

NEWSLETTER

1/2003



Magazine of Eskdale & District Branch
Cats Protection
Spring 2003

Editorial

Dear Supporters, here we are again at the start of a new year, I hope you all had a good festive season.

Thank you all for supporting us in the last year, I hope you will continue to support us in the years to come. We could not continue to rescue cats & kittens if it was not for your support. Your help is greatly appreciated, whether it is by baking and making goods for sale, selling and buying raffle tickets, helping at our events, coming along to support us at our events, fostering cats & kittens, being a local member and everything else.

We are a small branch, but we are gradually covering a wider area and are hopefully making a difference to even more cats & kittens.

We are doing a lot of farm cat neutering, these cats are trapped, in a humane trap, neutered and vet checked, by our local vets, kept overnight to recover and then re-released back home, any kittens small enough to be handled are taken into care and re-homed. The cats that go back to the farm have a better standard of life as they are not having litters of kittens, the toms are not fighting and wandering and the farmer is not overrun with cats they do not want. So all in all, everyone should be happy. At the moment we are offering a free neutering service for farm cats, we can trap and transport, so if you know anyone on a farm, smallholding etc, with a number of cats, please give them our phone number.

We have a voucher scheme for pet cats, which runs all the time, where people on low income, pension etc, can get their cats neutered at a reduced cost, by their vet.

The year-end figures, financial and for cat work, are in this news letter.

Please try to come to one of our fund-raising events; there are a lot to choose from!

We are hoping to run a silent auction, but at the moment do not have enough goods, if you have any items you think might be suitable, please give one of the committee a ring, if we get enough goods we will have the auction around the end of May.

Thank you for your continuing support

Fiona

Cat Work



CAT WORK 2002

201 cats and kittens were rehomed.

8 cats or kittens died or were put to sleep.

6 lost cats were re-united with their owner

28 cat owners had help with vet bills

Neutering

62 were neutered whilst in care

171 ferals were neutered

201 cat owners were helped with neutering fees

We had a total of 147 kittens in care throughout the year of

2002. Only 25 of these were domestic, the remaining 122 were

feral, which take a tremendous amount of time, care and patience

from the fosterer. 70 of these needed ongoing vet treatment, one

or two of which we lost.

CAT WORK 2003

24 cats & kittens have been homed

26 are in care

4 are on the help to home list

112 have been neutered

Some of the cats in care include :-

Puss

8-10 years, female, ginger. Puss originated from a farm colony, then realized there was better food and comfort at an elderly lady's house nearby. It took some time for her to settle in as a house cat but eventually she did. Sadly the elderly lady has had to go into a home, so Puss had to come into care. She would like a nice quiet home.

Cat Work

“One small cat changes coming home to an empty house to coming home.”



Willow

3-4 yrs, female, grey, fluffy. Willow was found wandering as a stray, she had obviously belonged to someone as she was already spayed. She was thin and her coat was in a terrible mess, so she had to have a lot shaved off. She is a very friendly cat and would suit any household, although she has to be groomed everyday to stop her coat from tangling.

Isaac and Robbie

9 months, male, 1 black & white, 1 tabby and white. Isaac & Robbie are not related but have been together since they were small and would like a home together. Isaac came from a large farm colony at Beattock, quite a number of kittens were brought into care, the adults were neutered and returned.

Isaac had Giardia when young which took a lot of medication and time to get over. It has left him with a dietary intolerance, which may or may not leave him. Robbie also came from a farm but was much older when caught, about 4 months. He went to the vets with the adults and was neutered ready to be returned to the farm, but the following day, the vet nurse phoned to say she thought he would tame, and he did.

Isaac is a very alert intelligent little cat, Robbie is THICK, the type that cuddles up beside you on the sofa but moves too near the edge and falls off.

Anne

Letter from Shep

Dear Fergus

It was great to hear from you again – I hope you had a good Christmas. I had my usual squeaky toy and for the first time ever I managed not to destroy it within half an hour. In fact, it is still squeaking now. This year's must have been a really good one. Dad doesn't agree though, he can only take so much of the noise I make, and then I have to take a break from the squeaking, especially if he's on the phone!

Since I last wrote we had a huge kitten influx- well it seemed like it at the time. We started off with a big gang of them in one pen and over the next few days they moved into lots of other pens – 4 in the end. Mother was back and too to the vet with them and there were notes everywhere with who needed what medicine. They didn't like me – much hissing and spitting when I went to see what the latest news was, so I kept clear of them and stayed in the kitchen until they moved to Fiona's house. I hope they got on well with her dogs.

While they were staying, one of our cats, Spike, was a little low for a few days. He stopped eating and lay about the place looking sad. He's a quiet chap usually and he doesn't give me any trouble. He arrived with us when we lived on a farm, he was very tiny and has been chased under the neighbours furniture by their dogs. His fur is ginger and white and when he first turned up he was covered in fleas and ticks and his ears were burnt. He ate a lot, grew very fast and decided to stay with our family. Anyway, I did feel sorry for him when he took his recent poorly spell. Mother took him to the vet and he had a jab of medicine. He lay in his bed having drinks through a syringe – even I was worried. After a few days and some tablets as well as the jab, he seemed a lot better and was soon back to his old self. We think he may have got stressed and a problem that he might always have had flared up, so we're hoping it doesn't happen again too soon. I'm making a big effort to be nice to him.

