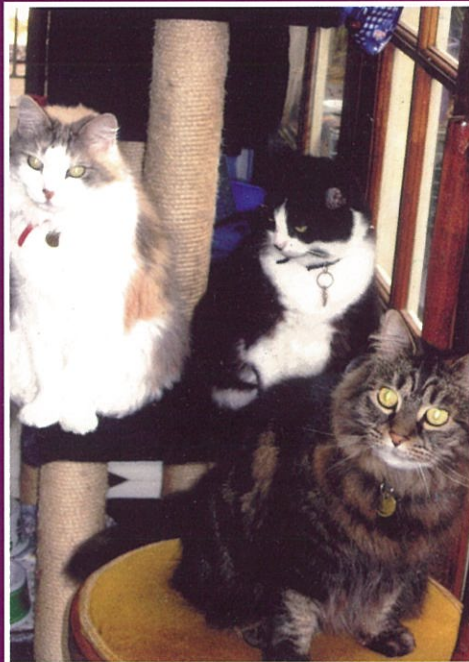


Cat[★]Affairs

Winter 2010
ISSN 1834-870X

JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW



Kitten Kaboodle 2010





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Cover photographs – Kitten Kaboodle entries; clockwise from top left: Danielle Horton, Kim Rodd, Jonathan Allott, Polly Rickard, Lisa Schollum, Karen Brothers, Kaye Maresso, Warwick Harty, Danielle Horton.

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Council Report

Thank you everyone for your generous response to our appeal for donations to help purchase new accommodation for our cats. We're thrilled to say that we have now replaced all the old units and our cats are enjoying their new, spacious and cosy condominiums. The units are not only comfortable for the cats but enable excellent infection control which is so important in a multi-cat environment.

While our cats are lucky enough to have good accommodation, it's not so easy for many pet-loving Sydneysiders. The availability of affordable housing (to buy or rent) is limited and then even further limited when seeking pet-friendly accommodation. This leads to many broken hearts and broken feline-human families.

Recently we accepted the surrender of a much-loved family cat. Her people had been refused permission to keep her in their new home. With heavy hearts, they trusted us to find a new loving home for her. A couple of weeks later, they came back. They told us they couldn't live without her and decided to break the lease and find a new pet-friendly home many suburbs away from where they had lived – because they couldn't live without their feline friend. Fortunately, their baby had not yet found a new home and we were blessed to witness a joyous family reunion.

While this story has a happy ending, too many do not. People forced to give up their cats because of pet-unfriendly accommodation can't always change their circumstances to reverse the outcome. They experience sorrow, loss and grief. The cats grieve because they miss the people who loved them. Though we do everything we can to help the cats adjust to shelter life and then match them with the right people so they can start a new life in a loving home it would be best for all – cats and people – if they never had to separate.

Landlords, strata corporations – have a heart. Cats make great tenants. Help people and their cats stay together.



Kitten Kaboodle 2010



Our annual photo competition was another success with nearly 200 entries, the quality of which was described by our professional photographer judges – Danielle Lyonne from Animax Photography and Phil Blatch from the *Inner West Courier* – as ‘exceptionally high’.

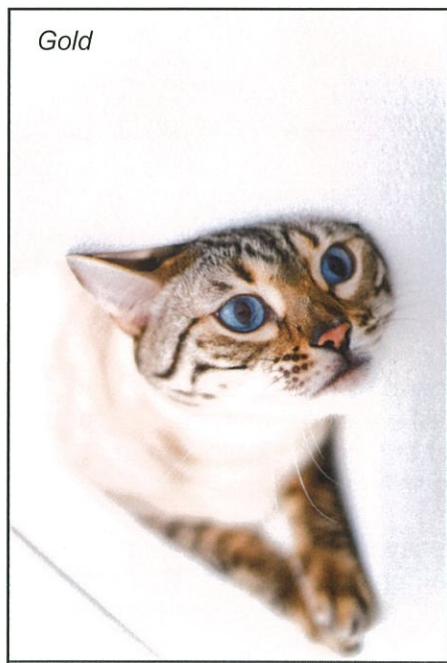
Our winners were:

