

DECEMBER 1994

Cat Affairs

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

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THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

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Opportunity Shop: 87 Enmore Road, Enmore N.S.W. 2042. 516-2072

Parkland Boarding Kennels: 469 Sunnyholt Road, Blacktown N.S.W. 2148. 626-9333



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

During the past year we have continued our activities, pruning our expenses wherever possible while still responding to all requests for help with desexing and collecting unwanted cats. In spite of community education campaigns carried out by large organisations, particularly the RSPCA Australia, the message is still not getting through to many people. This is evidenced by the number of callers who have allowed their cats to become pregnant before they have them desexed. There needs to be unremitting attempts at persuading cat owners to do the right thing to benefit the cat, their neighbours, wildlife and also themselves.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that cat control legislation in this state will not eventuate before the proposed March election. The issue is not considered a vote winner by either party. We have always believed that the Victorian Government would beat New South Wales to it, and at the present time legislation has been introduced by them in the form of the Domestic Animals Bill. It is proposed that pet owners and sales outlets be registered with local Councils and that local markets be banned from selling dogs and cats. If this Bill goes through it will give better leverage for us and other like minded organisations to pursue our demands.

Meantime, some Sydney Councils have taken matters into their own hands. We sent letters to all metropolitan Councils and we received a few favourable replies. As one example, Warringah Council regularly inspects pet shops and loans cat catching cages to residents who are instructed to take the caught cat to specified animal welfare branches in that area.

The major event for our Society in 1994 was undoubtedly the awarding of the Order of Australia to our Hon. Treasurer and Welfare Director, Mrs Nance Iredale, in recognition of her long service in an honorary capacity in the field of animal welfare. This Award was not only a personal triumph for Nance but a great morale booster and an absolute delight to her fellow committee members, as it shows that people who are concerned with animal issues can be appreciated and noticed by at least some of the powers that be. Also, the resultant articles in the press covering her story gave some much needed publicity to our society.

OPPORTUNITY SHOP The Opportunity Shop proceeds have risen in the past year to \$27,399 (last year \$24,263). This has been partly due to the negotiating of a lower rental.

Because of the number of volunteers having to miss their rostered days due to illness we have had some difficulty in manning the shop every day. Mrs Grace Ayling kindly volunteered to do the rosters and we now have a system whereby those who can't attend on their allotted day must telephone to someone on a list of volunteers to arrange an exchange, and then notify Mrs Ayling. This appears to be working fairly well but **we would like to impress on members how important it is to have a sufficiently large complement of volunteers to keep our shop operating continuously. We do not want to have the shop closed on some days, but unless there are more members willing to give just a little of their time (once a month is much better than never!!) we could see a drop in our takings. The Op Shop funds are a major part of our income.** The thanks of all of us go to each and every volunteer, be it in the shop, working and sorting in the back room, picking up donated goods, making articles for sale, doing the.

...continued on page 16...

COVER STORY

A good Christmas story should be hard luck changed to good fortune and that is exactly what happened to our cover cat, LEON KAINS. Leon was put in a hessian bag and left outside a vet surgery with a note asking that a home be found for him. George Kains took Leon as a Christmas present for his wife, Barbara, and had a professional photographer on hand to capture the moment when Leon 'came home'.

BACK COVER

HARRY was a CPS adoptee and graced the life of Frances Kaukerit for 18 years. He was one of those very special cats and is sadly missed. Photo: Frances Kaukerit.

DISCLAIMER

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FROM THE EDITOR



I know I'm speaking to the converted but I'll speak all the same. DESEXING. We all know the necessity of desexing to reduce the gross over population of companion animals yet so many people don't listen. A workmate, recently adopted by a dumped

bitch, baulked at my advice to desex her. **'I always thought that was a bit unfair'**. It seems we are talking to the wind but talk to the wind we must. It is up to each of us to campaign for desexing. Not out on the street corners or on a soap box in a shopping mall, though those might not be bad ideas. But to anyone who is thinking of getting or has gotten an animal, make sure they are aware how important desexing is. Remember to check if the owner has done the deed. So many people just don't realize and American statistics prove that only 5% of pet owners read pet related magazines. If we don't tell them - who will??

Christmas is here again, and the CPS party is coming up. I'll be there, will you? Come on and join the fun. Bring photos of your cats and join in the cat chat. If you don't know anyone - you soon will. Cats are a common conversation topic and none of us will have any problems talking about our wonderful companions.

CPS PRESS RELEASES

If anyone reads any article mentioning the CPS, please kindly send it to our Enmore Road office. It is better to receive several copies of any one article than none at all so please send a copy, even if you think someone else might do it as well.

KILLER CATS

The Canberra Weekly, Sept 14, 1994, reports that Sue Doobov, the executive Director of the Council on the Ageing in the ACT, said, after a series of cat attacks on senior citizens, "the council had asked for it to be legal for cats to be destroyed after they attacked humans".

WRITING ASSISTANCE

Any CPS members who would like to write a letter to protest against the sale of animals in pet shops but are not able to type, or whose handwriting is not good, I would be delighted to type your letters. Please send your letters to me, C/- The CPS. Charmaine Creenaune

OLIVE GRAHAM - WONDER WOMAN

In our age when so many people only seem to take, Olive Graham is a refreshing change. She became a Life Member years ago when the cost was \$50.00. Olive was a worker in the Opportunity Shop and well knows the wonderful work the CPS does. Recently she sent in a cheque to bring her membership up to date to today's Life Member value. The CPS council salutes this wonderfully caring woman who has always loved cats and so generously supports the work the CPS does. Thank you, Olive, from all of us!!



CUTE AS CHRISTMAS

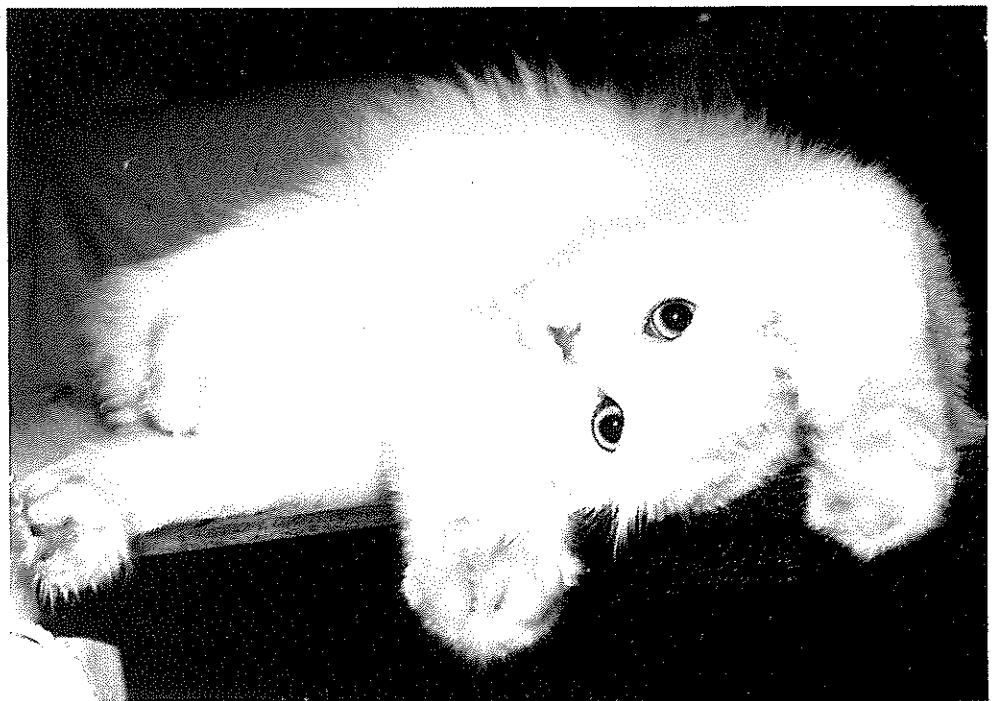
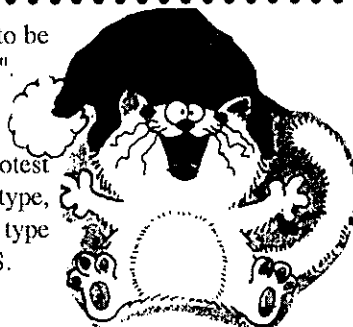


Photo Frances Kaukerit

ITS CHRISTMAS!!!

A small (or large) financial present to the CPS would help bring Christmas and a better New Year to many stray, feral and surrendered cats and kittens. Will you be generous for us??





THE . S C R A T C H I N G P O S T.

JENNY NELSON, Sth Strathfield
Loved the last two journals. I was particularly interested in Natural Diet for Cats. But what does one do with two cats who refuse new meat of any kind and chicken wings, even when not fed anything else for 36 hours? Evidently you must begin when a kitten is very young. Mine were raised on Whiskas but even from an early age they refused anything new.

Hearty congratulations to those wonderful young actresses who saved the kitten in the harbour tunnel. Re: Grieving, a small paperback I found useful for both people and animal bereavements is 'Coping With Grief', by Mal McKissock. I got my copy at the ABC Bookshop in the QVB but I think it is available at most bookshops.

Ed: Kittens learn what foods to eat from their mother which minimizes their chances of eating poisoned food. Generalising, a kitten brought up on a limited diet will be a very selective eater while a kitten brought up eating a wide variety of foods should eat about anything. That's the theory. My cats (including madam chewing wings in the photo) devoured wings for 6 months ... and I cooked the rest Chinese style when they suddenly refused to touch them... a stand

**YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS WHEN
YOU HEAR THE FRANTIC UNTYING OF
RIBBON AND THE FRENZIED TEARING
OF PAPER ..**

they have maintained to this day. To introduce a new taste a small portion should be mixed in the regular meal and the quantity slowly increased. You can miss a meal to make them hungrier, you can serve smaller portions to increase their appetite - and you can ram it down their throat when your frustration level is surpassed. (The last suggestion is not recommended as few cats accept that method without flashing fangs). I will try to cover this subject in an article in a future issue. It is a very good topic.

C M HINKLEY

The August issue was wonderful - the article on grieving was excellent and the cat in the tunnel was amazing. Congratulations!

HILDA DOMABYL, Vauchuse

I am an avid reader of your magazine and am always taken by the letters from readers about their pets. My passion is cats but I only have one at the moment, but what a special one she is. She came with the house my son bought but he is really too busy to give her the time she wants so I step in as Oma (grandmother) and cat sit and keep her company. Her name is Charlotte.

BA PHILLIPS, Birchgrove

Oh what excitement from Jack to see his poem 'Love' in the current issue. Thank you for giving him such a thrill. I spoke to Watson and Alice and promised them I would write about them too. We love Cat Affairs. I read it to them from cover to cover.

SANDRA EDEN

Secretary, CATCARE

Greetings from the Central Coast Cat Care Inc to all our friends and fellow cat lovers at the CPS. We would like to congratulate Nance Iredale on being awarded an 'Order of Australia Medal'. Nance has been and will ever remain an inspiration to us all. Cat care has been very busy up here on the Central Coast. Under the guidance of our enthusiastic president, Lyn Farmer, Cat Care is progressing well, with good relations between us and both Gosford City Council and Wyong Council. At present Wyong Shire Council is

constructing a complete cattery at the rear of the pound at Charmhaven to overcome the limited facilities they have.

