

Cat **affairs**

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JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW



- ★ **Pets + Profit = Misery**
- ★ **Cats: The Artist's Muse**



"Three reasons why Advocate's my number one."

Dr Katrina Warren, Veterinarian

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Council Report

What a year! Markets in free-fall; assets frozen; accommodation shortages and mortgage foreclosures; record numbers of cats abandoned and surrendered ... but then, the other side: celebrating 50 years of caring for cats; the incredible generosity of our members that has seen donation income double; Clover Moore's one voice in Parliament being joined by thousands in the community wanting a better deal for companion animals. And then, to top it off, the President-elect of the United States says he'd prefer to adopt a dog *from a shelter!* To borrow from Dickens, it has been the best of times, it has been the worst of times.

Thank you to all our members because every day you make a difference to feline welfare and every day you inspire us to keep doing everything we can for cats.

From the breathtakingly generous \$50,000 donation from a wonderful Life Member, to the newspapers to line kitty litter trays brought in by locals, every gift is precious because it is given with care and kindness. We are humbled by your support. Every cat who receives loving care and shelter here, every cat in the community desexed through our programs, every injured cat rescued by our welfare staff, and every cat happier or healthier thanks to our phone advice – every one of those cats is a testament to your compassion.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Cat Protection, I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a New Year that brings hope, kindness and love.

With every good wish,

Rhonda House
President





Pets + Pro

The deaths of tens of thousands of innocent dogs

This Persian came to CPS with a filthy and matted coat. Here he is after professional clipping and grooming.

As members would recall, last year the Member for Sydney, Ms Clover Moore, introduced into the Parliament a Bill to regulate the sale of mammals in pet shops. In the ensuing 12 months, there has been a vast community campaign to support her Bill, though the NSW Government maintained its stand against the Bill. However, the community pressure did motivate them to issue a new Code of Practice for the welfare of animals in pet shops. But that is not enough: it is not just the welfare of animals while in the pet shops that matters; it is also what happens to them before and after they're at the pet shop.

The pet industry vigorously opposed the Bill, which is surprising because you might think they'd prefer to promote the highest standards of animal welfare, which will never be achieved so long as companion animals are being bred and sold for profit. There's plenty of scope for pet shops to run successful businesses without selling animals and many do so. We applaud them.

In an effort to see the Bill gain broader Parliamentary support, Ms Moore has amended it so that it is simpler and focuses on cats and dogs. The new Bill was introduced to the Parliament on 14 November 2008, and we have reproduced Ms Moore's speech

explaining the Bill. To read the Bill go to our website, or direct to the NSW Parliament website.

Cat Protection supports the Bill. We know first hand the misery created by impulse buying of kittens (they're always kittens and puppies featured in pet shop windows; never adults) and the tragedy of feline overpopulation that comes from the sale of undesexed kittens. And we know that behind the scenes, the 'source' of kittens and puppies for pet shops are the dreadful 'pet mills' where sad and unhealthy animals are forced to breed. These problems won't be solved by a Code of Practice: they can only begin to be addressed by the recognition that cats and dogs aren't commodities, and that they deserve care, love and respect.

It is important to understand that there is a world of difference between recognised, professional breeders and 'backyard breeders'. Our experience with registered cat breeders has been consistently positive and it is exceptionally rare that cats acquired from registered breeders are surrendered (and when they are, there are usually very good reasons). In such cases, those breeders are always concerned for the cat and have offered to assist with rehoming or even take the cat back.

In contrast, we see many so-called 'breed' cats bought from pet shops and surrendered without so much as a tear shed. Frequently these are long-haired cats whose grooming needs are substantial and which proved just too much hard work for their impulse-buying owners. The poor cats arrive at Cat Protection with such severe matting they have to go the vets to be clipped.

We also have a problem with cats who were purchased from a local

pet shop by overseas students. When they have finished their studies and go home, they bring the cat to us. We have talked to the pet shop about this, and asked them to be stricter about who they sell cats to, and particularly to counsel young people about the lifetime responsibility involved with acquiring a cat. Unfortunately, it seems to have had little impact as those cats just keep coming. And then of course, every year, the same story: "I was planning to get the cat desexed ..." but they didn't and every year, more beautiful innocent kittens are born than there are loving and responsible homes for.

The deaths of tens of thousands of innocent dogs and cats every year are an obscene reflection of the values our society: where the profit motive is privileged above compassion; where instant gratification is more important than its consequences; where ignorance is bliss.

Taking a stand for our companion animal friends does not require the Parliament to ignore the myriad of other problems facing this state. It won't take resources away from education or health. It is simply creating a law, and making a statement that our society has values greater than materialism, greater than consumerism, and that we care and animals do matter. Surely the Parliament can manage that?

Please write to, email or phone your local member of State Parliament and tell them you support this Bill. If you have internet access, go to the Lead the Way website (the link is on our website) and show your support. Let's make sure we're not still discussing this Bill next year, but celebrating its passage as an Act of Parliament.



fit = Misery

and cats every year are an obscene reflection of the values our society

Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2008

Agreement-in-Principle speech by Clover Moore

Last year I introduced a Bill to ban the sale of pets in pet shops with the tabling of my Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. I began my speech with the Abraham Lincoln quote: *"I am in favour of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being"*.

Today I refer to Mahatma Gandhi who said that *"the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"*.

The world's great thinkers have long understood that social progress can be seen in the way a society treats its animals.

In response to the introduction of my Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill last year, my office was swamped with letters, emails and phone calls of support. I have a half a metre high pile of thousands of signed petitions that I am progressively submitting in Parliament, calling on the NSW Parliament to ban the sale of pets in pet shops.

The Bill I now table amends my 2007 Bill to address some of the concerns raised by the Government and the Opposition. I hope that Members will support this simplified Bill. I hope that the Parliament will choose to address the overwhelming community concern about the pet industry. While animals cannot speak or vote, the people who care for them can, and I know that members of this House have also been inundated with letters, phone calls and visits from their constituents calling for action to stop impulse buying that so often leads to dumping and subsequent

death of pets as well as cruel mass breeding practices.

