

The Cat

magazine

SPRING 2011

80 not out!

Celebrating eight decades
of *The Cat* magazine

Needles about

Introducing feline
acupuncture

Great Scots

Caring for
Caledonian cats

Dream a little dream

Where does your cat go when
he's asleep?

Plus

Ed Byrne,
Cats of colour &
Vanquish vet
visit vexes





Benenden[®]
Healthcare Society

For just 150 pennies

a week, we help to take
care of your health.



**There is another healthcare service that doesn't
cost you the earth.**

Benenden Healthcare can offer local consultations to help diagnose any condition, and a wide range of surgical treatments at specially selected UK hospitals.

We aim to give our members first class discretionary healthcare when they need it most.

So why wait? Find out more today.

Call 0845 276 5573^{*}
or visit www.benenden.org.uk/cats

Please quote reference: CATS

Add your family
and friends for only
**£1.50 per person
per week**

*Calls cost a maximum of 4p per minute for BT customers. The price of calls from non-BT lines will vary. Lines open 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Calls may be recorded. Benenden Healthcare membership is initially available to current or former employees of the public sector, and other approved organisations whose aims and objectives are deemed compatible with those of the Society. Examples of such employers are the Post Office, Civil Service, BT, mutual organisations and not-for-profit organisations. Employees or members of approved UK-registered charities, co-operatives or credit unions are also eligible. Some services have a six month qualifying period. The Benenden Healthcare Society Limited is an incorporated friendly society, registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1992, registered number 480F. The Society's contractual business (the provision of tuberculosis benefit) is authorised by the FSA. The remainder of the Society's business is undertaken on a discretionary basis. The Society is subject to FSA requirement for prudential management. Registered Office: The Benenden Healthcare Society Limited, Holgate Park Drive, York, YO26 4GG.

AD/CATS/SP/Q1.11/H

The Team



Photo: Lee Bishop

From left to right

Ryan O'Hara Senior Designer

Amy Rutter Editorial Assistant

Francesca Watson Editor

Tom Briggs Deputy Editor

Rasoul Hudda Senior Designer

Sam Roberts Creative Artworker

Contacts

For editorial submissions to the magazine

The Editor, *The Cat* magazine, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT
Email: editorial@cats.org.uk
Web: www.thecat.org.uk

We reserve the right to edit material for clarity or space. Cats Protection is not responsible for the opinions, advice and factual content of contributed items. The views expressed do not necessarily conform to those of the Trustees.

To book advertising

Terry Lock Media Sales, 3 Forest Way, Ashted, Surrey, KT21 1JN
Phone: 01372 276 233
Fax: 08707 051 901
Email: tslock@terrylockmediasales.co.uk

Advertisements are accepted in good faith and we endeavour to check their accuracy. However, the charity gives no guarantees or endorsements of the products or services advertised. Cats Protection cannot accept responsibility for any correspondence between the parties, nor can they be expected to arbitrate should any dispute arise.

To change your details, become a Special Friend, subscribe, make a donation or become a member of Cats Protection:

Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT
Email: supporterservices@cats.org.uk
Phone: 0800 917 2287

For all other enquiries:

Cats Protection, National Cat Centre (NCC), Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT
Phone: 03000 12 12 12
(Calls charged at standard rate)
Fax: 08707 708 265
Email: cp@cats.org.uk
Web: www.cats.org.uk/thecatmag

Published quarterly by
Cats Protection.
Printed by Gemini Press Ltd.



Please recycle this
magazine when you
have finished with it



Welcome

...to the Spring 2011 issue of *The Cat*

Eighty years ago, Thomas Edison died aged 84, tap-dancing sensation Lionel Blair was born, Al Capone was on trial for tax evasion and the finest feline publication was born. Yes, if the front cover hadn't already given it away, we're celebrating eight decades of *The Cat* magazine!

Tom Briggs has gone through every copy of the magazine since 1931 and written about our 80 years in print on pages 36 to 39, but how he managed to condense it all into just four pages I'll never know.

To sleep, perchance to dream – on pages 18 to 20 Amy Rutter takes forty winks, pondering over that age old question: where do cats go when they sleep?

I've been out and about meeting some of our Scottish volunteers and there is the first of a two-part article taking me from the islands to the mainland on pages 42 to 45.

Vanessa Scott considers whether the colour really does dictate the character of a cat on page 27, while we discover more about acupuncture on pages 34 to 35 and receive advice on kidney disease on pages 52 to 53.

It's also that time of year when we announce details of our AGM – see page 26 for details.

Enjoy your commemorative 80th anniversary edition and if we have any readers out there who remember the first issue then please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you!

francesca



Cover photo: istockphoto.com/MehmetaliErtek

Cats Protection's vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)

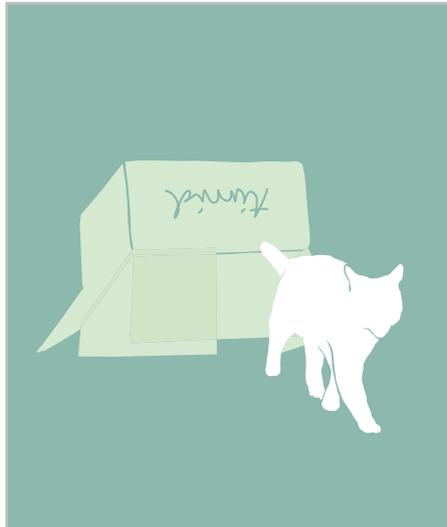


Contents

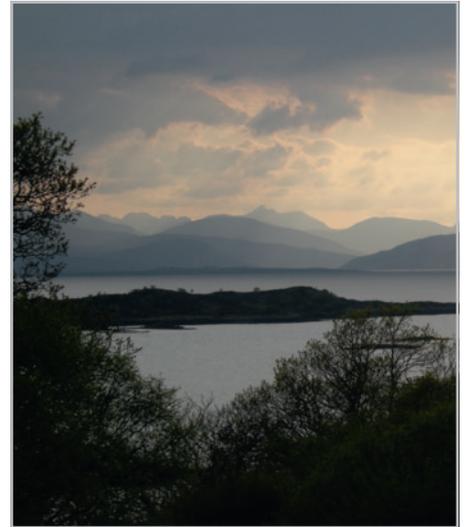
In this issue



14 **Celebrity interview**
Funny man Ed Byrne talks cats and contemporary comedy



25 **What's the hue for you?**
We investigate whether your cat's colouring really makes a difference to his characteristics



42 **Isle take the high road**
In the first of a two-part feature on Cats Protection's work in Scotland, we visit some of the charity's more remote volunteers

36 **80 not out!**
We celebrate 80 years of *The Cat* magazine

Regulars

- 18** **Do cats dream?**
We day-dream about the possibilities of delving into a sleeping cat's imagination
- 22** **Pen pals**
Find out what it's like to be a volunteer Fosterer for Cats Protection
- 26** **AGM notice**
Book your place for our Annual General Meeting
- 34** **Introducing acupuncture for cats**
A homeopathic vet on the benefits of feline acupuncture treatments
- 46** **Places to go, plants to see**
Our gardening guru recommends five gardens that will inspire the green-fingered in 2011
- 52** **Kidney disease: what you need to know**
We discuss an illness more common in cats than you may think... kidney disease

- 6** News
- 10** Letters
- 16** Cats' tales
- 28** Playing detective
- 30** Ask the vets
- 32** Walker on the wild side
- 40** Our favourite things
- 49** Ali's cats
- 50** Coffee paws
- 54** Paws for thought
- 55** Cats Protection in focus
- 61** Diary of events
- 62** Find your local Cats Protection
- 66** Kids' corner
- 68** Making memories
- 69** Remembering cats
- 70** Book reviews

News

More cats homed following Glasgow awareness campaign

During October 2010, an awareness campaign was launched to promote our Glasgow Adoption Centre which recently changed its name from Kirkintilloch Adoption Centre.

The campaign used a powerful and captivating image alongside a message emphasising the benefits of adopting a 'wee Glasgow cat'. The aim was to encourage more people to visit the newly-named Glasgow Adoption Centre, just seven miles from the city centre.

Through adverts via billboards, buses, train stations, newspapers and postcard door drops, the message was taken to commuters, bus travellers, shoppers, newspaper readers and into thousands of households.

The campaign has proved to be a big success and figures released showed that the centre found new homes for 95 cats in October – a 66 per cent rise on its average monthly figure.

"It's been brilliant," said Elaine Green, Deputy Adoption Centre Manager. "We were having a really tough time but now we're getting a lot more people through the door. To go up from an average monthly figure of 57 to 95 is a huge increase so we're very grateful for all the publicity we've had. I really hope the trend continues as there are plenty of cats out there that still need our help."

Andy Currie, Adoption Centre Manager, added, "The response from the public has been amazing. People came to the centre bringing the promotional postcards and asking if the cat featured was available for adoption. We've seen an increase in profit for both the centre and our shop too. There is no doubt that the campaign has had a very positive effect in getting us on the map."



Celebrity Paws 2010 raises over £2,600 for Cats Protection!

Cats Protection's Celebrity Paws auction has come to an end and we're delighted with the amount raised this year, making it the most successful auction yet!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the auction, including our kind-hearted celebrities who generously donated their paw prints to help raise funds for the cats in our care.

Tracey Emin's paw was a runaway success, single-handedly raising £1,220 for the charity. Second place went to Reece Shearsmith, whose detailed drawing reached £350. John Barrowman's paw came in third, raising a healthy £255. Celebrity Paws is an annual auction, so remember to log on later this year for your chance to bid!



MRSA website launched

MRSA and other resistant bacteria can affect pets as well as people. The Bella Moss Foundation is a charity supported by Government departments and it recently launched a completely redesigned website.

The site is aimed at providing education on different bacteria, the risk factors for transmission between people and animals, how to keep pets healthy, finding a vet and the importance of hand hygiene in protecting pets and people from unwanted infection. Find out more at www.thebellamossfoundation.com

Cats Protection cat takes on Prime Ministerial duties

There is a new resident at Winston Churchill's former residence at Chartwell, Kent – Jock, a small ginger kitten adopted from Cats Protection.

It is in compliance with a request made in Churchill's will asking that a ginger cat with four white paws and a white bib called Jock should always be a cat in comfortable residence at Chartwell. Winston Churchill was very fond of his own ginger cat called Jock, named after Sir John – Jock – Colvile, one of his private secretaries.

In 1962, on Churchill's 88th birthday, he received the cat as a gift. Apparently meals would not commence until Jock was present at the table and the cat can even be seen sitting on Churchill's knee in photos of his grandson's wedding.

It is said that Jock was on Churchill's bed when he passed away in 1965. The latest Jock – Jock V – was adopted by The National Trust's House and Collections Manager, Alice Martin and he now lives with her in the top-floor flat.

Jock is settling in well and Alice reports: "He is so cute and rambunctious! He sleeps on his side with his head on the pillow and loves searching around. He is a really lovely fella and has settled in beautifully and is a real favourite in the offices as well!"

Visitors to the property can meet Jock V when Chartwell reopens in the spring.



Photo: Alice Martin

Felix tokens reminder

A few supporters have recently contacted us revealing they were unaware of our feline fleece sponsorship deal with Purina PetCare – so we thought we'd share it with all of you!

Collect the tokens from the sides of Felix multipack boxes and, for every 48 tokens you donate, they will send one feline fleece to Cats Protection.

To donate tokens, visit www.worldoffelix.com and click on 'Felix's bits and bobs'.

Crackdown on internet vet pharmacies

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) has welcomed the tightening of sales of veterinary medicines on the internet.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) has published its response to the public consultation on the Veterinary Medicines Regulations, which are updated every year.

The new regulations, which come into force in April, introduce new controls on internet pharmacies meaning that only approved websites will be legally allowed to dispense and supply veterinary medicines. The BVA supports the use of a logo on approved websites to help consumers buy medicines from reputable sources.

The BVA has previously expressed concern that pet owners could inadvertently buy counterfeit veterinary medicines online and urges veterinary clients to seek advice from their vet and only buy from UK-based companies.

Harvey Locke, President of the BVA, said: "Without proper regulation, online pharmacies could be sourcing drugs from overseas and selling counterfeit medicines that look genuine to unsuspecting pet owners. These medicines are placebos at best and dangerous at worst.

"We would urge all pet owners to continue talking to their vet about sourcing medicines from the internet to make sure the right drugs are bought and administered correctly."

Yes, Prime Minister, adopt a cat!

Following the appearance of unwanted vermin at 10 Downing Street, aides to Prime Minister, David Cameron, have hinted that one spending cut not on the agenda is that of pet food as they are actively recruiting for a new cat to patrol the corridors of power.

The news follows a number of sightings of rodents including an embarrassing high-profile appearance of a large rat scurrying past the famous front door during a live BBC broadcast.

It remains to be seen whether the feline in question will be able to save Big Society from these big rats, but the successful candidate will follow in the pawprints of the likes of Humphrey – who was famously voted out by Cheri Blair – and Sybil who moved in with previous Chancellor, Alistair Darling as the nation's most famous feline.



Photo: istockphoto.com/Dan Kite

Stamp of approval for Jack the Station Cat

Children's literary favourite, *Jack the Station Cat*, has become the first feline in Anglo-Welsh children's literature to appear on a first day cover, according to The Cats on Stamps Study Unit, an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society.

The stamps celebrate the Bala Lake Railway in Snowdonia, Wales and there in the corner you see *Jack the Station Cat*. It is a limited edition of 250 and can be purchased through Jack's own website www.jackthestationcat.co.uk



Do our home environments reflect our pets' needs?

According to recent research by the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association (PFMA), 80 per cent of people in Great Britain rate their pets' needs in line with those of their families.

However, most don't realise that the home environment is linked to their pet's behaviour and can be one of the main causes of antisocial behaviour.

PFMA's Chief Executive, Michael Bellingham said: "It is clear that most pet owners go out of their way to look after their pets' needs and want to accommodate them to the best of their ability. The PFMA website has been designed as a resource centre for pet owners to access tips, suggestions and animal facts to help them do their best by their animal companions."

Visit www.pfma.org.uk for further details.

Cat ordered to do jury service

A cat has been summoned to complete jury service after his owners registered him on a state census form.

A letter was sent to the cat, who was listed in the pets section of the census, by a court in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Owner Anna Esposito wrote to the court asking for exemption as tabby Sal is "unable to speak and understand English." Anna even included a letter from her vet confirming that the cat was "a domestic short-haired neutered feline."

However, the request was refused by a jury commissioner and Anna was told that Sal 'must attend' Suffolk Superior Crown Court.

Anna says: "Sal is a member of the family so I listed him on the last census form under pets but there has clearly been a mix-up."

If Sal's application for disqualification is denied, he is expected in court on 23 March.

Star Wight, star bright

A cat has been reunited with his owner after being handed in to a Cats Protection adoption centre an incredible 278 miles away from his home.

Star went missing from his home in the Isle of Wight in October 2009 and, despite his owners' best efforts to find him, seemed to be gone for good. In January this year, however, he was taken to Cats Protection's York Adoption Centre. When staff scanned him for a microchip they were amazed to discover the distance that he had travelled.

Owner Harriet Parkinson said "This Christmas I had given up hope we would ever get Star back and I went to the Cats Protection centre, where we got him from and looked at adopting a new cat. None of them jumped out at me like Star had, so I went away. A few days later they called and said how would you feel about getting Star back? I couldn't believe it."

How Star got to York remains ambiguous, although it is thought that he may have been taken in by someone who subsequently made the long journey north. "It shows how important it is to have your cat microchipped," said Adoption Centre Manager, James Hodgkinson.

Get CP news and information straight into your inbox

Sign up to @CatsProtection, our new newsletter!

We've recently relaunched our new newsletter and won't be scheduling releases like we used to, but will instead be ensuring that we only create them when we've really got something to say. @CatsProtection is a fantastic – and free – way of keeping informed about the most important news about the work of the charity.

Sign up at www.cats.org.uk



Illustration: Rasoul Hudda



Take me home

When adopting one of our cats you're giving him a second chance of happiness and what you'll get back is far more than just love and affection. Did you know that owning a cat has proven benefits?

Cat owners are less likely to suffer from stress, are known to relax more and have greater life satisfaction. Not only can cats keep older owners feeling young and active but learning how to care for a cat can also do wonders for a child's self esteem, social skills and sense of responsibility to others.

So get in touch now to experience the benefits of cat ownership. We have thousands of adorable cats across the UK currently waiting for the chance of a loving new home.

T: 03000 12 12 12

E: helpline@cats.org.uk

W: www.cats.org.uk

*Thank you
xx*



Dear CP...

Tell us about it

Do you have an interesting story to tell, a point of view you want to air or something that you just have to get off your chest?

Send your thoughts, views, stories, funny photos and 'mewsings' to *The Cat* magazine, National Cat Centre, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT or email us at editorial@cats.org.uk

Don't forget to tell us your return address and please remember that your letter may be edited for length.

★ STARLETTER

Thank you, Animal Search UK

From: *Lisa Callan, Kings Worthy, Winchester*

I am writing regarding the article on Animal Search UK in your Autumn issue. In September I flew out to San Francisco for a trip away with work, leaving at home my husband, daughter of two years and three cats. One of the things I packed was *The Cat* as the previous weeks had been busy and I hadn't had a chance to read it. Little did I know then how useful it would become!

On day two, I spoke to my husband at 11pm UK time and was upset to find out that one of our cats, Misty, had not come in that day. Misty was always around and never went further than the garden. At this time of night she would always be on the bed with us. What made it so worrying was that Misty, although, only five years old, had kidney failure due to a kidney infection when she was younger. Misty relied on pills every day and lots of water, so I was concerned that if she was shut in somewhere she would suffer.

As the days went on, I kept phoning home hoping for good news but no luck. On day three I was in Sacramento. I unpacked my case, put *The Cat* on the bed and noticed on the cover the article 'Missing! Help is at hand when all seems lost'. I read the article on Animal Search UK and the help they offer to find missing pets. I went online straight away and registered Misty as missing.

The next day my husband got a call from them advising that, as Misty was insured, we could claim for advertising so he emailed some pictures and ordered hundreds of leaflets and laminates. The cost was all covered by the insurance company.

When I returned home the next day, the leaflets arrived so I spent the day asking everyone I saw, putting the leaflets through doors and laminates up at all the village noticeboards and on lamp posts. The leaflets gave a free phone number, 24 hours a day for anyone to phone with information on Misty and included two colour pictures.

After two and a half weeks we got a call from one of our neighbours to say they had found Misty! Sadly she had passed away; they had been clearing out some bushes and found her curled up. They knew it was Misty after receiving a leaflet through the door. I believe she died of kidney failure and just went to sleep. They kindly brought her back to us so we could bury her. I let my two-year-old daughter watch so she knew she wouldn't be seeing Misty again. We told her that, after being laid to rest, Misty now lives in the moon and every night she insists on saying good night to Misty. Thanks to Animal Search UK we could lay Misty to rest.

CP long-term success

From: *Lee and Kelly Ambrose, via email*

I would just like to let you know we still have one of your wonderful cats 20 years on. We collected Paws and Holly in 1990 from the Bedminster Branch as nine-week-old kittens. Two years later, we got a six-month-old rescue Alsatian dog called Sam and the cats were the boss over the dog – he was frightened to death of going near them! Then came along four children and we were one big happy family.

Sadly Holly was put to sleep at the beginning of 2000 and Sam made the good old age of 13. I think it's wonderful to have Paws as such an old cat who loves my four boys and is still very playful and full of beans.



Paws akimbo

Flip-flop felon

From: *Sylvia Park, Hereford, Herefordshire*

I was very interested to read your article on kleptomaniac cats in your Winter 2010 issue, it helped solve a mystery for me. We have four cats at the moment and have had three others in the past but we have never come across the case of cats stealing before.

About two years ago, my husband went out into the garden and found a flip-flop by the back door, not the usual plastic type, but a very pretty jewelled one, he was intrigued as to where it had come from but thinking no more of it picked it up and put it in the bin. About half an hour later he spotted Meg coming down the garden with something in her mouth, fearing it may be a bird, he ran outside to be greeted by another flip-flop, but quite clearly not the one belonging to the one now in our dustbin. He hastily picked it up and put that one in the bin as well. A little while later he heard Meg chirping triumphantly and yes, you've guessed, another flip-flop, this time the partner to the first one.

We suspect that someone had left them outside as Meg is not normally in the habit of going in other people's houses. We felt extremely guilty but apart from asking all the neighbours and owning up that we had a thief living among us we didn't know what to do. Meg has never done this since, so we can only suspect that she took a liking to the colourful jewels on the flip-flops!

Editor's note: Thank you also to Natasha Reynolds whose cheeky kitten Noo Noo steals drinking straws, socks and small ornaments!



Meg's mug shot

A close-knit creative community

From: *Maureen and Phil Rooksby, Andalucia, Spain*

In 2007 we produced a book which was featured in *The Cat* and consequently many of your readers contacted us and we shared cat stories and fundraising ideas. We are great fans of Cat Protection and would love to continue our link with your readers. We have now launched a new website <http://monkeyandsofia.yolasite.com> and are hoping to encourage the sharing of creative ideas with friends across the world. Knowing that all cat lovers are proud of their

feline companions, we would like to open invitation to your readers to send us a portrait of their cat to put on the site.

We also would like to propose a special offer for readers of *The Cat*. They can have a free copy in exchange for sending their unwanted oddments of knitting yarn, to the value of 200 grams in weight – see our site for further information.

There are 10 simple patterns in the book, including knitted cats, a kitten blanket, cat toys and knitted mice. All are easy to make, even for a beginner, and make excellent fundraising items.



OFFER

How ironic!

From: *Claire Oldfield, Cambridgeshire*

When I opened my Autumn 2010 issue of *The Cat* I left it on the ironing board while I was in my kitchen making a cup of tea. I came back to find Bryane, my Bengal Snow Leopard on the ironing board with the magazine under her paw. It made me giggle as it looked like she was just settling down herself to read the magazine. Bryane had beaten me to it!



A cracking good read

Feline housey housey

From: *Jean Allan, Ynysyhir, Mid Glamorgan*

While in West Yorkshire recently, my companion and I were taken to Saltaire village, a World Heritage Site built by a Victorian philanthropist to give his mill workers proper housing. When there I tried to befriend one of the local cats and photos were taken. After leaving I was looking through some old brochures and realised that the Saltaire Festival, to be held later, included an exhibition in a private house open for the occasion and was called 'the lives of other cats' so I sent in my photos with a letter to the organisers.

We went back to the village for the festival and looked in on the open day at the house, where my letter was sitting on a shelf in the parlour. Apparently the village's founder, Titus Salt liked cats and encouraged his tenants in the harmless pastime of 'cat spotting'. The festival brochure, which includes a town map and a cat bingo card says: *Cat spotting has a long tradition in Saltaire. Sir Titus Salt believed that it strengthened moral fibre and encouraged his workers to partake in the pastime in the hope that it would divert their attention from less savoury pursuits such as drinking and politics.*

The route of the Saltaire Cat Walk was designed as the most efficient route by which to navigate the village with a view down every street and back alley. For an adult in moderate health the whole walk should require between 30 and 45 minutes not taking into consideration any cat stops. When you spot a cat, mark it down and make a note of the cat's colour and personality. Completed guides and photographs can be submitted for inclusion to www.saltirecatmap.co.uk

Actually the festival was very noisy, crowded and full of stately dogs on leads, so sensible cats kept out of the way until it was over. I never noticed one that day!

Our Star Letter wins a fantastic Wicker Cat Bed Tunnel with black velvet-look cushion.

All other printed letters will win some Jolly Moggy catnip mice which should keep your moggy amused for hours. Our thanks to Just for Pets for kindly donating these prizes; visit www.justforpets.uk.com to see its full range of products or phone 01527 578 007 for more information.



just for pets
Your online pet superstore

Just for Pets, your online pet store, has everything you need to keep your cat happy and healthy!

Our new-look website is bursting with the leading pet product brands, like Royal Canin, Vitakraft and James Wellbeloved. Go online to discuss all your cat-related questions in our pet-owners' forum, and take advantage of our online pet care advice centre and special online-only offers.

We are currently offering great discounts on selected cat food and accessories!

To find out more, visit www.justforpets.uk.com or follow us on Twitter @Justforpetsuk

The shame-free odour-friendly cat litter

Economical - lasts 3 times longer
Easy to dispose - 100% biodegradable
Absorbs odour totally
Easy to scoop
It's 100% natural organic fibre
Light to carry
Soft on paws

THE UK'S TOP SELLING CLUMPING ECO-LITTER



Buy online
www.petfoodwarehouse.co.uk
 Call 0870 24 22 437
 Also available from
 Pets at Home, Jollies and
 all good pet retailers



Homes for Rescued Cats

Our Apartments are perfect for cats in need of a loving home. Cats are together but apart and pens can be tiered as your brood grows.

Easy to clean ● Quick to put up ● Very secure

From £473



Congrats to The Cat on 80 years!

Orders & brochures 01780 410313
www.penthouseproducts.com

- With Windows and Doors Open -

KEEP YOUR CATS SAFE!

Special "Super Screen" designed to keep your Cat Safe.

Professional fitting service included.

Suppliers to CAT Protection & Catteries.

Free no obligation quote.

01493
 782244



Rowan Lodge, Back Lane,
 Burch Castle, Great Yarmouth, NR31 9QJ
www.thescreendoorcompany.co.uk

Ed Byrne

QUESTION Can you tell me a little about your cat?

ANSWER We have a cat called Shadwell, he's a jet black male – of an uncertain age due to the fact that he just came and found us! We found him by the bins and he very quickly moved from being a cat that we would just feed by the back door outside to sleeping in our bed.

QUESTION You've got a major UK tour coming up in the spring – how do you deal with heckling?

ANSWER Basically my rule is: I talk too fast to let them in! If somebody tries to join in when I'm building up to a punch line I have an 'I'm sorry I'm too busy to talk to you right now!' attitude! I've just done a tour of the Highlands of Scotland to get the show up and running and, having done so, I'm just looking forward to getting out there and telling everyone the jokes!

QUESTION What's the funniest thing your cat has ever got up to?

ANSWER He's mischievous – some days he's just in a mood where every time you walk past him he attacks you. He'll position himself on the upstairs landing behind the banister and as you're walking down the stairs he'll just reach out and bat you.

QUESTION What do you base your stand up material on?

ANSWER We just had a baby at the end of last year, so I've already started talking about that. I've also got a good 10 minutes now about the cat! I have a right old pop at the very notion of just how odd it is to have another living creature in your house that doesn't have a job. You have to feed them and they live in your house and I talk about how you'd be if it was a person behaving this way in your house!

QUESTION How do you fit owning a cat into your busy schedule?

ANSWER The handy thing about cats is they can look after themselves to a certain extent – if you're going away for extended periods of time it's good to leave them with somebody, but so long as they're fed they can go a couple of days without you. My wife works from home though, so she's here.

QUESTION Ronnie Corbett recently said that modern comedians are too interested in shocking audiences or trying to be clever to be genuinely funny: what do you think about that?

ANSWER I know he's not talking about me because he's been to my show a couple of times and enjoyed it. I completely take his point – I think some comedians put the cart before the horse and try to shock. It's one thing if you say something funny and they don't care that it's shocking but it's another thing if you set out specifically to shock as a way of being funny.

*Stand-up comedian Ed Byrne has a natter with **Amy Rutter** about his mischievous moggy and the contemporary comedy circuit*

QUESTION What's a cat's best quality?

