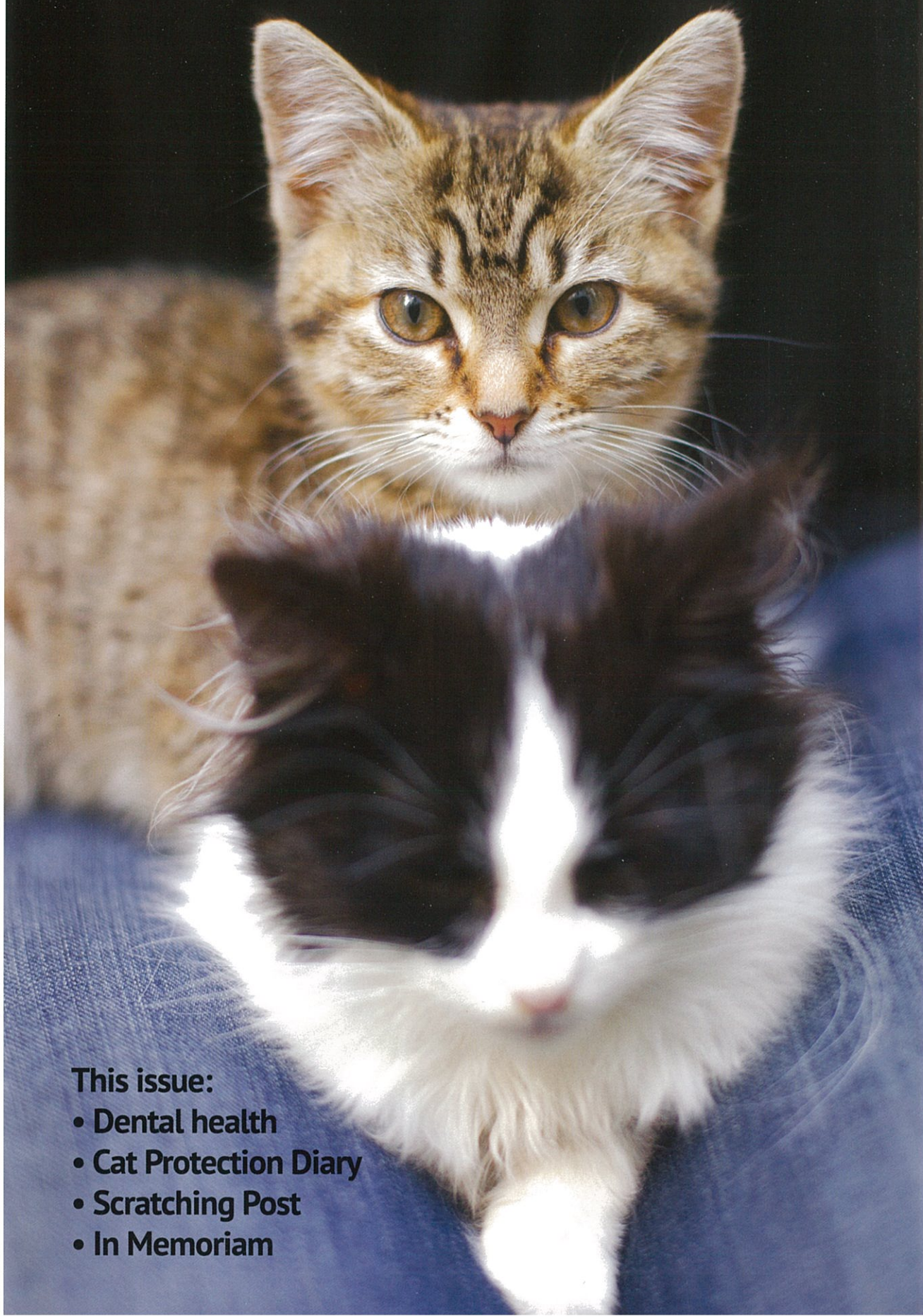


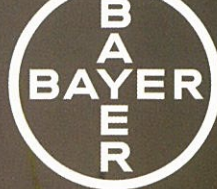


cataffairs



This issue:

- Dental health
- Cat Protection Diary
- Scratching Post
- In Memoriam



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Feel free to send us an email at kristina@catprotection.org.au or post us a letter with your feedback.

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

Cat Protection does not pay for contributions.

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Care for cats!

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President's Report

"She's my hero," exclaimed four-year Jeremy Triantafilo about his tabby cat, Tara. You've probably seen the amazing footage of Tara's courage protecting her little human friend from a vicious unprovoked dog attack (and if you haven't, just type Tara, Jeremy, and dog attack into your search engine).

More than 21 million people have viewed the footage which was captured by security cameras outside the Triantafilo home. Jeremy is playing on his bike when the neighbour's dog charges at him, bites and tries to drag him – and then Tara appears from nowhere, all speed, fur and fury and chases the dog away. Tara then runs back to Jeremy.

It is a stunning example of cat love and loyalty, of fearlessness and tenderness.

