'CAT AFFAIRS'



DECEMBER 1986

# **JOURNAL**

XMAS APPEAL EDITION

The Cat

# Protection Society of N.S.W.

(Registered Charity CC. 17122)

Registered Office & Postal Address: 103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE, N.S.W. 2042. Telephone: 51 1011

PATRONS: Miss Ita Buttrose, O.B.E., The Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C. OFFICE BEARERS: PRESIDENT: Professor Daria Love B.V.Sc., Ph.D., M.R.C.Path., M.A.S.M.

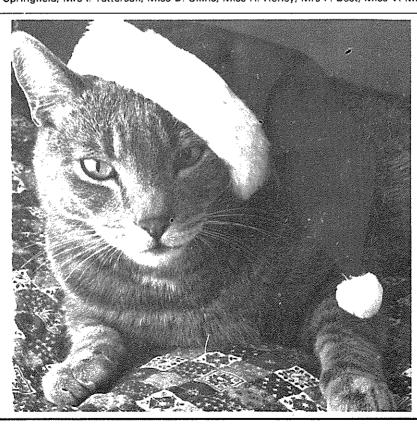
VICE PRESIDENTS: Mrs Sybil Cozens, Miss Jo Tomkin HONORARY TREASURER: Mrs Nancy Iredale HONORARY SECRETARY: Mrs Shirley Pikler

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Miss Jo Tomkin

COUNCILLORS: Miss Denise Tierney, Miss Lyn Thomas, Miss Joy Peachey,

Mrs Barbara Kuhn, Mrs Elizabeth Jones, Miss Elizabeth Garven

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Mrs Elizabeth Jones, Miss Elizabeth Garven
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Mrs Elizabeth Jones, Miss Lyn Thomas, Miss Jo Tomkin
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: Mr G. Cozens, Mrs S. Cozens, Mrs A. Gillham, Mr W. Graham, Mrs J. Graham,
Mrs D. Haines, Mrs B. Harvey, Mrs N. Iredale, Mr G. Luton, Mrs T. Nelson, Mrs S. Pikler, Mrs J. Taylor
LIFE GOVERNORS: Mr & Mrs L. Braby, Miss C. Bryant, Mrs B. Morrison, Miss M. Barnard, Mrs N. Iredale,
Mrs S. Springfield, Mrs I. Tattersall, Miss D. Silins, Miss H. Heney, Mrs F. Best, Miss V. Murdoch



As I've got the "CLAUS" where is SANTA?

IF YOU CAN PLACE A CAT OR KITTEN IN A GOOD HOME. PLEASE RING OUR WELFARE SERVICE - 'PHONE 51 1011 or 626 9333 PLEASE DO NOT RING 626 9333 ON MATTERS OTHER THAN THE **PURCHASE OF A CAT** 



# Seasons Greetings



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President, Councillors and Officers of the Society extend to all members, Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and may God bless our earnest endeavours towards all living creatures.

The Annual General Meeting which took place on Sunday 14th September, was a meeting of mixed fortunes for the Society. It was the occasion of the final meeting with Mr. Bill Graham in the chair and with the attendance of Mr. Geoffrey Luton, Councillor who retired after 25 years of service to the Society. The shape of the Society would have been different without them. It was also the occasion of the first election for places on Council. It is hoped that those elected for the first time to serve as Councillors will find it a rewarding experience and that it will allow them an avenue through which to direct their energies and enthusiasm for the welfare of the cats which so desperately require our assistance.

At the AGM, concern was expressed by many members that we appeared unable to find many quality homes for our cats. It has long been the desire of Council to find a suitable cattery which might be able to provide access for cat purchase on Sundays - a time when many people seek purchase of a cat. I am delighted to report that such a place has now been found; we hope that this will enable more suitable placements to be made. On behalf of the Society, Council has expressed its appreciation to Mrs. Dorothy Foster who has provided care for the Society's cats for a number of years.

Council members - Mesdames Cozens, Pikler. Iredale and Love met on 16th October, with the Secretary to the Minister for Local Government. The Secretary wished to familiarise himself with the activities of the Society. Councillors expressed their desire for compulsory registration of cats and for an incentive for desexing of cats. Unfortunately, the Secretary was unable th provide us with any hope that Government would consider the matter. He expressed interest in the activities of the Ambulance Scheme but drew our attention to possible problems with the Veterinary Surgeons (1986) Act, which will be proclaimed late in 1986. He suggested we contact the Board of Veterinary Surgeons to discuss the issues. In 1985, Council of CPS wrote to the Board of Veterinary Surgeons expressing our desire to acquaint them with our work, but no meeti( was arranged. Possibly, as a result of our meeting with the Secretary to the Minister, a meeting with the Board has now been agreed hopefully for February, 1987. If we are unable to continue running the welfare service in its current form, very many cats in the Sydney Metropolitan Area will not have an opportunity to be cared for when injured and in distress. Nor will many have the opportunity to be desexed.

During the past few months, changes in the welfare personnel have seen the recruitment of Mrs. Julie Molnar and Miss Patricia Eslick. Both women have learned their welfare duties readily and are people who will represent the Society with distinction. Our Welfare Officers (Miss P. Eslick, Mrs. J. Molnar and Miss S. Moss) are our link with the public. They are our P.R. people and the image of the Society is projected through them. This is yet another facet of the duties they carry out in caring for the animals handled by the Society.

It is gratifying to see that the activities of the Society are held in high regard by its membe. and by the public. Part of their regard is often expressed in the form of donations sent with membership fee renewals, part by responses to appeals and part by legacies. So far this financial year we have received a number of legacies which have boosted our funds sufficiently to allow us to continue our activities despite the depressed economic circumstances.

We look forward to a fruitful - even if hard year.

> Daria Love, President

# NEW MEMBERS — August to October, 1986

DELMAS, Ms C. The STEELE family The SIMPSON family WARNER, Mr. & Mrs. R. WARNER, Mr. C. & Ms. C. BALKIN West Ryde BANKS, Mr. & Mrs. R. MEDD, Miss M. The WATT family WITTUS, Mrs. A. SHAPCOTT, Mrs. M.

Potts Point West Pennant Hills West Ryde West Ryde West Ryde Leichhardt West Ryde West Ryde Leppington THOMPSON, Mr. J. STRANGWICK, Mr. N. WRIGHT, Mrs. S. HEWSON, Ms. L. SWAB, Mr. L. CROWE, Mrs. S. HOWARD, Ms. V. & Mrs. V. TAYLOR ROEHR, Mr. K. RAMSAY, Mrs.

