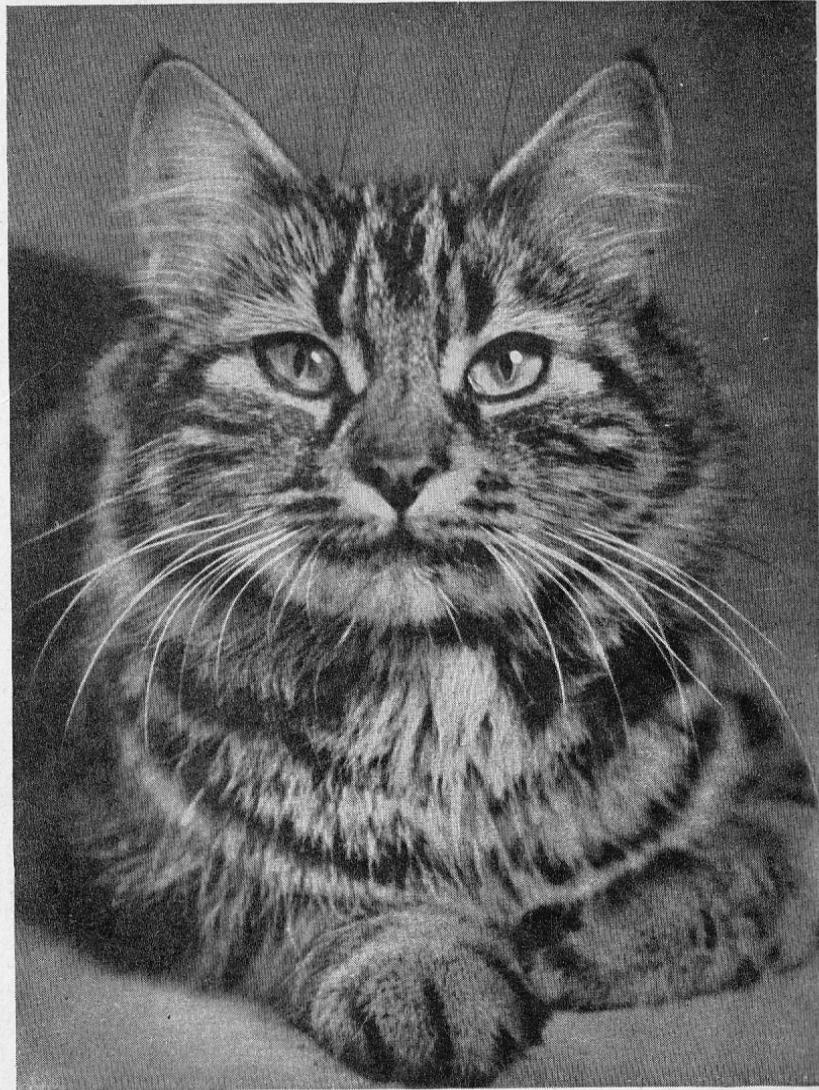


SOME FACTS ABOUT CATS

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SECOND EDITION



TABBY

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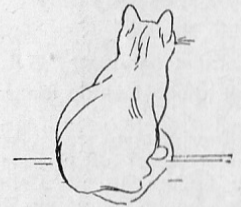
THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

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THE CAT

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



A CAT'S A CAT FOR A' THAT

JANUARY 1968

THE CAT

VOL. XLII

No. 1

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:

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Member (Annual) £11.0 -\$4
(all above include magazine)

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NEXT ISSUE 1st March 68

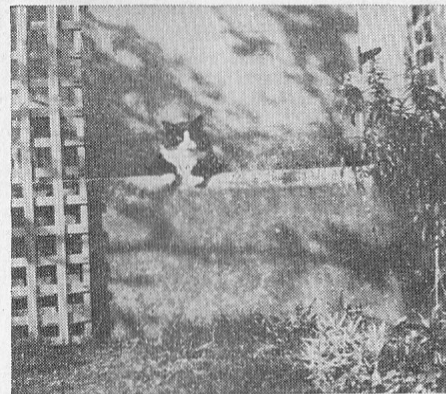
THE NEW YEAR: With what hopes and fears did we venture into 1967 and with what triumph we bade it adieu. It seems fitting we should commemorate 1967 by devoting the proceeds of the best ever Cat Week appeal, to the practical work of our representative bodies and to help feed the strays and homeless over the Christmas period. You will remember this was foreshadowed in a previous issue of The Cat. This has been done and we feel sure it will be the New Year's greeting we could offer members.

