

Nine Lives

Magazine of the Cat Protection Society of Victoria

Volume 9, No 1, January, 2009

Hostel News

Nine Lives Cats

Where am I Now?

Cat Chat

Update on the

**Compulsory
Desexing**

&

**Who's for Cats?
Campaigns**



LAUNCH of

NINE LIVES MONTH – saving feline lives

Sunday February 8th, 2009 10.00am - 2.00pm



Letters

Nine Lives welcomes letters, articles, poems and stories about cats. Please include your name, address and telephone number and send to:

PO Box 257, Greensborough 3088

Fax (03) 9432 0472

Email catprotection@bigpond.com.au

Phone 9434 7155 or 9434 7255

Material may be edited

For Tibbles

I adopted a puss
Black, white and grey
A very fine fellow
I really must say
With white on his nose
He's an inside cat
I tell him, "If you go outside
You must wear a hat."
Cats are so loving
And mine is a treasure
Puss asleep on my knee
Is my life's greatest pleasure

Jean Opperman
Pascoe Vale

BREAKING NEWS

We have just been advised by the ATO that we have finally been granted DGR (Tax Deductible) Status.

This means that donations to the Society are now tax deductible

New Website

**We are pleased to announce that the launch of our vastly updated website is imminent
So Watch this Space
www.catprotection.com.au**

Front Cover

Hopeful for a new home during our Nine Lives Month one of our adult cats basks in the sun



Editorial

Dear Members

Welcome to 2009 and best wishes for the festive season. As usual at this time of year, kitten season hit like a tidal wave just before Christmas and filled the hostel to capacity in a few short days. Sadly the economic downturn saw a fall in adoptions at the same time placing an enormous burden on our staff and facilities. My heartfelt thanks to all our staff, volunteers and foster mums who have worked tirelessly in caring for this huge number of felines at this time.

This year our traditional Adopt-a-Cat/Kitten Day will evolve into our new "Nine Lives Month – saving feline lives" which will be launched with a small Adoption Day on February 8th. The focus of this program is to find homes for our beautiful cats and kittens by providing incentives to new owners in the form of a free bag of feline products and the new Hide Perch and Go carry box with each adoption – all cats and kittens adopted in the month of February will receive these. The usual 200 kittens are being prepared for the program, but will be available throughout February, not all on the one day. This allows the adoptions to be more evenly spread across the month relieving pressure on our staff resources. On February 8th the program will be launched with the first 50 kittens available for adoption. Our sponsors have, once again, been very generous in supporting us and many thanks go to all involved.

Our newly updated website is shortly to be launched. It has been totally revamped and the new look will feature cats for adoption (you will still need to come to the hostel to adopt them, but you can view them online), a huge volume of information about the Society and felines in general and how you can become involved, and the ability to make donations online. It will continue to evolve through time and we would appreciate your feedback on its format.

In this edition we report on the progress of the "Who's for cats?" media campaign which was launched in 2007 by the Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper. The campaign asks the Victorian community to care for cats and acknowledge their importance and role as a wonderful companion animal – if a person is feeding a stray, they need to make the decision to take ownership with all this entails, or call the council to have the cat collected – just feeding is not enough, the cat deserves more. It continues to enjoy wide stakeholder support sending a very powerful message to the community. We also provide an update on the campaign for compulsory desexing – the battle has continued throughout 2008 and will do so until we have won. Significant progress has been made, including our own municipal Council Banyule deciding to introduce compulsory desexing for all new registrations – thank you to the thousands of Banyule residents who signed our petition and supported the cause, our voice has finally been heard.

Our regular features - "Where am I?", Cat Chat and the fabulous Nine Lives cats who are all despurrrately looking for new homes fill the rest of the edition, so please read on and enjoy.

With lots of purrs,
Dr Carole Webb

Launch of Nine Lives Month

Saving feline lives

Looking for a feline companion to brighten your life?

Nine Lives Month will be launched on February 8th - This is your chance to visit the shelter and adopt one of our beautiful cats or kittens and save a feline life. There will be many cats and kittens looking to find new homes throughout February as well as expert staff on hand to answer all those tricky feline questions!

