

Cat[★]affairs

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JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW



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Michelle Minehan

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Registered Office & Postal Address:

103 Enmore Road
NEWTOWN 2042

General Inquiries:

Tel: 9519 7201

Fax: 9557 8052

Adoptions:

Tel: 9557 4818

Email: info@catprotection.org.au

Web: www.catprotection.org.au

President:

Ms Rhonda House

Vice President:

Ms Suzanne Jenkins

Treasurer:

Mrs Nita Harvey

Secretary:

Mrs Angelika Elliott

Councillors:

Dr Dagmar Strohmaier

Mr Simon Stevenson

Mr John Holland

Graphics and Printing: KL Graphics 0408 679 045



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Cover photograph: Former Cat Protection cat Gizmo relaxing in the garden of her forever home.

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Council Report

Numbers are used a lot in reporting, whether it is for government or business, charity or even our domestic lives. Interest rates, profits and losses, academic results, house prices ... the list goes on. We have our own numbers to report – our annual financial statements presented at our AGM in November showed we ended the year with a surplus; that we rehomed almost 1,000 cats and kittens; helped with desexing about 2,000 cats in the community; and that we personally gave information or advice to some 5,000 human clients (additional to those who adopted) on feline health and welfare.

But it is the stories behind those numbers that really matter. The people who remembered us in their Wills because they loved cats and wanted to leave a legacy that would help cats in need, and the honour that is ours as we carry out their wishes. The people who crawled under cars and houses rescuing orphaned kittens because they could hear their mewling. The reassurance given by our staff to both the people and the cats who are forced to separate by circumstances outside their control. The families who freely give their time and love to provide a temporary home to stray mums and kittens so they can grow and thrive, and be ready to find forever homes of their own.

Our vets who will investigate all avenues for saving a cat whose prognosis looks hopeless and, when it is, giving the cat dignity and compassion in leaving the world – and when it isn't, partnering with us to nurse the cat back to health. Excited children eager to find a feline playmate and quiet people looking for a cat companion to share their days ... old people, young people, people who've always had cats and people for whom cats are new experience. Staff and volunteers' tears and joy at seeing long-term adoption centre residents finally finding a forever home.

Volunteers making the trip to do their shift at the Op Shop or the cattery even though it's raining, or a beautiful day for the beach. Facebook friends chatting about each other's cats and celebrating their wonderful antics. People making donations because they want to make a difference. Kittens making friends with other kittens and exhausting themselves playing in the courtyard. Wise and gentle cats reassuring new feline residents all will be well. Cats purring and cats looking out the window, dreaming. These are just some of the stories behind our numbers – unique, individual and every one of them counts.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rhonda House

President



CAT PROTECTION DIARY



Open Day

Our annual Open Day was a huge success this year with well over 100 visitors. Our theme was 'art' and we had poster displays of famous artists and their feline-inspired works, life drawing classes (feline model of course) with art teacher Jade Maguire, and face-painting by the amazing Fiona Kelly. We thank Jade and Fiona for donating their considerable talents (and if you're looking for a face-painter for your next party, you can contact Fiona on 0434 392 588).



Tareva-Chine



Matilda becomes a tiger

A highlight of the day was our exhibition and auction of Post-Meowdernity; a cat's pawspective – an inspiring collection of art created by Cat Protection kitties including Frida Katlo, Pawblo Picasso and Clawed Monet.

One of our fabulous vets, Dr Angela Phillips from Sydney Animal Hospitals Inner West, acted as auctioneer for the day. With plenty of passionate bidding, the artworks raised just over \$1,000 for Cat Protection.

"People think we just eat, sleep and scratch but we are deeply creative," Wassily Katinsky, one of the featured artists, told a Cat Protection interpreter. Camille Purrsarro explained her painting expressed every cat's yearning for a loving and responsible home.

A raucous former street cat, Catavaggio, drew upon memories of fighting for scraps of food. "The bright colours represent the objects of our desire while the blurred paint shows the many paws trying to grasp them," he growled.

If you missed out, we have beautiful postcards of the paintings for sale – a pack of 8 unique designs for just \$10. We also sell kits that you can use at home to help your moggy create their own masterpiece! The Cat Protection works were created by playing with our cats and non-toxic children's face paint; messy but fun, and the feline artists had a ball making their canvases.

Our raffle also helped us to raise funds on Open Day. We thank **Masterpet**, **Bayer** and **Hill's** for their generous support of our Open Day and also **Two Cat Ladies** who donated the first prize for the raffle.

Two Cat Ladies is an on-line boutique of cat-themed gifts, homewares, jewellery and accessories for cats and people alike. The two cat ladies are Cat Protection members and supporters Jacqui and Anna. They wanted to create a "haven of pretty things for cats and the people who love them" and it looks like they've succeeded. The bags and wallets are especially gorgeous. If you're searching for a Christmas gift for a friend or feline, or just want to treat yourself, go to www.twocatladies.com.au Two Cat Ladies have also donated the first prize for our Christmas raffle – tickets are available from our office >.<

Dr Angela Phillips auctioning kitty art



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Thank you to our volunteers

On the afternoon of Saturday 27 August at the Warren View Hotel in Enmore, Cat Protection gave thanks to our hardworking, generous volunteers. Foster caring mums and bubs; bottle feeding orphaned kittens in the middle of the night; stocking shelves and sorting donated goods; scrubbing kitty-litter trays; grooming cats; and giving kitties TLC – our volunteers' roles are many and varied. What they have in common is how important they are to the ongoing achievements of Cat Protection – without volunteers we couldn't help nearly as many cats as we do.

Our annual 'thank you' function for volunteers is not just our way of acknowledging their wonderful contribution but also a great opportunity for volunteers from different areas and different shifts to meet each other and share experiences. New friends are made and regular co-workers get a chance to chat over a drink instead of a washtub!