ANSWER Our cat is best just after he's woken up 'cause he sleeps at the bottom of our bed and what's quite good is he'll wait till the alarm clock goes off and then come up to the head of the bed and nuzzle in! And then after about 10 minutes he starts to bite you.

QUESTION What advice would you give someone trying to start out in stand-up?

ANSWER Do what you think is funny, not what other people think is funny. It's a boom time in the comedy industry now – comedians are making money like they never used to. I was having this discussion with comics like Fred MacAulay, Phill Jupitus and Jeff Green – people who were the top people 10 years ago – it's a bit like Gazza looking at what Wayne Rooney earns. The money you can make now as a touring comic and the size of venues that comedians are doing are massive compared to what they were. It used to be that maybe five or 10 comedians would be at touring level and only somebody like Billy Connolly or Lee Evans would be doing arenas and now you've got new comedians who are already doing 3-4,000-seater rooms.

QUESTION Are there any up and coming comedians you would recommend us to check out?

ANSWER There's a guy who's not really new but he's not that well known in Britain called Karl Spain from Ireland who's supporting me on my next tour. Also there's a young Scottish kid called Daniel Sloss – I just did a pilot for a BBC3 TV show with him – I think he's worth a look.

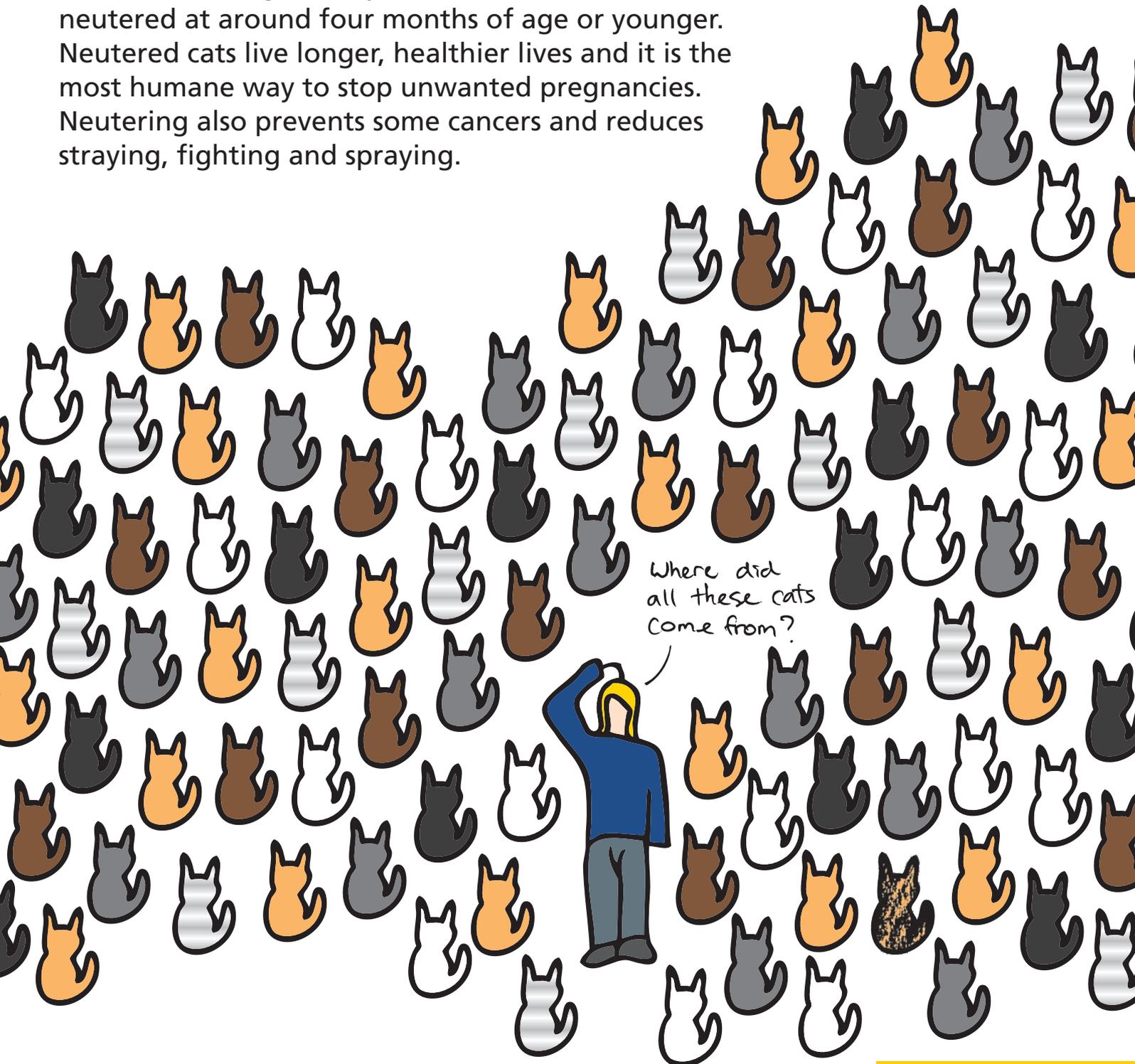
Catch Ed in his 2011 UK Crowd Pleaser Tour from March to June – for details see www.edbyrne.com ●



IT'S NICER TO NEUTER

Did you know that just one unneutered female cat can be responsible for 20,000 descendants in just five years?

Cats Protection generally recommends that cats are neutered at around four months of age or younger. Neutered cats live longer, healthier lives and it is the most humane way to stop unwanted pregnancies. Neutering also prevents some cancers and reduces straying, fighting and spraying.



For further details and assistance please contact us on:
Helpline: **03000 12 12 12**
www.cats.org.uk

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)



Cats' tales

Funny, weird, or just plain photogenic; this is the place to show off your cat for the remarkable creature he is. If you think you've got a cat who deserves his 15 minutes of fame then write to us, at Cats' Tales, *The Cat* magazine, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT or email editorial@cats.org.uk including a photo of at least 500kb in size. If you would like your photos returned, please enclose a self-addressed envelope. Your letters may be edited for clarity and length.



Midge



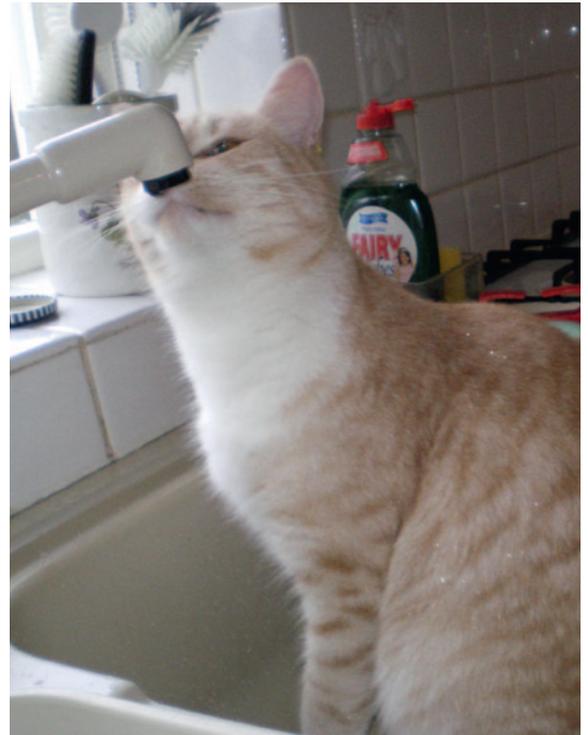
Jaspurr

▼ Tap class

From: *Thelma Gregg, Keyworth, Nottingham*

This is Ollie, our little marmalade cat. Although he always has a fresh saucer of water available, he much prefers to help himself from the tap!

He came to us in September 2009 – a stray, as we thought. He seemed very hungry and was very anxious to come into the house where he quickly made himself at home. We wonder if he belongs to someone – local enquiries, including vets, have yielded no information about him. We love him dearly and will continue to feed him and look after him.



◀ Great friends

From: *Sheila De Jonckheere, Tain, Ross-shire*

Here are my two cats Jaspurr – the black prince – and Midge – the tabby spitfire. They deserve their 15 minutes of fame as they have been great friends to me since I recently became unemployed.

I adopted them three years ago from the Tain & Dornoch Branch of CP in Scotland. They were feral kittens from a nearby oil fabrication yard that were very sick with cat flu. The local volunteer, Caroline, nursed them back to health and accustomed them to human interaction.

At first they didn't like being stroked, especially on the head as a result of all the treatment they had as kittens, but now they push their noses into my face to wake me up in the morning and their characters have shone through.

Jaspurr is a real Egyptian prince – very laid back and has made friends with lots of neighbours down my street, whereas Midge is a little fighter and has destroyed carpets and curtains around the house. But I wouldn't change them for the world.

▼ Curtains hanging around

From: *Wendy Cusden, St. Agnes, Cornwall*

This is a picture of my feral cat, Curtains, who has lived outside my house for many years. I don't think he will ever come and live indoors with my other cats, but seems perfectly content outside, providing he is fed twice a day.

He has a 'cat hutch' in a very sheltered spot beside the trailer, fully carpeted, in which he spends the night when it is very cold and wet, otherwise he curls up in a sunny position under a hedge.

Just recently with all the snow, he was still curled up on the grass and even though the sun was trying to shine I thought it must be very cold for him. I found a wooden box in the garage and covered it with waterproof material and padded the bottom with a piece of foam and carpet and left it near his usual sunny spot. The following morning when I went out to give him his breakfast, there he was happy as Larry in his new home and has spent many hours there since. I just love his independence.



▲ What a ledge-nd!

From: *Innes Macnee, Bishopton, Renfrewshire*

This is a photo of Meg, my 11-year-old cat, on her favourite spot – the windowsill. She gets the sun and can also miaow at the birds on the neighbour's roof!

I got her and her brother Mog as kittens. Sadly, Mog was hit by a car about seven years ago and although this was a terrible thing to happen, since then Meg has really come out of her shell and become a very affectionate cat. She follows me about the house and also bothers me if I am on the phone and not giving her attention!

➤ The chosen ones

From: *Rosie Bell, Macclesfield, Cheshire*

Bailey (left) and Izzy are about five years old and were rescue cats who came to live with me a year ago.

I've always heard that cats choose their owners but thought that this was rubbish! I was at a rescue home, was shown a few cats and allowed to sit with them in their pens. The first pen had two kittens in, who were adorable but didn't seem interested in talking to me – they were more interested in their food! The next pen had a tabby cat that insisted on sitting on my back, even when I was standing, so I thought that might not be so practical on a daily basis. The final pen had two black cats in who had been there for three months. I put my finger through the holes in the caged wall and one of the cats licked me. Once I was inside with them, the other cat promptly sat on my lap and didn't move for half an hour, purring all the while! They obviously felt that I would wait on them 'paw and paw' so kindly agreed to come home with me!

They're a wonderful addition to my home. Adopting older cats for me was ideal, as I didn't feel I had the time to devote to a kitten. I'm a huge advocate of adopting older cats, they're well worth it! I don't know much about their past, but get the feeling that they're very thankful to be sharing my home with me.



Don't forget, *Cats' Tales* is sponsored by Felix so, if your cat gets onto this page, you'll receive a month's supply of delicious Felix pouches from the *Sensations* range. Your little rascal will find it irresistible at every mealtime.

Felix *Sensations* are available in six flavours, you will find them at your local supermarket or pet store. For more information log onto www.catslikefelix.co.uk

*please note that pouches can only be delivered to a UK address. Winners' details will be passed onto the external suppliers for products to be posted direct.

Sponsored by **PURINA**
felix



Do cats dream?

Amy Rutter day-dreams about the possibilities of delving into a sleeping cat's imagination



It's no secret that dreams fascinate us. As humans, we all have dreams – some bizarre, some literal, some confusing – but rarely ever dull. Many of us love to share strange dreams, much to the despair of the ears of our less than enthusiastic friends...

Take one of my recent dreams – as I have your attention, dear reader – by chance, centering on cats. I was making my way down into the dark, dingy basement of a house – I'm not sure whose house and I have no idea why I was there – and was greeted by four cats sitting around a table. Not so strange? They were sitting on their hind legs, like humans. They were each dressed like a member of the Mafia, playing cards and grooving to *The Magic Number* by De La Soul. It made no sense to me then and it makes no sense to me now. It brings me to speculate: if we can allow our imaginations to take us away with the fairies while sleeping, can cats dream too?

The study of dreams

Let's first look at how and why humans dream. In the early 1950s, sleep researchers Nathan Kleitman and Eugene Aserinsky reported observing rapid eye movements in sleeping human subjects. They also found that the body experiences loss of reflexes as well as increased pulse rate and brain activity. These phases of sleep were called REM periods. It was also discovered that if someone was woken during REM sleep, he could normally remember vivid dreams and, in contrast, only a tiny percentage of people awakened during non-REM sleep claimed to have been dreaming. As a result, the researchers concluded that, in REM sleep, dreams occur.

The five stages of sleep are as follows: one, two, three, four and REM. These stages progress from one to REM and then begin again with stage one. Stage one is a light slumber where you drift in and out of sleep and muscle activity slows; in stage two, brain waves become slower; in stage three, slow



brain waves – delta waves – are interspersed with smaller, faster waves; in stage four, the brain produces delta waves almost exclusively; in REM sleep most dreams will occur. Most people have three to five intervals of REM sleep each night.

The two most important dream theories are those of Sigmund Freud and Carl Gustav Jung and it was with the publication of Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* over one hundred years ago that modern dream interpretation began. Freud's theories centered around dreams reflecting our deepest, concealed sexual desires; whereas the equally influential Jung believed that dreams illustrated our wishes, enabling us to realise our unconscious ambitions. The meaning and purpose of dreams has been baffling us for a long old time.

We do know for certain though, that cats need plenty of sleep. In their wild state, cats need to spend a good proportion of their time hunting in order to catch enough

food. Hunting tends to take place when the prey, small rodents, are active which is mostly late in the evening and early in the morning. Because hunting is hard work for cats, they tend to rest and sleep for much of the rest of the day to conserve energy. On average, cats sleep for 16 hours a day – today's domestic cat is descended from the African wildcat, which spends a lot of his time on multiple hunting trips, using short bursts of energy to stalk and pounce on prey and therefore needs to sleep a lot. If only humans could be so lucky!

So why do we have dreams? Some studies have suggested that deprivation of REM sleep results in difficulty in concentrating and memory loss. So perhaps experiencing REM sleep – and consequently dreaming – allows us to function 'normally' during the day. REM sleep is also said to aid creativity. Well, surely that explains my card-playing feline friends? ▶

I began thinking that maybe cats don't dream when asleep, but that perhaps we hope they do because of our desire to attribute human characteristics to them. However, as it happens, there has also been research carried out into REM sleep specific to cats. William C Dement, a student of Kleitman, defined the different stages of sleep one experiences and established the relationship between REM sleep and dreaming.

In the land of nod

Dement studied a sleeping cat and found signs very similar to a human in REM sleep – a raised heart rate and rapid eye movement beneath closed eyelids together with twitching of whiskers and paws and quick scratching movements. But could the twitching behaviours exhibited simply be muscles relaxing as the body drifts off to sleep? I can't be the only one that has been drifting off only to dream I've tripped up and been woken up by my leg having a spasm and jerking out suddenly.

Another sleep researcher, Michel Jouvet, conducted studies on cats in the late 1950s focusing on the behaviours exhibited during REM sleep. He found that, as well as demonstrating behaviours pertinent to REM sleep such as twitching, the cats' bodies went completely limp as if their muscles were paralysed. A cat in REM sleep loses all muscle tension below the neck and relaxes completely; whereas in non-REM sleep, he concluded, a cat's muscles are active, so they can sleep in an upright or sleeping position.

Cat lover, Helen Hoole has two: three-year-old Tonks and seven-year-old Dot. She reports witnessing the indicated signs of a dreaming state: "With Tonks, it usually starts with whisker twitching, then rapid eye movement is seen because of her long eyelashes," she says. "It is usually her paws that twitch next, but half the time it could be her tail. Jerky movements come with noises, but not for long as that's what usually wakes her up and she looks sheepish! I've woken her up before – she jumps and then gives you a real look of disgust!" Helen notes that, when asleep and displaying these behaviours, Tonks will be lying stretched out on her back.

So what kind of dreams might cats have – stalking prey? Eating a big tuna feast? Or maybe a cat even dreams of sleeping – warm and snugly by the radiator!

Delving into the subconscious

Further studies were published in 2001 which indicate that animals may well dream – and not only that, it may be possible to determine exactly what they might be dreaming about. Researchers at The Center for Learning and Memory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology conducted a

study on rats – which were chosen because, like humans, they go through the five stages of sleep. The rats were trained to run around a circular maze track in exchange for food. They monitored brain activity during the task and found the brain created a distinctive pattern of neurons in the memory area. The researchers then monitored the rats when sleeping and around half repeated the unique brain activity that was created during the running task. The replication was so close that the researchers could reconstruct where it would be in the maze if awake. Essentially, the rats were reliving the maze experiment in their dreams.

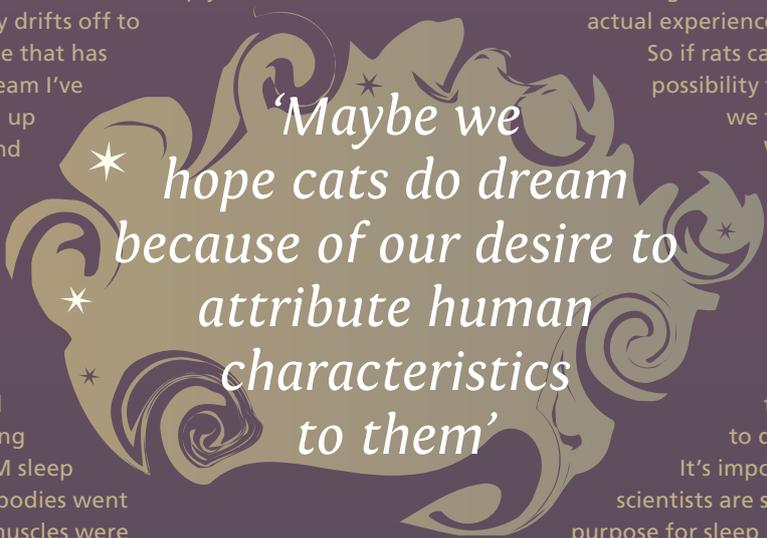
Matthew Wilson, who was involved in the study, said: "We looked at the firing patterns of a collection of individual cells to determine the content of rats' dreams. We know that they are in fact dreaming and their dreams are connected to actual experiences."

So if rats can dream, surely there is a real possibility that cats could? But how are we to *know* a cat is dreaming?

We don't know what is going through a cat's mind at any one time – probably a good thing, too. As studies have shown that cats, like humans, experience REM sleep then it is certainly a possibility that cats have the capacity to dream.

It's important to remember that scientists are still investigating the exact purpose for sleep itself and it could take

many more years to understand it fully – if we ever do at all. Further exploration could help shed light on a cat's conscious experience of the world. Indeed, cats may well dream – many cat lovers and owners will insist they do, experiencing what appears to be dreaming first hand – but until additional studies are carried out by sleep researchers, we can't yet be certain. Perhaps we could encourage our pets to keep dream diaries? ●



“Maybe we hope cats do dream because of our desire to attribute human characteristics to them”

Tips to ensure your cat gets that all important sleep

Ensure that your cats have multiple suitable places to kip:

- Cats like to have somewhere to hide – an upturned cardboard box with a hole in the side, an enclosed igloo bed, or simply a space under a bed
- Somewhere to observe – cats feel more relaxed and safe if they can look out from a height, so provide beds on top of wardrobes, bookcases or windows shelves
- It is normal cat behaviour to favour a sleeping place for a short time before changing to another spot

Lucy and Marmalade
swap notes about
their day x

Learning to love

one of life's easiest lessons

At Cats Protection one of our main aims is to make information about cat welfare and care available to all, especially young people. From literature and learning resources to informative talks and tours of adoption centres, we want to play our part in encouraging children to be thinking and considerate human beings. Recent studies have also shown that caring for a cat can do wonders for a child's self esteem, social skills and sense of responsibility to others.

We provide education packs for teachers and work with youth organisations, such as the Brownies and the Beavers. If you'd like more details of the resources available then please contact us:

T: 01825 741 924
E: education@cats.org.uk
W: www.cats.org.uk/learn

Thank you
x

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)





Pen pals

Carole Dorran takes us behind the scenes of the cat pens and explains what it means to her to be one of Mere & Gillingham Branch's volunteer Fosterers

Crunchie and
Liquorice

My day always begins with giving breakfast to my own three cats, which includes the recently adopted Carly; she was originally a foster cat in the pen in my garden but she let herself into our house one day and thereafter point-blank refused to leave! I am often asked whether I want to keep every one of my foster cats; the answer to that is of course I do – but it's not feasible to keep them all. I've been fostering since 2008 so if I did, I would have a huge amount of cats by now and probably no husband!

I was brought up on a dairy farm in rural Dorset where cats were very much a feature. My love for them started at a very tender age; on one occasion I even managed to tame a feral and moved him into the family home. As an adult I have always had cats of my own. I began fostering in 2008 after adopting a ginger tom from my local branch. I had lost a cat from old age a few months before and had felt that I would like to adopt a cat in need. Pilchard moved in with us and, soon afterwards, I offered my services as a Fosterer.

In my garden, I have a pen which was installed by Cats Protection. Spacious and with heat pads for the winter months, it's a comfortable halfway house until the cats find a new home. I went on to adopt a second cat a year later; Scallie was a foster cat and like Carly after her, she felt we would make a suitable long-term abode.

The day begins

I always have a resident or two in my pen at any given time, so it's necessary for me to give breakfast to my 'guests', clean out the litter trays and check that all is generally well.

A cuddle and a chat is usually mutually appreciated except with very new resident cats; those that have only just arrived tend to be understandably timid and bewildered by the change in their circumstances, so although I talk to them, I do not force myself upon them. After a few days of checking me out, they will start to accept that I'm maybe not that bad after all and will start to greet me with chirrups and purrs when I go out to the pen.

I have a part-time job and often end up taking a cat out with me in the car on my way to work. I drive past the veterinary practice that our branch of Cats Protection uses, so it makes sense for me to drop foster cats off on my way and leave them there for their MOT – Mog Okay Test – the standard check given to all of our new foster cats. They are blood tested, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed, de-fleaed and generally given a thorough going over to check for fitness and good health. In some cases, a repeat appointment may be necessary for a cat to be neutered. I then collect the cat at lunchtime on my way home from work.

A sweet pair of boys

My current guests are a pair of 18-month-old brothers: Crunchie and Liquorice. They arrived in my care because their elderly owner had suddenly died and there was no one in the family available to give them a home. Ginger Crunchie is the bolder of the two and is already coming to me for affection and attention. Liquorice – who, as his name suggests, is all black – is much more shy and is taking his time to assess his new living conditions and this strange person looking after him. We will be trying to find them a home together because

'It's essential to get to know the cat sympathetically as it can directly affect the type of home we feel the cat ultimately requires'

they have never lived apart and as such lovely boys, it is my hope someone special will come along for them eventually. In the two years I have been fostering, this is only the second time I have seen cats in my care having to be handed in for a genuine reason such as this. It is more usual for foster cats to be strays: either dumped somewhere by an uncaring owner; lost from their usual area – cases of reuniting cats to loving owners does occasionally happen – or worse still, the owner moves house and leaves the hapless pet behind. The latter situation occurs more frequently than would be supposed even just within our particular area. It never ceases to amaze and appal that someone could do this to any animal. In the case of cats that are brought to me by their owners, it's usually simply that they no longer want them.

I like to get the measure of the cats in my care and this can take a week or two. It's essential to get to know the cat sympathetically as it can directly affect the type of home we feel the cat ultimately requires. Some are bold and can happily adapt to life in a home with other cats – or dogs – but others really need to be 'only' cats. It helps that I have cats of my own as well as a Boxer dog as I am able to gauge a foster cat's reaction to my own pets and it can tell me a great deal about how likely they are to adapt to living with other animals. Once I have their character traits worked out, I can pass this information on to the Area Co-ordinator along with a photograph or two so that the cat can be advertised as available for adoption.

If a cat has been with me for a while, I like to allow him some freedom in the daytime by letting him out of the pen. Of course this can only be done with cats that have been neutered, 'MOTd' and who have been with me for a few weeks. They usually enjoy this time mooching around my very enclosed garden and getting some fresh air.



Carole and pen pal Crunchie

Photos: Carole Dorrain

At 5pm, I go to the pen with fresh water and a dish of tinned meat and the cats that have been outside are enclosed back in the pen for the evening. I give my foster cats tinned meat twice a day but they are always left a bowl of dry biscuits in the pen as well, so that they can graze on them as they wish. While there, I clean the litter trays again, tidy the pen and have a cuddle with them.

Spreading the word

After supper, I go on to my laptop so that I can check that our branch's Facebook page is up to date. I remove any photographs of cats that have been homed and likewise upload pictures and information of any new cats that have been brought in. I can also add news or events happening in our area relevant to our branch. It's my hope that more people who have adopted our cats will eventually join us on Facebook because at the moment, as fosterers we rarely get feedback about the cats we have looked after once they have been adopted. It would be nice to hear about their progress now and again.

A couple of times a week, I also spend time writing my blog which is all about my experiences of fostering. My three cats and one dog also give me plenty of rich material for the blog in between the more serious issues that I write about with regards to fostering, but the ultimate aim is to raise awareness about the cats in our care.

Just before bedtime, I go out to the pen for the last visit of the day. Not much is usually required at this time, just cuddles and a cat-chat before we all settle down for the night.

I love fostering and gain real satisfaction from it. Whether nurturing a timid or scared cat who may have been mistreated or hearing the purrs of a scrawny and under-nourished cat that has been living rough after being dumped, the day I wave them off to a loving new home is a huge achievement. I work on instincts: if a foster cat doesn't react well to a potential adopter, then I will carefully consider whether the cat should be homed with them. Cats are pretty good at choosing who they want to live with and when they display contented behaviour towards their potential adopter, no one is more pleased than me.

Am I sorry to see them go? Always. But there are continually more cats waiting to be rescued and my pen is never empty for very long. I can't help every cat, but I can do my best to help as many as I can. ●

You can read Carole's blog here
www.writelink.co.uk/community/blogs/posts/pilchard

If you're interested in becoming a Fosterer, then get in touch with your local Cats Protection branch whose contact details can be found by phoning our Helpline on **03000 12 12 12**.

We're going shopping

Get online... for our great new credit card!

Now you can help cats when you hit the shops, thanks to the new Cats Protection Credit Card from MBNA. You'll receive a competitive rate on purchases and you can even manage your account online. Even better, once your card has been approved and used, Cats Protection will receive a contribution of £20 from the issuer, MBNA Europe Bank Limited, and the cats in our care will continue to benefit as 0.25% is contributed from every retail purchase thereafter at no extra cost to you.

For more information and full details please visit:

www.cats.org.uk/creditcard

*Thank you
xx*

0% p.a.
on balance transfers (3% handling fee) for 12 months and on card purchases for 3 months from the date your account is opened*

16.9% APR
typical rate (variable)



*Get your
wallet?
George..!*

*If you do not pay your balance in full we will use your payments to lower rate balances before higher rate balances. If promotional rate balances are the same we will repay them in the following order: first, the one with the earliest expiry date; if the expiry dates are the same then the one which started first; if the expiry dates, and start dates are the same then the one with the lowest standard rate.

