



# North Walsham and District Cats Protection

## Branch Newsletter – June 2012

Welcome to the third edition of our Branch Newsletter. It brings you dates of the upcoming events and updates on our work between February and June 2012, as well as stories of cats who have been, or still are in our care.

### More Events in 2012

Having already had our first major event, the Plant Sale, we are looking forward to seeing our supporters at a number of events still to come:

**24<sup>th</sup> June** – Hog Roast, Mill Cottage, Dilham

**7<sup>th</sup> July** – Collection at Hoveton

**12<sup>th</sup> July** - Crafts and Things Sale, St. Benet's Hall, North Walsham

**9<sup>th</sup> August** - Crafts and Things Sale, St. Benet's Hall, North Walsham

**11<sup>th</sup> August** – Collection at Holt

**8<sup>th</sup> September** – Branch Open Coffee Morning, Mill Cottage, Dilham

**13<sup>th</sup> September** - Crafts and Things Sale, St. Benet's Hall, North Walsham

**11<sup>th</sup> October** - Crafts and Things Sale, St. Benet's Hall, North Walsham

**8<sup>th</sup> November** - Crafts and Things Sale, St. Benet's Hall, North Walsham

**17<sup>th</sup> November** – Christmas Sale, St. Benet's Hall, North Walsham

### Cake stall volunteers needed

Do you like baking? Have you got friends who enjoy it, too? Would you like to do something to help the cats in our care? If you've answered 'yes' to all the above questions, you are the person we are looking for. We need volunteers to organise a cake stall for our Open Coffee Morning on September 8<sup>th</sup>. If you think you could help, please ring Stephanie on 01692 535858.



### Fundraising Update

Since the Tesco Aylsham Collection we have managed to raise some more money for our cats, as listed below. However, some of the figures (the Plant Sale especially) are significantly lower compared with last year. All the funds we raise are spent on helping cats in our local area, so please support us during the upcoming events!

Table Top Sale in Santon Downham - £68.50  
Special Event at Dereham and District Adoption Centre - £79.85  
Yard Sale - £95  
April Craft Sale - £121.85  
Plant Sale - £474.98  
May Craft Sale - £70.70  
June Craft Sale - £63.90  
Sainsbury's Collection - £446.38  
Sale at Dog Olympics in Filby – 103.74



## Neutering Campaign Update

Since we launched our neutering campaign, we've spent £6,500 on neutering 150 cats – 33 feral ones and 117 belonging to eligible owners. We have also had 12 cats in our care neutered, but it is something we always do, regardless of whether we are running a campaign.

If you are, or know someone who needs help with neutering their cat(s), you can still contact us on **01692 535858** or by email to [northwalshamcp@gmail.com](mailto:northwalshamcp@gmail.com)

To qualify, the owner has to be on low income or on benefits and live in the North Walsham and District Cats Protection Branch area, which means postcodes NR10, NR11, NR12, NR13, NR24, NR25, NR26, NR27, NR28 and NR29.

When we launch our next neutering campaign, we will only be able to cover part of, rather than the full cost of the operation, so now it is the last chance to have the neutering paid for in full.

## Kitten Season 2012

As soon as the spring arrived, we started getting reports of pregnant cats or mums with kittens found in people's gardens. Sadly, it happens every year – some owners abandon the cat as soon as they realise it is pregnant, as they don't want the trouble and the expense of caring for the kittens. Of course, it could have easily been prevented in the first place, had they had their cat neutered in time.

One story of an abandoned mum was a particularly dramatic one. Hunni, a beautiful ginger girl, was found giving birth to her first kitten in someone's garden. The people who found Hunni were concerned and took her to the vets. On the way there Hunni gave birth to another kitten, and the remaining three were born at the vets, on the way from the vets to Dilham and finally in a pen at Stephanie's.



The above pictures were taken when the kittens were only two days old. Sadly, the smallest one has died, but the remaining four are doing well and some have already been chosen.

