



Barnstaple and District Branch

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

Sunny weather makes fundraising much more pleasant – thanks to Sue Cross and her volunteers amongst whom Jackie, Reg, Michael, Rosemary and Jo are absolute stalwarts, we have had some very successful events. However, we do need more people to volunteer – some of us (and here I definitely include myself) are getting older and are subject to a few more aches and pains than used to be the case. Please contact Sue Cross and ask what you can do to help – the occasional couple of hours make all the difference. If you want to do a stall or a car boot for us, we can supply goods to sell, raffle and tombola prizes, promotional freebies ...even tables, table cloths and a gazebo. Just get in touch! And it's always lovely to meet our members and supporters as well as people who have homed cats and kittens from us – always introduce yourself if we are out fundraising.

The kitten season seemed to start early this year and the fosterers have been busy ever since. Taking eleven kittens to the vet for first vaccination and microchip is a major logistical exercise, not made any easier when it includes a substantial number of black kittens. Because kittens and pregnant mothers have to take priority, we have, at times, ended up with a longer than normal waiting list of cats to come into branch care. However, homing of older cats has been steady and our belief that there IS a home for every cat seems to be borne out. Generally these are quiet, well-behaved cats, just grateful for a comfortable home, regular meals and company. After some initial apprehension (hiding behind furniture is common) they settle down quickly and decide that 'this will do!' We had a miserable 3 weeks during which two of our cats (Polly and Rufus, both rescues) had to be PTS. We adopted Lara who had been in a pen for 2 months but, in spite of being a very pretty ginger and white 8-year old, hadn't attracted any attention because she was a very timid cat, lacking confidence. After a few initial setbacks (she managed to escape through a partly opened window) she is now a very happy cat, able to come and go as she pleases, 'painfully' affectionate (we both have some very fine claw marks) and cohabiting peacefully with Delilah.

Many thanks to Exeter branch – they decided to share a generous legacy with all the branches in Devon and Cornwall to offer free neutering from April to June. I issued nearly 100 vouchers to people in our area which certainly constitutes a significant saving to our branch neutering costs (these invariably exceed the neutering grant we receive from Cats Protection HQ) as well as ensuring that these cats have been neutered – it's unfortunate that fixed price vouchers are less likely to be used than full cost ones.

I know it's horribly early to ask but we only intend to do one 2015 calendar and diary order this year – please let Sue Cross or me know if you want anything (cat calendar, kitten calendar, diary) so we can try to order the right number and not be left with any unsold ones.

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Homing Officer – Tel: 0845 3371 4203 – <http://cats.org.uk/barnstaple>

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Hello everyone, the Summer is already on its way, we have had the longest day and are hoping for some more events to help with the influx of kittens. As usual we are asking for anyone willing to lend a hand for an hour or two at either collections at various stores or with the actual fund raising duties of finding venues suitable for us to sell our wares. We have found that our "Prize every time" tombola goes well so are always looking for suitable items as prizes.

We had a wonderful day in June when we were asked to join the Dogs Trust Fun Day at Braunton. The weather was wonderful, Kay brought loads of plants to sell and Lydia made lots of muffins and shortbread, we ran a tombola and also a special Dog or Cat raffle depending on whether the winner wanted the Doggy hamper or the Kitty hamper. The contents of the hampers were donated by Market Vets and Argyll Vets, many thanks to them.

This is our fund raising schedule so far for the following few months, we also hope to be

Party at The Manor at the end of August

1st August. Collection at Tesco, Ilfracombe

16th August. Collection at Tesco, Braunton

5th October, 2nd November, 7th December. Table Top sale at Roundswell Hall

1st December. Collection at Tesco, Whiddon Valley

20th December. Collection at Tesco Extra

All these events/collections need at least four people, two in the morning and two in the afternoon to make it worthwhile. We meet some lovely people, some with problems, some with happy stories some with sad and some just like to chat. Please come along and support us and say hello.

If you are able to spare an occasional couple of hours to help us with fundraising, we would be very grateful.

You can contact me, Sue, on either 01271 379183 or suecross235@icloud.com.



NEW FOSTERERS – DENISE AND KELLY

We have been fostering since January 2014 we have had a mixture of cats and kittens. Some cats have needed special care and attention because of their experiences before they came to us, for example Trinity was a 5 years old female cat with major trust issues, she was very untrusting and not too keen on people but all she needed was lots of patience, time and love and she is now a very friendly loving companion for someone. This summer we had 13 kittens



in at one time; one litter was born with us which is an amazing experience and one you never take for granted to be privileged to be a part of. It's wonderful watching them grow from day one and all the changes they go through from being blind little bundles of fluff to little cats running up your legs and biting your toes. It is always sad when people have to give up their pet due to circumstances out of their control and always brings a tear to my eyes as they say goodbye. Fostering is a

lot of hard work and time with vet trips, cleaning and the fun bit playing and lots of cuddles. It is extremely rewarding and something we are glad we decided to do.

