



ANIMAL AID & ADVICE

Registered Charity Number 1036940

ISSUE 44



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2010

Apologies Again

We would like to apologise to all our members new and old for the lateness of these Newsletters.

We are still, only a few, trying to do such a lot, but we hope that you enjoy reading the stories that we have told, and the pictures we have printed.

If you would like to submit an article in our newsletter, if you have a short story to tell, or would like your cat to be remembered, useful hints or anything you would like to share with other readers, drop us a line, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Summertime

This summer has been a very trying time for all charities regarding stray mum cats and their kittens. We are all inundated with calls regarding these stray cats all producing offspring in their gardens, sheds, allotments etc. Some of the larger organizations have as many 200 on their books.

This a frightening number of cats to find homes for and it does not get any easier as people are tightening up on their expenditure and normally a pet is the last thing they want or the first thing to go.

Many calls are received from people saying they have to get rid of their cat for whatever reason, they should really have thought very carefully in the first place, can I afford a pet? What would happen if I move away, can I take it with me?

People seem to move around much more these days than before; these are the people that should, if they want a pet, consider fostering, as fostering is most important to the homeless cat population that we are picking up daily.

The commitment they then make to the animal is not a life time one, but one that will help make it easier for the cat to find a permanent home after being out on the streets for some time. These can be very shy cats and are the most difficult, as most people want instant sit-on-your-lap-cats, but not many are like this in the beginning, so fosterers have an important role to play.

Fosterers Story

I've fostered for Animal Aid & Advice a few times now, but as I have only a small flat I normally take just a couple of kittens at a time. It may sound easy, but believe you me, they are hard work. Don't get me wrong, I do enjoy it but when people say they would like a couple of kittens, I think, do you really know what you are letting yourselves in for!

The constant running, leaping and jumping, feeding them four times a day, cleaning out the litter tray, probably as many times as they have eaten, I must be mad – But I love it!

Charity Shops and Charity Collections

It has recently been in the news that people are fraudulently asking people for articles of clothing, toys, books or any unwanted items they do not want. They are leafleting areas saying they will collect on such and such a day, for whatever charity. Be warned, a vast majority of these leaflets that are being put through doors, the donations are ending up in unscrupulous hands and are being sent abroad and no money is given to any charity concerned.

Also, people are still leaving donations on shop doorsteps when the shop is closed. These are then gone through by people taking anything that they think is any good and leaving torn bags and clothes etc scattered all over the doorstep.

Most charity shops put up messages saying if you want your donations to go the charity of your choice you must bring them when the shop is open and some will also have a telephone number on the door so you can phone up to arrange for someone to collect from you. This will ensure that your charity you support gets your support and not go into other people's pockets. The type of people that do this have no scruples and do not care that what they are doing is actually stealing from the charity concerned, but as the temptation is put there they have no conscience. Just make sure that next time you are tempted to leave your donation outside a shop – DON'T as it will more than likely be stolen.

Trappers Tales

Dodger (aka) Artful Dodger led us a merry dance. We first sighted him in the grounds of a sheltered housing complex. He was black and white and extremely grubby looking cat, with sad eyes.

We started off how we normally proceed, by starting to feed on a regular basis. Each night we drove down to the gardens where he started to wait for his dinner, he knew the sound of the vehicle and would peep out of the bushes to say 'I'm here.'

As soon as we approached he would run away to the other side of the garden, he would not come near us. We always waited in the van to make sure he came out and ate his dinner and as soon as he was finished he would come to the large gates and sit and look sadly at us, as if to say thank you.

My colleague always got very upset when she had to leave him just sitting there.

Many a time we put the trap out with a tasty morsel in it, just to encourage him to go in and get used to eating in the trap, but he would only go in so far and no further, and my colleague would always give-in and then give him the rest of his dinner outside the trap.

I was getting fed up with her wailing about this poor cat, we must get him, he can't be left out all winter etc. etc. etc. So I said, in no uncertain terms, stop feeling sorry for him, just don't give him his dinner for one night and then he will be hungry the next.

That seemed to work with her and off we went one night, with one sorry, sad, bedraggled hungry cat looking after us, I told her, don't look back!

The next night we arrived with a new trap that had not been used before, a tin of red salmon and a lot of hope. The salmon seemed to take his interest, as he must have been hungry, he made a few attempts to reach in and get the salmon, it was very tasty to a hungry cat, we could tell.

