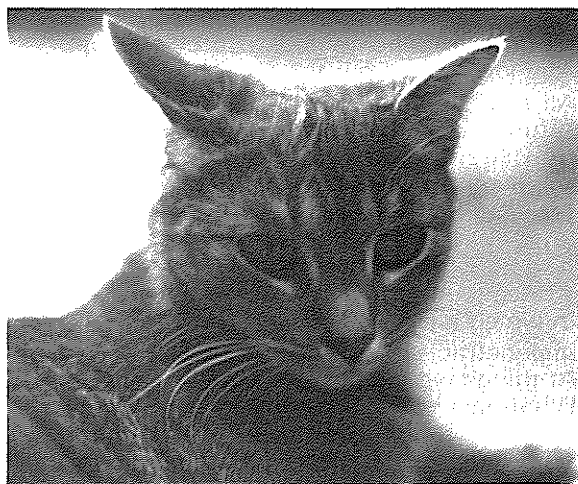


*The situation as seen by Gwen Thompson? Can any reader help Gwen with her problem? Gwen has also forwarded another charming little cat poem:-*

## A Persian Cat.

By F.C.W. Hiley

So dear, so dainty, so demure,  
So charming in whate'er position.  
By race the purest of the pure,  
A little cat of high condition.  
She never bursts in at the door  
In manner boisterous and loud,  
But silently along the floor  
She passes like a little cloud.  
Then, opening wide her amber eyes,  
Puts an enquiring nose up —  
Sudden upon my knee she flies  
Then purrs and tucks her little toes up.



*"Winki". Photo taken on 15.5.83. First anniversary with his owners.*

Dear Mr. Graham,

Re your article on animal experimentation — earlier this year on the T.V. programme "Sixty Minutes", shots were shown of this kind of thing being carried out at a lab somewhere 'near' Melbourne. One poor little monkey was shown with a hole in its skull and it had to function like that.

The overall impression that has remained with me is the distress from fear that was the lot of each animal in turn. Surely something can be done about such cruelty?

Sincerely,  
Mary Whitehead.

Dear Mr. Graham

Congratulations on your editorial in the Journal Winter Appeal Edition, on Animal Experimentation — clear and definite, and very much to the point. I agree too!!!

Am very happy to belong to C.P.S. — please find enclosed cheque to keep up the good work!

Yours sincerely,  
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick.

The following poem was written some 25 years ago by Councillor Jo Tomkin inspired by her tabby cat "Mickey" who was much loved and with her for 13 years.

### Mickey

Dear Mickey girl, you came to us  
When you were quite a little puss.  
I brought you home midst storm and rain,  
And loved you from the night you came!  
All ears and legs you seemed to be —  
A funny little thing!  
How strange you felt, how lost and lone,  
But soon you made yourself "at home"!  
The months have passed, you've grown quite  
big  
And naughty, too at times —  
You've found out all the nooks and holes  
In which a puss can climb!  
Impenetrable as the Sphinx you gaze  
At things we cannot see —  
What happens in that mind of yours?  
You're such a mystery!  
You're fondled, fed, intensely spoilt  
By us, who love you so,  
You even sleep upon the bed,  
You're worse than any child!  
You've won yourself into our hearts,  
With funny ways and tricks —  
Don't go away, for life would be  
So empty, with no Mick!

Dear Bill,

The cat you see here is perched on a piece of sculpted marble at the Colosseum in Rome. It was one of a tribe displaying themselves to the tourists passing by, heel-to-toe, at the height of the holiday season.

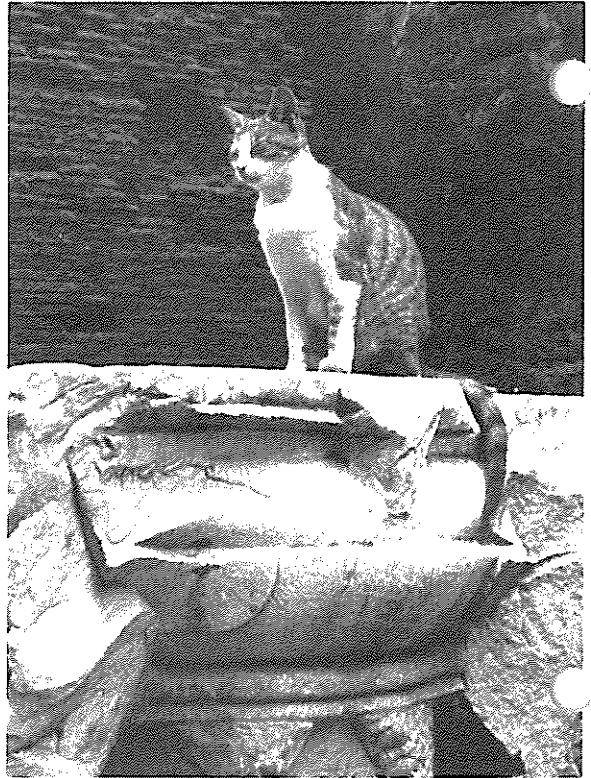
At intervals this cat would raise its head and give the "silent miaow", and occasionally a cat-lover would separate from the rest to give it some cheese or ham from a bread roll.

We all know that cats are intelligent, but these were the most practised beggars

imaginable. They must also be fed, I think, by the concessionaire selling the bread rolls in a niche in the ancient wall nearby, because there was milk in a plastic bowl. A dull life, but this is how the cats of the Colosseum live.

During my average gap around Europe I also saw a houseboat totally enclosed with wire-netting, on a canal in Amsterdam, which is home for stray cats. I do not know whether this boat belongs to an individual cat-lover or if they have, in Amsterdam, the equivalent of our Society. Perhaps some of your readers may enlighten us.

Sincerely,  
Betty Gill.



*Colosseum Cat, snapped by Betty on her Italian sojourn.*

Dear Mr. Graham,

My sincere sympathy to you and your wife on your recent sad loss. How well I know the insufferable wrench with the departing of a loved one. The Memory Lane column and the individual articles from members always fill my eyes with tears and I read how dearly the little ones were loved.

Then, the Annual Report of the last five years' welfare activities and the 18,000 cats who lost their lives through cruelty, neglect, starvation etc. does make horrific reading. But, having to

be necessarily realistic, how many more thousands would have been born from those 18,000 had they not been helped.

Since the two ghastly happenings at the Adelaide Zoo, I feel more strongly than ever about **not** having a cat shelter, and would prefer to continue boarding as many as possible, wherever possible. This, to me, would lessen the likelihood of mass slaughter.

My grateful thanks to all the wonderful people who give so much, freely, to help the most loveable, delightful little creatures on earth.

Very sincerely,  
Betty Scrivener.

Dear Mr. Graham and Everybody,

Thank you so much for all the interesting items in our latest journal received recently. I can only repeat all I said in my last letter published in it. Congratulations on all your grand work.

Many a Cheerio and all God's Blessings,

From  
Ada E. Taylor.

Dear Sir,

Herewith contribution for pussies on behalf of my daughter and myself. I was not able to read journals, having cataracts. Have had cataracts removed and am now able to read and enjoy pussy news. Most interesting journals.

Thanking you,  
Amy Reid.

Dear Bill,

Hope your Society is coming along well. It appears it is from reading "Cat Affairs".

One piece I couldn't let go without reply was the mention of the Talking Dogs. You may like to give the attached to Sharryn Mason. I don't mean to imply that what I say is true but it is not right that people should adopt the view that animals are half-human.

As you yourself know, Bill, the mind of an animal works very differently from ours — and so it should. To consider a cat or dog "almost human" is an insult to such fine animals. The very way in which animals are coddled by owners is often the consequences of an appalling misunderstanding of the real nature of the animal. We must always be on guard to

prevent ourselves from becoming coddlers, especially with dogs. Some dogs, because of the constant habit, enjoy being cuddled, but most of them object strongly to too persistent interference and that pampered handling they so often get from human beings. In short, dogs are pack animals and, to be happy, they should be treated as dogs, not as human beings. It is wrong for many dogs loving people to dribble with sentiment over dogs.

Kind regards,  
Garry Somerville.

