



# *Cat* **aFFairs**

AUTUMN 2007

JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

- ★ **Cats and plants**
- ★ **Health and the older cat**



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## Council Report

The kitten season is a very stressful one at Cat Protection. The following was printed in *Cat Affairs* Winter issue 1998:

### **Just too many cats**

*This breeding season brought the same outcome as other years. Hundreds of abandoned, unwanted, starving, diseased and injured kittens – not to mention the beautiful mother cats which arrive with them and the adult cats either abandoned or surrendered by their owners.*

Despite our best efforts, little has changed. The only solution to the problem is the compulsory desexing of cats not owned by registered breeders combined with a comprehensive public education program about the need for desexing.

At Cat Protection since October we have had literally hundreds of kittens and adults surrendered. It is very sad when we have to deal with people who surrender their cats simply because they are going on holidays and aren't prepared to pay for their pets to be boarded while they're away.

We do not turn animals away. Georgina, the Cattery Manager, the cattery staff and the foster carers do their utmost but heartbreakingly there is not room for them all. We do what we can.

On a positive note, since October we have rehomed more than 500 kittens and adult cats. It was wonderful to see long-term residents such as Cookie finally get the loving homes they'd been waiting for.

Our new CEO Kristina has settled into her position with Cat Protection. There have been challenges galore with staff shortages and building maintenance concerns but Kristina is taking it all in her stride and is heading for a positive outcome.

The Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement is still being pursued and we hope to have good news in relation to tax deductible donations very soon.

We are sure you will enjoy our new full-colour *Cat Affairs*. *Cat Affairs* will now be issued four times a year instead of three, so we hope to keep you more up-to-date. The cost of producing the magazine in colour (as a result of new technology) was no greater than black and white, so now we can appreciate our beautiful cats in all their glorious colours!

Nita Harvey  
President



Nita Harvey - President

# SAFE AS HOUSES

## Cats and Plants - what you should know

*"I love cats because I enjoy my home, and little by little, they become its visible soul."*

— Jean Cocteau

Now that the cooler weather is here, even outdoor cats are likely to seek the comfort of a snug house, but they may be keeping bad company – many common plants are toxic and even fatal to cats. If grass is available, most cats won't eat plants outside but indoors they may get bored and therefore more adventurous.

Inquisitive felines are bound to explore their surroundings and perhaps take a little nibble here and there if they spy something of interest.

After a cat died from lily poisoning late last year, the RSPCA issued a warning to all pet owners to ensure toxic plants were kept out of reach of animals. Some plants are so dangerous they're best replaced with pet-friendly varieties, as ingestion of even small amounts can prove fatal. If you suspect your cat has been poisoned, or notice symptoms such as abnormal breathing or heart rate, weakness, bloody diarrhoea, severe vomiting or other serious physical changes, call your vet immediately.

The following tips and guidelines will help you ensure the safety of beloved pets and prized plants alike.

### Diet

Being the clever creatures they are, many cats deliberately seek to supplement their meat-based diet with leafy greens – a study by Cornell University found that 36 per cent of 122 cats snacked on houseplants. An article in Petfinder.com ('The Trouble with Cats and Plants' by Jacque Lynn

Schultz) points out that as cats lack the microbes necessary to break down plant cellulose, they're unable to digest raw grass and plant matter properly. The author recommends meeting cats' needs for plant-based nutrients by offering them fresh alfalfa sprouts, parsley, spinach, grated carrots (raw or steamed), peas, cucumber, steamed broccoli, green beans or rockmelon balls. You'll soon find out what they like and digest most easily.

It's also a good idea to keep a pot of grass seedlings (rye, alfalfa or wheat) in a pleasant sunny corner so cats can chew when they feel the need. Remember that although even 'safe' plants can cause vomiting, cats may purposely eat these when feeling unwell to alleviate stomach discomfort.

