



Tales Through the Cat Flap

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Colne Valley Branch
2014 Christmas Issue

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***Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year***

The ***Cats Protection Colne Valley Branch*** would like to thank all our lovely members for your continued support throughout 2014, and we hope that we can continue to rely on your support throughout 2015.

2015 is not *only* a new year, but a year in which we hope to see the branch membership grow and to see more of our lovely cats settled in new loving homes.

***Together we can make a real difference
in 2015 !!!!***

Help Raise funds by Shopping On-line!

Colne Valley Cats protection are now registered on www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Please ensure that you pass this link onto all your friends and family as once you register on this site and register that you wish Colne Valley Cats Protection to receive the proceeds from your purchases, we will then receive a percentage from each of the suppliers you buy from. It's as easy as that! So go onto the site and:

1. To start, register so they know which cause you want to support (registration is free)
2. Next, login using your username and password. This is how their system recognises who you are and which cause benefits when you make purchases
3. Finally, click on any of the retailer links provided and then shop just as you would normally

That's all you have to do, however, you must remember to go through this site when you purchase otherwise we will not receive our percentage. The good thing is there are over 600 suppliers on there and we get a variety of percentages from ALL the shops!



A Note from our Editor

Please tell us about your lovely cats.

Do you have any funny cat stories or photos? If so, please tell us about them so we can share them with everyone.

It's always especially good to hear about how re-homed cats are enjoying their new lives so please send your stories and photos to Cats Protection, Brora, The Green, Little Thurlow, Haverhill, CB9 7JH or email to colnevalleycats@gmail.com. Tell us what they mean to you and let us know about any special little ways they may have.

Work is currently underway on our 2015 events schedule. Keep an eye on the website and newsletters for these and other fundraising information.

Cats Protection Shop – Halstead



75 High Street, Halstead, CO9 2JD

Call for volunteers

The Cats Protection shop in Halstead High Street is a real asset for the branch. It's ideally placed on the busy Halstead High Street. Drop in and take a look around.

*Julie, the Shop Manager, is looking for additional volunteers to help in the shop. If you have some time you can spare to lend a hand please contact Julie at the shop on **01787 274667**, or by email to **halstead.shopmanager@cats.org.uk***

Donations of clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, books, and toys etc are always very gratefully received, especially children's clothing of which we have a real shortage!

Branch Co-ordinators Report

2014 started off really well in that we managed to find homes for all the cats from several multi-cat households. The first kittens arrived in May when a mother cat was found in a shed with her six newly born babies. Then came Oreo, 6 months old and abandoned by her owners, who had 7 kittens, and then Mia who originally had 9 kittens, sadly only 6 survived. The last kittens came yesterday (2nd Dec) in a box in the woods near Colchester, 5 days old, found and reported by a lady walking her dog.

So far this year we have managed to home 95 cats and transfer 5 to Cats Protection Adoption Centres. Sadly we had to let one old boy go as he had advanced feline immunodeficiency virus. We have several timid cats (Kiara and Bunny), one naughty tortie (Lily) and Bonny and Clyde (10 years plus) and beautiful Sassy and her mate Smudge in care which are proving extremely hard to home.

We had a very active neutering programme, issuing over 150 vouchers during the year and running a Snip and Chip Campaign in October/November in conjunction with the RSPCA and, with the help of Vets4Pets at Pets at Home, the Millennium Veterinary Surgery and Catley Cross Veterinary Clinic, paid for the neutering of another 150 cats and kittens.

After the shop in the High Street in Halstead had to be closed for a short time we have now found a very enthusiastic new manager and are receiving a lot of donations and support.

Lastly, I would like to thank our members for their continued support for which the branch and cats are very grateful, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Cat Facts

- 🌈 Cats are unable to detect sweetness in anything they taste – **they cannot taste antifreeze and drink it with fatal consequences!**
- 🌈 A group of kittens is called a “kindle”, and a “clowder” is a term that refers to a group of adult cats
- 🌈 A cat’s nose pad is ridged with a unique pattern, just like the fingerprint of a human

Interesting Fact

Ernest Hemingway

Did you know that the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum is home to approximately 40-50 polydactyl (six-toed) cats?

