

2/12/96

SUMMER 1997

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

Cat Affairs





THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

A.C.N. 001 604 815

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This past year has seen your Society helped substantially by a much needed injection of funds. We are most grateful to the late Esme Curle of East Chatswood whose estate was left jointly to ourselves and another welfare organisation. Her concern during her lifetime for the plight of animals now continues after her death through this provision in her Will.

Our Society will greatly benefit if other members mention us in their wills.

We are gradually catching up with modern technology at our office. The field staff now have mobile phones which has increased efficiency on the road. A computer has been purchased and all office procedures will soon be computerised. We appealed for a fax machine in the last journal and this resulted in a member kindly donating one.

Repairs to our building at 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, were commenced during the year. Committee member, Angelike Elliott, arranged for a tradesman to paint the new concrete floor in our filing room at her own expense and Beverley Walsh gave us an attractive table and chair set for our kitchen. Costly repairs are still needed to the roof area and considerable repainting of the premises is required.

The drafting of the proposed Companion Animals Legislation by the State Government has involved our Welfare Director, Nance Iredale, in devoting days attending committee meetings. She is our representative on the Working Party to assist the Government in drawing up workable companion animal laws. Following the distribution of a Green Paper the Government is processing all the resulting submissions from organisations and the public. It appears that compulsory identification by micro chipping is likely to be adopted, while desexing and curfews are to be encouraged. Members will be kept up-to-date on developments.

Opportunity Shop - we would like to see our net sales figures go well past the \$30,000 mark this financial year and feel this can be accomplished by ensuring that the shop never has to be closed a day due to a shortage of volunteers. To this end we published an urgent appeal in the Spring journal for more workers. We had a number of replies and our new volunteers are finding their work enjoyable. We are indebted to our shop co-ordinator, Mrs Grace Ayling, for her enthusiastic efforts. **New volunteers are always welcome!!**

With the closing of another year our biggest wish is that 1997 will bring significant legislative reform in animal welfare and the fundamental rights of animals will take precedence over commercial exploitation.

I would like to extend the Board's thanks to all members of the staff for their achievements during the year managing so ably and willingly to meet the heavy demands on them. To our CEO, Bob Fitzpatrick; our welfare girls - Sandy Moss, Tanya Curran, Melinda Casey and Janelle Foyle; and finally, to volunteers Nance Iredale, Welfare Director; and her assistant, Lena Larsen. **We salute you all.**

Happy Christmas and joy in the New Year to all our caring readers and to all those who volunteer their time and efforts to keep the CPS running so we can continue to help cats.

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VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR OPPORTUNITY SHOP

COVER: Abandoned waif

CENTREFOLD: CPS kittens, photographer Frances Kaukerei

BACKCOVER: Summer Cool, photographer Frances Kaukerei

Cat Affairs printed by: Kestrel Printing, Rear 32 Rosehill St, Parramatta (02) 9687-0540

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CARING COSTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Christmas presents come in all sizes, shapes and colours. We all know that. But what about all the unwanted 'Christmas Presents' arriving in peak kitten season, delivered from cats belonging to irresponsible owners? Long hair, short hair, plain, tabby or bi-colour. They all deserve a chance to live, to love and to share their world but pet over-population decrees that many will die.

Some are subjected to cruelty, some to neglect, some have an untimely death by misadventure. Some have the good fortune to be trapped or handed over to the Cat Protection Society. Of these the ill and untamed have a merciful end. Those that have every possibility of being homed are desexed, vaccinated, micro chipped and put up for adoption.

The cover kitten typifies all that the CPS stands for.

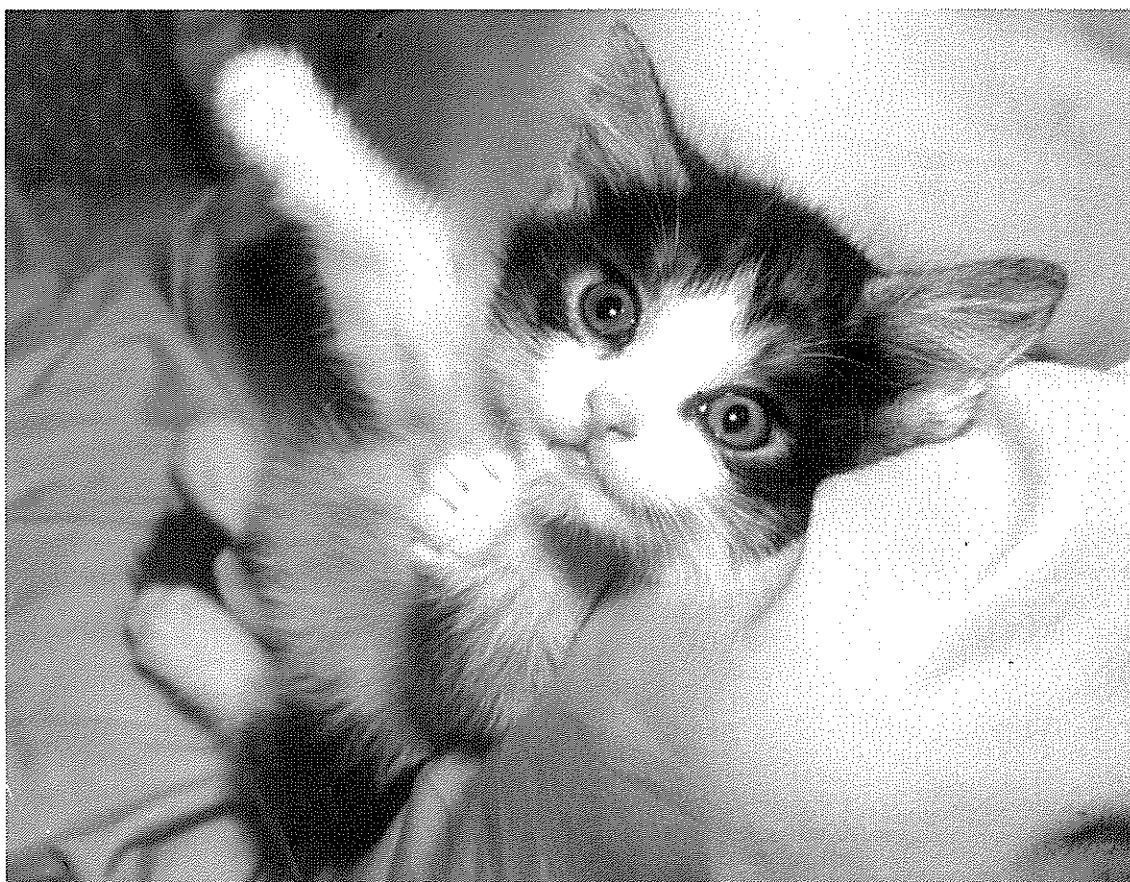
A lonely waif, still untouched by hardship, stares at the world from a safe vantage point with hope in its eyes. If this baby is lucky one of the CPS staff will successfully trap it. At this age it will go to a foster home for care and socialisation until it is old enough to be adopted.

THIS CHRISTMAS PLEASE BE GENEROUS

**Will you please make a donation to help us in our work
with the stray and surrendered cats that come into our care?**

And treat yourself and take a cat or kitten home to be your all year around present.

CARING COSTS - WE NEED YOUR HELP





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

J FENWICK, Glebe

I am sending in a poem my son Thomas wrote for his cat to show how much he loves his cat and how much he appreciates your work. (Cat Tails, page 6)

CAROL FRESHWATER, Avalon

In your August 1994 issue you kindly published a poem and a photo of my two cats, Max and Bruce. We had recently lost Bruce at the age of 12 years. Now sadly we have lost Max at 14 years to collapsed lungs. It's nice to think he's now with his brother, Bruce. I'm pleased to say our home is very much alive again as we have two kittens. Georgie is a tiger tabby and Jake a charcoal part Persian. I'd forgotten what fun kittens can be. Congratulations on all your good work for cats.

DON'T BELIEVE THE NAMES

I was one of an army of people who take a label on cat food at face value. Until, that is, the newest addition suddenly started manifesting severe flu symptoms, wheezing, snuffling and wet sloppy sneezes. Three courses of anti-biotics worked for the duration of the medication and the sneezing accelerated as soon as the last pill was finished. He under went a course of acupuncture and the vet specialist felt his problem was more of an allergy. Dry food and red meat were removed from his diet (not easy in a multi-cat household). The flu symptoms lessened but did not cease - until the vet mentioned that many 'chicken' and 'fish' tins contain meat.

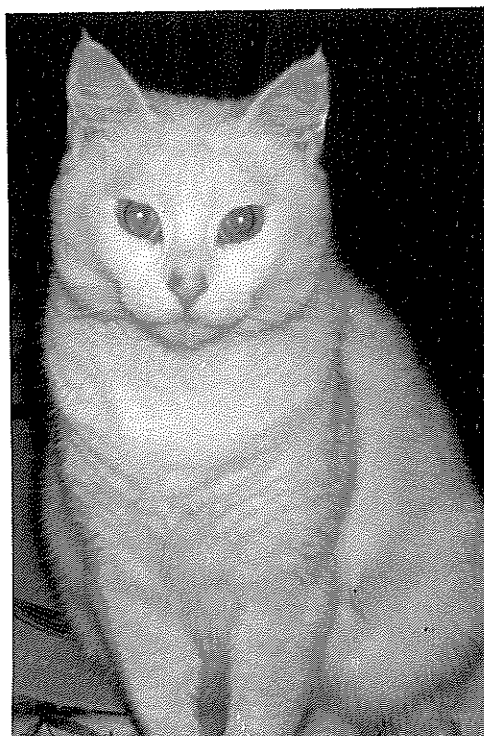
I stopped reading the names and started reading the ingredients. Only Dine Fish and Snappy Tom are all fish. Every other canned food that I checked had meat byproducts. Even Iams, touted to be pure chicken, has some meat in it. The lad almost immediately starts snuffling and sneezing after eating

fresh human lamb or beef so red meat cannot be in his diet. (What colour is mouse meat?) Happily I am now road testing Whiskas Professional (I'm sick of the smell of tinned fish in the kitchen!!) which has no meat byproducts in it, and he has not developed any reaction. If you have a cat with allergy problems - read the contents of your cat food carefully. Don't believe the names!
LEE WRIGHT

JAN ROBIN

I congratulate you, staff and helpers, on all the good work you do and particularly say how much we all enjoy your magazine. I have enclosed a photo of my own moggy and my husband got motivated and penned a few lines on the subject! (Cat Tales, pg 6). This is interesting in that he had nil experience with cats until we married 10 years ago - now she has taken him over completely.

Chloe is a 16 year old red Burmese, quite pampered of course. She has 3 meals a day (about which she is very demanding), sleeps IN bed in the winter and expects someone to stay home all day to provide a lap. She is really a member of the family. The caption, 'Chloe the Greenie' is really a bit of a fraud. In the past year we have moved from living in a unit for many years to a townhouse with a garden. We thought she would enjoy her own private and safe garden but we must have left it too late. She really does not appreciate it at all and still dozes in the sun on the balcony rather than chase lizards in the garden. A typical contrary female.



SAMANTHA

Loved by GORDON and Mavis Seabrook

CAT-O-NINE-TALES

Judeth Materna

The skipper was born aloft
Not luxury, but on a tramp boat.
Abandoned on a coil of rope
Life didn't offer much hope,
But she survived by a lusty wail.

Her bed smelled of salt, oil and fish
What more could anyone wish,
Stretched out to a tropical sun
Or shelter on a storm run.
Her life was a world under sail.

The days under filled canvas sheet
The rolling deck 'neath her feet.
Salt water, raw fish, sail above
Nights alone, with a man she did love.
The moon like a holy grail.

Each port-o-call such a treat
Fresh water, fresh food and fresh meat.
Her lover would leave her alone
As she waited and guarded their home.
Alert from her place on the sail.

