

Cat **aFFairs**

Summer 2010
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JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW



★ **NSW companion animal
policies**



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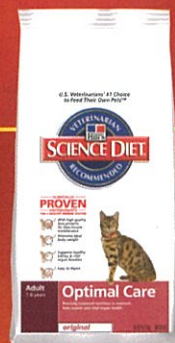
Spade's story

When I adopted Spade he had been severely injured and required specific veterinary and dietary care. Important to his recovery was the quality nutrition of Prescription Diet and Science Diet. Now fully recovered, Spade has energy to play and his coat is shiny and soft.

Michelle Minehan

To see Spade's full story, and other amazing Hill's® transformation stories, go to FeedingIsBelieving.com.au

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Council Report

Thank you to those who attended our AGM on 6 November. For those of you interested in seeing our annual report, it is published on our website or, if you don't have internet access, you may phone our office and we will post you a copy. The good news was that, due to a most generous bequest from the late Honorary Life Governor Daina Silins, we ended the financial year with a profit. Without that bequest, the result would have been close to break-even.

Surviving as a charity means striking a careful balance between investing in your cause and investing in the future. It also means that for us to provide ongoing services, we need your ongoing financial support, so we hope you'll be able to help us with a donation to get us through the very busy Summer kitten season.

Because we are in the frontline of caring for cats, we see the many problems in feline welfare and we also have some ideas on solutions. In August, we wrote to Independent NSW state MPs and the major parties to share our concerns and to inquire about their policies for companion animal welfare. Those who replied have their responses published in this issue.

We are not a political organisation – we sincerely hope that all politicians will adopt compassionate and effective animal welfare policies. With the election coming up in March next year, now is your opportunity as friends of cats to ask your local representatives what they will do for animal welfare. While there is a lot of community discussion about this issue, animal welfare isn't headline news in the mainstream media ... but the voices of cats and those who love them need to be heard.

On behalf of the Board of Cat Protection, I would like to wish all our members, friends and their cats a joyful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Rhonda House
President



NSW companion animal policies

With the state election coming up in March next year, we thought it useful to find out the companion animal policies of the major parties and independent MPs. Companion animal policy discussion rarely finds its way into mainstream media so it can be hard to know where politicians stand on the issues.

Cat Protection is a non-political organisation and we are not making any recommendations on how people should vote, we wish merely to inform you of the responses of politicians to our questions.

Obviously voters will have a number of matters that concern them and this is only one matter that might concern you. If you are interested in finding out more, we suggest you contact your local MP/candidates.

Our letter was sent in late August and is reproduced below, followed by the responses received. The responses have not been edited, though, for reasons of space salutations and opening paragraphs ('thank you for your letter' etc) have been deleted. At this time we have not received a response from the Premier.

Cat Protection's letter

The Cat Protection Society of NSW is dedicated to improving feline welfare. With the State election coming up in March next year, our members are keen to find out more about the companion animal welfare policies of the major parties and independent MPs.

We would appreciate your responses to the following questions, which will be published in our Summer issue of Cat Affairs for the information of our members and supporters. To be included in this special feature, we need your response by no later than Tuesday 9 November 2010. We are a non-political organisation and will not be making any recommendations to our members on how to vote.

We will also be writing to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of The Nationals, The Greens, and all other independent members of the Legislative Assembly.

We hope that you will take the time to share your policies for companion animals with members of the Cat Protection Society.

Questions

1. Will you/your party support the establishment of a Parliamentary inquiry into the welfare of companion animals?
2. Will you/your party support the establishment of a Standing Committee on animal welfare?
3. Will you/your party support measures to regulate the sale of companion animals so that any companion animal sold or transferred (whether by a pet shop, on the internet, in a market, through a pound or shelter) is desexed (unless the sale or transfer is to a registered breeder)? (The law already requires the animal to be microchipped, however we know that this is rarely the case with pets sold in markets and via the internet).
4. Will you/your party support tougher penalties for cruelty to animals, and improved resources to investigate and prosecute cruelty cases?
5. Will you/your party support regulations and policies that promote pet-friendly strata and rental accommodation?
6. Will you/your party support regulations and policies that allow pets on public transport?
7. Will you/your party support funding to provide public education campaigns on the importance of responsible pet ownership?

Why did we ask these questions?

We know that tens of thousands of innocent cats and dogs are put to death in NSW every year. We know that there are too many cases of neglect and cruelty to companion animals. We know some things that would help to improve companion animal health and welfare; doubtless there are things we don't know. We know that companion animal welfare is in the jurisdiction of the state government.

