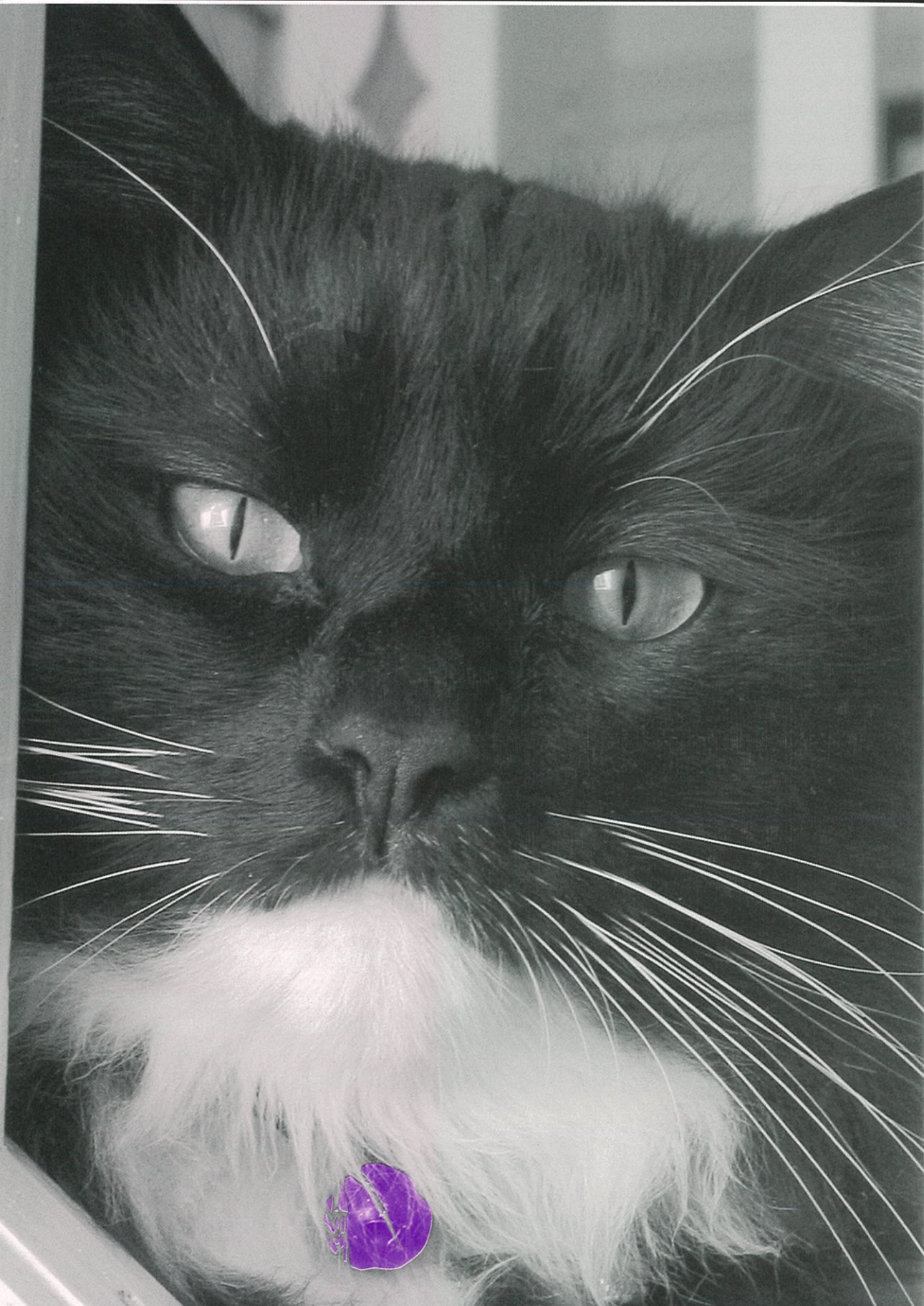


Cat Affairs



SPRING 2004

THE JOURNAL FROM THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW





ACN 001 604 815

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Front Cover & Back Cover ~ "Harry Houdini" Courtesy Dominic Hon

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

By Nita Harvey

Dear Members,

Our Open Day on May 22nd was a great success.

Many members and other visitors had an opportunity to visit our award winning cattery and to meet the staff and volunteers.

Most importantly it was an opportunity to "meet the cats". A number of cats found a new home which made the day particularly successful.



This financial year 305 cats and 780 kittens have been placed in new homes and due to exercises such as "Operation Cat" 1,049 cats have been desexed. Considering the staff difficulties this year an excellent result.

Nance Iredale retired from Council in May and on 26th June an afternoon tea was held to honour Nance and her achievements. Nance was one of the founding members of The Cat Protection Society and her popularity was demonstrated by the number who attended the afternoon tea to wish her well.

Congratulations to the volunteers at the Opportunity shop which made a record \$97,500. A small band of dedicated ladies worked very hard to achieve this result.

Our AGM will be held in October and a warm welcome is extended to our members to attend and enjoy afternoon tea. Hope to see you there.

Nita Harvey

President

On behalf of the Cat Protection Society Board 🐾

Contents

Page 2	Society Details
Page 2	Council Report
Page 4	Scratching Post
Page 5	Scratching Post
Page 6	Scratching Post
Page 7	Office Tales
Page 8	Office Tales
Page 9	Volunteer Spotlight
Page 10	Ask the Catery Manager
Page 11	Ask the Catery Manager
Page 12	Making a Happy Home for Your Cat
Page 13	Making a Happy Home for Your Cat
Page 14	Hugs for the Homeless
Page 15	Book Reviews
Page 15	Donation Form
Page 16	Book Reviews
Page 16	Membership Form
Page 17	Day in the Life - CPS Office Staff
Page 18	Cats In The News
Page 19	Cats In The News

Animal Welfare News

HIS Secures Protection for 2 million Dogs and Cats

2 million cats and dogs will be thanking the Prime Minister and his Customs Minister tonight, after the announcement that Australia will ban imports of products made from their fur. So too will the 70,000 Australians that signed Humane Society International's petition to the Prime Minister calling for the ban.

In July 2003 Humane Society International HSI exposed the horrific cruelties involved in the global cat and dog and fur trade and revealed its grisly are on sale in Australia.

"Today HSI congratulates the Coalition Government for taking a clear stand against the trade. Australian consumers certainly don't want to buy cat and dog fur and Australian retailers don't want to be at risk of selling it", said Nicola Beynon, HSI spokesperson.

HSI's 18 month investigation revealed appalling animal abuses at the fur farms in Asia, killing an estimated 2 million cats and dogs a year, and the deception tactics used by the merchandisers to sell the fur to unsuspecting dog and cat loving consumers in countries like Australia. Clothing and toys made from cat and dog fur are deliberately mislabelled as fictitious animals or not labelled at all.

