



Cat Affairs

MARCH 1992

Journal of The Cat Protection Society of NSW

Registered Charity CC 17122 Registered by Australia Post Publication No NBH 1974



Keeping a Cat in a Flat

This issue contains a special feature on keeping a cat in a flat. Please let me have your thoughts about it, and/or any personal experiences.

THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

Registered office and postal address: **103 Enmore Road, Enmore, N.S.W. 2042**

Welfare Office - Volunteer enquiries: **557-1011, 519-7201**

Opportunity Shop: **87 Enmore Road, Enmore. 516 2072**

Parkland Boarding Kennel: 505 Sunny Holt Rd, Blacktown

PATRONS: The Hon. N.P. Greiner, M.P., Premier of N.S.W. Miss Ita Buttrose, O.B.E., Professor Charles Birch, F.A.A.,
The Hon. James McClelland.

OFFICE BEARERS: Vice Presidents: Mrs Shirley Pikler, Mrs Lena Larsen
Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Nance Iredale

COUNCILLORS: Mrs June Chapman, Mrs Angelika Elliott
Professor Daria Love, Miss Elizabeth Strachan, Mrs Beverley Walsh

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs. Julie Gorrick

WELFARE DIRECTOR: Mrs. Nance Iredale

ASSISTANT WELFARE DIRECTOR: Mrs. Lena Larsen

Membership Secretary: Mrs Beverley Walsh

Journal Editor: Mrs. Julie Gorrick

Honorary Life Members: Mrs. S. Cozens, Mrs. E. Duport, Mrs. A. Gillham Mr. W. Graham, Mrs J Graham
Mrs. D. Haines, Mrs. B. Harvey, Mrs. N. Iredale, Mr. G. Luton, Mrs. T. Nelson, Mrs. S. Pikler, Mrs. J. Taylor, Mr. G. J. Thatcher.

Life Governors: Mrs. L. Braby, Mrs. B. Morrison. Mrs. N. Iredale, Mrs. S. Springfield, Miss. D. Silins
Mrs. F. Best, Miss. V. Murdoch, Mrs. I. Cheffings, Mr. W. Turner, Mrs. J. Nelson, Mr. G. Tiley, Dr. M. Cridland, Mrs. J. Holdup,
Mrs. L. Loveday, Mrs. S. Pikler, Mrs. S. Walson, Mrs. D. Breust.



Your Invitation to a Cat Lovers' Get Together

DATE: Friday, May 1, 1992

PLACE: Upstairs at 103 Enmore Rd, Enmore (Our Welfare Office)

TIME: 12 noon until 4pm

PROGRAMME: Light Luncheon (12.30 - 1.30 pm)
Talk by Veterinarian Andrei Ross (on cats, of course!) (1.30 pm - 2 pm)
Your own questions answered by Andrei (2.00 - 2.30 pm)
Bingo (2.30 - 4pm.)

COST: \$5.00, including luncheon and Bingo tickets

**Please 'phone your acceptance to Jenny Nelson, 642 5961, by April 22,
so catering arrangements can be finalised. Yes, by all
means bring a friend or two!**

About the Get-Together: The idea of Society members getting together more often came up at the Christmas Party, where we all had such an enjoyable time.

If this one proves successful, we already have plans for holding more events, one after each issue of the magazine.

Jenny and Merea McCloskey have kindly offered to organise them for us so please do be sure to let Jenny know if you'll be coming to this inaugural function.

If you haven't been to our Welfare Office before, it's only a few blocks from Newtown Station, and on bus routes 423, 426 and 428.

Parking is handy in Phillip Street, our nearest cross street. As a landmark to watch for, we're right opposite the Enmore Theatre.

Do come along and enjoy a lunch with fellow cat lovers, an interesting talk, the opportunity to ask all those questions you have about cat complaints and behaviour and of course, join in the fun of BINGO.





Living Cruelty Free



Before you brush your teeth or wash your hair or apply your lipstick . . . STOP! How many of the products you use every day have been tested on animals?

You can vote "yes" or "no" to cruelty by choosing cruelty-free products and cosmetics. Ultimately, encouraging all companies to become cruelty-free is up to the consumer. If there is enough consumer resistance to products tested on animals, alternative methods WILL eventually be used.

Vote with your consumer dollar. Start with this check list of cruelty free products supplied by Australian Association for Humane Research, Darlinghurst, NSW.

Cruelty Free Shopping List

Cosmetics, Skin and Hair Products

The following brands of cosmetics and skin/hair products are the only ones to date whose manufacturers have declared that no animal testing is carried out in development on the finished product. Animal ingredients are limited to beeswax, lanolin, honey and stearic acid. (PLEASE NOTE: "v" denotes all vegan, "sv" denotes some products are vegan.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| * A Fragrant Affair v | * Classics, Naturals |
| * Ahimsa Products v | * Clover Fields |
| * Anastasia Products | * Completely Natural |
| * Andre Duvani Products sv | * Cosmetics |
| * Auroma Products v | * Comvita Products sv |
| * Australian Wildflower | * Corps d'Elite |
| Incense and Perfumes v | * Creightons |
| * Avroy Shlain | * Dallyence Cosmetics v |
| * Beauty Without Cruelty | * Desert Essence |
| Cosmetics | * Dragon Wisdom sv |
| * Big Bubble | * Dr Bronner's Castille |
| * Biokosma | Liquid and Bar Soaps |
| * Blackmores | * Doctor's Choice |
| * Body Essentials by | * Ecol Products |
| Natalie v | * ELS Cosmetics |
| * Body Shop Range v | * Elsha Lander Products |
| * Braidwood Products sv | * Evanol Hair Dyes |
| * Briggs Herbal Creams | & Perms |
| * Caring Products sv | * Ever Bilena Cosmetics |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Everyday Rainwater Soft | * Rosewood Natural |
| Shampoos & Conditioners | Products |
| * First Australian Organic | * Sensual Delights |
| Oil v | Products v |
| * Floris Products | * Shahnaz Herbals |
| * Fragrant Craft Supplies v | * Sharyss Products |
| * Fragrant Delights v | * Sonning Wildflower |
| * Geisha Cosmetics | Beeswax |
| * Golden Wattle (Bee Pollen) v | * Spiritual Sky/Bare |
| * Grace Cosmetics sv | Nature sv |
| * Greenridge Botanicals | * Springwood |
| * Healthways Holdings (NZ) | Aromatic Oils |
| * Helen Helms Natural Skin | * Starlet/Embassy |
| Care sv | * Sun-Art Natural |
| * Herbon Products | Products |
| * Hoffels | * Swami Sarasvati |
| * Hunzana sv | * Tanya |
| * Hymosa | * Tao Aromassage |
| * In Essence Products | Oils v |
| * Janesce Natural Skincare | * Tasmanian Soaps |
| * Jean Aureilie Cosmetics | and Toiletries |
| * Josephine Cosmetics | * The Oil Garden |
| * Jurlique Cosmetics | * Thursday Plantation |
| * KMS Professional Haircare | Products |
| Products v | * Tiki Products |
| * L'Arome v | * Tinderbox Products |
| * Le Crystal Naturel Deodorant v | sv |
| * Luninance | * Toms |
| * Meltone Products sv | * Tri-Natural |
| * Mill Valley Products sv | * True-Alo sv |
| * Monastique Products | * Truly Natural v |
| * Natural-Oil Workers co-op sv | |
| * Nature's Earth Massage & | * Wattle Creek Herbal |
| Essential Oils v | Products v |
| * Natalie Jane | * Weleda |
| * Nature's Herbs v | * Wildcrafted Herbal |
| * Nutrimetics | Products |
| * Ozganics sv | |
| * Passion Incense | |
| * Paul Penders Cosmetics | |
| * Priscilla Clarke Natural Skin | |
| Care | |
| * Pure Clay sv | |
| * Puren Australia | |
| * Rainbow Herb and Flower | |
| Remedies | |
| * Rambilleene Farm | |
| * Rimmel Cosmetics | |
| * Rose of Lillies sv | |

IN THE HOME The basis of friendship with a cat is respect. By paying attention to his temperament, habits, likes and dislikes, you will give him cause to respect you. Out of that respect will grow affection and friendship - a friendship unique between animal and man, and precious in its revelation of the affection which this fine and sensitive creature is capable of expressing to those he loves.



- Michael Joseph

Soaps in the range at left may contain tallow (fat from abattoir offal). Other animal ingredients are limited to beeswax, lanolin, honey and stearic acid.

The range listed below does not test products on animals but some lines contain animal ingredients other than those mentioned above:

Cenovis Skin Care Range
Dr Hauscha Skin Products
Elleebana
Leichner Cosmetics
Karisma Cosmetics
Lange Hair and Skin Care
Mill Creek Products
Yardley
Healtheries of New Zealand
Heritage Products
Innox*

*N.B: Innox Australia has firm plans to shortly change its formulas to exclude all animal ingredients.