Newtown Newtown Drummoyne Harbord West Guildford Wentworthville Clifton Gardens

> Redfern Bexley

WALKER, Miss J. JEFFREYS, Miss S. HADDRICK, Mr. & Mrs. K. CROWLEY, Ms. C. CATTERNS, Miss A. VITALIS, Mrs. N. FORSTER, Miss B. BROMLEY, Miss M. McNAMARA, Mrs. M. JAY, Ms. R. MARTIN, Mrs. V. AHERNE, Mrs. S. CHAUZ. Ms. E. JOHNSON, Mr. & Mrs. B. BUCKNELL, Mr. W. GALLO, Ms. J. SADLER, Mrs. E. PRITCHETT, Miss H. McGRATH, Mrs. J. HYLAND, Mrs. S. CHEFFINGS, Mrs. I. WILKINSON, Mrs. J. LONSDALE, Mrs. M. GOULD, Miss M. WENBAN, Miss K. (Junior Member) ROBERTSON, Miss A. (Junior Member) CHALKER, Miss S. (Junior Member) ASTILL, Miss D. (Junior Member)

PEARCE, Ms. J.

Turramurra Turramurra Pymble Randwick Queenscliffe Waterloo Punchbowl Kincumber Umina Wov Wov Randwick Bronte Bulahdelah Dapto Connells Point Waverley Telopea Telopea Lane Cove Penshurst Cambridge Park Padstow Enmore Lilvfield Harbord

Eastwood

Epping Abbotsford

Annandale

THIERING, Miss N. TRENTHAM-OLD, Mrs. H. PAGE, Mrs. L. HART, Mrs. A. THOMPSON, Mrs. J. ROSENTHAL, Mrs. F. BOYD, Mrs. L. HOSICK, Ms. S. WATERS, Mr. P. IRELAND, Mrs. I. STRAZDINS. Mrs. Z. EVEREST. Miss K. MONAGLE, Mrs. J. CONRY, Mrs. S. CAUSER, Mrs. M. PETROZZI, Mrs. B. KEYTE, Mrs. C. THURGOOD, Mrs. G. SANDNER, Mrs. A. REGAN, Mrs. A. BAILEY, Mrs. V. JAMES, Mrs. L. RAISS, Mrs. B. SHIRLEY, Mr. & Mrs. G. BROWN, Mrs. P. COLELOUGH, Mrs. Y. HAZEL, Miss S. HADDEN, Ms. J. HIBBERT, Mr. & Mrs. G. LEE, Mrs. A. MIDDLETON, Mrs. H. RUUT, Dr. T.

Eastwood Epping Dulwich Hill Springfield East Ryde Stanmore Caringbah Concord West Harbord Sefton Austinmer Sans Souci Botany Culburra Beach Chipping Norton Pymble West Guildford Moorebank Granville Tregear Wahroonga Turramurra Summer Hill Artarmon Tanilba Bay Allawah Kulnura Pymble Glebe Willoughby

Hurstville

Mosman

# **DESEXING OF CATS (Female)**

By Daria Love

It has been shown overseas that cats suffer no ill effects from desexing at a very early age (say six weeks). There is some debate about the optimal time for desexing of female cats. In the past, it has been generally held that the optimal time is about six months although some people favour a younger age — say four months.

Why desex at - say four months?

 If the owners know the cat is four months old, it will suffer no ill effects.

- Most owners underestimate the age of kittens. Surveys have revealed that few people can tell the age of kittens and are often up to six weeks or more in error. Therefore, when the owner thinks the cat is four months, it may be at least 5½ — 6 months old.
- Cats born in autumn/winter period and which are well nourished, usually come into season in August. This often means that cats four months of age will be in season and will conceive at that time.

4. A female cat which is allowed to come into season, even if not mated, has a significantly increased risk of developing mammary gland cancers later in life. Therefore, the life expectancy of the cat is reduced. Each pregnancy or subsequent heat period exacerbates the risk.

In the past, the veterinary profession recommended desexing of females at six months. This is an historic time which was relevant some 20 years ago, but is less relevant today. Cats come into season at one kilogram weight or in spring if they are about one kilogram in weight (whichever comes first). Before the advent of balanced canned or dried food diets, this usually meant at about six months of age. Today, with better nutrition available to cats and kittens, the one kilogram is reached at a much earlier age. Also, some 20 years ago, the veterinary profession was less familiar with anaesthesia in the cat and had available to them less safe anaesthetic agents than they have today. Desexing of female cats,

### A LITTLE ABOUT OUR NEW CATTERY

As mentioned in the Chairman's Report, State Council has been searching for a long time for a cattery with extended hours from which to place our cats and kittens into good homes.

Our new venue, Parklands Cattery, 505 Sunny Holt Road, Blacktown, is open six days each week from 9.00-5.00 and on Wednesdays from 9.00-1.30, Telephone 626 9333.

Julie Sarten is the Manageress of the establishment and is well known to all our welfare staff, having worked at Concord Animal Hospital as a veterinary nurse.

Parklands is owned by Veterinarian Paul Waters who visits there at least three times each week, thus ensuring prompt attention to any health problems.

Young kittens are kept in a separate area and cats and older kittens are housed in good sized runs, generally two to each run.

We are indebted to Mrs. Dorothy Foster her long and caring involvement with our cats at Dural where she continues her commitment to cat welfare through the Northside Branch of Animal Welfare League of N.S.W.

### TERRITORIAL TAILS

Gas and Electricity servicemen are used to finding notes from customers advising them about various pets to be encountered in the house. But a recent note caused one man to do a double take — and this was all he took! The note said:

"Heater is in hallway — do service.

Dogs are in kitchen — do avoid.

Guinea Pig in hallway — do not squash.

Cats everywhere — do take one home."

### Monument to a cat

Few cats, real or legendary, have won the fame and notoriety of Dick Whittington's Magical Mouser. A monument stands at Highgate Hill in North London, where Whittington 'turned again' to seek his fortune in the city. Whittington, who was Lord Mayor of London three times in the fifteenth century, owed all his success to his adept feline.

Courtesy J.C. Suares 'The Indispensable Cat'

#### **Cat Tombstones**

When a cat died of natural causes at home in ancient Egypt, its human family shaved their eyebrows and lamented loudly. After the appropriate interval of mourning, the eyes of the deceased were closed and its whiskers were pressed to its lips in order to prepare it for mummification. Then the feline was decently buried, often in an elaborate sarcophagus. And the ceremonious internment of cats is still practised in the United States, and cat tombstones reflect America's interest in feline burial.

