

Newsletter

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Cats Protection

Eskdale and District Branch

Summer 2009

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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

Editorial

Hello

Welcome to the summer newsletter.

Having breakfast this morning and Purdey, who was sitting on the table as usual, sneezed snottily down my ear and over my bowl of cereal. Not very seasonal, as I told her; not that she was bothered. She felt a sneeze coming and anyway it was only boring old bran flakes, whereas she really fancied a bit of buttered toast, apparently.



Barbara, one of our founder members and long term fosterers, has decided to stop fostering for family reasons – two teenage daughters take a lot of ferrying about. So, thank you very much, Barbara, for all the cats you have cared for and all the running about and TLC. Fortunately Sarah, one of our newer fosterers, is going to have two pens in her garden, which will help a lot. We asked HQ if they could help us to pay for new pens, but apparently there wasn't any money in the pot!! I have no official comment to make on this

So we shall just have to do more fundraising (see Fundraising section for how you can help).

Every cat that comes into care is now vaccinated and microchipped, as of July 2009, in line with HQ Cat Care Standards. Those already in care will be microchipped if they need to go to the vet for something else, but we shan't be doing a mass microchip of all cats already in care. We are very grateful to Capontree and Ark Veterinary Centres for giving us a very good deal for microchipping. However, it is another drain on our resources, and one which again receives no extra support from HQ. We were hoping for an increased annual grant but this did not happen either.

The free neutering in April and May had quite a good response. 80 cats were neutered, so there should be considerably fewer unwanted kittens born in the area. Just to give a rough idea of how good cats are at multiplication (and I don't mean they are good at maths) if 50 of the 80 neutered were female and each had 2 litters of 4 kittens, that would be 400 kittens this year alone. Then next year those 50 cats would again have 2 litters, as would their female offspring. So say there were 250 females in the 400 born this year, that would be 2,400 kittens born next year. And so on.

Ginnie

Cat Work

32 cats have been successfully rehomed

32 cats are in care

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

Some of the cats in care include:-

Stormy and Tidus

9 months and 7 months, one male, one female, both tabby and they are cousins. Their owners moved to rented accommodation and were unable to keep them.

Jenny and kittens

Jenny is 1 – 2 years approx, female black and white. She was found living under a lady's doorstep with her 3 kittens. Jenny is very friendly and has been somebody's cat. Her kittens, Basil, Bertie and Bessie, were not so friendly as they had been born outside and had had no human contact. They were about 6 weeks old when caught and they are now friendly, thanks to the patience of their fosterer, Sarah.

Sally and kittens

Sally is 1 – 2 years old, female, black. Another little stray, she moved in with a lady and very quickly had 4 kittens in the dog's bed.

We have just started to get the kittens coming in, the majority being feral so they take a lot of time and patience to get them tamed.

Letter from Isaac

Dear Angus

Thank you for your letter, you certainly seem to have had quite an adventure when you escaped outside. I've never been outside – it's too scary for me; I just like looking out.

We lost another of our little family, Agnes, one of the white girls who live in the garage. She had been absolutely fine, had spent the afternoon in the garden and was making her way home, was about three feet away from the garage door when she dropped down dead. Mother said it was a nice way to go 'cos she had no illness to contend with and no suffering, although she was just 11 years old.

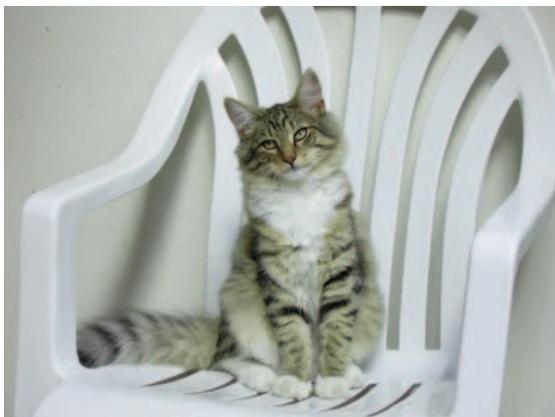
It has been quite quiet here lately although the other day I caught sight of a very small ginger and white thing through the glass of the kitchen door. Seemingly he was a little wild kitten from the motorway service station and is here to be tamed, but he has developed an eye infection so he has to be kept away from us. No doubt it won't be long before we bump into each other and I can see what I think of him.

Anyway, time for a snooze, speak to you soon.

Isaac.



Picture Pages





Letter from Benson

(Benson was one of Anne's kittens, happily homed in Lockerbie several years ago.)