Cruelty-Free Soaps and Household Products

Anastasia's Vegetable Soap	Big Bubble
Australian Wildflower Soap v	Fragrant Delights
Atkinson's Castille Soap v	Gem Soap v
Bel Soap v	Herbon Soap v
Blue Palm Soap v	Laurels Soap sv
Body Basics Soap	Meltone Soap
Caring Soap v	Sapna Soap v
Castile Olive Oil Liquid	Self Managed Soap
Hand Soap v	sv
Chandrika Soap	Vegol Soap sv
Ecol Soap	Wattle Creek Soap
Castle Soap No. 262	Weleda Soap
Brot Bodyline	Rambildeene
	Farm

Cruelty Free Toothpastes

Blackmores
Vicco Herbal
Weleda

Cruelty Free Household Products

Aware Laundry Detergent	Puren Australia
Anastasia	Herbon sv
Belgold sv	Newland
Caring sv	Sonning Wildflower
Ecol	Beeswax Polish
Brot Bodyline	Big Bubble

Cruelty Free Healing Products and Sun Screens

Biokosma Sun Screens
Bositos Eucalyptus Chest Rub v
Bositos Parrot Brand Eucalyptus v
Oilcomvita Products
Comvita Products
Doctor's Choice
Euky Bearub v
Mudgee Honey Co.
Goanna Salve Ointment v
Iguana Rubbing Lotion
Nature's Remedy sv
Meltone Healing Creams and Rubs
Rosewood Oils and Lotions
Thursday Plantation Products
Tinderbox Herbs, Ointments, Etc.
True-Alo
Wet Stuff
OM Products

Cruelty Free Pet Care Products

Anestasia's Pet Shampoo v
Belgold Pet Shampoos
Sandy's Natural Herbal Products v
Thursday Island Pet Products
Tri-Natural

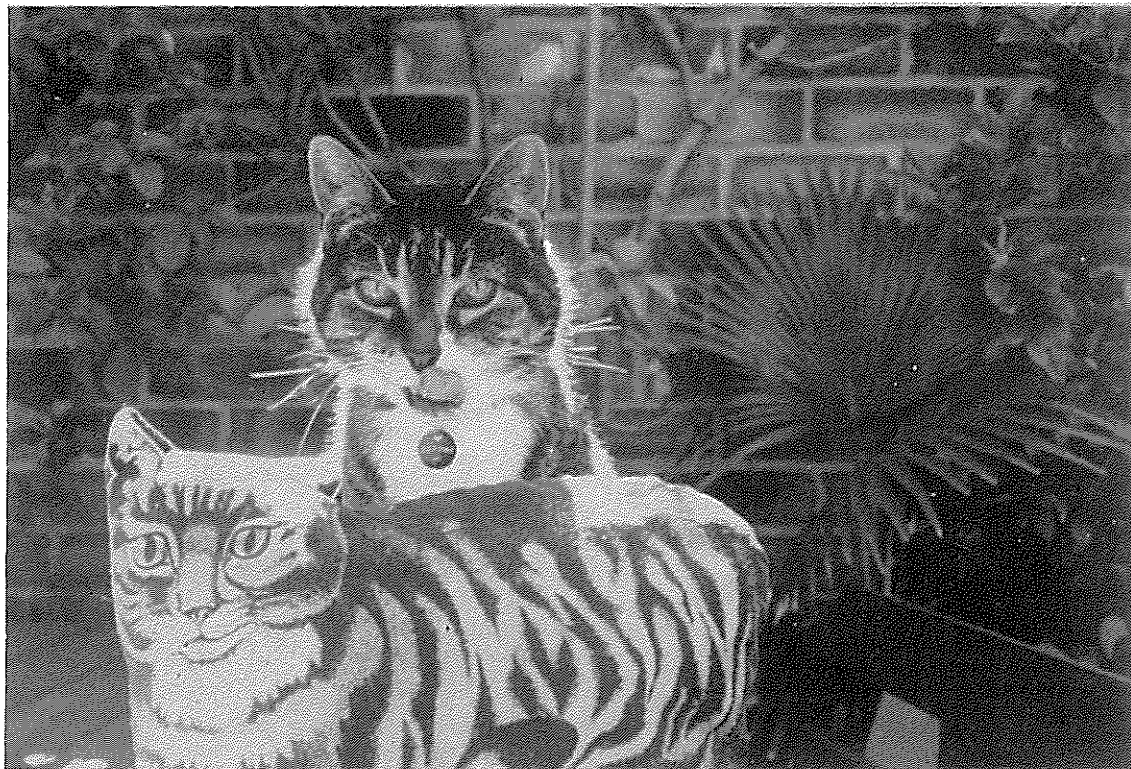
**Animal tests cannot guarantee
consumer safety.**

**We must have accurate non-
animal alternatives.**

Perdita

Let us remember Perdita as an honest, upright, lovable little being; warm-hearted yet philosophical; clear sighted as to her own duties, yet never blaming others for neglect of theirs. When in ripe years she left us, her last feeble breath was a purr: and if the doors of Heaven are closed to such as her, I see no better hope for you and me.

Caroline Marriage.



Tabby Muffins comments,
"You're not fooling me, I know this is a tea cosy!"



"I'm just checking out Mum's bottom
drawer," says Pixie.
Both cats live with Rosalyn Allen of
Woollahra, who is also Mum to Trill.



The Midwife Cat

The following description of a cat acting as midwife to her sister is taken from a long article entitled "The Pride of the Farmyard," which appeared in BCC Wildlife magazine last November. It was written by biologist David McDonald of Oxford University, who for 14 years has studied the behaviour of cats living on a farm in Devon.

Pickle, the piebald she-cat, had slipped from sight, entering the dark tunnel that led through the bales to her nest within the straw stack. Her movements had been encumbered by the swollen belly swaying from her otherwise lean and wiry frame.

In the nest, she had lain down to give birth to three kittens. For a farm cat, nothing in these events of the spring of 1978 were unusual, except that a glass plate built into the back of Pickle's lair enabled all her activities to be watched and filmed.

But now it was 18 days later, the kittens were flourishing, and from the view within the den the head and shoulders of a second cat squeezed through the entrance to the lair. Domino, her coat marbled black and white, greeted Pickle, her sister. As Domino draped herself around the nursing family, her flanks bulged and quivered from the commotion within, and soon she was in labour.

Tightly cramped on a squirming bed of Pickle's kittens, Domino rolled over to expose her underside. As we filmed, Pickle licked again and again at Domino's vulva, even as the first kitten emerged. Then, as the newborn wriggled in its glistening membranes, it was Pickle who began to lick it. As the afterbirth was delivered, Pickle's rhythmic licking turned to gnawing as she chewed the membranes and bit through the umbilicus. Domino bore five kittens that day, and each one was largely "delivered" by Pickle, who divided her attention between licking Domino's genitals and cleaning the newborn. Often the two mothers' tongues swept side by side down the length of the same glistening newborn body. Over the following days, the two females nursed each other's kittens in the now very cramped nest.

The case of the disappearing Abyssinian

by Yvonne Probets

Of course it was the right cat . . . or was it? You'll enjoy this amusing story by a CPS member who used to work for the Animal Welfare League.

The caller was happy and agitated all at once. When she moved from NSW to Queensland three weeks ago her cat had been missing for a week. Now her neighbour had phoned to say the cat had turned up. It was an Abyssinian.

Would I please collect the cat and board it, until arrangements could be made to send it to Queensland?

Well, off I went to the neighbour's place. He was an elderly gentleman, and very pleased the cat had reappeared. However, the cat didn't look like a pure bred Abyssinian to me, and was also very thin and in poor condition. I asked if he was sure this was the right cat.

"Of course I'm sure," he said. "Absolutely sure. I'd know this cat anywhere. It always comes to visit me."

So I brought the cat home to my place, and rang the owner to tell her of my uncertainty as to whether or not it was the right cat. She assured me her neighbour knew the cat well, as he'd stated. There could be no doubt about it. Meanwhile, would I please board it until she worked out what to do.

Well, six weeks later she 'phoned and said someone would pick up the cat and drive it to Sydney Airport to put it on the plane to Queensland. Then she would drive 60 kilometres to the airport to pick it up. She thanked me for my trouble.

That night, not hearing from her, I called to see if the cat had arrived safely. A somewhat subdued voice answered. "Yes, the cat is here, and in good condition, but it's not my cat."

Fortunately, she had decided to keep it. She had paid nearly \$400 for boarding and transporting a stray, so she may as well have something to show for it!

I returned to her old address and tried to find the real owners of the cat without success. Actually, I didn't mind . . . it saved me the problem of having to explain to them why their cat was now residing in Queensland.

And in any case, considering the cat's poor condition when it was discovered, I'm sure it now has a much better home.



Thank You for your letters

High praise!

I am writing from New Zealand just to say how much I enjoy your magazine. The reason I receive it is because I work for the RSPCA here in New Zealand and we receive animal magazines from around the world. But out of them all I enjoy reading your readers' stories most of all.

I am only 20 years of age but I can't remember a time when I didn't love animals. Although I love all animals, cats have a very special spot in my heart. I used to have several cats but now I only have one. I would have more, but Woody likes the run of the house to himself. He is a very special cat not just because of his personality but also because he is cross-eyed.

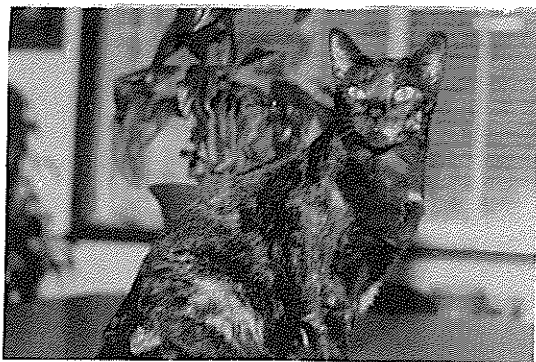
I hope you continue for a long time to come with your wonderful magazine, as its stories have brought happiness and even tears.

Tracy Fraser (Auckland, NZ)

Two Special Cats

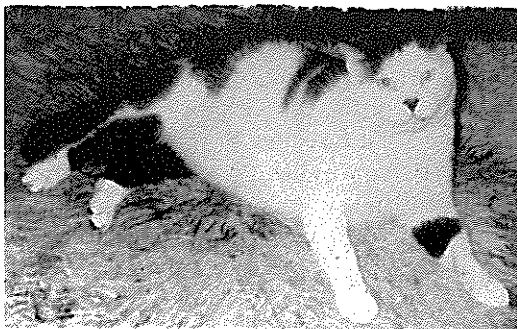
I am enclosing photos of two very special cats in my family.

Hannibal, the black and white boy, was diagnosed in March last year as FIV positive, soon after I decided to have this fierce old warrior desexed and take him into our home.



