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MARCH 2012

Wharfe Valley

www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk

Tel: 0845 1947 292



PAWPRINTS

NEWS AND STORIES FROM YOUR LOCAL CATS PROTECTION GROUP

SUCCESS is TWICE as NICE

New CP Shop opens

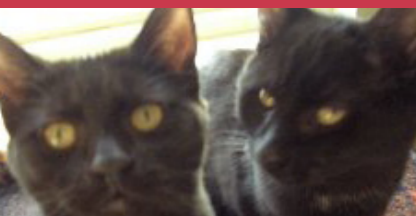


After years of planning and much hard work two major steps forward have been taken by the charity.

Firstly a beautifully fitted out shop has opened in Bramley, Leeds to great acclaim locally...see page 2 for details and how you can help.

Fast Track Adoption Centre Approved

Secondly after years of frustratingly seeking suitable sites and gaining planning consent the first new adoption centre for West Yorkshire is now approved by Leeds City Council. This new model of rehoming facility has been piloted in London and on the south coast with great success. Our local centre will be in Gildersome....see page 2 for details and how you can help.



Annual General Meeting

Our charity's AGM is a little nearer home this year. It will be held in Derby on Saturday 21 July.

The event is a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and share experiences. There are awards for volunteers across a range of categories and key note speakers. This year our own Coordinator has been invited to deliver a talk on partnership working. This is a great honour and reflects the challenging work undertaken with our colleagues in Housing Offices in Leeds.

It is also an opportunity to illustrate how we in Wharfe Valley are working with CP's Community Education Officer and our new friends in Bramley CP shop as well as Dogs Trust and RSPCA. All of this effort is aimed at enabling responsible pet ownership. Often this is about changes in behaviour -not just in the public but in statutory bodies and ourselves in the animal welfare sector.

We cannot go it alone and this is a long term investment. It may be a while before we see the results. As the old saying goes.. 'The planting of a small tree under which one may never sit is the sign of a healthy community and when others enjoy the shade in years to come'

**News from
Wharfe Valley Cats Protection**

**NEW CP SHOP
OPENS IN BRAMLEY
GREAT LOCAL ACCLAIM**

Our picture on the front page shows the striking front of the new shop. It is located in a prime position in Bramley Shopping Centre. Official opening day saw scores of visitors AND a dozen or more volunteers willing to help in the shop.

We were also delighted to hear a few people came forward to offer help in forming a branch in that area. These are early days but very encouraging for the Regional Team who have spent a lot of time and energy in finding a suitable location. Well done to them and the Retail Team too who are determined to make this shop a little different. The aim is for all of us locally in CP to work together more closely on fundraising, neutering and community education.

Already we can say:-

- Many shoppers are calling in daily from Monday to Saturday
- Wharfe valley branch has supplied some bric-a-brac for the early stock
- Our Northern/Midlands Community Education Officer (based in Leeds) has links with the shop team to enable recruitment of volunteers.
- The shop is a cat food donation collection point affording our branch the chance to 'swap' cat food for surplus bric-a-brac. This will enable our charity as a whole make better use of the goods donated.

- The shop has a wall mounted monitor showing CP promotional films and we will be able to screen some of our branch key messages too.
- We have spent some time with the shop manager (Amanda) to build relationships. She has family links with our valley so knows us well already.
- The shop will be issuing CP neutering vouchers and we have shared our experiences with them so they can 'hit the ground running' in an area of great need.

In future we will be able to plan joint community events and generally support and encourage each other. It is good to have a new neighbour

The shop team would love to see you-it is easy to find and parking is available within the shopping centre on Town Street

**GILDERSOME
HOMING CENTRE
ON TRACK
PLANNING PERMISSION
GRANTED**

At last the charity has found a suitable site. Planning permission has just been granted and work on site can now begin. The charity will shortly be advertising for a full time manager and then further recruitment can begin as the building progresses.

The centre is small when compared to our major Adoption Centres such as Derby but its function is quite different.

- The facility will be a FAST TRACK homing centre with about thirty cabins.
- It will not normally admit cats directly 'from the streets'
- The resident cats will be 'ready to home' and hopefully short stay.
- Our charity is recruiting local volunteer fosterers to support the centre.
- The Manager will be responsible for the foster homes and admissions.
- CP is also looking at 'contractual' arrangements with approved catteries for space.

Gildersome, for those not familiar with the town, is close to Morley and is well served by the M62 and M1. It is part of the Leeds administration but very close to Bradford via Drighlington and Birkenshaw. The site is a former cattery but our facility will be new throughout.

Similar centres in Ferndown on the south coast and London are working really well. Our regional and national colleagues are searching for sites elsewhere in West Yorkshire to replicate this model. This may be north of Leeds or Bradford but suitable sites with planning consent are not easy to find.

There are also still plans to create a substantial Adoption Centre in this area and different models of delivery are being pursued including purpose built units or renting appropriate space.

