

# THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE AND TAILWAVERS

## HOMEFINDING AND REHABILITATION SERVICE

Inquiries from anyone who wants a kitten or is prepared to adopt a cat or two would be welcomed by:—

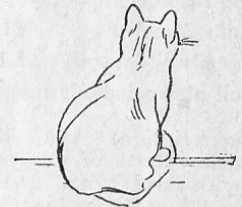
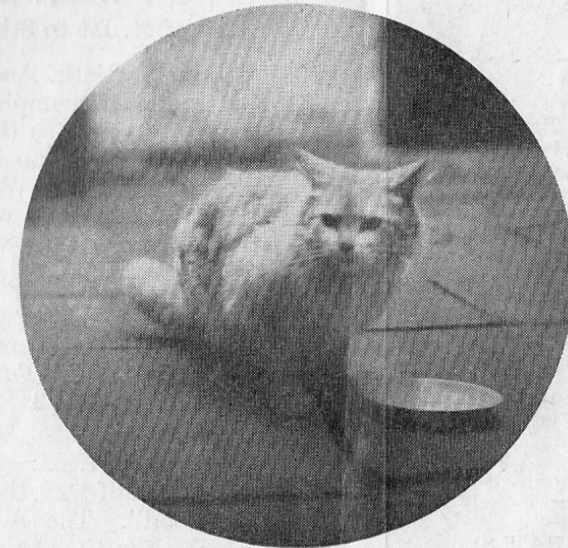
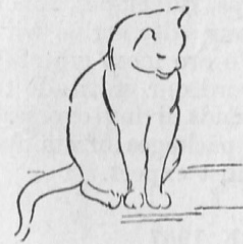
- Mrs. N. de Clifford 21 Holland Park, London, W.11. No Phone.  
or 12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey. MALDEN 1563.
- Mrs. Walledge. 39 Oxford Road, Lower Edmonton, N.9. EDMONTON 1264.
- Mrs. Davies 435 Caledonian Road, London, N.7. NORTH 5355.
- Mrs. Middlemiss Pendennis, 335 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex.  
Chelmsford 55065.
- Mrs. Barrett 37 Partridge Road, St. Albans, Herts. No Phone.
- Mrs. Tench 23 Highfield Crescent, Highfield, Southampton.  
Southampton 57212.
- Mr. G. M. Holmes c/o 35 Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
- Miss R. A. Nash 25 Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, Staffs.  
Walsall 21630.
- Mrs. Wilson 147 Clifton Park Avenue, Belfast 14. Belfast 748663.
- Miss A. Bignell 78 Old Park Avenue, Canterbury.
- Miss M. Wilson. Cowbrook, Glossop, Derbyshire. Glossop 2156
- Mrs. P. Rees 48 Hendon Rise, The Wells Road, Nottingham.
- Mrs. K. Beesley Carclew Catteries, Trewinnard Road, Parran-ar-Worthal, Nr. Truro, Cornwall.  
Perran-ar-Worthal 176.
- Miss A. Sydenham 59 King's Road, Bournemouth, Hants.  
Bournemouth 50165.

### Note:

Please do not call at any of the addresses except by appointment. The above are Honorary representatives of and not employed by the League. They cannot be expected to be available at any time an inquirer may wish to call. It is essential that first contact should be made by letter or phone. More names will be added to the list in due course.

# THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO  
CATS AND THEIR WEL-  
FARE



A CAT'S A CAT FOR A' THAT

JULY 1967

# THE CAT

VOL. XL

No.8

Official Organ of the Cats' Protection League and Tail-wavers - Founded 1927 - Registered National Charity. Prestbury Lodge, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks, England. Telephone Slough 20173

EDITOR: Mr. A. A. Steward  
PUBLISHING DATE: First of the Month.

ISSUES: 10 yearly.  
There are no commercial advertisements.

## CONTENT

Short Stories - Branch and Group News - Members Corner - CAT CHAT dealing with press and other published cat papers.

Selected photos of Members' cats and kittens - notes relating to Leagues' activities and appeals

Literary contributions and photos welcomed, but no publishing fees paid.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By Membership Only U.S.A.  
Life Member £10 - \$30  
Member (Annual) £1.1.0 - \$4  
(all above include magazine)

Subscriptions can be paid under Deed of Covenant and by Bankers Order. Details from the General Secretary - Mr. A. A. Steward - to whom communications should be addressed.

NEXT ISSUE 1st AUGUST 67

**OUR FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY:** We hope the June magazine was as interesting as we tried to make it, and we hope too that this issue will stir the imagination of our readers and increase their determination to ensure success for the new venture in Cat Week Fund raising.

**MEANTIME:** we want to thank all those who have responded so generously to our various appeals. Stamps, Envelopes, Linen pieces and "gifts" for our sales arrive with pleasing regularity. We are most grateful.

We would like to record our gratitude to those members and friends living overseas who regularly send us packages of stamps that delight our philatelist expert.

## CAT WEEK 1967

(Oct. 1st to 8th.)

1967 is our fortieth Anniversary Year and we introduce a completely new fund raising scheme, to replace the very popular Annual Draw which is no longer operable for a variety of reasons. We may not have found the alternative but we can only try to create the image that will appeal and give satisfactory results.

