

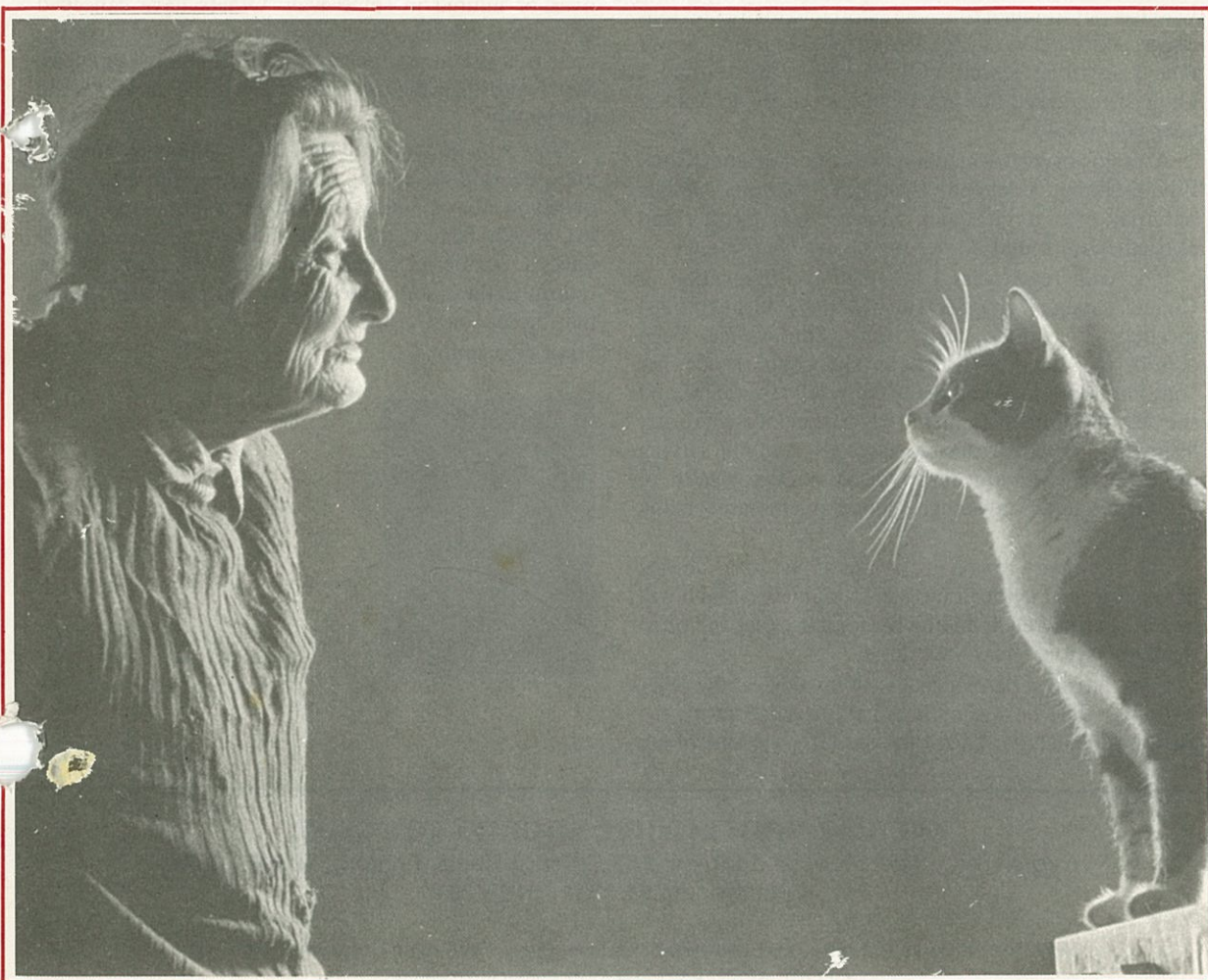
April, 1989.

# Cat Affairs

Journal of

THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

(Registered Charity CC 17122)



*Nobody knows.....  
That when I'm alone....  
I dance with my dreams  
And smile with my cat.*

## President's Page

Dear Members .....

And what can I share with you all this Journal?

Firstly, you'll quickly see that we've changed our format somewhat, and introduced colour. There are photographs of some of our Councillors, and lots of interesting tid-bits which we hope you'll enjoy. We owe this to Julie Gorrick who has taken over the Journal - we couldn't miss the opportunity of having a professionally-trained journalist edit our magazine.

Of course, our thanks must surely go to Jo Tomkin, who has put so much time and effort into many previous issues, and has done such a terrific job. Do let us know if there's anything special YOU'D like in the Journal. I know we've asked this before, but we really do want to hear your views.

A major event to mention was our Cat and Kitten Find-a-Home weekend, held at Enmore. While Saturday was a bit quiet, Sunday was terrific, and altogether we found homes for 11 cats and kittens.

It is with regret that I accepted the resignation of Council's long-serving Secretary Shirley Pikler at the last meeting. For quite some time Shirley has been considering standing down so she could lessen her "outside" work load and really enjoy her retirement, and she felt the time was finally right. Luckily we're not losing her, though, as she has agreed to continue serving on Council, where we can draw on her wealth of experience and knowledge gained over many, many years.

I'm sure many of you are aware of just what Shirley has contributed to the Society in so many ways, and will join me in sincerely thanking her for a tireless (and often thankless) job so very well done.

I was having a bit of a chat with my boy cat the other morning while he was in his usual place decorating the answering machine. Then I looked up to see one of my

girl cats draped across the stereo turntable-previously forbidden fruit as far as my husband is concerned, but isn't it amazing how time mellows them - husbands that is! Then my other girl cat bounded through the kitchen window and skidded to a halt on the dining room table, of necessity protected by a thick blanket, and commenced her usual practice of batting all the loose objects off the table on to the floor - pens, watches, small change.

The point of all this, of course, is how tolerant we cat owners become when we take a four-legged personality under our wing. I've known friends spend hundreds of dollars patching up ordinary moggies who've been run over or injured in some way. Others have cancelled holidays rather than go through the trauma of boarding their cats at kennels (generally the trauma is more with the owner than the cat, who manages to survive quite adequately.)

Now why do we do all this? Non-cat people think we are quite odd, of course, but you and I both know that once you let a cat into your heart (and I mean really let it in), all you have to do is love and care for it and you'll have a wonderful companion who will love you in return. In these sometimes dreary times we live in, isn't that the happiest of thoughts?

Until next time .....



*Julie Gorrick*

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

Registered office & postal address: 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, N.S.W. 2042.  
Telephones: 51 1011, 519 7201

**PATRONS:** Miss Ita Buttrose, O.B.E., Professor Charles Birch, F.A.A., The Hon James McClelland.

**OFFICE BEARERS:** President: Miss Lyn Thomas  
Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Sybil Cozens, Miss Jo Tomkin.  
Honorary Treasurer: Mrs. Nance Iredale  
Membership Secretary: Miss Jo Tomkin

**COUNCILLORS:** Ms. Helena Cooke-Yarborough, Mrs. June Chapman, Mrs. Lena Larsen, Professor Daria Love, Mrs. Shirley Pikler, Mrs. Robin Warner, Mrs. Beverley Walsh.

Secretary: Mrs. Julie Gorrick

**WELFARE COMMITTEE:** Mrs. Nance Iredale, Mrs. Lena Larsen, Mrs. Robin Warner

Journal Editor: Mrs. Julie Gorrick  
Editorial Consultant: Miss Jo Tomkin

Honorary Life Members: Mr. G. Cozens, Mrs. S. Cozens, Mrs. E. Dupont, Mrs. A. Gillham, Mr. W. Graham, Mrs. J. Graham, Mrs. D. Haines, Mrs. B. Harvey, Mrs. N. Iredale, Mr. G. Lutton, Mrs. T. Nelson, Mrs. S. Pikler, Mrs. T. Taylor, Mr. G. J. Thatcher.  
Life Governors: Mrs. L. Braby, Miss C. Bryant, Mrs. B. Morrison, Mrs. N. Iredale, Mrs. S. Springfield, Mrs. I. Tattersall, Miss D. Sillins, Miss H. Heney, Mrs. F. Best, Miss V. Murdoch, Mrs. I. Chellings, Mr. W. Turner, Mr. H. Thompson.

# Help Us Find Homes -

## ENTER OUR PHOTO CONTEST

*Elsewhere in the Journal, you will read about our Find-A-Home Weekend at Enmore. We intend to have a lot more, but advertising and boarding costs must be met.*

*You can help, by sending a photo of your cat, with \$1.00 for each photo submitted. Naturally, you may send as many photos as you wish, and of as many cats as you wish.*

### Categories:

There will be prizes for Most Beautiful, Most Unusual, Personality Boy/Girl, Most Aristocratic and Most Charming Picture of Cat with Owner. We'd like lots of entries of owners with their pets!!

### Prizes:

**Most Beautiful Cat:** An original painting by artist Ilma Gilbertson of a Feathertail Glider possum. An enchanting painting, beautifully framed, and displayed by the artist.

**Most Unusual Cat:** A superb book, "Artists in Early Australia and Their Portraits" by Eve Buscombe. Eve helped us in the office for a period of time, and also donated her book for the competition.

**Personality Boy/Girl, Most Aristocratic Cat & Most Charming Cat with Owner:** In each of these categories the prize is two gorgeous Irish linen tea towels printed with cats surrounded by flowers .... lovely enough to be used as wall hangings.

Judges will be our Councillors. Entries will be received up to June 15, allowing plenty of time for you to take photographs and for winners to be included in our August Journal.

**Other photos will be published in future issues. In fact, we anticipate receiving so many wonderful entries that we will have a wealth of pictures for many Journals to come.**

**To "Photo Contest," Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
103 Enmore Road, Enmore 2042.**

I am enclosing pictures of my cat/cats in the following categories:

Most Beautiful ..... Cat's name and age

Most Unusual ..... Cat's name and age

Personality Boy/Girl ..... Cat's name and age

Most Aristocratic ..... Cat's name and age

Most Charming Picture of Cat with Owner .....

..... Cat's name, age and Owner's name.

I enclose a cheque/money order in the amount of \$ ..... being \$1.00 for each entry submitted.

Name: .....

Address: ..... Postcode: .....

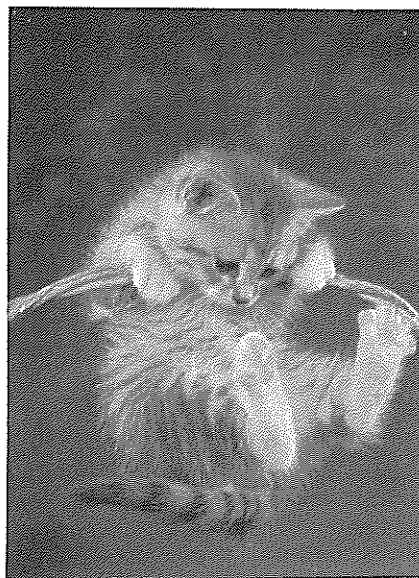
### Articles of Association

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 26th May, 1988, amendments to our Articles were approved.

A copy of the new Articles can be inspected at our office, or purchased for the sum of \$2.00

**Cats are admirable company.**

**Algernon S. Logan**



**A few pointers to keep in mind when taking photographs.**

1. Black & white film is fine, as we reproduce in black & white.
2. The clearer and sharper the picture the better, so keep the background simple.
3. Aim for a CLOSE UP, so we can see the cat's expression.

**Please enclose this entry form with your pictures and lots of luck!!**





## INTRODUCING THE EDITOR

Hello:

I am delighted to be part of our wonderful Society.

My background includes many years as a journalist on Woman's Day and Family Circle, but there is a special thrill in editing a magazine dedicated to cats and their owners.

My own three cats are Mr. Moggs, Miss Murphy and Billy. I found Billy through the Society, and even though he's only four months old, I couldn't imagine life without him.

I hope you will enter our Photo Contest, send in lots of questions for our new Questions and Answers feature, and of course, continue with your poems and stories.

Under Jo's editorship, the Journal has achieved a warmth and involvement that makes us all feel very close, and I look forward to keeping that special feeling.

Sincerely,

*Julie*

Julie Gorrick.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers appeared in an issue of the magazine "Cat Fancy." I would be delighted to start a similar column in our own Journal, so I am inviting readers to send in queries - especially unusual and interesting ones, like those here. If you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope you will receive a personal reply, and selected questions and answers will be published in the next Journal.

-Editor



### Ginger's Musical Taste

I have a 1-year-old speyed female cat named Ginger. Recently I found an old flute in my attic. When I started to play it, Ginger suddenly appeared around the corner, jumped on my lap and began to lick my face and hands.

The reason I found this unusual is because Ginger is not normally so affectionate. Was it the music that made her act this way?

