

AUTUMN 2002

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

# Cat Affairs

Cats & Babies  
CAN Co-Exist

CAT FACT OR MYTH?

**BAST FROM  
THE PAST**

**CATS AHOY  
• SAILOR CATS**

*Caring for your Cat  
during Convalescence*

**Enmore Road  
Renovates Up-date**



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## **THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE . . .**

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new members. We have had a major influx of new members over the last few months and we invite you all to become actively involved in the Society. This issue of *Cat Affairs* provides both new and old members with an update on the activities of the Society (see pages 6 and 11).

This year should prove to be most exciting as we have just called for tenders for the reconstruction of our headquarters at Enmore Road (see the *Renovations Report* on page 5). By the end of 2002, we should have much improved facilities for the care and sale of our cats.

As well, we intend using the opening of the new facility to further lift the profile of CPS. One of our long term aims has been to position CPS as the premier cat welfare organisation in New South Wales so that whenever cat-related issues arise, people will turn to CPS. We believe that this is steadily being achieved. For example, many of you would have seen our Coordinator Lynda O'Grady appear on the ABC's television program Stateline. CPS was approached by Stateline because some ill-advised people were pushing the line that we were at risk of running out of "moggies". Lynda very ably explained that this was clearly not the case, and that CPS each year had to deal with thousands of unwanted cats and kittens. We have had a lot of positive feedback about the program.

Many times, cats are surrendered to us because their owners are about to have a baby. This sort of action is particularly heartbreaking to our staff, as it is difficult to find new homes for adult cats. It is doubly distressing because it is also unnecessary. Families with babies can, and do, live happily and safely with cats. As with every other facet of our lives, we just have to think about the situation and plan and behave accordingly. Our Editor, Suzanne Jenkins has researched the topic and has come up with some advice for people who have, or are planning to have a baby and already have, or plan to adopt, a cat (see pages 14 and 15). Please read this article and pass the advice on to friends or relatives who are in this situation.

CPS also has broader animal welfare interests. For example, we have been actively lobbying against the Carr government's proposal to introduce the Game Bill, a bill which will actively promote hunting in this state and which will place control of hunting in the hands of a Game Council dominated by hunters. The government argues that the bill will have positive outcomes. Mr Carr, we do not believe you and we urge you to withdraw the bill.

This is my last *President's Page*. Because of other commitments, I cannot dedicate the time that the position of President of CPS deserves and therefore will be relinquishing the post. I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the staff of CPS for all the hard work they have done, and for the support and encouragement they have given me. I have absolutely no doubt that CPS will continue to develop so that it can best help those cats who need our protection. I commend the work of the Society to all our members and urge your continued support for it.

Keith Edwards

### **Mention of a product or service does not constitute an endorsement by CPS.**

All photographs remain the property of CPS.

**FRONT COVER:** Cathy (Photograph: Lynda O'Grady)

**CENTREFOLD:** Max (Photograph: Sandy Moss)

**BACK COVER:** CPS Foster Kitten (Photograph: Frances Kaukerit)

# This Old Cat

*I'm getting on in years,  
My coat is turning grey.  
My eyes have lost their lustre,  
my hearing's just okay.  
I spend my whole day dreaming of  
conquests in my past,  
lying near a sunny window.  
Waiting for its warm repast.  
I remember our first visit,  
I was coming to you free,  
hoping you would take me in  
and keep me company.  
I wasn't young or handsome,  
two years I'd roamed the street.  
There were scars upon my face,  
I hobbled on my feet.  
I could sense your disappointment  
as I left my prison cage.  
Oh, I hoped you would accept me  
and look beyond my age.  
You took me out of pity,  
I accepted without shame.  
Then you grew to love me,  
and I admit the same.  
I have shared with you your  
laughter,  
You have wet my fur with tears.  
We've come to know each other  
Throughout these many years.  
Just one more hug this morning  
Before you drive away,  
And know I'll think about you  
Throughout your busy day.  
The time we've left together  
Is a treasured time at that.  
My heart is yours forever.  
I promise . . . This Old Cat.*

*Anonymous*



## FREE TO GOOD HOME



Beautiful 6 mo.  
old male kitten -  
orange &  
caramel tabby,  
playful, friendly,  
very affectionate.  
Ideal for family  
w/klds.



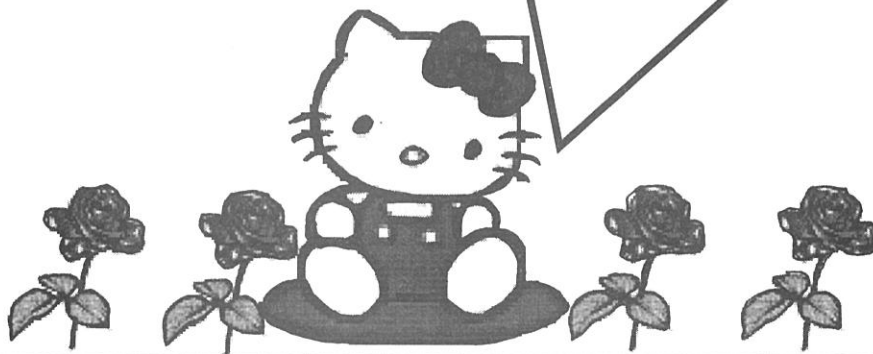
Handsome 32 yr.  
old husband -  
personable,  
funny, good job,  
but doesn't like  
cats. Says he  
goes or  
cat goes.

↔  
**OR**  
↔

**Call Jennifer - 265-5543 - come  
see both & decide which you'd like.**

Many thanks to Dorothy Robinson of Blaxland, the winner of our Cat Quiz. On being advised of her win, Dorothy kindly decided to donate the cost of her prize back to CPS.

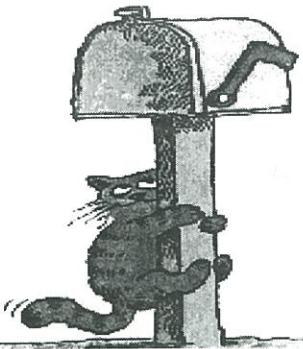
**Thank you, Dorothy.**



*"No heaven will not ever Heaven be; Unless  
my cats are there to welcome me."*

*Unknown*

# The **SCRATCHING** Post



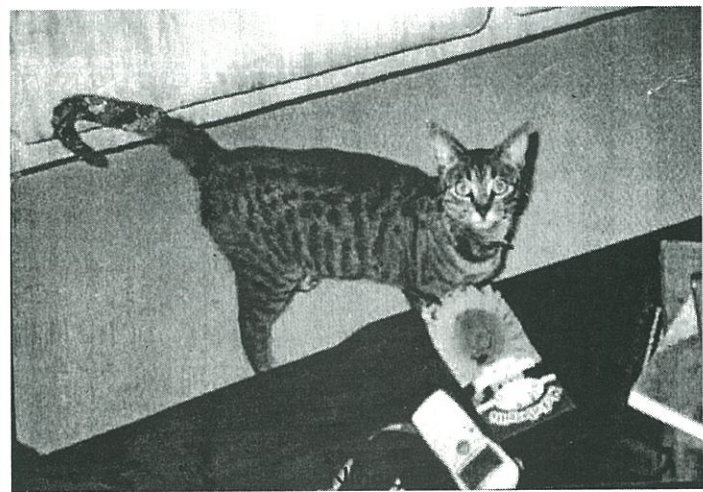
Dear CPS,

I wanted to write to let you know of Nina's progress. We picked Nina up from CPS on 28 October, so we have only had her for a short while but now I couldn't imagine our lives without her. She is just an absolute job to have around.

After two tense days hidden under a bed, she gradually grew confident enough to start exploring and now has the run of the house.

I must thank you and your staff for the excellent service you provide. I have enclosed some photos of our 'daughter'.

Thanks once again, Kylie Adams



Some readers may have seen the article in the winter journal that told the story of how we came to be adopted by our tabby, Zelda. Much has happened since that day. Our previously solo cat, Jake, has come to accept Zelda (I'm sure, though, he still privately refers to her as "the interloper") and in fact they spent many a cold winter's night curled up together in Jake's basket.

However, despite many years of living on different sides of a wire fence Jake and our neighbour's cat have not accepted each other and still have many all out battles - even though both were desexed as kittens. This has resulted in many nicks, bites and scratches all of varying size, shape and depth, not to mention many trips to the vet for Jake. (The cat next door is the size of a small dog.)

Jake's latest trip though proved to be a most life altering one. After sustaining a very nasty bite from the marauder next door, Jake developed a very large, very putrid smelling abscess. This wasn't noticed until he climbed onto his Dad's lap for a little snuggle and promptly started shaking off the foul liquid that was leaking from his wound. Yes, his Dad very nearly puked! I raced him (Jake, not his Dad!) to the vet where he spent the night following his surgery to remove the infected skin etc. Our local vet has a bit of a reputation for taking in strays that people bring to his practice. Valiant attempts are

made to find homes for these little souls. It was here that I first saw her, a little bundle of dirty white fur with a 'Post It' note stuck on her cage. The words filled me with dread. 'Animal Welfare'. All attempts to find a home for her thus far had failed.

After one look into those big yellow eyes I knew she was coming home with me. The vet staff were ecstatic. They quickly assured me that the raised wet patches of fur were just a tick and flea treatment that they had recently applied. Not a problem, I thought. She will clean up beautifully. The extremely pale ears meant she would spend her life inside. Not a problem, I thought. She will be company for Zelda. And, she was pregnant. Oh no. A problem, I thought!

I told them I would have to talk to my husband but that I'd let them know within half an hour. I said goodbye to Jake, raced home and blurted it all out. The poor man was totally dumbfounded but being the wonderful person that he is, he agreed that I could bring her home but there was one condition - we had to find homes for the kittens. I called the Vet and told them the good news.

Two days later I brought Chloe home. It was an amazing time watching her grow, not only physically as the kittens inside her grew, but to see her grow in confidence. She even allowed the children to give her gentle pats and strokes.

I was more nervous waiting for the birth of the kittens than I can remember being with my own children! I set up a nice, cosy (or so I thought) box in the bottom of my wardrobe and waited. And waited. And waited. Eventually the time arrived. Around 1.30pm one night in early August my four year old daughter came stumbling out to the living room complaining that her bed felt wet. You guessed it! Chloe had forsaken the lovingly prepared kitting box to give birth in my little girl's bed!

I felt all warm inside as I pulled back the doona and found Chloe gently cleaning her two pure white babies. The warm glow disappeared when I saw all the blood and mucus on the sheets and realised that I had a bed to clean! I transferred the little group to the box in the wardrobe and set about cleaning up. Very determinedly ignoring the voice in my head that kept trying to remind me I had agreed we wouldn't keep the kittens.

