

cataffairs



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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

This is my first opportunity to talk to all our members as President as we have had some changes to the Board of Cat Protection.

In June Rhonda House stepped down after 15 years on the board, the last eight of them as President. Her contribution has been enormous. During her time on the board she oversaw so many changes that have strengthened our position. In her own words, it was her goal "to build a leadership team to establish the Cat Protection Society of NSW as a compassionate no-kill shelter for cats that was a professional organisation, which compliant, transparent, efficient and financially sound ... designed to encourage substantial donations that could produce the best possible outcomes for the cats in our care and expand our services."

Her greatest achievement was introducing the No-Kill shelter policy, something that is now at the very core of our ethos. All board members give their time without pay so Rhonda's 15 years of service was especially generous. It was Rhonda who invited me onto the board so I owe her a personal thank you.

We also said goodbye to another longstanding director in Dagmar Strohmaier who has been on the board since 2008 and I'd like to thank her for her wonderful contributions over the years as well.

Change gives us the opportunity to bring in new ideas and fresh energy and it is in that spirit that we welcome Sue Schreiner, Kaye Isbister and Grace Tam as board members. Sue is a retired barrister and NSW magistrate, Kaye is a HR professional and Grace is a treasury and risk expert; fantastic skills to have on our board.

Many of you know me but for those who don't I've been a member since 1989, on the board since 2011 and became Vice President in 2013. I run a business consultancy but more importantly I'm the servant of a 16 year old tabby named Hana who, and I know we all think our cats are remarkable, is a cancer survivor who actually distinguished herself by gaining weight whilst undergoing chemotherapy! A fact that astounded our veterinary specialist. Hana was adopted from CPS as an adult cat some eight years ago. You may hear more of her in future columns...

So it's onward and upward as we continue to expand our services and strive to do more for our feline friends. I look forward to talking more about some of these initiatives in future issues of *Cat Affairs*.

John Holland
President

Skin diseases in cats

By Dr Maddie Roberts BVSc (Hons1)

The skin is the biggest organ of the feline body. The skin is composed of layers of cells, creating a relatively watertight barrier. Hair and natural surface chemicals help prevent foreign material and organisms from irritating the skin. There is also a population of normal bacteria that live on the skin, that help to keep everything in balance. It is when there is a change in these surface protective mechanisms that inflammation or infection of skin can occur.

There is often an increase in cats visiting the vets for skin disease during spring and summer. This is reflective of the changing environment at this time of year – the days are hotter and more humid, there are increased pollens in the air and new plants growing outside.

Common signs of skin problems include:

- Itching, licking or chewing at the coat and skin or over-grooming
- Red skin, inflammation or rashes
- Scabs, flaking skin or raised lumps and bumps
- Distinct or 'moth eaten' areas of hair loss
- Pus or blood draining from wounds on the skin.

Common causes of skin disease

All pets have the potential to be seriously impacted by **fleas**. Fleas are a parasite that exist in the environment, and develop through several stages before they are able to infect your cat. When an adult flea bites your cat, their saliva causes a local inflammation. Sometimes, cats have a low tolerance to flea saliva and develop a widespread reaction. This usually presents as an irritation or a rash in warm areas, such as the chin, base of tail or body. Some cats will be exceptionally itchy when they have fleas, while others appear relatively comfortable. As cats are such fantastic groomers, they can usually clear away the fleas. However, sometimes you will be able to find 'evidence' – tiny black specks of flea dirt (eggs and droppings) in their coat.

Feline **ringworm** can present in a similar manner to flea hypersensitivity. This is a **contagious** disease that is transmitted through fungal spores from cat to cat, and cat to human, in close confines. The affected area is a hairless and often scaly patch of skin with inflammation. While the extremities are most commonly affected (ears, paws, head) ringworm can occur on any part of the body.

Bacterial and **yeast** skin infections also increase during the spring and summer. Micro-organisms that live on the skin cause the majority of these infections, and added moisture or surface irritation allows the bacteria to multiply. Surface bacterial infections can



occur anywhere – even between the toes – and can be quite troubling for our four-legged friends.

Some cats can develop skin disease in response to things seemingly unrelated to their skin – including certain plants and grasses, different types of material and bedding or even food! These are classed as **hypersensitivities**. The immune system recognises these as foreign, and affected animals can develop any of the common signs seen with skin disease. Some cats may also over-groom when they become **stressed**, and develop areas of patchy, saliva-stained coat and red skin. They can develop secondary bacterial infections in these regions.

A less common, unusually unseasonal, skin disease is called eosinophilic **granulomatous complex**. This is a group of several syndromes that can present as a single, ulcerated raised lesion, a lump or ulceration on the chin or lips, or as widespread irritation across the skin. There can be a range of causes for this complex, including parasites (including fleas and mosquitoes), an allergic reaction, certain diets or a genetic predisposition.

