

SPRING 1997

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

# *Cat Affairs*







# THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

A.C.N. 001 604 815

Registered Office and postal address: **103 Enmore Road, Enmore, NSW 2042**

Welfare Office - Volunteer Enquiries: **9557-1011, 9519-7201 Fax 9557-8052**

Opportunity Shop: **87 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042, 9516-2072**

Parkland Boarding Kennels: **469 Sunnyholt Road, Blacktown NSW 2148, 9626-9333**



## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE ....

It is very pleasing to report that this past financial year (ended 31 May 1997) our Society made substantial progress. Our figures for re-homing cats were a record and we nudged over the previous takings from the Opportunity Shop sales. We are indebted to the volunteers at the Op Shop and those working behind the scenes to keep the goods coming into the shop. Also, the flow of legacies has been the best ever. Many of these have resulted from the work of past Councillors in the earlier years of the Society. We are remembered, too, in the wills of non-members whom we have helped through our welfare service or who have simply heard or read about our activities and wanted to ensure the continuation of our work into the future.

The year saw many staff changes which caused quite a disruption to our welfare work. We were unfortunate to lose our CEO, Bob Fitzpatrick, who moved to Broken Hill. Two of our welfare girls also left for other fields and Sandy Moss was on sick leave for several weeks following major surgery. She has since made a very good recovery. Over this difficult period our Welfare Director, Nance Iredale, was extremely busy training the replacement staff. We warmly welcome our new CEO, Kathryn Williams; Administration Assistant, Sue Matysek; Nicole Hadlow and Rebecca Tapp as Welfare Officers. They are all working efficiently and happily with two longtime welfare girls, Sandy Moss and Tania Curran.

During this year we have formed closer relationships with other animal welfare organisations, such as the RSPCA and the NSW Animal Welfare League. Callers with stray cat problems are often referred to us by both these organisations and, in turn, we phone their inspectors for assistance with jobs which we are unable to do. With this sort of co-operation a distressed animal can be attended to as quickly as possible. We are also grateful to the Fire Brigade, the Police Department and the Police Rescue Squad who have helped out on a number of occasions.

Publicity concerning the Society has increased considerably. Nance Iredale has been interviewed several times by TV, radio and newspaper representatives. She approached the Northern District Times for a 'Cat of the Month' feature and was successful in not only having an article about the CPS published but, as well, approximately every fortnight a photo of one of our adoptee cats has appeared which has resulted in homes being found for cats in our care.

We are trying to interest Councils to let us do a 'Cat Month' in their area. This has been done in the past through Ryde, Hunters Hill, Penrith and Marrickville Councils. Briefly, with the support of a few local veterinarians, a subsidised desexing program is offered to the rate payers. Our welfare girls attend to any trapping and concentrate on the particular municipality. The Council pays for the advertising and gives us a contribution towards the jobs we carry out. With the impending cat legislation which is expected to come into force next year, Councils will be required to enforce the laws. We feel that they should begin to get involved now in cat control so that they will be ready when the time comes. A few Councils have already been providing some services but, unfortunately, the majority are still hiding their heads in the sand. Our first Cat Month' with Marrickville has been arranged for August and for Liverpool in October. We are hoping these will be very successful so that other Councils will follow suit. In this way, there should be fewer kittens born next spring, giving other cats more chance to find homes.

We still believe that early desexing has been the best thing that our Society has done for cats. For the first couple of months of this last kitten season we were able to place every healthy kitten surrendered to us.

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### Welfare Director

Mrs Nance Iredale OAM

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Mrs Lena Larsen

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Mrs Angelika Elliott

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**VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR OPPORTUNITY SHOP**

**COVER:** CPS kitten, photographer: Frances Kaukerei

**CENTREFOLD:** CPS kitten, photographer: Frances Kaukerei

**BACKCOVER:** "Rimsky", Devon Kitten, photographer: Michelle Batchelor

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# THE SOCIETY THANKS

DEBORAH BOWMAN, MARILYN ANGELO  
and JENNY GIBSON of PUSS 'N POOCH GALLERY

Featured in the Summer 1997 issue was a large paper mache cat statue from the PUSS 'N POOCH GALLERY in Balmain. A customer bought it and when she realised she had no place to put it, she left it at the shop as a fund raising donation for the Cat Protection Society. Jenny Gibson of Puss 'n Pooch kindly kept the statue on display and sold it to another cat lover with more room in her home.

The CPS thanks Mrs Deborah Bowman for donating the statue to the CPS, to Marilyn Angelo whose purchase money provided welcome welfare funds for the Society, and Jenny of Puss 'n Pooch who willingly provided the means to sell the statue.

Readers who are unfamiliar with Puss 'N Pooch are well advised to pay a visit. The gallery stocks a wide and ever changing selection of cat and dog (and other popular animal) statues, cards, books, gifts. Since it's opening, Puss N Pooch has supported the CPS by regularly advertising in Cat Affairs, by keeping a CPS donation box next to the cash register and selling copies of Cat Affairs.

## ALMOST

Kathleen Fernandes ©

Fur bristles

eyes gloat

whiskers quiver.

Body hunches

poised to pounce.

Snap of twigs

silence shattered.

Frantic flutter

Cat storms away

Furious mutter.

# AGM

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

2 PM

103 Enmore Road, Enmore

Full details and transport information on the back page of the enclosed Balance Sheet.

## VALE

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Honorary Life Member, Elizabeth (Celie) Smith, late of Kingswood.

Celie would be known by our older members for her field work in the years before we established our cat welfare service at Enmore. She worked alone rescuing stray cats as well as promoting subsidised desexing through the issuing of C.P.S. vouchers. With her skill at letter writing, she was quick to take up her pen in defence of animals, and most of her correspondence to newspapers was published.

Celie joined the CPS State Council in 1966, serving for a considerable period over the years as Vice-President and retiring as a Councillor in 1981. Her commitment and practical assistance to our Society continued throughout the remainder of her life.

We know little of her earlier years except that she served in the WAAF during the 2nd World War, and married Wing Commander Smith.

The animal welfare cause has lost a valued worker who championed the rights of all animals, but particularly cats.

## WE NEED "PICKER-UPERS"

can you spare a half a day a month?

We need drivers who will go to dwellings in their area to pick up donations for the Opportunity Shop and bring them to the Enmore Road shop. Approximately once a month we will give you some names and addresses in your area. All that is required is for you to collect the boxes and bags and drop them off at the Op Shop. EASY!!

Our working vehicles are our ambulance vans and they are always on the road for cat care. The calls are so great that we cannot spare them to collect donations. The donated goods are also very important for we get a lot of revenue for our welfare work from the sales at our Op Shop. Won't you help? Will you help?

To volunteer for the occasional need, please phone GRACE AYLING (02) 9516-2072.

PLEASE PHONE NOW.



## THE SCRATCHING POST.

box problems - particularly with fussy cats who won't use soiled litter.

There is a container holding clean litter at one end of the box with a compact area for the cat to use. Once the cat leaves the box a mechanism moves the soiled litter into a storage area under the box, and moves fresh litter into the access area. No cat need go in dirty litter. But another advantage is the 'weight trigger'. The amount of litter removed and replaced depends on the weight of the cat - a lighter cat uses less litter, a heavier cat uses more litter. Several manufacturers expressed interest in the design - now it is just a wait to see if and when it is marketed. But wouldn't it hit the spot for a lot of our fussy felines.

### ENAMEL PAINT REMOVAL

What to do when a black Devon Rex is vainly trying to shake mint green enamel paint off one paw as the rest put telltale prints on the floor. The colour combination was pleasing but I didn't fancy green being tracked through the house and definitely didn't want it in her stomach. On spec I rubbed Tea Tree oil on each paw and wiped it off. The Tea Tree Oil immediately removed 99% of the paint and a quick wash and dry of the feet produced an all black cat. Great remedy!

Lee Wright

### 'FOR REAL' NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

A 3 legged cat from Belfast has been ordained as a reverend by a Californian church which accepted his application over the Internet. Irishman Roderick Thompson, 22, decided he'd try his luck after spotting the advertisement from California's Universal Life Church and E-Mailed in personal details of his cat Sisco. Minutes later, back came notice he'd been accepted and ordained. The one year old tabby is now licensed to perform marriages, christenings and funerals; in the name of The Father, The Son and the scratching post.

### THANKS TO PAUL PARV

Happily, one of our members, Paul Parv, is an excellent cartoonist and, on request, has sent in 3 wonderful cartoons on obese cats to highlight the feature article this issue.

Lee Wright

### CAT INVENTION SCORES TOPS

An Italian show had 5 inventors explaining their prototypes to the TV viewers. The 'best' new idea was judged by the number of phone calls logged by viewers. In one hour a new cat litter box logged 32,000 YES calls - 2000 more than its nearest competition. What pulling power cat's have. But the invention itself could answer a lot of litter

### JOAN HAUB, West Wyalong

My friend would like ladies to write to her so she can improve her knowledge of English. Annelie is 44, married with 2 children aged 15 and 25 and she has 2 cats.

Annelie Van Der Vorst

Parkstrasse 28

D-41061 Monchengladback, Germany

### STAMPS FOR WELFARE

I found this article in the German cat magazine 'Geliebte Katze'. As our own Cat Protection Society of NSW collects stamps for the same purpose, I thought this might inspire all members to send their cancelled stamps to the CPS's Enmore office.

"Just about 1 year ago we mentioned Wolf Hanke from Madrid who raises money for animal protection with his hobby. He collects postage stamps, sorts them, puts them in small bags and gives them to animal protection organisations for sale. Our little report started an avalanche of mail that still goes on; to date Wolf Hanke received more than 2700 letters and parcels full of stamps. Animal lovers from 7 countries now save stamps for animal protection and regularly send new supplies to Madrid. Wolf Hanke is happy about this." (Ex "Geliebte Katze").

Helmut Fetzer, West Wyalong

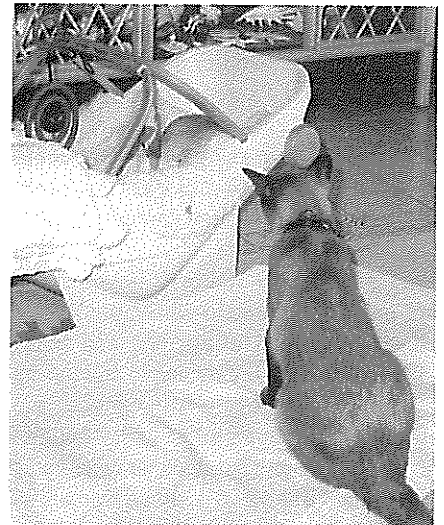
Did you hear about the woman who sold her laptop computer and bought a desk model because her cat was jealous.

### IN HOUSE BABY SITTER

Thank you for your mention of our darling Mandy's death in the winter issue of Cat Affairs. After 16.5 years of her love and affection we are still trying to come to terms with our loss.

I thought the readers might enjoy this photo

of Missy guarding our neighbour's new baby. Margaret Paine, Clear Island Waters, Qld



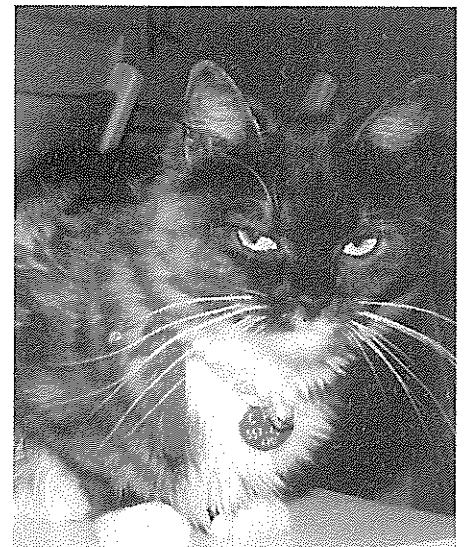
Missy Paine

### HAPPILY HOMED

Just over 1 year ago we purchased a cute little 12 week old charcoal tabby kitten from you. Since a year has gone she has grown quite large and is very much a wonderful friend. I thought I would send you some photos of her to see how she turned out (though you must see so many pass through your place). Herman, as we called her, was so quiet and timid when we purchased her but it took her about 30 minutes at home to inform us who was going to be the boss! She is a very wonderful cat and has a very playful personality - always up to mischief!