Early the next morning I showed the kittens to my children and told them we should leave them alone for the day. It was about 12 hours later when I went to check on mother and babies. I very nearly fainted when I realised that there were now three kittens. I was so worried that I bundled the kids and the cats into the car and drove to the Vet to make sure there weren't any more in there! Luckily, there weren't.

The Vet determined that we had two females and a male. (Late as usual!). The kids and I secretly named them Gemma, Natasha and Milo. To cut a long story short, it has now been nearly four months and the kittens have settled in nicely. They are now a big part of this family and all intentions of finding them homes have long since vanished. My daughter still feels very privileged that Chloe chose her to be present at the birth and quite happily tells everyone she meets. The kittens are now growing into very individual beings and recently had their first vaccination. They were not amused (wait until they go to be desexed!). Chloe has proven herself to be a wonderful mother although this was her last litter! She is off to be desexed in the next few days. Jake does his best to ignore them all, sometimes with success. As for my initial thoughts about Chloe being company for Zelda? Well, forget that idea - they hated each other on sight and that animosity continues today!

*Judith Bow, Glenorie*

Dear CPS,

A few months ago, I bought a cat from you. Just popping you guys a note to let you know that 'Jazz', the really big black & white female with the greatest personality of all time, is doing extremely well. She settled in within 2 hours (I'm not kidding).

Thanks so much for all your help.

**Mel Hoy**

*You can read more about Jazz on page 11 - Ed*

# Renovations Report

As I sit here desperately trying to do some work, I am hounded by three of the most playful and beautiful young male cats you can imagine. Two tabby brothers, badly named Cow and Chicken (see their story and picture on p. 10) and their young friend Alex. All are under six months old. They have turned my office upside down, pulling the computer cords out, jumping on the phone and the keyboards, knocking the clock off the desk and then chewing on the broken bits. Is this any way to run an office? Well, I wouldn't have it any other way, for now anyway.

With young cats like these, males in particular, it is virtually impossible to keep them in a small space while they are waiting for their perfect owner to come along. They need space to run and play and be young, which a standard cattery just doesn't provide. So for now they get to indulge in a few hours of mayhem on the second floor of our Enmore premises. All this will soon change when our new cattery has been finished.



103 Enmore Road, Enmore as it currently

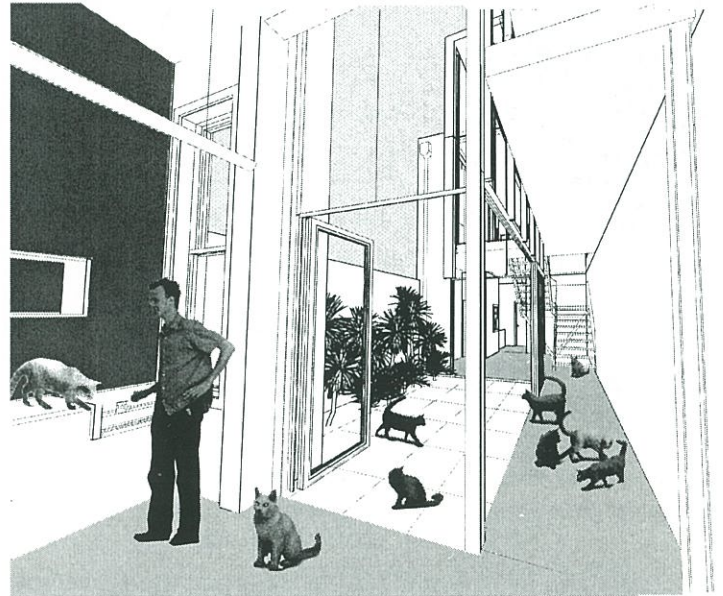
Our Enmore premises, whilst centrally located, are not in great condition. When it rains the water pours in, in summer the temperature rises way beyond what is comfortable for cats and humans. There are cracks in the walls from which plaster falls out and there is no running hot water! If you have visited our turn-of-the-century, Edwardian terrace on Enmore Rd, you would probably think it doesn't look nearly that bad, but this is due to the continual hard work behind the scenes by our dedicated staff and volunteers to make things run smoothly. Luckily, through the generous donations of our members, we have been able to work towards something better for the cats in our care.

The process of planning a new space for Cat Protection started a long time ago. If you have followed Cat Affairs over the past years, you may have read of our search for a cattery in the suburbs of Sydney. When nothing appropriate came along, we realised that the space that we had could be turned into something not only functional but also very exciting. Then the search for an architect who was not only talented and sympathetic to our aims, but who was also willing to work within a reasonable budget began. Our Council settled on Lahz Nimmo architects and started discussions with a young architect, Tim Horton (the owner of a twenty year old moggy!). Consultations with Lahz Nimmo started at the end of 2000.

Since then we have gone through many changes to the plans, visits from engineers and surveyors, and the protracted period of 21 weeks as our Development Application wound its way through Marrickville Council. The design that has been finally agreed on by our Council was finalised only with very careful consultation with the staff who will use the premises. It is one that lends a very open plan feel to what is basically a long, thin and closed in building. Not an easy space to work with. The design is focused on a central courtyard that extends the complete height of the building, letting in light and air. The courtyard will be landscaped and paved, but will also be a totally enclosed space where cats, like Cow, Chicken and Alex, can spend time playing in the open air and using up some of their tremendous energy. We are currently working on designing play equipment for this space that will give our cats lots of places to climb and sleep high above the courtyard.

On the second floor we will have a large, light re-homing area where people can view the cats. This includes an Interaction Room right under the huge arched windows that dominate the front of our premises. Here people will be able to spend time with their prospective cat/kitten and our staff, in a comfortable and safe environment.

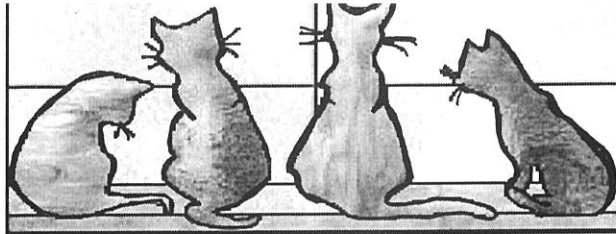
We are always aware of the problems of disease control in an environment that houses so many cats. For this reason we have a Quarantine Room for cats to be assessed when they first arrive and an Isolation Room for those that in need of medical care. A kitten rearing room is also available, with its own enclosed balcony, where the kittens and their mothers can interact in the afternoon sun.



3D view of the proposed renovations showing the internal courtyard

We are now at a very exciting and difficult stage in this process. Our renovations have a start date of 1 May 2002, and the staff and cats must totally vacate the premises until September/October (all going well). We did have the option to stay, however, this would have taken much longer, and been very stressful for the cats and staff. We will to continue our work during this period, and a suitable shop front in this area is now being looked into. So by October 2002 we should be ready to re-open and start the next phase in the life of the Cat Protection Society, a small organisation that started caring for stray cats in 1958.

**Lynda O'Grady**



# OFFICE TAILS



Over the past months we have been offering special CPS memberships to those people who have purchased a cat or kitten from. This has been so successful that we have welcomed hundreds of new members. These new members will have come into contact with us through our Enmore Cattery, and will understand that we re-home cats and kittens but may not know that the work we do reaches far beyond our inner-west office. I thought that with so many new members this would be a good time to let people know exactly what the Cat Protection Society does and where we are heading as an organisation. With things continually changing our original members will probably find it interesting to have an update.



*Two of the many delightful kittens at Enmore ready for rehoming.*

To start with there are a number of broad areas that we focus on.

- 1) **Our main aim is to let people know the importance of desexing their cats.** Not only do we work to promote desexing, but our Welfare Officers also pick up clients' cats and arrange for their desexing. We also offer a referral system where people can take their cats to a vet in their local area themselves. Of course all the desexing, microchipping and vaccinations that we arrange are at approximately half the price of regular vets! Our vets also practise early age desexing (from eight weeks onwards), which means that no cat or kitten leaves our premises un-desexed.

- 2) **We pick up and re-home stray, dumped, unwanted and injured cats and kittens.** Our Welfare Officers travel throughout the entire Sydney metropolitan area helping where needed, usually for only the cost of a donation. We now re-home hundreds of cats and kittens through our Enmore office, Concord Animal Hospital, Glenhaven Cattery and many other Cat Adoption Centres throughout Sydney.

- 3) **We believe in educating the public about the responsibilities and joys of taking a cat into your life.** When we re-home a cat or kitten, when we talk to someone on the phone, when our welfare officers visit, we feel that it is our responsibility to give people the information they need to maintain happy, healthy cats. We also provide lots of literature to help with behavioural and health problems and are more than happy to give advice over the phone. We now have an internet site at [www.catprotection.org.au](http://www.catprotection.org.au) through which we also promote responsible pet ownership. This site is constantly being updated with new information on cats/kittens available for adoption and gives lots of information on the care of cats.

- 4) **We also organise trapping of cats and kittens where the cats are sick or live in dangerous or unsuitable circumstances.** We receive many requests each day to do trapping work, as there are huge colonies of free-roaming cats in Sydney (mainly caused by the dumping of un-desexed cats!). We assess every request individually and do our best to help where we can, without breaking the law, or endangering cats or people's rights.

All these activities are organised through our Enmore office, on a small budget and with a very small, but hardworking, dedicated staff. We currently have two paid office staff, Catherine Robertson (Administration Officer) and Kim Thompson (Customer Service Officer). Catherine and Kim field the hundreds of phone calls that come to us every week. Many people who contact CPS have very complex and difficult problems and staff can easily spend 20 minutes or more with a client explaining the processes to them and helping them to access the correct services for their situation. Our office staff pass on the client's details to one of our three Welfare Officers, Sandy Moss (20 years service), Tania Henson (10 years service) and Edward Hatt, (1 year service) who spend their days on the road arranging desexings, picking up stray and injured cats and trapping where necessary.

... Continued page 11

# CARING FOR CATS DURING CONVALESCENCE

(Adapted from an article from [www.mypetstop.com](http://www.mypetstop.com))



**While your cat is recovering from illness or surgery, she will need extra care and attention. She'll need lots more sleep, rest, and peace. During recovery, you may notice that she seems weak and spends more time than usual resting or sleeping.**

**This is a natural reaction to illness or surgery, and helps her to conserve energy and mend tissues while her body is getting back to normal.**

While she is in recovery, you may have to give your cat medicine, check her surgical wound, or change her bandages and you'll have to be very careful about her diet. Your cat might need a special diet – and you might have to encourage her to eat it. Remember that she needs your help now – and that all the extra care you give her will keep her comfortable and let her recover as quickly as possible.