In September the Government responded with a new Code of Practice for Pet Shops. While I welcomed new measures to make life a little more comfortable for animals in pet shops, the Code does nothing to stop cruel mass breeding practices and impulse buying, and fails to regulate classified sales. Thousands of dogs and cats will continue to be dumped every year and be euthanased.

The Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2008 would ban the sale of cats and dogs in pet shops and markets. People will still be able to buy cats and dogs from recognised breeders, animal shelters, rescuers, council pounds and vets re-homing pets. Animal shelters will be able to sell abandoned cats and dogs through pet shops, provided that the animal is not left in the shop unattended. Other mammals such as rabbits and guinea pigs will be banned from shop window displays. Only recognised breeders, animal shelters, rescuers and vets re-homing pets would be able to advertise the sale of cats and dogs, and advertisements would have to direct people to a statement about the animal's basic husbandry requirements. Providing prospective buyers with a written statement of expected costs and responsibilities would be mandatory prior to any sale. The Bill provides for regulations to be created that set mandatory standards for recognised breeders. The Bill also makes it an offence to fail to collect an animal from a council pound, or to fail to either collect or surrender a companion animal at an animal shelter, after being notified that it is there.

Australia has the highest rate of pet ownership in the world and pets play a vital role in our society: they give pleasure; they teach responsibility; and for many people especially those who live on their own, pets provide love and security.

Based on Local Government and RSPCA statistics, in NSW alone last year, over 50,000 cats and dogs were killed in council pounds and animal shelters. There is likely to be under-reporting as rescuers say that pounds and shelters lack the resources needed to keep up-to-date records. Furthermore the figure doesn't include the many cats and dogs dumped in National Parks.

Many other pets that were dumped were rescued by tireless rescuers and shelter workers who try to re-home them. Shelters and rescuers continually report being at capacity and being unable to re-home rescued animals. Rescuers dedicate their own time and money to clean up the mess left by the pet industry.

While last financial year, the number of dogs and cats rehomed by the RSPCA NSW increased by 6.85 per cent from the previous year, the number of cats and dogs euthanased also increased by over nine per cent for dogs and almost 30 per cent for cats. This should cause considerable disquiet among members of this House.



The cop-out from pet industry campaigners that these cats and dogs should be euthanased because of behavioural reasons is offensive. Rescue organisations, animal welfare advocates and animal trainers link these "behavioural" problems to pet shops, impulse purchases and mass breeding practices for profit.

An email I received from a dog trainer who runs a successful pet shop that does not sell live animals stated:

Dogs bred from poorly socialised and unhealthy dogs lead to behavioural problems;

Dogs bred in shocking conditions leads to behavioural problems;

Dogs housed in cramped and confined conditions of pet shops leads to behavioural problems;

Dogs poorly socialised before the age of 14 weeks leads to behavioural problems;

Dogs bought by people without being educated about needs, leads to behavioural problems;

Dogs abandoned and re-homed several times lead to behavioural problems.

I refer to comments left on the Lead The Way website, a campaign set up specifically in response to this Bill:

A girl I worked with bought a puppy because it was cute. She put no effort into training the dog, it developed terrible habits and when she tried to give it away because she could no longer look after it, its behaviour stopped it from finding a loving home.

These problems can be traced back through the supply chain.

In response to a strong community campaign, the Pet Industry has been quoting different figures about where pets come from. However, their figures do not come from independently random sampled studies. And the fact remains - pet shops encourage impulse buying and, unlike shelters and rescuers, do not de-sex animals before they are sold, which can lead to

millions of unwanted litters in the community. It is worth reminding the House that an un-desexed female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in only seven years.

There is no guarantee that pets sold in pet shops and markets do not come from unregulated backyard breeders and intensive mass breeding mills. In fact, many registered breeders will not sell to pet shops, which makes it unlikely that pets in pet shops are sourced from reputable breeders.

Puppy farms and pet mills are massive breeding facilities where animals are kept in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions and females are forced to continue to breed until they are incapable of breeding any longer and then they are put down. These breeding practices do not involve proper screening to detect and prevent genetic and behavioural problems making it more likely that companion animals will incur unexpected problems and costs for their owners. The aim of these puppy farms and kitten mills is to mass-produce cute kittens and puppies to get more impulse sales in pet shops.

A recent Australian documentary called the "Puppy Mill" documents the connection between pet shops, which treat animals as commodities, and puppy farms. I understand that each member of this House received a copy from one of their constituents and I urge them to watch this documentary to learn more about the pet industry.

Classified and internet sales also support backyard breeding and puppy farms – selling cheap pets to anyone with a credit card.

Puppy farms and pet mills are cruel and I strongly believe the wider public would not willingly support their operations.

I wish to draw the House's attention to President-elect Barack Obama's decision to adopt a dog from a shelter, which is reported to be motivated by his encounter as a Senator with a rescue dog that had been forced to breed for years in a puppy mill.

The puppy mill operators had cut the dog's vocal cords to prevent her cries being heard. After the dog was rescued, one of her legs was amputated because of osteoporosis, which is a common condition in breeding dogs. President elect, Obama's decision will hopefully encourage others to adopt pets from shelters.

The Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill would ban the sale of cats and dogs through pet shops and markets and would only allow recognised breeders, animal shelters and rescuers, council pounds and vets re-homing abandoned animals to advertise the sale of dogs and cats. Underground puppy farms and kitten mills' capacity to operate would be dramatically reduced.

As a pet owner, I am really disturbed by the number of companion animals being dumped and then destroyed. I am disturbed by the way animals are being bred purely for profit.

Pet shops are uncommon in Europe where cat and dog euthanasia rates are drastically lower than Australia's.



This Bill is about animal welfare; about living stopping animal cruelty. Companion animals long-term commitments of time, money and be bought and discarded when we tire of

This Bill is about animal welfare; about living in a humane society; and about stopping animal cruelty. Companion animals are live sentient beings that require long-term commitments of time, money and care: they are not consumable items to be bought and discarded when we tire of them.

