

Cat Affairs



AUTUMN 2005

THE JOURNAL FROM THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW



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Front & Back Covers:

Photographs Courtesy

of Marcus Mok

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Courtesy of Lynda O'Grady

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

Another summer - and as with previous years the warm weather brings the "kitten season". We had many (too many) beautiful little kittens surrendered this year. Fortunately we homed most of them. The older cats can be overlooked when the cute little kittens are around but we were able to re-home a number of our adults. From November 2004 to February 2005, 462 kittens and 78 adults have been adopted.



Cat Protection Society benefited at the end of 2004 from several legacies. This source of income is essential to our financial well-being. Please consider Cat Protection when making your will (or if you win lotto!). Details of how to give a legacy are on page 15, or phone our office for further details.

Tony Puren has resigned from council. The board thanks Tony for his work as a director of Cat Protection for many years.

We've just recovered from Christmas and now Easter is upon us. We wish all our members a happy and safe Easter. 🐾

Yours.

NITA HARVEY
President

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Nita Harvey Honorary Life Member

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Nita Harvey, our current President, has recently received the highest award given out at the Cat

Protection Society for service towards the welfare of cats. This is not something that happens overnight but only after years of dedicated service and it is well deserved by Nita who has devoted years of her life to helping the Society.

After working in the opportunity shop for 10 years Nita became a member of the Society's Board. Her experience working for a medical insurance provider meant she had the attention to detail that made her an excellent candidate to work on our accounts. After years of service Nita was appointed Treasurer and in 2004 became President of the Society.

Nita's honesty and integrity are well known, and while often finding herself in difficult situations she always manages to see both sides of a problem. Her wise council is always appreciated.

Her love of and dedication to the welfare of animals has been a life long one and with her husband, Les, she currently owns two cats and a dog. Both of the cats have been rescued from the Cat Protection Society. Not one to shy away from a challenge, Nita took on an adult cat who was extremely shy and was possibly not suitable for the general re-homing process. After months of hard work she now has this little lady cuddled up on her lap at home.

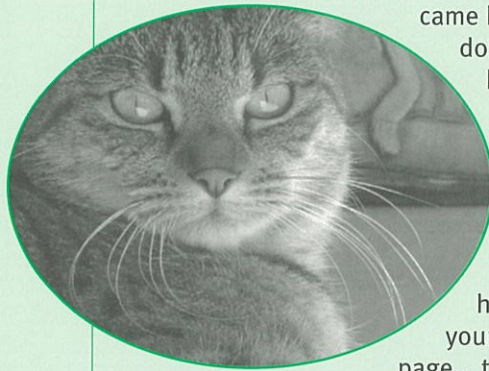
Nita embodies the true spirit of volunteering, giving her time freely and helping out wherever she can. We hope that she continues to be part of the Society for a long time to come. 🐾

LYNDA O' GRADY

Scratching Post

Rehomed cats

Shirley update....



Been 6 weeks since she came home- she's doing great- loves her cat grass, toy mouse and sunning on the balcony. Hope u like the photo- different from her old photo on your adoption page... think she's put on weight??

Cheers,
LOUISA

Dear Everyone at the Cat Protection Society

Hope you like the pictures we have sent you of Pebbles enjoying her new home. She has fitted in very well here and we love having her as part of our family. She unfortunately has got a mild strain of cat flu and is now on antibiotics and is doing well.



Thank you once again for the wonderful job you do and for making it possible for such a wonderful cat to become part of our lives.

Regards

KAI AND KERRY SCHINDLMAYR

Hi guys,

We just wanted to send you a photo of Tiddly Pom aka Mia. We picked her up from you about a month ago. The first week was a week from hell as poor Mia had to live in the spare room meowing 24/7, she new there was another cat in the house and she just didn't understand why they couldn't play together. Ally on the other hand, our 3 year old Burmese/Persian was completely sus on what her parents were up to and wouldn't have a bar of it to start with. We followed

your directions however and did the slow introduction and after a week and a half they could sit in the same room as one another with Ally glaring at her new sister and her parents and Mia squinting endlessly at her potential new playmate.

Well here we are a month later and they are sharing their space, sitting on the cat stand together and chasing each other around the house. Ally has stopped hissing at visitors and her reflection, convinced we were too stupid to see that Mia was here all along hiding in the oven, tiles and mirrors. Mia, the-most-chatty-cat-in-the-world, is still squinting her heart out at her sister and is a mad lap cat. In fact any semi-stable part of a human will do for Mia, who loves to lounge watching TV and has decided that Dad's shoulders are a good place to sit when he's on the computer.

Thanks for all your help,/o

R & K

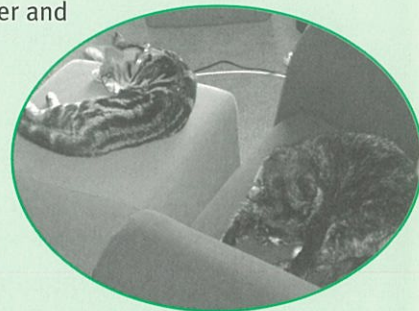
Please find attached the two of them having a "cat-nap"

Hi there to everyone at the Cat Protection Society,

We thought we'd send you these photos of Toby and Scoota, and let you know how they are getting on.

They've been with us now for about 4 weeks and they're ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!

We're totally in love with them and would like to thank you for looking after them so well whilst they were with you guys. What we just can't understand is why nobody chose them before us. But lucky for us because we feel we've totally hit the jackpot with them



Scratching Post

Rehomed cats

and have the most fun, beautiful, and ridiculously affectionate cats ever!

They settled in amazingly fast, with not a single problem. Toby was completely confident, striding around, totally fearless. Scoota was definitely a little wary, but over the last couple of weeks she's really come into her own and is as affectionate and playful as Toby. Toby is extremely cheeky, I swear he knows when he's doing something naughty! And his water fetish has caused a couple of glasses to be broken! They're totally gorgeous together, play fighting (Scoota is definitely the boss!), and cleaning each other. Thank goodness you didn't split them up.

So all in all we're thrilled and privileged to be their new owners and already couldn't imagine life without them.

Thanks to you all,
ABIGAIL AND ANGUS

Dear CPS staff

Thought you might like to see a few snaps of my little girl. She's difficult to photograph - walks towards the camera as soon as she hears it whirr. Previously called 'Zucchini', her full name is now Shakira Khan (it's those Egyptian eyes!) but she answers to "KIRA".

Kira's been living with me for a month now and is totally settled into our routine of fun play sessions every morning and evening (I even get up an hour earlier to make sure she gets a good run around chasing mousies and balls). The biggest adjustment for me has been lack of sleep, as Kira wakes any time from 3.00-4.00am each morning and vigorously licks my hands till I wake up to play (a rasping tongue and twittering noises are more effective than any alarm clock I know!) We've solved that one by my transferring her from my bed to a soft pad in the kitchen (with her food and access to litter tray), each morning when she wakes. Gives me a few needed hours of extra kip, before I get up at 6am for games.

