



*Christmas, 2021*

# NINE LIVES

THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF VICTORIA MEMBER AND SUPPORTER PUBLICATION





# welcome

## Welcome to our Christmas edition of Nine Lives

A publication produced for our wonderful members, supporters and *Furever Home* family members, all of whom play an essential role in helping our Society care for and re-home cats in need.

**After an incredibly challenging 2020, The Cat Protection Society team were thrilled to welcome in 2021 and commence operating from our new Adoption Shelter and Private Vet Clinic which would allow us to care for and re-home even more cats and kittens in need.**

The beginning of the year was still a tad shaky with covid restrictions limiting the number of people we could welcome into our shelter to adopt or visit our vet clinic, but come April, we were able to throw open our doors and finally had the chance to celebrate the opening of Victoria's largest cat-dedicated Shelter, 70 years in the making.

We were thrilled to have Sam Mac of Sunrise Breakfast TV visit and broadcast the weather from our Shelter which provided us with the opportunity to promote our Society to a national audience. We also hosted a Housewarming Party in mid-April and were absolutely overwhelmed with the number of people from our local community who came along to join in the celebrations, to have an exclusive tour of our shelter and to learn more about our Society. You can view some of the photos from our Sunrise visit and Housewarming Party on the subsequent pages.

We also opened our Purrfect Paw Cafe within our Retail Store and started welcoming Community Groups and Schools to the Shelter.

But just as we had gathered momentum, like the rest of Victoria, we were plunged back into lockdown mid-year. Once again, we had to review how we operated to ensure we could keep our team and our local community safe whilst continuing in our mission to care for and re-home cats in need. Taking learnings from 2020, we quickly pivoted back to offering adoptions by application and appointment and introduced covid-safe remote consults in our veterinary clinic.

The interest in adopting again sky-rocketed, with an incredible 1500 applications received in the period between the beginning of July and end of October. The positive of this amazing level of interest: that the cats who have found themselves in our care spend less time in the shelter before being adopted. The older cats and those with behavioral concerns who may have previously been overlooked are also being adopted relatively quickly.

Despite the challenges, our vet clinic has also continued to grow. Our shelter vet clinic has also continued to thrive and is working to support even more Council municipalities to develop and implement targeted desexing programs with the goal to actively contribute to reducing the problem of cat overpopulation in Melbourne.

Our Foster care program has also continued to play an essential role in the number of cats we can care for and rehome.

We are well aware that none of this would have been possible without the generous support of our wonderful Cat Protection Society community which includes adoptees, vet clinic clients, volunteers, members and donors.

We could not be more grateful for the support that each and every one of you have provided, because quite simply, we couldn't have achieved what we have in 2021 without you.

**From all of the team at The Cat Protection Society of Victoria:** *thank you*



# The Opening

## of Victoria's largest Shelter dedicated just to cats







# An update

## From our CEO

**I think it was Malcolm Fraser who said “Life wasn’t meant to be easy”. 2021 has proven to be a difficult year for many people in our community. The Society has not been immune to the effects of Covid restrictions, however the Society, as an essential service provider, has been able to continuously provide adoption and clinical services, and keep all its staff employed.**

The interest in adoption remained exceptionally high. The Society’s relationships with other like-minded organisations proved to be an important source of cats and kittens for rehoming.

In April the Society officially opened its new facilities with a week of very successful events including a day for families and participation in the Sunrise breakfast programme. Subsequent publicity and media events have increased awareness and raised the profile of the Society.

The new facilities have been well received by clients, customers and staff and we look forward to being able to optimise our services in 2022 including expanding our range of merchandise for onsite and online sale and resuming our visits to aged care and retirement facilities. We have also expanded our veterinary team to look after the cats and kittens who find themselves in our shelter whilst increasing our ability to look after the cat-care needs of our local community via the private clinic.

After several false starts the coffee shop will be open on selected days.

During the year the Society’s Board updated its strategic plan for the next three years. The Society will continue to expand its existing services and place more emphasis on responsible pet ownership and the benefits of cats as companion animals. These objectives will be underpinned by maintaining a team of skilled and committed staff, financial stability and good governance.

Our Outreach programme was constrained during the year, but the Society will now renew its initiatives to address the causes of uncared for, and unwanted cats and kittens.

Throughout 2021 the Society continued to receive generous donations and was the beneficiary of several significant bequests. The Society continues to be dependent on this ongoing source of funding and is very appreciative of the support it receives.

The Society’s Regular Giving Program and Jarrah’s Circle, launched this year, have attracted new donors and bequests.

2022 we hope will be a more normal and hence an even more successful year for the Society. The Society will be able to fully use its new facilities and not be constrained in implementing its key strategies.

On behalf of the staff and the Board I wish to thank all our Members, clients and customers for their strong support throughout 2021.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the excellent work and resilience of all the Society’s staff during the year, at times under difficult circumstances. The shelter team had particular success in successfully rehoming cats with chronic medical and behavioural conditions.

**May I wish you and your families a safe Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at the shelter and clinic in 2022.**

*Ian Crook*

**CEO  
The Cat Protection Society of Victoria**



Let this Christmas be the cat's whiskers with our

# **MEOW-RY** *Christmas* **CAT KRINGLE!**



**AGATHA**



**TOBY**



**HARRY**

Because every cat should be in a  
loving home this Christmas

**Donate to our Meow-ry Christmas Cat Kringle at**  
[www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas](http://www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas)



# Can you help more kittens and cats like Toby, Harry and Agatha be in a loving home this

## Christmas?



**HARRY'S STORY**

**An 18 month old ginger and white tabby male**

**Time Spent at the Shelter: 221 days.**

**Personality:** Cheeky people loving cat who adores attention and has a penchant for stealing pumpkin soup!

### **Background**

Harry arrived at the Shelter in March severely underweight and

with a deep infected wound from where his collar had been trapped under his front leg. Despite having a collar, Harry had no microchip and his owner was never found.

