

The Cat Protection Society

"Look at me, I'm as helpless as a kitten up a tree"
Misty - song composed by Erroll Garner



Story by Lisa Treen, Photos by Brett Boardman

Situated amongst the busy strip of restaurants and quirky shops of inner city Enmore, is a haven for abandoned and surrendered cats and kittens. The Cat Protection Society on Enmore Road (opposite the Enmore Theatre) is a tri level, modern facility dedicated to the care and re-homing of Sydney's cast-off cats.

The shop front and reception of the centre is bright and airy with administration personnel on hand to answer any questions about the centre and the adoption process. There's a range of cat care products for sale including bedding, feeding bowls, health products and toys-with a contemporary and colourful flair. Just behind the administration area is an atrium enclosed with tall glass doors and netting up the high exterior wall. It's an area where cats can have some open-air enrichment with multi-level climbing structures, hidey-holes and scratching posts.

Kittens are housed within a portable Catmax enclosure with cleverly designed napping areas and climbing apparatus. Awaiting upstairs are adult cats ready for adoption. Here you'll encounter a mix of moggies that have been through the centre's re-homing process. They've graduated from the quarantine ward, have been de-sexed, micro-chipped and treated for worms and fleas. Social cats get the opportunity to roam through this spacious, purpose-designed room. There's an adjoining space where visitors are welcome to interact, play and cuddle a potential adoptee. It's here that my long forgotten kitty-allergies start kicking in.



As the warmer months approach, the kitten population throughout Sydney explodes. On a bad day, a staggering 15 liters of kittens can arrive at the centre. The CPS's welfare officers respond to calls throughout the Sydney region collecting clusters of cats.

CPS's Executive Officer, Lynda O'Grady states, "Many cats become dumped once they are no longer cute kittens. They then become pregnant, as young as four month of age, and their kittens are born into desperate situations where the young mother has to forage for food and defend her babies. Many of these thin, bedraggled mothers come into our shelter with their kittens. They're usually covered with fleas, infested with worms and have a high risk of FIV (feline aids). We do our best to bring as many of these mothers and their kittens back to health but it's a long road to recovery."

De-sexing is essential to control the cat population so the CPS also provides an inexpensive service to vaccinate, micro-chip and de-sex your cat or kitten. A male is \$75.00; female is \$85.00; vaccination \$40.00; micro-chipping \$30.00. The de-sexing prices include pick-up and return of your cat or kitten by one of their welfare officers in their fleet of air-conditioned ambulances.

*See box on a random price comparison on de-sexing & micro-chipping throughout Sydney.



"There are two means of refuge from the misery of life - music and cats."
Albert Schweitzer

I meet Socks who is a mostly black male with-you guessed it-white markings on his paws. He came to the centre, was rehomed but has returned. The family who adopted him had another established cat and despite Socks' relaxed demeanour there were fierce feline fisticuffs. He's been awaiting a new home since last Christmas-with the upside that he has a temporary home where his health and wellbeing is assured.

Only a handful of cats return to the centre because the adoption process involves careful vetting, including a detailed questionnaire and adoption staff to match cats and kittens to suitable homes. All cats and kittens are \$120.00, having been de-sexed and micro-chipped, and each comes with an adoption kit which includes a carry box, information pack, collar and food bowl.



The Cat Protection Society was established by a group of concerned cat lovers back in 1958. It's been at the current premises since 1978 and was completely redesigned and renovated early in 2003. They work closely with local councils, legislators and the community to educate, improve standards and awareness on the responsible care and ownership of cats.

The centre survives solely on community support through their adoptions, memberships and donations. An annual membership is just \$20 and includes three issues of Cat Affairs, a 24 page magazine. Several doors down is the CPS's Opportunity shop which is entirely staffed by volunteers. All profits from donations of clothes and small household items go directly to the centre. They can arrange a pick up service for items you wish to donate.



Footnote: at time of publication Socks, after eight months, had found a loving home. The writer's sinuses had cleared and returned to their normal state.

The Cat Protection Society of NSW 103 Enmore Road Enmore NSW 2042
Phone: 9519 7201 Fax: 9557 8052 Email: info@catprotection.org.au Web: www.catprotection.org.au



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Price Comparison on De-Sexing & Micro-Chipping Throughout Sydney

We conducted research into the various prices of female and male de-sexing & micro-chipping from various veterinary practices throughout the Sydney area. Below are the price comparisons:

Suburb	female cat	male cat	micro chip
Alexandria	\$.186.35	\$.104.05	\$.54.50
Cremorne	\$.229.00	\$.128.98	\$.75.90
Collaroy	\$.100.00	\$.75.00	\$.47.50
Cronulla	\$.190.00	\$.95.00	\$.49.00
Double Bay	\$.180.00	\$.105.00	\$.45.00
Kingsford	\$.197.90	\$.110.50	\$.54.60
Kogarah	\$.165.00	\$.90.00	\$.46.95
Newtown	\$.185.00	\$.95.00	\$.55.00
Randwick	\$.275.00	\$.99.00	\$.38.00*
Seven Hills	\$.140.00	\$.75.00	\$.45.00

*some prices of micro-chipping reflect if the animal is under anaesthetic while getting de-sexed.