### Make mine a double

Just as people have their preferred means of unwinding, so do cats. Catnip, while immensely appealing to many felines leaves others unmoved (the ability to enjoy the herb is actually genetic so don't be offended if a new catnip toy is greeted with disdain). Valerian is another plant some cats can't get enough of and is easy to grow indoors. Also try experimenting with different varieties of thyme and parsley; cats often enjoy smelling and chewing these.

### It's easy being green

Giving cats their own plants – some for playing and others for sniffing and nibbling – is one way to prevent mishap, but if curiosity or mischief can't be curbed there are ways to make plants less accessible and appealing.

- Put plants high up on 'un-scaleable' shelves or hang them from the ceiling.
- Try coating leaves with Tabasco sauce or commercial repellents available from pet supply stores. You can also mist leaves and sprinkle with cayenne pepper.
- In order to avoid spills, pot your plants in heavy, wide-bottomed containers.
- To prevent pot plants being used as an alternative litter box, layer the soil with pebbles or cover with wire mesh.
- After gardening, ensure clippings and uprooted plants are removed. Bulbs, rhizomes and roots can be the most dangerous to animals.

### Different strokes ...

Everyone loves a celebration, pets included, but cats' livers are not the same as ours and it's best not to offer them food meant for human consumption (chocolate, sweets). Similarly, while aromatherapy, potpourri and the use of essential oils are increasingly popular, they're not all safe for cats. The liver is the organ most affected by essential oils and toxicity can occur very quickly, through internal and external application and over a period of time. Some of the oils potentially toxic to cats are: peppermint, lemon, lavender, melaleuca, tea tree and wintergreen. On the subject of scent ... many cats love to curl up in a nice dark wardrobe – but the fumes from mothballs destroy their liver cells: use cedar instead

# MOST COMMON TOXIC PLANTS

**Azalea/Rhododendron** – all parts of the plant moderately toxic. Severe poisoning, though unlikely, could lead to death.

**Castor Bean** – contains highly toxic ricin. Severe cases of poisoning can result in seizures, coma and death.

**Cyclamen** – highest concentration of toxins are usually in the root. Can produce intense vomiting. Some fatalities have been reported.

**Dieffenbachia** – this popular indoor plant is highly dangerous to animals and small children.

**Ivy** – many species considered mildly toxic. Can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, breathing difficulty or even death.

**Kalanchoe** – can produce gastrointestinal irritation and serious cardiac abnormalities.

**Lilies** – all members of the liliaceae family are highly toxic. Ingestion of even small quantities of the pollen, flower or leaves can cause severe kidney damage or lead to death. A vase of tiger lilies may look pretty but it could be fatal for your cat.

**Marijuana** – not only illegal and dangerous to people, in cats it can depress the central nervous system and cause vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures and coma.

**Oleander** – all parts toxic, with potential serious effects and even death.

**Poinsettia** – this popular Christmas plant does not make a good present for households with pets!

**Sago Palm** – all parts poisonous, with the seeds or 'nuts' containing the most toxin. Can cause very serious effects including seizures and liver failure.

**Tulip/Narcissus** – bulbs can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, depression of central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

**Wisteria** – seeds and pods toxic. Can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

And don't forget to be extra careful with pesticides and fungicides – read the product information carefully. Snail pellets are sometimes eaten by cats, so try liquid or natural alternatives. Organic gardening is becoming more popular and most nurseries or gardening books and magazines will provide good advice on maintaining your garden without using dangerous pesticides.

## Further information

There are several comprehensive lists of toxic plants available on the web. The sites below are particularly informative.

Animal Poison Control Center [www.asPCA.org/apcc](http://www.asPCA.org/apcc)

About Cats [www.cats.about.com](http://www.cats.about.com)

Cat-World [www.cat-world.com.au](http://www.cat-world.com.au)



Azalea



Castor Bean



Cyclamen



Dieffenbachia



Ivy



Kalanchoe



Lily



Marijuana



Oleander



Poinsettia



Sago Palm



Wisteria



# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## Golden Anniversary

Next year, Cat Protection celebrates our Golden Anniversary – that's right, it will 50 years since a small band of cat lovers got together to address the issue of homeless cats in the area! And how indebted we are to them for their foresight and care. Since CPS began it has helped to save countless thousands of cats from a miserable (short) life on the streets.

