

Summer Issue
June 2012



Moray Branch Newsletter



PURINA® – Together We Can Campaign

The 2011 PURINA® *Together We Can* campaign raised an incredible £10,000 for Cats Protection

PURINA® is once again supporting Cats Protection through their **2012** campaign. Simply pledge to recycle your steel pet food cans* on the **Together We Can** website and when they reach the potential target of 75,000 pledges they will donate £40,000 in total to Cats Protection and their two other charity partners. £10,000 will go to each charity and a further £10,000 will be split between the three charities based on your vote, so please choose Cats Protection to benefit most from your pledge!

To support **Cats Protection** simply enter your unique code found in **FE-LIX®** or **WINALOT®** promotional multipacks and pledge to recycle your steel pet food cans online at

www.purina.co.uk/wecan

If you do not have a unique code you can still pledge to recycle your steel pet food cans and help us reach the target of 75,000 pledges.

When the potential target is achieved, Cats Protection will receive £10,000 and the more votes we get, the bigger our proportion of the extra £10,000!

Through your code entry and pledge you also have the chance to be one of the five lucky winners who could each win £2,000 off their energy bills.

Please tell friends and family about this campaign and how with their support we can help care for even more cats.

Happy recycling!

happy recycling

Treasurer's Report

Well, according to the calendar it is summer, but I'm not convinced.

What we can say is that it is definitely kitten season. We currently have 17 kittens in our care. One particular mum has 2 litters with us - one that was born 12 weeks ago and the 5 she had at the weekend. Her first litter were 3 weeks old when she got pregnant – a lesson to everyone that if you have a cat that has had kittens, don't let her out until she has been neutered. I know talking about kittens should not normally feature in the Treasurer's report, but think of the cost! They can eat 2 packets of food a day once they are about 9 weeks old. That's a lot of food! And think of the litter we need too. We put a request out on Facebook for donations of kitten food and we have had some very generous amounts put in our food bins throughout Moray. We will need as many donations of food and cash to help feed the little mouths. Thanks to everyone who has donated food to us.



We have had some fundraising events since our last newsletter. We had a fortnight of raising awareness of what we do at **Pets at Home**. We are the Elgin shop's chosen charity which involved them having raffle tickets for sale and various quizzes (eg guess how many sweeties in the jar). Volunteers from the branch were in the shop at various times throughout the fortnight helping sell the raffle tickets and raise funds. We also gave advice on cat care and especially neutering. We have received a cheque from Pets At Home for £528.53 and there is more to come when the final sponsorship money comes in – the Assistant Manager got sponsorship for having his legs waxed. Ouch!



On the middle Saturday we were also at **Asda** in Elgin with a stall. We raised £120 over 4 hours and again raised awareness of who we are. It is good to raise money but sometimes it is also important to let people know we are there. Hopefully they will then come to us for a cat rather than going elsewhere – or even volunteer to help.



We have also worked in conjunction with **Pearl's Pet Care** in Forres. They offered us a window to put up a display for 3 weeks. We then arranged to go in on the 16th and 30th June for a few hours to be available to give advice and explain what we do. The 16th was a very quiet day; the weather was poor but hopefully the 30th will have been better.

And another shop is also helping us – the **Co-op** in Fochabers got in touch via Facebook. They support charities chosen by the staff and we were put forward and chosen. They are doing various fundraising events over the next 3 months to raise funds for us. They also have 2 collection tins and a food bin. A big thank you to them for approaching us – it feels so good to know that people think highly enough of us to approach us to help.