In some unusual cases, cats can have **autoimmune** skin diseases, where cells in their body attack normal cells. These types of skin diseases usually occur at areas where the skin changes in composition – from the gum to the skin on the mouth, or the paw pad to the paw. Cats can also develop a range of benign and malignant **tumors** on their skin that may require further investigation.

It is important to visit the vet as soon as you recognise any change in your cat's skin or grooming behaviour.

Tools used to diagnose skin disease include:

- History – diet, cats environment, parasite control, bedding
- Physical examination

- Skin samples – skin scrapings, skin tape preparations and surface smears, to help assess the type of cells present and whether there is an overgrowth of yeast or bacteria. Sometimes your vet may ask permission to do a bacterial culture and sensitivity, where they collect a sample from the skin and send it to the laboratory in an attempt to grow and isolate bacteria. They can then determine what antibiotics are effective against the implicated bacteria
- Individual hair examination and culture
- Skin biopsies
- Blood tests – to evaluate overall health
- Food or allergy testing and exclusion.

How do I prevent skin disease in my cats?

- Parasite control: protecting your cats with an appropriate parasite control product is crucial to minimise the risk of parasite related skin disease. There is a range of topical and oral products available
- Provide a clean environment for your cat: regularly wash their bedding and clean and vacuum your home
- Regularly groom your cat. If you choose to wash your cat, do so with a cat approved product, purchased from your veterinarian. Human, and some dog products, can be irritating to cats so it is important to read the fine print
- Feed your cat a healthy, balanced diet.

Help! My cat has fleas! What should I do?

Step 1: Relax!

- Fleas are sneaky little parasites and can be a challenge to get rid of. Approaching the situation with a clear headspace is crucial for success

Step 2: Manage the flea population on your cat

- I usually recommend a combination of a fast acting product in addition to amfortnightly to monthly flea product

Step 3: Manage the flea population on all your other animals at home

- If your cat has fleas, chances are your other pets (dogs, cats, bunnies) do as well. It is crucial to use appropriate flea control on other pets, as they could act as a continual food source to the flea population. Ask your veterinarian for appropriate flea control for your pets

Step 4: Manage the population in your home environment

- This is one of the most critical steps, as **over 80 per cent of the flea population is not on our pets**
- All bedding must be washed in a hot cycle and left outside to dry. This is crucial as the UV light

helps to kill immature flea stages in the bedding

- Vacuum your home regularly, sometimes daily with severe infections. Vibrations trigger the pupae, immature fleas, to emerge, and subsequently be inhaled by the vacuum cleaner.

Treating skin disease

If your vet diagnoses a skin disease in your cat, a range of different treatments may be required. Your veterinarian will help to tailor the treatment plan for you and your cat, and it may include an antibiotic, steroids, a topical cream or solution, parasite control or natural products including fatty acids. There is a range of balanced, low allergen diets for cats prone to skin disease from certain dietary proteins.

Dr Maddie Roberts is a small animal veterinarian who practices at Mosman Veterinary Hospital. She has a special interest in feline medicine, in particular eye and heart diseases. She has completed a research project with Cat Protection and the University of Sydney investigating short-term wound complications in cats following desexing. Mosman Veterinary Hospital: 9 Canrobart Street, Mosman t 9960 2856, www.mosmanvet.com.au



Dr Maddie Roberts with Mosman Veterinary Hospital's cat in chief, Dudley.

ALWAYS TOGETHER PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to Allyson Riley for winning the 'Feline Playmates' category in our Always Together competition, and to Colin Kemp for winning the 'Snuggle Buddies' category.

Thank you to everyone who entered – we will publish more entries in the Summer issue. And thank you again to The Perth Mint for donating the Always Together coins which were our prizes.

As you can see, it is the cats who are the true winners: they all look so happy, so healthy and so very much loved.



Foster kittens by Colin Kemp.
Snuggle buddies competition winner.



Stella and Blanche by Allyson Riley.
Feline playmates competition winner.



CAT PROTECTION DIARY

Cat care talks

Space is limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Phone 9557 4818 or 9519 7201.

First aid for cats

Saturday 26 September 10.30am-12noon

Learn the essentials for applying first aid to felines from vet Dr Adam Woolf.

What's normal, what's not?

Saturday 26 September 1.30pm-3pm

In this session, Dr Adam Woolf will help you become a more effective observer of your cat's health and wellbeing and how to better understand what is 'normal' and what is not.

Cats, babies and children

Sunday 27 September 11am-12.30pm

Presented by cat-owning vet nurse and mum, Sam Kelly, this talk is a must for anyone concerned about introducing new babies to household cats, or introducing a new feline into a home with babies or small children.