## Special dietary needs

Good nutrition is especially important for a cat recovering from illness, injury, an operation, or a period without food. Without it, her wounds won't heal properly and may become infected. Also, if she's eating well, her body won't use its own important tissues as energy sources. All cats require a nutritionally balanced diet, but during convalescence, your cat's needs will change – her normal diet may not provide the correct balance of nutrients she needs.

## Proteins

Proteins are the major building blocks in the repair process and help your cat to fight infection. Thus, the convalescing cat requires higher amounts of protein than the healthy cat does.

## Fats and proteins

Fats and proteins are excellent sources of energy – which is needed in larger amounts now, to repair tissues affected by illness, injury, or surgery, and to fight infection. Your recovering cat's diet should contain higher levels of these energy-providing nutrients.

You may notice your cat has lost her appetite during her recovery period. A high-fat diet can help. Food with a higher fat level is "concentrated" so your cat can eat smaller amounts of it and still receive the higher levels of energy and nutrients she needs.

## Minerals and vitamins

Diets designed for convalescence must have the correct balance of minerals and vitamins to help speed recovery and avoid the depletion of these nutrients in the body. Because recovering animals may eat very little, your veterinarian may recommend a special diet for your cat that provides all her dietary needs in a concentrated form.

## Medical needs of a convalescent cat

Keep a close eye on your cat during her convalescence. Stroke and groom her gently, looking for any changes in her coat or skin. Look for redness or discharge around any healing injury or surgical scar, and watch for weight loss or gain, lumps or swelling, vomiting, or diarrhoea. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice these symptoms or anything else

unusual. You may have to give your cat medicine during her recovery, or change her bandages, according to your vet's advice.

## Giving medicines to your cat

Always give the full course of treatment for any drug your veterinarian prescribes – don't stop giving the medicine because your cat seems better. Your cat may become worse, and future treatments may be more difficult. If your cat reacts badly to any drug, talk to your veterinarian immediately.

Ask your veterinarian to show you how to give the medicine. Try to give tablets to your cat as gently as possible, and praise or reward her once she has swallowed the medication. If tablets are required to be given, ask your vet about a tablet dispenser. Some people find these implements easier to use rather than trying to get a pill down your cat's throat using your hands.

## Caring for bandages and dressings

Your cat may need bandages, splints, casts and other dressings. They protect wounds from dirt and from your cat's natural tendency to lick wounds. Make sure that the dressing stays clean and dry. Sick cats should always be kept indoors.

## When to contact your veterinarian

Contact your veterinarian when you see any of the following signs and symptoms in your convalescing cat:

- ♦ Collapse or convulsions
- ♦ Increased frequency of urination or increased amounts of urine produced.
- ♦ Greatly increased thirst and water intake
- ♦ Straining or crying when using the litter box, or spending an abnormally long time in the litter box
- ♦ Persistent coughing or abnormal breathing
- ♦ Diarrhoea or vomiting which lasts for more than 24 hours
- ♦ Loss of appetite for longer than 24 hours
- ♦ Weakness or lethargy
- ♦ Swelling, bad odour, or change in colour of the skin around a dressing
- ♦ The dressing slips out of place, falls off, or is chewed off
- ♦ Insistent chewing of the dressing or licking the wound
- ♦ Lameness or a change in the way your cat walks or runs
- ♦ Signs your pet is in obvious discomfort: persistent head shaking, excessive scratching, pawing at ears, or rubbing her rear along the ground – these may be signs of distress.

## What to feed

Because good nutrition is particularly important during a convalescence period, as mentioned, your veterinarian may prescribe a special diet for your cat. It will contain all the nutrients and energy a convalescent cat needs, and may be concentrated. Veterinary hospitals often feed cats concentrated diets and your veterinarian may want you to continue this diet at home during the convalescence period.

Your veterinarian may recommend a liquid diet, especially for cats with swallowing problems.

Always have fresh drinking water available for your cat. If your cat finds it difficult to – or simply cannot – move, remember to bring the water to her.

## Encouraging your cat to eat

Most concentrated diets are formulated to be particularly palatable so that your recovering cat is tempted to eat – however, you may still have to encourage her. The following tips may help:

- ♦ Give her small, frequent meals, dividing the daily food allowance into two to four meals of fresh food.
- ♦ Warm the food gently to just below body temperature. Make sure it isn't too hot.
- ♦ Leave the food in your cat's dish for about 10 to 15 minutes, and then, if she is no longer interested, remove it. She is more likely to eat fresh food offered later on.



# Bast from the Past

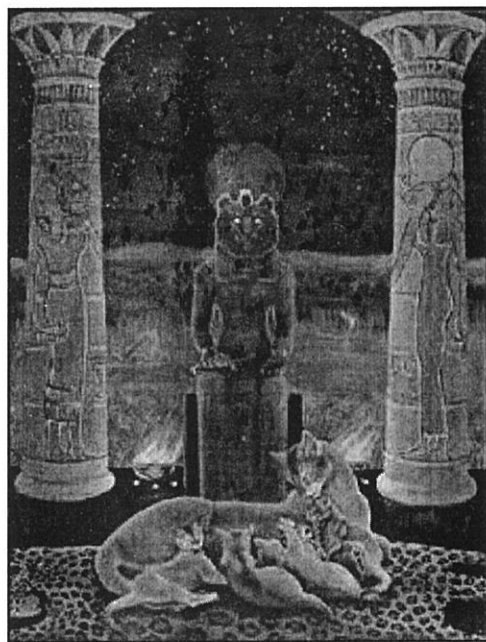
When dealing with something as enduring as Bast, it's easy to forget just how old She really is. Since She has been dated to at least the Second Dynasty (c. 2890-2686 Before Common Era), this means She predates the following events:

The Industrial and French Revolution; the European Crusades; the Dark and Feudal Ages of all the major world cultures; Muhammad as the Prophet of Allah; the Roman Empire's fall; Christ and the Apostles; the Roman Empire's rise; Alexander the Great; the Trojan War; Confucius, and Buddha; Ramses; Tutankhamen; Akhenaten, Thutmose III, and Hatshepsut; the building of the Pyramids, Khaefra (Cheops) and Senefru.



If you think about it, this means She has existed in name just under five millennia. This is an awesomely vast amount of time, making Her one of the oldest Names in existence.

Bast was the goddess of life and family and of the domestic cat, although she sometimes took on the war-like aspect of a lioness. She is depicted enthroned as the cat-headed incarnation of Isis (sometimes incorrectly depicted as Isis' daughter) or, alternately, as the seated Sacred Cat, often holding the sacred rattle known as the sistrum. Related to Neith, the Night Goddess, Bast symbolised the moon in its function of making a woman fruitful, with swelling womb. She was also the Egyptian goddess of pleasure, music, dancing and joy, and associated with the "eye of Ra", acting as the instrument of the sun God's vengeance.



The ancient Egyptians held cats in the highest esteem and the penalties for injuring or killing one were severe. A protectress of cats and those who cared for cats, Bast was an important deity in the home and also important in the iconography since the serpents which attack the sun god were usually represented in papyri as being killed by cats.

The main centre for the worship of Bast was the city of Bubastis in the delta region of northern Egypt. Bubastis possessed Egypt's greatest temple and the priests maintained large catteries. Thousands of small cat sculptures, probably left with offerings to the temple by devotees, have been

recovered at Bubastis and a vast cemetery of mummified cats was excavated nearby. The festival honouring Bast was described as one of the largest and most enthusiastically celebrated in all of Egypt by the visiting Roman writer Herodotus.

Perhaps the earliest recorded feline Egyptian goddess was Mafdet, who is described in the Pyramid Texts as killing a serpent with her claws. A representation of Mafdet (possibly translated as "runner") found on a stone vase in a tomb at Abydos (approx. 2800 BC) shows a large cat, probably a cheetah or leopard. While the Egyptians had several other feline Goddesses, such as the lioness-headed Sekhmet, only Bast was represented by the domesticated cat.

## How Did Cats Come to be Gods?

Before long, ancient Egyptians progressed from villages to cities and from a simple nature-oriented pantheism led by the village shaman into a hyper-complex system of gods and goddesses with a set of elaborate rituals governed by a priest class. The kingship secured itself, as has often been done, by claiming a right to rule as ordained by the gods. This divine right of Kings eventually gave way to a royal demi-godhood, then a full godhood: the King became Pharaoh, the God-King. Since Pharaoh was one of their own, this concept was strongly encouraged by the priests. Egypt had become a firmly entrenched theocracy.



Since the food requirements of a city are much greater than those of a village, grain was confiscated as taxes and stored in the royal granaries. These granaries were simply windowless storage buildings and, like all buildings, were not secure against nature's smaller creatures, the mice and rats. With all that grain piled in such great heaps, the vermin had a field day and bred like rabbits. This became such a problem that Pharaoh needed all the cats he could muster to combat the vermin, so he appropriated all the cats in the land.

Taking people's cats, especially beloved cats, posed a problem that even Pharaoh didn't want to face. Being divine himself, presumably with divine wisdom, he solved this problem by leaving all the cats where they were but making them demigods: all the cats in Egypt, all at once. There were suddenly tens of thousands of small, furry, purring divinities running around. Of course, a mere human could not own a demigod, only a God could, and who was the only God around? The Pharaoh, that's who. A human could, though, provide a home and food for a demigod, and this they did, bringing them to their assigned granary each night and picking them up each morning. As compensation for this service, they would receive a tax credit - in essence, claiming their cats as dependents.

... Continued Page 20

# Cat Fact or Myth?

## Fact - Cats are attracted to people who dislike them

It is very likely that if a cat enters a room full of people that she will head directly for the one person who has a fear of felines. Why does kitty do this? Well, in feline language, to be stared at is mildly threatening to the cat. What are all the cat lovers in the room doing? They are, of course, gazing at the cat, admiring her. This makes the cat feel slightly uncomfortable. Therefore, she will go to the one person who is not looking at her, not moving around and not making shrill noises. The cat hater, who is avoiding looking at the cat, hoping she will go away, does not realise that they are the only person in the room who is not intimidating the very animal they are trying to ignore!

## Fact - Cats always land on their feet

Although a cat may not *always* land on her feet, she *usually* does. When a cat begins to fall, the self-righting reflex kicks in. Information reaches the brain from the eyes and is combined with impulses from the vestibular apparatus in the ears. This apparatus tells the cat which way is up. It transmits an orienting signal to the neck muscles, causing the head to be twisted into an upright and horizontal position. The rest of the body then twists and lines itself up accordingly as the cat assumes an impact resistant posture: toes spread, legs stretched and back arched. Ready for landing in a split second!

Many cats who live in apartment buildings have been known to survive falls of over 12 stories. In fact, the most damage occurs at a fall between five and nine stories because above this height, cats have the time and space to right themselves and land using their legs as shock absorbers and a fall of less than five stories is not high enough to cause fatal injuries.