### **Treatment**

While being assessed for an anesthetic to examine this wound, his breathing was noted to be abnormal and a chest radiograph (x-ray) was taken. This showed a diaphragmatic hernia, a hole in the muscle that divides the chest and abdomen, which allows the abdominal contents to enter the chest. Some cats with a diaphragmatic hernia have just a liver lobe or two that slip through this hole. Harry had greatly over-achieved, and every abdominal organ that could possibly move had relocated into the chest cavity (stomach, intestines, liver, gallbladder, spleen and pancreas). Harry's heart and lungs were none too happy about this invasion, especially as every time he tried to eat they'd get even further squashed.

Harry was taken to surgery and the hernia was repaired. As the chest is open during this procedure, a nurse had to carefully 'breathe' for him until the hole in the diaphragm was closed. As soon as he was awake he was eating with new found enthusiasm and has shown great dedication to the worthy art of food consumption ever since (including being caught cleaning out the vet's bowl of pumpkin soup at lunch one day)!

Harry recovered well from the hernia repair but, although no longer infected, the collar wound wouldn't completely heal as the injury had destroyed the normal pocket of skin a cat's elbow sits in (this pocket is partly responsible for a cat's ability to land safely from relatively great heights). A visiting specialist surgeon repaired this and it healed beautifully.

Harry managed to further extend his stay by developing a skin condition. This eventually settled well with medical treatment and a change of diet.

### **Shelter Life**

Harry stayed in the Shelter vet clinic during his treatment and became a firm favorite. While life in the vet clinic isn't for every cat, Harry reveled in the attention and, although initially timid, he blossomed into a confident young cat who would greet people as they arrived in the clinic and would happily sit on the top of his scratching post for hours watching the team work. He particularly liked morning tea when all his humans would stop and gather round, seemingly for the sole purpose of adoring him as he sat amongst the team.

### **HARRY'S HAPPILY EVER AFTER**

Following treatment Harry went to stay with a foster carer. Unsurprisingly they fell in love with him and once his skin problem had fully resolved they were able to adopt him. The vet team miss his company in the clinic but are delighted this special cat has found his furever home.







**A 5 month old cream tabby male kitten**  
**Time Spent at the Shelter: 93 days.**

#### Background

In mid-July, Toby was surrendered by a member of the public who had developed an allergy to cat fur. Upon arrival, it was discovered that little Toby was severely constipated and dehydrated. A series of x-rays showed why his tiny body was in such incredible pain. Toby immediately went into foster care (with the Society Shelter Manager!) so he could be closely monitored and receive around the clock care.

#### Treatment

Little Toby underwent uncomfortable enemas every couple of days, and sometimes daily depending on the amount of faeces he had managed to pass on his own. There was a fear the condition would cause a rectal prolapse or even develop into megacolon, if not managed correctly. Toby was being given subcutaneous fluids and medications to help soften his stools. A special diet was introduced to aid his digestion issues.

By the end of August, little Toby's condition had improved slowly but surely, and most days he was passing faeces unaided. He had been putting on weight and was ready for his routine desexing surgery.

#### Shelter Life

Little Toby remained in foster care for the following month to ensure he recovered well from his surgery and his condition continued to improve, while the dose of medication he was on was being strategically decreased.

#### TOBY'S HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Toby has now returned to the Shelter from his foster home and continues strongly on his road to recovery. He will be available for adoption once our vet team are satisfied his complications are no longer an issue. Perhaps you will be Toby's new happily ever after?



**A 12 year old tabby and white female**  
**Time Spent at the Shelter: 47 days.**

**Personality:** A wise senior cat who enjoys cuddles.

#### Background

In mid-August, Agatha was surrendered by a member of the public who was no longer able to

care for her due to a change in personal circumstances. Upon arrival, it was discovered that Agatha required extensive dental work. Being an older patient, a urine sample was also taken, identifying that Agatha had other issues that needed blood tests. Further tests revealed that poor Agatha had renal failure.

#### Treatment

Agatha's blood results showed some changes that were cause for concern. Agatha was rather nervous and didn't seem to be happy in the Shelter's care. Her bloods were marked for repeating; once she had settled in a little. Upon repeat of Agatha's bloods, a week or so later,

she was officially diagnosed with chronic renal failure. With this in mind, Agatha underwent her much-needed dental procedure being monitored closely by our veterinary team while under anesthetic. She recovered and her gums healed well from the extractions.

#### Shelter Life

By this time, Agatha had spent a month or so in the Shelter's care and had begun to show huge improvement in trusting the Shelter team and her temperament was shining through. She was loving the interactions and enjoying cuddles with the staff. It was time to determine a suitable future pathway for Agatha.

#### AGATHA'S HAPPILY EVER AFTER

It was decided that given her chronic condition requiring a special diet, Agatha would be an appropriate candidate for our permanent foster care program. A suitable foster carer was quickly found and Agatha will be able to live comfortably for the rest of her life.

**Donate to our Meow-ry Christmas Cat Kringle at**  
**[www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas](http://www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas)**



# An update

## From our team



### ERIN

<b>Your role:</b>	Receptionist, Animal Attendant and Adoptions Officer
<b>When did you join CPSV?</b>	January, 2017
<b>Fondest memory from 2021?</b>	Adjusting to the new shelter and being able to expand ourselves including much more space in the reception area, selling more and different interesting things, more space out the back for everything we need and most of all the bigger and much more comfy condos that the cats are in.
<b>What is the one thing you love most about cats?</b>	I love that all cats have their own personality and one of my favourite things is that first moment a cat knows it can trust you and smooches you. That is when the bond really starts.
<b>What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?</b>	It is important to adopt one who's personality will fit in to your life, keep an open mind because the cat or kitten that chooses you may not have been what you originally went in for.