A free bag of feline goodies and a “Hide Perch and Go” goes with every cat and kitten adopted on the day and for the remainder of February 2009.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8TH, 2009

Cat Protection Society Hostel

200 Elder Street, Greensborough

Melway Map 20 J6

10.00am – 2.00pm

**The CPS would like to thank the following companies for their generous support of our special month:
FORT DODGE, IAMS, ADVANTAGE, MAX'S PET LITTER, PROFENDER, REVOLUTION**

Hostel

The New Year saw hundreds of cats and kittens left at the hostel filling us again to capacity. In 2008, 15,973 felines were taken into our care reaffirming our belief that until compulsory desexing is introduced state wide, the problem will continue. This is an increase of 6.5% in intake on our 2007 figures and reflects a general increase in shelter intake across Victoria – average is estimated at 25% statewide with smaller shelters showing greater percentage increases though similar numbers of additional cats. It is believed that this overall increase is due to several components – the launch of the Who's For Cats campaign with many of the semi-owned cats being fed by the community being brought in to shelters; the downturn in the economy and owners having difficulty affording to keep their cats and thirdly an extra litter being born due to warmer weather (there are usually two spikes in kitten intake, one in December and one in March – it appears that there is a third, smaller spike now in May). This reflects the situation in warmer parts of Australia where cats breed the whole year round, and with climate change upon us, will probably start to impact on the southern states as well.

The hostel has again faced severe staff shortages during 2008, due largely to the very sad nature of the work we do and the physical demands of caring for and cleaning 300 cats every day – in all weathers both hot and cold! CPS is somewhat unique in that we receive the largest intake of cats in Australia at the one facility and we are solely a feline shelter (and will continue to be so), so the opportunity to rotate staff to areas with more positive outcomes does not exist (For example the outcomes for dogs are far better than for cats – on average across the State, around 56% are reclaimed, 15% are rehomed and 29% euthanased of the 75% euthanasia rate with cats and their very low reclaim rate of 4%). Whilst this makes us all the more determined to

change the current situation via the introduction of compulsory desexing, the daily operational needs and their harsh realities still have to be fulfilled.

Traditionally in February every year we have held an Open Day/Adopt-a-Cat Day. This has on average placed 150 cats and kittens into new homes on the day and eases the pressure on the Hostel at its busiest time of year. It is however a tremendous amount of work to organize and requires preparation weeks in advance. As a result of the staff shortage, the CPS Council has decided this year to change our focus and launch a new program – Nine Lives Month – with a scaled back Adoption Day on February 8th, but with the same incentives being available throughout February. This means that the same number of kittens (200) will be ready, but will be available throughout the month, not all on the one day, thus spreading our staff resources more evenly. All cats and kittens adopted in February will receive a free bag of feline products. In addition on February 8th there will be a launch of this program, with the first 50 kittens available, the usual feline accessories and cat care information available and the free bag of goodies with each adoption. All adoptions will also receive a new Hide Perch and Go carry box (see p13) which is a new environmental enrichment tool to reduce stress that is being used in shelters across Australia.

There have unfortunately continued to be delays with our new shelter in 2008 but we hope that next year we see us move in and able to expand our activities again in our fabulous new facilities.

Our fundraising efforts have continued through the year and many thanks go to Dianne who runs the Cadbury Freddo Frog drive, raising much needed funds to care for our feline friends.

Update on the Who's for Cats? Media Campaign

In 2007 we reported that as a result of the findings of a working group of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee a mass media campaign supported by all the major stakeholders, to promote responsible ownership of cats had been developed. This has continued throughout 2008 and is proving extremely successful.....



Are you feeding a bigger problem?

THE PROBLEM

There are currently around half a million unowned (stray and feral) cats in Victoria.

Annually, approximately 50,000 cats are impounded and 35,000 of these have to be euthanased. This is mainly due to poor health, or because not enough homes can be found for them.

Tragically, thousands of the cats that have to be euthanased each year are healthy, sociable kittens. There are simply not enough people to adopt them.

This situation is unacceptable on ethical and animal welfare grounds

CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM

The cat overpopulation problem is due to a number of factors, such as supply exceeding demand and the ability of cats to breed extremely quickly. Research has also found that a major contributing factor to this problem is people feeding unowned cats but not taking full ownership or responsibility for them.

People feed unowned cats because they genuinely care about them, and feel sorry for them. However many people don't realize that they are causing a bigger problem by feeding, but not owning (eg desexing and identifying) these cats.

Feeding unowned cats helps keep them strong enough to reproduce. They continue breeding more and more kittens into a life of disease and neglect. This contributes to the tragic cat overpopulation problem in Victoria.

