

A close-up photograph of a cat's face, featuring a white blaze on its forehead and muzzle, and green eyes. The cat is looking directly at the camera.

MAY 2022

NINE LIVES

An update from The Cat Protection Society
of Victoria including our 2021 Annual Report

THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY MEMBER AND SUPPORTER PUBLICATION MAY 2022



The Cat Protection Society of Victoria

Annual General Meeting

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday 25 May commencing at 7.30pm in the Delphine McCormack Meeting Room at the Society, 200 Elder St Greensborough 3088. We encourage as many of our valued Members to attend as possible.

To confirm your attendance, please email support@catprotection.com.au or phone 03 8457 6500 before 4pm on Friday 13 May 2022.

If you are unable to attend and would like to nominate a proxy to vote on your behalf, please complete and return the below proxy notification form to our Society prior to Friday 13 May 2022.

Form of Proxy Issued by The Cat Protection Society of Victoria

I _____

of _____

Being a Member of The Cat Protection Society of Victoria hereby appoint _____

of _____

Who is an eligible Cat Protection Society of Victoria Member as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25 May 2022 and at any adjournment thereafter.

The proxy is hereby authorized to vote *in favour / *against the following resolutions: _____

Dated _____ Signature of Member _____

*Note: In the event of a Member desiring to vote for or against any resolution, they must instruct their proxy accordingly. Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as they see fit. *strike out which is not desired.*

Please cut out and return your completed proxy form to:

Ian Crook
CEO The Cat Protection Society
PO Box 257
Greensborough, VIC 3088

Or send to ceo@catprotection.com.au
Before Friday 13 May 2022

The Cat Protection Society of Victoria

2022 Annual General Meeting Agenda

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 commencing at 7.30pm in the Delphine McCormack Meeting Room at the Society, 200 Elder St Greensborough 3088

1. PRESENT
2. APOLOGIES
3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 26 MAY, 2021
4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
5. CEO'S REPORT
6. THE 2021 ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET & ACCOUNTS FOR CONSIDERATION & ADOPTION
7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
 - a. Tony Meggs and Joanna Birdseye both retire and offer themselves for re-election to the Board in accordance with Clause 15.3.1b
8. SPECIAL BUSINESS
9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS
 - Findex be reappointed as the Society's auditors for the 2022 financial year

Please RSVP to the Society – PO Box 257, Greensborough
or email: support@catprotection.com.au – to advise attendance by
4pm Friday 13 May 2022.



Thank you

Although 2021 was not the year we were hoping for in terms of getting back to 'normal' after the pandemic, it was a year that gave The Cat Protection Society the opportunity to get used to our wonderful new premises, and to streamline all our procedures at our much-anticipated Adoption Shelter and Veterinary Clinic which is now proudly Victoria's largest shelter dedicated just to cats.

Our Society can provide short term care and re-home up to 2500 cats every year (compared to approx. 1400 previously) and can offer expanded feline veterinary services to the local community. We have been promoting this through social media, letter-box drops, and through the support of Nova Radio broadcasting live from the Shelter with coffee deals for locals. We also had the opportunity for the Society to develop and test more programs and initiatives to help encourage responsible cat ownership and raise the profile of cats as companion animals across Victoria.

Although the lock-downs of 2021 took their toll, the Shelter remained busy, taking in abandoned cats and kittens and preparing them for adoption. The demand for companion animals remained high, as people continued to spend plenty of time at home with their beloved pets.

As a not for profit animal welfare organisation that receives no government funding, we were only able to do this due to the generous donations of our supporters and Members just like you, and for that, we could not be more grateful.

We are so incredibly excited about what the future holds for The Cat Protection Society and what we will be able to continue to achieve together. Thank you for your continued support- we think you are just wonderful.

***The team at
The Cat Protection Society of Victoria***



2021 IN A NUTSHELL

1385

cats and kittens rehomed and provided with their second chance at love, health and happiness

379

cats and kittens spent time in our Foster Care Program

2664

cats and kittens were desexed

733

cats and kittens visited our Private Vet Clinic

A purrfect life

With your support, these cats and kittens (all of whom spent time at our new adoption shelter) have been adopted into their Purrfect furever home and provided with their second chance at love, health and happiness.





An update from our CEO Ian Crook

2021 - Another year filled with challenges and highlights

1. INTRODUCTION

I welcome you to this year's AGM and the Annual Report for our financial year 2021.

2021 saw continued Covid impacts ranging from staff absences, lock-downs and isolation periods, an increase in demand for cats and kittens to join households as cherished companions. Interestingly, while 'kitten season' in a typical year is predominantly the summer months, in 2021 it never seemed to end.

However, staff and volunteers rose to the occasion, and worked harder than ever to rehabilitate and re-home hundreds of cats and kittens throughout the year. This took place during our first year in our new purpose-built facility, with staff adjusting to the new working environment in various ways. These included all the extra steps required to navigate the much larger space – a boon to staff fitness.

In between mandated lock-downs we managed to fit in an Open Day in celebration of our new home, which was well received by locals and key stake-holders keen to see what we do. The event increased our profile.

2. OUR VISION

The staff at the Cat Protection Society of Victoria continue to uphold our vision of a community in which all cats are valued and respected and have a high standard of welfare and wellbeing.

3. OUR MISSION

To actively promote, protect and improve the welfare and wellbeing of cats through shelter and clinical services and public awareness and education. The Society is working towards increasing awareness of the problems and causes of stray cat populations in communities, and the importance of de-sexing as a solution.

