

# VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 20

## May 2008



Hello Catlovers!

I hope you've all been enjoying the gorgeous Spring weather we've had of late, although Sod's Law came into play with it being the bank holiday weekend of course – damp and wintry again, back to wearing 2 layers of clothing....The pussycats have been a bit restless from not wanting to go outside in the wet, egging each other on at the catflap, but none actually daring to go out. Which reminds me, I must sort the littertray out – it has been doing sterling duty this weekend lol.

### NEWS FROM HQ

We would like to welcome new volunteer Sue Cottrell to our ranks. She kindly approached us at the Burchetts Green weekend, and has already participated in the Maidenhead street collection for us. Many thanks Sue and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

Bev has asked me to relay this message to you all:

*I expect all of you have been following with annoyance and/or baited breath the letters column in the Advertiser, concerning Mr Jones, Cats Protection and CLAWS.*

*All volunteers have now been briefed on what actually happened.*

*If anyone invites you to make a comment about the complaint, just refer them to either me or Sue Collins for an answer.*

CLAWS has received another note from Gabi at Bristol University about the cat owners' survey I mentioned last month. Her note went as follows:

*"We had an amazing response and would like to thank you for promoting this survey on cat owners' views towards cat health. Over 3000 cat owners have completed the questionnaire and their responses have provided us with plenty of valuable information!*

*This survey is now closed. Statistical analysis of the data will be carried out at the University of Bristol. I will contact you with a summary of the results later this summer or you can find them on our website!*

*Many thanks for sharing your views with us!*

*Gabriele Habacher DVM MRCVS"*

### CLAWS TO THE RESCUE!!

#### Louis

Jo was ringing from Somerset. She had moved there the previous Saturday (it was now Tuesday) and everything had gone well EXCEPT that Louis, her ginger boy, was still in Bracknell !

She had made sure, so she thought, that the house was secure and the cat flap firmly closed. She put her other cat in its carrying basket and turned to pick up Louis only to see him high-tailing it down the stairs. No problem - she would catch up with him there. Such was his fear that he burst through the cat flap and disappeared. No amount of calling and rattling of his food dish did any good.

Very reluctantly, the family went ahead with their move. She came back the following day - no luck. She was very concerned particularly as Louis was on daily medication for asthma and, of course, it was the pollen season. She contacted a number of organisations with no luck and eventually rang CLAWS.

We arranged for friends of hers to pick up a trap from DBAR (many thanks to Janet for her help) and set it up at the old family home.

A few days went by - no news. Then the following week Jo rang to say that Louis had been caught and was now resident in Somerset. He seemed no worse for his adventure - perhaps a little quieter than usual - but she was going to take him to the vet to have him checked over. All's well that ends well.

#### Mary

Mary had not been too well lately making it difficult for her to get up and down to her first floor flat. Social Services wanted her to go into sheltered accommodation for a few weeks whilst she underwent more tests and received treatment. Great! Only one problem: she had two beautiful cats and so far had been unable to find anyone to look after them. Could we help? Sue explained that we had no spaces at the cattery but that we would try to help her. Fortunately Debbie had no foster cats and agreed to take them. (Many thanks, Debbie.) Mary was delighted and so grateful and can now concentrate on getting better so she can return home with her cats.

#### Terry

Terry's estranged husband had been rushed in to hospital having suffered a stroke. The first she knew of it was when she returned home and found a message on her ansaphone.

For the next few weeks she made a round trip of an hour each day to feed them but became more and more concerned about their welfare - in fact, she hadn't seen one of them for almost a week. What

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should she do? We decided the cats should come into care and so we gave her a trap. She was able to catch one quite easily as it was resident in the house, but very frightened, and so it went into the isolation unit at Knowl Hill Cattery. Days passed without a sighting of the other one but then it too was trapped and brought in. It was in a very poor state and an immediate trip to the vet was necessary. Now they are both settling in nicely.

By the way, two of these ladies had approached other animal rescue organisations in the area and had been told that they couldn't help or had had the messages they left on an ansaphone ignored. We are very pleased to have been able to help in their time of crisis.

Thought these three calls received on the help line today might amuse you !!!

"Are you the cat rescue place ?"

"Yes"

"Do you take in cats ?"

"Yes"

"I have four cats that need to be re-homed - can you collect them this afternoon ?"

"The Blue Cross have given me your number because I have a cat that needs to be re-homed and they can't assist me"

"Where do you live ?"

"Cheltenham"

"I'm very sorry but we can't help you as we work in Maidenhead, Berkshire".

"Are you the animal rescue place ?"

"Yes"

"I've got a dead fox in my garden"

### NEW FEATURE ON THE WEB SITE

The website has now been revamped with a new look. The number of cats homed this year is now a feature. It is updated by Vaughan when he receives news of successful rehoming from Sue and Bev. I saw it increase by a count of 2 yesterday between visits to the site during the day lol.

### NEWS FROM FOSTERERS/ADOPTERS/CATTERY

Mixed blessings on the homecheck front, with some of them not proceeding successfully for one reason or another.

Newcomer Ollie went to a lovely couple in Cookham, whom I was delighted to homecheck. I was also lucky enough to meet Ollie who is smashing!

