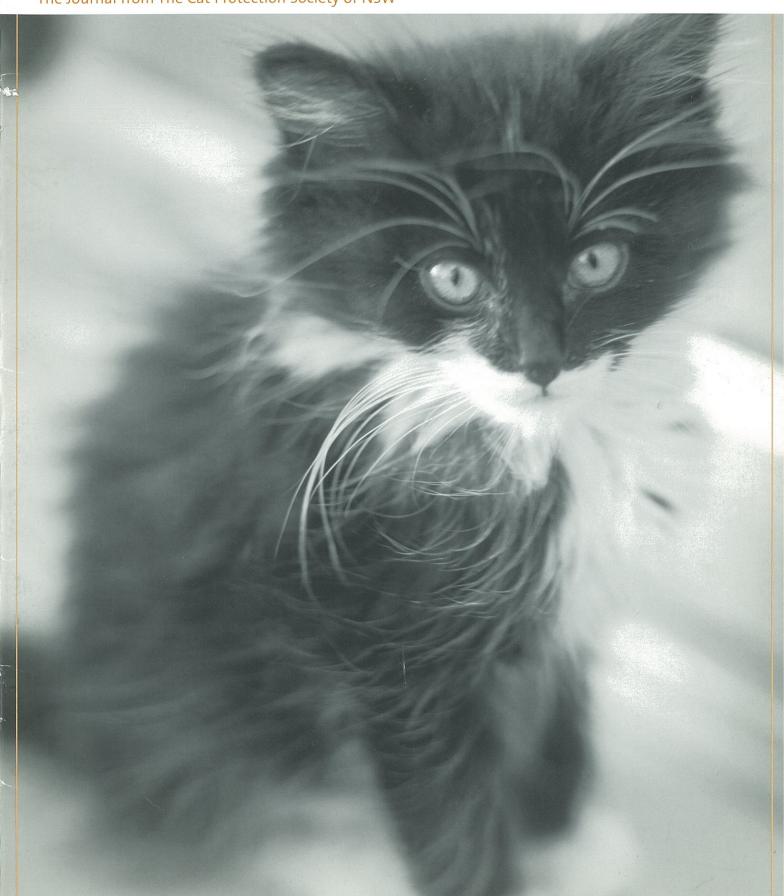
# cat affairs

SPRING 2003

The Journal from The Cat Protection Society of NSW





ACN 001 604 815

## Registered Office and Postal Address:

103 Enmore Rd Newtown 2042

Welfare Office: Ph 9557 1011 or 9519 7201 Fax: 9557 8052

Cattery: Ph 9557 4818

Website: catprotection.org.au E-mail: info@catprotection.org.au

**Opportunity Shop:** 

87 Enmore Rd Newtown 2042, Ph 9516 2072

#### PATRON

Professor Charles Birch, FAA

### **OFFICE BEARERS**

#### Vice President:

Ms Suzanne Jenkins Mrs Angelika Elliott

## **Honorary Treasurer**

Mrs Nita Harvey

## **Honorary Secretary:**

Ms Jackie Rares

#### Councillors:

Mrs Hilary Dockrill Mr Keith Edwards Mrs Nance Iredale OAM Mr Tony Puren Ms Karen Stiles

#### STAFF:

### Executive Officer:

Ms Lynda O'Grady

### **Cattery Staff**

Tara Millet Narelle Whittle Georgina Smith Sasha Perry

### Office Coordinator

Catherine Robertson

#### **Customer Service Officer**

Cate Kerr

## **Welfare Officers**

Sandra Moss Tania Henson Edward Hatt

## Opportunity Shop Coordinating Committee

Ms Robin Carter Mrs Angelika Elliott Mrs Nita Harvey Mrs Nance Iredale

## Journal Editors

Ms Kylie Adams Ms Meredith Childs Ms Lynda O'Grady Ms Catherine Robertson Ms Gabrielle Wheeler Ms Alice Young

## Journal Design

Judy Martinez

## **Honorary Life Members**

Mrs J Chapman, Mrs S Cozens, Mrs H Dockrill, Ms E Easton, Miss P Gauley, Mrs J Graham, Mr W Graham, Mrs N Iredale OAM, Mrs L Larsen, Mr G Luton, Mrs S Pikler, Mr J Thatcher, Miss J Tomkin, Dr P Waters

## Life Governors

Mrs F Best, Prof C Birch,
Mrs L Braby, Mrs M Breust,
Ms A Carolan, Mrs S Cozens,
Dr M Cridland, Mr J Cummings,
Mrs J Dawson, Mrs A Elliott,
Dr JH Hirshman AM,
Mrs J Holdup, Mrs N Iredale
OAM, Dr R Lloyd-Williams,
Mrs L Loveday, Mrs V McLeish;
Mrs J Nelson, Mrs S Pikler,
Ms D Podesta, Miss D Silins,
Miss E Strachan, Mr G Tiley,
Mrs S Watson, Mr PJ Weir

Front Cover Brett Boardman

#### Back Cover Brett Boardman

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.

