

FELINE SEMINAR

Conducted by

Sacred Cat of Burma Fanciers Assoc.

Sunday, 22nd February, 2004.

It has been sometime since the Sacred Cat of Burma Fanciers Assoc of Australia held one of their Feline Seminars and it was a welcome return to the 2004 calendar. It was very pleasing to have 45 people in attendance from the FCCV, GCCF of Victoria and CAV. and New Zealand.

The first speaker was Dr. Anne Neville a Veterinarian of 30 years experience whose expertise also covers Acupuncture, Herbal remedies, Bush Essence remedies and kinesiology. Dr. Neville works within both the general veterinary field as well as alternative medicines and treatment. Those in attendance were very interested in her knowledge of acupuncture for a wide range of problems faced by cats and dogs together with the added use of herbs.

Dr. Carole Webb, well known feline veterinarian and Executive Director of the Cat Protection Society was the second speaker. Her first subject was Chlamydia and it was encouraging to hear that in most cases this worrying disease can be assisted with good treatment and correct medication. She encouraged breeders to place, in a single cat home, any animal who was proven to be a carrier for the protection of the rest of the cats/kittens in the cattery. It was also interesting to learn that most animals affected were usually aged from 2-12 months. Dr. Webb urged breeders who detected kittens with any form of runny eyes or noses and a cough to seek veterinary help immediately.

Dr. Webb's second subject was the one closest to her heart. Early desexing. The figures shown were quite distressing – over 50,000 cats put to sleep every year because they could not be placed. Evidence was given on how quickly young kittens bounce back after surgery – partly due to the fact that desexing a young kitten is quicker and easier than for an older animal. Anaesthetics have greatly improved over the past few years.

The third speaker was Jane Zeeher, Area Manager – Victoria for ROYAL CANIN. Jane's subject was Feline Diet and whilst she did not "push" her own product it was especially interesting to hear what she had to say regarding

Nutrition for cats during gestation and lactation as well as nutrition of new-born kittens.

ROYAL CANIN now comes under the umbrella of Masterfoods Petcare who also produce WHISKAS but keep ROYAL CANIN as a completely separate part of their range of products for cats.

Following a break for lunch the speaker was Dr. Christina McCowan, Patron of SCBFA, a veterinarian whose qualifications include Neuro-Science and Pathology. Dr. McCowan's subject was Ophthalmology and she discussed the various forms of eye disease seen in cats. This also covered the areas of trauma and injury to the eye. Dr. McCowan was able to answer many questions regarding eyes which obviously had concerned quite a few people present. Christina is now based at Melbourne University, Werribee, as a Pathologist and on receipt of eye tissue, and often the whole eye, her task is to determine the cause of the problem.

The final speaker was Dr. Brad Nettleton, a highly qualified Bachelor of Science and Veterinary Medicine who is now the Veterinary Service Manager – Companion Animals & Snake Antivenoms with CSL Limited. Brad presented a very in-teresting discussion regarding Feline Vaccines and their important use for cats.

He covered the areas of Feline Enteritis, Feline Chlamydiosis, Feline Herpesvirus and Feline Calicivirus and gave the clinical signs we should look for and which vaccines are available to prevent these virus's. This proved to be an extremely valuable discussion with a very worthwhile question and answer session to follow.

It was important to thank the sponsors of this seminar – Masterfoods Petcare Aust/N.Z., C.S.L. Limited and Phizer.

Very special thanks were extended to Mrs. Ros Fraser who put in a tremendous amount of time and effort organizing the guest speakers and following up on all the details involved with the presentation of what proved to be an extremely successful day.

The Club appreciated the attendance of all those present, who voted it a very successful seminar indeed -- it was clear that everyone wanted the Club to hold regular Seminars of this type.