

CATS PROTECTION  
EASTBOURNE FRIENDS GROUP  
NEWSLETTER



**WINTER/SPRING**

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SCO37711 (Scotland)

## CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Hello to everyone. As the new Co-ordinator for Friends of Eastbourne Cats Protection I would like to wish you all a very healthy and happy New Year.

Maybe I should start with a brief piece about my involvement with Cats Protection. I worked for a total of 7 years with Chris Drake as my manager, starting as a Cat Care Assistant at the Adoption Centre and , after a few years took on the position of Deputy Manager, which I held for approximately 5 years. I have now left the employ of Cats Protection and have taken on a completely different career but have still kept my involvement with CP going by regularly volunteering at the Centre, helping to clean the pens and wash litter trays and, of course, a bit of cat cuddling.

When I was working for Cats Protection I did a lot of the fundraising and have missed that involvement, so when this position became available I thought I should put myself forward for the role. The Friends Group have regular committee meetings and this is the time when we discuss fundraising events for the forthcoming year, trying to raise as much money as we possibly can to help the cats at the Adoption Centre. Please look at our events page – we have arranged quite a few events and hopefully may arrange others throughout the year. We need lots of volunteers, old and new, to help out with bucket collections at various locations around Eastbourne and possible table sales/boot fairs, etc., as well as the events held at the Centre.

I would love to hear from as many of you as possible if you feel you would like to help our cause by volunteering at our events. I am more than happy to visit you to have a chat and give you more information about our Group and discuss how you can help. Maybe you could hold a Coffee Morning in your home for friends and family, or a Pamper Evening in aid of CP? If so, I can give you some promotional material and maybe some 'freebies' for you to give away. Maybe you would prefer to help with a friend for moral support? - That would be fantastic, so please contact me because, as far as I am concerned, **the more, the merrier!**

It would also be nice to have a Coffee Morning for volunteers during the year so that we can all meet each other and share thoughts on fundraising ideas and to keep you all informed with what we are doing and, of course, meet all the Committee members too.

I can always be contacted on Home 01323 762143 Mobile 07512841992  
Email rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk

Vicki

### **Any unwanted Xmas presents?**

We have three events at the Adoption Centre throughout the year and are always very grateful for raffle/tombola prizes that you can donate.



## NEWS FROM THE ADOPTION CENTRE

Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all had a good Christmas.

On Christmas Eve one of our members brought along 4 ready cooked chickens (Waitrose, no less), a gift to the residents which was much appreciated. Every cat had bits of chicken added to their dinner for three days, even the ones on diet food!

Despite the treats over Christmas, Trixie, our 14 year old pudding, weighed in at 7 kg!!! Amazing, he has lost a grand total of 2.6 kg and only has another 1kg to go. I'll keep you updated on this old weight watcher. Of course, if anyone is interested in adopting this lovely boy and is willing to keep him on his diet, we would love to hear from you – go on, make his 2011 a great one!

Hopefully, this year will see the new Maternity Block up and running. The plans have been in the offing for so long now I am beginning to despair. What with planning permission, health and safety regulations and the choosing and testing of materials, it certainly isn't as straightforward as I thought. In the meantime our poor old existing pens are getting more dilapidated by the day. Everything comes to those who wait I'm told!

There were two major changes to our policies at the end of last year. The first is that Cats Protection now promotes early neutering. The old way was that kittens in our care were neutered at six months of age and anyone adopting a kitten from us had to promise to neuter at this age and send us proof of neutering stamped by their vet. This was a fairly hit and miss affair and involved quite a lot of work on our part chasing the people who 'forgot' or just didn't get around to doing it. We now have our kittens neutered at 10 weeks old so that they are 'done' before they go to their new homes. This is working out really well as the kittens recover much quicker than the older cats and it eliminates the risk of early pregnancy.

The other change to policy is that we are now charging an adoption fee instead of relying on a donation. Again, this has taken some getting used to but is absolutely necessary. Previously, when we just accepted a donation, we would sometimes only be offered £10 or less for cats and kittens who had been neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, deflead/wormed, vet checked and insured by us. Unfortunately, it is not possible to run this centre by relying on this kind of adoption donations.

