

# Cat<sup>★</sup>affairs

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*Celebrating 50 years of caring for cats*



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# Contents

	Page
Council Report	3
Too scared to eat	4-5
Cat Protection Diary	6
Cats of Morocco	7
Scratching Post	8-14
In Memoriam	15

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## Council Report

Welcome to the first *Cat Affairs* of our Golden Anniversary year.

Apologies that the journal is a bit late – the kitten season this year was sadly one of the worst we've seen in many years. The issue of housing affordability is now on the national agenda. Inner-Sydney, where most of our cats come from, is one of the worst affected areas, with rent rises of 16 per cent over the past year. The impact on cats is often overlooked, but here at Cat Protection we see the ramifications: beloved cats surrendered when their carers are forced to move to apartments where cats aren't allowed; people leaving cats in homes where the mortgage repayments haven't been made; and cats not desexed because the owners simply couldn't afford it. It is a human tragedy and a feline tragedy.

We have successfully rehomed many of these beautiful cats and kittens but many are still waiting for a secure and loving home. In April, Ella will have been waiting patiently for one year. Sometimes in the day Oscar (waiting five months) visits her in her unit to keep her company and keep her spirits up but there is a sadness in her eyes.

We are delighted to welcome Bayer as a major sponsor of Cat Protection. Bayer is now providing all our cats and kittens with free Advocate to keep them flea and worm-free. With Hill's Science Diet - providing our cat food, our cats and kittens are assured of the best of health. Don't forget you can purchase Advocate, Hill's Science Diet - and cat toys, bedding etc - here at Cat Protection.

On 27 June, we will be holding a Golden Anniversary lunch at NSW Parliament House. We hope that many members will come along to celebrate our achievements – more details inside.

While this year presents enormous challenges, we are confident that with our 50 years experience we can meet them, and continue to build a better future for the cats of New South Wales.

Rhonda House  
President





# Too scared to eat



Morris

**Meet Morris. Morris was surrendered to Cat Protection as a stray. A group of boys were teaching their dog to attack him.**

Morris is so fearful, he is too scared to eat unless a cattery attendant sits with him and pats him and makes him feel safe. He responds to our pats and kind words with purrs, which we think is amazing, given the horrible cruelty he experienced. Morris might still be nervous, but he has shown us how big his heart is with his ability to acknowledge that not all people are vicious. His capacity to forgive is inspiring.

He is safe in our adoption centre now, but it is probable that he will never enjoy the confidence of a cat whose life has been only good. He will need lots of quiet, calm and love to find peace in the world. We're doing our best to help him on his road to recovery and we're sure a loving, kind person will give him the forever home he deserves.

Sadly, he is not the first (nor likely the last) cat to be saved from violent thugs. We have nurtured many beautiful feline victims of human cruelty – we give them a chance to see that people can be good; that trust is not always betrayed.

## **Why are some people so mean to cats?**

This question is no longer dismissed as a trivial concern of animal lovers, but an important question being tackled by psychologists, criminologists and law enforcement.

There is a growing body of evidence linking the abuse of animals with violent crimes against people.

It has been estimated that one third of children exposed to domestic violence will act out their anger often against their own pets. Animal cruelty is often about power and control. The Humane Society in the United States confirms that researchers, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies have linked animal cruelty to domestic violence, child abuse and serial killing.

A US study of pet-owning families with substantiated child abuse and neglect found that animals were abused in 88 per cent of homes where child physical abuse was present. A study of women seeking shelter at a safe

house showed that 71 per cent of those having pets confirmed their partners had threatened, hurt or killed their companion animals and 32 per cent of mothers reported that their children had hurt or killed their pets.

The NSW Police Force information sheet on family and domestic abuse lists 'abusing or threatening to harm or kill family pets' as an early warning sign for future and escalating abusive and violent behaviour. The American Humane Society says that abusers kill, threaten or harm their children's pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse. Disturbed children kill or harm animals to emulate the abuser's behaviour or to take out their aggressions on another victim.

