

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

Cat Affairs

SPRING 2002

BACK TO BASICS

PROVIDING THE BASICS FOR YOUR CAT

CENTREFOLD

SLEEPING BEAUTIES

HOW TO GIVE YOUR CAT A PILL

WHAT COLOUR IS MY CAT?

FELINE DIABETES

CATS IN THE NEWS

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THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

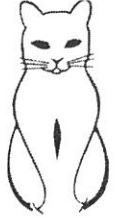
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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE . . .

The Cat Protection Society of New South Wales, sadly, wishes to advise that Keith Edwards, has recently resigned as our President. Keith has decided the time is right to concentrate on other interests and we wish him well in his future pursuits.

On behalf of all our members and staff, the Council wish to thank Keith for his tireless efforts over the years. We acknowledge and appreciate that during Keith's tenure, the Society has continued to evolve into a modern and professional charity organisation. Keith was instrumental in the Society finally acting on a long-term goal of up-dating the run-down premises at Enmore and rebuilding a facility that is more cat and people friendly.

For many years Keith has donated much of his own time to work on boards and ethics committees, advocating the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves. On behalf of the CPS he served on many Committees including the Companion Animals Advisory Board advising the Minister for Local Government on issues involving the welfare of cats.

Keith possesses a compassionate, thoughtful and realistic approach to animal welfare that shines through in all aspects of his voluntary work. His intelligence and commitment have been a guiding force of our society and he has worked with the other members of the CPS Council to provide a steady path for the Society to follow.

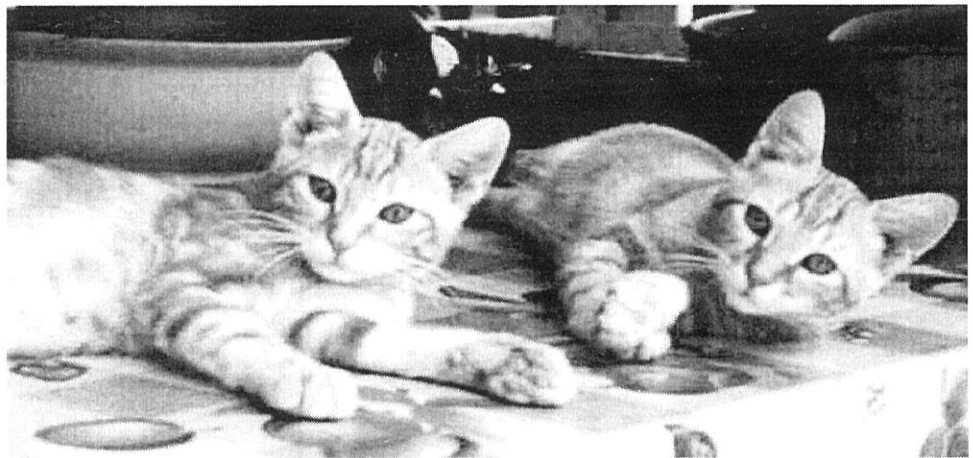
Keith will remain a member of the CPS Council, however, his experience, animal welfare knowledge, compassion and vision in the role of President will be greatly missed.

We wish Keith and his wife, Heather, and their animals all the very best for the future.

Council

Cat Protection Society of New South Wales

P.S. We hope to announce the name of our new President shortly.



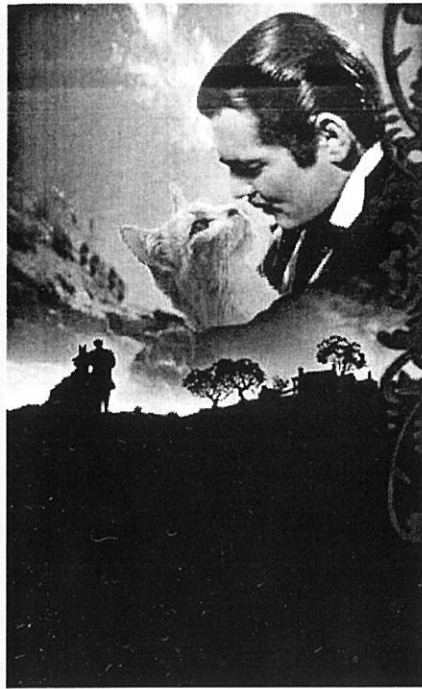
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FRONT COVER: Tara (Photo: Suzanne Jenkins)

CENTREFOLD: Collage - Sleeping Beauties

BACK COVER: Phoebe (Photo: Joe De Battista)



"Frankly, My Dear ... "

Dear Members,

After taking over the editorship of the Journal nearly three years ago I have decided the time has now come for me to step aside and let someone else take over.

I have enjoyed my involvement with the Journal and would like to thank all those who have given me their support and also those who have contributed the wonderful stories and beautiful pictures of their cats.

I would ask that anyone who might be interested in being involved in future journals see the note on page 7.

My best wishes to all of you and your cats.

Suzanne Jenkins (Ed)



In Heaven, There Are Cats ...



A man and his cat were walking along a road.

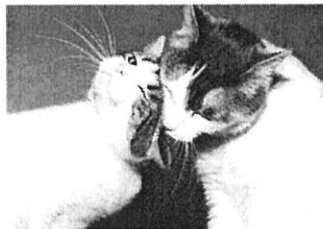
The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that his cat had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them. After a while they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother of pearl, and the street that led to the gate was pure gold. He and his cat walked toward the gate, and as he got closer he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough to call out, "Excuse me, where are we?" "This is heaven, Sir," the man answered. "Wow!! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked.

"Of course, Sir. Come right in and I will have some ice water brought up." The man gestured, and the gate began to open. "Can my cat come too?" the traveller asked. "I'm sorry, Sir, but we don't accept pets." The man thought a moment and turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going. After a long walk, at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road that led through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence.

As he approached the gate he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book. "Excuse me" he called to the reader, "do you have any water?". "Yeah, sure, there is a pump over there." The man pointed to a place that couldn't been seen from outside the gate. "Come on in." "How about my friend here?" the traveller gestured to his cat. "There should be a bowl by the pump." They went through the gate and, sure enough, there was an old fashioned pump with a bowl beside it.

The traveller filled the bowl and took a long drink himself. Then he gave the bowl to his cat. When they were full, he and his cat walked back toward the man, who was standing by then, waiting for them. "What do you call this place?" the traveller asked. "This is HEAVEN," was the answer. "Well, that's confusing," the traveller said. "The man down the road said that was heaven too." "Oh, you mean that place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's Hell." "Doesn't it make you mad that they use your name like that?" "No. I can see how you can think so, but we're just happy that they screen out the folks who will leave their pets behind."

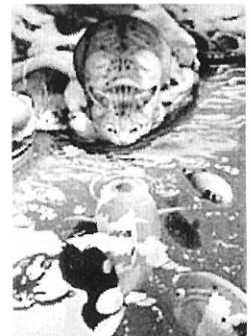


The cat is one of nature's cleanest animals. Cats spend around 30% of their time grooming themselves (or sometimes have a friend help out).

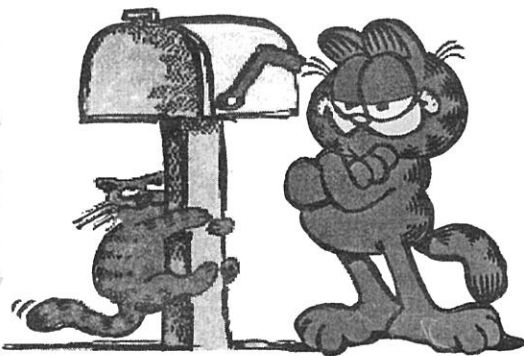
Fish isn't a "natural" food for cats. Cat origins are in the desert where rodents, birds, and insects are found, not fish. One theory that explains why cats today eat fish is that during World War II, meat was scarce, expensive, and rationed. Cat food manufacturers had to find a cheap source of protein, so they started to use fish and fish by-products. Except for one cat breed in India, cats in the wild, won't hunt for fish.



Scientific studies have compared and examined both a cat's brain and a dog's brain. The results established that the cat's brain is more similar to a humans than that of a dog.

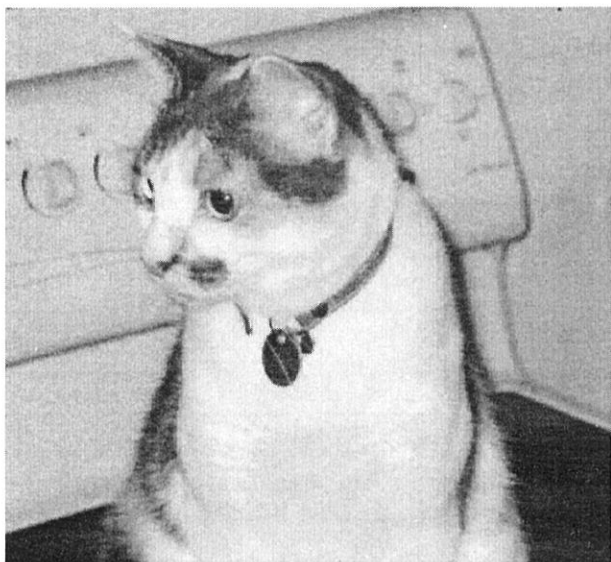


The **SCRATCHING** Post



Dear readers and cat lovers,

In the Autumn journal there was an article in Cat Tails about Mandy who needed a home. Well, there's a happy ending and a new beginning ... she's living at my place!



Mandy's history is chequered. She's been a Mum and she's only so young but in all this she has wisdom beyond her years!!

When I took her home, she certainly knew she had a ready-made family, a poodle and two other cats for companions. It was going to be interesting if nothing else!

This little girl just took it all in her stride. There was a bit of hissing between the rest of the family and Molly the poodle couldn't figure out why Mandy just stood her ground – new cats were for chasing!!

I renamed her Tootsie after all this cheek and bravery and she is such a responsive little talker. The rest of my furry family has totally accepted her now after a couple of months.

I have a Catnip Cat Park for them all and Tootsie heads the push out to the climbing cage to sit under the ferns and palms.

I think she has "come home" at last.

