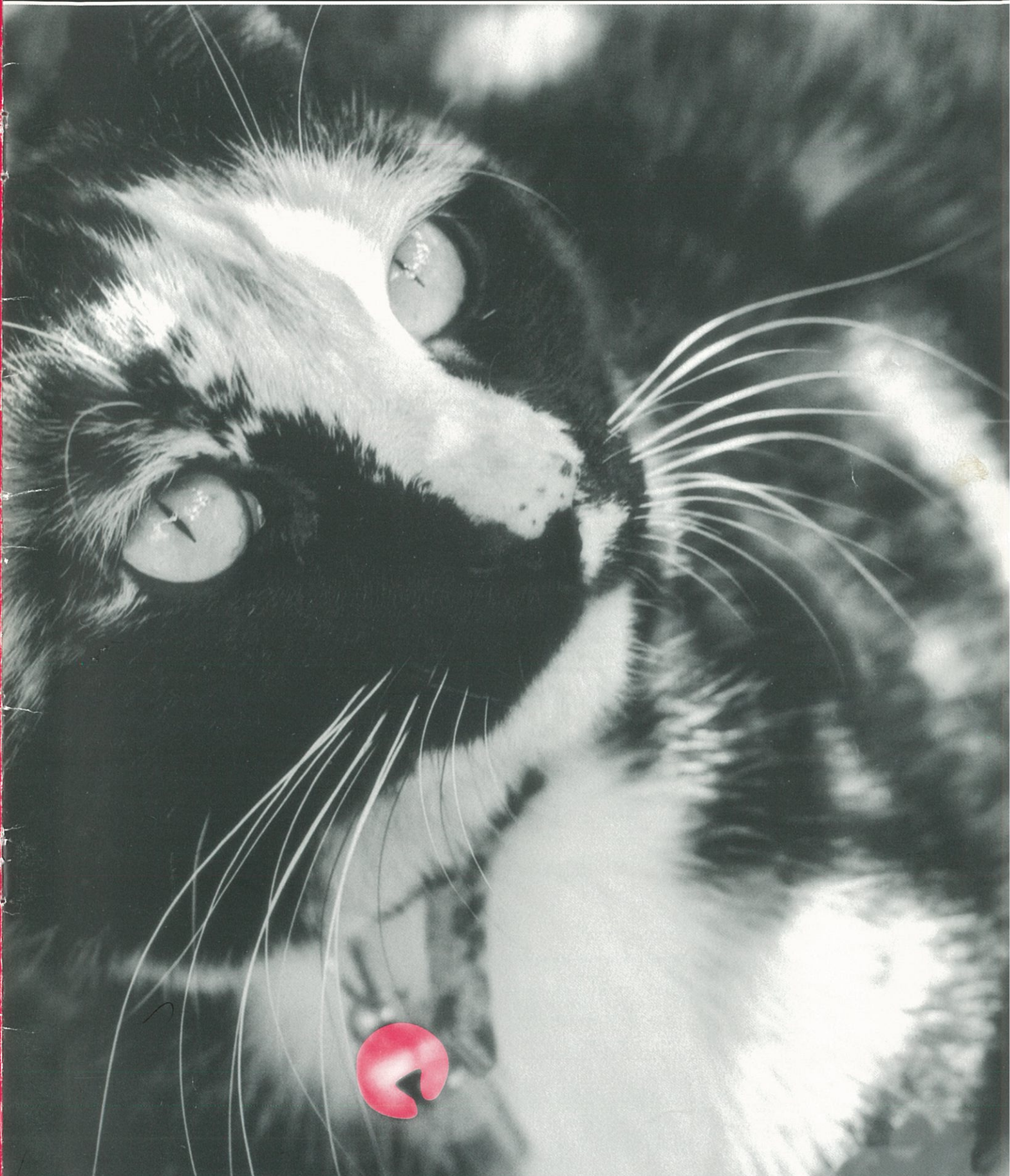


Cat Affairs



WINTER 2004

THE JOURNAL FROM THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW



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Front Cover ~ Winner of
the CPS Cute Cat
Competition ~ Wookie
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

By Nita Harvey

Dear Members,

We have just
concluded a most
successful holiday
season.
Over the December-
January period 239
kittens were
re-homed.



The number of kittens surrendered this season
far exceeded the past few years which belies the belief that
the number of domestic cats is decreasing.

Unfortunately the beginning of February was a difficult time
at our cattery. Our younger cats (in particular) became ill
with an "Ecoli" type infection. Vets were consulted and
blood tests taken. Our dedicated cattery staff and
invaluable volunteers scrubbed and cleaned all areas of the
cattery to ensure complete sterilisation. Our cattery was
closed for a short period and no new surrenders were
accepted at Newtown until the cattery was given the "all
clear" by our vet. Fortunately we were soon back to normal
operations.

Many thanks to those who contribute to and those who
work in our Opportunity Shop. The income from the Op
Shop is invaluable. As always we are in need of volunteers.
Just a day or two a month would be a great help. See the
article on Page 13 for details about volunteering at our
Opportunity Shop.

On the 18th January long time Op Shop volunteer and former
councillor John Burnett died. John was enjoying a game of
golf at the time. Our sympathy goes to John's wife who has
generously joined our Op Shop team.

I hope you enjoy your journal and I look forward to keeping
you informed in future "Cat Affairs".

Nita Harvey

President

On behalf of the Cat Protection Society Board

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Cat Protection Society Open Day

Saturday May 22nd
11am to 3pm

The Cat Protection Society is opening the doors again this year so that you can see how a modern animal shelter and Adoption Centre work. Not to mention the chance to meet all of our beautiful cats and kittens.

We would love you to come and join us to celebrate our first year of operations at the new premises.

All our staff will be available to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

*We look forward to seeing you
on the 22nd of May*

Scratching Post

Rehomed cats

Dear Staff at C.P.S.,

Just a short note to let you know how little Lexi is doing. We purchased her in May this year and she has been a wonderful companion to my husband and I. Her nature is still sweet and gentle but she is extremely confident and adventurous in her new home and surroundings.

Lexi eats a lot but is a very fussy eater. I think she may be a little spoiled.

We have enclosed a photo for you and wanted to let you know she is safe and well.

Best Regards,

MARGARET AND JASON

To all,

Please find enclosed a snap shot of Skittles in her new home at Berowra. Talk about making herself at home, she has done that with no trouble at all.

Also with her male mate, 'Jasper' whom we adopted from a local veterinary clinic.

Best Regards,

KEN AND CHRIS TUCAN

Dearest Cat Protection Society,

In September I celebrated my 1st birthday. We ate Sang Choy Bow out of lettuce leaves. It was delicious! I have a healthy appetite. I particularly love my biscuits. This morning I was fortunate to have a chicken neck! Mmm.....

I have an older brother named George. I love to rumble with him and play stalking games and leapfrog.

Thanks again for your help finding me a wonderful home!

Lots of love,

THEODORE

Hi guys,

Thought you might like to catch up on 2 of your charges. I adopted them from you in September 2001 - then known as Saffron and Caesar. Now known as Gemma and Oscar.

Gemma - the snuggly smoocher, the softie. Sleeps on

top of you when not cuddled up with Oscar. Would sell her soul for a cuddle, anytime.

Oscar - the restless wind. Sleek, strong, total muscle package weighing in at over 9 kg, not an ounce of fat. Runs like pharlap.

They have their own domain, that is the total house and a very large garden deck area, wired in so they are safe - and so are the birds and wildlife.

