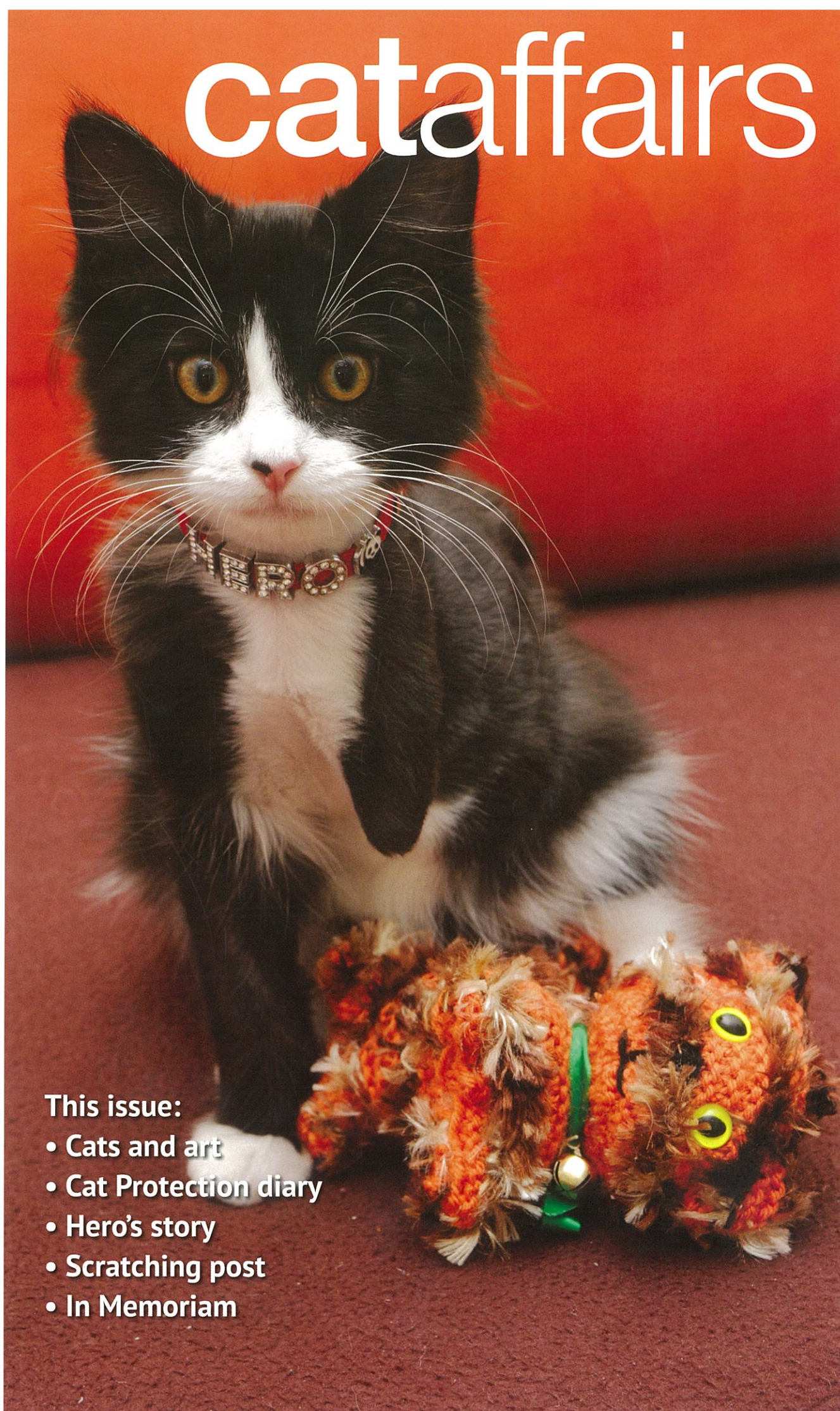


# cataffairs

## This issue:

- Cats and art
- Cat Protection diary
- Hero's story
- Scratching post
- In Memoriam





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cat protection society  
OF NSW INC.







**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](mailto:info@catprotection.org.au)

**Web:** [www.catprotection.org.au](http://www.catprotection.org.au)

**President:**

Ms Rhonda House

**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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We welcome contributions from readers, but we reserve the right to edit, abridge, alter or reject any material.

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**Care for cats!**

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# President's Report

What can we learn from cats? Certainly we try to emulate their grace though few but dancers can actually achieve it. We can find solace by just watching them sleep and we can but wonder who the imaginary friends are that they're chasing down the hall at 3am. We're captivated by their beauty and laugh at their antics but cats can also teach us very valuable life lessons.

A young black and white stray cat was hit by a car and taken to Chester Hill Vet Clinic. He needed surgery and he needed a home. After being reassured we'd find him a home, the vet performed the life-saving surgery and now Ivor (named by us in the vet's honour) is with us waiting for a forever home. Although he had to have a leg amputated, he charges around our adoption centre chasing his new best friend Amber with such speed his whole body is a blur. You would never guess he had only three legs when you see him running. Ivor's energy and zest for life are an inspiration. He teaches us to use our abilities as best we can.

Another little black and white kitten came to us having being rescued by a very kind family. The cause of his injury was less clear but it may have been that he was deliberately thrown from a moving car; his front paw was so completely smashed it had to be amputated from the shoulder. First though, he had to be brought out from under the house into which he'd dragged himself...