A 2004 study which compared the experiences of 102 women recruited through family violence services in Victoria with those of 102 women recruited from the community from non-violent families, found that 29 per cent of women subjected to domestic violence reported their children





had committed pet abuse versus nil reports from the mothers in the community group. The same study found 46 per cent of the women from the family violence group reported their partner had threatened to hurt or kill their pet versus 6 per cent in the community sample. Of 104 family violence cases, 17.3 per cent reported their pet had been killed.

Associate Professor Eleonora Gullone of the Department of Psychology, Monash University, has noted that not only is it now accepted that there is a predictable link between human violence and animal cruelty, but that when children are found to be abusing animals, there is a significant probability that they have witnessed and/or experienced abuse. (You can read a full copy of her paper, 'Educating children about humaneness and developing an empathic approach to animals' via the papers of the 2005 RSPCA Scientific Seminar, 'Cruelty to animals: a human problem' available on the RSPCA website.)

Research conducted for the Forensic Services Group of the NSW Police, using NSW Police and RSPCA records, confirmed there was a definite inter-relationship between domestic violence, child abuse and animal cruelty. The 2002 research found that:

- Animal cruelty was related to a number of criminal behaviours such as assault, sexual assault and domestic violence
- A history of animal cruelty was likely to indicate that an offender would demonstrate a propensity to commit additional crimes.

It recommended that police officers be educated in relation to the seriousness of animal cruelty incidents and its links to possible acts of violence towards humans.

So the evidence is there linking animal cruelty with human violence – the question is what to do about it?

In Associate Professor Gullone's paper referred to earlier, she says that "research ... on children's normative relationships with animals suggests that most children are fascinated by animals, are attracted to them, and are more likely to treat them kindly than to abuse them ... studies of children five years and older ... have suggested that they turn to companion animals for reassurance when feeling stressed. In the absence of a confidante, children will turn to their companion animals and share their secrets ...

"Humane intervention programs that incorporate animals with a view to focusing on the appropriate handling, caring and understanding of the animal's needs have been proposed as a strategy for improving children's recognition of the potentially harmful consequences of their actions for others. 'Taking care of animals teaches children responsibility and lets them know they count' (Ross 1999, p368). Further, caring for animals encourages caring attitudes and behaviours. It fosters self-esteem ... in addition to engendering a sense of achievement, nurturing capacities, cooperation and socialisation, all of which contribute to the building of empathy."

The RSPCA NSW education division has a series of humane education programs for delivery in NSW infants, primary and secondary schools. The Cat Protection Society of NSW is pleased to be involved with the delivery of one of these programs: Cat Tales. Our Education Officer, Nerida Atkin, has delivered this module to a number of primary schools around Sydney.

Cat Tales is designed for students in Years 3 and 4. The program encourages students to think positively about cats and to encourage empathy towards them.

At the completion of the program, the children will understand some of the history of cats, caring for cats and why it's important to be kind to animals.

Never let animal abuse go unreported.

Cats (and other animals) don't deserve to be hurt and we should do what we can to remove them from danger. Take action: ring the police or make a report to the Animal Inspectors of the RSPCA or Animal Welfare League. If the situation involves an unowned cat, Cat Protection may be able to help, just as we helped Morris.

Never let people dismiss cruelty as being unimportant because it's 'just animals'. Animals have feelings and have a right to freedom from cruelty. Animal cruelty is against the law. Animals shouldn't be abused, ever. And people shouldn't be abused either.

For more information on humane education, email: [education@rspcansw.org.au](mailto:education@rspcansw.org.au)

To report animal cruelty, contact the RSPCA on 9770 7555 or Animal Welfare League on 8777 3300. For non-emergency police information or assistance, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444. For emergencies dial 000.



