

cat affairs

DECEMBER 2002

The Journal from The Cat Protection Society of NSW



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Back Cover – Frances Kaukerei

The Cat Protection Society would like to thank the volunteers who kindly give their time and skills to help produce this journal

NOTE: The views in this journal are those of individuals and not necessarily those of CPS.

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Dear Members,

Firstly, Council would like to thank you; our members, for your support during 2002 and we hope we can look forward to your continued support in 2003. Whilst we have almost reached the end of another calendar year, a time when most people think about relaxing and holidays, this is the very hardest time of year for CPS as we are now in full swing with kitten season well and truly upon us. As most of you would know, this will last for several months and, once again, of course, we will do our very best to save and re-home as many kittens/cats as we possibly can. If you would like to do your bit to help, spread the word about desexing to anyone you know who has an undesexed cat and help us stop the constant flow of kittens. Don't forget that CPS can offer inexpensive desexing and we even have a pick up service. Of course, if you have room for 'just one more' this would be an even bigger help.

On a more positive note, it is with excitement that we announce that we have now moved back to 103 Enmore Road Newtown. We are now resident in our state-of-the-art, renovated premises, including modern cattery. Our new building was a long time in the planning and was designed by an architect whose design maximises the use of the unusually long and narrow shape of the building. Whilst we are now fully operational in our new building, our official opening is scheduled for February 2003 where we have invited the media, the Minister for Agriculture and Dr Katrina Warren (from Harry's Practice) to share this special event with us. We invite you, our members, to visit us at Enmore and view our new premises, which, only with your support, we were able to make a reality.

You will notice that your Journal has taken on a fresher, new look. We have also given our corporate logo and stationery an overhaul which is all part of a co-ordinated approach giving us a new modernised look to coincide with our new building.

On to business. The CPS AGM was held on the 28th of September and there has been a slight changing of the guard. You can see details of current office holders on this page. Two of our Council Members did not re-nominate and we would like to thank Ingo Ostreich and Rhonda House for their time and effort during their tenure on Council. We are still to elect a new President but all other key positions on Council have been filled.

We are also keen to report that we have continued to try to bring CPS and our work to the attention of the general public and over the past few months have attended festivals, conducted promotional stalls at shopping malls and have also just completed some community service announcements to be aired on the radio. These are designed to encourage people to be responsible cat owners and ensure their cats are desexed. Keep an ear out for these ads.

Finally, the Council of the Cat Protection Society would like to wish you all the compliments of the season and hope you enjoy reading your 'new look' journal.

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Letter from the editor

You have probably noticed that there have been a few changes with The Journal. We have been wanting to “re-vamp” Cat Affairs and thought that with the new building nearly finished this would be a great time for a “new look” journal as well. We know that our members love the content of the journal that Suzanne Jenkins has been putting together, so we have not really changed this. We have tried to keep to a good mix of informative articles (cat health and behaviour), cat stories and pictures, articles about the CPS cattery and welfare work and lots of interesting facts and stories. We have also kept all of the major sections such as *The Scratching Post*, *Office Tails*, *Forget Me Not* etc. and have added in a few new sections such as *Then and Now* and *A Day in the Life...* which we hope you will like. Check out page 12 for an important article on Compulsory Desexing. At Cat Protection we believe that compulsory desexing is the next step in protecting cats and saving lives. Read the arguments for and against and make up your mind on this important debate.

This is your journal and we would love your feedback. If there is something that you would like to see let us know.

A small committee is now producing the journal. Each person on the committee is a CPS member and a volunteer so your membership money and donations are not going towards expensive production costs. We are now printing in two colours, which we hope you like, but we have got a special price from the printers, so there is no extra cost to the society. Each committee member works on a specific aspect from design to editing and we have many skilled professionals giving their time freely. We do have to specially mention Alisha Stanley who worked very hard to get the design work done within a very short space of time.

We would like to thank Suzanne Jenkins who has done so much work to get the journal to where it is today. It is a huge job and Suzanne did this entirely on her own!

We hope that you like the changes, and would love to hear your comments or suggestions for articles. You can write to our office or e-mail us at info@catprotection.org.au.

Best Wishes, The Journal Committee





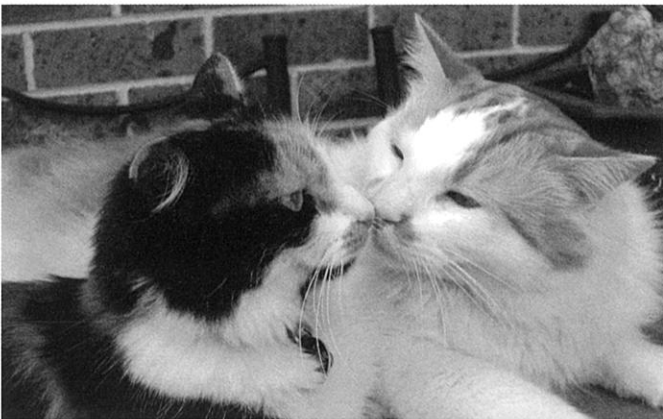
scratching post

We at Cat Protection always love to get your letters and especially to hear stories of the cats that we have re-homed with their new family.

Milly and Racc

Just thought you might like an update on Milly (nee Petal) and Racc (nee Raccoon). In the beginning we had lots of hissing from the owner of the house, Patch whilst he learned to share with Milly and Racc. Milly soon won Patch over and now the three are firm friends. What we now have are three adorable friends who go everywhere together and who provide us with a great deal of laughter and love. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of caring for Milly and Racc. Our house has never been more chaotic, nor felt more like a home.

Robyn & Liza



Pictured above: Best of friends Milly and Racc

Sammy

Thought you'd be interested to know that my little black kitten that I adopted from you in Feb 2000 has spent the last 18 months travelling around the USA with me. He has been a great companion and his name is Sammy.

Kathryn Gallagher



Pictured above: World traveller Sammy



Pictured above: Bruce and Barry...or should I now say Harry?

Barry and Bruce

I thought I'd drop you a note to let you know how Bruce and Barry are going. They both settled in very quickly and seem very happy. They're gorgeous cats and are keeping us entertained with their antics... it's lovely to see how much they look after each other as well.

We ended up keeping Bruce's name the same, but we couldn't quite cope with Barry, so he's now called Harry.

