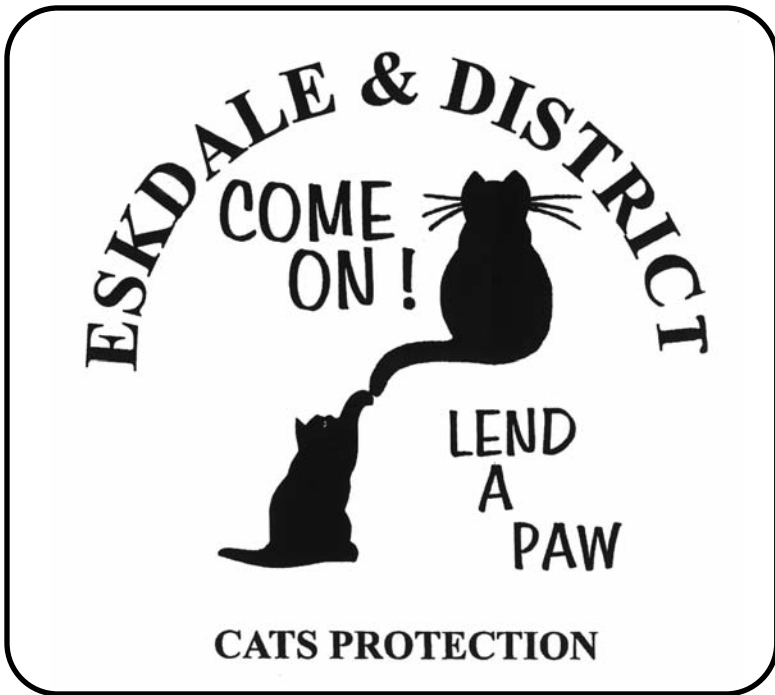


# NEWSLETTER

1/2004



*Magazine of Eskdale & District Branch  
Cats Protection  
Spring 2004*

# Editorial

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the first newsletter of 2004. Please find enclosed a membership renewal slip for this year. Please do fill it in and return it with your subscription. We have decided to keep the cost of membership to £5, but will only produce 3 newsletters a year. Do drop us a line and let us know what you think, would you rather pay more and have 4 newsletters? or is it better to keep the cost down and just have 3?

Also enclosed are Gift Aid slips: if you pay income tax, even small amounts on pensions etc count, and you fill in a Gift Aid slip, for every £1 you give us we can claim back 28p from the government, so on £5 membership we actually get £6.40. So if we have 100 members we would get an extra £140, with no extra cost to yourself.

We could also do with some more members, membership has dropped this past year and we really need to get it up again, so if you know anyone who might like to become a member, then please persuade them to join.

We are having a raffle again in the summer, it will be drawn in Langholm, at a coffee morning on 24th July. Our fundraising officer, Ginnie, won the first prize of £100 in last years raffle and has kindly donated it back to the group. So we already have our first prize for this year, thank you Ginnie.

If any of you have any stories, poems, puzzles etc that we could use in the newsletter then please do send them in to us, you can send them at any time and they will be put in the next newsletter.

As you will see in Cat Work, we helped a lot of cats last year and hopefully, money allowing, will do the same or even better this year.

## Editorial (contd)

We are seven pens down from this time last year, due to people moving, circumstances changing etc. If you have space in your garden and would like to foster cats for us please ring Anne on 01228 791364 for a chat. All expenses for food, litter, vets etc are met by us; you provide the time.

Would you like to attend a car boot sale or table top, for us? We have a lot of bric-a-brac that we could give you if you would like to spend a morning selling it for us. Even if you only do one in the year it would be a great help. If you would like to do this give me a ring on 01461 202761.

Would you like to help at one of our fundraisers? You could come to the one that is nearest you, if you can help at one of our events ring Ginnie on 013873 76738.

Free neutering: we have been offering a free neutering scheme for farms during February but are going to continue it for another few weeks. If you know any farmers who would like to get their cats neutered please ask them to get in touch with us. The majority of kittens that come into care are unwanted farm kittens, so if we can neuter the cats before they have kittens then hopefully we will have less unwanted cats and kittens in the future.