The pet industry claims that the prices of cats and dogs in pet shops prevent impulse buys. Cute puppies and kittens evoke emotional responses that compel people to part with their money. The Entrepreneur Business Centre guide for pet shops states:

The scenario is simple: Someone will walk by, fall in love with an animal and buy it. These sorts of impulse sales can add dramatically to your profits... if your shop is accessible and your sales and service ability is convincing, it will not be long before you convert walk-in traffic into buying customers.

Animal shelters and animal rescue groups overwhelmingly say that the pet industry is a major contributor to the problem

of pet overpopulation. They are frustrated by the lack of Government commitment to address this shocking situation, while they continue to re-home the endless supply of abandoned animals. Many rescuers believe that the Government's new Code of Practice is just an attempt to circumvent the campaign for reform.

Rescuers and shelters refer to their work as "adopting", rather than selling, companion animals, as this better describes the responsibilities involved. Rescuers employ intensive vetting processes to find suitable homes for abandoned animals; some even tell me that they visit homes before they let anyone take a pet home. This is in stark contrast with selling animals through classified advertisements, markets and most pet shops, where anyone with the money is able to take home a pet. And if you don't have the money you can always buy an animal on credit, a practice exposed by Maxine Firth in the Sun Herald on 27 April.

The Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill will allow pet shops to continue to sell other mammals and birds and fish, and also to sell pet food and accessories. Many pet shops in Australia do well without selling live animals. This is the normal practice in most European countries.

The Paws for Action campaign, set up in response to my Bill, is calling for an Upper House inquiry into pet over-population and associated cruel mass breeding.

If the industry has nothing to hide it will also support this call. It will be very telling of the Government's priorities in this debate if it refuses to support a public inquiry.

There are a number of community campaigns calling for a ban on the sale of pets in pet shops, including Say No To Animals In Pet Shops. Some campaigns established with the specific purpose of getting this Bill passed in Parliament, these campaigns are Paws For Action, Death Row Pets, and the already mentioned Lead the Way.

The community support I have received has been overwhelming. I would like to read some comments of letters I have received from residents of this State:

Romy says

I applaud the stand you have taken against the sale of puppies and kittens in pet shops... It makes me sad to see windows full of tiny vulnerable animals who are hostages to fortune.

A veterinarian says:

As a veterinarian who has... worked in pet shops, and later for a veterinary hospital that had a contract to treat puppies and kittens from a busy chain of pet stores, I have long felt strongly about this subject. With literally tens of thousands of unwanted dogs and cats being put to sleep in shelters every year, there is absolutely no excuse for pet shops to continue to ply their trade unchecked.

Glenda says:

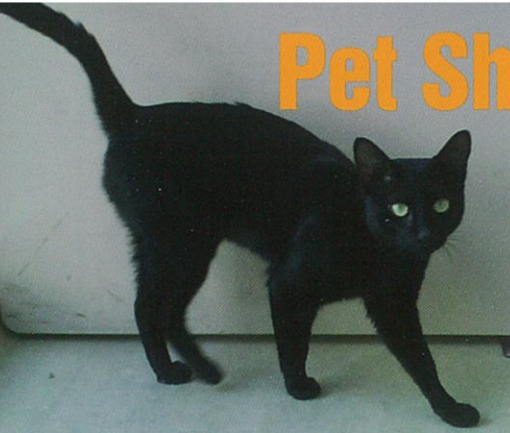
It is a huge problem and we have the most beautiful American Staffy called Sophie who we rescued from the pound... She was a Christmas puppy and dumped only to start a wonderful home life with us when she was eight months of age and on the euthanasia list. Sophie is now nearly seven years of age and the most beautiful pet.. it breaks my heart to see animals used in such an inhumane way. Sadly where big money is involved, these animals pay the price.

As a humane society we must act to prevent the shocking overpopulation of companion animals. If we recognise the problem we can act to prevent the cruel dumping and killing of so many innocent, sentient beings who have no voice except through us. More dogs and cats will die unnecessarily and this Parliament be diminished in the process if members fail to support this Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.



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s are live sentient beings that require
l care: they are not consumable items to
them.



Pet Shop Code Of Practice

The Animal Welfare Code of Practice: Animals in Pet Shops was issued by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in September 2008. The Code 'outlines the principles that everyone involved in the keeping and selling of animals through pet shops must use to protect the welfare of the animals in their care.'

The Code does not limit the application of other laws such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and it includes 'standards' which are legally enforceable and 'guidelines' which are not.

For example, "At the time of purchase of an animal, clients must be offered, at no charge, accurate written information on the care of the animal purchased" (10.1.4) is a standard which the pet shop is legally required to meet. However, "The active promotion of desexing for cats and dogs at the point of sale is strongly encouraged" (10.2.1) is a guideline and the pet shop is not obliged to promote desexing.

Compliance with the Code is to be monitored by the (already stretched) resources of the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League using their powers under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Given the scarcity of public funds to help these organisations investigate even extreme cases of cruelty, it is hard to imagine they will be able to allocate resources to monitoring compliance with the Code, and even harder to imagine that the NSW Police would be taking time off the beat to check whether animals in pet shops are receiving proper care.

Members of the community cannot prosecute or investigate breaches of the Code, but they certainly can report them and even more simply, bring them to the attention of the pet shop proprietor. If you're concerned about the standards in a pet shop, there are some simple questions you can ask – the numbers in brackets are the reference numbers from the Code. All questions relate to the standards (the 'must do' parts of the Code), not guidelines. To view the Code in full, go to the NSW Department of Primary Industries website.