STAMPS AGAIN: On page 10 we present the second of the "series", Cats on Stamps, by Philaticus and once again express our grateful thanks for the opportunity of having such an interesting contribution by an expert on this subject. It is equally interesting to know that during 1967 the sale of stamps, in bulk and through the good services of our Miss Cozens, £135 was added to the League's credit balance. Miss Cozens has, up to the time of going to press, donated £786. 12. 1d. towards her target of £1,000.

NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT: What are the prospects for the next 12 months as regards the development programme mentioned in the December magazine. The New Malden and the Isle of Wight projects cannot be put off indefinitely so with determination and an optimism born of years of experience, plus luck and carefully planned economies in other directions, we shall "having put our hands to the plough" completed the furrow. We know you will be with us in this and as usual, give us your support. The development planned at New Malden is linked with our scheme for dealing with the London unwanted cat problem.

A. A. Steward.

EDITOR and GENERAL SECRETARY



ROUND AND ABOUT

The Secretary's Comments on "this and that" concerning cats and kittens and the work of the League.

ECONOMICS:

We have always tried to apply the "science of household management" to the day by day running of the League and wherever possible have introduced money saving ideas, chiefly where office expenditure is concerned. In view of the development plans, mentioned in our Editorial, any further "saving" we can devise is a must. We are giving very careful consideration to "postage" which we feel sure rose considerably in 1967 and must be curbed. Economising in this direction could prove substantial. We have ideas on this and I feel sure you will co-operate in our economy drive.

THE ANIMALS FAIR:

Although it was not possible for me to be at the Fair for more than a few hours on the Saturday I gather that the C.P.L.'s stalls were well patronised and the receipts were very satisfactory. It was the second occasion that the North London Branch, the London Committee and the Edmonton Group joined Headquarters in a combined stall. Now we have established this collective representation it will help considerably to publicize the League's activities in and around London. The Fair is, and always has been a good rendezvous and we are always pleased to see and have a few minutes to talk with our members who so regularly come along and support us. If possible the total takings on the League's stalls will be given in this issue.

DOVER:

We are very sorry indeed to learn that Miss Olive Watson, our Dover Branch Hon. Secretary, is in hospital. She is steadily improving and we wish her a speedy recovery.

MANCHESTER:

We wish Miss Spurr, our Manchester Hon. Organiser, continued improvement in her recovery from her protracted illness.

WEST CORNWALL:

The new address is "Cathlowenes" Cusgarne, St. Day, Redruth, W. Cornwall. See Page 8: As from January, 31st.

WORTHING MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

Miss M. C. Beltram of 7, Shakespear Road, West Worthing would like to have names of local supporters of the C.P.L.

HAVE YOU READ ANY GOOD BOOKS

LATELY: Books about cats are welcome gifts any time of the year but as a New Year's gift what could be better. Christmas presents are invariably of the kind that follow a regular pattern and not a few are "white elephants". The book present is something different, the reading of which can be spread over the whole of the year if needs be.

Here are 5 from which to choose:

EXTRA ORDINARY CATS, by Oliver Manning: Michael Joseph, 21/-. That something which makes cats irresistible (Siamese and Burmese in particular) has prompted the famous author to provide a feast of cat lore and fascinating pictures in this non technical and extremely interesting four part publication which cannot but appeal especially to lovers of exotic cats.

THE HOROSCOPE BOOK; by Liz Tresilian: Arlington books, 16/-. This is really something, unique and delightfully so. Not just for reference as or when wanted but at any time, all the time, entertaining and clever application of feline character to a subject that is in itself an art. The illustrations are both weird and wonderful and a more pleasing volume would be difficult to find.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR CAT, by John Montgomery: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 12/6d. The do's and don'ts, alphabetically arranged are a departure from the usual presentation of advice. The author has taken a great deal of trouble and given valuable information about animal welfare organisations (including the C.P.L.) but unfortunately some of the details do not now apply by reason of unforeseen changes, which

BOOKS

tend to take place somewhat rapidly these days. This apart, is a very worthwhile investment. Its content have obviously been culled from many sources.

WHITE CHRISTMAS, by Nina Warner Hook: Arther Baker Ltd., 15/-. A human story dedicated to "a large grey cat" a friend and companion for 13 years. A story of emotions, some of which are closely connected with cats, and one that will be appreciated by many to whom dialect and spontaneity appeal. Well worth a place on any book shelf.