The Cats Protection Credit Card is issued by MBNA Europe Bank Limited, Registered office: Stansfield House, Chester Business Park, Chester CH4 9QQ. Registered in England number 2783251. Credit is available, subject to status, only to UK residents aged 18 or over. You cannot transfer balances from another MBNA account. We will monitor or record some phone calls. MBNA is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

What's the hue for you?



Vanessa Scott investigates whether your cat's colouring really makes a difference to his characteristics

When we cat lovers discuss our fabulous felines, we usually compare their characteristics and the conversation often includes colour. How many times have you found yourself saying something like "our tabby's a free spirit but loves cuddles" and found a fellow tabby owner nodding in agreement? So, are characters and coats linked or are we just a little too fond of stereotypes?

Humans love logic and tend to put everything into neat little boxes. If, like me, you've actually tried putting a cat into a little box – in my case it was a badly designed pet carrier – you'll know that your actions could result in a visit to A&E. Nonetheless, throughout history, researchers have been trying to pigeon-hole pussy cats.

In 1876 Dr William Gordon Stables wrote a book called *The Domestic Cat*. He was convinced that a moggy's make-up was determined by the colour of his coat. He said that the silver tabby is "a sweetly pretty cat that is proud, elegant, fond to love and quick to resent an injury". Stables also thought that red tabbies were fierce hunters – I don't know about yours, but our red tabby couldn't catch a cold.

The tabby time machine whizzes forward to 1995 and France's Université Lyon 1, where Dominique Pontier et al's research was published. This links coat colours to genetic profiles and behavioural differences. It revealed that the orange may be linked to aggressiveness in males and that they're often too busy fighting off the competition in order to have the pick of the females.

One hundred years earlier, a well-known vet called Dr Rush Shippen Huidekoper – now there's an impressive name for a kitten! – wrote a book called *The Cat*. He thought that the gene that causes cats to have white fur was responsible for a deterioration in their temperaments. He said that black-and-white cats were the most likely to become fat and wretched: "This is a selfish animal and is not one for children to play with." At this point, I can imagine thousands of Felix fans screaming in disapproval.

Huidekoper also said that tortoiseshells are great hunters; "they are brave but ill-tempered and unaffectionate". In addition, he thought that tortie and whites were

vain – due to having to clean their white fur so often. He adds "An all-white cat is timid and fond of petting. It would much prefer to be fed from the saucer than go roaming for prey."

By now, like me, you probably have mixed feelings. Having said that, I was horrified when my three-year-old niece waltzed into the living room with our ever-so-slightly psychotic black-and-white cat in her arms – luckily, he kept his claws to himself. What's more, our tortie is a hunter and has a mean right hook. So, maybe there is something in this.

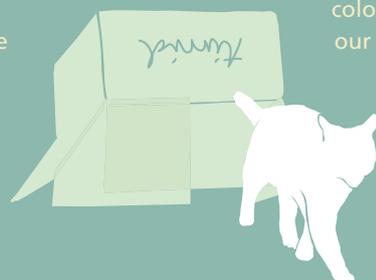
While I was researching this subject, I found that most of the information available was based upon observation rather than science. Sarah Hartwell, in her web article *Is coat colour linked to temperament?* alludes to a survey that asked owners and vets to associate cats' colours and their characters. They said that blacks were stubborn and friendly; whites were timid; gingers were shifty; greys were calm; tortoiseshells were naughty; black-and-whites were wanderers and tabbies were home-lovers.

One cattery owner, Georges Ware, was so fascinated by the relationship between cats' characteristics and their colours that he carried out his own on-the-job research. He concluded that ginger-and-whites are big softies who are laid back to the point of laziness. He said that they "like being stroked, but dislike being picked up and cuddled."

Unlike Huidekoper, Ware observed that tortoiseshells and tortie-and-whites are "friendly and gentle but like being outdoors." He says the silver tabby is a "bouncy, powerful, dominant cat that enjoys human company but not sitting on laps." Ware saw the grey tabby as friendly and relaxed to the point of laziness.

Here is the moment you previously-offended Felix fans have been waiting for – Ware's view of black-and-whites is that they're true lap cats – they're very loyal but liable to be moody. He saw black cats as independent and good hunters.

Over the years, I've been owned by cats of many colours and I've formed my own opinions. I'm sure our tortie is schizophrenic and our ginger-and-white boy certainly fits Georges Ware's description. I wonder what readers of *The Cat* would come up with if a survey were carried out... ? ●



An invitation to the National Cat Centre



On Saturday 16 July 2011, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at the National Cat Centre in Chelwood Gate, Sussex. The audited annual report and accounts of Cats Protection will be placed before the members. Voting members will also have the opportunity to vote in our Council elections and on the reappointment of auditors. You can vote if you are a member, aged over 18 and have been a member for at least a year since becoming 18. The day will not only provide an overview and highlights of the charity's year but there will also be presentations by feline experts from Cats Protection and tours around the Visitor and Adoption Centres. It's also a great opportunity to meet fellow volunteers from around the UK to share stories, experiences and tips.

To book your place at this celebration of cats and Cats Protection, please complete and return the form overleaf, phone 03000 12 12 12 or email agm@cats.org.uk

Transport to and from Haywards Heath train station will be available. Due to the expected popularity of this event, tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis so please book soon to avoid disappointment.



Council – would you like to be involved?

The Council of Cats Protection meets at least three times a year and advises the Trustees on a wide range of issues affecting Cats Protection.

If you are interested in applying to be a candidate for election to any vacancies arising on Council at this year's AGM, please write to Janet Revell at National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT or email janet.revell@cats.org.uk

Please provide a brief CV with your contact details. We will then send you an application form. Potential candidates for Council need to have been a member of Cats Protection for at least three years prior to the AGM on the **16 July 2011**. The deadline for completed applications is the **24 June 2011**. Further details of the procedure and an application form are available from Janet Revell on 01825 741 211 or email janet.revell@cats.org.uk. When completed, this will require the signature of three proposers who can be either your local branch committee members or Trustees.

Please reserve my place at the AGM on Saturday 16 July 2011.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title:

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Membership number (if applicable):

Transport required from Haywards Heath train station: Yes No

Special dietary requirements:

Return this form to: **Sue Penfold, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 7TT** by **Wednesday 1 June 2011**. Alternatively, email your details and requirements to agm@cats.org.uk or or phone our Helpline on **03000 12 12 12** (calls charged at standard rate).



Playing detective...

A day in the life of a cat behaviour counsellor

Vicky Halls investigates how to remove the stress of visits to the vet

If only the visit to the vet didn't go something like this... the day arrives. If you are clever enough to have thought ahead and blocked all exit points to the house – and that secret hole under the floorboards in the airing cupboard – you may have a sporting chance of getting your cat into the basket. You don the elbow-length oven gloves and corner your cat – by this time an unrecognisable spitting, snarling banshee of a creature – and attempt to push him into the basket while he braces himself star-shaped at the entrance with a leg at each corner and flatly refuses to go in. Luck or determination may get your cat in the basket and you can start your journey. Within seconds of the car pulling away, you are greeted with a cacophony of sound from your cat and an extremely obnoxious smell that indicates both ends of your cat have produced substances that you hope will remain contained within the basket until you arrive at the destination. This is rarely the case. When you arrive you have a stinking basket and a stinking cat, both requiring the tender loving care of the veterinary nurse before you can even think about seeing the vet. Does this sound familiar? If so, you know how distressing this is for you, but can you even imagine how awful it is for your cat?

Being a territorial creature, the cat becomes closely bonded to its familiar environment and therefore experiences some degree of stress when removed against his will. When a cat is taken to the veterinary surgery, he will be exposed to many challenges: the cat basket – possibly with negative associations from previous trips – the car journey, strange smells, sights and noises of the practice, new people, other animals – dogs and cats – unwanted handling and unpleasant procedures. There may even be pain associations from previous visits to increase his anxiety.

Vicky Halls is a registered Veterinary Nurse, a member of the FAB's Feline Behaviour Expert Panel and author of several best-selling cat counselling books. For further information regarding these and to subscribe to Vicky's free monthly e-newsletter featuring cat behavioural articles, cats in the news, tips for cat owners and competitions, please visit her website at www.vickyhalls.net

If cats arrive at the veterinary practice stressed, various tests carried out may be affected by their emotional state, for example their blood glucose levels, heart rate and respiration rate will rise. The acute stress response, known as 'fight or flight', kicks in as the cat instinctively prepares for danger. Most would choose flight as the most effective means to escape danger, but if confined in a basket in an unfamiliar place, the sense of threat may be so extreme that aggression may be exhibited. This makes it even more challenging to examine and treat a highly fearful cat.

The modern veterinary practice understands the concept of a feline-friendly environment. Finding the most cat-sensitive surgery near you is the first step to removing the trauma associated with your cat's healthcare. I believe that prevention is better than cure on this particular issue and give the following advice for those owners familiar with the sweaty paws and urine-soaked car journeys associated with the trip to the vet.

Stress free travel

- The ideal cat carrier is strong, relatively lightweight, secure and easily cleanable. Baskets with an opening at the top are always preferable as this enables you to lower your cat in from above, always an easier manoeuvre if there is any degree of reluctance
- Leave the basket out permanently at home in a convenient location rather than shutting it away and only bringing it out when your cat is about to have a bad day. Instead, turn it into a warm bed with the occasional food treat or toy inside so that it becomes a familiar and constant part of your cat's life
- If you are taking more than one cat to the vet, provide each with his own basket, no matter how friendly they are with one other
- Plan scheduled trips for vaccinations, dental treatments and preventative health care by making an appointment at a time when the journey to the vet will be outside rush hour
- Unless told otherwise by your vet, withhold food for four to five hours before the journey to keep the likelihood of vomiting, bowel and bladder activity to a minimum
- Spray the inside of the cat carrier with a Feliway® spray 15 minutes before introducing

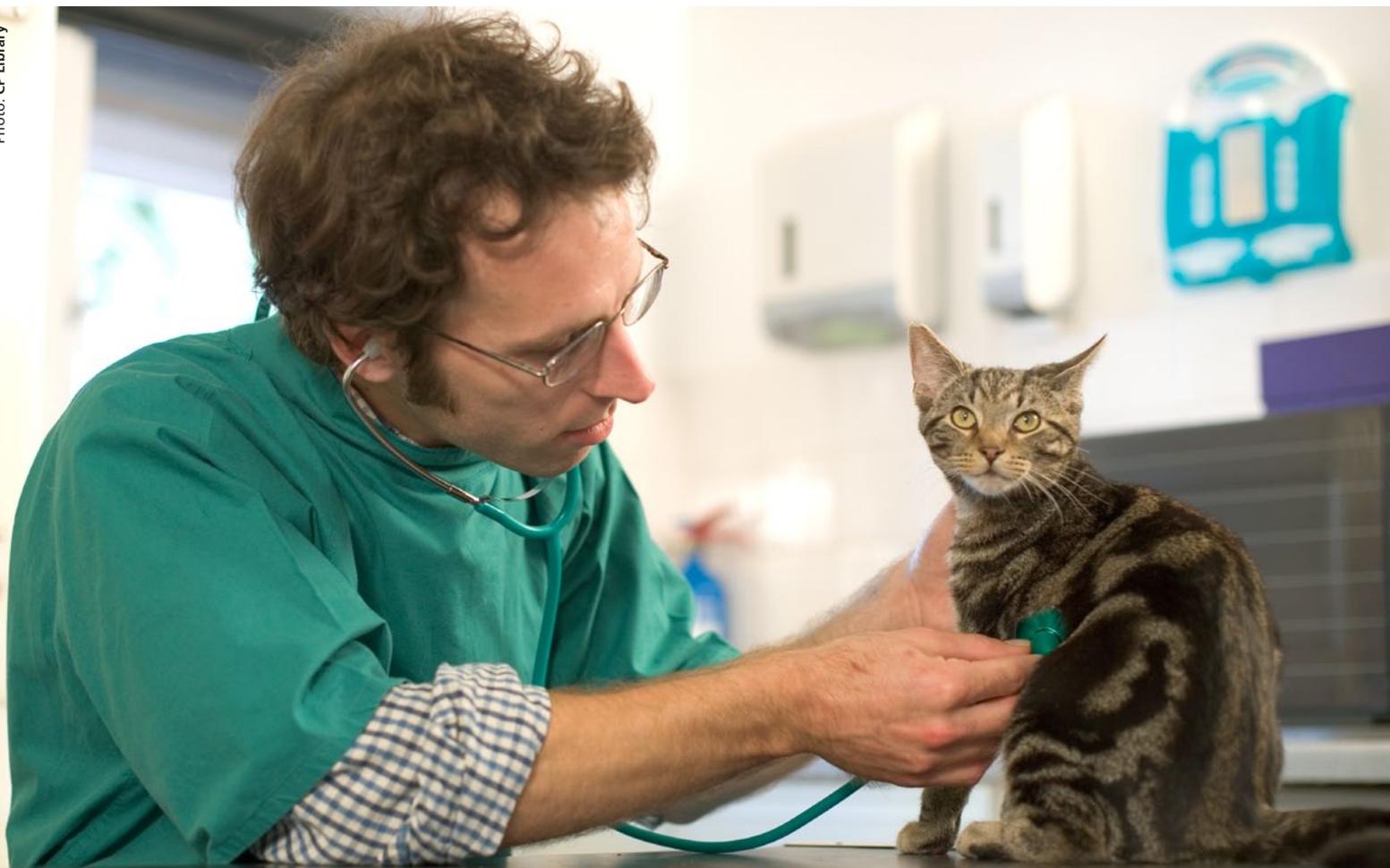
your cat – use sparingly with one spray in each corner and two on the floor and roof of the carrier. This is a synthetic analogue of naturally occurring cat pheromones secreted from glands in the cheeks and face that provide a message of security and familiarity

- A lining of plastic sheeting, newspaper and then a towel or washable blanket will be sufficient to deal with any toilet mishaps en route. It is probably worthwhile taking a spare set and a plastic bag for soiled bedding just in case
- In addition to the bedding inside, take a towel or blanket with you on the journey that smells reassuringly of home. This can be used to drape over the basket in the car. The vet may wish to use it to surround your cat with the security of home during the examination
- Secure the basket in the footwell on the passenger side or on the seat using the seatbelt. Ensure that the basket is upright and not tilted to one side
- Turn the car radio off or reduce the volume and use a gentle, calm voice to occasionally reassure your cat but there is no need to match his every moan with one of your own
- Drive as smoothly as possible with minimal harsh braking or acceleration

Once you have arrived and are in the reception of your vet practice, be aware of the impression the other patients will have on your cat. If there are shelves provided, place your cat basket on a high level, away from perceived danger and cover

the basket with the blanket – some cats prefer to have a small opening through which they can peer just to keep an eye on all the dangerous things. If the reception fills with agitated and barking dogs, you may even consider returning to the car and requesting that the receptionist call you or signal through the door when it is your turn to see the vet. Switched on receptionists may offer you and your cat a quiet space away from the furore to wait, if the facilities are available, or request politely that the agitated dogs and their owners wait outside.

Hopefully all your careful preparation will have resulted in a stress-free visit, but there is one further consideration if you have other cats that were spared the vet trip patiently waiting indoors. Cats communicate predominantly using their sense of smell and the familiar communal odour that a group of cats creates helps to bond them. That scent changes when one cat takes a trip to the vet and acquires a mix of threatening and unpleasant smells from the surgery. This can cause a dramatic response when the cat is brought home and the others fail to recognise their companion. To avoid this happening to you, keep the returning cat in a separate room initially for at least the first few hours – or overnight if he's spent the whole day away – to enable him to groom to re-establish a familiar odour. You can assist this process by stroking and generally giving affection but be careful not to over fuss a post-operative patient. Be guided by the vet or nurse who will give you the appropriate aftercare advice. ●



Ask the vets...

Every issue, CP's team of veterinary experts will be tackling your feline-related questions...

Q My 13-year-old cat has just been diagnosed with diabetes. I have read about a diabetic register and feel that communicating with people who have personal experience of this condition would help, where can I find this?

Kate Lowe, via email

A I am sorry to hear that your cat has been diagnosed with diabetes. No doubt you have had the opportunity to speak with your vet and hopefully they have answered any queries that you may have regarding your cat's condition.

Basically, diabetes affects the control of blood sugar levels and means that the body either does not produce enough insulin or does not respond to it properly, leaving the body with abnormally high levels of circulating glucose in the bloodstream. This condition usually occurs in older and middle-aged cats, particularly those that are overweight.

Treatment for affected cats will depend on their individual situations. Routine is extremely important for diabetic cats, together with regular monitoring and dietary management. Often, cats require insulin injections and occasionally oral medication may be appropriate. Initially, everything involved can seem very daunting, but we can assure you that once you are in a good routine, with the support of your vet, things will become second nature. Happily, many cats with diabetes go on to lead healthy lives for years to come.

Cats Protection runs a free Diabetic Cat Register. The register lists volunteers who have had experience with diabetic cats and who are willing to offer non-veterinary support and advice to other owners of diabetic cats. If you would like to receive a copy of the register, or if you would like to be listed as a volunteer, please phone the Cats Protection Helpline on 03000 12 12 12 or email helpline@cats.org.uk **MR**

Q My mum has just adopted a new kitten and we can't work out how old he is and, while we thought kittens would be cute and playful, he is playful but somewhat aggressive – and sometimes looks at you like he wants to kill you! I read on a website that if a kitten has left its mother earlier than the given time it would prove to have behavioural problems in the future? Is this correct?

Danielle Stephens, Roath, Cardiff

A All cats and kittens have individual characters and the development of their behaviour depends on both genetic and environmental influences.

Cats Protection homes kittens from nine weeks of age so that they can go to their new home vaccinated with some protection from disease. However, kittens will start weaning at about four weeks and this process is largely completed by seven to eight weeks of age so by this time they will be eating solid food and no longer reliant on the mother for nutrition.

It is best for kittens to stay with their mothers until this time, not only for nutritional reasons, but also to help them learn how to behave appropriately. Kittens are extremely effective observational learners and will learn a great deal from their mothers and siblings.

All adult cats and kittens show considerable individual variation in their friendliness towards humans, whether familiar or unfamiliar and even kittens from the same litter can differ considerably in their friendliness because of their different genetic make-ups. One may be shy; one may be confident and explore the room while another may seek the company of humans.

While a kitten is still with his mother, he goes through a very sensitive period of learning where his brain is still developing. The experiences he has during this time influence how this brain development occurs and allows him to learn which aspects of its environment are 'normal' and 'safe'. Conversely, a kitten is much more likely to be scared of anything that he doesn't come across during this period once he becomes an adult. Social relationships – such as with people or other species – that depend on familiarity are formed at this time. It is therefore important that young kittens have been handled by as many different people as possible for them to enjoy being handled as adults.

If this wasn't the case with your mum's kitten, you may find he is fearful of humans and is acting in an aggressive way to protect himself. However, it doesn't mean that he will never be friendly, as with the appropriate

Have you got a question?

Send your questions to 'Ask The Vets', *The Cat* magazine, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT or email: editorial@cats.org.uk

management, behaviour can be modified. It is not the case that kittens which have left their mothers early are guaranteed to have future behavioral problems.

To help your mum's kitten feel more secure with physical attention, sit quietly with him when you won't be interrupted and keep very calm. Keep interactions very short and stop before he reacts to you. Some cats, especially younger ones, don't appreciate long cuddles and lots of stroking and would prefer to spend time playing and running around, so games and play are a better way of spending time with these kinds of cats than cuddles. Try not to provoke a reaction – stop stroking when you notice twitching or backwards-facing ears, dilated pupils or sudden tensing. Reward him with a tiny titbit and praise for behaving in a relaxed way and then leave him alone. Never punish a cat for being aggressive – this will only encourage further aggression. If he is aggressive, although difficult, it is best to try to stay as still and quiet as possible if he attacks you so that he realises it isn't fun and is actually quite boring to do.

Help your mum's kitten to use up some of his energy and allow him to fulfil his hunting instinct by playing short games of one to two minutes, several times a day. Try providing toys and objects to climb in and play on and play hunting games with toys on the end of string. You could also teach him that he has to find his food around the house rather than just presenting it in a bowl. Any exercise is a great stress reliever. You may need to persevere to find the games he enjoys, but you should find this helps. Always use toys rather than playing games involving your hands or feet. If kittens learn that they can pounce on moving fingers as part of a game, they will think attacking humans is an acceptable thing to do. This may seem fun while a kitten is small but is not fun when a cat is an adult!

Just like human children, your mum's kitten is going through a teenage stage and testing his independence. Neutering at or around puberty – we recommend kittens are neutered from four months of age or younger – also has a desirable effect on future behaviour so this would be highly recommended. **BS**

Q I have recently adopted a kitten from my local Cats Protection branch. He is six months old and one of his fangs has fallen out, is this normal?

Ryan Barker, Belper, Derbyshire

A Like people, cats have two sets of teeth during their lives. At birth are the deciduous, temporary or 'milk' teeth which are present in the jaw and erupt during the first few months of life. These are smaller and whiter than adult teeth. At around the age of four to six months, permanent or adult teeth replace the adult teeth. It is common for owners to notice two separate canines in the space where one canine should be i.e. one smaller and one larger tooth. The smaller tooth will then fall out and be replaced by the larger one. It is likely that this is what you have observed in your cat. If however, you are overly concerned or the tooth appears to be broken we would certainly recommend contacting your vet so that your cat can be fully examined. **BS**

The experts

Maggie Roberts
BVM&S MRCVS

After qualifying at Edinburgh University in 1986, Maggie went on to work primarily in private practice. Maggie first worked for Cats Protection as Veterinary Officer from 1997-99; her interest in feline medicine brought her back to the charity as Head of Veterinary Services in 2006. She has three cats, Trevor, Frankie and Ronnie.



Beth Skillings
BVSc MRCVS

Beth qualified at the University of Liverpool in 1998 and went on to work in general veterinary practice until 2005 when she joined Cats Protection as Head of Veterinary Services. Beth moved into a new role as Clinical Veterinary Officer in November 2006. Beth has two CP cats, Starsky and Vincent.



Lisa Morrow BMLSc
DVM MSc(BE) MRCVS

Lisa graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph, Canada in 2000. Lisa first worked with Cats Protection as an Adoption Centre Vet at Derby Adoption Centre and was CP Head of Veterinary Services from 2003-2005. Lisa recently rejoined CP as Field Veterinary Officer in the northern region of the UK. She has two elderly cats called Ginger and Skinnie Minnie.



Karen Hiestand
BVSc MRCVS

Karen graduated from Massey University in New Zealand in 2001 and spent two years in mixed practise in her home country. Since then, she has interspersed locumming around the UK with volunteer veterinary work. She has one cat called Dexter.



Veterinary surgeons have provided the advice on these pages, but for specific cases and health concerns, it is important that you consult your own vet who will be able to look at your cat's history and do a clinical examination.

Team work

John Walker teams up with Dexter in an epic battle against one tiny mouse

Those with an aloof cat will understand how precious it is when you share a moment. Your cat may refuse to sit on your lap on a cold winter's evening, or decline to wake up when you come in from a long day. So those times when the two of you team up, work together on something – those can be splendid.

The house I rent is about one hundred years old. I mention this to explain that when mice come in, it's more to do with the cracks in the walls than my living in vermin-attracting filth. The latter is just a coincidence.

And so it is that occasionally we'll hear scuffling sounds from behind the kitchen cabinets and, on occasion, see a cute furry nose poking out from behind some furniture.

It was a very late night for me, up working at 3am, when I heard a noise near my desk. Looking down I saw a tiny face looking right back up at me, before he scurried behind a bookshelf. I needed an expert.

Sadly, I only had my cat, Dexter, whom I'd once seen lose a fight with a woodlouse. With no other choice I leant my head out of my door and whispered his name. He came trotting down the stairs, head cocked to one side. "You need me?"

I carefully explained the situation. Dexter stared at the wall, then wandered off. I said, "Mousey!" with enough excitement that he probably thought I meant food and had his interest. And then Dex heard the scuffling and was hooked.

I want to stress, at no point did I have any intention of harming the mouse. Now hidden beneath a small set of office drawers, the plan was for me to scare it out, and Dex to get a paw on it. Since this is a cat who comes away with the injuries in encounters with butterflies, I knew the mouse would be in no danger. However, the plan wasn't working. The mouse was outsmarting both of us. Whichever way I rolled the drawers the mouse would find the sweet spot where Dexter couldn't reach.

Let's give Dex some credit here. The drawers are in an alcove in my room, which was filled with junk accumulated over years. I'd had to remove all this, filling the floor of the rest of the room, and during all this time – by now it was around 4am – my cat had kept the mouse in one place. It was some impressive sheepdogging – mousecatting?

Plan B was to tip the drawers up until there was nowhere for the mouse to hide, then as Dex made his move and inevitably attacked his own ears or something, I'd drop a teatowel on the rodent and grab it. It was a good plan. We were both excited about it. It didn't work.

The mouse escaped, disappearing behind a giant, unmovable cupboard and we were defeated. I fetched the mouse-friendly trap, baited it with peanut butter and went to bed defeated.

Dexter was not ready to face the loss. Nor was he ready to face the fact that the mouse was no longer under the drawers. He continued to stick paws under there, miaow at the carpet and bravely protect the house from places where mice had once been.

So convinced was he that eventually I began to wonder if the mouse had in fact returned. It seemed unlikely, but Dex kept looking at me with such desperation, and – well – he was my buddy, my teammate. Even lifting the drawers up completely off the ground was not enough to convince him there was no longer a mouse. As soon as I put them back down he was insisting, "It's under there! Under there!" It's hard to argue with that level of cute stupidity.

As it happens, at about 6am the next morning I woke up to the sound of rattling plastic. The mouse had wandered into the trap, which had tipped over and imprisoned him.

Later that morning, after walking to some nearby fields – Dexter safely at home, guarding the drawers for me – I set the mouse free. It came waddling out of the trap, its belly full of peanut butter, wiping lumps of it from its mouth with its paws, probably letting out an enormous belch and sauntered off.

Dexter slept by those drawers for a few more nights, absolutely convinced that because he'd once seen a mouse there, there would always be a mouse there. But as big of an idiot as this unquestionably made him, it didn't take away from our night of working together, against the odds, as a team. ●

Catch up with John's blog at www.botherer.org





Follow
Cats Protection
on:

twitter™



www.twitter.com/catsprotection

Spring sudoku answers

7	1	6	2	9	8	3	5	4
9	5	8	7	4	3	6	2	1
3	2	4	5	6	1	7	9	8
1	8	3	9	5	7	4	6	2
2	7	5	4	3	6	1	8	9
4	6	9	1	8	2	5	3	7
6	9	1	8	7	5	2	4	3
8	3	7	6	2	4	9	1	5
5	4	2	3	1	9	8	7	6

Winter 2010 Crossword answers

Across: 1 Connection, 7 Absolve, 8 Spam, 10 Abel, 11 Relative, 13 Alfred, 15 Hornet, 17 Assorted, 18 Chum, 21 Nile, 22 Imitate, 23 Understand.
Down: 1 Caste, 2 Null, 3 Evened, 4 Testator, 5 Oration, 6 Catamaran, 9 September, 12 Retrieve, 14 Fashion, 16 Perils, 19 Heard, 20 Lima.



