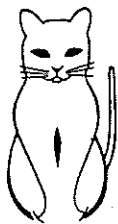


WINTER 1997

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

With the passing of another year, one or two of our longer serving members of Council are finding age starting to catch up with them in one way or another, and would be delighted to see some younger members take over the reins. This is no reflection on other still energetic Councillors over 65 but we do need to ensure that there will always be others waiting in the wings when the inevitable resignations take place.

Some of the ways in which people can contribute on council are: legal knowledge, accountancy or bookkeeping skills, clerical experience, public speaking and public relations, fund raising, representing the Society on animal welfare boards, or just coming up with good suggestions and being willing to help carry them out. You don't have to be brilliant or clever (although that would be a big PLUS) but dedicated and compassionate to our Cause.

Any member who is prepared to come forward and tell us in what way he or she could assist the Society will find us only too pleased to discuss the position of Councillor more fully.

We have a vacancy right now. If you want to see our Society continue its work into the next century, then it is imperative that some members offer their services on the Governing Body. Our Articles of Association require that all Councillors must act in an honorary capacity.

A long held wish has been to have our office and cattery on the same premises. To own and maintain our own cat holding area requires a great deal of money and has been beyond our means all these years. However, our legacies rose considerably in the last year and if this favourable trend continues we may soon be able to achieve this dream. We are presently making enquiries from local Councils as to their requirements and the designated areas where they may permit such an establishment. We prefer to stay in the Marrickville Municipality where we are known and the need is great.

Should a reader know of a property in a commercial zoning suitable for housing cats (preferably with outdoor space for exercise) and room to house our office, meeting room and kitchen, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

In spite of temporary setbacks (with shortage of staff due to illness and holidays) over the Christmas and New Year Period, we carried on to the best of our ability. We now look forward with hope in our hearts to achieving some of our goals in 1997.

Membership renewals are due soon. Please fill in and post the enclosed form with your cheque. This year the membership fees have risen. Welfare needs have also risen and we look forward to each and every one of you rejoining the Cat Protection Society of NSW.

Mention of any product or service does not constitute an endorsement by the CPS.

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VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR OPPORTUNITY SHOP

COVER: Ceramic tile, Artist JENNY DAWSON (page 5), Photo: Peter Zuvela

CENTREFOLD: CPS kitten, photographer: Frances Kaukerei

BACKCOVER: 'Top Deck', abused and rescued, story page 23.

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Mrs S Springfield, Miss E Strachan,

Mr G Tiley, Mr W Turner, Mrs S Watson

WHAT A RESPONSE!

Grace Ayling

What a great response to our plea in the Spring journal. Several ladies joined our volunteer staff and they are now happily working in the shop. Yes, all ladies!! Not one man offered to help so John remains our only salesman. There must be some men out there with time to spare who could join our staff - no need to stay if you don't enjoy your time with us - but please give us a go!!

**THE OPPORTUNITY SHOP CAN ALWAYS
DO WITH MORE STAFF, MEN AND
LADIES, SO GIVE ME A RING AND I'LL
GET YOU STARTED!!**

We have a wonderful lot of Saturday girls and we have extended Saturday trading to 3 pm. The longer we can stay open, the more we sell and that means more funds to help cats. So if you are dithering about trying the Op Shop - put aside your reservations and come in for a trial run. I'm sure you'll like it and your labours are for a good cause - as we all well know.

Three of our long serving ladies retired this year and we wish them well for the future.

Donations are coming in at a fast rate and we are getting some really good items - chinaware, books, ornaments, glassware. Thank you all. But please keep in mind, we can't sell badly chipped or cracked goods and it is a help if the items are clean.

We are overstocked with clothing for all seasons so please, if donating clothing, make sure collars are not frayed or grubby and garments are not stained. Unpacking and sorting is back breaking work, and emptying a large bag of clothing with nothing worth selling is a waste of valuable time. Sometimes we feel we are being used as a rubbish dump! So a big thank you to the majority for those lovely clean donations.

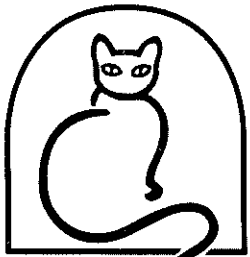
**I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR
ENQUIRY TO HELP IN THE OP SHOP.
PLEASE RING GRACE AYLING
ON 02 9638 7364.**

PLEASE
RENEW NOW

MEMBERSHIP

Yellow Membership form enclosed for your convenience

RENEWALS DUE



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for cats**

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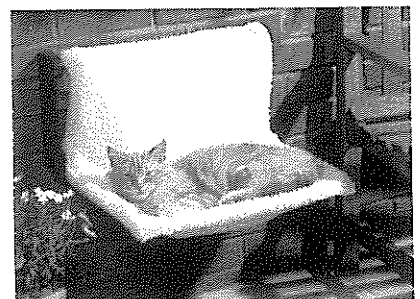
Dr Kim Kendall
BVSc MACVSc (Feline Medicine) MRCVS

SHEEPSKIN SPLENDOR FOR YOUR CAT'S COMFORT

The frame fastens to a wall and the mock sheepskin cover can be removed for washing. The bed provides softness and stability and the firm support shapes to the cat's body. The only problem with it? If you have more than one cat you might just need more than one Wall Rest!

Also available are amazing scratching posts, cat care supplies and gifts for cat lovers and their friends.

Browse through the cat art and gift selection while waiting for full vet services in this **CATS ONLY** clinic.





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

APOLOGY TO DORINA PODESTA

In the Spring 1996 journal Dorina Podesta, who arranged a self-birthday party and asked all those attending to donate to her animal charities instead of giving her a gift, had her name noted as Donna. The Editor apologises for this error and on behalf of all the CPS staff, thanks her for a great idea and a great way to show everyone how they can help benefit animal welfare. And congratulations, Dorina, on becoming a Life Governor!

RETIREMENT HOMES

We are trying to compile a list of pet friendly retirement homes. If any reader can supply a name, address and phone number of a retirement home or village that will accept dogs and cats, please advise the CPS office by post or phone. Please check to ensure that the retirement home's idea of a 'pet' IS a 4 footed animal and not just a bird or a fish.

NOT ALL ABUSE

I was sitting in the car while my wife did some shopping in our neighbourhood centre and watched while a woman came out of a shop with a small tin of cat food, opened it and set it on the footpath in front of a local homeless feline identity. She then drove off. Ten minutes later she was back, parked in the same spot, got out with a plastic container full of milk and put it next to the stray cat. It is good to see that some people not only care, but care in a positive way.
John Marchegiani, Five Dock

BIRTH NOTICE

It was a notice cat owners everywhere will immediately understand. Spotted in the births section of a local paper, "Mother and child doing well, cats undergoing counselling."

[Ed: I always thought impersonating a police officer was against the law >>>]

GERMAN LANGUAGE PENPAL WANTED

Renate Schild,
Schelztorstr. 42,
73728 Esslingen,
Germany
is seeking a woman who writes German (and loves cats) to correspond with her.

SOPHIE

Sophie is a very special cat. She spent quite a bit of time in the Animal Shelter in Lavington before being adopted by Elaine and James Welladsen. She is a beautiful tortoiseshell. Her favourite chair is James's and rather than disturb her, James has to find somewhere else to sit! Her 'toys' are slippers. She puts her head in the heel and kicks the other end with her back legs - daily exercise I would say. Sophie gives Elaine and James much pleasure and happiness.
Nora Dilkinson, Lavington

TIGER

I am 13 years old and I am joining the Cat Protection Society because now I am the proud owner of my very first kitten, Tiger. We had to take our dog, Jade, to the vet just before Christmas and there was Tiger, along with his brother Benny, waiting in a cage for someone to supply them with good homes.

I was allowed to keep Tiger. As you can see from the photo, Tiger is extremely playful and seems to feel safe in my Uncle George's police hat when we visit him. I would greatly appreciate it, and so would Tiger, if you would put his photo in Cat Affairs.
Brad King, Canley Vale



NO TO AROMATHERAPY FOR CATS

Thank you for your letter and the copy of your magazine. I have spoken to several therapists and spent some time researching for an article but I cannot find any successful applications of aromatherapy where cats are concerned. Since it is a magazine about cats, I don't feel it is appropriate to write an article about other animals and not to include any information about cats. If I should hear of any positive stories about cats and aromatherapy in the future I'll be in touch.
John Kerr, Springfields Aromatherapy

CARING CAT CARERS

Remember in our last Journal we wrote about the couple whose very first cat had been killed on the road? They adopted two CPS cats who were friends, hoping to keep them content to be within their own garden and to be let out while the 'parents' were at home. It seemed like a good idea.

However, one much loved cat delighted in crossing the road to visit friends. The strain on the owners' nerves was so great that the CPS was contacted to see if puss could be taken back if her activities became too much to bear. Well, she became a road statistic - only injured slightly - and was given back. We were not surprised at having to return her 2 days later. Her mate was fretting and her devoted owners had had no sleep since she left. Although it stretched the budget incredibly, their courtyard was to be made totally cat proof, and puss was to be kept housebound until the job was completed. That's the kind of cat carers we like.
Nance Iredale

jenny dawson

Cheeky, bright, bold, essentially and fabulously feline can well describe Jenny Dawson's bright array of cat art. She works in majolica, a high gloss ceramic art finish. Her cats (and mermaids) come on brooches, cups and saucers, small plates, mugs, vases and tiles. Jenny's art is colourful and highly decorative but it is the expression and antics of her subjects that give her work it's intrinsic charm. Her cats are joyous - brimming with so much expressive happiness that it is hard to look at them without smiling in response.

Whether you acquire one or more pieces of her work for use or to admire - they will definitely add sunshine to your life.

When asked to write about her art, Jenny preferred to write about her inspiration and while the real Floyd may not look like the finished work - admiring Jenny's art you well know that Floyd is a happy and loved cat.