CATS KINGDOM: by Hartley and Jon Ramsay, Hutchingsons Publishing Company Limited, 30/-. No one who writes about cats as Hartley has done can be so detached as he appears to be, nor can his work be considered free from sentiment. In fact it is an unusual combination of attachment and sentiment, cleverly disguised by free flowing expressions, giving character to the writer's portrayal of family life, made colourful and exciting by a succession of cats that constituted the "kingdom" and gave rise to the title of the book: A very apt one. As a gift it would be treasured.

A. A. Steward

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of beautiful Buttercup who died Sept. 26th, 1967 in his fifteenth year. A wonderful companion and friend.—J. Allan.

In memory of my dearest Timothy, who died 19th Dec. 1966. Never forgotten.—Mrs. K. McGill.

In memory of our sweetest Tinker, killed by a car, Nov. 22nd, 1967, aged 7 months. Loved by all who knew her.—G. Baker and Aunties.

In loving memory of Tessa (Former Tailwaver) run over and killed on Sept. 12th, 1967, aged 9 years.—H. M. and E. Tonks.

In loving memory of our dearest BOY, aged 10½ years, killed on the road Dec, 2nd, 1967. You gave us so much love and happiness, dearest one. In God's keeping until we are re-united with you for all eternity in His kingdom.—Mr. and Mrs. W.F.H.

Remembering our dear old Henry who gave us all so many years of faithful affection before he slipped quietly away in August 1967. Always sadly missed. The McGilvray Family.

In memory of our little Billee who left us on Nov. 30th, 1967, aged 17½ years. So sadly missed by M. & L. Bleach.

In memory of little Kittywee who, dying, was put to sleep Oct. 27th, 1967, after a short illness, aged 12 years 4 months. The much loved baby of the family.—Raymond, Deirdre, Harold and Renee Lee.

In treasured memory of "Timmy of the loving heart" who died of nephritis, Nov. 7th, 1967, aged 12 years. Always we will remember you darling. Phyllis and George.

"Sally, T.W. 3210" Her Mother's love. Put to sleep 5th Dec. 1966, aged 9½ years.—F.A.P.

Romeo Bex, Siamese, died Jan. 23rd, 1963, aged 17 years. Dearest Bexy thank you for your affection, gentleness, intelligence and gaiety; the memory of you is evergreen.—Violet and Arthur Bush.

SUE, aged 9 years, Tailwaver No. 3171, died 18th August, 1967. Our little darling. Sadly missed.—Mr. & Mrs. P.

BRANCH AND GROUP NEWS AND DIRECTORY

Enquiries from anyone wanting a kitten or who would adopt a cat or two are welcomed by C.P.L. Honorary representatives whose names and addresses are starred. *

But please note:— DO NOT CALL AT ANY OF THE ADDRESSES EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT: MAKE CONTACT BY LETTER OR PHONE FIRST.

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

The highlight of November activities was, of course, the Christmas Bazaar on the 18th at Springfield Parish Hall. This ran on similar lines to last year and included a wine and cheese tasting stall (the wines are made by the Committee member family!). An additional attraction was "Madame Tabitha" with her crystal, cards and hand-reading which proved as popular as in the summer. We improved on last year's figure with £93, although almost every hall in town seemed to hold some rival activity! Two pictures appeared in the local press with our short report.

A Coffee Morning in Kelvedon on Monday November 28th was organised by a supporter, Mrs. Snell and this was a great effort, producing nearly £12 including £5 from a well wisher who could not attend. We are grateful too, for two other gifts of £5 from a naval gentleman in Monte Carlo and from a lady and gentleman in Braintree, in memory of their well loved pet which they have lost after 17 years. Two fortnightly Whist Drives added their small, but regular, quota. Over the year, these prove to be the best "money-spinners".

Our biggest headache at the moment is the problem of a number of cats under a hut behind a block of shops. We have, at last, the use of a trap and have caught four in spite of it being re-set by someone unknown after it had been closed up for the night resulting in a call to our Secretary at 7 a.m. next morning by an irate fish monger, also of one cat being released by a sea-cadet officer—"it had been there since Monday, etc." We "created"—it was Wednesday—and we had told the cadet's "C.O." what we were doing! You *can't* win! These cats are well fed and in good condition—would anyone like to help us with their keep, please? We think that there are probably ten and tameable.

Thirty kittens and five cats have been found good homes in November. Neutering has been delayed until cat flu subsides in this area, apart from essential surgery visits.

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

Our little Colette sends her thanks to 71 kind friends who have sent her help so that she can have her paw straightened. We are all delighted to have this encouraging result of our appeal for Colette. More news in the next issue.

