

Cat AFFAIRS

Winter 2008

JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

ISSN 1834-870

PP242296/00055





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Graphics Film and Printing: Crackerjack Communications 0408 679 045

Council Report

The end of May is the end of the end of the financial year for Cat Protection (a decision was made many years ago to run our financial year June-May rather than July-June to make our audit costs more affordable). And in an ever expanding season, May also marks the end of kitten season, although with our temperate climate, we still see kittens year-round.

Fortunately, after an unusually slow period for adoptions over Christmas/New Year, we've seen more of our lovely cats and kittens find the loving homes they deserve.

Morris, who featured in the Autumn *Cat Affairs* story, *Too scared to eat*, sadly has had two false starts at adoption. In each case, a sudden change in circumstance of his prospective companion left him staying here. However, we're happy to report that Morris is very happy and very healthy now, and he loves to play with the other cats. Thanks to the TLC from volunteers and staff, he has grown in confidence and has made an inspirational recovery from his past trauma.

I'd like to acknowledge all our wonderful members for your kind response to our request for donations. Your generosity was truly overwhelming and not only helped our bank balance but our morale. Trying to keep a charity viable is a constant battle, and without your ongoing support Cat Protection simply wouldn't be here. Thank you so very much.

Ensuring continued funding is a major challenge for the Board and staff, and a significant task of the Board is to promote financial support of Cat Protection by forging links with businesses and individuals who will support our cause. If you have excellent networks you believe you can harness for the benefit of Cat Protection, or if you have other skills valuable to a board, I'd be very interested to hear from you.

Rhonda House
President



50 years of caring for cats

As members know, this is our Golden Anniversary year and in the next three issues of *Cat Affairs* we will be looking at some of our history.

Below we reproduce a 1962 letter to members from the founder and then President of Cat Protection, Mary Kay-Cooper. Rehoming is now a major part of our work, but as you'll see, many of the issues for cats – and Cat Protection – are still present: cruelty, stray cats, not enough homes for cats, not enough money. A major advancement since that time is early-age desexing, which has now been practised safely for more than 20 years. We now recommend kittens be desexed by eight weeks, but in 1962, between four and five months was best practice.

Cat Protection Society of NSW
Mary Kay-Cooper, President and Founder

This society has been registered as a Public Charity for barely ONE YEAR. That does not mean that it is "ESTABLISHED" or "ON ITS FEET" as some members have suggested. It means that we have been free from that time to ask for money for its activities. We do not automatically get funds with the registration – but we do get CATS with the knowledge that such a society is in existence.

Actually, although we DO place cats where possible – we have been formed, as the original London one was formed and the Victorian Society which has helped us so much – to reduce the cat population and see that there are not so many kittens brought into a world where there is no place for them.

Kittens can be bred – and most prolifically – but homes can NOT be produced at will and the present situation of cats in general is very grim indeed.

Good homes are scarce and getting scarcer all the time. Strays abound in most suburbs and in the inner city areas and some of the outer fringes. We are helpless and horrified at the tragic positions that exist.

If it were not for the fact that few cats breed in winter we would not

have been able to cope with the situation.

Actually my work should be more along organising and publicity lines but I have been continually dealing with the individual cat problems that have arisen.

I do want to urge you all to try and induce anyone who has any pet to get it de-sexed. It can be done any age but between four and five months is ideal – also if in kitten. All cats should be trained to sleep indoors; DON'T "put the cat out" at night. Lately a woman rang me in trouble; her father, a returned soldier – a bit lame – was delivering papers before breakfast. He saw a man come into the road from a lane with a big chaff bag and this scoundrel went along the street picking up the family cats who were waiting outside their own doors to be let in for breakfast. Her father was hampered by his lame leg but asked a passing milkman to drive after that man to stop him. The milkman jeered and told him to "be his age and mind his own business" and to "live and let live"! This was near Waverley Park! It happens in other places all too frequently.

Now please remember that to get a cat a good home is NOT the end of the problem. People die or meet with accidents or have to move

away. Our worst headaches come from people who are in these positions and we have been bitterly criticised because we could not provide a "made to order" home for such pets in a few cases. Old cats do not transfer easily – a few exceptions exist – but it is kinder to let your local vet put a loved cat to sleep than to send it away from its home and its people. Cats love their owners personally, not just the houses, but to be deprived of both is utter misery to many cats. Don't give cats away indiscriminately, but give where they have some chance of a settled life.

