

# Newsletter

1: 2011



**Cats Protection**

**Eskdale and District Branch**

**Spring 2011**

# OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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*Our website:*  
<http://eskdale.cats.org.uk>

### ***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*

# Editorial

Winter still upon us and instead of snow we currently have rain, more rain, and wind. The recent stormy weather nearly brought disaster to the two foster pens at Sarah's when the high winds caused the pens to come crashing down, trapping the three cats inside. It was late evening and it must have been terrifying for them, in the pitch dark, with the winds still howling around, and everything upside down. Sarah was able to check that the cats were all right by getting down on her hands and knees and peering through the side of the pens, but she couldn't get to the cats in the dark. In the morning she managed to cut the wire to make a big enough gap to reach in and free the cats, and the pens are now back the right way up and firmly fixed down, thanks to the Hope brothers, but they are out of action until they dry out and the electrics are fixed. We think the wind caught the solid back panels and tipped the pens over on their front. Although the cats were not injured, one of them now has quite a bad digestive problem as a result of the stress.



**Finances** – we are going through a difficult period financially. I know everyone is feeling the pinch but we are being hit on both the income and expenditure fronts. Income in 2010 from coffee mornings and other fund raising events was down on 2009 and donations dropped dramatically by over 50% from £8,500 to £4,000. And while we were receiving less in 2010 on all sides – the HQ grant was down as well – costs were all going up fast. Vets bills were up nearly £4,000 to £18,000 and this will get even worse this year with the rise in VAT to 20%. We didn't buy any new pens last year so that helped, but the thing that really kept us afloat was Anne's shop in Longtown.

This is now our lifeline, and it is a lovely shop and well worth a regular visit. Please support the shop and.....

**We need bric-a-brac !!! - and other nice things to sell.**

If you'd seen the mountain of goods we had in the barn before the shop opened you would have thought we 'd never need any more, but we do. It's gone. So if you have been thinking of having a Spring (!) sort out, please do, or if you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, just ring Anne on 01228 791364 or me on 013873 76738 – or you can drop the things in to Anne's at 40, English St, Longtown, any time between 10am and 4pm, Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

**Membership**

Subs are now dues – still only £5. Please send your membership fees to Betty Waite, Membership Secretary, 30 Albert St, Longtown, Carlisle CA6 5SF

**Fundraising**

We have five coffee mornings booked for 2011, in Newcastleton, Lockerbie and Jedburgh, beginning with Newcastleton on 19th March, in the Village Hall. We shall also be at the two shows – in Langholm and Newcastleton – as usual. The Relaxation Day is booked for 17th July at the Garden House Hotel, and as well as the usual Reiki, Indian Head Massage, Reflexology, Bowen Therapy and Fortune Telling, we have 'Person Centred Tarot and Rune Reading' by mediums Tricia and Bob Young. It's only £10 a session – prices held again – and booking is recommended. (Ring Flo on 01461 337530 to book.)

If you can make us anything to sell at the events or in the shop – crafts, cakes, tablet, jam etc – we would be very grateful. Give me a ring on 013873 76738 or Anne on 01228 791364.

We always need more helpers too – or if you can do a car boot sale or help with publicity, do please ring me or Anne.

Hope to see you at some of the events

Ginnie

# Cat Work

## 2010

Domestic cats and kittens rehomed: 77  
Cats died/P.T.S: 12  
Ferals rehomed: 10  
Owners receiving vet help for their cats: 47

## Neutering

214 Ferals were caught, neutered and rehomed to site  
118 Cats belonging to members of the public received full cost vouchers  
150 Cats received part payment vouchers



## 2011

13 Cats have been successfully rehomed  
25 Cats are in care  
14 Cats are on the help to home list waiting to come into care.

### *Some of the cats in care:-*

#### **Sophie and Sacha**

Sisters, 7 mths old both black. Their original owner already having two other cats was finding it difficult to cope with four. They are friendly little cats but would need a quiet home with no small children

#### **Benson, Milly & William**

All 8 mths old and black. These three were all feral kittens caught when they were about 10 wks old, each from different sites

*Benson* was living under a garden hedge with his mother who was spayed and returned to the site.

*Milly* was in a hotel park with no sign of mother or siblings. She took refuge in a car engine and had to be very quickly grabbed when the bonnet was opened.

