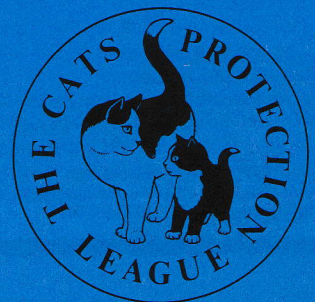


THE CAT



NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

THE CAT

Official Journal of
THE CATS
PROTECTION LEAGUE
(Founded 1927)

Registered National Charity
No, 203644

20 NORTH STREET
HORSHAM
WEST SUSSEX RH12 1BN.

Telephone: Horsham 65566

Editor: Major W.S.H. GARFORTH

The objects of the League are
threefold:

1. To rescue stray and unwanted cats and kittens, rehabilitate and rehome where possible.
2. To inform the public on the care of cats and kittens.
3. To encourage the neutering of all cats not required for breeding.

Annual Subscription Rates:

By membership only £3.00 U.K.
U.S.A./CANADA \$12
elsewhere (including magazine) £5

Subscriptions can be paid under
Deed of Covenant and by Bankers
Order.

Always Wanted
at Headquarters

Unwanted birthday and
Christmas presents or anything
saleable.

Notification of change of
address.

Used stamps. British, Foreign
and commemorative.

No publishing fees paid.

The Editor reserves the right to
sub-edit articles and/or letters to
fit available space.

Views and comments published
are those held by individual
contributors and do not necessar-
ily conform with those of the
Executive.

Published Bi-monthly by
The Cats Protection League,
20 North Street, Horsham, West Sussex,
RH12 1BN.

Printed by
Impala Printing (Goodbooks Ltd)
Unit 5 Station Rd Southwater Sussex
Tel: Southwater 731149 (Code 0403)

An Extraordinary General Meeting of The Cats Protection League will be held at 12.45 pm on Saturday, 31st January 1981 at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WC1B 4BH to consider the following proposed alterations to the Rules of the League:

Resolution 1

Clause 6 - Replace as follows:-

Clause 6

Members of the Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the votes of those Members present or by proxy. A Member shall be eligible as a candidate for election to the Council if he/she has been a member of the League for not less than three years at the date of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is held and he/she has either been recommended by the Council or has submitted to the Director fourteen clear days before the Annual General Meeting a letter signifying his/her willingness to serve as a Council Member if elected, such letter to be counter-signed by at least five Members in support. Retiring Members of the Council shall be eligible as candidates for re-election without such recommendation or letter.

Resolution 2

Clause 13 - Replace as follows:-

Clause 13

An Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held each year in respect of the preceding year for the purpose of receiving and if thought fit adopting the Statement of Account referred to in Rule 12, appointing the auditors, and transacting such other of the League's business as may be necessary. A report of the work of the League for the preceding financial year shall also be presented at this meeting. The Chairman of the Council shall preside at the Annual or any Extraordinary General Meeting of the League. If neither the Chairman nor the Deputy Chairman is able or willing to preside the Council may appoint any other Member of the Council to preside at such Meeting. Not less than fourteen days' clear notice shall be given in writing of any Resolution to be submitted to a General Meeting with the names of the proposer and seconder. No Resolution shall be put to a Meeting unless it is seconded. All matters put to the vote of the Meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) demanded (a) by the Chairman or (b) by at least three Members present in person or by proxy. Unless a poll be so demanded a declaration by the Chairman that a Resolution has on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost and any entry to that effect in the Books containing the Minutes of proceedings of the League shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such Resolution. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn. Except as provided herein if a poll is duly demanded it shall be taken in such manner as the Chairman directs and the result of the poll shall be deemed to be the Resolution of the Meeting at which the poll was demanded. In the case of an equality of votes whether on a show of hands or on a poll the Chairman of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which the poll is demanded shall be entitled to a second or casting vote. A poll demanded on the election of a Chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time as the Chairman of the Meeting directs and any other business other than that upon which a poll has been demanded may be proceeded with pending the taking of the poll.

Votes of Members at General Meeting

None but Life Members Honorary Life Members and Full Members as defined above shall be competent to vote at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting and each such Member shall have one vote. On a poll votes may be given either personally or by proxy. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointer or of his attorney duly authorised in writing. A proxy need not be a Member of the League. The instrument appointing a proxy and the Power of Attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that Power or authority shall be deposited at the Head Office of the League or at such other place within the United Kingdom as is specified for that purpose in the Notice convening the Meeting, not less than forty-eight hours before the time for holding the Meeting or adjourned Meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll, and in default the instrument of proxy shall not be treated as valid. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form or a form as near thereto as circumstances admit:

"The Cats Protection League

I
of
in the County of _____, being a Member of the above named
League, HEREBY APPOINT
of _____
or failing him _____
of _____
as my proxy to vote for
me on my behalf at the Annual (Extraordinary) General Meeting of the League to be held on
the _____ day of _____, and at
any adjournment thereof.

Signed this

day of

"

Where it is desired to afford Members an opportunity of voting for or against the Resolution the instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form or a form as near thereto as circumstances admit:

"The Cats Protection League

I _____ of _____, being a Member of the above named League, HEREBY APPOINT _____ of _____ or failing him _____ of _____ as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual (Extraordinary) General Meeting of the League to be held on the _____ day of _____, and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed this _____ day of _____

This form to be used *in favour of/against the Resolution. Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy will vote as he thinks fit.

* Strike out whichever is not desired."

The instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll. A vote given in accordance with the terms of an instrument of proxy shall be valid notwithstanding the previous death or insanity of the principal or revocation of the proxy or of the authority under which the proxy is executed, provided that no intimation in writing of such death, insanity or revocation as aforesaid shall have been received by the League at the office before the commencement of the Meeting or adjourned Meeting at which the proxy is used.

Resolution 3

Clause 16 - Replace as follows:

Clause 16

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall also be called on a requisition signed by not less than one per cent of the members entitled to vote, all of whom should have three years' membership.

CHELMSFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH SHELTER

The above Branch had the use of premises erected on the land belonging to Mr and Mrs Rolfe at Galley Wood, Chelmsford, Essex, as a shelter for cats and kittens taken in by the Branch. In 1979 application to continue the use of the land and premises as a cat shelter was refused by the Chelmsford Borough Council. An appeal was mounted by Headquarters' Solicitors, Messrs Hextall, Erskine and Co, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Rolfe.

The appeal was heard at Chelmsford on 15 October 1980 by Mr N Barclay, FCI Arb, FBIM, FASMC.

Our Counsel was Mr Daniel Robins briefed by Messrs Hextall, Erskine and Co. and I was delighted that a number of members of the Chelmsford Branch, and of the public came forward to give evidence on our behalf. Mr Robins pleaded our case extremely clearly and I am happy that the final decision, as a result of the appeal, was in our favour. Six certain conditions have been made which I trust will be successfully put into effect.

We therefore hope that the Chelmsford Branch will continue to enjoy amenities provided by the shelter on Mr and Mrs Rolfe's ground for many years to come.

I would like to thank most sincerely all those persons who came forward to give evidence on our behalf.

WSHG

NEW GROUPS

Once again we extend a hearty welcome to the latest groups to form. Bromley, Kent has been added to the London periphery, whilst Sedgemoor, Somerset, fills a gap in our coverage in the West country. The names and addresses of the new Group secretaries are on the back of the magazine; they would be delighted to hear from any member who lives locally and who would be willing to help.

FAR AND WIDE BAZAAR

The President's Far and Wide Bazaar held at The Conference Centre, Westminster Cathedral, on 27 September, proved to be a resounding success. Fifteen Branches and Groups all came together and, during the course of a very busy afternoon, boosted their own funds, met and exchanged ideas and generally talked CATS. Without doubt, Shipley and Bloxwich and Pelsall deserve special mention for travelling such long distances to be present, but to all those far flung branches and groups who provided pictures and stories of their cat rescue activities, we must express our gratitude.

FRONT COVER

PUDDY, with his eye on an unsuspecting prey, in the garden of his home in Crowborough, Sussex where he lives with Selwyn Morgan.

GOODS FOR SALE

Re-seal labels 50p per hundred

Slogan labels - advertise the League and give advice on cats 50p per hundred.

Notelets - Packets of 6 with envelopes. Picture of cat on each notelet. 45p.

Key fobs 45p.

Writing pads 40p.

Bookmarks - leatherette 30p

Pens - Gold with cats's head 50p
Blue/Gold 45p
Refills 10p

CPL Logo Badges £1

Pyrethrum Powder 25p

Books:

"Alphabet" by Jacintha Buddicom 50p

"Cats No Less" by Sally Lunn 50p

"A Cat Above the Rest" by Sally Lunn 75p

"A Clowder of Cats" by HC Barnard £1

15p must be added to all items for p and p.

Cocks-Foot grass seed is also available without charge; a donation would be appreciated to cover p and p and instructions.

ALL ITEMS available from:
Headquarters, The Cats Protection League, 20 North Street, Horsham, W.Sussex RH12 1BN.

OBITUARIES

MISS D DURELL

Miss D Durell, late of Burgess Hill, who died a few months ago, worked untiringly for many years for all unwanted and homeless cats and kittens. Her love and compassion for all the unfortunates was a lesson to us all. Her home and cattery was a lovely haven for the hungry and homeless. Miss Durell also spent large sums of money having cats spayed and neutered, also sending cash to many Branches of C.P.L.

I was proud to know such a wonderful lady.

Helen Ede

MISS M CHRISTIE

The Dublin Branch wishes to express its great regret on the death of Miss Maud Christie, who died in hospital of a second stroke. Miss Christie, a founder member of the Branch, was forced to cease her work last year due to ill health. For many decades, she dedicated herself to animal welfare and never failed to respond to any call for aid even under most trying circumstances, a fact which doubtless contributed to her ill health.

One can truthfully say that it will be virtually impossible to find anyone to take her place.

WS Sawyer

On the basis that what the South can do, the North can equal - or do better - the Shipley Group is organising a similar gathering at The Wool Exchange, Bradford, on 25 July 1981. We at Headquarters will be there with a stall; will you come too?

We hope there will be another Far and Wide Bazaar around September time, but more of that later; Mrs de Clifford is looking for a bigger hall!

URGENT MESSAGE

We would like to bring to the attention of all members concerned the desperate need which exists for Groups of the League in many parts of the London area, especially towards the outskirts of London. We wish to mention Richmond, Twickenham, Kingston, Streatham, Maida Vale and Croydon as priority areas.

Would all members who are willing to commence or be part of a CPL Group in these areas (or any where else in the country) please contact the Director.

CPL BADGES

A request was made to Headquarters to order CPL badges depicting the League's logo. These have been obtained and are available at £1 each to members. Branches and groups may order in bulk at cost price.

GREEN SHIELD STAMPS

Although Green Shield stamps are not so freely available these days, a small but steady trickle arrives every week at HQ. As a result another 320 books have been sent in for cash redemption. Readers will be interested to know that funds from this source now exceed £2,500; all this money has gone to provide cat accommodation.

The other modest contribution to the same project - cat combings - has yielded £70. We are grateful to all who have sent in combings; as many of you will know, it takes a lot of cat hair to produce an ounce or two and we can only sell it by the pound. We do not acknowledge contributions of combings as it would leave the Postmaster General as the main beneficiary and it is the cats we are trying to help!

THE MAGAZINE

The names and addresses of members are printed on the envelopes used to distribute the magazine; this is achieved by using individually made metal plates. If, therefore, by some mischance, a mistake occurs on your plate and your address is being produced wrongly, the error will persist until you write to point it out to us. The Membership Secretary will then destroy the faulty plate and make a new one.

Similarly if, for some reason, a plate has been duplicated in the system, you will regularly receive two magazines until you tell us about it. With over 8,000 plates on file, this can happen; we have heard of one such case and have put it right. Please let us know if there are any other cases.

Finally, whilst on this subject, may we appeal to you to help by PRINTING in BLOCK CAPITALS your name and address in all correspondence, especially on membership and renewal forms. So many mistakes are perpetuated merely because we are unable to read some handwriting.

PUTTING THE CAT OUT AT NIGHT

DONT! At their meeting on 4 October 1980 the Council of the CPL suggested that all Branches and Groups should mount a poster campaign in pet shops, veterinary surgeries, libraries, etc urging the public to keep their cats in at night.

We have posters headed "Cat Stealing - Don't Put Your Cat Out At Night" which are available on demand.

Each week we hear of areas where cat stealing is becoming apparent. May I therefore ask all Branches and Groups and individual members of the CPL to avail themselves of this literature in order to encourage the public to keep their cats in at night.

W.S.H. Garforth
H.E. Boothby

A WAY OF LIFE

"I'd love to do your job if my health was better," said the lady in Newport when I called to collect four kittens which had been dumped in her back garden. "Get well soon," I said - I really meant it.

When we started the Gwent Group 18 months ago, I knew in theory what I was in for. I'd been a member for 20 years and always had my own gang of cats; it turned out like putting into practice a theory from a text book; things don't always go quite how you expect. We started with a meeting in February 1979 - one of the few nights that winter when it was possible to drive down the road. Ten people and lots of enthusiasm. Only four of those originals now remain active members, but half a dozen others have come in. Ten good women - but how we could do with more!