Kay Elliott, West Pennant Hills

[Ed - Yes, we get many passing through but it is always welcome to hear from our NBP's (non-biological parents) relating happy adoptions and feline satisfaction. Can a welfare society EVER get too many letters like yours!]



Herman Elliott

## RAINY DAY©

Bettina Cummins

Cats sleeping  
on warm car engines  
in cardboard boxes,  
under sheltered eaves,  
beside the fire,

anywhere, everywhere  
smug, superior

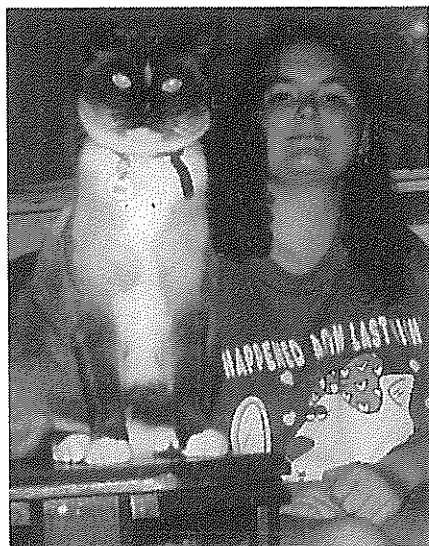
### SPREADING THE WORD

Thank you for sending me the package of information on your Society. It has given me great pleasure reading CAT AFFAIRS and to know that there are people out there who really care. I wanted to set up something to encourage people to desex their cats and be more responsible for them. Well, it seems that there was something going a while ago but it folded because of lack of interest and money. So I've decided to keep on spreading the message when ever I can (and drive them to distraction, I suppose.) But I'm hoping the penny will eventually drop. Best wishes. Chris Jolleace, Nanango Qld

### OUR CATS

Garfield loves to advertise how beautiful he is and he is a great companion for Bronson. Prior to a 6 day disappearance he was very social - now he is a good warning for visitors. Tiny is 4 and was dumped on our doorstep 3.5 years ago. An urgent visit to the vet was necessary. She can be standoffish yet can go to extremes of being over affectionate and loves attention from literally anyone, anywhere. Bronson moved in about 4 months ago, in desperate need of love, attention and a well balanced diet. My daughter, Cassie, now tries to stand as tall and proud that a cat and a child's life is worthwhile.

Kay Houlcroft, Wentworthville



My son Thomas has asked me to renew his junior membership as he enjoys your magazine very much. As usual he has written something about his cat, GingerMegs which he hopes will amuse you. Not that his cat has a weight problem, she is actually one of the healthiest animals I ever shared my house with.

Jole Fenwick

*Ed: Thomas's poem arrived spot-on to compliment this issue's feature on obesity in cats. Paul Parv's cartoons and Thomas' poem give the articles a good chuckle. Thanks Thomas. Good timing!*

## WHEN YOU THINK IT'S TIME FOR A VET VISIT

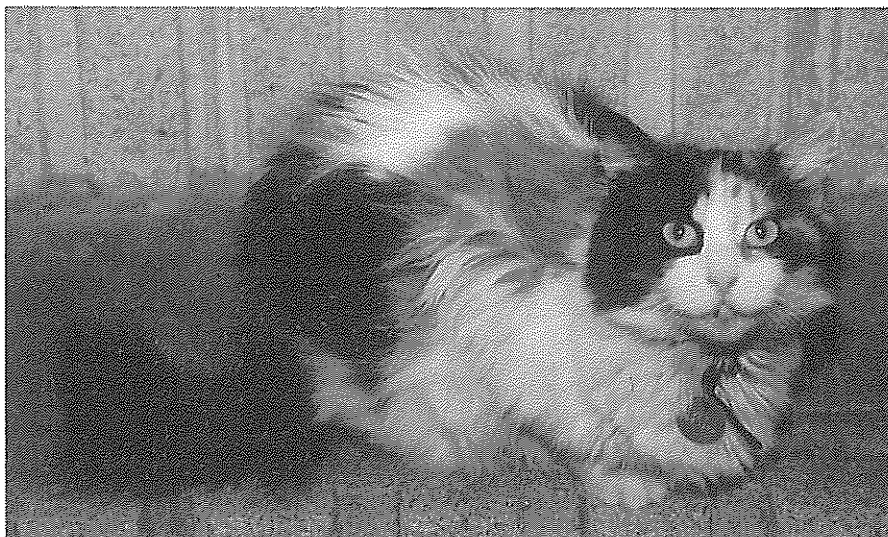
- 1) There is no body or depression from same in the clean clothes in the laundry basket
- 2) There is no flattened cockroach or skink under any of the 5 scatter rugs when you vacuum
- 3) There are 3 crunchies left in the breakfast bowl
- 4) Two cats that don't get along are sleeping next to each other
- 5) It's a wonderful day in the garden and everyone is sleeping in the house.
- 6) You're the only one in the kitchen at dinner time
- 7) You have changed the sheets without assistance
- 8) You return to the table after an unexpected visitor to discover no one has sampled your meat
- 9) There's no one in front of the heater on a cold night
- 10) You try a new food and they still like it the second night

# THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IS ON AGAIN THIS YEAR

COME ONE - COME ALL - 29 NOVEMBER 1997 2 PM

103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE

RSVP to CPS Office (02) 9557-1011, 9519-7201

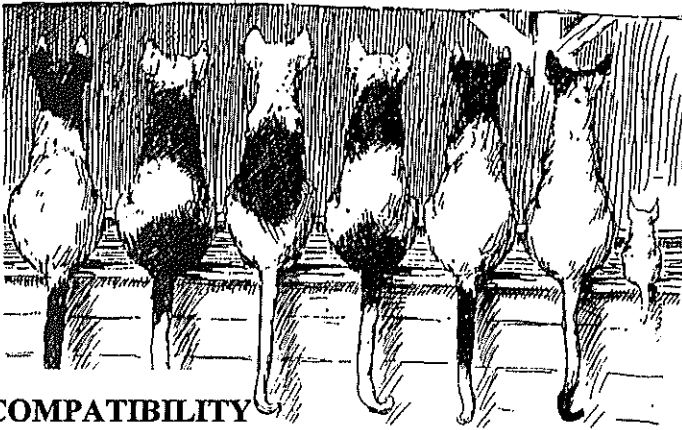




# CAT TALES

## SPIRIT or SPIRITED

Jackie Wilson, Guildford



### COMPATIBILITY

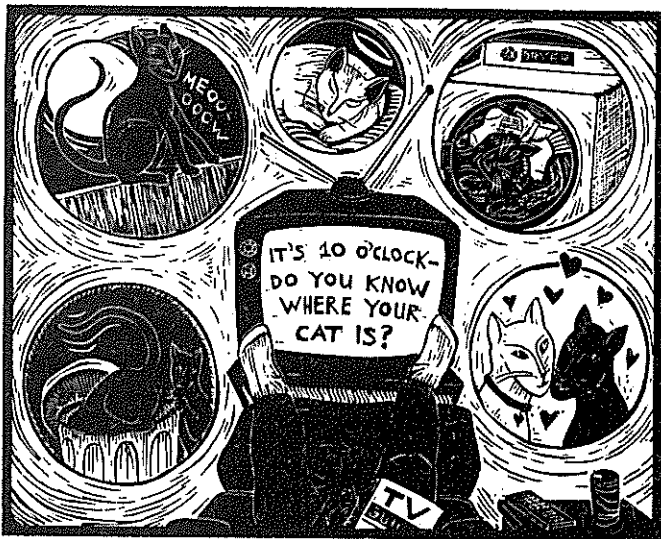
Anne Carolan, Middle Cove

It has irritated me for some time that the 'cat haters' of this world tend to use the brushtail possum in their advertisements etc, when telling us what our pussycats supposedly eat in the evenings.

It has been my experience over a 30 year period living in this home that the two are totally compatible. Every night since 1967 I have put fruit out for the possums' social visit (they live in the valley beneath my home). During this time I have had 1 - 4 cats and never have I seen the slightest antipathy between them. Even 'Footy', who was a feral cat, ignores them. I would have thought they would have been on his menu when he lived in the bush but apparently they were not.

Recently one of the possums brought her latest babe on her back and I tried to get some photos for Cat Affairs but it was almost impossible to get a good enough result. The veranda ledge is just a few metres from our kitchen so we always not only have the possums close by in the evenings, but masses of native birds all day. Despite the presence of the cats, I have managed to attract about 40 species of birds to visit the mainly native garden, being careful always to keep the lower branches trimmed.

My cats have remained a close knit family, the gentle little mother still mothering the enormous 'kittens'. Poor old Meffy is about 16 and, sadly, on his last paws. He is quite happy but gradually fading away.



Do you need an expression for an impossible task?  
How about ..... "As difficult as herding cats...."

The last thing I remember on that day was my master walking towards me where I lay in the backyard. He yelled for my other master to come. I felt dizzy and I couldn't keep my eyes open. I remembered jumping out of a tree after chasing a crested pigeon. I also remember hitting my head on the hard ground, which started a bad headache. But my usual headache remedy didn't work this time, I could barely crawl to the safety of the gardening shed to lie down.

Bill softly ran his hand down my fur while Jackie came up to me and started to cry. She does this a lot but he never does. Does he not feel the same as she does? I cry when I'm in pain - like the time I had my tummy split open and I went to sleep with the help of a needle in my back and a little mask over my face.

Everything went white. I could still hear my masters talking but, as usual, I had no idea what they really said. I could only go by the tone of their voices and their actions towards me. They were very kind people and never ill treated me. In fact, they let me sleep with them every night on their big, soft bed. I never jumped up on the bed until they were asleep and Bill had turned off the little box that talked.

The next thing that happened was really remarkable. I felt absolutely weightless, like I was half asleep and flying through the air. I felt no pain, my black fur shone, and little sparks flew out of my eyes. I didn't care where I was, only that it was wonderful. I had this deep down feeling that I had been here before, but couldn't remember when. I felt like a kitten again. While I was coursing through this long swirling white tunnel I heard a voice in my head say, "Mmrroowww-rowwwree". (Which means, "Do you want to stay here or come with us?") I had the hardest time making up my mind. What was at the other end? Then the voice told me that if I went to see, I could not come back, that the cord would have been broken and that my life as 'Kittenchops' would have ended. For good! No more Whiskettes, no more romps in the backyard with Bill chasing me. No more sitting in front of the heater when it was cold outside.

The voice spoke again. 'You have been a cat before - you will be a cat again. You must decide what else you must learn from these masters you have chosen.' I loved these humans. It could be a lot worse. So I decided to ask what would happen if I chose to meet with my Creators. "You will be chosen to watch over the young souls before they venture out into the material world. It is a teaching job - one of patience and guidance. Are you wise enough to handle this?" I decided, all the while I was whizzing through this soft, white tunnel, that I wasn't. "Very well, then. You will be taken to a doctor and healed."

