

VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER 28

Aug-Oct 2009



Hello Catlovers!

Hello everyone and I hope you passed a pleasant summer with friends and family. I also hope your animals have coped with the vagaries of the weather. Mine are now all curled up on fleeces and begging for cuddles with the onset of the cooler weather, although today we seem to be blessed with a gorgeous day – quite a turnaround from this week's gales!

Huge apologies you have had to wait so long for this update. I will do one more before Xmas.

NEWS FROM HQ

We have re-homed 67 cats so far this year, at the time of writing.

REMINDER:

Don't forget to buy your CLAWS calendars, available from Sue Collins for £2.50 each plus P&P.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We would like to welcome new volunteers Dawn Akerman and Chloe Buchanan to our ranks.

TALES FROM THE HELPLINE

These stories from Sue had me chuckling:

14 OCTOBER 2009

4.30 AM (Yes, a.m!!) Telephone rings

"Is that CLAWS?"

"Yes"

"I've got a stray cat"

"Oh, and where is it?"

"In the kitchen" (I was tempted to say "and where is the kitchen?" but thought I might be told "in my house" so instead I asked,

"Where do you live?"

"Langley"

"I'm afraid we don't cover your area but I can give you the number of an organisation that does"

"Oh, OK then"

So I gave him CP's number

"Will they be open now?"

"I very much doubt it"

Later on that day, Sue received the following email :-

"Where is there a CLAWS in LA? Is it Baton Rouge, Gonzales. Can you give me a phone number. Thanks"

to which Sue responded :-

"Afternoon Tommy.

Thanks for contacting CLAWS. We are a small, independent cat rescue organisation working in Maidenhead, Berkshire, England, so too far away to be of any practical help !!

We are always happy to try to answer any cat-related questions if that would be useful to you.

Best wishes
Sue"

Just another day in the Twilight Zone I guess!!

CAT TAILS

We love to hear how some of our previous rescued babies are doing, so here's an update.

NUTMEG

Nutmeg's mum, Sarah, sent us some photos and tells Sue she is a sweet little cat. She has found her confidence around the house and has earned the nickname squeaker because she has a lot to say for herself.

She and her mum are finding new little things about her every day and are so pleased they were able to give her a home. She has been with them for just over a year.



Photo: Nutmeg

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Photo: Nutmeg

BENGY

Bengy was found wandering in Maidenhead in 2007.

He was a very lively boy, friendly but independent, and much loved by all of us who knew him.

Carol and her children, Matthew and Rachel, adopted him in October 2007 and when she popped round to collect some calendars, she brought the attached photo for Sue.

She tells us he is a great family pet and has retained his engaging character. The only difference is that he is a little larger than he was before - obviously the result of his happy and contented lifestyle!



Photo: Bengy

JESSIE AND JOE

Jessie and Joe were the two cats which spent more than a year at the cattery before the right home came along.

Recently Sue heard from their new family who reminded her that it had been 19 wonderful months since they adopted Joe and Jessie.

They are thriving and their personalities have definitely come out. They are independent but sit with the family in the evenings. They fight over the best spot on the sofa, which is usually between their "mum and dad". Joe tends to eat all his food then proceeds to eat Jessie's - although she does put him in his place!

They both have a wonderful habit of bringing mice in, which are greatly appreciated - not! However, the mice aren't always dead so a lot of the evening is spent trying to catch a mouse that the cats have lost interest in!

Joe is very talkative and has taken to sitting outside the kitchen window and meowing until one of his slaves lets him in through the front door! He doesn't need his catflap anymore except to get out!

Jessie has taken longer to get used to Abi, the daughter of the house, but she is finally letting her stroke her. Jessie is still a bit of a scaredy cat at times.

The cats have both wrapped the family around their paws and the family can't imagine their lives without them.

The letter thanks CLAWS so much for Joe and Jessie.

As Sue rightly says, receiving letters like this is what makes it all worthwhile !