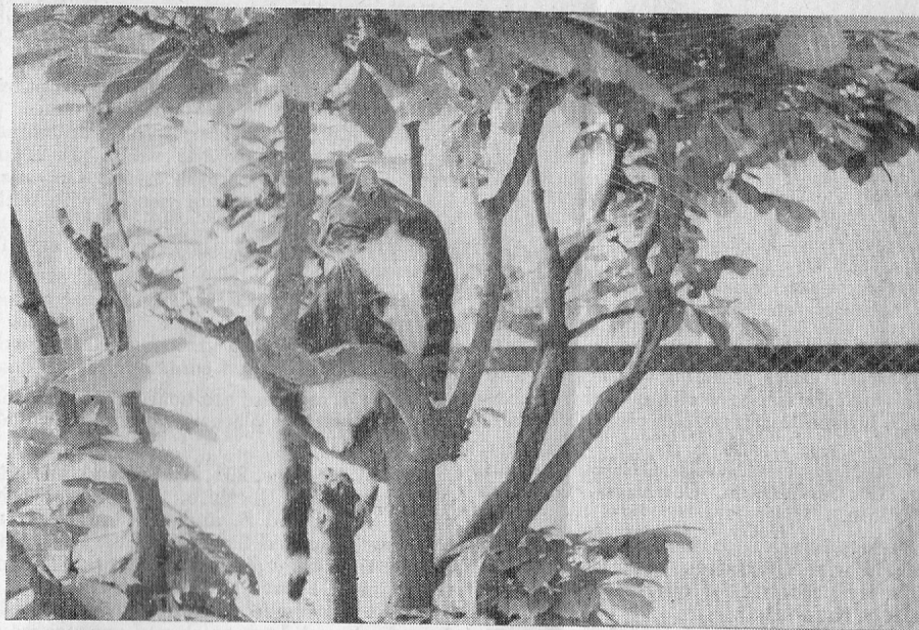
The Scheme is four part: Cat Week Collection Boxes. Members Private Sales, Sales by "highest bid" Posters to recruit members see pages 442-3.

**HALF WAY HOUSE:** At this stage July 1st we are half way through 1967 and "so far so good". The A.G.M. will have taken place by the time this months magazine is in circulation we may be a little late as so many things are crowding in on us and we are in the process of launching our 1967 Cat Week Scheme.

So bear with us, co-operate as far as possible, please accept the changes in procedure which force of circumstances necessitate.

A. A. Steward.

EDITOR and GENERAL SECRETARY



## BRANCH & GROUP NEWS



**CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT GROUP**  
Hon. Sec. Mrs. J. Middlemiss, 335, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

A second visit by Mrs. Colville of Hornden-on-the-Hill with her "T.V." Cats brought quite a good attendance at a Coffee Evening at "The Plough", Springfield, on Tuesday, May 16th and resulted in about £20 from the "Stall", competition and refreshments.

"Brumas", the white Manx, better known to "T.V." viewers as Arthur, beamed benignly on all and sundry who "fussed" him, as did "Doty", the James Bond cat in "Thunderball", also her "understudy", Nelson the "Lucky Numbers" cat, who will shortly be appearing for "Kiwi", was once a dockland cat and actually appeared in a "Dixon" episode. Several other cats include a "Smoky" Manx, one of about 6 now in this country.

We have taken charge of an elderly "Tom" belonging to a gentleman of 73 now on his way to Australia to marry his sweetheart of years ago. A postcard from the Middle-East of "Fairstar" reported a pleasant voyage and much gratitude to the C.P.L. for their care and report on "Pussy" who was

found to be suffering from "Cat Flu" but has responded to treatment, in isolation, and has one offer of a home already.

During May 2 cats and 13 kittens have gone to homes. We have a rummage sale on the evening of July 11th at the Cathedral Hall—rummage would be welcomed from this area.

**EDMONTON GROUP:** Hon. Organiser, Mrs. C. Wallege. Hon. Sec. Mrs. S. L. Brown, 39 Oxford Road, Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

This month we have plenty of everything except, of course, money. Plenty of cats, lots of kittens and enough work to keep us well and truly occupied for weeks to come.

We have been asked to tackle trapping jobs galore, and are doing our very best to cope. Unfortunately, we are sometimes restricted in doing trapping jobs owing to the distance we are asked to cover.

Despite extensive advertising, "Goldie", the cat we mentioned last month is still with us. She is so beautiful that she really must have an owner somewhere. She has now completely recovered from her injuries and is just longing for someone on whom she can lavish her affection. Please, if "Goldie" is not claimed, will you be that someone?

(continued next page)

A young Irish couple recently brought in two male tabby kittens and stated that they were living in a small flat with three young children and were unable to cope. We immediately named the kittens Kelly and Riley, and in this instance we were fortunate enough to place them together in the same excellent home.

We are having a celebration party on Saturday, July 8th for the official opening by our Mayor and Mayoress of our new cat chalets. As we are somewhat restricted for space, tickets are by invitation only. We are absolutely delighted to say that Miss Betty Tay, the famous Pet Club Columnist of the Daily Mirror, has consented to attend this event. As readers probably know, Miss Tay is renowned for her love of our dumb friends and her humanitarian articles on their behalf.

**GLOSSOP & DISTRICT GROUP:** Hon. Sec., Miss M. Wilson, Cowbrook, Glossop, Derbyshire.

A strange coincidence that our 4th Birthday coincided with the League's 40th. May be this partly accounts for our receiving fewer donations than usual.

Proceeds of the sale amounted to nine pounds. This will not go far towards paying our bills and we shall have to cut down expenses drastically. Our main concern must be for the destitute strays.

I hope to sell my own caravan to help pay for food for them. At present we have twenty five in our care, five of them each rearing a kitten. We also continue to help the eight elderly people who are feeding and caring for strays.

Daisy, a starving little stray brought in from Hyde, particularly needs a little extra. She has a tiny kitten which she loves very much. Tish and several others living in the same house have been quite ill with cat flu. We hope Daisy and her kitten little Patrick will escape it.

There is a very sad but necessary side to this work. We were told of an old sick stray and managed to bring him in, but poor Ginger was incurably ill and had to be given a merciful end.

#### A FEW FACTS

- (1) During the past month ten cats have been spayed, five at their owners expense.
- (2) Seven were placed in homes. This is a very bad period for home-finding. Seven were brought in.
- (3) Two readers of the Cat donated kennels with runs in memory of much loved cats. On behalf of all the needy cats and kittens who will use them we offer our grateful thanks. One more would be very useful.

(4) We need a few more carrying baskets. One or two on loan throughout the area would greatly reduce transport costs.