We also know that there has been no contemporary, thorough investigation of companion animal welfare policy and regulation, and we believe this is long overdue.

An inquiry by the Parliament (select committee) would help the community and their representatives to better understand the issues and potential solutions to companion animal welfare problems in NSW.

An ongoing reference group – standing committee – on animal welfare would ensure development and consideration of legislation affecting all animals, not just companion animals. It would ensure that animal welfare does not continue to be overlooked.

We appreciate that there are many competing demands on Members of Parliament, however, animals cannot speak for themselves and are therefore the most vulnerable and marginalised living beings in our community. Giving consideration to animal welfare does not affect consideration for human welfare, and indeed, in many cases improved animal welfare has positive outcomes for people, too.

The Parliament of NSW website states that: "As the complexity of society increases, the issues with which Parliaments must deal also becomes more complex ... Across Australia, Parliaments are using committees to help them in their work."

"Parliamentary committees give Members of Parliament and the public a chance to play a part in the formation of public policy. They allow Parliament to scrutinise the Executive more effectively, making it more responsible to the people of NSW. The committee system also gives Members more time to consider the detail of issues and to seek expert advice." (<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/common.nsf/key/ResourcessystemHowParliamentWorks>)

The benefits of having companion animals are many, including better physical and mental health, developing empathy in children and providing relief from loneliness. Sadly, more and more people are being denied these benefits – and more and more cats and dogs are finding themselves homeless – because of pet-unfriendly accommodation, whether rental or strata. Responsible pet owners should be allowed to keep their pets and not be forced to relinquish them because they move into pet-unfriendly accommodation. Not everyone drives a car but it can be a near impossible task to take a pet – even one secured in a carry cage – to the vet on public transport. We need to be a more pet-friendly state – noting that pet ownership comes with important responsibilities.

Responsibly kept pets are good citizens but not everyone knows what it means to be a responsible pet owner. Education is the key to ensuring responsible pet ownership and the best efforts of charities are not enough – we need a coordinated state-wide campaign to ensure that pets, people and the natural environment can live together in harmony.

Companion animals are living, breathing, sentient beings and they should not be treated like disposable commodities. The unregulated sale and transfer of companion animals has poor consequences for animal welfare and there is simply no justifiable reason for it to continue – inaction in this area is leading to the killing and suffering of innocent animals.

The link between cruelty to animals and violence to people is well-established in the literature. Acts of violence to defenceless animals are not inconsequential misdemeanours but serious crimes. A coordinated and strategic approach to the prevention of cruelty to animals (eg through humane education programs) and properly resourced investigation and prosecution of cruelty cases is vital.

We ask for these things because our animal friends cannot speak, but they feel, and we care.

Following are the replies received

The order in which these appear has been selected to fit typesetting requirements

Mr Andrew Stoner MP

Leader of The Nationals NSW

Thank you for bringing your concerns in this matter to my attention.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals recognise the important role cats and dogs play in the lives of individual owners and families as companions.

Shadow Minister for Inter-Government Relations Chris Hartcher has worked hard to ensure legislation reflects the needs and wants of local communities as evidenced through the Companion Animals Amendment (Dogs in Outside Eating Areas) Bills 2010 which focused on allowing patrons and their pet animals to co-exist in unique venues. This amendment was adopted by the Keneally Labor Government and was a huge win for the pet-owning community.

There is also a major concern with the level of animal cruelty in New South Wales and how this violence may be a prelude to further abuse in the future towards humans. These are issues the NSW Liberals & Nationals are currently seeking advice on.

I understand the Leader of the Opposition, Barry O'Farrell MP, who also received your letter regarding companion animal policies, has raised the contents of your letter with Mr Hartcher who will be answering your questions on behalf of the NSW Liberals & Nationals.

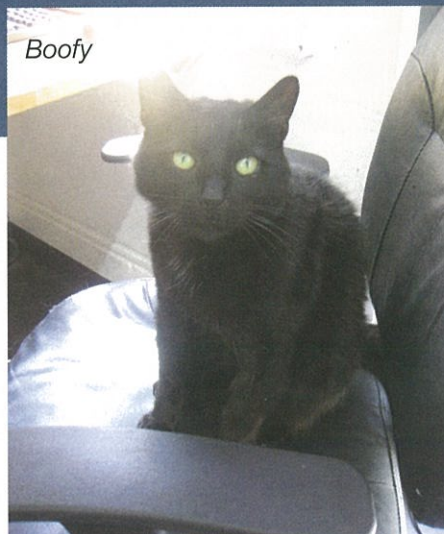
Peter Draper MP
Independent Member for
Tamworth

With regard to the seven questions you posed on my views on these issues, I am pleased to advise that I would support the establishment of a Parliamentary Inquiry into the welfare of companion animals, as well as a Standing Committee on animal welfare (Q1 & Q2). I would also support measures to regulate the sale of companion animals to ensure they have been desexed (unless the sale or transfer is to a registered breeder) (Q3).

