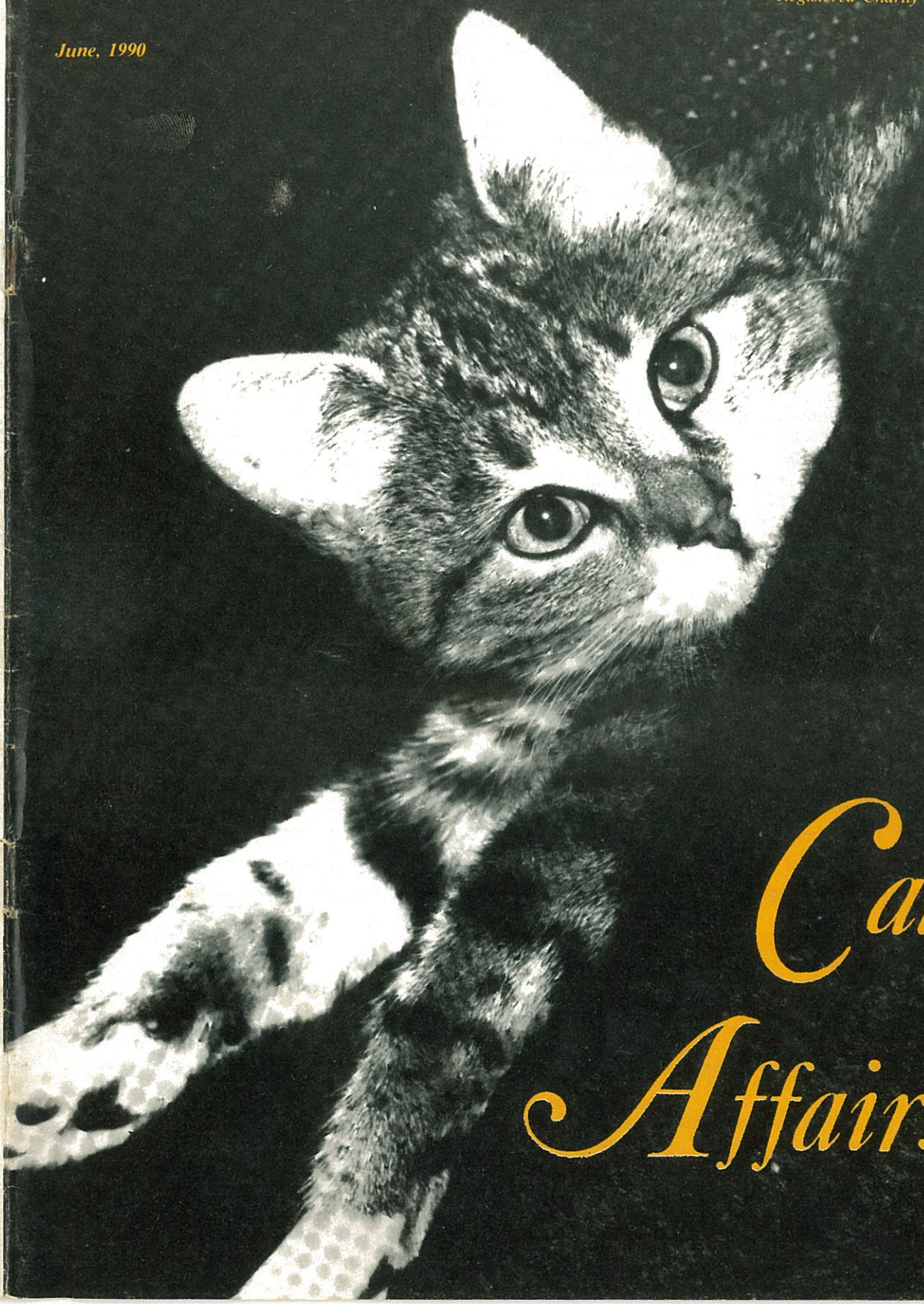


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*June, 1990*



*Cat  
Affairs*

# President's Page

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE

It's always interesting to reflect on how things change over time - not the least our Society. Since my involvement, I have seen many changes, though it seems there is nothing we haven't tackled successfully. The fundamental strength which has seen us through is the love of cats we share with all our members, together with commitment to our work, confidence and enthusiasm.

There are also lots of other animal organisations pursuing aims similar to ours, and I met representatives of these at a recent function held at Parliament House hosted by The Hon. Richard Jones MLC.

The purpose was to introduce Mr Richard Moore, who is the Executive Director of The International Fund for Animal Welfare, and was in Sydney exploring the possibility of setting up an office here.

Among the groups represented along with The Cat Protection Society, was Greenpeace, The N.S.W. Animal Welfare League, The Australian Association for Humane Research and The World League. Spending time with other groups is always valuable, as it not only enhances our knowledge but builds stronger bonds with the individuals involved.

Interestingly, when I arrived in Melbourne for my holidays, the first thing I saw was an anti-vivisection group in the city mall, busily advising the public of what they could do about vivisection of animals. Instead of suggesting that petitions be taken up, they were recommending that people write directly to their politicians urging an immediate halt to this cruel and unnecessary practice. I wish them luck, and remind our own members that a list of "Cruelty Free" cosmetics and other products is available from Animal Liberation.

With the natural evolution of our Society, we've added to our staff of welfare officers, and with a current strength of five we're able to keep pace with the demand for cat desexing.

This is not to say that the desexing message has got through. We're still inundated with kittens, and requests to catch abandoned cats.

It continues to be our view that compulsory registration and desexing of cats is the only way to ensure responsible ownership, but it will be a hard nut to crack.

I am now part of a working group developing a Bill to present to the Government, and we're very hopeful that with the ground work already done by CPS, plus the contributions of other animal welfare societies, this time we'll make a real impact.

The task calls for determination, ingenuity and a water-tight strategy, so our elected representatives sit up and take notice. If they've tended not to take us seriously before, I have to say that now it's a whole new ball game, and a united front will win the match!

On a lighter note, the big news around our office is the relocation of it! Welfare will move from the upstairs of 103 to the ground floor, and will be fitted out in keeping with the nature of the work it does. The Opportunity Shop will move a few doors down the road, and they'll get a nice, new environment too, which should be good news for all our volunteers.

These changes are long overdue. It's taken many long months of talking around the Council table to settle on the right course of action, but having taken the decision we're all looking forward to the move. A special thank you to Julie Gorrick, who was recently appointed Administrator of the Society, for all the extra work which went into negotiations for the changeover.

Oh, and we're delighted to have Nance Iredale back on her feet (literally) after a little mishap recently. Nance had to spend a short time away from the office, and we missed her enormously. All's well now though, and she's back at her two labours of love for the Society ... as Welfare Director and Honourary Treasurer. Heggie and Mutta, Nance's two darling dogs, are back with us, too. I think she'd like to bring her cats as well but we couldn't count on them to behave as sweetly as the two little dogs, who sit quietly by her desk through the day. Incidentally, they prove to visitors that we're not just "cat-ladies" ... our love extends to all animals.

Until next time,

LYN THOMAS  
President.

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

Registered office and 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.,  
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## Congratulations, Professor Charles Birch



Professor Birch is a Patron of our Society, and a devoted cat lover - as you can see by this photograph taken with one of his beautiful cream Burmese.

Earlier this year, Professor Birch was a recipient of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, an international award of great distinction.

We honour Professor Birch for his academic achievements... we like him even more as a man happy to be photographed with a cat perched on his shoulders!

Thank you to The Sydney Morning Herald for permission to reproduce this photograph.

### ❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖ *A Strange Companionship* ❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

By H.L. Smith

The following story which I have abridged slightly, appeared in the American magazine "Cat Fancy" in 1986. It tells of a MOST unusual friendship.

It was a strange sound - quick, sharp, high pitched and permeated with an anxious insistence. In 35 years of living in a rural area I had heard nothing like it.

My husband and I sat straight up in bed as the sound seemed to be right outside our bedroom window. Our big black cat, Klutz, was throwing himself against the door in an effort to get out.

As my husband opened the door to investigate I called, "Don't let Klutz out," but it was late. He shot down the steps before we could stop him.

We hurried down concerned both for the safety of our cat and the identity of the intruder. Suddenly something scooted across the yard. We couldn't tell what it was. But here came Klutz, strolling from the direction where we'd glimpsed the strange animal.

A few days later, the sound occurred again. I hurried outside and tried to locate it. The calls continued, each syllable running into the next with little interruption. I came to a small path made by animals, and continued along it.

Then in front of me I saw the fox! It had a brilliant, rusty-red body and a buff-red tail. Its dainty black forefeet were rising up and down in an Indian-like dance, and it was pointing its black muzzle into the air and facing our house. It seemed to be signalling to something at the house!

Then it saw me and scampered away. As I retraced my steps I saw Klutz walking towards me, but he hurried past and sat down where the fox had been. What did he know about the fox?

During the next few weeks the fox repeatedly visited our yard, and since Klutz liked to stay outside during the warm weather, we left a window open so he could come and go. He chose to stay outside every time we heard the fox give his strange little cries!

It was obvious that Klutz and the fox were friends, so we took the precaution of giving Klutz his rabies booster. We began to enjoy hearing the cry of the fox, and wondered what games they played together ... or if they just sat and talked.

When winter came, and snow and ice covered the ground, Klutz stayed indoors and we no longer heard the fox. But one morning, just before daylight, Klutz became anxious to be let out.

I opened the door and watched while Klutz moved quickly across the lawn. There was still a lot of snow on the ground, but there were many bare patches as well.

The chill air brought goose bumps to my arms, but I waited and listened. I heard it ... the welcome sound of high pitched yipping coming from beyond the garden. Klutz, of course, had heard it long before me. He sprinted down the path towards his friend, and I went back inside to tell my husband the good news. The cat and the fox were reunited.



# MY FIRST TEN YEARS AT THE OP SHOP.



by Hilda York

I was wondering recently just how long I have been a saleslady at our Opportunity Shop and was surprised to realize that in September of last year I had been working here for ten wonderful years. Many years of meeting wonderful people on my rostered days. Customers of so many different nationalities but all Australians now that they have come to live here.

A great many have been our customers over many years, in fact, during the recent school holidays a schoolboy came into the shop with his mother and I remember the first time I saw him he was a little baby sitting in his stroller.

Unlike many 'ordinary' shops, our Op. Shop is a very friendly place and as the customers walk in the door there is always a smile and a "hello, how are you?" Even the new customers seem to feel the friendly atmosphere as they usually say "bye" as they leave. After so many years I look upon many as friends more than customers, as we exchange our views on many subjects while the goods are being packaged and the money is exchanging hands. Some discuss their very personal problems and illnesses and it gives one a nice feeling to think that they also have a feeling of friendship, otherwise they would not speak so freely.

We never work alone - there are always two of us and we are all very congenial with each other.

Our goods are many and varied and it's not surprising that the customers keep returning - especially as even our second-hand goods are of the highest quality. We place nothing on sale that is 'shoddy'. We sell ladies, gents and children's clothing, shoes, belts, china-ware, kitchen-ware, manchester, bed linen, bed lamps, curtains and a myriad of miscellaneous articles. Space won't permit all to be named here. Some articles are always on sale while others are occasional, such as a radiogram, a typewriter, or an easychair. We once even had the proverbial kitchen sink! Yes, we surely did. All our electrical goods are tested before being placed in the shop for sale. We sell foreign and Australian stamps to please the collector and there are some very kind and industrious folk who knit tea-cosies, baby-wear, covered coat hangers etc. and cat balls for the cats to play with.

Everything is donated by kind, caring and generous people. Some donated goods are new, some second-hand. If you have never visited our shop I hope you will do so as I am sure you will find it very interesting.

Importantly, as well as helping you, the customer, to buy excellent, inexpensive goods, the money you spend is put to good use. As readers of our Journal will know, the aim of 'The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.' is to encourage owners to have their cats desexed so as to prevent poor, unwanted kittens being born. We have compassionate, dedicated workers in our Welfare Section who do their utmost to find homes for all the unwanted kittens and cats delivered to them but so often the kittens and cats outnumber the people who are willing and able to love and care for them, which is a very sad state of affairs. This could be prevented if all owners would have their cats

desexed and a desexed cat is a home-loving pet. I would think that most readers of our Journal would be aware of this problem but maybe you have a friend who is a newcomer to Australia and who doesn't realize that there is a problem and perhaps you could tell them.

At times also our Welfare workers rally to a call for help for an injured animal. The Welfare workers are a truly caring team doing a job which is often so heart-aching. Our ambulances are air-conditioned for the comfortable transport of our loved pets.

All this, of course, takes money, so you will see why we need your support. Our Op. Shop could not function without our salespeople behind the counter. So how about it? Won't you be kind enough to lend a helping hand-perhaps once a week, once a month or however often is convenient for you, more or less. If you would like to help the phone number is: 713 8576. I'm sure you would really enjoy your days behind the counter. One goes home contentedly tired knowing that at least for that day one has done something really worthwhile-helping the customers to buy new and very good and cheap second-hand wares and most importantly to help our loved pussycat friends.

When I had a bad fall in my garden and was unable to work in the Op. Shop for a few months last year I became very depressed but once back on the roster I was 'on top of the world' again. So why don't you ladies and gentlemen out there join our merry band, as we'd love to have you and you'd be helping the cats which you truly love.

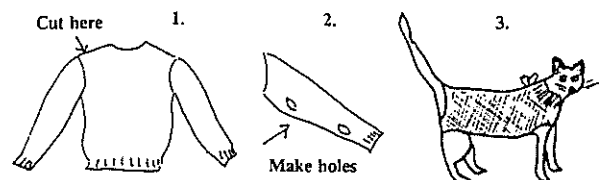


## For cats who feel the cold...

A 5- minute sweater that doesn't need sewing!

1. Cut the sleeves off at the armhole from an old sweater or cardigan. When cutting, include the seam to prevent unravelling. (For a small cat, a 3/4 sleeve is best.)
2. Cut a hole on each side of the sleeve about 5cm (2") up from the cuff. Cut another 2 the distance between the cat's front and hind legs. The shoulder seam end, which will look slightly pointed, is the tail end.
3. Pull the ribbed cuff end gently over the cat's head. Slip front paws through the front holes, and hind paws through the back holes.

And there you are - very smart, and no more shivers!  
We thank Mrs Oriolo for sending us this cute idea, which appeared in the annual report of the World League for Protection of Animals in 1975.



