

Cat[★]affairs

WINTER 2007 JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW
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- ★ Indoor cats
- ★ Dealing with ringworm



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Council Report

Thank you to everyone who attended the Special General Meeting and to those who sent their votes by proxy. I'm pleased to say that the resolution to amend the rules and objects of the association was passed unanimously. This means we can proceed to the next stage of our application for deductible gift recipient endorsement.

We are always humbled by the generosity of those who give to the cats in their lifetime, and those who remember the cats in their will. Legacies have been the financial building blocks of Cat Protection. If you have remembered Cat Protection in your will it is important to let your family and friends know and understand this. We have seen some very sad situations where a person's friends or family would rather see a person's estate squandered on legal challenges than to respect that person's choice to leave money to charity. It upsets us greatly to see this happen, but there is little we can do.

Responsible cat owners always keep their cats indoors overnight but now the cold weather is here it is imperative to keep them warm as well. The article on cats adapting to confinement shows cats can be perfectly happy living indoors, and certainly in the winter it helps to protect them from colds and flu. Nothing makes a house a home more than a cat or two curled up in front of the fireplace or heater.

At our Newtown cattery, we've bought some heated pads for the kittens (see the photo on page 4-5). These are warmed up in the microwave, placed inside a woolly cover and then ready for the kittens to snuggle onto – a toasty warm treat on a cold winter's day. Proof, if any were needed, of how much we love our cats!

All the best,

Nita Harvey
President



Nita Harvey - President





How well do cats adapt to confinement?

Dr Ellen C Jongman
Animal Welfare Science Centre, Primary Industries Research Victoria

Cats are very popular pets, with around 1.7 million Australian households - 23 per cent - owning one or more cats. In addition, there are many stray cats and people feed some of these cats occasionally. Pet ownership provides people with benefits such as stress relief, companionship and stability and owning a pet may even improve the owner's health.

But while cat ownership may benefit humans there are some possible animal welfare problems. Free-roaming cats may get lost or injured. In 2006, more than 60,000 cats were received by RSPCA shelters alone, and more than 35,000 were euthanased as they were not suitable for re-homing or were not wanted.

Native wildlife is at risk of predation by roaming cats, as both are active at dawn and dusk.

While most cat owners believe cats have a need to roam outdoors and that this benefits the welfare of the cat, roaming carries welfare risks. For example, roaming cats may fight with other cats, may get injured in car accidents, may contract diseases such as Feline AIDS, or they may get lost.

Nature and nurture

Most cats have not been selectively bred to be 'housecats', living in confinement 24 hours a day. Data from the United States indicated that only three per cent of the cat population was a specific breed. We recently surveyed owners of registered cats in the Melbourne area and found that 10 per cent of their cats were purebred. Until recently, most domestic cats were allowed to roam freely and they contributed to the large population of stray and feral cats. Purpose-bred cats only supply about 25 per cent of the replacement population of owned cats. Our survey of owners of registered cats indicated that only 20 per cent of these cats came from breeders or pet shops, while 43 per cent came from a shelter or were adopted stray cats.

Thus, a large proportion of domestic cats have not been selected for easy adaptation to live in confinement and in close contact with people. With so many pet cats coming from the stray and shelter population, their socialisation to people may not have been complete.

Although cats are basically solitary animals, social living with

other cats - even stray and feral cats - can occur and depends on early socialisation to other cats. If early socialisation does not occur, cats may remain solitary throughout their life. The critical period for early socialisation to people, other cats and other animals is in the first two to eight weeks of life. Beyond this critical period, which may happen when litters of feral cats are adopted once the kittens are more than eight weeks old, socialisation becomes a difficult and time-consuming process. In addition, parents of adopted kittens may be fearful or show very strong natural instincts. These traits are heritable and may make some cats unsuitable for living in close confinement with people.

Natural behaviour of cats

To ensure domestic cats are able to adapt to confinement housing, it is important to understand their natural behaviour. Cats are territorial, with most territories centred around a food source. Stray cats generally live in fairly small natural territories such as the grounds of nursing homes or factories. Therefore, limiting the territory of the domestic cat to indoors, perhaps with an outdoor run, should not be deleterious and the cat should easily adapt to this lifestyle.