This year's event also celebrated Honorary Life Member, Edith Easton, who recently retired from the Op Shop after more than 30 years of dedicated service.

Receiving a huge round of applause, 93-year old Miss Easton said working in the community kept her young. You may have met her in the Op Shop or perhaps your cat plays with one of the lovely toys she has knitted for us.

An article in *Cat Affairs* in 1998 noted her great efforts on behalf of animals:

"Edith has been a tireless worker in our Op Shop since its inception in the late 70s and has had a life of giving herself in 'service'. She went into domestic work in England at 14 and worked as a parlourmaid in grand old houses in Southampton and Portsmouth. During the war she volunteered as an aircraft fitter – without the least idea what that entailed and ended up working as a semi-skilled fitter making Wellington bombers after three months training. Edith has been an animal rights campaigner her whole life. Since the age of 30 years, she has espoused vegetarianism, been active in anti-fur and anti-circus campaigns and still walks in the Walk for Animals every October."

We are deeply appreciative of everything Edith has done in the name of feline welfare. While her exuberance and wisdom will be greatly missed, she has inspired the values of community service in so many and her contribution continues through them. Thank you, Edith, and thank you to all our volunteers.



Volunteers relaxing at the Warren View



Edith receives her certificate of appreciation from Cat Protection President Rhonda House

CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Monster Garage Sale

A team of volunteers from research agency AMR helped our regular volunteers at the Cat Protection Op Shop 'Monster Garage Sale' on Saturday 24 September.

With so much wonderful stock and so little room, we decided it was time to roll up the garage door to Thurnby Lane (behind our Enmore Road shop) and let bargain hunters be treated to a treasure trove of vintage and contemporary goods including artworks, clothing, homewares, collectables, books and more.

Each year, the AMR Volunteer Group selects a charity project that aligns with their interests and then they get hands-on involved. AMR supports the team by making a donation of \$1,800 to the chosen charity. This year it was our lucky cats who were chosen.

AMR General Manager, Oliver Freedman said they were proud of the staff initiative. "It not only benefits the charities involved but allows the team to work together on really rewarding projects outside of the office. The event is a great day and we're really pleased to support the AMR Volunteer Group's long term commitment to the community."

The garage sale was a great success, with takings of more than \$2,000.

Thank you to the Op Shop volunteers who coordinated the day with Mina, and to AMR for their support.

Companion Animals Taskforce

The NSW Government has established a Companion Animals Taskforce, chaired by the Member for Charlestown, Andrew Cornwell, MP. Mr Cornwell is a veterinarian who ran a small animal practice in the Hunter so he brings valuable experience to this role.

The Taskforce was established to advise the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Don Page, MP and the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson, MP, on key companion animal issues. (The portfolio of Local Government has responsibility for the Companion Animals Act and Primary Industries has responsibility for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act as well as standards and guidelines for animal welfare).

Minister Don Page said "This Taskforce is part of the NSW Government's commitment to increasing both microchipping and desexing of cats and dogs, while



Monster Garage Sale



AMR volunteers enjoy some feline-time at the Adoption Centre

also reducing the number of unwanted animals and euthanasia rates in the State's council pounds.

"Recent statistics show that, of the animals arriving at NSW pounds each year, about one third of dogs and nearly 70 per cent of cats are euthanased.

"These are shocking statistics and the establishment of the Taskforce recognises the rights of tens of thousands of companion animals, and will ensure that their voice is heard in Parliament," Mr Page said.

The Cat Protection Society of NSW is represented on the Taskforce and we look forward to making a constructive contribution to its work. The Government is to be congratulated for recognising the desperate need for improvements to companion animal welfare. The work is in the early stages of fact-finding and clarifying issues but we are confident that change for good will emerge from this initiative.

SCRATCHING POST

Hi folks

I don't know exactly how we came to call him Harry, but it seemed to come naturally. He is a bit of a lad, and a source of endless amusement, now that he has come out of his shell.

He was extremely nervous the first week or two at home - spent most of the time hiding under the bed. At one point he was so well-hidden, behind the books in an open-sided bookcase, we thought we'd somehow lost him. But he eventually gave himself away by knocking out some books.

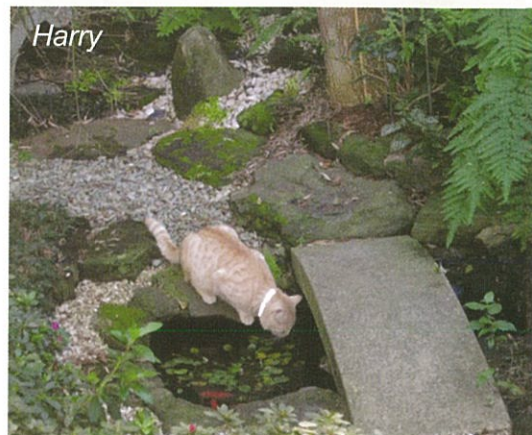
He loves attention and now has gone from being a recluse to a nearly constant companion: stand still for a moment and he's there, rubbing against the legs, and then falling over to demand a chin-rub and a stroking. It's impossible to do anything without Harry coming to see what's up, and wanting to "assist". It's quite interesting trying to paint whilst Harry is there making attacks on the brush

handles. Our biggest worry about Harry now is to not accidentally tread on him, so closely does he follow one around!

Once Harry was happy inside, we began to let him out into our small back garden area. He enjoys this a lot - you can almost see the "king of the jungle" fantasies going on in his head as stalks through the bushes and drinks at the fishpond. The fish themselves are quite safe - Harry definitely does not like the feel of water on his paws!

He now has a mate called Enzo (a Turkish Van) who wanders over during the day to steal any food still out but also to play. They have a hilarious time chasing each other around the house before Enzo dutifully goes home in time for afternoon curfew.

