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Cat Affairs

Journal of
THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W.
(Registered Charity CC 17122)



Wishing all our members a Christmas full of love

President's Page

As I think back on what's gone on since the last journal, it's going to be difficult to fit it all in!

The Annual General Meeting was a great success at our Enmore headquarters, as it was such a cosy, friendly atmosphere and gave us all a chance to get to know each other. Make sure, if you weren't able to make it this year, that you don't miss it in 1990.

There are some special things in this issue of "Cat Affairs." First, we announce our policy regarding legacy cats - that is, cats left in our care when the owner dies. I am going to be involved in counselling people who may one day require this service, and I promise to bring all my powers of objectivity to such a responsible and important task.

Second, we now have some interesting items to offer you through mail, including our own Christmas cards, T-shirts and stamps, and some delightful "catty" tea towels.

I wish to thank fellow Councillor Beverley Walsh, and our editor Julie Gorrick, for helping to make this new service possible. And by the way, you can order any item with confidence - they're really wonderful. Not to mention that all proceeds will go directly to Welfare, to help with our job of caring for cats and kittens.



A very happy and healthy Christmas to all readers of "Cat Affairs" and their families, from all at Central Coast Cat Care Inc.

You'll notice that the Christmas raffle is also back again, and this year the hamper is even bigger, including fun gifts for children as well as a bountiful selection of food and drink. There is also a splendid second prize of an automatic griddle, and a third prize of champagne.

Incidentally, we're going to continue having raffles at other times through the year, so will be on the lookout for suitable prizes. Any donations will be very gratefully received, and if you telephone the office we can collect them from your home.

I'm sure you'll all enjoy thinking up clever captions for our new contest - judging by the response to our photographic competition there's a lot of talent out there. And of course, you can have a funny caption, or a friendly caption, or a sentimental one. So put on your creative thinking caps and give it your best shot. Also, please let us know if there's anything special you'd like to see in the magazine. This is the Society's main link with its members, and we're ready and willing to please!

I can't really believe it's nearly Christmas again, and time for the customary greetings of the season. To staff, Councillors and members I extend my personal wish that you enjoy a happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year, and that we as a Society continue to enjoy the success and achievements of the past year through all the challenges of 1990.

- Lyn Thomas



CECIL IN A CHRISTMAS MOOD

Cecil likes to wear his special cap on Christmas day. Here, he relaxes after dinner at the home of his loving owner, CPS member Beverley Sontor.

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: The Hon. N.P. Greiner, M.P., Premier of N.S.W., 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.
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Membership Secretary: Miss Jo Tomkin

COUNCILLORS: Mrs. June Chapman, Mrs. Stephanie Forsyth, 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

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Life Governors: Mrs. L. Braby, Miss C. Bryant, Mrs. B. Morrison, Mrs. N. Iredale, Mrs. S. Springfield, Mrs. I. Tattersall, Miss D. Silins, Miss H. Heney, Mrs. F. Best, Miss V. Murdoch, Mrs. I. Chellings, Mr. W. Turner, Mr. H. Thompson.

A Visit with Agnes Gillam

It was a great pleasure to receive an invitation to lunch from Agnes Gillam, a Foundation member and Life Member of our Society.

Agnes lives in a charming unit just across the road from Cronulla Beach, with a colourful atmosphere that owes much to her own handiwork. She crochets and paints, with an emphasis on flowers in her pictures and painted fabrics.

Agnes is so full of zest for living it's hard to tell her age, but her mother recently turned 100! She would love to have a cat in the unit, but as this isn't permissible, Joey the budgie is her companion - a cheerful chap who has the run of the place, talks constantly, and zoomed down to join us for lunch.

We heard many stories of the early days, and of course, Agnes is still vitally interested in the activities of the Society. She especially hopes that compulsory desexing will eventually be a reality, and is optimistic. "When we used to talk about the need to desex cats, people would just burst out laughing," she recalls. "At least we can discuss it sensibly these days."

The dedication and hard work of cat lovers like Agnes has brought us a long way in some 30 years. With 1990 just around the corner, we hope that the Society she helped to form will continue to grow in the tradition of selflessness and love. - Julie Gorrick and Nance Iredale.

Tabled for Discussion!

Guests at our Christmas party will be surprised and delighted by the new table in our Committee Room.

Done in fine pokerwork, the cat symbol used on our letterhead and ambulances circles the edge of the table and also appears on the legs. In the centre of the table is a large, realistic rendering of an adult cat with a winsome expression.

Cats and the way we speak

Without cats for inspiration, our language would be poorer. Indeed, it's probable that no other animal has contributed so much to English expression.

First, there's **catnap**... what a delightful way to describe a brief period of rest.

And what about "**pussyfooting**?" It says what we mean so vividly, whereas "moving warily" is dull by comparison.

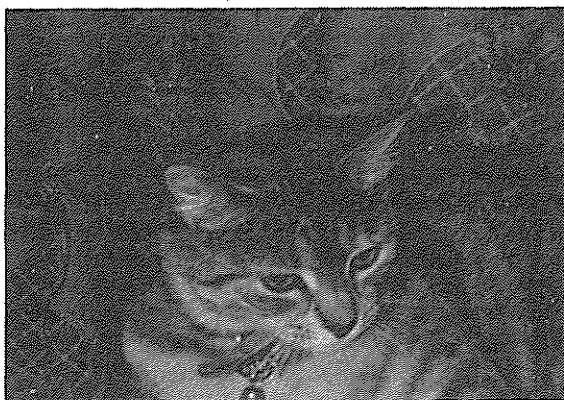
Pussycat and **kitten** have become terms of endearment applied to humans, and rightly so.

A **cat's paw** is someone who lets himself be used, evoking images of a cat playing with a mouse. **Cat's eyes** are gems, and also marbles.

"**It's the cat's whiskers!**" means something is just right, and **cats' whiskers** are also fine wires used in electronic circuits and television antennae.

All cats look grey at night may be a cynical observation, but communicates exactly what we mean. "**Cat got your tongue?**" is an indispensable phrase that most of us learn as children!

Jo's Emma... A year later.



Readers will recall that two issues ago, we told the story of Emma ... a silver tabby handed in to our Welfare office on the day of the Christmas party.

Woebegone and frightened, with a tube in its side draining an abscess, the cat was not a likely candidate for adoption.

But our Membership Secretary, Jo Tomkin, fell in love with her. One lucky little tabby found a wonderful home, and under Jo's gentle care has turned into the beautiful lady in the photograph.

The table is a gift to the Society from Mr. Gordon Symons of Concord, who with his wife owns sweet little Tibba, the cat voted "Most Unusual" in our recent Photo Contest.

Mr Symons, now retired, has found a wonderful outlet for creative expression in woodwork. He was so happy with Tibba's success in the contest that he wanted the Society to have this lasting memento of the occasion.

We thank him for the thought and care that has gone into the table, and are sure our members will echo our thanks when they see it.

We let **cats out of the bag**, with the implication that once the news is out, there's no stopping it. We sum up the desire to know all there is to know with the phrase, "**Curiosity killed the cat.**" (Though cats are usually too clever to come to any harm through THEIR curiosity.)

Catcalls are the derisive noises made by an audience that doesn't approve of a performance. **Catfish** have whisker-like appendages, and **caterpillars** are worms covered with fine hairs.

Then there's the way we use allusions to the cat to describe someone. You can be as **sure-footed as a cat**, as **graceful as a cat**. Not to say "**catty**," which is not an admirable quality - probably coined by someone who's never owned a cat.

No doubt there are many more. But there couldn't be a more apt and beautiful description than "**pussywillow**," for the strong tree with its soft grey buds. - Ed.

Your Invitation to the Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, December 16

Time: 3.00p.m.

Place: The Society's premises at 103 Enmore Road, Enmore (almost opposite the Enmore Theatre.)

Councillors and staff extend a warm welcome to all members to join them on this happy occasion. Refreshments will be served.

For those who haven't been before, you enter through the Opportunity Shop on the ground floor. There will be someone to greet you and show you upstairs.

Please mark the date on your calendar now. We hope to see many new members, as well as our valued old friends.

Don't forget to bring pictures of your cats... part of the fun is sharing pictures and stories.

To help with catering arrangements, it would be appreciated if you would telephone your acceptance to our Office on 51 4818.

TRANSPORT: If you don't have a car, our premises are a pleasant stroll from Newtown Station. As you come out of the station, Enmore Road is directly opposite, and 103 is on the right hand side. Coming from Circular Quay or the city, buses 423, 426 and 428 stop almost at our door. Ask the driver to let you out at the Enmore Theatre stop.

By car, the nearest cross street is Phillip Street, and there will be ample street parking on a Saturday afternoon.

*Happy Christmas
in Advance*



our new contest...

Here's an easy contest everyone can enter.

Just write a caption that you think fits this picture.

Each entry will be carefully considered by our Councillors, and the Editor of this magazine, who will act as judges.

Prizes will be awarded on the basis of aptness and originality, and results will be announced in the next journal.

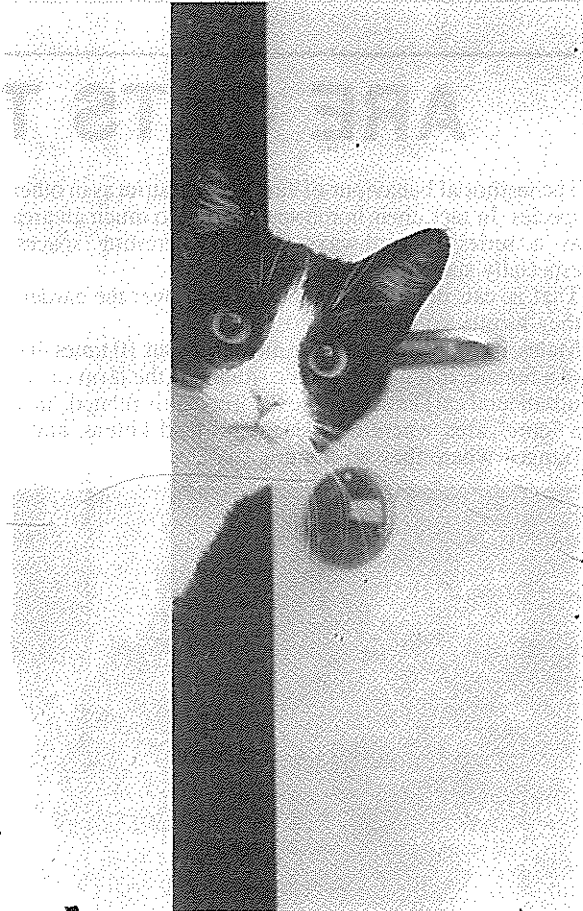
FIRST PRIZE:

The first prize in our contest is a pretty, washable cat basket.

SECOND PRIZE:

A Society T-shirt, with a great design of black cat silhouettes on pure white cotton. The message is "CARE FOR CATS."

Plus four additional prizes of pure Irish linen teatowels with cats or kittens in colour.



You may send as many entries as you wish, but each should be accompanied by a 41¢ stamp. Our postage bills are high, and your support of the contest will be a great help.

Have fun thinking up a caption, and post your entry off today!

To the Editor, "Cat Affairs", Cat Protection Society of NSW,
103 Enmore Road, Enmore, 2042.

My caption is. (1)

(2)

(You may write additional captions on a plain piece of paper.)

For each entry submitted, I am enclosing a 41¢ stamp.

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode: 'Phone Number:

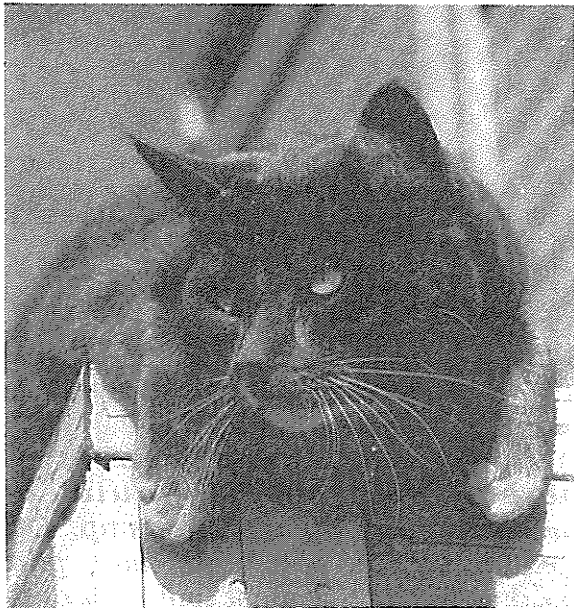
P.S. If you don't want to cut up your magazine, write all the captions, together with your name, address etc. on a plain piece of paper. Entries should reach the office no later than January 31.

ARE CATS TERRITORIAL?

The territorial behaviour of cats is not as strict as in other species. In fact, their home space is not so much an area as a series of pathways linking interesting spaces, especially spots for sunning.

That is, cats don't just randomly roam over the garden, they mostly go from here to there.

Males, including neuters, use an area about 10 times that of a female. In a non-domestic situation (the farm cat, or urban feral cat) females, who are frequently related, have a "core" area where they sleep and tend kittens, and a "range" where they go hunting.



The cats territory includes special spots for sunning.

They do not share hunting areas or hunt together, but the hunting areas do overlap. Females rarely meet females from other core areas, but males circulate around, usually covering 10 female areas. So this is the "wild" pattern, and it does vary depending on landscape and supplementary feeding. The basic pattern of females together, with a male covering 10 female areas, remains constant.

So what does the suburban cat do? The females tend to stay within their own garden as marked out by their human, who trims the hedge or paints the fence etc. as part of the "marking" ritual. The suburban cat's range is parallel, as per the house blocks, and the "core" is the house where its humans congregate. Increased garden size just means an increased core area for the cat in residence. Again, males tend to cover 10 backyards as their "range."

