

CAT SHELTER

Newsletter 2009

Tel: (01273) 606843

I can't believe we have been rescuing cats for 14 years, where did those years go?

A BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers whether working in the cattery, fund raising, fostering cats, collecting donated food from supermarkets, or just plain giving us money to carry on the work. Thank you to our super vets Top Cat in Mackie Avenue and also Southdown in Hove, to ARCS (Animal Rescue Charities Support) and to Asda Hollingbury, Co-op Hove, Cost Cutter Lewes Road and Budgens in Henfield for collecting food. Thanks also to Sussex Pet Rescue, Cat Welfare (Sussex) and Pet Plan for financial help.

This last year we have homed 222 cats and kittens and at the time of writing (5th Nov) we still have over 20 kittens under 6 weeks which is unheard of as well as 2 FIV cats who desperately need a loving indoor home and 12 older cats who struggle to find homes. We have had more cats from elderly owners passing away than I can ever remember, trouble is the cats are also elderly and difficult to home.

Outgoings have risen again to nearly £3000 monthly with the rise in the price of cat food very noticeable and with all the older cats needing operations for teeth etc.

Piggly wiggly was a tabby and white kitten homed in 2001 in Southwick, we received a call from an RSPCA inspector about this cat who was being neglected by its owner. Of course we always take in our old re homes so I went to collect him, I was horrified to find that he was still entire and that his right eye was badly damaged plus he desperately needed a dental. I still don't understand how we missed that he had not been neutered 8 years ago. So off to Top Cat for castration, removal of useless eye and dental, all successful, he now lives in our house and is a most friendly addition to the clan. He has made friends with all the others especially Willie.



"Jack" with his new friend "Willy"

During the May storms (we were on holiday) Louise was faced with an empty fish pond as the wind had blown the return pipe from the filter away and some of the fish had sadly died. CPR was even attempted on some of the fish but to

no avail. A quick fill with buckets until the hose could be run out saved the remainder. That day the wind was so strong even the roofing felt on the big homeless shed was torn off in the wind so Louise had that to replace that as well. Never a dull moment at the cattery it seems.

At Christmas 2008 Social Services brought in a young cat, Mary whose back leg had a compound fracture. The owner had also had a fall and was in hospital, we go in touch and she asked us to have the leg fixed and she would pay. So off to the orthopaedic vet at Wilbury she went and came back with a huge steel immobiliser in place. Kay at Top Cat took one look at that and volunteered to look after Mary as she thought it would be too much for us (dead right) and there she stayed until August, I think Kay was quite taken with her.

We didn't have a Spring Sponsor this year but you all helped by giving toward the Easter fund.

A sad time again this year as we learnt of the death of Rae Sinnet, without whose help we would never have started rescuing cats.



Our Rag Doll homeless pair Harry & Henry are still here as a suitable home has not been found, and we also have a pair of British Shorthairs Rosie & Dolly who surprisingly are still here.

We have continued offering subsidised neutering and this year have sent over 120 cats for neutering all of which have been microchipped at the time, this will help if they ever go missing in the future.

Sometimes we have to get our rescue caps on and go in to households and take cats away from people that are being cruel. This October saw us rescuing a cat that had been beaten consistently with a broom and other implements which had got worse as the owner had become



"Not since rescuing the 15 cats in St. Johns Road have I witnessed such a terrified animal."

bed bound the cat refused to allow carers near her. The terrified

"Sylvester" recovering well from his ordeal

cat had to be removed very carefully from his abysmal circumstance.



Lanzarote calling

Not content with rescuing cats in Brighton, whenever Jane and Michael take a break it seems that they have to involve them in the local cat population of their holiday destinations. This year, Lanzarote's cat inhabitants were pleased to be neutered and checked out by local vets whilst they were there.



Wildlife on show

We have many visitors to the garden.

The tortoise is a paying guest, the others help us out in their own special way. The snails tidy up leaves and the fox tidies up any spare food we have each day.

We have also, at last, attracted arguably Britain's most colourful garden bird, the Goldfinch. Having put some niger seed in a separate feeder it took only 4 weeks for the never seen here before birds to begin using us as a fly-through. A truly wonderful sight along with the Sparrows, Dunnocks, Blue Tits and other birds that frequent our feeders. The cats are too well fed to bother them.