Courtesy J.C. Suares 'The Indispensable Cat'

### Trouble naming the cat?

For cats interested in television: Emma Peel, Flickers, Starsky & Hutch, Liberace, Hawkeye.

For cats interested in tennis: Gorgeous Gussie, Billie Jean, Pancho Gonzales, McEnroe. For cats interested in motor cars: Rear Axle,

For cats interested in motor cars: Rear Axis Ferrari, M.G., Spokes, Daimler, Chevy.

And let us not forget those who have sensitive noses: Parsley, Nutmeg, Basil, Clove, Cinnamon, Oregano, Rosemary.

# URGENTLY PLEASE!!

A supply of old towels, sheets, etc. is urgently required at "Parklands" for the cats. Also needed are boxes for cat transportation.

Please leave them at Enmore or make arrangements for them to be picked up by phoning **51 1011**.

### **AUXILIARY NEWS**

### By Sybil Cozens

Journal time again, and it's time for me to put my "thinking cap" on and try to find some interesting snippets to pass on. This becomes extremely difficult when I have "the Empress of Persia" doing her utmost to make me stop by walking over, lying on and playing with my writing paper and demanding T.L.C. (tender loving care) all the while.

I was very disappointed by the lack of sonse to my August Appeal for assistants to work in the shop selling the goods so generously donated. One new worker came forward. If we don't get some more interested workers we shall be forced to close the shop several days each week. At the present time, our roster is stretched to the limit, some people working up to four times a month, and even two or three times a week. In my last article I stated that 60 members on the roster would allow two each day and back-ups for those occasions when people go on holidays and when illness occurs. One day a month — 9.30 to 4.00 p.m.

Our Willoughby member mentioned last journal, is still systematically going through her house and giving to the shop. For interest, I started tallying the priced goods as they went into the "holding room" awaiting sale — the figure is \$1,000 so far! I'm sure most of us don't realise the tremendous value of unwanted goods we have lying unused in our homes —

sometimes for years! I will also give her another "bouquet" as she has organised amongst her friends — some are members — to deliver to her their donation of goods. These are put into her front verandah room. When she considers she has a load, she rings us for a pick-up. I might add this lady cannot leave her house or even walk outside unaided.

This arrangement might be followed by other members if they have a room or dry garage where things could be stored for a couple of weeks or so at a time, until I can arrange a pick-up.

#### VALE — Lillian Haines

Lillian Haines, Cherry Weardon and Pat Harvey joined our ranks when the Op Shop first opened way back in 1979. Jo rostered them on together as they live close to each other and over all these years two or three of them have always fronted up on their rostered day. We've never had to check on their availability, being to Jo and me "the Three Musketeers who never let you down". Tireless workers all, and of course, Lillian did so much for unwanted cats.

I am sorry to say Lillian died recently and has left a void in the Pussy Cat worker ranks. We will miss you, Lillian.

### THE HAZARDS OF WILD CAT COLONIES

I'd much rather be writing of some of the amusing incidents Welfare Officers encounter than the grim life of a colony cat — take for instance, my encounters with Murgatroyd, about six litters overdue for her operation. You see. Murgatrovd and her owner believe in the stars and each time I nearly had Murgatroyd on the table the stars would be wrong. I had her almost in my van one day when she indicated once again - that the stars were wrong and she would die on the way to the vet. Imagine my joy/ irritation etc. to visit Murgatroyd and her owner at home on the day before my holidays, to find them both fully confident that "all was well with the stars". I can only hope Sandy found things equally propitious when she returned Murgatroyd to her owner.

But back to colonies of nervous cats. Three such tragedies come to mind.

● Unfortunately, we had to spend years, clearing large numbers of cats and kittens from a major hospital. It was a game with young men in cars to run over as many of these poor creatures as possible — not always achieving a merciful death. The gardeners at this hospital

were adept with bricks, causing broken legs. Many the poor creature I have unsuccessfully pursued with legs broken, bones sticking through skin, and these creatures disappear under wards, never to be seen again.

A large Housing Commission block of flats where, from the third floor, a compassionate lady threw down kilos and kilos of meat. How we tried to capture those wild cats! They lived on the edge of a bush area infested with ticks, so many of them died that long paralysing death. One day a well developed cat of the colony appeared with a broken jaw. He couldn't eat — we couldn't catch him, and it was three weeks before he stopped turning up for meals. Can you imagine his anguish and our horror?

A domestic employee at a private hospital in Mosman was threatened with dismissal if she fed the cats. She persisted, but enticed them outside the gates into a small street. She would only let us trap those animals for whom she had homes. I remember trapping, desexing and delivering two terrified creatures to a nominated home with a "cat proof" garage, in which the new owner intended keeping the cats until they

became acclimatised to their new situation. Needless to say, the next day they had disappeared forever. Most Sundays a young man came into that street near the private hospital in Mosman, with his two dogs which he set upon the cats. It was a good day when the dogs caught and ripped two cats to pieces. The inhabitants of the street were mixed in their reactions. Even the ones who covered their

ears and closed their eyes said that at least it was keeping the numbers down!!!!!!

You can see why I consider a moggy a sad one who doesn't have to check in to his "Mum" or "Dad" at least twice a day.

N. Iredale.

(Ed. Note: We wonder if readers of these three incidents are as appalled as we are?)

### **CENTRAL COAST BRANCHES NEWS**

# PRESENTATION TO OUR PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

On the 17th September 1986, Mr. Tony Doyle presented our President Mrs. Kath Robinson and our Treasurer Mrs. Doris Jackson with their award shields for the work the ladies have carried out over the years.

For Mrs. Kath Robinson, the Woy Woy Peninsula Branch welfare officer, who has been a guiding light for all cats and kittens who have been lost, dumped or just needed a new home or a little attention. And to Mrs. Doris Jackson who has been a wonderful lady with the handling of our branch finances.

Congratulations to both ladies for a job well

Mr. Tony Doyle presented the ladies with a posie of pink carnations and wished the President, Mrs. Robinson and Treasurer, Mrs. Jackson every blessing for the future, as he remarked that he knew the Cat Protection Society of Woy Woy did a wonderful job.

Our afternnon ended with a light afternoon tea and a pleasant conversation.