MADCATS - CAT TOYS

Cat toys and accessories
for your cats & kittens
www.madcats.co.uk

MAD ABOUT CATS

1st Choice for cat themed gifts
Always something new for cat lovers
www.madaboutcats.com

Secure online shopping
Telephone - 01942 717667

kitty collars™



Give your kitty the best chance of getting home with one of our personalised cat collars. Soft, comfy nylon with a breakaway clasp for safety. Only £8.99.

www.kittycollars.co.uk tel: 01983 200201

Coping with the loss of a pet?

Pet Bereavement Support Service

0800 096 6606

pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk

www.bluecross.org.uk



Registered charity no: 224392 (England and Wales), SC040154 (Scotland). SCAS registered charity no: 1070938.

Happy 80th Birthday to *The Cat Magazine* from all at...



Catchat.org

Reg. Charity 1100649
The Cat Rescue Resource

WWW.CATCHAT.ORG

finding homes for over 5,000 cats every year

Introducing acupuncture for cats

Homeopathic vet **Holly Mash** explains the benefits of feline acupuncture treatments

Acupuncture is becoming more and more widely available for pets, as vets are increasingly aware of how this ancient form of treatment can be beneficial to their patients. Despite what you may initially think, most cats tolerate acupuncture very well. It is most commonly used as a natural form of pain relief for musculoskeletal problems such as arthritis in older patients, but acupuncture can also be used to treat a wide range of other complaints. Acupuncture is based on a holistic concept of diagnosis and treatment, stimulating the body's powerful self-healing ability. The principle of acupuncture in animals is the same as it is in people; it stimulates the body to produce its own natural painkillers – forms of opiates. The definition of acupuncture is the insertion of fine needles into specific points on the body to alleviate pain and

stimulate homeostasis, helping to re-establish normal physiologic function. According to the ancient Chinese doctors, pain was a blockage of qi – pronounced 'chee' – energy within the body. The strategic placement of the acupuncture needles corrected and re-balanced this flow and hence restored the patient to health.

Ancient Asian practice

Acupuncture is believed to have first developed in China over 3,000 years ago. Primitive stone implements, thought to be early acupuncture needles, were found in Stone Age ruins in Inner Mongolia. These small, four-sided, pointed stones, called 'bian shi' – 'healing stones' – were used to stimulate points on the body, to lance abscesses and possibly also for blood letting. In addition to acupuncture, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) encompasses the practices of herbal medicine and physical therapies, such as Qi Gung, and Tai Qi, which are of course not viable treatment options for most cats! The traditional Chinese approach to health and disease is holistic, so that as well as their purely physical symptoms, the totality of the patient's emotional, hereditary and environmental background is considered in diagnosis and treatment.

The aim of treatment is to restore the equilibrium between physical, emotional and spiritual factors, therefore regaining and maintaining health. This is as true for animals as it is for people and the vet trained in TCM will enquire about all these aspects of your cat's environment, home life, diet and temperament, as well as their presenting complaint. Acupuncture treatment will then address these imbalances in yin and yang and the flow of qi and blood by placing needles in specific points on the body. Acupuncture points are distributed all over the body along lines of 'energy' called meridians.

Western approach

In contrast, the Western approach to acupuncture is very different and it is predominantly thought of as a form of pain relief. Although it is not yet fully understood, the effect of acupuncture is currently



Cleopatra's needle: regular patient Cleopatra undergoes treatment for her arthritis

Photos: Cat and dog – Holly Mash; Needles – istockphoto.com/Alain Naef

thought to be largely due to a complex neurological cascade, very similar to the pain pathway, through the brain and spinal cord. Insertion of the acupuncture needles stimulates the release of pain relieving chemicals including endorphins, serotonin, and noradrenalin all act together to produce the pain relieving effect in the body. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) investigations over the last few years have illustrated that, following needle insertion into an acupuncture point, blood flow and oxygen metabolism are increased in particular areas of the brain, especially those associated with pain relief. Finally, on a microscopic level, it has been shown that acupuncture points can be differentiated from the surrounding skin. They have an increased number of nerve endings, blood vessels and immune system tissue, as well as a lowered electrical resistance. It is clear that, from these investigations alongside many others, we will soon understand a lot more about the science behind this ancient form of healing.

What can it be used for?

Acupuncture is most well known for its action in providing pain relief for conditions affecting the musculoskeletal system, such as arthritis, back pain, and various forms of lameness. It may be used on its own or in combination with existing medications or after surgery, as part of a rehabilitation programme. In addition, acupuncture may also be beneficial in cases where conventional pain relief medications are not effective or if they cause side effects that make them undesirable. However, in addition to these conditions, acupuncture treatment may be effective in a wide range of other complaints in cats.

The consultation

As with other treatments, acupuncture can only be carried out on animals by vets who have had suitable training. Cats require gentle and respectful handling to allow any treatment and this includes acupuncture. Acupuncture for cats is usually carried out with them sitting on the consultation table or on their owner's lap. The aim is for them to lie still for the 10-15 minutes that the needles are in place. This is easier than it may sound, because as well as stimulating the release of the natural painkillers, the acupuncture needles also stimulate the release of sedatives into the body. Many cats enjoy the fuss and attention they get while the needles are in place and, indeed, hardly seem to notice them at all, with some even having a snooze during treatment. The first acupuncture consultation is usually about an hour, because the vet will need to take a full medical history and examine your cat, follow-up visits are around 30 minutes.

Does it hurt?

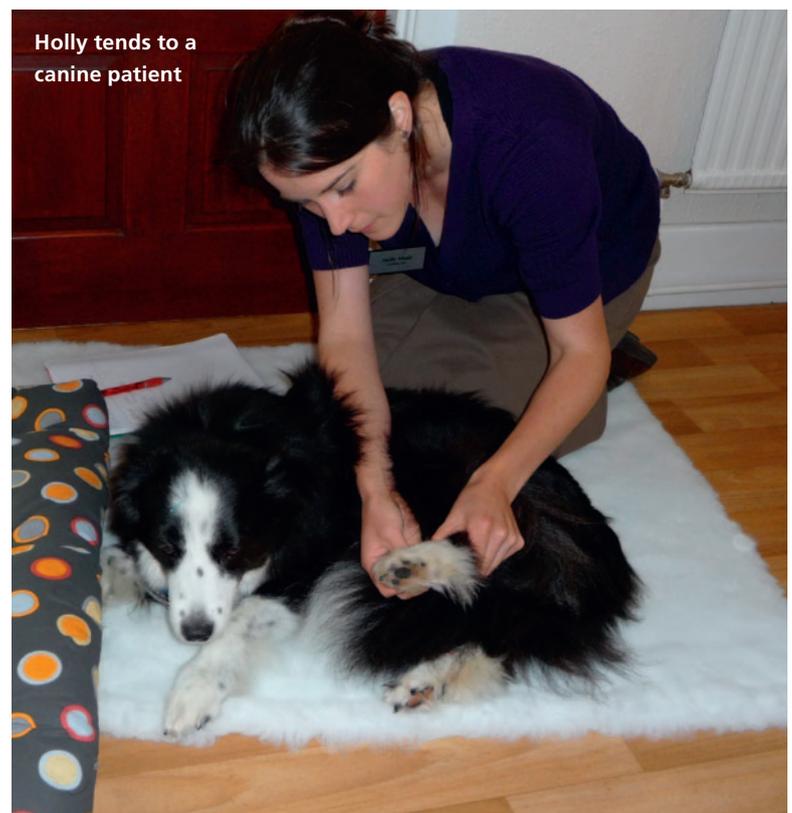
Acupuncture needles are single-use, sterile, hair-fine and are commonly made of stainless steel; usually between eight and 10 needles are used. Apart

from a small pricking sensation when the needles are placed through the skin, acupuncture should not hurt, as the highest quality needles are silicone coated and polished to diamond sharpness. For cats that are too timid, or won't sit still for acupuncture needles, infrared lasers can be used to stimulate the points instead. Initially, a course of acupuncture usually consists of one treatment a week for four to six weeks, at which point progress will be assessed and the frequency of treatments can usually be gradually reduced.

How to find an acupuncturist

As acupuncture becomes more readily available for pets, there is little doubt that it will become a more commonplace part of veterinary health care in the 21st century. It has a place in everyday practice in the treatment of old and young. Cats shouldn't be left out as potential patients for acupuncture, as most tolerate it much better than is initially imagined. Let's not forget that sometimes age-old medical practice has untold benefits for modern ailments and start to embrace such knowledge as we unfold its ancient wisdom with our modern science.

To find a veterinary acupuncturist in your area contact The Association of British Veterinary Acupuncturists: www.abva.co.uk
Telephone: 01606 786 782
Holly Mash BVSc VetMFFHom IVAS MRCVS is a regular pet magazine contributor
www.hollymashvet.com ●



Holly tends to a canine patient

80 not out!

To celebrate 80 years of *The Cat* magazine, we sent **Tom Briggs** to rummage through our top-secret archive facility upstairs in the warehouse at the National Cat Centre to bring you this report

This year marks the eightieth anniversary of *The Cat* magazine and although it's been well thumbed and had more facelifts than some former Hollywood stars over its eight decades, we think it's looking great for its age! First printed in 1931 under the name *The Cats Mews Sheet*; the publication that you hold in your hands now started life modestly as a four-page, black-and-white newsletter for supporters of Cats Protection. There have been 659 issues of Cats Protection's official publication printed to date, with a total of 13,668 pages so please forgive me for not including all of the highlights in what follows!



1930s

As the Great Depression took a vice-like grip and with the Second World War ominously brewing, the 1930s were bleak. Recognising that cats were affected by the economic downturn too, the recently-formed Cats Protection League – as the charity was then known – launched *The Cats' Mews Sheet* in 1931. The first 51 issues of the publication were edited, fittingly enough, by Cats Protection's founding member, Jessey Wade. Its stated aim was to create a medium for suggestions and enquiries; to obtain the co-operation of the other animal societies and to educate the public. The importance of the magazine, which went on sale priced 1d, was that it not only helped the charity to become better known, but it also gave a sense of unity to members.

In 1934, the fledgling newsletter was running at a loss, so some bold measures were taken; it was renamed *The Cat* and expanded to accommodate more articles and advertising – the first, for the record, was for Spratt's New Cat Food in the February issue – and doubled its cover price.

In 1939 and with the early effects of World War Two being felt, *The Cat* kept calm and carried on although it was reduced in size and no pictures were included to keep printing costs to a minimum. The need for illustration was recognised, however, with the occasional line drawing included.



1940s

World War Two was, of course, the dominant news in this decade as the Allied forces battled the evil of Adolf Hitler. The atrocities of the war were followed by better news after its conclusion in 1945 with the foundation of both the United Nations and the Welfare State. There was also a baby boom and an economic boom as the future started, at long last, to look brighter.

During the first half of this decade and with Britain experiencing the inevitable financial hardship that accompanied the war, the provision of food for cats was a major problem, but *The Cat* – which, impressively, didn't miss a single issue during the conflict – included advice for concerned readers, featuring regular recipes and tips.

As the war approached its conclusion, *The Cat* included an account of the charity's achievements between September 1939 and June 1944. It reported that there had been 27,090 requests for advice from the general public while there had been 5,958 cases in which first aid or minor operations had been carried out and 3,849 baskets had been loaned out. Editor, Mrs Avery, pointed out that all of this work had amazingly been done by only three people. In 1945, the cover image on the magazine was reinstated alongside the heading: 'The Victory Cat'.



Photo: istockphoto.com/Angelika Schwarz



1950s

In the 1950s, the after effects of World War Two eventually gave way to the Cold War and the birth of the Space Race. This was also the decade in which rock 'n' roll was born, with Elvis Presley its leading star. During the immediate post-war years, most resources continued to be in short supply so *The Cat* retained its same modest format – which it actually kept until as late as 1974. In an effort to reduce printing costs, it was also cut to 10 issues a year in 1951.

Despite these enforced cuts, the magazine stoically continued and celebrated the 21st anniversary of its newer format in 1955. To commemorate this landmark, the Editor, Osyth Sherratt, gave space for the 16 branches to write an account of their history and activities. Liverpool, Manchester and Edinburgh had all been established before the war; all had cat accommodation and gave help with veterinary services. The London committee, was very active, as were enthusiastic new branches in Truro, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Small branches in Stoney Stratford and Bexhill contributed alongside the revived Dover Branch. South Wales and Bradford also made a contribution and there was even an account from an affiliated society in Victoria, British Columbia. Another highlight in this decade saw movie star, James Mason, who also happened to be a cat lover allow some of his written work to appear in *The Cat*.



1960s

The times they were a-changin' in the 1960s and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan – who, incidentally, lived in Chelwood Gate, Sussex where *The Cat* is now produced – began the decade with his Winds of Change speech. Other notable events included the assassination of President Kennedy – who, incidentally again, actually visited the site where *The Cat* is now produced during a working weekend at Harold Macmillan's home a few months beforehand – England winning the World Cup – okay, I can't think of any way we can claim any kudos for that – and the success of The Beatles.

In this decade of landmark events, *The Cat* was not to be left out. The June 1967 issue was deemed "A celebration number" on its cover as Cats Protection marked its fortieth anniversary. This was accompanied by what has to be described as a modest four-page feature, given the remarkable achievements that the charity had enjoyed in its first 40 years of existence. Even in bemoaning the fact that other publications about cats – which he referred to favourably – had gone out of print, Editor Albert Steward shunned the opportunity to laud the fact that *The Cat* had stayed in circulation.

The last year of the decade saw *The Cat* increase its pagination and go bi-monthly to keep it within supporters' annual subscription to Cats Protection. ▶

'There have been 659 issues of Cats Protection's official publication printed with a total of 13,668 pages'

Photo: istockphoto.com/spxChrome



1970s

The 1970s saw Britain elect its first female Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, while there were also plenty of changes in popular culture; controversial horror, *The Exorcist*, was a surprise box office smash joining the likes of *Star Wars* and *Saturday Night Fever* in attracting large audiences.

The March/April 1972 issue of *The Cat* was the last to be edited by the amazing Albert Steward whose role not only in the production of the magazine but also in Cats Protection's history as a whole cannot be emphasised enough. Albert and his wife Agnes had been involved with the charity for over 40 years and he had contributed to the vast majority of the 440 issues of the magazine to date and edited it for a decade.

Our first issue of 1975 included two major changes; it was our first A4 issue and was also the first to include a colour cover. Two years later, Cats Protection launched a national campaign to attract new members and, in the space of just a few months, over 1,000 new supporters had signed up bringing the total and, therefore, the readership of *The Cat* to over 10,000. As the 1970s approached their conclusion, cats belonging to Cats Protection League members were the stars of the magazines covers for the first time.



1980s

Although often referred to as 'the decade that taste forgot' thanks to some questionable trends including shoulder pads, daft haircuts and fluorescent leg warmers, this was another era of great change and major world events included the Falklands War and a rise in terrorism, while more positive developments saw the toppling of the Berlin Wall and Live Aid.

Changes in *The Cat* included the introduction on a page for younger supporters while the November/December 1984 issue reported that donations that accompanied tributes to well-loved pets on the *Remembering cats* page had resulted in the purchase of the first pen which was installed at Haslemere Adoption Centre.

Throughout 1987, the Cats Protection League celebrated its Diamond Jubilee year and this was reflected in every issue of *The Cat* with the cover picture in a diamond-shaped frame. Another drive for membership like the one 10 years beforehand attracted another 6,000 supporters, boosting the readership of *The Cat* further. The magazine's readership was probably also boosted by the publication of *A Passion for Cats*, a celebratory compendium of original writing on many aspects of the care and history of cats and of Cats Protection's work. This was edited by the then Chairman, Philip Wood. It was marketed by national bookshop chains and sold over 35,000 copies.



1990s

As with most decades in the late twentieth century, the nineties were a mixed bag. The Gulf War and the death of Princess Diana were among the bad news, with a new wave of optimism in Britain characterised by the 'Cool Britannia' ethos and the release and rise to power of Nelson Mandela were among the good.

In the second half of the decade, the magazine took another step towards becoming the publication it is today as it began to reintroduce general features – the like of which had not been widely included since before the war – alongside the usual quota of news from Cats Protection branches and adoption centres.

Early examples included articles about feline welfare in Israel and cat-themed postage stamps which became a popular regular fixture. Other items that would become regulars were then introduced, including articles about behavioural issues and medical conditions written by respected veterinary experts. Despite this shift in content, the magazine retained the same friendly but authoritative tone that has been one of the chief reasons for its success since day one and that, we hope, it still has today.



2000s

The 'noughties' seemed to be dominated by sad news with the September 11 attacks, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 the main headlines. Happier events included successful Olympic Games bringing nations together in Sydney, Athens and Beijing while technological advances such as Facebook and mobile phones improved communication globally. Not to forget, of course, the eightieth anniversary of Cats Protection.

In the same year that the charity celebrated this landmark, *The Cat* introduced regular celebrity interviews with actress Prunella Scales telling us about her cats. Since then the likes of David Baddiel, Miranda Richardson and Alexei Sayle have appeared on this popular page, helping us to raise the profile of Cats Protection and entertaining us in the process! Towards the end of the decade, *The Cat* was treated to a much-needed redesign. Its new look first appeared in the Spring 2008 issue, which was the first edition of the magazine to include the glossy cover it has today.

So what does the future hold for *The Cat* and what will the magazine – and, for that matter, printed media as a whole – be like in another 80 years? Maybe we'll all be downloading a digital copy of the magazine into a nano-drive in our minds or perhaps we'll still all be sat reading the eclectic range of features in print. Well, dear reader, we'll all just have to wait and see! ●



Our favourite things

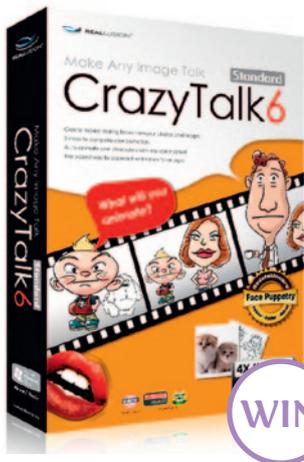
There are so many great things out there for cats and their owners. Here are just a few of our favourites...

Animate your cat!

Reallusion CrazyTalk6 allows you to take any digital image and animate it. You can either design and animate pets or humans, or use the software to convert any 2D image into a fully animated talking digital subject within minutes. Essentially, you can upload a photograph of your cat and make him talk! There are templates and automatic animation features which are ideal for beginners. You can then share your new films by directly uploading to YouTube and publishing to social networking sites, blogs and the web.

Reallusion CrazyTalk6 costs £34.99 and can be purchased from www.reallusion.com

We have six copies to give away – mark your entry 'Crazy Talk'.



WIN

This won't let the bed bugs bite!

The Addicare anti-bacterial, anti-odour pet bed does not retain unpleasant smells and prevents bacteria growth due to a unique silver-ion based treatment applied to both the inner cushion and removable cover. Its cover is beautifully made from luxury cotton polyester which is tightly woven and highly durable, while the inner mattress is made with hollow fibre which neither moves around nor goes flat or lumpy. The product comes in small, medium and large and is available from £21.95 at www.addicare.co.uk

We have been donated three small pet beds to give away to readers – mark your entry 'Pet bed'.

WIN



Full of beans

This fantastically designed beanbag can not only be used for sitting on, but is also designed for playing with – a combined toy and piece of furniture! The cat shape is a brilliant idea and perfect for children and adults alike. The HappyCat bean bag has received the international acknowledged award DesignPlus. This size is suitable for children aged three upwards.

The beanbag is available in a variety of colours and is priced at £165 at www.nordicelements.com or by phoning 0844 561 6029.

A timeless classic

What introduction does this need? This iconic clock has been making appearances in films, cartoons, books and on clothing since the mid 1930s and we're very excited to have discovered that it is still very much in production!

You can buy the Kit-Cat clock from around £32 from www.kit-cat.com which ships daily to the UK and the site also has a list of UK retail stores.



WIN



All in the best possible taste

Techni-Cal International is extending its range of super premium cat foods by introducing four new 'Lifestages' products. New complete diets Choosy Cat and Indoor Cat are joined by two new flavours for Techni-Cal Adult Cat – Rabbit & Duck and Lamb.

We have 10 packs of the Rabbit & Duck food in the Techni-Cal Adult range to give away. Formulated to offer great taste and digestibility, these 100 per cent complete foods contain high levels of quality chicken protein and chicken fat, important for the development of strong muscles.

For stockists, please phone 01454 322 905 or buy online at www.petfoodwarehouse.co.uk

To enter, mark your email or postal entry with the words 'Techni-Cal food'.

Cool collar

Help your pet recover from surgery in complete comfort and safety – unlike lampshade collars, a Comfy Collar will let your pet eat, play and sleep in comfort. The collars are foam-filled, have a washable vinyl cover, Velcro fasteners and inner loops to attach to a collar. From £10, buy a Comfy Collar by phoning 01253 886 184 or visiting www.pennineleisure.co.uk



WIN



Even for the fussiest of cats

If your cat is a little fussier than others, it can be hard to find a food that he not only enjoys, but that you know is providing him with all the essential nutrients.

To meet each and every cat's individual preference, even the fussiest ones, Royal Canin has developed three exclusive nutritional solutions for picky cats: Savour sensation, Aromatic attraction and Protein preference.

We've got five 4kg bags of Royal Canin Savour sensation to give away – RRP £25.99 – courtesy of Just for Pets. To find the right food solution for your cat, visit: www.justforpets.uk.com Mark your entry 'Royal Canin' for the chance to win.

Up to scratch

The Butterfly Scratching Post by Sharples & Grant is a fantastic way to let your cat satisfy his natural instincts to scratch without damaging your furniture. It is made with a tough sisal post, perfect for scratching and with a soft plush covered top and base. This durable post will withstand the toughest feline play. The Butterfly Scratching Post will complement any home and provide lots of exciting novelty fun along with vital exercise for all cats. The scratchers are available in all good pet stores for £18.39.

We have three up for grabs for lucky readers of *The Cat* – send us an email or postcard marked 'Butterfly Scratching Post'.



WIN

The cat's miaow

Ninja cats!

Jonah Skow is a nine-year-old boy from California whose shop, 'Jonahskowdesigns' on www.etsy.com, we stumbled across and just couldn't resist his ninja cats. He designs and makes the cats himself – with a little help from his mum!

The ninja cats are available to buy at www.etsy.com/shop/jonahskowdesigns from around £13 each. Jonah has donated two black ninja cats – one sinister, one sweet – for a giveaway. Mark your entries 'Ninja cats', specifying which one you would like for a chance to win.



WIN

For a chance to win one of our fantastic giveaways, send your name and address on a postcard or sealed envelope to: *The Cat* magazine, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT. You can also send your entries via email to competitions@cats.org.uk. Don't forget to mark your entries in the subject header so we know which competition you're entering as well as including your name and address in the email body. On occasion we may need to pass on the details of competition winners to the prize suppliers for products to be posted direct. **Closing date for all giveaways is 15 April 2011.**

Isle

take the
high road

Photo: James Watson

From the mountains of the north to the low lying borders in the south, across the islands, towns and cities, Cats Protection is busy at work throughout Scotland. There are 49 branches serving over 30,000 square miles, nearly 1,200 volunteers and four Scotland-based members of CP staff – a scattered but committed team making a better life for thousands of cats. There are six island branches and I was lucky enough to visit three of these.

Over the sea to Arran

The Isle of Arran, accessible only by ferry, sits in the Firth of Clyde between Ayrshire and Kintyre and is sometimes referred to as Scotland in miniature; Highlands with mountainous terrain in the north and Lowlands with rolling green hills in the south. It is 167 square miles, has over 5,000 residents and around 1,500 homes. Cats Protection's presence comes in the form of Branch Co-ordinator, Linda Wood assisted by a handful of volunteers. The banner on the branch website says "We may be small but our hearts are big" and after meeting Linda and observing her dedication there is no doubt about that.

On average, the branch homes 12 cats per year, no mean feat when you consider that 20 per cent of the houses are holiday homes. On the day I was in Arran, Linda had just managed to home three kittens from the same litter and, as luck would have it, the lady adopting was happy to take all three. As with all CP volunteers Linda promotes neutering as best as she can and is making good progress in getting across the message of its importance. In 2008/9 22 cats were neutered but in 2009/10 that figure almost doubled.

English-born Linda arrived in Arran eight years ago. She and her husband, Jeff, found the house of their dreams up a winding lane with views of the sea and a lighthouse in the distance. They felt it was a safe house for them and their cats. It was after a year on the island that Linda got in touch with the Cats Protection branch to see if she could help out with fostering and when the then Branch Co-ordinator left the island a few years later, Linda took up the reins and has run the branch ever since, at times almost single-handed.

Linda is keen to attract more volunteers to extend the work the branch can do. "We have a few people who help out, but there is no one regular. Journeys take far longer than first imagined on the island due to the terrain and the weather; roads are twisted and sometimes inaccessible and I think people are frightened of the time involved. I'm working hard to convince the residents that we're a great team to be a part of and that they could really make a difference even with a small amount of time."

Linda is ensuring that word of Cats Protection and the wide work that it does spreads beyond the island. "Reputation and good relationships are key to all good things in a small community," Linda says, "and our branch is now known on the mainland. I'm frequently called for advice from people there; whether it's about cat care, neutering or rehoming I'm there to take the calls and do the best I can for them." The branch has also fostered a strong relationship with the ferry company, Caledonian MacDonald which is more than happy to help out by taking volunteers and cats back and forth and even will take unaccompanied cats, ensuring they are safely stowed and then met on the other side. This support from the ferry company also means that the expanse of sea does not hinder an extremely good relationship with a mainland veterinary surgery. "We give the vets a lot of business and they're very grateful for that, they're happy to be associated with Cats Protection – a good reputation and recommendation means a stronger and more positive presence for both of us. We can be very isolated on the island but even though this surgery is on the mainland I know that they are there to answer any queries or help with any problems at any time. They'll even go and pick up the cat from the ferry and return him after treatment," Linda explains. ▶

*In the first of a two-part feature on Cats Protection's work in Scotland, **Francesca Watson** island hops, visiting some of the charity's more remote volunteers*



Photo: Orkney Islands CP

Neutering is busy work

Leaving Linda's farmhouse that evening, the rain is lashing down and the wind beginning to heighten; it's obviously going to be a wild night. By nature I am a bit of a control freak, I like rigid timetables knowing when and where I'll be at any one point. Island life, as I soon discovered, does not allow for this as you really are at the mercy of the elements. The dramatic weather meant that the ferries back to the mainland were severely delayed. Spot the tourists whose looks of panic were matched by the equally calm faces of the locals. So there'd be no post, no newspapers that day; relax, there's nothing to be done. Cue an apologetic call to the Isle of Lewis Branch telling them I was going to miss my plane and thus unable to meet them. This was also met with a calm countenance and complete understanding. Ferries get cancelled, plans have to change, that's just how it is on all the islands. Imagine having to work out the logistics of cat care with all this!

Orkney bound

The Islands of Orkney are a group of 70 islands and skerries just over six miles from the north-east tip of the Scottish mainland, accessible by plane and ferry. There are 20,000 people residing on the largest island, known as the mainland but there are many other islands that are also inhabited. The landscape is mostly low lying, with gentle rolling hills of green fields and moorlands. The wind is immediately noticeable and goes some way in explaining the lack of tall trees. I was met at the airport by Co-ordinator Johanna Werb-Pieterman and Treasurer, Gloria Caswell and we were soon on our way to the house of Mary Curphey, one of the key branch Fosterers.