Dear Mrs. Graham,

I have given all my journals to the pet shop in Burwood to be given to anyone that may be interested in the C.P.S.... you have done such a lot to help me. Joy took a poor darling mother cat and four kittens some months ago. The cat had brought the kittens and put them under our house. I am so deeply grateful. Many other times you have helped me with poor stray cats. Joy, Sandy and the other girls that have come here have been wonderful.

Kind regards from,  
Mary Ellem.

Dear Madam,

It was with pleasure that I read a recent copy of your journal and decided to add to the variety of anecdotes you receive.

I've long been a cat lover and have always been ready to give 'ordinary' specimens a home. My first cat came from a factory litter and it took more than a week before I could even touch her. Perseverance paid off and she developed into a most affectionate puss whom I loved dearly for her short life.

By this time I'd installed a second model who I'd located via an 'abandoned kitten' advertisement in the newspapers. He has a lovely disposition even though he had a rough start in life. My next cat came from Paddy's Markets and a \$10 investment turned into a flu ridden, tiny kitten badly needing love and affection. She survived to be known as "Princess" as she's petite, ladylike and sometimes a touch aloof. She was a good companion for the abandoned puss, though as she hardly ever speaks, doesn't make much noise.

Of course, two cats were quite sufficient for one household so when a fat tabby kitten wandered in one Saturday I was determined to find her a home — with me!! She's turned into a

female Garfield and specialises in mousing — waiting for hours near a gap in the floorboards to no avail — but she's loveable, just like the other two.

So, my cats give me such pleasure and welcome me home each night, and it's nice to know the Society exists to help less fortunate creatures.

I look forward to receiving the next journal and congratulate you on all your good deeds.

Yours sincerely,  
Lyn Thomas.

Dear Mr. Graham,

I have been a member of the C.P.S. some years but did not get the opportunity of attending an Annual Meeting until the one held last Sunday at the Y.W.C.A., and I would like to say I enjoyed it very much. It was a friendly, business-like function, without the tensions and problems that one finds in some organisations.

The enclosed clipping well illustrates the close attachment between animals and humans, when a pet tries to help its owner in an emergency. The cat in the report did not immediately search for escape when aware of the fire danger, but endeavoured to wake the sleeping man first.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. E. Roger.

*(The clipping Mrs. Roger forwarded is from The Telegraph of 17.9.85 and is headed: 'Frantic Cat's Warning of Fiery Lifesaver' and reads as follows:-*

Psychiatric nurse Terry Anderson was not a cat lover until the family pet, Tootsie, saved his life.

Mr. Anderson's house at Homesville, a Newcastle suburb, was burnt down at the weekend in a mystery fire which destroyed all his possessions.

The fire would have also claimed his life — had it not been for Tootsie's scratching act during the middle of the night.

"I was asleep at about 4 a.m. on Saturday, with Tootsie laying on the bed near my feet," Terry said.

"I've never really liked cats and only took her in because my kids twisted my arm."

But Terry has changed his attitude now in the wake of his close escape.

"She realised something was wrong, with smoke everywhere, and jumped on top and started scratching me.

"I finally got outside and called the fire brigade but it was too late — everything was destroyed.

"I would have been history if Tootsie wasn't around.

"I will be feeding her prime steak from now on."

---

## "MEMORY LANE"

A donation in loving memory of Joe, our dear little ugly duckling who turned into a swan. Died 1.10.85 after being part of our lives for thirteen years. Sadly missed by his "Aunties" and Paddy, Sam and Willie.

Inserted by Margaret Wilson

\* \* \* \* \*

In memory of Tootsie Harvey. The love and joy you brought into our lives will always be remembered. Love, Phil, Marina, Spoozie and Mushka.

Inserted by Mrs. M. Harvey

\* \* \* \* \*

A donation in memory of Peter, a loving and much loved Burmese. Always treated and regarded as a member of the family and the special companion of our two sons, Andrew and Matthew. Died under the wheels of a careless driver who did not trouble to stop.

Inserted by Dr. Teresa Honnibal & family



*Peter in happier days with Andrew and Matthew.*

# MATTHEW FLINDERS AND "TRIM"

By the Editor

During November it was reported in one or two newspapers that an unusual plaque had been unveiled in Sydney's Macquarie Street — dedicated to Trim, the cat who accompanied Matthew Flinders on his circumnavigation of Australia in 1801.

Members of the North Shore Historical Society, so the reports ran, were so enchanted by the story of Trim that they commissioned the plaque in his memory. Fittingly, the plaque has been placed at the foot of Flinders' statue outside the Mitchell Library.

Flinders was so fond of Trim that he wrote a book in his honour. The original manuscript remained in archival obscurity until the early 1970s. Now, however, the story is once again available, having been republished by John Ferguson — "A Biographical Tribute To The Memory of Trim" by Matthew Flinders, 1809.

While reading recently about the plaque and the book a feeling of *deja vu* caused me to search our own archives. Subsequently, I came upon an article which I had published exactly seven years ago in the November, 1978, issue of the Society's journal.

The story of Matthew Flinders and Trim is so appealing that after seven years it might be of interest to cat lovers to reprint extracts from that article — with perhaps some added comments.

Trim, "the best and most illustrious of his race", was the much loved cat who accompanied Matthew Flinders on several of his famous voyages. It was while Flinders was in Cape Town in 1799 obtaining food for the new and struggling settlement of Sydney Town, that Trim was born. His personality and intelligence were such that he soon became the favourite of on board.

Trim was to sail on four ships with Flinders — Reliance, Investigator, Porpoise, Cumberland — travelling from the Cape of Good Hope to Botany Bay, to England and back to Sydney Town; then to be part of the excitement of the circumnavigation of Australia. Trim even endured illness and malnutrition along with the rest of the ship's company when the Investigator was off (sic) the coast of Arnhem Land.

Then, on the ill-fated return trip to England, Trim survived six weeks on Wreck Reef only to finally reach the island of Mauritius where he and his master were held by the French. It was during the seven years of captivity that Flinders wrote Trim's story. The warmth and affection, the fun and humour of Flinders' writing, have all been captured by the imaginative and delicate

drawings of Annette Macarthur-Onslow.

The following was hand-written by Flinders in the back of his book and is not now easy to read, having become so faded:

To the memory of  
Trim

The best and most illustrious of his race,  
the most affectionate of friends,  
faithful of servants,  
and best of creatures.

He made the tour of the Globe, and a voyage  
Australia

which he circumnavigated; and was ever the  
delight and pleasure of his fellow voyagers.  
Returning to Europe in 1803, he was  
shipwrecked

in the Great Equinoxial Ocean;  
This danger he escaped, he sought refuge and  
assistance

at the Isle of France, where  
he was made prisoner, contrary to the laws of  
Justice, of Humanity, and of  
French National Faith;

and where, alas! he terminated his useful  
career, by an untimely death,  
being devoured by the Calophagi of  
that island.

Many a time I have beheld his little merriments  
with delight,

and his superior intelligence with surprise;  
Never will his like be seen again!

Trim was born in the Southern Indian Ocean, in  
the year 1799, and perished as above at the  
Isle of France  
in 1804.

Peace be to his shade and  
Honour to his memory.

Editor's Note: Thus, in the style of his time, Matthew Flinders wrote so touchingly, so long ago, of his beloved cat, Trim. Cat people would all understand how Flinders treasured the companionship shared on their many long and arduous adventures. And the anguished loneliness when Trim vanished forever. It is an insight into the great heart of a man never revealed in the old red-covered history books of my own long-gone school days.

Despite the inevitable sadness of its ending, it is a most beautiful and winsome cat story. It is pleasing to know that it has now been re-issued following that first release in 1978.