**Louise Robinson
Annandale**

It is wonderful to see so many of you writing in with details of your pet parks or outdoor cat areas. I too now have an outside area for our precious cats and mine is a custom-made aviary that sits against our house. It has a proper aluminium roof (so its good in all weather). Our cats spend hours out there looking intently at things we can't see and enjoying the fresh air high up on their cat tree or lounging on one of their seats. I go out there with them sometimes and read the paper. It's so relaxing for all of us. I'd never be without an outside area now and nor would our cats, I'm sure. Ed.

Pamela Reeves of Lawson wrote to us enclosing pictures of her little tribe. There is Enrico Caruso, pictured below, (sabre-tooth Siamese?), Aloysia and Zelosi (Siamese sisters) and Likling (meaning little monkey) who is a Siamese-Abby cross. Pamela writes of the cat run she has had made for these spoilt cats. It is 13m x 9m x 2m high and includes fruit trees, grass and garden. It is made from star posts hammered into the ground and has wire netting around the outside and over the top. The birds can't get to the fruit and the cats can't get to the birds. Pamela says "it breaks my heart when I hear of cats killed on the road and there is no way I would run this risk. The other advantage is that the cats don't come into contact with other animals and therefore I have no problem with fleas or infections. A run is well worth the effort for many reasons".



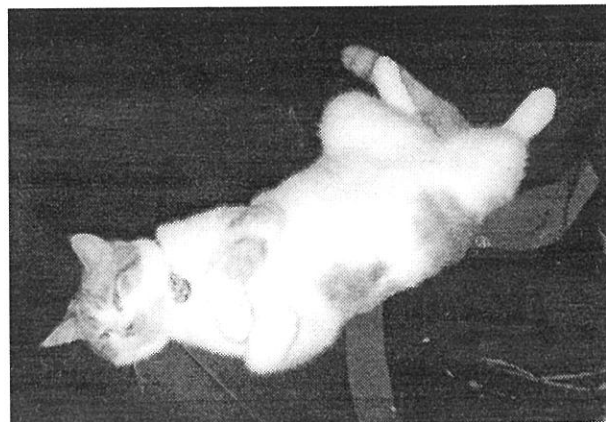
Alexander Ommanney wrote to us to let us know that Winston (formerly 'Ziggy') whom he got from CPS over a year ago, is doing very well.

Alexander says that Winston is "a wonderful, trusting and affectionate cat and he is adored by all who know him. He has become a beloved member of the family and is an absolute joy to come home to. The house would be empty without him".

Winston is primarily a house cat and loves to play. In particular, he likes to play fetch, climb into shopping bags and chase scrunched up paper-bags around the room.

Alexander says Winston is a very happy and healthy cat!

Sounds like a great match to me – Ed!



CATTERY SPONSORSHIP

Be Part of Cat Protection History and Become a Sponsor of Our New Cattery!

As you probably know construction of our new cattery is now underway. This is an incredibly exciting project that will allow all of our cats to live comfortably while waiting to go to their new homes.

We are also making sure that the new cattery will be a great environment for those looking for a feline companion. Families will be able to come and spend quality time with the cats in our comfortable "Interaction Room" while our staff explain the responsibilities that go along with having a new cat in their life and give information about looking after their new companion. Our "Kitty Courtyard" will not only provide a place for our cats to exercise, play and relax in the sun, but will also be a shining example of the "Envirocat" principle, showing people that cats can live happily in an indoor or enclosed environment so long as it is well thought-out.

We believe that the new cattery will be the best of its kind in NSW. If you would like to contribute to this wonderful new cattery we are now offering items for sponsorship. This offer is open to Cat Protection Society Members only.

All CPS Sponsors will receive a special certificate showing the item sponsored, and fixed items will be permanently labelled with the benefactor's name. If you prefer you can make a donation in the name of a special family pet whom you would like to be remembered.



CAN YOU GIVE US A HELPING HAND?

Help us help cats in need and sponsor a cattery item.

If you would like to be part of this exciting project, please see the flyer in this Journal and return the form to our office at 103 Enmore Road, Newtown 2042. There are many items needing sponsorship from play equipment (\$1,000), rearing cages for mothers and kittens (\$400), to play structures (\$100) and toy selections (\$10 - \$50). Credit cards, cheques or money orders are accepted and if you would like further information please contact Lynda O'Grady on 9557 4818.



Cats are Purrrrrfect!!!

Mrs Hilary Dockrill

- Appointed Honorary Life Member of CPS

In recognition and appreciation of Hilary Dockrill's life-long service to animals, and in particular, cats, the Council of the Cat Protection Society has appointed Hilary as an Honorary Life Member of CPS. Hilary has saved countless little lives over the years and has always had room for "one more". We thank Hilary for her kind heart and hard work.

Hilary has had a most interesting life thus far. She was born in Eastbourne, Sussex England in March 1936, the youngest of three girls. Some of her earliest memories are of hearing the word "war", of tape on the windows, gas marks and her family and the whole town being evacuated from Eastbourne for fear of invasion.

Hilary started piano lessons when she was 7, and gradually the piano became a major part of her life. There were daily practices, eisteddfods, exams and she later joined a children's concert party. The latter involved solo work, accompanying as well as dancing and singing with the rest of the troop. Hilary left school at 16 to study to become a piano teacher. She played for a church, accompanying choirs and was a soloist for auditions in London as well as teaching her own pupils. After a couple of teaching positions in the UK, Hilary eventually left for Australia in January 1959.



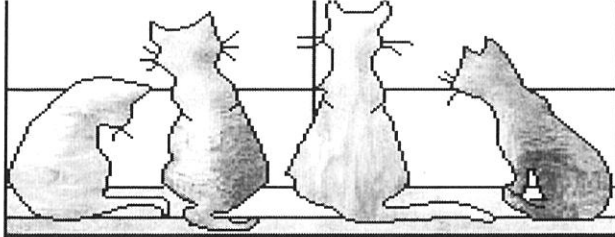
Hilary with Jessie (her dog) and Hamlet (her cat)

Hilary flew to Australia on a "super constellation" which took three days! She was one of a group of five who made the first official flight for migrants and as such the group were treated to an official send-off and a reception upon arrival in Sydney.

Hilary took a teaching position at the Church of England Girls' School in Tamworth, travelled to Cairns to work then eventually returned to Sydney where she again taught at a couple of schools and playing for ballet. It was during this period that she met her husband, Peter at the Opera Club. He was English, loved music and animals - they were so totally compatible. They were married six months later at the beginning of 1964 and their daughter, Jacqui was born in the December.



Continued, Page 7



OFFICE TAILS



The last few months have been extremely busy for the staff and cats at The Cat Protection Society. With our renovations looming, we had to make a decision about exactly where we would go while the work was being done. We wanted to keep re-homing cats over the Winter months, as this is the best time of year for finding the adult cats homes, so we had to find somewhere to accommodate up to 20 cats and our staff.

This did not prove an easy task. If you have ever tried to rent a house with your moggies in tow, you will know that landlords often have an unnatural aversion to cats on their premises, so you can imagine trying to find a house with a cattery full!

We were very lucky in that Paul Waters, at Concord Animal Hospital, came to the rescue. There is an unused house next door to the clinic and Paul was willing to let the CPS menagerie move in for 6 months. This was a great solution, as with the clinic nearby we could make use of their services and facilities without duplication.

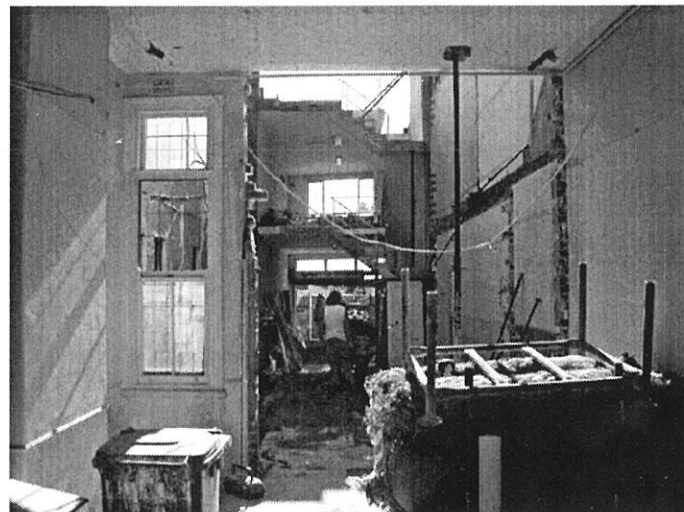
We did want to keep a presence in the Newtown area, so we rented a small flat above a shop on Enmore Road for our administration staff to work from.

Once all of this was decided it came time to move out. CPS has been at 103 Enmore Road since 1978, so you can imagine that we had accumulated a lot of stuff. The staff and volunteers all pitched in to help with the work. After a week of sorting and packing it finally came time to leave. With military-style precision our belongings were moved to the two locations over the space of a day. We only had one hitch when our expensive, front office cages would not fit through the door. Everyone stood around trying to decide what to do. First the front door came off, but the space was still too small. Finally we realised that the cages would have to be taken apart screw by screw!!

While the team of removalists were going about their work many people stopped to look in and see what was happening. Most were worried that we were closing for good, but were relieved to hear that the move was only temporary. It was great to see the support that we have from the local community.

If you have ever relocated with your cats you will know that moving is not only a very stressful time in your life, but also in your cat's. Cats are creatures of habit and routine and they don't like this being interrupted. Most of the cats in our care have already been traumatised by being taken from their homes, and so we were worried about the effects that a second move would have on them. For this reason we tried to keep the numbers to a minimum before the move. We were actually very successful and re-homed almost all of the cats and kittens before the move. Those that remained went to Concord the day before so they would not be terrified by the work. By 5 pm the next day they were safe and sound in their new home.

The renovations started a few days after we vacated the premises and within a week or so a huge hole had developed inside. To let light and air into the cattery and to allow a place for the cats to play outdoors, the architect has designed a courtyard for the centre of the building. This meant that the middle of the building (around the old staircase) has had to be removed. We were all surprised how quickly this happened.