Xmas plans are panning out well with Kira booked into luxury accommodation near the Hunter Valley, while I head off to family at Xmas.... Am afraid she's never want to come home.

Overall, our transition to being living companions is going superbly!

Best wishes JO LEWTHWAITE



Hi Cats!

Just thought I would drop you a line to say that my cat "Shadow" (nee "Shauntay") is doing fine and I think has adopted me successfully! She

stays close to me most of the day and whenever I go into another room for a while she will come in looking for me and even cuddles up next to me on the bed at night. This is the main reason I changed her name to Shadow ;-)

She is in fine health and I have been doing all the right things such as feeding her the dried complete meal that you recommended and am changing her litter tray whenever she has used it. Also giving her plenty of pats and attention whenever I can, so she seems very happy with her new home. I haven't let her out into the backyard yet, but will do so in a few weeks (supervised, of course).

Regards,

MARK DICKINSON

Hi,

Just wanted to tell you about Sammy, my little black cat whom I adopted in February 2001.

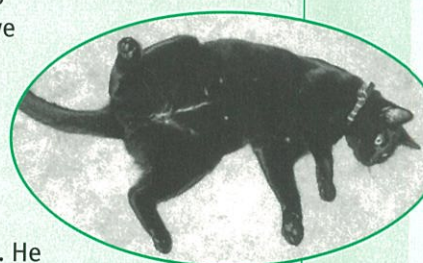
At the time I was living in Enmore. Since then Sammy moved back to Queensland with me, then we jet-setted off to the USA and spent the next 3 1/2 years doing travel nurse assignments. Sammy has lived in Arizona, Northern California, Washington, New Mexico and Southern California. He has also lived on a Native American Reservation.

We are now home in Kogarah, after he experienced 30 days at the Eastern Creek. Quarantine station.

Have cat will travel!

Keep up the good work.

KATHY GALLAGER



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

I have recently returned from a trip to India where I was caught in the devastation caused by the Tsunami over Christmas. This was a heartbreaking experience, however, as usual it is the animals that are most vivid in my mind.

After a number of trips to India I have become very familiar with the terrible conditions under which the animals of the Sub Continent live. In a country where so many people don't have the basic necessities of life, animals are usually relegated to the absolute lowest rung in society.



One of the main differences between India and Australia is the number of animals you see living on the streets. In Australia we see stray animals as pests that must be eradicated by the local council, Indian people seem to feel differently about sharing their lives and their communities with animals. From dogs and cats, to monkeys, pigs and cows you can't go too far, even in a big Indian city like Mumbai or Delhi without seeing the animal community.

While these animals do hold a precarious place in society, I also saw many acts of kindness. In the same way that Indian people are predisposed to give to beggars, they also give scraps of food to the animals. A woman gutting fish on the doorstep attracts cats hungry for a feed, a homeless man shares his only food for the day with two street dogs, a tea vendor on the Ganges gives some biscuits to a stray dog... These animals are part of daily life in an Indian community. Much of this is to do with the dominant religion, Hinduism, which views animals as sacred. Vegetarianism is the norm not the exception.

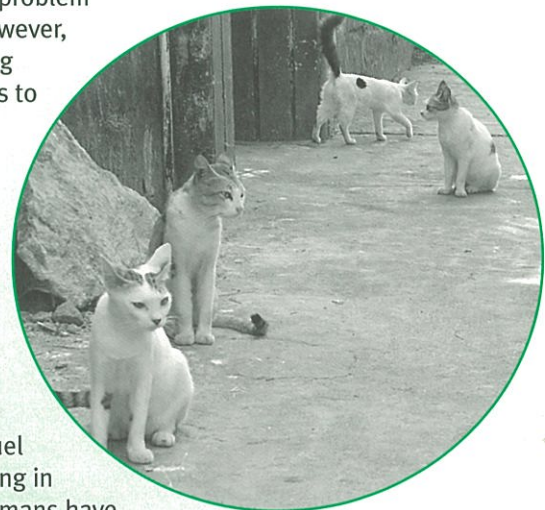
Indians can sometimes have a love/hate relationship with their animal companions though. Cheeky monkeys are chased from the roof after breaking into the house and stealing a piece of food, cows eat directly from food stalls, chewing into the owners' profits, but all of this is seen as part of life and the animals, while often a nuisance, are seen as having a divine right to co-exist.

When travelling to other countries you often return to your own home with eyes freshly opened to local conditions. Working at the CPS for nearly five years

now, I have taken thousands of calls for people who want the stray animals in their neighbourhood removed and in many cases I can understand their reasoning. Having undesexed cats breeding and living in your neighbourhood poses problems, however, in other countries these animals are seen as just part of daily life. While I would never condone the conditions and suffering that Indian animals often face, I think there is a lesson to be learned about living with animals and not always seeing them as a threat or a pest. The Cat Protection Society over the years has worked to save lives by undertaking desex and return schemes where unowned cats with a regular feeder are put back into their home environment desexed, thus cutting back the worst of the problems associated with undomesticated cats. These programs have ultimately failed due to the unwillingness of neighbours to accept the cats in their community. In the long run this is death for the cats or years of breeding kittens that will not live past 8 weeks old.

In the past it has been a regular sight to see a local cat wandering through a back yard. This has now changed to the point that residents call the council (or even a TV Network) to complain about their neighbour's cat.

The issues surrounding unowned cats are extremely complex and the more you scratch the surface the more complex the problem becomes, however, our increasing unwillingness to accept animals in our community (owned or unowned) means that these animals face an uncertain and often cruel future. Keeping in mind that humans have created the problems of unowned animals shouldn't we at least give their future and conditions some consideration and care?



On pages 10 and 11 you can see pictures of some of the street animals of India.

Office Tails



The Best of 2004

The Cat Protection Society has had a great summer with many kittens and adults being re-homed. Our kitten re-homing is up again this year and at the time of writing we have re-homed 52 more adults than the previous year*. While this might seem like a small number, it is a result we are exceptionally happy with. Re-homing adult cats has always been difficult as most people understandably want one of our cute kittens. It is always hard for those who work in animal welfare to see the beautiful, friendly adults (many as young as six months old) that continually get overlooked. This is why the Cat Protection Society puts a lot of resources and care into re-homing adults animals. It seems that more and more people are now starting to see the benefits in adopting an adult cat. It's a positive trend that we hope continues.

To add to this the number of cats that we have desexed has grown again this year, with 211* more cats desexed by the Society and 319 more vet referrals given than the same period last year. 2004 was our best year yet for Operation Cat with a total of 483 cats desexed through the program over a 12-month period. We are currently running an Operation Cat with Sydney City Council and have already booked Operation Cats with Canada Bay, Fairfield, Warringah and Bankstown for later in the year.

