

Cat **aFFairs**

SPRING 2007

ISSN 1834-870X

JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW



- ★ Scratching furniture
- ★ Stray cats of Turkey



— **NEW** —

Indoor Cat

Ideal for Neutered Cats

- Helps avoid the formation of hairballs
- Helps maintain a healthy weight
- Complete nutrition for an indoor lifestyle



Available exclusively at premium pet food retailers, RSPCA and veterinarians.
For more information call the Hill's Help Line 1800 679 932 or visit www.HillsPet.com.au



No.1 Choice of Veterinarians Worldwide

Registered Office & Postal Address:

103 Enmore Road
NEWTOWN 2042

General Inquiries:

Tel: 9519 7201

Fax: 9557 8052

Adoptions:

Tel: 9557 4818

Email: info@catprotection.org.au

Web: www.catprotection.org.au

President:

Mrs Nita Harvey

Vice President:

Ms Suzanne Jenkins

Secretary:

Ms Lynda Gordon-Squire

Councillors:

Ms Angelika Elliott

Ms Carrie-Anne Finch

Ms Rhonda House



Contents

	Page
Council Report	3
Problem behaviours - scratching	4
Stray cats of Turkey	5
Cat Protection Diary	6-9
Scratching Post	10-13
CPS Vets	14
Postscript	15

©The Cat Protection Society of NSW. Cat Affairs is intended to provide general information only and should not be taken as constituting professional advice. Views expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of the CPS and mention of a person, product or business does not mean endorsement by CPS.

Graphics Film and Printing: Crackerjack Communications 0408 679 045

Council Report

Inside *Cat Affairs* you will find our your invitation to our annual general meeting. We are making a number of important internal changes at the moment such as improving our occupational health and safety, introducing standard operating procedures and reviewing our governance framework. These business system improvements are designed to make Cat Protection a robust organisation that will succeed well into the future, providing shelter and care for cats in need for decades to come. We are still progressing tax deductibility with the Tax Office and this will help us secure essential funds.

Steering the association through this period of transformation is the Council. As you know, all Council members (also known as 'board directors') are volunteers. In fact, by law we cannot be paid for our services. Being on the Council requires a serious commitment of time and effort but the reward is knowing that we're building solid foundations for the future of cat protection in NSW.

It is with regret that I announce two of our Councillors are not standing for re-election due to other commitments. Lynda Gordon-Squire and Danielle van den Bosch have both made a significant contribution to CPS and their knowledge and expertise will be missed. We thank them sincerely for their service.

The Council is keen to hear from members interested in being considered for a position on the Council, in particular members with skills in business, law or finance. I am at the CPS office every Wednesday so please call me on 9519 7201 if you are interested to talk about what's involved.

Without volunteers, CPS wouldn't be here today. Volunteers run the Op Shop; foster kittens; help with cleaning the cattery and feeding the cats; assist with administration and marketing; serve on the Council ... and give vital love and attention to our resident felines.

Thank you to all the CPS volunteers!

Nita Harvey
President



Nita Harvey - President



Problem behaviours

In her article in *Winter Cat Affairs* Dr Jongman made the point that 'most behaviours cited by cat owners as problems are in fact problems for the owner, not for the cat'.

And we all know that's true: of course our cats don't have a *problem* with scratching the sofa, they do it with pleasure and gusto! But for those of us people who sometimes have a problem with our cats' behaviour, in the next few issues we'll be offering suggestions on solutions to some of the more common problems. This issue, we look at scratching.

Scratching furniture

Peasuke and Minou

Cats scratch for a number of reasons. First, they are marking their territory. Cats have scent glands in their pads on their feet so every time they scratch the furniture it leaves a smell to say they have been there. It is also to leave a mark. Scratch marks let another cat know they have been there, so watch out! You may notice your cat scratches the furniture more when a stranger visits or they notice a cat in their yard. They are just re-establishing their territory.

Cats also need to maintain their nails. Contrary to popular belief your cat is *not* sharpening his nails; instead he is helping to break away any dead nail that may be loose. Every four to six weeks your cat's nails will shed.

The dead part of the nail will fall away and the new nail will be underneath. Sometimes the dead nail needs help to come away from the new nail, hence your cat scratching.

How to stop it

All cats need somewhere to scratch. Provide a few scratching posts and if they try to scratch your furniture, pick the cat up and place them at the scratch post. Spraying some aerosol catnip on the scratch posts can help to make them more attractive. You can also trim your cat's nails. This will not stop the scratching but it will minimise the damage they do as the nail will be blunt. You will need to do this on a weekly basis as they will get sharp again quickly. Only ever cut the sharp tip off the nail, as cutting too far

down can cause the nail to bleed. If in doubt, ask your vet to do it for you.