Over a cup of coffee and several biscuits we chatted about the branch's work and it was all the more real when a phone call came in announcing the arrival of a new cat looking for CP care. "Belle can collect the cat on Monday but we need to find a space. The cat has to be vaccinated so he can't go to our pens at a cattery... Lorraine was going to have Tony who's vaccinated but perhaps he can go to the cattery and then the new cat

can go to Lorraine." Listening to Johanna, Mary and Gloria discuss what to do with the latest cat I was impressed at their energy and practicality. It emphasised to me once more the juggling of logistics – and cats! – which they deal with on a day-to-day basis.

Over its entire area, the branch neuters almost 700 cats per year and rehomes over 200 – impressive figures. The branch website, professionally designed by Johanna, is an important tool in rehoming. "Advertising cats to be rehomed is expensive," she explains, "but we find that our website has great success. We also find that showing the cats on our Facebook page gets a good response and we even have multiple offers for the same cat." The branch runs an online forum which has proved invaluable in keeping the volunteers connected and updated, exchanging advice and information regardless of distance.

There is a strong relationship with the local Radio Orkney which is willing to put out impromptu messages when homing for a cat is of immediate importance. One time a message was broadcast at 7.54pm and someone called in at 7.56pm with that vital offer of help.

The CP van, complete with logo provides a mobile source of advertising and has become a common sight clocking up over 7,000 miles a year around the islands. "People even flag us down and start asking us cat care questions. We're certainly not anonymous!" Mary laughs.

The branch works hard to help the island residents who send in numerous requests regarding farm and feral cats. Trapping, neutering and returning (TNR) can be difficult at the best of times and to do this over a series of small islands makes it almost insurmountable; co-ordinating the trapping, ferry timetables, vet opening hours etc. The Orkney Islands, however, are made up of hardy folk and, back in 2009, an impressive TNR campaign was organised trapping cats on three islands, ferrying them over to Papa Westray – Papay for short – for neutering and then returning them. The van carrying all the equipment went by ferry from Kirkwall on the Orkney mainland to Papay. The weather wasn't ideal with high winds and rough seas, but the volunteers braced themselves for hard work ahead. Traps were laid over five different locations with cats transferred quickly to minimise stress. Teams worked tirelessly moving the cats to the Papay Fire Station – where vets had set up a mobile surgery – all the time ensuring the cats were kept warm, fed and monitored during their time in Cats Protection care. In all 18 cats were neutered with the potential of reducing the island cat population by 100 plus kittens in just one year.

This is a prime example of community co-operation with an important part being played by all. The volunteers, staff from the vets, Orkney Ferries and the Fire Station and the Orkney

residents themselves, made for an extremely effective campaign both practically in reducing the number of unwanted cats and promoting the good name of Cats Protection.

There is no doubting the enthusiasm of the Orkney volunteers but it can be very demanding, if not overwhelming. "In the past we could all get to that burn out stage, the amount of work can spiral upwards as I experienced a few years ago," Johanna says. "I decided I had to step back for a while before getting involved again. We are now very conscious about the need to spread the tasks and not overburden people as it is counterproductive. We always take up offers from those volunteering for us but take time to allocate specific tasks playing to their strengths."

The passion and commitment of these women was uplifting and I left enthused and motivated knowing that the cats in Orkney were very lucky felines indeed.

And so to Shetland

Shetland is just a short journey from the mainland by plane but over 12 hours by ferry which emphasises to you that you really are at furthest edge of Great Britain. Travel any further north and you'll pass Iceland, Greenland and Norway before hitting the Arctic Circle.

Shetland comprises more than 100 islands and is home to 22,000 residents. The plane arrives on the short runway and passengers may be surprised to see that the end incorporates part of the road to and from the airport complete with a barrier crossing and cars waiting for the 1425 from Orkney to taxi round and pull up. Travelling through the island, you can understand why the travel guide *Lonely Planet* recently voted it one of the world's top 10 tourist sites. It has a rugged and remote landscape with some of the oldest rocks in the world, steep green hills, low lying lochs and high sea cliffs set against the dramatic North Atlantic Ocean. And yes, there are Shetland ponies running freely in fields!

Cats Protection's most northerly branch is run from the Gott Cats Cattery, perched on a high hill just outside Lerwick. It is owned and run by Christine Henry who is also the Co-ordinator of the Shetland CP Branch. It was here that I met Christine as well as Pat Williams and Helen Dickson, two of the branch's regular volunteers.

Christine started the cattery business over 30 years ago and contacted Cats Protection in 1984, keen to get involved. Colonel Boothby, the then Chief Executive, travelled north to set the branch up and they haven't looked back since.

The cattery has an allocated number of CP-only pens alongside the holidaying cats, but there is still a desperate need for space to house more cats needing CP care. "Cats must be vaccinated before they can have a place here at the cattery, so when a new cat comes in as an emergency, perhaps not having a medical history, a Fosterer's input is vital," Christine explains. "We're currently trying to recruit more. We used to have quite a few Fosterers but now, for various reasons, at present we're down to just two."

"People may be put off, concerned by the amount of work involved," Helen suggests, "but I'd emphasise to them that we're happy to have whatever time they can spare and whatever talent they have, whether it be hands-on cat care, fundraising or promoting our work. For example I'm allergic to committees and see myself more as the workhorse type,

taking on the heavy haulage," she laughs, "but whatever the role, however large or small, the rewards are worth it all."

"We'd love to be able to have a CP shop here on the island to provide a central point of contact for both the volunteers and the residents as well as a confirmed central presence," Pat adds. "It's something we're looking into and we'd have to ensure we had enough volunteers to make it a going concern."

Shetland is a wealthy island with a prosperous fishing and oil industry and as such perhaps a little cut off from the realities of the mainland. Christine explains, "Currently there is low unemployment and a good standard of living. I think people are predisposed to give to charity when they are in work but we know that the cuts taking place on the mainland will inevitably happen here at some point. It's too soon to say whether the recession will see an increase in the number of cats and kittens we'll be asked to rehome, but we are already overstretched, having to take in only emergencies until we can rehome a few more. As such I'm not sure what the future of the branch holds, the financial concerns are always present and there's only so much we can do."

The branch homes over 80 cats in a year but, with council plans to build more houses and encourage more residents, there is the hope that a greater number of cats can be homed in the future.

As with the other islands, in good weather Shetland is a delight to be in as clouds roll lazily by in blue skies, the grass moves in waves across the hills, roads are clear – no pot holes here! – and days can seem endless. But come the bleak midwinter I'm told it can be a very different tale. The weather is described as boisterous by Shetland Tourism and their winters 'mild but wild'. The howling winds and torrential freezing rain on the wildest of days, however, would prove daunting in the extreme, but Christine just smiles as I enquire about the difficulties shaped by nature. "We're used to it," she says simply, "we just get on with the jobs in hand and get through as best as we can."

As my island adventure came to an end I was left with a true admiration of the volunteers I met who overcome any of the challenges this remoteness can bring. Dedication is the common denominator at every branch across the UK and I am reminded of what Johanna said to me while in Orkney, "We all want to have a good life and be treated well, so why not want this for cats too? I am very proud to have been involved with Cats Protection, proud of the long way we've come and the good work we do." Hear, hear. ●

Photo: Francesca Watson



Places to go, plants to see

Graham Clarke recommends five gardens that will inspire the green-fingered in 2011

The one thing that the world admires in us Brits – even more than that of our devotion to pets – is our gardening. Or, more accurately, our gardens!

We are known worldwide for our horticulture and we can boast more large gardens open to the public per capita than any other country, so we owe it to ourselves to visit them – and often.

Wherever one lives in the country, within an hour's drive there will be a garden you can visit. It may be just a small private garden opening for charity – such as one of the 3,700 gardens found in *The Yellow Book*, run by the National Gardens Scheme – or it may be one of the hundreds of larger gardens attached to historic country houses.

Between now and the end of summer, you could visit a new garden every day and still just skim the surface of what's out there. Let's look at five diverse and underrated gardens, in different parts of the country: if you visit them I guarantee they'll get your horticultural senses reeling!

The Alnwick Garden, Northumberland

Just a decade ago, there was a derelict and forgotten site in the north of England. Then the Duchess of Northumberland imagined creating a beautiful public garden for families to enjoy and The Alnwick Garden project began. It is now vibrant, with beautifully landscaped gardens, magnificent architecture and unique features, all brought to life with water.

The most famous aspect of the garden is its centrepiece: the Grand Cascade. A magnificent tumbling mass of water with spellbinding displays, this is the largest water feature of its kind in the country. Every minute, 7,260 gallons of water cascade down a series of 21 weirs, with riotous displays every half hour. Jets of filtered and recycled water shoot high in the air and splash on the terrace as children run underneath them.

But this is also a garden for gardeners, with a design that looks to the future. In the Ornamental Garden there is the country's largest collection of European plants, and there are unusual plants found in the Poison Garden.

In the Rose Garden, there are more than 3,000 roses from top nurseryman, David Austin. Pathways below pergolas swathed in honeysuckle and clematis lead through a mix of tumbling, fragrant climbing, shrub, old and English roses.

The Alnwick Garden, Denwick Lane, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1YU. Phone: 01665 511 350. Visit: www.alnwickgarden.com



Photos: Graham Clarke unless otherwise stated

Compton Acres, Dorset

In 1920, a margarine entrepreneur purchased 10 acres – 4ha – of land overlooking Poole Harbour in Dorset. He then built a garden with a difference.

His idea was to create a series of gardens to remind him of his worldwide travels and interest in plants. The gardens were to cost in the region of £220,000 – roughly equivalent to £10 million today. Today there is a magnificent collection of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants... more than 3,000 species in all.

Visitors will see five main themed gardens: the Italian Garden, the Wooded Valley, the Rock and Water Garden, the Heather Garden and the Japanese Garden.

The Wooded Valley has open glades planted with bluebells, foxgloves and other woodland plants – a delight, especially in spring, with bulbs, camellias and rhododendrons in full glory.

The Heather Garden is undergoing a rolling programme of clearance and replanting with over 1,000 new plants added during the last season. It is colourful in all seasons but peaks in late summer and winter.

The classic Italian Garden is attractive in all seasons, with splendid statuary, beautiful seasonal colourful bedding displays and an ornamental pool.

The Japanese Garden is a classic design featuring azaleas, with a Tea House that is clad in May by the finest wisteria you'll see anywhere.

Compton Acres, 164 Canford Cliffs Road, Poole, Dorset, BH13 7ES. Phone: 01202 700 778.

Visit: www.comptonacres.co.uk ►



Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

This is home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Set in 2,100 acres – 849ha – of beautiful parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown, the Palace is surrounded by sweeping lawns, formal gardens and the Great Lake.

There are free miniature train rides to the Pleasure Gardens and the Marlborough Maze, an adventure play area, the butterfly house, the lavender garden, and the 'Blenheim Bygones' exhibition.

The Secret Garden will appeal to keen gardeners. This is a tranquil place, with benches so you can admire the diverse types of plants – from Japanese maples, bamboos and spiky plants to bulbs bursting into flower. There is a large pond with a small waterfall – and the wildlife is plentiful.

The Italian Gardens are to the east and comprise fuchsias, geraniums and pink roses.

The Palace itself is a unique example of English Baroque architecture. Inside there are intricate and delicate carvings, hand-painted ceilings and amazing porcelain collections, tapestries and paintings.

Situated in Woodstock, just eight miles from Oxford, the Palace was created a World Heritage site in 1987.

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1PP.

Phone: 0800 849 6500. Visit: www.blenheimpalace.com



Compton Acres



Photo: Stephen Hamilton

Barnsdale Gardens

Barnsdale Gardens, Rutland

To a generation of gardeners and many people still today, Geoff Hamilton was the best presenter of TV's flagship gardening programme, *Gardeners' World*. He was a passionate gardener, a consummate professional in front of the camera and someone who the TV viewer instantly warmed to. It was a tragedy when, in 1996, Geoff suffered a fatal heart attack during a charity bike ride.

There was one thing that took up Geoff's time when he wasn't filming or writing gardening books and that was his eight-acre – 3.2ha – garden at Barnsdale in Rutland.

The garden became familiar to viewers – its wide borders, fine lawns, vegetables, fruits, roses, rock garden and some 38 model gardens featured in the programmes. During its time in the 1980s and 90s, Barnsdale had more hours of TV coverage during than any other UK garden.

It is still going strong today. Owned and managed by Geoff's son Nick and wife Sue, Barnsdale is great if you love gardening and plants. And it is also a permanent and living shrine to Geoff.

But the garden has not stayed still. Nick says: "Were Dad suddenly to come back, he would recognise most of the garden. But we have had to change and improve some aspects of it.

"Most of the 'gardening' elements are as Geoff would remember them. Yes, one or two areas, such as the Japanese and Mediterranean Gardens, have been updated, but much of the garden is as people saw it on the TV."

There are 38 individually designed and well-stocked gardens or 'rooms' at Barnsdale. Each one offers practical concepts that gardeners can use at home, as well as botanically labelled plants – a simple thing but so important if you are visiting somewhere for ideas.

One of the most popular parts of Barnsdale is the Memorial Garden to Geoff. At its centre is a bronze bust of him – modelled by his other son Chris. There is a seat made from a single piece of oak and in spring the beds are filled with snowdrops and daffodils. In summer the 'Geoff Hamilton' rose is the centre of attention.

Barnsdale Gardens, The Avenue, Exton, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 8AH. Phone: 01572 813 200.

Visit: www.barnsdalegardens.co.uk

Regent's Park

Finally, we can all enjoy a freebie! Set just to the north of central London, in a triangle between Camden Town, Euston and Baker Street, is an area of open space that is adored by locals, used by workers and marvelled at by visitors. The Regent's Park, as it should be properly known, comprises some 410 acres – 166ha – of land that is full of history and full of people on hot summer days. And, unlike the other gardens featured in this article, it's free for all to see!

This is one of the eight Royal Parks of London; it boasts some of the most colourful gardens and some of the finest horticultural sights – and sites – anywhere in Europe.

The park is roughly circular, and based on a plan by the architect John Nash in the early 19th century. He came up with the idea of two circular roads, one inside the other.

The Outer Circle, about three miles long, cuts through London Zoo at one end. The Inner Circle road is a perfect circle exactly a mile round, and set within it are the ornate Queen Mary's Gardens, named after the wife of King George V, who was the monarch when the gardens were laid out and opened in 1932. Here lies the world-famous rose garden, where some 30,000 roses are grouped in 85 single-variety beds.

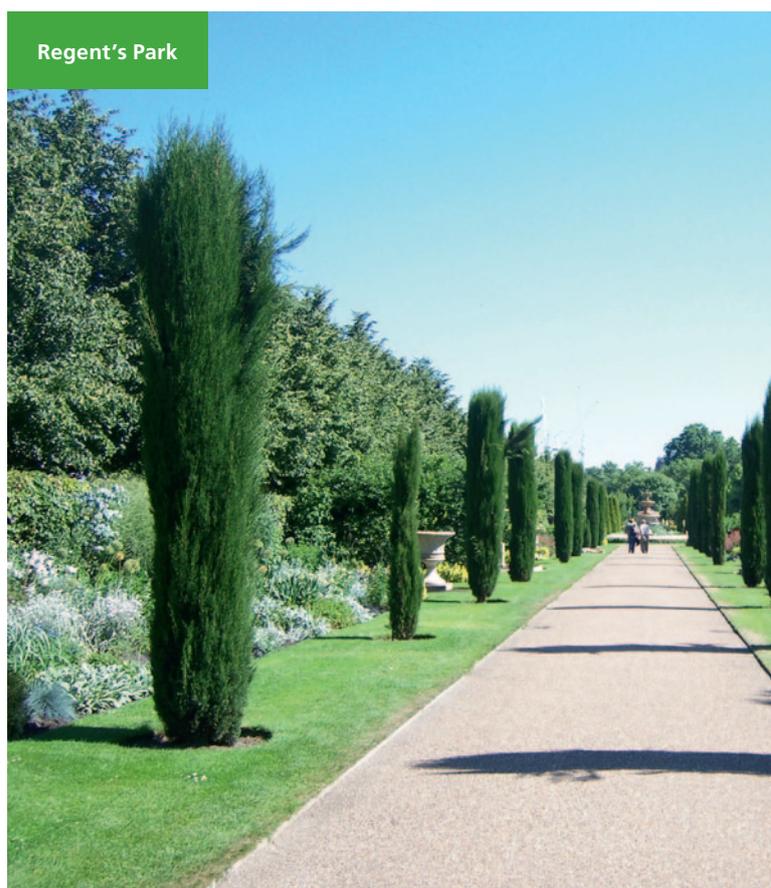
A small lake in the rose garden, beloved by water fowl, feeds a tall rock garden waterfall nearby. Within this lake is an island beautifully carpeted with rockery plants and alpines, and larger ornamental shrubs. The island is 'defended' by a ferocious-looking Japanese bronze eagle.

There is the also National Collection of Delphiniums in their own dedicated border, the Begonia Garden, traditional and Mediterranean borders, a group of fossil trees, waterfalls, luscious lawns, the classical Triton fountain – with coiling bronze mermaids and water spurting 20ft – 6m – in the air, and of course, the world-famous Open Air Theatre.

You really should go to Regent's Park. It's the capital's best-kept secret!

Regent's Park, London, NW1 4NR. Phone: 020 7298 2000.

Visit: www.royalparks.org.uk ●



Regent's Park

Paddy, Home Guard

In an encounter with the enemy, Paddy defends Alison Prince and the realm...

The other night, Fingal and I were doing a crossword in our upstairs sitting room. That's to say, I was puzzling over the letters and he was trying to chew the pen.

I'm not keen on this idea, because if he succeeds, we get bits of crunched plastic and ink all over the place, so we were having a small argument about it. Paddy had gone down to the kitchen in search of what Pooh Bear called 'a little something.' In the colder weather, he is busy putting on a thick winter coat and feels he needs to fuel this with extra nosh – but let's face it, he just likes food. This time, however, he found something else in the kitchen. He started screaming his head off. Fingal rushed downstairs then stopped nervously at the door, being a total coward about anything larger than a mouse. I switched the kitchen light on.

A large ginger cat was eating the remains of Paddy's dinner. Paddy was shrieking at him in outrage – and I really do mean shrieking. He can produce a high tenor voice on such occasions, worthy of the worst moments in *Aida*. The ginger invader was unmoved by this operatic performance. He glanced up and licked a flake of food from his mouth – and smirked. Honest, I'm not making this up, he really did. It was the clearest feline equivalent of holding up two fingers that I've ever seen. Paddy reacted like a choleric country gentleman who has found a burglar in the billiard room. He reached for his twelve-bore and let fly. Or in Paddy's case, leapt at the invader and tried to kill him. The pair of them turned into a screaming, battling, whizzing-round-and-round ball of ginger and tabby fur, hurling its way across the kitchen floor like a feline tornado. Gingerly – as you might say – I opened the kitchen door as a tactful suggestion, but neither of the battling cats even saw it, let alone took any notice.

No way was I going to reach a hand into that mass of furry fury. Fingal was of like mind. He watched the fracas, pop-eyed, with no intention of getting involved. But somebody had to do something, before the battling pair tore each other to bits. There was already a lot of fur floating around and both

protagonists were hell-bent on murder. I waited until the whirling ball of ginger and tabby fur presented a ginger bit close to my foot and gave it a cautious nudge. Ginger sprang apart from his attacker, glaring at him as if he had broken all the rules of gentlemanly conduct. Summoning help from outside is definitely below the belt. Then it dawned on him that the nudge had not been from an additional cat but a human. He gave me a furious look and fled outside. Paddy followed him into the night, bent on finishing the job. I grabbed the torch and went out as well, but the garden was silent. I came back to find Fingal staring in consternation at the now much greater amount of fur drifting around the kitchen floor.

Someone said later, "You should have thrown water over them – that always stops a cat-fight." She sounded very experienced and perhaps she was right, but the kitchen sink was on the far side of the screaming combat – and anyway, wouldn't it have been nastier for them to be doused with water? But that, I suppose, is exactly what she meant. She took the view of the country gentleman's wife who thumps the burglar over the head with a sherry decanter and shouts, 'Get out, you filthy cad!' But me, I'm soppy about cats, even in these moments of challenge.

Paddy, despite my fears, wasn't badly hurt. He came in looking quietly triumphant and waved away Fingal's quivering anxiety with a touch of contempt. I inspected him carefully for damage, but there were no bites or torn ears, just a couple of deep scratches down his tummy – hardly surprising, since he and Ginger had been trying hard to disembowel each other. He spent the rest of the evening patrolling his territory, from front door to back, occasionally going out to make sure the garden was safe as well. For such a placid, easy-going cat, it had been an extraordinary display of Home Guarding.

I haven't seen Ginger since, despite anxious enquiries. I suspect he is the slender marmalade kitten who came to live a few houses away some years back. Kittens, like boys, can grow up to be something quite else. I put some veterinary cream on Paddy's scratches and they scabbed over and healed with no bother. He has gone back to his sleepy, amiable state but Fingal regards him with new respect. Come to that, so do I. ●

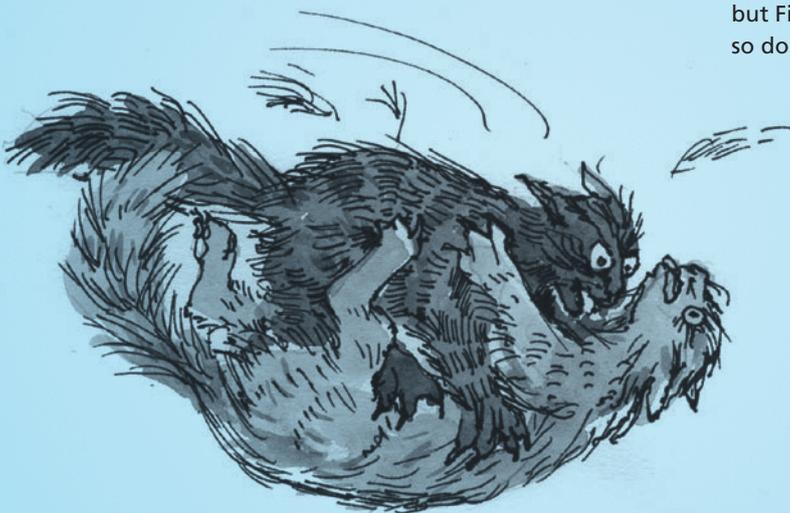


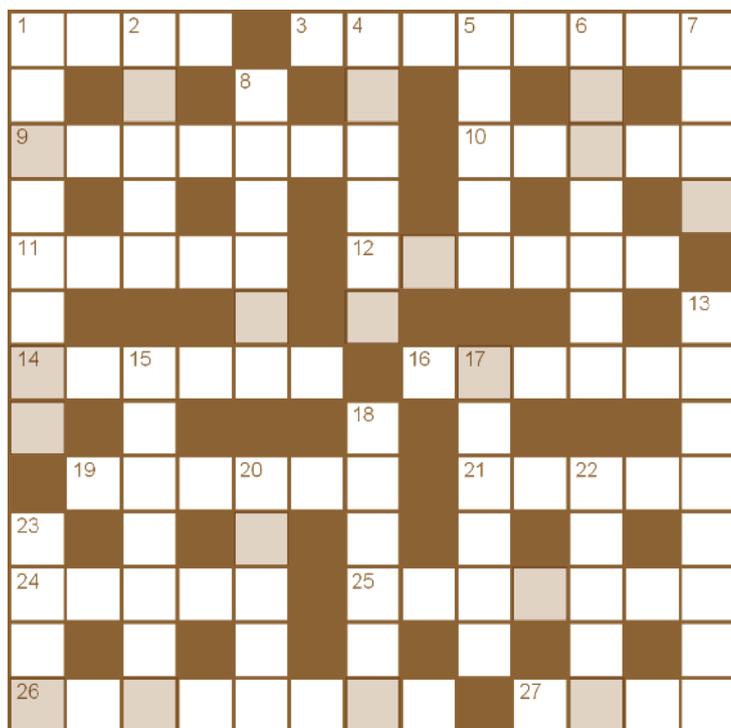
Illustration: Alison Prince

Coffee

Give your feet a rest and exercise your mind

paws

Ten-minute crossword



Across

- 1 Plant from which linen is made (4)
- 3 Matrimony (8)
- 9 Non-professional (7)
- 10 Ski slope (5)
- 11 In that place (5)
- 12 Slumbering (6)
- 14 Maxim (6)
- 16 Gentle wind (6)
- 19 Fully developed (6)
- 21 Venomous snake (5)
- 24 Preliminary period (3,2)
- 25 Alleviate (7)
- 26 Stubbornly persistent (8)
- 27 Small island (4)

Down

- 1 Flute player (8)
- 2 Stop sleeping (5)
- 4 Aviator (6)
- 5 Drive back (5)
- 6 Severely simple (7)
- 7 Always (4)
- 8 Sea between Greece and Turkey (6)
- 13 Bring back (8)
- 15 Pined (7)
- 17 Actually (6)
- 18 Rue (6)
- 20 Higher (5)
- 22 Sediment (5)
- 23 Jason's ship (4)

To win one of these three Stripy Cat Tea For One sets, complete our crossword correctly, rearrange the shaded letters and find the name of a recent TV show starring Dame Eileen Atkins then send it – or a photocopy – along with your name and address to Crossword Competition, *The Cat*, NCC, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 7TT. Alternatively email the answer with your name and address to us at competitions@cats.org.uk with **Crossword** in the subject header. Winners will be drawn on **15 April 2011**. The prizes are kindly sponsored by The Cat Gallery. Visit www.thecatgallery.co.uk or phone 01904 413 000 to request a catalogue.



Last issue's winners:

Elisa Pinheiro from Forest Fields, Nottingham; Derek Baldwin from Faversham, Kent; Ann Nicholls from Pontefract, West Yorkshire.

Answers to Winter Crossword on page 33.

AMUSING HEATHER

CP volunteer, Heather Cook gets the feeling of déjà mew

It's a spooky feeling, that déjà vu thing, isn't it? One minute you're firmly rooted in a fairly ordinary situation – often involving dirt trays – then suddenly you experience a shivery sensation that's got nothing to do with pouring cold water all down your legs when filling the water bowls.

We recently had to say farewell to Miss Calico – the sweetest creature that never used a dirt tray. She was very close to being a pedigree Persian and her coat was a blur of the softest grey and orange, splodged against an explosion of white candyfloss.

I recently took in a Persian that had been confined to one room for eight years, proving that paying a lot of money for something doesn't necessarily mean that it will be loved and cared for. And yes – you've guessed – she was the same colour as Miss Calico and had a phobia of dirt trays.

The poor cat was a matted ball of fluff and could not open her eyes. A visit to the vet confirmed chronic conjunctivitis, left untreated for years, and inflamed skin where matter from the eyes and nose had eroded the fur. The saddest thing of all was that the cat had no name. We called her Bella, because even in this sorry state we knew she would be beautiful.

After a couple of days, I was stroking Bella when a noise like a fitful motorbike engine vibrated in her freshly shaved chest as if she hadn't purred for a very long time. Her huge amber eyes were responding to treatment and were heartrendingly full of trust.

Her fur is growing back now in lustrous profusion: soft grey and peach patches against a backcloth of shimmering white. She will soon be well enough to go to a new home.

Purr 'n' Fur

Cathedral Cats at Salisbury, Wiltshire

Salisbury, a city in the county of Wiltshire in southern England, has one of the country's finest cathedrals and the one with the highest spire, at 404 feet. There have been cats at Salisbury Cathedral for a number of years in modern times and probably much longer altogether.

