

APRIL 1995

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 REPORT

Like all charities, we depend heavily on the good will and generosity of our members and non-members for the existence of our Society. We have been greatly heartened over the Christmas New Year period by the monetary support, and accompanying good wishes, that many of you have sent. It shows how many caring people there are who are concerned about the welfare of cats and kittens. A lot of the cruelty we come in contact with is a direct result of overpopulation and our desexing program is greatly appreciated. Until an effective 'numbers control' can be achieved, we must continue to educate and, where necessary, financially assist the public in this area.

As well as financial support we also rely on volunteers to offer their services to help administer the policies and day by day running of the Society. Our Articles of Association require a Council of five executive members and seven other Councillors. At present we have a vacancy for the position of Councillor, due to a retirement, and we ask members to consider becoming a part of the decision making team. You would be required to attend a meeting once a month. Currently our meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at our office in Enmore from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The time and dates are flexible and can be altered by a vote of the Councillors. You would be expected to participate in the discussions and to lend a hand from time to time according to your particular skills or experience. This is not a daunting task. You may even get to enjoy it! So, phone us if you want to give it a try. Your Society, and the cats, need YOU!

SHIRLEY PIKLER



FROM THE EDITOR

December I walked into my vet's with the Blue Terror and gladly stated, 'Shoot him, shoot him!'. They know me and Tucker very well indeed and did - shot him in one fell swoop. And I took my complaining micro chipped cat home.

I have been following the advances of micro chipping but did not do the deed until the vet assured me that nearly all

councils, vets and welfare agencies now have scanners. It is a simple matter of passing the reader over the animal's left shoulder and up pops an alpha numeric number that identifies me as the long suffering owner of the Blue Beast. I must admit to having a short second thought at the size of the needle needed to implant the rice grain sized chip. But Tucker was totally unaware of any thing happening when the vet inserted it and took it far easier than a normal inoculation. The horrendous part of the ordeal was the trip there and back with the Wailing Whiner going full bore.

Cat collars have never impressed me, I really don't like seeing them around the neck of a feline. But the permanent ID of a microchip has to be the next best thing to desexing. I chose to renew my registration yearly - there's always a daily chance that sheer exasperation on my part will cause a cessation of breathing on the Blue Thing's part. But I care enough about him, very deeply indeed, to want to be sure that he is branded with my name for all time. Now that micro chipping is widely used and scanners are used on all found animals - there is no reason to delay micro chipping any cat or dog that is allowed to run loose. Even those, like Tucker, who are house cats, need this ID in the event of an accidental escape. It is not an expensive procedure, it is 100% safe, and what peace of mind it brings. **DO IT!**

APOLOGY

A person's most important possession is their name - and I misspelled Frances Kaukerit's name 6 times in the last two issues. Frances, a humble apology from a red faced Editor.

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CPS SAVIOUR

Nance Iredale

Recently someone reported a cat in a drain at Guildford. It had been there for four days. The person who reported it was concerned and took the covering grill off the drain and put down an improvised ramp but the little cat was too nervous to venture out. Food was regularly dropped down to it. The Fire Brigade was phoned but they decided they could do nothing to get it out. Finally someone contacted the CPS. It was raining heavily and we couldn't bear to think that the cat might get washed away, even though the outlook seemed pretty hopeless.

Janelle answered the call and rushed out. The whole situation was scary. The drain was in a busy street and close to a cross road with lots of traffic and a smell that suggested gas coming through the pipe. However, the grill was lifted off again and Janelle got down into the pit. Her descent caused lots of comment and one man brought her a raincoat and umbrella (she was standing in water!) and someone gave her a cuppa.

With her torch she was able to see that a big pipe reached across under the road to a similar grill in the gutter on the other side. Halfway across was a small kitten. He was in lots of trouble! Water was flowing through the drain and he was hanging on for his life just above the water level. Another inch or so and he would not have been able to cling to the curve of the pipe.

The Council, the Waterboard and the Police were asked for assistance without result but finally the Fire Brigade came. They gently hosed the poor little fellow from the drain from the other side of the road. Janelle had rigged up a sort of sieve in case the kit made a sudden dash or was washed down too quickly. But all went well and this black and white long haired scrap was gathered up ... purring, would you believe.

He is a very calm, pleasant baby - no worse for his ordeal, covered in fleas but otherwise very healthy. He went to our good friend Dr Kim Kendall at the East Willoughby Cat Clinic, where he was bathed, defleaed, immunised and quickly found a responsible home.

Janelle is fine and we are all very proud of her. It was a two hour ordeal for her but, as she said, once she saw him clinging so bravely on the sloping pipe there was no way she would have left without him. It was great that the Fire Brigade helped out in the end. A suburban newspaper is writing up the story so we will be able to send a copy, along with our thank you letter, to the Fire Brigade. But the real heroine is Janelle and a mighty round of thanks to her for her brave endeavour!

COVER

"MAID MARION" by MARGARET PROCTOR. Maid Marion, bedecked in medieval finery, bewitching eyes glowing like jewels in her elegant face, is an original cat sculpture by Margaret Proctor. Turn to page 8 for our feature story on this well known Australian artist who specialises in cats.

CENTREFOLD

A magnificent moggy by JOY HARLAND of Melbourne, professional photographer.

BACK PAGE

'Sky', by FRANCES KAUKEREIT, Sydney

CAT MART

These are American products and most are probably not in Australia. But good fun all the same.

MESH GROOMING BAGS These fasten with a drawstring and keep leg movement to a minimum during bath time.

HOW TO LOOK LIKE YOUR CAT Send in a full face photo of you and one of your cat and an American firm will combine the two so your new photo has your face wearing your cat's markings. So much for computer technology and ways to get the almighty dollar.

COMPUTER WINDOW SAVERS Another computer firm will 'scan' pictures of your cats which can be used in conjunction with MS Windows programs as screen savers. Meaningless to those of you who don't use computers but what a fun thought for those of us who do.

CATNIP KIT provides material, patterns, matching cotton and enough catnip for you to make 3 cat toys. Best of all, it is put out by a non profit organisation that employs 200 people with disabilities.

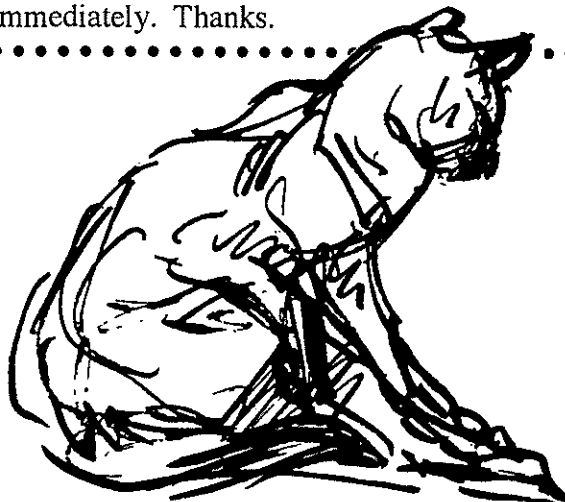
SCAT MATS (These HAVE arrived on our sacred shore!!) This is a wonderful idea, a plastic mat that generates safe static pulses when touched. Place it on a counter or furniture to train your cat not to jump on 'off limits' places.

A READER'S HINT

If you want to spruce up your cat-scratched furniture quickly and easily, buy yourself a Kiwi Classic Liquid wax shoe polish (mid brown is very satisfactory). It comes with a small sponge rubber applicator and is easy to use. Keep your strokes going one way and wipe off any excess with a soft, clean cloth. It will cover surface scratches, not the deep ones, but gives the furniture a lovely new look and soft sheen and has no odour. Dorothy M Taylor, Clovelly

FRIDGE

The Op Shop desperately needs a small fridge as the old one has 'packed it in'. If you have one you are willing to donate to us, please phone the CPS immediately. Thanks.



There are downsides to being responsible for animals. They are demanding in their care: they have stringent social requirements which cause many problems; they have little comprehension of human values; they are often very long lived and they can potentially severely reduce or even destroy our peace. To live with animals we must accept that they do cause problems.

David Butcher



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

GEORGE TILEY, Beverly Hills

Please accept my donation and above all, my thanks to you in recollection, 'CPS Life Governors Profiles. To have performed with and to have been accepted by several of the 'greats' in music remains my privilege and fond memory for I was never a 'Top Cat', merely 'an old dog for a hard road'! What I cherish above all is not acceptance of talent recognised by my species, but that of the love of a dear companion and friend, a cat named Cassie.

FRAN MOTTEE, Kingsford

Lara, my 12 year old daughter, joined the Society last year. She simply adores cats, especially her little 'Princess' whom she rescued. I thought you might like her poem which she wrote to express her feelings for your magazine.

CATS AND KITTENS

Lara Mottee

Fluffy, soft and cute
Gentle, timid and loving
Pouncing, prancing, jumpng

Small, large and cuddly
Tall, long and furry
Pouncing, prancing, jumping

Colourful, striped and patched
Rainbow, tiger and giraffe
Pouncing, prancing, jumping

Lazy, happy and angry,
Sleepy, noisy and high
Pouncing, prancing, jumping

Running, walking and stretchng
Hissing, meowing and rolling
Pouncing, prancing, jumping

ROBYN GILBERT

Thank you for your excellent service, Tabitha is a completely different cat now. She was a stray and had two litters before she was fully grown. She became very uptight and anxious, now she seems much more relaxed and is even learning to play! We are particularly appreciative of the pick-up and drop-off service you provide as we were unable to arrange transport ourselves.

OLIVE GRAHAM, Belfield

I was astonished and flattered, and a little embarrassed, to see myself described as a wonder woman as there are so many much more entitled to such a tribute than I. I have been a cat lover since the age of 3 and a voluntary worker for many years. I did not discover the CPS until the 1970s when another 'Pink Lady' gave me a magazine when we were working in the Western Suburbs Hospital. Voluntary work has always been most rewarding. It has taken me from politics to helping the destitute in the slums, but no cause is more worthy than helping our furry friends. Arthritis is keeping me housebound but I'm hoping to recover and be useful again. The stories in Cat Affairs are very moving and the actresses were marvellous in rescuing that little cat.

I am incensed by this vendetta against cats, including feral cats. No mention is made of those who make them so. My first cat was a feral cat who lived in the bush near me. No one could get near him and he was reported to be vicious but one day my mother found her 3 year old coming up the path

with him tucked under her arm. She took us both in, fed the furry one and settled us into a big armchair beside an open fire. Tammy became part of our family. This proves to me that the wildest spirit can be tamed with a good feed and plenty of TLC.

Thank you for all the compliments to me in the December issue. I wish that I was indeed a 'wonder woman' and could wave my wand and demand that all creatures be given equal rights.

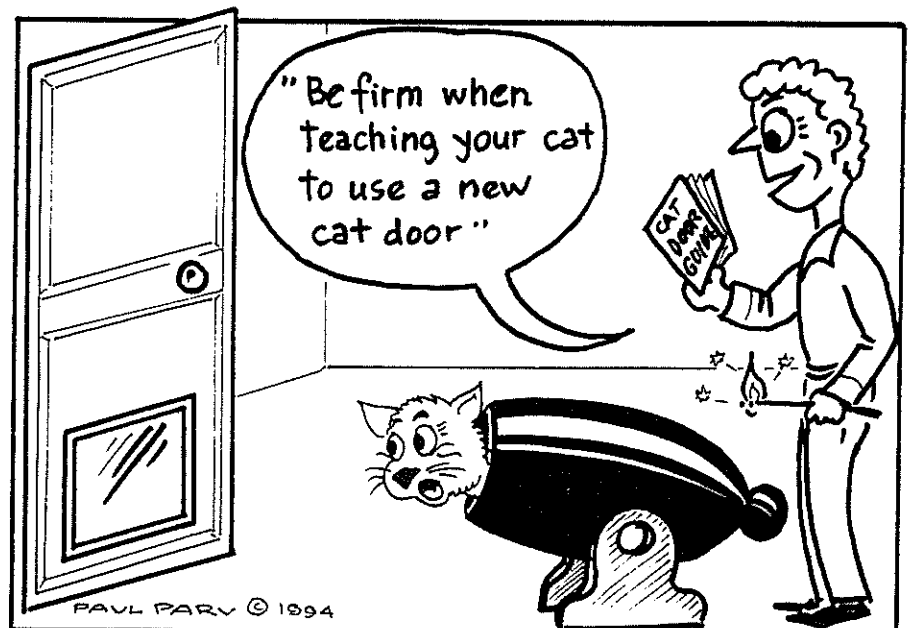
CATS

Dorothy M Taylor©

Cats are not like dogs at all -
They seldom answer to your call,
Unless, of course, it's tucker time
When they appear with smiles sublime!

