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The single scene

Finding that the perfect partner is your cat!

Autumn unfolds

How our cats adjust to the time change



Intervet UK, in association with **Ralston Purina** and the **Feline Advisory Bureau**, is pleased to announce a series of seminars for cat breeders, cat shelter workers, veterinarians and veterinary support staff:

Feline Health Concerns - Socialisation, Vaccination and Congenital Defects

10am - 4:30pm

November 10th - Bristol.

OUR SPEAKERS:

Sarah Heath, BSc MRCVS

Socialisation - Cats Need it too

Dr. Danielle Gunn-Moore,

FIP Update for Breeders

Ralston Purina Lecturer in Feline Medicine

Trina Balharrie, Hollymoon Birmans

A Breeder's Role in Preventing Behavioural Problems

Alan Woodward,

Environmental Enrichment and Rearing of Big Cats in Captivity

Team Leader, Carnivore Section at Chester Zoo

Prof. Tim Gruffydd-Jones, Bristol

Congenital Defects - Genes or Environment

David Sutton/Helen White

Vaccines and Vaccination

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NAME(S)

ADDRESS

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POST CODE Number of People Attending

November 10th - Bristol* ☐ * Registration Deadline - 19th October 2001

Confirmation of venue with map and programme will be forwarded to you.

For further information please contact **Caroline Cann** on **01908 685 362**
TELEPHONE REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

From the Editor



Autumn is nearly upon us. Ahh rich berries, golden leaves, late autumn sunshine... oh and cold weather and shorter days too! But no need to look on the dark side – we've conjured up a magical issue just for you. With Hallowe'en creeping up at the end of October, Marilyn Crowther looks at the history of the black cat. She delves into the lives of

these mysterious creatures, praised for both their good and bad luck qualities. Staying on the macabre theme we also offer a Hallowe'en tale with a spooky twist and Kitten Club members can get into the spirit by carving their own kitty pumpkin.

Our Branches will also be performing their own magic during Cats Protection Week. Many events are lined up across the country, centred around our theme for the year Cats add life. Volunteers will be working hard to raise both awareness and much-needed funds. Please join us if you can – there's sure to be something going on near you.

As it's our theme for the year we couldn't complete this issue without a Cats add life feature. Read about Karen and Chris, two young, single people who tell us they've already found their perfect partner – their cat! Also *The Cat* took to London's Victoria Station to bring you a voxpop on the benefits of having a feline friend.

Enjoy this issue. I'm off to find a black cat and a broomstick!

Clare

Clare Jeater

Catalogue orders

To enable us to provide the best service possible to our mail order customers, please could you ensure that you make all your cheques or postal orders payable to CPL ENTERPRISES LTD and address your envelope to CPL Enterprises Ltd, 17 Kings Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5PN. It would help if you do not include any other correspondence with the order.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Front cover

Tortoiseshell Tiffany is a rescue cat who lives with Betty Chadwick in Bartley Green, Birmingham. Tiffany, who cannot purr or miaow, enjoys a good stretch in the autumn air.

17 KINGS ROAD,
HORSHAM,
WEST SUSSEX
RH13 5PN
Tel: 01403 221900
Helpline: 01403 221919
Fax: 01403 218414
E-mail: cpl@cats.org.uk
Web:
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Charity No. 203644

Chairman:
Miss L Reeves BA (Hons) Solicitor
Chief Executive: Mr D Conway TD

The Charity's objectives are:

- 1 To rescue stray and unwanted cats and kittens, rehabilitate and rehome them where possible.
- 2 To encourage the neutering of cats not required for breeding.
- 3 To inform the public on the care of cats and kittens.

The Cat – The official journal of THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE. Articles (600 words or less), letters, poems and stories for consideration for *The Cat* should be addressed to the Editor and sent to: *The Cat*, PO Box 314, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5FE or e-mail: cat.edit@virgin.net. No publishing fees are paid. The Editor reserves the right to edit any material to fit space available. The Cats Protection League is not responsible for the opinions, advice and factual content of items contributed by authors. Views and comments are those held by individual contributors and do not necessarily conform with those of the Trustees. To advertise in *The Cat* contact Vanessa on 01403 221918 or e-mail her at vanessa.maskell@cats.org.uk. Advertisements for services and products in this journal are accepted in good faith. We endeavour to check the accuracy and completeness of this information. However the charity gives no

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Life Membership £200

Annual rates:

Annual UK Member	£12
Annual Senior Citizen	£6
Annual Junior (under 18)	£5

Junior members (13–18) receive *The Cat* while Kitten Club members (under 13) receive three copies of *The Cat* alternating with three copies of *The Kitten* annually.

Europe	£18
USA/Canada	US\$48
Elsewhere	£24

Annual subscriptions are renewable in the anniversary month every year thereafter. They can be paid by cheque, postal order or by direct debit. Subscriptions and donations can now be made under the Gift Aid scheme. Provided the payment is from a UK tax payer, the charity can claim back the basic rate of income tax from the Inland Revenue (at no additional cost to the payer) thus increasing the value. Gift Aid declaration forms are available from Membership Services at HQ. Subscriptions and donations covered by Deeds of Covenant that were in existence at 5 April 2000 will continue. For further information, please contact the Covenant Officer at HQ. Correspondence on membership, change of name and/or address should be sent to the Membership Secretary at Headquarters. Published every other month by The Cats Protection League. Printed by Holbrooks Printers Ltd, Portsmouth.

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The latest from Cats Protection

CP appalled at lenient sentence

A woman who killed her cat in a microwave oven whilst drunk because she claimed she was bitten by a flea has been banned from keeping animals for five years. Nadine Trewin, 31, from Crawley, West Sussex, also received a two-year community rehabilitation order.

Cats Protection considers this sentence to be far too tolerant

for this vile act. "This sentence seems extremely lenient for a person who has caused such terrible suffering to an innocent cat," said Derek Conway TD MP. "Actions of this nature cannot be justified under any circumstances. The legal system should make an example of those who are cruel to animals."

AGM 2001

This year's Annual General Meeting is taking place on 29 September at the Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN. Coffee and registration begins at 11.30am followed by a presentation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts. A buffet lunch will be served afterwards.

Admission is by ticket only. A coupon and further details can be found in the July/August issue of *The Cat* but written requests will be accepted up to 3 September.

It's witchcraft!

Our Branches and Shelters often report difficulties in finding homes for black cats. Hearing of this predicament a paranormal researcher from Hastings, East Sussex, has offered to cast a kindly spell to try and improve the situation. Kevin Carlyon, who has his own black cat, Mr Fluff, declared 13 July National Black Cat Day. By conducting a simple ceremony to change their luck, Kevin says that anyone homing a black cat can be assured of good fortune!

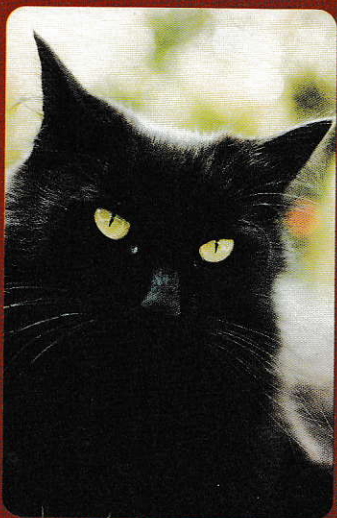


Photo: CP Library

Lady luck: Black cats were once the witches' familiars

New shelter for York cats



Shelter success: l-r Barbara Sharp, Linda Reeves and Bill Hearld

York Branch Shelter officially opened on 21 July. It is a 'dream come true' for the Branch and the culmination of ten years' hard work. The Shelter, managed by Barbara Sharp, has 31 pens, some of them state-of-the-art stainless steel. Bill Hearld, Assistant Editor of the *York & County Press*, officiated over the ribbon-cutting ceremony assisted by Chairman of the Trustees, Linda Reeves and Deputy Chairman, Margaret Cooksey. The day drew a crowd of 900 people, earning a whopping £4,600 and 670 donated tins of cat food.

Ornamental hazard

We all know that cats need grass but be careful it's not the ornamental kind. A vet alerted us to a recent case whereby a cat appeared in some distress, unable to eat, drink or vocalise. Following sedation, a blade of grass was removed from his throat. The cat in question ironically appears on the cover of our *Cats need grass* leaflet. Fortunately the cat, named Shimono, has now made a full recovery but won't be going near any ornamental grasses.

Cocksfoot grass seed, suitable for your cat, is available from HQ on receipt of an SAE.



Sporting chance

Sporty individuals can now look forward to running the London Marathon for their favourite cat charity. For the next five years, Cats Protection has secured places in the marathon via the Golden Bond Scheme, starting with next year's race on 14 April 2002. The scheme entitles five lucky runners entry to the race, free places on a training day fixed by London Marathon Limited and a finishing photograph. And of course you'll be raising funds for your feline friends too!

More details will be released in the near future. However if anyone is interested in participating, please contact Jen Snape, Events Organiser, 17 Kings Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5PN.

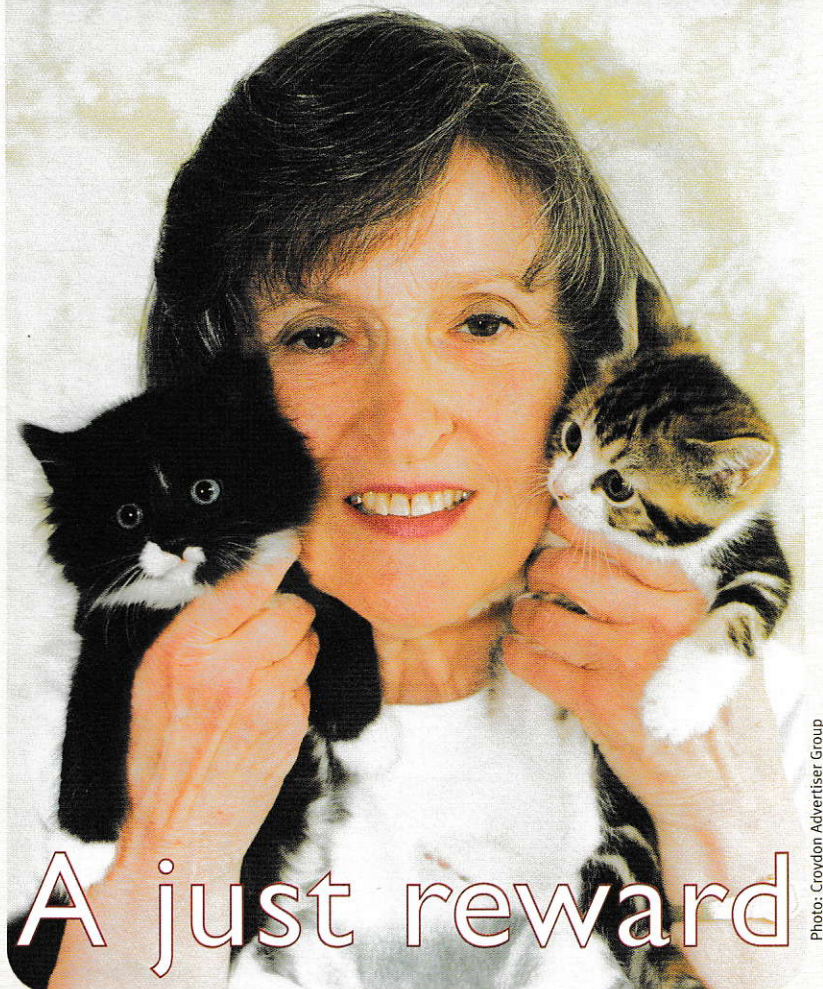


Photo: Croydon Advertiser Group

A just reward

Dedicated volunteer, Pat Winter, has been awarded an MBE for her services to CP's Croydon Branch. Pat, who lives in Croydon, Surrey, has been a member of the Branch for more than 18 years and is best known for her tireless efforts trapping stray and feral cats.

Branch members were thrilled to hear about their colleague's prestigious award. "This is a wonderful recognition of her hard work," said Eleanor Walls, Croydon Branch co-ordinator. "We are all very proud that such a popular member of our team has been rewarded in this way."

Pat will receive her MBE from the Queen during a visit to Buckingham Palace later this year.

Genetically modified cats

When the US announced it was looking into creating genetically altered, allergen-free cats recently, Cats Protection was quick to respond. Chief Executive, Derek Conway TD MP, said: "Whilst we recognise the problems that cat allergies can cause, we would seriously question any potentially invasive and non-consensual procedures that may cause suffering to the animals involved. We hope scientists proceed with caution and that proper thought is given to the ethical and welfare issues involved in genetically modifying cats in this way."

Before taking these drastic measures, the charity feels there are several remedies that allergic cat owners can try that are safe for both parties.

- Apply a product such as Petal Cleanse®, which is applied to the cat's coat to remove saliva and encapsulate the allergen Fel d1.
- Ensure cats are free from fleas
- Regularly groom the cat outdoors
- Vacuum frequently using a cleaner fitted with a HEPA filter
- Keep cats out of the bedroom
- Increase ventilation in the home.

Dates for your diary

The following dates are correct at time of going to press. We hope the foot-and-mouth crisis has abated and events can continue as planned.

4-15 September – Ideal Home Show, Belfast, Northern Ireland

8-15 September – Cats Protection Week

9 September

- Open Day, Barnjet Shelter, Crawley Down, West Sussex; 11-4pm. Park and ride facility available from the village.
- Open Day, Bredhurst Shelter, Sittingbourne, Kent. Gates open 10.30am, official opening by TV's Peter Polycarpou at 11.30am
- Anniversary Gala, Derby Shelter, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; 11-4pm
- Open Day, Isle of Wight Shelter, Ryde, Isle of Wight; 12-3pm
- Open Day, Mabel Jenkins Shelter, Birmingham; 12-4pm
- Open Day, Nottingham Branch Shelter, Nuthall, Nottingham; 1.30-3.30pm

10-15 September – The Society of Feline Artists Exhibition, Llewellyn Alexander Gallery, 124-126 The Cut, Waterloo, London SE1 8LN.



Painting: Astrid Ruddick

Phone 020 7620 1322/1324 for details.

15 September – Open Day, Cardyke Farm Shelter, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow; 12-4pm

12-14 October – Veterinary Nurse Congress, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

12-21 October – Ideal Home Show, Glasgow


Branch information

We welcome three new Branches:

Dewsbury, Wakefield & District (Region 1), St Neots & District (Region 3), Brighton & Hove City (Region 4).

Please note: Crawley Branch (Region 4) has changed its name to Crawley, Reigate and District; Harlow Branch (Region 4) is now known as Harlow & District; Wick Branch (Region 6) has changed its name to Caithness.

Black in fashion



Some cats dress in black. Coats like polished jet. Large golden eyes. They wear the colour of power and magic. For this reason, they were judged by earlier generations to be the familiars of witches and wizards. Theirs is a bizarre history. Both loved and hated, by the end of the 19th century they had become the darlings of fashion. MARILYN CROWTHER reveals more about these dark creatures.

As long ago as the fourth century BC, the Greek playwright, Aristophanes, considered it an ill omen if a black cat crossed your path. In ancient China, it presaged sickness and poverty. In Russia, it was said that black cats turned into devils after seven years; and in Sicily, if a black cat had lived with seven masters, the soul of the seventh would burn in hell along with the cat. In Spain and Italy they were serving apprenticeships as devils, and in Germany they were kept away from children – particularly sick children, as they were thought to portend death. No wonder that black kittens were often drowned at birth! Alive or dead, they were thought to have powerful medicinal properties. The tip of a black cat's tail drawn across the eye was a cure for styes and their remains formed a base for umpteen quack remedies – anything from gout to blindness.

Saints or sinners?

So when we name our black cat Merlin or Lucifer, we still give a nod to the past. In Britain their status has always been ambivalent – dispensers of white as well as black magic. While witches and their cats were persecuted, there was a contrary feeling among simple folk that a black cat on the hearth gave protection to its owners, that some of the magic rubbed off. A sort of insurance policy against personal disasters in an age without social security benefits.

*'A black cat, I've heard it say,
Can charm all ill away,
And keep the house wherein it dwells
From fever's deadly sway.'*

(Welsh proverb)

In Britain, black cats are traditional good luck charms at weddings, and in the Midlands it was once customary to present the newlyweds with a real one.

*'Whenever the cat of the house is black,
The lassies of lovers will have no lack'*

— goes an old English saying, but to tread on the cat's tail put paid to any chance of marrying for a year! A dire warning to clumsy young wenches to mind where they put their feet. Even in Britain there are regional deviations on black cat lore. Along the Yorkshire coast, fishermen's wives traditionally kept one, to ensure their menfolk's safe return. But in east Yorkshire, to encounter a black cat in the street was ominous; worse still if it crossed your path from left to right. Although if it could be persuaded to let you stroke it three times, the spell was broken.

Superstitions in the United States often reflected the immigrant population, many originally from continental Europe; while in the African cultural heritage, white cats brought good luck. Black cats were agents of the devil.

*'Don't never cross a road where a black cat crosst,
Aint nothing but sorrow, aint nothing but loss.
Brindle cat, spotted cat, dems allright,
Safety in a yaller cat, blessin' ian white.'*

(Nancy Byrd Turner)

In praise of black

Fortunately, there have always been people who think for themselves, who ignore prejudice and superstition. One was Francois Moncrif, author of the first ever book about cats (1727) who preferred blacks to any other colour — *'They have sparkling eyes, like brunettes of all species.'*

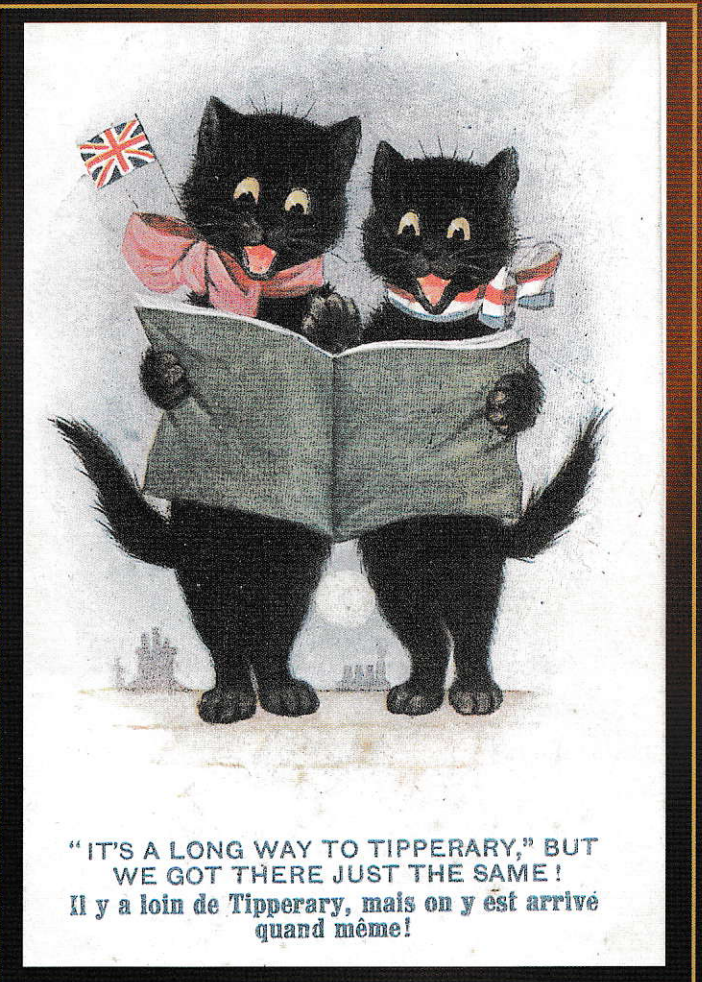
It seems black cats were rare in Paris, and highly prized. One black tom-cat, *'the pet of a great princess lives in an orangery, wandering among the perfumed blossoms with his tri-coloured wife, whom he loves with all the gallantry and fidelity of olden times'*.

Over a hundred years later, another Frenchman, the poet and novelist Theophile Gautier, owned three black cats, including the celebrated Eponine, who welcomed visitors at the door and dined at table. *'She had green eyes, slightly slanting, Chinese fashion, her velvety black nose of as fine a grain as a Perigord truffle. Her coat, a superb black, full of subtle movement that changed in the light.'*

When Harrison Weir set up the first cat show at the Crystal Palace in 1871, black soon became a popular colour for the highly-fashionable pedigree Persians. Weir himself describes for us the prize-winning Minnie, who had all the ideal characteristics of the breed. *'A good, rich, deep black, orange coloured eyes and long flowing hair, grand in mane, and with a graceful carriage and a mild expression. Truly a very beautiful object, and very rare.'*

By the 1890s, superior black Persians were to be found strolling round smart drawing rooms in Boston Massachusetts, no less than in English country mansions. One such posh pussy — 'King Max' — took first prize at the Boston cat show four years running. The New England socialite, Louise Chandler owned several, including Black Prince whom, she said, she kept 'for luck'. Evidence of the old British superstition still at work!

Picture postcards featuring lucky black cats — sometimes accompanied by other auspicious symbols, like horseshoes and old boots — were best sellers from around 1900. They were soon adopted by seemingly every seaside holiday resort as the centrepieces of cards depicting local views, or self-congratulatory slogans. In the 1920s their ranks were swelled by Ed Sullivan's Felix, the first superstar of the animated cine cartoons, whom even dynamite couldn't kill.



Picture postcard: Celebrating the end of the First World War

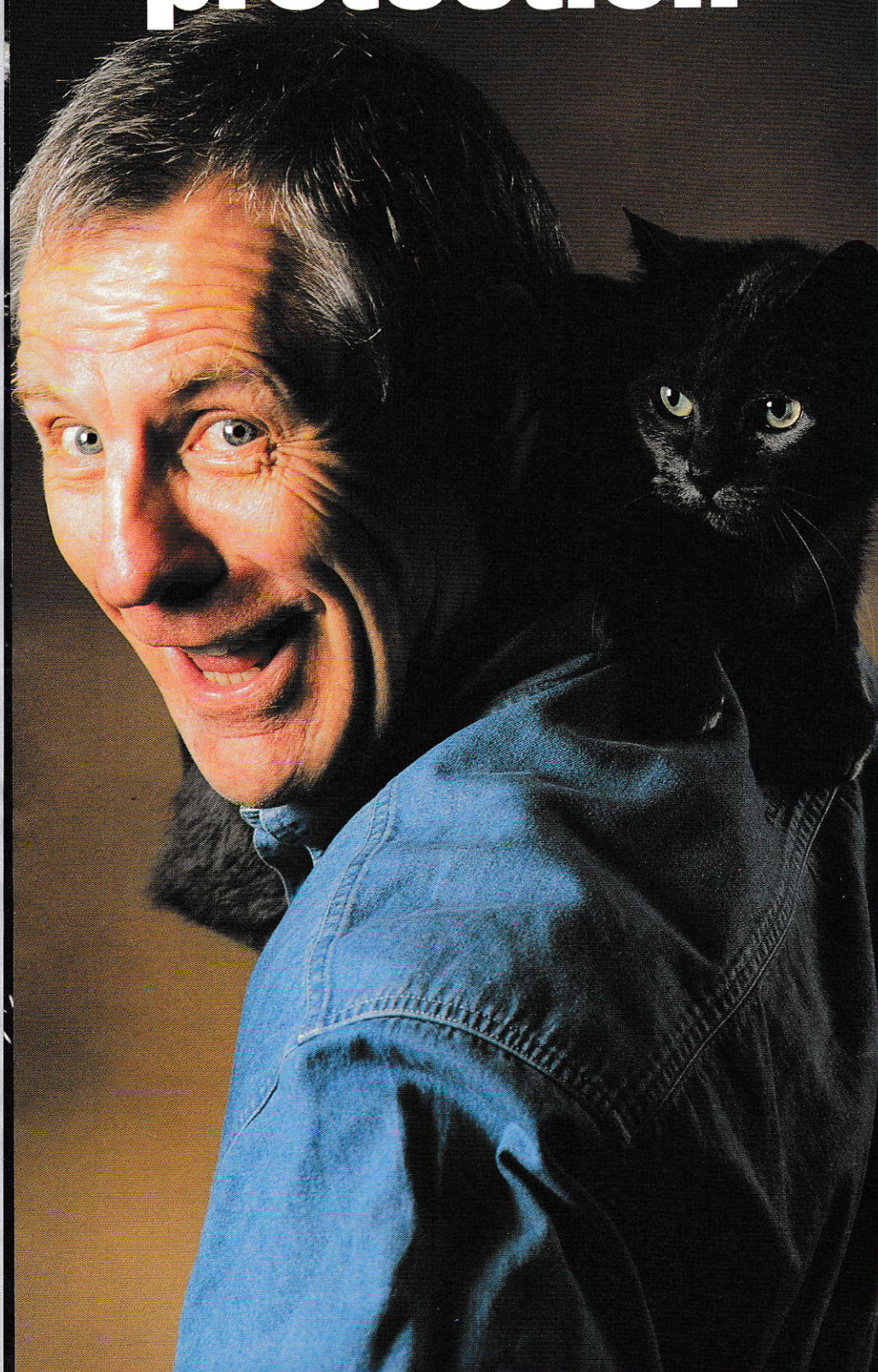
Wartime effort

During the first and second world wars their role took on greater urgency, as the protectors of our soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

Sir Winston Churchill's own lucky black cat Nelson, lived with him at 10 Downing Street, where he had a place at table reserved for him. When Sir Winston caught influenza, Nelson took responsibility for keeping his master's feet warm in bed, earning his praise for saving power in the 'war effort'.