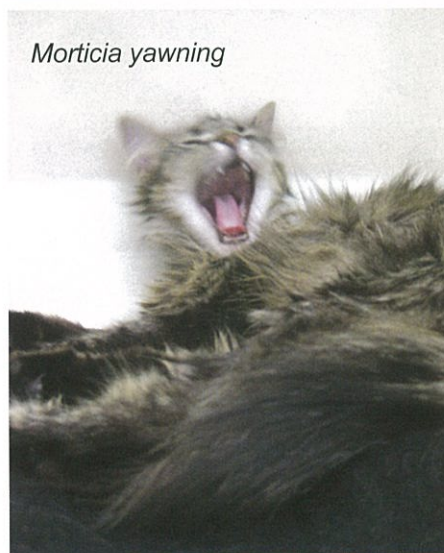
I would support tougher penalties for cruelty to animals (Q4), and the introduction of regulations and policies to promote pet-friendly strata and rental accommodation (Q5). I would also support funding to provide public education campaigns on responsible pet ownership (Q7). However, I would not support regulations and policies to allow pets to travel on public transport (Q6).

Companion animals provide many benefits for their owners, families and particularly the elderly and infirm. However, ownership of a pet also comes with many responsibilities and a duty of care to the animal, as well as consideration for neighbours and members of the public.

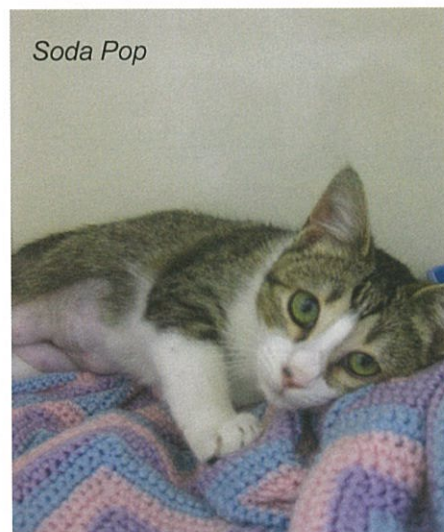
I trust that my comments have clarified my position on these matters.



Morticia yawning



Soda Pop



Dawn Fardell MP
Independent Member for
Dubbo

I have noted your comments and especially noted your comment regarding the link between cruelty to animals and violence to people and I have made representations to the Attorney General specifically regarding the use of violence to animals as a means of intimidation of domestic violence victims.

A copy of the response received is enclosed for your information.

The reply to Ms Fardell from the Attorney General, the Hon John Hatzistergos, dated 5 July 2010, states:

The Government is awaiting with interest the joint report of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) and the New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC) on Family Violence, which is due in September 2010.

A consultation paper by the ALRC and NSWLRC was circulated for comment by 25 June 2010.

The issue of threatened or actual violence to animals in order to intimidate a victim of domestic violence is canvassed in that consultation paper. My Department will be carefully considering the recommendations of the Report, including those relating to violence committed against animals, when it is released in September.

A copy of that consultation paper is available via the NSWLRC's website at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lrc.

Peter Besseling MP
Independent Member for Port Macquarie

I would be happy to support a Parliamentary inquiry into the welfare of companion animals to deal with issues such as those you have raised in your correspondence to me. It is important to understand fully how we are going to deal with the extreme number of unwanted and destroyed pets each year and to consider how we currently manage laws and regulations surrounding companion animals in the best interests of our environment, the animals themselves and the general population.

Without wishing to pre-empt any findings of such an inquiry, I believe that the terms of reference should be broad enough to examine the concerns you have raised and report back with considered recommendations.

Cate Faehrmann MLC
The Greens NSW

Congratulations on your continued work in reducing the suffering of felines and encouraging responsible ownership of cats within NSW. I have previously taken on a cat through your service and appreciate your efforts.

I am responding as the Greens member of the NSW Parliament with portfolio responsibilities for Animal Welfare.

Please find below responses to your questions.

