

AUTUMN 2001

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

Cat Affairs

Membership
Renewals
Due

*Where Did That
Saying Come From?*

**EARLY DESEXING:
Surgical and Socialisation
Consequences**

**10 Tips for A Poison
Safe Household
For Your Cat**

**Meet some
of our Volunteers**

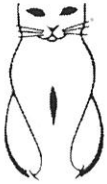
**First Cat, Socks,
Says Goodbye**

MODULAR PET PARKS

**Caption Contest
Winner Announced**

Much Love Moggies

Feature Artist:
Margaret Proctor



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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE . . .

Life at CPS presents many ups and downs. Finding a home for an adult cat that we have been holding for a while, I know brings great joy to everyone. Receiving positive feedback from a family on how their new cat or kitten has fitted into the household is also a great boost. Each extra cat that we have desexed is also a plus, because we know that the animal will not contribute to the pool of unwanted kittens.

Of course, there is always a down side. Too many cats and kittens, and not enough homes. Constant telephone calls from people wanting something done immediately, and often frustrated at not receiving instant gratification, place great pressure on staff.

Then there is the Companion Animals Act to consider. Technically, if we to pick up an unwanted cat and kittens, we should take those animals to the local pound. The trouble is that the future for such animals would be bleak at many pounds because the level of care is not good and the chances of the cats finding a new home are low.

Examples of poor care for cats at pounds include a lack of bedding and litter trays, inappropriate food, housing incompatible animals together, and inappropriate methods of euthanasia. The lack of provision of veterinary treatment for sick or injured animals at some pounds also needs to be rectified.

Because of these continuing concerns about conditions in council pounds, the government has decided to develop a new Code of Practice for the care and management of impounded animals. The new Code will clearly spell out what is required of the pound operator in terms of the care of the animals. I am very concerned that when the new Code is introduced, there will be inadequate enforcement of it. This will severely limit the value of the new Code and animal welfare at the pounds will not be improved. Please write to The Hon. RJ Carr, Premier, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000 requesting that his government introduce the new Code of Practice for the Care and Management of Animals in Council Pounds as a matter of priority. As well, request that there are regular inspections of pounds to ensure that the pound operator is complying with the Code.

There is another continuing concern with pounds. Would you know where to find your council's pound if your cat went missing? Well, if you live in Ryde or Leichhardt and your cat disappears, then the pound that you would need to go to check for your cat is at Blacktown. Similarly, if you live in Bankstown then you would need to travel to Austral (west of Liverpool) to reclaim your impounded cat. Such a situation hardly seems to provide a good service to ratepayers or animals.

I have talked before about keeping cats indoors and the benefits that this practice brings. The article by Richard Malik and Hendrik Van Schie (on pages 16 and 17) describes how this can be achieved through the use of a Modular Pet Park. Cats can have the joys of being outside while still being protected from the dangers of the outside environment. Whilst cost may deter some people from investing in this sort of housing, remember, the veterinary costs of repairing damage caused to your cat from being hit by a motor vehicle may well exceed the cost of the housing. As well, think of the pain and distress that must accompany such trauma. These Pet Parks are a great example of practical animal welfare in action.

Enjoy reading your magazine.

Keith Edwards

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VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR OPPORTUNITY SHOP

FRONT COVER: Nbt Pr Rose (Rosie) (Photo, Barbara Munday)

CENTREFOLD: CPS kittens (Photo, Frances Kaukerei)

BACK COVER: Tia (Photo, J & D Usher)

Attention: Contributors!

If you would like to send a contribution to the magazine you can E-mail me at my E-mail address:

Suzanne_Jenkins@hotmail.com

or send contributions care of the Enmore office.



Nine Cat Lives:

1. Napping
2. Staring
3. Eating
4. Waking
5. Playing
6. Flirting
7. Purring
8. Snacking
9. Resting

Cat Teaser

Five cats live in the four houses in Elm Close.

Polly, a tortie, lives at No. 1.

A black and white cat lives at No. 4.

Sylvester is a tabby kitten.

Orlando is ginger.

Tabitha, a tabby lives next door to a ginger cat.

Sylvester lives with his mother and they are the same colour.

Q. What is the name of Sylvester's mother?

- a) Polly
- b) Tabitha
- c) Sylvia



ANSWER - SEE PAGE 5

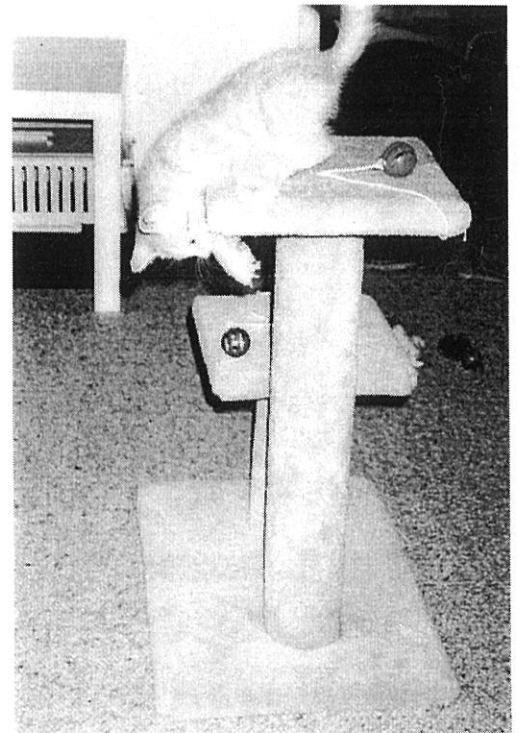
**Hi guys, it's me Zac
(CPS Secret Agent
7422)**

How have you been?

**I've been well
- having a great
time actually!**

**I've got lots of toys
to play with! Do you
like my scratching
post?**

**I've practised a few
back flips off the top
platform ... I didn't
fall, honest, I was just
showing off!**

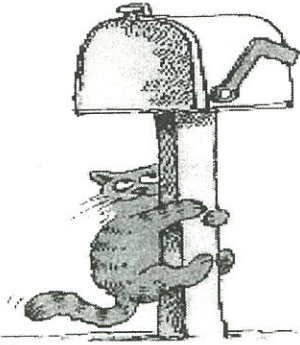


P.S. I live with Warren & Sherie Stratton

**Many thanks to Whiskas who have
donated
tinned food supplies for our cats and
kittens at our Enmore Cattery.**

**Many thanks too to Bayer who have
donated supplies of Advantage
to keep our cats and kittens
flea-free.**

The **SCRATCHING** Post



Dear CPS

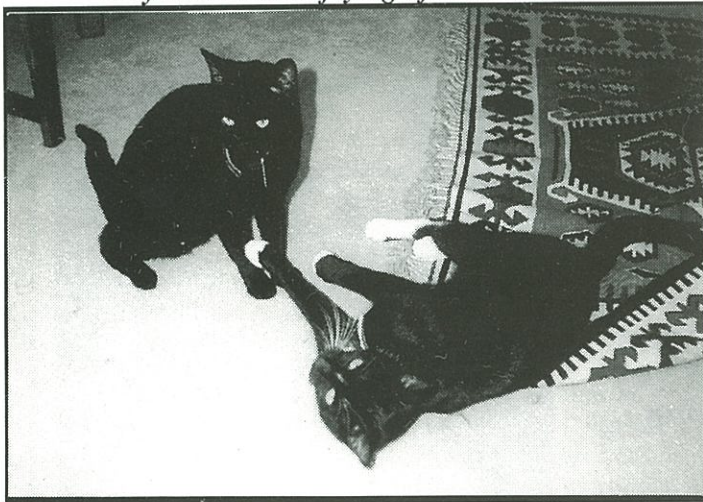
Just a short note to let you know we are all getting on well. I picked Maya and Inca from your society on 30th November and haven't looked back.

Thank you for helping me choose Maya and Inca and suggesting that I should have 2 cats instead of 1 kitten. They have really settled in and in fact OWN the place. Both are very affectionate and entertaining.

Thank you for everything.

Anna Lambrechtsen

Maya and Inca enjoying life and each other



Thank you! To all of the people involved with the Cat Protection Society. It was plain to see the love, concern and respect that the animals fortunate to be in your care are treated with. My wife and I feel our lives are enriched with the warmth, affection and cheeky playfulness of our newly adopted friend, Tia. She has settled in and I feel enjoys her new life with us. I would recommend anyone seeking feline friendship contact CPS. Again thank you!

J & D Usher, Enmore

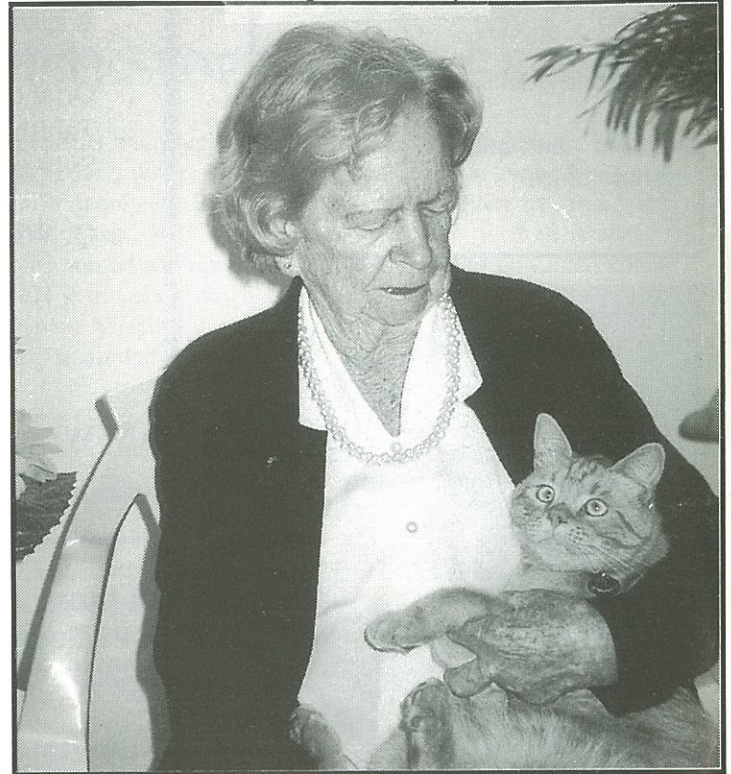
(Please see Tia on our back cover - Ed)

The photo enclosed is of Daphne Tobin (83 years old) nursing big 'Toby' who is almost 2 years old. I found Toby as a young kitten abandoned by his former family and left in an empty house to survive alone. He was undernourished and riddled with fleas. He responded well to 3 weeks of T.L.C. but, I needed to find him a good home. Guess who came to mind? A lovely lady named Daphne who was living on her own, after the death of her husband and in need of some company. Daphne was

rather reluctant at first to take Toby but after he curled his beautiful long ginger tail around her leg and looked up with those big yellow eyes, she agreed. Now, 2 years later he leads a life of sheer luxury.