Cats seem to have an instinct for choosing the right people. He was rescued with the love and concern of a whole family; you can read the full story in this issue. Little Shadow, now Hero, showed fighting spirit every step of the way. With such a bleak, cruel start to life you could forgive Shadow if he hissed or bit, but instead, he showed gratitude and love. He demonstrated compassion for people despite his bad first experience and he dealt with his surgery with courage and optimism. He now has new canine, feline and human friends, a loving home, and has forever touched the hearts of dozens of people.

Sometimes we can get caught up worrying about things that don't really matter. Cats focus on what does matter. If we consider them carefully, we can see that what matters most is love and safety, food and shelter, friends, being courageous, using our potential rather than lamenting what we don't have, and being optimistic enough to see that today's setback might be gone tomorrow.

Cats also need our help. Ivor and Hero showed great resilience but they needed caring people, skilled vets and the Cat Protection community to survive and blossom.

So cats also teach us the importance of helping and caring.

The bond between people and companion animals isn't a one-way street; we each gain, and learn and grow. It is a bond to be treasured.

Rhonda House  
President



Cover photograph of Hero, by Dr Anne Fawcett



# Cats and Art

By Sarah Menzies

Cats have been depicted in art since their domestication. It's no surprise that historical paintings of cats are displayed on the walls of the great tombs and pyramids of ancient Egypt, portrayed as not only efficient rodent hunters, but loving family pets as well. Since then, cats have continued to grace us with their presence in our homes, and have provided us artists with a never ending subject matter.

From the youngest age I always had a pencil in my hand, and if I wasn't drawing cats, I was having them drawn on me! Well, not literally, but I would always ask my mum to "draw cats" on my back with her fingers...

I continued to own, love and draw cats throughout my life and went on to study Fine Arts at uni which was a great decision for me. It helped me hone my artistic ability and put it to good use! And by good use I mean creating art based on the things I love most – cats, and then selling that art to help the things I love most – cats! Last year I started a series of artworks and opened an online store which helps me to support the Cat Protection Society.

My only problem, like most of us, is thinking of creative, original ideas. I've come up with a lot of ideas for cat art over the past few months, but unfortunately most of them have never seen the light of day. I've always struggled to appreciate my own art, and if I don't love it, or if I wouldn't want it displayed in my own home, no one ever sees it.

Luckily I finally came up with the idea of my Contempo Kitties (shown here) – modern art with a vintage flair. I love drawing, so I hand draw all of my Contempo Kitties, and they are then completed in Photoshop. I loved the idea of clean crisp prints, with retro, vintage and chic patterns. I also like the idea of a realistic depiction of the cat, with unrealistic colours. I have these displayed in my house, which means everyone else gets to see them too.

## Here are a few tips for creating cat based art:

1. As I just said, if you don't love it, don't use it.
2. Don't give up after your first attempt – it's taken me a long time to come up with my Contempo Kitties!
3. You don't have to be a good drawer to create good art. Find your niche; there are endless artistic mediums – printmaking, photography, painting, collage, digital imaging, sculpture, textiles, ink drawings, ceramics and so on.





## Photography

I often get asked what the secret to photographing cats is, and for me, it's to take LOTS of photos. It's hard to get good shots of cats, depending on their personalities, and I've rediscovered this in the past year, having welcomed a new kitten into the home. The younger the cat, the harder it is to get a good photo.

If you want to take photography seriously, there are a few important things to remember:

1. Use a good camera – the camera on your phone just won't do, even if it is an 8 megapixel one.

The reason for this is...

2. It's not just about the megapixels. You need to think about lighting, composition, focal points and depth of field. A camera with interchangeable lenses (a DSLR) is the best option, if you're serious about it.
3. Learn the basics of post-production. There are lots of free tutorials online about how to manipulate your photograph in programs like Photoshop. Don't think this is cheating – these days most professionals touch up or enhance their photos digitally.

Still not convinced you've got the skills to get a good photo of your feline companion? Why not take after Cooper: (photographer cat) and get your kitty to take the photos?! If you have no idea who Cooper is, you can check out his photos at [www.photographercat.com](http://www.photographercat.com)



Photos by CPS

Cooper was adopted from a shelter and is famous for wearing a Cat Cam once a week – a lightweight camera that hangs from his collar and automatically takes photos every two minutes. His photos are just beautiful and he has had exhibitions all over the world. The best part about Cooper is that he gives back to shelters with his art too!

*Sarah Menzies, author of The Purr Diaries blog, is a cat lover and artist who combines her two great loves to help Cat Protection as a donor and member. She has been a cat lover all her life and is currently owned by two rescue kitties - Bosco and Oliver. You can read and see more at [www.thepurrdiaries.blogspot.com](http://www.thepurrdiaries.blogspot.com) and [www.sarahlovescats1.etsy.com](http://www.sarahlovescats1.etsy.com)*



## Famous artists and their cats

- Australian artist Brett Whiteley loved cats and often featured them in his paintings of his living space
- Pop artist Andy Warhol grew up with cats and has a large collection of colourful kitty paintings and screen prints
- English artist Louis Wain learned to love his wife's black and white cat Peter, and then went on to sketch him many times. He is even quoted as putting the success of his career down to Peter the cat, proclaiming "to him properly belongs the foundation of my career"
- Artist and cat lover Theophile Steinlen's home was known as 'Cats Corner'
- French artist Henri Matisse loved the company of cats, and when forced to remain in bed due to poor health, he would be joined by his favourite black cat
- Edward Lear is well known for his drawings of his tabby cat Foss, to whom he was devoted. When Lear decided to move to San Remo, Italy, he made his architect design a replica of his old home in England so Foss would not be distressed by the move



# CAT PROTECTION DIARY

## Taking the stress out of transport

Getting your cat to the vet for their annual health check or driving them to boarding when you're going on holidays can be stressful for you and your cat. Most cats dislike car travel and are frightened by unfamiliar places. For many cats, the mere sight of their carrier can be enough to send them hiding under the lounge.

