

# VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 27

## May-July 2009



Hello Catlovers!

My sincere apologies for the delay in getting a newsletter out to you all.

### NEWS FROM HQ

As I write this, our re-homing tally for the year on the website stands at 43. Re-homing has slowed right down as it always does at this time of year with the holiday season in full swing. One cat was due to go to its new home recently but there is always another waiting to take its place.

Beverly & Sue have said on more than one occasion lately that in their next life they will take up flower arranging (Bev) or garden designing (Sue) - anything but cat rescue work!! Of course, when they receive the next request for help they will be straight there!!

### **\*\*BREAKING NEWS: IT'S A FIRST FOR CLAWS!!\*\***

This just in from Sue: CLAWS is producing its first ever calendar for 2010.

Maggie Ranson received a card from a friend (nothing unusual about this!) and noticed it had been sold to raise funds for a local animal rescue. Why couldn't CLAWS do the same? She spoke to her brother-in-law, Doug, a computer whiz, who produced samples.

They looked really good and it was decided that we should "do something". Time passed and it was June before the project was brought to the top of the "must do" agenda. So it seemed appropriate to do a calendar (bearing in mind Christmas seems to start in July these days !)

It will be ready for distribution week commencing Monday, 10 August.

This is huge commitment for CLAWS. If each of you were to sell 3 copies (at the bargain price of £2.50) it would give us a good start and, hopefully, enable us to make much needed money to care for the ever increasing number of cats we are asked to care for.

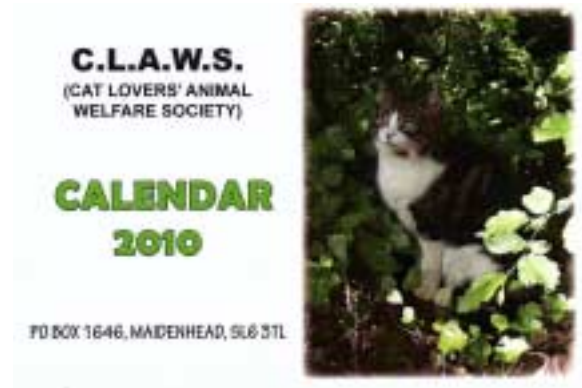
Copies can be obtained by ringing the help line (01189 341699)

Details of how supporters and members of the public can obtain copies can be found on the CLAWS website.

Thanks to all those who have made this exciting project possible. In particular to Maggie and Doug, to Vaughan, to Carol and to the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead.

Thanks to Barbara and Bob at Catwork for the photo of Big Boy which graces the front cover, to official photographer, Jill, for the many photos she has taken, some of which are included in the calendar and to all the other people who have provided photos - especially our fosterers and the people who have adopted our cats.

We hope that this will be a real money spinner and will also be another way to raise CLAWS profile.



### VOLUNTEER NEWS

#### MARS VOLUNTEER WORK

CLAWS was chosen to benefit from Mars Volunteer Week whereby employees are encouraged to support organisation near their work place and / or close to their hearts. The week ran from 1 to 5 June.

Seven people volunteered to help CLAWS. Four were at Knowl Hill Cattery in June helping Theresa and her team to clean the pens, feed, groom and cuddle the cats. Another three people were due to be at the cattery over the coming weeks.



Photo: Karen Guttridge (left), who works in GSM Mars, CLAWS volunteer Jill Jones and Darren Adams (right) also from Mars.

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### TALES FROM THE HELPLINE

Beverley & Theresa have had a particularly tough time of late.

We agreed to take in a diabetic cat and so Tilly went to live with Beverley, after she had been stabilised at Alma. She became increasingly unstable again and after a number of visits to Alma it was decided that she should stay in. That was several weeks ago and she is still there. One day OK, the next day not. If she were a human she would be called a "brittle" diabetic.

At about the same time we were asked to take in an elderly gentleman (originally rescued by the RSPCA). Penguin, as he is now called, has had two lots of dental work but as soon as the analgesics are reduced he relapses. We are now concerned there may be a tumour lurking so are waiting on further investigations.

At about the same time, Wicca, a beautiful tabby boy, known as the gentle giant, living with Beverley, took a turn for the worse. He went down hill rapidly and the weekend before last was so weak he collapsed trying to get up the step into Beverley's house.

So off to the vet and lots of tests. He was diagnosed as marginally diabetic and it was felt that some of the problem was depression. He was not used to a multi-cat household and needed one-to-one treatment. Currently he is back at the cattery and doing well thanks to Theresa's devoted care. It was hoped he would go to a long-term foster home. Some clients of Theresa have lost their beloved cat recently and are looking to offer a home to a needy puss and we are hoping it will be Wicca.

And that brings us to Portia. Portia and her mum, Pixie, came into the cattery last June. It was decided to split them up when it was discovered that Pixie was bullying Portia. Soon afterwards Pixie went to her new home and is doing well. During this time Theresa had lost her beloved Cassie and so decided to adopt Portia as a friend for Susie, her other cat.