4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Our 2022-2024 strategy contains the following priorities:

- Grow our existing services
- Become a "Voice for Cats"
- Continued improvement and development of a culture of excellence and support for our people including staff development and training, team development, performance appraisal, succession planning, and effective communication
- Financial sustainability
- Organisational governance

5. SHELTER STATISTICS

In 2021, because of our expanded facilities but despite Covid, numbers of cat adoptions continued to trend up, while our rates of euthanasia, already low, went down even further.

The number of cats held at the shelter at any one time remained low due to advanced veterinary and shelter management practices.

Private client consultation steadily increased in response to promotion of the private clinic to local communities.

6. STAFF

- 2021 – Fundraising Manager
- Full staffing for the private clinic (Equivalent of 2x F/T vet teams)

7. CPSV PROFILE

During 2021 the Society made continued use of electronic communication and social media to increase our profile and messaging around cat welfare. PR and publicity derived from the Open Day and other smaller events also contributed.

We will continue to use these channels to attract new adopters and supporters more widely, building on the fundraising programs established in 2020, Jarrah's Circle and Furever Home.

8. GOVERNANCE

Throughout 2021 appropriate resources continued to be allocated to ensure proper financial and risk management. The Risk Register is reviewed annually and Policies updated as required.

The audit for 2021 was unqualified.

Perpetual Ltd continued to provide financial advice to the Society in regard to its investment portfolio Return (income +growth) in 2021 was 17.74%. The current three and five year average returns are 7.04% and 8.1% respectively.

9. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Highlights for the 2021 financial year include:

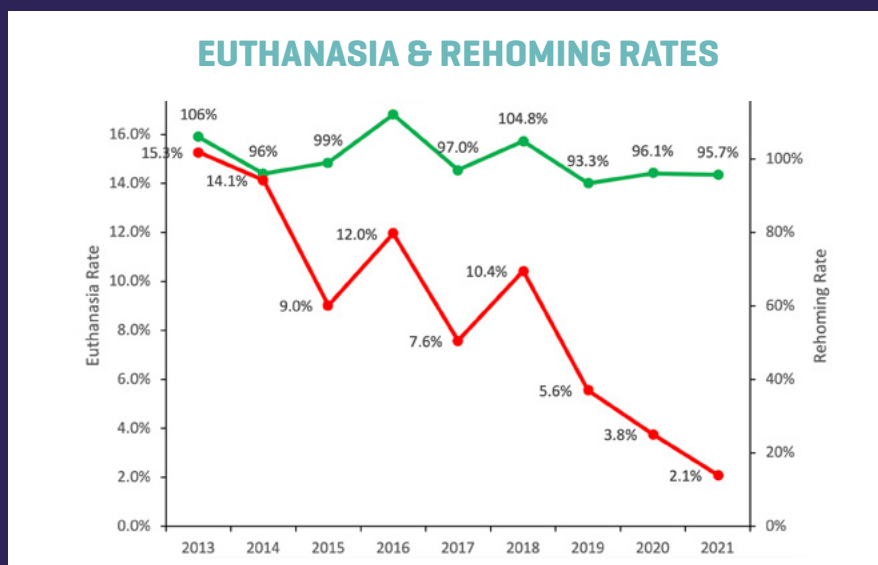
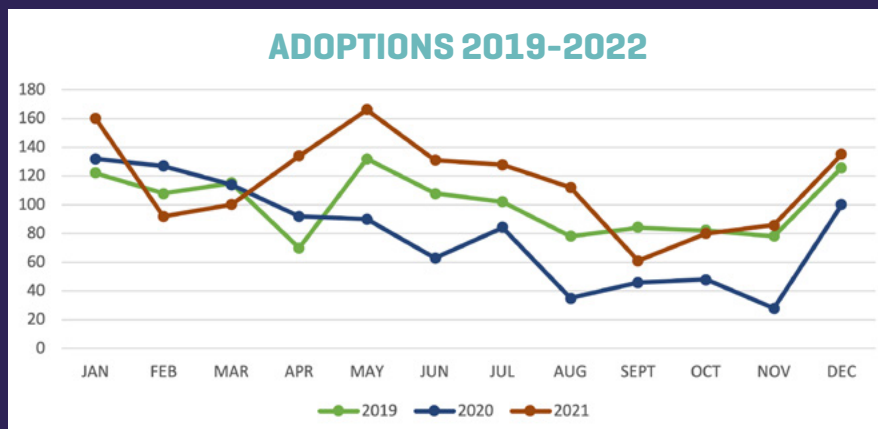
- Positive cash flow of \$213K
- An increase in net assets to \$17.9M cf. \$16.7M at the end of 2020

- Total revenue from the shelter, retail, private clinic and fundraising up 67% cf. 2020.
- Revenue from interest, dividends and bequests were also up significantly resulting in total revenue exceeding budget by \$1M in 2021
- EBITDA (excluding capital gains) exceeding budget by \$758K

10. CONCLUSION

In 2021 we have continued to build on the strong base established with the move to our new home, our increased social media presence and marketing program, and our fundraising campaigns.

I would like to once again thank the staff for their dedication and commitment through the pandemic and the move and adjustment to the new premises. I would also like to thank the Board for their continuing advice and support during 2021.



Help them find their **Furever Home**

As a not-for-profit animal welfare charity, we rely solely on the generosity and kindness of the cat-loving community.

The Society is busy expanding our work with cats and kittens in need as well as our outreach work with surrounding communities to help raise the profile of cats and promote responsible pet ownership.

In 2021 we continued our two key fundraising programs, Furever Home and Jarrah's Circle, which continue to bring in the income necessary to support our lifesaving work.