Our treasurer, Joan Lessells, has managed to keep our Thrift Shop alive and kicking, against great odds, and our ever busy Welfare worker, Marlene Nichols, is doing a fabulous job. Although only a small team, we are working together extremely well, and with the help of our members and friends, Cat Care will continue to care for our feline friends on the Central Coast.



VALERIE MCLEISH, Tempe

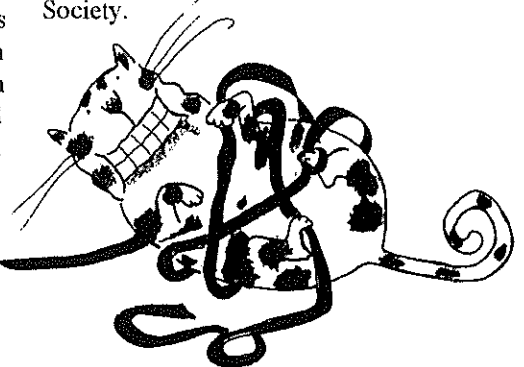
I am so glad the CPS was there to help when I read about the abused cat at Marrickville. I can't bear to think what the result would have been without CPS!!

AUDREY WALTER, Glen Innes

I wish I could help in your shop and in other ways but being 1000 kms from Sydney makes it hard! However, we recently took in two starving strays, fed them until they were in good health, had them desexed, wormed and immunised at our vet and found them good homes. Our ad in the local paper caught the eye of the local RSPCA lady and she was very interested to learn about the CPS. Thank you for the wonderful work you do.

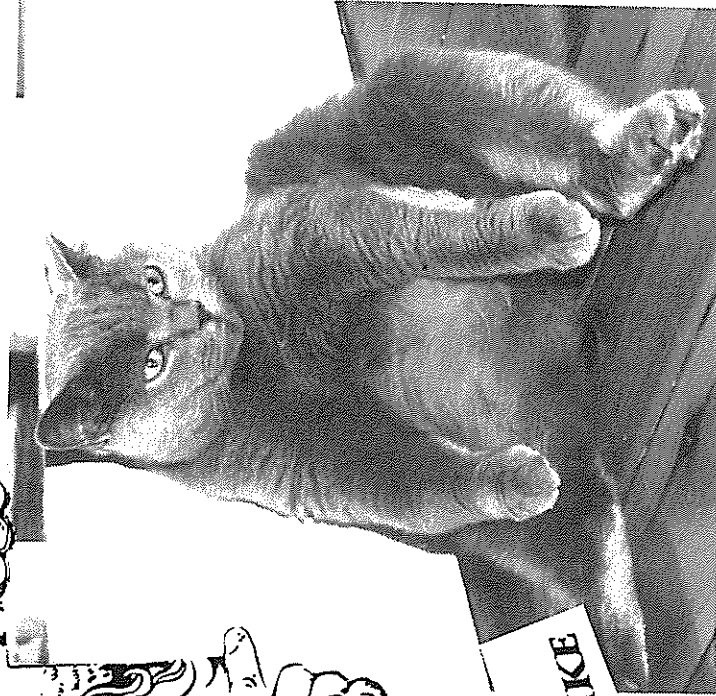
LEONIE SCHUBACK

Thank you for another excellent edition of Cat Affairs. My husband and I are travelling again and it is always nice when mail catches up with us. Cat Affairs was in with the last lot. I love the centrefold and Cat Tales. I really enjoy reading about other people's cat stories. Many thanks to all the hard workers in the Society.





**SANTA CLAWS
LOOK-A-LIKE**



"He had a little round belly
That shook when he laughed
Like a bowl full of jelly"

OPPORTUNITY SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PLEASE RING 557-1011 OR 519-7201 FOR DETAILS

CPS CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, 17 DECEMBER

2:00 p.m.

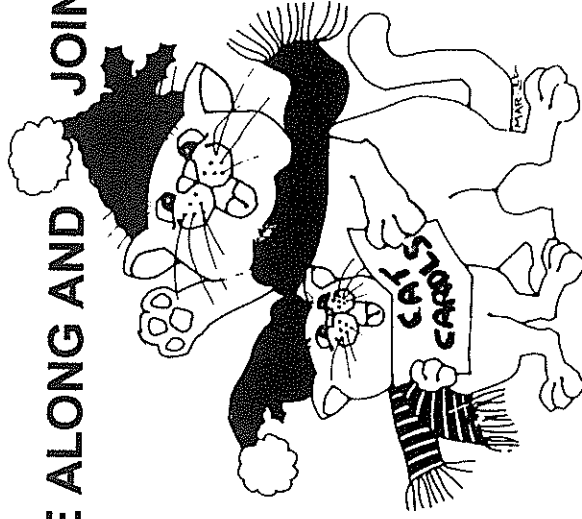
103 Enmore Road, Enmore

**** EVERYONE WELCOME ****

CAT CHAT GALORE

**FOOD, FUN, PHOTOS and FRIENDS
DOOR PRIZES & A RAFFLE**

COME ALONG AND JOIN US



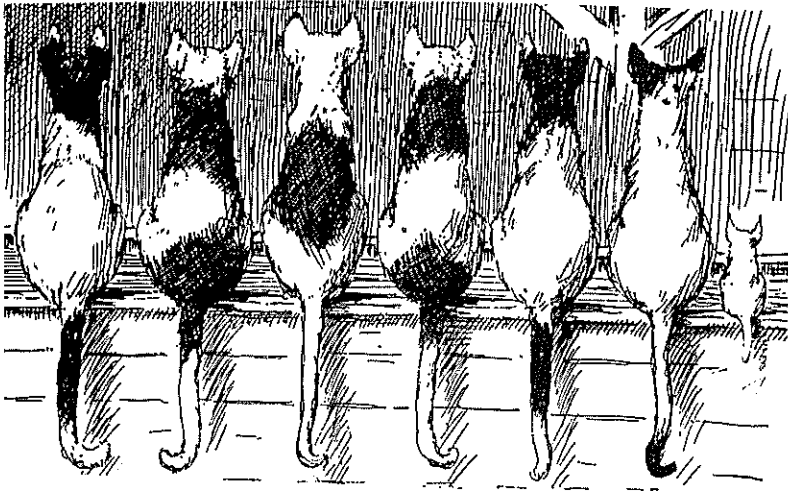
The CPS is across the street from the Enmore Theatre

Street parking readily available

Buses: 426, 428 from city stop close by

Train: Newtown Station, 3 block walk up Enmore Road

CAT TALES



CAT TALES COMPETITION WINNERS

Cat Affairs CAT TALES COMPETITION has run in the last two issues. The prize winners are

BA PHILLIPS of Birchgrove who wrote 'LOVE', a poem about her cat, Jack, which appeared on page 4 of the August issue.

DEBI TOMAN of Burwood, whose story, 'DOBERMAN', appears below.

The CPS congratulates the winners and thanks all those who sent in their lovely stories.

DOBERMAN

Debi Toman, Burwood NSW.

I live and work with adults who are intellectually disabled. At one house we had very bad luck with cats; one cat ignored people and the next kept bringing dead birds inside. So, as a group decision, we decided, 'No more cats!'

Mike, one of the assistants, had fallen in love with a stray cat. It was a lap cat and had a purr that could charm anyone. At a house meeting, Mike bravely asked if we could welcome this very special cat. As Dean walked in the door from Special Olympics practice the air was tense; the vote was three in favour, three against.

Dean was asked his opinion and was adamant in his response, 'NO CATS, NO WAY, NO HOW! - I WANT A DOBERMAN!!!' Mike looked a bit desperate and then suddenly his eyes began to twinkle and he said, "Deano, how about it if we name the cat 'Doberman'?" Dean dropped his sports bag and gave Mike the double 'thumbs up' sign ... and that is how we came to have a cat named Doberman!!!

TINKERBELLE

Elizabeth Shannon, Allambie NSW

My life long love affair with cats began when I was 9 and was allowed to bring a tiny tabby and white kitten home from my aunt's farm in Cootamundra where I had spent the school holidays. My aunt carefully packaged the kitten in a Weat-Bix box tied up with string, complete with air holes in the top, ready for my flight to Sydney. It was an old DC3 and I boarded it, secure in the knowledge that my secret was safe. My precious cargo was concealed in my hand luggage for the short flight. Soon after takeoff there was a stirring in my carry bag and a small pink nose appeared through a hole in the package, accompanied by a mewing that became increasingly difficult to ignore. Within minutes a head emerged and, to my utter embarrassment, my secret was no more. The hostess must have sensed my anxiety as she kindly offered a saucer of milk - yes, a saucer, which was placed on the floor in the aisle. Needless to say, Tinkerbelle became the star attraction on the plane as everyone was amused and more understanding than I could have possibly imagined. I would not be punished after all.

Tinkerbelle lived happily with our family for many years and it was not until I was married and my first son was two years old that Tinkerbelle died of cancer. Now that my family has grown,

I am the devoted owner of 4 cats - 3 Burmese and 1 Siamese, which I show with some success. My children have noted that they each have been replaced by a cat as they have left home. What a wonderfully loving extended family I have.

MY CATS

Flo Whittmore, Concord NSW

My niece had two 6 month old kittens. One day one was missing and it was finally found several days later under a neighbour's house, badly injured. My niece was mystified to see several dead birds around the kitten. Suddenly the other kitten came under the house dragging a dead bird and placed it near her sister, unable to know that her sister was too hurt to eat. The injured kitten had to be put to sleep and it was some time before the other kitten stopped looking for her.

I had a beautiful cat, Mitchell. He was a thin, neglected kitten who grew into a large, very handsome and much loved cat, admired by all the neighbours. One day I heard a commotion outside, went out, and saw a dog with our kitten, Mickey, in its mouth. Mitchell took one look and stalked majestically towards the dog who dropped Mickey and fled. Sadly Mitchell is no longer with us, but Mickey is now 7. He was brought up by Moose, who cares for all our kittens. Although a boy, Moose washes them, plays with them, takes them for walks, and sleeps with his arm around them. His present charge is Boy George, a lovely Burmese. I have 7 cats, all were strays.

WILSON

Rosemary Kurtz, Bellevue Hill

I bought many things in China while living there for two years but the most pleasure came from buying Wilson. He was in a cage with two other dirty, skinny white cats in a street market. He had many dramas on his way to Sydney and the experiences I had because of him were so memorable. The first occurred the second day he was with me. I had heard of a Chinese professor from the agricultural university who was a qualified vet. I wanted Wilson wormed, castrated, de-earmited and an injury to his back fixed. I had already bathed him. The vet said, 'one thing at a time'. The injury was from a burn and he would operate on it that night. So Wilson, the vet, his son (the translator) and I crammed into my little Fiat and went to one of the millions of rooms where the Chinese live. His wife was playing majong with friends, there was a litter of white kittens in a box and the coffee table was the operating table. Poor

Wilson! A neighbour invited me to listen to her daughter play the piano while Wilson was neutered to the sound of Mozart! Wilson convalesced on a couch where he received visitors,



WILSON
watched the birds and slept. As he recovered from his operations he gained weight and developed a beautiful white coat and has a very forgiving nature. In return for this tough hurdle and many since, he now has a garden.

THE THREE

Ba Phillips, Birchgrove.

Of the three of my cats, Watson is the sensitive one. He has lately taken to biting the other two, Jack and Alice, without provocation. Of course a fight ensues with Jack, and though Alice has never stooped to pugilism in her life, she does put on her warp-spasm which wards off interlopers equally well. Watson is as taken aback by it as anyone. It involves fluffing up her considerable persian coat and hissing.

