

Newsletter

1:2009



Cats Protection

Eskdale and District Branch

Spring 2009

Editorial



Hello from a snow covered countryside. Very pretty but it makes for a lot more work and a tendency to land on one's backside on the ice.

First of all can I remind everyone that membership fees are due, and are an important part of our income - £450 last year. Membership Secretary's address is at the front of the newsletter, or you can give it to Anne or me.

Many thanks to everyone for all your help last year. I have booked some events for the coming year, so please take a look at the list and come along and support us if you can.

Anne has just completed the year end figures for HQ, with the help of Alan, so here are a few of the stats for 2008.

In 2008:

We rehomed 86 cats - that is 3 more than in 2007

We neutered 417 cats - that is nearly 100 more than in 2007

Of the 417 cats neutered, 164 of these were ferals most of whom were caught and taken to the vet by Anne. If anyone would like to lend a hand with trapping we should be most grateful. We could do with a couple of people over in the Hawick direction and another two or three in the Annan/Lockerbie direction. How about it folks?

We paid for 59 cats to be treated by our vets.

One of these was the cat from Newcastleton which was shot by some mindless idiot using a crossbow. (The police have never found out who it was, but there are people out there who know. The mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceeding small.) We ran an appeal for help with Marmite's treatment and with that and a

contribution from our branch funds, we have been able to give £600 towards the cost.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

Ginnie

By the way, in case anyone is anxious about where the money they give us is kept – whether we keep it in an offshore account or an Icelandic bank – all our cash is held in Barclays bank. Our annual grant and any legacies go into a branch at Headquarters and the day to day money is held at a branch in Longtown. All money raised locally is spent locally



Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who helped with fundraising in any way in 2008. Totals for most of the Coffee Mornings were up on 2007 but we didn't do so well at the shows over the summer, which wasn't surprising since the Holm Show was on a very wet day, Langholm show was cancelled because of the weather, and at the Benty Show the tent fell on us! We look forward to better weather in 2009.

Which brings us to events in the coming year. We need to do some serious fundraising this year, partly because it's going to be harder with everyone tightening their belts, and partly because we now have more fosterers and so more cats to look after.

Can anyone do a car boot sale? Margaret and I have boxes and boxes of lovely bric-a-brac just waiting to be displayed and sold, so if you have a spare Sunday or two over the summer, why not fill your boot with our boxes, make a flask of coffee, ring a friend, and visit the nearest car boot sale. It is actually good fun (no, really, it is). Give me a ring if you fancy the idea. (013873 76738)

Also, we have some nice stuff, better than bric-a-brac, but not antique. Could anyone ebay it for us? Its just ornaments and the like, small, easily postable things.

If you can help at any events, or if you could bake, or make things for us to sell, please let me know.

Cat Work



2008

Domestic Cats rehomed: 86

Cats died/PTS: 3

Ferals rehomed: 7

Cats Receiving Veterinary Treatment: 59

Neutering

Ferals: 164

Domestic: 253

Since the branch started in June 1997, we have neutered approximately 5,193 cats.

2009

14 cats have been successfully rehomed

30 cats are in care

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

Some of the cats in care are:

Milo

He is 9 months old, male and black. He was found as a stray suffering from cat flu. He is now fully recovered and looking for a home. He is very friendly and would suit most homes.

Mandy

She is a 13 year old black female, who would like a quiet home to spend her remaining years in. She is mostly an indoor cat who likes to look out through the window but not actually go outside.

Rosie

Rosie is 18 months old, female and tortie and white. Rosie was also a stray and she is very friendly but she lets you know when she has had enough.

Letter from Angus

Dear Isaac,

It was good to read about you in the newsletter.

Fancy us all knowing each other when Mischa and I were just kittens!

I have just been having a “mad half hour”; chasing a wooden curtain ring around the wooden floor; meowing at the birds, then back to the curtain ring; it’s all quite exhausting, so I decided it was time to say hello to you again.

Since I last wrote, I have been in trouble! One morning, Mischa and I discovered that the front door was wide open, so naturally, we had to see what was going on. As we normally only go outside on a lead this was great fun, as we could go wherever we wanted to, and so I decided to set off on an adventure.

I soon left Mischa far behind, and decided to explore parts of the village I never go to when Mum takes me out. What fun it was! I was heard yowling outside of the post office, and apparently someone was asking who that handsome cat was (actually, I’m not certain they said handsome, but they must have thought it at least).

Then, apparently, mum and auntie (who was staying) started searching for me. (Mischa had gone home for breakfast and a long sleep.)

Meanwhile, I was having great fun! Of course, being deaf, I never heard any of the frantic calling, and I think Mum was worried stiff that I would go near the road and get hit by a timber wagon, or something.