Wonderful news about two of our long stay cats, Sparkle and Ebony. Both have found wonderful new homes after being with us for months. We have quite a few other cats that are being overlooked at the moment and if anyone has any good ideas as to how we can promote these lovely animals and get them into good homes I would love to hear your ideas.

It is always distressing when people turn up out of the blue with an unwanted cat. We rarely have the space to just accept a cat without warning but when someone turns up carrying their unwanted cat and threatening to 'dump it' if you don't take it immediately, it leaves us no option but to find somewhere for it to go, even if it is a portable cage in the office or bathroom! Poor little Chilli was ousted from her home after only one week! Her owner turned up at the AC with her, telling us that she wasn't getting on with their other cat and no matter what advice we gave them on careful introduction, etc, they were adamant that she had to go. Sometimes it's very hard to bite your tongue!

Having so many negative experiences with people treating animals with little or no respect and understanding tends to cloud my vision. However, I would like it to go on record that I am truly overwhelmed by the love and care that our supporters and helpers show to our incredible and noble feline friends – without you it would be a harder and sadder world for them – thank you all so much.

Chris

## **I would like to introduce you to just some of our cats:**

**Tesco** – black and white male – very loving - found in Tesco's warehouse (hence the name). He had been shot in the shoulder with a solid lead ball (see picture) about the size of a marble (possible used with a sling-shot. Brave boy.



**Toffee and Sherbert** – 1 year old black and white sisters – extremely loving. Returned to CP because of tummy problems which have now been sorted out – in care since April 2010.

**Washington** – 6 year old ginger male – very shy but gentle – rescued from a household of 70 cats – in care since February 2010.

**Peaches** – black and white 2 year old female with attitude – stray – in care since August 2010.

**Gomez** – long haired 2 year old tabby male with a few health issues for which we will pay vet costs - stray.

**Eddie** – black and white 3 year old male – very loving – owner had baby.

**Lucy and Rocky** – brother and sister of Toffee and Sherbert – also suffered tummy problems which have been sorted. Fantastically friendly – in care since June 2010.

**Spike** – 5 year old black long haired male with a cantankerous but comical nature – owner moving – in care since April 2010.

**Henry** – 1 year old black and white male – very friendly – on medication for cystitis – owner couldn't pay vet fees.

**Louis** – 3 year old black and white male – shy but friendly - stray.

**Maizie** – 3 year old black and white long haired female – came to us with four other cats – very loving – owner evicted.

**Timmy and Thomas** – lovely 11 year old brothers – very gentle and sweet – owner moving.

**Molly** (black and white) and **Moonbeam** (grey and white) – lovely gentle 11 year olds – owner moving.

**Cobie** (black 3 year old) and **Barry** (ginger and white 6 year old) handsome and very friendly boys – owner died.

**Blue** – tabby and white 9 year old boy – gentle and loving – owner evicted.

**Tabitha** – 4 year old tabby and white friendly girl – owner evicted.

**Soot-Soot** – 2 year old black female very friendly young mum – owner evicted.

**Kitty** – tabby and white 4 year old girl – very friendly - unwanted

**Milo** – 6 year old tabby boy – shyish but very friendly – children. Allergic.

Thank you all for your fantastic support in making 2010 a better one for unwanted and abandoned cats and let's hope that 2011 will prove even better for our feline friends.

### ***YOUR NEWSLETTER***

If you have a preference of having your Newsletter printed in A4 format or A5 (brochure size) please let us know. This is **your** newsletter and we want to include **your** stories and ideas, so, come on, let us know what **you** want.

Dear Marge,

**Question:** *I have noticed that my cat chooses one place to sleep for a couple of weeks and then chooses another place in the house for his bed. He used the lovely soft bed I bought for him for only a week, how can I make him use it again?*

**Answer:** This behaviour stems from wild cats. Despite treating our cats for fleas and worms, this is inherent behaviour. Cats in the wild regularly move on to different sleeping places when their beds become contaminated with parasites. You could try putting different covers over his bed and spraying with Feliway but instinct is very difficult to change!