At the time of writing the work is well underway. The foundations and the pipes have all been laid and the floor and dividing wall of the courtyard are in place. As this is a heritage building the architect has tried to keep many of the original features while still making it a modern and functional environment. The front of the building is being restored to its previous glory with special glass panels at the top and beautiful old tiles at the base. The front window is held in place by brass fittings and these are being cleaned to take off the years of grime from traffic. If you are visiting the new building, take a look at the ceiling when you walk in the front door. Our pressed metal roof had been hidden under a false ceiling. This was unfortunately in very bad condition, but has now been replaced with a replica that looks wonderful. There will be many special features to make our cattery not only functional, but also quite unique. Much of this work had to be done to comply with Council and heritage regulations, but it is wonderful to see a lovely old building being restored to its former glory.

We are now working towards the day when the building will re-open to our clients. The renovations are on schedule to be completed in late October. Once we are settled back in we will have an Open Day. All of our members will receive a special invitation to come and visit the cattery and see up close the work that we do. We look forward to meeting as many of our members as possible and having a chance to show you around.

Lynda O'Grady

OP SHOP UP-DATE

Our financial year ended on 31 May and its great to report our takings were \$78,090. We had hoped to reach \$80,000 but that target is now on the agenda for next year – of course **\$80,000 plus!**

We are a team of 25 in the Op Shop – all of us work hard sorting and serving at the counter but some of us take on extra jobs. For instance, Angelika brings in treasures from her antique business, she frames lovely pictures and she is also one of our pick-up people. We call Veronica our Technical Director because she can nearly always tell us what it is and how it works when we present her with some odd looking object. Robin is our cleaner – very thwarted, as she can never get enough time to do the job to her satisfaction (Robin is responsible for our shop looking so good). Barbara was once our “bag lady” because she makes the bags look so much better and gets good prices – recently she has turned her hand to clothes and shoes (she knows all the good brands for which we get special prices). Edith knits beanies by the dozen. Jon mends things (he used to look after electrical goods). Bruce struggles with the books trying to keep them tidy. Nita continually brings in good stuff from her home. I’m the garbage person working frantically to keep the sorting room free of rubbish.

We have at least two people each day on duty but try for three and even four.

We have three mini bins which we could fill every week if those who drive didn’t take bags and bags of rubbish home to their own bins. We get a lot of awful stuff though – torn, dirty and smelly clothes most of all but also broken toys etc. We also have a Smith Family bin – the large size you’ve seen in shopping centres and that is constantly being filled.

As you know, we no longer take electrical goods. Books and clothing are our best sellers but bric-a-brac brings people into the shop and makes it interesting for us. Only very small items of furniture can be accepted – our shop is too small to accommodate large items.

We have several generous people doing pick-ups apart from Angelika but one stands out, mainly because he is SO NOISY and has been with us so long. This is Bill Holloway and we have to announce to everyone “he’s a friend” otherwise they could think we’d been set upon by a Martian.

We have lots of customers/friends who come in frequently, sometimes just to chat.

The shop is also dog and baby friendly. We have two special dogs. Dino who runs confidently to the toy basket – pulls out a few toys and drops them around the place before he makes his final selection which, of course, he carries home himself. Our other special dog is a sheepdog cross who sits in the doorway as he is told but inches his way further in. One sunny day there were sunbeams playing around the walls and he took off after them – jumping up to catch them. The first time this happened there was consternation – we thought we had a rabid dog loose in the shop. Now he’s only allowed in on dull days.

Another favourite is Timothy, the gorgeous nine-month-old Thai baby who lives a few doors away. He’s been coming in almost every day of his life. We used to have nurses of him but he is now too heavy. We do get lovely smiles from him and it’s great to watch him developing. His mum and friends are some of our best customers.



Timothy – a regular at the Op Shop

have some time, particularly Saturdays after 12 noon.

For friends who can’t bring in their own contributions (which is the most helpful for us), perhaps you can help in the shop. Please ring the Op Shop on 9516-2072 and ask for Nance or Robin or at night phone me on 9874-6931.

So help us make this financial year the best ever and join us if you

Nance Iredale

Mrs Hilary Dockrill - *Continued from page 5.*

Hilary started taking pupils privately and continued playing for ballet. In 1972 Peter was transferred to Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory. At the time there was only one shop, no TV and the major excitement as a movie each Friday night. Hilary took her piano and of course her cats with her and again she taught a few pupils and played for ballet. Their second daughter, Alex was born whilst they were in the NT in 1973.

When they returned to Sydney Hilary and Peter settled in Lidcombe and it was then that they began to build their “menagerie”. At their peak they had 6 dogs, 13 cats, a rabbit, a chicken, guinea pigs, fish, budgies and mice! Hilary’s private teaching practice grew and in addition she played for the Royal Academy of Dancing and the Bankstown Town Choir, in which her husband sang as a bass.

The highlights of Hilary’s musical career include, playing for the choir at the Opera House and Sydney Town Hall and being selected as accompanist for a soprano on a cultural exchange to San Francisco.

Unfortunately, after many years of heart trouble, Peter passed away seven years ago. He saw the first two grandchildren arrive and now there are six. Hilary still lives in the same house, teaching a few pupils but now has only three cats and three dogs for company. Of course Hilary now donates a lot of her time to the Cat Protection Society and in addition to serving on the Council she works in the Op Shop on a regular basis.

Thank you again, Hilary, for all your devoted work.

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Dr Robert Kibble of Fox Valley Animal Hospital on 3 May 2002. When we started the welfare division of CPS and struggled to cope with the cat problem, Dr Kibble was the second vet to open his hospital to CPS allowing our welfare officers to bring to him all the waifs from the northern suburbs for desexing (and euthanasia of the wild and sick). It was as a volunteer at Animal Welfare League that I really got to know Bob as a good administrator and a gentle, caring animal person. Under his presidency the Animal Welfare League flourished to become the great organisation it is today. Bob was granted an OAM in this year’s honours which he richly deserved. In the animal welfare world he will long be remembered and sadly missed.

Nance Iredale

CAT SUPERSTITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



- ▶ A strange black cat on your porch brings prosperity. - Scottish superstition
- ▶ A cat sneezing is a good omen for everyone who hears it. - Italian superstition
- ▶ It is bad luck to see a white cat at night. - American superstition
- ▶ Dreaming of white cat means good luck. - American superstition
- ▶ When you see a one-eyed cat, spit on your thumb, stamp it in the palm of your hand, and make a wish. The wish will come true. - American superstition
- ▶ If a cat washes behind his ears, it will rain. - English superstition
- ▶ A cat sleeping with all four paws tucked under means cold weather ahead. - English superstition
- ▶ English schoolchildren believe seeing a white cat on the way to school is sure to bring trouble. To avert bad luck, they must either spit, or turn around completely and make the sign of the cross.
- ▶ A black cat crossing one's path by moonlight means death in an epidemic. - Irish superstition
- ▶ It is bad luck to cross a stream carrying a cat. - French superstition
- ▶ To see a white cat on the road is lucky. - American superstition
- ▶ If cats desert a house, illness will always reign there. - English superstition
- ▶ In Normandy, seeing a tortoiseshell cat foretells death by accident.
- ▶ In the Netherlands, cats were not allowed in rooms where private family discussions were going on. The Dutch believed that cats would definitely spread gossip around the town.
- ▶ When moving to a new home, always put the cat through the window instead of the door, so that he will not leave. - American superstition
- ▶ In the early 16th century, a visitor to an English home would always kiss the family cat.
- ▶ When the pupil of a cat's eye broadens, there will be rain. - Welsh superstition
- ▶ In 16th century Italy, it was believed that if a black cat lay on the bed of a sick man, he would die. But there's also a belief that a cat will not remain in the house where someone is about to die. Therefore, if the family cat refuses to stay indoors, this is regarded as a very bad sign.
- ▶ To kill a cat brings seventeen years of bad luck. - Irish superstition



Where's Barney?

If you have read our journal, seen our internet site or walked down Enmore Road, you will know about our office cat, Barney. Barney has become a bit of a celebrity in the local area and so when we moved everyone was asking about him.

I can report that Barney is safe and well and living at our Concord Cattery. As he is white, and also deaf, he needs to be kept indoors (cats with a white nose or ears are at a very high risk of skin cancer and deaf cats are at a major disadvantage on roads). He is very used to being an indoor cat, but we have recently discovered that Barney has a special "outdoor" skill. Walking on a harness! For those of you who think that your cats would never lower themselves to this "dog like" behaviour, think again! Barney loves walking in the front yard, and picked it up almost straight away.

The Concord Cattery is a nice environment for Barney and the other cats. There is a big frangipani tree out the front and the sun shines in through the cattery window. You will often find the cats sitting in a patch of dappled sunlight. Barney (who pretty much has the run of the place) loves to sit at the front door in the afternoon sun. We always try to make our cattery as stimulating as possible and have catmint and cat grass for them to chew on. In winter they have a nice big heater to warm up the room on chilly mornings and a TV for those important daytime shows like Oprah and Jerry! Importantly, they have a big window to look out. If you have an indoor cat, always make sure that they have a comfortable spot in front of a secure window.



A cattery can never hope to compete with a loving home for these cats, but we always try to make their stay with us as comfortable (and short) as possible. Our Cattery Assistants, Georgina and Narelle, work very hard to keep things clean and hygienic and spend any spare time playing with and grooming their charges. The cats are given lots of toys and cat cubbies to sleep in and have carpet covered posts to scratch on.

When we move back to our renovated cattery in November, Barney will of course be coming with us. Here he will have a courtyard where he can climb and play outside in a secure and fun environment as well as lots of windows to look out and secret places to go for a nap.

If you are thinking of having an indoor cat, like Barney, or already have an indoor cat, and would like some tips for keeping him/her happy and healthy indoors you can check our website at www.catprotection.org.au for further details. If you don't have access to the internet phone our office on 9557 1011 and we can send you a Factsheet.

Lynda O'Grady

BACK TO BASICS

... Providing the Basics for Your Cat

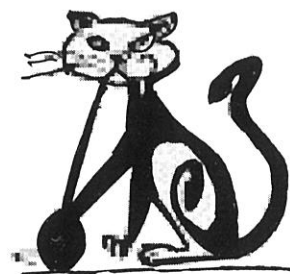
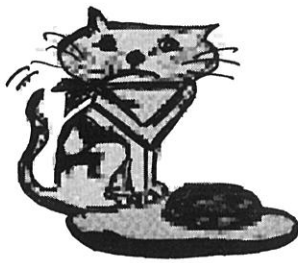
It's hard to believe that there can be so much to learn about caring for your cat - and even more difficult to believe that even something as simple as providing your cat with food and water can involve so much to consider! You may have heard that it is important **not** to put your cat's food and water dishes next to their litter box. This is because if you do put the food, particularly, and the water near the litter box, your cat may feel confused. Cats do not want soiled litter near (or in) their food and, in the wild, the natural instinct for cats is to eliminate far away from their nest, to keep predators away from their babies and from themselves. If your cat's eating area is too close to her litter box, she may decide not to use her litter box at all for one or both of these reasons - which is not going to work well for you or for her!!