Tara adopted her family, following Jeremy's mum Erica and dad Ryan home from a park before they'd even married – and even though Erica is allergic to cats. Erica and Ryan said Tara has always been particularly protective of Jeremy, who has mild autism, sleeping in his cot when he was a baby and always happy to spend time with him and his younger brothers.

There are countless tales of heroic felines but what makes this one extra-special is that it cannot be denied: it's all there on film. It challenges the negative stereotypes of cats being aloof and selfish, characteristics we cat owners know to be untrue.

Prejudices about cats persist and they are harmful because they work against cats being adopted by people who don't 'know' cats. People who've never had cats as pets and haven't experienced the magic and joy of sharing their home with a cat or cats don't know what they're missing out on. Because, as you all know, it takes time to build a relationship with a cat; it takes patience and trust.

You can't choose a cat based on their appearance; in fact, you can't really choose a cat at all, you have to let them choose you. Like their forebears who chose a domestic life with humans, today's cats are still very much in charge of their destiny. That is a part of their mystery and allure. And how wonderful it is when we get to share in their lives.

Erica and Ryan will be forever grateful that little Tara chose to follow them home six years ago. Let's hope their story inspires more people to honour our feline friends and give them the loving homes they very much deserve.

Rhonda House
President



Cover photograph of Cat Protection kittens
by Danielle Liu



Dental health care in cats – prevention and treatment

Dr Gretta Howard, BVSc, MVS, MANZCVSc (Small Animal Medicine)

Adult cats have a total of 30 permanent teeth. It is really important to make sure your cat's teeth and gums stay healthy and comfortable as this helps to maintain a good quality of life for your feline friend.

So what can pet owners do to ensure their cat's teeth stay healthy?

Diet

The diet alone can play a large role in prevention of gum disease. Cats fed purely wet food (such as tinned cat food) will quickly develop periodontal (gum) disease, often leading to infection and tooth loss. This is because there is very little chewing involved, particularly when cats are fed mostly tinned food. Chewing promotes saliva production which has anti-bacterial properties, so foods that promote more chewing are beneficial for teeth.

It is a good idea to introduce dry biscuits to kittens so that they become accustomed to eating it early on. I usually recommend approximately 70:30 dry:wet food ratio initially and 50:50 dry:wet food ratio for senior cats (from seven years old).

Foods designed specifically to help our pet's teeth stay healthy are a great option.

Hills Science Diet Oral Care biscuits are an excellent choice for adult cats as they are designed to help encourage more chewing. These are available from Cat Protection, vets and pet stores.

Hills Science Diet has recently released a Vet Essentials dry food range for kittens and adult cats which consists of a much larger and harder biscuit than usual, encouraging a lot more chewing while eating.

Rather than feeding just tinned food, raw beef cut into 5cm strips (three to four pieces at a time) and chicken wing tips (the soft part) can be a great supplement to the diet as these also encourage more chewing. If your cat isn't interested in them, put them in the microwave for five to 10 seconds and you might be successful.

Greenies are also a favourite dental chew for many cats – you can purchase these at your local vet, Cat Protection or pet shop.

Annual vet check

All adult cats should be examined by a vet at least annually and not just when they get a problem. Included in the visit is an oral examination to check the teeth are healthy. Your vet will be able to discuss any dental problems at the time and explain what needs to be done.

Sometimes a diet change is advised if the problem is mild while in other cases, a dental scale and polish is recommended (see below).

Many pet owners think that their cat's mouth must be okay because he or she is still eating. It is rare for cats to stop eating despite severe dental disease and pain. They need to eat to survive and so will usually eat despite the pain, or use the other side of the mouth to chew if only one side is affected. Cats tend to instinctively hide their problems and as a result they can have severe dental disease that is barely noticeable to the owner.

For cats with a small amount of tartar on their teeth or mild gingivitis, feeding the prescription diet Hills T/D (which stands for Teeth Diet) can actually eliminate these problems altogether. This diet is available from your vet.

Dental scale and polish

Proper cleaning of the teeth requires general anaesthesia in pets so that plaque and tartar can be removed properly. The majority of vet hospitals have dentistry equipment so that routine dental work can be carried out on-site.

Once your cat is under the anaesthetic, an oral examination and assessment is performed to differentiate healthy from diseased teeth and then the teeth scaled and polished.

Scaling removes the plaque and tartar both above and below the gum line. This is done with sophisticated ultrasonic cleaning equipment and dental instruments.

Polishing smooths the surface of the teeth, making them more resistant to subsequent plaque accumulation.

Flushing removes dislodged tartar from the teeth and helps to remove the bacteria from the oral cavity.

Extractions

Extractions remove the teeth that are not salvageable. As much of the dental disease is going on below the gums, it is usually not possible to know whether extractions will be needed until your pet's mouth is examined with a dental probe while he or she is anaesthetised. So it is important to remain contactable via telephone on the day of the procedure. Your vet will then be able to discuss any necessary extractions and the costs involved.