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FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Aug 1 – Cox Green jumble - £228.04
 Aug 8 – Tesco Dedworth - £248.34
 Aug 31 – Littlewick Show - £378.67 (Sue Hanson & family did brilliantly!)
 Sept 5 – RSPCA show Ockwells Park - £91.69
 Sept 6 – RSPCA show Chobham - £357.54 (again another awesome tally by Sue Hanson & family)
 Sept 12 – Henley show - £143.08
 Sept 19 Henley St collection – cancelled
 Kelperland car boot - £12.60
 Oct 10 – Maidenhead street collection - £271.25

MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER

You may have seen the article and a recent photo of Beverley and some kind ladies from the Maidenhead Golf Club who had a fundraising event and chose CLAWS as their benefiting charity.

It was a great surprise to receive a cheque for £540 and our grateful thanks go to these kind ladies.

Note: The photo and article are reproduced at the end of this newsletter.

Furthermore, huge thanks to everyone who has turned out for fundraising activities so far this year. You're an amazing lot!

I hope to see you all again soon as it has been a while since I've been able to lend a hand properly, due to mobility issues, and it would be great to catch up with you.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2009

Nov 14 th	Maidenhead	Street Collection includes Nicholson's Walk	9am - 5pm
Nov 21 st	Maidenhead Town Hall	Combined Charities Fair	10am-5pm
Nov 28 th	TBC	Jumble Sale	8.30am - 12 noon
Nov 28 th	Bracknell Sports Centre	National Cat Club Show	10am - 5pm
Dec 19 th	Sainsbury's Taplow	Collection	9am - 5pm

JET, ROVING REPURTER



Hello again from Jet's Joint!

Haven't got alot to report from here – been a quiet summer but we've given MummySam lots of cuddles. I've brought her lots of mouses to play with and have done lots of dancing even when she takes them away from me. My brother has been doing the same but he's more gruesome with his gifts. Don't ya just love brothers?! Here's a photo of him looking like butter wouldn't melt in his mouth (but I know better!):



Photo: Oswald Archibald (Oz)

And this is me (at the back) with my boyfriend Rocky and Auntie Looby. Isn't my Rocky handsome, even if he does chew his feet alot?!



VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 28

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AND FINALLY...

Attached is Pets' Page from a magazine called TAMMY dated 6 February 1971. Thought it might be of interest. Apparently this magazine was published every Monday and cost 7d (old money).

It looks alot more interesting than my efforts lol!

Caterwauling Carriage

I may or may not have shown this one before but my dry-witted husband suggested that this might be the new CLAWS vehicle – or as he put it “CLAWS volunteers go on tour”. Let’s grab a couple of guitars and head out on the road – I’m sure we can think of some songs to singalong to!



Sam Collington
Oct 2009

MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER - 15th October 2009

www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk

MAIDENHEAD NEWS

Purr-fect news for stray cats



GINGER TEE TIME: Beverley Gubbins, centre, with Bema Gold, left, and Lin Johnstone. Ref:104747-2

MAIDENHEAD: Generous lady golfers donated cash to a pet charity this week to honour a former captain who died two year ago.

The group from the ladies section of Maidenhead Golf Club gave Claws, the Cat Lovers Animal Welfare Society, £540 on Monday in memory of Judy Ganley, who was a big supporter.

They raised the money at their annual memorial trophy competition on Tuesday, September 29.

Current captain Lin Johnstone said it was a great local charity which they were happy to support.

Chairman of Claws, Beverley Gubbins, said the money was a 'wonderful surprise' that would be used to help rehome and reduce the number of stray cats on the streets of Maidenhead.