### MICHELE

<b>Your role:</b>	Finance Manager
<b>When did you join CPSV?</b>	February, 2014
<b>Fondest memory from 2021?</b>	When I could come back into work and actually be around people and the animals.
<b>What is the one thing you love most about cats?</b>	If you give a cat the love it deserves, they will return it.
<b>What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?</b>	Be aware that they become a new member of the family not just a new toy. Some have had a hard life and all they need is to feel the love.

### IAN

<b>Your role:</b>	CEO / Director
<b>When did you join CPSV?</b>	January, 2014
<b>Fondest memory from 2021?</b>	Our Housewarming "Grand Opening" Party and the incredible resilience my team has shown again throughout the year
<b>What is the one thing you love most about cats?</b>	The incredible role they can play as valued companions
<b>What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?</b>	Be sure to visit The Cat Protection Society.







## JACQUI

<b>Your role:</b>	Community Outreach Coordinator
<b>When did you join CPSV?</b>	November, 2016
<b>Fondest memory from 2021?</b>	I loved our Open day, being with the community and showcasing what The Cat Protection is all about. Seeing how impressed people were and hearing their lovely comments, was amazing and humbling.
<b>What is the one thing you love most about cats?</b>	I love everything about cats, but love when they hold my hand and let me touch in between their toes and they knead them out in contentment
<b>What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?</b>	That they are beautiful, and let them choose you, as they will let you know if you are their person. And that it's a commitment, be their advocate and be their home, and you will be rewarded with a loyal and loving friend. And please, don't overlook the seniors, they are often quieter, more content for cuddles on your lap, and need to be with a loving family.

## AMBER

<b>Your role:</b>	I work as part of the shelter vet team, and also desex a lot of cats for local council desexing programs that we run at CPS.
<b>When did you join CPSV?</b>	2019
<b>What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?</b>	Think carefully about what sort of cat would suit your family and home. Let our adoption team know about other pets, kids, and the space you have so we can find the best match for you.

## TRISH

<b>Your role:</b>	Shelter Veterinary Nurse
<b>When did you join CPSV?</b>	April, 2017
<b>Fondest memory from 2021?</b>	<p>Obviously settling into the new purpose-built facility has been a highlight of this year.</p> <p>But it's the overwhelming positive feedback from participants of the Council Feline Desexing programs, that has been most encouraging, for me. The programs have been expanded and streamlined with the relocation to the new facility. The Shelter Vet Team have helped more residents, cats and kittens of local bordering council areas, than ever before! This has been incredibly rewarding.</p>
<b>What is the one thing you love most about cats?</b>	Their personalities and sometimes multiple personalities! They are such characters. Each cat is incredibly unique in their own quirky, special way.
<b>What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?</b>	Talk to the adoption staff. They are invaluable when it comes to match making. Identifying not only your wants, needs and limitations but that of the cat's and kitten's we have in our care. Our adoption staff ensure a 'true fit' between our cats and kittens, and their new homes!





## ANTHONY

When did you first join the CPSV Board?	February, 2019
What excites you most about being a CPSV Board Member?	This is something that has multiple answers (a) Working with a group of focused professionals all working for the goal of improving the well-being of cats and reinforcing the value of cats as companion pets. (b) The opportunity to give back to society by sharing the skills I have learnt in my 30 years as an accountant and Finance Controller with the goal to help make the Society a better and stronger organisation and an employer of choice.
What is your fondest memory since being a Board Member?	I attended a luncheon with some of our key suppliers as part of the opening of the new building. Hearing the staff recount their experiences as foster carers and neonatal foster carers was exceptionally moving. The passion, dedication and professionalism of the staff is just first class. I also got to cuddle some gorgeous kittens that day.
What is the one thing you love most about cats?	Sharing time with my cats, interacting with them and enjoying having them cuddle up to you on a cold day.
Why should someone consider adopting from CPSV or bringing their cat to the Vet Clinic?	CPSV is a wonderful organisation dedicated to the welfare of kittens and cats. The staff are dedicated to the welfare of the animals and ensuring that the right cat/kitten is matched to the right person or family. The Society has a dedicated Vet team for the Shelter and another running a dedicated vet clinic for the public ensuring the highest level of care through all stages of the cats/kitten's life. The CPSV Shelter invests time and effort to work with cats/kittens that have behavioral issues so as to give each pet the opportunity for a happy and healthy life with their adopted families.

## JILL

Your role:	Animal Attendant
When did you join CPSV?	2018
Fondest memory from 2021?	My fondest memory of 2021 would be of Edwin (my problem cat ha-ha) such a beautiful boy who was with us for a while and had a few failed adoptions but with patience he has finally found his <i>furever</i> home with the purrfect family who just adore him and have accepted him the way he is.
What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?	The one piece of advice I'd give someone adopting is to realise that it is a long-term commitment especially young children adopting a kitten and that it will be in their family for 15+ years.



## PETA

### Your role:

I'm the main vet in the Private Clinic. I work with the public who seek veterinary care for their owned cats.

### When did you join CPSV?

I joined CPS two years ago and spent one year working across the shelter and the private clinic, and decided I like working with people and their cats the most. I always get some joy out of hearing about cats and their lives in their homes. Many of my cat clients were once CPS shelter cats, but not all.

### Fondest memory from 2021?



Peach came to see me after being diagnosed with dental disease at another vet clinic. Peach was a grumpy terror and I could not examine her, could not listen to her heart or lungs, weigh her or examine her teeth. She hissed and growled and tried to strike us if we got near her. She seemed to pull her hair out too. The owner really wanted a dental procedure, so we did our best, using appropriate medication for a cat we could not examine. While she was anaesthetised we discovered she had a lung problem. She did need a dental, but she needed lung treatment more. I performed diagnostics and therapeutic trials which led to the diagnosis of feline asthma. It took a while to stabilise Peach, and she now uses an inhaler daily. The things that make me most happy about this story are Peach stopped pulling her hair out, Peach let me examine her once she felt better (I can check her teeth and listen to her chest with my stethoscope now). And her owner told me he would hug me if it weren't for Covid, because he hadn't realised how unwell Peach was. He showed me videos of how affectionate and loving Peach is now, and she hadn't been for a long time.