THE SOLUTION

Just feeding unowned cats isn't the answer. If you want to help, contact your council to either take ownership of the cat or arrange to have it impounded

PLEASE DON'T FEED A BIGGER PROBLEM



For more information call 136 186 or visit www.whosforcats.com.au



THE WHO'S FOR CATS CAMPAIGN

In 2003, Monash University undertook a random phone survey of 424 households in metropolitan and rural Victoria. This survey found that 22% of respondents could be classified as 'semi owners' of cats. That is, they contributed towards the health of a cat/s that they didn't own, through actions such as feeding (most common) or providing veterinary care for the cat. However they did not accept full ownership of, or responsibility for the cat/s and so the cat was usually not desexed.

In 2005, as a result of significant lobbying by animal welfare organisations, AWAC identified the cat overpopulation problem as a welfare issue needing urgent attention and formed Working Group 6, comprising a broad cross section of stakeholders to examine the issue and develop solutions. Unlike dogs, there are many semi and unowned cats particularly in urban areas causing many of the nuisance cat complaints received by Councils, mostly relating to undesexed cat behaviour. These cats are maintained by human feeders who feed them to prevent starvation but in so doing enable the cat to breed and perpetuate the problem.

The cycle is simple – a stray cat appears and is offered food – a normal nurturing instinct. The reliable food source improves the cat's condition and enables breeding, increasing numbers. The problem quickly spirals out of control (a colony of 40 cats can be established in 12 months) overwhelming the feeder's capacity and the cats are taken to the shelter or abandoned and the cycle begins again. If asked, the feeder will say "it is not my cat", and takes no further responsibility so it isn't desexed, microchipped, etc. They don't go looking if it goes missing. The act of feeding arose from a motive of kindness but in fact fed a bigger problem and increased the unowned cat population. Research showed 22% of the population fed a cat they didn't own; these semi-owners tend to be women, the most common category, retired women over 65, followed by women 46-55 who are professionally employed or on home duties; they engage in a single behaviour that indicates cat ownership – feeding (93%) but don't claim ownership. They have genuine care, concern and feel sorry for these unowned cats. Although they believe cats are independent and able to fend for themselves they continue feeding. When asked what would happen if they stopped they assume someone else will. They won't stop feeding because of sympathy for the cat and they don't believe they are doing anything wrong. Further research indicated that asking them to stop wouldn't be enough. There was a need for education about the consequences of their behaviour and its impact on the overall unowned population and a need to appeal to their love of cats to question if their actions are in the overall cats' best interests. This group is difficult to reach and behavioural and attitudinal change was required.

Having identified and characterized the issue, AWAC recommended to the Government that a mass media campaign be developed and implemented to create public awareness about this complex issue. And thus the Who's For Cats? Campaign was born. The campaign was

launched in December 2007 by the Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper. This is an important initiative and the culmination of a great deal of work and cooperation throughout the animal welfare field to reduce the numbers of unwanted cats being euthanased in shelters. The campaign asks the Victorian community to care for cats and acknowledge their importance and role as a wonderful companion animal – if a person is feeding a stray, they need to make the decision to take ownership with all this entails, or call the council to have the cat collected – just feeding is not enough, the cat deserves more. This has the support of the State Government, the Municipal Association of Victoria, all the major animal welfare shelters, the Australian Veterinary Association and the Pet Industry Association, so sends a very powerful message to the community.

Following the launch, the CSA ads went to air on both TV and radio, the stakeholders spread the message through their networks, over 100,000 WFC brochures were distributed, articles appeared in all the major and local newspapers, the WFC messages were incorporated into the State Government's responsible pet ownership programs in the schools and community, and on an operational level, the shelters offered incentives in the form of discounted desexing and microchipping and the State Government provided assistance in the form of 50 cat cages to help in the collection of these cats.

Following twelve months of campaign activities, a follow up survey was conducted, to determine if the number of semi owners of cats in the community has decreased, and to measure awareness of campaign messages. An impressive 42% of respondents had seen or heard information relating to the unowned cat problem, over the past year. The most common source of this information came from newspaper articles. This is not surprising given that since the launch of the "Who's for cats?" campaign, Victorian newspapers have printed well in excess of 50 articles containing key campaign messages. Other sources of information included television and radio, indicating awareness of campaign advertisements developed for these mediums. Participating campaign stakeholders (such as councils, shelters and vets) had also been a source of information for respondents.