"Cat's can't smile", I hear you say;
Alas, a-lack, a-lack-a-day!
You've not observed your pretty puss -
You've been too busy crying 'shoosh'!

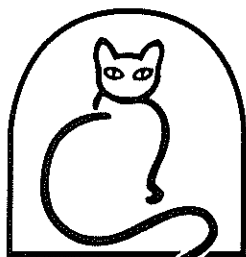
For when she springs up on the sink
She smiles and smiles and gives a wink,
Caresses all the tins of stuff
And just ignores your angry cuff -
(She loves you very much you know,
But better still she loves her tuck!



KIM KENDALL

BV Sc MACVS (Feline Medicine) MRCVS

CAT VET



One of the CPS's most avid supporters is a veterinary with a strong love of cats and an unabashed enthusiasm for life. Kim established a cats only vet surgery in 1994 and is a regular contributor to Cat Affairs.

Kim became a practicing veterinary in 1982. Originally she wanted to be a pig doctor, then her preferences drifted to goats, or a James Harriot 'what-ever-comes-my-way' style vet. During this directional period in her life she began to see and understand the raw deal that cats were getting and about eight years ago she started to delve more deeply into cat medicine and general feline requirements. As her understanding of the cat increased the idea of an exclusively feline practice began to take hold.

The international recession put the idea on hold but she used the opportunity to see more of the world - and cat-only practices.

She worked in Cape Cod in northeastern America, whale watching and vetting. At that practice she started 'Cat's Night Out', a specialised evening surgery for cats only. This became so popular that it was booked out weeks in advance. Between vetting hours, Kim got her private pilot's licence, did a lot of whale watching and helped a local artist with glass blowing.

There was a return to Australia but the recession was still too deep to contemplate the financial commitment opening a new practice involved so she went to Zimbabwe and did some elephant watching. Fascinating she says. She also flew down the Zambezi River, 50 feet above the surface of the water, staring into hundreds of crocodile eyes. Also fascinating. From Africa she went to the UK and worked in a vet practice as both a vet and in a management position in order to learn more about running a business. Her enthusiasm, skill and knowledge turned the practice around from penury to profit and then she returned to the States for a holiday.

She left Cape Cod in a 1966 La Sabre Buick on her way to the west coast via New Orleans, Oklahoma City and onwards on the old Route 66. Stops were made all along the way, not only sightseeing, but studying specialist feline practices for ideas and information. One place had books and cards and some ornaments and this gave Kim the idea of establishing a cat gallery, both to promote cat artists and to give waiting clients a more interesting surgery. You have a lot of planning time on a 5000 mile car trip and Kim made full use of it

She and her husband, John, returned to Sydney in May 1994 and opened her cats only clinic in East Chatswood in early August. Considering that one council would not approve her initial application, this is a record for Australia. She assured me it was only possible because she slept with the builder. (Relax readers ...she's married to him!). The surgery was officially opened on 4 August and it includes a shop of cat items - and a

gallery. The gallery has a professional curator who comes in periodically and ensures the art is displayed to best advantage. The surgery is small but spacious and designed for cleanliness and comfort. Soft lounges take the place of the usual hard chairs. There's no boring wait in this surgery. Kim's idea is maximum attention to a cat's needs and full owner consultation so sessions are by appointment and normally half an hour duration. While many of her patients come in for normal treatment, i.e., inoculations, desexing, etc, the 30 minute consultation gives owners time to find out more about cats and to optimize their knowledge of cat care.

Those cats who have operations or specialised treatment are not finished and forgotten when the consultation is over. One or more days after the cat goes home Kim phones the owner to find out how the cat is doing and to make sure it is responding well to the treatment. Kim's ultimate concern is the welfare of her patient and she considers this a standard business practice to ensure the cat recovers quickly and properly.

As well as a vet practice, Kim has allowed ample space for short term boarders. For those people requiring longer stays for their cats, they can leave the cats at Kim's surgery to be collected by a larger boarding cattery who delivers the cat back to East Chatswood just before the owner's return. And to top off the boarding aspect, Kim adds to her long list of credits at the CPS by keeping some of our kittens for prospective adoption. One of her pet peeves concerns the owners who bring their cat to the surgery in their arms, without the benefit of a cat cage. While allowing that cages can be a problem to carry and store, having the cat in a secure carrier should be mandatory. To this end she has had special cat carry bags made. They are heavy muslin bags with a drawstring, rather like a sturdy pillow case. They are suitable only for short trips but safely hold the cat between home and the surgery. When not in use they can be folded and stored in a drawer and are easy to launder and are more secure than a cardboard box.

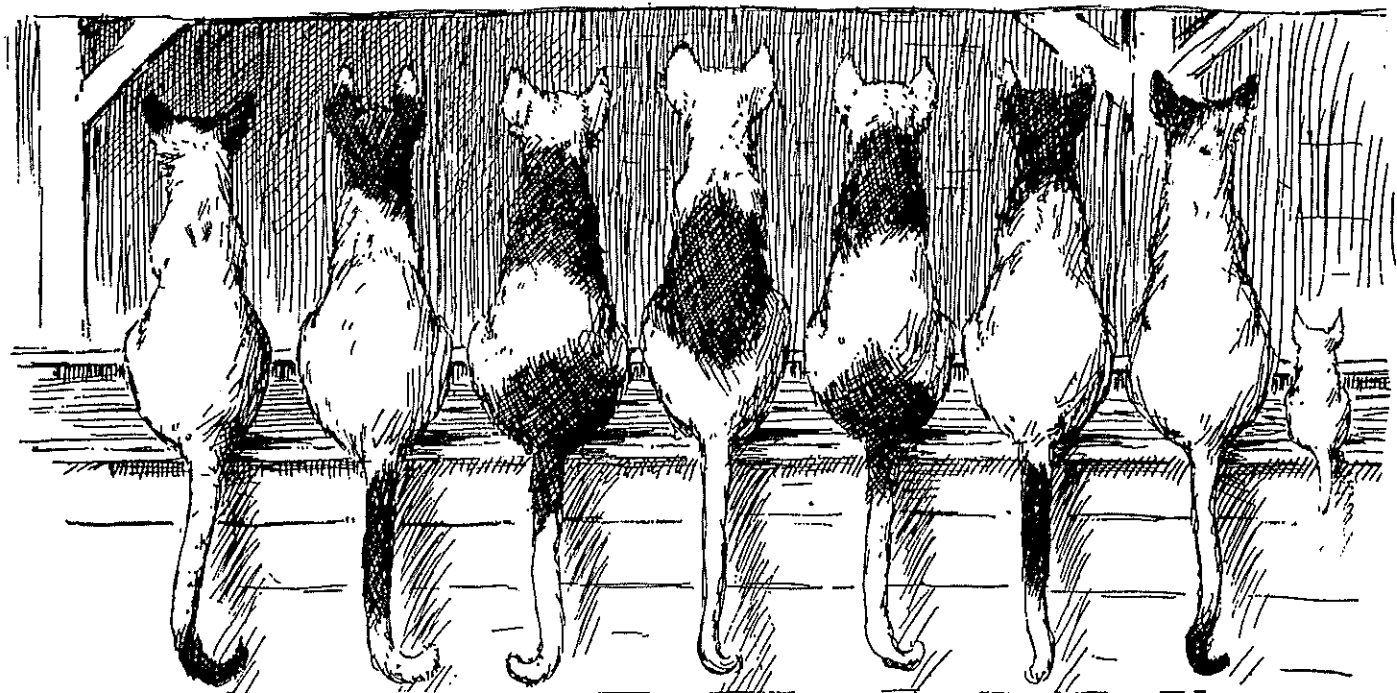
Between being wife, vet, shop owner, gallery manager, boarding manager and having some private life, Kim writes for Cat Affairs. Her articles are informative, humorous and increase each reader's knowledge of cats. Perhaps it is not right to call Kim a Crusader for Cats but every aspect of her life is influenced by cats and she works for the betterment of cats.

As Kim says - 'It's great fun being a cat vet'.



ROCKY, Barbara Carter

CAT TALES



IN LOVE WITH A SIAMESE

R Lloyd-Williams, West Pymble

I had never been impressed by Siamese cats - thin, pointy-faced little creatures with terrible voices. But that was until Suki came into my life. I had recently lost one of my ginger moggies and my two sons gave me a surprise present for my 'milestone' birthday. I was just about to leave for a conference in Brisbane when they arrived home, called me outside and handed me a huge cardboard box. Tucked up in one corner was a tiny seal point Siamese. He was the ugliest kitten I had ever seen, all big dark ears, a piece of string for a tail and skinny little body. He looked like a cross between a monkey and a fruit bat and we called him 'Rat' for quite a while. I spent most of that weekend phoning home to see if he was alright!

Kimsuki Kyoto was a pedigreed kitten who had already won 'Best Kitten In Show' at the age of 10 weeks. His father was a Double Grand Champion. But no one had told Suki how to behave in shows. He HATED them and I'm sure he scratched the judges. He was so distressed by the whole performance that we rapidly abandoned that idea, with the odd ribbon to prove we HAD been there. Suki was 10 weeks old when he arrived and it took him about 3 weeks to get used to our huge black Labrador - who could have swallowed him in one mouthful. They are now the best of friends but dog is rather 'under the paw'.

Suki rapidly grew into a beautiful self confident cat - a picture of health with soft shiny fur, velvet ears and paws, and huge blue eyes which glow like head lamps under the bedclothes every night. However, he is totally mad - he enjoys eating mangoes and every bit of string or shoelaces that he can lay his paws on, not to mention pins. Solots of things have to be locked away from him. He enjoys having his claws clipped. I just wave the clippers and he comes running, settles on my lap and purrs. He has several favourite games - helping to change the sheets on the bed, hiding under floor mats, fetching balls like

a dog, and playing 'hidings' with me. There is nothing more ridiculous than a grown woman hiding round corners and jumping out at a cat!

He is very talkative and rarely yowls as he gets so much attention. I trained him early to walk with a harness and lead as we live on a main road. As soon as the harness goes on the purr starts - the loudest 'engine' I have ever heard. He enjoys travelling in the car so that we can take him away with us to our weekender up the coast where he and the dog are perfectly at home. As long as Suki has people around him, the closer the better, he is happy. He spends a lot of time leaping onto shoulders and cuddling up around our necks and always sleeps in our bed, under the bedclothes. It is nice have a soft furry foot warmer.

Suki is the most affectionate and playful cat I have ever had and we have so much fun with him. He really is a VERY special cat.

CLARENCE

Jan Brasher, Victoria

Clarence is the most unlikely candidate for the WOMAN'S Day "Life Be In It Pet Cat of the Year. He certainly would not win any beauty contest. He is a black and white, fluffy moggy. He has very long whiskers that many a pedigree show cat would kill for, but by far the most distinguishing feature is his very crossed eyes. I am sure when he looks at things he must see more than one image. In fact, in some ways he is quite ugly, but so ugly he is cute.

I inherited Clarence when I started my job nearly four years ago. No one seems to know where he came from or how old he is. Some say that a previous Chief Executive Officer left him here when he went and the cat adopted the Lodge as his home. I named him. I used to be a fan of the program *Daktari* and he reminded me of Clarence, the cross eyed lion.

Clarence enjoys the best of everything. He has many beds to choose from and if he wants a soft nest for a sleep, he knows those beds he is not allowed on. He enjoys the human meals,

dining on anything from beef stroganoff to turkey. There is always a lap to sit on. Clarence has a calming effect and is very friendly, greeting both residents and visitors. He ALWAYS knows when it is lunch time.

I don't believe cats get the recognition they deserve, but each day I see first hand just how much people get back from animals, especially a cat. He is really beneficial to the residents in the Lodge, and anyone who says that there is no place for animals in an aged care facility has never seen the joy that these animals bring to the elderly. Clarence can elicit a response out of the confused, or those who have shut themselves up in a world of their own, when the staff cannot. They will pat the cat and talk quietly to him when they will not converse with us. The stroke residents will reach out to pat the cat as he walks past, quite often only reaching his tail. Where other cats would react to this adversely, Clarence just takes it all in his stride. When he won 'Pet Cat of the Year' he basked in the extra attention of being famous and enjoyed every minute of it. But when the razzamatazz died down he happily returned to being Clarence, the Lodge's cat.