Another dramatic story concerns two young cats who perhaps lived with someone since they were kittens, but, whoever this person was, they decided they didn't want them any more and abandoned them near a busy road in Acle. We don't know whether both cats came from the same household, but they both suddenly appeared in an area where they hadn't been seen previously, within a couple of weeks from each other.

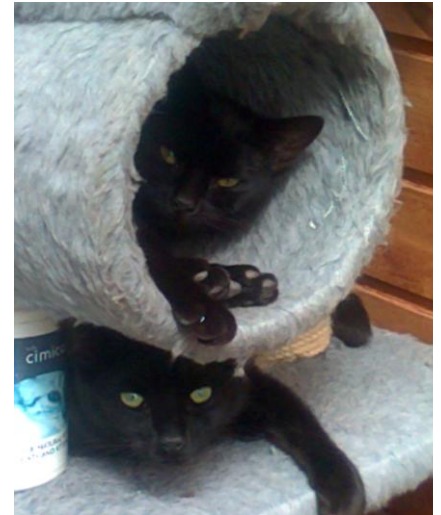
Because the cats were obviously confused and did not realise the dangers of traffic, they were both hit by a car. Both ended up getting seriously injured – one, Dory, had a fractured pelvis and the other, Nemo, had to have one leg amputated. Both cats are recovering from their injuries at the moment, but will be available for adoption when they get better.

The bill for treating the two injured cats came up to £632.74 and we're looking at at least another £200 for further check-ups. All of this, as well as the cats' pain and suffering, could have been avoided, had the owners contacted us when they could no longer care for their cats, rather than abandon them the way they did.

## Re-homing Update

You will be pleased to know that, since the last newsletter was published, a few of our long term residents left us for new homes. Kitty, who I have mentioned in the previous newsletter, finally found someone who didn't mind a cat with attitude. We are all delighted for her, as well as for Madge, the black girl also mentioned before, who had been with us for nearly a year before she was chosen. Madge was an extremely friendly and affectionate cat, but, perhaps because she was black, no one really came to see her. The first person who decided to consider Madge, however, fell in love with her instantly and she left for a new home just a few days after meeting her new owner.

Another really pleasing and very recent success story is the re-homing of Bitsy and Beetie. These two girls had lived in one of the pens at Stephanie's for a year with their brothers, Bim and Bentley, and mother Bella. These little black cats had been strays before coming into care and never really learned to trust people, in spite of all the care they received. However, a couple who have had cats like this before, decided to adopt two of them and very generously chose Bitsy and Beetie, the most shy of the five; they thought that the remaining three will have more chance of finding a new home as they are slightly friendlier. Consequently, Bim, Bentley, Bella and Ginger Biscuit, another of our long term residents I have mentioned before, are still waiting to find a loving home. However, with such brilliant people out there, we hope they won't have to wait much longer.



Bim and Bentley, waiting for a new loving home

## Success Stories

It is brilliant when our cats find new homes, but it is equally as pleasing when the new owners tell us how well they have settled in their new homes. Mordecah and Malachi (now called Claude and Willow), the Siamese and Siamese cross you probably remember from the previous newsletter, are doing really well. Malachi was very stressed when he first arrived and his new owner did not think he would ever settle. However, suddenly he decided that life was good there with his brother and a very patient new owner. As you can see both cats are now happy and content, enjoying life and receiving the love and attention they did not receive before joining us.





Fig and Ginny, who are now called Cleo and Nepha, are also doing really well. As their new owner tells us, they have completely different personalities. Nepha loves to play most of the time and will not sit with her owners for long, although she can manage a small session of fussing if she is in the mood. She loves Rufio, the other cat in the household, and was rubbing up and greeting him when she had only been in her new home a short time. Cleo is much quieter; she lets her owners make a fuss of her and likes to sit with them in the evening.



Another cat, Jasper, has enjoyed a loving home for a long time now. He will tell you about it in his own words:

"I am Jasper, a blue-point Siamese. When I was born, I could not walk properly, so I was given as a present to my breeder's grandson as there was no way anyone would buy me. However, I was greatly loved by everyone. Gradually, I defied my disability, and grew into a big strong cat.