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

## council report spring 2003

Our staff and cats are now well and truly ensconced in our newly renovated office and cattery in Enmore. Our sincere thanks go to Lynda O'Grady and her staff for undertaking the transition in such a smooth and professional manner, minimising down time at what is such a busy time of year for CPS.

Whilst we had hoped to officially open our new building during April, due to the inevitable teething problems, this had to be postponed. However, as most of you would know, our opening and open day was held on Saturday, May 24. The building was officially opened by Rachelle Lowe from the Channel 7 Sunrise program and, all in all, the day was a huge success and gave many CPS members and people within the local community the opportunity to see our fantastic building and learn for themselves more about the good work we do for our feline friends.

Your CPS Council has been busy in the last few months refining the Strategic Plan. This plan includes our mission statement and contains details of our goals, strategies by which we hope to achieve our goals and, finally, milestones by which we hope to measure the extent of our success in achieving our goals. The plan allows staff and council members to see at a glance our priorities, with deadlines included, for the whole of the year and should prove useful in helping us ensure we achieve all that we have set out to do during 2003.

With kitten season drawing to a close, we can look back and know that we again did excellent work in taking in and re-homing many hundreds of cats and kittens. Even with the disruption of moving our office we have still managed to re-home over 1,320 kittens and cats to date this year. With the Winter months almost upon us, we have a series of programs ready to promote responsible cat ownership, encourage desexing and also take the opportunity, with there being no kittens around, to really promote the wonderful experience of giving an adult cat a home. Of course, during kitten season, sadly, many adult cats are overlooked in favour of kittens.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to extend to all our members and their cats our best wishes and hope you enjoy reading your journal and finding out more about CPS activities.

Kind regards,

Suzanne Jenkins Vice President On behalf of the CPS Council

## SPRING 2003

## contents

| Society Details        | 2  |
|------------------------|----|
| Council report         | 2  |
| Letter from the editor | 3  |
| Scratching post        | 4  |
| Office tails           | 6  |
| Did You Know           | 7  |
| Why Cats Spray         | 8  |
| Centrefold             | 10 |
| Final Dance            | 12 |
| Cat Corner             | 12 |
| Photo Competition      | 13 |
| Volunteer spotlight    | 14 |
| Then and now           | 15 |
| Donation form          | 15 |
| Thank You              | 16 |
| Membership form        | 16 |
| Renovation             | 17 |
| Cats in the news       | 18 |
| Forget Me Not          | 19 |





## How you can Help Save Lives

You will notice that we have included a copy of our Desexing Information leaflet with your journal. We believe that one of the most important things our Society does is helping to desex cats. All cats and kittens that we re-home are desexed, microchipped and vaccinated, and we offer very inexpensive desexing for everyone in the Sydney Metropolitan area. We even offer a pick up service for those without their own transport.

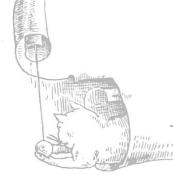
We have had this service for many years, but still lots of people don't know it exists and that they can have their cat desexed so inexpensively. This is where our members can help. If you know someone who needs their cats desexed please give them our details or pass on this leaflet. Put a copy on your company notice board or in your local community centre.

Many people don't realise that female cats can become pregnant at four months of age and males can become sexually active from five months onwards. We often have young mothers who have had their first litter at six months of age at our cattery.

Please help us spread the word about desexing to your neighbours, friends and colleagues.

Every cat desexed results in saved lives.

Note: if you require further leaflets or information please call our Welfare Office on 9519 7201.



# scratching post

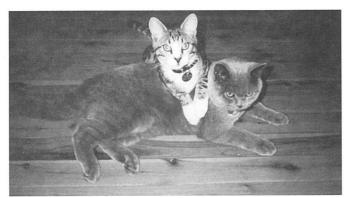
WE AT CAT PROTECTION ALWAYS LOVE TO GET YOUR LETTERS AND PHOTOS, AND ESPECIALLY TO HEAR STORIES OF THE CATS THAT HAVE BEEN RE-HOMED THROUGH OUR ADOPTION CENTRE.

## Stray Cat Made Good

I am enclosing some pictures of a little stray I collected from you last August. We called him Zac because he was so small especially compared to the British Shorthair that we own.

Zac is a real treat and is always getting into mischief. As you can see from the photos, his best friend and play time buddy is Oscar who is only a few months older than Zac.

## Mary Anne Sharkey Seven Hills



Best Friends Zac and Oscar

## Speaking Up For Cats

## Dear Cat Affairs,

I was recently at a lady's house rehoming a dog which I had taken in after her owner died. I explained how I was finding it difficult to care for the dog as well as my 18 rescue cats and 4 ex battery hens. This lady likes cats and has previously owned them. She said to me 'you know that is very unfashionable to own cats'. I felt how sad that the life and welfare of a species is whittled down to whether humans find that species 'fashionable' or not.

Of course this is not new, various breeds of dogs and maybe cats have gone in and out of fashion. I also had a similar experience in a cloth shop where I was buying some cloth with cats on it. A lady commented that it was 'politically incorrect' to buy such cloth.