We plan to celebrate the achievements of the past 50 years in style! A planning committee has been established and we'll keep you informed. Meanwhile, if you have any stories about our history that you'd like to share, please send them to the Golden Anniversary Committee, Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Newtown, 2042.

## Concord Animal Hospital

Just a reminder that Cat Protection works closely with Concord Animal Hospital in finding homes for kittens (they also do a lot of discounted veterinary work for the cats and kittens in our care). So if you or your friends are looking for a kitten, take a look at Concord as well as our facility in Newtown. Concord Animal Hospital, 45 Victoria Avenue, Concord West. Telephone 9743 1715.

## Creature Features

The ABC TV kids program *Creature Features* profiled our Cattery Manager, Georgina Smith and her beautiful Burmese, Jasmine, in March. Jasmine is special for many reasons but she was newsworthy because she loves going for walks on a lead! You can see for yourself at <http://www.abc.net.au/creaturefeatures/catsonleads.htm>

Jasmine

## Rehoming cats

Our local newspaper *The Glebe* is a great supporter of Cat Protection and every fortnight they feature one of our lovely cats looking for a home. Law firm Baker & McKenzie have featured our cats in their staff e-bulletin and we've appeared on TVS program *Yianni's City Life*. We think all these efforts at marketing help people to find out who we are and choose us when they're looking for a pet. It's still not enough of course, as we're full nearly every day of the week!

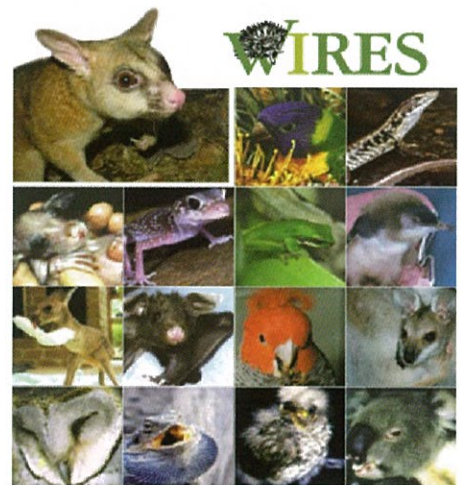
We also advertise in the Yellow Pages and various magazines and papers from time to time. Advertising costs, however, so we're always looking for new ways to promote ourselves without spending.

Word of mouth is one of the most effective forms of advertising and that's where our members are vital. Tell your friends, your neighbours, your colleagues ... tell people looking in pet shop windows! Tell them that when they choose a cat from the Cat Protection Society they're not just getting a feline friend but saving a life. Every cat deserves a loving and responsible home!

## Keeping Wildlife Safe - Your Cat Happy

The NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES) has produced an excellent brochure 'Keeping wildlife safe; your cat happy' which is endorsed by the Cat Protection Society and the RSPCA of NSW.

Keeping  
Wildlife Safe &  
Your Cat Happy



As all our members know, responsible cat ownership means supervising your cat's outdoor activities and always curfewing them overnight. Cat ownership is compatible with conservation. This brochure explains how to keep a cat happy indoors and the dangers to our native fauna of feral and wandering cats.

We're pleased to support WIRES on this community initiative.



# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## Fundraising

As the President has mentioned in her report, we are progressing our application to the Tax Office for deductible gift recipient endorsement. This will require some amendment to our rules of association, which in turn means we will need to have an extraordinary general meeting for members to vote on the issue. We're aiming to finalise this matter before the end of this current financial year.

Meanwhile, we've got some great new products for sale to help us raise money: pens, magnets, magnetic photo frames, as well as a small selection of beautifully handmade, cat-themed items such as cushions, cat coats and jewellery.

As well as presenting a logistical challenge, kitten season is financially challenging for us, with bigger than ever veterinary costs and limited income.

Thankfully, business is strong at the **Op Shop** so all those second-hand bargains represent a win-win for the buyers and CPS!