Cats spend up to 19 hours a day sleeping! Provided that the basic needs of water, food, places to sleep and hide and a litter tray are met, most cats should be able to cope with a confined environment. However, in addition to meeting the cat's basic needs, the environment should enable and encourage most natural behaviours of the cat, and provide good opportunities for interaction between the owner (and family) and the cat.

Cats are adaptable to a wide range of environments and are generally not known to show clear behavioural abnormalities. Certain behaviours that are natural to the cat, such as scratching furniture, spraying urine, climbing the curtains and so on may be seen as a problem by owners when performed inside the owner's house. However, most behaviours cited by cat owners as problems are in fact problems for the owner, not for the cat. These are usually natural behaviours that need to be redirected. Providing environmental enrichment such as scratching poles and toys will enable indoor cats to perform some of these natural behaviours without causing damage or being a nuisance.

Behaviour problems

The most frequent behaviour problems cited by cat owners are: inappropriate elimination, scratching, aggression, anxiety, eating problems, vocalisations and excessive activity. Inappropriate elimination seems to be the

biggest problem and can be caused by several factors. Urine spraying is a sign of territorial marking and can be elicited by a strong territorial instinct or the introduction of a new cat in the environment. This can include the appearance of a strange cat outside the property.

Defecation at prominent locations outside the litter tray can also be a sign of territorial behaviour. Environmental and social stress and medical problems may also result in inappropriate elimination. It may originate from certain preferences for or aversion to elimination sites, for example an aversion to a litter tray situated adjacent to the food bowl. In addition, some cats may go in search of a different elimination site when the litter tray is not cleaned regularly, when one litter tray is shared with other cats or when a certain type of litter or litter tray is used.

The indoor environment

Research indicates that indoor cats should have access to at least two rooms. In the case of housing multiple cats, the rooms should give the opportunity for cats to be at least three metres apart. However, quality of space is more important than the amount. An indoor environment is like a very small home range. Features in the environment should include vertical structures for climbing and an elevated platform for sitting and surveying the surroundings (window sill, back of the couch), resting or sleeping areas both raised and at ground level, areas to hide, a scratching surface and a litter tray. Toys can be beneficial as they encourage natural behaviour and interaction with the owner/family.

(Continued next page)



How well do cats adapt to confinement? (continued)

Providing cats are sufficiently socialised at an early age, most cats adapt to a multiple cat household. Multiple environmental features should be provided to share between all cats and, of course, all cats should be desexed.

Conclusions

Despite cat owners feeling that their cat likes to roam free, confining cats indoors provides certain welfare advantages and most cats adapt very well to confinement. Although behaviour problems are often reported, undesirable cat behaviour is often more a problem to the owner than an indication of a problem with cat welfare. Most problems can be improved by redirecting this behaviour with appropriate environmental features and behaviour modification.

Behaviour problems that do affect the welfare of the cat are often associated with fear and anxiety. It is important that cats are provided with places to hide and have access to elevated areas so they can survey their environment.

People who would like to keep their cat confined may want to select a cat that has been properly socialised at an early age and is bred from parents that were well-adjusted to human contact.



About the author

Dr Ellen Jongman has been a research scientist with the Department of Primary Industries Victoria and the Animal Welfare Science Centre since 1994.



Dr Jongman has been involved in animal welfare research for the past 17 years with a range of species including pigs, chickens, dairy cows, cats, greyhounds, horses and sheep. Her main interests are the effects of housing and husbandry procedures on the welfare of animals. She has provided a home for her cats for more than 20 years.

Editor's note

For a long time, the Cat Protection Society of NSW has promoted the benefits of cats living indoors (and if they do spend time outside, they must *always* be curfewed at night). Dr Jongman's research supports the view that cats can live happily inside and that quality – not quantity – of space is a key issue. With more and more people living in apartments, this is a valuable insight.