Barbara Kains, Georges Hall

Daphne & Toby



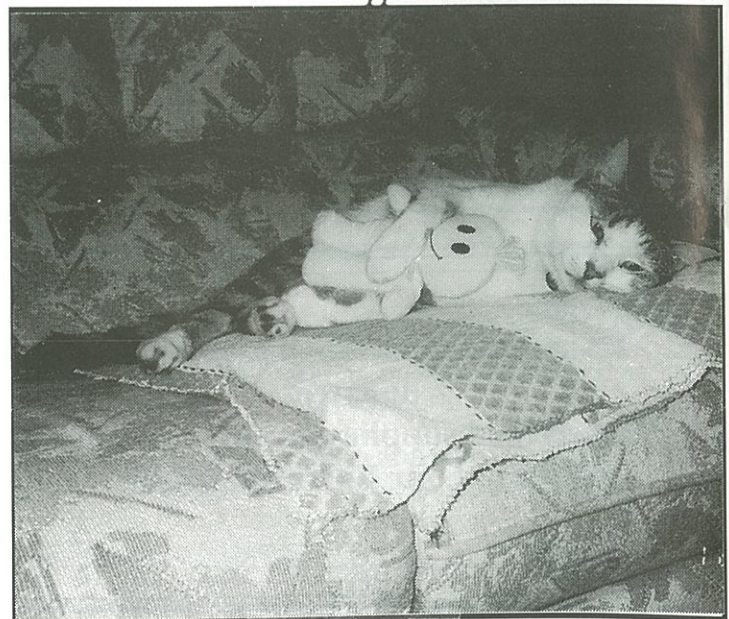
Just a short note to let you know that the wonderful cat you chose for us has brought such fun and interest to our lives and is turning out to be strikingly beautiful in a wild sort of way. Instead of the usual 'M' on his forehead, he has a 'W', even the vet noticed it. Thank you.

Beth Watt

Please find enclosed a photo of my baby - 3 year old 'Snapper'. As you can see he loves sleeping time - especially with his little friend. Thank you.

Anne Nastasi, Punchbowl

Snapper



GOOD ENOUGH FOR BOTTLING

It was a balmy spring day and I was reading on the balcony. It occurred to me that I should phone Maureen, so *Hatshepsut* was put aside and I made my way inside to the phone.

Maureen and I chatted for some time before I again returned outdoors to my book on *Hatshepsut* and that perfect spring day.

As I stepped onto the balcony Rose baled me up with a miaow-y greeting. Taking some 'time out' from my book, I scooped her up in my arms to give her a quick cuddle. I carefully placed her on her back on my lap, thinking to myself, "she probably won't stay long with me as she will want to run off exploring the world".

Famous last thought! Rosie settled down contentedly (still on her back) and for the next hour we quietly, calmly watched our world from the balcony. A neighbour over the fence climbed a ladder to reach some lemons. Charlotte, the vet from the unit next door, ventured onto her balcony to check on some washing. Birds chirruped, the trees swayed in a gentle, warm breeze.

Ambling slowly along the driveway, the over-sized tabby, Mr Hannah sauntered by without disturbing us. Blissfully unaware of Rosie's proximity, he moved on, while Rosie and I remained still, quietly content, on the balcony. The book was long forgotten as Rose and I succumbed to the peace of that beautiful spring afternoon.

Eventually, and most reluctantly, I decided that I had to think about dinner. As Rosie and I prepared to again rejoin the mundane world it occurred to me that this was one of those special, perfect moments in time that occur so rarely, and from whence came that old saying: "good enough for bottling".

Oh, to have been able to freeze that brief hour of time so that I could take it out and feel it, smell it, taste it, re-live it, at will. Instead, all I have to rely on is that sluggish companion 'memory', which sometimes only half-remembers and can never provide again the perfection of the original!

By Barbara Munday

See Rose, the inspiration for Barbara's story, on our cover. Ed.

CAT TEASER ANSWER



... From Page 3

The name of
Sylvester's mother is

... **Tabitha**



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

Please ensure you help
keep CPS going by
renewing your
membership for this year.
Memberships are due for
renewal on 1 June 2001.

For your convenience, we can
now offer a credit card
payment facility.

Please ensure you renew and
complete the slip contained in this
Journal

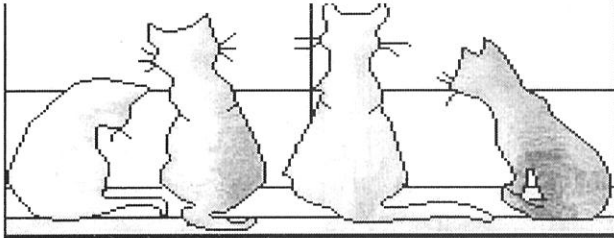
Why do some cats put their toys in their water or food dish?

Cats look upon their food area as part of their territory, and that particular area of their territory usually doesn't change from day to day - so the cats are likely putting their favourite toys away in a "safe" place. Some cats will consistently put away their toys when they're through playing with them - you might try putting your cat's toys in a small basket near one of his favourite spots and see if he will put them away on his own.



Why do some cats insist on drinking from a dripping tap?

Cats - like most other animals - prefer water fresh, and running water is most appealing for that reason. Also, the motion of water coming out of a tap is probably appealing to their sense of hearing and sight. Some cats will even put their paw into their water dish and "swirl" it around so they can drinking "running" water.



OFFICE TAILS



Operation Cat

Operation Cat our joint desexing/microchipping scheme conducted in conjunction with local Councils has reached its first milestone. Our 100th cat!!! The scheme had been operating for just over 12 months, we had conducted 12 Operation Cat days and worked in conjunction with 4 local Councils. In February we desexed our 100th cat, 'Lucy' in conjunction with Wollondilly Council. We presented her owner Yvonne with a free desex and microchip in honour of the occasion and received some favourable media attention. Since our 100th cat we have conducted **Operation Cat** days with Bankstown Council, and are currently talking to a number of other Councils who have expressed interest in the scheme.

We are also asking for your support. For those of you that reside in the Sydney metropolitan area we ask that you write to your local Council expressing interest in holding **Operation Cat** in your local Council area. Our goal is to hold **Operation Cat** in every Council area in Sydney in order to spread the word about the importance of having your cat desexed and identified.

Below: Animal Welfare Officer Sandy Moss with Lucy and her owner Yvonne and friend



New staff

We have had two very welcome additions to our staff recently. Welcome to Edward Hatt who is our new Animal Welfare Officer and to Catherine Robertson our Customer Service Officer. Both Catherine and Edward have already had a positive influence on our day to day lives in running your Society.

Right: Catherine Robertson & Rastas

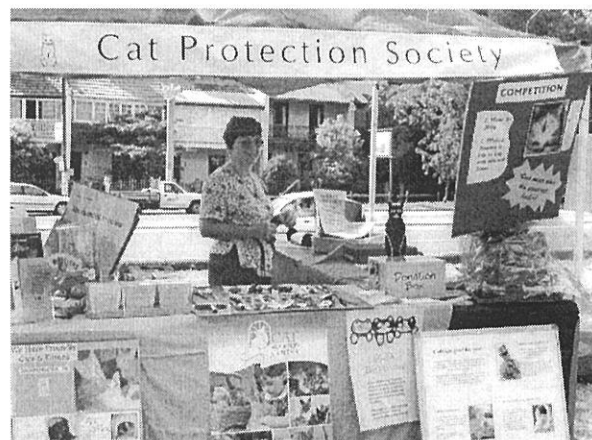


Above: Edward Hatt loading the animal ambulance van with cats for Operation Cat with Bankstown Council.

Website

At the time of writing our new website is about to be launched so by the time this journal reaches you we should be online. Check us out at: www.catprotection.org.au. All of our cats at our cattery at Enmore and at Glenhaven Boarding Cattery are profiled and we will be updating them regularly .

Victoria Park Fair



Above: Lee Wright helping out at the Fair

We had a great day recently at the Victoria Park Fair promoting Cat Protection Society. We handed out cat desexing vouchers, displayed photos of our current cats and kittens for adoption, sold memberships and cat paraphernalia. We also ran a 'Name the Kitty' competition with the name 'Marbles' gaining the most brownie points and winning the basket of cat goodies. A big thankyou to Angelika, Bridget and Lee for all their help on the day.

Sue Matysek, Co-ordinator

Early Desexing: Surgical and Socialisation Consequences

Kim Kendall

Adapted from a presentation made by Kim Kendall at Sydney University on 16 December 2000

I have desexed a few hundred of these little kittens now, and the age limit seems to me to be related to actual size - they need to be 6 weeks or over 600g in body weight. While the whole cat is still tiny, the ovaries and uterus of these youngsters seem to be almost the same size as 6 month old cats, which makes it very easy to find the necessary bits. The other surprise is the speed with which these babies recover. I find younger kittens get over the operation much faster than older cats (even 6 month old cats seem to have a longer recovery).

The actual procedure of early desexing is relatively short. The main risks are from the anaesthetic, letting the body temperature drop, or developing a low blood glucose during the surgery. Early desexed kittens grow to the same size and weight as cats desexed at 7 months old, and may in fact average 10% bigger. They also have less tendency to become overweight, and tend to be more affectionate and "kitten-like" than cats who are left to come under the influence of reproductive hormones. There is evidence that males desexed early are more prone to fracturing the head of the femur, but simple surgery fixes the problem, and to avoid it the cats have to be left as entire tom cats till 9-12 months old, and that is even riskier. With spraying and wandering, especially into the paths of cars, dogs and bigger cats, even the surgical specialists see the femoral head problem as the lesser problem.