We are planning a big jumble sale soon, for which we will want lots of jumble. We shall also need helpers, so if you can, please enrol yourself and any firends you can persuade. "Jumbles" mean hard work for a short time. We hold ours in London and around, but never very far away. Your help will make a big difference to the success of our efforts, and to the comfort of all the cats who are waiting at the Rescue Centre. There are several new arrivals. Little Sooty, an all-black and Furry a Tortie, Boy who is black and white are the three most charming, they are all-alive and ready for any mischief which comes along. Our tiny Tabby is making very good progress, thanks to kind friends who supply extra treats; the first victim of devaluation has joined our family. He is a gay little cat, we were told to put him down because there would be no more funds for him, due to devaluation, however, we are waiting in the hope that some people not so much affected may help him. If anyone happens to have any small change in foreign currency left over from last summer's holiday, please send it for "Sterling" which is what we call the poor puss.

The "Curio Corner" is still very popular. There is a tremendous demand for any kind of little ornament, scrap of jewellery, embroideries, lace, fans and old boxes. We have been asked to find a silver buttonhook and shoehorn for one collector and a trinket box

EVERY GOOD WISH FOR 1968

BRANCH & GROUP NEWS

or patch box for another. Indeed, we can find an instant market for anything unusual, so please ransack your cupboards and see what you can find for us.

The report on the Rescue Centre 1967 will be ready shortly for anyone who sends a stamped addressed envelope. We have plans for a meeting soon to discuss home-finding, anyone who would like to come to this meeting should send a stamped envelope without delay.

I have just heard from an enterprising member living on the South Coast who is prepared to welcome guests for their holidays with their cats; this will be a blessing for those people whose cats do not allow holidays in general.

We would like at least one more person to give a party for us, either a tea-party, or a coffee morning, or an evening "social". We will of course help in all arrangements.

The Rescue Centre depends very largely for funds on the kind people who give us something every month. This can be 2/6d. or several pounds, just as you like, but if you will undertake twelve payments during 1968, you will give us some real help. Two members who cannot give much of their own money have collected from their friends, and the result has been wonderful. Please try and help us in this way.

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

Although you read this during the cold days of January, this report must, of necessity, be written at the end of November, just after a very successful Animal Fair at the Horticultural Hall. It was wonderful to meet so many friends who have hitherto been names and addresses on our mailing list. Financially, our stall was a great success and we are grateful to Headquarters for offering us this facility.

Our Christmas Bazaar, also, will have come and gone by January and again we hope that the results will be very rewarding. So many members have sent us kind and generous donations that we are almost assured of a successful Bazaar.

We must talk of Shelter matters. Our driver, Mr. Corroyer, has recently been ill, and unable to give us his valuable help. Without him, we have not been able to do so much of the good work which we pride ourselves on doing. Is there any member in North London who could help us out on such occasions? A love of cats and the ability to drive through

the hazards of London traffic are the only qualifications. We have tried to cope with one voluntary driver but it has been most difficult, the volunteer having a home to run and being unable to be on call at a moment's notice.

In our recent report, we mentioned the tortoiseshell cat which had been tied with rope or wire around its middle for several weeks. After careful nursing by Mrs. Dempsey and Miss Neary, our Shelter staff, she is now nearly strong enough to be spayed. After all her agony, we pray that she will be found a good and happy home.

We also mentioned, in a recent report, the poor stray kitten from the City Road Factory site which had been placed in a very good home. We now sadly relate that, although kept in a warm home and given love and good food, she succumbed to Pneumonia and died. The Vet who attended her said that, had she had a better start in life, she would have shaken off the illness without difficulty. We can only thank Mrs. Chapman for giving her the only warmth and affection that she had known in her short life of 4 months.

Recently, a boy of 12 brought in to us a cat, saying his parents no longer wanted it. The cat was a mother, still full of milk. We wondered how we could relieve her since she was obviously in distress with her milk. While we deliberated, a caller rang to tell us of kittens left, in a bag, on a factory door step. We collected three delightful pale grey kittens of four weeks, obviously very hungry. They were introduced to the suffering mother cat, who accepted them with great joy. We were all most relieved to think that two problems had been solved so easily. Our relief was, however, shortlived. On the following day, the parents of the boy called to reclaim their mother cat saying that he was sent with it to the Vet for neutering, but, preferring his dog, the boy had brought the cat to us. After much persuasion, the parents agreed to leave the cat with us until an alternative foster mother could be found. After a week, a new foster mother was brought in to us and she again took to the kittens with delight. The following day, we were horrified to find the new mother ill with an infection. The kittens were hastily removed, but not before they had caught the illness. Thanks to Miss Neary, who bottle fed them, nursed them and took them into her bedroom at night to give them medicine every three hours they are now well on the way to recovery. Will any one offer them, or one of them, a good home after such experiences? They really are beautiful.