Mozzie the Wardrobe Cat

Hannibal the Warrior



As you can imagine, I was distressed by the diagnosis, but here it is New Year, and Hannibal is still going strong. His only problem is an inflamed mouth, which the vet is treating. He recently recovered from a dose of cat 'flu very well (yes, he is vaccinated) and he is a joy to have around. Not only does he love humans, but also other cats. He gives a little chirp every time he sees one of us, animal or human! I thought it might be encouraging to other members to know that a diagnosis of FIV can still mean a cat can live a happy life.

The other picture is of Mozzie, whose story I have been meaning to relate for some time. Back in 1981 I was working at Darlinghurst and started to feed some stray cats in what is now the Police Centre. At that time it was just a large block of land with a lot of dense bushes, a haven for abandoned and stray cats.

After some time the situation got out of hand, with kittens being born and dying in the bushes. I had no choice but to call in CPS and ask them to take the cats away.

However, I decided to take one of the kittens and one adult home with me. The kitten was easy to catch, and I waited for the last adult to be trapped. She turned out to be a sweet little female, and CPS took her to Concord Animal Hospital to be desexed for me.

When I brought her home she was so terrified she stayed in the wardrobe for six months! I would leave her food by the wardrobe door with a litter~ tray, and she would sneak out in my absence to eat the food and use the tray.

I hardly saw her in all that time. Then, little by little, she started to emerge for a few minutes at a time, and peep at me from some safe place. I used to talk on the 'phone in the bedroom, and she gradually became used to me. However, it took another six months before I could stroke her.

She is now the dearest, most affectionate little cat you could imagine. She rubs her head over my face, and is one of those very prolific "dribblers" when being nursed. I know Shirley Pikler will remember "the wardrobe cat," and be pleased to know she's still going strong at the age of eleven!

It goes to show, I think, that no cat is a hopeless case. I'm certainly so pleased I didn't give up, but allowed my little Mozzie her safe haven in the wardrobe until she decided it was time to join the family.

- Leslie Cansdell

Welcome New Members

Thank you for joining our Society in November, December and January. We look forward to your company for many years to come:

Ms P Christensen of Newtown, Ms F Davis of North Sydney, Mr A Duynstee of Auburn, Miss S Edwards of North Sydney, Ms N Field of Beecroft, Ms J Hughes of Revesby, Ms J O'Shannessy of Cordeaux Heights, Ms R Resurreccion of Bardwell Park, Ms Silver of Keiraville, Ms M Spencer of Kogarah, Ms F Young of Berala, Mrs E Vailasi of Bexley, Ms S Wilks of Harbord, Ms D Collins of Glebe, Mrs J and Mr B Dawson of Ashfield, Ms J Donaldson of Lalor Park, Mr G Hall of Hazelbrook, Ms J Hanak of Newtown, Ms J Hollo of Maroubra, Ms K Houlercroft of Guildford, Ms J Jarrah of Surry Hills, Mrs C Kalmar of Edgecliff, Mr K Khiran of Potts Point, Ms Y McAllen of Neutral Bay, Mr A Prest of Guildford, Mr M Selmes of Kogarah, Ms D West of Beecroft, Mrs G Avevalo of Dorrigo, Mrs S Benko of Ingleburn, Mrs I Brittain of Mittagong, Mrs M Evans of Broadway, Sydney, Miss J Griffin of Gladesville, Ms B Humble of Redfern, Mr O Major of Campsie, Mrs M Puschak of Coogee, Mrs E Shannon of Allambie, Miss E Sardella of Lakemba, Miss H Smith of Enfield, Ms J Vettoretti of Wollstonecraft, Ms M Samids of Sydney, Mrs V Abela of Plumpston, Ms L Bennett of Croydon, Mr P Dimitrakopoulos of Hurlstone Park, Ms C Fitzpatrick of Auburn, Ms L Kampos of Enmore, Mr M Lawson of Liverpool, Ms L McGuire of Heathcote, Ms E Napier of South Strathfield, Ms S Reis of Heathcote, Ms L Smith of Turramurra, Mrs A Tonacia of Warrimoo, Mrs M Vereny of Bondi, Miss K Williamson of Tumby Umbi, Ms C Bridge of Mount Pleasant, Mrs J Cathcart of Thurgoona, Ms K Donlon of Allandale, Ms C Esnault of Green Point, Mrs S Guth of Vacluse, Ms Y Hungerford of Rooty Hill, Mrs M Hunn of Concord, Mrs A Kritikos of Bexley, Dr Z Lloyd-Williams of Pymble, Mrs A Miles of Epping, Ms K Moore of Petersham, Mr T Shanley of Leichardt, Ms G Smart of Concord West, Ms F Thomson of Glebe.

You're a Dyed-In-The-Wool Cat Lover If...

1. You talk to your cat, along the lines of "Good morning Bert, did you sleep well?" and, "Sorry I'm late Tibby, I'll only be a moment getting dinner ready."
2. You own at least two pieces of jewellery or knick knacks featuring a cat.
3. You spend time working out a varied diet for your cat each week. Wouldn't dream of serving sardines two days running!
4. You often include your cat's name on letters to friends ... eg, "Love From Shirley and Fluffy."
5. That bump under the bedclothes is not a pillow.
6. You say good morning to all the cats you meet on the way to work or shopping.
7. Your friends send you Christmas and birthday cards with cats on the cover (and you save them all up.)
8. You think a kitten is just about the most beautiful sight in the world.
9. If a stray kitten lands on your own door step, you usually end up keeping it.
10. You don't like people who don't like cats!
11. There are more pictures of Ginger and Moggs in your photo album than any other subject.
12. The sides of your sofa are shredded, and you don't really care.
13. Those little balls of fluff all over the house didn't blow in off the street!
14. That person waiting to sit on your lap and watch television has fur, big yellow eyes and a tail.
15. You have a little smile on your face as you're reading this list.

- Julie Gorrick

Always Remembered



Remembering dearest King, our loved and loving cat. Put to sleep on Boxing Day 1991. Aged 13 years. Peace, perfect peace.

Jeannie and Andrew Cathcart.

A Christmas donation in memory of the cats of my heart, Kocicha and Karmelka.

Mrs. E. Zawadzka

In memory of my beautiful white cat Gemma, who gave me 12 years of love and companionship. Put to sleep on 27th November, 1991, aged 12 years. Loved and remembered always by her devoted sister Annie, and Enid Brown.

A donation in memory of my precious and loving little Goldie, put to sleep on the 5th of September 1990, aged 17 years. Also my other little pets, Boo, Sootie and Kit-E-Kat. I miss Goldie so much, perhaps especially in winter, as she always slept with me, burrowed under the bed clothes.

Miss Joan Denny

Thirteen years of finding Cats

When we moved to Culburra 13 years ago, we didn't know how many cats would come into our lives!

It all began when we found Sooty at the tip, a wonderful little cat who lived for six years. Socks arrived during Sooty's life and they were great mates. We found Socks abandoned at the lake, and he is still with us, aged 12.

The third arrival was a big ginger Tom whose owners had abandoned him. He lived underneath an old house, and it took a lot of time and patience before I could finally pick him up. His face was badly injured, so he went straight to the vet for treatment and desexing. Dear old Fluffy was a great pal until he died at nine years of age.

We spotted Thomasina in the local car park, a baby kitten running after every passer by. Home she came, and she is still with us, aged eleven.

The fifth cat was a big black Tom with his tail cut off and a bad leg - a gentle giant like Fluffy. We called him Midnight, and he lived with us until he was 10.

Meanwhile, I found a mother cat and two ginger kittens living in the stormwater drain at the end of our street. They were wild, but I took food and milk to them each day. In no time, the mother produced three more babies, and another female arrived with her two kittens. I tried to win their trust but it was impossible to domesticate them. Heartbroken, I made the decision they had to be caught and put to sleep. It took

many trips to achieve this, and I felt I had betrayed them, but I couldn't leave them in the drain.

The next one to come into our lives was Monty, a tiny, beautiful ginger kitten. His arrival brought us so much happiness, but he died at the age of four.

I found a white cat with kittens so young their eyes weren't open. We brought them home and called the mother Blossom. She was so young herself, a kitten who'd had kittens. When her kittens were old enough we found good homes for them, but Blossom couldn't accept the other cats in the house. It ended up with them all outside, and Blossom the only one inside. Then she was pregnant again, before I could get her to the vet (who is 18 kilometres away.) It couldn't go on. I stayed with her until she went to sleep.

Dudley is another orphan who "found" us, and shares our home with Sultan, a part-Burmese who was starving on the beach, and little Winston, a two-months-old kitten dumped at the football oval. So here we are again with five cats in the house at the moment.

I haven't mentioned the many others who have also been brought to us through the years, and for a short time known comfort, warmth and love. This is just a brief picture of the cats who have stayed to become part of our lives. Usually it's like a mini-CPS at our place! Thank you for loving cats as we do, and for all your good work.

By Margaret Causer



In loving memory of Ginger, who passed away quietly in February, 1987, Smudgie who joined her beloved Ginger in September, 1990, and my darling Tiger, who just one hour ago died from shock after an operation. The operation was successful but the patient died. Please say a prayer for him.

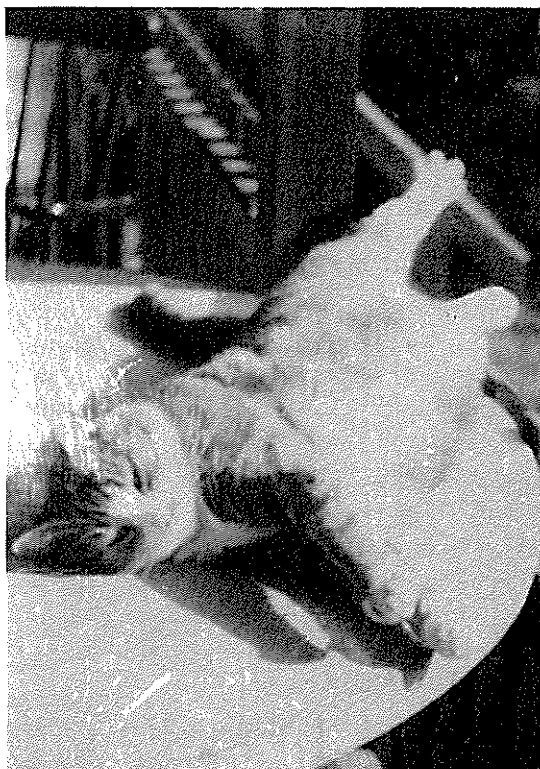
Miss R Beattie

A donation in memory of my little cat
"Tonic."