- Do you have a copy of the Code of Practice? (4.1.1.2)
- Does the animal enclosure include a 'quiet dark and well ventilated area' that allows the animal to take sleep breaks? (5.1.1.5)
- Is the enclosure out of draughts and does it have adequate shade when exposed to direct sunlight? (5.2.1.2)
- Is bedding provided and is it clean? (12.1.9)
- Does the animal receive 'behavioural enrichment'? (eg do they have toys?) (7.1.1.7)
- Does the animal have a health record/chart? (8.1.1)
- Who is the vet for the animals in the pet shop? ('for the benefit of staff, the contact details for the vet must be displayed in a prominent position within the pet shop' 8.2.1.2)
- What is the program to control parasites? (8.2.1.5)
- What are they fed? (9.1.1 says they 'must receive a balanced and complete diet' – for packaged pet foods, the label should specify whether or not the food provides a 'complete and balanced' diet)
- Are food and water containers clean? (9.1.4 'containers must be removed and cleaned immediately if noticed to be contaminated') Are the containers positioned to avoid spillage or contamination? (9.1.6)
- Age of dogs and cats for sale – they must be 8 weeks or older (10.1.9) and cannot be put on display or offered for sale until 8 weeks of age (12.1.1)
- At time of purchase clients must be offered at no charge accurate written information on the care of the animal purchased (10.1.4)
- Dogs and cats must not be sold to people under the age of 18 (10.1.1). Do the staff ask for ID?
- Are cats and dogs microchipped and vaccinated? Do they provide (can they show) a copy of the vaccination certificate? (12.1.2 & 12.1.3)

Of course, as we said earlier, for cats and dogs their time in a pet shop is but one stage of a journey that is frequently sad and too many times, tragic.

Cats: the Artist's Muse

Through the ages, cats have been the muse of many artists, from Leonardo da Vinci to TS Eliot, to Andy Warhol. Mark Twain said "If animals could speak ... the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much."

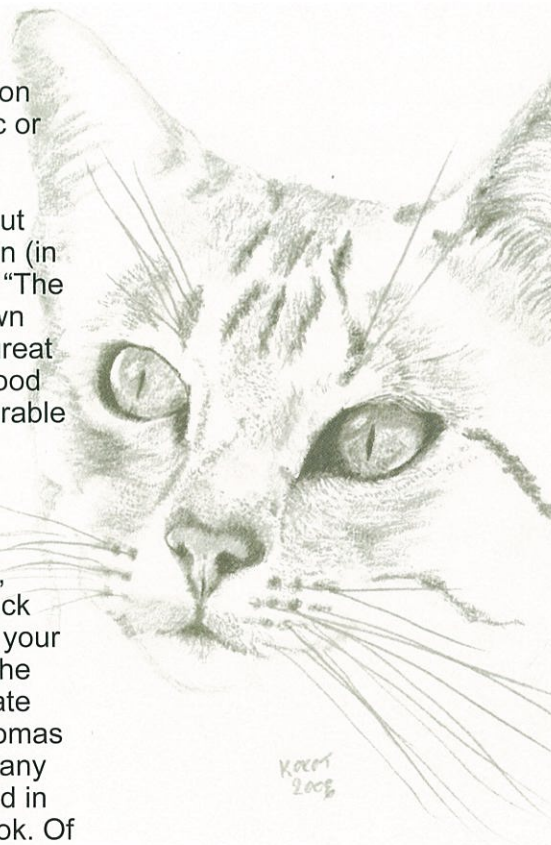
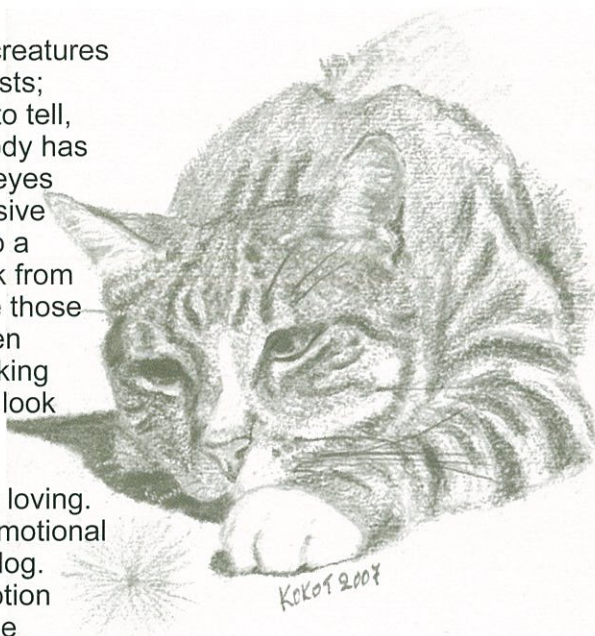
Cat Protection member Karen Kokot is inspired by cats: she draws them and writes poetry about them. Here Karen tells us why she loves cats, and we also reproduce some of Karen's beautiful drawings. In her vivid poem, you can just see the chaos created by the cat, and haven't we all experienced those moments when our cat decides to 'help' us?!

Cats are such revealing creatures to photographers and artists; every whisker has a tale to tell, and every curve of the body has a sinuous meaning. The eyes are deep pools of expressive eloquence, a challenge to a camera or a pencil. I work from photographs and can see those qualities caught and frozen like fluid architecture, making the most graceful dancer look earthbound and finite.

Cats are independent yet loving. None of the permanent emotional neediness of the servile dog. If a cat likes you, the emotion is honest and hence a true compliment rather than a dog's slavish adoration admirable though the latter may be.

But no cat likes a vacuum cleaner. Pussa becomes a startled, clawed comet as soon as Messrs Dyson, Panasonic or Nilfisk whoosh into life.

Some authors who write about cats are Lilian Jackson Brown (in her whimsical series entitled "The Cat Who ..."), Rita Mae Brown (her Mrs Murphy is a cat of great sagacity) and Kerry Greenwood of Melbourne in her incomparable Phryne Fisher and Corinna Chapman books. Elizabeth Martyn's book *Everything Cats Expect You to Know* is a compendium of interesting, amusing facts with lovely black and white drawings. What is your cat thinking when sitting on the window sill? What do cats hate the most? And who stole Thomas Hardy's heart? These and many more questions are answered in this extremely interesting book. Of course, the author's own cat had a paw in the writing of the volume!



The Electrician's Cat

By Karen Kokot

I have an itch.
Oh, what an itch!
It's as though all the lusty fleas of
the world,
Had united to confront me!
Oh, what an itch!

Well, he's up upon a ladder,
Wiring up the switchboard.
So I decide to join him,
One metre off the ground,
To play with coils of fuse wire,
Adangling from his arm.

