

# VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 17

## January 2008

Hello Catlovers!

Happy New Year to you all.

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lack of a newsletter in December. Unfortunately, it was a very busy month and I wasn't able to squeeze it in amongst other commitments. I hope you all had pleasant Christmas and New Year celebrations.

### NEWS FROM HQ

Beverley asked me to pass on this end-of-year message:

*Once again, folks, a very big thank you to you all for the support that you have given both myself and CLAWS in 2007. It has not been an easy twelve months for a lot of people, but you have worked through it all. Now we can have a couple of months' R&R before we tackle the next year. I do hope that each and every one of you have had a peaceful Christmas (not necessarily sober) and a Happy New Year. On behalf of all of the waifs and strays that we have helped this year, THANK YOU.*

*With best wishes, Beverley.*

### Report on National Cat Show at Olympia by Beverley

*Sam very kindly helped me set up at Olympia on 7<sup>th</sup> December. We were in the hall and setting up by 10.00am with only the builders around - that way, we got more tables and chairs, and generally positioned ourselves better. With our expertise (!), we were set up beautifully by lunchtime when the other stallholders came trundling in. Next day, Jill and I got up early again and were in position by 9.00am. It was lovely to see the different cats being shown but boy are there some strange owners around!*

*Diane and Fay joined us so that gave everyone a chance to look around the show and buy Christmas presents for our cats. As usual, our pledging tree was a hit and alone took £100. Some people took a little while to understand the sign: "put the money in the bag". Some wanted to take the bags, some wanted to take the tree! In all we took £515 - an excellent day. Next year, the National Show will be held in Bracknell, so that will make life easier.*

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Apologies but I neglected to mention in the last newsletter that supporter Hazel had held another table top sale at her line dancing club in October. She made £88.00. Hazel has since had a further table top sale on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov and managed to raise another £75.00 - well done, Hazel - we appreciate all your hard work.

10<sup>th</sup> November - Jumble sale, Cox Green - £102.74

1<sup>st</sup> December - Maidenhead street collection - £275.21

8<sup>th</sup> Dec Olympia Cat Show - £515.



December - Moss End Garden Centre – if I understand correctly, I gather we made £120 and £88 on each of the two weekends that the stall was set up at the garden centre. Our thanks to the management of MEGS for allowing the fundraising to take place. Here's a photo of Ann Maine manning the first stall:



Photo: Ann Maine

## **NEWS FROM THE FOSTERERS/ADOPTERS/CATTERY**

### FROM TIGGER MAINE, FAIRING OLD CAT'S NURSING HOME!

I caught the biggest mouse ever in my 15 years and went through my flap gagging and choking. My carers were worried about me – I could tell that because they kept peering anxiously at me – and in the end they put me in the dreaded box and dragged me off to see the scary man in the white coat. He made me feel whoosy and shoved a tube down me froat. I heard him say that he couldn't see anything so he thought I had probably coughed up the problem but it was still feeling sore – well I could have told them that for nothing and saved them megabucks. So a word of warning you guys and gals out there prowling around under the hedgerows, it's very important to chew your mouse thoroughly, especially if it's a big'un, otherwise it don't harf hurt.

### SCAMPI

Beverley received a phonecall from an American lady whose brother had just died and there was a 21½ year old cat in the house. The brother's granddaughter who had lived with him couldn't take Scampi to rented accommodation and so was heartbroken to see her go. Beverley took Scampi in, thinking that she would live with her golden oldies.

She settled in very well, eating Bev out of house and home. Not five days later, Bev had a call from a lady called Jan who wanted an old cat. How old? As old as you like!! Bev went to do the homecheck. Nice house and what turned out to be a dog-proof garden. Scampi was duly installed. When Bev phoned after a while to see how Scampi was doing, the report was that she was lying by the fire eating chicken. Fairytale ending or what?



