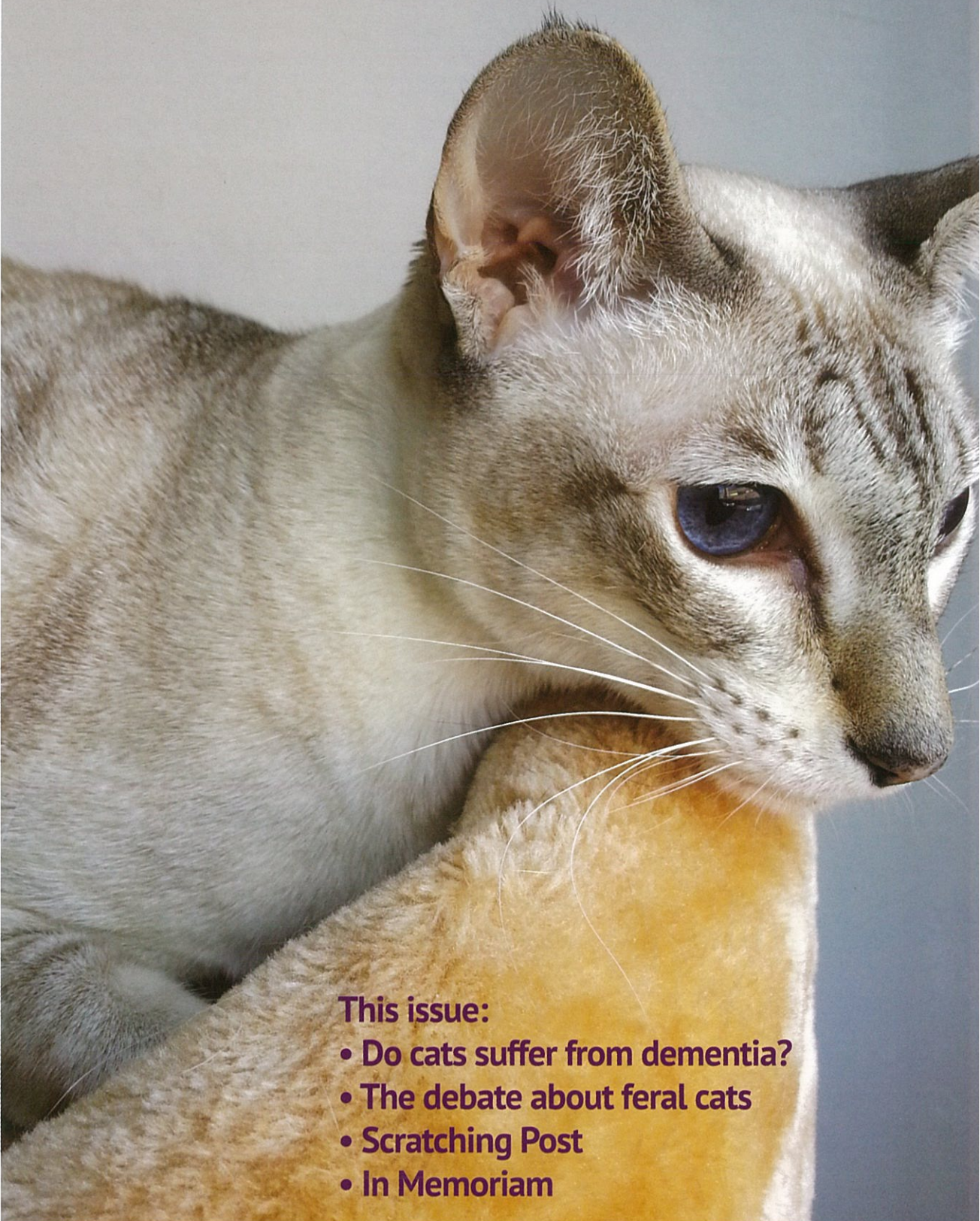


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cataffairs

cat protection society
OF NSW INC. 



This issue:

- Do cats suffer from dementia?
- The debate about feral cats
- Scratching Post
- In Memoriam



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President's Report

How time flies when you're rehoming cats! It's been a great start to 2016 for our feline charges, with more than 200 finding loving forever homes since New Year's Day and more than 400 cats in the community being desexed. That is a very happy new year!

On behalf of members, I would like to wish all the best to my former Board colleagues, Simon Stevenson (who served on the Board from November 2009 until February this year) and John Holland (who joined the Board in May 2011 and last year served as President from June until December) who have left due to work and family commitments. John and Simon each made significant contributions to Cat Protection, and we sincerely thank them for their years of service.

I met some of you at last year's AGM and Open Day, and was deeply impressed by the level of engagement and support members, volunteers and staff give to Cat Protection. While our mission is to care for cats, we could not do that without the passion and commitment of people – and as an HR professional, I very much appreciate how amazingly powerful it can be when you have a great mix of people working together for a common goal. I'm delighted to be President of this dynamic, talented and generous community.