## Fact - There are only three smells that repel cats

Odours that are offensive enough to drive a cat away are rare. Research shows only three substances that have been shown to repel felines.

- **Onions** - rubbing a raw onion on an object will keep your cat away (if you yourself can stand the odour).
- **Vinegar** - cats will avoid anything sprayed with vinegar for long periods of time. The acid fragrance upsets their delicate nasal passages.
- **Oil of Rue** - rue is a small aromatic bush with leaves from which an oil can be extracted. This oil has been known to cause rashes in humans and cats will violently jump away from it. Some have been known to start gagging and try to vomit after contact with this plant.

## Myth - Cats can survive without meat

Given a meatless diet, your cat will rapidly become ill and will then die a painful death. There is no other way to say

it. Cats are carnivores and they require animal proteins (meat) in their diets. Three things that, unlike some animals, cats cannot manufacture from other sources such as vegetables are: taurine, essential fatty acids and vitamin A.

## Fact - Cats absorb Vitamin D from washing themselves

In addition to keeping her coat clean and well groomed, your cat's washing technique has another benefit. The action of sunlight on the cat's coat produces Vitamin D. The licking and washing action allows the cat to transfer the Vitamin D from the fur into the body.

## Fact - A cat's health can be determined by the visibility of his haws

What is a haw you ask? The haw is the cat's third eyelid, or nictitating membrane. If a cat is in ill health, undernourished or about to succumb to a major illness, this membrane, which is usually hidden, will become permanently visible. The appearance of the haws in this circumstance is caused by the shrinking of the fatty shock absorber pads behind the eyeballs. This shrinkage causes the eyes to sink back into the head a bit, thus causing the haws to move forward and cover the surface of the eye. If you see this happening to your cat, a trip to the veterinarian is recommended immediately.

## Myth - Adult cats need milk

Many cats actually dislike milk and it is not necessary that they have it. For some cats, especially Siamese and other oriental breeds, it can cause gastric upset. Specially formulated pet milk (Whiskas make one) can be given alongside water, so that milk is not the only thing available for your cat to drink. If given a diet of cow's milk only, with no water, your cat will probably develop chronic diarrhoea.

## Fact - Cats can weigh as little as under 2kgs or as much as 13kgs

The Maine Coon is the largest breed of cat, weighing as much as 13kgs. The Singapura is the smallest feline, with females weighing as little as 1.8kgs and males 2.7kgs.

## Fact - Cats do not react well to change

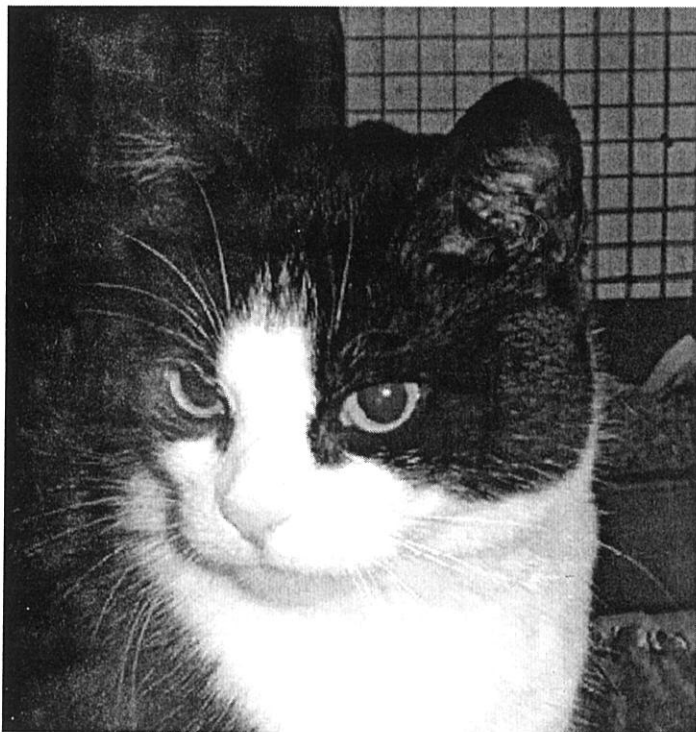
Cats do not like changes in their environment. Territorial changes (moving to a new home or construction to the current one, such as adding a new room or remodeling the kitchen) and social changes (owners getting married, having a baby or adding another pet), can cause a cat much stress. Once well behaved felines may suddenly react by soiling the house, hissing and biting, refusing to eat, hiding constantly or they may start obsessive scratching, causing red raw patches on their bodies. If your cat shows any of these symptoms for a prolonged period of time, you should take her to your veterinarian.



# Cat Tails

I thought I would let you know about one cat that has found a nice new home and some others that are still looking for a place to call their own.

**Jazz** began her association with Cat Protection in a box on our front step early one morning. An attached note from her owner said that he was unable to give her the care and attention she needed due to his mental health problems. Jazz quickly settled in and became a favourite amongst staff, thanks to her placid nature and small weight issue (she adored food and was quite chubby). She soon found a home and we are getting regular updates regarding her progress. The latest news is that Jazz has settled in, her new owner loves her and she has even lost some weight. A couple of months later, her original owner turned up with a huge chocolate cake - an apology for dumping Jazz and a thank-you for finding her a home she deserved.



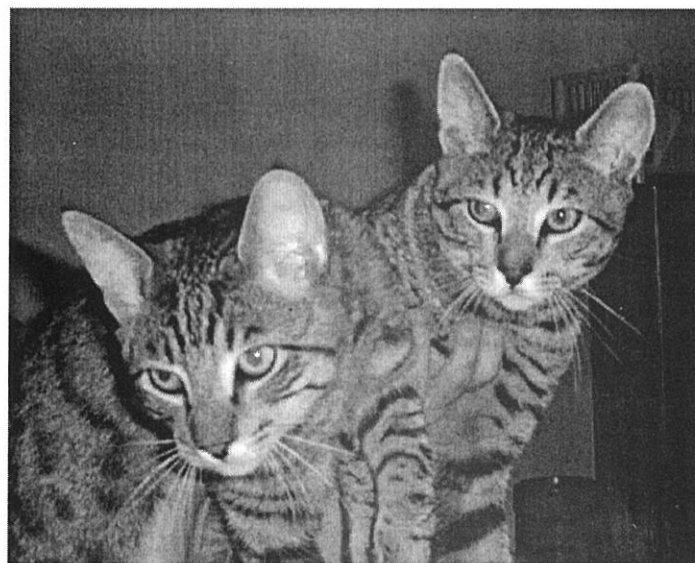
**Jazz**

**Mandy** (see picture opposite column) is a lovely 18 month-old blue-cream tortoiseshell girl who is currently looking for a new home. She came to Cat Protection as a stray cat with a litter of kittens. All of the kittens quickly found homes and now it's Mandy's turn. She is a fantastic girl with a beautiful personality and is suited to being indoors most of the time. Mandy is one of our adult cats that are finding it difficult to get a home at the moment. It is no fault of their own - it is simply the middle of kitten season and many potential owners never look past the 8 week olds when making their choice.



**Mandy**

**Chicken and Cow** first appeared at Cat Protection as young kittens who quickly found a home together. Unfortunately, their owner was unable to look after them properly, they have now returned and are looking for a new home. They are two very energetic 5 month-old tabby boys who have captured the hearts of CPS staff and volunteers. Chicken and Cow are two halves of a whole - they love nothing better than to play and chase each other before curling up together for a snooze. If I didn't already have enough felines in my household, these boys would be coming home with me in a flash!



**Chicken & Cow**

Catherine Robertson

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE NOW!!! ... DUE NOW!!! ... DUE NOW!!!

Don't forget to re-new your CPS membership now. See the enclosed insert or phone our office for details.

# OFFICE TAILS

... Continued from page 6

We have three cattery staff overseeing the care and wellbeing of up to 40 cats and kittens that call our cattery home for a short period of time. Our Cattery Manager, Emma Hughes, has sadly just left us to pursue Veterinary Science at Sydney University, but her replacement will oversee the running of our cattery and monitor all aspects of their health and wellbeing. Our two Cattery Assistants, Narelle Whittle and Georgina Smith, each work four days a week, cleaning, medicating and socialising with our charges. This can be a huge job, particularly in kitten season, and we have two casual workers, Leisa Urquhardt and Christine Brown who come in on a casual basis to help out. We also have volunteer workers who help with these and other tasks.

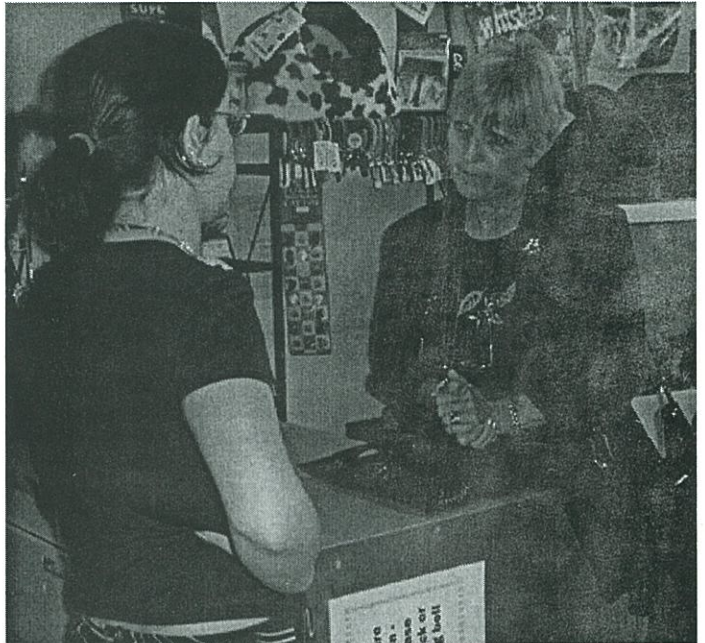


*Narelle at work sorting cages*

We do receive \$15,000 per annum from the Department of Agriculture towards our work, and while this is much appreciated it is very little compared to the costs that we incur. Our funding comes almost entirely from donations and bequests (see page 17) and from our Op Shop, which is run entirely by volunteers. Nance Iredale, Angelika Elliott, Robin Carter and Nita Harvey are all volunteers who give lots of their time (among many others) to make sure the Op Shop runs smoothly.

As money is donated to us in good faith by our members and the public we have a responsibility to those people to make sure that the money is used in the most

appropriate way. We have a governing body, or Council, that is elected by our members and meets on a monthly basis. The Council discusses current and on-going issues and also looks to the future to try to map the path that the Society should take. Keith Edwards is the current President of the Society. Our accounts are audited annually and we report to the Australian Securities & Investments Commission and to our members. The Councillors are all volunteers, many of whom are professional people, who give their time freely to help guide the Society. Of course, you cannot please all of the people all of the time, but we are continually trying to offer a range of services that will improve the life of cats and promote their interests. We try to tread a middle path, pooling our resources to work in key areas where we feel that we can do the most good.