The first 'official' cat in recent times was Captain, a black-and-white gentleman described as 'debonair'; he was clearly a great character and took his duties seriously. One early morning he followed the verger, assistant priest and bishop in procession as they moved into the cathedral for the day's first Communion service. The *Cathedral News* commended Captain and reported that he "never flagged in the vigilant pursuit of duty", so when he disappeared in March 1980 he was greatly mourned and missed.

Amber – affectionately known as Ginger or 'Ginge' – and his sister Tiddler – 'Tid' – were workshop cats and reigned over the stoneyard. Ginger has a claim to fame in that there is, in a side chapel of the cathedral, a modern stained-glass window commemorating the laying of the foundation stone of the edifice in the year 1220. A tiny image of a cat can be seen on the window and is said to be in honour of Ginge. In the early 1990s Simpkin appeared on the scene with her family, who had moved from Wellingborough in Northamptonshire. Simpkin kept a close eye on the family by following them everywhere. She graced the occasional morning service with her presence; on one memorable Palm Sunday she obviously thought that if there could be a donkey in the procession, there should certainly be a cat too! She remained at the donkey's heels from beginning to end of the service.

The present incumbent is Wolfie which is short for Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; he came as a kitten with Canon June Osborne when she was appointed Dean. However, after living with her for six months he became more nomadic and although she still funds his upkeep he has now befriended the craftsmen of the Works Department – especially the glaziers, whom he will follow up ladders and scaffolding; the pupils at the Cathedral School; the staff at the Visitor Services desk and the librarian – although he's not actually allowed in the library. Like Captain he has been to early-morning services; he spent one Eucharist gazing at the dean and accompanying her when she went up to read the Gospel for the day.

A procession consisting of altar boy-verger-bishop-cat is considered quite normal at Salisbury!

One of Wolfie's less popular exploits occurred when one Christmas, having found the Nativity crib a nice, comfortable place to sleep, with straw thoughtfully provided to burrow under, he was unknowingly locked in overnight. Waking at around 3am and wishing to go out, his movements set off the alarm system – and a none-too-pleased verger had to crawl out of bed to find out what was going on! We're happy to say that Wolfie is thriving and bringing in useful income for the cathedral in the form of fridge magnets, sold in the gift shop, with his image on them!

Extract taken from www.purr-n-fur.org.uk by Patrick Roberts, log on to read more of Patrick's feline fables, folios and fun!

Patrick Roberts



Illustration: Rasoul Hudda

Sudoku

Fill in the empty cells so that the digits 1 through to 9 appear:

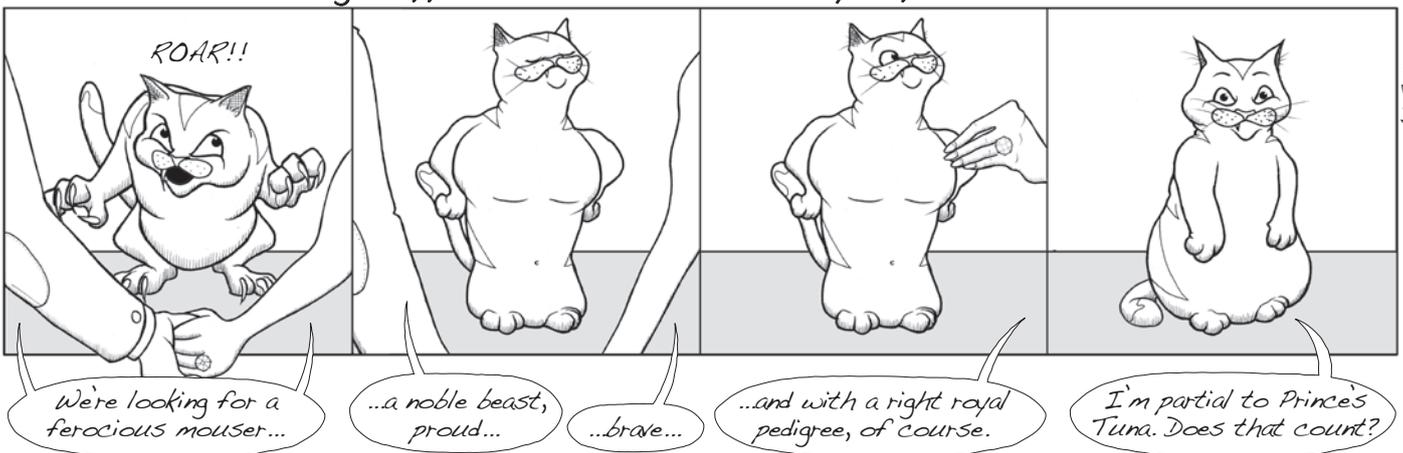
- only once in each row
- only once in each column
- only once in each 3x3 box (shown by the thicker lines)

7		6		9				5
					3			
	2	4	5					
1				5		4	6	
	7	5	4		6	1	8	
	6	9		8				7
					5	2	4	
			6					
	4			1		8		6

Answers appear on page 33.

Kate and Wills are looking to appoint a new warmer of the royal lap. Could it be...

Norm!



A.P. Tenkang 2000

Kidney disease: what you need to know

Joy Howell, Customer Relations Co-ordinator for Bayer Animal Health, discusses an illness more common in cats than you may think... kidney disease

Kidney disease is widespread among our feline companions and it is thought that one in three cats over the age of 10 have it. It is also one of the most common conditions to affect middle- to old-age cats and as such it is advisable to monitor cats throughout their lives for signs of the disease.

In early kidney disease, there are no outward signs and many cases remain undetected until almost 75 per cent of kidney function has been lost. Cats are also experts at hiding symptoms of illness so even more advanced kidney disease is not easily detected.

The major roles of the kidney include:

- Excretion of waste products
- Regulation of water balance
- Regulation of electrolytes such as sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium
- Production of hormones
- Activation of Vitamin D
- Elimination of gastrin – acid secretion in stomach

‘Many cases remain undetected until almost 75 per cent of kidney function has been lost’

Kidney disease can either be acquired during the course of a lifetime, or congenital, meaning a cat has had kidney problems from birth. Whether acquired or congenital, the disease can be divided into two types, Chronic kidney disease and Acute kidney disease.

A healthy cat's kidney contains 2.4 million nephrons, which are tiny filtering units responsible for filtering excess waste from the body. When a cat develops kidney disease, there is a progressive loss of nephrons. The remaining nephrons try to compensate which leads to an increasing failure to cope and essentially leads to kidney failure. As a consequence there is

a retention of toxins/waste in the blood, dehydration due to increased water elimination, retention of phosphorus, decreased hormone production and increased blood pressure.

The signs

Symptoms of the disease, once visible, can include dehydration, decreased appetite, sleeping more, weight loss, increased water consumption, vomiting and a dull, rough coat. It is important to remember that these symptoms are non specific and if your cat is showing any of these, they may be signs of kidney disease so it is important to contact your vet to arrange a check up. It can also be nearly impossible to detect these symptoms, as for example you may have an older cat that already sleeps for 22 hours a day!

There are, however, very quick and simple checks your vet, or vet nurse can perform which need not be expensive or invasive and can be as simple as having regular health checks including weight, general body condition score, blood pressure and a urine specific gravity test. It may sound scientific but it's actually very simple. All you need to do is collect a sample of your cat's urine using non-absorbent urine collection litter/beads – ask your vet – and take the sample along to your vet practice in a jar for your vet or vet nurse to test – the jar does not need to be sterile but should be clean – and more importantly you don't even have to take your cat with you so you do not have the stress of trying to get your cat in his basket!

Testing and diagnosis

Cats share ancestry with African Wildcats – desert animals – and therefore have highly concentrated urine. Vets and nurses are able to carry out a very quick test using a refractometer, which is a piece of equipment to measure the concentration of the urine. If your cat is identified as being unable to concentrate his urine, this may be the first sign of kidney disease and further tests may

be required to confirm the diagnosis. However in many cases your cat will be fine and able to concentrate his urine; the important thing is to ensure your cat is regularly checked as this is the best way of catching this potentially fatal disease early. The earlier kidney disease can be diagnosed, the better, so if your cat is over seven years of age or if you are concerned that he may be displaying any of the signs identified, contact your vet.

If your cat is diagnosed with kidney disease, there are options available that have been proven to prolong life expectancy as well as improving his quality of life. For example, your cat can be given a renal specific/prescription diet. Another option available is a phosphate binder such as Renalzin, which serves to bind dietary phosphate in the gut and it is excreted in the faeces rather than the urine. This effectively reduces the burden on the cat's already damaged kidneys and will certainly improve the quality and length of his life. Due to the importance of reducing phosphorus in cats with kidney disease, you may also need both a prescription diet with restricted phosphate, as well as a phosphate binder. The earlier you can pick up the disease, the better, as changing a cat's diet is something that should be done gradually.

Photo: iStockphoto.com/Arman Zhenikeyev



Diet advice

Cats are renowned fussy eaters, here are some tips to help progress your cat onto a specialist diet:

- Introduce renal food slowly and alongside the current food
- Gradually increase the consumption of renal food and decrease the amount of previous food you give your cat
- Acceptance of renal food can be a slow, gradual process, particularly for the fussy eaters. In this case while normal food is fed during the process, it is important to ensure the phosphate intake is controlled by using Renalzin
- Even with good acceptance of renal food, Renalzin may also be required and can be added to this – speak with your vet for guidance
- Encourage your cat to drink more. For example, the use of flavoured water eg by using prawn juice or water from poaching chicken or fish. Some cats also like to drink from a fountain
- Ensure there are plenty of drinking stations around the house and if there is more than one cat, allow a station for each plus one
- Regular weight checks and urine checks will allow close monitoring
- Encourage exercise by offering stimulation through toys
- Monitor the cat's behaviour and general condition and make a note of any areas of concern or significant change – positive or negative

- If your cat is unwell and hospitalised it is important to introduce the new diet or binder when your cat returns home and is feeling better. Introducing a new diet or binder in the veterinary practice, when your cat is already feeling unwell could result in him developing a food aversion – it is more important for him to regain his fluid intake and strength, before introducing the diet gradually at home

Damage to kidneys is irreversible, so don't be afraid to contact your vet if you have any concerns about the health and welfare of your cat. For further information on kidney disease or Renalzin, visit the following website which also offers a free questionnaire and body condition chart: www.renalzin.co.uk ●

Joy qualified as a Veterinary Nurse in 1985 from the Royal Veterinary College in London. She has worked in Private Practice and the PDSA and has lectured on several occasions at the British Veterinary Nursing Association Congress and to a number of educational establishments. She has provided client lectures in Veterinary Practices on a range of topics, including chronic renal disease in cats.

A timorous tabby's ordeal

Jacqueline Stephens shares her experience of a stroke of luck

In August last year, we experienced a minor miracle. We had moved house from Sutton Coldfield to Lichfield on 7 September 2009 and it was a traumatic time for all of us: due to various problems the move had to be made twice; my husband became ill with the stress and was taken into hospital and I was left alone with boxes piled high to the ceiling, with both the cats forcibly incarcerated indoors and very unhappy about it. Thank heaven for good friends and neighbours at such a time!

After our days of chaos and confusion Gus, our elder cat – named after August, the month we got him – voted with his feet in protest and went missing. Smokey, an 18-month-old beautiful grey female with white paws also left home a fortnight later. We were bereft and tried all we could to locate them, knocking on doors, walking around the area, advertising in the local papers, shops and vets' surgeries, both in Lichfield and Sutton, but all to no avail. We had given up hope.

Two weeks later we received a telephone call from a lovely lady who lives about a mile away. She said "You do not know me, but by chance, when I was looking for a friend's phone number, I came across a newspaper cutting dated September 2009 advertising details of a missing cat – a male, neutered, nervous tabby, about two years old – and this description tallied with that of a cat of a very nervous disposition who has been living rough in bushes at the end of my garden. I have been feeding him since February and I just wondered if he could be yours? Would you like to come at feeding time and find out?" Does the Pope live in Rome?!

All day we were full of anticipation, but we arrived at her home only to find that the cat had just left. We felt so crestfallen, but I asked if I might go into her garden just to check. I went up the steep steps at the foot of her beautiful garden and, sensing something in the bushes called out "Gus... is that you? If it is, please come to me," and a little voice said "Mah".

I knew it was indeed our cat. He came along the top of the fence and jumped straight into my arms and from there into my husband's arms, purring and licking all of the time. We were delighted to see him again after so long and so glad he survived the winter, sleeping rough.

It was an absolute miracle and has given us such pleasure to become a complete family once more, despite the lack of his little sister, who although microchipped, is still missing.

Gus had a deep wound under his armpit – possibly caused by a foot trapped while trying to remove his collar – which was being treated by antibiotics and gel at a veterinary hospital, but otherwise he was healthy and clean, ate and slept well and is now very content – and so are we! We're most grateful for so much kindness from a caring stranger. ●



Illustration: iStockphoto.com/Melanie Taylor

Cats Protection

in focus

Contents

Page 56

Spotlight... take a closer look at the work of Cats Protection branches around the UK

Page 58

Messageboard... cats needing homes, branches needing volunteers and thank yous to those who've helped

Page 61

Diary of events... coffee mornings, homing shows, photo competitions, car boot sales, fairs, bazaars and even the odd motorbike rally! Find out what's going on in your area

Page 62

Contacts... find a Cats Protection branch, adoption centre or charity shop near you

Can you help?

Our branches are always in need of donations, whether it be in the form of funds or bric-a-brac for them to sell on. Many need volunteers to help with a range of different tasks and, of course, loving new homes for the cats in their care.

If you think you could help, you can find your nearest branch by visiting www.cats.org.uk by phoning 03000 12 12 12 or by turning to the contacts section of this issue.

Cats Protection is the UK's largest feline welfare charity with over 250 volunteer-run branches, 29 adoption centres and one homing centre around the country, as well as the Sussex-based National Cat Centre. We rehome unwanted and abandoned cats, promote neutering and raise awareness of feline welfare issues throughout the UK. In this section, you can find out more about our work near you.





Spotlight

A selection of tales from our branches and adoption centres...

Appeals

Despite the odds

By Maidenhead, Slough & District

Our Co-ordinator took a call from a lady who had been feeding a stray cat in her garden for several months. She was going away for Christmas and was worried that the cat would not survive in the cold. Naturally he went out to trap the cat, a very friendly young female tabby. Although there were no kittens around, he suspected that she might have recently given birth, despite assurances that no kittens had been seen.



The cat, named Veronica, was given a clean bill of health by the vets, remaining with them while a foster home was sorted out. A week later, we received a call from a neighbour of the lady who originally contacted us, saying she had seen two small kittens! Miraculously, the two five-week-old kittens, although very weak and starving, were alive. The veterinary nurse checked the mother cat and found she did indeed have milk, so we showed the kittens to her. They immediately bonded, she started to wash them and lay down to feed them, the family are now reunited and doing very well together. In a couple of months this little family will be ready for their new homes.

If you can help with a donation towards the care of cats like Veronica, please phone 01628 620 909 or send a donation, payable to CP Maidenhead Slough & District, c/o 44 Switchback Road South, Maidenhead, SL6 7PZ.

Success stories

A fine Flamborough feline

By Beverley & Pocklington

Herbie was probably born outside, we do not know where he came from, nor whether he had other siblings. One night he decided to take shelter under a car and made the right choice by choosing a vehicle belonging to a vet.

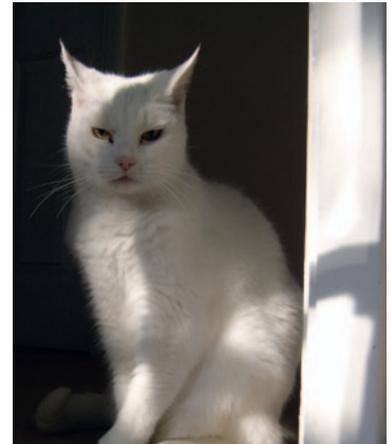
He was a very frightened little kitten and, after a thorough check, was taken into our care. With lots of handling and attention, Herbie developed into a friendly kitten, ready for homing to the right family. Herbie moved to the lighthouse cottages at Flamborough with another more confident kitten, since renamed Church, which was ideal as he could still be a bit timid. Now that the Flamborough lighthouse is computer controlled from London the original cottages are rented out. Herbie loves looking out to sea and when summer comes and he is allowed outside, he will have a wonderful time.

Winter warmers

By Reading & District

During the recent chilly times, we have been cheered by the particularly heart-warming recent adoptions of some of our cats previously 'left on the shelf' for various reasons.

These include 18-year-old Snowflake – pictured – who arrived as a stray in a dreadful condition. After a year of tender loving fostering, she has been transformed and has found a lovely caring home. Other golden oldies Minnie – who requires ongoing thyroid medication – Tia and 16-year-old Charlie also found the homes of their dreams. Special people also fell for youngsters with challenges such as Jack – litter tray 'issues' – and a pair of ginger kittens originally so nervous it was initially feared they would not be suitable for an indoor home. So a big pat on the back for all involved in these wonderful happy endings which makes the hard work so worthwhile.



Life's a teddy bear's picnic

By Honiton

Felix was left in a cardboard box on the doorstep of a local lady who does wildlife rescue work. As she doesn't generally deal with cats, we were asked to give him space so he ended up in the dog crate in a volunteer's living room.

Well, what a sweetheart! He arrived with his teddy bear and loves it so much that he lies cuddling it and suckling at night – he definitely needed to go to a home with room for a bear too! Luckily, a friend of one branch member fell in love with him and so he ended up just down the road, meaning we'll be able to watch his progress. He'll have another slightly older kitten to play with which we think he'll really enjoy – it's nice to have a happy ending!



Midnight's microchip magic

By Warrington Adoption Centre

Bella was found in Orford, Warrington. During our admission procedure, we check all our new arrivals for microchips and, luckily for Bella, her owner had taken the time to get her chipped.

We contacted idENTICHIP and asked for her details and found her real name was Midnight. We got her owners' details and phoned the supplied number, but it was disconnected. Fortunately, a second number was registered and was still in use so we left a message. The following morning Midnight's owner got in touch and came to pick her up straight away; they were so relieved to have found her. They informed us she went missing over seven months beforehand in Ormskirk, which is over 20 miles away. They had looked everywhere, but had given up hope of finding her after so long. Without her microchip there's no way they would have been reunited. It is well worth the cost and effort to microchip your pets, but remember to keep the details up to date so you can be contacted if they are found.



Home for Christmas

By Orkney

He's used up most of his nine lives, but Smokey enjoyed a special Christmas with his family – after being missing for over a year.

The grey tom was ill, emaciated and a shadow of his handsome former self when we took him in. However, his eagle-eyed foster carer, Pauline Musson, thought there was a slim chance that he could be the same cat listed as missing on our website 14 months previously. Pauline contacted the missing cat's owner, Birdie Grey, immediately. When Birdie arrived 10 minutes later, she wasn't convinced that it was her cat due to the condition he was in, but Smokey had no such reservations and recognised her straight away, going straight up to greet her. After an emotional reunion with his human family, Smokey is now recovering from his 14 months living rough, including surviving a harsh Orkney winter.



Sweet treats

By Bristol & District

Cookie came into our care with her three, three-day-old kittens as her owner had to move and was unable to take her with her.

She was in perfect health throughout the time she was with us, she just had a huge appetite and seemed like a bottomless pit, getting through two tins of food a day when she was feeding the kittens! The only veterinary attention she needed was neutering, vaccinations and treatment for fleas and worms. Her three kittens went off to new homes where they are all doing well and it didn't take Cookie long to find a suitable new home either. She was adopted by an elderly couple who are delighted by her.



The railway kittens

By National Cat Adoption Centre

Liberty and Ellis were found at the Bluebell Railway – a heritage steam railway – near the National Cat Adoption Centre in Sussex. Sadly, their mother was nowhere to be found and, from a litter of five, they were the only two to survive.

They were taken to the adoption centre and, although their mother was found in the meantime, the family could sadly not be reunited. As a result, they had to be hand reared by Cat Care Assistants, which meant taking them home every night and waking every two hours to feed them.

After the two kittens had regained their strength, it didn't take long for their charms to find them a new home together. Their new owners had been to New York several times and decided to name the kittens after two of the city's famous islands. Both kittens are doing really well and growing up fast.





Messageboard

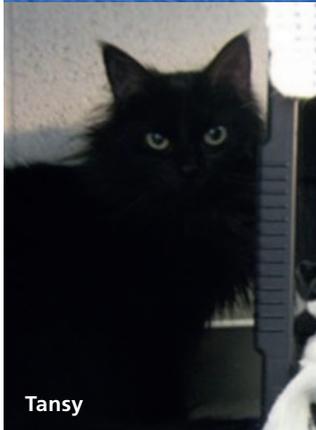
from your local Cats Protection...

Looking for a home

Ferndown Homing Centre
Tansy and Mindy
Females, 3 years



Mindy



Tansy

A lovely couple looking for an understanding quiet home. Mindy – tabby – is coming out of her shell but it is taking Tansy a little longer. They both love a little tickle under their chin.
☎ 03000 120 175

Reading (East), Wokingham & Bracknell
Harley

Male, 2 years
Harley is a shy black-and-white boy and is slowly coming out of himself after a traumatic time. He needs a patient, quiet home without other cats or children.
☎ 08453 714 212

Luton, Dunstable & District
Tango
Male, 17 years



Tango loves a fuss and is very friendly. He is in very good health for his age and has no medical conditions. He has been an indoor cat and this is what he is used to, but he could possibly be interested in venturing outside once the warmer weather is here. He would prefer a new home with an older retired couple.
☎ 08453 712 746

Hornchurch & District
Stratford
Male, adult



Stratford came into our care after his previous owner died. He needs a home where he will be the only cat with an experienced cat owner who can spend time with him while he grows in confidence.
☎ 01708 755 211

West Oxfordshire
Oakie
Female, adult



Oakie was handed into us because her owners could no longer keep her. She is friendly to humans but does not like other cats or dogs.
☎ 07973 683 899

Great Amwell & District
Jennie
Female, 6 years



Jennie likes to be stroked but finds it stressful to be picked up. Ideally, she would make an older couple a lovely pet. She would need time and consideration in a quiet home with no small children.
☎ 08453 712 736

North Ayrshire
Suzy, Daisy and Amber
Female, kittens



These three were born at a disused stable block on the Isle of Bute along with their two brothers, Billy and Angus. All of the kittens are looking for quieter homes where they can get used to normal household life in their own time. They will all make lovely pets.
☎ 08453 714 218

St Albans & District
Tiggs

Male, 2 years
Tiggs is a beautiful ginger cat with Bengal markings. He is friendly and adores company, but his inquisitive nature has not gone down well with the local neighbours who have made threats against him. His owners are very reluctant to give him up but it is felt, for his own safety, that he finds a caring home in a rural environment where the neighbours are less bothered by his antics. If you can help, please get in touch.
☎ 08453 701 264

Looking for a home

Outer Aberdeen & District Frodo

Male, 7 years



Frodo is currently in foster care as he was very nervous at our pens. He requires a quiet indoor home with no other pets where he can feel safe. Once settled, he shows a very affectionate and playful character.

☎ 01224 705 252

Great Amwell & District Tigger

Female, 5 years



Tigger came into our care after her owner sadly died. She is looking for an understanding owner with no other pets or small children. Please get in touch if you can offer her the home she deserves.

☎ 01992 467 826

Ferndown Homing Centre Tabitha and Affelia

Females, 4 years



Gorgeous quiet pair looking for an indoor home with an understanding quiet family. They are finding it hard being in a pen environment. Both love cuddles when they understand you are not going to hurt them.

☎ 03000 120 175

Warrington Adoption Centre Bart and Scout

Male, kittens



Bart and Scout are semi-feral and would only need a bit of land and to be provided with food regularly. If you have the time to spend socialising them, they could become friendly and live in a home. However, this would take a dedicated and very patient person.

☎ 01925 411 160

Join the team

Lewes, Seaford & District Branch is urgently looking for a Treasurer. If you live in the Lewes area and are interested in this role, please contact the South & East Region Team of BSU on 01825 741 995.

Bury St Edmunds Branch is looking for volunteers to help with fundraising. Whether it's helping at events, making cakes or other goods we can sell, or coming up with new ideas to fundraise – we would be so grateful. If you are interested, please phone 01449 720 003.

Guildford & Godalming Branch is recruiting for Home Visitors and Fosterers as well as a new Secretary. Ideally you need to be online, as much of our communication is via email, and able to attend an evening committee meeting each month. Our current Secretary is happy to provide a handover to you. We also need a Website Editor to keep our website up to date. To find out more about any of these roles, phone us on 01483 422 529 or email guildfordandgodalmingcatsprotection@hotmail.com

Falmouth, Helston & District Branch is recruiting volunteers for a range of roles. If you can offer to help in any way please contact 08453 712 729 or email catsfalmouthhelston@live.com

East Northumberland Branch is looking for volunteers and new members, especially to help with fundraising. We are a small and friendly team and past fundraising events have included belly dance nights and 'cocktails for cats'. If you would like to join us and maybe come up with some new ideas, we'd love to hear from you. Most of our fundraising events are located in the Tyne and Wear/Northumberland border upwards to the Morpeth area. If you can help with fundraising please contact Christine Emery on 07720 679 143 or email lucretiakat@hotmail.com

Teignbridge & Totnes Branch is looking to recruit transport volunteers and helpers to put up stalls at both indoor and outdoor events. We also have a lot of very elderly cats coming into our care and are seeking special carers who are willing to foster in their own homes. If you would like to know more please phone Barbara on 08453 712 727.

Shetland Branch is looking for volunteers to fill a number of roles. If you live in the area and are interested in learning more, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please phone 01595 840 588.

Cherwell Branch is looking for a new Fundraising Officer and for additional Fosterers. The branch covers the Banbury, Bicester and Brackley areas and if you are interested please phone Pat Murdoch on 07716 596 212 or email themurdybird@aol.com

Stockport Branch is looking for an Annual Fun Day Co-ordinator, a Regular Fair Co-ordinator and a Fundraising Co-ordinator. All three of these roles are committee positions that require strong organisational skills and a lot of commitment. If you are interested in any of these roles, please phone Jacky on 07900 415 674.

Reading (East), Wokingham & Bracknell Branch is looking for new Home Visitors. If you are interested and would like to learn more about the role, please contact us on 08453 714 212 or www.readingeast.cats.org.uk. We request that anyone volunteering their time must join the branch first if they are not already a member. (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri)

Thank you...

To **everyone** who supported Glastonbury & Wells Branch's Christmas Fair in Wells Town Hall on 20 November 2010, whether as a volunteer or as a customer. We raised an amazing £5,552 from the sale of new and second-hand goods, raffle tickets and refreshments. A special thanks goes to Peta Weston who prowled the streets of Wells in her cat costume encouraging people to come in and see us!

To **all the readers** up and down the country who have supported Hornchurch & District Branch's appeal for Hope and Osborne – *The Cat*, Autumn 2010. We never dreamt we would get such a response, we are overwhelmed with all the support and we will be forever grateful. Both Hope and Osborne have settled well in their new homes which makes our work so emotionally rewarding.