But ---

I have an itch.
A rich little itch.
A witch of an itch!
I am impelled by an itch!
An intolerable, horrible itch!
I am impelled by an insatiable
itch,
And rub myself frantically against
a leg,
To cool this itching down.
Well, not only did the itch go
down,
But so did the electrician,
Down to the ground one metre
below.

He's wiring up a power point.
Active there, and earth is here,
He mutters under his breath,
Amongst the pliers and
screwdrivers.

Ah, think positive, they say.
He's looking at it now.
But ---

I have a sudden itch.
An intolerable itch.
A kvitch of an itch!
I am impelled by an infernal itch,
And rub myself frenziedly against
his back,
To turn the wretched itch down.
Well, not only did the itch go
down,
But so did the electrician,
Nose down amongst the
screwdrivers.



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

AGM etc

We've had a busy few months, with our Open Day and AGM held here in October and November, as well as participating in the Newtown and Cruelty-Free festivals, not to mention another huge kitten season.

A special thanks to all our fantastic foster carers who are making sure our little kitties are raised in loving home environments so that they are well-socialised and ready to be rehomed as soon as they're big enough to be desexed.

At the AGM, six of the seven Board members were re-elected. Jan Morley did not re-nominate as she has many other new commitments competing for her time. We are grateful to have had the benefit of Jan's insights and wish her all the best, and we welcome Jackie Rares to the Board.

We were disappointed to end the 2007-08 year in deficit, however, our cash and asset positions are strong and our performance reflected the record demands that faced us last kitten season. As governments are telling us, sometimes it's necessary to run a deficit.

Our annual report is published on the website. If you would like a hard copy of the annual report posted to you, or a PDF emailed to you, please ring our office on 9519 7201.

Tails of the city

Just a reminder that the exhibition about Sydney's passion for pets will be on at the Museum of Sydney, corner of Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney, from 13 December to 22 March. The Museum is open daily from 9.30am to 5pm. As part of the exhibition program, Cat Protection Education Officer, Nerida Atkin will be presenting a talk about cats in history, myths and famous cats, for children 5-13 years, on Thursday 15 & 22 January from 11am to 11.45am, and on Sunday 8 February, CEO Kristina Veski will be speaking at 2pm about the work of Cat Protection. We're very excited to be a part of this exhibition and hope members will find the time to visit *Tails of the city*.

Deadly flea treatment

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) has issued a timely warning to cat owners to take extra care when buying flea treatment for their cats. AVA President Dr Mark Lawrie said some spot-on flea products for dogs available at supermarkets contain a chemical called permethrin.

"The treatment is safe for dogs but it's really dangerous when used on cats. People poison their cat by accident – buying a flea treatment they think will cost less and not reading the label properly.

"Our members have started to notice that there are more poisoning cases than previously thought.

"When a cat is poisoned by this chemical the effect is terrible and there is no antidote. They have trouble walking, muscle twitches, seizures, and high temperature. If not treated they can suffer a stroke and die within hours," Dr Lawrie said.

The message is clear: Never use product unless it is intended for cats and for best results, use quality parasite treatments on the recommendation of your vet. Cat Protection retails Bayer flea and worm treatments for cats. It's important to get the right dose too, so make sure you know how much your cat weighs.

Job description for cats

Anyone with an email account regularly receives jokes and funny pictures, and for us cat lovers, no surprises that these are often about our feline friends. For those of you who don't use computers much, we reproduce part of a favourite one about cats, called Job Description for Cats.

Bathroom: Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything. Just sit and stare.

Doors: Do not allow any closed doors ... in any room. To get the door opened, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once door is opened, it's not necessary to use it. After you have ordered an outside door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow or mosquito season.

Hampering: If one of your humans is engaged in any activity and the other is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called helping, otherwise known as hampering. Following are the rules for hampering: when supervising cooking, sit just behind the left heel of the cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on and then picked up and comforted. For book readers, get in close under the chin, between the eyes and book – unless you can lie across the book itself. When human is working at a computer, jump on desk, walk across the keyboard, bat at mouse pointer on screen, and then lie in human's lap across arms, hampering typing in the process.

Hiding: every now and then, hide in a place where the humans cannot find you and do not come out for three to four hours under any circumstances. This will cause humans to panic (which they love) thinking you have run away or are lost. Once you do come out, humans will cover you with love and kisses and you will probably get a treat.

Sound familiar?



SCRATCHING POST

Hello

On July 28 I took home my new good friend Miffi (previously known as Gaby).

Miffi and I (and my partner Mike) are still getting along great and she is doing very well at home with us. She is a confident and self-assured kitten who is happy to play on her own with her toys (especially her favourite rope-y) and also with us. We believe she thinks of Mike as "the fun one"; they have a game where she chases his hand around when it is under the covers. I must be "the other one"; I get the cuddles and a little more of the affection =)

Thank you to Nerida who rescued our little friend.

Kind regards

Joanne

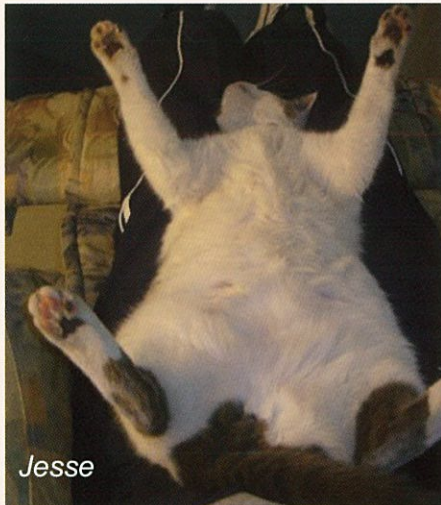


Home for stray cats Canada

Hello

On a trip to Canada, I came upon this 'home for stray cats'. It is in a park in Ottawa, not far from the Parliament building. Apparently it was set up by a gentleman to house the city's stray cats. The house is heated to protect them from the severe winter and the cats are fed daily by some kind person.