Congratulations to our CEO Kristina Vesk, who this Australia Day was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to animal welfare organisations. Kristina is coming into her 10th year as CEO of Cat Protection (and 25 years as Life Member), served on the NSW Companion Animals Taskforce and is a member of the NSW Responsible Pet Ownership Reference Group. It is a great recognition of her work, of Cat Protection, and of the value of feline welfare.

Kristina said that: "The OAM is not truly mine, it belongs to Cat Protection: to all our volunteers, staff, members, donors, vets and supporters, past and present. And it also very much honours those women and men who remembered Cat Protection in their wills.

"We have an incredible community founded on generosity, kindness and love for our feline friends. Cats matter: on their own, simply because they are living feeling and sentient beings, and also because they are the companions of people, and have been for thousands of years.

"The greatest honour is being able to work for cats, and the people who love them, with the wonderful community that is the Cat Protection Society of NSW."

Kristina is in excellent company. In June 1994, the indefatigable Nance Iredale was awarded the Order of Australia medal for her service to animal welfare, particularly through the Cat Protection Society of NSW. Nance was a director and volunteer for Cat Protection for more than two decades and her name is synonymous with the Society.

Our cats are – and have – many faithful friends.

Kaye Isbister

President

Do cats suffer from dementia?

By Dr Anne Fawcett, BA (Hons) BSc(Vet)(Hons)
BVSc(Hons) MVetStud GradCertEdStud(Higher Ed)

Since I was a kid the lifespan of cats has increased massively – probably due to the availability of excellent nutrition, advances in veterinary medicine and the move from cats as primarily outdoor to primarily indoor pets (maybe this relates in part to better flea control?).

Anyway, whereas cats in their late teens and early twenties were relatively rare a decade ago, the proportion of senior and geriatric cats seen in veterinary practice has grown enormously. One study showed a 15 per cent increase in cats over the age of ten in the US over the past ten years. Figures from the UK suggest that more than 30 per cent of the pet cat population can be classified as “senior”. [It does depend on your definition. Laboratories tend to classify cats over seven as senior because that is when they tend to start to see laboratory changes that reflect age-related conditions].

So a longer life is super news for cats and owners, and reflects in general their better care. BUT... there is a down-side to the aging of the feline population. With age comes increased prevalence of chronic diseases, cancer and dementia.

Dementia, or cognitive dysfunction syndrome, is an age-related condition commonly associated with behavioural changes in cats. Owners may report that their cat seems a bit “senile” or “dodderly”.

According to one study, around 28 per cent of cats aged 11-14 years old showed signs of dementia. As one would expect, this figure increased with age, and 50 per cent of cats aged 15 and over showed signs of dementia.

To put this into perspective, as far as age goes, a 15 year old cat is roughly equivalent to an 85 year old person. According to some scary stats, up to 50 per cent of us show signs consistent with dementia at that age.

Underlying causes

There is still much to be learned about senior dementia in cats and no single underlying cause has been identified. We still don't know if dementia is solely due to inevitable aging of the brain, or whether it is due to a single, or multiple, treatable disease processes.

There is evidence that dementia is associated with pathological changes in the brain. These changes include vascular disease, changes in the activity of neurotransmitters, a decrease in brain mass, an increase in the rate and extent of free radical damage to brain cells and the deposition of amyloid plaques – in other words, the same types of processes that occur in people with dementia.



Dr Fawcett with Phil (who thinks he's a cat!)
Photo by Pierre Mardaga, My Dog's Territory

Another thing that we don't know is whether the extent and severity of these changes is associated with the extent and severity of behavioural changes.

Obviously if we knew the underlying cause we could develop a treatment to prevent or cure dementia. If we knew how changes in the brain reflected changes in behaviour, we might be able to use this information to give owners a more accurate diagnosis and prognosis for their cat. Alas we do not.

Clinical signs

There are numerous behavioural changes consistent with senior dementia in cats, but none of them are specific to dementia. That means that there are other conditions that can cause these signs, so diagnosis of dementia can never be made on the basis of signs alone.

- Inappropriate vocalisation, particularly at night. In my experience this is one of the most common signs of dementia and can be very upsetting for owners who are trying to sleep. Affected cats tend to emit a loud, guttural cry (sometimes for hours on end), for no apparent reason, and may appear distressed.
- Changes in social relationships. For example, cats who were once affectionate may become very aloof, irritable or even aggressive. Some owners complain that their cats incessantly demand attention.

- Confusion and disorientation. This may manifest as forgetting where doors, walls and furniture are located, forgetting the location of the food bowl or forgetting where the litter tray is. Others may pace relentlessly, wander aimlessly or stare at the wall. Some animals seem to forget that they have been fed...and keep harassing owners (though its pretty hard to distinguish this from a cat with an increased appetite, which can be a sign of hyperthyroid disease or diabetes mellitus).
- Inappropriate urination or defecation (ie doing it where one should not). This sign is particularly upsetting to owners.
- Changes in sleep-wake patterns. In particular, cats who once slept through the night may get up at all hours. Some owners observe that their cat sleeps more or less than usual.
- Decreased response to visual and auditory stimuli. Some cats may show signs that they have seen or heard something (looking or turning towards it) but may seem to be confused about how to react.
- Change in appetite. In my experience many affected cats show an increased interest in food, but loss of interest is quite common too.
- Reduced grooming behaviour. This may be evidenced by a dishevelled or rough looking hair coat.