Best in show:	Allana Flynn-O’Neile, for Kitty Baxter
Gold:	Jackie Chan, for Sherpa
Silver:	David Carroll, for Mia
Bronze:	Ula Zammit, for Heidi
President’s Pick:	Janet Robinson, for Toto- and - Antony Davies, for Kokoda

The People’s Choice award was voted for by those attending the opening night at Buzzzbar Café, and this went to
Aria Lee, for Cinnamon’s Angry Eyes

Equal first for the Kids Club competition were
Tiffany Ampherlaw and Lauren Switzer

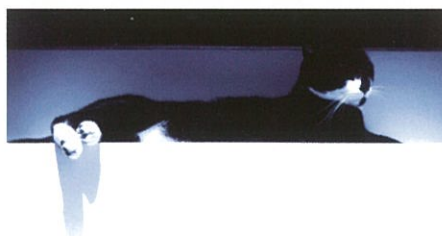
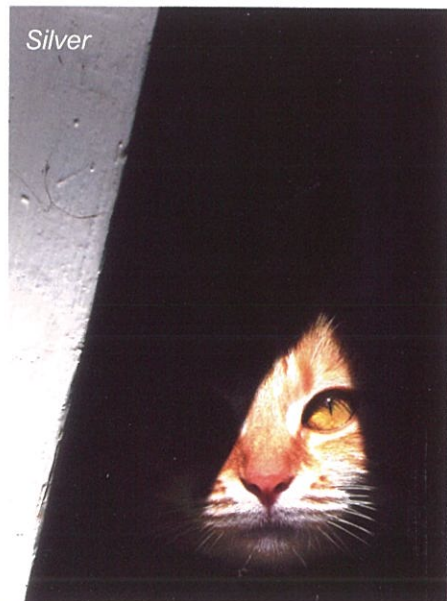
Gold



Best in show



Silver



Kitten Kaboodle is one way we meet our mission of honouring the unique relationship between people and cats. And it is a unique relationship, one that dates back some 10,000 years.

Last year, *Scientific American** reported that the earliest evidence suggesting people kept cats as pets dates back 9,500 years to Cyprus, with the discovery of a person buried with some stone tools, a lump of iron oxide, a handful of seashells and, in their own tiny grave just 40 centimetres away, an eight-month old cat, their body oriented in the same westward direction as the



The competition is made possible with the generous support of sponsors and we especially thank: Animax Photography; Koru framing; Masterpet; Hill's Pet Nutrition; Bayer Animal Health; Sydney Animal Hospitals; Stokes Mischewski; Taronga Zoo; Bessie & George at Buzzzbar; and Sascha Klave for his beautiful music.

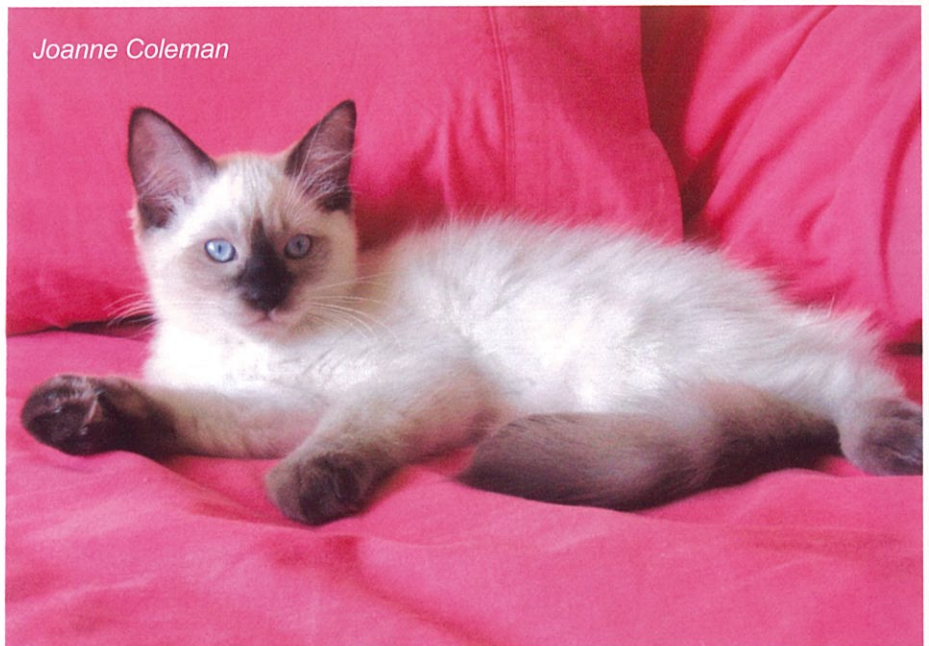
Our domestic cats are the descendants of one sub-species of wildcat, *Felis silvestris lybica*, which originated in the Middle East. It is believed that these cats joined those first human settlements in the part of the Middle East known as the Fertile Crescent.

