

MORE CATS IN CARE LOOKING FOR GOOD HOMES



Cree is a mature adult who is very laid back. She is long haired and has a lovely golden coloured coat and likes to have it combed. She would suit a couple without children or a single person



Marni is a young semi-long haired female. She can be a little timid until she gets to know you, but once she does, she absolutely adores getting petted and will settle on your knee



Oreo is a black and white female, roughly 2 years old. She is a very good natured cat with an out-going personality. She is very people oriented and would not suit a home with other cats or dogs

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Stranraer & District Branch JANUARY 2012

2011 has been an exceptional busy year with work on the farms. No sooner were all the cats caught for neutering on one farm when another would contact us for more cats to be neutered. Most had kittens which were not put back after being caught, but were either homed or taken to the Glasgow Adoption Centre and some went as far as the Adoption Centre in Arbroath. I hope 2012 will not be as busy!

Thanks go as usual to all the fosterers who have been kept busy throughout the year, fundraisers, the admin workers, telephone answering personnel, the treasurer and everyone who has helped no matter how small the task—it all helps, and not forgetting the support of our Branch members.

We also welcome the new fosterers who have joined the Branch and also to the volunteers who have come forward to help with other tasks.

The free neutering scheme is still ongoing for Wigtownshire cat as we start this new year, so if you know of any un-neutered cats please let their owners know.

Lorraine Evans (Co-ordinator)

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Disclaimer: *The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Cats Protection:*

Charity Number: 203644

2011 REVIEW

The Annual Returns are nearing completion once more. During 2011 56 cats and kittens were homed. A remarkable 471 cats were neutered with Branch assistance. Of these 345 were owned by members of the public, 49 were in our care and 77 ferals were caught and neutered. Numbers never convey all the hard work and hours that have been spent in achieving them, so many thanks to all the volunteers involved with the hands on work needed to get these results.

Lorraine Evans

LIONS HELP CATS!

Last November Lorraine went to a presentation in Port William given by the Lions organisation. The Lions had raised £2,200 at their annual golf tournament and a further £1,800 from their regular Monday and Friday evening Bingo sessions. The money was divided between 22 local charities including our Branch, so thanks to the Lions for helping their smaller relations in Wigtownshire. *DC*

CAT QUOTATIONS

In the beginning, God created man, but seeing him so feeble, He gave him the cat
Warren Eckstein

Of all God's creatures there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the leash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat. **Mark Twain**

"With the qualities of cleanliness, affection, patience, dignity and courage that cats have, how many of us, I ask you, would be capable of becoming cats?"
Fernand Mery

(A Reminder!) Assisting our Fundraisers

On many of the fundraisers that we do now, we sell some home made crafts which are proving very popular and add substantial amounts to our funds that we raise. We are looking for keen knitters to knit tea cosies, coffee cosies and such things. If you enjoy knitting and have a spare few minutes every now and then to help boost our craft stocks for events, then we'd love to hear from you. Every small item helps and makes the stall more interesting. Call **0845 371 2759** and ask for Sally to give you a call *SA*

CATS IN CARE LOOKING FOR GOOD HOMES



Iona is a female tortie around 6 years old. Iona has been with us for some time and we are keen to find her a loving home. She can be timid, but has a lovely nature and would suit a home without any other cats or dogs.



Amber is a young semi-long haired tabby and white female. She was originally a feral cat, but has shown her loving side since being tamed. She loves to play and gets on well with other cats and dogs. She could be homed as a pair with Marni pictured over-leaf