Furever Home is our regular giving program, where cat-lovers can set up an ongoing monthly donation to help care for and prepare cats and kittens to find their furever home. It's a simple and effective way to make a tangible difference in the lives of cats in need. To learn more or to join the family, visit www.catprotection.com.au/FureverHome



Join **Jarrah's Circle**

Jarrah's Circle is our key supporter program, which brings together like-minded people who are passionate about making a significant impact on the welfare and wellbeing of cats in Victoria. Supporters become a member of Jarrah's Circle when they donate \$500 or more, or include the Society in their Will.

If you are not already a member of Jarrah's Circle, visit www.catprotection.com.au/JarrahsCircle

to find out more, and if you have already made the life-changing decision to include the Society in your Will, please let us know by emailing support@catprotection.com.au

We are sincerely grateful for the kindness and generosity our members and donors have shown to the Society and the cats we care for, thank you.

Cat Cuddling

Our 2021 Christmas fundraising initiative, to sell vouchers for a cat cuddling session plus a beverage in our lovely new café, received a far greater response than we had anticipated. It proved so popular that we will surely do it again!





**Our beloved Jarrah, after
whom our Jarrah's Circle
donor program is named.**

An update from Ronen Atzmon

Our Cat Protection Society Board President

Welcome to the 2022 AGM for the Cat Protection Society of Victoria. Overall, in spite of ongoing restrictions imposed by the Covid lockdowns in 2021 the Society was able to operate successfully from its new premises. The continuing patience and understanding of all our clients, our adopters and the hard work and risk mitigation practices of the staff were keys to this success.

In 2021 the Society adopted its strategic plan for 2022-24. The Society has broadened its Vision and Mission of ensuring the welfare and wellbeing of cats beyond that of companion animals. Consequently, The Society is now devoting more resources towards the causes and regulation of the stray cat population, in addition to continuing to provide shelter and clinical services whilst reinforcing the benefits of companion animals.

Existing strategic objectives have been reviewed and confirmed as follows:

- Growth of existing services.
- Becoming a “Voice for Cats”
- Continued improvement and development of a culture of excellence and support for our people including staff development and training, team development, performance appraisal, succession planning and effective communication.
- Financial sustainability.
- Organisational governance.

These priorities, in part, reflect the need for The Society to become more visible in the community and an agent for change.

The Society is hoping to be able to partner with other animal welfare organisations to work with cats with behavioral issues to improve their chances of rehoming.

Financially, the Society remains in a strong position and has adequate reserves to meet the impact of unexpected events like those of 2021.

That being said, the Board recognises the need for the society to have a long term plan which includes less reliance on bequests and more self sustainable commercial and income generating activity working side by side with the Society’s charitable Purposes and Vision.

The Society has reviewed its investment strategy and on advice has increased the growth component of its investment portfolio by 10 percentage points to 65%.

Until the Society can generate sufficient income from commercial activities to become self sustainable, the Society will continue to enhance its profile in order to increase donations and bequests. The Society’s initiatives were further developed in 2021, although activities were constrained by Covid.

The purpose of Jarrah’s Circle is to keep those involved aware of the Society’s work and needs and provide them with the opportunity to be involved in Society events. Members continue to be important stakeholders of the Society. Membership remains open to all who have association with the Society either as a customer, client or donor.

2021 saw the official opening of the new shelter as a conclusion of years in the planning and difficult execution with the termination of the builder and Covid. The new shelter opens up vast opportunities for the Society and we will ensure we take advantage of each of these.

I am confident that new shelter and clinic with their dedicated staff will ensure that the Society achieves the strategic objectives set out in the new three-year plan and beyond. I am also confident that the Society’s awareness will be increased amongst the cat community and its reputation protected.

I would like to thank all those who have involved themselves with the Society during another challenging year. Your hard work, professionalism, teamwork, dedication, volunteer support and generosity have been absolutely critical to the Society’s success.

I particularly wish to acknowledge the efforts of staff in successfully transitioning to the new building and the Society’s Board Members who have contributed their skills, experience and wisdom to the Board over the past year.

Lastly, I would like to mention the contribution that Sue Pacey has made to the Society. Her Life membership and her 8 years of service on the Board were a testament to her love for cats and her dedication to the Society. Sue Pacey passed away in the middle of 2021.

Please help Ginger and cats like him this Tax Time

Some cats need extra help finding their forever homes. Will you help?

Before



After



Sweet 9 year old Ginger has been with us since August last year. He came to us via a partnership the Shelter has with Epping RSPCA whereby we assist with especially challenging cases.

As you can see from his “Before” picture, Ginger suffered greatly from skin issues, arriving at the Shelter with more scabs than fur. He is a very sensitive boy, super reactive to the sun, fleas, grasses and most food. He was surrendered by his owners, as the cost of the treatments required to keep him comfortable was simply too high for them to manage.

After a thorough examination and a suite of blood tests, our vets started Ginger on antibiotics to treat his broken skin and cortisone to reduce the intense itch and inflammation. Despite their best work, the vets have been unable to find any specific cause for Ginger’s sensitivity, and all we can do is try to limit his exposure to allergens. This means he is on a very special and restrictive diet as he is even allergic to most proteins!

Ginger’s anallergenic diet is made up of hydrolysed proteins and a pure carbohydrate source. Sounds yummy? Ginger doesn’t think so! He hates it, but he does love to be patted and smooched, which is only possible due to the positive effects of his expensive medications and diet food.

He now lives with us here at the Shelter most of the time, with respite in foster care. As we care for all our cats and kittens through the generosity of people like you, we need your help to keep Ginger and cats in similar situations comfortable.

\$30 will buy a week’s worth of soothing ointment

\$100 will cover his oral medication for two weeks

\$250 will pay for Ginger’s special food for a month

With your support, we can help special-needs cats like Ginger live a happy and itch-free life!

Please donate to our 2022 Tax Appeal, where all donations will help special cats like Ginger. Our 2022 Tax Appeal will be officially launched at the end of May, or you may like to donate now.