# THE MYSTICAL CAT



By Lily Jackson

He sleeps so peacefully, there on the best chair in the house. Could that sleek, contented creature be privy to dark secrets from an alien domain? Is there a psychic spirit emanating from his graceful body, beaming magical rays? Is he in consortium with witches, warlocks and demons? Does he maintain contact with those ancients who exalted him? Can he make transitory leaps from the occult world back to the easy, comfortable life of the family pet?

He knows something, for sure. After all, he's been around for a long time... some five thousand years.

## ANCIENT TIMES

The Egyptian cat goddess, Bastet (also known as Bast and Pasht) was a major figure in the Egyptian hierarchy of gods, and the Egyptians placed great faith in the power of a living cat to protect them from all kinds of evil.

Failing a cat sharing the home, one could ask for protection through the use of an amulet, many of which, showing a cat symbol, have been preserved.

As civilisation spread, the popularity and the fame of the cat travelled with the Phoenician traders. The Romans took to the cat with enthusiasm. He was the only animal admitted to their temples, where he received the same homage that had been his due in the earlier Egyptian culture.

The Mohammedan version of the cat's origin dates back to Noah's Ark. The mouse duo on the Ark kept increasing their family so prolifically that Noah had to take drastic action. He passed his hand three times over the head of the lioness, and she sneezed forth the cat, who promptly took care of the mouse population.

The love and respect given the cat by Mohammedans is illustrated by the oft repeated tale about the revered prophet. Mohammed was deep in contemplation one day with his favourite cat Muezza dozing in his arms. When the time came for the great leader to go to his devotions, he cut off his sleeve rather than disturb the sleeping cat.

The cat finally woke up, and arched its back to show appreciation for the prophet's thoughtfulness. Mohammed stroked its back three times in blessing, thus granting the cat perpetual immunity from the danger of falling. Forever after, the cat has had the ability to land on its feet.

# THE MIDDLE AGES — THE TIDE TURNS...

The Middle Ages brought hard times for the cat. His years of demanding and receiving respect were at an end. His close relationship with the world of magic became a liability. Witchcraft was called the old religion, therefore those who practised it were denouncing Christianity, the new religion.

With fear and suspicion prevailing, many people who kept cats were pronounced witches. The cat was tried for witchcraft along with its owner, found guilty, and made to suffer the tortures prescribed - which often meant it was burnt alive to dispel the wicked spirits lurking within.

Cats were thought to turn beer sour, wreck ships, spread disease, lead armies and desecrate Christian artifacts. One theologian claimed that every cat served seven masters, each for seven years, and then carried the soul of the last one into hell.

The black cat, long labelled a particular harbourer of devilish spirits, became the object of obsessive hatred. When Pope Clement V suppressed the Order of Knights Templar at the beginning of the 14th century, its members confessed under torture that they worshipped the devil in the form of a black cat.

## THE PARADOXICAL CAT

The periods of persecution of the cat contributed to a very real and definite danger - the plagues that swept across Europe throughout the Middle Ages.

Primitive medical knowledge could not make the connection between the proliferation of hordes of rats, and the continuing slaughter of cats. As the cats were destroyed the plagues continued. It was never recognised that the cat's practical skills as a ratter might have served to control the diseases.

The plagues did, however, drive home a point which eventually turned the tide again in favour of the cat.

It was realized that there was some connection between animals and the spread of disease, and among all animals there was only one which cleaned itself fastidiously - the cat.

Dogs were promptly set aside, and the cat reinstated as a household pet. Stories about the cat's magical properties continued, but gradually they emphasized the fairytale aspects of the cat's powers. The cat was no longer a malevolent creature, but one capable of bringing love and fortune to its owner. The awe and reverence he inspired in the early Egyptians was revived.

In modern times, the cat became more and more popular for its personal qualities of beauty, grace and intelligence. Artists painted the cat, authors wrote poems and stories about it. No other animal has ever inspired such a stream of creativity.

But is a cat just a cat? As he sleeps serenely, with his secret smile and eyes closed to the merest of slits, is there not still an aura of mystery? Does he still go sometimes to a world that humans never know? Why does he inspire such awe and reverence?

After all, a cat is just another animal .. or is he? ☆

# Tiberius and the Mouse Game

By Jenny Kentwell

Tiberius is about four months old, a rather plain tabby with a white throat. We acquired him when he was some 9 weeks old. The story from our vet is that he'd been found in the bush in a state of near starvation.

The game started when my husband Julius was holding up a toy mouse (one of the realistic furry ones) for Tiberius to leap at. Then, on impulse, Julius threw the mouse across the room.

Tiberius took off after it like a little grey flash, grabbed it, and brought it back to us. He was growling and hissing, but his tail was held high in the "happy" position.

The first few times, Julius had to wrest the mouse away from him, but after that he would drop the mouse at our feet, and wait for it to be thrown again.

Now he has learned to establish in which direction the mouse will be thrown, by watching the throwing hand. He has played the game with us for upwards of half an hour without tiring of it. He also brings the CORRECT mouse back each time, though there may be a couple of others lying around. He has only ever brought back the one that was thrown.

He has started to initiate the game, to the point of bringing a mouse up on to the bed each morning, dropping it, and looking plaintively at Julius until he gets out of bed and starts throwing!



This is Tiberius, mighty little mouser.

Tiberius will play the game with either Julius or myself. We find the strangest part of the game is his aforementioned growling and hissing, always with a high, "happy" tail when bringing the prize back to us.

Naturally, playing with Tiberius gives us as much happiness as it gives to him!

## Where do birds go when they die?

This question has always perplexed me - so much so, that I recently wrote to the Sydney Morning Herald. The following letter was published:

Sir: Can any of your readers suggest a solution to a question that is frustrating me: where do birds go when they die?

I have just been on a holiday to the South Coast, where every tree is alive with lorikeets, rosellas etc., yet there is never a sign of a dead bird under a tree.

My friend, who feeds hordes of birds in her garden every day, has never seen a dead bird in the five years she has been feeding them.

In Sydney, I've never seen dead birds in parks or streets. Yet, in the natural order of things, they should be dropping off their perches on to the ground.

Is there a special place where birds go to die, like the fabled elephant graveyard? If not, by what magic do they disappear? With the vast number of birds in the air, you would expect - just by the law of averages - to see a corpse now and again. What is the answer?

Julie Gorrick

Well, the only answer that was subsequently published in the paper was a tongue in cheek one. The author said that no matter where other birds went, he would certainly wish to avoid a place that housed Hawkes or Peacocks!

But I did receive many 'phone calls at home, and some letters.

Some people said they were as perplexed as me. Even if corpses were taken by other animals, or decomposed quickly, they would expect to see bodies now and again, or at least some feathers.

One man had an ingenious solution! He said that at the moment of death, anti-gravity took over and the bird soared up into space.

A country reader wrote me a charming letter, which I'll quote in part. She said,

"My husband and I walk a lot in the bush near Quirindi, and it abounds in bird life. Even the amount of feathers on a cockatoo would take a long time to decay, but we don't see one feather.

We have sparrows which nest in our roof year after year, feed on seeds of the lawn, and feed their babies... but never a dead one do we see. Also, the magpies nest nearby and bring their babies to walk around the yard, but we never see a dead magpie or even a feather.

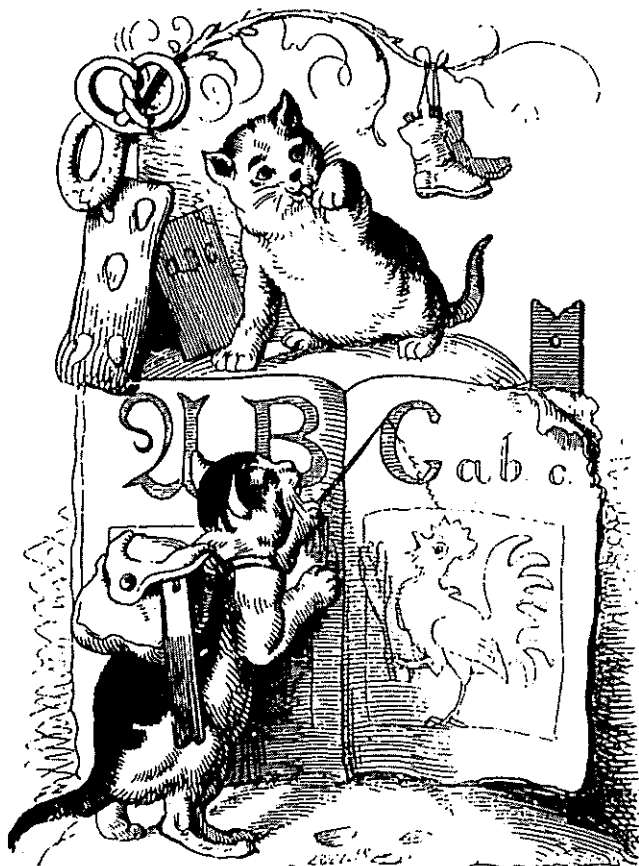
I've often thought of the seagulls, too, as they abound around the beaches and you would certainly expect to see some bodies on the sand now and then. But no. I'm as perplexed as you are!"

A 'phone caller said she'd been in touch with the Museum, Taronga Park Zoo, National Parks and Wildlife Service and science departments of Universities, and the usual answer was that birds form part of the natural food chain. But she said that not one expert could explain the lack of bodies in parks and gardens, or in the bush.

So I wonder if any readers of "Cat Affairs" have any theories, or can explain precisely why the bodies are never seen?

Please write and let me know and I'll pass the information on to all others who are as puzzled as I am.

P.S. I feel it's relevant to ask this intriguing question in our magazine, because some people would assume that cats make off with dead birds. But what a huge army of starving cats it would take - deployed throughout city and country - to consume all the corpses! What do you think?



### *The Minister's Cat*

The Minister's Cat was a popular late 19th-century fireside game which, like many Victorian children's games, had a useful educational purpose behind it. In this case, the underlying object was to increase the vocabulary of the young participants in the nicest possible way! The game was played alphabetically. The first player began by saying, 'The minister's cat' is 'an ambitious cat'; the next player might say 'an arrogant cat' and the third might continue with 'an apologetic cat' and so on round the circle of children until all had named an attribute beginning with A. The next round of descriptions to be supplied began with B, then C, until the whole of the alphabet had been worked through.

When a child failed to supply a description of the minister's cat he would drop out of the game, ultimately leaving a winner. Adults who play this game generally find it very easy to describe the minister's cat until they reach the letter X.

## WELFARE REPORT

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Usually my report is very much out-dated by the time the journal is published. Things change so quickly here that we can be right up to date with jobs one week, and inundated the next.

So this time, I'll take a different tack, and share with you some of my observations and feelings during a recent excursion into the field.

I decided to do some picking up of cats for desexing in the north and north west of Sydney, and it was most revealing. Indeed, it convinced me that our endeavours in bringing the cat population to an acceptable level MUST be supported by education and legislation.

The people I met were of the widest variety, and so were the situations I encountered. Let me tell you of some of them:

I called on a house where a couple had bought a kitten from Parklands. It was time for it to be desexed, but we found the 'phone cut off when we rang to remind them.

I found a very loving but distressed couple. They had fallen on hard times, and could not even promise to pay off the desexing in small amounts. Yes of course, I took the cat and had it desexed at the Society's expense. The owners were most grateful and say they will eventually pay us when they get on their feet.

The next three calls I made were all at very beautiful, expensive homes - all had swimming pools and big grounds. It seemed odd to me that the owners wanted their cats desexed through CPS; they could certainly afford to pay their local vet the usual cost of the operation, I felt.

Yet these homes had something in common. They were expensive, but also very untidy, with lots of rubbish everywhere. In their own way, these owners weren't coping either. They couldn't organise themselves to get to the vet, they left it to us.

Indeed, in one yard was a pregnant cat. I said we could still have it desexed and abort the kittens, but they didn't want that. The children were looking forward to the kits! Don't worry, I won't let it rest there. The cat is written into our "Futures" book, our record of all the dates when cats are due for desexing, and I'll make sure this cat isn't allowed to become pregnant yet again.

My next call was at a small rented cottage, not in good order, where four small children spilled out the door. They had found three very young kittens abandoned on a highway, and brought them home for Mum to look after. And she had done a good job with hand feeding, the cats were now healthy and affectionate. The problem was, there wasn't enough money to have the three desexed at once. But she had saved \$20.00 as a down payment, and I really think that the bill will eventually be paid, though the family is struggling. There was a lot of love in that home.

On I went to the next house, where I found a very pregnant 7-year-old Himalayan. The risks of desexing at that stage were explained to the owner, but it was decided to take a chance. Luckily, she came through the operation beautifully. But waiting 7 years to desex a cat takes some beating, doesn't it!

A neighbour handed over the cat for desexing when I arrived at my next address, a housing commission flat.

Returning the following day I met the cat's owner, a young woman who was obviously mentally retarded. She was surprised that there was anything to pay - she didn't know there was a charge. She promised to send a money order one day, but I'm not counting on it.

At another home I was supposed to "take away" a kitten because it was making "mistakes" with its toilet training. I found a gorgeous little creature about five months old, old enough to be desexed, and was able to persuade the owners to give her a reprieve.

But even then, it was distressing. After I took it back the next day I gave the usual advice about keeping it inside for 24 hours, then turned round to see it plonked straight into the back yard. It was still a bit wobbly, and was wandering round in a daze. Back I went, and insisted it be confined, but the answer was a curt, "She'll be OK." What could I do?

My only real joy was a sweet old lady, who'd rung the Society concerned about the welfare of a mother cat and kitten across the road. She'd had her own dearly beloved cat desexed by the local vet, taking great time and trouble to get there (apart from the expense, which it was obvious she could ill afford.) Now she said the people opposite were neglecting their animals, and she wanted me to approach them tactfully.

Well, I was as tactful as I could be. The mother cat was in very poor condition, and I was able to take her away - yes, she would have to be put down, but that was better than living in misery. The male kitten, fortunately, was healthy, and the owner promised they would care for it and have it desexed when old enough. Again, I'll make sure they they do!

But there's no doubt that, even with all we are doing to encourage desexing, much more needs to be done. There must be some compulsion to make cat owners more responsible.

Support for legislation is gaining ground, but nothing definite has happened.