You will also want to think about selecting a location in your home for her food and water that is going to allow her to enjoy her meals in a calm atmosphere, which will also encourage her to drink plenty of water. If you put her food and water in a busy area of your home (such as your kitchen) which usually has a lot of activity and traffic, she may not feel comfortable or safe, and therefore might not take in enough nutrition and fluids. Her mealtime should be a time of peace and quiet, so that she can enjoy eating. With a little creativity and thought, you'll be able to come up with an ideal feeding spot, and when you do, it is important not to switch locations. Cats are creatures of habit, and prefer their environment to be consistent. Remember too, that as your cat gets older, or if she becomes injured, you will need to be sure that her eating area is easily accessible and doesn't require special physical agility or going up stairs, etc.

If you have dogs and cats in the same house, or even have cats with separate dietary requirements, you will want to feed them separately, and take the time to be sure that each animal is eating and drinking. There are some dogs that actually find cat food appealing, and some cats that will eat dog food given the chance, and this is NOT healthy for your pets!! Dogs and cats have very different nutritional needs, and their food needs to be kept separate.

DRINKING WATER

It is recommending using filtered, bottled or boiled (cooled) water for drinking - for humans and for pets. Tap water can contain traces of parasites such as *Giardia*, which can make both people and animals quite sick. Using fresh filtered or bottled water will eliminate this possibility. Cats are usually very fussy about their water, and will drink much more if the water is fresh. Water that has been sitting out for several days begins to lose its freshness and actually loses oxygen, which gives it a stale flavour that cats do not like. It is also important to keep the water bowl very clean. You should put your cat's bowl through the dishwasher or use dish washing liquid and wash by hand to ensure her bowls are always clean. It is very important to be sure that all soap traces are completely rinsed off, as their residues can cause skin irritations inside your cat's mouth and on her tongue.



WHAT TYPE OF DISH IS BEST?

Stainless steel dishes or bowls for both food and water are ideal. While plastic dishes are less expensive, there are several problems with them. First of all, they are very lightweight, and often these dishes will end up getting moved around or sliding across the floor when your cat tries to eat or drink from them. This is not going to give your cat the feeling of peace and security she needs at mealtime, plus in some multi-cat households, this change in distance between food and water bowls can create some tension and hostility between cats. Secondly (and even more importantly), plastic is a material that some people and animals have allergic reactions to - reactions which can range from slight to serious, or even life-threatening. A common form of allergic reaction in cats to plastic food and water dishes is a condition called "feline chin acne". This is when the cat develops skin ulcers, or acne, on her chin, and sometimes this will also include hair loss around the lesions. While treatable, feline chin acne can become painful to the cat, and will recur continuously unless the owner switches to stainless steel dishes. Plastic dishes are also easily scratched, and the scratches can be very painful to the cat's sensitive tongue as well as harbour all kinds of unhealthy bacteria.

Ceramic dishes are not much better than plastic - they are heavier in weight, but they are also breakable. The nature of the ceramic finish is to have some roughness to the texture which again can be irritating to the cat's tongue and mouth. Ceramic dishes are also great collectors of bacteria, and some ceramic glazes still contain lead, which is a very dangerous material.

If you have a long-haired cat, you will want to choose a food bowl or dish that is not too deep, to avoid having the fur around her face becoming soiled. Likewise, if you have a young kitten, be sure to start her off with a small enough dish!! Otherwise, you may find her walking through her water and food bowls, which of course will also lead to bacteria and contamination.

For households with more than one cat, you may want to have separate food and water dishes for each cat, especially if you have one or more cats who is extremely dominant. You will need to pay attention to your cats and observe their behaviours carefully to ensure that you have provided enough space between the feeding stations to allow for their comfort. Usually, several feet is sufficient.



Double bowls (bowls that hold food on one side and water on the other) are more easily contaminated than separate dishes. Often, food will end up in the water; making it less fresh and appealing to a finicky cat. Plus, some cats simply prefer that there be some distance between their food and their water.

DIET

Remember, a varied diet for cats is best to ensure they get a balanced diet. A combination of commercial tin and dry food with fresh meat, chicken, liver or heart (now available in pet mince packs from the supermarket) is best. Also, don't forget the necessary chicken wings or **RAW** bones to help keep your cat's teeth and gums clean and healthy. Fresh food should be provided twice daily and water once a day. Finally, any food left out for free-feeding (usually dry food) should be changed every few days if it is not all consumed before topping up the bowl.





Compiled from various sources including:
<http://www.catnetwork.com>
<http://www.felinediabetes.com>
<http://www.netpets.com>

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes Mellitus or "sugar diabetes" is one of the human diseases which also affects cats. Diabetes is not as common in cats as in people, but it is not uncommon for veterinarians to diagnose and treat diabetes in middle-aged and older cats.

Diabetes is caused either by insufficient production of the hormone, insulin, by the pancreas (type 1 diabetes) or by inadequate response of the body's cells to insulin (type 2 diabetes). Because diabetic cats are not able to utilise glucose properly, they ultimately develop hyperglycemia (high blood sugar levels) and subsequent glucosuria (sugar in the urine). The glucosuria leads to polyuria (excessive urination) and polydipsia (excessive thirst). In spite of maintaining a good appetite, diabetic cats lose weight because the body's tissues are unable to utilise glucose properly. Progression of the disease ultimately leads to further metabolic disturbances and causes vomiting, loss of appetite, weakness, and dehydration.

Although affecting cats of any breed, sex, or age, diabetes mellitus most often occurs in older, obese individuals. Most of its victims are more than seven years old, and males are more commonly afflicted than females and it can affect one in 400 cats (one quarter of 1 percent). The exact cause of the disease in cats is not known, although genetic predisposition, obesity, pancreatic disease, hormonal imbalances, and certain medications have all been incriminated.

Whilst the likelihood of diabetes is higher in older cats and obese cats, any cat experiencing weight loss, increased thirst, increased urine output or an increased appetite should be checked. Your veterinarian can quickly determine if your cat is diabetic by checking blood and urine.

Treatment

Proper treatment of diabetes mellitus is based on the severity of the disorder. Cats with ketoacidosis require intensive care. Treatment includes fluid therapy to correct dehydration and electrolyte abnormalities, and short acting insulin. Diabetic cats that are not ill usually require insulin injections to be given once or twice daily under the skin, and a carefully controlled diet. As an alternative to insulin, treatment with an oral hypoglycemic drug may be attempted. Some diabetic

cats can be treated with oral medications instead of insulin injections. There are three general types of insulin used in dogs and cats:

- short-acting insulin (regular or crystalline) is used in sick diabetic animals until they are eating again
- NPH and Lente are intermediate acting insulins
- Ultralente and PZI are long acting insulins

When food is digested it is broken down into basics such as sugars and amino acids, which are then absorbed into the bloodstream. Insulin is needed for transporting basic food substances, particularly sugar or glucose, into body cells. The body uses sugar for energy, growth, and repair. What's more, sugar opens the cells' gates so that glucose can move from the bloodstream into tissue cells where it is needed - in muscles, for example.

Without enough insulin, glucose accumulates in the bloodstream. Because it cannot move into the tissues where its presence is required, it is lost in urine. Body water is lost in urine, too. Consequently diabetics produce a large volume of urine. This, in turn, causes changes in urinary habits. Cats urinate more frequently, or they urinate outside the litterbox. The high urine output also increases thirst.

The object of diabetes treatment is to control the blood glucose so it stays in (or near) the normal range, as it would be if the pancreas were still doing its job. When food is eaten, insulin has to be available for cellular uptake. Unfortunately, injected insulin doesn't act quite like natural insulin, and it isn't practical to just shoot a little in every time the cat is going to be eating soon.

Over the course of time, uncontrolled diabetes in cats will cause adverse effects to various organs of the body. The most serious consequence is that regardless of how much these cats eat they are, in effect, starving because they can't properly process nutrients. The additional signs of loss of appetite, weakness, vomiting, dehydration, and occasionally a strong odour of acetone on the breath that may indicate a dangerous state in a diabetic called ketoacidosis. Diagnosis of ketoacidosis is usually made upon measuring large amounts of ketones in the cats urine. This condition is fatal if not treated promptly.

If it is determined that your cat has diabetes this should not be regarded as a death sentence. Left untreated it will be fatal, but it is a treatable disorder. Many cat owners are able to control their cat's condition for years. The treatment usually entails giving insulin injections once or twice a day. There may be a small number of diabetic cats that can be controlled through diet and oral medication, but more often insulin injections are needed.

Insulin

Adequate control of most diabetic cats requires long-acting insulin injections to be given once or twice daily. Each cat responds differently to insulin, so the proper choice of insulin type, dose, and frequency of administration needs to be individually determined. Selection of the appropriate insulin type, dose, and frequency of administration for an individual diabetic cat is ideally based on 18 to 24 hour blood glucose profiles.

... Continued Page 21

In Memorium

*"...Grieve not, nor speak of me with tears, but laugh
and talk of me as if I were beside you
... I loved you so
- 'twas Heaven here with you."*

Kathleen Fernandes of Leichhardt sent us the following poem based on her cat Biddy who died in September 2001 at age twenty. Biddy is fondly remembered by Kathleen and her family and Biddy's former family Barbara & Vicky.

She has no need
For false teeth
glasses, a hearing aid
Or walking stick
Just a little unsteady on her feet.
She is faddy with grooming
Will give the odd grumble
Or look of distaste
If she is ignored
Or not made to feel very important.
She loathes interruptions
Has strong objections to noisy children and barking dogs.
Now she's retired
From breeding and hunting
With oodles of time
For her afternoon naps.
For tomorrow's her birthday
She will be twenty one.

Donation received in memory of
Patches Lang Evans
1984 - 2002
dearly loved and sadly missed.
Sleep softly in peace.