Simply call 03 8457 6500 or go to www.catprotection.com.au/support-us/donate and click on the donate button to make a credit card donation. Cheques may be sent to The Cat Protection Society, PO Box 257, Greensborough VIC 3088 and be sure to include all your contact details.

Scan to donate





Have you visited The Purrfect Paw?

The Purrfect Paw is our Cat Protection Society Café located within our Adoption Shelter.

The Purrfect Paw offers barista made coffee, hot-chocolates, milkshakes, chocolates and cat-themed sweet treats and all proceeds directly help to support our work in caring for and rehoming cats in need.

Be sure to pop in for a coffee when you next visit our Adoption Shelter, Veterinary Clinic or Retail Store.

The Purrfect Paw is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-2pm.



special offer

As a valued Cat Protection Society Supporter, you are invited to visit The Purrfect Paw Café before 30 June 2022, mention 'Nine Lives' and receive a

free regular size

coffee, hot chocolate or milkshake of choice.

100 *years* | OF DEDICATION

In March, CEO Ian Crook invited four Very Important People to the Shelter to acknowledge their remarkable support of the Cat Protection Society of Victoria over many years. So many years in fact, that added together, they tally a whole century!

After reminiscing over morning tea and a tour of the Shelter, our four (what a fortuitous number) veterinary operating theatres were ceremoniously named after Sue Jane, Sue Pacey (represented by her husband David), Arlis Kempf and Rivka Waxman.

All four have donated their time and expertise in various ways, from providing governance as a Board Director, to mucking in and cleaning cat crates, running fundraising drives for cat necessities, fostering cats...you name it, they've done it. Their dedication knows no bounds, and we are very, very grateful.

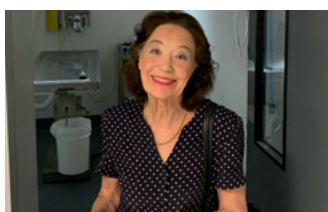
Introducing



SUSAN JANE has been involved with the CPSV for 30 years, and her contribution is invaluable. Her guidance and compassion have made the difference to innumerable feline lives over the years, and she has been a driving force in getting the Shelter (and its excellent reputation) to the place it is now. It is impossible to imagine the history of the Shelter without thinking of Susan's immense contribution.



SUE AND DAVID PACEY, together, have contributed their passion and work to the Shelter for a total of 20 years. Sadly, Sue passed away last year, but David asked that instead of including his name, we honour Sue by naming an operating theatre after her alone. All who pass through the doors will look up, see her plaque, and remember Sue's drive and dedication to improving the lives of cats and kittens.



RIVKA WAXMAN is a force of nature, and a devoted advocate of cats and kittens. Rivka has been a hands-on supporter, as Board Director and volunteer, for 25 years, and has the stories to prove it. Rivka has seen the Shelter move venues, change leadership, evolve and grow into Victoria's largest cat-exclusive shelter, and we are thrilled that Rivka travels across multiple suburbs to bring her own cats to our veterinary clinic, ensuring they receive the best of care.



ARLIS KEMPF has been supporting the Cat Protection Society for 25 years. Her expertise and tireless enthusiasm for animal welfare have seen her, as a member of the Board of Directors, guide the Shelter in its progression towards the fine facility we are now so proud to call home.

Think Cat Care?

Think the Cat Protection Society's Cat Friendly Clinic!

Dr Peta Keown, Head Vet at the Cat Protection Society of Victoria's Cat Friendly Clinic can still remember the moment that a cat was rushed into the clinic as a kitten, after having an accident with a trap.

"It was one of the most unique cases I've ever seen. The little kitten came into the clinic in an emergency rush and had severe damage to one of his back legs and tail. The only treatment that we could do was to amputate both his tail and back leg. He was so brave, and is still to this day, one of the best patients that I have nursed. He was up and around after 24 hours, and today, he is such a happy little cat."

The fondness that Dr Keown recalls when telling the story is typical of all of the cat doctors, surgeons, nurses and behaviourists at the Clinic, who love the cats in their care just as much as their owners do.

With only a handful of feline dedicated clinics in Victoria, that's one of the things that sets the cat-exclusive Veterinary Clinic apart.

You won't find dogs barking, or a menagerie of other animals seeking care. The Cat Clinic understands the unique needs of cats and has created the purrfect veterinary environment to cater for your feline friends. And now, thanks to the official stamp of approval by the International Society of Feline Medicine, the Clinic is Internationally recognised as a Cat Friendly Clinic.

"We are thrilled to have been officially recognised as a Cat Friendly Clinic in 2021. The clinic is staffed with Veterinarians and Vet Nurses that have an incredible passion for caring for cats and protecting the unique bond that exists between cats and their humans. We understand how to approach and handle cats with care, and have specialised equipment

to manage their unique veterinarian needs. We love cats just as much as you do" says Dr Keown.

The clinic offers a range of services in the state-of-the-art facility, including vaccinations and microchipping and treatment for the full range of cat conditions and illnesses.

"On any given day I can treat thyroid disease, renal disease, cat bite infections, wounds, vomiting, diarrhoea, cat flu, feline lower urinary tract disease, arthritis, dental disease, constipation, strange lumps, lethargy, behavioural issues, feline asthma, lungworm, skin conditions due to allergies and I even have a cat on epilepsy medication," says Dr Keown.

As it is only cats that the dedicated team see day in and out, the clinic offers specialised treatment for feline specific conditions.

The Clinic's Practice Manager Emilea says that everything at the clinic has been designed to minimise a cat's stress when visiting the vet.