Members, may I suggest that all of you write individual letters to your OWN state parliamentarian and to Mr. David Hay, Minister for Local Government, who is responsible for animal welfare matters. You can address the letter to him at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000. In your own words, urge him to support any Bill calling for compulsory registration and desexing of cats, and ask for an answer to your letter.

We have already sent off petitions with hundreds of names to Richard Jones, who is the Democrat concerned about the cat population. However, it is my view that personal letters carry more weight because they demand answers. Please support us, and with enough enthusiasm and constant pressure we may at last succeed.

Nance Iredale  
Welfare Director

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*Kingsley Amis*

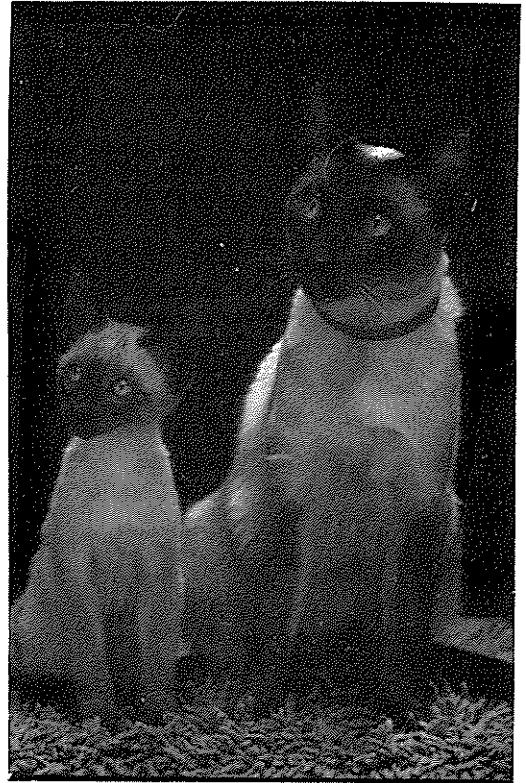
## Cat-English

It may seem funny, but my cat  
Is learning English. Think of that!  
For years she did all right with 'Meow',  
But that won't satisfy her now,  
And where before she'd squawk or squeak  
She'll try with all her might to speak.  
So when I came downstairs today  
I was impressed to hear her say  
'Hallo'. Not like a person, true;  
It might not sound quite right to you,  
More of a simple squeak or squawk—  
Still, that's what happens when cats talk:  
Their mouths and tongues and things are  
fine

But different shapes from yours and mine;  
They simply try their level best  
And our good will must do the rest.  
So when I pick up Sarah's dish  
And ask who's for a spot of fish,  
I have to listen carefully,  
But I've no doubt she answers 'Me!'  
And when I serve her with the stuff  
It's 'Ta' she tells me, right enough.  
Well now, I could go on about  
Her call of 'Bye!' when I go out  
and 'Hi!' when I come home again,  
But by this stage the point is plain:  
If you've a sympathetic ear  
Cat-English comes through loud and clear;  
Of course, the words are short and few,  
The accents strange, and strident too,  
And our side never gets a crack  
At any kind of answer back,  
But think of it the other way,  
With them to listen, you to say.  
Imagine the unholy row  
You'd make with 'Mew!' and 'Purr!' and  
*'Meow!'*

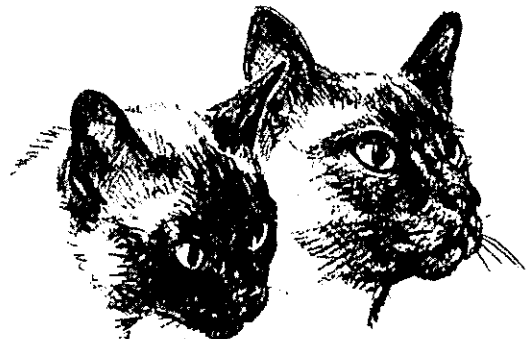
And not get anything across!  
Sarah would give her head a toss,  
Her nose or tail a scornful twitch—  
I really cannot settle which—  
And gaze at you in sad distress  
For such pathetic childishness.  
Unless you want a snub like that  
Leave all the talking to your cat.

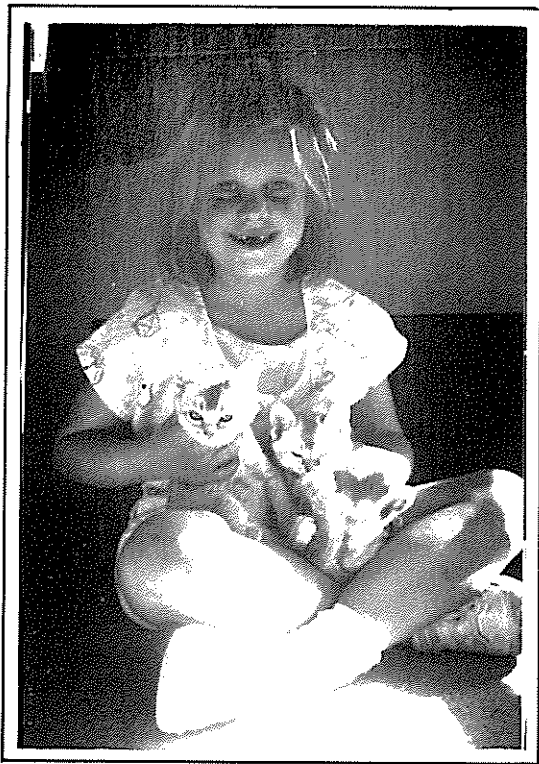
This delightful poem by noted English author (and cat lover) Kingsley Amis was written especially for an anthology of poetry for children.





### SALUTE TO THE SIAMESE

*The Siamese is intelligent, loyal, and extremely vocal! Its most unusual voice has a range of expression, and lets it communicate its needs very specifically. Some Siamese take happily to a collar and lead, and go out for walks. They enjoy company, but tend to be somewhat jealous. If you would be friends with the owner of a Siamese, first make friends with his cat!*






 Happiness is a little girl with kittens! This is 7-year-old Jessica Brown with Grace (left) and Coco. Jessica came with her parents to our "Picnic in the Gardens," and brought these delightful photos to share with members.

This is Coco, grown up. She loves to sleep in the gorgeous cradle originally intended for Jessica's dolls!
 



## ***Appointment of Administrator***

You already know Julie Gorrick as our creative editor and writer for "Cat Affairs." You may not have noticed on the list of office-bearers that Julie is also Secretary of the Society.

Now we have asked her to expand her responsibilities yet again, under the title of Administrator.

In this role, Julie will be working with Nance Iredale on the day to day running of welfare and financial administration.

Nance also wears two hats, of course, as Welfare Director and Honorary Treasurer. With Julie as back up when needed, we are confident that no emergency will be beyond the resources of this intrepid pair!

In fact, Nance already helps Julie with the proof reading of the magazine, and her duties as secretary, so it's a case of share and share alike.

They make a great team, and they're as delighted as we are that they'll be working even more closely together.

This is a very exciting and positive time in the history of the Society. Our move downstairs at 103 means we can cope efficiently with our present high volume of work, while looking with confidence to even more expansion in the future.

We are also enjoying a very positive relationship with The Australian Veterinary Association, and colleagues in other animal welfare agencies, together with a rapidly increasing membership.

I am sure each and everyone of us can be very proud to be part of The Cat Protection Society.

Lyn Thomas  
President

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## **Parklands Boarding Kennels**

**- We really care for cats**



*Shirley and Ron Butler offer a happy, caring environment for your animals, long or short term. You can leave them at Parklands with confidence*

- \* Separate runs
- \* Veterinary attention on hand
- \* Special diets catered for
- \* Pick up and delivery service
- \* Cuddles guaranteed

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Parklea.

Tel: 626 9333

# The Work of The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.

## Introduction

The following article was written for the journal of The Australian Veterinary Association, at the AVA's request, after a very cordial meeting between representatives of both groups.

We are reprinting it here for the benefit of newer members who may not know how the Society works. Naturally, if readers have any questions, we would also be delighted to hear from you.

There are several Cat Protection Societies in Australia, but each one is autonomous.

Our own Society was founded in Sydney in the late 1950's, by a small group of people concerned with the growing number of abandoned cats and kittens. In particular, they recognized that pensioners and others on low incomes needed financial help to have their animals desexed.

In the early years, the Society did not have premises. Volunteers operating from their own homes issued Desexing Vouchers to needy cat owners, working in cooperation with veterinarians prepared to desex at reduced rates. Where a person could not afford the reduced fee, the Society made up the shortfall or paid the whole amount.

In 1978, with the growth in membership, premises were purchased in Enmore and the Society was able to expand the scope of its work.

Today, we have four airconditioned vans and five trained Welfare officers. All of the vets who worked with us from the beginning are still with us, and more have been added.

The voucher system was discontinued some years ago. Now we work in three ways:

### 1. Pick Up and Delivery.

For people without transport, we pick up and deliver cats for desexing. They are taken to veterinarians in the afternoon, operated on and kept overnight. The following morning we take them back to their owners.

Vets send us a monthly account, and are paid promptly. The client also receives the card of the vet who performed the operation, which frequently leads to an ongoing relationship.

### 2. Referral.

For people who do not require a pick up service, we refer them to a vet in their own area who will offer a reduction on the usual fee for desexing. The exact amount of the fee is between the vet and the client. We do not receive any commission on these referrals.

### 3. Cats Into the Office.

Cat owners living in the inner city find it convenient to bring their animals to our office. We take them to vets in the afternoon, and bring them back to the office for collection the following morning.

Where we are responsible for taking animals to a vet, we charge a flat rate with a reduction for pensioners. Where necessary, we also offer time to pay or pay the whole amount ourselves.

We do not ask people to provide proof of low income when they come to us. We feel that would be demeaning. However, our entire experience over more than 30 years indicates that the majority of people who seek us out are genuine.

The suburbs we visit are generally "blue collar." The type of home clearly indicates that the occupants are on a limited budget.

Paradoxically, we find that it is the person without much money who often depends on a cat for companionship. This is especially so in the case of pensioners, who make up a large proportion of our clients.

These same people also give their cats the constant, loving care that may be missing in more salubrious homes. Their moggies are their friends, where many a blue blood is regarded as an ornament.

There are other sides to our work that should be briefly mentioned:

First, we actively encourage people to have their animals desexed, through literature, talks, personal contact. We are lobbying (as are other animal welfare groups) to have a Bill passed making it compulsory to register and desex cats.

Second, we do a great deal of trapping. We attend to reports of feral animals in hospitals, factories, parks and streets. Our Welfare officers are skilled in this difficult job, which is tiring, unpleasant, and sometimes dangerous.

It may be noted that we never trap a cat until we are convinced it is not owned. People who report a single stray in their back-yard are asked to canvass neighbours, put a notice in the paper, ring vets in the area and feed the animal for a few days before we are prepared to catch it.

Frequently there is no-one to assume responsibility for homeless cats, so we bear the cost of trapping ourselves, and also the euthanasia of the animals.

When healthy cats and kittens are surrendered to us, we try to find homes for as many as possible. Young kittens are wormed and immunised and older cats are immunised and desexed before going to our cattery for adoption.

Continued page 27

# Fascinating Cat Facts

By Dr Kim Kendall

## Food Preferences:

As mentioned in the last issue, cats develop their food preferences before 6 months of age. Any food they haven't sampled before then (and this includes texture as well as taste) is likely to be refused.

This helps with trying to prevent a cat from becoming a hunter. If she is weaned at 5-6 weeks of age (before her mum starts hunting lessons) and can be prevented from hunting until about a year old, it is unlikely she will teach herself to hunt as an adult.

However, this pretty much means that she will need to live an indoor existence for the first year. You have to admire the cat for her adaptability, even if you can't approve of the tenacity and success of the hunting instinct!

## Dark Places

Love of dark places is central to a cat's psyche... all cats, whether feral or domestic, love cardboard boxes!

## Sleepy Heads

All cats, of all sizes (including lions) spend most of their time - up to 85% - sleeping and resting between bouts of hunting and eating. This leads to the speculation that all the restfulness and peacefulness contributes to the relatively longer life expectancy of the cat over the dog.

## Social Affairs

Students of cat colonies have observed that cats show more socially cohesive behaviour - affection for each other - than aggression. In fact, aggression accounts for only 1% of social contacts. Just sitting quietly nearby another cat is a social communication, with the distance between cats varying according to their friendship with each other.

In other words, seating arrangements are not casual or random, but give a good pointer to the way cats feel about each other.

Interestingly, while cat relationships may vary with time and space, it's usual for most cats to give way to a matriach... they'll even back away from a food bowl with good grace!

Observers have also found that undomesticated cats penned together show much LESS aggression than when they encounter each other outside the common area. Apparently an audience of other cats inhibits aggressive acts. Perhaps in a cat-dominated world there would be neither boxing nor war.

## Owners' Attitudes

Surveys of cat owners show that 33% regard their pets as "Watch Cats," alerting their owners to noise. Also, cats are not regarded as aloof or unfriendly by their owners.

As cats have overtaken the dog in numbers, both in the USA and United Kingdom, perhaps we are tending towards the Islamic preference for cats above all animals. As we know, the cat was Mohammed's favourite creature.

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS

From Mrs Cherie Martin of Campsie:

Thank you for the excellent latest issue, it gets better and better.

I was particularly interested in your article about "Just Cats" by Fernand Mery. I have a copy of the first English edition published in 1957, and purchased in Melbourne for the large sum of 7/6d! The original was published in France as "Sa Majeste le Chat," and sold over 30,000 copies, while it was also published in America simultaneously with the English version. As you will see from the enclosed clippings, I used a quotation of Mery's when I produced the Society's newsletter from early 1971 to late 1974.

The picture in the "Name The Cat" contest is the image of my beloved Perkins. My daughter rescued him when he was abandoned at 4 months old, during the severely cold Easter of 1963. He was hungry, cold, wet, frightened and miserable, but grew into a lovely pet with whom we had 14 very happy years, until he had to be put to sleep in 1977 with incurable nasal cancer.

At approximately 6 years of age he experienced a change which our vet said was not unknown but was fairly unusual - he started to grow again, and his coat changed from being fairly coarse to fine and smooth. Has any other member had a similar experience with a cat changing like this?

**Ed's note:** Please write in if you've ever had a cat who starts to grow again after reaching adulthood, or whose coat has changed texture. I'd also appreciate it if any veterinarians reading the magazine would comment on this.