Thanks to all our hardworking volunteers for their great efforts, and thank you to everyone who donates to the Op Shop. We always welcome new stock, especially good quality clothes, kitchenware and books.

We had a stand at the pet section (unfairly named Doggywood!) at the Mardi Gras Fair Day at Victoria Park in February. We enjoyed many visitors and sold merchandise and also were grateful to receive many donations and membership applications.

We're delighted that **Hill's Pet Nutrition** continues to support us by providing Hill's Science Diet for

the cats and kittens in our care. It is a great thing that we're able to provide – in small charitable shelter no less – the best quality cat food for all our feline charges. We recommend Hill's to all our clients. We retail a wide range of Science Diet at CPS and all profits help us to continue our work, so buy your cat's food at CPS!

## Desexing

CPS welfare staff are developing a plan to promote a higher rate of desexing. We'll be looking at programs targeted at areas of known need. Because our funds are limited, we have to make sure we get the greatest impact from every dollar we spend. The more efficient we are, the more cats we can assist to have desexed.

We've had a terrific response to our partner vet referral service. This is where callers are matched to a vet in their area who provides discounted desexing; we're averaging more than 100 referrals a month, which is fantastic.

However, it is ignorance – not money – that is the greatest impediment to desexing.

It is selfishness, like the people who let their cat have kittens so that their children 'could see the miracle of birth'. They didn't think that the kittens might not find homes. They didn't think the kittens might need to be euthanased. They didn't think about the hundreds of homeless cats with kittens who also need care and shelter. They only thought about themselves. And what were they teaching their children? Do as you please. Don't worry about the consequences. If there's a problem, let someone else deal with it. Very sad indeed.

## CPS Strategic Plan

After much discussion, the CPS Strategic Plan for 2007-2008 was recently finalised by the Board. The plan and accompanying mission and vision statements are important because they constantly remind us of the work we need to do and the directions we need to follow.

The key objectives of the plan are improving the quality of life for cats; increased community awareness of CPS; expanded cat care information and education; best-practice cattery; and the sustainability of our organisation as the premier cat welfare body in NSW.

Our vision is: *Every cat has a loving and responsible home.*

Our mission is to work with the community at all levels for the mutual benefit of cats, people and the natural environment. We do this by:

- Helping cats in need find loving and responsible homes
- Improving the quality of life for cats by educating the community about socially and environmentally responsible cat care
- Actively working with government and non-government agencies to promote and improve cat welfare
- Recognising the unique relationship between people and cats.



# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## Animax Photography

Animax Photography is the pet portrait photography business of Danielle Lyonne, a professional photographer with a background in fashion and advertising. Danielle is based in Stanmore and has supported CPS by creating a wonderful suite of photographs of our feline friends for our use. You can see one on the cover and you can see more on our website.

See [www.animax.com.au](http://www.animax.com.au) for more information.

## Companion Animals Register

CPS has been in discussions with the Department of Local Government regarding CPS having direct access to the NSW Register of Companion Animals. This would mean we would be able to directly reunite microchipped cats with their owners.

It is a great cause for celebration when we find a lost cat and thanks to the microchip, the owner can also be found. All the tears and frustrations of a difficult day melt away when you learn that a bedraggled, scared cat is very much loved and missed by a once frantic, now overjoyed person.

## Join The Cat Protection Kids Club Now!

- Are you 14 years or younger?
- Do you love cats?
- Do you want to learn all about looking after your cat?

If you answered yes to any of these questions you should join our NEW Kids Club. The Kids Club is replacing our junior membership and will be lots of fun.

All members will receive a cool membership pack that includes some of the new Cat Protection Society merchandise, a membership card that lets you enter competitions, the new Kids Club mag 4 times a year and a birthday card.

The new mag will be full of competitions, puzzles and cat facts to help you learn about cats, as well as a special section for you to tell us about why you love cats and send us photos.

Ask an adult to fill out the membership form and post it to us today!

### Membership Form

Name.....Date of Birth.....

Address.....

