

VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 35

Jan-Feb 2011



Hello Catlovers!

So, here we are well into 2011 and 2010 already seems like a long time ago. I've noticed that many people, newsreaders etc are calling the year "20-11", rather than two thousand and eleven. Can anybody tell me why? After all, we didn't really say 20-10 last year, did we? Not complaining, just observing.

I hope you all had a pleasant festive season and managed to avoid the lurgy doing the rounds.

Thank you very much to Sue for providing the information for this newsletter which kicks off 2011.

NEWS FROM HQ

As I write, the tally for rehoming of cats in 2011 has reached 06 already. A heartwarming start for the year, given the credit crunch.

You may well have read the article in the Maidenhead Advertiser before Christmas which highlighted how more and more people are calling our hotline to take their cats in as they can no longer afford to feed and house their pets. As ever, please keep the CLAWS name out there for anybody who mentions wanting a cat. All animal rescue organisations are under siege and I can foresee that it will only get worse in this difficult financial climate. No doubt, ditto for the fundraising.

Have a look at the CLAWS website www.claws.org.uk for a snippet about it. A reproduction of the article appears at the back of this newsletter.

CHARITY CHOICE

Each year CLAWS subscribes to Charity Choice a publication that includes many different charities.

It is used as a reference book by organisations and individuals seeking an appropriate charity to donate money to. In particular it is used by solicitors to assist clients to leave a legacy to a charity that chimes with their individual beliefs and values.

CLAWS has been the recipient of a number of such legacies over the years.

Recently the Charity Choice committee met to discuss 10 charities they would like to approach to offer a huge discount to as an acknowledgement of the exceptional work they do. The Committee were impressed with the work we do with older and infirm cats and delighted with the run Peter Allanach went on to raise so much money for us.

Therefore, we were offered a quarter page colour entry in the front of the publication for £275. This usually costs £1,000. It means we will be in amongst the most prestigious charities in the UK including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

What a feather in our cap!!

The cat starring in the entry is Bengy, a handsome 5 year old tabby boy who lives with Beverley. We have been trying to find him a home for sometime (he needs to live in a quiet location surrounded by plenty of open space) please ring Sue on the CLAWS help line (01189 341699)

NB: Bengy's photo is at the end of this newsletter.

CAT TAILS

We like to hear how some of our rescued babies are doing.

THE BOSS

These are photos of a kitten adopted by volunteers Evelyn and her husband early this year. He has cast his spell over them and Todd, their elderly dog, is under his paw too !

Known variously as "The Boss" or "Little Devil" !!



Photo: The Boss



Photo: Little Devil

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FRANKIE

We received this update last month on Frankie from his new human companion.

We thought we'd give you an up date on Frankie, who we adopted in September. To begin with he was very nervous and would spend most of his time under the bed, only coming out for essentials. He did get more confident to the extent that after 5 weeks we let him outside...very nerve wracking.

Frankie has settled down very well and once again we have ended up with a real character!

*Best wishes,
Jonathan*



Photo: Frankie

ELLA

Here's an update from Sarah, Ella's "mum":

Ella is coming on in leaps and bounds! She entered a photo competition and we are waiting for the results. I am sure she will win as she is such a pretty cat and has heaps of character!

It was a trauma getting her to settle. I think she has taken on the Princess/Queen role, living in Windsor!

She is still chatty - I have no idea what conversation is we have when I meow back and she responds! She is still licking the taps!

She's not an outdoor cat. She prefers to be in and follows me all over the house, but she did stand her ground with one 'asbo' cat in the garden in the summer and won. Girl power!

She meets me at the door with her meows when I get home and wakes me up with a paw on the cheek or nose! I would never have believed she would be so loving when I first met her - she was so shy.

Ella is very spoilt and had a Christmas stocking with lots of pressies to open on Christmas Day.



Photo: Ella
(hope you can read what it says on the Santa's sack - what an absolutely charming photo, eh?)

CATWORK TO THE RESCUE (AGAIN!)

Report from Sue:

The phone rang. It was one of the nurses from Alma. A stray had been brought in. He was very poorly. He was about 8 years old, black, un-neutered, almost blind and had tested FIV positive. What a combination!! Was there any chance we could find him a home? We were their only hope.

I said that I thought the chances were slim but that I did have one contact that might be able to help and that, of course, was Barbara.

I sent an E-mail explaining the situation and she was on the phone within minutes expressing concern and asking for more information. Because he was almost blind it made it more difficult as, even after an initial settling in period, it would be hard for him to be integrated with the rest of "the gang".

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It was agreed that, when I went over to Alma the next day, I would talk to Tim about him. I was taken through to meet him. He is a dear boy and was asleep in his litter tray. Tim had not been on site when he was admitted so examined him and said that his poor sight was due to severe scarring of the corneas. This meant that he was not totally blind - could differentiate between light and shade and possibly see an outline of something like a door.

Any stray has to be kept for 7 days before he can be re-homed. That time has now expired so he can be neutered and receive any other necessary treatment.

He stayed at Alma for a few days to recover from surgery and then Barbara and Bob drove up from Somerset to collect him. He is now settling into his new home.

We are so grateful to Barbara and her husband, Bob, who have had to do some re-shuffling to accommodate him.

Currently they have 30 resident cats (6 of which are their own "chosen" pets, but all of whom were rescues in the first place.)