We also have Sandra Greig, a vet nurse from Seafeld Veterinary Group in Buckie who is doing the Baxters River Ness 10K on Sunday 30th September in memory Nicola Morgan and in aid of the Moray Branch of Cats Protection. If you would like to sponsor her, get in touch with Jane on 01542 860 315 or sponsor her through our JustGiving Page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Sandra-Greig>



GORDON CASTLE HIGHLAND GAMES

Sunday the 20th May was quite an early start as we had to be at the castle no later than 9am to get in position and set up. Our stand was in front of the castle along side the other charities. The games were very well attended and we even had enquiries from American visitors who were very interested to hear about the work Cats Protection does in Moray as they do not have anything similar....A lot of information was given out about the cats in our care as we had our homing posters on display. We have already received an email from the organisers at Gordon Castle asking if we would like to be considered for next years games...

Of course our reply was yes.... We raised over £200 and hopefully did a lot of good PR work.



From the pictures you will see we now own a 3 x 3 metre pop up gazebo in black. The plan is to customise it ourselves as this is a very costly commodity. Ray has agreed to take this on..

We had a trial run of putting it up the week before and it does take at least 2 people 10 –15 mins to set it up. Remember members can hire the gazebo as long as it is not being used by the branch.

INDOOR FOSTERERS WANTED

We desperately need more volunteers who can look after cats for us in their homes. They would need a spare room which could be used for our cats only All Fosterers are provided with all the equipment, toys, cleaning materials, food & litter that is required and authorised expenses are covered. Any support needed would also be provided.

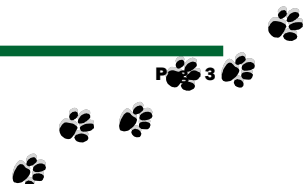
This would be suitable for older people who feel they don't want to take on the full responsibility of a cat due to their age or someone who doesn't work or works part time and is at home at times throughout the day.

If you are interested in helping, please call us on 07837 342 646 and leave a message



If you can't be a Fosterer would you like to support us by being a sponsor of one of our cabins...

07837342646 and leave a message.



Cats aren't the only ones who love our litter

Verdo Wood Pellet Cat Litter is loved by cats, their owners, and Cats Protection — the UK's leading feline welfare charity. So what makes it so good?



Our wood pellet cat litter is made from FSC®-approved 100% virgin softwood from well managed sources and it's naturally biodegradable, so you can be that its green credentials are up to scratch. Not that your cat knows about such things. Cats just

know that it's comfortable and pleasant to use, while the high absorbency, low maintenance and odour controlling properties make

it simple and easy for you. All this means that Cats Protection, the UK's leading feline welfare charity, have selected Verdo Wood Pellet Cat Litter as their preferred litter product. Cats Protection sanctuaries across the UK all ben-

efit from our hygienic, effective and easy to use cat litter – a fact we're very proud of indeed!

In fact we're so proud to have been selected by Cats Protection, that for every bag you buy, we will donate 20p to the charity.

Unfortunately because some IV and AB postcodes are regarded as Highlands and Islands by some couriers, delivery could be estimated at 2-3 days instead of next day.

How we support neutering

We seek to dispel myths, spread the neutering message and make it easier for owners on low incomes to get their cats neutered.

In 2010 we helped neuter 176,000 cats making us the largest single cat neutering group in the world!

Neutering is one of Cats Protection's three primary objectives.

We achieve this in a number of ways:

By the work of our volunteer branches

By the efforts of our adoption centres

Through joint working with other larger charities

By supporting smaller charities

Through the work of individual volunteers in areas where we have no branch

By working with Dog Wardens and

social housing providers

Wherever you are in the UK, we can help with neutering. In areas where we do not have a local branch or adoption centre, we can still provide vouchers by post for owners or feral carers to neuter their cats.

Cats Protection champions neutering as the only effective way to reduce the number of unwanted cats in the UK.

If you require help with neutering call Jane on

01542 8

Can you help.....

We are always on the lookout for good quality used items you no longer need for our bric-a-brac stall.

Call 01343 820845

Can you help.....

We are always on the lookout for new items you no longer need for our tombolas and raffles.

Call 01343 820845

Can you help

We are always in need of volunteers to help at coffee mornings, fosterers, vet runs, fund raisers, bag packs, flag days.

