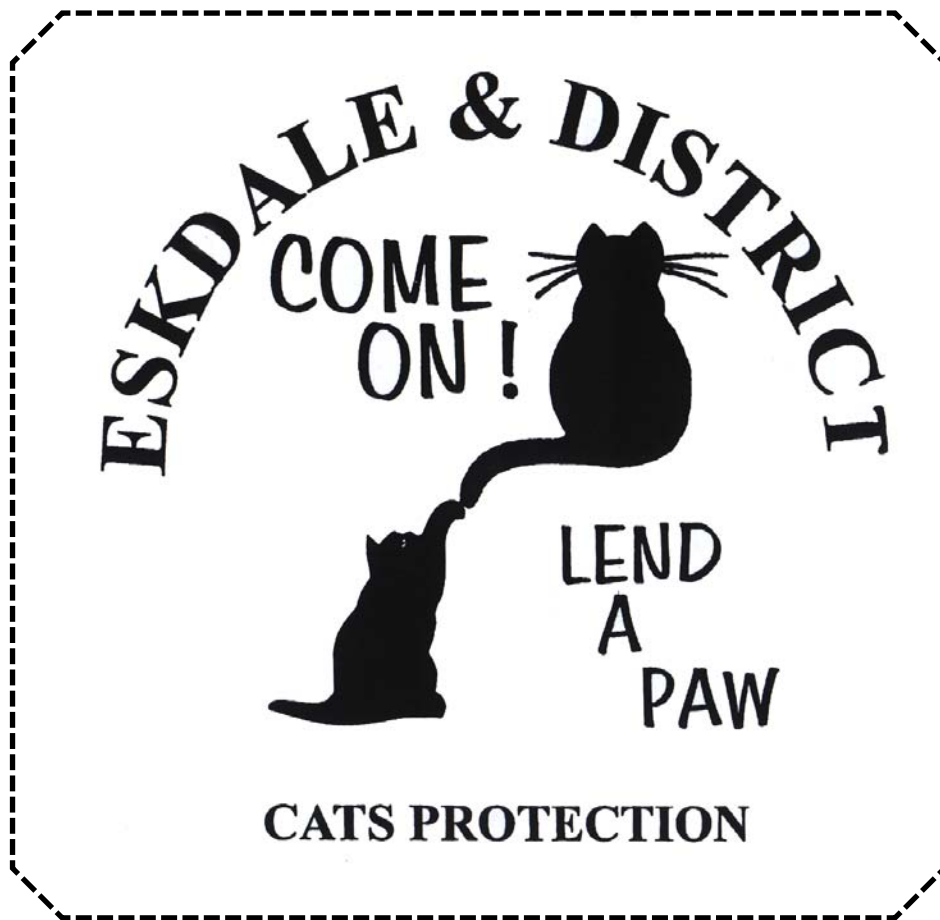


NEWSLETTER

1: 2008



CATS PROTECTION

ESKDALE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

SPRING 2008

EDITORIAL



Hello again and here is the Spring issue of our newsletter written on a very unspringlike day in February.

Headquarters have been changing the areas covered by all the Regional Development Managers and we now have a new RDM plus accompanying assistant. Suzanne, Sarah and Shirley no longer cover any of Scotland, and our new RDM is Tracy Shiells. She will be coming to meet the committee and the fosterers soon, so we will report back on this in the next newsletter.

No doubt everyone will have read about the events surrounding our ex-chief executive, Derek Conway. Have no fears about nepotism within the ranks of the Eskdale Branch, and relatives being put on the payroll. We don't have a payroll, all being volunteers, so any relatives we have helping are doing it for the love of cats or because their husband/wife/mother/whatever, has brow beaten them into helping!

I probably shouldn't follow that by saying "Thank you" to Alan for helping with the year end figures. That saved Anne a lot of work, and I am sure that Alan volunteered without any encouragement from Flo! Thanks also to Angela, who is now making sure that our website is kept up to date - especially with details of cats in care. This is definitely making a difference to the number of calls we are getting from people wanting to give a home to a cat. And thanks to Kath who will be sorting out our display boards so that we can publicise ourselves better. At least she will be doing it when I get round to giving her all the old boards to update .