As the year went on, I found the CPL not so much an activity - more a way of life. I also have a full-time job and am a mum, but the cats really take over. The week gone by is, I suppose, fairly typical:

Sunday: collect jumble from the estate - notices previously delivered - some nice people, most indifferent, two rudely abusive.

Monday: take newcomer to vets for check.

Tuesday: midnight and my expectant mum goes into labour. Two boys and a girl.

Wednesday: go to pick up stray kitten. When I get there it has already been homed.

Thursday: Worried about the new mother. To the vets - waited 1½ hours in the waiting room; glad I brought the kittens too.

Friday: Caller enquires re kittens and visits. My lot don't suit him; he really wants a red Persian - for free, of course!

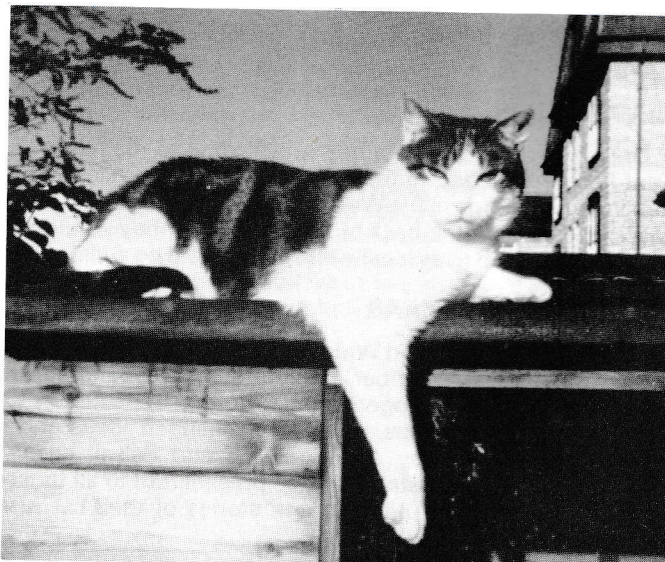
Saturday: Two kittens well homed - hooray!

Sunday: Write this.

And, of course, every day feed cats, change and clean litter trays, spend as much time as I can stroking and petting each cat, answer numerous phone calls and worry about the adults who have been with us too long.

The house has shrunk. We live in the kitchen and two bedrooms. There's a brown tabby in the study, a tortie with the last of her 5 kittens in the bathroom, the new mum and family in the upstairs loo, two kittens, each one last of a litter in the lounge and a half-grown ginger boy in the utility room. Every time we open the door at least one cat bursts out. They get fed up with captivity and who can blame them? I tell them it won't be for long - and hope. I also hope that, one day, someone who can will say, "Let me". Until then, I intend to go on. Is there any choice?

A Spencer



Dinkie turned up in Mrs Bart's garden in Weston-Super-Mare, looking thin and frightened. Here he is today, plump sleek and very contented.

BRANCH NEWS

COPY DATES

Just to remind you of copy dates this year.

March/April 1981 issue	23 January
May/June 1981	24 March
July/August 1981	22 May
September/October 1981	24 July
November/December 1981	23 September

Branch and Group Secretaries - please remember to keep your news items to 200 words.

Birmingham Branch

I hope a happy Christmas was had by all and the cat problems were conspicuous by their absence.

Our shop is open at last. The rooms above the shop are to be used as an office and at long last we will have an official address in Birmingham. Now we want as many goods as can be crammed into the place. More goods, more customers, more money, more neutering, fewer kittens, that's the theory anyway. If you would like to help in any way, please do come along and meet us. A variety of jobs are offered, serving customers, marking up, office work, hours to suit, as few or as many as you can spare.

The full postal address is:- 1555 Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham, B30 2JH. Please send all correspondence there.

The 'Oxford Gingers' have very kindly remembered their less fortunate brothers, Thank you very much.

May I take this opportunity to thanking those people who took on my work when I was in hospital and for a period afterwards.

Audrey Poole

Bradford and Bingley Group

Happy New Year to all fellow groups, supporters and friends. At the time of writing, we are preparing for our Christmas Fayre, a Coffee Evening and a Jumble Sale. We would like to thank everyone who has sent donations and gifts for our stalls. Our Mock Auction raised £183 which was marvellous; it started at 7.30 pm and finished at 9.30 pm! We held it here, at my house, we had handicraft and gift stalls, a cake stall, tombola and a raffle, refreshments - then we auctioned all our decent bric-a-brac. Other groups might like to try the idea.

I would like to say a special thank you to our friend, supporter and helper from Barnsley, Miss Pauline Summers. Pauline says if anyone in her area would collect bric-a-brac, jumble, unwanted gifts, empty jars etc, she would be very grateful and would collect them. She can be contacted at 95A Standhill Crescent, New Lodge, Barnsley - Tel. Barnsley 44756. Friends in the Bradford area can contact me on Bradford 492470. We need goods and helpers to make 1981 a prosperous and successful year for the cats.

Susan Key

Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath Group

Our recent silence is not an indication that we have folded up, but rather a sign that our resources, especially time and help have been so stretched, that we have been unable to chart our progress in 'The Cat'.

I am sure all other branches will agree that this year was a bumper year for unwanted cats and kittens. We have found that the feral colonies are popping up more regularly and require constant attention. There seems to be an increase in strays and finding out if the female ones have been spayed is becoming a nightmare, as we are reluctant to submit them to a second operation if they have already had one!

On the fund raising front, we had a successful coffee morning in the summer, raising over £80, and a very recent

Xmas Bazaar, which made a profit of over £90. The New Year will see us selling coffee and cakes at the Martletts, Burgess Hill on 10 January and a book party will follow on 12 February. After two years of haphazard meetings, we now hold regular ones on the second Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come and put forward their ideas, criticisms and comments.

Those local members who remember Miss Durrel, will have been saddened by her death. For many, many years she was one of the leading lights concerning cat welfare in our area.

Looking back over the year, it has proved more successful than our first one: all due to the encouragement and help of our members. We hope and expect that the next year will be even more successful and will probably be even more demanding.

Irene Campbell

Burton-on-Trent Group

I am pleased to report that this group is in a much happier position than at the beginning of the year, thanks to a small but devoted band of workers. Of course, we cannot sit back - the work of fund raising must continue to feed and pay for veterinary care for our growing number of cats and kittens. Our secretary has done an excellent job throughout the year in homing.

We have had a number of successful events: an Autumn Fair at Swadlincote organised by Jill Wright and her mother, raised the excellent amount of over £300 - thanks Jill and Mum!

Mary and John Smith held a Coffee Evening at Appleby Magna in October, Joan Freer held a Coffee Morning in November as did another of our members, Mrs Brewin - thanks to you all. Our sponsored Knit raised over £300.

Thanks to all those members who have so willingly given tombola prizes, made cakes and given items for sales - we couldn't do without any of you - and a particular mention to that tireless worker Mrs Gadsby who never fails us.

We do find that Coffee Evenings are a useful way of raising money and we would be grateful to any member who would have one in her home.

As we now look forward optimistically to the coming year, we wish all other branches and their waifs a prosperous New Year.

Hazel Coates

Bury, Bolton Group

19 November, 1980. We are all madly busy for the Christmas Fayre. Arrangements have been made to borrow the Father Christmas outfit and all the presents for him to hand out are being wrapped. The steak pies are organised and 6 of us are cooking 1lb of peas each. One very dear member, although having been very poorly, is still making home made beef paste for the bread fingers. 100 tombola prizes just need numbering. Please God send in droves of people to buy our goods to help more cats and kittens.

Up to date this year 260 cats and kittens have been homed and I feel this newsletter should be used to thank all who have made it possible. My thanks personally go to our group members who have turned out as many as three times in one month for fund raising events. Sincere thanks to our foster Mums, Dorothy & Edna at the Cattery, Mr. P. Nutt, our Vet and Mrs. Nutt (we do notice that all treatments do not appear on our bill), our local R.S.P.C.A. Inspector, Mr. Oxley who has been a great help and all members in the area and all over the country who have supplied goods and sent donations. A very happy New Year to you all. Through your help all these cats can also hope for a happy New Year.

Evelyn Wroe.

Chelmsford and District Branch

For the first time ever - I think - this report starts with good news. The Planning Appeal was successful! You will remember our despair when permission was refused for our Shelter 'Willow Grove', and for the past many months we have continued without permission, very, very worried about the future of the Branch and, of course, the five or six hundred cats which we home each year. Now those worries are behind us. The Hearing of the Planning Appeals was at Chelmsford Civic Centre on 15 October, and on 5 November the Inspector for the Department of the Environment, who heard all our and Chelmsford Borough Council's evidence, sent his report - 12 pages. Out of all the very interesting reading, just one paragraph delighted us:-

"SUMMARY OF DECISION

The enforcement notice is being quashed. Your clients' Section 36 appeals are being allowed and, subject to restricting conditions, planning permission will be granted."

So here we are, looking to the future with some optimism. The "conditions" will inevitably mean a great deal of further expenditure to provide better car-parking facilities, maintenance of the shared drive-way, refurbishing of the actual cat shelters and the erection of the much needed four Isolation Units. In addition to this we will be required to remove all refuse from Willow Grove in plastic sacks - more expense. However, we can face these problems in good heart as at last we find ourselves with some security of tenure whilst we keep the level of our "lodgers" below 50 cats.

I am sorry that I am so very behind with letters of thanks, but we all send our very grateful thanks to you for your continued support throughout. We are also indebted to CPL headquarters for mounting the Appeal for us and Dorothy and Wally Rolfe, the Committee and I would like to thank the good friends who testified at the Hearing, who wrote letters of support for the Cat Shelter, and who altogether wished us well. Between us we made a very good job of it. A very Happy New Year to you all.

Christine Peterson

Coventry Branch

Two stories with happy endings!

Trapped recently by us at a local hospital was a white longhaired cat - only we didn't realise he was white! Although alive with fleas, he soon became a really gorgeous young cat, not a bit wild but very frightened. He developed an enormous abscess, doubtless the result of a bite while living wild. He has been placed in a particularly understanding home where, in spite of constant bathing of the wound, he has demonstrated what a lovely temperament he has.

Sandy was first seen in May, thin and wailing with hunger, chased by sundry dogs and cats, and drinking from a goldfish pond. One of our committee fed him and recently put an advertisement in the local paper. To her amazement, Sandy was immediately reunited with his owner! A relative had been looking after him but he got lost last New Year's Day; his adventure had lasted 10 months! During that time, the other cat at his house refused to sit on Sandy's chair!

A recent anonymous donation read, "God bless the CPL" and we can only echo those words in our wishes to you all for a Happy New Year.

East Sussex Branch

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of our President and longest serving member, Mrs Elizabeth Bennett. She will, after giving us so many of her years, be greatly missed. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new President, Mrs C Lickley, who also has served the CPL for many years and we hope she will be very happy in this position.

Our Treasurer, Mr R A S Grist, is resigning the post after 10 years in office and will be replaced by Miss Emms of 53 Ashburnham Road, Hastings.

We manned a stall at Mrs de Clifford's Sale in London and held our Christmas Bazaar, attended by the Mayor; we were

disappointed in our takings, down on last year, but we put the poor turnout down to the weather and the economic recession and hope 1981 will see a better year for everyone, especially our cats.

Please continue to support us as you have done in the past; without our members contributions, we cannot efficiently care for all the poor cats and kittens that are thrust upon us by their irresponsible and heartless owners that move about in society wearing the guise of civilised human beings!

A Happy New Year to you all.

E Salmon

Edinburgh Branch

Our Annual Bazaar was a surprisingly satisfactory event and realised the splendid total of £1,500. Some late donations are still arriving and I think we can be safe in adding a likely £100 when these have all been accounted. The Committee, with friends lending willing assistance, gathered and sold an amazing variety of goods. Mrs Hill does a back-breaking job every year in collecting hundreds of books for re-sale and brings in a very tidy sum every time.

I have had very little response from vets in the city to my letter suggesting a tattoo on the inside of female cats' ears after spaying. One vet did reply and was very interested and sympathetic and hopes to raise the question at professional level soon.

We are having the usual problem with regard to homing cats; far more are requiring entry to the Shelter than go to new homes. The cost of feeding and, of course, vets' fees are inhibiting factors in the pet-keeping world. Our own expenses are soaring but, with the generous help of members and one or two recent legacies, we are still hopeful of building but, in the present economic state, it would be better to hold back for a while.

Margaret A McGechen

Eltham/Sidcup Group

A Happy New Year, Everyone! Yes let's say it and mean it, even if last year was our most difficult yet, with the economic situation and its repercussions on our work (dearer food and vet bills, more cats than ever booted out and left unneutered, more unwanted kittens, fewer homes able to afford a pet...). Let's resolve to beat these problems. This quieter time of year, before the kitten flood, can be a time for strategy. Can we put out more spaying propaganda? Recruit more helpers? Improve our advertising? Think up more fund-raising ideas? All give a bit more in time or money? 1981 CAN be a very happy and successful year!