You can also try a water pistol. Any time your cat scratches the furniture, spray a quick jet at their paws with the water pistol. After a few times, they should start going to the scratch post. There are deterrents available from pet shops and vets. These are usually sprayed directly onto the furniture and when the cat scratches, release a scent your cat doesn't like. Of course, be careful that the spray doesn't cause even more damage to your furniture.

Remember, perseverance is the key. Your cat is only acting on natural impulses and doesn't realise your furniture is different from a scratch post or a tree!



Stray Cats of Turkey

*Story and pictures by
Kanelli Tsiros, CPS member*

Turkey is 99 per cent Muslim. The founder of the Muslim religion, the Prophet Mohammed, loved cats. The 'M' marking on the tabby forehead is believed to be the mark of the Prophet.

I have never seen so many stray cats in any country I have visited, like I have in Turkey. I covered 3,500 kilometres and every town and city had its strays to greet me. I never saw rodents and could count on one hand the dogs I saw.

'Our cats are all strays,' a shop owner told me, in the beautiful Mediterranean coastal town of Kas. His shop had an animal donation box. 'We desex as many cats as we can afford to,' he added.

Most cats are well-fed by restaurants, locals and tourists. You can't be seated outside most restaurants without at least one cat greeting you for food. I noticed



how much friendlier these cats are compared to our stray cats in Sydney. On the streets and bazaars, they co-exist with humans and usually have their litters behind shops – I even witnessed week-old kittens under shop steps in an Istanbul bazaar, totally undisturbed by people.

Many shop owners grow to love their strays and care for them. I was told, happily, by a carpet seller, 'Two of my cats, Americans took to their country.' The stray he considers his own was enjoying a nap on his rugs (see picture).

Of course, when there are too many strays there must be some control on their numbers and I didn't ask how; I can only guess by the lack of veterinary clinics.

Not all strays looked healthy and I came across sickly and injured cats I was hopeless to help.

One tourist observing me said, 'You would find no peace if you remained in Turkey with all these strays.' I believe she spoke for all true cat lovers with that comment.

I returned to my six gorgeous spoilt brats back home (all originally strays) who disliked being locked in their home and enclosure with their creature comforts. At least they showed they missed me after one month!



According to the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) there are about 600 million cats and a similar number of dogs in the world, of which an estimated 80% are stray and unwanted. The welfare issues for stray cats and dogs are many and include hunger, disease, traffic accidents and abuse. WSPA works to reduce the suffering of stray animals through its Stray Control projects, which include sterilisation and rabies vaccination programs. For more information see www.wspa-international.org. The Cat Protection Society of NSW is an organisation member of WSPA.



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Free to good home

How many times have you seen flyers or newspaper ads promoting 'free' kittens? Sadly, too many people don't desex their cats and then hope that by giving away the resulting offspring the problem is solved. **WRONG!**

Every year in New South Wales alone there are thousands and thousands more kittens than there are good homes for them. The abandonment and destruction of innocent lives *must* end and the only realistic long-term solution is the desexing of all pet cats prior to sexual maturity.

In July, CPS members alerted us to a story in their local newspaper about a woman with more cats than she could care for. We were able to contact her and help her by taking the kittens for rehoming and desexing all the cats she was keeping. With CPS members and staff working together with the community, we can make a difference to cat welfare and wellbeing.

You can help solve feline overpopulation.

When you see an ad or hear about someone offering 'free to good to home' kittens, phone them and tell them about the Cat Protection Society's discount desexing program. Give them our phone number – 9519 7201 – and tell them to call us for assistance or referral with desexing their cat.

Encourage them to surrender the kittens to a shelter like CPS where they will be desexed before being rehomed. Let them know that tens of thousands of cats and kittens are euthanased every year because there are just too many kittens and not enough homes. Let them know that they can be a part of the solution, not the problem.



Purtrudy and baby

Christmas cards & calendars

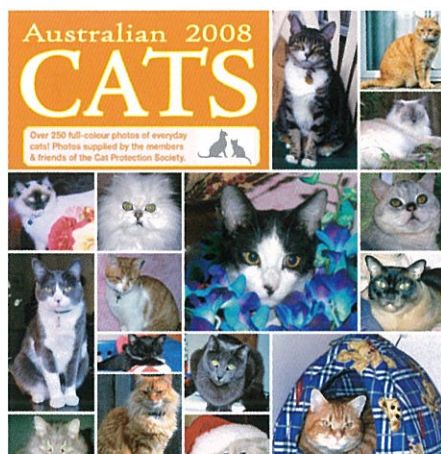
The beautiful CPS Christmas cards and 2008 Australian Cats Calendar are now available for purchase in person or by phone or mail. Please see the order form enclosed in this issue.