What this technique has meant is that kittens can now be safely homed out to families without the cost of, or concern about, "accidentally" reproducing. Many studies, and my own records, indicate that up to 30% of cats never get any further veterinary attention after they leave a shelter or pet shop. Further, 20% of females do not get sterilized before having one litter (sometimes more), and this leads to the annual "kitten overload". It also used to lead to the death of the mother cat, as she was turned in to a welfare agency because she and her kittens were now inconvenient. These cats had often had their spaying prepaid, or it was free from wherever they got the kitten. It is not a question of money (so vets' fees cannot be blamed for "the stray problem") it is a question of convenience and culture. Free spaying has not brought the problem under control in any of the campaigns waged in any city around the world - only the people who always intended to have the cat desexed bring them back in for the free surgery. Those who have no intention of having their cat desexed stay away, and so the cycle continues. The cost of retrieving these undesexed cats contributes significantly to the burden on welfare agencies. The break in the cycle comes with homing already desexed kittens so

no mistakes are made in the reproductive stakes. The kitten season started very late this year, so the effect of this early desexing program as started by the Cat Protection Society in 1990, and which is now general among the welfare agencies, may finally be working. The effect of compulsory microchipping and tracking down of undesexed animals via the council should also start to have an effect. Maybe we'll have to queue to get moggie kittens someday!

Many studies have shown that the socialisation period for kittens is very early: 3-7 weeks of age. People seem to know that, because they want very young kittens so they can "influence their character and watch them grow up". However, kittens are not meant to leave their mothers till 10-14 weeks old, as they normally need feeding and training to hunt so they can support themselves. Most breeders keep their kittens till this age, for many reasons, and are mostly successful in counterbalancing the problems of disease against the social requirements of kittens learning to be cats. Thus the normal "learning unit" is mother and siblings, and possibly aunts and cousins, so the social programming is complex and changes as the kittens grow up. You can see a kitten decide who it is at about 6 weeks old. Up till then they tend to just be clumsy fluff balls, with some running faster or eating quicker than others.

Early homing of moggie kittens is important because it is a very costly exercise for welfare or private agencies to raise kittens, because kittens need lots of attention and lots of cleaning, and disease control becomes crucial. However, it means that the new owner/s have to take the place of the mother and the siblings for the kitten to learn manners and appropriate behaviour. There is research that shows that a human child's position in the family in relation to their siblings has a greater influence on character than the parents or genetics! Well, it turns out to be a bit the same for kittens. The father actually has the main influence on temperament, even though he has no role in raising the kittens, and there can be kittens from several fathers in the same litter. The father's input is to confer one of four personality types: of Shy/Timid, Outgoing, Friendly or Not Friendly. However it is the siblings who teach each other manners, and to inhibit their scratching and biting by withdrawing their claws and stopping their teeth from going through to bone. It is called fraternal inhibition and the rules are "If you bite me hard I'll bite you back" - like every toddler in the playground. The mother doesn't teach the kittens about rough play, she just stops it all together when the game gets out of hand. If you watch kittens playing, there is a great deal of screaming and posturing, but very little damage actually gets done. Reprimands and payback are via hissing, growling and use of the "neck bite" - the manoeuvre by which males dominate females during mating, and one cat dominates another during internal territory disputes.



... Continued Page 9

Where Did That Saying Come From?

Tomcat (*A male who enjoys the favours of many women*)

The expression comes from a book written in the mid-1700s in England called *The Life and Adventures of a Cat*. The "hero" of the book, a male cat who enjoyed the favours of many female cats, was named Tom.

Alley cat (*A stray or homeless cat*)

The "alley" portion probably refers to prostitutes, who at one point literally carried a mattress around with them. The "cat" probably alludes to the mating habits of female cats.

Cat got your tongue (*Why aren't you talking?*)

The phrase probably comes from a custom in the Middle East hundreds of years ago, when it was common to punish a thief by cutting off their right hand, and a liar by ripping out their tongue. These severed body parts were given to the king's pet cats as their daily food.

The cat's out of the bag (*To pass along a secret*)

In mediaeval England, piglets were sold in the open marketplace. The seller usually kept the pig in a bag, so it would be easier for the buyer to take it home. But shady sellers often tried to trick their buyers by putting a large cat in the bag. If a shrewd shopper looked in the bag - then the cat was literally out of the bag. (By the way, the bag was called a "poke," which is likely where the phrase "a pig in a poke," which nowadays means buying an unknown, came from.)

Catcalls (*Booing bad acting*)

The expression goes back to the theatre of Shakespeare's time, when men criticised the acting by making noises that sounded like a fence full of cats.

Curiosity killed the cat (*Be cautious when investigating situations*)

The saying originally was "care kills a cat," and began in the 16th century. "Care" was a warning that worry is bad for your health and can lead to an early grave; the phrase was a recognition that cats seem to be very cautious and careful. Over time, the word "care" evolved into "curiosity."

Cool cat/Hep cat (*Someone who keeps up with the latest trends*)

The terms came about in the Roaring 20's, and their meaning hasn't changed. Ideas that were truly too cool for words were described as "the cat's meow" and sometimes as "the cat's pyjamas." (Nobody seems to know why those phrases were created, though.)

Sourpuss (*Someone who is cranky*)

Probably derived from the ancient word "buss" which means "face," especially the lips. Over time, the word began to be pronounced as "puss," associating it with the cat.

Catty remarks (*Unflattering or unkind comments made by a woman, usually about another woman*)

The phrase came about when a man named Heywood, in the middle 1500s wrote "A woman hath nine lives like a cat." Soon, a woman who gossiped about other women was said to be making "catty" remarks about them.

A cat in gloves catches no mice (*Sometimes you can't accomplish a goal by being careful and polite*)

An idiom attributed to Ben Franklin in *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

Look what the cat dragged in (*A slightly derogatory comment on someone's appearance on their arrival*)

Origin unknown, but an obvious reference to a cat's tendency to bring home its prey, particularly after "playing" with it for a while.

As nervous as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs (*Someone with frayed nerves; jumpy*)

The allusion, of course, is to the fact that cats don't like having their tails trodden upon. Where the phrase originated is unknown.

There's more than one way to skin a cat (*There is more than one way to accomplish a task*)

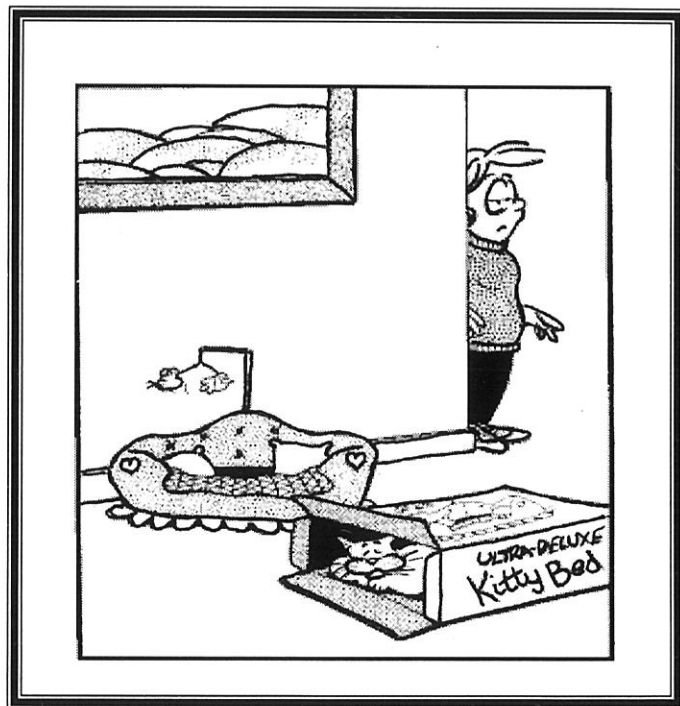
The reference is to preparing a catfish (named as such because of its long whiskers) for cooking, which must be skinned because the skin is tough.

Cat o'nine tails (*A whip*)

In olden days, people were flogged by a nasty device made up of three separate knottings of three stands attached to the whip's handle. The multiple of 9 had already been associated with cats; presumably if a person being flogged survived, they were as lucky as a cat with 9 lives.

Grinning like a Cheshire Cat (*Displaying a silly grin*)

From the Lewis Carroll novel (written in 1865), *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.



You Know You're A Cat Person If . . .

- . . . you break a nail and exclaim "damn, I've broken a claw".
- . . . you refer to going to the bathroom as "using the litterbox."
- . . . you do not consider an outfit complete without some cat hair.
- . . . you consider cat hair in your food as extra fibre.
- . . . you apologise when you step on a fuzzy cat toy in the dark.
- . . . you snap your fingers and pat the sofa beside you to invite your guests to sit down.
- . . . you sleep on one edge of the bed because the cat is sleeping in the middle looking soooo cute!
- . . . you accidentally put your child's dinner plate on the floor.
- . . . you spend more money on toys for your cats than on the kids or grandkids.
- . . . you decorate your Christmas tree with dangly cat toys.
- . . . your neighbours refer to you as "the crazy one with all the cats."
- . . . you have more pictures of your cats than your kids in your wallet.
- . . . you refer to your cat as your furry child.
- . . . your parents wind up with a four-footed, furry "grandchild."
- . . . you accidentally call your spouse by your cat's name!
- . . . you set a place at the dinner table for your cat.
- . . . you have a set of towels with "His" "Hers" and "Kitty's."
- . . . you call home and leave a message on the answering machine for your cat.
- . . . you have the cat meow on the outgoing message of the answering machine.
- . . . your spouse says, "Me or the cat!," and there's no hesitation.
- . . . your favourite friends have fleas.
- . . . you chose a house to buy based on it having a good location for the enclosed cat play-pen or the catbox.
- . . . you think cat fur makes a wonderful garnish to any meal.
- . . . you own 17 varieties of kitty-nail-clippers.
- . . . you are lost for conversation with non-cat people.
- . . . your alarm clock has whiskers and a raspy tongue.
- . . . you meow so well, you confuse the cats.
- . . . you bore the neighbours with discussions on the exact nutritional differences between Whiskas and Snappy Tom ... at length.
- . . . you are reading this.
- . . . you feel maternal when in the presence of new-born kittens but new-born humans do nothing for you.




Early Desexing . . . Continued from page 7.

Early weaning (planned or accidental), and early homing to humans mean these kittens do not get told the rules, at least not in cat language. Now cats are smart, however, by the time they learn English or Japanese or whatever, it is too late to stop the bad behaviour. Reprimanding a young adolescent cat (5-10 months old) will get you bitten if you don't have their respect already, and particularly if members of the household have indulged in "rough play" while always letting the kitten win - as in tug-o-war, hunt the hand/foot, kitty parrot (high on the shoulder).