PERRI 2

Elma Denton, Carlton

I have another kitten who was left at the local vet's. He was just 4 months old when I got him and he sure is a classy boy. I miss my other 16.5 year old Perri whom I put to sleep last year. It is lovely to again have a cat to welcome me home. Perri is black with 4 white socks, a white dinner jacket, white whiskers and white across his mouth and lower tummy. He loves to be nursed and has already taken over and gets just what he wants, including sharing my breakfast. He sleeps on the settee in the sunroom and has taken over one end of the lounge. He is so playful, scampering about and even helps(?) with my gardening. His first night home he knocked my African Violets down. I had 10 lovely ones, now there are 6 struggling plants. He pulled the curtains down in his bedroom, which meant washing, ironing and sewing the hems as he had pulled the thread undone. I have to get up earlier to feed him but he is worth it, and he is very lovely and affectionate. I am content again.

TUCKER

Lee Wright

The cat in suede, illustrating the December article on Skin, is not abused, misused or under privileged, as readers might think. He is on Cat Affairs' editorial staff as chief contributing editor for rampage and mayhem - most of which he initiates. He eats a lot to keep the furnace stoked and what isn't used for heating powers the mighty boilers that support his boundless energy and enthusiasm for life, love and the pursuit of his personal freedom beyond the limits of the specially cat fenced backyard.

Should he go walkabout I can imagine the consternation and disbelief that would ensue. First, a rescuer could be excused for thinking he was a grey Chihuahua - until he purred. Then I would be up before the magistrate for abusing a cat by shaving him. But his skin has never felt a razor - even at those all too frequent times when my exasperation level is acute and I threaten to cut his throat - or other dire deaths. His quirky mental outlook cannot conceive that I could be serious and as he can happily live with his failings, so he sees no reason why I can't. He has adopted a single doona as his own and this, or a possie under my jumper, warms his bones in colder weather. He is an unrepentant, rampaging Rexless Cornish Rex rascal. While I often feel I could well do without his impetuosity and maniacal activities - I know of no one who could or would cater to his eccentricities better or longer than I would. Masochism is an art form in my home.

His is not hairless; he is sleek, he is slim, he is sooky, he is satin-suede - and his name is Tucker.

JESSIE CAT

Leonie Schuback

At last it's happened. After 12 years or so I can now pick up my beautiful grey fluffy Jessie cat and give her a cuddle. Mind you, there is still a 60 second limit but I'm happy with that - I've been trying for a long time. Jessie was found in the bush when she was a kitten. She refused to be carried on the long walk back to camp so followed us along the track all the way. I tried every day to pick her up but was always rewarded with a smack and sometimes a bite on the face. But we loved her anyway. She was always determined to do things her way which led her into a lot of trouble.

Since her permanent move next door seven years ago we have been away most of the time, returning home once or twice a year for a short stay. The first few times we returned she would let us know she was still around by running across our path and up a tree, or sitting quietly somewhere where we could see her. Gradually, with each return visit, she came to see us more often, sometimes coming in to check the house or have a nap in a sunny position. Occasionally I was even allowed to pat her or tickle her chin. Imagine my delight when we were home on our last visit and she allowed me to pick her up and enjoy a minute or so cuddling her. What could have changed her mind? Was she mellowing with old age? Did she finally think, 'suppose I'd better be nice', or was she taking advantage of another warm comfortable home to sleep in when she was locked out of her own place? No matter, I hope she will still feel like 'being nice' next time we are home.



Margaret Broctor



The woman who creates

Title design by Jan Revell

Many of you have seen Margaret's art. Her trademark is an Oriental style cat head in vivid colours, resplendent with jewels and glowing eyes. It can appear as a brooch, as a decoration on some item, or part of a picture or other work of art. The cats are distinctive, eyecatching and enormously popular and have taken Margaret from an employee to a business woman who sells her fanciful felines on three continents.

BAST

*Buried soft under Egypt's sands
She's a cat goddess old and grand
Bast's tomb is full of wonderful things
Like ancient toys and mouse's wings.*

Margaret is as fascinating as the cats she creates. You enter her studio by going down stairs all but carpeted with cat statues under walls decorated with cat art. Felines dominate her life, they whirl in her brain, they gaze around the rooms of her studio from every vantage point and the living members of her collection prance and purr around her. Cats were always important in Margaret's life. She has collected cats since childhood, owned her first cat at ten and has been totally immersed in their intrigue ever since. But how does one turn a love of cats into a profitable business? Margaret worked with the jeweller Jorgen Jensen for 14 years and helped make the fanciful necklaces of birds and flowers. Her love of cats spurred her to design a cat brooch and people stopped her to ask where she had purchased it. When her boss went on an overseas trip Margaret put a selection of her cat brooches in the shop window. When he returned and saw the brooches he declared them to be 'the ugliest things he had ever seen' but when confronted with the sales figures, told her to keep at it. It wasn't long before Margaret could not keep up her work commitments and fill the orders for her jewellery. She left the jeweller to become an independent artist.

For the past seven years she has been making cat jewellery and selling it in Australia, the USA and the UK. She had to refuse a lucrative Japanese order because she does not have the resources to handle a market that size. Margaret makes all her jewellery and art from scratch. Each cat is individually crafted, no moulds are used, there is no mass production and no assistance. She works 6 days a week creating and sells her jewellery at the Paddington Village Market each Saturday. An 80 hour week is standard to fill the ever increasing demand.

Her 'ingredients' vary and one of her favourite hobbies is

shopping for supplies. Any shop, stall, garage sale is fair game and any new item can spark a creative thought for another object d'art. The jewellery is made from plastic modelling clay and oven fired. Many of the glass eyes are from a supply of pre WWII stock. She took a ceramics course for 2.5 years and employs that medium in many of her art objects. Although Margaret studied painting, she has had no formal training in materials and is self taught.

While cats remain the dominant force in her art, pigs are beginning to nudge their way in. While it is unlikely that they will ever be as popular as her felines, they are making their presence felt. Several years ago she attended an exhibition on Russian Art and an exhibition on 'fake art'. With those two inspirations she decided to make a 'fake icon' and one led to many as they are popular with her customers. 'The Rainforest Protest Cat' is one of her icons. They range from a religious slant to some positively irreligious ones. But they are bright, gay, highly detailed and imaginative. A tremendous amount of work goes into an Icon. Because of the delays due to the drying times, each Icon takes a number of weeks to complete. When each new Icon is finished it is professionally photographed and the image made into greeting cards. A local publisher expressed interest in using her work in a book but wanted poetry to highlight each piece. So Margaret composes 4 line sonnets when she walks her dog.

Her first formal exhibition was held in February at the Performing Art Space in Redfern. She operates her weekly stall at the Paddington Market and has a selection of her art at the East Chatswood Cat Clinic as well as galleries and shops throughout the eastern coast. Her biggest yearly exposure is at the Arts and Crafts Fair at the RAS Showgrounds, usually end November/early December.

CUCKOO

*Cuckoo's mother knew what's best
She left her baby in my nest
She couldn't cope with her behaviour
And knew that I would be her saviour.*

But Margaret is not just a cat creator. As she proudly tells you, she is a cat mother of recycled cats. She has four in-house cats, three which she rescued from sticky situations. She looks after one courtyard cat, 2 nocturnal feral cats and 1 cliff cat that was 'bequeathed' to her by a little old lady evicted from her boarding house room several years ago. Each day Margaret walks her

dog the 2.5 blocks to the cliff and feeds the cat. When she went into hospital she ensured that a friend kept up the daily food so the creature was not in strife. And if that is not enough individual support for unwanted cats, Margaret has arranged and paid to have 11 local homeless cats desexed over the last several years. While homeless cats do have a nuisance value, Margaret is well aware of the tremendous boon they are in rodent control in her neighbourhood.

SNOW PRINCESS

*Snow Princess is Daddy's girl
And what she wants she gets
She and her bunny friend went on a binge
And now they are both at the vet's.*

Margaret is a devoted cat mother, cat carer and cat creator. As well as the flow of work resulting from her own inspiration, she also does commission pieces that range from a brooch of a beloved deceased cat to Icons or statues of special cats. She works from a colour photograph and can give the most placid cat a secret life of harem jewels and swashbuckling savour. If anyone is interested in commissioning her they can find her at her Saturday stall in the Paddington Village Market on Oxford Street, Paddington, or contact the editor on 550-0339 (AH) for a referral.

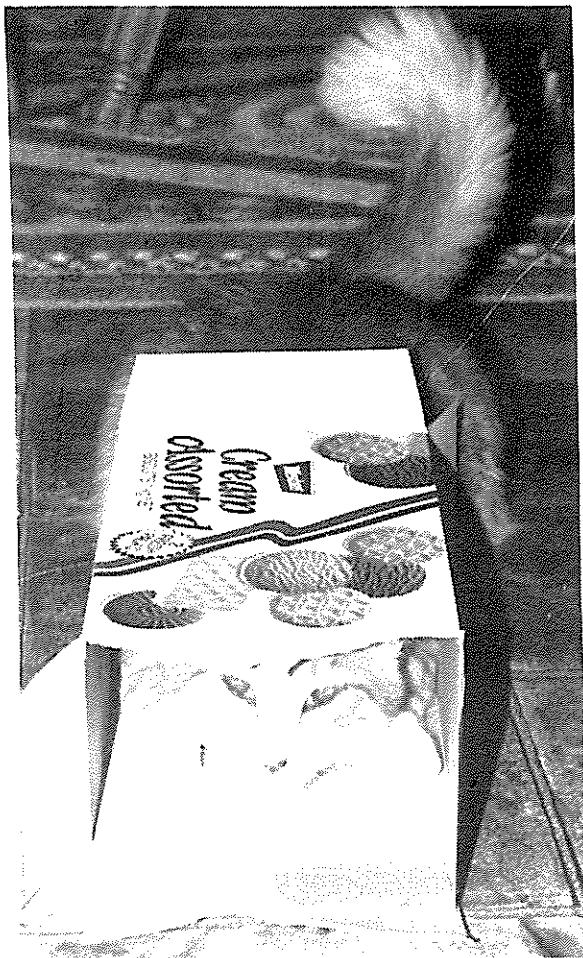


SAVE THE RAINFOREST PROTEST CAT CAT ICON by Margaret Proctor

SAVE THE RAINFOREST

*Eat birds and frogs? It's just not so!
She just eats cat food - this I know.
She campaigns now in towns and cities
Converting other wayward kitties.*

KRAZY KATS IN ACTION



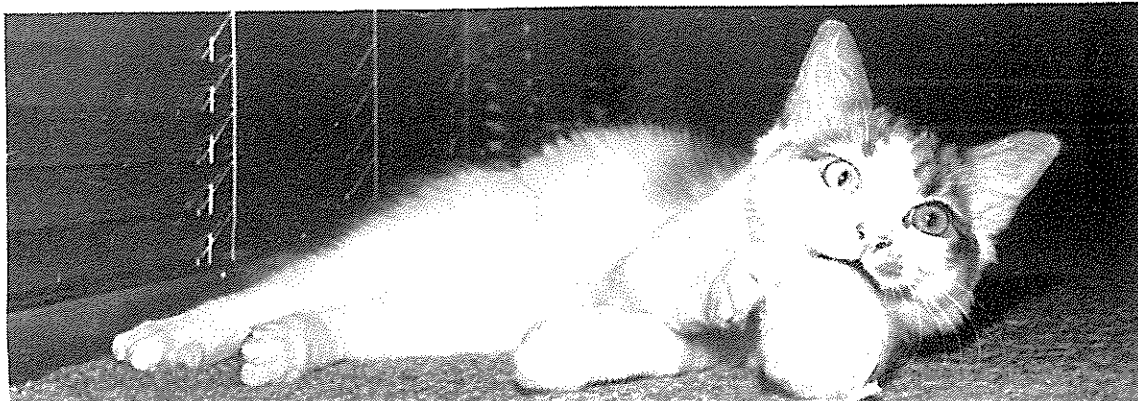
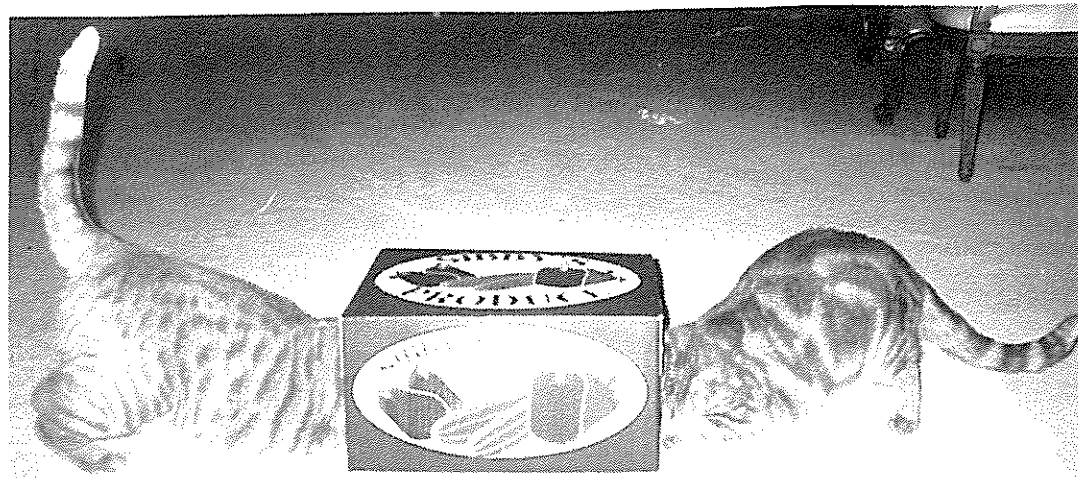
Harry pretending to be a biscuit, N Harvey

Cherie, beloved companion, N Forde

Chasing the last crumb, Mickey & Minnie, Angelika Elliott

Cute as only a kitten can be

A Yarn to tell, Frances Kaukereit



A CAT THAT'S BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST FELINE LEUKAEMIA IS A CAT WITH *10* LIVES

Feline leukaemia is a very serious disease. It's not dangerous to man but it's often fatal in cats.