(concluded next page)

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Miss Hutt, our Treasurer, wishes to thank all members for their response to our Christmas Card appeal. We have sold more this year than ever before.

Lastly, Straykins, who has become quite a celebrity from all the reports mentioning his name, and getting rather swollen headed with it, thanks you all for your help to us in 1967 and, rather toothlessly, wishes you all a very Happy New Year.

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH: Hon. Sec. Miss P. C. Brabyn, 25B, Newcastle Drive, Nottingham, NG7 1HA.

Since her last report in the October/November number, Mrs. D. Davis has resigned as Secretary of the Nottingham Branch of the C.P.L. As the new Secretary, I will endeavour to continue with the monthly news.

Mrs. Gee is in the news again, the other other day she had a frantic phone call from a neighbour saying that a kitten that her female cat had had was dying. This kitten was one of three, the other two had been found good homes. Mrs. Gee arrived together with glucose, saline and a dropper to find this poor little kitten staggering around the kitchen. On closer inspection the kitten was found to be totally blind, and it had been depending on its brother and sister to steer it to food and penny tray. Needless to say this poor kitten was ravenous.

Mrs. Gee persuaded this lady to have her female spayed, as she suspected that the blindness might be due to a genetical fault, as the female cat was born locally. Mother and kitten were taken to the Vet, Mother was spayed and the kitten unhappily put to sleep.

We find in this Branch that people are often too eager to find stray cats and kittens and too often they are found before they are lost.

SUSSEX BRANCH: Asst. Sec., Mrs. H. G. Perry, 35 Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

At the end of this month—November—our Secretary Mr. Holmes is leaving us. He has been with us now for 3½ years and during that time he has put the Sussex Branch "on the map". He has increased the membership from forty to eight hundred by sheer hard work, and I, who have worked with him, know how he has made the aims of the C.P.L. his whole life, even going without meals, because as he says, he has no wife and the cats come first. It will indeed be very hard to replace him.

We are busy now with the Autumn or "blackberry kittens" as they are sometimes called and many homes are needed. Mrs. Coney's rescued kitten, mentioned in last month's report, has thrived in fact, and now at eight weeks old is going to a good home. If you remember she found him crying in a wood—a wee mite too young to feed himself and no sign of any mother cat near.

One of our members asked if she could give a home to one of our strays and she and her husband went up to our shelter and chose a ginger and white cat. They very carefully kept him indoors for four days and then unfortunately the door was left open and he ran out into the darkness and could not be found. After he had been missing for eight days they came to ask if we would let them have another cat and we agreed that they should. That night they opened the door as they were expecting a visitor and there sitting on the step was their little lost cat looking rather thin and sorry for himself. Great rejoicing on their part and on ours when we heard about it.

Donations towards our Cats' Christmas Market continued to come in for a week or more after the event, mostly from kind folk who were unable to come along because of the very bad weather. Finally our profit was £193 after deducting expenses.

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

A Happy New Year to all members of the Ulster Branch, and special greetings to those of you who live far, far from Ulster.

As I write these brief notes we are almost at the end of a busy and anxious year, catwise, but with the optimism of our race we think the turn of the tide may be just round the corner, if you'll excuse the Irishism. Anyway, we're keeping our fingers crossed!

In December we had two fund-raising efforts, a Christmas Sale/Coffee Party in the Knock area and a White Elephant Sale at Cliftonpark Avenue. These were the last events of the year but now, I hope, with the holidays over we are ready to start all over again. One thing I have in mind is the possibility of small, fund-raising functions being held outside Belfast. Would any member living in a Provincial town consider this idea? There are some towns where we have one or two members who might join together and arrange a little Coffee morning. Anyone who wants to know if there are fellow-members living in her area could contact me.

The Cattery continues to be full and overflowing but we do so hate having to have

ULSTER BRANCH

cats "put down" and only resort to it when we are desperate. Please, please, isn't there one member in Ulster who could give a home to an adult cat? Won't you make it your New Years' resolution to save a little furry life? (Please read twice).