Thank you so much CPS - I have 2 lifetime soulmates and cannot imagine this home without them.

LOVE OSCAR + GEMMA

Dear Tara & Friends at Enmore,

You will remember Clever (the climber) whom I adopted 6 weeks ago. He has now settled very well into his new home and, in fact, is kind of 'in charge'. He is playful and funny and loves a cuddle - but not a lap cat.....yet.

Clever had never lived outside in his 5 years and is enjoying exploring my balcony (with harness and lead). He loves to sit in the fresh air but is still an indoors cat.

Many thanks and big purrrrrssss to everyone at Enmore.

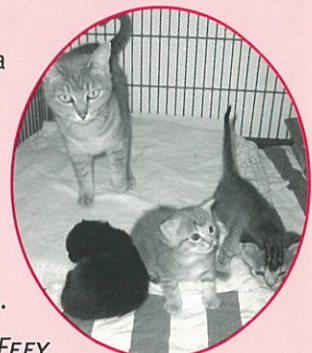
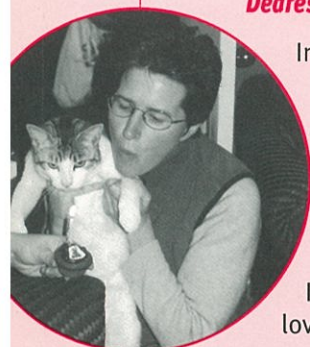
CATHERINE McCANON

Just a short note to let you know at the Cat Society how well I'm doing. My name used to be Priscilla, but my new servant has renamed me 'fadile' or 'fey' to my friends. I am now living in shared accommodation with other mistresses (another name for female cats). We have a great lifestyle, and a roomy flat in which we can do whatever we want.

Life is great, food is fantastic + plentiful + my servant Susan, is a nichiren Buddhist so our household is very peaceful and spiritual, and full of love. What more could a girl want?

Thank you to everyone at Cat Protection for enabling me to have the wonderful life I deserve.

'MEOW' FEY



Scratching Post

Rehomed cats

Dear Sir/Madam,

Last Wednesday a nice lady named 'Sandy' picked up my 5 month old cat 'Sootie' for desexing. I wish to thank you for this 'Operation Cat' conducted by Holroyd Council and the Cat Protection Society.

The Cat Protection Society is a wonderful organisation and I thank you again.

Yours Sincerely,
VALDA SMITH

Dear Editor,

I am a long time member of the CPS and really admire the work you do, and thrilled to see the upgrade of your premises and always the happy reports in the Journal. I thought you might like this story.

Anyone who has ever had anything to do with a Himalayan cat will know how fussy/demanding and even 'bossy' they can be. But then, you've got to admire their "people training" skills.

Crystal has a tummy complaint and loves her daily helping of cat grass. Recently madam has decided that she is too old/precious/delicate to get ones feet damp and walk off the sheltered pebble-crete area onto the lawn to get her daily dose of grass.

I have tracked down a nursery that sold "cat grass" so that madam has a regular supply of long grass and never has to get her feet wet again.

The only problem now is that it seems that now she prefers being hand fed the grass. I resisted for as long as I could and then, yes, I started picking the grass from the tub and hand feeding it to the cat.

I don't really care what the neighbours think. The cat is happy. I know my place.

MELINDA PAGE

Dear Cat Affairs,

Congratulations on doing a wonderful job with stray cats.

I look forward to reading the magazine, as I find it very informative and interesting.

I am enclosing 2 photos of my wonderful babies, Jera my little princess who is nearly 3yrs old, and Inguz my prince who is 5yrs old. They are Tonkinese, and adore each other.

They make me very happy, and follow me around when I am at home, always there to greet me when I arrive from work. I love them dearly, so they are indoor cats, which I believe all cats should be.

Keep up the good work.

Best Wishes,

JANICE COLLINGS



Dear C.P.S.,

I felt I should write to let you know of a saddening event that I have experienced lately. Just this morning I found my gentle ginger boy - Owen, caught in a rabbit trap. As I live in the suburbs, it must have been purposely set. I was horrified to find him - he had tried to come home dragging it behind him. Thankfully he managed to reach our driveway.

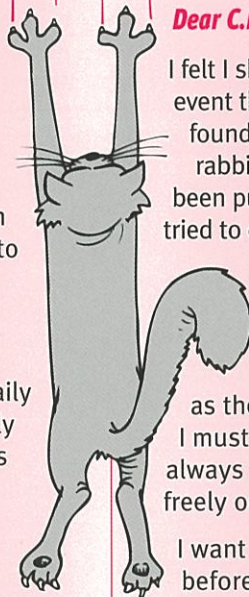
Needless to say that I am getting a 'cat compound' built in my backyard, connected to the house so that they can come and go as they please - Owen, and his brother and sisters. I must admit that previous to this nightmare, I had always thought it unkind to not let my cats roam freely outside for a few hours each day.

I want to urge all other cat owners to think carefully before they allow their precious cats to roam.

I want to thank you all for your wonderful work, and your fantastic magazine 'Cat Affairs'.

Yours faithfully,

SARA GILTRAP

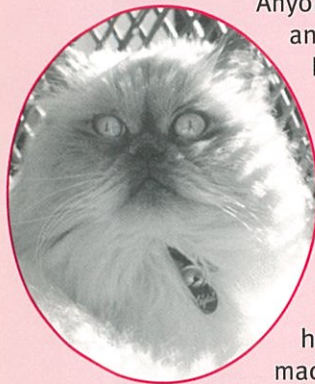


**To contribute to "Scratching Post",
email us at**

info@catprotection.org.au

or mail to

103, Enmore Road, Newtown 2042.



Office Tails

By Lynda O'Grady Executive Officer

Open Day

Saturday May 22nd 11 am to 3 pm

Our Open Day 2003 was such a wonderful success that we are opening our Adoption Centre up again in May this year. This is really for our members who missed out last open day last year and anyone else who is interested in the way an animal welfare agency works.

We would love to see you and answer any questions you may have. Almost all our staff will be available to show you around. So take advantage of this offer to come and meet our staff and our course our wonderful cats and kittens. See insert for further details. 🐾



A Home for Every Kitten....

still a long way a off

There has recently been some speculation in the media with regards to the "decline of the moggy". The truth is that less people own cats than in the past, however, there is still a kitten out there for everyone who wants one, and thousands left behind who will never have the chance of a loving home. Many be will be euthanised before they reach 10 weeks old. There are also still large numbers of stray cats and colony cats living in substandard conditions.

Kittens are seasonal, which means that in the cooler months of the year it is very difficult to adopt one. This is the way that nature intended it, as kittens can die very easily from hypothermia even in the warmer months. For CPS this means that our adult cats finally get a chance without having to compete with those cute kittens for every place. Summer is a very different story. Although there has been anecdotal evidence of a slight decline in cats coming into shelters, few shelters would feel that they are winning the battle against overpopulation or that it's time to close the doors. Shelters around NSW are still receiving thousands of kittens every year. Many of these kittens are in a state of ill health that would make it impossible to rear or re-home them.

Many young cats find themselves dumped once they are no longer cute kittens. They then become pregnant, as young as four months of age, and their kittens are born into desperate situations where their young mother (only a kitten herself) has to find food and defend her babies. Many of these thin, bedraggled mothers come into our shelter with their young ones. These kittens are usually covered with fleas and infested with worms that are

compromising their health. They have a much higher risk of conditions such as FIV (feline aids) and other life threatening illnesses that can then be passed on to other cats. We do our best to bring as many of these deserving mothers and their kittens back to health but it's a long road to recovery. Some kittens are so immune suppressed that they take months to reach a healthy weight. We currently have many young mums

who are so thin that they are painful to look at. Luckily, after a few weeks of TLC they are usually looking better and feeling more trusting of humans again.

