



The Cat's Whiskers



Stewartry & District Branch
Winter Newsletter 2012

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. The summer seems to have flown by and we have been busy as ever with fundraising and cat care. Despite the awful summer weather we were lucky with our outdoor fundraising events and only got rained on once at Thornhill Gala, and we only just got packed up in time before the heavens opened and the streets were running with water. It has been a disappointing year from the point of view of finding homes for cats. We have had very few people wanting to adopt a cat or kitten and we have several kittens that are now 6 months old and still waiting to be adopted. Also several mature cats that have been with us for some time and would love to find a comfortable new home. Older cats still have a lot to offer and people often say that older cats would be too set in their ways to settle in a new home but that is just not the case. Speaking personally, I have adopted 3 mature cats from Cats Protection, 2 of which are still with me and they all settled down with very little fuss. The great thing about them is that they are quite happy to spend a lot of time sleeping, they don't chase the birds or want to stay out all night. And they don't climb the curtains! And for anyone that still thinks kitten season is early spring and summer – don't be fooled! We recently took in 4 x 2 week old kittens that had been rejected by their domestic mother and as I write this we have just taken in a stray cat who is about 5 – 6 weeks pregnant.

FUNDRAISING

Our July coffee morning in Dalbeattie was probably not as busy as usual, but we still had a successful day and raised £607.

At the beginning of August we spent the day at the Stewartry Agricultural Show in Castle Douglas with our CP stall. Luckily the day was dry and sunny but the ground had been so wet beforehand that the organisers had to change the position of a lot of the stands to protect the rugby field. When we arrived we were told that we wouldn't be in our usual spot and because we couldn't take our van onto the grassed areas, we had to lug all the equipment and boxes from the van over several hundred yards to our allocated space. I was wishing we had taken a wheelbarrow with us to make it a bit easier. However we had a good day and made £222.

CHARITY SHOP IN DALBEATTIE

We had our regular autumn 3 day sale in McKenzies wee shop in Dalbeattie. The first day was very wet and the shop was nowhere near as busy as it has been on previous occasions but fortunately the weather improved on the Friday and Saturday and lots of people came in to browse and buy. We are so grateful to everyone that supported us by donating or buying items and to our willing group of volunteers who served in the shop. We made £604 over the 3 days and this goes a long way to helping the cats in our area. Thank you as always to the McKenzie family for their generosity in letting us use the shop.

WHY ARE BLACK CATS LOOKING FOR HOMES?

All Cats Protection branches and adoption centres report difficulty in rehoming black (and offer black and white) cats. At any one time CP is looking after 1300 (about 23%) black cats and kittens and they take on average weeks longer to rehome than more colourful felines.

Why should this be? Some people think black cats are unlucky or that they are linked to witchcraft, when conversely, there is a widespread belief that they are lucky. It is a well known superstition that to have a black cat cross your path is lucky.

Our branch has several older black and black and white kittens in care. They are all lovely and it is a shame that they should be passed over.

We also have other cats, some mature, 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



Bebe



Simpson



Spike



Sparky



Guinness/Feather



Chilli

CATS PROTECTION CHRISTMAS CARDS

We will have CP cards for sale at our various events in the next few weeks and they will also be on sale in the Stewartry Veterinary Centre in Oakwell Road, Castle Douglas.

EVENTS 2012

24 November

Coffee Morning Gatehouse Parish Church Hall 10 -12

1 December

Coffee Morning in Dalbeattie Town Hall 10 – 12 noon

Thurs 6 Dec

Charities Fayre in Dalbeattie Town Hall 4.15pm – 6.45pm

Lots of stalls, music, mulled wine and mince pies.

TWIZZLE & SMARTIE

Twizzle. We got a call from a lady whose husband had driven home from work and when he got home he heard miaowing from the car engine. When he opened the bonnet, a small black kitten dashed out and ran off! It was miaowing loudly but wouldn't let anyone near him. After finding the kitten under their neighbours' car the next day, they rang us for help. We lent them a kitten trap and the kitten was quickly caught but was not happy being in the trap. We went to pick the kitten up and I took it home. It was smaller than we expected, about 8 – 10 weeks old. Once it was in the kitten pen, the poor wee soul was terrified – hissing, spitting and hiding in the corner. He kept trying to escape whenever I opened the door. It seemed the kitten was truly feral and I didn't know what we were going to do with him. I took him for a health check at the vets and when I got him home again he seemed calmer and started to purr when I put his food in. Over the next few days Twizzle, as I named him, became increasingly confident and started to play with a fishing rod toy and I was able to stroke his back with a feather. After about a week I was able to stroke him with my hand and he came out of the pen and sat on my lap. He never looked back after that and has turned into one of the most loving cats I've known. He has gone to a new home and is happily settled.

Smartie was brought to us by a member of the public. She saw a tiny grey and white kitten by the roadside, having nearly been run over by a car. She stopped and searched for a mother cat or other kittens but found nothing. Nobody living nearby knew anything about the kitten. She picked him up and put him in the car and phoned Cats Protection. The kitten was about 4 weeks old, cold and a bit lethargic. I put him in a heated cat bed and after a good feed – he was starving – he went off to sleep. When he was checked at the vet he was found to be fine, he just had a few fleas. Over the next few weeks, Smartie grew into a beautiful kitten, who was full of energy and loved to race about and play. He has been adopted by some people who already had a CP cat. The two cats took a while to get used to each other but are now best buddies, playing chase and lying together in front of the fire.



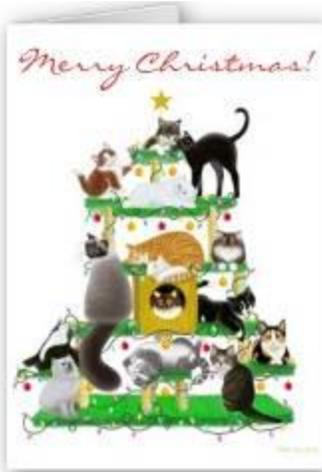
Twizzle & Smartie

CHRISTMAS CAT FOOD COLLECTIONS

Every Christmas we have cat food collection bins in several local supermarkets. When you are out shopping, please consider buying an extra item of cat food for the cats that are in our care. We know they will really appreciate it. The food bins will be in the Co-op, Tesco and Wilkinsons in Castle Douglas and we hope to have one in the Co-op in Dalbeattie.

FOSTERING FOR CATS PROTECTION

Because we are a small branch, run entirely by volunteers, we rely on people to foster cats either in their own homes or in a purpose-built cat pen in their garden. The cats are looked after on a temporary basis until we find a new home for them. If you have no cat of your own but would like some feline company, occasionally, why not consider fostering a cat in your house? Or, as cats in care are not allowed to mix with fosterers' own cats, you might consider having a cat pen in your garden. Fostering is very rewarding and we couldn't continue as a branch without our dedicated fosterers. It is quite a commitment but it is such a joy to see a thin, poorly stray cat progress to full health and vitality and finally to see them go to a loving home. If you would like to find out more about fostering, please ring us for more information. We currently have a spare cat pen available for a new fosterer.



***WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS & BEST WISHES FOR
2013. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL
YOUR HELP.***



Subscriptions

These will soon be due for 2013, 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. 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

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

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