They sailed the world 'The Skipper and
Mate"

Each in trust of each other's fate.
No strangers to storm and to tempest
Companionship withstanding each test.
Her love for her man didn't fail.

I've not seen them for many a year
Out of touch, out at sea, without fear.
They'll sail into harbour one day
And as usual - just a short stay.
For the Skipper and Mate love to sail.

Just think of the yarns she could spin
Alone out at sea; her and him.
There are stories that he'll never tell
And she keeps his confidences well.
"The Skipper", the cat of "Nine Tales".

SAMANTHA

Gordon Seabrook returned home with the shopping and was followed into the house by a hungry white stray cat. The visitor was accorded full hospitality and returned the favour of dinner with the bounty of her permanent company. Her injuries were professionally attended to, she was desexed when required and settled in to become a beloved family pet. When Gordon died last year his last request was that Samantha would be looked after. Mavis loves Samantha as much as Gordon did and the two share a quiet life providing love and companionship to each other. Samantha is allowed out during the day but seldom leaves the yard and is a constant comfort to Mavis.

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD)

Just a very long name for Furballs?

Diet and Nutrition are of increasing interest to cat owners (it has always totally fascinated cats!), and as we all move further from a 'natural state', new problems will appear. This is a small segment on a huge topic.

Dr Kim Kendall, BVSc, MRCVS

There is no getting away from the fact that the perfect diet for cats is mice. Their predatory powers was what encouraged the Egyptians to accommodate them in their houses and grain silos thousands of years ago, and even today, about one-eighth of Australia's grain crops goes into rodents rather than the international markets!

However, most modern town cats lead a rather more regal existence and hunting is a recreation rather than a *raison d'être*, so humans must recreate a diet which fulfills all of a cat's dietary requirements. First came the tinned foods, and cats trained their owners as to which were worthwhile purchasing (by refusing to consume lesser quality offerings).

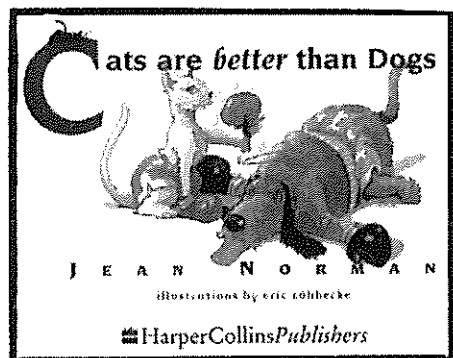
Feline nutritional needs are much more highly refined than dogs or humans, particularly in regard to protein quality and quantity - it is not metabolically worthwhile for a cat to eat a food of less than 20% protein (of 'dry matter' - if you look at tinned food it is 80% water, so the protein content is really quite high in the better quality products). The move to dried foods has resulted in production of high protein levels to reflect this requirement also.

Now comes the interesting part. In order to entertain owners and cats, colourings, flavourings and preservatives have been added to most tinned and dried foods, particularly the cheaper 'supermarket' products. In fact, often the 'flavour' is only sprayed on the outside of the biscuit to minimise the use of the expensive parts of the formula.

Cats can cope with a lot of things, but it seems to me they draw the line at 'additives'. I am seeing an increasing number of cats who vomit up their food (and some of the colouring in dried food actually stains the carpet, so what is it doing to the cats' intestines?). These cats only need to be converted to a high quality, *preservative free* dried food to improve.

The cats often start out by vomiting more furballs than usual, then start vomiting food. Some then progress to the near cancerous stage of IBD, and some of those go on to develop cancerous lesions in the bowel. Pretty serious stuff. Now there are two preservative free foods, Sensible Choice (based on chicken and rice) and Proplan's Natural Turkey and Barley, preserved only with vitamin E. These are readily acceptable by most cats (and those with IBD tend to be fussy because of the nausea created by the condition). Iams, Whiskas Professional and Hills Science diet are all high quality diets, with very small amounts of preservative, so are fine except for the really sensitive cat (who has usually been sensitised by eating the highly coloured varieties of food rather than starting and staying on a premium diet).

The hallmarks of IBD are frequent vomiting (weekly or more) with weight loss. There are other conditions which cause similar symptoms so please phone if you are concerned. However, a preservative free diet never hurt anyone and may be the best place to start your trial of a better quality nutrition.

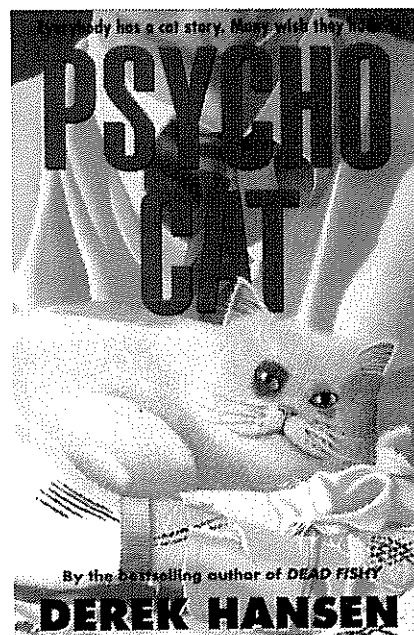


CATS ARE BETTER THAN DOGS by Jean Norman; illustrator, Eric Lobbecke, Harper Collins, 1996, \$9.95.

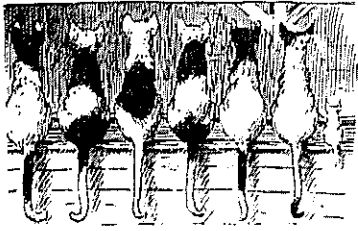
This is a perfect Christmas present. You can bring grins of pleasure to all your cat loving friends, and yourself if you wisely choose to be self-indulgent, and you can successfully get all your dog loving friends' backs up. The 'cats are better than dogs' reasons are sublimely true and the cartoons are hilarious. And you know what's best of all .. this little book is ALL Australian; written, drawn and published here! What better present could you give. Get it while it lasts - it's too good to stay on the shelves!

PSYCHO CAT
Derek Hansen,
Harper Collins,
paperback,
\$14.95.

This is a book that promises a bleary eyed 'morning after' because you couldn't put it down when it was bed time. This selection of stories is well removed from James Herriot's style. The cats are mainly minor characters but pivotal parts of each story of human frailties. Derek Hansen gives the reader a deft slice of life with a feline twist. Good reading!!



CAT TALES



EDITORIAL STAFF SHAKEUP

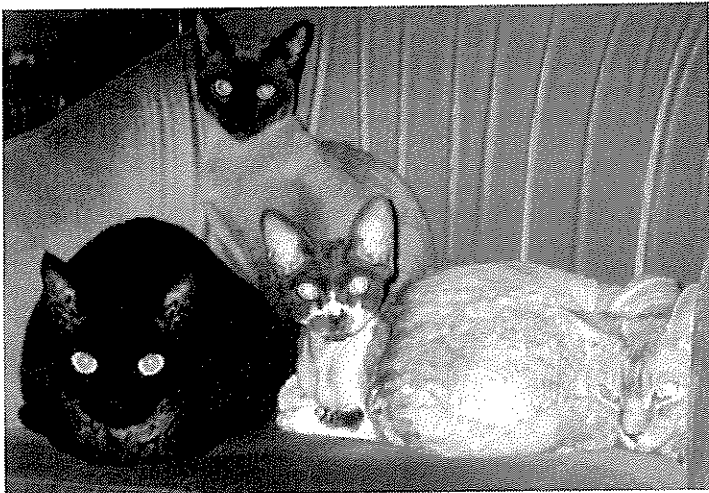
In recent times the editorial staff of CAT AFFAIRS has undergone major changes. Yeti, Editor in Chief, was promoted to a higher position in the Celestial Publishing House and left amid much sorrow. Chatz missed yet another deadline due to acrimony and bickering and was finally fired. Happily she had a new position tucked up her fur coat and is fully responsible for the care and maintenance of a one person/one cat household and, to all reports, is doing a fabulous job.

Myrika, a Tonkinese beauty, was hired to manage the fashion desk but seems to spend more time occupying the editor's chair, making part of the editorship a stand-up job. Zario, an irrepressible blue and white Devon, came in as copy boy and while he has lots of potential, he has yet to cope with the most basic editorial rule - 'KEEP THOSE BLOODY PAWS OFF THE KEYBOARD!'

Tzu is a curly veteran in cat affairs and short term relationships. This up and coming reporter stepped out of the stud pen and gamely sacrificed his posterior appendages for a position on Cat Affairs. The occupation change and demands of an editorial establishment took a great deal of acclimatisation but he held in and is a valued addition.

Editor in Chief, since Yeti's untimely departure, is his Devon sister, BBQT (Black Beauty Cutie) who prefers the disarray of the editorial office to the challenges of furthering her career on the show bench. She rigorously maintains schedules, discipline and the toughest job of all, keeping the editor loved and content. It's a hard job but someone has to do it!! and she is always close by with purrs of wisdom, inspiration and support.

So Cat Affairs continues to forge ahead thanks to the intrepid four who so successfully manage the editor.



BBQT, MYRIKA (sitting), ZARIO, TZU

THE PERSIAN CAT WITH KNOTS

Ba Phillips

He's a cushion of cream silk organza -
a bonanza of cat.
Star-fish feet that wheel not creep
and milkless-tea eyes.
He tries to be nice
but is held back by a vice
shrinking his belly from paw-pit to the very
last dag: vast knots.
No torturer's device
worse; he will be scratchy and terse
until you disperse them.
If you put him on his back
he suffers on this rack;
there's skin under him,
delicate, pink and thin
to be ripped like milky-silk,
but bloodlessly, invisibly within.
But you who love him will admin-
ister balm. Keeping very calm,
take small silver scissors and though he quivers,
cut ribbons and slivers of coat.
Ease the pain he's got
your Persian cat who has you besot;
cut out his knots.



HARRY & SALLY

^ HARRY & SALLY

Gillian McClelland

I thought you might be interested in seeing the cats belonging to a CPS Patron, my husband, James McClelland. Harry (the tabby) and Sally (part Siamese) are named after the movie 'When Harry Met Sally' which was around when we got them. In practice Harry has come to be called 'Boof' because he is a bit of a boofhead, though very lovable. Sally is as smart as a whip and runs rings around him in every area except eating - we have to watch that he doesn't steal her food. He is a huge cat - people reel back in amazement when they see him. I have to buy a triple dose of worm tablets because they always give a dose for 'cats up to 4 kilos' and he weighs about 12! We got the cats on the same day, though from different sources, which has worked out wonderfully because they adore one another, as you can see from the photo. The two cats replaced a much loved cat who was run over, and they have thoroughly converted us to having two, as company for one another and an endless source of delight for us.

Summer 1996/1997

THE QUESTION IS: WHAT IS A CAT?

It's as simple as that.

S Robin

When the golden sun comes up she finally bestirs herself, 'What to do?'

When the shaking, pallid father heads for the kitchen she rushes there too.

On the warm nights she sleeps alone upstairs in a comfy chair, When it is chilly, she demands the double bed we all share.

As weary father potters around, makes some sort of meals that through the morning may last,

She cavorts all around clamouring, "I'll have fish compote, milk and FAST!"

Later, satisfied, the big soft seat in the garden claims her attention, "Ah, sun and flowers and servants. What a happy invention!"

Comes Midday and TV and Kerri-Anne, she's ready for some more action,

"It'll be fish mornay, warm milk. Not too much noise, it's bad for my digestion."

The front balcony and more sun holds her during the afternoon, Until she notices the rattle of a simple wife with knife and spoon.

Then it's 'Salmon and sardine, milk and, yes, some of that tuna, And don't forget I like my meals on time, if not sooner.'

Knowing we don't have any excuses she purrs, "You're all retired, Do I have to do everything 'round here, 'cos your use-by-date has expired?"

