

THE CATS' MEWS-SHEET

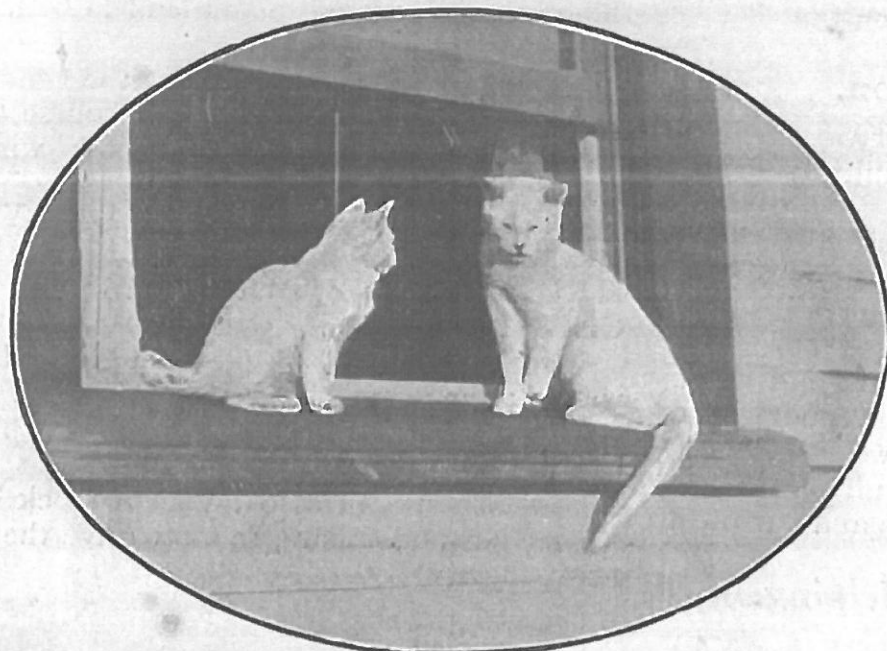
Issued by the Cat's Protection League.

York House, Portugal Street, London, W.C. 2

No. 1

ONE PENNY

JANUARY, 1931



CAT GOSSIP.

"What's the matter, Mother?"

"I'm thinking of that poor cat round the corner whose people have gone away and left her."

"What will she do, Mother?"

"Starve, my dear!"

Is Apology Necessary?

THE Cats' Protection League came, very quietly, into being some three years ago, and has been during that time feeling its way towards the creation of a strong and united determination amongst cat-lovers and those who have that pity which is akin to love, to raise the status of cats generally, and in particular to see to it that the present conditions which make the demand for "merciful death" so essential, shall cease to be. It was revealed the other day that no fewer than 50,000 cats a year are taken from the London streets by one shelter alone, and a total of over 200,000 are destroyed during that period. This being fact, there must be a reason for it, and it is in order to find a remedy for the trouble that the League

ventures to add one more "animal paper" to the list.

But there are signs of sympathy on all sides with our aims; and it is felt by the Committee that the time has come for the issue of a regular periodical, however modest to begin with, which will put members in touch with each other and keep them informed of what progress is being made.

It here, therefore, appeals to all members of the C.P.L. that they will subscribe generously for copies, and will do all in their power to increase the circulation.

What we Want to do.

We want to make the MEWS-SHEET the medium for suggestions and enquiries.

We want to arrive at a satisfactory

decision about the *best method* for ending the lives of the many unwanted and diseased animals who fill our shelters in increasing numbers.

We want to obtain the co-operation of public authorities as well as of private animal societies.

And more than all, we want to conduct an education campaign, which alone will go to the root of the trouble, upon the

Excess Feline Population.

This must be tackled, otherwise shelters for destruction must go on multiplying and misery but increase.

Lastly, we want whenever possible to stress the fact so often lost sight of that cats have "hearts" which feel, and suffer, as well as bodies which need our care; that they are highly intelligent and sensitive creatures looking to us humans to use the intelligence which we so proudly claim, to bridge over the gulf which too often lies between their souls and our own.

