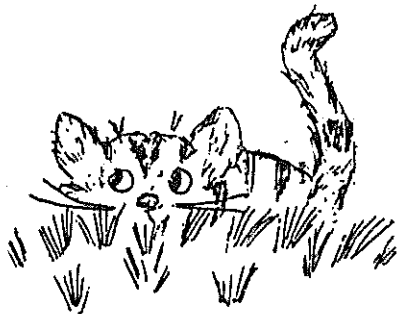


JOURNAL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

Editor: W. Graham
Editorial Asst. S. Bowles

March, 1980

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P.O. Box A523
SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000



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NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 30TH DAY OF MARCH, 1980, AT 103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE (OPPORTUNITY SHOP), COMMENCING AT 2 P.M. Please bring a chair if possible.

BUSINESS

1. Read and confirm Minutes of November, 1979, General Meeting.
2. Business Arising.
3. Report on Enmore Opportunity Shop and Clinic.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. General Business

WELCOME. A hearty and warm welcome to all those new members who have joined us in recent months.

IF YOU CAN PLACE A CAT OR KITTEN IN A GOOD HOME PLEASE LET US KNOW.

THANK YOU, CITY OF SYDNEY R.S.L., FOR THE USE OF THE MEETING ROOM.

TRI-ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN
AS AT 23RD FEBRUARY, 1980

Dear Members & Friends,

I regret and am saddened that I must advise you that as Chairman of the Society I am at variance with, and out of step with, nine of my colleagues of State Council, over a major issue - an issue which has been the cornerstone of our growth since 1974. I cannot argue with their difference of opinion. This is their right and I must respect their view, however difficult it may be; but I must also, as Chairman, protect the rights of the members as I see it. Over the years there has not been one voice of dissent from any member of Council on the continued appeal to the members that, if they gave generously, held functions, donated goods for the opportunity shop and gave their time to sell those goods, such effort would reflect itself eventually in a desexing facility for the under-privileged at Enmore. I cannot and will not abrogate the rights of the members in this regard.

In the past the atmosphere at Council meetings has been such, more or less, that it was a pleasure and delight for me to work in, but now I find it too painful and would rather remove myself from the scene and stand on my record. So this is my formal notice of resignation as Chairman of the Society, to be effective at the conclusion of the General meeting shown on the front cover. There I hope to meet you and greet you.

I believe that the Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. is the property of the members, that their wishes are, or should be, paramount, that the administrative body (Council) is the servant of the members, that the individual or collective thought of that body must be subservient to the majority wish of the members, and that their direction must prevail. If I am wrong in this belief, you the member may show your disapproval at the meeting referred to.

I will give the facts as I see them so that our Editor (Vice-President Graham) when he receives this, my copy for the Newsletter, will be able to show you the reverse side in his reply.

I penned the following in the February, 1975, Newsletter and from this acorn grew the facade we now show to the public, quote as then expressed:-

"I BELIEVE THAT OUR MOST PRESSING SHORT TERM NEED IS OUR OWN PREMISES, for without this there is no real incentive for members to be physically involved, no horizon, no goal to work for, apart from an image of x number of desexings annually. Without our own home we are a name only, a Post Office box number with not even a phone listing in our own right, no address to which those of enquiring mind can seek advice, help and guidance on matters covered by our aims and objects, no place where those of benevolent disposition can view that which is concrete and positive, to which they could lend their aid.

"If desexing is to be our main aim and field of endeavour to prevent the birth of those for which there is no home, love or affection, and we can accept the conservative estimate of at least half a million stray and homeless cats in the Metropolitan area of Sydney, then we must also accept that the few hundred we desex annually does not even scratch the surface. While we will always farm out work to veterinaries, our thoughts should be fixed on the largest desexing clinic in the State, with our own ambulance and paid staff to cater for those who cannot and never will be able to pay the standard fee. IF THIS IS OUR AIM THEN LET US BE THE LEADERS IN DESEXING AND GIVE THE LEAD."

And February, 1976, quote:- "That the members desire our own clinic is beyond doubt, if one can accept the one hundred percent support at meetings, together with the inflow of donations and correspondence applauding such proposition". unquote.

What I penned then is to-day irrefutable as evidenced by the giving by the members of tens of thousands of dollars which is reflected in each succeeding Balance Sheet which, in turn, is now represented in bricks and mortar at Enmore in some \$65,000, and a continuing income TO SUPPORT THAT CLINIC.

I have now been advised by a person that the idea of our own property and clinic was my brainchild and that I imposed it on the members. All I know is that in 1974-75-76-77-78-79 I was unanimously elected and asked to lead and as a leader I only know one way, to set an example and ask you to follow me. If the path I followed were not acceptable the expressed confidence in my integrity would have been dissipated long before this.

Over a long period of time Mr. Graham and I were in almost daily contact by phone when he arrived at work after 7.30 a.m., and while I noted that these calls had ceased, I still had every reason to believe, apart from minor matters, that I was in harmony with my colleagues relative to making the clinic a reality, that together with the members who were still contributing finance, goods and help in the shop, we were a team all working to one end. But on the 3rd December last, at a Council meeting, I received from Vice-President Graham the copy submission as shown below. My colleagues were conversant with the contents long before the meeting as evidenced by approach to Mrs. Abdy who was working at the shop, and she would not accept a word of it. However, on securing the individual reaction of Council my hopes were shattered. I was devastated, and all the joy and delight in accomplishment for animals came to an end, quote:-

"Hon. Secretary, C.P.S.

Madam,

As a consequence of the decision to form a sub-committee to formulate firm policy in regard to our present and future de-sexing requirements, I

wish to advance the conclusion I have reached in regard to the Enmore Clinic scheme. My reason for taking this course is that a letter is usually received with more consideration and attention than a speech, particularly in this organisation.

It is my contention that a de-sexing set-up at the Enmore premises is not a viable proposition for the following reasons:-

1. No suitable means of entry. As I believe you will agree, it is not convenient or proper that the shop entrance be used as a means of entry to the Clinic. That leaves only the back lane garage which poses some awkward and as yet, unanswered, questions. By what means and by whom will the door be controlled? Will all furniture and other clutter be entirely removed to provide some parking space and to facilitate the free passage of clients and veterinary personnel?