The extraction sites are sutured using a fine dissolvable suture material and pain relief is given. If

multiple extractions are required, your pet may need to stay in hospital overnight on intravenous fluid therapy and be given further pain relief to keep him or her comfortable.

Severe periodontal disease

Extractions may be required as a result of severe gum disease as progressive infection leads to the degeneration of the connective tissue that secures the teeth to the bone. This leads to loose, painful teeth. An infection in one tooth can affect the neighbouring teeth. It is important to remove the severely infected teeth to save the remaining teeth and prevent a cascade of infection in the mouth.

Feline resorptive lesions

Cats often have to suffer in silence due to severe pain from teeth affected by a condition called resorptive lesions. Resorptive lesions in cats are extremely common and we still do not know the exact cause. What we do know is that it is likely an immune mediated process of the cells that are responsible for tooth remodelling. In this situation, the odontoclast cells are out of control and 'eat away' at the tooth often until the entire tooth is lost, causing major oral pain for the cat in the process.

Affected teeth need to be extracted. Your vet may recommend dental x-rays if a resorptive lesion is detected.

Stomatitis

Stomatitis is widespread inflammation of the lining of the oral cavity. Sometimes there is minimal tartar present but due to an abnormal immune process, the gums become severely inflamed, leading to catastrophic gum disease. In these cases, multiple mouth extractions may be required to allow healing of the gums.

Prior to dental work, these cats are in severe pain and may refuse to eat dry food, have excessive drooling and a foul smelling breath. These cases require urgent dental treatment. I find these cats are so much happier after their painful condition has been treated. Owners often tell me their cats are a lot more affectionate towards family members and more active as early as a few days after dental work.

Fractured teeth

Cats may fracture their canine (fang) teeth as a result of trauma. Usually the problem is not noticed until a vet examines the mouth at the annual check up. If the pulp cavity (central life line of the tooth) is exposed as a result of the fracture, then the tooth is dead and eventually a tooth root abscess forms because bacteria can migrate through the exposed pulp. This process is painful and so affected teeth should be extracted.

Teeth brushing

As a general rule, it is difficult to introduce tooth brushing to adult cats. They usually let you know who's boss pretty quickly, not to mention the dangers of teeth and claws! If you would like to consider brushing your kitty's teeth, introduce him or her to the process as a kitten under the age of 16 weeks. Never use human toothpaste as this is not safe if swallowed. There are beef and chicken flavoured toothpastes available at your vet hospital.

I would personally rather just have my cat's teeth scaled and polished when required than brush them daily, but it depends on the personality of your cat and the owner's patience!

For further tips on how to keep your cat's mouth healthy and pain-free, visit www.sydneyvetdentistry.com.au to learn more.



Cat with stomatitis under anaesthetic prior to tooth extraction



Dr Gretta Howard graduated from the University of Sydney in 1999. She worked in mixed veterinary practice in country NSW for two years and then in private practice in Sydney from 2001-2004. During this time, she completed a four year part-time Masters Degree in Veterinary Studies through Murdoch University.

Gretta then worked as a locum vet in approximately 20 UK practices throughout the English countryside. On the way home to Australia, she worked in Sikkim, India with Vets Beyond Borders as a volunteer. In 2006, she was successful in gaining Membership into the Small Animal Medicine chapter of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists.

She contributes monthly vet articles to her local newspaper The Village Observer and has written articles for The Veterinarian magazine.

Since her return to Australia, Gretta has worked in private practice in Sydney and is currently practising at Cherrybrook Veterinary Hospital in Sydney's Hills District. She has always had a love for cats ever since she was a child and is a member of the Cat Protection Society of NSW.

CAT PROTECTION DIARY

PETS

The April/May issue of *PETS* magazine included two articles about Cat Protection – one about our range of education programs and another about our rehoming work, which included a photo of our beautiful former resident, Wilbur the ginger and white cat whose eye had to be surgically removed. We send our best regards to Wilbur's family – and our thanks to *PETS* magazine for their fantastic support of animals in need and for educating young people about responsible pet ownership.



Discount desexing

Members are aware that we offer a range of discount desexing programs. On the opposite page is a full-page advertisement promoting the benefits of desexing. Please help us take this message to the community by clipping the ad and posting it up on your local community noticeboard.

We are running a campaign to remind all cat owners that it is vital to desex their cats – we've had ads on radio, in print and social media. Your advocacy efforts will help to strengthen our campaign so we hope you will join us in spreading this important feline health and welfare message. Check our website for more information.

Winter cat care talks

We're running a number of informative sessions to help you learn more about caring for your furry friends. These talks are all held at our shelter at 103 Enmore Road Newtown. Bookings are essential – please phone 9519 7201 between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday, to secure your place. Sessions are free but donations welcome.

Saturday 9 August

12 noon – 1.30pm

First aid for cats

Keeping the numbers of your vet and an after-hours vet in your phone is essential to a swift response in case of emergency. But what else might you be able to do? Find out the basics of feline first aid from Dr Adam Woolf, BVSc (Hons).

Saturday 9 August

2pm – 3.30pm

What's normal & what's not?