"A cat-only clinic is ideal when taking your cat to the vet as loud noises, smells (such as doggie smells), and even lighting can affect whether or not your cat feels comfortable," she says.

Emilea says that the cat's stress often starts at home as a cat owner is preparing to take their animal to the vet, however there are two simple steps that can be taken to help cat owners prepare for the visit.



1. The stress starts at home when you try to put your cat into a cat box. A carrier with an opening from the top makes it easier to get your cat in and out and it is also less stressful then trying to pull them out of the carrier.

2. Cover your carrier in the car with a towel so that your cat feels like they are hiding and make sure that there is no loud music in the car.

Once your cat arrives at the Society's clinic, Feliway diffusers in the consultation rooms help to create a calming atmosphere.

According to Dr Keown, no two days are the same at the clinic, however the team of dedicated staff will all go above and beyond to make sure

your furry friend will be purring their way to good health.

"All of the cases we treat are unique, as no two cats are the same. For example, earlier this year I found part of a zip stuck in a cat's mouth! The poor thing hadn't been eating very well for a long time, and we discovered that the metal part of the zip was caught around a tooth and had remained there. The teeth appeared discolored and the gum was very inflamed. After it was removed however, the cat made a full recovery."

Based in Greensborough and located within The Cat Protection Society Adoption Facility, the Cat Clinic is open Monday to Friday by appointment.

You are also welcome to pop into the Society's café for a coffee or tea while you wait for your fur baby.

The clinic can be contacted on (03) 03 8457 6504

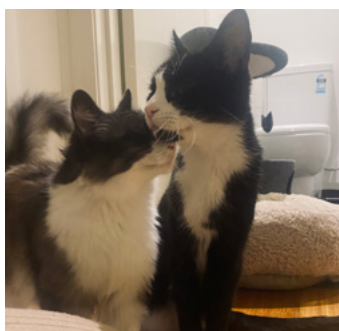
Find out more at www.catprotection.com.au/vet-clinic

Where are they now? Our favourite updates on our adopted cats



Turbo and Perry

“Hey Cat protection team! It’s been nearly a month since I adopted Turbo and Perry! (Turbo was originally named Popcorn but due to her Turbo jet nature she was renamed). I love them a lot and they are very sweet, I thought the cat protection team would be happy to see them progress, especially Perry. They are both curious cats, and Perry is doing well learning what furniture she can jump on, and has learnt to use the ramp to help herself up”.



Toothpick and Davie

“Hello! Toothpick and Davie are doing really well! Toothpick found herself right at home straight away but Davie has only just started opening up. But now he sleeps out in the open and walks around and shows interest in coming out to see the rest of the house. He also purrs constantly now and loves a good scratch under the chin! Toothpick is the sweetest girl and just wants snuggles all the time. They’re such beautiful cats and I’m so happy to be their new mum!”



Marlin

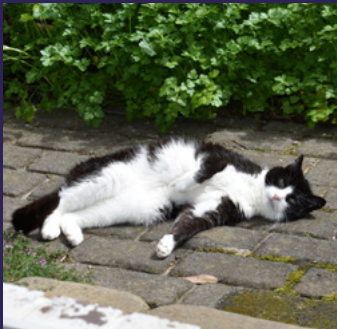
“Marlin has definitely settled in really well on the first day he was very scared and was hiding underneath the sink and would only come out to explore when we were out of the cat room. On the second day he was with us as soon as we opened the cat room door, he was purring and rubbing our legs and wrapping his tail around us. He was still scared of loud noises and the door opening on the fourth day of him staying with us, he was trying to get out of the cat room then we let him only explore the kitchen and the lounge. He would have a little explore but would always return to the cat room. When the kids returned to school he got used to the routine and would poke his head out of the cat room door when he knew when the kids were coming home and would come out of his room when they came back.

Now he has the full run of the house and loves stretching, rolling over and will be wherever we are. He greets us at the door by rubbing us and will wake us up with a big meow and jump up on the bed to get attention from us. He loves playing with streamers and will run full speed around the house at 6:00 am to show us how fast he can run. Marlin is a great addition to the family”.



Rosie

"We were lucky enough to adopt a little lady called Rosie from your facility. We wanted to say thank you to the team for introducing us to all your beautiful cats and assisting us with the adoption. I'm pleased to say little Rosie is settling in well to our home, there are endless cuddles and we love her to pieces already".

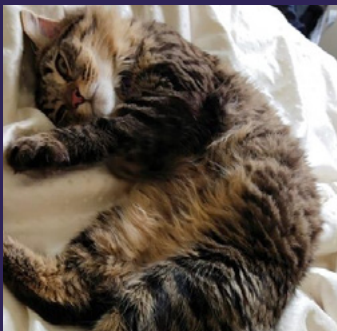


Chloe and Zelda

"It's exactly 2 years since I adopted Chloe and Zelda (was Esmerelda). My partner and I are so happy that they came into our lives! Because we are seniors ourselves we wanted senior cats and we ended up with two beautiful affectionate and gentle ladies.

Both obviously missed their original human but Zelda was desperate for love from the start. Chloe is quieter and more reserved but she has blossomed into a very affectionate cat who wants to be near her people all the time. They're both now on Zydax injections for a bit of arthritis (they are coming up to 16, after all) but otherwise in very good health. They still don't like each other.

Thank you for taking such good care of them".



Sage

Thank you so much for letting us have this wonderful baby boy in our lives. Sage, although at first wasn't interacting with me much in the shelter, when I brought him home he became a cuddle bug with a lot of affection, purrs and kisses! He is so playful and affectionate at the same time. He strolled through the house and felt right at home. He loves to just have space to roam and walk, and hasn't tried to escape the house at all which is a relief.