Enclosed is payment of \$10      Cheque/Money order made payable to Cat Protection Society of NSW

Credit card      Visa      Mastercard      Card number \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_      Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on card .....Cardholder's signature:.....

Please post the completed form to

Cat Protection Society of NSW, 103 Enmore Road, Newtown NSW 2042

If paying by credit card, you can fax the form to us on 9557 8052

# SPECIAL CASE CAT: MACARONI

Macaroni was found on the side of the road after being hit by a car. A passerby picked her up and took her to Rooty Hill Vet Hospital. She was suffering from severe shock and was limping badly yet was very friendly, wanting pats from all the staff.

The vet nurses scanned her for a microchip and she had one. When the vet called her owners they told the vet they didn't want her anymore so had left her outside. They said they assumed since she was friendly someone would pick her up and take her home. The vet explained she'd been hit by a car and would need a check-up ASAP. The owner said they didn't want her back and they didn't care what happened to her.

The vet then asked the owner to come in to the vet hospital so they could sign her microchip over to CPS. The owner refused saying they wanted nothing more to do with her.

All the staff had fallen in love with Macaroni and gave the CPS Welfare Officer a call to assess her for re-homing. Macaroni had x-rays taken and it was found she had a dislocated hip and would need surgery. The vets at Rooty



*Macaroni*

Hill operated on Macaroni and she is now at our Newtown cattery making friends with the volunteers, staff and other cats at CPS. She is looking for a home that will give her as much love as she gives and a place to call her own FOREVER!

**Macaroni would like to thank all of you who have donated to our Special Cat Fund.** Without your continuing donations, cats like Macaroni could not be given a second chance.

## GETTING ON FINE ... health and the older cat

Good nutrition and healthcare have led to a longer life expectancy for cats – just as they have promoted longevity in people. Similarly, many of the conditions associated with advanced age in humans manifest in cats: arthritis, hearing loss, vision impairment, dementia and dental disease.

Ageing is a natural process, not a

your cat for changes that might indicate a health problem, rather than changes that merely reflect the preferences of a senior cat.

### **How old is my cat?**

Dr Kim Kendall of East Chatswood Cat Clinic says the old 'seven years to a human year' is too simplistic and the differential between 'cat' and 'human' years varies in the lifetime of a cat. In an

article on petalia.com.au, Dr Kendall says a nine-year old cat is the equivalent of 52 human years; at 14, the equivalent of 70 years and at 18, 82 years.

Most cats will start to show some age-related changes between seven and 10; by 12 nearly all cats will be quite apparently 'senior' even if in very good health.



## GETTING ON FINE... health and the older cat (Continued.)



*Moet Princess Sweetheart Darling and Chey at eight years of age*



*Moet Princess Sweetheart Darling and Chey at 29 years of age*

### Change

Changed behaviours often tell us something isn't right. Aggression can often indicate pain; failure to use the litter tray might be because it is too steep to climb into for a cat with painful joints; lack of appetite could be due to dental disease.

Carefully observe your cats and make a note of any changes, and then consider the possibilities for those changes. Maybe you've switched foods to one your cat simply doesn't like – or maybe your cat has tooth decay and eating is just too painful. If a change of diet doesn't restore your cat's appetite, you need to have a vet check the cat to find the underlying cause.

When patting your cat, use the opportunity to check for any abnormal lumps and check the condition of the skin and fur. Check the claws too – older cats as less likely to keep their claws trim through play and activity, so you might need to clip them.

An older cat is usually less physically active and so it might eat a bit less... or it might put on weight! It's a good idea to select a special senior food,

such as Hill's Science Diet Feline Senior, which is easier to chew, has fewer calories and is high in fibre. Weigh your cat regularly (about once a month) and keep a record so you can alert your vet to any changes. Exercise is still important for good health so make an effort to have some regular play-time with your cat.

Your vet is a vital partner in your cat's care and it's a good idea to make sure your cat has regular check-ups (twice a year for older cats), ideally at the same clinic so that all your cat's health records are available. Don't ever assume something is a 'normal' part of ageing – many conditions are treatable and even when they can't be cured, good pain management can give your cat a better quality of life.