*Yes, it certainly is quite clear that Ginger is charmed by your flute. A cat is very sensitive to high-frequency sounds and to a person's body language.*

*Undoubtedly, you felt good as you played the flute, and your body relaxed. This feeling was communicated to Ginger, and she responded in a similar fashion. Her display of affection was triggered by a release of pent-up tension in her body.*

*You should repeat these sessions so that Ginger's new behaviour can become a habit instead of a passing fancy. Music is a splendid antidote for Ginger's timidity.*

### Shy Cat to Lover

Barry is one of my seven neutered cats - five males two females. In the year that I've had him, he has never been very sociable with my other cats or with people. He would wait outside the kitchen door until the other cats finished before coming in. He would allow himself to be petted for only a few seconds, then scurry away.

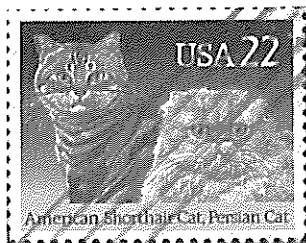
Suddenly, Barry has become a lap cat. He sleeps with me and the other cats, and now leans against my leg waiting to be scratched and cuddled. He purrs loudly and lets me tickle his belly. What would make a cat change his personality almost overnight?

*Barry's year with you and the other cats has nurtured him to the point where he can now accept your affection and reciprocate without fear. His role models were your cats. Each day he witnessed your positive interaction with them, and his trust and confidence increased to where he could follow their lead.*

*It's wonderful that Barry now feels he belongs - thanks to you!*

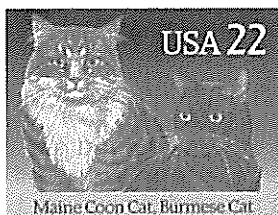
# Stamp Cats

The USA might have its share of zany pet ideas (like the weddings reported on in this Journal), but we must congratulate them on issuing a series of handsome cat stamps recently.



Incidentally, there were no indigenous domestic cats in north America when the first settlers arrived, but over the years cats were introduced as trade goods, and were eagerly accepted because of their effectiveness in controlling vermin attracted to grain stored on farms.

As pioneer families moved inland their cats went with them as part of their stock, and so the domestic cat gradually spread across the whole of the continent.



*"Sometimes he will sit upon the carpet in front of you, looking at you with eyes so melting, so caressing and so human, that they almost frighten you, for it is impossible to believe that a soul is not there."*

**Theophile Gautier**

## *Our Christmas Party Was the Cat's Whiskers*

**If you missed it, we do look forward to seeing you this year ..... and don't forget to bring your photo album!**

Our 1988 Christmas party was held upstairs in the Enmore Office. It was quite a crush with over 50 guests, but in its own way, that added to the fun. After all, it's easy to talk to fellow guests when your knees are literally touching!

One of the major conversation-starters was the invitation to "see a picture of my cat." Many members brought photos, and all were admired. As one proud owner said, "Talk about grandmothers showing baby pictures.... they have nothing on cat lovers when it comes to bragging about their darlings!"

Councillor Shirley Pikler welcomed guests, noting it was a special pleasure to say "Merry Christmas" to so many of the hard-working members of the Auxiliary, and to quite a few husbands. She added that the party was also a chance for all Society members to meet Councillors, and talk to Welfare Officers about the joys and tears of their day-to-day work.

We say thank you to all who came, and look forward to seeing even more of you in 1989.

Julie Gorrick



*One of the guests at our party was Mrs. Alice Dreve, who brought along this picture of herself with Tiggy. Despite his size, Mrs Dreve says Tiggy is a "real sook," and smuggling up with his head on her shoulder is his favourite position.*



# 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: 652 1162 for further details.

## JO's Christmas Present.....

### *A Cat Called Emma.*

Our membership Secretary, Jo Tomkin, had no intention of getting another cat.... until the night of our Christmas party.

When Jo came into the office bearing platters of home-made treats for the party, her eyes went straight to the soft-faced silver tabby sitting quietly in its cage.

"How gorgeous," said Jo. Then she noticed the tabby had a patch of fur shaved on one side, with a drainage tube in it. "What's her story?" she asked.

Welfare Officer Lyn Edworthy explained that the lovely cat had just been brought in by its distraught owner, not allowed to keep it in a home unit. An abscess had been treated by a vet - hence the drainage tube - and the cat would be kept at our Parklands kennel in the hope of finding it a home.

All through the party, Jo kept coming back for another look at the tabby, so gentle and self-contained.

When all the guests had gone, Jo took her from the cage and stroked her, and the inevitable happened.

"I'll take it home myself," said Jo, "and I'm going to call her Emma."

She told us that Emma was the name of a guide dog in a book called "Emma and I," the story of a blind woman and her black labrador companion. At the end of the book, Emma's owner had an operation which restored her sight, but by this time, after years of loving service,

Emma herself was going blind. The roles were reversed, and Emma now had to be guided. The story had stayed in Jo's mind, and Emma seemed the perfect name for a cat that needed tender care.

She was certainly an unexpected Christmas present, but, Jo says, the sweetest she ever received.

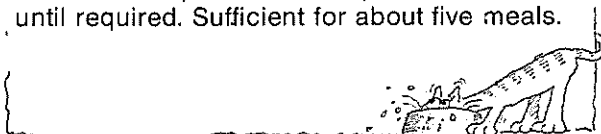
P.S. By the way, did you know that Jo cooks marvellous dishes for her cats? Pixie, in particular, is very fussy, and won't eat anything but Jo's rabbit stew. Here is the recipe:

### *Jo's Rabbit Stew*

1 rabbit, cut into joints	1 packet frozen mixed
½ cup lentils	vegetables
½ cup brown rice	1 chicken stock cube
Water to cover	Dash of onion salt

Put the rabbit into a large pot with all other ingredients, Bring to boil, then lower heat, cover the pot, and simmer for 1 hour. (You may need to add a little more water from time to time, to prevent the lentils and rice sticking.)

Remove rabbit joints from the pot when cool enough to handle, take meat from the bones, then return to pot. Divide into portions and freeze until required. Sufficient for about five meals.



Would you like to share YOUR favourite recipe with us? It can be something your cat loves, or just a cherished family recipe for a human treat. Please address the envelope to "Favourite Recipe," and send it to our Enmore office.





"That's nothing - you should have been here five minutes ago when the dish ran away with the spoon!"

## Thinking Ahead.....

Whether or not you live alone, it's sensible to make arrangements for the welfare of your pets in case of illness or death.

Whether you are youthful or elderly, no-one knows what the next day will bring, so now is the time to plan ahead.

The person that you live with may not always be the very best person to care for your animals.... another relative, or a friend, may have more patience and affection.

You will find your solicitor very helpful. Your exact instructions can be written into your will, and if you wish, a sum of money can be allocated to provide food and veterinary care for your pets.

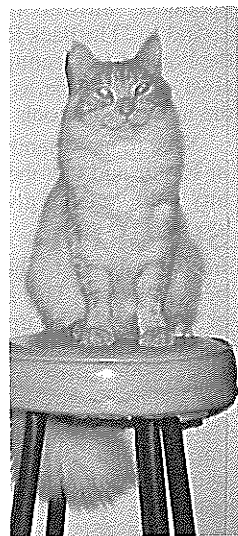
At the time, you should of course discuss your arrangements with the people involved. Many good friends decide on a mutual arrangement.... "You take my pets and I'll take yours."

If you do live by yourself, it's also wise to record your wishes in a personal document, as well as in your will. Wills are sometimes not read for several days, but if you leave the document in an easily found place among your personal effects it will be quickly acted upon.

Of course, there may be pets so close to you, so set in their ways, that you know in your heart they will not settle in with anyone else, no matter how caring.

In this case, the kindest thing is to arrange for them to be put to sleep. This instruction should also be written into your will, and recorded in the document, as well as being known to friends and relatives.

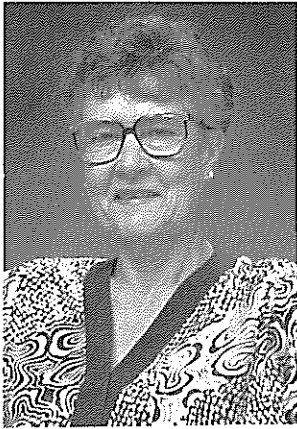
It is not morbid or sad to think ahead. It is in the best interests of the animals you love, and will contribute to your own peace of mind in the present.



### Happy Cat

Mrs. Heather O'Rourke of Tamworth sent us this picture of her cat Lady Boy.

Note the gorgeous fluffy tail under the stool, and the extremely satisfied expression.



## AUXILIARY JOTTINGS

*By Sybil Cozens, President  
of the Auxiliary.*

**DEPOTS:** These are working very well indeed, and we now have all compass points covered. Thank you all. For those with goods to donate, please contact me if you want a pick-up. The reason for this request is that some people don't want their phone numbers published, and most importantly, I am able to analyze supply and access for my records.

**BOUQUETS TO:** All those industrious people who "summer cleaned" their cupboards over the Christmas holidays, and gave the Op Shop the results of their efforts. My, don't we mortals collect things! "Thank goodness," answers the voice of the shop.

....And to "The Back Room Gang" for their efforts during the big annual cleanup over the Christmas break. This is always a busy time, as we go over the entire building with the appropriate tools of the trade.

Note to new members: We also have "mini clean-ups" at Easter and October weekends, and would appreciate any help you can give us.

**SECURITY:** The Society is having a door fitted from the shop into the Goods Holding Room, which will be kept locked. This is necessary because people coming or going from the upstairs office have been seen taking "little detours" into this room, the kitchen and garage.

Recently some officers from the Crime Detection Squad came to give us some pointers on security (fortunately, we didn't need many) and these have been implemented. With a grille over the fitting room window, some bolts fitted etc., we are now as secure as possible.

**OFFICE SPACE:** The upstairs kitchen has been turned into an office for our Editor. "The Back Room Gang" still makes use of it for morning tea and lunch breaks at weekends, as the power points and sink are still there. In winter time, some of us have been known to have hot soup and rolls for lunch!

**STORAGE SHELVING:** The auxiliary is buying metal shelving - similar to that already in the garage - to store donated goods waiting to be unpacked. This will get boxes and bags off the garage floor, encourage a tidier appearance and allow better access - hopefully!

**METAL CLIP HANGERS:** The auxiliary has bought 60 of these hangers for the unpacking room, and ultimately the shop. I was lucky enough to contact our suppliers on the right day, as they were having a sale. We saved 50 cents on each hanger - we can be lucky sometimes!

**VOLUNTEERS:** We still have vacancies on the shop roster. Some of our workers are on holiday, some overseas. Please ring Jo Tomkin on 713 8576 if you can spare some time. The shop is not far from Newtown station, and the bus stops right opposite.

**MONEY BOX DONATIONS:** I thought you'd be interested to know that since putting our specially made money box on the counter, donations have doubled. You may recall I wrote about these very smart boxes in the August Journal.

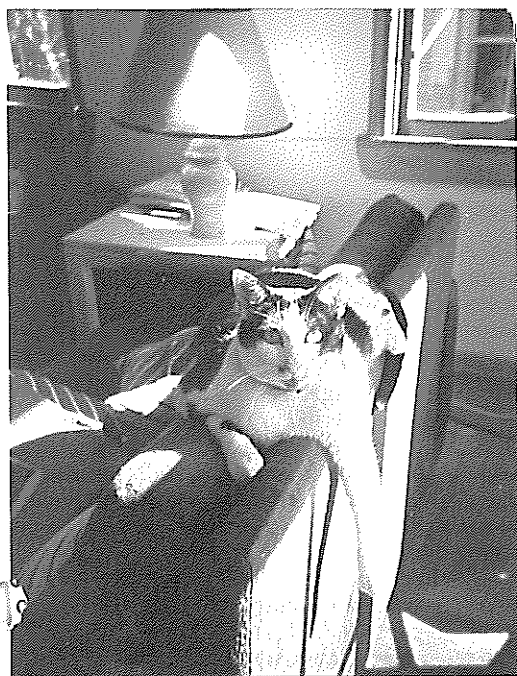
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## Raffle Results

Firstly, you'll be delighted to know that our Christmas Hamper raffle raised almost \$550.00. We thank Society members for their generous support of the raffle, and the auxiliary for selling so many tickets to members of the public visiting our Opportunity Shop.

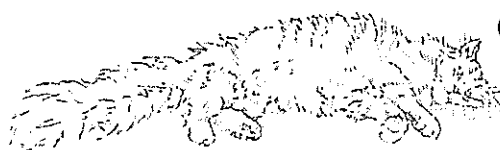
Now, the winner: it was our own Honorary Treasurer and Council member Nance Iredale. Nance was understandably dumbfounded when her ticket was drawn by a visitor to the Opportunity Shop, but subsequently thrilled - and she promised not to win next year!





