



## Together we thrive:

Creating change  
for cats and the  
community

### Confessions of a Foster Fail:

When foster turns  
into forever

### Hello Rosny Park:

New Op Shop on  
the Eastern Shore

### Building for Success:

Shelter improvements  
for long term and  
high care kitties



## Cover

Model: Aqua

Photographer: Joel Diprose

On April 22nd 2025, Aqua came into the care of Ten Lives and spent time in foster care while she recovered from a few early challenges. After a couple of bumps along the way, her happy ending arrived on August 28th when she was adopted!

**Read her full story on Page 4.**



Aqua's intake photo

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



Ten Lives CEO, Noel Hunt, with Happy Paws Happy Hearts Business Development Representative, Louise Harrison, taking a tour of the Centre during a recent visit.

## CEO's Corner

In this edition, we highlight the progress made possible through the dedication of our team and the support of our community.

Every volunteer, staff member, foster carer, and supporter plays an important part in the care and outcomes we achieve.

Stories like Bambam's capture the heart of what we do, showing how care, patience, and teamwork can change a cat's life for the better. Behind every success are people who give their time, skills, and heart to ensure cats in need are never without care.

Our facilities continue to evolve to meet the needs of our growing organisation. Recent improvements have made our spaces more efficient and better equipped for treatment, recovery, and day-to-day operations, helping our team deliver the best possible outcomes for every cat.

Together we are creating lasting change, not only for the animals in our care but for the wider community who believe in a kinder future for cats.

Thank you for being part of that change.

Noel Hunt, CEO

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**Aqua and Aquia are sisters who came into the care of Ten Lives just 13 days apart after being found near the Hobart Aquatic Centre.**

Aquia, around eight weeks old, was the first to arrive after being discovered by a passer by in early April. At this age, gentle and consistent handling is important to help kittens

# Aqua & Aquia





adapt to people and new surroundings. Under the guidance of our operations and veterinary teams, she began her recovery in foster care.

Aquia needed time to adjust and overcome some early health concerns, but steady routines, a calm environment, and patient interaction helped her gain confidence. It wasn't long before she was seeking attention, playing readily, and exploring her space. Her foster carer followed a structured plan developed with staff support, designed to help her become comfortable with people, sounds, and daily routines. She was soon greeting her carer with a steady purr, chasing toys with enthusiasm, and investigating every corner of her room.

Her sister Aqua was found nearby less than two weeks later. At around ten weeks old, she was the more timid of the pair and needed a little extra time to build trust and settle into care. With calm handling and gradual exposure to new experiences, she began to relax.

Aqua's progress was steady and rewarding to see. As her confidence grew, her affectionate nature emerged. She enjoyed being held and was known for her quiet meow, gentle purr, and striking amber eyes that gave her a graceful, almost regal presence. She became a favourite among the team, often sitting patiently to watch what was going on around her.

By the time both kittens were ready for adoption,

they had made remarkable progress. Aquia's playful, inquisitive nature and Aqua's calm confidence reflected the benefit of professional, well managed care and the dedication of trained foster carers and staff working together.

Their story highlights the love, care and expertise behind every cat's journey at Ten Lives, from veterinary assessment and tailored care through to rehabilitation and adoption. Each step is carefully planned to give every cat the best chance to thrive in their new home.

**If you find a cat or kitten, contact Ten Lives on 6278 2111 or visit [tenlives.com.au](https://www.tenlives.com.au) for advice before taking action.**



Main Photo: Ten Lives CEO Noel Hunt with Andrew Lyden and Meiling Chen in the new adoption rooms.

## Lyden Builders: Building More Than Homes

If you have visited Ten Lives recently, you have already seen some of Andrew Lyden's work. His team at Lyden Builders have had a hand in almost every major improvement at the shelter in recent years, including the hospital refit, new adoption rooms, outdoor cat enclosure, op shop refits and the warehouse expansion. Some of Andrew's work is behind the scenes, some is in plain view, but all of it is crucial to the care of our cats.

Much of that work was done

as a generous donation, and all of it at genuine mates' rates, the kind that takes mates' rates to a whole new level.

Andrew started building in 1993 and has grown Lyden Builders into a respected Tasmanian company employing local tradespeople and apprentices. What stands out most though is the culture he has built, based on fairness, loyalty and a willingness to help others.

That same spirit has shaped every project he has taken on

with Ten Lives.

"Some people just quietly get on and make things happen," says Ten Lives Ambassador Dave Noonan of his friend and long time collaborator Andrew "Andy" Lyden.

The two have worked together on Give Me 5 for Kids and other community projects, and Andrew continues to lend his time and resources wherever they are needed most.

Andrew has always been ready to lend a hand and give back to people and causes



across southern Tasmania. His generosity and genuine care for others have left their mark across the community. Andrew has built a strong and respected business and his values and community spirit shine through.

We see this clearly in his team. It has been a real pleasure working with James and apprentice Max, along with Matt and Ben. Nothing is ever too hard for them. They always find a way. They're simply good blokes.

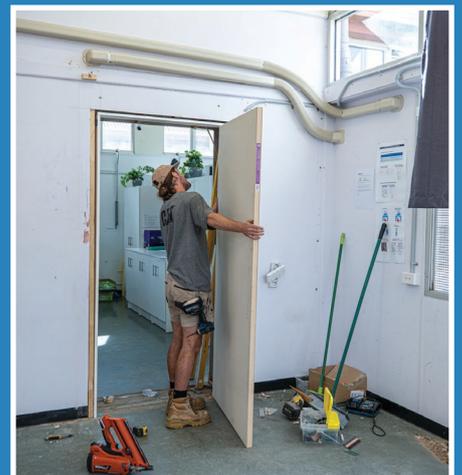
As Dave says, "He has been an incredible supporter of charities. You would not know he has done all this; he is unassuming. No song and dance about it."

"He has got an incredible heart; he is an incredible person," says Dave, and it shows.

Andrew Lyden is not one to make a fuss. His work says plenty on its own. Hear hear!

Top: Andrew and Lee-Anne Lyden with Dave Noonan at the Tradies for Tabbies launch

Below (clockwise): Inspecting the deck and outdoor enclosure for the new kitten adoption rooms. Change rooms and storage being built at the Moonah Op Shop. New door to vet consult being installed. Airlock being removed in welfare area.





*Main Photo: The new nursery space for mums and neonatal kittens waiting to go into foster care. Inset: Tanto and his siblings were among the first kittens to benefit from the facility upgrades.*



## Expanding Care: More room for comfort and healing.

As we continue construction works and upgrades at the Cat Centre, we're already seeing the impact of all the hard work, and we're excited to share one of the latest improvements with you.

Our hospital area has had a much-needed extension, creating more space and benefitting both the cats and kittens in our care, and the wonderful team that look after them.

To make these changes work, there's been some reshuffling. A bit like a fun (and definitely not headache-inducing) game of Tetris. It's all worth it though, because it's all for the cats.