Carol Smith



Pictured above: Maggie-May now taking over the bed

Maggie-May

I bought Maggie-May from you one year ago last month. You found her as a stray – she still has some of those stray qualities, at first she was very distrusting of people but after six or so months she finally started sleeping in the bed with me – now you cannot get her out!

Justine Radecki

Max and Thomas

Max & Thomas – We got these two precious ‘gentleman’s’ (as we call them) from the Cat Protection five years ago when the cattery was at Parklea, actually we got our other cat Willy who passed away at 14 years from Nancy at Epping. As you can see they are both very happy and contented pussycats.

Susie Stirzaker



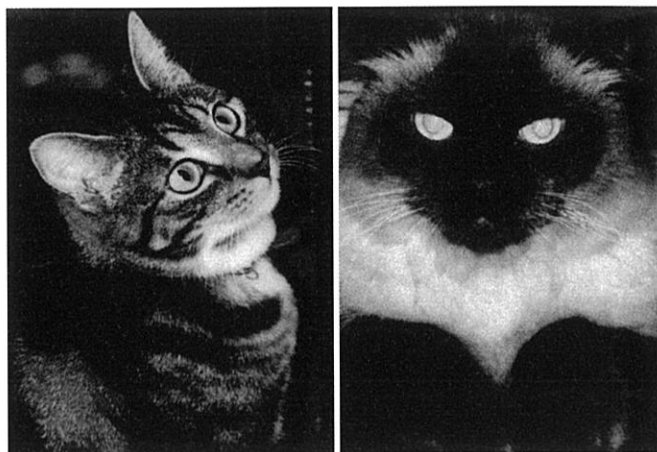
Pictured above: Max and Thomas...contentment plus!

Fat Cat and Little Miss

I bought my two beloved cats from the Cat Protection Society at Enmore in October of 2000. Fat Cat (aka Kramer at the CPS) was a four-year old when he left the CPS and is a pure-bred Himalayan. His favourite time of the day is when we are just awake, but still in bed. He will sit at the top of my head, on my pillow and just purr. He likes to have his head scratched and will attach his claws to your scalp and flex until you continue.

Little Miss (aka Amy) is our other puss. She was four months old when she came home with us and is a stray. She likes to go for walks in the park on her harness, and loves to feel the wind in her whiskers and the grass under her paws. Her main joy in life is the chasing of bugs. We have rice paper shades covering our lights and bugs get trapped in them. She can see them and has a certain meow that says, “I can see a bug, lift me!”. So we chase bugs together, me holding her and running, her swiping with all four paws. We have lost more than one light shade in that manner. Keep up the great work at the CPS – thanks for my darlings!

Nikla Martin

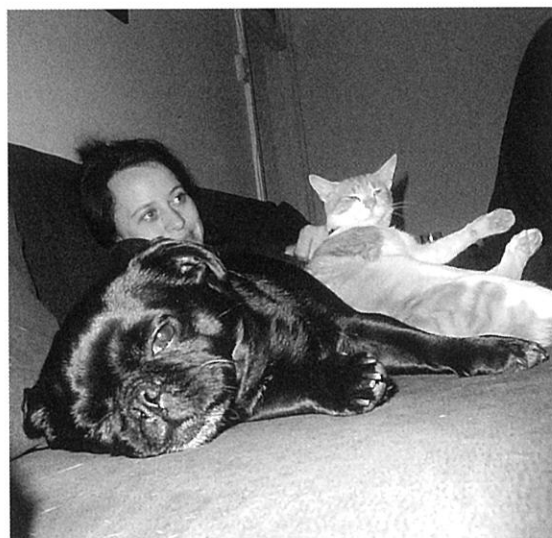


Pictured above: Little Miss (left) and Fat Cat (right)

Daisy

We adopted Daisy about 4 weeks ago. Here’s a photo of her at home with her new friend, Hercules. She’s settled in well & we’re thinking that Daisy and Hercules might even become friends in the future. Thanks very much, it’s lovely to have such a beautiful affectionate cat!!!!

Becky & Paul



Pictured above: Hercules (front), Becky and Daisy

PLEASE NOTE: We do endeavour to return your photos where possible but cannot guarantee this. Please make sure that you only send us a copy.

office tails



By the time you receive this journal we should be in our wonderful new cattery. The renovations have been slightly behind schedule, but we are now all set to move back in.

We need to thank all of our members who donated so generously to our sponsorship appeal. We have now raised over \$13,600 and counting. This has exceeded our wildest expectations, and will allow us to get almost all of the things that the cats need. A list of those members who donated can be seen on page 9.



Right: Crane at 103 Enmore Rd

I am sure that you will all be very excited to see the cattery when it is finished, so we are having an open day on February the 15th for people to come along and meet the cats, staff, council members and of course see the building. We will send all of our members a special

invitation a bit closer to the time, but make a note in your diary to keep that date free. Dr Katrina Warren from Harry's Practice will be at the launch to help celebrate. We will have lots of fun activities for children and adults. Most important of all, you can come and see the beautiful cats and kittens who's lives are saved through your donations and membership.

We have just hired a new Cattery Manager, Tara Millet, to take over when we move into the new building. Our Cattery Attendants, Narelle Whittle and Georgina Smith, have done an excellent job at our temporary cattery in Concord West for the past 6 months. Despite the tiny space and difficult conditions they have managed to save many lives and re-home many beautiful cats and kittens. My most recent favourite was a 2 year old boy called Mr Moo with a gentle personality and a loving nature in proportion to his 9kg frame. Mr Moo was re-homed last weekend and we have advised his new owners that he may need to go on a diet!

Once our Cattery re-opens we will be contacting our volunteers to organise a time to start work again. I know that many are looking forward to coming back to work, and it is always a great help to have committed volunteers giving their time to help in the

cattery. With the potential for many more cats to stay in our cattery, we will certainly need extra hands on deck. If you would like to volunteer in the cattery give us a call. We ask that all volunteers come on a regular or semi-regular basis, as there is some training involved. We also ask that all volunteers book a time in advance. Experienced volunteers can often book a weekly or fortnightly spot.

Our new cattery will have a Mother and Kitten Room, but we are always in need of dedicated foster carers to help save the lives of our little ones. If you are interested, call our office and we can send you an information leaflet.