Once a kitten reaches its teen years full behaviour modification is required to undo the original learned behaviour. This can be painful and take years. If a lack of boundaries and direction is combined with an unvarying existence (cat kept indoors, infrequent visitors, no children in the family), then they become what I call temperamentally inflexible - or develop the solo cat syndrome. These cats are basically agoraphobic - in their own environment where everybody knows the rules, they are happy. If they are taken out of that environment, or someone new enters it, the cats react violently and destructively - they bite and scratch hard when they don't get their own way. There are behavioural and medical remedies, but it is much easier to avoid the problem. How? There are three options:

1. Learn Cat Language;
2. Start With an Older "What You See Is What You Get" Cat; or
3. Get a Second Kitten...

The first two usually require more effort. The third one is half as much trouble, four times as much fun and only twice as expensive!!

I have learnt a great deal about normal, healthy cats through both boarding them and homing them out. I think we have only scraped the surface of the cat's mental and emotional capacities, and they do appear very much to be in control of us. In this materialistic world, through cats I get a glimpse of two concepts. Cat Karma, where the right cat will find you if give them half a chance, and the Bhutan King's principle of contributing to Gross National Happiness - each cat or kitten we home out, increases the level of happiness in the community, and that has greater value than anything on Wall Street. 

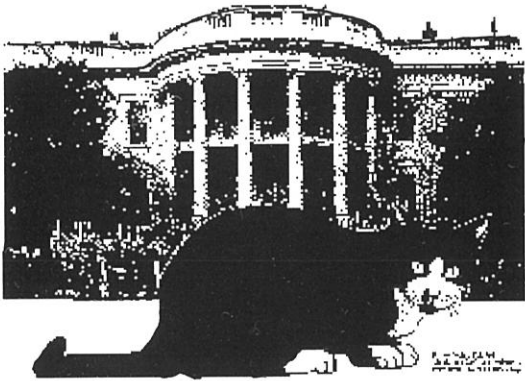
A FAREWELL LETTER FROM FIRST CAT, "SOCKS"

FROM SOCKS THE CAT'S OWN FAN CLUB WEBSITE:
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/6157/socks24.html>

Dear Cats and Kitties,

I want to thank you all for the most wonderful eight years of any cat's nine lives. America is a great country, where a cat like me, abandoned with my twin Midnight at the age of two months, can grow up to become the nation's First Cat. I am grateful to Chelsea's piano teacher for finding me living under her porch in 1991 and feeding me, and to Mr. and Mrs. Clinton and to Chelsea for adopting me on March 29, 1991. I celebrate that day every year, because that was the first time I felt truly loved. No cat should go unloved, and I encourage you to visit your local animal shelter and adopt someone to love.

For eight years, I have held my head high and proudly served this Nation. I helped change the profile of Presidential pets. Not since Franklin Roosevelt's Fala was there a Presidential pet so well known. Yes, there was Millie Bush and that book, but she had to share the spotlight with Fred. For me, I had the White House all to myself for four years. Those were good years. Then the big brown dog arrived. He really got my back up, but like East and West Germans, like North and South Koreans, and I hope like Northern Irish and eventually Israelis and Palestinians, the dog and I eventually learned to live with each other in peace.



Now a new cat and a new dog will be moving into the White House. In the spirit of National Unity, I ask you to support the new First Pets. This Nation faces many challenges, and the President has to bear those challenges, but with First Pets around him, the President never bears those challenges alone.

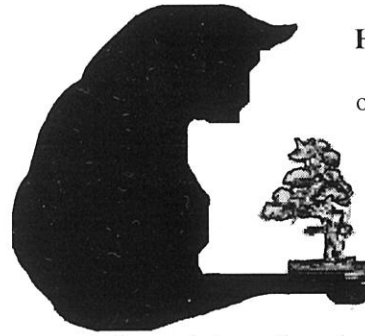
As a "lame cat," post-election, I caution the new First Pets, however, as Eisenhower did in his farewell address, to beware of the Military-Industrial Catplex. I too shall go forward to undertake my own new challenges. I expect to work on my meowmoirs, to spend more time with my family, and to break ground on my Presidential Pet library. In January, I will move to a new home in Cattaqua, New York, but my legacy will live on. This White House is now free of mice, and I hope it will stay that way forever.

Thank you and good night, SOCKS THE CAT

Note: A portion of the proceeds from membership of the Socks Fan Club go to the Humane Society and Children's Defense Club.

P.S. Socks now lives in the suburban home of Betty Currie, Bill's longtime secretary.

The Fine Art Of Bonsai



Having ended my editorship of Cat Affairs, I returned to the fine old art of bonsai now that my keyboard obligations were much less. And I rapidly discovered that although this wasn't a catty pursuit, I was not going to pursue it without the cats. It is the Rex creed.. 'whither thou goest, I go, whatever thou doest, I do' (and 'if thee doesn't make a mess of it - I will!!!').

Potting a nursery plant into a bonsai pot means I am never alone. I can have from one to three helpers lying on my workbench, watching, throwing the soil around or, I strongly suspect, inspecting its capabilities as potential litter. I often get the feeling that it is best not to turn my back on my work if I prefer not to discover a fresh, smelly deposit resting on the soil to be used to pot the plant. It is not easy doing a touchy root pruning with a muzzle nuzzling the same area I am clearing, cleaning and cutting. But one does learn to cope with this friendly interference.

But the real fun begins with the pruning. I carefully clip and cut to try to set the bonsai-to-be on the path of future growth and development. Hooli (short for Hooligan and all too apt a name) sits next to the bonsai, mouths a leaf or two - and pulls. He spits out what has come off and goes back for more. Now there are a number of my miniature trees with serrations on the remaining leaves that nature never designed.

Tariba has a love affair with one particular tree. This is a majestic oak with a thick stubby trunk, two thick branches and, at 50 cm high, it is big enough to give me a small struggle lifting the pot. I often find a small black feline sitting in the pot under the tree, watching the world go by in the garden. If I am working around that area she will actually climb to the fork of the tree and sit there like the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland. She's practically bigger than the tree but, happily, the tree is a great deal stronger. What I really love is when she decides to get closer to me and a black head, haloed by two huge black bat like ears, erupts from the crown with a boa of oak leaves around her neck and swivels around to see from this new perspective. A bonsai with a cat-headed crown - truly an inspiration. Personally, I don't think the Japanese bonsai masters are ready for it!

Yes, I should get cranky and take steps to ensure this does not happen. But there has to be give and take and the garden belongs to the cats too. And frankly, if a tree is too sensitive to cope with the feline element in its education, training and growth, well it will have to curl up its roots and die. Perhaps when one or more of my 'bonsai in training' actually advance enough to become bonsai, I will be more selective about who prunes and restrict climbing to full size trees. But until then, if it ever happens, there are three of us who actively pursue the art of bonsai - two felines and me.

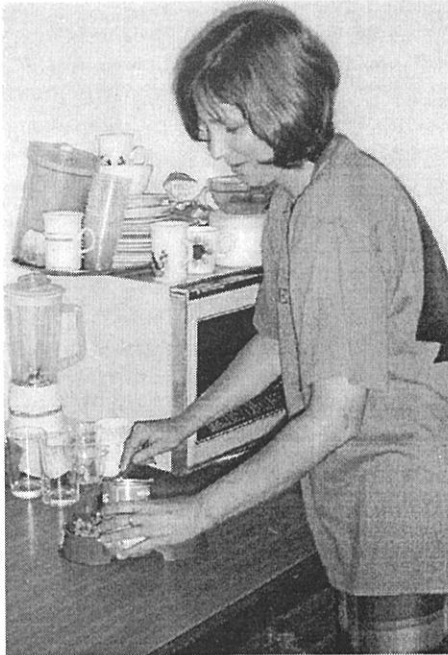
Lee Wright

Cat Protection Volunteers

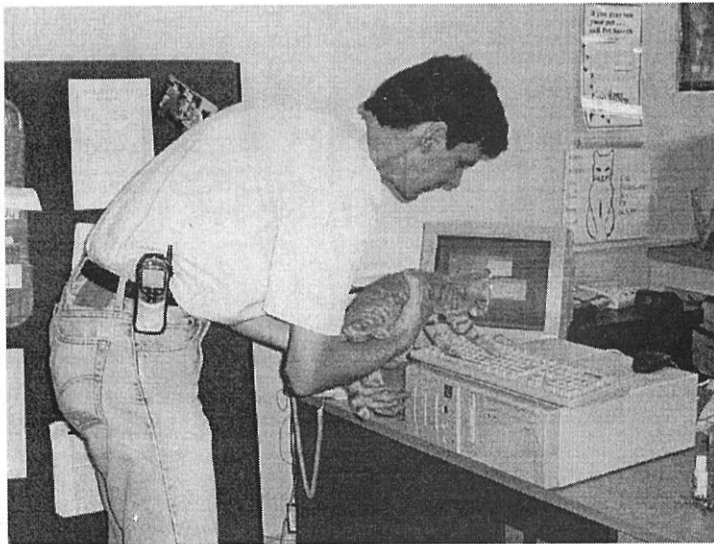
Running the Op shop, office and cattery at Enmore is a huge job, and it is only with the help of our many volunteers that we are able to achieve so much. These are people who give their time freely to do a wide range of job from cleaning litter trays and bowls, to helping install computers.

Pictured here are just a few of the people who have helped over the last months, but we would like to thank everyone who has given their time to help the cats.

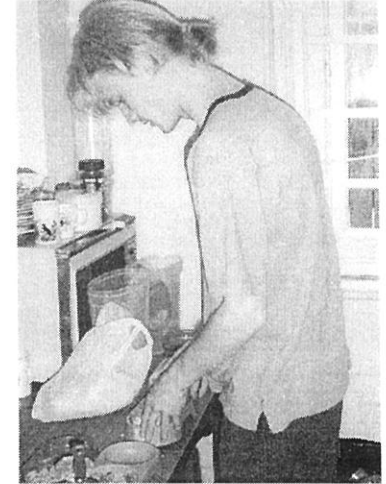
Right: **Laura** lives in the Enmore area, and comes in at least once a week to help in the cattery.



Ingo is a CPS member who volunteered his time to help install and network some new computers. Below, is Ingo is giving one of the CPS kittens some typing lessons.