Watson is one of those ever moving cats. He cannot stay still for you to stroke him and even when he climbs onto your lap, he stands painfully instead of settling down to a good cuddle. This means he gets fewer cuddles than the other two - and hates them for it. He likes to be brushed but even then cannot bear to stand quietly but moves to and fro ecstatically, inconveniencing the brusher.

Jack is a model male. He eats enthusiastically, goes out at night and bashes up other cats, returns in the morning for a good breakfast of steak, and then drops off to sleep on a cushion after having his tummy gently rubbed. He grabs attention guilelessly and appears to feel no jealousy; why should he? He is never denied.



Alice is queen of the house. She is beautiful even in old age and knows her power. She asks for food, brushing, stroking and a lullaby as she requires them. She has always enjoyed a good story, but only if she is the heroine. She looks as though she is on tiny wheels because her long silky coat brushes the floor, concealing her dainty feet. She has glorious whiskers which appear very white against her dark pansy face. She is a tortiseshell with lovely patches of apricot and pale cream. One

of these is on her chin, giving the impression she has been at the cream bowl. There is another on her back left paw; in her royal progress she has walked through the saucer.

At night Alice jumps onto my pillow, and lowering her soft head, purrs into my ear. Having wakened me sufficiently, she then makes dough in my hair, singing vigorously. The heavy warmth at my buttocks is Watson, who walks over me only in the mornings when I should be up and about his breakfast. If I do not take the hint, he attacks his brother, Jack, just in from his nightly activities, and tired. They lose a lot of soft ginger hair which floats down the stairs as I get up, adding character to my warm toffee wool dressing gown and my orange striped pyjamas.

Death alone will separate us.

THE LAMENT OF BEL AMI

Mrs M Sinclair, Petersham

Aussie has gone away. My lovely blue grey friend from kittenhood to cathood has gone. But where? We cats are strong on territory but very weak on geography. He was terrified at what was happening. His mother bought a carry basket although he used to use mine. And then there were all those people, dozens of them, tramping through the house and garden but what were they doing? They never stopped to eat anything. The stress was just too much for Aussie and he hid under my house. Then there were all the boxes in the front room and a man came and took the furniture, including the chair I used to lie on. A morning came but Aussie did not come in for our usual sleep in the sun. All was quiet. I went in but the doors were shut, the pot plants were gone and Aussie was gone too. Now there are new people and my favourite bushes have been dug up. I lie in my own garden wondering, where has Aussie gone.

BILLY-CAT WHO CAN'T MEOW

Pinky Fitzgerald

I am a 16 month old, extremely spoiled, tabby cat. My start in life was horrific. At 5 weeks of age I was found in an industrial rubbish bin outside Macdonalds at Macquarie Centre. It was an extremely cold and rainy night when two young boys found my almost lifeless body in the rubbish. They rushed me to Pets World and into the arms of Heidi, the manageress. Heidi loved and nurtured me for three weeks, not knowing if I would survive. I still can't let out more than a few little squeaks as a result of all my crying the night I was left to die. During my recovery Sharon would drop by to cuddle and talk to me, telling me she wished that she could take me home. Well, thanks to the god of cats, Sharon stopped by one night with her husband, Kevin, who found me irresistible. I was still very thin, my fur was slow in growing and I had no meow. All in all, I was a pretty doleful sight but judging from my before and after photos, no one would realise I had such a horrific start to life. Who out there feels justified in throwing such a young and weak thing to almost certain death, it has me baffled!! Sharon and Kevin brought me home and named me Billy-Cat. Misty and Gracie, their Chinchillas, and I have a very special life. We are so lucky that we need never know the horrors that befall our fellow felines out in the wild. If you wish to own a cat please be prepared to love us forever and to have us desexed. It is all we ask of you.

YOU GOTTA HAVE SKIN

Kim Kendall BVSc MACVS (feline medicine)

The skin is the first impression. It is often the cover by which the book is judged, visually and medically. It is a complex organ in its own right, producing a waterproof, insulated environment for the rest of the cat to get around in. I have long considered a cat to be a fur person, so the following is a tribute to the glossy covering our feline friends spend so much time perfecting.

The skin, for the hair coat is only a portion of the picture, is technically called the integument, or more melodiously, the pelage. It has an assortment of functions, so several special structures have evolved to cope with them. There are various glands, of which the mammarys are the most obvious. The other glands are in the skin itself and produce sweat, waxes and oils to keep the coat in good condition. There is a fat layer - especially in the area between the cat's hind legs. This is the feline version of the camel's hump - they never leave themselves without a backup calorie store! (Try to remember it the next time your 'starving kitty' is at the fridge door!) The skin is also vital for vitamin D production, which of course requires sunlight, so is a good excuse for sitting in those warm spots outside. ("I'm just getting my vitamin D, Mum!")

As the barrier between the outside (environment) and the inside (cat), one of the main functions of the skin is perception. We think of the five senses as seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching, but forget about the skin as an entity that is frequently touched. It has a rich variety of nerve endings providing the brain with information about heat, cold, touch, pressure and pain (via different nerves for some of these). In fact, every hair follicle has a nerve ending attached, so the skin is really a big source of stimulation and information for the cat. There are also special hairs (called vibrissae) such as whiskers, and the long hairs above the eyebrows, and shorter ones behind the wrists on the front legs, which send very specific information about air movement and touch to help navigate in the dark.

Hair itself is a remarkable entity, both as individual strands and en masse as a fur covering. The colour, length, density and pattern is genetically determined, and the inheritance of some of the array of cat colours and variations have been worked out. Interestingly, this information is being used to track the original source of some of the feral cat populations in Australia (proving that some cat colonies arrived before Phillip and the settlers did). Of course breeders have been using the information for a long time to produce pedigreed cats and kittens with all their assorted colours, types and features.

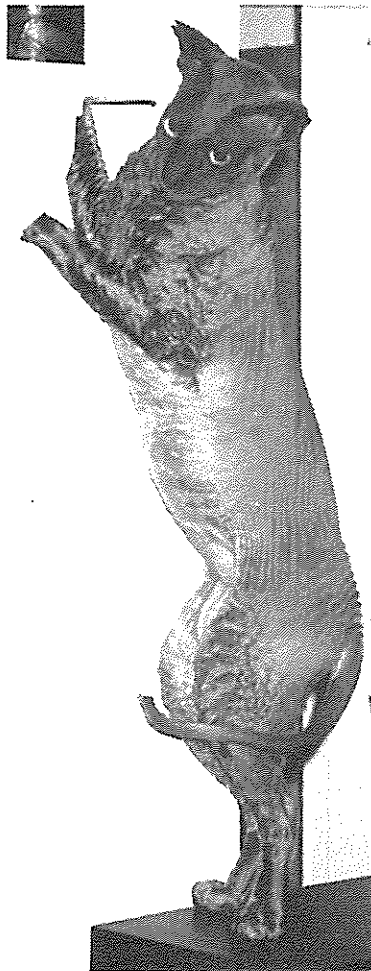
When a kitten is still a foetus, the first hairs to develop are the vibrissae mentioned earlier. Then the ordinary hair follicles develop with only one hair per follicle. At birth, this coat is called the Languns coat, and is never seen at any other stage, because other bundles of hair follicles develop so that by 4 months there are up to 5 accessory hairs in the bundle, and by 6 months, up to 15. In addition, hair produced goes from being very fine to being more coarse. Hence the baby fur coat is much different in both type and quantity of hair than the adult. There are 3 types of adult hair - thick, straight guard hairs, thick awn hairs and the undercoat which is very fine (and may even crimp) and which outnumbers guard hairs by up to 10:1 depending on breed and individual genetics. Hair grows 0.29 mm/day (primary follicles) and is shed in a random pattern over the body (and sofa), so that there is never normally a bald patch. That is why bald patches are so helpful in determining a cat's problem.

Normal shedding is a gradual (and unstoppable) process, and the hair follicle rests for a while before making another hair shaft. If a hair is plucked, regrowth begins immediately, but clipping and shaving have no effect on the hair growth cycle (so that operation sites do get a hair covering quickly, and clipped cats do not stay short coated for long!). The hair growth is, however, affected by hormones and the metabolic rate of the skin. Older cats' coats are thinner, the hair shaft is shorter, more brittle, with less colour (so it is grey), and this is a natural progression down the road of life. However, any rapid change in coat condition should be investigated, as the coat really is a good indicator of health.

Cats have the thinnest skin of all domestic animals and it is very loose, especially over the back and neck. The cat can literally slip around inside its own skin - hence the sensation of losing control when a cat really wants to get away, or remove a bandage! There are glands in feline skin, but they are not used for cooling down like sweat glands in people and horses. I think cats use inactivity as a method of temperature control - then adjust the thermostat by position relative to sun or heater. These sweat glands (called apocrine glands) are associated with

each hair follicle complex but produce mainly oils to keep the skin soft and the coat glossy. These glands are affected by sickness, malnutrition and parasites and are part of the 'poor coat/poor health' evaluation. They have their own tiny muscles called arrector pili muscles which contract to empty the gland contents onto the skin. These are different to the erector pili muscles which cause the cat to fluff up (by making the hairs stand upright) to look bigger when frightened or confrontational. The vibrissae have yet another set of muscles to control them - its really very complicated being a cat!

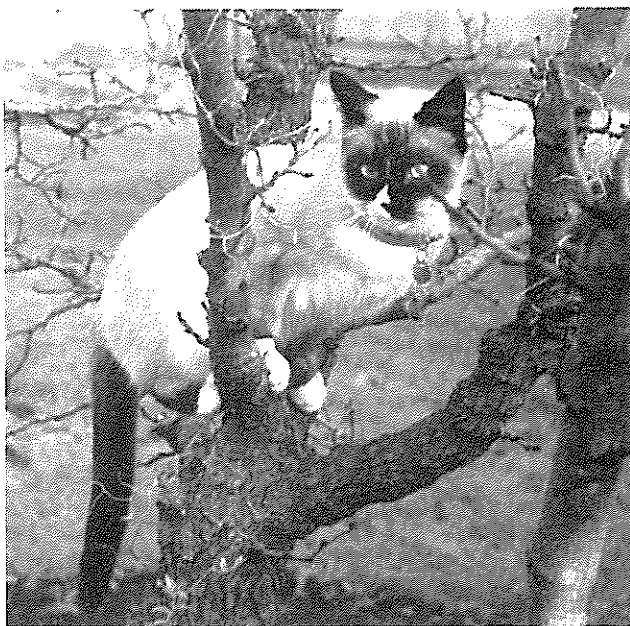
The feet have several features which differentiate their skin covering from elsewhere on the body. The footpad outer layer is very tough, hairless skin, to withstand wear and tear, with an internal pad of fat which has strands of elastic tissue through it to make it springy (a bit like a mattress). There are some



different glands here as well, called merocrine glands, which also produce sweat and leave those little paw prints on the vet's consulting table where a worried cat has walked! The claw, of course, is a wonderful piece of equipment, and an ingenious mechanism of controlled destruction. A claw grows rapidly (no kidding!) and is a modified piece of skin folded over the blood supply - the quick- and attached to the last bone in the toe. It is held inside the claw sheath by an elastic strip of tissue, and is brought out by a controlled tightening of the tendon underneath the toe. So the effort is in bringing the claws out, not putting them away. Most of our own cats know this, I guess, and go for the minimum of effort. Besides, most owners are under voice control by their cats anyway!