**Question:** *My cat hardly ever drinks water, will this cause health problems for her?*

**Answer:** If your cat eats wet food (tins or pouches) she is probably getting enough moisture from her food, as about 70% of this type of food is made up of water.

Because your cat is not drinking from her water bowl doesn't mean she isn't getting enough water - she is probably drinking from sources outside the home – puddles, ponds, etc.

To encourage your cat to drink you can place water bowls in various parts of the house and garden. Do not place water bowls near to food bowls as, in the wild cats will not take their prey near to their water source for fear of contaminating the water. Filtered water is more palatable to very sensitive feline taste buds.

### TEN INTERESTING CAT FACTS

A cat has a total of 24 whiskers, 4 rows of whiskers on each side. The upper two rows can move independently of the bottom two rows. A cat uses its whiskers for measuring distances. The whiskers of a cat are capable of registering very small changes in air pressure.

Healthy mature cats are in deep sleep 15 percent of their lives. They are in light sleep 50 percent of the time. That leaves just 35 percent awake time, or roughly 6-8 hours a day.

A cat can jump 5 times as high as it is tall.

Blue-eyes, pure white cats are frequently deaf.

Domestic cats purr both when inhaling and when exhaling. Purring does not always mean that a cat is happy – they can purr if frightened and in pain too.

It is a scientific fact that stroking a cat can lower one's blood pressure.

Not every cat responds to catnip. If the cat doesn't have a specific gene it won't react. Catnip is non addictive.

Cats have 500 skeletal muscles (humans have 650).

If a cat is frightened, the hair stands up fairly evenly all over the body; when the cat is threatened or is ready to attack, the hair stands up only in a narrow band along the spine and tail.

A cat's normal pulse is 140-240 beats per minute, with an average of 195.

## HAPPY ENDINGS

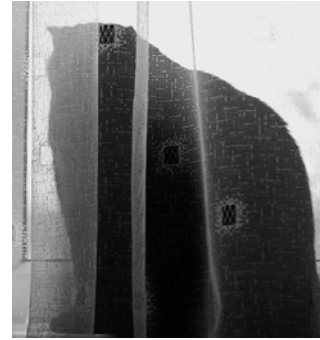
Hi, Just a couple of quick photos of Ebony, one with her looking at the seagulls and the other which made us laugh as she looks so big on the window sill, slightly spooky.



Thanks again for being so helpful, we are so very happy with her, we feel she will be very happy.

I will of course send over some more photos when I can get her settles in one spot!

Kind Regards



David & Emma

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Hi Chris

Would you let me have an email address to which I can send photos of Tilly, Simba and Buster, our three wonderful kittens adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

They are doing really well, Buster is much bigger than his little sisters and all are growing so quickly! I couldn't decide which photos to send, so have attached a few for you! There are hundreds, as they are very photogenic!

They are a joy to watch, they all have their own little ways. Buster will always stand up to the broom, each time I sweep up the scattered cat litter in the mornings, he is very big and brave!!

Simba is quiet, and the smallest of the three, and very lady like, but is also usually the instigator when it's rough and tumble time!

Tilly, looking cute and girly with her little white paws is the loudest and always the first in the queue, doesn't matter what it is, she's always first, even for the wormer!! (she'll learn!).

Kind regards,

Pennie

(Picture of Tilly, Simba and Buster on front cover of the Newsletter - adorable)

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## WELSH RAREBIT

I returned to the kitchen to see one of my old tabby cats dragging a piece of cheesy toast across the floor and his brother up on the worktop about to abscond with another. Neither were pleased with me interrupting their culinary escapades!

Whilst this is a "cheats" recipe it is obviously worth sharing and so I am giving it below:-

Serves 2 people and 2 cats!

