

The Scratching Post



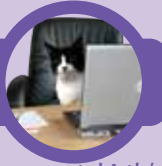
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HOBART CAT CENTRE

SPRING 2009

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Hey there! Thanks heaps for all my fan mail, I was really stoked. Due to my popularity I am here again with my very own column. I have lots to say of course and I am very excited! Its cool man! Mum has told me though not to rabbit on too much and to keep it real!

FROM THE DESK OF
TOMMY TEBB



This winter has certainly been a hard one for all Tasmanians including us cats! I think some of my feline friends must have been really bored and house bound with all the rain we have had as we are already seeing kittens at the centre this year. So much for the theory that we breed in warm weather!

Do you know that we cats don't really like getting wet? Especially our little paw pads, so you can imagine the 'cabin fever' that has been building in our home. There have been a few nasty paws going left and right due to boredom and lack of sun to entice us outside. It is important that we are amused even though we do sleep a lot. Our Mummy has lots of toys and we even have our own DVD! Its called 'Take A walk On The Wild side'. It has birds and mice on it, they are really loud and we chase them. Well not the real thing of course. My painful sister (who thinks she is just beautiful and very clever) falls for it all the time and she prances around the TV thinking they are real! Isn't she stupid? Not so bright after all! If your parents are looking for toys to entertain your felines, check out the wide range for sale at the Cat Centre. Even my Grandma's mice are there for sale, we love playing with these because of the long tails and bell! Even though we may play fight with each other it is good that we have each other for company.

I don't think I have told you about my brothers and sisters. Us cats are actually used to being in a clan and its very interesting to see how we all interact with one another. Really we are no different to children. Well there is Niffi supposedly Nefertiti because she is so pretty and clever... I don't think so... Heee heee. She is my tough competition and we are always vying for whoevers attention we can get, especially Mum's. She thinks she is the boss! We do have one thing in common, we both tease Merlin and are often in trouble for it. Merlin is a softy and doesn't stick up for himself. Then we have sister Noshi who is very easy going, as tabbys generally are and she has this tiny little meow as she wore her voice out when she was young we say. Last but not least are the twins Yuki and Etsu. Estu (as her name means) is very pretty, gentle and lady like, if she wasn't my sister I might try and chat her up, Oh well! Yuki means lucky one and yes he was lucky to survive when he was a baby but now he is starting to be a bit cheeky and testing the pecking rank. So I quickly put him into line. I do love them all though and when you are looking to adopt a cat/kitten why not get two instead of one, because then we have a friend to play with. Even though Mummy gets cranky with us all at times, I promise you will find two or more of us very entertaining indeed!

There is one more thing that I think is really important and I want you all as responsible cat owners to do this for us. My Mummy has done all of us and that is to microchip us!

My Mummy even did me at my old age because at the time I was very ugly looking apparently and the vet thought that if I got lost people wouldn't think I was owned, so I would not be returned to my lovely new home. So no matter how lost I get or if someone does steal me I now have the best chance of coming home to my Mummy and brothers and sisters. That to me is really reassuring. Don't you agree?



L-R: Yuki, Noshi, Niffi, Merlin, and Etsu.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Christmas cards and 2010 calendars are currently at the printers and everyone can look forward to buying them from the Cat Centre, our Op Shops and from the Combined Charities Christmas Card and Gift Shop at St Davids Cathedral (gift shop open for trading from 19th October to 17th December).

The Hobart Cat Centre QUIZ NIGHT

Date: 31st October
Time: 6.30 pm

Come join us and have some fun!

The Hobart Cat Centre is holding a fundraising quiz night!

Tables are \$100 each, and you may have up to 8 team members on each table!

Light snacks provided.

Full bar facility available.

Silent Auction of goodies.

Great prizes!

To book a table, please contact Gretchen at the Cat Centre
Phone - Mon - Fri 10 to 4 at the Centre... 6278 2111

Or email
general.manager@hobartcatcentre.com.au
R.S.V.P by 23rd October 4pm.