There are a few things you can do to help ease the anxiety. The first thing is to make sure the carrier isn't something that is only associated with scary experiences – if you have the space, it's best to leave the carrier in a room where the cat can see, smell and touch it all year round. Line the carrier with a favourite piece of your cat's bedding – the familiar scent will comfort them. You can also spray a little Feliway in the carrier before you put the cat inside – this is a synthetic feline pheromone that makes cats feel good. If your cat is food motivated, a couple of treats or biscuits are a good idea.

Importantly, you need to be calm – your cat will pick up on your feelings, so the more relaxed you are, the more relaxed your cat will be. Ideally, your cat will walk inside their carrier themselves – a carrier that has both front and top openings is the best design. They allow cats to enter and exit themselves, and the top opening can allow the vet to do some of the cat's health check with the cat still in the carrier. Check to make sure the carrier is firmly latched at all doors so the cat cannot escape.

In our experience (and we have a lot – we make more than 2,000 cat trips to the vet every year!) it is best to cover the carrier with a towel or pillow slip so the cat cannot see out. Never travel with an unsecured cat in your car – it is dangerous for you, your cat and other road users. Secure the carrier with a seat belt to minimise movement during the trip. Talk to your cat to reassure them.

If you have a multi-cat household, try to arrange the routine vet visits so that all cats attend at the one time – this will avoid the conflict that can ensue when one cat comes home smelling of the vets! If that's not possible, keep the cat who's been at the vet in a separate room for a while so they can readjust to the familiar scents of home. You might also try using Feliway spray or diffuser to help settle the other cats as well. Again, for food motivated cats, a snack or some treats will be welcome.

Regularly check your cat's carrier to make sure it is secure and all doors and latches are working. Have one carrier per cat in the household to ensure you are prepared for emergencies. If your cat is extremely stressed by travel, talk to your vet about the possibility of home visits or temporary sedative medication.

## Pick up your clothes, Pepper!

Admit it – you've called your children/flatmate/partner by your pet's name, haven't you? And then you get a bit flustered and try to explain it away but there it was for all to hear, no denying it ...

An NRMA survey of pet owners released last year found 25 per cent of respondents confessed to confusing the names of their furry family members with their human family members. Which was no surprise considering that 96 per cent considered their pet a part of their family and 93 per cent of dog or cat owners said that having a pet had improved their quality of life.

Given there are many 'human' names in the top 20 most popular cat names in Australia it's no wonder we get muddled. According to Bow Wow Meow, the most popular names include Oscar, Max, Sam, Chloe, Lucy, Molly, Cleo and Felix. In a nod to tradition, the list also includes Tiger, Puss and Kitty.



## Three cheers for vets

Where would we be without these wonderful specialists who help us care for our furry friends? At Cat Protection, our work is supported by a wide network of vets, generous with their time and skill, highly committed to feline welfare.

A recent article in *The Veterinarian* reported on a study by Peter Hatch et al that found high levels of stress among the profession, with long hours, on-call duties, client expectations and professional isolation contributing to this. Another factor was the lack of positive feedback because often a vet's best work is not seen by the client.

Vets invest years of their time and substantial money to do their work helping our best friends. So next time you see your vet, don't forget to thank them. The fact that our beloved cats can enjoy such long lives now is thanks to the efforts of the profession, whether in private practice or research.

Speaking of vets, we congratulate one of our former staff members Adam Woolf, who in December graduated from Sydney University with First Class Honours in his Bachelor of Veterinary Science and was awarded the Sydney Thomas Doidge Symons Prize for Clinical Subjects. This prize is awarded on the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science. Adam worked with us during his years of study and is now working as a vet in a private practice in Brisbane. We wish Adam all the best and thank him for his contribution to Cat Protection's work.



# Hero's story

In January, a Sydney family heard a screeching car speeding out of their street and later heard a mewling kitten. They didn't see what happened, but when the vet saw the kitten's injuries, they were not consistent with being hit by a car.

The little kitten was rescued (which involved crawling under the house) and taken inside to safety. The mother who saved him told us "In the short but very intense time I spent trying to figure out how to help that little kitten I made a lot of calls and sent a lot of emails. Cat Protection were the only ones that wanted to help and actually save the kitten ... everywhere I called were so cruel and heartless, and the local vet told me that the only option was to have him put down! I couldn't deal with the idea of sentencing such an innocent loving creature to his death."

When the brave little soul came to us a couple of days later, he was accompanied by five beautiful get-well cards. Zach wrote: "Dear Cat, Hope you get well soon. Have a great long life and hope you get a fixed arm. We love you and will miss you." Zach's card included pressed flowers and one dollar – in another card addressed to Cat Protection, Zach explained the dollar was to buy a present for the kitten. Mitchell's card had lovely drawings and read "Dear Kitten, I will miss you."