The post campaign survey found only 4% of people currently feed cats they don't own. When previous semi owners were asked why they had stopped feeding the cat/s, 59% said the cat had disappeared or died, 13% said they took full ownership of it, 10% took it to the pound or shelter, and 4% located its owner (14% listed "other" as a reason). Therefore, 27% of previous semi owners had taken positive action such as accepting ownership of the cat, taking it to the pound, or finding its owner. It is also positive to note that of the 59% of people who ceased being semi owners due to the cat/s disappearing or dying, none went on to feed other cats they didn't own. Shelter intakes are currently being looked to see the impact here. The campaign will continue to run through 2009, so far an overwhelming success.



Cat Chat

By CPS Members and Nine Lives Readers

We frequently receive a myriad of cat stories, poems and readers experiences with our four footed feline friends. We thought you would like to share them with us.....

Visitors to the National Trust property "Como" may remember "Chloe", the beautiful resident cat.

She had been abandoned in the extensive grounds as a kitten, and cared for by the gardeners, the caretaker Tony, and for the last six years of her life by me.

Never one to miss a photo opportunity with visitors, she was a great favourite with everyone, and ruled as queen of the grounds, until at the age of sixteen, she succumbed to cancer.

She is buried in the gardens.

Here is my memorial poem to my beloved girl:

Rivka Waxman

FOR CHLOE

Your grave a lonely one beneath that pine –
Too far removed for passers-by to see.
Concealed, I place my purloined flowers below
And know that here you still belong to me.

Your casket but a box, yet lined with care.
In it I placed you, curled you as if sleeping,
Buried your dear pink nose into your tail.
Your fur was damp, anointed by my weeping.

Your shroud a Hermes scarf, - expensive, fine –
I bought in Paris many years ago.
I never wore it – brown was not for me.
Why did I keep it then? Well now I know.

How can it be that twelve short months have flown,
Full measure of the seasons' cycle passed
Since on the day, when cradled in my arms,
Freed now of pain, you gently breathed your last?

Little beloved one, I feel you still.
Your wafting tail, your plushy russet fur,
Those tawny topaz eyes, your love for mine,
The richly trilling music of your purr.

All that was three-dimensional, now two –
Locked in a photograph. A scrap of fur
Held in my hand, a silken souvenir.
And these must fade, as memory must blur.



*In Loving Memory
of "Chloe"*

COMPULSORY DESEXING

Australian Animal Protection Society

Blue Cross

Cat Protection Society of Victoria

Geelong Animal Welfare Society

Humane Society for Animal Welfare

Lort Smith Animal Hospital

Mirboo North & District Animal Aid

RSPCA Victoria

Save a Dog Scheme

South Gippsland Animal Aid

The Lost Dogs Home &
Western Suburbs Cat Shelter

The Victorian Animal Aid Trust



This kitten represents one of the 53,000 unwanted cats entering Victorian animal welfare shelters each year. Only one in four will find a home, the rest will be put down. This is the terrible dilemma faced by caring staff at animal shelters. Shelters exist to save lives, not end them. Help us end this tragedy - please support

COMPULSORY DESEXING



Compulsory Desexing Campaign

An Update

The Cat Crisis Coalition was formed late in 2004 and began campaigning with renewed and focused effort for compulsory desexing of all cats over the age of 12 weeks - the solution to the tragic cat overpopulation problem. The campaign has continued relentlessly since this time, with 2008 seeing significant gain towards our ultimate goal

In June 2005, under the banner of the Cat Crisis Coalition, the compulsory desexing campaign was officially launched with a great deal of media coverage. United, the animal welfare shelters highlighted the tragedy of the cat overpopulation problem and called for action to address it. In 2006 we were joined nationally by other Australian shelters as a result of the National Summit to end Pet Overpopulation and the campaign broadened to the whole of Australia. As a consequence of this united and committed lobby, and a relentless and determined campaign, the end of 2008 has seen significant advances towards our ultimate goal:

NATIONAL LEVEL

☛ The second National Summit on Pet Overpopulation was held in Queensland in October 2007 and kept the Coalition united for nationwide lobbying throughout 2008. As a result several States now have compulsory desexing for cats well and truly on their radar – the ACT Government introduced compulsory desexing of all cats from 3 months of age despite considerable opposition from the AVA – a big THANK YOU to the ACT for this enlightened view and for leading the way nationally; Queensland is trialing compulsory desexing in 4 of their local municipalities with significant funds for desexing schemes and Tasmania has a draft Bill in the consultative process. For Victoria the lobbying continued at local level to achieve a majority of municipalities with compulsory desexing in their DAMP.