Signs may be subtle at first, but they tend to become more pronounced over time.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis of dementia in cats is not easy because, as mentioned earlier, many other medical conditions known to affect older cats result in similar clinical signs. For example, cats suffering from arthritis may vocalise or avoid climbing in the litter tray due to pain. Cats with diabetes or kidney disease may urinate inappropriately or exhibit changes in their appetite. Cats with thyroid disease may exhibit dramatic behavioural changes, including aggression and a ravenous appetite.

Other conditions that may cause behavioural changes in senior cats include high blood pressure, urinary tract infection, diseases of the nervous system, loss of sight and hearing, dental disease, brain tumours and any condition that causes pain. And stress (for example regarding a new cat who moves in next door) can manifest as all sorts of behavioural changes including some crazy litter tray action.

Vitamin B1 (thiamine) deficiency, common in cats fed fresh meat containing sulphur dioxide preservatives, can also cause some dementia-like signs. Unfortunately it can be difficult to tell which pet meats contain these preservatives or which don't. Some cats respond to thiamine supplementation and withdrawal of the offending diet, but thiamine deficiency can cause permanent brain damage. To be on the safe side, discuss your cat's diet with your vet.

There is no single diagnostic test for senior dementia. Rather, it is a diagnosis of exclusion. That is, your veterinarian will need to rule out other medical



Jonah - 11 years old

conditions which can cause similar signs to dementia. One complicating factor is that older cats may have multiple medical conditions in addition to dementia. In these cases it is difficult to determine what proportion of behavioural signs are due to dementia and what proportion are due to the other conditions.

Your veterinarian will initially take a full history, including any medication your cat is taking, previous medical conditions such as trauma, exactly what your cat is eating and any recent environmental changes. You will be asked about the behavioural changes you have noticed in your cat, and whether there have been any changes in appetite, thirst, urination or defecation.

This is followed by a full physical examination, which may include a neurological examination, to determine whether there are physical signs of illness.

The next stage involves running a panel of tests. This includes a complete blood count, a biochemistry panel, thyroid hormone levels and urine analysis. These tests will help identify the presence and extent of kidney disease, thyroid disease and other conditions such as diabetes or liver disease – all of which may cause apparently senile behaviour in cats.

In addition, blood pressure measurements may be taken. Hypertension or high blood pressure is reasonably common in older cats, although taking their blood pressure is not as simple as it is in a human patient. The act of putting a blood pressure cuff on a cat's limb for the first time is often enough to send the blood pressure off the scale – so your veterinarian may hospitalise your cat for the day and take a series of blood pressure measurements, using the average of these. [And even then the odd cat just doesn't approve of having a cuff placed on their limbs].

Depending on the physical findings and the results of these tests, your veterinarian may suggest your cat undergoes further tests if necessary. These might include blood tests for feline leukaemia or aids,



toxoplasmosis or cryptococcosis.

Ultrasound and x-rays can be very useful in detecting some conditions which may be associated with dementia, such as heart disease or cancer.

Finally, we can also use advanced imaging – the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or computed tomography (CT). Advanced imaging may pick up things such as brain tumours. One of the more common operable brain tumours in the feline patient is the meningioma – but brain surgery is a specialist procedure. [One prominent Sydney surgeon describes meningioma removal as a “brain spey”].

Treatment

Where no underlying medical reason for behavioural changes can be found, your veterinarian may make a presumptive diagnosis of senior dementia. It is likely that as we learn more about the underlying causes of dementia in cats, targeted treatment will become available.

Until then the treatment options are based on extrapolation of data from people and dogs, and it must be emphasised that there is currently no registered treatment specifically for feline senior dementia available in Australia.

Other treatment options include anti-depressant type drugs (particularly the monoamine oxidase inhibitors), anti-anxiety drugs (such as some benzodiazepines) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Because these drugs may exacerbate other medical conditions it is important that they are prescribed by a veterinarian after a thorough assessment of your cat. Anti-depressant type drugs can take several weeks to take effect. A question we are commonly asked is whether the cat can take the same medication that the owner is taking. Generally NOT. Doses between cats and people vary, and again, it is vital that every patient is assessed prior to medicating to reduce the risk of adverse effects of medication.