Some encouragement - at our 2nd Birthday/AGM, Chairman Miss Bristow reported good progress, with more helpers and members. Mrs Dawson's treasury figures were astronomical, but she appreciated all funds raised (thanks also to the anonymous giver of 2 antique hairbrushes at Westminster) and we are all delighted that the Bromley Group is at last official. Good luck to our neighbours there.

Sat. 17 January Bazaar, Memorial Hall, Petts Wood. 2.30 pm

Tues. 27 January Member's Coffee Evening, 36 Parkview Road, New Eltham. 8 pm

Sat. 21 February Bazaar, St Luke's, Westmount Road, Eltham. 2 pm

Glasgow Branch

Miaow! Purr!!! Oh boy! Here comes one of the ladies, you know, the ones that FEED us. Yummy! But, wait a minute, what's this? a pill? She says I have to get over my snuffles before I can join my pals in the free aea; funny, when we all had to put up with the indignity of a 'flu injection. My next door neighbour, Matthew thinks he's the bees knees since he got his picture taken for the Far and Wide Bazaar - he enjoys being famous!

Our ladies are having a Coffee Morning next week - maybe we could arrange our own and have cream cakes without the cakes and chicken sandwiches without the bread. Yes, what a good idea! They're having a disco too, but then we have one

every Saturday night and they don't know anything about it, so shh! don't tell. I think I'll snuggle down now on my lovely cosy heated pad and have a nice doze...zzzz.. and dream...

What a lovely new home: here's my basket lined with mouse fur and my own special fishing pond, stocked with goldfish. Prrr! here comes my devoted mistress with my favourite snack - baby voles dipped in cream. Think I'll go for a stroll in the garden and have a nibble at my catmint patch and maybe climb my own tree - sigh! Ah well, a cat can always dream!!

Mittens

North Leeds Group

We look back on a year of steady growth and modest success - and a lot of hard work! Success, because we didn't have a single animal put to sleep but managed to home over 140 cats and kittens, even the most difficult ones.... except Fanchette and Sido!

Fanchette and Sido are inseparable, 5 year old spayed females and we've been trying to find a home for them together since last Easter. Their loving but neglectful owner went off to Amsterdam, having left the difficult job of home-finding until the last minute. They were a sorry pair; Sido (tabby and white) had severe eczema and Fanchette (black and white) had two loose, protruding front teeth, giving her a vampire-like appearance - she has since developed hay fever-like symptoms. Both have improved a lot and are pretty and playful but will probably need veterinary treatment for the rest of their lives. They also need someone crazy enough to give them a proper home. Is anyone crazy reading this? The next best thing would be if someone would sponsor them - please get in touch if you would like to help.

Many thanks to all our group members and to other groups and branches and Headquarters for their help and encouragement.

Pam Hunter
Rita Boulmer



BEAUTY was totally wild, living in gardens, and was going to be taken away and put to sleep because the local residents were complaining. We couldn't let this happen to him so we took him on, but after three months he still wasn't tame and therefore wouldn't make a pet, but he lives happily in the home of one of our members where he brings joy because of his beauty and his antics, but he won't let anyone touch him. His two brothers were less wild and were homed together and have made good pets.

North Leeds Group

North London Branch

We wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year and thank you for all your help during 1980.

We write this during the middle of November. There is more breathing space at the Shelter at the present time, the breeding season being over. No kittens arrive, although older cats arrive regularly. These come to us in all sorts of ways.

Our Branch Secretary was exercising her dog over Hampstead Heath when she heard the cries of a cat coming from a tall tree. From enquiries of passers by, she learnt that the cat had been in the tree for three days and that no action had been taken to free it. Fortunately there was a building site nearby from which a long ladder was borrowed and with the aid of it and two Greek gentlemen, the black and white female cat was rescued. Notices in the locality did not bring forward the owner and the cat has now gone to a good home where it has settled in well.

During November and December we shall have held two Bazaars and shall then have a break until our next Jumble Sale on the 21 March 1981, to be held at the Hall of the Church of England School in Islip Street, London, N.W.5.

The London Joint Animal flag day is held during April. The more collecting tins being rattled on the streets, the more money we shall take. Will you collect for us this year?

M Davies

Nottingham Branch

We have had some extremely successful fund-raising events this Autumn. The Autumn Bazaar organised by Wynne Coates and Muriel Thompson raised £310. The dance at Ilkeston held by Rene Shinwell raised £63 and two jumble sales were held in October and November - at Forest Town Jill Gascoigne's "Jumble" realised over £60 and the "Jumble Suprême" organised by Paddy Armstrong and Jean Rudge made over £80. Many thanks to all these hard-working ladies and their helpers.

We are hoping that the Prize Draw to be held in December will raise a good sum and we are hoping to get started on plans for fund-raising in 1981. Ideas for events and offers to organise functions are now needed and we are confident that Nottingham group members will respond.

Welfare work is going well - over the September/October period, Margaret Ives successfully homed 126 cats and Wendy Skinner 5. At the same time the expansion of welfare work outstrips the capacity to cope of our hard-pressed welfare officers and accordingly we are appealing for more members to come forward with offers of short-term foster homes.

Altogether, 1980 has been a successful year for us and we are confident that 1981 will be even better.

Happy New Year to everyone.

Kate Betts
Ann Olivier

Sedgemoor District Group

Since the formation of this Group in Somerset on 1 October 1980, we have held two coffee mornings with Bring & Buy stalls and C.P.L. goods for sale, which together with donations, private sales and collecting boxes have netted £115.

We have helped 8 cats and kittens, and referred two cases of wild families to the local R.S.P.C.A. inspector. One kitten found straying on the dual carriageway near Street was reclaimed a week later by its grateful owners. They had quite given up hope of finding it, and were visiting a local petshop in search of a replacement, when they saw our card in the petshop window saying that this distinctively marked kitten had been found - and it was their Mitzi.

Sootie was our first patient, found badly injured by his own collar, the buckle and elastic of which had almost severed his left foreleg. His story should be a lesson to all cat owners to keep a check on their cats' collars. Sootie was brought to our Co-ordinator on 23 August, nursed by her and, as he was never claimed, has now made his home there, and has changed from the skinny black cat he was to a large 'purrfect'

black panther.

We would be glad to hear from any C.P.L. members living in the Somerton or Street areas, or even further afield, if they are able to help in any way. Please telephone Somerton 72185 (Co-ordinator) or Somerton 72955 (Chairman).

Margaret Bezzant

Shepherds Bush Group

We have been inundated with calls from all over London about feral cats from cat lovers feeding cats and in urgent need of help which we are unable to give. We can only deal with fairly local single cats - and even these on a long waiting list - so one single home for an adult cat means that the next one can come in from the cold. Even if we had people willing to trap and catch feral cats, there is still nowhere to put them. We are working all hours but we still have to eat, sleep and fund raise.

Our belated but sincere thanks to Mrs de Clifford for organising such a delightful Bazaar last September. We did very well on our stall and met many very nice people from other Groups and Branches.

Now to tell you of Mason and Dixie, two kittens we homed when our group first started. Mason, three weeks old, was screaming his head off on an allotment and Dixie, six weeks old was abandoned in my husband's office. We found them a very good home, together, with Chris and Liz, a young couple. Much later, we received a letter from Liz in Australia, telling us that, after much planning and expense, Dixie and Mason had been flown to Australia. There were hold ups with quarantine, but now Chris, Liz, Dixie and Mason are all together again and enjoying life many miles away. In these days, when we have so many excuses why people can't keep their cats, such a success story makes it all worth while.

Patricia Mukhoty

Shipleigh Group

In the rush of preparing for our visit to the CPL Fair at Westminster Conference Centre, I missed the deadline for the last issue; I have now made prominent notes in my diary and hope not to miss another one.

Our visit to London was quite profitable £123 and very informative; we learned a few tips which should help when we hold our Grand Summer Fair in Bradford next July. Susan Key and the Bradford and Bingley Group helped to provide items for our stall and the Summer Fair will also be a joint venture.

Recent fund-raising events have included: stalls at Shipleigh Green (£62), Jumble Sale (£131) and Sales and Handicrafts (£72); in the pipeline, a stall at Bradford and Bingley Group's Christmas Fair and our own Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning.

Last, but not least, the CATS. We took in three semi-wild kittens, two grey tabby and white are now homed and happily domesticated. Their black brother, who took longer to catch, is slowly responding to human kindness. We also have a large, soppo, neutered tom called Bagpuss who wants a home, as well as several kittens of various ages. This month we have lashed out some of our sparse funds on neutering about a dozen cats for owners whose funds are even sparser than ours. It's only a drop in the ocean, but it's better than nothing.

C.A.C.P.

South London Committee

This year we are holding some special OPPORTUNITY SALES on 17 January, 14 February, 7 March and 11 April. All at:

St Mary Abbots Church Hall, Vicarage Gate, Kensington W8
All opening at 2 pm DO COME!

ANIMAL FLAG DAY will be 4 April and we need helpers. Boxes will be ready at the Opportunity Sale on 7 March. PLEASE HELP. Our DOUBLES and TREBLES Sponsor has extended his offer until 31 March - please, remember this.

The Josephine Fryer Sanctuary is established from 1

December 1980. We shall have our formal Opening Day in the spring, when all friends will be invited; meanwhile, please send help if you can for 31 deserving, dear little cats (and one feline demon) who rely on you. The demon would like extra treats; so would a pathetic little creature "Cuddles", who is still rather scared and needs special help.

Nerea de Clifford

Ulster Branch

Thank you, splendid friends of Ulster Branch.

There is no other way to begin these notes, for without your generous rallying-round, Belfast would soon have found itself without a CPL Shelter. I have written personally to those who identified themselves, but to others - some of them it would seem happy, contented moggies who wanted to snare their good fortune - we send our gratitude through this column.

Revitalised by your support, we can now continue with the never-ending job at hand. One of our most modest and courageous 'unsung heroes' is Mr. McFadden who, regardless of the special dangers which face a stranger in the trigger-happy twilight ghetto areas of Belfast, spends countless hours rescuing cats which all too often become living targets. It is pitiful to see with what terror some of these poor creatures react to sharp noises, but immensely rewarding to watch them relax and regain the proud, puckish arrogance which is a cat's natural brithright.

A lucky few have been adopted at long range by kind 'Fairy Godmothers', others hopefully will soon grace local fireside rugs, but all are assured of a future far removed from the hopeless misery which was their undeserved lot before they became our welcome guests.

Thank you for their happy New Year.

Lorna Gulston

From a reader in Kent: "we should all lobby our MPs for VAT to be taken off cat food. Animal food stuffs are supposed to be exempt from VAT and, in a recent case where villagers wanted to stop manufacturers' lorries spoiling their village, the answer was that planning permission was not necessary because cat food was "animal feeding stuff". They seem to want it both ways!"

Answers to Letters

In the September/October 1980 issue of "The Cat", Mrs Reuse White posed the problem of her young female tabby who constantly scratched her ears. Many helpful replies have been received - and are still coming in - from as far away as the Shetlands, Canada and Australia; there has been some conflicting advice of course, but all seem agreed that ear drops and cotton buds only aggravated the problem.

The general consensus of opinion, when ear mites can be ruled out, seems to be:

1. a hormone deficiency, corrected by OVARIN. (Mrs Reuse White is particularly grateful for this advice upon which she acted without delay and wishes to thank Mrs Clifford who phoned her from Hertfordshire - it did stop the scratching!)
2. Some form of dermatitis caused by the rays of the sun.
3. A blow to the head or jaw causing derangement of the balance at the back of the ear, giving rise to inflammation and disturbance of the auditory nerves.

It is interesting that all the cats exhibiting the symptoms shared the same characteristics - they were all females, white or almost so, with delicate pink and white ears and most had, at some time, suffered an injury to the jaw or the head. Many thanks to all who responded to this appeal for help and also to Mrs Reuse White for sharing the advice given with our readers, many of whom must have similar problems.

Letters to the Editor

Walnut Cottage
Bricklehampton
Pershore

Springcroft
Long Lane
Fradley
Nr Lichfield

Sir,

I am worried that in your "Hints on Cat Care" on the back of the CPL 1980 Calendar, spaying of female kittens is recommended after only 4 months old.

Since long before I joined CPL, I have studied cat care and campaigned for sterilisation. I have consulted many vets and find that the consensus of opinion is that females should be spayed after about 6 months, to give them time to mature. A good guide is to wait until their second teeth are through. The exception to this is if a kitten gets pregnant under this age (as they can do sometimes), when it can be spayed in the early stages of pregnancy, as I am sure many of your members know.

I was shocked recently when a friend told me she thought a cat should be allowed to have at least one litter. Considering the tragic plight of so many unwanted cats, to allow one's pets to breed is a real crime against the feline race and completely ignores the object of CPL to promote sterilisation.

Margaret Rohland

Kimberley
46 Woodhall Road
Calverley
Pudsey LS28 5PP

Sir,

If any members are at a loss what to do with used Christmas cards once Christmas is over, I would be glad to receive them.

