

## Mythbusters: Foster Caring Myths Busted



**Mowgli:**  
The Toughest  
Of Goodbyes

**The Problem  
With Sam:**  
A Year In Care

**Travelling Cats:**  
Sadie and Evalina's  
Excellent Adventure

Photo: Rachael Daniels/rachaelphotography.com





Photo: Rachael East/Ten Lives

## scratchingpost

Magazine of

Winter 2022

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Foster Caring Myths  
Busted



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**Travelling Cats:**  
Sadie and Evelyn's  
Excellent Adventure

ALSO: LOW STRESS CAT HANDLING • NEW NORFOLK OP SHOP OPENING • NEW VAN ARRIVES

## Cover

**Model:** Murphy

**Photographer:** Rachael Daniels

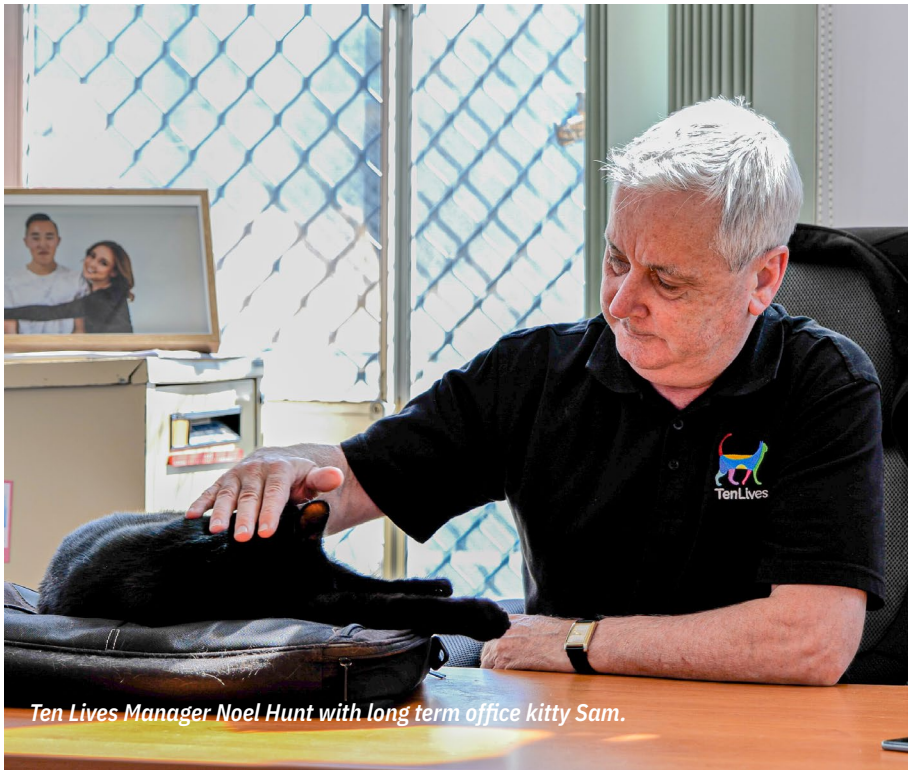
Akoya and Murphy came into the care of Ten Lives on the 13th of January 2022 as four year old bonded brothers who needed to be rehomed together. Both required extensive dental treatment before they were ready to be rehomed, and required recovery from their surgery in foster care. They became available for adoption on the 1st of March and were adopted after 11 days in the adoption rooms.



Akoya and Murphy's adoption photo

Every cat has a story. Are you part of it? **FOSTER** @tenlives.com.au





Ten Lives Manager Noel Hunt with long term office kitty Sam.

## Manager's Muse

Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of the Scratching Post.

Every cat has a story to tell and this edition is full of them, each benefitting from your support of Ten Lives.

Whether they are a week old or in their senior years, we say that a cat's tenth life starts the moment they come through our gates.

In this edition you will read such stories about Sam, Mowgli, and Crisco - three cats that have had huge impact on our staff and volunteers. Their stories show that there is no limit to the time or cost we invest in the cats that so desperately need our help.

This theme of second chances extends to our Op Shop cats and the updates we receive from cats that have been adopted - including the remarkable story of Sadie & Evi, who travel Australia in a campervan!

Please enjoy the read and thank you for being part of their stories.

- Noel Hunt, Manager

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# *We're building them a brighter future...*



## Building Project Update

**ARTICLE BY: Dave Noonan**

**A big shout out to all the fantastic supporters that have got behind helping Ten Lives achieve its goal to have a first class shelter to care for all the cats and kittens that come into their shelter.**

In a couple of tough years for everyone, you have been amazing supporting the team at Team Lives so this can happen. Every contribution has helped.

It has been frustrating that supply issues in the building industry have delayed getting stuck into the build.

The Ten Lives team have been amazing providing the best possible care in a facility that, quite frankly, desperately needs upgrading. Ten Lives have well and truly outgrown the facility given the amount of cats still coming into their care. At this time of the year the kitten numbers should be going down, but Supervisor Alisha was telling me that just after ANZAC Day they took in sixty kittens in just four days!

But everything is now in place. All permits and approvals are done. My great mates Craig and Josh at Podmatrix with their innovative approach to building are set and materials are coming in for the build. The fact that most of the build will be done off site, means

far less stress for the cats and kittens. Importantly you have supported the project.

It has been heartwarming to see so many great local businesses supporting the project and set to help make this project a reality; Clennett's Mitre 10, Elliott's Cranes, Steeline, Clark Windows, Energy Solutions, Tatnell Painters and Dulux. Great work from these great people.

This project is going to make a big difference to an important organisation carrying out a vital animal welfare job for our community.

Thanks everyone,

Dave - Ambassador for Ten Lives



# Can they **COUNT ON** your support?

Ten Lives would like to thank the following local businesses for their support of our Building Project:







# Mowgli: The Toughest Of Goodbyes

**ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY: Rich East**

We have a lot of happy days at the Centre. Kittens arrive and are nursed back to health, old cats find new homes, and humans find new family members. But, there are also sad days. This day was one of those days.

When Mowgli arrived at Ten Lives in August 2021 he had suffered a horrific injury to his tail. He was found by the side of the road in Dromedary. We're not sure of the exact cause but his tail had a laceration extending most of its length. The 11 month old was in immense pain.

With the injury not being able to heal itself, he was booked into surgery and the tail removed. We now had our own Mowgli bunny boy complete with stumpy tail.

The vet nurse comforted him as he woke up from surgery, sitting with him, stroking the back of

his neck as he became aware. We don't tally up the expenses. Or the time. Mowgli now had a second chance and that was all that mattered. Without his tail he could finally heal.

He was placed in foster and over the next 3 months three amazing

carers looked after him. He was now ready to find his forever home.

Back at the Centre, it was now when everyone got to know this boisterous cat, his personality hooked into your heart and just didn't let go. He was placed in our Welfare area which also serves as our daily Toolbox meeting room. As the staff and volunteers arrived, Mowgli would greet them one-by-one, letting them know that he did indeed run the place.

When Mowgli wanted to go outside we would hear about it, and hear about it again. Staff and volunteers would take him outside on the harness where he would soak up the sunshine (and washing).

Mowgli loved to play rough and you sure had to watch where your



**Head Vet Nurse Jen Pelham comforts Mowgli post surgery**





***Mowgli during one of his daily walks around the Centre***

hands were when playing with him. The memory of him chasing a cat toy around in circles with his legs spinning behind him like a car doing a burnout will always bring a smile to my face.