We recently had a few lovely visitors in our Newtown office called Tripod and Haley. We have a few cages here for emergencies, and took them in when their owners became suddenly homeless. This is not something that we can normally help with, as we just don't have the space, but our present situation allowed them to stay for a week while their family found a place to live. Tripod lost her foot when she got tangled in fishing line as a kitten. She now gets around as if nothing had happened and is lots of fun, often pushing her sister out of the way in her rush for attention. Haley is a beautiful tortoiseshell and white



Above: Tripod

girl who originally came from our cattery. As with many cats, she has had a number of bouts of homelessness in her life, but both she and Tripod are now settled in a new home with a little garden.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Grand Opening in February.

See you then,

Lynda O'Grady
Executive Officer

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Chips the cat. Pen and Ink on paper

Good Grooming

By Emma Hughes and Lynda O'Grady

Grooming can be an excellent way to bond with your cat. All cats will benefit from having a comb or brush run through their fur and with some cats, especially those with medium to long fur it is a vital task. It's important to start grooming your kitten at an early age (around three months old), so it becomes part of the normal routine and not a terrible struggle.

Some cats need a lot more grooming than others. Longhaired cats require extra care. They mat easily and need to be combed out every other day or so and brushed thoroughly on a weekly basis. Hairballs, or clumps of fur, caught in the cat's digestive system, can be a constant problem, with longhaired cats, requiring medical attention.

Cats do their best to keep every hair in order – and not just for the sake of appearance. A cat's tongue has small barbs on the surface that help comb out the dead fur and dirt. Grooming has a number of advantages to your cat, including the following:

- **Weatherproofing:** Separating and smoothing each hair helps to improve the fur's insulating abilities, keeping both heat and cold at bay. As a cat grooms, he also distributes the oils from his skin throughout his coat, giving it a measure of waterproofing.
- **Scent marking:** Grooming helps to distribute a cat's scent across his whole body, a phenomenon very reassuring to this scent-orientated animal. Scent is so important that a cat often licks himself right after being petted, both to re-establish his own scent and to drink in yours.
- **Parasite control:** Although your cat can't keep up with a major flea and tick infestation, he does his best by nibbling the pests off his body.
- **Sociality:** In a multi-cat household, especially one with littermates, you often see cats grooming each other. This behaviour, which is also performed on beloved humans, is a way of reinforcing a cat's connection to his family.

Grooming has so many benefits that it is easy to see why, next to sleeping, it's one of the most important tasks on any cat's list!

Many cats live their whole lives without anyone laying a brush on them, but even for short haired cats there are benefits for everyone if regular grooming is adhered to, such as reduction in shedding, smell, destructiveness, allergies and an increase in bonding!

Choose a quiet time and place to groom your cat so that he/she feels as relaxed as possible. Start patting and stroking your cat as you normally would. Once your cat is used to this you can start using the brush with the softest bristles. Katrina Warren of "Harry's Practice" recommends using a baby brush to get a nervous cat used to this motion.

Shorthaired and medium coated cats:

Shorthaired cats need to be groomed once a week, but this may increase in the moulting season. For medium haired cats grooming could be a few times a week to daily, depending on the cats' fur and the time of year.

If the fur is particularly dirty or your cat has a parasite problem you may want to start with a fine Flea Comb (stainless steel or plastic) with very narrowly spaced teeth (Picture 1) for clearing dead hair, small mats and debris. A good brush with a Pin Brush (Picture 2) not only helps remove the dead fur in large quantities but also is also quite enjoyable for the cat. Try getting a double-sided brush like the one in Picture 2 as this allows you to adjust the pressure easily. My own cats particularly enjoy a good brush with the harder bristles. A Slicker Brush (Picture 3), with its slender bent wires, is good for applying the finishing touches to a mat-free coat, particularly for slightly longer-haired cats.

The Zoom Groom (Picture 4) is a newer cat brush that not only brushes but also gives a nice sensation. This is a good all purpose grooming tool, but will not work with badly matted or very long fur.

Long-coated cats:

Use a medium or coarse-toothed comb and a Pin Brush. A Slicker Brush is also good for longer-haired cats.

- Divide your cat's coat into sections with the medium comb and work through the fur slowly, gently teasing out any mats that you find
- If your cat's fur is very matted you may want to repeat this action with a fine tooth comb
- Follow by brushing, and again work with a small section at a time, using the Pin Brush. Brush against the lie of the fur as well. This works well to dislodge any remaining loose fur
- If your cat becomes very upset you may want to take a break for a few minutes
- Don't forget lots of praise!

Pay special attention to the areas where the legs meet the body, behind the ears, and under the tail – all places that are mat magnets for longhaired cats

Lightly mist the part of the fur you're brushing with a little water from a spray bottle. Doing so makes working the brush through the coat easier and helps keep the long outer coat from breaking.

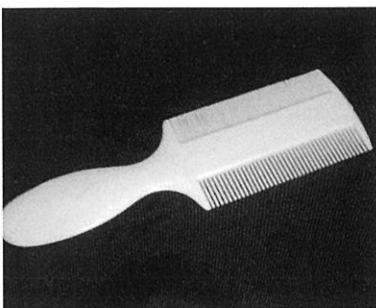
Cats with long fur that have not been groomed for long periods can develop very serious matting which can extend right down to the skin. In severe cases this can even lead to infection. When knots cannot be brushed out they may need to be cut out (carefully) with scissors. Always have someone else help hold the cat while you do this to avoid any quick movements that may lead to the cat being injured. In instances where severe matting has developed (as in the case of stray cats, or those that will not tolerate regular grooming) you may want to speak to your local vet or pet groomer about having your cat shaved professionally.

Fur Balls:

Fur balls (or trichobezoars) occur when your cat ingests too much fur from the grooming process that cannot be properly digested. This forms into a mass in the stomach and is then normally vomited in a clump. The remaining fur can build up and block the bowel, which can be a potentially fatal condition. Fur balls can be worse in longhaired cats or at moulting time. If you groom your cat regularly you can help prevent this, but if you are concerned or the pattern of coughing-up furballs changes you may want to have a talk to your vet. There are special preparations (usually a type of laxative like "Catlax") and even a special diet that can help in severe cases. Occasionally cats can "over groom" due to stress or skin irritations. In these instances you may also want to consult your vet.

Tips

When grooming your cat, spread a layer of newspaper underneath to collect any excess fur. A non-slip mat can also be very useful.