- Patricia Brooks

A donation to help cats in need, in memory
of my dear Gini and Suni.

Ann Bell



Sunny Side Up!

Ginger tabby Moritz, who belongs to Edith Schanz of Bulahdelah, makes sure his tummy gets its fair share of the sun!



Ginger and Smudge
who were inseparable friends.



The Trouble with Men

I found the following snippet in a magazine, and thought it would amuse readers of "Cat Affairs."

"Why are males so stubborn, untalkative and sometimes downright rude? My particular male can walk right past me, and not even acknowledge my presence. Yet, at mealtimes, he is ready and waiting, as if it is his birthright to be fed by me. I keep a roof over our heads, and when I come home, what does he do? He ignores me.

I don't know why I bother to try to reach him. But I have been told that one must work at any relationship. Tonight will be a repeat of many others. After ignoring me all day, he will sneak into bed with me expecting to be forgiven.

I moved his favourite chair the other day... anyone would think I did it just to annoy him. I got even colder treatment for the rest of the week, until I baked him a chicken for his dinner.

I must go now, as the Lord and Master is at the door, and woe betide if his dinner is late.

One of these days.... that cat must go!"

Incidentally, I do enjoy the magazine, and use it to introduce CPS to prospective members.

Rosalyn Allen



KEEPING A CAT IN A FLAT



How to approach a Landlord or Body Corporate.

One of the sad things about working for The Cat Protection Society is seeing the number of cats surrendered because their owners have moved to a flat or retirement complex where cats aren't allowed.

In a lot of cases, these people have enjoyed the companionship of their animals for many years. It is undeniable that the quality of their life will now be diminished. Can YOU imagine a future without a cat in it?

But looking at the situation from the point of view of management, the body corporate or the landlord, we have to be fair.

There are circumstances where a cat **could** be a nuisance to other tenants or owners.

The question is, should a blanket rule exclude ALL cats? Isn't there a way a cat owner can demonstrate a genuine awareness of his/her responsibilities?

Here at Cat Protection, we think there IS a possible solution to the problem.

It is a written "CHARTER OF RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP" plainly setting out what is required of the owner and the cat, with the body corporate or landlord agreeing to the cat's presence if all the requirements are met. Armed with an example of the charter, a cat owner can approach a real estate agent, landlord or body corporate in a positive manner.

Don't forget that, with the state of the economy today, it is not as easy as it used to be to find good tenants for rental property. Not is it as easy to sell units.

There has never been a better time to challenge the rules against keeping pets, and to demonstrate that you are a responsible owner with a genuine concern for the rights of property and other people.

On the facing page you will see an example

of the kind of charter suggested.

Meanwhile, the main message is:

DON'T BLINDLY ACCEPT THE RULES WITHOUT STATING YOUR CASE.

DON'T GIVE UP YOUR CAT WITHOUT DOING ALL YOU CAN TO KEEP IT.

This may mean shopping around for rented property or a unit to buy. It may mean interviewing many body corporates and landlords. It may mean taking up petitions, asking your local member of Parliament to help.

And clearly, you will need to give yourself enough time to find the right property, at the right price, where you can have your feline friend with you.

If you think it's "all too difficult," take heart from the experience of Suzanne Wilks and her Rexie, and Ellen Meadem and Blossom. Suzanne's letter is on page 17, and Ellen's story on page 16.

Both members were ordered to remove their cats from rented premises, both decided to fight the body corporate rules, and both eventually won their cases. But at any point along the way - if they had not been fighters who loved their cats so dearly - they could have given up.

Integral to the success of both cases was that Suzanne and Ellen could prove they WERE responsible owners, and that their cats were not causing any problems to others. You can do the same!

And remember, if you need a letter from the Society in support of your case, we will be delighted to supply it.

Here's to more and more cats in flats, and everywhere else they provide us with incomparable companionship and joy.

- Julie Gorrick



KEEPING A CAT IN A FLAT



How to demonstrate you are a responsible owner

First, why are there rules against having cats? Why would WE be wary, if we were landlords?

Apart from the usual problems associated with undesexed cats, other things that could lead to disputes include the cat scratching up plants, or using the garden as a toilet; the cat spreading fleas to neighbouring flats; smelly cat litter being disposed of in communal garbage cans; the cat howling when the owner is away; the cat getting sick because it hasn't been vaccinated.

So why not take the initiative and demonstrate to the body corporate or landlord that you have thought about these matters, and are prepared to take every possible step not to let them happen? That you are a responsible owner and your cat won't be a problem for neighbours?

The following charter is a guide to help you. I have included fictitious names, to make it easier to read, but obviously you would leave blank spaces when copying, so they could be filled in as necessary.

Charter of responsible cat ownership

AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN MRS. SUSAN SMITH AND THE BODY CORPORATE OF "Paradise Place," 45 Moggy Crescent, Happy Town, regarding the keeping of the cat "HONEY", a tabby and white female, in flat number seven at the above address.

MRS SMITH HEREBY STATES, AND HAS SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FROM HER VETERINARIAN TO PROVE, THAT THE CAT IS

1. Desexed

2. Has up to date vaccinations for cat 'flu and feline enteritis.

MRS SMITH FURTHER UNDERTAKES TO USE HER BEST ENDEAVOURS TO ENSURE THAT:

3. The cat will not be allowed on any common property without supervision

4. The cat will not scratch or defecate in the garden

5. Used cat litter will be hygienically sealed and disposed of

6. The cat does not have fleas

7. If she is absent, the cat will be supervised at home or placed in the care of a cattery.

Taking the above undertakings into account, and providing they are kept to the best of Mrs Smith's ability, the Landlord/Body Corporate gives permission for the cat "Honey" to be kept in Flat No 7 until such time as Mrs Smith vacates the premises.

Signed this
day of

For the Body Corporate Mrs Susan Smith



KEEPING A CAT IN A FLAT



A vet's point of view

By Kim Kendall BVSc MACVS MRCVS

Keeping a cat wholly indoors, whether at ground level or in a high rise apartment, is not a cruel proposition - especially if a kitten is raised in that environment from the beginning.

There are actually advantages for cats living wholly indoors, and in many ways, cats are ideal inhabitants of apartments.

By choice, for example, they spend 85% of their adult lives asleep, or at least lightly dozing and contemplating cat thoughts. As for exercise, even if they have a large outdoor area to call their own, cats will frequently just utilise the sunny spots and the pathways in between. So the fact that they are confined to a few rooms isn't really a deprivation.

At the same time, social contact in sufficient quantities is essential for a flat cat - you will need to give it time, as well as food and shelter.

Remember, a cat is not a furry ornament. It needs to feel loved and secure. So rule number one is to organise your schedule so there's plenty of time for social interaction and play activity, and so prevent behavioural problems related to social isolation or lack of "play." (Some forms of feline "aggression," such as ankle biting, are in fact due to an overwhelming need to play.)

An idea you might like to consider is having two cats, especially if they start off together as kittens. Indeed, whether or not you live in a unit, this is a good idea if you'll be away a lot during the day.

Of course, taking a mature cat from its known environment to a new one can present some problems, regardless of the size or location of the new home. After all, cats are frequently more attached to a place than

a person, so any move can be difficult.

There is a lovely story of English author Edward Lear building a complete replica of his English house and garden in Greece, so his cat Flossie would feel at home when she went abroad!

However, I think it's reasonable to say that most cats will settle into a new environment in time, except possibly a free-roaming, hunting-type personality. A cat used to this type of lifestyle may find it difficult to adapt to a confined living space, with major stress showing up in behavioural problems and maladjustments.

Now here's some general advice about making the move to a flat:

Try to be with your cat as much as possible after the move, and make sure it is surrounded with familiar things - rugs, cushions, furniture.

Some cats who have been used to going outside may be happy to take walks on a lead or harness after they are used to the flat. I have a delightful memory of a black cat in a harness, sitting under a parasol with a saucer of milk while the owner enjoyed a croissant and coffee - all in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Anyway, it's worth a try. You can walk it around the flat to begin with, then try short walks outside, and increase them if all is well. The neighbours will be amazed!

Cats that lead totally indoor lives tend to have a low incidence of infectious disease - obviously, because of lack of contact with other cats. At the same time, flu and enteritis viruses can still be brought into the flat by humans, via the dust on clothes and shoes. So regular vaccinations must be kept up.

Regarding toilet arrangements, I have heard of some cats who have been trained to sit on

the bowl - and a few who do it naturally. But the majority of indoor cats will certainly use a litter tray, and this must be kept clean and in a discreet place. If the litter is not fresh, or the tray is in too exposed a position (cats need privacy!) the cat may decide to attend to its toilet on the bedroom rug.

There's good news for indoor cats when it comes to fleas. If they are truly indoor-only companions, they can live in a flea-free environment and hence do not have the skin problems of cats pestered by fleas. Nor do they get the tapeworms transmitted by fleas.

Other advantages which accrue to cat flats are fairly obvious. First, they are not exposed to cat fights, dog attacks and car accidents, with resultant trauma. They also avoid being poisoned by snakes, ticks and chemicals found outside. (These factors do take their toll of free roaming felines. Even cats who stay in their own back yards can become victims of aggressors.)

The only counterpoint is the trauma of falling from a balcony. In New York city, where many pets never set foot on terra firma, veterinarians are very aware of what they call the "High Rise Syndrome." Indeed, the New York Animal Medical Centre has done surveys and analyses of injuries sustained in falls, and related the results to the height of the cat's fall. They can now tell what internal injuries a cat is likely to suffer, depending on how many stories it has fallen. Some cats

have survived a fall of 20 stories!