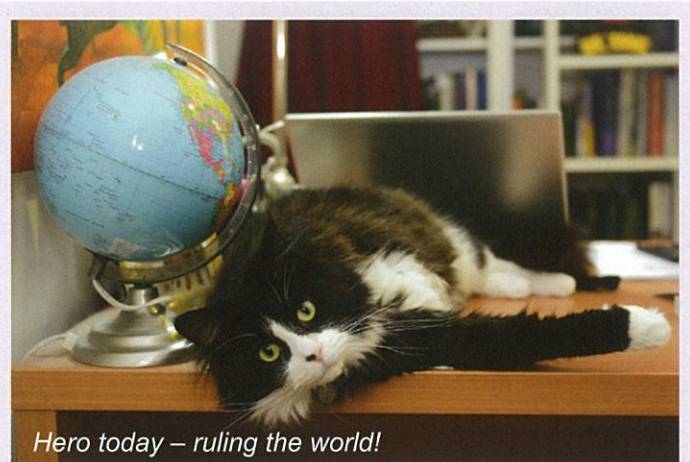
Nutraceutical dietary supplements containing antioxidants, essential fatty acids and free-radical scavengers may reduce degenerative changes in the brain, although there are no formal studies which show this is the case. It is important to only use products designed for use in cats, as some products intended for use in humans and dogs may be toxic.

What works for one cat may not work for another. This may reflect an underlying variation in the cause of dementia between cats.

In cats with multiple medical conditions such as arthritis or diabetes, treatment of these can improve your cat's overall health and reduce dementia-related behavioural signs.

In addition to treatment, making changes at home to keep your cat comfortable, such as providing an extra litter tray (or two) and sticking to a routine when it comes to feeding may help. These cats tend to get very stressed in the face of major changes, so avoid rearranging the furniture or changing the position of their bedding and bowls. These are not cats who would be thrilled with the introduction of a new kitten or puppy. Old cats with dementia are not very quick on their feet. They are less able to retreat from dogs, other cats or motor vehicles if they need to. Thus keeping them indoors, or allowing them outdoors under supervision, may be the safest option.

Often cats are not diagnosed with dementia until it is very advanced. This means that even with the best veterinary care there may be little we can do to reverse or reduce the behavioural changes associated with dementia.



Dr Anne Fawcett works at Sydney Animal Hospitals Inner West (tel 9516 1466).

www.sydneyanimalhospitals.com.au/Our-Hospitals/Inner-west-vet-hospital/

She also lectures in veterinary science at the University of Sydney, writes regularly for media and veterinary journals and has her own blog www.smallanimaltalk.com in which this article originally appeared. She is interested in all aspects of small animal practice, particularly veterinary ethics, evidence-based medicine and the human-animal bond. Anne is also Hero's mum! Some members will remember Hero, whose story we told in the Autumn 2012 issue of Cat Affairs. He was the brave little kitten (also known as Shadow) who was severely injured and cruelly dumped, rescued by a beautiful family and brought to Cat Protection. He needed a full front leg amputation and Anne was his surgeon. Having only three legs hasn't diminished Hero's energy, sense of adventure or his appetite!

The debate about feral cats

By Andrea Harvey, BVSc, DSAM (Feline), Diplomat ECVIM-CA, ANZCVS (Associate), MRCVS Registered Veterinary Specialist, NSW, PhD Scholar, Centre for Compassionate Conservation, University of Technology Sydney

For clarification, the term 'feral cats' is being used here to describe completely wild cats that are born outside of human society and live in wilderness areas away from towns and cities, and have no contact with people. It is important to differentiate this population from unowned or stray cats since the issues of these two populations are very different. Unowned or stray cats consist of domestic cats that have been lost or abandoned, and unwanted kittens from these cats. They tend to live in larger colonies than feral cats, live in urban or semi-urban areas and are largely dependent on human society for food and shelter

Just days before International Cat Day, the Australian government announced its plans to kill two million feral cats by 2020. What is the stance of veterinarians on this?

Many veterinarians would initially accept this as a necessity and simply seek to ensure that this is undertaken as humanely as possible; we are all led to believe that lethal culling is the only way to control destruction of native wildlife by feral cats. But is this true? According to well-respected ecologists, Dr Arian Wallach and Dr Daniel Ramp, 'Killing cats achieves only one outcome with consistency: it produces dead cats.'

Wallach & Ramp's recent article in *The Conversation* (29 July 2015 <http://theconversation.com/lets-give-feral-cats-their-citizenship-45165>) entitled 'Let's give feral cats their citizenship' not surprisingly attracted much controversy, but offered a refreshing alternative view to the feral cat debate, encouraging readers to question both the ethics of mass killing of feral cats, and the ecological effectiveness in achieving its aims.

They suggest that it is naïve to think that killing cats will simply have the desired outcome of allowing native wildlife to flourish. What if the predominant cause of loss of native wildlife is related to habitat destruction by humans? What if feral cat populations continue to proliferate because humans are also killing Australia's apex predator, the Dingo, causing disarray of the trophic cascade? What if killing cats has knock-on ecological impacts, which just create another problem such as explosion of rodent and rabbit populations? There is also evidence that killing feral cats may not have positive ecological impacts because cats from other areas simply fill their niches.

Wallach and Ramp go on to explain; 'ecosystems are notoriously, and wonderfully, complex things. They are comprised of dense networks of interactions that bind the fate of species to one another. Cats have become deeply entangled in this web of life.'