Ernest Hemingway was given a white six-toed cat by a ship's captain, and some of the cats who live on the grounds of the museum are descendants of that original cat. Ernest Hemingway named his original polydactyl cat Snow White, and went on to name all his cats after famous people.

The polydactyl cat is not a particular breed, the six-toed trait can appear in any breed. Do you have a polydactyl cat, or know someone who does? We'd love to hear about it.

Our Branch Coordinator, Kornelia, tells us about her polydactyl cat:

“Rosie came from a multi-cat situation in Southgate in North London where a retired lady scientist just allowed her cats to breed unchecked, and of course there was a lot of interbreeding. Rosie had a deformed eye which required two operations to remove it and she was also polydactyl on all four paws, meaning she had an extra claw which made her feet look very large. Both conditions are caused by interbreeding. I adopted her while living in Hertfordshire and she then moved with me to Essex near to Stansted Airport, and then to Germany where she passed away at the age of 15. She was a very loving and friendly cat and a great character.”



Rosie

Cats Needing Homes

SMUDGE

Smudge has been in care for some time now. He came to us because his owner moved back home and there was no room for him and his mate Sassy. He is a very laid back chap who likes his food which is why he is quite large. He would suit an older family with no other cats, and probably no dogs. He is not too bothered about going outside but should not be kept as an indoor only cat.



SASSY

Sassy came in with Smudge. She is such a beautiful cat and we are quite surprised that she has not been homed. She likes being groomed and is a very lively cat. She should go to an older family with no other cats or dogs.



BONNY and CLYDE

Bonny and Clyde, brother and sister who need to be homed together. They are in their middle years and are friendly, lively cats. They would be suitable for a family with slightly older children and probably no dogs.



Clyde

We are also desperate for homes for two very timid cats, not aggressive, just scaredy cats. They will make lovely pets on a one to one basis, so are therefore very suitable for a person living on their own.



Bonnie



Christmas Wordsearch

T	I	N	S	E	L	P	C	A	R	O	L	S	T	X
C	R	M	D	S	T	A	E	Y	Q	P	W	U	H	L
H	E	T	R	E	K	N	Z	F	G	H	R	W	O	Y
R	H	B	D	E	C	T	V	B	C	K	E	I	L	C
I	E	W	A	Q	I	O	O	T	E	G	A	F	I	R
S	O	A	T	U	V	N	R	Y	H	C	T	R	D	A
T	T	E	E	M	B	W	D	A	F	G	H	J	A	C
M	E	W	S	E	F	L	D	E	T	A	M	S	Y	K
A	L	X	P	S	Q	K	E	L	E	I	C	T	S	E
S	T	E	L	Y	E	P	Y	S	O	R	O	U	W	R
T	S	B	R	C	L	V	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S
R	I	A	A	N	G	E	L	P	U	M	C	I	S	A
E	M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	S	U	P	R	T	N
E	I	R	S	L	E	I	G	H	A	N	F	J	L	T
N	O	R	T	H	P	O	L	E	W	Q	C	M	W	A

ANGEL
 BAUBLES
 CAROLS
 CHRISTMAS TREE
 CRACKER
 DATES
 DECORATIONS
 ELVES
 HOLIDAYS
 MARY
 MINCEPIES

MISTLETOE
 NORTHPOLE
 NUTS
 PANTO
 PRESENTS
 REINDEER
 SANTA
 SLEIGH
 TINSEL
 TURKEY
 WREATH

POETRY CORNER

A Cat's Bedtime Prayer

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray this cushy life to keep.
I pray for toys that look like mice,
And some cushions, soft and nice.
For grocery bags where I can hide,
Just like a tiger, crouched inside !
I pray for gourmet kitty snacks,
And someone nice to scratch my back.
For window sills all warm and bright,
And shadows to explore at night.
I pray I'll always stay real cool,
And keep the secret feline rule.
To NEVER tell the humans that,
This world is really ruled by cats !*