House cats have their food provided, so their boundaries are social only, not hunting boundaries.

And of course, there are exceptions to every rule, as per the timid cat living next door to the aggressive cat, so the timid one won't go out.

However, in general, cats take their territory cues from their humans, and their "area use" reflects the cat's opinion that the humans in the house are part of their group—that is, they are "con specifics" or surrogate cats.

Mr. Tabor, from whose book "The Wild Life of the Domestic Cat," I have borrowed most liberally, sums up by saying:

"The cat has not forfeited independence. Man is as near a surrogate cat as possible, so that land use by different groups remains constant for different types (feral/suburban) of domestic cats."

He adds, "To the cat, man is just a symbiotic species, and domestication is just one ploy in the cat's survival game that has worked."

So what everyone has always known is a true phenomenon. Your cat graces you with its presence, and mostly ignores your non-cat foibles in order to be a fair and equal cohabitor in a shared environment.

-Kim Kendall.

HUGS

*It's wondrous what a hug can do,
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.*

*A hug can say, "I love you so,"
or, 'Gee, I hate to see you go.'*

*A hug is, "Welcome back again!"
and, "Great to see you!" or
"Where you been?"*

*A hug can soothe a small child's pain
And bring a rainbow after rain.*

*The hug! There's just no doubt about it,
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.*

*Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers,
And chances are some favourite aunts
Love them more than potted plants.*

*Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.
Heads of state are not above them.*

*A hug can break the language barrier,
And make the dullest day seem merrier.*

*No need to fret about the store of 'em.
The more you give, the more there are of 'em.
So stretch those arms without delay
And give someone a hug to-day.*

Author unknown

Vice-President Jo Tomkin found this poem for our Christmas issue. And of course, the more hugs you give, the more you receive in return!

TRUE STORY

I can vouch for this story, because I know the lady. This is what she told me:

"Billie caught a mouse one day, and brought it home. When I went into the kitchen the mouse was standing on the edge of the plate eating Billie's dinner. And Billie was standing nearby, absolutely SMILING with interest and enjoyment."

- Michael Joseph

Signs of Serious *PROBLEMS*

Cats are remarkably healthy creatures, but never hesitate to take your cat to the veterinarian if you suspect there is something amiss. Here are signs to watch for:

Appetite Loss. If your cat shows less than its normal interest in food for four or five days, it needs attention. Also be on the alert for other signs of illness.

Cloudy Eyes. May indicate ulceration, increased pressure in the eye, possibly glaucoma. Professional attention is needed if permanent damage is to be avoided.

Dragging Hind Quarters. Contrary to popular belief, this does not mean the cat has worms. It indicates irritation; the anal glands may be full and need to be expressed; there may be an infection of the anus; the cat may have swallowed a string or other object which is trying to pass through. Sometimes the irritation is from faeces caught in the tail hairs.

Drinking Increase. This may indicate a toxic condition in the body, such as malfunctioning kidneys or uterine infection. It can also be a sign of diabetes. If your cat continues to drink more than usual, your veterinarian should make clinical tests.

Drinking Decrease. If the cat stares at the water dish but does not drink, he may have a kidney infection. This behaviour usually means that the cat is thirsty but too sick to drink.

Drooling. This may indicate a foreign object in the mouth, which should be removed before infection sets in. Excessive salivation is also a sign of poisoning or viral infection. (Some cats drool a little with contentment when you stroke them, but this is perfectly natural.)

Enlarged Abdomen. Many conditions can cause this, including tumours, heart and liver disease, peritonitis and infection of the uterus.

Increased Sensitivity. If the back or neck region becomes sensitive to touch it may mean the cat has a slipped disc. Excessive sensitivity in the abdominal area may be caused by an internal infection or injury.

Lumps. Any lumps are suspect, especially if they increase rapidly in size. It is easy to check for lumps when you brush or comb your cat. Seek veterinary advice promptly.

Straining to urinate. If the cat is male, this probably indicates a urinary obstruction. Without treatment, the animal may die within 24 hours. Whether male or female, straining to urinate, or passing urine tinged with blood, is also an indication of cystitis or bladder infection.

Straining to Defecate. This is a sign of constipation. Try switching the cat's diet to dry food. If constipation continues, mix one teaspoon of mineral oil with the food. If the condition still does not improve, take the cat to the vet. Never try to give the cat an enema yourself.

Vaginal Discharge. This most often indicates infection of the uterus.

Vomiting. Vomiting can mean a foreign body in the stomach or intestinal tract, or an infection. Continual vomiting, if not checked, leads to dehydration.

**Remember, if in any doubt, seek
PROMPT veterinary advice.**

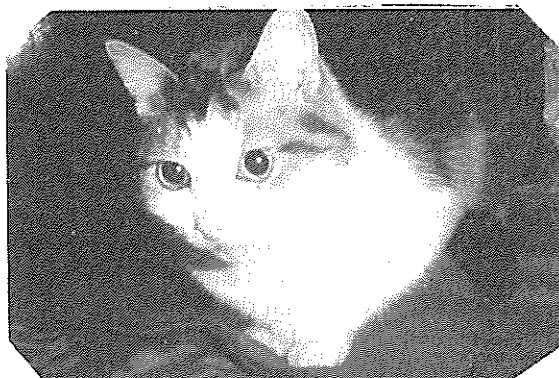
CATS

*Those who love cats
which do not even purr
Or which are thin and tired and very old
Bend down to them in the street
and stroke their fur
And rub their eyes, and smooth their
breasts, and hold
Them carefully, and gaze into their eyes
of gold.*

*For how can they pass
what does not ask for love.
But draws it out of those who have
too much?*

This moving verse was sent in by member Mrs. Christina de Villier. Christina also told us the correct name for a number of kittens, following our information that "clowder" is the term for a group of cats.

It is A KINDLE of kittens. Isn't that lovely?



Whose little Darling is this?

This photo was addressed to our President, Lyn Thomas, with the simple message on the back:

"Somebody's Darling."

The envelope was postmarked Belmore.

Dear Owner,

We would love to know whose darling it is. Will you ring the office and let us know, or must it remain a mystery?

The Desexing Bill: HOW YOU CAN HELP

As you know from a previous issue of "Cat Affairs," The Hon. Richard Jones MLC is hoping to introduce a Private Member's Bill calling for the compulsory registration of cats, and the compulsory desexing of cats other than those owned by registered breeders.

As members of The Cat Protection Society of NSW, there are two ways you can help Mr Jones gather support for his proposed Bill.

1 Write a personal letter to your State MP, and to the Mayor of your local Council, stressing the need for legal measures to control the cat population.

2 Take up a petition and send it to your MP for presentation in Parliament.

As Mr. Jones explained to the Society, petitions in themselves can't be expected to produce quick action. But every petition presented is read out to Parliamentarians to hear the subject matter. If petition after petition on the need for cat desexing comes up, the repetition is bound to have an influence on attitudes. Parliamentarians will realize this is not a trivial issue, but one with increasing public support. If they see votes in it, they will take it seriously.

The petition must be framed in a formal way, as set out here. You can write or type the opening address at the top of a sheet of paper, then rule lines underneath for the name, address and signature of petitioners. Following pages do not need the opening address, just the ruled lines for names etc.

Don't be concerned that you have to collect a large number or names to send in a petition. If you only have 20, that's fine. The important thing is to keep the petitions coming in, so Parliament hears again and again, "A petition regarding the compulsory registration and desexing of cats."

As cat lovers, our heart breaks when we have to destroy healthy kittens who can't find homes. This is something all of us can do to bring our elected representatives face to face with the problem.

Your petition must be couched in a formal manner, as follows.

To the Honourable The President and Members of The Legislative Council of New South Wales in Parliament assembled. The Petition of the below men and women of New South Wales respectfully sheweth that:

- Without legislation requiring compulsory registration and desexing of domestic cats, responsible ownership is not encouraged.
- The unrestricted breeding of domestic cats results in the wilful abandonment of cats and kittens. Tens of thousands are left to starve, and suffer injury and disease through lack of attention.
- Of those who manage to survive in the streets, lanes and factories, many present a problem to the community by invading property, fighting with owned cats, polluting gardens, upsetting garbage containers etc.
- Of those abandoned in bushland and on the outskirts of towns, some survive by preying on native wildlife, posing a serious threat to the survival of Australian birds and small mammals.
- Of those brought to the attention of Animal Welfare agencies, many thousands must be destroyed each year because homes cannot be found for them. This needless destruction, a waste of time, money and human resources, could have been avoided. It is also distressing for all concerned to kill such great numbers of healthy animals.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honourable House will enact legislation to provide for the compulsory registration of all cats, and the compulsory desexing of cats other than those specified by registered breeders. We urge you to support any legislation providing for such measures. And so your petitioners in duty bound will ever pray.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

CATS INSPIRE JAPANESE ARTISTS



Ozawa's cats are hauntingly beautiful.

The Japanese love cats. They have inspired artists through the centuries, and the cat is the symbol of welcome in inns, shops and restaurants throughout the country. (Every visitor to Japan will have memories of that happy cat on the counter, its paw raised in salute to the customer.)

Today, modern artists are also taking their inspiration from cats, but interpreting them in ways that emphasize human qualities.

Yasuko Ozawa makes her lovely doll cats in silk. At her first exhibition some years ago, a visitor said, "Those incredible cats gave me goose bumps. I returned to the exhibition day after day after day."

Ozawa's dolls are beautiful, mysterious, even unnerving. Many are based on folk tales, or on groups of real people. For her 1990 exhibition, she is working on a series of dolls inspired by the gozê, troupes of blind, female samisen players who used to wander along the sea coasts of the country, bringing their haunting music to villages in remote places.

Is the artist seeing cats as humans, or humans as cats? "It's hard to say," she answers. "There is something strange and wonderful about cats. When I started thinking of the gozê I saw them as cats."

Sayoko Iwai makes her cats in papier mache. Except for painted details, they are decorated with plain or patterned paper, which she also twists into jaunty decorations. Her cats are elegant and whimsical, full of fun - they make the viewer smile.

She says she sees them as right at the point of contact between cats and people - they invite you to enter that magic world where the two meet.

Each artist has a different approach, but one thing is shared... their creations beckon you to come closer, still closer, to share the mutual delight that exists between cats and humans.



Iwai's cats are insouciant and whimsical.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our scrabble champion!

In the last issue of "Cat Affairs," Lena Boyd wrote an article for us about Scrabble.

Readers will be delighted to know that Lena came second in the Masters Division of the NSW Scrabbles Titles, with wordsmiths from around the country competing.

We are very proud of you, Lena.

OF MAN AND BEAST

The animal world must not be compared to man or measured by man. Animals move in a more complete world than ours, gifted with instincts we have lost or never attained and communicating by means we shall never understand.

They are not lesser creatures, nor are they our brothers. They are other nations, other spirits, sharing with us the splendour and darkness of life on our planet.

- Brian Barrow
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Thank You **FOR FINDING ME A HOME IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS**

On behalf of all the cats and kittens who have found loving homes this year through the efforts of The Cat Protection Society of NSW, I thank members for helping make this possible.

Without your membership fees and donations, the work of caring for us could not go on.

I also wish to thank all those dedicated members of the Auxiliary, who give their time to the running of the Opportunity Shop.

As well as serving in the shop, they work behind the scenes sorting and mending clothes, cleaning the building, doing all those odd jobs that are so necessary but often go unnoticed. Their ranks are small, but their dedication to cats is boundless.

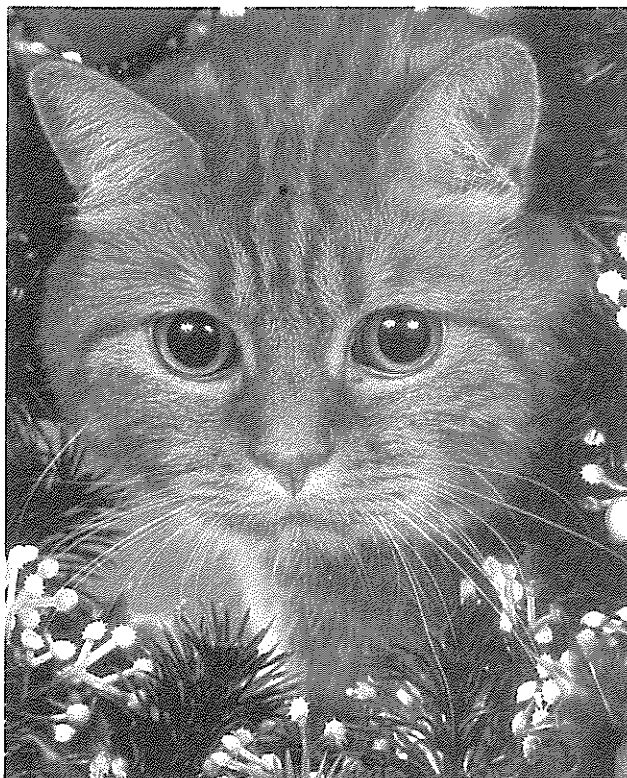
The kind people who donate items for the shop must also be praised, and of course, the Welfare Officers who shoulder the day to day responsibility of caring for cats. Not to mention the Councillors, who give so freely of their time to make sure all the Society's affairs run smoothly.

It is amazing that a Society so small can do so much good. But then, it is dedicated solely to the care of cats, which makes it very special.

If cats could speak in human language, you would hear all this very plainly.

As it is, look into my eyes... listen to me purr... feel the touch of my paw against your cheek. They all say I love you and need you, as you love and need me.

From my home to yours, warm wishes for a Christmas full of joy.



Your Friend,



The cat who found
someone who cared.