I managed to trap a stray cat which has been coming to feed from us for several months. I have never been able to work out if he belonged to anybody, but I reckoned that if he was coming for 3 square meals per day atleast and was staying overnight on cold and wet nights, then he probably didn't have a proper home to go to. He seemed in fine condition from all the grub he was having but as he was getting into territorial battles with my Jet, Bev lent me a cat-trap to see if I could get him. It took a few attempts, not least cos my Rockhead couldn't resist temptation, and a neighbour's tabby (Stripes) who also enjoys our hospitality, kept springing the trap! I was glad to hear it go one lunchtime and he was duly delivered to the vets, and Jill picked him up next day after his MOT. He has been renamed Felix and put up for adoption now that he has settled down.

I also completed a successful homecheck yesterday, with Gerald & Albert in mind – a lovely lady down in Little Marlow, living in a smashing house in grounds, surrounded by fields. Doing homechecks allows me to visit areas of the locality I would not normally see. I'd always wondered what was at the end of that little road – now I know!

It's sad to see that Daisy & Treacle are still at the cattery. Can you please keep your ears open in case anyone is looking for a gorgeous pair of young females to brighten up their home.

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The street collection at Marlow raised £234.84. Thanks to all the helpers.

Burchetts Green College weekend netted about £125 as far as I can recall (apologies if this is not correct Bev) It sadly piddled down on the Sunday, so the day was pretty much a washout and the girls were forced to pack up early before the stall contents got saturated.

Last week's Maidenhead street collection netted us £274.39. Thanks to all who turned out for it. We were lucky it stayed dry.

CLAWS also had a presence at the Maidenhead Duck Derby that weekend. I gather it was an enjoyable day for all who attended and we made £125.50.

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### FUTURE EVENTS

Jun 7th	Cox Green Centre	Jumble Sale	10am to Noon
Jun 21st	Cookham	Village Fair	11am to 4pm
Jun 22nd	Waltham St Lawrence	Fete	-
Jul 12th	Lower Earley	Show	Helpers Welcomed
Jul 19 & 20th	Great Missenden	Chiltern Show	Helpers Welcomed
Jul 26th	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am to 3pm
Aug 9 & 10th	Stubbings	Berkshire Show	Helpers Welcomed
Sep 7th	Chobham	RSPCA Show	Helpers Welcomed
Sep 13th	Henley	Show	Helpers Welcomed
Sep 20th	Cookham Dean	Show	-
Sep 20th	Henley	Street Collection	9am to 3pm
Oct 11th	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am to 3pm
Oct 25th	Maidenhead, Town Hall	Combined Charities Fayre	10.30am to 3.30pm
Nov 1st	Cox Green Centre	Jumble Sale	10am to Noon
Dec 6th	Maidenhead	Street Collection	9am to 3pm

and kiss each other alot, which Daddy thinks is weird. Auntie Looby had a gale in her tail this week, rushing round the house like a 2 year old (like me really) and she had a birthday earlier this month: she was 12 years old. We all got a helping of colely to celebrate. Looby still jumps out at me on the landing, when I'm coming up the stairs. but I'm a fast runner and can usually streak past her into the bathroom. I like to follow Mummy into the bathroom, just to make sure I get an extra cuddle.

Oh Mummy now tells me that Big Brute has been taken in by CLAWS and renamed Felix. He's now on the website, ready for rehoming. Auntie Jill & Auntie Bev apparently reckon he's friendly and affectionate – well you could've fooled me – I don't call a torn ear very friendly grrrrr!

Here's a photo of him that Auntie Jill sent us. I'll never forget that face.



Photo: Felix

Byebye for now and be good. If you can't be good, be purrfect :D

Jet xx



**AND FINALLY...**

Paws for thought

Our fearless leader Bev doesn't know about this, and will probably kill me for doing so, but I nominated her for a charity award through the internet charity donation search tool Everyclick. I'm pleased to have received an email which said that Bev had passed first selection, from an original submission list of 550 nominees, and has made it onto the next round. I will be keeping fingers crossed that our lovely Bev's luck holds! However, I do know that her local competition is the woman who runs the Redroofs school of dance in Maidenhead. Watch this space....

### JET'S CORNER



Hello again from Jet's Joint!!

I've been keeping a watchful eye out by the catflap thing for Big Brute but he seems to have done a disappearing act. My nerves are settling down a bit but I still have to rush out into the kitchen when Stripes comes in to feed, just in case Big Brute comes in behind him! Stripes is ok, very gentle and Mummy can now stroke him sometimes.

My boyfriend Rocky and my dozy brother Ozzie have been playing together alot lately. They also wash

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In the meantime, I hope some of you saw the lovely acknowledgement in the Advertiser by Coral Williams, retiring rehoming officer for the local RSPCA, of our wonderful Bev, as well as Peter's team at Cats Protection.

Also, at Vaughan's instigation, I've been sent a book to review for publishers Simon & Schuster, written by a fella who adores cats and wanted to set out his place in the world as a cat-loving man. My review will be posted on the website in due course. It's a good read, with some chuckleworthy moments, so worth keeping an eye out for. When I've finished the book, I will pass it to Bev. She'll no doubt lend it to anyone interested. The book is called "Under the Paw: Confessions of a Cat Man", by Tom Cox. (just as well it wasn't Tom Cat haha)

Right that's all for this month. As always, if you have any snippets of news or items you wish to relay to fellow volunteers, you know where I am.

Take care everyone!

Sam Collington/May 2008