A key factor with cats living in confinement is their socialisation. Kittens need to be socialised with people and other cats as young as possible. That is why **foster carers** are such a vital part of our work at Cat Protection. Foster carers don't just provide temporary shelter to kittens and their mums - they provide patient and loving attention, ensuring the kittens will grow up to be happy, well-adjusted home cats. THANK YOU to all our wonderful foster carers.



Crusty kittens - a trip down ringworm lane

*Dr Angela Phillips BVSc, MVS, MACVSc
Sydney Animal Hospitals Inner West*

Ringworm is a fungal (or 'dermatophyte') infection that affects the skin of dogs, cats and people. There are 3 genera that can cause ringworm:

- Microsporum
- Trichophyton
- Epidermophyton

The first two are most frequently found in animals, whereas the third mainly causes problems in humans. Athlete's Foot – a common fungal disease in people – is a type of ringworm. The most common fungus isolated from cat and dog fur is *Microsporum canis*, then *Microsporum gypseum* and *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*.

While some types of ringworm are contagious between animals and people, contact with a fungus doesn't always result in an infection.

Prevalence

Cats and dogs can suffer dermatophytes infection at any age, but it's most common in the young. The condition is most prevalent in subtropical or tropical regions where warmth and humidity exist, but it can be found in any climate.

Predisposing factors to ringworm infection include poor nutrition, compromised immune system, a high density of animals, poor management, or where a lack of an adequate quarantine period exists.

Longhaired cats tend to suffer more from the disease as mechanical removal of the spores by grooming is more difficult. Older cats may also suffer more infections, as they often tend to groom less efficiently.



Clinical features

Ringworms lesions appear as (often round) patches on the skin, with associated hair loss. They can occur on any part of the cat but are most common on the head, ears, tail and front paws.

The dermatophyte invades the surface area of the skin and gets into the hair shaft. It then releases an enzyme allowing it to penetrate the hair cuticle. Only growing hairs are invaded. Hairs in a state of rest do not secrete the nutrients required for fungal growth.

Lesions are not always apparent in cats, especially older animals. Cats differ from dogs in that dogs almost always produce lesions, where clinically normal-appearing cats can act as carriers.

The hair loss may be substantial or barely noticeable, and the scale of crustiness is variable. Unlike dogs, few cats are itchy. Hyperpigmentation and redness may occur.

Skin conditions such as millary dermatitis may mimic ringworm infections so correct diagnosis is important.

Diagnosis

Usually the first thing a vet will do is to examine the cat in a dark room using a Wood's lamp, which will usually show a yellow-green fluorescence if *Microsporum canis* is present. Not all strains fluoresce so the Wood's lamp alone is not a reliable indicator.

(Continued next page)

Crusty kittens - a trip down ringworm lane (continued)

Plucked (not cut) hairs can be examined under a microscope for the presence of fungal hyphae and spores. In addition, contaminated fur can be collected and placed on to special growth media to see whether a fungal culture develops.

Treatment

A three-pronged approach is recommended:

- washing
- medicating
- treating the environment

Washing

Washing the patient in an antifungal wash not only reduces the number of spores on the patient, but it reduces contamination of the environment, thus lessening the risk of re-infection. One study found that washing with an antifungal rinse combined with systemic oral medication hastened recovery by up to 40 per cent.

There are a variety of washes available although not all are appropriate for cats and some have risky side-effects. Miconazole/chlorhexadine (Malaseb), which is inexpensive, readily available and non-toxic, is commonly recommended. Your vet will advise the most suitable treatment for your cat's condition.

Medicating

Getting the right systemic medication is very important and you need to ask your vet about side effects, efficacy and cost. Some medications work well but are very expensive, some have the potential for side effects (that may be managed) and some

have not proven to be effective. Itraconazole is very effective, has residual activity in the skin and a low risk of toxicity. Treating the lesion with topical medications is not very effective because spores can be found on the cat well away from the lesion area.

Treating the environment

By clipping the patient you enhance the uptake of the shampoo/rinse you select. You also reduce environmental contamination by removing the infected hairs that would fall to the ground. A number 10 blade is ideal.