The argument has been advanced by the President that the furniture can be more economically stacked, but what happens if a customer chooses a piece at the bottom of the stack?

2. No suitable reception area. It is necessary that a waiting room or some kind of suitable space be provided to facilitate the booking in etc. of waiting clients' animals. Where can this be provided? To my mind no such space is available.

3. Lack of funds to pay salaries. The President, in an amazing about-face, stated at the recent General Meeting that a paid veterinary assistant, plus a paid clerical assistant would be required to successfully control and run the operation. Yet, in reply to a question by the Hon. Treasurer, at the November Council meeting, he categorically stated that a paid helper could not be afforded. I agreed with the President's earlier statement, and I still believe, that we are not financially equipped to maintain paid help. Two paid workers would, in my estimate, run into something like \$30,000 per annum. From where would such funds be forthcoming?

4. Lack of office space. Assuming that we do have office workers, whether paid or not, where will they be accommodated? Are we prepared to direct that the ladies' auxiliary remove all goods from the upper front room in order to provide office space and meeting room facilities as was originally intended? If not, then I contend that we cannot properly cater for Vet, vet assistant, office assistant etc.

Summary:- The Enmore premises are ideally suited for their present use - an opportunity shop which has already proved an effective, profitable and worthwhile proposition. They are also eminently suited for use as headquarters, office, record-keeping and a place to hold meetings which can fit in harmoniously with the shop. Further, we have space for ambulance parking, if something can be done about the furniture.

The Enmore premises can also be regarded as ideally suited and located for use as a de-sexing clinic but it cannot be combined with opportunity shop etc. for the reasons enumerated above.

Conclusion:- It is my considered opinion that the opportunity shop which has proved such a valuable source of income, be retained and that the remainder of the Enmore premises be given over to storage, office, meetings etc. Plans for a clinic at the same location should be regarded as incompatible with these aims and suitable premises for a clinic should be sought elsewhere when finances and circumstances allow.

The above submissions are not presented in a spirit of destructive criticism; they are put forward for your earnest consideration so that we may overcome the vexing problems that have arisen at Enmore.

If, in the course of your deliberations, you are able to knock down my arguments, then I shall be delighted to have been proven wrong. If, on the other hand, the views of the majority accord with my own, then I would suggest that we do something positive to remedy the situation.

Yours Sincerely,
Bill Graham (Vice President)"

unquote.

After this sudden reversal of policy my first reaction was to resign then as I could not continue to receive money and kind from the members under false pretences, but thought brought the acceptance that I had to see the members at the March meeting, so I submitted a Minute as shown below, quote:

"A MINUTE TO THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W. IN REPLY TO WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS PRESENTED BY VICE-PRESIDENT W. GRAHAM TO THE ABOVE BODY AT ITS MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD DECEMBER, 1979.

Unfortunately, the submission specifically refers to the "President" in a giving manner which calls for a reply so that it is on record. Also, the credibility of those concerned is open to question.

It all seems so strange when I recall that I had previously suggested to Vice-President Graham that he should follow me into the Chair, to which suggestion he had expressed appreciation and had followed this through with nomination as a leader. This does raise the point in my mind - should not a person who would lead others do his homework and be sure of facts before putting imprint on paper.

From the seeming mutual regard which I felt existed between us, I had, perhaps foolishly, accepted that there would be continuing dialogue, as in the past, on any problem as it arose, but apparently this no longer existed as from the 26.11.79 when the document was penned, or even before.

However, the document asks the reader a series of questions on suggested

insurmountable problems relative to the establishment of a spaying and neutering facility at Enmore. It is difficult for me to understand the reasoning behind the questions, the apparent quandary, wavering and indetermination -- but the expressed considered opinion is -- retention of the opportunity shop and the desexing clinic placed elsewhere ----
WHEN FINANCES AND CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW.

How destructive and defeatist - incomprehensible and beyond belief.

If I were to accept such a course of action, I would consider myself dishonest and dishonourable, that I had betrayed the rights of the members who had elected me, and who had instructed me to do my part to bring into being a desexing facility, that I had cheated them and made null and void their expressed wish and their financial and physical effort. But I was in for a further shock when the other nine Councillors present were asked individually to express their support or otherwise for the proposal -- eight stated that they "agreed" or "reluctantly agreed", with only Mrs. G. Abdy expressing her conviction to the contrary, for which I am deeply grateful. But even if I stood alone, to accept such a proposal would be reprehensible and infamous, as apart from the lack of a licence, the only problems which exist at Enmore are imaginary obstacles in the minds of little people who have received something on a platter which is too big for them to handle.

But now, with hindsight, I could have seen this proposal coming when the Editor (Vice-President Graham) stated, without any reference to Council, in the last Newsletter, quote:- "I see no reason why monetary aid cannot be distributed in a generous manner among the field workers", unquote. I would suggest to the Editor that the clinic has first call from the opportunity shop proceeds which he would so freely distribute.

Then for the icing on the cake, our Vice-President informs me that he is prepared to accept half the blame for the purchase of Enmore. This gives me a lovely feeling - that, in his generosity, he is prepared to accept half the load of my terrible guilt.

However, two further definite statements are made in the written submission. Firstly, I am advised that I am two faced. I am thankful for the advice. While I have never been conscious of this in my life, I can now take steps to remove this failing and be more acceptable to my fellow men. But I find it difficult to accept the basis on which the censure is made knowing as I do the assured income from the shop, which together with the loading on each desexing for overhead, when allied with this extract from two Newsletters written by me and which I repeat for those with short memory, quote "A veterinary surgeon and nurse will need many thousands of dollars salary per annum".

The further definite statement - "A paid veterinary assistant and a paid clerical assistant would cost \$30,000 per annum".

For the information of those interested, a senior veterinary nurse under the appropriate State Award, received \$159.00 per week - each year junior receives ten per cent less. Further comment on that statement is superfluous.