Then it's lap to lap until she yawns, 'It's time, you know.

Come on, slowcoaches, lights off, to bed we all go.'

The problem stands clear. It's one those like us have to face.

She thinks, she insists, she's a member of the whole human race.

So back to the original question, let's answer it now, She's our daughter. CHLOE Robin, please take a bow!



HER MAJESTY

Thomas Fenwick

Cat before a mirror Tell me what you see

I'll answer to your feline royalty

I'll serve your dinner and brush your silky fur

I'll fluff your satin pillow where you lie and purr

I'll keep the hearth fire glowing where you curl and dream

Of night trips down the alley, of balls of yarn and cream

Let no one ever doubt it, you're a queen to me

My role is to serve you

Yours is majesty



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including:

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GREAT FOR THAT SPECIAL PRESENT
Pedigree cats on display 1 Saturday monthly

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Jenny Gibson, co-owner of Puss 'n Pooch Gallery, with 'Amigo', a 90cm paper mache cat statue from Mexico. Amigo is just one item from a wide selection of gifts for dog and cat lovers.



THE GERIATRIC CAT

Dr Chris Godfrey
Coogee Veterinary Clinic

Pet cats are living longer and keeping them healthy has become an increasingly important part of veterinary practice.

The age a cat becomes a "geriatric" varies. In our practice any cat over 10 years would probably be regarded as an older "handle with extra care" patient. The increased life expectancy of pet cats has occurred because owners are more motivated carers and technology allows veterinarians to provide more sophisticated treatment. Annual vaccinations and good diets, for example, have helped reduce the incidence of a number of diseases.

**Cats, like humans, cannot escape the fundamental changes which go along with ageing.
These changes occur in all parts of the body.**

Their metabolic rate decreases and the proportion of body fat to lean body mass increases. Old cats have a less efficient immune system are less able to fight off disease. Their cardiovascular system - the heart and blood vessels - is less able to respond to exercise and events such as anaesthetics. The kidneys are also less efficient. Old cats are more likely to suffer from disorders of the endocrine system and hyperthyroidism is relatively commonly seen in veterinary practices.

Apart from these general changes elderly cats are also more likely to suffer from a number of specific diseases.

Kidney failure is a common problem. Veterinarians suspect this in any ill geriatric cat and ruling it out is usually one of the first diagnostic steps. There are numerous causes of kidney problems. Infections, cancer and degenerative diseases can all result in partial or complete failure of these organs. The signs of kidney failure vary and are non specific. A general malaise, including loss of appetite and depression may be the only evidence. An elderly cat may often drink more water as a means of compensating for an inability of the kidneys to produce concentrated urine.

A veterinarian may attempt to feel the kidneys through the abdominal wall. If small, shrunken kidneys can be felt there is a greater likelihood of disease. In most cases, however, the diagnosis will depend on laboratory testing of blood and urine.

The treatment of kidney disease varies with the cause and the cat's general state. It often includes intravenous fluids which are used to treat dehydration and "flush" the body systems in a primitive form of dialysis.

Most of the treatment for kidney failure is "supportive" in nature. Only one specialist veterinarian in Australia, Dr Victor Menrath in Brisbane, performs kidney transplants and this complicated procedure would only be performed in a limited number of situations. The aim of most therapy is to manage the physiological problems which occur when the kidneys are failing and hope that the body's natural compensating systems will come to play in the longer term. Many veterinarians also find that anabolic steroids help cats with chronic renal problems.

An elderly cat may have had limited kidney function for some time without showing signs of illness. This is because the compensating mechanisms are acting to keep the pet well. A bad cold or other relatively minor illness can disrupt this balance and set off a series of life threatening changes. For this reason treatment for any other concurrent disease is an important part of the treatment of kidney failure.

If an elderly cat has had an episode of kidney failure a low protein, restricted phosphorus diet is a useful form of longer term treatment. This nutritional therapy has been shown to have real benefits. The diet can be fed in a home prepared or commercial form. The commercial diets, bought from veterinarians, have the advantage of convenience and complete nutritional balance. They are based on smaller percentages of high quality protein and have well controlled levels of minerals and vitamins. Home cooked diets probably are not as well balanced.

Heart disease has probably always been a problem in old cats but it is now more commonly recognised and treated. Heart disease, like kidney disease, has been divided into a number of different types. Disease of the heart muscle is more common in cats than problems with heart valves. The relatively common aged cat endocrine disease, hyperthyroidism, will also cause cardiac problems. Heartworm disease, only recently being viewed as a significant problem in cats, should also be on the list of causes, (although the signs most often involve the lungs rather than the heart)

The signs of heart disease include poor exercise tolerance, fluid accumulation and breathing difficulties. Owners may notice their cat's heart rate is high even at rest. A diagnosis is made using chest x-rays and, when possible, ultrasound (echocardiogram) examinations.

The treatment of heart disease depends on its exact cause but often includes diuretics which reduce the fluid accumulation. If the heart muscle is affected drugs which help maintain the heart rhythm and strength are used. Dietary therapy, in the form of a low sodium diet, may also be useful in cats with some forms of heart disease.

Elderly cats are more likely to develop **hyperthyroidism** - a condition in which the thyroid gland located near the windpipe produces an excessive amount of its hormones. The thyroid hormones affect many parts of an animal's body and the signs of disease reflect these actions. Cats with this problem will eat and drink more yet lose weight. (A ravenous appetite may be the first sign owners notice) They may become hyperactive and show changes in behaviour. Their coats become ill kempt and greasy.

veterinarian. The good news with hyperthyroidism is that it is generally treatable and in most cases a cure is possible.

Diabetes, another endocrine disease, is also now more commonly diagnosed and treated in elderly cats. Diabetics drink and urinate excessively and in the earlier stages of the disease eat more, yet lose weight. As in humans, treatment involves insulin injections once or twice daily.

The treatment of **cancer** in animals is becoming one of the growth areas in veterinary practice. Aged cats suffer from a variety of cancers and many of these are life threatening. The increasing amount of cancer seen is in part a result of cats living longer and so having more time to develop these diseases. It is important to have suspicious lumps or bumps on a cat checked out because not all cancers are fatal. Some can be successfully treated. While some owners may choose not to proceed with treatment it is worth finding out if treatment is possible.

The general approach to cancer is to define exactly what type of cancer is involved and then consider treatment options. Identifying the cancer type is best done by taking a sample of the tissue and having a pathologist examine it.

Bad teeth and gums is another common problem in geriatric cats. This again is a result of cats' increasing life span, although some veterinarians claim bad dental health is caused by too much processed commercial food. It is logical, however, that a pet living longer is more likely to need dental attention.

Dental decay - damage to the structure of the teeth - is not as common as dental calculus, the mineral deposits which build up on the outside of teeth. This accumulates and causes gum inflammation (gingivitis). If the gums become infected the teeth become loose and chewing food is difficult. Eventually teeth are lost and some cats' general health will be affected.

Care of the cat's teeth can be difficult because they are less likely to tolerate tooth brushing than dogs. Many veterinarians suggest raw bones (such as chicken wings) as a means of keeping teeth clean. But not all cats will cooperate and chew bones and so regular dentistry has to be performed under a general anaesthetic. The veterinary Clean and Scale is a thorough process in which the calculus is chipped or scraped off. An ultrasonic scaler and a polisher may be also be used.

No anaesthetic is risk free and so the risk of such a procedure has to be considered. If dental disease is present and an elderly cat has no other major illness the risk is probably justified. The preventive care of elderly cats' teeth is one part of a bigger preventative health picture. If aged cats are prone to the illnesses described, a regular checkup and specific health maintenance steps are justified.

One of the benefits of an annual vaccination booster is the general check up which goes along with it. It is a convenient time to have the cat treated for intestinal parasites (worms) and buy the best products on flea control for old cats. A lot can be learnt from a basic physical examination by the veterinarian. Simply weighing the pet and checking for weight loss or gain can be a very good indication of general health. Nutrition can be discussed and special diets considered. Many veterinary practices now sell premium foods designed for elderly cats. Any suspicious lumps or bumps can be measured and felt for changes.

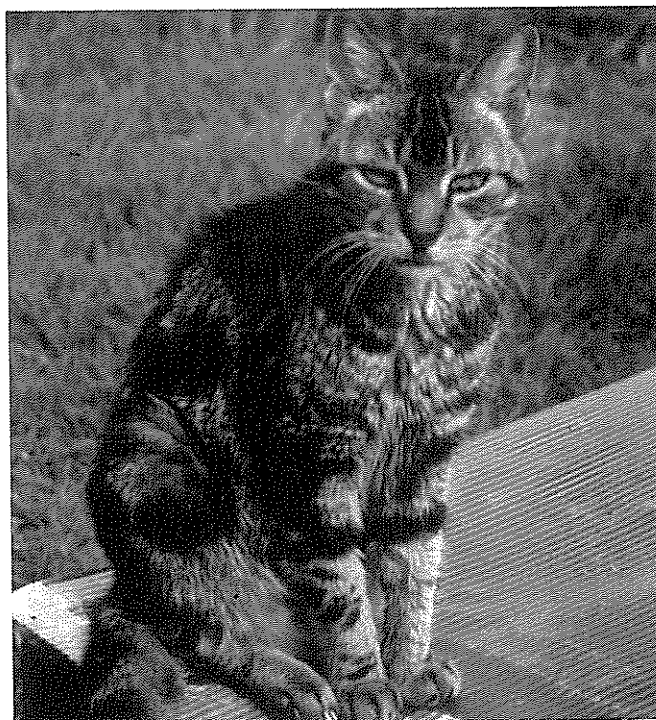
It is worth taking note of any suspicious changes in a pet's behaviour and physical state and telling the veterinarian. This information and the examination can then be used as a guide to the next step, if any. In recent times blood testing has been used to give more precise measures of a pet's health. Conditions such as liver or kidney disease may be detected at an early stage with this technology.

At our hospital, for example, we have devised a geriatric check up which includes the completion of a questionnaire by the owner, a day long stay for the pet, a detailed physical examination and some blood tests. The check up will often highlight potential problems and give owners a clearer idea of their elderly pet's state. A logical approach to pet health is to consider the total environment in which it lives. In the case of elderly but healthy pets this "total pet picture" is of great practical use. It is a philosophy of care which involves owners closely in any decision about care and in the actual treatment undertaken.

If, for example, an elderly cat is overweight but in apparently perfect health, the veterinarian has no immediate or urgent role. It is the cat's owner who has the responsibility of reducing their pet's weight because it will have longer term benefits. The veterinarian's role is to provide expert assistance in the form of advice and perhaps diet recipes or commercial ready made diets.

This way of approaching elderly cat health is of special relevance to owners facing the very difficult option of euthanasia. If an aged pet is severely ill this often has to be done. The veterinarian can rarely give an absolute recommendation to have a pet euthanased. In many cases modern technology will provide a patient with temporary relief. The decision to end a much loved pet's life depends on a number of related issues including the environment in which the pet lives, the costs of treatment and the owner's deep personal feelings.

But, while the basic reality of mortality cannot be avoided, an elderly cat's happy and contented life can be prolonged by taking a few simple precautions. An annual check up, vaccination and regular worming are worthwhile. Being aware of a pet's nutrition, its behavioural needs and the environment in which it lives will result in better quality of life for both pet and owner.



ZOWIE - 16 yrs 7 months

THE ^{not so} SUBTLE INFLUENCE OF CATS

You love cats - or you wouldn't be reading this magazine. As cat lovers we are accustomed to cats ruling our lives to a greater or lesser degree - but what about all those non-cat lovers whose lives are also strongly influenced by felines.

Impossible you say? Well just look around you.