And finally to the tail area for the skin of the head deserves separate attention what with ears, eyelashes and so on to describe!). The tail has several extra glandular areas, dealing mainly with personal identity. There is an area on the top of the tail, about 1/3rd of the way down (so Manx cats do not have it) which secretes oils and waxes. In some cats this may become excessive and lead to greasiness and discolouration, especially in white cats. It is an individual problem, and hormones (giving some or taking some away by desexing) have little effect, and the cat is rarely inconvenienced unless there is an infection to be treated. The perianal glands (in the pink area around the anus) and the anal sacs (hidden within the anal sphincter but with an external exit on either side of the anus) exude smells that are attractive, or at least informative to other cats. Humans tend to find the secretions offensive, especially those from the anal sac (which is a reduced version of the skunk's defensive squirt mechanism). Cats mark territory and time of passing with appropriate deposits of these secretions, and to confirm their friendship with those they do not recognise by sight (fortunately they mostly recognise us by sight), by odours in this area.

With all that goes under, around and through a cat's coat, it is one of their most beautiful natural assets. The warm silken weight on your lap at night says it all about our feline friends.



ULYASHA Ulysha loved milk and was once shut in the fridge. She was like a Siamese with white feet and had a white blaze on one side of her face. She was so intelligent and she could jump up, hit the door handle and open it.

JOAN HAUB W. WYALONG.



SUMMER TIPS

The heat is on and it is time to give your cat extra care. Here are some tips for a happier summer.

- 1) Plenty of fresh water
- 2) Keep pale skinned cats out of the sun (and sunny windows) from 11 - 3pm
- 3) Expect a lower appetite on hot days
- 4) Always have a cat in an adequately ventilated area
- 5) NEVER leave a cat (or any animal) in a closed car, even with the windows slightly open or parked in the shade
- 6) Make sure all the cat's inoculations and worming are up to date
- 7) Keep your cat and your house flea free
- 8) If you live above the ground floor make sure all your windows are securely screened
- 9) Provide a cool, shady place for your cat to sleep
- 10) Regular grooming will help spot fleas, ticks and other parasites.

HEAT STRESS

If your cat appears to be suffering excessively from the heat

- 1) Stand him on a cool, wet towel, cooling the pads helps to more quickly cool the cat.
- 2) Sprinkle cool water over his coat or lightly wet his coat with a wet face washer
- 3) Rub cool water on the tops of his ears
- 4) Rub some cool water around his mouth but make sure you don't get any in his nose.

My cats are not fond of water but they all willingly and quietly stand on the bathroom vanity while I rub cool water onto their coats if they appear to be uncomfortable with the heat. Once dampened down they then wash the coat and ingest the excess moisture. On some of Sydney's hottest days this procedure is repeated 3 and 4 times. When there is resistance to the periodic wetting they are not stressed enough to need it.

The World's Shortest Poem...

FLEAS

Madam

had 'em.

KISMET

Liz Tabori

WOMAN FINED FOR NEGLECT OF CATS

Qlds Courier Mail 15/01/94

A woman who was fined \$300 yesterday for mistreating 11 cats said she was a cat lover who bred the animals for show. Barbara Rose Fittler, a 35 year old pensioner of Acacia Ridge, Qld, pleaded guilty in the Western District Magistrates Court to charges that she left the cats caged without water for three weeks last October. RSPCA inspectors discovered the cats after neighbours complained of a bad smell coming from the Fittler's yard. Three cats were found dead and the rest were severely dehydrated, emaciated and riddled with ringworm and cat flu. A RSPCA spokeswoman said five cats had been put down. The last three, which had failed to recover, would be put down soon. When the cats came in to the RSPCA they were scrawny beyond belief.

Excerpts from a letter from Liz Tabori to a Cornish Rex breeder in Sydney.

I just thought I'd write and let you know Jiffy and I are getting along well and I have had a new addition to the family. The addition is another Cornish Rex that I got from the RSPCA. I read an article in the paper (see above) and phoned the RSPCA to see what would be done about the cats. They said they could not be sold because they would need special care and an owner would have to be aware of any problems they may have. I took the blue cream girl after having her carefully tested by my vet (pathology tests - everything!). She was a wildcat!!! I thought I would lose her out of the cage the first day because she was so wild and frightened. I had a large bird aviary where I planned to keep her until I was sure she was okay. The other Rex was the loveliest natured cat I had ever seen. She jumped up on my neck when I first went in the RSPCA cage and was so affectionate. She would be easier to place because she was so nice than the wild one, so I took the wild one.



It was only that I had a Rex and knew the wonderful nature of them that I was so sure it would work and it has turned out better than I could ever have imagined. It took a couple of weeks to calm her down but now she is unbelievable. The other cats didn't see her for a couple of months because she was isolated, but she has become so

healthy that she came in season. She has never shown any sign of illness except that she has to be kept on lams food to control her diarrhoea. Her bowels have been permanently damaged from the trauma she suffered. Actually, the RSPCA people told me the situation was much worse than was reported in the paper. Most of the cats died so she is very lucky. She is climbing trees and just being normal now, even though she sticks with me most of the time. She's a bit of a Mummie's girl!!

I called her Kismet because it was just fate that I read the paper that day. When I first got her she had no hair at all but now she has a full coat. Kis is just in love with life, because of what she has been through. She has been spayed now. It makes me laugh when people say Rexes are not as tough as other cats because she survived what some domestics and Persians could not.

MERLIN

Morgana Oliver ©

Merlin was a very special cat. Of course he was as black as a moonless night. His round yellow eyes glowed like headlamps. With a firm regal grace, Merlin ruled the house. When my father came to stay for Christmas Merlin's routine was overturned. He was used to being the centre of attention, he'd had us well organised for eight years. You could tell by the way he sat, staring out of the window, his back to us as we fussed around this intruder. His shoulders clearly stated, 'there is nothing outside the window worthy of my attention'. And probably, 'Even less inside this room'.



But my father had had a mild stroke and this was also his first Christmas without Mum. We wanted him to come and live with us but it was hard to communicate with him. I turned the reclining chair so he could see out the window too. Then I left them, the old man and the black cat, side by side.

We couldn't get any response from my father, although his eyes followed us. The doctor had said he could move his left hand but we hadn't seen that either. I didn't know how we were going to get through Christmas. It was going to be more difficult than we'd thought.

Merlin had always sat on my lap in the reclining chair. Losing a chair and a lap was more than the average cat could be expected to cope with and when I came in from the kitchen Merlin had made his move. I called my husband to come and see. Merlin lay on my father's lap, massaging the rug that covered Dad's legs. Then he rolled over on his back and looked up into the old man's eyes. As we watched, my father's left hand moved - slowly, stiffly until it rested on Merlin. Merlin purred loudly enough to call us, as if he didn't already know we were there. And slow tears started to fall from my father's tightly shut eyes.



Merlin was a very special cat. He ruled us, the house and after that Christmas, my father as well.

BOOK REVIEWS



SLINKY MALINKI

Lynley Dodd, Era Publications, RRP \$18.95 (age 6+)

Slinky Malinki has a twinkle in his eye and devilment in his heart and his adventures will have kids and adults rapt. It is a good book to read to the kids, otherwise you will be constantly interrupted to share the antics of this cheeky feline. The other books in this series about Slinky and his mates are well worth having. ☺☺☺☺

YOUR CAT, Vincent Landel, Published by Moonlight Publishing - distributed by Era Publications, (age 8+) RRP \$10.95. Your Cat is a compilation of cat facts, poems, history, wild cats, house cats, cat names and even a brief section on pedigreed cats. In the main it is a good little book for lots of easily digested facts. However, the sketches and information on the breeds are far from accurate. Get the book for fun and interesting facts but get a more reliable source for information on purebreds. ☺☺

THE FARMYARD CAT, Christine Anello, Ashton Scholastic, softcover RRP 9.95 (age 3+) The antics of The Farmyard Cat make good easy reading for kids. With a knife and fork in her pocket she goes after the hens and ends up getting the best of all the animals. She also appears in a new adventure in the book **THE FARMYARD CAT IN TROUBLE**. ☺☺☺

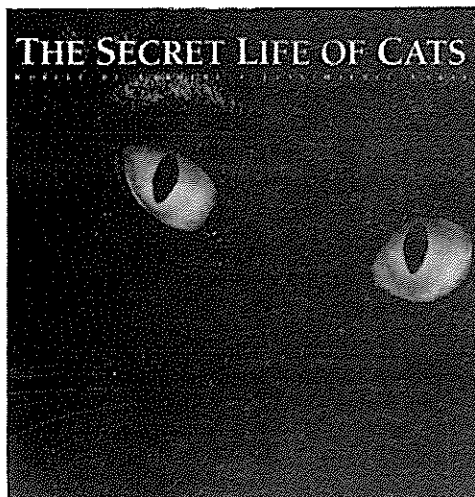
CATS, by G Jeunesse, P de Bourgoing and H Galeron, Era Publishing, hardcover, RRP \$10.95 (age 5+) This superbly presented children's (and collector's) book is the cat's whiskers. Strong plasticised pages use transparent overlays and excellent illustrations to introduce the charm of cats to young readers. ☺☺☺☺

SCALLYWAG, Jeannette Rowe, Ashton Scholastic, Softcover, \$9.95 (age 5+). Scallywag is well named - a fat, contented cat whose main aim in life is to con as many meals as possible with hilarious results. The illustrations are wonderful! ☺☺☺

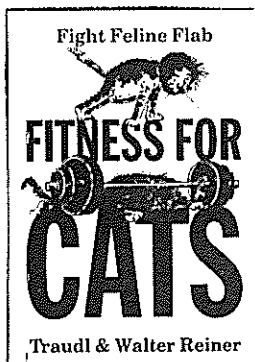
FITNESS FOR CATS, Traudl & Reiner, Jacaranda Press, hardcover, RRP \$13.95

If you laughed your way through Yoga for Cats and Astrology for Cats, here is another one for your collection. The intrepid six hit the bar bells and knee bends to entertain you while they get fit at the local gym, with Arnie Schwarzenegger giving advice. The cartoon characters and captions are cute, making this an ideal book for you or for a gift. ☺☺☺

THE SECRET LIFE OF CATS, Robert de Laroche & Jean-Michel Labat, Jacaranda Press, Hardcover RRP \$34.95



Who has never looked into the eyes of a cat and wondered about the secrets that lie behind that enigmatic gaze? All cats have their secrets and here are some of them revealed in words and pictures which explore their enigma and allure. To its admirers, the cat is never just an animal, and Robert de Laroche's elegant examination of its many metamorphoses explores these contradictions to present little known aspects of its personality, its curious history, its rapport with mankind. The book is also a visual feast with photographs of magnificent artworks featuring cats in various guises throughout the ages. Best of all are the



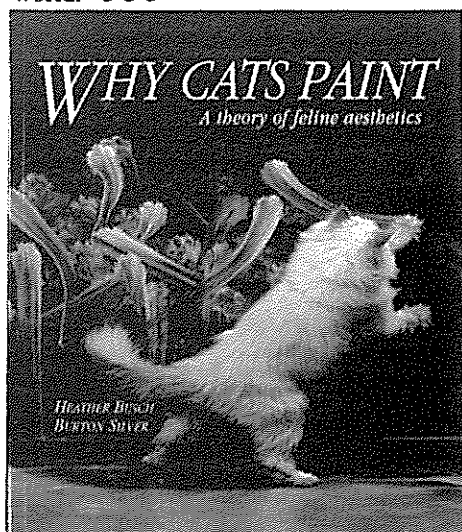
real cats, of all kinds and colours, whose beauty, strangeness and mystery is brilliantly captured in the photographs of Jean-Michel Labat. The Secret Life of Cats is a book for cat lovers and cat watchers everywhere. ☺☺☺☺

LETTS POCKET GUIDE TO CATS by David Burn and Chris Bell, National Book Distributors and Publishers, hardcover, 125 pages, RRP \$12.95.