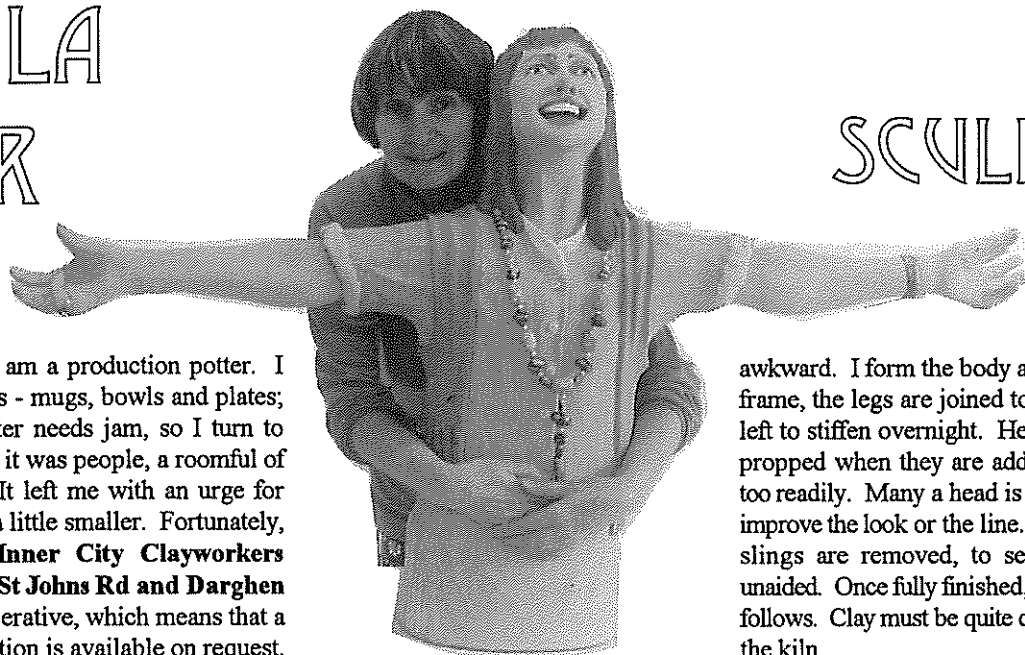
The voice went away. Slowly the walls of the tunnel stopped turning, only to come to an abrupt end. It was like crawling out from under the covers after a long winter's night.

I looked around me. My masters were talking to the man who once gave me the sore tummy. "Well, she's had a nasty bump on the head and was unconscious for awhile. She needs to be kept still and she'll heal up fine", the man with the needle said to my masters.

We got back in the white box that takes us places and went home. I was so glad to be home and thought long and hard about my adventure as I curled up on Bill's warm lap and purred contentedly as he once again stroked my fur. "Kittenchops"

# SHEILA MYER

# CLAY SCULPTURE



Most of the time I am a production potter. I make practical pots - mugs, bowls and plates; but bread-and-butter needs jam, so I turn to sculpture. In 1995, it was people, a roomful of life-sized torsos. It left me with an urge for more, but perhaps a little smaller. Fortunately, I belong to the **Inner City Clayworkers Gallery (corner of St Johns Rd and Darghen St, Glebe)**, a co-operative, which means that a solo or group exhibition is available on request. So, in 1996, a fellow member and I decided to present 'Claydroppings', a show of cats and dogs, with the odd bird too.

I have neither dog nor cat, but my neighbours have! I live in the inner city and there are many cats up and down the back lane. I did a lot of 'research' in the lane, most of the local cats, wary as they always are of strangers, must have grown much more suspicious of me. I needed to stand and watch them, to see how their legs fitted on, and how their paws bend when they move.

When I made my people, I needed to strip off to see just how a particular bone or muscle was posed. I did the same with my cats, mostly I worked from drawings, but now and then I had to crouch in odd positions to verify the cock of a leg over a furry shoulder. I pulled 'catty' faces in the mirror to get the feel of cat-features. It's surprising how adding a lump of clay here and there can bring a cat to life. My cats are life-sized and realistic, I admire artists who can capture the essence of a cat with the stroke of a brush, or a twist of clay. I enjoy most the 'real' cat which surprises you out of the corner of your eye. My best critic was a dog, visiting the Gallery, who took an instant dislike to the display and needed restraint.

Altogether I made seven cats. Sitting cats are easy, rough outlines can be refined and modelled with out difficulty. Standing cats are more

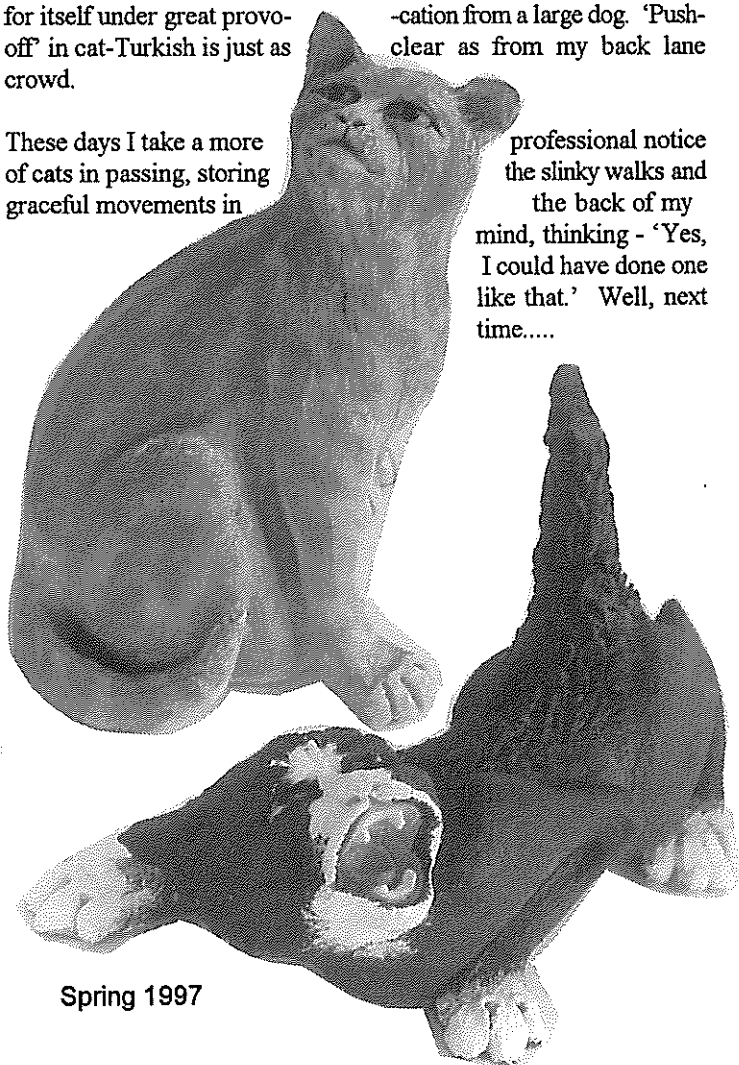
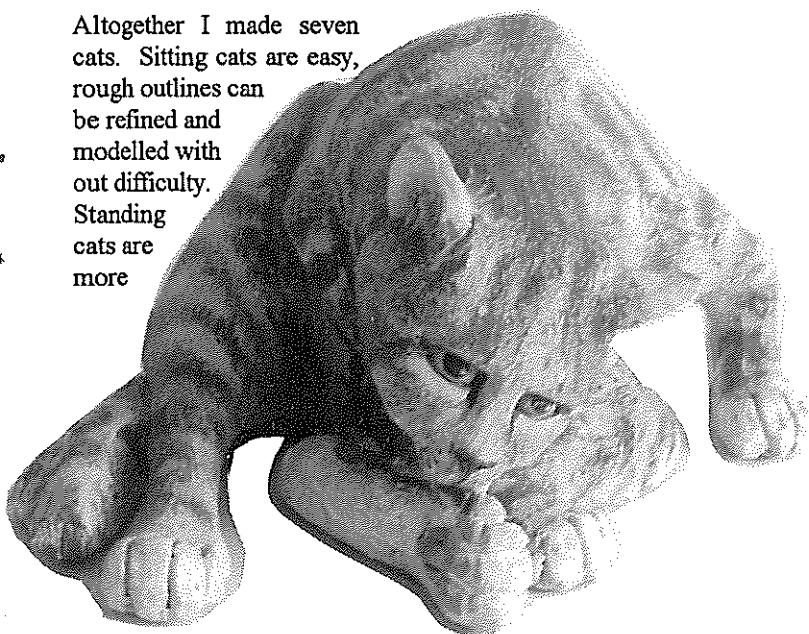
awkward. I form the body and then 'sling' it in a frame, the legs are joined to the four corners and left to stiffen overnight. Heads and tails must be propped when they are added - they can fall off too readily. Many a head is pulled off anyway, to improve the look or the line. The test is when the slings are removed, to see if puss will stand unaided. Once fully finished, a long drying period follows. Clay must be quite dry before it goes into the kiln.

So to decorating, and more trips into the lane to check the markings, stripes, tones, splodges, etc. Then the firing. Long and slow, to avoid explosions and other disasters. After patient, well - almost patient, cooling, the moment of apprehension, opening the kiln door - hoping to be greeted by intact cats, no cracks, tails and ears still on, colours fired right, glazes properly melted.

There were four 'foreign' cats in the show. Fotini, Afroditi and Protos were three of those cats which haunt every cafe in Greece. Skinny cats which startle you with a furry twitch at your ankles. Bodrom, a snarling cat, I saw on the quayside in Turkey, standing up for itself under great provocation from a large dog. 'Push-off' in cat-Turkish is just as clear as from my back lane crowd.

These days I take a more of cats in passing, storing graceful movements in

professional notice the slinky walks and the back of my mind, thinking - 'Yes, I could have done one like that.' Well, next time.....



# FELINE FIBRE - A new fad?

Dr Kim Kendall, BVSc, MRCVS

Apparently it's all about stool quality - and I don't mean footstools. There is an official stool quality grading system (1 - 5) and there are people assigned to assess same in dogs and cats (The Kings of England also had a Keeper of the Stool!) at various nutrition centres around the world. In healthy cats, fibre is not an essential ingredient, but I guess if you return to the concept of a 'natural diet' for cats, then the process of peeling mice prior to consuming them would have to provide fibre in the form of fur. I have not been able to find a figure on the proportion of soluble to insoluble fibre in mouse coats, but in quality commercial dried diets, 1:3 provides a desirable stool quality.

## Soluble vs Insoluble fibre ....

It seems to me that whenever a debate rages over a narrow field, there is probably not enough difference to warrant the energy of discussion, otherwise the winner / better solution would be clear! It seems to depend on which fibre first took your research fancy as to whether it solves your problems, and human research is not always as helpful for cats as it is for dogs. So, soluble fibre is a complex carbohydrate that makes it past the cat's digestive processes intact, and gets fermented in the large intestine so it does not contribute to the calorie intake of the cat, but does feed the bacteria in the bowel. Insoluble fibre gets past everybody in the bowel and is deposited unchanged (a bit wetter) in the litter tray. What either of these types of fibre do for digestion of the other ingredients in the diet, or for general maintenance of the mucosal lining of the bowel, is the subject of debate.

## Who needs more fibre?

There are a number of cats whose health is improved by increasing the amount of fibre in their diets. These cats have 'fibre responsive diseases', and I don't think it means that every cat needs more fibre. I actually found it quite convenient to find stools in the litter tray only once a week when my cats had to (temporarily) live on a meat-only diet! Some other cats have to have a very 'low residue' (fibre-free) diet for other reasons, so there is a spectrum. Thus the current list of fibre responsive problems is:

**Obesity:** this is the centre of the soluble vs insoluble regime debate. The fibre is used to allow the cat to eat the same volume of food without consuming the same number of calories. 'Both types of fibre do that, and each camp borders on vitriolic over what the other camp is doing to the uptake of other nutrients and satiety, but suffice to say, cats will lose weight on either variety of reduced calorie compositions. **However, you still have to feed the cat at 60% of the calorie requirement of the cat AT THE WEIGHT YOU WANT THE CAT TO BE!** This turns out to be a very small amount and most cats are very difficult to live with during the dieting time. I usually just try to have the intake reduced by 10-20% so the cat doesn't gain any more weight. Obesity makes cats prone to diabetes and other problems, so prevention is better than cure, but in my heart of hearts I have to confess to seeing some pretty happy fat old cats, whose main problem is grooming themselves, and the owner can help there.

**FIV colitis** - cats with Feline Aids can develop diarrhoea, sometimes with blood in it. Increasing the amount of fibre (I favour soluble, but insoluble has worked too) makes their life easier.