This is the worst season of the year – from now until well into the New Year and up till Easter the deluge of kittens is coming on and is worse than our oldest and most experienced members have ever known it to be. Those who can afford to do so, please give very generously, and the ones who are "only working" remember that workers are more welcome than even money, for workers bring results and the money follows results.

And DON'T let people think that their cat can have its kittens and we will get them a home. We are out there to see that kittens don't come into a world where they are not welcomed and cherished.

Mary Kay-Cooper, 1962

Kitt-en-kaboodle photography competition



Lisa Enever

Our photo competition was a huge success with more than 260 entries received. Our judges selected the winners and 50 cat photographs for display at the Buzzbar Café in Newtown. More than 100 people attended the opening night and enjoyed wine, music, friends and the beautiful exhibition.

Thank you to Sascha Klave for the fantastic blues music that was the perfect accompaniment to the evening. Thank you to Julia Robins for a great job selling raffle tickets – with donations and raffle ticket sales we raised almost \$400 on the night. Many people asked whether we would do this again next year – we think we have no choice!

Meanwhile, we are delighted to showcase some of the entries in this and coming issues of Cat Affairs. **Our lovely cover cat is Astrid, whose photo was entered by Kanelli Tsiros.**

Following is the address by Cat Protection CEO, Kristina Vesk, at the opening night of the exhibition.



Before I thank everyone involved in bringing together this beautiful exhibition, I'd like to thank the compassionate, dedicated and far-sighted people who began Cat Protection back in 1958.

Mary Kay-Cooper brought together a group of people concerned with the plight of abandoned and neglected cats and growing stray cat colonies. They saw that no organisation existed that was truly focused on feline needs – and that birth control was the solution to population control. And so our story began here in Newtown ... and indeed, continues today.

Thanks to everyone involved in Cat Protection – in the past and in the present – countless thousands of cats have been given a second chance. Countless hundreds of thousands of unwanted births have been prevented. You can't put a number on suffering, that is too crude, but we know that suffering has been eased, has been lessened, due to the efforts of members, staff, volunteers and other supporters of Cat Protection – including many wonderful vets. I thank especially Concord Animal Hospital and Sydney Animal Hospitals Inner West for their work, particularly over this past terribly bad kitten season.

Tonight is about celebration:



Sonja Black



Marie Waldie

celebrating 50 years of Cat Protection, and celebrating the beauty, joy and wonder of our feline friends.

Thank you to everyone who entered a photo. When these were laid out for the judges to select the finalists and then the winners, I was simply awestruck. There was not a bad picture among them. How could anyone choose? Every cat looked out from their image saying 'Choose me' – though I'll admit there were some who seemed to shrug 'whatever'.

Thank you to Danielle Lyonne from Animax Photography and to Danny Aarons from *The Glebe* for generously agreeing to the difficult task of judging the competition. I have to make this point: that neither of the judges, nor Rhonda House, who of course selected 'The President's Pick', knew who had taken the photos – they had no knowledge of the entrants, just the entries. Thank you to the sponsors who generously provided prizes:

- Koru framing
- Stokes Mischewski
- Animax Photography
- Hill's Science Diet
- Hell On Wheels
- Oil Search
- The Annandale Hotel
- The Gaelic Club
- Speedilab
- Taronga Zoo.



Sonja Matthews

Thank you to Amy Karp, Chanel Stuart and Amalia Pearl for your amazing efforts in bringing this exhibition from idea to execution. Amy, Chanel and Amalia have worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm on every aspect of this show, and I congratulate them on their stunning achievement.

And again, thank you enormously to everyone who entered for sharing your beautiful cats with us. Over time, you may see your cats in our magazine, on our website, in our window ... and while we only have a handful of people winning prizes tonight, we know that every entrant has the best prize of all already – an adorable feline companion.

Every cat is beautiful.

Every cat deserves a loving and responsible home.

Thank you for the homes you give your cats – and for the hope you give to all cats.