We now have better spaces

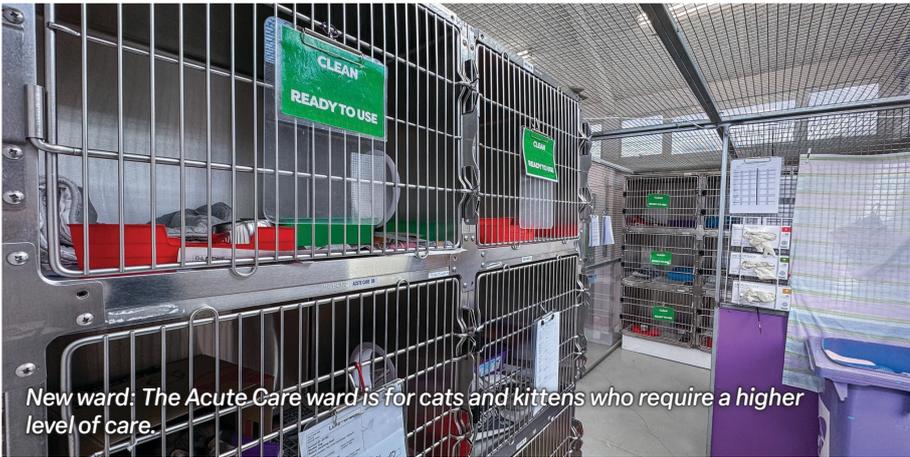
for cats overall. Kittens have been moved out of the main hospital area and into their own peaceful room. This adjustment has improved the efficiency of the hospital, reduced noise and movement, and created a smoother, calmer environment for cats in care.

One part we're particularly proud of is the new, larger isolation room specifically for cats that have ringworm.

Despite the name, ringworm has nothing to do with worms. It's actually a highly contagious fungal condition, which shows up as skin lesions that look like red or grey crustiness on the

skin. Treating ringworm is a commitment. Daily medications, twice-weekly baths, frequent washing of bedding and blankets, and at least six weeks of/healing time. Because it spreads so easily, cats with ringworm must be isolated which is why this purpose-built room makes a huge difference.

The new ringworm room is fully enclosed to minimise any risk of cross-contamination. Soon, we'll be adding a sink and microwave for warming heat discs. The goal is to have everything our team needs in one space, so they can care for cats with ringworm without the need to constantly de-gown and sanitise.



*New ward: The Acute Care ward is for cats and kittens who require a higher level of care.*



*Under construction: The extended isolation ward making progress, with purpose built large cat condos waiting to be added.*

This new space has over doubled in size compared to our old ringworm area, which means we can provide more enrichment for the cats and kittens who require long term care. The next step in this project is to purpose build more spacious accommodation for these long term patients.

We still rely on foster carers, and we're always looking for more. You don't have to foster all the time, you just let us know what works for you. Even caring for a cat or kitten for a short period of time makes a real difference. Our foster carers talk of the joy and reward they find in caring for a cat and seeing them find their own forever home.

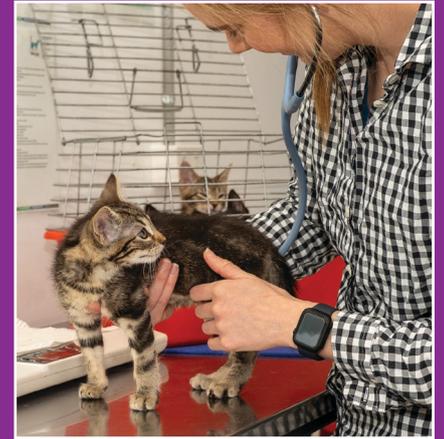
This new isolation extension is just the first stage of a larger plan. These improvements have been on our wishlist for a long time, but we needed the funding to make it happen. Thanks

to a generous donation from our great friend the late Tony Ptak, we were able to make this happen. Every donation, big or small, is important. But it's larger donations like this that help us make lasting change.

A special thank you goes to Andrew Lyden's wonderful building team, who helped make it happen. In just about a week, they removed a wall, repainted, and more. There's still some plumbing to finish, but the space is functional.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project, whether you're a donor, builder, or team member. Together, we're creating better outcomes for cats and the people who care for them.

**To make a donation to help us continue our vital work please visit [tenlives.com.au/donate](https://tenlives.com.au/donate)**



## Country Chic Care

You might think we're dressed for a hoedown or heading out to feed the cows, but there's a good reason you'll spot us in flannel in the Nursery, Hospital, and Vet Consult areas!

What looks like casual country style is actually perfect PPE for caring for neonate kittens. The soft, brushed fabric gives tiny paws something to grip and knead, while helping hold warmth against the body, which is crucial for kittens that can't yet regulate their own temperature.

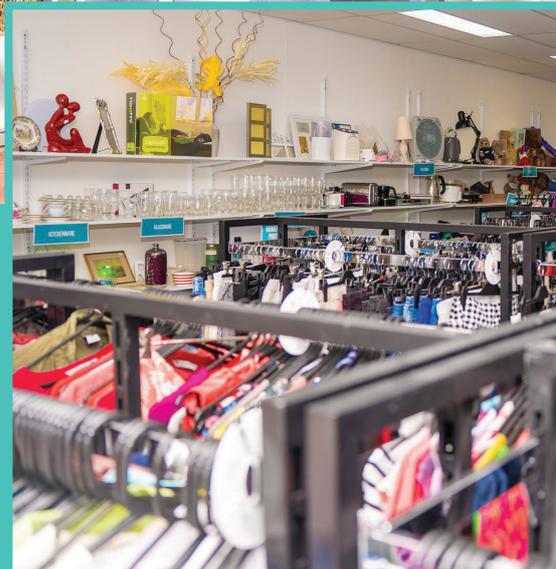
While we practice full barrier nursing and use professional PPE such as surgical gowns, flannel shirts make a practical and comfortable alternative for non-sterile work. Dedicated "kitten clothes" also mean we can change between litters to reduce cross-contamination, just like swapping a gown or smock, but far more comfortable during long feeding shifts.

Flannel shirts tick all the boxes for warmth, traction, hygiene, and calm handling, small details that make a big difference for the most vulnerable kittens in our care.

And beyond the kitten benefits, this simple switch saves money and reduces environmental waste by replacing single-use PPE with washable, reusable clothing.



Main Photo: The new Ten Lives Op Shop in the Rosny Park Bus Mall.  
 Inset: Interior of the Rosny Park Op Shop.



# HELLO ROSNY PARK!

At Ten Lives we are all about the people, the planet, and pussycats. One way we help all three is through our op shops – and there’s a new kid on the block!

If you’ve been hanging out around the eastern shore recently, you may have spotted the brand-new Rosny Park Op Shop, which opened on 1 July 2025. It’s found in the Rosny Park Bus Mall, across the road from Eastlands shopping centre. In its young life, the shop has already established itself as a popular stop for op shoppers.

All of our op shops have kitties available for adoption, and Rosny Park has had a few adorable ones including Priyanka (loved scratches and a sunbathing), Yuno (always asked for affection), and Tilly (had a wide vocabulary of meows and loved to chirp). It didn’t take long for any of them to be adopted!