Diana Lang
Newtown

Donation in loving memory of our precious Sam
who died 26 September 1999.
We miss him still.

Barbara Young

Donation and poem received from Eileen Becker in memory
of Samantha who sadly passed away 26 November 2001 aged
19 years and 9 months.



Eyes like moons of golden light
Shining through a jet black night
Of fur, so soft and warming,
By my side until the morning,
When the daylight brings me stirring
To a sound of gentle purring.
- Oh Samantha, how I miss you,
How I long to stroke, caress you
One more time when day is done;
Still I know your race is run.
Sleep in peace my little one.

*Much loved and always in our thoughts
Eileen and Karl Becker, Dulwich Hill*

RAINBOW BRIDGE

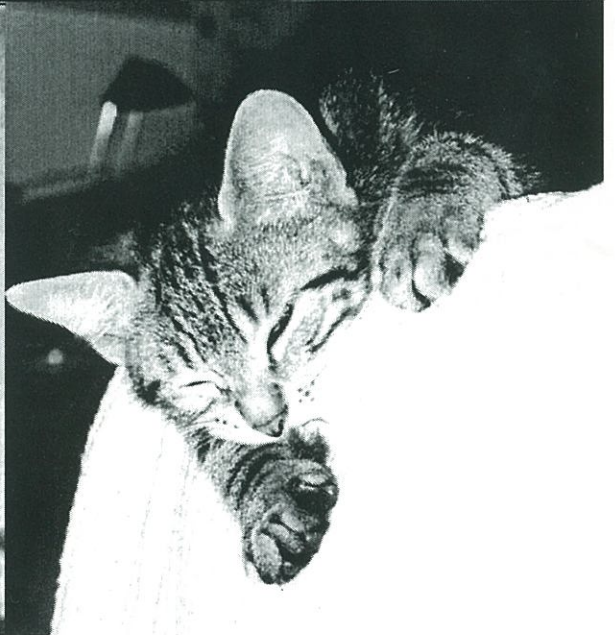


*Just this side of heaven is a
place called the Rainbow
Bridge. When an animal dies, one
who has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes
to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of
our special friends where they can run and play together.
There is plenty of food, water and sunshine and our friends
are warm and comfortable.*

*All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to
health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made
whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our
dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy
and content, except for one small thing: they each miss
someone who was very special to them, someone they had to
leave behind.*

*They all run and play together, but the day comes when one
suddenly stops and looks into the distance. The eyes are bright
and intent, the eager little body begins to quiver all over!
Suddenly that lucky one breaks away from the group, and flies
over the green grass, little legs carrying him faster and faster.
You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend
finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be
parted again. Happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands
once again caress that beloved head, and you look once more
into the trusting eyes of your beloved pet, so long gone from
your life but never absent from your heart.
Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together . . .*

Author Unknown





10 Commandments For Responsible Pet Ownership

1. I need fresh food and water every day, a safe, comfortable place to sleep, a clean litter box and annual checkups. In return, I will reduce the stress in your life, make you laugh, keep you warm, be a good companion and love you unconditionally.
2. My life is likely to last 15 to 20 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
3. Give me time to understand what you want from me.
4. Place your trust in me; it is crucial for my well-being.
5. Don't be angry with me or lock me up as punishment. I don't always know I've done something you don't like. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you!
6. Talk to me even if I don't understand your words. I understand your voice and when it's speaking.
7. Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget it.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I've been in the sun too long; or my heart may be getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You too will grow old.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch it" or, "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there. Remember I love you.



Daily Telegraph

Friday, 29 March 2002

Kind Words

Nathan Peterson's remarks about the wonderful work of the Animal Welfare League (Kind Words, March 27) inspired me to write praising the Cat Protection Society workers in Enmore.

The society accepts unwanted cats and finds new homes for them. Many of the society's "clients" have been mistreated or dumped by cruel and irresponsible owners. They often have injuries, untreated illnesses or are simply terrified of humans – the agents of their suffering.

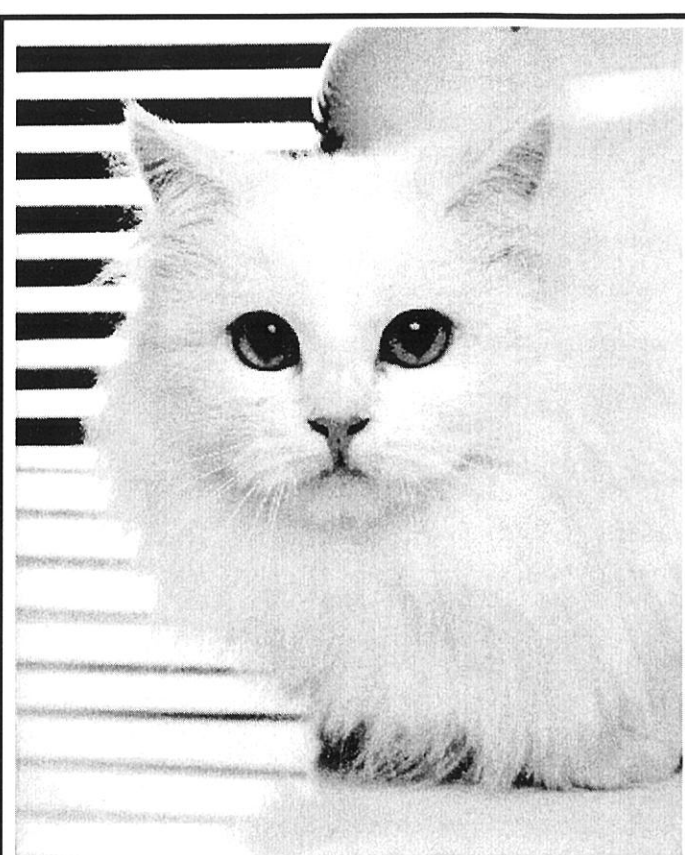
The staff nurse these animals back to physical health, but often they can't do anything about the psychological injuries. So when it comes time to find new homes for these cats, the staff are very careful about who they allow the cats to go to.

New owners must be prepared to offer the right kind of home for the particular cat they are interested in, and must be willing to take account of the cat's needs and adjust to his behaviour traits.

I'm rather proud that I was considered suitable to offer a home to Emily the silver tabby, and she has enriched by family's life immeasurably.

The society operates on a shoestring – but there is never any shortage of care and compassion for these most beautiful of God's creatures.

S. Thornton, Stanmore



Cats are bundles of love wrapped in fur.

WHAT CATS DO FOR US

- =^..^= Warm our laps
- =^..^= Help reduce high blood pressure
- =^..^= Give us someone to talk to
- =^..^= Remind us when mealtimes are
- =^..^= Give us something to hurry home to
- =^..^= Create a kindred feeling with other "cat people"
- =^..^= Turn common household objects like bottle caps into toys
- =^..^= Make us more aware of birds
- =^..^= Donate their services as alarm clocks
- =^..^= Display daring acrobatic feats right in front of our eyes
- =^..^= Contribute to us living a longer life
- =^..^= Make a window sill more beautiful
- =^..^= Keep mice on the run
- =^..^= Alert us to the fact that there is a horrible spider or cockroach around and save us from getting a nasty surprise and having a heart attack
- =^..^= Make us smile
- =^..^= Inspire poets and playwrights
- =^..^= Teach us how to land on our feet
- =^..^= Let us indulge our desires to really spoil someone
- =^..^= Make our homes warmer
- =^..^= Remind us that life is mysterious
- =^..^= Share with us the all-is-well experience of purring
- =^..^= Instruct us in the luxurious art of stretching
- =^..^= Show us how to lick our wounds and go on
- =^..^= Give us cool cartoon characters
- =^..^= Make even an old worn couch look beautiful
- =^..^= Open our hearts



Vinnie

This little cutie was found hiding and scared in a backyard in the Rooty Hill area. The Cat Protection Society was called in to help.

He looked a bit unusual but it was only on closer inspection that we realised what had happened to this little boy. To our horror we found that the tops of his ears had been chopped off!

We can only speculate as to what terrible things this 6 week old had been subjected, or how he came to be wandering the streets, but we can report that against the odds he is now safe and sound.



After being taken to Concord Animal Hospital by our Welfare Officer, Sandy Moss, this little boy won over the staff with his special personality and has remained surprisingly untouched by his experiences.

We didn't need to look further than the Concord staff to find someone to adopt him. One of the vet nurses took him home and looked after him while he recovered from ring-worm and adjusted to his new life in a loving environment. He was named Vinnie, after the famous artist Vincent Van Gough.

We can only hope that Vinnie has forgotten the terrible events at the start of his short life. He is now healthy and happy and ensconced in a new home with his new brothers and sisters.



Would you Like to Help Produce This Journal??

There are lots of different ways that you can help the Cat Protection Society. At the moment we are looking for volunteers to help produce and edit our journal **Cat Affairs**.

If you think that you have editorial skills, could write some articles, or have lots of good ideas, then give us a call at our Enmore office on 9557 4818.



You might be a cat-co-dependent if ...



...Your desire to acquire another cat intensifies during times of stress.
...You hesitate to admit to non-cat owners how many cats you really have.
...You sleep in the same position all night because you know it annoys kitty when you move.
...You kiss your cat on the lips.
...You feed your cats tid-bits

from your fork.

...Your cat sleeps on your head and you like it.

...You have bought or considered buying an entertainment video for your cats.

...You give your cats stockings or gifts at Christmas ... or worse ... birthdays.

...You include your cats "signatures" on Christmas cards.

...You put off making the bed until kitty wakes up.

...Your cat eats out of crystal stemware because you both saw the same commercial together.

...You climb out of bed extra slow so that you don't disturb the sleeping cats.

...You find yourself performing life threatening acrobatics because kitty is in a tree.

...Let dinner burn because kitty is on your lap and he needs love more than your family needs dinner.

...You carry pictures of your cats in your wallet. (40% do)

...You buy more than 5 kilos of litter each month.

...When someone new comes to the house, you introduce the cats, by name, to them.

...You have full conversations with kitty and think it's normal.

...Each of your cats gets spoken to in their own individual "special" voice.

...You have called your answering machine and left a message for your cat.

...You would rather spend an evening with kitty than go on a date.

...You secretly believe your cat understands you.

...You have taken your cat to a pet therapist.

...You have more photos of your cat displayed in your home than humans.