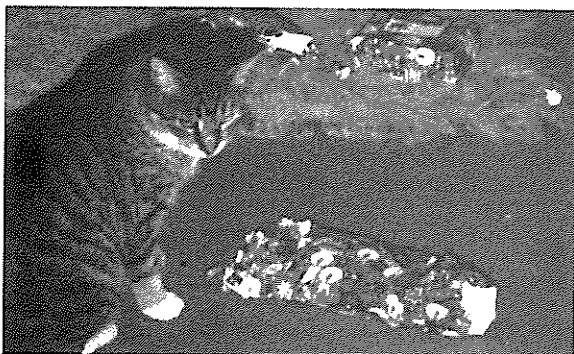
# OF CATS and DOGS and BIRDS and THINGS (and Cabbages and Kings)

By the Editor

During the month of October, 'She who must be obeyed' and I took a leisurely motoring holiday, first to Adelaide and then a tour through the beautiful Victorian countryside. Victoria is truly described as the 'Garden State', but what most intrigued and gave joy were the many pleasant encounters we had with animals — both domestic and of the native variety in their natural habitats.

Staying with relatives in the wooded Adelaide hills — only a scant few kilometres from the city — we were delighted one afternoon to observe a kangaroo hopping through the garden (it couldn't happen in Sydney). And after being lulled to sleep at night by the cry of a nearby resident mopoke, the delight of waking in the morning to the mellifluous songs of the varied bird-life.

Later, at Hall's Gap in Victoria, we took a number of walks where we met with numerous native bears perched up in the gum trees — almost as thick as plums in a Christmas pudding. Being a national park, many quite tame kangaroos, wallabies and other marsupials abounded, including spiny ant-eaters (not so tame!).

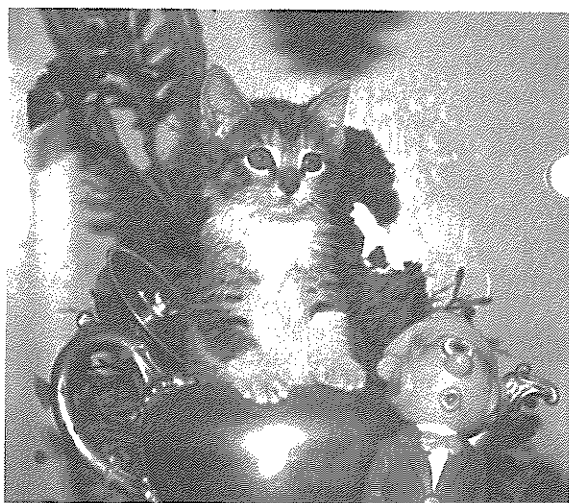


*The cats in this household have their own Christmas tree. This one got in early and opened his present.*

Travelling on to the Ovens Valley in the Bright-Myrtleford area, we spent a week at Porpunkah, in a cabin on the banks of the Ovens River. There, where the river constantly murmured and rippled over the rocks, we would wake in the morning to the chattering of mountain parrots, and then be amused by the antics and flirtings of tiny blue wrens and little red-capped robins.

Finally, before crossing the border back into New South Wales, we stopped off at a vineyard in Rutherglen. In the winery tasting room we noticed a white cat fronting up to the bar in a familiar manner, and in obvious expectation of a

'taste'. On enquiry, we were informed that the cat was no bar-fly, but was indeed the winery cat. He apparently fancied a little taste each day, and he was called "Trebbiano" after the white wine grape of that name. (Yes, on leaving we did purchase a few bottles of trebbiano to see us on our way).



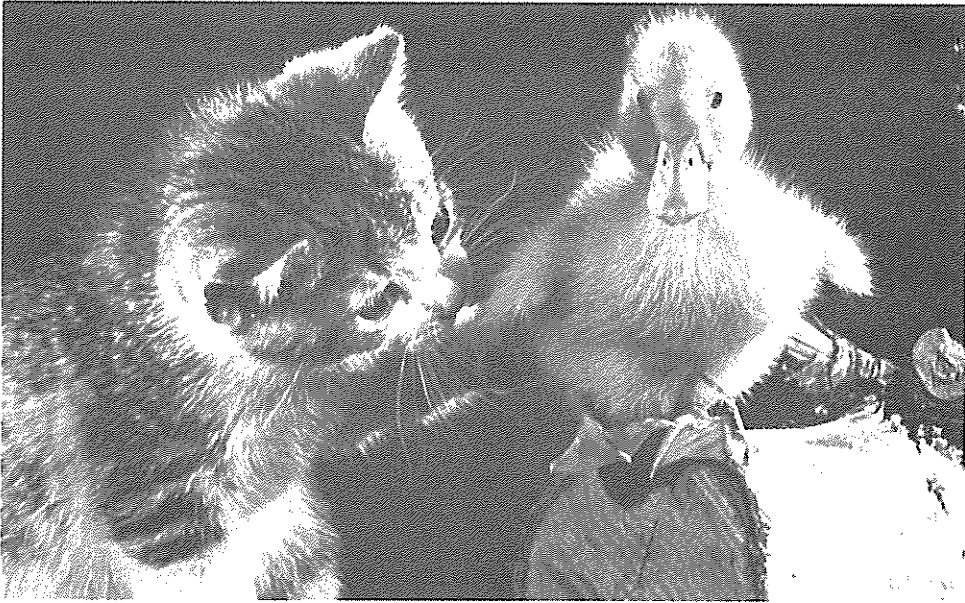
*This one's name is "Little Fella". Looks like his present was a cross-eyed doll!*

And the point of all the foregoing travelogue you might be asking? Merely that to many of us there is magical pleasure in the observance and presence of animals about us, the feeling of serenity so induced by that presence banishes depression and relieves much of our every-day cares. A healing of the spirit if you will, which has been proved in many instances by the introduction of animals to nursing homes for the aged, psychiatric centres, hospitals, etc. So, have you ever thought as I have, what a dreary, drab world it would be if there were no animals?

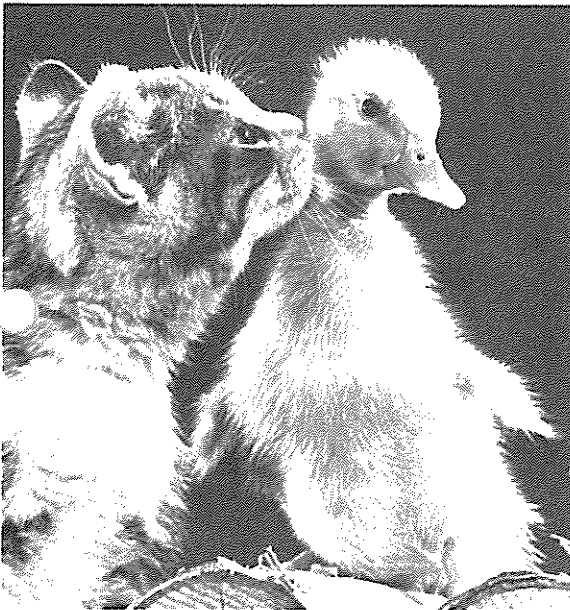
This organisation, by its very nature, causes us to see, hear and write about many sad and tragic episodes affecting animals — but, fortunately, there is a light-hearted, amusing side also. Accordingly, this being our Christmas issue, and a period which should be festive and joyous time for all, the remainder of the this column is devoted to that lighter side. The pictures which follow, generally show cats in amusing interactions with other animals; the photographs are from a collection built up over a period and which have mostly been donated by members. We hope you like them.

Happy Christmas.