**Food allergy colitis** - some cats have a problem with protein types in

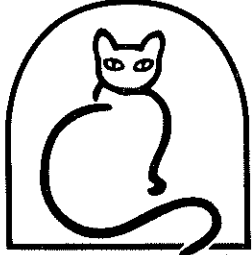
their food. Some are allergic to fish, others to beef and milk, but it can be to almost anything. The main symptom is blood on the faeces (red blood, on the outside), and can be associated with diarrhoea also. Once all the other problems causing these symptoms are eliminated, changing the food and adding fibre keeps the problem at bay. I favour psyllium husk - natural, it is eaten by more cats, but some can be conned into the Unflavoured Metamucil - you will never get them to eat the citrus-flavoured one.

**Diabetes Mellitus** - Insoluble fibre (wheat bran) was the first step in dietary control, then it moved to soluble fibre (oat bran) and now for cats it is moving to highly digestible protein. Things change in this area as more about CAT diabetes is discovered as opposed to information extrapolated from dogs or humans.

**Constipation vs Megacolon** - these conditions have been considered as part of the same problem, but there is now some discussion that constipation is a separate problem and does not lead inevitably to Megacolon. Constipation on its own, where the faeces is hard, dry and passed irregularly, does benefit from the addition of fibre which retains water in the stool and allows for the more regular passage of a softer faeces just because the bowel fills quicker to stimulate movement. Again I favour psyllium husk which is classified as soluble, but insoluble has helped in the past.

**Megacolon** is when the bowel has lost its muscular tone (possibly due to degeneration of the nerves that stimulate its motility) so the faeces sits around because it doesn't get pushed along. The faecal balls become bigger, as does the colon diameter; eventually the cat is unable to pass anything. This requires medical intervention - flushing the faeces out (usually under anaesthetic) and following up with an increased fibre diet and drugs which stimulate bowel movement. Eventually, these also stop working and surgical removal of a section of the colon is needed for the cat to return to health. This procedure goes in and out of favour, but the techniques are now refined and do not leave the cat with long term diarrhoea anymore.

So whence goes nutrition from here? We're all living a much more 'refined' life these days and commercial foods are here to stay. I think it is encouraging that the food producers are investigating the 'special needs' of cats so closely at last, and their research is improving life for lots of cats. However, the perfect package is still a mouse, and I always take my comparisons back to that.



**EAST CHATSWOOD  
CAT CLINIC**

346 Penshurst Street  
Willoughby NSW 2068 (parking at rear)  
Telephone **9417 6613** All Hours

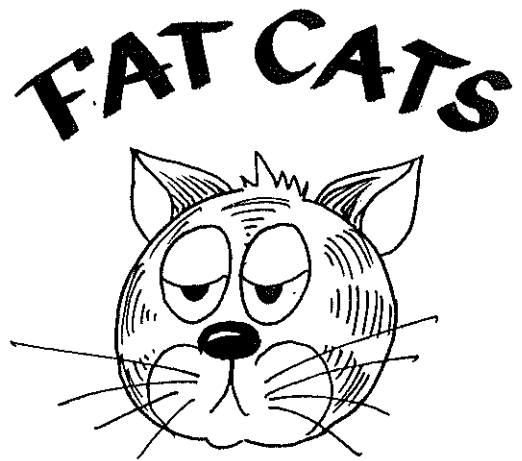
**Dr Kim Kendall**  
BVSc MACVS (Feline Medicine) MRCVS

VET SERVICES • BOARDING • GROOMING • CAT ART • CAT CARE SUPPLIES



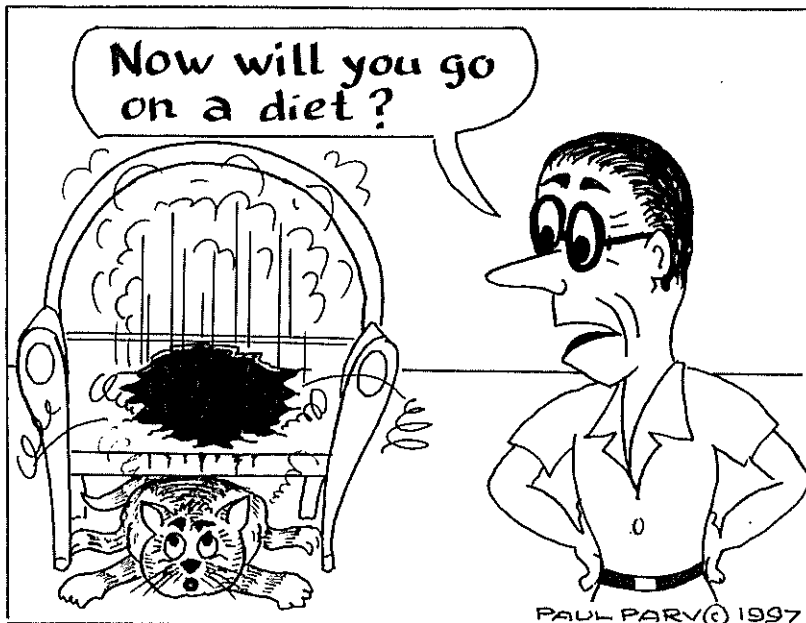
**OBESITY IS DEFINED AS BEING 15% MORE THAN THE OPTIMAL WEIGHT FOR A CAT'S BREED, SIZE AND AGE.**

**OBESITY IS A COMMON NUTRITIONAL PROBLEM FOR APPROXIMATELY 20% OF ADULT CATS.**



Cartoon by Paul Parv

Obesity is a significant problem in today's pet cat and dog population. Unfortunately, it is not often recognised by the pet owner or, if it is recognised, attempts at encouraging the pet to lose weight have failed. Many pet owners do not understand the serious health implications obesity may have. Obesity is usually the result of dietary energy intake exceeding the animal's energy use - resulting in that energy being stored as fat. In some cases, other factors relating to genetics, hormone disorders or other health problems may be involved, but these are rare. It is important that pet owners are warned about the dangers of obesity before the pet becomes obese.



### FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE FOOD INTAKE

With the most common cause of obesity being excessive intake of dietary energy, there are a number of factors that can influence the cat's food intake. These may include:

- \* **Overfeeding** - simply giving the cat more food than is needed to maintain normal body condition.
- \* **Supplements/table scraps** - Adding supplemental meat and fat or the use of table scraps can add high levels of energy to the cat's regular food. In addition, due to their high palatability, these kinds of supplements tend to increase the overall food intake and subsequent calorie consumption.
- \* **Animal competition** - Sometimes when two or more cats are eating from the same bowl or feeder, an animal may overeat or prevent another from getting the food.
- \* **Neutering/spaying** - this in itself does not cause obesity; however, neutered/spayed animals tend to be less active, thus requiring a lower energy intake.

\* **Food from other sources** - Discourage your neighbours from giving your pet extra food and don't allow your cats to eat from trash containers or have access to food from other animals.

\* **Snacks/treats** - These are usually fed between meals as a reward or as a favour to the pet. Since most pet snacks contain a calorie level similar to regular pet food, the regular food needs to be reduced when snacks are fed.

### PHYSICAL PROBLEMS OF OBESITY

Not only does the obese cat present a poor appearance and is usually not as active, it may be more susceptible to health problems that can include:

- \* reduced life span.
- \* Impaired heart and breathing functions.
- \* Digestive disturbances including constipation and flatulence.
- \* Increased surgical risk because anesthesia levels are more difficult to assess and suturing is more difficult. Also the body fat can make diagnosis by palpation more difficult.
- \* Impaired liver function.
- \* Reduced heat tolerance.
- \* Skeletal disorders due to increased stress on the skeleton, ligaments and tendons, which in turn may be associated with excessive wear to joint surfaces and degenerative arthritis. This can lead to a reluctance to exercise which can further compound the problem.
- \* Increased risk of diabetes mellitus.

### DIAGNOSIS OF OBESITY

There are a number of ways to determine if a cat is obese. Generally, a severely obese animal is obvious in appearance. Other procedures that can be used include:

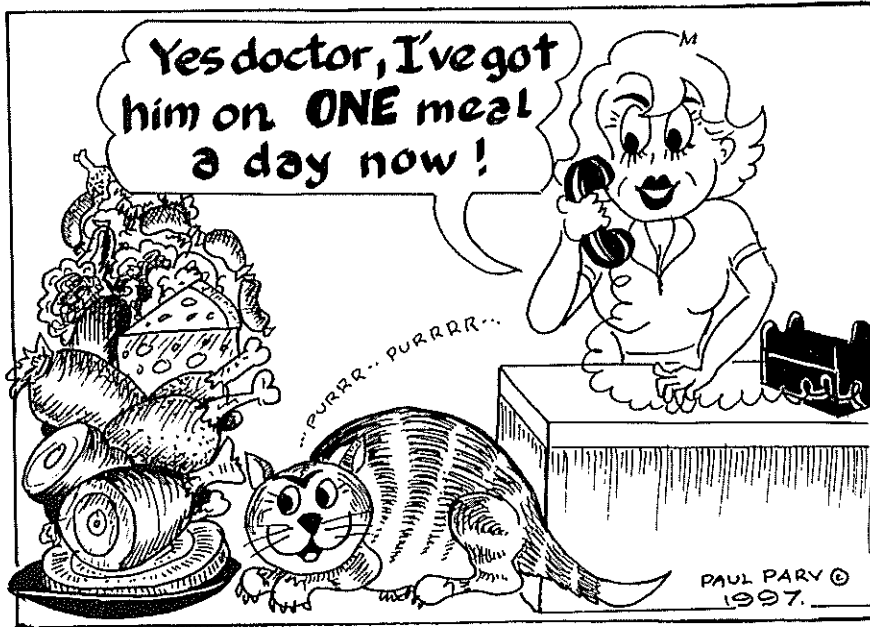
- \* Weighing the cat and comparing its body weight to a similar non-obese pet of the same height and build.
- \* Placing your thumbs on the animal's backbone near the neck. As you move your hands to the cat's hind quarters, feel the flesh over the ribs with your fingers. If you cannot easily feel the rib outline, obesity may be a factor.
- \* Observe the cat from the side and from above. If the area between the rib cage and hips does not tuck in and it appears pendulous, there may be a weight problem.
- \* If you are uncertain about the condition of your cat, check with your veterinarian.

## MANAGEMENT OF OBESITY

Trying to 'fast' or 'starve' excess pounds off a cat by restricting daily water intake is hazardous to the cat's health and is not recommended. As in human nutrition, the healthiest way to have a cat shed extra weight is to follow a sound dietary program designed to reduce body weight gradually under the supervision of a veterinarian and increase the pet's exercise level.

The following suggestions can be used to help bring an overweight pet down to normal body condition. These suggestions are not intended to replace the recommendations of a veterinarian.

- \* Eliminate added meat, fat and table scraps. Do not increase the cat's regular diet.
- \* If snacks/treats are fed, reduce the regular diet accordingly.
- \* Eliminate all other of the cat's food sources, such as trash containers, food offered by neighbours, etc.
- \* If a growth diet is being fed, change to a 'lite' lower-energy diet.
- \* Weigh the cat at the start of the weight reduction program, and continue the weighing on a weekly basis. Record the date and weights.
- \* Determine how much your pet should weigh, then feed the amount of food required for that weight level. If after a period of 4-5 weeks there has been no reduction in the cat's weight, reduce food intake by 25%.
- \* Provide the pet with more exercise. This can be difficult with cats. Encourage your cat to play more and some cats can be trained to walk on a lead.
- \* Provide a constant supply of fresh drinking water.
- \* Feed smaller food portions more often. Take the reduced quantity of food and divide it so it is fed in two or three smaller meals which tends to keep the cat more satisfied.
- \* Follow the cat's progress on a weight chart. Remember, the cat did not gain the extra weight in 2 or 3 months and should not be expected to lose it in that time.