The public response to their investigation was overwhelming, attracting by far the biggest outcry of all the animal causes HSI has ever championed. While 70,000 Australians signed HSI's petition to the Prime Minister, one of the biggest petitions to the Australian Parliament, we are also told that Senator Ellison, Minister for Customs received an unprecedented 9000 direct representations on the issue.

Australia's import ban follows countries like the United States, Italy, Denmark, France and Sweden that have already acted to ban cat and dog fur or have laws passing through their legislatures.

Scratching Post

Rehomed cats

Dear All,

I said I'd get in touch about how your little kitten Tinder (Pisky) has settled in.

She is gorgeous of course and although a bit nervous at first she settled in straight away and was purring on my lap on the first evening. Now she thinks she owns the place and alternates between running riot over and under everything (including literally half way up the walls skateboard style) and curled up purring her head off. So she is contented and I think very happy with her new home. She is also a crazy eccentric maniac now she has lost her shyness - so she is perfect!

She rides in the car with me every day to my studio (sits happily on the back seat with her arms folded) and really enjoys it there too where she can explore all the weird stuff and she loves watching me paint.

Have attached a photo for you. As you can see, she likes playing with feathers, not surprising really.

Thanks for rescuing, reviving and taking care of her. All your hard work has paid off. She is a lovely girl.

Best regards,

KATE OWEN AND GLENN ELEY

Hey there!

Here are some of the Kitty pics. We adopted a kitten from you in January and here are some updated photos.

Thanks

TANIA PAYNE

Dear all,

In 2003 we adopted a tabby and white named Hubhub. He was re-named Caspar, and has turned out to be the most delightful and loving pet. In fact, we found that he is more than tabby and white - he has secret ginger fur lining the edges of his white tummy.

I often remark about the way he did not talk for the first week he was with us - because now he is chattering to us all the time. Caspar lives indoors, but goes out on his harness early in the morning, and he now relishes his excursions. Caspar takes me down the street, and is now well-known by all the

neighbours. First thing in the morning, he jumps on the bed and licks my nose and cheeks until I get up and give him breakfast. He has a healthy appetite and loves his Whiskas milk. He is a truly spoilt puss, but how could I not spoil him?

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to get round to sending you some pictures. As you see, he is quite a character! We are so glad that we adopted him.

Best wishes,

PRUE DUNSTONE

Hi Guys,

Pea Blossom aka as Josie sends her regards. She has settled in well - actually she taken over the household and is now the BOSS.

She particularly loves the bed, enjoys sitting on the balcony people watching and playing with her toys - but her first love is eating eating, and eating. She very good at manipulating everyone into giving her little treats. Her special trick at the moment is waking me up at 5 am with her paw in my face/hair for attention/play/food. In her own little way, she has developed quite a personality. She knows she is gorgeous and getting away with it.

Here's some of her pics with her fave scratchy pole and toy.

CHEERS REBECCA

Hi All,

The two girls that we adopted last weekend have settled in great - we have named them Cleopatra (Cleo) (Black and White) and Zambucca (Zam) (Black)

EMILY AND CALEB



Scratching Post

Rehomed cats

Dear Tara,

A long overdue note of appreciation for what you and your staff do at CPS. Alf and I were in a couple of months ago just checking out if we would be fit adoptees of a cat and you introduced us to eighteen month old Houdini. Here is an update.

Well, you will be pleased to know that life has not been the same since then.

Although I have always been a cat-friendly person, I was fairly apprehensive about whether we could provide the best care for Harry Houdini.

Harry quickly settled in with minimum fuss, and was wildly purring and curling up for pats almost as soon

as we got him home. He obviously adores attention and was remarkably unfazed when we had a couple of family members drop in to stay with us unexpectedly the same week he came.

Unfortunately we have irresponsible people in our neighbourhood that leave their animals to roam the streets. So Harry will remain a house cat.

Harry is definitely better off inside. He has large French doors and windows to gaze out from. He has toys to play with, scratching posts on opposite ends of the house and long flights of stairs to run up and down.

You are all doing a really fantastic job, so please keep it up. There are more 'Harry Houdini's' out there waiting for the right family. Thank you.

Regards

DOMINIC HON

Hi,

You may like these pictures of a cat that we adopted from you!

CHEERS, ROY

Hi there,

A quick note to let you know that Wesley, the 9 month old ginger boy, Julian and I adopted from Enmore last month has settled in to his new home brilliantly.

Despite a few toilet problems to start with it only took the timid kitty a few hours to feel at home! He's met lots of new people living here and is actually very brave. There are

moments when I can tell that he thinks this is all too good to be true, run of the house, 2 meals a day, unlimited nibbles, a cat pole, toys and lots of cuddles, but I think he's begun to realise that this is now his new life and it will last forever!

Thanks for the good care you gave to Wesley before we met him. The work you do is phenomenal - he is such a gorgeous little tiger! I have attached a few photos of him in his new home.

Thanks once again!

XENIA AND JULIAN

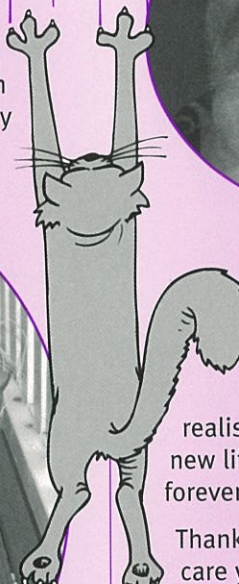
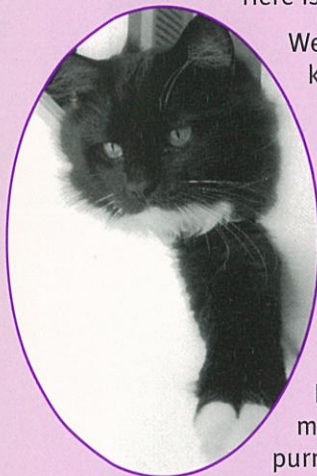
To contribute to "Scratching Post"

email us at:

info@catprotection.org.au

or mail to:

103 Enmore Road, Newtown 2042



Scratching Post

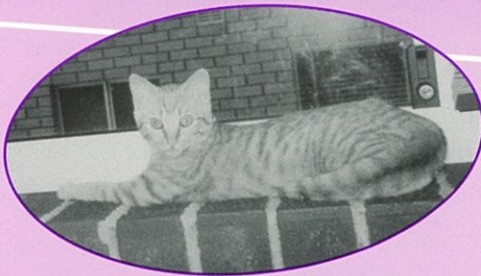
Letters

To whom it may concern,

Could you please include these few words and photos of my kitten? My mother and I adopted a CPS kitten via Steven Cooney, who is our local vet at Maroubra. Her name is Angel, and she is now 6 months old. Our darling Angel has such a lovely, sweet nature. She is so beautiful and angelic – hence her name. We love her so much.

