



# The Cat's Whiskers



Stewartry & District Branch  
Spring Newsletter 2014

Spring is on its way at last after a wet, miserable winter. Although we have a break from our fundraising over the winter months, taking cats and kittens into care carries on regardless. We have had a good couple of months finding homes for our cats. At the end of last year we had quite a lot of kittens in care but most of them have now been rehomed and no doubt there will be a new batch in before long. We have several kitten fosterers and we would like to welcome Melissa, who recently volunteered to foster kittens - she has already had several charges and is loving every minute of it. We are still looking for volunteers who could foster an adult cat, either in a spare room or in a custom built cat pen. It's a very satisfying way to make a difference to the life of a stray/unwanted cat.



Every December the Branch has to send in an Annual Report to the National Cat Centre (Cats Protection HQ). This contains information used by the charity to forward plan, and is also required by the Charity Commission. Cats Protection is moving to online based reporting systems, which should make this simpler, as the information is stored on CP's own national intranet and so they can gather the facts themselves from all the Branches and Adoption Centres without the need for forms to be sent in. It should also make the Coordinators' and Treasurers' jobs a lot easier!

The Stewartry & District Branch has been using Cashlog, the online financial recording system for a couple of years now. All invoices, payments and income are entered into this and the bank statement reconciled every month. We are now moving to the use of Assetlog (recording all the equipment etc we have) and Catalog, the really important one that records all the cats we have in care during the year, along with their treatment and adoption.

Meanwhile, we are still keeping our own manual records as well, and listed below you will see the main categories for 2013. If you would like any other information, please let us know and we shall try to answer any queries! We like people to know how their donations are spent and the results of our work!

Cats/kittens homed	51	Cats neutered	189
Home visits	37	Cats/kittens treated at vet	115

**Expenditure**

Vets' bills	£8,092.77
Fostering costs	£2,528.15
Travel/van costs	£1,503.59
Event costs/goods for resale	£1,118.80

**Income**

Donations	£5,254.19
Subscriptions	560.00
Grant from CP	£5,000.00
Adoption Fees	905.00
Events income	£4,963.55
Goods sold	£1,063.75

**MAMA MIA!**

Towards the end of last year I received a call from a concerned member of the public. Both she and her neighbour had been feeding a stray white female cat who was heavily pregnant. The cat's owners had moved away several months previously and no-one knew where they had gone to. The cat had been left to her own devices getting food where she could and sleeping rough. In the summer she had a big tummy, then disappeared for a few weeks but there was no sign of any kittens when she returned and they wondered if the litter had died. The cat was in the woman's spare bedroom as she was worried she would give birth outside and the weather was dreadful. Neither of these two ladies could take the cat on as they already had 10 cats between them! They wondered if we could help.

I made a few phone calls and the next day Mia-as she was to be called- went to one of our experienced fosterers, who has cared for many mums and babies. She had looked after a white cat before who was deaf and although she gave birth to healthy kittens she had rejected them and they'd had to be hand reared. A vet check revealed Mia was pregnant and although a bit thin she was healthy enough and she wasn't deaf. We started to feed her kitten food to build her up and try to ensure she would have a good supply of milk to nourish the kittens. Mia settled immediately-she is a very loving, affectionate cat who just wanted to give kisses and get lots of attention!

About ten days after she arrived the fosterer contacted us to say the first kitten had been born and after an anxious wait Mia gave birth to 5 healthy kittens. She was a good Mum and the kittens suckled well and grew bigger by the day! Before long their eyes were open and they were taking an interest in the world. At four weeks of age they were ready to be weaned. Mia's milk would dry up and she would be neutered then we could put her up for adoption and find her a loving home.



The kittens were brought into the fosterer's home-3 girls and 2 boys. They continued to do well and loved to play and chase each other. However the fosterer noticed that the little white boy wasn't responding to sound and a visit to the vet confirmed he was deaf. He is staying with his fosterer and to date 3 of the other kittens have gone to new homes.

After an episode of mastitis that responded to antibiotics Mia was neutered and recovered well. Within two days of being put up for adoption a nice lady contacted us-she had lost her very elderly cat a short time ago and had fallen in love with Mia's picture! A home visit was done and Mia went to her new home. She settled right away and within twenty-four hours

pictures were sent of her looking like she had lived there forever. She is particularly fond of snuggling up in the lady's husband's chunky jumpers! We are all glad Mia has found a really good home and is going to be spoilt rotten.

## MAISIE'S STORY



One night last November we got a call from a nursing home near Kirkcudbright. A feral mum with 2 kittens had been found on the farm next door, and they had managed to get the kittens in – could we take them? One of our fosterers went up to get them and there were the most gorgeous grey and tortie babies! They were very scared and took a while to socialise but turned into lovely, affectionate kittens after a while. The mother cat was trapped and neutered the next day, and her blood test for FIV/FeLV was negative.

Unfortunately, Pixie the grey boy became ill at 14 weeks old, and it turned out he had a congenital condition that meant he had to be PTS. His sister Maisie was blood-tested in case the problem was caused by FIP, but the results were luckily negative. She is now 18 weeks old and has turned into a beautiful girl, though still a bit shy of strangers. However, once she gets to know you she is very affectionate, and loves to snooze curled up in the crook of your arm. She is a very unusual colour, and has the most gorgeous golden eyes. Maisie requires a home with experienced cat owners, who have the patience to let her settle down for a while, after which she will reward them with lots of cuddles!

## FUNDRAISING

We had 2 Coffee Mornings during the pre-Christmas period, one at Dalbeattie Town Hall which is always a popular venue and one at Gatehouse Parish Church. The Dalbeattie morning was busy, and with lots of things to buy and the raffle and tombola to buy a ticket for, it was a successful event and we raised a very impressive £965. The Gatehouse event is always a lot quieter and it is nice to have a bit more time to chat to people who come in. There are people that come every year and that have adopted cats from us so it is good to get news of how they are getting on. We made £497.

We have several fundraisers already planned for this year so please come along and support us.

### **EVENTS 2014**

22 March	Coffee Morning Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 -12 noon
1 – 3 May	3 day Charity Shop in Dalbeattie 10 – 4pm each day
29 June	Galloway Children's Festival Kirkcudbright 11 – 4pm
26 July	Coffee Morning in Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 – 12 noon

## 3 DAY CHARITY SHOP 1 – 3 MAY

We will be having our usual charity shop sale in McKenzies wee shop in High Street, Dalbeattie in May. The shop will be open each day from 10am – 4pm and as always, we would be very grateful for items to sell in the shop. If you are having a clear out and have any goods you would like to donate, please give us a call on 01557-339233 or bring to the shop during opening hours. Thank you.

## THESE CATS ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME



Maisie – 5 month old female



Cleo – 2 years old female

**CHRISTMAS CAT FOOD COLLECTIONS** - Thank you to everyone who donated cat food to our food bins in Tesco and the Co-op in Castle Douglas. We and the cats really appreciate your generosity.

**FELIX TOKENS** – please save any Felix tokens from Felix cat food as each token is worth 1 pence and we are now able to exchange tokens for money for the branch.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

These are now due for 2014, please send a cheque for £7 to: Stewartry & District Cats Protection, PO Box 7470, Castle Douglas DG7 1YE or you can pay online at our website [www.stewartry.cats.org.uk](http://www.stewartry.cats.org.uk) by clicking on the DONATE icon.

We rely on donations to continue our work for the cats in our area and your support is greatly appreciated. To keep costs down we will not send a receipt unless requested. If you are not sure if you have paid for the current year, please ring us to check.

### **NEWSLETTERS**

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

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

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

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