If you'd like your cat to be considered for the 2009 calendar, you have until 31 December this year.

Do not send photos to Cat Protection.

You can send prints, slides or high resolution electronic images. Please write your name, address and phone number, plus your cat's name on the back of prints and computer disks, or on slide holders. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of photos. If one of your pictures is chosen for publication, you will be sent a complimentary copy of the calendar.

Send photos direct to
Topmill Pty Ltd, 3/49 Derby Street, Silverwater NSW 2128
Telephone 02 9737 9450 or email publications@topmill.com.au



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

DIY cat enclosures

We are indebted to the Government of Victoria, Department of Primary Industries, for allowing us to publish their excellent DIY guide ***How to build cat proof fencing & cat enclosures*** on our website. You can download the publication for free from our website – go to the page on responsible cat ownership. *How to build cat proof fencing* isn't just a set of building instructions but includes thoughtful advice on environmental enrichment and feline behaviour. Congratulations to the Victorian Government on this great initiative.

Cats in the news

We were thrilled that Dr Harry from Channel 7's *Better Homes & Gardens* filmed a segment on adopting cats from a shelter here at CPS. The cats were all very excited to have a film crew visit, with some showing off and while others were a little more shy. Our Corporate Services Manager Andrea Watkins spoke about our adoption procedures and Dr Harry explained the benefits of adopting an adult cat. The segment screened in late July.

You may also have seen the letter to the *Good Weekend* magazine from President, Nita Harvey, about unnecessary panic over toxoplasmosis, and the letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* from CEO Kristina Vesik about desexing. We've also had comments and letters published in local and even interstate media – flying the flag for CPS wherever we can!

We're delighted too, that *Yianni's City Life*, an independent magazine-style tv program that screens on community television, will be doing their second story for 2007 about Cat Protection! Thank you to Yianni for his love of cats.

School's in

At CPS, we've always been concerned with educating the community on responsible cat care. This year we've joined with the RSPCA in their primary school education program. The 'prevent a bite' program, mainly focused on educating kids how to avoid dog bites, had been running in schools for a couple of years when a number of shocking kitten cruelty cases highlighted the need for humane education.

When the RSPCA asked us if we'd be interested in helping them promote a new 'cats are cool' section to their program, how could we refuse? The new content promotes cat care and tries to dispel myths such as 'cats are for girls'.

Cat Tales teaches kids about the history of cats and how they have adapted from prehistoric to modern times. The program also helps children better understand charities, animal welfare issues generally, and how they can promote awareness in their school or community.

Nerida Atkin, our education officer, gave CPS's first presentation to Australia Street Infants School in Newtown. All the kids loved it, and especially liked 'Max' and 'Minty', our dog and cat friends who help with the presentation. If you would like your children's school to be involved, please contact the RSPCA education division on 8666 0122 or email education@rspcansw.org.au



Max and Minty

Nestlé caring for cats

Some of you may have seen an advertisement for Nestlé Nesquik Plus in which a kitten turned into a tiger after drinking some chocolate milk. Cat Protection wrote to Nestlé expressing concern that such a product was not suitable for cats, and that while it may be clear to adults that the image was a fantasy and metaphor, there was a risk that children would emulate the little girl in the ad and feed their cats chocolate milk.

Nestlé's response was swift and positive. They voluntarily withdrew the ad and informed us: "We can assure you that we did not intend to harm or promote the harm of any animals with this communication ... We are aware that the petcare industry has worked very hard to educate pet owners on what food and drinks are suitable for pets and we do not want to undermine this in any way."

We're pleased to advise that

Thank you Nestlé.



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Mario and friends

The gentle and loving Mario found his new home and we've been pleased that over winter so many of our long-term resident adult cats have found loving and responsible homes.

Shorty, who had been here longer than the CEO, the Customer Service Coordinator and two of our vet nurses, finally found his first home on Father's Day.

We will miss him but we're all so happy that he has found a lovely, lively and safe forever home.

Building work

We have had some building work done in the adoption centre to close all the gaps between it and the downstairs area. This will prevent any more kittens and contortionist cats from squeezing through looking for adventure and also reduce the potential for airborne viruses to transfer between rooms.

World Animal Day – Open Day

World Animal Day occurs on the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, 4 October. St Francis is acknowledged in the Catholic Church as the patron saint of animals and the environment. In his Canticle of the Creatures he wrote 'All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures'.

Franciscan Kevin E Mackin OFM writes on americancatholic.org that 'Some people criticise the amount and cost of care given to pets. People are more important, they say. Care for poor people instead of poodles. And certainly our needy fellow humans should not be neglected. However, I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.'



Animal welfare groups and sanctuaries around the globe, celebrate World Animal Day.