From Vicki Garrett of Erina:

I would like to add a few words to the tribute paid to Mrs Doris Jackson in the March issue of "Cat Affairs."

I first met Doris some 20 years ago when we worked together as volunteers at Gosford District Hospital, and we kept in touch until her death.

When she joined the then Cat Protection Society (Woy Woy Peninsula branch) she was not only its very capable Treasurer, but gave much time to caring lovingly for many stray cats and kittens.

This often involved getting up every four hours to feed tiny babies, but she never complained. She loved them all.

There must be many cats who owe their lives to Doris, including my own little forty. This one was about to be thrown into the sea when Doris intervened, and took it home for lots of her special T.L.C.

It was then only 6 weeks old, and is now 11 years.

Doris will indeed be sorely missed by all who knew her.



On April 1, we invited members and friends to meet for a picnic in the Botanical Gardens.

It was right in the middle of the rainy season, but-how lucky we were! — the day produced sunshine and soft breezes.



Part of the group at the picnic, with a glorious old Moreton Bay fig tree supplying beauty and shade.

About 50 people came altogether, including many new members. All generations were represented from grandparents to babies, and all enjoyed the fresh air, the colourful atmosphere of the gardens, and the chance to meet fellow cat devotees.

It was decided there and then that more functions should be organised, and suggestions included Bingo afternoons at our Enmore office, a Twilight Picnic when daylight savings return, and an Afternoon Tea Dance (complete with asparagus rolls and an old-time barn dance.)

If you are interested in any of these suggestions, or have some of your own, please get in touch with me soon. If there is enough interest indicated, I'll organise something to be announced in the journal that comes out in September.

— Editor



Members of State Council who came to the picnic were (from the left) Jo Tomkin, Beverley Walsh, Nance Iredale, Shirley Pikler, Stephanie Forsyth and Lena Larsen. Julie Gorrick is in the centre of the group.

## KEEP THESE 'PHONE NUMBERS HANDY

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

### 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.



# Always Remembered

*IN MEMORIAM, in lieu of flowers:  
Herbert and Gwen Thompson.*

*You will always be remembered  
with love and affection.*

Gordon and Sybil.

*In memory of our darling kit, who was so "naughty,"  
but faithful to us for 15 years.*

*Died 23/3/90 at our home.*

S, B, L and C Jacques, and Guinea and Penny

*A donation in memory of my beautiful tabby cat  
Thomas, who died on February 11, 1987.*

*The years roll by but the memories remain.*

Jill Hamill

*Loving memories always of my  
dearest Misty,  
put to sleep in 1989*

Margery Paul

*In memory of my little Siamese Sunny,  
whose blue eyes warmed our lives and enlightened  
our hearts. We miss you and will never forget you.*

Love Pauline and Family

*No more do sunlit corners know  
Your furry selves  
Where once, white whiskers twitched  
At the touch of grass, or a daffodil.  
And the night breezes stirred fern fronds,  
And where, seeing all (but unseen)  
You sat thinking of younger years, quick mice,  
Flying birds, leaves that fluttered beyond  
Your reach. Vale old friends.*

*Tabitha Twitchett 1955-1964  
Perkins 1963-1977  
Kitypuss 1964-1974  
Simon 1968-1977*

*They walk in night-time's darkest hour,  
Living grace, feline power  
Whiskers twitch, eyes alert  
Velvet paws on soft brown dirt.  
Silky coat, keenest eye  
Lord of all that passes by.*

*Ever remembered by C. Martin*

*In memory of Helen Tyers, who died 10 years ago, in  
May 1980.*

*Remembering with love all the work for animals she  
did in her lifetime.*

Patricia Healey

The following poem is by member Gretta Fletcher.

Gretta said, "I wrote this poem for my sister's cat, Sparkie, who died last February aged 11 years. She was a lovely bronze and black striped tabby.

During my stays with my sister, Sparkie would spend every night on my bed. She greeted me with much affection, and is sadly missed."

## SPARKIE, A BELOVED CAT

*To say I knew you well would be a lie,  
But know you I did - you brightened up my sky.*

*Morning found you sitting on my bed,  
My fingers reached, and touched your velvet head.*

*Your golden eyes then narrowed in the morning sun,  
You arched your back - your day had well begun.*

*I will remember, Sparkie my lovely feline friend,  
The pleasure you gave till my stay came to an end.*

*I wish I had known you through all your years,  
I see you now through a veil of tears.*

*The sands of time run on, but you will always be  
A precious treasure in my memory.*

- Gretta Fletcher, 1989

*My little love - forgive me  
Part of my life for 17 years -  
A heart breaks little by little -  
But sometimes it breaks right across  
and never mends. Little Grey Shadow -  
Stay with me still, I love you so.  
We will meet again, dearest child.  
Forgive me, forgive me - was I right?*

*In most loving memory of Sappho, 1963-1980.*

*Madeline.*

*In loving memory of Patches, our mate and friend who  
gave us 17 years of happiness, and passed away  
peacefully on February 13. Dearly loved, and will always  
be remembered by*

*Joan and Cam Connor*

*I shall walk in the sun alone - whose golden  
light you loved,*

*I shall sleep alone, and stirring,  
touch an empty place.*

*I shall write uninterrupted (would that a gentle  
paw could stay my moving pen, just once again)*

*I shall see beauty - but none to match your  
living grace.*

*I shall hear music - but not so sweet as the  
droning song with which you loved me.*

*I shall fill my days - but I shall not,  
cannot forget.*

*Sleep soft dear friend, for while I love,  
you shall not die.*

- M. Parker

# Hi... I'm Bert the Flirt!

(Composed by myself, with a little help with the typing from Win Leopold).

Not a bad looking Moggie, am I? Note the alert expression - I have brains, I can tell you!

My owner says I am pretty, but what self respecting male cat would like that description. I know that despite what's referred to as "my op", I'm going to grow up into a big, bad macho chap.

Of course, at the moment I'm quite small. I took over this family when I was only a baby, in fact. I was at the Enmore office when Win saw me, and I put on quite a good show for her. So much so that she brought her husband in to see me.

Well, I sensed in a flash that he was the deciding factor, and so I gave him the works... climbing all over him, running around his neck, perching on his shoulder and so on. I had him hooked in no time!



Yes of course, they took me home, and I must say I quite liked the place.. Plenty to eat and drink, including chicken, fish and (yuk) vegetables. I also had a nice, warm box to sleep in, and a fur monkey to play with. I cuddled up to him at night, because he felt a little bit like my Mum. But as I got older I decided cuddling up to monkey spoiled my macho image, so I tore him to pieces!

I loved the stairs in that home. I used to poke my head through the banisters and look down on the world. It was a great spot for watching comings and goings, because I could see the front door and note all the visitors. I felt safe up the stairs too. If I heard the dog outside, I'd be up and off in a flash!

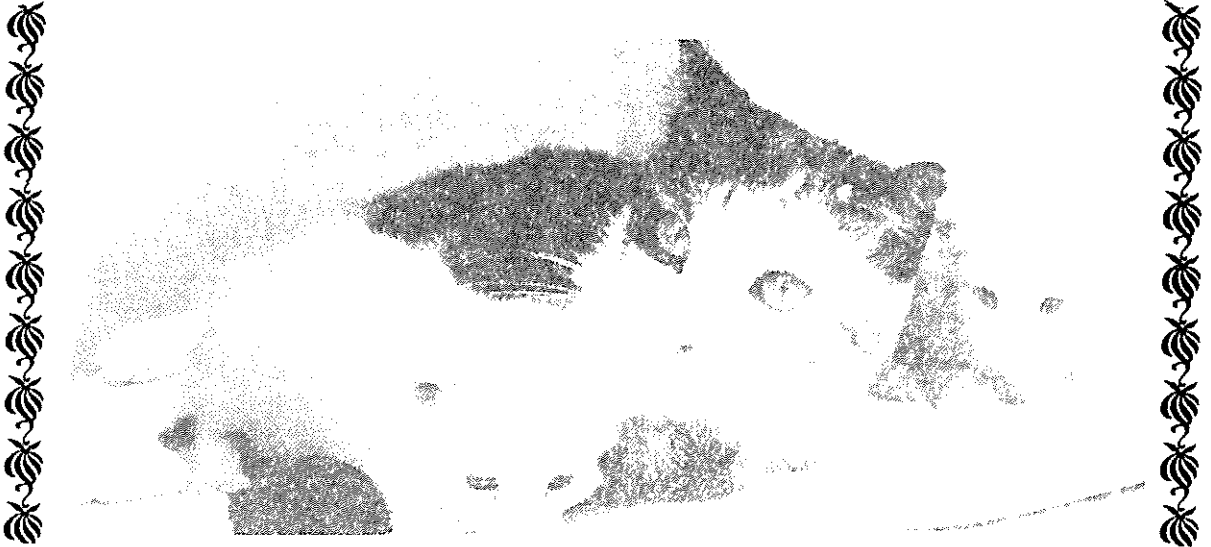
Now we've moved to another place. It was a frightening experience. People came and went all the time, and there were boxes everywhere. They were fun, because I could climb in and out of them, but I knew something was happening. I didn't feel safe on the stairs any more, all my snug hidey holes were gone.

You know, they were really worried about me. They gave me extra cuddles and talked to me all the time. They told me all about the new place, and how it had a big garden to play in and trees to climb. They said I wouldn't miss the stairs, and I would be happier than ever.

So I'm writing this from the new place. I haven't quite got used to it yet, but they're here with me, and I know it will be all right. After all, a macho chap like me can take anything in his stride.

When I settle in properly, I might tell you all about it. Anyway, cheers for now.

From Bert.



## Cat swims for her life

This pretty tortoiseshell cat, shown with her two kittens, is a remarkable survivor.

She was plucked from the sea in Queensland by a sailor last January, far from the coast.

A veterinarian at the RSPCA estimated she had been swimming for about six hours, as her paws were stripped

of skin by the salt water. It was believed she had been deliberately thrown into the sea from a boat.

In addition, the little cat was pregnant.

Since then, she has given birth to a litter of kittens. Three were stillborn because of her ordeal. The others have been adopted, and the brave cat has also found a new owner among the staff of the RSPCA.

If only all acts of courage and endurance could have a happy ending. We salute you, little swimmer.

# An Experiment in Urban Cat Control

## Introduction:

All cat lovers are concerned about the problem of stray cats.

In Britain, many colonies of feral cats have been controlled using the technique of trapping, neutering, and returning a desired number of cats to a supervised site.

The following article discusses an experiment carried out at the request of Wandsworth Borough Council in London. The author is Peter Neville.

I have shortened it somewhat, but it gives all the salient information.

I am sure you will find the article interesting, though you may not agree with some aspects of the programme and will certainly be left with many questions about it.

Please let me have your opinions, and I'll publish them in the next issue of the magazine.

- Editor

## The Site of the Problems

About 20 cats were living in a basement level garage area on a large housing estate of blocks of flats. The garages suffered badly from vandalism, and few were used to house roadworthy vehicles, though many contained abandoned cars and wrecks. The site was similar to many others adopted by feral cat colonies in London.

Shelter and protection was provided by the garages. More importantly, the cats were being fed by people in the area on a regular basis. It was therefore possible to recommend that the colony could be successfully controlled by a neutering scheme, as the long-term welfare of the cats seemed to be assured.

The need for control had arisen because of complaints to the Council by local residents who felt there were too many cats. The strong smell of tom cat urine was naturally offensive to people still using the garage to park

their cars; other residents were being disturbed at night by caterwauling and fighting. Local cat lovers had also called for Council action to alleviate the suffering of the many sick kittens which are often present in feral cat colonies.

## The Cat Feeders

The kind hearted people who feed feral cats are usually devoted to what they regard as their own animals, and will brook little criticism or interference. But if care is taken to explain a neutering scheme fully, most cat feeders are cooperative, and willing to provide valuable information about the cats' behaviour and habits. Without such assistance, most neutering schemes could not be successful.



## Catching the Cats

Cats were caught during six trapping sessions over a three month period. Sessions were arranged to coincide with the cats' normal feeding times. To ensure the cats would be hungry and would enter the baited traps, the feeders were asked not to give food in the preceding 24 hours.

After trapping, thorough searches were made of the area and any litters of kittens removed, then assessed for adoption or destruction. Trapping the colony and searching for kittens took up a total of about 20 hours.

## AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Your Councillors are pleased to announce that the Welfare Section will soon be relocated on the ground floor of our premises at 103 Enmore Road, Enmore.

For the past 12 years, the ground level has been occupied by the Opportunity Shop, with Welfare above.

This has meant that clients have had to carry their cats through the shop, and up two flights of stairs to the office.

It has also meant that our Welfare Officers have had to make many trips a day up and down stairs, transporting animals to and from the ambulances.

For a long time, Council has recognized that coping with the stairs is a burden for both clients and staff. The potential for a serious accident has always been there.

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In addition, there has always been the danger of cats escaping from dropped containers, or themselves being injured. In the interests of animal as well as human safety, we could not allow the situation to continue.

So, to put it in a nutshell, the Opportunity Shop is moving to new quarters at 87 Enmore Road, and Welfare is relocating to the ground level of 103.

Being downstairs means that we can do all the things we should be doing: We can advertise precise hours when welfare is open to receive cats and advise clients. We can accept animals over the counter, with no stairs to negotiate. We can take them easily to ambulances parked at the rear. We have street exposure that will increase the number of people aware of the Society and its work.





## Veterinary Treatment

Surgery was carried out about three hours after trapping. Most cats had empty stomachs, not having been fed for 24 hours, and this helped ensure safe anaesthesia for surgery.

Each cat received standard treatment as follows:

1. **Neutering.** Females were stitched up using soluble chromic cat gut, which is absorbed by the body and does not require later removal.
2. **Ear Tipping.** A 1cm tip from the left ear was removed to permanently identify the cat as neutered. The cut edge of the ear was cauterised to prevent risk of infection.
3. Antibiotics were administered to counter post-operative infection.
4. Antiparasite treatment was given: anti-tapeworm injection, anti-flea spray, and inspection for ear mites.
5. **General:** Any cuts or wounds were treated, and ears, eyes and nose were cleaned if necessary.

Although many veterinary surgeons offer some reduction in fees for neutering feral cats, it is usually necessary to contact several to discover the most flexible as well as the most reasonable. Cat control schemes make many demands over and above normal veterinary practice commitments, and these must always be explained and discussed before the scheme commences.