At first, I was also very worried about introducing Sage to Elise. Elise, our first cat, was very hesitant in the beginning. Sage (being the naughty boy he is), managed to escape from the study room into the living spaces several times (unintentionally) interacting with her.

...Lo and behold, we are only in day 3 and they are already sharing the cat tower?!

Thank you for having taken care of him the past month. Sagey-boy says hello and misses you guys!".

There is something about Meg!



For the majority of cats who find a forever home through the Shelter, it is a traditional household with a comfy couch and a cat loving human or two. However, this was not the case for cheeky, three-legged Meg who was adopted from our Society six months ago as she would never have settled for a 'standard' household as she is not a 'standard' kitty.

Meg is now the purrfect host cat at Lou Lou's Cattery and Small Animal Boarding in Bayswater North where she welcomes incoming pets and their owners every day. There she is loved by a big extended family including all the carers at the Cattery as well as all the boarding cats and their families who come to visit. With her constant hugs, kisses and purrs, precious Meg has melted the whole team's hearts and keeps them entertained by her hilarious quirks. This includes her adopted 'Mum' Jess Longley who owns the Cattery and the six other carers who are her 'Aunties'.

Five-year-old Meg is a social butterfly and was just made for the role, says Jess.

"It was really important for me to find the right cat to be the host of our Cattery. I actually couldn't sleep properly the two nights before I adopted her as I wanted to be absolutely sure that I adopted a cat who would love their role and the lifestyle that came with it. It is our job at the Cattery to make our cats feel comfortable and safe and I wanted to ensure that's exactly how our host cat felt too," she said.

"We lost our previous host, senior cat Rusty, four months before we adopted Meg. Before his passing he had been an animal loving host always making the cats that arrived feel comfortable and calm. We wanted our new cat to embrace the role too and to really enjoy it and their new home."

"I knew Meg was the right cat on our first meeting as there was just something about her. She is just beautiful and it was love at first sight. She seemed to warm to me straight away, but it was actually when a new group of people arrived at the Shelter and she deserted me and made a beeline for them, I knew she was the right cat for

us. She was seeking out the social interaction. We wanted a confident, social cat and that is what we found in Meg."

Jess needn't have worried if Meg would adjust to her new home, on a recent visit to the vet, the vet proclaimed that she could tell that Meg was one happy cat, which made Jess so thrilled to hear.

Meg is missing one of her front legs and when she was adopted was also overweight. Being overweight with three legs provides a whole set of new challenges as it is difficult for her to balance. Due to this it was important that Meg was adopted into the right home. As experienced pet handlers, Jess and her team did not see this as an obstacle and had no issues adapting to their new family member.

"When Meg first came to us she couldn't roll or sit properly due to her weight. When she lost some weight and learnt to roll she was thrilled with her new skill and would show it off regularly to us. Learning to sit has also helped her," said Jess.

"Having a disability does not stop Meg. It's really fascinating to watch her as she can weave her way into spaces that cats with four legs can't. You will find her running more than walking, as she finds it easier to move once she gets up speed. We've actually learnt a lot about cat care through watching Meg. She is a very clean cat and has adapted to ways of cleaning herself without her front paw. We've learnt new skills about caring for a cat with three legs, such as holding her in a different position than we usually would, she kind of just flops over your arm. We've had three legged animals visit the cattery in the past, so it really helps us when caring for animals in the same position," she said.

Like all workers, Meg does not excel at every part of her role. Jess has found that paperwork is not Meg's forte.

"Let's just say that Meg is not an office worker. She has a penchant for chewing paper and cardboard. I've never known a cat to love paper so much. So much so we've had to re-design our office space and put all our paper in tubs," she said.

"Meg really does have quite a mischievous side and can be naughty at times, I have had to teach her that some things are a 'no' as I don't think it is something she heard very often in her previous life," she said.

"Along with paper, Meg also loves her toys. She has one toy in particular that she is always playing with, and she always makes sure she puts it away afterwards. Apparently, I did this when I was a kid too," Jess said.

Jess opened the Cattery in 2015 when she swapped pirouettes for paws after being a dance

instructor. Jess' love for animals grew when she started volunteering with Animal Aid being spurred on to help after the Black Saturday Bushfires in 2009. From there she fostered kittens and then went on to volunteer and work in more shelters. Today the cattery looks after cats, rabbits and guinea pigs. During their busy periods they can house up to 35 to 45 cats, 40 rabbits and 16 guinea pigs which is when Meg is most in her element with so many new friends to make.

"We just love her, we can't believe how lucky we are, she keeps us entertained constantly. She is always interested to see who is coming in and what is happening. I've taught her to do high-fives with her one front paw, so she likes to high-five our customers. While Rusty was more focused on the cats, Meg is definitely more interested in people," said Jess.

It warms our heart to see sociable Meg thriving in her new role and home.

CAT QUIZ

1. Name the actress currently appearing in the Oscar-winning film The Power of the Dog, who also starred in the 2001 film by Peter Bogdanovich, The Cat's Meow.
2. What is the world's largest breed of domesticated cat?
3. What percentage of a cat's bones are in its tail?
4. What is the collective noun for a group of kittens?
5. What was the name of Cleopatra's favourite cat?
6. In the Harry Potter series, Hermione's pet is a cat. What is the cat's name and what colour is it?
7. What Andrew Lloyd Webber musical is based on a book of poems by T.S.Eliot? What is the book of poems called?
8. "Well! I've often seen a cat without a grin," thought Alice; "but a grin without a cat! It's the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life!" To which cat is Alice referring?
9. What is an adult female cat called?
10. According to research reported by PetKeen.com in 2022, a pet cat left to roam outside hunts and kills an average of how many mammals, reptiles and birds each year? 10 or 31 or 186?