We are also running a free neutering campaign during March for domestic cats in our area. Anyone on income support, low income or pension will be eligible for this help. They need to phone us with their details and then they can book their cat in to their own vet and we will cover the cost. Again if you know anyone who would like their cat neutered get them to give us a ring.

Thank you for your support throughout last year, I hope we can rely on you for the coming year.

Fiona Gorman

# Cat Work

## 2003:

188 Cats & kittens were rehomed  
4 Died or were put to sleep  
9 Lost cats were reunited with their owner  
29 Cat owners had help with vet bills

### Neutering

58 were neutered whilst in care  
154 Ferals were neutered  
265 cat owners were helped with neutering fees

### In care

A total of 111 kittens were in care throughout the year, 79 of which were feral. 20 cats were in care at the end of December 2003 8 of which had been in care for more than 6 months.

## 2004:

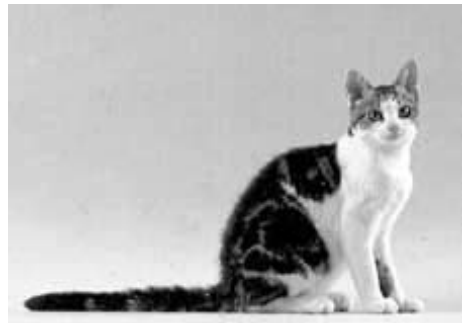
17 cats & kittens have been homed  
20 are in care  
8 are on the help to home list  
85 have been neutered

Some of the cats in care include:-

### Kitty

4 years old, female, ginger and white.

Kitty came into care after her owner died. She is a timid little cat who would like a nice quiet home with no children or dogs.



### Joe

2-3 years, male, ginger and white. Joe had been living rough for a few months and appeared to be feral. The only way we could catch him was to trap him, with the intention of neutering him and releasing. Once caught Joe turned out to be a friendly cat. He is very demanding and playful. Joe needs a home with no young children, he would actually love children to play with, but he plays very rough.

### Fat Eck

1 year old, male, ginger and white. As his name implies, Eck is a big boy, he was found as a stray. He will fit in fine with other cats and dogs and will be ok with children. Eck likes to free roam in the house as he howls and scratches on doors if they are shut on him.

Anne

## *Lucy and Rosie here ...*

Hi, we are Lucy and Rosie. We have been homed after being at Auntie Anne's Kitten pen. Thanks for all the advice through the door from Anne's adult cats; your hints have been put into practice.

We have settled down well. Our Mum and Dad have had cats before, so it's an uphill struggle to get them trained in our ways. We have our own beds and lots of toys, balls, felt mouse and a fish on the end of a string - Rosie thinks it's a shark and attacks it at every opportunity - and guess what, we have a climbing frame - Mum puts clothes on it so we can climb up higher and pull them off.

There are plenty of hiding places where we can play chase. Mum and Dad are not too keen to join in especially when we jump on them when they are not looking. We have discovered that they love us using our claws to climb up their backs - they scream in pleasure (I think).

We are both learning to play the piano! We both have started at the bottom and are working ourselves to the top - inside - well we have to make sure it works properly. We are also learning the words to the song "We are the cheeky girls" - Dad says it's appropriate.

I know this will come as a surprise but we have been in trouble - to the tune of one plant pot - well it got in the way of a complex game of chase. Still Dad says that the Cat Protection will get some more money when they replace it from Fiona's bric-a-brac. Mum didn't like us trying to rearrange the vase of flowers, especially when the vase went over and all the water went over the table and the carpet.

We have discovered our full names - they are Lucy Comeoutofthere and Rosie Stopdoingthat. I think our real mums and dads were foreign.

## *Lucy and Rosie (contd)*

As you all said through the door, there are some doors we are not allowed to go through, especially to the bedrooms. We have sorted that out and we now go upstairs and get on the beds and play chase under the covers.

We had great fun at Christmas. We found new games to play such as see how far up the tree you go before it falls over and how many baubles we could knock off the tree to play paw-ball with.