## Convalescence:

Following surgery, cats were placed on clean newspapers in cages, and left in a quiet, warm room to recover from the anaesthetic. The cats were inspected frequently to monitor their recovery. Once alert, water was provided. All cats were held overnight, and if fully recovered, males were returned to the site the following morning. Females were also released the following morning if they were fully alert.

When released on site, all cats immediately ran for cover,

showing no signs of discomfort or disability from their operations. Subsequent observation has shown the cats to be in good health, and none have been seen with infections either at the site of surgery or along the cut edge of the tipped ear.

A total of 17 adult cats were trapped, neutered and returned to site. This was five more than originally intended, as it was agreed that a slightly larger population would be even more likely to deter new cats from straying into the colony.

## Maintenance of the Colony

The Housing Department of Wandsworth Council donated one of the better disused garages at the site to be converted into a feeding and sleeping area for the cats. Padlocks and chains were also provided, and the keys given to the cat feeders.

The garage was first thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and doors and windows secured to prevent interference from vandals. A hole was cut in one of the doors to allow the cats easy access when the doors are closed. Washable mats were placed on the floor, and food and water bowls provided. Several tea chests were raised from the floor on bricks to provide sleeping boxes.

The cats will receive worm tablets crushed up in their food every six months. The feeders sweep and clean the area weekly, and improved standards of hygiene are already in evidence.

The feeders were pleased to have their contribution recognised, and the cats soon became used to being fed there. Many use the boxes to sleep in. Several local residents have expressed their approval of the neutering scheme, and only one failed to see advantages and felt the cats should have been destroyed.

As neutered cats age or die, new cats will gradually join the colony and will require catching and neutering. Maintenance costs and feeding of the colony are borne by feeders.

## ENT FROM STATE COUNCIL

We are also taking the opportunity of painting the ground floor, so it has a clean, fresh look, and in general, providing an environment that is in keeping with the professional way that we have always operated.

At the same time, the Opportunity Shop will have new lighting, counters and shelving at No 87, designed to make their own activities smooth functioning and contribute to a happy atmosphere for customers and volunteers.

As they will also be operating on one level, they won't have to negotiate stairs with heavy bundles of clothing. The risk associated with stairs has concerned the Auxiliary members as well as Welfare staff and clients.

It should be noted that before taking the decision to move Welfare downstairs, we canvassed the possibility of leaving the Op Shop at 103 and renting ground floor premises for Welfare.

However, this posed two major problems. First, we would have to find a landlord who would agree to keep cats on his premises during the day. Second, we would also have to obtain Council approval for keeping cats at the new location.

Our enquiries showed that these problems were virtually insurmountable. Hence, the course we have taken.

We feel sure you will be delighted by the move, and agree that it was necessary to ensure the main concern of our Society ... the ongoing welfare of cats.

# AUXILIARY NEWS

By Sybil Cozens

## We are moving the Op Shop.

There, I knew that would catch your eye.

For some years the Welfare Section has been working under difficulties, and the Op Shop very much so, by having the two operations in the one building.

Now the Op Shop is moving just eight doors along, on the same side towards Newtown Station. It is smaller, but will be easier to run.

The renovator is busy putting in shelving and counter at the present time, and it promises to look very smart. Perhaps I can prevail on someone with a camera to take some snaps for the next issue?

Sadly, I didn't get much response to my appeal in the last journal for more volunteers for the Op Shop, but the present workers have been marvelous, trebling and even quadrupling their days per month. There can be no greater love in the cause of cats.

Thank you.

## Len Bowman

Nice to catch up with you again Len, and a special cheerio to you from all of us at the Op Shop. Readers, you may remember that Nancy, Lena, Shirley and I visited Len some time ago to find a lovely light lunch organised by two of the nurses.

Accompanied by Len, we all had a look through the establishment, strolled through the beautiful gardens, and made friends with the Nursing Home Cat.

Many thanks girls, you are very special people.

## Bouquets

I try to give a special bouquet every journal to one of the many people who do something special for the shop.

This time, it is to that beautiful knitter of gorgeous, two-colour fluted tea cosies that regularly appear. Many of the helpers and backroom girls have bought them, they are truly works of art.

Another bouquet to our elderly lady in Maroubra Junction (she's 90 years plus!) who has been supplying Jo for her past stall, and the future one in June, with dressed dolls etc. Shows age is only a number, doesn't it.

\*\*\*\*\*

And finally, elsewhere in the journal, you will see an article by our great little helper Hilda York, telling how she enjoys working in the Op Shop. Do read it, it may inspire you to join us! It really is fun, and opens up a whole world of new experiences.

Ring Jo Tomkin on 713 8576 for details.

## Vale Herbert and Gwen Thompson

With great sadness I write of the deaths of Herbert and Gwen. Some of you may remember Herbert from the many paintings he did, and gave to the Op Shop over the years.

Gordon and I met them through Gordon's sister and her friends in the Flora and Fauna Society some years back along the track. A firm friendship was formed, and because of their inability to come to Sydney we used to make regular all-day trips to Leura, where they eventually settled.

Before moving to Leura they toured Australia in their caravan, taking all their cats with them. Herbert painted all along the way.

We had many interesting lunch hours listening to their tales and experiences. Gwen often had poems published in our journal. Our visits always resulted in the boot of the car filled with "goodies" for the Op Shop.

On behalf of the Auxiliary I extend to their two sons and their daughter and families our sincere sympathy. For us personally, Leura will never be the same.

- Sybil and Gordon Cozens



## Our Compliments to The Animal Welfare League

Recently, our Welfare Director Nance Iredale took me out to the NSW Animal Welfare League at Hoxton Park. Nance wanted to say hello to old friends on the staff, and I was interested to see the premises of the organisation for which I already had great respect.

To put it plainly, I was greatly impressed. All the little details showed the professional way in which the League operates.

The lawns were mowed, the edges trimmed, the flower beds were glowing with colour. Attendants were in trim navy overalls, with shady straw hats for sun protection - a precaution insisted on by Secretary Mr Fred Price. Horses had shade trees in their enclosure, and dogs and puppies were being exercised. As you know, the League cares for all animals, but it's natural that we were especially interested in cats. And here too the details showed the quality of care. Some enclosures had little sun verandahs. There were branches for climbing and pillows for snoozing. Some of the pillows had bright crocheted covers pretty enough to grace Victorian style homes!

On a practical level, all enclosures were clean and fresh smelling, which is a sure indication of strict management guidelines and the care taken by attendants.

Many of our own members are also members of The Animal Welfare League, and we are delighted to put on record our respect for the fine work of a sister Society.

- Editor.

# SPECIAL OFFER



## A fridge magnet featuring your own cat!

We thank Penny Ferguson, one of our long-time members, for suggesting this wonderful idea: Just send us a photo of your cat, and we will turn it into a handy magnet for your refrigerator door.

Penny made us the example you see here. It is the exact size, so will be a helpful guide in choosing the photo for reproduction.

You might like to feature the whole cat, or a close up of its pretty face. Just be sure, that when the photo is centered in the magnet, you won't lose important features of the cat ... ie, its ears won't fit!

You can send as many photos as you wish. It would be a lovely surprise for friends (perhaps for Christmas or birthdays) to transform photos of their pets into magnets

### MOST IMPORTANT:

Make sure to pencil your name and address on the back of each photo.

THE COST OF EACH MAGNET IS \$3.50, which includes postage. There may be a delay of up to 4 weeks, as we have to hire the equipment and set up volunteer working bees to produce the magnets. Please be patient, we will turn them out as quickly as possible.

The following order form should be included with your photos and cheque or money order.

-----  
To Fridge Magnets,  
The Cat Protection Society of NSW,  
103 Enmore Road, Enmore, 2042



I am enclosing                      photos to be made into fridge magnets.

I understand the cost of each magnet is \$3.50, and am enclosing a cheque/money order for the total amount of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have pencilled my name and address on the back of each photo, and also include it below for your records:

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: ..... Phone Number: .....

# Stop that Scratching!



Outdoors, a tree is a natural scratching post

It's natural to get annoyed when your cat scratches the furniture, but it may be some consolation to know that-as far as the cat is concerned, anyway - this is not "naughty" behaviour.

It's actually essential for a cat to scratch, for two reasons. First, cats need to keep their claws sharp by removing loose scales. It's an inbuilt biological drive, and the technical term for it is "stropping"

Second, scratching is a way of marking territory. When a cat scratches an object, scents from glands in the foot pads are also deposited. (Undesexed males often follow up by squirting over the spot, just to make sure intruders get the message.)

Some cats are content to scratch trees, posts and fences in the garden; without access to natural scratching areas, it's fairly understandable that they pick on the furniture. An indoor cat still has the urge to mark his territory, and still needs to sharpen his claws. And of course, many cats scratch indoors as well as outside.

## A few suggestions.

What's the answer?

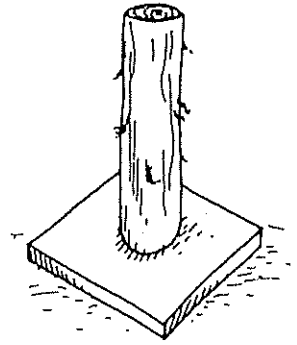
Do you simply give up? Some cat lovers do and resign themselves to living with shredded upholstery. Is there any deterrent that really works?

Well, being realistic, if a cat has got into the habit of scratching furniture it's going to be very difficult to break the habit. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't try. The first suggestion is a scratching post. The kind covered with carpet is widely sold, but after scratching carpet on the post, your cat may assume that all carpet is fair game, and attack your floors as well as the post.

Probably the best scratching post is a length of tree trunk mounted on a heavy base. You may have to ask a handyperson to make this up for you.

Cats also like scratching tough sisal matting, the kind used to cover floors. You can buy half a metre of this, attach a handle at one end, and hang it on the back of a door. Even easier, buy a rope or sisal floor mat, make two holes at one end for the handle, and hang this up. A little dried catnip rubbed into the mat will offer some encouragement to your cat to try the new device.

To induce a kitten to try a scratching post or mat, sit kitty in front of it, and gently show him how to scratch with his front paws. If you're lucky, your kitten will quickly catch on, and grow up using his post instead of furniture.



Indoors, a piece of tree trunk is effective.

If the post or mat fails to attract, there are still a few tricks up your sleeve! They may not be aesthetically appealing, but anything is worth trying to break the scratching habit on valued furniture.

First, cats tend to shy away from the smell of mothballs, so you can scatter a few of these on and around furniture that is off limits. Fresh orange peel is also a deterrent, and so is strong perfume sprayed on furniture.

However, be extremely cautious with the use of commercial deterrents. Read the label carefully before using one, follow the instructions to the letter, and watch your cat for any adverse reactions.

If your cat has a favourite armrest or spot on the sofa that is constantly singled out for attack, try covering it with thick, clear plastic (tape it on with strong packaging tape.) Another idea is to attach strips of tape with the sticky side facing out. Of course, you have to take care not to lean against the tape yourself!

One of our Welfare Officers swears by the water pistol method. She crouches behind the sofa with a loaded water pistol when she thinks the cat is likely to attack and gives a couple of quick squirts when he starts scratching. Then she takes him to the scratching post, and shows him what good fun this is.

Another believes in the efficacy of a firm tone of voice...just a very angry "NO!" at the first sign of scratching, and the prompt removal of the cat. She has one chair which is the cat's own territory, and where he is free to scratch at will. The rest of the furniture is taboo.

Trimming the cat's nails may also suffice to discourage scratching. Don't do this with scissors, as you may shred and splinter the claws. Use nail clippers, and in the first instance go to your vet and let her show you how to do it. It is only necessary to snip off the very tip of each claw, but there is a technique to it, and you shouldn't try until you've had a demonstration and feel confident. It can be very painful for the cat if you cut into the quick.

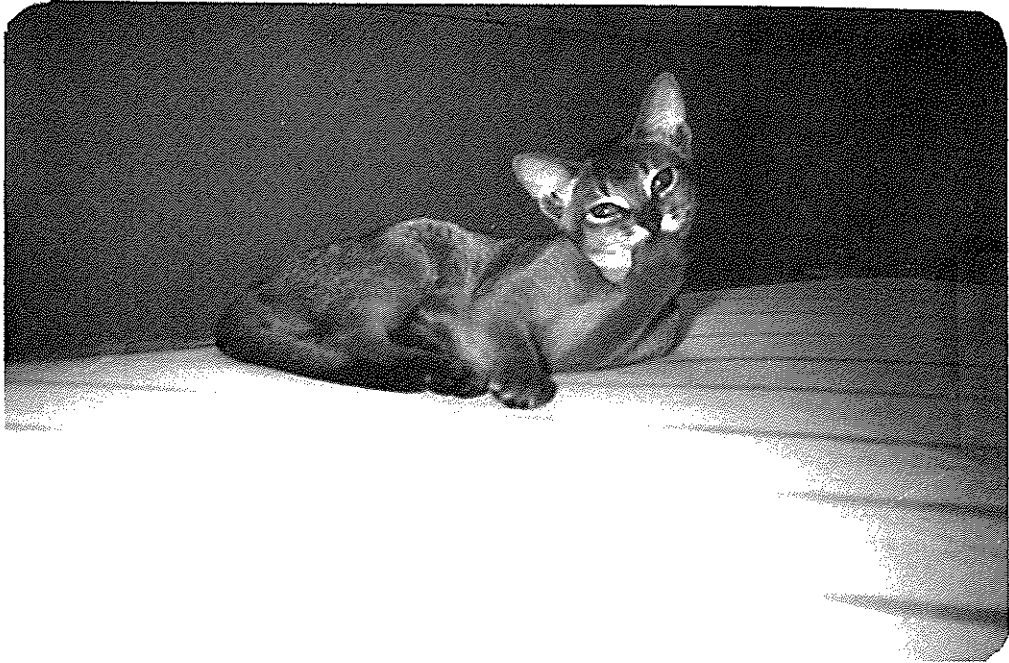
Incidentally, I mentioned at the beginning of this article that a cat's scratching motion is called "stropping." As this is usually done with a great show of aggression, I guess this is where the phrase "don't be so stroppy!" originated.

So when you say it to your cat, it's fun to know it has such an appropriate double meaning.