Multi-pet households

Sunday 27 September 1.30pm-3pm

If you're thinking about getting a dog – or another cat – it's good to be prepared on managing those introductions so peace and not chaos will reign supreme! Vet nurse, Feline Services Manager and multi-pet owner Nerida Atkin will answer all your questions and provide great tips for making a happy multi-pet home.

AGM and Open Day

Our annual Open Day will be held on Saturday 7 November from 11am to 2pm. As always, we promise an informative and festive day as we invite our local community to see who we are, what we do and to learn a little more about our lovely feline friends.

A notice regarding the AGM which will be held at 2pm on 7 November is enclosed.

Cat books

One of our wonderful members has made a great suggestion which is that we should review more cat books in Cat Affairs. Thank you Colleen!

To get things started, Colleen recommends Doreen Tovey's series of books about life with Siamese cats. "Set in Somerset, England some of these books are now back in print. *Cats in the Belfry* is the first book in the series. The antics of the Siamese cats described in such a clever, witty way will make you laugh out loud, as will the picture Doreen paints of village life. I guarantee you'll be wanting to read more."

Well, you've sold me Colleen, I can't wait to read them. A favourite of mine is the Lillian Jackson Braun series of murder mysteries "The Cat Who ...". These feature a naturally snoopy journalist Jim Qwilleran and his Siamese cats Kao K'o-Kung (known as Koko) and Yum-Yum. Koko is an exceptionally insightful cat, always assisting Jim (Mr Q) to solve the crime. Yum-Yum is mainly delightful and beguiling.

We look forward to hearing your recommendations. Happy reading!



SCRATCHING POST

Hi Nerida

Our beautiful boy Doug is going great! He is about to get a beautiful little girl kitten as a new friend this weekend.

And at the same time we got Doug, we got our now very boisterous Zig, a Rhodesian Ridgeback pup, so we are a very busy household!

Kind regards

Margaret

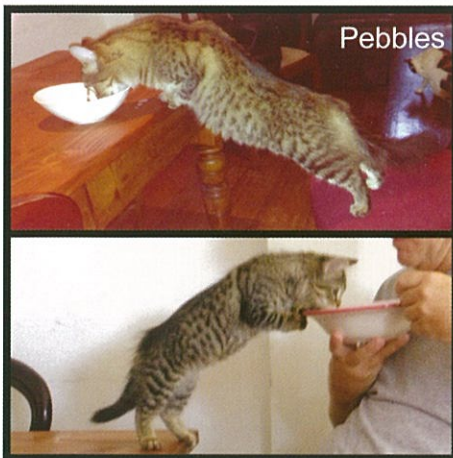
Hi there

Pebbles joined us from the Cat Protection Society in January 2014. She is a very funny and expressive cat. She enjoys anything, anywhere, in a bowl for breakfast, especially porridge.

She likes playing the piano in the middle of the night, splashing in the sink and under any running tap and sleeping on beds and in bags.

Fluffy, soft, affectionate, with a showpiece of a tail, Pebbles has brought us so much joy – and feathers. She clawed a hole in a feather doona last night! Other cat Rainbow (CPS 2006) is not as enamoured of Pebbles as we are ... Pebbles would like to be famous!

Penny



Pebbles



Doug

Hi girls

We adopted Bushki (Simba) on 8 June. As you can see, he has grown a lot since then. He has settled in very well and now is in total charge of our house.

He loves to play and also supervises any tradesmen who are working here. He is fearless!

We both adore him and he makes us laugh. We are so glad that he is in our life.

Thank you all

Margot



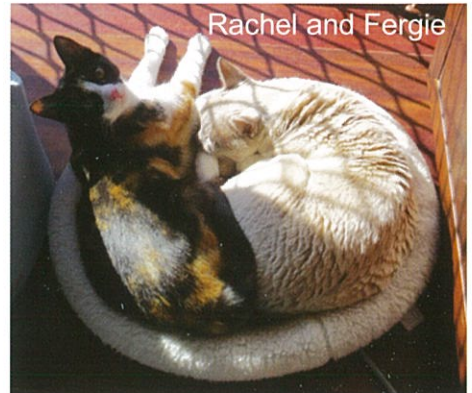
Bushki

Hi Isabella

As promised, here are some pictures of our newest family member, Rachel. She and her big 'brother' Fergie are getting along famously.

Our vet says she is purrfect.

Karen



Rachel and Fergie



Xena

Hi Nerida

Xena has been the perfect addition to our home, Princess adores her and they play all day and night, especially when we are ready to go to bed.

As you can see from the pictures, as soon as someone is preparing dinner they are both up on the chairs watching what is going on.

They are perfect companions and it was a wise move adopting Xena for Princess to have a friend for when no one is at home.

Rob & Brad



Xena and Princess

SCRATCHING POST

Dear CPS

My son and I had been talking about adopting kittens for a while and came across your website in our online search. We headed for Newtown one gorgeous Saturday morning, hoping to return home with a kitten. It turns out we didn't bring home a kitten that day ... we brought home two!