One of the worst things about feline leukaemia is that its development is so slow you may not even realise that your cat is diseased. But all the while, the virus is attacking its immune system and the first sign you may see is a persistent infection like abscesses or chronic diarrhoea. Your vet will probably take blood samples to help him identify the leukaemia virus. If the tests are

positive there's not much he can do to help the cat.

But now there's something you can do to prevent your cat catching the disease. Virbac Research has perfected the first leukaemia vaccine to be approved by Australian authorities. It's called Leucogen and it's available from your vet. Two simple injections plus a booster dose every year, will ensure that your cat is fully protected. So speak to your vet today about Leucogen and give your cat an extra life.

LeucogenTM

ASK YOUR VET ABOUT LEUCOGEN FROM **virbac**

This advertisement is now appearing in cat fancier magazines

Revolutionary Cat Flea Control . . .

With the introduction of Flea-Derm Herbal Foam Mousse for cats, control of flea problems in cats has been revolutionised.

Flea-Derm Herbal Foam Mousse can be used on kittens from 4 weeks of age. It provides rapid knockdown and control of fleas through the inclusion of synergised pyrethrins and linalool oil. Linalool oil is a colourless liquid with a fresh, woody odour. It is active against adult fleas as well as their eggs.

Feedback from widespread use of Virbac Mousse in the field heartily endorses the Mousse as the most user-friendly method of flea control on cats. Application of the Mousse by caressing and massaging into the cat's coat is reportedly enjoyed by most cats.

Unlike use of other products, cats are not distressed or frightened by application of the Mousse. As a Flea-Derm product, Foam Mousse is water based, and formulated to prevent skin reactions.

Safety of topical flea control products is important; Flea-Derm Herbal Foam Mousse features low skin absorption and the intrinsic

safety of synergised pyrethrins and linalool combined with inclusion of a bittering agent to limit the extent of self-grooming by the animal.

The unique method of application also means that all parts of the cat can be effectively treated, aiding the product to work well in field conditions.

Flea-Derm Herbal Mousse is supplied in pressure packs of 210g. Each pack contains sufficient product for 7 to 8 applications for a 3-4 kg cat. Like all Flea-Derm products, Herbal Foam Mousse is made in Australia, and is free from CFC's.



FLEA-DERM

Flea-Derm Herbal Foam Mousse is only available through Veterinarians

virbac
Cat Affairs April 1995



MICROCHIP IDENTITY

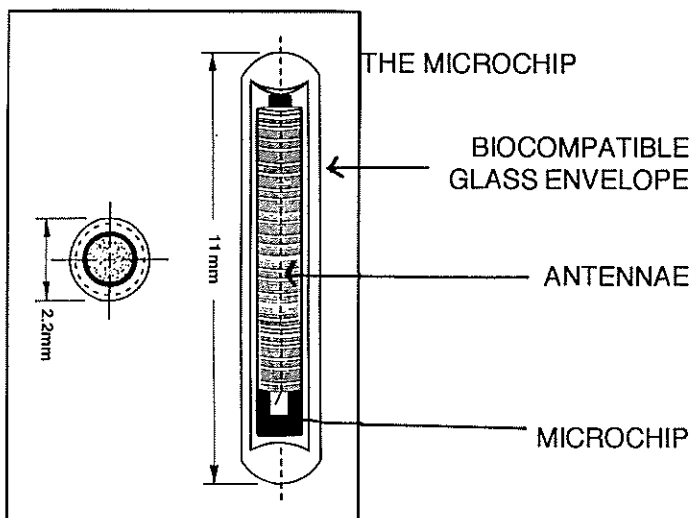
YOUR BEST CHANCE FOR REUNION

1994 will be remembered as the year that the cat finally achieved legal status. Many agree - about time!

Legislation gives Local Government (Municipalities) the framework and guidelines on which Local Laws may be created. In Victoria it calls for registration and identification of all owned cats in the same manner as dogs. This gives the mechanisms where the domestic cat can be separated from the stray or feral cat. Public education has produced awareness of the tragedy of the stray cat problem in our major cities and community awareness of the harm produced by feral cats have been catalysts toward legislation. The problem of cat identification has been solved via the implanted microchip which has produced a mechanism whereby legislation can and will work.

WHAT IS A MICROCHIP?

The microchip has been widely used for many years, both here and overseas in endangered species and zoos, as well as companion animals. It contains a globally unique 10 digit number that is coded in to the microchip. This number is 'found' by a special scanner that is waved over the animal and the chip number is displayed on the scanner. Most of you are familiar with a similar process with bar code readers at supermarkets. The microchip is a bio compatible implant similar to the bionic ear implant implanted in children who are deaf, and lasts for the lifetime of the individual without harm. It carries no batteries and thus is called a 'passive transponder' responding ONLY when scanned by a microchip scanner, using special low frequency electromagnetic (like radio) waves.



WHO IMPLANTS THE CHIP?

Your veterinarian can implant the microchip during a normal consultation. It is simply an injection like a vaccination except with a larger needle. The procedure does not require clipping, sedation or anaesthesia and is often performed in consultation along with other routine procedures such as vaccinations. Your vet completes registration of the microchip number and your details and forwards this information to Central Animal Records. When the animal is scanned the scanning centre rings a toll free number, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, quotes a special security number to the operator, and gets the details of the pet's owner.

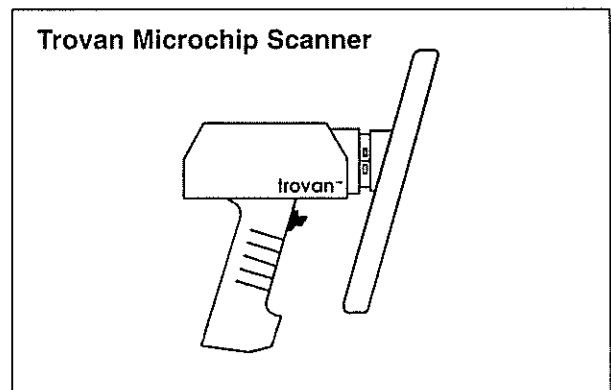
THE COST?

Implantation is a once only cost and is about \$30. Registration can be done annually (\$6), for 5 years (\$26) or for the lifetime of the pet (\$40). Address changes are updated free of charge.

TROVAN, one of the leading suppliers of microchips in Australia have introduced 2 new exciting products:

1) The TROVAN walkby reader. With its longer read range, now cats, even in cages, can be scanned if they are implanted with TROVAN microchips. The unit, in widespread use in the United States, works in a similar way to security panels at airports. Lost Dogs' Home and Western Suburbs Cat Shelter, the third largest animal shelter in Australia, installed Australia's first unit last year.

2) The TROVAN multi-reader. This scanner will read TROVAN and all brands of Destron chips available in Australia simply at the flick of a switch and is in widespread use already by councils and local government bodies, vets and emergency centres across Australia.

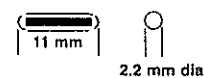


SUMMARY

Microchip technology can provide you with a simple, painless, inexpensive, lifetime identification system for your cat. Its use is dramatically increasing, not only in Australia, but throughout the world in animals as varied as the rare Black Rhinoceros through our companion animals, ostriches, emus, to snakes, fish and birds. **SEE YOUR VET TODAY!!**

Model ID-100

Implantable Identification Microchip



ACTUAL SIZE

TRIVIAL PURRSUITS

New kitten in the house? Blue tack down the precious things on the shelves - make sure gaps between are no more than 5cm. The lifespan of a completely indoor cat is about double that of a cat with access to the outdoors.

It can take 10 years to undo the psychological damage of ignoring a kitten in it's first 10 weeks - so go with that impulse to overdose on cuddles!

Indoor cats really need a cat climbing pole - plus a place of its own. It needs regular play sessions, two x 10 minutes is the minimum) for exercise and socialisation.

Poisonous plants - daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses, irises, azaleas, Chrysanthemums, poinsettia, dieffenbachia, spider plants absorb toxins like carbon monoxide and nicotine.

Cats instinctively fear coiled 'snake-like' things, even indoor cats. A coiled garden hose on the lawn may keep other cats out of the yard.

Fleas don't survive at altitudes greater than 5000 feet.

Cats, mosquitos and turbot are the only creatures that need linoleic and arachidonic fatty acids in their diets as they are strict carnivores.

Feline taste buds are stimulated by protein components and

fats. They can taste sweet but don't care for or select foods based on sweetness.

Even a deaf kitten can use all vocalisations

Cats can breathe in while vocalising (it would make a didgeridoo a breeze for them I guess) and make their sounds via air speed over the vocal chords plus changing tension in the chords and the mouth and throat muscles. The tongue is less important in sound making than in man.

Cats purr at 25 cycles per second and all cats and kittens can purr while drinking.

The cat body is relatively insensitive to heat so they will curl up in fire embers. They move away at 54C while humans move at 44C.

Cat skin has touch-spots - 25 per square centimetre of skin, so cats can feel individual drops of water spray and make their skin ripple.

When dogs go blind they have been trained to become independent again by giving them 'stick whiskers' modelled on the cat. They have flexible sticks attached to their collars and they learn to navigate by pressure changes going through the sticks on their collars as they touch things around them.

Ever Lost A Pet?

Trovan Microchip Implants help find the owners of lost pets

★ Simple to Do

★ Safe and Inexpensive

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- ★ MICROCHIPS provide a unique lifelong identification number for your pet.
- ★ The MICROCHIP number registered at Central Animal Records LINKS YOU TO YOUR PET.
- ★ When lost or stolen special scanners at Welfare Societies and Pounds can display the chip number and you can be contacted for a reunion.



Contact your Local Veterinarian

Central Animal Records, 570 Springvale Road, SPRINGVALE SOUTH, Vic.3172

Phone: (03) 546 3627 Fax: (03) 548 4471

BRANCHES IN ALL STATES



Kim Kendall

BV Sc MACVS (Feline Medicine) MRCVS

It is interesting to contemplate the wonderful variety of structures that have developed from the basic skin arrangement. It is easy to see how whiskers evolved from specialised hairs, and the ears are still at least furry. Even the nose and lips have a 'tough bald skin' approach about them. But the eyes - yes, even they, the windows of the soul - are developed from the basic skin structures and are wrapped around the amazing nerve structures required for sight. Contemplation of a cat's face and form have inspired much in the realms of literature, and yet it is all technically skin.