### What is the one thing you love most about cats?

What I like best about cats: I love everything about cats - I love how they purr, how they like to sit with you, how they like to find the most comfortable chair, how they terrorise the dog. They provide enormous comfort and company. I love their faces.

### What is one piece of advice for someone considering adopting a cat or kitten in need?

After you've adopted your cat, make sure you come and see us at the CPS vet clinic for your routine checks and health concerns.



# foster care

## INTRODUCING OUR FOSTER CARE COORDINATOR, SAM

### Tell us a little about yourself

I have always had a strong bond and passion with animals since I was a kid. I grew up in the Yarra Valley on a large property. My parents allowed me to learn the responsibility of caring for animals from a very young age, and from then I have always had a furry friend by my side. I have been involved in the animal industry for roughly eight years, starting with volunteering at a local animal shelter. I then moved to volunteering for a private animal rescue fostering dogs and assisting with animal transport where needed. I have previously worked at groomers, boarding facilities and animal behaviour training companies. I have completed my certificates in animal studies, behaviour, pet first aid, training and animal psychology.

### When did you join CPSV?

I first started with CPSV around 2 years ago. With my experience and knowledge, I was welcomed onboard the foster care program focusing on behavioural cases, giving them a safe space and helping with the rehabilitation process until they were suitable for adoption. In June 2021, I joined the Cat Protection Society team and started working in reception. Soon after I accepted the position of Foster Care Coordinator.

### What attracted you to the role of Foster Care Coordinator with CPSV?

As already being a part of the foster care program as a volunteer and having the time, I decided to accept the position. As being a foster carer for not only CPSV but other shelters and rescues previously, I knew what support and resources are needed, and with an already great program up and running, I was excited to step in and take on the challenge. We have some staff that are also amazing foster carers too which has allowed me to adjust to this role a little easier with their support on a daily basis.



### What excites you most about being the Foster Care Coordinator for CPSV?

Seeing how dedicated and passionate our carers are. It is so rewarding to see the changes their care and time does to a cat/kitten in need. Also seeing the difference from when a cat enters the program to when they are ready for adoption!

### What do you look for in a Foster Carer?

Compassion, Care and Commitment. If a foster carer is committed to the cat or kitten in need, I find they put the effort into learning what is needed for that particular case. I love when I see our foster carers care for our cats as if they were their own, I see them notice health or behavioural changes that may be missed if in the shelter where they cannot be monitored 24/7.

A high level of compassion is needed to be a foster carer, this ensures they don't give up too early with our cats in need. Some cats need that extra time to settle in before we even start to see some of their personalities shine. Medical cases that require close monitoring, especially for neo-nates which require feeds every couple of hours and you have broken sleep patterns in those first weeks of their lives. All of these cases need someone with those qualities.

### What advice would you provide to someone considering becoming a Foster Carer?

Ensure you have the time and patience available. Look into assisting only with cases you are comfortable with based on your skills and knowledge, if you want to learn more ask for support. Ensure you set yourself boundaries so that you do not burn out as this can be a very emotional yet wonderful journey.









# The Very Special Foster Carer there for a Cat's Last Meow

**For 65-year-old Wendy Dunstone, becoming a foster carer with the Cat Protection Society of Victoria after her own cat passed away was a way to continue caring for her beloved feline friends, without the heartbreak of losing another pet.**

While Wendy grew up with cats, she was grief stricken whenever one of her cats passed away. When her last cat died after fifteen years, she vowed to never get another one. It was only after a conversation with her sister, who is a Foster Carer with the Lort Smith Animal Hospital, that the idea of fostering cats was sparked.

"I wondered how on earth you give them back, but I've now fostered five cats with the Cat Protection Society of Victoria. I've mostly taken in the older, beaten-up cats that generally don't get snapped up as quickly as the kittens, and the thing that is most rewarding is that I know that I'm providing them with their most comfortable last days," she says.

Each year, more than 1,500 surrendered and abandoned cats and kittens seek refuge at the Cat Protection Society of Victoria's shelter. Some are too young, unwell, or might be recovering from surgery, so cannot be adopted into their forever homes straight away. Other cats might be senior, or at the end stages of their life, due to old age or illness.

Foster carers provide a loving home to help these cats recover, get ready for adoption, or provide a comfortable space for their final months.

Wendy is one of those special humans who takes in some of the Society's older cats, in need of extra TLC as they battle health conditions in their older age, or are looking for a gentle home environment as they live out their final days, or as they take their last meow.

Wendy gently shares some stories of some of the cats that have come to her care with behavioural and health issues, and have needed that extra focus that only a dedicated foster carer can provide.

The first cat Wendy cared for was Belle. Belle had been surrendered and Wendy looked after her for around six weeks with the support of the Society's Animal Behaviourist to help manage some of Belle's aggressive tendencies.

Whiskers was the second cat that Wendy fostered for nine months before she passed away. She had no teeth and had been bitten by a snake, and when she arrived at Wendy's home, Wendy knew that her kidneys were expected to fail. Describing her as a lovely cat, Wendy cared for Whiskers as she approached the end of her life.

Wendy also cared for Jarrah for a couple of weeks before he too passed away. Living a chequered life as a street cat and being snow-white in colour, Jarrah had skin cancer on his ears and nose, so Wendy had to keep him indoors and out of the sun.