World Animal Day's mission is:

- To celebrate animal life in all its forms
- To celebrate humankind's relationship with the animal kingdom
- To acknowledge the diverse roles that animals play in our lives – from being our companions, supporting and helping us, to bringing a sense of wonder into our lives
- To acknowledge and be thankful for the way in which animals enrich our lives.

**To celebrate
Cat Protection Society
will be holding an**

Open Day
at our facility at
103 Enmore Road,
Newtown
from
11am to 2pm
on
Sunday, 7 October.

*Please join us! We'll have
lots of great activities and
guest speakers – for a
program check our website
on*

www.catprotection.org.au

or phone us on
9519 7201

CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Too many kitties!

August was national desexing month and you may have seen some of our promotions of desexing. CPS placed advertisements in our local newspaper *The Glebe* as well as a number of community papers in Sydney's east and south-east. In addition, we did direct brochure marketing to shopping malls and community noticeboards across the Sydney metropolitan area. If you would like to distribute brochures in your local area, please phone Danielle in our office on 9519 7201.

We ran a community service announcement a few years ago called 'too many kitties' and we are seeking media support for this again. You can view the animation on our website at www.catprotection.org.au. Send it on to all your friends and colleagues – it's a beautiful video as well as an important message.

The next generation of cat carers

Encouraging young people to choose careers in particular industries is a challenge for many sectors. The worldwide shortage of nurses shows significant social consequences can arise from the career choices made by a generation.

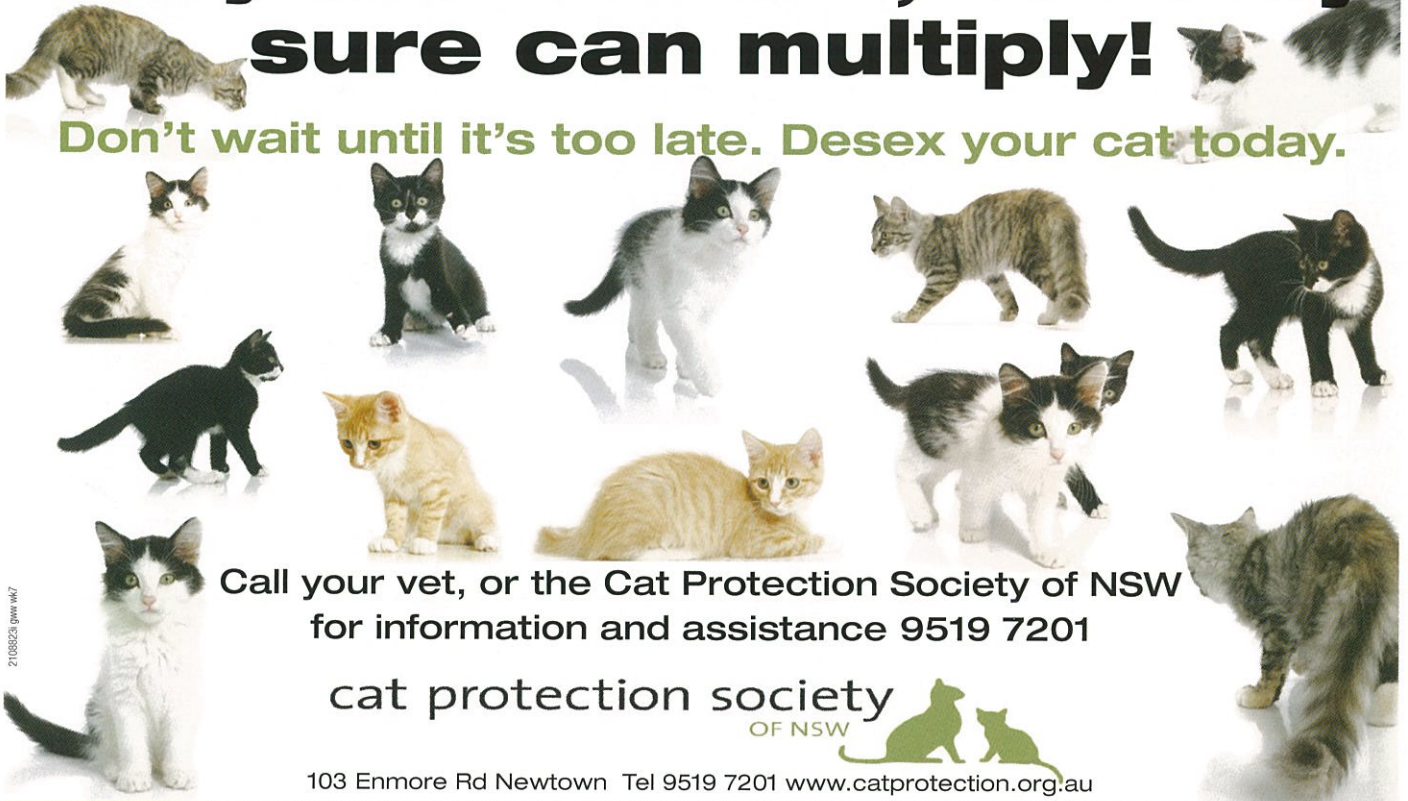
At Cat Protection, we're obviously keen to ensure there will always be vets and vet nurses to care for cats in the future. That's why we're proud to sponsor the Feline Welfare Science prize at the University of Sydney. This prize is awarded to the student showing the greatest understanding of issues related to domestic feline behaviour and welfare in the Animal Welfare Science Essay.