I use them to make gift tags which I will send to various branch organisers to sell at bazaars next Christmas

Jillian Avis

1822 Harvard Place
Victoria BC U8N SP6
Canada

Sir,

My husband and I emigrated to Canada in July 1979; my one condition on leaving England was that our two cats should join us as soon as possible. We wondered if the ordeal of such a long journey would be too much for them, but they soon settled down and became used to their new surroundings, mapping out their territory. Now, after a year in their new country, they are as happy and contented as they were in England.

The point of my letter is to encourage other people contemplating emigration to take their pets with them. It does cost a lot of money but, coming from England, they do not have to go into quarantine, and we consider our money well spent.

Mary Files



Mungo and Matou Files

Sir,

A couple of years ago a stray, white and tabby tomcat moved in with us and, until recently, was a magnificent animal. Suddenly, he went into a decline, with sore ears and streaming eyes, sneezing, loss of appetite and ghastly coat which became more and more matted. He became evil tempered and nervous.

The vet said he was probably an old animal, possibly suffering from some sort of virus; he gave me some tablets and that was that. I tried Boysie with the tablets which made him vomit and sleep so, after one day, stopped giving them. As I am keen on whole foods and vitamins etc, I decided to apply my rules governing health to my cat and started to give him one capsule of cod liver oil per day and one vitamin B complete capsule per day.

That was some five weeks ago - Boysie is now fit, has put back his weight, lost his sore eyes, ears, coughs and sneezes. He is his old self again and he is thriving.

I would suggest that, if a cat does not respond to conventional treatment, perhaps vitamin supplements may do the trick.

Rita Cox

28 Cheapside East
Rayleigh
Essex

Sir,

Recently, we were faced with a problem of access for our three cats, as our kitchen has been modernised and we have done away with the old back door which contained a cat-flap and have had patio doors installed.

My husband said we would have a cat tunnel made through one of the walls. He had a metal box made up the same size as the cat-flap and about 12 ins long. A hole was knocked in the inner and outer walls and the box inserted and concreted into place, with the cat-flap fixed on the outside wall.

We then waited to see how the cats would react to this innovation. We didn't have to wait long; within minutes Sam and Cherie, our two ginger cats who came from the CPL Shelter, Catkins, soon got the idea and were in and out as quick as lightning; even 12 year old Mickey, who does not take kindly to new things, soon caught on. In fact I think they all preferred it to the door type. We have stuck carpeting on the floors of the tunnel to stop the cats slipping when coming in with wet paws and have also installed a sliding door inside which can be shut if we wish to keep the cats in.

Other people faced with a similar problem might like to know how we overcame ours.

DW Skinner

26 Boileau Road
Ealing W5

Sir,

About a year ago, a stray black and white male cat appeared in the garden and he has been fed regularly ever since, although he may disappear for days on end. It would appear that he is neutered as all our local neutered cats (including ours) accept him. A weatherproof house has been provided for him under a tree in which he sleeps. However, no nearer contact can be made - Twisty knows his name and comes when called only to hide until the food is left.

Are there any suggestions for trying to tame him? What can be done if he is found to be ill.

Denys J Bedbrook

COMPETITIONS FOR ALL

YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

Prizes:	Under 11	Over 11
First	Caroline Smith of Dudley (aged 7)	Jonathan Gilburd of Birmingham (aged 13)
Second	Claudine Kinnin of Brentwood (aged 10)	Edward Barton of Bristol (aged 12)
Third	Juliet Keable of Warley Junior School (aged 8)	

Congratulations to the children who entered our Young Artists Competition and submitted some delightful paintings and drawings depicting "Needy Cats at Christmas"; unfortunately, there were only two entries in the "over 11" group, but these were worthy winners. Gift vouchers have been sent to the winners and their entries have been on display in the window of HQ at 20 North Street, Horsham.

Now for Competition No.7, a Literary Quiz for Cat Lovers, compiled for us by Mr Walter Parker of Minehead; we are most grateful to him and know you will enjoy meeting this selection of cats from literature.

LITERARY QUIZ FOR CAT LOVERS

Do you know these literary cats?

These quotations all concern cats. But one word has been left out of each. Can you fill in the missing words?

1. She watches him, as a cat would watch a (Swift)
2. When I observed he was a fine cat, saying, 'why yea, Sir, but I have had cats whom I liked better than this'; and then as if perceiving Hodge to be out of, adding, 'but he is a very fine cat indeed'. (Dr Johnson)
3. I will be deafer than the blue-eyed cat,
And thrice as blind as any noon-tide owl,
To holy in their ecstasies,
Henceforward. (Tennyson)
4. Far in the a cat
Languishes loudly. (Henley)
5. But thousands die, without or this or that,
Die, and endow a, or a cat. (Pope)
6. Cruel, but composed and bland,
Dumb, and grand,
So Tiberius might have sat,
Had Tiberius been a cat. (Arnold)



7. I am the batsman and the bat,
I am the bowler and the ball,
The umpire, the cat,
The roller, pitch, and stumps, and all. (Andrew Lang)
8. I'm not one o' those as can see the cat i' the, an'
wonder what she's come after. (George Eliot)
9. In Hans' old Mill his three black cats
Watch the bins for the thieving rats.
..... and claw, they crouch in the night,
Their five eyes smouldering green and bright:
Jekkel, and Jessup, and one-eyed Jill. (Walter de la Mare)
10. Cats may have their goose
Cooked by tobacco-juice;
Still why deny its use
Thoughtfully taken?
We're not as are:
Smith, take a fresh cigar!
Jones, the tobacco-jar!
Here's to thee, Bacon! (Charles Stuart Calverley)
11. You have got the impression that contemporary physics
is based on concepts somewhat analogous to the of
the absent cat. (Einstein)
12. But life and death
Is cat and dog in this of a world. (Christopher Fry)
13. The with a kitten is
That
Eventually it becomes a
CAT. (V S Naipaul)
14. It was one of those cold, clammy, accusing sort of eyes -
the kind that makes you reach up to see if your tie is
straight: and he looked at me as if I were some sort of
unnecessary which Cuthbert the Cat had brought in
after a ramble among the local ash-cans.
(P.G. Wodehouse)
15. We were discussing the possibility of making one of our
cats Pope, recently, and we decided that the fact that she
was not, and was female, made the third point, that
she was a cat, quite irrelevant. (Katherine Whitehorn)

To help you, here is a list of the missing words, in alphabetical order: College, Countenance, Dairy, Double-bed, Inscrutable, Italian, Mouse, Pavilion, Product, Smile, Stillness, Tabbies, Trouble, Virgins, Whisker.

All you have to do is to list the correct words in numerical order on a sheet of paper - not forgetting your name and address.

Send your list, together with the entry donation of 25p to The Cats Protection League, Literary Competition, Alder Carr, Colby Corner, Colby, Norwich NR11. 7EB to arrive by 28 February 1981.

Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Cats Protection League.

The first correct entry opened after the closing date will win the Boots Gift Voucher valued £5. Vouchers of £3 & £2 will be awarded to 2nd and 3rd placed entries. All Gift Vouchers have been kindly donated by Boots Limited.

From a reader in Kent:

"We should all lobby our MPs for VAT to be taken off cat food. Animal food stuffs are supposed to be exempt from VAT and, in a recent case where villagers wanted to stop manufacturers' lorries spoiling their village, the answer was that planning permission was not necessary because cat food "was animal feeding stuff". They seem to want it both ways".

Delilah on the window ledge during a snowstorm - she was used to snow when she lived with Patrick Roberts in Switzerland.

All About Cats

EXTRA FOOD FOR NEEDY CATS

A suggestion from a reader in Harpenden - get the local pet shop to set aside a large box with a prominent notice asking customers to contribute a tin or packet of cat food for the local branch/group shelter. Many people who would otherwise not donate, would buy an extra tin or two when purchasing for their family cat.

(Editor's Note: We know of several groups and branches who have been doing this most successfully; it seems to be an excellent way of helping with the ever-increasing cost of food).

THE EGG STEALER

Gipsy, found in a ditch as a kitten, enchanted us so much with his endearing ways, his thin body, tiny face and ears like radar antennae, that we could not bear to part with him. Yesterday, he climbed to the very top of a Christmas tree planted after the festive season over 20 years ago and now as high, if not higher than our house. We saw him balance along one of the top branches; shortly afterwards, he came down the tree with a pigeon's egg in his mouth. The egg was not damaged in any way but there was no way we could return it to the nest! The fire brigade would turn out to rescue a cat in a tree, but we could scarcely persuade them to put a pigeon's egg back. We have had a very difficult time restraining him from doing it again, advancing his supper time and hoping that a large plateful of his favourite ox liver would content him, and attaching the hose as a last resort if it didn't..

J Geary

RAINING "CATS AND DOGS"

Mr Brooks of Canterbury was very interested in Carol Pontin's Catastrophe (November/December 1980 issue) and adds the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs". Mr Brook's son who is a bank manager in Shanghai is often questioned by his Chinese staff on the things we say, and this is one of the sayings which puzzles them. Searches through dictionaries adds the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs". Mr Brook's son not produced an explanation but Mr Brooks is sure that someone in CPL will know the answer. Well, do you?

OLIVE OIL AND GROUND ALMONDS ON THE MENU

From Miss Rennie of Cinderford, Glos., we have the interesting suggestion that some cats find ground almonds in olive oil an acceptable substitute for milk. Furthermore, Miss Rennie, goes on to assure us that it is not as expensive as we might think.

Comparing the fat content, 11p worth of milk contains 13g fat (depending on the time of year, of course); 11p worth of olive oil contains about 25g and 11p worth of ground almonds, 15.2 g. Miss Rennie quotes these figures from the Manual of Nutrition published by HMSO. Unlike milk, ground almonds in olive oil does not go "off" become rancid or solid and it does provide both fat and protein requirements. The cats have boiled water to slake their thirsts.

CHANGING HOMES

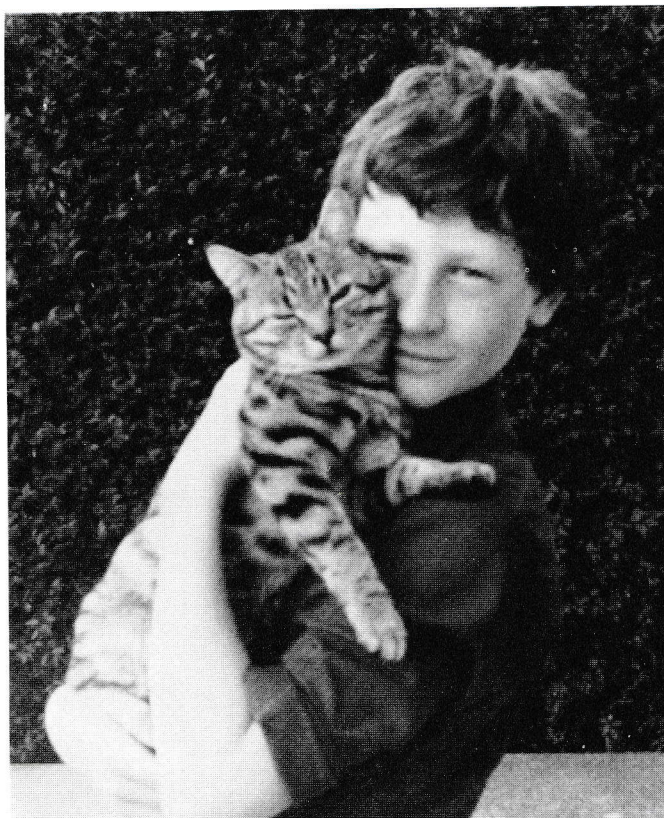
Someone, somewhere, in Sussex, must surely be grieving over the disappearance of their black male cat (about 1 yr. old says vet). End of May he was found on garage premises in a poor state and invited himself into a young couple's car, who had their own cat with them. Unfortunately they were not allowed to keep a second cat at their flat, so a home was to be found. After being too adventuresome, coming to grief with a vehicle and a short spell at the Veterinary surgery, he has a home with us (in Hampshire) and is now making a good recovery.

Tall on his legs, a long tail and faint white necklace - he is so very affectionate, talks and 'chirrup's'. Full of mischief and loves having attention. Whoever his owners were taught him to 'beg' so attractively for his food.

He seems to have accepted his new home and owners, hardly ever out of our sight, we even took him with us to the country for a week recently, rather than leave him in care.

So often I wonder where did he come from? A family perhaps who were only at home evenings, a young couple at work all day and out evenings - so he tried to find shelter elsewhere and wandered off eventually becoming lost. Or perhaps a doting elderly person whom he used to cuddle up to for company and comfort...? One will never know yet I should like to think that someone, somewhere, who is missing their little pet may come to learn he is comfortable and safe and happy in his new home. We would not part with him.

SB



Sammy was only 3 weeks old when he was abandoned in a barn and rescued by CPL. He found a loving home with Bruce Truscott, one of our young members who lives at Bridport and now Sammy is a sleek and very contented tabby and very grateful to Bruce.