Thank You, Merlene Nichols

Photographed with her 14-year-old Cuddles, Merlene is one of two Welfare Officers working for Cat Care Inc. on the Central Coast. Publicity Officer Dorothy Haines sent us the photo and this tribute to Merlene:

"Merlene's love of cats is boundless. For many years she collected, cared for and held in her large home at East Gosford many unwanted cats. Whenever possible, she found loving homes for them.

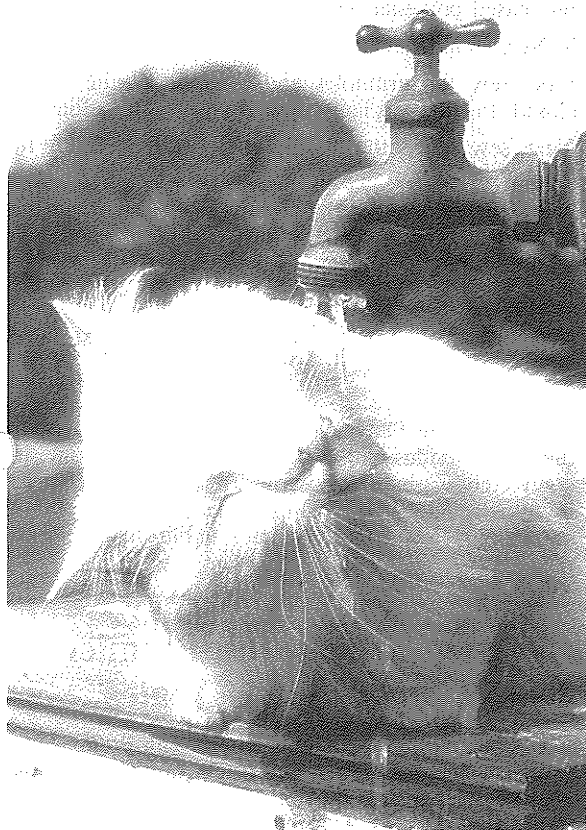
When Central Coast Cat Care Inc. was formed in 1988, Merlene offered her help. And WHAT a help! This youthful grandmother, now one of our two Welfare Officers, is tireless. She drives around a large area attending to appeals for help with cats, arranges desexings, finds homes, and collects goods for sale in our Op Shop.

Her happy, keen efforts have made all the difference to our work, creating boundless goodwill. One of her special joys is finding new homes for mature cats, and innumerable felines have Merlene to thank for their improved quality of life."

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____ Your Cat's Health in Summer ____



Cats are remarkably efficient at staying cool when the weather turns warm. On hot, humid days, the feline "thermostat" - a combination of instinctive behavioural techniques and physiological changes - takes over.

On these days, cats seek out the coldest, shadiest surface available and stretch out to maximise the cooling effect.

Although not visible to the naked eye, pores on the cat's skin expand slightly, to allow for better ventilation. The coat also acts as insulation, keeping heat out and regulating body temperature.

Another heat-coping mechanism, panting, is primarily associated with dogs, but cats also pant to discharge body heat. The tongue has a rich surface blood supply, and as air is forced over the tongue the blood is continually cooled and recirculated.

Anyone who has ever run through a lawn sprinkler knows how the combination of air and water relieves heat. Cats don't have sprinklers, but they apply the same principle by spreading saliva over their coats. In summer, the consistency of the saliva becomes thinner and more "spreadable," and as saliva evaporates from the hair, heat is dissipated.

Regardless of its own inbuilt cooling system, your cat still needs consideration to help it cope with summer. White cats should be kept indoors, as they're prone to sunburn

on the nose and ear tips, and over a period of time this can lead to skin cancer. All cats must have access to a shady, well-ventilated and preferably cool spot to rest during the day. If the bathroom has a cool, tiled floor, that's a good place.

Most important, the cat needs an adequate supply of cool, clean fresh water. A cat's water consumption may double during hot weather, with the increased need to replenish body fluids. A cat that doesn't drink enough water, or loses fluids more rapidly than they can become replenished, may become dehydrated.

Signs of dehydration include lethargy, fatigue and loss of appetite. To check for dehydration, gently pull up a fold of skin from the middle of your cat's back. If the skin springs back very slowly, or not at all, the cat is dehydrated and needs veterinary attention.

Some cats prefer their water bowls kept away from food dishes. Others seem to enjoy drinking from the bathroom sink, which is fine if the sink is free of soap scum and cleaning chemicals. If in any doubt about your cat's drinking habits leave a bowl of fresh water in a few places, so water is handy when it feels like it.

In heat waves, your cat may enjoy a sponge with tepid (not cold) water. Dry it off with a towel, and keep the cat inside until the fur is thoroughly dry. Also, do be sure to return any uneaten food to the refrigerator, keep feeding bowls scrupulously clean, and groom your cat every day to remove loose fur. They're all elementary points, but they'll help your cat sail smoothly through summer!



What is a Kitten?

*A sweet gentle face, things out of place...
 Tiny soft paws, looking round doors.
 Blob of pink nose, remains of a rose...
 Bright shiny eyes, hides to surprise!
 Cute triangle ears in a basket appear,
 A chase-around tail, chewed corners of mail.
 Loud throaty purr, clothes covered in fur,
 Alertly cocked head, a nuisance in bed.
 Sandpaper tongue, shoelaces unstrung,
 A faint little mew, the bathroom askew.
 Biting white teeth, crumpled book leaf,
 Scratchy long claws, hates going outdoors!
 Long tapered whiskers, licking that blisters,
 A warm fluffy heap in a lap...
 Fast asleep.*

This poem was sent in by member Julie Lawless. She has had it for 10 years, and thinks it sums up a kitten perfectly.

A Christmas present for your puss...



This cat bed is inexpensive and easy to make. Instructions are from the American magazine, "Cat Fancy."



All you need to make a soft, comfortable bed for your cat are:

1. An old T-shirt
2. Soft, washable padding (old pantyhose cut up, or purchased polyester wadding)
3. Needle and thread.

First, sew the armholes and neckline of the T-shirt closed. Fill the top half of the T-shirt with stuffing.

Next, sew across the middle of the shirt to secure the stuffing in the top half.

From the middle seam, sew another seam down the centre to the bottom of the shirt. Stuff each of the two sections you have created in the bottom half.

Finally, sew the bottom of the shirt closed.

You now have a comfy bed with three pillow sections, allowing your cat to prop its head and feet at various angles.

You can put the bed in a basket or box, or just leave it on the floor beside your bed or in the living room. It's completely washable, and you can add to its eye appeal by using braid trim, or a shirt with a coloured motif. Or you could embroider your cat's name on his special pillow!

Parklands pets are thriving

Kaye Phillips of Regents Park sent us this photo of Tiger, in the foreground, and P.C. (short for Puss-Cat.)

They live happily in a terrace at Camperdown with their "Dad," Garry Grove, and are great mates. Kaye said that Garry is her boss, and she took him out to our Parklands boarding kennel some months ago to adopt just one cat. Instead, he went home with two ... and looking at these beautiful tabbies, it's easy to see why he couldn't choose between them!



A letter from the Premier of New South Wales

In our last issue, we announced the The Premier had agreed to become a Patron of our Society. Here is his letter of acceptance.

Dear Ms Gorrick,

I write with reference to your letter of 13 April 1989 in which you graciously requested that I become a Patron of your organisation.

I am informed that your organisation conducts all manner of excellent work in conjunction with cats. The practical measures you undertake - caring for injured and lost cats, finding homes for kittens - are really a labour of love. Furthermore, subsidised desexing is a commendable initiative, allowing responsible families and children to own pets who might otherwise be denied this pleasure.

I might say that your educational and welfare activities are particularly valuable not only to cat lovers and owners, but to the wider community as well.

The Government and I appreciate all your efforts in this regard and accordingly, I am delighted to accept your offer of Patron. Please convey my best wishes to the members of your society.

Yours sincerely,

*The Hon. Nick Greiner, M.P.,
Premier of New South Wales.*



Always Remembered

In memory of Miss Doreen Bottrill, who passed away August 16. A member of CPS, she loved and cared for cats.

- Helen Brancker.

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.

Remembering always the endearing ways of my Thomas, Cherry, Tiger, Dongabell and Pixie. - Marie Breen.

In remembrance of a cat lover, my dear father, who passed away suddenly in my arms on the morning of December 4, 1988, just 24 days prior to his 80th Birthday.

Throughout Dad's life he had anything from one to six cats at a time, but Tiddles is the one who was most cared for, doted upon, and adored.

In fact, Dad received such love and companionship from Tiddles throughout his later years, I believe it was this sweet cat who kept him alive for as long as he lived. Through constant ill health and pain, it was such a blessing to have Tiddle's companionship.

Tiddles never saw my father being taken away after he died, and now he still waits at the front fence for him to come home.

I believe human beings can learn so much from animals, especially about love and loyalty.

- Susannah Cavill

Tiddles, who still waits for his master to come home.



A donation in loving memory of my dearest mother, Beatrice Henderson, who passed away on October 20, 1989. Always in the thoughts of her daughter, Shirley Pikler.

Beatrice will also be sadly missed by her friends Betty Wipperman and Monty, who have given a donation to the Society in Lieu of flowers.

Gwen and Herbert Thompson of Leura wish to record loving memories of their two dearest ones, Salome and Darius.

In memory of gentle little Fleur, who gave us pleasure for 20 years. - M. Sinclair

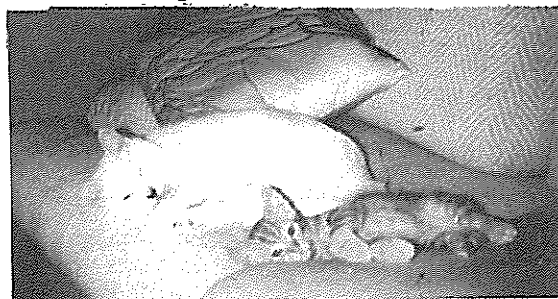
In memory of little "Taiso," the only male tortoiseshell cat I have known in 60 years of working with animals. Run over at the age of seven months.

- Patricia Healey.

In memory of Magnum, my lovely white cat who was killed two years ago while I was overseas on a holiday.

He is missed very much by myself, and his friend Butterscotch. - Dianne Fox.

Magnum and Butterscotch



A donation in Lieu of flowers In loving memory of my dear sister, Beatrice Henderson, whose kindness and concern for all members of the family will ever be remembered.

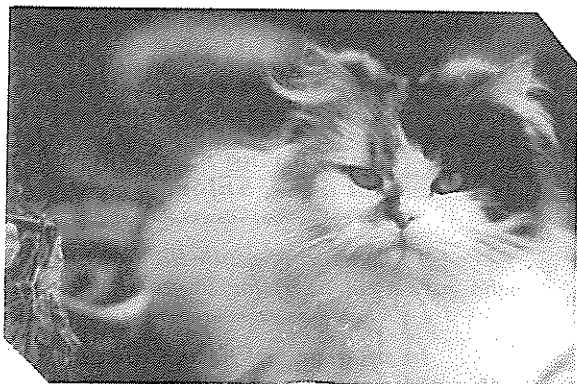
Peggy Stubbs, New Zealand

In loving memory of our beloved Bill, put to rest on August 28, 1989, aged 17 1/2 years. Dearly loved and remembered always by Enid Brown and his mates Gemma, Toby and Annie.

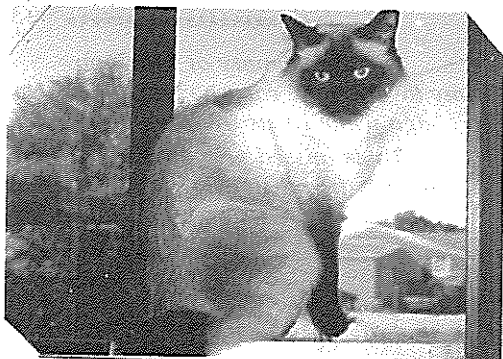
Mrs Gwen and Mrs Eileen Green wish to record loving memories of Hilda, Pip, Mrs Cat, Sonny, Frosty, Tabby & Pepe

"HIGHLY COMMENDED" Entries in our photo contest

Here is the first batch of pictures that were highly commended by our judges. More will be published in future issues.



Most beautiful: Pina Colada, owned by Mrs Shirley Willett of Budgewoi



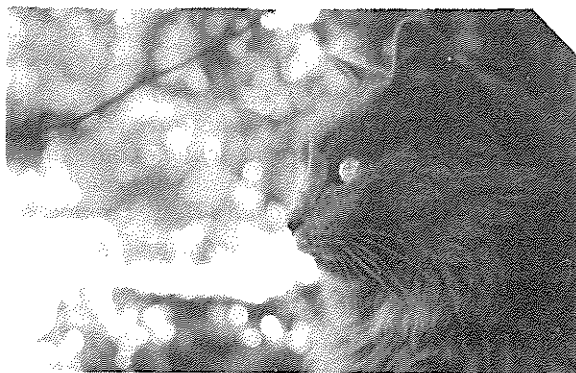
Most Beautiful: Beau Ghan, owned by Mrs N. Wilkinson of Lavington



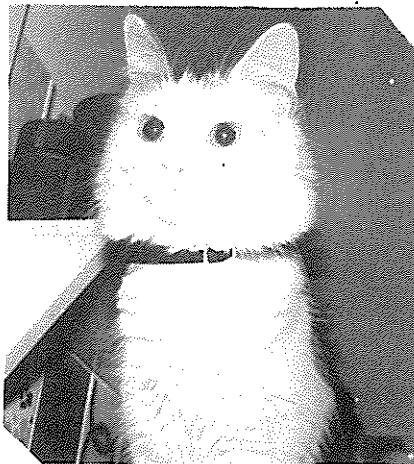
Personality Boy/Girl: Muffy, owned by Mrs J. Wilkinson of Alligator Creek, Qld.



