



01189
341699



C.L.A.W.S.
CAT LOVERS ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY 1062244
WWW.CLAWS.ORG.UK

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

2010





It's that time of year again ! I can't get near the radiators for inert furry bodies and overnight I acquire a furry duvet ! And, of course, the shops are full of Christmas goods and we are bombarded with Christmas advertisements.

2010 has been another hectic year, with the tidal wave of felines needing help and a major re-organisation within C.L.A.W.S.

It was necessary to reduce our expenditure. This coincided with a change in my circumstances as I am now at home a lot more so it was decided to erect four donated pens in my garden.

Sadly this meant moving out of Knowl Hill Cattery where we had housed our cats for a long time. Theresa, the manager, had helped to advertise and re-home our animals. Their wellbeing was very important to her. We still work closely together.

Many of you have sponsored Peter and John's run across Dartmoor. Joan, Peter's mother, has been a supporter of C.L.A.W.S. for many years and has adopted our cats too and it was her idea to ask Peter and his team mate, John, to "run for C.L.A.W.S."

As we go to print we have reached just over £2,900. We intend to use the money to purchase more pens so we can rescue more cats and kittens.

C.L.A.W.S. has always had a wonderful network of supporters and volunteers and they have come up trumps this year. Thank you each and every one of you.

Thank you to the vets and nurses at Kelperland at Alma who keep our cats in the pink.

In a couple of weeks we shall be closing for a month from 15 December to 15 January to prevent our cats being given as Christmas presents. We are still open for home checks and viewing.

Thank you all once again and may you have a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

BEVERLEY

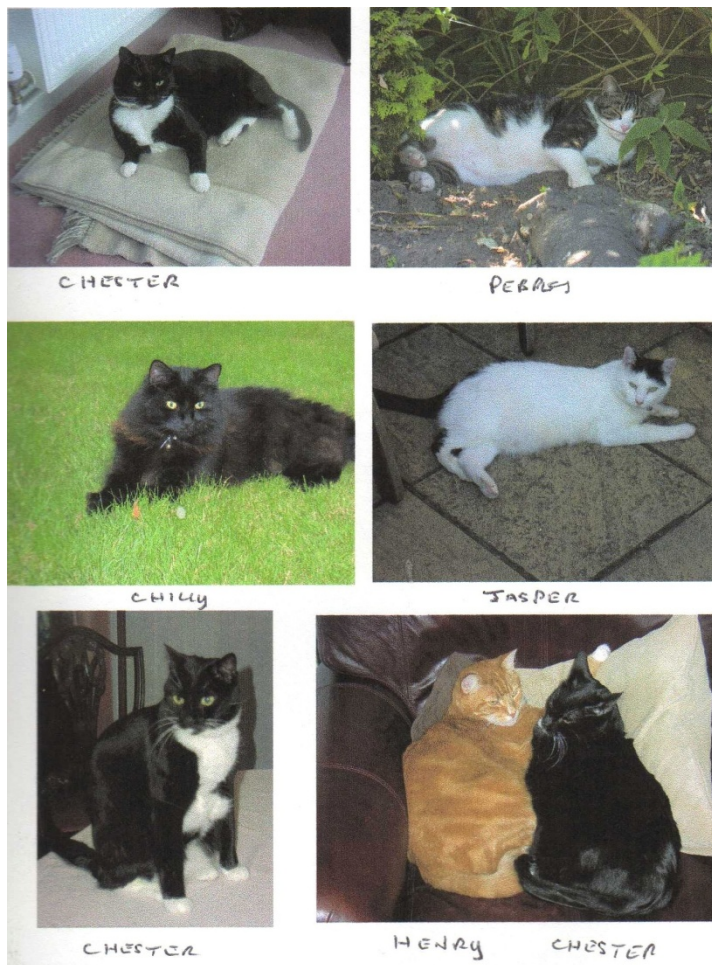


CHESTER

Chester and his feline family have long been supporters of C.L.A.W.S.

He is a large, duvet-sized, much loved black and white boy who lives in Maidenhead. Occasionally he goes to Beverley for a holiday.

So when Beverley asked for his help in raising some money he said “Course me and my mates will help you, Auntie Beverley”.



As you can see from the photo he sent they were all exhausted after their efforts, except for Chester. He just had to count the money one more time !



They did it !

CONGRATULATIONS

PETER and JOHN

ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE

ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN MARATHON

FANTASTIC RESULT !

Because Dartmoor is not strictly a mountainous area the organisers decided to increase the course from 45miles to 49 miles. Recent heavy rain had turned streams into fast flowing impassable small rivers so extreme caution was necessary.

Saturday's navigation required Peter and John to cover approximately 30 miles across country visiting 8 key checkpoints before finishing at the overnight camp area where all the teams were to camp. A good day.

They arrived at the midway camp just as darkness fell and the rain started. They pitched their micro one-man tents quickly working together to stop them blowing away in the wind which had been increasing in strength all day. They warmed up gradually with gas burners blazing and dehydrated chilli con carne on the menu for dinner. It was a long night.

Sunday morning was greeted with the sound of rain hammering on the tent. . Apart from the incessant rain the day brought a new challenge - the flooded streams, fast flowing, deep and cold mini-rivers which were very dangerous. Luckily for Peter and John a few other teams had joined them - they too wondering how to cross. They worked together as one big team, crossing at the shallowest looking point, which still managed to reach the top of their legs. Linking arms they managed to shuffle across.

Peter and John began to close in on the last few checkpoints. At this stage the weather had turned into mist with visibility of about 100m. This was a testing time, particularly on the higher ground and they had to rely heavily on their compasses, checking and double-checking their direction.