I was glad to hear that Henry is much better. You mentioned his new haircut, we've had an outbreak of strange hairdo's here. The fluffy thing that lives in the garden was looking a bit scruffy, so mother grabbed it and took it to the vet for a trim. It came back with lumps of fur missing here and there (I'm sure your mother could have made a better job). I don't think it will win any prizes but at least the thick clumps of fur have gone. I don't have that problem with my nice, smooth, short, easy-to-keep coat, which is just as well because there is no way they are doing that to me!

Love Shep.

Treasurer's Report 2002

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Donations	5116.36	Vets	9642.63
Membership	513.00	Food & Litter	3806.64
Sponsorship	547.16	Print etc ¹	464.69
HQ Grants	2636.81	Repairs etc ²	3747.10
Table tops ³	12004.85	Fundraising ⁴	6853.91
Collecting Boxes	761.59	Fostering	1530.25
Gift Aid	431.50	Miscellaneous	56.35
Total	22011.27	Total	26101.57

1: Print, stationery & postage

2: & renewals (cat pens)

3: & coffee mornings, fairs etc

4: goods to sell, hire of halls etc

*As you can see our expenditure has been £4090.30 more than our income.
We started 2002 having raised £6000 more than our expenditure, which has enabled us to still keep our heads above water.
Please help us again, your continuing support is very much appreciated. Our funds depict the amount of cat work we are able to do.*

Christine

Fundraising

Fundraising is just about to take off properly for his year – starting with a coffee morning and sale in Langholm at the Day Centre on 29th March. Do have a look at the events list and come along to some, any, or all of them.

Also wanted, wanted, wanted, please Any bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts, books, etc. Especially things for the.....

SILENT AUCTION

Anything auctionable desperately needed please!

We are hoping to have the auction at the end of May but at the moment we are short of things to sell. It can be anything: a something that is maybe a bit better than the normal bric-a-brac, or something new or collectable. An unwanted Christmas gift, or small piece of furniture, a picture, a doll – or a service of some kind, like a free haircut, or a meal at a restaurant, or a gift voucher or tickets to a play, a ride in a hovercraft, a sack of logs, some pots of jam.

Please have a look around and see if you can come up with anything. Then ring me or Anne or Fiona if you would like it collected – or else drop it off to one of us.

CAR BOOT

We are hoping to organise a car boot sale in Lockerbie area in the spring or summer. If you would be interested in having a table either for yourself or for any charity, give me a ring. It will be £5 per car space.

DOG SHOW

With special guest appearance by

FRAZER – PAL Scrufts Family Dog of the Year 2002

The dog show this year will be on 16th August in Market Hall, Annan, starting at 2pm. Please allow yourself a bit of time to get your dog(s) settled, so don't arrive on the dot of two. As last year, it is a fun dog show – not a deadly serious one. All friendly and reasonably obedient dogs are welcome – and that goes for the humans too! We hope to persuade Frazer to judge the competition for Eskdale Cats Protection Family Dog of the Year 2003.

RELAXATION EVENING

Garden House Hotel

Reiki, Indian Head Massage, Fortune Telling

No date yet, but look out for notices. This will be just what it says, an evening to come along and relax. Try out something new. If you haven't done it before this is an ideal opportunity to find out what Reiki is all about, or have a soothing head massage, and smooth away the stress of the day. And for those of you who want to know what the future holds, Sue will be able to tell you. Many of you will have seen Sue at the Fun Day, so you'll know she's pretty good at telling your fortune.

FUN DAY/OPEN DAY

A Fun Day/Open Day is being organised this year by Emma – previously known to a lot of our members from Canine Defence at Glencaple. Details will be in the next newsletter. I don't know where or when it will be so don't ask yet – it's a surprise!

CHRISTMAS

Sorry to mention it now but do try to come along to the last Christmas fair of 2003, which will be at Anne's in Longtown. It is on a Sunday so that all the Saturday workers can get there, and it is instead of our usual Crafts for Christmas event. There will be crafts for sale as well as all the Christmas cards, calendars, decorations, gifts and so on, so don't be put off if you are a crafty person.