Thanks a million CPS,

EMILY AND JUNE ODLUM



Dear CPS

I attended your open day today and one of the girls suggested I write a small story about our cat after I showed her some photos.

Well 'Seagul' is one of your happy adoption story cats, now 5 years, but adopted from CPS Enmore as an 8 week old stray.

He settled in very quickly making friends with our older cat 'Fudge' now 13 years and claimed our bed as his favourite sleeping place, where he still spends a lot of time.

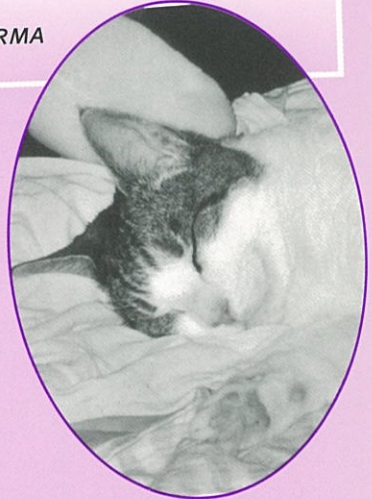
As I'm hearing impaired his super hearing is invaluable to me, in cat language (of course) he alerts me to the phone and door. He knows all about "stranger danger" too!

WITH THANKS,
DAWN MINTER



I have been a member of CPS for yonks, (in the 80's) so Tammy is quite well known to the 'old time' members, who we hope will be interested to see her now...

CHEERS, NORMA



A cat's prayer

Lead me down all the right paths
Keep me from fleas, bees and baths
Let me in should it storm
Keep me safe, fed and warm.
Let the sun shine where I lay
Keep me young so I may play
And most of all
Bless the people I adore
And guard me from the dog next door

M. ANDRIOTIS

To contribute to "Scratching Post",
email us at
info@catprotection.org.au
or mail to
103, Enmore Road, Newtown 2042.

Office Tails

By Lynda O'Grady Executive Officer

Normally we look forward to the quieter, winter months to catch up and prepare ourselves for the next kitten season. The past few years have, however, continued a disturbing pattern where the kitten season starts earlier and lasts longer. This is great for those looking to adopt a kitten but is tough on the finances and staff at agencies like the Cat Protection Society who traditionally rely on this time of year to down size operations a bit, save some money and recuperate ready for the demands of the following season. In the past it was virtually impossible to adopt a kitten in June or July, but CPS and many other welfare agencies still have a selection of kittens at the time of writing.

Luckily, we have had some mentions in the media lately which has lead to many of our cats and kittens finding homes this winter. You may have seen the article "Pets Paradise" in the Sunday Telegraph during June? This article showed the general public what our members already know...that CPS has an amazing Adoption Program and Centre. We have also appeared on ACA with Ray Martin. We are justly proud of the work we are doing at our Newtown Adoption Centre, and feel that we now have some of the best facilities in Australia. Our new facilities were recognised for their design and heritage value with a "Highly Commended" in the Marrickville Medal this May. If you haven't yet visited the new Adoption Centre feel free to drop in between 11 and 3.30, 7 days. We love to show people around.

If you visit our Adoption Centre you will also see some of the wonderful new equipment that has been donated for our cats. We now have two new play areas for cats. Firstly, a new Catmax Kitten Caboodle has been installed on the ground floor. The Caboodle is a portable cat enclosure that is covered by the special Catmax netting designed specially to keep cats safe.

Those interested in adopting can get up close with the kittens inside the Caboodle and watch them climb up and down the spiral staircases or lounge on the cat hammock. The Kitten Caboodle was donated at a very special price by Lily and Levi at Catmax. The remainder of the cost was covered by a CPS volunteer Suzanne Wood, who loves her own Catmax Caboodle so much that wanted our cats to have one as well.

We have also just had our courtyard fitted out with Catmax play equipment and some extra netting. The courtyard is a great spot for cats, but the addition of climbing equipment has made it perfect. Our cats can

now climb up steps to hide behind the bamboo or sit up high to catch the sun and watch the world go by. Again we have this equipment due to the generosity of the people at Catmax, and one of our members Beverley Wood who has generously sponsored the reminder of the cost in memory of her own cats.

We love the Catmax range because it means that cat lovers can keep their cats safely on their own property while allowing them access to the outdoors. This is the perfect solution for modern cat lovers and what responsible pet ownership is all about.

Thanks to Lily and Levi at Catmax, and Suzanne and Beverley who have helped make our cats' lives that bit happier.

We are continually astounded with the ongoing success of our Operation Cat Program. More and more councils are now getting involved and we have been as far afield as Wiseman's Ferry collecting cats for desexing. So far this year we have desexed over 270 cats with local councils such as Penrith, Warringah, Holroyd, Hawkesbury, Randwick and the City of Sydney.

We still have many more opportunities coming up for inexpensive desexing. The following councils have already booked in for the second part of 2004. Fairfield (August), City of Sydney, including the new suburbs such as Redfern, Glebe, Newtown (August/September), Hawkesbury (October), Penrith and Warringah (November). If you know of someone who needs help getting their cat desexed call 9519 7201 and we can give you all of the details.

Loosing good staff is never easy for any organisation and this year we have had more than our fair share. The saddest loss of all will be Sandy Moss, Welfare Officer, who has retired now after 23 years with the Society. Sandy is one of the well-known faces of the CPS, and if you have ever needed help with a cat it's likely that Sandy came to your home in her animal ambulance. Our Cattery Manager, Tara, remembers Sandy coming to her home to pick up a cat for desexing when Tara was only a young girl. This was just one of the thousands of cats that Sandy has helped over the years.

Working in animal welfare is not a lucrative career choice, but for someone like Sandy who has a huge heart and a great love of animals it was a career that she felt drawn to. Sandy was one of the first Welfare Officers ever employed by the CPS and has seen the organisation change dramatically over the years. Sandy has trained almost all of our new Welfare Officers, including finally her replacement Charmaine Best. Many people find animal welfare work too

Continued....

Office Tails

By Lynda O'Grady Executive Officer

emotionally draining and it is easy to burn out, but Sandy has not only maintained her enthusiasm but also an astounding level of compassion and care.

For many years Sandy has been in charge of selecting cats for re-homing from those surrendered at Concord Animal Hospital. This is a difficult and emotional job, one which many people would find beyond them. Sandy has always managed to show these cats a level of respect and love that they perhaps never saw in their own homes.

Not only is Sandy great with cats, but she has also been much loved by the staff. Sandy's honesty and humour are always refreshing and will be greatly missed by those who work with her, and those who she has helped.