NEW BRANCH WEB PAGE

2011 saw Cats Protection launching its new website. Each Branch was given the same footprint to take and make their own - according to their technical abilities! That's where the scary bit kicks in for most of us. The deadline we were all given was December 2011, like most people we put this task off until the eleventh hour, no one was chomping at the bit to do it and who can blame them - technophobia is, or should I say was my fear. Eventually (you can see where I'm heading here) I thought I might give it a go, much cheered on by Lorraine and Don, who assured me I could do it. With the help of a friend, I muddled through the "easy to follow" booklet, pulling my hair out on many occasions. However over several weeks we managed to create something that resembled an up to date website and I must say I'm a bit cock-a-hoop about it now. The website has proved to be an amazing success since it went live in mid December. We've homed several cats through it and created a lot of awareness. Give it a visit and see what you think:

www.stranraer.cats.org.uk

We've also got a new e-mail address which is:

catsprotection01@btconnect.com

I would like to say a big thank you to Terry Beck who sat alongside me through many hours with great patience and tolerance to guide me through the process of setting up this website, without his help I would not have managed it. There are some very generous people in the world, Terry is one of them.

SA

FOOD COLLECTION BOXES

Thanks goes to everyone who has supported the food boxes in Sainsburys the Pet shop in Newton Stewart and in Morrison's Stranraer



Thanks also to Eleanor for servicing the Sainsbury's box

A few years ago I received a telephone call from a lady who was staying with her husband in a touring caravan at Garlieston. Linda had called the Branch to see if I was aware of a missing cat she had seen on a poster in the shop in Garlieston. After telling her that I had been contacted by the owner, Linda asked if she could call and see Beryl and myself as they passed Creetown on their way back to their home in Tyne and Wear. Since that visit every month a packet arrives with home made knitted cat toys for the cats in care. Many thanks Linda, and as you can see the cats like



Lorraine asked me to look after Freddie who had been caught on one of the farms when the cats were being trapped for neutering. However, his tail had been caught in a farm machine and had not been treated. As a consequence it had to be amputated, but he turned out to be the most loving of cats and is now settled in with his very caring new owners.

Linda's toy can be seen in his front paws

DC

Festive Fundraising

Event one We had a craft stall at the Wigtown Winter Fest which received a lot of support from the public. The day ran from 10 am to 4 pm and was well attended. Unfortunately the organisers had asked us not to advertise. However, we did sell a good amount of products and received some kind donations. Being present was the main thing and we got some enquiries about adopting cats. As a result I'm doing some home visits next week and hopefully have a new home or two. I'd like to thank Andrea Longos for helping on the day. Andrea is in the photo presenting our stall before the public arrived. We were selling the usual Cat Protection novelties and also some handmade crafts that myself and Sandi McKinnon make in aid of Cats Protection.



For future events we are looking for keen knitters to knit tea cosies and such things. If you have the time to knit for us we would like to hear from you, leave your message for Sally in "fundraising" on the Website or telephone 0845 371 2759. Also leave a message for Sally if you are interested in manning stalls at future events.



Getting busy, our stall got a lot of attention, many thanks to all who came and supported us.

Event two was held at Kirkcowan Primary School.

This was a busy weekend, as the day after Wigtown's Winter Fest we were at Kirkcowan Primary School with our stall. This time Sandi McKinnon was helping on the stall and Andrea kept popping between kitchen duties for the school and Cats Protection. Thanks to both of you for your help and support. The school kindly gave us two tables and a space for our display and information board. Amazingly we filled the two tables and had extra stock under, waiting for a place to be made on the table. It was a very busy event, Kirkcowan Village is well known for supporting it's events to the full and their Christmas Fair was no exception. We made some good sales and had a lot of interest in what we do. The picture shows Sandi and myself being supplied with cups of tea from Andrea before opening time.



There is a bonus to this fundraising weekend. Solway Books kindly took our left-over festive crafts and sold them on our behalf in their shop in Kirkcudbright. They did a good job of promoting us and our cause and managed to sell most of our products. They said their customers were very generous when they heard it was in aid of Cats Protection. Many thanks go to Bev from Solway Books who has done an amazing job for us and refused to take commission.

The festive fundraising for 2011 together with Solway Book's efforts has brought in £362.

Many thanks to Kirkcowan Primary for inviting us into their event and congratulations on their day, I believe they did very well.