However, browbeating aside, we are still trying to recruit new helpers - sorry no remuneration. Mainly, we need people to help fundraise, and people who are just available to help occasionally - say when a cat needs to be picked up and brought into care, or taken to the vet for someone without transport, and general fetching and carrying. Also if there is anyone with an electrical bent - who could wire up a pen for us - or building skills - putting pens up, we would love to hear from you. It would only be an occasional call for help, since we don't erect new pens very often.

And finally - subscriptions are due so can everybody please remember to send them in. If you could due a direct debit that would be even better - just ring me or Anne on 01228 791364 for a direct debit form.

Ginnie 013873 76738



CAT WORK

2007:

81 cats and kittens rehomed

4 cats had to be PTS

2 cats were reunited with their owner

326 were neutered, 110 of these were feral

49 cats and kittens needed veterinary treatment (apart from neutering)

2008:

12 cats have been successfully rehomed

24 cats are in care

7 cats are on the help to home list, waiting to come into care

At the moment we have 5 cats in care between the age of 14 and 16 years. It would be so nice if these cats could find a loving home for the remainder of their life. If anyone knows of someone who would be prepared to take on an older cat please get in touch.

Some of the cats in care include:

Clementine: 3 year old ginger, female, no tail.

Clementine was brought into care as a stray. When taken to the vets to be checked it was discovered she was microchipped. The owner was contacted but they didn't want her back. Clementine had previously broken her pelvis which has left her with a slight bowel problem which is fine as long as she has a dose of laxatives each day. She is a lovely, affectionate little cat and deserves a loving home. Oh – she's slightly cross-eyed as well!

CAT WORK



Baldrick: 9 months old, male, black.

Came into care at 6 months old having lived his life outdoors, although very friendly. At the moment he is in foster care in a house, and is certainly enjoying indoor living. Baldrick needs a home with another cat to romp and play with.

Rusty: 15 years old, male, ginger and white.

Rusty's owner had to go into care so Rusty also had to come into care. He loves a knee to sit on and is very affectionate. He's very fit and active for his age and enjoys a mad half hour every now and again.

TOBY

Sad news for this newsletter, Toby the cocker spaniel who had been penpal to Fergus and then Isaac died in early January. He was quite elderly and had not been very well for a few months but was still enjoying short walks and a warm fireside until just after Christmas.

If any of you have animals who would like to write to Isaac – who doesn't have anyone to write to at the moment, he would be very pleased to hear from you. Please send your letters to Rose Cottage, Johnstonebridge, Lockerbie, DG11 1ET. He would love to hear from you whatever species.

WEBCATS



Some pictures found on the web

FUNDRAISING NEWS

First of all, many thanks to everyone who gave us donations over Christmas, as well as those who very kindly passed on their unwanted Christmas presents to us for raffle prizes. Some things seem to have quite a long and cyclical life – they start off as gifts and then become raffle prizes and then the person who wins them uses them as a gift and so on. If you are a fancy candle given as a present to one of our members you can be assured of a long and varied career as a raffle prize before anyone thinks of taking a match to you.

Coffee Mornings start on 29th March at Langholm Day Centre. Do have a look at the list of events because we've got quite a lot booked already and we do need your support.

Does anyone have any good ideas for new ways of fundraising? Don't all shout at once! We have lots of new goods to sell but sometimes the Coffee Mornings don't seem to be the right places. People are more interested in coffee, cakes, the raffle and the tombola. So what about it? Could you have a sale of goods at your place of work? - a little table set up with small items like fridge magnets, mugs, etc – or else a sales table sometime before Christmas, with cards, calendars, diaries and such like?

One or two more mentions before I finish – firstly, our dedicated band of jam makers – Margaret, Flo, Dickie and Peggy. Margaret made about 115 pots of marmalade in January – seville orange, lime, lemon and grapefruit – which must be a record.

Also a big thank you to Anne Kirkpatrick, who has baked for us for some years but due to ill health is unable to continue. Thank you, Anne, for all the hours spent slaving over a hot oven, and we all wish you well.

Is there anyone out there who could do some baking for us, for the Coffee Mornings?

Legacies

Just a note in case anyone is remembering Cats Protection in his or her will. If you want a specific branch to benefit from your legacy, you must specify this in your will – otherwise it goes to the main headquarters money pot.