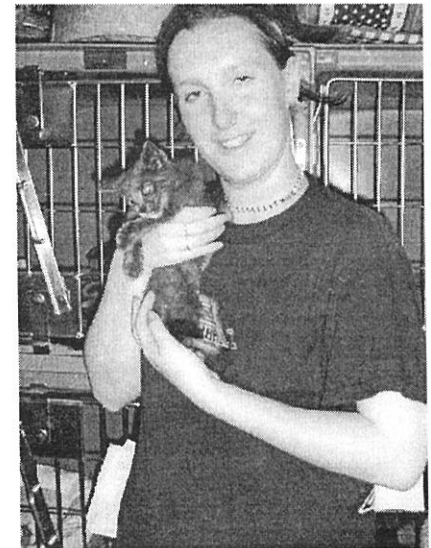
Right: **Sean** gives up one day per week to come and help in the cattery.



Below: **Angelika (right) & Barbara (left)** working in the CPS Op Shop in Enmore. The Op Shop is run entirely by volunteers. All the profits from the Op Shop go directly to saving and desexing needy cats.



Right: **Aoife** is a traveller from Ireland who missed her cats so much, that she came to help at the Cattery nearly everyday while she was in Sydney.

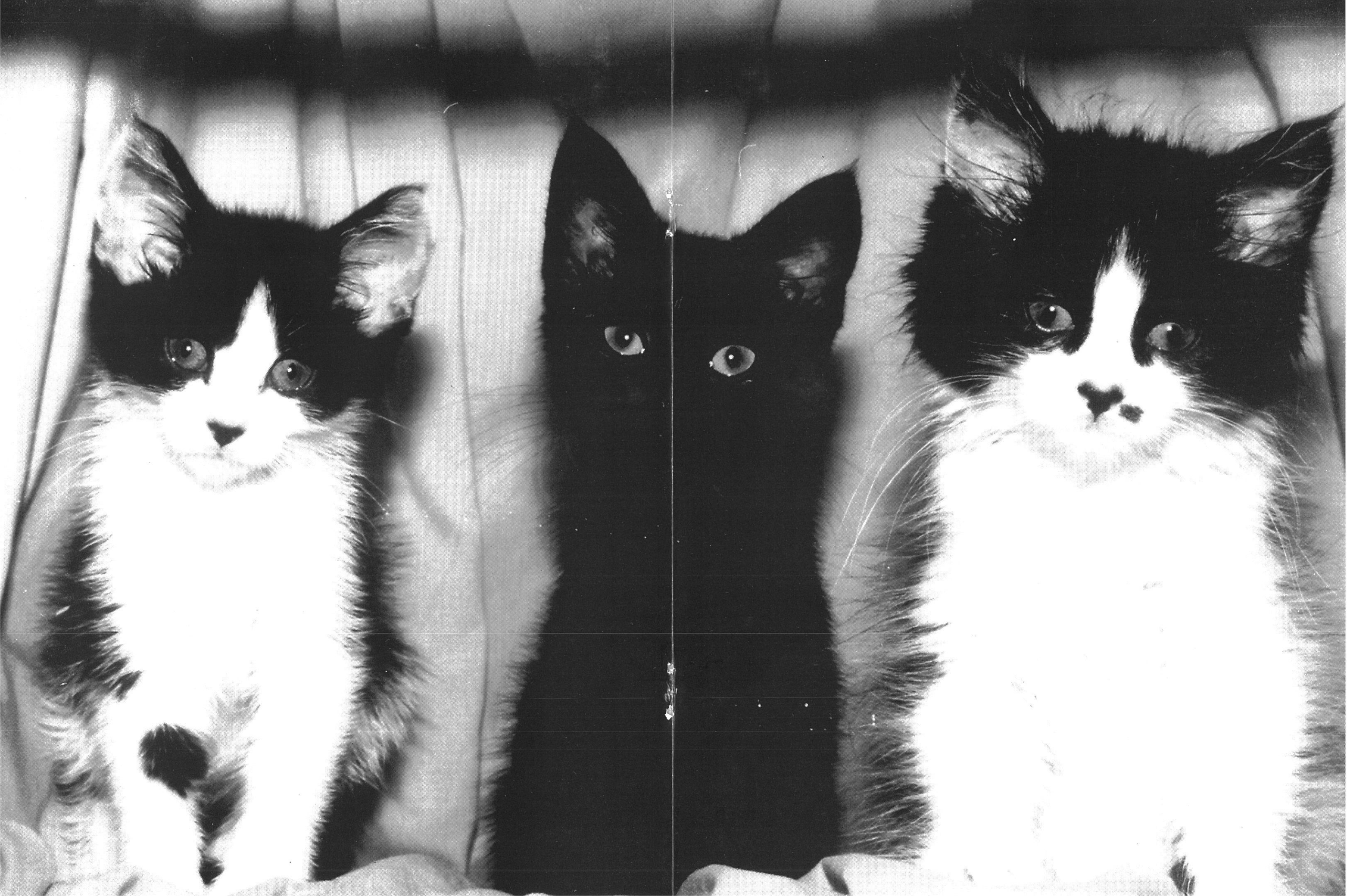


If you would like to volunteer to work in the cattery, please call Tara on 9519 7201, or if you think you can help in the Op Shop call Grace on 9638 7364.

Volunteers go to Heaven

Many will be surprised to find, when the day of judgement nears, that there's a special place in heaven set aside for volunteers furnished with big recliners, satin couches and foot stools, where there's no Committee Chairman, group leaders or car pools, No eager team that needs a coach, no pruning or plant sale, There's nothing there to staple, not a thing to fold or mail. Telephones there are out-lawed but a finger snap will bring -Cool drinks and gourmet dinners, rare treats fit for a king. You ask 'who'll serve these privileged few, and work for all they're worth why, All those who reaped the benefits and NOT ONCE volunteered on earth.

Author Unknown

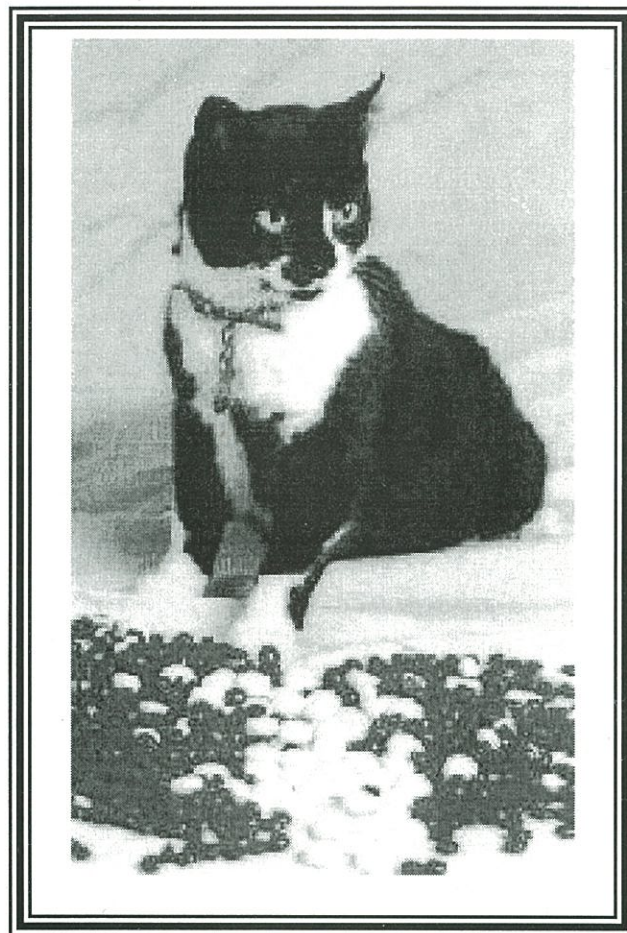


Ten Tips for a Poison-Safe Household

Adapted from an article by Jill A. Richardson, DVM, Veterinary Poison Information Specialist, ASPCA/National Animal Poison Control Center, USA

1. Be aware of the trees and plants you have in your house and in your yard - if your cat is permitted outside (most welfare agencies, certainly CPS, advocate cats being kept indoors at all times). The ingestion of azalea, oleander, easter lily, or yew plant material (to name just a few) by a cat could be fatal.
2. When cleaning your house, never allow your cat access to the area where cleaning agents are used or stored. Cleaning agents have a variety of properties, from those that could just irritate the gastrointestinal tract to those that have a corrosive action and can chemically burn the sensitive mucous membranes of the mouth, oesophagus, and stomach.
3. When using rat or mouse baits, ant or cockroach traps, or snail and slug baits, place the products in areas that are inaccessible to your cats. Most baits contain sweet smelling inert ingredients, which can be very attractive to your cat.
4. Never give your cat any medications unless under the directions of your veterinarian. Many medications that are used safely in humans can be deadly when used inappropriately. One extra strength Panadol or Disprin tablet (300mg) can kill a 4 kilo cat.
5. Keep all prescription and over-the-counter medicine out of reach of your cats. Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, and diet pills are common examples of human medication that could be potentially lethal even in small dosages. Only one half of a 200mg naproxen tablet could cause stomach ulcers in cats.
6. Never leave chocolates unattended. Approximately 100 grams of baking chocolate per kilo body weight of your cat or less can cause clinical signs of toxicity.
7. Many common household items have been shown to be lethal in certain species, including felines. Miscellaneous items that are highly toxic even in low quantities include mothballs (they contain naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene - one or two balls can be life threatening in most species), potpourri oils, fabric softener sheets, automatic dishwasher detergents (they contain cationic detergents which could cause corrosive lesions),

batteries (they contain acids or alkali which can also cause corrosive lesions), homemade play dough (usually contains high quantity of salt), winter heat source agents like hand or foot warmers (they contain high levels of iron), cigarettes, coffee grounds, and any alcoholic drinks.



8. All automotive products such as oil, gasoline, and antifreeze should be stored in areas away from cat access. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze (ethylene glycol) can be deadly to a 4 kilo cat.
9. Before buying or using flea products on your cat directly or in your household, contact your veterinarian to discuss what types of flea products she/he would recommend for your cat. Read ALL information before using a product on your cat or in your home. Always follow label instructions. When a product is labeled "for use in dogs only" this means that the product should NEVER be applied to cats. When using any type of 'bombs' or house sprays, make sure to remove all cats from the area for the time period specified on the container.
10. When treating your lawn or garden with fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides, always keep your cats away from the area until the area dries completely. Discuss usage of products with the manufacturer of the products to be used if in any doubt as to the effects these might have on your pets. Always store such products in an area that will ensure no cat exposure. 🐾

CAPTION CONTEST . . .