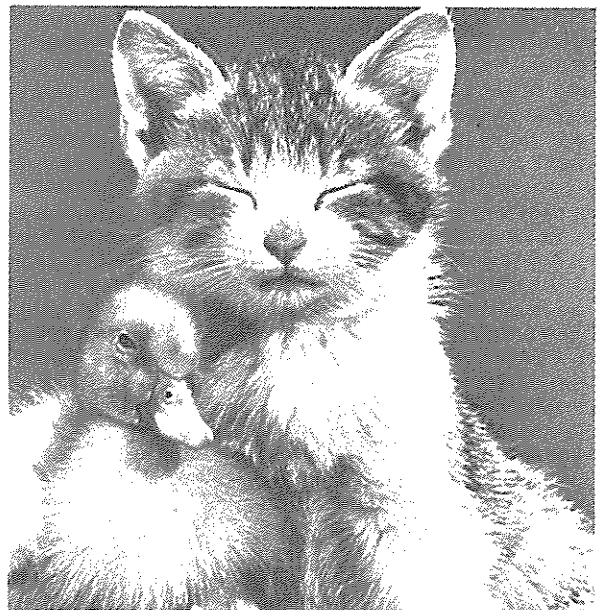




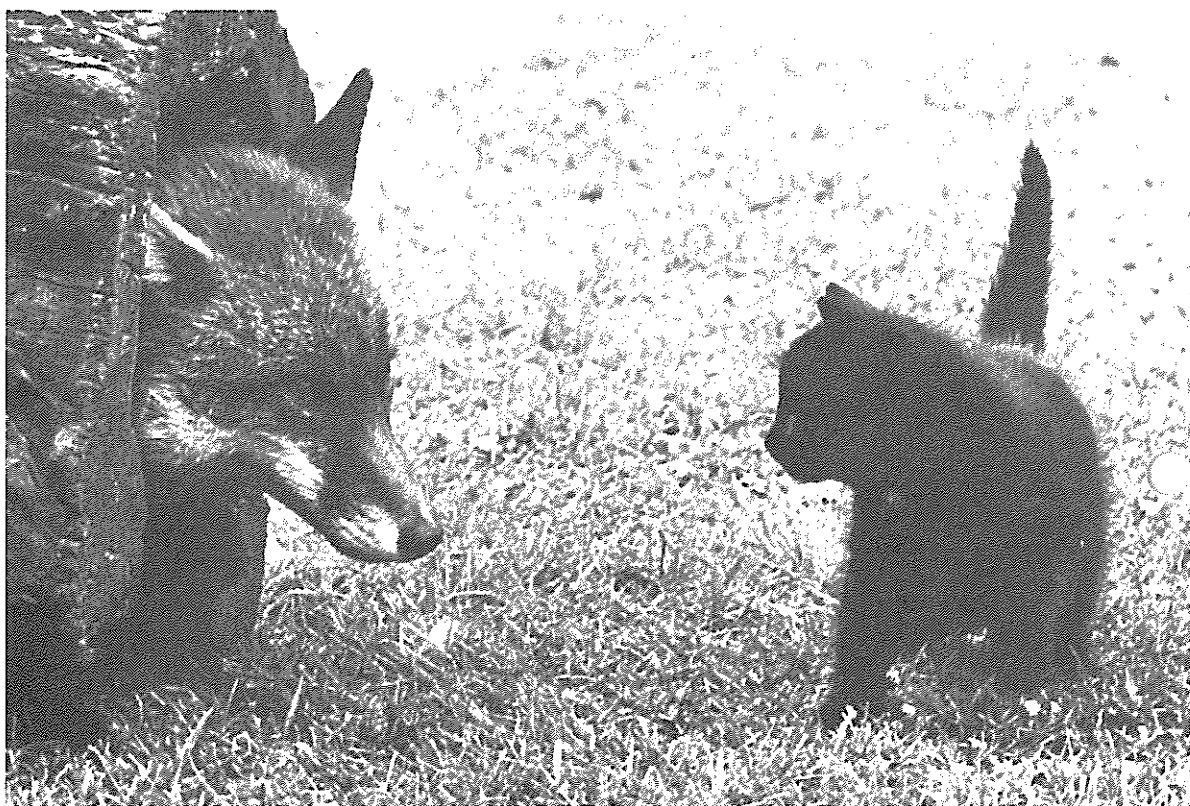
Christmas dinner little quack-quack? No Siree!  
It's merely age-old, feline curiosity  
That causes me to creep up close — and peek —  
At strange webbed feet, and most peculiar beak.



A little sniff, a gentle lick or two:  
For that's the sort of thing that we cats do —  
To make friends — and, thus, with a modicum of  
luck,  
A kitten can be matey with a duck.



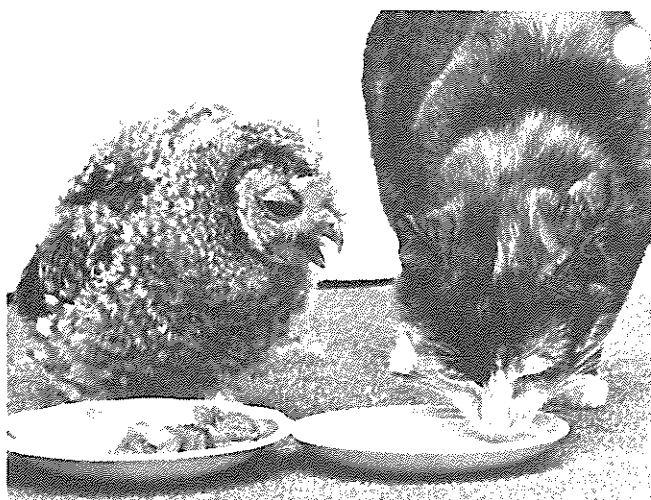
Now cats all know just how to play "cute kitty",  
So for our photograph just sit up pretty —  
When readers see this page we'll have them  
chuckling:  
Oh! Aren't they cute — that kitten and the  
duckling!"



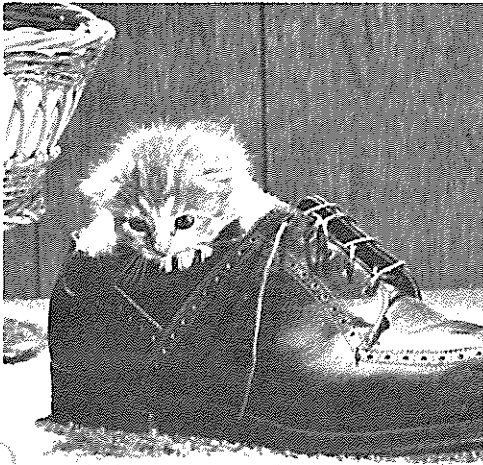
*Brief Encounter: "I don't think I trust you Brer Fox".*



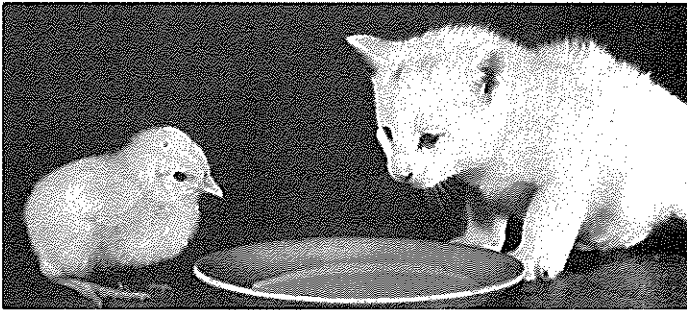
*Pal Joey: 'Aw, come on, let's see you hop'.*



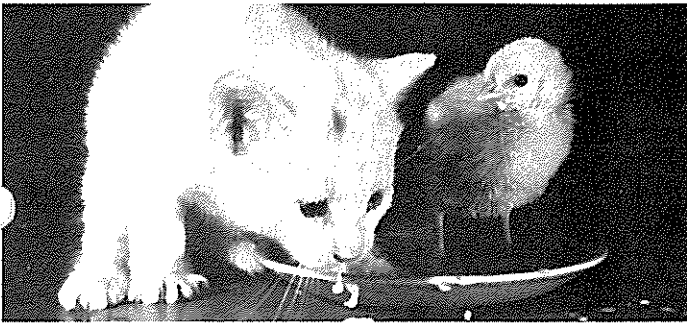
*The Owl and the Pussycat: "I say, old chap, d'you mind moving over so a wise old bird can take a sip or two?"*



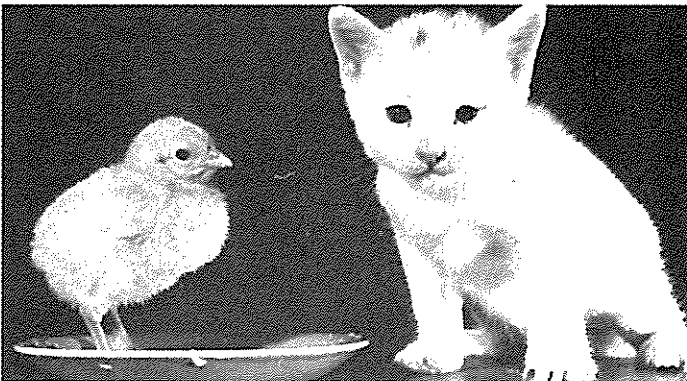
*"I may only be a kitten in a shoe now — but when I grow up I'm gonna be a Puss in Boots!"*