We asked the children what should be the kitten's name and they said Shadow, because he would follow them. Their mother told us "from the moment we found him in such a mess and so starved, he just melted us with the affection that poured out of the little thing; all he seemed to want was a home and love."

We took little Shadow to the vet where he was examined; an amputation would be necessary but there was a risk of infection if performed too soon. He had his desexing operation and stayed with our vet, Dr Anne Fawcett, for supervision and care until he was ready for his next surgery. That went well, but the extent of the original injury means he will continue to need attention and physiotherapy. Of course, in the time he spent with the vet, he managed to melt another heart, and so it was that Anne decided to adopt Shadow.



*Hero with his friend Phil*



For his courage, determination and refusal to give up on love, he is now named Hero. We sent pictures to his rescue family, who are delighted that he's found the perfect home.

There are many heroes in this story though: the wonderfully compassionate family who rescued Shadow and rallied to give him the strength to survive; the skilled and loving vet who performed his surgery and gave him a forever home; and all our supporters who made it possible for us to be able to play our part in this amazing story. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you all. And to Hero we say, as Zach did: Have a great long life ♥



# SCRATCHING POST

## Shy cats do blossom

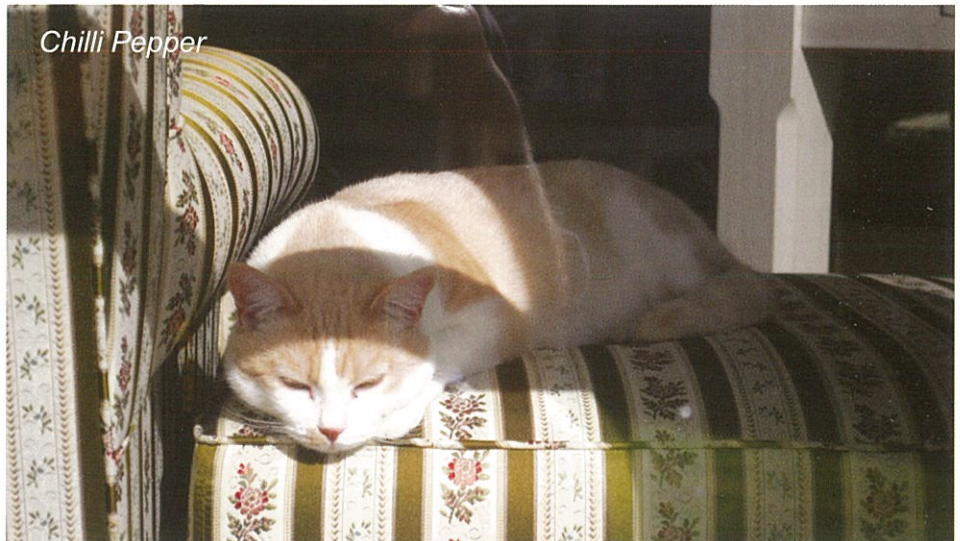
As a volunteer at the CPS, I knew that Chilli Pepper was one of those very timid cats overlooked for five months. While her brothers and sisters dutifully miaowed and rubbed against the legs of prospective new owners, she steadfastly refused to leave her enclosure or to be picked up. Chilli preferred to hide behind her litter tray and watch what was going on around her. But over many months, she finally allowed me to rub her behind the ears and under the chin.

Since deciding to adopt her in February last year, we have seen her blossom into an affectionate little girl, although still frightened of strangers. When she initially arrived home she came out of her carrier straight away which was encouraging, but headed immediately to hide behind the pot plants in the bathroom's planter box. She stayed there for a number of days – only coming out to eat at night when we were asleep.

Slowly we managed to remove the pots and create a comfy bed with towels and her blanket from CPS. She eventually accepted this, but remained in the planter box 'bed' for another week. We had some toileting issues for about three days until she relaxed enough to use the litter tray, and she has never had an accident since.

Eventually, she started exploring the back rooms of the house which could be closed off. She found her safe haven under an old brass bed. She was happy to have a scratch behind the ears, but only if you crawled under the bed to do so!

She ate in the bathroom, but refused to do so if being watched. There are still some areas of the house in which she will not venture, but she loves to chase her toys around the house,



*Chilli Pepper*

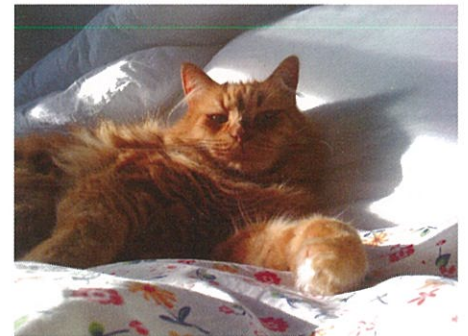
particularly enjoying soccer practice in which the aim is to get as many balls under the furniture as she can manage. She also gives mousey a hard time – flinging him around the house and then chasing him. Mousey is now bereft of his feather tail, one ear, and most of his fluffy blue coat.

She has quite taken to watching television, sitting on her ottoman in the afternoon sun, and snacking as often as possible. At Christmas time she spent most of her time under the safety of the tree, either pulling off the decorations that she could reach or shaking the tree until those higher up fell off. A game of night-soccer with a glass bauble chased around the house was not uncommon.