Picture 1 Flea Comb



Picture 2 Pin Brush



Picture 3 Slicker Brush



Picture 4 Zoom Groom

Grooming is also a good time to do a general health check – look for parasites, check teeth and ears and gauge the general condition of the coat. Subtle changes of weight will become apparent when you handle your cat regularly and can be indicative of a health problem.

Nail-trimming:

Keeping your cat's claws trimmed is good practice for two reasons:

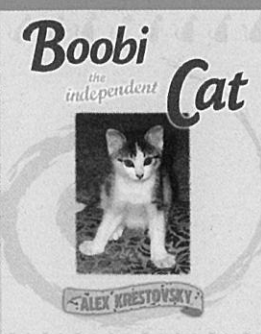
- Doing so cuts down on destructiveness by removing some (but not all) of your cat's desire to dig his claws into objects.
- It reduces scratch wounds for us!

As with grooming your cat's fur, it is good to start early. Getting your cat used to having his/her nails clipped at an early age will save lots of struggles later on. Outdoor cats may wear their claws down in their daily wanderings, but may still need a trim. Cats that live indoors will need their claws clipped every few months. If the claws are allowed to grow indefinitely, they may break off or at worst grow into the paw pad.

Cutting your cat's claws is not as difficult as it may seem but it is important to follow instructions and be careful. If you are not confident, ask your vet to show you the correct procedure.

To expose the claws gently push the pad to expose the nail. The claw has two distinct areas, as with human nails. The top part is white and the lower part is light pink. You need to trim only the top white part of the claw. Do not cut anywhere near the pink area as this will hurt the cat and may go through a vein.

Know when to call it a day! Never hold a cat that is becoming irritated. The best thing to do is to let an annoyed cat get its way and to try again later. Failure to respect a cat's temper can result in serious use of claws and teeth!



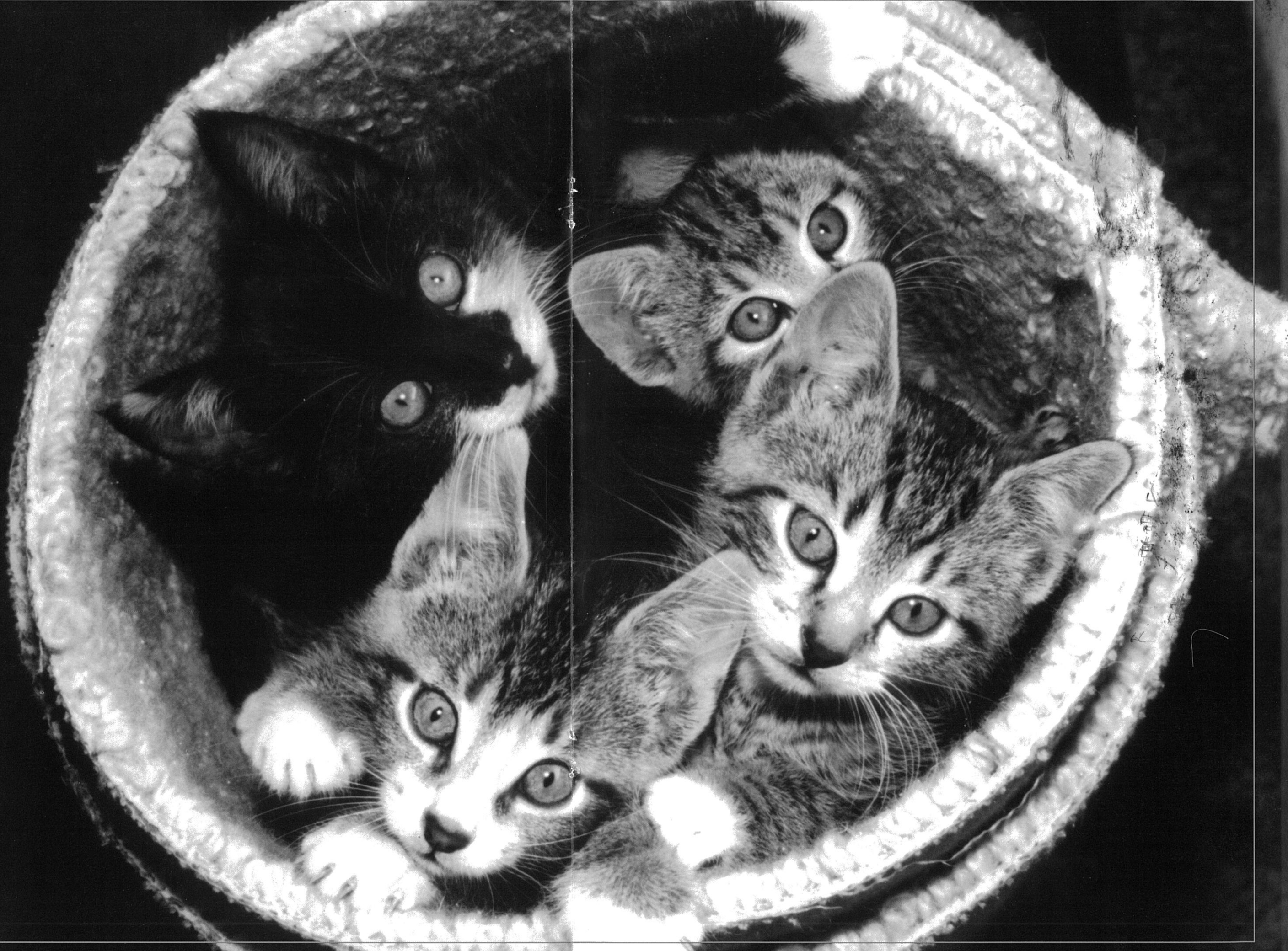
Boobi a very independent young female cat who stands up for her rights. She lives in a house with George the dog, Fluffy the kitten and Babushka the wise old cat with a dark secret.

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Why Should Desexing Be Compulsory?



Recently the Cat Protection Society had a stall at the Newtown Festival. This is always a great day for us, with lots of cat lovers, and people who have got their cats from us saying “hello”.

It's always a really positive experience to talk to so many genuine cat lovers and get feedback about how their kittens have grown and now run the household.

This year, however, was marred by an incident that I think exemplifies the main problem with the Companion Animals Act (CAA). Cat Desexing is still not compulsory!