A Second World War news item tells how American Intelligence flew a black cat on a mission to Berlin in order to cross the feuhrer's path with bad luck! But passing over London, they also crossed Churchill's path — with good luck. Whichever way it was, a black cat did his best to help us win the war. And even today, we still need our black cats to protect us!

Your cat deserves Pentofel protection



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**Ask your Vet about
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Further information is available from: Fort Dodge Animal Health Limited, Flanders Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 4QH, Telephone 01489 781711

1. Data on file 2. Data sheet claim 3. Wills J M, Howard P E, Gruffydd - Jones TJ and Wathes CM: Prevalence of Chlamydia psittaci in different cat populations in Britain. J Small Animal Practice (1998) 29, 327-339 ® Registered trade mark

POM

A helping hand

Want to lend your support to Cats Protection further?
Then why not join our new sponsorship scheme.

Running a sponsorship scheme is a great source of income for charities. Many people, who for whatever reason are unable to have a cat, can enjoy the many benefits of feline friendship without physically having their own pet puss.

For some years, Cats Protection has run a successful scheme whereby a person sponsors an individual cat at one of our Shelters. Now, in addition to this existing arrangement, the charity is launching a new scheme that enables the cat lover to help a succession of cats and kittens. By sponsoring a pen, or 'Cat Cabin' as we prefer to call it, you can assist in funding veterinary care, food and comfort for thousands of CP rescue cats.

Debbie Pearce, Head of Operations and scheme organiser, explains more:

"We wanted to provide a scheme to let people donate money in a way that they were directly helping the cats and kittens that we rescue. This Cat Cabin venture seemed an ideal way for our sponsors to feel that they were really giving something towards feline welfare."

Gaining sponsors

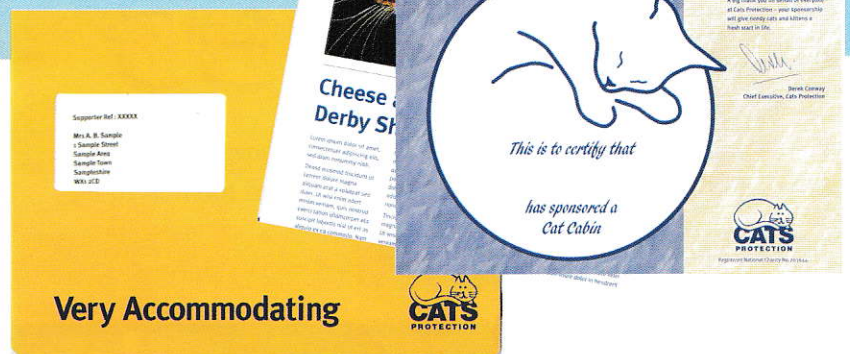
The Cat Cabin sponsorship venture has already been promoted through a direct mail initiative. A selection of 20,000 supporters and members has initially been invited to participate, with a view to running further mailings throughout the year.

"In direct mail terms 20,000 is a low mailing but this is simply a test run," explains Debbie. "Introducing a new scheme can be tricky so we want to ensure all our procedures are running smoothly first before we go any further with it."



Photo: CP library

Taking part: The new scheme will help many cats in our care



Regular update: Sponsors will receive a certificate and newsletter

Cat lovers are asked to pay just £4 a month to sponsor a cabin at one of CP's purpose-built Shelters. You can either pay this by monthly direct debit or, if preferred, you can pay a one-off yearly payment of £48 by cheque or postal order. The scheme is designed to be simple and flexible.

Benefits of the scheme

The beauty of the scheme is the fact that it can reach so many cats and kittens. Each Cat Cabin could be home to a number of furry residents throughout the year, so potentially one sponsor could be helping to rehabilitate and rehome hundreds of cats. This is really rewarding for the sponsor and means support can go that much further.

Sponsorship will be directed to wherever the need is greatest. In return for their

generosity, sponsors can look forward to receiving an acknowledgement certificate, a twice-yearly newsletter and an invite to their nearest purpose-built Shelter where they can see the work of Cats Protection at first hand.

"The newsletter will be a great way of informing our sponsors how their money is working. Plus actually giving them the chance to visit a Shelter will make them feel really part of it. We want our sponsors to know how much they're helping the cats" says Debbie.

The scheme will initially be for Cat Cabins at CP Shelters but if successful, Debbie hopes to expand the scheme to the voluntary Branches too, so that they may benefit at a local level.

Leading the way

Although this is a first for Cats Protection, Debbie is sure that the scheme will be a resounding success. "I actually do believe that we're leading the way on this scheme. Many charities ask people to sponsor an animal that may have been with them for years and years. Our emphasis is to rehabilitate and rehome each and every cat and this new scheme will hopefully help us to do just that," says Debbie.

If you wish to become a Cat Cabin sponsor, please contact our supporter hotline on 0800 917 2287. Those who wish to sponsor individual cats can still do so. This arrangement will continue in tandem with the new scheme.



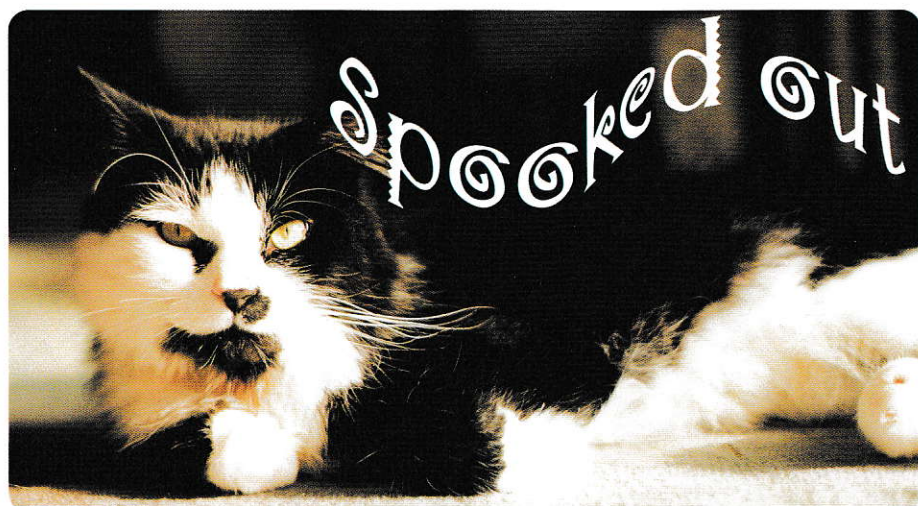
Cats' tales



Sponsored by PETTEX Ltd

Lucky readers whose photos appear on these pages will receive a 12kg bag of Pettex Cat Litter, a 6" deep tray and scoop. Pettex is made from a natural source of Pure Fullers Earth. It is graded and dust extracted to produce a high-quality product, providing superior clumping and excellent odour control. Available in 3kg, 6kg, 12kg and 25kg bags.

Here's your chance to show off your pet. If you have a good, clear photo and an interesting story to go with it, send them in to us.

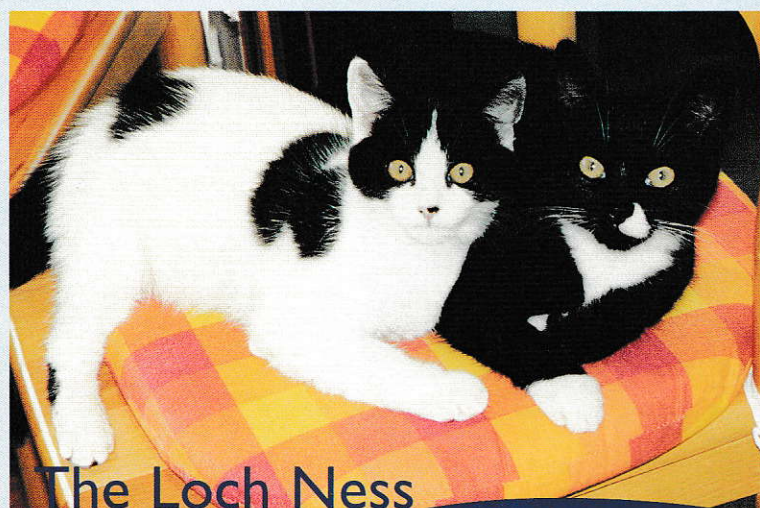


While Anne Berry's house was being renovated a black and white cat appeared through the open doors, windows and holes in the walls. Anne, from Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, never knew where he would pop up next – hence his name! Spook eventually gave up his ghostly comings and goings and decided to stay.

Well chilled



Jennifer Powell from Caerwent, Monmouthshire, found Ziggy and his siblings with their mother in a haystack. Jennifer says that Ziggy is so laid back nothing shocks or surprises him. If he sits on a lap he will often slide off as he's too lazy to stay on!



The Loch Ness monsters

Although sisters Daisy and Maisie are opposites in every way, they really love each other. They live on the shores of Loch Ness, Inverness-shire, with Lyn and Ray Cooper, who affectionately refer to them as the two monsters.

Caspian



When Linda Banks from Erdington, Birmingham, homed Caspian from the Mabel Jenkins Shelter, he was nervous, aggressive and had begun to pull his fur out. He settled well with Linda and her husband and all his behavioural problems ceased. However, on his first trip out he came back over the garden wall with a joint of roast beef in his mouth!





Yellow-eyed beauty

Shiraz was rescued from a pig farm where she had been sharing the heat lamps in the farrowing shed with the piglets. The tip of her tail had been destroyed and she was covered in dirt and fleas. Sandra Holmes of Woodbridge, Suffolk, took her home, cleaned her up and named her after the beautiful city of ancient Persia which she had recently visited.

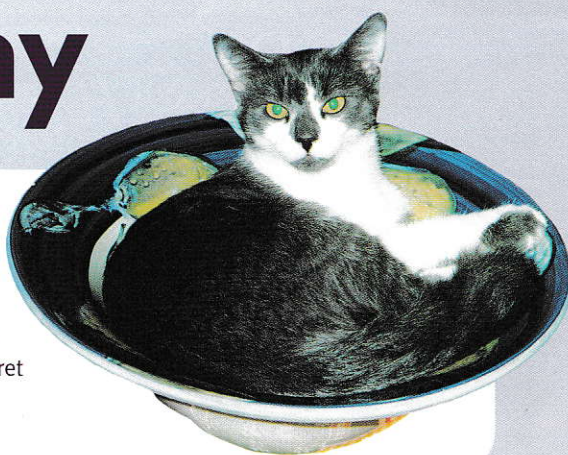
And so to bed



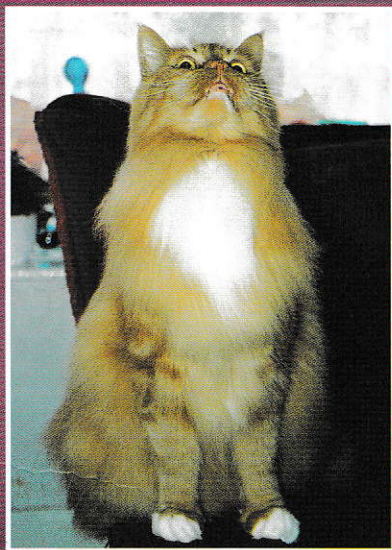
Sooty and Ivy Odell, his elderly owner, were inseparable. They shared everything – even the bed! When Ivy died, her daughter, Maureen Watson from Leyton, London, was unable to keep Sooty but considered him, at over 20 years, to be too old to rehome. Happily, after extensive advertising among friends, Sooty, renamed Stanley, was homed with a couple that doted on him. His night-time habits were allowed to continue!

Tommy

Margaret Dundas from Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, knits blankets for the cats in the care of the Outer Aberdeen Branch. Although she has cats of her own, Tommy, her neighbour's cat, likes to keep Margaret company while she knits.



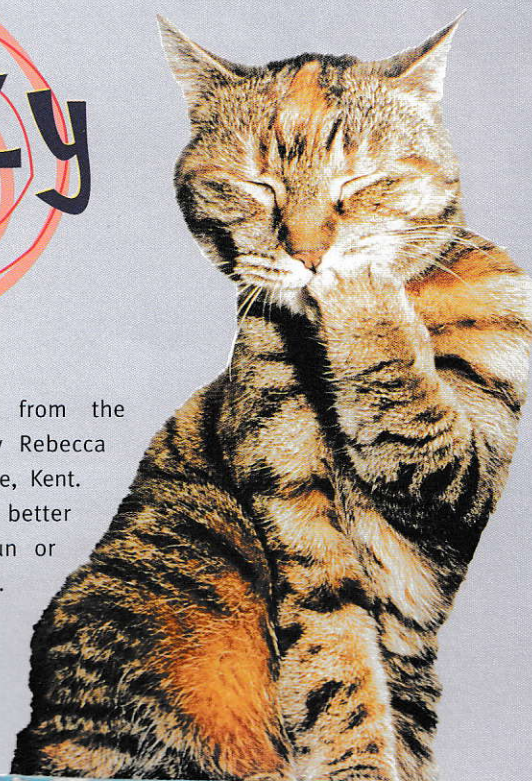
Five times daily



Fortunately, Myra Turner from Brighton, Sussex, has plenty of time to devote to her cat, Charlie. It's just as well as Charlie loves to be groomed at least five times a day.

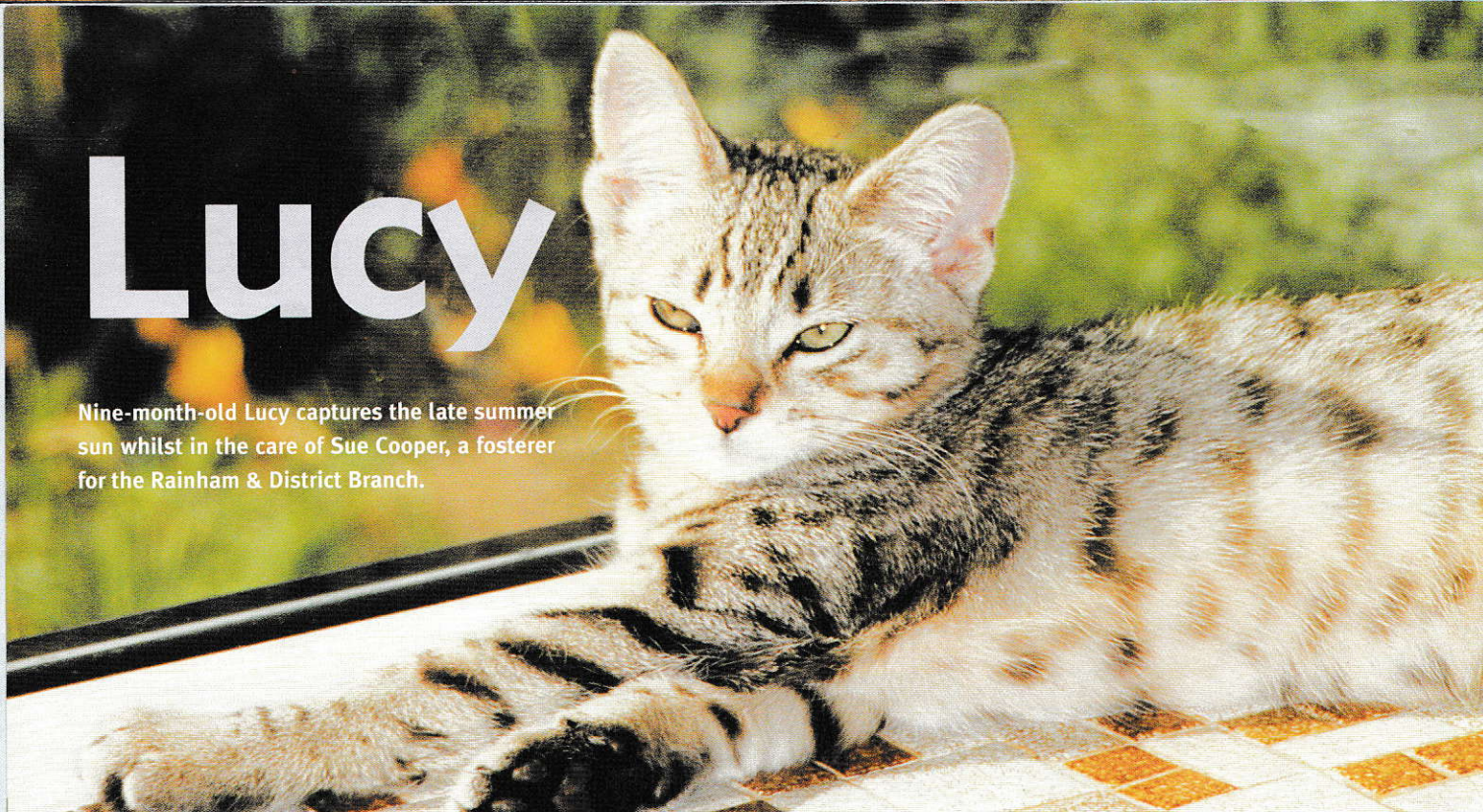
Dizzy

Dizzy was adopted from the Maidstone Branch by Rebecca Stubbs from Maidstone, Kent. Dizzy likes nothing better than lying in the sun or sitting on Rebecca's lap.



Lucy

Nine-month-old Lucy captures the late summer sun whilst in the care of Sue Cooper, a fosterer for the Rainham & District Branch.

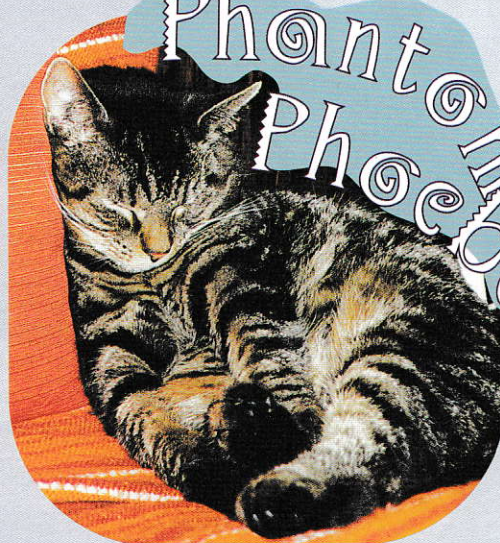


Amber



Amber was born in a garage and spent her first 12 weeks investigating car engines and bits of bodywork! When Jackie Defee from Worthing, West Sussex, first took Amber home, her white bits were grey and she left dirty paw prints everywhere.

Phantom Phoebe



When Miss Rushworth from Hillingdon, Middlesex, first brought Phoebe home, she vanished under a chair. Food and water disappeared and the litter tray was used. She remained invisible and silent. Eventually, Phoebe timidly emerged to take over Miss Rushworth's favourite chair.

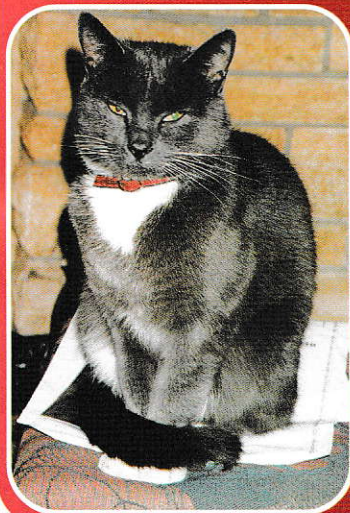
Belladonna Baggins



Because she has tested positive for FeLV, Bella cannot go outside unsupervised. However, she loves running from window to window getting

the best view of a passing cat or dog. Barbara Lerner from Conwy, North Wales, says that Bella is in good health and has the best of everything.

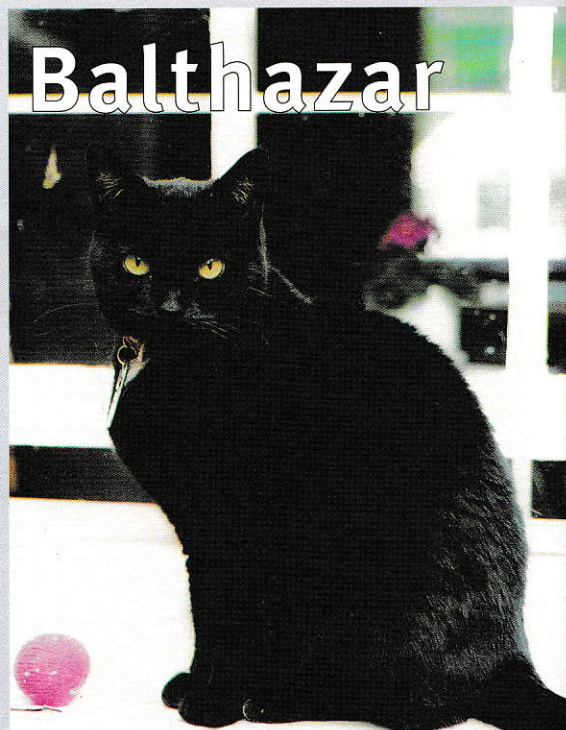
Pet shop boy



Zoey Duncan from Mapperly Park, Nottingham, couldn't resist the cry of the little kitten in the pet shop. Now five years old, lovely-natured Dillon spends his time climbing trees, watching the squirrels and visiting the neighbours.

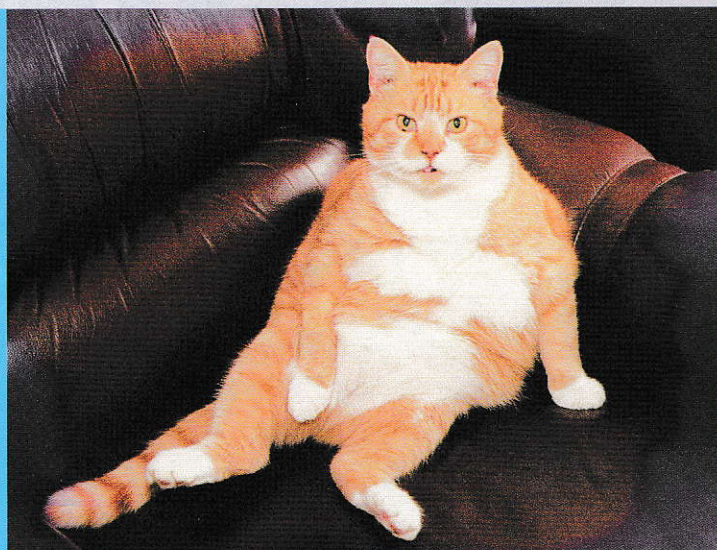
Regal Balthazar

Anne Jones from Camberwell, London, homed Balthazar from the Catford Branch. He is a gentle and affectionate cat who enjoys going camping with Anne several times a year.

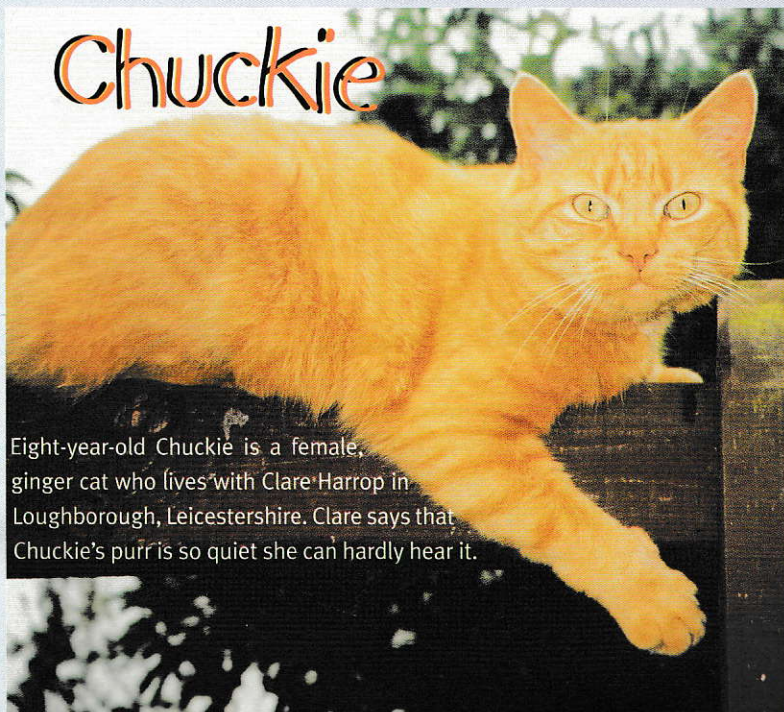


Casper Mann

Poor Casper was abandoned by his first owners and rejected by his second. No wonder he thinks he is in heaven now that he lives happily with Richard Mann from Marske by the Sea, Cleveland.