This is certainly not the time to be bemoaning the loss of the moggie when so many are killed through lack of responsible care by humans. There are still thousands of moggies looking for homes. Many of these beautiful animals will never find one.

Welfare agencies are not pushing the moggie to extinction (through desexing programs) as has been suggested but saving as many as possible from the pool of injured, sick, needy animals that pass through our shelters every year.

We can only work towards the day when there is a loving, responsible home for every kitten. 🐾

Staff

2004 has been a sad year for Cat Protection as we have lost a few of our long-term staff members. Tania Henson (15 years) and Edward Hatt (3 years) both Welfare Officers left at the beginning of 2004 to work in Local Government. As this is our busiest season we are now quite behind with our community welfare work. To increase the delay even further our last remaining Welfare Officer, Sandy Moss, injured her shoulder picking up a cat, and will be off work for 6 months. Sandy will probably need an operation to repair a torn ligament, but we are hopeful that she will be back as work soon. We are now training new staff, but please keep this in mind if you are waiting for us to pick up your cat for desexing or need help with a stray kitten or a mum and kittens in your back yard. We are doing our best to get to everyone as soon as possible. If you cannot wait please phone our office for alternatives. It is very sad to lose so much experience in such a short time; however, we now have two new staff members, Nerida Atkin and Andrea Watkins who will be working in our welfare section.

We have also had some new casual staff start work in our Adoption Centre in Newtown to help with the increased workload. Kim Grassi and Natasha Grimmond were both long-term CPS volunteers and foster carers before being given paid work at the Society. As we always say, volunteering is a great way to start in animal welfare.

We welcome to all of our new staff member and wish Edward and Tania the best in their work with the Department of Local Government. 🐾

Ask the Cattery Manager

Frequently Asked Questions

Q **What age can a kitten be desexed from?**

A kitten can be desexed from as early as 6 weeks of age, however the most common age group for early age desexing is 8-10 weeks when the kitten weighs at least 800grams.

Q **My vet said to desex my female cat at six months of age, but she was pregnant at four months? What is the latest that I should have my female cat desexed?**

A The latest you should have your female or male cat desexed is four months of age. Female cats can fall pregnant at 4 months and male cats become sexually active at 5 months.

In less than one year, one female cat's offspring can have their own kittens, adding to the already huge problem of over population. Theoretically, in a seven year period one female cat and her offspring can produce another 420,000 cats.

When female cats become sexually active they go "on heat", this means they are in oestrous and ready to mate. At this time they will exhibit behaviours such as howling and screaming, crouching with a dipped back so their perineal area is thrust up and "trampling" with their hind feet. This can last between 6 and 12 days and will recur throughout "the breeding season" until she is mated. Cats are seasonal breeders; they mate most commonly in spring and summer.

Male cats will become extremely territorial, they will spray strong smelling urine to "mark" their territory, wander long distances to find a mate and fight other tomcats.

The result of cats mating is not only unwanted kittens. Cats will also wander to mate which means they are at a high risk of injury from motor vehicles, cat fights and the spread of infectious diseases such as Feline immunodeficiency virus and Feline leukaemia virus.

Q **I'm worried about desexing my kitten, as it is so small. Are there any medical risks if I desex my kitten at a young age?**

A No, there are no medical risks involved in early age desexing that are not present in surgical procedures on an adult cat. Any procedures involving anaesthetic carry a small risk due to the drop in body temperature and blood glucose, which are normal physiological reactions to starvation and loss of consciousness. Provided that the kitten is kept warm post surgery, and given a small meal after surgery they are at a very low risk of having complications, in fact, kittens that are desexed early are less likely to have complications. They recover very quickly from the anaesthetic, the wound is tiny and heals within a few days and there is minimal blood loss. Kittens are up and bouncing around within a few hours of the operation.

Q **What are the benefits of early age desexing? Why do welfare agencies such as the Cat Protection Society and the RSPCA desex their kittens at 8 weeks?**

A The main benefit of early age desexing is the correlating decrease in the amount of unwanted kittens being born. It is a sad fact that welfare organisations such as The Cat Protection



Society and the R.S.P.C.A are forced to euthanase kittens each year, as there are just simply not enough good homes for them all. This often involves euthanasing the kitten's mothers and other unwanted adult cats that are surrendered because they have become an inconvenience to their owners. During kitten season, due to the dramatic increase in surrenders of kittens many beautiful, friendly adult cats are euthanased because there is no room for them. Early age desexing is the only way to break this unpleasant cycle.

There are also significant health benefits for you and your cat. Female cats are at far less risk of contracting mammary and uterine cancers when desexed before their first oestrus. Male cats are much less likely to exhibit territorial behaviours such as urine spraying and fighting. Desexed cats are, as a rule, healthier, friendlier companion animals.

Q **Lots of people have said that I should let my cat have one litter before desexing her. We have friends who want some of the kittens and we would love our kids to experience the miracle of birth. We are a responsible family so why shouldn't we do this?**

A Being a responsible family is precisely the reason why you should not allow your cat to have a litter of kittens. Hundreds of thousands of healthy, friendly unwanted kittens and cats are euthanased in animal shelters across Australia each year; it is obvious that contributing to this is not responsible. Instead it teaches your children that animals can be created and discarded as it suits human beings, with no consequence to you what so ever.

The responsible thing to do would be to have your cat desexed, and explain to your children exactly why you are doing so. You may like to incorporate a visit to your local animal shelter during kitten season as part of your explanation so your family can see first hand how many kittens and cats already need homes.

Suggest to your friends who expressed interest in giving one of your cat's kittens a home that they visit the local animal shelter too and adopt a kitten that is already desexed, let them know that if your cat had kittens it would mean one less home for the cats already waiting in the shelter.

The miracle of life is not a miracle when the animal is born to die.

If you are interested in teaching your children about the miracles of nature you may want to enquire about the fostering program at your local shelter. The shelter may have a queen and her kittens in need of a temporary home, that way you could help out with the problem rather than contributing to it.

If you would like your children or grandchildren to visit a shelter please phone our office to arrange a visit or even better come to our Open Day on May 22nd.

Don't forget that the Cat Protection Society offers inexpensive desexing and a pick up service. Phone our Welfare Office on 9519 7201. 🐾

TARA DETHRIDGE

Making a Happy Home for Your Cat

PART ONE OF A THREE PART SERIES

We all want to be responsible and environmentally friendly cat owners, however, many people still feel troubled about keeping their cat indoors. This is a decision that every cat owner has to make, based on lifestyle, time spent at home, the age and previous environment of the cat.

Once you have made the decision to keep your cat indoors, either partially or totally, you need to carefully consider your cat's needs. To provide an environment that is conducive to a happy cat you will need to think like a cat and learn a bit about cat behaviour. At the CPS

we believe that cats can live happily indoors in most circumstances, however, the responsibility on the "human companion" to provide a happy environment is more pressing. Don't forget it's not just your home, but your cat's home as well, and she is probably there more often than you are.

Below are some suggestions that will help make your home a cat friendly one.

Two Cats Are Better Than One - One of the best ways to keep your cat entertained and content is to adopt two kittens. The CPS often gets sibling adult cats surrendered so two adults are possible also. We find that cats that have grown up with other cats are almost always well-socialised, friendly cats.