This Op Shop and the existing ones in Margate, North Hobart, New Norfolk and Moonah generate necessary funds to help us do our work at the Centre, caring for cats and kittens. For example: if you buy

a \$3 t-shirt, that will allow us to buy a pouch of food; a \$25 designer dress will cover the cost a vaccination.

Not only can you buy all sorts of clothing, homewares, books, DVDs and collectibles at our op shops, but you can shop for cat supplies. Kitty litter, accessories, food, cat toys... just shop at your nearest Ten Lives Op Shop. All proceeds go straight back to helping kitties at Ten Lives.



## Meet Paul - The Mannequin Master

Paul is a volunteer at the Rosny Park Op Shop, a gentle giant with a friendly face, cheeky demeanour and self-deprecating sense of humour.

He joined the Ten Lives Op Shop volunteer team because he had some spare time and thought it was a good way to do a bit of good and have some fun along the way.

And of course, he loves cats. Paul's always had a cat in his life, and his last one passed away peacefully on Friday the 13th of December 2024. It was a black cat, and Paul jokes that they "knew the time to go."

He wasn't sure about adopting another cat, until he came in for his induction at the Centre and instantly fell for a cat called Shadow.

"A boxy cat," he says. "Fat tummy with four legs."

And apparently, Shadow is just as cheeky as Paul. A good match.

Paul enjoys being able to get a bit creative in his volunteer role. He puts together the window displays, trying to add a quirky twist to catch people's attention. He's made particularly good use of a very odd item: the bottom half of a male mannequin. At one point, he stuck it upside down in a box to make it look like a someone had fallen in. It got plenty of laughs.

Then, for Halloween, he wrapped it in a black garbage bag with the legs sticking out, making it look like the Rosny team were hiding a body (editor's note: they definitely were not).

Paul's been with the Rosny Park Op Shop since the beginning and says it's been popular from day one, and that hasn't changed.

"People love it!" he says.

Recently, he sold a high quality lady's leather coat. It was only in the shop for 10 minutes.

He also reckons you gotta be quick. "Beauties don't last long."

For anyone thinking about volunteering at one of Ten Lives' op shops, Paul says, "I tell this to all my friends: just do it."

He says it feels good knowing that what he does makes a difference. Not only raising much needed funds for the cats, but also helping people on a budget find affordable bargains.

Plus, he says it's a good team, and you'll make friends. Friends like Paul.

**To join our amazing team of Op Shop volunteers apply at: [tenlives.com.au/volunteer](https://tenlives.com.au/volunteer)**

Op shops benefit not just the cats, but also the communities which the op shops service. Not only is it sustainable and supporting a circular economy, people just love an op shop!

Congratulations to all the volunteers, staff, builders and customers who contributed to the opening of the shop.

**You can drop in quality second hand goods to any of our Op Shops during their open hours.**



Main Photo: Leigh Norris & Jason Muckridge from Foodbank with Ten Lives' Operations Manager Carolyn Dunnewijk and CEO Noel Hunt.

Inset: Unloading the boxes of wet food to be used in our Meow Meals care packages.



# Meow Meals Keeping Cats in their Homes

Since launching in early 2024, Meow Meals has made a real difference for cats and their families, thanks to the incredible support we've had from the community.

Throughout the 2024–25 financial year, 1,590 Meow Meals packages were handed out, providing crucial support to families facing financial hardship. That's an average of just over 61 packages every fortnight, with each one supplying two weeks' worth of dry and wet food for cats in need.

Meow Meals aims to help keep cats in their homes, while also sparking conversations with their owners around the cost of living crisis and responsible cat

ownership.

As awareness of Meow Meals has grown, it's also helped forge new partnerships with organisations such as Foodbank Tasmania, a nonprofit organisation that helps feed Tasmanians in crisis. They saw the value in the Meow Meals program after we shared a story about the program online.

Foodbank were quick to step up and offer their support with the first donation delivery a of wet cat food on 16 July 2025, with more to follow.

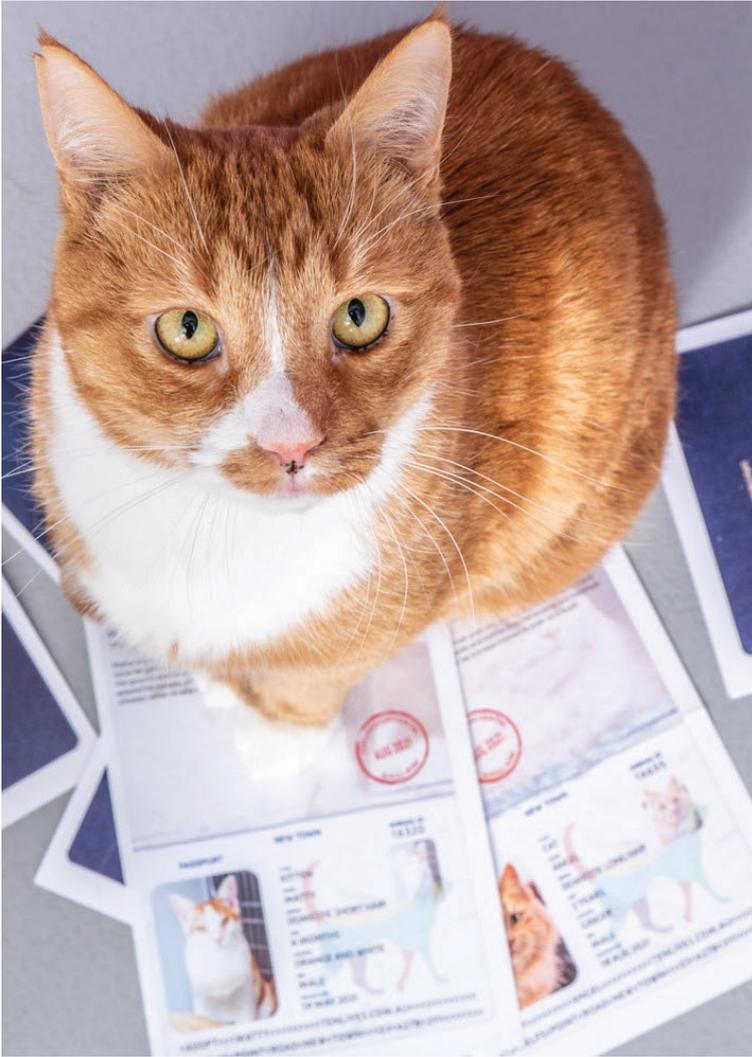
We're incredibly grateful for their generosity and the beginning of what will be an ongoing partnership.

Thanks to regular donations

from Foodbank Tasmania, other organisations, and caring members of the community, we can meet immediate needs and prevent cats from being surrendered due to financial stress.

Every unopened bag of dry food, every tin of wet food, and every donated box of zip-lock bags helps keep a cat in their home and out of the shelter. During kitten season, donations of kitten food are especially appreciated, as they help us support young families when demand is at its highest.

**To find out how you can donate to or get help through Ten Lives' Meow Meals program, give us a call on 03 6278 2111.**



## Travel with Purpose – Your Passport to Helping Cats

If you'd like your donation to feel a little more personal, if you want to put a (whiskered) face to your dollars, our Passport Program might be the thing for you!