Older cats don't like change very much – again, like people they're a bit more 'set in their ways' and prefer routine above excitement. Try to understand and accommodate this, and you'll have a happier cat.

### Cat naps

We all know how much cats love their sleep – older cats love it even more!

A survey of owners of senior cats in the UK found that most cats slept more as they got older, and 78 per cent said their cats had a favourite place to sleep. The ability of older cats to regulate their body temperature is reduced, so they look for sources of warmth and comfort. The survey found the number one favourite sleeping place was (not surprisingly) the owner's bed, followed by an armchair, then a spot in the sun.

Which reminds us of this joke:

*Where does a 200 kilo gorilla sleep? Wherever it likes.*

*Where does a 2 kilo cat sleep? Wherever it likes.*

### Respect your elders

Our cats are loving and loyal companions and we owe them the best of care throughout their lives.

Time with an older cat is quite different from time with a kitten or younger cat. Exuberance and insatiable curiosity are replaced with quiet and wisdom. By knowing our cats and observing their health and behaviour, by seeking timely veterinary care, we can assure them of a long and happy life.



# Renewal Reminder

## 2007 - 2008



*If you have not yet renewed your membership,  
Please do so by June 2007,  
to help us with our life-saving work*

### RATES

Annual Membership	\$20.00
Kids Club (14 years of age or under)	\$10.00
Life Member	\$250.00
Life Governor	\$1000.00
Pension Membership	\$15.00

### SUBSCRIPTION

New Member	\$.....
Membership Renewal	\$.....
Donation	\$.....
Special Cat Donation	\$.....
TOTAL	\$.....

### Cheque/Money Order

**(Please make payable to Cat Protection Society of NSW and include address details on the back)**

Card Number...../...../...../.....Expiry Date...../.....

Name on Card.....

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss Surname.....Given Name.....

Address.....

Suburb.....State.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

---

### CHANGE OF NAME/ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

If you have changed your name/address in the past year please fill in this section

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss Surname.....Given Name.....

Address.....

Suburb.....State.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

Please post the completed form to

Cat Protection Society of NSW, 102 Emmers Road, Newtown NSW 2042



# Regular Donations

*If you would like to support our vital work you can*

## BECOME A REGULAR DONOR

Becoming a Regular Donor means that a nominated amount of money will be debited from your credit card on a regular basis

### YOUR DONATIONS HELP US TO MEET THE COSTS OF:

- Running the adoption centre
- Promoting responsible pet ownership
- Providing education
- Desexing cats in the community



Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss Surname..... Given Name.....

Address:.....

Suburb..... State..... Postcode.....

Email.....

Phone Day..... Phone Evening..... Date.....

### Type of Donation:

Please tick a box

☐

One-off Donation

☐

Regular Donation

### Payment Method for One-off Donation

### Payment Method:

Please tick a box

☐

Cheque/Money Order

☐

Visa

☐

Mastercard

Card Number...../...../...../..... Expiry Date...../.....

Cardholder's Name..... Cardholder's Signature.....

### Payment Authorisation for Regular Donation

### Credit Card Type:

Please tick a box

☐

Visa

☐

Mastercard

Cardholder's Name..... Cardholder's Signature.....

Card Number...../...../...../..... Expiry Date...../.....

Amount of Regular Donation \$.....

### Interval for Regular Donation:

Please tick a box

☐

Monthly

(12 payments per year)

☐

Every Two Months

(6 payments per year)

☐

Quarterly

(4 payments per year)

### Duration of Regular Donation:

Please tick a box

☐

6 Months

☐

1 Year

☐

2 Years

☐

Until Further Notice

I authorise the deduction of the above amounts from my bank as a donation to the Cat Protection Society of NSW Inc.

Signature..... Date.....

Please post the completed form to

Cat Protection Society of NSW, 103 Enmore Road, Newtown NSW 2042

# SCRATCHING POST

Dear CPS

Here are some photos of our sweet boys Bullwinkle and Jo Jo.