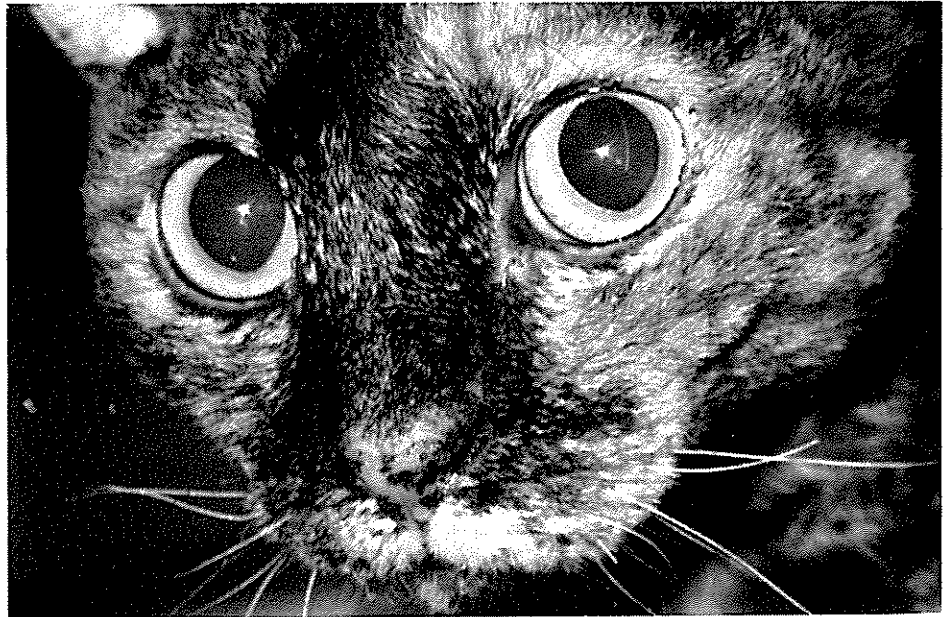
The luminous, iridescence of cats' eyes are the stuff of myth, legend and road markings. Science has named the reflective layer at the back of the eye the tapetum, has identified the structures that make it flash, postulated reasons for its evolution and acknowledged that while many species have it, and in different colours, it is the brightest in the cat. It is the eyes which fascinate first in the feline face, so we'll start here and move on to the rest of the visage.

The eyelids have been described as integumentary (skin) curtains that protect the surface of the eye. They contain glands (up to 40 per lid, called Meibomian glands) whose secretions lubricate and help feed the cornea (the clear surface of the front of the eye). Cats actually have three eyelids. The upper, more mobile lid, has hair skin on the outer surface and modified, moist mucous membrane underneath. The lower lid has less defined eyelashes and restricted range of movement. The third eyelid, the haw, has a special stiffener in it (a piece of cartilage, in fact, like those old collar stiffeners), which allows the cat to voluntarily push the haw across the eye in a windscreen wiping action. Also, the haw is specifically used to defeat veterinary examination of the feline eye, although patience on the part of the vet and curiosity on the part of the cat will usually result in retraction of the third eyelid.

Tear production is done by several glands, modified from the basic skin ones, and tears are the source of nourishment for the cornea, before they are drained away through the middle edge of the eye, down the nasolacrimal duct down to the nose (which is why your nose always runs when you cry). There are many muscles around the eye, for fine adjustment of eye position, facial expression (i.e., stylised wrinkles in the skin) and eyelid control - the orbicularis oculi muscle closes the eyelids which is a tricky manoeuvre when you think about it, as muscles can only pull on tissue, not push.

The cornea is that glorious clear part of the orb which is so carefully structured that it is transparent to light, but keeps the rest of the eye contained behind it. The iris may be the show-

THE EYES HAVE IT



off portion of the eyes, with its beautiful colours and variations in the pupil, but it is the clarity of the cornea which is truly a marvel. It is fed by tears and has no blood vessels, so can be transplanted without fear of rejection by the recipient even without tissue matching - completely unique. It has many nerve endings in it (though it is not the origin of sight - that is the retina's job), so is very sensitive to pain and privation, which is why half-closed eyes are a common feature of ocular illness. The cat's cornea is thicker in the centre than at the edges, which is the reverse of man's. The iris is the showpiece of the eyes, with the different colours from blue to brown, with all the variations within each eye, produced by variations only in the quantity of pigments (the same melanin as in hair colours). Although we describe the pupil size as being variable, in fact the pupil is a void, it is the iris which changes size. However, it is easier to describe the pupil shape as being a vertical slit which can widen or dilate to a full circle. It does this under several conditions - when the level of light is low (physiological), and when in anticipation of both fear and pleasure (psychological, and contradictory as always!). The iris is supplied by two nerves, and in some diseases the pupil can be in the shape of a D when only one side of the iris is functional. Only in the cat!

The lens in the cat's eye is structurally the same as ours. Special fibres make it transparent and bend light waves onto the retina which takes the resultant message to the brain for interpretation. The lens is actually 10% of the volume of the eye, and is the mechanism which assists in focusing. The fibres are contained in an elastic capsule, and the focus is changed by tiny muscles which stretch the lens to thin it out. The cat is relatively short

sighted, seeing best at 2-6 metres - but makes up for defect by using its whiskers to sense vibrations and to when close to things, and this allows blind cats to fol toys on the ground and even to hunt.

The retina is often described as the equivalent of 'film a camera' but this does no justice to the exquisite tuning of this very special piece of nerve tissue. It is layer of tissue at the back of the eye which detects light transmitted from the outside world and conver into messages for the brain. The rod cells, which are most useful in the low light most hunting cats w operate by, have a pigment called rhodopsin w absorbs light and initiates the visual stimulus. The c cells have idopsin which translates daylight stre light and colour. The ratio of rods to cones in the retina provides the following balance of vision - a v of the daylight world which has blue and green discernible, with red toning down to grey, rather lil TV with the colour turned right down. However v light reflecting off the tapetum at the back, the cat can in 1/6 of the light we need, and also be very sensitiv movement. A very effective trade off. However, t also have an extra sensitive part of the retina, with e cones, so they function well in all light levels. Anc course, the pupils can get very thin if light is intens you can always sleep in the brightest part of the da you're a cat.

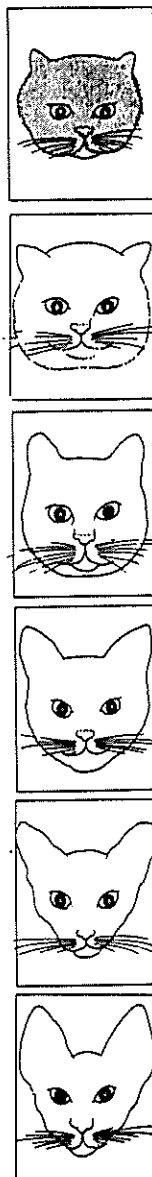
The eyes are so important they start to develop on da after conception, but the retina itself only develops 7 days after birth, hence the closed eyes for the first days. But the eye structures are not completely tr parent nor fully functional till six weeks of age. Kitt nevertheless, are pretty accurate in their play/hit rrou from early on.

EARS

The ears are the next most visible portion of the face and are a very important indicator of mood as well as necessary for hearing acuity. The visible portion of the ear - called the pinna - is a funnel shaped piece of cartilage with a skin and hair covering. The shape allows it to channel the air vibrations down to the middle and inner ear, where they are transformed into messages for the brain. There is hair on the outer section of the ear pinna, and two kinds of glands secrete into the inner surface, sebaceous and ceruminous glands. The latter are irritated by the presence of ear mites and produce the crusty brown stuff that accompanies an ear mite infestation, and which the cat is very glad to shake out onto the carpet after treatment.

The ears move independently of each other and, in fact, can rotate 180 degrees (half a circle) via the use of 30 muscles - man has 6 in the same area. Cats can hear sounds at 100kHz, but function well at 60kHz (which is mouse noise frequency). Man can cope to 20 kHz. However, the sensitivity of hearing at the higher ranges is much reduced by the age of 5 years. I wonder what the cats think about all the wild noise of modern living and whether there is less hunting going on under the new flight paths. Remarkably, cats can differentiate between two sounds that are only 18" apart at 60 feet. All due to those amazing noise catching ears.

The ears, eyes and whiskers together provide the facial



EAR SHAPES

expressions notifying intent, from pleasure with the dilated eyes and pricked ears to the terrified with the dilated eyes, flattened ears and drawn back whiskers. Given familiarity on our part with what a cat is trying to tell us via vocal noises and body language, they are honest creatures and will always tell you what's coming. Often it's our reactions that are too slow by half.

NOSE - LIPS

The lips and nose are the only portions of the cat that are sensitive to direct hot and cold sensations (not the feet - hence the big problem with leaping onto hot plates). They are very rich in all kinds of nerve endings, and allow the cat to get a very accurate view of the world - not just visual but smell and vibrations of things to come and things just left. Imagine going into a room and knowing not only who is there now, but who was recently there, and maybe who is about to join you. Amazing really (would it make Hercule Poirot's job harder or easier?). As for their surface portions, the lips have glands, but the nose leather does not. Noses are actually all individual, like fingerprints, by virtue of the shallow grooves in them. The moistness of the nose comes from licking it and from the tears from the nasolacrimal duct (waste not, want not). It has many blood vessels and nerves in it and a nick on the nose will bleed profusely.

The chin and the skin at the edges of the lips have glands that secrete oils with individual smells, because cats use smell to communicate rather than hunt as per dogs. Hence these are the 'welcome to my family' scents that your cat is giving you when she rubs her head so hard on your legs and hards, and which subtly warns off other cats. I have to be careful to wash my hands between handling cats, not just because of disease transfer but because the smell of another cat on my hands makes my new patient nervous. After all, if my hands smell like

another cat, might they not be lurking around somewhere in person?

WHISKERS

And finally the whiskers, the archetypal feature of the cat face. Not only muzzle whiskers, but the eyebrow whiskers, those at the side of the face and under the jaw. These are all exquisitely sensitive to air movement, vibration and touch and allow the cat to manoeuvre in close, when their eyes cannot focus and the prey is out of their line of sight anyway. They are essential for the cat to make its final pounce and killing bite. We must never forget that that is what the cat is supremely designed for - killing rodents - and we have to admire the skill with which many hunt. After all, that was the original contract under which man and cat got together in the days when Egyptian corn needed protection from rats. Cats keep their side faithfully, it is our view of that very prowess that changes.

In these two articles I have dealt with the outer cat, the visible form and the microscopic forms and functions of the various parts of the feline skin. However profoundly fascinating and beautiful as the outside form is, nevertheless it is the inner cat, the indefinable 'purrsonality' cat that has us in her thrall.

Kim Kendall is a vet with world wide experience and in 1994 opened an exclusively feline practice in East Chatswood. She is one of the early initiators of single species surgeries in Australia.

IN REMEMBRANCE



MADGE RAYMOND

In memory of my mother, Madge Raymond of North Bondi, who was the ultimate cat lover.

Ross Raymond

MRS MARIA GILLESPIE

In December one of my dear friends, Mrs Maria Gillespie of Wollstonecroft, passed away. Rather than send flowers I would like you to accept the enclosed donation in her name. She was always a great friend to all cats and a member of your society. She was also a distinguished writer and teacher of the English language and literature. I think it would please her to be remembered in this way.

Valerie Parv, Ashfield

MRS DORIS GRIFFITHS

Mrs Griffiths, a Life Member for over two decades, died in November 1994. She was a cat lover and helped handle stray cats for the CPS as well as encouraging others to join.

MY FRIENDS

In memory of my departed friends, Dolly, 20 years; George Albert, 10 years; Kitty, 4 years; Mischka, 14.5 years; Polly, 14.5 years. You are all much loved and missed and remembered. Irene Sherevera, Blaxland

ROMULUS

In memory of 'Rommo', my gentle white Persian friend who gave me 15 years of joy. He is now at rest in the garden he loved. He died 26 December.

Jenny Coughlan, Drummoyne

STORM

A donation is enclosed in memory of our beautiful boy, Storm, who died on 27 October, 1994, just five days after his 17th birthday. Storm loved nothing better than a lap to sit on and someone to have a chat with.

Margaret A Stevens, Moorebank

CASSIE

Dear Cassie was put to sleep 20 March 1994, memory remains, but above all, love.

George Tiley, Beverly Hills

CHEEKY

Cheeky was a Devon Rex who passed away just before Christmas in 1991. Cheeky used to sit in the window to check out what was going on in the outside world. So with a few tears in my eyes I can always remember him sitting under the Christmas tree with all the presents.

Frances Kurschildgen, Baulkham Hills

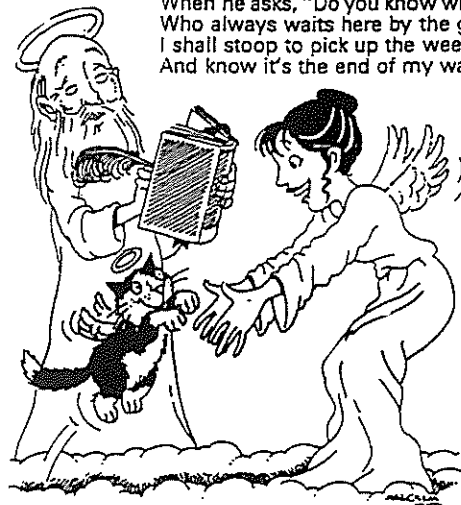
MANDY

In honour of my beloved cat Mandy, who gave me 10 years of love and loyalty.

June Leil, Mt Druitt

Reunion

If ever I stand before Heaven,
St. Peter on guard at the door,
If a certain small shape sits beside him,
I'll not feel alone any more.
When he asks, "Do you know whose this cat is,
Who always waits here by the gate?"
I shall stoop to pick up the wee bundle,
And know it's the end of my wait.