2004 was also an excellent year for the Society in terms of publicity. With the help of our publicist, Danielle Parkinson, the Society has received a large amount of coverage in the media showcasing the work that we do. For those who didn't get to see us on TV, this included: A live cross to the Kerri Anne Show, a feature on A Current Affair with Ray Martin, mention on the Sunrise Program, features in the Sunday Telegraph, Australian Interiors and regular mentions in our local media to name only a few.

As we have such a special Adoption Program, it's great that more and more people are coming to us to get their new cat or kitten and learn about responsible cat ownership at the same time. Our current Adoption Program has evolved over many years and is based on

the best practice in America and the UK. We aim to match a client with the most suitable cat or kitten through an Adoption Questionnaire that all clients are asked to fill out and through our knowledge of the cats in our care. We feel that making the best decision at the time of adoption and getting the support and information you need to settle in your new kitten or cat is vital to the success of the adoption and we do our best to support our clients in every way possible. To this end we offer a Post Adoption Phone Service and a package of information that our staff verbally go through with each adopter. You can see from the letters that we print in the *Scratching Post* that this is largely a very positive experience for our clients and it helps to encourage responsible cat ownership. Needless to say all of kittens are desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, wormed and flea treated.

* All figures quoted are for an 8 month period coinciding with our financial year.

Hill's Science Diet

Thanks to a new arrangement with Hill's Science Diet all cats adopted through the Cat Protection Society now come with an adoption kit which includes a free 1.8kg bag of premium quality dry cat food.


This is a product that we are exceptionally proud to be associated with and we are very happy to be feeding our cats and kittens exclusively on Science Diet dry and tinned varieties. This food is made possible by the generosity of the people at Hill's who are now sponsoring ALL of the food that our cats are fed on.



No.1 Choice of Veterinarians Worldwide

Hill's Pet Nutrition manufactures Science Diet brand pet foods, sold through veterinarians, RSPCA and pet specialty food stores, and Prescription Diet therapeutic brand pet foods available only through veterinarians. Founded more than 50 years ago by one veterinarian's unique commitment to pet nutrition and wellbeing, Hill's follows its mission to help enrich and lengthen the special relationships between people and their pets by producing high quality, great tasting pet food.

The Cat Protection Society now sells Science Diet through our Adoption Centre in Enmore, and all profits from the sale of the food goes back towards helping the charity. 🐾



Was it love
at first sight?

Was it those big,
beautiful eyes?

Or was it the way
she fit in the palm
of your hand?



All you know is, now she's yours.

The first year of life is the most important in terms of development and growth for healthy pets. Hill's® Science Diet® Kitten formula is specifically developed to help promote strong bones and muscles, a healthy skin and coat as well as a healthy immune system with the Superior Antioxidant Formula¹. Start them off right with the great taste and unsurpassed nutrition of Science Diet® Kitten formula.



Available exclusively at premium pet food retailers RSPCA and veterinarians.
For more information, visit www.ScienceDiet.com.au



Worldwide No.1 Choice of Veterinarians†



Lily Intoxication in Cats

By Jody Braddock,
Joanna White and Richard Malik

FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE AND THE POST
GRADUATE FOUNDATION IN VETERINARY SCIENCE, THE
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, 2006

Although lilies are flowers commonly used in floral arrangements, and cats often have access to them, most cat owners and florists, and indeed many veterinarians are unaware of lily intoxication as a potential cause of kidney (renal) failure in cats.



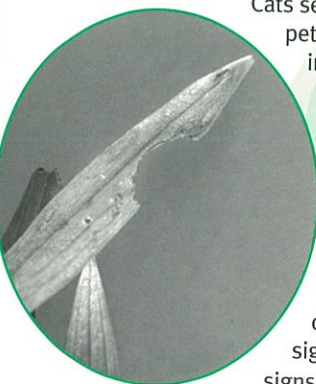
A Tiger lily. Very beautiful.
Absolutely deadly for cats.

Lilies are becoming especially popular as a gift in the Sydney area, and the flowers that are sold are exceedingly toxic to cats. The key to successful treatment of these cats is early recognition of possible ingestion, and aggressive management of the ensuing renal failure. In fact, lily intoxication should be considered as a diagnostic possibility for any cat, regardless of age, suffering kidney failure of sudden onset. More importantly, prevention is much better than attempted cure, so it is in the interests of cat owners and cat lovers to make the danger of lily ingestion WELL KNOWN in the wider community.

Indoor cats and especially kittens, may be drawn to floral arrangements, as they are a novel feature in an otherwise very familiar environment that often lacks other forms of vegetation. In the course of investigating the flowers, the cats may play with and sometimes chew parts of the plant. This could easily go unnoticed by owners, or may occur while the cat is alone at home. Similarly, cats with access to lilies growing outdoors in domestic gardens may not be observed to contact the plant, so careful questioning regarding the presence of the plant or flowers is always warranted when a vet is investigating kidney failure in cats, especially when it develops suddenly.

The toxic substance in lilies that injures the kidneys has not been identified, but **ALL** parts of the lily are poisonous - flowers, stamen, stem, leaves and roots. The toxic dose is unknown, but thought to be reached by ingestion of, or mouthing, very small amounts of material.

Cats seem to be unique amongst domestic pets in their susceptibility to this intoxication, possibly due to differences in their metabolism. For the same sort of reason, cats also can be easily poisoned by human medications such as paracetamol, ibuprofen and aspirin, and these too are lethal for cats in doses that would be safe for humans. Interestingly, dogs that consume large amounts of the plant develop only mild gastrointestinal signs, while rats and rabbits show no signs of toxicity at all.



Signs of Lily Poisoning

The first signs of toxicity are vomiting, depression and loss of appetite. The onset is usually within 2 hours, and may subside by 12 hours. Although an affected cat is likely to remain depressed, the patient may appear to improve, briefly (with or without symptomatic treatment) as the gastrointestinal signs abate. It is likely, however, that acute renal failure will develop within 24 to 72 hour at which time the cat will become critically ill. At this time the patient may drink much more than usual, or become extremely dehydrated. Your vet might feel painful, enlarged kidneys on physical examination at this stage. If untreated, cats die in 3 to 7 days.