Although we doubt Chilli will ever be a cat who likes to be picked up or cuddled, and she may never take to our family and friends, she does like a rub on the tummy or under her chin when she is within the safety of her own bed. Shy cats can blossom in a loving home environment and the greatest reward is witnessing that transformation.

Thank you to Sabrina and the CPS team for introducing us to Chilli Pepper.

Garry & David



*Big Red*

## Dear CPS

Big Red has requested we send you a quick line and a few photos.

Despite his 10 years, he is an absolute love kitten! His deep manly voice has grown into a cuter-than-pie purr, although I miss the deep meow, it is voiced from time to time in call for play. And do we play! Daily chases around the house are a must, with some ball pouncing and high jumps thrown in for good measure. He is a chatty little fellow.

We love him dearly and, we're pleased to say, he loves us too.

A special hello to his old neighbour, Vanessa.

All our love

Big Red & family



# SCRATCHING POST

Charlotte



## Hi all

Our princess has settled in well. Charlotte has her own room and still likes to be away from our other kitty at times. They are getting on better now but it will still take some time before they are best of mates.

She is very, very talkative and will let you know if she needs anything. She loves to be brushed all over and will let you know if you're not doing it right. If she

wants to be brushed, she'll bring the brush to you by pushing it along with her head. Also, if you brush her in one spot for too long she'll let you know she's had enough and to move on!

Hoping that all the kitties find forever homes just like our Charlotte.

Dave, Belinda, Sammi & Charlotte

## Hello Aristeia

This is Billy Bob, we adopted him on 22 October and he's now our little darling heart. He's the quietest cat I've ever known, most of time he doesn't even meow, he just makes a quiet little 'hummm' to communicate.

He's not much of a lap cat but he follows me everywhere, and if he's not with me he will come as soon as I call. He's a happy little angel, full of life.

Thanks for taking care of him before me.

Yunyun

Billy Bob



## Hi Nerida & Kristina

I wanted to write to say that I got a lot out of the 'living safely indoors' seminar. Here's what I've managed to put to use:

- Dylan LOVES the cat action 'top of door' toy. If you ever have other physically disabled people adopting cats or even elderly people, I'd say this one is a winner. There's no trip hazard and we don't even need to get at the toy for Dylan to play with it. He amuses himself with it. So much so that he BROKE it. Then he looked at it and meowed lots. We have repaired the toy :-)

- Hiding food around the home so they have to forage a little – working well! I was already using the cat maze but Cinnamon and Nutmeg have mastered this. Now I've just cut down their food a little and put some treats in spots they have to climb for. And they're climbing!

- Clicker training - it wasn't mentioned in the seminar but I bought a book from the shop on the day. I'd tried it before but didn't have a whole heap of success. This book has given me good guidance and I'm making gains. Cinnamon is learning targeting well... food motivated fatty that she is!

Being reminded that a cat looking out of the window doesn't mean the cat wants to go outside was reassuring.

Thanks

Adele



Billy Bob



# SCRATCHING POST

## Hi all

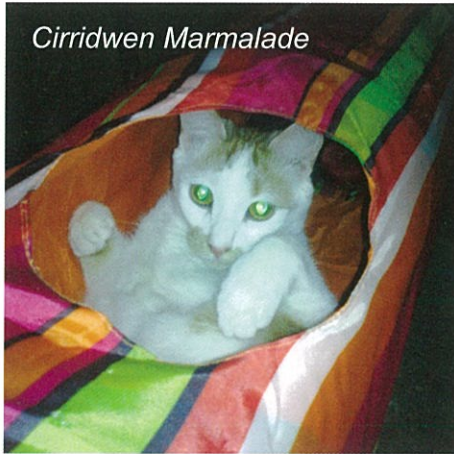
Little Marmalade (now known as Cirridwen Marmalade) made the short trip home after noticing the lovely Cat Protection Society ladies had little tears in their eyes.

The trip home was a bit scary for her so she had a little nervous meow to let us know. She stayed in her carry basket for an hour while her room was prepared for her and all her toys, bedding and toilet were set up. After a cautious look from the safety of her carrier she poked her head out and went for her first explore – having a look inside her igloo bed, checking out her toileting arrangements and then climbing all over the book cases and window sills.

After some attention from me, she decided to go back into her carrier and just rest and take it all in.

Each time I visited her she interacted a bit more. She loves having her head stroked, it seems to calm her, and when she wants to she has a play and explore. She finds the view of the windswept trees outside the window absolutely fascinating and she loves watching the shadows that

*Cirridwen Marmalade*



form as the sun slowly goes down. Occasionally she gives me a little meow to let me know that she's feeling a bit lost but a gentle stroke calms her nerves.

When we are alone she is the most affectionate though she is still quite a rough little cat in play; she doesn't know her own strength! But she is slowly realising she has a home now.

I'm proud to have brought this little lady home and look forward to the day that she roams the flat like the little princess that she is.