Ginnie 013873 76738

EVENTS 2008

29th March	Coffee Morning & Sale, Langholm Day Centre. 10am – noon
5th April	Coffee Morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am – noon
26th April	Coffee Morning & Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall 10am – noon
24th – 31st May	Table at Newcastleton Craft Fair
7th June	Stand at Longtown Gala
20th July	Relaxation Day, Garden House Hotel, Gretna Starts at 1pm
30th August	Stand at Newcastleton (The Holm) Show
September	Stand at Westerkirk (The Benty) Show
27th September	Stand at Langholm Show
25th October	Coffee Morning & Sale, British Legion, Jedburgh 10am – noon
15th November	Coffee Morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am – noon
22nd November	Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning, Lockerbie Town Hall 10am – noon
29th November	Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning, Langholm Day Centre 10am – noon

These are the events booked so far – as at the end of January. I shall be booking other events, so please keep a look out for updated lists.

If anyone would like to help us at any event – selling, baking etc – or would like to book a table at one of the Coffee Mornings, or would like more information about any of the events, please ring me, Ginnie on 013873 76738

LITERARY CATS

Cats sleep
Anywhere,
Any table,
Any chair,
Top of piano,
Window-ledge,
In the middle,
On the edge,
Open drawer,
Empty shoe.
Anybody's
Lap will do,
Fitted in a
Cardboard box,
In the cupboard,
With your frocks –
Anywhere!
They don't care!
Cats sleep
Anywhere.
Eleanor Farjeon

The poet Shelley said "When my cats aren't happy, I'm not happy. Not because I care about their mood but because I know they're just sitting there thinking up ways to get even."



*Thousands of years ago cats were worshipped as gods.
Cats have never forgotten this.*

Anonymous



*The tortoiseshell cat
She sits on the mat
As gay as a sunflower she;
In orange and black you see her blink,
And her waistcoat's white, and her nose is pink
And her eyes are the green of the sea.
But all is vanity, all the way;
Twilight's coming, and close of day,
And every cat in the twilight's gray,
Every possible cat.*

*The tortoiseshell cat,
She is smooth and fat,
And we call her Josephine,
Because she weareth upon her back
This coat of colours, this raven black,
This red of the tangerine.
But all is vanity, all the way;
Twilight follows the brightest day,
And every cat in the twilight's gray,
Every possible cat.
Patrick R. Chalmer)*

100 CLUB

October	No 43	Gerry Sawyer
	No 104	Ken McNaughton
November	No 69	Hazel White
	No 66	Triggarr
December	No 72	David Lister
	No 29	Donna Benson
January	No 5	Emma Snowdon
	No 42	Eileen Norman
February	No 93	Nancy Fox
	No 88	Linda Ede

BOTTLE DRAW

Brandy	David, Capontree Vets
Croft Sherry	Miss Matthews
Gin	Glen Caldock
Pinotti	Anne Kirkpatrick
Champagne	Fiona Yeomans
Wine	J. Pelham
Wine	Pepsi Campbell
Wine	Mrs Moody
Wine	Mrs Younger

*Many thanks to all who supported our bottle draw.
£230 was raised for the cats in care.*

SUCCESS STORY:

ANGUS



During the life of my last cat, traffic volume had increased considerably, and so, it seemed, had speed. Sadly, she was killed outright by a speeding van in the village. Not wanting the same fate to befall another cat, I spoke to Anne, and decided a “house cat” (one that doesn’t leave the house) was what I wanted.

Angus has special needs. I was told about a disabled white kitten that needed a new home. He had been found as a 10-week old stray, in pouring rain. He had a serious eye infection, and at one time, the vets weren’t certain if he would lose the eye. He had certainly no sight in it. He is also deaf.

I agreed to take him on, and he was about 14 weeks old by this time. I also took a second kitten at the same time, but she has her own story to tell.

Angus was still having treatment for his eye, and it was a few weeks before the infection had cleared up and I could actually see his eye clearly for the first time. He had odd-coloured eyes, his blind eye being blue, and the normal one green.

Once he had his injections, and was given the all clear, he went out for walks on a harness and lead, which he thoroughly enjoys. He likes meeting people, and will roll on his back to have his tummy tickled; and he also seems happy to meet neighbourhood dogs.

Suddenly, a cataract developed in the blind eye over a weekend! I took him to the vet and was warned that there was a chance he may have a severe problem with it, totally unconnected to the infection he had when he was found; and that could mean he would lose it totally.

Last autumn, we noticed that the cataract had altered drastically, and so he went back to the vets. I was told he might need to have the eye removed, but that he would be tested later in the week. In fact, things developed so quickly, that when I took him for the testing, it was obvious the problem could only be resolved by removing the eye, and so he had it done the same day.