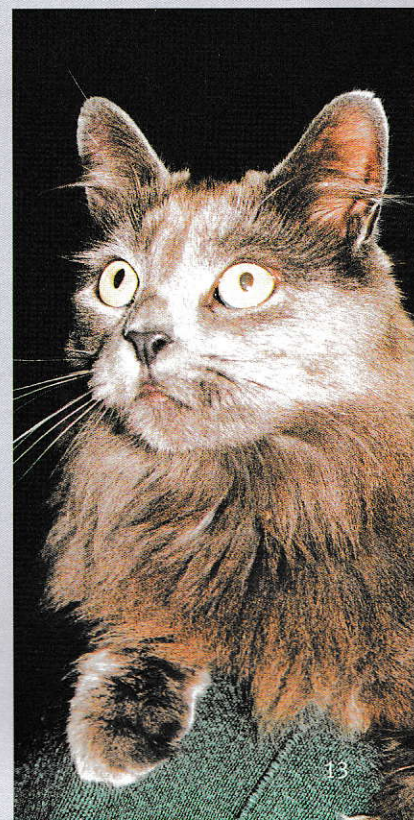
Chuckie



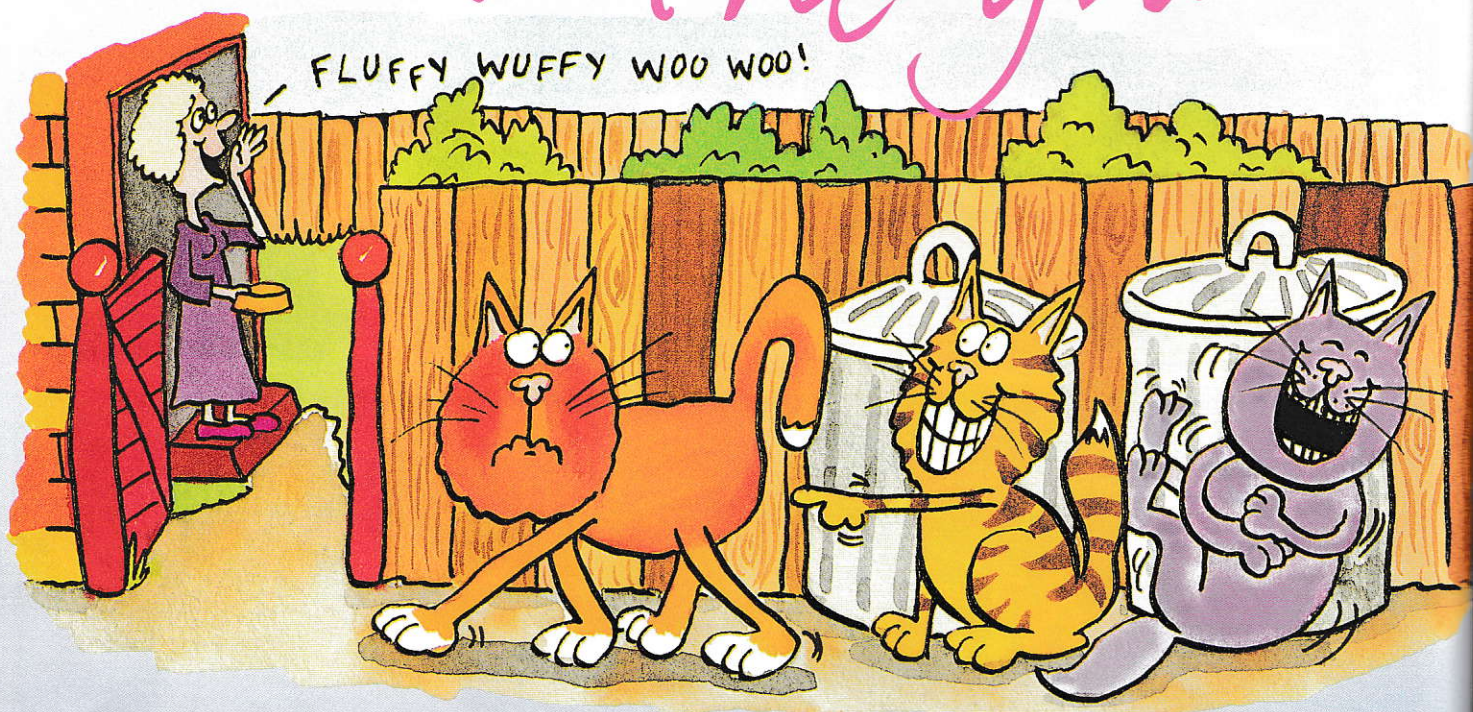
Eight-year-old Chuckie is a female, ginger cat who lives with Clare Harrop in Loughborough, Leicestershire. Clare says that Chuckie's purr is so quiet she can hardly hear it.

Nasty Nip

When the Eskdale & District Branch was called in to neuter a feral colony, volunteers met Amadeus Wolfgang (Wolfie) who bit through the thumb of the co-ordinator. According to Nick Gorman from Annan, Dumfriesshire, who bravely took Wolfie home, he is now a soft and soppy cat.



The name of the game



If you are the proud owner of a Tiddles Piddles Poppet or a Fluffy Wuffy Woo Woo (and willing to admit it!) read on. HEATHER COOK delves into the cat owner's world of pet names.

There are, of course, some sad cats that appear to be nameless in that they have not had titles bestowed upon them by besotted owners. Even these anonymous felines no doubt have names – possibly not the type recognized by polite society, but adequate for the cat's purpose, I'll wager. Such names could well relate to sexual prowess or success in the hunting field, as with 'Ten-Times-Nightly' and 'Mouse-Mugger'. It could even relate to a hobby, such as trying to unseat elderly cyclists. 'Bike-Wobbler' may be a relatively common handle in the feline twilight zone, not to mention 'Bell-Buster' and 'Spoke-Buckler'.

Under wraps

When we feel strong enough to consider the names that are actually given to cats, we notice that most cats have a veritable galaxy to draw upon. They usually have a fairly respectable and boring name such as Fluffy or Patch; but behind this public label will be any number of pet names, the origin of which would not bear investigation. Pity the sophisticated mature cat that is forced to smile when lovingly referred to as 'Chocolate Bum' or 'Wormy Willy'. The humiliation must be unbearable.

A common phenomenon is the nickname that is considerably longer and more complicated than the cat's 'proper' name. No-one would think of doubting that 'Billy' is a

useful everyday alternative to 'William-the-Conqueror-Curly-Whiskers-of-Coventry', but the rationale behind the substitution of the pet name 'Pearly-Paws-Piggy-Pops' for the tried and tested 'Plod' is hard to fathom.

Living up to it

Whether cats feel compelled to live up to their names is a question that has dominated the world of science for centuries – or possibly for ten minutes, come to think about it. I have often wondered whether dear old Gnasher would have been quite so determined to redesign people's fingers if he'd been called Cuddles, or whether Furball would have vomited quite so generously – and with absolutely no sense of occasion – if she'd been called (High) Jean.

My own cats, naturally, have entirely sensible names. Well, I do have an enormous tabby called Gerbil, but he was a very small kitten – honestly. I also have a half-Burmese known as Princess Mildred because she has more airs and graces than any royal family in any country in any century. This doesn't strike me as a particularly silly name until I have to take her to see the vet, where they have the rather charming policy of calling out the animal's name rather than the owner's. For some reason people seem to find 'Princess Mildred Cook' rather an amusing title...

Letters



We will be pleased to forward your correspondence should you wish to get in touch with any of the letter writers on these pages. Place your letter in a stamped addressed envelope and we will forward it for you. Alternatively why not e-mail us with your comments on cat.edit@virgin.net and include cat letters in the title. Please include your postal address.

Star Letter

Cause for concern

I refer to the news story 'Drug abuse case' (July/August 2001 issue) as it appears that this is not an isolated incident. Having met a number of addicts over the years, I am told that 'users' often share their drugs with their pets and consider it to be the 'norm'.

I wonder if veterinary surgeons and those rescuing are aware of the problem as so many traumatised and frightened cats that they see may be suffering from drug abuse. Cannabis is readily eaten by pets if given in food, as no doubt other drugs would be.

Joan Judd, Wotton-under-Edge, South Gloucestershire



Star Letter Prize

The author of the Star Letter wins three months' supply of Yarrow Organic Single Servings Petfood worth over £83.

These handy 'one meal in a cup' servings come in a wide choice of flavours – chicken, chicken with turkey, chicken with salmon and chicken with mackerel. All are certified organic and contain tasty chunks of organic chicken cooked in a sauce, which preserves the natural

flavourings and nutrients to the optimum.

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Yarrow is stocked by Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose.

Postcard search

I am very fond of the black cat pictures made by Sue Boettcher. Would any readers know where I might find postcards, posters or books by her?

Marianne Bengtsson, Sweden

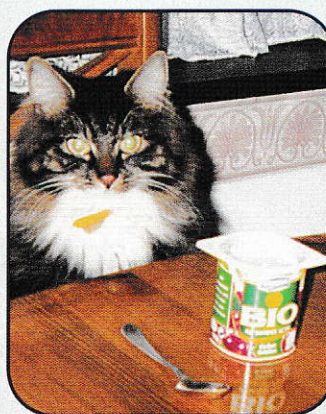
If you have any information to help Marianne, please send it to us at *The Cat* and we'll forward it on.

Unfussy eaters!

It seems that A Hankey's cat, Kitty Malone, is not so unusual after all ('Sweet and fruity' letter May/June 2001 issue). Others have some strange eating habits too...

My cat, Cindus, liked scrambled egg and vegetable stew with dumplings. She lived for 19 wonderfilled years. My next cat, Bess, liked anything that I ate especially toast. I now have two beautiful rescue cats, Cassie and Sam, who both like apples, chocolate ice cream, apple crumble and scones which my friend makes.

Elaine Jukes, Isle of Bute, Scotland



My cat Quaver II is nearly four and loves yoghurt! Here she is sitting on the chair waiting for me to give her some – she has her own spoon!

Marie Orford, Wimbledon, London

I feed a stray who I've nicknamed Jaws. I've seen him eating raw potato, carrot, crisps, onion, toast, marmalade, dog biscuits, spring onions, turnip, cabbage, tomatoes, peas, beans, scrambled, poached and boiled eggs! I've seriously been thinking of changing his name to Dusty Bin!

M Long, Belfast, Northern Ireland

hot sausage



In February this year I visited Kiev in the Ukraine and came across this old lady and her cat. It appears that many people in Kiev have cats and seem to dote on them. The average old age monthly pension in the Ukraine is the equivalent of £7. It's circumstances like these that probably led the lady in the photo to spend the freezing day outside with her very well wrapped up cat. The sign apparently says 'My name is... (not sure of the name) and I like eating sausage.' The cat's owner was not there when I first saw the little trolley, but after a couple of minutes she came out, with a hot sausage, which she proceeded to feed to the cat.

Audrey Schoellhammer, London



Cure for stiffness

I thought readers would like to hear this tip for cats with rheumatism/arthritis. My wise aunt, suspecting that her 14-year-old cat was suffering from this, pierced a small hole in a cod liver oil capsule and squeezed it over the cat's food once a day. Since doing this, the cat's legs have improved a great deal. As an added bonus her fur is now in great condition and she loves the taste.

D Osborne, Orpington, Kent

£10 Letter

Extra exercise

In her excellent article on feline fitness (May/June 2001 issue), Heather Cook has missed one popular activity – spinning! This is best started from a sleeping position and involves leaping approximately nine inches off the armchair and spinning furiously in circles for several turns, then returning to the starting position. It is important not to give the impression one is chasing one's tail. This exercise is apparently more effective when performed in front of complete strangers!

Andrew Bebbington, Cheadle, Cheshire

Help for foreign felines

I was very interested to read the article Sun, sea, sand – and cats! (July/August 2001 issue).

It is quite true that feeding stations manned by dedicated cat lovers exist, the trouble starts when cats are injured or fall ill. People seem to be quite happy to feed, but not to get involved with a cat that requires a visit to the vet.

In 1987 I went to Malta and on my first walk outside the hotel came across a kitten literally in the gutter suffering from cat 'flu and goodness knows what else. Passers-by were not interested in her pitiful cries and so I scooped her up in my arms and she came with me to my hotel, and then the next day to the SPCA. I thought I could leave her there, but it was absolutely bursting at the

seams with unwanted cats, kittens, puppies and dogs.

Roger Tabor suggests leaving cats where they are, but what do you do when you have formed a bond with your kitten? Her fate certainly looked pretty bleak; cats don't normally get adopted in Mediterranean countries.

Well, my little kitten was nursed back to health, quarantined and is still with me some 14 years later. I do support foreign animal charities, they need all the help they can get, but I've no regrets from letting my heart rule my head for I'd do exactly the same again if the situation arose.

Maggie Forbes-Buckingham, Near Yeovil, Somerset

The Mammal Society survey

— your verdict

Roger Tabor's article 'Cats are carnivores, not criminals!' certainly stirred up a response. Many of you wanted to have your say and defend our feline friends. Thank you for all your letters. Here are just a few of the responses.

Well done for sticking up for our beloved cats. I thought Roger's article was spot on. The media love to sensationalise things, so it's no surprise they lapped up the Mammal Society's findings.

Esther Chilton, Thatcham, Berkshire

I completed the Mammal Society's survey in 1997 for one of my cats and regretted it immediately I read the results in the media. Maybe I was naïve to have completed it in the first place. The survey asked if you had more than one cat to complete the form on behalf of only one. I obviously (so I thought) completed the form for the only one of my three cats who was interested in hunting, the youngest of the three, a chocolate Burmese called Midge.

I did feel the results reported by the media were unfair as out of the three cats I had at the time of the survey it did not take account of the fact that two of them were not remotely interested in hunting. I think a fairer survey would have included all the cats in the household regardless of their hunting skills, then perhaps the media response would not have been so anti-cat.

Joyce Dixon, Minsterley, Shropshire

One of the occupational hazards of being a wildlife lawyer with a strong commitment to the welfare of animals, is the frequency with which my blood pressure soars in response to the flawed opinions of those who profess to understand and protect the animal kingdom. Had it not been for Roger Tabor's excellent piece, I would probably have continued to harbour mild opinions of the blameless work of the Mammal Society and of Chris Packham. Mercifully, I am now better informed.

As humble slave in a multiple-cat household I am only too aware that one of the

great heartaches of cat-owning in the countryside is the wildlife which they kill. But they are guiltless in the enterprise, being committed carnivores innocently following their instincts. When distorting data in order to fit its survey, the Mammal Society played a dangerous game of risking its credibility should it be found out. Roger Tabor has found them out. The evidence against cats therefore is tainted and must be dismissed.

Cats are a lot less dangerous to the countryside than man is. Cats have not brought a single species to extinction, nor inflicted pain and suffering beyond that which is natural to the animal kingdom.

Simon Daniels, New Forest, Hampshire

Last Christmas my cat presented me with a bird. As I would much prefer to see them alive in the garden, I told her so, buried the victim, and went to the fridge to fill her plate. Within the fridge I was unable to ignore the large turkey, which seemed to bring the point under discussion to a swift conclusion.

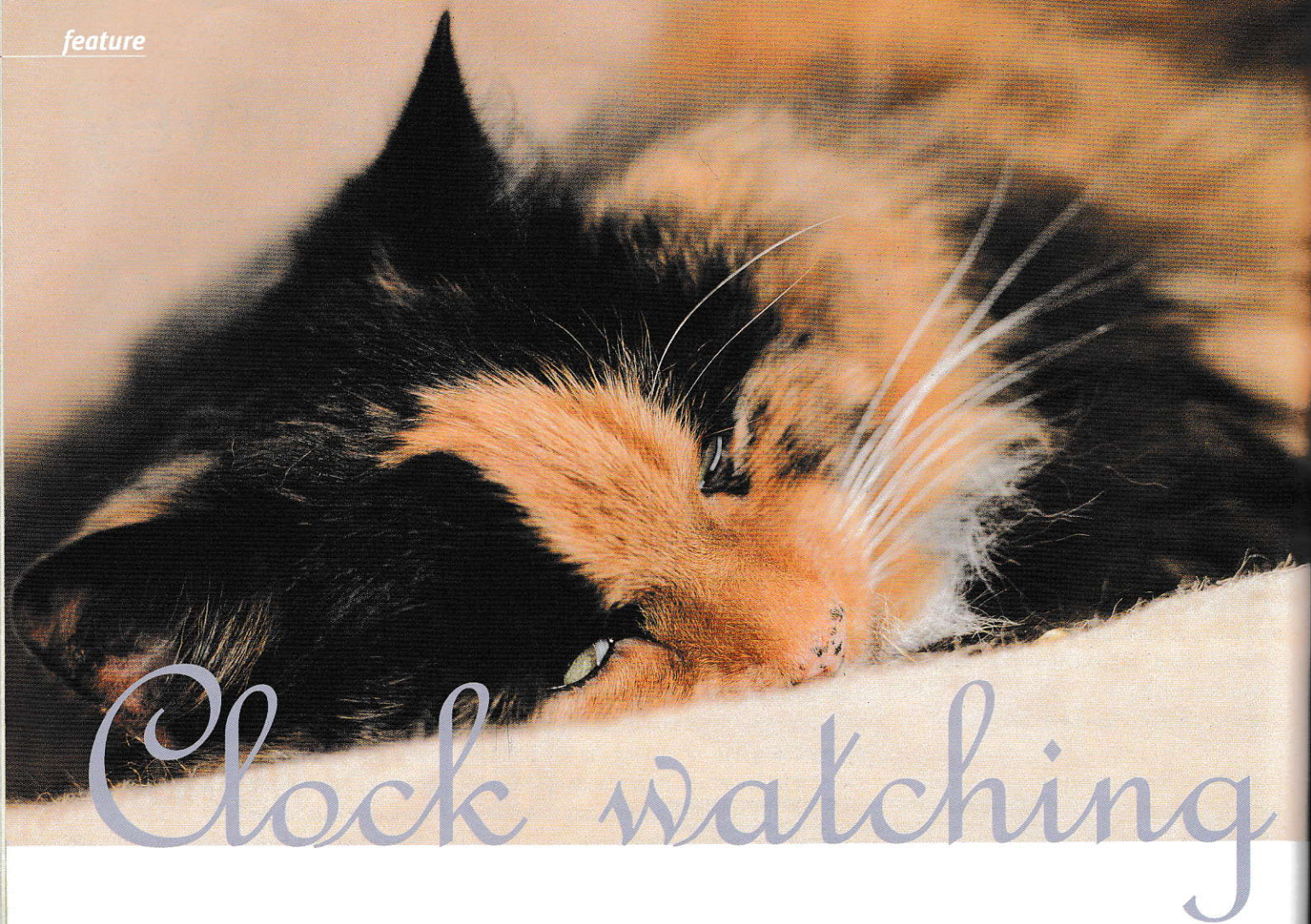
The shape of a carnivore's mouth and teeth indicate very obviously their natural food chain; she needs no excuse for this and, although she has no need to hunt, as a specie she is wise enough not to lose the ability, for the human race appears to be notoriously unreliable.

The shape of a human's mouth and teeth indicate that they are fruit, nut and root eaters; certainly not carnivores. So next time you carve your way through some delicious turkey, or munch your way through a well-done steak, ask yourself what's your excuse?

W Soper, Darlington, Co Durham



Innocent victims: Cats are carnivores not criminals



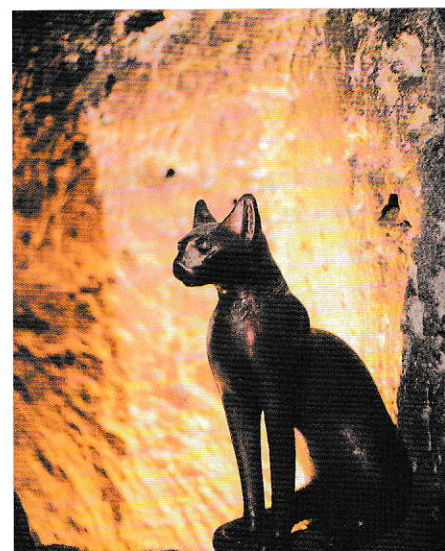
Clock watching

As autumn approaches it will soon be time to put the clocks back. ROGER TABOR CBIol, MIBiol, MPhil, FLS, the cat biologist, behaviourist and historian talks about cats and time and how felines are capable of resetting their internal clocks.

The world turns on its axis every 24 hours, and so we have day and night. The moon takes a month to orbit the earth. A year is the time taken by the earth to orbit the sun. To the ancient Egyptians the cat was a lunar goddess, for the pupils of the cat's eyes grew smaller or larger depending on whether the moon was waxing or waning. Our ancestors did not know the earth was a planet circling the sun, but they knew day from night, and the change of seasons related to the height of the sun in the sky. In summer it crosses the sky in a high arc and in the winter it stays low. Today we know that is due to the earth's axis, which has a tilt as it orbits the sun. For half the year one hemisphere of the earth becomes nearer the sun than the other.

An awareness of time

These movements give us a cycle of change, which we use to measure time, day and night, months, seasons and years. An awareness of time was critical to the survival of our agricultural ancestors, who needed to know when to sow and when to harvest. Sundials, and later clocks, were invented to help. But what of cats and time? The ancient Egyptians thought cats locked into the moon's monthly cycle. They also believed that the sun god Ra took the form of the cat against the serpent god of darkness, in the battle of day and night. Today we know the basis of these beliefs is the reflective crystal mirror at the back of the cat's eye that improves its night vision. When the moon was brighter, the cat's iris reflected a smaller



Ancient beliefs: Egyptians thought the cat was a lunar goddess

slit. So this reflection is not an internal control on time as the ancient Egyptians thought. Cats don't have clocks – or do they?

Physical changes

Many of us believe our cats can tell the time because they wait to greet us returning from work. Another example is cats waking their owners at the weekend when they don't get up to feed them at the weekday time.

This is often put down to the cat taking cues from our behaviour, hearing the car's arrival and detecting differences in our sleep pattern. Yet is that all?

There are also cues in the external world. Our ancestors noticed that the sun's height in the sky changes, but does the cat? Factors coupled with the sun's height do directly affect our cats. The more our hemisphere faces the sun in summer, the warmer the temperature and so the amount of time our cats choose to spend in the garden increases. The heat means they seek out shady spots as well as hot spots.

As the summer sun crosses a higher arc in the sky, it is also a much longer arc, so the days are longer and the nights shorter. Consequently there is also more day for our cats to spend outside. For night-hunting cats, there is less time to seek prey out. So there are physical changes across both 24 hours and the seasons that provide information. But is that all? No, and a massive population-scale 'experiment' takes place now, in the autumn, and again in the spring, which shows there is effectively a clock running in each cat.

As the season's change relates to how much our hemisphere faces onto the sun, further north up the curve of the earth the intensity of the sun is less. Consequently in Scotland it is darker longer in the mornings than in Southern England. To make it easier for children going to school, we put our clocks back by an hour.

Time to adjust

All over Britain, suddenly millions of cats arrive later at their food bowls by up to one hour than their normal feeding time. In the spring it is more noticeable as they sit there waiting an hour early!

The pattern of adjusting to the daily routine of differences across the 24 hours is something that cats do well. Feral living animals in Britain are normally nocturnal hunters, but house cats spend the greater part of their activity during the day when they integrate with our lives.

Yet to achieve this relationship with us they are in conflict with their innate biological clock, so it is small wonder that they are prone to considerable amounts of snoozing and sleeping during the day!

Although external cues such as day length are useful to reset the clock, unless an animal has a clear in-built sense of time it would find it near impossible to lead a normal life. How would a cat know it had spent too long on a hunt without some concept of size of time?

Circadian rhythm

A lot of research has been carried out over the years on the idea of a biological clock. The remarkable finding was made that even when animals of many species are put in constant laboratory conditions, without cues of changing light, heat or feeding, they still

behave closely to a 24-hour cycle. This is called a circadian rhythm, and it works by an innate clock mechanism. However, if animals are kept for prolonged periods in those conditions the length of the 24-hour rhythm begins to drift. Yet only small differences in light intensity or temperature from the real 24-hour cycle of the world lets the animals lock their internal mechanism onto the proper setting.

We know from their precision of our cats arriving by that shift of an hour that they do have a good sense of time. So in a way the ancient Egyptians were right after all. Cats do have the measure of time. Fortunately they can reset their internal clocks when we change our external ones!

Regular routine: Cats seem to know when it's food time



Photo: CP Library

What's new?

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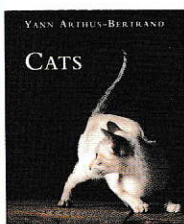


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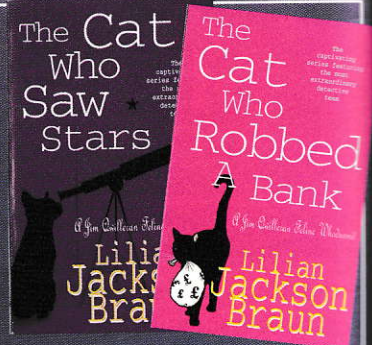


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✱ Many letters we receive involve queries regarding diagnosis and treatment of cats by vets. We cannot comment on these cases without full access to clinical records. It would be unethical for us to give an opinion. If you are unhappy about your cat's veterinary treatment, please discuss this with your vet. If you are unsatisfied, indicate that you will be seeking a second opinion from another practice, or request a referral to a vet with specialist knowledge.

What a whinger!