Starting from just \$20 a month for one cat, your sponsorship helps us feed and care for one of our resident kitties.

Each month, we'll post you a hardcopy 'passport' featuring a photo and info about your sponsored cat, giving you an insight into their purrsonality. It's a physical way to show you the difference you're making. Pop it on the fridge, pin it on the wall, and make it a part of your home.

And when your sponsor kitty finds their forever home, we'll send you a new cat the following month. You're more than welcome to pop in and meet the cat you're sponsoring, and see exactly who your kindness is helping!

Join today, your monthly contribution is tax-deductible, and you can help make a kitty very happy.

Visit [tenlives.com.au/donate](https://tenlives.com.au/donate) to sign up!

# Recycle REWARDS

## Donate your drink container refund

Every eligible drink container gets **10c**

### Did you know you can support Ten Lives just by drinking a can of soft drink?

Okay, there's a few more steps to it than that, but it's true!

Thanks to Recycle Rewards, Tasmania's new container refund scheme, you can donate to Ten Lives one Coke at a time.

All you need to do is collect eligible drink containers, the easy way to tell if you can deposit it is by checking for a '10c' mark on the container.

Once you have a collection of containers to recycle, find your nearest refund point, there's more popping up all over Tasmania, and you can use an interactive map on the Recycle Rewards website.

Then, once you're there, simply put all the containers into the machine. It's very intuitive and easy to use.

You can donate your container refund by searching for 'Ten Lives' via the Recycle Rewards app or use the barcode below.

So there you go, a very easy way to help support the kitties here at Ten Lives, and all you need is to drink your favourite drink!





## YABBA-DABBA-DOPTED!

When Bambam came into Ten Lives care with his four siblings, Barney, Wilma, Pebbles, and Dennis, he had everything going for him: a playful spirit, a deep love of cuddles, and a heart melting purr that could brighten any room.

The family's journey began in November 2024, when Bambam entered foster care on 29 November 2024. After their initial health checks, the family went into foster care to grow and gain confidence.

During this time,

the kittens required treatment for ringworm. This meant an extended stay with one of our specially trained foster carers until they were all in the clear.

They were then ready to move on to the next stage of their journey in





late March 2025, when they became available for adoption.

Once Bambam and his siblings moved into the adoption rooms and were ready to find their forever homes, he quickly showed everyone what a sweetheart he was. He settled in easily, loving laps and winning hearts with his gentle nature.

Staff and volunteers described him as a real entertainer, always keeping everyone smiling with his antics. He soon became a favourite of

photographers for his amazing poses, and his cheeky expressions were popular with our social media followers.

As each sibling found their home, Bambam waited with quiet determination for his turn.

Then, on 9 May 2025, after spending more than six months in our care, including six weeks in the adoption rooms waiting to meet his person, Bambam met his perfect human and headed off to his forever

home, where he now enjoys exactly what he had always wanted: a lap to call his own.

Every adoption journey is unique, and sometimes it just takes a little longer to find the perfect human. When you visit Ten Lives Cat Centre to adopt, be sure to take the time to meet them all. You might just find your perfect companion waiting quietly for you.

Find the cats and kittens ready to become part of your family today at [tenlives.com.au/adopt](https://tenlives.com.au/adopt)





Photos: Chloe (L) and Finn (R) looking very comfortable in their foster come forever homes.



## Failing Has Never Felt So Good!

You may have heard the phrase “foster fail” before. It might sound a little harsh, but at Ten Lives, we love a good foster fail!

It’s what happens when a foster carer falls in love with their foster cat and decides to make them a permanent part of the family.

We don’t see that as a failure at all, but as a wonderful success story. Every foster find means one more cat has a loving home and one more person has discovered the joy of sharing life with a feline friend.

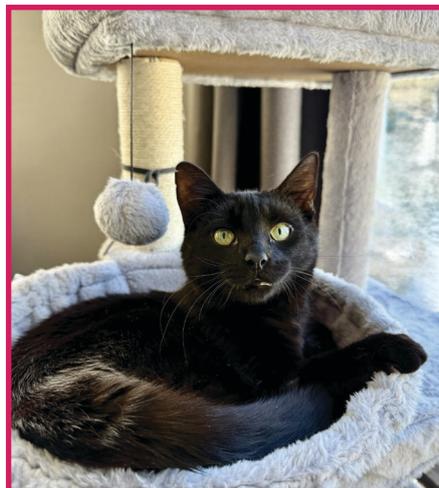
Sometimes a foster carer forms a deep bond with their cat and can’t imagine letting them go, and we completely understand. Whether it happens with your first foster or your twenty-third, the feeling is just as special.

### When It Happens the First Time

For Lani Crofts, fostering began

as a way to dip her toes into cat care. Having never had a cat before, she wasn’t sure if she was ready to become a full-time cat parent, so she reached out to Ten Lives to learn more about our foster program.

“I figured that I could make a difference to kittens and cats in need by providing them with a safe, cosy and affectionate home whilst I got a taste of sharing



my life with a feline friend to see if we would be compatible companions!” Lani says.

It turned out to be a match made in heaven. She couldn’t bear to part with her first foster, Brussels, now named Finn.

“I knew Finn was special from the moment I opened the door to his carrier, and he immediately walked out and sat next to me on the floor purring,” she says.

Lani was meant to have him for only six days before he was ready for adoption. Each day she grew more attached, soon gathering toys and even a cat tower. She adored Finn but knew he was only meant to be a short-term guest, until she realised she couldn’t imagine home without him.

“The next step was asking Ten Lives if I could adopt him...” she remembers. “We haven’t looked back since!”

### ...Or After Twenty-Two Cats

For Bronte Mason, the story unfolded differently. She and her family had been fostering cats for years before their fail came along.

“We started fostering because it had been a while since we owned a pet and we missed having animals in our lives,” Bronte says. “We liked the idea of having the joy of animals in the house without the long-term responsibilities.”

Over time, Bronte and her family fostered 22 cats, each one unique. She loved the excitement of bringing home a new kitty and discovering their personalities.



“I really enjoy gaining an understanding of their likes and needs, and winning their trust,” she says. “It’s a convenient way to enjoy having a pet in your home whilst working around other commitments such as travel.”

Then came foster number 23, a beautiful six month old calico named Olwen, later renamed Chloe, or simply ‘Kit’.

“We’d had a few almost foster fails but the match never quite felt right. Chloe was unique because she ticked all the boxes and fitted into our family perfectly.”

Now an adored family member, Chloe greets them at the door, rolls over for belly rubs, and

shares beds between Bronte and her kids.

“She’s undemanding, playful, affectionate and has a lovely loud purr,” Bronte says. “The only negative is that my indoor plants are suffering as she enjoys climbing them, but she’s worth it!”

### When Fostering Becomes Forever

Whether you’re like Lani, who fell for her very first foster, or like Bronte, who met her perfect match after two dozen cats, one thing’s certain: there’s no shame in a foster fail.

Lani says adopting Finn was life-changing.

“It turns out ping pong balls and shoelace strings are his favourite things of all time, apart from food. And maybe me,” she laughs. “I can’t imagine my evenings without him on the bed purring at my feet, or my mornings without his enthusiastic greeting.”

