

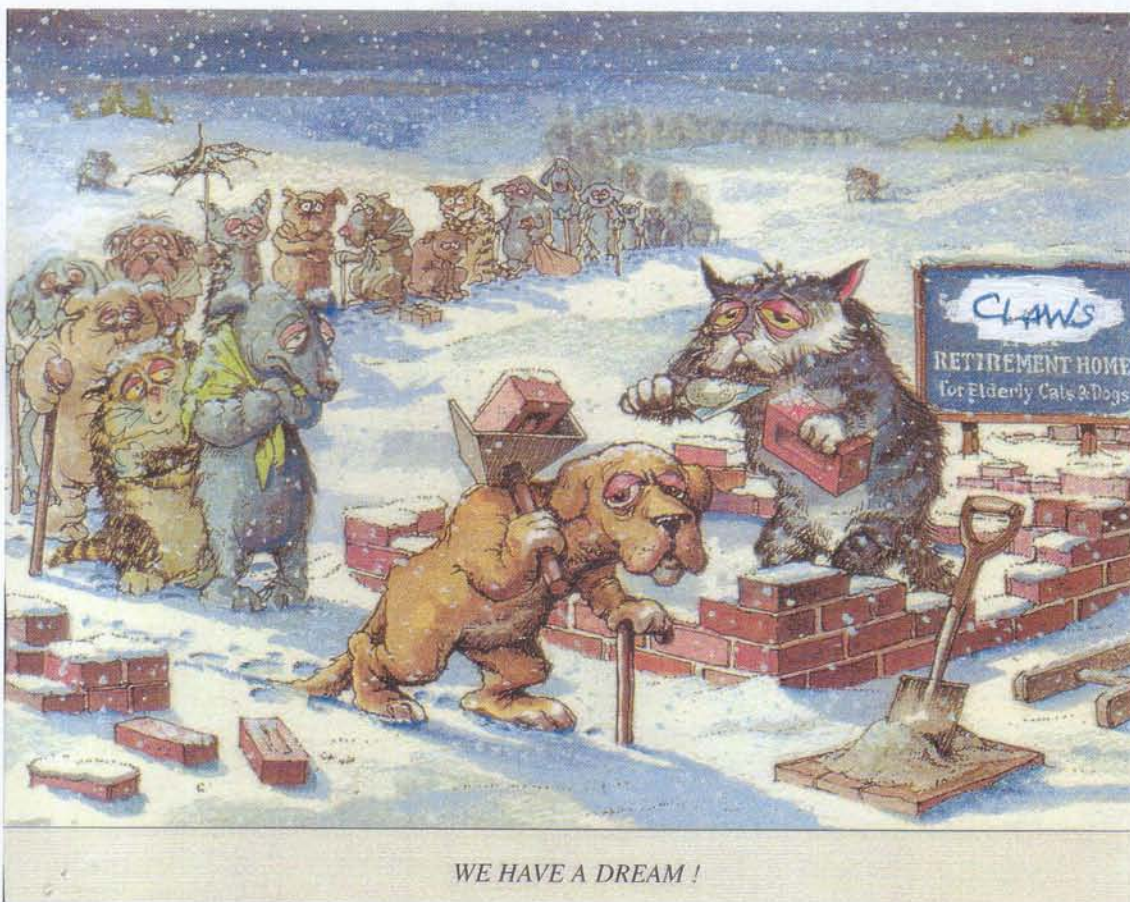


**C.L.A.W.S.**

**CAT LOVERS ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1062244**

# NEWSLETTER 2007



*WE HAVE A DREAM !*



Christmas Greetings to all Claws friends,

This year has been, as usual, a very busy one with the patience, commitment and drive of the volunteers stretched to the limit. One volunteer has a cat thrown over her fence in the early hours of the morning, and then had to spend the rest of the night looking for a place to put him., then off to work. Due to the weather, shows were cancelled and we had to look for alternative places to go. On the plus side Renee organized a golfing day at Millride Golf course. This was a tremendous success with a round of golf, lunch, a raffle and an auction. As I write we have three more shows to go to. CoxGreen Fayre 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, Animal Aid Fayre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the big cat show at Olympia on the 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be at Moss End Garden Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of Dec.

As I have now retired from flying, I will have more time to help with the fundraising, especially my favourite, the car boots!! So do remember, if after Christmas you have any unwanted gifts, please call 01189 341699 and we will collect, discreetly!!

Finally, a very big thank you to everyone who has helped Claws in the past year either by donating money, sponsoring a cat, giving us jumble or buying goods from our stalls. During 2007 we have rehomed 100 cats/kittens, 7 ferals, 1 budgie and a tortoise!!!! Also we have helped 120 with vets bills, neutering or general assistance.

Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and all of us at Claws look forward to seeing you next year.

All good wishes



**Tel: 01189 341699**

## Toxic Plants

The following plants/parts of plants can be toxic to animals. The effect they can have on your pet ranges from mild stomach upsets to rashes to convulsions and some can be fatal. If you suspect your pet has eaten any of the following plants, please contact the vet immediately.

### Bulbs

Amaryllis  
Naked Lady Lily  
Iris

Hyacinth  
Daffodil

### Seeds/Pips/Stones

Apple seeds/pips  
Apricot stones

Cherry stones  
Peach stones

### Fruit/Berries/Leaves

Avocado  
Holly  
Peach leaves  
Green tomatoes  
Ivy  
Oak  
Rhubarb

Chrysanthemum  
Mistletoe  
Primrose  
Calla Lily  
Honeysuckle  
Poinsetta  
Yew

### Whole Plant

Autumn Crocus  
Christmas Rose  
Lily of the Valley  
Ragwort  
Azelea  
Clematis  
Nightshade  
Rhododendron

Bluebell  
Elderberry  
Onions  
Wisteria  
Buttercup  
Foxglove  
Peace Lily

### Others

Easter Lily  
Japanese Show Lily  
Poppy  
Geranium  
Laurel  
Tiger Lily

Glory Lily  
Leopard Lily  
Tulip  
Horse Chestnut  
Peruvian Lily

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## Magical Cats,

Black cats have a very underserved reputation. The superstitions surrounding Friay 13<sup>th</sup> and black cats may be mere myths but they are beliefs that are shared by many cultures around the world. The imagined dangers of this particular day usually affects only those holding the conviction, they may not go out or go to work or even plan a special occasion. On the other hand, the myths about black cats can have serious, and often deadly consequences for these ebony felines.

Superstitions in western culture about black cats in particular, are of fairly recent origin. The ancient Egyptians worshipped the cat in the form of the goddess Bastet. Statuettes of sleek cats from Egypt can be seen today in almost every museum in the world. Adorned with an earring or jewelled collar, sitting upright their tails wrapped around their bodies they gaze serenely into eternity. The Romans considered the cat sacred and introduced it into Europe. However, by the 17<sup>th</sup> century, cats in many parts of Europe began to be associated with witchcraft and the supernatural, and in several countries were subjected to shocking cruelty. Black cats have more than any other feline, been mistreated over the centuries. Today, the myth of the "unlucky" black cat is still widespread in several European countries and America, whilst in Japan and England they have been honoured for the good luck they are believed to bring.

Black cats are particularly vulnerable around Halloween when they receive a very bad press—they are depicted looking ferocious or cunning in spooky drawings and cards, or shown sitting beside witch on a broomstick. Many rescues, Claws included, have now become aware of the problem and are putting into place policies to protect black cats around this time of year.

It is interesting to note that new scientific research has shown that black cats may be more fortunate than their fairer relatives—"black coats may have evolved separately many times in different species of cat- indicating that dark fur has a survival benefit. Furthermore, the mutations leading to a black coat are in the same gene family as those involved in human diseases. So it may be that black cats are more resistant to disease than others" A black coat is also a benefit as hunting camouflagage, giving the black cat an evolutionary advantage.

So the next time you go to chose a cat, please don't hurry past the beautiful black felines.



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## Cat litter may be killing whales

Pet owners who flush used cat litter down the lavatory may be responsible for the deaths of whales, dolphins, and porpoises around Britains coast, according to academics and public health experts.

They have found evidence of a common parasite in dead marine mammals and say family cats could be the unwitting source. Cats are essential to the like cycle of toxoplasma gondii, which can infect most mammals and birds but only as part of the food chain.

The possible link to dolphin deaths has been raised by staff from Swansea University in a letter to the Veterinary Record. They say that in California concern that cat faeces has contributed to sea otter deaths has led to disposal warnings on bags of cat litter. But little is known about infection in marine species around Britain.

Blood samples from dead stranded cetaceans revealed infection in one in seventy harbour porpoises, in six of twenty one common dolphins and in the humpback whale tested. Nearly one in eight Swansea health employees admitted to flushing cat litter away.

Have you tried the recycled paper litter?



**Tel: 01189 341699**

A Selection of some of our wonderful felines



**Tel: 01189 341699**



**Tel: 01189 341699**



*"But when she got there, the cupboard was bare,  
and so the poor dog had none."*

**Tel: 01189 341699**  
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