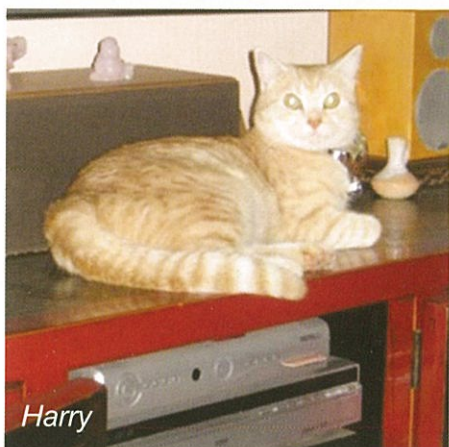
Harry is inside before dark, and usually has a pre-dinner toy mouse-savaging session



before crashing for the evening, sometimes watching a bit of TV.

Harry now seems to be very content and comfortable within this environment. He is quite a character; intelligent, amusing and very affectionate, and we can hardly imagine life "Before Harry". Thanks to you all for letting us have him.

All the best with our furry friends
Mark & Denise



Hi to all at the Cat Protection Society!

Here are some pictures of Daisy in her new home with Aliyah who, like us, loves her to bits. She is truly a beautiful cat!

Thank you

Martine & family



SCRATCHING POST



Tiger

Hey there

Here's a photo of my new cat Tiger in her favourite spot – a cushion on my desk where she can survey activity on the street. As I said to Naomi yesterday, she's doing great.

Sarah

Hi there

It is Samantha here; you used to know me as Charlee. Dad changed my name as I was heaps traumatised. I do not attack Dad now as he has loved me heaps and I now purr loudly all the time. I love my new house at Macquarie Fields. Check me out sleeping on Dad's bed.

Love Samantha xxxxxx

Samantha's email came to us via her lovely dad, Mark



Samantha

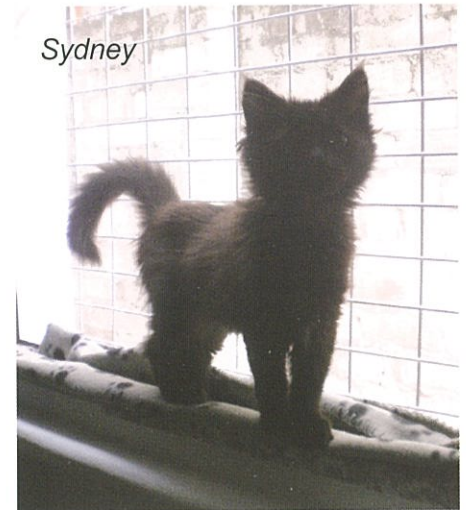
Hi Naomi

Thanks very much again for everything.

I've attached some pictures and video of our lovely girl Sydney, she is doing great. We are very happy and so is she.

My best

Ozgur



Sydney

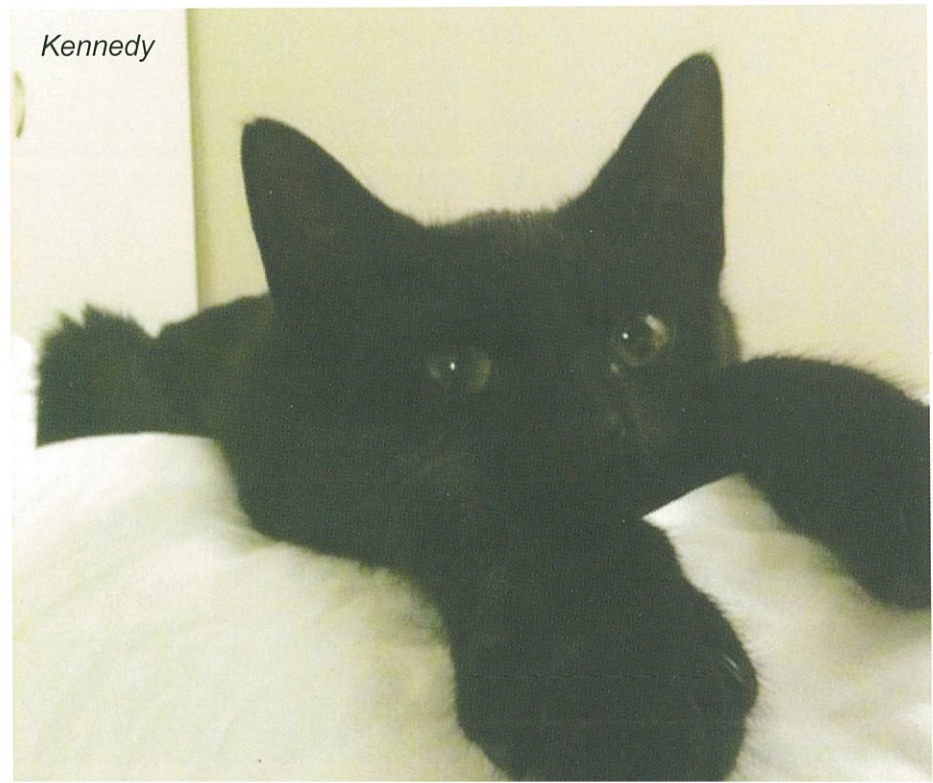
Hey there

Here are a few photos of Kennedy (aka Petal) who we adopted 3½ weeks ago. He's grown and gotten braver, but he's still very cute!

It took him 2 weeks to discover the 3rd dimension (the floor was his world until then), and now there's no stopping him. His daytime bed is a shelf with towels almost as high as the ceiling! Should I tell you about his mad romps on our bed at 4am? Something tells me it might be best to keep it to ourselves... :)

Thank you! We love our kitty-cat very much!

Giedre & Hamish



Kennedy

SCRATCHING POST

Dear Cat Protection

We adopted Pearl during May 2011 so she has now been with us for 6 months. She was surrendered as a stray so was very frightened when she first came to live with us but all of a sudden she is starting to come out of her shell.