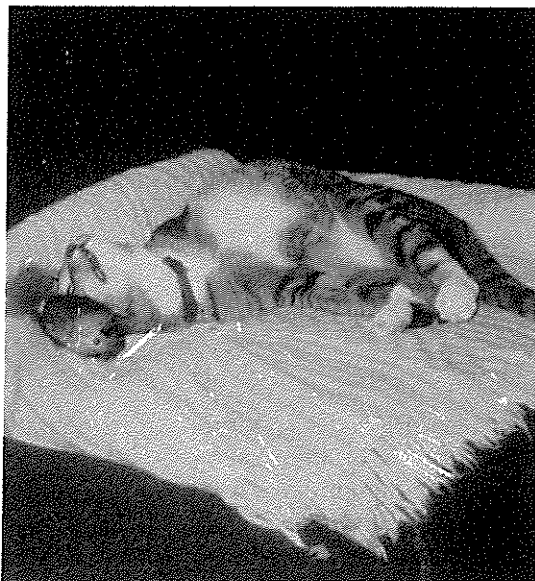
Fortunately, most cats have no problems defining their balcony boundaries, and fewer fall than would be run over in an equivalent life span.

Feeding your indoor cat will present no problems. With the wide choice of "complete" cat foods, there is no need for puss to hunt rodents to supplement her diet.

Some cats, though, do enjoy fibre in the form of grass, and a small "lawn in a pot" can be grown to accommodate them.

You will have to make provision for scratching! Scratching is a natural activity required to remove flaking bits of claws and stretch muscles. Install a scratching post, or an old chair (cane chairs seem to appeal) and train puss to use it. Left to herself, she's likely to choose your most precious piece of furniture for the task.

Let me sum up by saying that cats raised from kittenhood in an indoor environment can lead happy, contented lives without ever reaching terra firma. Some mature cats also adapt very well to flat life, even if they have been used to outdoor habits. However, trying to impose an indoor life style on the roaming, hunting-type personality could present problems, and I would think very carefully before deciding to confine this kind of cat to a unit.



Notice Anything Unusual?

Have another look at this sweet little snoozing tabby, and you'll see she has only three legs. Her name is Tilly, and she belongs to Lesley Hood, who was a Councillor of the Society. Tilly was found in a stable at Randwick. Nobody knew how she got there, and ads and enquiries failed to find an owner. The leg appeared to be amputated, not a genetic abnormality. Anyway, Tilly has found a wonderful home with Lesley, and is spry as any four-legged feline. She always goes to sleep with her toy mouse.

P.S: And incidentally, Tilly lives most comfortably and happily with Lesley in a flat.



KEEPING A CAT IN A FLAT



Two CPS members prove you can question the rules and win!

How I fought to keep Blossom and won

Here is a resume in a nutshell of an ordeal I had to face towards the end of 1988, when I had to take on what I felt was the whole world to continue enjoying the companionship of my dearly loved Blossom, a four year old ginger and white neutered male.

When I moved into the townhouse complex in question, the estate agent made a covering statement that it would be all right to keep a cat, as he had seen other cats on the property. My immediate landlord, who owned the premises, said he was more than happy having Blossom live there. So I really felt that all would be well.

The next thing I heard that pressure was being put on my landlord by individual members of the then Body Corporate to "get rid of" the cat. They were apparently offended by just the sight of Blossom, because there was no other cause for complaint.

Then a threatening letter arrived from the estate agent in charge of the grounds, saying my cat would be captured and disposed of as they saw fit, unless it was immediately removed.

I found out that the rules generally did not allow pets. However, there was a clause where the Body Corporate could allow one under "exceptional circumstances." I therefore addressed the following letter to the Body Corporate:

"I understand that the issue of me being allowed to keep my cat is now under consideration, and would very much like to make a very strong plea to the Committee to consider the matter favourably.

"I am very much attached to the cat, who would have to be put down should permission not be granted.

By Ellen Meadem

"As a pensioned widow, with a heart condition that is stress related, I find great comfort in the company of my cat, and have medical evidence to support that. I do not work, and remain at home, hence the cat in question is constantly supervised by me indoors, has a litter box inside the house, and only uses the common property to sun itself or sit on the lawn.

"The cat is clean, healthy, neutered and of a shy and gentle nature. I have never observed it expressing hostility and being neutered it does not attract other cats.

"I fully accept all responsibility to see that it does not present a nuisance to any other resident, as far as is humanly possible.

"I understand the Body Corporate has rules against the keeping of pets, but it also has a rule whereby it may grant permission in exceptional cases. May I plead for an exception in my case, on humanitarian grounds, and the fact that the cat does not affect the quality of life of anyone else in the complex."

Well, my letter brought only one brief response: "GET RID OF THE CAT!"

I next appealed to the Department of Housing Strata Titles Department, setting out my plight. Their reply was to the effect that the request of the Body Corporate to remove the cat "was not unreasonable," and ordered me to do so forthwith.

So now I went to a solicitor. I said I wished to fight the case in court and asked what should I do to start.

Following his advice, I wrote up a petition and got most of the residents of the complex to sign it (it appeared that the only ones against the cat were those on the Body Corporate Committee.)

I got letters from both my general practitioner and my heart specialist setting out the desirability of a patient with my heart condition having a close animal companion.

A report from my vet stated that Blossom was healthy, neutered and of a placid nature. I also took photographs of a reserve adjoining the town house complex, where Blossom and I would go to enjoy the sun. This meant that on the times he was outdoors, it was unlikely he would even be SEEN by other residents, much less do any digging in the garden.

Finally I took the whole thing before a magistrate and won. The magistrate ruled in my favour, mainly on the grounds that the Body Corporate took such a tyrannical stand and ruthlessly refused even to consider my plea.

Since then Blossom has continued to live happily with me. The opposing parties have by and large moved out. And whereas perhaps Blossom is not necessarily loved by all residents, he is accepted and tolerated.

The wear and tear of it all has certainly taken a toll on my nerves, and I am poorer by almost \$500.00 in solicitor's fees. But I would go through it all again and again for the sake of my little furry companion, who did nothing to deserve a death sentence.

I would also urge anybody else faced with a similar ultimatum to stick with it! Stand by your dear companion., and take heart from my experience.

Ed's note: In cases such as this, the magistrate obviously uses his discretion. It may be that the state of Ellen's health was an important factor in helping him arrive at the decision he made.

On the other hand, it is now common knowledge that all of us benefit physically and mentally from having a companion cat.

Just one further point - Ellen's solicitor is an animal lover. I think it's important to establish this if you are seeking legal advice.



Victory for the wonder cat.

Dear Julie

Thank you very much for your letter of support regarding approval for the residence of my cat in a strata title unit.

The Strata Titles Commission disapproved my original application but eventually the matter came before a magistrate. I submitted various forms of supportive documentation, along with your letter, which I felt added much weight to my appeal.

The magistrate in his wisdom saw that the body corporate was being unreasonable and awarded the action in my favour.

Rexie the wonder cat has been completely oblivious to the complications involved, but is now living happily as a "legal" resident in my apartment. Thank you again for your advice and quick response.

Suzanne Wilks (Harbord)

For me, one of the pleasure of a cat's company
is their devotion to bodily comfort.

- Compton Mackenzie

Update on Aristophanes

Do you remember a letter from Norah Packham in the last issue, explaining that her subscription to the Society was a little late because she was paying off a loan taken out to cover the cost of veterinary fees?

Well, several generous readers offered to help Norah. Here is her reply:

Dear Julie,

Thank you very much for your letter alerting me to the generosity of other Society members. I'm flabbergasted! In fact, such a response has taken me by surprise, it was the last thing that entered my head. The major factor was the love invested in Aristophanes!

I guess my tight money situation is only very temporary, as there is light now at the end of the tunnel. I have a job! As far as I'm concerned, any kind people who thought of helping me can donate the money to the Society, with my blessing.

Aristophanes is really doing well. He still walks like a drunk, but is getting stronger.

Now he has some bounce in his step and leap. He's eating well, too. He's moving more rapidly, up and down the steps at top speed. Nobody has any real idea of why he has an enlarged spinal cord, and you can't exactly reconstruct it, but I can only hope he's going to continue improving. Meanwhile he's even winning disagreements with his little brother Sophocles!

Last night, when I was changing the sheets on my bed, he was back to one of his old tricks: "helping" me by sitting in the middle of the bed. I didn't want to shoo him off, so I got his tablets out of the drawer, rattled them, and said to him, "Come on, medicine time." He took off like a rocket.

I'm just keeping him on a maintenance dose now, as I don't know what the future holds.

Best wishes to the Society for a purrfectly happy 1992, and my thanks to all those kind people who were moved by Aristophanes' plight. Thank you very much.

Norah Packham

Cat Museum

On a recent trip to Sarawak (Malaysian state of Borneo) I stumbled across a quite remarkable museum. Situated in the capital of Kuching (which apparently translates to "cat") is a museum largely dedicated to CATS!

The entrance to the museum is dominated by two extremely large glazed ceramic ginger domestic cats, each about 12 feet tall. Inside, there are beautiful displays tracing the importance and role of the domestic cat throughout history, and in various cultures.

The museum also bulges with weird cat-related fashions and costumes, and exquisitely eccentric cat paraphernalia, ranging from cards featuring cats to cat sculptures. If any readers have the opportunity of travelling to Borneo, it's a museum well worth visiting.

Ed's note: Debra regrets she didn't have her camera with her, to take some pictures at the museum. Perhaps there are other readers who've also been there, and can supply some illustrations?

Debra Wellfare, Lilyfield.

The Pet Care People

Est. 1987



Going Away?

- ★ Ask us to lovingly feed and exercise your pets at home. Mailbox cleared, Plants watered. Less fretting, Greater Security for your home.
- ★ Dog walking
- ★ Pet taxi All Hours
- ★ Recommended by Veterinarians
- ★ References provided

751 1022

7 days 24 hours

Richard Durant - Proprietor
Security Industry Licenced

Goldie's Story

Four years ago, my son and I went to the RSPCA in hope of getting a kitten.