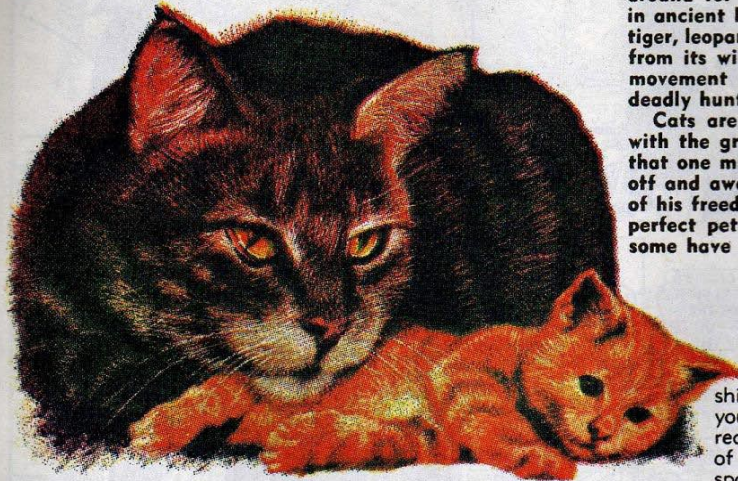
"We are very, very grateful to the ladies for giving us this money. It has been a very difficult year for both people and animals and it was kind of them to think of us at such a sad time," she said.

Claws was set up 11 years ago and promotes responsible pet ownership and the neutering of strays to reduce numbers.

TAMMY MAGAZINE FROM 1971

Pets' Page

CATS AND KITTENS



The domestic cat, the kind people keep as pets, has been around for thousands of years and was regarded as sacred in ancient Egypt. It belongs to the same family as the lion, tiger, leopard, lynx and, although it is very different in nature from its wild cousins, it has the same grace and beauty of movement which in the wild cat makes an efficient and deadly hunter.

Cats are mysterious, independent and can out-stare you with the greatest of ease. If you have a cat you will know that one minute he is curled up on your lap, the next, he is off and away across the room for no apparent reason. Fond of his freedom, clean and always fascinating, a cat makes a perfect pet. They normally live for eight to ten years but some have been known to live as long as twenty-four years.

Choosing your kitten

You can buy one from a pet shop for a few shillings, but it is better to get one from somebody you know. By seven to eight weeks a kitten is ready to leave its mother. Choose one that is full of life, has a smooth coat, an erect tail, and bright sparkling eyes, and you should never have much trouble with his health.

Care

Your kitten will be a little lost and lonely when you first bring him home so spend as much time with him as you can. But remember that he needs a great deal of sleep and rest. Give him a soft, warm bed in a wooden or cardboard box with sides to keep out draughts. Put a layer of newspaper in the box, then an old cushion or piece of blanket.

When picking him up, put one hand under him with your fingers outstretched to support his head, your other lightly on his back. To house-train him, fill a shallow box or tray with earth, sand, sawdust or ashes and always keep it in the same place. Take your kitten to it after meals — he'll soon learn to use it.

In next week's
TAMMY
all about
GUINEA PIGS
and how to look after them

Feeding

At seven weeks old your kitten needs four meals a day—two of small amounts of minced cooked meat, or flaked fish (no bones), the other two of warm milk and cereals (crumbled brown bread or rolled oats). Add a few drops of cod liver oil to his midday meal.

At nine weeks, three meals a day, gradually giving less milk and more fish and meat, with vegetables and brown bread mixed in. By the time he is six or seven months old your cat needs only two meals a day with some milk and water. Always let your cat have some grass.



Health

Most cats keep healthy, but here are some minor ailments which may arise:

Worms—if your cat has a poor appetite, a pot-bellied look and a harsh coat, take him to the vet. **Canker of the ear**—a tiny parasite that makes your cat continuously scratch his ear. Take him to the vet.

Chills and Colds—Treat with warmth, rest and a light diet. Half an aspirin in milk will help. **Diarrhoea**—keep your cat warm indoors and give him arrowroot and milk.

Mange and Ringworm—these and other skin troubles which cause scabby, hairless patches or round bare spots must be treated at once by a vet.

Cat 'flu—the symptoms are loss of appetite, sickness, sneezing, runny eyes and nose. Call the vet at once! Don't take your cat to the surgery as he will infect others.

Please don't leave your cat alone when you go on holiday. If there is no-one who can come in and look after him take him to a boarding kennel or see if your vet will look after him.