Fungal spores can survive in the environment for months, so effective treatment of the environment is critical to treating the cat and reducing the risk of reinfection (and to reduce the risk of people becoming infected). This means thoroughly and regularly vacuuming and washing floors, bedding and furnishings. There is no reason to buy expensive disinfectants

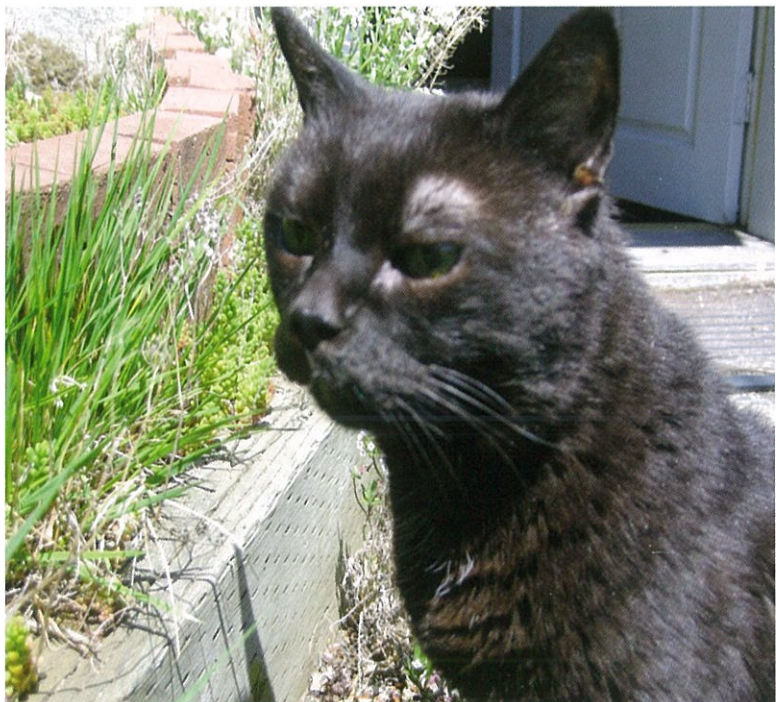
with varied effectiveness when you can use bleach. Clean air conditioning ducts and vents and install filters where possible.

The cat's bedding, brushes and carry cage should be vacuumed, scrubbed and washed with soapy detergent, then chlorine bleach. All surfaces must be treated. (It may be easier to replace some affordable items such as brushes).

Conclusion

Infection is considered over when all affected cats culture negative for three consecutive periods, two to four weeks apart.

Ringworm can be costly and time-consuming to eradicate. However, if your response to the infection is timely then treatment outcomes will be better and your cat will not suffer. You will also reduce the likelihood of the infection being transferred to others in the household (two- and four-legged).



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Thank You

There are so many people who contribute to the work of the Cat Protection Society and unfortunately we can't always name them all.

There are those who volunteer for us at the Op Shop and in our cattery. All the Board Members are volunteers and receive no remuneration.

People send us donations of money and give us goods for the Op Shop or bring us newspapers and linen to use in the cattery. Members send us news clippings or alert us to important events. People remember us in their wills. Foster carers raise kittens to be friendly, healthy and re-homeable. Supporters spread the word and tell their friends and colleagues about us.

To all of you, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Listed below are our regular donors who supported us throughout 2006-07.

Ms P Argue	Ms S Chung	Mrs S Gatto	Ms H Keens	Ms C Scarra
Ms D Athans	Ms R Comyn	Ms N Gray	Ms A Lee	Ms S Stirzaker
Mr M Austin	Ms F Davin	Ms N Greenwood	Ms J Ling	Mr D Tisdell
Ms J Barnes	Ms B Dean	Miss S Gough	Ms J McDonald	Ms J Velte
Ms K Bayer	Ms K Dufrenne	Ms C Hartley	Ms J Michael	Ms K Walsh
Ms S Binnie	Ms H Easdown	Ms S Jacques	Ms V Napieralski	Ms L Walter
Ms S Broomfield	Ms G Easton	Ms P Johnstone	Ms D Pratt	Ms B Wood
Ms L Cansdell	Ms L Edwards	Ms D Keegan	Ms T Romanovsky	Mr A Zoric
Ms E Chinnery	Ms G Farrands	Mr D Keenan	Mrs J Shem	Ms E Zoric

