

WINTER 2000

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

Cat Affairs





THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE ...

Congratulations to our new editor, Suzanne Jenkins on her first *Cat Affairs*. Suzanne has done a wonderful job with this first issue and I'm sure you will all enjoy reading it, as I did. From her editorial, you will realise that Suzanne has a great love for cats. Thanks to Lee Wright for all the work she had done as editor of *Cat Affairs* over many years, and thanks also for helping to smooth the transition to the new editor.

Congratulations also to Ros Riordan who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the RSPCA in New South Wales. Ros was only a CPS council member for a short period but was known to us in her prior roles as adviser to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Agriculture. We wish you well at RSPCA Ros, and this appointment can only benefit the long-term relationship between CPS and the RSPCA.

Animal welfare is my primary concern and two articles in this issue of *Cat Affairs* illustrate two particular welfare concerns. They are not overt cases of cruelty but rather something directly under our control. First, Richard Malik talks of genetic diseases of cats (see page 6) and illustrates how humans can unwittingly cause problems for cats through inappropriate breeding. He points out that some cat breeds may end up with similar problems to those that occur in some dog breeds. We must be vigilant to ensure that the animals do not suffer because humans want to produce an animal that has some cosmetic characteristics that please us, rather than considering the health and welfare of the animals. He highlights the advantages of the crossbred cat.

The second article relates to white cats (see page 15). We are all aware of the need to protect ourselves from the harmful effects of the sun's rays, but how many of us do the same for our cats? It is especially critical to protect white cats otherwise cancers will develop on the nose and ears. Carers of white cats should give serious consideration to keeping them indoors away from the damaging effects of the sun.

While on the topic of keeping cats indoors, there are a number of advantages in all cats being kept as indoor cats. If you do so, no longer will you have to worry if your cat is late coming home - has she been hit by a car, attacked by a dog or the big tom cat from up the road, or has she been trapped by a vindictive neighbour? How much better it is to know where she is all the time.

While it is much easier to raise a new kitten as an indoor cat, even cats that are used to being outdoors can be trained to stay inside provided they are given plenty of stimulation, an enriched environment and plenty of companionship. The result can be a stronger relationship between you, your family and your cat(s) and the risks of death or injury to your cat and to wildlife can be minimised. Remember to make your house cat safe, for example by removing dangerous objects, sprays and poisons, keeping dishwasher and washing machine doors shut and blocking entrances to small spaces. Another option is to have an enclosed outdoor area where your cat can enjoy the fresh air, but still be secure. Please think about it.

Keith Edwards

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VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR OPPORTUNITY SHOP

COVER: Alice Maree Jenkins, Photographer: Suzanne Jenkins

CENTREFOLD: Tiggy, Photographer: Angelika Elliott

BACK COVER: Nbt Pr Rose, Photographer: Barbara Munday

EDITORIAL

I would firstly like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lee Wright for giving of her time so freely to show me the ropes and the tricks of the trade with regard to producing the CPS Journal. Lee did not have to do this and it has helped me tremendously to have had the time with her which I really enjoyed. Not to mention the great dinners she cooked me. Thank you Lee.

Most of you will not know me but I have been on the Council for some six years and for five of those have been the Secretary. I also have a full-time office job in the city.

When the news at a CPS Council meeting last year came that Lee was relinquishing Editorship of the newsletter and the call went out for a new Editor, I put up my hand volunteering to give it a go. Although I realised that Lee's were big shoes to fill, I wanted to give it a try. I am new at this so I am quite comfortable with ideas/suggestions for improvement or any other critiques that you may wish to offer.

As new Editor, I decided to allow myself one small indulgence (well, maybe two). The beautiful Cover Girl is Alice and she's my youngest. I have had her now for just over a year and needless to say I absolutely adore her just as she adores me. I spotted her one Sunday morning in the CPS Office when we were all milling around the kittens just before our monthly meeting began and I couldn't help myself. I took her home after the meeting and I nursed her for five straight hours and she purred non-stop! This was a happy, not nervous purr, I knew this as she looked up at me with adoring eyes and snuggled into me. I think she knew she was somewhere good. After all, anyone that has been to my place will attest that my cats are treated like royalty. A common comment is that my place looks like it's decked out just for the cats. Just I say?

Alice is the youngest of eight girls (although the fact that they are all girls is purely coincidental). My oldest, Portia, is 14 and her mate Chloe is 13. Then there's Estelle who's 11 and her mate Charlotte who's 10 (Charlotte is a Russian Blue and my only pedigree and she completely mothers the youngest four). I then have sisters Catherine and Frances and they are 9. The babies of the bunch are Justine, aged 3 and of course little Alice.

I have been a cat lover since I can remember and as a child I am usually pictured in photographs holding a cat. Like most cat lovers, I love all animals but cats just happen to be my favourites. I also love big cats and would have them too if I could. The next best thing though is getting close to these big cats when opportunity presents so when I heard there were new born Snow Leopard cubs in Mogo Zoo I knew I had to see them and to feature them in the Journal. I contacted the Zoo and was fortunate to have been allowed to see them although at the time the cubs were not on public exhibition. See pictures and details on Page 7.

I hope to get some feedback from some of you on what you would like to see in future issues and of course contributions are always welcome, particularly photographs, and should be sent care of the Office at Enmore. Please have a look at my two new regular articles, "Pussycat Profiles", this month featuring Sheena, a lovely old lady and "Your Cats' Star Sign".

I hope you enjoy looking through my first edition and would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Kind regards,


Suzanne Jenkins



Contributors!

If you would like to send a contribution to the magazine, contributions are of course always welcome. Perhaps you have a nice cat story to tell or would like your cat profiled.

You can E-mail me at my E-mail address:

Suzanne_Jenkins@hotmail.com

or send contributions care of the Enmore office. An accompanying photograph would of course be great but please remember to include your name and address on the back of the photo.

A cat is just a bundle of purr.



There's always room for another cat.

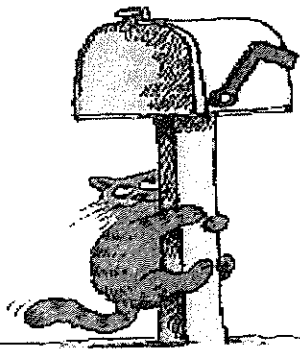


 A mature cat is a good companion.



A happy cat means a happy household.

The SCRATCHING



Post

Dear everyone at the CPS,
Just to say hello and thank you for my darling cat who I bought in early May. His name is Sweetpea, isn't he cute?
All the best to you and keep up the good work.

Lisa & Nuala



Sweetpea

Dear CPS,

I have enclosed a photo of my darling cat Souki (short for "Mitsouko", the Japanese word for "mystery"). I recently found him dumped and starving and with a bladder infection at KFC.



I picked him up and he curled up on my lap and purred as I drove all the way home. He is now happy and healthy and very grateful indeed. The vet said he is half Siamese and had already been desexed. The photo shows him modelling a dog's jumper knitted for the RSPCA.

Emma Weine

P.S. Many thanks for the kind donation - Ed

NO Y2K BUGS ON OUR CATS!

Many thanks to Lee Wright, our recently retired Cat Affairs Editor, for her generous donation of MYOB software to our Enmore Office. We can now enter the new millenium plus cope with other nasties like the GST with confidence. Thanks again Lee for your kind contribution towards our accounting welfare!

Dear Cat Persons,

No doubt there are arguments for and against cat doors but I enclose a photo of my cat Calico and the two next door's toms on my bed merely as a comment.

When I moved in there was a brick missing in the wall of the kitchen and my cat used it as a cat door.

About ten years ago Steve moved in next door. After a short while he brought home a tiny b&w tom kitten who immediately came through the fence and ate my cat's food. As my Calico was a female she tolerated the tiny interloper. A year later a second tom kitten arrived and the process was repeated.



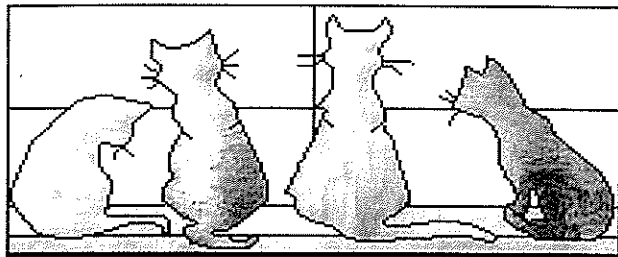
Calico and her friends

The photo shows just how much at home the toms felt. I would find them asleep everywhere including the sock drawer and when I arrived home they would leisurely wander into the kitchen to be fed. So as not to alienate their affection I would plonk them over the fence while Calico had her food.

Unfortunately the second tom developed leukaemia and had a long course of chemotherapy which was not successful. On his last visit home he struggled over the fence and nibbled a biscuit as if he wanted to say goodbye - it was heartbreaking.

Steve and the other tom are now living in Queensland. I wonder if his neighbours occasionally find tom asleep in their sock drawer?

John Rich



OFFICE TAILS



We've had a summer of record cat and kitten placements and certainly our new Cat Adoption Centres have played an important role in helping us to achieve those figures. I'm also pleased to see that even in the height of the kitten season people were realising the benefits of some of our more mature cats that are looking for homes instead of the usual young kittens (although never as many as we would like!). The way we see it is that an older cat is less likely to shred your lounge or your curtains and can amuse herself quite happily (sleeping) while you are out of the house. You also know in a minute whether you've got a confident ego driven maniac or a shy miss mouse that needs that extra bit of coaxing to come out of her shell. Of course there are always exceptions to every rule and we've had shy and demure adult cats here that have decided (once they have safely arrived at their new home) to show that they are really are ego driven maniacs at heart. Fortunately by that time their new owners have generally fallen madly in love with them.

We now have expert care for our cats at our Enmore office with the appointment of two new part time cattery assistants Sophie Webb and Dimity Kuneman. Both Sophie and Dimity came to us with previous experience in cat care and the care and dedication they show to their charges means our cats and kittens are well loved and cared for. Which probably partly explains the enormous success we've had in finding so many homes for our adult cats and kittens!

Onto topics slightly more daunting, we are gearing up for GST and while we have our financial systems in place we are a little concerned as to the effect this new tax will have on organisations in our situation who are working not for profit. Unfortunately we undoubtedly will have additional costs that we may have to pass onto our kitten and cat prices. The good news is that we are ready for it.