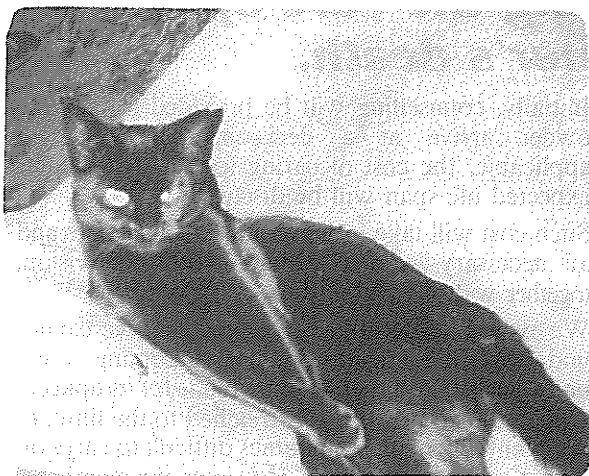
Most Charming Cat with Owner: Nicky Hawthorn and Fritz of Castle Hill, submitted by Mrs. E. Douglas.



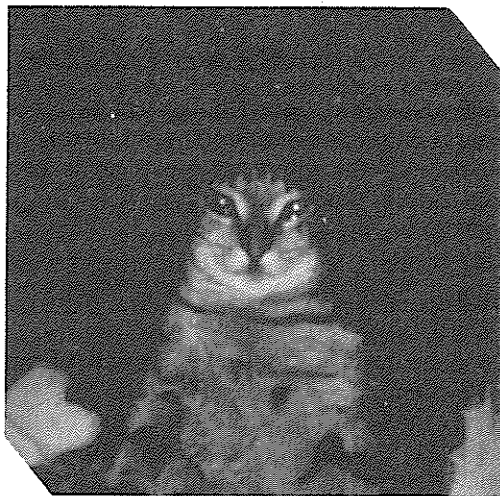
Most Aristocratic: The Mouse, owned by Mrs Beth Watts of West Ryde.



Most Unusual: Bernard, owned by Mrs Jenny Kentwell of Springwood.



Most Aristocratic: Sambo, owned by Mrs Lena Boyd of Stanmore



Personality Boy/Girl: Clare, owned by Kate Wenban of Harbord.

WELFARE REPORT

IT seems that maybe at last ... we are having some success with controlling the metropolitan cat population.

Here it is into November and we are still not inundated with kittens. So far we have been able to place all the healthy tame babies who have come to us old enough to go to homes. Our friends at The Animal Welfare League and the RSPCA report the same wonderment at the situation.

So, as we go to press, I can report that we are very much on top of our jobs. We have even had holidays and illness with our girls, but are coping well.

Naturally, in the twinkling of an eye, the whole scene could change. Bags and bundles of kittens could arrive, which has been the norm at this time of year in the past. But right at this moment, we - our welfare officers, Lena, June, and Julie and I - begin to be hopeful that our efforts to promote desexing are beginning to bear fruit.

It means that any kittens who do come in hardly reach Parklands before they are snapped up. But it's not the same happy situation with our older, desexed cats. We have 14 gorgeous young adults who have been waiting for homes for some time. Any spare room out there?

We are instigating a new form for buyers to sign when purchasing an undesexed cat. Until recently, we asked for a verbal agreement that the cat would be desexed when old enough, and told the owner we would be in touch at the appropriate time to help. Now we have a document which combines a receipt and an "Agreement to Desex," and must be signed by the purchaser. We hope this more formal approach will result in more people honouring their commitment to desex their cats. We are not asking for money in advance but we feel the fact of signing a document is a psychological spur!

Our proposed sale of kittens from Enmore for the weekend of November 11-12 has been cancelled, as we have insufficient babies to make it a worthwhile exercise. Maybe we will have to think about it in the New Year. Meanwhile, please say your prayers or keep your fingers crossed, that we really are forging ahead.

Of course, we are still getting the cruelty cases, the dumping, the neglect and indifference. In our joy at the possibility that fewer kittens are being born, we can never become complacent about the overall picture. Cats will always need us.

That's all for now, except to wish all of you a joyous Christmas, and the hope that many will be able to attend our Christmas party.

- Nance Iredale.



PRAYER FOR ANIMALS

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals that are suffering; for all that are over-worked and underfed and cruelly treated; for all helpless creatures in captivity that beat against the 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, gentle hands and kindly words.

Make us ourselves to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessing of the merciful, for the sake of Thy Son, the tender-hearted Jesus Christ, our Lord.

An announcement regarding the care of cats in case of the owner's death.

For some time now, your Councillors have been discussing a subject of great importance to all of us who share our home with a cat or cats... what plans to make for our loved companions if we are no longer there to care for them.

It is only honest to tell you that, among the eleven Councillors, there are different views on how to approach the problem.

Some Councillors feel that, in the event of their death, they would want their cats to be put to sleep at once. They think it would be too traumatic for their animals to have to adjust to a new environment, and care that of necessity would not be as close and constant as the care the cats have enjoyed.

Other Councillors believe that their cats **could** adjust to a new way of life, and would make arrangements to have them cared for if they were sure the care would be of the highest standard.

Overall, however, all Councillors agree that the cat's welfare must come first. In the case of a very old or nervous cat, for instance, they are unanimous that it would be kinder to have the animal put down.

The result of the ongoing discussions is that a policy has now been formulated regarding the acceptance of cats to be left in the care of the Society in a properly drawn-up Will.

Initially, counselling will be provided to help the owner arrive at a decision. Afterwards, if applicable, the cost of caring for the cat over its expected life span will be discussed.

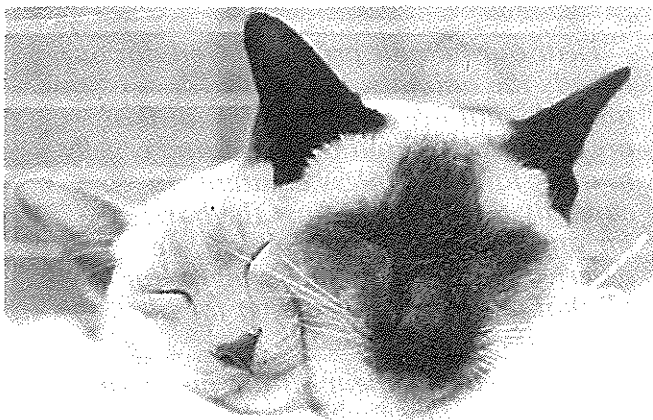
Such cost will take into account boarding fees and all necessary veterinary attention and supervision, together with the probable effects of inflation.

We would add, with deep regret, that we cannot undertake the responsibility of accepting a cat unless proper arrangements are made for its upkeep. Our resources are already stretched to the limit, to the point where it is sometimes difficult to carry on with our day to day work. However, if a member is in a position to allocate funds to the Society to care for a cat, the Society in turn will do all it possibly can to ensure the cat leads a healthy and contented life in accordance with the owner's wishes.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, write in the first instance to the Society's President, Miss Lyn Thomas. Subsequently, a personal counselling session can be arranged with either Miss Thomas or Councillor Mrs. Shirley Pikler.

As you will know, this is not an easy subject to think about or to discuss. However, we feel an obligation to our members to speak plainly about the practical as well as the emotional aspects... always with the welfare of the cat uppermost in our minds.

WHERE THERE IS LOVE



At Christmas time, whether or not we are practising Christians, there is a special feeling of love in the air.

The following excerpt is from "Against All Odds," a book published by Animal Liberation. It talks about love that includes animals as well as humans, a love that I am sure is felt by all members of our Society.

"If we begin to recollect and remember that we are one with everything on this earth, we might begin to have a world where harmony and peace prevail.

"For where there is love there can be no exploitation, where there is love no scientist can drown a mouse by tying a weight to its tail.

"Where there is love the human being forgets his own passions and ambition and loses the desire to publish papers at the expense of the creature he impales, or to make profits by confining hens in tiny cages.

"Where there is love we see the beauty and dignity of animals and forests, and we recognise the great gift we have been given - accept with gratitude and humility the joy of being able to walk under real trees in the company of animals.

"Who are we to say we are more grand or more important than a cow, or that we have more rating in the eyes of the universe?

"If we have more intelligence than cows, that certainly does not imply that we have more worth: merely that we have more duties and responsibilities."

I thank our Vice-President Jo Tomkin for sharing this passage with me, and through this journal with our members.

- Julie Gorricks, Editor



A wise cat's guide to the gentleman its mistress entertains to tea.

In magazines of the late 1800's and early 1900's, a cat was often used as an oracle to dispense advice to young ladies. (Because cats are so wise, of course!)

The following is a wise cat's advice as to how to judge a gentleman's character by the way he takes his tea:

Tea with much cream and sugar: He is inclined to be extravagant.

Tea with much cream and no sugar: He is gentle and affectionate.

Tea with little cream and no sugar: He is independent and resolute.

Tea with no cream but some sugar: He is careful and thrifty

Tea with no cream and plenty of sugar: He is vivacious and clever

Tea without either: Neat and tidy, inclined to be finicky.

Very strong tea: Proud and determined

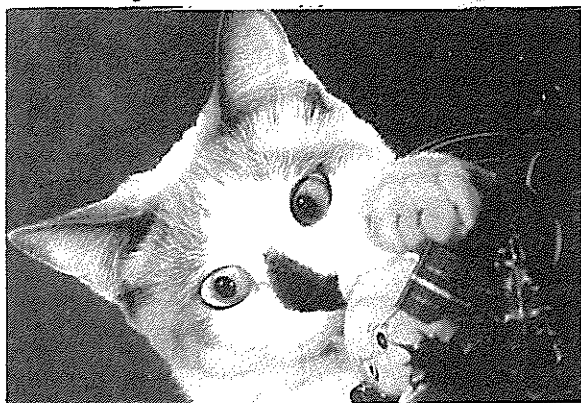
Very weak tea: Gentle and tolerant

Easily suited by whichever way you pour it: He will make a carefree husband, but you must be prepared to help him with decisions.

He takes no tea at all: This gentleman is eccentric and imprudent.

Make it a safe Christmas for your cats

In the excitement of decorating the house for Christmas, it's possible to forget the dangers that many decorations pose for the family cat.



Glass ornaments shatter easily, and the splinters can cut paws or get into eyes. A cat biting an electric cord attached to fairy lights can receive a serious shock. A tree that's not firmly anchored can topple as a cat climbs up, or pulls on a decoration attached to a branch.

Ever inquisitive and alert, cats also like to hide in paper bags, play with ribbon, and explore any boxes or wrapping paper they can find. There have been stories of sleeping kittens being thrown away with discarded wrapping paper, and chewing on tinsel can cause choking or damage to the cat's intestinal tract.

To avoid any chance of injury to your puss at Christmas time, here are some simple safety precautions to keep in mind:

1. Make sure the tree is topple-proof.

Anchor it firmly in a bucket full of wet sand, and if it's a large tree, use fishing line and screw eyes to attach it to the wall and ceiling. (The screw eyes can go into the picture rail or cornices.)

2. Be careful with ornaments. Keep fragile glass ornaments for the top of the tree. On the lower third, use ornaments made of cloth or wood or bright cardboard. Pine cones, velvet or satin bows and styrofoam balls are also suitable.

3. Keep tiny, blinking electric lights out of reach. These are very tempting to a curious cat, and again, should be confined to the top of the tree. Wrap the cord securely around branches as well, and don't let it dangle. Always unplug the switch before you go to bed.

4. Don't let your cat play with tinsel, ribbons, bows, strings, and other holiday trimmings unless you're there. All these things are fun to play with, but can be hazardous if swallowed, or if the cat gets tangled in them.

And a final thought... with visitors coming and going, lots of new sights and smells, lots of disruption to the usual routine, do make sure you know just where your cat is at all times. You want him to spend a very merry Christmas at home, not go wandering off in search of a little peace and quiet!

AUXILIARY JOTTINGS

By Sybil Cozens

Once again, a big thank you for time and goods you've given. We can never have too much of either.

VALE

Sympathy to Shirley Pikler, whose mother Beatrice died recently. I can remember back in the early days when I used to have garden parties to raise funds, and Shirley and Bea never missed attending. Bea, a small, dainty little woman, just like a flitting butterfly, was always in the centre of things, so full of life and energy.

OP SHOP HOURS

Apologies to our member who called one morning (with her car boot full of goods) on her way to work and found the shop closed at 9am.

The official hours are:

Monday to Friday 9.30am - 3.30pm

Saturday; 9.30am - 12 noon.

As most of our volunteer workers in the shop are bus or train travellers, it's also safe to allow a margin of time in case of breakdowns or delays in transport.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Last Christmas, you may have seen the gorgeous ceramic tree in our window, with little light globes set into the porcelain. It will be there again this year, and was donated by Janette Nix of Allison's Hobby Ceramics in Earlwood. If you are passing night or day, do have a look.

If anyone would like to buy a similar tree for their own home, or as a special Christmas present, Janette's shop is located at 2 Younger Street in Earlwood. Her business telephone number is 227 9300, and her home number 558 0859.

Prices range from \$75.00 for a 21cm high tree, to \$175.00 for an impressive 53cm model with a music box. Janette can even make one in the colours of your choice if you give her a ring.

And finally, very Merry Christmas and a bright New Year. May it be a time of peace for everyone.