...You think it's cute when your cat swings on the drapes or licks the butter.

...You watch bad TV because the cat is sleeping on the remote.

...You sleep with no pillow under your head, because the cat wants to sleep on it.

...The supermarket check-out person asks you "How many cats do you have, anyway?"

...Your neighbours refer to you as "the crazy one with all the cats."

...You have a web page dedicated to your cats.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR CAT A PILL

By popular demand, here is the humorous version of how to give your cat a pill.

1. Grasp cat firmly in your arms. Cradle his head on your elbow, just as if you were giving baby a bottle. Coo confidently, "That's a nice kitty." Drop pill into his mouth.
2. Retrieve cat from top of lamp and pill from under sofa.
3. Follow same procedure as in 1, but hold cat's front paws down with left hand and back paws down with elbow of right arm. Poke pill into his mouth with right forefinger.
4. Retrieve cat from under bed. Get new pill from bottle. (Resist impulse to get new cat.)
5. Again proceed as in 1, except when you have cat firmly cradled in bottle-feeding position, sit down on edge of chair, fold your torso over cat, bring your right hand over your left elbow, open cat's mouth by lifting the upper jaw and pop the pill in - quickly. Since your head is down by your knees, you won't be able to see what you're doing. That's just as well.
6. Leave cat hanging on drapes. Leave pill in your hair.
7. If you're a woman, have a good cry. If you're a man, have a good cry.
8. Now pull yourself together. Who's the boss here anyway? Retrieve cat and pill. Assuming position 1, say sternly, "Who's the boss here, anyway?" Open cat's mouth, take pill and ...Oooops!
9. This isn't working, is it? Collapse and think. Aha! Those flashing claws are causing the chaos.
10. Crawl to linen closet. Drag back large beach towel. Spread towel on floor.
11. Retrieve cat from kitchen counter and pill from potted plant.
12. Spread cat on towel near one end with his head over long edge.
13. Flatten cat's front and back legs over his stomach. (Resist impulse to flatten the whole cat.)
14. Roll cat in towel. Work fast; time and tabbies wait for no man - or woman.
15. Resume position 1. Rotate your left hand to cat's head. Press his mouth at the jaw hinges like opening the petals of a snapdragon.
16. Drop pill into cat's mouth and poke gently. Voila! It's done.
17. Vacuum up loose fur (cat's). Apply bandages to wounds (yours).
18. Take two aspirins and lie down.



Now that, we've had some fun, here are some real tips on giving your cat a pill. Administering pills to an ill cat can be a stressful time for both cat and pill-giver. Hopefully adopting one of the suggestions following will alleviate some of the stress for you and your cat.

PILLING A CAT



One method which people may find to be an easier way to give pills to cats is with a "Pet Piller". This is



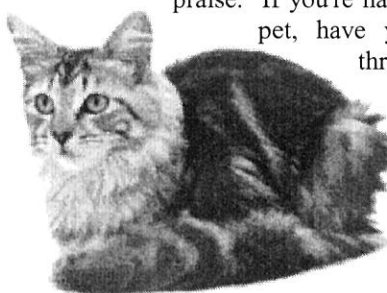
a plastic rod with a little rubber cup on the end that holds the pill until a plunger is pressed. It doesn't seem to upset the cat too much. Not as much as putting fingers in their mouth, anyway.

Alternatives are to extend your cat's head backwards just enough that her nose is pointing straight towards the ceiling. Most cats will open their mouth slightly at this point. Open the bottom jaw a little more with the little finger or ring finger of the hand holding the pill. It may be necessary to hold her top jaw with the other hand while doing this. Then drop the pill or lightly throw it so that it hits beyond the slight hump in the tongue. Most cats will then swallow instinctively. Some pills are small enough to hide them in food but remember this is only an option if you have a single cat or are able to isolate the cat in need of medication for meals. (Note: even if you can isolate the mediated cat, some cats can smell a pill in food at 500 paces and will eat around the pill and you may well be left with just a soggy pill in the bottom of a bowl!).

Finally, one other option is making a 'paste' of cat food with the pill. Crush the pill and put it with a bit of cat food (not a lot) and liquid (warm water) in a blender and pulse the blender until a smooth paste forms. Before you choose this option though, please check with your vet that crushing the pill will not compromise the effectiveness of the medication. Once again, of course you need to ensure only the cat on medication is the recipient of this concoction and not other cats if you have a multi-cat household. Whilst medication may not cause harm to other cats not requiring it if ingested, the obvious downside of this is that if the medicated cat is not isolated the cat who needs the medication may miss out.

Finally, many people find it easier if one person holds the cat and another opens the mouth, tilts the head back and drops the pill into the cat's open mouth. If you first fail, do not panic and become stressed, this will only stress your cat and make the whole experience even worse for all concerned. Just try again until successful. If things get too out of hand, ie. your cat begins to become very stressed, it may be best to leave him for a while until he calms down and then try again later.

As with anything your pet would rather avoid, be patient, gentle and firm when giving medication, and follow with praise. If you're having trouble medicating your pet, have your veterinarian walk you through it, or discuss the best options for you/your cat.



CATS IN THE NEWS



MANCHESTER (UK) — Folks at the small but busy airport of Manchester, named a frightened black and white kitty "Runway" after she almost got herself into a heap of trouble with a landing jet.

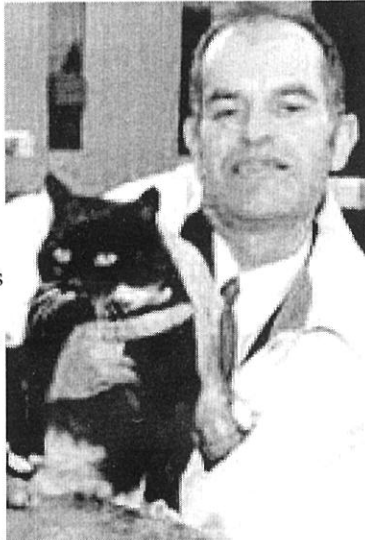
From his cockpit, the captain of the *Ryanair Boeing 737*, arriving from Dublin, Ireland, spotted the petrified puss sitting in the middle of the runway. Even though little Runway did not pose any threat to the airplane or passengers, he promptly radioed the control tower for help.

Operations duty manager Rory McLoughlan received the call and rushed to the scene where he found the animal shaking and rooted to the spot with fear. Mr. McLoughlan coaxed her into his arms and took the furball back up to the operations tower. There, she was given a soothing bowl of milk and some food.

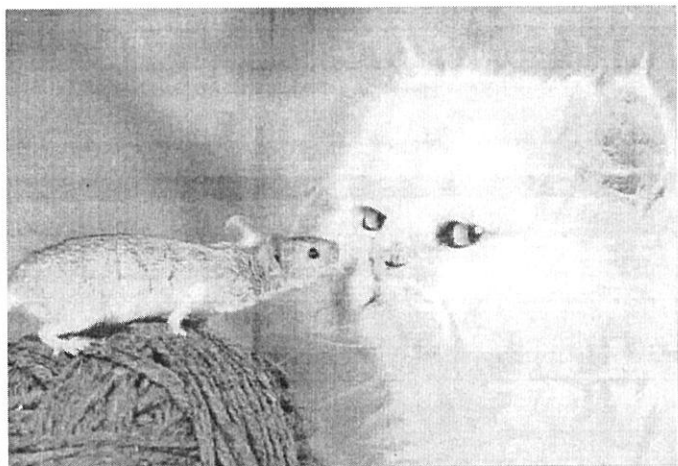
Oh yeah, and airplanes at the airport started landing and taking off again!

"It was certainly very unhealthy for Runway," Mr. McLoughlan remarked to the *Manchester Evening News*. "She could easily have been crushed by the plane's wheels."

But the rescue of Runway does not end here. Currently, the healthy (but collar-less) cat remains in the custody of the airport staff who saved her. According to the *Manchester Evening News*, they have so far been unable to identify her owners.



Best of Friends !!!



Here's looking at you. Tiny Bruno looks big Bertie straight in the eye.

LONDON: Normally, when a cat and a small rodent are close and personal, the moggie is intent only on lunch while the mouse tries to sniff out an escape route.

But in this case the eyeball is not the prelude to a short, one-sided bout of mortal combat. Big Bertie and tiny Bruno are nuzzling up as the best of friends.

Trainer Sue Wood, who prepares animals for film and media work, came up with a novel way of making traditional enemies enjoy each other's company. When filming rodents and cats, one-way glass is usually used so the mouse can not see the moggie. But that is no good for close-up work. So Mrs Wood, 45, hit on the idea of putting the two species together almost from birth at her farm in England.

Of all her cats and mice, Bertie, five, and six-month old Bruno seem to relate best. "On their first encounter Bruno sat on a ball of wool face to face with Bertie, and then reached forward and started nuzzling him", Mrs Wood said.

Bruno's genes may play a part in this. His father, also called Bruno, was a big hit with Bertie until he died several months ago. (See picture in opposite column).

Two Kitties with Toilet Flushing Fetishes

"A cat may look at a king,"

said Alice.

"I've read that in some book, but I don't remember where."

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

WHITEWATER, WI (USA) — *If a cat is permitted to look at a king,*

then there's no telling what a kitty will do to a throne!



Boots and Bandit, who are 1 1/2-years-old, have learned to flush the toilet and turn off the lights, said their owners Russ and Sandy Asbury.

"I've had cats all of my life," Russ Asbury said. "But these cats are different than any of the others."

The couple discovered the cats unusual talents last winter, unexpectedly.

* * *

What Colour is my Cat?

Given the many colours and patterns that our beloved felines come in we thought it would be interesting to describe some of the possibilities. Following are brief explanations of basic colour terminology and information about how the colours and patterns work together. There are many colours and patterns that are genetically possible in the cat, so only the most common colours are dealt with here.

Cat fanciers use the term "red" for the colour that is commonly called "orange," "marmalade," or "ginger". We also use the term "blue" for the colour that is commonly called "grey".



1. Tabbies

If your cat has stripes, it is a "tabby." (Some people call these "tiger cats."). All tabbies have thin pencil lines on the face, expressive markings around the eyes, and a tabby "M" on the forehead. If you look up close at the light parts of a tabby's coat, you will see that the individual hairs are striped with alternating light and dark bands, like the fur of a rabbit or a squirrel. This banding is called "agouti."