The symbolism of the cat is so pervasive in so many cultures that like cats or not - the feline has a major impact in our lives. The advertising world has seen to that. There are so many things about a cat that are worth emulating or lauding that cats figure prominently in advertising and in logos for many non-cat related products. Reproduced here are a number of major ads employing felines as their major selling power.

COOL CATS

Australian publishers Bushfire Press recently launched a bold new range of educational arts titles, including music, dance, drama, visual arts and media, for the Australian schools market. They chose the name Cool Cats to be the logo for the new range and have unleashed (or should that be uncaged) the CD based titles Cool Cats - the Red Hot Recorder Course, The Cool Cats Big Bush Dance with Paradiddle Band; Cool Cats presents the Little Red Hen (an infant musical), as well as other musical resource books. But why cats? In the words of Kevin O'Mara, Managing Director of Bushfire Press

WHY A CAT ?

But why the cats? There are all sorts of reasons.

Firstly, and most importantly, the series had to be fun; and the sight of cats playing musical instruments, singing, dancing and acting is a far more stimulating and imaginative picture to children than a bunch of stuffy old grownups.

Secondly, cats are a very non-threatening animal to children. Some of them may well have had a frightening experience with dogs, but it is extremely unlikely that a picture of a cat will conjure anything but pleasant and pleasurable images for a child.

Thirdly, cats are inscrutable - we never know what they are thinking. We believe our artist, Jock Macneish (who has had just the best time working with the cats) has captured a wide range of mysterious expressions in his little creatures, most notably in their eyes.

But, most importantly, there is definitely a 'human-ness' to cats. More so than with other animals that are common to children's experience. Cats can be playful, resentful, in need of reassurance or in need of independence. They will explore their world - but on their terms. By observing cats we are indeed observing human nature. This gives the artist great scope to bring a 'human-ness' to a school text that we believe is important when dealing with the arts. After all,

if the arts aren't a way of exploring our own feelings and examining the human condition - then what is? So Jock shows us the funny and serious sides of human nature as his cats lead us through these arts adventures; some of the cats are leaders; some are followers; some are playful and some are serious; some enjoy life and some are burdened by the weight of their own importance - just like us all. So be careful, as Jock warns us that we may see ourselves in his feline troupe!

While developing the personalities of his cats Jock had a great model to work from - his own companion Fatcat. Fatcat was rescued from certain doom at a factory site by Jock's son some years ago and now enjoys full family status in the Mcneish household. Jock says that careful observation of this one creature gives him all the insight he needs for the entire human condition. Of course such observation takes time and patience, but Jock doesn't mind how many cups of tea it takes while he sits by the fire with his subject. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

And the audience - the children? They seem to take it all very seriously. Some have actually visited Jock to play their recorders and meet the original inspiration. Students who use the Cool Cats books love their cats and therefore they love the books and therefore they love the arts and therefore we've done our job - thanks to Jock and his cats.

COOL CATS

THE RED HOT RECORDER COURSE

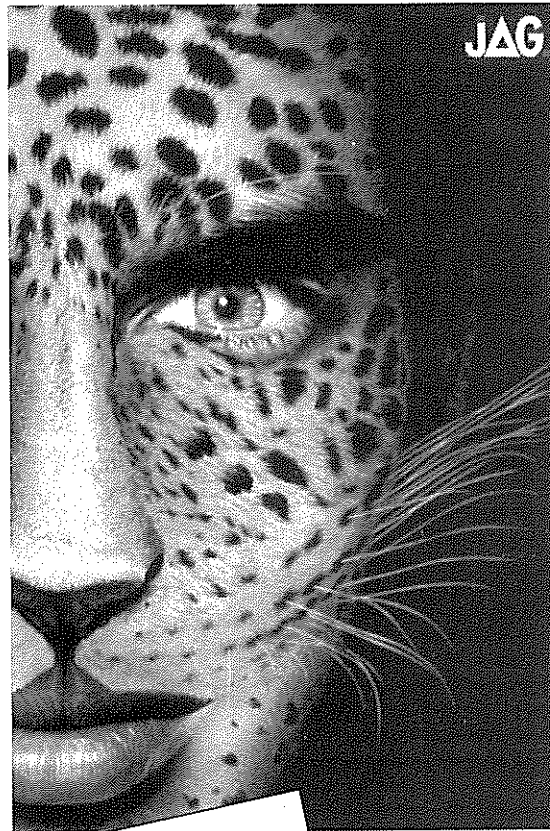
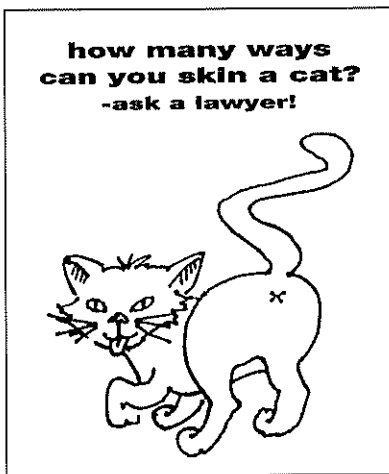
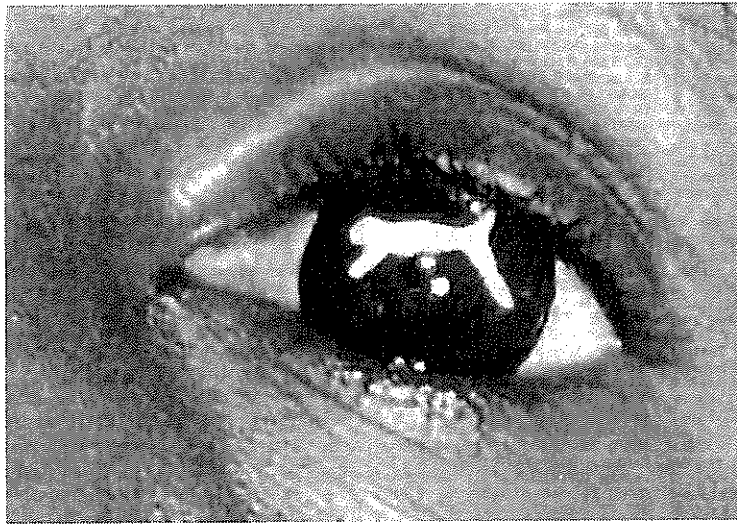
This
book
contains
**FREE
CD !**



TEACHER'S BOOK - LEVEL 1

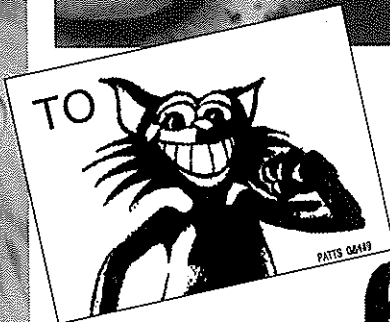
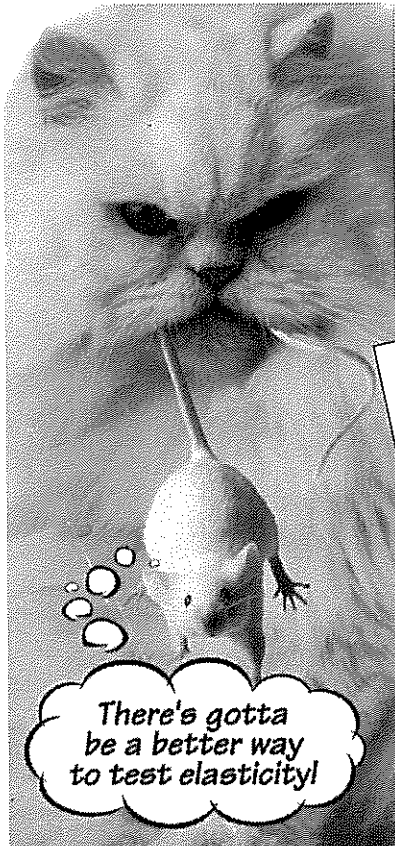
THE *not so* SUBTLE INFLUENCE OF CATS

Now you look through all types of media, magazines, newspapers, TV, billboards, and see how many other "cat" ads you can see.

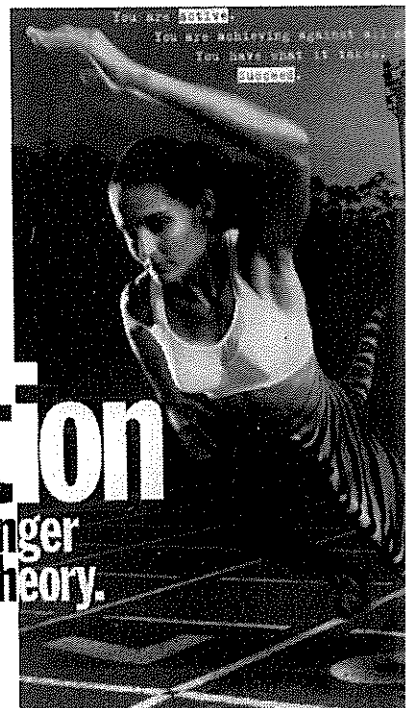


Faking it

You can't so much as swing a cat these days without hitting something in fake fur. Everything – from toilet-seat covers to eye masks and beanbags – has gone feral. Are we finally expressing the animal within or merely displaying taste that has gone to the dogs? Check it out.



evolution
is no longer
a theory.



For prices, size and stockist details
PHONE 1800 777 400.



IN REMEMBRANCE

One cat does not replace another - he makes his own place in our hearts

MISS WANDA DAVIS

In memory of my late friend who died suddenly on 16 November 1995.
Sadie Watson, Petersham

NARELLA REIDY

My friend died in April and requested that donations be sent to your organisation in lieu of flowers. Narelle worked indefatigably for the welfare of animals and is a grievous loss to them and us, her human friends.
Ruth Turner, Gray's Point

STELLA THOMSON

Stella and her daughter Gwen spent countless hours rescuing stray and abandoned cats. They would then, at their own expense, take the cats to the vets then bring them into their own home, already overflowing with contented cats. They never had a car so their rescues and numerous trips to the vet were always made on foot. Gwen is still living at their house at Epping, in the company of their contented rescued cats.

Belinda Guymer, Mt Riverview

ALL LOVING FELINES

In loving memory - Lady Eliza, Thai-Tu, Thai, Twinkle, TwinkleToes
Carolyn Craddock

LOTAH

In memory of my seal point Siamese, Lotah, aged 14 years. Sadly missed by Ming, Koman and Socks. Will never be forgotten.
Jillian Miles, Strathfield

AMBER

You were a plain and sickly kitten but soon your inner beauty shone through. You brightened my life with your sparkling eyes and cheeky frolicking. You showed me how to love. I would have kept you safely inside my heart and house forever, but as you grew you became adventurous and your day wasn't complete without the sun on your head, as you wandered the garden. You died by accident outside, four years to the day that I brought you home. Though our time together was short, the memories will never end. Now you are safely resting forever in the garden and enjoying the morning sun. I'll always love you.

Melinda Page, Frenchs Forest

AGNES

In memory of much loved Agnes, aged 14.5 years who died 23 July 1996.
Miss Ford

MAX THE CAT

1/1/1982 - 20/1/1996

Max was a fat cat
A very greedy cat
A not very tidy cat
But with big shining eyes
& velvety fur. Such a loved cat
Now sadly such a missed cat.

Missed by Carol, Colin, Georgie & Jane
Carol Freshwater, Avalon

CHARLIE ROCKET

In memory of our darling cat, Charlie Rocket, who passed away April 25, 1996.
Mr & Mrs A L Begley, Nth Balgowlah

TWIGGY

In memory of a wonderful cat.
S Fleming

MUMMA & KELLY

In memory of our two cats.
Miss EB Hardy

BOO, KIT-E-KAT, SOOTIE, LITTLE

GOLDIE In memory of my loving little friends over the years, Boo, Kit-e-Kat, Sootie and most precious Little Goldie.
Miss Joan Denny, Granville

MISTY

with **MUFFY & MR PUSS PUSS**
loved & missed by Rachael Deemer

To my Mate

MUFFY (Midas)

On the 4th Oct 88, you came into my life
A little miracle on four legs
the caesarian birth cat.

