



Exclusively
for cats

329 Penshurst St.
Willoughby NSW
2068

The CAT Clinic Catalyst

East Chatswood Cat Clinic Ph: 9417 6613

July 2006

SERVICE ^{with} a SMILE



First of all, many thanks to all the clients who anonymously voted for the Cat Clinic in both the North Shore Times Small Business Awards (we were finalists!) and in the Australian Veterinary Association / Pfizer Practices of Excellence (Customer Service) for which your Cat Clinic was a winner!

The AVA award is a great compliment as only six practices in Australia win each year out of several hundred applicants. Dr Kim was presented with the AVA / Pfizer award at the annual AVA conference in Hobart in May and her presentation speech was well-received. Thanks again for your support.

As a result of the AVA conference, Dr Kim was asked to present material on cats at a Veterinary Behaviour Seminar. It was a great opportunity to present vital behavioural information and guidelines to the interested vets who attended. Anything to improve the knowledge we need for assisting the welfare of our feline friends!

Because we constantly work to find better treatments for cats, you will have noticed that Dr Barry has been at the Cat Clinic a lot more recently. His expertise, particularly with providing pain relief through acupuncture, has been welcomed and well-utilised by many of you. Also in keeping with providing you with the services you have requested, Kristin continues to provide Reiki massage and Lucas the cat endorses it! Can't get better references than that! There are also some useful alternative

products for anxiety (a common modern complaint) in the form of Calm Water, homeopathic Anxiety Drops (which have even been approved by the USA Federal Drug Authority) and the pheromones in the Feliway diffusers and pump sprays. I'm not sure whether to believe it or not, but it is said that London water has been recycled so often there is now a measurable quantity of Prozac in it. Maybe better to start with something milder for your cat at least!

Winter is upon us, and that means arthritis comes to the fore (well, actually, usually to the hind end of cats!). Cold days and less outdoor activity mean that some of our elderly friends just seem not to be able to jump so well any more and their nails grow long from lack of use. If you are worried about your elderly feline friend's mobility, we have warm beds, safety rated heating pads, and arthritis supplements such as Deer Velvet and Sasha's Flexibites (a green lipped mussel supplement) that do not require a prescription. While I suggest you talk to us first to make sure they are suitable, in many cases these non-prescription solutions do make it easier for your cat to continue delivering him or herself to your lap!

SEMINAR - Why does my cat do that? ??

Answers the 10 most common questions asked by cat owners!

Dr. Kim Kendall will be presenting "A Cat's Eye View of the World".

Sunday, August 13th
5pm - 6pm \$20 per person.
BOOK NOW on 9417 6613

BOARDING your cat over Xmas or New Year?

YES, for those cats boarding at the busiest period, the sleigh bells are ringing now!

BOOK YOUR CATS HOLIDAY NOW
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!
Phone 9417 6613



* CAT CARE WEEK!

AUGUST 7th - 13th

Dental Health Week is here again
with FREE Dental examinations!

We also take this opportunity to combine it with our Annual Kidney Health Check Special. For only \$99 we check urine, blood pressure and do blood tests (if needed) for cats over 8 years old. Invest in your cats future and save your cat's kidneys and some \$ as well!

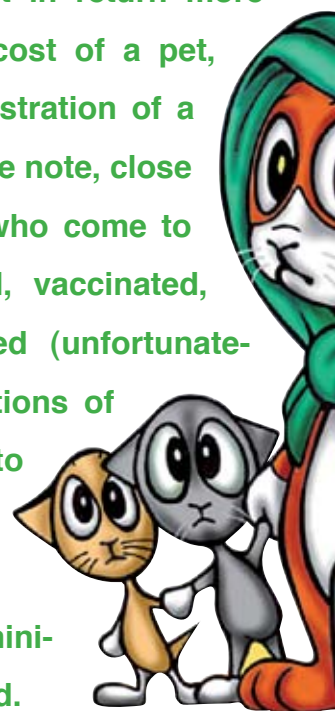
BOOK
NOW

* Sponsored by Novartis

www.catclinic.com.au

The Social Contract for the Urban Cat

Is it getting too hard to own a pet these days? If you ask a cat owner they'll tell you that the amount of affection you get in return more than compensates for the cost of a pet, however, let us take the illustration of a Tail of Two Cats. On a positive note, close to 100 percent of the cats who come to the Cat Clinic are desexed, vaccinated, microchipped and registered (unfortunately there's one or two exceptions of course!). Congratulations to every single one of you as in general only 40 percent of Sydney cats have these minimum requirements performed.



The tails of Patricia and Yvette

The first feline is a young female we will call Patricia (names have been changed to protect the innocent of course!). She was born because her mother, Catarina, was not desexed before she was 6 months old, and once she was pregnant, her owners chose to let her have the litter. They also elected not to vaccinate her and her kittens. After Catarina produced four healthy kittens during December, her owners gave Patricia to a neighbour, and then decided it was all too much trouble and took Catarina and the three remaining kittens to the Cat Protection Society. Unfortunately, Catarina and her remaining kittens caught cat flu before they got there, and as December is the height of the kitten season, and with hundreds of cats and kittens to choose from, hard decisions have to be made. Sick females and kittens have the odds stacked against them.