PETS REMEMBERED

Fond Memories of Faithful Companions

One distressing aspect of pet ownership is the knowledge that most owners will suffer the pain of losing their pet. This could mean that the pet goes astray or a beloved and faithful companion dies. In either case, the pain of separation is often almost too much to bear. It's an unfortunate fact that some of those around us find it difficult to understand that a pet can be anything more than 'just an animal'. However, those of us who truly love our pets know how very real the sense of loss can be when a pet dies or disappears.

An Australian company, "PETS REMEMBERED" recognises that the unconditional bond of love and affection between owner and pet does not simply end at the loss of the pet. "Pets Remembered" have had many years of experience with different types of photographs and plaques: this experience suggests that fond memories are able to provide comfort long after the pet has gone.

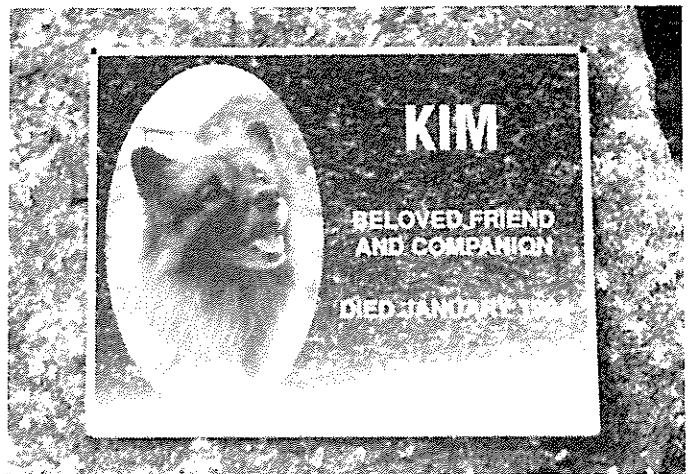


"We don't pretend to try to somehow 'replace' a special friend. But what we have found is that many people who lose a pet are disappointed to have so little to remind them of their missing companion and that is a gap we can assist them with", explains David Hay, principal of "Pets Remembered".

"Pets Remembered" produce an unique range of customised Metalplaques which can serve as a loving reminder and fitting memorial to a pet. "Metalplaques incorporate a lifelike photograph of your pet or capture a favourite scene onto high quality metal", says David Hay. Because they are impervious to the weather and have incredible fade resistant qualities, metalplaques can be utilised outside as memorial plaques or can be kept inside as a permanent photographic tribute to a missing pet. The thickness of the plaque can vary according to individual requirements, according to Mr Hay. Metalplaque can be thin enough to mount in a presentation frame or can be purchased in thicknesses normally associated with traditional plaques for monumental use.

Happily, these attractive plaques and photographs are often used as mementos of healthy, happy pets. "We are often

asked to produce metalplaques from a favourite snapshot of a cat or dog with their owners". Visitors to zoos and national parks will often see Metalplaques used to identify particular animals or plants.

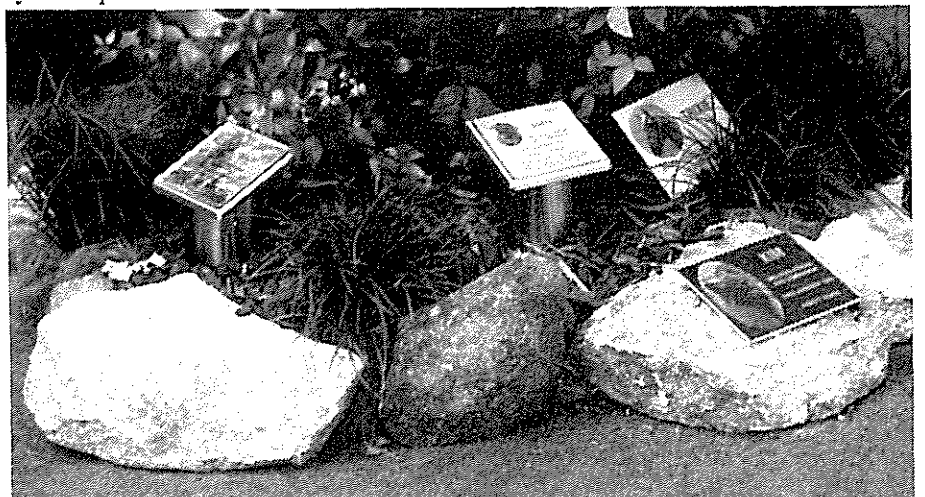


Their experience in the field of memorial plaques has now led "Pets Remembered" into an involvement with a new product - the all-Australian 'COMPANION'S REST' urn. There is an increasing trend towards cremation and the question then becomes what to do with the cremated remains. The Companion's Rest" is a simple, but dignified, urn which is suitable for use outside in the garden or inside on the mantelpiece. Constructed entirely of stainless steel, "The Companion's Rest is weather resistant. A support spike is provided to assist outside placement, an optional wooden base is available for inside use. "The Companion's Rest" features a Metalplaque incorporating a photograph of the pet as well as text.

"People who have seen "The Companion's Rest" are always impressed and ask why nobody thought of it before. We have world wide patents in place and are very enthusiastic about the prospects for this product", says David Hay. The company has already received enquiries from the USA about 'The Companion's Rest'.

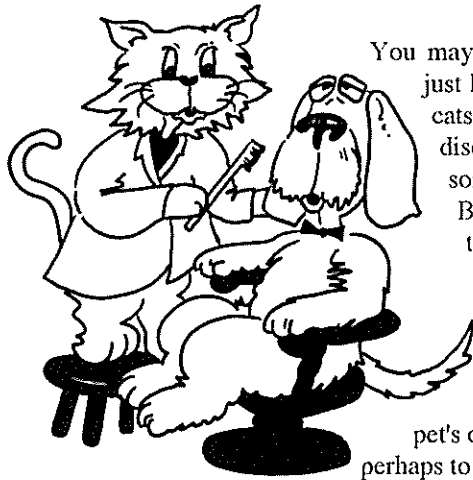
"Our involvement with Metalplaque and 'The Companion's Rest' confirms what we all know in our hearts ... that is perfectly normal to grieve for our pets", says David Hay. "Perhaps we can help in some small way".

People interested in Metalplaque or 'The Companion's Rest' should contact METALPLAQUE PTY LTD, Unit 3/27 Dickson Ave, Artarmon, NSW 2064 Tel. 02 439-3914.



DENTISTRY

... GET YOUR TEETH INTO IT



You may not have heard, but just like people, dogs and cats are vulnerable to gum disease, infections and all sorts of mouth troubles. Brushing your pet's teeth is not something you need to do after each meal time, but three times a week will make all the difference to your pet's oral hygiene - and perhaps to its overall health..

Chew on the facts ... it is estimated that at least 60% of all cats and dogs over five years old seen by veterinarians have dental problems requiring medical attention.

Many pets suffer in silence. Dental problems don't often announce themselves - until it is too late. A cat can harbour gum disease for years, and you only discover it when you notice your cat's teeth have fallen out. A problem which starts in your pet's mouth may show up elsewhere in its body in a more severe form. For example, bacteria from a low grade oral infection could enter your dog's bloodstream at the gums. You may not know about the problem until it is too late. Out of the blue, your dog is diagnosed with a serious kidney ailment - possibly all because a 'minor' oral infection wasn't detected and treated earlier.

Your veterinarian will be able to tell even from a quick look at your pet's mouth if tooth decay, gum disease or oral infection is present. Many veterinarians offer teeth cleaning services. But, veterinary care without home care is almost pointless, bacteria in an animal's mouth can do harm in a matter of weeks. Day to day care of your pet's teeth is your responsibility.

The worst threat to your pet's teeth is plaque. Plaque left on the teeth hardens to become tartar, a yellowish brown discolouration. Tartar (or calculus, to use the scientific word) can lead to bad breath, premature loss of teeth, gum disease and oral infections. The best way to deal with plaque is to brush your pet's teeth.

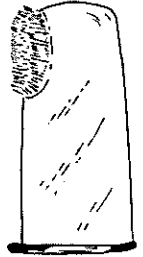
There are a number of products available for pet dental home care. As toothpastes and toothbrushes are what people generally use for dental home care, they are an obvious choice for pets as well. Numerous dental studies have shown that mechanical removal of plaque by a toothbrush is the most important phase of plaque removal and any dentifrice is an added benefit, especially if it contains fluoride.

Malt flavoured enzymatic toothpaste (such as Petrodex Cat toothpaste) releases oxygen when brushed on the teeth and is well accepted by many pets.



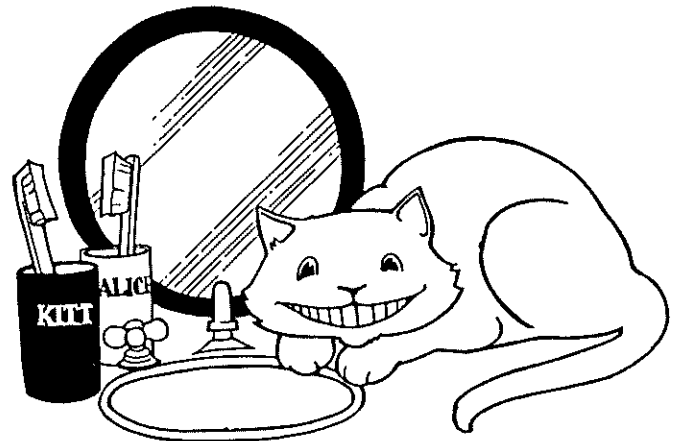
The toothpaste we use on our teeth is not acceptable for use on pets as it has a frothing agent and is not digestible. This is not a problem with us as we do not swallow our toothpaste in any large quantities.

Pets should be introduced to handling of the mouth very slowly and gently. Pet toothbrushes are available in a variety of forms. Smaller brushes for kittens, adult cat brushes as well as finger toothbrushes are available. Finger toothbrushes are often the most accepted by pets. There are small and very easy to use, just slip one on your finger. Finger toothbrushes remove plaque from the tooth surface as well as massaging and strengthening the gums. Many pets are most at ease in their owner's lap. It is a good idea to keep a clean toothbrush next to the chair where the pet and owner sit together. Once a pet becomes accustomed to having its teeth brushed or wiped, the tooth brushing sessions can be moved to a more suitable location, such as the kitchen or bathroom.



All toothbrushes should be replaced monthly and weekly in the severely affected mouth to prevent reinfection from the toothbrush. Some owners elect to use cotton swabs to get oral disease under control and keep it there.

Enzyme pads (Petrodex Pads) are another great dental home care product. These can be used to wipe the pet's teeth instead of brushing, spraying or flushing. These pre-moistened pads help to wipe away food debris and help to freshen the breath.



Never, NEVER, never use baking soda and salt to brush a pet's teeth. There is entirely too much sodium available for absorption into the pet's system. Many pets who need daily tooth brushing have heart disease or are predisposed to developing it and this extra sodium could have life threatening side effects for them.

The bottom line is that basic prophylaxis performed thoroughly by your veterinarian provides about 10% of the pet's dental needs. Home care is needed for the other 90%. If the pet owner can brush or wipe the outside of the upper cheek teeth, about 75% of the calculus formation will be controlled.

Remember, regular dental checks with your veterinarian followed by a consistent home care program will keep your pet and its teeth healthy for years.

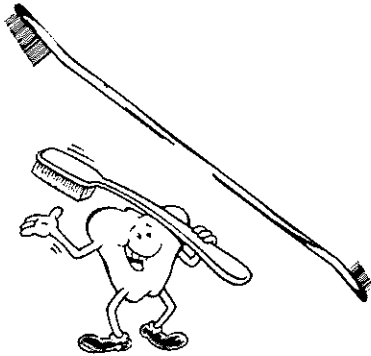
Petrodex Dental Products are available in most Pet Shops. Petrodex is distributed throughout Australia by Pet Trends Pty Ltd.

Petrodex Dental Products ...