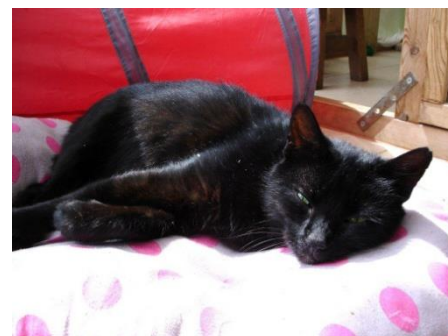
Denise and Kelly – Fosterers

Could you offer either of these lovely cats a forever home?



This is Flossy she is 16 years old. She is very friendly and loves her cuddles. She would make a perfect companion pet for an elderly person or a lovely family pet for a family with older children.

Sophie is approx 5 years old and has been in our care for nearly 3 months as she was pregnant when she came in. She has since had her single kitten and has been a fantastic mum but she now fully deserves a loving home of her own where she can receive lots of love and attention. She is still very playful and really friendly and affectionate and absolutely loves having a fuss made of her. Sophie will need to be homed as an indoor only cat though as she has been confirmed as being FIV positive, but she is very healthy and no treatment is required for her condition.



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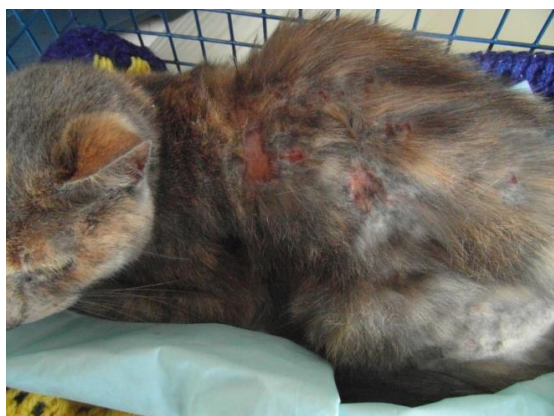


FLEA ALLERGIES

These beautiful girls are 2 year old Sisters, Smudge & Fudge. As you will see from the photo below, Fudge has a severe skin condition. This was brought on by flea bite hypersensitivity which is very common in cats. It is in fact, flea saliva, which is believed to be the cause of the allergy. Flea bite hypersensitivity causes severe itching and the poor cat scratches so much, that it causes, hair loss, raw patches and scabs on the skin, as well as a lot of distress to the cat. Since as few as one or two flea bites a week can cause these symptoms, it will often persist, even after a flea treatment has been applied, if the flea treatment wasn't effective enough.

Cats who suffer from this allergic reaction need to be treated with a good quality flea treatment, prescribed by a vet. Most off the shelf flea treatments just do not work and some fleas have built up an immunity to them.

Poor Fudge had been in this condition for so long that it has been a very slow process to get the sores to heal. She is making progress and hopefully will soon have a lovely coat again like her sister.



Sue Carder

Fosterer

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NEW TREASURER – JULIE

A year ago we already had two ginger cats, Riise and Scooter. They are house cats with secure outdoor space as a main road had recently been built very near our property. After the loss of our much loved dog it seemed that the cats lacked for company which our dog had helped with so we made the decision to increase our brood from 2 to 4!

I got in touch with Cats Protection regarding a litter of ginger kittens they had in and in no time at all we introduced Jordi and Ronin to the big cats. Almost immediately, after 1 noisy night, integrated extremely well with the big boys and soon fell in love. A week or so after the kittens arrived, Jordi became quite poorly and didn't seem to be thriving – we were worried sick. Straight away Cats Protection offered to pay for his treatment, which was a relief, and he slowly got better although he is still very tiny.

A couple of months later we took them to be neutered and were told that Jordi would have to have an operation to be neutered as the testicles hadn't descended. Once again Cats Protection offered their help which, once again, was a massive relief.

I was very impressed with the level of help offered to our little kitten and wanted to give something back. I saw that there was a vacancy for a Branch Treasurer and, as I have experience in this area, wanted to offer my services. I was accepted and am now happily getting to grips with it.

Ronin and Jordi have now turned 1 and are both doing very well. I am reminded on a daily basis how blessed we are and that it is in a great part to do with the generosity of Cats Protection.

Julie Beattie – Barnstaple and District Branch Treasurer.

STOP PRESS! Details of 'Christmas Essentials' arrived yesterday. The 2015 CP Cat Calendar will be made up of photos of cats adopted through CP branches and adoption centres with a little bit of the cat's 'history' - the Kitten Calendar is in its usual 'thin' format with detachable postcards of kittens. Check the website for pictures of Christmas cards - we will be putting in a branch order so let us have any special requests as soon as possible.

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