Thanks

Rosemary and Eddy Carney

Hi CPS

Hello everyone at the CPS. Remember me? I'm Saffy and I was with you in October 2005 when my new owners selected me out of all the adorable cats there.



*Saffy*

As you can see, I live a very interesting and contented existence only a block away from your office. I get lots of love and attention and my humans are very grateful that we had the opportunity of meeting each other at the Cat Protection Society.

Thanks

Richard Walsham

Hey!

About 2 weeks ago I took home Sheeba, she seems to have settled in really well. I have renamed her Bubbles, and I got around to taking some pictures of her this weekend.

Hope everything is going well at the Cat Protection Society.

Pete



*Bullwinkle and Jo Jo*

Hi CPS

We adopted Greta in July last year and just wanted to let you all know she is doing great. She adapted to her new home really quickly and since then has proved to be one smart cat with a laid back personality.

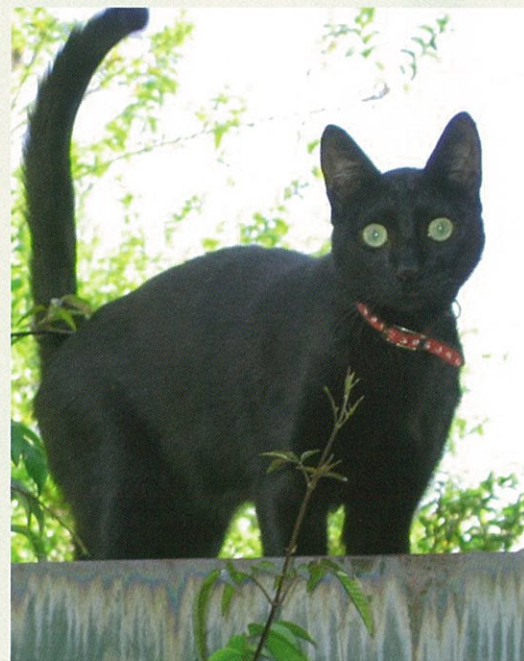


*Greta*

She loves a bit of a chat, is great company and easy to keep happy. Her favourite game is chasing a bit of string, which keeps her fit and amused and she can't seem to get enough of it.

Thanks all

Graham and James



*Alfie*

Hi lovely people

I'm finally sending you some photos of Alfie (used to be known as Boonie!) We adopted him in July last year.

He is a delightful little fellow, very affectionate, very intelligent, very curious. He has taken over the place and lets Jack, our nine-year old cat, know who's boss! He loves to play with my two little grandsons. In fact, he enjoys any visitors. He's very social. We love him!

Thank you so much

Alison Munro

# SCRATCHING POST

Hi CPS

Here are more pictures of my gorgeous Polar Bear.

Thanks

Guillaume

Hi there

I picked up a lovely kitten from you during the Christmas/New Year break. The lady who looked after me said that you guys like to get updates and find out how they've settled in, so I thought I'd drop you a quick email with some pictures to let you know.

The kitten I picked up from you guys was affectionately called 'demon kitty' ... since settling into her new home, she has changed her name to Ling (refer to Ally McBeal – Ling was feminine yet spunky and could look after herself). While she's not overly inclined to respond to it yet, she has learnt the word 'no' ... so we're making progress!

While we had some issues settling in with the 'older resident' (well she didn't ... the other did) you can see from one of the pictures that they've made up. They now eat together, play together and love a good game of chasings; I wonder if I appreciate my lounge being used as a runway though ...

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to adopt such a lovely cat. She has settled in really well – taught the other cat some bad habits, and generally taken over the place.

Regards

Nicholas Hutchings



Ling



Polar Bear

Hi

We adopted Cake and Candle and then Finn. We re-named C & C to Archie (ginger and white) and Reggie (gorgeous black and white boy).

All three are doing very well and are a constant source of delight - after we got used to them being a constant source of naughtiness! We've had a number of dramas - even though we have a large house and garden (which they love), they are constantly working out new ways of creating turmoil! Just as well they are such beautiful cuddly boys who like sleeping on our bed (does get a bit crowded).