Tabby is thought to be the "wild type" (the original colour) of domesticated cats.

There are four different tabby patterns:

A "**mackerel tabby**" has narrow stripes that run in parallel down its sides. This is what some people refer to as a "tiger."

A "**classic tabby**" cat has bold, swirling patterns on its sides like marble cake.

A "**spotted tabby**" has spots all over its sides. Sometimes these are large spots, sometimes small spots, and sometimes they appear to be broken mackerel stripes.

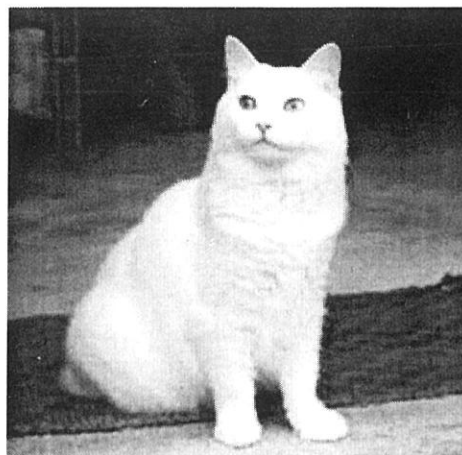
A "**ticked tabby**" (sometimes called "Abyssinian tabby" or "agouti tabby") does not have stripes or spots on its body. However, like all tabbies, it has tabby markings on the face and agouti hairs on the body. This is the colour of the Abyssinian cat, but it also appears in non-purebreds and does not mean the cat is Abyssinian.

2. Solids and Smokes

If your cat is pretty much the same colour all over, it is a "solid." Some people, especially in the UK, use the word "self" instead of "solid."

A "solid black" is just that: black all over. It may be coal black, greyish black, or brownish black. Black cats can "rust" in the sunlight, the coat turning a lighter brownish shade.

A "solid blue" is blue-grey all over. It may be a dark slate grey, a medium grey, or a pale ash grey. This is the



colour of the Russian Blue, Chartreux, and Korat, but it can appear in almost any other breed as well, and is also seen in non-purebreds. Solid blue does not indicate that a cat is related to any of these breeds.

A "solid white"

is white all over. Sometimes white cats have blue eyes, sometimes they have green or gold eyes, and sometimes one eye is blue and one eye is green or gold! This last colour is called "odd-eyed white."

Most solid coloured cats are the result of a recessive gene that suppresses the tabby pattern. Sometimes the tabby pattern is not totally suppressed, so you might see indistinct "shadow" tabby markings in certain lights even on a solid black cat. If you look at a black leopard in a zoo, you might also see these shadow markings, because the black leopard has a similar spot-suppressing gene!

The tabby-suppressing gene is not effective on red or cream cats, so you won't see red or cream cats without tabby markings.

Solid white cats are the result of a different gene that suppresses colour completely. Young white cats often have vague smudges of colour on the top of the head where the colour is not completely suppressed. Sometimes this persists even in an older white cat.

If your cat is pretty much solid black or grey, but the roots of the hairs are distinctly white, it is a "smoke." (It's normal for the roots on a solid cat to be greyish; true smokes, on the other hand, have definite white roots.) Smokes are the solid version of silver tabbies. These cats are very dramatic because when they move, the hair parts and the white undercoat can be seen. A "black smoke" is a solid black cat with white roots. A "blue smoke" is a solid blue (grey) cat with white roots.

3. Cats with white markings



Clearly delineated white markings (as opposed to shaded points, like the Siamese) can appear on any colour. Just add "and white" to the cat's basic colour to describe the cat. So for example your cat might be a "black and white" or a "cream tabby and white."

Cats with white markings might have larger or smaller areas of white. If you want to describe your cat's colour more precisely, there are different names for the different amounts of white:

A "mitted" cat just has white paws. A cat with a white spot on its chest has a "locket." A cat with one or more little white belly spots has "buttons." A "bi-colour" is about half white. A "harlequin" is mostly white with several large patches of colour. A "van" is almost all white with colour patches only on the head and tail. There are a couple of affectionate, informal terms used for black and white cats: A "tuxedo cat" is a black and white cat with white paws, chest, and belly. It might have some white on the face as well.

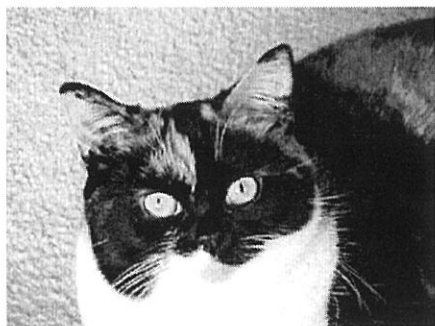
4. Torties, patched tabbies, and calicos



If your cat is randomly patched with different colours, you probably have a tortie, patched tabby, or calico.

For cats without white markings: A "tortoiseshell" or "tortie" is randomly patched all over with red, black, and cream. The patches may be very mingled, or they may be more distinct.

A "blue-cream" (also called "blue tortie" or "dilute tortie") is randomly patched all over with blue and cream. This is a soft, pastel colour. A "brown patched tabby" looks almost like autumn leaves, with patches of brown tabby and patches of red tabby. This colour is also known as "torbie" because it is a tabby tortie. A "blue patched tabby" is a soft colour with patches of blue tabby and patches of cream tabby. There is special terminology for tortoiseshells with white markings, depending on how much white they have: A



"tortoiseshell and white" or "blue-cream and white" has only small white areas. The body has mingled colours. A "calico" has more white. As a rule, the more white there is on the cat, the larger and more distinct the red and black patches will be. You'll notice that the large black patches are solid black, and the large red patches are actually red tabby.

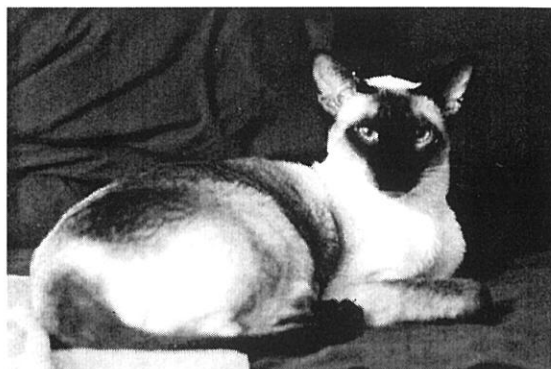
A "dilute calico" has the same amount of white as a calico, but instead of red and black patches, it has blue and cream patches. The blue patches are solid blue, and the cream patches are cream tabby.

A "patched tabby and white" or "torbie and white" may have any amount of white. A patched tabby with a lot of white, like a calico, has large distinct patches of colour,

and is sometimes called a "patterned calico," "calico tabby," or "caliby."

5. Pointed ("Siamese") pattern

If your cat has dark "points" (face, paws, and tail) shading to a much lighter colour on the body, it is a "pointed" cat. This is the pattern of the Siamese cat, but



many other breeds as well as non-purebreds also come in this pattern, so it does not mean that the

cat is a Siamese. This pattern is also sometimes called the "colourpoint" pattern (not to be confused with the Colourpoint Shorthair breed) or the "himalayan" pattern (not to be confused with the Himalayan breed). Pointed cats are born white and gradually darken with age. Pointed cats can come in many different colours: A "seal point" has dark brown points and a body colour anywhere between light brown and ivory. A "blue point" has grey points and a light grey or beige body. A "lynx point" has tabby points! The body colour may show some shadow tabby markings, especially as the cat gets older. A "tortie point" has tortoiseshell points, and a "blue-cream point" has blue-cream points. Patched tabby points are also possible.

You can even have a pointed cat with white markings! If the cat has a lot of white, however, it can be hard to see the pointed pattern (especially on the feet). White markings will cover up any other colour where they appear.

Are tortoiseshell cats always female?

Tortoiseshell and related colours (blue-cream, patched tabby, calico etc.) are the result of a sex-linked gene and require two X chromosomes to appear. Generally speaking, these colours will only appear in females. Very rarely, they may appear in male cats, but these males are genetically abnormal (they have XXY instead of the normal XY) and are almost always infertile.

What eye colours are possible?

Eye colour is genetically related to coat colour.

Pointed cats always have blue eyes. White cats, and cats with a lot of white markings, can have: blue eyes, green, gold, or copper eyes or "odd-eyes" (one blue eye and one green or gold eye)! Other cats can only have green, gold, or copper eyes, not blue eyes. The most common eye colours are in the middle of the eye colour spectrum (greenish-yellow to gold). The colours at the ends of the eye colour spectrum (deep green or brilliant copper) are usually seen only in purebreds who have been selectively bred for extreme eye colour, but they may sometimes appear in non-purebreds.



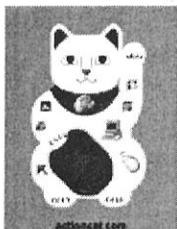
MANEKI NEKO – THE LEGEND

This is the legend of the Maneki Neko:



In the 17th century, there was a rundown and poverty-stricken temple in Tokyo. The temple's priest was very poor, but he shared what little food he had with his pet cat, Tama.

One day, a wealthy and important man was caught in a storm while hunting and he took refuge under a big tree near the temple. While he waited for the storm to pass, the man noticed a cat beckoning him to come inside the temple gate. This was so startling that he left the shelter of the tree to have a closer look at this unusual cat. At that moment, the tree was struck by lightning.



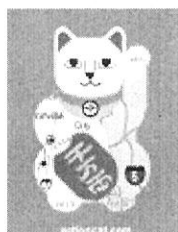
As a result, the wealthy man became friends with the poor priest, and the temple became prosperous. The priest and his cat never went hungry again.

When Tama died he was buried in the Goutokuji Temple's cat cemetery with respect and love, and the Maneki Neko was made in honour of him. A Maneki Neko in your place of business, your home or on your website is said to bring in good luck and visitors.



Maneki Neko is Japanese for "beckoning cat." The message he's holding says "Please come in. You are welcome!" and he is beckoning you with his paw. (In Japan, the gesture of beckoning is pretty much the reverse of the gesture used in the West.)

Whether you believe in this kind of thing or not, he's a cute little cat with a gracious message, and he does brighten up a home, business, desk or even a web page!



Quick Quiz: Famous Cats

See how many of the following questions you can answer about famous cats (both real and fictional) and their owners.

