

CAT SHELTER

Newsletter 2008

Tel: (01273) 606843

As usual a big thank you to all our lovely volunteers who help the cat shelter, who work at the cattery, fundraising, cat sitting, giving money by standing order, by contributing to fundraising whether a sponsored walk, sponsored swim, boot sales, sponsoring a cat at Christmas, or by letting us look after their cats whilst on holiday. Another big thank you to our vets, Top Cat in Mackie avenue, to Derriman and Haynes of Patcham and to Keren O'Mahoney at ARCS for her help with sale goods and for organising fundraising which supports three local animal charities as well as the cat shelter. Thank you to ASDA at Hollinbury, CO OP at Nevill Road, Budgens at Henfield and Costcutters in Lewes Road for their continuous support and last but not least to Cat Welfare (Sussex) and Sussex Pet Rescue for financial help.

We have re-homed 217 cats and kittens in 2008 most of them in poor condition, not neutered, full of fleas and worms, stray for weeks. We even had a diabetic one turn up!

Sad faced Monty arrived in the Autumn aged 7-8 years old, unneutered, bad teeth, three abscess's on his rear end, a collar wound under his front left leg and to add to his problems one of his testicles was undescended. When he came back from the vets he didn't know which bit hurt the most, he is really a lot better now, just the leg wound is taking a long time to clear. In the meantime, Monty is indulging in his favourite hobby, eating.

Most unusually no kittens were born at the shelter this year but we made up for it with the numbers which were found in people's gardens. October became poo city for Jane with an outbreak of Parvovirus and Campylobacter in the kitten unit and some of the adult homeless cats were also affected.

Our outgoings are now around £2,500 per

month, again we have been offering low cost neutering and micro-chipping. There are so many people who are trying to dump their cats., last week eight calls in one day. There are a lot of cats being kicked out and all rescue centres are always full up and we can't keep up with the number of arrivals.

Lewesian Colony comes home



A friend of a volunteers' family who had been looking after a colony of semi-feral cats died this year leaving 6 cats in her garden, terrified and confused and needing to be caught. Having lived there for over ten years it was a great upheaval for the colony and Jane, Michael and Louise had quite a job to catch them and get them into the cattery safely. The first two were caught in the house but the emotional stress on the cats and us was huge and we decided to use humane traps instead. It took about a week until we got the last one in.

Being semi-feral they hadn't visited the vet for most of their lives. We had neutered them several years ago but all were in need of dental treatment and are, at present, resident here. We have had some success in rehabilitating them, one is still very cross and not handleable but we have 4 that are easy to stroke and we are hoping to be able to home them domestically soon. The other 3 may end up living their lives here with us as they are 13 years old or so a life outdoors on a farm might be too harsh.

Continuing on the theme of semi-ferals, we have managed to home all the cats from John Street (See last years newsletter) the last 2 live on a farm with another two semi-feral we caught from Ashington two months ago.

Ashington.

We never quite get used to hearing that people have moved house and left their cats behind. We were called to a house in Ashington as there were 4 cats left from a family who had moved up to Crawley. One had had kittens. Again we had to trap some of the cats as they had become used to their own company.

April Snow Showers



Like the rest of Sussex, we were caught by surprise with the snap snow spell that

arrived in April. It was so fast that our voluntary workers went into the sheds to work and came out to a blanket of virgin snow with no footmarks in them at all. It was a most peculiar day. 2 volunteers were stuck here for several hours as Coldean became cut off. We had lunch and made snow-cats! A memorable day indeed.



Lump in the throat cat

Jesse came to us earlier this year with a huge lump on his chin. Medication and treatment reduced the infection but has returned unfortunately so we are back to the vets.

Stolen Kittens:

It was such a sad moment for us that a young person who we had given an opportunity to work with us decided to steal two kittens and some other equipment from us this year. We were all shaken and shocked. We think a first attempt was foiled as Michael found 11 kittens running about in the garage with the

REMEMBER: WE HAVE
COLLECTING STATIONS
FOR FOOD IN
HOLLINGBURY ASDA,
CO-OP IN NEVILL ROAD
AND COSTCUTTERS,
LEWES ROAD





Claw clipping for cats
(01273) 606843

DERRIMAN & HAYNES
ENGRAVERS
(01273) 509005

Pet ID tags.
Memorial
plaques and
much more:



Top Cat Veterinary Centre

01273 504800 - Care for cat & Rabbits



Photography and design

tel: (01273) 606843

www.citycatshelter.com



Stolen: two 7 week old kittens

garage door open and had to be thankful that the foxes that forage at the back of the cattery didn't take any. Grizzly bear, one of our residents who lives in the garage was shaken by the ordeal and still seems nervous of the garage, opting to stay in the house overnight.; we managed to retrieve the kittens following a small, targeted poster campaign and eventually the trap was found that went missing at the same time.

Because of this we have had to install a recording CCTV system throughout the cattery and replace the garage door as well as taking even more care when accepting people to



help here.

Some cats are just plain performers . Paddy would wave his paws at us through the kitchen window, it didn't even need to be dinner time. A real charmer don't you think? These are the kind of antics that give us, as volunteers, so much pleasure, knowing that our cats find safe and secure homes and their characters say it all.



It doesn't seem that long ago that we were clearing debris and installing brand new sheds, that was 7 years ago already! A lot has happened in between times and one of those is rot.. The top shed has been vulnerable to wet due to some poor manufacturing. And the floor was sagging. We had already repaired some areas that were in jeopardy of collapsing but soon other areas began to emerge where the chipboard was breaking down. We got some more appropriate wood and re-laid a floor over the other one. To take out the cages and relay the whole floor from scratch would have been near impossible and this new floor is many times more substantial and will out-live the cattery

Some of the funds we get come from rather amazing sources. Last year one of our volunteers ran the marathon, this year, Sara Hill, a local Artist from Rottingdean learnt to swim and shortly after cooked up the idea of swimming the equivalent of the channel at Falmer health club not once but three times covering a staggering 66 miles or 5,280 lengths! She did this over a 28 day period covering the Brighton Festival and raised us a wonderful £1,500.

Wildlife Corner



Anyone for Swimming??



Smiles all round, Michael takes care of the cheque moments after the finish on a drizzly day

Frogs: in the spring we see the wildlife emerging, this year I managed to photograph 3 different types of toad / frog. They are as protected as we can with a big net over the pond. AS well as planting some left over bird seed at the rear of the cattery to try and have some space for butterflies and birds (its not where the cats can go!)

Michael got a well earned rest and went to visit the white lions at the Midlands zoo. He was thrilled to see the cubs whilst heaving a sigh of relief that our cats aren't that big!

JANE AND MICHAEL AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF CITY CAT SHELTER WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS THE BEST CHRISTMAS POSSIBLE AND AN AFFORDABLE NEW YEAR.

I would like to become a friend of the City Cat Shelter. Please send a standing order form

or I enclose £..... To help with the upkeep of the cattery.

CITY CAT SHELTER

Name:.....

Address line 1.....

Address line 2.....

Town.....

Postcode.....

Please cut this slip off and return it to:



The City Cat Shelter
14 Ingham Drive
Coldean
Brighton
BN1 9GL