*Catherine at the counter assisting with an enquiry.*

Last financial year we desexed over 2,000 cats and kittens for members of the public and re-homed over 1,515 kittens and 500 adults. Each cat desexed, was one that may have easily have produced 6 (or more) kittens within the space of a year if her owner had not been offered inexpensive desexing. Each of these cats homed was one that had little or no hope before coming to our Cattery. We walk a fine line of offering respect to each cat and kitten as an individual who deserves life and love and seeing the bigger picture of a society where there are thousands of unwanted cats that need our attention. Who do we choose to help? Where do we place our precious resources so that they do the most good? Ours is a job where each decision does not just mean money spent or earned, but a life lost or won. Each victory is an amazing joy and each defeat is heartbreaking.

I do hope that this gives you some understanding of the work that we do here and where your money goes. We always encourage members to be involved and if you have any questions we will be more than happy to answer them.

**Best Wishes,  
Lynda O'Grady (Coordinator)**

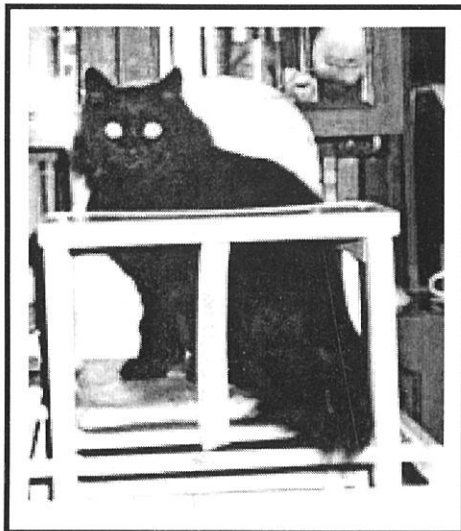


# CATS AND BABIES CAN COEXIST

*Whilst I do not have children myself (at least not the two-legged variety), several of my friends have had or are soon to have babies and some of these ladies live with cats. This prompted me think that it would be a it a good idea to look at the 'cats and babies' issue and refresh our memories on what to do to make the baby transition as painless as possible for all concerned. I have done some research on the subject and following is a synopsis of what I have recently read. I hope you may be able to use these tips or pass them on to friends or relatives who have or are planning to have a baby and already have or plan to adopt a cat.*

**Suzanne Jenkins**

## Old wives' tales about cats and babies are based on fear, not reality.

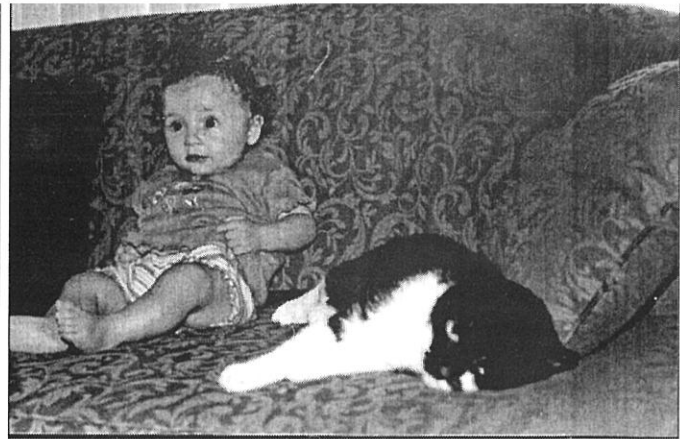


From my research, the cat/baby message is clear. Allow common sense to prevail and, combined with a few useful tips, there is no reason why cat and baby cannot form a lasting friendship.

Cat shelters like CPS often take in cats who are cast out when the owner is expecting a first baby. Many couples have a cat for many years before starting a family, but reject the cat once a baby is due. This is usually due to the family being ill-informed. People usually prepare well for the birth of a baby and this preparation should be extended to include your cat(s).

**It would be negligent to leave the a baby unattended with a cat just as it would be careless to leave an infant alone with an 18-month-old brother.**

How will your cat react to the new addition? A timid cat which is over-dependent on you, but hides from other people may become jealous and spray to cover up the scent of the baby. You need to ensure your cat becomes less dependent on you well before the birth. A devoted cat that joins in human activities will have hurt feelings, but is likely to join in with caring for baby if you let him. An independent cat who treats you like a hotel will probably ignore the baby if hotel services remain unchanged. Many cats become protective of what they view as a 'people-kitten'.



**Emily (left) relaxing with Chloe**

- ♦ Ignore scare stories about cats harming infants, they are usually exaggerated and are only newsworthy due to their EXTREME rarity.
- ♦ Tales about cats suffocating babies abound, but actual occurrences are very rare; in most cases the presence of the cat was incidental. Keeping the cat out of the baby's room whilst you are not present is the solution. Use a cot-net to keep your cat out of the cot or pram - this will reduce any accidental scratches and the transmission of bacteria.

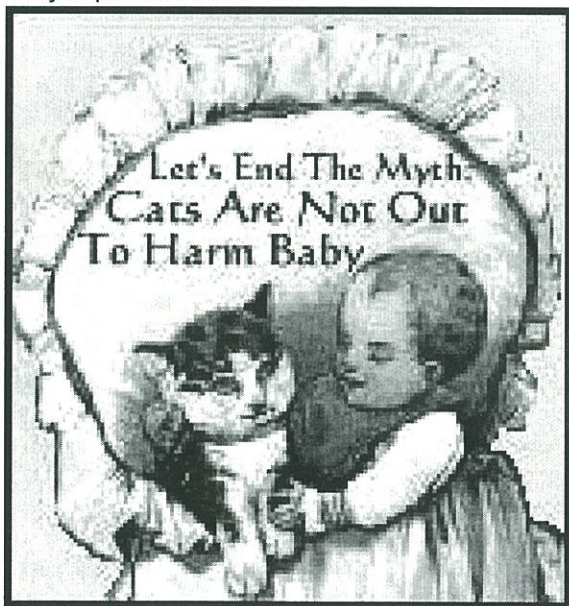
**Most cats dislike the smell of human breath.**

- ♦ Affectionate cats may want to be near the baby because the baby is usually near you. Cats view owners under the guise of "mother replacement theory," and just as a toddlers will writhe with sibling jealousy, so can cats.
- ♦ Get information from your doctor and your vet about cat-borne organisms that can harm unborn babies and take appropriate precautions e.g. don't handle soiled cat litter and scrub garden vegetables before eating them. In any case, this of course is common sense and normal hygienic practice.
- ♦ Ensure your cat is healthy and vaccinated. De-flea and de-worm him/her regularly.
- ♦ When baby arrives, your cat will be curious and slightly wary of the new and noisy arrival so don't panic when he sniffs the cot or hangs around. Many cats soon lose interest and look for entertainment elsewhere.
- ♦ Establish the cat's new routine gradually. Let him sniff the cot, pram etc but teach him not to get inside them. Let him investigate the nursery before making it out-of-bounds; if he knows what's in there, it is less of a tantalising mystery.
- ♦ Get cot and pram nets so that your cat cannot bed down with baby. They must be taut when fitted or the cat may use them as a hammock. The warmth of a cot is attractive to cats and though they usually stay away from a baby's face (most dislike the smell of human breath) a cot net is a good idea.
- ♦ Gradually reduce the amount of time spent paying attention to your cat. After the baby arrives you will have less time for him/her. Establish a special 'cat-time' e.g. in the evening (after a baby's bed-time) or get your partner to become more active in caring for the cat and giving him attention.

- ◆ Ensure your cat's feeding area and litter tray are well away from areas needed for preparing baby's meals or use a covered litter-tray with a cat-flap entrance. Because children and elderly persons are more at risk to any sort of infection, keeping the litter box off limits is paramount once your child is crawling or walking. If the litter box is kept inside, guard gates installed with an open cut made like a cat door will prohibit the baby from entering a designated area. And, of course, there's always the basic task of teaching a child what is off-limits.

**By raising a child with cats, they learn a different type of affection and the responsibility inherent in pet ownership. Cats have such good karma.**

- ◆ Establish a feeding area for your cat that is out of reach of a baby/toddler e.g. on a table or in a room accessible by a cat flap.
- ◆ As well as being able to access his litter and eat his food in peace, your cat needs a calm and safe place from which to escape the noise of the new baby. Ensure your cat has access to a comfortable bed away from the baby. Cats like to be up high so choose a spot off the ground. This will also suffice once baby is a toddler and is walking.
- ◆ Keep the nursery door closed or fit a temporary screen door so you can hear the baby but which won't allow your cat into the nursery. A baby alarm or intercom will also allow you to monitor baby.
- ◆ Wipe up spilt baby food before your cat gets into the habit of hanging around and doing it for you.
- ◆ If you get tired or irritated, don't take it out on Puss.
- ◆ Keep a sense of priorities. You only have one pair of hands: baby is top priority, cat usually second and most other jobs can wait a few minutes.
- ◆ Wash your hands after patting the cat and after cleaning litter tray, cat bedding and food bowls.
- ◆ Encourage visitors to pay attention to the cat as well as the baby. Don't make your cat feel rejected, the baby is part of his life too.



- ◆ Don't leave cat and baby together unattended; most scratches are due to a cat fending off an inquisitive crawling baby.

- ◆ When your baby reaches the toddler stage, obviously you need to keep cat food and litter well out of reach of the toddler, but within reach of your cat.
- ◆ Once your baby becomes aware of your cat, start teaching him how to interact gently with her e.g. not to pull her fur, grab her tail or disturb a sleeping cat. Most cats retreat to a safe place rather than scratch or bite their owner's boisterous 'kitten'. If introduced carefully and taught to respect each other, your baby and cat should remain companions for many years.
- ◆ Because cats are largely creatures of habit, try to keep your cat's routine as normal as possible within the confines of caring for a new baby.

Remember, your cat will be curious at first about the strange, new creature that makes funny meowing noises, but with time and carefully supervised meetings between the cat and infant, your feline friend will eventually lose interest. Most cats are more frightened than fascinated when a baby begins to wail and will quickly seek cover.

As stated above, although you will be busy, try not to neglect your "firstborn". Your four-footed child is accustomed to your earlier lavish attention and pampering. Don't forget too, cats are great stress relievers!