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Kirsten Dunst, 2. Maine Coon Cat, 3. About 10%, These bones are called caudal vertebrae, 4. A kindle, litter or intrigue of kittens, 5. Tivoli, meaning gift from god, 6. Crookshanks, a Scottish name meaning bow-legged person, Crookshanks is orange, and is actually half-cat, half-kneazle, 7. Cats: Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, 8. The Cheshire Cat, in Lewis Carroll's The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland, 9. A Queen, 10. 186



How to avoid a cat-astrophe in the home

Cats by their very nature are curious creatures, known to explore dark, small places and novel items. They can also fit into the smallest of spots! Many gravitate towards confined areas that help them feel secure and protected. The problem is, they can sometimes get stuck. To ensure your whiskered wonders don't get caught it is important to make your home cat friendly and be aware of potential dangers.

We often hear of cases where kittens and cats get their bodies or heads stuck in items or household furniture. The CFA were recently called to a house in Doreen where the family cat had its head caught in a wire basket. Thankfully the cat was okay, but it did spark a discussion on social media on what to do if this happens to your cat, highlighting how often pet cats can get stuck.

Our Head Vet at the Cat Protection Society of Victoria, Dr Peta Keown wants cat owners to put strategies in place to prevent their kitties from getting stuck.

"In much the same way you would 'babyproof' a house, the same applies when you have a whiskered four legged family member. Responsible cat owners should assess the items in their home that could potentially cause a risk and make sure they aren't accessible to their kitten or cat," Dr Keown said.

"It is also recommended that you keep your cats indoors, and if they are allowed outside, have a designated area for them in a safe cat enclosure with a cat run connected to the home. You can also section off 'dangerous' areas within the home that you don't want your cats to enter, this is especially important when you have kittens."

"You may also find that a way to prevent your cat from seeking out unusual places to hide is to have a safe, dark hidey place for your cat to rest undisturbed. This could be as simple as a box up high. Cats love to have a place to survey the world and it would be a great place for them to relax if they need it," she said.

Some places that your kitty could get its head or body stuck are narrow furniture, wire baskets and trellis fences. If your cheeky moggie does find itself in a difficult situation, Dr Keown suggests your best contact should be your nearest veterinary clinic.

"The action you take will be dependent on the type and size of the household item your cat has become caught in. With time, most cats will actually free themselves. If you don't think this will happen, or there appears to be a risk of the cat being seriously injured or traumatised, your first point of contact should be your veterinary clinic and transporting your cat to the clinic if safe and possible to do so. Ideally, you should look for the quietest solution that won't cause your cat added stress," she said.

If this does happen you also need to watch for signs that your cat is not in serious harm, and it is not a life-threatening emergency.

“If your cat has an underlying health condition, you should always err on the side of caution and contact your veterinary clinic who will be familiar with your cat’s medical history and any signs you should look out for. If your cat is otherwise healthy, check they are breathing, you can tell this by their mouth being open and tongue out and they don’t appear to be in significant pain,” Dr Keown said.

There are also ways you can calm your cat if they are stuck, and you feel they are becoming distressed.

“Depending on the situation, you can cover your cat with a blanket or towel. Turning off the lights, reducing noise and any external stimulation will also help. Try and keep your

cat or kitten as calm as possible to prevent any further injury,” Dr Keown said.

“There is a chance your cat may injure themselves if stuck especially for an extended period. Injuries could range from contact sores to a fracture or break, especially if the cat is struggling and is highly stressed. There is also a risk of being mentally traumatised.”

“It is also important that cat owners keep themselves safe. You need to approach your cat slowly and remain calm. Your cat may act in an unpredictable manner if it is in pain or significantly stressed,” she said.

Like all things, prevention is much better than cure. As a responsible cat owner if you can be mindful and remove threats and dangers from your kitty around the home there’s less chance you and your cat will become unstuck.

ORGANISATIONS YOU CAN CONTACT OUT OF HOURS IF YOUR LOCAL VET IS NOT OPEN:

NIGEL’S ANIMAL RESCUE | Ph: 0427 533 083 (24 hours)

CARE: 24 HOUR EMERGENCY & SPECIALIST ANIMAL HOSPITAL
5 Hood Street, Collingwood | Ph: 9417 6417 (24 hours)



Now available for adoption

Can you provide a loving home to any of our cats awaiting adoption?

To learn more about any of the cats pictured, visit our website at www.catprotection.com.au/adoption



Bella
M/C: SUA009731
Female, 13 years old

Bella is a beautiful 13yo senior lady who is looking for her retirement village. She would love a quiet and easy going home where she can relax and keep her human company without stress and fuss.



Clover
M/C: STA009169
Female, 1 year old

Clover is a sweetheart who is a bit hesitant in new surroundings and may need some patience to settle in and feel comfortable in her forever home. Once comfortable you will find she is playful and affectionate. She would be best in a home without young children as she can become very focused and overstimulated when playing and may scratch or give them a nip. Clover needs to be your one and only as she has no tolerance with canines or other felines.



Coco
M/C: RSUA003270
Female, 6 years old

Coco is a very shy and quiet lady who will need you to give her time and patience to settle in and feel comfortable. Once comfortable you will find she is affectionate and friendly but does stress easily. Coco's perfect home is a quiet one with adults only and no other pets. She needs an indoor only home as she has never ventured outside.



Eddie
M/C: SUA009701
Male, 8 months old

Eddie is a stunning teenager who does not enjoy meeting new people or new environments. Eddie is a country boy who finds city life busy and noisy, he would love a calm and patient home that will allow him time to settle and feel comfortable. Once settled you will find him very sweet, calm and affectionate. Eddie is FIV+ so he will need to be indoors only for his safety and the safety of other cats in the area.