All went well until Portia's hair started falling out in great clumps. Off to the vet - diagnosis ringworm. Highly contagious so she had to be isolated and it was decided that she should be removed from the cattery as a precaution. Ringworm rampaging through the cattery at the height of the season doesn't bear thinking about. Anyway Beverley has dedicated her two pens to Portia (it can be spread by contact or spores borne on the air) and is now barrier nursing her, which is both time-consuming and stressful. The good news is that Portia is improving,

only one fresh outbreak so hopefully it is under control.

The treatment lasts for many weeks and she will have to be tested after its completion to make sure she is clear. It can lie dormant for many months so we are not out of the woods yet. The whole cattery has had to be stripped and disinfected with a special fungal disinfectant. What a nightmare!

### CAT TAILS

#### COOPER – STORY BY ANN MAINE

A new resident at The Maine Rest Home for the Elderly Feline There he was poised with the blue needle when his assistant suggested they try CLAWS - the Vet agreed and put the needle down. It was that close a shave for Cooper not that that's his real name of course he is keeping that a dark secret.

Cooper because he is ginger with hints of white reminiscent of a popular brand of marmalade. He was found wandering in Slough and had found some friends at a school who had been feeding him junk food. He is described as ancient on his records

CLAWS was their last resort as all pleas for help to other agencies had fallen on deaf ears, but CLAWS and deaf ears just don't go together so here he is now with us.

He was in poorly shape to begin with (well that's what junk food does for you) but soon responded well to good board and lodgings and he is now training us up. He told us he likes bits of bacon and looked at us with disdain when we dropped some on the floor for him. He said he preferred to be hand fed.

Sometime in his life he has had a home because he has one of those nasty bald rings round his neck where a collar was once attached

So here he is now enjoying his life with his brother Tigger and his sisters Pinky and Pepsi and giving us lots of good company and he has also told us what the Vet can do with his blue needle!



Photo: Cooper

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### HERBIE

Rachel and her husband adopted Herbie in March 2008.

He was a shy boy and there were a number of initial problems to overcome. After months of care, careful guidance and regular vet checks Herbie is now a confident and healthy cat.

They thank CLAWS for bringing Herbie into their lives!!!



Photo: Herbie

### UPDATE ON BETH

BETH, who lives with Sue and Mike, continues to have health issues because of the IBD and she is finding it more difficult to get about as her back legs as very "wibbly wobbly" now. However, she looks good though as you can see from the attached photo.



Photo: Beth

**Keith and Evelyn Jones**, who used to foster for CLAWS before they re-located, have been helping out a rescue group calling Scratching Post. Their current "guest" is Sonny, the first tom they've ever had and quite a character. Apparently he is definitely a "man's cat", even though Evelyn does most of the looking after!

Some sadder news...

*PENNY – put to sleep 27 July 2009*

Beloved foster cat of Barbara & Ron: greatly missed. Rest in peace.



Photo: Penny

*EMMY – put to sleep 5 July 2009*

With CLAWS for only six months but much loved and sadly missed by Sue & Mike



Photo: Emmy

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### TILLY

Sometime ago we were approached by Alma Vets to see if we could take in a cat that had been diagnosed with diabetes. Her owner was both physically and mentally handicapped and could not cope with giving the twice daily injections she needed.

So we said "Yes" and she went to stay with Beverley. However, we soon discovered that Tilly did not like other cats and so we looked for another home for her - not an easy task when daily injections are required.

We had homed-checked a guy in Twyford whose cottage fronted the high street so only an indoor cat would be suitable. We hadn't got an indoor cat and none had come in since.

I suggested to Beverley that we approach Steve, who is a nurse, - after all "If you don't ask you don't get". He had not found a suitable cat and agreed to think about it. When I rang again he said "Yes" and went to meet Tilly (and Beverley) and has agreed to foster Tilly.

Fingers crossed that all will be well. Who knows she may even end up with a permanent home!

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

9 May – Cox Green jumble - £281 (it was great to see you all there)

16 May - Maidenhead street collection - didn't happen as it was double booked so rebooked for 6 June.

17 May - Duck Derby – CLAWS didn't go as it was too wet.

23 May - Sainsburys Taplow - £264.43 -collectors were Beevo, Ann Maine, Maggie and Jenny.

6 May - Maidenhead street collection £149.00

Waltham St Lawrence Fair £141.20

### WAITROSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

I heard from Sue that CLAWS has been chosen to participate in Community Matters by Waitrose in Maidenhead. The two other organisations are Maidenhead Rotary Club and Bray Senior Citizens. Not sure when this will be but will of course let you know more in due course.

### ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

A lovely couple I was going to homecheck down in Marlow ended up taking on 3 kittens at short notice to help out Wycombe CPL. We had a lovely chat on the phone anyway. Notwithstanding they didn't take one of our cats in the end, they generously sent £15 in to

CLAWS in appreciation of all the hard work we do. I was really touched when I heard about the donation - the world could do with more people like that, couldn't it.

A lovely friend of mine, Darlene, who lives up in Durham, kindly donated £10 to CLAWS when a friend of hers refused to take payment for something she had ordered from her. Where many would pocket the windfall, this kind soul's first thoughts were to a good cause. Another special purrson indeed.

### \*\*STOP PRESS\*\*

The jumble sale at Cox Green raised a lovely total of £230. Well done to all the helpers and thanks to all who attended.

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2009

**NB:** If anybody is able to help out at the following events, could they please contact Beverley direct? Thanks.

Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	Cox Green Community Centre	Jumble Sale	8.30am - 12 noon
Sep 5 <sup>th</sup>	Millbrook	RSPCA Show	
Sep 12 <sup>th</sup>	Henley	Henley Show	8.30am - 6pm
Sep 19 <sup>th</sup>	Henley	Street Collection	9am - 3pm
Sep 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cookham	Fete	10am-5pm
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am - 4pm
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	Maidenhead	Street Collection includes Nicholson's Walk	9am - 4pm
Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	TBC	Jumble Sale	8.30am - 12 noon
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sainsbury's Taplow	Collection	9am - 5pm

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### **JET, ROVING REPURTER**



Hello again from Jet's Joint!

Been trying to think back what has happened since my last writings. Not much changes here, except that Rockhead seems to forget where the catflappy thing is and sits on the outside of window ledge of the living room waiting to be let in. He has mastered reversing now when MummySam opens the window and he uses the ledge as a shortcut to our hammock (we share) on the radiaturr.

We still have Stripes visiting us, cleaning up the catfood and then dassing on our ottoman. He's a strange beast who still doesn't purr but I like him cos he's no bother.

We have another cat trying to come in. He's a ginger and white beast also called Rocky. He bellows cos he thinks we're deaf and hisses at us in our own kitchen. We think he's been dropped on his head at some point because he's definitely away with the fairies. We understand he visits all the houses in the road that have catflappy things, probably cos he's lonesome, but he definitely wants to be in our gang!

Sooty from next door still loves our catmint. He sits on our shed roof sometimes or on our fence, hanging out with our Rockhead. Rocky ignores him mostly but they do hang out together alot and also sit out front watching the birds on our feeders. Sooty keeps trying to teach Rocky how to climb the tree but Rocky is too lazy.

I've been enjoying the windy days and playing in the garden. The wind makes me jump and I can chase insects and dandelion fluff around the grass. MummySam likes to watch me play so I always put on a good show for her!

### **AND FINALLY...**

*ALGARVE CAT CHARITY – by ANN MAINE*

Algarve Cat Charity neuters 4000 feral cats in 9 years

No this is not a misprint! This is the outstanding achievement of Amigos dos Gatos do Algarve since their foundation.

Twice a year vets from the UK or from *Vets without Frontiers* take a working holiday in the Algarve. The cats are trapped and their location is carefully recorded. If a cat has kittens with her they are also brought in so they do not get separated.

Sometimes the charity has the use of an empty villa which they turn into a temporary surgery or a local vet allows them the use of his facilities. As many as 250 cats are neutered in one week and the vets give their services for free so the charity just pays for drugs and equipment.

Volunteers care for the cats pre and post op and each cat has a small nick made in their ear so that it is easy to identify neutered cats.

Then the cats are returned to their location where feeding stations are established away from resorts and restaurants and a volunteer is appointed to visit and feed them daily. More than 200 cats are fed every day.

Where funds allow neutering also takes place throughout the year using local vets who give preferential rates.

This is an ongoing programme designed not only to reduce the number of feral cats but also to give them a better quality of life in their natural surroundings. No attempt is made to try and rehome them.

Just one example is the colony of ferals I have become involved with. Some 10 years ago there were 12 cats, now there are just five. That there will soon be none is proof of the success of the programme but much work remains to be done.

Funds mainly come from customers of the small shop the charity runs, occasional social events, sponsorship and a small subsidy from the local council. More details about the AGA can be found on their website [www.agalgarve.com](http://www.agalgarve.com)

Editor: My thanks to Ann for your contributions to this newsletter. Much appreciated.

### **ANY OLD JEWELLERY?**

Volunteer Maggie Ranson has been on some jewellery making courses and has offered to make necklaces, bracelets and ear rings to sell at our up coming events, all profits to go to CLAWS.

She would be very grateful for any old necklaces or bracelets that are in reasonable condition so she could re-use them. Do any volunteers have any old jewellery or beads they could spare? If so, please contact her via Sue Collins.

Sam Collington  
7<sup>th</sup> August 2009