

NEWSLETTER

2/2002



Magazine of Eskdale & District Branch
Cats Protection
Summer 2002

Editorial - Fiona

Hello again and welcome to the second newsletter of 2002.

We ran a free neutering campaign for the whole of April and still we have kittens!

Please have a look at the fund-raising events that are planned and come along and support us if you can. If you can help at any of them then give Ginnie a ring or if you would like to do a fund-raising event yourself, that would be great.

Do you fancy having a coffee morning (or tea afternoon) in your own house (or garden)? You could invite a few friends and neighbours, ask them for a small donation and you're well on your way to your own fund-raiser. We can supply "cat goods", cards and craft things for you to sell. Or how about a garage sale? We can supply bric-a-brac, you supply the garage (or drive) and the time.

Fund-raising is essential to our work. If we don't have the money we can't help the cats. So please give it a thought and have another look at our coming events list.

Now for the wish list.

Wanted:

Children's books - we seem to sell children's books very quickly, so if you have any spare please give us a ring.

Double knitting wool, do you have any spare, any amount can be used, small amounts can be used to knit mice, larger amounts are used for cat blankets.

Self coloured cotton type material, used for backing cushions.

Someone to bake for even one or two of our coffee mornings; Fiona & Ruthie do a great job but could do with just a bit of help.

Someone to give talks, on Cats Protection, to schools, youth groups WI meetings etc., we can supply flip charts, information and a video. This is one area which we really need to get more involved in. If we had two or three volunteers, the work could be split. You can arrange the talks to suit yourself, during the day, evenings whatever. If you think you could do this then please ring now.

We would like to offer a warm welcome to Phylis and Graham, who have volunteered to foster kittens and to hand-rear. They have already got three little kittens in their care.

The 100+ club is now a year old and is a good source of income for us; if you would like to join please send a cheque for £12 made payable to Eskdale & District CP, this will give you one number, entered in 12 draws. Half of the money goes to the cats and half is given out in prizes.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Cat

Work



CAT WORK 2002

79 Cats & Kittens have been homed this year
40 are in care
17 are on the help to home list

49 cats were neutered in our April "free neutering" campaign, this is a low number compared to other years. It would be nice to think that we're just running out of un-neutered cats, but unfortunately this is not the case as can be seen by the number of kittens in care.

Some of the cats in care include:-

Jaffa

5 yr old male, black and white. He was picked up as a stray and had a very bad skin condition. This did clear up with antibiotics but has recurred. He is now on ovarid tablets (1 tablet a week) which is keeping his complaint under control.

G.T.

5 yr old, male, ginger and white. He came in as a stray, but the owners had moved away and the cat returned to his original home; the owners never came back to look for him. G.T. dislikes other cats, so would like a home of his own.

Matilda

1yr old, female, tortie & white. Matilda became a stray when her owners moved away and left her behind. She is a timid little cat and would prefer a nice quiet home.

Checkers & Bobby

Both 5 year old, 1 male & 1 female, 1 black & white and 1 grey & white.

They came into care when their owner was no longer able to look after them due to ill health (their owner has since died). Both cats are very timid and need a quiet home together. Anne

Cat News

A Cat Called Cheeky

Sadly we recently had to have one of our foster cats put to sleep.

She was a little tabby and white female and had come from a feral colony in Lockerbie. An old lady had taken her in and looked after her, she was still a timid little cat, but lived very well with the lady. She came into our care via the SSPCA and Social Services as the lady was taken into hospital and there was no-one to look after the cat. When they arrived to pick up Cheeky, she shot up the chimney and had to be coaxed down, covered in soot, in her panic she knocked over a bottle of air freshener, so when she arrived at my house, she was a dirty grey cat, smelling very strongly of air freshener. She started off in a pen in my garden, but when it became clear that she would not be able to go back home as the old lady would not be able to look after her, she came into the house. She stayed in all winter, but when the summer came she used to live in the garden & garage, then come back in when it got cold. She used to also go to Ruthies next door, and when we got Jack, Cheeky moved into Ruthies full time. She was a very easy going little cat, but still hid away if anything new was happening. She was with us for several years and her age was never established. She became ill and rapidly deteriorated, and was put to sleep by our vets.

Her ashes are scattered in Ruthies garden, where she used to lie in the sun and chase butterflies.



Cat News

Smokey-Joe

Sadly I have even more bad news of another foster cat who has just died.

Smokey-Joe came into care with a number of other cats. These cats had all been living in sheds, and as far as we know had not been outside at all. They were all in quite good condition and were a wide variety of ages. Smokey-Joe appeared to be the oldest. All the other cats were rehomed, but Smokey-Joe was a bit sneezy and when he was examined by the vet they thought he probably had a cancer. His estimated age was around 11yrs old. As he was not a healthy cat we thought he would probably be more difficult to rehome, so he came into the house with my other cats. (He had been blood tested and was negative for feline aids & leukaemia). He was a very easy cat to look after, he ate, slept and pottered around. He was never frightened by anything new; dogs, cats and people were all friends to Smokey-Joe. He loved to be picked up and cuddled even though he was very thin, he always purred at any attention he was given. Smokey-Joe came into care on 14th December 2000 and died at home on 30th May 2002. He will be sadly missed.