At this time I would like to thank Mrs. Robinson for being able to rent the Branch a small shop. For all who are interested in our opportunity shop it is situated in West Street, Umina 2257, facing the post office. The shop is manned by Mrs. Judith Parsons. Special thanks and congratulations to this lady for giving so much of her time to a worthy effort.

Thank you to our transport drivers. Mrs. J. Brown and Mr. A.H. Wells.

Mrs. E. Wells.

#### PLEA FOR COAST CATS! Homes Needed Urgently for Abandoned Cats and Kittens

In spite of our intensive cat desexing campaign this year, a large number of kittens and pregnant cats have been dumped in the Wyong and Gosford Shires.

Dozens of cases of cruelty have been reported. These unfortunate domestic felines have come from homes and are not able to fend for themselves.

It is essential to control the domestic cat population by desexing. To help combat this situation the number of stray cats and dogs roaming the Central Coast has been described as horrifying. We seek public support in this matter — new members welcomed to assist in the welfare work.

For further particulars, please 'phone Cat Protection Society Auxuliary — 883891.

We would take this opportunity to express our thanks to the local Veterinarians, the "Advocate" and "Guardian" newspapers and Radio Station 2.G.O. Gosford. Not forgetting all the local ladies who have always supported us in our fund raising work.



Mrs. Edith Duport (President of Wyong/Tuggerah Lakes Auxiliary C.P.S.) with four of her rescued pussies — Cindy, Susie, Missy and Sootie, in their lovely lakeside home.

# THE GOOD COMPASSIONATE SIDE OF TRAPPING AND THE NECESSITY

For many years I have been involved in Animal Welfare work, both independently and for the C.P.S., solfeel I have the authority to give my views and opinions regarding the cat trapping. I have without a doubt much more knowledge and expertise in dealing with the problem and reality of the stray cat population than the average person... the misery it causes not only to the good Samaritans who feed these in hungry creatures, but the misery it causes the cats themselves.

No one can understand the agony and despair that is created when one becomes involved with the feeding and caring of these wild and frightened "untouchables". They rely on you for food to fill their empty stomachs; they hang around day after day waiting patiently and anxiously for your arrival. In return you have the satisfaction of seeing a little contentment in their frightened little faces and bodies. They live in constant fear, they can never really relax, they trust no-one, but saddest of all is watching them multiply year after year.

When you feel you can no longer cope with the situation, and the heartbreak gets out of hand, who can you turn to? You cannot simply walk away, abandon them, ignore them. Only the cold-hearted can do such a thing. Not too many people care about the plight of the stray cat and its miseries. The Animal Societies and the Councils all have their feeble excuses. Fortunately up till now the C.P.S. did care and

took steps to help these kind souls who through their generosity have landed themselves in such an awkward predicament. Now, that same C.P.S. is being encouraged to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to this agonising problem. Who but an experienced organisation would be able to handle this field of work? With proper care and caution there is no risk or danger of trapping someone's beloved pet. Believe it or not, it is the tame pets that are most likely to become the unsuspecting victims of indiscriminate people who use them for financial reasons or other.

Yes, there will be a number of members who will object strongly to the destruction of any cat, wild or otherwise. But does not the Tuna fish, the frolicking lamb, the hopping kangaroo or that big hunk of a cow have the right to live also? I could tell you of many instances where trapping was absolutely essential to allievate the suffering of many cats, but I do not have the space for it. I can always remember the relieved look on the faces of the concerned people who contacted us when trapping was the only alternative.

Believe me, it is not easy, it will never be easy, there is no joy in catching wild cats knowing that they will be destroyed (some are desexed and returned) but take away the hand that feeds them and there is little joy for these poor creatures to go on living.

Lena Larsen.

# FORMATION OF NEW EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

An Education Sub-Committee has been formed, and Miss Thomas, on behalf of this Sub-Committee, advised State Councillors of the following ideas which will be investigated and reported upon:

- Mini-posters to be sent to each member for placement in public places, such as veterinarian waiting rooms, etc.
- Contact with pedigreed cat clubs to display our posters on stalls or at Cat Shows.
- The placing of pamphlets in parcels of goods sold in the Opportunity Shop.
- Leaflets on cat care to be handed out on sale

- of cats (This is already being done).
- Carrying boxes to be sold with cats or kittens at point of sale. If customer does not wish to buy one, ordinary secure, well-ventilated cartons will be made available.
- De-sexing brochures to go to local councils and selected pet shops.
- Articles re de-sexing to be printed in local newspapers.

Correspondence from members on cat care will be handled by the Education Sub-Committee.

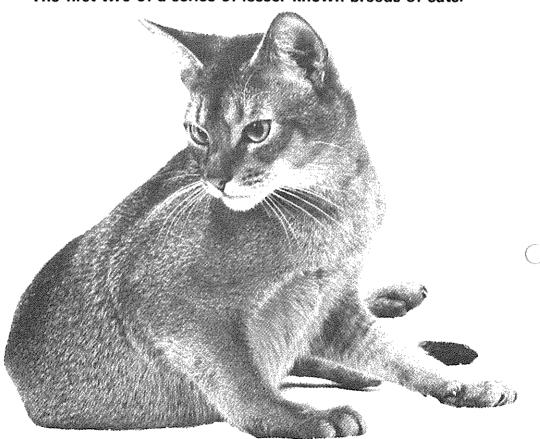
# VALE Miss Erica Brvant

It is with deep regret that we have to advise of the death of Miss Erica Bryant, who died on 22nd July, 1986 after a long illness, aged 90 years. Miss Bryant was a Life Governor of the C.P.S. since 1965.

Miss Bryant will be remembered by many of our members, and we are all saddened by her passing, and extend sympathy to her relatives and friends.

# "NOT YOUR ORDINARY CAT"

The first two of a series of lesser-known breeds of cats.



#### **ABYSSINIAN**

In general, the Abyssinian is a colourful cat of medium size, well-muscled, alert, active; of all domestic cats, the Aby is the most feral in appearance.

With large, alert and moderately pointed ears, the Aby is an appealing cat who always appears to be ready to go! The head is a slightly rounded wedge completely without flat planes. The eyes are large, brilliant, very expressive and almond-shaped.

The Abyssinian's body is medium in length, and is lithe and graceful. A happy, busy cat, the Aby exhibits characteristic careful but eager movement and shows a lively interest in all surroundings.

The voice is small and is often referred to as "bell-like".

The coat is soft, silky, fine-textured, very dense and resilient to the touch.