(5) I am doing an almost full time secretarial and administrative unpaid job, and in addition have put a considerable amount of my own money into the work. It is just impossible to run endless sales. Our main income must come from people who really care for the welfare of needy cats. In this part of the country they are few and far between.

(6) We find a good deal of ignorance regarding spaying and neutering. Much could be done by advertising. However this is very expensive and we just cannot afford to do it.

(7) Cats in our care are boarded out in small groups in various places. Only our own cats live here.

Miss M. Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley Nr. Stockport, Cheshire, is still collecting Green Shield and S. and H. stamps for us. We thank her and her mother very much for all the time they give to this work. It does take time. I have tried it. A reply will be sent out to all who send in completed books. In order to cut down work and expense would friends who send loose stamps please enclose a S.A.E. if they would like a reply?

We hope to hold a coffee evening in the near future, with white elephant and gift stalls.

Friends will be pleased to hear that Imp's paw is much better. She now has a lovely kitten, Felix, and is fully occupied caring for him. He is the centre of attention in the stable on the hay where uncle Panda loves to baby-sit. One day I hope to tell you more about this happy little family.

They join Tibby Sandy and the other house cats in sending their love to all who help less fortunate cats and kittens.

**LEICESTER & OAKHAM BRANCH:** Hon. Sec., Mr. S. W. Spencer, 11 Ullswater Street, Leicester.

For the past few years we have endeavoured to secure representation at the local town and country shows and we have at last succeeded. It has been rather annoying to see other large animal societies at these functions and we now have the satisfaction in knowing that we are in line, we have a stand at the Leicestershire Agricultural Show, and we plan to be there in an advisory capacity to the General Public. We have already started to have the usual inflow of strays that starts at this time of the year and we have a full cattery, the problem is very worrying especially with our

(continued next page)

funds so low. I had an S.O.S. from a cat lover that had recently moved from this district down to Hampshire. Their cat had disappeared and was last seen going North, so I have alerted the district with a full description and we are hoping that he will eventually find his way back here.

Mrs. Pearson has returned to Portugal and we shall of course miss her services but I have heard that she will be back shortly. We are most grateful for the parcel of cat blankets received from the lady at Newton Abbot, she also sent membership fee and we welcome her most heartedly to the Branch. We also thank our old friend ANON for donations received. I shall of course do my utmost to attend the A.G.M. and hope to meet a lot of old friends, this event is always a great tonic and I look forward to it with eager interest. My kindest regards to all readers.

**LONDON COMMITTEE:** Hon. Organiser, Mrs. N. De Clifford, 12, The Close, New Malden Surrey.

We very much regret the absence of the London Committee report for June.

**NORTH LONDON BRANCH:** Hon. Sec., Mrs. D. Davies, 435, Caledonian Road, London, N.7.

Although summer time makes life easier for stray animals, yet, to those engaged in animal rescue work, it is also a source of anxiety, for it is now that kittens increase weekly. A constant stream of kittens are arriving at the Shelter—a minimum of twenty five or so every weekend from pet shops alone.

Many readers will remember the story last summer of the little cat giving birth to kittens in a basement in Portman Square. We are very happy to relate that the lady who was so patient with her and who saved her life has grown very fond of her and has decided to adopt her; a process which all cat lovers understand works in reverse as well!

It seems that many people have the impression that our driver, Mr. Corroyer, is a full-time worker. Unfortunately, this is far from the case. He is employed for a total of two hours a day, and these two hours are stretched to the limit with collecting and delivering for spaying and with the collection of strays.

Our Shelter cat, Straykins, who is now sixteen years old, is suffering from a very bad cold and is feeling exceedingly wretched. The vet. says that when he recovers he must

have all his teeth extracted—a dangerous operation for a cat of his age. So Straykins asks your prayers for his recovery and, if you can spare the wherewithal for Brand's Essence (all he can eat at the moment), he would be grateful and would share with his friends who are a little ailing, if he has too much. Finally, we have a "coming-of-age" shortly. One of Dr. Matthews' cats will be twenty one very soon. Perhaps we can spare a few lines for her in next month's report.

**SUSSEX BRANCH:** Hon. Sec. Mr. G. M. Holmes, 35, Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Progress Report next month.

**ULSTER BRANCH:** Hon. Sec., Miss E. R. McKee, 92a Earlswood Road, Belfast, 4.

By the time you are reading these notes the holiday season will be in full swing and extra helpers will be needed at the Shelter. This is all the more essential because Mrs. Russell is no longer with us and for the present the place is being run by our two excellent part-time kennel-men and a panel of voluntary workers, most of whom will be going on holiday at some time during the next two months. So once again can I ask you to consider seriously offering your help, there must be lots of members who could spare a few hours a week, even a few hours a month, for the pussies. I must confess that previous appeals have not met with much response—but I live in hope. Please contact me—Phone number 653844.

The Coffee Party held in May at Miss Kertland's home raised over £51 and we would like to thank all who helped. Money-raising efforts will be suspended during the summer months but looking ahead to the Autumn I want to remind you that Mrs. McBride is busy organizing a Ballot. Please support her by selling lots of tickets. The draw will take place on Thursday, 14th September when we will be having our first meeting for the new session.

Postal Orders continue to arrive from Anon (Bow) to whom we send our thanks.

It was a joy to see so many members at the meeting held in our own premises in May. Quite a few were seeing the Shelter for the first time and were interested and delighted at what they saw. Most were fascinated with the tiny tabby kitten which had been found by a small girl in a dust bin, presumed dead no doubt but now very much alive. It was adopted by a lovely black and white mother

(continued next page)

who has brought it up along with her own infant. The little girl comes almost daily to visit it and will take it home when it can leave its foster-mum. One more happy story—but there is still urgent need for homes for our adult cats. This is our biggest problem—can you do anything to help us solve it?

**WEST CORNWALL BRANCH:** Hon. Sec., Mrs. K. Beesley, Carclew Catteries, Trewinnard Road, Perran-ar-Worthal, Nr. Truro, Cornwall.

