National Cat Week
Set for November 1-7

By BILL DELANEY
Thresher Managing Editor

"The Cat is now in second position (up from twelfth) among American pets."

"Twenty per cent of all American families own one and two tenths cats each."

"A cat scratch or bite, while painful, is ... definitely not dangerous. A cat's mouth is bacteriologically speaking, much cleaner than a man's."

These interesting gems, recently released by the American Feline Society, herald the rapid approach of Cat Week—International on the Rice campus.

Each year, for the past fourteen years, the week beginning with the first Sunday in November has been observed in honor of the Cat. Known throughout the world in its various translations, Cat Week—International, 1959, is again under the sponsorship of its founding organization, The American Feline Association. The AFS gathers together a select company of individuals for the express and exclusive purpose of helping the cat—any cat—anywhere in the world.

The Society's 21-year history is replete with instances of fierce loyalties and bitter opposition—kindness and cruelty — abject hardship and, at times, giddy success. Outside the religious field, it probably is the only 100% volunteer-operated charity extant.

The Society is a charity and not a chamber of commerce for the cat industry. It makes no charge for any services performed or any food, medicine, supplies, or equipment.

During 1958, 16,404 service operations, involving 8,612 cats, were performed.

Cat Population Large

While America's cat popula-

tion has been stimated at 21 million, only half are owner-fed, housed, and cared for. The Society's interest lies in the 10½ millions of unattached or stray cats—generally hungry, ill or otherwise abused.

Public Health authorities deplore the senseless destruction of many thousands of perfectly healthy cats, each capable of destroying as many as 13 rats in a single night. Man's interference with this centuries-old balance of nature scheme, can and has proven detrimental to the public health, indeed, physical safety (rat bites among children and the aged).

Homes with cats do not produce juvenile delinquents. A child's sense of responsibility toward a small living creature helps to build life-long character.

Rice Arise

Enlightened to these facts, right-thinking Rice students will want to give their whole-hearted support to the valiant efforts of the Society. Memberships range from the elite Life classification, with a one-time fee of $250, down to the Subscription membership at a mere $5 annually.

Campus cat enthusiasts are also invited to send for the Society's "Cat Kt." All inquiries should be addressed to the American Feline Society, New York 3, New York.