Best in show: Cait Blunck

Gold: Georgina Davis

Silver: Sarah McInerney

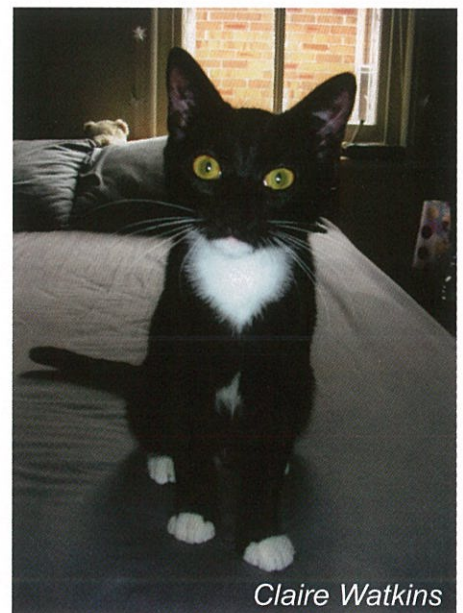
Bronze: Michelle Hollinshead

Highly commended: Jarod Pulo

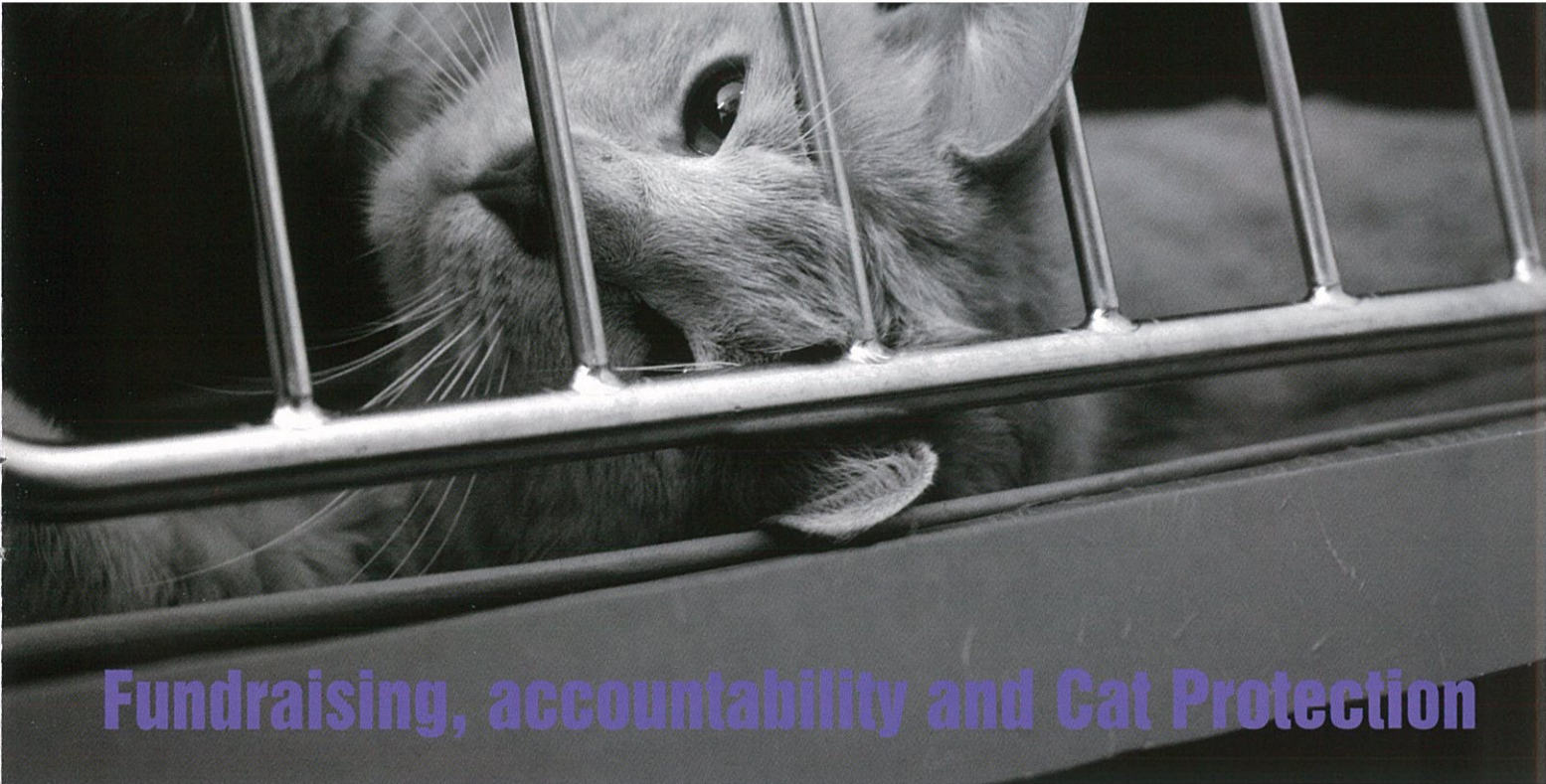
President's Pick: Elisa Ramsay

People's Choice awards (as voted by the people attending opening night):

1. Sarah McInerney
2. Bruce Diekman
3. Christine Burrows



Claire Watkins



Fundraising, accountability and Cat Protection

What did you think when you read about the high-profile charity Just Enough Faith whose public officer resigned because he found financial records and procedures lacking? What did it make you think about other charities?