"Jarrah declined very quickly in his final weeks, which surprised us all. He was finding it hard to get around, and the vet detected a lump in his abdomen, and at that point, we determined that was his time. My role was just to make his final days as comfortable as possible," says Wendy.

Wendy laughs when describing her fourth cat. She says she almost became a 'foster fail', a term lovingly coined for those foster carers who fall under the spell of one of their foster cats and decide to adopt them. The cat was an eleven-month-old called Socks, who'd had corrective surgery on her back legs.

"She was such a cutie and I got very weak with her that I almost became a foster fail! However, I wanted to get her fit enough to go into her forever home, and I'm so pleased because she has now been adopted."





Wendy is currently providing foster care to a sweet cat called Ginger who has terrible skin allergies, and requires fortnightly vet appointments and daily cortisone medication. Ginger has to wear a bib around his neck, but his skin allergies have improved dramatically since being in Wendy's care.

“We're so fortunate to have a foster carer like Wendy,” says Lisa Aguis, Shelter Manager from the Cat Protection Society of Victoria. “Many people interested in fostering cats are looking for kittens, because kittens are often thought of as cute little bundles of fun. It's often the older cats that are overlooked, but are in desperate need of care. Older cats can still offer so much love and companionship, and it's rewarding knowing that you're offering an older cat a loving home in its final years.”

While caring for a cat with health or accepted issues, or an older cat can mean a greater time commitment, Wendy says that it has great benefits.

“I've mostly taken in older cats, and it's lovely to know that I'm helping to make their final days comfortable, or provide them with a calm, stress-free environment to address their health or behavioural issues. It's lovely to have them around the home – you wake up in the morning and they're on your pillow to say hello.”

“Fostering is so rewarding and calming. For the younger cats, it's nice to take them from being stressed to getting them ready for their forever home. When I return them to the Society and their health has improved, and they get adopted, that's what it's all about.”

# introducing your ★ FAMOUS FELINES ★ for 2022

We are thrilled to introduce you to our Famous Felines of The Cat Protection Society for 2021. These marvellous moggies stood out in a competition that had an amazing 183 entrants and almost 4000 votes cast.

Our Famous Felines will now be treated to a VIP photo-shoot and will star in our 2022 Cat Protection Society Calendar and Society Marketing material. We can't wait to share their photos- for now, we hope you enjoy reading their competition submissions on why they deserved the title of 'Famous Feline of The Cat Protection Society'.

## CATEGORY 1: MOST POPULAR FAMOUS FELINES



### **STRINGER BELL** ADOPTED 2015

Stringer Bell is a medical mystery who has defied death more than once. Having been hit by a car at 1 year old and then bitten by a snake at 2 year old he seemed to be not longed for this earth. But Stringer has defied the odds turning 6 this year. Nowadays living a quiet content life trying to catch one duck that he has declared his enemy.



### **TONY** ADOPTED 2020

Tony came from a rough background on the streets and lost his ears to cancer. Yet, he is still one of the most affectionate cats you'll ever meet, has lots of character and an understated chilled out coolness that wins over everyone.



### **MANGO** ADOPTED 2017

Mango stormed into my life as a boisterous, playful mini ginger cat and has now grown into the big, bold, boss of my house and life. He's very social and friendly and loves meeting new people. He has made many friends in my neighbourhood, everyone knows his name and I have seen countless passerby's rubbing his tummy and having their own photo shoot with him. His tail is magnificent! He's very vocal and not one bit shy!



### **NAMI** ADOPTED 2020

Meet Nami! She is 4 years old and was a rescue. Our baby was a street cat all her life before she met us and now has a forever home filled with love, happiness and cuddles. Nami is a chatty girl who loves nothing more than a big cuddle and a nice meowing conversation with her daddy. This baby girl has the most beautiful green eyes that I truly get lost in. She is my world and has been such an amazing support to me during times of grief and loneliness. I love her to bits and can't imagine my life without her.



### **TEDDY (THEODORE)** ADOPTED 2022

Teddy was adopted during Melbourne's second lockdown when I needed a companion. Living on my own, working from home and no social bubble allowed, he was just what the doctor ordered. He is a very affectionate and vocal young man. Teddy's coat was so matted he was clipped and had to grow into his feather duster tail. He is unrecognizable now from when he arrived but his gorgeous personality is just the same. He's a snuggle puss who loves nothing more than to curl up on my knee and purr away.



### **FRED AND DENNIS** ADOPTED 2021

Pictured: Big brother Fred (Dennis was happy to let his big brother enjoy the limelight solo)  
The tremendous twosome from Templestowe, Fred and Dennis have a relationship like no other as poor Dennis had a terrible start, his big brother Fred has his back every step of the way. These boys have brought so much joy and are completely and utterly adored.



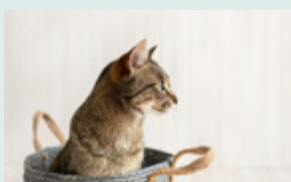
### **MISTER** ADOPTED 2019

Mister was surrendered to The Cat Protection Society in mid 2019 as a 10 year old when his owner (who actually thought Mister was a girl and named her Misty) went into full time aged care. After conducting routine tests, we soon discovered that Mister had diabetes. Mister remained at the shelter whilst we tried to get his diabetes under control before quickly putting his paws up to volunteer as our Community Cat. Mister's beautiful nature, a love of laps and his complete willingness to offer himself up for endless cuddles saw him thrive in his role as Community Cat. The decision was therefore made for Mister to assume the role on a full time basis and remain in the care of The Cat Protection Society permanently. In non-covid times, Mister and his Community Outreach human spend their days visiting aged care homes, schools and community groups helping to educate the community on the work of The Cat Protection Society and educate on responsible cat ownership.