We waited and waited and waited, round and round and round he went, his nose was in the air, it smelt so good to a hungry boy.

What seemed like for ever, we heard a feint ching, and there, in the distance, we could see that he was turning round and round in the trap, we had him!

My colleague was so excited, I was left to go and pick him up in the trap, and she, of all things, was phoning everybody she could think of, screeching down the phone that she had caught the cat that we had been feeding for nearly three months!

Dodger was taken to the vets the next day for all his treatments, of course tested positive for FIV, was found to be full of lice; no wonder he did not look too well. He is now in foster care, we are assessing his progress, his future is unclear.

Trappers Tales

One day I got a call from my other colleague, she had been working near Edgeware and had seen this poor filthy looking cat with a terrible bad eye, and looked very skinny, would I be able to come over and help.

He was in the grounds of an old people's home and the staff had been feeding him but did not think to get help for him, they said that he was looking better than he had before; we could not believe that they could even think that he was ok; he was in a right mess poor thing.

We were told that he would come quite close to you, but was still a little nervous, they had never attempted to fuss him, I suppose because he looked so awful. We had said that we were coming over and would they not feed him until we got there. It took us nearly an hour to get there, and this so called 'Manager' said 'I've fed him, you took too long to get here, he was waiting for food'. We were not impressed with her, I can tell you, (we can't print what we thought of her!)

We then had to search around for him and a couple of the other staff were very good and one actually found him in some bushes for us.

We very carefully got closer to him, speaking very quietly and offering him some more food; he seemed quite interested in us and cautiously emerged from the bushes. He came forward and allowed me to scratch him on the head, we were all prepared for this and managed to grab him by the scruff of the neck and put him in the basket we had close by.

He went to the vet and the next day had all of his treatments. His eye was very bad and we thought it would not get better, but after the vet had had a good look under anesthetic they found and removed a large spikey grass seed, it must have been very painful for him. He was lucky, as his eye has cleared up nicely and he can still see out of it, he looks normal now. He also tested negative for his FIV/FELV tests –clever boy!

Gus, as he is now called is a friendly, lovable chap who would make a lovely family pet – Any Offers?

**This
is
'The
Artful
Dodger'
Sitting
in the
afternoon
sun**



REMEMBER ME – 2010

Having decided to adopt two kittens we spent two hours trying to decide which ones we would take to join our two resident cats we had already. We finally came home with two older black girls who we thought would be harder to home after already falling in love with a mad tortie and her poorly brother.

After much thought and consideration of what to get my husband for his birthday I decided as a surprise to present him with his birthday gift – the mad torti who we of course, called ‘Birthday’.

The next day, I was feeling quite sad, as I had realized that we had left poorly brother all on his own, and in a complete fit of madness I phoned up and said we would have him as well!

We called him ‘Penguin’ after his black & white colouring. Penguin got on very well with my two older boys and thoroughly enjoyed all his adventures in the garden with his extended family. Next doors hose became the big snake that he tried to kill and the dead squirrel, he was very proud of that, even though, we know, he did not kill it, but we didn’t let on.

He was 3½ when he fell ill with a urinary infection which he recovered well from. But just after Christmas we came home to find him wheezing and breathless, we took him to the vet the very next day where they said he had fluid on his lungs and would try to drain it off. This did not work and they said they would operate the next day to see if they could improve his condition. We immediately went to see him and gave him lots of hugs and kisses and then had to go home. We got a call early next day, to say, unfortunately he had not made it through the night; we were devastated as he was only 3¾ years old. The vet said he may have picked up some poison somewhere.

He was cremated, and lies resting in a wooden casket of a cat, beside the other five that we now have.

Poem about Pooh ‘Penguin’

Hello, goodbye from a cat called Pooh
I’m extremely glad that I lived with you
Once black and white, I’m now so bright
I shine in the sky so clear at night.

No carpets here for me to wee
So I’m happy as can be
The only thing that makes me sad
Is that mum and dad took it so bad

Don’t they know I’ll never go
The memories must tell them so
The little quirks and ways I showed
It’s just that I’m not there to hold

The wooden cat curled up at rest
I think the choice of that was best
A pose I loved to while the hours
Especially if they were filled with showers

Now I’m not first to the bowl,
my friends and family know my soul
Taz, Whippy, Mouse and all the rest
will find it easier, I’ll attest.

Well goodbye now, I’m off to play
that’s how I love to spend the day
and when I lay down for the night
I’ll feel your love and be alright.