Fae



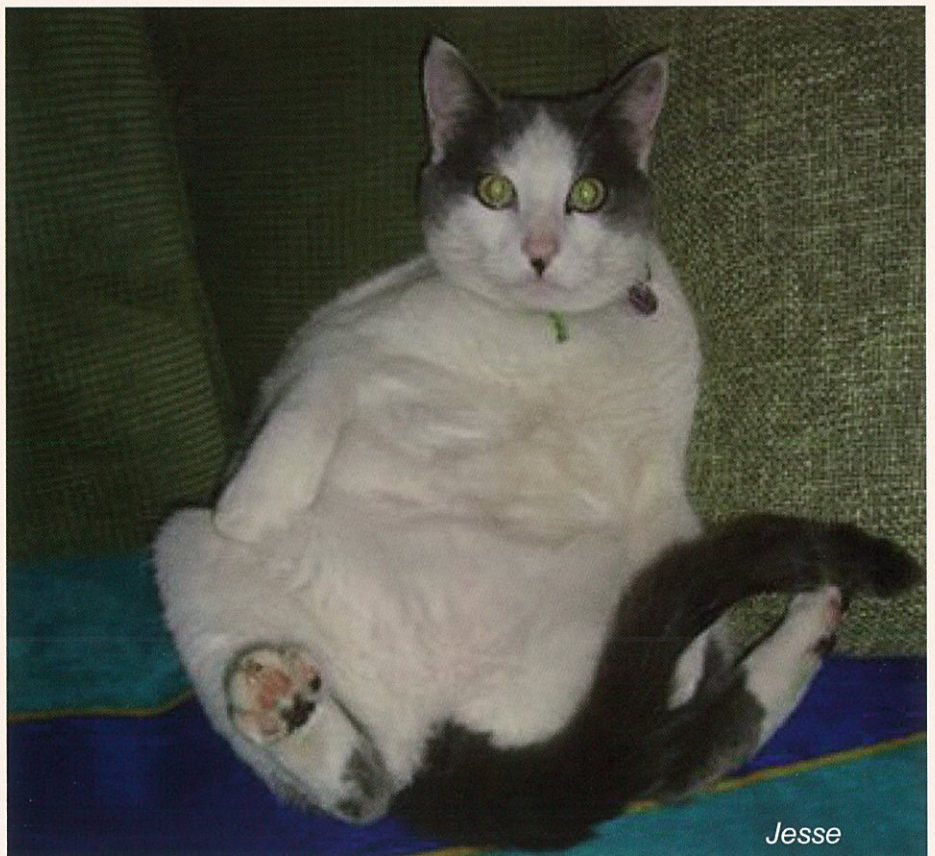
Jesse

Hi Amy

Meet Jesse (James) the outlaw amongst anyone who comes into our home and other cats. Jesse was adopted 2 years ago from the Enmore Centre and has certainly kept us on our toes at home in Newcastle. His personality is not dissimilar to that of a dog. He loves routine as he sleeps in the same positions, and comes to bed (on our pillows or under covers) at the same time each night. He won't go outside in the rain, which results in tortuous behaviour towards our other cats through boredom. He walks the block with the dog most nights and thinks he is the smartest cat in the street however, we know he's not because he thinks the cat door only opens one way!!!!!!

Thank you

Belinda



Jesse



SCRATCHING POST

Hi There

This is my Ninja and Shogun.

Ninja came to us Aug 2007, and Shogun came to us Nov 2007 from Cat Protection.

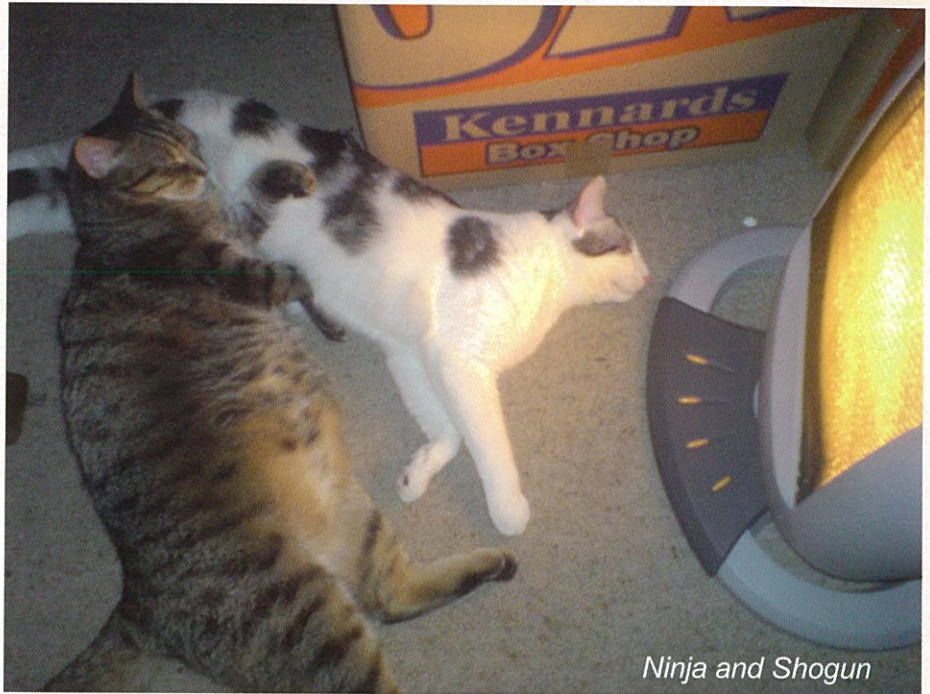
We are very happy with them!

We recently moved to Perth, Ninja travelled very well, but Shogun was quite unsettled, however she has now settled into the new place. They're enjoying their new life in Perth.

They were previously exclusively indoor cats. Then they got a small taste of the outdoors on the Nullarbor and now want more!