How to know when your cat's unwell

All cats should receive at least an annual vet check-up but do you know how to monitor your cat's health all year round? Cats are experts at hiding pain so often we won't recognise illness in a cat until it is advanced. Learn about the key indicators of feline health so you can reduce the risk of overlooking the symptoms of sickness in your cat. Presented by Dr Adam Woolf, BVSc (Hons).

Saturday 16 August

10.30am – 12 noon

Keeping cats happy – alone or in a multi-pet home

We all want our cats to be happy but what are the secrets to a happy household? Young or old, dog or cat, our companion animals rely on us to create an environment that meets their needs. Join our vet nurse Nerida Atkin for an in-depth discussion on creating happiness no matter whether you have one solo diva cat or a menagerie.

Sunday 17 August

12 noon – 1.30pm

Babies and cats

Creating safe and positive relationships

Vet nurse and mother of two Sam Kelly knows about cats and babies! If you're planning to expand your family or you'd like to find out more about nurturing positive bonds between children and pets, this session is a must.

Ahoy Captain Black Paw!

Your generous anonymous donations are very much appreciated by your fellow felines waiting for their ships to come in ☺ We wish you all the best and send you thanks and chin-rubs.

Cool Cats School Holiday Program

The dates for the July program are Wednesdays 2 and 9 July – for details please refer to our website or phone our office.

Discount cat desexing

Help your cat be happy and healthy

Desex your cat today

Desexing your cat before they reach sexual maturity (3 months) will:



Decrease your cat's risk of cancer



Reduce the risk of infection and disease



Prevent unwanted behaviours, such as spraying,
wandering and aggression



Prevent unwanted litters of kittens

Kittens can be desexed from 8 weeks of age, but it's never too late!

Call Cat Protection on 9519 7201 for
more information on discount desexing

Give your cat the wellbeing they deserve and at the same time
help end the tragedy of unwanted kittens

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SCRATCHING POST

Dear Kristina

When I first met Reggie she was very cross with the world. She'd been at the Cat Protection Society for over a year and despite all the loving care and attention she had received there, she wasn't happy.

My first attempts to make her acquaintance one adoption Thursday were greeted with a hiss and a swipe ... but still I felt there was a connection. The lovely attendants assured me all would be well when she had a place of her own and they were right!

We came home together on a Sunday morning in October 2012.

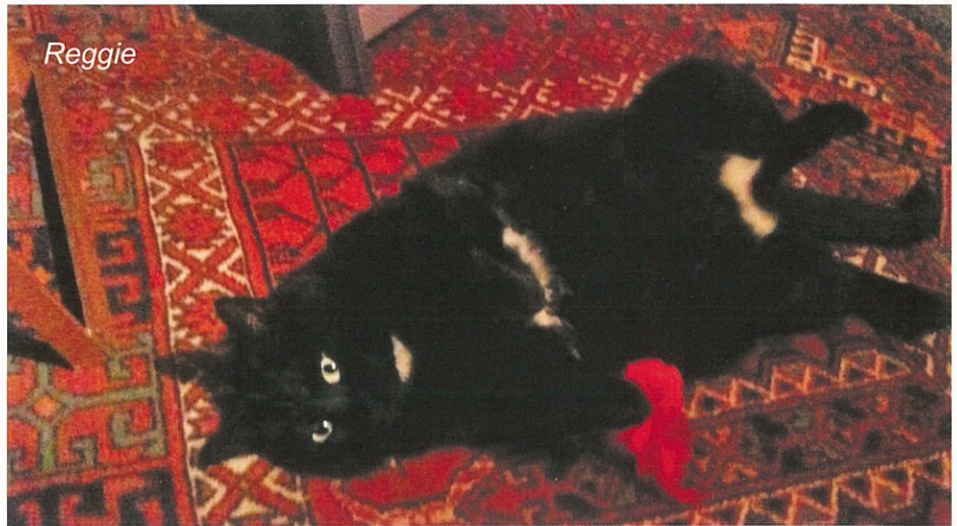
I tentatively opened her carry case, not sure what to expect, and she instantly jumped out and began exploring the flat. After inspecting every bit of furniture and giving it all a good rub, her purrs growing louder by the minute, she found the sunniest spot in the room and settled down for a nap. She was home and she was happy and so was I.

Reg still has her cranky moments, if I fuss over her too much or fail to get out of bed for the early morning breakfast call, but it's been a wonderful journey getting to know each other and feeling the love.

It makes me so happy to come home to the loudest chirruping purrs I've ever heard and to see her sitting on the balcony taking the breeze after dinner. She is quite content to sit and watch the world go by, queen of all she surveys. Another favourite pursuit is joining me for an afternoon nap on the couch, stretching out on my chest, again with the loudest of purrs.

Life with Reg is a great joy. Thank you to all the wonderful people at Cat Protection who looked after her until we met.

Tracy



Reggie

Ahoy me maties!

How's everyone doing? It's almost a year since I left. Hope all's well.