EXCLUSIVE TO PET SHOPS

Dog Toothbrush

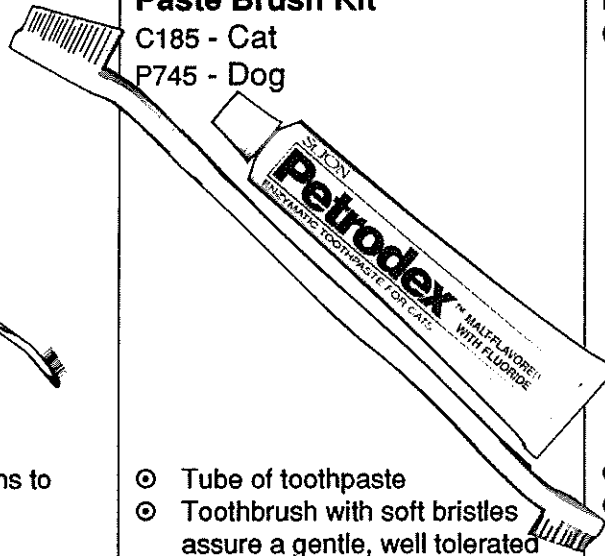
C165



- ⊙ Tapered shape conforms to pets mouth
- ⊙ Dual ended for large & small teeth surfaces

Paste Brush Kit

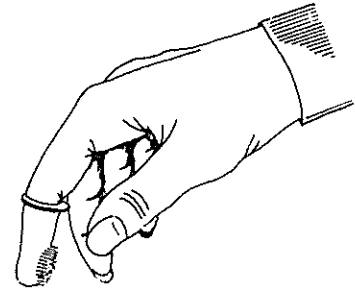
C185 - Cat
P745 - Dog



- ⊙ Tube of toothpaste
- ⊙ Toothbrush with soft bristles assure a gentle, well tolerated application

Finger Toothbrush

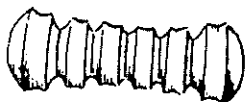
C212



- ⊙ Easy to use
- ⊙ Removes plaque from tooth surface
- ⊙ Massages & strengthens gums

Rubber Dental Exerciser

C955



- ⊙ Exercises the gingival tissues & promotes general oral health

Dog & Cat Starter Kits

C386



- ⊙ Trial size toothpaste
- ⊙ A toothbrush

Toothpaste

P306 - Dog
P432 - Cat



- ⊙ Helps control plaque & bad breath
- ⊙ Specifically formulated not to be rinsed

Oral Hygiene Spray

C310



- ⊙ Acts quickly to help neutralize mouth odours
- ⊙ Convenient spray applicator

Breath Strips

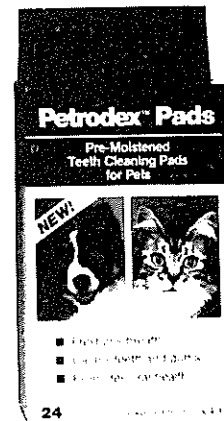
P044 - Small / Medium
P045 - Large



- ⊙ Freshen Breath
- ⊙ Removes Plaque
- ⊙ Taste Great

Oral Hygiene Pads x 24

C323



- ⊙ Pre moistened, easy to use
- ⊙ Helps wipe away food debris
- ⊙ Helps freshen breath

BOOK REVIEWS

Lee Wright

CATS OF THE GREEK ISLANDS FOLIO

Hans Silvester, Thames & Hudson, \$29.95

Following on the success of Hans Silvester's book, 'Cats of the Greek Islands' (reviewed in the August 1994 issue), Thames and Hudson has published a folio of 16 prints. The majority are from the book with several new ones that again illustrate the photographer's high degree of skill photographing cats. The portfolio is a bargain at \$29.95 and makes a superb gift. The prints are secure in a book format but easily removed to be framed. ●●●●

CATS AND THEIR CULTURE

THE TRIBE OF TIGER



ELIZABETH MARSHALL THOMAS

EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY CAT

THE TRIBE OF TIGER

Cats and Their Culture

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, Allen & Unwin (Orion) \$29.95

This is not a text book on cats. The writing style is more novel-like and written with quite a sense of humour. Elizabeth Thomas explores the relationships of felines to each other - and to the humans who inhabit their world. It is an engrossing, informative and easy to read book and the author's often humorous

approach highlights those vagaries of feline nature that can delight and exasperate us (their 'parents' and their 'children'). A very good read indeed. ●●●

CATWATCHING

Desmond Morris, Random House, 1994 Hardcover \$29.95

The book is superbly presented with 50% full colour pages of cats and 50% copy. Each page comprises a typical cat question and a detailed answer covering basic cat facts, history, language, actions and oddities. The photographs, both action and studio shots, are stunning. Desmond Morris is quite knowledgeable but his books tend to have a strong bias and it is readily apparent in the pedigree section. Despite the fact that the book was published in 1994, Mr Morris has obviously not done his homework. In his breed section he has vilified the Ragdoll on fallacies promoted by the original breeder. He has obviously not contacted current breeders who know this cat as one that goes limp when relaxed but possesses all the normal cat reactions of fear, pain and retaliation. He states that Australia has done nothing towards creating its own cat - despite the fact that our Spotted Mist has been accepted for years. However, the negative aspect is all in one chapter. Readers will learn a lot from Catwatching as well as delighting in the photos. It is definitely a good addition to your library or an excellent gift for cat lovers. ●●●●

PETS IN YOUR GARDEN

David Butcher, Reed Publishing 1994, Softcover, colour illustrations, \$14.95

This book has been written for people who love gardens and pets and want to combine them both. Whether you are

contemplating adding a pet to your life, or want to improve the quality of your life with an animal, David Butcher guides you in choosing a pet best suited to your circumstances and planting a garden best suited to remain as delightful as possible with the pet of your choice. The book covers all the standard animal species that people enjoy owning, not just cats and is full of hints and tips to make it easier to share garden and pet for a fuller life. ●●

THE THREE LEGGED CAT,

Margaret Mahy, Puffin Books \$7.95 ages 2+

Tom, Mrs Grimble's three legged cat would dearly love to see the world but his peg leg keeps him at home where Mrs Grimble would rather he not be. Discover how both Tom and his owner get exactly what they want in life. ●●●

MARGARET MAHY
The Three-Legged Cat



Illustrated by
Jonathan Allen

THE PAW

Natalie Jane Prior & Terry Denton, Allen & Unwin \$9.95 ages 3+

Who has children or grandchildren who dream of being a cat burglar? Leonie, an ordinary school girl by day, becomes a daring and successful cat burglar by night. Her adventures and the illustrations are wonderful making this a great book for the young and the young at heart. ●●●●



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



1) Flower 2) feather shorter 3) 1 furpiece shorter 4) wearing shoes 5) No stripe on hem 6) shorter sleeve 7) Longer brim 8) wearing gloves

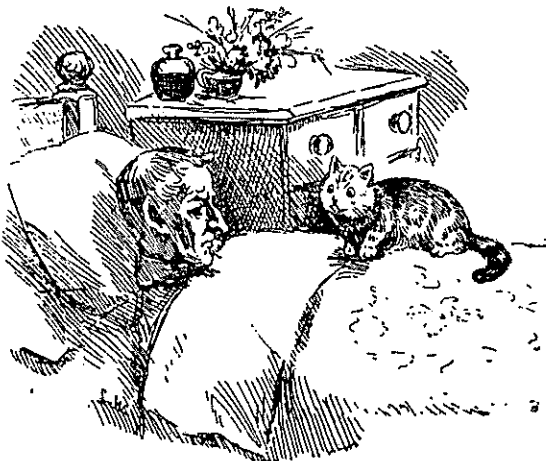
REUNION

Lena Chatsworth

She bounded across the garden, moving quickly to get out of the pouring rain, ignoring the scent of skinks and bugs in her eagerness to reach the house. The door was closed but no matter, she had long accessed the warm, dry interior through her own secret entry under the porch, up through a hole in the floor into a kitchen cabinet and out the warped door that had not closed in years. If she had been a large cat she could not have managed but she had been the runt of the litter those many years ago and she was small and sleek. Age had robbed her of much of her agility but the way was easy and the path well worn. Her nostrils twitched as they caught the musky scent of a mouse. Her ears flattened and her body crouched automatically but the creature completely ignored her, oblivious to the threat she posed. She was deeply affronted but her mind was on another matter and she brushed by the mouse without disturbing its feeding.

Eyes and nose, trained by long habit, scanned the kitchen. No food, no milk, the water bowl dry and covered with a layer of dust. It had been this way for days. But there was a difference, the silence of the house was broken by soft sounds approaching the kitchen, people sounds. She pranced to the doorway as white shoes and black loafers walked by. Green eyes glowing in a dark face looked up but they neither saw the cat nor heard her call. Even a welcoming rub against the familiar black trousered leg brought no response. "All you can do is make sure he's comfortable, it won't be long now. Call me when you need me". White shoes escorted the dark loafers to the door, saw them out and then walked back to the kitchen.

The little cat trotted down the hall to the front room. The curtains were open and the rain filtered light illuminated the bed, covered with an old blanket and barely raised enough to indicate someone sleeping under it. The cat

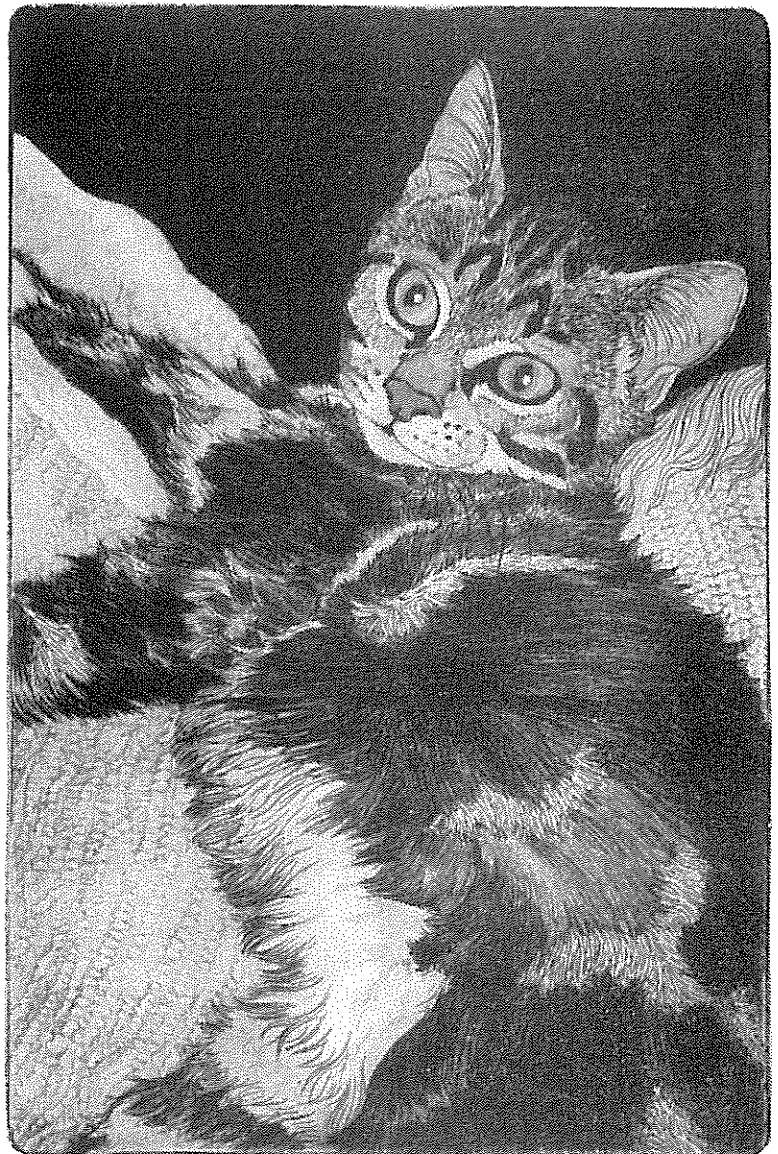


jumped lightly to the pillow. The old man's eyes were closed, his hands still on the covers. For a moment the cat watched the wrinkled face it had loved for so many years and wondered why the old man had been ignoring it recently. No food, no pats, no welcome under the covers. A striped paw stretched out and caressed the face lightly. To the cat's delight, the old man's eyes

fluttered momentarily and then opened, a smile creasing his face when he saw the cat. "Buddy, you're here". The little paw flicked out again and smacked the old man's nose, a gesture given and accepted in love. "Buddy, you're hungry, just let me get my slippers on and I'll feed you". The two padded down the hall.

The nurse was watching the rain drumming against the kitchen window and listening to a neighbour. "Poor old chap, he must be 95 and so spry until a week ago when his cat was killed. He lost all interest in life and took to his bed". They did not notice the old man lean down and pick up the cat or see the two as they walked out into the sun together.

Who could believe that there is
no soul beneath those
luminous eyes!
Theophile Gauthier.



'Raphael Relaxing'

Etching by **JANE STAPLEFORD**, Australian Artist

SHOWING PET CATS

It was a pleasure seeing a fine selection of moggies on the bench at a recent cat show. Beautiful blacks, calicos, tabbies, a tortie and a chinchilla cross, to name just a few. The cats adapted to the show routine, the noise and movement, with no trauma and were sitting in their cages conning exclamations of delight from the viewers or rubbing against the bars for pats.