I mentioned our joint desexing scheme with Wollondilly Council last journal. We

have relaunched this scheme under a new banner called **Operation Cat** and a few weeks ago Warringah Council joined forces with us for an **Operation Cat** effort which should happen shortly. We are hoping that we can desex and microchip as many cats in this Shire as possible to help Warringah Council cats become responsible citizens. Our charges for **Operation Cat** are very low - we offer a female desexing and microchip for \$65 and a male desexing and microchip for \$55. If you live in the Sydney metropolitan area and are interested in having **Operation Cat** in your area please call the Animal Advisory Officer in your local Council and ask them to ring me.

I have noticed a definite increase in the number of cats wearing collars and tags in my neighbourhood, which is very heartening. Despite this we still get a lot of cats surrendered that have no identification even though some of them are wearing collars! The new Companion Animals Act does state that every cat should wear a collar and ID tag at the very least and of course those cats purchased after 1 July 1999 should also be microchipped. It makes our job (and other shelters) so much more difficult if your cat is not wearing any identification. We have tags available from our office which have our phone number and a 4 digit number that corresponds to your name and contact details in our register which would be suitable for those that live in the Sydney metropolitan area. Nevertheless we do recommend that your disc has at least the name of your cat and your telephone number.

We are trialing Saturday opening at our Enmore office starting in February in order to maximise our exposure in the area. Our new hours are Saturdays from 10am till 3pm so if you live locally and have never had a chance to visit our office we would love to see you. We also have kittens and cats available that are in need of good homes! Of course our Op Shop is just a few doors down from the office and is also open on a Saturday morning.

CPS was represented at Newtown festival in November. It was another great day talking to people about their cat concerns and letting people know about the services we provide. We ran a guessing competition and the winner picked up a cat basket crammed full of the kind of goodies that both owners and cats love.



Jimi helping in the Office

I'd just like to end with a story on Jimi: Jimi, a 5-year-old tabby and white desexed male is a gentle trusting fellow but it wasn't always that way. When he first came to us he had every right to be mistrustful of the human race. Some years ago his owners left him behind when they moved and neighbours started feeding him. However, fate befell him a second time and his new owners also ended up moving on - without Jimi. Another concerned neighbour brought him to us and apart from a few days spent crouched in the far corner of his cage looking rather overwhelmed at all the strange sounds and smells he now hardly bats an eye and is turning out to be a rather handy filing cabinet adornment. He spends his time filing, eating, sleeping and drooling on keyboards.

A typical cat's life.

Sue Matysek

GENETIC DISEASES OF CATS

Richard Malik,

Valentine Charlton Senior Lecturer in Feline Clinical Sciences,
The University Veterinary Centre, The University of Sydney

Veterinarians in small animal practice are confronted by a bewildering number of disease conditions. As a generalisation, most disease conditions seen in dogs are ultimately genetic in origin, whereas most disease conditions in cats have a traumatic or infectious cause. This situation has arisen because a substantial proportion of dogs are purebreds or purebred crosses. Breeding practices that have fixed a number of 'desirable' physical and behavioural traits have also established a number of genetic defects that ultimately give rise to disease. Some of these are obvious. Others, on the other hand, do not obviously make owners, breeders or veterinarians think of the underlying genetic predisposition.

By their very nature, some canine breeds are genetic mutants. Dachshunds and Bassets, for example, are obviously dwarfs. Likewise, Toy poodles and Italian Greyhounds are midgits. Bulldogs have malformed heads, which result in breathing difficulties that usually require surgical correction, and their heads are so large that they must often be delivered by Caesarean section.

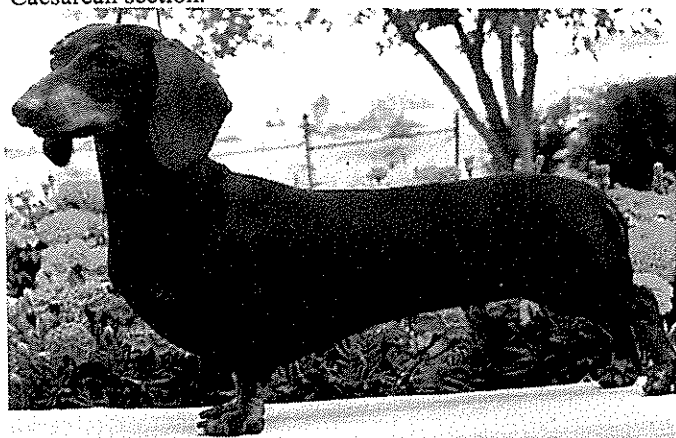


Figure 1 Not a dog breed – a genetic dwarf! No wonder their intervertebral discs degenerate in early middle age

Other breeds have become very strongly associated with certain genetically inherited defects. For example, almost all Bedlington terriers in Australia have copper storage disease that causes liver failure. There are other genetic diseases which are very common in certain breeds, such as the association between German Shepherds and hip dysplasia and Rottweilers with elbow dysplasia. Indeed, it is fair to say that ultimately most disease conditions of purebred dogs have a genetic basis!

The situation in cats is different, because historically in Australia cats have decided on their own sexual partners. Thus, most cats that are kept as pets are domestic crossbreds. For this reason, cats have been basically much more sound genetically than dogs. Thus, the diseases which we see commonly in domestic short haired and long haired cats tend to be related to trauma (such as vehicular trauma, dog attack injuries, cat bite injuries) or infectious agents (such as Herpesvirus, Calicivirus, FIV, FeLV, FIP, feline infectious enteritis, feline infections

anaemia, cat bite abscesses, pyothorax, cryptococcosis, mycobacteriosis).

This state of affairs is likely to change as the population of crossbred cats in Australia declines as a result of cat registration, early desexing schemes, cat curfews and the like, and unfortunately if the proportion of purebred cats increases and current breeding practices prevail, then cats are at risk for developing the same high prevalence of genetically programmed diseases which currently afflict dogs.

This article will focus on two examples of genetic diseases of cats - **osteochondrodysplasia of Scottish Fold cats** and **polycystic kidney disease in Persian cats** and aims to highlight strategies that can be used to prevent or eliminate these problems. Interestingly, both these problems are inherited in an autosomally dominant manner. This means heterozygotes (carriers – which carry one copy of the defective gene and one normal gene) are ABNORMAL and can therefore be detected using either X rays or ultrasound.

Bone and Joint problems in Scottish Fold cats

The Scottish Fold cat was developed from a naturally occurring mutant cat that was first observed in Scotland in the early 1960s. The cat in which the mutant gene was first observed was used to 'fix' the trait by a number of restricted matings to local farm cats and British Shorthairs. Scottish Fold cats have as their defining feature a forward folding of the ears. This gives them a unique "owl-like" look, which many people find particularly appealing.

It was soon discovered, however, that if Scottish Fold cats were mated to other Scottish Fold cats, many of the offspring developed a severe crippling lameness early in life. Cats so affected had shortened, malformed legs. As a result of this discovery, the breed was outlawed by the Cat Fancy in the UK. Ironically, the breed was perpetuated in the USA where breeders determined that offspring of matings of cats with folded ears to cats with normal ears were relatively normal, and that half of such matings (on average) had folded ears. In order to keep the type fixed, this practice was followed indefinitely; cats with the Scottish Fold type, but with normal ears were thus produced in equal numbers from these matings. Such cats are known as **Scottish Shorthairs** or **Scottish Fold variants**.

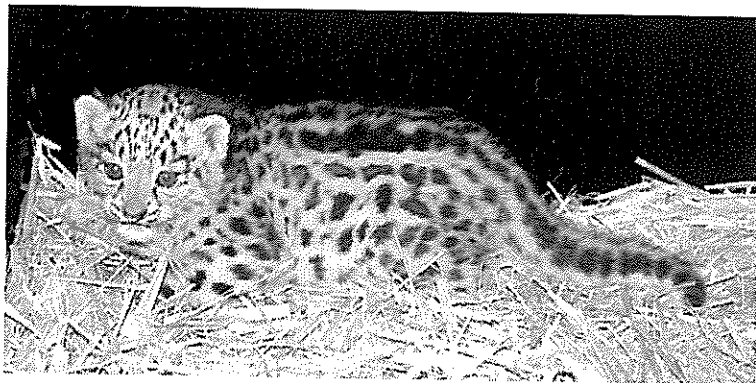
Recent work conducted in Australia has established that heterozygous Scottish Fold cats (cats with folded ears that carry one copy of the defective cartilage gene) invariably become afflicted by a progressive arthritis that varies in severity from Fold to Fold. Thus cats homozygous for the Fold gene (i.e. cats with TWO copies of the defective gene – which can only occur in Fold to Fold matings) develop crippling arthritis at an early age, whereas heterozygous Folds develop arthritis but, more

... Continued Page 23

Baby Snow Leopards in Town!!!

Mogo Zoo owners Bill and Sally Padey are the lucky hosts to two Snow Leopard cubs. The first cubs in Australia to be bred in captivity in 10 years – the cubs have brought quite a lot of attention to the zoo. There are only eight Snow Leopards in zoos around Australia, and now four of the eight are kept at the Mogo Zoo.

Sally and Bill Padey, owners of the 'boutique' Zoo at Mogo, were ecstatic about their precious new arrivals, a male and a female. The cubs are a picture of health and now that they are a few months old they are on public display.



Female Snow Leopard Cub

The mother Snow Leopard, whose name is Lena (6 years old), was imported from Helsinki Zoo in Finland and the father, Manga (ten years old), was brought in from Melbourne Zoo. It is the female's first litter and fortunately she has taken to motherhood well and was left to rear her young without any human intervention.

The Eurobodalla Shire on the South Coast is a quiet and clean place which could be a major contributing factor to the snow leopards' happiness.

There has been much interest in these cubs, a filmmaker from National Geographic is interested in filming the cubs during their first year. The cubs will stay at Mogo Zoo for a year before being transported elsewhere for possible breeding.

Established ten years ago, the Mogo Zoo is just past Bateman's Bay on the South Coast. As well as the Snow Leopards, the Zoo also features Lions, Tigers, Red Pandas, Jaguars, Monkeys, Syrian Bears, Koalas, and the list goes on. There are also plans to extend in the future, including possibly rhinos and giraffe. With informative talks by keepers and daily afternoon feeding of the tigers and bears, the zoo has real appeal.

Apart from providing a wonderful home for all these animals, Mogo Zoo plays a big part in various Australian Zoo species management programs by supplying spaces for retired breeding stock from our major zoos. The zoo not only supports breeding programs but also financially supports field work in Nepal to help the Red Panda in its native habitat where it is endangered from land clearance. Mogo Zoo is committed to the preservation of the world's five remaining sub-species of Tiger and has also taken on animals surplus to breeding programs or zoos. The two Bengal Tigers currently at the Zoo were taken from a private zoo in NSW by the RSPCA and now have a great life on the South Coast. Although a male and a female, unfortunately these two cannot be bred as their history is unknown as records were not kept (they may be related).