There is a lady who is notorious in the Newtown area as she lets (or encourages) her cat/s to breed and then walks the streets trying to sell the resulting kittens. We have come across her many times before and one of my colleagues, Catherine, has brought kittens from her in the past to try and save them. This lady carries these terrified little creatures along some of the busiest (with traffic and people) roads in Sydney trying to offload them onto passersby. Our most recent case was a man who was homeless and had obvious mental and alcohol abuse problems who had been given a little tortoiseshell girl of no more than 5 weeks. We saw him carrying this little kitten proudly up and down Enmore Rd and we spent a whole afternoon trying to convince him to let us look after this baby. This poor man could not look after himself, but felt a strong attachment to this little one and despite our best arguments we could not get the kitten to a safe place. This kitten was dead within two days and it has haunted me ever since. I have often wondered what happened to her many brothers and sisters.

Last Sunday at the fair this lady saw an opportunity to offload some more of her unfortunate charges, and with a terrified kitten in a box open to the midday sun, she ploughed into the heavy crowds and rock music. There was a dog show in the park that day also, so there were beautiful (but very frightening) dogs everywhere. Not a very nice first outing for a little one born only six weeks ago who has never left her mother before.

Our main aim was to get the kitten somewhere safe and away from the heat and noise, so we paid the \$10 asking price and took the kitten back to our cattery and safety. By mid afternoon she was at it again. The two little tortoiseshell sisters (see above) were reunited in our emergency cages at Newtown, but it took days for them to calm down after their ordeal.

Various members of our staff have spoken to this lady, offering to desex her cats for free, offering to take the kittens and find them homes safely, but she will not listen.

Unfortunately, this lady is not quite breaking the law. Under the POCTA (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act) she could possibly be charged with cruelty, but getting the evidence needed to charge her would be extremely difficult. This is where the law really lets cats down. People can let their cats breed repeatedly and then let the kittens breed repeatedly and no one can stop it. We could fill this journal with stories such as this, we have concerned members of the public begging us to help, but there is little we can do.

When I first started at the Cat Protection Society I was told about the CAA of 1999. After only a few weeks of working here and seeing the problems that over breeding causes, compulsory desexing seemed the obvious next step to me. I could not understand why it was not included in the new Act. ALL other welfare agencies that deal with cats on a daily basis support compulsory desexing, and ALL now desex cats and kittens before re-homing. So, if the people who work in cat welfare all support this change WHY does it not happen? For some of the arguments for and against compulsory desexing read on....

The Law is Not Enforceable – this law may be difficult to enforce, but in reality most laws are. If easy enforcement were the main criteria for laws then our drug laws and many others would be done away with.

The Law Would Be Expensive To Enact – Yes, it would be a cost to the Government to enact this law and educate people about it's implications BUT how much does it cost the community now to operate pounds and shelters? To employ welfare officers and rangers to trap undomesticated cats and pick up unowned strays? This is not just a financial cost, but can also be counted in lives lost! It is also a cost to our precious environment when unowned animals are abandoned in bush areas.

Most Cats Are Already Desexed – Many (in fact most) responsible people already desex their cats and understand how important it is. It is the minority, sometimes people with psychological or abuse problems, who cause many of these unwanted litters (like the lady mentioned above) and who cannot be stopped under the law. This argument also does not take into account that many of the cats which show up in the statistics as “desexed” have possibly already had or contributed to a litter (or two).

If We Compulsorily Desex Cats There Will Be None Left – This argument has been doing the rounds for some time. Some people argue that compulsory desexing will decrease the cat population and that the desexing done by welfare organisations, such as ourselves, is

already causing a lack of kittens for sale in pet shops. The owned pet population is decreasing but I believe this is for very different reasons than a lack of kittens. (The vilification of cats in the media and changing demographics in our society are two potential reasons that have been researched). In the US and UK, where cats aren't seen as such a threat to the environment, the owned cat population is nearly overtaking that of dogs. So there are less people who have cats but this is a conscious choice, rather than a lack of cats to go around.

There are less cats than before (thank goodness) but still many have to be euthanased. Many are dumped and as they are undomesticated these kittens and cats never enter the "re-homing market" but are euthanased or live on the streets.

There are some times of the year when kittens are not available. This is nature, not desexing! Even if compulsory desexing was incredibly successful and there were few kittens left there is no reason why kittens could not be bred. They would be slightly more expensive, but if this ever happened cats and kittens would have a greater perceived value (like purebreds have now) and would be less likely to be dumped or abandoned. Having a cat would not be an impulse buy, but a carefully considered addition to a family. Isn't this the situation that we are all working towards?

Desexing Costs Too Much – I can't argue that desexing at your local vet can be expensive. But for people on low incomes or pensions, there are people such as DABCS (Domestic Animal Birth Control Society) and ourselves who offer inexpensive desexing. We will even pick the cat up in an air-conditioned van.

At the Cat Protection Society, we don't necessarily want to see people fined for not desexing their cats, but we would like to see organisations like RSPCA, AWL or the local council have the ability to take action against people who are wantonly causing death by over breeding their cats. This is not just an animal welfare issue but a social and environmental one as well. The CAA of 1999 was a great first step in giving companion animals a legal status and obligating owners to take a level of responsibility for their animals, but there is still a long way to go. In 2003 the State Government of NSW and the Department of Local Government will be required to undertake a review of this Act. The Cat Protection Society will be putting forward a submission to the Government at the appropriate time and will need the support of all of our members to lobby the government. Compulsory desexing is the next logical step.

Lynda O'Grady



Volunteer Spotlight

Nita Harvey is a name that is synonymous with Cat Protection – for good reason!

She has been an invaluable part of the Society, spending up to 3 days per week helping in a number of different areas.

When Nita was a child, she wasn't particularly fond of cats. Her first experience of them was the family cat who meowed constantly and wondered around outside the house. On New Years Day 1956, a little tabby kitten arrived on Nita's back doorstep. The kitten was met with a resounding cry of "she can't stay!" and was promptly given some food. Kit (as she became known) spent 12 good years with the Harvey family and was a fantastic companion to Nita's son when he was very young.

Kit was the first of many cats to have been taken in by Nita and her family. Next came Missy who chose the Harveys when they visited a lady in Strathfield who re-homed stray cats. Five years later, a stray cat across the road had kittens and Tango the ginger tom was adopted. When Tango passed away, Missy sadly died soon after. Hana and Cumquat were the next feline companions. They were adopted as kittens from the Cat Protection cattery that was situated in Parklands at the time. They were the best of friends and remained so until Hana passed away this year aged 17. When they were 6 months old, Nita's son brought a kitten home called Harry. The Harvey household has also been home to Betsy the cat-tolerant Beagle and Benjie the stray Border Collie X.