During the day, if anyone passed through to visit the toilets you could be sure Mowgli would try to sneak in to explore the 'forbidden water room', succeeding more often than not. In fact, it was Mowgli's desire to sneak out the main door into reception that got him into strife.

One time he was met face-to-face with Sam, our office cat at the time, who was not happy about Mowgli's venture into his territory and his want to contest it.

I share with you these fond memories because the rest of this story is hard to bear.

Mowgli didn't like other cats. It was for this reason – and his demanding nature – that made the task of finding him a home difficult. Weeks and months passed by with the only certainty being that when I arrived to work, I'd see his furry face at the morning meeting and hear his purrs as I picked him up into my arms.

As much as Mowgli had made Ten Lives his home, it wasn't his home. His home was out there somewhere, with a family

that could give him the life he deserved.

And, so we waited.

This is usually the part of the story where something special or good happens, but I'm afraid that's not the case today. A few weeks ago, I walked into our Toolbox meeting on a Monday morning and Mowgli wasn't there. I hear that over the weekend, a staff member walked in and found him on the ground convulsing and foaming at the mouth. Mowgli was having a seizure.

He was brought to the after-hours vet where bloods were taken, medication administered, and he was monitored over night before being returned to the Ten Lives Vet Team later on Monday. Seizures can be indicative of a range of conditions with isolated occurrences commonly related to toxicity – the Vet Team wondered if Mowgli had eaten something he shouldn't have on his walks.

Then a few days later he seized again, and again, with the episodes becoming more intense. The Vet Team continued to medicate him, but it was to little avail.

Coming out of his seizures Mowgli was confused and disorientated, pacing up and down the room. On one occasion he seized during a Toolbox meeting before being rushed into the Vet Room. Oh, how he hated it in there – everyone poking and prodding him when he just wanted to play with his toys.

The medication wasn't controlling his episodes, and Mowgli was becoming increasingly distressed and disengaged. The seizures were taking their toll and Mowgli was suffering greatly.

A decision had to be made on whether to leave Mowgli to suffer or to put him to sleep. A second

opinion. A third.

I spent some time with him. I picked him up and cradled him. He was docile and nearly falling asleep. I held him for 15 minutes. When I put him down he nipped my wrist, that spark returning for a moment.

The next day many of the staff and volunteers dropped in to visit him, to give him a pat, to hold him, his sleek, black fur soaking up the tears their eyes couldn't hold.

When I walked back into Welfare that afternoon he was gone. On my wrist a small tooth mark that will heal long before my heart will.

We are sharing Mowgli's story and celebrating his life because he meant so much to so many people, each one with their own unique connection with him. We are remembering those happy memories and are at peace that he is no longer suffering.

Yes, this was a sad day. But there will be happy days. From my office I saw the Vet Team bringing over a new bunch of kittens to the Adoption Room. Tomorrow they will be let loose, jumping and climbing all over the place as people wander through to meet them, and for many of them, that evening they will fall asleep in their new homes.

But, we will always remember our bunny boy Mowgli.





# Carolyn's Travelling Cats Take On Australia One Paw At A Time

Words: Rich East   Photos: Carolyn Rose

When Carolyn Rose decided to leave Hobart in her campervan to travel around Australia, there were a few furry faces she was not willing to leave behind. Sadie and Evi, who were adopted from Ten Lives back in 2017, along with older travel mate, Miss Meg, were along for the ride.

In 2021, the four said goodbye to their house and friends, and everything they knew about life together in the suburbs to embark on their adventure over Bass Strait.

Any concerns over how the four would adapt to life in the van were soon eased as they hit the road.

'I didn't have anything to concern myself about, it was just like moving house. After a look around and a look for all the hidey spots, they settled down', Carolyn said.

Disembarking from the Spirit of Tasmania, the three kitties were all keen for some breakfast and to start travelling again.

'The girls became very accustomed to the routine and knew the sound of the engine. They got into their spots and slept most of the driving.'

As the months passed, Carolyn got to see Australia through their eyes at every location they visited. Not even the Covid restrictions could hold them back.

'We were able to move small distances following the rules and generally enjoying the quieter life. I free park - which is parking anywhere following local parking rules. This enabled us to park in many beautiful places.'

They would spend a few days in each location, a beach or a park, and you can guess that the kitties would turn heads.

'The locals always come over to say hello to the girls. The girls love people, their children, and their dogs.'

The kitties have travelled far but to keep them and wildlife safe they don't get to roam. They are perfectly content to watch the world go by from inside the campervan. Although, Evi does enjoy some outdoor time on harness to savour the delights of a dust bath.

'Birds are also fond of coming up close. It's like they know there is a screen over the sliding door keeping the cats inside safe.'

Sadly, Miss Meg became seriously ill in NSW. Having lived her life to the fullest, she is now at rest in a friend's garden in Newcastle.

'She is very much missed however I am happy she was able to share some of our travels.'

With just the three of them, the adventure and life in the campervan continued. Sadie would scoot around the van as she played her favourite game of 'the floor is lava'. Evi, the more sensible one, would watch Sadie's antics. At dusk, the wildlife would come out and the pair would sit on the step looking out the door.

When it came to naptime, the dashboard is prime realty, though Sadie's preference is to be wherever Evi is. The cats have adjusted well to their new life, and are living happy, healthy lives. For Carolyn, the thought of leaving them behind never crossed her mind.

'My personal favourite times are when I can sit and look out on the beautiful landscape with the girls, enjoying watching the water, and living a peaceful life. I would never give them up.'

They have just completed a trip along the Great Ocean Road, and now they're heading back up to Queensland. One day, they'll explore WA and NT, but there's no hurry...

They're just taking it one paw at a time.

AUSTRALIA









# Cats In Op Shops Makes Life Brighter

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY: Rich East

*Volunteers, Vaiva and Anne, welcome River to his temporary home at the Ten Lives Argyle St Op Shop.*

**‘We do it because our volunteers and customers love it, and it’s a great opportunity for cats that may find it difficult in the shelter,’**

*- Noel Hunt*

You may have seen the colourful Ten Lives car (the Winkie-Mobile – named after one of the cats emblazoned on its sides) travelling between the Centre and our Margate & North Hobart Op Shops. We have a team of dedicated volunteer drivers who run donations and supplies between the sites as needed.

A few weeks ago, however, we had a gap in the roster and some precious cargo that couldn’t be kept waiting! 6-month-old tabbies, Olive & River, needed to be transported to North Hobart, so I put my hand up.

Olive & River are what we call a bonded pair; two cats that are deemed dependent on each other, who would not cope with

the adoption experience alone. The friendly and affectionate pair were surrendered to the Centre in early February and spent a week in foster care. They were vaccinated, microchipped, wormed, and desexed before being cleared for adoption.

So, there we were, Olive & River each in a carrier in the back of the Winkie-Mobile as I drove up to North Hobart.

We have had cats available for adoption from our Margate shop since 2019 and in North Hobart since its opening in 2020. It allows us to draw a stronger connection to our supporters and for them to see what Ten Lives is all about.

‘We do it because our volunteers



and customers love it, and it's a great opportunity for cats that may find it difficult in the shelter,' Ten Lives Manager Noel Hunt tells me.

As I walked into the shop with the carriers, Olive & River were greeted enthusiastically by Op Shop Volunteers, Vaiva, and Anne, who were keen to meet their new friends. Anne organised their food and water, while Vaiva placed them in their enclosure to explore.