Showing us a lot of half grown and full grown cats, the kennel girl told us that they were all she had at the time.

My son then said, "Look Mum, there in the corner." Curled up in a ball was a little ginger kitten.

The kennel girl told us we wouldn't want her, in fact she was being put down. My son said we would like to look at her, and when she was handed to us we saw at once that there were problems. She had an infected ear, was crawling with fleas, and in a badly depressed state. Another lady looking on commented, "Surely you wouldn't take that one!"

That did it! Home we went with the ginger kitten. We bathed her, had the ear attended to, and gave her all the tender, loving care we could.

Now, four years later, she is the perfect cat - so full of love and devotion that she follows me around like a puppy. She is also very beautiful, as I think you can see from the photograph.

My precious Goldie.

- Dorothy Davis

Memories

I wish I was able to help you in your good work in Sydney, but I'm afraid I live too far away. I do work for the RSPCA in Nowra, and help cats in other ways if I can. I have recently placed a stray pregnant Burmese in a caring home, and her five babies have now been placed with responsible people. Desexing of all is being attended to!

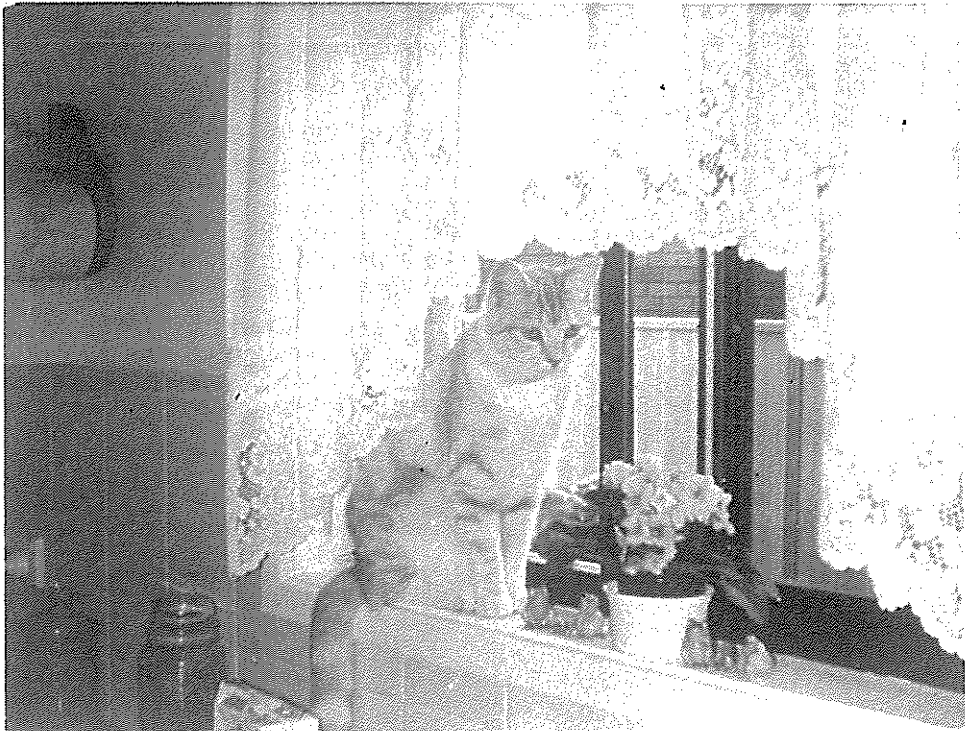
You put out a great magazine! I always look forward to receiving it. Animal experimentation is another distressing subject. I sincerely hope it will eventually end.

Let's hope that 1992 will bring us greater sympathy from humans towards animals in general. We have an RSPCA Inspector who gives talks at schools, but some schools don't even answer our letters asking for the privilege of speaking. I do feel if kindness is instilled in children it will stay with them.

Over 60 years ago, I can remember starting school in Mosman. There was a picture of a boy feeding his pets, and the caption said, "To our dumb friends we will be kind, and food and comfort for them find." I still see that in front of me today - strange how some things remain in one's memory.

Anyway, let's hope our petitions will play a part in a better future for cats.

Jean Ferris (Conjola)



This is Dorothy's precious Goldie.



SPOONS

CPS member Helmut Fetzter has two absorbing hobbies - he collects spoons and fossils!

The fossils are collected in NSW. The spoons come from all round the world.

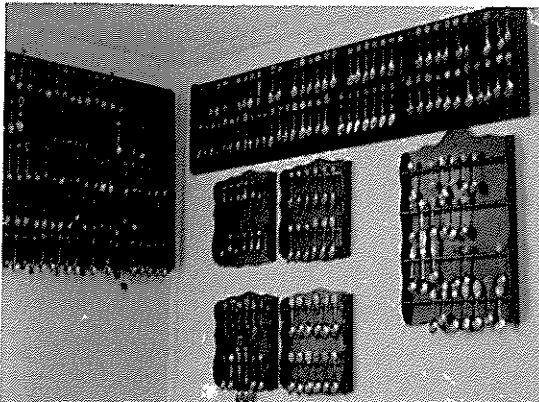
Shown here is a small sample of Helmut's spoon collection, displayed in wall cabinets, some of which he makes himself. He also creates special spoons, welding badges to the handles of plain spoons.

Fossil hunting takes him to many beautiful parts of the state, including Mulbring, Ulladulla and Mona Vale. Some of his finds are over 2 million years old! He says it's a hobby that's healthy as well as intriguing, getting you out of the house and into the fresh air.

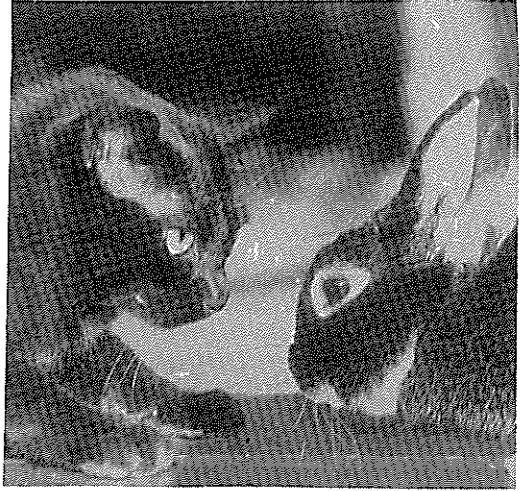
Then there's the excitement of splitting open a rock and finding a treasure inside. . . a fern, a shell, even a small fish or animal.

If you'd like to find out more about spoon collecting or fossil hunting, write to Helmut care of Cat Protection and I'll be delighted to pass the letter on. (Incidentally, there are no expensive tools required to go "fossilling" ... just a hammer and a couple of chisels, with some bags to take home your finds.)

Thank you, Helmut, for telling us about two hobbies with appeal for all ages. And thank you, too, for your tireless work in collecting signatures on our petitions calling for compulsory desexing. - Editor.



Caption Contest Winners



Thank you to everyone who entered. Here are the first prize winners:

From Natalie Mills of Surry Hills:

"I don't CARE if it's fashionable, Felix . . . this new bunny look of yours has gone too far!"

From Miss J Pattie of Tempe:

"The first one to blink is OUT."

Also highly commended are the following:

From Mr J Shayler of East Gosford:

Run rabbit, run rabbit, run run run!!!!

From Mrs Rachael Deemer of Seven Hills:

"Let's get this straight. From now on, I have the Whiskas and YOU nibble the grass."

And congratulations also to the runners-up Alice Lee, Margaret Riley, Mrs E Parsons, Anna Armstrong, Norah Packham, Ms J Brilman, Miss Ola Roth, Mrs Hilda York and Lesley Hood.

In our next issue we'll be announcing a photo contest, so start snapping your companions now. To help you plan backgrounds and situations, the categories will be:

Most Beautiful Female, Most Handsome Male, Miss Personality Girl, Mr Personality Boy, Most Irresistible Cat, Best Friends (pictures of more than one or cat/s with owner)

Incidentally, if you would like to donate any prizes for the photo contest, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

*I Gave an Order to the Cat,
and the Cat Gave it to its Tail.*

- Chinese proverb



Hope you like it!

Councillors June Chapman and Shirley Pikler look on expectantly, as past President Lyn Thomas opens her goodbye gift. (Lyn is leaving Sydney to make her home in Brisbane.)

And yes, Lyn DID like the leather wallet, in an unusual oval shape and one of her favourite colours, burgundy.

Fund Raiser Extraordinaire!



Photographed here with Duchess is Kay Merinda, friend and supporter of the Society.

Through her own hard work, Kay raised \$1300 in the raffle for a VCR (which in turn, was donated as a prize by a friend of hers.)

The raffle, incidentally, was won by Shirley Butler of Parkland, and the winning ticket was sold to her by one of our own Welfare Officers, Sandra Moss.

The cat Kay is holding is the matriarch of the

family at 15. Like all Kay's cats she was rescued. The others are called Basil, Minnie, Della, Pumpkin, Ambrose, Ruby, Patch, Maisie and Sadie. Sadie, the newest addition, was found abandoned and terrified on the double yellow lines of a busy highway. Recently, Kay and David bought a King Size bed, so "all the family could sleep comfortably together."

Thank you, Kay, for your contributions and your unflagging enthusiasm.



RECYCLING = Waste Busting = Saving \$ = Saving the Environment

By Penny Ferguson, B.C.

(Born Recycler)

I am a born recycler more from necessity than design. Growing up in the country during the depressed 30's with no reticulated water or electricity, it was necessary to conserve water, and sensible to do everything possible during the daylight hours so as not to use too much kerosene in the lamps or to work under poor light at night; our first Aladdin pressure lamp was a revelation, and what a blessing when electricity arrived! Cooking and heating came from a fuel stove; wood was collected - fallen branches, old palings and fence posts.