And here's the big difference between cats and other domesticated animals: it seems that they chose people as much as people chose them ... which would come as no surprise to any cat lover.

Here was a source of food – now that people settled in one place and agriculture developed, so did grain storage ... and so the house mouse evolved. There were also food scraps and sources of warmth and shelter. Natural selection favoured those cats adaptive to living around people, although cats retained (and retain today) their hunting abilities.

Interestingly, it is also theorised that the appearance of wildcats, their large eyes, snub face and high forehead – that like babies, they evoked a nurturing response in people. This appeal – especially of kittens – would have proved irresistible to many who then took these cats into their homes, and so our relationship with cats began.

Joanne Coleman



Judy Brinsley



Judy Brinsley



Kitten Kaboodle 2010

Sandra Smith



Kay Goon

In contrast, other animals were domesticated for a purpose – work or food, typically – and other animals were largely pack or herd animals, so people took on the role of ‘alpha’ or leader. Cats aren’t pack animals. Although they will happily co-exist and tend to form groups, they are solitary hunters. You can’t pick off their leader and supplant them – they’re individualistic.

So essentially, we said “You’re beautiful, we want you around because you’re lovely and as a bonus you keep the mice away” and they said “Food’s good, it’s warm in here ... if you’re nice to me, I think I’ll stay”.

And so it is today.

If a cat doesn’t like you, they won’t stay. You can’t tell a cat what to do. But if a cat likes you, you know that this is an extraordinary privilege because they’ve chosen to like you.

In our lives with cats, respect has to be mutual for the relationship to flourish.

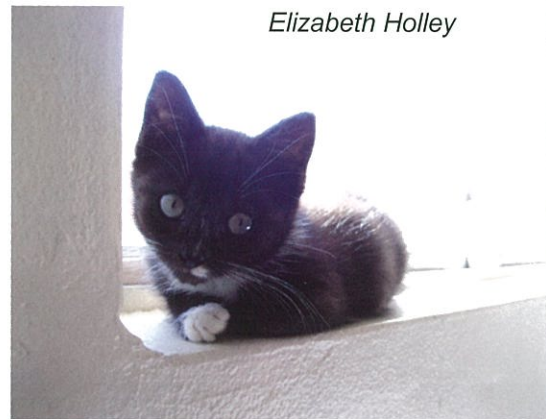
The beautiful images in Kitten Kaboodle show the depth of this 10,000 years long relationship. It is a joy for us all to celebrate.

*If you are interested in the full story ‘The taming of the cat’ appeared in *Scientific American* June 2009, pp68-75.

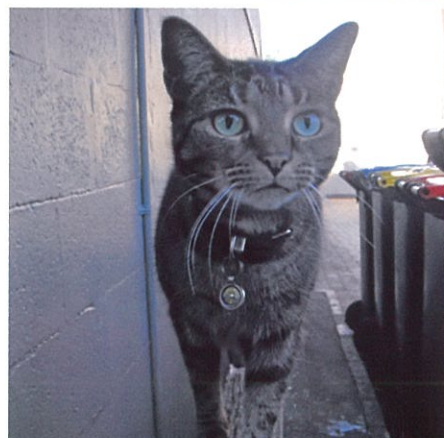
Richard Brunskill



Elizabeth Holley



Julie Corkery



CAT PROTECTION DIARY



Muriel and Daisy

Stitched with love

Thank you to Muriel Cooke for knitting beautiful blankets for our cats and kittens. Muriel's cousin Wendy is a regular volunteer with Cat Protection, and she has been knitting up a storm as well. Our cats love their cosy bedding. Here's Muriel with her lovely cat Daisy.