The argument as we all know is that cats kill wildlife (as if humans don't!). However my belief is that this is a convenient excuse for cat haters to vilify cats. Unfortunately there are many people in our community who have been influenced, like these ladies, and who might otherwise have owned their own cat quite happily.

The end result is fewer homes for cats and more people in the community speaking against cats.

This puts the onus on people like us (all Cat Affairs readers) to speak up publicly in favour of cats and help to dispel some of the myths surrounding cats and the assumed wildlife destruction.

As an aside all of the people who I have spoken to who own both cats and dogs and who hold an objective view, say that their dogs kill just as much as their cats. Yet dogs do not get this bad press.

I expect other readers have similar experiences. Cats rely on people like us to speak up for them.

#### Naomi Oliver

## Nizza

I am writing to let you know how well our cat has progressed since we brought her as a kitten in February 2002. Nizza is a lovely natured cat, much loved and a wonderful companion for our family.

## Elizabeth Rasmussen Mosman



Nizza at 10 weeks with puppy Billy at 5 months.

## The Perfect Home

Jesus was adopted from Concord Animal Hospital in November 2002. He is a very intelligent cat that has succeeded in winning our hearts. We are 4 people at my place, me, my partner and our 2 children. Joe (2 years) and Sean (9 months). Sean learnt to crawl while trying to chase Jesus, Josephs has found someone to share his Tuna sandwich with and to play "catch the ball" with. Simon (my partner) is happy to have him sleeping on the couch in the evenings.

I enjoy just watching him climbing the wattle tree in the back yard or lazing on top of the shelf in the laundry.

## Maria Figuerola Camperdown



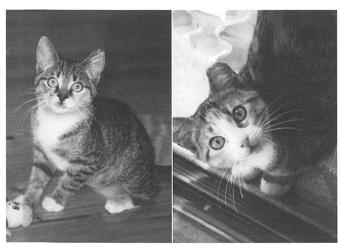
Jesus sleeping in Joseph's travel cot

## Remi and Gypsy

Our girls have settled in really well. They are both affectionate - Remi even more so. I had forgotten how much joy cats can bring you.

Congratulations on the work you do for cats and I hope your premises work well.

## Kind Regards Nikki Watt and Family.



Remi and Gypsy Adopted November 2002

## Possum Brings Lots of Love to her new Family

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have a little person in our lives again.

Possum has lived with us for just over one week and has filled that big hole in our heart. The cushion she is sitting on is twenty years old, and was our first cat Smudges, and we are delighted that our new little girl has adopted it as her own.

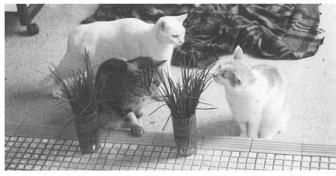
Her first night with us, Gregory said he looked over in bed during the night, and she was like a collar wrapped around my neck, it made him very happy as our cat which we lost used to do this. I think it is their way of getting close to you.

## Thanks again, Robyn and Greg Millward Brookvale

## Lovely Lily

You will remember our Lily, a beautiful ginger and white DSH which stole both our hearts. I thought you would like to see some pics to see she is happy and healthy.

## Best Wishes, Davina Williamson-Stuart Bundeena



Lily

## Beautiful Kashka

A photo of Kashka. She is settling in well.

#### Anne Borthwick



Kashka settling in to her new home

## office tails



Well, after eight months in temporary premises we finally moved back to our new welfare office and adoption centre in mid-January this year. Only a few months behind schedule.

It has taken some time to finish off the last of the building work, but we are now starting to feel settled. The new building was certainly worth the wait. Most people who have visited are very surprised that our old terrace building has become so modern and light. It is a great building for the staff to work in, more like a beautiful home than an office, but more importantly, our cats are much happier and healthier here. The building is designed to allow the air to flow freely which helps cut down the risks associated with cattery life, like cat flu.

We now have around 20 beautiful adult cats for adoption at any one time, and as always a selection of beautiful kittens waiting for their new families. Since coming here our re-homing statistics have increased dramatically. Particularly the adult cats. Over February and March we have re-homed 66 adult cats.

One of our greatest innovations is the Mother and Kitten Room and Play Terrace. At CPS we often receive kittens that are too tiny to be re-homed or who need some intensive socialisation. We do have a number of excellent foster carers who help in these circumstances, but at the height of kitten season there are just not enough carers for all of the kittens that come through our doors. We now have a lovely sunny room with it's own play terrace where we can keep these kittens, often with their mothers, until they are ready for adoption. This is such a beautiful spot, with climbing equipment, cat beds and plants like catnip and cat grass. Mum usually sets herself up on one of the cushions and keeps a watchful eye on the kittens while they play, climb, jump, swing and chase each other. Usually by the afternoon everyone is exhausted and the kittens pile on top of each other for a nap. In winter, when the breeding season slows down, we hope to use this room for our adult cats to catch the afternoon sun.