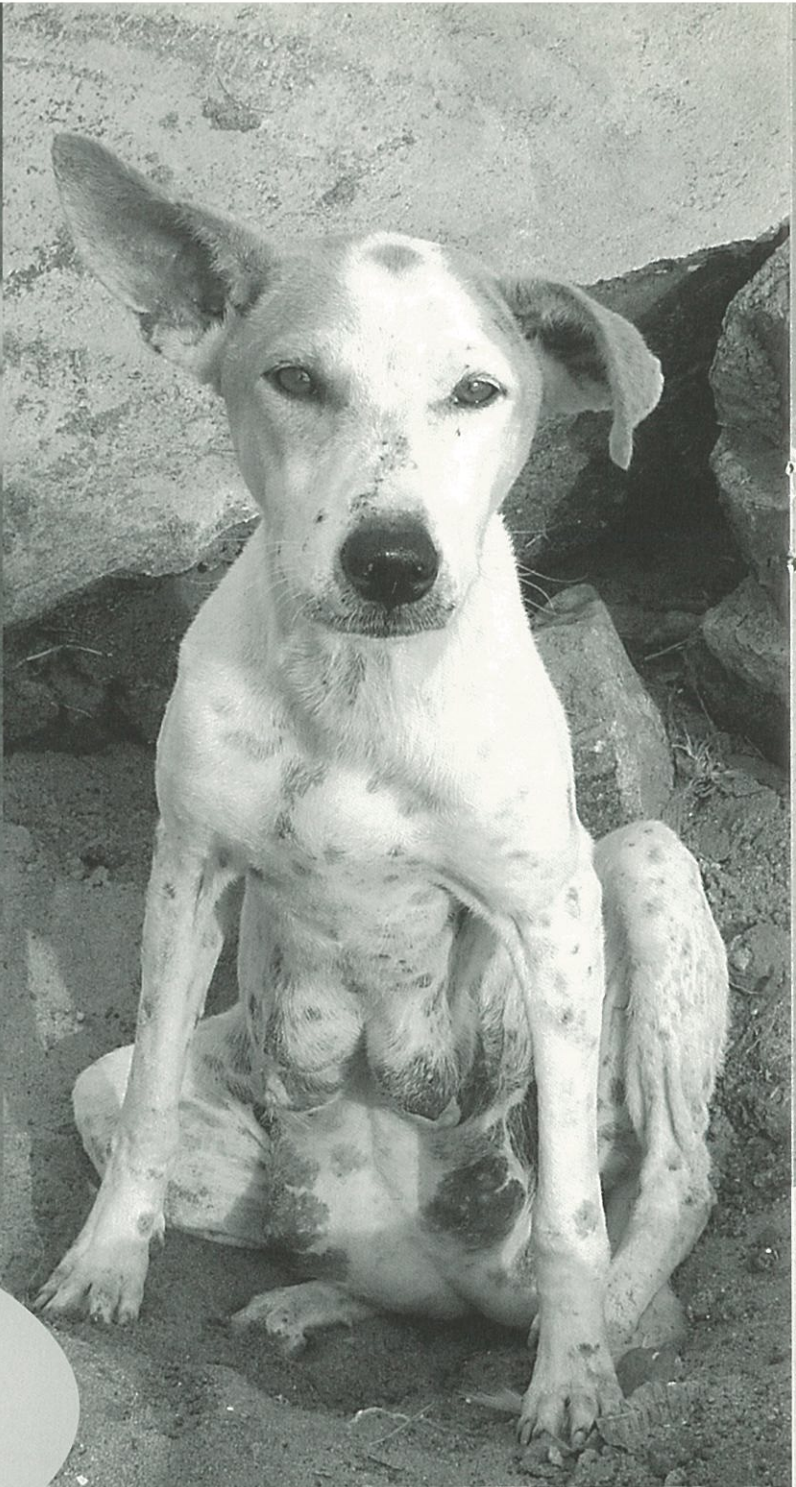
Diagnosis and Treatment

Your vet can diagnose the presence of acute renal failure using blood tests, urine tests, an ultrasound examination and possibly a needle biopsy of the kidneys. Although there is no specific test that can identify lily intoxication as the cause with certainty, there are characteristic laboratory findings that make the diagnosis likely if supported by evidence of lily ingestion (see photograph!). The treatment for lily intoxication is intensive and expensive, typically involving intravenous fluid therapy and hospitalisation for several days. Currently, this would represent a cost in excess of \$1000 to most owners, and even with the most diligent therapy, a success outcome is not assured. One very lucky kitten that was diagnosed very early and treated aggressively by the authors is shown in the accompanying photograph. Most cats are not so lucky!

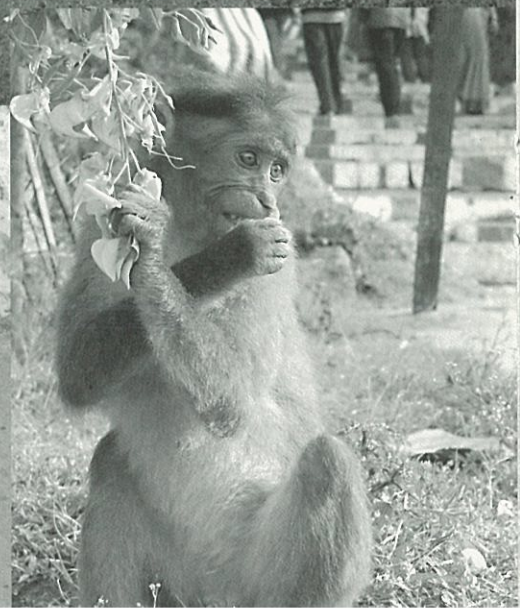
Summary

Lily toxicity should always be considered in any case of acute renal failure in cats. Ingestion of small amounts of plants or flowers of the Liliaceae family can cause severe, irreversible kidney failure and death in cats within 3 to 7 days of exposure. Cats should therefore never have access to flowers or plants of this family.

In an attempt to drive this point home, the Cat Protection Society is developing a laminated poster which we would like to see displayed prominently in every Sydney florist warning potential customers of this risks such a gift may pose to unsuspecting cats. 🐾



The Street Animals of India





Responsible Feline Citizens

Cared for properly, cats are the ultimate companion animal

When responsible cat ownership is practiced, the benefits can be appreciated by:

- Cats
- Owners
- Neighbours
- Environment
- Wildlife;
- Animal Welfare Agencies
- Government
- Your Local Community

Should I get a Cat

The responsibilities of caring for a cat are significant and long-term so the decision to own a cat should be an informed one. Caring for cat(s) requires commitment and responsibility for possibly the next twenty years.

People thinking about adopting a cat or kitten should consider carefully whether their lifestyles and finances are compatible with a considerable commitment of time, effort and money over a long period.

How can I be a Responsible Cat Carer?

Being a responsible cat carer in the 21st century means that those of us who now care for cats must ensure that we not only give our cats the best care possible, but that whilst doing so, we take into consideration our environment, our neighbours and the community at large.

Although legislation and council regulations will be different from community to community (ie. some cities have legislated for compulsory desexing, some for curfews) if you follow the few basic concepts discussed in this leaflet you can be sure you will be seen as a responsible cat carer.

