

I urge you to support the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. Each year in NSW more than 60 000 cats and dogs are euthanased in council pounds. The bill is an essential first step to reducing this tragic statistic.

Below is an account of just one of the many tens of thousands of animals abandoned each year in our state, she is one of the lucky ones able to have been rescued.

Name: Miss Flops

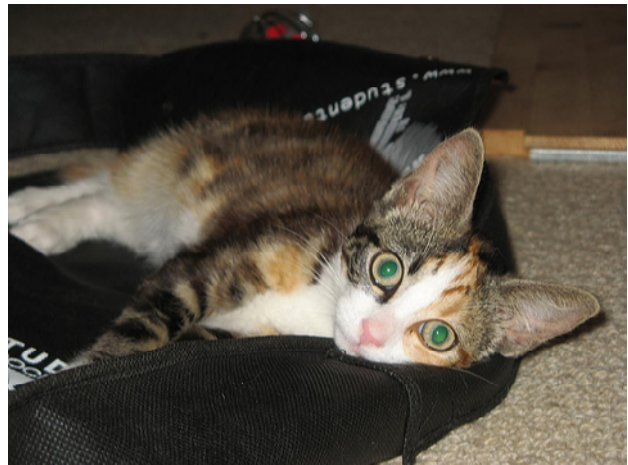
Species: Cat

Breed: DSH

Sex: Female

Approximate age: 14 weeks

Condition upon rescue: Malnourished and dehydrated, with fleas and intestinal worms



Miss Flops' Story

Miss Flops was abandoned in February 2007, and was found crying on my doorstep in the middle of the night, desperate for food and a safe place to sleep. The first few months of her life are a mystery – was she one of the scores of young animals given as Christmas presents, abandoned when the novelty wears off and the realisation sets in that caring for an animal takes effort; that they aren't toys? Or was she the product of a backyard breeder, just another one of many "surplus" kittens. Whatever her story, she is one of the thousands of animals abandoned in NSW every year, and every one of them deserves better than to be left to fend for themselves, die alone, or to have their short lives end in the pound.

Miss Flops is now a healthy and happy 17-month-old young lady, with a loving home. 60,000 other equally deserving dogs and cats born in our state this year won't be so lucky. The rights of these animals should be far more valuable to us than protecting the profits of the pet industry. There is no place in our society for backyard breeders. We have more than enough puppies and kittens already. As a community, our focus has to be on looking after the ones we have now, not churning out more.