There have been a few changes in staff over the past few months. Tara Millet (now Tara Dethridge after her recent marriage) has joined our staff once again as our new Cattery Manager. Tara is responsible for the health and wellbeing of all of the cats at 103 Enmore Road and for making sure that our Adoption Centre runs smoothly. With hundreds of cats and kittens being

surrendered this is a huge job, but with Tara's experience as a cattery attendant, foster carer and veterinary nurse, she is very qualified. Working at Cat Protection is more than just qualifications. It is about compassion and a genuine love of animals and Tara certainly has this. She has 10 cats of her own and regularly fosters kittens for the Society.

Kim Thompson, who worked as our Customer Service Officer for more than two years has left to move to Canberra. We wish her all the best. Losing staff can often be difficult for us as it takes so much training for staff to be fully conversant in the work that we do. For this reason we have been very fortunate to find an experienced replacement in Catherine (Cate) Kerr. Cate has just moved to Sydney from her home in Melbourne. Up until recently she held a similar position at the Lost Dogs Home. She has also worked as an animal attendant and as an ambulance driver on weekends.



Barney - Looking for a new home.

On a very sad note, our beloved Barney has not been very happy of late. Moving home twice in the last year has been very disturbing and he is longing for a home where he can spend a little bit of time outdoors and have an "owner" of his own. Barney is still a very young cat, only three years old, and while we would love to keep him here we feel that he would benefit from a new environment. As Barney is white and also deaf, he ideally needs an environment where he cannot go onto any roads and where he could spend most of his day indoors, but with some time in a small back yard or courtyard where he can play under supervision. If you think that your home would be perfect for Barney or you know someone very special who fits the bill, please give me a call at our office.

Best Wishes, Lynda O'Grady Executive Officer

# Did You Know

## Compiled by Alice Young



- When your cat "headbutt's" you, it's the ultimate expression of love? It allows them to deposit their scent on you using the scent glands on their forehead and cheeks. It's how they say "I love you". Exchanging scent is a powerful way for cats to communicate, so gently "headbutt" them back.
- To your cat, the smell of their food far outweighs the importance of taste. Cats generally don't like sweet things, though they are not averse to garlic!
- Your cat's whiskers don't just make them look attractive; they're the navigational tools by which your cat can "see in the dark". Your cat's whiskers transmit detailed information about surrounding air currents. The top two rows can even move independently of the bottom two.
- Why do cats head straight for the non-cat lover in the room? Cats are attracted to quiet people, disliking loud noises and conspicuous attempts to attract their attention. Someone sitting quietly and unobtrusively is simply too hard to resist!
- When your feline wraps his/her body around your legs, it may feel like they're saying hello, but it has more to do with ownership. They're just letting

- everyone know you belong to them by marking you with their own pheromone.
- A cat's tail speaks volumes about its state of mind.
   When it's tail is held high and kinked at the tip, it is usually a greeting reserved for special family only. A twitching tail indicates intense interest, while quick, sudden movements mean "watch out"!
- Felines know when you've been stroking another cat. Cats can "taste" smells using a special sense organ in the roof of their mouths. So when your cat's top lip curls when you get home, they're finding out where you've been, and with whom!
- Grooming helps cats to control their body temperature, waterproof their coat, relieve social tension and remove overdoses of human scent! But take note, a change in grooming behaviour may mean physical or emotional illness.
- While the pads of your cat's feet are extremely sensitive to touch and vibration, they are not as adept at detecting hot or cold. Your cat does this more accurately using his or her nose and lips. So if you like to indulge in an open fire in winter, keep an eye on your furry friend.

## walkthru colours

interior exterior domestic commercial tel: 0418 815 410 email: colours@walkthru.com.au

\$25.00 from each consultation will be donated directly to the Cat Protection Society of NSW

Home is not necessarily where we spend the most time, but if the old saying is true - that is where the heart is and where we need to feel the most comfortable.

Colour is the most powerful tool you can use to create a harmonious environment and to give your home a new look. The colours of the interior environment where we live or work affects us in just the same way as those in the natural world always did.

Walkthru Colours provides a full comprehensive colour consultation taylored to your needs. This includes the use of colour psychology and a selection of stunning colour schemes for all aspects of your home. For more information please contact us on 0418 815 410 or visit us on the web at www walkthru com.au

# Cats Spray

Doctor lain Grant

In the absence of an underlying medical condition (see later) urine spraying is a natural behaviour for a cat. It only becomes a problem for us when the cat chooses to spray indoors.

Along with over grooming, a change in eating or sleeping patterns and scratching furniture, urine spraying inside is a sign that a cat is feeling anxious about it's living conditions.

## Reasons for this may include:

- Living in a house with one or more other cats.
- Living in a suburban area where there are many other cats in the neighbourhood.
- A move to a new home
- Separation from an owner for long periods of time.
- A change form being an outdoor to an indoor cat.
- A new arrival in the house such as a relative coming to stay, a new pet or a new baby.

## Identifying urine spraying

Urine spraying is quite different from toileting indoors.