She is such a beautiful little cat and we love her to death. She spends most of her time asleep on her blanket, on a pillow, on our spare bed. It's quite a nice place to be! We often wish we had her life and could spend a day at home in such a warm, comfy spot!

We still have a lots of work to do to earn her trust but it's small steps and so rewarding when we see her improving.

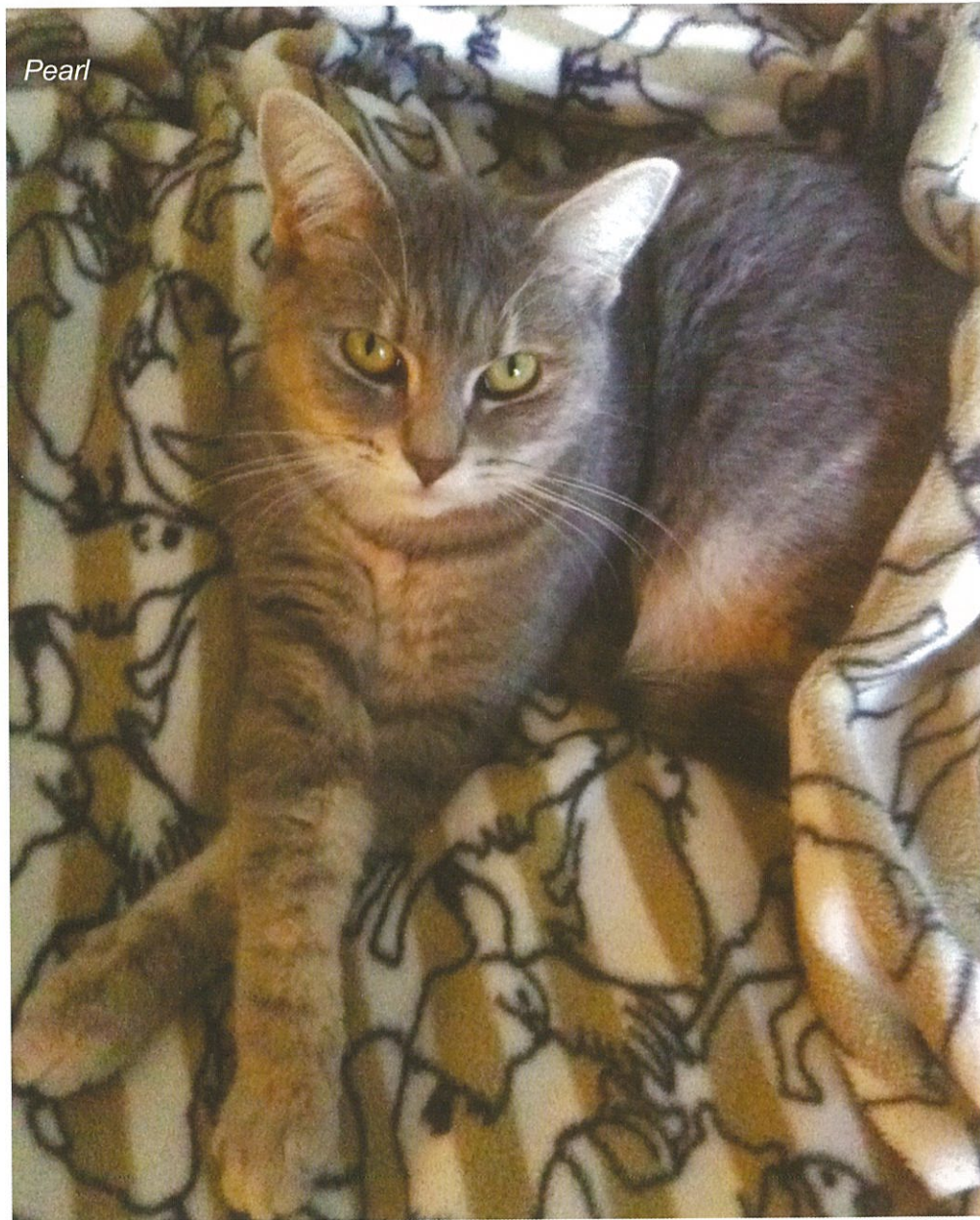
We recently bought her a brush as although she's a short haired cat she moults like crazy. We think this has helped her confidence with us as she loves it!

She has just started going outside and loves chasing lizards and her own shadow. She also loves having her tummy rubbed and goes into a trance like state.

We would encourage anyone considering adopting a cat to do so. Pearl has given us so much pleasure in the past six months and we couldn't imagine our lives without her.

Thank you for caring for her during the time she was at Cat Protection.

Fleur & Gregg



Pearl



Hi Adam

Thanks for your email. Whiskey/ Macavity is doing really well!

In the first week he was a little shy but it didn't take long before he started meowing and asking for pats. We're both very happy to have him in our lives. He's currently sitting on the windowsill (window is shut of course) keeping the pigeons on our neighbour's roof in check!

Thank you so much for letting us have Whiskey. He's truly special.

Cheers

Cathv & Phil



Whiskey



SCRATCHING POST

Hi Sam & everyone

Just to give you some feedback on how 'Bob' aka 'Benjamin' is going. He had the flu in the first week he was with us and after a quick trip to the vet, we had to keep him all alone and isolated for the first two weeks which he really quite enjoyed, I think, since he only saw Terry & me and not the other cats.

Then in week 3 we let him out of his room to get started in socialising with our other two cats, at his own pace.

Now after week 5, Cheech & Bob are inseparable. The play until all hours of the night, give each other baths and Bob eats more than the other two put together.

Matey (the older cat of 14 years) allows Bob to have a little cuddle if Bob is feeling a little lonely but in general has handed over the care and education of the little guy to Cheech (he is a 6 year old Bengal).