Patricia fared a little better. Her owners took her to the vet for vaccinations and microchipping, but forgot to get her spayed. They thought maybe she would not come into season as young as 6 months old, but she did. She wailed and yowled at midnight one Saturday and she was sent outside by her owners. As a result, one of the young tomcats in her street was more intent on courting her than watching traffic and he was run over while on



his way to woo Patricia. You see, despite only being nine months old, Romeo was not desexed so he followed his instincts. However, he was lucky and survived, ending up with a broken leg. An expensive first trip to the vet for him. Another suitor had more luck with the traffic and he had a successful tryst with Patricia, who got pregnant. Her babies arrived in September. Fortunately there was space at the Cat Protection Society because there were fewer kittens around at the time, and the babies were healthy, so they were able to take them in! Patricia's owners had her spayed so they would not go through the same bother

again and Patricia lived an ordinary cat life for a couple of years until her owners moved. Patricia stayed away the day the movers van came, and then she hung around the house for a few days after her people had gone. Eventually, she was picked up and taken to the council as a stray. Her microchip could have saved her life – it at least meant someone had owned her – but her owners had forgotten to update

their address on the database. Uncontactable. December again, too many kittens and cats looking for homes. So Patricia had nowhere to go, and she lost her life.

What about Patricia's kittens – the ones who got to the CPS in September? Well, they made it to the Cat Clinic, and one was called Yvette. The third generation was lucky, because

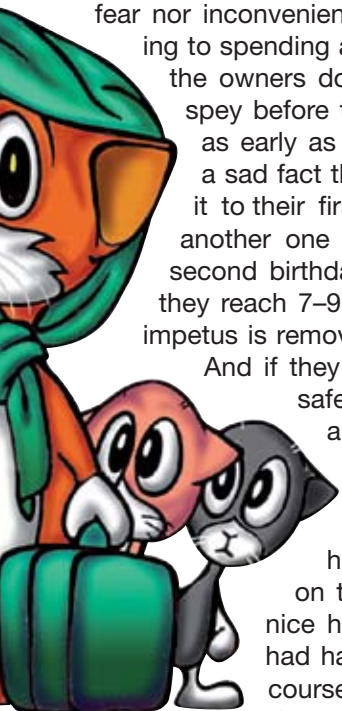
TRIVIA...

Kittens lose their baby teeth!! At three to four months the incisors erupt. Then seven months old, their adult teeth are fully developed. This is one of the ways they chew on raw chicken bones to chew on for their oral health! It's never too early to

once these kittens get to us, they stay till they find a home, occasionally for months, usually only for a week or two.

The kittens from the Cat Clinic go out into the world already desexed. Kittens as young as 7 weeks old can be safely castrated or spayed so new owners do not then have the fear nor inconvenience of their young feline friend having to spending a day in hospital. Just as important, the owners don't have to worry about timing the spay before the cat's first season, which can be as early as 4 months old in a well-fed girl. It's a sad fact that one in three kittens do not make it to their first birthday if they get outside (and another one in three does not make it to their second birthday!). All young cats will roam once they reach 7-9 months old but at least the sexual impetus is removed if they are spayed or castrated.

And if they are kept indoors, well, they are as safe as houses! So Yvette was spayed, and vaccinated, defleaed, dewormed and socialized. She got her microchip and second vaccination when she was three months old, and her owner's information was entered on the private database. She lived in a nice house, with her brother Castro, who had had the same things done for him, of course. Yvette and Castro grew up and destroyed a few furnishings, as kittens will do, and lived happy cat lives.



But the story does not end there.

After a couple of years, Yvette and Castro's owners moved and their new house backed onto a Wildlife Reserve in Willoughby. Their owners updated the microchip database with their new details and to protect the wildlife, built a Catpark in the backyard. Yvette and Castro could watch the birds but not kill them! One day, Yvette got out. It was a terrible error, a broken window and a big scare which caused her to run into the Wildlife Reserve. Yvette loved people, so she naturally asked the Ranger for assistance. He checked her microchip details and called her owners. While the owners had to pay a fine, Yvette was home that night, happy and promising NEVER to go outside again!

Wildlife zones

Willoughby Council has recently declared several areas to be Wildlife zones. This means no pets at all are allowed there. There is a small map of these locations here, and on the council website www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au. If you choose to live with a cat in an environmentally sensitive area, then responsible ownership requires that you confine your cat. Pigeons are fair game anywhere else!