FLOYD

Jenny Dawson

Photos: Peter Zuvela

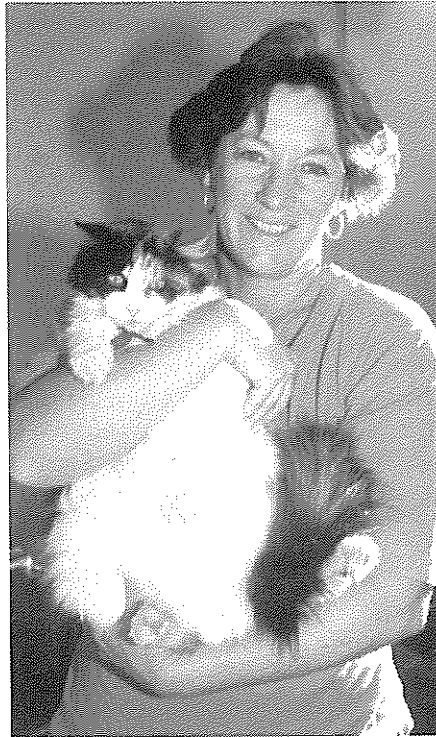
I never wanted to own a cat. All that mucking around with smelly tinned fish, fur balls coughed up on the carpet, can't go away for holidays without two days of organising what's going to happen to Madam.

She chose me.....

I don't own a cat - she owns me - but no other living being has shown me such joy and companionship, such wisdom, dignity, grace and style as my cat, Floyd.

I started drawing cats about 6 years ago after a study tour to Italy. I was working in a pottery workshop in Northern Italy and I couldn't speak a word of Italian. My only companion for 4 months in my lonely, cold, one-room student accommodation was a black cat. He was a skinny but very friendly chap who didn't care a bit that I couldn't speak his native tongue.

Shortly after my return to WA a long haired, unloved, very pregnant and hungry cat chose me to be her pet until death do us part. She's shifted house with me three times, mothered and lost two kittens and then had 'that'



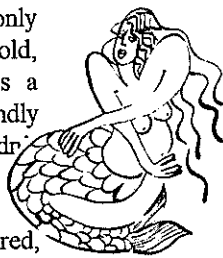
operation, eaten her way through two tons of fish, taught me how to take afternoon, mid morning, evening and any time you like naps, taught me the value of just sitting still and being, posed for photos, enchanted the neighbours, taught me to respect the night, the mysterious call of the full moon, the joy of a warm fire and taught me how to love and be loved in a self respecting, reserved and proud way - as only a cat can do.

How best to honour my dearest companion through this journey we call every day life than to paint her, draw her and model her in my work.

She's a very feminine little miss. She knows she's a star. The more I've drawn her, the more audacious her poses have become. I guess we won't stop until there's a "Floyd" Fan Club, so if you want an autographed mug featuring a genuine Floyd footprint on the base, please write to:

"Floyd Dawson, C/- Jenny Dawson - Ceramic Artist, Unit 3, J Shed, Fleet Street, Fremantle WA 6160.

OR, a little closer to home, you can view my cat inspired cards and ceramics at **PUSS 'N POOCH GALLERY, 269-271 Darling Street, Balmain and EAST CHATSWOOD CAT CLINIC, 346 Penshurst St, Willoughby. OLD BAKERY GALLERY** in Rosenthal Avenue, Lane Cove, has my mermaids.



THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW WELCOMES
OUR NEWEST HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

DR PAUL DE RENZIE WATERS

Honorary life Membership is restricted to 15 at any one time and it is bestowed in recognition of outstanding support to the Cat Protection Society over a long period of time. It is the highest honour our Society can bestow. When the CPS commenced our active Welfare Section, Dr Waters was our only veterinary surgeon. This involvement brought criticism from the Australian Veterinary Association and we had serious concerns that our service would have to cease. It was only Dr Waters' determination, courage and belief in our goals that kept our concept alive and working. It was also Dr Waters' most active assistance and support that made early desexing possible. This, we are sure, is one of the best things for cats that we could have ever imagined. The AVA, the AWL and many other vets are supporting it now, but it took Dr Waters' courage and vision to help establish it.

Dr Paul Waters has been co-operating closely with the CPS for 16 years and has been a major plus in establishing our image today as a responsible, active and efficient feline welfare service. On behalf of all members of the CPS Council and the Society, I extend grateful thanks to Dr Waters for his help and warmest congratulations on his appointment.

Shirley Pikler, President

Dr Paul De Renzie Waters grew up in the Queensland bush and at 16 in the 1950s he wasn't even aware of such a thing as a veterinary surgeon until he became a student at Queensland Agricultural College. During his education one of his 'practicals' was working with the college veterinarian. This experience so impressed him that he chose veterinary medicine as his career and he has never regretted his choice.

De Waters graduated in 1968, leased Concord Veterinary Hospital in 1973 and bought it 3 years later. About 1975 he was approached by Nance Iredale, then working in her own welfare group. He was prompt with his help and Nance Iredale kept coming back to him. Thus began a strong and steady involvement in this very special welfare organisation by a vet who does more than just care, he cares in tangible ways and takes an active and important part in welfare work, thoroughly enjoying this involvement.

One of his early contacts was with Mr Ron Carberry, then president of the Cat Protection Society. Dr Waters agreed to address a meeting on welfare issues and gave his opinion about various matters directed from the floor. Mr Carberry was most impressed because of all the vets they had asked to speak at a meeting, Dr Waters was the first vet who agreed. The CPS sought his advice concerning premises in Enmore and he suggested they consider working with vets instead of trying to operate their own desexing clinic. The suggestion was acted on and now the CPS has a wide network of co-operating veterinarian surgeons. Each vet sets their own price for low cost desexing and the CPS doesn't determine the prices - it depends on the individual vet's generosity.

In the interests of animal over population and to eliminate any discrimination to his customers, Dr Waters went a step further and his surgery offers reduced cost desexing to everyone, whether or not they are referred by the CPS or just come in the door.

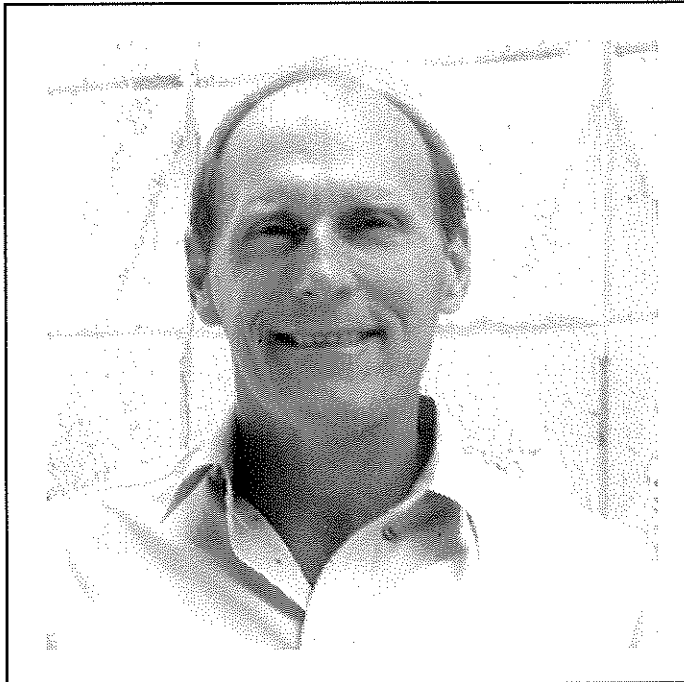
In the late 1970s Dr Waters became interested in the concept of desexing very young animals. When welfare agencies placed entire kittens and puppies they were exacerbating their own problems. The welfare agency had a responsibility to the animal to see that it was

desexed so every society had to use its valuable resources to follow up every placement to remind the owners to desex. The success rate was never 100%. Dr Waters could see the obvious advantage to any welfare organisation if the adopted pets went to their new homes already desexed.

He was aware that some welfare societies in America had early desexing and he acquired some literature which gave results of surveys from various institutes all over America on this procedure. Dr Waters' early interest increased with this American data and he talked to a vet at the University of Sydney Veterinary Teaching Hospital who referred him to a veterinarian who was working with hormonal research in human medicine. The project involved working with kittens who were

routinely desexed at 6 weeks. Studies of these kittens did not show any ill effects.

The concept was still incubating when he attended a conference about 1989 and talked with an American veterinarian lecturer who noted that kittens were being desexed at 6 weeks in some American veterinarian private practices. The final straw was an article in the



Journal of the American Veterinarian Medical Association which published quite a bit on early desexing (Vol 198 No 7 April 1991) and Paul Waters made the decision to do it himself. He approached the Cat Protection Society and urged them to take this step. They were very cautious initially and only did about 6 kittens the first year, more the second year and then considered early desexing a successful concept and embraced it wholeheartedly by adopting their policy of 'no placement of entire cats or kittens'.

Desexing kittens from 8 weeks of age is performed using standard routine procedures. No problems have been encountered. Dr Waters prefers the flank approach rather than the midline because he considers it easier for both the cat and the surgeon. In his opinion it is easier to operate on an animal lying on its side rather than propping it up on its back. The midline incision has to be larger generally and as the location and elevation of ovaries varies, the midline can take longer than the flank.

In Dr Waters' view "vets have no rational basis to claim that 6 months is the right time. No one knows what the right time is. Those who claim that desexing early is interfering with nature must realise that desexing itself is 'interfering with nature'."

Dr Waters has strong views on the Cat Protection Society itself which explains his deep involvement with the Society. In his words

"When it comes to welfare dogs are always better catered for. The CPS fills an extremely important gap. Welfare societies and the public have a bias towards dogs. Any health survey of cats and dogs reveals much higher health consciousness for dogs and with many people who have both dogs and cats, dogs get better care. More resources are devoted to dogs than cats and this is quite noticeable in the RSPCA. This could partly be the 'self-maintenance' myth about cats as well as their independent natures. It is terribly unfair that the Cat Protection Society does not get the same tax concessions [as the RSPCA]. Without the CPS the RSPCA and other animal welfare groups would be lumbered with an enormous influx of cats. The CPS should be accorded the tax status of a charity organization as the welfare work they do is tremendous.

I personally think that with regards to Sydney there are less kittens than there used to be for a number of reasons. This directly reflects the work of the welfare societies and their emphasis on desexing and education. But there is also public education and awareness, more responsible ownership, legislation and socio-economic changes which are all impacting on the number of cats in society.