We think Bob will be a really big fluffy cat and a lap cat for Grandma when she visits. He has a very friendly personality but is still very shy with strangers. He follows us everywhere when we get home from work but hides under the couch if anyone comes to the door or visits us who he doesn't know.

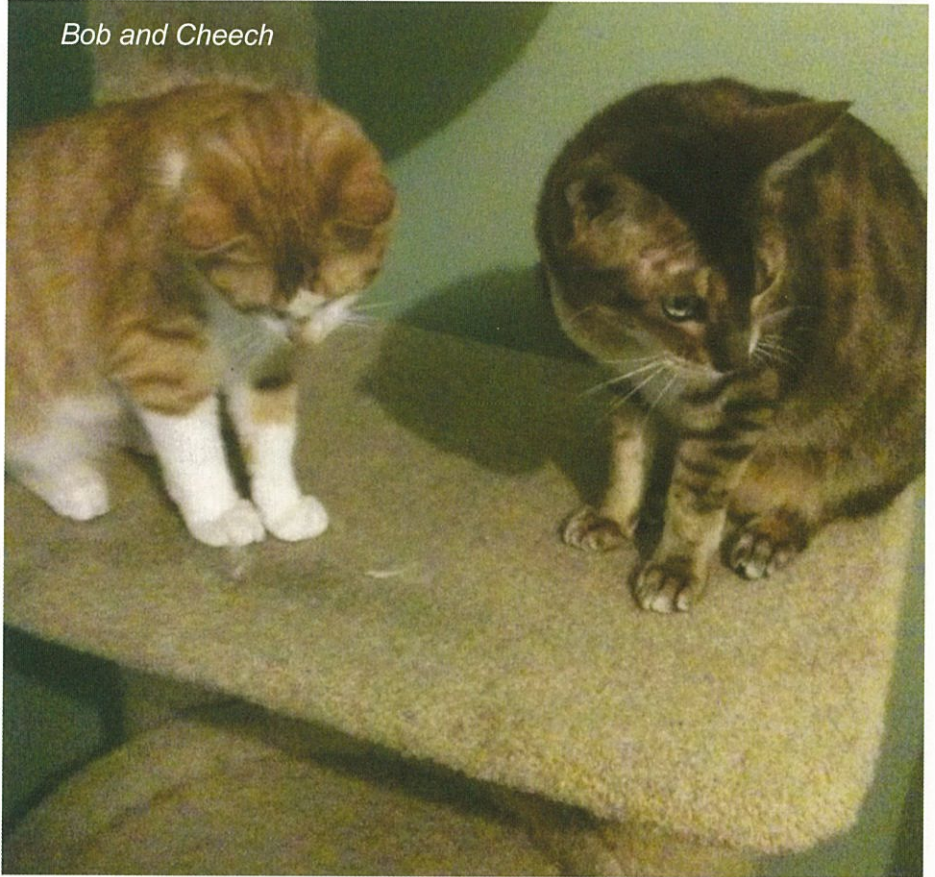
Really great find for us and the other two cats think highly of him as well. I haven't been able to get a group shot yet - Bob is still very playful and won't sit still for long enough.

He is a very happy, healthy little puss!

Kind regards and thank you

Kim & Terry

Bob and Cheech



Hi

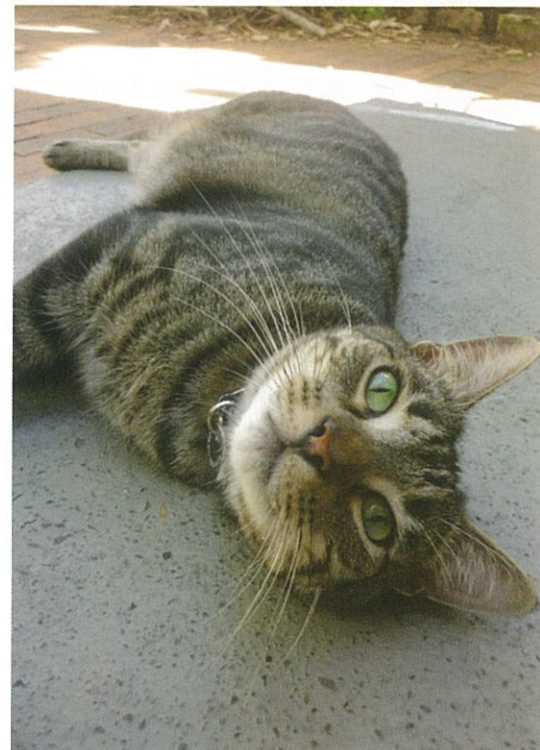
Pepe has truly settled in to his new home with us – a more apt description is that he has taken over and claimed us as his own!

His first few days he spent IN our bed under the duvet recovering from his cat flu and now still loves to sleep between us or at the foot of the bed. He really is a gorgeous smoochy boy – lots of kisses and cuddles and will follow us around the house!!

He likes to go out in the backyard and to our relief never really goes very far – he just likes to sit outside and catch moths and flies! We feel very lucky to have found such a loving and sweet character. As I type this, he is cuddled up on my hip purring.

Many thanks to all the staff who looked after him.

Louise



Pepe

SCRATCHING POST

Hi guys

I just wanted you to know that Alice is settling in beautifully (apart from the 2am laps of my bedroom and little bites on my cheeks!)

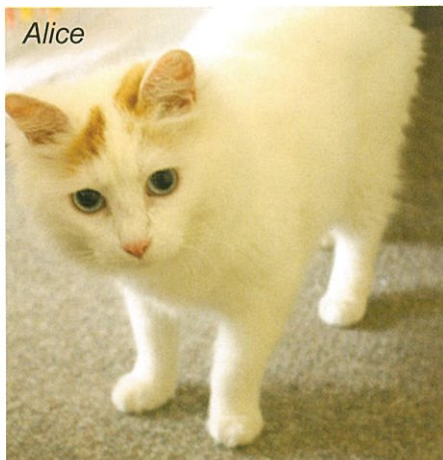
She has made herself at home and loves nothing better than lying on the coffee table napping. She is still a little jumpy when visitors come over, but that is to be expected after all the change she has gone through. She loves lying next to me purring first thing in the morning and bunts me with her head when I'm not paying her enough attention.