Snow Leopards are a highly endangered species due to the popularity of their fur, although it is illegal to hunt these beautiful cats. They have grey-green eyes and their fur is smokey-grey with black spots. The Snow Leopard is smaller than a standard leopard, weighing between 55-65 lbs. There are perhaps as few as 6,000 Snow Leopards left in the wild. Snow Leopards are typically solitary, although male and female pairs form during the brief breeding season, which takes place from January through late March. A typical litter size consists of 2-4 cubs. Siblings may travel together briefly following separation from their mother at about ages 18 to 22 months. In an effort to stem the diminishing number of Snow Leopards in the wild, The International Snow Leopard Trust has been established. It is a nonprofit organisation located in Seattle, Washington which is currently designing an incentive program aimed at encouraging rural communities to become effective stewards of snow leopard and other rare animals, and at improving the availability of natural prey for this endangered cat to prevent attacks on village livestock.

Mogo Zoo is open Monday - Sunday from 9am - 5pm and admission is Adults \$10, Children \$5 & Pensioners \$8 and is well worth a visit.



Sumatran Tiger, Thelma having some afternoon tea

Suzanne Jenkins

Naming Your Cat or Dog

Nance Iredale

I'm listening to our staff at Enmore name the cats and kittens we are holding for homes. It's great fun.

My animals have always had meaningful names such as:

TIJNTA (CHINTA) means love in Indonesian. I've known five cats with this name and have had two, both Siamese.

MANITOU – The Red Indian God of Wild Creatures. I've had two – both ginger.

STAREHE – Kenyan – means freedom from want and hunger. I had a lovely grey, lame girl who came to me with her babies. I was asked to trap her but she allowed us to pick her up and she fed lots of kittens while she fed her own babies in my cat room. Anyone was welcome for a drink. Desexed, she had no interest in babies and she lived with me for many years.

ATTICUS – a lovely grey, slightly long haired cat named after Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mocking Bird".

SNIDGER – because my Dad used to say lots of things were little 'snidgers' – 'snidgers' was a sign of his total approval.

KHOTSO – my solid black. I'd planned to call him Jomo Kenyatta but Jo Jo for short sounded a bit odd so he became Khotso – which means peace, and it was the year of peace.

HEGERA – Hegie for short – was my great little bitser dog. Hegera means flight to a safer place. Hegie came from the RSPCA. Hegie's replacement is a cute Maltese called UTU which means compensation in Maori.

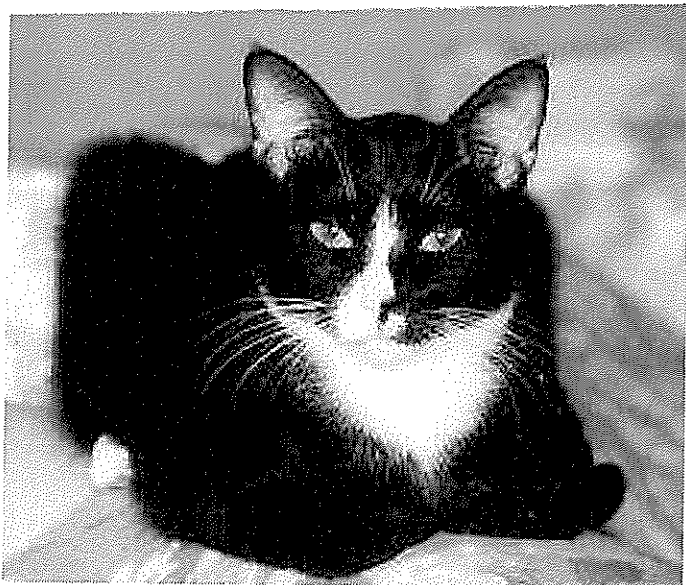
When my friend Robin Warner and I were busy finding homes for kits, we had names which described their appearance.

Black and ginger – Festus

Traditional tab – no white – Emma.

White/ginger/ginger in blobs – Cleo.

Black and white (white bib and feet) – Pollyanna or Florence – they look so cheerful and prim.



A strong tabby with a big white bib and green eyes we called Yehudi because he was so vocal, just like a violin.

A cheeky little tabby with his tail straight up – Flag.

We once called a sad little tabby and white boy Fodder Wing after the little disabled Indian boy from "The Yearling" (I'd just read it). He was chosen by a very sensible, no nonsense family who, I am sure rescued him because of his silly name and probably called him Puss.

We called one very ugly kit (is there such a thing?) Pale Face Adios after a very ugly greyhound or horse (can't remember which) which was in the news at the time.

We would be interested to hear unusual names you have given to your cat or dog.



Our Peg

The constitution of CPS allows for just fifteen members to be Honorary Life Members at any time. This honour is given for long and outstanding service to our Society. On 26/9/95 this tribute was paid to Peg Gauley of Auburn.

I've known Peg Gauley since the early 70s when she borrowed my first catching cage to pick up a poor, sick, frightened little cat hiding in the local service station.

Peg, along with other cat lovers, mostly CPS members, delivers the local paper so she has spies to report on local cat activities. Almost every Saturday she arrives at Concord Animal Hospital with a batch of cats to be desexed, kittens to be rehomed, and some poor, wild, sometimes very sick creatures who have no future. She has no car but always has a driver who admires her dedication and waits patiently for her. Then there is almost always a trip to return the cats which have been desexed.

This is no young lady – Peg is a mature woman who treats her not perfect health with little regard.

Recently she was contacted by an elderly couple who had been hearing what they thought was a possum in their roof. That's until they heard obvious kitten noises. So it was Peg to the rescue. No one else would tackle the scary climb to the roof – the condition of the floor of the roof was not the best. She was scared. As she flashed her torch around she saw two wee kittens who were trembling and in terrible condition. This enabled her to grab them and quickly put them in a basket. The vet said they had some horrible sickness that produced this trembling. A catching cage was set and overnight the mother cat was caught. Peg thought that she had glimpsed another kitten so a trap was left and eventually two more kittens were caught. Of course, this meant a number of trips into the roof and Peg was in agony each day knowing she had taken the mother away and that the kittens were on their own. An employee from the local council helped with some of the work.

It was a mystery how the cat got into the roof in the first place. It appears she must have climbed a palm tree (no branches) and made a precarious jump onto the roof. There were two bull terrier dogs in the yard. How did she survive there? Did she find some rats or birds in the roof? What about something to drink?

But this is only one story we could tell about this wonderful little lady.

At CPS, all our job sheets are filed in books according to suburb, but we have one special book full each year with Peg Gauley's work.

Of course, Peg has lots of dogs and cats – all rejects from uncaring people. She generally won't admit to how many, but the number is getting down a bit, as they are now growing older.

Nance Iredale

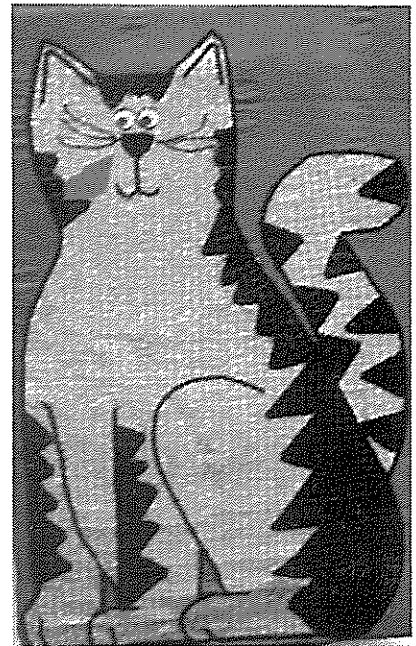
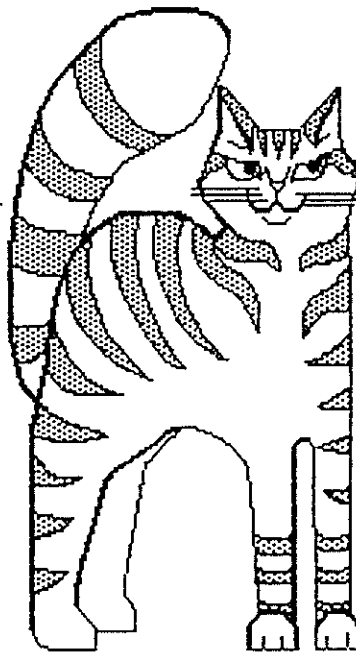
ARTY CATTY CRAFTS

Lee Wright

Don't be limited by published designs for your arts and crafts. Never ever overlook the chance to convert a 'cartoon' (as in a pattern) from one medium to another. It only takes a wee bit of vision and a willingness to experiment.

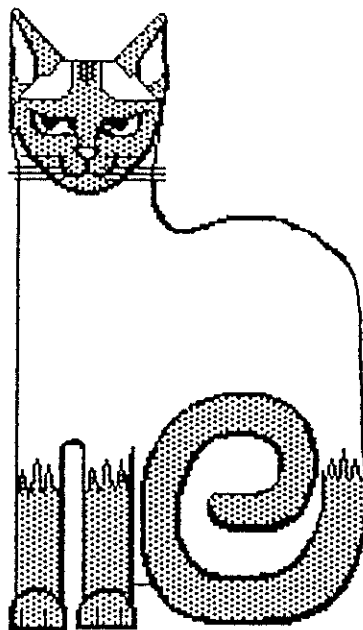
The following designs could be done in any variety of needlework; cross stitch, long stitch, crewel, needlepoint, quilting, machine embroidery. But I wanted something easy and quick (or so I thought .. to the easy, 'yes', to the 'quick', no.) But enjoyable??? You better believe it!!

I photocopied the original designs on enlargement after enlargement to get them up to a substantial size. Luckily I had the styrofoam sheets that I used for backing, I purchased a cheap base fabric and then a couple of metres each of gold, silver and black sequined fabric. 10 centimetres each of blue, white, black and red satin, straight pins and umpteen metres of thin black trim, 3 tubes of fabric glue and the project was ready to start.



The backing fabric was secured to the styrofoam sheets with straight pins, as many as necessary to keep the fabric taut. The pattern was traced onto a page of the SMH and cut into the required pieces. Each piece was cut out of the chosen fabric and lightly glued onto the backing fabric. Then the fun began. With glue and a kitchen skewer, I started gluing the black trim to cover the cut edges and give the design a sharp finish. That took a fair bit of time but it was a joy seeing the cats come alive.