Regards

Phil and Mie

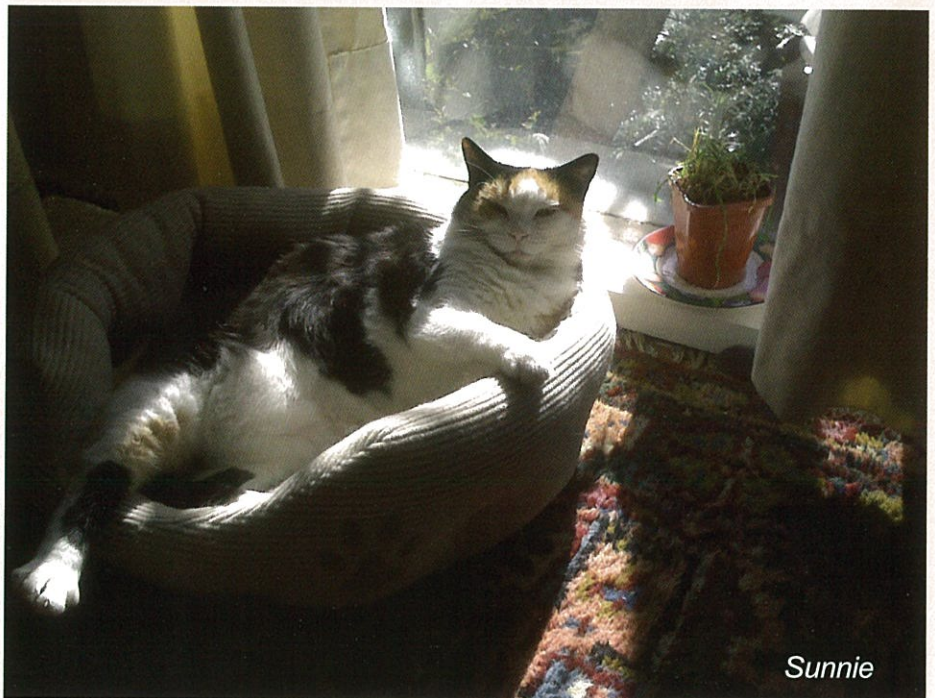


Ninja and Shogun

Hi

Micaela is now called Sunnie and is a very happy and contented cat. At times she still displays her snappy personality but is still a very sweet, affectionate and entertaining girl. Thank you for the wonderful work you do at the Cat Protection Society.

Alex



Sunnie

Dear CPS

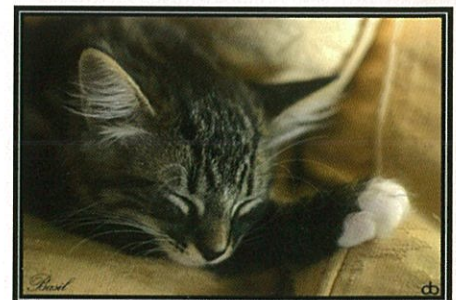
My name is Basil Brush and Mummy says I was the most handsome kitten in the cattery back then, which is why she chose me. I am very happy in my new home where I have lots of room to play and sleep in a very big bed at night. There is a big garden outside where I will be allowed to play once I am big enough. My new big sister, Squirrel Cat, is fun to play with even though she gets annoyed with me sometimes. We play

Wrestling, Chase and King of the Castle together.

Well, that's all for now. Thank you for taking care of me and all the other needy cats and a big thank you for letting my Mummy and Daddy adopt me - they're tops!

Love and purrs

Mr Basil Brush
(via Claire and Simon)



Basil Brush

SCRATCHING POST



Artie

Hello!

Just to let you know that "Artie" as we have called him is happy and settled in his new home. He spent the first 10 minutes in the laundry wedging himself behind the washing machine - I had to dive in behind to retrieve him - but after the first couple of hours with the door closed, he got used to us. We then left the door of the laundry open so he could venture out if he wanted to, and by the end of the day he was roaming the open plan kitchen/dining/living area with plenty of hiding under the couch.

By day three, he had mastered both floors of the house, and the shop, and now thinks he owns the place. He knows his name, and if he is hiding somewhere, he comes when called. He still prefers to stay downstairs for the night, much to the disappointment of the kids who of course want him to sleep on their bed. You would not recognise him from the shy, scaredy-cat who left you on Saturday 30 August!

Thanks again for your fantastic organisation.

Warm regards

Lucy

Hi

Attached are some pics of Sage, as you can see she is very content and happy. She has put on a little weight since leaving you. Having her in my life is the best and I love her dearly.

Regards

Angie

Hi CPS

One of our cats - Sir Humphrey:

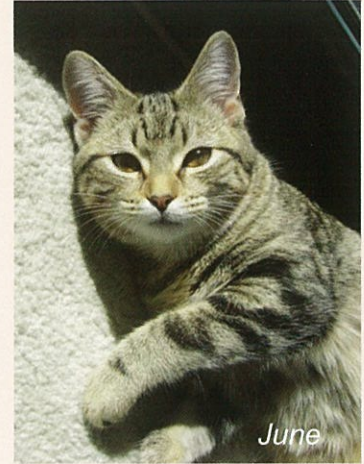
When I would go to bed at night, he used to beat me into the bedroom. This happened often. I would open the bedroom door and he would be in before I got through the door.

Unfortunately, as I was asthmatic, we would try and keep him out.

I endeavoured to keep him out by making sure he was not close to the door when I was about to enter. On several occasions, while I was about to enter, I looked carefully around and observed him casually strolling through the lounge room towards the kitchen so I thought I was safe to enter the bedroom but he beat me through the door again. This kept happening. It took me a while to realise that his walking away was just an act.

The next night I waited at the bedroom door and caught him out. His strolling away was deliberate in order to fool me. The next night I again waited at the bedroom door and again caught him in the act of trying to fool me. Clever cat!