A Goldfinch, yesterday

People may have heard that we are closing down. This is not entirely true: Whilst we are intending to continue with neutering schemes and holding fewer numbers of homeless cats, concentrating on the more needy cases such as those with FIV we will still be operating and will still be in the same needs as far as funding and help goes. This year we have had to use reserve funds to



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Name:.....

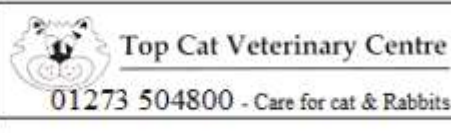
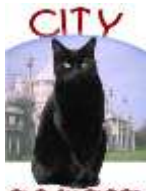
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Please cut this slip off and return it to:
The City Cat Shelter
 14 Ingham Drive
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CAT SHELTER www.citycatshelter.com

help the many cats that require neutering and vet help, whilst the credit crunch has been less generous to charities than to banks it seems!

our home-ers but they must be kept indoors. If you know of anyone who can accommodate such cats please get them to contact us.

As the nights draw in please remember the majority of cat deaths because of cars is during the hours of darkness so if possible keep your cat in after dark.



The Artist Within

It appears that the cattery has been an inspiration for

many over the years and that inspiration comes in all shapes and sizes. One of our loyal volunteers has rekindled a love for painting and has used pictures we have of our cats as props. She has been practising and is now painting some really good pictures.



Mitzy is a very loving cat with a cataract in both her eyes is in need of a home. Although her eyes are cloudy the cataracts don't give her much distress.



sometimes wonder why some people are just plain horrid. I recently had a call from a lady who was very ill and had recently

A most unusual second spike of kittens



"Seething mass"

descended on us in October, leaving us with an extra 19 hungry mouths to feed. We had a seething mass of 11 black and black and white kittens from two mothers which were swiftly followed

bought (for £100) a supposedly 3year old white Persian called Sam from a family in mid Sussex. The cat hadn't done well since its arrival and she asked if I would take it in as it was soiling. The moment I saw the cat I could see it was at least six years old and what's more it had terrible teeth and awful halitosis. I took it on myself to phone the previous owners to ask them to refund the £100 as they had sold this cat under false pretence, they refused saying that the purchaser should beware when buying and what's more they had three witnesses who would swear that the new owner knew it was six. Happily little Sam has now had ALL her teeth out and is much happier and eating well.

We have had many more cats coming into the cattery this year with F.I.V (Feline AIDS).

This is usually a result of Tom's fighting for territory as they become more aggressive and less tolerant of other cats when unneutered. It is a sad outcome for these cats, they are mostly wonderful in terms of temperament as well as being



handsome but they are, after diagnosis, not allowed to go out as they could infect other cats in the area due to prejudice and fear of growing vets

costs, many people are reluctant to take on such a cat, who may very well go on to live long and healthy lives despite F.I.V. As a consequence we have a unit especially for them to live whilst waiting for a home.



We are always looking for homes for these type of animals. They need no other special care other than love and kindness shown by

by some more, equally hungry squirming bundles of fluff. The Kitten shed is usually full on through the summer and things settle down as winter approaches but, presumably down to the longevity of warmer weather these days those unneutered Toms we talk about have been busy livening up those Indian summer evenings producing yet more mouths to feed and homes to find.



As cute as...

A new "Tully" appeared at the September sponsored walk, Michael couldn't walk five yards let alone 5 miles so his eldest son Simon drove down on the morning from Tunbridge Wells to do the walk in stead of the old boy, we couldn't let the promises go to waste as every penny is needed for the cats.



...and Finally Lilly keeps herself warm in the cold snap.

Were treated to some more snow this year and my lovely girl, Lilly, who accompanies me to the cattery donned my hat and gloves to keep warm (She did get a little help!) Destroying the myth that cats don't have a sense of humour!

An excellent pet waiting for a home.

Just leaves us to wish all our supporters a fun and Happy Christmas as possible and good luck for the New Year.

THE CATTERY TEAM



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