This is a compact guide to the officially recognised breeds in Britain and the USA. (The book states 'the Western World' but there is no Spotted Mist included). It features an easy to use system of colour coded bands and symbols and has a reasonable introduction on pedigreed cats as well as concise text on each breed. But the book disappoints because it does not accurately portray the correct types and coats of the breeds. While you could possibly identify many breeds, the sketches present pet type only and cannot be used as a reliable reference. ☹

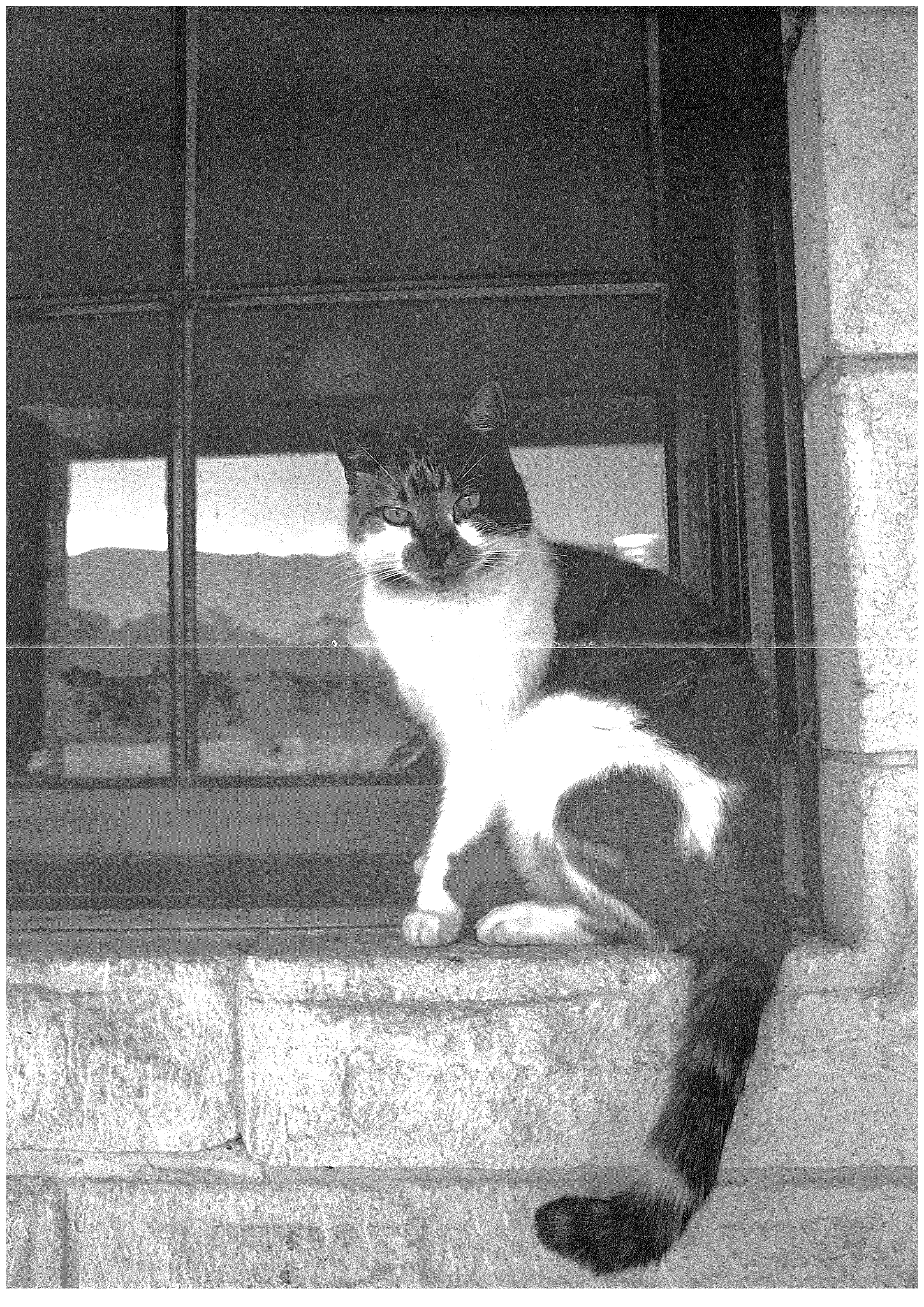
WHY CATS PAINT, A Theory of Feline Aesthetics, Heather Busch & Burton Silver, Publisher: Allen & Unwin, \$24.95

The fact that some cats are able to make marks with paint has always been explained by biologists as an instinctive form of territorial marking. Now, Why Cats Paint, presents a cogently argued theory based on recent evidence which clearly supports the view that some cat's marks are aesthetically motivated and should be regarded as genuine works of art. In this lavishly illustrated book the authors outline the many different aspects of feline creativity and offer a detailed examination of representative works from the best known cat artists around the world. ☺☺☺



☺☺☺☺ Purrfect
☺☺ Good

☺☺☺ Worthy
☺ Hiss



ROMULUS

THE SOCK NAPPER

(Ed note: My apologies to the author of this piece. The story became separated from the original letter and the name was not on the story page. To all who write in, please put your name and suburb on the article you are submitting so this will not happen)

This is a true story. My friend and I had just left a restaurant when a car pulled up in front of us, threw a black kitten out, and took off. The kitten picked himself up, noticed he was dusty, so he gave himself a couple of licks to look more presentable and trotted over to me to rub against my legs and miaow. He was a charmer. I put him in my pocket and took him home. He is part Persian with jet black fur that is wonderfully long and he has two large, perfectly round yellow eyes that contrast with the blackness of his fur. As I have already said, he is a charmer. He can charm the birds out of the trees if he wants to. Everyone has fallen for his charms, even the most ardent cat hater. Everyone that is, except for the lady who lived next door to us at the time. My other cats knew they were not welcome in her garden and didn't trespass on her property. Romulus also learned but it must have been a shock to him to come up against someone who didn't fall for his charms.

About a month after Romulus charmed his way into our house he came home with a pair of baby socks that had been placed together and rolled into a ball. He went straight into the lounge room with these socks and played with them. They were rolled under the lounge, thrown in the air and pounced on. The only person I knew who had a baby was the lady next door. The room at the back of their house had the washing machine and ironing board and the window was always open. I wanted to return these socks but I knew once she realized that Romulus had taken them there would be a scene. I ignored it, after all, it was only one pair of socks.

However, a month later Romulus came over with another pair, and a month later another pair. I can only imagine what the lady next door was going through when she realized she was losing pairs of baby socks. Again I was tempted to tell her. It would have been better for us both if I could because she could put the socks in a safe place. However, she was hard to get along with and it seemed a more peaceful way not to inform her. I could not return them myself without climbing through her window. I am sure a lot of cat owners face similar predicaments. I once caught Romulus in the act of stealing. It took him approximately 60 seconds to climb over our fence, enter the laundry next door and emerge with his prized possession.

The woman had another baby and again baby socks were brought home. This went on for over 2.5 years at which time we moved. We now had about 3 dozen pairs which were carefully washed and put into a plastic bag. As my last act on leaving my house, in the darkness of night, I placed the bag of socks on her doorstep with a note, 'Thank you for the loan of the socks Romulus'. I got into the car and left.

Romulus still loves a pair of baby socks and I buy them often. Each pair is reduced to just threads. The lady next door probably didn't even know the black cat's name was Romulus and she is probably still wondering who the Romulus is that borrowed the socks.

PURRSPECTIVES

SCREEN DOOR DANGER

Ensure your main doors are secured by a fastener or a doorstop when left open. A reader reported that one of his cats was caught between the security screen door and the main door sometime during the night when the wind blew the door closed. It wasn't known how long the cat was trapped but he was discovered he had eight undamaged claws, 8 ravaged to the bleeding stage and two gone altogether. His eyes were red and swollen from the irritation of all the loose fur he had shed in fright and in his efforts to free himself. One claw socket became infected and had to have vet treatment. The worst aspect of the cat's misadventure was the fact that the owner had a doorstop at the door but there was not a hint of a breeze when he went to bed.

FLEAS

Birds are very successful in ridding themselves of insect parasites by means of dust baths. The dust clogs the respiratory systems of the insects, thus causing suffocation. Today's practitioners of holistic vet medicine suggest similar natural means of ridding pets of fleas. Sprinkle brewers yeast directly onto the animal's coat. It works from the outside and inside. Its powdery substance kills many fleas and the cat ingests the powder residue as it cleans its coat and benefits from the healthful properties of the yeast.

HEAT

Cats are remarkably adept at staying cool when the temperature turns warm. When the thermometer rises above 30 degrees and a high humidity factor, a feline thermostat - a combination of instinctive behaviour techniques and psychological changes - takes over.

On hot days cats seek out the coldest, shadiest surface available and plunk down. If that happens to be tile, vinyl, glass or brick - materials that actually absorb and dissipate heat - a cat may lie fully outstretched to maximize the cooling effect.

Although not discernable to the naked eye, pores on the cat's skin expand slightly in hot weather, allowing for better ventilation. You might assume, then, that a cat would be more comfortable without the burden of its fur. Not so. The coat acts as insulation, keeping heat out and regulating body temperature. It is a good idea to comb or brush your cat's coat daily during the summer months. Grooming removes loose fur and gives you an opportunity to check the condition of the cat's skin, ears, eyes and feet.

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

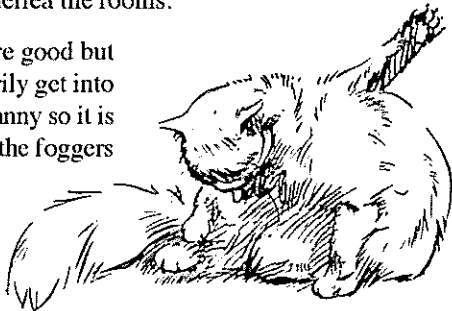
Anyone who has ever run through lawn sprinklers to cool off knows how the combination of air and water works to relieve the heat. Cats don't come equipped with sprinklers but they do apply the same principle by spreading saliva over their coats. In the summer the consistency of the saliva actually becomes thinner and thereby more 'spreadable'. As saliva evaporates from the hair, heat is dissipated and the cat is cooler.

YOU CANNOT FLEE THE FLEA

The first rule of combat is 'to know thy enemy' and the adage applies to fighting a foe such as the flea. Fleas thrive best in heat and humidity with temperatures around the 25-35 degrees. The most common flea, enjoying both canine and feline, is the cat flea, which prefers to live on its host. During its lifetime it can produce hundreds, if not thousands, of fleas, laying 25-40 eggs a day to achieve this. Most of these eggs fall off the host animal and into the environment where the animal lives. The eggs hatch, grow through the larvae period and look around for a succulent body to supply food for their own breeding season, thus perpetuating the line and keeping the stock going.