Mrs Schwartz



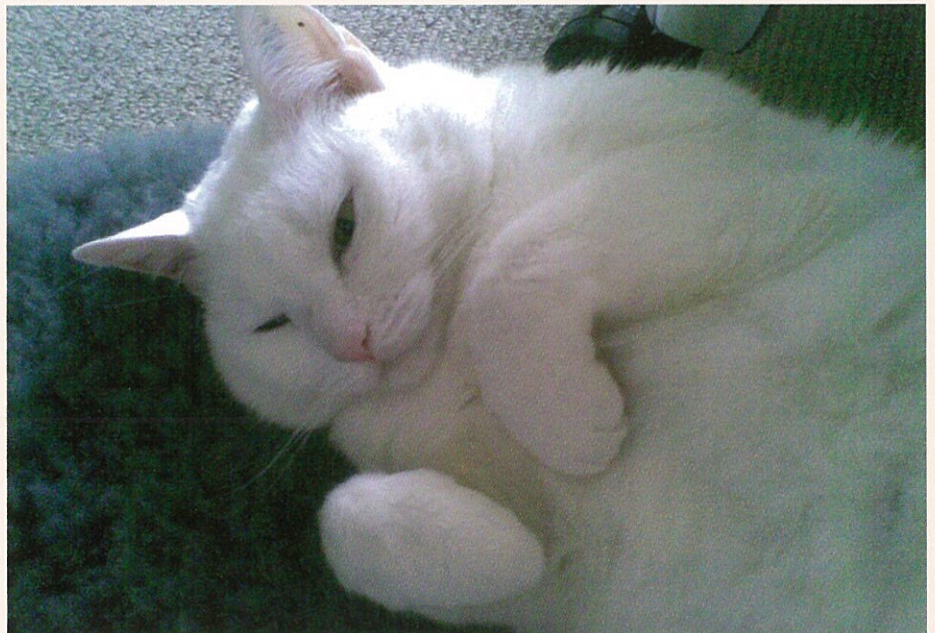
June

Hi All

A little update about June, a seven month, tabby kitten. She was adopted from the Cat Protection Society about 3 months ago. As you can see she is looking happy, healthy and is the most loving kitten. June settled into her new home immediately and we cannot remember life without her. She is a wonderful addition to our home. We were very impressed with your organisation and friendly staff. Special thanks to Adam and Chanel for all their help and knowledge to select the perfect cat.

Thanks again

Liz



Sage



SCRATCHING POST



Beau and Boo

Hi CPS

For the first few days when we brought Boo home, he would always hide in a nook behind a book and whenever anyone opened a door in the house he would run scampering under the sofa. He is getting more confident but not as brave as Beau. He loves Beau and would rather play with Beau than with us. That's okay because when he tires of playing he will always want to jump on our laps for cuddles. He loves getting under the sheets that I've thrown over the furniture to protect them. He's like a little ghostly bump running under

there, which usually sets Beau on him. Beau will be ripping into the sheet and trying to bite him from the outside and if you lift the sheet up, Boo looks like he's going to sleep. He gets a bit sooky when we tell him off for scratching the furniture and not his scratching post and I swear if there ever was a cat who could show a grumpy unimpressed face on cue, this one sure can, but in such a cute adorable way. My husband thinks he knows he's a pretty boy-cat so that's why we get attitude from him :)

Ivy



Daisy

Progress report on Hermanie - now "Socks"

We just thought we'd send you a photo of Socks - our beautiful cat we picked up from you on 10 October 2003 - five years ago!

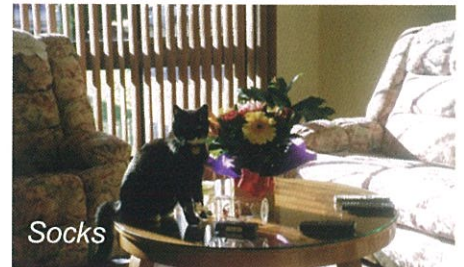
We recently purchased a calendar from our local newsagents - "Australian Cats 2009" - and there she was on the front cover! She always thought she was a star and now there's no living with her. She now expects flowers every week!!!

We also have an older cat, Abba. The two of them get along very well with Socks actually deferring to Abba most of the time. In all other aspects she rules the house and our garden.

Hope everything is going well with the Cat Protection Society.

Best regards

Colin & Carole



Socks

Hi There

Earlier this year we adopted a white and grey kitten called Daisy from you. I am just writing to let you know how she is doing and thank you for lining us up with such a beautiful pet.

Daisy has settled into life in our flat very quickly and, after a day or two of spitting, our cranky old cat has decided that he adores her and can't stop grooming her. Daisy is growing quickly and is very healthy, happy and confident.

Thanks again

Paul

IN MEMORIAM

Please accept this donation in memory of my beautiful boy cat who passed away last week. His name was Marmie and he came into my sister and my lives six years ago as a wild and woolly stray. We feel honoured that Marmie chose to spend his short life with us. He was loved very much and we miss him terribly.

Norma

Leona Therese
25 December 1987 – 18
September 2008

You last short illness was fought with the same courage you showed in your beautiful life. Now your mum and dad are left to nurse our broken hearts – but – fortunately, those hearts are full of memories. Christmas will be so hard without you to celebrate your birthday. Rest well dear daughter. A new star has risen in the heavens.

William

This donation is in memory of my dear cat Bess, who died recently aged almost 19. When I am ready I will rescue another cat who needs a safe and loving home. Thank you for the work you do to help these lovely creatures.

Cathy



Cassie

This donation is in memory of our most beloved and enchanting little calico pussa, Cassandra – 'Cassie' to her family and friends.

My sister and I were utterly shocked after an unexpected diagnosis of a rare cancer which was growing rapidly and for which there was no cure. This persuaded me to make the awful decision to ask our dear vet to put our darling little Cassie to sleep, at home, on 12 June 2008. She lies in our garden, but we will miss her always.

This picture shows little Cassie aged 10 weeks (March 1994).

Noni



"Tiger" Thomas

Thank you for your dedication to the cause of cat protection and rehoming in NSW. I really love your magazine – the charming photos and heart-warming stories always make me feel better and restore my faith in the basic kindness of many people. I have had 26 cats in my life, and all of them have been 'shelter cats'. Each one has been a precious gift, never to be forgotten.



Christabel

Please accept this donation in their memory and particularly in memory of Christabel who died last year aged 17, and Thomas, who died two years ago aged 17. Thomas had the most beautiful markings and shone like gold in the sunshine. Christabel was a beautiful cat; in her younger days her fur was a shimmering silver colour; this darkened to a charcoal grey as she got older. Both were CPS adoptees from Parklea and are sadly missed.

Irene

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.

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