If Vice-President Graham feels inadequate to lead the Society forward into the future with the clinic added (which in reality would be the responsibility of the veterinary surgeon) he should say so. The prefix "President" does not add to the qualities we already possess, or lack. Attacking me with a charge of doubtful value, plucking exaggerated and extravagant figures out of the sky, and suggesting physical problems that are only in his mind, does not, in my opinion, build his stature or his capacity, nor does it solve problems, help the Society, or keep faith with the members.

In conclusion, after some years of effort, I regret the manner in which this has been brought forward, but that is the right of others.

10th December, 1979

R.K. Carberry, Chairman"

After some weeks, on the 18th January, Council reluctantly agreed that with a change in storage, acceptance of no more furniture, that there was plenty of area for the shop, clinic, and also, accommodation for a resident Veterinary or caretaker ----- BUT ----- they would seek the advice and opinion of two veterinaries. Accordingly, I was invited by our Secretary, Mrs. Bowles (who kept a shorthand record) to meet Dr. Paul Waters on the site. He was helpful and sympathetic. I conveyed my enthusiastic response to Mr. Graham, and a written report was received from Dr. Waters. Some of this I do not remember from our verbal conversation, but one small extract stands out, quote:- "I know my brief was to advise on the premises. I haven't really done that in detail, but once you have your licence will be time enough. Allow me to make some comments to help prepare you for the trials and tribulations ahead". Unquote.

I could point out that as President of the RSPCA during the formative years of their clinic from 1959, I know what these supposed "trials and tribulations" are. They sort out the men from the boys.

Then on a phone meeting Council decided on what, to me, is a breath-taking resolve - they invited Dr. Lindsay Hay, State President of the Australian Veterinary Association (one of the organisations bitterly opposed to the concept of any infringement of their scale fee rights) to inspect the premises and address Council. At the meeting Dr. Hay explained in masterly fashion how foolish it would be for the Society to think of bringing cheap desexing to the under-privileged, that some of our sister Societies were out of favour, and that we could be in on the bright side of the coin; also that plumbing, furnishing etc. for the clinic would cost \$25,000. Dr. Hay was not apparently aware that the whole of the

extensive and costly alterations and renovations from ground floor through to roof cost under \$12,000, give or take. I would say that his estimate could be lopped by at least three quarters.

Vice-President Graham has the advantage of me as President. Decisions are made without my knowledge. I was not invited to meet Dr. Hay on the premises, nor invited to meet three representatives of the Veterinary Surgeons Board when they made their first visit to the site. This brings to mind some very good advice I received many years ago - "When one intrigues to the detriment of his fellow such intrigue is eventually self destructive".

So, I would rather remove myself and let my colleagues get on with whatever they have in mind, and convey to them my thanks for support in the past and to Mrs. Abdy and Mrs. Hitchen, my grateful appreciation for their loyal support now, for they believe as I that to even think of not bringing that clinic to reality, is wrong, let alone voice it as policy; and to the members, my gratitude for making the whole of what has been accomplished during my time in the Chair, possible, for without their effort there would be nothing.

In conclusion, had I been given the opportunity to make the clinic a reality, not only the C.P.S., but the whole welfare movement would have gained and been the richer from the precedent. But I do know this, the seed I have sown will be nourished by others and eventually will bear fruit irrespective of and despite vested interests which is somewhere in the wood pile now, but I just cannot put my finger on it.

Very Sincerely,

302 Connells Point Rd., Connells Point, 2221 R.K. Carberry, Chairman

Note from the Editor:- All copy for the Journal was in the hands of the Secretary for typing on the 21st February. As you will observe, Mr. Carberry's report is dated 23rd February. So, therefore, I have had no opportunity of reply, but I am quite happy to answer any questions or comment on Mr. Carberry's report at the meeting of the 30th March.

I bear no responsibility, nor do I condone the Chairman's Report in any way, and I completely disassociate myself from any derogatory remarks made about any person in his Report.

W. Graham

LD50 PROTEST CAMPAIGN. As the next step in the campaign to ban the unscientific and cruel LD50 test the Australian Association for Humane Research have printed 10 thousand aerogrammes and accompanying cards to back up the British campaign. If you would like to help by posting one of these aerogrammes to Brussels, please ring Ursula Jones, 520-4584.

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Although approx. 10 new members are enrolled each month, it is disappointing to realise that of the 1200 names entered in the register, almost 300 are unfinancial, thus reducing the official membership to not much over 900. If any of you are in doubt as to your financial status as a member, please enquire. We don't wish to lose you but Journals or other literature issued by the Society cannot be sent to those in arrears as this would not be fair to members who are financial. It is a waste of postage and valuable time when mail is returned to us marked "No longer at this address". Please notify the Society as soon as possible if you have moved. As a reminder, subscriptions become due and payable on the 1st day of June each year. The fees are - \$5.00 or \$2.00 (if pensioner or junior). Naturally, no subs are due from life members, the fee for which is \$50.00.

Those members who, over the past few months, when communicating with me, have voiced their concern at the prospect of cats left unattended and without care, on any clinic or similar premises belonging to the Society, will be relieved and delighted to know that the Council has unanimously decided that no clinic will be established unless a full-time caretaker is resident on the premises. Further, it has been unanimously agreed that an escape-proof reception area must be installed. (See Mrs. De Segoyer's letter to the Editor, June, 1979, issue of the Journal.)

To emphasise the above, and also to provide a possible answer to those of you who enquired in regard to the legal responsibilities of cat ownership, it is my pleasure to print some extracts from that excellent work "Cat Owners' Encyclopaedia of Veterinary Medicine" by Joan O. Joshua F.R.C.V.S.:-

"Unless kept by cat breeders, most cats live a life of freedom from physical control; they are seldom confined to houses and flats and it is accepted in law that control of the kind possible with other animals is not possible with cats. Hence cat owners can seldom, if ever, be held responsible for any nuisance caused by their pets".