Q I have had my ten-year-old cat, JC, since she was 18 months. She had been badly treated and had never been outside. Understandably she was very timid and would not allow anyone to pet her but she constantly miaowed.

Over the years, we have encouraged her to go outdoors and, although she never really enjoys being petted, she will suffer it. She eats well and has never been ill. However, she constantly miaows, following me from room to room. I talk to her, and she will sit on my lap as long as I don't stroke her. Sometimes she sits and stares at me and when I look at her – she miaows!

JC is beautiful and I love her but she is driving me mad!

Stephanie Tann, Ashford, Middlesex

A Although all that miaowing is a problem, you have done a wonderful job in giving JC confidence and a feeling of security. Cats that are under socialised as kittens can sometimes form very strong attachments to their owners as adults. These

bonds are usually to only one or two people, and can be very strong, to the point that the cat almost becomes dependent on its owner, even though it will remain wary of unfamiliar people. Because she is following you around and miaowing directly at you, it may well be that JC has become overly bonded to you and is dependent on your attention to feel secure.

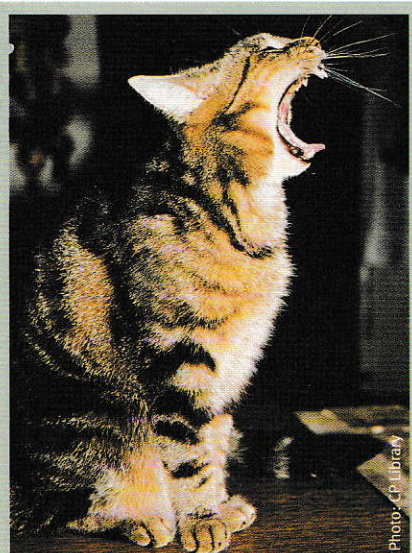
Because JC is an older cat, it is essential that she sees your vet to make sure nothing is physically wrong ie age-related changes. There are a number of conditions that can occur in older cats that could make her behave in this kind of way: hyperthyroidism, painful arthritis, early senile changes.

If she gets the 'all clear' from your vet, you need to consider why she is miaowing. All cats, and us for that matter, do things because there is some advantage, or reward, in performing that action. So, if she is miaowing at you, she must have learnt that it is a behaviour that works to get something she wants. Cats learn to miaow to ask for food – they learn this very quickly because the miaowing always works to get the fridge door open! In JC's case, it seems that her

reward is your attention – every time she miaows she gets some attention from you. You need to change the 'rules' of talking to her, so that you do not give her any attention when she is shouting for it, but give her loads when she is quiet. In this way she will learn that miaowing no longer 'works' to get a response but being quiet does! To start with she may well miaow more. This is because she knows that this behaviour should work, and will try even harder for a little while. It is important that you are strong and make sure that you do not react to all this shouting, but be ready to give her a fuss once she has given up and started to move off.

Remember, it is essential that JC is checked by your vet prior to starting any behaviour therapy. You may also want to ask your vet to recommend a local feline behaviour expert who can give you a more detailed and tailored programme to follow, particularly if you feel that she is generally rather too over dependent on you.

Rachel Casey BVMS MRCVS



No laughing matter: Regular dental checks can help prevent tooth problems

Unkempt cat

Q My seven-year-old female cat has suddenly become a very messy eater. She has also lost weight and looks generally untidy. What could be wrong with her?

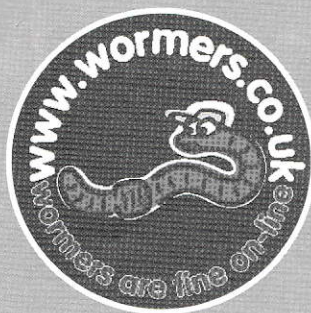
Melanie Smith, Brentwood, Essex

A One of the most common causes of this problem is build up of tartar on the teeth with associated inflammation of the gums – gingivitis. The mouth becomes painful and cats drop their food after picking it up. Grooming also causes pain hence her untidy appearance.

The vast majority of cats over the age of six will require some dental treatment – often a descale and polish carried out under anaesthetic. Failure to deal with this condition at an early stage will lead to development of cavities and damage to the teeth to the extent that they may fall out! Ask your vet to check your cat's teeth every year when carrying out a pre-vaccination examination.

**Rhona Simms BVMS MRCVS,
CP Veterinary Officer**

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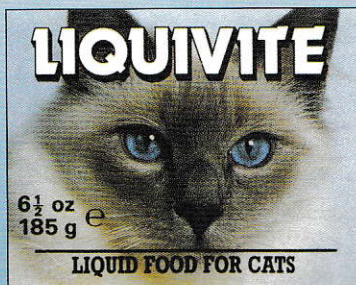
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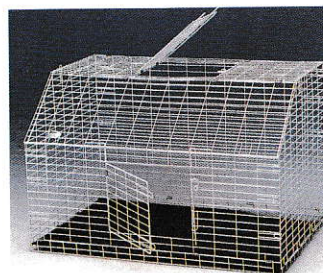
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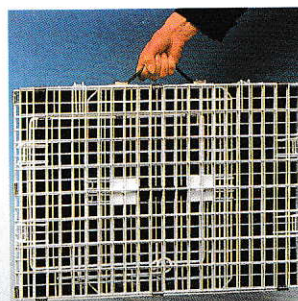


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The Raphael of cats



Steinlen's sketches: He was known for both his active and passive poses of cats

In almost all early portraits of people with cats there is the suggestion, however faint, that as a subject for portraiture the human sitter is superior to the animal.

Complete equality between cats and humans in the portrait tradition of the Western world was probably first attained by Theophile-Alexandre Steinlen (1859–1923), who was Swiss-born but French by adoption. Steinlen eked out a poverty-haunted existence as a graphic artist in the famous Paris district of Montmartre, surrounded by a selection of the lanky and wary stray cats with which the area teemed. Many of these shared the daily life of the Steinlen family in a house popularly known by the neighbours as Cats' Corner. The cats have become famous through Steinlen's posters advertising tea, drinking chocolate and pasteurised milk, which also feature his daughter Colette.

Shared affection

However, his affections seem to have been divided more or less equally between the cats and Colette, and this bore fruit not only in the posters but also in other forms of graphic art. An example of this is the cover of his published book of cat studies entitled simply

Feline artist, Theophile-Alexandre Steinlen, adored cats. So much so, that even his house was known to the neighbours as 'Cats' Corner'. MICHAEL WILSON takes a look at his work.

Des Chats. The design is another variation on the theme already explored in the posters, in which eager cats covet the bowl of delicious milk carried by Colette. In these works the child joins the cats in forming sensitive compositions in which all participate as essential parts of the overall design, as well as being obvious expressions of the artist's shared interest and affection.

Action poses

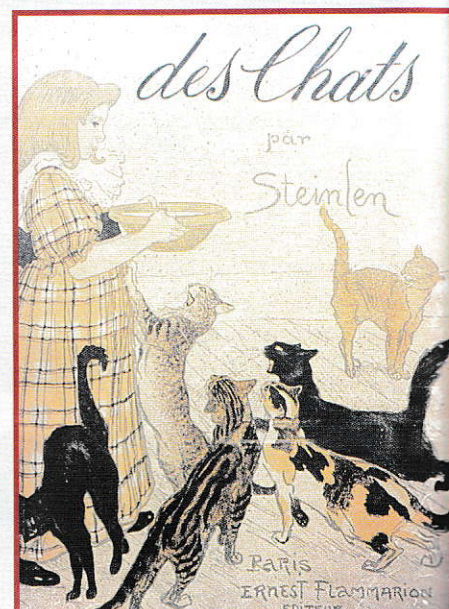
The subtitle of *Des Chats* is *Dessins sans paroles* (sketches without words) and indeed Steinlen gives us exactly that – pages of marvellous black-and-white drawings of cats, furiously active or languorously passive, which need no explanatory text.

In his book *The Tiger in the House* (1921) Carl Van Vechten claims that Steinlen is the only artist ever to have successfully drawn cats in action, and there is some truth in this. Van Vechten could also have pointed out (but did not) that there is also much quiet humour in Steinlen's work. This is shown in a series of delightful drawings (also published in *Des Chats*) which pictures a small boy's attempts to persuade a patient but unwilling cat to play with him. Such scenes as these, together with the poster-portraits of Colette and her hungry entourage, surely reflect everyday life at Cats' Corner. Only occasionally does Steinlen's humorous work take on a slightly unpleasant note that contains echoes of the cruelly satirical caricaturist Wilhelm Busch.

Steinlen's many drawings and lithographs

of individual cats never fail to show his intense interest and pleasure in the species and to communicate it to us. Especially notable are two large lithographs entitled *Summer* and *Winter* respectively, in each of which a single tabby cat demonstrates the feline art of total relaxation.

A few short paragraphs such as these cannot begin to do justice to Steinlen as a cat artist. It is surely he, not Gottfried Mind (see the May/June 2001 issue of *The Cat*) who more properly deserves the title of 'the Raphael of cats'.



Shared affection: Steinlen's daughter and his cats feature in much of his work

The Kitten

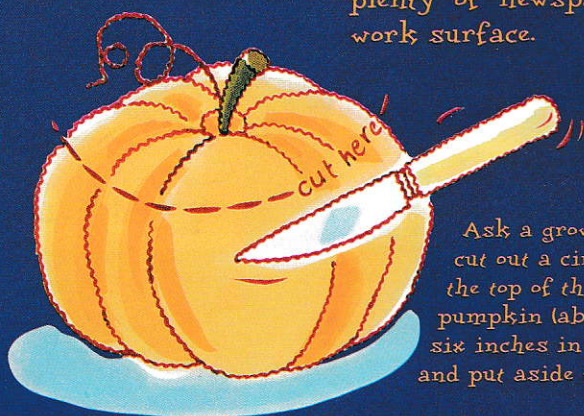
Hallowe'en
treat

Make a Kitty pumpkin For that
very Scary Night!

You Need:

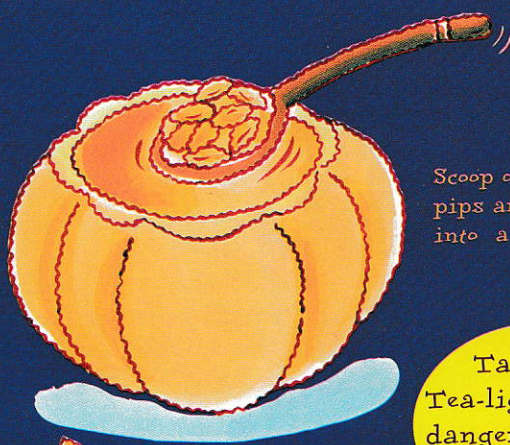
A pumpkin, thin card (a cereal packet is ideal), one tea-light, bowl, sharp knife, large spoon, help from an adult. This can be messy so lay plenty of newspaper on the work surface.

1



Ask a grown-up to cut out a circle from the top of the pumpkin (about four to six inches in diameter) and put aside for lid.

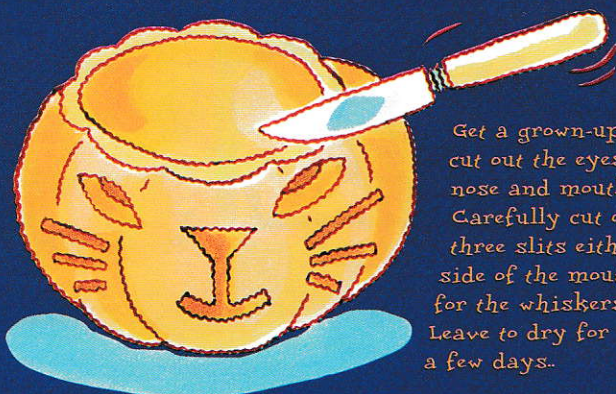
2



Scoop out all the pips and fruit into a bowl.

Take care!
Tea-lights can be dangerous. Do not play with fire.

3



Get a grown-up to cut out the eyes, nose and mouth. Carefully cut out three slits either side of the mouth for the whiskers. Leave to dry for a few days.

4



Draw two ears onto card and cut out. Paint and leave to dry. Cut two slits in the pumpkin and push the ears through.

5

Pop a tea-light inside the pumpkin. Get a grown-up to light it and put the lid back on. Place your kitty pumpkin on the window sill to warn off any witches and spooks!



fab fund-raisers

It costs a lot of money to look after the many cats and kittens that come into our care every day. A huge thank you to our Kitten Club members who do a grand job of raising funds to help us.

Jade Richards and Mellisa Berrill from Sudbury, Suffolk raised £17.22 by selling balloons, cakes and toys at a garden fete. Troy, Jade's big brother, also gave a helping hand. They decided to give the donation to Cats Protection as Jade's favourite cat recently died at the age of 17. Thanks for all your hard work!



Lauren, Dawn, Lucy H, Loren T, Sian S and Lucy W, from Middleton Primary School in Wollaton Park, Nottingham,

made an amazing £71.42 by holding a second-hand sale during their playtime. Sarah, Usman, Arthur, John and Amima also helped.

Hannah Tomlinson from Clevedon, North Somerset, was very creative with her fund-raising efforts. Hannah and her friend sold Hama bead designs and made £2.15 for Cats Protection. Thanks girls - every penny helps the cats in our care.



Eve Flavell, 10, who lives in Dundee, sold daffodils to help our furry friends. Her floral efforts raised £5.62.

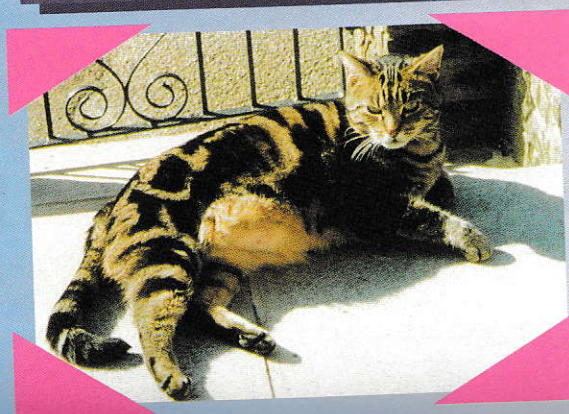
win a camera!



your photos

FUJIFILM Lucky readers who have their cat photos printed in 'Your photos' will receive one of these fab cameras - a Fujifilm Flash Cat camera worth £7.99.

► Sylvia used to be a stray and was very thin, but she now lives with Katherine Cullen, 10, from Sheffield, South Yorkshire. Sylvia has since put on weight and even has a boyfriend called Oscar!



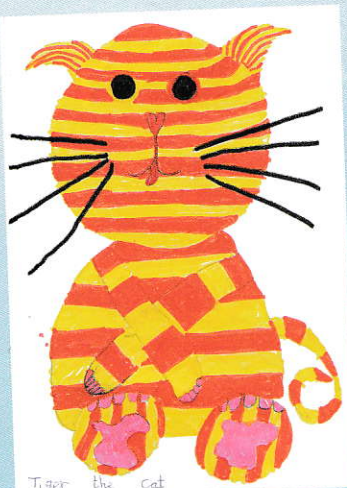
► Nina is very playful and loves hiding in boxes and backpacks. Elizabeth Davenport, 11, from Northwich, Cheshire, says Nina also loves playing with furry toy mice.



► Tibby loves to play with his Barbie doll! It belongs to five-year-old Sarah Jane Callaway from Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

over

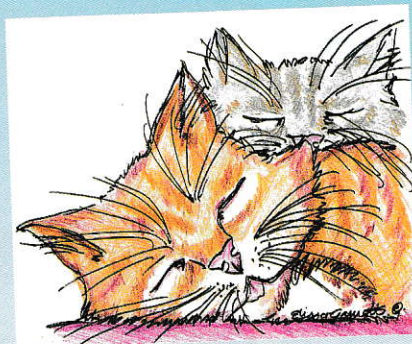
your drawings



► Katie Harris, age 9, Faversham, Kent



► Emily Chapman, 5, Luton, Bedfordshire



► Elissa Garrett, 12, Macclesfield, Cheshire

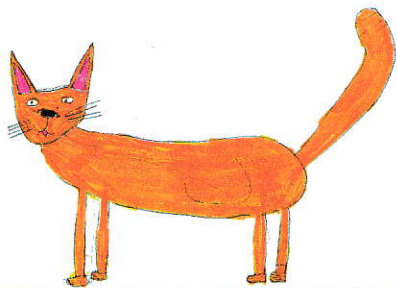
We've teamed up with Golden Bear to give you a real treat! From now on lucky readers who have their drawings published will receive a brilliant Bagpuss beanie worth £5.99. So go on, get scribbling!



to you!

Got something you want to tell us about? A fab photo or drawing you want us to see? Then send it to *The Kitten*, PO Box 314, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5FE and we might feature it on this page.

My Bagpuss

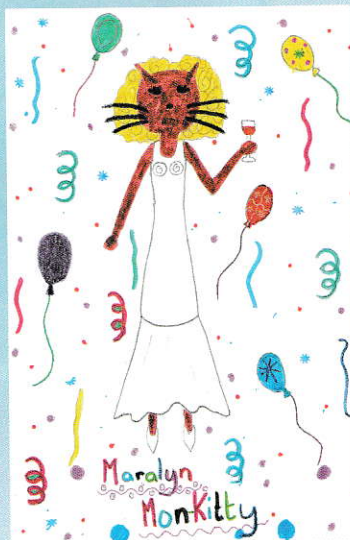


▲ Alice Stickings, 8, Tunbridge Wells, Kent



▲ Chloe Hithersay, 6, Sunnyhill, Derby

Don't forget to include your address on anything you send us.



▲ Natalie Hewitson, 10, Leeds, Yorkshire

▼ Sox has the nickname of 'The Fridge Magnet' as he is always around the fridge when there is food about. Hannah Brookfield, 12, from Wallasey, Wirral, tells us that Sox is also cool at playing football with ping-pong balls!



The following won a Meow-chi in the May/June issue. David Hazlewood, Corby Glen, Lincolnshire; Robert Hawkins, Wing, Buckinghamshire; Joanna Tivey, Yateley, Hampshire; Rachel Colman, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire; Abigail White, Tottenham, Cambridgeshire; Katie Owens, Hartley Worcestershire.

Congratulations to Laura Magnus from Broadstone, Dorset. Her Kitten questionnaire was the first drawn from the hat. She wins £50 worth of vouchers.

your poems

Mixy

Mixy is a ginger, black and white cat,
She walks proudly in the sun.
She licks her milk up with her long pink tongue.
Her tail waves happily from side to side.
Her eyes are green and open wide.
She arches her back to go and play,
And she sits on my lap to hide away.
Kesiah Pickford, 9, Sale, Cheshire

Cats

Cats are cuddly.
Cats like to be stroked.
And when you have stroked them a lot they purrrrrr!
Find a sunny spot and there will be your cat,
Sleeping soundly without a care in the world.
Twitching its ears, listening for sounds.
When they awake - a lap they will find!
Chris Locke, 8, Denmead, Hampshire

pen pals

If you want to write to a pen pal, put your letter in an envelope with the name and code number of the pen pal on the front and put a stamp on it. Put this inside another envelope addressed to Pen pals in *The Kitten* at our usual address.

025 Eleven-year-old Maryanne Swan is very busy going to ballet, tap and Guides. She loves cats and also Harry Potter books, Pokemon and Steps. One of Maryanne's fave mags is *Sabrina's Secrets*, which she collects. However, she is not too busy to write to a pen pal.

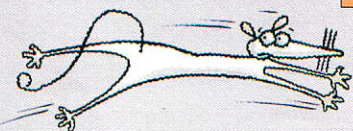
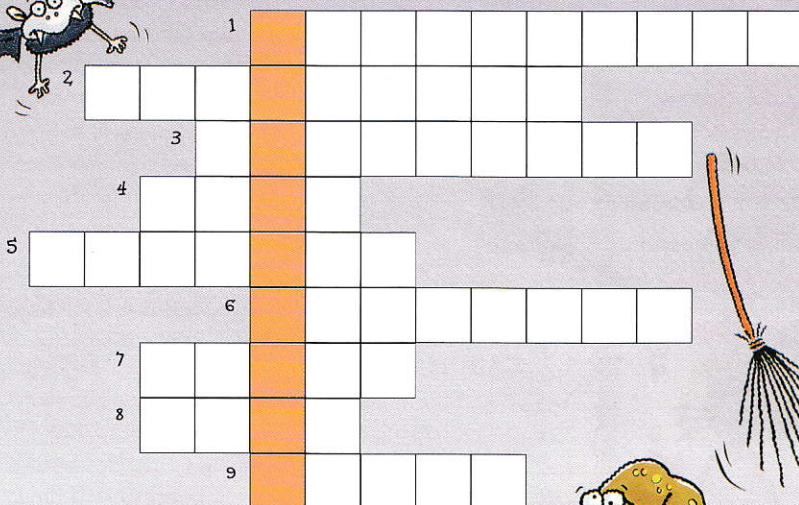
026 Hayley Mackenzie is a big fan of Hear'say and Stereophonics. She loves writing stories and would like to teach English when she leaves school. Hayley's two cats are called Frank and Bob. She also has a dog, two rabbits, a chicken, a budgie and a rat. If you're aged between 11 and 13, why not drop Hayley a line.



▲ Whilst on holiday in Majorca, Charlotte Palmer, 11, from Tiverton, Devon, came across a colony of wild cats and was able to take some photos. This cat is being very sensible by keeping out of the midday sun!

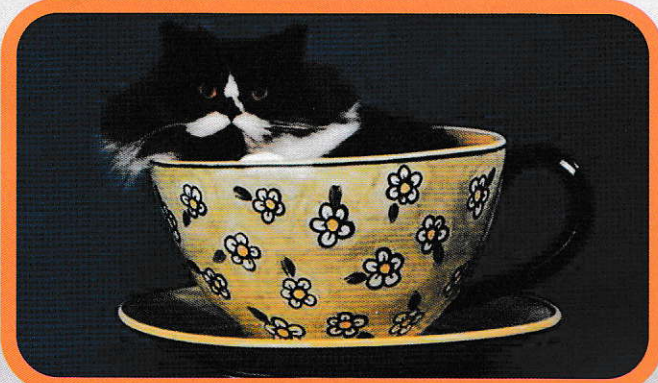
Spellbinding puzzle

Write the answers to the following questions in the boxes below. When complete the shaded squares reveal an animal associated with Hallowe'en. Answer at the bottom of the page.



- 1 A witch gets around on one of these.
- 2 Witches read their spells from this.
- 3 What's celebrated on 31 October?
- 4 They have long tails and cats like to chase them.
- 5 The main item used in our Hallowe'en treat.
- 6 Spells are made in this type of scary cooking pot.
- 7 They hop around ponds, and are similar to frogs.
- 8 Nocturnal flying animals
- 9 If you're naughty what will a witch cast upon you?

Puzzles to be won!



Get to grips with this fantastic Judy Reinen puzzle from Jumbo.

The 500-piece 'Tea Time' puzzle comes with a colourful poster too! There are six in the series to collect. They are available from all good toy shops and cost from around £6 to £10.

We have eight puzzles to give away. For a chance of winning, answer the following question:

How many puzzles are in the collection?

Mark your entry: TEA TIME COMP

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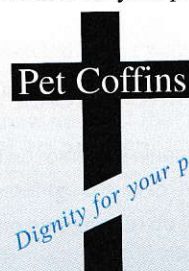
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Redirected aggression

When a cat suddenly turns on its feline companion for no apparent reason it can be disturbing for all concerned.