Olive & River will spend most of their time in the large enclosure in the front window, watching the people walk by and snoozing in the sun. Though, it won't take them long to discover the impressive cat run which leads them high above the clothing racks and bric-a-brac treasures through to the back of the store. There, they'll find another enclosure where they can have some quiet time by the bookshelves.

On mornings before opening, the cats get to run around the shop. Though, as I'm told, it's sometimes a struggle to get them back into the enclosure. Sylvia, another volunteer, told me that one cat had them doing circles of the shop before the sprightly

feline thought it best to return for her morning nap.

When I asked Vaiva what she thought of having cats in the Op Shop she told me it just might be the best part of being there!

The customers agree, with many dropping in every few weeks to see the latest Op Shop stars, or to say hello again to a favourite, before rummaging through the bargains. Recently, a 1-year-old white tabby named Skittles spent 2 weeks at the shop before finding his new family, and before him there is a long list of furry faces with similar success stories.

Apart from the inclusion of our furry feline friends, our Margate and North Hobart stores are traditional Op Shops which raise much needed funds for the work undertaken by Ten Lives. They help fund over 10,000 vet procedures every year and provide hope for kitties in need. Yes, there are a lot of unique items to be discovered in store, but when it comes to cats, there are no impulse buys. Potential adopters who find a cat they love in our Op Shops must register their interest and wait 24-hours before they can take home their new best friend.



*Former resident kitties Bubbles and Willow hanging out at the North Hobart Op Shop.*

With Olivia & River settled into their temporary home, I returned to the Centre.

It was only 4 days later that I heard that the two tabbies had been adopted, another success story for our cats in Op Shops.

I asked Vaiva if it's sad to see them go. 'You do miss them sometimes but knowing that they are adopted; that's the main thing,' she said. Though, it won't be long before there's a new face in the window, eagerly looking down Argyle Street for who might come in to meet them!

Visit our shops at 1717 Channel Highway, Margate, 222 Argyle Street, North Hobart, and 37 High Street, New Norfolk - who knows what you might find. You might even find a best friend.

## TEN LIVES OP SHOPS



### MARGATE

1717 CHANNEL HIGHWAY



### NORTH HOBART

222 ARGYLE STREET



### NEW NORFOLK

37 HIGH STREET

**OPEN 7 DAYS FROM 10AM**





# The Problem with Sam

**ARTICLE BY: Rich East**

Since April 2021, many of the staff at Ten Lives had gotten to know a sleek young cat by the name of Sam.

He came to the Centre as a stray from the Huon Valley and was very frightened when the vets completed their initial examination.

Sam found himself in and out of foster care as he wasn't coping when he was brought into the adoption rooms. With the support of various foster carers, he slowly became more trusting, and his loving side shone through. Instead of spending all his time hiding under a chair he would sleep on the bed, or even a lap.

But there was a problem with Sam.

It seems that he didn't know

when to retract his claws, and at times accidentally scratched his humans during play. Not because he was aggressive or lashing out, but because he just didn't know he should retract them.

Sam returned to the Centre once more but instead of being placed in the adoption rooms he became the new office cat. The place of 'Office Cat' is reserved for cats that struggle with the adoption room environment and generally don't get along with other cats but are still available for adoption. We call them our problem cats – but deep down we know they just need some love and patience.

So, Sam made himself at home in Manager Noel's office and began the wait for his forever humans.

Sam was a difficult case in that



*Main photo: Sam in his favourite spot on the Manager's desk.*

*Above: Sam on Office Cat duty keeping an eye on the hoomins.*





he was not suitable for homes with other cats, small children, or anyone who doesn't have the patience to guide him through his claw issue. This is compounded by the fact that he was not getting the exposure other cats receive over in the adoption rooms.

After many weeks in Noel's office, we pushed Sam hard on social media hoping to get the word out, but as the months rolled by, we were left wondering if he'd ever find a home.

Sam is an adorable cat with a lot of love to give, he just needed someone who could provide that positive reinforcement during playtimes so he can overcome his problem.

On a sunny afternoon in March his day came.

A remarkable person named Susan visited the Centre and met Sam, and promptly fell in love. Much to the relief and glee of the staff and volunteers who cared for him, Sam was finally adopted 369 days after coming into our care. We were reassured that Sam wouldn't just be going to any home, and that he would be

spoilt rotten.

We didn't have to wait long before Susan sent us an update.

"This beautiful boy is the sweetest, most loving pussycat!", Susan said.

Sam had settled into his new home and had even found the perfect window seat to watch the chickens outside.

"We have had a great week with a small disagreement in the first few days regarding claws on my suede sleigh bed. We now have an agreement, and all is well", Susan told us.

The staff and volunteers were now assured that Sam had found the home he deserved.

"I'm so glad that I came out to Ten Lives to meet this young man", Susan told us.

It took over a year for that day to come, but for cats like Sam, it is worth the wait.

And as for Sam's little claw problem? With Susan's love and encouragement, Sam is learning how to behave himself and be the smoochy, loving cat that we all know and love.

*Above: Sam being adopted by Susan.*

*Below: Sam exploring his new home.*







# Say hello to our New Norfolk Op Shop!

ARTICLE BY: Rich East

Ten Lives Op Shops have become a much-loved part of the Hobart second hand community. With shops in North Hobart and Margate, it was with great excitement that we announced the opening of a new store in the 'Valley of Love', New Norfolk.

The store, which opened in early May, takes a prominent position along the busy High St amongst other second hand and antique shops.

"New Norfolk has always been a destination town for op shoppers and treasure hunters, so it is with great pleasure that we can be a part of that," says Manager Noel Hunt.



*The New Norfolk Op Shop has a retail section with dog and cat food, toys and accessories for sale*



“We are confident the new store will do well and be an asset to the community.”

But it's not just the bargain hunters that are happy. Our Op Shops generate much needed funds for the Centre, funds that assist with vital services such as surgeries and vet treatments.

“A bottle of Meloxicam costs around \$11. So, if you buy 3 t-shirts at \$3-\$4 each from the op shop, that pays directly for an item in our vet room. Every purchase helps our cats and kittens,” says Volunteer & Op Shop Coordinator Jonathan Harvey.

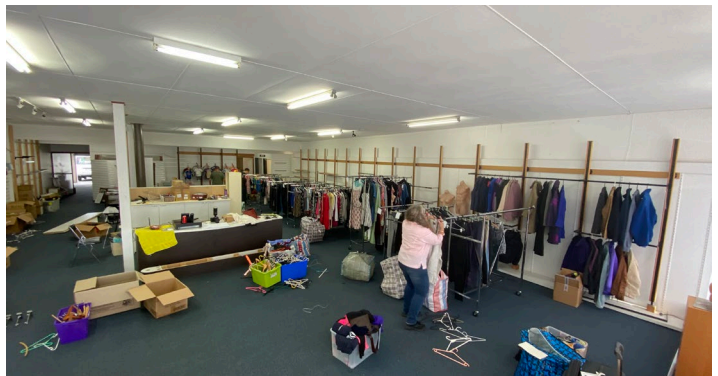
The new store will also stock a range of cat and dog supplies, including toys and food. Right now, there are no pet stores in the area with customers needing to travel elsewhere to buy premium food. The new store will fill that gap in the market, but also widen the reach of our key messages of cat containment and welfare.

As those who have visited a Ten Lives Op Shop will know, the store wouldn't be complete without a resident kitty. Just like our Margate and North Hobart stores, New Norfolk will feature a cat awaiting adoption.