"Cats as Patients - Cats present peculiar problems to the veterinary surgeon owner and nursing attendant. First and foremost it must be remembered that, although a domestic animal, the cat is probably nearer to the wild than most other domesticated species; the veneer of civilised behaviour is thin and can easily be breached by interferences which would evoke little response from many animals. This can result in outbursts of savage temper which makes the cat the most dangerous animal with which the veterinary surgeon has to deal. As patients to be nursed, cats present some problems. They retain certain instincts which domestication has done little to eradicate. One of these is the desire to seek solitude and concealment when ill. This means that sick cats cannot be allowed much freedom. Failure of careful supervision often results in the disappearance of the patient which causes much distress to the owner and the necessity to presume death. Cats are also difficult subjects to dose and tend to resent and resist the forced administration of drugs or nutrients. Considerable

patience, perseverance and dexterity is required by owners or nursing attendants to ensure the regular medication occasionally called for. Ancillary nursing procedures such as temperature taking, cleansing of discharge from eyes and nose, grooming, application of heat etc. are at best tolerated, at worst forcibly resisted and seldom welcomed as seems to be the case with many canine patients. Considerable skill and discretion are called for in deciding whether the procedure desired is likely to do more harm than good to a resisting patient. Immediately a cat is accepted as an inmate of a veterinary surgeon's premises, whether for a short stay of a few hours for some minor procedure, or for a period of several weeks, the safety of the animal becomes the responsibility of the veterinary surgeon. Safety must be regarded as an all-embracing term covering security from escape, maintenance of health, avoidance of infection and safe transport.

Security. Cats can be most expert escapologists and it is essential that this fact be recognised and all precautions taken to minimise the risk. This means first and foremost that there must always be at least two barriers between the cat and freedom so that one is always closed. It is an extraordinary fact that this simple and obvious precaution can never be impressed upon students and staff until disaster or near disaster has occurred. These suggestions will be obvious to many, yet it is surprising how often these simple precautions which can obviate so much trouble, are neglected even by experienced people. When it is necessary to have a cat loose in a surgery for purposes of examination, e.g. of movement, it is essential that all windows be closed or protected with wire guards, and that chimneys should be blocked off at the fireplace. The number of times cats have escaped into chimneys is too great for peace of mind, and their recovery is often extremely difficult. Precautions should also be taken to guard against the cat's escape if the door is opened unexpectedly."

De-sexing clinic or other alternatives. Mrs. Harvey's article which appears in this issue, is worthy of consideration and is very timely as over the past few months several members, including the majority of councillors, have been questioning the wisdom of attempting to press ahead with a 'clinic' at Enmore. Several veterinary surgeons, having inspected the premises at Council's request, have pointed out many problems which would have to be overcome. One estimate is that it could cost 25 thousand dollars or more to effect the necessary alterations. It is felt by most councillors that the Society's money could possibly be put to better and more effective use. One suggestion put forward, which seems to make sense and does have appeal, is that we should consider directing our efforts to acquiring an establishment run somewhat on the Victorian C.P.S. principle where a wider service could be provided.

If one thinks about it, a scheme based or modified on the above plan,

might well be more in keeping with the ideals of a Society such as ours. A de-sexing 'clinic' may achieve very little at great cost and it is my opinion that more can be accomplished by stepping up the activities of the ladies who form the de-sexing panel. The voucher system can be very effective if more people are encouraged to make use of it. It is the opinion of many members that a shelter or hostel would enable us to demonstrate far more compassion for strays than would a de-sexing parlour of dubious merit. Furthermore, members of longer standing than myself would have it that the original aim of the Society was to have some type of cat haven, but somewhere along the way the words and meaning have been changed to 'clinic'. An alternative plan at Enmore, which we were advised on, is that the premises could be used as a collection point for cats which would then be transported to co-operating vets for de-sexing. Combined with the shelter idea this could be workable and would allow us to do much more than is done now. Further points in favour of this argument are: the activities of the opportunity shop would not be hampered, a caretaker would not be required as no cats need be kept on the premises overnight, there would be lots of much needed office space and ample room for meetings. There would also be more working space and storage, plus room to garage an ambulance.

Idealistic? Perhaps, but it could be done. However, it is up to all members to make up their own minds, then voice their opinions strongly! Every member of this Society should be free to speak and vote as they believe is just, and their views will be respected whether they accord with my own or not. Perhaps I have at least got you thinking. If so, please attend the General Meeting and have your say.

It has been passed in Council that field workers, acting on behalf of or at the request of the Society, are entitled to claim reimbursement of their expenses. This move has been long overdue and it is hoped will take some of the strain off the pockets of those who do so much good work.

Bill Graham, Editor and Vice-President

The following extracts are from a report submitted to the Council by an independent practising veterinary surgeon who inspected the Enmore premises at Council's request. The full report is to be tabled at the General Meeting:-

29th January, 1980

"I wish to thank the Cat Protection Society for demonstrating their confidence in me by inviting me to inspect their premises at 103 Enmore Road with a view to reporting on the suitability of those premises for a feline desexing clinic.

.....

Above all, it must be remembered that the veterinary profession has striven to improve standards and any new premises must be professional in appearance. The back lane and lack of parking is therefore a disadvantage. The roll up door and what is obviously a back entrance into a garage would have to be converted into an area that would pass as a proper professional waiting room. The public could not be expected to use the steps to the next floor.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act does make provision for animal welfare organisations to provide for its members a veterinary service on a fee for service basis, providing all other sections of the Act are adhered to. This will place upon you considerable restraints. For example, the professional is not allowed to advertise and this would limit your ability to promote your service. However, nowhere in the regulations is provision made for a dexing clinic as you people envisage. Veterinary premises will soon be licensed under new regulations which will classify them into one of three categories. The minimum category is a veterinary surgery which is obliged to provide more than your intentions.

A licence does not only presuppose a basic standard of premises but also a minimum basic service. The Board could justifiably refuse a licence on the basis that you do not intend to provide a veterinary service 5½ days a week and then, out of hours, provide an emergency number. This is quite reasonable as it is possible for example (and it does happen) that a cat's spleen would rupture and its abdominal contents eviscerate. It is logical for the distraught pet owner to rush their pet to where the operation was performed and expect immediate remedy.

Allow me to make some comments to help prepare you for the trials and tribulations that lie ahead.