And the winner is:

Ms Elizabeth Nuttridge of Warwick Farm

Congratulations to Mrs Nuttridge who has won a copy of the Blue Day Book, reviewed in last month's Journal

Worthy runners-up were:

1. "Waiter! I think there is a fly in my soup!" (Anne Nastasi);
2. "Well I'll BEE damned!" (Tariba Wright);
3. Oh my! These fleas are getting bigger and bigger! (Mrs Dawn Minter)
4. Fancy meeting you here (Kay Hoylcroft)

And the winning caption . . .

I've got nine lives, you've only got one!

* * * *

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Membership Price Rises!

While we have been able to keep the dreaded GST at bay for a year now we regretfully announce that we are forced to increase the price of most of our memberships as of 1 June 2001. This increase applies to new members and also renewing members for the year 2001/02. While we endeavour to keep production costs as low as possible (grateful thanks for the voluntary efforts of our editor Suzanne), higher prices for printing, paper and postage as well as the GST are forcing us into this position.

Our new membership prices will be:

Annual membership	\$20
Pensioner	\$15
Junior (16 or under)	\$10

Life membership	\$250 (no increase)
Life Governor	\$1000 (no increase)

Please continue to support your Society in our work in providing for affordable and responsible cat ownership.

NEW MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2000 - FEBRUARY 2001

Ms	Aiken	GREENWICH
Ms	Bennet	GLADESVILLE
Ms	Breen	ELIZABETH BAY
Mr	Brown	BONDI JUNCTION
Mrs	Campbell	PETERSHAM
Ms	Cooke-York	HORNSBY
Miss	Cottle	NEWTOWN
Mrs	Damon	BALGOWLAH
Mrs	D'Arcy	WATERLOO
Mr	Davies	FAULCONBRIDGE
Miss	Davis	MALABAR
Mr	Diekman	ENMORE
Ms	Donnet	BOTANY
Mrs	Douglas	CAMPSIE
Ms	Eld	ROSEVILLE
Ms	Evans	BIRCHGROVE
Ms	Fisher	AVALON
Mrs	Germouls	BELLA VISTA
Mrs	Green	BAULKHAM HILLS
Mr	Halliburton	CAMPERDOWN
Miss	Haub	WEST WYALONG
Mrs	Hollinshead	ULTIMO
Mr	Hsu	SYDNEY
Mrs	Hughes	RYDALMERE
Miss	Hutton	AYR
Miss	Jarrett	LEURA
Ms	Kaderavek	GREENWICH
Mrs	King	BEROWRA
Ms	Malone	MT VICTORIA
Mrs	Mangan	ASHFIELD
Mrs	Mellor	RANDWICK
Ms	Mora	ENMORE
Mrs	Nastasi	PUNCHBOWL
Ms	Neil	ENMORE
Mr	Netting	THIRROUL
Miss	Rae	MALABAR
Ms	Robinson	STANMORE
Mr	Rozsavolgyi	BONDI
Mrs	Ryan	GRANVILLE
Ms	Sayenkovich	DANDENONG
Mrs	Senz	NGUNNAWAL
Ms	Simpson	FAIRFIELD
Ms	Stevens	NEWTOWN
Ms	Still	KOGARAH
Miss	Summerfield	ROSE BAY
Ms	Tamblyn	BROADVIEW
Mrs	Tobin	YAGOONA
Mrs	Walters	KINCUMBER
Miss	Weber	STANMORE



The Modular Pet Park Concept

Richard Malik and Hendrik Van Schie

The Modular Pet Park is a brilliant Australian invention that can help prevent the most important causes of death and disease in Australian cats, that is vehicular trauma and FIV infection. It also helps prevent destruction of native fauna and improves the quality of life for the indoor cat.

Most disease conditions that affect domestic cross bred cats can be avoided by ensuring that the cats are (i) fed a proper diet, (ii) prevented from getting infectious diseases and (iii) kept away from motor vehicles and other cats (and dogs) and ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

A proper diet consists of a mixture of premium commercial canned and dry food, supplemented with generous quantities of fresh, raw, meaty bones.

Infectious diseases that can be prevented include feline infectious enteritis, 'cat flu' (Herpes virus and Calici virus), feline leukaemia virus (which is rare in Sydney), cat bite abscesses, heartworm, and flea and tick infestations. Most infectious diseases can be prevented by vaccination, however flea and tick infestations and heartworm disease require the regular administration of appropriate drugs.

Risks from motor vehicles, dogs, other cats and the sun

A neglected but extremely important way to ensure that cats remain in good health is by ensuring that they are prevented from interacting with motor vehicles, other cats and dogs, and not subjected to excessive ultraviolet irradiation. Unfortunately, motor vehicle-related trauma remains the most preventable and important cause of death in cats, especially in younger cats.

As well as being a cause of outright death, many cats hit by cars suffer polytrauma that requires major veterinary interventions to save the patient's life, with veterinary fees typically costing in excess of \$1,000. To make matters even worse, cats that survive such trauma are often left with problems that cause some pain and debility for the rest of the patient's life, despite the best of treatment.



One of the most important infectious diseases of cats in Australia is feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) infection. This is a viral infection that has many similarities with HIV in people, and eventually causes an AIDS-like state or the development of lymphoid malignancies that foreshorten the lives of affected cats.

Cats most commonly become infected with FIV following the bite of another cat that is FIV positive, typically a sexually intact tom cat. Cats develop an acute illness following initial infection, and then usually recover, only to later develop a number of potential disease conditions that reduce their lifespan by perhaps one third.

Even if they are not infected by FIV, cats frequently develop serious cat fight abscesses following altercations with other cats, and these may require expensive veterinary intervention. Also, cats sometimes come off second best in interactions with dogs, and can suffer significant injury and even death if confronted with an aggressive canine individual.

The commonest preventable cancer in Australian cats is squamous cell carcinoma, which results from the cumulative effects of ultraviolet radiation on poorly pigmented areas of the cat's skin. This type of skin cancer is most common on the nose, face and ears of white and ginger cats, and results in the need for disfiguring surgery, cryosurgery or euthanasia if the cancer becomes advanced.

These can all be prevented

There is a common theme to many of these important predisposing factors that result in death and injury to cats - **they can all be prevented by keeping cats exclusively indoors.** Unfortunately many Australians believe that cats require contact with the outside environment to have an enriched lifestyle, and so people continue to keep indoor/outdoor cats, that go on to get hit by cars, bitten by other cats, torn apart by dogs and develop skin cancer. Although some of these things can be prevented by limiting the time which cats have access to outdoors, this approach is far from foolproof.

Introducing the Modular Pet Park

A brilliant Australian innovation - the Modular Pet Park - should provide the answer to all these problems, as it gives cats access to an interesting outdoor environment, but prevents them having the opportunity of interacting with cars, cat and dogs. Furthermore, with appropriate design and use of shadecloth, poorly pigmented cats at risk of developing skin cancer can safely have access to an outdoor environment.

What is a Modular Pet Park?

The Modular Pet Park consists of a series of tunnels and aviary-like enclosures that can be incorporated into an existing garden, or landscaped into a new garden. These different structures are interconnected, and communicate with the cat's regular indoor environment via a cat flap. The number of design innovations that are possible using this design concept are limited only by the imagination of the owners and installers! An added spin-off of using the Modular Pet Park is that cats are largely prevented from impacting adversely on native populations of birds, reptiles and small native mammals.

There are several companies in the market offering pet parks or similar products and typically, it costs between \$800 and \$1200 to buy and install a modular pet park. Although this may initially seem an expensive investment, it should be remembered that this cost will be defrayed over the life of the cat, and also that veterinary fees are now so expensive that it is very likely that the pet park will pay for itself through savings in veterinary bills over the life of the cat.

Definitely not a cage for your cat!

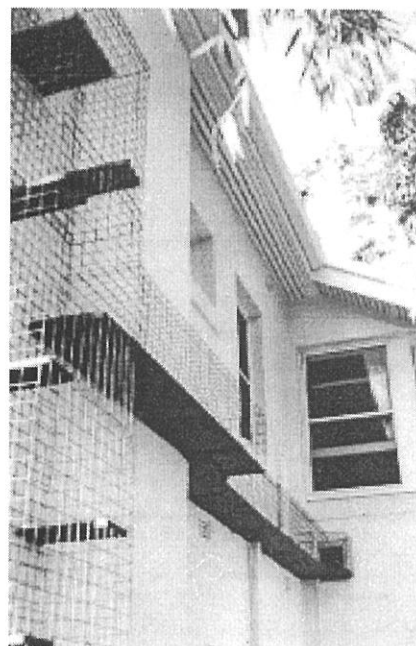
A Pet Park is a specially designed living space for your cat – it is **not** a cage for your cat. It is a specially designed enclosed area which appeals to your cat's curiosity and allows your cat to follow routes through his/her own territory. In its simplest form a Modular Pet Park consists of at least two frameless wire modules joined by a tunnel or walkway.

Wire modules form the building block in the design of a pet park. Wire modules are enclosed areas *like* (but not the same as) a cage. The difference is that a cat may leave a **module** via one, or more tunnels at any time. A tunnel may lead to other modules or through a cat door into your house, shed or other indoor living space.

Modules and tunnels can be placed literally anywhere and can be designed to incorporate favourite playing and resting areas and can include trees for climbing and scratching, bushes for shelter and hiding, and even water features for drinking and playing.

What does a Pet Park Offer?

- Safety for cats from cars, dogs, diseases, predators and neighbourhood cats;
- Potential savings on vet bills and elimination of associated anxiety for owners and cats alike;
- Protection for wildlife. Cat lovers are animal lovers. The conflict between cats and native animals is eliminated;
- Reduced risk of damage to household furniture by cats;
- Well designed parks can provide exercise for your cats;
- Cats love to be up high. Built in viewing areas and luxury hammocks allow cats to survey their territory and beyond;
- Stimulus of sight - the cats can see the birds, look at the cars, and see the stars at night;
- Stimulus of hearing – cats hear the birds, the wind in the trees and hear the traffic and other cats;
- Wind in the fur of cats – many cats love to feel the wind in their hair!;
- Cats feel more secure in a Pet Park. Cats have a security instinct, a built in consciousness of predators. They appear less on guard and more relaxed in a Pet Park system;
- Provision of vertical climbing space. Cats prefer to be up high. Generally ground space is less important for cats than high space. Pet Parks create a large virtual space for not much ground space. A real benefit in Sydney where land and space is at a premium;



- Can be considered as an extension to your house. A connecting tunnel with catflap provides all the benefits of inside plus the outside, and gives your cats a choice;

- Peace of mind you know where your cats are - safe, happy and out of mischief.

Richard Malik is Valentine Charlton Senior Lecturer in Feline Medicine at the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at the

University of Sydney.