Fiona



Georgina

My name is wee Jean
and I'm very smart and clean

I'm a sweet little one
and I love to have some fun

I'm certainly boss of this house
and I often steal Josh's mouse

I love my dogs especially Jack & Frazer
and I cast all over Ryan's blazer

I bash Monty if I'm in a bad mood
He's slow because he eats too much food

My dad is my favourite one of all
I run to meet him in the hall

I'm not a big fan of his wife
Even though she did save my life

Occasionally I let her tickle my chin
If she picks me up I make a din

Dad calls me Poppet and Tweeny Pop
When I sit on his knee I purr and can't stop

I'm scared of nothing except the man
next door
When I see him I crawl across the floor

I eat when I want and lie where I
choose

Now if you'll excuse me I'm late for my
snooze.

Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo is his name
He was lovely and friendly when he came
He is ginger with stripes and a handsome sight,
His coat so shiny it reflects the light.
When he goes out, he stays nearby
On the grass or wall he prefers to lie
When he comes in he sits on the mat
Then he plays with Gina, the baby cat
He has a short tail
And is as fat as a whale
From morning till night he never does stop
Eating and eating surely he must pop
He has short legs
And toes like pegs
I love little Monte
Who's friends with Jaunty
By Erin Dinsdale age 9

FUNDRAISING

Here we are in the middle of fundraising again, and coming up for the Open Garden Day and the Fun Day. We shall be at the local agricultural shows as usual - Kelso, Newcastleton and Langholm. It would be nice if all the members who don't normally come to our fundraisers, could maybe come to just one of these events. There is lots of variety, so if coffee mornings aren't your thing, then why not try the sponsored walk in September - dogs welcome to join in - or the shows, or Anne and Cameron's Open Garden Day, or the Fun Day.

There will be lots of plants for sale at really bargain prices at the Garden Day. You don't have to be a keen gardener, there are things for the weekend potterer as well as the Alan Titchmarshes and Charlie Dimmocks. Anne and Cameron have been at the construction work in the garden, so there is quite a lot of innovation there. There has also been quite a lot of swearing there too, I believe, but Cameron will have stopped that by July.

Please note that the Fun Day is in August this year - on the 4th. We are hoping for slightly warmer, less windy weather (No harm hoping). The hovercraft will be back and Sue will be telling fortunes again. There will be lots of other attractions - including another dog show. This was very popular last year with lots of entries, and everyone enjoyed it - especially the dogs. That will start at 2pm. There will be plenty of classes and prizes and it isn't awfully serious, so if you think you have a dog that looks like you, or if your dog has a very waggy tail or a happy expression, bring him or her along.

HELP WANTED

Would anyone like to help organise the Fun Day for 2003? We really need three or four people who would get together just to organise that one event each year. It wouldn't take up an awful lot of your time, but it does take up quite a lot of my time, doing it on my own in addition to a lot of other fundraising throughout the year. Which is why I shan't be doing it again - so if we are going to have another Fun Day after 2002 - it's up to you.

BRANCH TSHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS AND POLO SHIRTS

Some members may not know that they can purchase Tshirts, sweatshirts and polos with the branch name and logo, as in the picture. If you would like one, please fill in the order form enclosed with the newsletter and send it to me with your payment.

Sizes are: S, M, L, XL or XXL. Tshirts and sweats have the design across the chest and polos have a smaller left hand breast pocket design.

Colours available are: white, navy, sunflower, black, bottle green, red, bur-

gundy, royal blue, grey.

Prices: Tshirts £9

Sweatshirts £17

Polos £14

When they come in I will ring you and arrange delivery/collection. If you want your order posted to you, please add £2.50 to the total.

We can also get Ts and sweats in children's sizes - but if ordering, please be sure of the size you want because we can't do refunds or exchanges. I have a small supply in stock so you might like to ring me and I can let you see them so that you can check sizes. Prices are £7 for Tshirts and £11 for sweatshirts if I have to order them, or £5 and £9 for ones in stock. Sizes 28,30 & 32. Colours as for adults.

We are also hoping to have fleeces for sale in the autumn, with an embroidered logo on the left hand breast pocket. If you would be interested in having one, could you let me know now so I shall be ready to order when the design is completed. They will be around £30.



A LETTER FROM FERGUS

Dear Shep,

Thank you for writing to me, I've never met a collie, but Mother says they're very nice, her favourite type of dog. I've really been leading a very quiet life lately, have been behaving very well and had no traumas. Henry has been losing weight lately, so off he was taken to the vets and they discovered he has Hyperthyroid. He has to have tablets every day now, but of course he's one of these well behaved cats who opens wide and swallows no bother. I've noticed each time he has come back from the vets they've shaved a patch of fur off his throat, it must be a new fashion of hair cut they're doing, well I've told Mother I'm certainly not going to get mine done, it looks stupid.