CATS IN CAGES

I am writing with a point which has recently occurred to me as a result of contact with cat breeders and cats rescue people.

I have seen some very beautiful and expensive cat cages and runs, and apparently they are considered desirable and praiseworthy (by humans). To me they look like small zoo cages. Many of us deprecate the placing of animals in zoos (other than in exceptional circumstances, such as breeding from the last existing pairs for subsequent re-introduction to a native habitat). Is it not illogical to say, "Lions should not be caged" and then to put cats into cages? A cat is by nature as free and active as a lion. Are not these cages restricting? For people who see nothing wrong in breeding "to order", I can appreciate the need for keeping the mating pair in a cage during mating; it is the only way to be sure of the parentage. But, cages are used at other times. Is it kind? Is a run of a few feet enough for an animal which normally enjoys leaping over walls, chasing round large areas and, in fact, being free. I have seen cats in runs; they are well fed, they have soft cushions, toys, central heating - the lot. But not freedom. They look like sad little prisoners watching the world through the barbed wire of an internment camp. I came away very troubled.

RH Graham

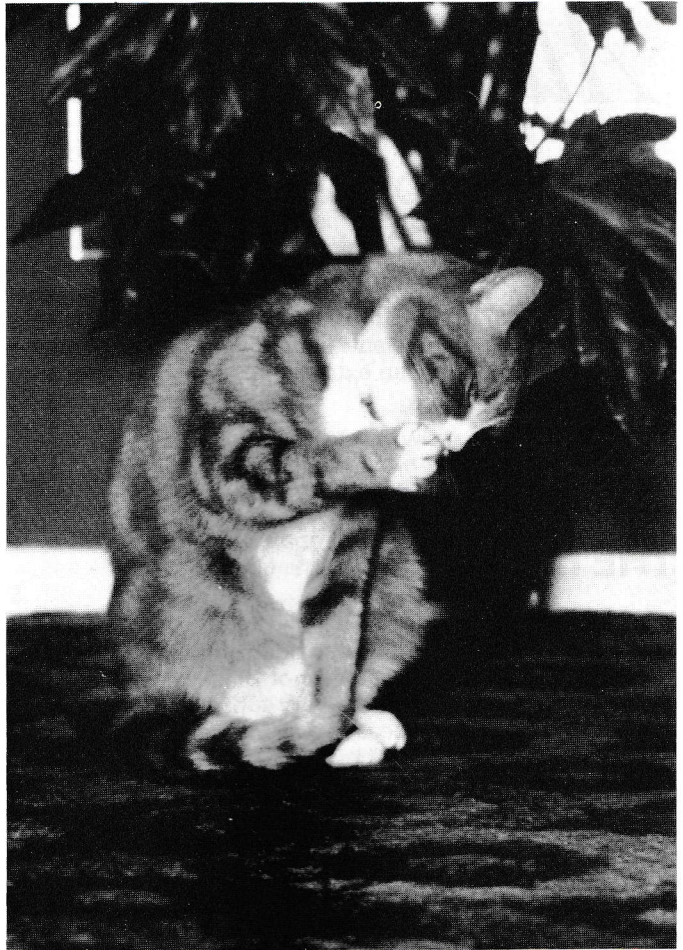
12 YEAR OLD GINGER FACES EVICTION

For 12 years, a beautiful ginger and white neutered tom has been "living" at a shop in the Hampstead area of London. Owners have come and gone and the cat's fortunes have fluctuated accordingly. For the last 4 years, a kindly neighbour has fed Ginger from her meagre savings. Now, the current owners of the shop are off to America in the New Year and Ginger faces eviction. What he really needs is ... a proper HOME. There must be someone who can offer a safe refuge with a garden away from busy roads where Ginger could spend his retirement in the care of a sympathetic human.

If you can help Ginger, please write to Miss Barry, 46 Goldhurst Terrace, Hampstead, London NW6.



Samantha has been totally deaf since birth but is an intelligent, happy and well-adjusted cat and brings great joy to Mrs Mills of Bognor Regis.



Fred lives with Mrs Frawley in Great Yarmouth and spends a lot of time washing himself.

CHAT - CHAT

I chose Chat-Chat from a litter of 5 tortoiseshells born to one of the cats living in the barns of a farm near where I live. She was only a few days old so I had to wait until she was old enough to leave her mother. She had an older step-brother, a neutered ginger tom who was devoted to his mother's latest family; he used to "baby sit" whenever she left them.

One day, when they were about 5 weeks old, the farmer's wife rang to tell me that 2 of the kittens were missing and had been for 4 days. She and her daughter, Caroline, had spent hours searching the barns and surrounding fields but had found no trace of them. Knowing cats uncanny gift for survival, I said I would have one more search.

We searched the barns, the pigsties, two big cornfields and were just about to give up when we caught a glimpse of a ginger face peering at us from the thick hedgerow at the side of the field. "Boots! What are you doing here?", called Caroline, "I've never known him wander so far from home". And then, just behind him, we caught sight of a tiny, furry body - a half-eaten rabbit - and behind that, curled up asleep among the dry leaves like babes-in-the-wood, the two missing kittens! They were not only alive and well but looked plumper and glossier than their sisters.

Leaving Boots looking disconsolate, we carried them back to the farmhouse and, since there was no doubt that my kitten could now eat and lap for herself, I went home to fetch a basket, afraid that Boots would carry her off again... which was exactly what happened in the short time it took me to get back to the farm. However, we now knew the hide-out and soon brought them back again safely.

We can only surmise that Boots had thwarted maternal instincts and longed for a family of his own!

J Brashier

TYPICALLY BRITISH!

We reported recently (September/October 1980 issue) that an American reader found our Small ads and In Memoriam columns "typically British". "Yes, they are," writes Mrs Humphreys from Mentone in Australia, "and thank goodness for that! There is nothing to be ashamed of in loving our animals as we would our human friends, grieving when they pass, and making donations in their memory for the benefit of other animals. But, it would be hopeless to explain this attitude to a non-Britisher - and why, indeed, should we think we need to?"

FROM A COUNTRY COUSIN

Dear Friends,

My name is Newton, so called because I was found abandoned as a kitten at a little village called Wold Newton. Sue and Dave never really wanted a cat, but I am so appealing - ginger with white bib and paws and a tiger-striped tail - that they couldn't refuse.

I came home in the car in a cardboard box and Dave put me in the corner of a stable for the night. I dared not move for there was a large brown and white goat looking at me. Next morning, Dave came to milk the goats and I followed him back to the house where I met the dogs, a Jack Russell called Mandy and a Border Collie called Tari. They wagged their tails and sniffed me all over - it tickled. I was given my breakfast and then I went out to explore.

I love reading about all you town cats; I think you are very brave dealing with cars; we have about ten past our house during the day and only one or two at night and I keep well away.

I never have a litter tray, although when I needed one for a couple of days after my female op at the vets last year, I was given a seed tray with earth in it. It wasn't very good and I was glad to get outside again. I never sleep in the house - can't see what the attraction is. Sometimes I sleep in the hay, especially when a new load has been delivered and it smells sweet; otherwise, I sleep in one of the goat's hayracks which are fixed to the stable wall. I have slept with the ponies but they wander about too much and I keep waking up. Dave found me one day in one of the nesting boxes in the hen house; he wasn't too pleased with me as I was asleep on 5 eggs!

During the day I play in the paddock or run up and down the apple trees in the orchard; the dogs often run under the trees and I jump on top of them and then run away. The other day I jumped on a duck by mistake and I now have an embarrassing scratch on my nose. I often catch mice, voles and baby rats and that is fun, too.

In the afternoons I lie in front of a nice log fire with the dogs and, if we are lucky, we have a bone to chew. I love meaty bones. Sometimes I curl up with Mandy and wash her ears - she has such dirty ears!

It's a nice life; I come and go as I please. Didn't someone once say, "It's a cat's life" or am I mistaken?

Best wishes, town cats,
Newton.

CONTROVERSIAL

I hope that there will be a rush to contradict me, but I have been looking through old records and I have been struck by one fact - the very high percentage of cats we are asked to take because a widow or widower has re-married and the new spouse will not keep the cat.

The wicked step-mother has been relegated to fairy stories - but are we facing the wicked step-owner? And if so, is there anything we could do to protect step-cats, to make them more attractive, or give them a second chance?

Nerea de Clifford

A LETTER TO PUSHKIN

I saw three squirrels today in the park. They ran, bright eyed and bushy tailed, through the daffodils and up a tree. They reminded me of you. When Spring came, you loved the flowers and the damp grass, and I used to have to wash your dear face when you came in and dust the pollen off. I miss you, Push. It's so strange going to bed without you, and I miss the warm, heavy feeling of your sleeping body on my legs. Nobody wakes me up now - it was uncanny how you woke me just before the alarm. I like to think it was because you didn't want me to be late for work - but I suspect you just wanted your breakfast! Today I found the red harness I bought for you when we moved to the new flat. How you struggled. You didn't like it all, and when I cried at your distress, you came to me and put your paws on my face and licked the tears away. I wish you could lick the tears away now. There are so many these days. I've changed the furniture around now, because I couldn't bear to sit in my chair and look across to yours, and not see you there. I remember how I used to just sit and look at you, especially when you were dreaming, and you rolled over on to your back and stuck your legs in the air. You used to peer at me, smiling, until I came over to you, and then you would give your Grade 3 purr, the loudest and the most contented.

I miss talking to you Push. It's strange not coming home from work and having a conversation with you. And now I have to work out my problems alone. I talk to your photograph, but it's not the same. I can't feel you and smell your sweet smell. Remember how our neighbours used to say you smelled of my perfume? I worried that it might put the other cats off, but in any case, you didn't have much to do with them. You belonged to me, and loved me more than any person ever has. I could see and feel that love, and now that you are gone, there is no-one for me to give my love to. I don't even want to give it. I get tired of that cliché "time will heal", Push. It's three weeks now, and the emptiness seems to grow, not diminish. But I'll tell you one thing, my little warm squirrel, my best friend, I intend to go on speaking to you, and I won't pretend you never existed. People say the best way to forget something is to put it out of your mind, but I don't believe them. I keep you always in my mind, I see you, but I can't touch you. But I can still talk to you. I like to picture you somewhere where the grass is damp, and there are daffodils and crocuses, and patches of sunlight for you to chase, like you used to in the garden. Your fur was so shiny and black and sweet smelling, and I loved to bury my face in it. You were so beautiful, Push. You are beautiful. I shall keep you in my mind and in my heart for always. It hurts to think of you now, but perhaps I can think of you with joy soon. I love you Pushkin.

Jeannie



Micky finds an unusual resting place - he is 8 years old and lives with Mr Brooks in London.

TINNED CAT FOOD

The response from members concerning problems recently encountered with tinned cat food has been excellent. I have compiled a summary of the various complaints - made by you and your cat - and this is shown below:-

1. Quality appears to have dropped during first six months of 1980.
2. Complaints covered all varieties of tinned cat food.
3. Some owners were successful in changing their cats' food to a different flavour.
4. Lumps of black substance especially in liver variety.
5. Discoloured tins.
6. Some tins gave off noxious smell when opened.
7. Some cats suffered from sickness and diarrhoea. (note: this complaint was surmised to result from tinned cat food and was not necessarily proved).
8. Pieces of intestine pipe - some large.
9. Recipe appeared to have been changed.
10. Some cats increasing in fussiness.
11. Steel strike - was different metal being used in tins?

In August I was invited to visit a well known pet food firm and was met at Grantham by a charming man called Mr J Coulter who is the head of the Customer Relations Department. Unfortunately he had a meeting to attend but handed me over to Dr RS Anderson BVMS, PhD, MRCVS who is head of the Company's Animal Studies Centre. Dr Anderson is a veterinary surgeon and also a nutritionist.

At the centre - besides dogs, there are about 300 cats who by eating the various cat foods under carefully controlled conditions provide information on palatability, weight growth, etc. In addition there is a domestic panel of 300 cats living in ordinary homes in the surrounding countryside where their owners receive free cat food in return for information as to how their cats approve.

Dr Anderson kindly explained in some depth the work of the centre and the Research and Development activities of the Company. Owing to the great care taken over research and quality control he thought it well nigh impossible for any sub-standard product to pass out into the trade.

It will interest you to know that kangaroo meat is not used, whale meat was discontinued some years ago on ethical grounds and soya was no longer used after the end of 1979. He did mention that this last item might have changed some aspects of the palatability.

I outlined to him the range of comments received from our members on various products. He could not agree that many of these complaints were valid but after further discussion admitted that, with the enormous amount of pet food leaving the factory each week and not tested on cats at the point of production for obvious economic reasons, it was very occasionally possible for a faulty batch to be distributed to the public. This is of course borne out by the ready and most co-operative response received by many of our members from the Customer Relations Department when sending in a sample of cat food suspected of being sub-standard.

After lunch, Dr Anderson showed me round the centre himself. It was a most interesting tour in the delightful building maintained in a clinical condition of hygiene and all the cats looked well and happy. It was certainly an eye-opener as to the remarkable lengths to which the Company goes in research and development in order to produce a product which will nourish your cat and which he will be happy to eat and enjoy.