Grateful thanks also to Darleen Fawl and Stitching Hearts for the stunning handmade quilts for kittens and cats. Another craftswoman is our Feline Services Manager Nerida's grandmother, who has crocheted these amazing cats and is selling them to raise money for Cat Protection. And then, of course, there's Edith, who not only helps out at the Op Shop but has been knitting toy balls for us to sell and for our cats to play with for years now.

Thank you, ladies, for giving the benefit of your talents to our beautiful cats.

New units get the paws up!

Cat Protection members came to the rescue with incredible generosity ensuring we could replace our old cat accommodation with these beautiful new feline-friendly units. With two levels of perches, interconnecting rooms for pairs of cats, ventilation, Perspex windows and superb design for infection control, these new units are the cat's pyjamas.

While the cats spend most of their days exploring the cattery, playing chasings or just relaxing in a sunny corner on a day bed, in the evenings they retire to their private suites for dinner and sleep. As you can see, our cats have given their new condos the paws up and send you all grateful purrs for your kindness.



To my owner

Rebekah Mitchell-Matthews

If I had a cat enclosure
You'd always have me near
I could wander inside and out
And you'd never need to fear.

If I had a cat enclosure
You'd know exactly where I was
I could still enjoy the warming sun
Without upsetting dogs.

If I had a cat enclosure
I'd be a lot safer at nights
I could still enjoy the brilliant moon
Without getting into fights.

If I had a cat enclosure
Those little creatures in the trees
Would be much happier
And I could still enjoy the breeze.

If I had a cat enclosure
It would keep me off the roads
And give me a secure, sheltered place
When your door is firmly closed.

And last but not least,

If I had a cat enclosure
I'd no longer hassle birds
And you'd be assured to have gardens free
Of all my yucky ... !

Thank you Rebekah for this wonderful poem; what a delight! If your cat is telling you a similar story, we have free do-it-yourself instructions on how to build cat enclosures on our website (www.catprotection.org.au under 'Cat care' – 'Responsible cat ownership') or inquire with suppliers such as Catnip Enclosures or CatMax.



CATS visit cats

On 27 May, we had a very special visitor to our cattery when Brian Gillespie, who played Coricopat in the recent production of CATS at the Lyric Theatre, dropped by to play with some real cats. A tortie-tabby whose fur looked remarkably similar to Brian's costume found it a bit too much to come face-to-face with such an enormous feline and retreated to a corner but all the other cats thought it was great fun.

Our lovely Brock settled in nicely for a photo but said he was too tired to sign autographs.



Moggies number one in New South Wales

According to figures released by the NSW Minister for Local Government, Barbara Perry, domestic cats (moggies) are the most popular cat in the state, with almost 300,000 of them registered.

Second on the list of most popular breeds in NSW is the Burmese with 19,092 and third is the Ragdoll, with 9,909 registered.

Division of Local Government data show a total of 407,395 cats are owned in NSW, with the highest numbers owned in the Blacktown local government area (13,476), followed by Lake Macquarie (12,980) then Sutherland Shire (12,431).

Minister Perry said that while many cats were lucky to live in loving homes, unfortunately too many end up in council pounds and shelters.

"Desexing your cat, getting them microchipped and registered are all important ways to be a responsible pet owner. If your cat goes missing it makes council's job much easier to return them to your home," she said.

"And these efforts will have the flow on effect of helping bring down the numbers of pets in pounds."

Top cat breeds in NSW

1. Domestic – 296,512
2. Burmese – 19,092
3. Ragdoll – 9,909
4. Siamese – 7,035
5. Persian – 6,421
6. Himalayan – 5,464
7. Birman – 4,993
8. British Shorthair – 4,716
9. Tonkinese – 2,442
10. Russian Blue – 2,126



Siamese



Persian



Domestic shorthair kittens



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SCRATCHING POST

Hi

This is Blackberry, who was called Cairo when we adopted her last year. She's turned into a beautiful, loving, happy (if a little chubby!) cat and we love her dearly.