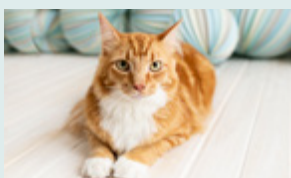
### **MAGS** ADOPTED 2019

When I adopted Mags (formally Rebel) I had no idea what I was getting myself into - she is the craziest, most lovable cat I have ever met! She spends the day playing with empty toilet rolls or terrorising her older sister and isn't happy unless sleeping on my face at night.



### **SUNNY** ADOPTED 2016

Sunny makes us laugh - always. He needs to know everything that is going on and must be the centre of attention. He greets me with such excitement, often jumping on my shoulders just to be closer to me. Sunny has a strange fascination for tinsel Christmas decorations and plays 'fetch' with them till the thrower gets bored. He loves a good chat and follows me all over the house. He has brought us such joy and brightened our lives.



### **FRANKIE** ADOPTED 2020

We adopted Frankie just before the world changed forever! It was perfect timing for our family because it gave my two daughters time to spend playing, cuddling and laughing with Frankie. They adore him. He is so affectionate, he seems to know when you are needing a cuddle and he loves a morning cuddle. We have just adopted again this year and introduced Nox to Frankie a little over 2 months ago! Frankie was a little taken back but has realised we have enough love to go around. They spend their days sleeping and playing together.



### **BISCUIT** ADOPTED 2020

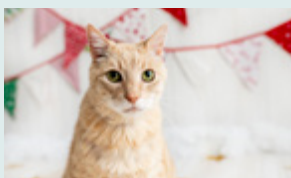
Biscuit has brought a lot of fun and excitement to our family, which we have needed during the Melbourne lockdowns. He is a fun-loving kitten who just wants to experience joy when chasing a piece of ice that falls from the freezer. He's a handful but we wouldn't have it any other way! We couldn't imagine our life now without Biscuit; even our resident feline, Mia, is warming up to him (slowly). Biscuit acts like he has nine lives and is living all of them to the fullest!



### **SADIE** ADOPTED 2021

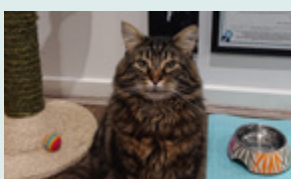
Sadie is our good luck charm. Born in a stranger's backyard, and rescued by CPSV, we adopted her at just 10 weeks old. Our connection and love were instant. She is a courageous and inquisitive black cat, but when she stands in the sun you'll see she has grey and brown fur too. When she first arrived at our home, she sat at the backdoor every day, yearning for the moment she was fully vaccinated and could venture outside. Now at 4 months old, there's no tree she won't climb and no basket, cupboard or sink she won't jump into. When she's done exploring, you'll find her curled up, purring on our laps. She's a best friend to her golden retriever sister Mabel (with a notable size difference), and our daily joy. Thank you to CPSV for bringing this wonderful kitten into our lives! Follow Sadie's adventures on Instagram at @sadiesod (yes, we are those people)

## **CATEGORY 2: THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY CHOICE**



### **SIMBA** ADOPTED 2021

Simba (previously 'Lyric') is a 16 year old senior gentleman who represents the mature felines and deserves a place amongst the CPSV calendar pages. Simba was also featured on the CPSV Facebook page in a video highlighting his exercise routine as he battled a weight condition. This calendar feature will show off his healthier physique which began with the CPSV 'boot camp' and continued in his forever loving home.



### **BOBBY** ADOPTED 2020

Hi, I'm Bobby; a FIV positive fluffy meow machine with a big appetite and a bigger heart. Not much is known about my prior life, but I came to the Cat Protection Society beaten up and sick where I was then taken care of until well and ready to find my forever home for which I am incredibly grateful. My days now consist of eating, sleeping, playing with all of my toys and claiming warm laps to sit on.



Keep an eye on your emails and our Cat Protection Society Facebook page for details of when our Famous Felines of The Cat Protection Society Calendar is available to purchase.





# ★ How To

## How to spot and manage common health issues in older cats

By Dr Peta Keown, Head Vet, Cat Protection Society of Victoria

As your cat ages, it can start to slow down, and while aging is normal, sickness and pain are not. Sometimes, it can be easy to think that changes in your older cat's behaviour are just a sign of old age. Whilst many older cats do suffer from a range of health issues, many conditions are treatable – and getting a check-up from your vet could help improve the quality of your cat's life, and in fact, extend its life. Aging cat conditions are sometimes similar to those faced by humans and can include things like arthritis, obesity, vision and hearing problems, as well as some diseases such as diabetes, cancer, kidney or liver disease and thyroid problems. Older cats are also more susceptible to gum disease.

Here, we take a look at some of the more common health conditions in your senior cat, how to spot these issues, and how to manage them to help give your feline friend a long, happy life:

### Arthritis

Arthritis is an inflammation of the joints and can be extremely common in cats. It can often go undetected in senior cats, because often owners of older cats think that their cats are just slowing down with age. Arthritis however can be painful, so getting your cat checked regularly from your vet and getting treatment at the onset of the condition can make a huge difference to your pet's quality of life. Signs of arthritis can include less interest in playing, stiffness and reduced mobility, difficulty in grooming itself, and general changes in the cat's behaviour. For example, the cat may be in pain, making it act more aggressively and be less tolerant of people. There are many treatment options available today, and the vet will work with you to choose pain relief options, natural food supplements or injections that help lubricate the joint and provide comfort.

### Cancer

Cats can develop different types of tumours which can be benign or malignant, and whilst you can check for lumps and bumps by feeling all over your cat's body on a regular basis, there are other signs of cancer. These can include weight loss, increased thirst, a poor coat quality, lethargy, or vomiting and diarrhoea. These symptoms can be quite common in a number of other health conditions, so if your cat exhibits any of these signs, or just starts to act differently in general, it's best to take them to the vet for a check. Your vet can provide diagnostics such as blood tests and imaging to get to the bottom of what is going on.