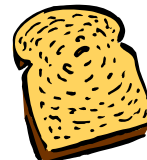
85 grams or 3 ozs of grated cheddar cheese

2 tablespoons of crème fraiche

$\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon of ready made mustard or to taste

Mix it all up and spread over 4 pieces of toast

Grill until golden and enjoy before they do.



## **Friends of Eastbourne Adoption Centre**

Welcome to all our friends and supporters, may I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very *Happy New Year!*

The Friends of Eastbourne group is two years old this month and who could have envisaged our achievements in such a short time.

Our Open Days and fundraising events have grown in leaps and bounds in monetary terms and within the first year we managed to reach our goal of raising enough money for the new maternity wing at the Adoption Centre in Hailsham. Although this has still to be built we have been promised faithfully that it will become a reality by the summer.

Please keep up the good work as we wouldn't be able to do this without your help and support.

Thinking of the year ahead, we have already made a list of **'Dates for your Diaries'** which you can see further on in this Newsletter. Please make a note of them and if you can offer your help at our open days, tin shakes, or any other fundraising event we will be pleased to hear from you...or just come along and support us and see the beautiful cats that we have in our care.

We would like to welcome Vicki Kemp who has taken over the post of Co-ordinator for the Friends of Group. Vicki took up the post in December and has already been very busy organising event dates etc. We hope you join us in wishing her well in her new position.

We also have a new look website. As is the way with most new things, it seems to be experiencing a few teething problems. The old website is still accessible albeit that I can't update the 'Friends of' page and hopefully the new site will be up and running soon.

This just leaves me to say we all look forward to seeing you at our events within the coming year.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

**Jan.** (Secretary for the Eastbourne Friends of Group)

Email: [thefriendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thefriendsofeastbourne@yahoo.co.uk)

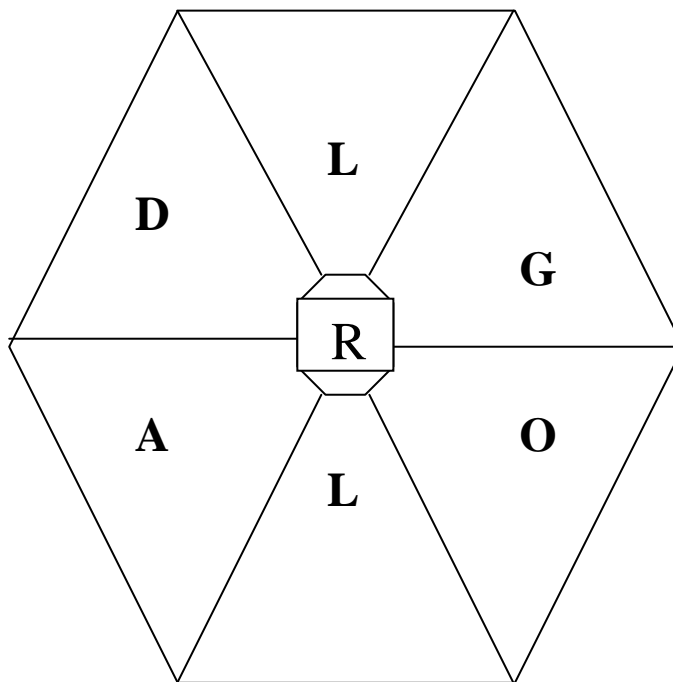
### **Your Eastbourne Cats Protection Team**

Friends Co-ordinator: Vicki Kemp  
[rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rockyradar@yahoo.co.uk)

Adoption Centre Manager: Chris Drake, 63 Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2RB  
01323 440101  
[eastbourne@cats.org.uk](mailto:eastbourne@cats.org.uk)

Shop Manageress: Liz Cunningham, 14 Seaside Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3PA  
01323 733888

Membership Enquires, Lost and Found, Newsletter  
Please contact the Adoption Centre



**WORD WHEEL.**  
Win a £10 voucher donated by

*SHARNFOLD FARM SHOP  
HAILSHAM ROAD  
STONE CROSS.*

*See how many words of three or more letters you can make and find the name of a breed of cat using all the letters!*