The vets gave you little hope
But not I.

I watched over you for weeks
Then your life began with your twin
brother - Mr Puss Puss.

I loved you so much, as my heart and
soul went into saving your life.

But this time I had no say
As the hand of God swept over you and
took you away.

Now you have joined your father - Misty
in the pearly clouds above.

I will miss all the little things you do ...

The house just isn't the same.

No loud purring on my bed,
No meowing for your biscuits, or
anything like that

I still have your mum - Soxy
your brother - Mr Puss Puss
and your Auntie Tiddles

And we all miss you.

It is times like this when I wish there
was no such thing as love,
'Cause when you lose something in your
life

the hurt is so intense that no
medication can erase this pain.

I will always carry your memory
in my heart

'till the day I join you.

But for now my furry friend

I must say Good-bye

And I'll always love you -

My faithful friend

Rachael Deemer, Toongabbie



VALE
DOROTHY HAINES

Dorothy Haines was an Honorary Life Member of the Cat Protection Society and for many years she was President of our former Woy Woy District Branch. She sheltered rescued cats and kittens at her home and, with her group of loyal supporters, organised the collection of stray and abandoned cats for desexing and adoption.

Dorothy was a person of unlimited energy and enthusiasm, she was a well known local identity who espoused many causes. However, animal welfare was her main passion for which she gave unstintingly of her labour and time. She was well into her eighties when she took on the Presidency of Central Coast Cat Care, only retiring when health reasons forced her to.

**Farewell to a gracious and charming lady,
one of life's best!!**

We extend to the members of Dorothy's family our heartfelt sympathy. May they find solace in the inspiring memories of the exemplary life Dorothy led.

Shirley Pikler, President, Cat Protection Society of NSW

VALE
DOROTHY HAINES

The enclosed cheque is in memory of Dorothy Haines, Honorary Life Member of the CPS, and my very dear friend, who passed away on the 5th of September, 1996.

Dorothy was deeply involved in the welfare of cats and was largely responsible for the formation of the first cat welfare group on the Central Coast, where I first met her.

Dorothy was 93 when she died after a stroke which left her unable to speak or swallow. Mercifully, she lasted only two weeks in this condition. Prior to this she was alert in mind and body having just moved to a new flat. She was not happy in the Salvation Army Hostel - no cats!! She was already making plans to get her beloved Ginger out of the boarding kennels and back with her. She is sadly missed.

Mrs Vicki Garrett

**CATS ARE FRIENDS WHO,
WHILE DOING THINGS
THEIR WAY,
NEVER LET US DOWN.**

VALE
DOROTHY HAINES

Please accept this donation in memory of Mrs Dorothy Haines who died 5 September 1996. During her lifetime she did a great deal of work for your society and for cats in general.

Shirley Eastick

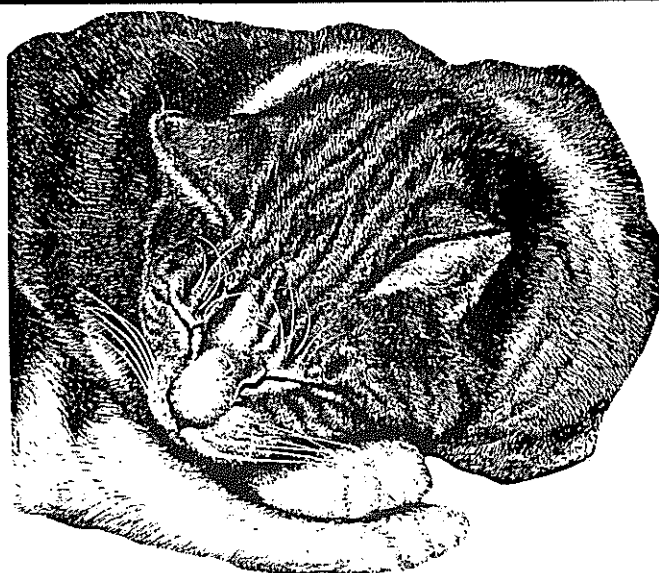
VALE
EVELYN MARGARET PARSONS

Mrs Evelyn Margaret Parsons was a Life Member of the Cat Protection Society of NSW and one of it's staunchest supporters. She died on 29 July, 1996 in her 93rd year. For all those years she was a dedicated cat lover and a friend and defender of the species. Evelyn gave a home to many stray and abandoned cats, always providing all necessary veterinary care and attention.

Evelyn's last two cats, Muffy and Shelly, arrived in her life when she was 90 and 92 respectively. She had her first cats when she was a toddler. Her earliest memories included dressing her cats in dolls clothes and wheeling them in a pram on Pennant Hills Road, Normanhurst! Throughout her life Evelyn enjoyed telling about the time an elderly aunt was walking with her on one of these excursions and how she ran away in fright when she saw a car approaching, leaving Aunt to hold the pram. Cars moved slowly in those days and the occupants were so astonished to see an elderly lady wheeling cats in a pram they stopped in their tracks - the look on their faces imprinted in the mind of the child forever!

On Evelyn's behalf, her family thank the Cat Protection Society of NSW for their wonderful service to cats. Her heart ached over human's intolerance and unkindness to cats and people who defended and helped cats earned her highest respect. Cats are friends who, while doing things their way, never let us down and, in Mrs Evelyn Parson's care, made her life very much richer and happier.

Dr Robin Parsons



ACUPUNCTURE

Alternative and Chinese medicines are here to stay and even as the various facets were being established for humans, concerned and interested veterinarians were adopting the various disciplines for animal treatment. Dr Richard Dixon is a specialist veterinarian radiologist who treats cancers in animals and is also a qualified practitioner in veterinary acupuncture.

In 1993 the Australian Veterinary Association had an annual conference and Richard Dixon discovered, among the special interest groups, the Australian Veterinary Acupuncturist Association and his interest blossomed. The International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, located in America, runs courses in the USA and in other countries. The Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Association arranged a course to be run here in 1994 and Dr Dixon enrolled. Since about 1984 the number of vets who use acupuncture has grown although it is not fully accepted by all vets.

At that stage one of its uses was easing arthritis and aiding accident victims. As a radiologist, Dr Dixon was treating these cases by implanting radioactive gold beads around injured hips. Then he realised that the positions were the same as acupuncture points. He was treating several dogs for accident injuries and he offered to try acupuncture on them with the owner's agreement. All the dogs were improved by the procedure and he started seriously delving into the mechanics and theory of this field.

Acupuncture works in channels or meridians and helps energy to flow through the system. A curious aspect is that it is sexist - males are better treated on the left side of their body, females on the right side so the animal's sex should be taken into account. Because of a mirror effect, if an area is too sore to be treated, the opposite area can be used (if the right hock is the problem, treating the left hock will help).

Another tool in acupuncture treatment is a small pen-shaped torch with a 'light emitting diode'. The particular wave length can penetrate 10-15 mm of tissue and is used to treat superficial acupuncture points and no sedation is necessary. With acupuncture needles sedation may have to be used during the 30-45 minute session to quieten the animal to allow the treatment to progress. An antidote injection after the treatment has the animal quickly back to normal.

Dr Dixon is using acupuncture in conjunction with radiation therapy when treating cancers on cats' noses and to aid the healing process. Acupuncture also aids arthritis, soreness and good reports are being recorded in treating chronic conditions such as respiratory problems, coughing and sneezing.

One owner had a cat with chronic bronchitis. Cortisone was controlling the problem but as soon as the drug was stopped the problem was back. Dr Dixon took the cat for one week. For three days it lived on a hypoallergenic diet and exhibited no symptoms. Then it was fed a good quality canned cat food and the bronchitis flared within 30 seconds. The cat was treated with acupuncture with a stethoscope against its chest and the wheezing eased immediately. Top quality fresh steak was tried and the same bronchial reaction occurred. Fish and chicken were okay. The cat went home clear and within one hour was coughing. It was living in a multi-cat household and the reaction appeared to be environmentally induced. Another

environmental reaction can occur with bean bags. An animal sleeps on the bean bag and the body heat activates fumes from the polypropylene beads and a cough results. Remove the bean bag and the animal can improve.

Like other treatments, acupuncture will not work in every instance. Acupuncture will not give an animal fresh new organs or bones and while acupuncture can relieve pain, the natural degeneration may continue. It is also possible that the original acupuncture diagnosis was wrong and it is necessary to step back and reassess the patient and try different acupuncture points.

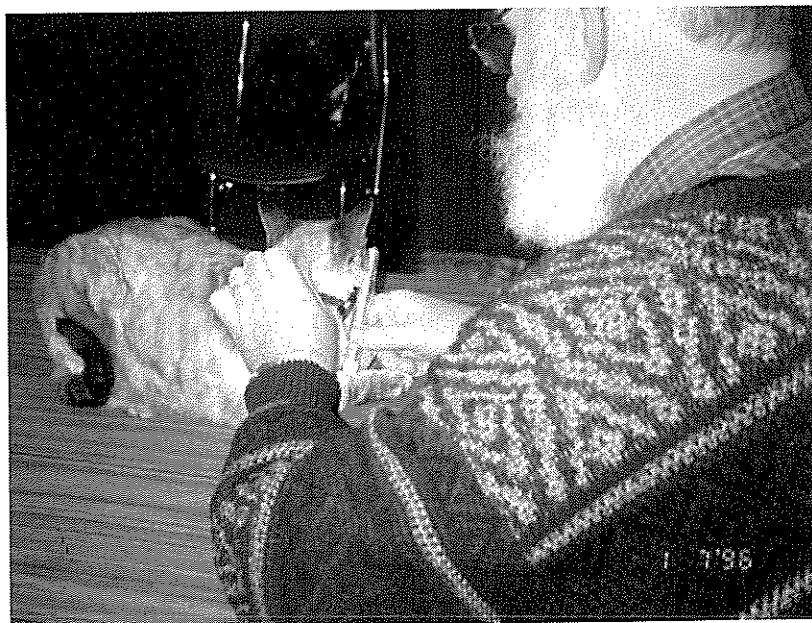
Acupuncture is not always effective in one session. It is designed to work over a series of treatments. Typically the patient may be treated twice a week in the first two weeks, once a week for two weeks and then monthly or as determined until the problem clears. It is not a case of popping pills for an immediate cure. Generally people prefer one injection or one course of tablets and expect the problem to go. Life's not like that - neither is acupuncture. This is most apparent in chronic conditions. They didn't happen overnight and they won't necessarily be cured overnight.

It is well known that cold weather can bring on problems and accentuate existing conditions. If an animal has a setback due to a weather change during treatment, some owners may feel the treatment is not helping and give up. A better attitude is that of the owner whose cat responded well to acupuncture. A follow up treatment was due in a few months but at the onset of cold weather the cat was brought back for a booster to aid it coping with colder temperatures.

Some vets, and clients, view acupuncture with reservations, feeling it is little more than 'mumbo-jumbo'. A surprisingly large group of initial veterinary enthusiasts used it, were pleased with the results, then dropped the practice. The main reasons were newer drugs or clients who wouldn't persist until the animal was cured. Other vets might be enthusiastic but prefer to refer their clients to a veterinary acupuncturist rather than provide the service themselves.

Clients should not be afraid to ask their veterinary surgeon if acupuncture could play a role in the successful treatment of their animal if their animal is not responding to conventional treatment.