Operation Cat

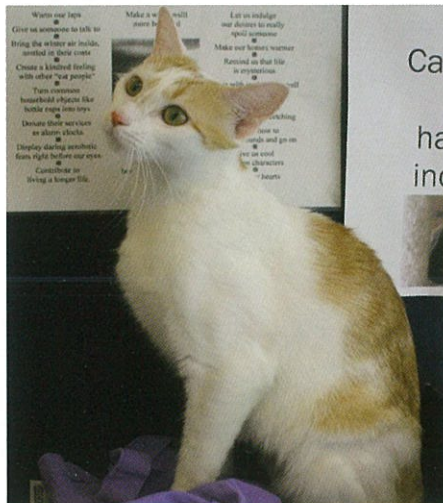
CPS is in discussions with local councils about the potential for partnerships to promote responsible cat ownership.

We are most impressed with Fairfield City Council with whom we will be running a whole month in September of significantly discounted desexing and microchipping for cats of residents. We applaud Fairfield City for their very real commitment to socially and environmentally responsible cat ownership.

We were also delighted to run two very successful microchipping days, in May and June, in partnership with the council of the City of Sydney. These were held at Cat Protection with Sydney residents bringing their cats in to be microchipped by our Welfare Coordinator, Nerida, and registered by City of Sydney Companion Animals Liaison Officer, Tara. We especially enjoyed the participation of three exceptionally long, skinny, short-footed cats (ok, they were ferrets!).

Macaroni

Thank you to everyone who sent wishes, donations and offers of homes to Macaroni, our Special Case Cat featured in the Autumn issue of *Cat Affairs*. We're pleased to report that just before the journal was sent out, Macaroni found a wonderful and loving new home. She touched all our hearts and we wish her and her new person every happiness together.



Macaroni

Snow kittens

Sydney animal lover Christine King rents out a holiday apartment in Jindabyne and for any bookings taken from people who book directly with her and mention Cat Protection, Christine will make a donation to CPS.

Check out the apartment at www.snowridge3.com.au or contact Christine on 9597 1665 for more information. Don't forget to mention Cat Protection! We'd like to have your feedback on this initiative as we aren't able to 'test-ski' it ourselves.

Phone us on 9519 7201 or email us at info@catprotection.org.au



SCRATCHING POST

Hello,

We adopted Delilah and brought her home on Thursday 5 May and she's adapted to her new surroundings so well and she's eating very well too. She found herself a spot on our bed and when we go to bed at night she wakes us up with the cutest meow and purring. She stays on my lap all day and loves her cuddles and smooches from us too. She's being showered with loads of toys and Gary spends lots of time playing footy with her in the evenings.

Thought that we would send you an email to let you know that she is such a great joy to have in our house and we will email some family portraits soon.

Thank you and regards,
Angela & Gary Peck



Delilah

Hi CPS,

We adopted Rosie yesterday from the Concord Vet Clinic. She has settled in really well and is a much-loved addition to our family!

Regards,
Debra & Maddy Kelly



Frank and Tim

Dear CPS,

Jon and I adopted Frank and Tim about three years ago, our first pets. When we first brought the boys home, they were both timid and confused, still getting over the shock of losing everything and everyone they'd known. What an absolute pleasure it's been to watch them blossom. I never thought I'd see Frank show any interest in playing with toys; now

he frolics like an enormous kitten (both cats weigh around 7 kilos).

Recently both of them have taken to sitting on our laps, another thing I never thought would happen. They're affectionate, demanding, noisy, naughty, funny and delightful.