Photo: Scampi

### GRACEY

Bev was called to one of the estates in Maidenhead, where a lady had been feeding a cat for about 9 months. The owners had bought two dogs which were not letting the cat into the house. A lovely tortie cat gazed at Bev from behind the bushes, very timid and afraid. She was trapped by Bev and taken to Knowl Hill to be brought round. Sadly Gracey would not come out of herself even with the handling by the girls at the cattery, Jill and Bev. Just as Bev was about to bring her home to her house, she received a call from a lady called Heather who said she would like a short-haired butch boy. However, in the event, Heather opted to take Gracey home! When Heather called the next day, Theresa was glad that Gracey had come out of her box, walked around as if testing the place, then jumped up on Heather's lap and went to sleep. The only problem came when Heather wanted to get up and go to bed. Gracey showed her displeasure by moaning and hissing. Heather left her on the sofa and went to bed. Next morning, guess who was on the bed beside her?!

### CLAWS GOES INTERNATIONAL

In July a message came to our website from Marie who had rescued a stray cat. She had never had a cat before and was seeking advice that we were happy to give her.

Soon another email arrived - she thought the cat was pregnant - what should she do ? We provided her with a list of check points and suggested that she get in touch with her local CP branch who would be happy to help her. If she would tell us the area she lived in, we would give her a contact number for the nearest CP branch.

Imagine our surprise when the answer came back "Maine, USA" !!

We continued to "correspond" and provided her with information about flea treatments and then one day we received the good news that Snip, the mummy cat, had produced two kittens, Scooter and Scamper.

We heard no more until December when the following email arrived :-

"Hey! I don't know if you remember me, but - back in July - you responded to my emails about a mother cat that we'd adopted that was having kittens and about the kittens having lots of fleas etc. You were so helpful to me, and I really appreciated that. You gave me good advice when no one else would even bother or wanted to charge me a small fortune for it! I just thought you might like to see a couple of pictures I just took of Mama (Snip) and babies (Scooter and Scamper). Hope you enjoy! Marie "



Photo: Marie's mum cat, Snip



Photo: Scooter and Scamper

## PROBLEM PAGE

This problem comes from Alesa, verbatim:

### Couga the Killer Kitty



*He looks a dear doesn't he? Cuddly & cute.*

*And most times he is. His one Achilles' heel is his love for the battle. He maintains sentry duty from our bedroom window which overlooks our fore courtyard. Once a feline intruder is spotted the chase is on...he bolts downstairs at lightning speed out the cat flap at the back of the house followed by a hideous catcalling. If I'm about I'll intervene. Otherwise, a short while later he'll return tattered, torn and sometimes covered in the brackish mud from the nearby creek.*

*I'm concerned for his and his opponents' safety. I have asked my vet for advice only to be met with a shrug! I come from Canada and had another cat with a similar taste for combat and my vet put him on female hormones for a month to tone down the aggression - which worked a charm till the day he ran away. When I asked for similar treatment here the vet gasped and replied: "But hormone therapy causes cancer!" I looked at her astonished - I'm on hormone replacement therapy! Does anyone out there have any ideas?*

*Pacify my pugilist!*

## FUTURE EVENTS

Feb 2nd	Tescos Dedworth	Collection	9am to 4pm
Mar 8th	Cox Green Centre	Jumble Sale	10am to Noon
Apr 19th	Marlow	Street Collection	9am to 3pm
Jun 28th	Cox Green Centre	Jumble Sale	10am to Noon
Jul 26th	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am to 3pm
Sep 13th	Henley	Street Collection	9am to 3pm
Oct 11th	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am to 3pm
Nov 1st	Cox Green Centre	Jumble Sale	10am to Noon

## AND FINALLY

Many thanks to Jackie Rouse for continuing to nominate CLAWS to receive the food and other cat items from the Pets at Home shop in Farnham Road. We appreciate it and so do our cats !!

Supporter Carol Verdaguer is offering a "Time for You" head and neck massage in the comfort of your own home. A donation to CLAWS with every booking. Special price of £15.00. Please phone Carol via CLAWS main telephone number if you fancy a treatment. Please also tell your friends about this lovely hands-on experience.

Sam Collington/January 2008