Dr Dixon using his Light Emitting Diode to treat Khisi



FROM BITCH TO BELLE

Kerrie Hudson

"It's alright for you but I know what will happen if I try to pat her - she'll BITE me," whined my friend as my darling cat, Khisi, tried to climb on his lap. He was also too frightened to push her away in case she bit him. I have to admit that until recently he was right. However, Khisimuzi is a changed personality since meeting Dr Richard Dixon. Dr Dixon is a veterinary surgeon specialising in radiology and acupuncture. It was the latter that concerned Khisi and her relationship with humans.

Khisi would solicit people to stroke her but when their hands reached the base of her tail she would snarl and hiss. Occasionally she would turn and swipe at the person with her claws. But more likely she would mock bite, all but puncturing the skin of the hand she grabbed in her teeth. It was quite unnerving for visitors. My family and I knew from experience that she would not bite - but would you trust this cat if you were a visitor?

Her reputation in shreds, Khisi was known as a bad tempered bitch. Even worse, she was known as untrustworthy - a cat who would invite herself onto your lap and snarl and hiss for no apparent reason when you stroked her. Eventually I was able to determine that the base of her spine was the area she objected to being touched. The normal response of a sleeping cat when it is stroked is to blink at you and purr. Khisi would emerge into a spitting, snarling fury when you touched her lower back. Caress her ears and face - no problems - but touch the base of her tail at your own risk.

My vet could not find any presence of injury to her spine and as with humans the dreaded words - 'soft tissue damage' were uttered. It appeared nothing could be done for her. Can you imagine a cat participating in hydrotherapy? Forget it!!! In fact, forget any type of exercise - her back hurt so much that making her way to the food bowl was the only activity she indulged in.

Happily my enquiries about treatment for Khisi led us to Dr Dixon. He explained to me that she may not respond on the first treatment and to be truly effective a course of treatment would be needed - just like antibiotics but more easily administered. If Khisi showed no improvement after the course then Dr Dixon could not help her using acupuncture. For once I struck it lucky! After the first treatment I noticed an improvement - she was moving differently and attempting different activities.

Initially we went once a week for 3 weeks, then once a fortnight for 6 weeks, then once every 3 weeks for 9 weeks, then once a month for 2 months. Each treatment brought an improvement in her condition. It has now been 3 months since Khisi's last session. With the approach of summer I expect her to be free of pain until the weather becomes colder. We were fortunate that Khisi responded so well so quickly. I must honestly say that I enjoyed paying Dr Dixon for his treatment of Khisi. What a changed cat she is! After the first couple of treatments when she still had a lot of pain Khisi could not work up a grumble about Dr Dixon's gentle, understanding treatment.

Now by this stage you must be thinking that if the cat appeared to be

so vicious how could he stick needles into her? He didn't. Dr Dixon utilises laser acupuncture as well as needles. The Light Emitting Diode causes absolutely no pain. In fact, he was halfway through the first treatment before I realised she was being treated. Through careful questioning about the history of Khisi's pain, Dr Dixon ascertained that scar tissue was a major problem. I found a photo taken after yet another attack from a local tom in which you could see the 7 or 8 patches where she had her fur shaved off so the vet could find the bite wounds. Dr Dixon was able to redirect his treatment to cope with the new areas highlighted by the photograph instead of restricting the treatment to the lower back and tail area.

My friends have trouble believing it is still the same cat. Now she climbs onto their laps and purrs and cuddles up and they are no longer frightened to touch her. I will make sure my darling never experiences that level of pain again and will take her to Dr Dixon each year at the onset of winter for a booster treatment.

MY TRIBUTE TO MY DARLING CATS

Marilyn Strang

Last year my dearest Marmaduke died, such a sad little fellow when he appeared on our doorstep starving and with feline enteritis and conjunctivitis. He was nursed back to health with lots of love and cuddles. We were only blessed with him for such a short time from 12/93 to 7/95 before he developed kidney disease and we had to have him put to sleep.

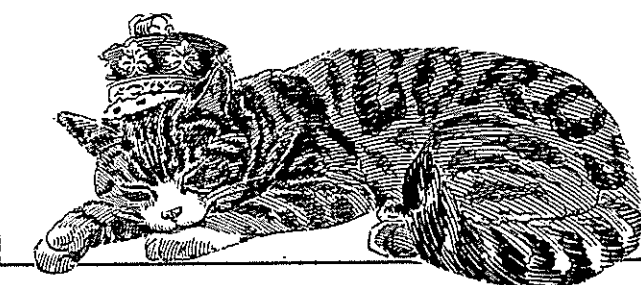
My second and very precious puss was my brown Burmese, Yamethin. She was 13.5 years old. Twelve months ago she developed cancer of her larynx which was treated well on cortisone but then a couple of months ago her breathing became very distressed. An extremely painful decision was made to save her any more suffering. In memory of these two loved cats...

For MARMADUKE

You would know the secret of death
But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life.
The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day
cannot unveil the mystery of light.
If you would indeed behold the spirit of death,
open your heart wide unto the body of life.
For life and death are one even as the river and the sea are one.

For my darling YAMETHIN - a special prayer

Remember O Lord those that have fallen asleep in thee,
especially my Yamethin. Give her rest and peace in Paradise
and at length bring us with her to our eternal home where there
is no more sorrow nor sighing, but joy and life everlasting.



DEATH OF A TYRANT



Kerri Hudson

He ran the household - the old black cat. He quelled the two Devon Rex with a glare - no one could take liberties with Idi.

It was Australia Day 1978 that a plaintive black kitten was taken from the CPS cage at Concord Animal Hospital. Idi was named after the dictator - Idi Admin - because he was a black bastard, not because it was short for idiot. He ran his household like a true tyrant. Essentially a timid cat in his younger days, haunted by thoughts of strangers fancying him as cat casserole or cat cold cuts, he overcame these morbid fears in his latter life to live up to his namesake. His subjects, two women and two other cats, were controlled with a firm paw. Force was only used when absolutely necessary

Once he resorted to using force when a peculiar looking red 'foreign' kitten appeared in Idi's territory. This red object spoke with a strange accent and could not understand simple commands such as 'Leave my food alone', 'Come here and have your face washed immediately.' This red Devon, Rusty, was soon sorted out when a big black paw was planted firmly on the back of his neck, pinning him down. Despite his howls of protest Idi proceeded to thoroughly clean Rusty's face. Realising that resistance only brought the might of the black paw down on him, Rusty acquiesced to the tyrant's wishes and dutifully reported for his face cleaning every morning after breakfast.

Brute force was required when the two humans tried to curtail Idi's inalienable right to come and go as he pleased. No one was going to keep him locked up at night or take away his right to be admitted to the house whenever he pleased. Door knocking seemed to be the best solution to this problem. He would bang violently on the back sliding door until the younger female awoke and let him outside. After a suitable interval he would go to the front screen door, hook his claws into the wire and bang the door loudly enough to wake the other female who would let him in. After a short snooze Idi would assert his authority over his subjects again and bang the back door until the younger female let him out. The routine was maintained a minimum of 3 times a night until the females revolted. Being woken up 5 times in one night acceding to the tyrant's demands was just too often!! Thereafter the screen door was pinned back in a position where it could not be banged and the deposed tyrant was given his own abode. The deep comfortable carton with cushions and a heating pad in the garage became such a firm favourite that some nights in winter after dinner Idi would retire to his box, first ensuring the heating pad was on, to ponder affairs of state away from the hoi polloi.

Idi was accustomed to breakfast at 6 a.m. sharp and would brook no interference with this routine. He did not feel that his subjects were entitled to sleep later on weekends when the pleasure of caring for his needs was not onerous. Having mellowed somewhat with his advancing years, Idi felt that practising his singing scales and breakfast chimes could be combined and in this instance force was not necessary. Idi would sit outside the bedroom window and chorus 'yeow, miaow, couwe, mi mi, miaow, yeow, ueow, couw', immune to heart rendering pleas of "Go away Idi! Get lost Cat!" Hard hearted as any tyrant, Idi would ignore the increasing intensity of the pleas and occasional lapses of language until his commands were obeyed.

"Breakfast at 6 a.m. please. Leave the cat flap unlocked and you may go back to bed if you want. There is no need to make such a fuss."

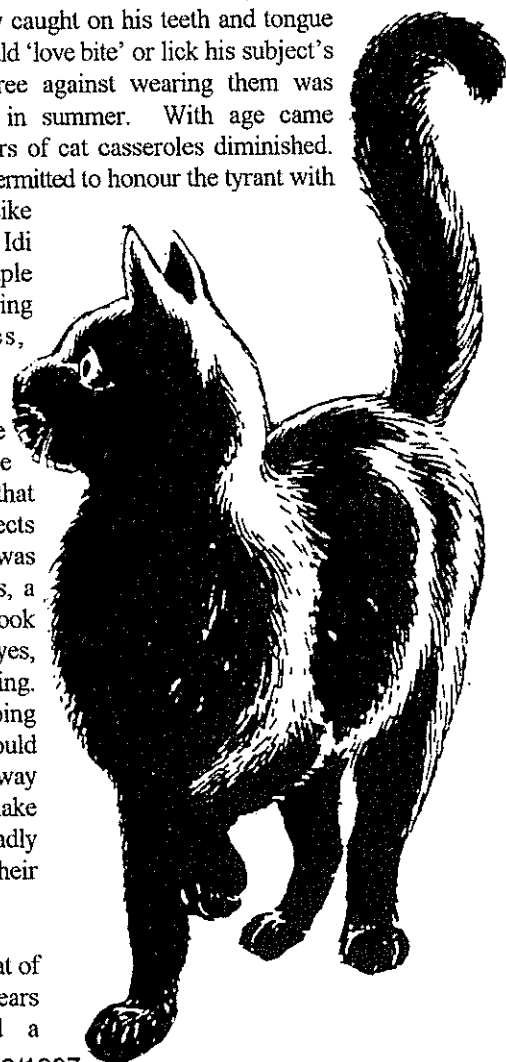
Try as he might he could not train the females to give him dinner at 3 p.m. They seemed quite incapable of recognising just how demanding snoozing in 3 areas of the garden could be, not to mention the rigours of his highly necessary and important territory patrols. However, he made it quite clear that he was not prepared to wait any longer than 4 p.m. and provided frequent reminders between 3 and 4.

Macho to the core, Idi ignored the Devon spay, Khisi, except to give her an occasional back hander just to remind her who was boss. On the other hand Rusty was another neuter and, as such, needed guidance in performing his feline duties. Idi took Rusty under his paw, so to speak. No matter what his personal feelings were about Khisi, she was his subject and it was his duty to protect her and Rusty from marauding neighbours. Idi had never been a fighter, he relied more on guile, but in defence of his subjects he was ferocious. The diminishing quality of his weapons - vision, hearing and teeth, did not affect his valour. Many an abscess he wore with pride, honourable wounds acquired protecting his weak, defenceless subjects.

Unceasingly vigilant in the protection of his territory only two weeks before his demise, Idi killed a large rat and left it on the patio for our admiration. Considering that Idi had only 4.5 teeth it is suspected that the rat was suicidal and allowed Idi to gum it to death.

At his peak Idi weighed 16 pounds which added impetus to his affectionate head butts. Like most males, Idi cursed the invention of pantihose. They caught on his teeth and tongue whenever he would 'love bite' or lick his subject's legs. His decree against wearing them was ignored except in summer. With age came serenity and fears of cat casseroles diminished. Strangers were permitted to honour the tyrant with pats and laps. Like other despots, Idi possessed a couple of unpleasing characteristics, kneading and drooling. It was only fear of the possible repercussions that kept his subjects seated when Idi was on on their laps, a blissful glazed look in his eyes, painfully kneading. Saliva dripping from his jaws would be whisked away with a quick shake of his head - deadly missiles in their own right.