Regards
Jackie

Hello Cat People

We adopted Lucy and Socks last December. Lucy was only 5 months old and she makes us laugh every single day. We are quite besotted. She loves to explore in the garden and play with her toys and she has a VERY healthy appetite.

Socks was 10 years old but she settled in immediately and is a very sensible cat - she loves to bask in the sun and in front of the heater. They both get on very well with our 18 year old dog and have added so much life and love to our household. Thank you so much CPS!

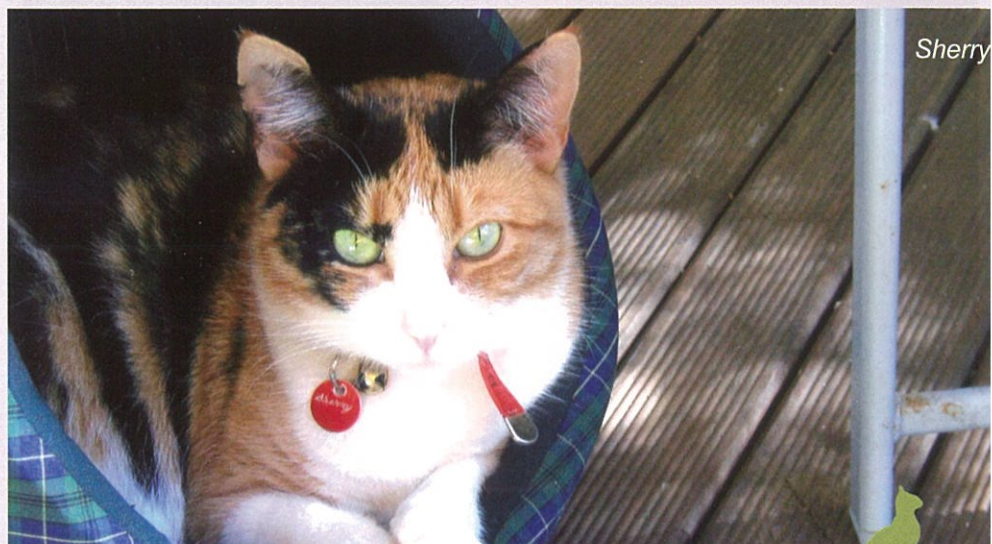
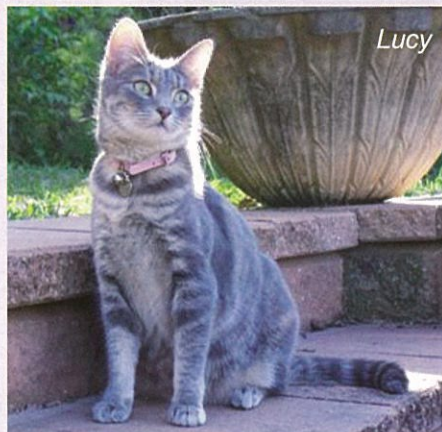
Liz & Jannice

Dear CPS

I adopted Sherry from you in February 2008. She is great company and a source of joy in my life. She is lying close by on the bed in the spare room as I type this letter to you. She has trained me quite well and I respond to most of her calls. You can see how happy and healthy she is.

Please find enclosed a cheque to help continue the wonderful work you do.

Julie



SCRATCHING POST

Hi Ellen and everyone

The boys are settling in well, they are such sweet natured cats.

Poncho especially is just thriving, and only after 3 nights. He has certainly made himself at home – wandering into the lounge room and just flopping over in the middle of the floor – so relaxed. He's been sleeping on our bed at night too :-)

Oscar is being a little wary... He was super affectionate on Saturday when we had them confined to the sunroom, but once he was allowed to wander the flat he went a little bit into his shell. From yesterday he is getting much more used to us, so I know he'll be fine.

They are like a couple of teenage boys; they tear down the hall (sounding like a train at high speed!) and skid out into the room – have a wrestle – then tear back!