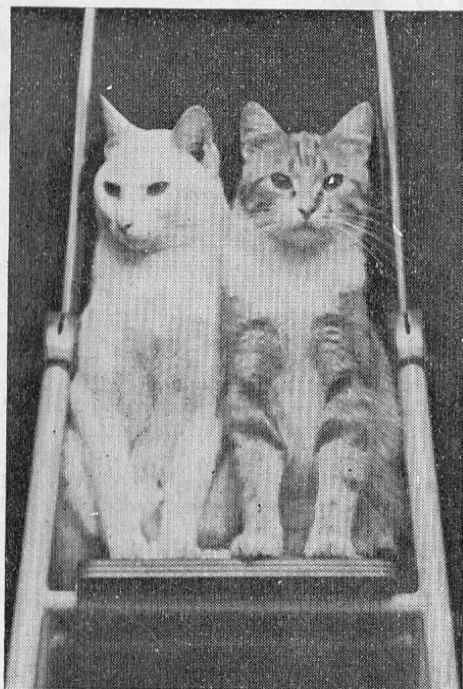
Timothy the tabby was parcelled and labelled in a large comfortable box, and we said our last goodbyes at the station. It was a bittersweet experience. Timmy had been one of our strays, and when we sent him along to the vet for his "op" he didn't return to the catteries, a phone call from the vet informed us that Timmy was such a dear little cat that he would like to keep him and bring him up with his family of children. This was several years ago and we boarded Timothy on and off, and we heard stories of his adventure in his village, and then we expected him to be one of our unwanted again, because our long suffering and excellent vet had decided to emigrate to New Zealand. As we all know vets must see more than their share of cats, and it wouldn't be difficult for them to replace a pet cat, but Timmy was special, he was one of the family and strings were pulled and money spent and Timothy was to travel with his owner and family. We kept him with us until the boat sailed and he was sent just prior to this to London, he is now well on his way, most likely regaling other feline seafarers with tales of Carclew cats and humans. Bon voyage Timothy and our much loved vet, we shall miss you all very much.

We were brushing away the odd tear at "Timmy's departure", when we fell into conversation with one of the porters. "Thirty cats we sent away from here four weeks ago" he declared "All in one box, seemed cruel to me the box was only fit to hold six cats going to the laboratories I suppose."

With a heavy heart we returned home and looked up our books. Yes four weeks ago we had over a dozen cats in the area reported lost, and they were never seen again. We can draw our own conclusions. I for one am convinced that large numbers of cats do NOT disappear into thin air, but until we can persuade cat owners to act and think fast, police and animal organisations to keep a record of reports on lost and found cats, then we are fighting a losing battle. Most cat owners would have nightmares if they

thought their lost pet was undergoing unspeakable miseries in a research laboratory, yet the majority of cat owners will not even be bothered to phone the police when their pet is lost, let alone spend money advertising. They soothe their conscience by saying "He's never been away before, I am sure a fox has got him...oh yes we asked the neighbours and they haven't seen him, we're ever so upset.....etc. etc." The sorrow will soon be healed by the introduction of one of the ever ready kittens wanting homes.....I really take my hat off to the wonderful people who can tolerate stupidity such as this, my temper usually gets the better of me and the air becomes quite blue, I decide I am quite the wrong type of person to run this organisation one needs to be a saint to cope with it all. Muttering fiercely about the shortage of saints looking for cattery jobs I carry on with the "mucking out" and thank heaven for little cats.....

## Swinging ! !



**Warning:** There are on sale in Holland insecticide strips approximately four inches by eight inches, coloured bright yellow, which are guaranteed to kill all flies, fleas etc. in rooms in which the strips are placed. The instructions are in English and they certainly do all the makers claim and, in fact, much more.

My hostess had a lovely Smoke female aged 11 months, a Spaniel and several other cats, but the Smoke was the only cat which would venture to go in the dogs basket. When I arrived the little Smoke was listless and would not eat, but her eyes were clear and bright, her coat in excellent condition and her temperature normal.

The veterinary surgeon who was called in could find nothing wrong but three days later the cat suddenly began screaming and it was obvious she was near to death. The veterinary surgeon came at once and said that the cat had been poisoned. Her owner replied that this was not possible as the cat could not get out of the garden, but suddenly remem-

bered that an insecticide strip had been hanging on the window above the dog's basket until a party five days earlier. The veterinary surgeon took the strip to be analysed and found that it contained phosphorus and the cat's death was due to phosphorus poisoning. Apparently these insecticide tend to drip in a warm room and the cat, who used the dog's basket, washed herself whereas the dog did not.

Once we knew the cause of death we were able to find other instances of cats dying through poisoning and also heard of the case of a man who had a tank of tropical fish and standing nearby was a tin containing live worms of some kind. This man hung up a strip in the room and a few hours later went to feed his fish and found all the worms were dead.

Don't be tempted to buy these strips if they come on the market in this country. Better a billion fleas and flies than one dead cat! Eileen Lentaigne from Fur and Feather 18th May 1967.

S.O.S.

Will the member who sent a small parcel to  
Miss J. M. Lacy,  
20 Addison Avenue,  
London, W.11.

please contact C.P.L. Headquarters.



Above: OUR FIRST "CAT WEEK SHOP"

## CAT WEEK 1967

(October 1st to 8th)

### CHAIRMAN'S APPEAL.

Forty pence, forty threepences, forty sixpences, forty shillings, forty halferowns and so forth, all such comfortable round sums to celebrate Cat Week in this fortieth year of The Cat's Protection League. There is no draw this year, so we must make up the £2,000 we need for the end-of-year handout to the Branches for their work for strays, in other ways, and the collapsible collecting boxes being sent out with this copy of The Cat are the visible proof of our complete confidence in your help. Forty years of continuous work on behalf of our friends the cats, is a matter worth celebrating, and here we have the chance to show how much we appreciate what has been done by so many devoted people for so long on our behalf for the welfare of the cats in whose fate we are interested, though with many of us it is a case of watching from the side-lines and not taking an active part in the battle.