Outdoors Time - Despite the dangers cats love to be in the outdoors. They love to smell the air, feel the breeze and interact with the outside world. An outdoor enclosure is probably the best option; however, there is a financial cost. Catmax are an Australian company who provide cat proof netting that can be secured to balconies, across fences even around trees. It may even be less expensive than you think. A "Catmaxed" balcony is the perfect spot for your cat to watch the world go by. Balconies are great places for indoor cats, so make your balcony cat friendly. Mine is only small but has places for the cats to sit and lots of human and cat plants.

Why Indoors?

At the Cat Protection Society we recommend that people keep their cat indoors as much as possible. As a responsible cat owner keeping your cat indoors at night is the absolute minimum. Cats with white noses, ears or both should be predominantly indoors otherwise they run the risk of skin cancer.

There are so many good reasons to keep your cat partially or totally indoors. These include:

- danger on the road from cars
- fights with other animals
- the spread of disease and parasites
- poisoning and the risk from humans who do not like cats
- the resulting vet bills when these things occur
- the risk to native animals and the environment when cats roam and hunt is also a substantial factor in keeping cats inside.

If you can't afford netting be sure to acclimatise your cat to the balcony slowly so that he knows the rules. Until you are sure he won't jump you will need to give him short, supervised visits on the balcony. It took months before my cats were allowed out on their own. Netting is really the safest option for balconies though and now comes in colours that make it virtually invisible. Some cats may land safely when falling off balconies but most don't, so don't ever let your cat on the balcony without supervision until you are satisfied that he is safe.

If netting is beyond your budget there are other ways to get expose kitty to the outdoors. A portable, netted tent is available from Catmax, which is great for those people who rent.

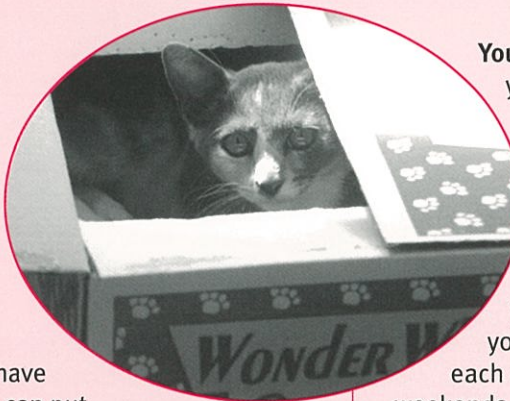
A window seat is the next best thing. Cats love being able to see out the window so set up a shelf or some cat furniture near a window. Consider the angle of the sun, so that your cat can have a bit of sun during the day on his favourite window ledge. In order to open the window you will need to make sure it is secure. Putting netting around your window will allow all the smells and breezes from the world to come to him on his perch.

Cat Furniture & Bedding - Cats love to get onto high places. If you don't feel comfortable building your own

Making a Happy Home for Your Cat

cat perches, you can buy prefabricated cat furniture. Usually it comes with carpet on the outside to save your furniture as well. They also love hiding spots. You can never tell your cat where to sit, but if you watch carefully you will find his preferred spots. Once you have found the hiding spots you can put down cat mats and rugs to make him more comfortable. Often cats will have a spot on top of (or even in) a wardrobe. Make sure that some similar spaces are available for a quiet sleep. My cats have different spots around the house that they like to go, including under chairs. They often swap spots during the day, so having a few different cat perches or beds is a great idea.

There are so many excellent cat beds, mats, sleeping bags, tunnels and houses available now that it is really hard to choose. They now come in great colours and fabrics that can match your decor, or you can have some fun with bright colours. Old bunny rugs, blankets etc make great winter bedding, and cotton sheets and towels can be used in summer. Look around in op shops for bits of interesting material that you can put down for your cat to sleep on. You don't have to spend a lot of money to have a special cat spot.



You - the most important thing that will help your cat to be happy is YOU. Toys are no fun if you are not there to throw them, and who wants to cuddle up without someone else. Grooming is a great way to interact with your cat (ask for our information sheet on Good Grooming). The more you are home, the happier your cat will be. If you are out for much of the day, make sure that you have a regular play time with your cats each evening, and spend extra time on the weekends doing things they like to do.

Cats can live happily indoors, but if left unattended in an unappetising environment, they can develop behavioural problems that could be difficult to cure.

Part Two of this article will look into Cat Friendly Gardening, Games & Fitness and Food Treats and will appear in our Spring Journal. 🐾

Checklist for a Happy Cat

- 🐾 Scratching Post/Cat furniture
- 🐾 Clean litter tray in private spot
- 🐾 A private spots with preferred cat bed or mat
- 🐾 Cat Grass/Cat Nip
- 🐾 Selection of toys/games
- 🐾 Your company

Thank You

The Cat Protection Society would like to thank the following companies who have given sponsorship to the Society over the past months.

Nestlé Purina

Nestlé Purina provided our cats with 19,000 tins of their favourite food, Fancy Feast. They have also provided Purina ProPlan Super Premium dry food for our cats to eat.

A big Thank You to Nestlé Purina for this substantial donation that has been a great benefit to the cats and the Society. 🐾

Furballs

Thank you to Jessica and Peter Conaghan for the generous donation of their wonderful range of cat bedding for our cats

to use. Check out our Winter Bedding Range on the insert provided with the journal. This amazing and fun range of products has now been fully road tested by our cats. The cat tunnel in particular is a big hit with staff and cats alike.

Jessica and Peter went home with two kittens of their own after a recent visit to our cattery. Well they are hard to resist! Possum and Tigger now share a house with Jessica and Pete's original cat Bindi. As you can imagine there is no shortage of comfortable places to sit in this house. 🐾

Feliway

Thanks to Virbac Animal Health who have donated four Feliway plug in diffusers for our cattery. Feliway is a product designed with pheromones that helps cats with behavioural difficulties, such as inappropriate urine spraying.

This product has been a great help to us and our staff. See your vet for more details. 🐾

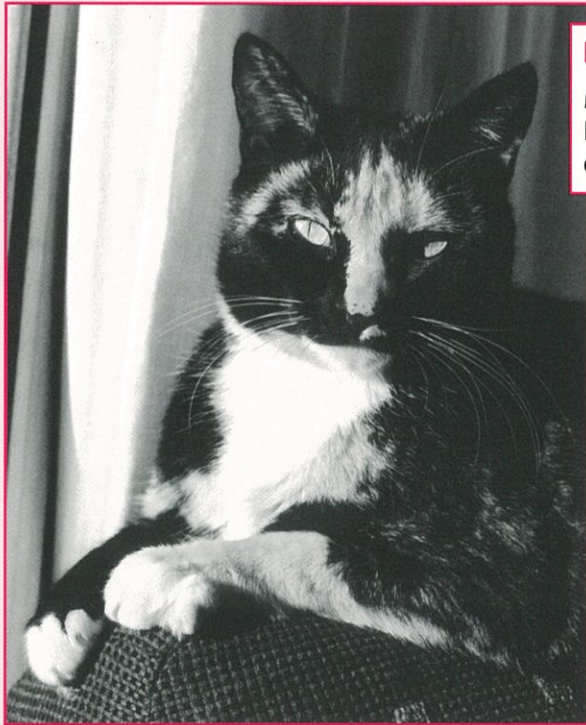
Cute Cat Comp

Our search for the Cutest Cat is complete and what a response we have received. We suspected that there were some pretty gorgeous cats out there and we now have the evidence.