We wish Sandy all the best for her future, and welcome Charmaine Best as our newest recruit.

One of joys and privileges of working in animal welfare is being able to spend time with the kittens and cats that we care for. Most of the staff at CPS do some volunteer work (on top of their normal duties) fostering underage kittens. This may seem like a lot of fun, and at times it is, but it's also a huge amount of

work. Many of the kittens that come to us are very young, and far too small to be taken away from their mothers. When they arrive here they are often cold and near to death. We do our best to save as many of the kittens as possible, but this means that someone needs to take them home. Due to living in a very small flat, with very fussy older cats, I have hardly had the chance to experience the trials and joys of fostering. That is until little Humphrey came into our office one cold June day. Humphrey was found in an abandoned house, and at two weeks was too small to stay alive on his own, particularly in the middle of winter. He needed to be bottle-fed every three hours and so became my constant companion, coming with me to work, even catching the bus and coming shopping. He was never phased by the world and sat happily in his cage looking out.

Humphrey is now a bit of a media star being featured in our local newspaper and A Current Affair. The beautiful photo of Humphrey (below) was taken by Danny Aarons of the Glebe and Inner Western Weekly.

If you live in the Inner West are would like to join our fostering team, please call Tara on **9519 7201**. ☺

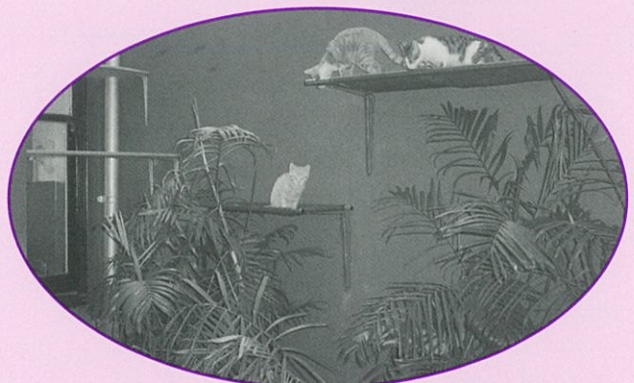
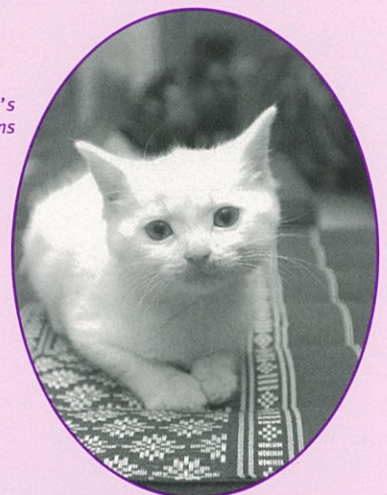


Sandy Moss Retires after 23 years with the Cat Protection Society



Kitten on the spiral stair case in the new Caboodle

Humphrey, one of CPS's many foster kittens



Cats enjoying the new play equipment

Volunteer Spotlight

Cate Kerr

Susan Mullan has been volunteering at the Cat Protection Society Adoption Centre for 18 months. She is now well loved by the staff and cats alike and has become an invaluable and committed volunteer with the Cat Protection Society team.



Susan is committed to the ideal of community volunteering and fits in her work at CPS amongst other volunteer and work commitments. Her involvement with CPS started after becoming a member and hearing about our Volunteer Program. She originally contemplated volunteering in our Op Shop but felt that volunteering in a hands-on capacity would better suit her skills.

Susan has always had a love of animals, especially cats and has lived with cats all of her life. She proudly states that her 1st cat Wilbur, who lived to be 17, outlasted 2 husbands! Susan has 2 sons, who both have inherited her love of cats and are both happy cat owners.

Susan now has five cats of her own Annie, Ricky, Bubbarella, Gina and her newest arrival Fefy. Fefy came to CPS as a stray mother with her kittens. CPS staff looked after Fefy and her kittens in our Maternity Ward until the kittens were old enough to be adopted. By this time Susan had fallen in love with Fefy and decided to adopt her.

Susan has a very busy schedule. She teaches conversational English to Muslim ladies on Fridays and has an active association with the Muslim Woman's League. She is a member of the Socialist

Alliance, an organisation that is politically motivated to work against social injustice. Susan is also a practicing Nicherin Buddhist. Of all these activities she says that volunteering at CPS on a Thursday is an absolute pleasure and always the highlight of her busy week.

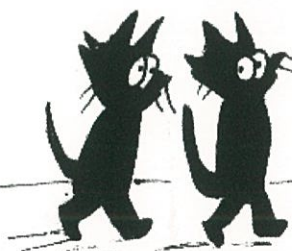
Susan says that her hopes for the future include putting the issue of cat management on the political agenda for Local Councils. She hopes that one day desexing will be compulsory, but also free, and subsidised by Councils, and sees this as the only solution to the problem of the huge number of unwanted kittens.

The staff and cats at CPS are extremely grateful for the effort that Susan makes every single Thursday to help out, despite her busy schedule. We thank her for her dedication to the cats and her amazing organisational ability! She is an inspirational person to have around and an irreplaceable member of our team.

Cat Protection is always looking for volunteers – people are needed in our cattery for cleaning and cat socialisation. If you can assist us, please contact the office on **9519 7201** Mon – Fri 9-4 or visit our website www.catprotection.org.au. 🐾



Someone will take her....
We've always wanted to travel
and you know perfectly well we
can't take humans on our trip
around the world. So don't worry.
She'll be ok. She won't miss us.
She's only a human!



Ask the Cattery Manager

Settling in your new Cat or Kitten

Tara Dethridge

What do I need to do before I take my new friend home?

First up, make sure you have purchased all the things you need for your new cat or kitten before you take him or her home so that everything is set up and ready. You will need the following:

- 🐾 litter tray and some litter (we recommend Breeders Choice Recycled Cat Litter).
- 🐾 food (we recommend a super premium brand such as Purina ProPlan or Science Diet)
- 🐾 food bowls
- 🐾 water bowls
- 🐾 toys
- 🐾 scratching post
- 🐾 cat bed or igloo
(igloos are great for timid cats or kittens to hide in)

Do a check of all the fly screens on your windows to make sure they are secure and your kitten/cat can't get out. All cats and kittens must stay entirely inside for at least the first month. This way they can get acquainted with you and their new environment.

You will need to confine the kitten or cat to one room initially (this is particularly important if you have existing animals). Set the room up with your new cat equipment and a radio. The background noise of a radio at low volume really helps alleviate anxiety and nervousness that can be caused by hearing all the unfamiliar household noises.

Block off small spaces under or behind cupboards etc,



kittens and small cats can get into some extraordinarily small, dark places. Hiding is perfectly normal in the initial stages but it needs to be done somewhere like an igloo, where you can check that he or she is OK.