Morris







# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## Golden Anniversary Lunch

We are privileged to have the NSW Parliament Deputy Speaker the Hon Tony Stewart, MP, host our Golden Anniversary lunch at Parliament House on Friday, 27 June 2008. In the beautiful dining room overlooking the Domain, for \$100 you can enjoy a two-course vegetarian lunch with wine, share a lovely afternoon with friends and help Cat Protection at the same time. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Ring the office on 9519 7201 to book your place, or even better, get together with a group and book a table for 10. We hope you will join us to celebrate this important milestone in Cat Protection's history.

### Are you a tradesperson who loves cats?

We are grateful for our wonderful volunteers who regularly help Cat Protection at the Op Shop and in the cattery. From time to time, we need repairs and maintenance on our building and as you can imagine, this costs us a lot of money. Therefore, we are looking for registered, qualified professionals who can help us occasionally – electricians, plumbers, builders, painters, air conditioning technicians, 'handymen'. We are also looking at improving the access at the back of our building and will need an architect to assist with this. If you are willing to lend your services (or have other ideas that might help us to save costs) please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Andrea, on 9519 7201 or send an email to [andrea@catprotection.org.au](mailto:andrea@catprotection.org.au) THANK YOU to everyone who supports us for your time, your skill and your compassion.

### Membership fees

Unfortunately as our costs continue to rise, it is necessary for us to increase our membership fees. Pensioner (\$15) and Kids Club (\$10) fees will stay the same, but for ordinary members renewing in July, and for new members, the annual fee will now be \$30. Life membership is now \$750. We regret the fee increase but our fees have not risen for some years now and we can no longer afford to absorb the increase in our costs. We hope that you will continue to support our life saving work and encourage others to do the same.

### Kitten kindy

Cat Protection is pleased to now offer a 'kitten kindy' to help inform new cat/kitten owners all about feline care. Run by our Education Officer, Nerida Atkin, Kitten Kindy comprises two 45-minute sessions. Vaccinated kittens from 8-12 weeks can attend with their people; people with older cats are welcome to attend but without their cat. Classes are run subject to demand, so if you're interested please telephone 9519 7201. Don't forget we have a wealth of feline care information on our website [www.catprotection.org.au](http://www.catprotection.org.au)

### Everyday Hero

Everyday Hero is a web-based organisation whose mission is to connect people with the charities and causes they care about to increase overall giving. You can contribute to charities of your choice (we hope you'll choose Cat Protection!) through internet shopping on their site or you can create your own 'Hero Page' and get people to donate to your chosen charity. It's a secure way to get people to sponsor you as you don't have to handle any money and the donations are processed by Everyday Hero and banked directly with the charity. A very small amount is taken for administration. By participating with Everyday Hero, people can fundraise for Cat Protection without us having to do the administration, saving us time and money. Have a look at the website and tell your friends and family too! Of course, if you want to make a straightforward donation, the best way to do that is directly with us (by phone for credit cards or mail for cheques) but if you're interested in creating your own fundraising event, Everyday Hero is the way to go. [www.everydayhero.com.au](http://www.everydayhero.com.au)

### Media

Cat Protection is grateful for the opportunity provided by 107.1 Highland FM – Fur, Feathers & Fins program, hosted by Kerry Levett. Every fortnight, we join the program to discuss cats – everything from desexing to diet and behaviour. If you live in the Southern Highlands, please listen in – Saturday mornings between 9am and 10am.

In December, the Sydney Morning Herald ran a story about the impact on pets of Sydney's housing crisis: "The Cat Protection Society of NSW said 852 cats and kittens had been surrendered to it in the past three months, compared with about 1800 cats for the whole of last year."

On the bright side, our community service ad 'too many kitties' was a great success and we thank Channels 7, 9 and 10 for the generous screen time. An industry expert believes the value of the advertising was around \$170,000 and we know that we had a great response, with over a thousand desexing referrals in the period.