Lenah Valley RSL Club
188 Lenah Valley Road
Lenah Valley

The Hobart Cat Centre

ABN 78 883 186 467

12 Self's Point Road, NEW TOWN 7008

Phone 03 6278 2111 Fax 03 6278 3111

www.hobartcatcentre.com.au

CENTRE OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 4PM
WEEKENDS - PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 10AM - 3PM

OP SHOPS

441 MAIN ROAD, GLENORCHY
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 4PM

171 CHANNEL HIGHWAY, MARGATE
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 3.30PM

President: Ingrid Tebb
Vice President & Public Officer: Rose Osborne
Jnr Vice President: Claudette Bobrowski
Secretary: Sheree Bennie
Treasurer: Colin Dewhurst
Assistant Treasurer: Sue Dewhurst
Board Members: Jane Hewlett, Audrey Krupa, Richard Parker, Sam Wadsworth

Cat Centre General Manager: Gretchen Meares
Cat Centre Manager: Julie Bristow
Cat Centre Staff: Susan Abbott, Julie De Vriese, Tammy Eastley, Karen Finch, Jenny Goich, Rik Gunton, Molly Kendall

Centre Volunteers: Lena Bodin, Sally Bradley, Janine Churchill, Jason Churchill, Sue Green, Janine Kallenbach, Danika Petraitis, Karen Petraitis, Robyn Proks, Rodney Richards

Op-Shop Managers: Heather Green (Glenorchy), Robyn Tacey (Margate)

Honorary Life Members: Julie Bristow, Leonard Bristow, Dot Chaffey, Kath Fisher, Mona Foster, Sue Green, Tom Harding, Robyn Langridge, Betty Sheperd, Caroline Steele, Ingrid Tebb, Lyn Weidenhoffer, Nancy Knop (dec), Nora Wills (dec)

The Scratching Post Designed by Joel Diprose 0448 563 598

DO YOU HAVE A FEW MINUTES SPARE?

The Hobart Cat Centre is looking for volunteers to assist them with a variety of tasks - eg assisting with stalls/garage sales, folding newsletters, data input, helping the centre with daily tasks, cleaning and maintaining the cat pens at the Centre, help in our Op Shops at Glenorchy and Margate. Help with occasional fundraising events throughout the year (selling raffle tickets, helping with Christmas fund raising food drive), help us to compile the Centre History.

Even the smallest donation of your time can make a big difference to the centre and of course our feline friends.

Call us on 6278 2111 or email general.manager@hobartcatcentre.com.au

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT TO OTHER PETS

Congratulations! You have decided to bring home another friend and welcome it to your family. This is an exciting time for everyone, but if you have other pets you may be finding yourself in the position of frustrated mediator! Some new cats will be fearful, others pushy, and how your existing pet(s) will react is quite unpredictable. This article should give you a few helpful tips to ensure a happy start.

- Make sure you have a safe carrier box for transport.
- Prepare your house. You will need a safe, secluded cage, room, or area of the house away from the other pets initially. Provide all the essentials; a cosy bed, litter tray, toys, scratching pole, food and water. Make sure this place is a "neutral zone" such as an office or laundry. Your existing pets should still have access to their usual places.
- Spend time with your new pet. Make sure you've enough time to gently play and interact with your new cat, without upsetting the routines of your existing pets.
- Start just with exchanging smells between pets, by alternately stroking your pets, and swapping bedding.
- At a calm time of the day, it is time for the introduction. Most adult cats are fairly tolerant of kittens and can be introduced when they are eating or playing, providing there is plenty of space between them. Consider using a cage with your new cat in it - place it up on a bench to allow your existing pets to exchange smells and observe body postures. Keep introductions brief (5 minute sessions several times a day is much better than a long stressful encounter), and keep your pets calm by stroking, talking and feeding. Reward good behaviour and don't tell them it's OK if there is any hissing or snarling, just separate them again, and reattempt later when everyone is calm again.
- Gradually, feeding and petting in the same room can take place as they learn to associate good things with each other's presence. Watch signals really closely. Subtle signs from cats include the direct stare, a raised bum and tail, and sometimes hair raising. Subtle signs from dogs include hair raising, staring, side-by-side posturing, snarling, lip lifting and stalking.
- When calm behaviour and friendly exchanges are taking place, your pets can probably be left unsupervised and your new cat can have free access to the house. This could take hours to weeks.
- Remove competition between pets over things such as sleeping areas, human attention and food. This is the most common reason for poor relationships. Cats organise their territories with certain areas being dedicated to certain activities (an eating area, playing area, toilet etc). They need to mark and scratch to communicate where these areas are.
- Remember that different pets require different things. Kittens need 12 hours sleep (not all in one stretch) for brain development, and will be very playful when they awake. Your new cat's habits and likes may be completely different to those of your existing cat.
- Be patient and observant. It's easiest to let your pets set their own pace and not to force contact between them as they set up their social system.
- Sometimes cats are content to just share their space with another, but won't actually become the close friends you may be hoping them to be. Don't worry; you haven't picked an "antisocial" one. The good news is that with the right attention, most cats will make themselves truly "at home" with the rest of your menagerie!
- Access the full article from the Cat's Home. Other helpful sites for more on this: www.fabcats.org/behaviour/introducing/index.php and www.avsabonline.org and go to pet behaviour articles, adding cats to households.