In total I did 4 cats, three cats came from computer designs, the cat with the kiss was a birthday card. Anytime I see a simplistic design I save it (or photocopy it and save it) for future use. There are so many ideas 'out there', outside of

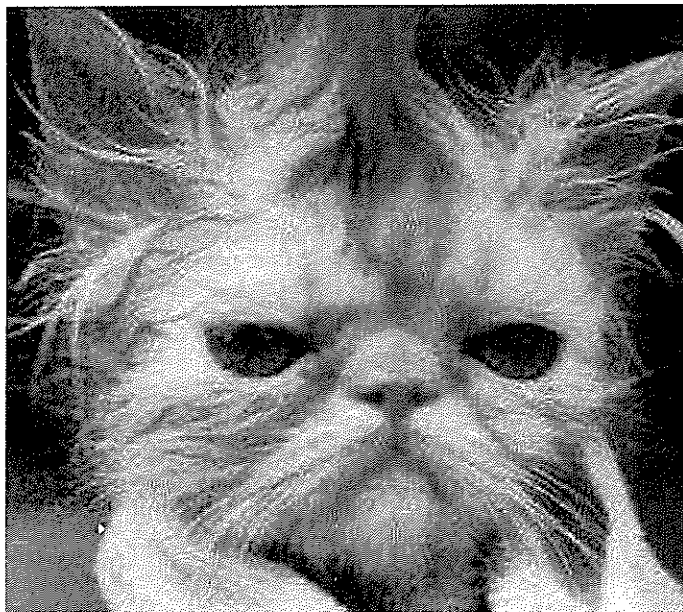


prefabricated kits. It only takes a spark of vision and your own expertise to make something great out of them.

And if needlework or sequins aren't your forte, what about making the Tiger Tabby with two tones of wrapping paper, dark and light prints, and using glitter for the eyes. Fantastic.

I leave you to it ... and to your own individual inspirations.

CAT CAPTION CONTEST

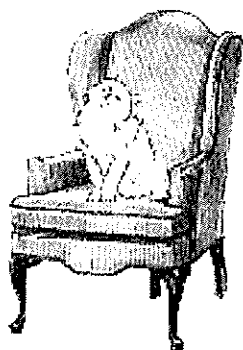


Look at this cute little chap. If you would like to win a copy of the book reviewed on page 15 - "277 Secrets Your Cat Wants You To Know" - just write an appropriate caption for this photo.

It might be humorous or profound, whatever. Entries can be sent to the Cat Protection Society Office via mail (103 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042 or E-Mail (cps@idx.com.au).

Please include your name and address with your entry. The winner will be advised by mail and the winning caption will be published in the next CPS Journal.

Cat Commandments . . .



Test your cat. If they break a commandment, score one point.

Thou shalt not jump onto the keyboard when thy human is working on the computer.

Thou shalt not pull the phone cord out of its socket.

Thou shalt not unroll the toilet paper from the roll.

Thou shalt not sit in front of the television or monitor as thou is not transparent.

Thou shalt not projectile vomit from the top of the refrigerator.

Thou shalt not walk in on a dinner party and commence licking thy butt.

Thou shalt not lie down with thy butt on thy human's face.

Thou shalt not try and run through closed doors.

Thou shalt not reset thy human's alarm clock by walking on it.

Thou shalt not leap from great heights onto thy human's lap or onto a visitor's shoulder or back without warning.

Thou shalt not climb on the garbage bin with the hinged lid.

Thou shalt not jump onto the toilet seat just as thy human is about to sit down.

Thou shalt not jump onto thy sleeping human's bladder at 4am.

Thou shalt realise that the house is not a prison from which to escape at any opportunity.

Thou shalt not trip thy humans even if they are walking slowly.

Thou shalt not push open the bathroom door when there are guests in thy house.

Thou shalt remember that thou art a carnivore and that house plants are not meat.

Thou shalt show remorse when being scolded.

Thou shalt not climb into every cupboard and bring thy human spiders.



Covergirls and boys needed.

If you have a great in-focus photo of your cat which might be suitable or use on our cover, centrefold or back page, please send your photograph, along with your name and address and your cat's name, to the Enmore Office.

DOT MCDONALD TO THE RESCUE!

Recently, Kim, a friend of one of our very caring members came across two small kittens huddled in the middle of a busy road - late at night. She put the kittens on the footpath where there was a cat wandering around which she took to be the mother puss. The kittens immediately went back to the middle of the road where they crouched in terror while traffic whizzed past. Once again they were removed but this time held while the rescuer rang our member - Mrs Dot McDonald on her mobile. Dot, her daughters and four grandchildren were soon on the scene. Meanwhile one kitten had escaped into the industrial complex where they were standing. The local security guy couldn't gain entrance. What to do? So Dot and her team appealed to our good friends - the Fire Brigade.



In record time, four strapping young men (they work in 4's) appeared. (Oh! Forgot to mention that the security guard gave us the charming info that guard dogs were loose at night in this large complex). Their special ladder that went up over the fence and down the other side was put in place and one of the guys went over, grabbed the kitten and was back over the fence in record time. The dogs didn't appear, thank goodness. Congratulations and thanks were profuse and the kittens went home with Dot for a few days recovery time. Then off to Concord Animal Hospital where they soon found homes - of course, desexed, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed. So thanks once again to our friends the Fire Brigade. It's not the first time by any means they have willingly come to our aid.

As for Dot McDonald, her friends and her family, it's not a new experience for them to rescue cats in trouble, both strays and owned. Then there is Concord Animal Hospital where the sign "Kittens for Sale" appears outside the surgery every day. It has become a landmark and was even mentioned in the Sydney Morning Herald's Column 8. CAH homed hundreds of cats and kittens in 1999.

The photo shows the kittens with Dot's Blackie, nearly 16 years old, who came to stay with her for a few weeks at 2 years of age and of course stayed. He's one of 5, all with a story to tell.

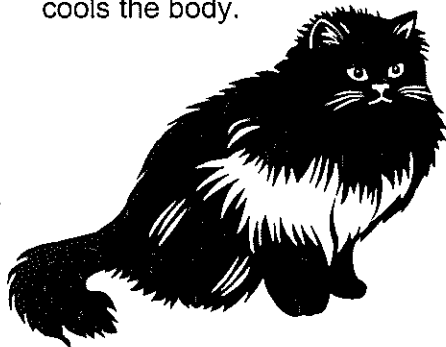
Nance Iredale

Did You Know?

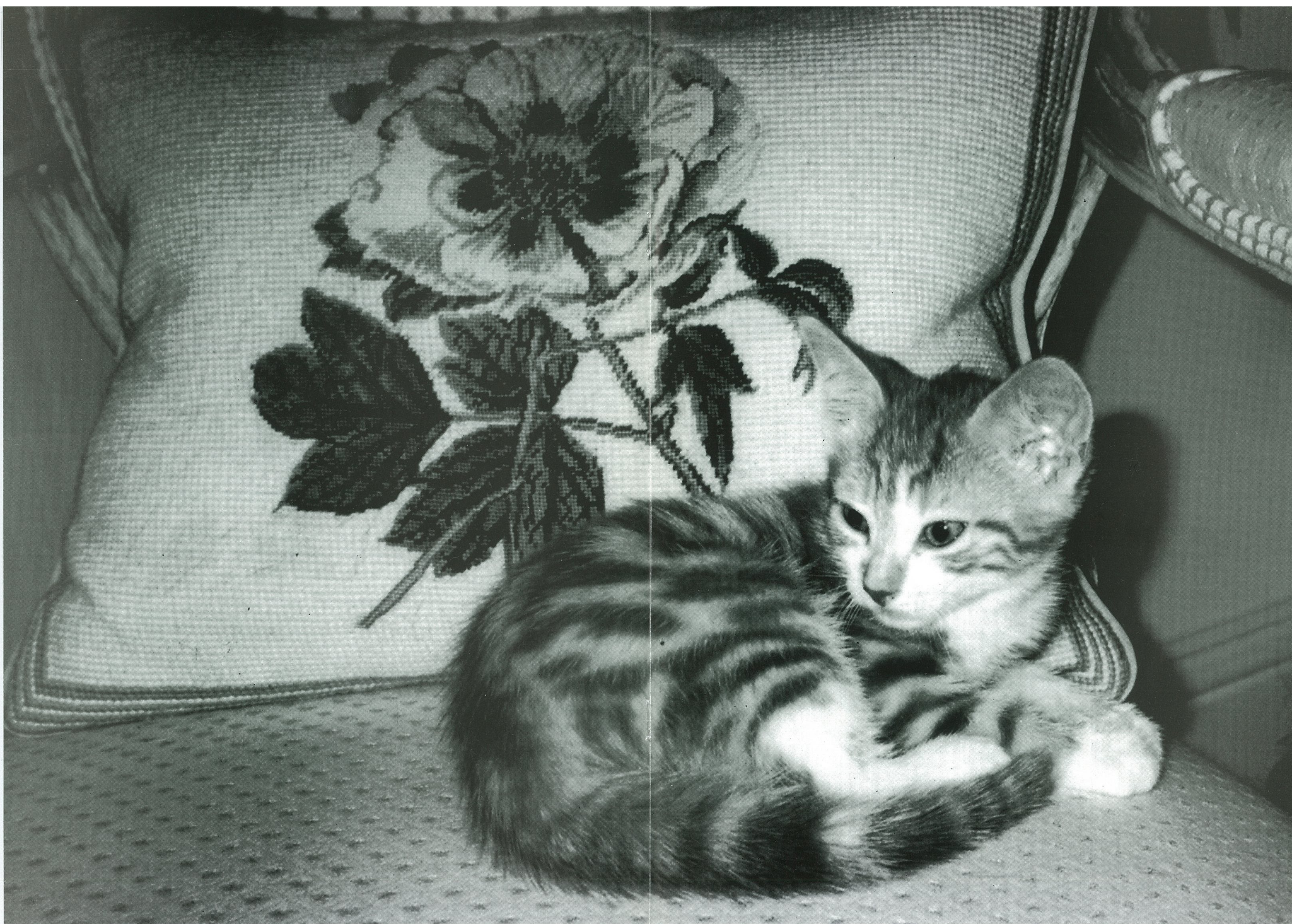


Cats sleep about 18 hours a day, and kittens sleep even more. Like human babies, kittens need frequent naps and should not be disturbed while sleeping. Make sure your kitten has a safe, warm, quiet place where he or she can curl up for an uninterrupted nap.