— Editor

## Would you say I'm irresistible?

Of course, the answer is yes! This adorable Abyssinian kitten is Tilly, who brightens the life of one of our Welfare Officers, Janelle Wardle. Janelle says Tilly's nature is as sweet as her pretty face.



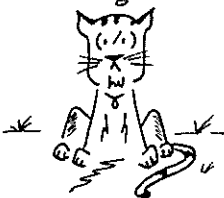
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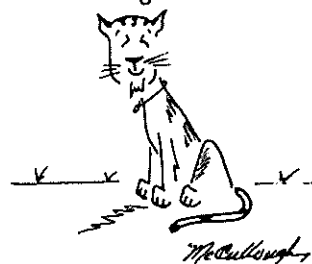
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DARN! MISSED  
MY NAP.



SLEPT RIGHT  
THROUGH IT.



# THE QUESTION OF VACCINATION...

A vital article for all cat owners



By Dr Kim Kendall

Cat vaccination is a bit of a vexed question, mainly because flu vaccination is not 100% effective - due to a peculiarity of cat-virus interaction, not due to vaccine quality.

There is no doubt about the value of enteritis vaccination, as it is rapidly and completely effective, particularly the "live" as opposed to the "killed" vaccine - but this is a technical area I won't go into.

Vaccination programmes can be divided into those for kittens and those for adults, so I will describe them separately:

Kittens cannot be considered to be able to respond reliably to vaccination until they are 12 weeks old. However, they can be susceptible to disease from 5-6 weeks old depending on how much protection their mother gave them in her milk.

Add to these factors that vaccinations need to be 3 to 4 weeks apart to be effective in increasing the kitten's protection, and you can see how a large assortment of vaccination programmes can be devised.

Basic enteritis and flu vaccination ages, therefore, can be considered to be at weaning (6-8 weeks), then 3-4 weeks later, with the final vaccination at 12 weeks or older. Sometimes vets will advise an extra flu vaccination at 16 weeks old, depending on the recommendation of the manufacturer of the vaccine.



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*References happily provided.  
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**RICHARD DURANT**

*Proprietor*

Enteritis vaccination is essential, as the disease can kill a kitten in 12 hours, and treatment can only be supportive. If the virus has done enough damage, the kitten (or adult, for that matter) will die regardless of therapy.

However, with flu I always vaccinate kittens against it at the same time as enteritis, as it fits easily into the programme. My rationale is that even though vaccination is not 100% effective in preventing the cat from getting flu, or even from becoming a flu carrier, it does reduce the disease from being life threatening, especially for kittens, to being only unpleasant and of short duration.

From the point of view of someone seeing sick cats, anything which reduces the length and degree of their suffering is worthwhile. In addition, vets say that there are considerably fewer cases of cat flu around now that the vaccine is available and widely used.

Adult vaccination is slightly more complex. If the cat has survived to adulthood, it has probably already survived contact with feline enteritis. Theoretically, it wouldn't need vaccination, but as feline enteritis can kill so quickly, I wouldn't like to take the chance. Prevention is so easy.

With regard to flu, in all likelihood the cat has had contact with one or both viruses, and is possibly even a carrier, especially if it has been regularly in contact with other cats. Vaccination at this point will not do anything about the carrier state, but if done when the cat is healthy, or between bouts of flu, it will help to decrease the severity and duration of symptoms when it strikes.

This leads to the adult vaccination programme of two injections against flu and enteritis 3 to 4 weeks apart. Thereafter, an annual booster maintains the protection.

Is it VITAL to protect your cat in this way? Again, it depends. If your cat never, EVER goes out, and you yourself never, EVER touch another cat, then your cat will not get flu, and so immunization and boosters against it are of no value until PRIOR to contact with cats again (boarding, visiting etc.)

Enteritis vaccination is essential every 2 to 3 years, as it is more robust in the environment, and will travel into your home even in "the dust on your shoes."

In the case of an isolated cat, therefore, flu vaccination can be waived. However, very few cats never EVER have contact with another cat - including indirectly, via their owner or other humans. Hence, I recommend flu immunization for all cats, as I have seen cats who "never got out" suffering severely with flu.

Can you be sure about your friend? In addition, the annual booster is an opportunity for your vet to check your cat's general health on a regular basis.

So, in summary, to the question "What vaccinations would I give my own cat?" my answer is - full immunization against flu and enteritis, and annual boosters for both.

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**catacomb:** beauty salon for felines

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# INTRODUCING MISTY...

By Kitty Jenkins

My hubby and I have belonged to Misty for nine years now, and it has been a very happy time. Whoever could be owned by one of God's beautiful creatures, a puss cat, and not feel love, peace and contentment?

Misty's sire was a big cat, I believe a British Cream ... a most unusual fellow without a mark on his all-cream coat. But as you see, Misty has only a few splashes of cream, and tends towards her mother, who is all silver grey with just a few darker markings.

When we brought our new kitten home we took her to the vet for her shots etc., and were delighted at how quickly she settled in, and how playful she was. As she grew up her coat thickened and she shed fur everywhere. So much so, that in later years our vet suggested "shearing" her! This amused us, as we were living in sheep country.

However, come the warm weather we decided to follow the vet's advice and have her "shorn" for comfort's sake. This meant an overnight stay with the vet and her husband, both of whom specialise in cats and love them.

Well, the next day we called for Misty and what a sight she was! Completely naked, except for a furry head and paws! We couldn't help laughing, but we shouldn't have, because she looked so hurt and unsure of herself. So we had to fuss over her for days, but at least she had a cool summer that year.

Now we live in Queensland she feels the heat more than ever. So my hubby and I brush and comb all her woolly hair away, and she smooches around us afterwards as if to say, "Thanks, that feels much more comfortable."

Like most cats, Misty is very clever at talking to us with her eyes, through body language, and the different variations of "Miaow." She also knows what we say to her. She keeps a close eye on what I'm doing at all times, and when she thinks I'm deeply engrossed in something, she heads for a bedroom to take a nap. If I catch her in the act and say, "Not on the bed, Misty," she sedately walks off in another direction, with an innocent expression that means, "I wasn't heading for the bed, I was just tricking you."

## Little cat

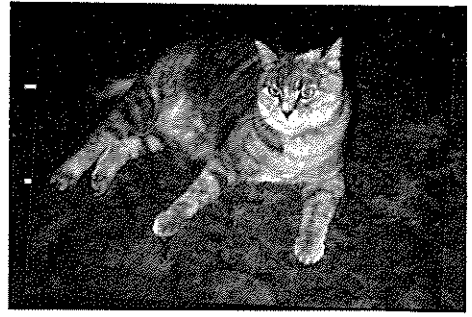
Oh, little cat with the yellow eyes,  
Enthroned upon my garden gate,  
Remote, impassive and sedate,  
And so unutterably wise.

You seem to watch a world that lies  
Behind us - where the shadows wait.  
Oh, little cat with the yellow eyes,  
Enthroned upon my garden gate!

Where visions of the past arise,  
Of honoured dust and royal state,  
And Pharaohs bowed to call you great.

Or are you merely spotting flies,  
Oh, little cat with yellow eyes?

Helen Vaughan Williams.



Misty enjoys a variety of food, but especially meat. When I'm preparing meat in the kitchen she arrives like magic, miaowing pathetically as if she hasn't been fed for weeks. Of course, she ends up with a nice saucer of chopped steak or mince, which is gone in seconds!

She also likes to sit between us when we're having our evening meal, and begs for a tidbit from our plates. Now, I know this is a bad habit, but when you are old like us, you tend to unbend and spoil your darling cat. And would you believe, she will even eat curry, as long as it comes off our plates!

She is truly the Queen of our home. Yes, we have a dog as well, but he also submits to Misty as the superior being.

Oh, I could go on and on about her... she brings such joy that I keep on thinking, "How does anyone live without a cat?"

That is why I love the Society magazines. I read them over again from time to time. They bring a lot of laughter, and a few tears for the sad parts. Most of all, they bring a sense of sharing, that so many people are reacting in the same way to our beautiful feline friends.

Just a point of interest - I also have a copy of Fernand Mery's "Just Cats," and yes, I do believe the story of the Dog Who Saved the Kittens. Surely no-one could dream that up!

And finally, here's a question and answer other readers might enjoy.

Q: What is the tiniest sound in all the world?

A: A kitten walking across a furry rug!

Now I must go ... it's teatime, and Misty is waiting.

## The right spot for a cat...

A game for children by Margaret Oag

Can you make these letters into words by adding  
C A T in the right spots?

There are some clues to help you.

- O An article of clothing.
- CH What a cat wants to do when it sees a mouse
- ROON A type of drawing or funny picture... Felix and Garfield are examples.
- RON A cardboard box (cats like to play in them)
- NIP A plant that some cats enjoy smelling
- PEROLE A way of making delicious coffee

Answers are on page. 25 **Cat Affairs 23**



# SHORT REPORTS

## ***Dr Kim Kendall, MACVS***

The Cat Protection Society wishes to congratulate contributor Kim Kendall on her recent membership of The Australian College of Veterinary Science in feline medicine.

Readers will be interested to know, however, that Kim has interests other than academic - including belly dancing and flying!

Coupled with a great sense of humour, and a passionate devotion to cats, Kim's well rounded lifestyle makes her an entertaining companion as well as a dedicated vet.

## ***"Rivendell"... A place to remember.***

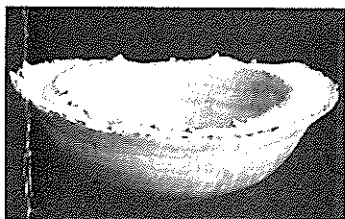
Visitors to the Canberra area may have visited a fascinating complex called Gininderra Village, where CPS member Pam St Clair had a shop specialising in "catty" items. Not only that, Pam and her husband Mike cared for a host of cats that had made the village their home.

Now, for health reasons, Pam has closed the cat shop at Gininderra. Instead, she and Mike have moved to "Rivendell," where Pam is concentrating on silk painting and textile design, and Mike is fashioning beautiful and functional objects from Australian timber.

Pam has written to assure us, however, that Gininderra cats are hale and hearty. She has taken them all to Rivendell with her, nine in all, and they've settled in beautifully.

If you would like to visit Pam and Mike at their new home, the full address is "Rivendell," Oakey Creek Road, via Hall, Canberra, and the 'phone number is (06) 230 2352. Mention that you're a fellow CPS member, and you're sure of the warmest welcome from this creative couple - and their nine companions!

You'll also have the chance to see, and buy if you wish, unique examples of Australian craftsmanship.



**A bowl fashioned from Red River Gum,  
by Mike St. Clair.**

## ***"Name the Tabby" Winner***

The winner of our contest is Erica Mann of Coogee with her entry

IRVING PURRLIN

We think this is a cute play on words - "Purrlin," of course, is feline talk for the composer Berlin. The name is suitable for a cat who loves music, and even Irving by itself is quite a good name.

Second prize goes to Pattie and David Briancourt of South Hurstville for "Opus" - again, a clever play on words.

Thanks to all who entered, and we will be having another contest in a future issue.

## ***Memories... Memories... With Thanks to Foundation Member Beulah Harvey.***

In a past magazine we talked about a meeting with foundation member Agnes Gillam.

Now we have had a fascinating chat with another foundation member, Beulah Harvey, who is so well known to a great many within the Society.

Beulah remembers well the occasion when the Society was born, back in the late 50's.

Ten cat lovers met at Cahill's Coffee Shop in Martin Place. Beulah recalls it cost 1/6d each for afternoon tea, then they all put in 10/- each and banked five pounds in The Commonwealth Bank at Bondi Junction.

The name of the Society was thought up by Mary Kay Cooper. Inaugural meetings were held in Mary's home, then at the rooms of The Countrywomen's Association in Pitt Street, then at the YWCA in Liverpool street. The annual membership fee was 10/-.

Rescuing sick cats was a labour of love in the early days, with all the work done by volunteers. There were many strays concentrated around Central Station, and these were taken to the RSPCA, which was then situated nearby.

Beulah mentioned the names of some of the earliest supporters, among them Mr Dudley Roberts, Mrs Nell Sheldon, Mr John Holland and Miss Dorothea Dullo, who has remained to this day a staunch and caring member of the Society.

Fund raising activities were important, with members running street stalls and raffles, and membership and activities expanded under the Presidency of Mr Ron Carberry, who was a past President of the RSPCA.

We thank Beulah for giving us these insights. The Society's success had its roots in the vision and dedication of devoted cat lovers, and so it continues today.



## **The Association for Humane Research offers support to University students.**

For those of you who don't know what this organisation does, here are its aims:

. To promote by every means possible all viable methods of healing which do not at any stage involve the use of animals.

. To promote the use of scientific alternatives to animals in all forms of medical, scientific and commercial research.

. To help disseminate evidence, as it becomes available, that the use of alternatives is less costly, more accurate and more humane than the use of animals in experiments

. To work for the eventual phasing out of all experiments using animals.

In its March newsletter, the group offered to provide support to University students who also object to experimenting on animals.

It said it would supply free posters, literature and badges, and give advice, when requested, on ways to work towards the use of alternatives to animal experimentation.

If you or colleagues/neighbours/friends are interested in finding out more about this service, you can contact the Association on 360 1144.

We would add that The Cat Protection Society realizes there are many sides to the question of animal experimentation, and we respect the right of every member to have his/her own views.

However, this is our own attitude, as contained in the statement of our Main Society Aims:

To protect from cruelty, vivisection, experimentation, commercial exploitation and other forms of cruelty, ALL animals.

For that reason, we are pleased to support the work of The Australian Association for Humane Research.

### **Brer Rabbit**

A gentleman rushed into the office a couple of weeks ago, thrust a hessian bag (with holes poked in it) at our Welfare Officer, and exclaimed: "Found it wandering in Marrickville. Have to rush, Taxi waiting. Please get it a good home." Then he fled.

Gingerly untying the bag, guess what we discovered inside? A huge brown rabbit!

It was very tame, and easily transferred to a large container. We gave it an apple to munch, and it settled down happily, undisturbed by the comings and goings of cats in the same room.

And the end of the story? Yes, we found it a good home with people who realize that one rabbit must NOT meet another rabbit.

We still feel slightly guilty, because strictly speaking you're not allowed to keep a rabbit as a pet.

But the alternative of rabbit stew, suggested by a cynical visitor to the office, was too horrible to contemplate!