Kind regards

Craig

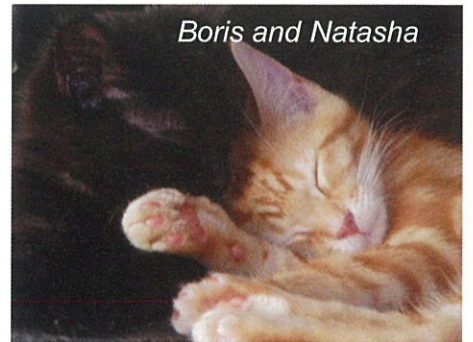
## Hi guys

I adopted two kittens from your shelter, a ginger boy I've named Boris and a black girl, Natasha. They've settled in so well and have given so much love.

They spend their days playing and sleeping and are happy to have found their forever home. I just want to say thank you to everyone at Cat Protection for introducing me to these very important members of my family, and a special thank you to Adam, who took us through the adoption process.

Christine, Paul, Boris & Natasha

*Boris and Natasha*



## Dear CPS staff

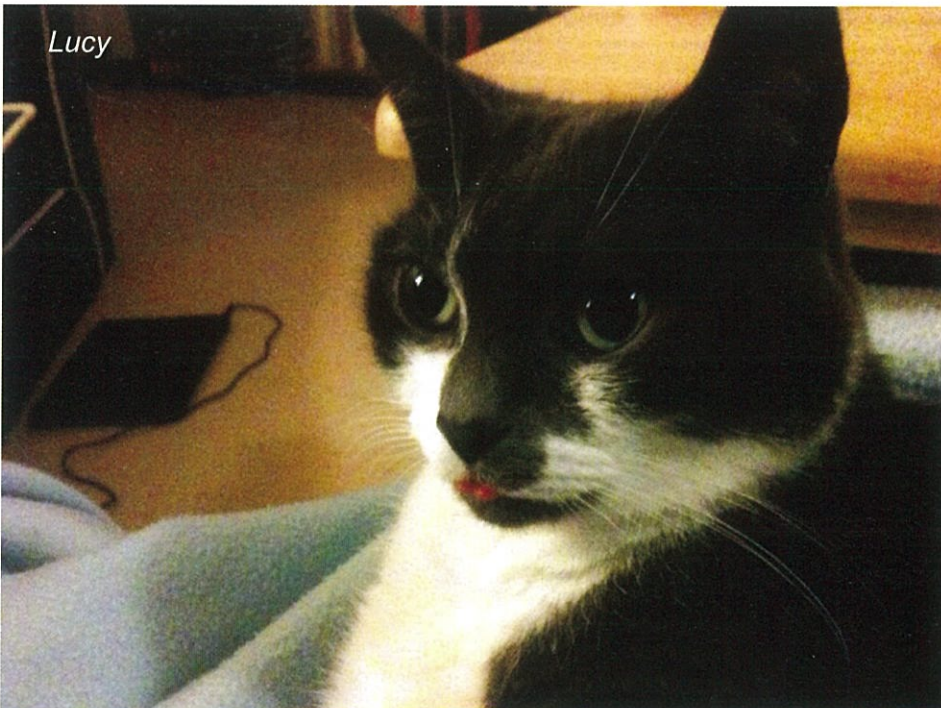
Thank you so much for helping us to adopt Lucy (formerly known as Madam) in November 2010. We've enjoyed getting to know her over the past year, and she has filled our home with much happiness. She loves to jump onto our laps to have a cuddle and to knead our bellies. She also has the ability to go from zero purring to full blast purring in less than 10 seconds!

She is a sweet, happy and healthy cat, and we are looking forward to celebrating her 9th birthday in February. Thank you to the staff who helped us with her adoption, and for checking in with us about her.

Kind regards

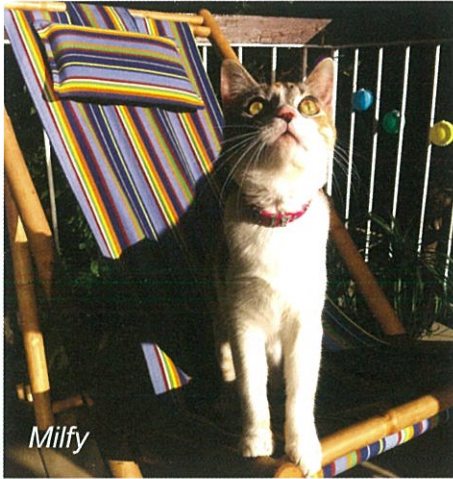
Rebecca

*Lucy*





# SCRATCHING POST



## Hello

We adopted Milfy (Charlie) in August. She chose us as much as we chose her!

For the first three weeks she was extremely shy and hid under the couch coming out occasionally to eat and sniff around a little before returning to her sanctuary.

To our delight she started coming out more and joining us on the couch or in the lounge. Now she all purr-sonality! Full of energy and character, Milfy loves playtime, snuggles and hanging out on the balcony talking to our local neighbourhood possum.

For such a cute little thing, she has the biggest appetite. She loves to Ninja attack us when we least expect it, especially at 6am as a wake-up call!

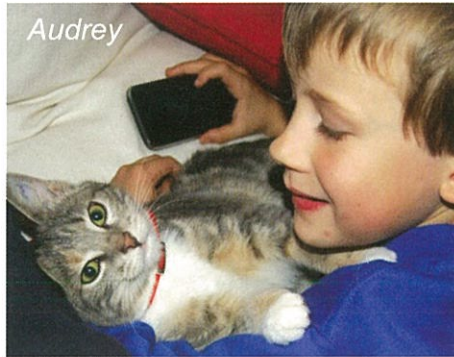
We love her so much and are grateful that she chose us!