They decided to make a direct cross country dash down from the tor towards the finishing point, which they could see clearly in the distance 1 mile away. They managed to cover this quickly as most of it was downhill, although they did have to negotiate a field of slippery and very sharp looking rocks just below the last checkpoint.

They crossed the finish line having been on the move for a total of 18 hours covering 49.3 miles. They had crossed several rivers and ticked off 16 checkpoints. They were 69th out of a total starting field of 103 teams. What a magnificent achievement !



PETER AND JOHN CROSSING THE FINISHING LINE

This event captured everyone's imagination and received coverage in the local media, including Radio Berkshire. Two of our volunteers ran events and donated the proceeds to the marathon fund and a family who adopted two of our cats a couple of years ago completed the annual Maidenhead boundary walk and donated their sponsorship money to the fund.

Well known feline artist Chrissie Snelling gave us some of her work to auction.

We should like to thank : -

Joan who had the idea of asking Pete to run a race to raise money for C.L.A.W.S. – without her none of this would have happened

Peter and John for agreeing to “run for C.L.A.W.S .

All those who sponsored Peter and John - we know how lucky we are to have such wonderful supporters. You are always there for us. **“Thank You”** – you make it possible for us to continue to care for the needy cats in this area.

Currently the total stands at just over £3,000 with more money to come in !

This is the most money we have raised at one event



GIFT AID

If you have made a donation to C.L.A.W.S. either by sponsoring the marathon or filling a Bob’s box or by way of a general donation, and are a UK tax payer, please ring SUE on the help line (01189 341699) and ask for a gift aid form.

Completion of this will enable us to maximise your donation by claiming back the tax.



C.L.A.W.S. CALENDAR

Many of you have asked “Where is the C.L.A.W.S. calendar for 2011” ?

Sadly, there isn’t one because at the time we should have been marketing and selling it we were heavily involved with the mountain marathon. We did not feel we could do both justice so opted for the marathon as a one-off opportunity to raise a substantial amount of money.

Hopefully there will be a 2012 calendar that should be on sale in September 2011.

Advance orders welcome !!



MESSAGE FROM TIM HOSKEN OF ALMA VETERINARY HOSPITAL

As Christmas approaches we can celebrate another year of successful collaboration with the dedicated team at C.L.A.W.S., whose unstinting devotion to their feline charges would put many larger charities to shame.

It gives us great pleasure that some of our older patients are enjoying a contented life in their new homes. Cats, like people, deserve a little comfort and compassion in the autumn of their lives. C.L.A.W.S. takes a particularly enlightened view, not only finding homes for these characterful cats but providing financial and emotional support to their carers. This is particularly noticeable where an older cat has found a loving home with a human of similar vintage. Cats love having a home where their companion is at home most of the time and we always encourage our older clients to consider adopting a C.L.A.W.S. cat when they sadly find that their beloved pet has preceded them to the hereafter. The C.L.A.W.S. helps find the time somehow to ferry these patients with or without their new owners to receive veterinary attention and it is very heartening to manage patients with diabetes, renal and bowel problems for instance very successfully due in no small part to the dedication of the C.L.A.W.S. team.

This is often a major worry for the older person who may no longer drive and often discourages them from taking on a new cat. While it is easy to see the benefit for the cat there is no doubt in my mind that even if there is no statistical indication of increased longevity through the mutual pleasure of sharing one's home with a cat, the emotional rewards are huge. People who don't have pets in their lives do not understand the companionship and bond that can develop between cat and human. As a veterinary surgeon who has had the privilege of getting to know many of my clients and their cats over many years I am a great advocate of pets as therapy.

Finally a few seasonal tips. Cats, unlike dogs, rarely are tempted by chocolate under the tree so we tend not to see cases of chocolate poisoning. Beware of supplementing their diet with human food as digestive upsets can follow. In particular make sure that scraps containing cooked bones are avoided as poultry bones can splinter and damage the mouth. Some cats will eat the decorations so watch out for those long pieces of tinsel. Make sure your cat has plenty of fresh water. Older cats often drink more and if their favourite tippie is water from the garden this may be unavailable in freezing weather. Try to make sure that your cat has a quiet room available if additional guests are visiting. Cats dislike change and disturbance and it is important to anticipate the effect on the household of visitors, especially young ones and vacationing pets. Cats naturally sleep quite a lot so they need to have some down time in an area where they can be undisturbed. We are available for emergencies throughout the holiday season. **All of us at Alma Veterinary Hospital wish you and your pets a happy and peaceful Christmas.**

NEWS FROM CATWORK

The sanctuary for cats with FIV and FeLV

Barbara and Bob have had a challenging year. A hard winter with fierce winds and heavy snow falls led to structural damage to the pens requiring some repair work by Bob.

In addition they have lost a number of their cats not because of FIV but due to old age which goes to show that cats with FIV can lead a long and happy life giving the lie to misleading information dispensed by certain members of the veterinary profession.

As you know our beloved Big Boy was offered a home at Catwork some 18 months ago and Barbara tells me that he has taken to life in a Somerset garden like a (large) duck to water, and is now very confident. He particularly likes it when visitors come and he appears in many of the photos taken on the famous garden seat. He has become very affectionate.

He needed some dental treatment recently and had to have 7 teeth removed. He came through it well and is back to normal.



Thank you for looking after “our boy” and for the wonderful work you do with the cats at the sanctuary and in “spreading the word” about FIV and FeLV.



This year our Christmas newsletter has been produced "in house" to save money in the present difficult economic climate.