## **Thank you, Lena**

In her Welfare Report in this issue, Nance Iredale didn't mention it, but at one stage several Welfare Officers were away at one time. It was largely due to State Councillor Lena Larsen that Welfare was able to continue with its work.

Lena not only helped man the office, she went out on the road to collect and deliver cats.

Of course, Lena has always been a tower of strength in all our welfare activities, and it is due to her that we have such an excellent system of checking when kittens are due to be desexed. Lena is completely in charge of the "Futures" file, and comes in several days a week to keep it up to date.

At the same time, she is always ready to help in the office, or do field work, and has a wealth of helpful experience to share with everyone concerned with Welfare. And on top of all this, she also finds time to serve in the Op Shop.

Thank you, Lena Larsen.



Lena's smile also helps brighten our day to day work. In typical happy mood, this photo was taken on the occasion of our Picnic in the Gardens.

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*Mark Twain's  
favorite cats:  
Beelzebub,  
Blatherskit,  
Apollinaris and  
Buffalo Bill.*

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Answers for game from page 23

Article of clothing: **Coat**. What a cat wants to do when it sees a mouse: **Catch**. A type of drawing: **Cartoon**. A cardboard box: **Carton**. A plant cats enjoy smelling: **Catnip**. A way of making coffee: **Percolate**.

## **Raffle winner**

The winner of the lovely Lladro figurine is Miss Vera Parks of Eastwood, with ticket No A 28.

Miss Parks has been a member of CPS for many years, and is delighted with her prize.

We thank all who bought tickets, you supported us most generously.

## **Christmas Cards**

We have now sold out of all our cards, plain ones as well as Christmas.

However, we are designing some charming new ones for this Christmas, and will show them to you in our journal that comes out in September.

Please save up your card purchases until then - we think you'll find ours most attractive and reasonably priced.

## **Spiro the star**

After his appearance on the cover of our last issue, Spiro is especially conscious of his star quality. Through his proud owner Eva, he says to graciously thank all those members who complimented him on his imposing debut as a cover cat.

## **Central Coast News**


Central Coast Cat Care Inc. reports that Welfare Officer Merlene Nichols organised 80 desexings in April, close to her record of 93 for December '89.

Merlene's remarkable achievements involve a working week of 6½ days, a brilliant capacity for organisation, and a great love of cats. And yes, all her work is honorary. Again, congratulation Merlene, and to all the other dedicated volunteers on the coast.

## **Thank you for helping with the new van**

Our new Hi-Ace van is now on the road, fully air conditioned and insulated for the comfort of our feline passengers.

Several members made specific donations towards the purchase of the van, and we want you to know that your thoughtfulness is well and truly appreciated.



**Let me capture  
your cat forever!**

*Why not let me paint  
a beautifully detailed pastel  
portrait of your pet?*

*A lifelike rendering from your  
photograph to capture your cat's  
personality and likeness.*

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after business hours.**



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## **A WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The following members joined the Society in February, March, April and early May. We extend the warmest welcome, and hope you will be with us for many years to come.

Mrs J. Fysh of Neutral Bay. Mrs E Humphrey of Tamworth. Mrs G Robin of Double Bay. Mrs M Stiles of Ryde. Mrs J Rocca of Miranda. Mr C Lyall of Manly. Ms B Phillips of Birchgrove. Ms M Cinque of Woolloomooloo. Miss J Robinson of Chittaway Bay. Mrs D Nagiel of Hazelbrook. Ms L Hood of Cremorne. Mr D Stevens of Rozelle. Miss R Jarvie of Balmain. The Hon. J Beale of Elizabeth Bay. Miss P. Burns of Cessnock. Mr J. Osborne of Lane Cove. Mrs. B Guymmer of Mount Riverview. Mrs T Saunders of Erskineville. Mrs A Capewell of St. Ives. Mrs J Eade of Hornsby Heights. Mr and Mrs C Paine of Surfers Paradise. Mrs Paris of Surry Hills. Mrs J Vargas of Surry Hills. Mrs V Partridge of Bulli. Miss L Williams of Glenbrook. Mrs M Bridge of Bankstown. Mrs J  
Cat Affairs 26

Lenton of Concord. Mrs J Holloway of Bondi Beach. Ms M Francis of South Windsor. Miss P Salpeter of Caringbah. Ms K Stiles of Erskineville. Miss S Diver of Darling Point. Miss R Beerwald of Randwick. Ms S Williams of Kirribilli. Mrs S McLure of Lane Cove. Mrs Cook of Castlecrag. Ms L Wilkinson of Mount Kuring-Gai. Ms L Brown of Lane Cove. Mrs P Scully of Campsie. Mrs C Shillam of Bankstown. Mrs J White of Wahroonga. Mr and Mrs R Miller of Strathfield. Mrs J Rawson of West Ryde. Miss D Pattie of Wiley Park. Mr W Pitcher of Woollahra Ms M Large of West Pymble. Miss L Millar of Paddington. Ms R Cheung of West Pymble. Miss G Hamilton of Mayfield. Miss M Danza of Darlinghurst. Mrs A Dorward of Leura. Ms A Pagliasso of Dulwich Hill. Mrs J Brooks of Campbell, ACT. Miss H Cundy of Sydney. Mr R Coleman of Dulwich Hill. Mrs N Carradori of Marrickville. Miss R Baldwin of Newtown. Mrs M Hewitt of Narwee. Ms C Power of Sans Souci. Ms L Beamish of Burnie, Tas.

Once animals are sent to the cattery, they are kept there. We do not put animals down after a certain period of time. We also have stringent criteria for selecting new owners, including their signing of an "Agreement to Desex" form. All kittens are followed up at the appropriate date, to make sure they have been desexed.

Of course, like other animal welfare agencies, we have to acknowledge that there aren't enough homes to go round. Many healthy animals have to be destroyed. Some of the vets who work with us on desexing will not euthanise in these circumstances, and we respect their views. Our Society has no "rules" in its association with veterinarians. We respect each vet's right as a professional to conduct their practice in their own way.

We respond promptly to call regarding sick or injured animals. For emergencies we keep a van parked at the office, so we can collect the animal and take it to a vet. Where the caller can get to a vet, but does not own the animal or know who the owner is, we pay for treatment or euthanasia.

It is important to note that we do not give advice to people about treating their animals. We will answer general queries about feeding and grooming healthy cats, but we refer people to their own vets where sickness is involved.

Overall, we know that we are performing a necessary service from the number of people who contact us. With five Welfare officers constantly busy, we still have 200 or 300 jobs outstanding each month - that is, animals waiting to be surrendered, trapped or desexed.

Some of the people who need us are not only on low incomes without transport, but live in remote, outlying areas. It would be impossible for them to get to a vet without us, which is why we are prepared to go as far as places like Lapstone, Cowan, Bundeena and Warragamba Dam.

An officer covering such outlying places might only be able to do three jobs a day. Ours is not a profitable operation, and without the help of our members, Opportunity Shop and donations we could not carry on.

Finally, we are an incorporated company as well as a registered charity, and must comply with strict regulations on both counts. We are managed by a Council of elected members, and no Councillor can be elected who stands to make any financial gain from association with the Society.

To keep our operating costs down we still rely very much on volunteers, and there is not one person working with us - including veterinarians - who is not motivated by a genuine concern for animals.

We are not in competition with veterinarians. We are supplying a back-up service which is ultimately for the benefit of the whole community. We make it possible for needy people to enjoy the company of animals, we lower the rate of destruction of healthy animals, and we remove sick and feral cats from public places. Vets who work with us know they will receive a certain amount of constant work, and immediate payment.

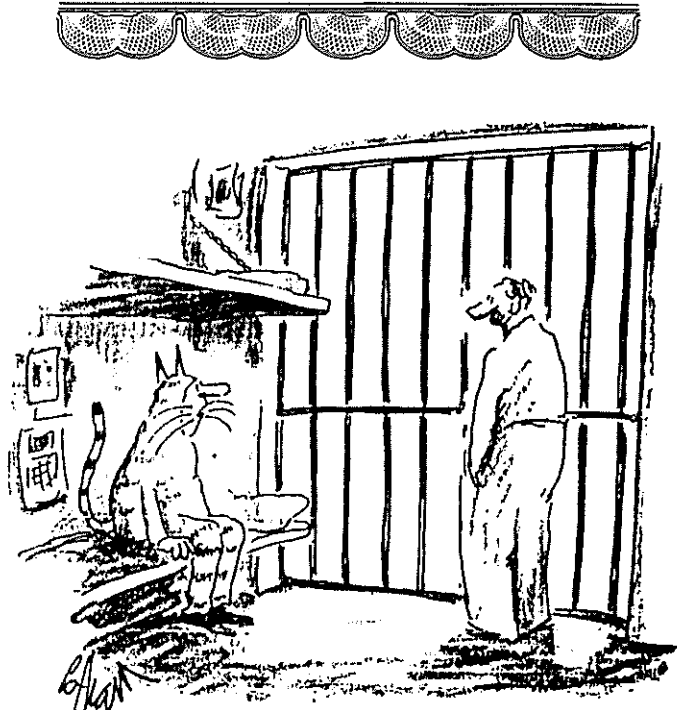
If any veterinarians or other readers have further questions or comments, we invite them to ring our Welfare Director Nance Iredale or Administrator Julie Gorrick. We would be delighted to hear from you.



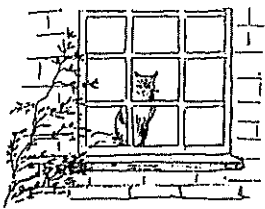
*"I think I'll grab his collar...  
what do you say, gang?"*

Coal black Louis de Villier inspects the stone cheetah in his garden, watched by mother Molly (in the lower right hand corner) and pal Daphne.

Thank you to owner and CPS member Christine de Villier for this intriguing photograph.



*"My plan is this: at sunset I start miaowing like crazy and the guards put me out for the night."*



## Is your cat Bored?

Pet psychologists say that lonely cats can suffer from depression, due to boredom.

Like some lonely humans, they'll over-eat to compensate, and put on weight. Or they'll scratch the furniture, ignore their toilet training, and sometimes even ignore their owner.

How do you stop a cat from getting bored when it's home all day by itself?

The first and most obvious suggestion is to get it a companion, another cat.

Do this while you're on holidays. You need to be around while they're getting to know each other, especially if the newcomer is a kitten. Don't expect them to become great pals straight away, but eventually they'll adjust to each other. And most of the boredom problem will be solved.

### When you are away during the day

Other ways to combat boredom, when you're away during the day:

\* Give your cat a window seat. Leave at least one window without a curtain or blind on it, so he can look out.

\* If the window doesn't have a sill, push a small table against it. Cats can sit for hours happily inspecting the passing world... or just watching the leaves and grass.

\* Leave the radio on. Switch it to a channel that has talk back, so he can hear the comforting hum of voices while you're away. (Of course, if your cat has a musical ear he may prefer a music channel. You'll know best.)

\* Provide some toys. Even mature cats like playing with scrunched up balls of paper tied with string to the back of a chair, so they can be batted around. (Make sure the string isn't the ragged sort that may snag his claws.) Ping pong balls will also amuse him, or some of the purchased toys with catnip or bells in them.

\* Plan some surprises. Put a cardboard box or paper bag out now and again, so he can snuggle inside. Leave a drawer open in the dresser or desk, line it with an old sweater, and let him discover this delightful new sleeping place. Put a saucer of his favourite dried food inside a kitchen cupboard, and leave the door ajar - give him the fun of finding the treasure.

Talking about games, cats may not retrieve balls and sticks like dogs, but they're just as receptive to active fun.

My young Tabby, Bill, taught me how to play a game called "Fleasies." It started when I produced the flea comb each evening and said, "OK Bill, it's time to find some fleasies."

One evening, at the word "Fleasies," he dived under the bed. I dived after him, and he scurried out the other side. I ran around to that side, and he turned and ran the other way.

Now we've extended the game all over the house. I say "Fleasies," and he runs away and hides. Then I have to find him. Sometimes he's behind the bathroom door, sometimes behind the dressing table or sofa, or he squirms under a newspaper and doesn't make a sound.

When I find him he rushes off to a new hidey hole. I give him a minute, then I say "Coming ready or not," and find him again. When he's had enough of the game he jumps on the bed, stretches out on his back, and looks up with a beatific expression, ready to have his tummy combed. He actually loves the combing ritual, and turns every which way without prompting, so I don't miss a spot.

We love our game, Bill and me, and if I seem a bit slow in initiating it each evening, he'll go and knock the flea comb off the table as a signal that it's time we got going.

Now, back to your cat!

### When you're with him

Whatever you can do to combat boredom during the day, the time you spend with your cat is all important in the overall picture. He'll be better able to cope with your absence during the day if he knows there'll be loving companionship morning and night.

So, first, allow enough time in the morning for cuddles and a talk. A hurried bowl of food placed in front of him and a quick "goodbye" as you dash off to work isn't going to make him feel special.

When you come in at night, you'll usually find him waiting at the door. He recognizes the vibrations of your footsteps long before you come through the gate. Say hello, pick him up and give lots of hugs. Instant satisfaction for him as well as you!

Before he's eaten is a good time for grooming. With short haired cats, a flea comb is effective at removing loose fur as well as fleas. Long haired cats will need brushing. Make it a leisurely ritual, and have a good talk while you're doing it.

After you've both eaten, he may feel in a frisky mood for games, or prefer to settle down comfortably and watch TV with you. A twilight stroll in the garden could be on the agenda, too.

If you have guests, he'll choose for himself whether or not to socialise. Sometimes a cat loves meeting new people, other times he prefers to retreat to a quiet spot. In any case, make sure he's safely inside before you go to bed, and say goodnight.

Never be embarrassed about talking to your cat, incidentally. The sound of your voice is almost as important to him as his daily share of hugs - indeed, they go together. And there is so much to be conveyed to him simply by your tone, even if you're not convinced that he understands most of what you say.

By the way, I've called your cat "he" all the way through just for simplicity's sake. And most of what I've said will be second nature to you, anyway, if you already have a cat.

But if you're still just considering one, it may encourage you to consider two... or at least, offer a few tips about keeping one feline very happy that he owns you.

-Julie Gorrick



## THE LAYING ON OF PAWS

In the heart of Surrey, England, there lives a cat that is said to have the power to heal. According to owner Jane Bailey, Gus, a year-old marmalade male, channels healing energy from her first cat Rogan, now dead.