**One wonders how many countless household cats have been taken to the local animal shelter and euthanased because fear-driven folklore has overruled common sense.**

**In summary, the following 10 tips will help your cat adjust to a new baby in the family:**

1. Have your cat examined by your vet to be sure she is free of parasites and in good health. Update all inoculations.
2. Establish any new routines beforehand. If you decide to ban the cat from your bedroom, do so a few months ahead to allow time for adjustment.
3. Allow your cat to investigate the baby's room during supervised visits.
4. Apply baby lotion or powder to your hands to accustom your cat to the smell.
5. If possible, have your spouse bring home a worn article of baby clothing or a blanket from the hospital before baby's arrival, letting your cat "get the scent."
6. Upon arriving home, be sure to give your cat an especially warm welcome. (Have your husband or a relative hold the baby while you do so). Plan to spend extra "quality" time with the cat each day.
7. Keep visitors and disruptions to a minimum the first few days. Try to stick to your cat's regular feeding, play and sleeping schedules.
8. Act normal, not nervous, when the cat is in the baby's presence. Always supervise any interaction.
9. Include your cat in baby activities, giving your cat a treat for good behaviour.
10. Be alert to any warning signs that your cat may be distressed. Look for improper elimination, hiding or sudden aggression. If any of these signs occur, you may need to have someone give your cat more attention, review your arrangements or consult your veterinarian.





# Perfect end for sleepy stowaway

**SEOUL:** Colins the stowaway cat was reunited with her New Zealand owner this week, 18 days after she took a catnap on a South Korea-bound tanker that took to sea.

The saga of the sleepy stowaway began on November 15, when the nine-year-old cat curled up with a South Korean sailor who had taken her aboard a methane tanker for a good meal at New Zealand's Port Taranaki.

It ended 9,600km later at the South Korean port of Yosu yesterday, when a thankful James Gordon MacPherson embraced the cat that he and his fellow dockworkers had raised at Port Taranaki since the early 1990s.

The New Zealand dock-workers had tried to arrange a mid-sea ship-to-ship cat transfer that was abandoned as too risky.

To calm the New Zealanders' worries, South Korean Captain Chang Seong-mo sent e-mail photographs of Colins back to the port.

"Many people have been involved in getting Colins back to New Zealand and we're very grateful for that," Mr MacPherson said.



Colins home in NZ with James MacPherson after a trip to South Korea.

He thanked the crew of the tanker Tomikawa for their care, Whiskas pet food and Korea Airlines for the airfare and quarantine officers in South Korea and New Zealand for speeding the return of the beloved cat he said that "kept us company for many long nights".

"We'll have to give her a talking to - not to talk to strange men," he said.

*The Daily Telegraph, 5 December 2001*

# HISTORIC ROLE GIVEN TO A PUSS IN BOATS

*The Daily Telegraph, 5 February 2002*



Dirk Lorensen, a Matthew Flinders look-a-like, with Trim the cat, who resembles the adventurer's faithful companion.

TRIM the cat was rescued from an animal shelter when she was six weeks old and saved from an uncertain future.

Yesterday she was given the honour of joining the commemorative voyage around Australia to mark the 200th anniversary of explorer Matthew Flinders' circumnavigation of the continent.

The 10-month-old puss was given a clean bill of health to join the 16-month voyage when it leaves Sydney next month.

Windeward Bound will have 28 people on board to celebrate Flinders' voyage aboard the Investigator 1802-1803.

Travelling with Flinders at the time was Trim, his beloved black-and-white moggy.

The original Trim, a tomcat, was born at sea in 1797 and adopted by the adventurer. He went on to become the first cat to circumnavigate Australia. He featured strongly in Flinders' journals, living on boats and accompanying him on his travels.

Associate Professor Max Zuber of the University of Sydney's veterinary Centre said, "She's a very healthy cat, but we've vaccinated her, given her worm tables and a first-aid kit of antibiotics, flea control products and some toys to keep her amused while she's on board".

... She was chosen because she's the spitting image of Flinders' cat and she also has a beautiful temperament," Windeward Bound captain Sarah Parry said ...

Good luck Trim!

# THE IMPORTANCE OF GIFTS TO THE CPS

We are truly a non-profit organisation, indeed if we were not we wouldn't exist. There is no way that we can fulfil our obligations and responsibilities to our clients and our CATS, without heavy subsidy. There is not one service that we provide where the full cost is recovered, including sales of products if you take into account costs, wages and overheads.

And yes, that applies to the terrific Op Shop too, because the very welcome surplus it brings in - enough to keep one of our three welfare officers on the road - is only possible because of the huge gift of voluntary labour (and donated stock) that we receive.

In very broad terms, we spend about \$800,000 each year, but we generate only about \$400,000 in sales and direct revenue. The other \$400,000 comes from interest of about \$120,000 we get on our investments and by digging into our capital.

Our capital has been built up from donations from you, our CPS members, and from wonderful and thoughtful bequests from the wills of respected past members. This has had a threefold effect: One, we have been able to generate a good level of interest income, but as our Treasurer Nita Harvey will tell you, it is getting harder to get even a modest return in these days of such low interest rates; two, we have a pool of funds to make up our shortfall from our operations; and three, we have been able to plan to carry out the long overdue, major upgrade of our Enmore headquarters.

The whole and indeed only point of the upgrade is for the CPS to be able to do its job better - to be able to look after our cats when in our care in calm, soothing and healthy surroundings, to be able to present our cats in surroundings that will help them to be placed more easily, and to improve working conditions for our staff. Let's face it, Enmore needs work done on it now, no doubt like many of our own homes! But how fortunate we are, and how grateful we should be that the hard work and sacrifice and foresight of the older (meant respectfully) members have given us this asset that we can now modernise.

Money is always an awkward subject, so I thought I would make a few, not necessarily original, suggestions.

I believe the generosity of our benefactors should be permanently recognised in some suitable way in our "new" building, and I will be suggesting to our Council that we establish something along the lines of a small display giving the history of the CPS and incorporating an (ongoing!) register of benefactors.

Our Journal regularly carries information on procedures for making bequests, and I would be happy to discuss any thoughts you may have if you contact me through the CPS office.

Another thought for you is if you are in a position to give a one-off gift to the CPS, you might like to "sponsor" a piece of equipment, for example, \$400 would provide a wonderful cage that makes a cat's stay with us so less stressful. Of course, a plaque would recognise your gift.

And a hobbyhorse of mine; we want cats to be well cared for in loving homes, and sometimes the cost of taking one of our cats, or of getting a cat desexed, is too high for some otherwise very suitable owners. We do have an informal system of subsidy now, but I would invite members to

consider what I call "sponsoring a cat". I reckon it costs about \$150 to cover the costs I am talking about. I'll arrange a register of donors for this, too. What a loving and lovely way to enshrine the memory of a departed loved companion by giving life to another.

Sorry, we can't offer you tax deductibility for your gifts - the CPS is essentially a welfare organisation, and as such we don't qualify for tax deductible status, but be assured your Council is chipping away at this.

Obviously we might get "conned" at times by giving special subsidies where they are not really warranted, but it is people who do the conning and not the cats.

Let me assure you that the Council is scrooge-like when it comes to looking after your finances, and much debate is going on right now about the impact on our interest income and state of our reserves of the planned upgrade. I believe that the upgrade is essential, and indeed much of our reserves have been built up for this very purpose. I am confident that the support we are receiving will continue, enabling us to continue to help our cats.

TONY PUREN, Council Member



## More - Did you know...

- The nose pad of a cat is ridged in a pattern that is unique, just like the fingerprint of a human.
- A cat's heart beats twice as fast as a human heart, at 110 to 140 beats per minute.
- Cats *can* see in colour! Although, they are partially colour blind. They have the equivalency of human red/green colour blindness. (Reds appear green and greens appear red; or shades thereof.)
- If your cat is near you, and her tail is *quivering*, this is the greatest expression of love your cat can give you. If her tail starts thrashing, her mood has changed - time to distance yourself from her.
- The domestic cat is the only cat able to hold its tail vertically while walking. All wild cats hold their tails horizontally or tucked between their legs while walking.
- Cats have 290 bones in their bodies, and 517 muscles.
- The *weirdest* cat on record was a female called Mincho who went up a tree in Argentina and didn't come down again until she died six years later. While treed, she managed to have three litters with equally *ambitious* dads.

# HELP ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH – JOIN AN ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

– Keith Edwards

Did you know that in New South Wales anywhere between 500,000 and 5 million animals are used in animal research each year? Did you also know that you can influence the way in which these animals are used by becoming a member of an Animal Ethics Committee?

**B**efore any animals are used for research purposes in NSW, investigators and teachers are supposed to seek approval from an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). The AEC is supposed to consider the expected value of the knowledge to be gained, the justification for the study, and all ethical and animal welfare aspects in deciding to approve or reject the activity.

'Animal research' includes use of animals in experimental studies and product testing as well as teaching, field trials, environmental studies, research, diagnosis, and the production of biological products. All must be referred to the AEC for consideration.

Institutions that conduct animal research and have AECs include universities, hospitals, commercial institutions, TAFE, schools, other government bodies including CSIRO, ANSTO, National Parks, State Forests, NSW Agriculture, NSW Fisheries, the Environmental Protection Authority and Sydney Water, along with a variety of other organisations such as the Thoroughbred Racing Board and the Zoological Parks Board.

In assessing any proposal, the AEC is supposed to consider:

- the replacement of animals with other methods;
- the reduction in the number of animals used; and
- the refinement of techniques used to reduce the impact on animals.

## Animal welfarists as members of AECs

So where do you as an animal welfarist fit into all of this? Well, each AEC must, by law, consist of at least four people, including separate people from each of the following four categories:

**Category A** - A person with qualifications in veterinary science, with experience relevant to the activities of the institution;

**Category B** - A person with substantial recent experience in the use of animals in scientific or teaching activities;

**Category C** - A person with demonstrable commitment to, and established experience in, furthering the welfare of animals, who is not employed by or otherwise associated with the institution, and who is not involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. The person should where possible be selected on the basis of active membership of, and nomination, by an animal welfare organisation; and

**Category D** - An independent person who does not currently and has not previously conducted scientific or teaching activities using animals, who is not an employee of the institution, except under defined circumstances.

**Can I really influence what happens to the animals by joining an AEC?**

Along with many other people, I have concerns that if animal welfarists join AECs, then they are being seen to

support the use of animals for experimentation and that membership of an AEC is of little help to the animals.

It is true that any one AEC member has a limited ability to reduce the number of animals being used, or to make great improvements in the conditions under which the animals are held.

However, in my experience animal welfarists on AECs who are prepared to consistently question, and to raise ethical concerns, can make a significant contribution to the welfare of individual animals and to improving the overall system.

If all institutions fully adopted the *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* there would be a considerable reduction in the number of animals used and a reduction in the impact on the animals.

## Interested?

So, if you are an active member of CPS or other animal welfare organisation and not involved in animal research, then why not consider nominating as a category C - animal welfare member? You would not be alone. A number of CPS members already sit on AECs and would be happy to share their experiences with you. We would also assist you in understanding your rights and responsibilities as a member of an AEC. If enough people were interested we could run a training day to enable new and old AEC members to interact.