# Cats of Morocco

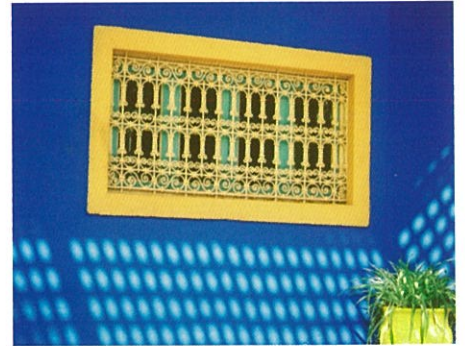
Amy Karp: Marketing Coordinator, Cat Protection Society of NSW

**'We travel, some of us forever, to seek other states, other lives, other souls'  
– Anais Nin**

Last year my sister and I travelled to Morocco in search of souks, tagines and magic carpets, but instead I found myself taking many photographs of the cats and kittens of Marrakech.



A mother cat and her kittens living in an old Kasbah.



These kittens were living around the souks, the people seemed to respect and care for them.



We found many cats relaxing in the Majorelle Garden, which was originally created by the artist Jacques Majorelle and was later restored by Yves Saint Laurent. The garden was a small oasis away from the busy souks and provided us shade from the extreme heat. I could clearly see why the cats were hanging about!





# SCRATCHING POST

## Hi all at the Cat Protection Society

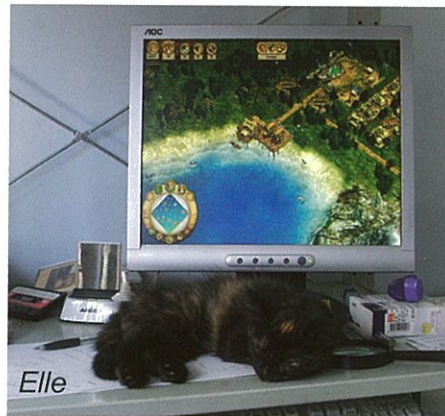
Thought you might like to see a couple of pics of "Elle" we adopted from you on 23 December 2007.

Settled in brilliantly and used the litter tray the moment she arrived home. Has currently an uneasy truce with our senior 14 year-old Burmese but interpersonal relations improve as each day goes by.

Elle is quickly becoming computer literate and enjoys nothing more than a fast game of 'mouse' pointer chase. Her typing leaves a lot to be desired but with four paws to contend with this is very understandable. A lot of energy is expended on the game so a catnap in front of the monitor is often indicated.

She has a great appetite and has not turned her nose up at anything to date. She tends to prefer our other cat's food and also her litter tray.

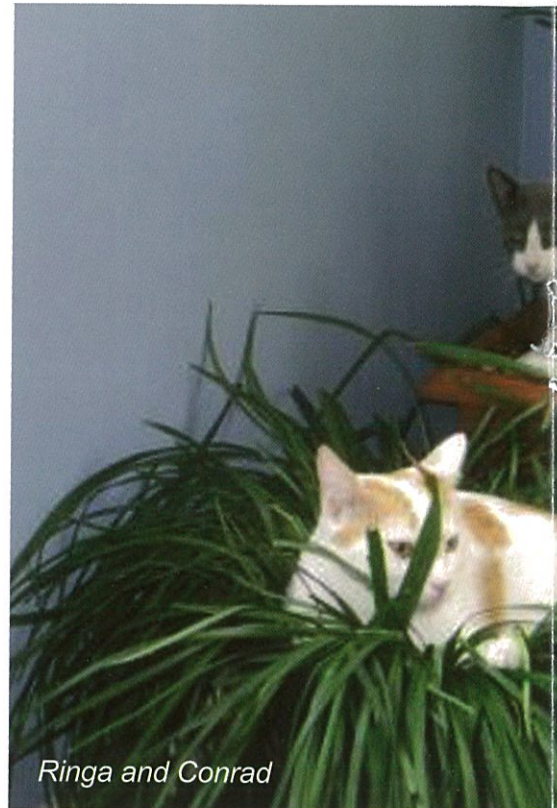
As all kittens are, she is enthusiastic, energetic and curious but likes a lap to relax on to re-energise.



My wife and I are extremely pleased with our adoption choice!