Ginnie 013873 76738

100 Club Winners

June: Donna Benson, Linda Nawrocki
July: Mrs Irving, Linda Beecroft
Aug: Dryfe Vets, Ginnie Wilkinson
Sept: Edna Hampson, Elaine Adamson
Oct: Shiela Vevers, Betty Birrell
Nov: Carole Wilson, Edna Hampson
Dec: Maggie Rogerson, Irene Nixon
Jan: Eileen Pope, Muriel Pink

Anyone wishing to join the 100 club please phone Anne :- 01228 791364

Events 2003

29th March	Coffee Morning and Spring Fair, Langholm Day Centre. 10am – 12am
5th April	Coffee Morning and Spring Fair, Lockerbie Town Hall. 10am – 12am
10th May	Coffee Morning and Sale, Brampton Moot Hall. 10am – 12am
17th May Hall	Coffee Morning and Spring Fair, Newcastleton Village Hall. 10.30am – 12.30pm.
24th-31st May	Stall at Newcastleton Craft Fair
End May	Silent Auction, Community Centre Longtown 6.30pm – 8.30pm
7th June	Coffee Morning and Summer Fair, Day Centre Langholm 10am – 12am
22nd June	Sponsored Walk – location to be decided
28th June	Summer Fair and Coffee Morning, Town Hall, Lockerbie 10am – 12am
Early July	Open Garden Day, Anne's, 38 English St Longtown
July/August	Fun/Open Day
16th August	Dog Show. Market Hall, Annan. 2pm
31st August	Stand at Holm Show (Newcastleton)
13th September	Autumn Fair and Coffee Morning, Day Centre Langholm 10am – 12am
End September	Stand at Langholm Show
25th October	Coffee Morning and Sale, Moot Hall Brampton 10am – 12am
15th November Hall.	Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair, Lockerbie Town Hall. 10am – 12am
22nd November Village	Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair, Newcastleton Hall. 10.30am – 12.30pm.
End November	Stalls at Dumfries Charities Fair, Loreburn Hall, Dumfries
7th December	Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning, Anne's, 38 English St Longtown, 10am – 1pm

Plus other events to be arranged. If you would like to help at any of these events or want to book a table for any of the coffee mornings, please ring Ginnie on 013873 76738

Amusements

A little old lady went to the grocery store and put the most expensive cat food in her basket. She then went to the checkout counter where she told the checkout girl, "Nothing but the best for my little kitten."

The girl at the cash register said, "I'm sorry, but we cannot sell you cat food without proof that you have a cat. A lot of old people buy cat food to eat, and the management wants proof that you are buying the cat food for your cat." The little old lady went home, picked up her cat and brought it back to the store. One Cat. They sold her the cat food.

The next day, the old lady went to the store and bought 12 of the most expensive dog biscuits - one for each day of Christmas. The cashier this time demanded proof that she now had a dog, claiming that old people sometimes eat dog food. Frustrated she went home, came back and brought in her dog. One Doggie. She was then given the dog biscuits.

The next day she brought in a box with a hole in the lid. The little old lady asked the cashier to stick her finger in the hole. The cashier said, "No, you might have a snake in there." The little old lady assured her that there was nothing in the box that would bite her. So the cashier put her finger into the box and pulled it out. She told the little old lady, "That smells like crap."

The little old lady grinned from ear to ear, "Now, my dear, can I please buy three rolls of toilet paper?"

MORAL: Never annoy a little old lady



Cleo

*Look at the line of her elegant nose,
The regal way she disposes of foes.
Catch a proud stare from her fierce eyes of green,
Could she have once been a goddess or queen
In some long-lost palace, light-years away?
Now she roughs it with me, sharing my day -
Sharing the loneliness, sharing the cold,
Does she remember the glories of old?*

*Mongrel they called her; an unwanted pet
But remnants of grandeur cling to her yet.
Does she love me? I ask, but she'll never tell,
But one thing I know - I'm under her spell.
Poor as I am and a failure at that -
All trivial things to my regal cat.
Maybe once Empress of all she could see
But nevertheless she has chosen me.*

Ivy Ferguson

Amusements

A woman brought a very limp parrot into a vets surgery. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, Polly has passed away".

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure? I mean, you haven't done any testing on him, or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, shrugged, turned and left the room, returning a few moments later with a beautiful black Labrador. As the bird's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the dead parrot, from top to bottom. The dog then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet petted the dog and took it out, but returned a few minutes later with a cat. The cat jumped up on the table and sniffed delicately at the dead bird. The cat sat back, meowed and ran out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I am sorry, but like I said, your parrot is definitely 100% certifiably dead." He then turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The parrot's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "£150!!", she cried, "£150 just to tell me my bird is dead!" The vet shrugged his shoulders. "If you had taken my word for it the bill would only have been £20, but what with the Lab report and the Cat Scan.....".



WINNERS OF BOTTLE DRAW DECEMBER 2002

D. Gilbertson	Wine
T. Graham	Whisky
Steelo	Wine
Bob Glen	Wine
T. Woodman	Whisky
Marion	Wine
GAB Firth Vets	Wine
A. Bray	Wine
Nicola Esk Vets	Cava
A. Telfer	Wine
Mrs Spencer	Sherry
A. Little	Wine
S. Elliot	Bacardi
Jane (c/o C Ward)	Wine
K. Waite	Babycham
L. Spooner	Bucks Fizz
Mrs Armstrong	Sherry
Ted	Port

Thank you to all who bought and sold tickets.



OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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Disclaimer

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