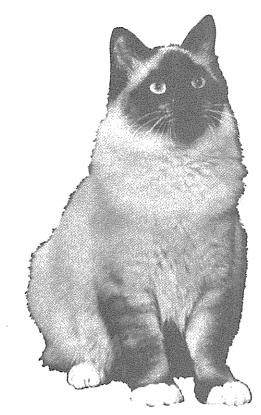
There are two colours of Abys: Ruddy and Red.

Ruddy. Reddish brown coat ticked with various shades of darker brown and black; the extreme outer tip of the hair is the darkest, with an orange-brown undercoat ruddy to the skin; undersides and inside of the forelegs are of a tint to harmonize with the overall colour; preference is given to the unmarked burnt sienna. Nose leather is tile-red; paw pads are black or brown. Eye colour is gold or green (the more richness

and depth of colour, the better).

Red. Warm, glowing red, distinctly ticked with chocolate-brown; the deeper shades of red are preferred. Ears and tail are tipped with chocolate brown. Eye colour is gold or green (the richer, the better).

The Aby has long been called the cat from the Blue Nile; fanciers identify this cat with the cats of ancient Egypt.



#### BIRMAN

The Birman, or Sacred Cat of Burma, is believed by fanciers to have originated as a breed in the temples of Burma. This lovely, white-gloved longhair falls under Colour Spectrum B (except for the four white feet).

Having appeared in France in the early 1920s, the Birman nearly disappeared during World War II. Fortunately, enough cats were conserved to provide for their resurgence in the postwar years.

The most important single physical feature of this cat is his white gloves. On the front paws, the gloves end in an *even* line across the paw at the third joint; on the back paws, the white gloves cover the entire paw and must end in a point (called "the laces") which goes up the back of the hock.

In their native Burma, the Birmans are accorded special treatment since many believe them to be reincarnations of Burmese priests. A charming legend holds that the Birman

descends from a loyal white cat who placed his paws on his priest-master at the moment the priest was struck down by temple raiders. With paws on his priest companion's lifeless face, the white cat faced the sapphire-eyed golden statue of the goddess who watches over the transmutation of souls. She rewarded the faithful cat by changing his colour to gold (except for the four white feet) and his eyes to blue. Upon death, these cats carry to paradise the priestly souls with which they are imbued.

The head is broad and rounded. The ears are medium in length; the eyes are almost round. The body is long; the legs are medium in length and heavy; the paws are large, round and firm; the tail is medium in length. The coat is long and silken-textured, with a heavy ruff around the neck, and the hair is slightly curly on the stomach; the fur, because of its texture, does not mat. There must be no visible kink in the tail; crossed eyes are not permitted.

# HAVING TROUBLE THINKING OF A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR A FRIEND?

One of our young married members popped into the office the other day to change to Life Member, with a donation also from her husband (a non-member).

She then asked to join up — as a surprise — two friends and two babies, the babies belonging to 'cat' families. She wanted to start them off in the right way.

Then to-day comes a letter from Mrs. J.F.

Hawkes of Petersham which says:—

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Hart is an invalid and aged pensioner. It

is her birthday soon and this is a little gift from my husband and myself. She feeds six stray cats and owns two of her own, even though she is in pain all the time.

I am sure she will look forward to your journals.

Sgd. Margaret Hawkes, 10 Allans Avenue, Petersham.

Hope this has given some of our readers fook for thought.

# **Contented Cat Inn**

Accommodation for cats only.

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

All cats are fed according to Owners' instructions.

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

Phone: 6521162 for further details.

# **GET TO KNOW OUR WELFARE GIRLS!**

Sandy:

Sandy Moss has been with us since June 1981, so most of our members know her personally.

Sandy's concern for animals is very apparent in the care she lavishes on Tina and Rags (her cats) and Froggy and Twiggles

(her dogs).

Sandy's hobbies are reading, and an occasional game of golf. Her concerns — apart from animals — are conservation and environmental issues.



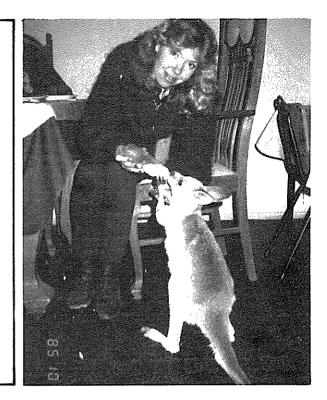
#### Julie:

Julie Molnar joined the staff of C.P.S. in May 1986. She has previously worked at the R.S.P.C.A. and as a veterinary nurse at Concord Animal Hospital. She is also a qualified hairdresser.

Julie's bright personality has won many compliments of her work for the Society, and her concern for animals is very evident.

Her hobbies are looking after husband Steve, and horse-riding. Both Steve and Julie have their own horses — "Minstral" and "Renegade" — and they spend many week-ends at the ranch where they are stabled.

The kangaroo Julie is feeding in the photo was an orphan being cared for at the ranch.



#### Trisha:

Patricia Eslick is our latest Welfare Officer recruit. Trisha is a country lass and impressed with her ability to rush (calmly) from Coonabarabran for a successful interview for the position.

Trisha's great love is horses and she brought with her (calmly again!) her champion Andalusian mare "Cara" which has won two championships in two weeks, making her State High Point Winner. Also accompanying Trisha on her flight to the city was a beloved wee, desexed bitch — half Pomeranian, half Maltese Terrier called "Cassie".

Trisha has slotted into the work of the Society with the greatest ease and efficiency.



These three girls make a formidable team which augurs well for the future of the Welfare Section of C.P.S.

A big "Thank You" to these girls for performing the often distressing jobs they have to undertake.

# C.P.S. SECRETARY'S RETIREMENT FROM ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hereunder is the content of a recent letter received from Mrs. Janice Crosio, Minister for Local Government:

"As I am sure you are aware, a nominee of the Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. has been a member of the N.S.W. Animal Welfare Advisory Council for a number of years. The Society's present nominee is Mrs. Shirley Pikler who has served on the Council since 1979.

Although the Animal Welfare Advisory Council was established some seven years ago, up until now no report has been prepared about its role and achievements. To rectify this situation, the Council has, in 1985-86, submitted to me its first annual report, a copy of which I am pleased to enclose.

The achievements of my Council, as documented in the annual report, bear witness to the excellent working relationship that the Council has both with me and with my Departmental officers. I feel sure that the annual report will be of interest to

those members of The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. who are committed to constructive change in the animal welfare field, and I am happy to commend it to you.