My human mum loves me and I have been a good boy ... I'm doing pretty well ☺

Thanks for loving me when I was with you guys ... xoxo

Scoot aka Pete

Hi lovely CPS folk

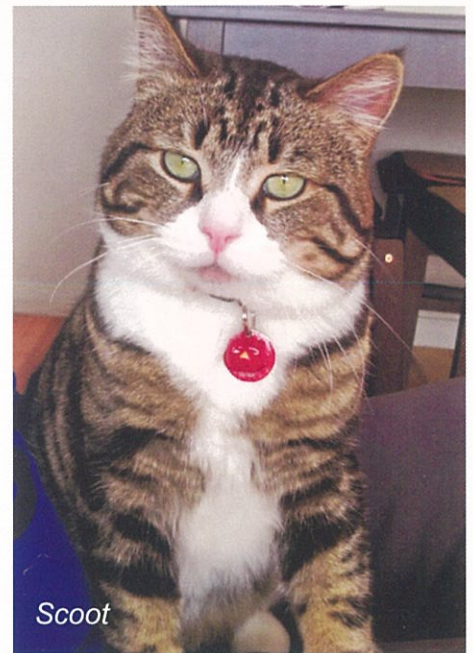
I just wanted to share the story of my Macy. I adopted her from Cat Protection in August of 2000, as a teeny scrap of a kitten whom I fell in love with at first sight.

She has changed from an antisocial, hissy-bitey baby to a sooky, snuggly geriatric over that time, and every day with her has been a wonderful gift. She makes me laugh just about every single day, and loves head rubs, leaving her tongue poking out, and hogging the bed.

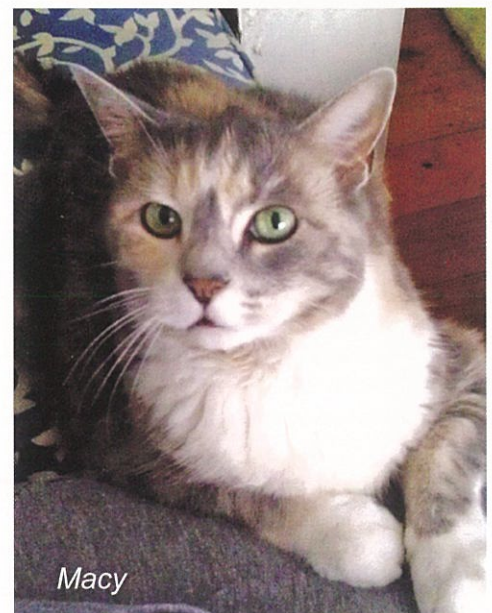
She's also not afraid to speak her mind, and chats (and yells at me) all the time. She completely owns me, heart, soul and most important (to her) hands, for patting and feeding. I've had nearly 14 years of wonderful love and companionship, and hope for lots more!

Thanks so much

Tam



Scoot



Macy

SCRATCHING POST



Street art in Penang

Dear Cat Protection

First of all, I would personally like to thank you for the amazing service provided from day one. We were referred to your organisation by a close friend who adopted an adult Rag Doll named Miles.

After doing some research and following your activity on social media we made a conscious decision that if we would adopt a pet it would be from you. We were especially impressed at your No Kill policy and the fact that you advocate for all cats no matter their shape, form or personality.

We adopted our beautiful kitten from you approximately one month ago. We named her Sienna because of her big beautiful burnt sienna coloured eyes.

From the moment Sienna entered our home she immediately adapted and made it her own. I have never experienced a pet become so accustomed and so loving from the word go. She immediately took to my partner and loves cuddling with him on the couch. She has grown physically and has developed a curious and loving personality, so nothing in this house can be kept away from her.

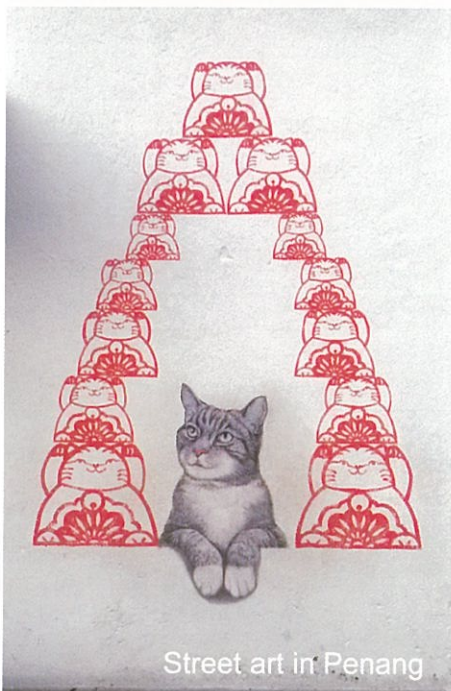
She is not only a typical playful kitten but responds to both myself and my partner, and is surprisingly very photogenic. Her favourite spots to sleep/snuggle are our chests and laps.

She eats/sleeps and goes to the bathroom as normal and has received her booster vaccination and worm/flea treatment, the vet was very happy with her health and well-being.