LOCAL LEVEL:

1. In 2006, as a result of our lobbying at State level, the Domestic Animals Act was amended and for the first time clauses were introduced that specifically acknowledged the cat problem:
 - ☛ Section 10A, clarified that Councils may resolve to require all cats in their municipality (with specific exemptions eg registered for breeding, medical reasons etc) to be desexed. If we can change the MAY to MUST, we will have won!
 - ☛ Councils have now been required to produce a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP), which had to be sent to the State Government by the end of 2008. These will be reviewed regularly. One of the specific issues this plan must address is the overpopulation of cats and high euthanasia rates within the municipality - we of course have been recommending compulsory desexing, discounted desexing programs etc.
2. As the deadline for the submission of the DAMP to the State Government approached, the lobbying intensified significantly and throughout 2008 our focus has been to achieve the incorporation of compulsory desexing within these plans. This has involved a large number of submissions, participation in working groups, presentations to Councillors, and lobbying everyone involved in the decision making process. All 79 Councils, their nine elected Councillors and senior management have been written to about the tragedy of the cat overpopulation problem and the solution in compulsory desexing. As this edition goes to print, the tally is still to be finalized, but from our knowledge across the State, we

believe that over half of the Councils have compulsory desexing incorporated into their plan in some form. This ranges from a straightforward resolution under 10A for compulsory desexing of all cats; to variations of this which include compulsory desexing of all new registrations to commitments to introduce such a resolution within the life of the DAMP (three years) with education programs to introduce it to residents; to commitments to further investigate the issue during the life of the DAMP. To the enlightened Councils who have chosen to invoke 10A we say a huge THANK YOU for leading the way into the 21st century. We have encountered a great deal of opposition from the Australian Veterinary Association and pet food industry and the road has often not been easy.

3. The MYCAT incentive, launched in 2007 to encourage Councils to include compulsory desexing in their plans has currently been taken up by two Councils. This is a subsidised desexing scheme offered by the shelters to help disadvantaged residents have their cats desexed.
4. As the deadline for the DAMP to be submitted approached, our own municipal Council Banyule surprised us with a plan that did not include compulsory desexing. As we have reported, we have been actively lobbying in our area collecting some 2500 signatures on the petition. We protested very strongly to the Councillors with the result that Banyule will introduce compulsory desexing for all new registrations and we thank them for their enlightened decision. We have been in discussion with the animal management team to investigate the possibility of a mobile desexing unit to increase accessibility of residents to the subsidised desexing schemes. Thank you to all our volunteers who have collected these signatures and made our community aware of the tragedy that is cat overpopulation – they certainly made a difference.

STATE LEVEL:

- ☛ While focus was directed to Local Government in 2008, our focus in 2009 will be directed at state level, lobbying now for the change to Section 10A of the Act.
- ☛ *Please sign the petition on Page 10 if you haven't already – we now have some 60,000 and these will be presented to the Minister at this time.*
- ☛ As reported last year, in examining the issue of the large numbers of cats euthanased in shelters every year, AWAC recommended, and agreement was reached with the major stakeholders, that a mass media campaign promoting responsible cat ownership be undertaken – this led to the development of the Who's for Cats campaign which was launched in December 2007 (see P4&5) once again raising community awareness to the plight of cats.

This has been a long, bitter campaign with much opposition from the AVA and pet food companies and several personal attacks on CPS and myself. It has been a struggle at times to keep the momentum, drive and focus alive. However, the issue is too important for us not to succeed—our feline friends deserve the very best and an end to the tragedy that is cat overpopulation. So in the words of Churchill, “we will fight them in the Town Halls, we will fight them in the working groups, we shall fight them in the alleys we shall NEVER surrender”!!!! We may lose some battles, but we WILL win the war and make a brighter future for our feline friends.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

You can assist us to greatly reduce the destruction of unwanted cats by doing any of the following:

1. **PETITION:** We need as many signatures as possible. Without a strong community voice we will not succeed and you can make a difference. Gather as many signatures as you can. Please make sure all the details are filled in correctly. Photocopy the petition and pass on to others.