In closing may I take the opportunity to express my appreciation of Mrs. Pikler's contribution to the work of the Council. As the annual report indicates she has been a regular and valuable participant in the Council's deliberations and I look forward the assistance during the remaining two years of the Council's present term.

Yours sincerely, sgd. Janice Crosio Minister for Local Government.

(Ed. Note: The Dept. of Local Government has produced a leaflet entitled "About Cat Ownership", endorsed by the N.S.W. Animal Welfare Advisory Council. If C.P.S. members would like a copy please telephone Enmore office 511.011. Also if members would like extra copies of our Journal, these will be posted upon application.)

### TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Your new editorial officers wish to thank all contributors of letters, poems, donations, etc. which appear in this issue. To those whose greatly appreciated efforts do not appear, please be assured that they will be printed at a later date.

# "Memory Lane"

A donation in memory of our beloved "Cindy" who died at the end of July, aged 18 years. Also in memory of "Goldie", "Heidi" and other four-footed and feathered friends of all whom have brought us so much happiness.

Inserted by Mr. and Mrs. Wickenden.

Mrs. E. Douglas of Woodberry Village, Winston Hills kindly sent a donation in memory of "Sandy" who for eleven years was the "garden help" and loved companion of the ladies at the Village. He is much missed, but Mrs. Douglas asked us not to send them another kitten as raising it might give the ladies somewhat of a problem! We promise not to send one, Mrs. Douglas, but as requested, will post

you an extra copy of the journal to display on the Village noticeboard.

A donation in memory of my much loved tortoiseshell cat "Bo Bo" who passed away in old age on 14th October, 1986. Her charm and zest for life made her a special companion.

Inserted by Shirley Pikler.



"In Memoriam"

A donation in memory of Mrs. Lillian Haines who died on 13th October. We know how much her "Cats" as she called C.P.S. and the "Op Shop" meant to her.

Inserted by Janet & Brian Harding.

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



Licensed Boarding Establishment
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C.P.S. COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION



### **PURRSON TO PURRSON**

Two little "nonsense rhymes" written on the job by our ex-Welfare Officer, Mrs. Julene King.



I was dumped when I was six weeks old.
My mother obviously hadn't been told.
I was starving hungry, could find nothing to eat.
That part of my training, mother still had to complete.

I found myself at a great big hall, with all these people gathered just inside the door. I crept inside to have a peak when, SUDDENLY, the ground disappeared from under my feet. I was whisked away and fed up well. Then my tummy began to swell. I was spoilt and petted up a lot, They even gave me my own little cot. Then suddenly my dreams were shattered ...

They're going to England. Oh! their brains must be scattered.

Anyway here I am in a cage.
Maybe I should have died at an early age.
So now it's all up to you, dear Nancy.
Please find me a home with someone I'll fancy.
By the way my name is "Nancy".

We're from the Vet at St. Marys Brought to you by that good little fairy. Hold us for awhile in your house. Hope it doesn't upset your spouse. Then find us all homes And spare our bones.

### "CINDY"

Mrs. Fay Wickenden of Drummoyne wrote us about her beloved Cindy. The two poems following this little story were written about Cindy, the second one when she was 16 years old, and as Mrs. Wickenden says, getting to be "an old, old lady".

"Cindy was a tiny black cat, born in the side lane of my neighbour's home. I had already adopted her half-brother, a fluffy ginger and white cat I named Goldie, and had not intended to have another cat.

Their mother was a very friendly lady, and Goldie had some Persian in him, while Cindy had some Siamese. At any rate, Cindy loved her big brother and followed him into the house. However, for almost two years she would accept food from me, but would walk under chairs, tables, cabinets, anywhere to avoid me picking her up or cuddling her. Then, one evening, she herself cuddled into my shoulder, and after her brother Goldie's untimely death at the age of six, we became very, very close.

Cindy was nearly 18 years old when she died on July 29 this year. A good age I suppose, for a little scrap who had to struggle to survive before she came to me.

Companion of my Night

I wake in the hours before dawn

And sleep has flown.

But you, you are here,

Companion of my Night.

I rise, and velvet paws follow me

Through a darkened house.

Then together we sit and think,

You and I silently communicating.

No, not quite silently, for your body

Purrs its love, and your eyes

Say more clearly than words that you care.

And you comfort me with the wisdom

Of ages past,

The years have sped
Since the night we sat
And I wrote of you with love.
I feel your body sharply etched,
Bones fragile to my touch.
But your glowing eyes,
Your trusting purr,
Comfort me in the dark.
How long, dear friend, will
Life be ours to share,
Companion of my Night?

Companion of my Night.

We are indebted to Mrs. Marjorie Nicholls, of Croydon, for the following contribution which includes a prayer for animals:

... Reading "Through the Year with William Barclay", the late eminent scholar and preacher of Trinity College, Scotland, I came across this prayer which I thought might be of some interest to you and your readers.

Dr. Barclay refers to it as "the lovely prayer for animals from Dr. Leslie Weatherhead's book, "Why Do Men Suffer?"

"Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals. In thy hand is the soul of every living thing and we bless thee that thou carest for the dumb creatures of the earth. We bless and praise thee for thy joy in their beauty and grace, and we desire to share thy love for all of them. Accept our prayer specially for animals who are suffering; for all that are over-worked and under-fed and cruelly treated; for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat against their bars; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that are in pain or dying; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all thy mercy and pity and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion, and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us ourselves to be true friends to the animals and so share the blessing of the merciful. For the sake of Thy Son the Tenderhearted Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen."

Dr. Barclay adds, "This is a prayer that once in a while we might do well to pray in our churches and in our homes. God will not think it strange that we pray for animals."

Blessings on the wonderful work you are doing ...

# THE FRENCH HAVE A WORD FOR IT

Four years ago, during a longish stay in Paris, I pined for my animals back home in Oz. How I missed them! No cat to fondle, dogs aplenty of all shapes and sizes, breeds, temperaments; some sitting beside their taxi-driver masters, most disdainful of foreign passengers, others at the feet of their owners in all manner of restaurants and cafes.

Certainly they were all to be observed from time to time anointing the lamp-post bases and obelisks which were starting to resemble bottles after decades of this practice!

