



Exclusively  
for cats

329 Penshurst St.  
Willoughby NSW  
2068

# The CAT Clinic Catalyst

East Chatswood Cat Clinic Ph: 9417 6613 August 2002

This is a **SPECIAL 2 for 1** edition

OUR CATchcry is  
No loving home should be catless for long!

Give the SECOND COPY to a friend - even if  
they don't have a cat at the moment!

## Staff Snippets

Cats

Velcro, the kitten who nearly died of flu, now lives in the office and has grown into a lovely fluffy cuddle-cat. She is an amazingly clever cat and has managed to rename the computer database twice, but fortunately she has a forgivable personality.

Mini, the miniature cat with bad kidneys, has survived and grown a little too well! Her body is still mini but her middle is a bit maxi. She lives in the office and loves a game with a string.

Vets

**Dr. Carolyn O'Brien** is a very experienced cat vet who has done extra training in feline medicine at Sydney Uni over the last couple of years. She is working a couple of nights a week. The nurses, office cats (Velcro and Mini) and client cats have all given her their paw of approval.

**Dr. Kim Kendall** is still at the helm and available six days a week (just not Thursdays). Dr. Kim opened the Cat Clinic in 1994 after travelling the world looking for the best place to live and work with cats.

**Dr. Ian Kelf** has been a regular at the cat clinic for some time. He also teaches vet nursing at the TAFE in Richmond when not helping out at the Cat Clinic.

## Frontline staff

Our fabulous nurse / receptionists, Samantha Marsh and Fiona McNaughton have been the core of your Cat Clinic for nearly two years. Next time you see Sam, congratulate her for gaining her Certificate II in Vet Nursing, (and Fiona is only a short way behind her!). Sam and Fiona cover much ground ranging from Kitten Kindys to dental operations, caring for boarders and homing our beautiful Cat Protection Society kittens and cats.

## New additions

Phillipa Brown has returned to help out with weekends and some surgeries. Veronica Gibb-Cumming is a client who has converted to a cat care attendant while deferring a science degree so she can learn more about cats. We suspect our kitties will keep her entertained for years.

## news & views

It seems suddenly there is a lot less raging about feral cats now that farmers have discovered the destructive potential of feral dogs! Tumbarumba Shire has had to establish a feral dog control policy because of damage to livestock, particularly sheep. In strange contrast to the feral cat problem, no one is blaming dog owners for creating the problem! It is already recognised that there is a self-sustaining wild dog population in Kosciusco National park. The population is independent of dumped dogs. It makes us wonder when are we going to hear an apology from those who blamed cat owners for causing the feral cat problem, when, according to recent research, feral cats have had a self-sustaining population for at least 4,000 years in Australia!

www.catclinic.com.au

# Medical updates



There are some interesting new products on the overseas market.

The Feliway nebuliser pumps a synthetic facial pheromone into the air to keep cats calm. It works a treat for sprayers and other stressed kitties! A new vaccine against FIV (the cat AIDS virus) is also now available in the USA. Its usefulness, drawbacks and safety are currently being debated, however it will be at least three years before the vaccine is available here.

When it does arrive we will have the comfort of knowing there will be no guesswork involved in its use.

Your Cat Clinic is helping with two trials. One for a drug which helps some cats with kidney failure (benazepril), and another which may help with cat flu and calicivirus gum disease (feline interferon). We will integrate these products into our recommendations as the results appear.

# FREE!!

## Dental health check!!!

Book your Cat in NOW  
August 19th - 25th, 2002.

### PLUS

THE FIRST 30 CATS BOOKED IN WILL RECEIVE A 'DENTAL DEFENCE' SAMPLE PACK FROM EUKANUBA

Go on!  
keep a cat,  
they're good  
for you

so phone now  
**9417 6613**

Dental hygiene and nutrition are now the two major influences on feline longevity! Some studies estimate that the potential age for cats is 24 years if kept confined and away from traumatic incidents, fed with high quality food and maintained with optimal dental care! 24 in cat years is the human equivalent of 106 years of age!

Statistically, 50 percent of old cats die of kidney failure, and most of the rest die of cancer. If we can preserve kidney function for as long as possible, then we'll keep our older feline friends with us even longer.

## For dental health care week

Dr. Kim and the staff will be offering ten minute general mouth check ups at no charge! We will give your kitty an assessment of molar maintenance requirements with a recommendations that ranges from getting your cat to chew raw chicken wings or eating T/D or oral care biscuits up to a full dental or tooth removal.

**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER**

*especially in the halitosis stakes!*

# Cat Facts



1. Your cat is giving you a cat kiss when she sits with her eyes half shut, then slowly blinks them at you.  
By slowly blinking back you return the compliment.
2. Dribbling on your lap is a sign of affection! Some cats get so relaxed, their parasympathetic nervous system (the OPPOSITE of the flight / fright response system) kicks in to produce saliva as though the cat is eating (or maybe having a pleasant cat dream). Kneading your lap is also a sign of contentment.
3. Yes, cats do dream! 70 percent of their sleep time is light sleep or cat napping. The other 30 percent is spent in REM or deep sleep, even though their brain is just as active as when they are awake. There is a special part of a cat's brain that inhibits full muscular action which is why you can see your cat 'virtually' hunting and playing while deeply asleep! Those little paw and whisker twitches are the miniaturised muscle movements from their dream sequences.

4. Most cats are southpaws. 38 percent of cats are left-handed, 20 percent are right handed and the rest are ambidextrous!
5. Cat claws grow continuously which is why they have to scratch! However your cat is not just filing her nails when she shreds your furniture, she is also leaving her mark for cohabitants. It is much easier to encourage your cat to use a post or something she IS allowed to scratch from the start, than it is to train her off her armchair artwork...
6. Cat's eyes are designed for dim light - they can see quite well in a sixth of the light that we can. They can also perceive reds, and some shades of green, yellow and blue.
7. Cats are smart enough to need antidepressants. And smart enough to learn to train their humans! We all perform tricks our cats have taught us (like opening the fridge door on the command of Meeeoow). In behaviour terms, the cats reward us with perfect timing and positive reinforcement! Smart? They're so clever at fooling us!