Hendrik Van Schie has extensive experience is designing and constructing Modular Pet Parks tailor-made to different spaces and different budgets. 🐾

Modular Cat Parks
for safe, happy cats
1800 639 998
Catnip
Catnip Australia Pty Ltd
www.catnip.com.au

MUCH LOVED MOGGIES

Amongst all the many varieties of cats available as household pets, (there are now estimated to be in excess of 100 pedigree breeds currently available) there's no doubt which one reigns supreme in the popularity department - the moggie!

The much-loved mog is top of the pops for a very good reason. For this basic, no-frills feline with its unsophisticated charm has been part of the very wallpaper of our lives for as far back as we can remember.

Most of us grew up with a moggie, or at least shared our neighbourhood with one or more. They welcomed us home from school and played with us in the backyard - sometimes even suffering the indignity of being dressed up and wheeled around in a doll's pram! Many an Aussie photo album would bring back fond memories of family rituals which routinely included Puss in the proceedings. In fact, it is estimated that pets were a normal part of childhood for more than 83% of Australians.

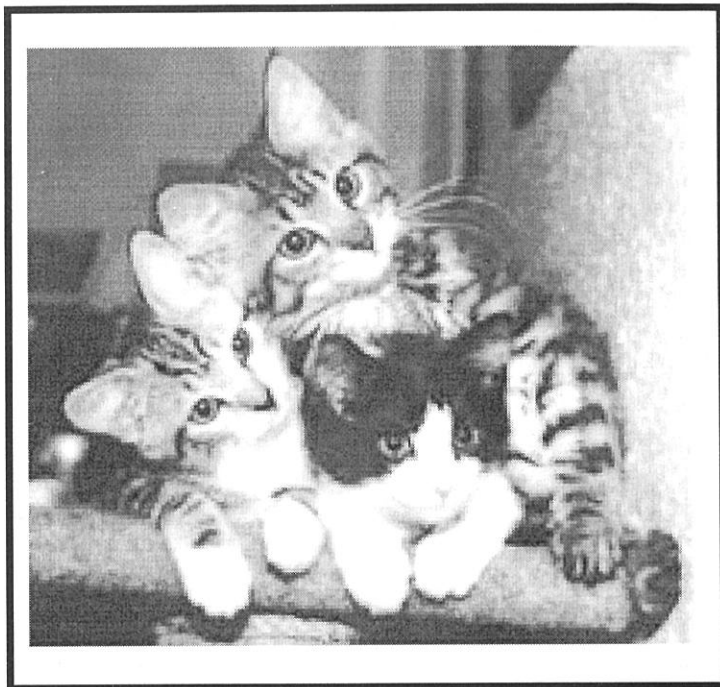
Often we didn't purchase the family moggie - a kitten would be given to us by a neighbour or friends, or an adult cat would just wander into our yard one day and adopt us. Regardless of the lack of pomp and pageantry surrounding these cats, there was always something reassuring, not to mention downright comforting, about seeing them curled up contentedly in front of the fireplace or sunning themselves lazily on the windowsill or the front verandah. For they reminded us of home - and life's simple pleasures.

Times have changed, but happily the knockabout Aussie mog is still very much a popular feature of our backyards and households. Currently, Australia has the highest incidence of pet ownership in the world. (It has been estimated that some 90% of Australia's 2.9 million pet cats are moggies and the latest figures suggest 64% of the 6.8 million households in Australia own pets).

Although moggies do not conform to any standards - coming in a range of purrrsonalities, shapes and sizes plus a huge variety of attractive coat colours and patterns - there are certain common denominators. More often than not Aussie moggies are shorthairs (sometimes "fluffies", but seldom with much length of coat). Many are mackerel (striped) or blotched (blobs and swirls) tabbies, which tend to be medium sized and with a reasonably solid build.

Moggies are invariably extremely robust, hardy creatures. Their breeding, based for the most part on natural selection (unlike pampered purebreds there are few arranged "marriages" amongst mogs!) has left a legacy of hybrid vigour. Survival of the fittest has ensured a strong healthy lineage based on natural form and function.

This self-assured, intelligent, no-fuss feline makes an undemanding, yet giving pet. Easy to look after and easy to love, moggies fit well into our laid-back Aussie lifestyle - whether they are just snoozing in the sun, playing with the kids, or joining the family for a backyard "barbie". Nothing if not adaptable, they are just as much at home in the city or country, making delightful companions for folk of all ages. Increasingly though, people are realising the many benefits of keeping their cats inside and away from the hazards of the outside world (at the same time protecting wildlife) and this is a trend which is set to continue, particularly in cities, where apartment dwelling is on the upturn.



So where on earth did the term 'moggie' come from? The nick-name of moggie is variously attributed to a British dialect variation of the word "Maggie" which originally meant a dishevelled old woman, or the name given to a scruffy scarecrow. This tie-in may have had some relevance years back when moggies were more often than not unowned cats, but today's sleek specimens tend to be as well cared for as any of their pedigreed cousins. Nowadays moggie is just an affectionate term used to denote any non-purebred domestic cat - the feline equivalent of the canine 'bittsa'.

Owners may not be aware that they can in fact show their much-loved mogs. For further information about cat shows and exhibiting pet cats, people should contact their local cat club or feline controlling body.

One thing is for sure however, the moggie's lack of aristocratic ancestry will never stop it being "top cat" in the homes, hearts and minds of millions of Australians.

Note: Statistics
quoted are
reported by
PetNet.com.au

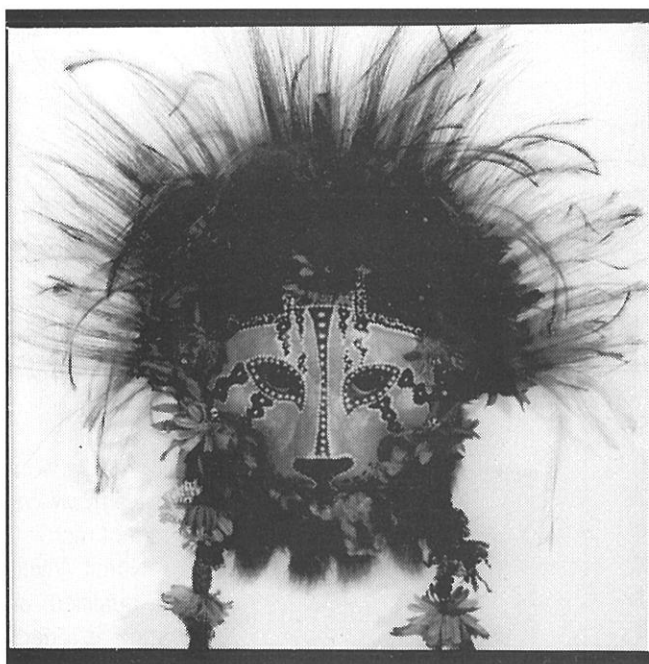
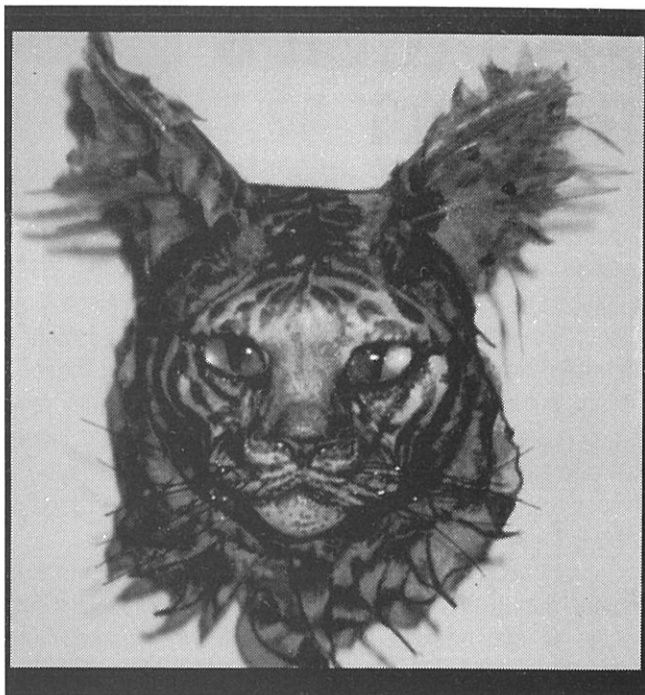


Margaret

Proctor

Masks have been with us from primitive times and they have been used for millennia to conceal and create identities in play, war and religious rites. Masks touch a psyche in all mankind.

Masks hold strong appeal for Margaret Proctor. Margaret is an extremely prolific and talented artist specialising in feline art. While Margaret has a strong signature bread and butter line of cat brooches and earrings, she is always expanding her multi-planed creativity with new ideas and treatments to highlight every fantasy a cat could possibly have. Her work abounds in exquisite detail, lush affects, fantasy and realism.



Margaret's latest collective work is masks. Her ingenuity ranges from carnival masks that cover the upper face, full mask reproductions of various large cat breeds and representations of tribal art masks done with cat faces. Each mask is painstakingly researched before she recreates it in a cat theme. The tribal patterns on each mask are closely authentic but she never copies an existing mask. Tribal masks are individual to the original wearers and Margaret feels it is breaking a personal copyright to produce an exact copy.

The masks are created with a papier-mache backing. That is then covered with an air-drying clay, painted, then overlaid with fabric, trims and painted details and then lacquered. Taxidermy eyes are used for an authentic effect.

To date, her tribal masks have been based on originals from the Amazon, Torres Islands, Mt Hagan and Nepal, to name a few. For those who collect Margaret Proctor originals, the masks offer a stunning decorative effect while always remaining purrfectly feline.

Margaret Proctor's jewellery is available at Manly Fashion Accessories in the Manly Esplanade Kiosk and she attends the major craft shows in Sydney with an excellent selection of her works.

MYTHS & LEGENDS

How Pussy Willows Got their Name

Many springtimes ago, according to an old Polish legend, tiny kittens had been chasing butterflies at the river's edge and fell in. The mother cat, helpless to save them, started crying. The willows at the river's edge swept their long graceful branches into the water - the kittens gripped on tightly to the branches and were rescued. Each springtime since, goes the legend, willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds where the tiny kittens once clung.