## Amazing Grace

This picture was sent to us by Mrs. Gillian McClelland, who wrote, "I thought you might like this picture of our cat, Grace, because my husband, James McClelland, is one of your patrons, and Grace is the cat who converted him to cats. She is called Grace because she was rescued from Grace Brothers' pet shop on Christmas Eve, 1977. She was a very ugly kitten, but is now a beautiful mature cat."



## CAT CARE ACROSS THE SEA

Animal lovers are the same the world over, though the problems faced in other countries are sometimes even more acute than our own.

We are grateful to Society members Mrs. Joan Lemaire and Mrs. Brigid Milnes for sending us the newsletter of the Centro Cantino Internacional, an animal welfare group in Mallorca (an island off the coast of Spain.) Following is an extract from the newsletter, written by its 86-year-old President, Mrs. Jane Reynolds.

Dear Members,

"A big thank you to all who have remembered us in 1988, without whose help we would have had to close. We have had some anxious months with unexpected and urgent bills to be paid, but somehow we have kept out of red. Friends hurriedly organized a bazaar, and the bills have been paid.

"During the past year we have had endless problems to face, including four break-ins - two into our little house, and two in the catteries, each time freeing all our cats. Mercifully, all were back within days.

"Hardly a day goes past without some crisis arising. During the summer months, with temperatures of 100°F, our big well, which goes down 33 metres and usually has 5 metres under water, dried up completely. We had to buy water every 2 or 3 days.

"At the time of writing we are trying to save a tiny kitten brought in to us. The lady who found her 'phones every second day, and her husband, in India on a visit,

'phones weekly. The kitten, named Daisy, weighs just one kilo at five months. She is the palest grey, and looks angelic. I do hope we can get her quite well and find her a home.

"A very tiny black poodle was found tied to our cage, able to use only her two front legs. Her coat was heavily matted, and on cutting this back we found firstly her tail, and then her back legs, badly deformed. Poor precious. We had to put her to sleep, and we all wept.

"Of course, we do have many happy endings, with good homes being found in Germany, England and Mallorca. We like to keep in touch with as many home providers as possible.

"From this sunny island I wish you all happiness throughout the New Year. But do remember - the island may be sunny, but it's always raining cats and dogs at Centro Cantino, and we need Pennies from Heaven to continue our work!"

... Jane Reynolds, President.

**Powerful, gentle cats,  
pride of the household.**

**Baudelaire**

**God made lovely things,  
yet our cat surpasses them all.**

**John Gittings 9**

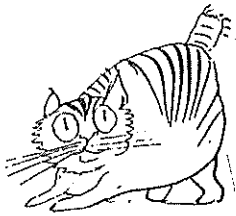
# WELFARE REPORT

Since our last report, the kitten season has exploded and is beginning to subside. We had the annual influx of adorable mums and babies, with the usual excuses and dumpings. Now, we hope, the worst is over.

A series of events - holidays, illness, and a new recruit unable to cope with the work - made us realize we needed an extra welfare officer to cover these unexpected problems. So now we are five - Sandy, Lyn, Gail, Ashraf and Tania - and all five dedicated animal lovers. Lena Larsen and June Chapman are still giving lots of voluntary help, as well.

The silver lining to our problem weeks was the loyalty of two of our ex-officers, Michelle and Julene. They gave as much time as they possibly could, and they were marvellous. Julene was even able to catch two mums who had proved very elusive over eighteen months.

We also had great help from Tracey Deane, an ex-R.S.P.C.A. girl introduced to us by Lyn. Tracey spent her two weeks' holiday with us, and in that time we had two letters from grateful clients about her efficiency. Tracey has offered to see us through any future tight spots by working from 2p.m., after she finishes her usual job. To Michelle, Julene and Tracey we say a big "Thank you."



Edward Lear's sketch of his cat, Fuss

## THE CENTRAL COAST WELCOMES YOU

If you live in the Woy Woy - Gosford area, you'll be pleased to know that there's a warm welcome waiting at Central Coast Cat Care, which does much the same work our Society does in Sydney.

Like us, the Central Coast welfare group needs all the volunteers it can muster to help in its day-to-day activities, and if you're a newcomer to the coast it's a fine way to make new friends with shared interests.

**President Dorothy Haines will be delighted to give you all the details if you ring her on (043) 25 3163.**

## More Good News

In addition, we referred more people directly to veterinarians, and found new friends from their ranks. We learnt that we are generally held in high regard, and understanding our difficulties, the vets were prepared to cooperate with lots of good will.

Now we are trying something new, in an endeavour to place kittens and cats in Eastern Suburbs and Inner-West homes. With people from these areas often reluctant to travel out to our boarding kennel at Blacktown, we are going to sell animals from Enmore on Saturday and Sunday, the 11th and 12th February. At our present rate of home-finding we are ahead of last year's figures, and if this experiment works we will be further ahead. It can also be repeated in the future, of course. By the way, second 'phone, 519 7201, is now manned all day, except for rostered lunch hours, when 511 011 is still available.



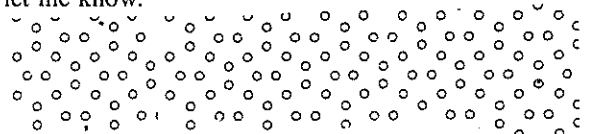
- Nance Iredale  
Welfare Director



## SPOTTING THE INDIVIDUAL

*Scattered among the rows of whiskers on the upper lip of members of the cat family is a series of dark spots. These have been used by a zoologist in Nairobi to identify individual lions. After photographing and making whisker-spot charts of 21 lions, she discovered each pattern was as individual as a human being's fingerprints. No-one has yet applied this system to domestic cats, but it is likely that the same individual grouping applies.*

Ed's note: Have a look at your cat's spots, then compare them with other cats. What do you think? Do write and let me know.



# "NEED A SMOKE, LOVE?"



*You never know **who's** going to come through our office door.....*

He was a very inebriated gentleman, with a small black kitten. He wasn't quite sure how he'd acquired the kitten, but he wanted us to find it a home.

"Yes, we'll accept it," said Nance Iredale.

"Can you leave a small donation?" she added.

"Donation!" snorted the gentleman. "I'm giving you the kitten. Isn't that enough?"

Nance was patient. "It has to be checked by a vet, wormed and immunized. Can't you afford something.... just the price of a packet of cigarettes?"

The gentleman was swaying on his feet by this time, but the word "cigarettes" touched a chord.

"Ah, I get it," he said, "you need a smoke, eh love"

"Tell you what, I was going to get myself a cornetto and a packet of Stimorol, but if you're so desperate for a smoke, take this."

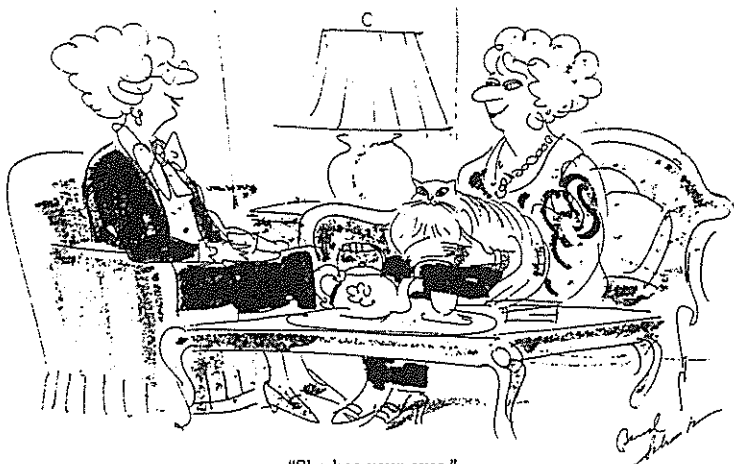
He produced 41 cents from his pocket with a great deal of fumbling, put it on the desk and swayed off...

But he stopped at the door for a parting shot. "It's not a good habit, love," he said. "You'd be better off with Stimorol!"

Nance and I made ourselves a cup of good, strong tea.

*-Julie Gorrick*

P.S. Of course, Nance doesn't smoke. But as she laughed, over tea, "Even 41 cents is gratefully accepted."



"She has your eyes."





"Now, don't start complaining till you taste it."

### **"FAREWELL, FURRY FRIEND."**

*He came to our house to ask the way,  
This lean and hungry, frightened stray,  
Searching for love and a place to rest;  
A loving welcome ended his quest.*

*Timid and wary - he had suffered harsh hands  
Till affection and kind words a cat understands  
(together with nourishment twice a day)  
Gave a new image to the former stray.*

*We called him "Walter", a name to express  
The dignity of his gentleness.  
Had he known many summers?  
Who could answer this?  
False youth of content waned to drowsy  
As five summers passed. One Autumn day  
In quiet sleep he slipped away.  
We miss his friendship, and praise the day  
Walter called at our house to ask the way.*

**Mrs. N. Wilkinson**  
(Society member)

### **TO A CAT**

*Stately, kindly, lordly friend  
Condescend  
Here to sit by me, and turn  
Glorious eyes that smile and burn,  
Golden eyes, love's lustrous meed,  
On the golden page I read.*

*All your wondrous wealth of hair  
Dark and fair,  
Silken-shaggy, soft and bright  
As the clouds and beams of night,  
Pays my reverent hand's caress  
Back with friendlier gentleness.*

*Dogs may fawn on all and some  
As they come;  
You, a friend of loftier mind.  
Answer friends alone in kind.  
Just your foot upon my hand  
Softly bids it understand.*

**Algernon Swinburne**  
(1837-1909)



## Form of Bequest

To those caring persons who may be disposed to assist our Society in 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 purpose 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.

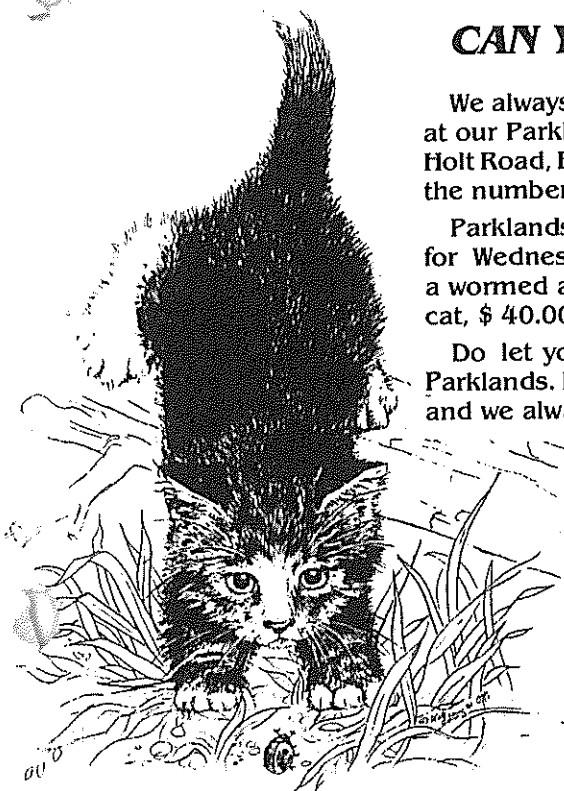
The Society, being a corporate body, can receive bequests of real estate as well as money.

## CAN YOU HELP US FIND HOMES?

We always have healthy, affectionate cats and kittens for sale at our Parklands boarding kennel. The address is 505 Sunny Holt Road, Blacktown, opposite Lalor Road in the directory, and the number is 626 9333.

Parklands is open 7 days a week from 9a.m. - 5p.m., except for Wednesdays, when it closes at 1.30p.m. The price for a wormed and immunized kitten is \$ 16.00 and for a desexed cat, \$ 40.00.

Do let your friends, relatives and colleagues know about Parklands. It's a very pleasant place with a country atmosphere, and we always have a lovely selection of colours available.