Milo and Otis have been with us for almost four weeks now and we can't imagine our lives without them.

Warm regards

Dawn & Jack xx



Hi CPS!

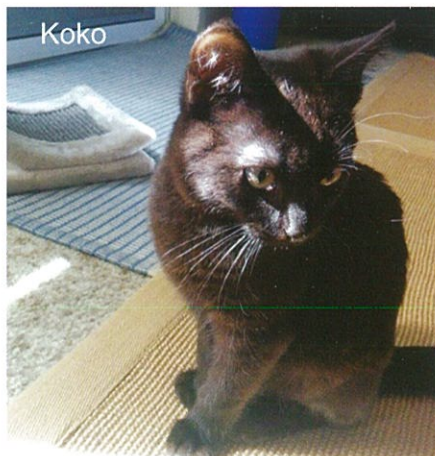
Last year my mum and I moved up to the Blue Mountains, which has been an awesome change of pace for me. I enjoy supervised outdoor time now and love roaming around in the grass and taking in the fresh air and sunshine. I get a kick out of watching the local birdlife too (I'll never catch them, obviously).

I turned 12 in November, and at my recent check-up, the vet said I was 'in perfect health'. (He did comment rudely on my weight, but I politely ignored him.)

All in all, life is good.

Love

Pringle



Hi everyone at Cat Protection Society!

Here are some photos of Koko from the first few weeks. Isn't he cute?

Azusa



Hi Nerida

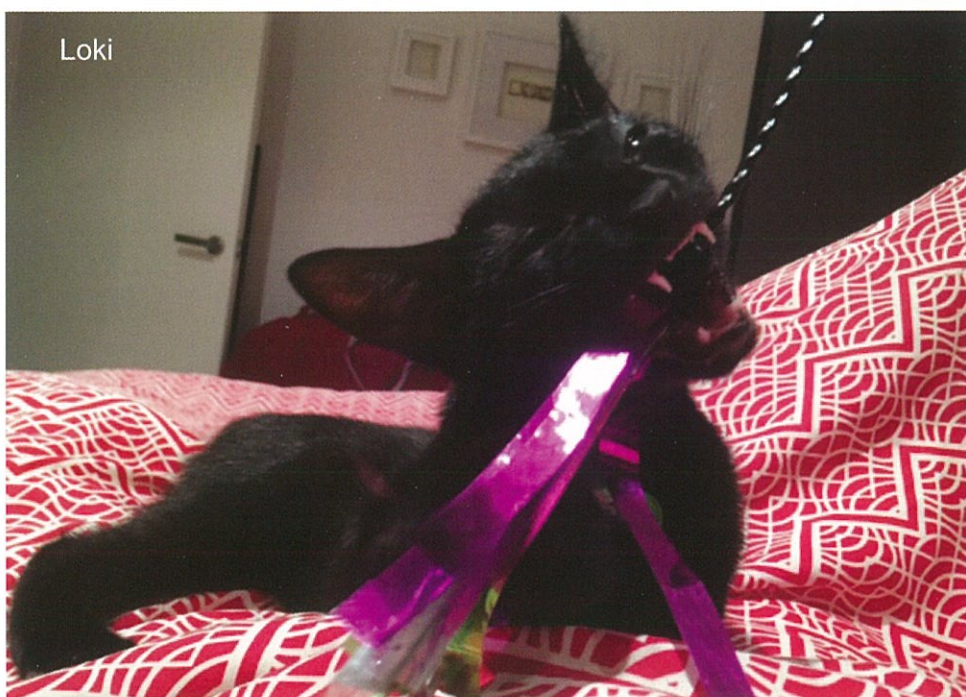
Our new family member, Loki (named after the Norse god of mischief) is doing very well. He is appropriately named, and enjoys making mischief!

He's hard to photograph as he's all black but I try! Loki loves his bed, his scratching post and his fish on a stick. As you can see, he has very sharp teeth!

We had some minor issues with Loki not using the kitty litter to urinate but I accessed your website and read up on inappropriate toileting etc and voila, problem solved. Many thanks for the service and advice you provide.

Regards

Leander



SCRATCHING POST

Hi

Apollo was adopted from the Cat Protection Society in June 2015. He came to us after being brought in as a friendly stray with his brother and sister.

The day we found him he had just seen his brother and sister go off to another home. He was very little and didn't like to be held much. He weighed about 1.23kgs and had a darker grey colour.

Since that day he has endured lots of hugs, kisses and playing with his new Mum and Dad. He has a temperament that many would be envious of: he is friendly and inquisitive with new strangers, always gentle when playing (biting), well-behaved at the vet, plays fetch and always goes to his bed when we go to sleep at night (and he doesn't make any noise at night!).