We Need You...



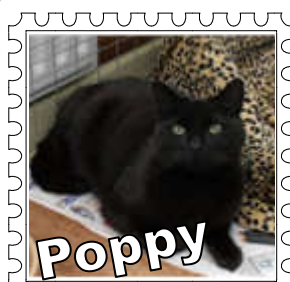
Moray Cats Protection Catch Up..

Here are the 2 ferals we took in earlier this week. They are terrified little balls of spitting fury. They aren't eating a lot but are eating solids. They are both female and probably only around six or seven weeks old. Remember that we can do with donations of kitten food or any other food that frees up money to buy kitten food. It will be much appreciated



The old ginger Tom that we picked up yesterday is very frail but the vet reckons he is healthy but just very, very old. To get to the age he has, he must have been someone's pet and he is definitely affectionate and looking for attention and is eating well enough for his age. We will keep feeding him up and building up his strength and then get him checked out again.

A Few chaps and chapeses waiting and hoping for families to adopt them.



Sad end to a brave little

guy....

Some of you might remember Marley, the young cat who was bullied by children as a kitten. He sprayed in spite of being neutered because he was so frightened. We asked the P&J and the Northern Scot to put an article in their papers and as a result of that, we found him a home in Aberdeenshire. We were due to take him over there tomorrow. We are very sad as Marley collapsed on Friday night and following examination by a vet, it was discovered that his kidneys were failing. The decision was made to put him to sleep. We were on such a high having found him a super home and are still in a state of shock.



Chez Nous News

Well! Her outdoors has lost it all together. Not only does she go out with Jane dressed as a cat, she has started painting her face with whiskers and black nose. What an embarrassment! Hopefully no one she meets will know she is our person.



We seem to have a lot of outs and ins.

Tommy moved to Veronica's because he had a male carer in the past. We thought he might quite enjoy male company, so Alex can spend time with him. He is now on special food for hyperthyroidism and is doing better. He did not like taking pills.

Spiro, our hissy spitty big grey and white boy in the run, went away to his new home in Inverness. He is doing well, has the run of the house and going looking for cuddles, but I suspect it may be quite different if he has to go into the basket again!

Bobby has also gone to his new home and is doing well. He sleeps in bed with Stephen, Arleen and one of the dogs.

Neither of the boys have ventured out yet but I expect they will at some time.

We have a little girl in Bobby's room, **Bella**, but only for a short while as people came to see her last Tuesday, the day she arrived, and will collect her on Thursday after she gets her booster. Bella's kitten, **Dudley**, has also been rehomed.

Zeno, a grey and white long haired boy in the run will come into the front room then. Her outdoors thinks he could be one of Spiro's kittens. He is very timid and spent the first four days hiding. He had his little op, chip & vaccination so is well on his way to being ready to home. He is starting to look for cuddles and will need to be brushed.

We had two 6 week old kittens in a puppy pen in the sit ootery but her outdoors split them up because the male tabbie was latching onto Bonnie's leg and suckling, making her leg sore. Clyde, the boy, is away to Jane's for a week as her mum is there just now and can look after him when Jane's at work.

We have also had a few short term visitors in the puppy pen. Tiger, a two year old ginger boy, who moved on to Pauline's, another 8 and a half year old apricot girl called Chancy whose owner died. She had to be trapped in her own home.

Her outdoors has also taken old Heather and her person to the vets as she had an eye problem, but it's part of an age thing but still taking her tablets in Shipman's paste.

Tipsy and **Fergus** are out and about just now. Her outdoors has just returned from a welfare job trying to get a sick wee cat but unfortunately it has gone walkabouts. The lady will shut it in her shed all night so her outdoors can try and get it to a vet tomorrow.

Her outdoors in away up the loft to check that the flasks for the Forres Coffee Morning are not there. They seem to be lost. [We've found them!]