## KEEP THESE 'PHONE NUMBERS HANDY

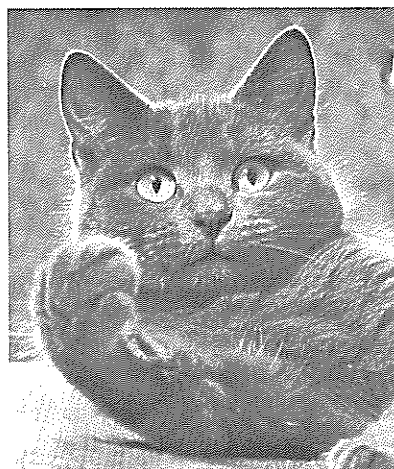
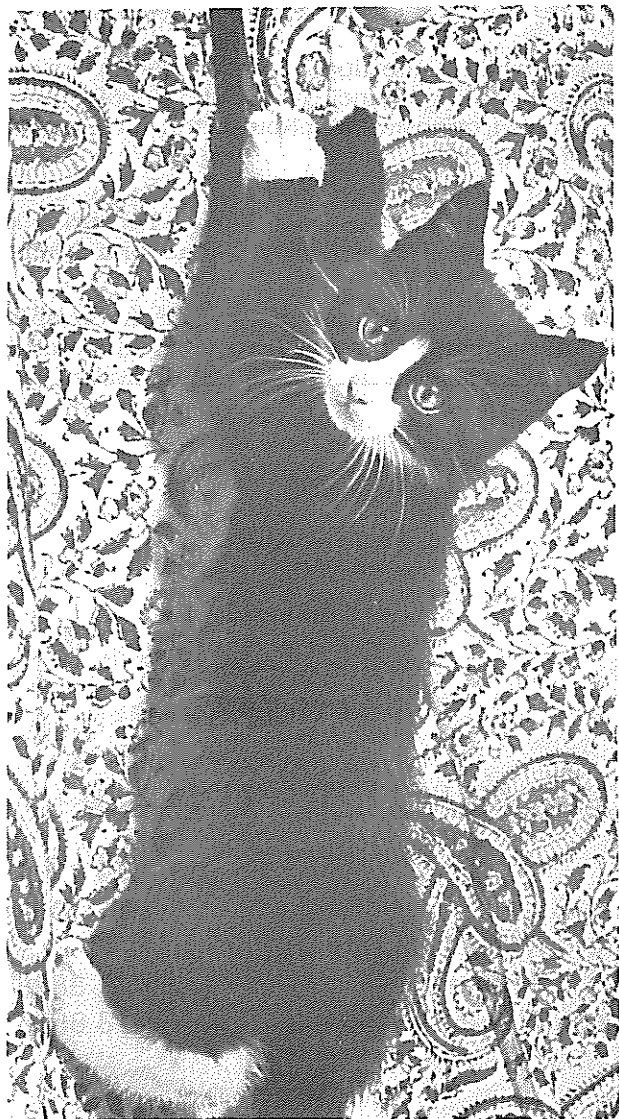
Welfare administration inquiries:	511 011, 519 7201
Opportunity Shop:	516 2072
(Monday - Friday, 9a.m.-4p.m., Saturday, 9.30a.m.-noon)	
To have goods picked up, Mrs. Sybil Cozens:	427 3828
Membership and volunteer inquiries, Miss Jo Tomkin:	713 8576



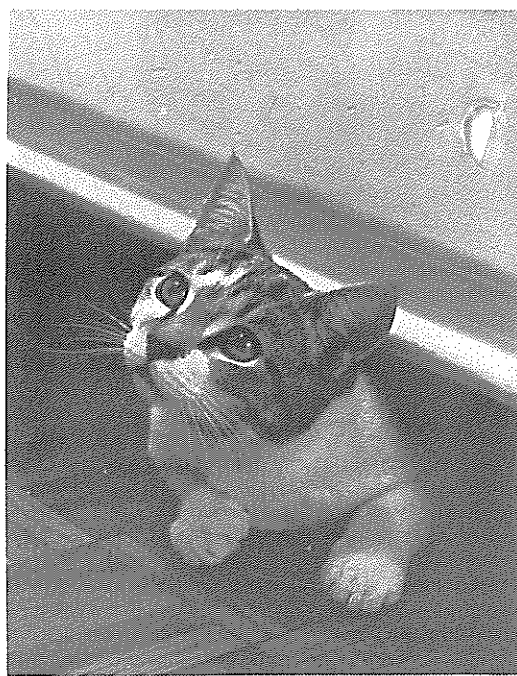
\* *A Clowder of*

# CATS

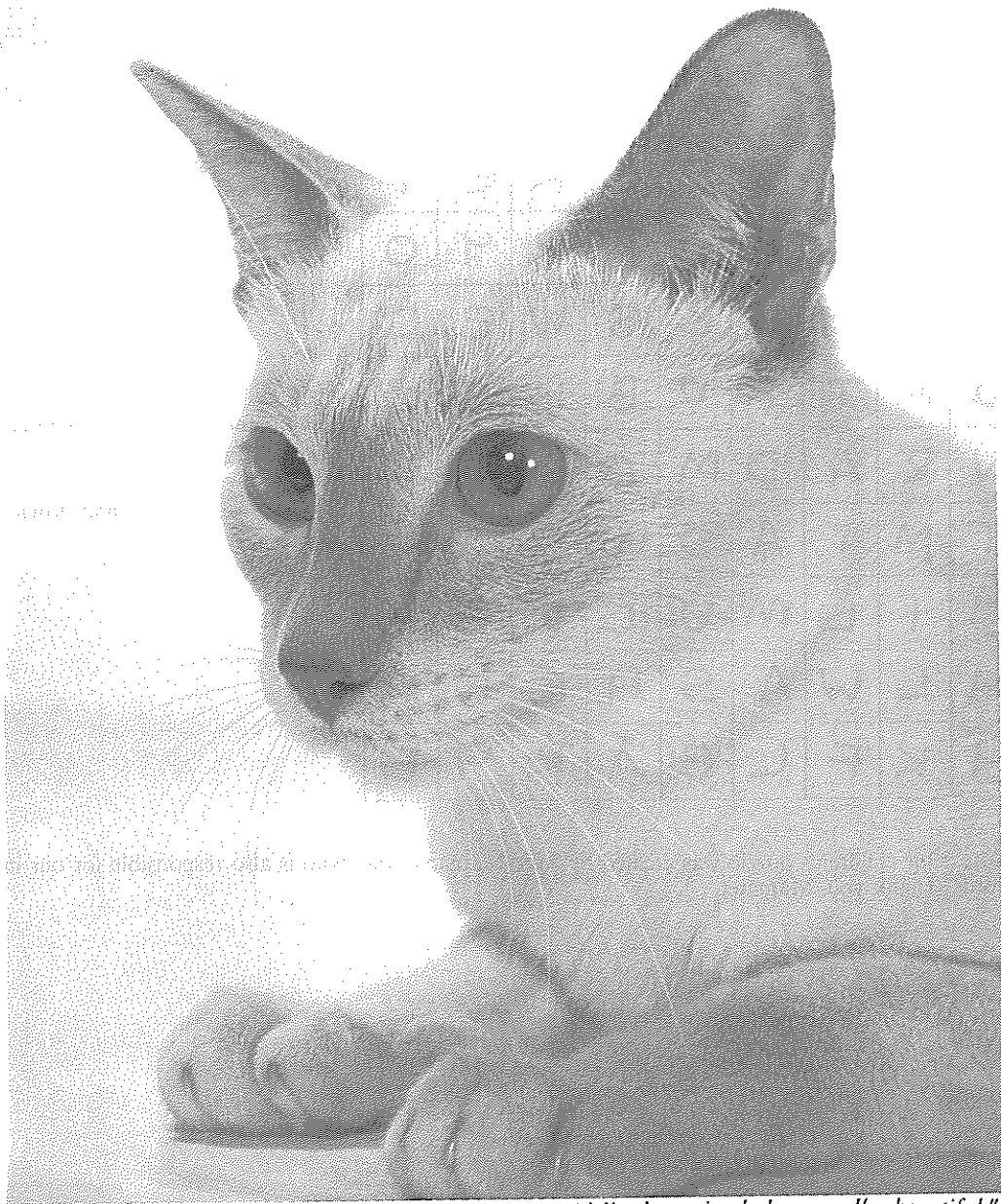
\*"Clowder" is the correct name for a group or assembly of cats, just like a gaggle of geese or a pride of lions. A Clowder of Cats is also the title of an enchanting cat book by Bryan Holme, published by Heinemann.



*"OK, who's the next challenger in the arm wrestling event?"*



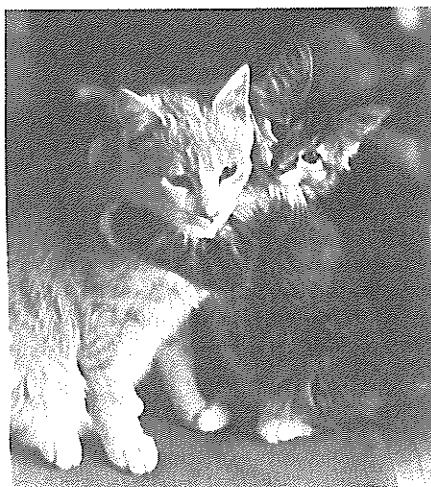




*"They said I'm here simply because I'm beautiful."*



*..."and I dreamed of a fairytale cat just like me..."*



*Happiness is someone to love.*

## A PUZZLE FOR CHILDREN

C	A	T	D	O	O	R	E	I
P	A	W	F	U	R	R	Y	O
H	L	R	U	B	S	W	E	C
U	A	T	R	U	B	H	S	O
N	P	A	D	M	O	I	T	L
T	M	I	A	O	W	S	A	L
O	I	L	M	U	L	K	B	A
M	L	W	A	S	H	E	B	R
Y	K	F	L	E	A	R	Y	E

Dear Children,  
How many words to do with cats can  
you find?

The words go across and down.

Ed's Note: Our children's puzzle was created by Mrs. Margaret Oag, who is also responsible for our interesting crosswords. Thank you, Margaret.

Children -

Write your  
words here,  
then turn to  
page 31 and  
check your list.

### New Members:

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members and look forward to your contributions to "Cat Affairs."

**Oirathy**, Mr. R., East Sydney. **Wood**, Miss B., Winston Hills. **Rodgers**, Mrs. V., Willoughby. **Collings**, Miss S., Berala. **Hopper**, Mrs. M., Bondi. **Brennan**, Miss J., Enmore. **Botting**, Miss D., Brooklyn. **Nix**, Miss J., Earlwood. **White**, Mr. D., Newtown. **Skuthorpe**, Miss V., Marrickville. **Parkes**, Miss V. (to life membership), Eastwood. **Beattie**, Miss R., Cremorne. **Mitchell**, Miss O., Queanbeyan. **Rogers**, Mr. R., Dulwich Hill. **Corbett**, Mrs. M. Kincumber. **Stow**, Miss L., Erskineville. **Catlin**, Ms. O., Redfern. **Whymant**, Ms. J., Annandale. **Goldberg**, Mrs. C., Kareela. **Walker**, Miss F., Sydney. **Fernandes**, Miss K. Leichardt. **Bakker**, Mr. A. (to life membership), Darlinghurst. **Bennett**, Ms. L., Caringbah. **Jones**, Mrs. E., Sydney. **Brunker**, Miss P., Petersham. **Cordeaux**, Ms. S., Annandale. **Simpson**, Mr. A., Carlingford. **Gibbon**, Mrs. M., Lugarno. **Stewart**, Mrs. J., and **Fleming**, Mrs. T., Gladesville. **Pluss**, Miss N., Strathfield. **Harvey**, Mrs. B., Normanhurst. **McKay**, Miss L., Belfield. **Costello**, Mrs. J., Mooney Mooney. **Chalmers**, Mrs., Redfern.

### A Friendly Reminder:

Is your membership due for renewal? Do you have a friend who'd like to join? It's \$10.00 for an adult subscription, \$5.00 if you are on a pension or aged 16 and under. The form to fill in is on the back cover.

## Prologue

Because of a strong desire to express a sincere appreciation of the beneficial dedication of The Cat Protection Society, this descriptive song has been written for blind and sighted children and cat lovers of the world as a Bi-Centennial souvenir. Released by *CatzPaw* Studio for renowned entertainers, *Professor and Madame*, to venerate the memory of a versatile, generous, superb, jolly trouper Ricky May, and to eulogise our endearing Gallery mascot.

*Curlytail "Spotsiboy," the pussycat clown  
With his strong curly tail he struts up and down.  
He's liked by many, admired by lots,  
For his grey and white fur and lovely black spots.*

*Curlytail "Spotsiboy" the pussycat clown  
Has a real happy time when he goes to town,  
For he likes jumping and he can run,  
When he curls up his tail, he has lots of fun!*

*Curlytail "Spotsiboy" the pussycat clown  
Likes to purr for us all, so we must not frown.  
'Cos with his antics he brings us much joy  
And the people are fond of our "Spotsiboy,"  
Yes! the people are fond of our "Spotsiboy."*

*A swansong of the composer for a cat.  
World copyright*

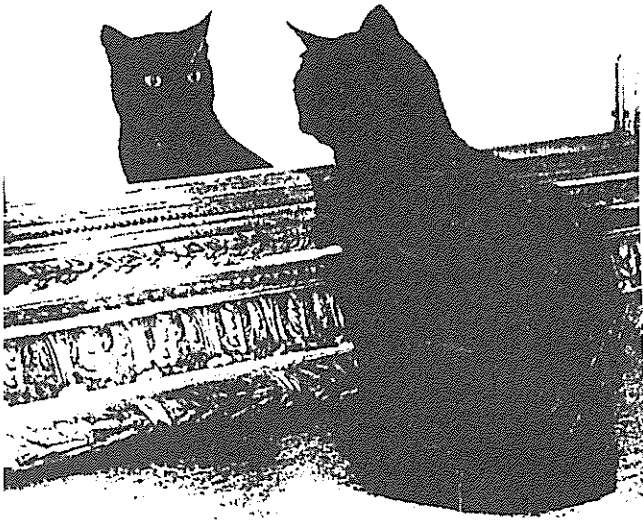


Page kindly donated by Professor and Madame.



