

# VOLUNTEERS' MEWSLETTER 29

## Nov-Dec 2009



Hello Catlovers!

Happy New Year!

Apologies for not putting out a Christmas newsletter but unfortunately time did not allow. I hope you all passed a pleasant seasonal celebration and have survived all that the snows threw at us recently. We were snowed in on 2 occasions and sent home from work twice as well with the office being officially closed – though they didn't tell us before we set off for work!

### NEWS FROM HQ

A check of the website reveals we re-homed and helped 73 cats in 2009, at the time of originally writing this a few days ago.

### MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER

The Advertiser has been a marvellous support to CLAWS over the year and we have had a welcome response to photographs of some of our needy pussycats which they have kindly featured. We are thankful for the newspaper's continued support.

### CLAWS CALENDARS

Sue reports that there are still some CLAWS calendars unsold sale. They are fabulous items and can be adapted to make desk diaries as we have done at work. Could any of you see your way to taking the last ones off her hands please?

### HELP WANTED

CLAWS is planning to run a grand raffle in the spring/early summer of 2010 and we need help from ALL our volunteers to provide good quality prizes. Ann Maine is looking after this for.

A personal approach is always best but the attachment at the end of this newsletter could be downloaded and printed off to be left with the possible donor as a reminder. Sue and Ann would be happy to speak to anybody about this.

### VOLUNTEER NEWS

Sue sent me over some details of a new volunteer and so I would like to welcome Deborah Somerville to our ranks. I haven't met her but look forward to doing so in due course.

### CAT TAILS

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

This first item is something I should have included in the last newsletter but overlooked (it came to me in a format I couldn't read and forgot to convert at work!), for which apologies Sue!

The Advertiser ran a story on him.

### PENGUIN'S STORY

#### The Story in October

Weighing no more than a hamster, covered in tics and fleas and close to death, a little stray cat was taken to Alma Veterinary Hospital in Windsor.

It took many weeks of skill, patience and love before he was on the road to recovery. He had to have all his teeth removed because he had acute gingivitis. He was named PENGUIN by the veterinary nurses at Alma and won all hearts with his quirky personality and determination to survive.

Once his condition had stabilised Alma contacted CLAWS to ask if we would take him in and, of course, we said "Yes".

Currently he is being looked after by fosterers who are both are experienced "cat people". A strong bond has formed between the three of them and Penguin has thrived under their care.

He has put on weight (3.5 kg at the last count) and now grooms himself. He is "Mr 110%" as everything is done with maximum enthusiasm – eating, playing and even watching TV sitting on his foster mum's shoulder !

CLAWS is now seeking a permanent home for this very special little chap.

He is looking for a quiet home with no other animals and an experienced owner who will give him lots of love and spend time with him to provide the stability he needs.

As he will be on medication for the rest of his life he will be homed under our People for Pets Scheme whereby we ask the owner to pay for his food and annual booster injection but C.L.A.W.S. will pay all veterinary expenses.

### UPDATE: GOOD NEWS ABOUT PENGUIN

We are delighted to say that dear Penguin has a new home !

We should like to thank everyone who has helped bring about this happy ending

- the staff at Alma Veterinary Hospital who saved him and gave him the chance of a full and happy life.
- his foster mum and dad for their devoted care of him
- the Maidenhead Advertiser for publishing his story and, of course,
- his new "mum" !!

Penguin apparently has "gassy guts" and so should be on a bland diet – sensitivity control pouches, white fish or chicken.

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He went to a lovely new home with Hazel about 3 months ago. Latest news is that he now weighs 4.4 kg - isn't that great ?

Incidentally if any volunteer could help chaffering Penguin from Marlow to Alma Vets in Windsor and back again for his regular injection needed every 10 days to keep the stomatitis under control (his owner is unable to drive due to an ulcerated leg) it would be much appreciated.



Photo: Penguin

### DAISY AND BARNEY

Supporter Donna sent us this lovely photo of Daisy and Barney who were born on 5 February 2009. Their mum was Babe (now known as Poppy). They have settled in really well and are much loved by their new family.

Thank to you to Donna for your support of CLAWS this year.