He is now a healthy 1.85kg, at about 16 weeks old and is lighter in colour. He can be cheeky but he is now a much loved part of our family!

Regards

Peter

Apollo



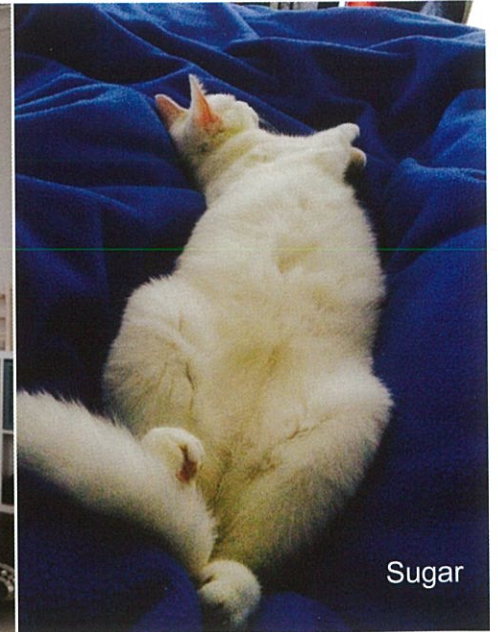
Hello!

I just wanted to send in some pictures of my darling little Sugar. She's doing very well and was settled in after 5 minutes.

She loves to cuddle and play and although she's a little hard to train given her lack of hearing, she's brought me so much joy.

Thank you

Naomi



Sugar

SCRATCHING POST

Hi Guys

Fifteen years ago (in 2000) we adopted Tigger from you guys as our first pet (his name was unique at the time!!)

Throughout the years my sister and I have both grown up alongside Tigger, and can't imagine our lives without him. Tigger is honestly one in a million, we've never come across such an affectionate, placid, well-behaved and handsome cat as Tigger.

He has brought immense joy to our whole household, not to mention all others who get the pleasure to meet him. So much so, that we decided to create an Instagram account (tiggy.smalls) showcasing his life.

Our whole family would like to thank the Cat Protection Society, as we know that without your help and dedication, we never would have gotten the opportunity to find our forever friend.

Regards

Tiana

Dear Emily

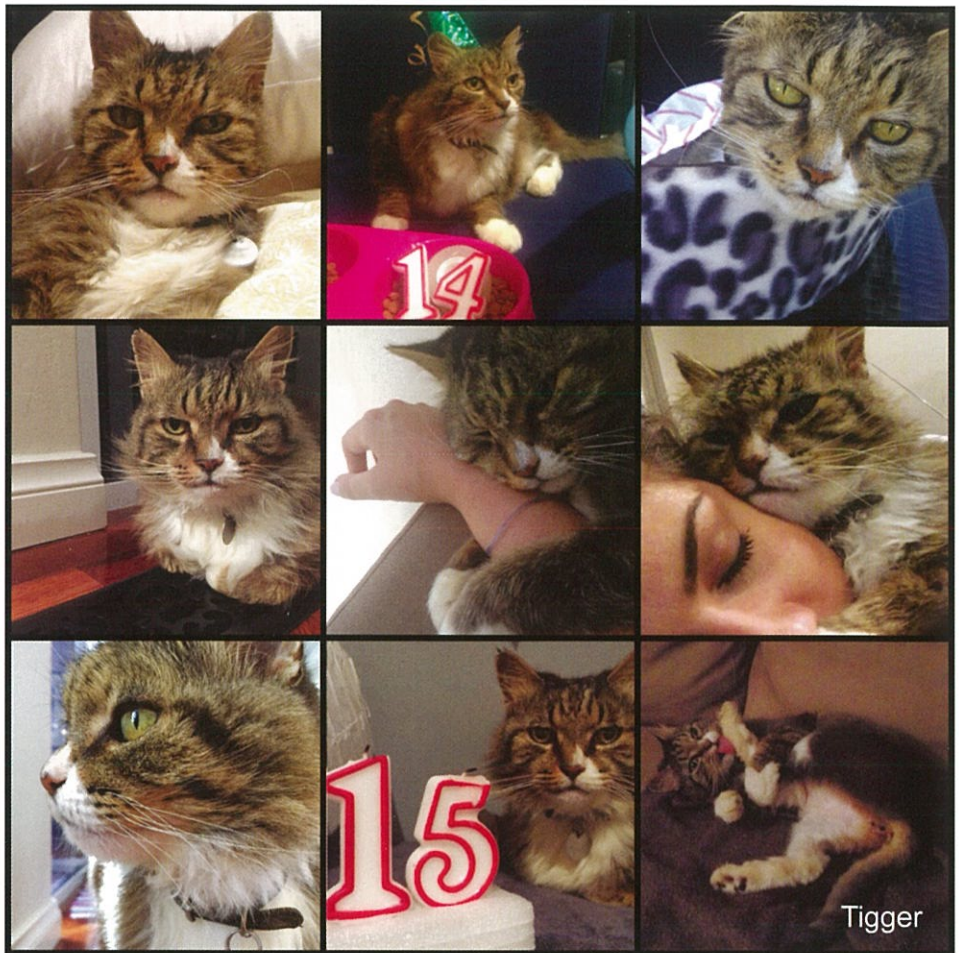
Thank you for your phone call and your concern for the welfare of little Mera – enclosed are some photos!