For five weeks there were no kittens in the spare room, I actually went in one day and had a look around, but I was very cautious in case there was one lurking under the sofa waiting to leap out and get me. Peace was shattered though, there's seemingly 8 little smelly things in there just now.

My yearly jag was quite painless this year, the vet came and gave me it while I was asleep on the chair. I reckon I'm maybe winning in training these humans and vets, the less bother they give me, the less bother I'll give them.

Well I can't think there's any more news, please write back.

Love, Fergus

P.S. I hate to tell you this, but I've just heard through the grapevine your Mother is going to be adopting another cat, a tabby & white thing called Lizzie. If I were you I'd go & bite her hard right now.





Smiling

Smiling is infectious, You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling
too

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin
When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile, then realized its worth,
A single smile just like mine could travel 'round the
earth.

So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected

Everyone needs a smile !!

Forthcoming Events 2002

15th June	Coffee Morning and Sale. Canonbie Parish Hall 10am to 12pm
22nd June	Coffee Morning and Sale. Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30am to 12:30pm
7th July	Open Garden Day. Anne's, 38 English St. Longtown
26-27th July	Stall at Border Union Show, Kelso
4th August	Fun Day, Garden House Hotel, Gretna, 11am to 4pm
End of Aug	Stall at Holm Show, Newcastleton
8th Sept	Sponsored Walk - Location to be decided, probably Langholm Area
End of Sept	Stand at Langholm Agricultural Show
20th Oct	Stall at Craft Fair, William Howard School, Brampton
27th Oct	Crafts For Christmas at Anne's, 38 English St. Longtown 7pm - 9pm
9th Nov	Coffee Morning and Autumn Fair. Day Centre Langholm, 10am to 12
16th Nov	Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair. Lockerbie Town Hall, 10am to 12pm
23rd Nov	Stalls at Christmas Charities Fair. Loreburn Hall, Dumfries
30th Nov	Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair. Newcastleton Village Hall, 10:30 to 12:30

**If anyone would like to book a table at one of these events please
phone GINNIE on 013873 76738**

Vivaldis Tails

Hello again, its a long time since I last put pen to paper; so many things to do, so little time: but it's a nasty wet day, so I thought I'd drop you a line to let you know what's going on,

Christmas came and went and still no sign of a pond, but really this was a minor disappointment compared to the enormous disaster which befell us just before Christmas.

Mum brought another dog home!

It is truly awful. It is white with black spots, rather a nice colour combination, if I do say so myself; but there the similarity ends. It has long legs, big paws and no brain, we really thought Jack was brainless, but this one makes Jack look like a rocket scientist.

She has pulled up, chewed off, knocked over and trampled on, loads of plants and although she has been told off for it, she still carries on.

She has eaten the hall carpet, well not all of it, but a big patch; also the lino in the kitchen and bathroom, the kitchen chairs and really that's just the start.

We have new flooring in the living room and it's lovely & slidey, you can make mats and covers slide across it, and foam rubber balls just sail about. You may know that one of my favourite games is to hide under a cover (or mat) and pounce on the next cat to walk past. Well all the dogs know this game and are careful to avoid mats etc.: not this new dog (Roxy is her name), she trips over you if she doesn't see you, and if she does see you, she either snuffles you with her nose (Yuk!) or she pats you with her paw (did I mention she has enormous paws?) She has ruined this game for me and I'm going to have to think of another.

On the brighter side, Mum put some pallets into our run, it's a bit like decking! we can climb under them and sit on them and poke our paws through them, so it's quite good fun.

Ruthie has given us some cat nip plants, but Mum has put a cage round them, so we have to wait for a leaf to grow through, before we can get any. I check it every day, but it seems to take ages.

We've had kittens in the house! one ginger one who thought he owned the place and couldn't be knocked into shape, no matter how I tried: one black one, who was nice (well she was O.K) and one tabby and white one who was quite quiet (a bit like myself). They weren't tiny kittens, so I suppose it wasn't too bad.

We have tiny kittens, with their mother, in the pen in the garden, but we don't see them, so that's O.K.

Tiggy, who stays in the house, but is a C.P cat still looking for a home, is still not too keen on people, he is fine with us cats, and is all right with the dogs, if they leave him alone: anyway Tiggy needed brushed, and Mum tried again & again, but only managed to get a couple of brushes before he complained, so away to the vets he went. They knocked him out & x-rayed him, he has a funny bit near his pelvis & tail, which has probably been broken in the past: but the major thing is that he got brushed, wormed & de-fleaed while he was there. He came back much shinier, very wobbly and a bit cross. I'm pleased I didn't have to go too, but my coat is, of course, perfect.

Woolfie sends his love (he really is a lazy cat).

Will close now and check all the windows, in case it's stopped raining at one of them.

All the best, Vivaldi

100+ CLUB

Anyone wishing to join please contact Fiona, Ginnie or Anne.

Winning numbers since last newsletter:

March	no	63	Dickie Briggs
	no	28	Mrs Faulder
April	no	11	Yvonne Woodman
	no	105	Barbara Tuddenham
May	no	98	Mrs Miller
	no	90	Hazel Monkhouse

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Disclaimer

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