The prize this year was awarded to Ms Veronica Cumming.

We're also pleased to be working with veterinarian Dr Ben Rochester, who lectures vet nurse students at Ultimo TAFE. As a part of gaining necessary practical experience, vet nurse students are provided with an opportunity to assist Dr Rochester in operations such as desexing and teeth cleaning. These are conducted in fully-equipped vet hospitals and the safety and health of the patient is paramount at all times. This project gives us an opportunity to let new graduates know about who we are and what we do, as well as have some of our cats desexed at cost-price.

They can't count, but they sure can multiply!

Don't wait until it's too late. Desex your cat today.



Call your vet, or the Cat Protection Society of NSW
for information and assistance 9519 7201

cat protection society
OF NSW



103 Enmore Rd Newtown Tel 9519 7201 www.catprotection.org.au



SCRATCHING POST

Hi CPS

Puss Puss has been with us for over a year now. Her name was Poppet and we met her at your place at the end of June 2006.

Hi, I've been with my new family for over a year now. While it took them a little bit they came to realise who runs the home – me! The two little kids were a bit hard to shake but they soon learnt that if I wanted to have a sleep on their bed, they had to wait their turn. I enjoy the wonderful big yard, plenty of places to climb and plenty of birds to chase! I soon lost all that extra weight I had and now eat like a horse but still look beautiful and sleek, as my picture shows. I love my new home, my new family and my new life and they all love me just as much and more.