Thank you so much for loving the boys for so long. We feel very lucky to have found them.

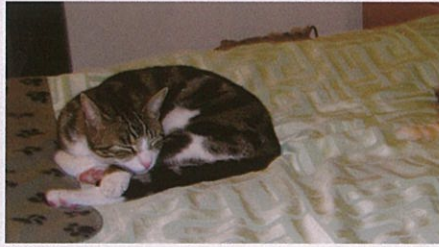
Love Sarah, Andy & Oli (a 6 year old who went from not caring much for animals at all, to the world's biggest cat lover in the space of an afternoon). xxx

Hi Cat Protection team

A friend of mine recently adopted a cat and said how much you liked to receive photos of cats who used to be in your care - so I thought I'd let you see how happy mine are doing. I adopted Billy Bob and Loula May from you in 2006. Loula had feline Lipidosis earlier this year and fortunately recovered completely after spending several weeks on a feeding tube. They are both still the best of friends.

Keep up the good work!

Alex



Oscar



Poncho



Billy Bob and Loula May



Merlin

Hello

Thanks for the call to see how Merlin and Misty (was Wanda) have settled in! They are both such lovely cats and really love playing together and tearing round the house chasing after each other. Merlin went from very shy and hiding under the table when he arrived to completely

confident and affectionate, which has been very satisfying to see! We really feel like the place is a home rather than a house and want to thank you for all your help and patience while we decided which of the many beautiful cats to take home with us!

Haidee & Dan

SCRATCHING POST

A big hello from Perth!

Wanted to send you an update on how my move to Perth went back in April. Kit travelled on the plane well, and loves his new home. He handled the big move better than I did! I am working at a senior citizens centre and last week Kit came to work with me and he loved meeting all the new people. The seniors spent the afternoon giving him pats and lots of cuddles. It was a good day for him! So glad I got to spend time with everyone (humans and cats) at CPS, I really enjoyed my time there, and having Kit with me in Perth is so wonderful. We are a happy family. I miss volunteering at CPS and hope all is going well there!

Mary



Kit and Mary



Ruby Belle

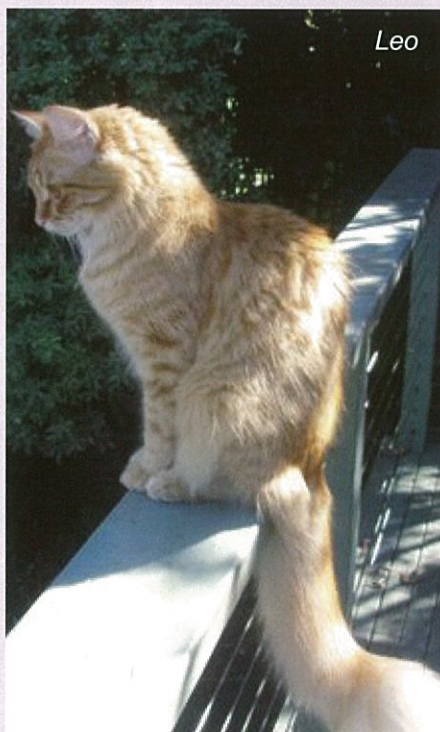


Molly
(previously Dawn)

Hi Chanel

Here is a photo of Molly (previously named Dawn) needing a bit of encouragement and reassurance (me too). She loves her rubs and scratches. I am waiting for her to get better so she'll let me scratch her tummy again ... it's so cute and one of her favourite things. Can't wait to send you a photo of that, especially given how timid she was at CPS.

Julia



Leo

Hi CPS

This is my beautiful Ruby Belle.

Regards

Julia

Hello

We adopted Leo into our family last year on the 13th July. He is doing very well and is much loved by all the family (and the neighbours love him too, which helps when we have the odd weekend away).

Regards

Linda



SCRATCHING POST

Hi Naomi

Here is Julius relaxing on the kitchen floor. He is totally at ease with the other animals in the house. He is a funny cat, he likes to have doors open not closed we've noticed. He's quite a character!

