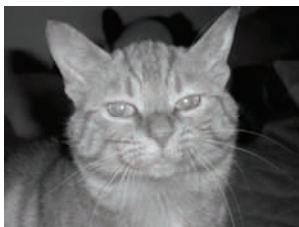


Some more of the cats in care needing homes



AMBER

Amber is a five year old ginger female who is very loving and playful. If possible she should be homed with sister Luna.



COOKIE

This two year old black and white female is also loving, but is slightly timid.



MARNIE

Once Marnie gets to know you, this young semi long haired tabby female loves getting curled up on your knee.



SPICY

This beautiful five year old female is timid and needs a 'cat person' who could spend time giving her the confidence she needs.

These are just some of the cats in care waiting patiently for homes. The situation is changing all the time with more and more cats being abandoned, owners dying etc. If you can take a cat or know of anyone who is looking for one please call: 0845 371 2759

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Stranraer & District Branch AUTUMN 2011

What an awful Summer with the weather!!! But that was not all. There was an endless stream of cats wanting homes that needed fostering and then on top of that the multiple farm cats have started re-appearing again. The problem with Wigtownshire is that it is a 'breeding ground' for cats. On some farms were they leave the problem until it is out of hand, and then the farmers want the problem sorting out overnight. The other part of the problem is that although we have the cats, we don't have the human population to home them to because of Wigtownshire's obviously rural nature.

Because homing adult cats is so difficult and so slow and we have that many for homing, I decided to hold a 'Cat Show' to the public in the Millennium Centre in Stranraer. It took place on a Saturday between the hours of 11am and 3pm. This was unknown territory as far as the Branch was concerned, as adult cats were taken in cages to try and find good homes for them. The story of this event is inside the newsletter. The homings were still subject to a home visit, and each cat shown was in the cage on display no longer than 2 hours.

If you know of any good homes that are looking for cats then please contact the number shown below, so a visit can be arranged.

On the positive side I would like to welcome the new members and fosterers who have recently joined the Branch and to thank everyone who has helped during this not too good a Summer.

Lorraine Evans

Branch Co-ordinator

Branch telephone number **0845 371 2759**

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email: levans_1@btinternet.com

*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Cats Protection:
Charity Number: 203644*

A FARM IN THE MACHARS

When I was the Co-ordinator of the Branch, I used to hate telephone calls that were received on a Friday evening or Monday morning. I don't know why but calls made at these times nearly always meant big trouble. The telephone system is a bit different now with having a Branch number but not all the calls are so different. One such call was received on Friday 16th September and the message said that 15 cats and kittens were needing to be neutered at a farm in the Machars (for members living away who may not know Dumfries & Galloway, this is an area of Wigtownshire.)

Lorraine, daughter Niki and Jean went down to the farm two days later (Sunday) and came away with 28 feral cats and kittens. Further trapping continued for nearly 3 weeks until all the cats as far as could be ascertained were off the farm. These made the total 44. However one of the females caught produced a litter of 4 cats on her first night in captivity bringing the total to 48. Unfortunately one of the kittens died after 3 days. It hadn't shown any signs of illness or not getting food, so it is a mystery what happened to it. As I write the other 3 are flourishing, but the feral mother hasn't made any progress at all to being friendly.

The neutered adult ferals are now back on the farm, but the Branch now has to find homes for the kittens and a couple of adults who are friendly and do not deserve to go back to living on a farm that only provides milk as food for the cats. The Branch has left some cat biscuits to give to the cats, but whether the farmer will continue feeding them on their own account remains to be seen.

Many thanks go to Lorraine and Niki for their work over the weekends and for staying out on the farm at night-time and in not the best of weathers. Jean is also to be thanked for her hard work during this exercise.

DC

this little guys worries he had bowel problems, which the vet thought were due to him being immature. He had regular enemas to sort that out while we concentrated on him getting better.

By four weeks old his eyes were so badly swollen the vet had his concerns that he would be left blind, but we would



not give up on him we had to give him every chance because he had actually started to show his zest for life. He could now suckle on his own and had started to demand his feed waiting impatiently for it, rather noisily may I add!! and would show little attempts at playing, running around catching air, and you can only guess with whom he would be spending the rest of his life?

At around six weeks old his eyes began to open although he was obviously blind in his right eye it was clear he could see with the other one and we laughed at his fascination of everything with his new found sight.

It was now time to sort his bowel problems out and the vet thought it would be a good idea to give him a muscle relaxant to try to get him to toilet on his own and we celebrated when it worked but unfortunately afterwards he started to go limp and we rushed him to the vet it was found that he had taken a bad reaction to the muscle relaxant and was going downhill fast. After getting him all this way Miller was put to sleep on 29 June aged just seven weeks.