For us, the news was distressing because it contributed to a perception that all charities are unaccountable. We would like to reassure you of how we work, and that we are accountable.

Checks and balances

The Cat Protection Society complies with our obligations at law. We are incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1984*. We submit our annual statement to the Commissioner for Fair Trading which includes a copy of our independently audited accounts. We hold an AGM to which members are invited, at which directors are elected, and where questions are asked and answered. We comply with our Authority to Fundraise for Charitable Purposes (CFN14820) under the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*. We comply with the obligations that go with being endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient. We also comply with

our other regulatory obligations such as GST, OH&S, industrial relations, and so on, and of course, the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Charities need to be accountable and they need to behave like proper corporate citizens. As proper corporate citizens, we necessarily incur overhead expenses. These include administration such as managing rosters, payroll, information technology, building, equipment and fleet maintenance, stock control, accounts, reporting, data entry, insurance and so on. Running a charity involves all the demands of running a for-profit business plus the compliance and reporting obligations that go with charitable status. And we have to pay staff to run the organisation to ensure its sustainability. We couldn't do what we do without volunteers, but we couldn't do it with volunteers alone. As well as the administration that is

necessary to running a sustainable, lawful business operation, we also spend time and money on promoting our cause, for example, advertising our adoption centre, sending information to media, and looking after our website. However, we see these activities as central to achieving our mission, not as overheads.

Cost of fundraising

Many charities have fundraising budgets bigger than our total operating budget. It is true that to raise money costs money, the questions are how much, what is reasonable, and what is counted. At Cat Protection, we consider that we spend very little on actual fundraising. Our costs of fundraising include the rent and other outgoings on the Op Shop (eg insurance, water). In the last financial year, Op Shop expenses were \$30,088 and the income was \$134,943, leaving a profit of



\$104,855. Our legal costs were \$3091 and these related to bequests, and therefore are considered 'fundraising' costs.

Most of our donations come from members. The NSW Office of Charities considers member donations not as 'fundraising campaigns'. However, the charity research organisation, Givewell, considers all aspects of membership as fundraising. In our case, they regard member subscriptions as fundraising income and member benefits such as *Cat Affairs* fundraising expenses.

It is open to debate whether or not membership income and expense is fundraising, but even if you factor it in (which we did for our profile on Givewell, including staff costs) then our fundraising cost ratio comes in at 24 per cent. That is, at least 76 cents out of every dollar donated goes directly to Cat Protection's operating expenses – the other 24 cents goes on things like wages for membership and fundraising administration, postage and printing (*Cat Affairs*, receipts, donation requests etc), legal advice for bequest issues, and a portion of website and advertising costs. Most publicity is directed at trying to find new homes for cats or to promote desexing, but arguably as ads often include a call for financial assistance as well, we attributed half our advertising and 20 per cent of our internet costs to 'fundraising' for the Givewell calculation.

Recently we had to spend \$1,500 buying donation boxes that complied with the Act – these had to be consecutively numbered, be permanently labelled with our details and be securely constructed and key-lockable. We try not to spend too much on fundraising but we will need to spend more in the future. While the flyer (which cost less than \$200) we included with the Autumn *Cat Affairs* generated a huge response from you, our generous members, we simply can't keep asking only you for money.

Thank you

The response to our request for donations in the last magazine was overwhelming. In April we received \$23,000 in donations, most of it from members. As well as the generosity of the giving, many people wrote lovely notes and sent us warm wishes of encouragement and thanks for the work we do. It meant so much to us: not just financially but for our morale. Thank you from all the volunteers and staff and cats and kittens – your support is wonderful and deeply appreciated.

The future

Our operating costs are over a million dollars a year and will continue to rise with increases in CPI, escalating petrol prices (which have greatly increased the cost of our welfare work), and the growing demand for our services. Moreover, we are now the only open shelter in Sydney accepting stray cats. This has led to increased pressure on us, with unprecedented levels of demand for our services. We will be examining our options carefully in the coming months.

