



# Welcome to our first newsletter of 2011



Spring 2011

## I'm A Celebrity... Let Me Volunteer!

This summer, Cats Protection is launching a new volunteering campaign to spread the word about the amazing work our dedicated army of over 7,000 volunteers do and to encourage more people to come forward and volunteer for the charity.

Due to coincide with Volunteers Week 2011, the *I'm A Celebrity...Let Me Volunteer!* campaign will run during the first week of June and has attracted support from cat-loving stars such as 70s rocker Rick Wakeman, 80s glamour icon Sam Fox and 2006 X-Factor finalist Ben Mills. These kind-hearted celebrities will be visiting their local Cats Protection branch or adoption centre to help with some of the tasks that our volunteers face every day, from socialising the kittens and feeding the cats to cleaning out cat pens and greeting potential adopters.

As the UK's leading feline welfare charity, we help 215,000 cats and kittens each year. With so many cats in need of our help, we are desperately seeking more volunteers to help us carry out this vital cat care work across the country.

If you would like to lend a hand there are many roles available and we would love to hear from you!

## **Cats Die Due To Antifreeze Poisoning**

You may have read in the press recently of the death of several cats due to antifreeze poisoning. Cats are attracted to this clear fluid as it is sweet. It causes renal failure and most often death after ingesting a tiny amount.

Cats will vomit be dizzy and lack coordination. Take them to your vet immediately. Take great care with disposal of anti freeze containers and mop up any spillages and wash area thoroughly.

Hopefully the need for antifreeze is past for this winter.

## Photographic competition 2011



We are once again on the lookout for the UK's best cat photographs. Whether it's a perfect portrait of puss; your feline friend being fabulous or your magnificent moggy in motion we are looking forward to receiving your entries.

See page 3 for details.

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## Co Coordinators Report

As you know I took over as Co-ordinator from Charlotte in August. She is now sunning herself in Cyprus where her husband has been posted. We keep in touch by email so I can pick her brains. I am on a huge learning curve and have been well assisted by Anne and our new Treasurer Jane Lax who has licked our very messy accounts into shape and we are now in reasonable financial circumstances but all contributions gratefully accepted. Raffle prizes always needed for coffee mornings etc.

We ran a free neutering offer in December and 43 cats were neutered as a result and are in middle of another one during April and at time of writing(22nd) we have neutered 52 cats and kittens. This is a huge achievement and we have already used up our 2011 neutering grant and will require a top up from the powers that be!



Jane and I attended the C.P. Conference in Aviemore on 16th April. On the most part it was informative and in parts interesting but the lunch left a lot to be desired!!!

Our new look website should be up and running very soon and will be much simpler to use. Jane's husband Iain will be the Website Editor.

Max Woolfson is our Stats Officer so the Annual Return should not be such a dreaded task at the end of the year.

I have a good team now and I hope the Moray Branch will flourish over next few years. Thank you to all our volunteers but we always need more active members.

Until next time.  
Maggie Co-Ordinator

**Neutering  
Campaign  
Is  
Working**



I have my Homing Officer hat on for this and it will be short and sweet. At time of writing we have no kittens and no pregnant cats ( YET!) Our neutering campaign must be working. We homed 63 kittens in 2010.

*watch this space  
Maggie*

## HEALTH CORNER

Spring is here and along with the warmer weather come TICKS! These little nasties burrow head first into the skin and stay until they have had their fill. They can spread Lyme Disease which can cause swollen painful joints and general malaise. To remove them obtain a tick removal hook from your vet or Pet shop and follow instructions. **Do not pull them out** or use any other means as the head can be left in and cause infection.

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# Calling all photographers!

We are once again on the lookout for the UK's best cat photographs. Whether it's a perfect portrait of puss; your feline friend being fabulous or your magnificent moggy in motion we are looking forward to receiving your entries.

## What you could win...

There are three categories; Under 18s, Students and Adults.

### Under 18s

The winner gets a cash prize of £200  
There are two prizes of £50 cash for runners up

### Students

The winner gets a cash prize of £500  
One runner up will receive £100 cash

### Adults

The winner gets a cash prize of £500  
One runner up will receive £100 cash

Some Inspiration



Please go to the website [www.cats.org.co.uk](http://www.cats.org.co.uk) for More Information, Rules & Regulations and most importantly an Application Form.