Nita's home is still full of animal companions. Since Hana died, Kumquat and Gus the Bermese X have become good friends. Two years ago, Dolly the funny little Birman X joined the Harveys.

When Nita left school, she worked for Berney Studios, hand-painting photographs. She later became the production manager and a part owner before working in the health insurance industry.

Nita is now 'retired' and devotes much of her time to Cat Protection, starting in the Op-Shop in 1996 and later becoming a member of our Council. Nita's office and accounting skills are put to good use in her role as Treasurer of the Society. This means working at least one day a week to help with the office accounting. Nita still finds time to attend fairs and shows on our behalf.

We thank Nita for her years of dedication and hard work helping to save the lives of cats in need.

The Society is always looking for volunteers – people are needed for everything from general cleaning and cat socialisation in the cattery, to working behind the counter at the op-shop. We are currently in desperate need of people who can pick up op-shop donations from their area and bring them to us in Newtown. If you can assist us, please contact the office on 9519 7201.

A DAY IN THE LIFE... CPS FOSTER CARER

Tara Mai and the Fabulous Five!!!

Tara Millet has worked as a cattery attendant with the Cat Protection Society (CPS) and as a veterinary nurse at a clinic nearby, she has just been appointed as our new Cattery Manager. Tara is one of the many carers who look after underage kittens for CPS and has saved many young lives. All of our carers are volunteers.

Peanut, Pandora, Ivo, Calypso and Periwinkle have been with me now for about 6 weeks. Like many of the kittens that go through Cat Protection each year they were taken from their Mum too soon and needed to go into a foster home to be cared for and socialised until they were big enough to be desexed and rehomed (this is usually between 8 and 10 weeks of age).

When they first arrived they were still very tiny (only about 3 weeks old) and had only just started "lapping" at solid food. At this age it is crucial that they are watched closely to ensure they are all eating well. Being so tiny they can get sick in a matter of hours if they don't get enough nutrients. Fortunately the fabulous five had no issues with eating at all, they were voracious!!! Kittens often do need encouragement with eating solid food as their Mum would usually teach them these important skills. Watering the food down into a paste- like consistency and popping some on your finger so they can lick it off can be helpful. CPS recommends using Whiskas Chicken and Turkey as it's nice and bland for tiny tummies.

All the kittens got diarrhoea within the first day of being with me. This is not unusual and can be caused by stress, change of diet, intestinal worms or infection. As I didn't want to take any risks I called CPS immediately and they advised worming them and flea treating them – which I did with Felix Worming paste and Advantage kitten flea treatment ampoules. Kittens should be wormed every 2 weeks until they're 12 weeks old and flea treated once a month. It's very important that they're flea and worm free as these parasites can be fatal to tiny kittens. CPS also advised putting them onto cooked chicken only for a couple of days, no skin, no bones just shredded chook. The kittens loved it and growled at each other over their bowls, each hoping to get a morsel more than the others!! Their tummies settled down within a couple of days and I slowly introduced tinned food back into their diets and Advance kitten biscuits, a good quality dry food is essential for growing kittens.

Over the next few weeks they went from strength to strength, and all gained weight. Calypso, a little tortoiseshell female, started out as the runt of the litter but is now the second biggest. They played manic

games with me, toy mice, pieces of string and each other and wrapped themselves around the hearts of everybody who had the pleasure to meet them. They spent most of their time frolicking in the "kitten room" separate from the rest of the house and my own 9 cats (if you are considering becoming a foster carer and have your own cats make sure their vaccinations are up to date).

In the last couple of weeks they've started to come down stairs and experience life in general in the home of the mad cat people, they seem to love it and so do we.

They're big enough to go now, and will go back to the CPS cattery for re-homing within the next week. This is the hardest part! I cry pretty much every time I say goodbye to my babies because they become such a big part of my life if only briefly. It's a happy sadness though because the sense of joy and satisfaction I get from having them with me makes it all worthwhile plus I know the staff at CPS will find them wonderful homes. Anyway there's no time to be sad because in a couple of days I'll get another call from Cat Protection and start all over again.

Postscript: Before being re-homed the Fabulous Five were filmed for a Harry's Practice segment on Domestic Short Hair cats.



Then and Now

the life and times of "Miao Miao"

Miao Miao (so called because of her habit of announcing her presence on a regular basis!) first came to the attention of CPS when she was surrendered to us in May of last year.

Being such a beautiful and vocal girl she quickly won over the staff as she went through the desexing, vaccination and microchipping process. Within a short time she was re-homed locally to a Newtown man – another success story, or so we thought.

At CPS we are very careful when we re-home cats, and spend a lot of time outlining the process and assessing families to check that their expectations and lifestyle will be met by the cat in question. However on this occasion, something went wrong. We received a call from a vet nurse at Inner West Vet Clinic who used to work at CPS - a cat had been surrendered that looked and sounded suspiciously like Miao Miao. Poor Miao Miao had become a "boomerang cat", that is a cat who has been re-homed once, and then lost or surrendered again.



So back to the cattery she came, and after a long while, with the help of the Sutherlandshire Leader we found her a new home with the Fischers. Just look at her now! Renamed "Suzie" she is as talkative as ever, and has spent her time familiarizing herself with her new home and learning all the important stuff, like where to hide. She gets to play with the granddaughters and even has her own squeaky toy mouse (though there's not much of it left!). She's even done some exploring outside, but it's a bit noisy out there, so she's taking it one step at a time.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to "Suzie" and the Fischers.

Alice Young

DONATION FORM

The Secretary, Cat Protection Society of NSW
103 Enmore Road, NEWTOWN, 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).