Kind regards

John



## Hi there

We adopted Ringa and Conrad from you just over a month ago and wanted to keep you in the loop with some pictures. They are both doing well and seem to be more than comfortable in their new home and with each other.

Cheers

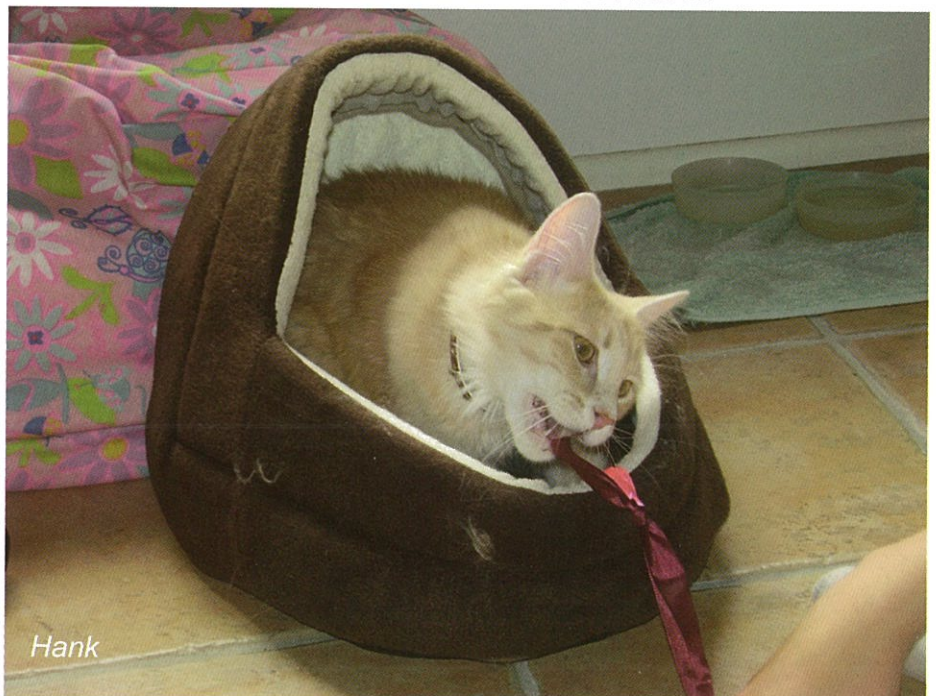
Alexis & Warren

## Hi CPS

Hank has settled into his new home extremely well. It was a long trip home as we live in the Blue Mountains but he slept all the way. He loves the kids, is very playful and it feels like he has always been with us. Thank you for the care you gave Hank and all the other cats.

Kind regards

Michelle



Hank



# SCRATCHING POST



Hi all

I thought I'd give you a quick update on Muffy (Muffin Buffin). I adopted her in 2003 I think, it was the last few months you were temporarily at Concord awaiting your new premises/renovation in Enmore. I'm happy to report that she is the love of my life and so affectionate and well behaved. It didn't take long for her to train me or as some of my friends have said, to wrap me around her little paw! Actually she's quite bonded with me and follows me from room to room, or sometimes I'll wake up to find her sitting on my bed just looking at me. I've also been lucky to have family and friends to look after her when I travel. She actually gets cat-sat, so someone



Muffy

stays overnight, not just to feed her, but spend time with her. I can't stand the thought of her going to a cattery and her thinking I'm abandoning her, perhaps like her first owner. Anyway, needless to say she's a little bit spoiled, but then again, I'm very lucky to have her too. Keep up the wonderful work you do at the CPS.

Cheers

Daniel

## Dear fellow Cat Lovers

I want to thank you for my darling black and white domestic shorthair now named Plato, picked up from Concord Animal Hospital on 20 November 2007. I'd just lost my most gorgeous darling black and white boy, Janni ... so, encouraged by work mates, I trekked to Concord and from those available, decided on this rather contemplative looking one (hence the name). We came home together on the train where he promptly, after checking out the outside world whizzing by, nestled into the crook of my arm and slept the whole way, much admired by fellow passengers.