I asked Dr Anderson to write a small piece for the magazine and I am delighted that one of his colleagues, Dr PT Kendall, has kindly submitted a paper which is printed in this edition.

W S H Garforth

FACTORS AFFECTING PALATABILITY OF CANNED CAT FOODS - PT Kendall

Cats have a reputation of being fussy and finicky eaters and have been known to fast for long periods rather than eat unpalatable or unfamiliar foods. In this respect, they are

widely recognised as being the food connoisseurs amongst mammals, and the adage that you own a dog but feed a cat, has a great degree of truth in it. If a cat's menu is not to its liking, it will quickly adopt a new residence where the food offered is more appealing to its palate. Given then that cats are discriminating in their food preferences, what are the factors which affect the acceptance or palatability of canned cat foods? The acceptance of a canned product depends on a complexity of interacting factors. These can be broadly split into:

1. Factors relating directly to the animal, e.g. hunger, satiety
2. Factors relating to the canned food itself, e.g. ingredients, texture, smell, taste.

These areas will now be explained in more detail.

1. Factors relating to the animal

The factors affecting the feeding of carnivores have been reviewed in detail by Mugford (1977). Much of the work quoted here for cats given canned foods has been taken from his paper.

(a) Hunger/satiety

There is some evidence that the hungry cat will show greater discrimination in food preference than the satiated animal, contrary to what might be expected. Given free access to food, cats eat little and often. For example, in one study 8 cats were offered free access to canned cat food and feeding behavior studied using a video recorder.

Feeding was evenly distributed throughout the day and night. On average, cats ate 12 meals/day with an average meal size of 19 g or 22 calories of food, at approximately 2-hour intervals. The frequency of meals did not vary significantly amongst individuals. In practice, it is probably an advantage to give several meals of canned food daily to cats, rather than one single meal. This feeding regime seems to offer greater enjoyment to the cat and may assist the long-term regulation of adult body weight at a constant, fit but not fat, level. Cats adapt to even quite contrasting dietary changes within days, and in normal circumstances, rarely become obese. Therefore, under practical feeding conditions, it is nutritionally valid to offer as much of a palatable canned food as the cat will eat at each meal.

(b) Previous dietary background

Cats belong to the mammalian order of Carnivora and have an inborn preference for meat in their diets. All animals are continuously faced with the challenge of selecting nutritious and non-harmful foods. Cats seem to have a particularly impressive memory for foods. Notwithstanding this, they generally show enhanced preference for novel foods against a diet they have been eating for five days or so. Individuals may develop, however, a predilection for one particular type of food and an example of this is the cat with the perverted appetite that will only eat liver. Such situations should be avoided as liver is rich in vitamin A which is toxic in excess. Prolonged feeding of large amounts of liver causes skeletal abnormalities and other serious health problems in cats.

That cats enjoy and prefer variety in their diets can be clearly shown by test procedures. In one study, 2 groups of kittens were fed exclusively on different canned cat foods for 2-3 months after weaning. When offered a choice, those which had been fed on one food significantly preferred the alternative food which they had not been brought up on. This observation has been repeated many times in both kittens and adults, and there is no doubt that as a generalisation, cats enjoy novelty in their diet. To satisfy this desire for novelty, many pet food manufacturers offer a variety of different meat or fish-based products within each canned cat food brand.

(c) Presence of the owner when the animal is feeding

This may strongly influence cats, especially if the

owner puts the animal back in front of the feeding bowl when it appears to have finished eating. The cat often resumes eating and may do this up to 5 or 6 times.

(d) **Sex of cat**

We have found no sex related difference in food preference for cats.

2. Factors relating to the canned food itself

Canned cat foods represent substantially the largest source of food for the UK's 5 million cats. In addition to making a palatable and nutritious product for cats, the manufacturer must meet the cat owner's expectations of product aesthetics. In this respect, there are really two target species to satisfy and the needs of one may not always be directly compatible with the needs of the other.

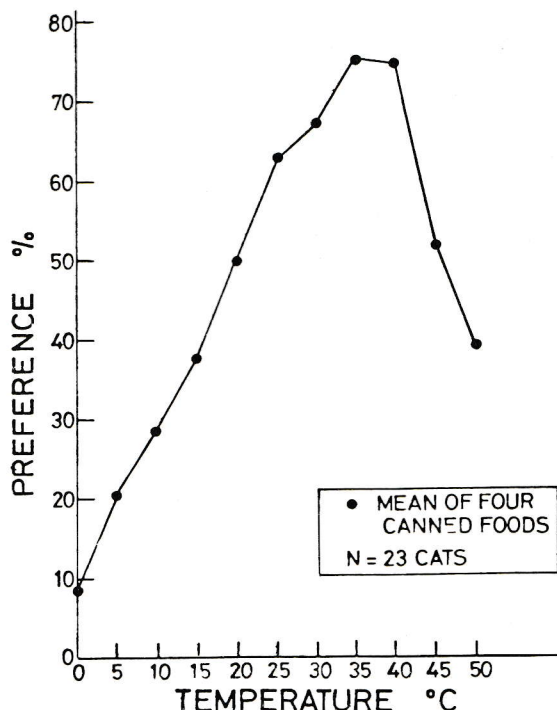
For example, a strong smell of fish in a product may be quite acceptable to a cat, but totally unacceptable to the housewife offering the food in a small kitchen. Therefore, a lot of effort must be placed in getting product characteristics optimised for both humans and cats.

The production of successful canned cat foods involves substantial research and development effort and the manufacture is usually carried out on a highly automated basis. For example, Pedigree Petfoods produce about 1½ million cans of cat food daily. To sustain this level of output, it is important to have a wide flexibility in the use of raw materials, so that rapid responses can be made to changes in raw material availability and cost. In many ways the pet food industry does what the housewife used to do, but on a much larger scale.

Whereas the housewife fed scraps from her own family cooking to pets, the petfood industry uses raw materials from all over the world considered unsuitable, by usage or custom, for human beings. There is, therefore, a good opportunity to make economies of scale which can be passed on to the purchaser of pet foods, but this has to be done against a dynamic background of raw material availability.

To ensure the quality of canned cat foods is maintained, the products must be continually tested for reassurance that any changes which have to be made are favourable to the majority of cats and owners. The product

FOOD TEMPERATURE AND PREFERENCE IN CATS



characteristics which are important in influencing the acceptability to cats are as follows:

(a) **Food temperature**

Cats prefer their food at a temperature near their own blood heat (39°C). The relationship between canned food preference and food temperature is shown in figure 1. This graph shows that the most preferred temperature is around body temperature.

Cooling produces a steady decline in preference. Warming above 40°C also results in a rapid fall-off in palatability. The temperature curve was identical for the 4 canned products investigated. It is interesting to speculate why cats prefer food at blood heat. In their natural state, cats live on small birds and rodents which are either swallowed whole or quickly eaten by hungry animals. The temperature of this natural prey will also be about 39°C, therefore, it is perhaps not surprising that cats prefer to eat warm food. In practice, this can be achieved by not serving food straight from a refrigerator.

(b) **Texture**

Cats prefer products they can pick up in discrete pieces to ones which are finely ground or sticky.

(c) **Odours and taste**

Both food odour and taste are critical determinants of palatability. The simplest method of measuring cats' response to these factors is to measure the total amount of food eaten in a meal relative to a control food. However, this does not allow the separate effects of odour and taste to be distinguished. The effect of odour alone can be examined in one of two ways. Firstly, the ability of the odour to modify food preference can be monitored by blowing the substance over one of two bowls of identical food. Secondly, the ability of odour to initiate feeding in a relatively satiated cat can be assessed. One taste peculiarity of cats compared with other animals is that cats do not seem to recognise sweetness in foods and sugars, therefore, do not function as palatability enhancers.

(e) **Type of raw material**

It is possible to rank the palatability of raw materials in cat foods. In general, cats prefer meats to fish and internal organs to muscle tissue.

(f) **Other factors**

Other factors which influence the acceptability of canned cat foods include the degree of acidity or alkalinity in the product.

In summary, canned cat food must satisfy the needs of both the cat and its owner. The food must on one hand satisfy the animal's needs for palatability and good nutrition, and on the other, the owner's expectations of wholesomeness, hygiene, texture, smell, colour, convenience and price.

The owner must also be satisfied that foods are compatible with handling and storing in close proximity to the foods for the rest of the family. In this respect canned foods are highly acceptable. The cat's reputation for being a fussy eater is usually well-deserved. Cats generally show good nutritional wisdom in balancing their food intake with body needs and are not as prone to obesity as some other mammals. Cats like and enjoy a varied diet and prefer warm, discrete pieces of food with meaty or fishy taste and aroma. In their natural state, cats eat small animals which contain about 70% water, therefore cats are probably genetically well equipped to use moist foods. In this respect, canned cat foods approximate closely in terms of moistness, texture and many other attributes to the cat's natural prey.

Reference

MUGFORD, R.A. (1977). External influences on the feeding of carnivores; in *The Chemical Senses and Nutrition*, Academic Press Inc., London.

POEMS

FEEDING TIME

Grey and ginger, tabby, black,
Some are sitting back to back,
Like book-ends on a concrete shelf,
Waiting, watching, concentrating;
Whiskers quivering, bright eyes blinking,
Noses twitching, sharp ears pricking,
Feline joy anticipating.

Back door opens, food appears,
Dishes rattle, each cat peers
At milk and fish and juicy meat,
Stretching, sniffing, congregating,
Prowling nearer, sleek coats jostling,
Tentative, then bold, advancing,
Gobbling, chewing, each plate clearing.

Marcia Treece

TO CAT CONTENT

My cat wants milk. He says so - "Miaou.."
Desire is wrinkling ginger brow,
Disturbing spotless, heaving chest,
His furry, thirsty body's pressed
In rubbing swathes against me so
His need is mine. His eyes show woe,
His pointed face grows thinner yet,
His whiskers, trembling, forward set
He's cat desire personified
While piteously his need is cried
For white delight to saucer's brim,
A sea of bliss from me for him.
I pour. "Here's nectar, now, for you..."
He laps, he loves, and sighs so - "Mew..."

A. Francis



Candy Floss helping herself in Mr Jenner's kitchen in Hounslow.

FELINE FURRY TAILS

Cats - the delight that their company gives
Despite the plain fact, they are nothing but spivs
Whose main object in life, when to heights they aspire,
Is good food, a good bed and front place by the fire.

Inquisitive, meddlesome, - that's where they've scored,
For there isn't a place in the house unexplored,
Nor eiderdown on to which they haven't crept
Unobserved, on some bed and then peacefully slept.

The dears - and we let them! It's perfectly true,
I've done it myself and, no doubt, so have you.
We may have looked cross, said, "Get down or I'll smack"
And puss has got down - but next moment, she's back.

Thinks she, as she trips down the cellar, "What fun!"
With her mind on the meat, could it be, or a bun,
And, call as you will, it's no earthly avail,
All you'll catch is a glimpse of her eyes or her tail.

But this isn't half of what's daily occurring,
And the culprit just sits, looking innocent, purring;
It's a state of affairs, there's no doubt about that,
But oh! if you haven't one - DO get a cat.

E Irene Willans-Redfearn

TO ADDI

A beautiful flower cut down in its prime -
To take one so young was an atrocious crime.
A sweet little child with an angelic face,
Whose movements were playful, yet so full of grace.

A bright little sunbeam, who gave so much cheer -
Dull days were there never with such sunshine near.
A pure, gentle breeze, come and gone ere the night
That left us in darkness, with no ray of light.

You were far too good for this life here on Earth;
More precious than diamonds - so priceless your worth.
Our dear little Addi, they took you away -
If we could have kept you, you'd be here today.

We tried hard to save you - but to no avail -
Unaware that our efforts were doomed to fail.
You gave so much joy, though your stay was so brief:
So sudden your parting, so painful our grief.

You were always so gentle - so trusting, too.
You gave us much love, as we gave love to you.
We'll never forget you - our love will not cease.
Your suffering's ended, so now Rest in Peace.

P.F. Matthews,

THE FERAL CAT'S LULLABY

Sleep, little kittens, my joy and my pride.
Nothing shall harm you so close by my side.
Rain will not find you and wind will pass by
Out in the open air under the sky.

Sleep, pretty kittens, and let the wind blow.
Mother will feed you so that you may grow;
Mother will tend you and wash your soft fur;
Mother will teach you to mew and to purr.

Darkness is falling, but all will be soon
Gleaming with light from the silvery moon
Who from above will keep watch over you
While you are slumbering all the night through.

E. King

FOR MY CAT (Sonnet)

You went into the night, we know not where,
We cannot tell you there shall still remain
Your window wide, your bed on ours, or bear
That, sinless, small, you will not home again.

The posters from your trees have torn, by rain
All blurred, and blind. Was there a place somewhere
We did not find? Why did we search in vain,
And call your name, in prayer? Does God not care?