In the Catwork Year Book for 2010, Barbara says that they want to concentrate on helping cats with "special needs" i.e. those cats that not only are FIV positive but have other medical problems. A perfect description of the this cat.

Barbara has named him George, due to the popularity of the film "The King's Speech", which focuses on the king overcoming his disability. It is a happy choice for me too as it was my dad's name!

Once again Alma Veterinary Hospital and CLAWS have worked together with Barbara to achieve a fantastic result. A good bit of team work!

I think we should all say a big thank you to our fosterers and to all the adopters of our rescued cats. Without them, the cats would have had less happy lives and we would not have been able to reach out to the cats we have managed to help to date.

Please also join me in sending Sue & Mike big hugs as they recently lost their treasured foster cat Beth who had been with them for a few years. Life with Beth wasn't easy, since she had more than one debilitating condition, but Sue & Mike were trojans in their efforts to keep her ticking over comfortably.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

04/12 – Cox Green Christmas Fayre: £85

A big thank you to all who participated in last year's events.

The Mountain Marathon fund has risen to £3,685.00. Please also have a look at the CLAWS website for a lovely photo of Bev with Peter's mum, Joan Allanach.

I think the guys deserve to have their photo shown again for such a mammoth effort!



Photo: Peter and John

FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2011

Date	2011 EVENTS		
Mar 26	Cox Green Community Centre	Jumble Sale	
Apr 2-3	Berkshire College Weekend	Stand	
Apr 15-16	Tesco Dedworth	Collection	9am - 4pm
Apr 23	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am - 4pm
May 22	Ray Mill Island Maidenhead	Duck Derby	10am - 5pm
Jul 9	Marlow	Street Collection	9am - 3pm
Jul 16	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am - 4pm
Aug 6	Sainsbury's Taplow	Collection	9am - 5pm
Sep 3	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am - 4pm
Oct 22	Cox Green Community Centre	Jumble Sale	

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OZZIE'S OBSERVATIONS

Hello there purrpeople! Jet has stepped down from being a repurrter so I thought I'd have a go.

I'm Jet's brother Ozzie, also known as Oz or Oswald. I am 4 years old and was named after some rocker bloke, becos I've got longish hair and am a sandwich short of a picnic - wotever that means!

Crimblemas went ok, I s'pose, although MummySam spent alot of it fussing over Auntie Looby. Auntie Looby didn't eat much of the roast meats she was offered, but I loved it all and had to fight Rocky for it. Jet did her usual girly thing of running away from any tasty morsels, so we gobbled them up instead.

MummySam has been at home with us since early December. We have loved having her around to play with and to cuddle. She's been really nice and spoils us by switching these heatpad thingies on every day so we're snuggly. DaddyMark grumbles about the leccy bills, but loses that fight every time. Auntie Looby always got first dibs on the heatpad on MummySam's lap when she sat on the sofurr and then we'd all cuddle round if it looked like they weren't going to sturr for a while. It meant we had to watch some awful tellyvision, but sleeping was very helpful to shut the noise out.

Auntie Looby also got to use a huge fleece blanket beside a radiaturr and after a few weeks, she stayed there at night too. She would move from the heatpad, to the fleece, and back again. MummySam was worried and got up in the night to check on her, sometimes staying on the sofurr wrapped in her own fleece blanket. Then Looby would come and curl up on her lap. Both of them would nod off and startle DaddyMark when he came down in the dark before going to work.

I know MummySam has enjoyed having us all cuddle and comfort her. We all had to be extra nice to Auntie Looby becos we knew she was very poorly becos she got smaller and smaller and also smelled strange. I was very proud of myself for being a good boy and not being cheeky.

Anyway, Auntie Looby was taken out in the car a couple of times in one week during last month.

I don't like car trips becos I often get a big needle in my bum.

MummySam cried after the first visit that week and gave Looby lots of hugs when they got home. The second time, MummySam came back from her trip without Auntie Looby. She cried alot and cuddled us lots too.

We haven't seen Auntie Looby since then. Something tells me Looby isn't coming home again.

So the house has been quieter and we can use the poobox more now cos Looby was always in there before. My sister Jet seems to think she's the queen bee around here now. She had to give up her writing duties because keeping her boyfriend Rocky and me in order obviously takes up her time.

We play together alot and we all love it when MummySam moves a sofurr out of the way so we've got a big patch of carpet on which to play pingpong, chase-me-charlie and chase-the-feather contests. I've won the jumping game, snatching a feather out of MummySam's hand when it was almost as high as her face. She got a big shock. She skowls at me when I bring her mouses but I'm not as dumb as my sister who lets hers loose around the house. MummySam caught us stalking the living room door yesterday so she twigged we had a live one in. She took it away from behind the door, so we played hide & seek but couldn't find it after.

Meanwhile, Spot the lodger still comes in and I still hiss at him just to let him know who's the boss round here. He doesn't usually play games or even miaow, - he just eats and sleeps. But when MummySam got the long feather out one time last week, he played with that until Jet got jealous and tugged it out of his reach.

So that's about it for my first artikle. Hope it was ok. See you next time!



Photo: Looby (May1996 to Jan 2011)

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AND FINALLY...

FOR SALE

Stylish cat carrier given to CLAWS. to raise much needed funds. A bargain at £20.00. Interested?

Please ring SUE on the help line (01189 341699)



Sam Collington
February 2011