When the family moved to a new house and a new baby arrived life altered somewhat. I was fascinated by the baby and spent hours watching it as it was so interesting, and I am always interested in new things, but I did miss the attention to which I was accustomed. The only way I could show my disapproval I thought was to misbehave and develop nasty bad habits. I was taken to the vet who prescribed tablets. After six months I was taken back to the vet with the explanation the tablets were very expensive to become a permanent solution, and the vet said I was a case for the Cats Protection to be involved and for me to be taken into care. Not very long after that on a Friday afternoon I was collected by my foster-mum and taken into care at Hemsby. My owners' were extremely upset to see me go, but felt this action was the only solution. On the following Sunday morning Patience and Bruce came to see me; it was a bitterly cold day, and I felt so dejected and lonely I wanted to hide. I remember Patience pulled some grass for me to eat and I had a nibble, I had not seen grass for a long time.

On the next Sunday following which was just after my fifth birthday I went to live with Patience, Bruce and Emma - a seal point Siamese. I tried my best to be friends with Emma, but she resented my arrival and spat and growled for several days. However, now we tolerate living with each other, and all is well. Emma has taught me to climb trees and the fencing panels, and I can now scratch outside if I wish.. One of our favourite pastimes is taking part in boxing matches in the bathroom at home - Emma gets in the end of the bath - (not the tap end)and I am on the floor outside standing on my hind feet, and we box each other dodging round behind the shower curtain...it is great fun, and we do this at least three times a day.

I have a bedroom of my own and sleep in a dogs' basket specially bought for me lined with a white duvet, shaped to fit, with a bean bag at one end so it is lovely and snug by the radiator. Emma and I have a cradle each on the radiator, an igloo and various places to sleep, but best of all we like the airing cupboard, where we each have a shelf to ourselves. Naturally, I take the top shelf!

Neither of us like any bought cat food of the meat variety, so we live mostly on roast chicken or occasionally scrambled egg. If I have a bad dream and cry a lot - I used to have these when I first came, and I occasionally do now - Mummy comes and gives me a cuddle and then I go back to sleep in my bed. "

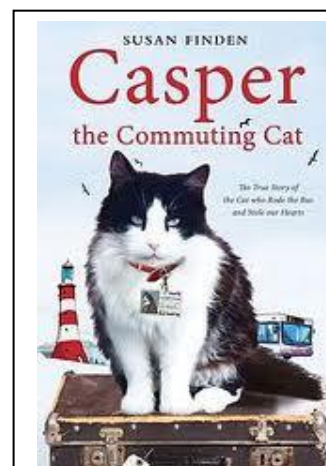


## Cat Book Corner

A completely different book this time – ‘Casper the Commuting Cat’ by Susan Finden is a story of a truly remarkable feline. I know, we all love our cats and they are all special in their own way, but when you read about some of the things Casper was up to, you will be amazed. Some of you might already know the story, as it featured in many national newspapers and made the news. Casper became a kind of celebrity when he was discovered to be making a regular 11-mile bus journey around Plymouth. However, this was just one of his many secrets Casper’s owner hadn’t been aware of...

If you do know Casper’s story, you will be also aware that it has a sad ending. However, the book is really worth reading, not only because you get to know Casper, but also you learn about Susan Finden’s life with cats, which is quite unique.

If you do read the book, you may also want to look at various clips involving Casper on YouTube. Personally, when I found out about the ending of Casper’s story, I could never bring myself to watching them, but I believe some of them are really worth seeing.



## Good News from Dilham

This is the final update on the situation in Dilham. After over two years, Stephanie has moved back into her cottage. We are all really happy for her, especially as the building has been extended and is looking even better than it did before the fire.

Again, I would like to encourage you to join us for the Hog Roast in June or the Open Morning in September, when you will be able to see what a great job the builders have done, restoring the cottage to its former glory.



## Get in touch

If you have got any cat or fundraising news you think should be included in the next newsletter (planned for November 2012), get in touch. You can email me on [justyna90125@wp.pl](mailto:justyna90125@wp.pl) or let Stephanie or Christine know and I will get in touch with you.