“Having a cat onsite really sets us apart from other Op Shops,” Harvey said.

“It also reminds customers that their support is going directly to the welfare of the cats and kittens in need.”

Ten Lives would like to thank all the volunteers and staff who contributed to the opening of the new store, and that new volunteers who are interested in helping out should contact the Centre on 6278 2111 or visit [tenlives.com.au/volunteer](http://tenlives.com.au/volunteer)



*Above: The progress of the new Op Shop being set up. Below: Range of cat and dog toys and accessories for sale at the Op Shop*





# KITTEN CORNER



## WORD SEARCH

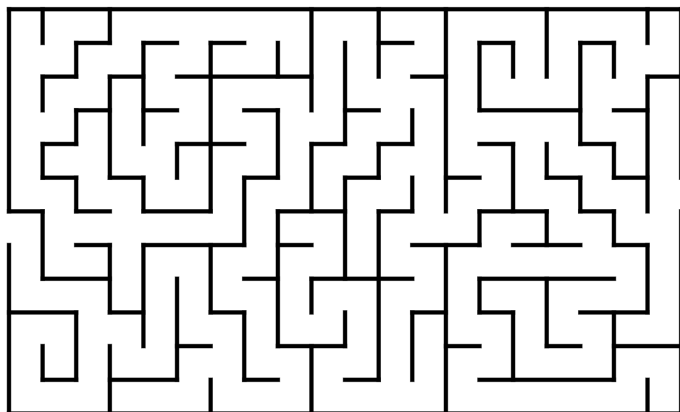
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 SCOTTISH FOLD  
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 TURKISH VAN  
 MUNCHKIN  
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Students at Sacred  
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 a movie day and  
 raised \$40 for the  
 Centre.

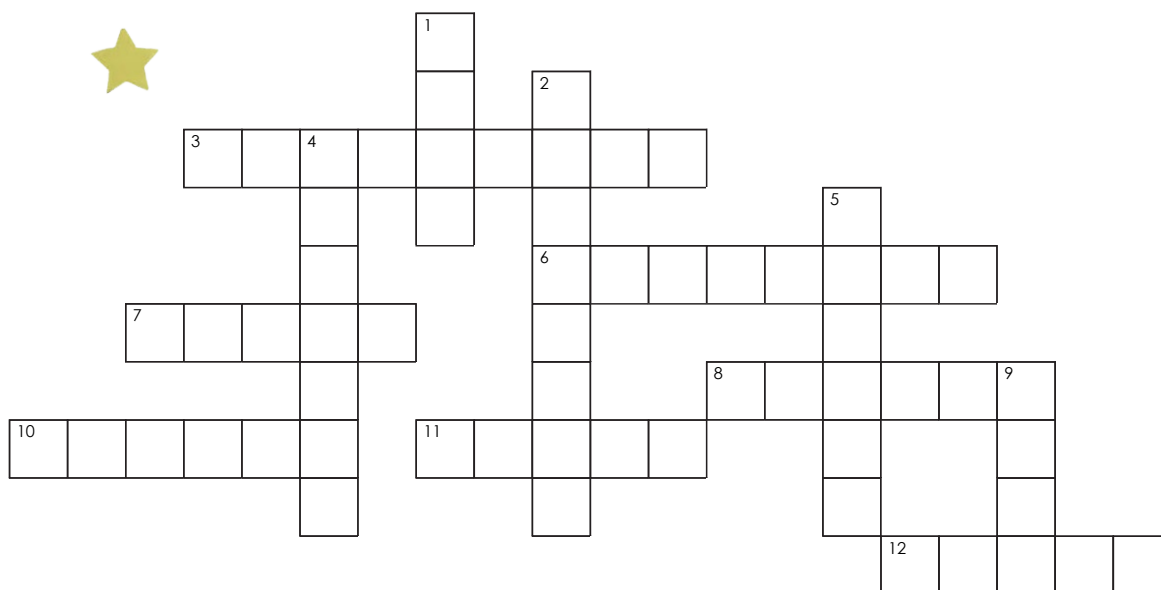
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 We hope this will he  
 Cats and Kittens.

From Sac  
 heart School  
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 indi Molly Grace  
 MiaRose





# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across: →

3. Implant used to identify your cat
6. Cats spend a third of their lives \_\_\_\_\_
7. Cats like to sharpen their \_\_\_\_\_
8. Plant cats are attracted to
10. Leap or jump
11. A cat without a home
12. Number of eyelids a cat has

## Down: ↓

1. Sound a cat makes to get your attention
2. Hairs used to sense their environment
4. A group of cats
5. A young cat
9. Sound a cat makes when they are happy

ANSWERS PAGE 20

searched  
as  
a  
old popcorn  
rised  
ation.  
elp the  
red

Sophia



Thanks Ten Lives for saving  
all the cats and kittens

## DID YOU KNOW

that you can bring the Edu.Cat program  
to your school? How cool would it be to  
have Ten Lives in your classroom!  
Ask your teacher or parent today!

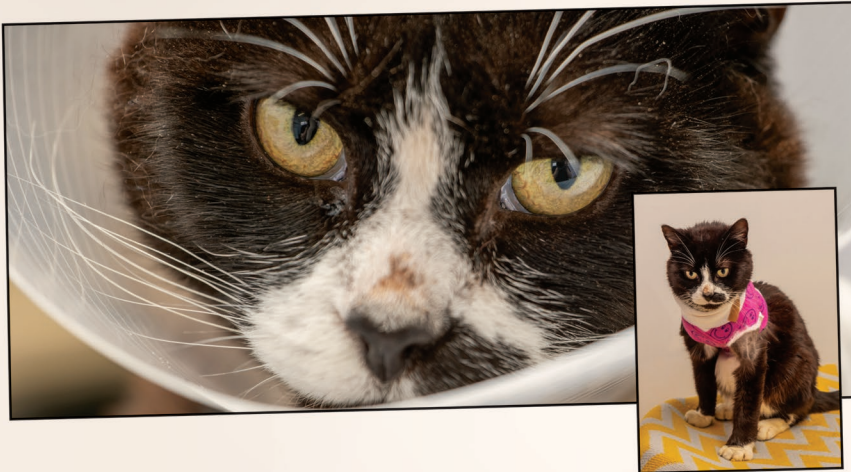
## Edu.Cat

[tenlives.com.au/educate](http://tenlives.com.au/educate)



# The Ten Lives Times

## Vet Team's Perseverance Brings Crisco Closer To Adoption



ARTICLE BY: Rich East, Ten Lives

When Crisco was found by the side of the road near Brighton, it was discovered that she had a horrific injury to her left axilla or armpit. She was promptly taken to Brighton Veterinary Services where her injury was assessed.

Staff cleaned up and clipped the hair around the wound and found it to be significantly infected and foul smelling. What was most concerning was that several maggots had to be

removed from the area.

She was administered pain relief, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatory medication. With a long recovery ahead of her and no sign of an owner, Crisco was transferred to Ten Lives.

A few days later and now in the care of Ten Lives, our Vet Team assessed Crisco.

The initial infection was now under control with help from the antibiotics and the horrible smell was gone.

On inspection, it was likely that the wound was caused by a collar injury. It's possible that she got the collar stuck on a branch and when trying to break free, ended up with her left leg through the collar. In the struggle, the area around her armpit became significantly abraded.

We will never know exactly how long Crisco spent struggling to get the collar off, nor how long she had been suffering with the injury afterwards.