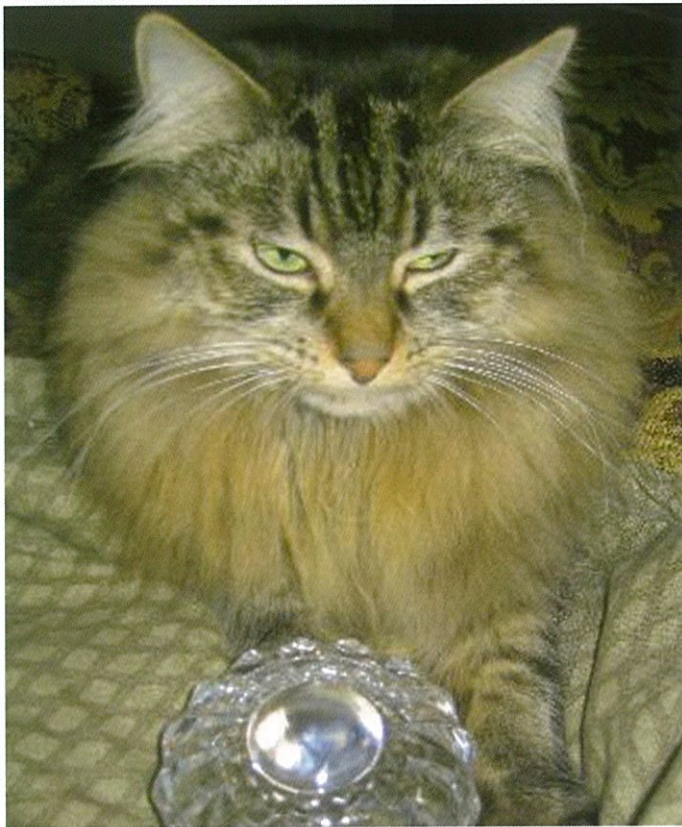
Thanks,
Kate Orman



Rosie



SCRATCHING POST



Jezebel

Hi CPS,

I am a bit disappointed my story has never been told. I was luckily adopted last year in February and have the greatest life ever!!! It's so good that I actually think Amy (my mum) sometimes wishes she were me.

Mummy changed my name to Jezebel (from Kaicha). I know I am truly loved. One complaint: I follow mum all over the place, we never leave each other's side, and she said I acted like a dog. Should I be offended by this comment, or is it a compliment?

I just wanted you all to know I am so happy, have the puurrfect life, never go outside or even try to. I sleep all day and have heaps of toys, but am getting too old to play with them now, I get brushed daily and I feel we were meant for each other. The day we met, I was so depressed, but now feel I have found my person and just love spending time with her...

Thanks for reading this,
Jezzy and Amy

Hi everyone,

I adopted a little person from you in January 2004. I named her Arwen, but her name at the time of adoption was Boggle. She was chosen as a companion for my cat, Willow. I understand her mother, Molly Malone, was abandoned with you just before she had her litter.

Arwen fitted in immediately and she and Willow are very good friends - though they certainly do have the big sis/little sis relationship most of the time! She has such a lovely and gentle nature and is quite the 'tomboy' in comparison. One habit she has never grown out of is loving her food, so she does keep me on my toes when it's dinner time. Thank you. If it hadn't been for CPS Enmore, I would not have had the utter pleasure of Arwen being a part of my family.

Regards,
Tania Payne

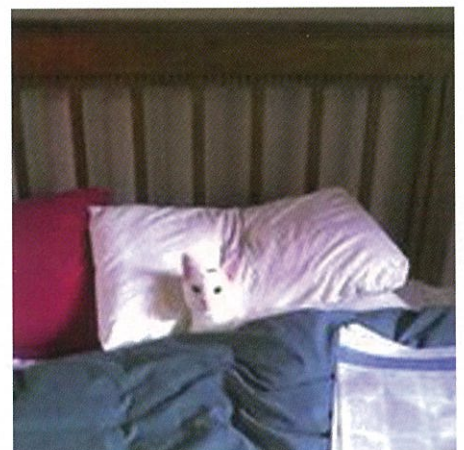
Hello all,

I've been meaning to send through an email for so many months to give you all an update on my beautiful boys I adopted from your centre in July last year. You might not remember them as they didn't have a name then but were two beautiful white kittens that at the time were 16 weeks old.

Well, they became Ollie and Echo and are the most gorgeous little creatures on the planet. Ollie is super affectionate and loves nothing more than chilling out in bed (see photo) and Echo is a fat little guy who loves to throw himself in front of you, roll over and have his stomach scratched.