Our little friend, where are you? Do you grieve
For us, as we for you? Shall we not see
You in some time to be? You did not leave
Us by your will, and so we must believe
A part must seek us still, unceasingly.
Did you, then, share our small Gethsemane?

Ursula Tighe Hopkins

FLUFFY

My name is Fluffy - I expect you know
To another home I had to go;
Filled with fear of what was to come,
Just who would be my Dad and Mum.

But, I like it here - they are so kind,
Lots of food to eat, new haunts to find;
They even provided a Burmese mate!
Thanks CPL - you're all so great!!!

Fluffy Drury

THE STARLING, OR HOW I SOMETIMES HATE MY CAT

The neighbours dogs awakened from their sleep
Barking with nervous apprehension;
Not understanding as you hit the glass extension
The thud that had pierced their slumber deep.
You fell and lay unmoving, pained eyes rolling
Transfixed with shock all outward life unheeding.
The nearby figure proffered seed and water
And presently you granted tender feeling
Of wings and legs, to reassure the watcher
And yes! You flew to high brick walling
To rest again, then finally away.
Your graceful body curved to nearby bushes
Concealed it seemed from fearsome feline prowlers
But 'ere the day had passed but half away
The cat appeared and hanging from his jaw
The tender starling stricken by his paw.

Elisabeth Dale

THE ENTICEMENT

I've been living rough, I've forgotten since when,
And life it is hard when you're homeless and plain.
I sleep in odd corners and eat when I can
And its cold and its wet and one enemy's man.

I've just found a place where there's sometimes left food
On a plate near the door, and it tastes very good.
The woman there's new and she hasn't chased me
And I'd risk my life daily to get something tasty.

Today the door's open, the woman stands there
And says, "Lovely puss puss" - can it be a snare?
She leaves me to fill up and, for that, I am glad;
All humans are dangerous, but she can't be too bad.

It's twice I've been inside and eaten my fill
And she's touched me so softly, it gives me a thrill.
I can't understand it, I daren't let go,
I'd a friend like her once but I lost her in snow.

I've walked round the kitchen with my eye on the door
While she talked to me softly and told me, once more
That I'm lovely, she admires me; I've started to preen,
A fellow feels better when he's licked himself clean.

It's the funniest feeling and I think it's for her
All tickly inside me; I think it's a purr.
She's sat on my chair and I've jumped on her lap
It holds me so snugly, it comforts a chap.

I'll never ever leave here and I'll fight tooth and claw
Any other old tomcat that ventures a paw
Near my kitchen, my hearthrug, my woman, my ground
I'm happy, I've landed, now a home I have found.

Vera Thompson

A KITTEN'S PRAYER

There I was, a pretty sight,
6 weeks old and black and white,
I WANT that kitty cried the child,
Yes darling, mummy said, you shall.
Into the shop came mum and child,
Hands lifted me from cage to hands,
Little hands that held TOO tight.

In my new home I tried my best,
Felt all uneasy - did a puddle,
Got a smack and pushed in a box,
Why didn't they show me that before?
The little hands won't let me go,
Squeezing me - I want to rest.

The curtains swayed in the breeze,
I jumped up them, oh dear, tore them,
Angry mother of the child,
Hit me hard - threw me outside.
I wandered off and now I'm lost,
Just SIX WEEKS OLD - and NO one cares.

St. Francis, lover of all pets,
Please hear my little plaintive cry,
Find me an owner who'll love me,
Or take me home to live with Thee,
PLEASE tell humans not to buy us,
Unless for LIFE they will love us.

J.M. Pounds

MORE ABOUT ACCIDENTS

A small-animal hospital in London had, over a two-year period, 298 cats brought in on account of fractures. Ninety per cent of these injuries were the result of road traffic accidents. Mr I.R. Philips BVetMed, MRCVS found that the bones most frequently broken were the femur (28 per cent of the 298 cats), the pelvis (25 per cent), and the jaw (11 per cent). Treatment proved "satisfactory in the great majority of cases."

Falls

Jaw fractures are often the result of a cat falling from a high window-ledge. The mouth cannot be closed, eating is difficult or impossible, and there may be accompanying injuries such as a broken tooth or two, and sometimes cleft palate. There may be bleeding from the mouth, or blood on the cat's fur. Treatment involves the use of wire to keep the fractured ends in apposition until healing has had time to take place. With cleft palate, it is usually necessary to suture the two halves together in order to close the gap, through which food otherwise escapes.

A veterinary friend of mine treated a cat which fell from an eighth-floor window, crashed through a plate-glass roof at first-floor level and landed in the basement. On examination he found numerous cuts and a broken pelvis. The animal made an excellent recovery. More recently, a cat fell from the 10th storey of a building in Michigan, USA, yet suffered no broken bones. She did, however, have internal haemorrhage - the result, it was suspected, of a partially ruptured spleen. Use of an anti-coagulant assisted recovery.

In the first case it seems that the cat slipped when trying to catch a bird; but sometimes the fall may be the indirect result of some cat-frightening experience which occurs indoors, leading the cat to panic and rush out of the room or off a window-ledge.

No tourniquets

In my notes in the last issue I deliberately made no mention either of a makeshift tourniquet or of improvised splints for a fractured limb. A tourniquet is virtually never necessary with cats, as bleeding can be effectively controlled by a pressure pad (a wad of cotton-wool enclosed in a clean handkerchief and pressed against the bleeding point). A tourniquet can do lasting damage. As for fractures, carrying the cat in the manner described will obviate pain to a far greater extent than attempts at splinting, which is likely to cause struggling - with more pain and tissue damage resulting.

A common accident occurs as a result of someone closing a door before the cat's tail is clear. Painful bruising of skin and underlying muscle will be caused, and a fracture of one of the tail bones is quite common. A light plaster cast may have to be applied..

Need for stitches

I vividly remember a kitten which suddenly appeared to go berserk for no apparent reason. It had impaled its tongue on one of its own sharp little teeth. Injured tongues can be very painful, but usually heal readily. For a deep gash, such as may be caused by the sharp edge of a food-can lid, suturing will be necessary, however.

Reference: I.R. Philips, J. Small Anim. Practice (1979) 20 661.

LADY

Lady is tortoiseshell and white, eight and a half months old; since she was born in December, she had not seen butterflies before so, when these beautiful creatures took to the skies earlier this year... so did Lady. With giant steps and leaps for "Catkind", she took off into the air - 3 feet at times - legs going in all directions: it was indeed a sight to see! Not so funny for the poor insects she had in her sights. When the time came for my sunbed to go back into the shed, there, underneath, where I had been soaking up the sun, was a butterflies' graveyard; about two dozen mutilated bodies, lying in state. She didn't always keep them for herself; she used to bring them indoors, drop them at my feet and then run off for more.

The thing that stands out above all else is her persistence in bringing me presents; twigs, dead leaves, paper and flower heads I can take; I just get the Hoover out more often. It's the live things that I draw the line at.... mice, moles, shrews, voles are brought in by her without any consideration on her part for people's feelings. She once scared my mother-in-law half to death; early one morning, she brought in a shrew, dropped it at the poor woman's feet, tossed it into the air a couple of times, chased it round the kitchen then, after she realised my mother-in-law was nowhere to be seen and realising, perhaps, that the woman didn't want it, she took it out into the conservatory and left it there.

We are not the only lucky, unfortunate, call it what you will to be given presents. Lady decided to visit my neighbour some days ago and, whilst visiting, stole a toy mouse belonging to her kitten who is of similar age. Shouting after her, my neighbour said, "Bring that back". Some minutes later, Lady did return as she was asked to and dropped at my neighbour's feet a replacement mouse. This one was slightly

different - it could breathe and move all on its own! With screams and cries of "Help!" coming from what she thought was an ungrateful neighbour, Lady ran back to the people who seemed to like the idea of live, moveable presents.

To look at her soundly dreaming of her day's adventures, you would hardly think she was the cause of what we thought was woodworm. Discovering minute holes around the window frames and on the edge of the doors, like others we said, "Oh woodworm!" We soon found out it wasn't the dreaded wood munchers but Lady sharpening her teeth or making out she was a stapling machine at our expense.

Lady is the only cat I know that can keep my kitchen free of flies and have a bath at the same time. Making sure the fly was still and not looking, she leaped from the floor onto what she thought was a worktop. Instead, she landed on all fours in a sink full of warm water and wet socks! Back legs still in the sink, she ate her victim.

Lady gives us a laugh which we all need from time to time; we would never be without her!

TA Middleton

"Are Torties easy to please, sweet-natured creatures?" asks Mrs Lyde of Clacton-on-Sea. After becoming used to her other cats doing everything the way they have wanted, she is surprised to live with a tortie who comes when called and listens to suggestions.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Members 9p per word, Non-members 10p per word, Box Numbers £1.

WANTED

Picture Postcards, pre-1946, wanted by private collector: any quantity, used or unused. Please send cards for explained offer: all postage refunded. Jim Rowlands, 11 The Rookery, Lumley, Emsworth, Hants PO10 8AH

Member in Donegal, Eire, requires live-in cat sitter for one month July 1981. Could bring friend too. House 5 miles from town. Car supplied. Write: Box 81/1 The Cat, 20 North St, Horsham.

Live-In Cat Sitter to look after my 3 cats for 3 weeks, end July/August 1981. Write: Mrs Ray, 5A Falconwood Parade, The Green, Welling, Kent.

Old Postcards bought, postage refunded. Popplewell, 62, Esme Rd, Birmingham 11.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Self-Catering Flat for 2. De Lisle, 30 Saumarez St, Guernsey.

Yorkshire - on the Moors near ILKLEY. Home offered to retired person in return for companionship to energetic widow and cats. Own cat welcome. Conditions to be negotiated re requirements of accommodation. Box 81/2 "The Cat" 20, North St, Horsham.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stamp Collectors. Free stamps when requesting approvals. Suit beginners/medium. 10% of sales for CPL funds. Einion House, Friog, Fairbourne, Gwynedd.

Cartomancy Readings, amazingly accurate. Donations for CPL. Margaret Foster, 11 Monmouth Rd, Oxford, OX1 4TD

Pen Portraits in water colour from Snapshots. Large size from £2.50 Dorothy Hall, 78 Hill Rd, Watlington, Oxford, OX9 5AF

Lovely Furry Seals, 16 ins long, grey, white or light beige - £7, (£2 from each to CPL) Margaret Uff, 13 Laxton Ave, Sutton in Ashfield, Notts.

Cat Collars - totally elasticated, quick release, washable, cats' safety collars. Inscribed with clearly visible address and tel. no. State colour required. 35p each. From: Mrs Officer, 13 Hall Close, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3PW. All proceeds to CPL. Please add 20p to total for expenses.

Protect Your Cat with a machine engraved disc, brass or nickel, 50p plus SAE. With collar £1 plus SAE; flea collar £1.25 plus SAE ID Engraving, Millhill, Irby, Wirral, Merseyside.

"Cat Love". Keeps your cat in perfect condition. All the essential vitamins and minerals. Cats love them. 50 treats 50p pp. ID Engraving, Millhill, Irby, Wirral, Merseyside.

Business Cards 1000 £7.20 CWO (see samples): T C Currie, 89 Derwent St, Consett, DH8 8LT

Animal Portraits from Photographs. £20, Miss J Williams, Jingle Joys Farm, Redditch Rd, Hopwood, Nr Birmingham. Tel: 021 445 1840

Good Luck to a Bride or Housewife. Corn dollies traditionally bring a full larder and fertility! Sue Evans offers these hand-crafted at £2 (post free) 25p on each goes to CPL. Sue Evans, Church End, Friskney, Boston, Lincs.

Your Cat's Horoscope a charming written record of your pet for only £1, individually prepared. Please send cat's name, sex and nearest birth date (month and year, plus actual day if you know it, or a couple of lines about your cat if day unknown) All proceeds to CPL. Please send money and SAE to: Jackie Durnin, 35 Embassy House, West End Lane, London NW6 2NA

Your Pet's Name carved in wood, in script writing, by a craftsman. £1 per word, inc. postage. 10% of each order to CPL. Other enquiries for House name, numbers and signs welcome. Write to: Sylvia Bovey, Orchard House, Manor Lane, Hartley, Dartford, Kent. Phone: Longfield 3327

Graphology. Your character will be read from a sample of handwriting. Fee (optional) will be forwarded to CPL. Kathleen Lake, 77 Stanhope Road, Darlington, Co Durham.

IN MEMORIAM

Wonderful loving memories of my dearest best beloved babies Nell, who passed over 15 November 1970, Boy, 2 December 1967 and Charlie, 1 November 1973. All my everlasting love for all eternity.

Auntie Averil

In grateful memory of Andrew Stewart (TW 3863) who this morning was rising 19 years and now is young forever. Also of his companion, Monty, aged 15, who is waiting to show Andrew the way ahead. Always remembered.

Barbara and George Armitage

Porson, I'll always think of the garden as belonging to you, my golden one, 5 December 1978, aged 17¾ years; Primula, his sister, you shared my bed for such a long time, my pretty, 24 August 1979, aged 18½; Poppy, I still see your little figure sitting in the window, watching for our return home, my sweet, 24 December 1979, aged 13¾. We miss you so.