# Puzzle Time

|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 7 | 4 |  |   |   |   | 5 |
|   | 2 |   | 8 |  | 9 |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 6 |   |  |   | 9 |   |   |
| 7 |   |   |   |  | 4 | 2 | 1 |   |
|   | 5 | 2 |   |  |   | 8 | 3 |   |
|   | 6 | 8 | 1 |  |   |   |   | 9 |
|   |   | 9 |   |  |   | 1 |   |   |
|   | 1 |   | 6 |  | 3 |   | 9 |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |  | 8 | 4 |   |   |

Medium Hard Puzzle

|   |   |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 4 | 8 |  |   |   | 9 |  |   | 3 |
|   |   |  | 5 | 3 | 6 |  |   | 9 |
|   | 3 |  |   |   | 8 |  |   |   |
|   | 1 |  |   |   |   |  |   | 4 |
|   | 6 |  |   |   |   |  | 1 |   |
| 2 |   |  |   |   |   |  | 8 |   |
|   |   |  | 7 |   |   |  | 9 |   |
| 5 |   |  | 4 | 6 | 1 |  |   |   |
| 8 |   |  | 3 |   |   |  | 6 | 1 |

To easy ? Try This One .

I've just been reminded its time to write our Spring Newsletter. Baby and I have just been for our beauty treatments, I also had my teeth cleaned, no extractions, not bad for a fourteen year old. We both look like red squirrels, thin bodies and bushy tails.

Amber is well but decided to was time to make a fuss about taking her pills, what a pantomime. Her outdoors had leather gloves a pillow and 'the pill'. Amber placed between her knees on the floor, pillow under Amber's chin and on top of her paws being spoken to in a soothing voice, the pill was popped in lots of strokes and praise, job done, what a fuss Drama Queen



Shadow has gone to live in Portgordon with the Bannan family and had settled in well. However the family had to return from their short break early as Shadow went missing while being looked after by a neighbour. Thankfully she is now home safe and sound and happy.

Thanks Bannan family.

Fergus, a handsome 5yr old tabby with a white bib and paws came to stay on 20/12/10.

His family had said he was attacking them from the stairs.

He has turned out to be a lovely big affectionate boy. He does give you little nibbles and the odd smack now and again but he just needs petting. He has made friends with Jimmy the 9yr old from next door.

At the beginning of the year a couple turned up with a 13yr old silver tabby that had never been in a house. He had lived in the barn on the farm since he was a kitten because the couple also owned a crazy dog who chased him. Poor old Henry was in a dreadful state and terrified. Her outdoors had to take the cat carrier to bits to get him out and into his warm cabin and bed.

Several trips to Mr Millar and tummy problem sorted he is now coming on well and even using his litter tray. He is looking for a nice quiet retirement home but may be a bit upset at first with the move.

### Skoda the Ferral.



Skoda the feral has now become a permanent family member.

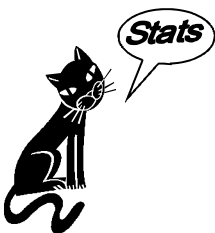
Baby and him have become the best of buddies, in fact he has even moved himself into her apartment to sleep but still isn't fussy where he dines. He is now venturing outside in the good weather, his first 'sortie' was for 35 hours but he never ventured far from the garden.

Eventually, around midnight he decided to come back in and has never gone back outside since, even though the cat flap is open during the day.

I suspect he will now be a fare weather cat

Well that's about it from Chez Nous for now, not to much interest on the home front but as usual there's plenty cats waiting to come in.

We all hope you have a lovely Easter and enjoy your chocolate eggs.



|            |                      |                 |            |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| December - | 3 from the branch... | 3 from homes... | 11 in care |
| January -  | 2 from branch...     | 1 from home...  | 11 in care |
| February - | 6 from branch...     | 2 from homes... | 11 in care |
| March -    | 4 from branch...     | 4 from house... | 11 in care |

We all know how much cats love to sunbathe and chase flying insects around the garden, so here are a few tips to help keep your cat safe.

### Cats get sunburn too!

I know all of our cats love to lie in the garden all day if it's sunny and who can blame them?

Cats who have pale ears and noses are at risk from getting sunburn just as we are; they can even get skin cancer.