Love always - Hilary & Mark

Winston Why he was left out in that condition we will never know, we find them, why can’t any one else.

Tilly Another stray being fed outside.

Lucy Found in terrible condition by a concerned member of the public who took her to the vet. Found to have an owner who was waiting for her to die, no cat should have had to suffer what Lucy went through, what more can we say.

Jarvis Owner was moving, can we help? Poor thing had to be put to sleep; we wished her the worst luck in the world, wherever she went.

Alfie Another cat being fed outside, found whilst we were neutering 3 others. How long has he been unsteady on his feet we asked? Oh not that long, a couple of weeks perhaps. We can only hope that was all the time he was left like that, as he had a crushed pelvis and his bowel was backed up with faeces, probably hit by a car. People make me sick.

Little Torty Found in terrible condition with a burst eye; found to be blind in her other eye, we will remember you if no one else will.

Forrest - forever in our hearts. A most loved and lovable little cat who fought a long and hard battle against heart disease. Will be sadly missed by all.

xxx

xx

x

22-03



Pet Bereavement Helpline

If you have recently lost your pet and are finding it hard to cope with, this organization may be able to help you. Run by the Society for Companion Animal Studies together with the Blue Cross. Freephone 0800 096 6606
Email pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk

Meet one of our members

Jutta Schmatz is one of our older members who is in her nineties. She has a constant companion who she took in as a stray called Thomas. Thomas is a large cat who loves his food, so when the photo was being taken, someone shouted, say cheese, and he said 'where' and turned away, hence the second photo of just Thomas.



MICRO-CHIPPING

Once again we would like to mention the importance of micro-chipping your pet. This enables any pet found to be returned to its owner.

Do remember to let the micro-chip people know your new address if you move and any changes of telephone numbers or even new ownership.

Have you got any kittens?

Yes, we do have some kittens, would you like two as we have quite a lot at the moment. No I don't think so as I have two cats already but would like to give a home to another one. Well, we have some in foster care in different places but we have some photos' in our vet, would you like to go and look at them to see what they look like?

We also come and visit you to do a home check as well to make sure everything's alright. Oh, that's ok but we're looking for a ginger kitten as my son's friend has a ginger kitten and they want the same as them, do you have any gingers?

Unfortunately not, but the ones we have are very friendly and are in good health. Oh, ok then, I will get back to you. They never even bothered!

This is the type of call we get, you would think that most people who want a cat would not mind the colour, as the most important thing is that they are friendly and healthy, but people are very odd.

Me and my shed

Having waited far too long for the shed that I have wanted for such along time, I finally made the decision that this is the year for 'The shed'.

A friend helped put it together and it was proudly put at the end of the garden. I spent a lot of time filling the shelves with everything that they would hold, that my friend had built inside for me. I took great pride in making sure that it was all neat and tidy, all under the watchful eye of all of my cats who took great interest in what was going on.

I warned them that 'they' were not allowed inside as I did not want any of 'them' marking the shed as 'their' territory.

All was well for quite a long time during the summer weeks and I was very careful. But, it had to happen one day, and yes, that day came a couple of weeks ago. I heard a faint me-ow coming from the top of the garden and on investigation from inside my shed me-ow, me-ow, me-ow, I was absolutely furious as I went to get the key, and there was Bernard skulking about inside, he knew he shouldn't have been in there and that I was very cross as he ran out and down the garden. My poor shed was wrecked, all my nice shelves were disrupted, there was stuff all over the floor which he had knocked down, he had pulled things out from the bottom under the shelf, he had tipped things over and urinated all over some gardening sacks, I was not amused.

I spent a long time in putting things back on the shelves and needless to say; Bernard kept well out of my way for the rest of the day!



VOLUNTEERS: We are still asking for volunteers to join our charity in many areas of the work that we do. Charity Shop volunteers, Bookshop volunteers. Help with collecting and taking cats to the vets etc. etc. a car essential for this. Our contact details are as follows: -
Animal Aid & Advice

Charity Shop
48 High Road

East Finchley
London N2 9PJ

Tel: 020 8444 6290

2nd Hand Bookshop
203 Blackstock Road

Highbury
London N4

Tel: 020 7359 0294

For collection of donated goods Tel: 020 7607 5349

For Adoption or stray abandoned Cats Tele:-

020 8348 0045

07859 880 221

020 883 6021

07533 268 649