1. **Parliamentary inquiry into the welfare of companion animals.** The Greens would support such an inquiry.
2. **Standing committee on animal welfare.** The Greens are the only major party with a dedicated animal welfare spokesperson. Labor and Liberal parties include animal welfare under the Primary Industry portfolio. There needs to be a greater commitment from the other major parties to improving animal welfare. The Greens would support a standing committee.
3. **Regulating the sale of companion animals.** The existing Greens policy recognises the need for legislation to regulate the sale of companion animals and to introduce mandatory registration and subsidised desexing.
4. **Tougher penalties for cruelty to animals.** The Greens continue to call for all non-human animals to be recognised in legislation as beings as opposed to property and to prohibit all cruel acts and treat them as serious crimes. There is also a commitment to restoring the right of third parties to initiate proceedings under animal welfare laws.
5. **Pet-friendly strata and rental accommodation.** The Greens do not support legislation or regulations that unreasonably prevent a tenant or owner from being able to keep a pet in a strata complex or at rented premises. The Greens have been strong advocates for tenant rights. It is important that people within the rental market in particular feel a sense of security in their living circumstances and this would also impact on their willingness or ability to keep a companion animal.
6. **Suitably restrained pets on public transport.** The needs of all users of public transport need to be taken into account in considering such a policy however I believe that suitable regulation could be put in place. Increasing public transport use is an important goal in improving the liveability for NSW residents, particularly in metropolitan Sydney.
7. **Public education campaigns on the importance of responsible pet ownership.** Absolutely. Education is a very important step towards reducing the incidence of unintentional animal cruelty which is often associated with a lack of understanding from owners of the needs of companion animals. It is also important that the impacts that animals can have on wildlife is understood so that appropriate controls are put in place.

If you require more information, the Greens animal welfare policy can be viewed at:

www.nsw.greens.org.au/policies/animal-welfare

I look forward to being able to advance the cause of animal welfare during my time in the NSW Parliament.

Barry O'Farrell MP
NSW Leader of the Opposition
NSW Liberal Leader

I have read your letter with interest and noted your concerns in relation to the protection and welfare of felines across New South Wales.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals recognise the important role cats and dogs play in the lives of individual owners and families as companions. We strongly support the Companion Animals Act that was introduced in September 1998 and the measures it put in place to benefit pets, owners and wider community.

Shadow Minister for Inter-Government Relations Chris Hartcher has worked hard to ensure legislation reflects the needs and wants of local communities as evidenced through the *Companion Animals Amendment (Dogs in Outside Eating Areas) Bills 2010* which focused on allowing patrons and their pet animals to co-exist in unique venues. This amendment was adopted by the Keneally Labor Government and was a huge win for the pet-owning community.

There is also a major concern with the level of animal cruelty in New South Wales and how this violence may be a prelude to further abuse in the future towards humans. These are issues the NSW Liberals & Nationals are currently seeking advice on.

I have shared your letter with Chris Hartcher and will be able to provide further detailed responses to your questions shortly.

Please visit my website at www.barryofarrell.com.au to read in detail our positive policies and plans to make NSW number one again.

Clover Moore MP

Independent Member for Sydney

I share your view that pets play a vital role in society – providing love and companionship, particularly for people living on their own, and encouraging owners to exercise. It is estimated that pet ownership saves the national health bill over \$4 billion each year.

I have been a long advocate of pet ownership and animal welfare and will continue to push laws in Parliament that promote responsible pet ownership.

In response to your specific questions:

Companion Animal Welfare Inquiry I support a Parliamentary Inquiry into the welfare of companion animals, which was first proposed in response to my Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. I voted in support of postponing vote on my bill to enable an inquiry – I believe that an open and public inquiry will expose the problems with companion animal welfare in NSW, such as impulse buying, pet overpopulation, and poor breeding standards. This would support improved laws to protect animals including a ban on the sale of pets from pet shops.

Standing Committee on Animal Welfare Animal welfare should be a priority for governments, yet most still see it as a fringe issue. A humane and just society would act to remove animal suffering. I support the creation of a standing committee on animal welfare to work to improve animal welfare on an ongoing basis.

Mandatory Desexing I support mandatory desexing of pets prior to sale and included this requirement in an early draft of my Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. While the requirement was removed from the final bill, I continue to support this policy.

Animal Cruelty Enforcement I support tougher penalties for animal cruelty and increased resources to investigate and prosecute cases. I opposed amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act that prevent anyone but the Minister and Director General for Primary Industries, the police, the RSPCA, and the Animal Welfare League from initiating animal cruelty cases in the courts.