So do fill up your boxes and ask for more. Make your friends have them we can supply them.

Mr. Steward is introducing other money making ideas which we hope will appeal to you, and with your help which is always so generously forthcoming, I am sure we shall have a successful Cat Week 1967.

Osyth Sherratt, Chairman.

We take the opportunity to celebrate the Leagues Fortieth Anniversary by creating a new image for Cat Week which includes a special fund raising effort. We offer our members and their friends alternative opportunities to support the work of the League, to those we have promoted in the past. We feel sure your co-operation will be forthcoming even though you may be a little disappointed there being no draw.

A. A. Steward.

**CAT WEEK COLLECTING BOXES:** If between now and September 30th you would put only 3d a week in the box we are sending you it would cover the cost of the box and allow for a most welcome donation to our Cat Week appeal.

Collecting boxes are available for your friends on request. Contents of collecting boxes to be remitted to Headquarters by Monday October 9th 1967.

**"MINI BAZAAR:"** Any member who can arrange an "afternoon tea sale" amongst friends will be supplied with "goods for sale" on request. The items will be varied, (all priced) to the total value suggested by the member. Proceeds of such sales to be remitted to Headquarters by Monday 6th October, 1967.

### SPECIAL FEATURE

We offer to the highest bidder three attractive items:—

- An Indian Silver Elephant tea-set comprising of Tea Pot, milk jug, and sugar basin.
- A China Chicken Tea Pot.
- A newly bound copy of the Apocrapha. (rebinding cost £3)

} Valuation to be given later

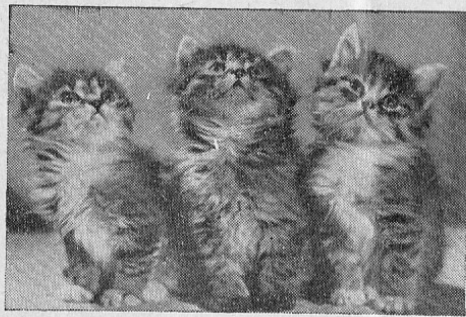
Will be sent post paid and insured to highest bidder whose offer is received by Saturday October 7th, 1967.

**POSTERS:** A complete departure from the orthodox poster has been decided and we feel sure the new idea will appeal to all. It is expected to have the new poster available by 1st September, perhaps even sooner.

**ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS:** Some Facts About Cats, (second edition) has been considerably revised and considerably enlarged, 32 pages is now available—2/6d. post free. An illustrated brochure (16 pages) of the Leagues Headquarters is also available on request, one copy free to members, additional copies 1/- each.

**BOOKMARK CALENDARS:** We shall be repeating this as a greeting card for Christmas 1967 and the New Year 1968. Details later.

**EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE:** We have tried to devise the new Cat Week programme so that everyone or almost everyone can take part. We cater for those who are unable to join in the Mini sale and the auction by suggesting joining in our membership drive and propaganda campaigns. Copies of The Cat and other literature are available on request or we will send our publications direct from Headquarters if name and address is given.



## MEMBERS CORNER

Could you possibly get me in touch with the author of the article on "Cats in Ancient Florentine Art", which was in the April edition?

Leonardo da Vinci's famous "Last Supper" is a mural in the refectory of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan. Unfortunately whenever I wanted to see it the place was closed. However, all reproductions of it I know which include those of the great 2 volume work on Leonardo by "Leisure Art" are without cats, and considering the seriousness of the subject so they should be, whatever other artists, which are not of Leonardo's standard might do. I could imagine, though, that former fellow students of Leonardo, such as Perugino or Lorenzodi Credi might have painted the same somewhat in Leonardo's style and put a cat in. Pupils of Leonardo such as Luini and Salaini might have done so, too.

However, in the British Museum, in the Windsor Collection and in the Ambrosiana of Milan there are sketches of Leonardo for a Madonna with Cat, the actual painting of which is in Savona in the Carlo Noya Collection. This picture is a very charming one, one of the intimate mother and child pictures which reveal all of Leonardo's humanity. Neither the very childlike mother nor the baby know how one ought to hold a cat which consequently digs the claws of his right paw into the baby's left arm. There is a ghost of a smile in the mother's face, but the child is dead serious, yet obviously not resenting the cats claws. A few of the sketches show the baby and the cat alone tenderly cuddling against one another. But among all the known work of Leonardo there is only one Last Supper (and of course the sketches for it) and that one is in Milan, a very much damaged mural. Mrs. Hiller.

### PRUDENCE

We went on a three-hour launch journey to get her, to an island called Burutu in the Niger Delta. Someone had left this little community, the Headquarters of the Niger River Transport, and the mother cat and her kittens had been left behind to beg their food at verandah doors.

The first evening of our stay, a beautiful dark, fluffy, tabby kitten with spotless white bib, left the company of her family and came into the sitting room to lie purring on my lap. We said: "She has chosen to come with us".

In the morning we got a chicken basket and a tin of steak and kidney pudding for her travelling rations and took her up river to our house in Warri. She settled in immediately as, indeed she always has done wherever she goes.

Later, properly equipped with a cat hamper, Prudence flew to Ibadan, then to Lagos, and four years ago she flew with us to Ghana, first of all to live in Kumasi, the ancient capital city of Ashanti, and now happily mistress of a large compound in Accra.

When we reach a new place I open the hamper and Prudence steps daintily out with a polite "Prrups" of thank-you, and then follows me round the house examining everything carefully and watching while I unpack. Not for her the buttered paws or days of incarceration in a spare room! Where we go, she goes, and that is how she is content to live since that first evening miles away on the island in the mangrove swamps of the Niger, when she decided that we were to be her family. Rosemary Fitzherbert.

*Yorkshire Evening Post*

### TIGGS AGED 24 PLUS

A claim to the distinction of being the oldest cat in Leeds has been lodged with me by Tiggs, a black and white neutered tom belonging to Mrs Olwen Keighley, of Hillcourt Drive Bramley. Are there any other contenders?

