



# The Cat's Whiskers



Stewartry & District Branch  
Summer Newsletter 2011

When you read this newsletter, our summer fundraising activities will be in full swing, so we hope we will see some of you at our events. We rely on attending these events to raise money for our branch and our CP gazebo and stall are a familiar sight at events in the Stewartry. Our tombola is always a popular attraction with great prizes to be won and we also have games for the children and lots of interesting things to buy, including CP merchandise, cat toys, jams, chutneys, books and lots of lovely plants.

Our first outdoor event of the year was a great success, despite having less than 24 hours notice of it taking place. We discovered mid-afternoon on the Friday that the Kirkcudbright Medieval Fayre was on the following day and not the following week as we had thought. The date had been changed some 2 months earlier but somehow we had not known. It was a mad rush to get everything ready and loaded in the van but it was certainly worthwhile as we had a busy day, the sun shone and everyone had a good time. Our total for the day was £426 which we were very pleased with.

On Sunday 3 July we went to the Children's Festival in Kirkcudbright and had another good day – it was sunny and dry – a big difference from last year when the event was more or less abandoned due to high winds and torrential rain. We have 2 more outdoor events to attend so hope the weather will be kind.

## Update on Kandi

In our Spring Newsletter, we told you about Kandi, a cat we took in last year who had a deep burn type injury to her back, the cause of which is still unknown, despite many vet consultations, treatments and a biopsy. The wound has been very difficult to treat and is taking a long time to heal. Kandi has put up with all fairly well though understandably gets fed up at times. She is still receiving treatment and it will be some time before she is well enough to go to a new home.

So far this year we have homed 22 cats and kittens. If you could offer a loving home to a cat or kitten, please call us to arrange a home visit – 01557 339233. We currently have a number of cats looking for new homes, some of which are pictured below. More pictures and details can be found on our website [www.stewartrycats.org.uk](http://www.stewartrycats.org.uk)



Topsy – 18 month old female



Marnie – 9 month old female



Punch – 1 year old male

## **Alfie the (former) Street Urchin**

Alfie was a scruffy, scrawny, unneutered tom cat who had been living rough for some time during the very cold winter weather. An elderly lady had been feeding him but he was spraying in her house and upsetting her own cats. We agreed to take him into our care but were shocked when we saw the awful condition he was in. The poor boy was very thin and was almost completely bald from the neck down due to a flea allergy which had made him so itchy he had bitten and scratched all his fur off. Despite his troubles, Alfie was a bundle of fun and energy and just loved human company. His fosterer made him a bodywarmer out of the sleeve of a jumper to keep him warm until his fur grew back. When the bodywarmer was slipped over his head onto his body, Alfie thought this was a great game and wriggled his belly along the floor to get it off. It turned into a competition between the fosterer and Alfie. As soon as the bodywarmer was put back on him, Alfie set out to beat his previous personal best time at taking it off again. Needless to say, Alfie won every time and the bodywarmer was binned.

Over the few months he was in our care, Alfie's fur grew back and he put on weight and became a very handsome cat. A family saw his picture on our website and knew straight away that he was the cat they had been waiting for. When they came to collect him, he walked straight into the cat basket and was off to his new home. His new family think he is an amazing cat and feel lucky to have adopted him.



Pictures of Alfie when he first came in and of him now, back to full health.

### **Charity Shop**

We hope to have another 3 day charity shop sale in McKenzies wee shop in High St., Dalbeattie in late September/October. The last one in April raised over £600 so thank you to everyone that donated/bought goods and helped in the shop.

If you are having a Summer clear out, we would be very grateful for items to sell. Bring them to the shop if you can or we will try and collect.

### **Cards, Cakes and Cats**

Lesley, one of our volunteers, held a Cards, Cakes and Cats party recently to raise funds for our branch. She makes beautiful handcrafted cards in her spare time and invited friends over to her home to enjoy coffee and cakes. She had a busy day and her husband was roped in to make the teas. She raised a fantastic £159 for us and we are very grateful for her support.

## **Neutering News**

In 2010 our branch helped with the costs of neutering 182 cats, both domestic and feral. Despite our efforts to promote neutering, there still seem to be plenty of kittens around. Many of the kittens we take in come from farms where sometimes the cat numbers have got out of hand.

All the adult cats that we rehome will have been neutered (and vaccinated) and when someone adopts a kitten from us we will help with the cost of neutering when the kitten is old enough – usually at 6 months old.

For non CP cats we can help with the cost of neutering if the owner is on a low income or in receipt of benefits.

We also trap, neuter and return (TNR) feral cats, whether it is one stray cat or a colony of cats on a farm or other site. People often ring us asking us to take away a stray cat that is being a nuisance. If the cat is a domestic cat that we can safely handle, we may be able to take it in and find it a new home, but if the cat is feral, it would be cruel to put it into a cat pen where it would be very stressed. In these cases, we trap the cat using a humane trap and take it to the vets where it is blood tested, neutered and then returned to the original site.

## **Cleo's Story**

Cleo was a young cat we successfully rehomed last year. She settled in to her new home and her new owners sent us Cleo's thoughts about her new life.

"I own two new friends who generally respond to my wishes – food, cuddle, play outside and who are making good progress as carers.

I did not like the car journey to their home one bit and I let them know in no uncertain terms. At first I was a bit shy and it took me a day or two to work my way around my new home, but I have it sussed now and know where all the comfy spots are. They are pretty good about my food although I must admit I like the odd mouse, well, when I say like, I don't eat them, just stalk them and catch them and leave as presents for my new friends. I'm not sure they appreciate my efforts in this respect.

The snow has come today but it doesn't faze me as I have seen snow before and I can cope for the short time I need to go out. They are rather quaint my two new mates, they have a little notice with 'OUT' on one side and 'IN' on the other and they change it around so each knows where I am. Isn't it funny what humans do? Time to go and let my new friends have the pleasure of my company." Love Cleo

## **Events 2011**

23 July – Coffee morning in Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 – 12 noon  
4 August – Stall at Stewartry Agricultural Show, Castle Douglas  
19 November – Coffee morning in Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 - 12

### Subscriptions

If you haven't already paid your subscription for 2011, please send a cheque for £7 to:

Stewartry & District Cats Protection  
PO Box 7470  
Castle Douglas DG7 1YE

We rely on donations to continue our work for the cats in our area and your support is greatly appreciated.

### Newsletters

If you would like to receive your newsletters via email please let us know at

[stewartrycats@gmail.com](mailto:stewartrycats@gmail.com)

This means that more of your subscription will go towards helping our cats.

### Quiz

We are running a cat themed quiz. If you would like to enter, send an SAE and 50p to Jaci Agnew, 18 Millflats, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4ER. Also available in local shops and at our events. Entries close on 12 September and the winner will be drawn on 15 September.



Shelley, one of our kittens



Lulu on her first birthday

Lulu was featured in our Winter Newsletter as a kitten that was a slow developer possibly as a result of brain damage. She was adopted by her fosterer and has come on in leaps and bounds, just look at her now.

### Helpers needed for Coffee Mornings

We have 3 coffee mornings a year in Dalbeattie and sometimes need some extra helpers. If you can spare 2 hours on a Saturday from 10 – 12 noon to help out, please ring us on 01557 339233.

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