Applying a bandage to a cat is both an art and a science. The difficulty of healing a wound on a mobile joint is apparent in how slow the progress is. Though, with the Vet Team's patience and perseverance Crisco would recover.

Every few days her bandages were changed and soon the wound had contracted enough to be operated on. Crisco underwent surgery and the Vet Team removed the scarred granulation tissue and closed the wound.

After 100 days of rehabilitation in Ten Lives' care, Crisco had fully recovered and was made available for adoption. 45 days later, her forever hoomins discovered her sweet personality, and finally Crisco found her forever home.



**At Ten Lives there is no limit to the time or cost we invest to ensure a cat gets to live a happy and healthy life in their forever home.**

The Ten Lives Vet Team is equipped to deal with cases like Crisco's onsite. This means that the costs associated with a procedure like this are limited to the vet time, anaesthetic drugs, theatre costs such as sterilisation equipment, oxygen, suture material, and also post op medications and care. Though, for more complicated procedures we have to bear the costs of sending patients offsite.

**For the extended rehabilitation of cats like Crisco, the cost can be thousands of dollars. That's why we created the Vital & Emergency Treatment Supporters Club. Members of our V.E.T.S. Club help provide ongoing medical care for the thousands of cats and kittens who come to Ten Lives each year.**

Members of our Vital & Emergency Treatment Supporters Club help provide medical care for cats just like Crisco. V.E.T.S. Club members also receive member benefits such as exclusive access to life in the Ten Lives vet room, monthly updates and feature stories, shop discounts, and a behind the scenes tour.

**Because Ten Lives receives no government funding we count on contributions from people just like you.**

**JOIN V.E.T.S. CLUB NOW at [tenlives.com.au/donate/vets-club](https://tenlives.com.au/donate/vets-club)**



FOSTER CARING

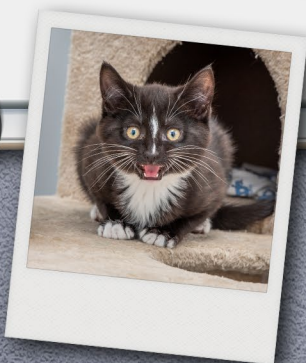
# MYTHBUSTERS!



**“I can’t foster care because I find it too hard to give the cat back.”**

This is probably the number one reason that cat lovers don’t try foster care. Yes, you will bond with your foster, but your love is just what they need from you. It is a hard but proud day returning your foster. It is extremely gratifying to know that you have helped a cat become ready for adoption. The Ten Lives foster caring community knows how you feel and can help you. You can also take your time dropping them off so you know they have settled in. You get to meet some very special cats when you foster. And if you simply can’t imagine life without your foster cat, why not adopt them?! Our foster family is full of foster fails!

Words by: Miranda Rogers



**APPLY NOW [TENLIVES.COM.AU/FOSTER](https://tenlives.com.au/foster)**





# A Q&A with Magnificent Maria

Office cat Crisco watches on as Maria packs an Edu.Cat prop cat to take to a school visit. PHOTO: Rich East

**Maria Moore is one of Ten Lives team of volunteer facilitators who visits Tasmanian schools delivering our Edu.Cat education program. Edu.Cat is an exciting Australian-first Kinder – Year 7 Curriculum aligned feline education program focusing on fostering responsible cat ownership with the aim to create social change in how people care for cats and protect wildlife.**

**How long have you been volunteering with Ten Lives and what is your role?**

I have been volunteering

since Dec 2020 in the Edu.Cat program, delivering the Edu.Cat program to schools and at events.

**Why did you decide to volunteer with Ten Lives?**

I had been a foster carer for a few years, and retired in Dec 2020. I decided to give Edu.Cat a go after having a chat to Rose Bray, the Edu.Cat coordinator.

**What are you doing when you're not at Ten Lives?**

Generally looking after my own animals and any foster kittens I may have.

**What does a typical day volunteering look like?**

A typical day will involve

travelling to a school and delivering a session to a class. I also help out with admin or working with Rose to develop the teaching materials. I have also helped out with letterboxing for Ten Lives community projects.

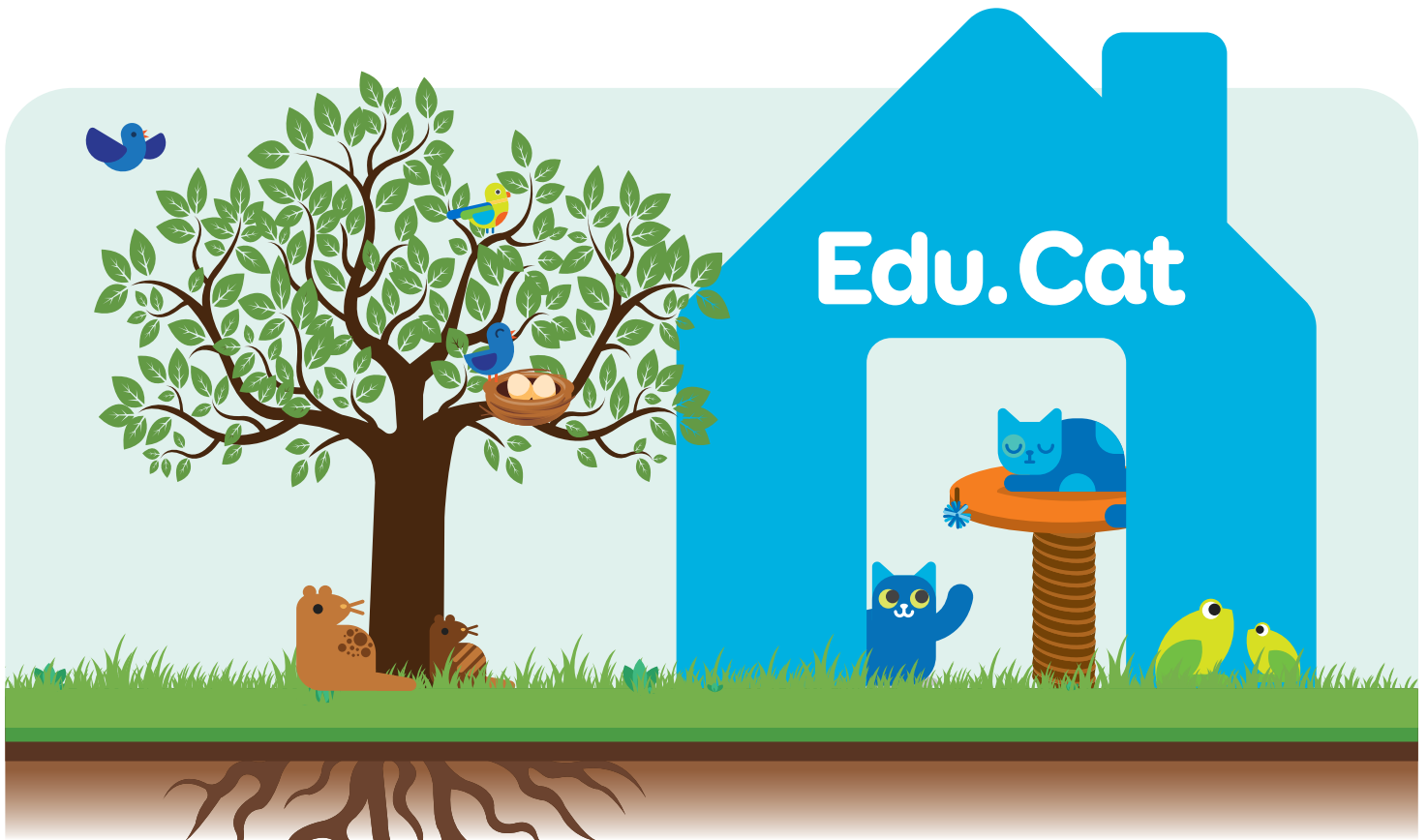
**What surprised you most about volunteering with Ten Lives?**

The number of good friends I have made at Ten Lives. I was also surprised by how I took to teaching, and how much I have come to enjoy it.