It's quite overcast today so I think I'll away and get my head down till ham time.

Regards to all



Fund Raising & News



It was a dull rainy day (what's new) in Buckie on 23rd of June. Doors opened at 9.30am for our coffee morning. We were really surprised but very thankful that our usual support had braved the weather in aid of Moray Cats Protection. At 12.30 we had a grand total of just over £200.

School visit – follow up

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we went to a Primary School in Lossiemouth and gave a talk. I asked the teacher if it would be possible for the children to do a sponsored event – I cheekily suggested a sponsored silence, which the teacher thought was a fantastic idea. And so, the children did a 30 minutes sponsored silence on behalf of us and raised a fantastic £143. Anne dressed up as a cat again and we went back in to be presented with the cheque



Yet another wet day for the Dallas Gala but the crowds still braved the weather to support the yearly event.

Our gazebo was a blessing for the volunteers manning our stall. Despite the rain they managed to raise a grand total of £98.

Great work gang.

Silence may be golden but talking is good

We have also given two other talks since the last newsletter. On 17th April, Lex & Sharyn went to Step Forward, a mental health charity which helps people gain the skills and confidence to return to work. They enjoyed the talk and handed out goody bags to spread the word.

On 9th May, Lex and Anne attended the Elgin B.A.L.L. group and gave a talk to 50 people. Lex was a bit nervous but Anne said she did a great job. Again, it gets the word out there of who we are and what we do

FUN PAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

Your cat's front paws have **five** toes



The back paws have **four** toes



Unless your cat is polydactyl

Polydactyl means having extra toes. The high rate of polydactyl cats in Boston, USA has led people to refer to 8 toed cats as "Boston Thumb Cats."

Had your cat been born in ancient Egypt, the Egyptians may have used your kitty to protect crops from rats and other vermin.



Had your cat stuck around in ancient Egypt for long enough,

the Egyptians may have eventually come to worship your cat - even going so far as to mummify your kitty after death.



Your cat cannot taste things that are sweet.

The taste buds of a cat cannot detect sugar.



Kitties are not impressed by cupcakes.

Originally kitty litter was made from sand, but in 1948 it was discovered that clay was more absorbent.

CLUMPING FTW

Isaac Newton invented the cat flap door.



First you want out, now you want in. MAKE UP YOUR DAMN MIND, KITTY!

Your cat can see in the dark

Cats can see at one-sixth the light level required for human vision.

Do not spend good money on these, they are totally unnecessary.



Without Taurine, your cat would go blind.

Taurine is an amino acid that most animals produce on their own, but cats require it in their diet. Don't worry, it's in your cat food.



Taurine is also an ingredient in most energy drinks (but this doesn't mean you should ever give these to your cat)



Nikola Tesla got **zapped** by his cat

As a child Nikola Tesla was inspired to understand the secrets of electricity after being shocked by static electricity from his beloved cat, Macak.



Your cat purrs at the same frequency as an idling diesel engine.

This is around 26 purrs per second.

Guinea pigs, rabbits, squirrels, lemons, elephants, and gorillas also purr.

Your cat's ears can hear ultrasonic sounds.

Rodents use these sounds to communicate. Your cat can hear them but dogs and humans cannot.

Let's poop on something expensive



word



Your cat uses whiskers to gauge whether or not they can fit through an opening.

Furthermore, your cat's collarbone does not connect to any other bones but instead sits buried in muscle.

This makes it easier for your cat to squeeze through tight spots.

Your cat purrs continuously...

...by flowing air past the voice box during both inhalation and exhalation.

Your cat can run at 30 miles per hour! (48 KPH)

A kitty stole my gold medal :(



Usain Bolt
(100 meter world record holder)

27 MPH



Domestic housecat

30 MPH



Cheetah

75 MPH



If you have any stories, poems or puzzles you would like to see in the newsletter then email me at -

bevan@btinternet.com