Wherever you have animals there are fleas. It is a simple fact. They are not just on the animal, they are in the carpet, on the furniture, in the beds, among your clothes - everywhere your cat roams. To break the cycle you have to attack everywhere at once. Remove the cat from the house and bathe it in an approved flea preparation. Keep the cat away from the house while you deflea the rooms.

The mist sprays are good but they can't necessarily get into every nook and cranny so it is a wise idea to use the foggers as well as a spray or powder. Be pedantic when you clean the house and get into every corner and crevice. Both you and your cat will reap the benefits of a day's labour. If you are unsure of what products are best contact your vet and ask his advice. You might want to board the cat for a day while you wreak havoc on the flea population.



You need to address all phases of the flea cycle, eggs, larvae and adults so it is recommended that at least one of the products you choose to use has a residual effect and will stay in the carpet and furnishing for some time, killing the eggs as they hatch. You also need to start your flea eradication early in the season. It is much better to catch them in the early stages than when house and cat are rife with them. It is always harder and more expensive to deal with a mass invasion. Again, it is not good enough to wash the fleas off the cat with a medicated anti-flea preparation. You must get as many fleas in their various life stages as possible to have a longer lasting effect on the population. Look for flea dirt. The black peppery looking substance is the excrement of fleas. If you are not sure if it is actual dirt or dirt from fleas, moisten it. If it leaves a red or pink mark it contains dried blood and is definitely from a flea.

The Sydney flea plagues are a very good reason to keep your cat indoors where it is easier to control the environment. But don't ever get blase about fleas and feel that you can't have fleas because your cat never goes outside. Fleas enter the house through every crack and you bring them into the house on your shoes and clothes. Complacency cannot exist when you are fighting this age old tormentor.

Always choose flea products that are recommended for cats. Cats are much more sensitive to toxins than are other animals and great care must be taken to avoid poisoning your

pet. When you try a new preparation it is important to keep a close eye on your cat and if he starts to behave in a manner that is not typical, he should be taken to the vet immediately, as well as full details of the preparation you have used. It is also a good idea to change products regularly as fleas have been around so long because they adapt so well and as soon as you get something that really succeeds, you will get some fleas that are immune to it. If you have a cat that is super sensitive to fleas and gets an exzema when the flea bites, it is very important to see your vet so you can properly treat it before the condition gets out of hand.

The effectiveness of flea collars varies from cat to cat and flea collars should never be used on kittens under 4 months of age. Make sure your cat accepts wearing the collar and is not likely to get his mouth caught in the band trying to get it off. Chewing on the collar can release the poisons into the cat's system and cause problems. Rain can diminish the life of a flea collar so be sure you change your outdoor cat's collar more frequently. You can bathe young kittens in warm water with a mild detergent or acceptable flea shampoo that will stun the fleas while you pick them off. Make sure you rinse the kitten well and that it is completely dry.

Some cats have a high tolerance to fleas and can be riddled with them without being too uncomfortable. Others develop skin problems from one bite and can be an owner's nightmare if they are not looked after properly. Owners also have a wide range of tolerance to fleas. Some people can live in a flea infested home and never get a bite. Another person might be covered in red marks after a short stay in a home with a pet.

One of the greatest anti-flea products is the humble vacuum cleaner. Part of the warm weather litany should be to vacuum, vacuum, vacuum; floors, furniture, drapes, getting into all the corners and hard to reach areas that fleas love. Be sure to change the bag regularly so that doesn't become a breeding haven. The cleaner the house the less chance fleas have to multiply and the easier it is to keep them under control.



Train you cat to enjoy - or tolerate- regular grooming so you can daily check his coat in the summer months, looking for and erradicating any fleas you find. The fine tooth flea combs are excellent for this, as is the practice of having a bowl of detergent water next to you to keep dipping the comb to kill the fleas. Fleas are hosts to tapeworms and a cat who is licking his coat is bound to ingest fleas and get tapeworms. Make sure your worming is up to date all the time but most especially in the hotter months. Your vet can advise you on various worming preparations and help administer the dose if you have one of the felines that loathes medication.

Always remember, when you welcome a cat into your home you are also opening the door to fleas. It is a constant battle, each month, every year, to keep the population under control. But the happiness and companionship you get from your pet makes this extra vigilance well worth while and his comfort is payment enough in the end.

IN REMEMBERANCE



VALE

BILL MARTIN died 28 May, 1994
An early Life Member of the CPS.
Bill is survived by his widow, Irene, who is also a life member. Irene joined the CPS in 1954 and was Honorary Secretary of the Society in its formative years, with the help and assistance of her late husband.

NOREEN WOOD

I enclose a donation to honour the memory of a friend of mine, Noreen Wood, who died this year. I decided not to purchase flowers for her funeral but to do something practical - particularly since Mrs Wood's last years were enhanced by her friendship with Screamer Fatfeet who arrived at her house as a stray and became her pet. Marjorie Wells, Glebe.

MUMA CAT & KELLY

Muma cat, you gave us 11 years of joy and your daughter, Kelly delighted us for 17 years.
(name not supplied)

SAPPHO

For my sweetest little cat - 1963-1980, Sappho.
Madeline Oriolo, Darling Point

LOUISE

In loving memory of my darling Louise, 1976-1993. Forever in my heart.
Marjorie Smith, Annerley, Qld

SEBASTIAN

My darling friend of 17 years, a buddy and uncle to so many of our kittens, especially Yamieithin. 'Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding'.
Marilyn & Peter

THAI-TU

A donation is enclosed in memory of Thai-Tu, now sleeping in his garden.
Carolyn Craddock

MITCHELL

In loving memory of Mitchell, our beautiful, big, gentle cat who passed away recently at the age of 13.
Flo & Jack Whittemore, Concord

JOANNE

In memory of my dearest pussy cat, Joanna, whom I lost on 31 July. She was from the Opportunity Shop and she gave me so many opportunities for happiness.
Olive Graham, Belfield

MAGGIE

Always ready to greet with a cuddle and a purr,
Our little ball of soft, black fur,
Her life was taken just before she turned one,
If only she were still here to play and have fun,
But sadly she's gone, she passed into heaven
Rest in Peace dear Maggie, never forgotten.
Charmaine & David Creenaune

LUCKY

In memory of my cat Lucky, whose 21st birthday was mentioned in your April issue. I appreciated the fact that he appeared on the cover.
Jean Herrick.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from Page 2...*

rosters, and in any other way. You are all playing your part in the results that the society is able to achieve.

THE JOURNAL Lee Wright, a former Councillor of the Society, kindly offered to be the editor of our Journal early this year. Lee has demonstrably proved her talents at producing a magazine with wide appeal to our members. She enjoys her role as editor and we consider ourselves fortunate to have such an enthusiastic person. We also wish to express our grateful thanks to Mr Fred Price, our previous Editor, for the time and expertise he gave to the Society and we welcome him back to Council after his battle with a serious illness.

Finally, I extend my personal thanks to all members of State Council for their unfailing support and dedication to the work of our Society. Each one has his or her own role to play in keeping the wheels turning and it is only by a united effort and with harmonious relations that the CPS will be able to progress.

SHIRLEY PIKLER

PERIDONTAL DISEASE

The Silent Disease

Taken from a lecture by Dr T Lonsdale, B. Vet Med MRCVS

"Periodontal disease is actually a continuing process rather than individual stages" (Dr Gary Beard 1992).

STAGES OF PERIDONTAL DISEASE

Healthy	Sharp gingival margin, shrimp colour, normal stippling and no odour (healthy looking gums)
Grade I	Marginal gingivitis. The leading edge of the gums appears inflamed. Odour is usually present
Grade II	Moderate gingivitis. Inflammation of gingiva with the addition of oedema (swelling), causing margins to swell and begin to roll.
Grade III	Severe gingivitis. Increased oedema, red to purple margin of gums with rolling occurring. Beginning pocket formation beyond normal 1 to 3 mm depth. No loss of attachment at this point.
Grade IV	Moderate periodontitis. Severe infection, deep pocket formation, beginning bone loss with epithelial (tissue) attachment loss and a slight increase in mobility.
Grade V	Severe periodontitis. Advanced epithelial attachment loss at end of gums, advance bone loss, tooth mobility and loss.

Please remember, general rules do apply,

1. Not all stage 1 gingivitis progresses.
2. Advancing periodontal disease must begin with gingivitis
3. Subgingival bacterial plaque (black teeth) is the most significant factor in the disease progress.

THE PRESENCE OF PLAQUE ENSURES THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF THE DISEASE

Inflammation of the gingiva (gums) can be caused by other than plaque. In animals three most important causes are:

1. Foreign body lodgement. e.g. hair and grass seeds from self grooming and splinters of wood or cooked bone from chewing.
2. Accidents happening around the mouth are common in cats and dogs as they chew on objects, food or settle their differences with each other.
3. The most common injury induced gum swelling is that of teething.

We all know how to care for our own teeth - chew an apple after meals, drink water, regular brushing and flossing. However it would be quite impossible to teach our felines these after dinner tricks, especially when they must also use their mouth to groom, clean their young, protect from other animals, heal various sores and so on. So how can we prevent this terrible disease from attacking our lovely pets?

REGULAR DAILY MESSAGE OF THE GINGIVAL SULCUS (GUMS) KEEPS THE PROBLEM AT BAY. NATURAL RAW DIET OF FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND RAW MEATY BONES PROVIDE THIS MESSAGE - PROCESSED FOODS DO NOT.

We must be aware of our cats' diet because they won't eat it in pain from sore gums. A cat can go without eating for a meal but a prolonged fast can cause other problems, kidney problems, bowel problems, all sorts of dietary deficiencies.

To summarise, the reason periodontal disease occurs with such regularity is teeth and gums lack regular massage. There is persistence of the old myth, you should not feed raw bones, and the introduction of a new myth, that processed foods represent a 'complete and balanced diet'. These myths, coupled with the fact that the importance and occurrence has been overlooked (often called the silent disease) set the scene for the start of the disease.

PREVENTION

1. Kittens cut their baby teeth between 2 and 6 weeks of age. A diet of processed food ensures LACK of gum massage and could very well be the start of a lifetime of pain and disease of the mouth. Supply raw chicken wings or chicken necks to young/small kittens when they most want to chew and explore.
2. Give your older cats raw chicken wings, chicken necks, rabbit or quail regularly, at least once per week. However, the best you can give them is raw meat on the bone.
3. Have fresh water constantly available.
4. Table scraps both cooked and raw (grate vegies, discard cooked bones)
5. As a last resort, convenience processed canned food.

Kittens can be fed basically the same way - just mash or grate their food and feed little meals often. Soon they will be gnawing and chewing.

Adult cats benefit from one day of fasting each week.

Create variety. Any nutrients fed to excess can be harmful.

AVOID

Milk - causes diarrhoea. Animals drink it whether thirsty or not and consequently get fat.

Exclusively lean meat	not balanced
Exclusively vegetable	not balanced
Cooked bones	they tend to get 'stuck'
Mineral and vitamin additives	causes imbalance
Exclusively processed food can cause dental and other diseases.	

REMEMBER:

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

PICK UP DRIVERS NEEDED

to infrequently collect op shop donations
in your area. Please help.
Phone **557 1011**
for details.