As befitting a cat of his advanced years Idi maintained a

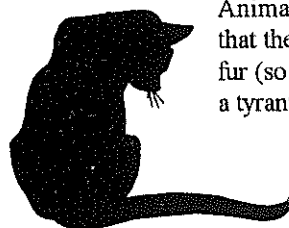


dignified demeanour (most of the time). Occasionally, overflowing with 'joie de vivre' Idi was capable of dropping 16 years in his mad dash from the furthest point of the backyard, down the slope to the house, whack through the cat flap, thunder through the house to the front door, quick swerve and thunder back through the house, charge through the cat flap and screech to a halt just in time to avoid catapulting head first into the swimming pool. Everyone made sure they avoided Idi when he was in 'CHARGE' mode - he gathered so much momentum he was incapable of stopping and was considered a danger to life and limb. On arrival at his point of departure he would sit sedately and groom himself as if he had just woken from a snooze.

Of course all tyrants are very demanding when it comes to food and Idi was no exception. Chicken offerings were disdained. "Do you know what those things look like when they are alive?". Fresh fish was only suitable for savages, the tomato sauce covering pilchards was delicious but surely he wasn't expected to eat the fish too? He was never entirely sure that beef might not be poisoned so Idi in his wisdom decided the safest course, lacking a food taster, was to eat only canned food. The can had to have a portrayal of a cat on it and 'For Goodness sake - NOT tuna! How often do I have to tell you about drift netting?"

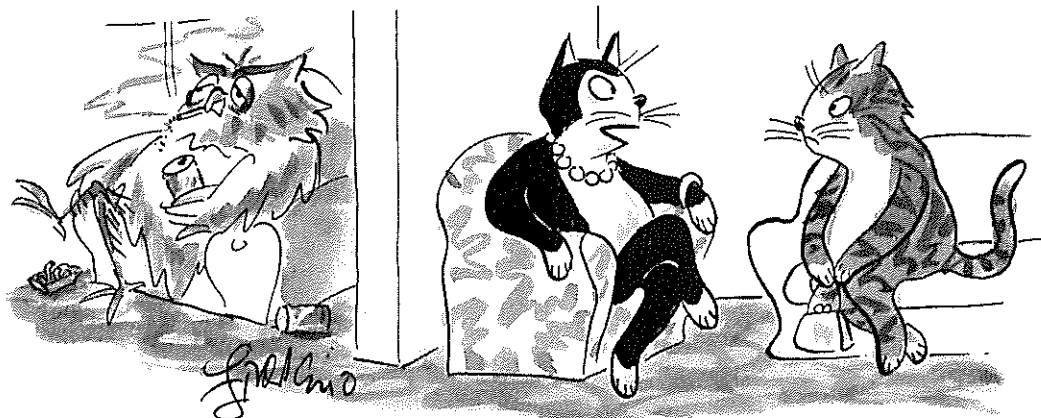
With the introduction of his first feline subject, Khisi, this attitude rapidly changed. Idi couldn't let an underling have more enjoyment in her food than he did with his and she certainly wasn't going to eat food any different to his! The order of the day became 'Where's my chicken? How dare you give all that chicken to her? Where's my chop bone to gum? Why did you give that thing my portion of dried food'?" Idi was not adverse to bullying Khisi away from her food bowl and gobbling what was left. Working on the 'out of sight - out of mind' principle, Khisi's bowl was moved to the top of the washing machine and Idi was content with his portion.

A handsome cat, Idi was healthy until the end when he died from possible renal failure. The tyrant died just two days after his official birthday on Australia Day 1995 at Concord Animal Hospital. Who would have believed that the small, pathetic, golden-eyed bundle of fur (so cute) in the CPS cage would grow into a tyrant sorely missed by his subjects.



THE TYRANT IS DEAD

and we still grieve.



"Well, he was on the endangered list, and I thought I could save him."

IF YOU DON'T OWN A CAR

(Issued by Eastern Suburbs Branch of the Animal Welfare League, March '96)

This seems to be the message coming from Brian Langton, State Minister of Transport. Legislation came into force on 1 January 1996 which prohibits taxi cabs from carrying passengers with animals. This is how it will affect the community.

1) Prohibits visits to vets

It is extremely difficult for people without cars to take animals to the vet. Pet taxis are scarce and need 24 hours notice.

2) Prohibits visits to friends and relatives

Pet owners wishing to visit friends with a companion animal face a daunting task. How do you travel with your pet when you don't own a car, can't go by bus or train, and can no longer hire a cab?

3) Senior Citizens

This group is particularly affected as they may have given up driving because of age and now find they cannot travel with their pets in cabs.

4) Discourages people from owning pets

A prospective owner may say "having a pet is too difficult without a car, therefore I won't bother". Current owners may decide to have their pets euthanased rather than face on-going transport problems.

YOU CAN'T OWN A PET

5) Taxi Companies

Their business will suffer through loss of revenue

6) Even car owners may be affected!

Imagine being involved in an accident while accompanied by your pet. As you watch the tow truck taking your car away, how will you and your pet get home?

We are asked to give up our cars to create a pollution-free environment. When we do this, our day-to-day activities become difficult because we cannot travel with our companion animals in the only remaining mode of transport, i.e. taxi cabs.

Please write immediately to Brian Langton and urge him to review this legislation -

The Hon Brian Langton, MP

Minister for Transport

State Parliament, Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Ph (02) 9268-2995 Fax (02) 9268-2971

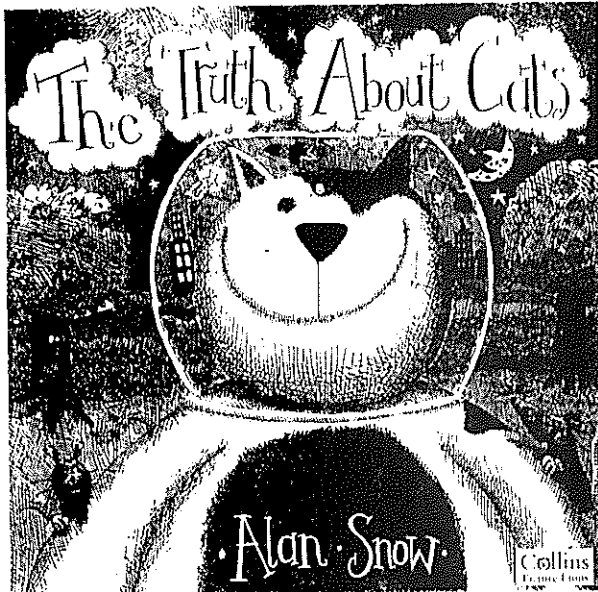
BOOK REVIEWS

Lee Wright

IF HUMOUR BE THE FOOD OF LIFE - READ ON

This Christmas treat yourself and your friends with these economical and extremely funny books on cats.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS, Alan Snow, Harper Collins \$9.95. This is a children's book that has to be enjoyed by all ages. The cat is scientifically(?) diagrammed as a space ship and the book opens new insights into the workings of a cat's mind and what their real purpose in life is. What ever your reaction to its premises may be - laughter is inevitable. ☺☺☺☺



CATS ARE BETTER THAN MEN and CATS ARE BETTER THAN MEN, TOO. Beverly Guhl, Hodder Headline, \$9.95 ea. Cartoons and quips make these books compulsory reading for all women. Superb humour and insights!! ☺☺☺☺



A CAT'S LITTLE INSTRUCTION BOOK, Leigh W Rutledge, Harper Collins, \$9.95. This book is replete with words of wisdom on how a cat should live its life - this stocking stuffer sized book makes a super present and is sure to be passed around by the tree. "Leave every dog with the impression that you are a lion cub who will be back to get even when you grow up", "Meow and the world meows with you, hiss and you hiss alone". And there's lots more!! ☺☺☺

TEST YOUR CAT'S CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE, Burton Silver & Heather Busch, Tiger Press, \$18.95. The authors of the very successful 'Why Cats Paint' have put together 18 test cards so owners can evaluate their cat's creativity. The rules are fun and clever, the cards are interesting, to say the least, and your endeavours to assess kitty's creativity could prove to be the life (or death) of the party. ☺☺☺☺

MEDITATIONS FOR CATS who do too much, Michael Cader, Harper Collins, \$9.95. A self help book for pussies who read over their owner's shoulder. Michael Cader describes daily dilemmas in every cat's life and offers cool words of wisdom to overcome potential hysteria and continue feline control over 'the Higher Power' (doting owners.) For dysfunctional cats everywhere, for every cat who wants to discover the kitten within, and for those who live with them, this is essential reading. ☺☺☺☺

INFORMATIVE BOOKS that make learning entertainment.

KITTEN STICKER BOOK, Harper Collins \$10.95

This play book for youngsters offers a wide selection of cat and kitten stickers to be positioned in the appropriate areas. Each paste area tells a short fact about cats and kittens and this book is a good learning medium to start to educate children about felines. Ages 5+

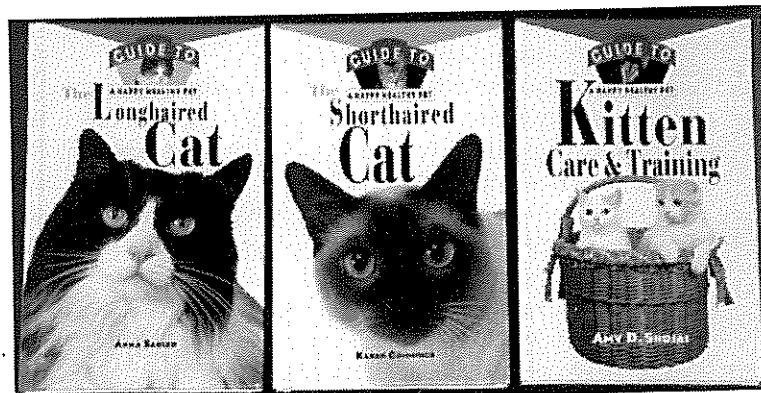
CAT, Collins Eyewitness Guides, Juliet Clutton-Brock, Harper Collins, \$19.95. Cat is a treasure trove of cats - cat facts, cat art, legends and history, culled from around the world. It is chock full of colour photographs highlighted by succinct copy which gives adolescent and mature readers a wide ranging amount of information on all types of cats and how cats fared in many cultures. It doesn't require a great deal of reading and the format is ideal to appeal to light as well as keen readers. ☺☺☺☺

THE SHORTHAIRED CAT, Karen Commings

THE LONGHAIRED CAT, Anna Sadler

KITTEN CARE AND TRAINING, Amy D Shojai

These 3 'Owner's Guide To ...' books published by Simon & Schuster are \$16.95 each. They are a handy size and contain much information on cats in general and the specific title topic. I am pleased to note that they are so up-to-date they have photographs of the newest American cat breeds and the photographs of pedigreed cats illustrate show quality cats. These books are ideal for sparking an interest in cats, as an accompaniment to a new feline addition in the house and for learning about cats in general. They are full of excellent tips and advice on handling cats and cat problems and getting more enjoyment out of owning cats. The presentation and content of each book makes the price great value and they are ideal gifts for both experienced and novice owners. ☺☺☺☺



DONATION FORM

The Membership Secretary

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

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

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Surname (Block letters)

Initials

Address Suburb Post Code.....

FORM OF BEQUEST

To persons who wish to assist our Society, 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 NSW, the registered office of which is 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, NSW 2042, the sum ofdollars (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 NSW 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 NSW, the registered office of which is 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, NSW 2042. And I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said The Cat Protection Society of NSW shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

For further information on leaving a bequest to the Society please contact the Secretary on (02) 9557 1011.

SALE OR RETURN CATS

Nance Iredale, OAM

Our cats are sold with the guarantee that they can be returned if things don't work out. This might sound as though we don't try to pick the right carers in the first place. Believe me, we do! Not everyone who comes to buy a cat is granted that privilege. Parkland Boarding Kennels know the personalities of our cats-in-waiting and match them to carers. However, sometimes the little cat at home who has lost a mate or who's carers think it needs a mate has very different ideas.