You will need a full time receptionist. Once you are dealing with the public and providing them with a service you will find that regardless of your good intentions you will receive complaints. Consider the case of an anaesthetic death (it will happen). The client may lodge a complaint with the Australian Veterinary Association or the Veterinary Surgeons Board. Imagine the embarrassment of the C.P.S. whose aim is to help our feline friends.

Even if you only desex animals you will receive a constant stream of veterinary enquiries. People will simply roll up with their cat and, I would expect, their dog also. People will attempt to surrender their animals and strays. Some animals will be admitted for desexing and then claimed late or never at all.

Some cats will require re-examination by a veterinary surgeon. I have already mentioned the eviscerated cat - some will chew their stitches out and the wound open. The occasional cat may develop a post operative fever, etc. If, as you propose, these people will be referred to another

veterinarian it will attract a fee sufficient to make your client feel that dealing through the C.P.S. was not worth the trouble and possibly has cost them more in the long run.

If I may suggest at this point if you fail to gain a licence, an alternative proposal would be to use your premises as a collection centre and then transport the cats to an established veterinarian.

If you receive Board permission please give it a thought as to the number of cats you will require to process without the clinic being a liability on the Society's funds. I would venture to say that it will be very difficult to achieve this number. Remember that a comprehensive veterinary practice is actually subsidising a low cost desexing from their other services. I know that in Victoria desexing clinics appear to be operating successfully, but they embrace a much wider service than you people envisage and they receive State Government assistance."

End of quote, The Editor.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT A CAT HAVEN ALTERNATIVE V A DESEXING CLINIC.

By long time member, Beulah Harvey.

The word 'protection' should be all embracing and while desexing is most important, we must think of the strays and other aspects of cruelty prevention for which much money has been donated to this Society. A clinic if established at Enmore would not solve the problems of out-of-town neutering and patients beyond city limits will still have to be farmed out to Vets on the already existing voucher system. Any type of service that could be provided would at best be very restricted. At Enmore there could be no provision for cats who are sick, strayed or abandoned and, therefore, would not enhance our reputation for compassion.

W^o: I would like to advocate is this - Enmore used as a collection depot for desexing batch lots of cats. For example, they could be brought in Monday mornings and collected by co-operating vet or vets in the afternoon. They could then be returned later in the week when fully recovered and collected by their owner. The remainder of the building could be given over to shop, storage, office, headquarters and meeting room. We would still run our desexing voucher system in conjunction with this scheme.

I would then very much like to see us turn our efforts to a cats' haven - run somewhat along the lines as are followed in other States where our sister Societies provide excellent facilities. These 'refuges' or 'havens' show a much wider view and a better investment of the cats' money for the benefit of cats. Many more strays and unwanted kittens could be given a chance. A cats' 'haven' could also be used as a venue for fetes, shows etc. as in other States, and while problems would have to be over-

come, staff etc., the 'home' in itself would be its own advertisement and would no doubt swell our membership and funds. Further, a wider range of veterinary treatment could be provided. The money that would otherwise be expended on a restricted service at Enmore could then go towards establishing such a 'haven'.

As an example of what can be done I would draw your attention to some of what has been accomplished by the Victorian C.F.S. The Society there has opened and maintained a hostel at Greensborough, under the care of a Manager and Manageress who are in attendance 7 days a week. This hostel consists of a complex housing, reception, isolation and display areas. The Society has just completed the construction of 54 kitten pens. Many thousands of cats and kittens pass through the hostel each year and homes are found for a very large number of them. The Society advocates the neutering of all domestic cats with a view to reducing the number of stray and unwanted pets. All cats entering the hostel are immunised and new owners have to undertake to have them neutered. The Society contributes towards the cost of this by a veterinary voucher system.

The C.P.S. of N.S.W. should and must prove itself a compassionate, worthy body and its members should be vigilant to ensure that the aims for which it was founded are adhered to. I feel most strongly that we could well emulate Victoria's example, and it is my most sincere hope that the vast majority of members support me in this. If any member wishes to discuss the matter further, please contact me on 662 6085 or write c/- usual box number.

'Paws' a while and think!

Beulah Harvey.

FUND-RAISING AND 'OP' SHOP ACTIVITIES - By Sybil Cozens

Fashion Show:- Dr. Louise Jones once again "scooped the pool" with her luncheon and parade on the 1st December. The afternoon fun netted \$303.40 - a raffle of \$25 included. A really great effort! Over \$600 worth of dresses were sold which amounts to an awful lot of dresses when one remembers how reasonably priced they were. You deserve that holiday, Louise!

'Op' Shop:- Thank you once again for the donations of goods for the shop. Without your "trash" no one could buy a "treasure". The Pittwater Flora and Fauna Society are great supporters. A very special thank you to our plant supplier from down South. Trading has been brisk on most days since opening in September - some days have been really super. It has been decided by the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee to discontinue selling furniture. Our ladies have found handling to be too difficult and most buyers have wanted deliveries which we cannot do.

Sewing:- Is there anyone who would like to make up some coat hangers?

One of our 'knitters' has swamped me with the knitted strips which are sewn over foam onto the wooden hangers. I will supply the hangers, foam and plastic tubing for the wire hooks.

Carpet shampoo:- S.C. Johnson and Son Pty. Ltd. very generously donated their famous "Glory" shampoo to clean our carpets at 103. Many thanks indeed!

Help Wanted:- We are experiencing a desperate shortage of volunteers to man the 'op' shop. Can you help? Unfortunately, if more helpers are not forthcoming we shall have to seriously reduce the number of trading days.

'OP' SHOP TRADING FIGURES.

October, '79	Banked	\$1918.98	November, '79	Banked	\$1637.70
	Cash in hand	50.45		Cash in hand	106.08
	Donations	31.00		Donations	14.00
	Expenditure	<u>112.90</u>		Expenditure	<u>309.95</u>
	Balance	\$1887.53		Balance	\$1447.83
December '79	Banked	\$1207.00	January, '80	Banked	\$1817.90
	Cash in hand	194.24		Cash in hand	76.08
	Donations	2.00		Donations	12.00
	Expenditure	<u>93.56</u>		Expenditure	<u>583.44</u>
	Balance	\$1309.68		Balance	\$1322.54

Cheques to C.P.S. Treasurer for this period \$5512.20
 Includes raffles in shop 98.60
 " Donations 59.00

Save and send Lan-choo tea coupons to Mrs. B. Harvey, 25/1 Florence Ave., Etlakes. Mrs. Harvey is offering to handle trimming and sorting of labels until required amount is reached. Please! - no parcels to box as box is meant for and capable of handling letter mail only.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION.