Compulsory Desexing in Victoria (Page 10)

This is our original Statewide campaign, now up to some 60,000 signatures. All Victorians can sign. Please keep sending these until we say no more.

2. **LETTERS:** We also need individual letters to the Minister, and as many as possible. Please write your own addressed to the Minister and send to us. We are collating them and will forward to the Minister at the appropriate time.
3. **PROMOTE THE CAMPAIGN:** Talk to people. The public must be informed of the cat crisis and given the opportunity to contribute to resolving this enormous problem. There is a very small window of opportunity. WE MUST ACT NOW!
4. **JOIN US:** If you feel you can contribute to the campaign, please contact us:

Telephone: Hostel on 9434 7155 or 9434 7255

Email: catprotection@bigpond.com

Website: www.caterisis.com

We need expertise in marketing, advertising, promotion, photography, collating material and helping with mail outs.

5. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** For the campaign to progress and gain momentum we need financial support. Whatever you can afford to give will be valued. Please encourage others to give also. This money will be used specifically towards our continued fight for the compulsory desexing of cats, which, if we are successful, will spare thousands of cats a needless birth and the likelihood of a premature death.

Please send petitions and donations to:

"Compulsory Desexing Campaign"
Cat Protection Society
PO Box 257
GREENSBOROUGH 3088



CALL FOR COMPULSORY DESEXING OF CATS

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria,

The Petition of the Residents of Victoria draws to the attention of the House the indiscriminate breeding of cats leading to thousands of cats and kittens tragically being destroyed by Victorian animal welfare shelters annually.

The Petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly of Victoria enact legislation to require that all cats over the age of 12 weeks are desexed unless registered to a licenced breeder and require that all cats and kittens offered for sale or acquired be desexed.

	Name <i>(please print clearly - do not sign in this column)</i>	Address <i>(please fill in full address including suburb)</i>	Signature <i>(please sign in this column)</i>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Where am I Now?

By Parents of our ex CPS cats

Previously we have published many tales from readers who had adopted our beautiful CPS babies over the years. This proved to be an extremely popular segment - many households are very obviously run by our ex CPS cats. Now a regular feature, we receive frequent updates on our babies, so read on and find out what they have been up to

ATTICUS AND OLIVE

Hello to everyone at CPS. I'm sure you see your fair share of sad cases, so I just thought I'd give you some good news about two of your former charges, both of whom are doing very well!

Atticus (the black and white one) and Olive (the small torti) have been sticking to a strict regime of eating, sleeping and playing and have also managed to commandeer virtually every comfortable seat in the house. Atticus is a big, soft, lovable oaf. With the exception of cat food, he loves nothing more than a big cuddle. Olive is the brains of the operation and has really started to come out of her shell in the last few months. She follows me from room to room and loves a good play and a good pat. As you can see from the photos, they're both going from strength to strength.

Thank you for caring so well for Atticus and Olive in the early months of their lives.



from you as a kitten in 1991. She is a wonderful companion, and has a personality all of her own. She is suffering a bit with arthritis these days but is managing to hang in there. Thank you for a wonderful pet

Elizabeth Joyce

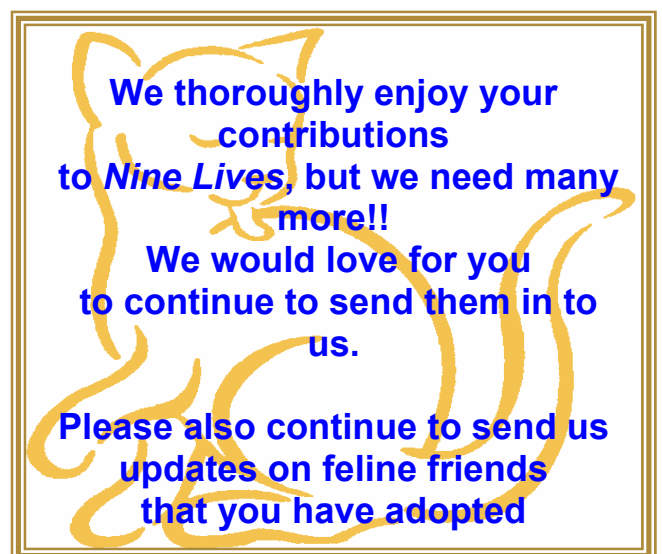


Best regards

Sally Hay

LOTTIE

Dear CPS Staff. My vet at "All Creatures" in Sunbury thought you would be interested in seeing a photo of Lottie, who I got



NINE LIVES

Seeking special homes for our feline friends

All our beautiful feline friends featured in the last edition very quickly found new humans to look after them. We now feature another nine purrfect moggies ready and waiting for the right people to welcome them into their homes to live the life of luxury they deserve.....



