



ANIMAL AID & ADVICE

Registered Charity Number 1036940

ISSUE 40



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2009

AGM

Our AGM took place as usual in March. As we only meet once a year it was nice to see some of our members again.

We had a very special visitor, a Meerkat, who got very excited and bit one of the trustees, but as they are used to the odd nip or two it was not as bad as it sounds, just a small amount of blood.

It also took a fancy to another Trustee who it would not leave alone, so, for her escape, we told her to stand on a chair, it was very funny to see, this small creature trying to get at her and her on the chair.

I'm sure that you all know now that our previous Chairman Doreen Rolph resigned during 2008. Alan Johnson has now been elected as the new Chairman for Animal Aid & Advice and we are pleased to welcome him to his new post.

We had a very interesting talk from Fraser Wright on the impact the C4 free neutering scheme has had in the North London and surrounding area, over 42,000 cats have been neutered since this program began.

The raffle was also well received, bringing in a sum of £52.60.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make our AGM a most enjoyable day.

VOLUNTEERS: We are still asking for volunteers to join our charity in many areas of our work. Charity Shop volunteers, Bookshop volunteers, help with collecting and taking cats to the vets etc. etc. Our contact details are as follows:-

Animal Aid & Advice	Telephone
48 High Road	
East Finchley	020 8444 6290
London N2 9PJ	

For collection of donated goods 020 7607 5349

**For Adoption or Stray Cats 020 8348 0045
020 8883 6021**

WEBSITE NEWS

At last we have a current up and running Website - many thanks to a chap called Jonathon. The web details are animalaidandadvice.org

It tells of the type of work that we do and has information about our shops and volunteering.

We still need to get photos of some of our cats in care that need a good home and the ones which need a more specialised home.

We hope that by showing an actual photo of the cat it will then make people more interested in taking one.

DON'T JUST FEED IT. DON'T JUST LEAVE IT. DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

After a slow start, all we seem to hear are "I have mum and kittens in my garden." - They seem to be popping out all over the place.

The only problem, as usual, is the people who phone us up. "I first saw them a few weeks ago, I've been feeding them, but I can't keep feeding them, can you help?"

By this time, after the first sighting, often 4 - 5 weeks have passed and the kittens are now getting on for 12 weeks old and are feral; as these kind people who 'have been feeding them' have never attempted to stroke them or pick them up and left it far too late for anyone else to tame them and the mum cat is now pregnant again.

If only we could get the message out there to all these 'kind people'. **Don't just feed it. Don't just leave it. Do something about it!**

Here are but a few tales of the type of thing we are talking about. If only we could get the message across to people that help is out there. If one person can't help, try another and another. Don't give up, as the only thing that suffers in the end are the animals.

Each voice that is on the end of the phone, who keeps on ringing and ringing, will finally be heard.

**STORMS RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME
FOR THE ELDERLY (Only Cats need apply)
only one vacancy left at going to print**

Douglas was a stray that someone had been feeding outside his front door for over a year. We only found Douglas by chance when we went round to neuter his female cat for him.

The man had found an old rabbit hutch and had put that in his front garden to give him shelter. He said the cat did not want to come inside.

We took one look at Douglas and said that he needed to see a vet urgently and took him away immediately and straight to the vet that afternoon.

He was very dirty looking and was dehydrated and had to go on a drip. He had mild renal changes which we expect to find in older cats and had some teeth out. His sight is also quite poor.

Douglas is an elderly neutered cat who is a mild soul and has a lovely nature and had probably been well loved by someone.

He now resides in Storm's Residential Care Home for Elderly Cats.

Douglas, since renamed Shadrack by Storm



Dexter was found not far Storm's Residential Care Home for Elderly Cats. He was found on the side of the road and a kindly passer-by thought he had been knocked by a car as he appeared a bit dazed.

She took him to Storm who she knew had cats and Storm phoned us up and we took him to the vet that afternoon.

Dexter again is an old cat, who turned out to be blind. His potassium levels are a bit low and he has high blood pressure.

We have since found out that he was taken in by a man up the road as a stray many years ago, and even though he knew he had gone blind did nothing about it.

He still let him in the front garden and said he normally doesn't wander off. He had thought about taking him to the vets' to be 'put down' but just hadn't got round to it.

Needless to say, he won't be seeing Dexter again as he is now being cared for in Storm's Residential Care Home for Elderly Cats.

