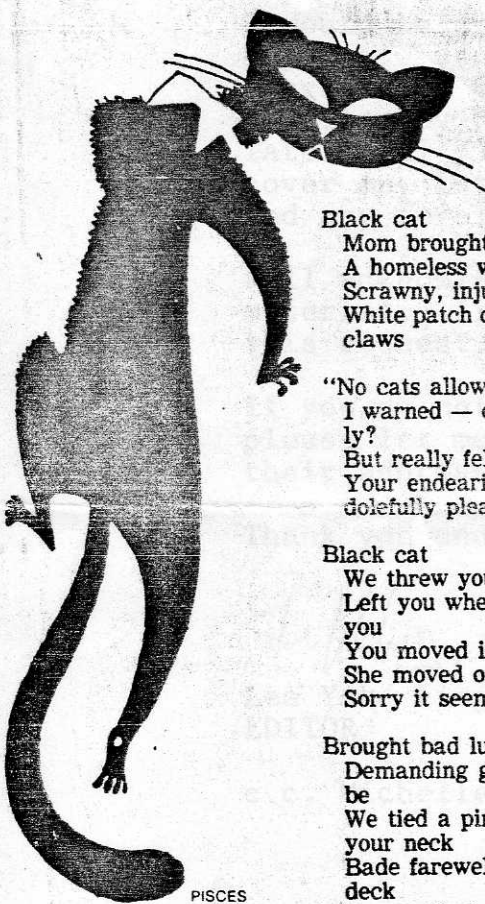


Expressions

THE beauty and innocence of animals can be so beguiling. How many of us have not lost our hearts to a dog with a wiggly tail, a cat with a 'manja' meow, a canary with its melodious twitter or a fish with its

graceful ways? These pets have inspired our pen some verses and sketches to tie in with Responsible Pet Ownership Week organised Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Anim

Black cat



Black cat
Mom brought you home
A homeless waif
Scrawny, injured front paw
White patch on chest, tender claws

"No cats allowed in HDB!"
I warned — civic consciously?
But really felt drawn to you
Your endearing yellow eyes
dolefully pleading to stay

Black cat
We threw you out
Left you where Mom found you
You moved in
She moved out
Sorry it seemed cruel

Brought bad luck? Oh, no!
Demanding guest, yes maybe
We tied a pink bow round your neck
Bade farewell at the void deck
Peace. Go free!

REUBEN WONG, 17,
Student, Hwa Chong Junior College.

Snow

Oh! I have never seen,
Such a temper in a doggie so small
One moment she growls and she barks,
The next, she's as gay as a lark.

She pees on the kitchen floor,
right next to the door.
She chews on cloth-pegs and stuff
although they're really quite tough.

She goes off her food for a while,
But quickly wolfs down in style,
Chicken or liver appeals,
Beef is not her favourite meal.

She licks everyone with all her might,
Till mummy comes into sight.
On mum's nightie she licks and slobbers,
But still she'll never get clobbered!

VIVIENNE CHAN, 13,
Student, Raffles Girls' Secondary School.



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Student, Raffles