



# The Cat's Whiskers



Stewartry & District Branch  
Summer Newsletter 2012

Summer is here, though judging by some of the weather we have had, it's hard to believe. Since our last newsletter we have been kept busy with the day to day running of the branch. We often get asked, "Where's your adoption centre?" and we explain that we are a very small group of volunteers who run the branch and we don't have an office or central place where people can come and see the cats. All our cats and kittens are looked after by volunteers in their own homes. We are always looking for active volunteers, particularly if they are willing to take on any job that needs doing. There is more about volunteering opportunities later in this newsletter.

## LOLA



At the end of May, one of our volunteers had a call from a lady who said there was a cat hiding under her hedge and, as she hadn't seen it before and lived right beside a busy main road, she was concerned for its safety. We were able to take the cat into our care and because she had no collar or microchip we have been unable to find her owner. She is a very distinctive looking cat and it is a mystery why no-one has reported her missing.

Lola, as she has been called, was checked over at the vets and it was found that she had 6 shotgun pellets lodged in her head and body. It is shocking to think that someone would shoot at a cat and poor Lola must have been terrified. Fortunately, the pellets were just under the skin and haven't done any permanent damage. The vet removed them under anaesthetic and Lola is recovering well. She is a beautiful cat with lovely markings and blue eyes and is currently looking for a new home.

## FUNDRAISING

We have had several fundraising events already this year. In March we had our Spring Coffee Morning in Dalbeattie. These are always well attended and the tombola and raffle always prove popular. The home baking stall starts off piled high with delicious cakes and biscuits but they soon disappear. One of our volunteers spends several days baking for these events and we are very grateful to her for her hard work. Bric-a-brac, books and plants all sell well too and we made a grand total of £717. We are lucky to have a great group of volunteers that help out at the coffee mornings and we appreciate their support.

In April we had a successful 3 day charity shop in McKenzies wee shop in Dalbeattie. The first day was the busiest, as usual, with people looking for and finding lots of bargains. Friday morning was again busy but the rain came on in the afternoon and it was fairly quiet.

Over the 3 days we made £546 and would like to thank everyone who helped serve in the shop and to those who donated or bought goods.

We hope to have the shop again in the Autumn and if you have any items you could donate, please contact Judy on 01387 730316, anytime.

### **Table Top Sale – Penpont**

Earlier this year we took in a stray cat from Penpont, he had been living rough for a while and was thin and covered in ticks. Hazel, the lady who asked us for our help with the stray, was so grateful for our assistance that she and some friends organised a table top sale for us, in the village. The total raised on the day was £320 which was a great boost to our funds and we are very grateful to Hazel and her friends for all their hard work.

### **Medieval and Childrens Fair**

We had our usual stall at the above fairs in Kirkcudbright and were lucky with the weather, some of the only dry days we've had this summer. Between the 2 events we raised £840.

### **Lesley's Cards and Cakes Party**



Lesley organised her annual Cards and Cakes Party in June.

She makes handcrafted cards and other items to sell and invited friends round for coffee and cakes. She made £140 for the branch and we really appreciate her support.

### **THESE CATS ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME**



**Jazzie – 1 yr old female**



**Lola – 1 yr female**



**Tom – 2 yr old male**

If you are interested in giving one of these cats a new home, please contact us on 01557 339233 to arrange a home visit. All adult cats are neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Please note we have an adoption fee of £25 per cat. More details about the cats can be found on our website [www.stewartry.cats.org.uk](http://www.stewartry.cats.org.uk)

## MOGS IN THE LOGS

A phone call from a lady on a farm alerted us to a litter of feral kittens. The kittens had been seen playing in and around a large pile of logs in a farm shed. The farmer was concerned that the kittens would be killed by dogs on the farm. Mary and I went to the farm, armed with cat carriers, humane traps and tins of sardines (for the cats!). If we had known how long we were going to be there we would have taken a flask and sandwiches for ourselves. We were shown a large barn with a stack of logs down 1 side. The logs were piled about 5' high, 3' wide and 20' long. Our hearts sank at the thought of trying to find 4 or 5 small black kittens among all those logs. The farmer assured us that he had seen the kittens a few hours earlier. There was nothing for it but to start shifting the logs. Shortly after we started, an adult black cat slipped out of the barn, the mother cat we assumed. We shifted log after log and were beginning to wonder if the kittens had moved elsewhere when we saw a movement in the log stack. Shining a torch in, we saw the first kitten. Mary scruffed it and put it in the cat carrier, closely followed by kittens number 2 and 3. The fourth kitten decided to make it a bit harder for us by slipping out of the barn into the long grass and nettles. We managed to shepherd it back towards the barn and it went straight under another pile of logs. More log shifting ensued and the kitten made another dash for freedom, back into the long grass and down a steep bank towards the burn. This time the farmer managed to catch it and it joined its siblings in the carrier. The kittens were all black and aged about 6 weeks old. They looked healthy but were quite feisty as they had not had any human contact before. If kittens are to become domestic pets, they need to be socialised by the age of 6 – 7 weeks old or they may always be wary of humans. As we didn't have a spare kitten fosterer, the Stranraer branch of Cats Protection agreed to take the kittens and look after them until homes can be found.

The farmer was very impressed with our efforts to get the kittens and didn't seem to mind that we had left his neat log pile strewn all over the barn floor. He did suggest that we go back the next day to put it back in order but we think he was joking!



The log barn, after the kitten hunt



The elusive litter of kittens

### **EVENTS 2012**

28 July	Coffee Morning in Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 – 12 noon
2 August	Stall at Stewartry Agriculture Show, Castle Douglas
October	Charity Shop, Dalbeattie – date to be arranged
1 December	Coffee Morning in Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 – 12 noon

**Quiz**

One of our supporters is running a cat-themed anagram quiz again. If you would like to enter, send an SAE and 50p to Jaci Agnew, 18 Millflats, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4ER. Also available in local shops and at our events. Entries close 12 September 2012.

**Volunteers**

We are looking for more hands-on help with the branch as there are only a few of us to do all the day-to-day things. If you would like to get involved and are willing to do a variety of jobs, please get in touch. Ideally you would need your own transport. We are particularly looking for fosterers for adult cats or kittens. This is very rewarding and involves looking after a cat or litter of kittens until we find new homes for them. Kittens are looked after in volunteers' houses and adult cats can be looked after in a spare room or in a special cat pen in the garden. Also we need a handy person that could do occasional repairs to our cat pens.

**Neutering**

We have had many calls from the public this year about their cats having kittens. We are unable to take in all the kittens that people want us to because we do not have enough volunteers to look after them. There are so many unwanted cats and kittens in the country and if you know someone who hasn't got round to getting their cat neutered, we may be able to help them with the cost if they are on benefits and/or a low income.

**Subscriptions**

If you haven't already paid your subscription for 2012, please send a cheque for £7 to:

Stewartry & District Cats Protection  
PO Box 7470  
Castle Douglas DG7 1YE

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.

**Newsletters**

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

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

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