*"I've heard of chickens coming home to roost —*



*— but this is disgusting —*



*— this one's roosting in my milk-bowl!"*







*"Did someone mention chickens coming home to roost?"*



*The tortoise and the hare? No! Cat exhausted after race with tortoise.*

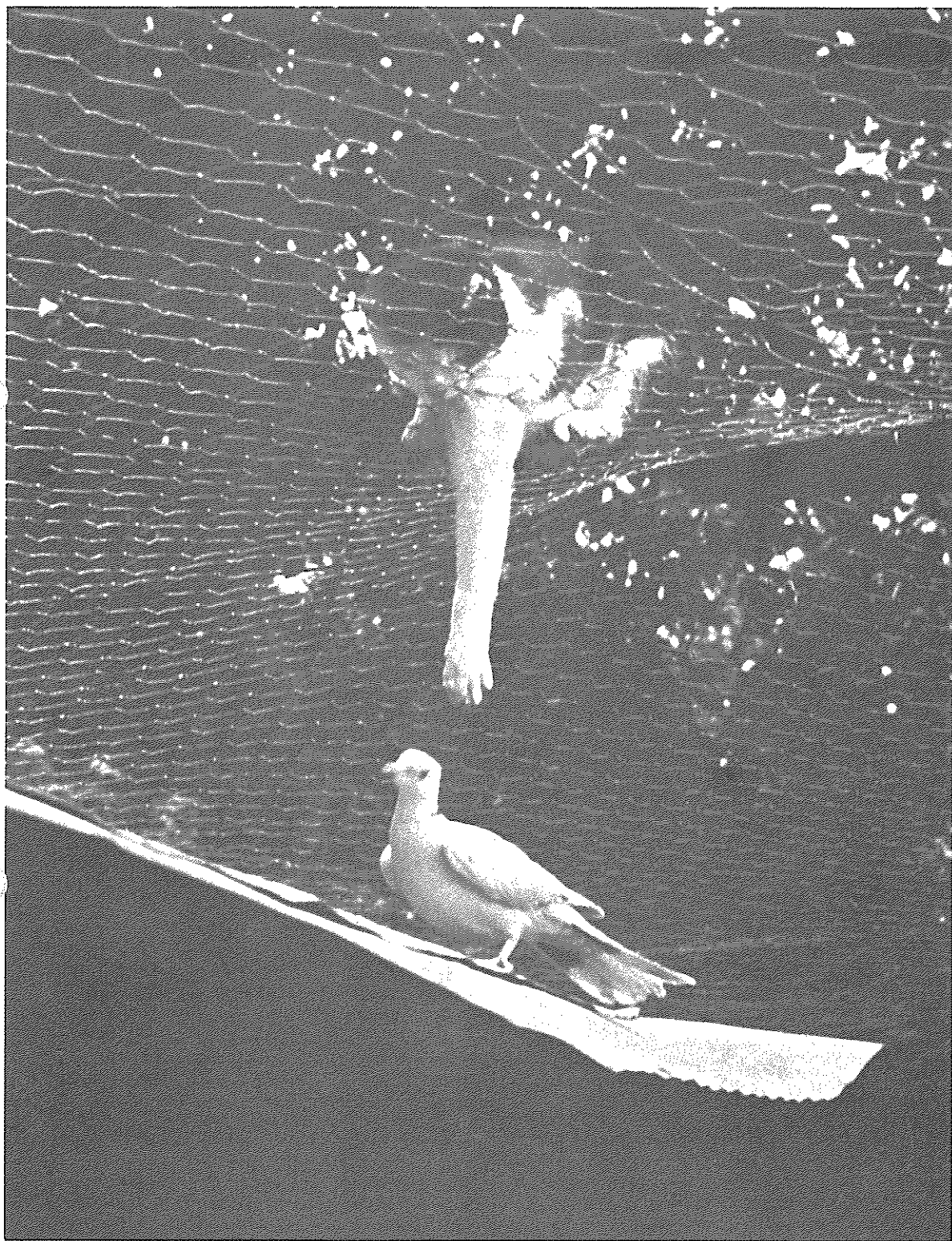


*Former C.P.S. cat "Gabrielle". Now the proud owner of members Dr. Teresa Honnibal, Mr. Trevor Honnibal, and sons Andrew and Matthew.*

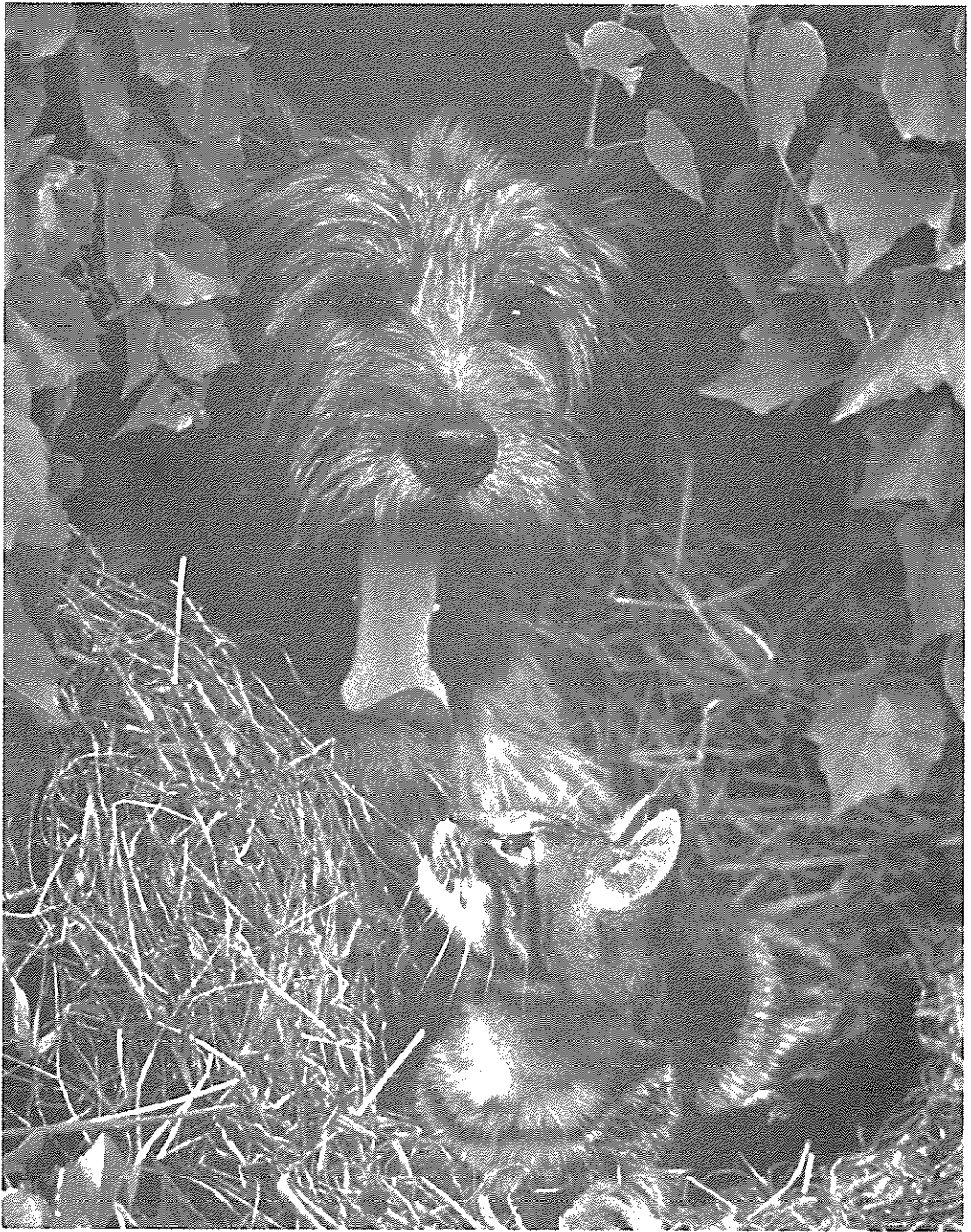


*This one's from Mary Macfarlane. The caption on the back says: "Bing, carried Indian fashion by his loving Mum."*





*Caught red-pawed! Our roving camera snapped this cat vainly attempting to "snaffle" a pigeon for Christmas dinner.*



*"Aye, and it's me, Jock (in case ye dinna ken, ye'll do well to understand I'm a bonny Scottish Terrier) here with ma kitty pal tae wish ye all a bow-wow of a Christmas and a purrfect New Year".*

# FELINE PARVOVIRUS INFECTION (PANLEUKOPAENIA)

By Daria Love

Feline panleukopaenia (feline infectious enteritis) is a highly contagious viral disease of cats. The virus is distinct from the parvovirus infection of dogs and thus cats cannot infect dogs and vice versa.