***Drowning, they take the noble attitude
Of a great sphinx, who in a desert land
Sleeps always, dreaming dreams
That have no end.***

- Charles Baudelaire

Weekenteritis

by

Ann Walsh

*Everybody suffers from something
And many from an ailment I guess
Which I just call "Plain Loneliness"*

*Being a widow and not getting younger
Is not what one can call much fun
I keep myself busy on weekdays
And do what has to be done*

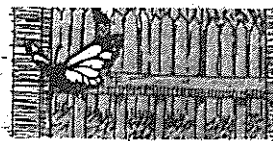
*On weekends my children may visit
But they just live so far away
And it happens much too often
That I'm alone on Sun or Saturday*

*Nothing can cure the "WEEKENTERITIS"
But time may ease the pain
In the meantime I talk to my clowder
And my cats keep me busy and sane*

Ed's Note: This delightful poem will strike a chord with many of us. In her letter accompanying the poem, Ann said, "21½ cats own me. They were all dumped on us over the years. They came in all sizes and colours. We got them all "fixed up" and vaccinated and they are well fed. My husband who was also a great cat lover, passed away nearly 2 years ago. I kept the clowder, despite rising food costs. The cats still miss my husband and fret the same as I do. Our local vet is marvelous to me and gives me as much discount as possible. The ½ cat mentioned is shared between neighbour and myself. She feeds him and I pay the vet costs when necessary."

Ann's cats are called Amber, Bambi, Beauty, Biscuits, Cinderella, Goldi, Leila, Midnight, Missy, Misty, Musher, Oscar, Penny, Purrer, Sambo, Samson, Snowy, Spike, Spotty, Tabby, Teddy, Tuppence and Whisky. She sent photos of many of them, with excellent captions. One will be reproduced later.

P.S. Yes, counting the names, they add up to 23. Another 1½ cats must have claimed Ann since she wrote her letter!



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.

Jessie... The bush kitten who knew her own mind.

By Leonie Shubach

We found Jessie in the bush quite a long way from civilisation, while setting a trail for members of a youth camp we were looking after.

A tiny ball of grey fluff emerged from the thick undergrowth. No sign of a mother or any other kittens. She was about six weeks old and very happy to see us, but wouldn't submit to being carried. Each time we picked her up she wriggled to be free, and eventually walked behind us all the way back to the camp.

Later that evening there was an incredible storm that washed out the camp, and Jessie became drenched along with the rest of us. But she took it in her stride, and this time allowed herself to be nursed and cuddled by the children.

So Jessie joined our family, which already contained two cats and two dogs.

Shortly after we left for New Zealand, leaving the animals to be cared for by Sue, who was boarding with us and owned one of the dogs. One day while soaking in the thermal pools of Rotarua I discovered a little tell tale spot on my leg - it could only be one thing, ring worm. The next day my husband found a similar mark.

When we arrived home a couple of weeks later we were met by a very distressed Sue. She was covered with the tell tale scars, and in an awful fluster. All the boys and girls on the camp had had ring worm too.

However, all had healed up, and the little culprit had been taken to the vet for treatment. She'd had to be isolated from the other animals, so we kept her in the en-suite bathroom. But again, she'd taken to her solitary confinement well. There was no doubt that Jessie was a survivor!

And so, on to the next adventure. My mother was visiting, and we were sitting on the front verandah watching Jessie chasing imaginary friends. Suddenly she stopped the game and started eating something on the ground. When I investigated, I saw she was happily munching away on snail pellets scattered around new seedlings. Knowing the danger, I rushed her to the vet, and in a short time Jessie was OK.

The weeks slipped by and Jessie was starting to grow up. She also discovered it was great fun to hide behind shrubs and grab my unsuspecting neighbours around the ankle as they walked by. Fortunately we have very nice, understanding neighbours, but it was really stretching the friendship when Jessie sprang from a tree one night to land on a neighbour's head!

Eventually it was time for her "op." Off she went to the vet, and we had to leave her there over the weekend. When we brought her home she had the sneezes, and very soon our other cats were sneezing too. Our dear little Siamese of about 14 years became very ill and finally had to be put to sleep. Miss Kitty the tabby (another stray) was younger, and did recover. So, of course, did Miss Jessie.

Then she discovered how nice our neighbours were at the back. She started to wait patiently for them to come home each evening. More and more often we would find her at their place, rubbing herself around their legs and purring, something she had never done for me. I had tried and tried to get her to "like" me, but with no real results.

When I picked her up for a cuddle it would be only a second before she tried to get free, often showing her feeling with a smack in my face!

As time went by, our dear old dog passed on, then Miss Kitty the tabbycat. Our boarder Sue left with her dog, and now there was just Jessie, who spent at least half of her time with our neighbours at the back.

We had thought of travelling around Australia, and with our pets gone, and the opportunity of working while travelling, we decided to go. No problem about leaving Jessie behind. I just asked our neighbours if they would like her permanently, and they were delighted at the suggestion. She was with them most of the time by now in any case.

Twelve months later we returned for a brief visit. As we walked to the front door a grey flash flew across in front of us, then disappeared up a tree. Jessie had come to see us (on her terms) and was letting us know she was still around. She did come to our house once or twice, but would not let us hold her. Our neighbour said that after we had left Jessie sat for a long time on the back fence waiting for us to come back, but I really think he only said this to make us feel better.

We are still travelling, and Jessie is still happily with the home of her choice. Right from the start, our little grey bush kitten was a survivor on her own terms. We wonder now if she will remember us at all, but even a brief "hello" will warm our hearts.

a letter from Kiri on her Birthday.



Dear Fellow FELINES,

My name is Kiri (after the famous opera singer.) I am the cat who won, with my owner Robin, the Most Charming Cat with Owner section of the recent photo competition.

I turned one year old on 1st September, the first day of Spring!

Robin gave a tea party for me and invited some of her friends. They had champagne, savouries, sandwiches, cakes and BIRTHDAY CAKE. I had cream and birthday cake, a very little piece I might add!

I received some lovely presents - balls, extra special cat food, a toy lion, a place mat etc. Robin knitted me my very own cat-sized patchwork cat rug. Very comfy. I have already managed to pull a few threads in the crocheted edging.

I am enclosing a photo of me blowing out the candle on my cake. You won't know it because the picture is in black and white, but I am wearing a green ribbon. As I am a redhead, green is my colour.

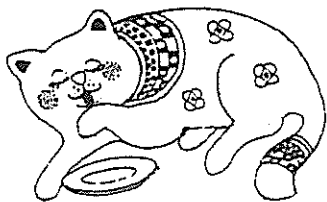
Must go. I'm getting tired jumping from key to key on Robin's typewriter.

Hope you have a purrfectly wonderful Christmas.

Sincerely,

Kiri

FESTIVE RECIPES



Christmas is a time for food that's a little special. Here are some ideas from staff and Councillors for you to share. Incidentally, if you like the idea of a "Recipe Exchange" page as a regular feature, I'd like to do the next one on Biscuits and Slices. Send in your favourite recipe, and if there's a good response we'll have another food page in the March issue of "Cat Affairs."

XMAS CAKE

Ingredients: 8 ozs. (250 grams) butter, 8 ozs. (250 grams) sugar, 5 eggs, 4 tablespoons brandy, sherry or rum, 12 ozs. (375 grams) plain flour, 8 ozs. (250 grams) seeded raisins, 8 ozs. (250 grams) sultanas, 4 ozs. (125 grams) currants, 4 ozs. dates, 4 ozs. cherries, 4 ozs. chopped blanched almonds, 4 ozs. mixed peel, 2 level teaspoons mixed spice, 1 teaspoon Parisienne essence (optional), ½ level teaspoon bicarbonate soda.

Method: Preheat oven to slow. Beat butter and sugar to a cream. Add eggs, well beaten. Sift flour, bicarbonate of soda and spice together. Add a little flour and a little of the prepared fruit to creamed mixture and continue adding until all is used. Pour in the liquor, add the Parisienne essence and mix all thoroughly. Put mixture into a deep 8 inch round greased cake tin. Bake from 3 - 3½ hours. Leave in tin until ready to ice.

This is a favourite recipe from my teen years. I have never had a failure with this one. The texture makes it easy to slice, and the taste is delicious.

- Shirley Pikler
(Councillor)

CAVIAR AND EGG SPREAD

3 jars lumpfish caviar (black or red), 6 eggs, hard boiled 1 tub sour cream.

Line a shallow rectangular or square dish (cake tin will do) with foil. Arrange caviar evenly over the base. Shell eggs, and mash with a fork. Stir sour cream in a bowl until a smooth texture.

Carefully spoon sour cream over caviar, then sprinkle eggs on top. Press eggs gently into cream. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or overnight.

When ready to serve, invert dish over a serving plate, and gently peel off foil. Serve with sliced French bread, small melba toasts (available in packets from the supermarket) or triangles of unbuttered wholemeal toast.

... A very simple recipe that looks attractive, and will serve 12 as a savoury with drinks.

Cat Affairs 19

- Lyn Thomas (President)

QUICK BRANDY SAUCE FOR THE PUDDING

1 carton dairy custard, 1 jar thickened cream, brandy or rum to taste (about ¼ cup).

Put the custard in a bowl. Whip the cream, and stir in with the brandy. Serve cold with hot plum pudding.

- Julie Gorrick (Editor)



Two favourite Christmas sweets

PEANUT CLUSTERS

85g (1/3 block) of Copha, ½ cup icing sugar, sifted, ½ cup cocoa, 1 cup unsalted peanuts 1 teaspoon vanilla. Melt Copha in a saucepan over a low heat, or in a microwave. Mix icing sugar, cocoa, peanuts, vanilla and melted Copha until well combined. Spoon into 24 small paper confectionery cases. Set in the refrigerator.

ROCKY ROAD

85g (1/3 block) of Copha, ½ cup icing sugar, sifted ½ cup cocoa, 125g marshmallows, roughly chopped, ½ cup walnut pieces or chopped pecans, 1 teaspoon vanilla. Melt Copha in a saucepan over low heat, or in a microwave. Add remaining ingredients, mix until well combined. Press into a 15cm square cake tin that has been lined with foil. Set in the refrigerator, cut into squares. Makes 48 pieces.

They're easy and delicious, and good to have on hand if you're expecting some visitors.

- Jo Tomkin, Vice President

BLENDER SALMON PATE

½ cup hot water, 1 tablespoon gelatine, 1 chicken stock cube, 220g can red salmon, 4 shallots, ¼ cup mayonnaise, 2 teaspoons lemon juice, salt and pepper to taste, ½ cup cream, lettuce hearts to serve.

Put hot water, gelatine and crumbled stock cube in blender, blend on high speed for 1 minute. Add undrained salmon, roughly chopped shallots, mayonnaise, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Blend for a further 60 seconds. Remove bowl from blender, stir in cream. Pour mixture into 4 individual ramekins, lightly oiled. Refrigerate until set. To serve, turn out into lettuce cups.

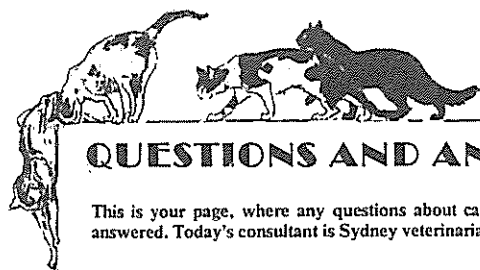
This makes a lovely, light first course before Christmas dinner. It can also be set in a small loaf tin, and spread on French bread or crackers to serve as a savoury when friends drop in.

- Sandra Moss (Welfare Officer)

PECAN AND PRUNE STUFFING FOR THE TURKEY

Make your favourite stuffing, but go lightly on the herbs. Add 1 cup chopped pecans, 1 cup chopped prunes, and 1 tablespoon grated orange rind.

- Nance Iredale (Welfare Director)



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This is your page, where any questions about cat behaviour will be answered. Today's consultant is Sydney veterinarian Dr. Kim Kendall.

Q.

Recently my 3-year-old neutered male, Pushkin, disappeared. I found him 36 hours later curled up in a drawer which contained clothes and a bag of pot pourri. He yawned and stretched like Sleeping Beauty, let me lift him out, then had a drink of water and a small meal.

He had been continent and seemed well and happy. I, of course, was a nervous wreck.

Why did Pushkin stay in the drawer for such a long time? It was partly open, and he could at least have poked his head out or yelled. And how long would he have stayed in the drawer if I hadn't found him?

-Margaret

A.

A cat has been found alive after being locked in a machinery container for 3 months. So that gives an idea of how efficiently a cat can conserve its energy and use its body reserves (and eventually muscle tissue) to stay alive. It's also brilliant at conserving water.

But the most interesting aspect is that Pushkin remained happily not urinating for 36 hours, whereas a male cat with a urethral blockage is a metabolic mess after 36-48 hours. Perhaps fear is the key. Pushkin was OK because he was snug and relaxed.

So as far as your actual question is concerned, I don't know WHY he stayed in the drawer, but I'm sure he wasn't in any trouble or he would have cried out or scrambled out.

As to how long he could have stayed there, I know for sure of a cat that had a similar experience for two days longer with no ill effects.

The only other thought that occurs to me is that the pot pourri may have had a soporific effect in itself. Bear in mind that your clothing probably smells of it, so the combination of a dark, quiet place and the smell of a loved one would have made Pushkin feel very secure. At least you'll know where to start searching for him next time he disappears!

Q.

My cat loves to come into bed in the morning for a cuddle. She gets right under the blankets next to me, purrs furiously, and then starts dribbling. She doesn't dribble at other times. Is dribbling another form of cat ecstasy, and how is it linked to purring?

- Kay

A.

Does the cat knead the blankets as well? The dribbling and purring are indications of supreme contentment. The cat's body is under the influence of the "feed and sleep" functions of the nervous system (the opposite of the "fight and flight" system) so the dribbling is from the stimulation of the salivary glands as for eating.

She doesn't want to eat, but when she is dribbling in bed with you it is just that she is so content the salivary glands start up!