Suggested Ways of Helping.

In wishing all our members a happy New Year, may we also ask if they will undertake as

A NEW YEAR'S GOOD RESOLUTION

that they will not let one week in 1931 pass without doing something to help a cat or cats in general?

The Hon. Sec. suggests members could:

1. Watch their local Press for all references to cats, such as reports of cruelty cases, letters, anecdotes, etc.¹

Send her the cuttings, *with name and date of paper*, or a copy.

2. Take note of all places where cats and kittens are sold, such as shops, markets, and so on. Also where they are boarded, by private individuals or shops. Observe the conditions, prices asked, etc.

Send full particulars.

3. Try to find out the names and addresses of people who feed and rescue stray cats, or keep a lethal box.

Send full particulars.

4. Find out the general condition of cats in their towns. For instance: Are there many turned out at night? Are many shut up in shops during week-ends and holidays?

Let her know, please.

5. Get into conversation with the people they meet during their daily lives—trades-people, etc.—and talk to them about cats. A few words of praise for a cat often make the owner value it more and lead to better treatment.

And many new things about the conditions of cats are learned in the course of conversation with cat-owners, both wise and ignorant.

REMEMBER WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO GIVE ADVICE AND HELP IN ANY MATTERS CONCERNING CATS.

In cases of cruelty time should not be wasted; they should be reported at once to the police, who will call the R.S.P.C.A. inspector. After this, let us know.

Our helpers can also lay in a stock of our leaflets and collars, so as to have them ready in case of need.

Cat Clubs.

BY A. STEWARD.

THE official interpretation of a club is "An institution for discussing political, literary or social problems."

Our main object is to rouse the interest of cat-owners to the point of discussing not only their own cat, but cats in general; then we may hope for a broader and a more humane outlook on cat welfare, a subject which needs much thought and discussion to be realised as of importance to both cat and owner. It is not essential to have a recognised meeting-place for these talks, although a room and occasionally a special speaker are great assets. Cats can be the subject of discussion "over the fence," at afternoon tea—in fact, anywhere if the interest is aroused. One must not lose sight of the fact that it is most

essential to give thought to cats in general—your neighbour's cat, the cats in the next street, the stray cats in your district, and last, but not least, the poor unfortunate puss that finds its way into the experimenting laboratory. It may be asked: What is there to talk about regarding cats? Their mannerisms alone could form an endless topic for conversation, and "feeding" and "health" are matters which an interested person could spend hours discussing. What does the average person know of the cat's ancestors or natural inclinations? How many people realise that the domestication of the cat has brought about the deplorable state of affairs that exists today in the cat world? The aristocrats of catdom, or in other words show cats, receive the maximum of attention, but they represent a very small percentage of the cat community, a very large proportion of which is composed of either strays or cats which are ill-treated through lack of knowledge of the correct methods of treatment. Hence the need for discussion to bring to light the suffering and injustice that man continues to inflict upon this animal.

Let us be just and face our responsibilities, or let us determine not to keep a cat. We as a nation are responsible for the tens of thousands of starving and diseased cats that have to be put to sleep every year and the thousands of kittens born into an unfriendly world, and on these facts alone we are justified in our appeal for active interest on behalf of our feline friends.

We feel that cat clubs need to be much more than mere debating centres, and the whole welfare of the cat should come into consideration. Educating cat-owners to their responsibilities, caring for the strays, providing painless death when necessary, and giving advice and help in every way to pussy's benefit—these constitute the main features of a developed cat-club.

Few, however, will undertake this work voluntarily, and the means to provide paid workers are not available; therefore, we appeal to cat lovers to form cat circles in their districts. A friendly gathering over

the afternoon cup of tea later may lead to a regular meeting, and then the small circle widens, as the circles made by throwing a stone into a pond, until it envelops the whole district.

Cat clubs have been formed in Slough, Ilford and Liverpool, and Edinburgh, I believe, is to be the next to follow suit. The forming of cat circles is anticipated in several districts, and we are eagerly awaiting results, and shall be very pleased to hear from anyone willing to form a cat circle or to undertake any other work to help the cause.