We will also continue to look at what we can do to increase our sources of income. One way is to get more people to join as members. The more people know about us, know what we do and know that we are not government-funded, the more likely they are to donate to us. We also look for other sources of income and support, and were delighted when Luv2Pak responded positively to our request for bags (for our merchandise). It was also mainly small businesses who supported our photography competition. We are most grateful for our sponsors Bayer Animal Health and Hill's Science Diet. We'd like to get more corporate support but so far our approaches to big companies have been declined. If you work for a big company (or even a small one) perhaps you could ask them about supporting Cat Protection as part of their corporate social responsibility!

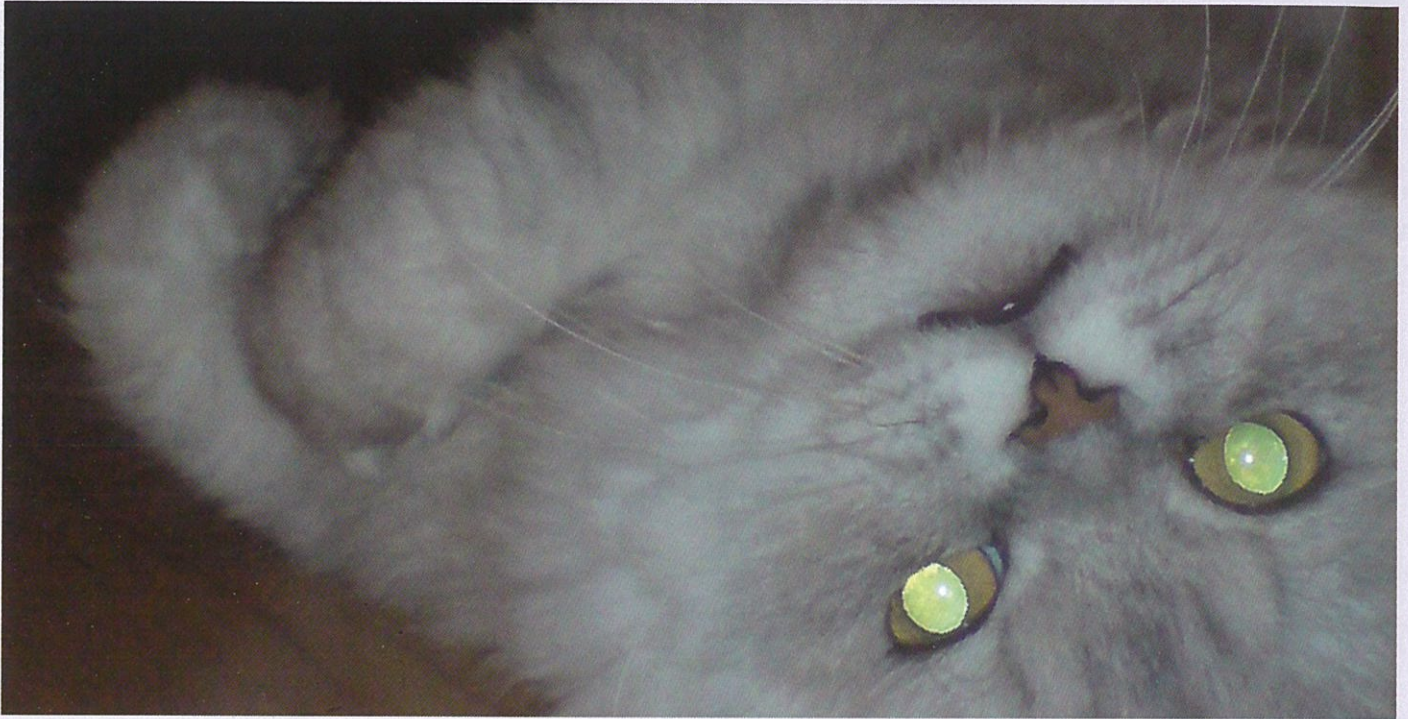
Fundraising events are not highly profitable. Our photography exhibition was not a fundraiser; it was a community event to promote positive images of cats as part of our education and information mission. Our lunch at Parliament House is a fundraiser, but it is primarily an opportunity to celebrate our Golden Anniversary and to honour our founders and those who've built this organisation. It will raise some money, but obviously the costs of putting on a function such as this are relatively high. For each ticket sold, we expect \$30 profit for Cat Protection – which complies with the Charitable Fundraising Act which requires a 'reasonable' return. Many charity events you see in the papers will say they raised millions but they aren't so forthcoming about the costs of putting on the event! When you hear that a fundraiser 'grossed' \$x remember that means nothing unless taken in the context of what the fundraiser cost.