**More News from
Wharfe Valley Cats Protection**

RESCUES AND ADMISSIONS

**BRADFORD
'WE ARE MOVING AND
WE CANNOT TAKE
THEM.....'**

Calls we find most challenging and distressing include evictions and 'moonlight flits'. Earlier this month we were asked by a family to take in about ten cats and kittens under one year old. 'We are moving tomorrow and we cannot take them where we are going'. This call was at 5-00pm. The prospect of ten breeding cats all being left in a Bradford street is unthinkable. It is a problem doubled and tripled by delay.



We went next morning to pick them up. First port of call is our vet for blood testing for Feline AIDS and Leukaemia plus general health check. A short stay in quarantine at the practice, some good fortune with homings and a couple of cat cabins were free after cleaning.

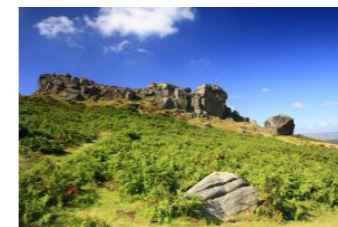
Having neutered about 1200 cats in the city last year we could be forgiven for wondering where they all come from. Sadly the answer lies in the next street and the street after that.

**LANGUAGE
CHALLENGES**

Another week later and we are in Manningham in a street we seem to visit every couple of years. Here the challenge is even harder. The local folk fall into two broad categories. Some very elderly people who have been here since the war years. Many are from Poland, Estonia and Italy or other corners of Europe. Then there

is a group of newcomers who seem to stay only for short periods. We leaflet blocks of houses offering free neutering and get some takers. But a year later there are new faces and new kittens! There are families with links to Pakistan and variety of languages are spoken. We have some European language skills and a phrase or two of Urdu. We do get by in most situations but dealing with very frail people who appear wary of strangers, and somewhat reclusive, adds a new dimension.

An older man gave us one of his 'stray' cats to take for neutering along with a few from a neighbour. His ginger boy looked worn out and we feared FIV. Unfortunately Ginger had an invasive inoperable mouth tumour. Trying to impart this to an owner is hard enough but through a letter box to a very deaf old man from eastern Europe is heartbreaking. There is nobody else around to help and we do our best. Then his elderly wife appears from the local shop. She is not deaf and is Italian. Il vostro ghatto e male.. gets us through. Sad but permission is gained to release Ginger from his suffering. We cannot win them all.



UP ON THE MOORS

Meanwhile on our northern border there is an outbreak of new cat 'arrivals' on Silsden and Ilkley Moor. Locals seem to know every resident creature from crow to cat.

A new kid on the block is soon noticed in this sparsely populated area. Over a few days an un-neutered tom appears with a limp, a pregnant cat and then an abandoned litter of kittens with flu. The kittens need anaesthetising to open their eyes surgically-they are so firmly adhered with dried mucus. Three locations and three mysteries-such is life on the moors.

**LEEDS
HOSPITAL DISCHARGE**



Meanwhile in Leeds a hospital cat-resident for years is reported to have bad eyes. No chance of an

NHS Ophthalmic appointment before June so he goes private. One of our merry band picks him up. He gets his eyes sorted at our vets but has to travel via Bramley in west Leeds where we have a regular check of a garden known to house a small colony of semi feral cats. We have caught them all except one and neutered them. The missing cat plays hide and seek. She is bound to be female and the colony will grow again if we cannot catch her. She is frequently seen in an elderly chap's house window. But he refuses to answer the door most times we visit when passing. We are reduced to shouting through letter boxes again, in English this time, and watching grubby curtains twitch. Deja vu...that's French...see how cosmopolitan we are! Next stop Seacroft in the east and then Keighley in the west..oh and a stray tom cat followed one of our team home after walking the dog in the local cemetery in Otley. They can sniff us out anywhere!

2011 in Brief

Last year was very tough. The financial situation, a very long snowy winter and some branch helpers 'retiring' or moving all contributed to the challenge. Demand for our services rose as our human resources fell. Despite all this you will have read about many of our successes in earlier newsletters and this edition is full of positive items. Virtually every cat we admitted was homeless, ill or pregnant, had a litter of kittens or had been abandoned suddenly - often in a group of ten or more. Their needs are reflected in our vet bills despite our welcome discounts.

Domestic cats re-homed	148
Feral cats rehomed	25
Lost cats reunited	18
Cats treated at vets	222
Avg. cats in care	44
Feral cats fed daily	21
Cats blood tested	194
Cats vaccinated	208
Cats microchipped	218
Cats Neutered	1720
Talks to public	12

NEUTERING

The bare figures above of 1720 cats neutered do not tell us much without context. We will probably be in the top half dozen branches from the 250 in the UK. About another 100 will have been done through our housing office colleagues in Leeds. Roughly 1200 are Bradford area cats and about 600 in Leeds area including our home patch

ADMISSIONS

Most cats and kittens admitted are emergencies. Many need a lot of TLC and vet care. Others are just strays with no real owner of feeder. They come from as far afield as Skipton, Keighley, Bradford and Leeds. The two major cities are our regular 'provider' - often through alerts from council or NHS staff supporting vulnerable people. Such cats have a right to expect a full life but they do mean our turnover of adoptions is slower as they take more time to rehabilitate.