**Owner compliance is the hardest to achieve. The owner must understand that they are totally responsible for the feeding of the cat.**

A kilogram of body fat has about 7,700 calories. For the animal to lose this amount of weight, a calorie deficiency of this amount will have to occur. Once the pet owner understands that the cat is over

weight it is important to have their commitment to putting the animal on a diet and for the continuing success of that diet. They must also understand the dangers and potential risk of obesity, but most importantly, they must feel positive about their animal losing weight.

To increase the chances of success - it is beneficial to include the whole family in the program. This will provide a support to the person responsible for feeding. Also, different family members can substitute attention or gentle exercise in situations where the animal may have been fed snacks or treats.

## THE WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

When preparing a plan for the cat to lose weight it is necessary to first have a clear understanding of the animal's routine. Therefore questions like these need to be asked:

Who is responsible for feeding the cat

Who else feeds?

Does the cat get snacks or treats?

How active is the cat?

What does it eat and how much?

It is important to get a clear picture of the existing diet, amount of exercise, snacks and treats, where else the cat can obtain food, etc. Also, the cat should probably be checked by a veterinarian to rule out any other health problems.

Once this has been done it is necessary to decide on a realistic target weight. This may not be the animal's ideal weight, but it is better to set a realistic target and then re-evaluate later. Once the target weight is decided, calculate the metabolic energy requirement for maintenance at that weight and reduce by 25%. Then measure the quantity of food that supplies that amount of energy.

It is important to utilise a diet that will supply the reduced calories the cat needs, as well as all the other nutrients required. For this reason a LITE FORMULA may be preferred. These formulas also have the advantage of slightly increased fibre to increase the cat's satisfaction. Meals should be measured and no extras or treats given. It is sometimes preferable to divide the food into several small meals as this increases the cat's satisfaction as well as the rate of metabolism which can help with weight loss.

The other factor in weight loss is exercise. An exercise program should be started carefully and slowly. It is preferable that exercise is in the form of short games gradually increasing rather than anything too vigorous initially.

Encourage the household to keep a chart, and to bring the cat back for a weight check-up each fortnight. Make sure you record the weight and offer plenty of encouragement and support.

Not all animals lose weight predictably. Some gain many even be noticed at some stages. It is important that the overall trend is a reduction.

An adult cat, with normal activity, requires only a maintenance diet. During the maintenance period, a good quality nutritionally complete and balanced cat food, such as **Pro Plan Cat Adult Formula** should be fed. Normal active adult cats require a lower level of nutrients per kilogram of body weight than during growth. These nutrients can be provided by feeding a food that is complete and balanced for maintenance of the adult cat, such as **Pro Plan Cat Adult Formula**.

Maintenance type foods are lower in protein, energy and other nutrients than cat foods designed for all life stages.

Usually canned and semi-moist cat foods are more palatable and cost more per feeding than dry foods. Dry type foods are the lowest in cost per feeding, the most convenient to feed, and help to keep the cat's teeth clean. All three types can be formulated to provide complete and balanced nutrition for the adult cat.

Which ever type of food is used, it should be nutritionally complete and balanced and have a nutritional claim based on actual cat feeding studies. Also, it should be from a reputable company that maintains a consistent quality control program. Because of the difference in nutritional requirements, dog foods should not be fed to cats.

**The average 3-4 kilo cat with normal activity requires about 70 calories per kilogram of body weight per day.**

**It is much easier to prevent obesity due to excessive calorie intake, than it is to reduce it once it has occurred. New light diets (low calorie/reducing) both in kibble and canned food, have been specially formulated to control a cat's weight and are now widely available in veterinary surgeries.**

Body metabolism in cats, as in people, is very individual. Even when all other factors are the same, two cats of the same size, age and activity may need different amounts of food simply because they have different metabolism rates. For the average cat it takes about 75-85 grams of dry food, or about 155-170 grams of canned food per day. Food intake can vary somewhat from day to day which is not a problem, unless the reduced food intake persists for several days or the cat shows symptoms of illness.

Package feeding instructions are a guide to start the feeding program. Through observation of the cat's body condition, the amount of food should be adjusted, if necessary, to maintain a good body weight. In fact, it is preferable to have them slightly lean.

Once your cat sheds the excess weight, every effort should be made to maintain normal body condition through proper feeding and exercise programs. It is not true that neutered and spayed cats will always gain weight. These animals tend to be slightly less active, which means they need fewer calories. Weight can usually be controlled by limiting food intake or by feeding a specially formulated Lite Diet with fewer calories and fat.

*Copy courtesy of Ralston Purina, makers of PRO-PLAN LITE CAT ADULT FORMULA, a specially formulated nutritionally balanced cat food to help maintain proper weight and condition for cats who have finished their active growth. Detailed feeding instructions on each packet. Pro-Plan Lite is available at veterinary surgeons and pet shops along with a complete range of Pro-Plan foods for cats and kittens.*

Thanks to Paul Parv, a CPS member, whose creativity and originality has produced the Fat Cat cartoons for Cat Affairs' Obesity feature.

## THE FEAST

Thomas Fenwick

Gruesome Gilbert was not fine  
for on the most peculiar things he would dine  
toenails, bats wings, newts ears and more  
Gruesome Gilbert did adore  
but poor old Gilbert was not content  
at the food that got sent  
in his gob and down his stomach  
so he laid down in his hammock  
he looked hungrily at his cat  
and then he said 'fancy that'  
he ran into the kitchen to prepare for his meal  
a treasure trove of copper, nickel and steel  
he ran outside to fetch his cat  
there it was on the mat  
he charged at it with knife and fork  
and thought to himself this will go well with cork  
he chased the cat up a tree  
and there it giggled happily  
he ran inside to fetch a broom  
the cat thought he'll be back soon  
and when he does he will dine  
and eat up all this body of mine  
when he came back charging still  
the cat jumped on the window sill  
then the cat jumped and what do you know  
he was et by Gruesome Gilbert from head to toe  
so let that be a lesson to all you cats  
because if you get way too fat  
your owner will eat you up like that.



***A cat with whiskers can successfully navigate around obstacles in the dark while a cat without whiskers requires far more light to avoid hitting obstructions.***







# REMEMBRANCE

*The end of any life is a profound moment. It doesn't matter whether it is the death of a dog, a friend, or a songbird.*

*Either all death is important or no death is important.*

*Animals as Teachers and Healers Susan Chernak McElroy*



Living beyond the deaths of my animal companions, I learned that time softens the hurt and sweetens the memories. And my animal companions have returned to live again in my heart. I am reminded over and over that love doesn't know death.

*Animals As Teachers and Healers, Susan Chernak McElroy*



*To the reader who advised that Remembrance was spelled incorrectly. Thank you! The Editor is threatening the editorial staff with empty bowls if one (or more) doesn't confess to the deed but they are all resolutely maintaining their defense in the manner of the infamous Mal Colston - 'It wasn't me what done it'.*

## APHRODITE

In memory of Aphrodite, my little 'Possum"  
Ron Lloyd, Narara

## BILBO

In memory of Bilbo, who gave ten years of love and companionship. He always knew he was loved.

Bruce Strath, Redfern

## MY REMEMBRANCES

These pictures show my way of remembering my past loved ones. These plaques are placed either side of a path that leads from the back door up the yard so they are a constant reminder of what has been. Since Ching Ching left me my health, which was starting to break, became worse and I became catless and have had to remain so. Mrs Marjorie Willis, Dee Why

## DEDICATION©

Kathleen Fernandes

That grey August day  
she knew  
death was imminent.  
I talked  
for the sake of talk  
believed  
hid my fears.  
Looked out  
at empty garden  
Marigolds turned pale  
grew limp.  
Wept, then softly  
called her name.  
Memories of her  
running, eyes bright  
me laughing.  
Seven years since  
she arrived  
one April morning.  
Charmed me with her  
beauty, manners, warmth.  
Seven years, she thrived  
then departed,  
listless, dull eyes  
ragged coat.

## SOXIE

In memory of our beloved cat, Soxie, age 17, who was laid to rest 15 May 1997. We miss you deeply; you were so gentle, so lovable - you will always be part of us.

The Cornale Family, Greenacre

## SAMUEL

Dearest Sam, We lost you on 27 January. You were 12 years old. You were so brave during your illness. We will never forget that 'silent meow' or your sweet nature. Sammy, we miss you so much.

C, T & J Ford, St Peters

## CHOLE

Please accept this donation in memory of my beautiful Chole taken in June 1996. Rusty is missing you heaps.

Your Mum, S Ingram, Wyong

## JASPER

In memory of our darling old man, Jasper, who died earlier this year.

M Lloyd

## CHEEKY

1981 - 1997. Thank you, CPS, for our loving, gentle, spirited tortiseshell whom we adored. Her beauty is eternal.

Owen and Merea McCloskey



## ALF WOOD

In memory of Alf Wood, a man who was deeply passionate about his cats, the last one dying only two days after he had passed away.

Judy Swanson, Collaroy Plateau

*Cat's achieve without effort what is denied to humans: to go silently through life.*

*Ernest Hemingway*

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

**MRS ELIZABETH SMITH**

It is with the deepest regret that I have to report the passing of Mrs Elizabeth (Celie) Smith on April 23 after an illness lasting several months. Celie was a double-certificate nursing sister, member of the NSW College of Nursing, a qualified podiatrist and also an Hon. Inspector of the RSPCA. For many years she worked solely for the welfare of animals - the sick, ill treated and abandoned were her primary concern. They will all be the poorer for her passing, especially in the Penrith area. Her last act of kindness before the onset of her illness was to take 9 unwanted puppies to the AWL shelter at Hoxton Park. When she suggested to the owners that they have the dogs desexed, she was verbally abused and physically threatened, and left very hurriedly. She will also be greatly missed by friends and animals alike - we were close friends for over 30 years. Vale, Celie - your own cats are safe and happy at Hoxton Park

**GRIEVE THAT SHE HAS GONE - BUT BE GLAD THAT SHE HAS BEEN**

Cherie Martin, Marrickville



## Pets At Peace

Pets should be farewelled with style and with a dignified send-off which a best friend and family member deserves, believes Craig Mitchell, National Manager of Pets At Peace. He's a devoted animal lover and NSW Ambulance Paramedic Officer who commenced Pets At Peace to make bereavement a little easier for pet owners.

After his own pet of thirteen years, Suzie, passed away, Craig discovered, much to his dismay, that there were no organisations offering the type of service he required. The death of Suzie proved to be the catalyst for Craig's entry into a niche market which, less than a year down the track, has blossomed into a fruitful national business.

He's a funeral director with a difference. You could be forgiven for believing that Craig Mitchell has a 'thing' about death. Craig was one of the Paramedic Officers that revived Mr Kerry Packer after his cardiac arrest, and is the author of the current best selling book, 'Near Death, stories from the other side', currently in its third print run and recently released in the UK.

The objective of Pets At Peace is to give the family pet a worthy farewell. Too often pet owners have no option but to dig a hole in the backyard or leave the pet at the veterinarian for disposal. "It's no way to treat your ever faithful best friend and when you move on it often leaves the family feeling distressed that their 'mate' is being left behind."

Pets at Peace is a family owned and operated business which offers affordable cremation, home burials and a memorial plaque service to owners of dearly departed pets.

The cremation service includes collection of your pet from your home or the veterinarian, an individual cremation service and the return of your pet's ashes in a lovely hand-potted urn. The fee is only \$175.00 "The integrity of our organisation and attention to detail guarantees the return of your pet's ashes", Craig Mitchell assures.

Pets At Peace ensure individual cremations which follow a set procedure so there's no risk of confusion at the crematorium. The company uses only quality Australian products. Caskets are handsomely designed with the Urns and Memorial Plaques hand crafted. Yet Pets At Peace offer their service at very realistic prices giving animal lovers a viable alternative to pets ending up in a hole or dumped at the municipal rubbish tip after a lifetime of dedication and devotion. Alternatively, Pets At Peace can also offer a dignified pet disposal service without the return of your pet's ashes, only \$85.00. The pets are not individually cremated using this method.