*William* was in a lady's back garden again with no sign of siblings. They all have huge characters but would be timid with a new owner till they settled.

#### **Charlie**

1 to 2 yrs old, male, black and white. Charlie came into care as a stray. He is a very handsome, friendly cat but can be unpredictable.

### **Free Neutering**

During March and April we shall be offering free neutering of cats for anyone on pension, benefits or low income. Please pass the word around and we can prevent another crop of unwanted kittens.

Since we started in 1997 we have neutered over 6,000 cats !!!!!!!

# Poetry Corner

## Catastrophe

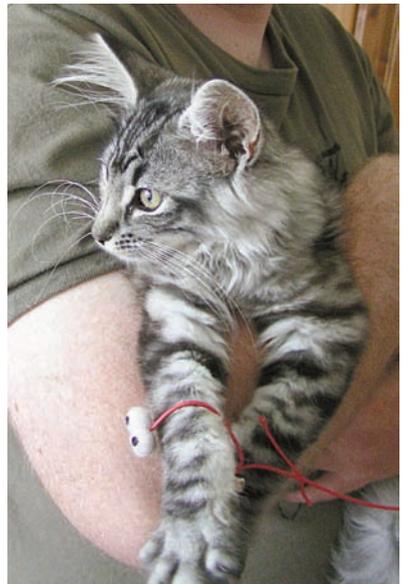
by Eric Ferguson

*Cat food commercials on TV  
show cats of high and low degree  
eating the contents of their tins  
- full of nourishing vitamins,  
while with a supercilious air  
soft voices overhead declare  
the food has such seductive taste  
nothing is ever left to waste.*

*Their cats bound in and cannot wait  
until they've emptied every plate.  
What kind it is, they do not mind,  
they never leave a scrap behind,  
but daintily leave every dish  
licked clean of rabbit, beef or fish.  
Then beaming owners speak with pride  
of how they're more than satisfied  
Beguiled by such persuasive prose,  
out to the shops my dear wife goes.  
Determined then, her plans are made  
to earn a feline accolade.  
She comes home laden with the lot  
- there's not a brand she hasn't got,  
and when she's opened up a tin  
our cats are then invited in.*

*They look - they sniff - away each goes -  
their thoughts expressed by upturned nose.  
But each tin gets the same reaction -  
not one can give them satisfaction.  
Once, in a while, they stop to taste  
a bite or two - the rest is waste  
spread round the vinyl to prepare  
a skid pan for the unaware.*

*The trouble is, it seems to me,  
our cats just will not watch TV.*



# Treasurer's Report

## Income

Opening Balance	£ 9,059.94
Legacies & Grants from HQ	£10,450.00
Donations(Cats rehomed)	£ 1,020.00
Donations	£ 4,025.38
Memberships	£ 331.00
Collecting Boxes	£ 1,535.40
Coffee Mornings	£ 3,761.31
Raffle,Quiz & 100 Club	£ 1,020.00
Gift Aid	£ 763.34
Bank Interest	£ 013.80
Shop	£ 9,139.62
Bank Error	£ 485.46
Pet Plan	£ 40.84

£41,646.09



## Expenditure

Food & Litter	£ 6,198.17
Veterinary Costs	£18,134.55
Travel Costs	£ 1,582.40
Cattery Costs	£ 368.35
Equipment	£ 1,259.46
Repairs	£ 309.01
Printing & Stationary	£ 406.30
Postage	£ 388.61
Goods for resale	£ 3,638.97
Hire of Halls etc	£ 377.91
100 Club payments - less unpaid cheques	£ 327.12
Winter payments to fosterers	£ 675.00
Bank Error	£ 485.46
Identichip	£ 6.00
Pet Plan	£ 15.00

Closing Balance                   £ 7,473.78  
£41,646.09

Another year has started so it's time to start again raising funds.

Please help whatever way you can,without funds we are limited to the number of cats we are able to help.

# *Please help Hamish*

Any donations welcome, no matter how small.

It's been one thing after another for handsome tabby cat Hamish.

He was found starving in a local town, so emaciated that the police picked him up and took him to the vet. As well as being just a bag of bones he was middle-aged to senior with a very enlarged thyroid gland. It was the biggest the vets had ever seen. However he came through the operation to remove it very well and put on weight and became quite sleek. Then he started pulling his fur out. We tried various anti-stress treatments and then an examination showed that his second thyroid gland was now enlarged and the very unusually the first one appeared to have regrown.

