

CAT SHELTER

Newsletter

Tel: (01273) 606843

As usual, a big **Thank you** to all the lovely volunteers who help the Cat Shelter, by working in the cattery, fund raising, cat sitting, giving money by standing order, by contributing to all our fund raising whether the sponsored walk or the London Marathon, or sponsoring a cat at Christmas, or by letting us look after their cats whilst on holiday. Another big thank you to our lovely vets at Top Cat in Mackie Avenue, the emergency vets at The New priory and to ARCS for her help with sale goods and for organising the fund raising which supports three local animal charities as well as the Cat Shelter. Thank you to ASDA Hollingbury, Co-op Nevill Road, Budgens, Henfield and Costcut-



Willy 2 enjoys the leaf park, some leaves Louise brought in for the later kittens to enjoy

ters in Lewes Road for their continued support and last but not least to Cat Welfare (Sussex) and Sussex Pet Rescue for financial help.

The Cat Shelter has rehomed 221 cats and kittens in 2007 many of them in appalling condition, not neutered, strays, full of fleas and worms, one even arrived with his testicles, minus an eye and his jaw wired up. He had obviously been treated by a vet for a Road Traffic Accident and then escaped again, Oh yes he also had feline aids. Sid has this week found a home in Portslade where hopefully he will live out the remainder of his life in love and comfort, for he cannot be allowed to mix with other cats for fear of passing on the FIV.. Many of the "Left Overs" come to live with us in the house, at the last count there were 15 living there most of them unhomeable because of their temperament, currently there are 2 cats over the age of 19 and another of 17 still going strong! We only have 4 of our originals left the rest are Left Overs.

During the early part of the summer we had a request from the City Council Animal Welfare dept to take in some 15 cats from a flat near to John Street Police Station, midway through the morning the girls phoned to say that they were unable to catch any of the cats because they were too wild and one of their Inspectors had been quite badly bitten and would I attend. Louise volunteered to help me and we set off to find 15 entire cats, the 5 females all pregnant and the 10 toms all spitting fury. There were

NO litter trays all the cats lived inside an old sofa and did their toilet on the floor !!!! It was A Life of Grime with real faeces and urine and very angry cats. An hour later we had caught



Part of the wild bunch!

half of them and Louise had been bitten 8 times so up to A&E for a while and then back to the hell hole to catch the remainder. We had to ask Julie Grant at Cat Welfare for help so she took 6 of the toms and we kept the remainder. Of course all the females produced their kittens within a couple of days so we had another 19 little'uns to deal with also. So far most of them have been homed but the remaining ones are still quite timid. Another 6 came in from Animal Welfare all full of fleas and loads of infec-



"Like father like son" 2 lovely grey kittens



Up for a fight: One of the 15 evicted from their hellish home. This one left four puncture wounds on Louise's leg! She still loves him to bits though

tions caused by the lack of treatment by the owners.

MOLLIES STORY

Mollies journey with us began by a chance meeting. In the colds of February this year my friend had a frequent visitor to her bins at night, a little Black and white cat. She was concerned and phoned me. It was an easy job to trap her and soon I had her in my flat ready to take to



the cattery. It was then that I noticed she was nursing, we had no idea where the kittens might be so on a cold and windy morning we had to let her go and see where she went.

Immediately she headed down a busy street. I ran after her as fast as I could and eventually she ran down some steps and into a cellar. There were 3 kittens, only a few days old quivering on a cold, concrete floor. I managed to get the kittens easily but Mum had scarpered again. It took an anxious day and night to catch her but they were reunited. I am happy to say that one of the volunteers took on Mollie and one of her sons Jasper. All 4 are doing well after there shaky start.

The Wasp man cometh



We were infested with wasps in the summer and Michael and I and Daniella, a volunteer suffered stings. We were effectively cut off for a whole afternoon until the nest was suppressed. It was under a tree stump right outside the front gate!

More effort has been put to fund raising as our out goings are around £2000 each month, most of it at the vets. We have been offering low price neutering including microchipping for £10 for those in receipt of benefit thanks to some cash from Pet Rescue which has seen 52 extra cats neutered mainly from the Estates. We will continue to help as long as we can however we know we only scratch the surface of the problem. Please feel free to visit and see where it all goes.

Final note:

Its just not cats that end up in our care. This mouse was rescued and lived with us for about 3 months before he died. He had lost the use of his hind legs but was quite chirpy and happy living with Jane's son. A dog found its way to a new owner next door and the hedgehogs enjoy left-overs in the front garden.



Mr Prickles, yesterday



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO YOU ALL
AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT.**