Pet Friendly Strata, Rental Accommodation, Public Transport I have repeatedly called for an end to blanket pet bans in strata apartments and rental properties and for pets to be allowed on public transport. The inner city has a large portion of residents living in apartments, renting and who don't own a car – current bans impact heavily on my constituents.

I am working on a number of Private Members bills to reform strata legislation and intend to include changes to the law to make it easier for people to keep pets in apartments.

Responsible Pet Ownership I continue to push for laws that promote responsible pet ownership. Education about the importance of pet ownership is more effective than restrictive laws that treat pet owners like second-class citizens.

The City of Sydney supports responsible pet ownership by balancing the rights and responsibilities of owners and their pets with the rights and responsibilities of others in the community. We conduct free microchipping and free dog obedience training and promote sharing and respect in our parks. We have expanded off-leash parks and now use the Sutherland Animal Shelter for impounded animals because it has the lowest euthanasia rate in Australia and a re-homing policy. Dog owners should not be treated as second-class citizens. They should be able to take their pets with them to public places.



Alice



Buster



Lucy



Playtime at the



Tony

Greg Piper MP

Independent Member for Lake Macquarie

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the speech I delivered in Parliament on 22 October 2009 in relation to the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2008. You will note that many of your questions are answered and in particular, the closing sentence of my speech was "... if this bill is not supported, it would be appropriate for this House to establish a select committee to examine the issues affecting companion animals and the pet industry".

I appreciate you providing me with the Society's views and trust that the information provided clarifies my position on this matter.

Mr Piper's speech is as follows:

I speak in debate on the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2008. I have previously spoken in this House on the concerns raised in the electorate of Lake Macquarie about the welfare of unwanted companion animals. It is unacceptable that some 63,000 animals are euthanased each year in New South Wales and it is deeply concerning to many that the pet industry produces a supply that so greatly exceeds sustainable demand. My office has received an ongoing stream of emails and letters supporting the legislation and/or a parliamentary inquiry into the pet industry. It is obvious that there is widespread and passionate concern for animal welfare and that that is reinforced by relevant facts. It is appropriate to recognise that those involved in the pet industry opposing the bill have made representations. I have no doubt that those who have made such representations are very genuine in their beliefs, and that the vast majority are responsible and respectable breeders and traders.

It is unacceptable that the community bears the cost of destroying unwanted animals. Councils within my electorate have reported to me the enormous and costly burden of dealing with unwanted pets. Wyong Shire Council advises that it spends more than \$880,000 on its animal care facility and mandatory compliance responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act. Lake Macquarie City Council does not operate an animal pound and relies on the RSPCA through an agreement – which was recently re-signed – costing \$170,000 annually and must also cover the significant cost of deploying its own staff in the collection and handling of unwanted animals.

Even with the best intentions of the Companion Animals Act, the way many in our community treat companion animals is not good enough. Too many people choose to buy animals without making, or perhaps even conceiving, a commitment to the responsibility of ongoing ownership. Too many animals are bred without good reason and are consequently killed, and the cost to the community is onerous and difficult to justify. Local government in New South Wales pays a high price to support the status quo of the pet industry.

The bill introduced by the member for Sydney is a genuine attempt to address a significant problem in our society, where many companion animals are seen as consumer items and often dealt with as a disposable item. Eliminating or greatly reducing impromptu decisions on pet ownership would reduce these outcomes. The bill would align the production of animals more closely with the actual demand rather than with the ability of the pet industry to sell. It would link the sale of animals to preconceived intention, rather than a whim inspired by the sight of a cute puppy or kitten.

There are strong ethical arguments about the euthanasia of many thousands of animals and there are weighty questions about the cost of it. The Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill is an attempt to deal with the issues surrounding the oversupply of companion animals. While the bill will clearly not be supported by the House, it and the sentiments expressed by other members – even those not supporting it – should serve as a wake-up call to the industry to further improve its policies and codes of practice, and to drive out the unscrupulous minority.

I have listened to the contributions of members from both sides of the House, including the members for East Hills and Terrigal. There is a common sentiment that we should support the animals that are cruelly treated, but there is a difference in approach. The member for East Hills said that it was unnecessary to establish a committee and the member for Terrigal disagreed. Given the representations made to me, if this bill is not supported, it would be appropriate for this House to establish a select committee to examine the issues affecting companion animals and the pet industry.
(Extract from NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard and Papers Thursday 22 October 2009).

