

To Whom It May Concern

02 May 2020

Re: QT CATs - Queenstown

As co-founder and a previous Trustee for Queenstown Cat Rescue for 10 years, I wish to confirm that Andréa Balona and Melissa Gold were volunteer coordinators for Queenstown Cat Rescue overseeing the fostering and adoption of the Rescue's cats and kittens from 2015 through to March 2020.

The high pressured role placed on them proved that they were able to fulfill their duties with a high level of commitment.

Their duties included:-

- Recruiting volunteers for fostering
- Setting up fosterers with equipment to house rescue kittens and cats
- Liaising and providing support to the fosterers
- Carrying out health assessments with the cats and kittens
- Arranging veterinary appointments for treatments eg: desexing, vaccines and any other treatments or injuries
- Ordering and arranging delivery and distribution of cat food, litter and supplies
- Advertising adoptions for the cats and kittens
- Screening potential homes/people for adoption of cats and kittens. Including processing of relevant paperwork
- Trapping and collecting rescue cats and kittens and transporting to fosterer's or to the vets
- Daily feeding programs for the colony cats

During this period, Andrea and Melissa proved to be reliable, punctual and a great asset to Queenstown Cat Rescue. Their commitment and dedication has gained the respect of myself, the volunteers and the Queenstown Community. Therefore I have no hesitation in recommending them and fully support them in their new venture in establishing a Rescue organisation called QT CATs.

Should you require any further information, or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ruth de Reus

P O Box 175

Picton 7220

027 207 3725





4 May 2020

*OFFICE OF THE MAYOR*

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: QT CATs**

I write in support of the QT CATs group who have undertaken to support residents of the Queenstown Lakes District by providing valuable veterinary services, food and other assistance to cat owners experiencing financial challenges as a result of Covid-19.

It is proven in science that pets can have a positive effect on the mental wellbeing of their owners by providing companionship, reducing anxiety and stress and providing a commonality with other pet owners. At a time when many residents will have a number of heavy pressures weighing on them, it is comforting to know that this group are able to assist with costs that might otherwise jeopardise this mutually beneficial relationship.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Boulton".

Jim Boulton ONZM  
MAYOR



Cat Rescue Wanaka  
c/- 19 Nokomai Street  
Wanaka 9305

e: [catrescuewanaka@gmail.com](mailto:catrescuewanaka@gmail.com)  
[www.catrescuewanaka.org.nz](http://www.catrescuewanaka.org.nz)

Dear Andrea, Mel, Ginny, and Teri, and Prospective QT CATs Supporters

Re: QT CATS

Congratulations on coming together in such a short space of time to establish QT CATs. This achievement is particularly impressive given the difficulties surrounding Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions. This in itself is testament to your passion, determination, drive, and ability to make things happen according to your purpose.

That you have formed your charity, having foreseen the difficulties and hardships that individuals/families may face during these unprecedented times, and the potential impact to the beloved family cat, is particularly relevant at this time.

The importance of The Cat to its human family is well documented, so we will not comment further, suffice to say the stress and sadness felt when these relationships are broken, for whatever reason, is very real.

CRW have had in their care cats that have obviously been family pets, but remained unclaimed, despite advertising. We suspect some have been dumped or abandoned, others may have strayed from home. For some people, microchipping is overlooked due to the additional cost, but this would have helped for these cats, and several others we have spent time on to reunite with their owners. We have also had litters of kittens surrendered to us, as people hadn't desexed their cat in time, with a lack of finances and understanding of early age desexing being implicated in these instances. And for those who are isolated from society for whatever reason, but love their cat, having someone to support them if they are unable to do all they need, will make a very real difference to the health and well-being of both cat and human. An organisation such as QT CATs that is able to educate, offer advice, or financial and practical support, would help to prevent the kind of unfortunate situations where cats find themselves surrendered, homeless, or abandoned. This makes the community a better place for all.