Sometimes, I did chance to see an odd, sleek, self-satisfied puss behind the curtain of a closed apartment window, but never one to be caressed. With no hope in my heart at all, I suddenly found CATS aplenty. In a secluded portion of the yard at the rear of the Cathedral of Notre Dame lives a colony of very, very pious felines. To be sure, they were all most disdainful. and completely impervious to all, or nearly all, of my overtures. In response to my calls of "Puss, puss, puss" or "Pud, pud, puddy" came nought but blank stares, so I had to be satisfied to visit them as often as I could, still hoping for a reaction, but at least I did see Cats! Later, I was told by a French friend that it was usual for cats to be encouraged by a call of "Minni, minni", but by this time I was due to leave so I never did get the opportunity to test my new found knowledge on the cats of Notre Dame. Does any reader know if this form of feline greeting is customary in France?

Elizabeth Jones.

Apropos of previous remarks in the Journal about the sacrifices and adjustments we gladly make for our little feline friends, may I tell you about my friend Linda, and the ultimate sacrifice?

A pretty, fortyish little lady, she lives alone, except for a large family of cats, and works as a nursing sister in one of our public hospitals, to support them. At her age, let's be honest, well heeled suitors are not too thick on the ground,

so, when her friends heard that a V.I.P. medico had asked her to accompany him to an important dinner, we scented romance, and all rallied round to help her choose a new, hardly affordable dress. Came the day after the dinner. and we waited for the good news. "Well, did he think you looked beautiful? Did he like your dress?" "Didn't wear it", said Linda. "I had spread the dress on the bed, and when I came out of the bathroom, Nikki and her kittens had settled down to sleep on it. They looked so beautiful, I hadn't the heart to disturb them. Wore my old Basic Black.'

No, Linda didn't marry the handsome prince, but she is still very happy with her family of cats. Barbara Kuhn.

# "TOP END" CAT

Last year, at Springvale Station in the Northern Territory, whilst on a safari to Kakadu National Park, I chanced to see a cat. Do I hear you say, "So what?" Well you may, but this was no ordinary Puss. After much viewing of water buffalo, crocodiles, great flocks of birds of every description and hundreds of kilometres with no sign of human habitation, the sight of a cat was totally unexpected.

Also, he WAS on the end of a rope and leading (just like one of our canine friends) a young girl. Daintily, picking a path through the great exposed roots of an Indian Rain tree, he was investigating all aspects of this beautiful settlement. He had been found further down the track and the young girl's parents were taking im to a vet in Darwin to try to get him a home. Obviously, he had been lost by other tourists and I empathised with their grief at losing him.

The Territory is another world, so the action of these people was to be applauded. He was most fortunate to have been found by them and methinks perhaps he had thereby forfeited one

of his 'nine lives'. One lesson highlighted by this story is the necessity of providing your pet with full identification, especially when they are travelling. Being with a group tour, though offered the gift of the Puss, I could not assist but I have often wondered how the story ended! Elizabeth Jones.

# **AGGRO PROBLEM**

Please can anyone help me with my problem? Sometimes I think I'm going to have to take my cynical (divorced) girl friend's advice. "Get rid of the husband", she says. But — isn't that a bit radical?

#### The Cast:

AGGRO. A super-intelligent Russian Blue cat. Matriarch of our cat household.

THE BREADWINNER. A worthy animal loving person, but very strong on discipline.

ME. A lily-livered suburban housewife.

#### The Problem:

For years, the Breadwinner's job took him overseas for a large part of the time. During those years, if Aggro chose to sleep on my bed. she met with no opposition from me; I slept on, undisturbed. When the Breadwinner was in residence, he was either too happy to be home, or too tired to notice the third body. Recently, the overseas trips have almost ceased, and it has been noticed that Aggro, though sleeping like a log all night, begins an intensive and noisy grooming session, one hour before alarm time. The Breadwinner, being a light sleeper, especially towards dawn, has issued the proclamation, "No cats in the house at night" and the cat door is to be locked. He loves her dearly, too. She's chosen him, in fact, but, "Let her sleep in the laundry with the other cats", he says, (and I might add, there's an electric blanket for them in winter).

# PARKLANDS BOARDING **KENNELS**

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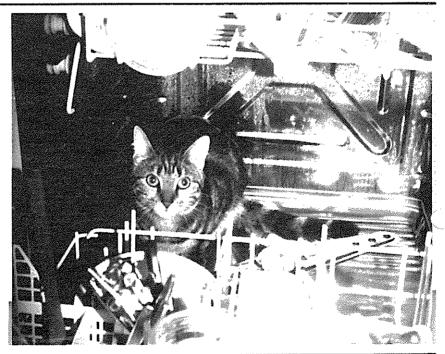
Useless to try to explain to him that, under hierarchy laws, it would be unthinkable for the Dowager Duchess Aggro to sleep beside the other two. I've tried leaving the cat door open, and closing the room into which it leads, but there are no internal locks, and Aggro can open any door in the house by hurling herself repeatedly at the handles, which, incidently, are at human eye level, until the door opens. More than once, the Breadwinner and I have leapt from bed in the early hours, adrenalin pumping, expecting to confront an armed intruder, only to have Aggro trot in with a pleasant greeting, leap into her spot, and be asleep before we've shakily got back into bed.

#### The Scene:

The Humans are asleep and Aggro, finding the cat door locked, appears at the screened

window, three feet from my head and launches into the first of her wardrobe of voices. A sweetly confident "Please let me in, it's my bed time". Finding this unsuccessful she brings up the big guns. In a loud angry tone, "Let me in, do you hear! I demand to be let in!" Silence. A chill wind rustles the trees outside, while I lie there, agonising. What if she goes out into the streets? Will we find our darling dead in the morning? Then it begins, the soft plaintive mewing, like an abandoned child on a stormy night. "Oh please, please let me in, it's so awful out here, and so comfortable in there!" I can stand it no longer Silently I slide out of bed, open the screen, an with a satisfied little chirrup, "thanks Mum" she takes up her favourite position. Within seconds we're both asleep. I have time only for one last thought. I'll think about this in the morning.

Barbara Kuhn.



Dishwasher Technician Arrabella Jones.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

One of my favourite pastimes has been matching names to cats and kittens but, I must confess, more often than not, the names do not get unqualified approval from adopting families. Over the years certain names have been applied to certain types of cats. For instance, Festus is a longish haired, black and gold girl. Yehudi is a gorgeous, startling swirly tabby, green eyed, with a large white bib and of course a voice like a violin. Being a Menuhin fan, I sent off a Hepzibah but some short time later her friends phoned to say she was a great success but (apologetically) they felt a bit silly calling her and

even sillier when they shortened the name to Bah-Bah-Bah. Understandable, but it shocked to hear the new name was Powder Puff.

