



ANIMAL AID & ADVICE



Registered Charity Number 1036940

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

Kittens, kittens and more kittens, not forgetting the mums.

The year started rather slowly with only a few mums and kittens being found. Unfortunately that did not last long and now they seem to be everywhere. Every other call is "I have mum and kittens in my garden. Can you help?"

It is not only us who are inundated with them; all the charities are having the same problem. We all feel that this has been one of the worst years ever and they are still being found.

Although the C4 group offers a free neutering scheme for those who qualify, there are still those people out there who cannot be bothered or think it is perfectly all right for a cat to have kittens out in the wild.

They do not have to go and sort out the problems when they become a nuisance to others, and become quite wild and sickly when there is not enough food. Many of these mum cats are only kittens themselves - under sized, under nourished, and their kittens are the same.

People still don't realise that as soon as they see kittens in their garden they should try and get help. Many are left, as they like to see the kittens playing and think it's cute to have them running around - until they start to eat. They then realise that it is quite expensive to feed sometimes up to five or six cats and then decide that they don't want them. By this time they are very wild and will not easily be tamed, which causes charities like us a problem. What do we do with them?

These cats and kittens clog up our system as they take much longer to tame and re-home. Some never become tame.

We can only take in so many. Others are just left in the garden until they are old enough to be neutered and either returned back on site or found a place that will take feral cats.

Some are lucky and are found good homes. Here is a poem written by one very happy owner about her new kitten:

My Cat Ella, by Lolly, aged 8.

Ella is so cute, I always hum, 'tute' 'tute'
One day Ella hid under the sofa,
she is such a loather
When she came out
she was up and about.
I was thrilled to see her,
I stroked her – she made a loud purr.
I am so pleased she is mine.
Now I will be so kind
and never leave her behind.
I will turn and toss
if she ever gets lost.
I will love her with all my heart,
I will never take her apart.
Ella is my dream come true.
She might like you.

Halloween comes to our charity shop.

We had a very special visitor this year. We were not sure how to treat her but, as usual, we are used to the unexpected in this shop. We were very polite, gave her the best window seat and we managed to make her stay the week for no charge.



Guy Fawkes

Guy Fawkes has a lot to answer for when he failed to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Did he realise that we would be re-enacting his failed attempt every November 5th?

What with all the accidents that do happen, think of all the distress that it causes the wild life and the misery to our pets.

A large number of our pets find this most frightening and become nervous wrecks. Some even go missing. Here are a few tips if your cat is missing for whatever reason.

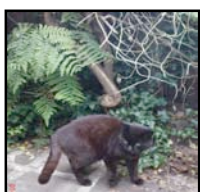
1. Do put posters up. You will be surprised how many people do care and will look out for that missing cat. Cover the immediate area all round your street and the next two or three streets. You will be surprised how far a cat can travel.
2. Go out at night when it is quiet, call him/her, and stand still and listen to see if you can hear any response. Take some biscuits with you and shake them, or tap a bowl as if you were going to feed the cat its dinner. Always stop and listen.
3. If you can, leaflet door to door as well as the posters, as sometimes posters are torn down. Do not get disheartened by this, just put them back again. It can take up to two weeks before your cat is spotted by someone, so be persistent.
4. Don't think that when you find your cat it will come running to you as this is very unlikely. Don't go chasing your cat around; make it come to you. Get down low or on the ground, offer it some food, but do not rush anything as your cat will be very nervous, even of you. You must talk very quietly to it because cats do not seem to recognise their owners outside of their normal environment, and it could even run away from you.

If this is the case, the best thing to do is to leave food down where you have found the cat and go off. Leave food down every day at the same time. If the cat is in someone else's garden, ask them if they will allow you to do this or do this for you. Once a pattern has been set up, your cat will get used to this and will eventually be waiting for you. You should then be able to get your cat to come to you.

If for any reason it still won't come to you, contact any of the organisations for their help and they will lend you a trap. This is the best method for shy cats and is the least stressful for them.

We hope that this never happens to you, but it sometimes does.

MISSING CAT



REMEMBER ME - 2009

Douglas



Dexter



In our last newsletter the stories of our two old stray gentlemen were told. Unfortunately, due to failing health they are no longer with us. I hope that you will take a moment to think of these two.

They were both without sight but they were very happy in their last few months with us and became good friends. Douglas went first and Dexter did miss him. He searched around for him and was a bit upset, but he settled down without his friend and we think he still enjoyed his last few weeks with us.

Their foster mum misses these two fine old gentle souls.

And these are our strays that knew only kindness in their last few hours with us.

Sausage – Picked up with a tumour eating his upper pallet away. No more pain for this one.

Tabs – Too long a stray.

Edmonton Boy – A very sad one this one -

At rest, sleep well, peace be with you.

Debbie – Another stray, a sweet lady but did not make it.

Sammy – Must have known happier times, but got lost along the way – we will think of you.

Mouse – Sweet dreams.

Our young ones as well

Little ginger and white kitten – 5 weeks old

Another ginger kitten – 16 weeks old

Black and white fluffy kitten – 10 weeks old

Black and white kitten – 12 weeks old

Tabby Kitten – 12 weeks old

Young Tabby mum cat – 10 months old

These ones had been with us for some time.

Toffee - A long battle with failing health, much loved and missed.

Leo – A gentleman

Evi – Cared for with such love.

Matt – Will remember the good times.

Kit – Love you, miss you.

Soldier – A lovable character.

There have been many cats this time in this section. All have a story to tell, all have been taken into the care of our charity.

Please remember them.