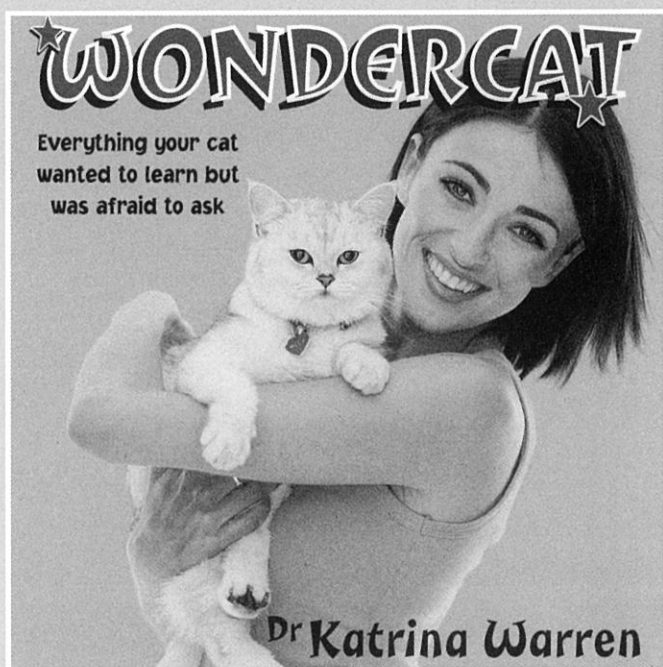
I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Cat Protection Society of NSW shall be sufficient discharge for the legacy which is to be applied to the general purposes of the said charity.

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.

Book Review



Wondercat by Dr Katrina Warren

Published by HarperCollins Australia rrp \$19.95

Popular TV vet Dr Katrina Warren presents a succinct and easy to read book about our favourite subject – Cats. Wondercat provides much practical advice such as choosing the right type of cat for you, naming your cat, feline characteristics, body language, grooming, tricks and health tips. This fun guide also offers many interesting topics including moggy myths, feline fallacies and little known feline facts. Did you know, for example, that a group of domestic cats is called a clowder and that a cat lover is known as an ailurophile? Wondercat is a very useful and entertaining guide and contains plenty of photographs, illustrations and even has special tips from Milly, Dr Warren's gorgeous Burmilla!

Reviewed by Meredith Childs

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Newtown, 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	Life Governor	\$1,000.00	Pensioner Membership	\$15.00
	Life Membership	\$250.00	Junior Membership	\$10.00
	Annual Membership	\$20.00	(state birthday)	

Enclosed find cheque/money order for membership \$ + Donation TOTAL \$

Please cross cheques and make payable to THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

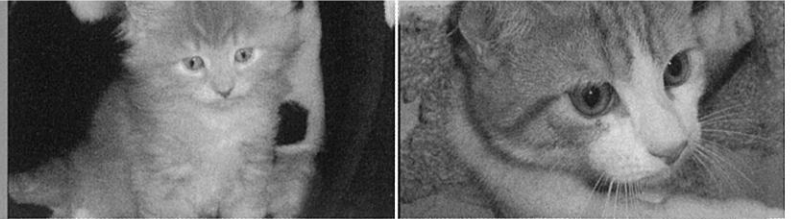
Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss SURNAME _____ FIRST NAME _____
Address _____ Suburb _____ Postcode _____
Contact Phone Number _____ Date _____ Email _____
Pension Number _____ Signature _____

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 _____

Thank you...



In our most recent journal we has a sponsorship drive to help fund cages, play equipment and other necessary items for the new cattery. The generosity of our members has exceeded our wildest expectations and we have now raised over \$13,600. The Cat Protection Society would like to express thanks and appreciation to the following members who have sponsored items in the newly-renovated cattery

Name		Dedication
Marjorie May	Andriotis Bennett	Majorie Andriotis In memory of Bill (Late W.A. Bennett)
Florence	Best	
Judith	Bow	
Lesley	Cansdell	William Walsh
Kathryn	Carley	
Shirley	Cieply	
Jennifer	Cornish	Phillip And Heather
Sybil	Cozens	Sybil & Gordon
Fay	Davin	
Alison	MDorward	Clyte, Hana, Hadji & Keely
Mrs G S	Easton	
Lorraine	Edwards	
Gretta	Fletcher	Tabitha
Erica	Forrest	Rovie & Ambi
Elizabeth	Francis	
Mrs R J	Gardiner	
Margaret & Rob	Gibbon	Dedicated to Persephone and Ginger Megs
Sara	Giltrap	
Margaret	Gosling	For all our darling cats and our present precious cat PI.WACKET
Annette	Green	
Joy	Harrison	Joy Harrison with love
Christine	Hartley	
Margaret	Healy	
Jan	Hodgson	Pegleg
John	Holland	In memory of Agatha
Kate	Holland	In memory of Cinder
Justine		
& Harry	Hollinsworth	Arnold Barney Hollinsworth
Wendy	Hyman	
Mariana	Jablko	Mariana Jablko, Leila, Paris
Stephanie	Jacques	
Suzanne	Jenkins	
Irene	Johanson	
Christine	Kenworthy	
Josy	Knowland	
Natasha	Kupresak	From Rocky & Truedi

Shirley	Lamey	Vicki
Shelley	Lee	
Noreen		
& Moira	Lloyd	
Leila	Loveday	Tommy Loveday
Sigrid	Lublow	Peach
Marion		
& Carmen	Malins	
Bronwyn	McGuire	
Valerie	McLeish	
Judy	McMinn	
Diana	Muskett	
Janiece	Neilley	Mosey
Giovanna	Nunziato	
Annita	O'Connor	Mitchie-Pandy
Valda	O'Leary	
Frances	O'Sullivan	
Dorina	Podesta	My Darling Meg, My Darling Harold
Daphne	Pratt	
Wendy	Pryor	
Jackie	Rares	
Euphemia	Raynsford	
Pamela	Reeves	
Effie	Sadler	
Christine	Maree	Scarra
Geraldine	Silveri	
Susie	Stirzaker	Willy & Nancy
Alison	Storey	
Elizabeth	Strachan	
Lorraine	Thompson	
Jo	Tomkin	"Emma" Tomkin
Robin	Tyler	
Margaret	Waddell	
Les		
& Kathleen	Warren	Prince & Ronny
Beth	Watt	
Fay	Wickenden	
Alice	Young	

All of the people listed above have received a certificate and will receive a special invitation to visit the new cattery.

We still have a number of items that have not yet been sponsored – please contact Lynda O'Grady on 9519 7201 if you can help out.

Please note: if you sent your donation to us after 8/11/02, your name will be appearing in our next journal.

CATS IN THE NEWS

Written by Alice Young

ALLERGIES ALERT -

POSITIVE NEWS FOR CAT OWNERS

A flurry of recent medical reports seem to substantiate what most animal lovers have been saying for years, that animals do not cause allergies and indeed can protect children from developing them.