### ELVIS

Here is a heart warming E-mail from Elvis:

*Dear Claws,*

*As it's coming towards Christmas, I just had to email you and tell you a warm fuzzy christmassy story of hope, kindness and love;*

*About Easter 2007, I was wandering around Greenfern Avenue in Maidenhead, in a bit of a daze - I had a broken tail, I was in terrible pain, and there were scabby patches in my black fur. I was going to die, and I knew it, I was just too old survive this disaster.*

*Hunger drove me to a garage where miraculously, food appeared every day, and I joined several of my homeless brethren on the daily foray to Nicky's Kitchen Garage.*

*One day, I went to eat some food, and found myself trapped in wire cage! - before I knew it, I was taken to something called a Vets, and when I woke up, my tail was in a bandage, and, upon further investigation, I also found out that I wasn't the boy I had previously been!*

*I languished in the Cattery at Knowl Hill for several months - no-one wanted me - Auntie Nicky visited me all the time, and a kind looking man and woman visited me - I growled at them, just to show who was boss!*

*One day, when I was beginning to lose hope, I'd had a bad cough, and the spark of life was dimming from my eyes in my despair, Auntie Nicky scooped me up, and took me to something called an office. Later on she took me home, and I hoped beyond hope that I would be allowed stay there.*

*A little later on, a lady came in and stroked me - I recognised her - it was the lady that had visited me at the cattery - Auntie Nicky told me that her name was Tracey! This time I didn't growl, I rubbed around her legs and purred. It didn't work though, Auntie Nicky scooped me up again, and I was back in the horrible cage, and being taken up some stairs. Guess what! I found myself alone with the lady called Tracey. She spoke to me for ages, but I wasn't deceived - I went under the bed and stayed there. Soon, though, she went to bed, and when I thought she was asleep, I went and curled up next to her. The next few days were ok, Tracey went to work during the day, and I was left with a man called Terry Wogan talking to me, and playing me mellow music, and at night I was stroked and brushed, and given the very best of food. It all went well until something called a husband came home from working abroad! It was terrifying - I hated men creatures, and I went up on top of the wardrobe for 3 days - not easy at my advanced time of life, but I just knew that my life was in danger! Gradually though, the man creature called*

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*Jay started to win me over - he didn't seem too bad really, he stroked me a lot, and talked to me in a soft soothing voice - I still remained very much on my guard of course, knowing I was in mortal danger!*

*After a few days, when they went to sleep, I got down from the wardrobe, (only knocking over a few things of course) and stealthily joined them on the bed.*

*Well, they were the early days, and just the start of my old age life adventure. Mum & Dad took me back to the Vets, to get me something called a passport, and now I go to Spain in the car with them at least twice a year, we stay in the best of hotels, and every night I lie in between my Mum & Dad. Dad lets me suck his earlobe when I am frightened, and they tell me how much I am loved every day!*

*Of course I play them up royally, just because I can! I will only eat the most expensive Sheba cat food, but I go downstairs and pinch biscuits from Auntie Nicky and usually give her net curtains a good spray on the way out!*

*I am loved and cherished, and I am so happy . . . I have learned to play, and I am thinking of writing a travel guide for my fellow feline friends . . . cat friendly hotels in France, that kind of thing, and a good chapter on how to terrorise the local Spanish cats, which is really easy, because they are so skinny!*

*A couple of months ago I fell off the fence in the back garden and cut my leg - Mum and Dad made so much fuss, I was embarrassed, and they made me wear a stupid lampshade on my head for several weeks - my street cred was in tatters after that .*

*So just want to say thank you Claws, and thanks to all the people who help them to help us - it really is the difference between life and death.*

*Love and Kisses, Elvis xxxxxxxxxx*

### BETH

Please spare a thought for Sue & Mike whose sweet oldie Beth spent 15 days in vet hospital over Christmas. She was diagnosed diabetic and kept in there to be stabilised. The issue is complicated her need for steroids to control the inflammatory bowel disease she suffers from and they make it more difficult for the insulin to be absorbed. She is now home and will be having check ups until they get the insulin dose right for her. Please keep your fingers crossed for Beth.

Meanwhile am sending Sue & Mike hugs for this new responsibility in their already crowded list of tasks.

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Nov 14 – Maidenhead Street collection - £87.48 (rain stopped play!)
- Nov 21 – table top sale - £85.
- Nov 21 – Combined Charities Fair - £180
- Nov 28 – Jumble sale, Cox Green - £182.77
- Nov 28 – National Cat Club Show, Bracknell
- Dec 5 – Cox Green Fete - £69.04
- Dec 19 - Collection at Sainsbury's Taplow

I neglected to mention in the last newsletter that Hazel did a tabletop sale in October and raised a welcome £95. Many thanks Hazel, you're a star!

Huge thanks to everyone who has turned out for fundraising so far this year. You're an amazing lot.