Mike & Lauren

## Hi CPS

I would like to give this gift to celebrate my best mate, Puss, who I adopted almost two years ago from Cat Protection. Both mum and moggie are going strong. You are very special people to look after all those lovely but troubled cats like Puss – thanks for finding her for me!

Samantha



## Hi CPS

Just thought you would be interested to see how Audrey has been getting on since we adopted her in April. My 6 year old son Remy bonded with Audrey right away at the adoption centre with her schmoozing and jumping onto his shoulders and nibbling his ears. They have been firm friends ever since and enjoy lots of cuddles. She sleeps on his bed every night.

Audrey settled in straight away with only an hour or so of cautious exploration of our house. She loves the backyard too, which is just the right size for a little cat. We feel very lucky to have her in our lives. Thank you for providing us with such a healthy happy little soul!

Jess, Remy & Edie

## Hi

Bella, now named Mazzy, has settled into her new home well. I feel very privileged to have her in my life as she is indeed a beautiful, lively and funny cat. I'm now thinking she needs a play mate!

Amanda



## Hi

We adopted Pino (6 years old) in March 2011. It took some time for him to adapt to the new surroundings and for us to understand such a vocal personality, but I'm glad to say that we are all very happy with the situation now. Of course, he's the boss and we do whatever he wants.

He's a great companion when I'm songwriting or when we are simply watching TV; he's an integral part of the family now. Thank you very much for introducing us to Pino and for the great job you guys do.

Pamela & Ney





# SCRATCHING POST

## Hello Cat Protection Society

We adopted Chi Chi in April and we'd like to let you know she's doing very well. She was very nervous for the first few weeks but gradually settled down. It took a while but she now gets along very well with our existing cat Cheetah.

They sleep together on the same bed and enjoy sunbathing together. When she came to our house, she was very skinny, but she is now a healthy weight. She is very affectionate, loves playing with us, loves sleeping on our laps and we absolutely adore her.

Natsumi & Paul



## Hi CPS

Just a quick update on Lola (formerly Marie). When we adopted her, she was a fairly shy cat who was recovering from an operation and cat flu, and just wanted to sleep all day. How things have changed!

She's become so happy and smoochy, headbutting everything that moves. Although she usually likes sitting on the bed (lording over everyone), she's recently

gotten into running laps around the house at 5am.

Lola's also very chatty, and apparently likes making a wide variety of bird noises (she definitely quacked like a duck the other day) in addition to normal purring and meowing.

Thanks for looking after Lola and all the other cats at CPS 😊

Deni & Lia



## Hello to all at Cat Protection

Just letting you know Carol (now known as Bronte) is doing well at her new home.

If there's an adjective to describe her it's 'interactive' – she's constantly wanting to interact with me. In other words, she doesn't like to be ignored!

She's also very vocal, very playful and a real sweetie!

Anthony



# SCRATCHING POST

## Hi there

We wanted to give you an update on Chloe and CJ – the brother and sister we adopted from you. We renamed them Bobcat and Betty.

They've settled in very well, despite being very shy at first. Betty is still very shy but is coming out of her shell every day.

Bobby has a big personality and is very protective of his sister, in a good way.

They have been along to the vet for all their shots and are very healthy. We let them run outside and play in the afternoons and weekends.

They are just adorable!!

Please keep up the good work!

Virginia & Adam



*Bobcat and Betty*

## Hi

In the past couple of weeks Mia has definitely made herself at home and is quite relaxed. After a traumatic trip to the vet for vaccinations and a check-up, she wasn't very happy with me.

She loves to chat, there is no stopping her; she is very talkative! She loved the Paul Walker movie with the snow dogs, sat there watching the TV for half an hour but she wasn't interested in the ads!

Regards, Rochelle



*Jazz*

## Hi CPS

This is Jazz, the Burmilla we adopted from you in November 2010. He is now 15 months old.

Jazz was very shy and nervous when I first brought him home and he spent days hiding under the sofa and wouldn't come out to eat or use his litter. I would not call him shy anymore.

He has become a confident young cat and really has the run of the place. He is very vocal and ready for a chat at any time. He lives totally indoors but has a balcony to watch the world go by. Jazz's favourite activities are watering the plants, making the bed and any game that involves a chase up and down the stairs. He also enjoys keeping guard of any insects that might find their way into the apartment. His favourite sleeping places are on the bed or sofa and when it's cooler, he's using his igloo.

Thanks for introducing me to Jazz.

Jamie



*Mia*





# IN MEMORIAM

## A tribute to three lovely cats

Tony Miller, Life Member

Some 16 years ago, we saw a segment about Burmilla cats on Don Burke's program. The Burmilla is a cross between Burmese and Chinchilla cats. It was not the pedigree that attracted us but that they had such beautiful faces and soft grey fur.

We made some inquiries and found out that there was a waiting list of up to two years. We spoke to a lovely couple, Helge and Robyn, who had started the breeding program in Australia, and we found out that the fur is actually white, only the tips of the fur give the colour, which can vary.

We stayed in touch with Robyn and Helge and struck up a friendship. One day Robyn said she had a small cat not suitable for breeding, and thus Bonnie came into our home and our hearts.