- When a cat sprays it generally stands upright, backs up to vertical surface such as a doorframe or the edge of a square object and deposits a small jet of pungent smelling urine. It tends not to scratch the area afterwards whereas - A cat going to the toilet indoors will. The cat adopts a squatting position and usually passes a large volume of urine on a horizontal surface.

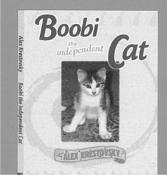
When dealing with either of these problems, your first course of action is to seek professional advice from a vet. It is crucial to check for bladder infections, bladder



inflammation and mineral crystals in the urine or diseases that make a cat use the litter more often such as diabetes, kidney problems or and overactive thyroid gland, before assuming that your cat has a behavioural problem.

## If a behavioural problem is suspected

And your cat is un-neutered, talk to your vet about this procedure. Neutering significantly reduces the likelihood of spraying.



**Boobi** a very independent young female cat who Babushka the wise old cat with a dark secret.

The book will appeal to animal lovers of all ages

It is also an ideal gift for children

You can order autographed copies of the book from the author by telephoning 02-9895-0715 (W) or 02-9747-1865 (H) or e-mail akrestovsky@fairtrading.nsw.gov.au or mail 20 Conder St Burwood NSW 2134.

It comes as an A4 illustrated hard covered book at RRP \$24.95

## If your cat is already neutered

- First be sure that it is the culprit for the spraying. Remember it may be an outside cat entering through the cat flap, in which case keep it locked at night or when you are away from home. Better still; fit a switch-operated flap, where only your own cat carries the magnetic 'key' on its collar.
- And if you have more than one cat, do what you can to identify which cat is spraying.

## Things which can induce spraying

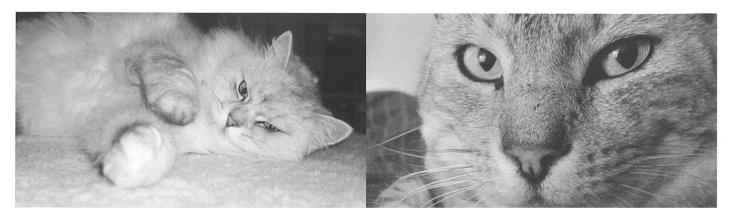
- The sight of rogue cats in the garden can be enough to make an anxious cat spray indoors. Shoo them away as often as you can. A water pistol or a metal tin filled with dried peas; thrown on the ground can be useful deterrents.
- Be cautious with things left outside, like washing baskets of wood from a woodpile. Neighbourhood cats may have urinated on them and bringing them inside will carry the scent into your own cat's territory. This will encourage it to spray.
- Bringing a new cat into the family commonly coincides with spraying behaviour. If your cat has an anxious nature, it may prefer to live alone.
- Your cat will "refresh" previously sprayed spots if they are not cleaned effectively. Use a mixture of white wine vinegar (1tbsp) and water (1 pint) and add some 'biological' laundry powder. Scrub the area well and allow it to dry. Test colour fastness of furnishings first. Avoid using cleaners that contain ammonium compounds or bleach.

## Treating a spraying problem

 If you don't already have them, invest in some litter trays. One tray for each cat in the household plus one extra. Offer two or three different types of litter e.g. recycled paper pellets, absorbing clay chips and tree bark and place the trays indifferent locations around the house where the cat has easy access to them. Avoid areas where a cat could be disturbed during toileting e.g. children's play area, next to the washing machine on spin cycle or in the firing line of the family dog. Fill litter trays with 3-4" of litter, deep enough to scratch in and scoop as soon as the cat has soiled. Empty and clean thoroughly with hot, soapy water once a week. A covered litter tray is not always the answer as it can trap smells inside the hood, discouraging the cat from using it.

- If the cat tends to spray in specific area, discourage the habit by:
- · Denying the cat access to that area.
- Placing food in the target area.
- Leaving down deterrents such as citrus peel or lemon scented soap.
- Covering the area with thick plastic, bubble wrap or aluminium foil, all substances that cats prefer not to walk on.
- Use a water pistol as a 'telling off' when you catch the cat in the act of spraying.
- Confine the cat to a small area that has previously been 'clean' and gradually allow increasing access to the rest of the house.
- Increase your playful interaction with your cat.
  Allow 10-15 minutes per day to play with toys, such as furry mince or rolled up paper, and for grooming.
  Leave dry food around the house for it to 'hunt out' or boxes and paper bags for it to hide in.
- Growing an indoor garden of catnip or catmint can also be helpful.

Only when you have attempted these simple behavioural modification techniques should you resort to medication to control spraying. These drugs are potent and can only be given under the careful guidance and supervision of a vet.





# Final Dance



The fate of the dancing sloth bears of India is abruptly changing for the better thanks to one Australian woman's determination and fight to liberate them from a cruel and degrading life.

Mary Hutton heads a small band of volunteers and a large amount of supporters from around the world, all fighting for the lives of the 'dancing' sloth bears.