Many of us on the CRW committee have known one or more of the QT CATs ladies for the last three or so years, when we first started doing cat rescue work in Wanaka. We have appreciated their considerable experience and knowledge, their commitment and dedication, their compassionate understanding of situations, and willingness to share and offer help.

QT CATs – we wish you all the best in your mission. You have found an unmet need in society in endeavouring to be the fence at the top of the cliff. Kia kaha – be strong.

Prospective Supporters – we trust our letter of support speaks for itself.

Yours faithfully

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'RAL' in a cursive style. The second signature on the right is 'LJ Turner' in a cursive style.

Rachel Allibone and Lindsey Turner

CRW Trustees and Co-chairs

Kirstin Dana, Alyce Harwood, Natalie Ward, Monique White

CRW Committee and Founding Members



30 April 2020

**RE: QT CATs support**

**To Mel and Trustees,**

I write this letter to congratulate you on the new charity QT CATs, and thank you for supporting our local Queenstown community, especially during this trying time. Family Adventures Ltd, a local business that has been in operation for 15 years, fully supports the work you four local ladies do in our community.

As a business that operates from the centre of town out to Skippers Canyon, we see the effects that feral and wild cats have on our natural wildlife, however, we also love and all own our own feline friends and know the joy and laughs they bring to our families.

Having a charity committed to supporting the local families and their cats, is a wonderful idea to keep cats and owners together, and see less abandoned cats being left behind. Being able to rely on a charity that will also go above and beyond to take in and care for any surrendered cats too really puts us in good stead for the future, it is a great cause for multiple reasons.

Cats have been a source of calm for many people during this Covid-19 pandemic, and we have heard many praises from owners appreciating their small family members during lockdown. Having a charity financially available to support cats and their owners, reducing stress mentally and improving way of life for cats by providing cats basics such as food and vet bills, is a wonderful gesture during this time.

We see the effort, time and hard work put in, and are also aware of the close relationships you have formed with many of us. We at Family Adventures fully endorse and support you financially moving forward.

Kind regards,

*S Singleton*

Simon Singleton

Director



4/5/20  
Leighann Cochrane  
32 Wicklow Street  
Cromwell  
New Zealand  
9310

0272846495

Lake Wakatipu Home and  
Hospital  
20 Douglas Street  
Frankton  
Queenstown  
9300

T +64 3 442 3780  
F +64 3 442 3543  
lakewakatipu@bupa.co.nz  
www.bupa.co.nz

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of Queenstown Community Cats and the valuable work they do to support the community and the local cats. Covid-19 has had a huge impact for people financially and many people have had to consider the horrible thought of having to give up their pets. As an owner of three cats myself the thought of having to do this is heart breaking. They are a part of my family and I believe hugely beneficial to my child in his learning of compassion and care. I have been fortunate that our family have managed financially through this period of time but I am aware many others haven't and having this organisation to help has been crucial. Part of their assistance includes helping with desexing, reducing the numbers of cats being abandoned and the population of wild cats. I personally believe this assists conservation efforts for the New Zealand wildlife.

Out with this they have supported our resident's previously at Bupa with pet therapy. Coming into care can be a huge adjustment for them and their families and can be very difficult. Animals and children can have a huge impact on the mental wellbeing and I have seen this many times when they have brought cats into visit. One particular occasion was a resident at end of life who was very distressed. As soon as a cat was placed beside him he settled, the cat didn't leave his side and he passed away peaceful. This gave the family so much peace seeing this change. We now have two cats at the home and it is incredible to see their instincts when residents are at end of life and the comfort they bring them and their family. Many residents have bowls of food in their rooms and enjoy the companionship and the way it makes it feel more like home. They particularly love when QT community cats bring in kittens for them to play with.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Leighann Cochrane  
Clinical Manager  
BUPA Care Services Lake Wakatipu Home and Hospital

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leighann Cochrane". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

03 May 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am Fumie Ichikawa originally from Japan.

I immigrated into New Zealand in September 2003.