Even though it's only been four days, I can't remember what it was like before she came into my home. I just adore her and she is starting to lap up the attention – it hasn't taken her long to have me wrapped around her little paw and act like she is the boss of the house (which clearly she is).

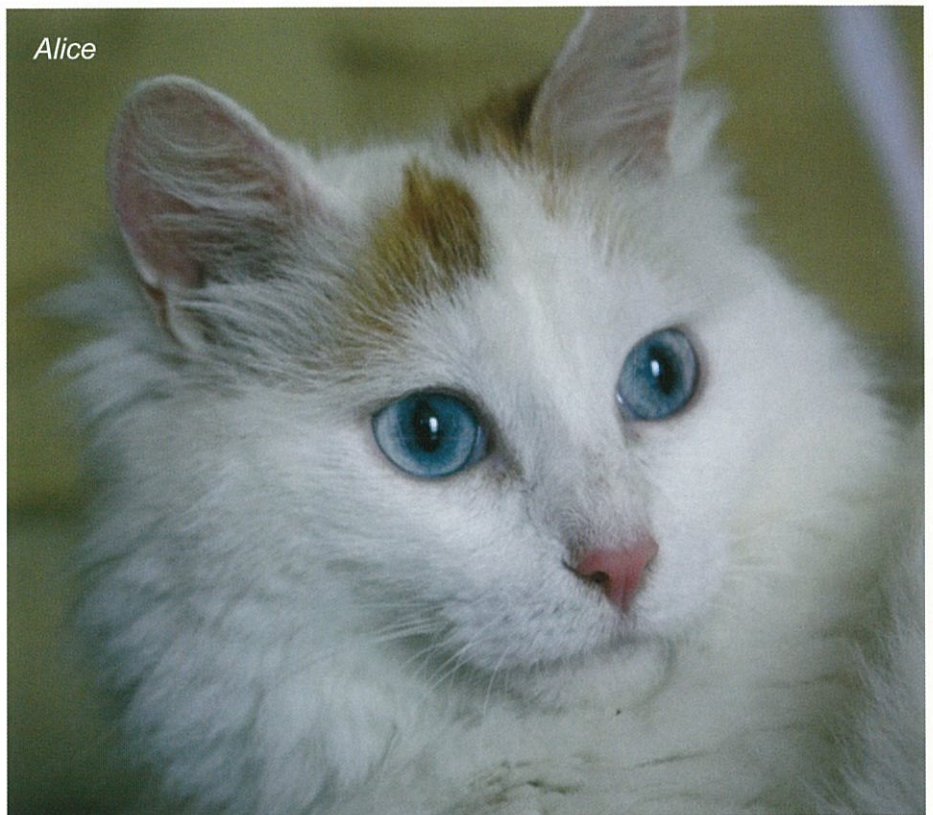
Thank you so much for letting me adopt her – and also for all of the work you all do at CPS. I'm glad there is an organisation like yours that has nothing but the animals' best interests at heart.

Have a wonderful day and enjoy the photos! (There will be many more to come – she is a bit of a poser!!)

Hugs
Valerie



Alice



Hello

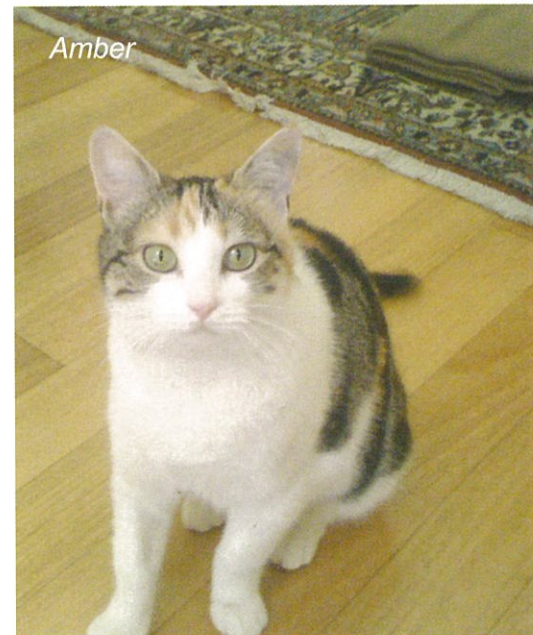
Marigold is now called Amber and she now knows her name and comes to it.

We've had a very interesting time of it – Amber doesn't like my other cats at all. My other cats are fine with her except due to her hissing, growling and mock charges they are naturally very wary of her. Amber is much improved but it's still a long road and I'm hoping that by Christmas things will be settled.

Amber is an absolute sweetheart but also trying because of her initial upbringing (or lack of!) but we're getting there and she is responding really well and gives us kisses and purrs and talks a lot. The hissing and charging is less but as you would know it will have to be gone for some time for my other babies to trust her. You can see it's defensive behaviour rather than 'hate' behaviour. I started rescue remedy a week ago as well. She's eating like there's no tomorrow and has put on weight.

Amber is really healthy and beautiful, her tummy is almost back to being fully covered with hair and she is definitely 'at home' now!!