What do I do once I've arrived home with my new friend?

Take your new cat or kitten straight into the set up room, open their box and pop him/her into the litter tray, just in case!

Spend some time in the room with him/her just observing how confident he/she is feeling, if he/she is really frightened leave him/her alone for a few hours to settle in a bit. If you have young children explain to them that this can be a very stressful time for the new cat/kitten, ask them to be quiet, gentle and respectful, let them know that settling in may take some time.

After a couple of hours, offer some food, but make sure it is a small portion of the diet the cat or kitten was being fed at it's original home. A complete change of diet plus anxiety can lead to an upset tummy.

Over the next few days, get acquainted, go into the cat/kitten room and spend time with him or her in the space where he/she feels comfortable and safe. Play games, give lots of pats and attention, hold him or her on your knee or just sit and read a book with him/her while he/she is asleep. This is the "getting to know you phase" and it is very important for both of you. Your cat will learn to trust you and feel less overwhelmed by the new environment and you can get to know special things like where your cat does or doesn't like to be touched and whether he/she enjoys being picked up. When your new cat or kitten is relaxed he/she will blossom and grow in confidence.

Once he/she is standing at the door demanding to explore you can let him/her out into the rest of the house under

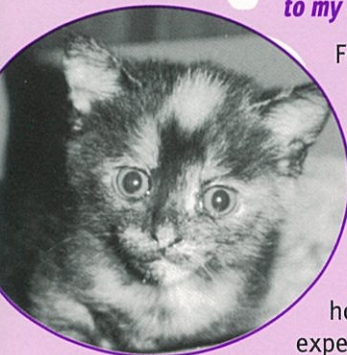


Ask the Cattery Manager

supervision. Remember this room is still your new cat/kittens "safety zone", do not close the door, he/she will need access to this room at all times in case they feel frightened.

Keep in mind that every cat and kitten is an individual, some will come home and it will seem as though you have both lived there forever and some will take a longer time to settle in. Once you have been rewarded with a cat's love and trust, you will see that your patience and perseverance was worth the effort.

How do I introduce my new friend to my existing feline friend?



Follow the same steps as above, keeping them separate in the early days is vital because for cats it is all about smell. You basically want the new kitten/cat to smell as much like home as possible. Those of you with multi cat households may already have experienced the phenomena of the power of smell, from spraying urine on the lounge to hissing at a family member when they arrive home from a stay at the vet. An old "ah yes, that smells like me" smell, is as comforting as a new "that doesn't smell like me" smell is threatening.

While the new kitten/cat is confined to their room you will need to swap smells and this is done in a variety of ways. First up take a favourite sleeping spot from your existing cat, cushion covers or small blankets and towels are ideal and wipe it all over the new cat, then leave it with the new cat to sniff and hopefully sleep on. Towel down the new kitten or cat and use the same tactic with the existing cat, even let your existing cat have a good sniff and explore of the box you took your new cat/kitten home in. Don't wash your hands between touching them and let them rub their faces on your clothing, hands and forearms as much as possible. This swapping of smells is familiarising them with one another before they've even met and is your best chance of a successful meeting when they do.

If you have a gap under your door that is large enough for the cats to see each other, you can give them their meals at the same time on their separate sides of the door. This will make them aware of each other's presence and allow them to see that there is no competition for food. You can also pop the new cat or

kitten in the carry box and let the existing cat into the room to have a good sniff around just prior to introduction.

Keep this routine up until you sense they are ready to meet, then open the door and supervise.

What can I expect when they meet?

You can expect an initial greeting, then once they've smelt an unfamiliar cat, hissing, growling and other such "unhappy cat" language will generally ensue. One may retreat, one may chase, they may just sit and stare at each other or it may be business as usual, which is the best-case scenario where neither cat is phased by the other at all. In a domestic situation, where both cats are desexed it will rarely become physical. If it does, separate them by spraying them with a water pistol and start the whole process again. Supervision is imperative initially and if you feel there is tension, put the new addition back into the "safe room" when you are out of the house.

If your existing cat goes outside it is a good idea to keep him/her locked in too, at least until everything settles down. The initial stages of introduction can cause such upheaval for some cats that they refuse to come home. Once some time has passed, and this can mean at least six months, the cats will either become friends or learn to live with one another by keeping as far away from each other as possible. As long as they are happy, a "distanced relationship" is an acceptable outcome. Cats are not stupid and will eventually work out a way to share the space.

The good news is that in 98% of cases it works out well with both cats benefiting hugely from having a playmate, a wrestling component and someone to lick that special spot behind the ears that most cats just can't reach on their own. 🐾



Making a Happy Home for Your Cat

PART TWO OF A THREE PART SERIES



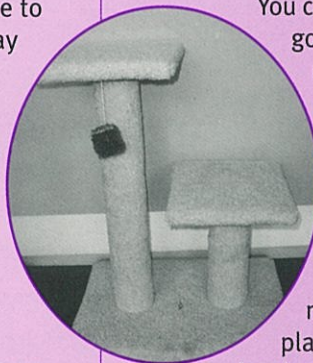
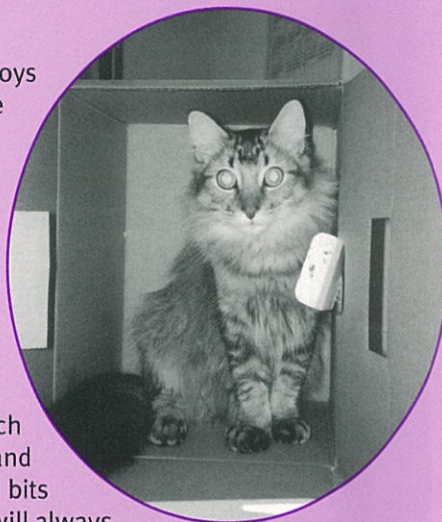
Games & Exercise -

Cats love to sleep, but they also love to play. Indoor cats need regular exercise, as they are susceptible to becoming overweight. A minimum of 15 minutes play per day is advised for physically and mentally healthy cats. More is better. It is vital that you put aside some time each day for playing with your indoor cat.

It's best to have a selection of toys, but don't just have them lying around. Have a toy basket and bring them out one or two at a time. It is important to circulate your cat's toys so that they don't get bored. Include new items (such as the household items listed below) every week to increase

the variety.

There are lots of fun toys available now, but the main ones that cats love are balls (to chase), string (to jump for) and of course mice. New toys take these basic ideas and make them more fun. Mice on a string that you can throw or attach to a door handle, a hand wand with ribbon and bits of material attached will always get your cat's interest. Check out your local pet store regularly for the new toys on the market.



You can buy some great toys, and it's always good to give your cat a treat, but you can make your own toys and games at home. Don't forget that the toy usually isn't much fun unless you are on the other end.