## THE LOOKING-GLASS PUSSY

*"Back behind the mirror is another pussy cat  
With bows and whiskers just like mine, and  
just as grey and fat.  
She peeps around and looks at me when I peep in at her,  
And looks as pleased as possible each time she  
hears me purr.  
She pats her paws against the glass when I pat  
mine there, too,  
But she won't come and play with me, no matter how  
I mew!  
One day I thought I'd catch her when I didn't  
see her there.....  
(She couldn't see me either, I was down behind a chair!)  
I crept behind the furniture and slid along the wall.  
And ran behind the mirror - and she wasn't there at all.  
But when I bounced around the frame as sudden as could be,  
That tricky little cat was there, a-looking out at me!"*



Ed's note: Thank you Mrs. Heather O'Rourke for finding this happy little poem for our Journal. And to other members, if you come across any cat poems or topics, we would be delighted to have them.

## Cat Legislation

As many members may know, The Honourable Richard Jones, MLC, wishes to have legislation introduced that will make cat desexing compulsory.

We have been in touch with Mr. Jones on the issue, and supplied him with background information to assist his endeavours.

The following letter is self-explanatory. In the next issue of "Cat Affairs" we will bring you up to date with any further developments, and outline ways in which you can help.

Dear Mesdames Iredale and Gorrick,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to visit me in my office early this month. Further to the conversation we had at the time, I am now sending details of the progress of legislation for the compulsory desexing of cats. Unfortunately, there has been no response as yet from the office of David Hay, Minister for Local Government, to the letter I sent him in late January, requesting a meeting to discuss this issue.

As you know, the best chance for getting this legislation passed is through co-operation with the government. I am attempting to achieve this by talks with the Minister and staff in his office. If there is no reply to my letter soon, we will have to start thinking about a Private Member's Bill. This would be a more difficult course of action, since such a Bill may take months or even years to be heard in the council, and even then has little chance of passing in both Houses. I don't wish to sound overly pessimistic, but you can see that co-operation from the government would avoid a great deal of difficulty.

In any case, the spate of publicity last year brought the issue to public attention, and I assure you that whatever happens I will bring this up again as often as necessary. Certainly, a Private Member's Bill would once again raise the issue in public awareness.

I would like to thank you and your society for your help and support, and I will keep you informed of any new developments as they occur.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD JONES.



## Peace in the House With a Cat? You Must be Joking!

When it comes to tracking down forbidden goods, Nance Iredale's cat Khotso is indefatigable. Here's Nance's story of Khotso's latest endeavours.

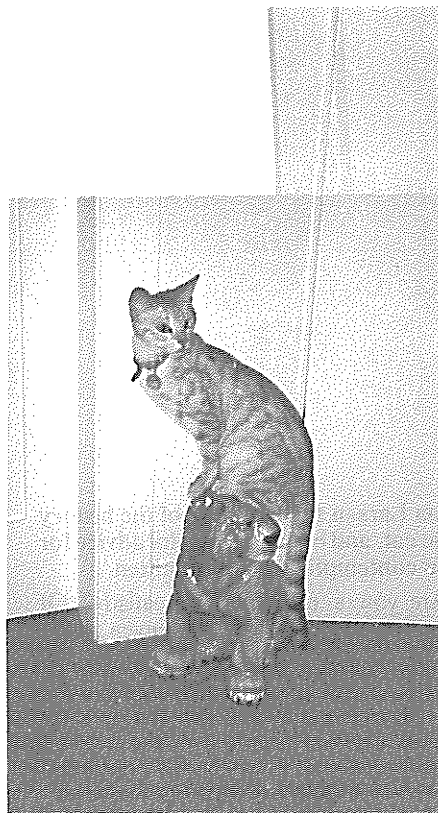
Our newest cat (misnamed Khotso, meaning peace) has some very odd habits. Right from the start he has been Trouble. For instance, I remember clocking in very late one night to find he hadn't presented himself for dinner.

Eventually I heard him squeak - yes, that's another thing, big, tough, creature that he is, he can only squeak - from a high perch in a neighbour's tree. So in the middle of the night we were creeping around with torches and ladders, trying not to disturb the neighbourhood.

But his major aberration is The Pursuit of the Plastic Bag. He loves plastic bags and their contents.

Having had a recent wedding in the family, I was appointed Minder of the presents and the wedding cake. Instructions to put the cake in the freezer were included, so I removed all the decorations (horseshoes, bows, rings, hearts, blue birds etc.), wrapped them carefully, and placed them in a plastic bag among the presents, to be collected when the newlyweds returned from their honeymoon. On the first night, Khotso quietly removed the decorations from the plastic bag, took them out of their wrappings and scattered them around the room. I re-wrapped them, put them back in their bag, put the bag in a crystal bowl, and put the bowl in a securely closed box. No problem for Khotso! He pushed the box to the floor, undid it, removed the bag from the bowl, unwrapped everything again, and once again scattered the decorations throughout the room.

Yes, you are right. They are now so securely hidden that no-one can find them, including me. But we love him!!



### CAT ON A STATUE

This lovely silver Tabby belongs to one of our Welfare Officers, Gail Ward. She enjoys sitting on household objects, including this door stop. Incidentally, even though she's a "she," her name is Brian.

## WANTED

A cat lover.... a mature or older person to assist in the feeding and care of eight pet cats (rescued by CPS) for two hours each day.

In return, I offer a modern, fully furnished bed-sitter rent free, and the run of a lovely home and garden. There is a telephone, bus passes the door, and we are near Umina Beach. Please ring Dorothy Haines, Central Coast Cat Care, on (043) 41 9724.



Dorothy Haines with her clowder of gorgeous cats... all of them moggies rescued from the C.P.S., and in need of an extra paid of hands to care for them. Do ring Mrs. Haines if you know anyone who can help.

# IN PRAISE OF MAN (AND WOMAN'S) BEST FRIEND

**Lena Larsen traces a little of the history of the cat, and has some helpful advice for those contemplating a new kitten.**

Are you a catman or a catlady? Of course you are! We are perhaps even a little envious as we watch their sleek bodies gracefully climb a tree, we watch their determination to survive against all odds, we watch them defend their territory with a fierceness that would make the Godfather appear almost angelic.

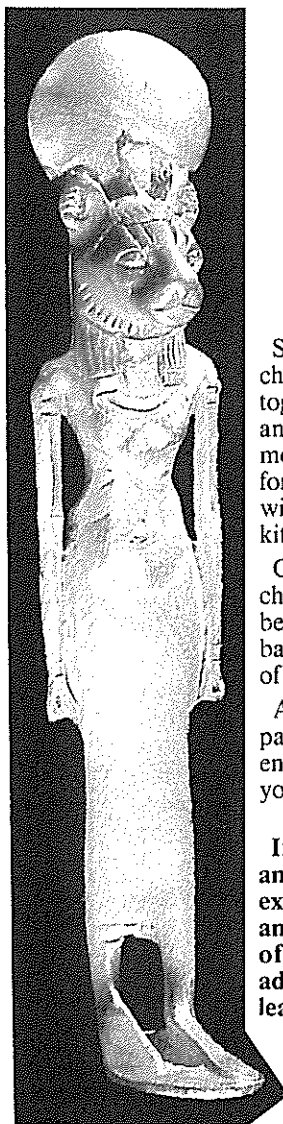
Unlike dogs, the cat is a determined and strong-willed animal that is hard to train and will obey its owner only when it wants to. But perhaps its individuality is its greatest charm, and it is capable of the deepest affection.

The origin of the cat family can be traced back millions of years, but the domestic variety was first reported in Egypt, and for centuries cats were worshipped and revered. Indeed, an Egyptian Goddess, Bastet, had a slender female form with the head of a cat.

During the Middle Ages, the cat was not so lucky. It was regarded with fear and suspicion, and suffered great cruelty. Black cats were associated with witchcraft, and were killed along with their mistresses.

Only in the last century did the cat achieve true respectability and dignity, and today some breeds have become a status symbol.

If you are thinking of bringing a kitten into the family, don't be guided by its fluffy fur or pretty colouring alone. It should have clear eyes, a shiny coat, should be active and affectionate.



Speaking personally, my advice is to choose two kittens, so they can play together, sleep together, grow up together and become firm companions. This is even more important if you are going to be away for long periods during the day - two kittens will amuse themselves happily, a single kitten can become very lonely.

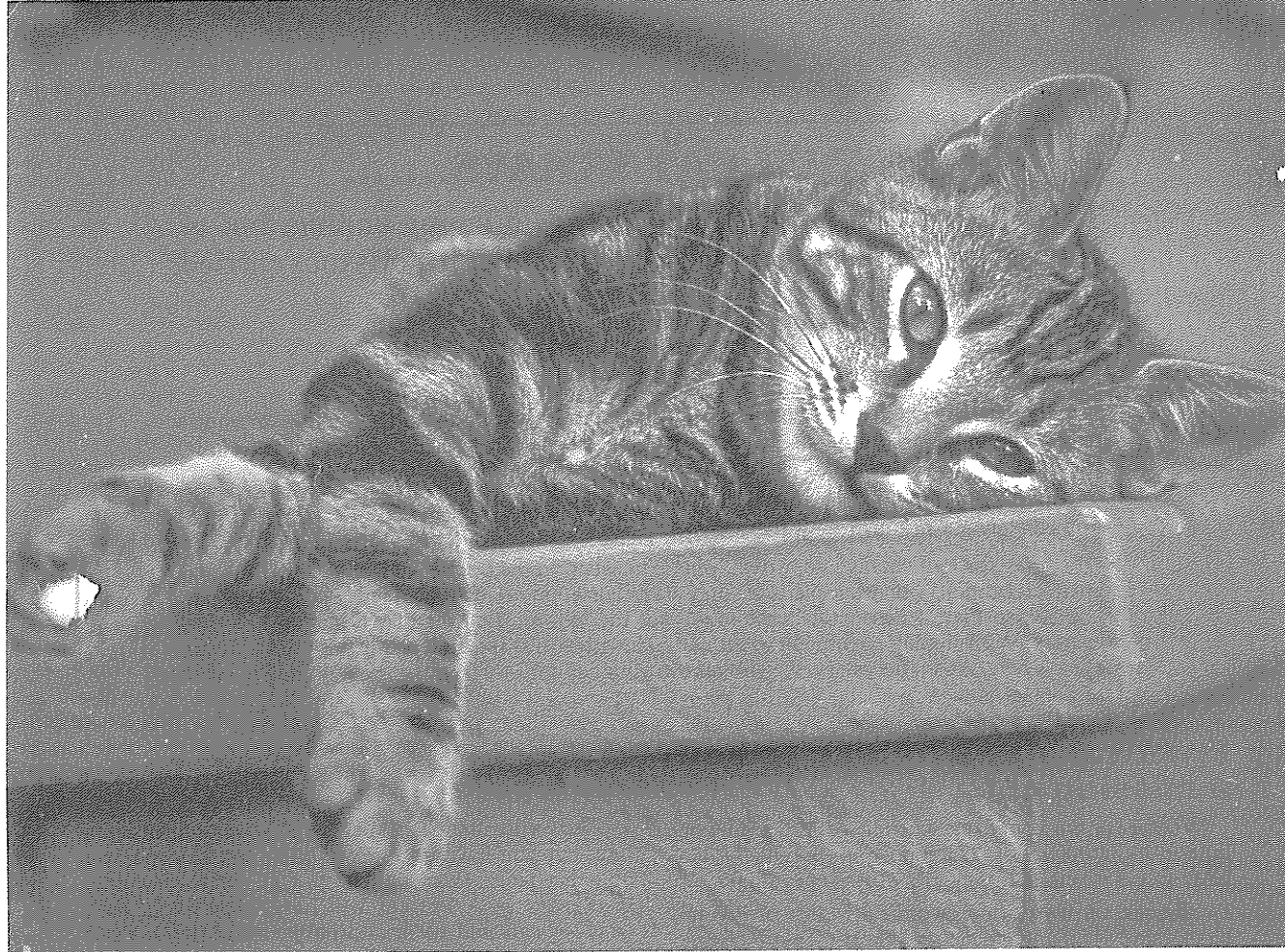
Of course, parents should warn their children that kittens are not toys, and should be handled gently at all times. Just like babies, they tire easily, and need a great deal of sleep and comfort, away from noise.