I believe the situation with feral cats is not as bad as commonly believed. The whole situation is over rated and I think there is still a lot of scientific data lacking on which to base claims on and make decisions. Unquestionably the cat, as a feral animal, has contributed to species extinction in localised areas, particularly on islands. But I don't think there is one documented case that can attribute extinctions to cats. Granted, the reintroduction of threatened species to particular areas has failed in some cases because of depredations by feral cats.

In Australia I personally think the number one pest is the rabbit and the second is the fox. I don't know where cats come but certainly the

main source of food for feral cats are rabbits, not native wildlife. With the destruction of rabbit populations, the cat populations in those areas will decline. As the bio-mass of rabbits declines, the bio-mass of feral cats will decline. To say that feral cats will just switch their diet to native wildlife is simplistic.

"Vets have no rational basis to claim that 6 months is the right time [to desex]. No one knows what the right time is. Those who claim that desexing early is interfering with nature must realise that desexing itself is 'interfering with nature'."

On feral cats:- "all the legislative control they want to put on pet owners won't alter the feral cat situation. Lock up your cat at 5 pm - but the feral cats are still out there."

On the Companion Animal Act: "I understand that common law has always given consideration to the special nature of cats. (If your cat goes into your neighbour's yard - is that cat trespassing??) Will the new act be generous enough to

acknowledge the cat's special nature? The cat is an adventurous, inquisitive, nocturnal and semi-arboreal animal and it is not entirely justified to impose some of the restrictions."

PAUL WATERS AND NANCE IREDALE

Nance Iredale OAM

Having worked with Paul Waters for over 20 years, I was delighted when he accepted our nomination to Honorary Life Membership. The first animals I took to Paul (when Robin Warner and I worked together as the Cat Relief Service) were a lovely tortie mum and 4 identical kits. They all had coccidia and I was booked to go away. In those days it took at least 3 weeks to cure this parasite and I saw no alternative to having them destroyed. Like many vets, Paul wasn't accustomed to destroying cats so he really tried to persuade me to save them. I had to keep saying no, no, no.

Because it is so painful to both of us, we remember this episode very well. Many times we are reminded of that family by a look-a-like cat. We don't always say 'remember' but it happens quite frequently. Recently one such appeared again. Her kittens weren't similar but this lovely, young, proud mother made us once again say 'remember'. Her kits were very young so went to our carer, Frances, and mum was desexed and went to Parklands, even tho we really didn't have room!

When Frances heard why the kits had been saved at an awkward time, she named them Paul, Nance and Brighton. Paul was quite touched and I was flattered. Frances names all her charges, has photos of them and can remember every one. You'll often see some of them in Cat Affairs on the covers and centerfold spread.

Another reason why this little mum is so well remembered: she was very placid, but as I travelled in my car to Paul's surgery she appeared agitated. Knowing what was to happen my concern deepened. Suddenly she made those 'mum to kit' crooning noises, stretched out and obviously said, "it will be all right, kids. Come and have a drink", and that is just what they did. Almost every day I pass the spot where this happened, and hundreds of times over these 20 years I have remembered and felt like weeping again. But that's the lot of animal welfare officers.

MY 'SECRET'

Anon

Why am I writing 'Anon'? Because I'm about to confess the deepest darkest skeleton in my closet - worse than any crime against mankind. The horrible truth I (try to) hide - my cats get on the kitchen counters.

"What's that?" you say, "Surely you jest - after all, ALL cats get on the kitchen counters". "No, No", I protest, for 28 years of feline stewardship I have responded to counter top incursions in tones ranging from ladylike gentility to booming declarations of evil intent that would make a fish wife envious. It worked (at least as long as I was around!). But now I have descended so low that I actually encourage it.

Why? Because in trying to make the Guinness Book of Records for the highest dining table - free feeding is located atop a kitchen cupboard to keep a certain feline gourmand in less than obese condition. And since my graceful pack of hooligans was denied wings - they bounce to the counter top, blacken the cupboard door in their aerial ascent and munch crunchies in heaven's bower. The high fliers are sleek and muscular representatives of their species. The low man was sleek - between 30 seconds and 2 minutes after birth. After that he found the font of all pleasure and has been industriously at it ever since.

He's a "BP", a quiet achiever. There's no fuss or fighting. He fronts up to the food bowl, drops his head and grazes. Anyone is welcome to join him. There is no animosity, no protection of resources, no disinclination to share. And when the bowl is empty there is no insistence for more. He checks the bowl regularly but never develops persecution manias or sends hate mail about cat abuse to the CPS if it is not topped

up. Even if I'm working in the kitchen he does little more than tug my skirts to say "Mum, I'm here". No response from me and he goes away. But any food in sight is consumed with a steady nonchalance, no haste, and no intention of departure until it has all departed.

Happily, to counter his penchant for perpetual oral gratification, nature has given him the biggest feet I have seen on a cat. He would make a Shepherd pup envious. These paws of prodigious proportions bind this cat to terrestrial soil forever. He is normal and active in every way, as rip roaring a juvenile delinquent as any cat can be who has just crossed the threshold into adulthood - in age at least. But every growth advantage that should enable him to tackle the dining Everest for a permanent lunch is countered by the four Mafia style cement boots he cannot shake from the base of his legs. Mind you, he is also developing a midline spread that would do credit to a cat far in advance of his years. Despite his overflowing energy, everything he eats promptly settles in his middle and his feet. (I know the feeling well!)

So counter-top-choreography is a daily fact in my home, despite preferences to the contrary. I have learned to accept more cleaning and being stared at from on high with equal equanimity just to keep the earthly being's body a bit more svelte than his feet.

A cat is a contradiction. No other animal has developed such an intimate relationship with man, while demanding and getting such independence

The cat's paws are the most sensitive part of its body.



SOLAR CATS

Requirements:

- north-facing windows
- 6 black cats per adult in household (3-4 per child)

Costs:

- price of 25 kg of cat litter per month
- 20 kg of cat kibble

Installation and use:

On sunny days in the cooler months of the year, place black cats on the north-facing window ledges of your house. Allow them to absorb the sun's rays for at least 3 hours. At the end of the day when the sun has set, place all six cats around you in bed.

Save the longest cat to wrap around your head as 30% of body heat is lost through an individual's head.

On very cold winter days more cats may be required.

(Unfortunately, the system cannot be reversed in the summer months using white cats).

Puss'n'Pooch
GALLERY

Unique
gifts, cards for
Dog and
Cat lovers
including:

Bookends, Pictures, Lamps, Clocks, Photo frames,
Candles, Key Rings, Fridge Magnets, Mugs,
Doorstops, Cushions, Mobiles, Windchimes, Books
T-Towels, Placemats, Coasters, Jewellery,
Stationery, Notepads, Cat and Dog Ornaments
plus heaps more to choose.

This issue's feature artists' wares now in stock
ceramics by Jenny Dawson,
cat portraits by Ann Guy

Shop 2, Balmain Village Arcade
269-271 Darling St, Balmain 2041
(02) 9810-5025

CHAN



Therese Atkinson

Chan came into our lives nearly two years ago. He had been relocated with my mother-in-law from a workmate who had Chan and his brother Pepe. They needed a new home and I thought it might be good for my widowed mother-in-law to adopt them for company.

Chan was fine for the first two years and then he started losing weight, lots of it. The first time he was taken to the vet resulted in a diagnosis of eating too many grasshoppers but it was clear, after another few weeks of wasting, that something was seriously wrong. Blood tests at the RSPCA thankfully brought a more accurate diagnosis. Chan had developed diabetes and this was the first time I learned that animals are also prone to this disease.

After serious consideration my mother-in-law decided to put Chan down - a fact I did not want to know about as the vet at the RSPCA had told me that Chan not only WANTED to live, but that it was completely treatable and that with the right treatment (he would need to be taken to a specialist at the University of Sydney Veterinary Teaching Hospital) he would be back to normal.

I had no idea what a monumental decision my husband made that day. I had told him not to ring me at work. Though Chan was not my cat I am an ardent cat and animal lover and I could not condone the death of this animal when he had a condition which was perfectly treatable. I had started to cry at the thought of it - after all, we don't put diabetic humans down, do we?

My husband talked to someone at work who told him that a relative had a diabetic dog that, once stabilised, was easy to treat and was normally healthy. I had no idea that my husband had decided that we would give this 10 year old Burmese cat that I had only occasionally cuddled, a second chance at life. We have never looked back. After trying to contact me at work and being told "I told you not to ring me", he finally managed to get the message through that Chan was to be saved. Despite the very definite fact that we would incur substantial vet fees, my husband knew he could make this decision without first consulting me. He, too, is a devoted animal lover.

Chan was rushed to Sydney Uni and treated by Dr David Church. He spent 4 days in the intensive care unit and my husband and I would visit him every night after work and try to cheer him up. He was a VERY sorry cat and my husband and I had no idea what we would have to do with regard to his day to day medication.

MY DIABETIC CAT

Chan was allowed to come home after the fifth day. We were given a demonstration on how to inject him (a job I didn't relish but did not balk at) and how his strict diet was to be administered. The first few weeks were very stressful. We were very scared of losing him the weekend he came home because he wouldn't eat. We tried everything we could think of, rump steak, Dine, Snappy Tom, mince.

Then we remembered his original owner's instructions that Chan had a PASSION, and I mean a PASSION for fresh king prawns. After failing on the other foods my husband raced to the local fish shop and brought back 6 king prawns and we said a little prayer as we peeled them and showed them to him. I still remember to this day the incredible relief to see this skeleton wrapped in chocolate fur gingerly nibbling at the piece of prawn. I noticed the eating difficulty he was experiencing from lack of energy. I quickly got out the kitchen whizz and made prawn pate for him.

The problem was that unless Chan got insulin he would die and unless he ate we couldn't keep up the injections. Eating was really a matter of life or death. Needless to say, Chan spent the next few weeks enjoying king prawns - which gave Dr Church at Sydney Uni a slight problem. You see, he had never had to work out the calorific content of prawns before to match Chan's food intake to his insulin intake.

We were really determined that this cat would survive - and he has!