Try not to allow your cat to play with or attack your hand, always use toys. Your cat will learn this behaviour and may attack your hand when you aren't playing. Once this behaviour starts it's hard to stop.

Toys From Household Items

- ♥ Ping Pong balls
- ♥ Shower Curtain Rings – either on their own or linked together
- ♥ Plastic Ring from the top of bottle (such as milk bottles)
- ♥ Practice gold balls
- ♥ Empty cardboard tubes from toilet paper
- ♥ Paper bags –with the handles removed. Cats love to get inside things like bags, but of course plastic bags are not suitable
- ♥ Cardboard boxes
- ♥ Corks on a string

- ♥ Bottle tops
- ♥ Old stuffed toys – some cats love to carry around stuffed toys, especially once they get a familiar scent on them
- ♥ Crumpled up bits of paper
- ♥ Pipe cleaners twisted into different shapes
- ♥ String, shoelaces and ribbons (my cat's favourite is bow and bell from last year's Christmas presents)
- ♥ Putting small items on a string or ribbon will make them easier to retrieve if you like to sit on the lounge while playing

SAFETY NOTE: Don't include items that can be easily swallowed, like pins or paper clips and if your cat likes eating string, as some strange cats do, don't include this in play.

Making a Happy Home for Your Cat

Food – cats have a strong sense of smell and leaving treats around the house when you go to work can keep your cats entertained. My cats love Whiskas Cravers but there are many other commercially available treats to try. Try varying the treats. First leave the treats in fairly obvious spots, and then as your cats become more experienced with this game, you can hide the treats in more difficult places.

Most cats will enjoy a varied diet so try different things or even give treats of fresh meat, fish and chicken either cooked or raw.

Cats love to hide. Leave a cardboard box turned on it's side for your cat to hide in. Some cats love hiding under blankets or bed sheets. One of my cats will always run under the sheets when I am making the bed. This is now a regular game.

When playing with your cat and her toys, get down on the ground so that you are at her level. Cats love to attack fast moving objects. A string or ribbon moved across with sudden, jerky movements will often arouse your cats curiosity.

Cat Friendly Gardening – Catnip, cat mint and cat grass are vital if you have an indoor cat. Cats need to eat the grass to aid their digestion, and the catnip and mint can give them a lot of pleasure.

Some cats love catnip others are just not interested. If your cat does enjoy it, once you have seen the effects you will never want to live without it again. Try crumpling the leaves in your hand to release the smell and put it near your cats nose. You will often see your cat rubbing it's head against the pot to release this heady smell.

You can grow it from seed or even easier buy it from garden stores and some pet shops as well. Usually around \$4.00 to \$5.00 per pot. Make sure that the plants look healthy before buying.

Catnip and cat grass can be quite

decorative if potted in modern pots. We do this at CPS in our play courtyard. New grass planted in a colourful pot can make a great, modern decoration for your home or veranda. Bunch a few pots of grass, catnip and mint together and make a little cat play area.

Try planting some in smaller pots that can then be left around the house as a surprise when you are out.

Catnip and grass need to be watered everyday in summer and are better in plastic pots which won't dry out as quickly. Try to cut them back regularly (giving the off cuts to your cats) and this will promote healthy growth.

Catnip is very susceptible to caterpillars. Try to pull them off by hand but if this doesn't work you can cut them right back. I have used this method and the plants have regrown without toxic sprays.

If this doesn't work you may need to treat them with as non-toxic product as possible. You will need to take the affected plants out of circulation until the problem is fixed. Speak to your garden centre if you have ongoing problems and tell them that your cat uses this plant.

If your cat really, really loves catnip and grass you may need to rest and rotate the plants so that they can rejuvenate after your cat has gone crazy. If you have a number of pots that you use carefully, you can keep your catnip going for a long time with only a small initial investment.

Did you know that kittens under six months old seem to be immune to the joys of catnip?

Feliway – this is a product that can be obtained from your vet in a spray in dispenser. It contains pheromones that will calm your cat and make your house feel more like home. It is particularly useful when there are problems in multi-cat households, but can be good when bringing home a new cat or if your cat is suffering from other emotional or behavioural difficulties. Always check with your vet to make sure that there are no underlying medical problems 🐾



Hugs for the Homeless

Snuggles Project

Help keep our cats warm this winter!

Hugs for Homeless Animals is a non-profit organisation based in America. They are a humane education organisation that provides support programs that connect the public with animal caring organisations.

Since their beginnings in 1996, they have worked diligently to help animals that have found themselves homeless or lost. They have educated and prodded humans to do better to understand and care for the animals whom they have the privilege of guardianship. As part of their work they provide programs to assist the animal welfare industry to fulfil their goals to provide good homes, receive capital funding, and to educate the public in this regard.

The Snuggles Project is one of the many educational and animal welfare programs they offer worldwide. It was founded by President, Rae French, in 1996 because of her heartfelt desire to do something for the innocent victims who find themselves in animal shelters without a bit of comfort to call their own.

The Project encourages people to knit, sew or crochet blankets to give to their local welfare agencies. The Cat Protection Society of NSW was contacted by one of our members who had heard about the project and who had already started knitting for our cats. We are always in need of bedding for the cats and kittens in our care and the Snuggles blankets were perfect.

This is another way that you can be involved in helping cats and kittens in need, even if current circumstances don't allow you time for volunteering. The cat blanket below is just one pattern available. We currently have volunteers who knit and crochet cat toys and knitted items for sale in our shops. These hand made products are in great demand in an age where everything is mass-produced and now fetch good prices.

Here are some suggestions on possible patterns or see more on www.h4ha.org/snuggles.

Cat blanket :

Use Size 6 needles. Using 2 washable yarns cast on 70 stitches and knit a square.

For the more adventurous:

Vertical Stripes Knit Snuggle

This Snuggle works up into a wonderfully thick mat. The contrasting colours add dimension and beauty. Knitting vertical stripes takes a bit of patience if you are doing it for the first time.

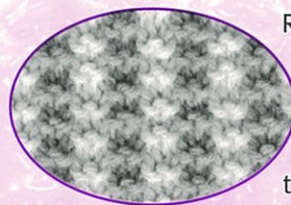
Materials: Worsted weight (2 colours: main colour = MC, contrasting colour = CC), acrylic or cotton, size 9 knitting needles

Directions: Cast on a number of stitches divisible by four, plus two stitches. (Example, 62 stitches = small snuggle)

Row 1: With MC, *K2, yarn in back of work, slip 2, repeat from * across row, and end K2.

Row 2: With MC, *K2, yarn in front of work, slip 2 (same 2 slipped in previous row). Repeat from * across row, and end K2.

Row 3: With CC, * yarn in back of work, slip 2, K2, Repeat from * across row, and end slip 2.