*Except for that, no other proper names are allowed.*

*Entries by 28th February please.*



**DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2011**

<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Bucket Collection at Tesco's in Hailsham</b>	<b>from 9.30 am</b>
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Free Neutering at Asda in Eastbourne</b>	<b>starts 10am</b>
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Free Neutering at Vicarage Fields, Hailsham</b>	<b>starts 10 am</b>
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Free Neutering at Tesco's in Hampden Park</b>	<b>starts 10 am</b>
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Bucket Collection and CP Goods Sale at Arndale Centre, Eastbourne starts 9 am</b>	<b>starts 9 am</b>
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Spring Fayre at Eastbourne Adoption Centre (including Grand Draw)</b>	<b>12 – 3 pm</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Sponsored Walk (details in next Newsletter)</b>	
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Summer Fayre at Eastbourne Adoption Centre</b>	<b>12 – 3pm</b>
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Bucket Collection, Town Centre Eastbourne (Banks Corner)</b>	<b>from 9 am</b>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Cream Tea Afternoon at Adoption Centre</b>	<b>12 – 3pm</b>
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Table Sale/Xmas CP Goods/Bric a Brac at Quintins, Hailsham (details to be confirmed)</b>	

**There may be more events this year so please check the next Newsletter for details**

## **SOUTHDOWN SINGERS – A COMMUNITY CHOIR IN POLEGATE**

The Southdown Singers are holding a concert on 2<sup>nd</sup> April in Eastbourne. They have very generously agreed to donate any profit they make to our Friends Group. They will be doing West Side Story and Brahms lullabies and should be really enjoyable. For more details please check out their website or contact our Treasurer on the number below.

The choir is open to any member of the community who has a love of music and a desire to sing. No audition is necessary and members are not required to be able to read music. Rehearsals take place on Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm at St. George's Church Hall, Polegate.  
website: [www.southdownssingers.co.uk](http://www.southdownssingers.co.uk) or ring Carol Nightingale (friend's treasurer) 01323 842786

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

A big thank you for your continued support by means of donations, sponsorship, goods donations etc. All very much appreciated. Lots of fundraising events planned this year so we will need your help in any way that you can.

Just a word about Gift Aid. We have just received £458 from Inland Revenue which we have claimed on all donations, regular sponsor payments and monies received from sponsored events. To make a claim we need the donator's full name and address and permission from them, as taxpayers, to claim back this tax. A great way to raise extra funds at no cost to you.

Thanks once again

Regards

Carol



## ***VET VISIT DAY AT THE ADOPTION CENTRE***

**One of our aims at Cats Protection is to ensure that all cats and kittens in our care receive the best veterinary treatment possible and leave here in tiptop condition.**

**Tuesday is one of the busiest days of the week as this is when the vet comes to visit. The Vet, accompanied by a nurse, arrives at about 2.30 and their visit lasts at least two hours. I make a list of every cat and kitten that needs to see the vet and this can be for a routine health check, vaccination, blood test or just a follow-up consultation for something that may be on-going from a previous visit.**

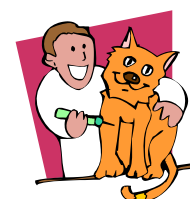
**Every cat that comes in to the AC is seen (there are no exceptions). The vet will do an initial thorough examination and, if all is well, the cat will receive its first vaccination. Kittens receive their first vaccination at 9 weeks of age. This gives them a good start in life and a booster vaccination should be continued by the new owner every year. Our vet uses the triple vaccine which covers flu, enteritis and feline leukaemia (FeLV), which is a virus and is usually fatal.**

**Unneutered cats and strays are routinely blood tested for FeLV and Feline ImmunodeficiencyVirus (FIV). These diseases are transmitted from cat to cat by way of fighting and mating. Neither of these diseases can be passed to humans or other species and, unfortunately, there is currently no vaccine to prevent FIV. Generally, if a litter of kittens comes in with their mum then we will blood test mum and if she is negative for both of these diseases then the kittens will not need to be blood tested. However, if a litter is without their mum, then each kitten must be blood tested – not an easy task with little wrigglers!**