Thanks so much for bringing these little guys into my life. I couldn't live without 'em.

Cheers,
Alex



Ollie



Echo

SCRATCHING POST

Hi all,

At long last - an update on Sheba, adopted at Enmore 20 Feb 2006 as a tiny 10-week old fluff ball.

After searching for a connection with all the beautiful kittens up for adoption, this little ball of fur decided to walk over the top of her brothers and sisters and pop her paw through the enclosure and tap me on the hand. After then sitting her in the palm of my hand, and finally claiming me for her own by climbing up and giving me a kiss on the nose (yep, she knew she had a right one here!) she's been my right hand gal ever since.

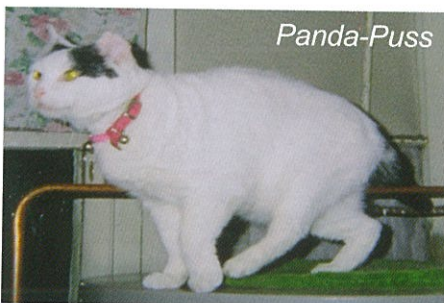
We have moved home recently and she's been great in helping me settle into my new home, right down to teaching me to play hide and seek, and tag on the staircase! And as playful as she is, we still enjoy our snuggles in the hour prior to my alarm going off - no wonder it's my favourite part of the morning...

She loves visitors, and when it's time for the real estate agent to come round for inspections, she's on her best behaviour, follows them from room to room and has them eating out of her paw by the time they leave. Atta girl!

Sheba is very fit and healthy and loves her mum very much, as I do her; can't imagine my days without my little monkey.

Thank you so much and keep up the good work

Den & Sheba



Panda-Puss



Stimpy



Sheba

Hello CPS,

I've just joined the CPS and I have received my first *Cat Affairs* journal. It was interesting to read, especially *Scratching Post*. Here is a photo of my cat Stimpy to share with other members. Thanks for listening and keep up the good work.

Member for Life, Carmen

To all staff at Cat Protection,

Although my two cats are not former CPS cats, I still think you'd like to see photos of them. Along with my little Maltese cross Shih Tzu dog, Nicholas from Doggie Rescue Drummoyne, they are my best companions and give me much joy and love.

Cheers

Marjorie,
Sonny-Boy and
Panda-Puss



Sonny-Boy

Prayer For Pixie

*This poem was written by
CPS member Kathleen Fernandes.
She has named it after her cat Pixie although
fortunately Pixie has never been homeless.*

Pixie prays
eyes close
head bows
body crouches.
Is she grateful
to be saved from a life of uncertainty?
stoned by thugs, jeered at by other homeless
sleeping out in the sleet.
Nightly scrummages through bins, plastic bags,
for any rancid meat.
A grubby doorway was her space
till a man in uniform
told her to move on.
Dizziness, stomach aching
she fell into the gutter, shivering, she lay
in her too thin coat, crying softly.
Suddenly, a white van appears
rushes her to a noisy place
antiseptic, faces peering,
fingers prodding
too many questions, so much bother.
Now, weeks later in a new coat.
Eyes close
head bows
body crouches
Pixie prays.



Angel-Ambrose

Adopted from CPS shortly after Oscar's passing
Angel by name, as in spirit of Oscar
Similar in appearance and character
Loveable, sociable and adorable
So delighted he was waiting to be adopted.

Thank you CPS.

Carolyn



Tammy

I shall walk in the sun alone,
Whose golden light you loved;
I shall sleep alone and stirring,
touch an empty place;
I shall write uninterrupted
(would that your gentle paw
could stay my moving pen
again) I shall see beauty, but
none to match your living grace;
I shall hear music – but not so
sweet as the droning song
with which you loved me.
I shall fill my days but shall not,
cannot forget: Sleep soft dear
friend, for while I live you shall not die.

*Tammy was 22½ years old – I always told her I
loved her all the way to the moon and back 73
million times and I did.*

Norma Gray

Oscar

Darling Oscar, dear black and white chap
Lovely character, long time companion
Passed away and missed so much
Especially chosen from CPS 15 years ago
RIP dearly loved feline friend.