Article by Dr Katrina Ward - Animal Behavioural Consultant
BVSc MACVSc CMAVA; Email: kward5030@netspace.net.au; Phone: 0439 963 300

DR  Katrina Ward

ADOPTION CORNER

At time of printing, here are just some of our beautiful cats available for adoption! To find out what's available now, please come and visit us!



Karcher



Meg



Delilah



Issy



Mobi



Millie

TWO CATS - FORGOTTEN BUT THEN REDEEMED

It's disheartening thinking of the thoughtlessness of some people. Those who take on the role of caring for others and then fail in their responsibilities, while their charges are then left to fend for themselves. Such neglect is particularly striking regarding those amongst us with no voice, our animal friends including cats. One example made me think about this, when in January 2009 I met two little cats at the Hobart Cat Centre. The capable staff had recovered and cared for in the hope that someone would come forward to perhaps claim their wandering cats or perhaps new homes could be found for these little lost souls.

They were found wandering near someone's garden and bought to the cat centre. They seemed to be close and probably came from the same home. After proper health checks and care by the cat centre, these little cats were placed in the 'rooms for adoption' where I met them. I had been sponsoring a cat for a few months which I found very rewarding inwardly, but I tried to find time and give attention for all the cats during my weekend visits.

These nameless forgotten cats soon caught my eye such were their personalities which compelled affection. The older lad was 18 months old, with a tabby coloured back and a white tummy. He was a very active lad that cried for attention and so I named him 'Pounce'. His little friend was quieter, one year old black and white lass with intriguingly, different eye colours of blue and gold. Inevitably, I named her 'Bowie' after the English pop singer from the 1970's who has similarly coloured eyes. What struck me was that 'Pounce' already had a collar and bell around his neck, which indicated he had a home along with 'Bowie', but for some reason were now roaming about, getting their noses and head scratched in fights with other cats. It showed they had been doing this for some time too!

Despite this I discovered that these two cats were a delight in being friendly, playful and a boon to the Cat Centre and its visitors. As the weeks passed these two began to enter my heart, joining in games, playing chase a toy mouse on a string I always bought (a game called 'mousey') and lots of pats which made them purr....(smiling for cats). It reminds us that cats don't discriminate as for them the colour of their fur, markings and also people are seen non-judgementally.

I expected 'Pounce' and 'Bowie' to be claimed quickly but my hopes were dashed as both cats stayed and were seemingly abandoned. It's hard to understand why two little cats could just be forgotten, left to wander far away and not be sought, especially as 'Pounce' and 'Bowie' were so affectionate and a delight to be with. Still, I took every opportunity to care for them, and for months during my visits to the Cat Centre, looked forward to seeing my little friends who even responded to my voice when I arrived and wanted to play and have a pat. "Meow!" they would loudly say, as they rubbed against my legs as I walked into the room and we'd have some fun for the next half hour chasing 'mousey' and having a pat. It always bought a smile to my face...