We take lots of cat pictures at our Adoption Centre and we know how difficult it is to keep your beloved cat still, when all she wants to do is play around. So the quality of some of these pictures and the effort taken to get them is not underestimated.

Choosing a few cats to win this competition was always going to be difficult, and of course subjective, as they really all are beautiful. There were so many special cats to choose from that we have included a Third and Fourth Prize. We have also decided to print as many of the pictures as our space limitations will permit as we feel that all of your entries were very special. We apologise to those whose pictures don't appear, we just couldn't fit them all in.

After much discussion among the judges the winners are:



First Prize:

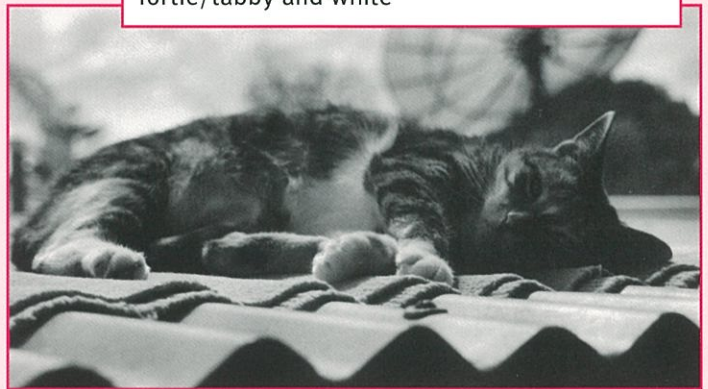
MR ROSS WATKINS - VICTORIA

Model: Wookie. A Domestic Short Hair, tortoiseshell and white Female aged 4 years. Wookie was found as a stray kitten. Ross describes her as loving, affectionate and independent.

Second Prize:

LYNDA GORDON-SQUIRE - CANTERBURY NSW

Model: Pandora, a Domestic Short Hair female. Tortie/tabby and white



Third Prize:

SANDRA BINNIE: - BRADBURY NSW

Models: Colin & Alice. Domestic Short Hair. Ginger & white

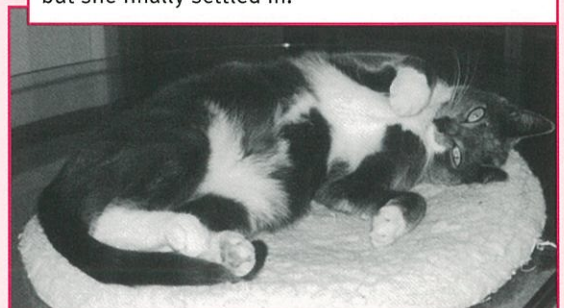
Sandra says that these two beauties were the last two kittens from a litter at their local vet who were about to be put down. They are now inseparable.

Fourth Prize:

DIANE ELIAS - MACKSVILLE NSW

Model: Misty. Domestic Short Hair. Grey and White Female

Diane says: I adopted Misty when my father passed away last year. She was very timid at first, but she finally settled in.



Cute Cat Comp

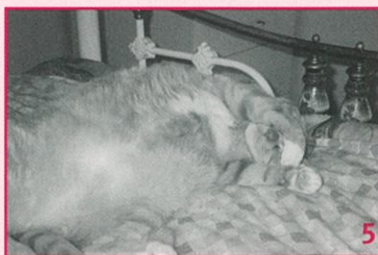
Prizes are on their way to all of the four prize winning cats.

Honourable Mentions

5

Annette & Les Green - Southport QLD

Model: Honey



6

Suzanne Wood - Nth Paramatta NSW

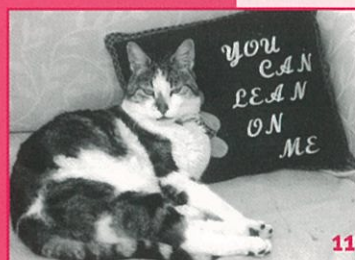
Model: Missy



7

Nikla Martin

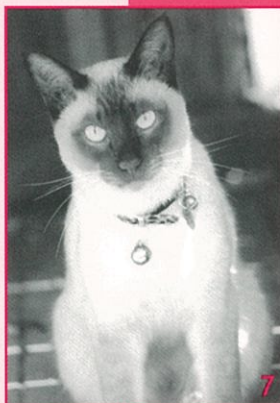
Model: Angel, Tonkinese



8

Phyllis Gaudron - Macksville QLD

Model: Cyrus 13 years old



9

Jan Fawke - Allawah

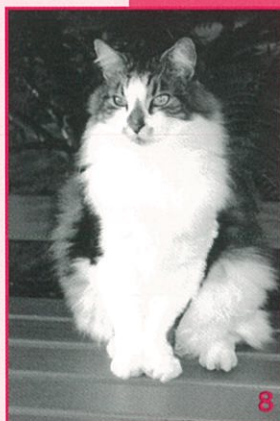
Model: Spike and Pippi (Ex Cps Cats who have found a great home)



10

Barbara Levien - Enmore NSW

Model: McGonnigal, Scottish Fold



11

Fay & John - Wickenden

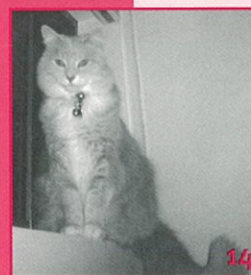
Model: George 16 years, was previously a cover boy for Cat Affairs



12

Beth Watt - Gerringong NSW

Model: Ludwig



13

Diana Groves - Greenacre NSW

Model: Smudge 8 years old



14

Shirley Casboul - Newstead Tas

Model: Gigi



15

Karlene Dimbrowsky - Castle hill NSW

Model: Sasha (also an ex CPS Cat)

Caring for Your Cat this Winter

While you're warm and cosy this Winter, don't forget your cat(s). Although in most areas of NSW we do not experience the extreme temperature changes of other parts of Australia, cats are very sensitive to temperature change and will still need some extra consideration during the cooler or wetter months.

Bedding

A warm, draught-free sleeping place is crucial in Winter. Cold and damp penetrates flooring and can chill a pet whose bed is on the ground. Raising the bed off the ground is probably the most significant change you can make to your pets' environment in the Winter. It is of particular importance for old or arthritic cats as the penetrating cold aggravates their condition.

Your cat needs to have a dedicated bed. For Winter, igloos or a cardboard box arranged with an entrance hole and a blanket are great for getting cosy. Providing plenty of clean, rugs/towels to snuggle into will ensure your puss keeps purring.

In multi cat households, consider a larger bed to give the option of sharing and cuddling up.

N.B. Even if you allow your cat to go outside, all cats should be kept inside at night no matter what the season for their own safety and in consideration of neighbours and the environment at large.

Heating/Warmth

Cats are masters at seeking out warmth and will appreciate a cat basket near the heater. If you cannot leave the heater on, most cats like a window-ledge or strategically placed chair where they can catch the warmth of the Winter sun through the window during the day.

For chilly nights, thermostatically controlled heat pads can be placed in a pet's basket or bed to provide all-night warmth. Provided your pet will not chew the electric lead, these are a good way of providing soft, gentle heat. Old and/or arthritic cats will be especially appreciative of a heat pad.