CAT PROTECTION DIARY



Cat Protection's stall at the Cruelty Free Festival

Community events

It has been a busy time for Cat Protection in recent months, with many community events including our own Open Day, the Cruelty Free Festival, the Newtown Festival, People & Pets days at Surry Hills, Holroyd and Liverpool, the Sydney University Pet Fair and the Willoughby Fauna Fair. Thank you to everyone who visited us on these days. These events are very important for us to tell the public about our services, engage new supporters and adopters, and to help people with information about cat care. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped on these occasions: Damien, Rhea, Kim, Olivia, Melissa, Rudi, Julia, Danielle, Stephanie, Helen, Wendy, Tareva-Chine, Kristy, Anne and to the staff who volunteered their time as well.



Open day visitors

We were thrilled that so many people who had adopted cats from us in the past took the time to drop by, show photos and tell us how their cats were getting on. It is heart-warming to know that there is so much love for cats ♥

Hormone dangers for pets

The *New York Times* recently reported on the risks to pets of hormone creams used by women to counter the symptoms of menopause. A number of vets reported that desexed dogs and cats were displaying symptoms that resembled the animals being on heat.

"Dr Richard Fried, owner of the Lincoln Square Veterinary Hospital in Manhattan, said he recently saw two cats that seemed to go back into heat after spaying by a different vet. Tests in one cat showed high blood levels of estrogen, but before he could spay it again, the cats' breeder suggested the culprit might be the owner's hormone treatment." (*New York Times* 25 October 2010).

A check with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website confirms that the FDA 'has also received reports of inadvertent exposure in pets' [as well as children].

A quick search of the internet showed there are many readily available hormone creams on the market, without prescription. As well as advising any person to seek the advice of a doctor or pharmacist before starting a therapy, remember that any topical cream your pets might lick from your skin is potentially dangerous. Just as you wouldn't leave tablets lying around for your pets to eat, please be very careful about using topical treatments that could be toxic or produce adverse reactions if ingested by your cat.



Feline Services Manager Nerida as the Egyptian goddess Bast



Spooky treats for Open Day (Under the Blue Moon & Halloween)



Op Shop stall on Open Day/Under the Blue Moon festival

CARING FOR CATS SINCE 1988



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Festive season

As we now head into the festive season, there are a few things to remember about keeping your home safe for kitty.

Dangerous items include tinsel (keep it out of reach of kittens especially); electric cords from lights; pine needles (these can be toxic and cause physical internal damage if ingested); and any other small items that can be swallowed by a curious cat or kitten. You might like to decorate your cat's scratch pole with some safe fabric catnip toys and have a pot or vase of beautiful native (non-toxic) bottlebrush to give your home a festive feel.

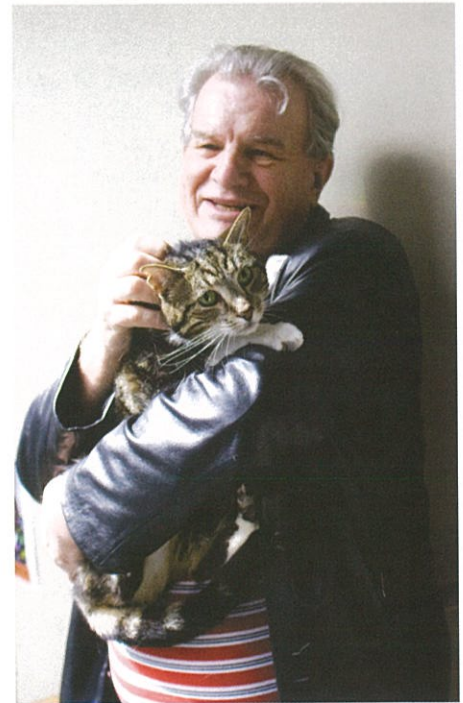
Popular Christmas plants such as holly, mistletoe and poinsettia are all highly toxic to cats and best avoided.

Never leave a room with lit candles unattended and remember, you aren't doing your cat any favours if you give them table scraps – salty hams, rich gravies and so on are not good for your cat. If you wish to give your cat a treat at Christmas, then you might consider diced quality beef (make sure any raw meat is absolutely fresh) but really, the best Christmas present you can give your cat is extra time, love and attention.

If your home is particularly busy over the holidays make sure you have a quiet room where your cat can have time out. If your cat isn't used to so much activity, and particularly if they are normally indoors-only, they might seek solace outside and become lost, so make sure they wear a collar and tag with your phone number. Cats and dogs can be especially frightened by fireworks so it's important to keep them securely inside on New Year's Eve.