Not every cat dribbles when it's calm. Purring in various forms is also related to contentment, and stems from kittenhood, when Mum and kittens purr to each other during feeding as a comforting communication.

So while kittens are eating and purring, they would also be salivating. Some stop the salivation as they get older, some don't.

As an aside, cats are the only animals that don't get a "dry mouth" when they are frightened. They keep the saliva coming in order to hiss and spit effectively!

Q:

How do some cats establish an immediate bond of friendship? I brought home a kitten to share the house with my neutered male and female, aged respectively 8 and 6. The female ignored him from the start, the male began grooming him and didn't mind him eating out of the same dish. Now the kitten has grown, he and the adult male are great friends still, the female continues to pretend he doesn't exist. I give them equal love and attention, but the female has always been a loner. She won't even come near me when the others are around

- Richard.

A:

The key to this is your comment that the female is a loner. Also, cats form bonds and friendship in the same way as people - you can't TELL cats to be good friends, they're selective.

At the same time, some are better "socialised" than others, which means they probably had more contact with kittens and cats during their critical socialisation period from 3 to 9 weeks old. If cats are isolated during this time, or have a bad experience with another cat (or dog, or person) it may be reflected later in an avoidance of cats/dogs/people. The neutered male was probably better socialised than the female. Besides, the male and the kitten probably just like each other!

Your love and attention will make little difference to inter-cat relationships, but it is right to distribute attention evenly, or the female may think there is no reason to stay. The more cats in a household, the more social stress. Cats are more sociable than was once thought, but their social interactions are aimed at avoiding aggression rather than establishing dominance. Do not force cats into company that they don't want to keep!

We thank Dr Kendall for answering these questions.



Our Christmas Raffle



First prize is a huge Xmas hamper, crammed with everything from nuts to sweets.

Second prize is an automatic griddle large enough to cook 8 steaks or 10 pancakes at a time.

Third prize is three bottles of champagne.

Tickets are 40¢ each or 3 for a dollar. Phone the office for them now on 51 1011. We'll post them out to you and you can send the money by return mail.

The raffle will be drawn on December 21, and of course, all proceeds go directly towards the care of cats and kittens.



A TRIBUTE TO TUFFY

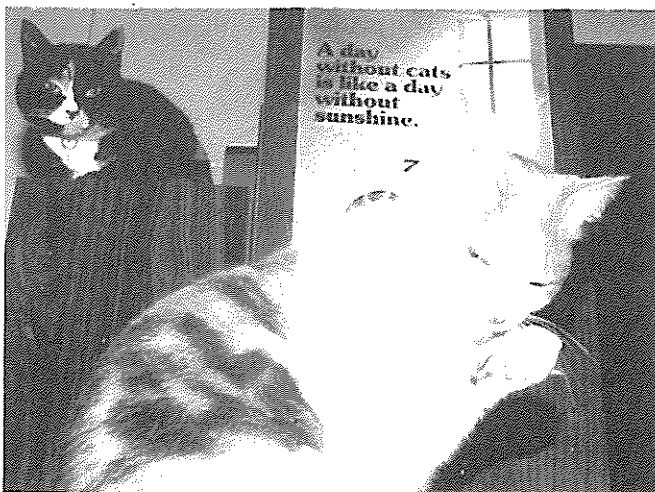
By Lena Larsen

He was a proud and handsome cat called Tuffy, a rich grey coat covered his body. Day and night he roamed and lived on the factory's large rooftop. His feet never touched the ground, so the workers said. Where he came from and how he got there nobody knew, some folk even said he probably fell from Heaven. There was never any doubt that Tuffy was indisputably the King of the Rooftop.

Faithfully, every day, Tuffy would come to the edge of the roof and wait for one of the workers to hoist a bowl of food and drink on to the roof. Although no physical contact had ever occurred, a mutual understanding and admiration had developed between man and feline. Tuffy lived a lonely but contented existence with plenty of food, fresh air, lots of sun and even some sort of shelter. The roof was his stage, the workers below were his audience and he knew they loved him. He was a Star!!!

Time passed on and came the day when Tuffy did not look so well. His once proud coat was beginning to look dull, he felt listless and there were days when he rejected his food. One day he failed to turn up, a second day passed, and the workers began to worry. Up the tall ladder they climbed and on to the rooftop. In a small sheltered part of the roof they saw Tuffy, curled up in a sleeping position but he was not sleeping. Their beloved Tuffy was dead. He had performed his final act, the curtain had come down!!!

It was a sad day for the workers, but not for Tuffy the green plastic bag ceremony. He was buried with full honours in the rear section of the factory's yard. Everybody who was anybody attended his funeral. Today upon his grave there stands a small wooden cross bearing the inscription "Here lies our beloved Tuffy, gone but never forgotten. R.I.P"



All of us would agree with this message. It's on a poster in the home of CPS member Jenny Kentwell of the Blue Mountains. Her cats agree with it too!

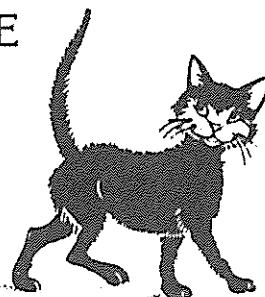
The Pet Care People

Going Away? No need to board your animals. We visit your home, feed, exercise and play with pets. Less fretting, increased security and peace of mind.

OUR INCLUSIVE COSTS COVER

Visiting your home and —

- ★ Feeding your pets
- ★ Walking your dog
- ★ Playing with your cat
- ★ Talking to your budgie
- ★ Singing to your canary
- ★ Feeding your fish
- ★ Brushing/combining your dog/cat
- ★ Removal of animal litter
- ★ Complimentary ★
- ★ Plant watering
- ★ Mailbox clearance



Phone: 337-2644 ALL HOURS 7 DAYS
RICHARD DURANT PROPRIETOR
ALSO LICENSED SECURITY AGENT

Can you help find homes?

As you know, one of the main functions of the Society is placing cats and kittens in responsible homes.

If you would like a new companion, or know someone who is thinking of acquiring a cat, you can select one from the Society in confidence.

All our kittens are checked by a vet, wormed and immunised. They have been "socialised," so are affectionate, and in most cases are fully toilet trained.

Older cats have also had a complete health check, and are desexed.

They are held for adoption at our Parklands Boarding Kennel, which has a lovely country atmosphere and is open 7 days a week. The address is 505 Sunny Holt Road, Blacktown, and the telephone number is 626 9333. The price of a kitten from Parklands is \$16.00, and a desexed older cat \$45.00. This includes a cat collar with an identification disc.

If you have a special colour in mind, you can give Parklands a ring and see what is available before you go. Otherwise, just pop up any time between 9am and 5pm (except on Wednesdays, when the kennel closes at 1.30pm.)

Incidentally, if transport is a great problem, we can select a cat or kitten on your behalf and deliver it to your home. Give the Welfare Office a ring and discuss your requirements. Naturally, we will ask you some questions to make sure you will be a caring and responsible owner—but we are sure that anybody reading "Cat Affairs" can't fail to qualify! The numbers here are 511 011 and 519 7201, and we are open between 9am and 3.30pm, Mondays to Fridays.

Our New Year Resolution

Let's make 1990 A Bumper Year For New Members!

As you know, the money we ask for the work we do doesn't begin to cover our expenses.

We don't want to put up our fees, because one of our main objectives is to provide a service for people on low incomes.

So... we rely very much on membership subscriptions and donations to keep going.

And this Christmas, we have a special request for our present members:

WOULD YOU PLEASE TRY TO PERSUADE JUST ONE MORE PERSON TO JOIN THE SOCIETY.

A good way to do this is to pass the journal on to a friend, neighbour or colleague. It gives them the "feel" of our work, and of course there's a membership application form on the back.

To help you, we will be happy to mail out an extra copy of "Cat Affairs," -or even two or three -if you will send a 70cent stamp for each copy required.

(Our big mailing to members goes out at a reduced fee because all the copies are lodged together, but afterwards, individual copies are charged at the regulation rate of 70 cents.)

Please use all your powers of persuasion to encourage someone else to join. As you know, it only costs \$10.00 a year, which is about the price of a cinema ticket.

And meanwhile, thank YOU for your support and encouragement.

Holidaying North?

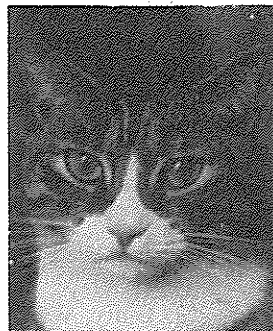
Then it's so convenient to leave your cat with us, and pick it up on the way back.

Cats boarded short or long term.

While you're on holiday, so are they!

This cattery is run with lots of TLC.

**Inspections welcome
at any time**



SHIRLIM CATTERY

32 West Kahala Avenue, Budgewoi. 2263

Telephone: (043) 90 0864

Proprietor: Shirley Willett
Mother of "Miricle Boy"

- A 10th life for Barbra -

THEY say that cats have nine lives and Barbra, the local moggie at West Pymble Shopping Centre, is surely living proof.

A permanent fixture at the centre for 10 years, Barbra has no cars due to the ravages of skin cancer, no teeth due to a gum disease and just recently nearly lost a back leg to a German Shepherd dog who mistook it for a tasty piece of bone!

Barbra also has no official owner, but such is the affection local people have for the animal that a trust fund was set up to pay for veterinary expenses.

A bank account under the name Barbra the Cat was opened and now boasts a very healthy balance which covers the bills.

Barbra was out of action for just over a fortnight but has now fully recovered and is back patrolling the shopping centre.



Thank you to member Wendy Irish for sending in this story from the North Shore Times.

A welcome to new members

The following members joined the Society in July, August, September and October. We extend a warm welcome, and hope to see many of them at our Christmas party on December 21.

Miss P. **Hair**, Croydon. Mrs. I. **Puren**, Hunter's Hill. Mrs. P. **Bennet**, Church Point. Mr. C. **Wheeler**, Baulkham Hills. Ms. V. **Mather**, Punchbowl. Mr. J. **Shayler**, East Gosford. Ms. S. **Van Der Linden**, Chippendale. Mrs. N. **Kell**, Five Dock. Mrs. D. **Aylott**, Mt. Kuringai. Mrs. P. **Tiffen**, Bondi Beach. Mrs. D. **Kingston**, Penshurst. Master M. **Goulder**, Eastwood. Miss J. **Dunn**, Westmead. Mr. R. **Blood**, Balmain East. Mrs E. **Vickers**, West Ryde. Mrs. I. **Walsh**, Oak Flats. Miss L. **Anderson**, Rozelle. Ms. M. **Rosten**, Lane Cove. Mrs. J. **Snow**, Surry Hills. Mrs. A. **Konrad**, Petersham. Ms. E. **Simpson**, Hornsby Heights. Ms. M. **Pellizzari**, Leichardt. Ms. M. **Bourke**, Glebe. Mrs. P. **Hopkins**, Marrickville. Ms. M. **McCluskey**, Bondi Beach. Ms C. **Wolfson**, Balmain. Mrs. J. **Puddefoot**, Bondi Junction. Dr M. **Cochrane**, Church Point. Mrs. B. **Reuwer**, Ashfield. Mrs. J. **Walters**, Rose Bay. Mrs. M. **Summers**, Macquarie Fields. Ms. J. **Johnston**, Potts Point. Ms. W. **Hesling**, Mangerton. Mrs. M. **Heys**, Tempe. Ms. S. **Neilson**, Mosman. Mrs J. **Duffy**, Waterloo. Miss C. **Kosutic**, Woollahra. Miss M. **Matthews**, Erskineville. Mrs. B. **Scott**, Randwick. Miss S. **Donnelly**, Croydon. Miss S. **George**, Roseville. Mrs. J. **Butterworth**, Annandale. Miss J. **Hogno**, Erskineville. Mrs D. **Lang**, Newtown. Mrs. C. **Freshwater**, Dee Why. Mr & Mrs A. **Edgar**, Carlton. Mr. D. **Doyle**, Narrabeena. Mrs. J. **Marsh**, Galston. Ms. L. **Van Motman**, Wahroonga. Mrs. B. **Vaka**, Camperdown. Ms. D. **Cormack** and Ms. R. **Adams**, Lane Cove. Miss S. **Matysek**, Newtown. Ms.D. **Cubitt**, Greenacre. Mrs. D. **Barnett**, Stanmore. Ms. S. **Riordan**, Auburn. Mrs. J. **Clark**, Ermington. Mrs. A. **Miles**, Strathfield. Miss S. **Russell**, Terrigal. Mrs. B. **Fortescue**, Drummoine. Miss J. **Morris**, Ettalong. Mr. G. **Thompson**, Ettalong. Mrs. A. **Donald**, Ryde. Ms. J. **Maerz**, Regents Park. Mrs. P. **Keller**, Farrer. Ms. A. **McClusky**, Ocean Grove. Mrs. B. **Watson**, West Ryde. Mr. and Mrs. A. **Newick**, Erskineville. Mr. E. **Lea-Searlett**, East Willoughby. Miss T. **Atkinson**, Merrylands. Mr and Mrs **Holland**, Cammeray. Ms. J. **Wright**, Bundeena. Mrs. D. **Francis**, Wodonga. Miss J. **Denny**, Granville. Mr and Mrs N. **Fox**, Alexandria. Miss T. **Gordon**, North Richmond. Ms. K. **Summers**, Erskineville.



GOOD NEWS!



MONTY'S BOUNCING BACK AGAIN AND SENDS HER THANKS FOR ALL YOUR GOOD WISHES, CARDS AND FLOWERS.

All members of the Auxiliary, all the girls in Welfare, and all the members who know our Monty with the heart of gold, are delighted that she has recovered from her broken arm.