**What advice would you give to volunteers starting out at Ten Lives?**

Do it! There are so many different things to do and try.





## Inspiring students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



Promoting responsible cat ownership to create lasting social change in how people care for cats and protect wildlife. It all begins with education!

# BOOK NOW!

[edu.cat@tenlives.com.au](mailto:edu.cat@tenlives.com.au)

## The 1, 2, 3... of Edu.Cat



2. Optional - Pre-assessments emailed to you 7-10 days prior to the incursion



3. Incursion - Engaging and interactive curriculum linked incursions run by Edu.Cat facilitators. Edu.Cat STEM Teacher Guides, student workbooks and certificates provide to classroom teachers



4. STEM Challenge - Post Incursion, students complete the curriculum linked workbook activities and STEM Challenge with their classroom teacher



5. Optional - Free Tour Book a behind the scenes tour of Ten Lives



6. Rebook Edu.Cat for the following year

### 1. Book an Edu.Cat Incursion

[edu.cat@tenlives.com.au](mailto:edu.cat@tenlives.com.au)  
Ph: 6278 2111





**Foster Feature:**

# Low stress handling

*How to  
reduce  
stress for  
our foster  
cats*

**ARTICLE BY: Jen Pelham, Ten Lives Head Vet Nurse**

By the time the cats/kittens arrive at Ten Lives, they have already been through a lot of changes and have experienced many stressors such as;

- Being placed in carrier
- Car rides
- Leaving the familiarity of their home environment

Obviously stray cats can have had a lot tougher time than that.

Once they are in our care, despite our best efforts to reduce stress, some stressors are unavoidable. These stressors include;

- New environment
- New aromas
- New sounds
- Surrounded by other unfamiliar cats
- Change in diet



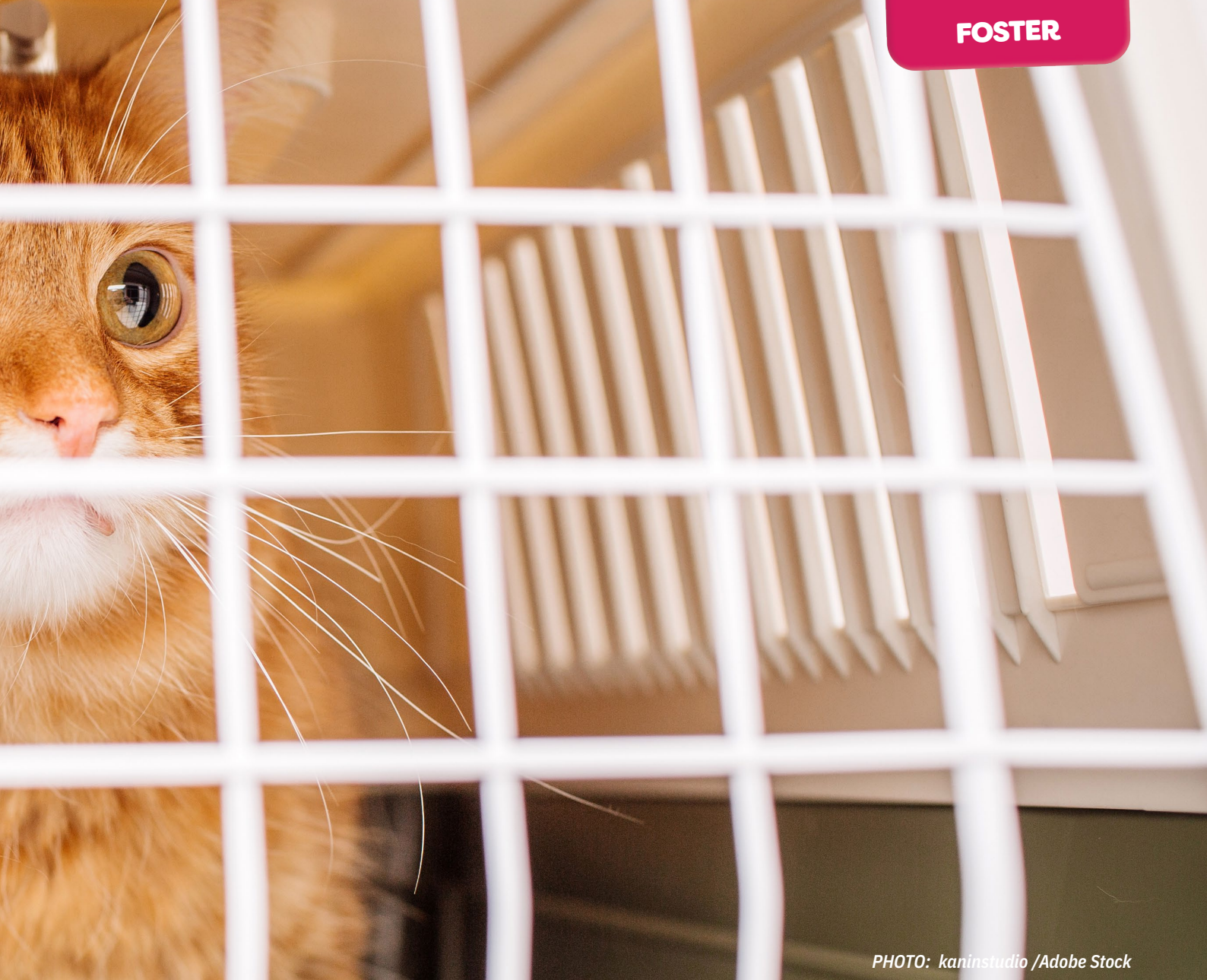


PHOTO: kaninstudio /Adobe Stock

- Interaction with unfamiliar humans
- Physical examinations - being poked and prodded by the vet team

Then when our cats/kittens are ready to be placed into foster homes they face new stressors.

Whilst this is the best option for them medically and behaviourally you can appreciate just how all of these changes can cause anxiety and stress in our cats/kittens.

But as foster carers you can help to reduce the amount of stress by following a few simple steps;

- Ask us for a feliway defused blanket(s). Feliway is a synthetic pheromone that has a calming effect on cats.
- Set up a safe space for them prior to taking them home.
- Allow them to exit the carrier and explore their new environment at their own pace.
- Ensure they have boxes and/or places to hide/retreat.
- Don't place their food and water bowls too close together. Place the water bowl 3-5 feet away from its food bowl. Naturally cats do not like their food bowl (and it's scent) to be near their water source and may drink less if they are. In the wild, mixing food and water often results in bacterial growth and illness. The act of searching for the different bowls in different places can feel more natural to a cat.
- Provide 1 x litter tray per cat PLUS one extra (this is the minimum we recommend.) Create a routine (where possible) cats like routine, it helps them to predict 'stressful' events and know they can relax afterwards. This helps them to cope.
- Avoid introducing them to anyone else (people and other animals) for the first few days until they are more relaxed in their safe space. Doing so allows them to adjust to the new environment.