Other things to be aware of over the summer season are ticks (run your hands closely over your cat's coat daily to check for ticks), heatstroke and sunburn. Simple measures like making sure your cat has plenty of fresh water (put ice cubes in the bowl to keep it cool through the day), cool and shady spots to rest, and keeping them indoors in the hottest part of the day will minimise those risks.

From all of us at Cat Protection, happy holidays and all best for the New Year.



The Rev Bill Crews with Cat Protection (then) resident Sydney

World Animal Day

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our talks on World Animal Day and a very special thank you to the Rev Bill Crews for conducting a blessing service for our cats. Rev Crews told us that the Exodus Foundation supported a special community of cats as well as their human clients. All the cats have been desexed and are fed and cared for by both staff and clients of Exodus. It is a touching example of how important cats are to us.

This picture shows Rev Crews with Sydney, who has since been adopted. In fact, most of the cats present at the blessing are now in loving forever homes. We've had so many adult cats rehomed in recent times – they truly were blessed. May St Francis continue to watch over our cats!



We came across this wonderful story in an old issue. We thought it was well worth sharing even though some of you may have read it 26 years ago!

How a cat helped with the diagnosis of a health problem

One of our members thought she was heading for a nervous breakdown. For no explainable reason she became tired, irritable, lost weight and felt very depressed. These symptoms continued for sometime despite medication and treatment.

Then her cat became ill; tests by the vet revealed that the cat was suffering from lead poisoning. Knowing that our member had also been concerned about her own state of health, the vet suggested that she have tests and it was found that she too, had lead toxicity.

In retrospect, she realised that when redecorating the old home she had bought, she scraped the old paint off the walls of a room with the door closed to prevent the dust from penetrating the rest of the house. While so doing, she must have inhaled the dust from the paint which contained lead.

Thanks to 'pussy' she is now well on the way to recovery.

Cat Affairs, December 1984.

SCRATCHING POST

Hi

My husband and I adopted Spesh yesterday and she has been doing very well. She was a bit shy when she got her home; we were worried she might be missing her sister. But after dinner she was so energetic, we spent an hour playing with her and she wanted to play again before bed time. We were so tired that we had to leave her and she finally fell asleep on my fave Ikea bathroom mat.

She started "talking" around 5:30 this morning, I thought she was hungry, but she wasn't, she was just lying on her back wanting a belly rub. She just finished her breakfast and is now asleep.

Thanks

Sonia



Pebbles and Bam Bam

Hi

Here are some photos of our two new babies Pebbles and Bam Bam. They have settled into our home very well and are really appreciative of us keeping them together! We are enjoying them immensely and they have the perfect temperaments for us, as they love being cuddled and held - but are still very playful and adventurous!

Thanks for all your assistance. Wish I could come back and take another couple, but then I really would be a mad cat woman!

Kind regards

Jill



Spesh

Hi

Just wanted to say a big thank you. We adopted a cat called Waffles from you 10 years ago and it was the best thing we have ever done. She is absolutely spoilt with a six-level scratching post to play with among many other toys.

My mum recently went through cancer and Waffles was a fantastic comfort to her. Again, thank you for the work that you do and we hope people continue to adopt cats from you.

Regards

Paula



Hi there

We adopted Leo and wanted to let you know he has settled in really well. He is eating, playing and most importantly purring. Our two boys think he is the best kitten ever!

Thanks again, especially Bronwyn, for helping us find this gorgeous little cat.

Regards

The Dows



Leo

Hi CPS

We ended up renaming Stevie (though we liked her name) to Scrabble. We really love her; she's a great cat with tons of personality and the exact kind of friend we were looking for. She's super- chatty and friendly and nothing seems to bother her, she also likes playing soccer. Here are a few pictures of what she's been up to. The last one she's even checking out Facebook and seeing who else has found a home (Yay for Tinkerbell!)

Thanks for all your hard work CPS, thanks also to Naomi and Sam for their help on our two visits. We look forward to dropping by sometime to pick up supplies. ☺

Kind regards

Shereen, Lydia & Scrabble

SCRATCHING POST

Hi

We adopted our kitten last year and named him Lolli. He has settled in very well and is getting along famously with our dog, climbing her tail and swatting her nose, then running under something so Candy (the dog) can't reach her.

He is growing very quickly and we will be sure to keep you updated.