An alternative is to give your cat a hot water bottle. Ordinary rubber hot water bottles are suitable, but be careful. Don't use boiling water in case your pet chews the bottle and is scalded. It's vital that the bottle is insulated with a thick covering of material to prevent

burns. This is especially important for old, disabled pets or infants who may be unable to move away from the heat source. What may feel comfortably warm to the touch can become dangerously hot when the cat has been lying on it for a few minutes. Also, trial run the hot water bottle to see how long it retains its heat to ensure that the bottle doesn't go cold on your cat in the middle of the night. There is also a new range of 'microwave-able' hot water bottles. These have a fluid-filled bladder and cover and are available from department stores. Three minutes in the microwave and the bottle holds its heat for the night.



Grooming

Cats tend to shed fur and then grow a thicker coat in Winter. You might want to help your cat along in the grooming process by removing excess hair with a daily brush or a slightly damp hand. Pay particular attention to the cat's underline and tail. This will also help combat the formation of fur-balls.

Hazards

🔥 **Electric Heaters.** Be sure any electric heater you use has a safety cut-off switch in case it is knocked over. With open fires, be careful not to let your cat sleep too close to the open fire - cats can unknowingly overheat, become singed or even be hit with spitting embers. Use a grate and even then, ensure your cat is not too close.

🔥 **Fan belt injuries.** Cats are attracted to the warmth of car engines and can get into the engine compartment from underneath. When the car is started, the cat risks injury from the moving fan belt or blades. Check your car before driving off.

🔥 **Antifreeze toxicity.** The liquid that is used in car radiators is highly toxic to cats. Car owners should take care that any antifreeze spills are hosed off the driveway immediately and that this product is stored in an inaccessible place.

🔥 **Collars.** As mentioned, at this time of year, coats are a bit longer and you need to inspect the area around your cat's neck to make sure that his collar

Caring for Your Cat this Winter

is not too tight or tangled with fur. If you can comfortably insert two fingers between your pet's neck and his collar, it is the right fit.

Health

If they should happen to get wet, cats must be dried off immediately to prevent hypothermia. A hair-dryer works best but is this is too stressful for your cat, use a towel. Like us, the cold weather seems to make our cats more susceptible to problems such as arthritis, colds and flu. Be on the look-out for early signs of a problem so that treatment can be sought early. Sneezing and coughing, weepy red eyes, loss of appetite, and depression and all signs that there could be something wrong.

Be aware that temperate Winter climates, or the use of

home heating, allows fleas to continue producing eggs throughout Winter, smashing the commonly held belief that cats do not need flea treatment in the Winter months.

Diet

Cats tend to need to eat more during the Winter so you may need to offer a little more in Winter than you would in warmer months. A nice treat to offer your cat is Whiskas MilkPlus. This milk is specially formulated for cats and can be warmed up by adding a dash of hot water. Don't forget, no matter what the weather; always have clean water available for your cat to drink.

N.B.: Do not give cow's milk to cats as they are lactose intolerant and this can result in diarrhoea. 🐾

Suzanne Jenkins

Volunteer Spotlight

The Cat Protection Society Opportunity Shop

The Opportunity Shop is an important part of The Cat Protection Society. Most of the work the Society does is heavily subsidised, such as desexing and re-homing cats and kittens. This means that the Opportunity Shop is an important form of regular income to help us continue our work. The money it raises each year would be badly missed if not available.

A dedicated team of people give some of their free time to the Op Shop, helping to serve customers, sort stock and keep things neat and tidy.

Many members and a quite a few locals donate goods such as clothing, china, glassware, kitchenware, ornaments and other bits and pieces for sale.

The Saturday morning ladies slave over a hot typewriter, desk or computer all week and then give up their weekends to work in the Op Shop. A new shift takes over for Saturday afternoon. It is only recently that we have started opening on Saturday afternoons. This time has proved to be very profitable for the Society, with weekend shoppers dropping in after a trip to nearby Newtown.

The OP Shop started up in the seventies at No 103 Enmore Road (where our Adoption Centre and Office

now stand). After a few years it was moved to our premises at No 87. During that time the local area has evolved to be a shopping hub with people coming from around Sydney to visit the quirky local shops and cafes.

Edith, who was one of the original Op Shop workers still comes in twice a month. She has many a tale to tell. Nance Iredale, a long term volunteer at the Society, has swapped most of her administrative duties for three days at the Op Shop. A handful of other ladies have been contributing their time for many years and we are most grateful for their loyalty.

The op shop is a fun environment to meet others with similar interests in animal welfare, and the Adoption Centre with the beautiful cats and kittens is just down the road. Coffee and tea are available and there are lots of cafes and shops nearby for lunch.

At least two people need to be rostered on each day, if a third person is available it lightens the work load. If you have spare time why not come into the Op Shop and meet the volunteers. You might fancy doing a day or two yourself. We badly need some more helpers. If someone is ill or (shock horror) goes on holiday it puts a strain on our existing staff. For further information or to volunteer phone coordinator Robin Carter on

02 91813739. 🐾

Diary of a Foster Carer

Caroline Waller has been one of the Cat Protection Society's foster carers for nearly a year now.

Haiku was a mother cat who came to the CPS with her 1 week old babies desperately in need of our help. Caroline took Haiku and the bubs in and looked after them until they were ready for their new homes. Below is her account of life as a foster carer.

27 January 2004 - 1 week old

Haiku is settling in well and becoming more assertive eg. Demanding extra feeds.

The kittens have all now opened their eyes and lost their umbilical cords. Their crawling is still quite shaky and they haven't yet ventured outside the nest. Haiku keeps them meticulously clean and they smell lovely.

3 February 2004 - 3 weeks old

Haiku seems more happy and settled every day. She is purring more and is more relaxed with me, sharing conversations, coming to me when called (sometimes) and she likes to sit on my shoes and chew them. Her favourite treat is raw chicken wings but she also enjoyed a beef heart last week.

The kittens are adorable and all very well and growing quickly. They are venturing out of the nest quite a bit but are still quite shaky and Haiku brings them back in if they wander too far. I have seen their first attempts at play the last couple of days, mostly short wrestles and watching me play with their toys: they are not yet sure how to play with the toys themselves.

10 February 2004 - 4 weeks old

Haiku and I are getting on really well. She talks to me more and has developed a real obsession with my shoes: she rolls on them and goes all 'kitten'!

Haiku is quite the disciplinarian. If a kitten shows reluctance to be bathed Haiku will grab them firmly with both arms and pin them to the floor until they submit. If one wanders further than allowed, Haiku grabs them by the scruff and drags them over to where she wants them. She has developed a range of vocal sounds that all her babies understand and respond to.

17 February 2004 - 5 weeks old

Everyone is well and happy. Haiku is really relaxing and last night started playing with the kitten toys and dashing about as if she were still a kitten!



The kittens are growing quickly and have started bravely exploring the downstairs area. They are all eating wet cat food and using their litter tray properly

24 February 2004 - 6 weeks

All is well with the foster family. Haiku continues to feed them, groom them and deal out discipline as well as romp energetically with them every now and then.

The kittens are all experts with the litter tray they have all inherited their mum's enjoyment of kicking the litter around. Their eye colour is beginning to change from an intense dark blue to a lighter colour. I hope some of them develop Haiku's beautiful green eyes.

2 March 2004 - 7 weeks

The kittens drink from Haiku only occasionally these days but she still grooms and plays with them. Many times a day she walks around the house meowing loudly, counting up her babies in their various playing and sleeping places. If she can't see all of them she keeps meowing and searching until she has sighted all five.

9 March 2004 - 8 weeks

Haiku and her babies are very well and gorgeous. This morning I gave Haiku and each kitten their monthly fleaing and the kittens 8 weeks worming. Mango, the little man of the family, is already heavier than 1 kg and three of his sisters weigh well over 900g.