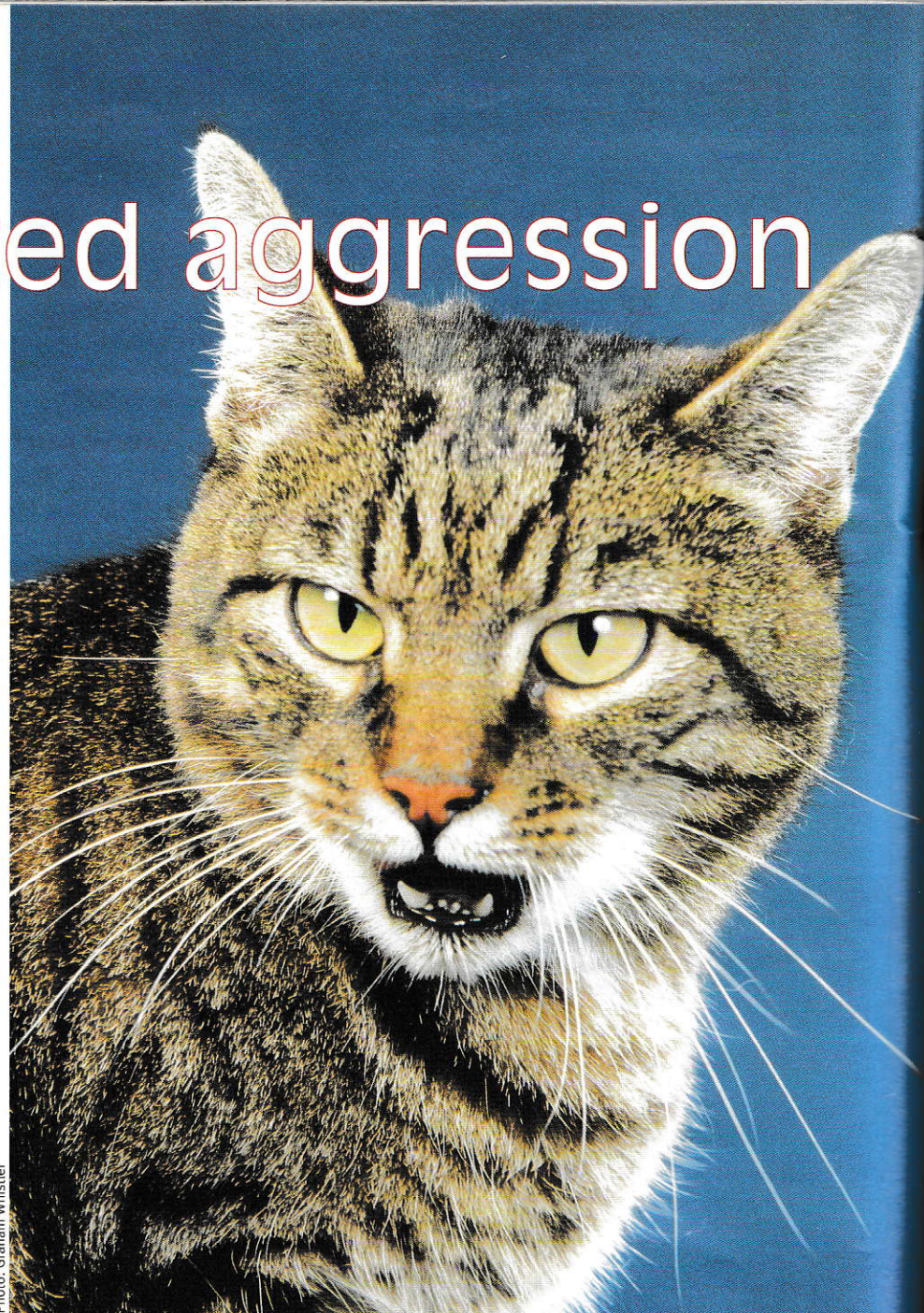
Veterinary surgeon and behaviour specialist, RACHEL CASEY, explains the causes of this behaviour.

There is a whole list of reasons for cats to show aggressive behaviour either towards people or other cats. We all know what we mean by 'aggressive behaviour' – lashing out, scratching, hissing and biting – but it is important to remember that there is not a single reason for these kinds of behaviours. A range of different emotions may motivate aggressive behaviours – just as in humans! Most commonly, cats are aggressive because they are frightened and are reacting defensively towards whatever it is that is scaring them. But aggressive acts can also arise for other reasons, ie misplaced play behaviour, attention seeking, or conflict over important resources, such as territory.

What is it?

Redirected aggression has also been called displaced aggression. In these cases an aggressive act is displaced from being directed at one individual to being directed at another. Something motivates the cat to show an aggressive response, but this 'target' is not accessible to him, and the resultant aggression becomes redirected at something or somebody else, which is accessible. This kind of behaviour is known as frustration – they are unable to deal with a situation as they would like and so take out their feelings on the handiest individual.

Photo: Graham Whistler



Trouble looms: Pent-up frustrations can cause disharmony

Snappy humans

Exactly this same kind of reaction occurs in humans. When did you last give your partner or family a hard time because a colleague was rude to you at work? Have you ever shouted at someone who innocently came into your office just after you've had a difficult phone call? Are you ever irritable with friends when you've arrived late for dinner because you were caught in a traffic jam? All these behaviours are basically human forms of redirected aggression. You would like to be able to instantly deal with these conflict situations by shouting back at the colleague at work, slamming the phone down on the client, or screeching off up the hard shoulder, instantly getting rid of your pent-up feelings of anger or frustration. But of course you can't do such things in human society – much

as we might like to! The result is that all those negative feelings, and the physiological arousal inside your body finds another outlet and that is usually somebody innocently minding their own business!

Possible causes

When cats show re-directed aggression, it is very common that their owners do not realise that their pet is upset or annoyed about something else entirely. To them it seems like the cat attacks for no apparent reason, which can be very upsetting for them. Attacks can be directed at people (more often the owners rather than strangers), or at other cats in the household, and can be quite severe, sometimes causing very nasty injuries. The case of Samuel and Gerry demonstrates how this kind of problem develops.

Samuel & Gerry

Two-year-old Samuel and Gerry are Siamese cats, brother and sister, who had previously been absolutely devoted to each other. Sam was the braver and more active of the two and liked to go out exploring. Gerry was a little more timid, and did not go out as much, although liked to follow Samuel around. Because their owner had moved to a house near a fairly busy road, they were let outside in the morning after the rush hour, and were called back inside in the afternoon before the traffic became bad again. I was asked to go and see these two cats because, for no apparent reason, Samuel had started attacking Gerry very badly. Their distraught owner had become so worried for Gerry's safety and sanity that she had separated them.

Pent-up energy

After delving into many aspects of the cats' lifestyle and behaviour, it became apparent that the attacks made by Sam on his sister were actually redirected aggression. Samuel was a very territorial chap, and liked to see off any of the neighbours' moggies that dared to venture into *his* garden. When he had access to the outside, this worked fine – he zoomed out and sent them packing! The problem arose when the cat door was locked. Sam would watch from the windows and see other cats coming into the garden. He immediately had a big physiological response inside to get him ready for the chase – but the locked cat door thwarted his planned activity. His pent-up energy, anger and frustration had no outlet, and, on one occasion, his sister, who was never far away, had suddenly moved when he was in this state. All of that frustration was directed at her in a rather nasty attack.

Obviously for Gerry this was a bolt out of the blue. Her beloved brother, who had been her lifelong companion, was attacking her for no reason. She understandably started to become more nervous and jumpy around him, and because she tended to move away from him, this precipitated more attacks when he was in his 'pent-up' state. From Sam's point of view, getting rid of his pent-up energy and feelings of frustration made him feel much better, and he started to learn that



Displaced aggression: It can often be the innocent party that suffers

attacking Gerry was a good way of relieving his frustrations. In this way the behaviour became established and he started to look for her when something annoyed him. Poor Gerry became more and more nervous of being near him, and ran away when he approached, which encouraged him to chase her even more.

Easy target

The target of redirected aggression is usually whoever is around at the time that the incident, which causes the frustration, happens. However, it is quite common, as with Samuel and Gerry, that this 'target' then becomes a 'preferred target', because the attacker learns that beating up this individual is a successful way of making themselves feel better. This doesn't mean Samuel now hated Gerry – indeed at other times he tried to behave normally with her (he couldn't understand why she kept moving away!). She had become his equivalent of a punch-bag – something to take out his frustration on that did not hit back! The further breakdown in their relationship occurred because Gerry became fearful and defensive of Samuel until eventually their owner had to keep the two cats apart.

Contributing factors

As with people, it is quite likely that several factors contribute to make a cat lash out at a housemate or owner when frustrated. Samuel was frustrated because:

- His restricted access to the outside gave him less to do.
- He was more reactive about other cats, having moved to a new area, and was attempting to carve out a territory.
- He was probably still upset by the move.

All these factors contributed to make him so wound up that he reacted in the way that he did when he was unable to get at the cats outside. You will know yourself that you are more likely to snap at someone when you are frustrated by something, it's also hot, you have a headache and 20 things to do that day!

Outside influences

The term redirected aggression, then, describes a situation whereby an innocent bystander is attacked when a cat is unable to direct the aggression at the appropriate target. So, if you find yourself in a situation where your cat attacks you or one of your other cats for no apparent reason, think very carefully about what was happening *just before* the attack. Consider the possibility that the aggression was intended for another target that was inaccessible for your cat, before jumping to the conclusion that he either hates you, or has gone completely mad!

Redirected aggression is treatable with behaviour therapy, although this is usually complicated in established cases by the fact that the 'victim', feline or human, also needs treatment to learn that the attacker is no longer a threat. The treatment programme for the aggressive individual depends very much on the reason for the frustration and dealing with this so that the cat is less likely to feel the need for a 'punch-bag'. In addition, the cat is encouraged to direct his aggressive behaviour onto something more appropriate ie a toy.

You will be glad to know that after a lot of hard work by their owner, Sam and Gerry are now happily living in close proximity again!

Black Magic

HEIDI CRUIKSHANK from CP's Honiton Branch thought Hallowe'en was a load of hocus pocus. That was until she met Mrs Wicker...

"I want a cat." The voice grated down the telephone like a cross between a school headmistress and a truck driver.

"Um, OK," I replied. "You'll need to have a home visit first though."

"Yes, I know that!" she said impatiently. "Sarah's been already."

"Oh – right," I said. "Well, when would you like to come and choose your cat?"

"Would tomorrow be alright? Late afternoon – I've got a late night out tonight. Oh and it's got to be black."

"Yes," I said. "Yes, that will be fine." I gave her directions and put the phone down.

A woman of mystery

Within two minutes the phone rang again.

"Hi there, it's Sarah. Has Mrs Wicker been in touch?"

"Oh, well, someone phoned but I have to admit I forgot to ask her name! An abrupt type of woman."

"Yes," Sarah agreed. "A lady who knows her mind shall we say. She wants a black cat and I know you've got those two in at the moment – Tiddles and PomPom, isn't it?"

"Yes, that's right, although the names hardly suit them," I replied with a smile, thinking of the two rather large grumpy females currently occupying my pen. "So, the home check was OK then?"

"Oh, yes!" said Sarah. "She's got lots of pets and they all look very well. A bit of an odd assortment though – snakes, rats, mice, frogs, toads, newts and, would you believe, bats! I suppose the smaller things are used as food for the snakes but I didn't like to ask! I think she must get a lot of power cuts out where she lives – she's got candles all over the place – and she was cooking some type of



stew in an old cauldron on the fire."

"Any chance she'll take them as a pair?"

"Oh, no" said Sarah. "I did try but she was very definite about that. One only she said. Something about being easier to be familiar with just one cat."

It was nearly six o'clock when my visitor finally arrived. I didn't hear her car draw up and jumped when a tall lady dressed in black appeared outside the security run.

"Mrs Wicker," she said, by way of introduction.

"Oh, hello!" I stuttered. "You're here to see these two I believe?"

I opened the security run and she forced her way into the small space, her long black coat catching on top of the clean litter bag.

"I'll leave you to it then," I said, heading for the kitchen to find all the relevant paperwork, not totally convinced that I would actually need it. "Give me a shout when you're ready."

Working her magic

Ten minutes later things were still quiet.

I walked to the back door and saw a sight I never expected to see. There was Mrs Wicker sitting on the floor of the cage with Tiddles

and PomPom purring and rubbing their heads up against her as if it was love! She was whispering quietly to them and they were obviously listening to her. I was stunned – these two had been with me for almost four months and although I fed and stroked them every day I never got more than a dirty look, yet within ten minutes this woman had them literally eating out of her hand!

"Well," she said gruffly. "They both seem to have chosen me so it'll have to be the pair."

"That's fantastic!" I cried, having come to believe that these two would end up in the pen forever. "Are you ready to take them home now?"

"Oh, no," Mrs Wicker smiled. "These two have told me they won't be ready to come home for another week – I'll come back for them next Wednesday."

We sorted out the necessary paperwork and I noted the date on my calendar so that I wouldn't forget.

"Next Wednesday it is then," I said. "The 31st October."

"Yes, that's right dear – see you then!" Mrs Wicker smiled and glided out the door.

Pip's Pad *by Barbara Poskitt*

(with apologies to Sir Henry Newbolt, author of *Drake's Drum*)

Pip is in his hammock and a thousand miles away,

Hanging there in comfort from the 'rad'.

Slung beneath the table, he lies there at his ease,

Dreaming of the dinner to be had!

Yonder lie the gardens, yonder lies the road

With other cats parading to and fro!

When the clock strikes eleven, he'll leave his little heaven

And hie him to the kitchen where the dinner's on the go!

George *by Anna Evans*



A better place:
Pleasant memories of George

Proud head and form of utmost grace
Small shadow that will haunt this place,
Just for a moment in time you came
With measured tread and soft advance
To woo me with the brilliance of your glance.

As soughing firs cut through the silent night
And gentle rain throws myriad tiny lights
To play upon the leaves on which,
In summer days you slept,
I see that now a golden canopy they make
To cover your small form beneath
And what remains now you are gone?
The legacy of love that you bequeathed.
Sleep on, dear George, sleep on.

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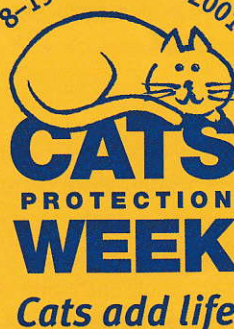
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Young, free and single...

Being single can have its highs and its lows, but having a feline friend around can make the low times bearable and the high times that much better! JILL ECKERSLEY spoke to two, single '20-somethings' to discover why their cats are the perfect partners.

"Sometimes we all want to get off the merry-go-round," says 29-year-old Karen McGowan, who works as an account manager for AIR MILES. Karen's job involves a lot of negotiating, a lot of selling, a lot of stress and a lot of difficult Monday mornings. If it wasn't for her cat Pip, a five-year-old, tabby-and-white moggie, Karen says she would find it much harder to chill out, relax and enjoy life. And that's the secret. Cats have got life sussed. They don't agonise over office politics, that impossible deadline or the sneaky behaviour of their rivals for promotion. Cats have got more important things to do, like chasing bees, or snoozing in the sunshine.

"She certainly takes life at her own pace," says Karen, who has had Pip for two and a half years. "When I go home after a difficult day, she enables me to switch off because all she wants is a cuddle. She is such a soppy old thing, she never scratches or bites, she will even let me massage her pads. I work at home sometimes and when I'm using my laptop, she is always there on the desk beside me."

Cat chat

"Pip had to be given up by her first family when their children developed allergies. The first time I saw her she bounced up to me, squeaking. She still doesn't really miaow properly, she just squeaks, which makes me laugh. If you live on your own, as I do, a cat is someone to talk to. Being with her is very therapeutic and relaxing. Pip absolutely loves attention, and I've always got time for her, however busy I am. I'm recently divorced and Pip was a real comfort when I was feeling low."

"Although I live on my own, I never feel alone, because I've got Pip. If I go away and have to leave her in the cattery she is so pleased to see me when I get back. She won't let me go anywhere on my own for a while, even to the loo. When I have a bath she's there by the side, jumping up and squeaking at me. I half expect to find her in the bath with me!"



Fantastic friend

"Pip is a cat who loves people. If I have a party, she's there in the middle of it all, making friends with my friends. She's really sociable, unlike a lot of cats that slink upstairs to get out of the way. Most of my friends are cat-lovers though I do know one or two who are allergic, unfortunately."

So, the million-dollar question – if it came to a choice between a man and a cat, which would Karen choose? She's not sure.

"Well, you can have a conversation with a human," she admits, "but then, cats don't answer back the way men do. And you always know exactly where you are with them, unlike the opposite sex. That unconditional love is certainly something special. I wouldn't be without Pip for the world. She's a truly wonderful friend."



Photos of Karen and Pip: Michael Scates



with feline!



Photos of Chris and Tom: Dave Penman



Chilling out

"It might sound a bit mad, but I talk to my cat Tom all the time," says Chris Williams, 26, who lives in rural Dorset with his parents and works as a salesman in Dorchester. Like Karen, Chris has a stressful job involving a lot of rushing about. He feels that Tom helps him to slow down a bit and really think about what he's doing.

"I might be on my way to work in the morning," he explains, "with a cup of coffee half-drunk in one hand and my tie in the other, looking for my car keys, checking my watch. Then I'll catch sight of Tom, curled up on a chair, totally relaxed, and he reminds me to take things easy!"

Tom, an all-black moggie and 'a big lad' according to Chris, is a rescue cat the family adopted some years ago. Living in the country, they have always had cats, usually three or four at a time.

"We reckon he is about ten now, and he was a great mouser in his day," says Chris. "He's always pleased to see me and great company.

When I come in he winds round my legs and jumps up and looks until I say something to him and give him a stroke. He's a cuddly cat when he's in the mood. He's happy to roll around on the floor and play-fight with me, which is a great way to take my mind off my troubles if I've had a hard day.

Talking point

"Cats are good to have around. They don't answer back, and they're not demanding. I'm not sure whether they increase my pulling power, but they certainly give me something to talk to women about. I have had girlfriends who didn't especially like cats, but no one could dislike Tom! You can't ignore him, either, he's too big! What would I do if I had a girlfriend who didn't like him? Well, I wouldn't be too impressed, I must admit. I'd probably introduce them to one another gently and then see how they got on. He'd probably just roll over and start purring!" jokes Chris.

Both Karen and Chris prove that whether you're male or female, life on the single scene isn't so bad – especially when you can share your home, and your duvet (and that very expensive salmon steak!) with a feline companion. Who needs a relationship when you already have that perfect partner sitting right there on your lap!



Train of thoughts

The Cat took to the concourse of London's Victoria Station to find out how cats really add that 'special touch' to our lives.



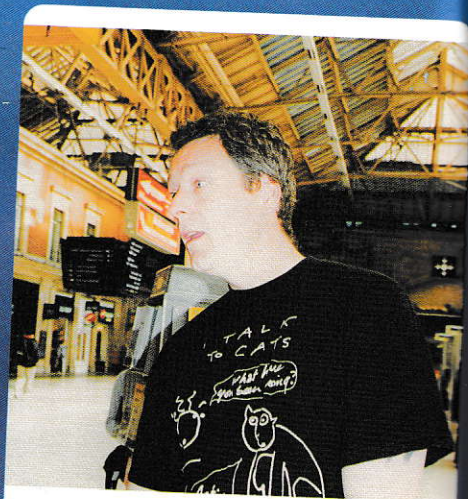
**JODIE BROOKS, 19, AND JO BENDALL, 46,
MELTON MOWBRAY, LEICESTERSHIRE**

*"They're so loving and affectionate.
No home should be without one"*



MARY BLACKBURN, 25, CANADA

*"Whenever I have a problem –
personal or work – my cat curls
round my legs and then gives
me a big cuddle"*



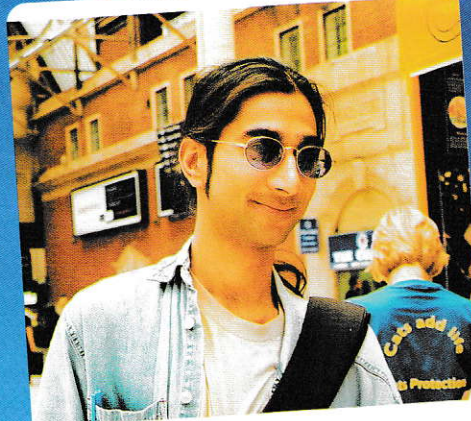
GRAHAM COOK, 38, BECKENHAM, KENT

"MY CAT MAKES ME SMILE"



TERESA BRINKLEY, 37, BATTERSEA, LONDON

*"She's a great friend. You can
sit and pour your heart out,
and she doesn't answer back"*



KET MAJMUDAR, 30, LONDON

*"SHE HAS AN INDIVIDUAL
PERSONALITY THAT IS OUT OF
THIS WORLD."*



TATIANA ANSARIAN, 30, GERMANY

*"She makes me feel relaxed and
loved at all times"*

Here is a selection of the winning captions from our Cats add life T-shirt competition featured in the May/June issue of *The Cat*. We asked readers how their cats added to their lives.

Sam Phillips and Rolly, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

"By visiting a nursing home weekly, my cat adds to my life and that of his 'ladies'."



Andrea Raymond and Pudding, Rednal, Birmingham

"Pudding listens to all my woes, it really is as if he knows. My love for him just grows."



Carla Broadbent and Daisy, Darwen, Lancashire

"Daisy adds love, trust, friendship, gratitude, peace, fun to my life and expects little in return. She's a precious friend."

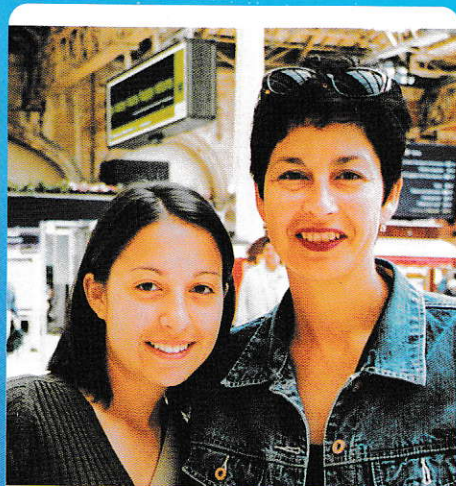


Denise Lockwood and Lucy, Minnie, Suzy and Maxwell, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

"When I'm feeling low and my mind is in a muddle, the purrfect solution is having a cat to cuddle."

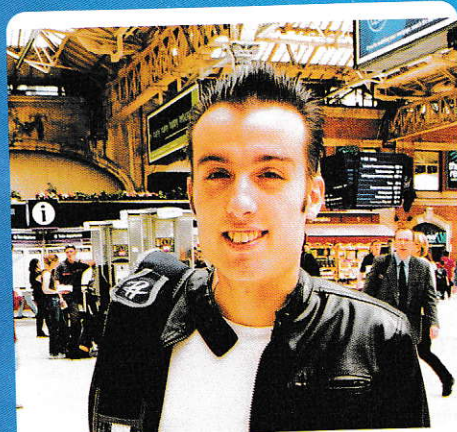
Pam Ward and Tigger, Eccles, Manchester

"When I watch you, hear you, feel you, all my worries disappear and I am at peace."



SABRINA SKILES, 44, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

"I like it when she wakes me up in the morning by licking my hair"



MIGUEL CORDOSO, 24, HERNE HILL, LONDON

"My cats do what they want, when they want - no fuss whatsoever!"



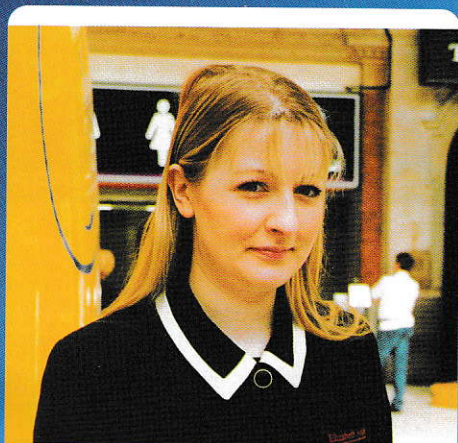
SOPHIE BROEDER, 36, HARROW, MIDDLESEX

"I love it when I get home from work and my cats give me their undivided attention"



EMILY SPIERS, 24, LONDON

"IT'S LIKE TAKING A, HAPPY PILL EVERY DAY"



NICKY REYNOLDS, 25, ORPINGTON, KENT

"My cat makes me happy"

Down your way to...

East Renfrewshire Branch

We travel to the outskirts of Glasgow to hear from co-ordinator, SANDY DINSMOOR, about a Branch that is working hard to establish itself in the area.

The East Renfrewshire Branch was formed just 18 months ago but in that short time we've managed to make a real impact in the locality. Our area is situated to the south of Glasgow but we quite often go as far as Greenock.

Our main pens are housed inside a converted stable block and recently the cat house was fitted with new double-glazed windows and door complete with catflap. Living conditions are now much more comfortable for the cats especially in the winter. Also our 11 resident feral cats now have the choice of whether to dine and sleep outside or inside the cat house in a segregated area. We find that around five regularly take the inside option.

Community spirit

We're now becoming established in the local community thanks to all the hard work of our committee and helpers. We have a number of fosterers who specialise in kittens or older cats but recruiting fosterers is an area on which we are constantly having to focus.

One of our recent success stories involved trapping Tulip – an abandoned, heavily pregnant, bushy-tailed tabby. One of her eyes was badly damaged and she was obviously very traumatised. Within 24 hours of coming into our care she had five beautiful, healthy kittens. Tulip is still in foster care and has turned out to be a very friendly and lovely cat whom I think we will be able to home with no bother despite the fact our vet could not save her eye.



Success story: Tulip was rescued by the Branch and despite losing an eye is now on the road to recovery



Novel fund-raiser: Bernie zipped across the River Clyde to raise £255

Scaling dizzy heights

One of our more novel ways of raising much-needed funds was demonstrated recently by our secretary, Bernie. On 30 June this year she climbed 200 feet to the top of the Finnieston Crane in Glasgow and by means of a mere ziplide crossed the River Clyde to the south side. It wasn't made any easier by the fact it was a windy morning but she wouldn't let that stop her. A total of £255 was raised by the event (and all because our cats love milk tray!).

If you would like to find out more about our Branch or if you would like to help us in any way, please phone 07050 247697. Alternatively you can contact us on the web. Click onto www.cats.org.uk/branch/renfrewshire

Fund-raising in the Branches

Here are the fund-raising activities which have been notified to us by Branches not reporting in this issue. Members will know, however, that all Branches hold fund-raising events throughout the year and are always in dire need of the following:

- Bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts, items to sell for their stalls and fetes
- Donations and offers of sponsorship for cats in care
- Offers of help in any sphere of CP work: fund-raising, home-visiting, fostering, providing transport to vets and events, giving advice to cat owners....