Julian and Patricia

Branwell (Branny) who adopted us 18 July 1977 and was tragically killed on the road on 27 February 1979, aged only 2 years. A brave and courageous cat whom we shall love and remember always and meet again one day.

Mary and Cyril Hutchings and cats Polly and Heathcliff, who never saw you but have heard much about you.

Toms and Tabs Job Centre
Chase Lodge Studio
Haslemere
Tel: 042 873 4297

Talented young actress available now. Her interpretation of "Agonies of Starvation" performed eight times daily and her "See This Tiger" are much admired.

One-parent family needs help. Silver mother and two golden sons in danger of eviction.

Pretty debutante will work, in purely decorative capacity, anywhere.

Experienced demonstrator free for new job; specialist in dairy work.

Small mascot, jet black, wants bed and board.

Soprano, training Siamese voice, seeks new home with someone a little hard of hearing.

Mrs White of East Sheen has solved the problem of her cat scratching furniture by placing a two-foot piece of a felled tree in the corner of the garden terrace. The cat sharpens her claws on it and now leaves the furniture alone.

BRANCH AND GROUP REGISTER

"Enquiries from anyone wanting a kitten or who wish to adopt a cat or two are welcomed by Branch and Group secretaries.
Please note:- DO NOT CALL AT ANY OF THE ADDRESSES EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT: MAKE CONTACT BY LETTER OR PHONE FIRST.

BRANCH AND GROUP SECRETARIES

BANBURY & DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs M Lloyd,
Stoneleigh,
30 Whittal Street,
Kings Sutton,
Banbury,
Oxon OX17 3RD

BEDFORD GROUP

Mrs S Harries,
103 Warwick Avenue,
Bedford.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Mrs A Poole,
1555 Pershore Road,
Stirchley,
Birmingham. B30 2JH

BLACKHEATH & BEXLEYHEATH GROUP

Miss H Phillips,
43 Merriman Road,
Blackheath,
London. SE3 8RT

BLOXWICH & PELSALL BRANCH

Mrs J Hawes,
32 Clarendon Place,
Pelsall,
Walsall,
West Midlands.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Mr & Mrs P Wadey,
42b Branksome Wood Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset.

BRADFORD & BINGLEY GROUP

Mrs S Key,
1 Moorview Drive,
Lee Lane,
Cottingley,
Bingley,
West Yorkshire.

BRAINTREE GROUP

Mr and Mrs C Perrott,
66 Mountbatten Road,
Braintree,
Essex.

BROMLEY GROUP

Mr. B Braddon,
143 Victor Road,
Penge,
London. SE20

BROMSGROVE & DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs P Mercy,
293 Old Birmingham Road,
Bromsgrove,
Worcs.

BURGESS HILL & HAYWARDS HEATH GROUP

Mrs I Campbell,
76 Petworth Drive,
Burgess Hill,
West Sussex. RH15 8YJ

BURNLEY & PENDLE GROUP

Mrs J Isherwood,
Pippin Lodge,
Pasture Lane,
Barrowford,
Nr Nelson,
Lancs.

BURTON ON TRENT GROUP

Mrs C A Whittaker,
Bladon Farm Cottage,
Bladon Farm Drive,
Winshill,
Burton on Trent
Staffs.

BURY & BOLTON GROUP

Mrs E Wroe,
69 Huntley Mount Road,
Bury,
Lancs.

CAMBERLEY, LIGHTWATER & DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs A Bishop,
Chestnut Cottage,
New England Hill,
West End,
Chobham,
Surrey.

CHESHUNT & WALTHAM CROSS GROUP

Mrs J Carrington,
75 Russells Ride,
Cheshunt,
Herts.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Mrs C Peterson,
Piers Gill,
Darcy Rise,
Little Baddow,
Chelmsford,
Essex.

CHICHESTER GROUP

Mrs C Pontin,
Donnington Cottage,
Old Donnington,
Chichester,
West Sussex.

CHILTERN GROUP

Mrs S Griffiths,
Eastlyn,
Rushmere Lane,
Orchard Leigh,
Near Chesham,
Bucks

COVENTRY BRANCH

Mrs F M Fullarton,
14 Seneschal Road,
Cheylesmore,
Coventry.

CRAWLEY GROUP

Mr G Boothman,
54 Caburn Heights,
Southgate West,
Crawley,
West Sussex.

DERBY & DISTRICT BRANCH

Mr J Kirkman,
24 Society Place,
Derby,
DE3 6UH

DEREHAM & DISTRICT

Mrs. R Howard,
Gressenhall Cat Sanctuary,
Gressenhall,
Nr. Dereham,
Norfolk.

DOVER BRANCH

Mrs M Smalley,
46 Alder Road,
Folkestone,
Kent.

DRIGHLINGTON GROUP

Mrs A Whisker,
221 Moorside Road,
Drighlington,
Bradford,
W. Yorks.

DUBLIN BRANCH

Mrs S Connolly,
11 Leicester Avenue,
Rathgar,
Dublin,
Eire.

DUDLEY & DISTRICT BRANCH

Mrs A Woodward,
18 Remington Road,
Beechdale Estate,
Walsall,
West Midlands.

DUNMOW & DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs B Verley,
7 Randall Close,
Great Dunmow,
Essex.

EAST SUSSEX BRANCH

Mrs. E Salmon,
10 Laleham Close,
St. Leonards on Sea,
East Sussex.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

Miss M Wemyss,
3 Royston Terrace,
Edinburgh, EH3 5QU

EDMONTON GROUP

Mrs C Walledge,
39 Oxford Road,
Lower Edmonton,
London N9.

ELTHAM, SIDCUP & DISTRICT GROUP

Miss M Grain,
2 Cedric Road,
New Eltham,
London. SE9.

ENNISKILLEN GROUP

Mr P Nolan,
76B Derrin Park,
Enniskillen,
County Ferromanagh,
Northern Ireland.

EXETER BRANCH

Mrs R W Dyson,
8 Romsey Drive,
Exeter,
EX2 4PB.

FAIRFORD GROUP

Mrs K Green,
Eastcourt,
Whelford,
Fairford,
Glos GL7 4DY.

GLASGOW BRANCH

Miss S Johnston,
"Hopefield",
School Road,
Torrance,
Glasgow.

GLOSSOP & DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs D Hooper,
Ivy House,
Glossop Road,
Chisworth,
Hyde,
Cheshire.

GLOUCESTER GROUP

Mrs H Franks,
31 Beechcroft Road,
Longlevens,
Gloucester.

GREAT AMWELL & DISTRICT BRANCH

Mrs L Viner,
48 Ogard Road,
Hoddesdon,
Herts.

GWENT GROUP

Mrs A Spencer,
18 Rolls Close,
Fairwater,
Cwmbran,
Gwent.

HULL & DISTRICT GROUP

Miss A Julian,
186 Alliance Avenue,
Spring Bank West,
Hull.

ILFORD & ROMFORD GROUP

Mrs V Lipshaw,
14 Kildowan Road,
Goodmayes,
Ilford,
Essex.

ISLE OF WIGHT BRANCH

Mrs J Eldridge,
122 Marlborough Road,
Ryde,
Isle of Wight.

JERSEY GROUP

Mrs S. Charpentier,
2 Sydenham Villas,
Janvrin Road,
St. Helier,
Jersey CI

LEICESTER & LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

Miss C Boulter,
20 Farmway,
Millfield Farm,
Leicester, LE3 2XA.

MAIDENHEAD GROUP

Mrs P Buckland,
6 Mossy Vale,
Maidenhead,
Berks.

MEDWAY & DISTRICT BRANCH

Mrs H Willson,
81 Victoria Street,
Gillingham,
Kent.

MERE & GILLINGHAM GROUP

Mrs C Reading,
1 Mill Lane,
Pitcombe,
Bruton,
Somerset.

MIDWARWICKSHIRE BRANCH

Mrs M Caswell,
Tosca,
Lower Ladye's Hills,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire.

MIDDLESBROUGH GROUP

Mrs G Hendry,
6 Montreal Place,
Longlands,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

MILL HILL & DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs E Lunn,
30 Tithe Walk,
Mill Hill,
London NW7.

NEWBURY & DISTRICT BRANCH

Mrs I Earnshaw,
Heatherpine,
Curridge,
Newbury,
Berks.

NEWTON & DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs D Lambert,
Old Station House,
Newton,
Derby.

NORTH BIRMINGHAM GROUP

Miss F Primett,
1 Somerset Road,
Handsworth Wood,
Birmingham B20 2JE.

NORTH KENT

Mrs B Dawson,
98a Wrotham Road,
Gravesend,
Kent.

NORTH LEEDS GROUP

Miss P Hunter,
43 St Ann's Avenue,
Burley,
Leeds.

LS4 2PB

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Mrs M Davies,
135 Junction Road,
London N19.

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

Mrs C Renwick,
48 Roland Avenue,
Nuthall,
Nottingham.

OAKHAM & DISTRICT

Mrs P Ilves,
1 Penn Street,
Oakham,
Leicester.

PERSHORE GROUP

Mrs J Harper,
126 High Street,
Pershore,
Worcs.

PLYMOUTH & EAST CORNWALL GROUP

Mr M Mansergh,
35 Poole Park Road,
St Budeaux,
Plymouth,
Devon.

RHOS-ON-SEA GROUP

Mrs L Slattery,
20 Penrhyn Avenue,
Rhos-on-Sea,
Colwyn Bay,
Clwyd,
Wales.

ROCHDALE GROUP

Mrs V Tierney,
93 Hilltop Drive,
Kirkholt,
Rochdale,
Lancs.

CATS IN INDUSTRY

Mrs M Hammond,
154 Tom Lane,
Sheffield 10.

SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT GROUP

Mrs. M Hooper,
Marden Boarding Cattery,
Tom Tits Lane,
Somerton,
Somerset.

TA11 6RD

SHEPHERDS BUSH GROUP

Mrs P Mukhoty,
97 Greenside Road,
London W12.

SHIPLEY GROUP

Mrs C Pawson,
8 Moorfield Drive,
Baldon,
West Yorkshire

SOLIHLULL GROUP

Miss G Locke,
2a Kingshurst Way,
Kingshurst,
Birmingham 37

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Mrs C Fullen,
26 New Road,
Netley Abbey,
Southampton.

SOUTH DORSET GROUP

Mrs Y Cossens,
6 Maycroft Road,
Rodwell,
Weymouth,
Dorset.

SOUTH LONDON COMMITTEE

Mrs N de Clifford,
12 The Close,
New Malden,
Surrey.

SWINDON GROUP

Mrs E McMinn,
89 Bowleymead,
Eldene,
Swindon,
Wiltshire.

ULSTER BRANCH,

Miss L Gulston,
25 Kings Drive,
Belfast,
BT5 6 PD.

WALSALL BRANCH

Miss R Nash,
25 Wolverhampton Street,
Walsall,
Staffs.

WARRINGTON & NORTHWICH GROUP

Mrs M Sheridan,
53 Blake Lane,
Sandiway,
Northwich,
Cheshire.

WAVENEY BRANCH

Mr & Mrs A Tabelin,
Rainbow Farm,
Redisham,
Beccles,
Suffolk.

WEST CORNWALL BRANCH

Mrs K Beesley,
Cathlowena,
Cusgarne Catteries,
Cusgarne,
Truro,
Cornwall.

WOLVERHAMPTON GROUP

Mrs JK White,
35 Leighton Road,
Penn,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands.

Catteries Administered by Headquarters

BARNJET

Cuttinglye Road,
Crawley Down,
West Sussex.
Telephone: Copthorne 712387

BREDHURST SHELTER

Matts Hill Road,
Hartlip,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.
Telephone: Medway 32471

CATKINS

Woodham Road,
Battlesbridge,
Essex.
Telephone: Chelmsford 320509

CHASE LODGE STUDIO

Woolmar Hill,
Haslemere,
Surrey.
Telephone: Hindhead 4297

WAIFARERS

63, Nottingham Road,
Spondon,
Derby.
Telephone: Derby 670491

Affiliated to C.P.L.

BEXHILL CAT CLUB

Miss K.E.M. Terrot,
75 Dorset Road,
Bexhill,
East Sussex.
Telephone: Bexhill 210693

BISHOP-WOOD CAT RESCUE CENTRE

Mrs E S Wood,
14 Watling Street,
Gillingham,
Kent ME7 2YQ.
Telephone: Medway 51201

CANTERBURY CAT SOCIETY

Miss M.W. Paine,
37 Beverly Road,
Canterbury,
Kent.

SOUTH TYNESIDE ANIMAL RESCUE

Mrs M S Dinsdale,
17 Lea View,
Bamburgh Grove,
South Shields,
Tyne and Wear.

TAYSIDE CAT SHELTER

The Garden House,
Glencarse Home Farm,
Glencarse,
Perthshire.

RHODES MINNIS CAT SANCTUARY

Seathwaite,
Rhodes Minnis,
Nr. Canterbury, Kent.