Longhaired cats don't shed more than shorthairs? Because the hair they do shed is longer, it seems like more. A cat's coat, short or long, helps provide insulation against heat, and when the cat grooms herself, the evaporation of the saliva cools the body.



A cat has a third set of eyelids called haws. They rest in the inner corners of the eyes and may show up in photos or when the cat blinks. If they appear continuously, however, it may be a sign of illness. Call your veterinarian if your cat's haws remain in view.



CAT HEAVEN

The way to Cat Heaven is a field of sweet grass,
where crickets and butterflies play.

A cat may be late getting to Heaven...
there is so much fun on the way!

But an angel will wait at the yellow front door,
wait till a kitty comes home.

And when she arrives, he'll give her a kiss and
some milk in a bowl of her own.

There are trees in Cat Heaven, trees made just for cats,
trees growing so green and so high.

But, no one gets stuck in a tree anymore--
if a cat wants down she will fly!

And, oh all the toys, kitty toys everywhere,
thousands and thousands go by.

There are buttons and baubles and
small catnip afloat in the sky!

There are angels, of course, with soft angel laps,
where kitties can purr loud and strong.

The angels will rub kitties noses and ears,
and sing them a Cat Heaven song.

And when cats are hungry, there is God's kitchen counter
full of tuna and salmon and mounds of sardines
and wonderful little pink fishes.

The cats in Cat Heaven are so loved and spoiled
God lets them all lie on his bed...

He walks in his garden with a good black book
and a kitty asleep on his head.

Then when a cat needs to, she may simply ponder
and watch the blue world deep and wide....

she will watch the old house where she once lived and wandered,
and the people who loved her inside.

All cats love Heaven, they know the way there,
they know where the angel cats fly.

They will turn past the stars and the moon and the sun.....
to curl up with God in the sky.

Author Unknown



Miss Charlotte Faye

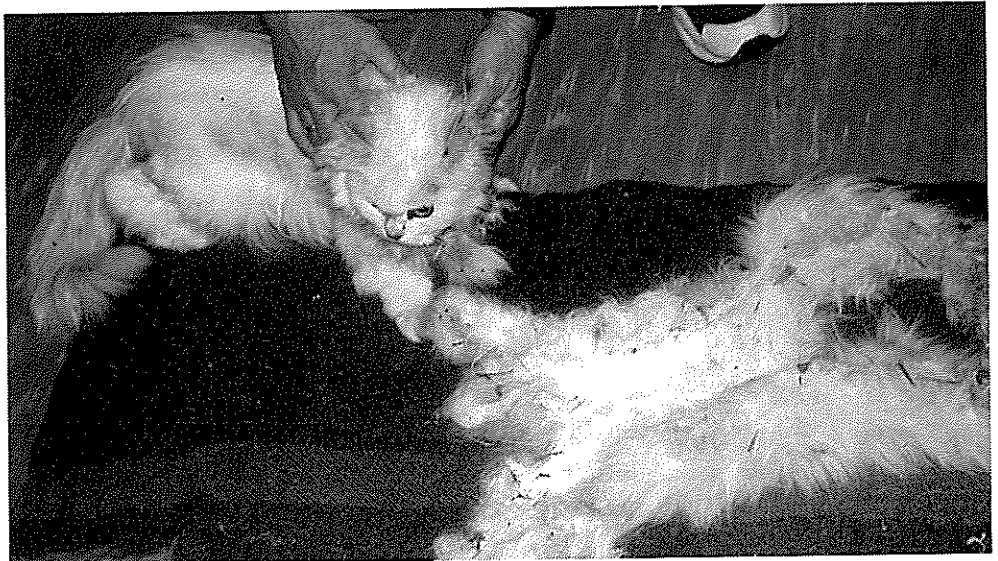
In memory of my Charlotte who shared 15 years of my life, increasing the joys and making the bad times bearable. She adopted me and quickly won my heart and a very important place in my being. Oh Charlotte, you are missed, you are missed so much.

Nancy Storm

A Knotty Problem

Recently our Welfare Officer, Sandy, was called to the rescue of a Chinchilla who had been abandoned for three months. The cat had been fed occasionally by residents in the street, but unfortunately no-one had managed to groom her. As a result, her coat was incredibly matted. It had knotted so badly that it had developed into a second fur coat that hung off her. By the time Sandy collected her the "fur coat" was connected to the cat by a ruff around her neck.

Sandy very promptly brought the cat into our office where she was gently liberated from her noose of hair. The CPS staff were horrified at the extent of the matting and wondered now anyone could neglect a cat for it to get to the state it was in. As all responsible cat owners know, long haired cats need grooming on a regular basis to keep their fur knot free. Not only does this reduce the amount of hair clinging to your furniture, it also reduced the chance of painful knotting, fur balls, skin lesions and infection developing due to the cat excessively licking.



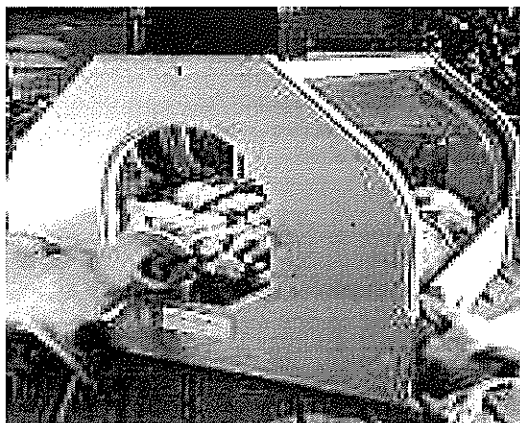
Marlene has a wonderful personality, is approximately eight months old and is looking for a home and family that has the time to groom her and love her the way she should be. Like all our cats and kittens she will come desexed, vaccinated, microchipped and wormed. If you are interested in giving this gorgeous cat a new start in life please contact Parklands Boarding Kennels on (02) 9626-9333.

Care of Your White Cat!

White cats are prone to cancer due to the sun's rays. It is important to protect your cat with zinc cream which we humans use when we go to the beach or pool. There are 3 main areas to put the zinc cream on your cat. They are: 1. On the ears, 2. On the top of the cat's head and 3. On the top of the nose. This will help protect your cat from getting sunburnt. It is important to use coloured zinc cream so you can see when it starts to fade away (or is licked off). Zinc cream should be used throughout Summer even when the cat is shaded as the sun's rays will still reflect onto the cat. Using zinc cream will help prevent pink blistering sores in these areas which can lead to cancer if these areas are unprotected over a period of time.

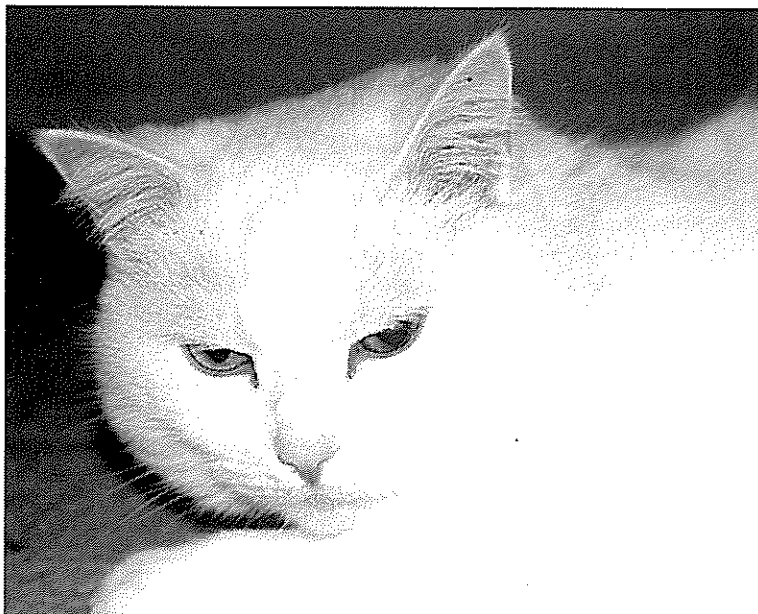
Jennifer Saba

Further to Jennifer's good advice, there is now a product on the market called the Catrium. It provides a safe way for your cat to sunbake. It's a cat kennel made from poly-carbonate that filters out 99 per cent of the sun's harmful UV rays. It also protects puss from the damp, wind and cold and is available from your vet for around \$115.



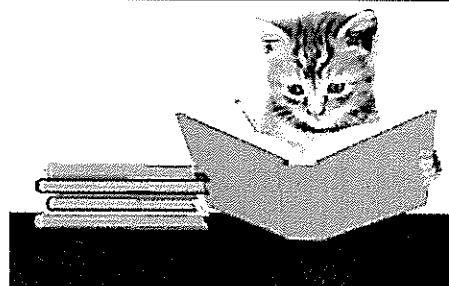
Finally, even if your cat is not pure white but has a white nose and/or pink pigmentation he/she can be at risk. As the owner of a pure white cat (now 14) I am very aware of this issue but fortunately she shows no signs yet of a problem. My cat does not go outside but even so I am watchful of her being in direct sunlight and so far she's a picture of health.

Here she is - Portia. Ed.



In Memoriam

In memory of one of our longtime members Alison Sewell from St Georges Basin who passed away suddenly in February. Alison was a committed animal lover and friend of June Chapman one of our recent Councillors. We salute you Alison for your dedication to our cause and the compassion and love you have given to so many furry companions over the years.



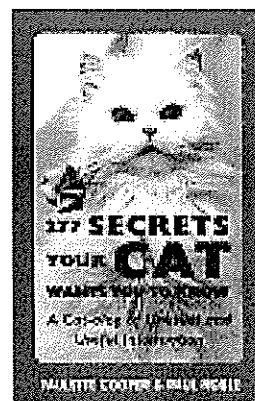
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"277 Secrets Your Cat Wants You To Know"

- A Cat-alog of Unusual and Useful Information,"
by Paulette Cooper & Paul Noble

Approximate retail price via Amazon.com.au = \$8.95 (+ delivery), approximate price in book stores = \$15.00.