Hi

It's me, Benson! This photo was taken 2 weeks ago with my new "wee sister", German Shepherd, 11 weeks old. She's such a pain.

My last sister Tia, who was here when I moved in (and hated to start with) has gone to heaven and now I'm stuck with this pain in the bum! She's pretty stupid and tormenting her is my favourite hobby just now.

I'm 4 in July and am pretty big! This place is not so bad; sleep and eat, torment the dog, bring my cat friends home sometimes, as Jasper, my big brother who was here before me, died last year. These suckers I live with fall for a wee meow and a cuddle and I get what I want!

Send you another picture soon.

x Benson



The Origin of Pets ...

Adam and Eve seemed rather dispirited and God wondered if they might need some company.

“I know,” said God, “I will create a companion for them who will be a reflection of my love for them, so that they will love me even when they cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable they can be, this new companion will accept them as they are and will love them as I do.”

So God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve.

And it was a good animal.

And God was pleased.

And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

“This new animal,” said God, “is to be a reflection of my love for you, so his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG.”

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.

And they were comforted.

And God was pleased.

And dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that God noticed that Adam and Eve had become filled with pride, strutting and preening like peacocks, believing they too were worthy of adoration. “I see,” mused God, “Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps rather too well.”

So God thought awhile and then said “I will create another companion who can see them as they are and remind them of their limitations; they need to know they are not always worthy of adoration.”

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

And Cat would not obey them.

And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility.

And they were greatly improved.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was happy.

And Cat sat in the sunshine and smiled to herself.



Fundraising

Many thanks to all who have supported us so far this year. In spite of the credit crunch, people are still being generous, so our takings are not much down on normal.

TOMBOLA PRIZES NEEDED

We are running low, and these are one of the main sources of income at the summer shows. Please can you raid cupboards and drawers for all those little things you don't really want and which it would make you feel much better to be rid of because of all the extra space you would have! The bars of soap, the smellies, the little knick-knacks, the bags of sweets, the packet of licorice tea that looked good in the shop but doesn't seem so appetising now it is in the cupboard, the kitchen utensil that was going to be so handy but which you haven't used yet, two years later, etc etc.

Please give Anne (01228 791364) or me (013873 76738) a ring if you have something, or you can drop anything off to Anne at 38 English St, Longtown – or to me at any of the events.

SPONSORS NEEDED

As mentioned earlier, we are getting two new pens and need to raise some money for the purchase and the running costs.

So we are looking for sponsors. For a small monthly payment you would have the satisfaction of knowing you were helping to care for abandoned and stray cats in your area. All money received would go to the project and the furry tenants and you would also receive regular updates on the feline occupants.

If you would like to sponsor a pen please complete the standing order form enclosed with the newsletter, and return it to the address given. We also have long term residents like Cassidy. You can use the same form if you would prefer to sponsor a specific cat.

See the website – <http://www.eskdale.cats.org.uk> for information on Muffin and Cassidy, who are both available for sponsorship or ring me on 013873 76738. Please enclose a note with the form saying whether you are sponsoring a pen or a cat. Thank you.

CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW IN!!

Sorry about that – I don't want to think about it either. Still, if you get them now you can forget about Christmas for another four months.

Please have a look at the events list, and try to come along to one of the shows or Coffee Mornings. We would love to see some new faces, and we do need the support. Have a lovely summer! *Ginnie*

100 Club

February	32	Theresa
	4	Fiona Yeomans
March	95	Glenise
	92	Anne Gray
April	3	Robert Willens
	93	Nancy Fox
May	41	Hazel Monkhouse
	53	Dorothy Lamb
June	99	Flo Rice
	105	Barbara Tuddenham
July	60	Suzanne
	54	Elsbeth Little

The number of members in the 100 Club has dropped slightly. If anyone would like to join or take on another number, please phone Anne on 01228 791364

Events 2009

25th July	Stall at Summer Fair At Langburnshiels, Hawick from 12 noon
29th August	Stand at Newcastleton (The Holm) Show
5th September	Stand at Westerkirk (The Benty) Show
26th September	Stand at Langholm Show
November	Stall at Dumfries Charities Fair
7th November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall 10:30 am – 12 noon
14th November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall 10 am – 12 noon
21st November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Royal British Legion, Jedburgh 10 am – 12 noon
28th November	Coffee Morning and Sale, Langholm Day Centre 10 am – 12 noon

If you would like to have a table at one of the coffee mornings, or can help in any way e.g., baking or making things to sell, or helping at one of the events, please ring me on 013873 76738