Feline panleukopaenia is primarily a disease of young kittens but it may affect cats of any age. This will depend on the level of immunity in the population; the immunity level is a reflection of the activity of the virus at a particular time. Often the level of virus activity is low for some time and animals may lose their immunity. When the virus reappears, there are many more susceptible cats in the population, and an outbreak situation is seen. This cyclic appearance of the disease is seen in most cat populations.

During the early stages of the infection the virus is excreted in the urine, faeces, saliva and vomitus. Other cats acquire the virus by contact with infected cats or ingestion of material contaminated with virus-laden exudates. Cats which recover from the infection may harbour virus and shed it in their faeces and urine for a number of months after they recover. These are the virus "carriers". However, unlike some other virus diseases (eg. the viral respiratory diseases of cats), the virus does not depend on carriers for its maintenance in a population. It is a very stable virus which can persist for up to a year in infected places. Formalin is the most effective killer of the virus. Common household disinfectants are not effective.

Once the virus is ingested by a susceptible cat or kitten, it multiplies in the cells lining the intestine. It then spreads to other parts of the body via the bloodstream. The virus may cross into *in utero* kittens if a queen is pregnant when infected.

## Clinical Signs

Many cats undergo subclinical infection i.e. the cat is infected but remains well. Some infected animals may show a very mild clinical infection — simply a rise in temperature with accompanying mild loss of appetite for a few days. In severe cases, there is usually a very sudden onset of severe depression, profound loss of appetite and a very high temperature. Vomiting usually occurs and in some cases, diarrhoea may develop in 24-48 hours. If vomiting and diarrhoea persist, the animal may become severely dehydrated. This occurs more rapidly in kittens than in cats because of size differences. This leads to the characteristic appearance of cats which "hang over their

water bowl". Death may occur rapidly — some kittens dying within 2 days of the first clinical signs. Up to 75% of affected animals may die without treatment.

If kittens are infected with the virus at a particular time in gestation, they may be born alive but without complete brain function. The virus attacks specific cells in the hind-brain (cerebellum). This part of the brain is responsible for coordination and balance and affected kittens may be ataxic, off balance or may circle around while trying to walk. More subtle changes include cats with a wobbly high-stepping gait.

## Treatment

This is mainly aimed at trying to control the symptoms as there is no specific antiviral treatment available. The most important aspect of treatment is to maintain correct fluid balance in the animal. This must be done by injection of large volumes of fluid into veins or the abdomen as oral fluids will simply be vomited. Sometimes animals may need treatment for many days before the intestinal lining heals and oral fluids can be given. Other treatment usually includes "parenteral feeding" of proteins and vitamins if the symptoms persist for more than one week. Antibiotics such as penicillin may be given to try to reduce bacterial proliferation in the infected intestine.

## Prevention

Feline parvovirus is an extremely good virus at producing immunity following natural infection and vaccination. Immunity following vaccination is strong and lasts for a long time.

There are two main vaccines on the market — a "live" vaccine and a "killed" or "inactivated" vaccine. Both give excellent protection when given at the correct ages to susceptible animals. It has been shown experimentally that the live vaccine gives a higher antibody level than the inactivated vaccine. However, it is not known if the difference is of any practical consequence.

It is recommended that vaccination of kittens from queens of current vaccinal status be given at 12-14 weeks. This vaccination should be repeated each twelve months to ensure long lasting protection. This booster vaccination is particularly important for cats kept in isolation where they are not continually exposed to the virus and their immunity is not boosted naturally.

For natural protection from infection, kittens from queens of unknown vaccinal status should be given a dose of vaccine at 10 weeks and then

at 2 weekly intervals until 14 weeks of age when a final vaccine can be administered.

The live vaccine is not recommended for use in pregnant females because of the danger of virus crossing the placenta and producing defects, such as cerebellar hypoplasia, in kittens. Inactivated vaccines may be used during pregnancy however, and early vaccination will ensure a high protection at the time of kittening.

Colostrum-deprived kittens should be vaccinated regardless of age of 2 weekly

intervals until 14 weeks as no protection will have been transferred to the kitten from the colostrum.

Because of the potentially undesirable consequences of administration of live virus vaccines to females and the possibility of shedding of vaccine virus from the throats of vaccinated animals, it is the opinion of some authorities that the killed vaccines have a wider application than the living vaccine for routine administration.

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## GALLIMAUFRY CORNER

by Miss (Olio) Cellany and Sal Magundi

**Polydactyl Pussycats and the Boston Connection:** Remember 'Bigfoot', the handsome tabby with six toes on each foot who was featured on the cover of the April Journal? Well, being aware that two such cats have already been placed by the Society, we got to wondering where and how such cats originated, and if any kind of history was attached to them.

During the winter, our curiosity caused us to make many enquiries and in due course, we were referred to an article which appeared some few years ago in an American newspaper, the 'Boston Globe'. That article was a mine of information due to the research of a chap named Neill Todd, adjunct Professor of Biology at Boston University.

Among biologists and geneticists, the extra-toed condition is a deformation known as polydactyly, and resembles a birth defect of the same name that occurs sometimes in humans. As Todd says, "It looks like the cat is wearing baseball gloves".

According to Todd's findings, the extra toes syndrome occurs in over 12 percent of the cats in Greater Boston, and by finding where such oddball cats live to-day, historians can roughly trace where the early New England settlers subsequently migrated.

For example, many extra-toed cats are found in Canadian cities where colonial loyalists fled during the American Revolution. Very few such cats are found in cities which received few Boston emigres, and areas that haven't seen large migrations from Boston or extensive old shipping contacts with that city do not show frequencies of these cats to-day. In New York City, the frequency of polydactyl cats is only two-tenths of one percent. In Columbus, Ohio, only one cat out of 231 inspected had extra toes, while in Chicago there was only one in 250. Compare this with Boston, out of 311 inspected, a whopping 39 were polydactyls.

The important point, Todd says, is that most of to-day's centres of extra-toed cats are linked to

Boston either by past immigration patterns or by commercial contacts through old ocean shipping routes. Most sailing ships had cats aboard, both as pets and for control of rats, and the cats with extra toes might have been novel enough to lead seamen to select them instead of normal cats. Even to-day, Todd suspects that the novelty factor is one thing that promotes the spread of this genetic change. He concludes: "It seems to me we can now suggest that this mutant arose in, or reached Boston in the very early history of the settlement. Only in this way could it have gained the foothold it now has. In any case, there's no evidence that polydactyly confers any disadvantage, and it is a single gene mutation believed responsible for giving some cats extra toes".

So there it is readers: the Boston connection. Looking again at the picture of 'Bigfoot' one can see he is certainly a handsome fellow — easy to understand why those old-time Yankee salts selected the polydactyl cats as shipboard companions. Considering the sea links and trade that once existed in the days of sail between the New England seaboard and Sydney's Pork Jackson, is it a touch too romantic to imagine that 'Bigfoot' may well be descended from some tough, old, six-toed tom that arrived via the Horn aboard a Yankee whaler — or that his great, great, great (etc) granddaddy once shared a cabin with the bucko-mate of a New England merchantman out of Boston? It could well be.