Tiggs, though you wouldn't suspect it from his appearance, is at least 24 years old.

"My son is 25, and Tiggs used to come round to see us when my son was a baby," says Mrs. Keighley. "Tiggs was just a kitten then—so tiny that he couldn't climb up the doorstep. I used to have to lift him.

"He lived with an old lady in this district and, as she grew older and less able to look after him he came more and more. So when she died he became our cat. That's how we got him. He must be at least 24, and maybe 25".

### CATS IN THE CONVENT

ALL GOD'S CREATURES

by Sister Seraphim

Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 4.50 dollars.

Worship of God through the love and care of animals is the unusual and fascinating theme of this book. Unusual because the normal activities of a convent are centred around human affairs, fascinating because of its zeal for helping the helpless. Sister Seraphim reflects the gentle influence of English parents who taught respect and love for nature from her earliest years.

Cats are not generally associated with convents but here, in South Arizona, they have the freedom of the nun's cell, the kitchens and even the holiest places and have a strong bond of kinship with their human friends. Cats are rescued from unhappy surroundings, fed and sheltered till new homes are found; kindness and compassion are unrestricted in a home where cats, dogs, a donkey and a rejuvenated turtle mingle in fellowship.

In humble service rendered to the community many cats were rescued from starvation, ill-treatment and the vivisection laboratory; no episode is more moving than that of two helpless kittens, discovered by Sister Seraphim, in a paper bag on a busy road. The waifs, too young to feed themselves, were taken care of and later adopted

### IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Leonard, a faithful friend and companion for nearly 14½ years, and dearly loved.—E.M.P.

In loving memory of Mickey, Tailwaver 4213 a dear little companion and friend. Sadly missed.—Mrs. R. Rand.

In grateful memory of Moppet, Tailwaver 3726, released from suffering May 10th, 1967, aged six years. "He made and loveth all".—Jean and Joyce Smallbone.

In loving memory of Bonnie B. aged 14 years 8 months, who passed away on 21st April, 1967. A faithful friend.—Muriel S. Alford.

In loving memory of Princess Pouff who passed on to the Heavenly Glade in June, 1952: never forgotten. "Till we meet again little sweetheart". Two loving mummies.

In memory of "Treasure" and "Smut", my lovely pets, who gave me so much happiness and fun. I enclose a postal order for 2/6d. towards the cost.—K.J.G.

In memory of Wu, our Siamese, run over on 4th August 1964, aged 4, and Sasha, our tabby stray from Edinburgh C.P.L. Shelter, who disappeared on 27th April, 1966 aged 18 months—both greatly loved and mourned by Andrew and Alison Rowe, Mimi (Siamese),

by the convent. Another abandoned cat was found loyally guarding her kittens on a rubbish dump surrounded by long grass, and even the presence of poisonous snakes was no deterrent to the nun's daily visits of mercy. No pains were spared to bring veterinary aid to those in need.

"All God's Creatures" is a gentle reproach to those who claim that cats are less responsive to human affection than other creatures. They do reciprocate, love and understand in their feline way, and only those who share their lives realise their intelligence and devotion.

Sister Seraphim, with that rare attribute of humility, shows that cats and indeed, all creatures great and small, are members of one family. With the author, human welfare does not take precedence over that of animals, to her all life is one, there is no discrimination in the law of love. Reverence for all life and the discovery of God's handiwork in the smallest as well as the greatest, is the propelling force of this lady of mercy.

Animals not for food, clothing and human sport, but for the pure disinterested joy of helping them to live. That is the message of a book which shows the value of individual action in a world where cruelty and injustice predominate.

Cats, as well as cat lovers, will appreciate the Sister's assertion when a child—"God?.. Well, She is a Cat". Gordon Sadler.

Sophie (labrador) and Mrs. Scorgie, their friend.

My darling "Peter", in love remembered. Not goodbye—only au-revoir 1945-1956. D.M.S.

Our very dearly loved Smokey, Tailwaver 3460, who died on August 21st, 1964, aged 9½ years. Sleeping peacefully under his Laburnum Tree, and always in our hearts.—N. & D. Revill.

In memory of my Roger, Tailwaver 1437, who died July 27th, 1964 aged 17 years 2 months. Remembered with love by Gwen Woolgar. 'A few stamps enclosed to help out'.

In memory of Tibbie—the Shelter Cat, aged eleven months—accidentally killed by a car on July 16th 1966. A darling bundle of mischief, sadly missed.—Muriel A. Julian, (late) Hon. Sec. of the Cat's Shelter, Sheffield.

Panda—Tailwaver 2332—In ever loving memory of my dearly loved cat, who died very peacefully on July 3rd, 1958—aged 10¾ years. Au Revoir, Panda. Also Ruffles, a dear adopted stray who lived with us very happily for approximately eighteen months, he vanished March 10th, 1961. Deeply regretted.—Muriel A. Julian, Sheffield.

## READERS VIEWS ON FARM CATS

With reference to Farm Cat Management, by Barbara Wilcox, Oct. 27-28, I think that the problem is not how to keep them out of the kitchen—I know several farmer's wives who do this extremely well—but how to keep their numbers down.

True, as Miss Wilcox says: the problem can be "easily if not happily solved"; but all too often it isn't solved, with the result that farm cats often over-breed and are underfed.

I tried feeding ten cats once. They thieved and were obviously underfed. It is a fallacy that cats can fend for themselves and won't catch mice if they are fed.

I now have four good cats, fed on milk in the morning and a good square meal every evening. Two of these are fine ratters, and the other two (females) busy themselves most of the day in the barn after mice.

These four I bred from one good old tabby who caught 54 rats the first year we had her and many hundreds more during her lifetime of 14 years, besides clearing the house of mice. She was always fed and never, never, kept out of the kitchen.

When she had kittens she usually had them in a box that I had given her for the purpose. We sometimes killed the entire litter and sometimes kept one.

I write this because, after 15 years as a farmer's wife, I really do think there is a case for the farm cat. All too often, I feel, they don't get a square deal, or a square meal. Mrs. D. Wise.