Sienna is a perfect fit in our family and we refer to her as our "furbaby".

Many thanks again to you guys yet again, it was very nice to receive a follow-up call.

Kind regards
Dayle

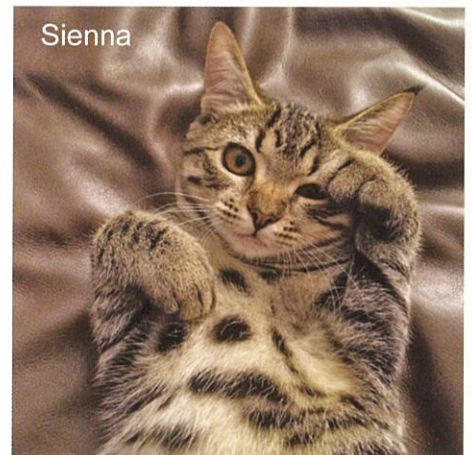


Street art in Penang

Hi Nerida

Here are some pictures of the street art in Penang. There are also live cats everywhere; they just hang around the small shops and in abandoned places. Some of them have very nice markings. They don't seem to be very afraid of humans.

Miaow to all
Geraldine



Sienna



Sienna



Sienna

SCRATCHING POST

Dear guys

I adopted the most beautiful female domestic short haired cat from your centre there at Newtown on Australia Day 2002. She is a silver spotted and striped tabby - my favourite! Her name was Rosemarie and I renamed her Pushka.

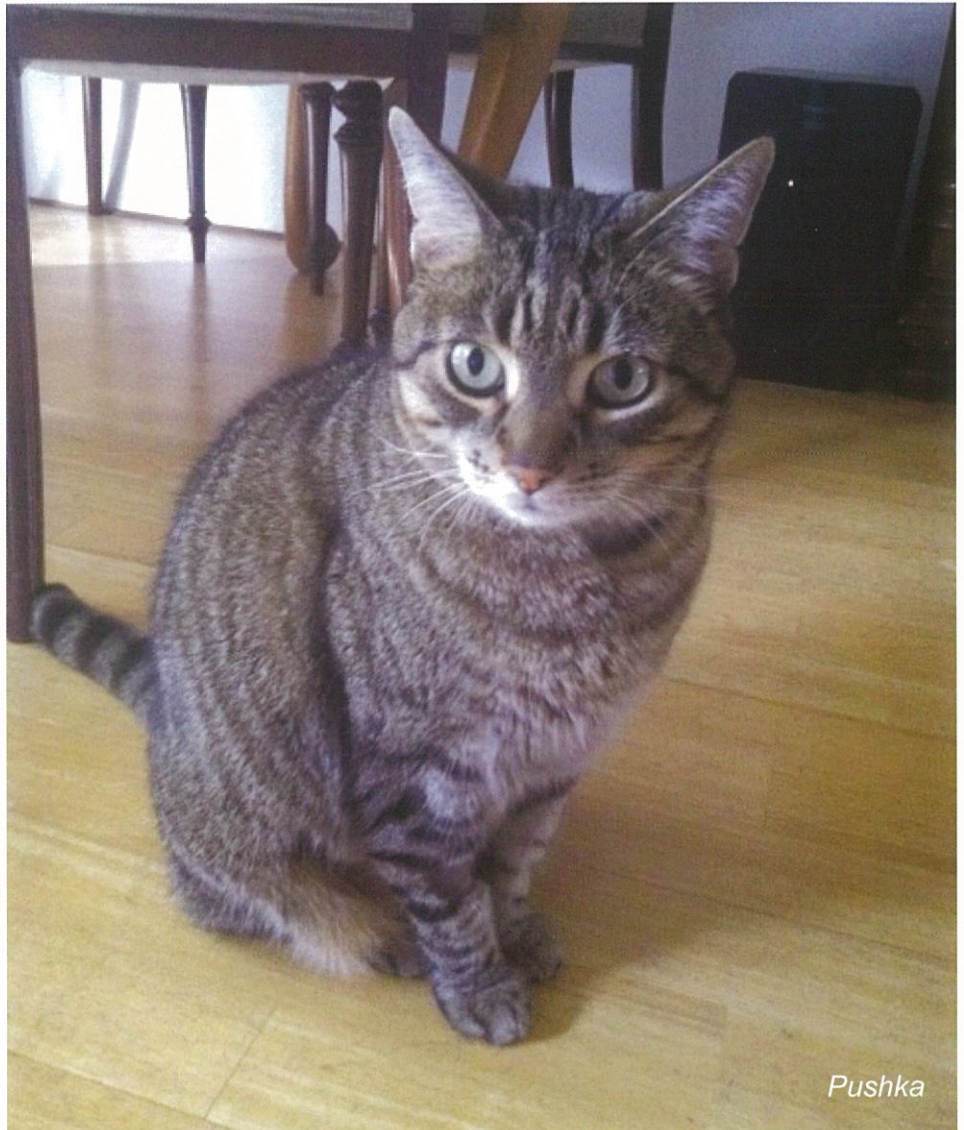
At the time you advised that she had been there for about five days as a stray and there was no other information. She was said to be about one year old then. She was rather small and quite thin.