So it turns out that killing feral cats may not have the perceived benefits that we have been led to believe by many conservation movements. Decisions regarding large scale lethal culling directly impacts animal welfare, so as veterinarians we need to be able to critique the evidence surrounding the necessity and impacts of culling. It isn't acceptable to take the view that this is beyond our remit.

What about the ethics of killing any healthy sentient being? Many veterinarians would struggle to make the decision to humanely euthanase a perfectly healthy cat because its owner no longer wanted it. If we struggle with the ethics of this, why would we think it ethically acceptable to kill millions of unowned cats, with some vague unproven hope that this would result in native wildlife flourishing?

As veterinarians, every week we go to great extents in our efforts, time and resources to extend the life, perhaps only for a few months, of often terminally ill patients, and often at great financial expense to the owners; how can we justify this, and then readily accept killing millions of healthy animals just because they don't have an owner?

The vision of International Cat Care (of which the International Society of Feline Medicine is the veterinary division), is that all cats, owned and unowned, are treated with care, compassion and understanding. Many veterinarians exhibit a huge amount of care, compassion and understanding for their feline patients, but is this regularly extended to unowned and feral cats as well?

Interestingly, similar questions were recently raised surrounding the worldwide outrage at the killing of Cecil the lion, by the trophy hunting American dentist. The general public throughout the world seemed to be united in the view that killing Cecil was ethically unacceptable. So if we agree that it was wrong to kill Cecil the lion, why would we accept it is OK to kill any other lion? Many lions are killed with no reaction at all from the public, so what is the difference about Cecil? He had a name, people knew who he was, he was part of a research project, and he had an individual identity. It is common in our society for more value to be placed on individual animals that have a name, or other personal identity, compared to an unidentified member of the same species, but of course there is no difference in their degree of sentience.

Similarly, if we accept that it isn't ethical for our neighbour to kill our cat if it toilets in their flowerbed,

why would we think it ethical to kill any healthy cat, the only difference being that it doesn't have an owner or an individual identity recognised by us? The difference that often drives societies' decisions is that the latter would be against the law, whereas the former is encouraged by the law. As the Honourable Michael Kirby (former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia) recently stated at an animal law conference 'the law can be oppressive, ignorant and often fails, it needs continual reconsideration'. Thus the law should not be relied upon as a guide to ethical decision making.

When it comes to naming animals, the prejudice goes even further in the division between owned and unowned animals. Typically, animals that society has chosen to consider undesirable, are grouped together with a negatively biased name such as 'pest', 'feral', 'invasive', 'introduced' etc. These terms do little more than further exacerbate the prejudice against them, and is clearly not an ethical way of distinguishing between species, or between members of the same species. Similarly, 'feral' cats are usually illustrated as a growling hissing cat, suggesting they are nasty and aggressive when, as feline vets, we know that this body language simply represents a highly anxious cat that feels threatened. All of this results in the connotation that feral cats are 'bad' and helps society to justify killing them.

To this end, Wallach and Ramp ingeniously suggested renaming the country's feral cats, 'Australian wild cats'. This would certainly help a transition to embracing them as part of Australia's present day ecosystem.

Conditioned ethical blindness is a common occurrence in society where some kind of 'reward', which may simply be obtaining or holding down a particular job, conditions people to ignore the ethical issues around them. This is very much the case in the conservation field, where 'pest control' has become a huge 'industry'. Within these industries, academic fields, and also wider society, there is also much pressure to conform to accepted opinions; which most often is that 'introduced species damage the ecosystem and should be killed'.

As ecologists, not animal welfare scientists or veterinarians, Wallach and Ramp are to be applauded for bravely pushing through ethical blindness, and past the pressure to conform to conservationist dogma, leading the way in bringing ethical decision making to the table through a compassionate conservation approach.

Most veterinarians probably wouldn't accept the notion that the best outcome is not to intervene with the cat populations at all, and would worry about the welfare costs of this. However, most veterinarians are probably more familiar with stray/unowned populations than true feral cats (see definitions in dialogue box). Certainly in stray/unowned populations

we know that morbidity and mortality is high, and that individuals in these populations have very poor welfare. They typically start reproducing at one year of age or less and produce multiple litters a year. Feline infectious diseases are particularly common in this scenario, contributing to significant morbidity in kittens. The physiological strain on the queen is also considerable.

International Cat Care acknowledge that controlling unowned cat populations is a major international welfare challenge. Reducing population growth rates can significantly improve health and welfare at an individual and population level. Trap-neuter-return programs can be successful in some parts of the world, but in others are inadequate or unachievable.

The Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs is a non-profit organisation that serves to advance methods of non-surgical reproductive control, and significant research is ongoing in this area, as highlighted in a recent Special Issue of *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery*, dedicated to 'Non-surgical Feline Fertility Control' (*JFMS* Sept 2015, Vol 17, Issue 9).