I took him back to the RSPCA one day to see if the vet who first diagnosed his diabetes would recognise him. He had gone from under 2 kilograms to over 5 kilograms so the transformation was amazing and she was so glad to see that he had pulled through.

As my husband and I have no children (I have always loved cats - I had my first cat for 19 years), well, no human children anyway, Chan purred and cuddled his way into our house and our hearts and I don't even want to contemplate being without him. My husband is also allergic to cats but it is truly amazing what you will do for something less able than yourself.

Chan, or as he is more commonly known, "The Boy", is truly a treasure and I believe he was sent to me to care for and every time he jumps on my knee to say "I love you, Mum", I am thankful.

DIABETES (MELLITUS)

AN ANCIENT DIAGNOSIS

Dr Kim Kendall, BVS, MACVS (Feline Medicine), MRCVS

Diabetes Mellitus has been a recognised disease for thousands of years. It's name means 'sweet water', because the diagnosis was based on a taste test of the patient's urine, which was full of glucose and therefore quite sweet. Until insulin was discovered in 1921, the outcome was uniformly fatal, and even now control of human diabetes is rarely perfect.

In cats, diabetes is - typically for many things feline! - difficult to diagnose, frequently a problem to control, and often the cat just stops being diabetic for variable lengths of time! This all accumulates to make diagnosis and treatment of feline diabetes a bit of a clinical challenge. The diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus is not a death sentence, but it can be a lifetime goal term. Not everyone has the lifestyle to accommodate a diabetic cat, but for those who embark on treatment, the outcome can be very rewarding. We are lucky in Australia to have two world authorities on feline diabetes doing research here, and much information is now coming to light. These specialists are also accessible for the 'fine tuning' and individual regimes that most feline diabetics seem to need!

What is feline diabetes about?

The simplest picture of diabetes is: - insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas (part of the digestive system) which allows most of the body's tissues to extract glucose from the blood and absorb it into the cell to be an energy source for the cell to survive, grow and work. The insulin affects other major organs of metabolism such as the liver, and assists in its producing the right kind of energy (fat for storage or glucose to burn now). Diabetics have low levels of or no insulin so their energy metabolism becomes deranged. The clinical entity of diabetes is of a cat (or person) who drinks large amounts of water, eats more food and still loses weight, and who passes large volumes of urine.

Interestingly, it is the urine which is the driving mechanism for the clinical signs, not the drinking. Diabetics **must** drink large volumes of water because the excess glucose in the blood (no insulin to remove it for use in the tissues) gets filtered into urine by the kidneys, and because glucose draws water with it (think of clumpy sugar in humid weather!), water from the body is also dragged into the urine, so the body dehydrates. Therefore, the cat has to drink more. Weight loss is because glucose is the main source of calories for metabolism, and they are eliminated uselessly. Digestive processes are unaffected, so food is still digested, but most of it comes out again as glucose in the urine. Basically the cat cannot eat enough to maintain itself.

What causes diabetes?

This is the billion dollar research question. So far only risk factors and classifications of types of diabetes have been identified, but the hunt continues. One in 400 cats will get diabetes, but 15% will stop being diabetic (although they remain prone to it). There are two types of human diabetes - type I which requires insulin because the pancreatic tissue has been destroyed (this is the type commonly found in dogs); and type II where there are still some cells in the pancreas producing insufficient insulin, but not enough (less than 20-25% of normal). Or there is enough insulin produced but the tissues that need it are resistant because the insulin cannot help the cells take the

glucose from the blood. Some diabetic cats can be helped with tablets which stimulate the remaining pancreatic tissue.

About 50% of diabetic cats respond for at least some of the time to oral hypoglycaemics which are also used in humans, or to dietary modification (if you can convince the cat to change!) This is also the reason some cats stop being diabetic or at least stop needing treatment. There is another hormone that is involved in the process of causing diabetes but its role is not clear. The hormone is amylin, and it is produced in the same pancreatic cells as insulin (the beta cells), and is stored in the same granules to be released at the same time as insulin. Amylin seems to directly oppose the actions of insulin, and also to destroy some of the beta cells themselves. The amylin in humans, cats and primates is similar in its ability to disrupt beta cell function and thus causing type II.

The identified features, or risk factors, common to many feline diabetics are

- * weighing more than 6.8 kgs (tho diabetics are frequently thin by the time they are seen by the vet)
- * being more than 10 years old
- * being desexed (bear in mind there are lots of bigger risks involved in not being desexed, but it seems proportionally fewer intact cats get diabetes)
- * gender - it is a bit unclear whether there are more male than female diabetic cats
- * In Australia, being a brown Burmese is a big risk, but this is not seen elsewhere

There are other features or diseases associated with diabetes in cats, which means that there are often combinations of problems going on in the same cat and these obviously cloud the picture. Renal failure, post-progesterone administration (once used regularly for oestrous control, behavioural modification and skin allergy treatments), Hyperthyroidism, Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism - very rare in cats) and acromegaly (excess Growth Hormone, also rare) can all present as diabetes initially. Stress is also increasingly being labelled as destabilising some cats who are diabetes-prone.

What does a diabetic cat look like?

There is no typical diabetic cat, and the diagnosis usually comes as a surprise to owners (and sometimes to vets as well). The most common symptoms in cats are actually lethargy (which is seen in nearly every feline problem!), a poor hair coat and jaundice. Owners do not always know whether a cat is drinking or urinating more. And an increase in appetite? Well, cats are always asking for food, so it takes a while to register that Kitty is actually eating all the food he's demanded! Weight loss is another insidious entity because often the cat appears only to change shape, with a bigger abdomen (due to liver enlargement and changed fat deposition) and thinning of muscle along the spine. Three of the cats I've seen have presented for cystitis - urinating outside the litter tray with blood in the urine. Maybe it was the only way they could draw attention to their problem? I make sure I test the urine of all cats who change their litter tray habits.

What makes feline diabetes difficult?

The Clinical Picture can mean that early symptoms are overlooked. Many cats do not show that they are in trouble, they just do less. With the "old cats get kidney problems so we should expect them to drink more" traditions, many cats are in deep trouble by the time they get to the vet. In one study, 18% of diabetics were presented to the vet for being paralysed when they were really in a diabetic coma. One of the tricky things about diabetics is that they can go into comas both from a lack of insulin (the deranged metabolism of the liver finally makes the blood too acidic with ketones for the brain to function - this is the ketoacidotic crisis) and from an excess of insulin (because there is no glucose in the blood for the brain to work with - it shuts off (this is the 'hypo' that diabetics talk about).

The other difficulty is that some cats (up to 15% transient diabetics) are not full time card-carrying members of the diabetic club. These cats tend to be fine until they strike a problem (infection, social stress, metabolic upset) and then their insulin production becomes relatively inadequate so they become diabetic. At this point the diabetes becomes self-perpetuating because the raised blood glucose (no insulin to take it out of the blood) leads to a reduced insulin output and so the diabetes accelerates. When these cats have been sorted out, they go back to the knife edge of producing just enough insulin to get by till the next problem.

Frustrating? Tricky? Unnerving? You bet!!

The Diagnostic Picture is not much easier to get a grip on. A vet visit is not a cat's idea of a pleasure cruise. When a cat gets wound up, it releases cortisol (the hormone of 'stress' and 'flight/fright' reactions, along with the adrenalin which makes super-feline strength possible). This raises the blood glucose up to the same level as a diabetic (all that glucose is ready for a huge increase in demand for the muscles so the cat can run or fight), so that a 'fasting blood glucose' taken at the vet's has little diagnostic value. Cats can be kept in hospital for a couple of hours to cool off, but even then the results can be equivocal. However, there is now a very promising pair of blood tests which detect whether glucose has been raised in the blood for a long period which are proving fairly reliable in identifying diabetics from just scared cats. Urine sticks will pick up glucose and ketones and indicate roughly how much glucose is in the urine. If there are ketones, then the cat is pretty definitely diabetic, if there is only glucose, it may be a scared cat, or it has another problem which raises the serum glucose, or has been stressed for a longish period resulting in regular excess glucose peaks in the blood and hence tipping over into the urine.

Frustrating? Tricky? You bet.

How do I look after a diabetic cat?

This is the final hurdle and while the theory is simple, the practice is time consuming and regimented. If your diabetic cat can be managed by a change of diet, a loss of excess poundage and the resolution of a problem which precipitated the diabetes, then treatment only requires a lifestyle change (tell that to a dieting cat).

If your cat is one of the 50% - 85% who need insulin to be administered, then a whole new world of clinical finesse and intimacy with your cat will arise. You will have to accept that your cat's food and water will need monitoring, that occasional access to litter-free urine is invaluable, and that you will have to give the cat a tiny amount of insulin using a very fine needle and syringe twice a day, at

the same times, 12 hours apart, every day. This can be a truly bonding experience or it can create great social torment, hence my comment that diabetes is not a death sentence but it can be a gaol term. About 60% of my clients are prepared to embark on the commitment of a diabetic maintenance program (remember to include holiday plans and irregular work vs weekend hours in your calculations). I think it is better to assess the cost and commitment realistically at the start rather than put the cat through a stabilisation program only to find the maintenance needs are impossible. I make no judgement on a person's willingness to attempt treatment - I have a sneaky feeling that I would not have the time to make good metabolic control possible.

What are the problems that can happen once my diabetic cat is stabilised?

The stabilisation process depends on the state in which the cat is first presented. There is the 'happy' diabetic who is drinking a lot and losing weight, the 'unhappy' diabetic whose metabolism is in trouble with ketoacidosis or the 'really critical' diabetic in a coma or has pancreatitis or another complication. The clinical needs and variations that you and your vet will live through to find the appropriate amount, type and frequency of insulin needed, whether to control with tablets (Glipizide / oral hypoglycaemics), and attempting a dietary adjustment can be a real bonding experience with your vet! Sometimes it is straight forward, frequently not.

However, assuming the cat is on the most common program of twice daily injections of insulin followed by a measured food intake, what else needs to be done? Although daily urine glucose measurements are no longer de rigeur, regular monitoring is helpful, so that if the diabetes starts to accelerate again (more glucose in the urine), blood tests can be started early to define the problem (dosage, type of insulin, food, injection technique, etc), and restabilise.