This paperback book covers many interesting topics, for example: * Getting your cat to stop waking you up or scratching the furniture * How to get your cat to love you more * 8 weird things cats eat or lick * Cats who stop using the litter box - and what to do * 5 things that stop your cat from misbehaving * Save money on cat food, litter, vet bills, grooming * Stop your cat from spraying themselves * Cats who should Handling hunger strikes on any pet every cat should know * for allergies * stop your two * How to save Leaving your Spotting cat cancer signs * Keeping cats from plants and soils* Are cats psychic? * Do they go to heaven? * Introducing a 2nd cat to yours * How to talk to your cat * What your cat is trying to say to you* End stinky litterboxes * Can cats watch TV and see in mirrors? * Diseases you can give your cat * Tips for choosing a loving "People" cat or kitten * Making an outdoor cat an indoor one * Handling cat's thunderstorm fears * Persuading landlords to allow cats... and much much more in "277 Secrets Your Cat Wants You To Know."



flea medicine & Stop your cat * Cats who bite People food your never eat * finicky eaters and * What to look for food label * What allergy sufferer Help coming soon Off-beat ways to cats from fighting your cat's life * cat alone all day *

SIMONE CULBERT

CERAMIC DESIGNER

*every piece I complete has a part of my soul in it,
but there's something even more special for me when I'm designing and painting a cat*

Hello and welcome to the wonderful world of 'Dizzy Blonde Design' - my tongue-in-cheek business name! Yes, I'm blonde. Dizzy? Well.....?!?! But most definitely a devout cat lover!

I live on the New South Wales Central Coast in a tiny remote bayside suburb with my husband Chris and our four kids. Holly is a fat and headstrong tortie, Clovis is a possessive Siamese cross, Mask is an aloof tabby and Chelsea is our beautiful Shepherd/Husky dog.



Chris found Holly [cat #1] on a building site where she had been dumped at 6 weeks of age. "I couldn't just leave her there .. but we can't keep her", he said, handing over one tiny bundle of fluff. And the rest is history! Like most 'cat-haters', Chris had never owned a cat. Now he loves them all, spoils them rotten and I'm sure he could no longer live life without one.

Cats have always been a part of my life, Clovis (cat #2) is the most amazingly affectionate pet we have ever had. She sleeps by my side every night and will not get up until I do. With her glowing emerald eyes, she speaks rather than meows and her tail is always elegantly poised in a sweeping question mark.

Mask (cat #3), with her Abyssinian coat, was just too beautiful to resist as she sadly sat in the pet shop cage. They live in cat paradise with us, enjoying the relaxed Central Coast lifestyle.



So, as you have probably guessed by now, our animals are our life, our 'kids', and they provide constant inspiration for my design. Using all Australian products, I produce a range of both decorative and functional ceramics. Loving what I do, every piece I complete has a part of my soul in it, but there's something even more special for me when I'm designing and painting a cat.

My quirky, abstract cats can be found striking a pose on almost anything from coasters, mugs, bowls, platters and elegant mirror frames. The tiles on the mirror frames are totally handmade, painted and sometimes carved as well, displaying the many and varied poses of a cat. They are available in either black/white or coloured variations and no two are alike!! Some of these handpainted tiles are converted into unique cat coasters with a thin cork base to prevent scratching. They are available in many colours and designs and come in sets of 4 or 6.

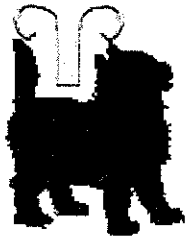


The modern, conical shaped mugs look fabulous displayed with a matching coaster. My most popular item, the black and white spot cat bowl, is great as a dish for a cat or decoration. With dots, stripes, carved swirls and splashes of contrasting colours, my designs are definitely different but then again, I'm different and you have to be true to yourself. People ask where I manage to find the ideas for my work. Well, you all know the answer to that. You can find my works at Puss n Pooch Gallery, Darling Street, Balmain; The Mousehole, Avoca Beach and Cat Attack, The Entrance.

Your Cats' Star Sign

Aries

21 March - 20 April



ELEMENT: Fire
COLOUR: Red
KEYWORD: Action
RULER: Mars
CHARACTER: Impulsive, impatient, aggressive
COMPATIBLE STAR SIGNS: Sagittarius, Leo, Aquarius

Your Aries will be the leader of all other pets in the house, and will expect to be treated as so. Although hot and quick tempered, anger will subside quite quickly and no grudge will be held. It would be a wise idea, if you adopt a young Arien, to teach them early on that **you** are the boss. Otherwise, there might be some confusion later on about who holds that title! However, this proud pet is easily embarrassed; so be careful not to hurt his pride in public.

Your Aries will be fiercely loyal to you and your family. An Aries cat will protect your home, also. "Beware of Attack Cat" signs were made with a protective Aries in mind! These are independent animals; so don't expect them to readily admit you are their little world! Deep down they love you with all of their heart, but it takes a lot of pride to admit that!

If you're looking for a playful, active, fun, and loyal pet, an Aries is for you. You will have a climber on your hands ... so watch the drapes! They love outdoors, hate sleep, love children, and can't stand competition. Give them lots of love and space and the two of you will get along great for many years!

Taurus

21 April - 20 May



ELEMENT: Earth
COLOUR: Pale Blue & Mauve
KEYWORD: Acquisition
RULER: Venus
CHARACTER: Preserving, patient, realistic
COMPATIBLE STAR SIGNS: Virgo, Cancer, Capricorn

A Taurus pet is generally one of the more docile of the animal zodiacs. He's generally the one off to the side watching your other animals quibble and play with a detached interest. They are very easy-going ... as long as the going is slow. They don't like to be rushed. In fact, they don't like being asked to do anything they're not in the mood to do. Taurus pets are inherently stubborn.

Being a lover of fine things, Taurus pets love food. The better the food the more they'll love it ... and eat it. You will have to watch the weight of your Taurus, especially as they grow older, as many of them tend to put on quite a few extra kilos.

All in all, adopting a Taurus pet could be one of the best things you've ever done. You now have a sweet-natured, loyal, loving pet who will love you dearly for life. These are pets with a lot of love to give! Although, more stubborn than an actual bull at times, they are very obedient and love to please. They are probably one of the best signs with children; they will take quite a lot of poking and rough-housing with no qualms. Bringing a Taurus pet into your home will make everyone happy and who could ask for more?

Gemini

21 May - 21 June



ELEMENT: Air
COLOUR: Yellow
KEYWORD: Communication
RULER: Mercury
CHARACTER: Inquisitive, sociable, unpredictable
COMPATIBLE STAR SIGNS: Aquarius, Libra

If you are the quiet, simple type ... adopt a Taurus or a Pisces. Stay away from the crazy Gemini! However, if you love having a pet who will play with you, talk your ear off, and sprint around the house in 1.2 seconds ... then a Gemini is your ideal pet. Those who already own Geminis will know what I'm talking about. This is the wild one. The one who runs into the living room, around a table leg, pounces on the back of the chair, up a nearby curtain, across the wall, and ends up hanging from the light fixture! Okay, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration!

Geminis are bundles of fun (if you have bundles of energy). Forever young at heart, even at an old age they'll still be more playful than the quieter signs. These are the "talkers" of the zodiac ... so don't be surprised when you're able to hold a 30 minute conversation with your pet. They don't tend to pick favourites in the household, but tend to love everyone equally ... including your guests, postman, cable repair guy, and mother-in-law. Everyone will get an ankle-rub and an earful of the latest gossip.

Gemini is the sign of the Twins and that's how it is when owning a Gemini ... you get two pets for the price.

Cancer

22 June - 22 July



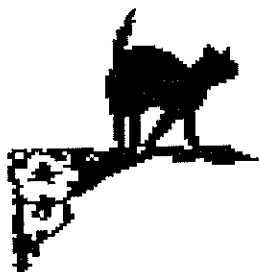
ELEMENT: Water
COLOUR: Silver & Violet
KEYWORD: Security
RULER: Moon
CHARACTER: Sensitive, tidy, emotional
COMPATIBLE STAR SIGNS: Pisces, Scorpio, Taurus

Sensitive and rather moody, shy and very maternal. These are some of the main characteristics that make up a Cancer pet. Like the other water signs, Cancers are quite emotional so don't adopt this pet if you've got a quick temper or a noisy household. Both of these things upset them terribly. However, if you need a pet to mother and love, and want one who won't ever stray from home ... Cancer is the pet for you.

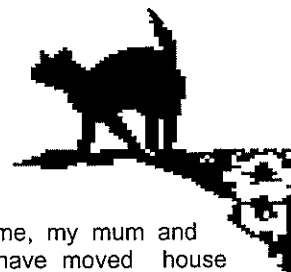
This is probably the most sensitive of the zodiac signs. Although all water signs are sensitive, the Cancer takes things the hardest. A hurt Cancer will retreat under a couch and peer out at you with a pained look in their eyes.

Cancers like to choose favourites. Usually the first person in the house that they warm to will be their favourite and that person will have constant affection. The Cancer pet will always want to be with their loved one.

Cancers don't like noisy people, homes, or other animals. They are definitely the homebodies of the zodiac. If you can stand a little moodiness, a little shyness with, and a constant moving body to trip you every time you walk then you will also receive a loyal, loving, sweet pet who will curl up and watch TV with you every night quite contentedly. This is the Cancer pet. How lucky you are to be their favourite.



Pussycat Profile



Meet Sheena . . .

My name is Sheena and I am a Lilac Burmese born on the 24th January, 1980, which makes me an extremely old pussycat.

My earliest memories are of my mother who continually washed me and kept me warm. I used to fall asleep contented and full after drinking her milk. I felt very safe and happy. She was a beautiful looking Burmese who won many first prizes at cat shows throughout the country. She was truly a great champion, and her owners were very proud of her. When I was only 3 months of age, this lovely lady came to look at me, and before I knew it, I was put into a carrier box and transported to my new home which was situated in Adelaide. I was quite upset about this, because I never saw my mother again.

"Gosh, was I scared, I could not believe what I was seeing."

When my new human mother brought me to my new home, I was extremely bewildered and frightened, and I nearly jumped out of my skin when I was introduced to Simoun, an enormous German Shepherd. My hair literally stood on end and my tail became so bushy it looked like a bottle brush. Gosh, was I scared, I could not believe what I was seeing. This 'monster' wanted to come near me and was trying to sniff me, but I wouldn't let him. I started to growl and spit and I made sure he could see my claws. I must have looked quite scary too, with my back up and all. Anyway, he pretended he didn't care and just walked away from me, but I knew I scared him. What a relief! I thought I was dead there for a moment.

I was then introduced to my human's daughter Davina. She was a beautiful looking child with long bronze coloured hair. She patted me very gently and carefully and whispered my new name, Sheena, Sheena, over and over again. She then tried to pull my tail and poke my eye out. Boy!, what was happening to me? However, my human mum soon put a stop to that and I was allowed to explore my new home. I was really lost.