ALDRIDGE & BROWNHILLS (2)

8 Sept: Annual Autumn Bazaar. Goods for sale most welcome. Phone 01922 692005 after 6pm for collection.

BEDFORD, BIGGLESWADE & DISTRICT (3)

16 Sept: Birthday Fayre, Bromham Village Hall. Lots of quality stalls with a wide variety of goods and clothing. CP goods, lucky dip, refreshments and much more; entry 30p, children free. Phone 01234 838214.

BEVERLEY & POCKLINGTON (1)

15 Sept: Pet Cat Show, Memorial Hall – Beverley.

BEXLEY (4)

15 Sept: Fund-raising and Information Day, Broadway Shopping Centre, Bexleyheath.

BLANDFORD & STURMINSTER NEWTON (5)

18 Oct: Sale, Blandford Corn Exchange.

CALLINGTON & DISTRICT (5)

1 Sept and 13 Oct: Monthly CP Sale, Long Rooms, Liskeard; 9–1pm. Stalls, bric-a-brac, clothes, CP new goods including Christmas cards. Listen to the ladies playing piano accordians while you enjoy the refreshments. Free entry but tins of cat food and donations are gratefully accepted.

1 Sept: Stall, Aladdin's-Cave, Pannier Market, Tavistock; 9–4pm. Stalls, good-quality bric-a-brac, CP new goods. Come and support us. For details of cats needing homes see www.cats.org.uk/branch/callington For fund-raising events and cats reported to us as found www.ukvillages.co.uk Phone us on 01579 382794 (after 2pm) or e-mail: katy@katydawe.freeseve.co.uk Thanks to all our supporters.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT (4)

8 Sept: Autumn Fayre, The Shire Hall, Chelmsford; 10–12 noon.

CHELTENHAM (5)

1 Sept: Massive Jumble Sale (store clearance), St Michaels Hall, Bishops Cleeve; 2–4pm. Admission 30p.

8 Sept: Collection, Pets at Home, Gallagher Park, Cheltenham; 9–7pm. Display and information table. See local press and posters for other events during September and October.

CHILTERN (3)

13 Oct: Aylesbury Market Stall.

CRAWLEY, REIGATE & DISTRICT (4)

1 Sept: Crawley Down Village Fayre.

Sept/Oct: The Haven Centre, Crawley Down. See local press for details.

3 Nov: East Grinstead Cat Show, The Kings Centre, East Grinstead; see local press for details.

4 Nov: Annual Christmas Bazaar, Hawth Theatre Studio; 11.15–3pm. Admission free. Lovely gifts for cat lovers.

CROYDON (4)

9 Sept: Open Day, Purley Cattery, 110 Riddlesdown Road, Purley; 11–5pm.

6 Oct: Bazaar and Jumble Sale, Christchurch Hall, Brighton Road, Purley; 2–4pm.

DEREHAM & DISTRICT (4)

15 Sept: Shelter Open Day.

DONCASTER (1)

27 Aug: Fayre, New Hall, Bawtry; 1pm.

14/15 Sept: Stall, Frenchgate Centre.

ESKDALE & DISTRICT (6)

9 Sept: Fun Day – phone Ginnie on 013873 76738 for details.

EXETER (5)

2 Sept: Stall, RSPCA Open Day, Little Valley Shelter, Exeter; 10am.

22 Sept: Stalls, South Western Counties Cat Show, Riviera Centre, Torquay; 1pm.

29 Sept: Annual Flag Day, Exeter City Centre; 9am. Volunteers needed.

MILTON KEYNES & DISTRICT (3)

27 Aug: Stony Stratford Town Fayre. We also hope to be at the Winslow Show but it has yet to be confirmed.

8 Sept: Collection, Milton Keynes Shopping Centre.

15 Sept: All Breeds Cat Show, Bletchley Leisure Centre.

30 Sept: Collection, Jolleys Pet Store, Westcroft Centre.

14 Oct: Community Desk (by entrance to open market), Milton Keynes Shopping Centre.

OXFORD & DISTRICT (3)

8 Sept: Stall, Wallingford Market.

27 Oct: Stall, Oxford Cowley Centre.

PRESTON (2)

8 Sept: Jumble Sale, The Scout Hut, St Mary's, Cop Lane, Penwortham.

13 Oct: Jumble Sale, as above.

RAYLEIGH, CASTLE POINT & DISTRICT (4)

15 Sept: Bazumble, The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island; 10.30–1pm.

20 Oct: Bazumble, British Legion Hall, Castle Lane, Hadleigh; 10.30–12.30pm.

READING & DISTRICT (3)

1 Sept: Open Day, Beansheaf Community Centre, Charrington Road, Calcot; 2–5pm. A real family event including viewing of cats and kittens in care.

Lovely items arrive daily at our charity shop (address in register). *Tail End*, our Branch magazine, is available from PO Box 2792, Reading RG4 5XG for £5 per year.

READING (EAST), WOKINGHAM & BRACKNELL (3)

26/27 Aug: Stall, Swallowfield Show.

8 Sept: Collection, Asda, Lower Earley.

5 Oct: Stall, Pagoda, Woodley Precinct.

6 Oct: Stall, Cat Show, Bracknell Sports and Leisure Centre.

2/3 Nov: Stall, Mayor's Market, Wokingham.

SCUNTHORPE & DISTRICT (1)

15 Sept: Street Collection, Scunthorpe Town Centre; 9–3pm.

STEWARTRY & DISTRICT (6)

22 Sept: Coffee Morning, Dalbeattie Lesser Town Hall; 10–12 noon.

STOCKPORT (2)

25 Aug: Stall, Poynton Show, Poynton.

1 Sept: Stall, British Shorthair Cat Show, Town Hall, Stockport.

29 Sept: Fair, Dialstone Centre, Offerton.

27 Oct: Fair, Woodbank Community Centre, Offerton. If you can help at any of our events phone Sheila Linton on 0161 427 4775.

STROUD (5)

25 Aug: Dursley Street Fair.

13 Sept: Branch Birthday Party, St Laurence Church Hall, Stroud.

SUTTON & CHEAM (4)

8 Sept: Carshalton Charter Fair, The Square, Carshalton.

22 Sept: Bric-a-brac, Guide Hall, Wrights Row, Wallington Green; 10-12 noon.

13 Oct: Bric-a-brac, Cheam Methodist Church Hall, Church Hill Road; 10-12 noon.

SWANSEA & DISTRICT (2)

26/27 Aug: Stall, Margam Country Show.

8/9 Sept: Table and collection at Pets at Home, Parc Tawe, Swansea.

10 Sept: Collection, Tesco, Oystermouth Road, Swansea (times to be arranged).

13 Sept: Coffee Morning, Ystradgynlais Volunteer Bureau, 70 Commercial Street, Ystradgynlais; 10-1pm. Refreshments, bric-a-brac, cakes, raffle, etc.

14/15 Sept: Collection, Tesco, Fforestfach, Swansea (times to be arranged).

30 Sept: Sponsored Cat Walk, from the Marina to Mumbles.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE (3)

15 Sept: Autumn Bazaar, Witney Corn Exchange; 10-4pm.

WORCESTER & DISTRICT (2)

12 Sept: Coffee Morning, Guildhall, Worcester; 10-12 noon.

29 Sept: Autumn Fayre and Grand Draw, Madresfield Court Playroom, Madresfield, Near Malvern; 10-12.30pm.

CP register

An up-to-date register of cat sitters is maintained on a voluntary basis (but not vetted) by Mrs Thompson, a CP member. For a copy, or to have your name included as a cat sitter, write to:

Mrs S F D Thompson
Rignalls Cottage
Mapridge Green Lane
Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire HP16 9PH
Tel: 01494 862404

Please enclose two first class stamps.

The Talking Cat

A "TALKING" version of *The Cat* is available to CP members who are unable to read the printed word.

Two 90-minute cassettes, made by Pendle Voice and read by CP member, Katy Thursby, are passed to the listener and back to Pendle Voice by Freepost. To cover costs,

an annual charge of £2 is made for this service (please make cheques payable to Pendle Voice).

To join this scheme, please write to:
Katy Thursby, 9 East Bank, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancashire BB9 6HD

CP pen pal register

The register has now been taken over by Linda Dodson (Proposer). Anyone wishing to have their details included should send their name, full address and a brief paragraph (no more than 100 words please!) about themselves/their interests to:

Linda Dodson
29 Kenwood Close
Sipson, West Drayton
Middlesex UB7 0JY



Please enclose three, first class stamps and a cheque for £2 payable to Cats Protection Hillingdon Branch who will benefit from any profits made. Anyone wishing to check that

their correct details are on the register, please write to Linda enclosing an SAE for reply

Please note: Cats Protection will not enter into any correspondence regarding the register. Any enquiries received at HQ will be forwarded to the Proposer. When choice of pen pal has been made, correspondence should be directly between the parties involved. The Proposer's responsibility ends with the supply of the register. Neither the Proposer nor CP can accept any responsibility for any correspondence between the parties, nor can they be expected to arbitrate should any dispute arise.

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Branch news

Copy date for the next issue of *The Cat* is 16 Sept for Branches whose names begin with the letters O-Z inclusive. Please restrict your report to no more than 200 words. Please send Branch reports to: THE CAT, PO BOX 314, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5FE.



Round the Regions – Region 1

I welcome two new Branches to the Region. Huddersfield & Halifax launched in February this year has already made a huge impact in the area and the newly-formed Dewsbury, Wakefield & District Branch is busy getting ready for its official launch. Sadly, despite extensive promotion, we were unable to attract enough interest to set up a Branch in the Bradford area.

It was lovely to see so many volunteers attend the Region 1 conference in Wortley.

With the HQ neutering campaigns and those undertaken by many Branches, the reduction in available kittens (in some areas at least) shows our hard work is, at last, having an effect. However, in addition to the usual obstacles encountered, the foot-and-mouth crisis has caused worries. Fund-raising events have been cancelled and feral work has come to a halt. Many Branches also had to deal with flood problems but all these were met with fortitude and fervour. Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who give their time to help the cats and kittens.

Bridget

Bridget James-Lockett



Perfect pet:
Bridget's cat, Storm

FALMOUTH & DISTRICT (5)

We were formed in May 2001 and our thanks to Mishelle Entwistle, Regional Development Manager, and all at Headquarters for their help and support.

Our enthusiastic committee is planning many events. Already £200 has been raised from car boot sales thanks to Lisa, our fund-raising co-ordinator. Thank you to Truro & District Branch who kindly transferred its fund-raising slot at Asda to us in July.

Word of our Branch is getting around and we are already receiving requests for neutering vouchers.

Fosterers are desperately needed. If you live in the postcode areas of TR10 and TR11 and can help with fostering or in any other way please phone 01326 210870.

FUTURE EVENTS:

25 Aug: Penryn Town Fair; 11.45–5.45pm.

1 Sept: Garden Fete, Princess Pavilion, Falmouth; 12–5pm.

Shirley Trenoweth

FOREST OF DEAN (5)

We had an excellent time at our tenth anniversary party, brilliantly masterminded by Gill Younie and Liz Whyte. We greatly appreciated the presence of CP Chairman, Linda Reeves, who cut our magnificent cake. It was great to welcome representatives from Gwent South, Cheltenham and Stroud Branches.

We recommend the remote control trap from Godfrey Green, North Birmingham Branch. It can be activated when the selected cat has entered – no more trapping the wrong cat, or scaring off others. It can also be operated from a distance ie car or nearby shed or barn.

Homing has been depressingly hard and many cats are waiting to come into care. Pretty, grey and apricot Tibby was found emaciated with a wound on her tail infested with maggots. Thankfully we were able to respond immediately. Her tail has been amputated but she is on the mend and eating for England.

Sara Cox

FORT WILLIAM & DISTRICT (6)

We enjoyed the regional conference and the great tips and useful suggestions are already in action. We had no kittens and a long waiting list of people wanting them. However, by the day of the conference circumstances had changed and we had 28! The cat we took from Kilmarnock Branch had three kittens and these, along with the other six, have now been homed. At the time of writing we are down to a more reasonable five.

Our display board in our local library has proved very popular. A special four-colour edition of our newsletter *Tails from Fort William* has been well received.

Our plea for fosterers had a mixed success. We gained one emergency fosterer, one fosterer who can take anything and one who

we lost by asking him to foster such a nice cat – he adopted it!

Thank you to all our helpers – if you would like more jobs there are plenty!

Branch contacts:

John – 01397 701704, Erna – 01397 712511.

John Tompkins

FRAMLINGHAM & SAXMUNDHAM (4)

Many thanks to HQ for the Media Training Course. The information was enlightening and will be put to good use.

Fund-raising is now picking up with an amazing £809 raised at the Annual Yard Sale in June. Grateful thanks to all who helped in some way.

Despite the neutering campaign we are inundated with domestic and feral kittens. Colonies are on the increase with most having ten to 12 cats plus kittens. A ferocious ginger tom-cat that stowed away in a lorry from Wales, jumped out when the tarpaulin was lifted. He has spent many a happy hour with the resident females on the landfill site. The results of his visit are many ginger and tortie kittens!

We are desperate for volunteers. Please phone 01728 685288 if you can help with our workload.

FUTURE EVENTS:

1 Sept: Stall, Yoxford Oxfayre; all day.

22/23 Sept: Stall, Wantisham Steam Rally.

30 Sept: Sponsored Cat Walk – for application forms phone above number.

6/7 Oct: Stall, Otley College Autumn Fayre.
Gillian Clark

FRASERBURGH (6)

We are grateful to HQ for our grant, to the generous people who support us with donations and those who sponsor our cats.

Several sad cases have come our way. Sweep, the little black cat who had to have her eye removed after thugs beat her up, is doing fine. An airgun attack left a cat with a pellet embedded in its eye. A small, grey kitten was rescued from a creel having been trapped for a long time – a few hours later it would have been dead. We would be grateful for volunteers to share our workload.

Dusty, an elderly, white 13-14 year old puss, has been outside most of her life. She would like a retirement home where she can spend her last remaining years indoors. Please phone 01346 513546.

Barbara and I had an enjoyable day meeting people from other Branches and HQ at the regional conference in Perth.

FUTURE EVENT:

26 Aug: Pet Show, Dalrymple Hall; 2pm.
Please phone above number for details.
Margaret Strachan

FRIENDS OF BREDHURST SHELTER (4)

We have been busy with cats and kittens coming in for homing. One lady returned from holiday to find two cats of unknown origin had entered her house via the cat flap and given birth to nine kittens between them! They have all been homed.

Suki came into care following the death of her owner, one of our supporters. Suki was one big lady weighing 23lbs with a 27-inch waist! Thanks to a controlled diet she has shed a few pounds and is able to get around easier but she has a long way to go.

TV and stage star, Peter Polycarpou, will open our Open Day on 9 September and there will be afternoon entertainment for adults and children.

For further information or if you can help at any of our events please contact jaf5557@aol.com

FUTURE EVENTS:

9 Sept: Open Day, Bredhurst Shelter; gates open at 10.30am, official opening 11.30am.

13 Oct: Autumn Bazaar, Tunbury Hall, Walderslade.
Anna Collins

FRIENDS OF DERBY SHELTER (2)

We had to close for four weeks due to the foot-and-mouth crisis. Income from the Shelter shop suffered so we were relieved to be able to go ahead in May with our Strawberry Fayre, raising £601. The cats proved popular and many were reserved.

Please come and join in the fun at our Anniversary Gala on 9 September, 11-4pm. There will be a classic car display, cat behaviour and vet forum, games, grand prize draw, barbecue and refreshments. Lots of stalls, many other attractions and the cats!

Janet Hudson

FRIENDS OF ISLE OF WIGHT SHELTER (5)

Thanks to our first neutering campaign in March when we issued 150 vouchers, we have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of kittens needing homes.

Anyone wishing to remember a feline friend in our Garden of Remembrance can be included by donating a plant, ornament and eventually a commemorative plaque.

Our successful local newsletter *Island Mews*, is gradually gaining more subscribers. Join up now for fun, facts and features – only £5 for four issues.

If you can offer a home to a cat or would like to pay us a visit – please come along.

A big thank you to our high-spirited team who contribute so much.

FUTURE EVENT:

9 Sept: Open Day, 12-3pm.



Take ten: Supporters of Cardyke Farm Shelter complete their sponsored walk

FRIENDS OF CARDYKE FARM SHELTER (6)

A late night break-in at the Shelter resulted only in the loss of the collection box. Hopefully the fact that the thief was caught on camera will be a help to the police as well as acting a deterrent to others.

The foot-and-mouth crisis has severely affected our funds. We are pleased therefore that our successful Sponsored Cat Walk on 16 June, with just ten walkers, raised £740. Thank you to the tired participants, sponsors and HQ for the eye-catching T-shirts. We also gained a new committee member – welcome Evelyn.

The Shelter is undergoing refurbishment, one wing at a time, so cat accommodation is limited.

Victor, an invaluable Shelter helper, has volunteered to go on a sponsored diet – watch this space! Our e-mail address is: mac.biloo@lineone.net

FUTURE EVENT:

15 Sept: Open Day, 12-4pm. Offers of help, donations of goods to sell and everyone welcome.

Laura McEwan

FRIENDS OF NORTHERN IRELAND SHELTER (6)

September 2000 saw the first meeting of the committee of our newly-formed Branch. We held a successful Christmas sale and our summer open day was equally enjoyable with various activities keeping us all busy. We look forward to the future and plan to repeat both events and add others.

We aim to provide the cats at the Shelter with some home comforts and our first priority is a generator. Donations of cat toys would also be much appreciated by our resident felines.

Thanks to everyone for their support throughout our first year. New friends and ideas are always welcome. If you can help in any way please phone our secretary on 02890 410067 or e-mail chbrady@hotmail.com and leave a message.

We would love to hear from you.

Chantal Brady

FRIENDS OF NORTH LONDON SHELTER (3)

After nearly a year of being closed for refurbishment, at last we are almost open for business. We have state of the art pens and our two receptionists Jackie and Sheila, are getting used to the new front-of-house arrangements. We welcome Katherine Rogers, the new Shelter manager and two new cattery assistants.

We are arranging home visits and hopefully we will soon be able to provide the prospective new owners with the right cat or kitten.

Our grateful thanks to our friends of SNIP, Animal A&A, RSPCA and ARCH for holding the fort while we've been closed.

Ann Wright

FROME & DISTRICT (5)

We have achieved a considerable amount since our first meeting 15 months ago. 25 cats and kittens have been rehomed, thanks to our five fosterers and those people who have found room for a CP cat.

We are now able to accommodate ten cats with the addition of a new kitten pen thanks to a generous donation. This proved invaluable with a recent arrival of 17 kittens!

Various fund-raising events have swelled our funds with the Christmas and spring fayres being the most successful. We also benefited from the Fill a dish appeal.

Thanks to the hard work of Dave, co-ordinator, and his wife Sharon, homing and welfare officer, we now have 50 members. Membership includes our quarterly newsletter. To enrol click on our website at: www.fromecatsprotection.co.uk

Local helpers and members are needed – if you would like to lend your support phone 07074 775117.

Sonja Harris

GLASTONBURY & WELLS (5)

Our year has been dominated by the foot-and-mouth crisis. It has been particularly hard for our welfare officer who is also a farmer. Her pens, as well as her large, warm kitchen have been out of bounds. It is a complete wonder how Pauline, Gill and Janet have managed to home so many cats during this period although it has been virtually impossible to home farm cats.

Following our successful spring fair at Wells Town Hall, we organised a concert and barn dance by the Yetties in conjunction with The Friends of Svetlogorsk. Although not well supported by Branch members we raised a staggering £1,140 for the two organisations. We have booked the same event for 8 June 2002 – make a note in your diaries!

FRIENDS OF MABEL JENKINS SHELTER (2)

The new facility, funded by the Friends, for the Shelter's challenge cats will be officially opened at our Autumn Fayre. Set within the Shelter grounds it provides a safe environment with all mod cons for the cats. Please support us by buying raffle tickets in aid of the new facility – first prize up for grabs is £150 worth of B&Q vouchers.

We had a successful ten-mile sponsored walk in June, organised by Helen Parker, (deputy Shelter manager). Bric-a-brac and saleable goods for our car boot sales and events are always needed. For the first time we are having a stall at the Supreme Cat Show, NEC in November.

If you live within the Shelter's catchment area, please consider homing one of our lovely cats. If you visit the Shelter you might become a volunteer – like me!

FUTURE EVENT:

9 Sept: Autumn Fayre and Shelter Open Day; 12–4pm. Phone 01564 822020.

Ann Stairmand



All mod cons: Bunty, one of the cats that will benefit from the new facility at the Mabel Jenkins Shelter.

Please also support our Christmas Fair at Wells Town Hall on 17 November.

Tim Woolmington

GREAT AMWELL & DISTRICT (3)

Our two fund-raising sales so far this year were deluged with rain. We are keeping our fingers crossed for the carnival in September.

We have been inundated with calls from people wanting kittens but we haven't had any so far. It could have been the cold spring, or our spaying programme that has affected production!

We hope that our recent newsletter sent to local members generates donations and orders for CP goods.

Our policy on helping cats has been restructured with genuine strays taking priority. Cats that people want to get rid of for a variety of reasons ie moving, divorced, asthma, etc are placed on a waiting list.

FUTURE EVENT:

8 Sept: Sale, Hoddesdon and Broxbourne Carnival Fete, Deaconsfield, High Street, Broxbourne; 1.30–5.30pm.

Marion Phelps

GREENWICH NORTH (3)

Things are looking up after our recent difficulties. New IT co-ordinator, Kerstin Beard, has set up our website www.catsgn.org.uk We have also added two new fosterers, Helena Horne and Lee Kendall, to our devoted team. I have taken over as co-ordinator and am full of enthusiasm! We are still desperate for a fund-raiser and recruitment officer – if you can help please phone me on 020 8319 3883. Thank you to all my team.

Vandals scaled the six-foot fence surrounding the garden of Heather, our welfare officer, and opened the cat pens. Rocco, one of our older cats, escaped but was found safely three days later. It was a trauma we could all have done without. Please

contact us if you could give Rocco or one of our many cats a home.

I hope to meet many of our Branch members at our future events. We intend holding our Christmas bazaar on 24 November – venue to be finalised. Please phone for further details.

Linda Sullivan

GRIMSBY & DISTRICT (1)

There have been a few changes to our committee. Sadly, Joyce has resigned from the Helpline and we now have three separate numbers. We welcome Fiona who answers the general queries (strays to go on the waiting list, etc), Janet who deals with homing and Brenda who handles the neutering vouchers.

Our website should be functioning by the end of the summer. We've had a few fund-raising events – please see the *Grimsbey Telegraph* 'Out and About' column for details of future events. A big thank you to all our volunteers including fosterers and those who have manned a stall – we couldn't do without you all!

GLASGOW (6)

We did our sponsored cycle ride around the Island of Millport dressed as cats. Despite strange looks en route, we had a great day, made it back in one piece and raised some money in the process.

You may remember Mr and Mrs Hobbs, our two FIV cats we had in

care. Unfortunately Peggy (Mrs Hobbs) passed away earlier this year but we have found a new friend for Mr Hobbs. Fourteen-year-old Ralph also has FIV and is getting on well with Mr Hobbs who has been given a new lease of life. Due to FIV they have to be kept indoors with no contact with other cats. We would like to build these two old boys a summerhouse so they can at least bask in the sun. If you would like to help with donations, please write to: Summerhouse Appeal, Glasgow Cats Protection, PO Box 16263, Glasgow G15 6WL.

If you can help in any way, please phone Fiona on 01652 651022.

Emma Thomas

GUILDFORD & GODALMING (4)

Since their completion, my new pens have been full every day. The fibreglass inserts are extremely easy to keep clean. One of my first cats to home, eight-year-old, Ebony, has gone to a super new owner who will give her lots of love and care.

With fund-raising at its busiest we are desperate for more volunteers – if you live in the area, please contact us.

It was great to have the input of Lesley Brinn, our Regional Development Manager, at our June committee meeting. It's good to put a face to a name.

We have plenty of kittens that have come into our care from various circumstances.

FUTURE EVENTS:

27 Aug: Stall, Fete, Grayswood; 2pm.

8 Sept: Coffee Morning, 71 Minster Road, Godalming; 10am.

27 Oct – 2 Nov: Collection, The Friary, Guildford.

Melanie Mackay

GWENT SOUTH (2)

The last six months have been chaotic. We have lots more volunteers (including home visitors and fund-raisers) thanks to our successful recruitment drive in February. Our pens have increased from five to 12 and we have five new officers for homing, fund-raising, trapping and neutering! Eight of us share the telephone work although it is depressing turning away those we can't help.

Advertising in local shops on the blue cards supplied by HQ has attracted new homes and increased local awareness.

The kitten season seems quieter, hopefully as a result of the huge neutering campaign undertaken by the previous co-ordinator and deputy last year. All we can say is thank you.

Helene Morgan



Pedal power: The Branch celebrates its success

HALESOWEN (2)

We are in the middle of the kitten season and Jayne, one of our fosterers, says she has never seen such a year for having to hand rear kittens. It's hard and exhausting work to ensure their survival.