### An important animal which is seldom seen

There's an important animal on a farm which is seldom seen. Everyone sees the sheep the dairy cattle and the stores, the pigs with long straight backs. Even the old horse in the orchard gets a mention. But no-one mentions the cat.

The cat is a she-cat because the she-cat with kittens can be relied on to hunt. She lives in the barn and hunts mice and rats. As soon as she has almost reared one batch of kittens she has another, and the need to feed and keep feeding makes her the bravest hunter. She hunts when she is haggard. Her only value is her capacity to hunt. It is enhanced in winter because winter is when the rats come in.

She is ugly and silent and lives in the dim world of the loft, somewhere between the bales of hay and the old stone wall. It takes a long search to find her there, but if you find her, moving back the last bale and exposing her red hiss and imploring stare, you can be

certain of one thing. She will not be there tomorrow.

By tomorrow she will have found a new place in another corner and will have carried her family to it. This instinct to hide them is as strong as love. She does not know that no-one wants her kittens. She does not understand that when the kittens are six weeks old and her feeding has served its purpose, someone will find them and take them away, leaving her bereft and bewildered and crying like a ghost.

There is no fore-knowledge. Only instinct. The instinct to hide is the instinct to serve. She is always busy, movement without sound like a shadow. Only once a day can you be sure of seeing her.

That is in the first light. She comes to the yard and drinks from puddles where the cobbles have sunken. She drinks water because milk is for domestic cats only.

## AND NEUTERING AND SPEYING

It is possible to convince.....

During the last seven years we have managed to convince many cat-owners that the spaying and or neutering is NOT cruelty nor does it change the cats character. Women are easier to see reason than men. One of them, whose cat had had one litter after the other (and the way they were destroyed was not revealed) told us: "but there won't be enough cats to go round, if there are no more kittens!" in the end, after telling him the fate of thousands of stray cats starving and dying and the destruction of unwanted cats and kittens, he agreed to have his cat spayed. We generally take she cats to the vet who very kindly gives us special rates, in the nearby town. Another vet who does the neutering does it free of charge for old age pensioners. If she cats belong to a family with small children who might pull the patient about, we keep her for a day or two. Thus, we have managed to have roughly 125 cats neutered and spayed and are often consulted from nearby villages about neutering. We lend boxes to people who wish to take their cats to the vet themselves (if they have cars)—but these boxes never come in contact with our seven cats which we rescued. I feel that so many people could take this very small trouble in helping, convincing people and thus prevent cats and kittens going to a so-called "good home" or just given away to anybody without making sure that the home is really good and that the cat is not "put out at night". Elisabeth Castonier.



### CATS AND BALLET

I have heard it said that two species of creatures have perfect muscle control. Cats and Ballet-dancers. There is a great affinity between dancers and cats.

It has been my privilege to know many great dancers. When I first knew Anna Pavlova, she used to take her pupils to the Zoo every week to observe the great cats. She pointed out the strong muscles under the smooth skins of tigers and panthers. And she hadn't been long near the tiger's cage before the great cat rubbed against the bars and purred, while she spoke soft caressing words to him. She dearly loved all animals and they knew it.

I expect many people, like myself, have the lovely photo of Madame and her beautiful Siamese. He was quite friendly, but really loved no one but her. She also had a Pekinese (very dignified) and a tortoise in the garden, and of course, the famous swans.

Madame Karsavina, the great Diaghilev ballerina, had a Siamese, too, and I gave her a small black kitten. I tied a gold ribbon round his neck, so that he wore the colours of Imperial Russia, black and gold. I believe he had rows with her Peke!

But I believe the most devoted of cat-lovers is Alicia Markova, the greatest of English-born ballerinas. She joined Diaghilev in 1925, so of course her training and

technique were entirely Russian. She was a very shy child, confident in her devotion to the dance, but rather silent. Anton Dolin, in his Biography of Markova, tells how, in her first engagement at the Monte Carlo Opera, this silent child (she was only 15) was heard chattering gaily in her dressing-room. They investigated, and found her deep in conversation with Pierrot, the Opera cat. All well-conducted theatres have cats, and wherever Markova went it was love at first between her and the cat. It had to be restricted, however, as the cat followed her on to the stage, a danger both to dancers and cats!

Many years later, I knew her dear Nigger a lovely black cat. He was generously curled up on her oldest tutu, and apparently didn't know that anyone existed but his famous mistress. His death was a great grief. The last time I saw her dancing in London, she told me she had a grey cat. Alas, Anno Domini, which takes from us our beloved pets, also takes too of us poor humans, and Markova, now retired lives and advises on dance in New York, so we shall not see her dance again.

Another dancer I knew in New York, well-known there, Grisha Alexandroff, had a cat he adored. I was talking to him backstage in Toronto one evening, when a door was flung open, and Irina Baronavo's voice cried, "Elsie, stop Boomchik, he's got my shoe!". Boomchik, a wire-haired terrier, a dear dog, belonged to Paul Petroff, another leading dancer in the Company. But Boom had a penchant for ballet-shoes, a fatal sin in Ballet! I saved shoes from him once or twice, then someone told the stern Ballet-master, and Boomchik was banished for ever from theatres and Practise rooms.

I said to Grisha that I thought cats were far better pets, and most superior people. He beamed, and said I must come to his Hotel tomorrow to see his dear-r "little cat". He slid into Russian, and talked about his "koshka-koshchitcha". My Russian isn't too good, but I translated it as "kitten". I went to the hotel, when Grishcha was resting after practise, expecting to see a fluffy kitten. Instead, curled up on a chair was an enormous lanky "alley-cat". The kind you see round garbage cans in New York! But beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and he and Grisha purred at each other in Cat-ese and Russian, which sounded strangely alike!

I have not yet, and probably never shall meet, the supreme Soviet dancers, though I have seen them dance. But—dancers and cats are cats—all the world over, (and thank God for both). So, maybe the extremely well-organized State Ballets have their Commune of Cats. Elise Haldane, 6 Queen's Road, Worthing, Sussex.