When I came to New Zealand, one of things I was impressed was to see many people were volunteering to care each others. And they were enjoying it! And it seemed this was normal to help each other. I decided at that time I would do this for New Zealand someday.

I started my takeaway business "THE SHED" in Arrowtown in June 2011. At the same time I started helping the charity in the cat rescue which I have been dreaming with ANDREA and MEL. At the beginning I thought they were "just rescuing the cats". But I was completely wrong. Through the rescue cats, I learned how rescuing the cats affect the New Zealand natures. And I noticed the people became much nicer to me with cats rescue. Obviously I am a migrant so sadly I have experienced racial abuses sometimes here. But with rescuing the cats, things are completely different. Even with the sign of rescue cats at the shop, locals or tourists start talking about cats and we can have good laughs. As a result, it is good for the business!

"Rescue the cats" actually makes our community better. Most people can't be nasty to the animals.

The world has suddenly changed due to Covid19 pandemic, which nobody expected at all.

I am also one of the people suffering from the fear of this pandemic. But helping people does help me as well. We need to be more kind each other.

I am sure QT CATs will be the big help to the Queenstown community with caring cats. And I will definitely keep supporting the wonderful Queenstown ladies to support Queenstown.

Yours sincerely,



Fumie Ichikawa/The owner of THE SHED

26 Buckingham Street Arrowtown

**From:** Chris Ferguson <[flashripped@gmail.com](mailto:flashripped@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** QTCATS

**Date:** 4 May 2020 at 6:53:11 PM NZST

**To:** Gaela Shierlaw <[gaelamail@gmail.com](mailto:gaelamail@gmail.com)>

On behalf of my wife and I we would like to offer this letter of support to the team that have set up a new charity in Queenstown to provide care, therapy and resource support to the local cat owner community. Even though QT CATS is a new charity the founding team of Melissa, Andrea, Ginny and Teri have been key members of local animal care charities for longer than the 8 years we've been involved with caring for the local abandoned and unwanted cap population.

The QT CATS team are long time locals and comprehend the problems Queenstown has with a large proportion of the population being transient who still want to have a pet to come home to. They often end up leaving town and their pets are left behind to fend for themselves which means there will always be a necessity for animal care services to pick up the slack. Shortly after moving to Queenstown my wife and I realised this need to give the abandoned pets more of a chance at a longer and safer life so dedicated significant time, effort and funds to animal care charity here.

The difference we see with the QT CATS team are that they have experienced the challenges in volunteering for charities that lose their way and let external factors change the priorities of the charity. This experience and their determination not to deviate from their priorities give us the confidence to contribute to QT CATS in any way we can for as long as we're able. Their collective knowledge cat care, the understanding of the unique challenges of living in Queenstown and their "can do" attitudes make us very confident that any contribution made to QT CATS will be utilised with efficiency and commonsense.

The team at QT CATS also have long term goals of growing their support network to include educational facilities and our elderly population as well as the special needs groups which we applaud them for as it further demonstrates their vision that animal care is more than just leaving out the occasional bowl of food and picking up stray cats after they've been abandoned.

Queenstown is experiencing an economic crisis at the moment and for the foreseeable future and it's always the most vulnerable who are hardest hit by tough times and the pet population will inevitably bear the brunt of household spending cutbacks. QT CATS have realised this is the time for them to create something better than what's been available in the past and their no-nonsense, intelligent and dedicated approach deserves our every possible assistance and they deserves your assistance too.

Chris Ferguson

[flashripped@gmail.com](mailto:flashripped@gmail.com)

Thursday 7 May 2020

## Letter of Support

Dear Queenstown Community,

I would like to acknowledge my full support of QT Cats and their current fundraising campaign: Operation Cuddles. Queenstown has been particularly affected by the Covid -19 crisis, with thousands of people expected to exit Queenstown in the coming months. For many families in Queenstown, paying for food and vet bills for their pets will no longer be regarded as essential or affordable spending. Therefore, as QT Cats has projected, there will be and already has been a huge spike in the number of cats abandoned or surrendered.