Fergus
M/C: RSUA009617
Male, 1 years old

Fergus is a handsome but hesitant young guy who will expect you to give him time to settle in. He does not enjoy changes to his environment but once comfortable you will find he is a sweetheart. Fergus is FIV+ so he will need to be indoors only for his safety and the safety of other cats in the area. *About FIV in Cats –FIV cats live many years without any health problems. FIV cannot be transmitted to humans, dogs or other pets. FIV can only be transmitted to other cats through deep blood-drawing bite wounds.* Being indoors only and having access to a cat run will reduce any possibility of him being attacked or fighting with another cat.



Gigi
M/C: SUA009722
Female, 4 years old

Gigi is a very friendly, affectionate, outgoing and independent lady. She loves to play and is quite inquisitive. Gigi has lived with another friendly feline and may consider sharing again.



Hagrid
M/C: SUA009769
Male, 5 years old

Hagrid is a quiet and shy boy in new surroundings and meeting new people, he would love a home that will give him time to settle in and find his feet. Once comfortable you will find he is friendly, affectionate and playful, he does enjoy the occasional game of fetch. Hagrid loves being brushed but does not like his tail being touched, he loves pats and a belly rub. He has little tolerance with children and a noisy home. A nice quiet life and a comfortable lap is his dream.



Hope
M/C: STA008986
Female, 2 years old

Hope came to us a terrified young mum with her three kittens. With obviously very little human contact in her short life, she struggled in the shelter environment. Hope and her family were placed into foster care to allow her to raise her kittens and learn what human love, kindness and a home is. Hope is quite happy around other cats, even a gentle dog is fine with her. She is now comfortable wandering around the house exploring and lazing on the window sill watching the world go by. She loves to play, have a pat and brush and a good scratch under the chin, but is still learning to accept cuddles. She would make an ideal friend for a confident cat, or an independent companion. She will take time to adjust to new surroundings, and needs a very patient and cat savvy human to win her over without rushing her. We feel she will bond with the right human and will be wonderful company for many years to come.



Infinity
M/C: SUA009671
Female, 2 years old

Infinity is a quiet and calm girl who just wants to be loved, she adores attention but does not enjoy a busy or noisy home. Her perfect home is without children or other pets, a home where Infinity is the centre of your attention.



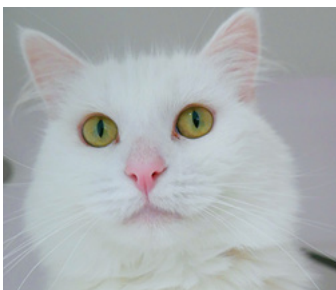
Lilac
M/C: SUK009838
Female, 8 months old

Lilac is a quietly curious teenager who would like to get to know you a bit before she gives you her heart. A little bit of your time and patience is all it will take for this beautiful girl to warm up and then snuggle up with you.



Polly
M/C: STA009310
Female, 3 years old

Polly came to us a very nervous stray with her kittens, she was scared and very unsure in the shelter so she was placed into foster care to raise her kittens in the peace and quiet of a home environment. Polly is now ready to find her perfect home and humans. She is still wary meeting new people and in new surroundings, but once she feels safe and comfortable you will find she enjoys pats, being brushed and playing. Polly needs an adult only home, one where she sits by the window watching the world outside. She does startle easily so a calm, quiet and patient home without any other felines or canines would be perfect for her.



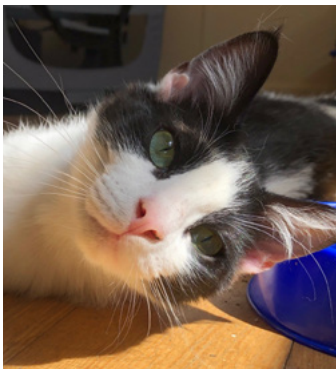
Portia
M/C: RSUA009539
Female, 5 years old

Portia is a stunning lady who adores attention and a lap to curl up in, she is very affectionate but also independent. Portia's perfect home is relaxed, quiet, calm and easy going. Portia will need to be indoors only to protect her nose and ears from sun damage.



Tammy
M/C: RSUA009539
Female, 1 year old

Tammy is a gorgeous and very sweet girl who is independent and happy with her own company. Tammy does not enjoy being smothered with love or meeting new people, but she does enjoy playtime. Tammy can be a bit unpredictable so would be best in a home without young children but would be happy to share her home with a feline friendly canine.



Texas
M/C: RSTA008721
Male, 1 year old

Texas came to us from a colony of cats. He was not used to humans, and certainly did not trust us. Shelter life was not for him, so we placed him in foster care. With long term foster care he is learning to trust, and Texas is now enjoying playing with his foster mum. Texas is still gaining his trust of humans, but we feel it's his time to go that final step with his forever home.

He is quite playful, and catch and stealing the toys is definitely high on his agenda. Food is a big winner, and will sit for treats from your hand, but sometimes your fingers might get in the road.

He is not an aggressive cat, but learning to play with a human rather than a cat, is something he is still learning. He is still not overly fond of being picked up, but if he does want a cuddle, he will smooch your legs, and a quick big purring cuddle is what you will get.

Texas will do well in a quiet home, with a confident feline friend, and has lived comfortably with a dog. If you are happy to have a companion, who will keep you entertained, but will take time to adjust, Texas is a beautiful boy. He is definitely worth the time and effort.

CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY SOURCE NUMBER BR100404.

All cats featured were available for adoption at the time of printing.

To confirm availability or to learn more about any of the cats featured, visit our website at www.catprotection.com.au/adoption or contact our Shelter Adoption team on **03 8457 6500** quoting the Cat ID Number.



THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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