Natalie



Julius

Hi Ellen

Marmalade has been renamed Molly and this is her new best friend Missy. She is very happy and spoilt and loves her new home (especially the Catmax). Thank you for helping us choose the ideal cat.

Paul & Leonie



Molly and Missy

To the lovely staff

We wanted to drop you a note to let you know how Isabelle's been doing. She's now named Morgan Le Fay. From the moment we brought her home, she settled right in, taking over the entire unit. She loves to watch TV, knock anything she can off a table (especially the computer mouse), chase the water down the shower screen in the bathroom and lets us know loudly when she doesn't like something.

One of her favourite things to do while we're asleep is jump through the blinds and sit in the window in the bedroom, watching the world go by. Once she's had enough of that, Morgan balances on the edge of the windowsill and then launches herself on top of me with a loud miaow. By the time I wake up and realise what she's up to, she's settled in on the end of the bed and is fast asleep!

Gisele



Morgan le Fay (Isabelle)

SCRATCHING POST



Hi

We adopted Hunter a few weeks ago and he has settled in wonderfully. He is eating massive amounts and putting on weight by the day. Looks like he might be a big cat in time.

Many thanks

Dave & Emma

Hunter

Dear CPS

Here are some pictures of Cara and Jace. They both settled into the home very quickly. Cara has definitely come out of her shell. She ate some meat off my hand the second day here and has become more relaxed around us. She has also been playing a lot, especially with Jace, and exploring the house. Jace adapted to his new environment extremely well and was purring hours after arriving. He even slept with me that night.

I think that both of them are loving their new home as well as the love they are being given. Thank you for all the care that you gave them.

Rachel, Barry & Jenny

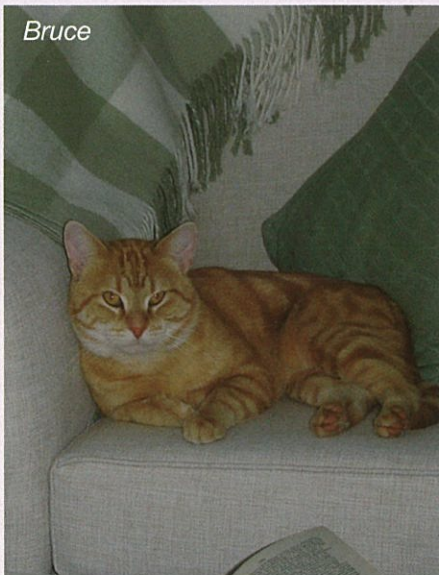


Cara and Jace

Dear Kristina

I love looking at all the beautiful and much loved cats in Scratching Post. This is my Misty. To me a cat is the most perfect animal and they make loving companions.

Mabs



Bruce

Hi guys

Here's a recent picture of Bruce the Cat. He is a wonderful, affectionate, loving and very interactive pussycat, who we love dearly.

We're both avid readers and Bruce loves to curl up on our laps in the reading chair. We often find him curled up there by himself, as you can see from the photo.

A big thank you to the staff at Enmore Road for adding joy to our family.

Ruth



Misty

SCRATCHING POST

Dear CPS

We'd like to thank you for introducing us to Jerry, our new little boy. We've never had a ginger cat before, and have been told they are different from cats of other colours. Well, he certainly is!

He can be a little terror at times - tormenting our other cat Willow, bouncing on the bed while you're trying to get a few extra minutes sleep and attacking any limbs that may have escaped the sheets. He's also figured out that if he jumps on your stomach, it makes your feet move! But he's so cute, you can't be cranky for long.

He loves his kitten food, he loves Willow's food, he loves our food and has a nice round barrel tummy (but not too round - although we'll need to keep check on that)!

Chris & Geoff

I duped my new slaves really well - at the CPS I was really cute, cuddled nicely and purred continuously. Now I've got myself this new cushy pad where the Feds can't find me, I'm laughing all the way to the food bowl.

The big cat thinks there're 100s of me as I whizz around the house so fast. I've confiscated all the toys, the scratching post, the tunnel, the bed, the sofa, and make sure everyone knows I'm around by purring so loudly they have to turn the volume up on the telly.