As a member on the Board of Trustees for another animal rescue group: Dog Rescue Dunedin Charitable Trust, I fully am aware how animal rescue groups operate with very limited funding at the best of times, and an influx of dumped animals will most likely speedily overwhelm them. Through 'Operation Cuddles', it is wonderful to see their foremost goal is to keep cats in their families, by offering payment for food and vet treatment for people facing job losses and who cannot financially support their pet cats at this time.

As a primary school teacher at Remarkables Primary School in Queenstown, I have had the privilege to meet this wonderful team of people at QT Cats in either a direct or indirect way, through by supporting them with previous fundraising for stray and abandoned cats in our community and by helping to raise awareness through education with students on teaching key values, such as Empathy. Children learn to develop an understanding on how much animals add to our lives, and that they are very much part of our families.

I also commend QT Cats for developing a plan to survive the lockdown and beyond by including measures to ensure all cats of Queenstown also make it through.

Our companion animals will provide valuable support to us as the Covid-19 crisis continues and I believe we owe it to them to ensure we reciprocate by planning to meet their needs. QT Cat's vision of 'Community, Therapy and Passion' strongly supports this.

I wish QT Cats every success and they have my full, ongoing support with future fundraising campaigns and education programmes in schools and within the wider community.

Kind regards

*Nikki Langford*

Primary School Teacher

Board of Trustees Member for Dog Rescue Dunedin Charitable Trust

1 May 2020

15 Humphrey Street

Frankton

QUEENSTOWN

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As a volunteer for Baskets of Blessing in Queenstown, I have known Andrea Balona for over a year. She has been both a recipient and an avid supporter of Baskets of Blessing, allowing our organization to house a freezer containing frozen meals at her property with easy access for volunteers. We have so appreciated her help and support.

While visiting Andrea's home to facilitate the work of Baskets of Blessing, I have noticed the care and attention she gives to the cats she houses and re-homes and have discussed some of the challenges volunteer organizations face.

I know Andrea, and I am sure the new organization QT Cats which she Chairs, are passionate about what they do and have the best interests of the animals at heart and will strive to do their best for the Queenstown community and the cats they care for. I am happy to write this letter of support, and wish them all the best for the future.

Kind Regards

Bernice Hased

BASKETS OF BLESSING – Volunteer

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9 Clifton Street

St Albans

AL1 3RY

United Kingdom

28th April 2020

Dear QT CATs,

Re: Operation Cuddles

As a good friend of Queenstown with family members having lived in the area or many years and a history on South Island for over 120 years I am writing in support of this project. I'm writing from the UK but as an ex-resident of New Zealand.

It goes without saying that Companion animals in New Zealand bring a great deal of support to their owners; especially at this time they can play an important role in people's wellbeing. Often cats can be the one thing that keeps vulnerable people engaged with life. With so many people having to make difficult financial decisions due to covid-19 it is really important that we do not neglect animal welfare and the stress that this can cause to owners.

Equally important, in order to protect, restore and build on New Zealand's ecological diversity it is important that cats are not left abandoned and we need to do everything we can to ensure that people who need support in keeping their companion animals get appropriate help.

Feral populations can create enormous stress on native animals and it is at times like these that it is essential that companion animals are kept with their owners rather than being left to fend for themselves.

For me this project thoughtfully addresses every aspect of cat ownership, feeding, health and responsibly encouraging a spaying and neutering programme. Cats definitely need to be with their owners and I believe this programme will do a great deal to support people during this difficult time, ensure animal welfare and support national goals in protecting the ecosystem.

Please support this programme.

With best wishes,

Tim Sharp

Consultant Clinical Psychologist (Retired)

St Albans UK