And soon, your kitten (or kittens) will be part of the household.... so firmly entrenched as man and woman's best friend, you can't imagine life without them!

If you would like advice on general care and feeding of a cat or kitten, we have excellent leaflets available. Just address an envelope to "Cat Care," at our Enmore office, enclosing a stamped, self addressed envelope. We'll send the leaflets by return mail.

*A golden image of the Egyptian Cat Goddess Bastet was part of the recent "Pharaoh's Gold" exhibition at The Art Gallery of N.S.W.*





***I will come when you call, if I want to,  
I will purr, if I feel so inclined.  
We will live side by side  
In contentment and peace -  
But you'll never know what's on my mind!***

(This poem was sent in by Member Mrs. Phyl Schott, who says it's the one cat poem that has always stayed in her memory.)

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## **ARE CATS PSYCHIC?**

There are many owners who believe their cats have telepathic powers, despite sceptics who attribute mysterious events to chance or luck. In the light of scientific experiments, it now seems the owners are right and the sceptics are wrong! Dr. Karlis Osis conducted experiments at Duke University aimed at discovering if a person could transfer what was on their mind to a cat.

A statistically sound sample of cats and their owners took part.

In one experiment, bowls of food containing identical meals and portions were placed equidistant apart. Before a cat was released, its owner would concentrate on one of the bowls of food, "wishing" the cat to choose the selected one. The incidence of cats choosing the wished-for bowl was significantly higher than chance, which would have been 50-50. Similar experiments had the same outcome.

What do you think? Are cats psychic? We would be delighted to know of any experiences you may have had.

---

## IF YOUR CAT STRAYS.....

The story of "Toffytoes" opposite has a happy ending, but of course, everything would have been simpler if Toffytoes carried some identification.

If there is any chance that your cat will leave your premises, he really should be wearing a collar with an identification disc. Remember that our Society has correct collars with an elastic insert, and a disc carrying an engraved number plus our telephone number.

Anybody finding the cat will ring us, we will check the number against our records, and immediately get in touch with the owner.

Of course you can engrave your own 'phone number on the disc as well, but having ours is a great precaution. For example, you may have left your pet with a friend while you go on holiday, so there's no-one at home to answer the 'phone. You may have moved to a new location. While it may be difficult to get in touch with you at the time your cat is found, we are always here. And if necessary, we will take in your cat until we have done everything possible to contact you.



### Practical steps to take to find a missing cat:

Whether or not your cat is wearing a disc, don't waste time in trying to find it. The following steps may seem basic to cat lovers, but they are worth repeating:

1. Knock on every door within a radius of several blocks, and ask if anyone has seen the cat. Take a picture with you to identify it, and leave a slip with your name and 'phone number, in case the cat is sighted after you call.

2. Put a notice in all the local shop windows (most shopkeepers are sympathetic towards lost animals, and will cooperate.) Describe the cat in detail, and if you can afford it, offer a reward. It's sad but true that some people will be more inclined to keep their eyes open for lost animals if they think there is some money in it. If you are going to be away from home for lengthy periods, give an alternate 'phone number where someone can take a message.

3. Ring every veterinary clinic in the area. As you read in Sandy's story, Concord Animal Hospital kept Toffytoes for a week without receiving an inquiry. Many people do take stray cats to their local vet, and you should leave a description and a 'phone number so they can contact you.

4. Advertise in the local paper - it's something of a long shot, but you have to try everything. In the same vein, ring hospitals and schools in the area, including kindergartens. A lost cat will be attracted to a place where it can find food, and public institutions usually have accessible garbage bins.

5. And of course, get in touch with us - whether or not a cat is wearing a disc, people ring us with reports of stray cats. We'll record your pet's description, and phone you at once if we hear any news.



### DOES YOUR CAT CARRY A DISC?

Our cat collars with attached discs cost \$5.00 each, and come in red, blue, yellow and pink. They are made of soft suede, and have an elastic insert. There is also a little bell on the collar, which acts as a warning to birds.

Address your order to "Cat Collars" at our Enmore address, enclose a cheque or money order, and we'll despatch it by return post. Please add 50c for each collar ordered, to cover handling and mailing costs.



*The cat always leaves her mark upon her friends.*

SPANISH SAYING

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# Sandy and Toffytoes

Sometimes our Welfare Officers go well beyond the call of duty, as this charming story illustrates.

"Come and look at this lovely Siamese," the vet nurse invited Sandy Moss, our longest-serving Welfare Officer. Sandy had just brought in some cats to Concord Animal Hospital to be desexed, and the nurse explained that the Siamese had been found wandering in Eastwood, frightened, and with no identification.

The hospital had been caring for the animal for a week, but no-one had inquired about it. Its future was beginning to look gloomy.

"Tell me exactly where it was found," asked Sandy, "I might do a bit of investigating."

So, in her own time, Sandy started knocking on doors in the Eastwood area and asking if anybody knew of a missing Siamese.

After an hour or so, she found a householder who reported that a Siamese who used to walk over her back fence hadn't been seen for quite a while. She thought it might belong to a lady down the road.

No, it didn't belong to this lady, but she thought it came from the street at the back, and its name was Toffytoes.

Four or five door knocks later, Sandy finally got an answer to her question, "Have you heard of a missing Siamese cat, possibly called Toffytoes?"

"He's mine," cried the delighted owner. "He's been missing for a week, and I've been out of my mind with worry." In a few minutes, she was on her way to retrieve Toffytoes, and Sandy went home feeling - as she says - quite pleased with myself."



*This is Welfare Officer Sandy Moss, who tracked down Toffytoes. Sandy is pictured here with her niece Jaime on holidays in Queensland. Next issue, she'll tell you something about her trip, which included the fascinating experience of seeing a giant turtle laying her eggs.... and newly hatched baby turtles heading for the sea.*

Footnote: Toffytoes' owner has sent us a cheque for \$50.00, with a note: "With gratitude from Toffytoes."

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## A Great Name for a Cat

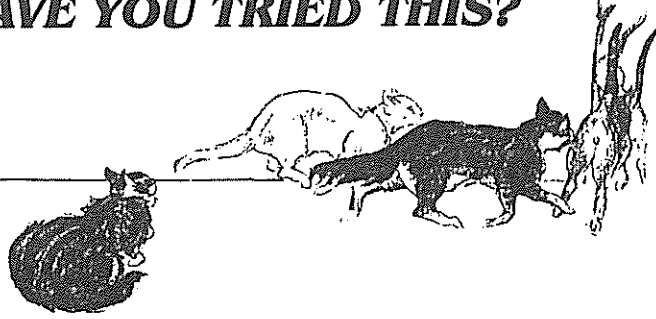
Isn't "Toffytoes" a great name for a cat? Next issue, the Journal will include a story by Nance Iredale on naming cats, and I'd also appreciate any suggestions from readers.

Do you call your cats good old human names like Bill and Mabel and Charlie? Do you try to match names to their personalities? Do you prefer names that tell something about their appearance - Cinnamon or Spotty or Fluff?

Do let me know your favourite /most unusual /most appropriate names, and I'll add your comments and ideas to Nance's story. -Ed.



## ***HAVE YOU TRIED THIS?***



Each issue, we'll pass on tried-and-true hints on cat care from vets, Welfare officers, Councillors and members. We'd love to hear your favourite hint as well. Do send it in, marking your envelope, "Have You Tried This." Our address is The Cat Protection Society of NSW, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, 2042.

### **To Protect Food**

If you have to leave food out for an extended period during the day or overnight, place the bowl of food in a larger bowl of cold water. This not only helps to keep the food fresh, but will prevent ants from crawling into it.

- Membership Secretary Jo Tomkin

### **Settling In**

Sometimes you think an older cat will never accept the new kitten. I just want to reassure readers that in time everything will be fine. Moggs and Murphy hissed and turned cartwheels when Billy arrived, so I took things gently. I didn't force him on them, but kept him in a separate room quite a lot during the day, put him to bed early (so they'd have quiet times with me) and gave them lots of attention. I also fed Billy separately. He was great, by the way, not at all put out by the hissing and antics of the other two. After 3 weeks or so, everything calmed down. Now Moggs gives the kitten a rough lick every now and then, and Murphy lets him sleep on the same chair. They realize he's now part of the family.

- Julie Gorrick, Editor





## Toilet Training

Most kittens use their litter tray at once, others take a little longer to catch on. If your kitten uses a corner of the room instead of the tray, damp a tissue in the urine and dab it on the kitty litter. Then take the kitten to the tray and let him smell it. This usually does the trick. Of course, any "accidents" on the floor should be quickly cleaned and deodorised, so the kitten won't go back to this spot. If there is a smell left in the carpet, sprinkle crushed camphor over it and leave for 15 minutes before vacuuming up. Household bleach or vinegar can be used to deodorise tiled floors.

-Welfare Officer Gail Ward

## To Call Cats

My hint was passed on to me by Miss Thea Dullo, one of our longest standing members and possibly a Foundation member. She suggested I use a child's party clicker to call my cats to meals, or bring them inside if I'm going out.

It works beautifully, but of course the trick is always to "reward" the cat when it answers the click. If it's not meal time, give them a little biscuit treat. And by the way, it's quite an ego thing when visitors call to demonstrate how much under control MY cats are!

- Nance Iredale, Welfare Director.



## Flea Collars

Some cats are allergic to flea collars, so watch carefully and remove the collar if there is any sign of itching or discomfort. If your cat does wear a collar, take it off if the cat is likely to be outside when it's raining. A wet flea collar can quickly irritate the skin.

- Councillor Shirley Pikler

## Diet Tips:

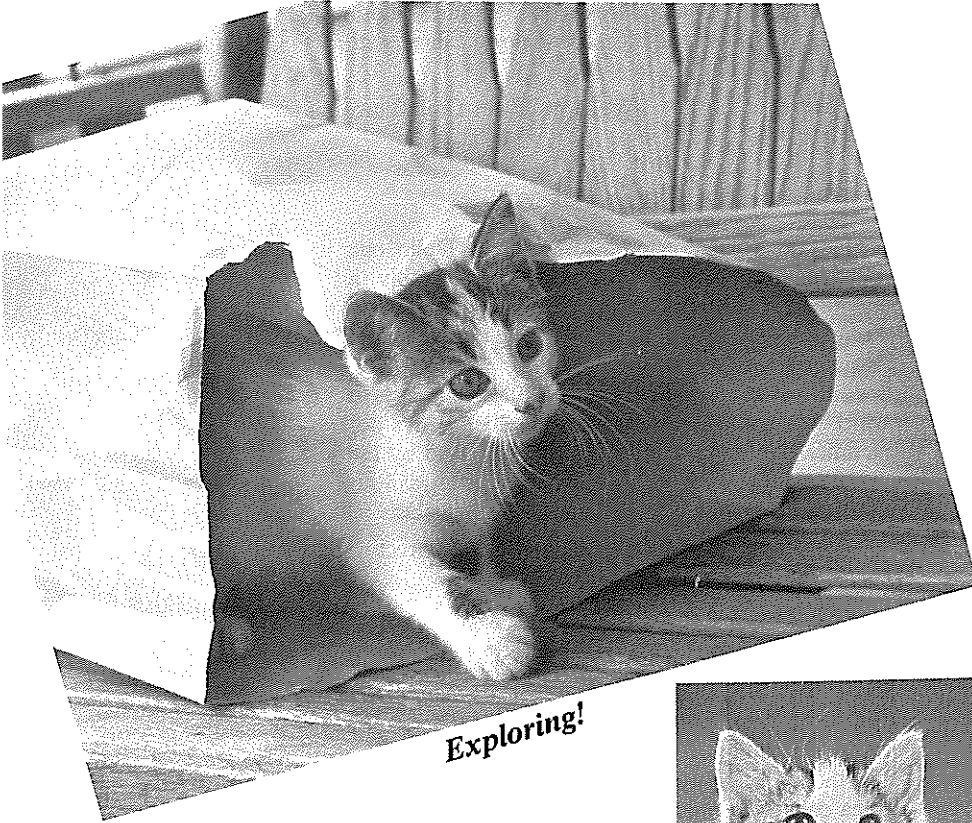
As well as their usual diet, give cats a tough strip of meat to chew on (or a little dry food) every day or two. This will help to keep their teeth clean. Sardines or tuna packed in oil should be given once a week, to help flush out fur balls.