At the other end of the scale, if there is no glucose in the urine, it may indicate the cat is restoring its own insulin production and treatment is no longer required. The danger of having insulin administered if the cat no longer needs it is that the cat can be pushed into a 'hypo' coma which can be fatal. Basically the brain slows down from lack of glucose so the cat gets sleepier until it goes into a coma or fit. Giving the cat liquid glucose will counteract the problem, and most cats don't go as deeply into a coma as to have their life threatened. But it can be a fright for all. I had a cat killed by having too many people administering the insulin without communicating. One morning the cat got 3 doses within an hour. Another succumbed to being given a human dose of insulin by a well-meaning nurse friend who minded the cat while the owner was away and reverted to a routine human dose instead of reading the instructions. These are rare problems, of course, but the possibilities must be borne in mind.

Diabetes Mellitus is a lack of insulin in an animal. Although we now know that there is a great deal more to the underlying problem, diabetes revolves around the inability of the body to either produce or use insulin. Insulin is a powerful hormone, with deposited and wide ranging effects, and it is wonderful that its power can also improve the lives of animals. Refinements are being made, especially to the monitoring procedures, so that better metabolic control is achieved. Maybe soon the 'switch' will be identified and then the animal's own insulin regulation can be turned back on!



IN REMEMBRANCE



*Those we love remain with us
for love itself lives on,
And cherished memories never fade
because a loved one's gone
Those we love can never be
more than a thought apart,
For as long as there is memory,
they'll live on in the heart.*



MANDY

This is a small donation in memory of our dearly loved Mandy, who was put to sleep on 6-12-96. She had a long and happy life (16.5 years) and until the last week or so she had never had a day's sickness. Mandy appeared in Cat Affairs on several occasions together with her two sisters, Purdy and Daisy Mae. They also mourn her passing.

Margaret Paine, Surfers Paradise

J.J.

In loving memory of my cat "J.J." who left me alone and devastated after 11 happy years together. She always liked to send the CPS a Christmas donation - so I will continue the tradition.

Kay Walsh

A FAREWELL TO CHARMS

Gordon Robin

An unrelieved gloom has descended on our home normally shot through with light,
Our lovely Chloe has been taken from us. We didn't give her up without a fight.

Unobserved we dug her last resting place by a quiet lake, untouched nature surrounding.
Reverently but unwillingly we covered that unmarked body, full of beauty abounding.

Her dishes are here, her mat, her cushions in the sun, her place in our bed.
We can't imagine that we are trudging through life while she lies out there dead.

She enjoyed her 3 meals a day and sometimes a surreptitious supper,
She travelled in the car showing not a care, moving from lap to lap with not a murmur.

Oh yes, we have our great photos, our wonderful memories, going back years,
But of what value are they when we can't hold back our tears?

GRIEF AND LOSS

DEFINITIONS

LOSS A physical event in which a valued object, experience, hope, dream is lost. Objects and people are incorporated into us, giving us the sense of who we are. Every loss has many symbolic meanings. Each loss is affected by our previous experiences of loss. It is an experience we have many times.

GRIEF what is felt and experienced over time, usually in a sequence. It is a normal and healthy response.

PHASES OF GRIEF

1. Shock, disbelief, numbness, denial.
2. Pain, intensive yearning, distress. Waves of pining and longing, hopelessness, idealisation, guilt, despair, irritability, anxiousness, sadness, anger, and fear of going crazy.
3. Negotiated acceptance (bargaining). Emotional swings, depression, attempts to find meaning, facing the void, reviewing the loss, re-ordering beliefs.
4. Acceptance. Resolution and reorganisation of one's life and one's self-image. Emergence of new self image with the loss as part of one's history. Person ready to engage with life again.

Some people can swing between the different phases before attaining phase 4, acceptance.

WHY WE NEED TO GRIEVE

To accept the reality of the loss which may be especially hard at times of anniversary or other significant related events.

To experience the pain of grief, allow time to feel the sadness, rage, emptiness, yearning and to start to heal the wound from within.

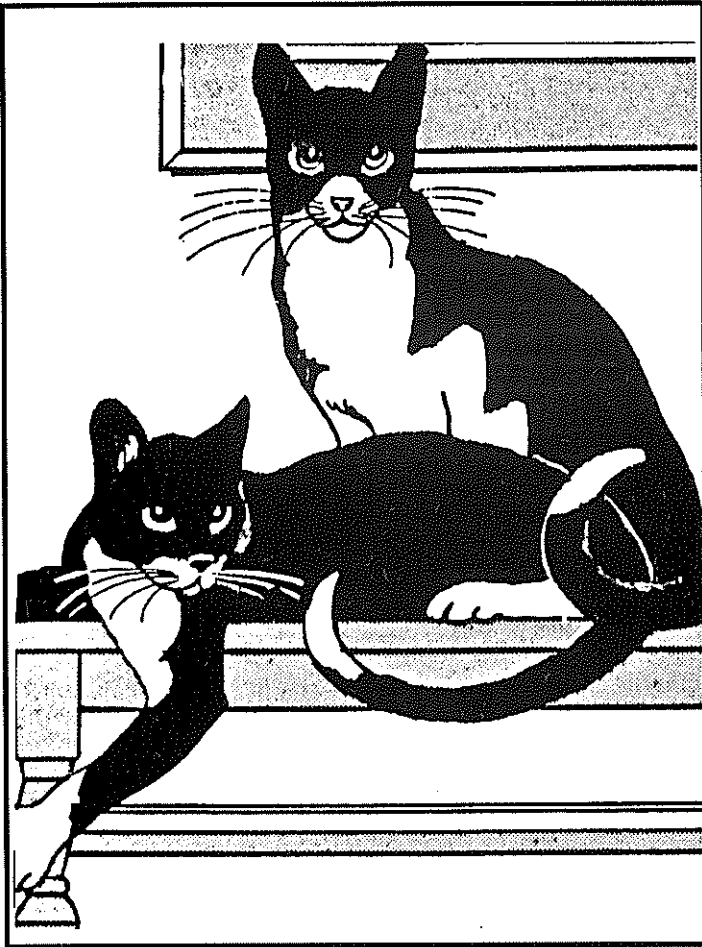
To adjust to an environment in which the lost object is missing.

To withdraw emotional energy and reinvest it in another relationship. May include the bittersweet experience of looking at photos, sorting through and discarding objects associated with the lost object. It is a time of sadness and it is OK.

I THINK SHE LIKES THIS THING CALLED HOME

Judy Prisk

We have a visitor. She's got the guest room to herself and enjoys a muted light and the little blow heater on low as she settles down for the evening. She eats well and often, thank you very much, and feels quite free to investigate the pantry at her leisure. She snoozes on the couch in the sun during the day - not at all disturbed by the vacuum cleaner, although she does prefer a gentle piece of classical music.



She's taken quite a liking to the dog but is not enamoured at all of the feline residents. (They don't like her much either and tend to spend most of their days sulking outdoors).

The Little Women have offered her permanent residence and she's considering that at the moment. I, on the other hand, have gently suggested that perhaps she should think about a less crowded household. The Bearded One says she's no trouble really and can stay as long as she likes, so she's already divided and conquered, and looks quite pleased with herself as she plants herself in my favourite armchair.

I call this kitten Hitler, not only because of her little black moustache but because she's an autocrat who shares her power with no-one. She rules her adopted household with a wily cunning. I figure she's about five weeks old but she's squeezed a lot of living into that time and

survival is the name of her game. What I want to know - and she won't tell me - is how did she see us coming? Do we have a sign on our foreheads saying 'Sucker' or do we just exude a lingering scent that promises warmth and succour?

If nobody claims this little thing, which had been dumped in bushes beside the road - conveniently at the point where we always get stuck at the lights - it will be the fourth cat to have waltzed into our lives with no invitation. How did they find people like us? Is there a cat atlas out there somewhere which colours households by 'sucker' status? Pink for friendly, red for you've got a home for life, blue for forget it - you may get a feed but that's all, and black for dead losses or dog lovers only.

There must be. I placed an advertisement about Hitler - very carefully worded, mind you, in case someone who didn't really know her tried to claim her - and heard from a woman whose daughter had lost a small cat three weeks ago. She had heard from a lady who had found a cat fitting the description so they arranged to go around immediately. But by the time they got there the lady said, "Oh I don't know where it is now. I threw it some food but I haven't seen it since. Sorry."

I couldn't believe that! Imagine going to the trouble of letting someone know their lost pet may have been found, raising their hopes, and then dropping them into the pits again by not locking it in the laundry or something. Obviously the cat knew that was a 'blue' house and took off for pinker pastures. I felt so sorry for the daughter who responded to my ad and got all excited again. Her description fitted Hitler so well that I thought the \$10 for the ad, the \$10 or so for the food, and the \$10 or so for the kitty litter and tray had been money well spent. But no. Her face fell and the Little Women's lit up.

I've already used up a roll of film on the little beggar; some poses just must be kept forever. These photos will add to the six or so albums we already have, full of feline and canine memories. I suppose I'll have to change her name too because the girls already have been chastised by friends who believe the name Hitler to be politically incorrect. Meanwhile, as I write this, Hitler purrs contentedly beside me atop her little red cushion which is snuggled cosily into what used to be my favourite cane picnic basket.

I think she likes this thing called home.

**MY CATS ARE NOT
THE BEST CATS IN THE WORLD
BUT THEY ARE THE BEST CATS
IN MY WORLD**

GINGIVITIS AND MOUTH DISEASE

Drs Melissa Catt & Randolph Baral
Paddington Cat Hospital

Has your cat lost its 'ring of confidence'? Does he or she have bad breath, find it difficult to eat, or even drool or chatter teeth? If so, your cat may have gingivitis or some other mouth disease.

These problems are not uncommon reasons for a visit to the vet. It is also fairly common for gum and mouth problems to be picked up at your routine yearly visit for vaccinations. You may be told your little friend has gingivitis (inflammation of the gums), periodontitis (inflammation extending up to the ligaments and bony structures under the gum line), dental plaque (a bacterial build up on the tooth surfaces), tartar or calculus (plaque which has mineralised and hardened), or all of the above!