We are ending CP Week with a collection at Sainsbury's, Merry Hill – please come and support us – we have been lucky to get such a venue. We will also be at Sainsbury's in Blackheath on 30 November and 1 December. In October we will again have a display at Halesowen Library.

FUTURE EVENTS:

15 Sept: Combined Collection with Stourbridge Branch, Sainsbury's, Merry Hill; 9.30am.

20 Oct: Collection, Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen. Gifts and Christmas items from the CP catalogue on sale.

Pam Hurlston

HARROGATE & DISTRICT (1)

Following a difficult year we are now enjoying steady progress. Our refurbished shelter is complete and our helpers no longer have to dress like Michelin men when they do their shifts! The cats appreciate the new fluffy bedding.

Pregnant Daisy May remained so slim we quite expected her to have just one kitten. Surprisingly, she produced four!

Knaresborough Pet Day was successful. It was hot work producing the refreshments and we never want to see a hot dog again! There were over 140 entries in the photo competition with the 'pinch more than an inch' category being popular.

Local volunteers are desperately needed. Our wonderful cats would love to meet you – so would we. We're so nice you'll wonder why you never volunteered before! Please phone 01423 886892.

FUTURE EVENT:

6 Oct: Autumn Fair, Wetherby Town Hall; 10–3pm.

Patty Skelton

HASTINGS & DISTRICT (4)

We agree with Dover & District's report (July/August issue) regarding black cats. They have far exceeded any other colour coming into our care.

Nine months ago, feral cat, Cilla Black, came to us. She was spayed, vaccinated, microchipped and made comfortable. Despite extensive advertising a suitable home remained elusive. Following a bright idea from Roma at our shelter, an advert was placed in the 'horses' section of a local publication! Cilla is now resident vermin controller at new stables. She will be able to roam as she pleases knowing there will always be food and shelter for her.

If you are unable to have a cat but would like to sponsor one of our cat pens, please phone me on 01424 446393.

Norma James

HATHERLEIGH, OKEHAMPTON & DISTRICT (5)

Being in the centre of the original outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Devon, cat work came to a halt overnight. Five months later farm cat neutering is slowly picking up but there are pregnant and nursing queens as well as more kittens.

Homes offered for mousers dried up and we had to refuse requests to take cats from farmers worried that free-roaming felines would bring the virus on to their land. For many dairy cats their supply of milk has gone, leaving them without a source of nourishment. We are deeply concerned about the plight of these yard and barn cats.

Fosterers and volunteers involved with farms were forced out of action leaving a heavy workload to a few dedicated people. Plans and events have had to be cancelled or postponed including the possibility of starting a new Branch in the area.

We thank everyone for their patience during this distressing time.

Elaine Hill

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD & BERKHAMSTED (3)

We held a successful open afternoon at the Branch cattery situated at the home of Chris and Joan. Our grateful thanks to the two visitors who volunteered to buy a new storage shed for the cattery.

Chris Evans, homing officer, receives all the cat welfare/homing enquiries on her answerphone. After her day job, she is often faced with returning up to 30 calls – the majority from people with problems. Chris's main complaint is that she should be able to do more. We urgently need more foster homes – if you can help in this way please phone 01442 234288.

We are looking for a dynamic group of volunteers to provide enthusiasm for our Branch Shelter project. If you fit the bill please phone 01442 263047.

FUTURE EVENTS:

8 Sept: Fun Day, 42 St Albans Hill, Hemel Hempstead – 01442 262895.

22 Sept: Street Collection, Hemel Hempstead – 01442 249503.

20 Oct: Autumn Fair, Potten End Village Hall – 01442 240025.

Margaret Browning

HEREFORD (2)

We have kept a low profile for 18 months but have nevertheless homed and neutered legions of feral and domestic cats in the Marches and the Welsh borders. Following a recruitment campaign in February and March we have reorganised and are once again firing on all cylinders.

The programme for a Branch Shelter near Ledbury fell at the final hurdle, but we are well advanced with a new site just four miles south of Hereford. If it all comes off we shall

be indebted to our new MP, who made time to visit the site and support our bid.

Foot-and-mouth disease has cast a shadow over our feral neutering/homing and fund-raising. We kick off the autumn with 'Annie's Open Day' on 9 September at the cattery of our foster mother-in-chief in Hereford!

We have recently dealt with two cat collections – each over 20 strong – in Hereford town and the Golden Valley. The foster mothers concerned deserve medals!

Tony Chater

HIGH PEAK & GLOSSOP (2)

We are struggling to survive with our major difficulty being lack of fosterers and fund-raisers. Those of us that are involved have to cope with administration as well as day-to-day matters. Too much work falls on the shoulders of just a few and we cannot help many of the cats that really need us – but we do what we can.

Fortunately, finances are in good shape and we are grateful to those who make generous donations to our funds. We would also like to thank the anonymous donor of the beautiful patchwork quilt recently received.

John Partt

HIGH WYCOMBE & SOUTH BUCKS (3)

Thanks to my neighbours, Dr and Mrs Glynn, we are once again able to hold our shelter open day. We will have all our usual sidestalls and 'Kitty's Café' with Sophie's wonderful home-made cakes and refreshments. We hope to have a digital video on show of all our cats in care.

We will also be running our 'Images of the Cat' competition with three categories: kitten(s), cat(s), amusing. Enter as many as you like – 50p per entry to: Images of the Cat, Treylstan, Wycombe Road, Stokenchurch HP14 3RP. Please enclose SAE for return of photos. All entries will be on display at the open day. For more details please phone 01494 814396.

FUTURE EVENT:

9 Sept: Open Day, Hammersley Lane, Loudwater; 1–5pm. This is our most important fund-raiser – please support us.

Patricia Shakespeare

HILLINGDON (3)

At the time of writing we have lots of kittens of all colours and plenty of cats which, despite our viewing day in June, are still with us. Persian Jasper, Fleur, Tilly and Honey are quite healthy for their ages and Crystal, Treacle, Marley and Tara need medication or regular vet checks. We would be prepared to assist financially for the right homes.

Although the HQ neutering campaign was a success there are still many people with unneutered cats resulting in multi-cat households. They then look to us or the RSPCA to sort their problems.

We have recruited two new fosterers – luckily one has a cat run adjoining the house.

General fund-raising has been sporadic due to lack of venues and time available. We would be grateful for any fund-raising ideas and helpers.

FUTURE EVENT:

1 Sept: Open Day, 52 Hayman Crescent, Hayes.

Janet Campbell

HORNCASTLE & DISTRICT (1)

As a rural Branch we are still feeling the effect of the foot-and-mouth epidemic which, thankfully, has not reached Lincolnshire. Our thoughts go out to those who have suffered (and still are) during these difficult times. We have been unable to visit farms so our work with ferals has been curtailed. Our fund-raising has been severely affected due to agricultural shows being cancelled. We hope and pray that we shall soon see an end to this horrendous time for the rural community.

We are busy rehoming – there is always a queue of cats and kittens needing our help. A garden extension is being organised for our 'oldies pen' so our elderly residents can feel the soft grass under their paws. Vet bills for our 'oldies' are always high and we thank all those who sponsor them.

Jacquie Smedley

HORSHAM & DISTRICT (4)

We raised £912 at our successful Easter Catstravaganza in Horsham's Town Hall. We also did a roaring trade in the sales of both goods and goodwill at the Horsham Festival. Thanks to our supporters who bring and/or buy. Keep the goodies rolling in – we really appreciate your help.

A special thank you to fosterer, Jill, who cares so well for our cats – 86 to date – while they wait for new homes.

Bertie, an extremely elderly cat, was found sitting in the middle of the road. He's rusty black with about two-thirds of a tail. He is spending his twilight days with Jill and would appreciate sponsorship.

With the help of our annual grant we have ordered a new double pen – soon to be filled as we have five kittens due in shortly. Bertie helps supervise the youngsters.

FUTURE EVENT:

9 Sept: Stall, Barnjet Open Day; bric-a-brac, refreshments. See you there!

Elaine Caiger

HUDDERSFIELD & HALIFAX (1)

Although a relatively new Branch we are gradually becoming known in our area. We have been lucky enough to receive a £500 grant towards our neutering campaign, which is still going strong. Homing is going well with over 32 cats rehomed.

We are probably one of the few Branches that has a waiting list of potential fosterers! Our problem is lack of funds. Many of the larger fund-raising events have been cancelled due to foot-and-mouth and finding helpers for the smaller events is a struggle.

INVERURIE (6)

We have a number of older cats in care and we are appealing for a loving home for Puss (aka Nermel), a huge, grey and white neutered male. Puss is seven years and incredibly friendly. Phone Tracy on 01651 806485.

Our thanks to those who sponsor our long-term cats. Being a financially challenged Branch, these regular payments are a great help. Please contact Alison Duncan, Inverurie Branch, c/o HQ address if you would like to join the scheme.

Our annual duck race on the River Don takes place on 16 September when 1,000 rubber ducks will take to the water. Prizes of £100, £50 and £20 for the first three ducks to finish. Tickets are £1 each and obtainable from Wilma Leghorn (address as above) on receipt of an SAE and remittance.

For those of you on line visit our website at www.cats-inverurie.co.uk

Marian Carter



Home needed: Puss (aka Nermel)

We need to build up a list of people we can call upon to help on a stall from time to time. We also need more home visitors, especially in HD8 postcode areas. Please phone us on 01484 400098, we would really love to hear from you.

FUTURE EVENTS:

8 Sept: Stall, Mythomroyd Gala.

9 Sept: Stall, RSPCA fun day, Piece Hall, Halifax.

13 Oct: Craft Stall, Jazz Festival, Marsden. Phone 01484 300098 for further details.

Nicola Walker

HULL & DISTRICT (1)

We have had another busy six months but so far have not had so many kittens as usual. Let's hope this is due to the free vouchers and radio campaign and not a late season!

Our three new pens have enabled us to increase the number of cats and kittens we can help.

Cherry is deaf, difficult and temperamental. She responds well to a loving, home environment but doesn't like other cats. If you can offer a home please phone 01482 790284 for further details.

Thank you to all members who ordered our kipper cat pins – we are still taking orders on the above number.

Jill Overment

IPSWICH (4)

On 8 May the Mayor for Ipswich, Councillor Don Edwards, a keen supporter of our Branch, visited our charity shop at Stoke Park Centre to see the recent refurbishment. After a tour of the premises, Councillor Edwards praised the work of our 23 shop volunteers in raising money for the Branch.

The HQ neutering campaign was a great success with 206 cats neutered. £500 from Branch funds was added to fulfil the demand.

We currently have 54 adult cats and 31 kittens awaiting homes and our feral work goes on. Thank you to all those who have sent us donations to help cover our costs. Also

many thanks to our supporters who have braved all weathers at fund-raising events, and also the volunteers for making our events so successful.

FUTURE EVENTS:

2 Sept: Summer Fete, Ransomes S&SC, Sidegate Avenue, Ipswich.

15/16 Sept: Stand, Henham Steam Rally. *Sheila Smith*

ISLE OF SHEPPEY (4)

Bredhurst Shelter kindly took in Bill and Ben, two orphaned kittens that were proving difficult to feed. Encouraged by a little pilchard juice (or similar) smeared on the kittens, nursing mum, Tabitha, began grooming them. Thanks to Bredhurst and Tabitha, Bill and Ben have now been adopted.

Homing is going well although an influx of kittens brings the numbers back up. We still have some older cats that are proving difficult to home.

Despite being bitterly cold we raised £107 at our open day on 17 June and secured homes for seven kittens. Gill Robertson, fundraiser, and Val Hadnutt, co-ordinator, raised over £200 at the Flowers in a Country Church weekend. It is a truly splendid annual fund-raising event with masses to do and see.

FUTURE EVENTS:

9 Sept: Stall, Bredhurst Shelter Open Day.

22 Sept: Stall, Charity Fair, Trinity Church Hall; am.

Karen Anderson

KILMARNOCK & EAST AYRSHIRE (6)

Thanks to all the Branches who came to our rescue and took kittens for rehoming when we were overflowing with them. Their help enabled us to take in the many more needing to come into care.

We have many adult cats desperate for homes, especially young 'mums' many that are no more than kittens themselves.

Following a Branch reshuffle, we wish Joanne Hart, fund-raising officer, and Alison Fulton, treasurer, success in their new roles.

We will soon have a shop in Kilmarnock raising awareness of Cats Protection and helping to boost funds. Volunteers (especially in the Cumnock & Doon Valley area) with a few hours to spare and transport are needed.

To help with any of the above, please contact us at: PO Box 7391, Kilmarnock KA1 3DS or phone 07050 183865, fax 01563 523993 or visit www.killiecats.org.uk

Jenny Rogerson

LAUNCESTON & DISTRICT (5)

After many years as secretary, Meg West has stepped down. Thank you Meg for all your hard work. A warm welcome to new helpers, Gill and Stephanie, who are already making a great input.

Our foster homes and pens are constantly full of kittens and cats. Our thanks to Mary, co-ordinator, for coping with CP work on her farm, which is situated in the midst of a foot-and-mouth area.

Many fund-raising events have been cancelled due to the countryside crisis but we have managed to book a few new ones. We raised £269 in just two hours at our bazaar in Bude – thanks to our helpers. Look out for notices of future events.

Phone me on 07977 133101 if you can spare the odd hour to help with cat welfare and/or fund-raising. We would love to hear from you.

Carol Bennett

LEICESTER & DISTRICT (3)

Thank you to all those who continue to support us financially and with practical help – it is much appreciated.

Due to everyone's generosity, in particular a large, anonymous donation, we have been able to continue with our free neutering campaign. Hopefully, together with the HQ vouchers, it will make a difference in our area.

Our Billesdon coffee morning in April raised a magnificent £658. Other events are planned for the rest of the year. If you have any good bric-a-brac, please phone Louise Smith on 0116 241 6200.

FUTURE EVENT:

15 Sept: Fun Auction, Blaby & District Social Centre, Leicester Road, Blaby; viewing from 10am, auction 11am.

Christine Boulter

LEWES, SEAFORD & DISTRICT (4)

We are very busy but there are not enough homes – our usual summer problem. Beautiful cats continue to come and go and kittens seem to be around almost all the year.

It is a major task in time and money renewing and restoring our shelters. However, we find it rewarding and the work environment has improved.

We are delighted that one of our ex-residents is featured in the leaflet *Feeding felines*. Mr Percy (was known as Mr Puss Pusskins) is a beautiful all-white gentleman of about 14 years. He was much loved until the owner found that she could dispense with

Inseparable pals: Mr Smudge and Naughty Nellie, his constant companion



KEIGHLEY (1)

We are pleased to welcome Joanne Turton, new co-ordinator, and thank Marilyn Birtwhistle for her past hard work and dedication.

We are extremely busy and inundated with cats and kittens despite a successful free neutering campaign. Our largest project involved rescuing 11 cats and kittens with the birth of four more while in care. All had 'flu, ringworm, eye problems and were generally in a bad state. They are all doing well.

Twelve-year-old Mr Smudge is blind in one eye, has a cataract in the other and is diabetic. When he goes to the vet for blood tests, etc he follows his foster mum into the surgery, jumps up on the table and holds his paw out to be shaved – a real character! Mr Smudge is one of our long-term unhomeable cats needing a sponsor. Please phone 01535 214987 or 01535 644567 if you can help with his ongoing treatment.

Jenny Rogerson

tranquillisers if she went to Mexico to live. That's a new one!

More fund-raising events are planned and a sponsored abseil! If you would like to collect for our Flag Day please phone Jane on 01435 863880.

FUTURE EVENT:

13 Oct: Flag Day, Seaford.

Sheila Tiller

LINCOLN (1)

We had many pregnant cats at the beginning of the year. Hopefully we will see a decrease in the number of kittens after all the effort we have put into neutering.

The past year has been our best yet – building on the sound foundations of our first ten-year's work. Despite major alterations, we have increased the help given to cats and the positive response from the public has grown. The impression I get from callers on our 'catline' is that they are beginning to realise the enormity of the problem and that we are doing our best to help.

Our two websites complement the excellent relationship we have built with the local press and radio station. We hope to now concentrate our efforts on our shop.

Brian Lewis

LOUTH & MABLETHORPE (1)

The HQ neutering campaign was a success with all our vouchers issued by the end of February when we financed a further 25 spays. Several older female cats were neutered. The owners said they had never heard of our scheme before.

At the time of writing, we have had many pregnant mums in care and about 20 kittens. We hope this is to be our kitten season.

Sadly we have seen a rise in FIV amongst village cats in our area. One family has lost five to the disease.

Although we are in an area free from foot-and-mouth disease, the neutering of farm cats has been put on hold. However, we have trapped, tested and neutered a feral colony of 18. The healthy cats were returned to site. Our thanks to a local vet and to Sharon for trapping the cats.

Thank you also to Margaret Codling for nominating us in the Fill a dish appeal.

FUTURE EVENT:

8 Sept: Cats Protection Week Coffee Morning, Conoco Room, above Louth Library; 10–12 noon.

Jackie Brocklebank

LUDLOW & DISTRICT (2)

We have had a busy year with the shop being a hive of industry. The plants and produce in the spring were a particular success. During the Ludlow Festival we won first prize in the best-dressed window competition. Our sombre and bloody-handed Lady Macbeth gained us quite a lot of publicity!

Earlier this year we had a success with a little cat that had been shot by a mindless individual. The cat was given an almost hopeless prognosis. Bett decided to light a candle for her in St Laurence's and curiously in a few short days, the cat made a remarkable recovery.

N Moores

MACCLESFIELD (2)

New fosterer, Pauline, has one of the pens kindly passed to us by the High Peak & Glossop Branch. Rehoming is steady although we have a long waiting list and are frequently asked to take in older cats from multi-cat households.

Thanks to neutering schemes, we haven't had many kittens so far. Those we have are quickly homed although people are reluctant to consider adult cats in the absence of kittens.

Fund-raising is going well with a street collection in Leek planned, stalls at garden centres and charity events throughout the summer. One Saturday our regular market stall broke the £150 barrier! The best selling items are Janet's beautiful pet beds crafted in fleecy paw-print fabric.

We hope to have Brownie packs joining us for our Sponsored Cat Walk in September down the Middlewood Way (canal). Small prizes will be awarded to entrants.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Every Saturday: Outdoor market stall, Churchill Way, Macclesfield; 9-4pm.

November: Charities Bazaar, Senior Citizens Hall, Macclesfield; date to be confirmed.
Sarah Craythorne

MAIDENHEAD, SLOUGH & DISTRICT (3)

We have had another busy year with lots of cats on our waiting list but not enough fosterers to care for them. If you would like to foster, please phone Ginny on 01628 629479.

We extend a warm welcome to new fund-raising co-ordinator, June Dobbs.

To celebrate CP Week we are holding an open day on 8 September. We hope to attract more volunteers from the Slough area and hopefully some potential new homes. Homing has proved a difficult task this year.

FUTURE EVENTS:

1 Sept: Flag Day, Slough; 10-4pm.

8 Sept: Open Day, St Ethelberts Church Hall, Slough town centre. CP and cat goods on sale, refreshments, presentation on the work of CP; entry free.

6 Oct: Flag Day, Maidenhead; 10-4pm. Auction to mark our 25th Anniversary is to be confirmed. For details see local press or phone June on 01628 773215.

Tania Lewis

MAIDSTONE (4)

Since Eraina Sharman took over as co-ordinator three years ago, we have taken in 348 cats and seen our shop (address in register) go from strength to strength. Improvements include a new carpet on the ground floor and a dedicated book area at the back of the shop.

Kittens are easy to home but finding adult cats a home of their own is slow going. We have seven pens with another on the way. We have 15 sponsors for our harder-to-home cats and we hope to gain more through our



Let's celebrate: Lanarkshire Branch receiving a cheque from HQ for their winning newsletter

See www.lanarkshirecats.co.uk The website has reaped benefits already with two cats finding new homes last month. We plan to sell cat toys via the site to raise funds.

We had a stall at rain-soaked Strathaven Gala day in June and a bingo night in Motherwell. Another prize bingo night is planned for November. We need volunteers to help organise stalls and events throughout the whole of Lanarkshire. Also, we need home visitors, fosterers, plus additional help with our feral work now that the foot-and-mouth epidemic has subsided. Please phone us on 07020 901744 or e-mail: cats@lanarkshirecats.co.uk

Caroline Creasey

website, which is in the process of being set up. Sponsors are invaluable to cats like blind Rodney.

We welcome our new volunteers and thank all our helpers for their continuous efforts.

Carmen Beyxer

MILTON KEYNES & DISTRICT (3)

We need people with new fund-raising ideas and to help at events. If you are enthusiastic, creative, dynamic and want to help cats and kittens we would love to hear from you.

Sharon, one of our cat workers, received a call about a six to eight-week-old kitten found wandering around a local sorting office. The caller was concerned for the kitten's safety. He offered to deliver the kitten to Sharon who was astounded to see an enormous Parcelforce lorry pull up outside! The kitten, Meredith, is more like eight months and has been treated for an ear infection and spayed. The infection is clearing slightly to reveal a large polyp completely blocking the ear canal. She needs an operation to clear an airway around the polyp. If this is not possible then the ear canal will be removed completely.

If you would like to help cats like Meredith, please phone 01908 318287.

Carol Langham

NEREA DE CLIFFORD SHELTER (4)

We are busy as usual with 91 cats and kittens looking for homes and 34 waiting to come in. We hope to have an open day in September.

A lovely lady contacted us wanting cats for her stables. She took three 'challenge' cats and is winning their trust.

We felt sorry for an elderly man who, due to ill health, had to go into sheltered accommodation. However, we found a caring home for his three old cats but he misses them desperately. One of them used to hitch a lift on his wheelchair.

It's kitten time again and still some people are refusing to have their cats neutered.

Val Uden

LANARKSHIRE (6)

The HQ neutering campaign was very successful with 120 vouchers issued. Many thanks to Maria for co-ordinating the vouchers and for all other volunteers and supporters who helped.

Currently we have three adult cats ready for rehoming. We hope that putting their information onto our website improves their chances of being homed.

NEWBURY & DISTRICT (3)

Due to a distressing outbreak of cat 'flu, several kittens died and our May open day was postponed till June. Many thanks to volunteers and supporters who helped us – we raised almost £2,000 despite the rain.

Our shelter is full and homing is slow due to holidays. We've had an influx of older cats. Tigger, 22, came in because of her owner's illness and has now been rehomed and Tabby, 19 and Daisy, 12, victims of a marital break-up, have been offered a home together. 14-year-old Tabitha, three-legged Gemma and Hank, the cuddly feral, are still waiting to be chosen plus many others.

Long-term inmate Candy, overweight and unpredictable, was allowed out for a stroll on a trial basis and quickly caught a mouse! She has since appointed herself office supervisor, attends committee meetings, and has an improved temperament.

Fund-raiser, Helen, has organised a Grand Draw (2 October) and a 50-50 club. Phone her on 01488 608247 for tickets and information.

FUTURE EVENTS:

8 Sept: Open Day, Branch Shelter; 1-4pm.

29 Sept: Jumble Sale, Thatcham Catholic Hall; 11.30am.

Daphne Packer

NEWTOWN & DISTRICT (2)

Thanks to all those who sponsor our long-term cats. Our Branch membership is small and fund-raising is a struggle (especially through the foot-and-mouth crisis), so sponsorship helps enormously.

Being a rural area with many farms, we have big problems with semi-feral cats. Because farmers in this area tend not to neuter their cats there is always an abundant supply. Sometimes, as a last resort, we have to take them into care but we are often left with them as it is hard to find suitable outdoor homes. One such cat is Babs, fostered by Carol. Babs roams freely, going into her chalet at night.

Sadly, Stargazer, mentioned in our last report, had to be put to sleep. He started having fits and the vet could do no more. We miss him but he had a happy life with us.

Dare we say there seems to be less kittens this year?

Lesley Taylor

NORTHAMPTON (3)

The HQ neutering campaign went well. Thanks to the hard work of our fund-raisers and some generous donations we neutered a further 180 cats.

We still have many kittens and cats deserving of loving homes.

New members are welcome to enrol at any of our events (£5 annual subscription). Please contact us if you can spare some time to help us at our fund-raising events.

We wish Sue, one of our dedicated fosterers, a full recovery from her illness.

FUTURE EVENTS:

25 Aug: Collection Day, Grosvenor Centre.

8 Sept: Charity Sale, St James Community Centre.

Barbara Knight

NORTH AYRSHIRE (6)

The 20 plus kittens we have in our care will be homed quite quickly, but their mothers will probably be with us for far too long.

Cases of neglect here are also on the increase. It seems that once veterinary treatment is needed the cat is thrown out. One cat brought into care had FIV, cat 'flu and had lost the sight of one eye. We could not save him. Another was left out in his owners' garden with cancerous ears, a growth on his spine and no power in his back legs. As long as they did not need to part with any money we could take him. The vet advised it was kinder to put him to sleep. Hopefully things will improve soon.

More volunteers are needed to help us fund-raise. Two more fosterers have increased our pen space by 50 per cent and work has started on the feral colony of 60 plus cats.