Bronte agrees that every foster teaches you something, even the ones you let go.

“You learn so much about cats in general, work out how to bond with a range of personalities, and feel like you’re doing something worthwhile,” she says. “Be prepared to experience a range of emotions and perhaps shed a few tears when you return them for adoption. And if you do happen to succumb to a foster fail, your life will be all the richer for it.”

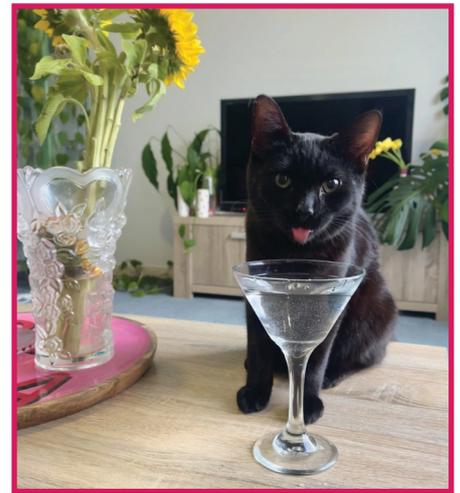
### Still Making a Difference

**A foster fail doesn’t mean your fostering journey with Ten Lives has to end.**

If your adopted cat is happy sharing their space, you can continue fostering, and if not there are plenty of other ways to

help.

Lani, for instance, now volunteers with our creative team.



“Since I can no longer foster, I now assist with making sure other kitties who come through our doors have a chance at finding their forever homes through spreading the word (and pictures of their adorable selves) on our social media,” she says.

And Bronte plans to return to fostering soon, this time with Chloe’s help.

“I’m very much looking forward to seeing her build relationships with some new foster kitties,” she says.

At Ten Lives, we don’t see foster fails as failures. We see them as happy endings. Whether your connection happens straight away or after years of helping others, a foster fail means one more cat has found their forever home, and one more person has discovered just how life-changing fostering can be.

Because in the end there’s no failure in love, only success stories with whiskers.

**Find out more about becoming a foster carer for Ten Lives this summer at [tenlives.com.au/foster](https://tenlives.com.au/foster)**



## Benji's Birthday Catwalk

**Benji is a ginger cat who has done a lot of good. He and his hooman Miranda have taken part in the Ten Lives Catwalk Challenge every year since it started in 2021, and their efforts have helped cover after hours vet bills for foster carers during kitten season.**

Miranda was a foster carer and volunteer with us, and Benji was her tenth foster cat. Needless to say, they were a purrfect match and together they foster failed. After this, Miranda didn't foster anymore because Benji prefers to be an only cat, but she didn't want to stop supporting Ten Lives.

"During my time as a foster carer and volunteer for Ten Lives I saw all the great work they do as well as how much they genuinely care

about cats and all animals," she says. "So doing the Ten Lives Catwalk Challenge each year is my way of giving back to the organisation that has given me my forever cat!"

Their efforts in the five Catwalk Challenges over the years have helped fundraise more than \$2,000! Not bad for a fluffy orange feline.

"I know Ten Lives can do so much with even small donations so it's great to know that we can help out!"

As a former foster carer, Miranda has seen firsthand the importance of the Catwalk Challenge and raising funds for after-hours vet visits.

"When I was a foster carer, it

was great to know that in an emergency we could use the after hours vets." she says.

Held between 1 and 10 October, the Catwalk Challenge is always an extra special time for Benji, because his birthday falls on 3 October. During the 2025 Catwalk Challenge, Benji turned ten!

"We celebrate Benji's birthday by making sure he has a lot of attention! He is the ruler of our house, so our routines often revolve around his needs, but his birthday serves as a great reminder of how lucky we are to have him in our lives," she says. "He gets a little treat and lots of cuddles leading to many purrs."

When he goes for walkies, Benji likes to start with a patrol of the garden borders. Then he finds somewhere sunny to sit and observe the world.

"So, there is not always a lot of walking," Miranda laughs.

When they're outside, she likes to see what captures Benji's interest.

"He always notices anything new in the garden, so it helps me appreciate these little things too," she says.

Miranda likes that harness walks are a safe way for Benji to go outside and stimulate his brain and body, as well as keeping other animals safe.

"I love all animals so it's great to know that Benji isn't hurting the environment we live in."

Miranda also loves that it makes her go outside, particularly in the morning when she can eat her cereal while Benji walks around. There're few better ways to start the day.

**You can find tips for harness training your own kitty at [tenlives.com.au/harness](https://tenlives.com.au/harness)**

# CATWALK Challenge

## Ten Lives Ten Day Catwalk Challenge

Launched in 2021, the Ten Lives Catwalk Challenge helps cover the cost of after-hours emergency vet visits for our foster carers.

The aim is simple: raise \$10,000 in just 10 days. Participants register their kitty, then take them on a daily harness walk between 1 and 10 October, sharing their journey online while their friends and family sponsor them.

The first year was a huge success, and we knew we had to do it again.

2025 marked the fifth year of the Ten Lives Catwalk Challenge. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our participants, we raised \$5,910. A massive thank you to all our Catwalkers for creating fantastic social media content and helping raise these much-needed funds.

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, donated, and supported the campaign. Your generosity plays a vital role in ensuring Ten Lives can continue to provide lifesaving medical care to cats and kittens in need.

A huge shout-out to our superstar Catwalkers: Benji, Nizmo, Gulliver, Nikkō & Koishi, Finn, Lily, JackJack, Honey & Mickey, and Spike, along with their dedicated hoomins for braving the elements, getting creative, and gathering donations.

Despite being early October, it felt more like winter with wailing winds and soaking rain! But that didn't stop our Catwalkers, who each found their own way to rise to the challenge.

There were some significant stories to come out this year.

Benji, has participated in every Catwalk Challenge since the beginning, and celebrated his 10th birthday during this year's challenge!

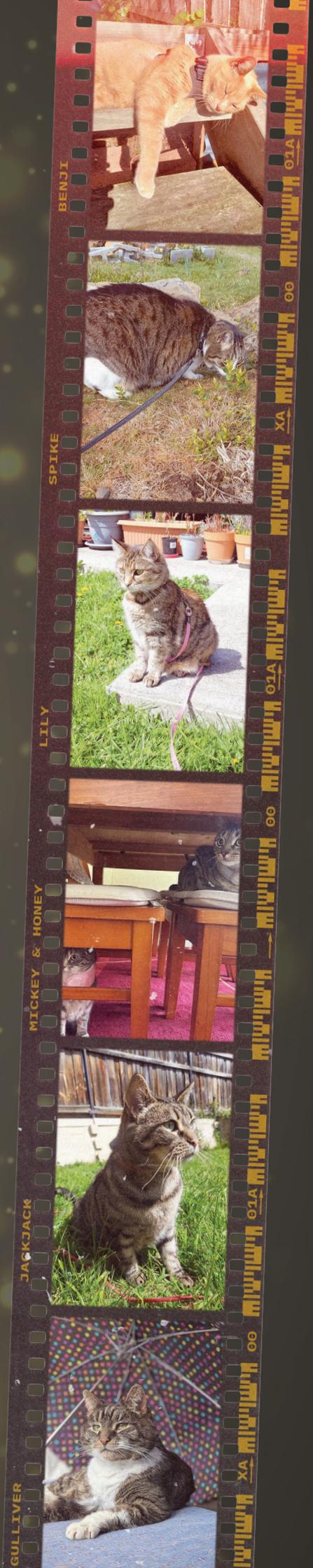
One story that touched many hearts was Casper's. Adopted from Ten Lives on 1 December 2008, he spent 17 beautiful years with his family before passing on 2 October 2025. Casper's human joined the Catwalk Challenge in his memory, raising an incredible \$1,015 and topping the leaderboard.

