



The Cat's Whiskers



Stewartry & District Branch
Spring Newsletter 2013

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2013. Spring has not been long coming round and we look forward to another year of rescuing and rehoming cats and kittens. In an ideal world our charity wouldn't be necessary as all cat owners would be responsible and would get their cats neutered and wouldn't abandon them when they were no longer a novelty. I think this is a dream that sadly will never become reality. In the meantime we will carry on doing what we can to help needy cats and kittens in our area. We had a lot of kittens last year that took a long time to find new homes. Fortunately we did eventually get loving homes for most of them but we still have a pair of older kittens that we have not found a home for as they are quite timid with strangers. If all our fosterers have kittens in care it means that we are unable to take in any more and it is always difficult when people ring us asking for help and we are unable to help them. If we can't assist, we always check with neighbouring CP branches to see if they can and there is always the worry about what will happen to the cat or kittens if we can't take them in.

CATS & DOGS CAN LIVE IN HARMONY

Last year we took in 2 young farm kittens from a property that was being repossessed. Sadly, one of the kittens was quite poorly and failed to thrive, despite the care of the vets and the fosterer. However, the other kitten 'Tash' went from strength to strength and grew into a lively, loving boy. He was in our care for many months as we didn't have anyone interested in adopting him. When he was about 9 – 10 months old, he was adopted by a couple that had previously adopted a cat called Kit. They have 2 dogs and we weren't sure if Tash would get on with dogs but thanks to the new owners taking the introduction slowly, cats and dogs get on famously – as you can see below.



Tash & Kit



Tash & Ollie

FUNDRAISING

Since our last newsletter we have had 3 fundraising events. Our Christmas coffee morning in Gatehouse raised £303 and the coffee morning in Dalbeattie made £663.

Our first event of 2013 was in early March when we had a 3 day charity shop in Dalbeattie. It was in our usual place – the wee shop next door to McKenzies hardware store. We were lucky with the weather and had 3 completely dry days which makes a big difference to the success of the shop as it means we can display all the books on a table outside – anyone who has been into the shop will know that it's not called the 'wee' shop for nothing! We made £501 over the 3 days and thank everyone who supported us by donating items, buying items and helping out in the shop.

EVENTS 2013

6 April	Coffee Morning Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 -12 noon
27 April	Tesco Awareness Day, Castle Douglas
7 July	Children's Fayre, Kirkcudbright 11am – 3pm
3 August	Coffee Morning Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 – 12 noon
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SPIKE

Last summer we were told about a tom cat that was straying in a local village and seemed to be rather thin. It was believed his owners had moved away and abandoned him. At the time we had no space to take him in so the plan was to get him neutered and health checked at the vets and then return him to his original location where some people had agreed to feed him until we could take him in. However, as so often happens, we were so concerned about his condition when we saw him that we knew we would have to take him in right away and find a place for him somehow. Spike, as we called him, was very thin and he had fleas and worms and his coat was thin and sparse. He was ravenous and ate whatever was put in front of him. He was so frightened that he was visibly shaking for the first few days in our care. Over the next few months, Spike put on weight and grew a new, glossy coat. He is a very affectionate cat and likes to rest his head against yours. We found he was timid with people he doesn't know but he soon gains confidence and has recently gone to a lovely new home where he is settling in well.



The first 2 pictures are of Spike when he first came to us and the 3rd as he is now.

TESCO AWARENESS DAY – 27 APRIL

On Saturday 27 April we have our annual allocated fundraising day at Tesco in Castle Douglas. We don't have enough volunteers to do bag packing so we have an information table and accept donations from the public. If anyone could spare an hour or two to help out we would be very glad to hear from you.

CATS LOOKING FOR NEW HOMES



Guinness & Feather



Truffle



Sandy



Barley & Rowan



Gem

We also have other cats looking for homes. If you could offer a home to one of our cats, please contact us on 01557 339233 to arrange a home visit. All our cats/kittens are vaccinated, microchipped and neutered (if old enough). We have an adoption fee of £25 and more details about the cats can be found on our website www.stewartry.cats.org.uk

PETS AT HOME VIP CLUB

The Pets at Home store in Dumfries (and online) run a VIP club for customers which gives you discounts off your purchases and also helps local animal charities. You can register with the VIP club online at www.petsathome.com and nominate Stewartry Cats Protection as your charity of choice. You will benefit from a 10% voucher off your next purchase and regular special offers. We will benefit from the scheme from each purchase made using a VIP card.

FOSTERING FOR CATS PROTECTION

We are still looking for another fosterer to take on a single cat pen so if you love cats and would like to make a difference to the life of a stray cat, please get in touch.

Figures – Financial and otherwise from 2012

Vets bills	£9463	Donations (incl legacy)	£9692
Fostering costs	3266	Subscriptions	364
Travel/van costs	1694	Grant from H.O.	5250
Fundraising costs	858	Adoption Fees	825
		Fundraising	5688
	£15280		£22179

We homed 52 cats/kittens, neutered 193 cats and treated 128 cats/kittens at the vet.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have managed to continue our work this year, despite the increase in costs (particularly vets bills). Without our volunteers and members we would not be able to do all we do and would like to say how grateful we are. Having enough money in the bank means we can respond to emergencies, properly look after the cats/kittens in our care, trap and neuter feral cats and carry out home visits so that our cats get the best homes we can find. We ran a free neutering campaign at the end of last year which helps to reduce the number of unwanted kittens. We are aiming to do this every year as it has a definite beneficial effect in our area.

We are grateful to all those who help out and those who give financially in these difficult times. We hope to have another successful year in 2013 and look forward to seeing you at our fundraising events, or even rehoming a cat or kitten to you!

Subscriptions

These are now due for 2013, please send a cheque for £7 to: Stewartry & District Cats Protection, PO Box 7470, Castle Douglas DG7 1YE or you can donate online at our website www.stewartry.cats.org.uk

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

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