Dexter and Storm

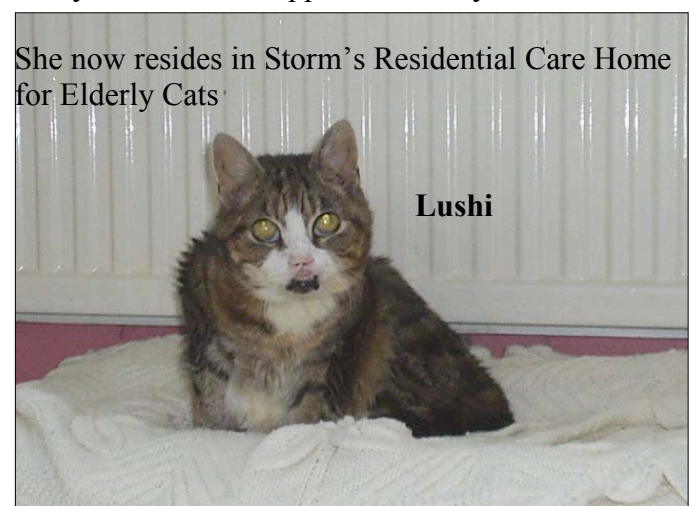


Georgia (now Lushi – which means 'gift from God') again was found by chance. We were called in to collect a mum cat with five kittens and trap her heavily pregnant daughter from her previous litter around the back of some shops. The lady from one of the shops also mentioned that she had been feeding a cat and was concerned as it was looking old and a bit arthritic.

We went back that evening when she said that she fed the cat and there again was this poor old cat.

It looked very dirty and the back legs looked as if it could not walk very well, we managed to just pick it up and put it in the basket. It also appeared to have something wrong with the mouth but we could not see in the dark.

The next day it was taken to the vet. It was an old female cat who had a hair-lip which she had been born with. She needed a dental and was given a bath. She is an affectionate cat who again must have belonged to someone but had been left to fend for herself. It is such a shame that she was not brought to our attention sooner, as although the lady had been feeding her, she had been doing this for five years. Lushi is approx. twelve years old.



She now resides in Storm's Residential Care Home for Elderly Cats

MEET GOOGLE

This is Google at three weeks old



Google is a female kitten that was born from a feral mum cat. She had five kittens in total but each one died except this one. She was a young mum cat and after losing her other kittens could not be bothered to rear Google. Google got her name after her foster mum kept looking on Google on the internet for advice on how to hand rear a kitten. She has done very well and at three weeks you can see she is very content.

This is Google at four weeks old



Google now has her ears up and is able to take a great more interest in her surroundings.

She loves her bottle but still needs lots of love, care and attention.

She is now tottering around and getting quite adventurous. She has no fear of anything as she has not had her mum cat to teach her the dangers of the big wide world. Her best friend is a large Labrador dog that she chases all over the place.

This is Google at five weeks old



Although she was a black and white kitten, as Google is getting older her coat seems to have lost its colour, it will be interesting to see what she will look like when she grows up. We will keep you posted.

We also feel sure that her foster mum will want to keep Google as she has got very attached to this little urchin.

She had to carry her around in her bra most of the day and settle her in with a hot water bottle at night.



Not forgetting the 2 hourly feeding during the night as well, we're sure that the bond that Google has with her human mum and her with Google that it would be a shame to part them.

Not many pets like going to the vet and we do see some funny ways of getting them there. The only safe way is in a secure pet carrier and by this I do mean secure.

Many cats go missing either going to or from the vet in these silly plastic carriers with bits missing from them, they are tied with bits of string, or not at all, you must remember, the cat is probably not happy being taken away from it's home into this frightening place where loud traffic noises and shouting and all the other noises you can think of.

It gets taken on a bumpy lumpy ride either by car or bus and by the time it gets to the vet it can be very upset. Even when it's seen the vet it can be quite anxious.

Then if the door is not secured in the correct manor they burst through it and all you see of puss is a flash of fur rushing down the road.

Even the wire cage type carriers need to be carefully checked before you leave your car or cab as the locking bar can slip out in transit and when you go to pick the carrier up the lid lifts up and puss is gone.

Cardboard carriers never look safe. The cat could if frightened tear it to bits, or if he wets it, puss could fall out the bottom. Also if your cat is a bit heavy, he might fall out as well. Take much more care if using this type of carrier

Worst, are the people who decide that their puss would much rather be wrapped in a towel or put under their coat rather than transported safely in a pet carrier. It makes me shudder when I see this as it only takes something to startle the cat and away it goes.