So much was happening in such a short space of time. I looked around in the downstairs bathroom and found a perfect hiding spot at the back of the pedestal vanity. It looked so safe and cosy that I decided to stay there for a while. I must have fallen asleep, because I was there for many many hours. I finally came out and looked around at my new surroundings, still quite lost and extremely hungry. My mum found me walking around in the kitchen and she let out a big scream of delight, shouting 'she's here, Sheena is here'. I guess after missing for nearly a day, she thought I must have run away. She was really happy to see me and she picked me up stroking and patting me, cuddling me to her. It was a very emotional and exciting at the same time and I knew I was going to love her and be with her forever.



Here I am in my favourite spot, my mum's beautiful bed

My mum also had a budgie which was allowed to fly around in the lounge room and my instincts told me that I should do something about that bird, which I eventually did much to the horror of my mum. Needless to say, she never replaced Brutus!. It wasn't very long after my moving into my new home that I was taken to the vet to be desexed. Once again, I didn't know what was going on and I was frightened, but the doctor gave me this needle which made me sleep, so I really don't remember that much and it wasn't long before I healed and everything was back to normal again. I loved my new home and family and especially the enormous garden which was full of trees. I loved to climb these enormous trees and look at the birds (which was all I could do as I had a collar with a noisy bell, so that put a stop to my idea of getting closer to the birds.

Since that time, my mum and her family have moved house about 6 times, and Simoun passed away in 1987. He was replaced by a small dog, a Chihuahua named Tina whom I loved to be with. She was such a lovely little dog. I used to wash her every opportunity I had, and in turn, she would wash me. Visitors would marvel at this sight, and I must admit we must have looked quite cute, cuddled up together. Unfortunately Tina passed away in 1996 when she was 9 nine years of age, and this upset everyone. I missed having her around. I missed our games together, especially chasies, which we both enjoyed immensely.

"I sleep, eat, etc. and I still have all my teeth!"

About a year after Tina's death, my mum was given another Chihuahua for her birthday. She was named Holly, and I adopted her immediately. I started the routine of washing her and playing with her and we have become great friends, however, because of my age, I don't have the energy that this little pup displays, but I still manage a game of chasy once in a while.

Holly has become extremely close to our mum and goes everywhere with her, even to her place of work, but I don't mind. I sleep a lot lately, and I love the peace and quiet when there's nobody in the house.

Last year I was taken to the vet for a medical check-up. He took samples of my blood and gave me some medication. It appears that, because of my age, my kidneys are failing. My mum was terribly distressed when he reported his findings to her, but I just keep going as usual, although 'usual' may not be the right word, as I keep forgetting where the kitty litter box is. Now and then I do go to the kitty litter box, much to the joy and surprise of everyone at home.

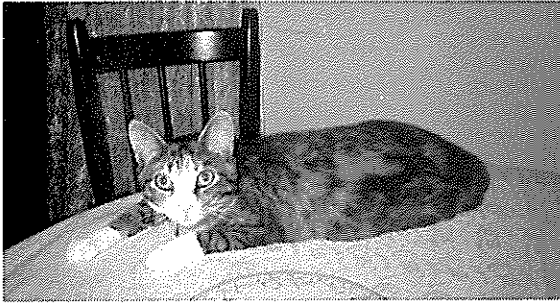
Because of my 'condition' I am locked away in the laundry at nights and I sleep on a beautiful soft cushioned cane chair. I guess I cannot complain. I sleep, eat, etc., and I still have all my teeth. I am still considered 'beautiful' by everyone, and I know that I am loved.

When I eventually go to pussycat heaven, I will go with the knowledge that I have had a wonderful life.

Ingrid Hart-Vass

CPS SUCCESS!

It is lovely to hear of happy homes being found for our lovely cats. Rosie is one of these lucky cats. Barbara Munday wrote to us with a progress report on her Rosie. Her full name though is Nbt Pr Rose, Egyptian for "mistress of the house", although she is just Rose and gets Rosie for short. Rosie loves attention/affection, followed by food. She also loves chicken wings, her scratching post and all of her many toys, especially her home-made balls of newspaper wrapped in old stockings which she can really get her claws into. She sleeps on Barbara's bed and only goes out when her Barbara is home. See Rosie pictured here relaxing. Rosie also features on our back cover.



MISS FLEMINGTON

From October through to November 1999 Cat Protection devised a plan to reduce the numbers of stray cats breeding at Flemington Markets. We had received a number of calls from distressed employees and members of the public who were concerned about the unwanted litters that were being born only to end up suffering a grisly death by being inadvertently run over by forklift trucks. Keith Edwards, CPS President and Jennifer Saba, Animal Welfare Officer, visited the site on a number of occasions and were surprised to find a number of people looking after the cats, although none of the cats was desexed. Very early on they came upon a very pretty friendly female tabby who was duly desexed and returned so the feeder could continue to care for her. From that day on she was known as Miss Flemington.

Every night when they went to set traps they would be greeted by Miss Flemington who enjoyed the nightly drama immensely. A number of times she was caught in the traps but didn't seem to mind and was released shortly after being

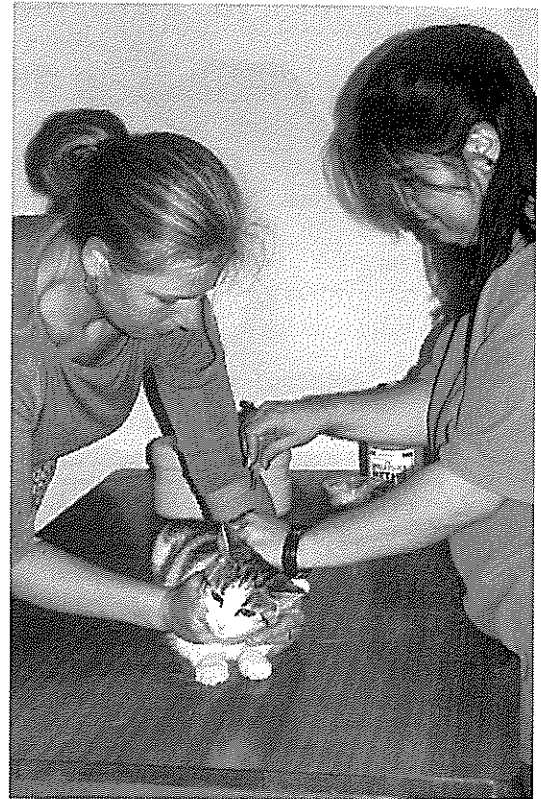


Miss Flemington greeting Keith and Jennifer

All in all they trapped approximately 15 cats and kittens, desexed them and returned them to their familiar surroundings since all the cats were in good condition and had dedicated people looking after them. Follow-up checks of the site have found that the overall numbers of cats and kittens have been reduced and all are looking happy and healthy.

Jenny Saba

Dial-A-Microchip



We are very pleased to announce the launch of our new microchipping service at Enmore. Even though we have offered discounted microchipping here for the past 2 years we have had to transport the cats to the vet in order for the procedure to be performed. Microchipping is a relatively simple procedure requiring the insertion of a needle into the pre-sterilised skin at the back of the neck. Carina Bentos our Customer Service Officer and Jennifer Saba, one of our Animal Welfare Officers, recently completed a Microchipping Accreditation course at TAFE and have now completed the practical component under veterinary supervision. This means for the very first time we are very proud to have two fully qualified microchip implanters on staff. Jenny will soon be offering a Dial-A-Microchip mobile service. We are pleased to report that we have been able to hold our price at \$25.

ALLEY CAT KIDS

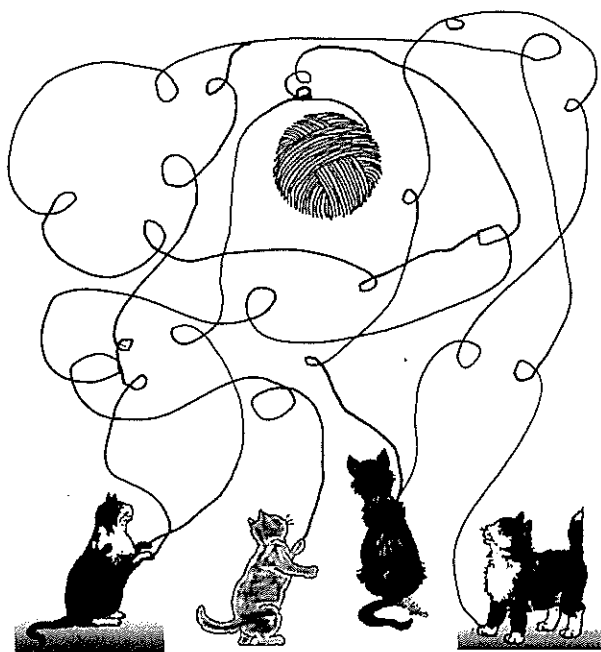


Hi Kids!!! You will be happy to hear that the Cat Protection Society has been hard at work finding homes for many friendly felines during the Christmas holidays. Your family may have adopted one of these cats, and now that school has started it is very important that your pet has lots of toys to keep him or her happy during the day when no one is home. Ping pong balls, catnip mice and scrunched up balls of paper can provide many hours of entertainment for your pet, but try to provide as much variety as you can. By using your imagination you can help your cat amuse him or herself when you are not there to play with him or her.

How many words can you
find in **CATASTROPHE**



WHICH LUCKY KITTEN
HAS HER PAWS ON THE
BALL? FOLLOW THE
STRING TO FIND OUT.....



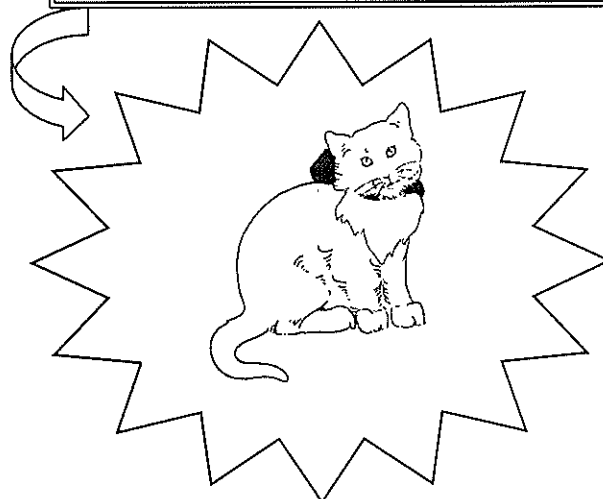
What did the cat call it when the
dogs all left town???

