

# Newsletter

3:2009



**Cats Protection**

**Eskdale and District Branch**

**Winter 2009**

# Editorial

Getting on for Christmas now and we enclose the forms for the annual bottle draw. If you need more forms please ring Anne on 01228 791364.

You will all be excited to hear that Anne and I were visited in October by our Chief Executive Peter Hepburn.

He is going round a number of branches and I suppose getting a feel of what goes on and how different all the branches are. He was interested to hear where we felt our branch needed help or more volunteers and was surprised to find out how comparatively well off we are for reliable and longstanding fosterers. We told him that assistance was needed on the education side – going into schools, brownies, guides etc to teach children and young adults respect and love for animals. Apparently CP only has one Training Officer (Dogs Trust, a much smaller organisation, has eight) and Peter H is planning to appoint more. Lets hope he does it quickly.

He was only with us (he came to Anne's) for an hour or so but we felt he was genuinely interested in our views – which is more than could be said for his last three predecessors. We await results.

On the subject of education and talks – to adults (WRIs) as well as children – does any member feel they would like to help there? Are there any retired (or even not retired) teachers who would be willing to give a talk to schools? We can supply all the relevant teaching packages for both primary and secondary schools. You don't have to be a teacher to do it, so if the idea appeals to you please ring me on 013873 76738.

Ginnie



# Cat Work

65 cats and kittens have been successfully rehomed

44 are in care

5 are on the 'help to home' list.

*Some of the cats in care are:*

## **Cassie**

Cassie is an 8year old tabby female. She came into care because she had started to be unclean in the house. She lived with her sister but over the years they came to dislike one another intensely. We think this antagonism was a lot of her problem, as since being in care she has been fine. Cassie now needs a home on her own.

## **Trixie**

Trixie is an 8 year old tortoiseshell female. She was yet another stray. She is a lovely friendly cat and although she has a flea allergy, this is kept under control with regular flea treatment.

## **Mister and Missie**

Mister and Missie are brother and sister, 5 years old and black and white. Their original owner had to part with his cats through work commitments. They are a friendly pair, although Missie is rather shy. They would suit most homes, but preferably without children because of Missie being a little timid.

## **Sooty, Jerry and Tom**

These three came into care at 6 weeks old and they are now nearly 6 months old. When they came in with their mother Sally (who has since been homed) they all had terrible cat 'flu. Because the 3 boys are all together their sniffs and sneezes keep circling round, and unfortunately we don't have the pen space to separate them. Once they are homed I'm sure they will be fine, although any stress (rehoming, cattery stays, etc) will probably trigger their 'flu symptoms. They need homes on their own, or with cats that have been vaccinated – and they deserve a loving home after a long time in care.

We will pay for the antibiotic treatment they will probably need for a short time when they are homed.

# Cats of Love

*Cats of love come out to play  
On this lovely day  
They sit down  
And roll around  
And catch their tail.  
Then out to the field  
Chasing mice is so nice –  
So many, and wild rabbits too.  
This is what they  
Were born to do.  
Up the tree they go  
To get a bird.  
Then they come in  
To get a rest.  
Then the bird is safe  
In the nest  
Nature has taken its test.*

Written and sent in by Gordon Forbes.

Many thanks to Gordon, who has been a member and supporter for many years, for the poem – we shall be printing another one in the next newsletter.



**Chancer**

# Picture Page



# Picture Page



# *Casper*

This is Casper.

His owner wondered where he got to when he disappeared for an hour or so every day.

It turns out that he gets on the number three bus from outside his home in Plymouth, curls up in a free seat and travels to the centre of town and back.



Drivers keep an eye on him and make sure he gets off at the right stop.

# *Appeal for Molly*

Molly came into care on 18th October. She is ten years old. Her owner was moving and didn't want to take either Molly or his other cat AJ with him.

After four days in care Elaine, her foster carer, went into her pen to discover blood all over the place - up the walls and even on the ceiling. Molly was immediately taken to the vet where it was discovered that she has a tumour in her ear. It is in a very awkward place but it is operable.



She now needs a major operation to remove the tumour, which is going to cost around £300. If anyone would like to contribute to help pay for Molly's operation it would be very much appreciated.

We will keep everyone informed of her progress.

# Letter from Tia to Anne

Hi Anne

It's Tia here, you might not recognise me any more but I used to live at your house when I was a tiny kitten my name was Rosie then but my mummy changed it to Tia as she thought I suited it better (I agree, I think it's more of a superior name!)