1. This future Lord Mayor of London had a cat.
2. Socks was the Clinton's "First Cat", but this president's daughter owned the previous White House cat.
3. This fairy tale cat helped his owner make his fortune.
4. The name of the cat from Bell, Book, and Candle.
5. This comic page cat loves lasagne.
6. As I was going to St. Ives, I met a man with seven wives. Every wife had seven sacks, every sack had 7 cats, every cat had seven kits. Kits, cats, sacks, wives, how many were going to St. Ives?
7. The name of the Siamese cat in Sheila Burnford's Incredible Journey.
8. This French general owned a Chartreux cat.
9. Descendants of this author's polydactyl cats still live on Key West.
10. The name of "9-Lives" finicky spokescat.
11. This cartoon cat never gets his bird.
12. Disney movie about a crime-solving Siamese cat.
13. The name of Star Trek character Data's cat.
14. According to poet Carl Sandburg, this creeps in on little cat feet.
15. Dr. Seuss' famous cat.
16. This phobia is the fear of cats.
17. French writer, known for her love of cats.
18. The musical "Cats" is based on this author's poems.
19. Lilian Jackson Braun's sleuthing Siamese cats.
20. The name of Dennis the Menace's cat.
21. This author created the Cheshire cat.
22. The subject of Cleveland Amory's book The Cat Who Came for Christmas.
23. In the Disney movie, the name of the cat belonging to Cinderella's stepmother.
24. This cartoon cat's favourite expression is "Heavens to Murgatroyd!".
25. In the book "Archie and Mehitabel", which one is the cat?
26. He's "a wonderful, wonderful cat".
27. In what series of movies is the head of S.P.E.C.T.R.E. seen carrying a Persian cat?
28. This author wrote The Cat Who Walked by Himself.
29. He cut the sleeve off his robe so as not to disturb a sleeping cat.
30. This Polish-born composer died young, but not before writing The Cat's Waltz.



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Feline Diabetes

... Continued from Page 10

In order to perform a glucose profile, the cat is hospitalised, and following insulin administration, frequent determinations of blood glucose values are made throughout the day. The proper dose of insulin may change with time and may need to be adjusted based on blood glucose profiles, intermittent blood and urine sugar measurements, and response to therapy.

Over dosage of insulin causes hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Signs of this potentially dangerous complication include weakness, listlessness, uncoordination, convulsions and coma. Your veterinarian should be contacted immediately if your cat experiences an episode of hypoglycemia so that further treatment can be given and a modification of insulin administration, if necessary, can be made.

People are often initially reluctant to give injections to their cats, but those who undertake this task invariably find that it is far less traumatic for both the cat and the owner than they expected. Insulin needles are very tiny and the cats usually do not react at all to getting the shots. When one begins to treat a diabetic cat, their veterinarian will go over all the procedures, including feeding instructions and symptoms of too much or too little insulin and what to do in these cases. Your veterinarian will also set up a schedule of regular recheck visits to gauge how the therapy is working and to adjust the insulin dose.

If your cat becomes diabetic, consider these facts:

- Without treatment your cat will probably die
- Your cat will not object to the injections
- Insulin is very inexpensive

If you are willing to work closely with your veterinarian, you and your cat can have many happy years ahead.



Your vet will be able to show you the correct way to give an injection.

However, as a guide: Pull back the plunger. If you get air, you placed the needle through both folds of skin. Remove the needle and try again. If you get blood, the tip of the needle is in a blood vessel. Remove the needle and try again. If you get neither air nor blood, the needle is placed correctly and you can push the plunger to inject the insulin.

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.

Famous Cats Quiz Answers

(... From Page 20)



- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Dick Whittington | 15 The Cat in the Hat |
| 2 Jimmy Carter (Amy had a Siamese cat). | 16 ailurophobia |
| 3 Puss in Boots | 17 Colette |
| 4 Pyewacket | 18 T.S. Eliot |
| 5 Garfield | 19 KoKo and YumYum |
| 6 I was the only one going to St. Ives, but 2,402 were going the other way | 20 Hot Dog |
| 7 Tao | 21 Lewis Carroll |
| 8 Charles de Gaulle | 22 Polar Bear |
| 9 Ernest Hemingway | 23 Lucifer |
| 10 Morris | 24 Snagglepuss |
| 11 Sylvester | 25 Mehitabel |
| 12 That Darn Cat | 26 Felix the Cat |
| 13 Spot | 27 James Bond |
| 14 The fog | 28 Rudyard Kipling |
| | 29 Mohammed |
| | 30 Frederick Chopin |



Volunteers Needed!

The Cat Protection Society gets a large part of it's funding from the profits made by our Opportunity Shop. The success of the Op Shop comes down to our dedicated volunteers and the generous donations of second hand goods that we receive to stock the shop. (See article on page 7).

We are always in need of volunteers to help pick up donated goods. All you need is your own car and a little bit of spare time to pick up donated goods in your local area. A small amount of your time can help make lots of money to go towards saving the lives of many cats and kittens in need.

If you would like to help out by picking up goods, helping in the shop or donating second hand goods for sale, please call 9516-2072 between 10 am and 3 pm Mon-Fri.

*Cats make life
a little sweeter.*



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
	\$20.00	Annual Membership	(state birthday)	

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

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss SURNAME FIRST NAME

Address: Suburb Postcode

Contact Phone Number: Date:

Pension Number: Signature:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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

Surname (block letters please) First Name

New Address Postcode

Previous Address Postcode

Trapping

... Sometimes a necessary evil

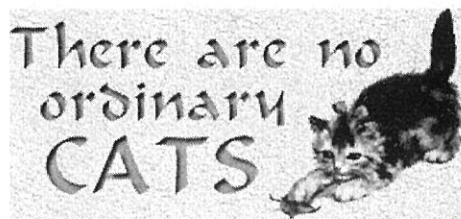
I was asked by a woman at Rose Bay to take away many mothers and kittens from her yard. I agreed and as I was due to go on holidays I said I'd start immediately. No, she said, she was going on her honeymoon and she wanted it done while she was away so her children didn't have to see what was happening. She said she'd arranged for her neighbour to feed the cats. On my first day back from holidays, I set off from West Ryde and asked for a sign that what I was doing was the right thing (I was a Sunday School teacher at that stage!). I had 7 to 9 cages. As I set down 2 cages an absolute stream of "things" appeared, jumped on the traps and about 6 were immediately caught (I knew then I was doing the right thing). They looked like huge tarantula spiders, they were so thin from malnutrition (the neighbours had not been feeding these poor little creatures at all) they barely resembled cats. For a moment I felt scared. Anyway, within about ½ an hour my cages were so full that I had to go back to Concord. I left all the food I had and we normally didn't do that as we need the little creatures to be hungry, but I couldn't leave them the way they were, so hungry. The next morning I returned back very early and then the mums came out. They were a bit slower in being caught but not much. I left a pile of food and went back the next day but there was no food taken, usually a good sign that there are no more cats around. The woman returned fairly soon after that and she confirmed there were no cats left. She gave me \$30.

A group of cats were reported to us as being fed on the footpath in Oxford Street, Paddington in front of a Water Board place. We interviewed the manager but he denied knowledge of them but said go to it and remove them all (he must have been blind). We started but the guys working there were upset so our then President, Lyn Thomas went to see him and we agreed we would desex 2 or 3 cats for the men and we would remove the others. We did our part but then they told us to get lost. Apparently Cat Defence (a no kill society) took over. Whilst they did desex the cats, they didn't feed them. A young woman catching the bus there every day kept seeing a wee kitten trying to get some food. The kitten got

thinner and thinner until one day he was lying on the footpath looking dead. He was only just alive so she bought him to 103 Enmore Road, although she was worried about being late for work. I took him immediately to the Stanmore Vet - they were dismayed at the state he was in and as I held him out, he died. That's what can often happen to animals who are added to a colony of cats. They have to fight for food from established cats and sometimes they miss out and pay the ultimate price for human irresponsibility.

These two scenarios are ones we saw played out constantly - some far worse. Situations like this are why I gave up going to the beach on weekends so that I could gather up cats in situations similar to these.

Nance Iredale



Cats Sleep Anywhere

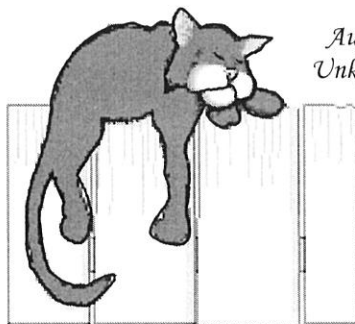
*Cats sleep anywhere
Any table, any chair.*

*Top of piano, window ledge,
In the middle, on the edge.*

*Open drawer, empty shoe,
Anybody's lap will do.*

*Fitted in a cardboard box,
In the cupboard with your frocks.*

*Anywhere, they don't care.
Cats sleep anywhere.*

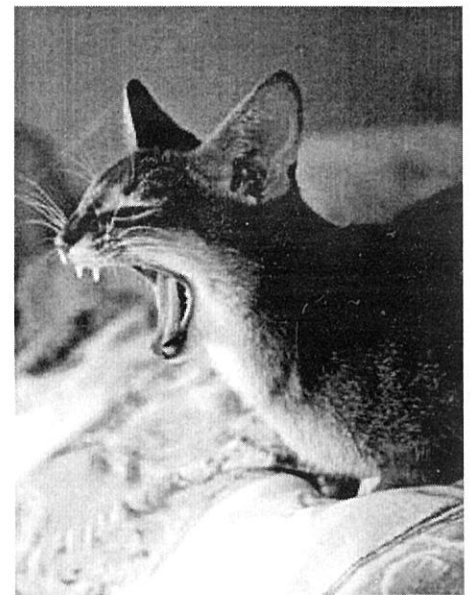


Author
Unknown

*My cats walk
all over me*

Did You Know?

- Newborn kittens have closed ear canals that don't begin to open for nine days.
- 95% of all cat owners admit they talk to their cats.
- Backward-pointing spikes on a cat's tongue aid in their grooming.
- Never feed your cat dog food. Cats need five times more protein than dogs do.
- Cats are the sleepest of all mammals. They spend 16 hours of each day sleeping. With that in mind, a seven year old cat has only been awake for two years of its life!



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.