Minimum Maintenance for the Urban cats

For some people, a cat only needs to be fed, but that is not responsible ownership as too many things can go wrong for the cat. The minimum responsibility that you have to a cat in the urban environment is to prevent unwanted litters by desexing, reduce wandering by regulating confinement, identify your pet and preventing the most common diseases such as cat flu. Whether or not you let your cat sleep on your bed is up to you! The East Chatswood Cat Clinic, with the help of clients and their friends, have homed out over 2,000 kittens and adult cats since 1994. We have done this only through your support, individually and collectively, as we only take the kittens from the charities. We do it because, well, the light in the eyes of an owner of a new kitten is – priceless!

Green points

Ever heard of Environmental Green Points? Some years ago, the East Chatswood Cat Clinic financed the purchase of 34 acres in the Atherton tablelands. The area backs onto a World Heritage site and was to be logged. It is now safe from logging and the Queensland Government has requested survey access as it is an important Cassowary corridor, as well as a supporting other endangered species. Even better, the trees are pumping oxygen back into our environment. Which means that your support of the Cat Clinic provides the land for 1,500 tonnes of trees to breath oxygen back into the atmosphere. So (drawing a long bow) caring for your cat at the Cat Clinic counteracts the effects of your car's consumption of about 300 litres of fuel each year. Imagine that!

Willoughby's Wildlife Protection Areas



at four to six months, they lose their canines, premolars and molars. By the time they are a vet (or you) can tell the approximate age of the kitten. And those teeth are tough, so feed to start exercising their teeth!

Medibank for Cats



As several clients have discovered, the costs of repairing a loved family-member-cat can cost between \$3,000 - \$6,000. But the good news is there are several companies in Australia now offering proper, comprehensive medical insurance for pets.

Because the same amount of science and research that has gone into assisting humans has also been applied to help animals, some complex or repeat procedures/medical care for the feline family member can be a costly exercise. One family discovered they had insured their cat just in time so despite a CATastrophe caused by a car accident they didn't have to worry about the \$3000 on their credit card! And they got their friend back in one piece.

While legislation prevents us from recommending any particular insurance company's product, we can say the Cat Clinic recommends you insure your cat for at least the first two years of its life if it goes outside (and even if it doesn't - accidents do happen in the home!). After that, the next important time to insure is once your cat reaches eight years old, as this is when medical problems such as kidney problems, diabetes and cancer begin to consume time and finances.

You can look at insurance in two ways. One is kind of a 'prepayment plan' where the company keeps your money till you need it. The other is the traditional view that insurance just means you pay a fee against potential risk. Insurance premiums vary from \$17 - \$40 per month, and the cover varies with the company. The current providers of insurance are listed above.

CURRENT PROVIDERS OF INSURANCE

AFS-PetMed www.petsure.com.au - 1300 732 172

Perfect Partners Pet Cover
www.petsure.com.au - 1300 668 100

Petcover www.petcover.com.au - 1300 731 324

Petsecure www.petsecure.com.au - 1300 855 160

RPSCA Pet Insurance - 1300 855 150
www.rspcapetinsurance.org.au

Vets Own www.vetsown.com.au - 1300 668 890

Some Home and Contents Insurance
(currently NRMA and GIO) provide \$500
for trauma-based injuries.

Did you know that Play is actually a special area of study of development? Whole books are written about the special niche that Play fills in the lives of developing and growing. Play is a way for young animals to make mistakes without bearing the consequences. It is an essential part of growing and the brain develops the motor skills for co-ordination during this time. It was thought



that only young mammals play, but we now know that birds and some reptiles play. And not just the young - a 100 year old tortoise plays with boots and balls in one aquarium! We now know that adult cats, even feral ones, spend some time playing, even when times are hard and food is scarce. So go on - play with your cat! Everyone needs some fun!

fat cats



The FLAB fight goes on

Sedentary cats are increasing becoming involved in an obesity epidemic. After all, cats are experts at conserving energy, and some of them are doing it a little too well! You could even call them 'nutritional overachievers'! And you can relax.

That swinging fat pad between the hind legs doesn't count as it's a special kind of fat that you can think of as 'tomorrow's lunch'. On a cat, this fat is designed to be utilised for survival emergencies (think... getting accidentally locked in the garage without food or water until you find her....). To assess the well being of your feline, there is now a useful Body Mass Index (BMI) for cats called the Leg Index Measurement (LIM). While the research behind it is considerable, in application it only involves string and reference to a Feline Body Mass Index Table! The kneecap and tibia bone down to the hock, in the hind leg is measured and then the circumference of the chest at the last rib. These two together provide an indication of the fat layer around the ribs. The measurements - permanently recorded in string - mean your cat's dietary success can be monitored at home, rather than bringing your cat to us for a weigh-in. In these busy days, neither you nor your chubby (dare we say obese??) companion can make regular visits so after bringing your cat in for a LIM assessment you and your piece of string can go from there!

If you want to receive these newsletters and other items of interest by email, please send your cat's name and your name in an email to catclinic@catclinic.com.au All seminar and other information goes out electronically first!

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EASY PARKING - REAR LANE W22 ACCESS OFF VICTORIA AVENUE AND OPEN 7 DAYS



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If you like the look of this Newsletter, then contact Ray and let him do it for you too!