I just thought I'd let you know I landed on my paws, I am top cat in my home and I rule the roost! I make my humans follow all my commands such as turning the bathroom tap on for me in the early hours of the morning so I can get a drink, topping up my little munchies dish by standing on their heads when they are sleeping or knocking things over on the bedside table until my mummy finally gives in and gives me some more munchies, and crying round their feet so they will put meat in my bowl – then I take one look at it and walk away in disgust, as it is not what I wanted.

If my mummy doesn't give me what I want I tell her I am going to phone my Auntie Anne to tell her what a poor pussy cat I am. (She sometimes threatens me that she is going to send me back to live with you if I don't behave, but I know that she would never do that!) I would like to be a bit more pampered but I suppose I can make do with what I have got!

Lots of purrs

Tia





# Fundraising

A big Thank You to our small band of staunch supporters and especially two people.

**Margaret** for all the jam making and all the bags, pinnys, door stops etc, all the bric-brac piling up in the garage and for taking Theo in when his Mum died. (Theo has taken on a new lease of life – the other cats bring him offerings of dead mice!); and **Irene** for all the wonderful baking - without which we would often have had no cake stall, for all the things she has given us to sell, for raffle, tombola prizes and her hard work making the Jedburgh Coffee Morning a success. We couldn't do that one without Irene and everyone she musters to help. Thank you both.

We are now in the midst of the pre-Christmas Coffee Mornings. If you are in Dumfries on 5th December please go along to the Charities Fair at DG One. It is from 11am to 3pm and Elspeth and Anne will be pleased to see you – and sell you something.

Cards and calendars are also available at most of our vets:

Ark and Dryfe in Lockerbie

Firth in Annan

Capontree and Border Vets in Longtown

Ashlea and Eden in Carlisle

Hawick vets in (yes you've guessed it) Hawick

Ginnie

## 100 Club

|           |     |               |
|-----------|-----|---------------|
| August    | 6   | Mrs Atkinson  |
|           | 100 | Alan Rice     |
| September | 76  | Carol Ward    |
|           | 61  | Mary Briggs   |
| October   | 30  | Fiona Yeomans |
|           | 4   | Nancy Fox     |

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

# Amy's Tale

We seem to have a number of Golden Oldies at the moment, and Amy is one of them

She was found as a very very thin stray, so bedraggled that the police came and took her to the local vet. Her ribs stuck out and she was filthy. The vet examined her and diagnosed an overactive thyroid along with malnutrition, but otherwise she was OK. We had, as usual, no spare pens so I picked her up to bring her back to the



little side porch at Riccarton Home for the Unrehomeables. That was when I discovered what an exceptionally bad traveller she is. I changed the paper in her basket about four times and then gave up and drove along with the windows open. By the time we got home we both smelled strongly of pee, pooh and vomit so the first thing I did was to put most of my clothes in the washing machine and then put Amy in the bath. The poor little soul looked like something out of a concentration camp when she was wet, but at least she was clean.

Then it was time to try to get some weight on her and boy could she eat! Unfortunately the overactive thyroid meant she didn't benefit as much as she might have done, even on a high dose of thyroid tablets. After three weeks we went back to the vet to check her thyroid (more accidents, very whiffy) and when Morag felt it she reckoned it was the biggest she had ever encountered – and getting bigger. It was so big she couldn't find the vein in her neck to get a blood sample. And she had bad teeth.

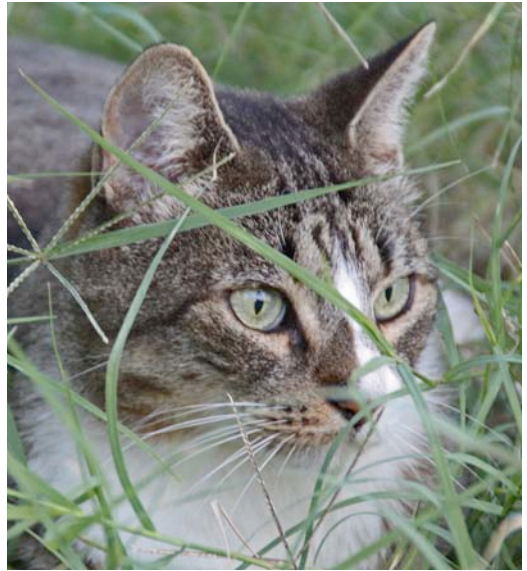
So she had a complete overhaul. That was four weeks ago and she is beginning to put on weight. Her coat is no longer covered in smelly saliva because of the bad teeth, and her eyes have lost the haunted look they first had. When she looks up at you her eyes still say, "I'm only small and fragile, please don't turn me out", but with time this will go – and we never will turn her out, despite the dark hints and suggestions thrown out by the resident cat family, whose most charitable suggestion is that we "get rid of the flea ridden baggage".

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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*