It is important, however, to differentiate the issue of stray/unowned cats from that of feral cats, which is the topic of discussion here, as they are different populations which will require different management strategies. As Wallach and Ramp point out, the wildcat populations in Australia roam remote, vast landscapes, desert and dense bush in often inaccessible areas, and intervention of reproduction as can be performed in unowned/stray populations is not practical in true wild populations. These cats are also more commonly solitary, with much lower reproduction rates to unowned/stray cats that tend to live in colonies eg around garbage tips or university campuses.

Instead, Wallach and Ramp propose that coexistence of native wildlife with wild cats is possible, stating that 'the major forces that influence the ability of prey to coexist with cats include vegetation cover and larger predators', and so this is where efforts would be best focused.

Whether or not readers agree with Wallach and Ramp's views on the feral cat debate, the authors' excellent discussion points force us to question each step of the decision making in wildlife management, and our own ethical values, and encourage us to step out of states of conditioned ethical blindness, and away from the pressure to conform with dogma.

Wallach and Ramp conclude, 'the aim of conservation is not to generate an ever increasing body count, but to guide human behaviour to enable the rest of the Earth's species to flourish. Embracing cats is a paradigm shift. It means embracing the entirety of Australia's modern ecosystems - native and feral - and letting go of the past.'

After all, which introduced species has done and continues to do most damage to the Australian environment, wildlife and ecosystems? Introduced humans of course. With all the advances in other areas of science and medicine, there has to be better solutions than repeated large scale lethal culling for infinity of

species we have singled out to place blame on. There has to be a better way forward into the future.

This article appeared in the Centre for Veterinary Education's Control & Therapy Series, Dec 2015, Issue 281 and is republished here with the CVE's kind permission.

SCRATCHING POST

Hi

All grown up! Almost a year ago we adopted Nikki & Bella as kittens. They are the dearest cats & such a joyous addition to our family!

The Connollys

Hi

Here're some photos of Jazz ... She is still a shy little thing around the house but has warmed up to me.

Nicole



Dear Nerida

I named my kitten Zadie and she has made a huge impact on everyone in the family already. She's as naughty and friendly and playful and cuddly as one could wish for! And Strudel, the 15 year old tabby cat who has had pride of place for about 10 years, when Sylvie died of old age, has taught Zadie a few things about respecting her seniors!

Kind regards

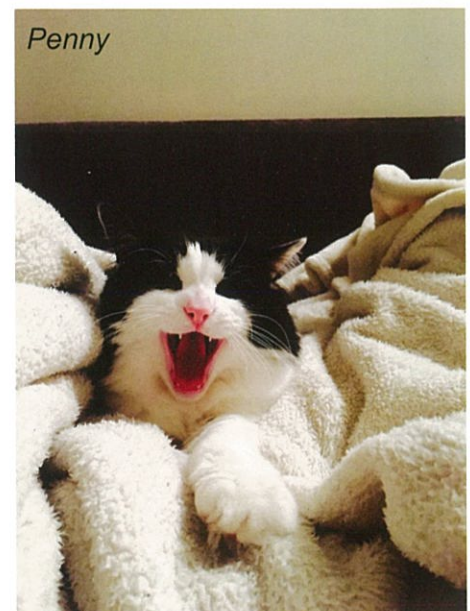
Lee



Hi

Merry Christmas from Penny!

Hope all you pussy cats find a forever loving home like me (3 years now!).



SCRATCHING POST



Tilly

Hi Nerida

Tilly is doing well! She's settling in gradually and is always affectionate but still very jumpy, but I'm sure that will just take time. Here's a picture of her keeping me company on the couch.

Thanks

Heather

Hi Nerida

Abbey is going very well indeed. She came to us as a timid little one who wouldn't even come out to let us meet her properly and I was disappointed to be told 'she won't be a cat who sits on your lap.' She spent the whole of the first day in her igloo and I had to coax her out with food. She hasn't been back in there since!

She has taken over a pet bed that used to belong to a little dog that we had, comes to her name and is very affectionate. She's made herself quite at home, in fact. You can see from the photos I've attached.

Thanks

Jennifer

Hi

We adopted Lucky 18 months ago when he was 7 months old. He has settled in so well and become the centre of our attention! He is so calming and funny to watch and be with. He has a favourite toy Jerry and can't live without him! We are so lucky to have each other! Thank you for bringing us Lucky!

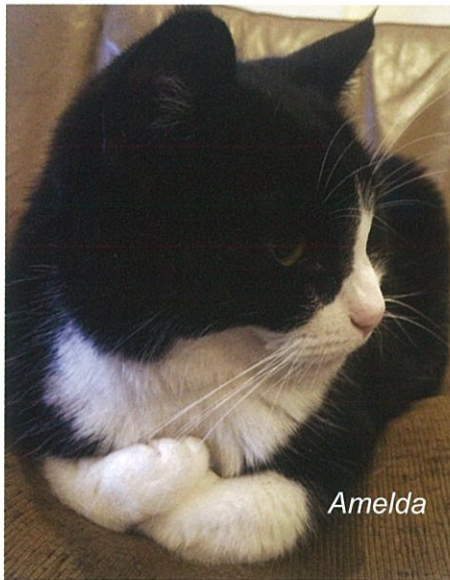
xxxxx

Connie & David

Hi CPS

Here are some pictures of Amelda who we love very much.