Row 4: With CC, *yarn in front of work, slip 2, K2. Repeat from * across row. Repeat these 4 rows until desired length.

Finish off. You may wish to roll the edges or crochet around the work to make the edges lie flat.

Hint: This pattern appears to be a simple pattern. In actuality it is quite easy to lose track of your colours and rows, thus, creating an uneven pattern. To keep track of where you are at all times, create a mental method of keeping track. All colours start on the right side and end on the wrong side of your work. I found it easier to keep track of my colours by moving the skeins as I worked with a particular colour. For instance, if I were working with the MC, the CC skein was placed out of the way. For best results in finishing, leave ends long and weave the ends through the work using a tapestry needle.

Any donations of cat blankets or knitted toys for sale in our shops or for cats in our cattery would be greatly appreciated. 🐾

Please send or bring blankets to:

Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Rd, Newtown NSW 2042

Book Reviews



The Nine Emotional Lives of Cats

A Journey into the Feline Heart

By Jeffrey Masson

This is a fascinating book, full of amusing and thought provoking insights into the curious and often secretive nature of the feline mind. Jeffrey Masson and his family live with five cat friends, who have been instrumental in the writing of this book. "The Nine Emotional Lives of Cats" is based on his own observations as well as drawing from literature, history and scientific research.

Jeffrey has divided the book into nine chapters, each dealing with a different feline emotion: narcissism, love, contentment, attachment, jealousy, fear, anger, curiosity and playfulness.

"The Nine Emotional Lives of Cats" is an affectionate and perceptive book, which captures the essence of these delightful creatures.

Vintage 2003
SASCHA PERRY



Donation Form

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

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

DONATION \$ _____

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Surname _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

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 specific asset is to be bequeathed the form would be:

I (insert full name and address) give and bequeath to The Cat Protection Society of NSW, the registered office of which is **103 Enmore, Enmore, Newtown, NSW, 2042**, the sum of \$..... (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, Newtown, 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 bequest to the Society please contact the Secretary on (02) 9557 1011.



Book Reviews

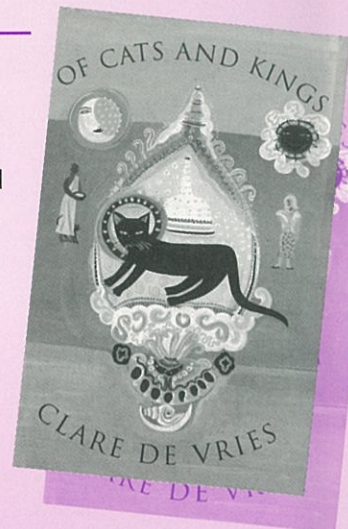
Of Cats and Kings

By Clare de Vries

"Of Cats and Kings" is a fun travel narrative for cat lovers. It follows the author's journey through Burma and Thailand, in her search for the perfect cat. After the death of her much loved Burmese Cat "Claudius", Clare finally feels ready for another cat and not just any cat will do. She decides to go back to the source. After numerous colourful and at times hilarious adventures on her journey of discovery, at last Clare finds a beautiful kitten in a remote temple in Thailand.

As an Animal Welfare Worker I had some difficulty with the concept of seeking a cat overseas when so many cats are need of homes in her native England. In spite of this, "Of Cats and Kings" is extremely enjoyable read.

Bloomsbury 2002
SASCHA PERRY



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**
Please tick ☐ **Life Membership** **\$250.00** ☐ **Junior Membership** **\$10.00**
 ☐ **Annual Membership** **\$20.00** (State Birthday) _____

Enclosed find a cheque/money order for membership \$ _____ + Donation of \$ _____ **Total \$** _____

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Surname _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact Phone No. _____ Email _____

Date _____ Pension Number _____ Signature _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS INFORMATION

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

Surname (Block letters) _____ First Name _____

New Address _____ Postcode _____

Old Address _____ Postcode _____

Day in the Life - CPS Office Staff

Alice Young

In any organisation, arguably the most challenging roles are those involving a high level of interaction with the general public. At the Cat Protection Society, this contact means that the Customer Service Officer and Office Co-ordinator provide not only an extremely involved level of customer service, but also dispute resolution and problem solving. Quite often the calls that Sascha and Cate receive are from people "who have tried all other avenues and are ringing us at the end of the line - understandably they are very upset".

Both roles involve a high level of telephone work, with queries that range from the mundane to the distressing and Cate and Sascha have to deal with these on a case-by-case basis - at all times trying to provide solutions that facilitate the welfare of the animals involved. They both agree that this is the most challenging facet of their respective roles, and often the calls can rank in the hundreds.

Sascha came to CPS from a background in bookselling. Whilst she loved this, she felt that she wasn't adding value and so decided to move into animal welfare, "as I believe that animals have so much to offer the world and deserve our respect and protection". On a tough day what keeps her going is her love for cats, and the overall mission and philosophy of CPS. As to her career, Sascha's goals are to "be happy and to contribute in a positive way and at CPS I can do this".

In order to keep CPS working smoothly, there are a certain number of procedures in place to ensure that field work is logged, distributed and tracked, which Sascha is responsible for. Her role therefore requires regular liaison with the general public, CPS Welfare Officers, vets and other animal welfare bodies such as the AWL and RSPCA. In addition she has regular contact with animals that have been surrendered or are booked in for desexing, so



keeping her tetanus shot up-to-date is a must! However for someone with such a strong passion for animals, this is the plus side of the job. Of course every role had an administration content, and Sascha's had a strong emphasis on reconciling incoming monies to CPS, invoicing, compiling office statistics and maintenance of publicity and media files - all when the phone's aren't ringing!

Prior to coming to the Cat Protection Society Cate Kerr worked at the Lost Dogs' Home in Melbourne. When she relocated to Sydney, she was keen to work for CPS as she had "always felt strongly about the welfare of cats". At CPS she has found that the ethos of promotion of responsible pet ownership and assistance to the general public through desexing the programs etc fitted well with her own - "I enjoy working for an organisation that places great importance and inherent value on the individual life of each and every animal that comes to us." The biggest frustration for Cate is the lack of support for animal welfare from government, thus leaving non-governmental welfare agencies to fill the gap - often stretching resources beyond capability. In the long term Cate sees herself continuing her career in animal welfare and to that end is studying too. She loves her job and feels that "CPS is a great example of how a responsible, professional Animal Welfare organisation should be operated".

Whilst Cate's role also involves the same high degree of customer and animal contact, her administration focus is on new members and keeping their details up-to-date; mailing out the journal; organising volunteers; updating the website; and backing up for the Executive Officer and Customer Service Officer as well as maintaining spreadsheets and office supplies - again it is an extremely busy and varied role.