## What would AEC membership involve?

First, a commitment of time. AECs meet between 4 and 12 times per year, depending on the workload. Meetings range in duration from one to two hours to a whole morning or afternoon depending again on the workload. You would have to set aside time for reading of papers before the meeting. Also for inspections of the animals and the animal holding facilities, although these are frequently designed to coincide with meetings.

Some AECs pay an honorarium and/or travel expenses to assist members, although this is not common.

Second, a commitment to the process. Ideally you should commit to 3 years on a committee - the first year is a steep learning curve! And you will not always prevent activities you believe to be unjustified. But tact and perseverance will eventually force change.

## What do I do next?

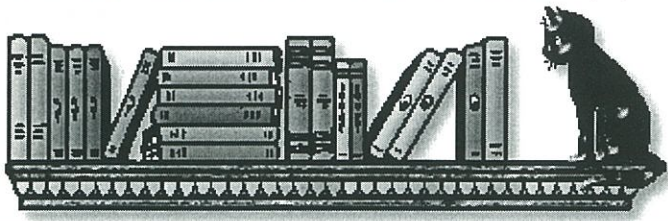
Contact our office for more information, or write to, or email us expressing your interest in becoming a member of an AEC, indicating that you are not involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, and providing a brief resume outlining your animal welfare interests and membership. Provide preferred addresses or methods for contacting you so we can follow up.

If you agree, we will forward your letter to the Animal Welfare Unit of NSW Agriculture as research organisations often also contact the Unit for possible new AEC members. If CPS is approached by any institution seeking an animal welfare member we will contact you before providing any information about you.

Membership of an AEC is a practical way of assisting animals being used for research.



# BOOK REVIEW



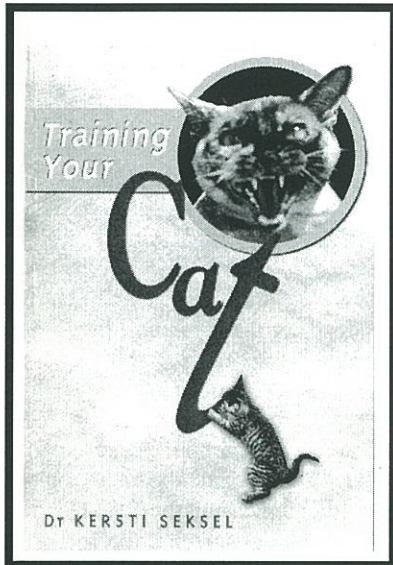
## Training Your Cat

Dr Kersti Seksel

Published by Hyland House

**RRP \$24.95**

Paperback, full colour



This cover does not really do the book, or cats in general, justice. It shows a very vicious looking cat, which would conform to a lot of peoples' uninformed views of violent, feral cats. That aside this is a very important book.

At Cat Protection we have a lot of adult cats surrendered to us because they do not fit people's ideas of what a cat should be. It is often difficult to re-home adult cats, particularly ones that are perceived to have "problems" so many of these cats are euthanased every year. These "problems" are more likely to be things that cats like or need to do, such as scratching their claws. Your cat doesn't understand that your lounge cost \$6,000 and can't see why you are getting so angry. As humans and cats do enjoy living together, it is important that cat owners try to understand why these problems are occurring and work to minimise the effects. It is very important for people to know that there are ways of solving many of these problems and that they don't have to give their beloved cat up.

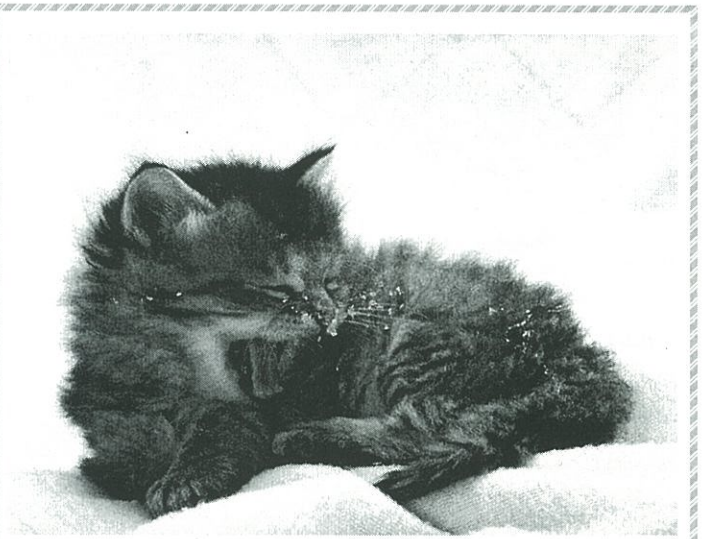
Kersti's new book is excellent for helping people to understand their cat's behaviour and to pinpoint and change behaviour. It starts with a lot of basic information such as choosing the correct breed or cat for your home and lifestyle and, importantly, the responsibilities of owning a cat. There is much information on cat health and the developmental stages that cats go through.

Once you have learned the basics you can begin to understand why a cat behaves as it does. Getting things right from an early age is important, as cats can be difficult to train later in life, although certainly not impossible as this book shows.

The book covers serious but common difficulties such as feline aggression and inappropriate elimination, but will also be of interest to people who have perfect cat companions, but would like to know more about their cat's behaviour and learning processes.

**This book is available from all good bookshops or, if you would like to order a copy from CPS, please send your name, address and phone number with either your credit card number and expiry date, or a cheque or money order for \$24.95 plus \$4.50 postage and handling. Send to 103 Enmore Rd, Enmore, Enmore, NSW, 2042 or phone 9557 4818 for further details.**

*Lynda O'Grady*



**There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats.**

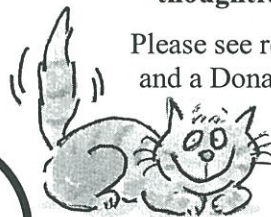
*- Albert Schweitzer*

## CPS BEQUESTS

Have you thought about making a bequest to the Cat Protection Society of New South Wales in your will?

**CPS relies on donations from our thoughtful members.**

Please see related story on Page 17 and a Donation Form on Page 21.



# Bast from the Past

...Continued from Page 8

Since all cats were the property of divine Pharaoh, to kill or injure a cat, even by accident, was a capital crime. If a house caught fire, the cats were saved first, then, if there was time, the people. People were, after all, only human. Whenever a cat died in the normal course of events, the whole of his human household went into elaborate ritualistic mourning, often shaving off their eyebrows, chanting, pounding their breasts, and demonstrating other outward signs of grief at their loss. The body of the cat had to be carefully wrapped in linen and brought to the priests, who would check it carefully to be certain its death was natural. When the priests were done, the body was taken to the embalmers, who made a cat mummy of it. There were far more cat mummies than people mummies in Egypt. Over 300,000 of them were found in the diggings at Beni-Hassan alone.



The ritualism and mythology concerning the cat spread far beyond their vermin-control capabilities. The people soon believed that the cats had a direct influence upon health, marriage, fortune, and other non-cat aspects of life. As mentioned, Bast was often depicted as holding in her left hand an amulet of the all-seeing sacred eye, the utchat, believed to have magical powers. The utchat itself was everywhere in society, as decoration in home shrines, worn as jewellery, etc. It was often depicted as being the eye of a cat, sometimes with cats within the eye itself. An utchat at the door kept a watchful eye out for thieves and vandals, protecting the home. An utchat over the lintel kept a watchful eye over all who dwelt within, preserving them from disease and accident. An utchat worn around the neck kept its watchful eye upon the road and protected travellers from harm. An utchat showing a mother cat with many kittens given as a wedding present meant many children.

Bast is identified with the Sun mostly the gentle rising sun, at dawn, and as such she is called both "Lady of the East" and "The Lightbearer". However, Bast is also considered a Moon Goddess (cats can see in the dark and their eyes glow like the moon). Black cats were especially sacred to her, but all animals are under her protection (even dogs!). The ancient Egyptian Physicians used the symbol for the black cat in healing. The colour green seems to be a very important colour for Bast, which makes sense because of affiliation with nature in general, but also the colour green is a very balancing colour, it sits right in the centre of the colour spectrum and is considered to be a very healing colour. Being a Goddess of music, one of her symbols is the Sistrum, and of course the Ankh.

Bast was worshipped from the most ancient times, when her early form was lioness-headed. It wasn't until the first millennium BC that she was worshipped in the form of a lissom domestic cat or else as a cat-headed woman. No life-size (or greater) representations of Bast, in any form, have survived intact, although a great many smaller bronzes and statues have been recovered and can now be seen in museums around the world. But this does not necessarily mean that larger statues

didn't exist. In his 'Histories', the Greek historian Herodotus tells us that a statue of the Goddess existed in the main temple shrine at **Bubastis**, but although he tells us that this statue was carried out among the people as part of Bast's festival he gives us no detailed description of her. In visualisations on the past of Egypt, many people who work with Bast have picked up imagery of huge cat-headed statues.


No anecdotal stories have survived about Bast's mythological life. As with so many of the Egyptian Gods, we know of her characteristics but not her exploits. We have to consider that, unlike other ancient cultures, the Ancient Egyptians may not have placed great importance upon such legends; the stories might not just be lost but never have existed in the first place. In some regions, Bast was regarded as the daughter of the creator God, **Atum**, in others as the daughter of the sun God, **Ra**. We know that she had children - **Nefertum** and **Mahes** - and she might have shared a husband with **Sekhmet** in the creator God of **Memphis, Ptah**.

That Bast was a very important Goddess there is no doubt, as the remains of her city, **Bubastis**, attest. Huge blocks of pink granite lie tumbled upon the ground, and an extensive cat cemetery can still be explored. We can only hope that the German team who want to reconstruct the ruins will be able to do so, when we shall all be able to appreciate and enjoy an approximation of what **Bubastis** was like in its hey-day.

Bast was also associated with childbirth, perhaps because of the way a mother cat cares for her kittens - and the fact that she might have continual litters of them. During the 2nd Century AD **Plutarch** wrote, somewhat mysteriously, that the Egyptian Cat gives birth first to one kitten, then two, until the number seven is reached. He points out that this makes a total of twenty-eight, the same as the days of the lunar month.

Nowadays, Bast has assumed a mother Goddess aspect. While there is no doubt she has a side whose teeth and claws are bared, she is now generally regarded as benevolent. Her rituals involve music, feasting and dancing, when she can be petitioned to grant boons. Bast can be invoked to help with problems concerning domestic life, work situations and success, as well as love and good health, for the petitioner, their friends and families, or their cats. Any visit to the **Temple of Bast**, through visualisation, is a time of serenity, contemplation and pleasure.