As laid back as ever, Angus took all this in his stride, and by the time I brought him home that evening, he was sat up and purring. He didn’t need to wear a “lampshade” at any time while the wound was healing.

The wound healed over, and as he had no sight in the eye before, he hasn’t had to make any sudden adjustments. He’s a wonderful cat!

Angela Haigh, Rowanburn

SUCCESS STORIES

Lots of cats and kittens have been found new homes, and we would love to be able to put the success stories on our website.

You may not think that “just re-homing” is a success story, but it is! That kitten you took on was once unwanted; you may have taken on an adult cat whose owner had died or moved into a home where pets were not allowed; you may have taken on a stray that was found in a garden or at the side of the road.

If you would like to share your story, either email me (with a picture if you have one) at or else ring me on and give me the details.

Thanks, Angela Haigh, utopia99@btinternet.com, 013873 71791

Mischa and Angus



HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

An insignificant little man went into a theatrical agent’s office and asked for an interview. At length he got to see the agent.

“I have an animal double act that is quite unique.”

“Oh yes”? Agent is not very interested or impressed.

“Yes, I have a cat that can play the piano and a canary that can sing.”

The busy agent, suspecting some kind of hoax, takes the little man’s details and dismisses him.

“You really should see this one, it is quite unique,” repeats the little man, leaving rather crestfallen.

Later, on reflection, the agent decides to call on the little man who sure enough shows him a nice big black cat and a lovely little canary sitting on a perch on top of the piano.

“Here we go then,” says the little man, “up you get Tom”! The cat jumps up on the piano stool, sits up on his back legs and starts to play the piano with gusto; “when the red, red, robin comes bob, bob, bobbing along ...” sings the canary.

“Great, amazing,” says the agent - very impressed.

The little man is pleased but looks a bit concerned. “There is a catch to it,” he says “I should really tell you the truth; the canary can’t really sing - the cat is a ventriloquist”!

Thanks to a long forgotten comedian for the above.

WEBCATS



Some pictures found on the web

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income

HQ grants and transfers	£10,000.00
Donations	£ 5,197.58
Membership	£ 390.00
Collecting boxes	£ 855.12
Coffee morning and stalls	£ 7,437.63
Raffles and competitions	£ 1,797.00
Gift aid	£ 477.99
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	£26,155.32

Expenditure

Food and litter and fostering	£ 4,545.40
Vet	£ 9,064.90
Equipment and maintenance	£ 1,325.91
Printing, postage and stationary	£ 560.75
Purchase of goods for resale	£ 3,749.44
Hire of halls, adverts and costs relating to	£ 1,268.97
Fund raising	
	<hr/>
	£20,515.37

Our normal HQ grant is £4,000 but in 2007 we had to apply for a sub to enable us to keep our bank balance healthy. We need your help again this year please to help as many cats as we can.

Cameron

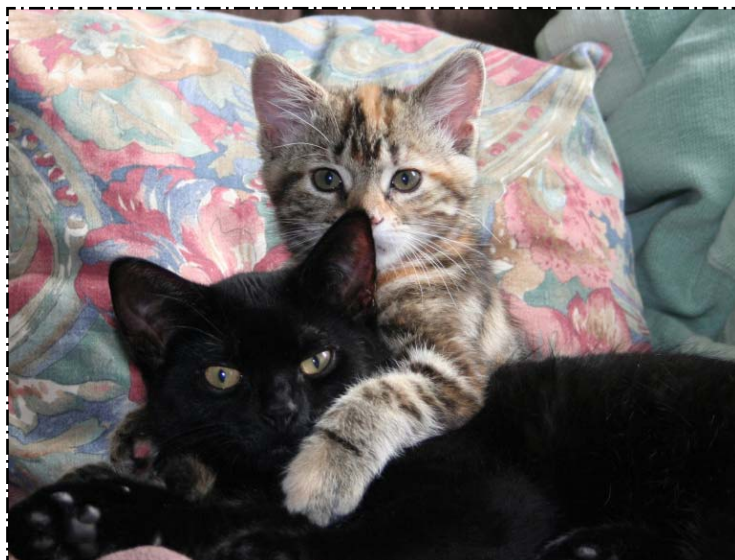
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General Committee on inside back cover

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Disclaimer

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