Another operation to remove the lumps and the regrown one was sent for biopsy. He was hospitalised for a few days in case of a hypocalcaemic reaction and then he returned to his fosterer – only to have a delayed calcium crash on the Sunday morning. So we had a swift dash back to the vet for calcium injections and blood checks, and this time he had to be hospitalised for a week to stabilise the calcium level. The stress of all this then brought on a gingivitis-type flare up in his mouth which in turn required another trip to the vet for dental treatment and antibiotics!

Hamish is recovering nicely now but our finances have taken a very unexpected knock. Can you help Hamish? We knew he wasn't in the first flush when we took him in, but oldies need to be given a chance too. (I wouldn't be too pleased if my doctor said he wasn't treating me because I was now 60 and too old. Of course with NHS cuts it may come to that, but that's not the issue here.)

If you can help, please send donations made payable to:

Eskdale & District CP

To: Mrs A Thomson, 38 English St, Longtown, Carlisle CA6 5SD

Thank you for your support.

# Cat Quotations

Places to look: behind the books in the bookshelf, any cupboard with a gap too small for any cat to squeeze through, the top of anything sheer, under anything too low for a cat to squash under and inside the piano. (Roseanne Ambrose Brown)

Many a cat can only be lured in by switching off all the lights and keeping very still, until the indignant cry of a cat-locked-out comes at the door. (Pam Brown)

Nobody who is not prepared to spoil cats will get from them the reward they are able to give to those who do spoil them. (Compton Mackenzie)

You can keep a dog, but it is the cat who keeps people, because cats find humans useful domestic animals. (George Miles)



# Fundraising Events

- 19th March Coffee Morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall.  
10:30 am – 12 noon.
- 9th April Coffee Morning & Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall  
10 am – 12 noon
- 20th & 21st May Collection at Tesco Lockerbie, 10 am – 4 pm
- End May – June Table at Craft Fair, Newcastleton Village Hall  
11 am – 5 pm daily for 8 days.
- 17th July Relaxation Day, Garden House Hotel, Gretna  
Ring Flo on 01461 337530 to book.
- End August Stand at the Holm Show.
- End September Stand at Langholm Show
- 22nd October Coffee Morning & Sale  
British Legion Jedburgh 10 am – 12 noon
- 29th October Coffee morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall  
10:30 am – 12 noon
- 26th November Coffee Morning & Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall  
10 am – 12 noon

Further Dates to be arranged.

If you can help at any of the events, or bake cakes, scones or tray bakes, please ring Ginnie on 013873 76738



# Letter from Isaac

Dear Angus,

Since my last letter we have sadly lost Robbie.

He took poorly very quickly, an auto immune disease and had to be put to sleep, he is such a big miss.

I haven't been well myself, a tummy bug which gave me dreadful diarrhoea. Anyway thankfully I'm on the mend with the help of special food and probiotics.

We still have these three kittens staying with us, they were ten weeks old when they arrived and are now eight months and still haven't got a home. I quite enjoy having a play with them but I run out steam before they do and they become little pests.

We have the charity shop joined on to our house now, it's quite exciting going in to explore what's new. Of course we're barred on opening days. Mother said to mention we're always needing more bric-a-brac and unwanted gifts, it all goes to help the likes of ourselves who were originally unwanted kittens.

Love

Isaac

## Bottle Draw

Bottle Vodka	David McCrea
Half Bottle Whisky	M.Kelly
Mulled Wine	Pat Armstrong
Wine	Des Jeffrey
Wine	Audrey Mackie
Wine	Les Boyes
Wine	Louise
Wine	Denise Stitt
Wine	Betty Waite
Wine	Anne Ewing

*Many thanks to all who supported!*

A total of £260 was raised.

## Quiz

A quiz organised by Elspeth one of our fosterers raised a total of £82.

The winner was:-

Mrs E.Lind, 16 Macdirmaid Road, Heathhall, Dumfries

## 100 Club

### *November*

04 Fiona Yeomans

17 Carol Sawyers

### *December*

32 Thersa Woodman

19 Mrs Ashmore

### *January*

70 Muriel Pink

99 Flo Rice