Deadlines

All branches are encouraged to send in their success stories and diary dates for every issue. The deadlines for the next three issues are:

- 18 March – Summer 2011
- 17 June – Autumn 2011
- 16 September – Winter 2011

Please send your entries to: CP in Focus, Editorial Team, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT or email editorial@cats.org.uk. CP volunteers and staff can now submit their stories online via CatNav. Log on at <http://catnav.cats.org.uk>

To **all the customers** at Sainsbury's in Hanley for the huge car full of cat food donated to Stoke & Newcastle Branch. There must have been several hundreds of pounds' worth and our thanks must also go to **Julie Palmer** at the store who has also pledged to consider us for another such donation in the future. All the moggies were delighted by the unexpected upturn in their feeding routine by the addition of more upmarket goodies.

To **Anglea Michie** and **Janey Bethune-Williams** from Debbie Grant, Homing Officer at Reading East, Wokingham & Bracknell Branch. I would like to sincerely thank these two ladies, who work so hard and also find time to be out in all winds and weathers raising funds for our beloved cats, without all their devotion, time and good will, we would not be able to help as many cats as we do and I think they deserve a big public thank you. Thanks also to the rest of the fundraising team, who carry out street collections, leaflet dropping etc, as without these people it would be really hard.

C'mon, we all know Facebook is the place to be.

So why not become a fan of the official Cats Protection page? We've already got over 40,000 fans but there's always room for more!

Share stories with fellow cat lovers while receiving the latest news, advice and information from Cats Protection – instantly!



www.facebook.com/catsprotection



Timmy's homing status has changed from alone to rehomed.
34 minutes ago



Timmy is looking for a new home
4 hours ago



Diary of events

Find out what's going on near you...

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE

Reading (East), Wokingham & Bracknell

Fairs

12 March: Spring fair, Carnation Hall, Chavey Down; 1-4pm.

Stalls

24 March: Woodley Pagoda
12 May: Woodley Pagoda

BRISTOL

Bristol

Firewalk

20 March: Firewalk, Tobacco Factory, Bristol.

DERBYSHIRE

Derby Adoption Centre

Motorbike run

22 May: 'Mad Moggy Run', from The Royal Oak, Long Eaton to The Vic at Coalville; meet at 9.30am leaving at 11am. 20+ miles run to the famous Vic Bikers pub at Coalville, raffle, food, live band. £5 per person.

DEVON

East Devon

Collections

8 April: Tesco, Exmouth. Volunteers required to shake a tin!

Stalls

12 March: Coffee and cat chat morning, St. Francis Church Hall, Woolbrook, Sidmouth; 10am-12noon.
30 April: Coffee morning, Tipton St. John Village Hall, nr. Sidmouth; 10am-12noon.
May: Date TBC. Possibly a cream tea afternoon.
28 May: Stall on The Green, Budleigh Salterton. Lions Gala Week Fete.

Exeter Axhayes Adoption Centre

Open days

22 April: Kiddie Easter fun day, Exeter Axhayes Adoption Centre; 12noon-3pm. A fun packed afternoon for the kiddies, to include Easter Egg Hunt

from 1-2pm, colouring competitions, craft tent, bouncy castle and refreshments.

15 May: Open and rehoming day; 12noon-4pm. Free entry with a tin of cat food! A big event with the emphasis being to rehome as many cats as possible while raising funds for the centre. Includes stalls, competitions, auction, bird of prey display, fun for the kiddies, refreshments and attendance from local CP branches.

Teignbridge & Totnes

Fair

9 April: Spring fayre, Methodist Church Hall, Bovey Tracey; 10am-12noon.

EAST SUSSEX

Friends of Eastbourne

Fairs

14 May: Spring fayre, Eastbourne Adoption Centre, Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 2RB.

Neutering campaign

March: Free neutering campaign, Eastbourne area. Dates TBC.

ESSEX

Chelmsford & District

Fairs

16 April: Spring fayre, The Shire Hall, Chelmsford; 10am-12noon. We will be selling a wide selection of goods and refreshments will be on sale. Admission by donation or a tin of cat food. Please come along and support us!
14 May: All Saints Church Hall, Springfield Green; 12noon-3pm. There will be a wide selection of goods on sale including refreshments. Admission by donation.

Hornchurch & District

Quiz night

26 March: All Saints Church Hall, Cranham; 7.30pm.

Rayleigh, Castle Point & District

Fairs

12 March: Homing show, WRVS Hall, Richmond Ave, Benfleet.

26 March: Bazaar, WRVS Hall, Richmond Ave, Benfleet.

9 April: Homing show, Methodist Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.

16 April: Bazaar, WRVS Hall, John Burrows Playing Fields, Rectory Rd Hadleigh.

14 May: Homing show, Methodist Hall, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh.

21 May: Plant sale and spring raffle, Richmond Hall, High Rd, Benfleet.

GREATER MANCHESTER

Stockport

Fairs

12 March: Hazel Grove, United Reformed Hall, Commercial Road; 10am-12.30pm.

9 April: Bramhall, Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Gardens; 10am-12.30pm.

April: Date TBC, Small animal advice fair, Woodbank Park, Stockport.

14 May: Woodley, Civic Hall, Hyde Road; 10am-12.30pm.

Shows

May: Date TBC, Manchester Cat Show, GH Carnell Leisure Centre, Kingsway Park, Urmston. Any offers of help for any of the above events, phone 0161 439 1274 or email stockport.cp@hotmail.com

HERTFORDSHIRE

Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted

Collections

15-16 April: Tin collection, Tesco, Tring; 9.30am-6pm. Please come along and support us and to say hello!

Quiz

March/April: Kitty quiz night. Due to outstanding success of this fun night during 2010, back by popular demand, book your places, as many already reserved! Dates TBC, contact branch for full details.

Stalls

19 March: Jumble, Potten End Village Hall; doors open at 11.30am.

4 June: Jumble, details as above.

SOMERSET

Glastonbury & Wells

Fairs

30 April: Spring fair, Wells Town Hall; 9.30am-4pm. Both floors with refreshments.

WEST SUSSEX

Mid Sussex

Collections

19 March: Hassocks street collection; 9am-1pm.

16 April: Burgess Hill street collection; 9pm-3pm.

21 May: Lindfield street collection; 9am-1pm.

Stalls

2 May: Cuckoo fayre, recreation ground behind Queens Hall Cuckfield; 10am-5pm.

8 May: Haywards Heath Spring Festival, Muster Green; 12noon-5pm.

30 May: Staplefield Funday; 10am-5pm.

WALES

CLWYD

Wrexham & District

Collections

2 April: Chester city street collection.



Contacts

Find your nearest Cats Protection branch, adoption centre or charity shop...

England

South East

Bredhurst Kent

✉ Matts Hill Road, Hartlip,
Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 7XA
☎ 01634 232 471
🌐 www.bredhurstkent.cats.org.uk

Friends of Bredhurst Kent Adoption Centre

Chelmsford & District

✉ Willow Grove, Deadmans Lane,
Galleywood, Chelmsford, CM2 8LZ
☎ 01245 478 389
🌐 www.chelmsford.cats.org.uk

Eastbourne

✉ 63 Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham,
East Sussex, BN27 2RB
☎ 01323 440 101
🌐 www.eastbourne.cats.org.uk

Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre

Haslemere

✉ Chase Lodge Studio, Hammer Lane,
Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1QD
☎ 01428 604 297
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/haslemere

Friends of Haslemere Adoption Centre

National Cat Adoption Centre

✉ Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath,
Sussex, RH17 7TT
☎ 08707 708 650
🌐 www.ncac.cats.org.uk

Friends of the National Cat Adoption Centre

North London

✉ 135 Junction Road, Archway,
Greater London, N19 5PX
☎ 0207 272 6048

Basildon, Brentwood & District

☎ 01268 285 778
🌐 www.bascats.org.uk

Bexley & Dartford

☎ 01322 611 911
🌐 www.bexleycatsprotection.co.uk

Brighton & Hove City

☎ 01273 279 138
🌐 www.brightoncatsprotection.org.uk

Bromley

☎ 0208 402 8860
🌐 www.bromleycatsprotection.org.uk

Camberley & District

☎ 08453 712 745
🌐 www.camberley.cats.org.uk

Canterbury & District

☎ 01227 266 838
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/canterbury

Chelmsford & District

☎ 01245 478 389
🌐 www.chelmsfordcatsprotection.co.uk

Chichester, Bognor Regis & District

☎ 08453 712 760
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/chichester

Chiltern

☎ 01296 680 397
🌐 www.chiltern.cats.org.uk

Crawley, Reigate & District

☎ 08453 712 734
🌐 www.catsprotection.co.uk

Croydon

☎ 0208 763 0072
🌐 www.croydoncpcats.org.uk

Caterham, Redhill & East Surrey

☎ 08453 712 739
🌐 www.eastsurrey.cats.org.uk

Ealing & West London

☎ 0208 752 0793

Eastbourne & District

☎ 01323 440 101
🌐 www.eastbourne.cats.org.uk

Eltham, Sidcup & District

☎ 01689 815 475
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/elthamsidcup

Epsom, Ewell & District

☎ 01737 640 882
🌐 www.epsom.cats.org.uk

Folkestone & Hythe

☎ 01303 237 744
🌐 www.folkestonehythe.cats.org.uk

Great Amwell & District

☎ 01992 467 826
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/greatamwell

Greenwich

☎ 0208 8538 666
🌐 www.catsgn.org.uk

Guildford & Godalming

☎ 01483 422 529
🌐 www.guildford.cats.org.uk

Harlow, Epping Forest & District

☎ 01992 579 539
🌐 www.harlow.cats.org.uk

Hastings & District

☎ 01424 754 328

Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted

☎ 08453 711 851
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/dacorum

Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill

☎ 0208 952 1350
🌐 www.hendon.cats.org.uk

High Wycombe & South Bucks

☎ 01494 448 849
🌐 www.bucksats.org.uk

Hillingdon

☎ 01895 443 637
🌐 www.hillingdon.cats.org.uk

Hornchurch & District

☎ 01708 755 211
🌐 www.hornchurch.cats.org.uk

Horsham & District

☎ 08453 712 749
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/horsham

Lea Valley

☎ 08453 712 740
🌐 www.leavalley.cats.org.uk

Lewes, Seaford & District

☎ 01273 813 111
🌐 www.lewes.cats.org.uk

Maidstone

☎ 08453 712 758
🌐 www.maidstone.cats.org.uk

Mid Sussex

☎ 01444 414 884
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/midsussex

Milton Keynes & District

☎ 01296 738 558
🌐 www.mkcats.org.uk

North Hertfordshire

☎ 01438 228 877
🌐 www.northherts.cats.org.uk

Paddington

🌐 www.paddington.cats.org.uk

Rayleigh, Castle Point & District

☎ 01268 750 831
🌐 www.catsrayleigh.org.uk

Romford & District

☎ 01708 451 341
🌐 www.romford.cats.org.uk

St Albans & District

☎ 08453 712 064
🌐 www.stalbans.cats.org.uk

Southend & District

☎ 01702 710 630
🌐 www.catsprotectionsouthend.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Sutton & Cheam

☎ 0208 330 0176
🌐 www.sutton.cats.org.uk

Swale

☎ 08453 712 755
🌐 www.swale.cats.org.uk

Tendring & District

☎ 08453 712 742
🌐 www.tendringcats.org.uk

Tenterden & District

☎ 01797 366 379
🌐 www.tenterdencats.org.uk

Three Rivers & Watford

☎ 01923 283 338
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/threerivers

Thurrock & District

☎ 08453 712 752

Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough & District

☎ 01892 516 377
🌐 www.uckfield.cats.org.uk

Woking & District

☎ 01483 721 700
🌐 www.woking.cats.org.uk

Worthing & District

☎ 01903 200 332
🌐 www.worthingcatsprotection.org.uk

Chichester, Bognor Regis & District

✉ 7a Crane Street, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO19 1LH
☎ 01243 774 737

Colne Valley

✉ 75 High Street, Halstead,
Essex, CO9 2JD
☎ 01787 274 667

Croydon

✉ 13 High Street, Purley,
Surrey, CR8 2AF
☎ 0208 763 9898

Caterham, Redhill & East Surrey

✉ 20 Chipstead Valley Road,
Coulston, Surrey, CR5 2RA
☎ 0208 660 7475

Ealing & West London

✉ 3a Albert Terrace, Pittshanger Lane,
Ealing, W5 1RL
☎ 0208 998 3940

Eastbourne & District

✉ 14 Seaside Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex, BN21 3PA
☎ 01323 733 888

Eltham, Sidcup & District

✉ 14 Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road,
Eltham, London, SE9 6SX
☎ 0208 859 6009

Folkestone & Hythe

✉ 139a High Street, Hythe, Kent,
CT21 5JL
☎ 01303 238 661

Greenwich

✉ 18 Old Dover Street, Blackheath,
London, SE3 7BT
☎ 0208 858 2220

Hastings & District

✉ 43 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex, TN37 6AJ
☎ 01424 203 778

Lea Valley

✉ 145 Chase Side, Enfield,
Middlesex, EN2 0PN
☎ 0208 367 4813

Medway & Gravesham

✉ 34 Canterbury Street, Gillingham,
Kent, ME7 5TX
☎ 01634 571 270

✉ 142 Franklin Road, Gillingham,

Medway, ME7 4DG
☎ 01634 578 436

Tenterden & District

✉ Lakehurst House, Unit 1,
94c High Street, Tenterden,
Kent, TN30 6JB
☎ 01580 765 277

Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough & District

✉ 119 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN11 2QY
☎ 01892 531 428

Worthing & District

✉ 35 Rowlands Road, Worthing,
West Sussex, BN11 3JJ
☎ 01903 200 332

South & South West

Exeter Axhays

✉ Little Hill Cottage, Clyst Honiton,
Exeter, Devon, EX5 2HS
☎ 01395 232 377

Isle of Wight

✉ 122 Marlborough Road, Ryde,
Isle of Wight, PO33 1AW
☎ 01983 562 609

Newbury & District

✉ Heatherpine, Curridge Road, Curridge,
Thatcham, Berkshire, RG18 9DH
☎ 01635 200 111

Truro

✉ Point Road, Carnon Downs,
Truro, Cornwall, TR3 6JN
☎ 01872 870 575

Ferndown Homing Centre

✉ 51 Cobham Road, Ferndown
Industrial Estate, Wimborne,
Dorset, BH21 7QZ
☎ 03000 120 175
🌐 www.ferndown.cats.org.uk

Andover & District

☎ 01256 892 019
 🌐 www.andovercats.org.uk

Barnstaple & District

☎ 01271 860 787
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/barnstaple

Basingstoke & District

☎ 01256 352 281
 🌐 www.basingstoke-cats.org.uk

Bath & District

☎ 01179 861 467
 🌐 www.bath.cats.org.uk

Blandford & Sturminster Newton

☎ 01258 858 644
 🌐 www.blandfordcats.org.uk

Bournemouth & District

☎ 08453 712 762
 🌐 www.bournemouthcats.org.uk

Bridgwater

☎ 01278 684 662
 🌐 www.bridgwater.cats.org.uk

Bristol & District

☎ 01179 665 428
 🌐 www.bristol.cats.org.uk

Callington & District

☎ 01579 382 794
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/callington

Cheltenham

☎ 08453 712 730
 🌐 www.catsprotection.net

Cherwell

☎ 07716 596 212
 🌐 www.cherwell.cats.org.uk

Cirencester, Tetbury & District

☎ 01285 641 289
 🌐 http://cirencats.tripod.com/

East Devon

☎ 01404 811 089
 🌐 www.eastdevoncats.com

Exeter

☎ 01392 276 291
 🌐 www.exeter.cats.org.uk

Falmouth, Helston & District

☎ 08453 712 729
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/falmouth

Fareham & Waterlooville Districts

☎ 08452 601 504
 🌐 www.fareham.cats.org.uk

Farnham & Wey Valley

☎ 01252 334 644
 🌐 www.weyvalley.cats.org.uk

Forest of Dean

☎ 01594 841 511
 🌐 www.cats-forestofdean.co.uk

Frome & District

☎ 07733 390 345
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/frome

Glastonbury & Wells

☎ 01749 850 660
 🌐 www.stray-cat.co.uk

Gloucester

☎ 07891 112 654
 🌐 www.gloucester.cats.org.uk

Gosport Town

☎ 02392 582 601
 🌐 www.gosport.cats.org.uk

Holsworthy, Bideford & District

☎ 08453 712 717
 🌐 www.holsworthycats.org

Honiton

☎ 01404 452 41
 🌐 www.honiton.cats.org.uk

Launceston & District

☎ 01566 773 814
 🌐 www.launcestoncatsprotection.org

Maidenhead, Slough & District

☎ 01628 620 909
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/maidenhead

Mere & Gillingham

☎ 01747 840 621
 🌐 www.mere-gillingham-cp.co.uk

Midsomer Norton & Radstock

☎ 01761 436 486
 🌐 www.midsomer.cats.org.uk

Minehead

☎ 08453 712 761

Newbury & District

☎ 01635 200 111
 🌐 www.newbury.cats.org.uk

Okehampton & District

☎ 08453 712 751
 🌐 www.okehampton.cats.org.uk

Oxford & District

☎ 01235 221 147
 🌐 www.oxford.cats.org.uk

Plymouth & South Hams

☎ 08453 712 753
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/plymouth

Portsmouth

☎ 08453 712 743
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/portsmouth

Reading & District

☎ 01189 403 005
 🌐 www.readinganddistrictcats.org

Reading (East), Wokingham & Bracknell

☎ 08453 714 212
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/readingeast

St Austell & District

☎ 01726 817 837
 🌐 www.staustell.cats.org.uk

Salisbury & District

☎ 08453 712 068
 🌐 www.salisburycats.co.uk

Southampton

☎ 08453 712 718
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/southampton

Stroud

☎ 01453 828 326
 🌐 www.stroud.cats.org.uk

Swindon

☎ 01793 644 536
 🌐 www.swindon.cats.org.uk

Taunton & Wellington

☎ 01823 461 527
 🌐 www.taunton.cats.org.uk

Teignbridge & Totnes

☎ 08453 712 723
 🌐 www.teignbridge.cats.org.uk

Tewkesbury & District

☎ 01684 297 227
 🌐 www.tewkesbury.cats.org.uk

Torpoint & Rame Peninsular

☎ 01752 829 104

Torquay & District

☎ 01803 557 014
 🌐 www.torquay.cats.org.uk

West Dorset

☎ 01305 262 737
 🌐 www.westdorset.cats.org.uk

Weston-Super-Mare & District

☎ 08453 712 066
 🌐 www.westonsm.cats.org.uk

West Oxfordshire

☎ 01993 831 350
 🌐 www.westoxfordshire.cats.org.uk

Winchester & District

☎ 01962 883 536 or 01962 884 468
 🌐 www.winchestercatsprotection.co.uk

Wootton Bassett & District

☎ 07928 674 433
 🌐 www.wootton.cats.org.uk

Yeovil & District

☎ 01935 412 755
 🌐 www.yeovilcatsprotection.info

Bournemouth & District

☎ 333-335 Charminster Road,
 Bournemouth, Dorset, BH8 9QR
 ☎ 01202 530 757

Bristol & District

☎ 272 North Street, Bedminster,
 Bristol, BS3 1JA
 ☎ 0117 963 9028

Cheltenham

☎ 20 St James Street, Cheltenham,
 Gloucestershire, GL52 2SH
 ☎ 01242 234 494

East Devon

☎ 72 High Street, Sidmouth,
 Devon, EX10 8EQ
 ☎ 01395 513 394

Forest of Dean

☎ 28a Newerne Street, Lydney,
 Gloucestershire, GL15 5RF
 ☎ 01594 841 848

Gloucester

☎ 15 Broad Street, Newent, Gloucester,
 Gloucestershire, GL18 7AQ
 ☎ 01531 821 247

Honiton

☎ 137 High Street, Honiton, EX14 1LW
 ☎ 01404 423 12

Mere & Gillingham

☎ Pothearys, High Street, Gillingham,
 Dorset, SP8 4AA
 ☎ 01747 860 349

Reading & District

☎ 11 The Triangle, Tilehurst, Reading,
 RG30 4RN
 ☎ 0118 945 3733

Taunton & Wellington

☎ 48 Bridge Street, Taunton,
 Somerset, TA1 1UD
 ☎ 01823 322 244

Truro & District

☎ 23 Pydar Street, Truro,
 Cornwall, TR1 2AY
 ☎ 01872 276 351
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/truro

Central**Birmingham**

☎ c/o Dogs Trust Kennels,
 89 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford,
 Evesham, Worcester, WR11 6RT
 ☎ 01564 822 020
 🌐 www.birmingham.cats.org.uk

Friends of Birmingham Adoption Centre**Evesham**

☎ c/o Dogs Trust Kennels,
 89 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford,
 Evesham, Worcester, WR11 6RT
 ☎ 01386 833 343
 🌐 www.eveshamcpl.org

Hereford

☎ Cobhall Villa, Allensmore, HR2 9BP
 ☎ 01432 277 543

Mansfield

☎ Mansfield Road,
 Warsop, Mansfield,
 Nottinghamshire, NG20 0EF
 ☎ 01623 845 846

Nottingham

☎ The Gate House, New Farm
 Lane, Nuthall, Nottingham,
 Nottinghamshire, NG16 1DY
 ☎ 0115 938 6557

Ashfield & Amber Valley

☎ 01246 825 165
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/ashfield

Bedford & Biggleswade

☎ 08442 496 911

Burton on Trent

☎ 01283 511 454

Cannock & Burntwood

☎ 01543 279 641
 🌐 www.cannock.cats.org.uk

Coventry

☎ 02476 251 491
 🌐 www.coventrycats.org.uk

Evesham & District

☎ 01386 833 343

Halesowen & District

☎ 08453 712 062
 🌐 www.halesowen.cats.org.uk

Kettering & Corby

☎ 01536 514 014
 🌐 www.kettering.cats.org.uk

Leicester & District

☎ 01162 881 318

Lichfield

☎ 08453 712 741
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/lichfield

Ludlow & District

☎ 01584 874 171
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/ludlow

Luton, Dunstable & District

☎ 08453 712 746
 🌐 www.luton.cats.org.uk

Mansfield & District

☎ 01623 845 846

Mid Warwickshire

☎ 01926 334 849
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/midwarwick

Northampton

☎ 08447 003 251
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/northampton

North Birmingham

☎ 08452 601 503
 🌐 www.northbirmingham.cats.org.uk

Nottingham

☎ 01159 386 557
 🌐 www.cp-nottingham.org

Ross-on-Wye & District

☎ 08453 712 763
 🌐 www.cats.org.uk/ross-on-wye

KEY:

-  Adoption Centre
-  Homing Centre
-  Branch
-  Charity shop

Rugby
☎ 01788 570 010
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/rugby

South Birmingham
☎ 08453 711 854
🌐 www.southbham.cats.org.uk

Stafford & District
☎ 01785 214 861
🌐 www.stafford.cats.org.uk

Stoke & Newcastle
☎ 01782 515 167
🌐 www.stoke.cats.org.uk

Stourbridge & District
☎ 08448 848 520
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/stourbridge

Telford & District
☎ 01952 820 030
🌐 www.telford.cats.org.uk

Walsall Borough
☎ 01922 682 005
🌐 www.walsall.cats.org.uk

Wellingborough & Rushden
☎ 08453 714 209
🌐 www.wellrushcats.co.uk

Wolverhampton
☎ 01902 651 173
🌐 www.wolverhampton.cats.org.uk

Worcester & District
☎ 01905 820 348
🌐 www.worcestercats.org.uk

Bedford & Biggleswade
☒ 12 The Springfield Centre, Kempton, Bedfordshire, MK42 7PR
☎ 01234 840 827

Coventry
☒ 34 Far Gosford Street, Coventry, CV1 5DW
☎ 02476 222 105

Halesowen & District
☒ 9 High Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65 0DT
☎ 0121 559 3135

Hereford
☒ 13 Commercial Road, Hereford, HR1 2BB
☎ 01432 278 016

Ludlow & District
☒ 5 Old Street, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1NW
☎ 01584 878 606

Mid Warwickshire
☒ 5-7 Abbey Court, Abbey End, Kenilworth, Mid-Warwickshire, CV8 1QH
☎ 01926 850 054

South Birmingham
☒ 294 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7NH
☎ 0121 4412 480

Stafford & District
☒ Market Stall 48, St John's Indoor Market, Stafford

Stourbridge & District
☒ 27 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1TA
☎ 01384 422 208

Telford & District
☒ 75 High Street, Broseley, Telford, TF12 5EX
☎ 01952 884 388

Wolverhampton
☒ 54 Warstones Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4LP

Worcester & District
☒ 53 St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5AG
☎ 01905 426 748

East

Dereham
☒ Hoe Road Farm, Hoe Road, Longham, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2RP
☎ 01362 687 919

Friend of Dereham Adoption Centre

Downham Market
☒ Wards Chase, Stowbridge, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3NN
☎ 01366 382 311

Friends of Downham Market Adoption Centre

Boston & District
☎ 01406 424 966
🌐 www.boston.cats.org.uk

Breckland
☎ 01842 810 018
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/breckland

Bury St Edmunds
☎ 01284 850 887
🌐 www.cplbury.org.uk

Cambridge
☎ 01223 441 880
🌐 www.cambridge.cats.org.uk

Chatteris, St Ives & District
☎ 01480 465 226
🌐 www.chatteris.cats.org.uk

Dereham & District
☎ 01362 687 919
🌐 www.derehamcats.org.uk

Ely & District
☎ 01353 699 430
🌐 www.ely.cats.org.uk

Framlingham & Saxmundham
☎ 01728 723 499
🌐 www.framandsax.cats.org.uk

Grimsby & District
☎ 01472 399 810
🌐 www.grimsby.cats.org.uk

Haverhill & Stour Valley
☎ 01440 730 096
🌐 www.stourvalley.cats.org.uk

Horncastle & District
☎ 01526 388 535
🌐 www.horncastle.cats.org.uk

Ipswich
☎ 08453 712 069
🌐 www.ipswich.cats.org.uk

Milton Keynes
☎ 01296 738558
🌐 www.mkcats.org.uk

North Walsham & District
☎ 01692 535 858
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/northwalsham

Norwich & District
☎ 08454 941 900
🌐 www.norwich.cats.org.uk

Peterborough & District
☎ 08453 712 750
🌐 www.peterborough.cats.org.uk

St Neots & District
☎ 01480 476 696
🌐 www.stneots.cats.org.uk

Scunthorpe & District
☎ 01652 651 001
🌐 www.scunthorpe.cats.org.uk

Skegness, Spilsby & Alford
☎ 01754 830 621
🌐 www.skegnesscats.org.uk

Sleaford & District
☎ 01529 488 749
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/sleaford

Spalding & District
☎ 01775 725 661
🌐 www.spalding.cats.org.uk

Stamford & District
☎ 01778 590 008

Waveney
☎ 08453 714 202
🌐 www.waveney.cats.org.uk

Cambridge
☒ 172 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 3LP
☎ 01223 566 997

Ipswich
☒ 184 Bramford Lane, Ipswich, IP1 4DP
☎ 01473 742 226

Lincoln
☒ 381 High Street, Lincoln, LN5 7SF

St Neots & District
☒ 10 Cross Keys Mall, Market Square, St Neots, PE19 2AR
☎ 01480 476 696

Waveney
☒ 2 Blyburgate, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9TA
☎ 01502 713 167

North

Derby
☒ White Cottage, Long Lane, Dalbury Lees, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 5BJ
☎ 01332 824 950
🌐 www.derby.cats.org.uk

Friends of Derby Adoption Centre

St Helens
☒ 100 Chester Lane, St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 4DD
☎ 01744 817 718