ARTICLE BY: Jen Pelham, Ten Lives Head Vet Nurse

## Foster Feature: Medicating cats - low stress techniques

### No Scruff Zone

At Ten Lives we greatly appreciate foster carers and your care of our cats, especially so when medicating them is required. Without your help, we cannot treat them, get them healthy and ultimately adopted. But we understand that medicating our cats isn't always easy.

One of the best ways to make medicating easier is to practice low stress techniques. Cats are

easier to medicate with a 'less is more' approach and positive reinforcement.

You can make administering medications easier for you and less stressful for the cat(s) by;

- Talking softly to your cat
- Using calm and slow movements
- Medicating at a regular time in the same place
- Medicating them in a spot away from their food or hiding spots (these are their safe places).
- Offering a reward after medicating them.

If they associate the medication with some positives experiences that balances the negatives.

Choose a reward that is of high value to your cat. For some cats

this is food, others prefer stroking and petting and for kittens play is often valued highest.

If your cat values food as the highest reward, remember to keep treats to small amounts to avoid upsetting their stomach e.g causing diarrhoea or vomiting. Cooked chicken breast, no bones or skin, is often a safe treat to use. Please feel free to ask the vet team about an appropriate food reward that is suitable for their condition, age and dietary requirements. Never use cheese or dairy milk as some cats are lactose intolerant, or uncooked meat as a treat.

If you need more than a reward to medicate your cat, we recommend you try wrapping your cat gently in a towel, as a form of gentle restraint. A towel wrap or kitty burrito is a great way to help administer





PHOTO: Cubodeluz / Adobe Stock

*Mothers only grab kittens by the scruff of the neck to transport them and never for discipline.*

medications in a gentle manner that is both quick and safe. The vet team is more than happy to show you how to do this.

Why we do not scruff;

At Ten Lives we advocate gentle low-stress handling and we do not use 'scruffing' as a form of restraint. Scruffing is the term used to describe restraining a cat by firmly gripping the loose skin at the back of the cat's neck. For a long time it was believed that cats didn't mind being scruffed as it mimicked the behaviour of the mother cat (queen) who will carry her kittens by the scruff to move them to safety.

When a mother cat does this, the kittens go limp due to a flexor reflex. This reflex is only present during the first weeks of a kitten's life. Mothers only grab them by the scruff to transport them and never for discipline. Cats have pressure sensors in their teeth

and so she knows the precise pressure to place on the skin at the back of the neck without hurting them. You may have witnessed this incredible control, like a cat holding an insect in their mouth and when they let it go it is unharmed. Similar control is seen in a cat 'play biting' without breaking the skin.

The only other times cats are grabbed by the scruff of the neck is during mating, fighting and when being attacked by a predator. I think we can all agree we don't want our foster cats to think we are doing any of these things to them.

Being scruffed as an adult cat by a human is intimidating and leads to negative emotions. Scruffing causes fear and panic and provokes or escalates defensive aggression. Research has shown that cats struggle more when being heavily restrained than

when being lightly restrained. A heavy restraint is actually counterproductive and compromises the welfare of the cat.

Remember that scruffing cats can create lasting impacts on them, such as;

- Increase their level of fear and anxiety around ALL people
- Create negative associations with you and can ruin your bond
- Impact on their recovery from illness, as stress lowers their immune system

I hope you have found some of these tips insightful. When used, low stress techniques and positive reinforcement can make your role as a foster carer easier AND help to reduce stress in your foster cats' lives.





# Customers benefit from new shopping experience

*The Ten Lives Shop is moving into the 1980's and finally installing barcode scanners! Not only will customers get a faster checkout, a new customer loyalty program is here - and you're invited to join!*





Retail Assistant Eliza explaining Milbemax worming treatment to a customer. PHOTO: Rich East

Ten Lives Shop customers will notice a big change next time they visit. We have recently installed barcode scanners and dedicated POS software to make the shopping experience more pleasant and quicker for both customers and staff. The new software will also allow us to have a loyalty program for our customers.

The Ten Lives Shop has all the essentials including Hill's Science Diet food and Catmate litter. Also stocking

bowls, collars and harnesses, beds, toys both traditional and interactive cat toys, scratching posts, carriers and preventative treatments. There are also cat-related items for humans such as homewares, games and jigsaw puzzles which all make great gifts.

To find out more about our shop or joining our loyalty program visit [tenlives.com.au/shop](http://tenlives.com.au/shop)

# SHOP

New range of giftware  
in store now!



**Cat Measuring Spoons**

**\$22.99**



**Cat Measuring Cups**

**\$34.99**



**Cat Lady Mug & Bowl**

**42.00**

#shoptenlives





The new "Mowgli-Mobile" arrives at the Centre PHOTO: Rich East

# On The Road

## Grant helps fund new transport

ARTICLE BY: Rich East.

There are a few new faces you may have seen driving around the streets of Hobart. In April we unveiled the artwork for our new delivery van, featuring cats Mowgli and Barry.

The vehicle was acquired with the assistance of Andrew Wilkie MP, who nominated Ten Lives for a Stronger Communities Grant.

Mowgli and Barry were chosen to

feature on the van as they both have a special place in the hearts of Ten Lives staff and volunteers. Barry overcame many obstacles on his way to finding his forever home, and Mowgli was a cat with a larger-than-life purrsonality that touched us all in the short time he was with us.

The van will allow us to not only transport goods between our



Andrew Wilkie MP has been a long time supporter of Ten Lives, pictured below on a recent visit

North Hobart warehouse and Op Shops in Margate and New Norfolk, but also contribute to a broader range of community initiatives.

We would like to thank Co-Op Toyota for preparing the vehicle for us, and Andrew Wilkie for his ongoing support of Ten Lives and for his dedication and passion for animal welfare.





# Richmond Cat Management Community Project Continues

Since commencing in 2020, the Richmond Project has provided a proactive and progressive approach to cat management in the Richmond village.

Here is a recap of the project and progress to date, along with an update on our next steps.

Ten Lives data had shown that there were several areas in Tasmania with concentrated numbers of cats and kittens that were being brought into Ten Lives. Richmond was identified as one of these hotspots and taken on as a pilot town for what we intend to be a much broader initiative.

The holistic approach to cat management involved extensive community consultation including surveys, leaflet drops, and simply walking the streets to talk to locals. Microchipping days and information sessions on cat management were also held in

the local hall.

Successful targeted trapping operations with great support of community volunteers were carried out. Direct support was provided to individuals who were faced with the challenge of too many cats on their property.

Education is a vital aspect of the project with our education team delivering our Edu.Cat program to the local schools.

Key to the project of course, is the successful adoption of desexed, microchipped and vaccinated cats and kittens into caring homes. This makes us very happy!

For Richmond, community consultation will continue.

Watch out for our community survey; we are keen to hear from you.

We will soon be conducting camera surveys again to gather

valuable data on cat numbers and activity in the area. This is important so that we can compare this to initial surveys carried out at the beginning of the project.

We have reengaged our fantastic volunteers so that we will be ready to again do some targeted trapping. It is important that we do this prior to the breeding season so we can minimise unwanted litters in the community.