At Cat Protection, we are working hard to ensure we continue to meet all that is required of us by law, all that is expected of us by our members, as well as fulfilling our mission. It is not easy – it takes time and money and people – but it is worth the investment because it means we're accountable, and accountability is essential to sustainability.

Many people involved in Cat Protection are also involved in other charities. Whatever charities you support, expect compliance (ask for evidence of it) and acknowledge that it costs, though it shouldn't cost too much.

There are many wonderful charities doing good work that no one else does. We'd be lost without them. And the cats would be lost without us. So don't let the bad stories stop you from giving, but do give wisely, and encourage others to do the same. And please, always remember our feline friends !

SCRATCHING POST



Stanley

Hi

From Cat Protection I recently adopted Stanley, a beautiful Persian Chinchilla, and just wanted to let you know how he is doing. Stan has settled in well, although he is still adjusting to being an inside cat. He has come out of his shell since we adopted him, and enjoys running around our house chasing his tail, and running up and down our stairs. He is quite affectionate, and although not a lap cat he likes to follow us around the house, sit next to us, and watch what we're doing. He has some very cute and unusual mannerisms, like scraping his front legs on the floor as though he is digging, before he drinks his water. When we adopted him his fur was still a bit tattered from being a stray and he had lots of scabs. These have now healed and his fur has grown back. We have been brushing him daily and now he looks like a big fluff ball! Thanks for looking after Stanley before we adopted him, and for all the great work you do. I wish I could have adopted all the cats in the cattery the day we came and adopted Stan.

Miranda

Hi Amy

I'm attaching a few photos of Kinsey Martin-Frank, our new addition to the family. He's fitting in very well, has grown so much, and loves to be carried around our place in our arms. He's got a new stuffed buddy named Moose, who he rough-houses with, and other slinky toys he loves! Plus he loves to attack my shoes into a death roll.

As you can tell, he's an amazing (still cross-eyed) kitten and is being taken care of very well.

Thank you so much for helping us find our little man!

Kind regards

Melinda & Kelly-Anne



Kinsey Martin-Frank



Leroy

Hello

I adopted Leroy three weeks ago and want to let you know what a wonderful addition he has been to our family. He is a confident and happy boy and puts up with all kinds of wrangling by my two year old with incredible patience. So thank you guys, you are doing a great job!

Erica



SCRATCHING POST



Coco

Dear Felicity and all at CPS

I just thought you'd like to see some pictures of the two beautiful kittens we adopted on 19 and 20 February ... a bright and very active little female (who we've called "Coco"), and "Valentino", the little male kitten who was found by you in a distressed state.

Coco is an adorable little kitten, full of life ... it seems her mission in life is to make a game out of everything! She has been a wonderful influence on Valentino (who was extremely shy and frightened) and he is now beginning to play with toys. It's fun to see them chase each other endlessly around the house. They are both such a joy. I hope you like the photos.

Best wishes

Margaret

Hello CPS

My name is Xena and here is a photo of me relaxing on my cat stand. Although I am not originally from CPS, I would like to tell you about myself.

My family adopted me as a kitten about six months ago from a shelter. I am very happy in my new home. I love pouncing on anything that moves, but especially any drawstrings or bows that happen to dangle from my adopted family's clothing (I do this when they least suspect it, for maximum effect). I also enjoy chasing my toys around the house at 3am while the household (tries!) to sleep. Any movement of a toe under the bedcovers also warrants a pounce too. After all this hard work, I curl up and relax, while my adopted family wake bleary eyed and mention something about no longer needing an alarm clock since I joined them ... I also particularly love my pats and my purring engine is like a little loud motor.

When my family adopted me, my home was a cage. Now my home (and I do mean MY home) is a place where I feel safe and loved. Thank you CPS for helping cats and kittens like me to find new homes.

Xena

Coco and Valentino



Xena



SCRATCHING POST

Dear Cat Protection Society

We adopted Molly on 16 February 2008. Molly has changed her name to "Whiskey" and has fit into our house from day one.

Whiskey's older sister Eartha, our eight year old cat, accepted her after three days. They are still boxing and hissing at each other but Whiskey likes her new sister and is always chasing her. Whiskey is full of character and is always fun to watch.

I hope many of your cats go to wonderful homes.

Sincerely

Akiko



Molly

Dear Georgina, Sam and my CPS family

Week 1: You will be happy to know I'm settling in very well with my new family and I'm especially loving all the attention, yummy food and comfy sleeping arrangements.