To help prevent this try and keep your cats in during the hottest hours of the day (11am – 2pm), if this is not possible you can put sunscreen on their ears and noses.

Ask your vet which type of sunscreen is safe to put on your cat. You need to obtain a non-toxic brand or buy a specialist brand just for pets,

since your cat is likely to lick some of it off. Using it is very straightforward, just apply to the ears and nose a few times a day.

### Bee & Wasp stings



They fly, so as far as your cat is concerned, it's potential prey, but if your cat is stung in the mouth or throat it could cause swelling and block the airway.

If your cat is stung in the mouth/throat take it to the vets straight away.

Cats are often stung on the paws, which can be treated at home:

- Bee stings are acidic so carefully remove the sting and bathe in Bicarbonate of soda and water.

Wasp stings are alkaline

so bathe the area in vinegar or lemon juice.

### Heatstroke

If you suspect your cat has heatstroke you must act quickly, symptoms of heatstroke include:

- Panting
- Drooling
- Anxiety
- Dark red tongue and gums
- Lethargy
- Vomiting



If your cat displays these symptoms get it into a cool area, and wrap it up in a cold wet towel and phone your vet as soon as possible.

Follow these tips and your cat should be able to play happily out in the sunshine for the rest of the summer.

## Cats and Summer Time Tips for Moggys at play

With summer almost upon us flea treatment is a very relevant issue for all cat owners. Here are a few tips regarding flea treatment..

Only use flea treatment provided by your vet -Over the counter treatments can be effective and are often cheaper, however, they are also unregulated!

2. Prevention is better than cure - Flea season is as good as started, if you use drops on the back of the neck (like Frontline) you can treat your cat in advance of getting them, saving your cat discomfort and embarrassment amongst their feline

3. Don't forget to spray the carpet - Fleas and flea eggs can lie dormant for a long time in an untreated carpet, so just a few eggs can easily turn into an infestation in hot weather



At this time of year we always allocate some time to check the general health of the cats. On the odd occasion we've had to deal with unwanted 'lodgers' we've been glad of the good weather, and so have the tribe. All of these checks can (and should) be done on a fairly regular basis, but doing a summer MOT is good way to make sure everyone gets a thorough going over at least once a year too.

### 1. Eyes

Eyes should be bright, alert and shiny. They should be free from gunge and should not weep, although like us just after waking they may sometimes need to have a bit of a wash to look their best. Cats have an extra 'inner' eyelid too. This should not be visible when they have their eyes fully open, so if you can see it permanently get an appointment with the vet.

### 2. Ears

Ears should be clean and free of wax, bugs, dry skin etc. and there should be no smell. Often cats with ear problems will scratch at their ears or shake their heads excessively, look for these signs and consult your vet if you're at all concerned.

### 3. Nose

A cat's nose should be soft, clean and generally a little moist.

If your cat seems to have a permanently dry or permanently dripping nose then this could indicate problems and further investigation should be undertaken.

### 4. Teeth

Check the teeth out for excess tartar and bad breath. These symptoms can indicate and underlying illness and should be checked by a vet if found. Long term tooth decay can cause a variety of problems for cats, including kidney disease and heart problems, so their teeth should definitely be looked after properly. You can also give their teeth a clean yourself. Most vets stock cat toothbrushes that will fit on the end of your finger, and 'pleasant' flavoured toothpaste - 'pleasant' for cats that is, probably not so good to use on our own teeth...

### 5. Coat

Your cat's coat should naturally be smooth, soft and clean. Give him stroke and feel for knots or any other lumps and bumps, pull the fur apart and check for fleas and lice. If you spot any problems you should take him to the vet to get him checked out ASAP.

✂

1 Years Membership Application for 4 copies of the Moray Branch of Cats Protection's Newsletter.

Cost - £6.00

Name :.....

Address :.....  
.....

Postcode.....

Tel No.....

I would also like to volunteer for the following :

|                                      |                                    |  |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> | Baking <input type="checkbox"/>    | Coffee Mornings <input type="checkbox"/> | Fetes <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Vet Runs <input type="checkbox"/>    | Fostering <input type="checkbox"/> | Collection Tins <input type="checkbox"/> | Bag Packs <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please complete the form and along with your payment post to :

Mrs Isobel Smith  
6 Woodside Road  
Fochabers  
Moray  
IV32 7HD