Emily



Amelda



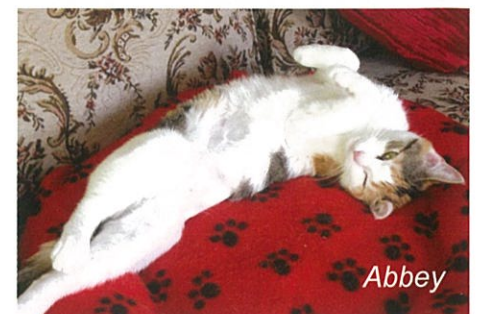
Lucky



Amelda



Abbey



Abbey

SCRATCHING POST

Hi Cat Protection Friends!

My name is Felix and you looked after me and my two brothers in 2014. I met my person one day and while I was waiting patiently for her to come back to take me home forever another family adopted me. But a couple of days after, they took me back to you because they were something called 'allergic'. But I was lucky! My true forever person came back for me! I was so happy!

I've been living with her and my big brother Salem for nearly two years now and I love it here. The first time we went to the Vet I was so scared, I thought I was being returned to you again, but my person promised she'd never give me up and it all worked out okay!

We live in a house in a quiet street with a nice front garden that I get to play in on the weekend. There are trees to climb and tall plants to sniff. I also keep bringing my person little lizards for snacks but she doesn't seem to like them, I will keep trying until I find one she likes!

I'm sorry it's taken me so long to write, but I've really loved my new home. Salem and I play and chase and get into all sorts of trouble together, we make it up to our person by being super cute and snuggly. I've attached some pictures my person took, I hope you like them!

Thank you so much for looking after me and I hope my two brothers found homes as amazing as mine!

Love Felix

=^.^=

Hi

Here is a pic of our beautiful Nikita. He's very cheeky and doing great!!!!

Filixia

Felix and Salem



Hi

My grandmother, Jan, adopted a cute little kitten (now named Lucy) from the Cat Protection Society in November.

Lucy loves to play, especially with her purple toy mouse that came home with her from Cat Protection. She is very cute and mischievous and inquisitive, always looking for a new adventure. She loves to go outdoors under strict supervision and sit in the sun.

We are very happy to have her as part of the family!

Carli



Nikita

Hi Nerida

Just to let you know that Harley (I don't think he had a name when I adopted him on 9 October) is doing really well. He's still afraid of strangers (& me too sometimes) but he is very comfortable in his new home. He loves to play, & is incredibly active & he's just adorable.

With thanks

Lisa



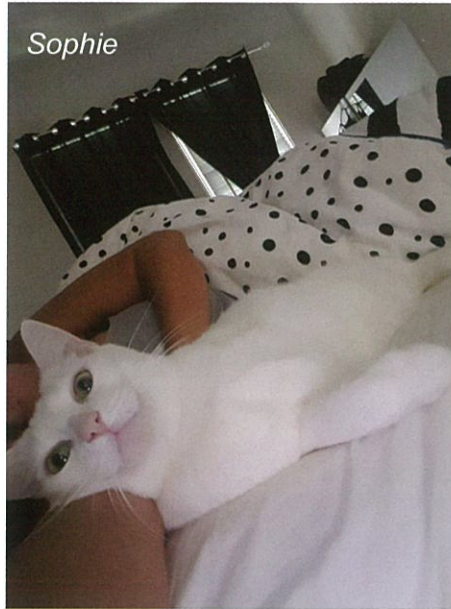
Harley

SCRATCHING POST

Hi Guys

Just thought I would give you an update on little miss Sophie. She has made herself at home and is coming out of her shell more and more each day. She is amazing and I'm so glad I adopted her.

Kristy



Hi CPS!

Thank you so much for adopting Ronaldo to us. He was a little timid at first but he's settling in beautifully now. He is an affectionate cheeky boy and we love him to bits.

Thanks again!

Andrew



Hi Nerida

I am writing to give you an update on Lily (formerly Doh). Lily is such a little character and instantly become a much loved member of our family, she is bursting with energy and is such an inquisitive cat.

Both Adam and I (as well as our extended family) couldn't imagine not having her around, so thank you for letting us adopt this much loved (and spoilt) cat.

Regards

Samantha



Dear all the team at CPS

Hyena and Pantoufle (aka Qu) are doing very well together! We couldn't hope for more! Between play fighting, chasing and grooming each other, they have become very good friends/family.

Pantoufle has some allergy issues. We thought we found out what it was, but we're still working on it with the vet. We are really blessed to have this pair as part of our family!

Thank you to all of you for taking such good care of the furry balls!

We wish you and the cats a wonderful 2016.

Sandrine & Tim



SCRATCHING POST

Hi CPS

Here is a collage from Nina (aka Mayflower) adopted from you March 2002 at 10 months of age. Nina is now 14 years old and going strong, bringing happiness and laughter into our lives every day.