### Kidney Disease

Kidney failure is a common disease in older cats, with many and varied symptoms. Some general signs in cats can include lethargy, a loss of weight, and a greater need to urinate. If your cat shows any changes in their mood, personality or behaviour, a visit to your vet for a check is the best way to check for signs of kidney issues. Treatment options have improved dramatically in the last 10 years, so talk to your vet about the best options.

### Constipation

Cats can experience changes in bowel and toileting habits as they get older, including constipation. Signs of constipation include passing bowel motions less frequently, pain when going to the toilet, or hard faeces.

### Deafness

While it can be difficult to tell if your cat is losing their hearing, some signs of deafness include not responding to loud sounds or when you call them, being startled easily, loud meowing, or signs of dizziness or disorientation.



### **Caring for an older cat**

Some simple ways to care for your older cat, and help to make their senior years more comfortable include:

#### **Nutrition and Exercise**

Make sure you feed your cat high-quality food that is specially formulated for a senior cat. Speak to your vet about the correct food, particularly if your cat has gum disease, or other health conditions. It's also important for your cat to maintain a healthy weight, so continue to play with your cat and encourage them to move. Just be aware if they show any sign of discomfort.

#### **Health Checks**

It's important to have regular health checks with your vet and pay close attention to any changes in your pet's behaviour. By having regular health checks, your vet may be able to spot things that you miss, and catch any health issues before they become too serious. Also make sure that any health checks involve regular dental checks to keep on top of dental health and gum disease.

**Talk to your vet if you have any concerns about your cat's health or notice any changes in their behaviour. By catching problems early, you give your cat the best chance of a long, healthy life!**





# Adoption

## Can you provide a forever home to a cat in need?

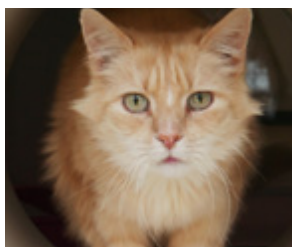
Cats available for adoption



### JOHN AND SAMMY 10 YEARS AND 13 YEARS OLD

M/C: 956000001742998 & 9560000013292174

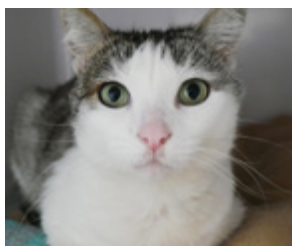
John a 10 year old and Sammy a 13 year old are a bonded pair who adore and rely on each other. John stresses without Sammy, he does not need to be with Sammy every minute but knowing Sammy is near keeps him calm and content. They sleep together but are happy to do their own thing during the day. Sammy is the more outgoing and confident of the pair, he will seek out your attention whereas John will sit back and watch hesitantly until he decides what he wants to do. They would love a quiet retirement home where they can laze away the days without children or canines. An indoor only home as they are both FIV+ and at their age they deserve an indoor only home where they are safe and comfortable.



### FLUFFY 1 YEAR OLD

M/C: 9560000014452624

Fluffy is a beautiful and affectionate girl who enjoys a good chat. She loves pats and cuddles but does not enjoy being held. She would rather pop up onto your lap or sit next to you. She is a quiet girl who will want sometime to settle in and get to know you and her new surroundings, her perfect home is a quiet one without children as they do scare her.



### AMANDA 7 YEARS OLD

M/C: 985113000524667

Amanda is a confident lady once she is settled and feels comfortable with her surroundings. She is easy going and happy with her own company or receiving attention from her humans. Amanda loves her food so would like a home that will ensure the bowl is never empty. She does suffer from some mild skin allergies and would be suited in an indoor only home.



**ROXY 7 MONTHS OLD**

M/C: 956000014455850

Roxy is a beautiful girl who has had a rough start to life, she needs a home that is happy to spend the time to teach her what security and human love is, a home that is quiet, calm and indoor only. Roxy must be your one and only, no children, canines or other felines, just you, her and plenty of love to go around.

**JUNE 4 YEARS OLD**

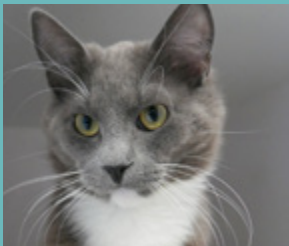
M/C: 9560000056557274

June is a very shy lady who does not enjoy new environments or meeting new people, she will take time to settle and feel comfortable. Once settled you will find June loves a scratch around the neck and attention. June would love a human that understands her hesitance and is happy to give her plenty of time and patience to find her feet and in turn your lap to curl up on. June's perfect home is without children, canines and other felines.

**HARLEY 1 YEAR OLD**

M/C: 956000012923081

Harley came to us a terrified stray who had no intentions of letting any human touch him. We knew hiding inside this grumpy little boy there was a beautiful soul deep down inside. Harley has taken a lot of work and he needed to be in his own space (our Shelter Manager's office) to bring that beautiful soul to the surface. Harley is an absolute delight, he adores attention and pats and must have a lap to curl up on. Harley may regress to start with in his new home but we promise if the right human puts in the hard yards, his gorgeous and friendly personality will again surface. Harley needs a quiet and calm home without children, canines or other felines, he is FIV+ so must also be indoors only for his safety and the safety of other cats in the area.

**JOHNNY 1 YEAR OLD**

M/C: 956000014509947

Johnny is a stunning boy with a personality to match! He is affectionate, friendly, playful, easy going, and loves human attention. He can be shy and timid in new surroundings but it won't take him long to make himself at home.

**CHICKEN 13 YEARS OLD**

M/C: 953010001347452

Chicken is an affectionate, friendly, easy going delightful 13 year old gentleman. He is all about quality of life with few requirements: a warm bed, full food bowl and a human to adore him. Chicken is FIV+ so he will need to be indoors only for his safety and the safety of other cats in the area.