So we say 'no questions asked' if the carer needs to return the animal but if they want an exchange we delve further into the situation. Often times we feel insufficient time and patience has been given BUT if the carer is not happy is the cat going to get the love and patience we require? A couple of weeks ago a gorgeous 12 week old ginger cat was taken home to a cat who was grieving for a lost friend. He went on Friday at 7 pm and was returned about 10 am on Saturday. The carer was upset that her effort to help her old friend made matters worse. We could understand that.

Nobody is made to feel guilty if the adoption doesn't work out. We had a lovely lady ring whose very first cat (one of ours) was killed on the road. Our carer got 2 cats so they wouldn't wander. These 2 cats were only let out while the carers were outside but they were dismayed to find one crossing the busy road to have a friendly chat with the cats across the street. Now the carer is wondering if she should/can return him. She adores both of them but doesn't know if she can stand the strain of waiting for another road kill. Yes, she is keeping them indoors except for an odd half hour under supervision. And yes, we will rehome that little chap if that is the decision.

EARLY DESEXING

Early Desexing has been practiced overseas for sometime according to our information but there never has been much research into the correct age to desex. Six kitten seasons ago the CPS, with the support of Dr Paul Waters, very daringly started to desex at 10-12 weeks. That first year not all very young kittens were desexed - but a lot were. Each kitten season we have decreased the age and increased the number being desexed early until now NO, absolutely NO, kits are homed undesexed. A healthy six week old babe comes through the operation with flying colours. We are immensely proud of this step, especially as it has been adopted by the AWL; the AVA are endorsing it and happily lots of vet surgeons are carrying it out in their practices and recommending it to inquirers. This must begin to make a difference to the total cat population. The Cat Protection Society certainly hopes so because we are so weary of the yearly task of dealing with the springtime kitten explosion.

ANIMAL PORTRAITS

Have your four-legged pal immortalised
in *Pastel* by experienced artist.

Artwork prepared from your favourite photos

Ann Guy
Tel: (02) 9371-5408

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042

I/We apply for membership or renewal of membership of the Society for the year commencing June 1997.
All persons joining from January remain financial until June of the following year.

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Subscription | \$1000.00 | Life Governor | Pensioner Membership | \$10.00 |
| | \$ 250.00 | Life Membership | Junior Membership | \$5.00 |
| | \$ 15.00 | Annual Membership | (state birthday) | |

Enclosed find cheque/money order for membership \$ + Donation TOTAL \$.....
Please cross cheques and make payable to THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY of NSW

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss SURNAME Initials
Address: Suburb: Postcode
Pension Number: Signature: Date
Please include a stamped, self addressed envelope if you require a receipt.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

If you have changed your address since becoming a member please fill in this section.

Surname(block letters please) Initials
New Address Postcode
Previous Address Postcode

NEW MEMBERS

July - September 1996

Mrs C Adams-Connelly, Baulkham Hills; Miss E Aitken, Artarmon;
Miss M Anderson, Leppington; Mrs P Armstrong, Concord West;
Mrs J Auburn, Lavington; Mrs J Barrett, Ermington; Miss J Bourke,
Nowra; Mrs J Broom, Orange; Mrs M Budiselic, Sydney; JM
Callaghan, Maroubra; Ms N Clements, Hornsby; Mrs S Clifton-
Steele, McMahons Pt; Miss J Cox, Enmore; Miss C Dehe, Crows
Nest; Miss A Dockrill, Lidcombe; Ms A Fennell, Cooyal; Ms S
Francis, Baulkham Hills; Miss K Fuller, Bangor; Mrs LA Furber,
Woollahra; The Gerreys, Kareela; Mr D Harding, Glebe; Mrs EL
Hawkins, Cammeray; Miss G Harland, Annandale; Miss DF Hatton,
Kogarah; Mrs K Hayhurst, St Leonards; Mrs B Heard, Nowra; Ms V
Hewitt, Castle Cove; Mrs M Hind, Berkeley Vale; Mr R Iredale, West
Ryde; P & L Iredale, Kingslangly; Mrs K Kendall, Potts Pt; The
Kenchs, Point Clare; Mrs MA King, Baulkham Hills; Ms M Lewis,
Douglas Park; Ms L Mack, Manly; Mrs V McKenzie, Mallaoota;
Ms D Martin, Lane Cove; Mrs B Mathieu, Nth Sydney; WH Mears,
Avalon; Ms J Mitchell, Waverton; Mrs JD Mitchell, Cessnock; Mr P
Murphy, Arncliffe; Mrs JM Osborne, Bundaberg; Mrs J Pich,
Tuggerah; Miss D Piddington, Mosman; Miss K Pitcher, Newtown;
Miss H Pljesa, Paddington; Mr T Plummer, Bondi Junction; Mrs E
Prince, Minchinbury; Mr RJ Rae, Killara; Miss C Rankin, Elizabeth
Bay; Mrs & Master Riordon, Leichhardt; Miss L Robinson, Forest
Reefs; Mrs L Saric, Cammeray; Mrs M Shaw, Petersham; Mrs E
Stanton, Mosman; The Steeles, West Pennant Hills; Mrs K Strang,
Lavington; Mr P Tracey, Randwick; Mrs V & Ms M Wareing,
Tascot; Mrs L Waters, Concord West; Mr J and Mr S Waters,
Concord West; Miss D Way, Kiama; Ms H Webbe, Boronia Park;
Mrs VM Wilkinson, Wollstonecraft; Ms VJ Willman, Balgowlah;
Mrs S Yasuda-Hines, Colyton; Mrs A Young, Sth Hurstville.

CPS VANS

About 1986 we began to make our vans more comfortable for carrying our animals.

First of all we had the floors of the vans and a few feet up the sides insulated but gradually, with each new van, we increased the scope of the insulation until now the rear of our vans are completely insulated - making a less stressful ride for any cats we are carrying. This, of course, has greatly increased the cost of each van.

For many years we have had powerful air conditioning fitted into the back of our vans, as well as the standard air conditioning in the driver's cabin. Once again a heavy increase in initial cost as well as increased use of petrol. Now we have further modified our vans by putting a partition between the driver and the cats as sometimes the stench of urine and faeces is headache making. Our van 'converter' has become very interested in improving the comfort of our passengers as he loves cats. He generally has some little improvements to suggest.

So we will continue trying to make improvements wherever we can. Our main aim is to have our cats travel at the right temperature and be as comfortable as we can make them and to have optimal conditions for the girls so they can operate efficiently and comfortably.

A female cat is called a queen because she rules the toms who must approach her with great respect and she often punishes them autocratically

KERRIE MADDEFORD

FEATURE ARTIST

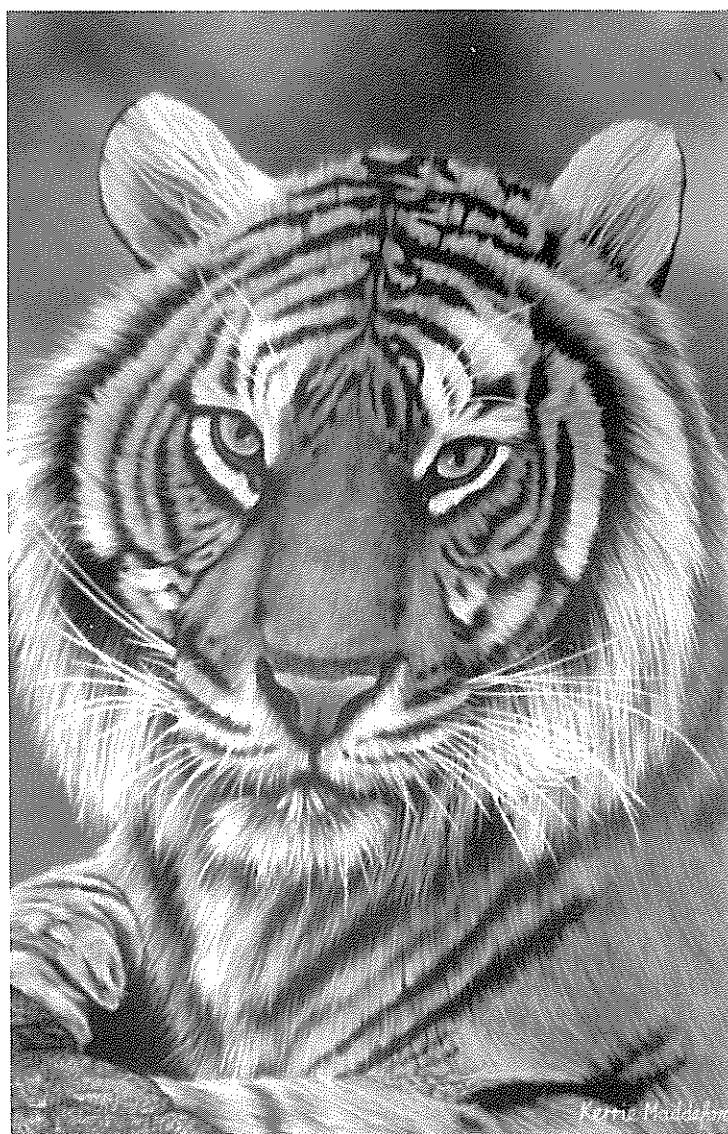
Cats have always been part of my life. Growing up I created a nightmare for my parents, bringing home forsaken kittens under my arms looking for a place to live. As kittens they each had their own personalities and demands. Thoroughly spoilt, they grew healthy and content, and even though they all have their individual attitude on life, they all look like tiny fat black and white pandas.

The lady of the pride, Pebbles, loves to smooch and position herself under the kitchen window, never seeming to leave the safety of the garden and she is always very attentive. Her brother Bam Bam has the face of an angel and always lays in the most comfortable positions, only exerting himself to the sound of the fridge door or the jingle jangle from the collar of the mischievous Clarence.

Clarence lurks at the bottom of the garden and loves to disturb Pebbles and Bam Bam's concentration on the meaning of life. All my cats are whimsical, full of expression and character, and I have produced their qualities in my paintings.

KERRIE MADDEFORD's paintings reproduce realistic portraits of birds, mammals, reptiles and marine life in their natural habitat. Based in her Sydney studio, she established Kerrie Maddeford Illustrations, to meet the commercial demand for her illustrations from publishers, advertising agencies and souvenir organisations throughout Asia, America, Europe and Australia.

Renowned for her exquisite detail, Kerrie's original works are highly prized and sought after by collectors and galleries world wide. She exhibits at **BRIGHTON GALLERIES**, 303 Bay Street, Brighton le Sands.



WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HELP THEM HELP TIGERS

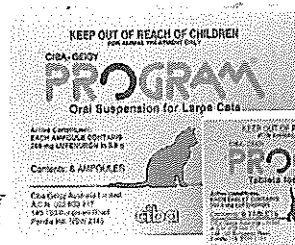
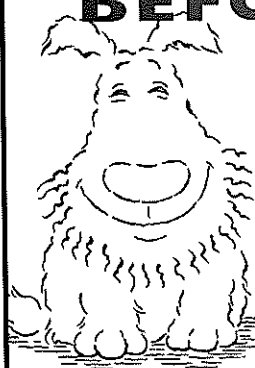
Uncle Ben's is donating \$0.10 to WWF for every WHISKAS label received by 31 January 1997.

WWF is using this money to continue their work in helping endangered species, particularly the Sumatran Tiger.

Please help them by sending in all your labels from WHISKAS' tins. Full details are on the back of each WHISKAS label.

Remember, labels must be received by 31-01-97 to help.

BEAT FLEAS BEFORE SUMMER STARTS



Put your pets on PROGRAM[®] now and you'll stop fleas before they start. It avoids the need for flea sprays or powders later and you only have to use it once a month. Best of all, it works. Call us today.

Available at your veterinarian.