Plato

Many cats in a new environment retreat under the bed for a couple of days to settle in - if only! He felt at home the minute he walked in and it's been his assumption ever since. Here's a classic pose.

Paulin



Candy

Hi CPS

I adopted Candy in February 2008 and she has been such a dream: well-behaved, gentle, sweet and lively. According to my husband, she belongs to him and she certainly has him wrapped around her little paw. There was only one rule laid down by my husband and that was no sleeping on the bed. That

didn't stick, and now she happily snoozes at the foot of our bed each night. I really can't thank CPS enough for the fantastic work they do, not only with Candy but with all the cats. My visit to your cattery was amazing, and the only reason I left as quickly as I did was because I didn't want anyone else to adopt Candy - it was love at first sight! Keep up the great work.

Jessica





# SCRATCHING POST

## Hi to all the wonderful staff at CPS

We just wanted to give you a delayed update on the kitten we adopted from Newtown. My partner and I adopted Buzz (formerly Alex) in February 2007.

Buzz was a shy, timid little thing who seemed so distressed on the car trip home. We thought that we would have to give him a lot of time to settle in and adapt ... How wrong we were. The moment he was out of the box he was off and happily exploring his new room. As advised, once we settled him in we left him in one room to get used to it and us ... he was to let us know when he was ready to tackle the rest of the house - it was warned this could be a day or two.

Within two minutes of the door being shut he was meowing to get out. Next thing we knew he had climbed up a surfboard bag in the corner jumped onto an internal windowsill, onto a cupboard, then out into the next room and the entire unit and our hearts were his. Buzz has become a beautiful



cat with the best temperament. He purrs like a buzz saw (hence the name), loves a good cuddle and to play for hours on end with his toys. Though no matter what toys we bring him home I think his favourite remains a scrunched up ball of paper and the plastic ring from a vegemite jar ... very expensive taste our Buzz.

Watching him run around the apartment in a crazy state

and then run up for a big smooch has given us so much joy. We are ever so grateful to have found Buzz who continues to make us laugh, smile, and sometimes cry out in frustration at 4am when he decides we should all be up and playing with him (which is every morning without fail).

Thank you once again

Marian and Brett

## To all the staff

Here is a photo of our adopted kitten, Lilly. Lilly is a well-looking after kitten; she gets spoilt by everyone in the family!

All the best

Szowczyk Family



Lilly





# SCRATCHING POST

Hi

Patti, Charlie the Wombat and Lachlan are all doing well. This is their fifth day at our place. They spent about the first two hours hiding under the bed, retreating there occasionally but less and less every day. Lachie is 100% at home but is begging to be let outside. We plan to introduce all three to the outside world, starting with one balcony, in a couple of weeks' time, and potentially Lachie might become a bit more of an outdoor cat. He's very affectionate and playful.

Patti was pretty quiet for a while but is mixing it with the boys nicely now and getting quite playful. Charlie is still a little shell-shocked but improves noticeably daily. He has proved to be a fine mover when he wants to, leaping on to the couch etc. He loves his pats and purrs loudly. All three are eating pretty well, not at the rate we were advised they would eat at but definitely enough for the limited exercise they get! Patti gets bullied by Lachie who takes over her bowl, despite having his own, but we feed her separately when that happens. But all three are doing really well!

Philippa



Hi there

We adopted Ernest on Saturday and just wanted to let you know how he is getting on ... absolutely fine! You'd never know he was abandoned at the station - he has made our house his home. His name is still Ernest (though often Ernie). Current favourite occupation other than failing to catch cockroaches and staring out the window is sitting on Harry. He's really friendly, lively, confident and interested in everything that's going on which is really good and he's eating fine. Thanks so much for your help.