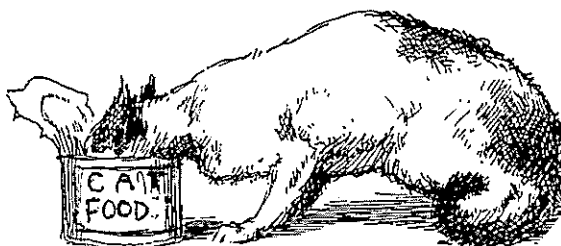
The causes of gum inflammation are many and varied, and include viral infections (eg Calicivirus), suppression and disorders of the immune system (eg with FeLV and FIV infections), and nutritional disorders. By far the most common causes of gingivitis are local factors - plaque, calculus, and food impaction. Provided that the underlying cause/s are treated or appropriately managed, gingivitis is generally considered to be reversible.

The food your cat eats is a vital component of maintaining healthy teeth and gums - cat's mouths weren't designed with a tinned only diet in mind! In the wild, cats not only catch their own food, they need to get through the skin and fur or feathers to the tissues underneath. Once there, they munch through bone and cartilage as well as the softer, fleshy parts. As you can imagine, gingivitis due to plaque and calculus accumulation would not be a common complaint under these circumstances! In this day and age, we prefer our cats not to hunt for their own food, so we must be mindful to provide a diet which mimics



their natural one. We still recommend good quality tinned and/or dry food, but this alone may not prevent dental disease.

Generally speaking, home care for teeth and gums includes the feeding of raw chicken wings or necks, which helps massage and clean the difficult to get to areas in the mouth. Some cats prefer chunks of red meat, which can be given in fairly large strips or cubes (please note that if your cat is used to eating minced meat, you may need to provide gradually coarser chunks over a few weeks). Given on a regular basis (twice weekly or more), this can delay the build up of plaque. Manual cleaning of the teeth with a pet finger brush or tooth brush along with specially formulated pet toothpaste may also be needed.



CAT'S TEETH WEREN'T DESIGNED FOR A 'TINNED FOOD ONLY' DIET

Once there is a problem of gingivitis due to plaque or calculus deposits, a 'dental prophylaxis' will be required to treat the problem. This needs to be done under general anaesthesia - no matter how placid a cat may ordinarily be, he won't take kindly to his teeth being accosted by an ultrasonic scaler! A dental 'prophy' includes:

ultrasonic and hand scaling to remove calculus and plaque on the tooth surface and under the gum line; curettage to scrape the surfaces of the soft tissues under the gum; and polishing the teeth to remove any residual deposits and to smooth the tooth surface, which further delays recurrence of the problem. Some teeth may need special treatment or even removal if they are not considered viable.

To restore your cat's 'ring of confidence', remember the old maxim: "a chicken wing every couple of days keeps the ultrasonic scaler away!"



"Busy Schedule, Mimi?"

"Packed, Snowy! Sleep in flower pot, snack, wash, snooze in sun, lunch, stare into space, rest, wash, snooze in laundry basket, pinch Ginger's tea, 40winks, pre-dinner snack, then ready and starving on the mat for my human's homecoming."



TAKE US
TO YOUR
LEADER

I AM
THEIR LEADER.





PADDINGTON CAT HOSPITAL

A NEW VET HOSPITAL JUST FOR CATS

Given her surname, Melissa Catt was always destined to become a vet with a particular affinity for cats and Randolph Baral loves cats so much that he married one! (actually, he married a Catt, Melissa to be precise).

Melissa and Randolph, as they prefer to be known, are the veterinarians who have recently opened the PADDINGTON CAT HOSPITAL, a new vet practice just for cats. They are vet school sweethearts who feel that their relationship was affirmed well before their wedding vows, when they shared the castration of their feline companion, Pablo, one testicle each!

When they started in practice 7 years ago, Melissa and Randolph found that many cat owners commented that their cats were better behaved than when with other vets, they also noted that cats would cringe at the bark of a dog. These early influences helped the young couple develop the idea of a vet practice staffed by vets and nurses who love cats and where cats feel comfortable in a practice without dogs to scare them; staff that are constantly improving themselves with further education to hone their skills; and where facilities and equipment are maintained to modern high tech standards. They were unaware at the time of existing practices like this, mainly in the United States, but also in Brisbane and Melbourne; as well as Kim Kendall's East Chatswood Cat Clinic.

Now their dreams of having their own such practice have come to fruition. Paddington Cat Hospital is located at 183 Glenmore Road, on the corner of Ormond St (parking is available in Ormond St), near Five Ways and in the same block as the Royal Hospital for Women. Melissa and Randolph have converted a traditional Victorian terrace into a 'state of the art' veterinary practice with a friendly ambience helped by their own collection of cat art.

The practice is opened from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm, Monday to Friday and 9 to 12 on Saturday with appointments preferred (Melissa and Randolph are available for emergencies at all other times). All usual veterinary services are provided and boarding is available for clients' cats with construction of an outdoor play area underway. Melissa and Randolph are happy to show interested observers through the practice at any time within their hours when they are not consulting.

PADDINGTON CAT HOSPITAL,
183 Glenmore Rd,
Paddington.
Phone: 02 9380-6111.
Fax 02 9380-6211.

TEETH CAPPING!!!

A human dentist in Sydney is fully occupied fixing cat's teeth (and dogs' and tigers' teeth as it happens!). The cat has a unique dental problem called 'erosive neck lesions', seen in the lower slicing teeth (called the carnassial teeth). These lesions are only seen in domesticated cats, including those in zoos, but not in feral cats.

Previous restorative techniques only hid the problem and the teeth had to be removed a couple of years later. However, new products have been developed that can contain the process so the teeth no longer have to be removed. Costs are comparable to human procedures. If you want your cat to have a beautiful smile - ask your vet for a referral.

FLOWER POTS

Are you tired of constantly picking up your wastepaper baskets that your cat(s) have knocked over when they tried to ferret something out of them? There is an easy and attractive solution. Use flower pots.

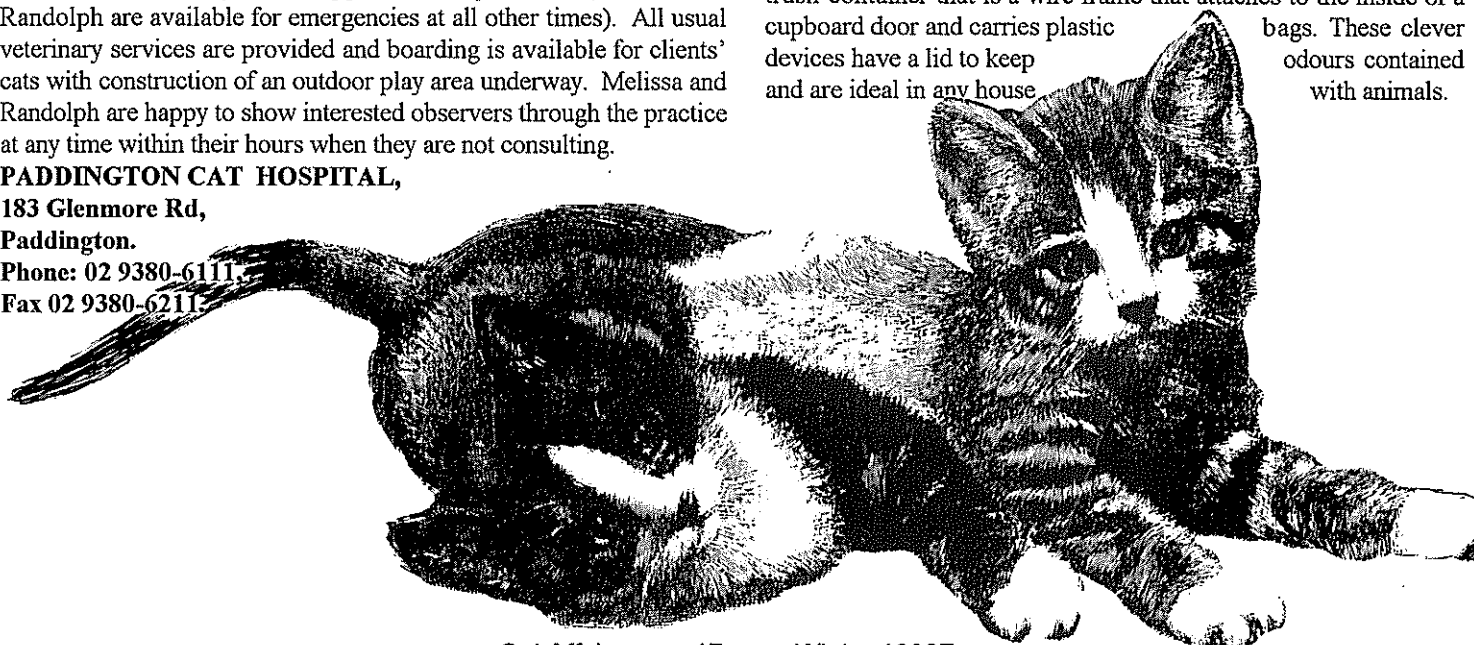
Choose a flower pot that is

- * sturdy
- * terracotta
- * ceramic
- * heavy metal
- * fairly straight sides and a fairly wide base

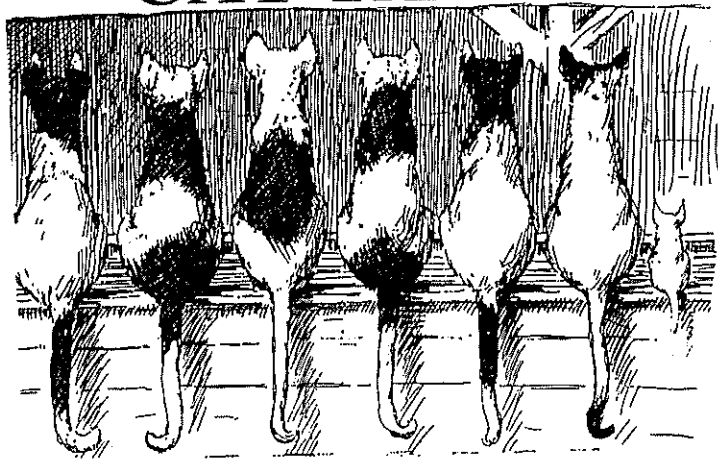
Test the pot's ability to withstand pressure by putting one hand on the rim and putting a cat's amount of weight on the edge. If the pot has been well chosen it will not flinch - and most certainly will not fall over. The flower pot can add a decorative touch to a room as well as ensuring the majority of your discards stay in the pot and don't end up on the floor. (If you can't beat 'em, you have to out think 'em!!!)