Bonnie had a good nature and a beautiful face but she was not a lap cat. A typical lady with an attitude of, 'You can admire me, but that's where it stops.' She was only the second generation of the Australian Burmilla.

Because we detected a certain loneliness, we gave thought to a second cat and on one of our visits we picked up a six-month old male, brownish in colour, who we called Leo. A true gentleman, he would sit back and let the ladies eat first but he still grew up to be a healthy six kilograms.

A while later, Robyn told us she had a lovely cat from Queensland – would we know anyone looking for a cat? Of course, she was hoping we would take the cat and of course, we did. And so it was that Sheeba came to live with us. After the initial shock of having to share our love, all the cats settled in, although Bonnie would now and then remind the others that it was her home first, and she was boss.

Sheeba died on 2 January 2009, a bad start to that year. Bonnie lived just past her 15th birthday, but towards the end she could no longer jump and she only moved slowly, probably with hidden pain. In consultation with our vet, we had to make the ultimate decision and so she was put to rest on 3 March 2011.

It left us with only Leo, and then just before Christmas 2011, we found him panting heavily and took him to the vet. They did what they could and we prolonged his life by some days but his condition worsened and he was suffering, so on another sad 2nd January, we parted with our last friend after 14 years. Now all three cats have their final resting place next to each other in the garden.

Do I need to tell you we were heartbroken?

But there was some light at the end of this long tunnel by some divine intervention. We had some plaques made in memory of our cats and as I presented these to Cat Protection, I noticed a Burmese, not unlike Leo, out of his unit. I was told later this did not happen often because Julius (the Burmese) was a lovely cat but not tolerant of other cats and had to be strictly supervised.

If you want to call it luck so be it, but I had to go to Cat Protection on the very day and at the very time that Julius was out of his unit? Was it coincidence that the cat immediately took to me in an affectionate way? The staff also noticed but what could I do, I still had Leo, and I was not putting Leo down for the sake of another cat. My conscience would never let me do that. But sadly Leo passed away within days.

Julius needed a home and we a space to fill in our lives. On his way home in the taxi, Julius did not make a sound. At home, we let him inspect the house a bit at a time and we provided two comfortable baskets, one at the front and one at the back of the house. At bed time we let him make his own choice.

While we believe that all cats (and dogs) like to sleep on your bed, this one immediately settled between the two of us. He placed his body close to ours and gently put a paw on our cheek or chest, purred and then fell fast asleep within minutes, as if he'd lived with us for years. This went on for three nights and on the fourth night, I think because he now felt assured and secure, he slept in the lounge room and joined us in the early morning hours. One morning I awoke to find him settled right under the sheets near my feet!

Everyone agrees this cat was meant for us. Our interpretation is that it was God who sent him in our direction to soften the blow of the loss of Leo. He is not unlike Leo, a slightly darker colour, but we have never had such an affectionate animal. Thanks go to my maker, thanks go to Cat Protection and their staff, and thanks go to Julius for being such a wonderful animal.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Morrissey

1996 – 2008

This donation is in memory of the 3rd anniversary of my Morrissey's death. Beloved puss and king of the food bowl. I love you forever baby.

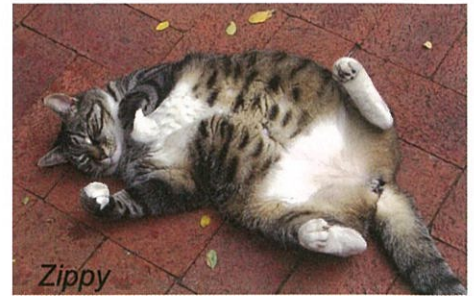
Love your mum Amy, and Sooty

This donation is in memory of Susan Elizabeth Falk (1945-2011).

Mairi

We make this donation in memory of Hugh and with thanks from the Johns' cats.

Elaine



Zippy

In memory of Zippy, beloved little old cat of Alice Street.

If there had been a Nobel Prize for the dearest pussycat in the world, Zippy would have won it. Every year.

Sadly missed by all ☐

This donation is made on behalf of Rani and Pecan. Rani adopted Pecan and Maple from the Cat Protection Society. Sadly, Pecan is no longer with us.

Love from George, Laura, Cath, Reece and Suzie

This gift is in memory of Baddy, Jack & Bo.

Dale

This donation is in memory of my two cats, Sonny-Boy and Panda-Puss, who went to Cat Heaven 2007 and 2009.

Marjorie



Artemis

To Artemis, a brave little orphan who gave so much love in his too short life.

## Dr Southwood

The Cat Protection Society of NSW extends our condolences to the family and friends of Dr Hugh Southwood, who sadly died in January.

Hugh was a supportive and generous vet and teacher who contributed much to feline welfare. He will be missed.

In memory of my lovely Burmese princess Miirroo, who died on 1 October 2011 after a long illness.

Craig

## 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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References: 1. Lacortia L *et al.*, JAVMA 2009; 235(1):43-49. 2. Traversa D *et al.*, Parasitol Res 2009; 105:S55-S62. © Bayer Australia Ltd 2011. Advocate® is a registered trademark of Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Germany. Bayer Australia Ltd (ABN 99 000 138 714) 875 Pacific Highway, Pymble NSW 2073. Customer Information Line 1811 EDEE 1800 278 248 from anywhere in Australia 0 800 66 4400 ECT Monday to Friday, bayeranimal.com.au 0800 111 111. CUP