Must go now - there's so much to do and so little time to do it!



### *100 Club*

November 2003	No 10 Freda Ward
	No 99 Flo Rice
December 2003	No 56 Anne Boyes
	No 55 Elspeth Little
January 2004	No 85 Doris Irving
	No 35 Anne Thomson
February 2004	No 64 Elaine Briggs
	No 55 Elspeth Little

We could do with a few more new members for the 100 club, anyone wishing to join please phone Anne on 01228 791364.

## Letter to Fergus

Dear Fergus

I'm afraid I have some very sad news for you, Shep is no longer with us. She became ill very suddenly in January and it seems very quiet here without her. I thought I would write to you in her place, she sometimes let me see your letters.

I am Toby and I'm a small black, grey and white dog - probably not much bigger than you and I like cats so I'm sure I would like you. I have been worried though, about the amount of stress you must be under when you go to the vet. I like going to the vet. They are always really nice to me and I've had three really long sleeps there since I came to live in my new home last year. My folks say these sleeps are called operations. They are funny things, you drift off and have lovely dreams about chasing rabbits and when you wake up you're lying on a nice warm bed and someone comes to take you home again to be spoilt rotten. The only downside is that afterwards, something always feels a bit sore for a few days and you have these funny stringy things sticking out of your fur - but it's not too bad, honest.

Perhaps next time you have to go I could come with you and make sure you're OK. Or, you could always try some sort of relaxation - how about the Relaxation Day on 20th June - you might be a new cat after an afternoon there!!

Anyway hope you don't mind me writing and I would really like to hear some more about the rest of your family and the extras that arrive now and again.

From a very small dog to a very big cat - Toby.



# Humour

## MEMO TO THE FAMILY DOG OR CAT

Dear Dog and/or Cat,

When I say move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two of you in the way.

The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. (Please note, placing a pawprint in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.) The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do you think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort? Look at videos of dogs and cats sleeping. They can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. (I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximise space used is nothing but sarcasm.)

My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. (In addition, I have been using the bathroom for years.. canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.)

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog's or cat's bottom. I cannot stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you.

To pacify you I have posted the following message on our front door:

Rules for non-pet-owners who visit and like to complain about our pets:

1. They live here; you don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture.
3. I like my pet better than I like most people.
4. To you it's an animal. To me he and/or she is an adopted son and/or daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and is speech challenged.

Dogs and cats are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, and don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't drink or smoke, don't worry about buying the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and, if they get pregnant, you can sell the results.



## Fundraising News

Welcome to the start of fundraising for 2004. Many thanks to everyone who supported and helped at last year's events. Fundraising efforts raised just under £15,000 in 2003 of which £10,000 was made at Coffee Mornings and Fairs, which is pretty good, I think. So, onwards and upwards.....

We shan't be having a Fun Day this year because of the amount of work it involves relative to the amount of money it generates and nobody has volunteered this year. Maybe someone would like to try it next year, possibly at a new venue? If there is anyone who thinks they might like to organise it in 2005, give me a ring and I will try to answer any queries.

We also need more people to join us for the sponsored walk this year. It will be sometime in September, and we generally walk in the Langholm area, but we are open to suggestions of other places, and it is NOT strenuous. A gentle and friendly saunter of four to five miles on undulating terrain – not one in three hills. This will be our fourth year of doing it and it would be nice to have more people. Dogs are welcome but not compulsory and we finish off with tea and biscuits. Do give me a ring if you feel you would like to come along and I will send a sponsorship form.

**And Yes - We are having another Relaxation Day!  
Hurray! 20th June – at the Garden House Hotel.**

Many thanks to Brian for his generosity in letting us have it in the hotel.

Some refinements this year – we've learnt from our mistakes.

We shall start at 1pm this time; therapy sessions will be booked for 45 minutes; will be very modestly priced at £10, and we shall try not to overrun. Fortune telling sessions will be 20 minutes and will cost £5. If you would like to book in advance please ring me or Anne or Fiona, and then you can just come and not have to wait too long. Treatments on offer will be reiki, Indian head massage and reflexology, with a possibility of body massage, and all therapists are qualified. We also hope to have *two* people doing Indian head massage. Not because we think anyone with two heads will turn up – more because it was very popular last time and some people were disappointed.

