



Thursday, November 27, 2008

## PRESS RELEASE

### FROM BAD TO WORSE: 500 HOMELESS CATS!

The Animal Welfare League Qld has been inundated with cats and it isn't yet full blown breeding season. On Tuesday the AWL Qld opened its doors to 54 cats in total, including several unwanted litters of 1-month-old kittens.

Spokeswoman from the AWL Kim Assim said our current rehoming crisis has gone from bad to worse with 80 arrivals on Tuesday.

"Tuesday last week saw 60 arrivals in the one day, including several litters of puppies, and we thought that was bad," she said.

"This time it's the cats turn with the spike resulting from the unwanted cat litters arriving from the Ipswich pound in the one day," she said.

"We are terribly concerned as things are going to get much worse when we feel the effects of breeding season in December/January/February, we are facing very uncertain times ahead," she said.

"Cats can have 3 litters a year, can be pregnant by 5 months of age and breed about 10 times faster than humans," she said.

"Many people are unaware that there are too many animals looking for homes already and continue to breed more for their own interest or profit," she said.

"Compulsory desexing is the only chance we have of gaining some control of this skyrocketing problem of unwanted animals," she said.

"Until we have compulsory desexing we simply can't keep up with rehoming all these cats when there are already so many thousands without homes," she said.

"At present we have 54 cats available at the Coombabah shelter for rehoming including two Pure Breed Siamese cats; 4-year-old Jinni and 2-year-old Mocha, " she said.

"Typicaly Siamese cats require special love and care. These cats are very loyal and when they find themselves abandoned at the shelter their personalities change," she said.



“Often Siamese cats will go out on foster as they don’t cope with the shelter environment and become very timid,” she said.

“There are 262 cats out on foster at present so collectively we have well over 300 cats in need of new homes, not to mention the 180 or so preparing for sale, totalling to nearly 500.”

The AWL Qld cares for 10,000 of stray and unwanted cats and dogs every year on the Gold Coast and surrounding areas, with an average of 7500 animals returned to their owners or rehomed each year.

**For further information or for an interview please call Kim Assim on (07) 5509 9030.**