Clair, Harry and Ernie

*Editor's note: Ernest achieved some fame as he was featured in the Sydney Morning Herald's Column 8 on Saturday 22 December, as follows:*

*"The Cat Protection Society would not normally seek the assistance of Column 8 with lost and found cats (if we did, you would receive emails from us every day), but we think this case is different," writes Kristina Veski of that organisation. "Yesterday, railway staff brought to our shelter at Newtown a lovely if nervous black cat found at Wynyard station, left on a railway platform in a blue carry case with his toys. Ernest, as we have named him, is not microchipped, so we can't locate his owner. He seems a clever cat but we don't think he was Bunburying of his own choice. He is being cared for by Cat Protection until he finds his new or original owner. If you know Ernest, or would like to 'marry into a cloakroom', then contact the Cat Protection Society on 9557 4818." This Ernest has a certain importance. A handbag? At Wynyard station???*

(You need to know the play The Importance of Being Earnest to get the jokes!)



Lucy

To all the team

A huge thank you for my gorgeous Lucy (previously Jennifer) who we adopted from you at the end of October. She is the little love of our life. After a few snuffles initially (we're getting good at antibiotics!) she has settled in beautifully and built her confidence. She is putting on weight and the vet says she is 'very athletic and healthy'.

We think you do a fantastic job and we're very grateful for all your time and advice.

Carolyn and David (& Lucy)





# SCRATCHING POST

## Dear Felicity

I'm delighted to say that Violet's doing very well. She shares a house with three other cats: a brother and sister who are just over a year old, and the eldest who is eight.

In the first month I isolated her from the other cats. After that, she began exploring her new home. She interacts well with the other cats, but in particular with the one-year olds. She is very much into chasing and play fighting with the pair.

She still prefers her own company but the younger pair will go into the laundry to visit her; inevitably they will start to play.

First thing in the morning and when I get home at night, I am greeted by loud purring and a quiet squeak for a meow, and she aims her head for my hand, demanding to have a head scratch. However, she still doesn't like to be picked up.

I have had previous experience with cats who've had a traumatic start to life, so it has been an absolute buzz watching Violet emerge from her shell. We still have a long way to go, and there may be some things that she will never overcome, but the signs are good.

Thank you again

Danneil



*Juniper*

## Dear Cat Protection

In February 2004, we adopted Juniper from you. She immediately caught our eye with her beautiful unique black and white markings but then we heard the story of how she was dumped with her three kittens, yet still managed to be a nurturing and caring mother. Juniper had our hearts and there was no question: she was coming home with us!

Initially she was shy and timid but amazingly so much has changed since the first day we brought her home. Now you could say she has the confidence of a queen and lives like it is her very own kingdom. She is wonderfully playful, loves ping-pong balls and pom-poms, and spends much of her time on her carpet podium watching the birds outside. When we arrive home she is always at the door to greet us and often rolls on her back at our feet waiting for us to shower her with affection and attention.

We sometimes call her Panda Puss because her markings remind us of a giant panda.

Juniper is most certainly an original and we feel very blessed to have adopted her four years ago; she's brought joy, love, laughter and humour into our lives and our home wouldn't feel like a home without her.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for the amazing compassionate work you do at the Cat Protection Society; it truly changes lives. Not only because you save so many precious cats and kittens, many of whom have been abandoned, but you also enrich the lives of people like us who adopt from your Centre. Without your care, dedication and love, so many cats and kittens wouldn't get a second chance and we wouldn't get to experience the joy and delight that comes from being part of that second chance.

All the best for the future and we hope that many more cats and kittens get a second chance.

With gratitude

Liz and Danielle





# SCRATCHING POST



Micha

Hello

I adopted Micha in June. She is so beautiful and has made me very happy. I am hoping this photo will be in your magazine so that Micha's previous owner, a lady in poor health unable to care for Micha any longer, will maybe see her photo and know she is very much loved and that I am taking care of 'Little Fluffy Feet'.

Thank you

Marie

## To the staff at the Cat Protection Society

I would like to thank you for providing such a great service.