I came to you with the intention of adopting a kitten, but I soon realised this girl was the one for me! She was very sweet and came over to me purring.

Pushka is the most sweet, funny and beautiful girl I have ever met! I have had cats all my life and she is just so incredibly beautiful. She has brought me so much happiness. She is 13 now and I pray that she lives for many more years.

Keep up all your good work!

Kind regards and many blessings
Sharon



Pushka

Hi Cat Protection

I got Manu from you when he was a kitten two years ago. He is such a delight and a loving boy. I can't imagine life without him.

When he is not playing in the backyard he spends a great deal of his time on and in any box he can find.

Thank you everyone at Cat Protection for all you do to rescue and re-home so many kittens and cats.

Julia



Manu

SCRATCHING POST

Hello

This is my little Dolce. She's nine, now, but she still acts like she's a kitten. I adopted her back in January 2010. She was my birthday present when I was 10, and I couldn't have asked for a better gift. We'd had cats before, but Dolce just fit right into a slot in our family and I can't imagine her not being here.

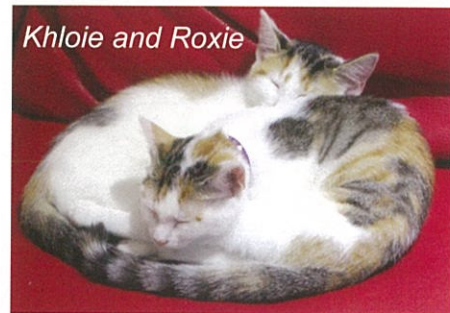
She's quite honestly a life saver. She's been with us through family troubles, depression, stress, anxiety, illness, and she loves nothing more than sitting on the couch with us and watching a movie. She's not the sort to sit on your lap, but she always wants to be around you, and can get quite distressed if she's not in the same room as you.

Her favourite activities include rolling around in the garden and falling asleep with her head rested against me. Thank you, Cat Protection, for what you do, otherwise I never would have found my best friend.

Nicky



Dolce



Khloie and Roxie



Nancy

Hello

We are still telling people about the tremendous care you gave our lovely Nancy before entrusting her to us. She is the nicest cat. Her physical issues are now completely resolved except for a slight head tilt. We love her and she loves us: a perfect choice.

Thanks
Pauline



Khloie



Roxie

Hi

As promised, some additional photos of the very sweet Khloie and Roxie who are slowly – but surely – taking over their new Newtown home.

Their three new humans love them to bits (and the dog is still making up her mind!)

Cheers
Geoff

SCRATCHING POST

Hello

We have had the pleasure of Buffy's company for four months now and after a few weeks of keeping her indoors we enjoyed slowly introducing her (an indoor cat) to playing outdoors in our secure yard.

She loves relaxing, having cuddles in the hammock, or catching up on sleep in the shade of the frangipani trees.

Chasing butterflies, scratching trees and "helping" with the gardening are her favourite weekend pastimes. Most of all, Buffy just seems happy to have her own people to snuggle up to and to rub her chin.

It has been lovely watching her explore her new territory and to see her relax and feel safe with us. You wouldn't believe she is 12 years old the way she leaps around the house and garden.

Adopting an adult cat has been a truly rewarding experience and we would recommend it to anyone considering adopting a cat or kitten.

Thanks
Janine & Mick



Hi there

Here are some photos of Thor and Loki who we adopted from Cat Protection last November. The little brothers got their names because of their constant play fighting which has given us hours of entertainment.

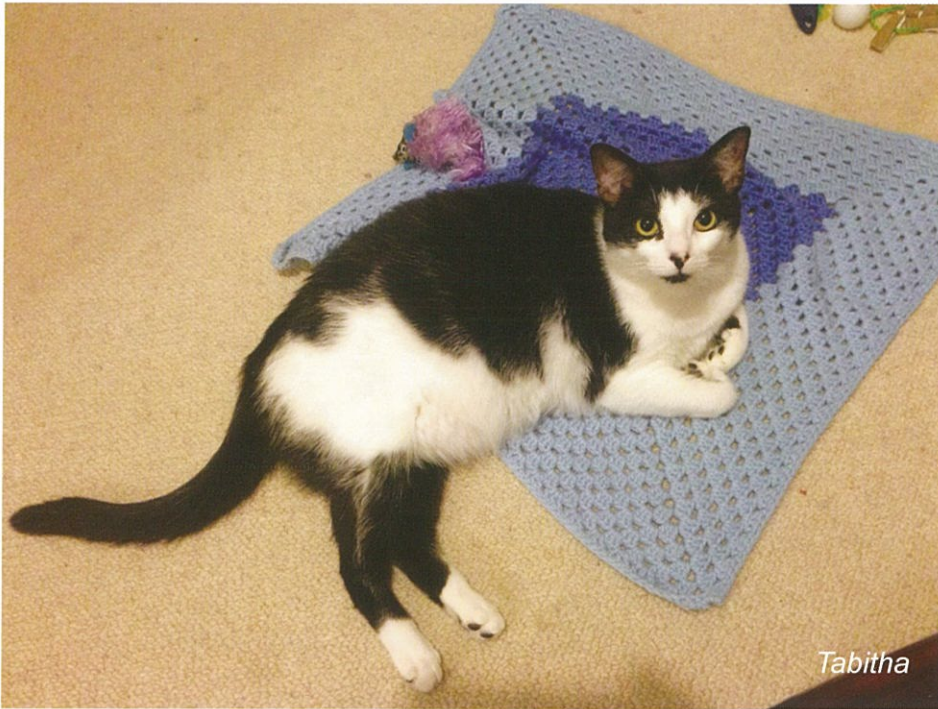
When we first got them they were classified as being extremely shy and needed special attention