Warrington
☒ Animal Village, Slutchers Lane, Bank Quay, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1NA
☎ 01925 411 160

York
☒ 582 Huntington Road, Huntington, York, North Yorkshire, YO32 9QA
☎ 01904 760 356
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/york

Atherton & Wigan Metro Areas
☎ 01942 888 693
🌐 www.athertonwigan.cats.org.uk

Barnsley
☎ 01226 762 658
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/barnsley

Beverley & Pocklington
☎ 01482 861 866
🌐 www.bpcp.org.uk

Blackburn & District
☎ 01254 580 642
🌐 www.blackburn.cats.org.uk

Bolton & Radcliffe
☎ 07760 780 759
🌐 www.bolton.cats.org.uk

Boston & District
☎ 01406 424 966
🌐 www.boston.cats.org.uk

Burnley & Pendle
☎ 01282 859 847
🌐 www.burnley.cats.org.uk

Burscough & Liverpool Bay
☎ 0151 526 5999
🌐 www.liverpoolbursc.cats.org.uk

Calder Valley & District
☎ 01706 810 489
🌐 www.caldercats.org.uk

Carlisle & District
☎ 01228 540 330
🌐 www.carlisle.cats.org.uk

Chesterfield & District
☎ 08453 712 754
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/chesterfield

Crewe & District
☎ 01270 588 710
🌐 www.crewe.cats.org.uk

Culcheth & Glazebury
☎ 01925 764 604

Derby & District
☎ 01332 206 956
🌐 www.derbydistrict.cats.org.uk

Dewsbury, Wakefield & District
☎ 01924 261 524
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/dewsbury

Doncaster
☎ 01302 840 777
🌐 www.doncaster.cats.org.uk

Durham City & District
☎ 01913 860 902

East Northumberland
☎ 07749 713 142
🌐 www.bedlington.cats.co.uk

Gateshead & District
☎ 0191 420 3180
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/gateshead

Halifax, Queensbury & Brighouse
☎ 01484 711 728

Harrogate & District
☎ 01423 889 598

Hull & District
☎ 01482 790 284

Lancaster & Morecambe
☎ 01524 850 112
🌐 www.lancaster.cats.org.uk

Macclesfield
☎ 01625 667 966
🌐 www.macclesfieldcats.org.uk

Newcastle upon Tyne
☎ 0191 296 3512
🌐 www.cats-protection-newcastle.co.uk

North Sheffield
☎ 01142 456 371

Northumberland East
☎ 07749 713 142 (6-9pm)

Preston
☎ 01772 748 788
🌐 www.prestoncpl.com

Rochdale
☎ 01457 875 483
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/rochdale

Sheffield Hallam
☎ 01142 493 330
🌐 www.catsprotectionshop.com

South Wirral
☎ 0151 355 9813
🌐 www.southwirral.cats.org.uk

Stockport
☎ 0161 439 1274
🌐 www.stockport.cats.org.uk

Teesside
☎ 01642 589 090
🌐 www.teesside.cats.org.uk

Trafford
☎ 0161 610 2189 or 0161 969 0331
🌐 www.trafford.cats.org.uk

Wear Valley & Darlington
☎ 07966 653 388
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/wearvalley

West Cumbria
☎ 01946 590 079
🌐 www.westcumbria.cats.org.uk

Wharfe Valley
☎ 08451 947 292
🌐 www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk

York
☎ 01904 760 356
🌐 www.yorkcats.org.uk

Barnsley
☒ 95 High Street, Wombwell,
Barnsley, S73 8HS

Burscough & Liverpool Bay
☒ 1 School Lane, Burscough, Lancashire,
L40 4AE
☎ 01704 893 393

Chesterfield & District
☒ 2 Cavendish Street,
Chesterfield, S40 1UY
☎ 01246 279 163

Derby & District
☒ 31 The Wardwick, Derby, DE1 1HA
☎ 01332 360 808
☒ Institute Buildings, North End,
Wirksworth, Derbyshire, DE4 4FG

Newcastle upon Tyne
☒ 162-166 High Street East, Wallsend,
Tyne & Wear, NE28 7RP
☎ 0191 2627 377

Teesside
☒ 7-8 Ramsgate, Stockton-on-Tees,
Cleveland, TS18 1BS
☎ 01642 607 435

York
☒ 13 Walmgate, York, YO1 9TX
☎ 01904 620 361

Wales

Bridgend
☒ Green Acres, Pant Hirwaun,
Bryncethin, Bridgend,
Mid Glamorgan, CF32 9UJ
☎ 01656 724 396

Wrexham
☒ Alma House, Madeira Hill, Wrexham,
Clwyd, LL13 7HD
☎ 01978 313 574
🌐 www.wrexham.cats.org.uk

Aberystwyth & District
☎ 01970 822 120

Cardiff
☎ 02920 369 138
🌐 www.cardiff.cats.org.uk

Colwyn & District
☎ 01492 660 221
🌐 www.colwyn.cats.org.uk

Gwent
☎ 08453 712 747
🌐 www.gwentsouthcp.org.uk

Newtown & District
☎ 01686 670 277
🌐 www.newtown.cats.org.uk

Rhondda Valleys
☎ 01443 437 709

Swansea & District
☎ 08452 179 648
🌐 www.swanseaacats.co.uk

Wrexham & District
☎ 01978 313 574
🌐 www.wrexham.cats.org.uk

Colwyn & District
☒ 28 Sea View Road,
Colwyn Bay, LL29 8DG
☎ 01492 535 655

Swansea & District
☒ 85 Brynmor Road, Swansea, SA1 4JE

Wrexham & District
☒ 60 Chester Street,
Wrexham, LL13 8BA
☎ 01978 310 555

Scotland

Arbroath & Carnoustie
☒ 15 Kinaldie Holdings,
Arbroath, DD11 5SH
☎ 01241 434 605
🌐 www.arbroath.cats.org.uk

Clackmannanshire & Stirling
☒ Ochivale Terrace, Fishcross, Alloa,
Clackmannanshire, FK10 3HT
☎ 01259 720 555

Dundee & District
☒ 102 Foundry Lane, Dundee, DD4 6AY
☎ 01382 450 035

Glasgow
☒ Cardyke Farm, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow,
G66 5LD
☎ 0141 779 3341

**Friends of Glasgow
Adoption Centre**

Shetland
☒ Gott, Shetland, ZE2 9SH
☎ 01595 840 517

Alness & District
☎ 08453 714 204
🌐 www.erness.cats.org.uk

Ardnamurchan
☎ 01967 431 203
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/ardnamurchan

Caithness
☎ 08453 714 217
🌐 www.caithnesscatsprotection.org.uk

Central Aberdeen
☎ 01224 749 568
🌐 www.catsprotection.org.uk

Central Dumfries
☎ 01387 710 083
🌐 www.centraldumfries.cats.org.uk

Clackmannanshire & Stirling
☎ 01259 720 555
🌐 www.clackscats.org.uk

Cumnock & Doon Valley
☎ 08453 714 219

Deeside
☎ 07837 342 660

Dundee & District
☎ 01382 450 035

East Neuk of Fife
☎ 08453 714 210
🌐 www.eastfife.cats.org.uk

East Lothian & Berwickshire Branch
☎ 08453 714 210
🌐 www.berwickshire.cats.org.uk

Ellon & District
☎ 01358 721 204
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/ellon

Eskdale & District
☎ 01387 376 738
🌐 www.eskdale.cats.org.uk

Forfar & District
☎ 08453 712 063
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/forfar

Fort William & District
☎ 01397 772 071

Fraserburgh
☎ 07876 513 593

Glasgow
☎ 08453 712 722
🌐 www.glasgow.cats.org.uk

Huntly & Keith
☎ 01466 760 311

Inverness
☎ 07815 910 861
🌐 www.inverness.cats.org.uk

Inverurie & Alford
☎ 01467 625 695
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/inverurie

Isle of Arran
☎ 01770 820 611

Isle of Lewis
☎ 01851 612 448

Kilmarnock & District
☎ 08453 712 715

Lanarkshire
☎ 08453 714 213
🌐 www.lanarkshirecats.co.uk

Montrose & Brechin
☎ 08453 712 738

Moray
☎ 07837 342 646
🌐 www.buckie.cats.org.uk

Nairn
☎ 08453 712 714
🌐 www.nairn.cats.org.uk

North Ayrshire
☎ 08453 714 218
🌐 www.northayrshire.cats.org.uk

North Skye
☎ 07817 943 072

Orkney Islands
☎ 01856 771 642
🌐 www.orkneycats.co.uk

Outer Aberdeen & District
☎ 01224 705 252
🌐 www.cats.org.uk/outeraberdeen

Peebles & Biggar
☎ 0707 4357 228

Perth
☎ 08458 622 206
🌐 www.perthcats.co.uk

Renfrewshire
☎ 0141 876 4133
🌐 www.renfrewshire.cats.org.uk

Shetland
☎ 01595 840 588
🌐 www.cats.shetland.co.uk

South Ayrshire
☎ 08453 714 216
🌐 www.southayrshire.cats.org.uk

Stewartry & District
☎ 01557 339 233
🌐 www.stewartry.cats.org.uk

Stonehaven
☎ 01569 739 396
🌐 www.stonehaven.cats.org.uk

Stranraer & District
☎ 08453 712 759

Strathspey
☎ 08453 712 725
🌐 www.strathspey.cats.org.uk

Tain & District
☎ 08453 712 737
🌐 www.tain.cats.org.uk

Turriff & District
☎ 07050 241 846

Uist
☎ 07050 121 586

West Lothian
☎ 08453 712 719
🌐 www.cats-westlothian.org.uk

Central Aberdeen
☒ 96 King St, Aberdeen, AB24 5BA
☎ 01224 634 894

☒ 187 George Street, Aberdeen,
AB25 1HZ
☎ 01224 658 565

Clackmannanshire & Stirling
☒ Ochivale Terrace, Fishcross, Alloa,
Clackmannanshire, FK10 3HT
☎ 01259 761 893

Dundee & District
☒ 102 Foundry Lane, Dundee, DD4 6AY
☎ 01382 450 035

☒ 5 Reform Street, Monifieth,
Dundee, DD5 4BA
☎ 01382 534 316

Outer Aberdeen & District
☒ 187 George Street,
Aberdeen AB25 1HZ
☎ 01224 658 565

Turriff & District
☒ 21 Low Street, Banff, AB45 1AU

West Fife
☒ 6 Arberlour Street, Rosyth,
Fife, KY11 2RD
☎ 01383 417 548

Northern Ireland

Belfast
☒ 270 Belfast Road, Dundonald,
Newtownards, Northern Ireland,
BT16 1UE
☎ 02890 480 202

**Friends of Northern Ireland
Adoption Centre**

Armagh
☎ 07709 483 550
🌐 www.armagh.cats.org.uk

KEY:

-  Adoption Centre
-  Homing Centre
-  Branch
-  Charity shop

Kids' Corner

Welcome to Kids' Corner!

We love to hear from our younger readers so please send in your cat-themed letters, jokes and drawings – every picture printed wins a prize; in this issue our favourite wins a grey cuddly toy cat.

Write to us at: *The Cat* magazine, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT or via email to editorial@cats.org.uk. Don't forget to tell us your name, age and address.



B V Y E R G I S E I
T L T H E C A T S S
F T A B B Y O R E K
I O D C S W E B M S
B R I T K E T O A G
E T I H W P L A I Y
N I W I T H S N S U
G E P E R C G A T A
A N D H I E S C O O
L L F R R I E N D S

Find these 8 cat coat colours.
Answers can go in any direction
and even backwards!

**Ginger, Tabby, Tortie, White, Black,
Siamese, Grey, Bengal**

The remaining letters spell out a secret
message from left to right across the
grid. Can you work it out?

Fancy winning a pack of cat toys?

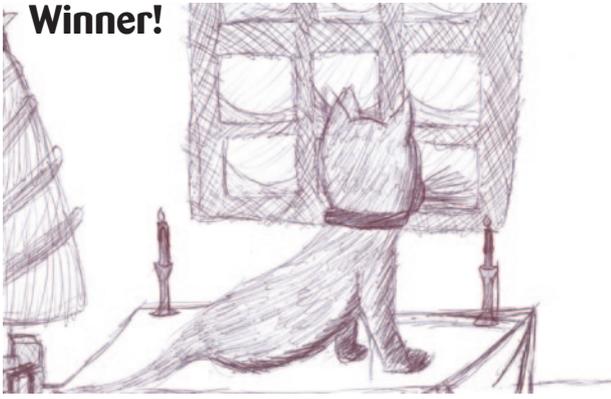
Send your name, age and address
together with the hidden word on a
postcard or sealed envelope to: *The Cat*
magazine, National Cat Centre,
Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17
7TT. You can also send your entries via
email to competitions@cats.org.uk.

Ask an adult to help you with this.

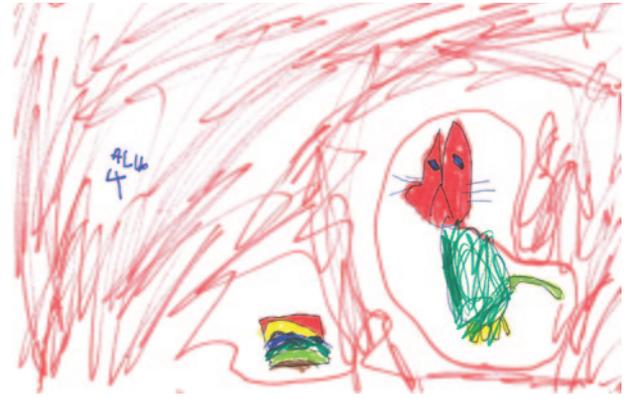
Winners will be drawn on **15 April 2011**.



Winner!



Elle, 11, from Aberdeen, Aberdeen City



Alva, 4, from Exeter, Devon



Megan, 9, from Auchtertool, Fife

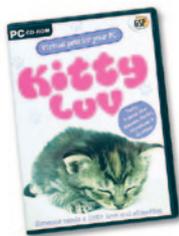


Anna, 12, from Eastleigh, Hampshire

Congratulations to Elle who wins a *Big Cats* book by Dorling Kindersley www.dorlingkindersley-uk.co.uk



We hope you enjoy the read!



Well done to our runners up Alva, Megan, Anna and Amy who each win a *Kitty Luv* CD-ROM; a virtual pet for your PC. This prize has been donated by Yellow Moon – the fantastic one-stop shop for great value



arts, crafts, and exciting educational games and toys. See more at www.yellowmoon.co.uk



Amy, 6, from Toddington, Dunstable

Illustration: Rasoul Hudda

Like losing a brother

Louise McCormick mourns the loss of a loyal friend

At barely eight weeks old, Sophie was a somewhat pathetic looking sprawl of black fur, but still the absolute definition of cute. Having been abandoned by his mother at only a few weeks old, the Cats Protection Wharfe Valley Branch in Leeds nursed him back to good health, ready for my brother, sister and a 10-year-old me to instantly fall head over heels in love with him on our first meeting. On the journey home from the branch, Sophie managed to get his tiny head stuck between the bars of the cat carrier and we knew immediately that he was going to fit into our family fantastically.

As an orphan kitten, Sophie had some abandonment issues and, much like with a small child, bedtime was met with heartbreaking cries. But he soon settled into the McCormick household and adapted to the three adoring children he had essentially become brother to. Although Sophie's first visit to the vet informed us that his name was not an entirely appropriate choice, we felt it gave him a sort of rock star quality and so we stuck with it.

As kids, we would all look forward to getting home after school to play and soon enough, Sophie developed a 'mad half hour', which occurred at 4pm every day. He truly did become part of the family and would enthusiastically follow us around the garden, climbing the tree as we did and he would take great pleasure in waking us up on a morning with playful – but effective – swipes to the toes.

One by one, my sister Claire, brother Matthew and I left home to go to university. We would return home regularly and if Sophie happened to be sat on the driveway as I approached my parents' house, I would be met with excited and welcoming miaows from 100 metres away. Even though we had left home, Sophie had grown into a happy and stable cat, so would always forgive us for leaving whenever we saw him next.



As Sophie approached his mid-teens, he began to develop various minor ailments, which didn't seem to cause him too much pain so didn't concern us too greatly. When his front leg began to stiffen and became noticeably swollen, we assumed he had developed arthritis, but after a few visits to the vets, we discovered that Sophie had fallen victim to the devastating curse of bone cancer and the swelling was in fact a rapidly growing tumour. Being the tough little rock star he was, Sophie resumed business as usual, but soon enough, his pain and sadness became evident to us.

My mum, who had continued her role as 'cat's mother' since my siblings and I had left home, informed us in early November that Sophie's condition had worsened dramatically and there were two options presented to us: amputation of his cancerous leg, or letting him go for good. It was one of the most distressingly difficult decisions we have ever had to make, but not wishing to drag Sophie through the inevitable further pain and suffering, we opted to let him go.

My brother and I made our way back to Leeds to spend Sophie's last couple of days with him. Those two days were utterly heartbreaking, but reassured us that we had made the right decision; withdrawn and reluctant to socialise, Sophie quietly rejected much of the attention we so desperately wanted to pay him. He was depressed and seemed to understand that there was nothing we could do to make it better for him.

Struggling to not cry our eyes out, we took Sophie to the vets for the last time and stayed with him until he went to sleep and his heart stopped beating.

Despite being absolutely distraught at losing an incredibly special member of our family, we are grateful that we were a part of such a gorgeous and loving cat's life. ●

Remembering cats through helping others

This section offers readers the chance to pay tribute to a beloved cat by helping others. Donations go towards pens for our branches, which help house cats and kittens while they wait for new homes. Please send your donations to: **Remembering Cats, The Cat magazine, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT.** Cheques should be made payable to 'Cats Protection'. Tributes will be printed in the next available issue. Please note that this is an increasingly popular page and we cannot guarantee that your dedication will appear in a particular issue. **Please print your tribute clearly to avoid errors (no more than 20 words).** Thanks to readers of The Cat, 312 pens have now been bought.

Known to God and remembered every day:
MARBLE, DENNIS, DILL, SOOTY, TOBY, KISMOS, FLUFFY, MR BLOBBY, JAMIE, SALLY, BOBBY, FLOYD.
.....
LITTLE WOBBY CAT
– 16.06.95-13.09.10 our independent girlie with attitude. Love you always little naughty face. Auntie and Granny.
.....
HOLLY, HONEY, ZED and **FELIX**, thank you and love always, Mum, Dad, Squeaky and Bronte.
.....
ROSIE 21.02.99-05.11.09. A sweet girl, much loved and sadly missed. Now joined **CLEO, JASPER** and **TOBI**. Gill, Timmy, Billy & Cookie.
.....
BERTIE WOOSTER beloved Si-Spotted tabby cross – robbed of his life at three years by FIV. RIP at Rainbow Bridge. Missed forever by mummy and daddy.
.....
WILLOW, age unknown. Had three years of TLC with us after much suffering. Love Malcolm and Rita.
.....
LOUIS PTS 17.03.08 & brother **MITTEN** 07.08.10. Two special boys, desperately missed. See you over the rainbow bridge. Love Frances & Bill.
.....

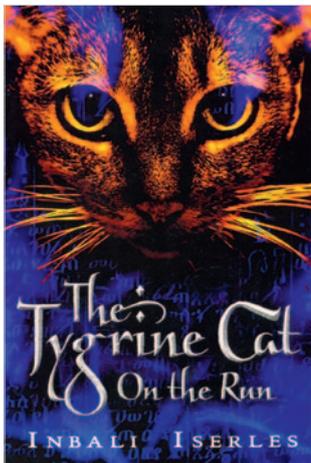
SMUDGE 21.11.04 age 15 years. In our home for 15 years but in our hearts forever. Reunited with his mom **ANGEL** 12.12.95. Sheila & Ivan x x
.....
TOBI 20.03.98-22.12.00. You are still with me, only just out of sight. Now joined by **CLEO, JASPER** and **ROSIE**.
.....
In loving memory of precious **DAISY** PTS 22.12.08. Also **HARRY** RTA 05.10.00. Still loved and missed.
.....
Treasured memories of our **HERBIE**. You went to sleep on 23.12.09 but still in our hearts. Much love – Betty & Barry.
.....
BONNIE – 04.1996-13.10.10, our "little monkey" taken by heart disease. Missed so much by brother Clyde, your Mama, Dad and Grandma.
.....
ORLANDO 30.09.92-23.06.09, **JEMIMA** 30.09.92-25.10.10. Much loved and greatly missed.
.....
MARVIN our little man who will never be forgotten and missed so much 1992-2009. Also remembering **TEDDY, BARNEY, WALLY** and **SAMMY** who will always be in our thoughts. Love always Julie, Adrian and Molly xxx
.....

JOLLEY – 17.11.04 and **INKY** – 14.02.01. Precious friends forever in our thoughts – the years may pass but memories of you will never fade. Mam & Ev.
.....
BUGSY, our precious girl. Your name will be forever scratched into our hearts. Mom, Dad, John, Topaz, Murphy, Milo, Willow, xxxxx½
.....
In loving memory of our beloved **FREDDIE**, given sleep 31.08.10 aged 16½. United with **ZOE & HARRY**. From Mummy, Daddy & Toby.
.....
JACK – died 24.10.05. My lovely black boy – thank you for 10 wonderful years. You will be remembered always. Gwen.
.....
SKIPPY 04.08.10. My precious angel, you were everything a cat should be: perfect. Love you forever, Bungle & Mummy.
.....
In loving memory of **SNOWY**, went missing 07.03.09. Greatly missed by Peter, Tiggy and Mini. Till we meet again.
.....
In loving memory of our beloved **JIMBO** tragically died 29.12.01 aged four. Loved and remembered every day – your Betty & John xx
.....

In loving memory of **BOBBY**, went missing 02.04.07. Greatly missed by Peter, Tiggy and Mini. Till we meet again.
.....
MR ARTHUR 19.03.96 and **DAME EDITH** 14.05.09 I will always miss you, my lion and my super star. Love Mum x
.....
OEDIPUS – psalm 73:23 "I am continuously with thee", Don.
.....
In loving memory of my tortoiseshell cat **CARA**, my beautiful angel. Love Anna.
.....
JESS – our big spuddy 08.1993-24.09.07. Still miss you lots. Love always Sally and Peter.
.....
TAMMY – our little girl 08.1993-18.10.10. Brother and sister together again. Missing you lots. Love always Sally and Peter.
.....
WILLIAM died 21.01.07 loved forever. **POLLY** PTS 29.12.08, **THOMAS** PTS 07.03.09, **GERALD** PTS 01.08.06.
.....
SALLY – went to Jesus 16.03.93 and **CHLOE** 17.07.06. Both loved and remembered every day. Mummy.
.....

Book reviews

Looking for a great book about cats? Check out our reviews before you buy...



The Tygrine Cat On The Run

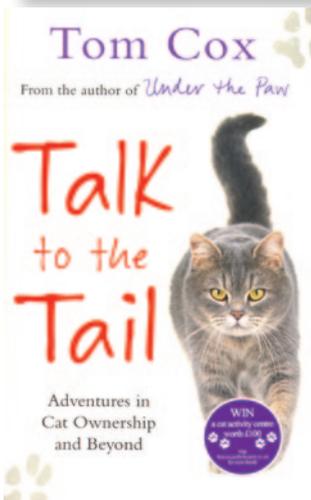
by Inbali Iserles

The three pillars of the cat 'instinct, judgment and spirit' are put to the test in the thrilling sequel to *The Tygrine Cat*. Mati, the last of the Tygrine cats, embarks on a new adventure with his feral friends in which the boundaries between reality and the dream world become blurred. Mati must call upon his royal ancestry to fulfil his destiny and save his friends.

This mystical tale of a young cat's struggle to outrun the rapidly encroaching darkness is brought to life through Iserles' colourful evocation of ancient feline history and tribal spirituality and her ability to seamlessly interweave these with the present day narrative.

Kara Lynsdale

The Tygrine Cat On The Run (£5.99) is published by Walker Books (www.walker.co.uk; 020 7793 0909)



Talk to the Tail

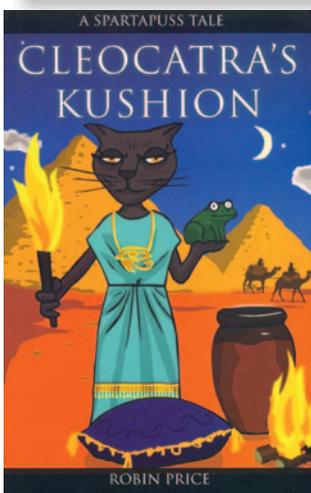
by Tom Cox

A follow-up from *Under the Paw*, this new title introduces new humorous cat-related tales alongside Tom's own thoughts and creative musings.

Talk to the Tail includes accounts of animal encounters such as chasing ostriches in Kenya and putting a hand into a tiger's mouth for a total of 0.9 seconds. Imaginative and well-written, readers who love to laugh will revel in Tom's tales of cat ownership.

Amy Rutter

Talk to the Tail (£12.99) is published by Simon & Schuster UK (www.simonandschuster.co.uk; 020 7316 1981)



Cleocatra's Kushion

by Robin Price

The fifth in Robin Price's popular series of pun-tastic – is that a word? It is now – *Spartapuss* books, *Cleocatra's Kushion* tells the story of *Son of Spartapuss* as he embarks on a secret mission through the land of the Purramids at the orders of the Emperor Nero.

For the uninitiated, the books are set in an ancient Roman world where humans have never existed and cats reign supreme. This offering will prove a big hit with younger readers in particular, but parents should enjoy reading this book with their children too.

Tom Briggs

Cleocatra's Kushion (£6.99) is published by Mogzilla (www.mogzilla.co.uk; 0845 838 5526)

Books received

Nine Lives by John F Hope, *Living Proof* by Janet Hayward, *Ships' Cats in war and peace* by Val Lewis.

www.lindee-lu.co.uk



Leading Specialist Manufacturer

of your favourite

Fostering Branch Rescue Pens

Unit 5 Coates Est Nailsea Bristol UK

01275-853800



PINE FRESH WOOD PELLETS



Pampuss the ultimate in woodbase litters and the most saleable on the market.

Pampuss - produced by an advanced pelleting process using only softwood timber for a performance product.

Absorbency - up to 3 times that of ordinary litters!

Hygienic - in both appearance and smell, excellent odour control and easy tray cleaning. Low dust means paws and fur stay clean.

Bio-degradable - Made from re-cycled materials

EASY TO DISPOSE - Can be used as Mulch, Compost or can be incinerated

Available in 5, 15 and 30 litres



Telephone: 020 8501 1033
Email: sales@pettex.co.uk
www.pettex.co.uk

Natural complete dry cat food

wholesome, hypo-allergenic and healthy



JAMES WELLBELOVED®

Naturally Healthy

Gentle on your cat's digestion...
beneficial for health!

Tasty and healthy - made from the highest quality natural ingredients. Not only do we use a single source of meat protein and easily digestible rice to help reduce the risk of food intolerance but we also add cranberry extracts to help maintain your cat's urinary tract health.

Maintains glossy coat - keeps your cat looking fabulous on the outside we use special omega-3 oils to help keep their coat looking glossy and healthy.

Peace of mind - we give you a full list of ingredients so you know exactly what you are feeding your cat.



COMPLETE DRY CAT FOOD

No added artificial colours, flavours or preservatives

James Wellbeloved - cat food you can trust

www.wellbeloved.com or call 0845 603 9095



 Join us on Facebook