One day, the big cat was showing off on the house roof and fell off. I knew she was alright, but she put it on for a while. They coddled her and fussed, putting her on the big bed to convalesce, but I knew better, so I bounced all around her to show them that all she did was break a little claw!

Now all I have to do is figure out how to get out of the cat enclosure....

Jerry



Max

Hello

Nearly 15 years ago my husband and I visited Cat Protection at Parklea and took home two gorgeous kittens - one grey and one ginger. The joy they gave us was unbelievable. Unfortunately, Thomas, the little grey one, was diagnosed with Lymphoma at 10 years of age and four years on our magnificent ginger Max was diagnosed with the same thing. After moving to Melbourne, we didn't have a local vet but the most wonderful vet Darren Foster at DASH in Sydney found us a fantastic cat-only vet in Melbourne who has been treating Max for nearly nine months. It has been very hard all round. We've had emergency rushes to specialists in the early hours of the morning, time in and out of hospital, then finally, two weeks ago, we were told Max is in remission. He is such a fighter and never gives up; he just purrs and wants his cuddles all the time. He really has a lot to bear for as well as the cancer he is diabetic, and his days are needles and pills and he takes them all without any fuss whatsoever. How lucky were we to decide to go to Parklea all those years ago.

Sue



Dear Cat Protection

Here is a photo of young Jake. He was certainly a troubled and, let's be frank, troublesome cat, but is now a very loved and loving animal. We don't know what traumas he experienced in the past but before I adopted him he had been twice surrendered to Cat Protection for behavioural reasons. Jake is the sixth cat I have had in my lifetime and he has probably been the most work. It's been worth it to find the loving heart inside him and enjoy the happy animal he has become. While he still sometimes cries in his sleep - as old griefs surface? - he is essentially a happy and certainly a very loved cat. Thank you for introducing us!

Pamela

Thank you, Pamela, for your extraordinary patience, compassion, love and commitment that has enabled dear Jake to flourish. As a shelter, we see a number of cats who have experienced cruelty or neglect and are deeply traumatised by their pasts. Our volunteers and staff do all we can to show these cats love and to try to rebuild their trust but it is only in forever, loving homes that they can truly find peace. It is a privilege to be a part of these cats' journeys to happiness. Our deepest thanks to all those people who have taken on the challenges of adopting distressed cats, and to all our members and supporters for making it possible for us to provide refuge to these cats until they find those special people who will give them their hearts and homes forever.

IN MEMORIAM



Bootsie

Poor old Bootsie (or was his name Socks?) has passed away.

He was a stray but was everyone's friend and inhabited the park in Petersham Street and just loved car bonnets in the cold weather. Various people fed him and one kind guy even got him a collar ID with his number on it just in case.

Another Petersham landmark has gone to that big cattery in the sky.

John

Today is the 4th anniversary of my Smokey's death. This particular donation is in memory of Smokey. My Sooty approves too.

Amy



Carla



Carla helping mummy cat nurse

In memory of Carla, the Mother Teresa of the cat world. Two years ago on the 25th April - gone too soon. Such a beautiful soul, had so much love to give. One of your CPS cats and the mother of the kitten, Astrid, on the cover of Winter 2008 *Cat Affairs*.

She was a surrogate to the kittens in these pictures; none were her own.

Kanelli

In loving memory of
Trixie Belle.

Margaret

Please accept this donation.
Ginger passed away on
Sunday, am heartbroken.

Maria



Goldy

A donation in memory of my brother Chris who I lost suddenly last May and Goldy whose 5th anniversary was 1 March.

Carmel

I just lost my beautiful cat, Missy, over 20 years old. She was fretting for my pet dog whom she loved and bullied. He died in his sleep. I love animals and am crazy with grief.

Una



CAT PROTECTION OPENING HOURS

Office and Adoptions:

103 Enmore Road, Newtown

Office hours:

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

Adoption hours:

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

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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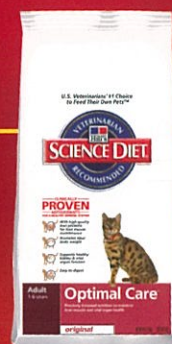
Spade's story

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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