I recall on one occasion while visiting, 'Pounce' heard me in the adjacent room and called out for me to come and see him, which I did! I also found that both of these cats made friends with a likable white persian cat called 'Freddy'. They even formed a 'cat club' amongst themselves, playing together and lounging in their cat baskets as they slept. Fortunately in April and May, 'Pounce' and 'Bowie' found new homes separate to one another sadly, but I'm confident they will have new and fulfilling lives in their new homes and their memories of their earlier life with each other and my time with them will endure.

I certainly was enriched by the experience of meeting these two lost souls and the lessons it taught me about proper responsible care for cats and how some people fail to look after their pets which is their responsibility when they decide to care for a cat or any of our animal friends.

'Pounce' and 'Bowie' certainly enriched my life and I hope my and attentions from the kind people at the Hobart Cat Centre helped them.

A positive benefit from sponsoring a cat at the Cat Centre that's for sure! Good Luck 'Pounce' and 'Bowie' my friends, rest assured that you'll never be forgotten and please don't forget me either.



NEW REGULAR FEATURE!
We are looking for submissions for future 'kidz n cats' articles please send a photo to general.manager@hobartcatcentre.com.au

GABBY AND HER FAMILY MOVED TO TASMANIA FROM ENGLAND IN 2005. THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM THEIR 3 CATS AND 1 DOG ALL THE WAY FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD!

kidz n cats



Name? Gabrielle de Vriese (Gabby), 10 years old
 Name of Cat/s? Jasper, Tabitha and Rosie
 What do they look like and how old are they? Jasper is a 5 year old boy and he is ginger with white near his chin. Tabitha is also 5 years old, she is Jaspers sister. She's a tabby but she's not a dark one and she's also got a smooth little bit of white near her chin. Rosie is 8 and she's a dark tabby.
 Was it difficult to bring them to Australia? Not really, as we didn't see them on the plane. That made me sad that I couldn't see them.
 Did they have one cage each or were they in together? I think they had their own cages, because Jasper and Tabitha love each other, but they get sick of each other when they are together for a long time, and Rosie likes them but she gets sick of them because they are younger and they are a bit silly.
 What is the thing you like best about your cats? They are funny, they are cute and they sleep on my bed and keep me warm.
 Do you have a favourite one? It's out of 2, Tabitha and Jasper.
 Do they get along with your other pets? My dogs Bertie and Millie love my cats, my cats like the dogs but they get sensitive when the dogs start to get silly, because they're bigger.

What do you think of people who are mean to cats? I think that's cruel because cats are loving and they wouldn't hurt any people, they just get scared, and they're more scared of people, than people are of cats.



HOBART CAT CENTRE
 12 Self's Point Road, New Town 7008
 Phone: (03) 6278 2111 Fax: (03) 6278 3111

PO Box 309, Lenah Valley 7008
 ABN: 78 883 186 467
 www.hobartcatcentre.com.au

Membership form

Name/s.....

Address.....

Phone..... E-mail

Age group: under 20 20-35 36-49 50+ Occupation (or previous if retired).....

Membership Status (please tick one box) **New Member** **Renewal** **I have life membership**

- Single: \$25
- Dual: \$35* (2 adults not necessarily at same address)
- Family: \$40* (2 adults with children under 16)
- Pensioner: \$10
- Student: \$10 (under 16)
- Feline: \$5 (non voting) How many?

* **Family & Dual membership.** The Application must be made by one person nominated on this application as the 'nominated person'. That person is the only person entitled to receive notices, vote or represent other members of the family or dual membership in matters arising under the constitution. This means each family or dual membership receives only **one vote** at meetings. Feline members are not entitled to vote. **Life members** are not required to pay a fee

Nominated Person.....

Feline member name/s.....

Membership Donation Total Please make cheques payable to *Hobart Cat Centre*

Receipt No. (office use only)

CLAREMONT HIGH HELPS OUT

Thank you to the students at Claremont High School who have been busy collecting donations of food and money for the Dogs Home and for the Cat Centre.



Teacher Jan and some of her class who helped with fundraising.

YOU CAN'T MISS US NOW!!!



The Hobart Cat Centre has recently had a new sign put on the roof to assist people finding us! Here are the boys from Prairie Graphics doing what they do best!