Dr. Zeldin, head of the asthma programme at the US based National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences states that whilst the situation is still not clear cut, it "suggests that exposure to allergy triggers early in life may actually reduce chances a child will get asthma".

There are two theories as to why this might happen:

Hygiene - children growing up in a "sanitized" environment suffer more allergies because their immune systems have no chance to adapt to allergy causing substances

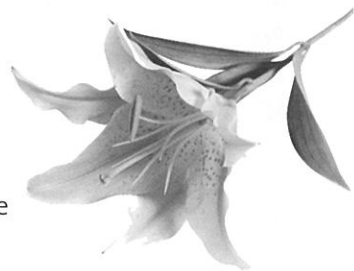
Tolerance - exposure to allergy triggers in the right dose and at the right time changes the way the immune system responds

So should allergy suffering non-cat owners buy cats? The answer is "no". If a child has already developed asthma or allergies then it's too late, and if your mother is asthmatic, the chances of you developing asthma at a later date are much higher. "The standard recommendation is still if you are allergic to cats, you shouldn't have cats in the home" warns Dr. Zeldin.

However the general rule of thumb seems to be that children raised with two or more pets, particularly cats, are less likely to develop asthma than kids raised without - unless or course you have a family history of the disease.

DEADLY DANGER

In a recent article in the Sydney Morning Herald (August 2002), Ruth Pollard reported that research shows that lilies can be lethal to cats.



According to Dr Braddock, lecturer at the University Veterinary Centre Sydney, swallowing any part of the flower, stem, leaf or stamen will result in symptoms such as vomiting, loss of appetite and lethargy. Without treatment the cat's kidneys will fail in 1-3 days and most undiagnosed cats will die from the poisoning. Those that survive often have permanent kidney damage.

So if your cat is like mine, and likes to "play" (read destroy) flowers, then think twice about buying the following lilies:

Easter lily	Tiger lily
Rubrum	Day lily
Glory lily	Stargazer lily
Asian lilies	Japanese show lily

As Dr Braddock says: "Keep them out of reach ... or if you want to be completely safe, avoid them all together".

Calendar Reminder



Don't Forget to Get Your Cats in Australia 2003 Calendar

We still have copies of the Cat Protection 2003 Calendar available.

This calendar features beautiful pictures of Cat Protection Society kittens taken by Frances Kaukerei. If you have not got yours send a cheque/money order or credit card details (and your daytime phone number) to 103 Enmore Rd Newtown 2042 and we will get one out to you ASAP. All profits go to the Society.

Calenders are only \$8.95 each and \$3.00 postage per item

STOP!

Don't throw this Journal away



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

Forget Me Not



Oscar

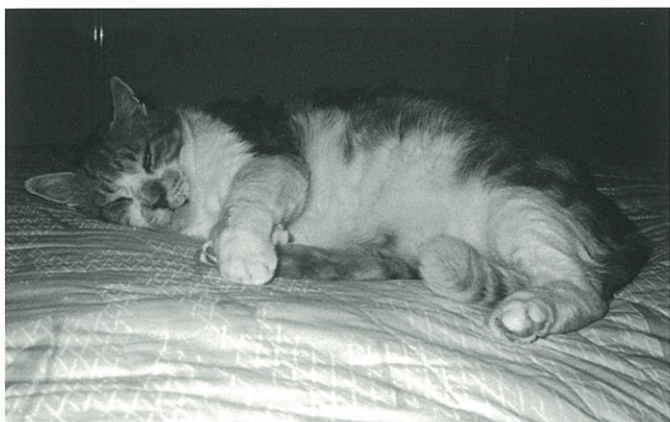
In Memory of Oscar – Singapore bin cat made good
Craig Lee

Gordon

? - 10.12.01

He came whilst we were in Greece - turned up in the backyard. A gift from the Greek gods! He quickly worked his charm on us and became the most beautiful cat - full of personality. He enjoyed a very happy, long life with us. The love of our lives. Always in our hearts. Until we meet again.

The Childs/Hutt family.

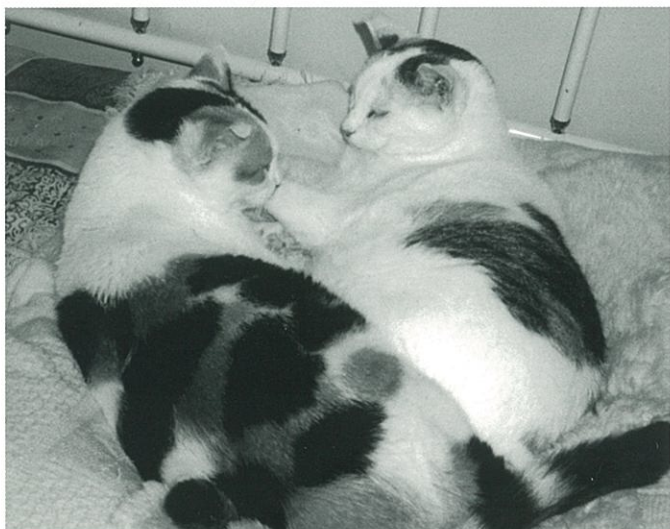


Pictured above: Gordon

Dinah

22/9/1985 – 03/06/2001

Dinah died suddenly in hospital of kidney failure a few months away from her 16th Birthday. Much missed by Diane Elias, Phyllis Gaudron and her sister Rachael



Pictured above: Sylvester

Sylvester

24/09/1995 – 30/04/2002

This beautiful big boy was featured on the back cover of Cat Affairs Summer 2000.

Sadly Sylvester died of cancer at only 6 years old. A terrible loss.

He will be much missed by Diane Elias and Phyllis Gaudron.



Pictured above: Hana (left) and Kumquat (right)

Hana

August 1985 – 2002

Best friend and companion to Kumquat. A gentle and loving little girl.

Missed by Nita, Les, Kumquat, Dolly and Gus

Kumquat lost her very best friend, Hana, who died suddenly on August 15th 2002. They had been best mates since purchased at Parklands 17 years ago. Kumquat searched everywhere for her companion and made us realise it is not only humans who suffer loss. Kumquat, our other cat Dolly and dog Gus are receiving lots of special attention for we never know how long



cat protection society