*Postscript - All of the kittens have now found homes, however, beautiful Haiku is still waiting.
Call 9519 7201 if you are looking for a new cat or kitten. 🐾*

Top Causes of Pet Injury

Most Common Causes of Pet Injury

The Blue Cross, a British Animal Charity, has now identified the top 10 household hazards for pets and is urging pet owners to be more vigilant.

- ❖ Falls from balconies/windows (common cause of multiple fractures and deaths)
- ❖ Kitchen scalds and burns (cats walking across stove tops and knocking over pans)
- ❖ Cleaning products (can be highly toxic if swallowed and can also be harmful to skin)
- ❖ Swallowing objects (video tape or cotton thread

can become entangled in intestines)

- ❖ Heavy objects falling (cats and dogs can topple unsecured bikes and plant pots)
- ❖ Garden and garage (slug pellets, BBQ lighting fluid and antifreeze are all highly toxic)
- ❖ Bin raiding (bones and other sharp objects such as tin cans can cause severe injury)
- ❖ You! (people shutting pets in doors, stepping on them, children dropping them)
- ❖ Electrical wires (pets chewing through wires and getting electric shocks)
- ❖ Washing machines/spin dryers/car engines (cats climb into them and when started they can cause serious injury or death)

Petplanet.co.uk

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, 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.

Then & Now



Banjo

"What a lovable little cat"

This sweet little man was surrendered to our Newtown cattery in January 2004. Banjo (as he came to be known) was living virtually as stray cat. His previous owner no longer wanted him, but rather than take any responsibility he had just stopped taking care of him.

When he arrived in our cattery he was in an appalling condition and had a harmful infestation of fleas and worms.

Following a good feed and treatment of flea and worming medication he was taken to Croydon Park Veterinary Clinic, where he was health checked, desexed, microchipped and vaccinated.

Banjo had a friendly and affectionate nature and was a hit with all the staff and volunteers. It came as no surprise that he got a home after only a couple of weeks being in the Adoption Centre.

The adoption staff knew this little boy required a special home, one that contained a small shady yard - as he already enjoys the outdoors but also needs protection from the harsh sunlight on his pale nose. Banjo really liked company so we were also looking for a home with another pet.

Banjo's new owner wrote to us recently to let us know how he is settling in. He has a new name "Jack" and has a new home in the city, which he shares with his new feline friend "Max". It seems that he is spoiled rotten by his new companion Sue.

After a settling in period separated from Max they were finally introduced to one another. Sue seems to think they are beginning to enjoy each others company, with Max following Jack around the house. Sue writes "Jack (Banjo) was a much needed friend after the unexpected and devastating loss of Nicholai (Sue's original cat) to illness a few days into the New Year. Despite a few days of hissing... Max and Jack seem to be developing a firm bond".

In his previous life as a stray Jack had to come across his own scraps of food, now he is given a wide variety of choices twice a day and surprisingly only turns his nose up at sardines.

Jack spends hours out in his semi-enclosed courtyard garden and never wants to come back in the house except for meal times.

Sue has been training Jack to wear a harness attached with a lead so they can both go on short walks together in the area surrounding their own home and Jack of course loves every minute of it.

Another success story from the Cat Protection Society 🐾

NARELLE WHITTLE - CATTERY ATTENDANT



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	<input type="radio"/> Life Governor	\$1,000.00	<input type="radio"/> Pensioner Membership	\$15.00
Please tick	<input type="radio"/> Life Membership	\$250.00	<input type="radio"/> Junior Membership	\$10.00
	<input type="radio"/> 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 _____

Book Reviews

By Sascha Perry

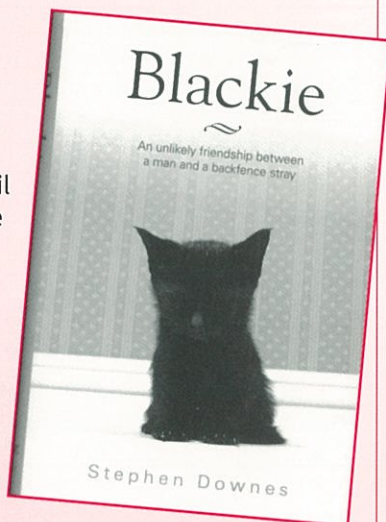
"Blackie"

by Stephen Downes

This is a heart-warming tale of a man and his loving bond with his cat. Stephen Downes was "never a cat person" until Blackie and his sister are found as strays at the bottom of the garden. In true cat style Blackie works his way into Stephen's heart, soon becoming a cherished member of the family.

The real story begins when at nine year's old Blackie develops a mystery illness. Stephen embarks on a quest to restore his "mate and tutor" to his former health. We journey with Stephen and Blackie through this, experiencing the full range of emotions which humans and all animals are inherently capable of.

"Blackie" is a deeply moving, yet unsentimental tale of the intense experience of loving another living being. I found it to be a compulsive read. 🐾



"Cat Tales"

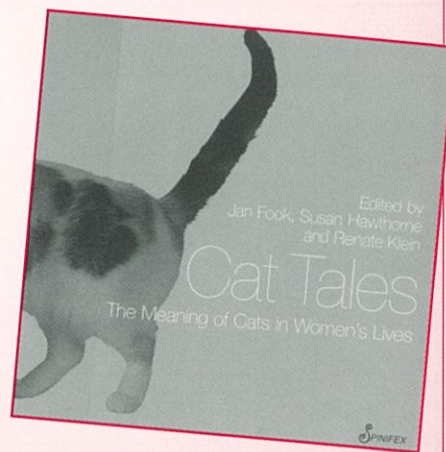
Edited by Jan Fook, Susan Hawthorne, Renate Klein

"Cat Tales" is an anthology of photographs, stories and poetry about women and their beloved cats. Written by women and girls from all over the world this book explores the complexities of our relationships with cats.

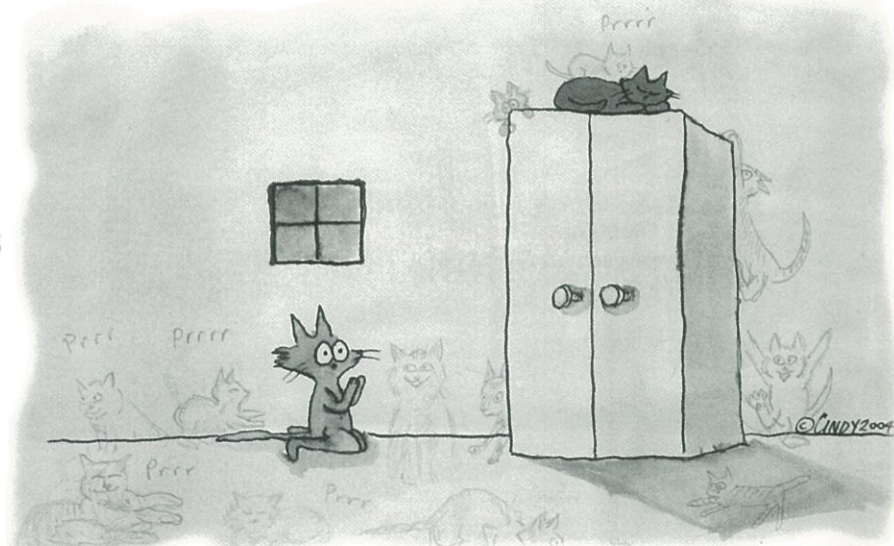
Through their cats we learn about the women whose lives have been enriched by them.