**Legislation v The Natural Behaviour of Cats:** A few years ago we attended an outdoor Christmas dinner set in the delightful garden of a very palatial home. During the conversation which had turned to the subject of cats, and in which it was revealed that we were rather fond of them, one of the guests, an otherwise very charming and pleasant gentleman, remarked acidly that he hated the creatures. On our enquiring why that should be so, he stated it was because they killed and ate birds.



Sal, who until that moment had been sitting rather quietly, then turned toward the gentleman and no doubt with the mischievous intent of causing him some indigestion, remarked sweetly that: "This chicken is delicious, you also appear to be enjoying it immensely, Mr. "X". Mr. "X", with drumstick raised halfway to his mouth, paused, turned a shade of deep pink, then had the grace to mumble through a mouthful of "bird", that: "Yes — I believe I see what you mean — I never quite thought about it in that way before".

Perhaps partly because of similar reasoning, which after all goes against nature's laws, attempts are made from time to time by those who are prejudiced against cats, to have legislation introduced which is designed to unnaturally and unfairly restrict and curb their natural instincts.

Well, birds are birds and cats are cats, but back in 1949 bird lovers in Illinois attempted to change this natural law through an act of state legislation. Adlai Stevenson was Governor of that state at the time, and in vetoing the bill, he gave the following explanation:

"I cannot agree that it should be the declared public policy of Illinois that a cat visiting a neighbor's yard or crossing the highway is a public nuisance. It is the nature of cats to do a certain amount of unescorted roaming. Many live with their owners in apartments or other restricted premises, and I doubt if we want to make their every brief foray an opportunity for a small-game hunt by zealous citizens with traps or otherwise.

"I am afraid this bill could only create discord, recrimination and enmity.

"Also consider the owner's dilemma: To escort a cat abroad on a leash is against the nature of a cat, and to permit it to venture forth for exercise unattended into a night of new dangers is against the nature of the owner.

Moreover, cats perform useful service, particularly in rural areas, in combatting rodents — work they necessarily perform alone and without regard for property lines.

"We are all interested in protecting certain varieties of birds. That cats destroy some birds, I well know, but I believe this legislation would further but little, the worthy cause to which its proponents give such unselfish effort. The problem of cat versus bird is as old as time. If we attempt to resolve it by legislation, who knows but what we may be called upon to take sides as well in the age-old problems of dog versus cat, bird versus bird, or even bird versus worm..."

**The Cat — Clairvoyant, Mystic, Healer:** Take a good look at your cat. Have you ever considered that you may be looking at an animal that possesses powers so remarkable that they are not to be found in any other animal? Behind

those mysterious eyes lurks the spirit of wild ancestors from whom the present-day cat is descended — spirits which endow even the most placid and domesticated of cats with unique and mysterious abilities.

Every cat, from the plainest tabby to the rarest of exotics, is capable of mental, physical and even extra-sensory feats unique in the animal kingdom. Powers which, among other things, enable them to track down their owners over vast distances, predict natural disasters long before they occur, cure apparently hopeless mental and physical illness, save people and other animals from seemingly inescapable injury or death, use E.S.P. to anticipate danger and convey warning.

These are the findings of David Greene, an experimental psychologist who noticed in his work with children that those who owned cats appeared to be less prone than many of their schoolmates to many of the emotional problems that interfere with school work. Intrigued, he devoted ten years of extensive effort and research into gaining a better understanding of the ways in which cats are of benefit to humans.

In his book 'Incredible Cats: The Secret Powers of Your Pet', Greene says that cats have become increasingly important in recent years in hospitals, schools for the handicapped, drug and alcohol addiction units and old people's homes. Greene describes in detail how research carried out by the University of Pennsylvania found that pet cats gave heart attack victims an improved chance of survival. Another study found cats more effective in the healing role than dogs because of their independent natures — the sensitivity of dogs meant owners could pass on their distress.

According to Greene, cats are expert at using and responding to touch, making up for the western cultural deprivation of touching. He also explores the ability of cats to track their owners over vast distances and instances in which they have warned of natural disasters.

There is the story of Sugar, part Persian, a weakling kitten born in the small Californian town of Anderson. It was her disability, an unusual deformity of the left hip, which later helped provide vital confirmation of her identity and gave her a place in history.

When Sugar was two, her owner, Mary, moved to a new home in Oklahma, 2400 kilometers away. The journey had to be made by car, and knowing Sugar loathed even the shortest trip, Mary reluctantly concluded that it would be kinder to leave her pet behind. A good home was found with a kindly neighbour, and Mary said a tearful goodbye.

Two weeks later a phone call from the neighbour brought Mary the sad news that her pet had disappeared.

Fourteen months later as Mary worked in her garden, a part persian cat suddenly appeared and made its way wearily across the lawn towards her. It was Sugar. An examination of the left hip revealed the unique deformity. There was no doubt that after walking half-way across the United States, Sugar had somehow managed to locate the right house in the right street of the right town.

Then there was Pitchou, the French kitten left behind when his master joined the army. All he knew was that his master had gone away on a train.

It took Pitchou 11 days to complete a journey of more than 120 kilometers through the Vosges Mountains and into the army barracks where his master lay sleeping.

As for the healing power of cats, physicians and psychiatrists round the world have conducted many studies that show that caring for, and loving a cat provides more than emotional satisfaction.

Greene instances an occasion when he was standing in the rather gloomy ward of a mental hospital in Washington, D.C. The surroundings were drab but there was no mistaking the enthusiasm and dedication of the medical and nursing staff. He had been invited by the chief psychiatrist to observe the start of what would, he hoped, become a close and mutually rewarding friendship.

Billy, a 19 year old seriously ill mental patient

was about to be introduced to his new friend, a 15 month old marmalade cat named Rocky. The psychiatrist was hoping that the healing powers of a cat might open windows on a long shuttered mind.

Billy, severely autistic since early childhood, spent his days motionless in the hospital bed staring at a crack in the wall. The psychiatrist carried the cat into Billy's ward and placed him on the young man's bed. "This is Rocky," he said quietly, "I know you two will become good friends".

At first Billy had to be coaxed into patting the cat. Gradually Billy began to take an active interest in caressing him. In time he learned to feed, look after, and finally, to play games with the cat.

The break-through his doctors had been hoping for came on the day he turned to a nurse and said quietly: "Rocky's hungry. He wants some food". They were the first words he had spoken for more than a decade.

Greene concludes: "I have met some of the world's most valuable and pampered pets, and I have accompanied animal welfare workers on their rescue missions as they sought to save abandoned strays from starvation, sickness and death. My purpose in writing this book, is to share with you, probably a cat owner, but almost certainly a cat lover, all I have discovered about the secret life of these amazing animals."

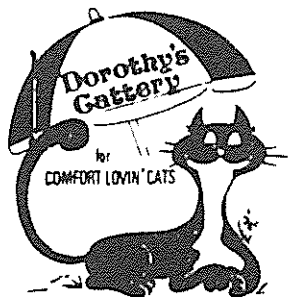
Cheers, Dears, till next time — Olio and Sal.

## PET OWNER — DO YOU LIVE ALONE?

If so, have you made arrangements for the care of your pet or pets in the event of your personal misadventure or demise? If you have not, we recommend that you

give serious thought to nominating a relative or other persons you trust to make the type of arrangements that you would wish.

## DOROTHY FOSTER'S CATTERY (Member C.P.S.)



Licensed Boarding Establishment  
Separate Apartments — Complete with Sun-deck.  
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C.P.S. Cats awaiting caring homes sheltered here.  
PHONE: 651 2169 (Cats for homes)

C.P.S. COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION



# CENTRAL COAST CALLING!

Woy Woy Peninsula Branch is alive and well and working better than ever, as the report below by President Kath Robinson told the recent AGM here:

"Once again we have completed another year of office, and a most rewarding twelve months financially, due to the generous donations and work given by our members, for which I thank everyone...A special "Thanks" to our hon. treasurer (Doris Jackson) for all her good work, and to our hon. secretary (Emma Wells) who with husband Arthur has been a tower of strength in transporting animals to the vets, and helping people without transport. To Gwen Arnold, our gratitude for supplying plants to our garage sales; and to Judith Parson (new member) and her helpers, who manned a stall at the Ettalong Markets. To John and Mabel Rafe who have retired to Marsfield, and who were and still are, wonderful workers for C.P.S., not forgetting all the mass of saleable goods and equipment which they gave before leaving, tending to make our second-last garage sale so profitable. "Thank you both!" we will miss you, and will be overjoyed whenever you can join us. We thank our Auditor, (Mr. Wells) who does a splendid job — free — and as usual we gave him a lovely pot plant.