**All cats featured were available for adoption at the time of printing.  
To confirm availability, visit our website at [www.catprotection.com.au/adoption](http://www.catprotection.com.au/adoption)  
or contact our Shelter Adoption Team on 03 8457 6500.**

# How can you support The Cat Protection Society this Christmas?

**Donate to our Meow-ry Christmas Cat Kringle appeal to help ensure that every cat is in a safe and loving home at Christmas.**

You can donate via our website at [www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas](http://www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas) or by completing and returning the donation form at the end of this publication.

**Join our Furever Home Regular Giving Program and make a regular monthly donation to support our work and ensure that every cat is provided with their opportunity to find their "Happily Furever After" right throughout the year.**

You can join our Furever Home Regular Giving Program by visiting our website at:  
[www.catprotection.com.au/support-us/fureverhome](http://www.catprotection.com.au/support-us/fureverhome)

**Visit us onsite or online Cat Protection Society Retail Store for your Christmas shopping.**

Our online and onsite retail store is stocked with everything your four-legged family member or cat-loving friend or family could wish for come Christmas. And what's more; all sale proceeds directly help to support the ongoing work of our Society. You can view our range via our website at: [www.catprotection.com.au/shop](http://www.catprotection.com.au/shop) or by popping into our store at 200 Elder Street, Greensborough.

**Purchase a Cat Protection Society Gift Certificate for a cat loving friend or family member. This gift certificate can be used towards the adoption fee of a cat or kitten or within our onsite retail store. Our Gift Certificates are available in \$50, \$100, \$150 and \$200 denominations and have a 3-year expiry.**

You can purchase a Cat Protection Society Gift Certificate via our website at: [www.catprotection.com.au/shop/gift-certificates](http://www.catprotection.com.au/shop/gift-certificates) With free shipping available.

**Become a Volunteer.** The holiday period is an ideal time to think about New Year's resolutions and goals. Why not sign up to become a Volunteer with the Cat Protection Society? Our Volunteers play a vital role in supporting us with the day-to-day care of the cats and kittens. Volunteers can also assist offsite as part of our fundraising and events.

To express your interest in becoming a Volunteer, apply via our website at:

[www.catprotection.com.au/support-us/volunteer](http://www.catprotection.com.au/support-us/volunteer)

**Visit our onsite Veterinary Clinic.** Now is the time to check your cat's health report card is up-to-date, including vaccinations and flea and worming treatments. Our onsite feline dedicated clinic can assist with general health and behavioural consults and flea and worming tablets are available from our retail store.

To make a booking with our Vet Clinic, contact the team on 03 8457 6504

**Pop in for a coffee.** Did you know that we now have an onsite Café and that all sale proceeds from the sale of coffees, hot drinks and cat-themed sweets and treats directly help to support the ongoing work of our Society?

The Purrfect Paw is opened Wednesday-Saturday from 10am-2pm (unless otherwise advised on our website).





Let this Christmas be the cat's whiskers

# MEOW-RY Christmas CAT KRINGLE!

**Christmas is a time for giving and never giving up.**

Each year we get great joy in seeing many of the sick and vulnerable cats and kitties that come through our door leave transformed as happy whiskered wonders ready for their new homes. This warms our hearts, as we do everything in our power to ensure all the cats in our care have the opportunity, to experience a loving home come Christmas. If it wasn't for you, our loyal cat-loving community, there is no way we could provide the high-level specialised care we do. The Society receives no government funding to support our work and relies solely on your donations. We would love it if you could join us in experiencing the joy of giving at Christmas. We ask you to take part in our Meow-ry Christmas Cat Kringle. Your support will help us achieve our goal of ensuring all the cats in our care have their best Christmas yet in a loving new home.

☐ **I'd love to take part in the Meow-ry Christmas Cat Kringle and help rehome cats in need this Christmas**

**I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A MEOW-RY CHRISTMAS CAT KRINGLE DONATION AND IT BE USED TOWARDS:**

☐ A kitten like Toby

☐ A senior cat like Agatha

☐ An adult cat like Harry

Donation Value \$\_\_\_\_\_

## MY DETAILS:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

## I'D LIKE TO MAKE MY MEOW-RY CHRISTMAS CAT KRINGLE DONATION BY:

☐ Credit Card ☐ Cheque/Money Order (Please make payable to The Cat Protection Society of Victoria)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Diners

Credit Card Number:

Credit Card Expiry:   /   CVC:

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my receipt by: ☐ MAIL ☐ EMAIL

**Thank you so much for your generous support.**

## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Donate online at [www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas](http://www.catprotection.com.au/meowrychristmas) | Donate over the phone by calling 03 8457 6500  
Complete and return this form to: The Cat Protection Society: PO Box 257, Greensborough, VIC 3088





# The Cat Protection Society Veterinary Clinic

Our feline dedicated Cat Protection Society Veterinary Clinic is open to the public. Our Clinic is staffed by an amazing team of compassionate experts who are committed to providing a high level of care at affordable prices to encourage responsible pet ownership.

## Our services include:

Consultations to address health or behavioural concerns you may have with your cat.

**from \$50 for a standard consult**

Dental procedures to help keep your cats' teeth in good condition.

Vaccinations (F3)

**\$70**

Microchipping with a lifetime registration

**\$40**

Desexing procedures

**Female spay \$189**

**Male castration \$126**









The Board, Management and Staff of The Cat Protection Society  
would like to wish all of our Supporters a wonderful festive  
season and hope that you all feel the magic of Christmas with  
your family, friends and of course, your felines.

**THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

*Adoption Shelter – Veterinary Clinic – Retail Store*

200 Elder Street, Greensborough, VIC 3088 - 03 8457 6500  
info@catprotection.com.au - [www.catprotection.com.au](http://www.catprotection.com.au)