More Information from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

**MARCH
HIGHLIGHTS**

COMING EVENTS

TABLE TOP SALE OTLEY

A 50p per item table top sale on **Saturday 31 March 2012** from 10.00am to 12 Noon at the Labour Rooms in Otley

COLLECTIBLES & BRIC-A-BRAC

ILKLEY

Saturday 28 April 2012

a sale of collectable items and quality bric-a-brac in the Clarke Foley Centre, Ilkley - open from 10.00am to 1.00pm with small cafe in the hall itself. We also have a clothes stall. Watch the press and our web site for further information.

QUALITY ITEMS NEEDED

'BUY IN THE SKY'

We still need QUALITY items to sell on our various stalls and through Audrey's internet site. Audrey's own 'buy in the sky' is the armchair way to purchase good books and various collectables.

Technology has not yet enabled us to 'teleport' goods through space so we thank Audrey for her weekly treks to the post office in all weathers.

You can 'visit' her without getting wet via www.amazon.co.uk/shops/wharfebooksuk Quality hard back, old specialist books and clean paperbacks, collectables, cat ornaments and packaged unwanted gifts are all very desirable. We cannot deal with any used electrical appliances nor furniture, nor kitchen household glass, cooking utensils etc.

Ring option 5 on our help line for more details or any offers

COMINGS & GOINGS

NEW TEAM MEMBERS NEW TREASURER

Heather Parry has stood down after over 11 years in the role. She has taken the branch into the complex arena of computerisation of our accounts and VAT registration in line with our national body. She is not leaving us completely and will still be seen at some of our fund-raising events.

Giving the technical advances in this role we are blessed in having Howard Green to succeed Heather. He is an accountant by trade and married to Eileen (one of our fosterers for the past 20+ years). So Howard knows the branch, cats and the books!

Thank you Heather-and welcome Howard!

NEW FOSTERER

We have seen a few fosterers retire recently so it is good to know we have a 'new face' in the process of joining us soon.

Our regional officer will be making arrangements shortly. Hopefully we may have one or two new cat cabins in Baildon. So welcome aboard Sandra.

We can use even more foster homes with secure space, outdoors, for a cabin. They are a minimum of six feet tall and twelve feet long. A single is four feet wide and a double eight feet wide.

If you have space time and inclination contact us on the usual number on extension 4 if you live in the patch. The branch pays for cat food and vet bills.

OTHER NEWS

HOMES NEEDED

GOOD HOMES FOR CATS

....and finally we are always on the look out for safe homes for our cats and kittens.



Jamie and gang (above) are about seven months old and wary of strangers. They would settle in a house over time but equally could cope with a stable or similar setting as they were born outdoors. They need patience.



Jelly and Gang (above) are a bit timid but enjoy being tickled. They are about five months old. A bit of TLC will soon have them settled in a safe home. All above cats are neutered, vaccinated and microchipped with four weeks insurance.

Ring option 3 on our help line

500 CLUB

SUPPORT THE BRANCH

You can support the branch by joining this membership club and take part in a regular draw for £50.

E-mail us via our web site www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk

Or write to us at the address at the foot of this page and then our Secretary will send you Standing Order form to sign - all very simple!

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The fact that nobody in the branch is paid does not mean we are anything but professional in all we do. One way we show this is by engaging with other organisations who can help us help cats-and thus help people.

For six years now we have been working hard with Leeds City Council Housing staff. We have a joint steering group enabling tenants to be responsible pet owners through better understanding of the needs of pets and with subsidised neutering of cats and dogs for people on low income. We have access to notice boards and various tenants' newsletters to spread the word. Cats Protection neutering vouchers are now available to tenants in several housing offices across East and North Leeds with plans to extend into the West and South.

Our joint group met again in late February in East Leeds when our colleagues from Dogs Trust took the lead (forgive the pun) on microchipping proposals for all dogs in rented council property. We have plans to attend many community events in places like Seacroft and Gipton where local galas are very well supported.

Also in late February we met three branches of the RSPCA - namely Leeds/Wakefield, Craven and Bradford along with a Chief Inspector. Our organisations have some very different roles, demands and priorities but there is much common ground too and it is the latter on which we will focus to try and improve our potential for more co-operative working

- Meeting the CP Trustees in Sussex.

Our branch Coordinator was invited to address the Trustees and the 'Council' of CP in January on our ground breaking work with the local authority in Leeds. Feedback has been very positive.

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