RUFUS – So named for my magnificent red mane and stripe along my back. I am a DSH, Ginger and White, desexed boy at 2 years of age, in the prime of my life. My owners were moving away and couldn't take me with them so I am in desprurate need of a loving new home and lots of cuddles. (left picture)



BELLE – Well I could be Rufus' sister, but I am not. I am a quiet DSH White and Ginger, desexed girl at 1 year of age and have a magnificent ginger tail which I am exceedingly fond of. Not that I am vain, but it does make me rather special. With my white nose I will need sunscreen applied to protect me from the sun, I do like lots of brushing to keep my coat in tip top condition and would very much like you to take me home.

TAG 9478 – Lord of all I survey, I am a large DSH Tabby, now desexed male, 3 years of age. I am used to being obeyed and when a stray in the streets of Coburg was definitely top cat. I am hoping you need a new master for your home.



TAG 6429 – Peek-a-Boo! I am a little shy in a crowd, but one to one am an extremely affectionate DMH, Tabby and White desexed boy at a mature 4 years of age. Left at the CPS front gate after hours, I really need my own home and bed to curl up in. I love sleeping on laps and being brushed and promise to fill your house with joy.



THE TORTI TWINS

Well you have heard of double trouble and we certainly fit the bill. Naughty torties as some would say. We are sisters, DMH, Tabby, Tortie and White, desexed girls at a young 18 months of age. Left at CPS by our owner who could no longer look after us, we would like a new home together if possible. We promise to be good (or at least try very hard) and will certainly give you double the love.





TAG NO 748 – A petite DSH, White desexed girl, 12 months of age I will require a very special home as I burn easily in the Australian sun and will need preferably to be kept inside. I can wear sunscreen if it is applied regularly, but with my pale colouring I can only withstand short bursts of sunbaking. When I was picked up by the animal management officer I had been on the streets for quite sometime and was as red as a beetroot!!! The nice CPS people have treated by sunburn and I am now as good as gold. I am very well behaved as long as you follow my instructions and would love to come home with you – so where are you?



LITTLE RUFUS NO 1145 – Hey, I'm a DSH White and Ginger, desexed boy at just 10 weeks of age. My aim in life is to be just like Rufus – he is my hero! I have very similar colouring with the magnificent red mask and stripe down my back though I still have quite a bit of growing to do. I work out in my cage every day thoroughly demolishing it so the lovely attendants can tidy it again – they seem to like doing this so I thought I would oblige. I am not sure what the word "No" means but promise to find out. I am full of mischief and will keep you entertained for hours with my antics.



MIDNIGHT Black as night with stunning golden eyes, a sleek glossy coat and adorable purrsonality is who I am. Desexed (of course) and at a sprightly two years of age, I am a smaller version of a panther and have all the grace of my larger cousin. Left with CPS when my family had a new baby (I am very good with children, they just didn't want the extra work) I would love a fire to curl up in front of this winter and a lap to sit on – can you help me?

Hide Perch and Go (HPG) carry box



All felines adopted from CPS now go home with their own HPG carry box. This stays with them during their time at the shelter and can be used as a bed in their new home – this helps reduce the stress of the rehoming process – our cats LOVE them



TIPPI NO 5263

I purchased my cat No 5263 on 18th April 2004. It was my intention to write and give you an update on Tippi long ago, however there were circumstances that prevented my doing so before now.

Tippi is a beautiful girl and a very welcome addition to our home. This she shares with my 7 year old Maltese Terrier Molly. Between the two of them my two sons and I are constantly entertained. It took Tippi about a month to get used to my dog, but they are good friends. Mind you they do have their moments which I call "playtime". Molly chases Tippi from the back door through the kitchen, dining room to the front hall, then the tide turns. Tippi will turn around, with "grace and dignity" and chase Molly to the back door.



Yes, a dog, but Molly is Tippi's best friend and hot water bottle on cold nights so we feel she deserves an honorary mention for service to felines

Some mornings they will pass each other, totally ignoring each other, then on other days, they will squat in front of each other and rub noses. Cosy nights by the fire usually finds them both sitting on my lap. If Molly sees Tippi enter the room she moves over and puts her head on the arm of my chair because she knows where Tippi is headed, for my lap! Now that's respect!