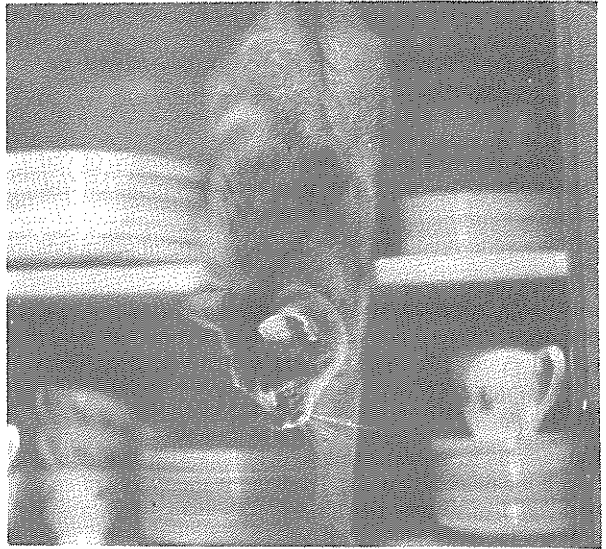
We missed her. But we knew a broken arm couldn't keep Monty down.

She says her recovery was helped by all the kind thoughts, and as well as expressing personal thanks for the messages of good cheer, wishes to thank her friends again through the journal.

Thank YOU, Monty, you're a tower of strength that was sorely missed.

Cat Affairs 23

FASCINATING CAT FACTS



Balance

* Cats have more than a phenomenal sense of balance in their favour when it comes to negotiating perilously narrow ledges. They also have a tiny collarbone and practically no shoulders at all, allowing them to keep their front legs close together, and they possess the rare ability (along with camels and giraffes) to move their front and back legs on one side at the same time.

Heights

* Although cats leap to incredible heights without appearing to give it much thought, getting down is a matter of some concern. After checking and rechecking the length they have to cover, they'll minimize the distance by edging down from their perch as far as possible before they begin the actual descent.

The nose knows

* Smells go in through the cat's nose, then float up into the Jacobson's organ when the cat opens his mouth and lifts his head. It is only when a scent reaches this little pouch-like organ, located in the roof of the mouth, that it is identified by the cat. The nose also acts as a thermometer, which is evident when you serve a cat hot food. The cat will lower his nose to the food, then quickly raise it in the air to compare the temperature.

Growth

* Male cats are slower than females in reaching adulthood. Males take 9 to 12 months to reach full growth, while females arrive at maturity in just five to eight months.

Milk

* It's not true that cats need milk. After weaning, it's not necessary in their diet, and in fact they have a hard time digesting it. Of course, some cats are milk lovers, and it's all right to allow them small amounts from time to time. But don't make it a regular drink. Fresh, cool water is the liquid they need, and it should always be available.

Entertaining Kittens...

By Nance Iredale.



Pictured: Nance's kittens used to love hiding and playing in the jasmine in her garden.

In the days when my "cat room" always housed 10 to 20 kittens waiting for homes, it was great fun devising amusements for them.

In fact, the room looked so much like a games room that prospective owners described it as a cat's Luna Park! They would stay for ages enjoying the fun, often changing their minds about the choice of a kitten several times, as the gambolling babies performed their antics. Many a plain little tab was chosen for its clownish acts!

Some of their favourite games - so easy to set up - come to mind:

1. The Basket Game. Hang a small cane basket from a long cord so that it's about 15cm (6in) from the ground. Put one kit in it and give it a gentle push. Others will rush from all corners, hanging on, scrambling in, and upsetting the occupant. Then another one or two will scramble aboard. It will keep just one kitten amused for ages too.

2. The Curtain Game. You can turn an old dacron or nylon curtain into a great game. Fold it up into a soft bed, then watch the kitten/s jump in and out of it and attack the flowing ends. It will soon spread out, and if you have a slippery floor underneath a clever kitten will discover it makes a great skateboard. I was amazed to see how quickly my kits learned to skateboard, and Sybil Cozens kept me well supplied with curtains for the purpose.

3. The Tunnel Game. For this, you will need lengths of hollow cardboard cylinders, the type that vinyl flooring is wrapped around. (Your friendly floor covering shop will help out here.) The cylinders are about 4 feet long, and the kittens quickly learn to race through. But then begins the exciting bit! After the game has been going on a while, one or two kittens learn to wait at the other end, ready to pounce on the one emerging from the tunnel. What delicious frights and heart beatings that provokes!

When all have had enough of the game, and it's time for a quiet period, I found some six or so kits would pile into the hollow tube for a sleep. Can you imagine the warmth and comfort as they snuggled together?

Of course, if you have just one kitten to amuse, it will still enjoy racing through the tube, and you can wiggle your fingers at the end for a bit of drama.

I remember one glorious, old-fashioned classic tabby kitten waiting for a home. I called her Emma. She was always just inside the door waiting for my footsteps, but one day she failed to appear. I was alarmed, though underneath I knew she couldn't have escaped.

Then the hollow tube started to move and kits emerged from each end, followed by a ruffled Emma who must have been trapped right in the middle!

4. Chasing and Hiding Games. All kittens love chasing things across the floor - cotton reels, ping pong balls, a scrunched up paper, tinkly toys. Boxes, baskets and paper bags make good hidey holes, as long as you're confident they can't get trapped (and of course, never let them play with plastic bags if you're not in the room.)

The garden is a perfect spot for chasing and hiding, too. When I only had six or so kittens in residence I used to let them into my safe back yard, and invariably they took their siesta in a big growth of jasmine. It was a delight to see the vine quivering as they hurried to greet me, while some of the lazybones just poked their heads out of the bower to see what was happening.

It was all great fun, as much for me as it was for them. Kittens at play are one of the world's never-ending delights.

MY CAT, "HONEY".

By Hilda York

Oft in the stilly night

I sense a gentle presence,

So soft of fur, with a gentle purr,
Into my bed comes creeping.

In the crook of my arm, she softly curls.

And we're both feeling snug and warm

Then soon her gentle purring stills,

And we're both of us soundly sleeping.

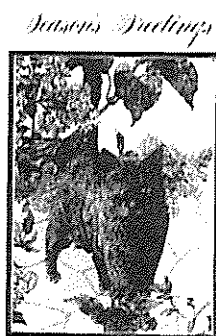
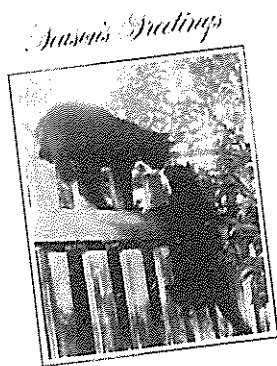
Ed's Note: This charming poem was inspired by Hilda's own cat. Hilda wrote, "Every night, during winter, Honey always creeps under my bed clothes, usually while I am reading my library book. Sometimes, if I am later than usual going to bed, I find her already there, warming the sheets for me. In the morning she is often still in bed with me, or sitting on the small bureau near the window watching the passers by. It's so nice to go to sleep each night with my little pet curled up close to me."

Thank you, Hilda, for sharing such lovely experiences with our readers, and for all the work you do for the Society in many ways.

*I have just been given a very engaging
Persian kitten - and his opinion is that I
have been given to him.*

- Evelyn Underhill

now you can ORDER GREAT CAT ITEMS BY MAIL



OUR OWN CPS CHRISTMAS CARDS



There are four designs, as shown. Each card is black and white with red trim, and is blank inside for your own message.

The cards come in packs of eight, with two of each design. Envelopes are included. Price per pack is \$5.00, which includes postage.

Cards without a Christmas message, in the same designs, are also available. These are suitable for any occasion, or can be used as notelets. Be sure to indicate which you require on the order form.

OUR OWN CPS T-SHIRTS

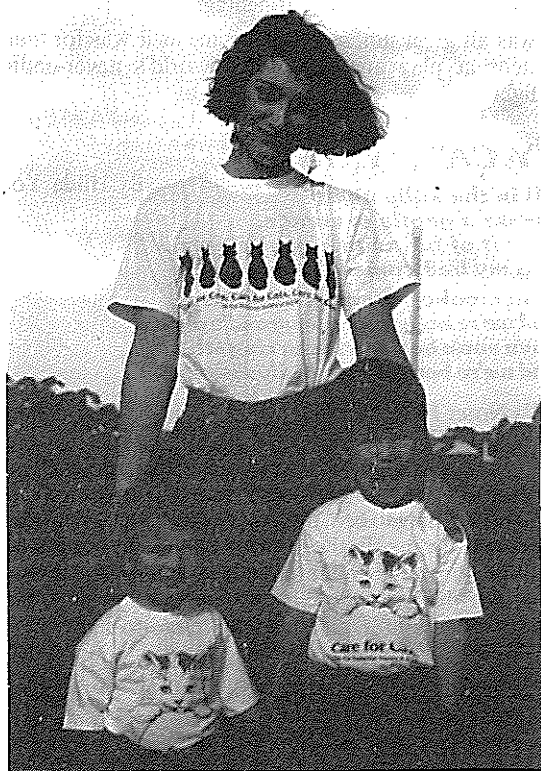
They're our own design, in white pure cotton with the illustration in black, and they're totally Australian-made.

The adult shirt has a band of black cats in silhouette across the front. The shirt for children has a gorgeous drawing of a kitten.

All shirts have the message "CARE FOR CATS," with the name of the Society underneath.

Adult sizes are Small, Medium and Large. Children's sizes are 4, 6 and 8.

The shirts are good value at \$15.00 for adult sizes and \$10.00 for children. This includes postage.



OUR OWN CPS STAMPS

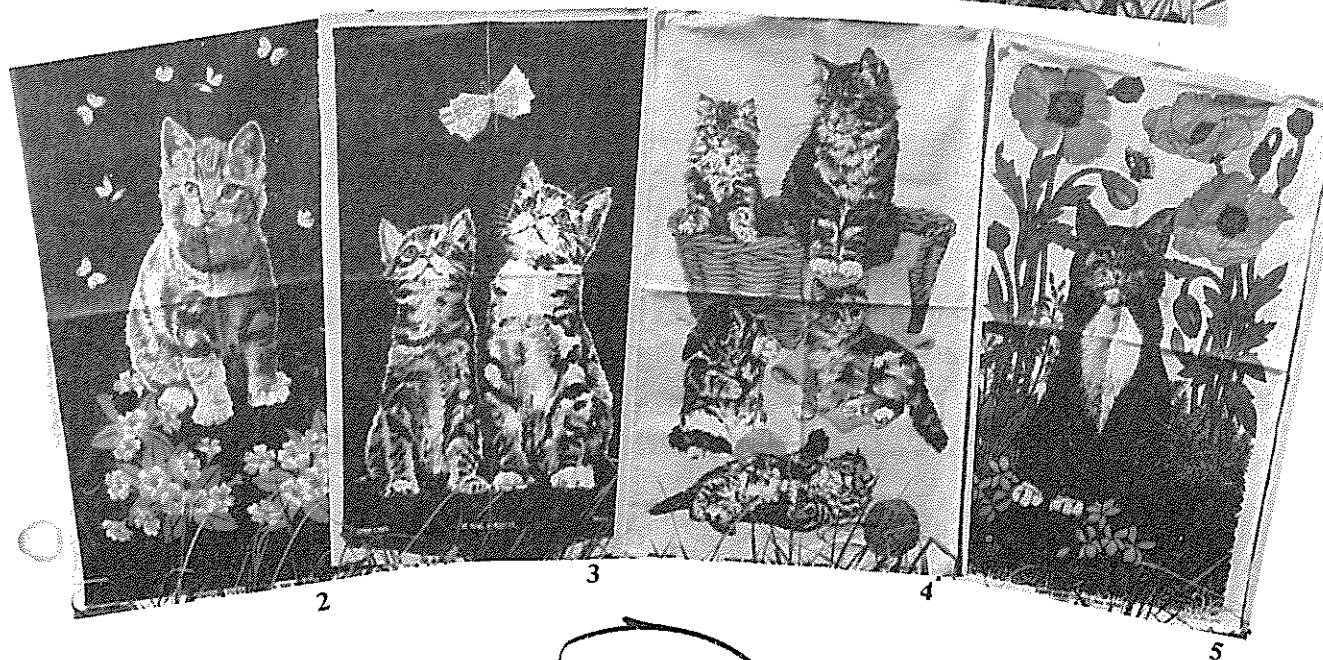
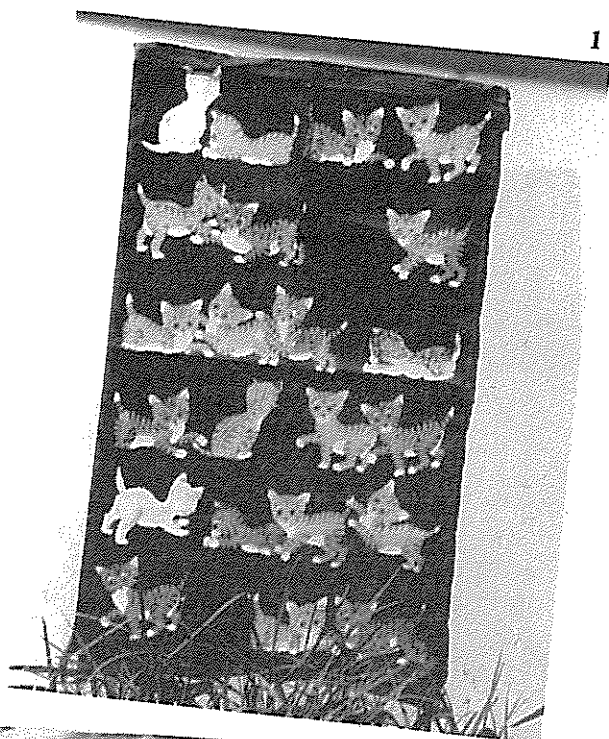
They're adorable - 12 different cat faces on gummed, perforated stamps. Use them to personalize stationery, brighten up gift packages, or stick on the backs of envelopes. Children would love them on school cases, too.