Regards

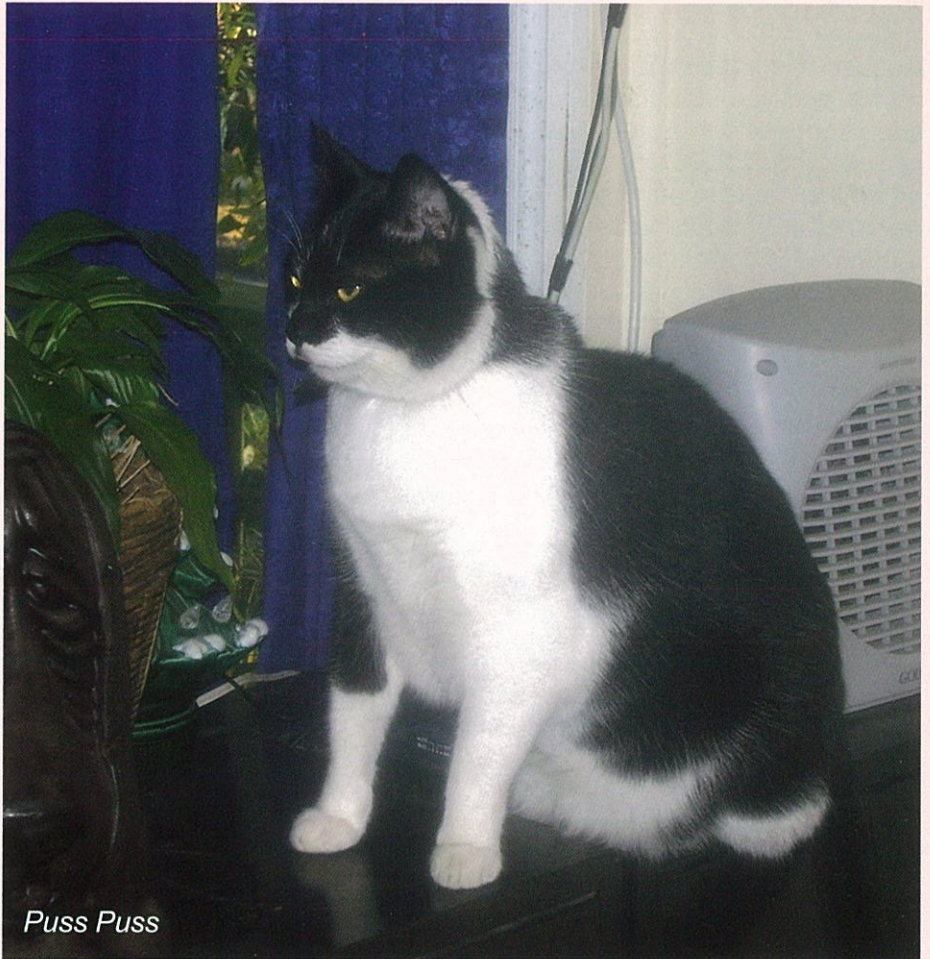
Seana Disney

Hello

We adopted Charlie Bongo, the sweetest, smartest grey and white tabby five weeks ago. The joy he's brought to our home and hearts is beyond words. He's healthy and happy and loves us too. We're greeted with purrs and meows when we get home, whether it's been half an hour or half a day, he is just the happiest cat. My only problem is I'm practically housebound 'cos I can't bear his little face when I go! Need the animal behaviourist to help me, certainly not him.

Thank you so much

Belinda Holmes



Puss Puss



Leo

Hi

Just wanted to let you all know that our little kitten, Leo, is well. We have bought him many catnip

toys and a scratching post. He is a cheeky cat, which we adore!

Cassandra Jones

SCRATCHING POST

Dear CPS

You might remember me as Beez Neez. I came to stay with you in 2005 when I was abandoned with my 4 kittens and my brother Ned and sister Astrid. I was lucky enough to be adopted by the same human that adopted one of my baby boys. My new name is Mischa and our new Mummy adores us.

My little boy, Muts, is all grown up. He loves playing fetch, soccer, jumping in the bath or shower and doing tricks. I'm not quite as adventurous so I just keep our humans company. Thank you for finding us a wonderful new home.

Mischa and Muts
(Per our Mummy, Lee Panek)

Hi CPS

Here is a photo of Earl doing what Earl does best, snoozing.

Mani Wichman

Hello

I have included a couple of pictures of my cat (not from you guys), Lachlan, he is half Cornish Rex and half Burmese. He is my pride and joy. I found the article on indoor cats in the last issue of *Cat Affairs*, to be very useful as Lachlan is an indoor cat and at times I feel guilty for keeping him inside but your article made me feel better about it. I think you all do a fabulous job and I wish I could do more for the Society, as I believe it to be such a worthy organisation.

Regards

Jane Barnes

Hi

My beautiful Burmese boys, inseparable from day one, thanks mainly to Manny (obtained from Cat Protection) who so graciously accepted another kitty called Rocky in his house!

Kim



Manny and Rocky



Mischa (right) and Muts (left)



Earl



Lachlan



SCRATCHING POST

Hi everyone

Here is Max hard at work (eating & sleeping). We had to get him shaved a few months ago as he got a few mats in his fur & he wouldn't let us brush them out. He was much happier after that. We couldn't have asked for a better cat to replace our ginger cat, Oscar, who had passed away from cancer a few months before. After a brief settling in period with our existing cat Teddy, Max quickly found a niche spot on the lounge all of his own.

Sincerely

Nicholas Whitlock



Max

Hi CPS

I came into the adoption centre yesterday and left with Maca, now called George.

He has taken over my bed and the apartment. He spent all last night sleeping next to me and playing with my fingers and toes.

Please pass on to the staff at CPS my appreciation of the work they do and the care they give to all those beautiful cats and kittens.

Jem



George

Hi CPS

We adopted Misty five weeks ago and we couldn't have asked for a more wonderful, loving, interactive and affectionate animal. She is a funny, naughty, cheeky, fluffy (and occasionally rather bossy) little girl whom we absolutely adore and feel she has truly settled in as one of the family.

We are constantly astounded (and outwitted) by Misty's incredible intelligence and find

that she likes to be not only the centre of attention but also involved in everything we do. She also has something to say about everything – in fact, she rarely stops talking. She has opinions and she doesn't hold back! We really do love her and hope she's as happy with us as we are with her.

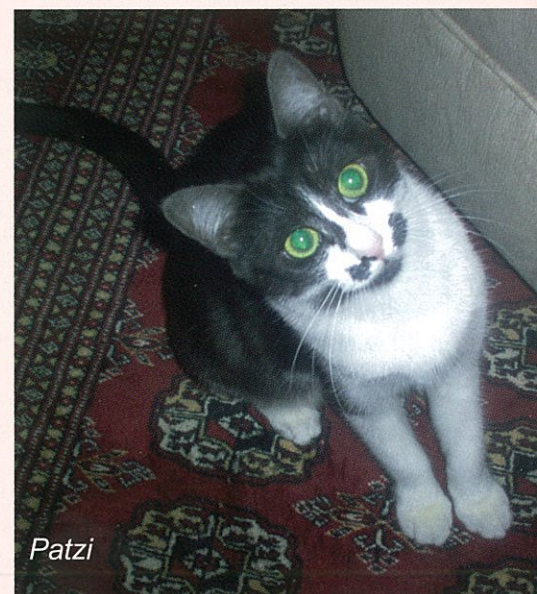
Meredith and Richard

To the dear folks at Cat Protection

Hello, it's Patzi (Vivian Leigh) here. I am just contacting you to let you know that I have settled in to my new home. I'm overjoyed at the company and the box of toys I have to keep me active during the day. I want to thank all of the staff for enabling a wonderful match between my owner and me. I have provided you with some pictures of myself for contribution to your "happy cat" stories.