All have adjusted well and get on well. Finn especially loves lying on my husband - Reggie is definitely my boy!

Regards

Beth

Dear Cat Protection People

Back in 2003 we adopted a cat from you called Clancy and I thought you might like a (very belated) update on his life.

Well, he is no longer a city cat; we moved to Toronto (by the lake, south of Newcastle) in 2004.

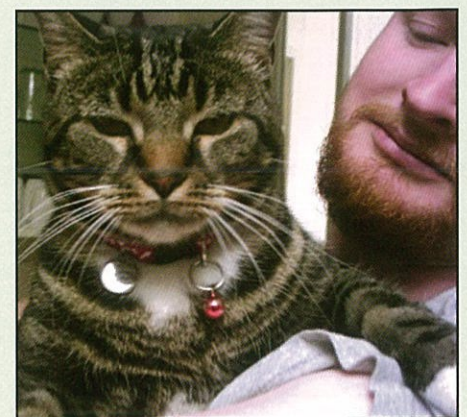
There is less traffic to watch from the window, but he has a huge jungle of garden to explore and play in.

After much encouragement, he has learnt to use his cat door and now spends most of his time lying in the sun on the front steps.

Thanks very much for letting us adopt our grumpy little man, and keep up the good work.

Kind regards

Emma and Nathan Cook



Clancy

# POSTSCRIPT

## The long walk home

News.com reported a story from AAP in New Zealand about Molly, the moggy who walked 150 km to get back to her owner after disappearing during a family holiday at Pauanui in the North Island last October.

*In an astonishing feat of navigation, Molly crossed a river and somehow found her way back to the home in the city of Hamilton where she had lived for only three weeks.*

*A stunned Ms Hight was reunited with Molly... when she saw her on top of the family's garage roof.*

*Although a little skinnier, eight-year old Molly was none the worse for her four-month adventure.*

*"She has always been a good hunter so I knew she would be able to catch birds and mice and that sort of thing.*

*"Her coat is very shiny and in good condition. Her eyes are very bright and she's got no marks on her at all," she said.*

## Where was Marmalade?

While Molly may have trekked for four months, no one's quite sure where Marmalade was for 11 years!

Melbourne's *Herald Sun* reported that Marmalade got lost from his Brunswick home as a kitten more than a decade ago. In good health, he turned up at the Lost Dogs' Home last February... and because he was among the first pets in Victoria to be microchipped, his original owners were located and were happy – and surprised – to have him back.

*But things have changed since Marmalade left home.*

*He has to share with Teapot and Little Meow, who have their claws out for the old timer.*

*Marmalade is in excellent condition, indicating he was cared for by another family during his missing years. And Ms Strauss said she would be willing to return him. "I'd hate to think that another family is worried about their missing cat," she said.*

## Play it again, Sam

Internet aficionados may already be familiar with the exploits of Nora, the grey tabby who rose from humble beginnings in a shelter in Philadelphia to reach worldwide fame as a feline pianist on YouTube.

*Some YouTube users have dubbed her 'Meow-zart'. Others call her 'Cat-hoven'. One said: 'My piano heard me playing this video, and now it wants a cat. Thanks a lot.'*

For the full story, and the amazing video of Nora tinkling the ivories, go to <http://www.smh.com.au/news/unusual-tales/cats-bach-is-worse-than-her-bite/2007/02/16/171405412105.html>

## Cats are tops

Media theorist, critic, author and Internet culture expert Geert Lovink told an audience at the University of Sydney late last year that the number one topic in blogging is cats!

## FEEDBACK

*Cat Affairs is your magazine, so tell us what you think.*

*Feel free to send us an email ([kristina@catprotection.org.au](mailto:kristina@catprotection.org.au)) or post us a letter with your feedback.*

*We welcome contributions from readers but CPS reserves the right to edit, abridge, alter or reject any material. CPS does not pay for contributions.*





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