Belinda & Greg



Lolli and Candy the Dog

Dear Cat Protection

This is Dusty who we adopted in October 2009 as a 9 week old. She is playful and skittish and lots of fun. She is an indoor cat but does like adventures outdoors in the "jungle".

The kids (and us) love her and she is a lovely addition to our family. Even the Grandparents come over to visit her rather than us!

By the way, the fish tank now has a cover on it!

Kathryn & John

Dusty



Zazu and Rafiki

Dearest CPS'ers

Zazu and Rafiki have made our house a home. Thank you so much for providing the service you do. Where would these gorgeous fluff balls be otherwise?

Cheers & thanks again

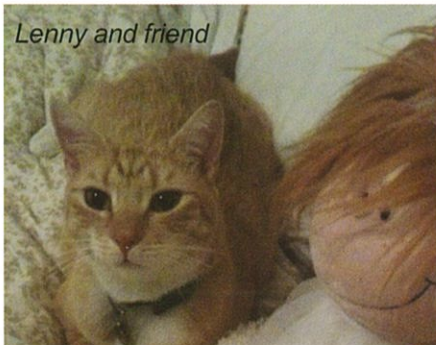
Jane

Hi Ellen

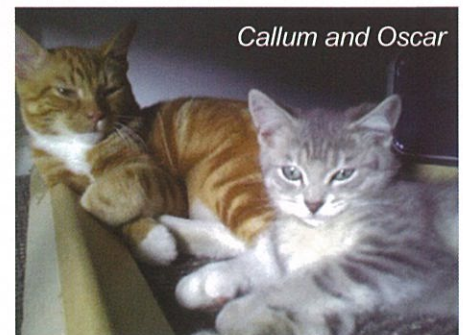
Here's a picture of Callum (ginger) and Oscar under my bed.

Thanks again for your help.

Luke



Lenny and friend



Callum and Oscar

Hi there

Lenny brought his girlfriend home from a date the other night. Should we tell her she's wasting her time?

Kind regards

Rob



SCRATCHING POST



Smudge and Charby

Hi there

Just wanted to drop you a line to let you know how we're getting on in our new home. We've managed to train the smaller people quite well now to stroke us every time we come over to them and to play with us whenever we're awake. The bigger ones got the hang of letting us curl up in their laps right from the first night, which was pretty nice.

Thanks again for rescuing us, introducing us to this family and letting them bring us to our forever home. It's looking like a pretty good life for us both now! We hope you keep up the great work and make a lot of other cats as happy as we are.

Purrs and smooches
Smudge & Charby

PS Cath, Paul, Jay & Lexie all send their thanks too!

Hey Guys

Trim is settling in well, my older cat is slowly accepting him. He eats for two, which is sometimes cause for some disagreement between them. 😊

He has a lovely character, very playful, knows no fear and seems very happy.

Regards

Roderick



Trim

Dear all

Here is a photo of Ginger. She is not an easy cat to photograph as she won't keep still and runs towards me all the time when I get close!

She is feeling a bit hot at the moment and likes to lie on the cold kitchen floor to keep cool (often I join her!). When it's not too hot she sleeps on my bed and wakes me up in the morning with a purr and a meow for breakfast.

She loves to chase a piece of string and runs around the house after it. She is a lovely cat and so affectionate and I am loving having her around.

Regards

Michelle



Ginger



To my carers at Cat Protection

Love my new home, not quite so talkative anymore, have my own room and lots of toys. I'm still as curious and playful as ever.

I've sent a photo so you can see how much I've grown.

Purrr

Lilly/ Lilith



IN MEMORIAM



Hazel

In memory of beautiful, old loving Hazel, who was given companionship, love and dignity to the very end.

Thank you, Penelope, for your compassion and your courage in caring for Hazel. Give Leonard hugs from us.

Hazel will be missed but not forgotten.
CPS staff & volunteers



Gizzy

Please accept this donation in memory of Maureen, who loved all creatures great and small, and Gizzy the beautiful blue-eyed boy who passed away, aged 19 years, 26 September 2009.

Thank you for all the wonderful work you do.
Gwen

CAT PROTECTION OPENING HOURS

Office and Adoptions: 103 Enmore Road, Newtown

Office: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday Tel: 9519 7201

Adoptions: 11am to 2.30pm, Sunday to Friday; 10am to 3.30pm Saturday
Tel: 9557 4818

Op Shop: 105 Enmore Road, Newtown Tel: 9516 2072
The Op Shop is generally open between 10am and 4pm, seven days a week. If closed, donations can be left next door at the Cat Protection Office

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