Identification

Identification enables owned cats to be distinguished from unowned cats and provides a link between a cat and his/her owner. In New South Wales, it is the law that your cat must be microchipped or wear an identification collar bearing your name and phone number. All cats born, or that change hands, after 1999 must be microchipped under the Companion Animals Act. A microchip is best as you cat can be returned to you quickly.

Microchipping is a painless procedure which involves having a microchip about the size of a grain of rice implanted by a needle into a fold of loose skin at the back of your cat's neck.

While microchipping is compulsory under the Companion

Animals Act, an additional (visible) means of identification (such as collar and disc) is strongly encouraged. This will immediately indicate to neighbours that the cat has an owner and will facilitate the return of your cat if it wanders, or if found a long way from home, without the need to take the cat to a special location where a microchip scanner is available.

Cats in NSW should be microchipped by the time they are 12 weeks old. Registration with your local Council should be arranged by the time your cat reaches 6 months of age.

Environment

There are ways in which you can reduce the risk to native wildlife in your yard:

- keep your cat indoors;
- give your cat access to an outdoor run;
- put a bell on your cat's collar (although unproven, a bell may provide a warning to prey animals); and
- if you have bird baths or feeding platforms, make sure they are out of the easy reach of cats.

If you cannot keep your cat indoors you can encourage your cat to remain within your property. For example, you can modify your fences by installing inward sloping ledges, floppy chicken wire or hessian overhangs which can discourage cats from climbing over them.

Make yours an indoors Cat!

Cats which are kept inside live at least three years longer on average than cats which are allowed out. If you cannot make your cat a 100% indoors cat, at least confining your cat at night will help keep him/her safe from injuries from cars/dogs/other cats and keep your cat from possibly injuring native animals who are most active from dusk till dawn.

Outdoor runs are a great compromise for cats/owners/neighbours/wildlife and the environment. Outdoor runs are a confined space within your backyard where your cat has access to outside from within your house, but cannot escape your yard. Companies such as Catmax specialise in designing outdoor areas for cats. For your nearest distributor call Catmax on: (07) 3342 4732

Desexing

All cats and kittens adopted through CPS are desexed. Any cat that is not adopted through CPS should be desexed no later than the age of 4 months because kittens as young as 4 months can become pregnant.

- Why Desex Females? It is a complete myth that female cats need to have one litter before they are desexed. Mating and/or having a litter neither adds to nor detracts from a female cat's personality. There are currently too many cats and not enough homes for them. Ensuring your female cat is desexed at no later than four months of age saves many lives.

Responsible Feline Citizens

- **Why Desex Males?** Whilst males will obviously not become pregnant, it is irresponsible to allow a "tom" (undesexed male cat) to remain undesexed. Undesexed male cats can become very aggressive and unsettled and if they are allowed outside, they will wander the neighbourhood in search of a mate. An outdoor cat in pursuit of a female is very vulnerable to becoming lost, hit by a car, attacked by a dog and he can also engage in dangerous fighting with other cats which can cause abscesses and other problems. If your male cat is an inside cat and is left undsexed, he will simply become frustrated and aggressive and can exhibit anti-social (to us humans) behaviour by becoming territorial and marking his territory by "spraying" (urinating). Desexing a male cat does not alter his personality.

Lost Cats

Unfortunately cats sometimes do get lost. You will increase your chances of finding your cat if he/she is micro-chipped and/or wears a collar and identification tag with your telephone number. Confine your cat during thunderstorms and firework displays as the noise can really frighten them and they can often escape and become lost. If your cat is lost, check with your neighbours, your local veterinary clinics, animal welfare organisations, the pound and the local council. Check with these organisations in neighbouring suburbs as lost animals may travel some distance.

Playtime with your Cat or Kitten

Play is an essential part of a cat's life. If your cat is kept indoors most of the time, then it is a good idea to provide a few cat toys for play time. Cat toys may include crumpled up bits of paper, ping pong balls (these are light and are great for a cat to swipe at with a paw), cardboard boxes which most cats love to hide in, bottle tops, and much much more. Consider adopting another cat too, as the ultimate playmate! Playtime is a fun way to bond with your cat. It may help your cat to feel secure - especially if you have only recently adopted him/her into your home. Another benefit is for the cat who does not like to be picked up or held for too long, play offers you a way of spending quality time with your pet. It is also good to create a routine and play with your cat/kitten at approximately the same time every day if possible.

Holiday Time

You will need to consider how best to care for your cat while you are absent from home. Your local veterinarian may be able to recommend a boarding establishment where your cat will be secure. Reputable boarding establishments will

require the cats vaccinations to be up to date. If you are only absent for a few days you may arrange for a neighbour or a home feeding service to visit and feed your cat. Cats are usually uneasy away from their own environment and may become scared and escape so when transporting your cat away from home it is essential to contain him/her in a secure cat carrier available from pet shops or veterinary clinics. Never leave your cat in the car as cars can become very hot even on moderately warm days and the cat can die from heat exhaustion.

Feeding, Bedding, Grooming and Healthcare

Cats require a nutritionally complete and varied diet. Ensure that your cat receives adequate and appropriate food according to his/her age and condition, and naturally, fresh water should be available at all times. Cats should also have access to adequate protection from weather and temperature extremes, as well as access to physical activity and human contact.

More detailed information on all of the above is available from the "Your New Cat or Kitten" leaflet.

General

Cat carers must ensure hygienic living conditions for their cats. This means ensuring cleanliness of food and water bowls, bedding, toilet trays and enclosures. Cats require ongoing preventative health care. Vaccination against Feline Enteritis, Feline Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus. Furthermore, regular flea control and worming against gastrointestinal worms (in accordance with the age of the cat) should be carried out to protect both the cat and humans with which it comes into contact. Cats should be observed daily for signs of ill health, and if noted, veterinary advice should be sought.

As long as you take heed to the above, your cat should live a long, happy and healthy life with you.

For more information on cat care call the CPS Welfare Office on **9519 7201** or check out our website at catprotection.org.au



Cruelty to Animals: A Human Problem

BY CATE KERR

The RSPCA's annual Scientific Seminar was held at the War Memorial in Canberra and this year focussed on the broad but very topical issue of cruelty to animals.

The main topics discussed were:

- Identifying the relationship between cruelty to animals and other offenses
- Preventing cruelty to animals through early intervention
- Preventing cruelty through legislation and prosecution

There were many speakers discussing the reasons behind Animal Cruelty, and representatives from all aspects of Animal Welfare and other Animal related industries. Below is a summary of a few of the topics analysed and discussed on the day.