Scott & Claudia



Hi CPS

This is our kitty Jeff, we adopted him from you guys few weeks ago, and he is already making himself at home.

Karmen



Hi CPS

Remember Lilly? My son and I were at your office early December and picked up Lilly. Does she look as if she has settled in – keeping an eye on me and the computer.

I have changed her name to Ellie – every time I spoke to her or called her I found myself saying Ellie and not Lily – must be easier for me to think of. So she is now Ellie and answers to that.

Gloria

Hi Guys

Just wanted to say a big thanks for helping us adopt last weekend. 'Frida' - our new tortoiseshell tabby - is the cutest, most affectionate cat ever. She is brightening up our lives, loves to cuddle and play all day.

She's so adorable, she now has her own Instagram so we don't bombard all of our friends with cat pics. If you want to see what she's been up to, check it out!

www.instagram.com/frida_the_tortie.

Thanks so much to Ellis and all the team!

Ben, Zoé & 'Frida'



Frida

IN MEMORIAM



In memory of Tommy

My little friend Tommy was born on 11 August 2005 and sadly went to sleep on 6 January.

Tommy came home with me in June 2009. He was very special to me and I have been very lucky to have him in my life. Tommy had a lovely life and has been a very much loved and spoilt boy. He was diagnosed with a heart murmur in 2009 all seemed okay until late last year when his little heart failed. Thanks to RSPCA Tighes Hill and NAREC Broadmeadow I was able to have 5 more special months with my boy before losing him.

Our little friends mean so much and are our family. Thanks to CPS for having him until we found each other, I think Tommy started life with you as a kitten and came back just before coming home with me. I would also like to thank RSPCA Tighes Hill for all their kindness and compassion dealing with a distressed cat mum and doing their very best to care for Tommy and giving the advice that was needed at the right time.

Donna



In memory of Gemma

On 22 October 2001 I adopted Saffron (renamed Gemma) and Ceasar (now Oscar) – 14 years of joy.

Apart from both being treated for hyperthyroidism, they have had no problems, until last March when Gemma was diagnosed with a cancerous tumour and given palliative care by my wonderful vet, Michael Eaton.

Sadly Gemma lost her brave battle on 6 January 2016.

Oscar is still very active and my constant big black companion, and I hope to have his company for lots more years. Meanwhile it is just the two of us and we miss her very, very much.

Lin



Gemma and Oscar

Goldy

Remembering Goldy on her anniversary, 1 March. I am sending a donation to help our beloved felines.

Carmel

Blackey

In loving memory of my cat – Blackey.

Maria

In memory of Suzie

Meow Meow, the “boomerang cat” sadly is no longer. She came to the Cat Protection Society twice and then, following an advertisement in the Sutherland Shire Leader of 19 September 2002, at the age of two she became my little girl “Suzie”.

After more than 13 years together, on 30 January 2016 she went to sleep forever in my arms. No more parting the window curtains when she heard the car come in, then running to the front door to greet me with her meow meow. She loved watching the blue tongue lizards sunning themselves on the deck in the front courtyard and her little treats before going to bed on my dressing gown at the end of my bed.

Missed so much and forever in my heart my little friend.

Dorle

Meow Meow featured in Cat Affairs in December 2002 and Summer 2003. After a somewhat difficult start to life (being abandoned twice) she landed on all four paws with Dorle and family. She couldn't have had a happier home and we're sure Miss Suzie Meow will shine her love on Dorle forever.



IN MEMORIAM



In memory of Sylvester

Yesterday we had to say goodbye to beautiful Sylvester. Sylvester came into my life as a permanent foster cat for the Cat Protection Society.

I felt so blessed to have him. From the moment we laid eyes on each other that was it. At our first meeting he came and stood by my leg, a trait he continued the whole of our relationship.

His first months were interesting, he would run terrified from a plastic bag or a loud noise. But he was a strong and powerful cat ... who revealed the heart of an angel. He really felt like a gift. As he settled in, he became more and more chilled and affectionate, enjoying time playing.

He became a lovely presence when people would come to visit (though he did run when CPS came knowing he was going to the vet!) and was a favourite to visit with kids. He went from being a terrified cat who ran away as soon as anyone arrived to a social and friendly cat. He was also a great doorbell alert as he would go to the door if he heard anyone approaching.

He was a very special cat and I am so thankful to Cat Protection for giving me the chance to care for this beautiful old boy in his last what we thought would be 6 months and in fact, turned into 2 years and 8 months. How awesomely blessed we are to be touched by such beautiful animals that enrich our lives even more than I think we enrich theirs.

Farewell beautiful warm hearted boy. You will stay in our hearts forever.

Natalie

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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By feeding Hill's™ Science Diet™, we can ensure that kittens and cats awaiting adoption have the special nutrition they need to be healthy, happy and ready to start their new life with you. If you're ready to bring a new cat into your life then why not consider adoption from your local animal shelter?

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