A GREAT KITCHEN TIDY BIN

To keep kitchen rubbish away from fossicking cats - look for the trash container that is a wire frame that attaches to the inside of a cupboard door and carries plastic bags. These clever devices have a lid to keep odours contained and are ideal in any house with animals.



CAT TALES



CATS ON THE MOVE

Lynette Shanley

The day arrived when we were all making the move from Katoomba to Portland, myself and 9 cats. I did not have a car so I told many friends hoping one or two would turn up on the day. Imagine my delight when a convoy of 4 cars appeared to take my cats to their new home. The cats had all been sedated and they were loaded into the cars and driven very slowly and carefully, one car behind the other. A stop was made on the way to allow me to check that they were all coping and to allow them to hear my voice. Cat moving was seen by all four drivers as serious business. When we arrived at the new home they were all placed in one room and when the sedative wore off they were shown the food, water and litter trays.

After a few days they ventured outside in new surroundings for the first time. They all reacted in very different ways to their new abode. Marcus is very old and loves to sleep all day, snoring on the bed. I have a feeling that as long as he can sleep on the bed he would not care if the bed was in the middle of a highway. He plodded slowly around the entire house, peeked under the house, made his way back inside to the bed, jumped up, fell asleep and started snoring and has been there ever since.

Romulus took to defending his new territory, hissing and snarling at any other cat in sight. He went for one of the neighbour's cats that dared to come to our door to see what was going on. The cat has not come back to our house since. Romulus was in for a shock the next time he had to defend his territory. Looking down the hall, I saw both him and Holly on the porch fluffing up their fur, hissing and snarling. They appeared to be frightened and I went to see what was upsetting them to find two large brown cows in the garden. They had never seen cows before. The shocks did not stop there as we have wild rabbits here and the first time Romulus saw one he looked at the rabbit, then looked at me and then at the rabbit again, not knowing what he was looking at or how he was supposed to react. He has chosen to ignore rabbits - I think they are too quick for him.

Titus is carrying out his normal routine. He comes inside for meals and to sleep but spends the rest of the time sleeping outside.

We have been here for 4 weeks and Atticus is still scared of everything, choosing to spend most of his day with his head buried under the blankets on the bed. It will take him some time to fully adjust. He was attacked by a dog just before the move and I feel this has something to do with him being scared. Extra effort is being put into helping him adjust.

Jenny went exploring with dreadful results. She came in with her stomach ripped open and needing 15 stitches. The vet feels she caught the skin on a nail or some sharp object and I have spent much time checking the premises for objects that could have caused such an injury. She gets plenty of cuddles and is now adjusting quite well.

Amy has found a box again. She only comes out of the box when I try to watch TV. She loves sitting on the TV with her tail dangling in front of the screen. The move did not alter her behaviour one bit. Millie is being her usual self, exploring and making new friends. Holly is doing what Holly does best, sitting on the window sills watching the world go by and meowing when it gets near dinner time.

Mimi is a little cat and is snow white. In the valley there is a huge snow white horse. The horse has learned that twice a day I will give it apples and carrots. As he comes to the side fence, 8 of the 9 cats sit and watch every move the horse makes, ready to bolt if the need arises. Mimi has positively fallen in love with the horse. She dotes on him. She sits in front of him while he grazes, watching him take every mouthful. She rubs up against his legs and purrs furiously. She follows him around for hours every day. He does not show the same passionate love towards her, but he never kicks or pushes her out of the way and allows her to follow him, rub up against him and sit by him. She sometimes tries to lick his nose when he eats grass. It is a wonderful sight to see a majestic white horse and a little white cat being the best of friends. If Mimi is not in the house she is with her new found friend, adoring him.

It is evening again, and at this time of the day the cats love to sit on the front porch which is up high off the ground, watching over the whole valley and looking at the houses in the distance. I usually take a cup of tea out and sit with them for a while. While it was traumatic for the cats to move, we had to do it. Life is once again settling into a routine and the cats are adjusting. As I observe them relax and feel at home in the new house I can also relax and start to enjoy it. After all, for me "Home is where the cats are".



DEE DEE & BUNDY

Wendy Pryor

Dee Dee was a Russian queen who could no longer have kittens. I adopted her from a breeder with a promise to have her desexed and give her a comfortable retirement. I soon learned that Dee Dee's expectations of a comfortable retirement were high. An aristocratic cat, with a taste for smoked salmon and opera, she soon established her sleeping quarters on my bed, her throne on my leather recliner and expected doors, even those that were ajar, to be opened for her.

I asked my vet, Dr Kim Kendall, who might make a suitable companion for this regal cat. I was rather surprised when she produced a skinny CPS tabby kitten from the 'Cat Cabin', a display front boarding home for cats awaiting adoption. But the little tabby clung to me, purred and begged to be taken home. Within a few days the kitten was following Dee Dee everywhere, trying to imitate her actions. Dee Dee responded with motherly affection, grooming the kitten as if she was one of her own.

I name the kitten Bundy, after the rum, as she was so high spirited. She would much rather catch and eat insects than be offered smoked salmon, and would sooner dig up my pot plants than sit around listening to music. She watches birds on the balcony as if dreaming of the great outdoors.

Bundy has had an influence on the docile Dee Dee who livened up and even takes part in chases and games when she thinks I am not looking. The two have become inseparable and are often to be found snuggled up together on my bed. I would never have guessed that two cats so different in nature could be such great friends.

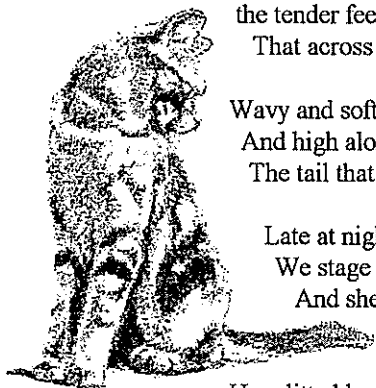
CATAPLEXY

Ever so sweet
the tender feet
That across my stomach race.

Wavy and soft
And high aloft
The tail that swats my face.

Late at night
We stage a fight
And she attacks my toes.

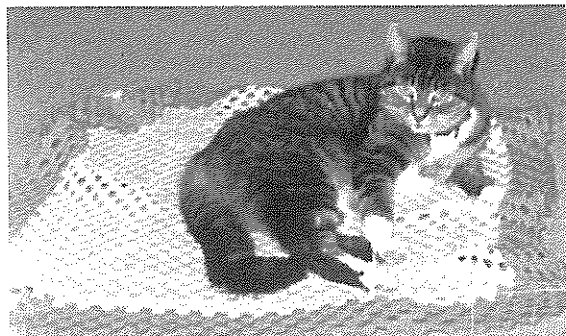
Her slitted look
Shuts out my book
As we drift off nose to nose.



MEWSETTE

Jan Mitchell

A friend gave me a little cat
Back in 1987
And so I named her Sweet Mewsette
She was such a pretty kitten.
With tabby coat and four white feet,
A white shirt and a tummy,
When e'er she heard a doggy bark
She would run to Mummy.
Now Daddy thought 'his little girl'
He'd wave his fingers near her nose,
Then whisk them out of reach.
But as we know all pussies grow
Strong and very fast
Now Mewsette grabs at Daddy's leg
As he is walking past.
My sweet Mewsette is nine years old
And she is so much bolder
When needing the toilet in the night
She dances on my shoulder.
While I put my slippers on
By the door she'll sit
Knowing that the world revolves
Around my Sweet Mewsette.



At the age of 10 years, Ann Guy was given her first artist's paints. While still in her teens she was selling her paintings to friends and acquaintances. Ann is also a talented natural scientist and it was this career she pursued at The University of Sydney and later in teaching. Her love of art surfaced again and in 1972 she started a business silk screen printing her own designs onto fabric articles. At this time she became a member of the Handcraft Association, a co-operative which now operates a shop in Johns Avenue, Gordon.

In the years after 1972, Ann dabbled in oil and watercolour paintings, particularly during family trips in Australia and overseas. Many of these paintings of local landscapes and flora were made in preference to photographic records. During this period Ann undertook studies at the Woollahra-Waverley Arts Centre and the Willoughby Art Workshop. Animals have always been a part of Ann's life, and about 5 years ago when the family cat, Shasta, was put to sleep, Ann painted a pastel portrait of her. This portrait was exhibited at the Waverley Art Show to much acclaim and it lead Ann into a new career. At first her animal portraits were for



as having several cat portraits published.

Ann also produces hand-coloured screen prints of cats on paper. These bright ink-coloured prints are popular at exhibitions and displays. Also in much demand are her screenprinted aprons with various varieties of cats and dogs displayed on the large central pocket. Ann gets much of her inspiration from her family cats. She and her family have befriended five over the last 25 years, all of whom have run the household.

Ann's work is available at the Handcraft Shop, Gordon; Puss 'n Pooch Gallery, Balmain; East Chatswood Cat Clinic, Willoughby; and at art and craft shows throughout the year, including the Australian Craft Show at the Sydney Showground and the Warringah Craft Show at Cromer, both in November. Phone Ann on (02) 9371-5408 to arrange to have an original portrait painted of your cat(s).

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.

PUBLIC RESCUES

Nance Iredale

We often get upset when told of an animal in distress which could be helped by the general public. For instance, an elderly lady reported an emaciated cat begging for food in a shopping area in the southern suburbs. She fed it with chicken and milk and rang us. She could do no more. The timing was awkward - our road staff was down to one and that person was many kilometres in the other direction. We tried to contact a large government department as the cat was outside their office. There was no way we could be put through. Next, the police. Again, no chance. Well, of course we went looking for it. Lena reported back that it was still begging for food when she arrived and was easily picked up. There must have been hundreds of people passing by and ignoring that starving creature. Yet it is so easy to give some help.