Animal Cruelty and other offences

Superintendent Carlene York from the NSW Police spoke about the announcement by the NSW police on 29 January that it was establishing an Animal Cruelty Taskforce comprising of representatives from the NSW Police, Attorney Generals Department and the RSPCA with the purpose of investigating the following:

- Tougher enforcement of the law
- Reviewing existing penalties in relation to animal cruelty
- Mandatory reporting of animal cruelty, and
- Diversion schemes for juvenile offenders involved in animal cruelty.

This taskforce is the first of its kind in Australia, and is a step forward in finally acknowledging, not only the link between animal cruelty and other offences, but also the seriousness with which the community should be dealing with animal cruelty offences.

Preventing cruelty to animals through early intervention

The speakers covered a wide range of issues about educating children to develop an empathetic approach to dealing with animals, and programs to intervene with children who demonstrate cruelty to animals.

Nerys Lewis, is the Coordinator of Programs at Sages Cottage and Children's Farm in the outer suburbs of Melbourne. Nerys discussed the program she runs to teach safety and respect through having children co-operate in the running of the farm. The children interact with the animals on the farm with the aim of increasing

young people's empathy and development, not only towards animals but towards other humans as well.

The Farm works mainly with children who have been exposed to violence. The links between child abuse and animal abuse are well known, and the program is working towards breaking the cycle of violence through education about empathy.

Nerys discussed cases of highly disturbed children coming to the farm with violent histories and having great improvements in their behaviour, and some of these children having great affinity with the animals on the Farm.



Karen Damiani, animal co-ordinator at the Menzies Inc Children's Farm at Baxter, with Chloe, the six-month-old Australian companion pig.

It is a truly inspirational program, and obviously a great way not only to assist in dealing with violent children, but also ultimately decrease the levels of future animal cruelty in our community.

Preventing cruelty to animals through legislation and prosecution

The speakers in this session included Professor Clive Phillips from the University of Queensland, Sue Schreiner a Magistrate with NSW Local court and Kevin Apostolides, Chief Inspector, RSPCA Victoria.

As the Chief RSPCA Inspector in Victoria, Kevin outlined his frustrations with dealing in the constraints of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. He described case after case of clear animal cruelty cases, where the prosecution was not successful because of the antiquated legislation with which he is operating under.

Sue Schreiner discussed the role of the courts in sentencing on animal cruelty issues, but also discussed the limitations and careful considerations that need to be given when increasing penalties and sentencing for animal cruelty. Her discussion suggested that we need to look beyond increasing penalties for animal cruelty and towards intervention and education programs.

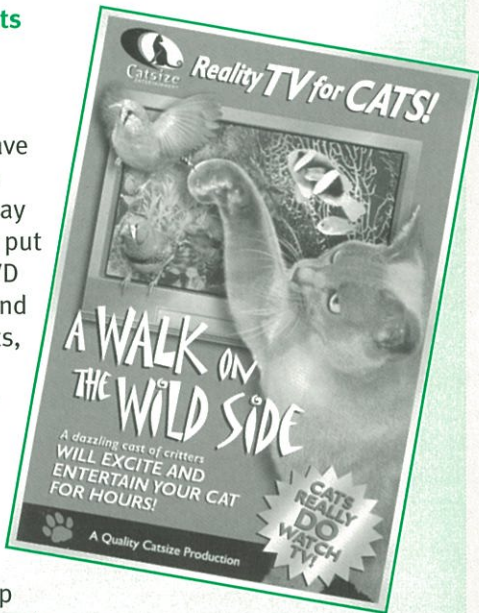
The seminar indicated how much more work there is needed to be done to prevent and deal with animal cruelty in our community. It did, however, also demonstrate that with appropriate funding, intervention programs could be successful in decreasing animal cruelty. 🐾

Walk on the Wild Side

Reality TV for Cats

Video and DVD available

If you have to leave the cats at home while you are away at work, why not put on a soothing DVD with the sound and images of crickets, fish, mice, birds and lots of other fun things for cats. The DVD stays on a loop, so can be played again and again to keep your cat entertained.



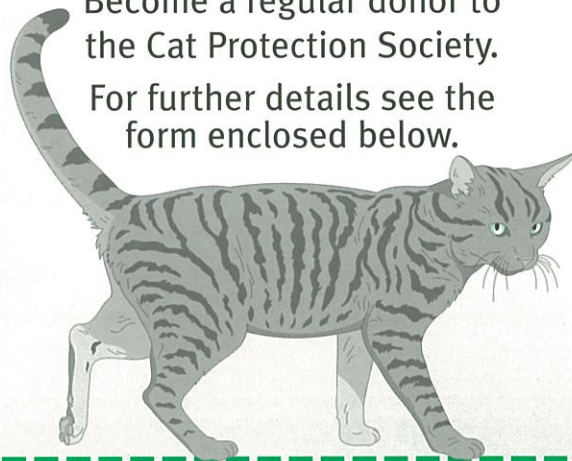
\$22.95 from the Cat Protection Society Shop - Mail order available.

Become a Regular Donor

Help cats in need every month of the year.

Become a regular donor to the Cat Protection Society.

For further details see the form enclosed below.



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

Woman's Day CATtalk with Scooter

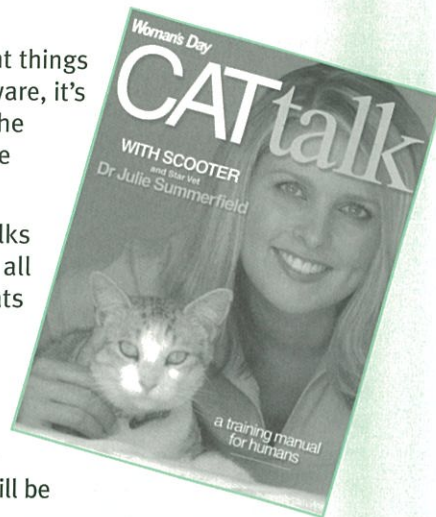
By Dr Julie Summerfield

This book teaches the cat who has just adopted their new "owner" all the important things they will need to know in order to get their new human into shape. As we are all aware, it's important our feline companions start training us early on so that we can get into the important routine of giving them everything they desire, from the finest foods to the most expensive kitty litter.

This book is a Q&A from cats all over Australia to feline media star Scooter who talks our cats through some of their most difficult problems. Scooter guides us through all of the important topics from choosing the right owner to anger management for cats who just can't contain themselves and feel the need for a bit of a swipe at their doting humans.

It's all solid advice for cats and their humans who want to get off on the right paw.

Co-authored with TV vet Dr Julie Summerfield this book will be a great source of easy to read information about cat health, cat behaviour, playing games and other topics that will be of interest, such as identification, elderly cats, cat bedding etc.



Available through good bookshops and the Cat Protection Society of NSW.

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 2005.

All persons joining from January 2005 remain financial until June 2006.