Craig Mitchell states, 'The fact that we have been invited by national and electronic and print media outlets such as 'Burkes Backyard', 'The Who Weekly', 'Australasian Post', and numerous community papers, national magazines and TV just reinforces the fact that we are not fly-by-nighters' and are, in fact, here to stay for a long time for the pet lovers of Australia."

**Pets At Peace is open to animal lovers in Sydney, Illawarra, Brisbane, Canberra and the Gold Coast through a national free call number 1800 636 797.**





# EMILY STACKMAN CLAY ARTIST



There is something in the creation of my generous, yet finely thrown porcelain pots that is joyful and fulfilling. They feel both sensuous and humorous. I trust they fully express the love of life I put into them. They are robust and well created and are designed for every day use.

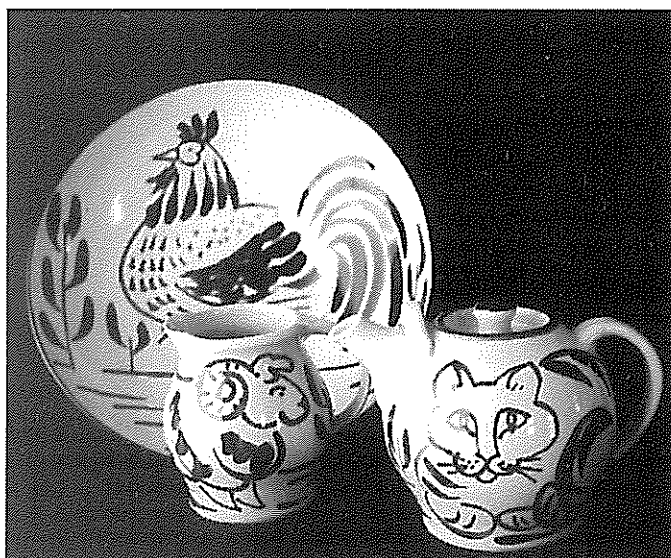
My ware is porcelain style clay body. The pots are finely thrown and the outside has a pattern chattered into it during turning. The decoration is painted onto the raw work rather than the bisque.

I cannot change the design nor rework any mistakes and the cobalt colouring is so strong it cannot be removed cleanly - this means that every brush stroke has to be perfect at the first draw.

After the low temperature bisque firing a clear glaze is applied and the work then fired in a neutral-reduction gas kiln to 1280°.

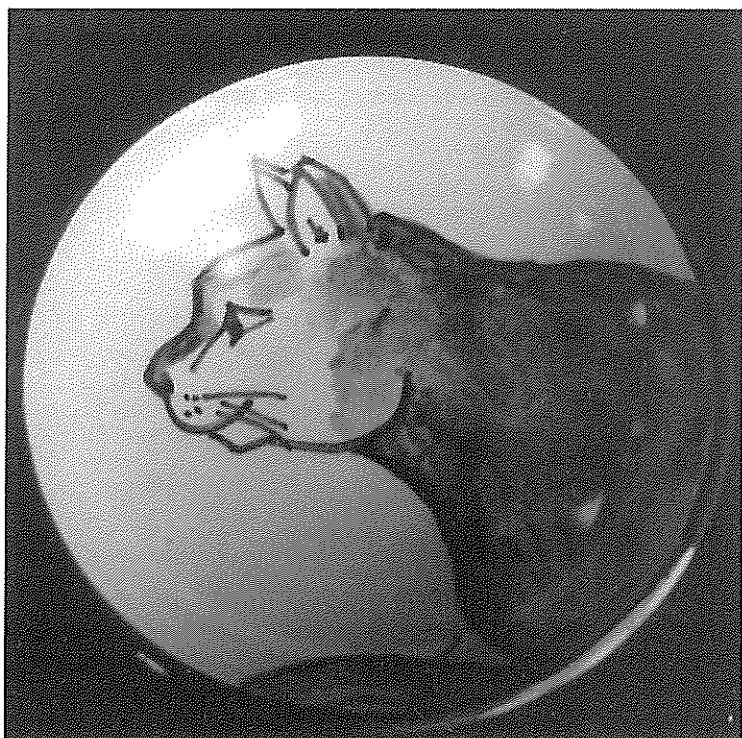
I was born in Sydney in 1963. I had an unusual childhood, nomadically drifting around Europe for most of my formative years. Italy and Spain fascinated me with their honest pottery with beautiful, flowing yet simple decoration. My family are artistic and created an environment full of visual awareness and an understanding of the joy and necessity of creativity.

Now I own a farm of some 300 acres in the central west of NSW. It is wild beautiful country which takes hold of you. Walking in the bush you stumble on goannas and echidnas, kangaroos and wallabies. The beautiful willow lined creeks harbour platypus, trout and water rats. In the paddocks are the sheep and cattle, and everywhere my gentle chooks, dogs and cats.



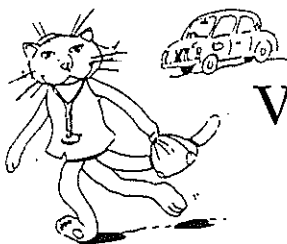
Emily started exhibiting in 1982 and has been represented in many solo and group exhibitions in the last 15 years. She has been represented in many publications as well as 'Who's Who of Australian Visual Artists, 1995. Her work is not only functional but very collectable.

Emily Stackman is represented in galleries and shops in Sydney, Perth, Orange, Blayney, Bathurst, Canberra, Millthorpe and Geurie. **In Sydney her work is available at the East Chatswood Cat Clinic, 346 Penshurst St, Willoughby and at Puss 'N Pooch Gallery, 269-271 Darling Street, Balmain and The Mura Clay Gallery, King Street, Newtown.**



"A wanderer himself, he is full of reproaches if I am gone beyond the expected time, yet plays with my anxieties when he is late, drifting slowly out of the darkness as if he cannot hear my calling."

Samantha Armstrong



# HOUSE CALL VETERINARIAN

Dr Kathy Furolo BVSc (Hons)

"Tigah" lay on the dining room rug, eyes closed, feet tucked under, worshipping the sun. There was a knock at the door, his ears twitched, and Mum went to answer.

"Hi, I'm Kathy the Vet, and this is my nurse Danielle. We're here to see Tigah for his yearly booster, I believe."

"Where would you like to look at him?"

"Well, why don't we disturb him as little as possible."

Danielle and I approached Tigah on his 'throne'. We've heard of his reputation as a vet hater. We both come down to cat level and go for the throat. With a few swift firm strokes to his chin he is motoring well. While fondling his huge head I examine his ears, eyes, nose and teeth.

He continues to purr, unaware that he is undergoing his yearly vet check. The rub extends down his back and over his rump, with a subtle roll onto his back to examine his tummy. Skin's good, but, oops, there's a flea ... "Let me tell you about this great new product for fleas...."

Back into upright position and Danni and I swap ends. I subtly lift his tail and slip my thermometer into place. The purring temporarily stops and I place my stethoscope on Tigah's chest to check his heart and lungs. All is normal. Danni tickles his chin and the motor starts up again. She hands me the vaccinations which I insert under the loose skin at the back of the neck. He doesn't budge. The motor continues.



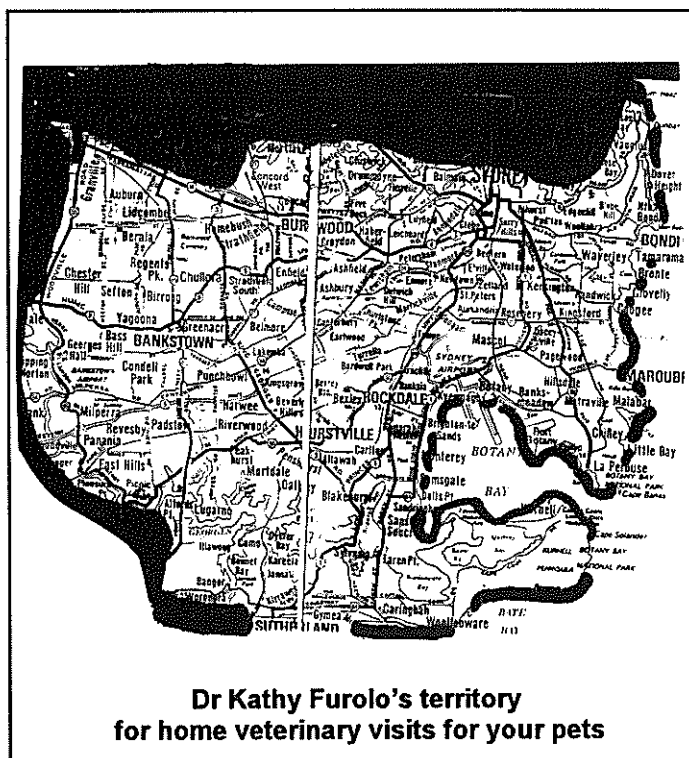
Kathy & Lou Lou, Danielle & Ruby

Tigah continues to lie on his rug and worship the sun. He has just had his yearly check-up and vaccination.

Hi, my name's Kathy Furolo and I'm a House Call Vet. I like to think that I make life easier for people with pets. I cover most of the south side of Sydney from the Eastern Suburbs to Engadine, to Wattle Grove. House calls are not a novel concept and if I don't cover your area I guarantee there will be someone who will.

Many people prefer house calls. People whose cats or dogs get stressed in the car or at the Vet Hospital, people who don't drive, owners with multiple pets, or multiple children for that matter. (Try putting 3 kids under the age of 7, plus a dog, plus a cat, into the car and going to the vet, and waiting in the waiting room and ...)

What sort of service do I offer? Basically I book appointments for 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday. We do most things that can be done in your average consultation at the Clinic - vaccinations, worming, skin problems, flea advice, etc. For things requiring a hospital, such as surgery, anaesthesia, X-Rays and hospitalisation, we offer a pick up and delivery service.



Dr Kathy Furolo's territory  
for home veterinary visits for your pets

Although most home visits are as routine as Tigah's, some unusual situations can happen at home. Occasionally I will arrive to find that the cat, and sometimes the dog, is 'not home yet!' Sometimes I have had to actually collect my patients from under beds, on top of wardrobes and behind stereos. I once even crawled on my belly under a house (about 40 cm high) to rescue a dog who had been hit by a car and wouldn't come out! (Please note, this is not a frequent occurrence and I'm not necessarily going to repeat it on a regular basis!

But, at the end of the day, while sitting back with my own menagerie of 3 cats (Ruby, Rastus and Fox), 2 dogs (Lou Lou, the Great Dane and Daisy, the Boxer) and husband, Rob, I think I have a pretty special job, with pretty special clients and their very special pets.

If you think you would like to try a house call from a vet, give me a call! Dr Kathy Furolo 0419 220 262, Pager 016 631 238.

# BENCHING YOUR CAT

## The Joys of showing

Showing your cat is no longer limited to pedigreed cats and many cat shows now include classes for domestic exhibits. Domestic owners are encouraged to show their cats and several cat clubs have worked together to make a comprehensive brochure on showing procedures for owners who want to try a cat show for the first time.

All cat shows are controlled by the RAS Cat Control and subject to strict rules and regulations to minimize trauma and danger of disease to entrants (both feline and human) and to ensure safe surroundings for all. The rules are enforced and every show has a RAS representative on hand from beginning to end to ensure that all conditions are met and each representative is required to submit a written report on each show they supervise.

### ELIGIBILITY

In order to enter a show a domestic cat must not resemble a purebred (in other words, a pet quality pedigree cat that has never been registered cannot be entered in a domestic class). Any other cat or kitten can be entered as long as the entry is older than 10 weeks, is desexed (no entire domestic cats can be shown), is clean and free of fleas, can be handled, and has a current vaccination. All entrants must pass a veterinary inspection prior to being allowed to enter the benching area. Both the vet and his steward (a person qualified to handle cats at shows) will disinfect their hands and the table after checking each exhibit. If a cat or kitten shows signs of flu, fleas, ear mites or other health problems, the vet surgeon can insist the animal be immediately removed from the show hall to a special quarantine area or be taken home. In this way the show authorities endeavour to safeguard the health of all the exhibits.