IN MEMORIAM



Suki

Suki

In loving memory of our wonderful Siamese 'fur-person' Suki. He gave us so much pleasure, constant affection and amusement for nearly 16 years – a cat with a sense of humour and very intelligent. He is greatly missed but will live on in our hearts and memories forever.

Roslyn Lloyd-Williams

Jade

In memory of our beautiful brown Burmese cat Jade who left us in March at 19½ years of age. She was an extremely affectionate little lady who loved us and her 'sister' Miska, who went last year aged 16 years. They sleep side by side in our front garden now, together again, with miniature roses blooming over them. We miss both of these beautiful cats very much and they will be part of our hearts forever.

Margaret & Geoff

Ginny and Tia

In memory of two little English roses, Ginny, who was put to sleep this April aged 20 years, and Tia, who passed away three years ago at the age of 17. Both girls were brought over from England when their owners returned to Australia and will always be remembered by their loving family, John and Laurie.

Millie

In memory of Millie Davin, a lovely little girl who was put to sleep in February this year. She was eight and I had got her as a little kitten, she was the most loving little cat and sadly missed. I miss her hugs very much.

Fay Davin



Henry

In memory of my special ginger boy, lost to me on 8 January 2007. You suffered so much but at least I was able to give you a few years of peace.
Love always,

Jean Lewis, Life Member

Another keen commuter

Over in England, a white cat with one blue eye and one green eye has taken to catching the 331 Walsall to Wolverhampton bus several mornings a week. Nicknamed Macavity ('the mystery cat' from TS Eliot's poem), the cat hops on the bus at the same stop most mornings and alights at the next stop ... near a fish and chip shop.

The Daily Mail quoted bus driver Bill Khunkhun saying:

'It is really odd, the first time I saw the cat jumping off the bus with a group of passengers. I hadn't seen it get on which was a bit confusing.'

'The next day I pulled up on Churchill Road to let a couple of passengers on. As soon as I opened the doors the cat ran towards the bus, jumped on and ran under one of the seats, I don't think any of the passengers noticed.'

'Because I had seen it jump off the day before I carried on driving and sure enough when I stopped just down the road he jumped off – I don't know why he would catch the bus but he seems to like it. I told some of the other drivers on this route and they have seen him too.'

Passenger Paul Brennan told the Daily Mail, *'I suppose he is the perfect passenger really – he sits quietly, minds his own business and then gets off.'*

Quite.

Cat Condominium

Wag Hotels are exclusively for dogs and cats. With facilities in Sacramento and San Francisco, and a new hotel to be opened in October in Sunnyvale (also California) Wag Hotels describe their service as 'personalised care by trained professionals'.

'Our guests enjoy every moment of their stay with us. From comfortable rooms, to individual attention, to playing with other guests and making new friends, we care. Our extensively trained staff cater to our guests every need, and ensure their health and safety.'

What other hotel offers home pick up and delivery? Playgroups? Paw-dicures?!

'Our feline guests stay in our two-storey Cat Condominium, surrounding a pristine tropical fish tank – perfect for both stimulating play and tranquil catnaps. Here every guest enjoys a room with a view, a private bath... and of course, there's plenty of catnip to go around!'

www.waghotels.com

Are elephants afraid of mice?

It's hard to know why Nellie the cat chose to have her babies at the elephant enclosure at Colchester Zoo. Maybe her board and lodging fee was keeping the mice away?

Britain's *Evening Star* newspaper reported in May that zoo staff were surprised to find Nellie and her five kittens living in a storage tunnel by the elephant enclosure. They called Ipswich Cat Protection for help.

Ipswich Cat Protection Coordinator, Judy Mills, said "One stomp of an elephant's foot and it would have been the end of them so they must have used many of their nine lives before we went in."

It wasn't known whether the cats and elephants ever actually came into contact with each other, but it was estimated the feline family lived there for about three weeks. Ipswich Cat Protection kindly provided new accommodation for this thrill-seeking family.



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.

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