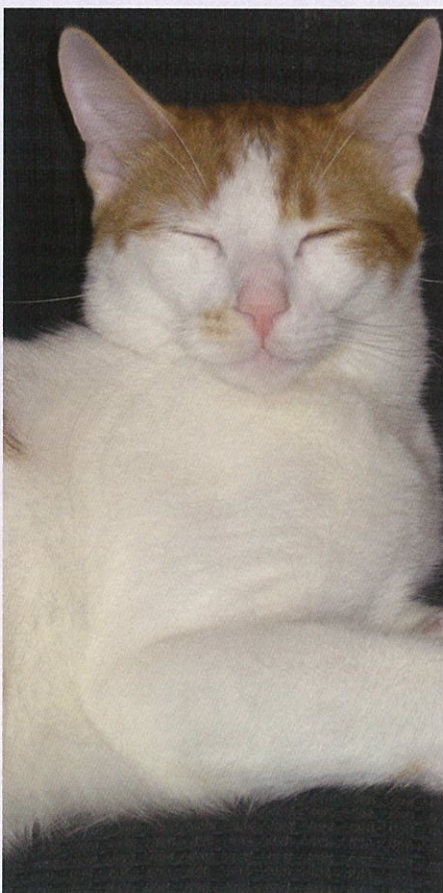
Their older cat Darcy and I are getting to know each other and I can see we will be great friends already.

My new Dad, John, keeps asking people to 'Meet Paddy', which he thinks is very funny - 'Meet Paddy'??

Anyway, love to all, especially my sister Lucy, who I hope finds a family of her own really soon.

Will write again soon, but my tummy is full and ... yawn! So tired so may just curl up for a second and have a bit of a rest ...

Paddy xx (via Karina)



Paddy



Aspen

Hi

Here is a recent picture of Aspen "doing it hard" on the balcony - hope you can use it in your magazine.

Cheers

Andrew



SCRATCHING POST



Bebek

Hi CPS

Baby Bebek and her siblings were rescued by Cat Protection and because of their poor condition, were hand-raised by staff to ready them for adoption. Bebek's nominated date of birth is 1 April 2005. A volunteer at the Cattery adopted her on 27 June 2005 having fallen in love with this tiny kitten who stared like a wide-eyed owl and never meowed.

I have been meaning to write the story of Bebek for a while, well almost three years. She is a very successful adoptee and we hope that her story amuses other human carers.

She was brought home to a flat with a large fenced courtyard to be a companion for a similarly adopted feline female called Sky. Unfortunately Sky was never maternal and was very unimpressed with the new addition that wanted to weld to her. The result was unfortunately the modelling of an abusive parent however Bebek managed

to hold her own, thrive and grow. She also taught Sky how to use the cat door and play chasie in the yard that helped the older cat lose unhealthy extra grams.

Bebek developed unusual habits over the years. She never meows but does chatter to her human carer especially when she brings in a present such as a cockroach or a stick to share with the household. She also likes to share her weekly chicken wing by depositing it on the bed as a surprise, or better still, keeping it and bringing it into bed at about 3am for a late night snack, to crunch away at while others try to sleep. Bebek, due to Sky's determination to keep her human to herself, does not lap sit or cuddle close while the lights are on but at night when Sky is distracted she likes to sleep on top of her human's chest or between her legs.

When she does lie around on the couch or on the bed it is always on her back with her legs in the air. She has been spoken to about ladylike behaviour but

seems content to display herself and maximise the space needed to accommodate her. She now is almost half a metre long and 40cms tall and has an exceptionally long tail which she holds proud and dusts the coffee table with, regularly displacing anything that may be on it. This has led to candles being vetoed on low tables. She also insists that she will only drink water out of her glass that must be fresh and put beside the bed on her table each night. Her other specialist skill is tree climbing. She insists on climbing branches that seem unlikely to hold a bird let alone a rather big boned female feline to pursue ever elusive winged creatures.

All in all, Bebek is a special girl who has brought love and joy and the occasional frustration to her human. She, and her human, will always be indebted to the Cat Protection Society for rescuing her and for finding just the right home for her to have a pampered, free and fun-filled life.

Cheers
Cherie

SCRATCHING POST



Hi CPS

Grace and Sebastian

Yesterday we brought a little ginger baby home - the cutest little kitten you could ever imagine. Grace (my daughter) even dressed up like a cat when we went to pick him up! So cute!

Grace is soooooo in love with Sebastian and they are the cutest little couple already.