Best regards

Bea



Mera



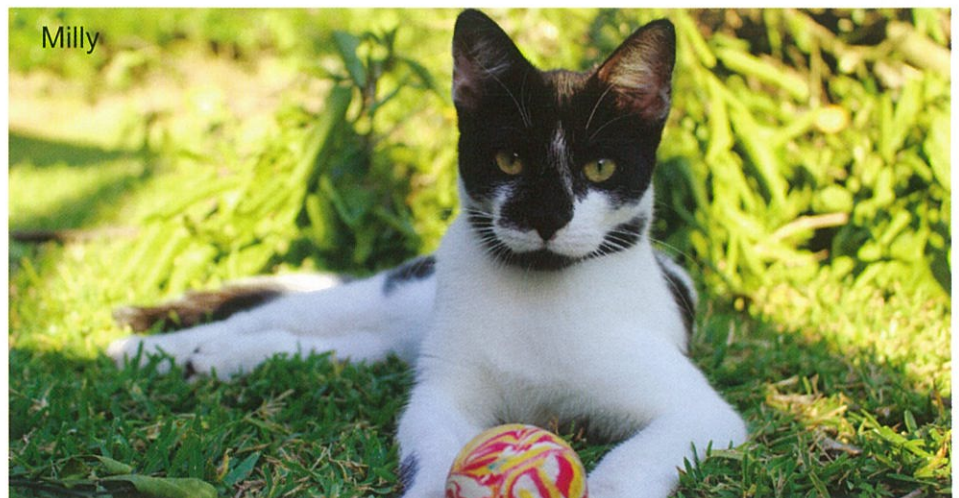
Tigger

Hello

We adopted "Millie" last December. While she didn't like being with the other kittens at the Cat Protection Society, she quickly adapted to life with us and is purrrrfect for our family. She follows us wherever we are and purrs readily (one of the reasons we fell in love with her). She even plays soccer in the backyard with our children and "fetch" and enjoys jumping on the trampoline.

Regards

Anita



Milly

SCRATCHING POST

Dear all

We adopted a kitten from your shelter in late October, his name is Louie. He is a bit strange (aren't all cats!), crazy and most aloof but we love him dearly. Shortly after we adopted him from you, we got him a little friend, Juno. The two of them love each other and are inseparable, they spend hours bounding up and down the passage-way and tormenting our dogs.

We just wanted to say thank you for letting us adopt little Louie. Louie and Juno bring great joy to our family and we love them very much.

Kind regards

Kelsey



Hi there

Just wanted to let the team know that our new babies, ginger (Tangi) and tabby (Paks) sisters, are settling in beautifully. They are delighting us with their antics and getting up to all sorts of kitten mischief!

They spend their nights snuggled up with their humans (Lara, 10 and Cyrus, 11) and their days playing like ... well, kittens ☺

They are into EVERYTHING and particularly love playing chase, pounce and wrestle on the carpeted stairs!

Our old cat (adopted from CPS 12 years ago) was not very impressed with the new arrivals, but is slowly coming around.

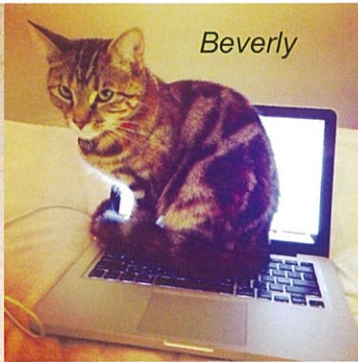
Thank you for the work you do at the Society, and for making our fur-family complete.

Cheers

Davina



SCRATCHING POST



Beverly



Beverly and Tina



Hi Cat Protection Society!

We adopted Beverly (Bev for short) in 2012. She was the last of her sisters at CPS to be adopted because she had a bout of cat flu. She was very shy at first but soon became very curious and the boss of the house. She especially loves sleeping on the computer and sending emails on human-mum's behalf.

In 2013 we adopted another rescue kitty Tina. Tina had been separated from her mum very early on so didn't know much about being a cat. Bev pretended to be cranky but after only a couple of days the pair became best friends. Bev even showed Tina how to clean herself, chase flies and sit in boxes.

Their favourite pastimes are napping, hide and seek, guarding the bathroom door and judging the humans.