I collected Elmo, a tabby domestic shorthair, in April 2007 as a companion for my kitten, Mitsy, who was having some separation anxiety. Elmo was the last of a large litter. He and Mitsy are the best of friends, and he has the loveliest temperament.

I just wanted to let you know that Elmo is extremely well (and spoilt) and I am very happy to have him.

Thank you for all the work that you do.

Sharon



Elmo

## Hello to all the people at Cat Protection Society

Since I left you to live with Robyn and Virginia, it took me a number of weeks to settle into my new home. Now I have taken over and am the centre of all attention. Hope you are all well.

Best regards

Star



Star





# SCRATCHING POST

## Dear CPS

Remember me? My name was Wally. I'm the big, beautiful boy on the left. Not only have I found a new home, I also have a new name, Oscar.

My new owners adopted me in September 2007. Now I'm having a wonderful time with my new friend, Felix, who is also two years old and who was at the house when I arrived.

After sorting out who is the boss (that's me of course) we now do a lot of things together: eating, playing, chasing and (best of all) having a little snooze.

Kind regards and thanks again

Oscar (via Lindsay and Birgit)

## Dear all my carers at the Cat Protection Society

You named me Spartacus, but my new parents named me 'Tofu'.

I just LOVE my new home. I live with two young spunky girls who were also new to this home and had been rescued like me.



Tofu

I have grown a lot although I'm still the smallest cat in the house.

They can't climb the palm tree like I can because they are so fat and big. I was really nervous for a while, but now I am mostly relaxed except when men I don't know come to visit.

I am healthy now. I am also very happy. I can go anywhere I want as long as I don't go outside the property or in the fishpond.



Oscar and Felix

I have never gone outside the fence, but I have gone in the pond many times. It was an accident! My dad built us a lookout at the top of the fence where we can sit and look down on the street and people walking by stand on tiptoes to scratch my chin.

always chasing lizards and beetles. I also have a swing and lots of toys. They feed me twice a day and worm me once a month. How good can life get!!! I have sent a few pictures because they will say more about my lifestyle.

There is a nice garden and I'm

Tofu (via Jacqueline)



Banshee

Here is a picture taken by our Treasurer, Nita Harvey, of Banshee, the cat of a former CPS Board Member, Tony Purin.



# IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Buster, my beautiful ginger cat, died 12 February 2008 aged 16 years.

(donation from Joy)

Please accept this donation in memory of my beloved Nippa who died in November 2006 just a few weeks before her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was a lovely little Blue Point Siamese, the runt of the litter, but the most devoted friend for all her years.

Robin

Please accept this donation in memory of the late June Field of Gorokan, NSW.

From her friend, Madeline

Samantha-Louise  
25 November 1989 – 19 April 2007

The memory is still fresh of the day  
We saw you as a baby fluff ball  
One look from your beautiful green eyes  
And the adoption was a fait accompli  
The years flew by as they always do  
The time when you were very sick and  
We had to feed you baby food and rice.  
You never minded, even when you smelt  
chicken or steak on the others.  
Then, the tragedy after your 17<sup>th</sup> birthday  
And all the doctors visits,  
With hope riding high. Then the awful  
Day when we were told that a tumour  
Had been found and you would not  
Survive the surgery. A worse day was  
To come when we had to close those  
Beautiful green eyes forever. Your  
Loud Persian call, I can still hear,  
Your eyes following me is still in my heart.  
You rest now in the garden with your brothers  
And sister, while the soft breeze rustles the  
trees.  
Fly well my darling girl.  
You will never be forgotten.

William

## ANIMALS MATTER TO ME

The Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare is an agreement among people and nations to recognise that animals are sentient, to respect their welfare needs and bring an end to animal cruelty – for good.

Over one million people from around the world have shown their support for the declaration. The final destination for the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare will be the General Assembly of the United Nations.

For more information or to sign the Declaration go to [www.animalsmatter.org](http://www.animalsmatter.org)

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Dr Katrina Warren, Veterinarian

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