For CPS, Sascha and Cate it sounds like a perfect match! Thanks to you both for your dedication, professionalism and unwavering focus on delivering the best result for the animals. 🐾

Cats in the News

Cat's the way to treat asylum seekers

Honey, cat at the centre of a global refugee rights campaign will be reunited with her asylum-seeker friend.

The arrival was hailed as a victory for the humane treatment of refugees by advocate groups across the world after an international effort to reunite the animal with her refugee owner.

The white-and-ginger stray was allegedly Sisalem's only companion during the time he spent as the sole detainee at the remote Manus Island detention centre.

Sisalem and Honey formed a strong bond over the 10 lonely months he spent on the island, and when the 25-year-old Kuwait-born Palestinian learnt two weeks ago that he had been granted an Australian protection visa, he was reportedly distressed at leaving the cat behind.

"She's been with me since I was detained, she was the only companion I had," Sisalem said after landing in Melbourne two weeks ago.

But officers from the International Office of Migration (IOM) which oversees the Manus Island detention camp, allegedly refused to let Sisalem take the cat with him to Australia, saying it was not within their charter to assist in the welfare of detainees' pets.

Finally, after an international campaign by refugee advocate groups and with help from Australian Democrats leader Andrew Bartlett, Honey was retrieved from Manus Island and flown to Port Moresby.

A spokeswoman for Senator Bartlett said yesterday the IOM's refusal to allow Sisalem to take Honey with him to Australia was a breach of the asylum seeker's property rights.

"This is really a frivolous matter which should never have gotten to the point where it did," the spokeswoman said.

"Sisalem is now a lawful resident of Australia, he was trying to lawfully transport his property to Australia and was denied that right.

"It is not for anyone else to decide how another person should value their property."



Sisalem's plea to be reunited with Honey touched a nerve in the Australian public, with thousands of people offering to assist in the cat's travel arrangements.

One refugee advocate offered to foot the cost of the airfare and the Royal Humane Society in Melbourne offered to desex the cat on its arrival in Australia.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals in America also offered its help after learning of Sisalem's plea.

On arrival in Melbourne she will be immediately taken to a quarantine centre where she will spend up to three months in isolation before being reunited with Sisalem.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD JUNE 22ND 2004

Stealing Kitty for Cat

A woman told police she robbed a string of US banks to raise money to pay for surgery for her cat.

Catherine Kaczanowski, 44, who was arrested last month, said she set off on her crime spree after learning her stray cat Smoochie had a cancerous tumour and needed surgery, police said.

She is accused of hitting five banks near her Brooklyn home and making off with a total of \$US7,500 (\$A10,300). She has pleaded not guilty to larceny in Brooklyn Criminal Court.

Police say she slipped notes to bank tellers demanding money and saying, "I don't want to hurt anybody."

When arrested, the frail 1.6 metre, 45 kg recluse told police she was desperate to save Smoochie, a stray she adopted as a kitten nearly three years ago.

Smoochie had the surgery, which was successful, the New York Post reported quoting a law enforcement source.

Kaczanowski told police she got the idea of robbing banks after reading about other successful bank heists. Police said today they had been unable to verify her story.

*MAY 5, 2004 - 1:19PM
REUTERS*

Cats in the News

Very Fat Cat Seized

A German cat weighing six times the normal weight is so fat that it cannot take more than four steps without getting exhausted.

Now officials at a Berlin animal shelter are having trouble finding a new owner for six-year-old Mikesch, after it was taken away from his elderly owner.

The man, who was himself taken to a nursing home, had been feeding the 18.5 kilo cat two kilos of mince each day.

"You can call it cruelty to animals," said shelter veterinarian Karin Bartell, as the cat stared straight ahead with a bored look.

"It's a problem for joints and the heart.

The cat can't clean itself because he is too fat. He walks three or four steps and is completely exhausted because the heart no longer works properly and the cat can't breathe normally anymore."

Mikesch has been put on a strict diet to reduce his size.

Cats usually weigh between 3-6kg and should eat no more than about 300 grams of food each day, vets say.

A spokesman for Guinness World Records said they did not keep track of fat cats any longer but said the existing record was 18.55kg - a cat from Minnesota named O.T.

APRIL 7, 2004

THIS STORY WAS FOUND AT:

[HTTP://WWW.SMH.COM.AU/ARTICLES/
2004/04/07/1081222508291.HTML](http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/04/07/1081222508291.html)

The World's Oldest Pet Cat

What is believed to be the world's oldest pet cat has been uncovered by archaeologists, curled up near its probable owner and various offerings in a grave dug 9500 years ago. The discovery, in Cyprus, was reported by a French team in the Journal Science.

The cat appeared unharmed. Its careful burial with its 30-year-old owner marks the oldest known evidence of the special relationship between humans and cats.

ROGER HIGHFIELD SMH APRIL 9TH 2004

Jet Setting Cat Back Home

A cat which jet-setted its way across the United States for nearly three weeks has been flown home to its owners in Germany.

Billy the cat escaped from its box in the hold of the jet when his owners Guenther and Ingrid Koelbl flew from Phoenix, Arizona to Philadelphia earlier this month.

Undetected in the hold, the black-and-white kitty missed the family's connecting flight to Munich and was found 18 days later by airline mechanics in Manchester, New Hampshire.

"It's an indescribable feeling, the whole family is so happy. It'll get an extra portion of whatever it wants to eat," Guenther Koelbl said.

Looking thinner and somewhat tired, Billy the cat was flown home via a US Airways flight from Philadelphia on Thursday, this time in the passenger compartment in a box marked "Escape Artist".

APRIL 22, 2004 - AFP

Case of the four-eared cat

A kitten born with four ears is desperately seeking a new home because her owners can't afford to have her neutered, according to German animal shelter officials.

Six-month-old Lilly, born on a farm in the southern state of Bavaria, has an extra pair of slightly smaller, non-hearing ears just behind the normal two. Vets attribute the phenomenon to a gene mutation.

"We want to find Lilly the loving home she deserves. She is very kind and not a monster," said an employee at a sanctuary caring for Lilly and her nine normal brothers and sisters.

Farmers often give kittens away rather than pay to have them neutered to avoid over-breeding, sanctuary officials said. "She is healthy and can hear perfectly well but only through the front pair," said Tessy Loedermann, from the animal protection group in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, which runs the home.

"It often happens with animals' feet when the cells form in an unusual way. But I have never ever seen it with ears before," she said.

MARCH 25, 2004 - REUTERS



cat protection society
OF NSW



103 Enmore Rd Newtown 2042

Welfare Office

Ph 9519 7201 Fax: 95578052

Adoption Centre:

Ph 95574818

Website:

catprotection.org.au

E-mail:

info@catprotection.org.au

Opportunity Shop:

Ph 9516 2072