Sharon and Brad Curtis of Heathcote answered a newspaper ad and bought a domestic Chinchilla/Birman cross that was not suitable to his previous owner. "Sooty" has a wonderful personality and the ability to move anyone to get the exact position he wants on the bed". Sharon and Brad got a pedigreed cat to keep Sooty company and started showing him. When domestic cats were allowed on the bench they entered Sooty and rapidly discovered that Sooty loved the attention and fuss of cat shows. In 6 shows he has had numerous wins. Sporting a pair of incredibly long whiskers he easily won in the 'Longest Whisker' class. He was Best Domestic Exhibit at the 1994 St George Cat Show, the second largest show in the NSW show circuit.

Sharon and Brad are two of the growing number of show goers who firmly believe that showing domestics promotes responsible cat ownership as well as introducing domestic cat owners to the marvellous range of pedigree cats available today. Whether a domestic owner ever buys a pedigree is immaterial. The fun is in viewing the pedigree cats and seeing a cat similar to your Joe or Smudge or Angel in the pedigree section. Both domestics and pedigrees owe much of their developments to each other as there are very few of the pedigree breeds that do not have domestic stock in their history and many a domestic can claim a wayward pedigree parent.

In the domestic section you are allowed to have coloured or decorated curtains during judging. One of the best at this show was set of pink satin curtains with a cat of sequins with green jewel eyes sewn to the centre back. On the front edge of the cushion cover were two embroidered cartoon mice. A very well done presentation. Whether the exhibitor chooses to use the conventional white curtains and cover or goes for something fancier, it all adds to the fun of showing and meeting and talking to other cat people. Anyone interested in shows should contact the RAS Cat Control on (02) 331-9135 for show dates and show secretaries' phone numbers. For domestic owners in country areas - there are many regional shows throughout the year in a town near you. Just remember, all domestic exhibits, both cat and kitten, must be desexed to be eligible for entry.



"People are constantly telling me that I spoil my cats, but I prefer to think of it as giving them the best care possible. My cats symbolize everything that is kind and gentle. They offer love and unconditional acceptance, and I do my best to repay them." Elizabeth Llewellyn.



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:

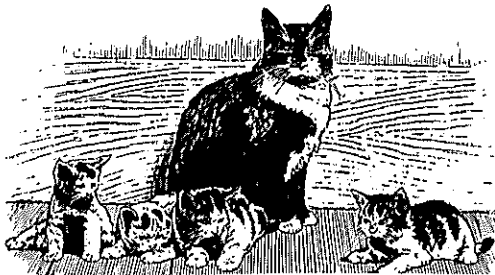
Where a specific amount of money or a specific asset is to be bequeathed the form would be:

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

Last Christmas brought the usual number of abandoned stray and dumped mother cats with their beautiful babies ... so many! It seems that more than usual were reported to us. On the other hand, it seemed that there were less of the really domesticated kittens handed in.

The exciting news is that our RSPCA has begun to desex at 8 weeks along with the AWL and us. We are delighted to have them join in this early desexing. Also, the Victorian government has brought in compulsory registration of cats to be administered by local councils. That will take effect from about April this year. **South Australia has also introduced a law that compels cats to be identified by microchip, tattoo or collar and tag. A cat will be treated as a stray if it does not have identification. CPS strongly recommends that you have your cat micro chipped now so that you will be prepared when NSW brings in a similar law.**

A very caring pensioner and Vietnam Vet found the saddest 4 week old black kit in his backyard. He is a very responsible animal owner so this wee thing was probably dumped. It was

literally covered in fleas, so much so that it was almost dead from blood loss. Despite his financial situation it was immediately taken to his vet where it was bathed to rid it of fleas. It was incredible to see the numbers that fell off that little creature. After lots of care and a sufficient recovery, it was allowed to go home and the CPS was happy to contribute in a small way to help this good Samaritan.

A special word of thanks to our good friend, Peg Gauley who did a wonderful 125 jobs for us in 1994. Those included the difficult catching of wild and nervous cats and taking in unwanted cats and kittens, well and ill. Peg has no transport but has generous friends who drive her to Concord Animal Hospital. **Peg, you're priceless - congratulations on such a record setting achievement and thanks from all of us at the CPS.**

ADOPTION

We were amazed to have a lovely young black/white queen with 6 babies surrendered. The amazement came about because 3 kits had Siamese colourpoints. They were too young to be rehomed immediately so our carer, Frances, took them home to be thoroughly spoiled. Frances had 9 kits and cats in her one bedroom unit over Christmas and loved every minute of it. These 3 special babies kept their blue eyes and loud talk (not totally Siamese) and have been desexed, immunised, micro chipped and gone to doting homes. The littlest one - a girl and much smaller than her siblings - was swept off in the arms of a large gentleman, getting kisses all the way to the car. Wife and mother in law will need to work hard on that little miss to get a knee sit.

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 1995. (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.....

OPPORTUNITY SHOP

The shop started 1995 with a bang. our first week - a short one too - saw \$1,000 in the till. The rest of the month was very good too. A great result and a happy introduction for Grace Ayling who has accepted our request to become Opportunity Shop Co-ordinator as well as the roster secretary.

We have had plenty of goodies donated too. Lots of bric a brac which is our most popular line. It always amazes me how quickly the word gets around that the shop has some interesting merchandise. SO MEMBERS PLEASE GO THROUGH YOU CUPBOARDS AND DONATE THOSE THINGS YOU DON'T NEED.

Chris Brown has joined our band of sorters and, with Vera, Barbara, June and Cecily, make a busy, formidable team. While our sorters are occupied in the back room our salespersons are attending to clients, and of course some of those people do sorting as well. Jan Armstrong is one of them - a new recruit combining sales and sorting. Incidentally, we only have 2 gentlemen sales persons and we would like some more - ladies too, of course! **Most of all we need drivers to pick up our donations all over the metropolitan area.**

So in welcoming Grace and our new sorters and sales persons (we have a few new ones too) we look forward to a happy and prosperous 1995 and we thank all our 'old' volunteers for their continued support. We hope all our volunteers enjoy their days in the Op Shop and make lots of new cat friends.

NEW MEMBERS

October 1994 - January 1995

Mrs P Argue, Terrigal; Mrs H Baaske, Lindfield; Miss P Bailey, Gladesville; Mrs L Bentley, North Ryde; Miss G Blyth, Newtown; Dr H Bruhl, Berowra; Mrs J Bulmer, Berowra heights; Ms S Bennett, Killarney Heights; Miss S Butler, Enmore; Ms L Carmichael, Enmore; Mrs M Day, Hunters Hill; Mrs T Davies, Narrembrum; Mrs De Launey, Killara; Miss B Dewhurst, Lindfield; Miss M Earls, Dulwich Hill; Ms L Ellis, Kincumber; J Edwards, Toongabbie; Ms J Farrar, Avalon Beach; Miss J Freeman, Darlinghurst; Ms W Francis, Harbord; Mrs M Gibson, Normanhurst; Miss A Gifford, Camperdown; Ms P Green, Erskineville; Mrs J Harmour, Lemon Tree Passage; Mr Harriman, Willoughby; Mrs Heap, Middle Cove; Dr J Hirshman, Vaucluse; Ms S Holden, Rydalmere; Ms S Howard, Gympie; Ms D Ikonomos, Earlwood; Ms P Ingram, Marrickville; Mrs B Jungfleisch, Gladesville; Mr R King, Coogee; Mrs C Kiliny, Warrimoo; Mrs M Kuti, Carlton; Mr M Long, Alexandria; Mr J Maher, Katoomba; Miss F Murray, Bondi; Master A Nassar, Roselands; Miss M Offoro, Newtown; Miss K O'Brien, Telopea; Ms J O'Brien, Greenwich; Ms E O'Neill, Dee Why; Mrs D Parsons, Galston; Mrs M Payne, Menai; Miss M Peacock, Hurstville; Miss M Petrovski, Oatley; Mrs T Pollock, Hillsdale; Mrs J Pratt, Kingsgrove; Mrs V Quarrell, Waverton; Ms J Ramsay, Marrickville; Mrs N Rogers, Campsie; Mrs A Schreiber, Caringbah; Mrs M Seysan, Frenchs Forest; Mrs N Sharp, Loftus; Ms A Smart, Hunters Hill; Mrs M Studdert, Five Dock; Miss D Smith, Marrickville; Ms M Smith, East Ryde; Mrs L Snelling, Newtown; J Southon, Waitara; Miss A Stevenson, Roselands; Mrs P Sullivan, Longueville; Mr R Swindells, Drummoyne; Ms D Tekanawa, Matraville; Mrs A Tonkin, Kirribilli; Mrs A Vaillant, Newtown; Mrs R Van Santen, Wentworthville; Ms Z Walker, Stanmore; Ms E Ward, Westleigh; Miss J Wareham, Earlwood; J Wells, Glebe; Mrs R Whitfield, Camden; Mrs J Winn, Roseville.

CHRISTMAS COVER PHOTO COMPETITION

Is your cat a contender for the December 1995 CAT AFFAIRS cover?

Then send in a photo and the winning entry will be the December Cover Cat.

TO BE IN THE RUNNING PLEASE OBSERVE THESE POINTS!

- 1) 3 x 5 photos are the smallest that can be accepted
- 2) Be sure photo is sharp and clear
- 3) A Christmas theme is preferred
- 4) The photo must be vertical

And keep in mind these hints

- 1) Keep the background as plain as possible so the cat(s) is clearly visible
- 2) Have the cat(s) take up most of the photograph. Small, slightly out of focus cats will not enlarge clearly.
- 3) Pencil your name and the cat's name (LEGIBLY!) on the back **edge** of the photo. Please don't use biro across the back. If the writing impression shows on the front - the photo cannot be used.
- 4) Include a short note about your cat, 3-6 sentences, which will be used in the photo description if your photo is chosen. Be sure to put your name on the note as well.
- 5) All photos remain the property of Cat Affairs

HAVE YOUR CAT HERALD THE COMING HOLIDAY BY APPEARING ON CAT AFFAIRS COVER

Send your entries to CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION, CPS, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042

All entries in by 30 September 1995

DOMESTIC ANIMAL BILL

VICTORIA

This condensed from an article that appeared in the Newsletter of the CPS of Victoria. It offers a foretaste of what must come in NSW as government's act to enforce responsible ownership.

"The Domestic Animals Bill will recognise cats as a companion animal with requirements for responsible ownership and offer the same protection as the Dog Act gives dogs.

The current situation for cats is

- the cat is a chattel under Common Law
- there is no protection for responsibly owned cats. An owned cat can be collected and taken to a shelter where it could be euthanased on the same day before the owner had a chance to look for it.
- there are no avenues to address nuisance caused by irresponsibly owned cats or penalise their owners
- there is no pound system for cats and impounding of cats lies in a very grey area
- there is no requirement for cats to wear ID tags
- there is little funding for educational programs, subsidised desexing schemes or cat management programs.

THE RESULTS -

- the cat has little value attached to it by the community as a whole.
- only 6 in 10,000 cats arrive at shelters with any form of ID
- there is no protection for the responsibly owned cat within the shelter framework
- there are no pounds to cope with stray cats. Thus the majority pass through shelters and the 'cat network' incurring considerable costs to those who care for them.
- there are problems impounding stray cats
- there is persecution of cats by people who take the law in their own hands

- there is no official recognition of cat ownership
- the Victorian CPS receives 15,000 stray and unwanted felines yearly - 80% will be euthanased.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION IS FOUND AND IMPLEMENTED

The Victorian CPS believes the solution lies in two areas:

- 1) EDUCATION
- 2) LEGISLATION

The features of the new bill are based on two principles

- reward for responsible owners and protection for their cats
- developing effective solutions for the problems that irresponsibly or unowned animals cause.

Measure are taken to achieve two things:

- distinguish owned from unowned cats
- address domestic and unowned cats populations to responsibly manage domestic cats and reduced strays

Specifically:

- a) Cats will be granted a legal status and formally recognised as companion animals.
- b) Cats will need to be identified/registered which will
 - facilitate the return of a lost cat
 - protect the responsibly owned cat by enabling the establishment of a pound system for cats and requiring that the impounded cats be held for 8 days and the owner notified.
 - Reward the responsible owner by heavily discounting registration fees for desexed cats
 - Enable irresponsible owners, not their cats, to be penalised
 - Formally recognise responsible cat ownership
 - protect owned cats from diseases spread by strays
 - reduce the suffering of stray cats
 - reduce the nuisance stray cats cause the community