Mary Hutton and the Indian Government have worked together to form a win-win situation for both the bears and the Indian people.

The Indian government is right behind the project together with Mrs Maneka Gandhi as co-patron of

Free the Bears Fund. She has helped pave the way for land to be donated by the Indian government for the sanctuary and is currently negotiating alongside Mrs Hutton with Maharaja Singh, a wealthy landowner of Panna, in central India, to create another sanctuary.

Smt. Maneka Gandhi came to Australia in May and was be part of an Australia wide promotion and awareness campaign in order to raise money for the Indian sloth bears.

Donations can be made to Free The Bears Fund, 5 Laga Court, Stirling Western Australia 6021, Australia. For more information and a chance to sponsor a bear visit www.freethebears.org.au or email info@freethebears.org.au or ring (08) 92441096.



# Cat Corner Purrfect web sites

SO YOU'VE GOT A LAZY FIVE MINUTES TO SPARE AND DON'T FEEL LIKE ATTEMPTING THE PILE OF PAPERWORK SITTING ON YOUR DESK? WHY NOT BROWSE THE INTERNET?

## www.care-for-my-cat.com

Purrfect for all those kitty health questions, ideas for introducing new animals into the home, which plants are poisonous for cats, plus "ask Dr Steve". Very informative US-based site with plenty of interesting connection sites.

## www.ratemykitten.com

Rate my Kitten - This fun site allows you to show off your favourite cat pictures and have them "rated" against other cats and kittens with a numerical rating system. Sounds weird, well yes, but it is strangely compelling. You can easily upload your own pictures, but if that sounds like too much work, you can rate other peoples cat photos. If you have ever found yourself on hold with Telstra, this is a good way to pass the time.

## www.hsus.org

The Humane Society of the United States - This website will be of interest for those who have a serious interest in animal welfare or who need to research animal welfare issues but it also includes lots of good information for pet owners. Click on the "pets" heading and you will find a wealth of information on all aspects of animal health and behaviour. All articles from their wonderful Animal Sheltering Magazine can be viewed on line here as well, so you can keep up to date with all the developments overseas.

And remember our own Cat Protection Society website at www.catprotection.org.au where you can views ome of the beautiful cats and kittens that are waiting for adoption.

# CUTE CAT PHOTO COMPETITION



If contributions to our journal are anything to go by, cat owners love to show off their beautiful cats. We are all very biased when it comes to our own moggies, and believe them to be the most beautiful, but how would your cat (and your photography skills) fare in the face of serious competition? If you would like to find out, this is the competition for you.

We are looking for that special photo of your beloved. All you need is a camera and a beautiful cat (ie: any cat) to enter. The competition closes on the December 1, 2003. The winners will be announced in the April 2004 Journal and the winning photos will be printed in a future edition of Cat Affairs.

To enter please send your photo and the entry form below to our office before December 1, 2003.

Note: Please do not send in your only copy of your most precious photos as we are unable to return photo entries.









## FIRST PRIZE

Spectacular Cat Pack, valued at over \$80 (including - Breeders Choice Kitty Litter 5kg, Litter Tray, Cat Bowl, Cat Collar, Cat Play Balls, Cat Action Ball with Catnip and Bungee Mouse.)

## SECOND PRIZE

Breeders Choice Kitty Litter, Cat Collar, Cat Toys valued at over \$40



## CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY CUTE CAT COMPETITION

| First Name           | Family Name   |          |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Address              | Suburb        | Postcode |
| Contact Phone Number | Email         |          |
| Cat's Name           | Cat's Details |          |
|                      |               | ¥        |
| Signed               | Date          |          |

Please note: Photos cannot be returned so please send copies only.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - JESSIE KALFF

## By Alice Young

Driving through Enmore one day Jessie spotted the Cat Protection Society office, and has not looked back since. A lifelong animal lover, Jessie has a particular "thing" about cats (she has four herself), and even went so far as to marry her first cat Oscar! So it didn't take long for her to volunteer to help out in any way possible.

The focus of her role is on cleaning, something Jessie takes very seriously. To some, the prospect of cleaning mountains of litter trays is unappealing (to say the least), but Jessie truly realises the broader ramifications of her job: "At CPS, attending to the hygiene of each animal is very important, as we need to maintain a sterile environment. This can also have ramifications for both the animals and prospective adopters, who may be put off by an environment which does not smell fresh and welcoming," says Jessie. At other times she concentrates on socialisation of the cats by brushing, grooming and handling them. "It is a slow process, but when they start to purr that marks the turning point," she says.

Jessie has been volunteering at Cat Protection Society for about two years now during which time she has seen a complete transformation of her life goals. Originally she had trained to be a Primary school teacher, completing a BA of Education (Primary) and was still teaching at a local school when she decided 18 months ago that cats are her passion and that she wanted her career to reflect that.

So she enrolled on the accelerated Animal Attending Certificate at Bankstown TAFE and qualified with Distinction six months later. During this time she was still volunteering at CPS and working in retail to maintain an income stream. For Jessie, 2003 has been a turning point as, in addition to her CPS work, she has recently gained a part-time Veterinary Nurse/Reception role at Enfield Animal Hospital, an institution with a "patient first" philosophy.