She is a big girl, loves her food, but only eats what she likes, she is most particular and very fussy!

Tippi has many special places, both inside and outside where she likes to rest. She sleeps on my bed, the new basket I bought before I got her was abandoned long ago in favour of Mum's bed.

She is a delightful, happy and contented girl. Thank you

Joanne Green

CLEMENTINE

I am writing about my dear little cat, Clementine. We adopted her in 2006 and asked for an older cat rather than a kitten as we thought she might not kill birds. When she arrived she was 6 years old and after a few months she killed a bird. So we placed a bell on her and she has not bothered the birds again. However whilst wearing the bell she has killed a rat and a mouse. My husband said that rats and mice must be deaf.



**Glynn Pritchard
alias Geranium the Clown**

(Glynn performs as a clown for charity at schools and fetes around Diamond Valley and at 72 has raised many dollars for the community)

SQUIDGE

Just a big thank you for our Squidge and many thanks for nursing her back to health before we took her home. She is very well and playful and will be living in Queensland with us very shortly.



Ros Farmer

IN LOVING MEMORY OF....

The Cat Protection Society would like to offer its condolences to these cat lovers who have recently lost a loved one and thank them for their generosity in donating to our feline friends

In memory of Virginia Bowman

Donation \$260 Judy Crooks

In memory of Gwen Luttrell

Donation \$200 Gary Pugliese

In memory of Christine Limb

Donation \$100 Charlotte MacLatchy

In memory of Olga Odgers and "Rufus"

Donation \$100 Elaine Storer

In memory of Suzanne Marsh

Donation \$55 Friday Fun & Fitness Group

In memory of Patrick Gordon

Donation \$50 Faye Ross

In memory of Margot Dundee

Donation \$50 Philippa Dundee

In memory of Muffy

Donation \$550 Dianne Wilding

In memory of Mr Hannas and Dexter

Donation \$300 Celeste and Henry Enslin

In memory of Jaycie

Donation \$200 Denise Allen

In memory of Lucy

Donation \$200 Garry Ward

In memory of Sophie, Sunny & Henry

Donation \$100 Sandra Firth-Williamson

In memory of Oscarina

Donation \$50 Barbara Wayn

In memory of Ossie and Nigel

Donation \$50 Connie Becker

In memory of Fergus Arthur

Donation \$20 Phillip & Toby Harris

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

The CPS is dependent upon the support of our members. In becoming a member of the Society you are helping us help cats and kittens across Victoria. Please join us today!

CURRENT MEMBERS

A huge thank-you for the support of all of our current members. Just a reminder that all annual fees are due on January 1st each year.

MEMBERSHIP FEES (GST inc.)

Family - \$25 Single - \$15 Pens/Student - \$8

Life Member - \$150

Photocopy this form and send to the CPS :

P.O. Box 257, Greensborough, 3088

Phone: 9434-7155

I/We wish to join the CPS as a _____ member

Or

I/We wish to pay our annual fees as a _____ member

Name : _____

Address/Tel: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Cheque Bankcard Visa Master card

Card no. : _____ Expiry date : _____

Signature of card holder : _____

Membership fee \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

CARING FOR CATS

CPS is dedicated to the care of cats both now and in the future. If you would like to make a bequest to the CPS please consult your solicitor. A possible wording is as follows:

" I.....of.....give and bequeath to the Cat Protection Society of Victoria for the use and purpose of the said Society, the sum of \$..... free of all Duties (if any), and the receipt of the Treasurer of the said Society shall be sufficient discharge to my executors."

A GREAT COMFORT

It is always a great comfort to know that our special friends are cared for when we are no longer able to.

If you would like to know more about the CPS willed cat program and the facilities we have to offer, please ask for a brochure. 9434-7155

With summer well and truly upon us, this not only means more cats and kittens, but a greater demand on our services. CPS will gratefully accept any donation of unwanted bedding (towels, blankets) and old newspapers.

Foster Mums Needed

With kitten season upon us, we desperately need more foster mums to care for mums and babies until they are ready to be adopted. Call us on 9434 7155 if you can help

Mario, featured in our last Nine Lives, found a home shortly afterwards and lives a pampered life with his new family