*Colleen Evenhuis judging a shorthair domestic in front of the show cages. Some cats behind her have winning rosettes on their cages.*

### BENCHING

Benching is the term used to denote that a cat is in its show cage. Show cages are provided by the show committee and set up on both sides of trestle tables. Each show cage has heavy stout cardboard back and sides and wire mesh top and front. Double cages are available but they entail a small extra charge because they take up more room on the bench but are almost mandatory for large cats who sometimes find the standard size cages somewhat confining.

While the show committee provides the show cages, it is up to each domestic exhibitor to supply a white towel or cushion to put in the bottom of the cage during judging. First time exhibitors can often

borrow white show curtains from the organisers for their first show. This gives them a chance to see if this new venture is fun for all (if so they then buy their own curtains which are usually available at one of the stalls at the show) or fun for a day only so no unnecessary expense is incurred.

### JUDGING

If pedigree cats are judged on their type (how well they represent their particular breed), coat, eye colour, eye shape, etc, how are domestic exhibits judged when domestic cats vary so much?

Domestic cats are entered in one of 4 main classes; neuter kitten, spay kitten (under 10 months); neuter cat, spay cat (over 10 months). Naturally leeway is granted on the age since birth dates are often unknown. Vets are good at judging the age of a young cat to see if it qualifies as a cat or kitten. Besides the main sex/age class, you can choose to enter your cat(s) in classes such as 'purrsonality exhibit', 'most appealing face', 'Best groomed', 'longest tail', etc.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING WITH YOU

- \* - your cat in a secure cat carry cage.
- \* - a white towel for each of your cats to sit on in its Show Cage during judging.
- \* - a small litter tray and 'soft' litter. The Exelpet type of tray is ideal and clay litter that could damage hall floors is discouraged.
- \* - a small tin of food or a small serve of dry food and a bowl.
- \* - a small stable dish for water
- \* - a grooming brush and/or comb for that final preening
- \* - an appropriate sized bag to carry it all.

### WHAT HAPPENS ON SHOW DAY?

When you enter a show the show secretary will send you specific information for that show.

- \* - Vetting - the majority of shows open for vetting from 7-8:30 am. The cat must be transported in a secure carry cage and it is important to arrive before vetting closes to ensure your cat is accepted.
- \* - As you enter the hall (follow all the other cat cages - the entrance is not hard to find by eye (or ear!) there will be a registration desk just inside. The official will hand you your benching slip and vetting slip. Still following the queue, wait for the vet. When the vet is ready to check your cat you hand the steward the vetting slip, put your cage on the table and hand the vet your cat. The vet checks the cat's eyes, mouth, nose, anus and coat. If he is happy with the cat's condition he signs the slip and you're ready to bench your cat.
- \* - If this is your first show just mention the fact when you book in at the registration desk and one of the show staff will ensure that you are escorted to the vetting table and then will take you to your cat's cage and help you 'bench' your cat. This involves tying on the curtains, putting the towel, folded neatly, on the floor of the cage and putting your cat inside. It is a good idea to give it a chance at the litter tray but no food or water at this stage so there's no extra pressure on bowel and bladder in the next 3-4 hours.
- \* - The rest of your kit, along with the carry cage, goes under the trestle under your cat and you're ready to chat with your neighbours and look at the other exhibits. You can get a catalogue with your benching slip so you can find out which cats are in your classes and assess their chances against your entry.
- \* - You will be advised when judging starts at which time you have to have everything but the cat, curtains and towel out of the cage.



Chairs are often provided in front of the domestic judging area so you can watch the judging (vocal barracking for 'your team' is not recommended but soft applause if it places is okay.) (Note the 'soft'. Cats in strange places can be toey so a cat show tries to maintain a quiet and serene atmosphere to minimize stressing the cats.)

#### DURING JUDGING

You will be required to leave the Domestic Exhibits Show area during judging. The judges and their stewards will move around the cages taking each cat and kitten out to view it closely and assess it against the standards. Working in this way the judges place the exhibits entered in each class in rank order. Judging can take 1-2 hours, depending on the number of exhibits.

#### AFTER JUDGING

Once judging has been completed you will be told you may move back into the Domestic Exhibits Show Area to tend your cat(s) with litter, food and water, plus a lot of love. Many shows then put cards on each cage with the name of the exhibit and the owner in readiness for the Domestic Exhibits being opened to the general public. Soon the Award Cards will be placed on the cages along with any prizes or ribbons the cat has won. Finally the public is allowed in to view the cats. You are allowed to take your cat out to show interested viewers but you must hold it firmly so it does not escape from your control. The Show remains open till 4. You can easily leave your cat in its cage and have a bite to eat or view the other exhibits in the Domestic and Pedigree sections. Owners next to you are always happy 'to keep an eye on him/her' just to set your mind at ease.

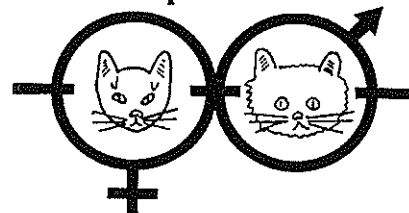
Most shows have a number of trader stalls where you can buy all sorts of cat paraphenelia and there is always the large pedigree section that is worth a good browse through. All in all - it's a good day's fun. It's great having a full day just talking cat, cat, cat with people of like mind and it is a pleasure viewing all the varieties of domestics and the many pedigree breeds that are benched. And there's always that very good chance that your pride and joy will take home a ribbon, rosette or trophy.



*Judging a domestic entry for coat and condition*

## THE ALL BREEDS DESEXED CAT CLUB

presents



### DESEXED CATS ON PARADE

**SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1997**

**St George Police Citizens youth Club**

**Ador Avenue, Rockdale**

**Entries close 31 October**

**FOR DETAILS AND ENTRY FORMS** phone Marion Dunn (02) 9153-6870 or send a stamped self addressed envelope for a show schedule to Mrs Marion Dunn, PO 195, Bexley NSW 2207. The schedule contains all the information about entering the show and an entry form. Minimum cost of entry for a domestic cat/kitten is \$15 and all exhibitors will receive a rosette or ribbon as a memento of their participation in the show - plus any prizes won.

The All Breeds Desexed Cat Club of Australasia will be holding its successful Annual Show for desexed Pedigreed and Household Pet cats on 23 November. The All Breeds Desexed Cat Club is unique in Australasia, being the only cat club devoted exclusively to the welfare and showing of desexed cats. As well as providing a focus for those who own desexed cats and enjoy showing them, one of the other objectives of the Club is the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

It is expected that over 150 pedigree desexed cats and kittens and over 30 household pets, will be competing in the Show. "Australian Open Style" judging of all sections will commence at approximately 10.30 am. Seating will be available to enable exhibitors and the public to sit and watch and listen to the judge's commentary on the individual cats and kittens. The judge of the household section will be the well respected NSW judge, Mrs Val Hurry. The show concludes at 4pm.

In addition to the cats and kittens on exhibition there will be a number of trader stalls selling 'cat' products. Everything from jewellery and clothing featuring cats, through products for cats and cat owners. These will give the exhibitors and the public alike the opportunity to purchase that special Christmas present for their cat loving friends and relatives. The Cat Protection Society donates prizes to the Domestic Section and runs a fund raising stall as well as they fully support the All Breeds Desexed Cat Club's desexing and responsible pet ownership principles. Tickets will also be on sale for the Club's guessing competition which offers a range of prizes including a giant Christmas Hamper and a cat scratching post.

I don't mind a cat - in its place. But its place is not the middle of my back at 4 a.m.  
*Mynard Good Stoddard*

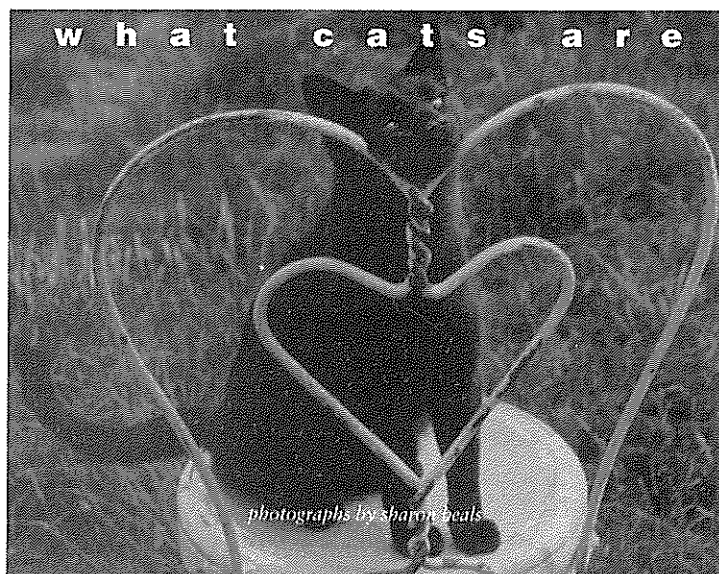
# BOOK REVIEWS

Lee Wright

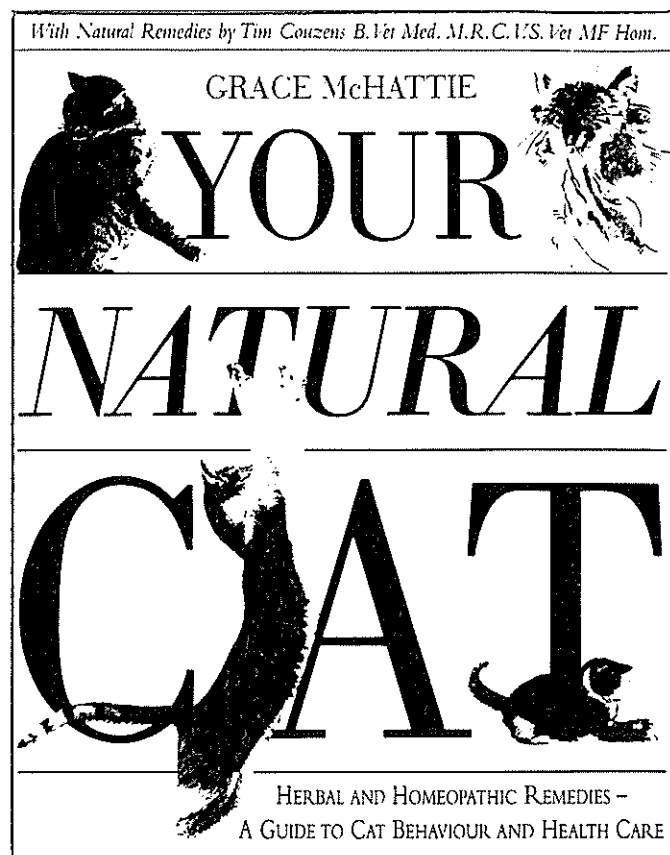
**YOUR NATURAL CAT**, Grace McHattie, Peribo Books, \$16.95. If you are going to buy one cat book this year - this is the one! It is not a big book - which means finding what you want is easy. Yet it is crammed full of hints on cat care, how to handle cats, why cats do what cats do, behaviour tips, grooming, feeding, medicating. There is clear and concise information throughout the book on homeopathic remedies for common feline problems. With a minimum of reading, and some good photographs and sketches, you can learn a tremendous amount about your cat and ways to make its life better. The writing style is light and succinct so even people who are not keen readers can enjoy this. I rate it as one of the best information books to cross my desk and recommend it for cat owners of all degrees of expertise. The price represents great value as well as putting it easily in the gift category if you need something special for a cat loving friend. But think of yourself - and your own cats, before or as you think of your friends. ☺☺☺☺

**BAD KITTY**, Lynn Chang, Peribo Books, \$12.95. This is another children's book that covers 'kids' of all ages. This brightly coloured pop-up book has twirls and tabs that show Bad Kitty doing all those naughty things we know so well. The best (to my way of thinking) is the cat scratching the chair, each quarter turn of the wheel shows ever more fabric shredding. It's a treat. Ages 5+. ☺☺☺