Each set of 12 stamps costs just one dollar. The name of the Society and telephone number is printed on each stamp, so by using them you help to publicise our work. A set of the stamps tucked inside a Christmas card would make a delightful gift!

SPECIAL CAT DESIGN TEA TOWELS

Our towels were selected for us in Ireland, so naturally are in pure Irish linen. With their colourful designs they make great wall hangings, if you find them too attractive for everyday use. There are five to choose from:

1. **Kitten Litter.** This towel has a rich brown background with kittens in toning shades of yellow, brown and beige.
2. **Primrose Puss.** A beguiling little ginger cat is surrounded by flowers and butterflies on a dark green background.
3. **Kittens.** Two happy tabbies in shades of brown and beige on a vivid red background.
4. **Kitten Mischief.** Cats in brown tonings on a pale cream background, accented by a yellow basket.
5. **Poppy cat.** An imperious black and white cat surrounded by ferns and pale pink poppies.

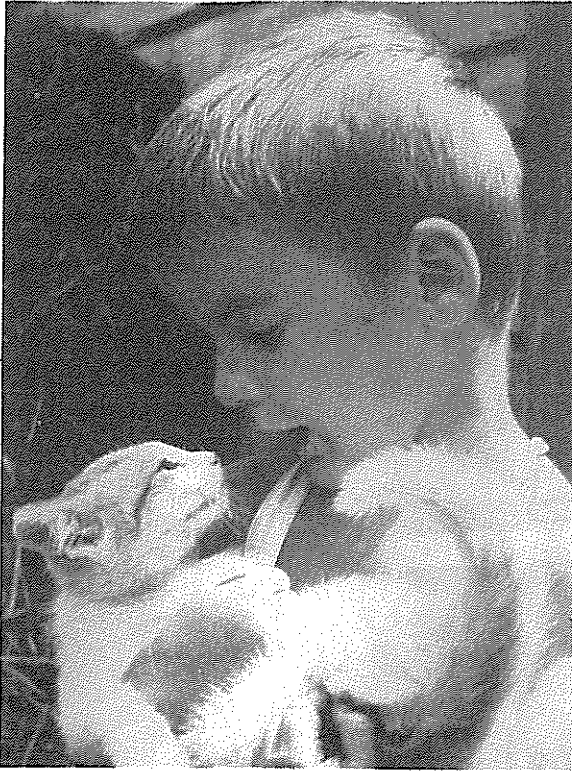


AND DON'T FORGET OUR CAT COLLARS

These are made to a safety-approved design, in soft suede with an elastic insert. They are fitted with a bell and identity disc, and your cat is registered with the Society when you purchase a collar, the registration number being engraved on the disc. (There is also room for your own 'phone number.) This gives you a "double margin" of safety if your cat is lost, as the finder can ring the Society and we will quickly find the owner's name and address.

Colours available are red, yellow, blue and pink, and the price including postage is \$5.50. Please indicate second colour on the order form, in case your first choice is out of stock.

TEACHING CHILDREN TO BE GENTLE



When we find a home for a kitten with a family that includes young children, we emphasize how carefully the kitten must be treated.

It is like a human baby. It must not be teased, handled roughly, or disturbed when it's asleep.

It enjoys playing games, but children must learn to leave it alone when it wants to rest.

Many members will recognize this little poem from their own childhoods. My mother taught it to me, and it still holds a message for today's children. - Ed.

*I LOVE little Pussy, her coat is so warm,
And if I don't hurt her she'll do me no harm.
So I'll not pull her tail, nor drive her away,
But 'Pussy and I very gently will play.*

*She shall sit by my side, and I'll give her some food,
And she'll love me because I am gentle and good.
I'll pat little Pussy and then she will purr,
And thus show her thanks for my kindness to her.*

*I'll not pinch her ears, nor tread on her paw,
Lest I should provoke her to use her sharp claw.
I never will vex her, nor make her displeased,
For Pussy can't bear to be worried or teased.*

Jane Taylor.

Fun Viewing for the Whole Family... "Oliver and Company," *The Adventures of an Orphaned Kitten.*

Oliver and Company is an animated musical production from Walt Disney pictures, opening in Sydney on December 14. It follows the adventures (and misadventures) of an orphaned kitten - Oliver - and is based on the Dicken's classic, "Oliver Twist."

Oliver is taken in by a pack of pickpocket dogs, headed by Dodger and their human master, Fagin. When a rich little girl finds Oliver and takes him home, Fagin's evil boss, Sykes, kidnaps the pair. Sykes' nasty plan is foiled, however, when the kitten's canine friends decide to use their wiles to rescue Oliver and his mistress.

There's a lot of music and excitement in Oliver, lots of colour, and a happy ending. It's rated G, which means it's suitable for all ages.

Special Announcement: The distributors of Oliver and Company, Village Roadshow Corporation Limited, have given The Cat Protection Society 10 double passes to a special preview screening of the film at 11.00am on Sunday, December 10, at Greater Union's Pitt Street Cinema Centre.

We will be delighted to give the passes to the first 10 people who ring our office between 9am and 3.30pm, Monday to Fridays. The numbers to ring are 51 1011 and 519 7201.



In "Oliver and Company," a dog plays The Artful Dodger, and Oliver is an orphaned kitten.
©MCMCLXXXVII The Walt Disney Company.

A Colourful "Juletide" Message

*You will have done fine in eighty nine,
If you have recognized the many fine attainments of
The Cat Protection Society*

And remember the

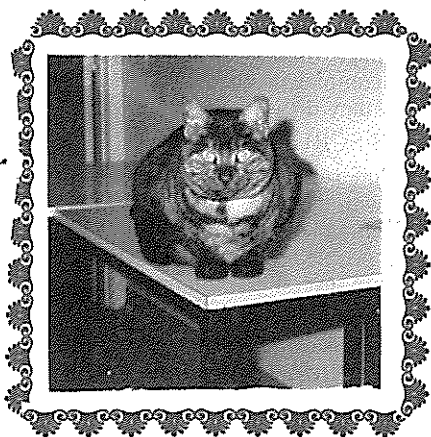
"Be kind to cats campaign"

And care for the feline fraternity:

At Christmas, New Year, Easter and Always.



**Blood donor Benson, who
enabled the special vet and
associates to help with blood
transfusions to save the life of our
precious mascot,
Curlytail Spotsiboy.**



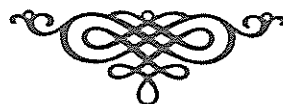
*Directors of
VARIETY GALLERY,*

Professor Kuva

and

Madame Kuvani

*on behalf of nine
cat companions express
best wishes to fellow
members and
cat lovers of the world.*



CAT JOTTINGS FROM A VET

Dr Kim Kendall, who answers readers' questions elsewhere in the magazine, gives these interesting insights.

DO CATS DREAM? Yes, definitely. Cats even have REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep in the same way as humans. During this time their breathing becomes more rapid and their ears and face muscles twitch. They do not usually paddle, make any major movements, or whine as dogs do. This is their dreaming time, and as with all cat movements, is discreet.

Do they have actual dreams? Probably. There is a part of the brain that acts as a strong inhibitor of movement during sleep time, so that movements dictated by the brain are miniaturised. (Ever had the feeling of falling down during sleep, and jerked enough to wake up? Your brain inhibited the flailing arms of a conscious fall, and toned it down to a small jerk.)

If there is damage in that area of the brain, and there are a few clinical cases of this in cats, the inhibition is lost and the cat will perform its dreams. Thus, while asleep, these cats will go through the coordinated movements of searching, walking, even hunting and capturing prey - a fairly complex manoeuvre. So presumably, these are the things they dream about.

DOES SCRUFFING HURT THE CAT?

Scruffing is holding the skin behind the cat's neck. If not done with the fingernails dug in, I believe this to be the most humane method of restraining the cat.

Some people seem horrified when I grip the scruff. But there are several good things about using this method of restraint rather than gripping the animal around the chest.

Firstly, there are fewer nerves going to this area than elsewhere, so less pain is inflicted - a good reason for giving injections here. There are also some powerful reflexes that are activated, so the cat holds still.

The first reflex comes from kittenhood. When the mother picks the kitten up by the scruff it stops struggling, relaxes, and holds its legs curled up. (A really terrified cat will stretch legs straight out.) At least when I have it by the scruff it can't scratch me.

The other reason cats sit still when you scruff them harks back to mating. The male bites the female's neck to tell her to hold still and help him mount. Without a good neck grip he can't get the job done!

Also, when a predator grabs a cat's neck (a hawk, dog etc), if the cat goes limp and plays dead the predator may drop it and the cat can run off.

So, I use these instinctive reactions, plus the lack of nerve ends in the area, to make restraint most effective with the least stress.

Holding a cat around the chest restrains its breathing and makes it feel very confined. If it has the least bit of a breathing problem, or is really scared, this will make it more frightened, fight harder, rake with its claws, and attempt to bite everyone within a 3-foot radius. Scruffing is definitely preferred."

HOW DOES CASTRATION AFFECT THE MATURE TOM?

80% of mature tom cats (that is, more than 10 months old) stop all mounting and spraying behaviour within 1 week to 2 months after castration.

A small number, particularly older and more experienced toms - the men about town - will take longer. One male was able to mount and achieve intromission for 4½ years after castration, but this is a rare case!

So, castration usually leads rapidly to more staying at home and fewer visits to females, with eventual loss of desire and inability to do anything about it. However, a tom can still get a female pregnant for a month or so after castration, due to internal stores of sperm. So if it is birth control you're after, keep this in mind.

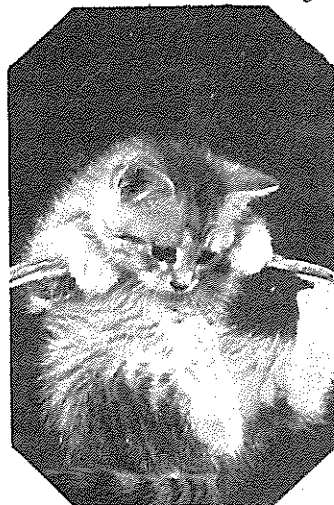
ARE CATS REALLY EFFICIENT AT RODENT CONTROL?

Cats have traditionally been recognised as having unparalleled efficacy as rodent control officers. Once a cat has cleared an area of rats and mice, the area remains free of them.

The space kept clear covers approximately a 15 metre radius out from the core or home area of the cat. If there is a huge number of rodents, cats have difficulty clearing the area due to the prodigious reproductive capacity of rodents - especially mice. But in these cases, once the numbers have been reduced, cats can keep the area clear. On farms, feeding the cat results in better rodent control near the building, as the cats do not stray in an attempt to find food. This contradicts the old farm homily that hungry cats are better hunters.

Cats will in fact hunt when not hungry, as owners of urban habitual hunters will attest. Hunting itself is the drive and the reward.

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When your beloved pet dies...

For many people, burying a pet in the garden is a happy solution.

Others worry what will happen if they move to another home. They are distressed that the remains may be disturbed by new occupants, and the alternative of digging them up and relocating them is equally unhappy.

One solution is to have your pet cremated, and the ashes returned to you for safe keeping. Or you may decide to have the body buried in a special cemetery, perhaps with a memorial headstone.

A long established company that specialises in such solutions is The Animal Memorial Cemetery and Crematorium at Berkshire Park, on the western outskirts of Sydney.

The grounds are peaceful and beautiful, and the proprietors sympathetic and understanding. They will be delighted to advise you of the options, and will answer your questions simply and directly - including that one so often asked, "How can I be sure I will receive the ashes of my own pet?"

If you have an aged cat or dog, and the problem of what to do after death is already worrying you, it will help your peace of mind to talk to these caring people. One of our own Welfare Officers used their services last year, so we feel we can recommend Mr. and Mrs. Jessop-Smith with confidence.

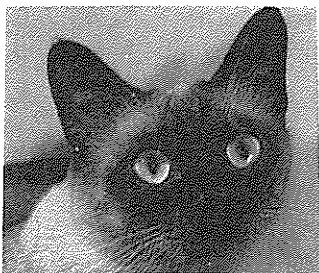
If readers have had personal experience with other organizations offering similar services, we would also be pleased to hear about them.

KEEP THESE 'PHONE NUMBERS HANDY

Welfare administration inquiries: 511 011, 519 7201 To have goods picked up, Mrs. Sybil Cozens: 427 3828
Opportunity Shop: 516 2072 Membership and volunteer inquiries, Miss Jo Tomkin: 713 8576

The animal memorial cemetery and crematorium

Personal, Individual
and Understanding
Attention



Registered. Est 1967

Cremations,
Burials,
Memorials.

Ring for our free colour brochure
St. Mary's Road, Berkshire Park, 2765
(045) 72-5333



Is This The World's Most Unusual Cat?

Well known CPS member, Mrs Patricia Healey, sent us this picture of "Taiso," a MALE tortoiseshell.

As readers will know, it is indeed a rarity - if not unique - for a cat with tortoiseshell markings to be a male. They are invariably female.

Taiso was unfortunately killed in a street accident when only 7 months old, but our Welfare Director, Mrs Nance Iredale, can vouch that he was indeed a tortoiseshell.

Have any other members come across the phenomenon? If so, Mrs Healey would be most interested to hear from you.

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



Membership Form

(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.

The Secretary

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



Donation Form

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

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

Change of Address Form

(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

(BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE)

Initials

New Address

Postcode

Previous Address:

Thank you for your co-operation