- Councillor Lena Larsen,





# What do I *Love Most* in All the World?



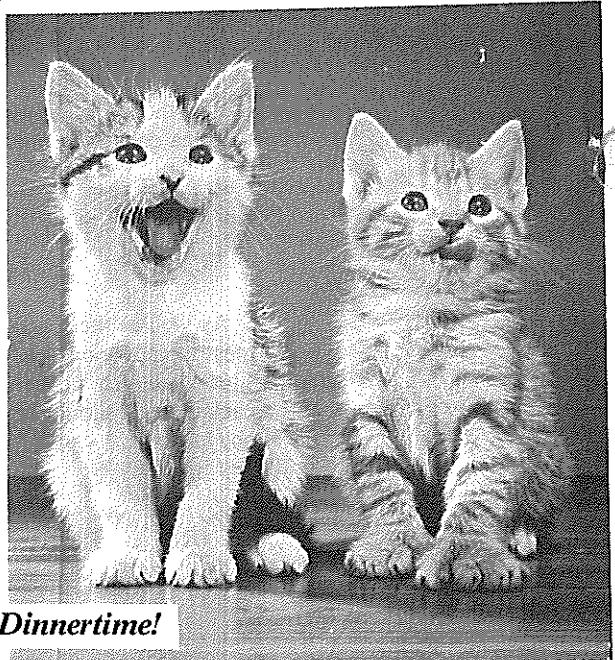
*Exploring!*

## ❁❁❁ STOP PRESS ❁❁❁

All at Central Coast Cat Care Inc. wish to say a sincere thank you to Mrs. Nance Iredale, Cat Protection Society Treasurer and Welfare Director, who took time off from her family trip to our coast to visit us.

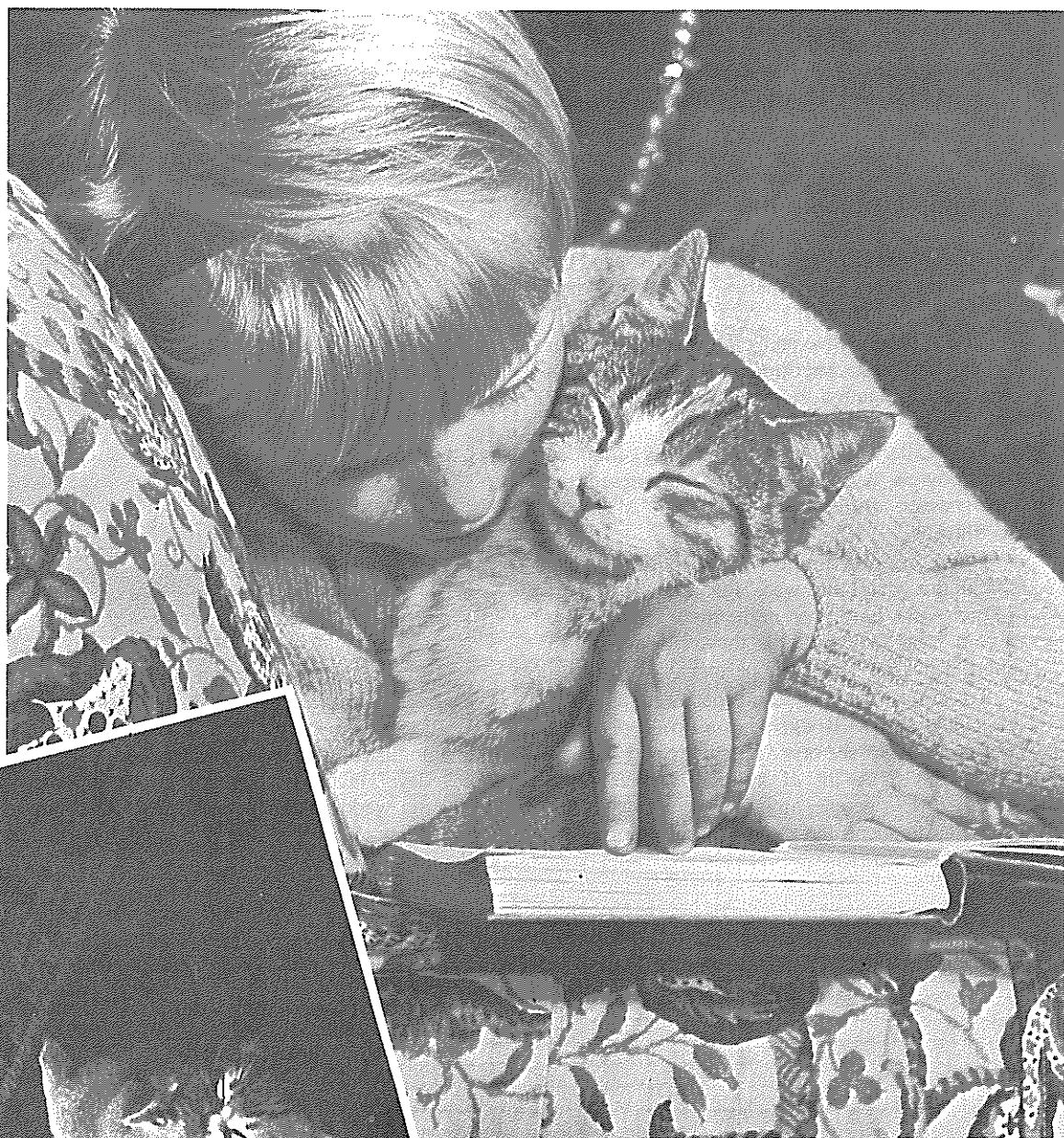
Nance saw Judith's little goldmine, The Thrift Shop, and attended our monthly meeting on March 15 at Umina. She was so kind in offering advice and help with our many queries, and gave us splendid support, as usual.

- Dorothy Haines,  
President/Publicity Officer.

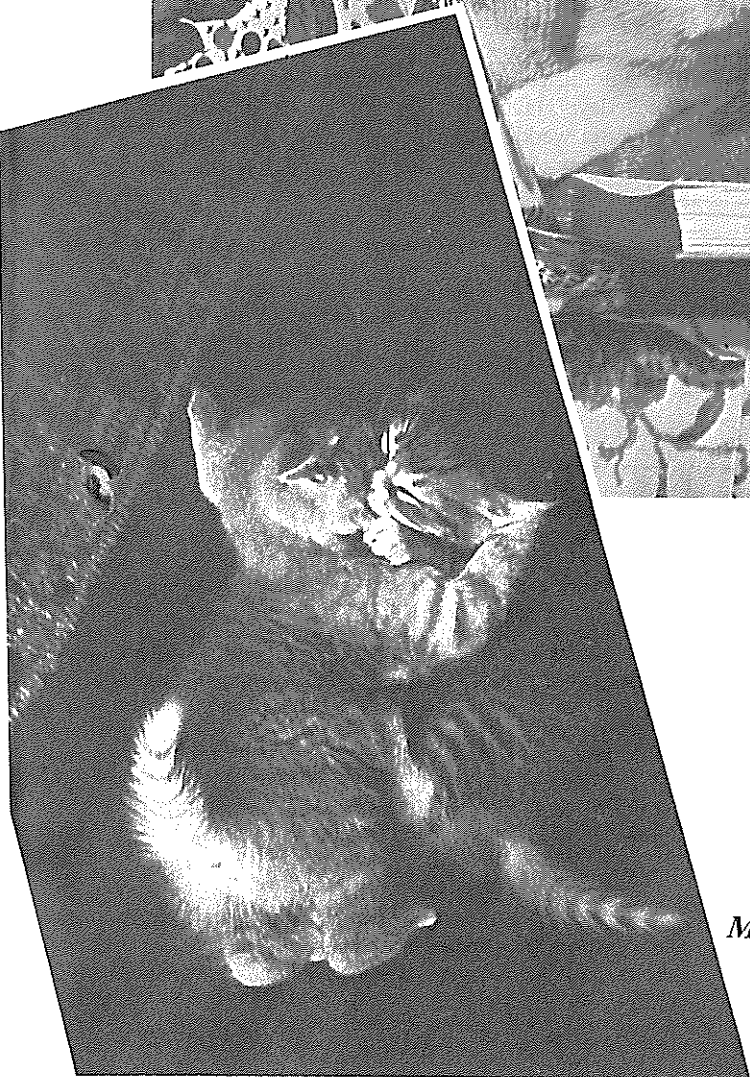


*Dinnertime!*





*Cuddling up!*



*My Sister!*



# "I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE"

*It could only happen in America !*

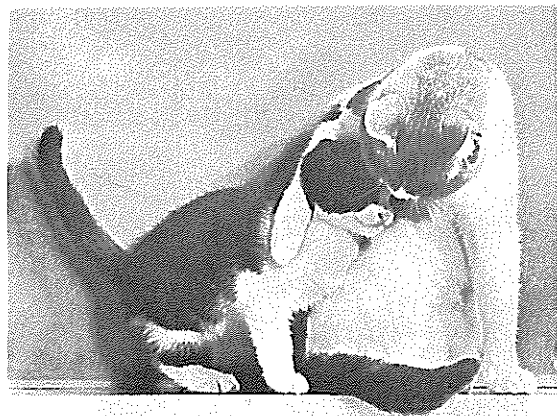
We've heard of birthday parties for pets, but the latest news in America is the marriage ceremony for animals!

The "Very Reverend" Dawn Rodgers is prepared to unite cats, dogs, parrots - even pigs - in wedlock, bringing a mobile chapel right to your own home.

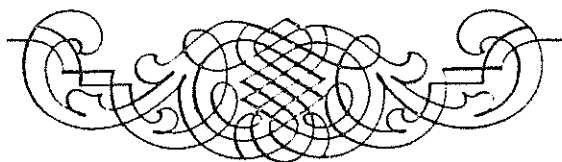
For \$150.00, she'll set up an archway garlanded with flowers, write special vows, and present the newlyweds with an impressive "Marriage Certificate".

For birds, you can hear Mrs. Rodgers saying, "With this wing I thee wed." Pigs are asked as part of their vows not to roll in the mud. Cats have to give a clear "miaow" that they will promise to share delicacies with their partners.

To critics who say that pet weddings are ridiculous, Dawn Rodgers has a firm reply. "It's not crazy at all," she says. "If people can do it, why not animals? A lot of animals are far more dignified than people, anyway, and if owners are prepared to spend the money on a ceremony..... why not?"



And what about the owner's motivation? It's probably summed up in the words of Beverley Wiltfong, who owns pretty cat bride, Twinky: "After all, you don't get to many weddings," says Beverley. "Having Twinky married means we have an extra wedding to enjoy, and it's a good excuse for a party. A pet wedding is fun, and makes a nice change."



## WHAT IS A CAT WORTH?

In the time of Hoel the Good, King of Wales, who died in the year 948, laws were made to fix the different price of animals; among which the cat was included, as being at that period of great importance, on account of its scarcity and utility. (Noted in a General History of Quadrupeds, 1791.)

*The smallest feline is a masterpiece.*  
-Leonardo Da Vinci



### The Laws of Hoel the Good:

The worth of a cat and her issue is this:

The worth of a kitten from the night it is kitted until it shall open its eyes is a legal penny.

And from that time, until it shall kill mice, two legal pence.

And after it shall kill mice, four legal pence; and so it always remains.

*Cat: A pygmy lion who loves mice, hates dogs, and patronises human beings.*

-Oliver Herford.



## DO ANIMALS SEE COLOURS?

*It would be lovely to think that our pets experience the brightness and beauty of colour, as we do, but this is not the case.*

*Dr. Michael Fox (a director of the Humane Society in the USA) says tests have shown that dogs are totally colour blind, and cats can see only red and green*



One explanation for this colour blindness is that carnivores, especially those that hunt at night or at dawn, have no need to see colours because their prey is so well camouflaged. Instead of being sensitive to colour, cats and dogs have developed an acute sensitivity to movement, enabling them to detect the slightest stir made by prey hidden in grass or bushes.

This sensitivity to movement is apparent when you throw a ball for a cat or dog to chase. They see it easily when it is moving, but when it stops they often have to sniff around to find it. Your pet will have a much easier time picking out a ball that is striped, or much lighter or darker than the background. So don't buy a green ball for your pet to play with in the grass!

Ed's note: Anyway, it's interesting to know that at least cats can see red and green, isn't it?



## Always Remembered

In loving memory of Giselle, a wonderful little chocolate point Siamese who gave us 17 years of great happiness and devotion, which we feel we shall never have again. Sadly missed by John, Marie and Margot Tuchen.

A donation in memory of two beloved friends, Pookey and Doony Carroll. J. Carroll.

A donation in memory of Dolly, aged 20, who died in June, 1988, after an adventurous life and many travels; also dear old George Albert, who had a very hard life and didn't live long to enjoy his retirement, but was a most special cat. Very sadly missed by (Mrs.) I. Sherevera.