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 _____

Staff Spotlight

Tara Mai Dethridge - Adoption Centre Manager

As a professional Human Resources executive it continues to astonish me the calibre of individual that CPS has managed to attract and retain. How can so many talented and passionate people have gathered in the same team? Is there something in the water?

For this edition of the CPS magazine I managed to squeeze in some time with the extremely busy Adoption Centre Manager, Tara Mai Dethridge. Tara has been a lifelong supporter of animal rights/ welfare and is so passionate about the topic that she is currently studying a post-graduate course in Animal Welfare and Ethics at Monash University.

Residing in Enmore with her “feline friendly” husband, Tara has managed to acquire a brood of 13, ranging in ages from 5 months to 12 years. Apparently they all get on, due in part to the thorough and slow process of introduction they go through. Tara thinks that because there are so many they don’t notice when a new one appears (I think they’re pretending for your sake Tara)! Not only has she rescued 13, but all except one of them came from CPS, which could be called taking your work home with you!

Tara was lucky enough to grow up with animals and realised early-on the necessity to stand up for those without a voice. At 15 she became vegetarian and started volunteering at Australians for Humane Research, an anti-vivisection lobby group that she then went on to join as an employee, post working as a veterinary nurse. When it became time to look for a fresh challenge she joined CPS as a cattery attendant, which with her background and passion for CPS’s goals proved a great “team fit”.

After 10 months in the role she moved on to the position of Adoption Centre Manager, and now manages a “wonderful, wonderful” team of 4. Of course in organisations such as CPS there is no “average day”, however on a daily basis Tara is responsible for: assisting the Cattery Attendants to clean and feed; conducting interviews with prospective volunteers; preparing cat and kitten profiles; deciding which animals are appropriate for re-homing; re-homing itself, and then to finish it all off - another feed and clean at the end of the day. Of



course this is interspersed with “cuddles and encouragement” time for the furry people!

Several of these activities deserve explanation as they are integral to the success of the Adoption Centre. Interviewing Volunteers is extremely important for a number of reasons. Volunteers form the backbone of CPS and ensuring a good fit with the current team is essential, as is ensuring that the volunteer has a clear understanding of what will be required - it’s not all cuddling kittens! Preparation of cat and kitten profiles is also vital, as much behavioural information about the individual cat needs to be observed and correctly recorded in order to ensure a successful outcome for the cat and his/her new family (not unlike a dating agency!). Many hours are spent observing and interacting with the adult cats particularly in order to assess their appropriateness for, and comfort with, a variety of different household compositions. Re-homing is the “front-end” or visible face of CPS’s activities with the general public. Potential adopters are required to fill out an Adoption Questionnaire and then have a lengthy discussion to ascertain their situation/ needs prior to being introduced to any potential adoptees.

When asked about the best facets of her role, Tara did not hesitate in her response: “The staff who are

“No animal should be born to die”

like a group of friends and extremely supportive; the cats (of course) and the (for the most part) wonderful supporters coming in to re-home and therefore save a life”.

Tara is an avid and educated supporter of CPS’s focus on de-sexing and education of the general public on the issue of unwanted animals. “If they could only witness the senselessness of every December/ January (kitten season) in organisations such as CPS, they would realise how big a problem there is. In order for others to empathise they need to have it brought to their attention that de-sexing is the only option - “one litter” is one litter too many”. As Tara says: “No animal should be born to die”.

Cat Facts

- More than 64% of Australia's 6.6 million households own a pet, of these;
 - 26% own cats
 - 53% own a dog and/or a cat
- There are approximately 2.6 million pet cats in Australia, with 810 000 residing in New South Wales.
- Around 13.1 million Australians are associated with pets through their jobs or in their daily life'.
- Research has indicated that owning a cat could help facilitate normal child development, reduce loneliness and depression and also provide social support and interaction.
- Children who are brought up in the presence of animals show better non-verbal communication, popularity and social competence. Higher levels of self-esteem have been observed in children from pet owning families compared with those that were not.
- Professor Bruce Heady at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Public Policy has published a paper quantifying the extent and value of the link between pet ownership and the impact on the Australian health system. The national pets and people survey found that Australian cat and dog owners made 12% fewer visits to the doctor in

the last half of the year than non owners, and that Australian pet owners were significantly less likely to be taking medication for heart or sleeping problems.

- These findings were mirrored by a similar study in Germany with 16 000 people that also found German dog and cat owners spent 32% fewer nights in hospital.
- On the basis of lower health service usage by dog and cat owners, Heady estimated that Australian cats and dogs saved \$2.227 billion of health expenditure in 1994-1995. So over the past 8 years more than \$17.8 billion dollars has been saved as a result of pet ownership. The estimated savings may be higher if it is confirmed that pets especially benefit older people who use the health system to a greater extent. These are preliminary estimates but the implications are substantial for cat ownership and a quantifiable benefit to the Australian health system.

Abstracts taken from the following sources: Harlock Jackson Pty Ltd (1999) Harlock Jackson's position statement on Cat Management. Guttman, Filatre and others 1985 cited in Pets are good for people aren't they - positive aspects. Heady, BW. 1995 Health Benefits of pets: Research from the Australian People & Pets Survey. German Socio-Economic panel (GSOEP) study cited in Heady B and Krause P Health Benefits and potential budget savings due to pets in Australia Social Monitor Vol2 No2 May 1999 The University of Melbourne.

Forget-Me-Not

Enclosed is a donation in memory of our Billy a grey and white tabby. He died in June 2004, 12 years old. At age 3-4 years he became ill, resulting in diabetes. For the last 8 years he had to be injected with insulin daily. If I forgot to give it, he would miaow until I gave it to him. He is missed by his brother Tim, 3 other cats (not really), the dog (we think) and the "uprights" in our family.

THE JACQUES FAMILY

On Wednesday July 7th 2004, our house at 36, London street, Enmore, burnt down to the ground at 12:15 am. The house next door to us caught fire and within 15 minutes our roof had collapsed down in on us trapping myself my partner and our two cats and dog inside.

Two days after the fire we found poor Jaipur's body in the rubble of the house, she had hidden under the doona on our bed,

we were and still are devastated. Jaipur had been a rescue cat from East London in England and had immigrated to Australia with us in 2002.

Just thought I'd let you know that a little Siamese I procured as a three or four month old kitten from you nearly 17 years ago was put down last Sunday after a combination of health issues made it too difficult for her to maintain a quality of life.

I never realised the really important thing about Shara until I brought her body home to be buried in her favourite place just outside the side door. She had turned my house into a home.

She died purring and in great peace.

Thank you for such a wonderful friend and companion. Her name, Shara, is an Anglicisation of the Classical Greek, meaning a "Joy" or a "Delight". Shara certainly was all of that.