Many of this year's Catwalkers found creative ways to get involved.

Gulliver's whole thing was listing all the things he'd rather do than go for a walk, like watching Netflix, sleeping in, and even folding laundry. Finn got to enjoy rides in a baby stroller, while JackJack tried to conquer his fear and make it out of the driveway.

Thank you again for helping make this year's challenge so fun.

**You can find out more on how to donate to Ten Lives and other ways you can help at [tenlives.com.au/donate](https://tenlives.com.au/donate)**





*Main Photo: Happy Paws Happy Hearts participant Skyla with Program Trainers Wendy and Juliana during an enrichment session.*

## **Paws, Purpose and Possibility: The Power of Connection at Happy Paws Happy Hearts at Ten Lives**

Since January 2023, Happy Paws Happy Hearts (HPHH), a national not-for-profit that **connects vulnerable people with rescue animals in need**, has been proud to run its unique programs from the Ten Lives Cat Centre in Hobart.

Each week, a number of participants of all ages and abilities come together at Ten Lives to connect, learn, and grow alongside the cats and kittens in care. The programs are designed to meet participants where they're at, no matter their abilities. From the Care program, which supports high-care needs participants through interactive classroom-based activities on animal care and training, to more hands-on sessions in the Intro to Handle program, where participants build foundational animal care and training skills

which support the welfare of cats and kittens at Ten Lives. Activities might involve helping with enrichment, preparing food, shelter tasks or supporting adoption preparation. These are meaningful contributions that build participants' confidence, independence, responsibility and a sense of purpose.

No matter the program, sessions are filled with a balance of calm and joy, whether gently brushing, patting, and interacting with cats in their enclosures to build trust and connection, getting crafty with the making of cat toys, or connecting with other participants over a fun activity.

HPHH Program Trainer Juliana shares, "It's a privilege to witness the quiet understanding between a participant who's had a rough week and a cat with a few battle scars. Both walk away feeling seen

and a little lighter."

These moments provide vital socialisation and TLC for our feline friends as they wait for their forever homes, while also giving participants a chance to experience connection and purpose in a supportive, inclusive setting.

"The sheer joy of kitten antics brings everyone together. It's impossible not to laugh, and that shared laughter becomes a bridge for social confidence to blossom," Juliana said.

At Happy Paws Happy Hearts, even the smallest moments of connection can spark positive change and become a catalyst for life-changing growth. While true connection takes time and effort, growth at HPHH often begins with something simple, such as a smile between participants, a kind word exchanged or an unexpected act

of support. These are what HPHH call meaningful moments.

Within the walls of Ten Lives, we see countless examples of these moments: when a participant gently gains the trust of a shy or anxious kitten, when laughter fills the room during a game, or when newfound confidence shines through after completing a new task.

“Something as simple as two participants bonding over their favourite cat can be a huge social milestone, and it never stops being a source of joy”, said Juliana.

Each meaningful moment represents more than just a passing interaction between participants. It is one of the stepping stones that help participants move from social disconnection and isolation toward inclusion, purpose and wellbeing.

This year, HPHH celebrated its 10-year milestone since being founded with the vision to create positive connections between socially isolated Australians and rescue animals. The HPHH and Ten Lives partnership continues to keep this vision alive, one connection, one cat, and a whole lot of heart at a time.

We are delighted to introduce you to some of the incredible HPHH participants who have courageously shared their journeys of growth through meaningful moments in their HPHH session.



## Rohan's quiet power of courage and determination

**Rohan made the courageous decision to leave the familiar HPHH group he was attending and join a new one where he knew no one.**

Quiet by nature but driven by his goal to one day speak confidently with anyone, whether a peer or potential employer, Rohan's determination and courage were clear from day one.

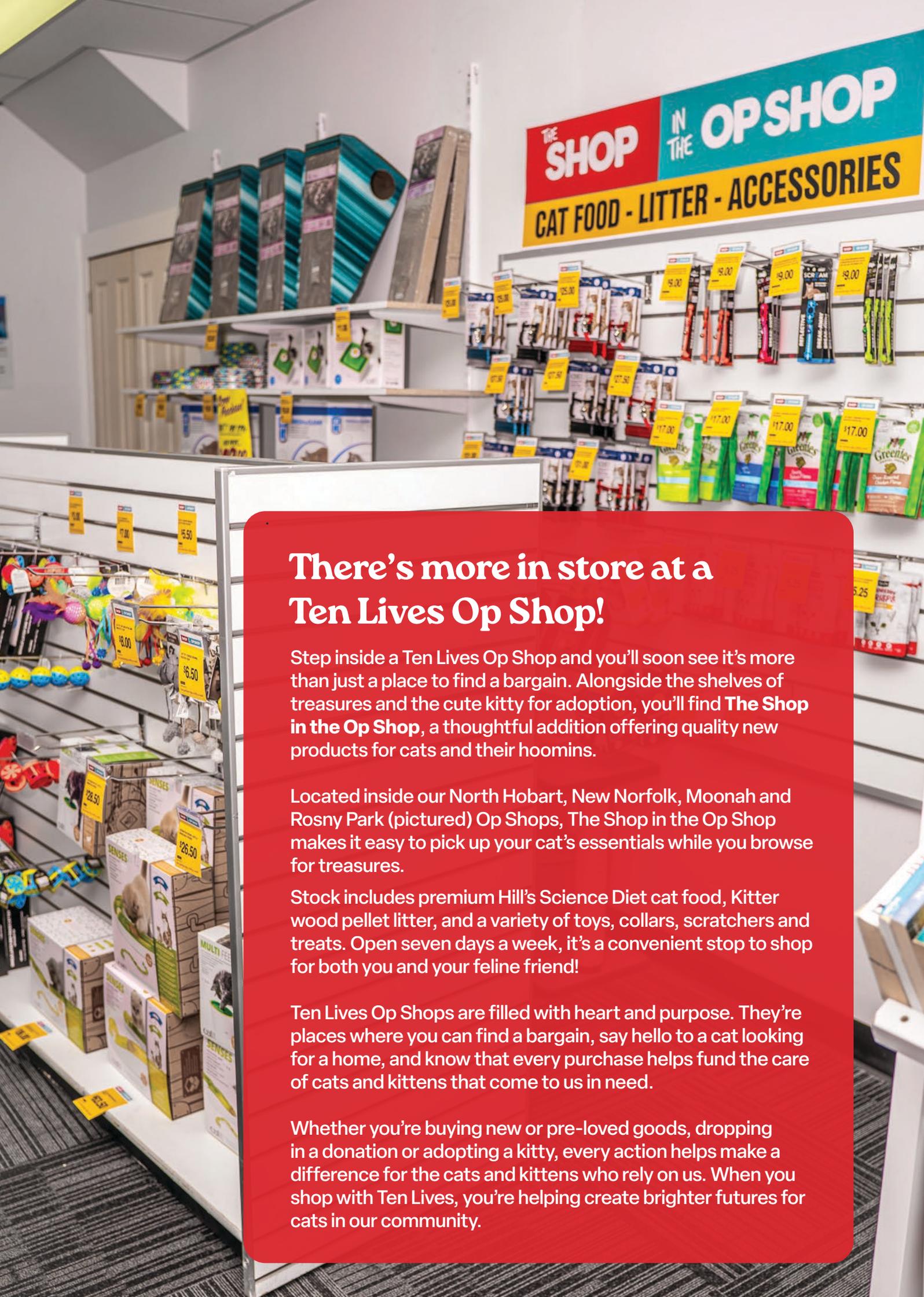
Early on into moving to a new session, Rohan formed a strong bond with another participant, Lyndon. This gave Rohan a boost in confidence to work towards his goal and start practising these skills in a safe and supportive space.