Moving forward, Jessie would ideally love a full-time role with CPS. Ultimately she would like to combine her animal-handling work with her teaching experience and participate in animal education schemes for the general public, particularly children.

So why does Jessie love working at CPS so much? "Because I am working with people who are passionate about cats, and have an optimistic view of the outlook for cats. We have the same goal and are focused on that. I firmly believe that every "dog has its day" and I think the time when people in Australia appreciate cats is coming".

CPS would like to say a BIG thank you to Jessie and all our other volunteers for their hard work, commitment and passion.

Update: Jessie has now been offered a casual, paid position at the Society two days per week



"It is a slow process, but when they start to purr that marks the turning point"

# Then and Now

This beautiful girl was surrendered to our temporary cattery at Concord Animal Hospital in 2002. As with many of the cats who come to us, her owners could no longer care for her. Originally called simply "C", her beautiful colouring, a stunning deep grey, meant that she would not stay at the cattery for long. Finding that special cat for a companion, however, is not always based on looks. With all of the cats we re-home we want to match the personality of the cat and her lifestyle requirements with that of the potential owner.

"C" found her perfect match in Daniel who came in looking for a cat to share his life and his inner city apartment. She stood out in the crowd and went home to the Eastern Suburbs that day. It did take "C", now re-named Muffin, some time to settle down to life as an inner city, indoors cat, but Daniel had no intention of giving up on her. He did everything he could to make Muffin feel at home, including installing lots of lovely cat grasses on the balcony. She was also a very fussy eater, and it took Daniel quite some time to find out what this little lady really liked.



Often when adopting an adult cat, there will be a period of adjustment while the new cat gets used to his or her environment. As cats generally dislike change this is quite normal, although if problems persist it can sometimes be a good idea to consult your local vet or the Cat Protection Society for advice. Daniel made sure that he did everything possible to help Muffin to settle in and it didn't take too long before Muffin realised that she now had him fully trained.

Muffin now watches over the Sydney skyline from her balcony, but spends most of her time cuddled up with Daniel. She now features on her own Internet site at www.homepages.ihug.com.au/~bowmand/ so if you would like to see more pictures of Muffin in all her glory this is the place to go.

3

## DONATION FORM

To, Cat Protection Society of NSW 103 Enmore Road, NEWTOWN, NSW, 2042 Ph: 02 9557-1011, 9519-7201

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_\_

Surname (Block Letters)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb Post Code

I/We would like to make a donation to the Society. Enclosed is a cheque/money order for

## 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:

## 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.

## Ihank You

At the Cat Protection Society Cattery we use a gigantic amount of cat litter. Because we have so many cats housed together we always need to use a very highquality litter to stop the potential smells that could turn clients away. For more than three years we have used only one brand, Breeders Choice, because not only is it made from recycled paper and therefore environmentally friendly, but it the easiest to use and most odour-absorbent litter on the market.

Breeders Choice is made by a small, Australian-owned company that likes to support local animal charities. It has recently donated two pallets of kitty litter for use in our cattery. That's a lot of litter and has saved the Society a substantial amount of money that can go towards the cats.

We would like to thank Alan, Sharon and everyone at Breeders Choice for this very generous donation.



## Volunteers Desperately Needed





The Cat Protection Society Opportunity Shop in Enmore is in dire need of volunteers to help man our shop and sort merchandise.

If you can spare us a little of your time, Nance Iredale on 9516 2072.

## 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 2003. All persons joining from January 2003 remain financial until June 2004.

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

Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Pension Number

## 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\_

Previous Address \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

# Renovation update

After many years of planning and hard work, our new cattery and welfare office are up and running. We would like to thank all of our members for their support over the years with raising money to fund this major project. Without this generous help our cats would not be in the beautiful home that they have today.

Since the publication of our last journal, we have been thrilled to receive many more donations for the purchase of items in the new cattery. You have now given the Society \$16,728.40 through the sponsorship drive and we are truly grateful to the following members for their generosity:

| N | A A      | AF               |
|---|----------|------------------|
|   | $\alpha$ | $\Lambda \vdash$ |

#### CAT AND DEDICATION

| Noni Dart-Kelly            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Judith Findlay             | In Memory of Snowflake and Sam             |
| Norma Gray                 |  |
| Diane Grosvenor            |  |
| Josepha Holloway           | To all of our beauties who passed our way  |
| Shirley & Michael<br>Hough | In Loving Memory<br>of Samantha and Fluffy |
| Alison Hughes              |  |
| Celia Jarvis               |  |
| DR Keenan                  |  |
| Madame Kuvani              |  |
| Valerie McLeish            |  |
| Susan Miller               |  |
| Shirley Pickler            | To all Field Workers<br>Helping Stray Cats |
| Polly Rickard              |  |
| Helen Stewart              | Ebony                                      |
| Kay Walsh                  |  |



All of the people listed have received a certificate.