To this day I never wash my hands or vegetables under a running tap, I always put the plug in the basin and use as little water as possible. I still feel uneasy when I set a fixed hose. Shoes were repaired and lasted for years, socks were darned, clothing was mended and when it wore out it was cut up for children's garments, with scraps made into rugs, rags and garden ties.

We had a drawer for string, brown paper bags, and elastic bands, all of which were reused. I smiled when David Suzuki (the Japanese-Canadian scientist and conservationist) mentioned his family had a similar drawer in their home near Lake Ontario, Canada. We used pens and ink, and the nibs lasted until they broke. Gold nibs in fountain

pens could be repaired, the rubber ink bladders were replaced when they perished, and pens lasted for decades!

We have become a throw-away society and that "convenience" has a price; we are running out of landfill for garbage tips, and no one wants a high temperature incinerator in their shire or municipality. This extravagant and wasteful lifestyle must change, otherwise resources will become so scarce and costly that only the rich will be able to afford them. Friends of the Earth introduced Waste Busters' Day in 1990. We can all help in varying degrees, so here are some of my own year-round waste busting activities.

Ask the Scouts

Besides composting everything organic (grass clippings, shredded tree prunings, weeds, sawdust, ashes, peelings), I pay a local scout group \$1 a bag for seaweed, and for coconut fibre underfelt, wool and cotton carpet and seagrass matting - collected during the weekend prior to the 6-monthly cleanup. The seaweed is collected in secondhand feed sacks obtained from a friend's farm, and is an excellent fertilizer containing all trace elements plants need (beetroot loves the salt!) The floor coverings are used instead of the commercial weedmats or straw mulch.

Whenever I find a badly designed, overpackaged, or wasteful product, I write to the manufacturer or the distributor

pointing out the error of their ways. Needless to say, my in-tray is always full!

Re-Using Paper

Paper is a worry to me, because I use so much of it. Magazines and unusual publications are passed on after I have read them - often to a library where they will get maximum exposure. When I cull old files, I use the back of suitable paper for photo copies or scribbling paper.

I reuse large size envelopes by pasting my own design of "sticker" over the old addresses, and just as Abraham Lincoln used the backs of envelopes to jot down his speech notes, I use the inside of small ones for scribbling paper.

Two unit-dwelling Sydney friends, not having a garden to compost, used to use their old phone books to wrap small amounts of food scraps and vegetable peelings, and they had the cleanest and tidiest garbage! This would be unacceptable now, because of the landfill problem. Their newspapers line the kitty litter box.

Talking about litter, cat owners who use litter trays and have a garden have many good options: there is a litter made in Victoria (I think it is called Pussy's Place) made of palletised lucerne; another is rice husks available in bags or bales; sawdust (not the stuff from treated timbers which contains arsenic); and if buying



Examples of Penny's recycling: Among them:

A barbecue made from plastic drums, buckets made from metal drums which fit her log basket so dirt does

not fall through onto the floor. The offcut of fence will make a gate, the offcut of mesh will be a lattice for climbing plants.

The shed in the background

is made from recycled materials. The timber is Californian redwood (similar to cedar) and came from a railway gatehouse built last century and demolished about 1930.

in bags from the supermarket make sure you buy those made from diatomaceous earth, NOT the clay ones.

All those can be put on the garden to advantage. Having two well trained cats with their own cat door I have no litter problems. When it is raining heavily they sometimes wee in the bidet! (Ed's note: remember the picture of Penny's cat in our last "Cat Affairs?")

Trash into Treasure

One man's trash is another's treasure! I never walk past a fete, fair, garage sale, op shop, second hand or antique shop. These enterprises represent recycling down to a fine art - or a fine business! At a church fete I once bought four boxes of computer paper for half as much as one box usually costs: two boxes of lined paper of an awkward size went to a local school for the kids to write on, I used the box of plain A4 myself, and the quarto sized

three part carbonised paper went to the secretary of our local progress association . . . and I was still about \$57 in front!

Our local council now has an efficient recycling scheme for paper, sheet and rigid plastics, tins, aluminiums, glass, and sells compost bins very cheaply. However, I use the council service as a last resort. I carry a string bag with me when shopping, or take my supermarket purchases to the vehicle in any empty box, and any plastic bags that are foisted on me are saved up for op shops or fetes. Plant pots, seedling trays, etc., are used again or taken to the council nursery or garden club for reuse.

A marvellous book is "Handy Farm and Home Devices and how to Make Them." First published in Adelaide in 1945 (the year World War II ended and there were shortages of everything) it has been

reprinted at least six times - the last being a facsimile reprint in 1986.

Be Creative

Old clothes hoist poles have a myriad of uses: Watering systems, overhead trellises for vines, fences and gates, fowl runs, aviaries, etc. The older they are, the better, as the metal is thicker and stronger, and the thick gauge wire which held up the arms on the very early hoists is also extremely versatile - bucket handles, tripods.

My mailbox, which needs to be large, is a drum with a slot, awning soldered on to keep out the rain, and hinged flap. I have just made several watering systems from old garden hoses and a few dollars worth of risers and sprinklers. Terracotta pipes serve as safety shelters for blue tongue lizards and small animals throughout the garden, and as water soaks near large trees.

At an aquafitness class I noticed that we used empty bottles as weights for the water exercises.

A splendid example of ingenuity and imaginative recycling is the paths at the Rhododendron Park, Mt Pleasant, near Wollongong. Here, volunteers and CES work groups have made the paths with bricks from old coke ovens, and retaining walls of old railway sleepers.

It is a credit to all of them, and a great ideas centre for home "do it yourselves."

Unfortunately, people have become used to "convenience" and even older people like me sometimes find it easier to "throw it away" rather than clean or reuse, modify etc. I urge you to recycle, reuse, and save money, resources and our environment. You are only limited by your imagination and lifestyle.



Questions & Answers

With Dr. Kim Kendall, B Vsc. MACVS. MRCVS

Q:

Cats & Babies

My husband and I have two much loved cats, aged four and three, and have recently had our first child. Even before the baby arrived, the cats were curious about the new furniture appearing . . . bassinette, bath, change table etc. - and now they are fascinated by the baby. When I put the portable cot up, they all jumped in it and had to be removed. They look at the baby all the time. I'm a little unsure about how close I should let them to the baby, as I don't want them to be jealous and shut away from him, but I'm concerned about what they might do if I'm not in the room.

Is it true that cats have been known to smother babies? How will I know when it's safe to leave baby and cats together?

At the moment, I always shut the baby's door so the cats can't get in, but that means I can't hear him as well as if the door was open. And I don't want to lock the cats outside all the time, they're house cats. Any general advice about living happily with cats and babies would be most appreciated.

Claire (Katoomba)

A:

I have spoken to an Animal Behaviourist about this question, to supplement my own opinion. The "cat smothering the baby" story would seem to have been established to explain the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in earlier times .

It is easy to blame the cat, and it was probably of some help to parents to have something to vent their anger and grief on. (Historically, cats have been convenient objects to blame for a host of things.)

However cats DO like to sit in a cot. It is soft, dry, and it's up high for good viewing, and it's also a frequent centre of affection and activity.

I would suggest covering the cot with gauze or a mosquito net to prevent the cats getting in with the baby. Cats, after all, dig in the soil outside etc. Also provide a raised shelf, covered in carpet or something soft, overlooking the baby and other areas of activity in the nursery. We all know that cats want to be right at the centre of attention, and their own "shelf with a view" would solve several of the questions you have raised.

You have been following good principles of introducing a new creature to your cats, and if they are well socialised (ie, they like people and being handled) you should have no problems.

Cats regard babies and children as another species separate to adults, and hence may take a different attitude towards them, but usually they come to terms with this new species in their home.

Very few cats would attack a baby outright, so by now, your cats should have come to terms with the new addition to the household, and continuous surveillance could be relaxed, with occasional monitoring of progress.



Passing on your LOVE

After you have provided for the needs of your family and others, you may wish to consider helping the animals you love.

A bequest to our Society will go solely towards the welfare of cats.

Anything can be bequeathed, including cash, shares, art objects and real estate. Or perhaps you may decide to establish a life interest, which names an individual as income beneficiary, with the capital of the Estate passing to the Society upon his or her death.

In talking to your solicitor or trustee company, the full registered name of the Society is The Cat Protection Society of New South Wales, and the receipt of the treasurer of the Society is sufficient discharge to your executors.

By helping us, your love for animals will continue to be expressed beyond your lifetime.

Welfare Report

From Welfare Director Nance Iredale

So far this "kitten season" we feel there has been a marked decrease in the number of kittens being born . . . still far too many of course, but an improvement. However, requests to catch the nervous homeless creatures are perhaps greater.

We are becoming concerned too at the many stories in the press, TV programmes, etc, about feral cats and criticism of cats in general. We suspect there will be a dramatic attempt to eradicate the feral cat and all sorts of methods are being mentioned, even poison and the introduction of a new disease.

For many years C.P.S. has spoken of the need to reduce the numbers of these poor wild creatures, but the problem was always shelved or glossed over. Now we are being told that drastic measures need to be taken.

If only . . . cats had not been dumped in the bush by thoughtless people.

If only . . . the problem had been faced many years ago.

If only . . . authorities had asked for help from welfare organisations such as C.P.S.

If only . . . money had been allocated towards practical work instead of on surveys, research etc. about which nothing was followed up.

So now it is more important than ever to push for reform - compulsory desexing and/or registration.

It has always been a personal priority that cats should not be seen by non-cat people as a nuisance, either in numbers or irresponsible ownership. We need your help to spread the magic words "desex not destroy."

Nearer home, two of our welfare officers, Janelle Foyle and Kelly Lynch are expecting babies in June and will be taking maternity leave. We are hoping to get some assistance from our former office person - Gail - and from a couple of experienced casuals.

In the meantime we are encouraging more owners to bring their animals to the office. We estimate that the work coming through 103 is equal to that done by 1 and a half welfare officers on the road.

We'll keep trying, how about you?