HOLLY AT CHRISTMAS

© Morgana Oliver

Christmas presents were light on that year. Brown leather sandals for my little brother, a droopy cloth sun hat for me and two books each. We were staying in a dilapidated cottage at the wrong end of the beach, and the holidays stretched ahead of us, flat as the sea on a calm day. All I'd wanted for Christmas was a kitten but it was the books and clothes. After lunch nothing much was happening. I took my books and a slice of Christmas cake out to the garden. There was a squeaky sound coming from the bushes near the front gate but I couldn't see anything at first. Then I saw her, a ball of grey and white fluff, huddled under a forgotten rose bush. She backed away from my hand, this was one scared kitten.

I raced back to the house, there was no point telling my parents about her, they'd only say, 'Leave her alone, don't encourage her', etc., etc. I quickly filled a saucer with milk and took it back to the garden. The little tabby cowered away from me so I sat down under the trees and waited. Nothing happened. She made no move towards the milk. Maybe she wanted something to eat. I jumped up, grabbed the saucer and headed for the house again. At the verandah I looked back. The kitten was right on my heels. I put the saucer down, maybe she wanted the milk now but as I opened the door she shot straight past me into the house. My father said we could keep her only until we went back to town. Then he would take her to the cat's home. The kitten was supposed to be mine. I'd found her. I named her Holly, for Christmas and my holidays, and she slept on the end of my bed. But everyday she followed my father around. Every evening she curled up on his lap, purring loudly, while we watched television. I suppose she knew what she was doing, she was a born survivor. Somehow, when we got back to the city, Dad never could find the time to go to the cat's home and Holly quickly became my very own cat. She was the best Christmas present I ever had.



All dressed up and nowhere to go.
Soxie, owned by Mary Cornale.

CATIFIED RENOVATIONS

Lee Wright

I recently underwent minor home renovations (how minor is no loo for 6 weeks?) I fought the good fight on behalf of my tribe of furry (and not so furry) quadrupeds every step of the way. The architect, the builder, tradesmen, suppliers, how I battled for my cat's comfort. It seemed every other sentence incorporated "...for the cats", "You can't do it that way because of the cats", "You have to do it this way for the cats". The back two rooms were stripped inside and out and relined. Gone the revolting fibro. Glass and garden, garden and glass. The laundry, the only room with a garden view, is now a sitting room. But one can't sit over 3 large litter trays so the guys enter a cat door at the base of a built in cupboard, drop through a hole in the floor to a scratch pole underneath and into a caged pen with two shelves for their litter trays. It's wonderful!! 99% of litter tracking removed. No trays to carry up the steps and manoeuvre into the house while trying to keep five flying felines inside. No smell greeting you as you open the front door. The splendour of sitting in my tiny sitting room, sipping a cup of coffee, balancing five cats on my lap and looking at the garden.

There were traumas training the troops to use the swinging cat door and they have deliberately developed a technique to increase the noise factor higher than necessary. I used the reward method on four. The cat door was installed and they were gently shoved through numerous times, both ways. Then I opened the litter tray door and the only way they could get to the garden was through the trap door. I had one who decided that nobility did not stoop to go through that door and patience would be rewarded with an open screen door. He got manually pushed through the trap door several times and then good manners necessitated self opening rather than making a mess in the house. I won.

Luckily I remembered, just before the builder started to trim the excess width off the bathroom window surrounds, that was a favourite cat sitting place and had to remain inappropriately wide. The opaque glass in the high bathroom window is now clear so the cats love sitting up there bird-watching and creating interesting nose print patterns all over the glass. The new curved spout in the bathroom sink has inspired BBQT and Cami to learn to drink from the tap. The cost was higher than need be. Thank you cats! But the end result is not only attractive and enjoyable, but definitely increases the joys of owning cats. So who's complaining?!?

Parkland 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 Parkland with confidence

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

Open 9-5 7 Days a week
Dogs also boarded

469 Sunny Holt Rd,
Parklea
Tel: 626 9333

CHRISTMAS CAPERS

Created by Margaret Oag

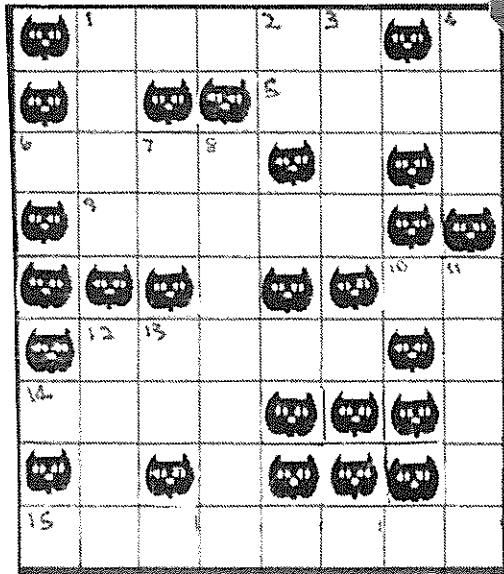
CATWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. What cat's might chase
5. What's at the end of a cat
6. Grooming aid
9. Round, tape and hook
10. Opposite of down
12. Make a cat unable to breed
14. Food most cats like
15. What cat's tickle with

DOWN:

1. Cat sound
2. Short for 'street'
3. Cats have 2 of these
4. Sick
7. Puzzle creator's initials
8. Grooming aids
11. Happy cat sounds
12. A cat eats from this
13. Last two letters of 'bones'



CAT DOINGS

Join letters to make 7 words for things cats do.
You can use letters more than once.

T H W
M B U
S A O
R C P
R I E L

RIGHT SPOT FOR CAT

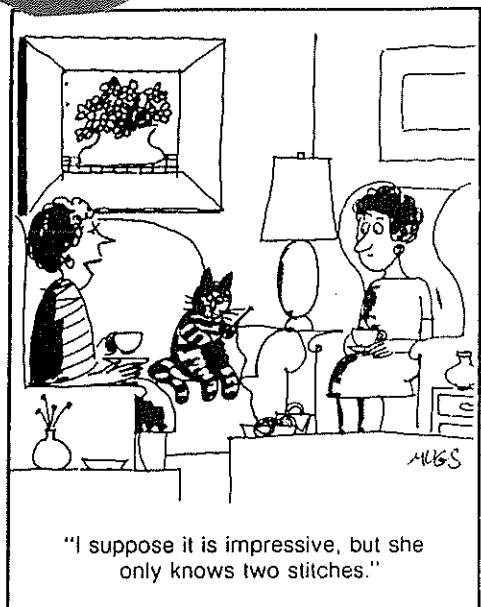
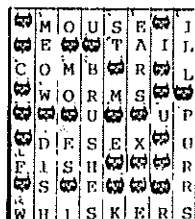
Make words by inserting the letters 'C', 'A' and 'T' in order in the right spots.

For example:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| O | Clue: Outer garment (Answer: CoAT) |
| 1. CH | Clue: What a cat does with a mouse. |
| 2. ROON | Clue: 'Garfield' is an example |
| 3. RON | Clue: A cardboard box |
| 4. CUS | Clue: Spiney plant |
| 5. FAN | Clue: Long, loose garment |
| 6. NDIDAE | Clue: One who seeks office |
| 7. PAIN | Clue: Ship's master |
| 8. PURE | Clue: Seize, take |
| 9. ARNION | Clue: Flower |
| 10. RPE | Clue: Floor covering |
| 11. SLE | Clue: Fortified fuedal residence |

Answers:

CAT DOINGS: Meow, Eat, Howl, Climb, Purr, Chase, Rub
RIGHT SPOT: Catch, Cartoon, Carton Cactus, Caftan, Candidate, Captain, Capture, Carnation, Carpet, Castle



LIFE GOVERNORS

This is the last collection of profiles on CPS Life Governors, those caring individuals who have donated \$1000 to the CPS to advance their work in helping cats. Future profiles will be done individually as new Life Governors come forward.

JUNE HOLDUP of Mt Colah has had cats ever since she can remember. June has been a CPS member for over 10 years but her distance from Enmore makes it difficult to help in the Op Shop. So she collects Op Shop gear from local residents and holds it until someone from the CPS can collect it. When June got an unexpected windfall she promptly donated 2/3rds of her gain to the CPS and became a Life Governor. June has 3 cats, the oldest is Gemma who has 'duck's disease' (short legs and a bum on the ground!). Abby is June's 'ankle biter' as she was such a little thing when June got her. And Teake, a part Himalayan, was named after June's first Siamese, 'Tea Caddy' who got his name from sleeping you know where. June doesn't feel she is 'soppy' about her cats but they are well loved, all desexed and all stay in at night.

ANGELIKA ELLIOTT has been involved with the CPS for over 5 years, ever since she left the Cat Protection League of London behind when she migrated to Australia, bringing three adopted strays with her. She never had a pet when she was young but in 1980 a stray cat wandered in to her life and stayed. Now she has 5 cats, all adopted or rescued. Angelika runs her own antique shop but she willingly finds the time to put in a lot of hours helping in the Opportunity Shop, as well as donating a lot of marvelous items for sale and being a Councillor. And when this dedication did not seem enough she donated the money to become a Life Governor, well knowing that the only way we can help cats is having adequate funding behind us. One of Angelika's London cats was called Mohammed Ali because he fought all comers. When he succumbed to diabetes at the age of 7 she went to Parkland Cattery and adopted Mickie and Minnie. Wolfie was a dumped stray and Tigger was abandoned by his previous owner.



MICKIE & MINNIE Angelika Elliott

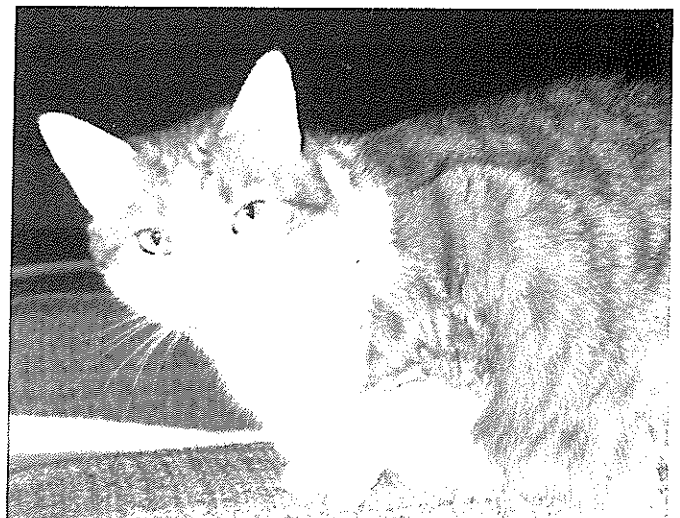
SHIRLEY PIKLER of South Hurstville joined the CPS in 1955 and became active in 1976 when she retired from business. She became involved with feline welfare when there was a colony of stray cats in her agency's backyard. She felt such a compassion for the strays who had no one to care for them. She arranged trapping the cats and the healthy ones were desexed and put back and the others were euthanased. When she put an ad in the local paper to try to place some kittens, Mrs Peek rang and told her about the CPS. Shirley took over as Secretary when the then secretary could not attend meetings and she was in that position for 5 years. Then she looked after the welfare section, became acting President and has just entered her third term as President. Her cat is a grey tabby named Spartacus.

NANCE IREDALE O.A.M. Nance has always been interested in animals. She used to bring creatures home in her school case. In the early 70s Nance became aware of the number of kittens dumped at the local pet shop. She also became friends with Mrs Robin Warner who was taking some of these babies to find them homes. At first these two women just found homes for kittens, then they realized that it was necessary to desex the mothers so they approached the Concord Animal Hospital who arranged discounted desexing. Because some of the cats were nervous or wild trapping became necessary and they operated under the name of Cat Relief Service. They continued for many years until the CPS under Bill Graham (President) initiated a similar service and asked Nance to kick it off. The service remains much the same with good relations with the vet profession but on a much larger scale.

