

Newsletter

2: 2011



Cats Protection

Eskdale and District Branch

Summer 2011

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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

Homing is quite slow at the moment, so if you know of anyone looking for a cat or kitten, please do suggest they contact either Anne or me, because we have cats and kittens to suit most situations. Please look at the list of felines waiting for homes over the page – we never run out of cats waiting to come in, and Anne is doing a lot of trapping at the moment, so we shall no doubt have more kittens arriving. Which brings me to the next point:



Fosterers Wanted

Sadly Sarah, who has been a tower of strength taking in so many cats at very short notice, has had to stop fostering for us for personal reasons. Thank you, Sarah, for all the time that you (and Hannah) put in with all the kittens and cats who came into your pens and your home and then (mostly) went out again to new homes, and for all the socialising with children and dogs getting the cats “family friendly”. I do hope you will be able to foster again in the future.

Meantime – we need more fosterers.

It isn't what you'd call a “soft option”, but it is very rewarding. You need to be able to give a fair amount of time each day – feeding, doing trays, picking up, cuddling, talking to and generally socialising the cats, showing potential owners your charges, and sometimes going to the vet. It has to be done every day, so think about how often you go away on holiday.

You also need space – either for a pen in the garden, or else you need a spare room, because foster cats need to be kept separate from your own cats.

You also need lots of patience, some of it for the cats, and some of it for the people!

Is this you?

Can you help us?

If you feel you might be able to help, and would like to discuss what is involved, just give me or Anne a ring 013873 76738 (me) 01228 791364 (Anne).

You can also speak to one of our current fosterers, to get the lowdown on fostering day to day.

So, I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, and please read on ...
Ginnie

Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who has been involved with fundraising so far this summer. Three events in July were miraculously blessed with sunny – even blistering –weather.

3rd July was Anne's Open Garden Day, which everyone enjoyed, even us in the kitchen because we were able to eat lots of Anne's mum's delicious scones. If you missed it you missed seeing Anne's garden, which is terrific, a fantastic plant stall, and a very nice tea. The day raised £890 which was divided between the Neck and Head Cancer Clinic at Carlisle and Cats Protection.

Next we went to the Open Gardens Day at Middleshaw and had a successful afternoon with the Tombola stall in Ruth's beautiful garden. There were a few sharp showers but we had the gazebo which sheltered us and the goods nicely, and we made £96.

Then lastly there was the Relaxation Day at the Garden House Hotel in Gretna. We had a great time there, everyone enjoyed the therapies and sessions with Sue telling fortunes and Trisha and Bob reading the Tarot cards and the runes, and we made £360. Thanks very much to everyone who helped and also to Paul at the Garden House for allowing us to have the event. We hope we shall be able to do it again next year.

Now for events up and coming. Please come along to the Holm Show and to Langholm Show – 27th August and 24th September – and then to the various Coffee Mornings in the autumn. Please look at the events list and try to come and support us.

Or how about organising an event for us? Anything you fancy – Car Boot, Coffee Morning in your own home, sale of cakes or plants maybe. If you feel you can do something, please ring me and we can get it on the website to publicise it.

Ginnie 013873 76738

Wanted – goods to sell in the shop.

The shop does very well and because of that we are always needing new things to sell. Ornaments, jewellery, crocks, kitchen things, books, little pieces of furniture – stools, little tables etc – any unwanted presents. Also any jams, plants, eggs, and of course priceless antiques are always welcome. We can collect. Ring Anne on 01228 791364.

Cat Work

40 cats & kittens have been successfully rehomed

29 cats are in care

12 cats are on the help list waiting to come into care.



Some of the cats in care:

Bronwyn

Approx 18 mths, female, tortie. Came into care after being found in a shed with her litter of kittens. Bronwyn is a lovely friendly cat and would suit most homes.

Lola

Another little stray cat, she was found living in a barn on a farm. She is very affectionate but probably wouldn't cope with small children.

Cleo

6 - 8 yrs old approx, female tortie/tabby, long haired. Cleo is a very pretty cat with a slight persian type face. Yet another stray. When Cleo was found she was almost bald. Most of her coat had become so badly matted it had torn away from her skin. She now looks much more presentable.

Missie & Tia

Missie is 1 yr old, Tia 9 mths, both tabbies. Although not related would like if possible to be homed together. Both would at first be timid but would soon settle.

Free Neutering

The free neutering in March and April went well with 113 cats being neutered. A never ending stream of kittens is ending up in the pet shop in Carlisle which isn't encouraging owners to have their cats neutered as they are being paid for them. As a result of this all the kittens we have had in this year have been little ferals. These kittens take such a lot of work socialising, are in care much longer and it is much harder to find them the right homes.

Is your cat plotting to kill you?

Kneading paws on you

You may think this is a sign of affection but your cat is actually checking your internal organs for weaknesses.

Excessive shovelling of kitty litter

After using the litter tray, your cat kicks litter around, most of it ending up all over the room.
This is practice for burying bodies.



Staring contests

If you get caught in a staring contest with your cat, do not look away. Looking away will signal to your cat that you are weak. *An attack will follow.*

Racing out of any room you enter

This is actually a failed ambush



Hiding in dark places and watching you

Your cat is studying you in your natural habitat.

Sleeping on your keyboard

And spilling your coffee on your keyboard.

Guaranteed to disrupt all attempts at communication with the outside world

Pawing at your face while you sleep

Cats aren't very good at smothering people; this will not stop them from trying



Bringing you dead animals

These are not gifts. *This is a warning.*

Letter from Isaac

Dear Isaac

What a time Mischa and I have been having since I last wrote to you. I really have been quite stressed out by it all.