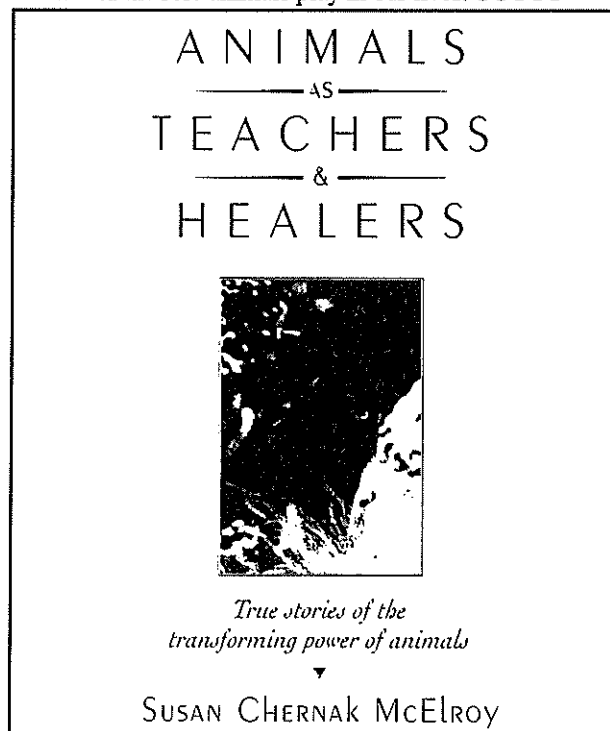
**WHAT CATS ARE**, photographer: Sharon Beals, Peribo Books \$14.95. This is a simple book full of charm. The left page has one word that illustrates the cat on the right. It is a small book but holds a wealth of quality cat photographs that are instantly appealing. For collectors of cat books, for cat lovers, for that very special gift - this would be hard to pass by. ☺☺☺☺



**THE CAT IN PHOTOGRAPHY**, Sally Eaclaire, Peribo Books, \$29.95. Cats have appeared in photographs since man began clicking the shutter. The earliest photos in this book date to 1850 and run to the mid 1980's. The photos capture cats as the complete subject or augmenting the story the photographer wants to tell. The various photographs show the way photography has matured and how the cat has always had a major role in film. Some of the world's finest photographers are represented and their works of art make good viewing and put The Cat in Photography high on the list of books to buy. (Check out page 69 for the cat in all of us). ☺☺☺



**ANIMALS AS TEACHERS AND HEALERS**, Susan Chernak McElroy, Random House \$19.95. Here is a heartwarming collection of recent, true stories showing how animals can enrich our lives. These fascinating tales open our eyes to the immense joy, the mystery and the beneficial effects that animals can offer us; from healing our spirits to teaching us profound but gentle life-lessons. Here we learn of wonderful cats, dogs, horses, dolphins, birds, deer and many other animals who have helped people as guides, guardians, soul-menders, inspirers and comforters in many extraordinary and uplifting ways. This book affirms the profound significance of the role animals play in our lives. ☺☺☺☺



## DONATION FORM

The Membership Secretary, The Cat Protection Society of NSW,  
103 Enmore Road, ENMORE NSW 2042 Ph (02) 9557-1011, 9519-7201

**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:**

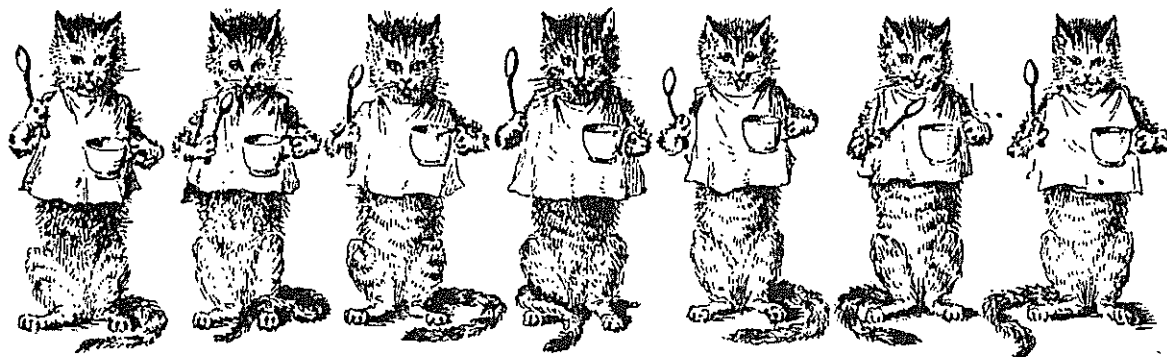
**Where a specific amount of money or a specific asset is to be bequeathed the form would be:**

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 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 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.**



## Don't forget us in your will

The Cat Protection Society has been actively involved in feline welfare since 1957. We have worked tirelessly to promote legislation, desexing and responsible pet ownership. Our management is totally voluntary but we employ field and office staff and maintain premises and our specially designed vans. We get revenue from our Opportunity Shop (staffed by volunteers) but the needs of homeless cats call for more resources than we have.

We are asking you to consider including The Cat Protection Society in your will. Whatever you can leave us will ensure the continuance of our welfare work in the coming years. There is a Bequest Form on this page or phone our office for a confidential discussion on how you can help us in our work.



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

**The Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042. Ph 02 9557-1011**

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	<b>Annual Membership</b>	(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 .....

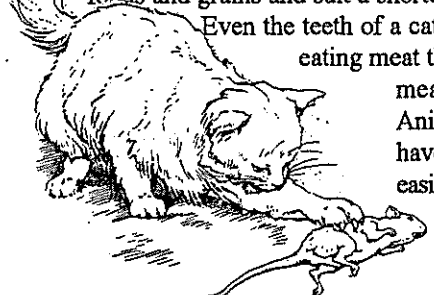
## NEW MEMBERS

April 1997 - June 1997

Ms K Barnett, Mosman; Miss D Bliim, Revesby Heights; Mr B Bridgett, Como West; Miss LJ Brown, Merrylands; Mrs LP Brown, Seven Hills; SW Cieply, Lane Cove; Miss S Davies, Guildford; Ms E Devine, North Parramatta; I&M Dunn, Bexley; Ms J Fitzpatrick, Sutherland; Dr KL Furolo, Beverley Hills; Miss W Haskell, Kincumber; Ms V Heaps, North Parramatta; Mr J Hyland, Regents Park; Mrs I Johanson, Miranda; Mr WK Kaukerei, Durras South; Mr S Kelly, Alexandria; Miss J Lowry, Waitara; Mrs BC McCarty, Epping; Miss NL Mason, Gladesville; Dr M Meek, Casula; Mrs F Meszes, Queanbeyan; Ms R Murrell, Castlecrag; Miss G Nunziato, Kogarah; Miss SEP Pardey, Leichhardt; Mrs E Proctor, Beacon Hill; Miss X Pythagoras, Monterey; Mr AS Renme, Baulkham Hills; Mrs AJ Ricketts, Croydon Park; SF Russell, Potts Point; Mrs W Shaw, Bankstown; Mr AF Smith, Chatswood; Ms F Smith, Roseville; Mrs E Townsend, Kincumber; Miss T Upton, East Hills; Miss E Weine, Karana Downs; Mrs DF Williams, Campsie; Ms L Zusters, Lilyfield.

## MEAT THE NEED

Cats have a short digestive tract so they are less efficient in digesting food. Animal products are more readily digested than plant foods and grains and suit a shorter digestive tract.



Even the teeth of a cat are designed for eating meat they are sharp and meant for tearing. Animals that graze have flat teeth that easily grind their food.

Cat Affairs

## FULL

## MOON



A rational theory concerning the effect of the full moon on animals and humans comes from Carl Sagan, an eminent scientist. In much of the time of the evolution of the brain, man was lower down in the food chain and was the prey of many larger carnivores. Having puny defenses to protect himself, man tended to move during the light of the day and stay under cover at night when the dark afforded him some protection. However, the relative safety of the night was minimised during full moons, leaving a genetic imprint of danger and unease in the minds of many homosapiens who, even in the modern world, can become edgy and erratic during this time.

Animals, accustomed since the dawn of time to taking advantage of darkness both for safety and for hunting, can experience anxiety at the times of a full moon and this anxiety is expressed in out-of-the-ordinary behavioural activities.



Spring 1997

While we're on the subject of obesity ...

## HOLLOW LEG SYNDROME IN CATS

Hollow Leg Syndrome, characterised by a morbid fear of starving to death, has been on the increase among the cat population in recent years. Although not actually in itself fatal, it is doubtful whether a cure will be forthcoming in the foreseeable future and at least to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

In the past these unfortunate cats were unfairly categorised as 'greedy' until inspired guesswork followed by painstaking research revealed that they actually had hollow legs. It is almost impossible, even for an expert, to recognise an HLS kitten among a litter without x-rays, but there are pointers one can look for. Firstly, there is an inexplicable weight loss - not in the HLS cat but in all the other members of the litter. The typical HLS kitten has a particularly wide oesophagus, allowing the food to pass through to the stomach, and thence to the legs, without touching the sides, thereby enabling him to finish his own meal at immense speed and to progress to the plates of the tardier members of the litter. Secondly, often associated with HLS, is a characteristic kink in the tail. This is not due to any genetic fault but to getting it caught in the fridge door on numerous occasions. It is NOT recommended to shut the cat in 'to teach it a lesson'. There is a real danger of explosion.

There is no evidence to show that HLS is hereditary but you will sometimes see 'HLS Tested' in advertisements. This means that the kitten concerned has been left with reasonable access to a plate of lasagne for not more than two minutes and, at the end of the test, there was still some left. After only one minute in the presence of an HLS kitten the dish would not even have smelled of lasagne.

Suppose, however, you are already in possession of an HLS cat; what is to be done about it? Well, to begin with, you can feed him in a separate room from your other cats and remove their leftovers before he does. Next you must face the fact that he will readily stoop to lying to obtain seconds. Many an extra meal has been conned out of gullible member of the family returning late from work and met by a cat noisily insisting that he is in the final stages of death from starvation and only an immediate application of spaghetti bolognese could save his life.

One could have his identity disk inscribed 'Please do not feed this cat, he is greedy', but I doubt whether the besotted fans on his begging rounds would believe you. When all is said and done your HLS cat can, with proper care, live a long and happy life ... even if staying one jump ahead of him takes years off yours!

(Inspired by Jason, a chocolate neuter, a typical HLS cat for whom life was a pleasant interlude between meal times).

\*\*\*\*\*

*Supermarket research insists that if partners and cats prove incompatible, the majority of female cat owners would opt to lose the partner and keep the cat.*

### NEEDED

#### ADVERTISING 'MANAGER'

Qualifications: Working or worked in business, able to deal with agencies and principals to get ads and advertising revenue. If you have dealt with ad agencies - all the better.

Hours: As you manage it

Remuneration: Monetarily - 'Buckley's';  
Challenges and fun - lots of it!!

Location: Sydney (Editor in Inner West)

I reckon I put out a good 'mag' but my ability to get ad money from organisations doesn't match my ability to get copy. I work full time and edit Cat Affairs for the love of it and as my contribution to the work the CPS does. Is there a member who is capable of getting ads AND ad money and happy to do it as their 'bit' for the Cat Protection Society?

Ads spice up a magazine with new and interesting products - and bring welcome welfare funds to the CPS. But we need a 'closer' with more talent than mine.

This is not arduous - say a day's work overall three times a year, but each 'day' done in 10-15 minutes lots here and there over a 4-5 week period. What more can you want for no pay?

If anyone is interested please contact the Editor, Lee Wright, (H) 02 9550-0339, (W) 9383-7562.



Unique  
gifts, cards for  
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**Cat** lovers  
including:

Premium dry foods now available

Lamps, Clocks, Photo frames, Candles, Key Rings,  
Fridge Magnets, Mugs, Doorstops, Cushions,  
Mobiles, Windchimes, T-Towels, Placemats,  
Coasters, Jewellery, Stationery, Books, Notepads,  
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(02) 9810-5025**