ANIMALS CAN BE REPLACED IN MANY EXPERIMENTS. You can help by writing to your M.P. and requesting that considerably more funds be directed without delay towards research projects where replacements for animals are being developed. Also, ask why irrelevant tests are still carried out on animals.

Request support for The Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments.

CENTRAL COAST CALLING

By Dorothy Haines

Creetings to all! Sad to say, the holiday period up here was nothing short of a massacre! Vets reported an unbelievable number of cats and kittens sent on their last journey. If we needed it, that spurred us on to redouble our efforts to halt this sad slaying. We propose an announcement in the press, accompanied by a story, requesting that folk with surplus litters contact us immediately they arrive. We found good homes for two litters of kittens which were dumped on Kathleen at Xmas.

First meeting of 1980 - A record turn-out! Doris hosted a happy New Year party meeting. Highlights were - decisions to announce firmer measures to combat cat surplus and a strong petition to Gosford City Council for a cat shelter for Woy Woy Peninsula to receive cats for transport to Erina pound; arrangements for speedy desexing of cats in group at the Woy Woy RSPCA depot to reduce cost; and request for a small Council subsidy to help reduce fees for needy folk.

November bus tour:- netted \$78, and a happy day out for all.

Street Stall Jan. 26th:- Exceeded our expectations - realised \$300 plus. Gwen's plant section raised \$70 and Betty Muir's handcraft articles sold for \$37.

Many thanks to:- Vicki and Garry Garrett, Win Allan, Gillian Boyden, Betty Hornby, and Mesdames Hillyer, Downey, Kentwell, Scrivener, Buchanan.

Something New:- To augment our stall at Umina, the energetic son of a lady we helped, organised a 'circus' afternoon in his back yard, - pony rides, games, competitions, - orange juice, tea, cakes etc. supplied by Mum. A kindly neighbour passed over \$5 to swell the funds. Result - \$20 as the "takings". Congratulations Timothy Watts! (He's trying to arrange other similar Saturday afternoons, he says.)

Cans can help:- Indefatigable can collector, June Brown, handed in \$10 as loot from this source. Mrs. Prosser of Balmain saved all her 1 and 2 cent coins which came to \$10.41 as her share for the stall.

Statistically:- Nov. to Jan. inclusive - desexed 17; cats and kittens placed 28; euthanised 4. Had to enlist aid of RSPCA Woy Woy and Newcastle on some very sticky cases outside our area.

That "Top End":- Appeals received for a local branch or group to serve The Entrance/Wyong areas (not to mention Gosford). Committee feels the time has come to decentralise activities and spread the workload over a greater area. A number of willing hands are waiting word from us.

Till we meet again,

Dorothy Haines, Hon. organising Secretary

MEMORY LANE

A donation in memory of my best mate, 'Smoky McAndrew Smith' who was mercifully put to sleep on 17.11.79, to release him from the pain and suffering of a massive, inoperable abdominal tumour. Treasured memories of 12 good years.

Inserted by Mr. W.G. Smith

"Goodbye, 'Odd-Bodd'"

Inserted by Beulah Harvey

A donation in memory of our 'Chang', a Siamese darling pussycat, who lived for over 16 years and is now resting in the garden he loved so much. We, as well as 'Sooty' and 'Sizko' - our two pussies - miss 'Chang' very much.

Inserted by Clara and Philip Harrison

A donation from 'Mittens' and 'Tabbitha' Coates.

Rene Kummerfeld of Chittaway Point misses 'Bambi', her little princess, who now sleeps in the garden. She will long live in Rene's memory.

In memory of 'Beau' and 'Tibby' .
Inserted by the Misses Baird and Sewell.

As suggested by Mrs. G. Hagen of Ettalong in our last issue, we have decided to now publish a list of new members in our Journal. Below are the new members since last November.

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. M.L. Dixon, Newport	Mrs. M.M. Neale, Punchbowl
Mrs. Robin Tyler, Wollstonecraft	Miss Susan Coit, Cremorne
Mrs. A.B. Tomkin, Five Dock	Mrs. R. Bernadoni, Punchbowl
Mrs. B. McDougall, Five Dock	Miss N.O. Carradori, Darlinghurst
Mrs. I. Tattersall, Balgowlah	Miss Joan Clarke, Cremorne
Mrs. R.F. Jackson, Gladesville	Mrs. Lorra Downey, Toukley
Mr. F. Hutchison, Sefton	Miss Louise Galatola, Earlwood
Mrs. Christine Townend, Roseville	Mr. K.H. Grunert, Croydon Park
Mr. K.J. Anderson, Enmore	Mrs. E. Hicks, Blakehurst
M/s. J.L. Crosbie, Enmore	Mrs. G. Hindmarsh, Dee Why West
Mrs. C.A. Hudson, Cammeray	Miss Jan Lines, Ashfield
Mrs. M. Smith, Tooma	Miss G. Mulvogue, Crows Nest
Miss Rachel Perks, Kogarah	Miss N.F. Bartulovich, Balmain
Miss Elaine Elliott, Bexley	Mrs. M. Luff, Rockdale
Miss Janet Foster, Bexley	Mrs. E. Williams, Vaucluse
Miss K. Flanagan, Enmore	Mrs. D.A. Langford, Pymble
Mrs. M.K. Kentwell, The Entrance	Mrs. B.M. Lloyd, Kilcare
Mrs. Mary Berry, Lalor Park	

At this stage of typing the Journal the report from Dr. Lindsay Hay on our proposed Clinic has just been received, and so we are printing it in full for the information of members.