but have since truly come out of their shells, becoming much loved members not only of our family but of the rest of the street as well, with all our neighbours commenting how adorable they are every day. Great work Cat Protection and many thanks.

Cheers
Daniela



SCRATCHING POST



Dear Cat Protection Society

My name is Tabitha, and I am a black and white female. I chose my human at the Cat Protection Society on 31 January 2013. At the time, I was told to send any pictures in the future that may be of interest.

I attach two photos of me. I am now over a year old. My human, Brett, was very impressed that a volunteer at the CPS had knitted blankets for each kitten. In the photos you see me with my blanket. One photo also shows my favourite toy, Purple Mousie, and some of my many other toys in the background (no fewer than I deserve).

I like people, and greet any guests at the door, but I like everything in its place and prefer it when it is just me and my servant and things are as 'normal'... you know, how I want them (I show my human anything out of place that needs fixing).

I have my human very well trained, and we seem to communicate effectively. He uses the human 'w' word (work) and I go mad at him when he goes out, or I sit on his feet to try to stop him. He goes anyway some days, saying, "Someone has to earn money to keep us in coffee and cat food" whatever that means.

The human also says I'm utterly spoiled but he knows his place in the pecking order. I have many toys strewn throughout the house, but I know where everything is. I also have two cat climbing trees and spend a lot of time in their comfortable hanging baskets.

My human's friends and colleagues ask after me more than him, but that's only to be expected.

I thank you for bringing us together. I am lucky to have such an attentive and obedient human.

Yours sincerely

Tabitha

Hi there

It's me, Chewbacca. I just wanted to let all my friends at Cat Protection know what a great family you found me on the Australia Day long weekend.

I have two fur brothers, Dr Who and Spot, who are also graduates of Cat Protection and two furless brothers who share their mum and dad with us. Mum-cat calls me her labra-moggie because I have a "very healthy appetite" but that's because I have to do so much wrestling with Dr Who.

Master Spot is teaching me ninja smacking and maybe someday with lots of practice I'll be as good as him. I'm doing a really good job of protecting everyone from bugs and huntsman spiders and when it's a real emergency, like I need food or I can't find my family, I sing the song of my peoples really loud to alert everyone to the situation no matter what time it is.

This is a great family and please let all the other cats and kittens know that they need to be patient and they will find theirs too.

Head butts, nose rubs and lots of loud purrs

Your friend,

Chewbacca



IN MEMORIAM



Goldy

Remembering my cat Goldy's 9th anniversary on this sad day. Please accept this donation in her memory.

Carmel

Please accept this donation in memory of Roy Radford.

Marian

With love from Missy in Heaven.

Heather



Pecorino

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to our sweet, sweet girl Pecorino last week as her cancer returned rather aggressively and we had to eventually put her to sleep.

Pecorino, also affectionately known to us as Schmoey, Momot, Momo and Smooshpot was truly a great companion and we miss her so very much.

Momo's favourite things were snuggling up with a good book (as long as you read it to her) and walking all over my artworks. I came home one day to find yellow paw-prints all over the house ... way too cute to be angry at.

This picture is of one of her last days having some afternoon tea and relaxing on the balcony with me.

You were my little shadow Pecorino ... following me around the house and always taking the opportunity for a snuggle. You were the smooshiest most loyal little cat and I will always remember you xxxxxxx

Love

Tanya and Mitch

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
If closed, donations can be left at Cat Protection at 103 Enmore Road

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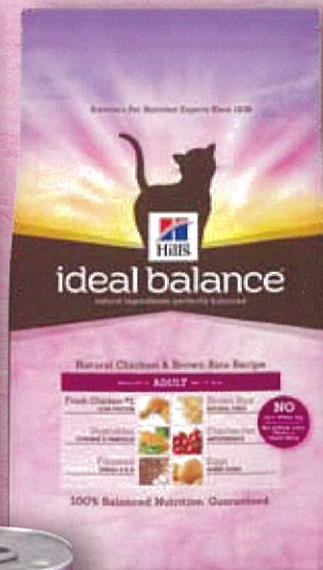
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