

# ***FELINE HEALTH SEMINAR***

**PRESENTED BY  
SACRED CAT OF BURMA FANCIERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

**MARIBYRNONG RSL  
27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2005**

Once again a very successful Feline Health Seminar was presented by SCBFA on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2005.

Despite the fact that numbers were not as good as the Club had hoped those who attended voted this a very worthwhile Seminar and encouraged the Club to continue with this worthwhile addition to the FCCV Calendar.

Guest Speakers this year were Dr. Carol Webb who first spoke on the subject of Fading Kitten Syndrome. Dr. Webb gave several reasons for this problem arising with new born kittens and listed suggestion which might be useful to aid in the survival of these babies. Warmth was very important but also breeders should be aware that a “cooling off” area in the kitten box is also needed to avoid kittens over-heating and becoming dehydrated. It is also important that we recognize the fact that in many cases kittens are beyond help and the Queen often knows best.

Dr. Webb then gave a very informative discussion on Feline Vaccination. Breeders need to discuss this subject fully with their veterinarian. The killed product has become the vaccine of choice in recent years and a large variety of health problems are now covered by suitable vaccinations. Many infections that caused major problems in the past are almost unknown today thanks to the advancement of feline research.

As always Dr. Webb’s presentation is excellent and extremely informative.

Dr. Carolyn O’Brien from the South Eastern Animal Emergency Centre presented a very interesting paper on Feline Ophthalmology. The work done to save the eyes and sight of our cats today is outstanding and every year new methods are used with very good results. Dr O’Brien is also very involved in the field of infectious diseases and cardiology and devotes a great deal of her time and energy in that area.

After lunch Dr. O’Brien discussed the many problems dealing with Skin Allergies and Parasites. Carolyn was able to show us many photo slides to indicate the various allergies suffered by cats and gave practical ideas how to

deal with this major concern. Those present found this to be extremely beneficial and a worthwhile discussion.

Ms. Rachel Schafer Evans is a Nutritional Consultant and works closely with Veterinarians about pet nutrition. Rachel is with Hill's Science Diet and she discussed the huge variety of health problems that can be assisted with correct diet. Hill's Science Diet have a variety of dry foods which cover many areas of diet especially for cats – Senior food, Special Food for cats with Kidney and Diabetic issues, specialized kitten food amongst others. This proved to be a very interesting discussion and was followed by a good question and answer period. Rachel followed up on some of the problems that had been mentioned by Dr. O'Brien and was able to suggest the best products to use to help with some of the skin problems.

Our last speaker was Dr. Nicole Hoskin who is a partner in the Prahran Veterinary Hospital and her major field has become Natural Remedies for animals and especially cats. Nicole offers both conventional and complementary therapies for pets which include Acupuncture, Chinese Herbal Therapy and Bach Flower Essences which she has found to be both useful and worthwhile for many of her patients. Dr. Hoskin has found that Acupuncture has worked for many and varied problems with the cat and in the area of arthritis she has been most successful. Those present were amazed to see photos showing acupuncture needles placed all over the cat's body, including inside the nose, and the cat has accepted this treatment in a quiet and relaxed manner.

All guest speakers were presented with a gift and thanked, most sincerely and warmly, for giving up their valuable time to take part in this Seminar. They were greatly appreciated and very well received.

Sincere thanks must go to Mrs. Roz Fraser who, once again, organized an excellent panel of speakers and to Colin Greenwood who is her very able assistant. A considerable amount of hard work goes into presenting these Seminars and it is hoped that those who attended will encourage others to attend future events. The information received is invaluable.

Thanks go to all who attended.

Sacred Cat of Burma Fanciers Association of Australia.

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Dr Carolyn O'Brien	South Eastern Animal Emergency Centre	<b>1300 653 858</b>
Dr Nicole Hoskin	Prahran Veterinary Hospital	<b>9510 1335</b>