It is important to remember that many years ago when the new cattery was merely a distant dream, many of our members gave very significant donations towards the structure of the building. We would like to thank these people as well, as without your initial support and faith in our work the renovations would never have begun.

# CATS IN THE NEWS

Compiled by Kylie Adams

## Globe Trotting Ozzy

An article in the Sun newspaper Online details the amazing journey of Ozzy, a globe-trotting moggy who clocked up a total of 63,000 miles after getting lost on a jet travelling from Qatar to London.

Ozzy's owners paid \$565 (£220) to fly Ozzy back from the Middle East, but he escaped mid-flight from his plastic basket. When British Airways staff opened the hold at Heathrow airport Ozzy was nowhere to be found. It was assumed that he escaped during a stopover in Bahrain, and was given up as lost.

However 10 days later a thin, hungry Ozzy was spotted hiding in the hold. By this stage, he had made the 3150 mile, seven-hour trip to Qatar and back every day.

Ozzy was reunited with his owners, Jonathan Boyd and Katie Deacon, who had given up hope of ever seeing him again. He then had to fight his way back to health while serving six months' quarantine.

A British Airways spokesman said "If he was registered for BA Miles he would have earned enough to travel free to Rio de Janeiro and back plus a trip or two to Europe."

## Can Passive Smoking Kill your Cat?

In August 2002, the Times Online (UK) reported that American researchers claim that passive smoking may affect cats as much as it does human beings.

Researchers at Tufts University, Massachusetts say that living in a household of smokers considerably increases a cat's risk of acquiring feline lymphoma, which kills three quarters of its victims within a year.

Scientists conducted a study involving 180 cats treated at a Tufts University veterinary hospital between 1993 and 2000. They found that, adjusting for factors such as age, cats exposed to second-hand smoke had more than double the risk of acquiring the disease. In households where they were exposed to smoke for five years or more, the risk tripled.

The researchers hope that the risk of endangering their pets may shame some smokers into kicking the habit.

## Cat Killer Alert

As reported in the Summer 2002 edition of the RSPCA magazine ANIMALS, residents of the Central Coast are living in fear for their cats' lives.

Over a six-week period, four cats have met their deaths at the hands of a sadistic killer. In each case, the cats have been strung up by the neck outside the owners' homes, causing enormous distress.

According to Somersby RSPCA Shelter manager, Debbie Spencer, "In each case, two plastic shopping bags have been used, wrapped around the animal's head and secured by a leather collar. However, only in the last case did the cat die of asphyxiation - the others all had their heads stoved in by a blunt object."

The attacks have all been late at night or early in the morning, and the RSPCA is warning residents to keep their cats inside at night and to be especially vigilant.

Chief inspector Don Robinson said the perpetrators face an \$11,000 fine and/or two years in gaol for each incident. He also stressed the link between these sorts of crimes and sadistic crime towards human beings. "The statistics show that cruelty to animals often leads to violent murders."

Anyone with information about these crimes or similar crimes in their area should contact the RSPCA.

## 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

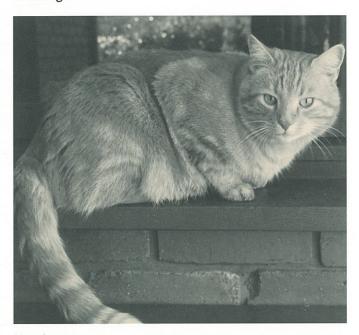


## In memory of Muggins

In memory of our beautiful Muggins (Muggy) who we adopted from the Albury RSPCA on December 18, 1987 and who sadly had to leave us on October 29, 2002.

Very much loved and terribly missed.

Margaret Trevillian Wodonga



Muggins

## In memory of Grandpa aka Roughnut.

I picked up Grandpa one morning on my way to work after a call from a concerned local resident. The moment I saw him my heart melted. He looked terribly rundown, but had lost none of his virile personality. We followed all of the usual procedures, trying to find his owners, but had no luck. While we were looking for his rightful home, he lived at the CPS office and spent most days sitting on a chair next to my desk while I worked.

Grandpa was a very old cat and had some pretty serious health problems, but we felt he deserved to live out the last months of his life somewhere safe and happy. With the large number of cats surrendered to us this is not always possible, but it seems that Grandpa was in the right place at the right time.

A lovely lady, Rhonda, who had previously been on the CPS board, was looking for a companion for her own

elderly cat and Grandpa found his new home. It was a perfect match. Grandpa quickly settled in and took up his rightful place in the neighbourhood. He was re-named Roughnut as he was a tough old thing, who looked like he had been through the wars and had an attitude to match.

He spent the last six months of his life protecting himself and his new companion from the neighbourhood bullies and enjoying life on a sunny veranda. When his quality of life was too compromised, the vet let Rhonda know that it was time for Roughie to move on again, but he spent the last months of his life giving happiness to everyone he met.

A beautiful boy who will never be forgotten.

Lynda O'Grady Cat Protection Society



Grandpa