I don't know what's been going on but our lives have been totally turned upside down.

It started quite a long time ago and the details are too boring and complex to talk about here, so I will just tell you how they affected Mischa and me.

It all kicked off at the beginning of May, when people started coming to the house and going into the kitchen; pulling up floorboards; hammering them back again and then disappearing.

Naturally we weren't allowed anywhere near the floorboards while they were pulled up ... cats love to explore after all!

Then one day – Mum said it was Friday the 13th – yet more people came; yet more removal of floorboards ... and then phone calls and the cat basket came out. Great fun! We love the cat basket and both scrambled to get in first.

Then it was into the car and before we knew it we were at the cattery.

I didn't mind: I had spotted some food and quickly tucked in before Mischa found it too.

But then Mum seemed to forget about us.

Weeks went by and still we didn't go home.

What was happening and where was Mum and why couldn't we go home?

Finally, 43 days after we first arrived, Mum came to pick us up.

Of course, we both pretended to not know who she was. The drive home started in total silence; but then I could resist it no longer ... I put my paw through the opening and thankfully got a tickle. I let out a loud miaow and everything suddenly seemed back to normal.

Until we got home: our cat chair had gone!

The sitting room looked very different; We prowled around; Mischa hid behind the piano and wouldn't come out. Meanwhile I grabbed hold of Mum's wrist and licked and licked and licked her. Mischa finally forgave Mum when we were given our tea.

I don't really know what has been going on; something about broken drains and insurance and other stuff, apparently. Even after we came home there have been builders and more work done on the floorboards: one day we had to spend the whole day shut in a bedroom and furniture keeps getting put in the sitting room then taken out of the sitting room.

It is all very unsettling: I like to spend most of my day lying on the settee sleeping, or even better sitting on Mum and sleeping but it has all been very disrupted and difficult.

Happily, nothing seems to have happened for 2 days now: I hope that's the end to it all. Right, time for a snooze.



Hamish

Many thanks to everyone who sent in a donation towards the cost of Hamish's treatment. Donations locally totalled £290. He is currently doing very well, has put on a lot of weight and his coat has nearly all grown back in. He still has tufts of fur sticking up where his arthritis prevents him from turning to reach and groom the parts by his shoulders and he is still on treatment for slightly bald front paws, but you wouldn't recognise him now for the cat he was when he came into care.

He is much more relaxed these days and is getting quite playful. He loves to grab at a dangly toy, and is painfully keen to attack bare toes! This can be quite something as he loves to come and sit in the bathroom when either of us takes a bath, and he waits for you to get out of the bath and then savages your toes as you try to dry them. It was like comic capers in the bathroom the other night as I tried to fend him off my toes and get a leg in my jim-jams, only to realise that a spider - large, hairy - had got there first. Hopping round the bathroom on one leg, shaking a spider out of my pyjamas with one hand and fending Hamish away from my feet with the other I thought, this is the last time I take in a frail old cat on its last legs!

So, many thanks to everyone who sent in a donation, Hamish is showing that there's life in the old cat yet.



A Kitten Complains!

Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble,
how those geese and ganders squabble!
Cluck, cluck, quack, quack, quack,
ducks and chickens answer back.
Woof, woof, bark, bark, bark,
puppies romp around and lark.
Moo go the cows, and bull goes moo,
oh what a hull-a-ba, hull-aba-loo.
The horse cries neigh and the sheep goes baa-a-a,
squeak goes the trailer on the farmers car.
the piglets are squealing, grunt, grunt goes the sow.
"miaow," wails black pussy,
"miaow," what a row,
there's such a commotion, how can a cat sleep?
With the noise of the dogs and the cows and the sheep
and the hens and the ducks
and the ganders and geese.
And the squeak of the trailer that's needing some grease,
with the moo of the bull and the neigh of the horse
and the shrieking of the piglets to make matters worse.
But - it's no use complaining, for nobody hears,
so I'll hide in the loft and stuff hay in my ears.
Up there, warm and cosy in my coat of fur,
I'll practise my solo, "miaow, purr, purr, purr."
(Author unknown)



Fundraising Events

27th August Stand at the Holm Show.

24th September Stand at Langholm Show

22nd October Coffee Morning & Sale, British Legion Jedburgh
10am – 12 noon

29th October Coffee morning & Sale, Newcastleton Village Hall
10:30am – 12 noon

26th November Coffee Morning & Sale, Lockerbie Town Hall
10am – 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

100 Club

February	71	Kevin Beattie
	91	Mrs Ashmore
March	104	Slipper
	15	Fiona Gorman
April	22	Anna
	85	Irene McDonald
May	78	Mags Wheeler
	71	Kevin Beattie
June	99	Flo Rice
	12	Jane Henderson



The Naming of Kittens

Our old cat has kittens three -
what do you think their names should be!

One is tabby with emerald eyes,
and a tail that's long and slender,
and into a temper she quickly flies
if you ever by chance offend her.

I think we shall call her this -
I think we shall call her that -
Now, don't you think that Peppercorn
is a nice name for a cat?

One is black with a frill of white,
and her feet are all white fur,
if you stroke her she carries her tail upright
and quickly begins to purr.

I think we shall call her this -
I think we shall call her that -
Now, don't you think that Sootikin
is a nice name for a cat?

One is tortoiseshell yellow and black,
with plenty of white about him;
if you tease him, at once he sets up his back,
he's a quarrelsome one, ne'er doubt him.

I think we shall call him this -
I think we shall call him that -
Now, don't you think that Scratchaway
is a nice name for a cat?

Thomas Hood (1799 - 1845)