Lisa
xxxxxx

Hi Kristina

Just to let you know our two black and white cats are doing very well. We renamed Loki to Rosie (as she's so feminine and gentle) and the kitten we named Roxanne (as she's slightly wilder).

Rosie stayed under our bed for several days but now loves being outside, although she does retreat when any one visits us. She definitely has a timid personality and we are endeavouring to bring out the 'kitten' in her as she's only eight or nine months old - she must have lost her kitten-ness somewhere. Roxanne, of course, is a real 'crazy cat' and leaps and jumps and is very funny.



Roxanne and Rosie

Rosie and Roxanne play together and eat together and Rosie doesn't mind Roxanne eating out of her bowl after she's finished her own food. They love playing chasings although at first this was at 2am!

Roxanne sleeps on our bed, but Rosie is more exclusive and sleeps in the spare room, but

always comes to greet us in the morning. Sometimes when we come home, they are waiting at the door sitting side by side - very cute!

Thanks so much for all your help in letting us choose such beautiful cats!

Kind regards
Margaret and John



SCRATCHING POST

Hi everyone

A few weeks ago, my husband and I adopted Joey, a silver and white tabby.

She has adjusted amazingly well. We think she has a bit of a fear of heights, but she still climbs all over the place. She is super affectionate, and just a wonderful addition to our family.

Thanks!

E Madden

Dear Cat Protection

Firstly I want to say how much I enjoy Cat Affairs, it's a great publication and I love reading it.

In the summer edition I read about your Open Day and was thrilled to see Michael Mountain from Best Friends USA was a guest speaker.

I was fortunate enough to visit Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in late 2006 and was privileged to spend a day helping with the cats. I've enclosed some photos of the beautiful cats I got to meet, some were from the special needs area and some were from the Wild Cats village.

This was truly a special day I'll always remember and makes me wish I lived closer to Sydney, so I could volunteer to work in your cattery as it is an incredibly rewarding experience (I live in Albury).

Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers at CPS who do such amazing work.

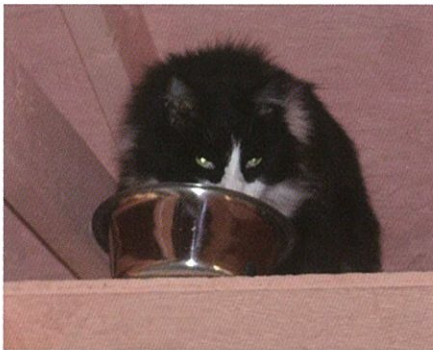
May 2008 bring you continued success.

Kind regards

Prim



Joey



Hi

Here are some photos of Lachlan, Patti Paws and Charlie for you. They are all doing really well. They are entertaining, happy, and pretty relaxed.

Thanks

Philippa



Charlie and Patti Paws



Lachlan

IN MEMORIAM

George was a healthy 22 right up to the end but decided to try to go on one more adventure on the night he died, January 11, and his frail body could not take the exertion. His many friends and admirers in Drummoyne sadly miss him and his charming ways.

(donation received from John and Fay, and Eileen)



Goldy

Please find a donation in memory of Goldy, passed away three years ago. Sadly missed.

Carmel

Please accept this donation in memory of Rose, who passed away September 2007.

Susette

In memory of Ella

Sadly our beautiful Ella passed away peacefully on 1 May 2008.

She had lived at Cat Protection for one year.

In recent weeks we noticed that she was walking strangely and so took her to the vet.

They diagnosed arthritis but were concerned that without x-rays they couldn't be more precise with their prognosis.

After x-rays and further examination, it was revealed that Ella's knee was badly affected by degenerative arthritis that could only be successfully treated by amputation of that leg. However, the x-rays also showed that there were problems with her hips that meant she couldn't put that pressure on them, and so would never survive as a three-legged cat. It was surmised that the problem began with an



Ella

untreated injury in her early life, possibly a car accident.

Even with medication, the pain was too much. With heavy hearts, we accepted that her pain and suffering were too much for her small body.

Ella received a special meal and lots of pats and kisses. We said goodbye from all her human and feline friends at Cat Protection and prayed for her. We were there with her to the end, and the vet was gentle and respectful. We cried.

Ella will be sadly missed by everyone here. She was the elder stateswoman of the adoption centre, providing comfort and reassurance to the new cats and kittens. She happily shared daytime snoozes in her sunny corner apartment with other cats, especially those more timid, with whom she seemed to have a natural affinity. She helped to make new cats more confident and secure. She helped staff and volunteers to smile by showing us her loving nature.

Farewell and bless you, Ella.

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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