FUTURE EVENTS:

9 Sept: Sponsored Cycle, around Millport.

15 Sept: 15th Cats Protection Fayre, Saltcoats Town Hall: 10-3pm.

Bingo night in October (date to be confirmed). For further details please phone 07050 100072.

Eleanor Reid

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE (3)

We have been established for one year and going from strength to strength. Over 150 cats have been helped and many owners as well. A big thank you to everyone who has made this possible.

We are always looking for helpers – please phone us on 01438 228877 if you have some time to spare.

Ben, an eight to ten-year-old extremely affectionate black cat, came to us with a thyroid condition. He is now stable, but because of the impact of his ordeal on his general health, our vet does not believe he would survive an operation just now. He needs someone to love him, give him his medication three times a day and provide him with the care to return him to full health. He would make a lovely companion and would also fit well into a family environment. If you can offer a loving home to Ben, please phone 01438 228877.

Bianca Kubler

NORTH SHEFFIELD (1)

Sadly, Oliver died in June. He came into our care to live out his few remaining months. With TLC and the life of Reilly, he lived a further six years! He was a huge old tom with a twisted spine from an untreated injury, messy ears but an endearing personality.

Kittens under hedges, in factories, feral colonies, etc are the main agenda, including one little darling with a broken foot from a dubious home. Our small but valiant workforce struggles on trying to balance the books despite enormous vet bills.

Special thanks to Joan and Val of Feline Antiques fame. They sort and sell bric-a-brac and it is our best money-spinner. It is incredible that we raise £20,000 a year when a good amount from a single event is £200. It means a lot of hard work and almost no free weekends for our wonderful team of fund-raisers!

Irene Dalton

NORTH WALSHAM & DISTRICT (4)

It is a year since our inception and the committee and loyal band of supporters have been working hard to make the Branch a great success.

We have rehomed over 70 cats and kittens this year and helped others in need. We can help more now as we have five pens plus someone who fosters from home. A waiting list of cats to come in plus one for people wanting a cat allows us to identify a match before the cats arrive.

Regular advertising in the local press has given us lots of free publicity and helped with homing. Sales at local events, together with raffles and a dance held in a hotel of a local cat lover, have boosted our funds.

If you would like to help our happy band with fund-raising or cat care, please phone 01692 535858 – you can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Christine Potter

NOTTINGHAM (3)

There have been many changes within the Branch. We said goodbyes to Cled and Shirley Bird, treasurer and membership secretary, to Christina Chapman, secretary, Ann Lowe, PR officer and Carol Norris and David Johnson. All positions have now been filled apart from fund-raising team organiser but we are working on that!

Homing is improving but we have some lovely cats that are being overlooked in favour of kittens. Three brothers in care for some time are now being spoiled rotten in their new home.

Special thanks to everyone for their help with our events – it is much appreciated. Write to the shelter address enclosing an SAE if you would like a copy of our *Nottingham Mews*. You can visit our website on: www.cp-nottingham.org

FUTURE EVENTS:

9 Sept: Shelter Open Day with annual prize draw, New Farm Lane, Nuthall, Nottingham; 1.30-3.30pm. Lots of stalls, cakes and bargains. Admission: tin of quality cat food or donation.

20 Oct: Autumn Fayre, St Patricks Church Hall, Nuthall, Nottingham; 2-4pm. Cake stall, crafts, refreshments, etc and early Christmas bargains. Admission: tin of quality cat food or donation.

Sandie Bailey

Peggy Duff, co-ordinator of Paddington Branch, passed away at the end of April. She was a local character with many friends and known for her friendly voice over the telephone.

While working as secretary of the local school, Peggy became aware of the stray cat problem. She started a group known as 'Peg's Paddington Pussies', which later became Cats Protection's Paddington Branch.

The West London Cemetery has always had a cat. He came to Peg's funeral and sat on the wall next to the statue of his predecessor. The Branch will try to continue as Peggy would have wished.

Copy dates

A – E 16 November and 16 May

F – N 16 January and 16 July

O – Z 16 March and 16 September

If you wish to send your Branch report by e-mail please send to: marilyn.digby-brown@cats.org.uk
However you are advised to phone Marilyn on 01403 221931 to confirm it has been received.

Register

This register details the Shelters, shops and Branches run by Cats Protection. Why not visit one of our CP charity shops? The Branches running them will be pleased to meet you if you introduce yourself.



Charity shops Details correct at time of going to press.

Bedford & Biggleswade
11 The Springfield Centre
Kempston, Bedfordshire
MK42 7PR

Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde
176-178 Dickson Road
Blackpool FY1 2JS

Bournemouth & District
335 Charminster Road
Bournemouth
Dorset BH8 9QR

Bristol & District
272 North Street
Bedminster
Bristol BS3 1JA

Cambridge
172 Mill Road
Cambridge CB1 3LP

Catford
14-15 Catford Broadway
Catford SE6

Central Aberdeen
96 King Street
Aberdeen AB2 3BA

**Cheshunt
& Waltham Cross**
57 Lancaster Road
Enfield EN2 0BU

Chesterfield & District
The Cat Flap
7 Lordsmill Street
Chesterfield
Derbyshire S41 7RW

**Chichester, Bognor
Regis & District**
29 Station Road
Bognor Regis
West Sussex PO21 1QD

Colwyn & District
28 Sea View Road
Colwyn Bay LL29 8DG

Coventry
27 Riley Square, Bell Green
Coventry CV2 1LS

Crewe & District
The Bus Station
Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2JA

Croydon
13 High Street
Purley, Surrey CR8 2AF

Derby & District
31 The Wardwick
Derby DE1 1HA

Institute Buildings
North End, Wirksworth
Derbyshire DE4 4FG

Ealing
3a Albert Terrace
Pittshanger Lane
Ealing W5 1RL

Eastbourne & District
14 Seaside Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex BN21 3PA

**Eltham, Sidcup
& District**
14 Tudor Parade
Well Hall Road, Eltham
London SE9 6SX

Forest of Dean
The Forest Cat
28a Newerne Street
Lydney, Gloucestershire
GL15 5RF

Glasgow
53-55 Bank Street
Glasgow G12 8NF

Halesowen
30 Upper High Street
Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HY

Hastings & District
63 London Road
St Leonards-on-sea
East Sussex TN37 6AY

Hereford
13 Commercial Road,
Hereford HR1 2BB

Ipswich
30 The Centre
Stoke Park
Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 9EG

Ludlow & District
5 Old Street
Ludlow SY8 1NW

Maidstone
37 Union Street
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1DY

Medway & District
34 Canterbury Street
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5TX

Newcastle-upon-Tyne
162-166 High Street East
Wallsend, Tyne & Wear
NE28 7RP

**Ottery St Mary
& District**
72 High Street
Sidmouth
Devon EX10 8EQ

**Outer Aberdeen
& District**
187 George Street
Aberdeen AB25 1HZ

Rainham & District
255 Gillingham Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 4EP

Reading & District
401 Oxford Road
Reading RG30 1HA

South Birmingham
294 Vicarage Road
Kings Heath
Birmingham B14 7NH

**South Shields
& District**
59 Frederick Street
South Shields
Tyne & Wear NE33 5ED

Spalding & District
22 Victoria Street
Spalding PE11 1EA

Truro & District
23 Pydar Street
Truro, Cornwall TR1 2AY

Waveney
Beccles Bazaar
2 Blyburgate, Beccles
Suffolk NR34 9TA

West Cumbria
70 Crosby Street
Maryport, Cumbria
CA15 6BP

West Fife
6 Aberlour Street
Rosyth, Fife KY11 2RD

Worthing & District
33 Rowlands Road
Worthing
West Sussex BN11 3JJ

York
13 Walmgate
York YO1 9TX

Permanent Shelters

Amy Ellison Shelter
Warrington, Cheshire
Tel: 01925 411160

Arbroath Shelter
Arbroath, Scotland
Tel: 01241 434605

Axhayes Shelter
Exeter, Devon
Tel: 01395 232377

Barnjet Shelter
Crawley Down
West Sussex
Tel: 01342 712387

Bredhurst Shelter
Sittingbourne, Kent
Tel: 01634 232471

Bryncethin Shelter
Bridgend
Mid-Glamorgan
Tel: 01656 724396

Cardyke Farm Shelter
Kirkintilloch, Glasgow
Tel: 0141 779 3341

Chelmsford Shelter
Chelmsford, Essex
Tel: 01245 478389

**Clackmannanshire
& Stirling Shelter**
Clackmannanshire
Scotland
Tel: 01259 761893

Derby Shelter
Ashbourne
Derbyshire
Tel: 01332 824950

**Dereham &
District Shelter**
Dereham, Norfolk
Tel: 01362 687919

Dundee Shelter
Dundee, Scotland

**Eastbourne &
District Shelter**
Hailsham, East Sussex
Tel: 01323 440101

Evesham Shelter
Evesham, Worcester
Tel: 01386 833343

Isle of Wight Shelter
Ryde, Isle of Wight
Tel: 01983 562609

Leeds Shelter
Bramley, Leeds 13
Tel: 0113 258 6218

Mabel Jenkins Shelter
Birmingham
West Midlands
Tel: 01564 822020

**Mansfield &
District Shelter**
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
Tel: 01623 845846

**Nerea de Clifford
Memorial Shelter**
Haslemere, Surrey
Tel: 01428 604297

**Newbury &
District Shelter**
Thatcham, Berkshire
Tel: 01635 200111

**Northern
Ireland Shelter**
Newtownards
Northern Ireland
Tel: 028 9048 0202

North London Shelter
Archway, London
Tel: 020 7272 6048

**Nottingham &
District Shelter**
Nuthall
Nottinghamshire
Tel: 0115 938 6557

Riverside Shelter
King's Lynn, Norfolk
Tel: 01366 382311

**St Helens &
Warrington Shelter**
St Helens, Merseyside
Tel: 01744 817718

Shetland Shelter
Gott, Shetland
Tel: 01957 755338

**Wrexham &
District Shelter**
Wrexham, Clwyd
Tel: 01978 313574

York Shelter
Huntington, York
Tel: 01904 760356

Branches

REGION 1

Cleveland

Teesside

County Durham

Darlington & District;
Durham City & District

Cumbria

Carlisle & District;
West Cumbria

East Yorkshire

Beverley & Pocklington;
Bridlington & Hornsea;
Driffild & District;
Hull & District

Greater Manchester

Trafford

Lancashire

Atherton, Wigan & Metro
Areas; Blackpool, Wyre
& Fylde; Bolton
& Radcliffe; Preston;
Rochdale

Lincolnshire

Grantham; Grimsby &
District; Horncastle &
District; Lincoln; Louth
& Mablethorpe;
Scunthorpe & District;
Skegness, Spilsby &
Alford; Sleaford &
District; Spalding &
District; Stamford &
District

Northumberland

Bedlington & District

North Yorkshire

Craven; Harrogate &
District; Pickering &
District; York

South Yorkshire

Barnsley; Doncaster;
North Sheffield;
Rotherham;
Sheffield Hallam

Tyne & Wear

Newcastle upon Tyne;
South Shields & District

West Yorkshire

Adel & District;
Huddersfield & Halifax;
Keighley; Leeds; Wharfe
Valley

REGION 2

Cheshire

Crewe & District;
Culcheth & Glazebury;
Macclesfield; St Helens
& Warrington; Stockport

Derbyshire

Chesterfield & District;
Derby & District; Friends
of Derby Shelter; High
Peak & Glossop

Herefordshire

Hereford

Merseyside

Southport

Shropshire

Ludlow & District;
Shrewsbury;
Telford & District

Staffordshire

Burton on Trent;
Cannock & Burntwood;
Stafford & District;
Tamworth, Lichfield
& District

West Midlands

Aldridge & Brownhills;
Friends of Mabel Jenkins
Shelter; Halesowen;
North Birmingham; South
Birmingham;
Stourbridge;
Wolverhampton

Worcestershire

Evesham & North
Cotswolds; Worcester
& District

Conwy

Colwyn & District;

Gwent

Gwent South

Mid Glamorgan

Rhondda Valleys

Powys

Newtown & District

Cardiff

Cardiff

Ceredigion

Ceredigion & District

Pembrokeshire

Pembrokeshire

West Glamorgan

Swansea & District

Wrexham

Wrexham & District

REGION 3

Bedfordshire

Bedford & Biggleswade;
Dunstable & Leighton
Buzzard

Berkshire

Maidenhead, Slough &
District; Newbury &
District; Reading &
District; Reading (East)
Wokingham & Bracknell

Buckinghamshire

Chiltern; High Wycombe
& South Bucks; Milton
Keynes & District

Cambridgeshire

Cambridge; Chatteris
& District; Ely & District;
Peterborough & District;
St Neots & District

Greater London

Catford; Ealing; East
London; Friends of North

London Shelter;
Greenwich North;
Hendon, Finchley & Mill
Hill; Hillingdon;
Paddington;
Springfield Hospital

Hertfordshire

Cheshunt & Waltham
Cross; Great Amwell
& District; Hemel
Hempstead &
Berkhamsted; Three
Rivers (Rickmansworth);
North Hertfordshire;
Watford

Leicestershire

Leicester & District

Northamptonshire

Kettering & Corby;
Northampton;
Wellingborough
& Rushden

Nottinghamshire

Ashfield & Amber Valley;
Mansfield & District;
Nottingham

Oxfordshire

Banbury & District;
Oxford & District;
West Oxfordshire

Warwickshire

Coventry;
Mid Warwickshire

REGION 4

East Sussex

Brighton & Hove City;
Eastbourne & District;
Hastings & District;
Lewes, Seaford
& District; Uckfield,
Crowborough & District

Essex

Basildon & District;
Chelmsford & District;
Colne Valley; Harlow &
District; Rayleigh, Castle
Point & District;
Southend & District;
Tendring & District

Kent

Bexley; Bromley;
Dover & District;
Eltham, Sidcup & District;
Folkestone & District;
Friends of Bredhurst
Shelter; Isle of Sheppey;
Maidstone; Medway &
District; Tenterden &
District; Rainham &
District

Norfolk

Dereham & District;
Friends of Riverside
Shelter; Great Yarmouth;
North Walsham & District

Suffolk

Bury St Edmunds;

Framlingham &
Saxmundham;
Ipswich; Waveney

Surrey

Camberley & District;
Caterham & District;
Croydon; Epsom,
Ewell & District;
Farnham & District;
Guildford & Godalming;
Sutton & Cheam; Woking

West Sussex

Crawley, Reigate &
District; Chichester,
Bognor Regis & District;
Friends of Barnjet
Shelter; Haywards Heath
& District; Horsham;
Worthing & District

REGION 5

Bath & N E Somerset

Bath & District; Midsomer
Norton & Radstock;
Weston-super-Mare
& District

Bristol

Bristol & District

Cornwall

Callington & District;
Falmouth & District;
Launceston & District;
Torpoint & Rame
Peninsular; Truro &
District

Devon

Ashburton & South
Dartmoor; Barnstaple
& District; Exeter;
Hatherleigh, Okehampton
& District; Honiton;
Ottery St Mary & District;
Plymouth & District

Dorset

Blandford & Sturminster
Newton; Bournemouth
& District; Mere &
Gillingham; West Dorset

Gloucestershire

Cheltenham; Forest of
Dean; Gloucester;
Stroud; Tewkesbury &
Central Cotswold

Hampshire

Andover & District;
Basingstoke & District;
Gosport Town;
Portsmouth;
Southampton;
Winchester & District

Isle of Wight

Friends of Ryde Shelter

Somerset

Bridgwater; Frome
& District; Glastonbury
& Wells; Taunton
& Wellington;
Yeovil & District

Wiltshire

Salisbury & District;
Swindon; Wootton
Bassett & District

REGION 6

Borders

Duns & District;
Peebles & Biggar

Central

Clackmannanshire
& Stirling

Dumfries & Galloway

Central Dumfries;
Eskdale & District;
Stewartry & District;
Stranraer & District

Fife

West Fife; Fife
(Central East & North)

Grampian

Buckie, Elgin & Forres;
Central Aberdeen;
Ellon & District;
Fraserburgh; Huntly &
Keith; Inverurie; Outer
Aberdeen & District;
Stonehaven; Turriff &
District

Highland

Caithness; Dornoch
& Cromarty Firth;
Ardnamurchan; Fort
William & District;
Inverness; South Skye;
Strathspey

Outer Hebrides

Uist

Perthshire

Perth

Strathclyde

Airdrie; East
Renfrewshire; Friends of
Cardyke Farm Shelter;
Glasgow; Isle of Arran;
Isle of Bute; Kilmarnock
& East Ayrshire;
Lanarkshire; North
Ayrshire; South Ayrshire

Tayside

Arbroath & District;
Brechin; Dundee &
District; Forfar; Montrose

Western Isles

Western Isles

West Lothian

West Lothian

Shetland

Shetland

Northern Ireland

Friends of Northern
Ireland

Anyone wanting a comprehensive
list of Branches should write to
the Chief Executive, Derek
Conway at the HQ address on
page 3.

Remembering cats... through helping others

Donations sent in memory of a beloved cat are put into the Editor's Commemorative Cat Pen fund to buy pens for deserving Branches. In this way, your donations are put to good use helping to house abandoned and homeless cats and kittens. Please send your donations to Remembering Cats at the address on page 3. Cheques should be made payable to The Cats Protection League. Tributes (no more than 20 words) will be printed in the next available issue. Thanks to readers of *The Cat* 170 cat pens have now been bought for deserving Branches.

BARBIE – 15.12.79–9.3.99,

LUCY – 15.12.99–22.7.00. Beautiful Burmese twins loved and remembered always. I miss you so. Your heartbroken Mum.

SUKI – 8.83–28.5.01 almost 18. PTS to prevent furthering suffering. Reunited with **CHLOE**. Miss you both. Love Margaret and Bob Dewick.

JACK – our darling tabby. We will always miss your love and affection. Sleep tight baby. Love you. Mummy and Daddy.

In loving memory of **PIPPA, BUSTER, SALLY, CHLOE, BOOTSY** and **FRANKIE**. Always in Mummy's heart. xxx

DINNY 1, TIGGA BUTTON, SAM, PEEPEE and precious big girl **MISS MARPLE**. Forever in my heart. Mummy, Daddy, Dinny, Scampy, Tiggy, Spittie. xxx

SPITTIE – 22.6.01 aged 21. Abandoned at 19 but two wonderful years together darling. Forever in my heart. Mummy, Daddy, Dinny, Scampy, Tigga.

Big-hearted **BASIL**, beautiful, tabby boy. A happy life cut short by a car 31.5.01, aged 12¾. Goodnight, little boykin.

God bless and keep you darling **BLUBELLE**. May you rest in peace my beloved. Heather.

Happy memories of **THOMAS** – 28.5.01, aged 15. Also his friend **JOHN** – 2.95. Much loved and greatly missed.

CHICHE HEBE – PTS 1.11.91 aged 14 weeks (FIP). **CHARU CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE** – 15.2.80–18.9.98 (also FIP). Delia Twamley.

JASPER – PTS 12.3.01 approximately 13. Only with us 19 short months but dearly loved and cherished. Miss you. Roy and Judy.

FRANCES – 9.1.01, aged 10. Cancer problem. Love always from your old friend.

JAS – PTS 31.5.01, aged 10. We miss our big ginger boy so much. Also remembering **GUINNESS**, number one cat, 1991–1.9.94. Sue, Roger and Rush.

KINDOF MAGIC, KIKI DEE, ZARA, KIWI and now **TOMMY TOMTOMS**. The gang, together again. Loved and missed. Wait for Mum.

POPSY – four years since that dreadful day. You were my best friend and brought such happiness. Love you Baby Doll. Mum. xx

Remembering **SOOTY** – 18.5.01, aged 15. We think of you every day Soot. Much missed beloved friend of Heidi. Mummy and Daddy.

ARNIE – 16.5.01. PTS to relieve suffering. Our little companion. Love always. Maureen and David.

TOM – I've loved you so much and I will never forget you. **CAGNEY** and **LACEY** too. All my love Rachel. xx

FELIX – 12.3.01 RTA. A lovely, friendly cat, full of character. United with friend **LEO** – 5.00. Sadly missed. Nos da, Cariad. Mum, Dad.

JASPER – RTA 4.8.99. No longer here our lives to share. But in our hearts you're always there. Love Mum and Dad.

In loving memory of **BIBBY** 5.85–5.01. My loving friend for 16 years. Deeply missed. Love you forever Mum – Tonia. x

In memory of **FLOSS** for 17 years, my much loved cat. She will be greatly missed. J.O.R.

LUCY – thank you for a wonderful 19 years. Lisa, Sadie and Thomas. xxx

CASSIUS – 7.4.86 – 10.6.01. Died peacefully at home with his family. Miss you lots. Much love, Mummy, Daddy, Beth and David.

Remembering **JIM**, the stray, **DINK, MIMI, TANSY** and **PUSSY BEE**, all of whom enriched my life. Doreen.

FELIX – our 'wee man'. Miss you every single day. Forever in our hearts. Love you always. Mum and Gran.

DOUGAL – 5.89, aged 15½. **FLORENCE** – 9.94, aged 22. **MAX** – 11.6.01, aged 13½. Dearly loved, deeply missed. Jo and Oz.

PRUDENCE GENTLE BABYCAT – 13.3.01, aged nine. I'll miss you forever. Wait for me. Reunited with Hannibal. Love Mummy.

SMOKEY, TORAG, PUSS – always in my thoughts, sadly missed. Till we meet again, sleep peacefully my darlings. Love Mummy.

TIDDLES, SNOWIE, SOOTY, ELVIS – died between 1999–2001. We miss them very much – until we meet again. Gran, Mum, Mohammed and Melissa.

TIA (TEAPOT) – 1990–21.6.01. Sweet little tabby cat and devoted friend. Only mine for 3½ years but remembered forever. Love and miaows. Alex.

Sweet little **WEENS** – 21.10.93, aged 19. The best little cat. I'll love you always. Also **ROSIE** and **DINAH** – 8.61. Teresa.

CINDY – 7.9.83. Loving memories of our dear little tortie who fell asleep aged 12½. Still sadly missed. Love Mum and Dad.

OLIVER – PTS 26.6.01. Remembering with love my little black stray who spent ten happy years with me.

In memory of **FPUFF ANDREWS**. We still remember and love you. You found us in '93 and evil found you on 18.4.00.

GOLDIE – 12.12.94, aged 14. **KITTY** – 3.6.96, aged three. Always remembered. Love Elsie.

YORKIE – sadly PTS 12.10.93 after 16 beautiful years. Still missed terribly. Will love and remember you forever. Mumsie and Dad.

Treasured memories of our beloved **DAISY**, sadly put to sleep 28.4.01 to prevent further suffering. Always gentle and loving. Remembered every day.

EBONY JONES – 22.11.93–9.7.01. **SHALOM, FRED, EMILY, BADGER**, all now gone. Dominated our hearts and lives for 19 years. RIP.


KIRI – our little one. Love you forever. Mum, Dad and Kerry.

BOBBY 'pretty eyes'. Waiting at Rainbow Bridge with **FLASH, HONEY, FREDDY** and **BLACKY**. You are all loved and remembered. Elaine and Daddy.

TOOTY SPRATKIN – another year has gone by but we miss you as much as ever. Also **TIGGY, BIBBLES** and **GOOBER**. Love Mummy and Daddy.

MOGIE, SANDY, SNOOKY, SNOOZY and **FELIX** – Lily's beloved cats. All remembered with love and affection. Jill.

BAMBER – PTS 16.7.01. Losing you, my heart is broken again. Until Bubastis, my pretty boy. Sophie.



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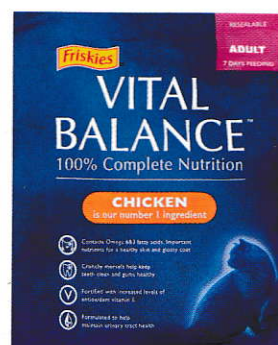
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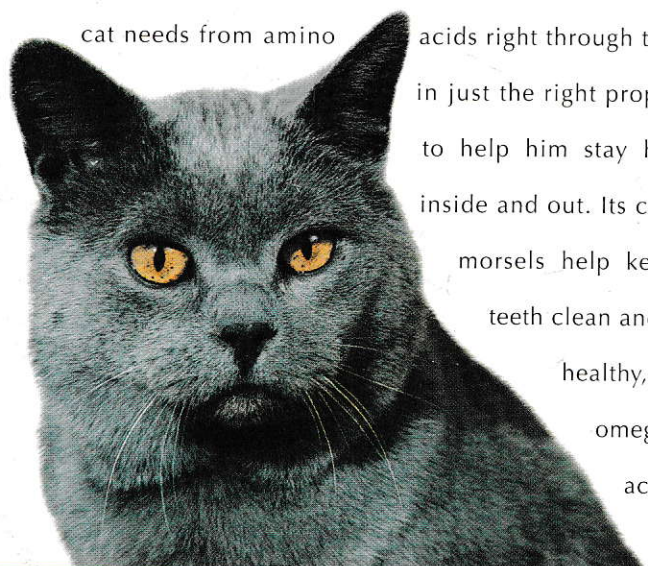
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