Club News.

SLOUGH AND DISTRICT.—Membership to date, 290. Meetings are held every month. We are pleased to report that during the last twelve months greater numbers of cat owners have sought advice. Many stray kittens have been placed in good homes. We have dealt with numerous cases where painless death has been necessary.

ILFORD SECTION.—Here the membership is not quite so large, but frequent meetings are held and excellent work is being done, of which we hope to have more details for our next issue.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT.—Membership to date, 105. The workers of this club are very keen and are concentrating on the education of the children in their conduct towards cats. We also hope to have further news of this branch for our next issue.

All communications concerning the formation of Cat Clubs should be addressed to Mr. A. Steward, Hubbards, Wexham Road, Slough, Bucks.

* * * *

We have ourselves visited the meetings of the Slough Cat Club, and are much impressed by their good result and by the keenness of the members. All this is due to the indefatigable work of Mr. Steward, and we can see the foundations being laid for a strong body of public opinion which will before long affect the whole question by bringing pressure to bear upon local

authorities, which is the ultimate way to solve this problem.

B. AVERY.

Hon. Secretary.

Lost Cats—or Wanderers?

Sympathisers can help the lost cat, who has probably a good home from which he has wandered a little too far. The best way is by giving it temporary shelter and immediately making enquiries about it in the neighbourhood. A notice should be put up giving a full description of the "found" cat, and watch should be kept for any "lost" notices; local shops will generally put these up. Should it be impossible to keep the cat for a few days, it should be taken to the nearest shelter, with the understanding that it is to be kept till further notice. In most cases it will not be long before the owner claims it.

It must be impressed upon children that it is wrong to take up any wandering cat. Many young cats or kittens have been taken up, with the best of intentions, sometimes even from their own doorstep, and either taken to a worker or put down again, further away, with the result that they have become frightened and really "lost." It should not take any real cat-lover long to distinguish between the lost and the merely wandering cat.

Objects of the Cats' Protection League.

To ensure the proper understanding and treatment of cats by means of educational propaganda, lectures, literature, etc.

To endeavour to check the present over-production of unwanted kittens with a view to preventing the sufferings of strays.

To secure the proper carrying out of necessary operations, and to stop their performance by unqualified persons.

To watch all legislation affecting or likely to affect cats.

To provide, in a manner to be decided

later, suitable homes for cats during the absence of their owners.

To co-operate with all well-conducted shelters, and to assist them with educational literature, etc.

The League has for sale:

Picture postcards at 1d. each or 9d. per dozen assorted. Subjects: Cat Gossip (see p. 1), The Good Companions, Aristocrats, Black Beauty.

Cat Poster, 4d. each.

Sex of Cats Diagram, 3d. each.

The Animals' Friend Catbook, 1s. net.

Special Safety Elastic Collars, 6d. each.

Leaflets, 50 for 1s.:

The Stray Cat Problem.

What is the Cats' Protection League?

How Cats are Protected by Law.

Keep your Cats in at Night.

The Holidays and Cats.

Lists of Places for Boarding, Treatment, Lethalling—(1) London and Suburban; (2) Provinces.

Hints on Treatment of Cats and Kittens.

All communications regarding the League should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Avery, 104, Barons Court Road, London, W. 14.

All communications for the MEWS-SHEET to Editor, Miss J. Wade, York House, Portugal Street, London, W.C. 2.

PLEASE NOTE.—The Cat Protection League cannot really afford to run a paper UNLESS kind friends will unite to guarantee the expense—say for twelve months. We should have £50 for this in reserve. Already we have a promise of £5 from one cats' friend, and an offer of another £5 if five more will do the same.

Mr. Ernest Bell is Treasurer, and this is his "appeal" contribution to our first number.

Won't you help to transmute the piteous Mews into grateful Purrs?

Yearly subscription, 1s. 6d. post free. Subscribers of 5s. to the League will receive the MEWS-SHEET free of charge.