CATTERY MANAGER'S REPORT



Kittens, kittens and more kittens! Despite a late onset, the kitten season exploded into full strength as per usual. CPS staff managed to give 344 kittens and 111 adult cats a promising Christmas and New Year, by placing them in loving homes between November 2000 and February 2001. These figures reflect animals rehomed directly through our Enmore cattery alone. Staff were extremely careful when placing kittens who were to be given as a Christmas gift. We were obviously able to discourage those who were not genuine, indicated by a total of zero kittens being returned after the big day.

The cats and kittens who were not fortunate to find homes during this time were treated with a special Christmas lunch by our dedicated cattery staff who worked tirelessly through the holiday season without a break. I would personally like to extend my appreciation to Tara, Natalie and Narell for spending part of the festive season with our cats.

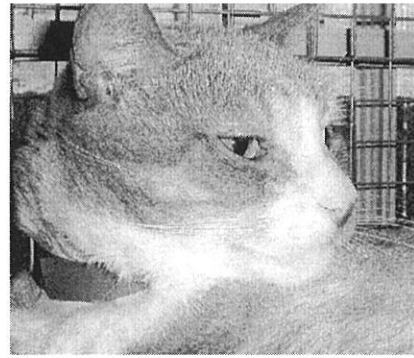
In the Summer release of the CPS journal I reported on the success of adult rehoming from our Enmore Cattery. The tables have now turned and our adult cats have had to take a back seat whilst the cute little kittens attract all the attention by strutting their stuff. Not many people can resist a small bundle of fluff but the youngsters have been given a run for their money by a few of our adult cats. The following success stories are of adults that managed to win hearts at the peak of the kitten season.



Jimmy (left), a 9 month old entire male, was a real tough guy from the streets of Annangrove. His toughness however was only skin deep and having no permanent place to stay made each day a struggle.

Then came Jimmy's big break when he was picked up by a CPS Welfare Officer. Jimmy was not intimidated by kitten season and attracted the attention of two muscly young men who ran an inner-city gymnasium. Jimmy is now the resident cat of a Sydney gym and is still able to flex his muscles on a daily basis.

Shadow's story is extremely disturbing. He was placed in an Eastern suburbs vet to board before Christmas with many other cats, whilst their responsible owners went on holidays. Shadow waited anxiously as owners collected their beloved pets, but his owners never showed up. Veterinary staff cared for him daily but as a 6 year old male he wanted a quiet and stable environment, not the hustle and bustle of a vet surgery. Shadow



only required two days of purring and head rubbing with CPS clients to convince a young lady that she didn't need a kitten, when she could have a lovable old boy like him.

LuLu was surrendered to CPS for the second time when her owner had to move in with parents who would not accept a cat. Her picture appeared on a poster at the Victoria Park Fair, where her original owners identified her as their own Gina surrendered



six months earlier. After their overseas job fell through they never expected to see their gorgeous puss again – but in an amazing twist of fate they were reunited. Gina/LuLu now Gina again looked to be reserving her judgment about moving back in with her original owners. I know it will

take a lot of TLC for them to get back into her good books and she will lap up every last bit.

For those who visit our CPS cattery on a regular basis, a few of our long standing residents have found loving homes; Chloe (after her modeling debut in the southern Leader), Meow Meow, Mama Pyjama (the previously malnourished mother of six) and Prissy.



I would like to extend a warm welcome to our most recent recruit to the CPS team – Narell Whittle (left). Narell is a qualified animal attendant and is dedicated to the welfare of animals. She can be found in the cattery Saturday to Wednesday and fosters kittens in her spare time.

Finally I would like to farewell my beautiful Samantha. Samantha was three years old when she selected me as her only friend. I was a vet nurse at the time and nobody could get near her without being attacked - except me. We discovered early on that she suffered from a portosystemic shunt. Together we shared three very special years. Samantha 'at six years of age your eyes told me you wanted to go to a better place. Our time together was brief and I can only hope that I gave you as much pleasure as you gave me – and still give me when I remember our time together'.

PETA EDWARDS



In Memorium



BBQT

(17 March 2000)

Loving eyes glowing in my heart
Remembered radiance mirroring memories
Lee

Donation received in memory of Mrs Gwen Williams of Epping from her daughter and granddaughters who decided their late mother/grandmother would appreciate a donation being made to a group who cared as much about cats as she did.

A donation in memory of our dearest little boy cat, Sunnie who lost his fight against kidney disease on Sunday, 18 February. Aged 16 years,. So very sadly missed by Mum & Dad. Rest in Peace baby.

*In memory of dearest Sunshine
Beloved little boy of mine
Big green eyes and fluffy tail
You were a very handsome male
I now know that my grief will be far from brief
As for 16 years, you touched my heart
And now I'm lost, as we're apart
But now I know you're out of pain
And I hope one day we'll meet again.*

Jacqui and Michael Glyde

Donation received in memory of 'Blackie' who disappeared from our home at Croydon on 1 February, 2001. He is a large, friendly and gentle mature black cat, 9 years old, desexed and microchipped. All our efforts to find him have failed. My sister and I miss him and his endearing personality, terribly. We cling to the hope that some kind person has found him and he will be returned to us.

Betty & Heather Bell

"Raja", there are no words to express the bond we have over the past fifteen years. Thank you my darling Raja, the most beautiful Siamese on earth and now in heaven.

Carolyn

Donation received from Jill Hamill in memory of her cat Tilly who died of cancer at age 12.

Miss Pesto Millett (August 1997 - February 2001). Our darling 'Princess La La Fluff', so much loved and so very sorely missed.

Tara Millett

In memory of my darling mate, Timmy, who died in my arms on January 5th, 2001. My affectionate and loyal companion came to me as a stray, fourteen years ago and adopted me when we both needed someone in our lives.

Mr Laurie Davies

All memorials mentioned here were accompanied by donations to the Society which were all received with grateful thanks.

DONATION FORM

The 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.



Cats in the news



Cat Burglar

In September 2000, Ann Paver from Chester, UK thought that she had burglars in her garage. Hearing what she thought was rummaging so she phoned the police. Within minutes, a patrol car arrived and the police helicopter was circling overhead. When police officers burst into the garage, they found 18 year old Tumble, a cat belonging to a neighbour, Gil Lightfoot in the garage doing some exploring. Needless to say, Mrs Paver was extremely embarrassed by the false alarm!

Holed Up

In August 2000, Henry, a ginger tom cat disappeared over the side of a quay in Maryport, Cumbria, UK. It was a 25 foot drop and when his owners could not find him, they assumed that he had been swept out to sea. Amazingly, 17 days later, a neighbour saw Henry peering out of a crack in the harbour wall. He must have managed to cling to the side and climb into the small crevice. Council workmen rescued him and reunited him with his owners, Ethel and Bill Poland.

Hickory, dickory, dock

In June 2000, Kitty decided to chase a mouse up a 75ft clock tower near her home in Penarth, South Wales. Kitty then found herself trapped at the top of the derelict building. Her owner, Pat Jenkins tried to coax her down but to no avail. As the building was too dangerous to enter, the firebrigade brought an extra long ladder from a fire station 10 miles away to rescue her. Now that's community service.

Stowaways

In May 2000, four kittens were found in the back of an Iveco container lorry in Winsford, Cheshire, UK. They had travelled 700 miles from Turin, Italy. Their mother was found to be a warehouse cat living in the Iveco plant in Turin. They were flown home from Manchester to be reunited with their mother.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, ENMORE, NSW, 2042 Ph: 02 9557-1011

I apply for membership or renewal of membership of the Society for the year commencing June 2001.
All persons joining from January 2001 remain financial until June 2002.

Subscription	\$1,000.00	Life Governor	Pensioner Membership	\$15.00
	\$250.00	Life Membership	Junior Membership	\$10.00
	\$20.00	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 _____ FIRST NAME _____

Address: _____ Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Pension Number: _____ Signature: _____

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

AND THEIR TRIP TO THE NT

Blacky was a wild cat we discovered in our garden. She was unapproachable but ate the food we left out for her. Gradually she became more friendly but would not enter the house. That changed the day she had her kittens, when she not only entered the house, but jumped up on the sofa and gave birth right beside my husband!

Smokey, a beautiful tortoiseshell, was one of her kittens. She was always an inside cat, particularly when we moved to a flat above a shop in the main road of Summer Hill.

Tinker was so skinny when she was found by my husband on Summer Hill station, that she resembled a long piece of black elastic. After some time with us her transformation was dramatic, a feline Cinderella. She had a lovely personality to match her appearance and would spend hours sitting on the gate greeting passers-by.

Life was to change for them all when my husband, Peter, was transferred to Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula in the NT. Peter went on ahead while I packed up and organised transport for my daughter Jacquie, the cats and myself. Departure day came quickly and my brother-in-law arrived to drive us to the airport. The only thing left to do was put the cats in the pet packs provided by Ansett. Blacky and Smokey were no problem but Tinker protested violently, limbs akimbo and claws primed. Finally she was in and we were on our way when there was banging from the boot - Tinker had escaped! She completed the journey on my lap - much more appropriate for a cat of her stature.

On arriving at the terminal we were able to secure a metal cage for her, much to my relief, as I had visions of her rampaging around the hold of the plane. We were on our way! First stop - Brisbane and a change of planes. Changeover was smoothly handled by airline staff. Next stop, Alice Springs. We were all to stay on the plane and wait. Imagine my surprise when I glanced out the window and saw Tinker disappearing on a trolley. An agitated negotiation with stewards ensued wherein I finally convinced them that the cat was mine and should be returned to the plane for the flight to Darwin.

On arrival we collected our luggage and the cats and headed across the terminal to board our next (smaller) plane. Suddenly the bottom of the pet pack gave way and Blacky spilled out onto the tarmac. Luckily she was still suffering the effects of the sedative she had been given for the trip, which enabled me to grab her and put her into the cage with Tinker before she realised what was happening. By now all the cats were very distressed and panting and I wondered if they would reach our destination alive.

Finally we arrived in Nhulunbuy. I was very glad and relieved to see Peter waiting for us. When we got the cats to their new home they revived amazingly well and settled in quickly.



Epilogue

The three cats enjoyed their life in the Northern Territory. Sadly, Smokey was killed by a dog a few months after we arrived.

Blacky and Tinker returned to Sydney two years later (this time a carrier arranged their transport!).

Blacky lived till she was sixteen, when she too was killed by dogs.

Tinker survived to eighteen and died from natural causes.

Hilary Dockrill



STOP!

**Don't throw this Journal
away.**

Please help spread the word on CPS and perhaps even entice some new members and pass this issue on to your doctor, dentist, hairdresser or vet or anywhere where there is a waiting room where magazines are kept.