A donation in loving memory of our little friends Willow and Murphy, and of our beloved Satan, who gave us her love and friendship and who died in her 16th year. Also in memory of all the other furies who have passed through our life. (Mrs.) B.J. Connor.

In memory of Tim, Mr. Sooty, Ginger, and my beloved Tabby Cat, put to rest on 23/12/88. They live in my heart always. Dot McDonald.

A donation in memory of my black and white friend of ten years, "Noel." Put to sleep on St. Valentine's Day, 1989. Greatly missed by Vi Mitchell.

A donation in loving memory of Prince McDonald, put to sleep on 11/2/89.

*"Take me where my needs they'll tend  
And I will love you to the end."*

# TOXOPLASMOSIS: THE FACTS

By Daria Love

*The disease toxoplasmosis occurs very rarely in man or in other animals. Even with the presence of AIDS in the community, the incidence is much less than 0.1%. Its importance is often exaggerated and exploited by the "anti-cat" lobby, either unwittingly or out of ignorance of the facts of the disease.*

Toxoplasmosis as a disease is often brought to the notice of the general community by the medical profession when the results of a toxoplasma blood test are not appropriately interpreted. Pregnant women are often the victims of this testing and interpretation procedure, and the results are very worrying for the woman and devastating for the pet cat.

Toxoplasmosis is one of the very few diseases which can be so-called "caught" from cats. In fact, it is only under very special circumstances that transmission of infective stages of toxoplasma parasite can occur.

In order to understand these circumstances, it is necessary to understand some of the facts about the parasite and the cat.

- Only a small number of cats ever become infected with the toxoplasma parasite. If cats become infected, they usually do so as very young animals (usually kittens less than 4 months of age kept under unhygienic conditions, and those which need to feed on rodents and other small mammals). When cats become infected, they shed cysts only for the first 5-8 days. After that time they are not producing cysts and will not be a source of environmental contamination anyway.
- Cysts shed in the faeces of cats need to spend 4-5 days in the soil before they are infective for humans or other animals. **Freshly passed faeces is not infective.** Therefore, to become infected from this source, people must ingest large numbers of cysts which have been present in the soil for this period of time. Ingestion of older cysts will not produce disease, and cysts deposited in dry soil or soil exposed to sunlight will not become infective. However, under strict conditions of water and temperature, and in the correct soil type, it is possible for infective cysts to remain viable in the soil for several months.
- Other animals may become infected with toxoplasma cysts in the same way as humans. In this case the parasites may lodge in their body tissues, **usually producing no clinical disease.** If these animals are then eaten by humans, humans may become infected from that source. This is by far the most common method of infection for humans. However, once again there are very special circumstances needed before humans can be infected from eating contaminated meat. The meat must be **very fresh and raw, or very fresh and improperly cooked.** Meat heated above 66°C (charring of meat occurs at 160°C) or frozen for 18-24 hours is not infective. Therefore, as a precaution meat should not be eaten raw, but cooked all the way through. Chicken should be thoroughly cooked.

Despite the above points, studies in some countries have shown that both vegetarian humans and herbivorous animals (such as sheep and cattle) can become infected with toxoplasma parasites. **This infection does not mean that they are at risk from the parasites.** It does mean that it is important, however, to prevent direct access to old cat faeces, to wash vegetables scrupulously, and observe strict hygiene before consuming any raw or partially cooked fresh food.

The reason for concern about infection of humans with toxoplasmosis really concerns the fact that people with particular disease conditions may develop clinical disease. These people include all **immunosuppressed** (those with AIDS, transplant patients, people on long-term corticosteroid therapy for some chronic disease.) In these patients, the parasite which has lain dormant in their bodies may be allowed to multiply and produce disease because the body is

no longer able to prevent this. This is not a phenomenon which is peculiar to toxoplasma infection. Many diseases, eg: herpes, act in this way.

## PREGNANT WOMEN

There is much talk about the problems of pregnant women having their foetuses infected with toxoplasma parasites. This will only occur under **very strict circumstances**, ie, that the mother acquires infection for the **first time** during that pregnancy, and her body is not able to contain the infection and prevent it from entering the blood stream. Therefore, if the precautions mentioned above are adhered to there is no need for a pregnant woman to be concerned about the effects of toxoplasma on her unborn infant.

Medical authorities often **test the blood of humans** for toxoplasma antibodies - sometimes in an attempt to diagnose an ill-defined "flu-like" disease. Some practitioners do this as a routine in pregnant women who own cats.

What does having a "Toxoplasma titre" mean? ("Titre" refers to an amount or level of antibodies against toxoplasma detected in the blood.)

First of all, one must remember that **all results which come from a laboratory will give a figure.** This figure needs to be interpreted in the light of each laboratory's testing procedures. Unless the practitioner is guided by the criteria laid down by the laboratory, inappropriate interpretation of titres may be made.

Secondly, **one result alone does not give any indication of an active infection.** To be able to interpret even a high or suspicious antibody titre a **second blood sample** must be taken and tested before any **valid interpretation at all** can be attempted. Even if there is a so-called significant and rising antibody titre to toxoplasma parasites, this does not mean that the problem that you present to the practitioner has been positively diagnosed as toxoplasmosis. It is possible for the toxoplasmosis titres of infected people to rise as a result of general debility, use of immunosuppressive drugs etc. **and not because the parasite is causing a problem.**

In other words, having a toxoplasma titre which is **considered significant by the laboratory** (a repeat sample of blood tested some 2-4 weeks after the first sample and where there is a large increase in the "toxoplasma titre") may indicate an active infection (if specific signs of toxoplasmosis are present in the person), or it may indicate that the person has acquired a further dose of cysts or that a current disease has activated some dormant tissue toxoplasma parasites.

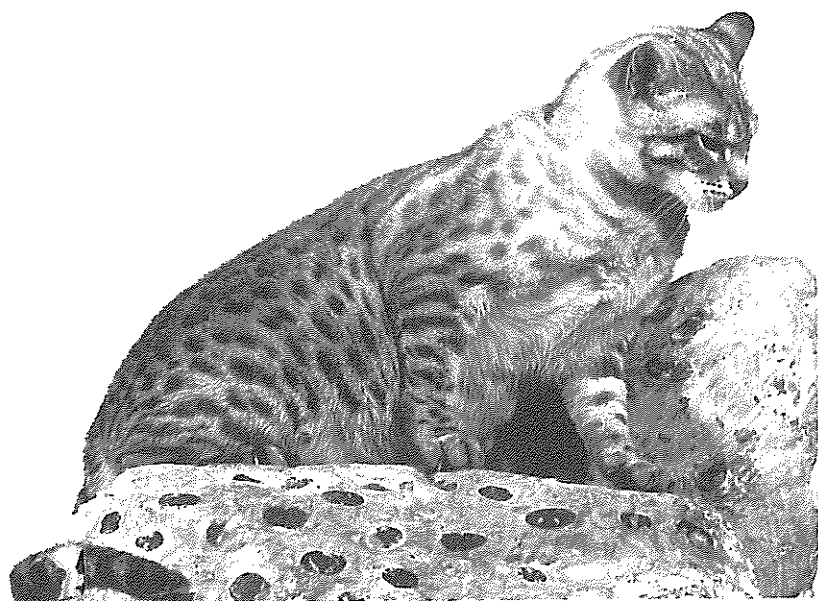
It is a fact that most people live with cats most of their lives and **never** acquire toxoplasma infection from them (strict detail to hygiene is the key). Remember, the most likely source of infection is raw or improperly cooked meat **although with the very strict meat inspection procedures in this country this is a very small risk these days.**

Toxoplasmosis as a disease was much more prevalent before we understood the life cycle of the disease. Unfortunately the memory of those times seems to have lingered very much longer than is warranted.

It is debatable if **treatment** of infected kittens should be carried out. As cyst shedding is usually over such a short period, most owners would not be aware of the infection in their kittens. Normal preparations used for "worming" cats will not kill toxoplasma organisms; so if treatment is to be done, it must be under the direction of your veterinary surgeon. The treatment however, is as simple and as harmless to the animal as routine worming. So if in any doubt, consult your own vet.

Ed's Note: Professor Love is a Councillor of our society. If you have any questions arising from this article which you would like answered, address them to Professor Love, C/- Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore 2042.

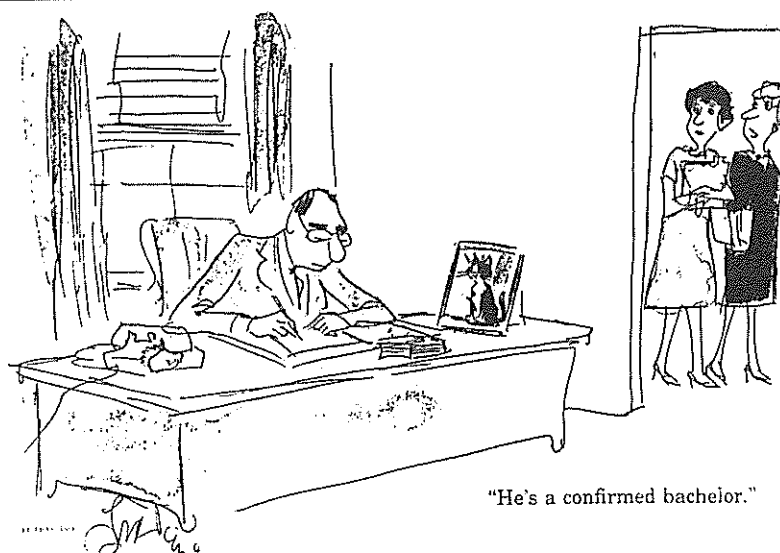
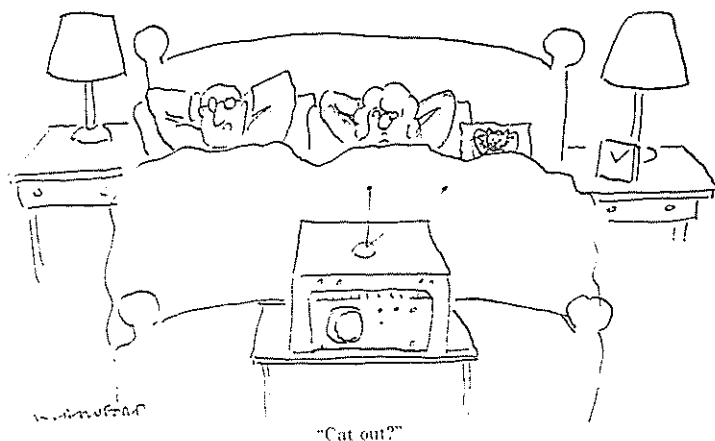




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## Living Room Leopards

*This handsome cat with the exotically spotted coat of a wildcat, is a new-breed of domestic cat now recognized in the USA as the "California Spangled Cat". In 1986, a pair of these rare cats was offered in a Christmas shopping catalogue at \$1400 each.... and yes, they were snapped up. The breeder is Paul Casey, a Hollywood scriptwriter, who devoted 15 years to their development and says he has a backlog of orders.*



**Answers to Puzzle:** Across: Cat, Cat Door, Paw, Furry, Rubs, Rub, Pad, Miaow, Wash, Flea, Ear.  
Down: Hunt, Tom, Lap, Milk, Tail, Fur, Mouse, Bowl, Whiskers, Eyes, Tabby, Collar.

## Membership Form

The Membership Secretary  
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
103 Enmore Road,  
ENMORE, N.S.W. 2042

(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, 1989. Note: all persons joining from January remain financial until June the following year.

Subscription \$250.00 — Life Membership  
\$ 10.00 — Annual Membership  
\$ 5.00 — Pensioner Membership  
\$ 5.00 — Junior Membership

Enclosed Cheque/Money Order

for \$ .....

Please cross cheques and make  
payable to:

**"The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W."**

Mr.  
Ms.  
Mrs.  
Miss

Initials .....

SURNAME (BLOCK LETTERS)

Address .....

Postcode .....

Pension No. ....

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

Secretary's Note: Receipts for subscriptions will be forwarded upon request if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

## Donation Form

The Secretary  
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
103 Enmore Road,  
ENMORE, N.S.W. 2042

(Please cut out and return  
to address shown)

I/We would like to make a donation to the Society.  
Enclosed is a Cheque/Money Order for DONATION of \$.....

Mr.  
Ms.  
Mrs.  
Miss

Initials .....

SURNAME (BLOCK LETTERS)

Address .....

Postcode .....

## Change of Address Form

The Membership Secretary,  
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
103 Enmore Road, ENMORE, 2042.

(Please cut out and return  
to address shown)

If you have changed your address since applying for new membership or renewal, would you be kind enough to fill in this form

Surname ..... Initials .....  
(BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE)

New Address .....

Postcode .....

Previous Address: .....

Thank you for your co-operation