HELEN BAKER



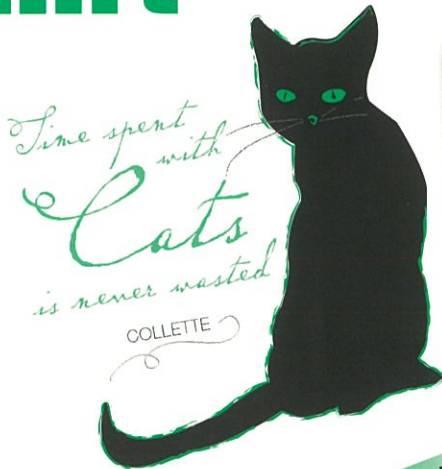
Cat Protection Society

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Now Available

Now shopping can help save lives - spoil yourself with these great designer products and help support cats and kittens in need.

T-Shirt



This stylish T shirt is available in white, printed with a three-colour design. 100% cotton

Ladies Fitted T Shirt - women's sizes only

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large

Premium T Shirt with Spandex Rib Neck - Suitable for men or women

Sizes: Extra Large Only

Designed by Judy Martinez

\$22.95

each plus postage.
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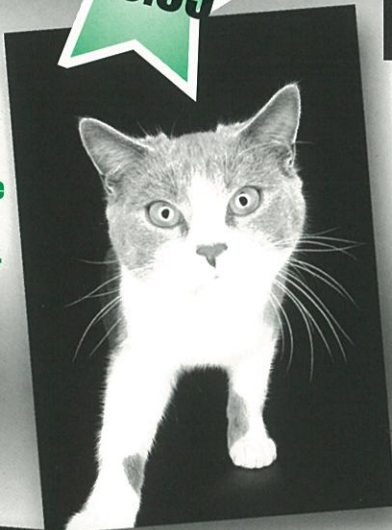
Cards

These beautiful cards are great for all occasions. Designed and photographed especially for the Cat Protection Society. Cards feature pictures of Society cats.

Pack of 10 cards (2 different designs in each pack of 10)
Blank Inside

*Design by Alisha Stanley,
photography by Penelope Clay*

\$13.95



Tote Bag

\$5.95

each plus postage.
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cat protection society
CPS NSW

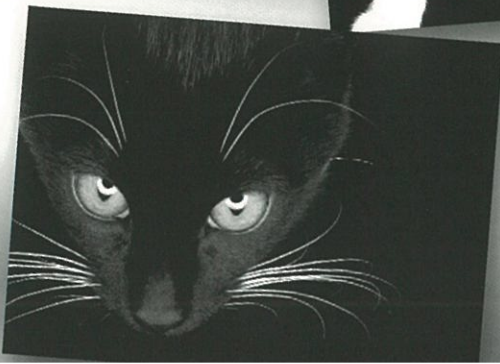
See enclosed order form or
phone our office on **9519 7201**
for further details.

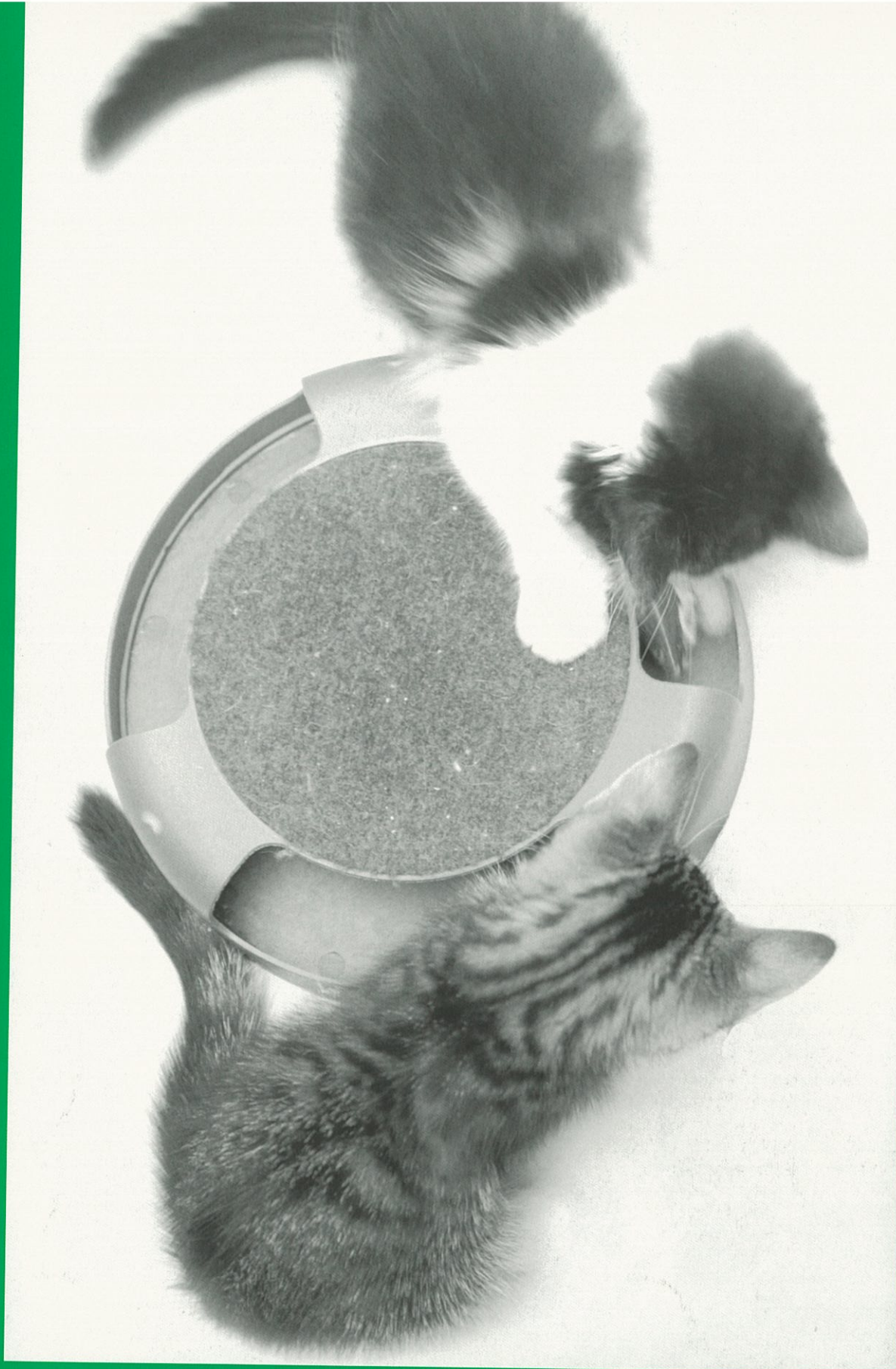
For full colour pictures of the
merchandise see our website at

This cute calico tote bag has been
designed for all cat lovers.

4-colour design on a calico bag

Design by Judy Martinez





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