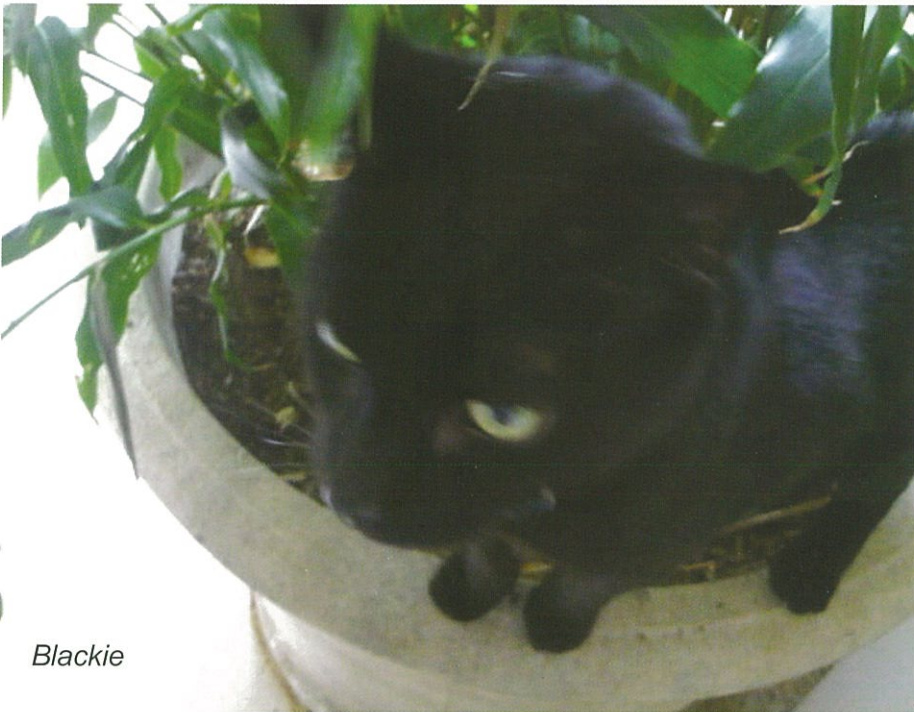
Best regards
Karen



Amber



SCRATCHING POST



Blackie

Hi

Blackie has been doing very well. He is not the brooding bully he was when surrounded by other cats. Rather, he is a shy boy who is easily startled and it feels like he always thinks he is going to be in trouble. Poor thing, I think he might have been in trouble wherever he was before.

He is a lovely chap and I hope he will get bolder the more secure he feels – I think he will. He loves a lap sit and a tummy rub so I think he has taken to me quite well. The picture is from his favourite plant pot he likes to sit in.

All the best

Sarah

Hi all

Hi all

Here are some wonderful photos of Tiger Lilly who we adopted from you.

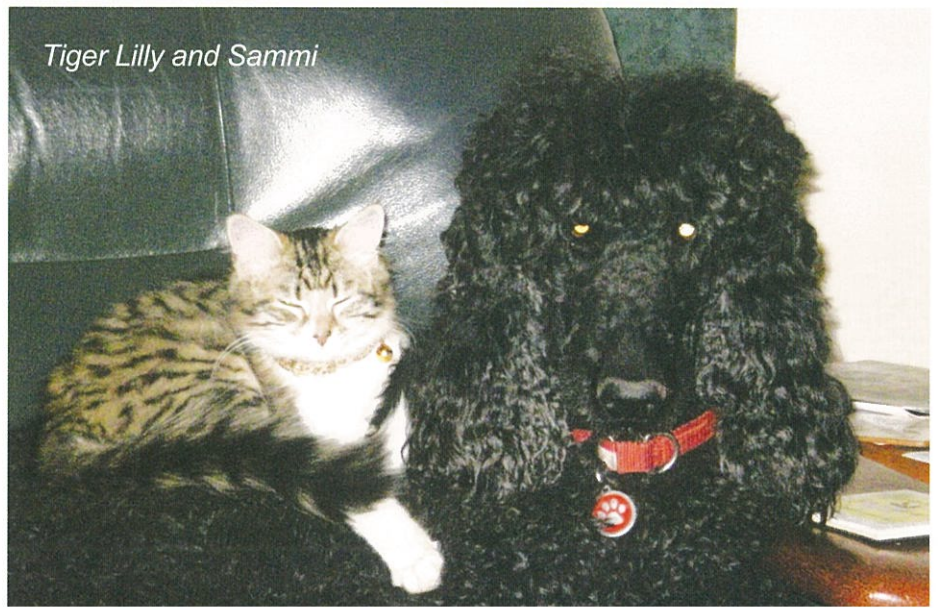
Regards

Leanne & Chris

Below: Tiger Lilly and Lizzie



Tiger Lilly and Jamilla



Tiger Lilly and Sammi

SCRATCHING POST

Hello

It's been three weeks since we picked up our two furry ladies from the Cat Protection Society so thought I'd drop you a line about how they've settled in.

The naming of our kitties was a compromise - we had initially gone into the CPS with the idea of getting a kitten of each sex. But when we saw these two gorgeous sisters sleeping together - we couldn't resist! And so, we have Evie and Ron (Veronica ... at least that's what we tell people...haha). And these two sisters could not be more different!

Ron is an apt name for a fearless, talkative, attention-seeking and mischievous little girl. She'll attempt jumping onto things

that are higher than she can reach, climbing things that are impossible (doors and drawers), putting her head into things that are too small and generally just parading around pushing the boundaries.

Evie is quite the opposite. She is poised, quiet, still a little timid, and has an air of disdain about her whenever Ron is showing off or getting any kind of attention.

Things happen on Evie's terms. But she is a lovely kitten and seems wise beyond her years. I feel sorry for her having to put up with a jealous little ratbag of a sister (although to be honest, she always kicks Ron's butt in a wrestle!)

We like to think of Evie as a queen and Ron as a chav.

Despite their differences, they always curl up together, adore having a playmate whilst James and I are at work and are both completely fascinated by water. They love showers, taps and basins and are amused for hours when we open the glass doors and let them see and smell the rain outside.