Sincerely

Sandra Fleischmann
Patzi's owner



Patzi

SCRATCHING POST

Dear everyone at CPS

Here I am in our backyard which is lovely and has two great trees for me to climb. Mummy takes me outside with Max and Alice when she is home but we aren't allowed outside by ourselves.

I have my own bed and basket and mummy is making me a special quilt – and I have my own hot water bottle! I'm very glad mummy picked me but she still gets very sad and misses Jack

lots. She has lots of photos of him and he's very handsome but not as handsome as me.

Hope everyone is well and finds someone special like I did.

Henri (formerly Aslan)

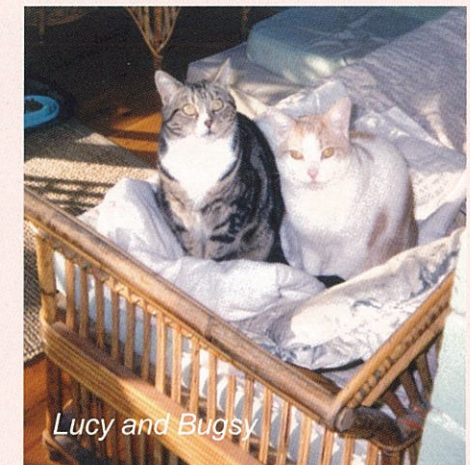
Hi CPS

Here are some pictures of Lucy & Bugsy (Patchouli & Ringo)

From Lee Barwick, Life Member



Henri



Lucy and Bugsy

Hi CPS

My husband and I adopted a kitten from you earlier this year. I've been meaning to write for such a long time and to let you know she has been the perfect addition to our home. It took our other cat Sebastian a little longer to get used to the new arrival, but they are now great friends. We honestly cannot thank you enough. Keep up the good work!

Regards

Marika

Dear CPS

Here is our beautiful Angel. She is such a cheeky cat and has given us so much pleasure. The cruel people who dumped her in a rubbish bin don't know what they missed out on. My grandchildren and I just love her so much!

Keep up the good work.

Dorothy York



Which one is Angel?!



Angel

Thank You to our vets

The Cat Protection Society of NSW is indebted to the support of the individual veterinarians and veterinary clinics who work with us. Please support these vets who support us.

ALL PAWS VET CLINIC 125 Majors Bay Rd Concord 2137 9743 0063

BANKSTOWN NORTH VETERINARY HOSPITAL 324 Hume Hwy Bankstown 2200 9708 1305

BEVERLY HILLS VETERINARY CLINIC 158 Stoney Cr Rd Beverly Hills 2209 9580 3109

BLACKTOWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL 100 Kildare Rd Blacktown 2148 9622 3626

CAHORS ROAD ANIMAL HOSPITAL 90 Cahors Road Padstow 2211 8730 8280

CANLEY HEIGHTS VETERINARY HOSPITAL Shop 6 Harden St Canley Heights 2166 9604 9300

CARINGBAH VETERINARY HOSPITAL 151 Denman Ave Caringbah 2229 9525 8888

COLLAROY PLATEAU VETERINARY CLINIC 24A Aubreen St Collaroy Plateau 2097 99829439

COLYTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL 81 Great Western Hwy St Marys 2760 9673 1106

CONCORD ANIMAL HOSPITAL 45 Victoria Ave Concord West 2138 9743 1715

CROYDON PARK VETERINARY CLINIC 65 Georges River Rd Croydon Park 2133 9716 0207

EARLWOOD ANIMAL HOSPITAL 213 Bexley Rd Earlwood 2206 9718 5235

FIVE DOCK VETERINARY HOSPITAL 10 Ramsay Rd Five Dock 2046 9713 7364

GREYSTANES VETERINARY CLINIC 26 Carnation St Greystanes 2145 9609 5695

INNER WEST – SYDNEY ANIMAL HOSPITAL 1A Northumberland Ave Stanmore 2048 9516 1466