Good mews!!



MAKE A MAGNET

COLOUR ME IN, CUT ME OUT,
PASTE ME ONTO CARDBOARD, AND
STICK A MAGNET ONTO THE BACK.



SUSIE, THE ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALIST

I am a pure grey Siamese pussycat and I live in North Bondi. I've always lived there, even though my address is now next door to where I started out. These next door people were very kind and courteous to me and gave me lots of attention including a dish of water outside and a share of their king-size bed at night.

With all this luxury being extended to me, I decided to leave my first home where nobody was interested in me and I was lonely being locked out at night. So I took up residence where my new Dad is an orthopaedic bootmaker. There aren't many around these days, so this was a rather unique opportunity for me and I loved to sit with my new Dad while he measured, made casts, drew lines around feet and a lot more complicated stuff.

After watching a few times, I began to see these humans' feet had something wrong with them. Some had big bumps, others had toes that were doubled over and some had toes that stuck up in the air, others needed iron bars to hold them straight. Anyway, my new Dad explained things to me as he worked with clients and soon I'd spot a problem and point it out to him.

Sitting next to him on the floor it was easy for me to extend my long arm and gently pat my paw on the problem area of the client's foot. Dad was so thrilled when I did this and he'd mark up on his charts that this was a real trouble spot and needed special attention.

One day a big lady came in to be measured for special boots. While she sat with her feet in the funny stuff Dad uses for casts, her right big toe was sticking up in the air. I was just about to point this out to Dad when one of the lady's calipers, with the boot attached, fell over and made a clatter. Even so I kept my mind on the job and so I extended by arm and tried to hold down this big toe with my paw. Oh, Dad was so pleased! He stroked me and the lady said lovely things about me. She said my paw was like velvet and she loved me to pat and hold her toe - it had been so sore for a long time and now my paw was helping her. Afterwards, I sat on her lap for a while. Then I went for a snooze in a special box Dad has for me in his office. I'd completed my Tuesday session for measuring-up the new clients. I only attend on those days - other days my new Mum runs things. She just makes appointments, answers the phone and receives shoes for repair. I'm only interested in measuring and studying problem feet with my Dad - he's the greatest.



ANNE HUTSON

DONATION FORM

The Membership Secretary, 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/Ms/Miss _____ First Name _____
Surname (Block Letters)

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 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 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 situated to 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 Cat Protection Society of NSW shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

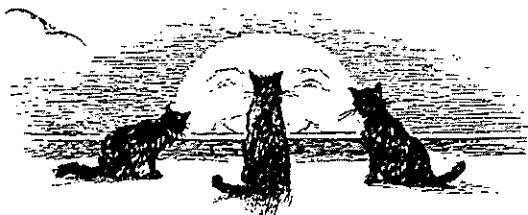
For further information on leaving a bequest to the Society please contact the Secretary on (02) 9557 1011.

NEW MEMBERS

CPS welcomes the following new members to the Society and thanks you for your support.

(November 1999 - January 2000)

Daniel, J	LINDFIELD
Doyle, J	PARRAMATTA
Foley, E	LEICHHARDT
Foley, J	LEICHHARDT
Ginari, Mrs E	FIVE DOCK
Harris, Miss D	SYDNEY
Heggie, Ms P	ARNCLIFFE
Hunter, Ms R	DUBBO
Kozminski, Miss R	MERRYLANDS
Marks, Ms K	LIDCOMBE
Moss, Mr D	MATRAVILLE
Munday, Ms J	EPPING
Murray, Ms P	EAST REDFERN
Niven, Ms Louise	ANNANDALE
Sykes, Ms A	ERSKINEVILLE
Tuffy, Mrs M	EASTWOOD
Winter, Mr F	QUEANBEYAN



Cats in the news

Cat Hailed as Hero for Alerting Humans About Carbon Monoxide

A cat is being hailed as a hero for alerting his owners to a smell coming from the house next door, making them call for help and eventually getting the neighbour out of the house.

Pauline Gallas was first alerted to the gas in her home when the carbon monoxide alarm blared from her bedroom ceiling early one morning. "I was still asleep, and I thought it was my alarm clock going off," she said.

Eventually she reset the alarm, thinking it was malfunctioning. But her next-door neighbours, Sean and Stacey Fager have a cat called Charlie whose persistent meowing alerted Mrs Fager to an oily smell. She and her husband reported the problem to the gas company and a service technician detected 380 parts per million of carbon monoxide, the warning level is 50 parts per million! Well done Charlie!

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 1999.

All persons joining from January 2000 remain financial until June 2001.

Subscription	\$1,000.00	Life Governor	Pensioner Membership	\$10.00
	\$250.00	Life Membership	Junior Membership	\$5.00
	\$15.00	Annual Membership	(state birthday)	

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss SURNAME FIRST NAME

Address: SUBURB POSTCODE

Pension Number: Signature: DATE

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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

Surname (block letters please) First Name

New Address Postcode

Previous Address Postcode

Cont'd from Page 6. slowly. As the cartilage in these cat's ear is insufficiently resilient maintain the normal shape of the ear, it is hardly surprising that cartilage in joints cannot cope with the wear and tear of a typical cat's agile and athletic lifestyle.

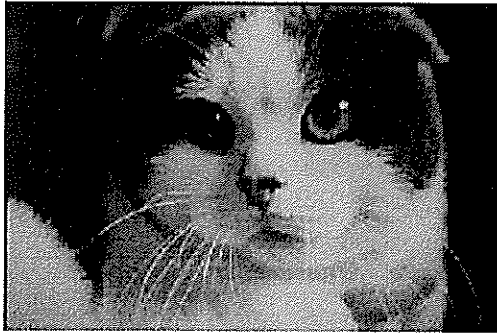


Figure 2 The cartilage in the ear of the Scottish Fold is insufficiently resilient to support the ear. No wonder the cartilage in joints can't stand up to normal wear and tear of an active cat's lifestyle.

Thus, the problem with Scottish Fold cats is similar to that which affects many dog breeds which are genetic mutants. In other words, *it is impossible to have a cat with Folded ears that has sound joints*. The only answer to this problem is to abandon the breeding of Folded eared cats. Breeders and owners who enjoy the particular personality of these cats could enjoy the same qualities by having a Scottish Shorthair - a cat with the same body shape and personality, but without the defective gene that causes the cartilage problem. Who knows whether breeders will accept this sensible solution.

PKD or Polycystic Kidney Disease

PKD is a disorder which is seen in all breeds of cats, but which has been reported with highest prevalence in Persian cats and related pure-bred, long haired cats. In this disease cysts develop in the kidney. As the cat grows older, cysts increase in size and number, and their growth results in enlarged kidneys and progressive deterioration in kidney function, with accumulation of nitrogenous wastes and phosphate in the bloodstream. The speed with which this occurs varies a lot from cat to cat. Some cats can live a near normal life span, while others succumb to kidney failure in middle age. The above description applies to cats that are heterozygous for the defective gene. Cats that are homozygous are thought to either die before birth, or develop renal failure at a very early age.

What is of importance is that all heterozygotes (carriers) can be detected as they have cysts in their kidneys. Surveys of purebred long haired cats in several different countries (including Australia) have shown that approximately 40% of Persian and related purebred cats have PKD. The expression of the gene for PKD has nothing to do with the 'squashed -in' facial conformation of Persian cats. We have traced the introduction of PKD into Burmilla cats, even though they have a normal face. Furthermore, PKD occurs sporadically in reply to: domestic cross bred cats, although it would appear to be more common in long haired cats, presumably as Persian blood lines were prevalent in the ancestry of these cats.

PKD has recently received a lot of attention from Persian and Chinchilla breeders, partly as a result of Internet web sites alerting them to the importance of this condition. As a result many breeders have worked with co-operating veterinarians to screen their stock for PKD-positive cats in an attempt to get rid

of this problem. Most cats with PKD can be identified at about 6 months of age using ultrasound techniques. At the University of Sydney we prefer to screen cats somewhat later, around 12 months of age, as this makes the detection of mildly affected individuals much easier.

Theoretically, if all purebred long-haired cats were screened using ultrasonography, and PKD-positive individuals identified, then it should be possible to eliminate this problem from cats in one generation by desexing all affected individuals. A similar scheme used in Australia to eliminate ADPKD from Bull terriers has been remarkably successful at decreasing the prevalence of this condition, although this has required the concerted effort of breed clubs and veterinarians. It should be mentioned, however, that although the simplest way to eliminate PKD is to cull all affected individuals, it is not necessary to immediately remove absolutely all affected individuals from breeding stock. If a particular cat with PKD is otherwise of outstanding quality, it is still possible to use the cat for breeding with the proviso that all resulting progeny be screened for PKD, and affected individuals desexed. Thus the valuable genetic material in an individual cat can be preserved. This type of strategy is only practical in diseases where heterozygous carriers can be identified readily using ultrasonography. However the trouble with doing this is that it requires the production of MORE affected cats, which is troublesome ethically.

Concluding comments

This paper has illustrated some of the problems that can occur when small gene pools are used by well-meaning breeders that do not have a good understanding of genetics. Small animal veterinarians and organisations such as the Cat Protection Society have an important role in educating breeders and the wider cat-owning community about how prevalent these disease conditions can become if inbreeding and line breeding are used. It is the author's firm opinion that the purposeful breeding of domestic short haired cats to produce healthy cross bred kittens with hybrid vigour is the best way to prevent cats developing the high prevalence of genetic diseases which pervade purebred dogs in Australia. This will pose more of a challenge as the proportion of sexually intact cats declines due to early neutering and related strategies. The Cat Adoption Scheme run in conjunction with the Cat Protection Society is an excellent way to encourage the ownership of healthy crossbred cats throughout the wider community.

NOTE: A more detailed version of this paper is available from the Post Graduate Foundation in veterinary Science of The University of Sydney in the Proceedings of the Cats 2000 course being held in June this year

Listen to Animals on the Air!

The office had a recent request from Radio for the Print Handicapped of NSW. They run a half hour program on Sunday nights between 5.30-6pm called Companions for Life for Animal Lovers with Barbara Stevens. We have sent Barbara our latest *Cat Affairs* journal and she intends to read articles of interest from it. If you know anyone who is unable to enjoy *Cat Affairs* because of a visual impairment or you enjoy hearing about animal related topics, tune in to Radio 2RPH. You can find it at 1224 on the AM band.