Thanks for all the great work you guys do finding homes for all the homeless furry little ladies and fellas. It especially warms my heart when I see the older cats finding new homes :)

Until our next update
Jodie & James, Ron & Evie

Evie and Ron



Merlo and Snowy

To all at Cat Protection Society

As promised, I am forwarding pics of my two treasures, both adopted from Cat Protection at Newtown: Snowy - adopted 23 April 2011 and Merlo - adopted 24 October 2009.

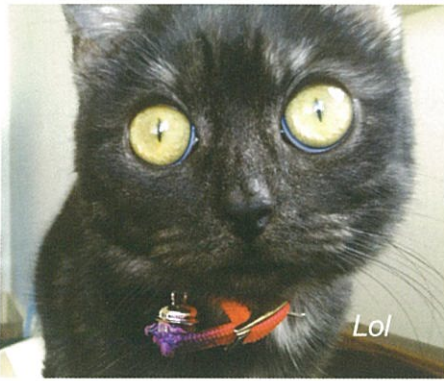
Snowy absolutely adores her big brother and follows him everywhere. They eat, sleep and play together and are very happy here in their home.

They both give me much pleasure, so thank you again.

Kind regards



SCRATCHING POST



Hi

Lol got her name thanks to all the lolcats at icanhascheezburger.com so here is a story written in true lol-style!

Mai kname iz Lol. Ei ahm a kitteh.

Der knice peeples at der Cat Perfection Society rescued me from der cowld streets. Ei livvd wif der Cat Peeples an dey kalld mee "Dustee" but 2 noo hoomans pickled me up and nao I liv wif dem an dey kall mee "Lol". Deir knames arr Dayf n Anneh.

Lyfe is funn! I laik siting on deir toplap compooters, runnni arownd der haus, ann keepzing wharm buy snuggzling dem at niite.

Dayf alweighz sed he "duznt laik cats" befoor, butt nao Dayf luvz mee! I getz hexcitedz whenz hee gets hoam becuz hee runz arownd an letts me chaze hiim an tapp hiz ahnkles. Hee iz nott wery faahst at rwinning. Ei am mush fashter than Dayf.

Anneh pleyz wif mee too, an alweighz pettehs aand bwushes mee soh ei caan bee a "pretty kitteh". Shee givs mee heeps of treetes, laik kitteh millk an livver. Anneh iz mai favvurite hooman to snugle.

I luv mai hoomans an mai noo hoam.

Ei hoap dat moar kittehs an hoomans cann liv hapy all togezther laik mee, Anneh and Dayf.

Kthxbai!

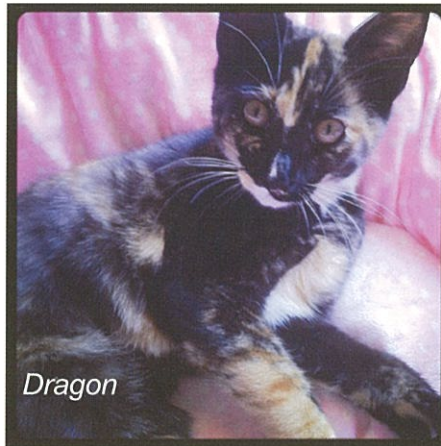
Lol.

Hi CPS

We adopted our gorgeous kitten Dragon from you two months ago and she is settling in, living up to her name of being playful and fiery.

She is loved unconditionally and is now one of the family!

Lee-Anne & Sara



Hi Adam

Simone (after Nina Simone) is doing really well! She is very comfortable around the house, and with us, and is either super-affectionate, or hyper with kitten energy!

Cheers
Bec, James & Simone



Hi Kristina

We have attached some photos of our two tabby cats - Rusty and Audrey. Brother and sister were looked after by CPS until we adopted them about a year ago. We love them to bits; they're a source of constant entertainment, education and love.

The best thing has been seeing them grow up with each other – not only are they hilarious together, they also can keep themselves entertained when we're out and are obviously very happy to have each other. We feel pretty lucky to have two special little individuals and wanted to let you know that we think the work of CPS is awesome. It's obviously great for the lucky cats and kittens who find themselves in your care, but it's also important for the people whose lives are enriched by their special company.

Thanks for giving Russ and Aud the best start two little tabby cats could hope for.

Jen & Nash

Rusty and Audrey



IN MEMORIAM



Milkshake

Shakies was adopted in December 2008 when she was 9. She was a shy sweetheart, who was about to lose the tips of her ears to skin cancer. Her sad story and sweet nature broke our hearts and we knew we had to adopt her.

We were a newly in love couple looking for something to call our child, instead we got a lady, who in her kitty years, was much older and wiser than us. She helped us grow. In her last week, she was as lovely as ever, helping me finish work late at night and sleeping on my head when I had a bad cold. Shakes was a beautiful, one of a kind lady.

Sophie & Liam

In loving memory of Poppy and Brother

Poppy disappeared without trace on December 5th 2010. She was my special little Siamese princess. I still have no answers.

Also remembering my unique Australian Spotted Mist cat named Brother. Brother passed away on December 6th 2010, aged 13 and a half. He suffered in silence and broke my heart.

Jean



In memory of Winston (nee Ziggy) 2000-2011

Winston - a totally awesome cat; much loved and much missed by his family.

Ragnii

A prayer to St Francis for all our cats

In October I was lucky enough to visit the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis is the Patron Saint of animals. While there, I made a special prayer for all the cats, past and present, of Cat Protection and Cat Protection members and friends, though I know these cats have already been blessed to have such loving people in their lives.

Kristina

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 also Thursday evenings 4.30pm to 6.30pm; Friday afternoons 3.30pm to 5pm Tel: 9557 4818

Op Shop: 85 Enmore Road, Newtown Tel: 9516 2072
The Op Shop is generally open between 10am and 4pm, 7 days a week. If closed, donations can be left at Cat Protection at 103 Enmore Road.

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