Cats were sacred to Bast, and were fed and cared for personally, by the priests of the temple. Bast has been worshipped for thousands of years in Egypt, and in a sense is still worshipped to this day, by the people all over the world who have felt her velvet like touch upon their souls through her demigods - our beloved domestic cats. 

# In Memorium

In memory of Monty Metcalfe  
Jill and Laurie's beautiful boy  
Farewelled December 3, 2001

Dearly loved by his Aunty Anita and Aunty Vi.



Submitted with donation by Life Member, Vi Wilkinson of  
Wollstonecraft

# Op Shop Up-date

It's great to report that the Op Shop is doing very well. We are sure that we will exceed last year's record takings of \$61,000. The Op Shop (at 87 Enmore Road) is continuing to provide considerable extra income for CPS. This of course is only made possible by the continuing generous donations from our CPS members to which we must add the very hard work of our volunteers. The time they so generously give on a regular basis in selling, sorting and cleaning is invaluable. Without their help it would be impossible to continue to run the Op Shop.

A Co-ordinating Committee comprising 4 council members (Robin Carter, Angelika Elliott, Nita Harvey and Nance Iredale, ) is now sharing the responsibility of the day-to-day running of the Op Shop. A reminder, the Op Shop is always grateful for all donations but books, jewellery, ornaments and linen are our best sellers. **Due to safety regulations, we can no longer accept any electrical goods.** Also, please remember that whether you give your time or donate goods for sale, all contributions help to raise money used to help our much loved moggies.

At present, we are lucky to have some regular volunteers but we are always pleased to welcome new comers (there is always room for an extra volunteer!). We have a great team and we are sure that any member putting their hand up to help would find the work enjoyable and be sure to find fun friendship among our team. **Robin Carter is now our roster co-ordinator so anyone wishing to volunteer their services should contact Robin care of the Op Shop (Ph: 9516-2072) during office hours.**

*Op Shop Co-ordinating Committee*



## 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.

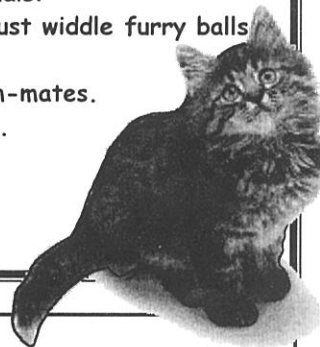
**SMILING** is infectious, You catch it like the flu  
 When someone SMILED at me today, I started SMILING too  
 I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin  
 When he SMILED, I realised I'd passed it on to him.  
 I thought about that smile, then realised its worth,  
 A single SMILE just like mine could travel 'round the earth.  
 So if you feel a SMILE begin, don't leave it undetected.

**LET'S START AN EPIDEMIC QUICK AND GET THE  
 WORLD INFECTED!**



# CAT TAG LINES

1. Two cats are a circus, three are a coup, six are a revolution.
2. 7 cats is a purrfect number.
3. Cats - proof that eating and sleeping isn't all bad.
4. A countryman between two lawyers is like a fish between two cats. - Ben Franklin.
5. A Whole Lot of Cats: Kitt N. Caboodle.
6. Actually, cats are excellent at domesticating people.
7. An aquarium is just interactive television for cats.
8. And why did cats decide to become domestic animals?
9. Aren't cats just widdle furry balls of love?
10. Cats are room-mates.  
Dogs are kids.



## 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 2002.  
 All persons joining from January 2002 remain financial until June 2003.

Subscription	\$1,000.00	Life Governor	Pensioner Membership	\$15.00
	\$250.00	Life Membership	Junior Membership	\$10.00
	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>Annual Membership</b>	(state birthday)	

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss SURNAME ..... 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 .....

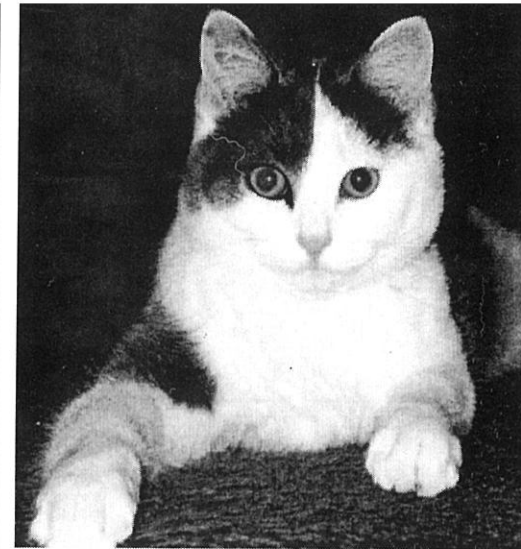
Previous Address ..... Postcode .....

# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

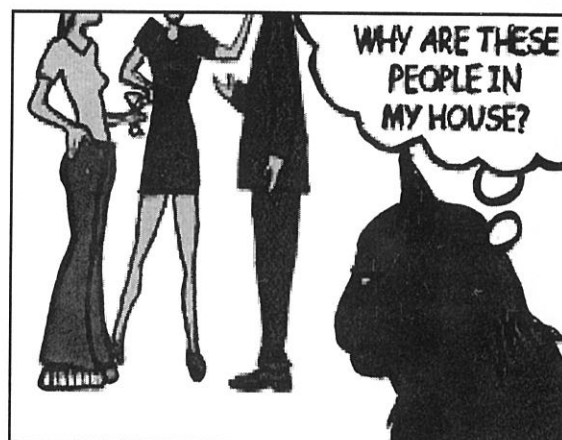
Ms K Adams  
Ms L Adams  
Mr C Allen  
Ms K Andrews  
Mr D Andrews  
Mrs M Ashman  
Ms S Augl  
Mrs Austin-Hart  
Ms L Auzins  
Ms T Bagan  
Ms F Barker  
Miss Y Barnes  
Ms J Bastin  
Mrs J Beninati  
Mrs J Blackmore  
Ms K Ioomstrand  
Ms J Brown  
Ms K Browning  
Mr I Bruce  
Mrs E Bruce  
Mr G Buckmaster  
Ms L Bullions  
Ms P Cadogan  
Mr P Calvert  
Mr A Carlton  
Mr J Catt  
Miss J Cavanagh  
Ms E Chambers  
Mrs J Chan- Woerlein  
Mrs C Charles  
Ms P Childs  
Mr K Christine  
Ms A Claude  
Mr J Clement  
Ms M P Cleret  
Ms E Cole  
Mrs A Coles  
Ms L Collings  
Ms W Collins  
Ms C Cook  
Ms G Cotton  
Mr T Coumbe  
Mr D Craig  
Ms D Crawford  
Mrs N Crossing  
Ms C Croucher  
Ms B Curran  
Ms A Desalegn  
Mr S Dias  
Ms Dichiera  
Mr B Dickeson  
Miss E DiSalvo  
Ms K Dundas  
Mr A Faraguna  
Ms S Farmer  
Ms J Fawke  
Mr M Feetham  
Ms K Fogarty  
Mr C Foggin  
Ms K Foulkes  
Ms M J Francis  
Ms C Freeman  
Ms French  
Mrs S Gallagher  
Ms K Gardner  
Mr J George  
Ms S Gillies  
Mr D Glassey  
Ms L Gleeson

Ms R Graham  
Miss K Green  
Mr C Griffith  
Mr B Hamilton  
Ms C Harris  
Ms E Hatte  
Ms C Hawkins  
Ms L Hedley  
Ms K Hertzum  
Ms C Highett  
Ms S Hill  
Ms F Hitken  
Ms A Holmes  
Ms C Horrigan  
Ms J Housego  
Mr E Huguet  
Ms L Hunt  
Ms S Hure  
Mr J Ivanov  
Ms M Jablko  
Ms L Jackson  
Ms L James  
Ms P Jennings  
Ms N Jerome  
Ms K Johnson  
Ms R Jones  
Mr D Keenan  
Mr G Keenan  
Ms J Kennedy  
Ms R Kenny  
Ms A Kinnell  
J Kirk  
Ms A Kline  
Ms L Krause  
Ms M Lackmann  
Mr A Larke  
Mr W Laws  
Ms S Lewis  
Ms S Leybourne  
Ms G Liberatore  
Ms N Lindeman  
Mr C Lindemann  
Mrs J Ling  
Ms T Linton  
Mr D Lockwood  
Mrs M Martin  
Mr R McCarthy  
Ms J McDonell  
Ms V McFarlane  
Ms D McRae  
Mr J Meeth  
Mr B Mercer  
Ms T Michaels  
Ms E Miller  
Mrs S Miller  
Mr B Mitchell  
Miss A Mitton  
Ms C Moodie  
Ms J Morris  
Ms K Morschel  
Mr R Nash  
Miss R Nurthen  
Ms L Nye  
Ms W Nyein Aye Zaw  
Mr G O'Brien  
Mr D O'Connell  
Ms B O'Neill  
Ms D Osiander  
Miss B Palmer  
M Palmer

Mr B Parker  
Ms D Parkes  
Ms S Parsons  
Ms S Patterson  
Mr W Payne  
Miss C Perik  
Ms F Porteous  
Ms E Rasmussen  
Miss S Rebeiro  
Ms L Render  
Ms L Ribeiro  
Ms D Richards  
Ms P Rickard  
Mrs R Ripphaisen  
Ms J H Ritchie  
Mrs A Ritchie  
Ms B Robbins  
Ms N Roberts  
Ms S Robinson  
Mrs A Roozendaal  
Ms L Rowe  
Ms M Sannis  
Ms K Saunders  
Mr M Scoberg  
Ms P Scoberg  
Ms N S Severino  
Mr N Sevieri  
Mrs K Shaw  
Mr J Shearer  
Ms A Siggins  
Ms E Sinclair  
Ms R Sired  
Ms N Snyder  
Ms M Spong  
Ms M Storham  
Ms G Strosnider  
Mr R Stuart  
Ms L Stuart  
Ms H Swarbrick  
Mr A Takesce  
Mr A Taylor  
Ms C Thomas  
Ms E Thomson  
Mr J Tims  
Ms S Tomlinson  
Ms E Toose  
Mr J Travers  
Ms C Tyson  
Ms Z Tzingoker  
Mr H Vaegan-Lloyd  
Ms K Van Der  
Casseyen  
Ms E Vanderheide  
Ms E Vassie  
Mrs A Viale  
Mr J Viale  
Ms M Vrljic  
Miss V Ware  
Mr M Warnock  
Ms H Watt  
Ms J Webberley  
Ms M Weber  
Mrs M White  
Ms C White  
Ms M Wilson  
Ms R Wilson  
Ms Wynhaven  
Ms S Yang Lu  
Ms H Yates  
Mr J Zollondz



**Cats Leave Paw Prints on  
Your Heart!**



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away.**



**Please help spread the word on CPS  
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or anywhere where there is a waiting  
room where magazines are kept.**