The figures for year ended May as follows:  
Desexed: 200. Euthanased: 61. Found Homes  
Kittens: 130. F.H. Cats: 22. Vet. checkups: 11.  
Enquiries: 740. Followed through: 650.

Kath concluded: "as we close the year — and a good year, too, we look forward to our new year with hope and many new members, and wish every good health to all."

As Publicity Officer/P.R. one must remark on the happy acquisition of new members Judith Parson, Arthur Wells, and the fully-active membership of Fred Jeanes. Fred has completed several super cat-traps for the Branch to our great joy; he is a keen fan of our Editor and enjoys all his stories — Fred is also an admirer of Henry Lawson — (any similarity?). These two gentlemen never miss a meeting, and are much appreciated.

Emma plans another garage sale; something new is a Raffle and Gifts Stall at K-Mart (Deepwater) at Woy Woy, which is a real honeypot, first week December; a house party is planned, and generally, all members are on their toes.

May we also express our grateful thanks to Sybil and Gordon Cozens who unfailingly make the trip up here to bring us just that welcome bit of moral support AND the lovely goodies and stalls things, without which we would indeed be battling!

The Branch is gearing up to face the coming holiday season in our lovely area — which is such a happy time for all but needy cats and their offspring. May the Powers That Be give us that little extra strength and optimism to provide whatever T.L.C. we can, and arrange a better future for some in dire straits. For December, we send Season's Greetings to you all, from us all, here.

From,  
Dorothy Haines.

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## "IN MEMORIAM"

A donation in memory of the late Miss Alice Burt, Patron and long time member of the Calico and Bi Colour Cat Club.

Inserted by Miss J. Key, Secretary

In memory of the late Frederick Meyers, Vice-President of The Cat Protection Society of New South Wales. Passed away 22.8.85.

Inserted by State Council of the Society

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## AUXILIARY JOTTINGS

by Sybil Cozens

It is with regret that I have to tell you Cynthia's Fashion Show had to be cancelled, owing to lack of support. This was a great disappointment to me as Cynthia has been a very loyal supporter of the Society over the years.

Also, regretfully, we mourn the passing of Amy Hefft who was a dedicated voluntary worker in and for the Op Shop.

If anyone would like to help in the Op Shop either once monthly, fortnightly, or weekly, please contact me on 427.3828 or Jo Tomkin on 713.8576. Your assistance is very much needed.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, once again I sincerely thank everyone for their donations of goods for the Op Shop, and would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

# UP DATE ON PROPOSED COMPANION ANIMALS ACT

The introduction and passing of animal welfare legislation has, historically, been a frustratingly slow process and the suggested Companion Animals Act is shaping up to be no exception.

Readers may be interested in learning about some of the difficulties being experienced by Victorian animal welfarists with their proposed Companion Animals Bill which is to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. The aim is to balance the rights of people who wish to keep domestic pets with those of others who want to live in a pet-free environment. The proposed legislation seeks to achieve this by —

- Promoting responsible pet ownership;
- Placing controls on numbers and classes of companion animals that may be kept;
- Providing effective ways to redress situations where pets are causing nuisance to either humans or animals;
- Placing controls on commercial animal businesses;
- Encouraging efficient use of available animal welfare resources;
- Providing recreational spaces for the free exercise of pet animals and the enjoyment of pets.

If adopted, similar types of controls which currently apply to dogs would be extended to include cats and, at the individual Council's discretion, to any other vertebrate (excluding humans and farm animals) whose prime function is to provide companionship, for example horses and birds.

Companion animals are causing many problems for municipal Councils throughout Victoria. Large numbers of stray and feral cats and dogs exist in both urban and rural areas, creating a significant nuisance to humans and a threat to domestic animals and wildlife. Uncontrolled breeding of companion animals is leading to most of the problems.

The problems, suggested solutions and eventual framing of suitable legislation in Victoria are being closely monitored by N.S.W. animal welfare organisations who hope to learn from the experience of their Victorian counterparts when attempting similar legislation in this State.

The furore in the community which has been aroused in Victoria will without doubt be duplicated here when the time arrives. Few issues arouse the motions of people as much as those involving animals.

The proposed Victorian companion animals legislation was brought into being by the Joint Advisory Committee on Pets in Society and the

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister of Agriculture. A discussion paper detailing their proposals was released for public comment last December. This resulted in the Department of Agriculture incurring the wrath of thousands of animal lovers and haters, community groups, local Councils and others. Public submissions were invited and over 12,000 were received. As stated by Martin Cameron, senior administrative officer for the Department of Agriculture, "although 75 percent of the comments were in agreement with the general objectives of the legislation and the majority of people agreed that dogs and cats should be controlled, that birds should live in certain-sized cages and fish in certain-sized tanks, they were happy for the legislation to control other people and other animals, but not their own".

The responses revealed the intensity and irrationality of public concern and the ferocity with which some people hate some animals as well as the affection in which they are held by others. Mr. Cameron reported that 9 out of 10 Councils were alarmed at the increased burden the proposed legislation would place on their resources, many of whom lacked sufficient funds to administer the Dog Act, let alone this new companion animals legislation. A possible answer to this was for Councils to strike a rate levy. However, non-pet owning residents objected strongly to this suggestion, as did the Department of Local Government and the Municipal Association of Victoria. For six months Martin Cameron has been assessing the thousands of comments received and, to quote his own words, "it's driving me mad". It has been hoped that legislation would have been introduced early next year but due to the unexpected enormity of the task, Mr. Cameron said "it is definitely not likely to become legislation in the foreseeable future".

For those of you who have read this far, the intention of this article is to demonstrate to members the truth of the old adage that "nothing is as simple as it seems" and that the road ahead for companion animals legislation in our State will indeed be strewn with thorns.

Shirley Pikler

*Sources of information — Dept. of Agriculture, Victoria "Comments on Companion Animals Legislation Discussion Paper", and the Local Government Bulletin, September, 1985.*



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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 Owners' instructions.

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PHONE: 51 1011**

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

(Administration

(Letters to the Editor PHONE 477 1316, Mr. Graham

(Membership

OPPORTUNITY SHOP: PHONE 516 2072 9.30—4.00 week days  
9.30—12.00 Saturdays

(Auxiliary

(Fund Raising

PHONE 427 3828 Mrs. Cozens

# FORM OF BEQUEST

To those benevolent persons who may be disposed to assist this Society and its work, the following FORM OF BEQUEST is suggested —

I give and bequeath to "THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES", for the use and purposes of the said Society, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, free of all death and estate duties and the receipt of the Treasurer of the said Society shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.

The Society, being a corporate body, can receive bequests of real and personal property as well as money.

The Secretary  
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
P.O. 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, 1985. **Note:** all persons joining from January remain financial until June the following year.

Subscription	\$100.00 — Life Membership	Enclosed Cheque/Money Order
	\$ 5.00 — Annual Membership	for \$ .....
	\$ 5.00 — Pensioner Membership	
	\$ 2.00 — Junior Membership	Please cross cheques and make payable to:

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

Mr.  
Ms.  
Mrs.  
Miss ..... Initials .....  
BLOCK LETTERS

Address .....

Pension No. .... Postcode .....

Phone No ..... Signature ..... Date .....

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The Secretary  
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
P.O. Box A523  
SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

(Please cut out and return to address shown).

Enclosed is \$ ..... (Cheque, Money Order) as donation to the:—

XMAS APPEAL \$ .....

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

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**Secretary's Note:** Receipts for subscriptions are only forwarded upon request accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.