There is Eric the ginger and white from England who enjoyed the love of three women, Zen the New Zealand cat who writes letters to his aunt, as well as Mrs Black, somewhat of a celebrity, owned by no-one but certainly esteemed by all.

These cats' stories are as diverse as their human companions'. Whether stray or owned, pedigree or moggie, the common thread is the extraordinary love and respect that our feline friends can inspire. 🐾



Hello God? It's me Peewee—
I was just wondering—
How do I know you're really you?
Who named you? What do you wear?
Are you a person, or a thing?
And what happens to all the cats and kittens
who can't find homes?
Do they all go to your place?
Do you look after them?
Well?...
I know you're there God, I can hear you
purring.



Cats In The News

Life-saving Coffee

In March 2000, John Chislett from Warrington, Cheshire, UK was woken by his 2 year old cat, Coffee. Mr Chislett had fallen asleep with the chip pan on the cooker. The chip pan caught fire and Coffee rescued his sleeping owner by biting his nose and butting him until he woke him up. Coffee was treated for breathing problems at a veterinary surgery and was nominated Coffee for the Brave Pet of the Year in April in York.

Taken from www.catsinfo.com 🐾

Budgie and cat, best of friends

When Queenie the cat was left alone with a budgie by accident, it should have meant one thing - dinner.

But instead of making a meal out of little Charlie, Queenie and the bird made friends.

The unlikely pair now spend their days together on the settee. And when it's time to go for a walk, Charlie hitches a ride on Queenie's head.

Owner Vic Davies says the cat and her friend have the run of his flat and have never had a dispute. Vic, 73, said: "I let Charlie out of the cage and went out, forgetting that Queenie was around. When I got back, they were on the back of the settee like the best of friends.

"Queenie now sits on the table with Charlie and pats him with her paw. They're always together."

Charlie and Queenie

Taken from www.catnews.com 🐾

The Feline Fetching Phenomenon

New research out recently has discovered a new phenomenon - retrieving cats! A skill previously thought exclusive to dogs was discovered in nearly half of the 1,853 cats involved in a UK study looking into many aspects of cats' behaviour.

44% of cats retrieved items thrown by their owners according to the FAB Felix Cat Personality Report.

Claire Bessant, Chief Executive of FAB, explains the retrieving cat phenomenon as the cat using a natural behaviour (carrying prey) to encourage its owner to interact with it, so it can lap up the attention. Cats are quick to learn and soon teach their owners to play with them!

The FAB Felix Report reveals that Burmese and Siamese breeds are better at retrieving, while moggies showed less interest. Younger cats were also more inclined to play retrieving games. Balls and toys were most frequently

retrieved, but paper and silver foil balls, feathers, cotton reels, leaves, socks, brushes and even ear plugs, all featured on the play list.

Ian Crichton from Felix comments, "All cats possess natural hunting skills but they need constant refining. Stalking, pouncing and battling in play all have the aim of improving these skills, which are vital for survival in the wild. Many cats enjoy playing with their owner to such an extent that they retrieve toys just like dogs in a game of fetch."

Changes in lifestyle have also contributed to this phenomenon. Being naturally independent, cats make the ideal pet for families where both partners are working. Cats now outnumber dogs in homes, taking the position of most popular pet in the UK with a population of just over seven million (as compared to six million dogs). The increase in urban living where space and free time are at a premium has also helped the cat increase in popularity.

Taken from www.petplanet.co.uk 🐾

Cats in the 'In' Tray

The way to a stress free office is to get a cat, according to an American study. The study, by the non-profit organisation, American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, discovered that not only did pets in the office make staff more productive they also reduced absenteeism and made for a happier atmosphere. While some American companies have 'official' office cats, others even allow staff to take their own feline friends to work with them.

Taken from www.petplanet.co.uk 🐾

Hope, Freedom, Amber & Flag

The World Trade Centre recovery effort has brought much sadness but there have been many tales of bravery and survival. They include one very resourceful cat. Beneath the decimated area where the World Trade Centre once stood, life was found in a forgotten basement. Rescuers discovered a blast survivor curled up in a carton of napkins. When the box was brought up, there were even more survivors— three kittens.

The mother cat found her way into a safe, secure area to give birth to the kittens in a box of napkins, which couldn't be any more safe, secure or cushioned. Vets felt these little survivors needed names. Mum has been christened "Hope" and the babies are "Freedom", "Amber" and "Flag." It's very fitting for a family determined to survive despite the close call. Vets predict a full recovery for the entire cat family.

Taken from www.catsinfo.com 🐾

Forget-Me-Not

Rachael

22/09/1985 to 13/09/2003

In Memory of the Twins

Rachael was the beloved sister of Dinah who died in 2001.



In memory of Rachel, a beautiful tortoiseshell and white lady, who very sadly passed away 9 days before her 18th birthday.

She is now buried next to her beloved twin sister Dinah.

A plaque with their names, birth date and passing etc. marks the spot where they both now lie together forever. 🐾

Mr John Burnett

John Burnett was an active member of the Cat Protection Society since 1982 and had also served as a board member. He died on the 18th of January 2004 while playing golf. His death was a terrible shock to all those who knew him.

John was a regular and much loved Opportunity Shop volunteer who always had a smile for staff, volunteers and customers alike.

Our sympathy goes to John's wife who has generously joined our Op Shop team. 🐾

Legacies

As you probably know the Cat Protection Society is run almost entirely on the generosity of our members and supporters. We do receive a small grant from the Department of Agriculture that is gratefully received, but which is small in comparison to the outlays required to help so many animals in need.

The following people have all left very generous bequests to the Cat Protection Society over the past 12 months. Their names will be added to the list of Sponsors on the stairway leading to our Adoption Centre. The money received will go towards continuing the work of the Society and placing homeless kittens and cats in loving homes.

We wish we had the chance to thank these generous people for caring enough about the plight of animals to mention the Society in their Will.

🐾 **Mr Robert James Rae** - A member of the Society since 1996 and a generous donor throughout his life

🐾 **Mr Peter Borrell**

🐾 **Ms Cicely Green** - A member since 1972

🐾 **Ms Joan Matthews**

🐾 **Mr John Robertson** - A member since 1987

🐾 **Ms Lillian McCarthy**

🐾 **Mr Donald Lindsay**

🐾 **Mr Alfred Bell** - A member since 1975

🐾 **Mrs Rosemary Wilkinson & Charles Wilkinson**

🐾 **Ms Milija Roots** - A member since 1980

🐾 **Ms Carol Goldberg** - A member since 1989

🐾 **Ms Doris Ethel May** - A member since 1965

🐾 **Ms Betty Ross Pope** - A member since 1988

🐾 **Ms Vladimir Jerabek**

🐾 **Mr Gordon Duvall** - in memory of his dear departed wife Katherine Duvall.

Web News

Happy Paws Haven in Mittagong was started by an ex CPS staffer Angie Bucci. She now has a website to support the re-homing centre. Quite a few other shelters, including CPS and the Sydney Dogs home are now using the website to advertise their animals.

Check out this cute site at happypaws.com.au or call

Angie on (02) 4872-3332 if you would like to visit her shelter in Mittagong.

Don't forget the CPS site at catprotection.org.au After some problems last year we are now back on line and are regularly updating the site. See some of our beautiful cats listed here.



cat protection society
OF NSW



103 Enmore Rd Newtown 2042

Welfare Office

Ph 9557 7201 Fax: 95578052

Adoption Centre:

Ph 95574818

Website:

catprotection.org.au

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