One bright spot - we are placing cats and kittens well, at least better than last year.

No More Smells

Here are methods advised to remove the smell of cat urine:

ON HARD SURFACES SUCH AS TILES, LINO, VINYL:

After wiping up urine, wash the floor with a solution of 1 level tablespoon bicarbonate of soda to a litre of warm water.

ON CARPET, RUGS, FABRIC AND OTHER ABSORBENT SURFACES:

First wash the area with a solution of an odour neutralising agent such as "ONA". Dab dry, then rinse at least four times with plenty of warm water, dabbing with an old towel in between each rinse.

If smell persists, brush in a little pure alcohol, available from your chemist. This is to dissolve remaining smelly compounds. Leave on for a few minutes, then rinse with warm water and dab dry.

Dry the area thoroughly with a hair dryer, or in the case of a rug, hang outside to dry.

Do not simply rely on a sponge with another strong smelling agent such as pine, eucalyptus or ammonia. This will tend to

perpetuate the problem. The idea is to get rid of the urine completely.

If the cat keeps on returning to the same spot, remember that cats usually do not urinate close to food.

Use a strong glue to stick a quantity of dried cat food to a paper plate or old saucer, and leave this in the "danger zone."

Obviously, you should make sure that the cat's litter tray is clean and the litter itself is always clean and fresh.

Damp, smelly litter is one of the reasons a cat may decide to attend to its toilet somewhere else. It is also important to have the tray in a private spot, away from a possible audience. Many cats won't use the tray in public.

Of course, if a cat's toilet habits undergo any persistent change, a visit to the vet is indicated. There may be some anxiety or conflict that needs treatment, or physical cause.

In any case, don't be cross with the cat, seek professional advice.



Time for a nap!

It's hard to believe that this angelic Burmese nestling up for a nap with Jessie Haub used to have a reputation for being aggressive.

The story began when Jessie's daughter, Joan, visited our Cat Protection Welfare Office in Sydney while on a holiday from West Wyalong. Caspar the Burmese had just been surrendered to us, and Joan fell in love with him.

It was difficult and expensive arranging his transfer from Sydney to her home, but Joan went ahead. Then the trouble started. Caspar

didn't fit in with Joan's other cats. Though desexed, he was always looking for fights. He was bad tempered with Joan herself. The only person who seemed to calm him down was Jessie, on her visits to her daughter.

Finally, it was decided that Caspar should stay with Jessie for a while, just to see what happened. And from that day on, Caspar the Monster became Caspar the Angel. No more roaming, no more fighting, no more displays of temper. He follows Jessie everywhere, and is gentle as a butterfly.

Taking a nap together is now part of their daily routine.

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, 1992. (Note: Those joining between January /June remain financial until June, 1993).

Subscription:

Life membership - \$250.00 Annual membership - \$10.00

Pensioner membership - \$5.00 Pension Number

Junior membership (16 and under) - \$5.00 Junior Date of Birth

Enclosed is a 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 a 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



A Catty Conversation



By CPS member Kathleen Fernandes

The leaves on the fig trees quivered in the breeze as the scarecrow flapped forlornly at the bottom of the garden. He couldn't even raise a smile, as the birds had all gone next door to feast. "I'll be out of a job soon," he thought to himself.

The cats Bindy and Monty, and the dog Emma, wrinkled their noses in disgust. They were quite ashamed of the garden. "I can't invite my pals around any more," moaned Monty. "It's embarrassing!"

Bindy decided to take a look over the fence at the neighbour's yard. She was a plump black and ginger cat with a white fur necklace.

Emma scratched at the wobbly fence. Her sleek, sandy coat, long ears and pointed face enhanced, rather than emphasized her matronly figure.

"What's going on over there?" she asked Bindy. "I always seem to miss out on all the action."

Monty jumped up to join Bindy. "Listen, I just heard a noise," he said to his companion. "Ah ha, she's awake at last, let's go."

"What about me?" wailed Emma as the two cats disappeared over the fence.

"Don't fret, we'll save you a chicken leg," said Monty. "Come on Bindy, let's go up to the door."

"No, I'd rather let them come to us for a change. We don't want to appear too anxious. Remember yesterday when the grandmother chased us with a broom?"

"Oh, she didn't mean it," commented Monty, giving himself a quick lick. "Well, I'm not taking any chances," said Bindy. "I don't

want to wear out our welcome. Didn't you hear the young one calling us free loaders? US!"

"Correction dear," replied Monty. "She called us FURRY free loaders. Look, here she comes." He threw himself on his back on the pathway, showing his furry tummy. "This little act of cuteness always gets her in," he whispered to Bindy.

Suddenly the kitchen door opened and Ursula stepped into the garden. "Hello Monty, hello Bindy," she said. They each gave her a supercilious look.

"Stay there, don't run up to her," hissed Bindy. "What's the point?" replied Monty. "She hasn't brought us anything to eat."

Ursula knelt down beside the two cats. "Come on you scallywags, don't I get a greeting today?" she asked softly. Bindy rubbed herself against Ursula's knee. "See, I'm the favourite around here," she winked at Monty.

Just then Ursula's grandmother called her in to breakfast. Off she went. The cats' dream of a special treat was over.

But what was that? Yes, a spoon banging against a tin

"Well," said Monty, as they leaped back over the fence. "The garden's not much, but it's still home." With their tails held high, they went to join Emma on the verandah, where three dishes stood in a row.

Ed's note: Kathleen is a keen young CPS member who has taken a course in creative writing. We often publish poems by members, and I'm sure you have enjoyed Kathleen's charming little piece of fiction.

- Ed.



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

Change of Address Form

(Please cut out and return
to address shown)

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

Surname Initials
(BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE)

New Address

Postcode

Previous Address:

Thank-you for your cooperation



Grand Old Teega

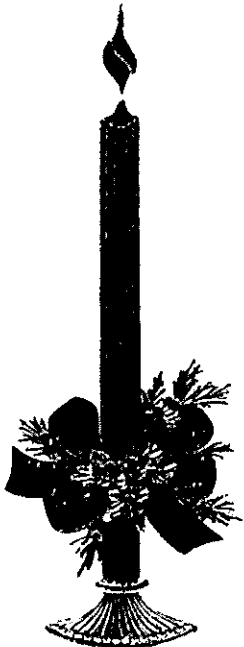
17 years old and as much loved as ever, Teega belongs to CPS member Katharina Vitols, one of our happy Op Shop Volunteers.



DO YOU THINK IT WILL BITE?

Checking out the lizards are Mitzi and Tally, who share their home with Jenny Nelson. You may recall them as kittens, photographed in the snuggle-box at the top of their scratching pole. Now they're very large, very long, and still growing!

Our Christmas Party



A Few Faces in the Crowd



SIMPLE ARITHMETIC *If every member signed up just one new member, our membership would double! Please tell your friends about us
Information forms are gladly mailed out on request.*

Today, Our Op Shop

Newer members of the Society may not know that we have a terrific Opportunity Shop just a few doors down from the Welfare Office. It's at 87 Enmore Road, is open during the week from 9.30 to 3.00pm, and also on Saturdays.

We have clothes for men, women and children, shoes, handbags, light fittings, pots and pans, belts, ties, china, glassware, ornaments, and always a wonderful selection of paperback and hard cover books.

If you're interested in good quality goods at tiny prices, this is really the place to browse. All our women's dresses are just \$2.50, blouses are \$2.00, men's shirts \$2.50, and you can pick up a man's suit in tip tip condition for \$5.00.

Of course, we have a never-ending need for stock, so with summer over you might like to think of us if you have summer clothes the children have outgrown, or items of your own that you're not going to wear again.

Another way you can help the shop is by saving up your stamps. One of our dedicated volunteers, Dr Barbara Levien, is in charge of "stamp collecting" and sells them for us to a stamp dealer. Just put your Australian and overseas stamps in separate packets, and post them to Barbara C/- The Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, 2042.

Incidentally, while summer clothes are welcome, and can be stored for next season, this is the time of the year when warmer clothes are in great demand. Cardigans, jumpers, skirts, track suits, and any cosy items for children would be most gratefully received. If you haven't a car, we can arrange a pick-up in some areas. Which leads to another request:



We are very much in need of people who would be able to collect goods for the shop, particularly in the Ryde area, outer Western suburbs, the inner city, the lower North Shore and the area from Balgowlah out through Dee Why. In fact, it seems we need help just about everywhere!

This wouldn't be a regular task. Indeed, you probably wouldn't be called more than once a month, if that. But it would certainly be a great help to us. Please ring Julie Gorrick or Nance Iredale on 557 1011 if you'd like to talk about it.



Finally, we'd like to introduce you to the new Supervisor of the Op Shop, Eva Constantinou. Eva is a lynch pin of the family business, HA Printing, which produces "Cat Affairs" for us, and has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the Society.

When she offered to step into the breach caused by Jo Tomkin's resignation, our main concern was that she would be taking on too much - a full time job PLUS the shop.

However, it has all worked out just wonderfully. Eva is not only a born organiser, but a young woman of charm and creativity. She has introduced streamlined procedures to the running of the shop, and given volunteers the opportunity to make the shop "all their own" on the days they are there . . . which certainly adds to their satisfaction and enjoyment.

Thank you, Eva. And members, for the best bargains in town, plus attentive service by fellow members of the Society, please keep us in mind! The Cat Protection Society of NSW Opportunity Shop, 87 Enmore Road, just up from Newtown Station.

- The Editor



A Sad Announcement

Gordon Cozens, beloved husband of Sybil Cozens, died in his home at Lane Cove on February 20.

With this issue of the magazine going to press just as the sad news was received, there has been no time to prepare a fitting tribute. This will be done by Beulah Harvey, a founding member of our Society, for publication in June "Cat Affairs."

Meanwhile, we join with everyone who knew Gordon in mourning a true gentle man . . . and extending our deepest sympathy to Sybil in the loss of a team mate and friend as well as a devoted partner.

THE STATE COUNCIL