I am keeping what I did a big secret that day, just in case I manage to slip out again.

All I will say is that I was finally found more than 15 hours after it was noticed I was missing.

I was hungry and I was tired and I needed my tray.

Hope to hear from you soon

Love from Angus



A Tale of a Cat

Found Cat, Lost Cat, Cat re-united with Owner, Cat to be Rehomed and Cat Homed (and all the same cat)

A couple of weeks ago I received a telephone call from an elderly couple living in a Borders town about 20 miles from me, to say that there was a stray black and white cat which had been hanging around their garden for a week or two. They couldn't keep it because they had birds, and it had NO COLLAR. This was apparently significant because they had rung a well known animal charity for help but as soon as they were told that the cat had no collar they lost interest and said, "ring Cats Protection".

I took details and since the local pet shop was just round the corner from the couple, I rang them to see if there were any cats missing locally. They told me that someone had recently moved from the end of that road to another part of the town – the High Street – and one of their cats kept returning to the old home. That cat was black and white, and they would get the owner to ring me, which they did. She told me that Tommy, the cat, had now been missing since November, so I gave her the details of the couple that had found a cat and hoped they were one and the same.

A day or two passed without any word from anyone, so I rang Tommy's owner for news. Very casually I was told that the cat was indeed Tommy and that he was now back at home. I waited for the "thank you" but it didn't come; instead I was told that there was a problem, because she was now living in a flat on the High Street with two cats who were accustomed to a garden and fields. Could we take Tommy and Maisie and rehome them?

As usual we had no spaces available. However, I had been contacted by and had visited a young lady called Jane, who lived some way the other side of the town where Tommy and Maisie lived, who was looking for a female cat, and there was a problem there, because all our female cats were at fosterers a good forty miles away, which was too far for Jane to travel. So I rang and asked if she would be interested in Maisie, and, yes, she said she would. I gave her the telephone number to contact and waited to see what happened.

This time I did get a call, and a very nice one, from Jane, to say that she now had two lovely new friends called Maisie and Tommy.

I am very glad for the sake of those two cats, and their new owner, that I went to all the trouble I did, but I never did get a thank you from their previous owner. Still, we do it for the cats don't we?

Events 2009

28th March	Coffee Morning and Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am – 12 noon
4th April	Coffee Morning and Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall 10.am – 12 noon
18th April	Coffee Morning and Sale, Langholm Day Centre 10am – 12 noon
23rd - 30th May	Stall at Newcastleton Craft Fair (all week)
June	Stand at Longtown Gala
July	Relaxation Day, Garden House Hotel, Gretna Starts at 1pm
End August	Stand at Newcastleton (The Holm) Show
Early September	Stand at Westerkirk (The Benty) Show
End September	Stand at Langholm Show
November	Stall at Dumfries Charities Fair
7th November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am – 12 noon
14th November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall 10am – 12 noon
21st November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Royal British Legion, Jedburgh 10am – 12 noon
28th November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Langholm Day Centre 10am – 12 noon

Ginnie 013873 76738

100 Club

November 2008

90

5

December 2008

51

116

January 2009

32

4

Hazel Monkhouse

Emma Snowden

Norman Elliot

Billy Thomson

Theresa

Fiona Yeomans

Bottle Draw

Champagne

Sherry

Gin

Port

Wine

Wine

Wine

Wine

Mary McComb

Mrs Armstrong

Gillian

Chesney

S Elliot

K Parker

W Thomas

Jarvis Brown



£167 was raised. Thank you to everyone who supported the draw. All bottles gratefully received for the next one!

Treasurer's Report 2008

Income

Legacies and Grants from HQ	£ 4,890.55
Donations (Cats rehomed)	£ 800.00
Donations	£ 5,686.90
Membership	£ 453.50
Collecting Boxes	£ 1,205.72
Coffee Mornings, etc	£ 7,074.23
Raffles, Quiz and 100 Club	£ 1,477.00
Gift Aid	£ 367.20
Bank Interest	£ 344.91
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Total	£22,300.01

Expenditure

Food and Litter	£ 3,109.96
Veterinary	£13,101.05
Travel Costs	£ 699.90
Cattery Costs	£ 280.80
Equipment	£ 520.44
Repairs	£ 607.43
Printing, Stationery, etc	£ 549.99
Winter Payments to Fosterers	£ 325.00
Goods for Resale	£ 1,970.53
Hire of Halls, etc	£ 346.43
100 Club Payments	£ 542.00
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Total	£22,053.53



Picture Page



OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Our website:
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Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Eskdale & District Branch of Cats Protection