One moment stood out: while calmly spending time in the cat enclosure with Spencer, a gentle orange cat, Rohan noticed Lyndon's support worker nearby and without prompting, struck up a conversation. It was a small act, but a powerful sign of Rohan's growing confidence and willingness to step outside his comfort zone to work on achieving his goals.

HPHH is excited to have some session vacancies across their programs at Ten Lives Cat Centre moving into 2026. For those who prefer canine companions, they also host programs connecting participants with rescue dogs in need over with our pals at Dogs' Homes of Tasmania in Hobart!

HPHH programs are fee-for-service and are welcoming participants from 12+ years who access NDIS, SLES, other support schemes, or are self-funded. If you or someone you know are looking for a fun and inclusive program which builds life management skills, confidence and independence and you want to learn more about the programs, get in touch!

HPHH offers a free one-hour orientation session for any potential participants considering the program where you can book in to come and see behind the scenes of HPHH, meet the Program Trainers and get a glimpse into the magic connections formed and skills built each week. If you are interested, head to their website at [hphhfoundation.org/shelter-program](https://hphhfoundation.org/shelter-program) to submit your interest, or contact them on **1300 077 984** or via email at [hello@hphhfoundation.org](mailto:hello@hphhfoundation.org)



## THE SHOP IN THE OP SHOP

### CAT FOOD - LITTER - ACCESSORIES

## There's more in store at a Ten Lives Op Shop!

Step inside a Ten Lives Op Shop and you'll soon see it's more than just a place to find a bargain. Alongside the shelves of treasures and the cute kitty for adoption, you'll find **The Shop in the Op Shop**, a thoughtful addition offering quality new products for cats and their hoomins.

Located inside our North Hobart, New Norfolk, Moonah and Rosny Park (pictured) Op Shops, The Shop in the Op Shop makes it easy to pick up your cat's essentials while you browse for treasures.

Stock includes premium Hill's Science Diet cat food, Kitter wood pellet litter, and a variety of toys, collars, scratchers and treats. Open seven days a week, it's a convenient stop to shop for both you and your feline friend!

Ten Lives Op Shops are filled with heart and purpose. They're places where you can find a bargain, say hello to a cat looking for a home, and know that every purchase helps fund the care of cats and kittens that come to us in need.

Whether you're buying new or pre-loved goods, dropping in a donation or adopting a kitty, every action helps make a difference for the cats and kittens who rely on us. When you shop with Ten Lives, you're helping create brighter futures for cats in our community.



Main Photo: Happy Paws Happy Hearts participants Ruby and Ivy during their surprise visit by Mr Peabody.



## Trust at first boop

A meaningful moment of connection unfolded when new participant Ruby, had her very first interaction with Kava, a 13-year-old tabby known affectionately by HPHH volunteers as a bit of a 'grumpy old girl'.

With this being Ruby's very first session with HPHH, and just 13 years old herself, she showed remarkable patience and understanding from the start.

Rather than rushing in, Ruby quietly and calmly entered Kava's kennel, sat low, avoided eye contact, and simply waited.

To everyone's surprise, Kava, whom others had struggled to coax out of her cat den, emerged straight away. Kava padded over to Ruby, sniffed her head, and offered a gentle head boop, a cat's way of showing trust and comfort. She then curled in for pats and a quiet 'conversation' of purrs.

It was a powerful affirmation for Ruby, whose calm and respectful approach reflected the skills she naturally brings into sessions, paired with her own experience with cats at home. It was also a turning point for Kava, who found a safe person in Ruby and will further help her socialisation while in care and promote adoptable behaviours.

Kava was adopted shortly after this special interaction!

## A Special Guest Sparks New Connections

At Ten Lives Cat Centre, animal interactions are usually reserved for, yes, you guessed it, cats! But in September, participants Ivy and Ruby were treated to a rare and very special surprise when Ten Lives team member, Cindy, arrived with a tiny guest: Mr Peabody, a three-week-old kid goat she has been caring for.

Full of energy, Mr Peabody showed off his zoomies, leaping around the room and wagging his little tail as participants, Ruby and Ivy watched with pure delight and they were overjoyed to have such a unique opportunity to get up close with a baby goat, not something you frequently get the opportunity to do!

This moment went far beyond the novelty of meeting Mr Peabody. Program Trainer Juliana, reflected on how it highlighted just how much Ruby and Ivy have grown in confidence and connection in

such a short time.

Ivy's natural leadership and kindness have helped Ruby feel increasingly at ease, which was clear as the girls approached Cindy, a stranger to them, with curiosity and comfort, eagerly asking questions about goats.

They also engaged openly with the Ten Lives media team, who were there to capture the special interaction. Ruby's mother, Lisa, added that she and her daughter look forward to the program each week, describing it as a chance to "make a new friend every week" thanks to the special, unhurried time they get to spend with animals in care.

What began as a special treat became a moment of growth, confidence, and joy; proof of the powerful bonds forming not just between participants and animals, but between participants themselves.

# Teach Responsible Cat Ownership with Edu.Cat

## BOOK NOW FOR 2026

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.

The Edu.Cat program is **free** to all schools in Tasmania and can be tailored to your students needs.

### For Bookings and Information

🌐 [tenlives.com.au/educate](https://tenlives.com.au/educate)

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

📞 03 6278 2111



## Edu.Cat is Coming Home!

A visit to Ten Lives is now even better. With the opening of our new Adoption Centre, we now have a great new space that makes every visit more enjoyable for schools and community groups.

Cats and kittens are part of the experience all year round, with the best chance to meet kittens during the first half of the year.

Whether it is a school class, a senior group, or a community outing, visits can be tailored to suit the interests of the group.

Edu.Cat, Ten Lives education program, has been inspiring the

next generation of cat owners to learn about responsible cat ownership through fun, curriculum linked learning.