On the other hand, a sweet elderly lady rang to say that her Burmese kitten, on its first venture into the backyard, had managed to get onto a low roof. Once again our girls were miles away. It was a very hot day and the kit had been up there for some hours. In a trembly voice, the lady said if she had a ladder she would go up after it. We were glad there was no ladder handy!

There was no answer when we rang the fire brigade station, but the officers at Ryde Police Station obliged very willingly. They only had to drive a couple of blocks and probably stand on a chair. What a great public relations exercise! However, we understand that puss cat has had several more climbing episodes, so the trees in her garden have all been surrounded by metal. We hope the naughty thing hasn't made Ryde policemen into anti-catters.



Mesmerized Mr.

Sketch by Mignon Parker

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.

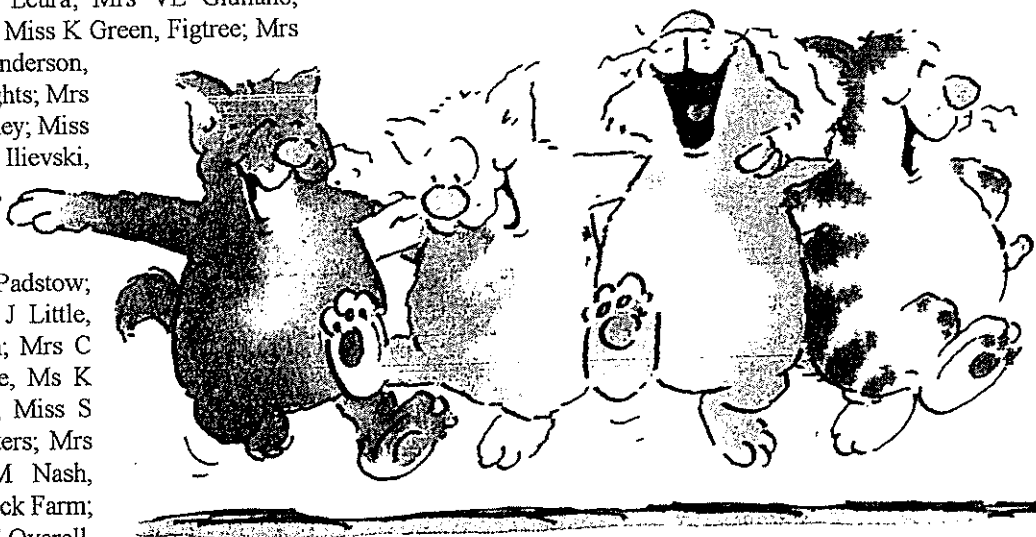
Surname(block letters please) Initials
New Address Postcode
Previous Address Postcode

NEW MEMBERS

October 1996 - January 1997

Miss LM Ashpole, Alexandria; Miss JR Amsden, Northmead; Ms L Astbury, Winston Hills; Ms S Barber, Enfield; Mrs T Barnes, Claremont Meadows; Miss J Bavin, Neutral Bay; Miss S Bishop, Manly Vale; PR Blair, Kogarah; The Bolitho's, Forestville; Ms M Brooks, Katoomba; Mrs D Brown, Kurrajong; Mrs Burford, Chatswood; Miss D Casbault, Cammeray; Miss CM Chancellor, Cowan; Miss LM Clark, Clovelly; M Coates, Chatswood; Ms Collins, Chatswood; N Connelly, Croydon; Ms A Daly, Arncliffe; Miss J Donald, Baulkham Hills; Mrs A Doukes Wahroonga; Mrs BG Evans, Lindfield; J Platt, Narrabeena; Mrs Foster, Willoughby; Mrs D Fraser, Castlecrag; Mrs J Gardiner, Leura; Mrs VE Giuliano, Greenacre; Ms E Gortschacher, Ryde; Miss K Green, Figtree; Mrs ML Hall, Chatswood; Mr TJ Henderson, Roseville; Mr D Hollman, Canley Heights; Mrs J Home, Doonside; Mr J Howard, Sydney; Miss CL Ifland, St Leonards; Mrs DE Ilievski, Hurstville; Ms KJ Jeffrey, Cheltenham; Mrs DE Johnson, Turramurra; Miss CF Johnston-Ford, Thornleigh; MF Jones, Arncliffe; Mrs LD Joosten, Padstow; Master B King, Canley Vale; Mrs J Little, Richmond; KH Livingston, Artarmon; Mrs C Lutz, Holmesville; Mrs T Mackenzie, Ms K McFadden, Balmain; Frenchs Forest; Miss S Matiuk, Turramurra; P Miller, St Peters; Mrs DM Minter, Alexandria; Miss LM Nash, Ambarvale; Mrs ED Nuttridge, Warwick Farm; Miss K O'Neale, Blacktown; Miss ME Overall,

Marsfield; Mrs KM Parker, Chatswood; Miss JM Paur, North Sydney; Mrs G Philpot, Miranda; MS W Pryor, Chatswood; Miss SA Raida, Naremburn; Ms JH Rares, Crows Nest; Mr S Remy, Woollahra; Dr J Righetto, Roseville; Mrs E Ryan, Killara; Ms W Russell, Canterbury; Mrs M Seabrook, Croydon; Mr ND Smidt, Lane Cove; Miss T Stanaway, Willoughby; Mrs PD Stubbings, Old Toongabbie; S Tall, Chatswood; D Taylor, Woollahra; MS HP Thurgood, Epping; Val, Nowra; The Waite's Ermington; Mrs K Walker, North Sydney; Miss TG Waters, Bondi Junction; The Way's, Glenbrook; Mrs M Ward, Naremburn; Mrs N Whatman, Miranda; Mrs E Whealing, St Ives; Ms B Wodecki, Berala; Mrs JF Woodworth, Killara; Master P Zivkovic, Northmead.



THE FEDERAL CAT SHOW

8 JUNE 1997

HOME BUSH STATE SPORT CENTRE

WELCOMES EXHIBITORS OF DESEXED DOMESTIC CATS AND KITTENS

RING MARION or IAN DUNNE (02) 9153 6870 FOR AN ENTRY FORM

Call NOW, entries must be received by the show secretary by 16 May, 1997

The Federal Cat Show is the largest cat show in NSW

There will be classes such as Best Groomed, Best Purrsonality, Most appealing Face

Your cat(s) must be clean, flea-free, desexed, immunised. The Federal Cat Show provides the benching cages and first time exhibitors can borrow white show curtains if you don't have your own..

The show schedule (entry form) is very informative and takes the 'scare' out of your first show. Newcomers are readily welcomed at the booking in desk on show day and show staff are happy to escort you to your cat's cage and help you set up. If this is your first show you will find friendly faces all around and plenty of help and advice to get over the 'first time nerves'.

GIVE SHOWING A GO! GIVE YOUR CAT A CHANCE TO WIN RIBBONS AND ROSETTES

Showing is a fun day and provides an opportunity to chat to lots of dedicated cat lovers and view the wonderful world of pedigreed cats that also will be 'on the bench'

A GHOSTLY SAVIOUR

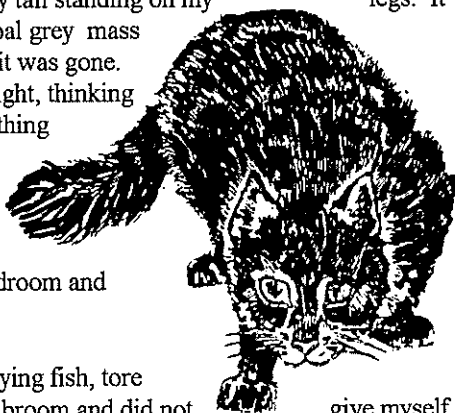
Anne Skerratt

I had a funny experience the other night at the cottage. I could not sleep so I read until midnight, put the light out and tossed for awhile, then all of a sudden something heavy grabbed my legs. I sat bolt upright in bed and looked down and there was this cat looking at me, a fluffy cat with a big fluffy tail standing on my legs. It looked like a dark charcoal grey mass of smoke. I blinked and it was gone.

I quickly turned on the light, thinking it had jumped off, but nothing was in the room - then I looked up and there was a huge tarantula on the wall over the doorway between the bedroom and the living area.

I shot out of bed like a flying fish, tore out to the veranda, got the broom and did not time to think - just charged and missed, charged and missed, charged and zappppp. Then I sat down weakly.

My thoughts turned to what had happened I am sure I was awake... and I know I saw the cat - but then I realised it was not solid but the shape in a smoky form. I know something grabbed my legs. It was just like the weight of a cat ... I know I was awake ... but I can't believe what I saw and felt ... I must have dreamed it ... or was it Fluff coming back to warn me ... or what?!?!



A SUMMER RESCUE

On her way to her final exam for her uni degree, Suzanna was driving along when she caught a glimpse of a tiny kitten being tossed out of a moving car. It fell down into the trench next to the Water Board pipelines.

Suzanna couldn't believe her eyes, she hit the brakes, leaving the car in the middle of the road, and rushed down to get the kitten before the nearby dogs got it. Then she rushed the flea ridden ball of smelly kitten to the RSPCA to have their vet give it a checkup.

She advised the RSPCA that she would be back after her exam and that no matter what was wrong with the little kitten she would pay for it to be fixed up and give it a home.

It was very hard concentrating on her exam when most of her thoughts were with the kitten and wondering if it would be alright.

When she returned to the RSPCA she was informed that the cat was anaemic but it would be okay. Suzanna paid for the little kitten's injections and bundled the newest family member up for the trip home.

"Top Deck", as the little lady was named, is now very much a part of the family, with her own bunk beds and she has just graduated from the bottom to the top bunk (at her own choosing, of course). She has an electronic kitty door that gives her and her alone 24 hour access to 'her own home'. As you can see by the picture on the back cover, Top Deck loves helping her Mummy do the gardening although she doesn't always watch what she is doing.