A black boy is always Jomo Kenyatta (means Flaming Spear) and many a Flaming Spear has disappeared into a family car to become Blackie, Sooty, etc. An alternative is Tom M'Boya — hasn't it a nice sound? — who was Kenyatta's deputy until he was assassinated.

Boysie is a Siamese shaped, grey and black, stripey tabby named for Paul Waters' beloved Boysie who would never perform his jumping trick for us. He could spring from a standing start

into Paul's arms ... so we are told. Girlsie, of course, is his counterpart.

I think one baby won a home in pity for his name. You see, I generally get my inspiration from reading and, in "The Yearling", there is a sensitive, deformed Indian boy called Fodder Wing. This I gave to a somewhat damaged tabby and white boy. The very common sense type of Mum, Dad and two children asked me to repeat the name twice, then spell it, departing quickly with their box of tricks looking, I thought, relieved to have done their good turn for the day. Felt sure he would be properly nourished, ormed, fleaed and taught to answer to a sensible name.

Sinooka is reserved for half white, half ginger boys. That came from "Cat's Cradle" and means tendril of life intertwining with another. What a great description for a cat!

Emmas are those lovely, old fashioned tabbies without white, and Pollyanna or Florence seem just right for cheerful, largely black with white socks and bib, demure girls.

Flag is a confident soul who holds his tail parallel with his backbone, more or less, cheeky

as they come.

Tjinta — pronounced Chinta ... Now, there is one name that has found approval! I have known six and not all of my naming. It means love in Indonesian.

Within the Society there are Tjinta Best and Tjinta Iredale.

Starry, short for Starehe (Kenyan for freedom from want and hunger) describes those lovely two toned grey tabbies — female of course.

Manitou — Red Indian God of Wild Creatures was my lovely, wilful ginger, and Hegera (or Heggie) is that shaggy cat-loving pooch. Her name means "flight to a safe place". She came from the R.S.P.C.A.

Thus it was with Cat Relief Service that Rob Warner would ring me to say she had 2 Jomos, 1 Emma, a Festus, a Starry, etc.

Maybe this naming mania started many years ago when my first doll became Helen, Moses, Richard, Japan, Poppy, Hazel, Marie Louise ... but it's been great fun and the list is still growing.

N. Iredale.

### THE STORY OF FESTUS

My first Festus arrived looking more like a large tarantula spider, suffering from Coccidiosis and malnutrition. She had been living — at 6 weeks — on old bread and cake. I rushed to the veterinary clinic and because it was the lovely season when there were no kits about, we decided to try to save her. So began

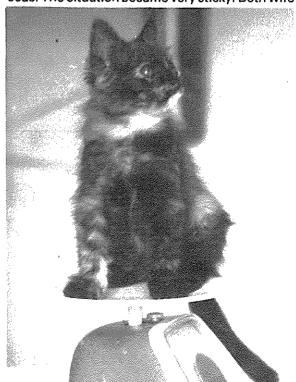
eks of good feeding and treatment. At that stage I wasn't a very good pill popper so elected to treat the wee thing with the evil tasting liquid form of the treatment. It took ages to get down, as it made her froth at the mouth.

She was black with gold spots, longish hair and a constantly wet and messy bottom. Frankly she looked a festering mess — and that is how we made up the name of Festus (Sorry all you gorgeous namesakes). It has been pointed out long since that Festus means happy in Latin.

Each week we drove off with our sample of faeces in a bottle to see how she was progressing. After three weeks we made our usual trek with a lovely, firm specimen which was handed to the receptionist to be analysed before our consultation. In due course it was our turn and the veterinarian stood in the doorway of a crowded waiting room, beaming approval at us over his half glasses and exclaiming "What a beautiful stool!" They were some of the nicest words I have ever heard.

Of course it was now time to find a home for Festus and Michael Love and his wife were chosen to receive this fabulous gift. After an hour's instruction they went off with a bouncing, precocious bundle wondering (they told me later) if they were fit parents.

Two years later POOR Mr. Love received a major promotion which required him to live overseas. The situation became very stickyl Both wife



and cat ganged up on him and not until a loving temporary "Mother" was found did harmony reign again.

There are Festuses or is it Festi, in many parts of Sydney, indeed one even in Melbourne and

my last wicked, beautiful disobedient winsome Festus has consented to bestow her presence with another Love family — that of Daria and Robert.

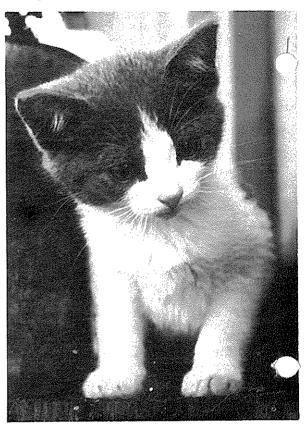
N. Iredale.

### A HAPPY COINCIDENCE

Early in October a very distressed Shirley Hyland brought a young 'pregnant' black and white cat to Enmore after it had been abandoned at her home. Shirley was so upset we made her a cup of coffee, accepted a generous donation and promised we would have the little puss desexed and find a home from Enmore. Just in time to stop the shaving for the operation being done in the wrong area, it was noticed that the pregnancy was really only Shirley's good home cooking and, in fact, black and white was a male. He was duly desexed and spent a few days waiting for a home with a lovely family on the Northside. Shirley, meanwhile, had agreed to become one of our Op Shop Ladies.

On Shirley's very first day in the Shop a wee tabby scrap also found a home from Enmore and, imagine our delight when our adoptive mum said she was a neighbour of the family who had taken our 'pregnant', black and white, female/male.

Shirley was overjoyed to learn of the wonderful home her puss had found. It seems the Fairy Godmother smiled also on the Op Shop where Shirley is a valued worker and we sincerely hope to have her with us for a long time.





I believe where the love of God is verily perfected, and the true spirit of government watchfully attended to, a tenderness towards all creatures made subject to us will be experienced, and a care felt in us that we do not lessen that sweetness of life in the animal creation which the great creator intends for them under our government.

John Woolman, Journal 1772







# 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.

# C.P.S. SERVICES WHOM TO CONTACT

For all Animal Welfare Enquiries, including Ambulance Service, Desexing and General Administration

Opportunity Shop
9.30 — 4.00 Mon.-Fri.
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51 1011

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# 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 Secretar The Cat Proto 103 Enmore ENMORE, N.	ection Society of N.S.W. Road	(Please cut out and return to address shown)
	June, 1986. Note: all persons	val of Membership of the Society for the year spoining from January remain financial until June the
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The Secretary

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