22nd February, 1980

"Dear Mrs. Bowles,

Thank you for the opportunity to inspect your premises at Enmore and to meet your committee. I hope that the dialogue between our Associations can continue with the aim of improving the welfare of animals in New South Wales.

I have considered at some length the possible establishment of a desexing clinic at Enmore and offer the following comments both specifically about the building itself and more generally about the operation of desexing programmes:

1. The Position

Parking is very difficult, especially morning and evening, when animals would be admitted and discharged.

Councils generally require parking off street for Veterinary hospitals.

2. Council Approval

To house animals overnight, as would be necessary in a desexing clinic, requires council approval, which I understand, you have not obtained. This can be very difficult to get.

3. Interior

The rear access loading dock would have to serve as an entrance to the facility.

Floor surface upstairs is good.

Air conditioning would be essential as animals would be housed in larger of two rooms exposed to western sun.

Cages would have to be built. These could be of stainless steel, fibreglass or of epoxy coated wood. Probably twenty would be sufficient, allowing \$100-\$200 per cage.

The whole area would need to be drained to allow hosing and cleaning of cage area. This would require major plumbing work and further Council approval.

A drug and instrument storage area and instrument preparation area would be needed including cupboards, sink and bench space.

4. Equipment

An autoclave for sterilisation would be needed. Cost is between \$300 and \$1,000.

A table or bench, preferably of stainless steel would be needed in the larger room as a surgical preparation area.

Extra lighting would be needed in this area.

The surgery would require special surgical lighting, stainless steel table, preferably with adjustable height and would be easier to clean if the walls were tiled.

Two anaesthetic machines would be needed, one during preparation and one for surgery. I would recommend a semi open out of circle system.

Surgical instruments would need to be purchased.

A heating pad for the surgery table would be an advantage.

The storeroom at the front of the building would have to be fitted out as a caretaker's flat.

Total cost \$20,000 to \$25,000.

As can be seen from the above, the establishment of a veterinary facility requires a large injection of capital which to be efficiently used must operate as a full time operation. To do this would require the employment of one veterinarian and two lay staff, one of whom would have had experience as a veterinary nurse. Wages would cost about \$500 per week at present rates.

If the clinic operated on a five day per week basis, it would probably be able to desex between forty and sixty cats per week if they were available.

After-hours supervision would be necessary to ensure no anaesthetic recovery problems and to handle any complications of surgery which arise from time to time.

My own view is that your Society would be unwise to establish a desexing clinic at Enmore Road. I believe that your efforts and money are far better spent in a voucher scheme which helps needy welfare cases through present veterinary clinics and hospitals. Veterinarians do not make a great deal of money from desexing cats and your Society would find itself in the same position of high costs which will occupy all your funds and prevent the voucher scheme from reaching a far greater number of cats (and their owners).

Most veterinarians are quite happy to co-operate with a properly organised and supervised welfare voucher scheme, but would probably be reluctant to help an organisation 'competing' with them in a spey clinic.

The Society would also be faced with turning sick and injured cats and dogs away from the 'clinic' and thus creating public ill-will and jeopardising the animal's welfare. It would be difficult to keep a

veterinarian for long term employment under such a situation.

In summary, I can see few advantages and many problems - I have, I believe, looked at the situation fairly and without prejudice. We have, after all, a common interest in Animal Welfare which by co-operation can be very effective. I hope that co-operation can continue in the future and be expanded.

This is all the payment I require as a fee - a continuation of co-operation and dialogue.

Hoping this is of some help in your decision making.

Yours sincerely,

LINDSAY E. HAY
President of the
New South Wales Division,
Australian Veterinary Association "

MEMBERS FORUM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Graham,

I was present at the meeting of the Society on November 25th when you requested contributions for the Journal. Accordingly, I am enclosing a short but true story of one of my many cats and hope this may be of interest to members.

'Fergus' is a large tabby tomcat who comes to my home for meals but apparently lives elsewhere.

In May, 1976, having had his evening meal, Fergie was crossing the road and was hit by a car whose driver did not stop. Neighbours called me, and between us we got him onto a rug and I took him to the Vet as quickly as possible. His rear end was badly damaged and on X-ray it was found that he had two broken legs and a dislocated hip. However, by a miracle his kidneys and internal organs were not involved, so we decided to give him a fighting chance. The legs were put in plaster, but the dislocated hip would not stay in joint, so it was necessary to operate and remove the head of the femur. Fergie has a terrific constitution and in spite of all this, I had him home in about 10 days. Panic - where to keep him as he had to be confined until the plasters were off. There being nowhere else available, I had him in the bathroom for 3 months (one plaster had to be replaced as one of the fractures was slow to knit).

His fur grew again and became as good as new. I could not give him a litter tray in case the grit got under his plaster, so the alternative was wall-to-wall newspapers which I burnt daily, before and after work.

I used to pick him up and nurse him, plaster and all, whenever I could and he grew to trust me. His appetite was undiminished throughout

and he kept his fluid content up also. I would go in, say "Good morning Fergus", step over him, close the door and have my shower as usual.

When, finally, I was able to let Fergie out, I did not expect to see him again, and did not for 3 days. Then he returned for dinner and has continued to do so, sometimes staying overnight in bad weather. His only problem is that sometimes he rolls over, due to his altered hip joint, and has a little difficulty in getting on his feet (? paws). I feel he is truly a miracle cat.

Jean MacFadyen (Member of the Society and cat lover
from way back)

(A truly poignant story from a remarkably compassionate lady. However, "Fergus" is no miracle cat. Patient loving care and kindness beyond the norm wrought the 'miracle'. Thank you, Jean MacFadyen, for your story and for what you did for "Fergus". - The Ed.)

"Dear Bill,

Thank you very much for your invitation to write a short piece for your next newsletter. Below is a paragraph or two which may or may not be useful:

The pig is a very intelligent animal, capable of communicating with at least 18 different sounds, and estimated to be as clever and as quick to learn as the dog. Yet if we kept dogs in the conditions that pigs are kept we would be prosecuted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Sows are kept in iron bars before they give birth and while they are feeding their young. The iron bars are designed to prevent them crushing the piglets by accidentally lying on them, but at the most, these bars are only necessary for 2 days, not 6 or 7 weeks. The iron bars prevent the sow from doing anything more than taking a step forwards or backwards. She becomes so overweight through lack of exercise she often cannot even stand up properly, and may suffer prolapse of the womb due to weak muscles. There are many foot and leg deformities due to the hard cement, or slatted wood floor.