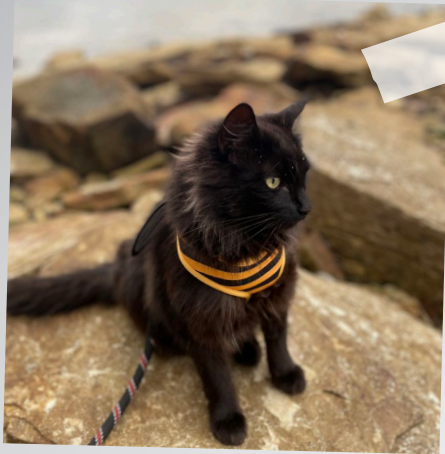
We hope to have the opportunity to provide an update to Clarence Council on the success of the project to date.

We have shown that this holistic approach to cat welfare and management is a viable solution, and we look forward to getting more support from the appropriate areas of Government so that we can extend the project to additional hotspots.



# #catsofnewtown

Every cat has a story.



SGT TIBBS

"I visited Ten Lives looking for the right cat a couple of times but it was on the third go that I found my boy, he was the only fluffy kitten there and was so cute and black and came and rubbed up on me straight away! I remember the sign said he was a bottle fed baby and a bit clumsy and that he had fallen in the sink at feed time and I thought that was the most adorable thing and he needed to come home with me. He is happy in a car for road trips and good in harness and we have had many beach adventures as well as spending the whole week at Hobart Show in Life on the Farm being patted by heaps of people. He explores around the stables of a day, getting on with the horses and being loved by everyone that visits for a ride and is happy to sit on any lap he can. He always sleeps in the prime spot on the bed at night."

- Kirilee, Sgt Tibbs's hoomin. Adopted Feb 2018

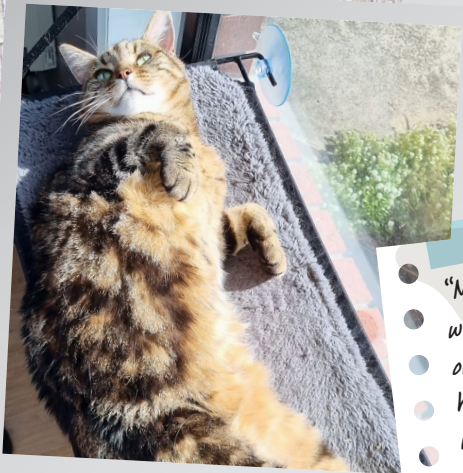
"After a brief stint fostering, we decided that we were ready to adopt and knew that we wanted a bonded pair of adult cats. We had been stalking the Ten Lives website daily and noticed two cats, Rory and Oliver. Rory was inquisitive and friendly straight away but Oliver, who is quite shy with strangers, took a while to come out and approve us as his new humans. Now named Patchy (Rory) and Moose (Oliver), these two cats have completely taken over our house. They have completely different personalities. We couldn't love them any more if we tried."

- Danielle, Patchy & Moose's hoomin. Adopted Jul 2021

📷 @patchwork\_moose



PATCHY & MOOSE  
(FORMERLY RORY & OLIVER)



MOWGLI

"My partner and I had a geriatric cat (Fudge) before Mowgli, and we had big plans of fostering to give us a break from owning our own cat. After we'd applied to foster, we went into Ten Lives to "just have a look" about a week after Fudge's passing and fell in love with Mowgli. We took a couple of days to set up our spare room for her, and she's been spoiled ever since! Mowgli has been spoiled ever since day one. She loves her food, being picked up, scratches and she's otherwise very happy to watch the world go by from her windows seats."

- Eliza, Mowgli's hoomin. Adopted Feb 2021

Nala and her bestie Bella!







NOGGIE & PUDDING

"We happened to be looking for a new addition to the family over the Christmas period, and of course kittens were flying out the door, we'd missed out on a few litters but made sure we were there at opening to meet Tara (now Noggie) and her litter mates. Noggie is such a funny, sweet girl, not one for being picked up but loves being around everyone and is realising ear scratches are pretty great. She loves her big brother Benson the border collie more than anything (including us!) and is learning how to cat from big sister Pudding. She's obsessed with water, even hopping in the shower with us and curling up in the sink for the washing ups been done"

- Kirsty, Noggie's hoomin. Adopted Dec 2021



BEANS & LOLA

"I wasn't exactly looking to get any pets at the time but I'd been thinking about getting a cat for a while and just on a whim I went in to the cats home and found beautiful Lola and adopted her. I buy the Catmate litter from Ten Lives and every trip to get more I always say hello to the cats and that's how I got Beans previously known as Onyx. Lola settled in surprisingly well even though she was a tad bit shy but she very quickly made my bed her own and beans was just super easy he loved everything."

- Kaylee, Lola & Beans' hoomin. Adopted July & Oct 2021

"Ruby, formally Molly, settled in from day one. She quickly established a bond with us and was purring and coming for cuddles within no time. She now plays games of fetch, running after, chasing and carrying her toys from one end of the house to the other. And comes running when her name is called. She has been the sunshine that we have needed for a while. We love her to bits."

- Kelly, Ruby's hoomin. Adopted Apr 2022



SAMSON

"We just came in for a look one day and just happened to find Samson. Samson settled in well and got along well with our dog Milo. Our other cat Turbo wasn't too fond of him at first but he tolerates him now and they sometimes sleep on the bed together. We have now had Samson for a bit over two years now."

- Sophie, Samson's hoomin. Adopted Feb 2022



RUBY

## Are You Part of It?

How has YOUR Ten Lives kitty settled into their forever home? We'd love an update!

Jump online and send us your cute cat photos and stories at:

[tenlives.com.au/media-upload](https://tenlives.com.au/media-upload)

Simply select the 'Scratching Post' option under the media field.





# SHOP

Catmate

## Wood Pellet Litter (FOGO Bin Friendly)



- Organic. Eco-friendly. FOGO bin compatible.
- Made from recycled wood waste otherwise destined for landfill or burning.
- Long lasting odour control & pleasant pine smell
- Safe – no added chemicals.
- Locks in moisture and absorbs up to 3-4 times its own weight. Less dust, less mess.
- Bio-degradable & compostable.
- Natural wood product once used breaks down to sawdust.

**\$12<sup>00</sup> 7kg**

**\$23<sup>00</sup> 15kg**

## Save \$\$\$ & time with a sieve tray!



- Simply scoop out poos and shake the tray side-to-side for wees.
- Separates soiled litter from clean litter with ease.
- Creates less waste so you buy less litter!
- Available in charcoal or cream to suit most décor!

**\$29<sup>00</sup>**

## Catit Senses 2.0 Wave Circuit



- 25 cm long with 100+ layouts to provide diverse playtime experience.
- Encourages curiosity and activity.
- Peekaboo design to satisfy cats' natural hunting instinct.
- Easy to assemble and clean.

**\$29<sup>99</sup>**

## Digger



- Stimulates cats to work for their food in a fun manner and promotes health.
- Easy to insert food in various tubes for your cat to smell and paw out.
- Small convenient design, easy to clean,

**\$32<sup>00</sup>**

## K&H EZ Mount Window Bed



- Instantly turn any window into a cat entertainment centre.
- Completely open top half pod design gives cats easy access to climb in & out.
- Proven suction cup mounting system attaches to any window in seconds.

**\$66<sup>00</sup>**

## Kitty Sill with Bolster



- Provides your cat with a front row view of nature, weather, people and more without taking up valuable space.
- Added bolster for additional security & comfort is easy to install and clean.
- Allows use of blinds when folded.

**\$88<sup>00</sup>**

100% of funds raised from our shop stay right here at Ten Lives so your purchase helps a kitty in need!