## IN DEFENCE OF CATS

Sir,—It seems strange that cats who have, perhaps, almost the most tragic history of any animal (and this is, indeed saying much!) should always be a subject for facetiousness in varying degrees of grudging kindness or ungrudging dislike. Your leader writer in the leader "Cat Laughs" (October 22) appears never to have met a cat, but he borrowing his attitude from a century ago and surely "boot throwing", if actually ever practised, went out with the arrival of the internal-combustion engine which ended nocturnal street courtship, and since, so many millions of cat lives.

His worst error, however, is in doubting whether cats feel love. Those who have ever loved one know that it returns it a thousand-fold, in every way as deeply and devotedly as does a dog (and that again is, indeed, saying much).

The whole myth of a cat's "independence" springs from the not-greatly-loved cat belonging to a family (or farm or factory) and no particular person's pet, receiving only occasional rather perfunctory notice or none at all. Yours faithfully, Vera Yorke, Little Close, Beverley, East Yorkshire.

Chasing a cat out of the office reminded me of Barbara Wilcox's most amusing and interesting article. It is so typical of most farms, I am sure, and this one in particular. We have cats everywhere. White ones.

It all started when we took pity on a refugee female during the war. Do white cats have any other sex than female. Ours do not, apparently. And how they breed! Of course, they are so beautiful as kittens, they are never destroyed. And isn't it amazing how seldom anyone wants a kitten, however much they gush over it?

So the yard round the dairy is like driven snow at milking times; the kitchen floor likewise most of the day. . . . However, we have no rats or mice—and few rabbits, either—which says much for their usefulness. Robert A. Homewood.

I have great pleasure in sending the enclosed cheque to be used in the place of the box which was stolen from Headquarters as recounted in the May edition of 'The Cat' magazine. One can only feel sorry for the person who can sink so low but maybe their need was greater? D.C.D.

## OUR LOCATION CAT

by Enid Foster

Reproduced from "Alley Mag"—Bulawayo

He was bestowed on us one Christmas. We neither desired him, nor sought him out. "Clismis Box for Madam", our smiling houseboy said, holding out a ball of dark fluff. Of course we called him Sooty, not original, but it fitted.

"Where did you get him?" I asked.

Thomas shrugged. "Location", was his loconic answer.

Gently we put him down and watched Rags, our mongrel-of-the-moment, as he sniffed cautiously at the interloper. He picked up the ball of fluff, hastily dropped it when it spat, then tried again. In time they became firm friends.

Sooty was seven years old when I decided to use him as a mouse-catcher. The shop at which I worked, situated in an old building, was infested with mice. I would leave Sooty in the shop for the weekend, I thought and by Monday morning the mice that hadn't been devoured would have been scared away.

We had no cat basket, so Sooty was transported in my husband's leather saddle-bag attached to his motorcycle. It was a quick run (I was on the pillion) and when we reached the shop three miles away, Sooty emerged with great dignity, albeit looking a little hurt at being uprooted from his new home—for recently we had moved to a new house, with the most enticingly bird-laden trees.

I let Sooty sniff the gorgeous mouse scent, settled him down with a weekend supply of milk, left the high fanlight above the front door of the shop open so that he'd have air, and left him to what I imagined would be a glorious weekend.

On Monday morning, he had gone! But how? The fanlight which was some nine feet from the ground, was the only possible source of escape, but how he did it, I still don't know. The police were notified. No result. We were heart-broken. A week went by, and we had given Sooty up for lost.

Then I met a tenant of our former home. "Hey, did you have a cat?"—Yes, it was Sooty! But how he found his way back after being transported by motorcycle, in a leather bag?

Wonderful! But then, cats, *are* wonderful!

I have much pleasure in sending a cheque for £12 1s. 0d. This amount has all been made from the sale of stamps. This makes our total for this year £111 1s. 1d. Audrey Cozens and Sheba.

## WAYS and MEANS

Readers can greatly assist the League by sending to Headquarters, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks, any of the following:

Odd ounces of wool for making woollies for sale at our Bazaars.

Notification of change of address.

Linen and blanket pieces, newspapers and odd pieces of string (about 18 inches long), for use in the Clinic.

Used envelopes, foolscap size only please, with flaps intact.

News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

Used stamps, British Foreign and commemorative.

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable for our Bazaars.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.



## Other ways of helping the C.P.L.

**Astrological** analysis of character. Letter with date of birth, stamped addressed envelope and donation for the C.P.L. to Mr. Curtler, 5, Hill Avenue, Worcester.

**Graphology** (Character from handwriting), letter with signature, stamped addressed envelope and donation for my C.P.L. collecting box to Miss E. M. Jackson, 11, Clarence Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

**Buy your hand knitted dishcloths** from Mrs. Peggie Ilves, 38, High Street, Oakham, Rutland. Price 1/3 including postage.

**A Toy Mouse** will provide fun and exercise for your cat or kitten. Send 2/6 to Secretary, Cat's Protection League and Tailwavers, 29 Church Street, Slough.

**Aprons to order** in aid of funds 5/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 38, High Street, Oakham, Rutland.

**Perspex Name Brooches** in various colour 1/6d. each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E to Miss P. E. George, Gilfach, Whitton Knighton, Radnorshire.

**Dolls**, specially old ones, bits and clothes for dolls are wanted by The Doll Club, 21, Holland Park, London, W.11.

**Water Colour Portraits of Pets** from a clear snapshot, 10/6 each. Snaps of pets or children Enlarged and Coloured from own negatives, £1. Please give description. Cheques should be made payable to C.P.L.—Dorothy Hall, Plemont, Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford.

**Old Postally Used Picture Postcards**, dated before 1920, of Britain or overseas wanted by the Revd. A. W. R. Hughes, The Vicarage, Coalbrookdale, Shrops. 5/- for every 100 received to the C.P.L. Sender's postage refunded.