For all this is a sad story we have to remember all the rest of the kittens from the farm that we also rescued and that are all now in their happy forever homes.

Lorraine

SPAY-RE A THOUGHT FOR THE HOME-LESS.

hopefully have an open garden day in May, we hope to have a couple of tin collections during the course of the year and some more homing shows. Our next homing show is planned to be at Newton Stewart in January. Lets hope it will be as good as the one just gone.

We would love to hear from any members that may have a couple of hours to donate in shaking a tin, or manning a stall, or even hosting a small coffee morning for a few friends. Even having one of our small change boxes next to your phone for unwanted pennies and coppers would be a great way of volunteering your support. Our phone number as ever, is on the front of this newsletter.

Sally

MILLER

Cat flu is the number one killer of kittens. It affects the mucous membranes of the eyes nose and throat, often causing ulceration, and if left untreated permeates into the chest cavity causing pneumonia.

Miller was just one kitten of many from a farm when we were trapping all the adults to get them neutered. He was born to his feral mum under a hedge, and when we found him his mum had rejected him as he was sick.

He was only about ten days old and obviously seriously ill with cat flu. One of his eyes was closed and very swollen and his nose was purulent with mucous. He was very thin. Anyway we took him home and set about the laborious task of hand rearing him.

For the first two weeks feeding him was a struggle. He could not breath through his nose so we had to feed him via a syringe a tiny little bit at a time, and despite treatment his eyes were also getting worse. To add to all

1) When I was just a few months old
They whipped me to the vet
Together with my brother
A trip we won't forget.

2) Our doting owners said, "You'll be
More loving and contented,
Not spraying, straying warriors
Driving us demented."

3) We came home in the evening
With a less than whole sensation.
Denied the joys of parenthood
And yielding to Tom-tation.

4) They spoke of the unwanted ones,
Hungry - cold - oppressed.
Their plight convinced this lucky pair
That **NEUTERING IS BEST.**

Who said Shakespeare was dead? Although written light heartedly, the poem above has a serious message, with many unwanted kittens being born every year. If you know of anyone who has a young cat please encourage them to get it neutered as soon as it is old enough. Cats Protection now recommend 4 months as an age for the operation to be carried out. Also if you know of any farms where there is a problem, and the cats need neutering, please let the Branch know. Any information received will be treated in confidence. In these situations there is also the added problem of infections and inbreeding if the cats are left unchecked, resulting in major problems.



Bob

Bob is a ginger and white cat who loves human company. He has lived with other cats in the past . He does not like dogs very much. He has come from a rural home, so is not used to roads or a hectic environment. He enjoys a warm bed or a knee to sit on ... and lots of attention. If you needed a companion whilst working in the garden, he would be it. He's a great character and would love to swop his pen for a loving home.

More cats needing homes on back page

HOMING SHOW

Throughout the year we've been mulling over the idea of a homing show in the hope of generating fresh interest in the cats we have in our care, awaiting homes. We've had mixed feelings about this sort of event, but in the national newsletters most branches that host such things state that they are very successful. So this September we bit the bullet and gave it a go. Lorraine and her daughter Niki got the date booked in the diary and the event organised. The fosterers were asked to select cats they thought most suitable for such a day out and bring them to The Millennium Centre in Stranraer, where the public could have the chance to come and see a selection of cats needing homes. Each cat had its own indoor cat pen and once they had time to get used to this strange environment, they settled to it nicely and I'm glad to say no cat showed any undue distress. Some even seemed to enjoy the attention they were getting. We had 12 cats at the show and the day ran from 10a.m. to 3p.m.

We were pleased with the interest that this day generated. A number of people came through the doors to see the cats and to find out more about Cats Protection. We had one or two people interested in fostering, which is a much needed role to be played. A few people said they would be interested in volunteering at future events that we may hold and we got four new members signed up. Membership plays a very important role for us, as it gives us a good boost to our annual funds and it keeps us in touch with you. Most importantly of all we had some interest in cats being adopted.

At this point I think we could say that the day was a success, with 5 cats being homed, 2 new fosterers and as mentioned 4 new members. However, to put icing on the cake two ladies came to present us with a cheque for £180.



Pictured presenting a cheque to our Co-ordinator Lorraine is Susan Greer and Nicola Wilson who ran the Stranraer Half Marathon in aid of Cats Protection and raised the £180. Fundraising is another fantastic way of volunteering, a one off event that brings in money and awareness. So many thanks go to Susan and Nicola for their great efforts in supporting us.

We also had a small cake stall and a craft/Cat Protection product sale. With sales and generous donations taken that day we made £149. The money raised was a bonus, as the days focus was the homing side of things. However, with the ever increasing cost of vet bills and things in general, we need to keep fundraising to the fore as well. We hope to increase the number of events we host in 2012. I will