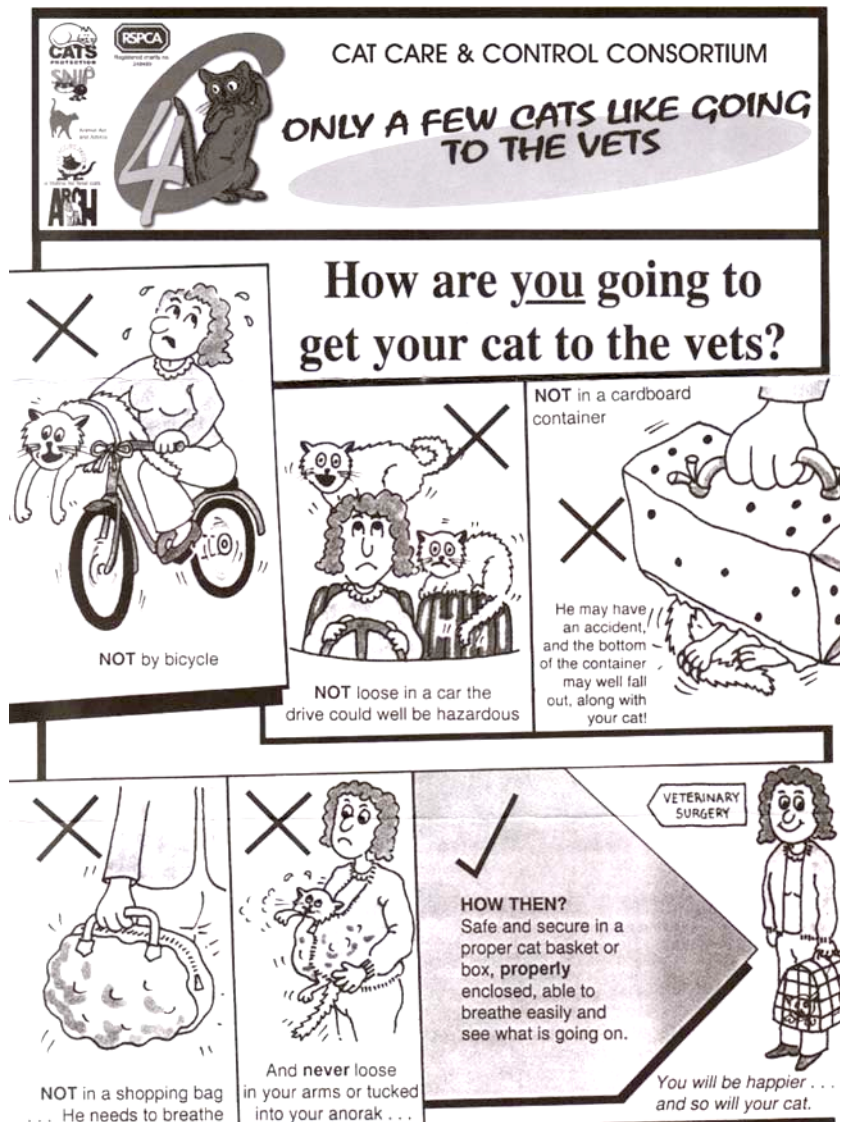
So, what we are trying to say, whatever you take your cat to the vet in, always check before you leave that the cat is locked securely inside.



Just in the last two weeks we had to help someone whose cat escaped whilst coming home from the vet. It got out the carrier because the door had not been locked properly.

We advised her to put notices around and in about five days the cat had been seen. We went round and left a trap in the persons' garden that had seen the cat.

After a couple of evenings the cat had been caught and was dispatched by one of our drivers to its owner. A good result all round.



REMEMBER ME – 2009

Robyn taken ill rather suddenly, could not save her. Well loved and missed.

Lucky, an old lady whose owner died, but taken in by her neighbour she was very happy.

Sooty was an older cat re-homed to an elderly person who loved and misses her dearly.

Big Ears another poor cat who was looked after in the garden. He should have had help before, but people think feeding is enough and we could do nothing to help him.

Vinnie an old stray taken in and loved and cared for in his time with his foster family.

Woodberry another cat fed outside but no one could be bothered to take him for a check up. He was very happy, well loved and cared for in his time with his fosterer. Much missed.

Peggy Sue previous two owners died and she was left to fend for herself. She was re-homed and had a very happy two years.