LEPPINGTON VETERINARY CLINIC Cnr Eastwood & McCann Leppington 2171 9606 6988

LINDFIELD VETERINARY HOSPITAL 324 Pacific Hwy Lindfield 2070 9416 1848

MAROUBRA JUNCTION VET CLINIC 5C/697 Anzac Pde Maroubra Junction (crn Mason St) 2035 9349 8662

MT DRUITT VETERINARY CLINIC 1 Bulolo Dr Whalan 2770 9625 9508

SOUTH PENRITH VETERINARY HOSPITAL 126 Stafford St Penrith 2750 4721 4796

PENSHURST VET CLINIC 1 Laycock Rd Penshurst 2222 9570 5076

PET VETS 296 Stanmore Rd Petersham 2049 9560 5255

ROOTY HILL VETERINARY SURGERY 26 Rooty Hill Rd South Rooty Hill 2766 9625 0499

DR BEN ROCHESTER 0421 799 261

RSPCA 201 Rookwood Rd Yagoona 2199 9770 7555

STRUGGLETOWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL 148 Barker St Randwick 2031 9398 8000

WEST RYDE VETERINARY CLINIC 1068 Victoria Rd West Ryde 2114 9874 3452



POSTSCRIPT

Letting the cat out of the bag

Ginger the family tabby packed herself in Mary Martell's luggage for a flight from Saint John Airport (which is on Canada's Atlantic coast) to Toronto, and then travelled on by car to Niagara-on-the-Lake!

According to News.com, Ms Martell told CBC the bag was scanned at the airport but she was not stopped and it was loaded into the plane's cargo bay.

'They had asked me, when they put... the luggage through the x-ray whether I had a turkey,' she said.

'[Airport security] kept going back and forth with the suitcase.

I was adamant: "Look, I have no turkey".

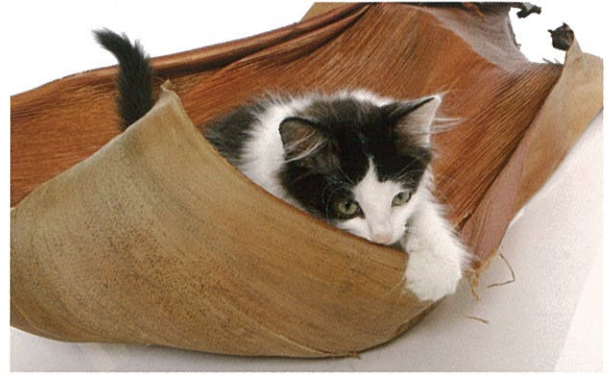
Ms Martell discovered Ginger when unpacking her luggage at her hotel after the three-hour journey!

Toby

Toby is a special resident CPS cat. His owner was too ill to continue caring for him. At 17 years, Toby's rehoming chances weren't good but we felt such a handsome and wise gentleman deserved a dignified retirement. Toby now lives with us at CPS, taking sojourns at the home of a member of staff in winter. He loves to lie in the sun and enjoys visits from former neighbours, who all agree this is one very special cat!



Toby



Oscar

When *The New England Journal of Medicine* published an essay by Dr David Dosa about Oscar, Oscar became famous around the world.

Dr Dosa is a geriatrician at Rhode Island Hospital and an assistant professor of medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence. Oscar is a cat who lives in the dementia unit of the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre in Providence, Rhode Island. What makes Oscar worthy of note in an important medical journal is his ability to predict death.

In the essay, Oscar is described visiting various patients, appearing to check up on them, and then, when arriving at the bed of Mrs K, deciding to curl up beside her. When a nurse notes that Oscar is still there one hour later: *'She grabs Mrs K's chart off the medical records rack and begins to make phone calls.*

'Within a half hour the family starts to arrive... relatives begin their vigil. The priest is called to deliver last rites. And still, Oscar has not budged, instead purring and gently nuzzling Mrs K. A young grandson asks his mother, "What is the cat doing here?" The mother, fighting back tears, tells him, "He is here to help Grandma get to heaven." Thirty minutes later, Mrs K takes her last earthly breath. With this, Oscar sits up, looks around, then departs the room so quietly that the grieving family barely notices.'

It is reported that Oscar has presided over the deaths of more than 25 residents.

His gift gives nursing staff time to notify families and his sensitivity and warmth give companionship and comfort to the dying.

FEEDBACK

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

Feel free to send us an email at 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.



Pet Photography

We photograph all breeds as well as all species! Whether your pet is a perfectly well-behaved angel or a hyperactive, tearaway devil, as long as it moves, we can shoot it!

At Animax we specialise in capturing every pet's personality and work with you to design a shoot that reflects your personal tastes and preferences. Please call us to get a copy of our 2007 packages or visit our website to view our work.

Gift certificates also available.

For booking times and package information please call

1 300 ANIMAX