For the pig the need to root is a strong instinct which must be fulfilled, and in conditions like this, with no soil or earth to investigate, the ethological (behavioural) needs cannot be satisfied. The pig has about 20 minutes of enjoyment a day when it is fed, and the rest of the time has nothing to do except nibble its companions which can lead to cannibalism.

The pig also requires a cool place to lie, and for this reason loves wetness. In the intensive piggery it will lie in its own urine to keep damp, but being a clean animal, if possible, it will play with the water taps. Thus the farmer will often turn these off for all but 2 hours a day, depriving the pig of this enjoyment too.

The pig needs rough bark to rub his skin upon, and mud to keep him healthy. But these are not present in the factory farm. Even one handful

of straw per pig per day will keep the pig amused for 1½ hours, yet many piggeries deny the animal even this simple pleasure. This is why legislation is urgently needed to stop these extreme practices which deprive the animal of its most basic ethological needs.

The meat from sick, stressed animals which have been fed with low and constant doses of antibiotics to suppress disease must indeed be extremely harmful to those who eat it.

Best Wishes, Chris Townend.

(Some members may perhaps wonder why the unhappy lot of the factory pig should be raised in this Journal. The fact is that this Society is concerned at any form of cruelty shown to any animal, and factory or intensive rearing of animals is a shameful and heinous business. Mrs. Townend is a tireless worker in the cause of animal rights. She is the Hon. Secretary of "Animal Liberation" and a member of this Society. We are grateful for her contribution. - The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham,

I have always found the newsletter very interesting. I am a great cat lover and so is my mother. I own 5 cats and they are all desexed. I have had my 12½ year old Chinchilla Persian since I was a teenager. Sometimes I board cats for the Coffs Harbour branch of the R.S.P.C.A.

You are certainly right about cats having feelings. Each one of mine is an individual, with different likes and dislikes, and each with a different personality. My Siamese, Mikado, can be funny at times. In winter he hates the cold and snuggles up underneath the blankets with me at night and will not move until I get up next morning. All of my cats are very spoilt and loved.

It is shocking the amount of cats that have to be destroyed each year. I hope you can get the reduction in fees for desexing.

Yours faithfully - Miss Diane Elias

(I believe all creatures have feelings to a greater or lesser extent. In the care of cats one is often intrigued how, in many ways, their actions and humours so closely approximate our own. Thank you for your letter, Miss Elias. - The Ed.)

Readers of this column who enjoyed Mrs. Jones' little story called "From Snowbound London", which appeared in the November issue, will be pleased to hear that she has a sequel to add which has a happy ending. Here is her letter:-

Dear Mr. Graham and Mrs. Graham,

Thank you for putting my little yarn into the newsletter. There's a little postscript to it. During summer my 2 cousins got a good deal of help from the R.S.P.C.A. and from the London Cat Protection Group: they managed to catch such sick and/or feral cats that the cousins could not handle. The too sick were humanely killed; others treated and desexed at

their clinics and it seems most found good homes. In a recent letter they tell me 10 more have been taken, all with hopes of good homes. Meanwhile, neighbours have contributed food for those still running about. It seems the church congregation where much of this takes place make no objections. Good old London!

Here, too, is a small cheque with the request for 3 more copies of the last Newsletter - to send to the cousins and to some other feline-aware friends. Several folk to whom I have shown your gazette have remarked what a good publication it is. Please remember me to the Cozens, Mrs. Harvey and Mr. Carberry.

Sincerely Yours, Vera Jones

(Our very best wishes to you, Mrs. Jones, and to your London Cousins.

- The Ed.)

Cat Protection Society,

Please find cheque inside to help with your good work, also to thank you for "Polly" our white cat whom you delivered to me at Balmain fifteen years ago for two dollars. Polly is still very well and enjoying life. Being a white cat she did develop cancer of the ears; however, we have a good vet who successfully trimmed off half of her ear and we think she looks very cut.

Thanking you, Marie Dixon

(So glad to hear "Polly" is still going strong after all these years. Thank you, Marie Dixon. - The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham,

I was glancing through our local newspaper when I came across this article. I live in the same street as the lady concerned. Perhaps you could put it in the next bulletin or something. Also enclosed is membership renewal and a poem I came across.

Yours sincerely, Robert Jenkins

(The clipping sent me by Master Robert Jenkins is a horrifying example of sa^otic vandalism which proves Mrs. De Segoyer's point - see "Letters to Editor" June issue - that any establishment run by the Society where cats are kept overnight must have a full-time caretaker. The poem Robert mentions is one of the best examples of cat poetry I have seen, and I am reserving it for the next issue. The Ed.)

Dear Sir,

In this era of "throw-away animals" Ogden Nash's poem certainly sums up the feline situation:

"The trouble with a kitten is that eventually it becomes a cat."

Yours faithfully,
Sybil Cozens

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR 'OP' SHOP

MUST CLOSE SHOP SEVERAL DAYS PER MONTH UNLESS MORE HELPERS COME FORWARD. WE NEED YOUR HELP BADLY. PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS LISTED BELOW IF YOU CAN SPARE A LITTLE TIME ON THE LADIES AUXILIARY.

WANT HELP?/WANTING TO HELP?

P.O. BOX A523, SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

(ADMINISTRATION
(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
(MEMBERSHIP

Phone 477-1316 Mr. Graham (after hours and
week ends.)

OPPORTUNITY SHOP

(103 Enmore Rd., Enmore) Phone 51-1011 9.30 - 4.30 week days
9.30 - 11.30 Saturdays

(AUXILIARY, FUND RAISING,
(DE-SEXING

Phone 427-3828 Mrs. Cozens

DE-SEXING
(Eastern Suburbs)

Phone 662-6085 Mrs. Harvey