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2010

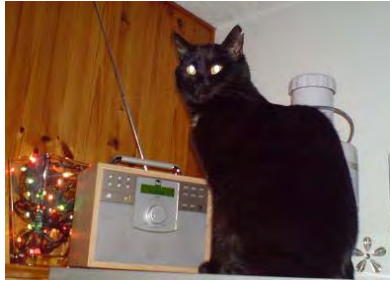
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|----------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Mar 27th | Cox Green Community Centre | Jumble Sale       | 10am - Noon |
| Apr 3rd  | Maidenhead                 | Street Collection | 9am - 5pm   |
| May 1st  | Henley                     | Street Collection | 9am - 5pm   |
| May 23rd | Maidenhead                 | Duck Derby        | 10am - 4pm  |
| Jun 26th | Cox Green Community Centre | Jumble Sale       | 10am - Noon |
| Jul 17th | Maidenhead                 | Street Collection | 9am - 5pm   |
| Sep 4th  | Maidenhead                 | Street Collection | 9am - 5pm   |

|          |                            |                   |             |
|----------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Oct 9th  | Cox Green Community Centre | Jumble Sale       | 10am - Noon |
| Dec 11th | Maidenhead                 | Street Collection | 9am - 5pm   |

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### JET'S JOURNAL



Hello again from Jet's Joint!

Me & my brother Oz didn't like the snowstuff very much. It made my paws freeez and my bum wet so I stayed in the warm as much as I could. Even Oz had to use the kittylitterthingy which MummySam swore about because he's a boy and wouldn't cover it up after.

Auntie Looby & my boyfriend Rocky loved the snow. Auntie Looby always helped MummySam with bird feeding. Rocky went outside lots with her and DaddyMark especially when he was shovelling up the snow. Rocky rolled around in it and did funny kangaroo hops across the lawn and paths. He thought it was funny to leap up under the climbing plants and shake all the snow off the leaves.

Because he's white MummySam didn't always spot him straightaway and fell over him once in the snow when she'd skidded her car into a parking spot. She was so busy fussing about her car that she didn't see Rocky waiting patiently to say hello. I was very glad for her there was a huge snowpile right there to cushion the blow when she went face down in it!



*Photo: Rocky in the January snows*

The next photo is one of me and Rocky on top of the fridge/freezer where we now like to hang out in case some tasty morsels come out of the fridge. Rocky almost gets his head shut in the fridge and now even sleeps up there!



*Photo: Rockhead camping out in the food sales!*

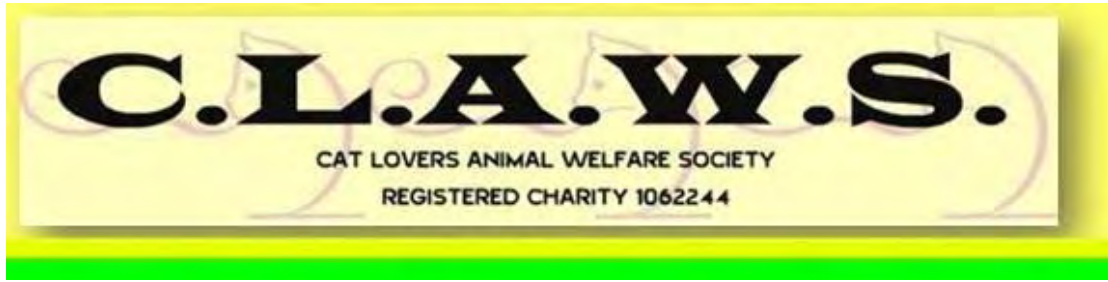
### AND FINALLY...

#### STORY FROM ANN MAINE: A HAPPY ENDING FOR STREET CAT REUBEN

As some of you know, volunteer Ann also supports a cat rescue organisation of the Algarve. Here is one of her heartwarming stories:

*Lesley Normington of the Amigos dos Gatos do Algarve told me the story of Reuben. He was an alley cat and loved to cheer up the customers in the local pharmacy and get his evening feed in the AGA charity shop next door, but one day he was found with his whole face streaming with symptoms of cat flu. AGA took him to the vet where he was diagnosed with a virulent form of the disease. He was put on a drip and kept in the clinic for two weeks. He fully recovered but in the meantime the vets and nurses had become very fond of him so they gave him a job. He is now their Customer Relations Officer with full board & lodging and he has positive proof that behind every cloud there lies a silver lining!*

Sam Collington  
Jan 2010



## **CAN YOU HELP US?**

**C.L.A.W.S. is running a GRAND DRAW in Spring 2010 and we are looking for prizes.**

**Would you be kind enough to donate us a prize???**

**If so, please contact 01628 822008 or 07743 668215**

*Our aim is to promote responsible pet ownership and to continue our neutering policy in order to reduce the stray cat population in and around Maidenhead*

*We home check all prospective owners and follow up six weeks after adoption*

*No healthy animal is ever put to sleep*