**Each cat received its second vaccination three weeks after its first. We do not rehome until after the first jab and if a cat or kitten goes before the second injection then the new owner can drop in during the vet visit so that their cat can complete the course of two vaccinations.**

**When an elderly cat comes into our care the Vet generally does a geriatric blood profile to find out if the cat in question is suffering from kidney/liver/thyroid disease. Thyroid problems in cats over 10 years old are very common but respond very well to treatment.**

**So, all this treatment then has to be written on each cats vet record and, while the nurse is doing this, we put the kettle on for a quick cup of tea – thirsty work!**



## POISONS IN THE HOUSE AND GARDEN

My cat always greets me in the morning and so I thought it odd that on that snowy morning he did not. I found him hunched up on his favourite chair. I saw that he had a raw scab on his nose and upper lip that had not been there the previous day. He wasn't interested in me or food or anything and I realised I must take him to the vet urgently.

As a vaccinated cat the vet ruled out cat flu and other cat viruses. His symptoms reminded the vet of a cat he had seen in the previous week who had been found to have licked anti-freeze, and was very concerned that this is what had happened to "Hobson". He asked me to really think if he had come into contact with this or any household chemicals. I replied that I thought everything was safely stored.

I returned home with Hobson and a course of anti-biotics to give him to ward off other infections, and as the vet had asked, started to give serious thought to what might have caused this ailment.

It came as a bit of shock to remember that I had left an opened windscreen de-icer bottle on the floor by the front door, and that this could have contained the same ingredient as anti-freeze. I then went into the garden and realised that the leaves and stems of a castor oil plant [Ricinus] that I had pruned were still accessible to a cat who wanted to sit on a warm compost heap!

I had seen an article in a Cats Protection magazine on things commonly found in our homes and I referred to this. There was one more toxin that I had in mine and that was liquid pot pourri that I used to put on some of the logs before putting them on the fire.

Whilst Hobson thankfully appears to have recovered we still do not know what caused his illness, but it really did make me think how easy it is to poison a cat.

### ***Cats Protection have listed the 10 top toxins / dangers and these are:-***

- Lilies
- Flea and tick treatment for dogs
- Salicylates eg. Aspirin
- Liquid potpourri
- Glow sticks/glow jewellery
- Tinsel, string or ribbon
- NSAIDS non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Paracetamol
- Ibuprofen
- Anti-freeze/ethylene glycol.

It is a sobering thought to realise that those beautiful sweet smelling lilies such as tiger, stargazer or day lilies are toxic to cats and can cause acute kidney failure. Even the pollen, if the cat brushes against it and licks his coat can be fatal.

"Spot on" flea treatment for dogs used on a cat could cause serious tremors and life threatening seizures. One Paracetamol could result in liver failure and licked pot porri could cause severe burns and corrosive injury to the mouth and internal organs.

In all these cases a visit to the vet is essential and delayed treatment may make the prognosis poorer. Equally important is to take stock of all the things that we take for granted and are harmless to us but are so dangerous to our pets!



CONGRATULATIONS TO WENDY CARR  
WHO WON THE WORD SEARCH  
COMPETITION



**FREE NEUTERING**

During March we will be running a Free Neutering Campaign. This is estimated to cost in the region of £6,000.

If you feel you can make a donation towards the cost of this we would be extremely grateful. Please mark cheques 'neutering campaign'

Thank you

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 100'S CLUB  
WINNER - MR. SPRAY WON £25



The lucky entry picked out of the hat wins at least half of all the money sent in to the 100's Club Draw.



100s Club Draw	100s Club Draw
<p>Yes, I would like to take part in the 100s club draw and enclose £1 per entry</p> <p>Name .....</p> <p>Address .....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Postcode .....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Tel. No. ....</p>	<p>Yes, I would like to take part in the 100s club draw and enclose £1 per entry</p> <p>Name .....</p> <p>Address .....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Postcode .....</p> <p>Tel. No. ....</p>