Claire

Hello everyone

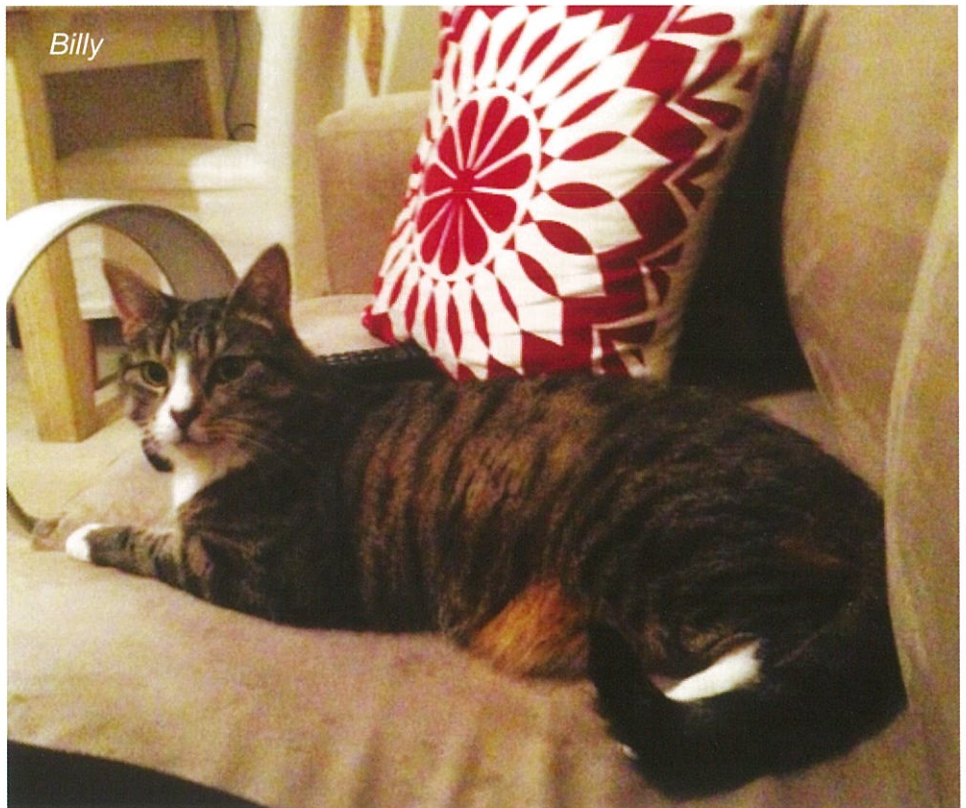
I adopted Billy on Sunday. Thank you to Emily for all the time she spent with me during the adoption process.

Billy is adjusting well. He is eating his meals and is using his litter tray every night. He is already wandering through the unit, and making himself at home.

He is a gorgeous cat. I brush him daily and he allows me to carry him and sits on my lap. Too cute!!!

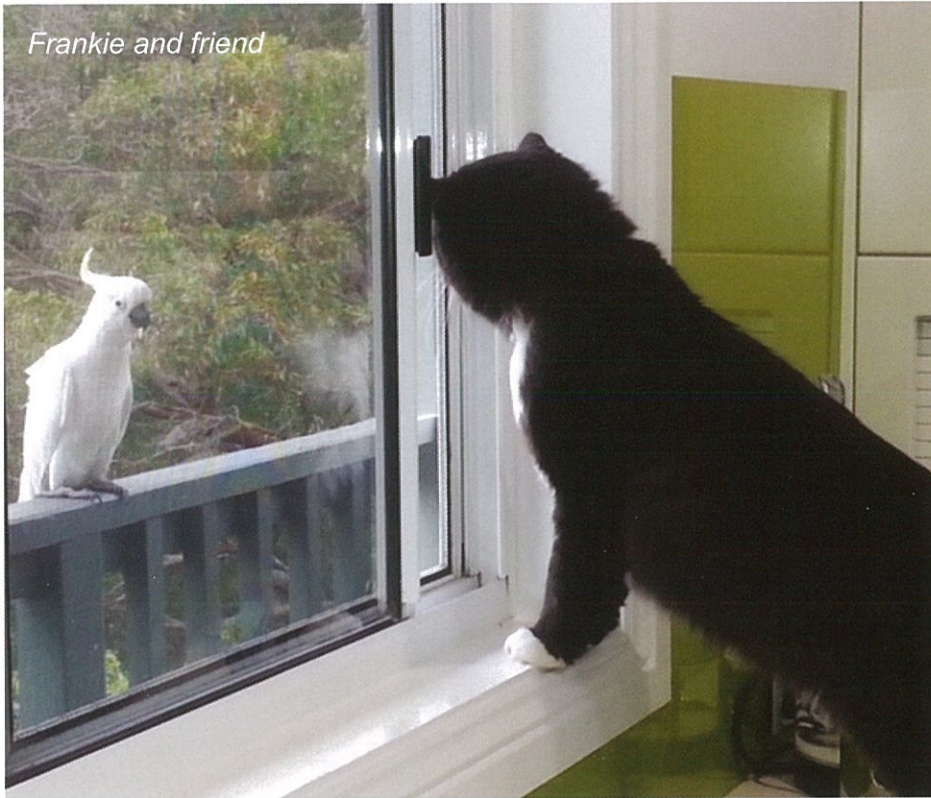
Thank you to CPS for looking after him so well ... while waiting for me to find him ☺

Charmaine



Billy

SCRATCHING POST



To all you wonderful people

I thought you might like to add this photo of Frankie & her friend to Cat Affairs.