It was shortly after Jane Bailey took up a part time job driving a minibus for children with various psychological and physical problems, that the healing powers of her first cat Rogan came to light.

At that time (in the early 70's) Rogan would accompany his owner to the bus each day, and soon became a focal point for the children.

He seemed to have a special affinity with the children who were most withdrawn, making straight for them to allow himself to be petted and stroked.

His presence also seemed to have a lasting effect, for it appeared the children became much calmer for the rest of the day after greeting Rogan in the morning.

In July, 1981, Rogan's power to heal first came to light when he successfully affected a cure for a woman suffering from acute depression. His healing also seemed to work even when he wasn't actually with a person. His owner gave small pieces of fur to people who could not visit Rogan in the flesh, and the fur had healing qualities.

A woman had been suffering from nervous shock as a result of a mugging incident. A piece of Rogan's fur was sent to her, and she carried this around with her, as she slowly began to recover. As she did so, the piece of fur slowly compressed into a hard ball, followed a few days later by the hair seeming to grow again, surrounded by a slightly luminous glow.

Jane Bailey has written a full account of Rogan the healing cat, right from his early years as a kitten, through his healing work, appearances on Japanese TV, the kidnapping attempts that followed his award of "Star Cat of Great Britain," to his death in June, 1986.

"Rogan is a great power," says Jane. "The work he does, and the influence he has on people right up to this day, is unbelievable."



Rogan may be gone in the physical sense, but it appears he is now channelling his healing power through Gus, with some help from Jane Bailey.

According to Mrs Bailey, Gus works mostly with contact healing. He is able to deal with "emotional things himself, whereas if it's a throat or back problem, I say I will be told by Rogan, and I'll put Gussie to the place, and he'll get on with it."

One of his recent cures, with the aid of Rogan, was with a friend of Jane Bailey's who sought help with a throat problem.

"She came in with a persistent infection which wouldn't go away," explains Mrs Bailey, "I handed Gus to her, and immediately he put his paws straight to where the problem was. He sat there for seven minutes, which is quite a long time, you know."

Mrs Bailey then felt a sort of pressure in her own head, which indicated that Rogan was coming through. Gus returned to her friend, and Mrs Bailey said that within 24 hours the friend had no more trouble.

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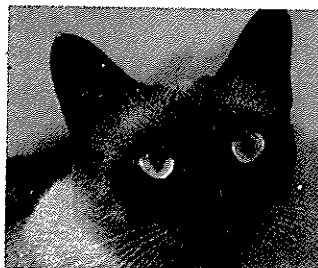
This is reprinted from the magazine "Daily Planet," of March 1990, for your interest and entertainment.

You will have your own views as to Gus's healing powers, but of course, we all know the remarkable results achieved by placebos. If we THINK something will work, it often will.

Your comments would be welcome. - Ed.

## The animal memorial cemetery and crematorium

Personal, Individual  
and Understanding  
Attention



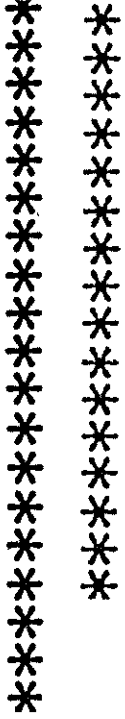
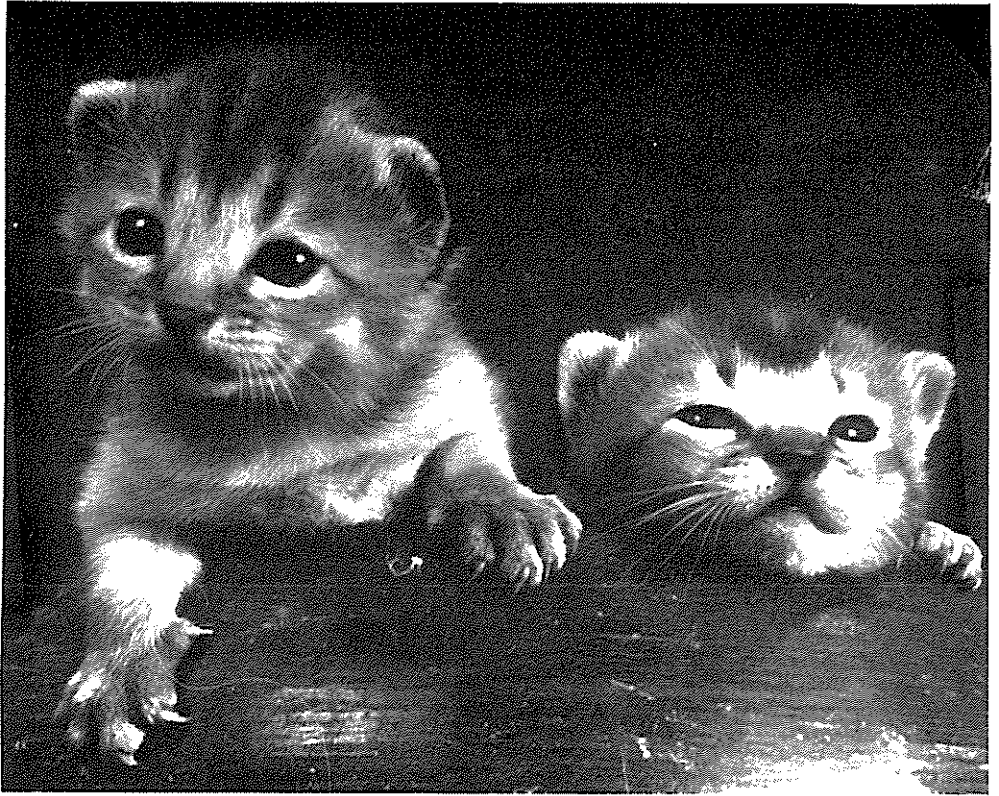
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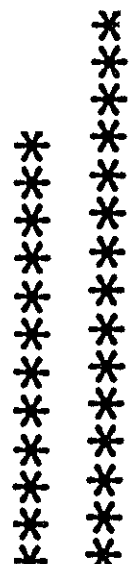
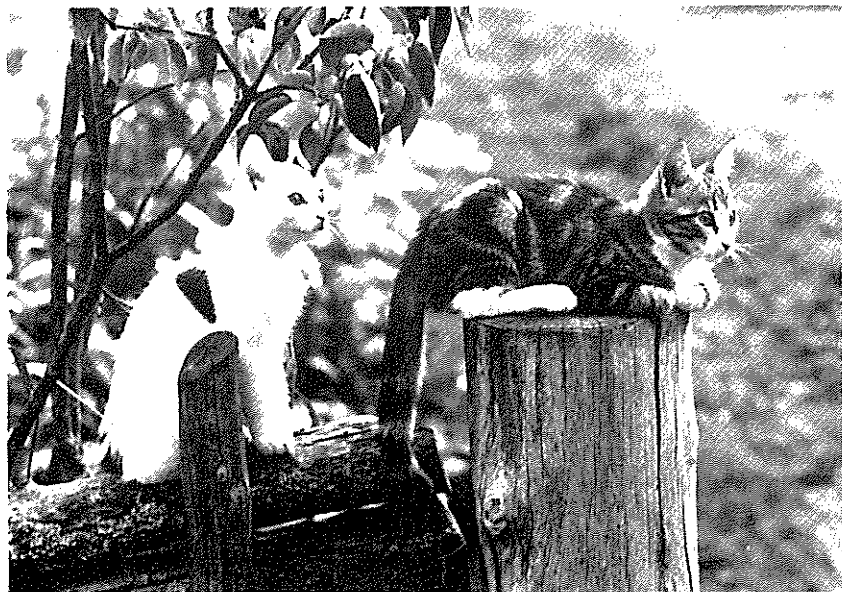
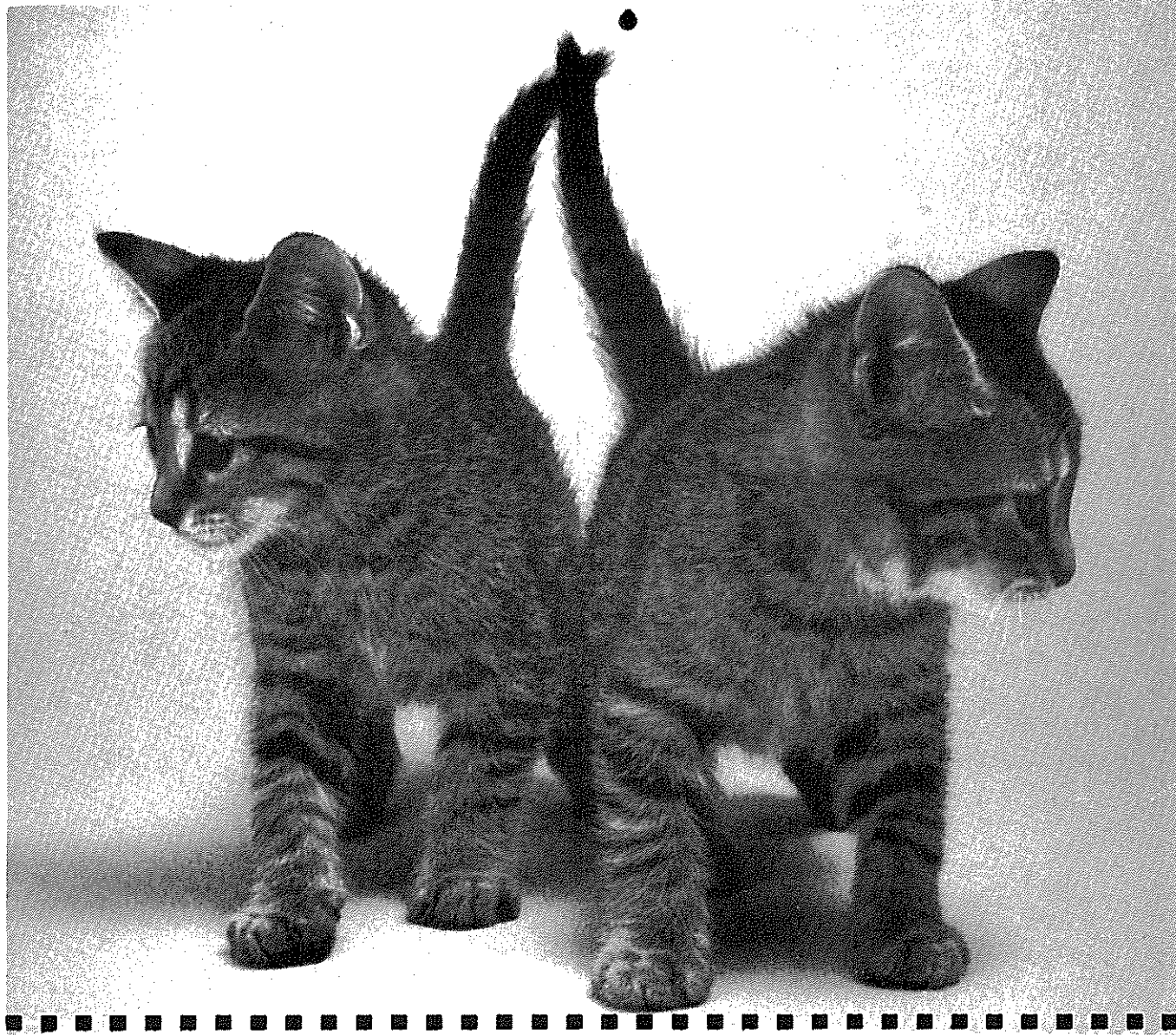
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# YOUNG RASCALS



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*Now let the wind rise,  
the grey storm come.  
The cat is on the hearth -  
we are at home.*



# MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

To The Secretary, Cat Protection Society of NSW,  
103 Enmore Road, ENMORE, 2042.

## Membership

I/We apply for membership or renewal of membership for the year commencing June, 1990. (Note: Those joining between January and June remain financial until June, 1991.)

### Subscription:

Life membership - \$250.00    Annual membership - \$10.00  
Pensioner Membership - \$5.00    Pension Number .....

Junior membership (16 and under) - \$5.00

Enclosed is cheque/money order for \$.....

My name and address are given below.

## Donation

I/We would like to make a donation towards the humane work of the Society.

Enclosed is cheque/money order for \$.....

**Please cross all cheques and make payable to  
THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss ..... Initials .....  
SURNAME, Block letters please.

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Telephone: .....

## URGENT REMINDER! ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE

Please don't forget to fill in your form and mail it today. Membership renewals are due now. Thank you. We couldn't keep on helping cats without your support.

## Change of Address Form

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

(Please cut out and return  
to address shown)

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

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

New Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Previous Address: .....

Thank you for your co-operation



*Your invitation to become a Life Governor  
of The Cat Protection Society  
of New South Wales.*

On the inside cover of the magazine, you will have noticed a list of office bearers of the Society, and other title holders. At the end of the list are the names of Life Governors.

We now invite members to apply for inclusion in the roll of Life Governors, by donating \$1,000 to the Society.

This donation includes, of course, Life Membership.

We extend the invitation for very necessary reasons, in this special season of goodwill.

You will appreciate that as a charity committed to helping the needy, we never turn anyone away. If a client cannot pay for the desexing of a cat, or other services, we bear the cost ourselves.

In today's economy, we find ourselves in this situation more and more. We are also faced with rising veterinary fees, wages, maintenance of ambulances, boarding and other basic expenses. Our outgoings are increasing at an alarming rate.

At the same time, decreasing interest rates have affected our income considerably, and we are being forced to use capital - a situation which in turn reduces income even more.

For all these reasons, we hope you may wish to apply for a Life Governorship. Your generosity is needed.

We also suggest that you may consider leaving a bequest to the Society in your Will.

We realize this is a matter requiring serious and informed consideration, and welcome your inquiries, or those of your Solicitor. In the first instance, you are invited to contact the Administrator, Mrs Julie Gorrick, either by letter or telephone. Naturally, all inquiries will be in the strictest confidence, and entirely without obligation.

Applications for Life Governorship should also be addressed to Mrs Gorrick, on the accompanying form.



Lyn Thomas  
President.

To Mrs J. Gorrick  
**Administrator, Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.**  
**103 Enmore Road, Enmore N.S.W. 2042**

I wish to become a Life Governor of the Society, and am enclosing my cheque for \$1000.

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Signature: .....

Telephone: ..... Date: .....