DAINA SILINS of Seaforth has never owned a cat yet she has been a foster mum to more than she can count. Daina originally worked in Yagoona where a local butcher looked after nine cats. He was going to the RSPCA to euthanase them when Daina stepped in and took over the feeding. Her tribe gradually increased to 32 so Daina started finding homes for them as they were in good condition. A friend mentioned the CPS and Daina joined and soon became a Life Governor. She loves all animals, especially cats and dogs. While she remains technically catless, all the cats in the street think she belongs to them so she remains a surrogate mother to the neighbourhood felines.

MS LM LOVEDAY of Faulconbridge and **Mrs L SPRINGFIELD** of Blakehurst were not able to be contacted.

The CPS salutes all our Life Governors and looks forward to welcoming many more.



TASMAN Marion Cridland

DONATION FORM

The Membership Secretary
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.
103 Enmore Rd
ENMORE NSW 2042

I/We would like to make a donation to the Society.
Enclosed is a cheque/ money order/ for DONATION of \$.....

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss

.....
SURNAME (Block letters)

.....
Initials

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

FORM OF BEQUEST

To those caring persons who may wish to assist our society in its work, the following forms of bequest are suggested:

Where a specific amount of money or a specific asset is to be bequeathed the form would be:

I (insert full name and address) give and bequeath to the Cat Protection Society of N.S.W., the registered office of which is 103 Enmore Road, Enmore N.S.W. 2042, the sum of.....dollars (or a complete description of the asset). I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. shall be sufficient discharge for the legacy which is to be applied to the general purposes of the said charity.

Where a bequest involves the residue of an estate, the wording would be:

I, (insert full name and address) give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my estate of whatsoever kind and wheresoever situate to The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W., the registered office of which is 103 Enmore Road, Enmore N.S.W. 2042. And I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

For further information on leaving a bequest to the Society please contact the Secretary on (02) 557 1011.

WELFARE REPORT

There was recently a great deal of activity at our office - after closing time and on a Friday evening. That afternoon a man arranged to bring in a cat and kittens. He was told it must be by 3:30pm (we close at 4pm and wanted to make sure he gave himself time) but if he could not get there by 3:30 he must leave it till Monday as we are not open over the weekend. Like so many of our 'clients', he ignored our instructions. He came after 4pm with 4 big boxes containing 4 adults and 4 kits, taped up with no ventilation. That was disgusting but something we see all the time.

From then on there was concern and compassion and very quick action. A passer-by rang and got our message to ring Animal Welfare League after hours. Another person phoned the police. Judy from Animal Welfare rang my home leaving a message for me to ring. I always call in at our vet on the way home so it was 5:30pm when I rang Judy. Meanwhile, Animal Welfare League Chief Executive Officer, Barry Wilton, had waited and then had left with litter tray and cat food. He was intending to pick up what everyone thought was a litter of kittens and take them home for the weekend.

In the meantime, the Newtown police had contacted one of our members who tried but couldn't contact me and phoned Lena Larsen at Rockdale. Within the shortest possible time Lena was at our front door. It appears that one cat, at least, managed to escape and is now another stray statistic in our area - or perhaps the poor creature has found his way 'home'. Lena called our welfare officer, Melinda, who came hastening in and together they transferred the terrified and sick cats into cages. A local vet accepted them for euthanasia.

Its great to have friends like A.W.L. and it appears that the police and passers by are becoming more responsive to such distressing incidents. However, all this leads me to my hobby horse - legislation to control cat owners with registration, micro chip I.D., etc. We are told 94% of Sydney cats are desexed - I wonder how many had litters first. So it is assumed that 94% of cat owners are responsible. Not by my thinking, however!. Therefore, we should concentrate on the other 6% - that's reasonable. But the suggestion is to concentrate on those through education.

Do you think the sub-human thing that placed 8, probably 9, cats in airless boxes, knowing they may not be found till Monday - is educatable? I rest my case.

OPPORTUNITY SHOP

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF IT

Please ring the office 519-7201 557-1011 for details

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please cut out and return to address below)

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. 103 Enmore Rd ENMORE NSW 2042

I/We apply for membership or renewal of membership of the Society for the year commencing June 1993. (Note: All persons joining from January remain financial until June of the following year).

Subscription	\$1000.00	Life Governor	\$ 10.00	Annual Membership
	\$250.00	Life Membership	\$ 5.00	Junior Membership
	\$ 5.00	Pensioner Membership	(State Birthdate).....	

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

Please cross cheques and make payable to: THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss SURNAME (Block Letters)..... Initials.....

Address..... Postcode.....

Pension Number..... Signature..... Date.....

Phone Number.....

Secretary's Note: Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope if you require a receipt.

✂ —————

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

(Please cut out and return to address below)

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

If you have changed your address since applying for membership or renewal, please fill in this form.

SURNAME (Block letters please)..... Initials.....

NEW ADDRESS..... Postcode.....

Previous Address..... Postcode.....

✂ —————

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs LJ Batchelor, Mrs R Bendon, Mrs
M Blackford, Ms R Bonnici,
Miss S Boonstra, Ms C Christensen,
Mrs J Connor, Mrs S Coombes,
Ms A Coote, Mrs B Coster,
Mrs C Cram, Ms C Creenaune,
Mrs L Daryal, Mrs I Dash, Mrs CY Don,
Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Fletcher,
Ms A Fraser, Ms K Goodwin,
Mrs F Goulder, Mrs D Green,
Mr G Grove, Mrs L Hamilton,
Mrs R Hughes, Miss E Kelly,
Ms K King, Mrs H Knol, Mrs C Lambert,
Mrs S Martin, Mrs D McDonald,
Mrs L McGifford, Mrs T Middleton,
Miss N Mills, Mrs M Mooney,
Mr L Marcaida, Mr S Nocentina,
Mr W Oosterhuis, Ms C Packham,
Miss L Paton, Mr D Parsons,
Mr & Mrs K Rawlings, Mrs A Reynolds,
Miss E Rowan-Kelly, Mrs J Rolls,
Ms AM Schwartz, Mrs I Seaton,
Ms M Smith, Mrs H South, Ms M Terry,
Ms D Toman, Mr P Waess,
Mrs C Walters, Miss U Weissflog,
Ms G Whitmore, Ms C Wilkins,
Ms D Worrad.



A REGENCY GENTLEMAN

A cat is a Regency Gentleman - elegant of pose, exquisite of manner, with spotless linen and an enthusiasm for bare knuckle fights, rampaging love affairs, duels by moonlight and the singing of glees. He expects immaculate service from his domestic staff, and possesses a range of invective that would make a navy blanch.
Pam Brown.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

THE CPS welcomes two photographers to Cat Affairs.

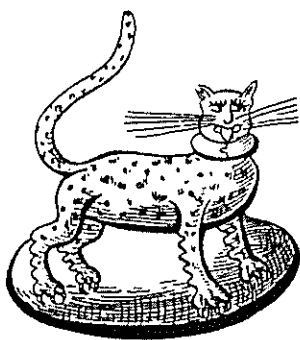
FRANCIS KAUKERIT is a member of the CPS. She is madly in love with both cats and photography and takes some exceptionally fine pictures on standard equipment. Francis has a selection of beautiful photographs and I find it a delight to phone her and ask for a photo that will illustrate a point I want to make or get a photo of such clarity that it can be enlarged threefold to fill a full page. 'Cute as Christmas' is a good example of her art as is 'Harry' on the back cover.

JOY HARLAND is a professional freelance photographer who has friends with cats. All cat owners adore their cats so she ends up taking photos of them sooner or later. Cat's moods and expressions are always interesting and Joy knows it is important to try to capture their personality in a familiar setting. I saw Joy's work in a photography exhibition and she has kindly donated some of her original work to be used as Cat Affairs' centrefolds.

I am sure the members will enjoy the talents of these two artistic women.

FLEA COLLARS

A member has written in to request that all cat owners check the size of their cat's flea collars.



She often walks in her neighbourhood and chats with the local cats and she is often quite upset at overly tight collars cats are wearing. If you put a collar on a growing cat make sure there is room for adjustment or that you

change the collar to a larger one as the cat gets bigger.

DOROTHY HAINES

Dorothy Haines, known as 'The Cat Lady of the Woy Woy Peninsula' resigned as Hon Secretary of the Central Coast Cat Care Inc at 87 years of age. For over 30 years Dorothy has been associated with the cause of those with fur, feathers and fins. She was a foundation member of the Animal Welfare League of NSW and she continued working for that cause when she and Eric, her husband, moved to the Central Coast in 1962. Dorothy was a born crusader and was active in many local community groups and was instrumental in getting many area improvements done.

Dorothy formed the Animal Care Group with the aid of Mrs Lee Lucas and the late Mandy Andrews and when she realized that cats seemed more underprivileged than most, she formed the Woy Woy District Branch of the Cat Protection Society of NSW. The CPS awarded Dorothy an Honorary Life Membership for her dedication in establishing three animal welfare branches in the Central Coast area. When the Woy Woy District CPS closed in 1988 Dorothy joined forces with Judith Parsons and Doris Jackson to set up the Central Coast Cat Care Inc to carry on the very necessary feline humane work.

Is 87 too young to really retire? Enthusiasm was ever present but family obligations made it necessary to 'pass on the torch'. In all these years of work Dorothy feels it has been a privilege to help animals and their owners. Officials have also been warm in their praise of Dorothy's contributions in their area. In 1978 Mr Eric Bedford, then Minister for Education, congratulated Woy Woy District CPS on its success; in 1985 Mr Kevin Stewart, the Minister for Local Government, commended their efforts. The Premier of NSW also commended the achievements in 1985. Gosford Council continued the Grant they

awarded Cat Care when Dorothy led a deputation requesting help. In recent Council minutes warm praise was extended to Cat Care Inc for help to needy pensioner cat owners and for making a significant impact on the surplus cat numbers. The CPS extends their thanks to Dorothy for her years of dedication, caring and plain hard work to improve the lives of people and cats in her area.

EAST CHATSWOOD CAT CLINIC

346 PENSURST STREET
WILLOUGHBY NSW 2068
PHONE 417-6613

VET: KIM KENDALL
CATERING EXCLUSIVELY
FOR CATS

K A T S A K .

The KATSAK is an Australian designed and made bag for use with cats and other small animals. It is a carry bag for short journeys and is an excellent restraining bag for treating injuries or medicating a fractious animal. The bag is made of strong canvas so your cat can't claw through it and the close confines make the cat feel secure and it is less likely to struggle or scratch. The bag can be washed and there is a velcro opening for treating limbs.

To put your cat in the KATSAK, put it on a flat surface and gently put the cat inside, head towards the drawstring opening, and close the zipper. Once the cat's head is through the drawstring hole adjust the drawstring to a comfortable width. If you are using the KATSAK as a carry bag, always support your cat when you carry it, it is not comfortable for the animal to be transported if the bag is carried by the handles. The easiest way is to tuck the KATSAK under one arm. Do remember, this is not recommended for long trips.

Because of its excellent restraining characteristics, Taronga Zoo has purchased several bags for use when treating large birds and small animals. So next time you have to pop a pill or struggle with a dose of worming medicine, zip the cat in a KATSAK.

For a local distributor contact Alison on 063 552-172.