Do have a look at the events list and try to come along to something. You will see that we are having two Coffee Mornings in Hawick, the first of which is on 3rd April. We haven't 'done' Hawick before, so I would be very grateful for everyone's support. It is in Trinity Church Hall, starting at 10am and finishing at 12pm. If anyone can help or bake, please give me a ring, but mainly **please just come**.

The Silent Auction is not on the events list yet, but not because we aren't having one. We shall have it, but we haven't got enough things to sell yet, so can't set a date. Some nice things which we were given have been sold via Ebay (an internet auction site). This gets to a huge audience – all around the world - and means that we get a fair price for the things, which is better both for us and the people who generously donate collectible items, because it means they don't feel their offering was not properly estimated by us.

Raffle tickets are enclosed - if anyone wants more books just ring.

Ginnie 013873 76738

# Light (bulb) Relief

*How Many Dogs Does It Take to Change A Light Bulb?*

1. Golden Retriever: *The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?*

2. Border Collie: *Just one. And then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to date.*

3. Dachshund: *You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!*

4. Rottweiler: *Make me.*

5. Boxer: *Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.*

6. Lab: *Oh, me, me!!!! Pleeeeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeeeeeeeze, please, please, please!*

7. German Shepherd: *I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, checked to make sure I haven't missed any, and made just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.*

8. Jack Russell Terrier: *I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture.*

9. Old English Sheep Dog: *Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I don't see a light bulb.*

10. Cocker Spaniel: *Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark.*

11. Pointer: *I see it, there it is, there it is, right there ...*

12. Greyhound: *It isn't moving. Who cares?*

13. Australian Shepherd: *First, I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle ...*

14. Poodle: *I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.*

*The Cat's Answer: "Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is: How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?"*

*All of which proves that while dogs have masters, cats have staff!*

## What is a Cat?

1. Cats do what they want..
- 2.They rarely listen to you.
- 3.They're totally unpredictable.
- 4.When you want to play, they want to be alone.
- 5.When you want to be alone, they want to play.
- 6.They expect you to cater to their every whim.
- 7.They're moody.
- 8.They leave hair everywhere.

*CONCLUSION :They're tiny women in little fur coats.*

## What is a Dog?

1. Dogs spend all day sprawled on the most comfortable piece of furniture in the house.
- 2.They can hear a package of food opening half a block away, but don't hear you when you're in the same room.
- 3.They can look dumb and lovable all at the same time.
- 4.They growl when they are not happy.
- 5.When you want to play, they want to play.
- 6.When you want to be alone, they want to play.
- 7.They leave their toys everywhere.
- 8.They do disgusting things with their mouths and then try to give you a kiss.
- 9.They go right for your crotch as soon as they meet you.

*CONCLUSION :They're tiny men in little fur coats.*



# Treasurer's Report 2003

## Income

	£
Donations	10,672.55
Memberships	250.00
Raffles	2,888.48
Coffee Mornings etc	10,047.13
Collecting Boxes	940.12
Gift Aid	1,041.94
	<hr/>
	25,840.22

## Expenditure

	£
Vets	11,290.93
Food & Litter	2,104.22
Printing & Postage	877.38
Repairs & renewals to pens	1,807.43
Fundraising:-goods to sell, hire of halls etc	4,695.29
Fostering	2,311.10
Advertising	587.52
	<hr/>
	23,674.87

As you can see fundraising has gone well this year. Donations have doubled this year compared to last year, hence the Gift Aid subscription has more than doubled. If you haven't already filled in a Gift Aid form (you need to be a tax payer) please do, we can reclaim the tax on your membership subscription.

We start 2004 with a balance of £2,000 remaining from last year, but fundraising must get underway again to enable us to do as much cat work as possible this year.

Your continued help and support is very much appreciated.

Christine

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### *Disclaimer*

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