Edu.Cat is about cats, kittens, and responsible cat ownership. The program helps students understand the needs of cats, the importance of desexing and microchipping, and the role we all play in caring for animals and protecting wildlife.

Each school visit can be tailored to suit a learning focus, whether it is responsible cat ownership, environmental sustainability, animal welfare, career options

including veterinary, media and communications, animal care, or volunteering in the community. Every session links directly to the Australian Curriculum, with clear learning outcomes provided to teachers.

Grade specific materials are available to take back to the classroom, continuing the Edu.Cat program that has reached thousands of students since its inception in 2017.

**Bookings for 2026 are now open. Schools and community groups are encouraged to book early to secure their visit.**



*Above: Phoebe with Kha Moon in Thailand.*

## Ten Lives in the community

Over the past few years, we have learned that a wholistic approach to helping cats, the community and wildlife is the key to success. Our work has been all about helping people, the planet and pussycats, our triple bottom line.

From the Bruny Island Project to new programs like Meow Meals, we are taking our learnings and are putting them to work in more local communities. We are engaging with local and state government and working closely together to build a sound base for our ongoing work.

Ten Lives had the State Government Cat Management Coordinator working within the Ten Lives team. This allowed us to build on our strategic work with real on the ground

experience. The benefits of this were significant, as the Cat Management Coordinator worked at the coal face of cat management, linking policy to getting things done.

We continue our work with schools and community groups to help more people become responsible cat owners into the future.

Ten Lives has gained valuable experience and practical knowledge to put into action so we can continue to make a difference.

We now have a new person leading our work with the community... meet Phoebe.

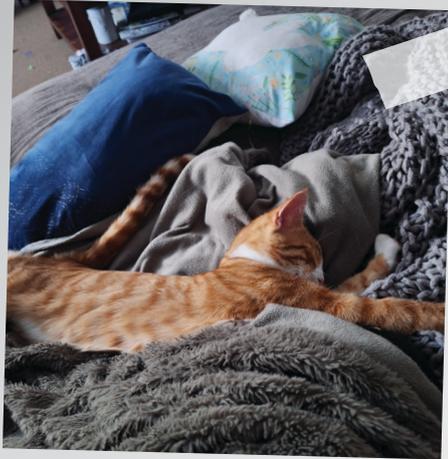
Phoebe brings a diverse mix of leadership, animal welfare and people skills to the Ten Lives

team. An experienced Supervisor at Ten Lives, she combines hands on shelter work with extensive experience dealing directly with the public and supporting people who need help. Before joining Ten Lives, she also managed projects and worked hands on with elephants in Thailand in ethical elephant tourism. Her background in hospitality and education supports her natural ability to lead, train and care for people as much as animals. Away from work Phoebe enjoys growing and showing dahlias, camping and fossicking for gemstones, and spending time in the outdoors.

Phoebe brings passion, expertise and heart to the continuing community work of Ten Lives, helping people, the planet and pussycats.

# #catsofnewtown

Every cat has a story.



**FRANKIE**

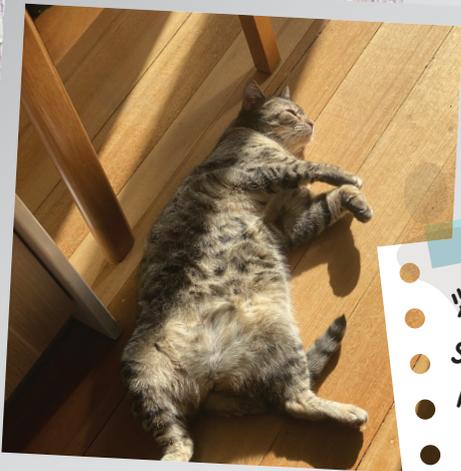
"Frankie immediately settled in, and excitedly explored his new home. He loves to follow me around the house and is very curious about everything. He likes to sleep up on my chest, right under my chin. Frankie is such a sweet boy, He loves cuddles, sleeping on the top of his cat tower and playing with his favourite toy fishing rod." - Emily, Frankie's hoomin, Adopted June '25

"As soon as Willow came out of the carrier she was exploring her room, eating her food - and then wanting to see the rest of the house right away! Straight to the couch where she jumped up to start making biscuits on the throw blanket! Just over a year later and she's the funniest, craziest cat - you would think she was a kitten the way she runs around the house chasing her favourite toy. She is very chatty and wants to be around you all the time - and will yell if you're not giving her attention when she wants it!" - Megan, Willow's hoomin, Adopted July '24



**WILLOW**

Eddie & Grace,  
Adopted 2024



**LUCILLE**

"At first she was really shy but you could tell she trusted us, then she met our dog and had no problem with him. She never acted scared in the house just a bit shy, but now she is almost completely comfortable and plays with almost everyone in the house and creates her own mischief." - Stella, Lucille's hoomin. Adopted July '25



**MR DARCY**

"We walked into the adoption centre knowing who we wanted to meet. It was love at first sight. From the minute he arrived he has captivated us. He is such a delight. The dog is his best mate. TV watching is a loved past time. He keeps us amused chasing the footy across the screen."  
- Ella, Mr Darcy's hoomin. Adopted May '25



**MARLO BEAR**

"We love Marlo Bear. He is cheeky but super affectionate. He purrs super loud whenever I even look at him. He jumps into my arms for cuddles. His favourite sleeping position is belly up. We could tell he had a sassy personality straight away." - Christine, Marlo Bear's hoomin, Adopted March '23



**10MM SOCKET & DJ JUNE**

"The girls get along beautifully, with sockets kitten personality helping June have fun! The girls in their favourite spot in the sun - they often match each others pose perfectly!" - Max & Holly, 10mm Socket & DJ June's hoomins. Adopted '23 & '25



**DREW**

"I met Drew a couple of days before I adopted him. He was hiding in his cubby and wouldn't come out for anyone, but when I reached in to pat him, he started purring the loudest purr I've ever heard. Within minutes, I was in love. As I kept patting him, he rolled around happily in his cubby. His big green eyes drew me in, I couldn't stop staring. The very next day, I came back to take him home." - Saph, Drew's hoomin, Adopted February 2025

## Are You Part of It?

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

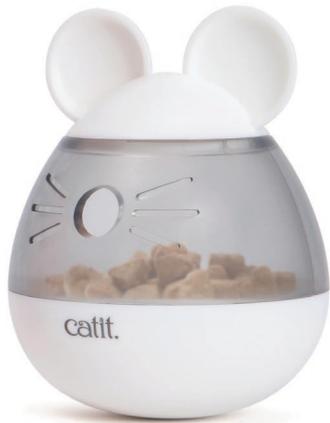
Jump online and send us your cute cat photos and stories at:

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

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



# Pixi®



## Pixi Treat Dispenser

Self-righting cat treat dispenser

**\$15<sup>40</sup>**



## Pixi Spinner

Interactive, spinning cat treat dispenser

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## Pixi Feeding Dish

Shallow, whisker-friendly design

**\$35<sup>00</sup>**



## Pixi Fountain

Available in White, Blue, Pink or Sage

**\$105<sup>00</sup>**

**Now available from the Ten Lives Shop!**