Frankie came to us at age one after being rejected by her owner as "untrainable". She was a scruffy unkempt Ragdoll. It appears that she lived in a unit & was kept in a shower recess as she was "dirty" and in the end was returned to the breeder who told us she was a "problem".

We took her on and she certainly was a handful but perseverance as usual paid off. She is now well behaved and very clean.

She loves her new life and to prove it Frankie brings us home lots of presents like docketts from shops and insects and leaves them at front door.

Love your work.

Cheers

Kerri



Hello

Adopted 15 February, Ziggy has made himself at home in Lewisham. He's been great so far. He didn't seem to mind the car trip too much and has been exploring his room enthusiastically and playing with William and Josephine.

The kids settled on Ziggy as his name because of the zigzag stripe on his side.

David

Hi CPS

On 7 July last year I adopted my cat baby, the incredible Peaches (or Peachy, Pinchy, Shmoopster ... she has lots of nicknames!) from Cat Protection.

After spending some time with some playful kittens in the kitten room, I was shown out to a back room where some of the shyer kittens were hanging out. Well, after Peaches, impossibly tiny, started to purr as loud as a car motor, tried to jump out of her hidey-hole into my arms and almost groomed my eyebrows right off, I knew that we would be together forever.

She spent the first four months sleeping on my chest, and every day I am in awe of how much love, affection and playfulness can be created by such tiny being (she only weighs about 3 kilos!).

We will celebrate her first birthday at the end of this month, and I look forward to being her human mum for every new year to come. She has truly brought profound love and joy into the lives of the humans and other animals around her (she loves our guinea pigs!) and accepts the same from us.

Thank you Cat Protection!

Amy



IN MEMORIAM



Serenity

2011-2015

My beautiful beloved cat Serenity passed away Thursday 7 May 2015. This wonderful cat was a stray who had been surrendered to Cat Protection and I was the incredibly blessed person who adopted her in October 2012.

The name I gave her reflected her personality and gentleness of spirit, so serene, she was truly one of this world's peacemakers.

Serenity, thank you for your love and the times we spent together. Wonderful memories of you playing chasings with your feline 'big sister' Sunshine, of how you enjoyed the cat-park on the balcony, basking in the kitchen sun, and playing with your toys. And you had the most endearing, chirruping little meow, so enchanting and sweet.

Serenity, you are at peace forever in God's loving care.

Always loved, always treasured, always missed.

Wendy and Sunshine xoxo

This donation is to remember my brother, Chris, who passed away 6 years ago, and my beloved Goldy.

Carmel



Tigger

You decided to live with us in January 2014 but succumbed to illness 17 August 2015.

A much too short but very happy time together. I will miss you. Fred.

So will we. Samcat, Tommy, Sophia, Portia, Isabella, Claude and HG



Ollie

Born about 2000. Died 9 June 2015.

A friend and companion these past six years, he will be greatly missed.

Samcat, Portia, Tommy, Isabella, Tigger, Claude, HG and Fred.



Bluebell

In memory of my darling Bluebell, who died 15 January 2015 aged 17 years and three months.

I didn't want to live without her but in April I adopted a five and a half year old Burmese cat called Millie ... There will never be another cat like Bluebell but I love Millie very much.

Alisa

Sweetie Pie

My darling cat Sweetie Pie had to be put to sleep recently, aged 18 years. I had acquired her aged 13 from a local vet in 2010. As my wife died in 2004, Sweetie Pie became my beloved companion and I shall miss her dreadfully.

I regard her, like my wife, as irreplaceable, but this portrait will remind me of her constantly.

Nigel

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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Reference: 1. Cruthers LR, *et al.* New Developments in Parasite Protection. Proceedings from 2008 NAVC Conference, Supplement to Veterinary Forum Vol 25, No.3[B], March 2008. © Bayer Australia Ltd 2014. Advocate[®] is a registered trademark of The Advantage Family™ and We understand each other™ are registered trademarks of Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Germany. Bayer Australia Ltd (ABN 28 000 100 341 005) is a registered company in Australia. For more information, visit theadvantagefamily.com.au or call 1800 555 555.