At long last we are to have an Isolation Unit—this has been badly needed and we can't wait to get it into use. The work is being done by one of our own members, Mr. Ian Parker, to whom we are most grateful for a wonderful job. Oh, I should, of course, also mention Mrs. Norma Parker who acts as her husband's mate. Mr. and Mrs. Parker are also our champion home-finders—I think they have settled more kittens in homes during the year than all the other members of the League put together.

We continue to arrange spaying and neutering for the cats of folk who can't afford to have the operation done privately, mainly they are old age pensioners. We do our best in the matter of finding new homes but that's an uphill struggle. Much fine work is done by individual members—one goes daily, including week-ends to feed a little colony of strays in the heart of the City. Several others have embarked on the unpleasant but urgent job of trapping a group of homeless, half-wild cats and kittens living under some old wooden huts. It's a busy life and with it all we only touch the fringe of the problem—but when we hear one of "our" kittens being the adored pet of its new home we feel the hard work has been abundantly worth while.

WEST CORNWALL BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. K. Beesley, "Cathlowena," Cusgarne, St. Day, Redruth. Phone number St. Day 586.

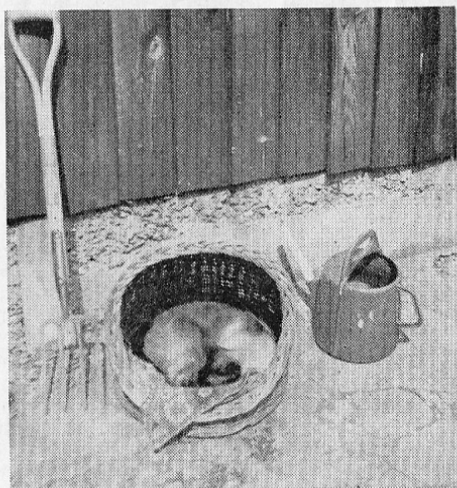
The response to my appeal in Oct./Nov. issue of The Cat brought forth a splendid result. Letters and donations arrived from home and abroad, one sweet soul was so touched by our plight that she sent a large box of chocolates plus firm instructions to put my feet up for an hour or two and indulge myself. Bless you all .. we have not yet reached the final total yet but it is well over £50—a grand start to an ambitious undertaking.

Operation Catteries is well on the way. The cost of converting stables and pigsties into cat houses is fantastic, but they will be warm, substantial and easily run. We plan to include a Boutique where we can display and sell the lovely articles we often receive from well wishers. We could even start a postal

service for our wares but this would need a local organiser. (Knock, knock...!) Money is still in very short supply but we shall continue working until funds run out then I shall risk my "good" name and embark on a borrowing spree.

If our plans are successful we should be able to move the cats in about February and then we should be organised by the busy season when we will be able to accept larger numbers of homeless cats and board P.G.'s to help finances. No public money will be spent on the boarding establishment or on its' upkeep this will be run independently and profits will help to keep things going if funds run low and will enable O.A.P.'s and poor folk to have free cat boarding facilities without using Branch Money.

"CATHLOWENA" let it roll on your tongue .. a name full of music and meaning, do you know its' origin? Think carefully or guess wildly, then write it down and send it in. Each guess will cost you 2/- but you can have as many as you like, the whole family can join in this game and the needy cats will benefit. For the first correct answer to be opened a wonderful prize is offered. An original cat picture by the Late "Fish" Sefton the famous St. Ives Artist, will be sent to the lucky winner, and twelve consolation prizes of "Fish" prints of St. Ives to runners up, and there will be special prizes for children and young people and rewards for clever family cats who wish to lend a paw. "Fish" Sefton pictures are becoming rare and valuable, so don't miss this splendid opportunity. Please send a S.A.E. if you would like a reply to your entries.



BRANCH and GROUP DIRECTORY

BOURNEMOUTH GROUP: Hon. Sec., Miss A. Sydenham, 59 King's Road, Bournemouth. Phone 50165.*

CANTERBURY CAT SOCIETY: Hon. Sec., Miss M. W. Paine, 37 Beverley Road, Canterbury, Kent.

COVENTRY BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. C. Bloomfield, 32 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.

DOVER BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss O. Watson, 6 The Paddock, Dover, Kent.

DUBLIN BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. S. Connolly, 11 Leicester Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin.

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

GREAT AMWELL & DISTRICT GROUP: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Jones, 376 Ware Road, Hailey, Hertford.

ISLE OF WIGHT: Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. Kent, Cheviot Cottage, St. Lawrence, I.O.W.

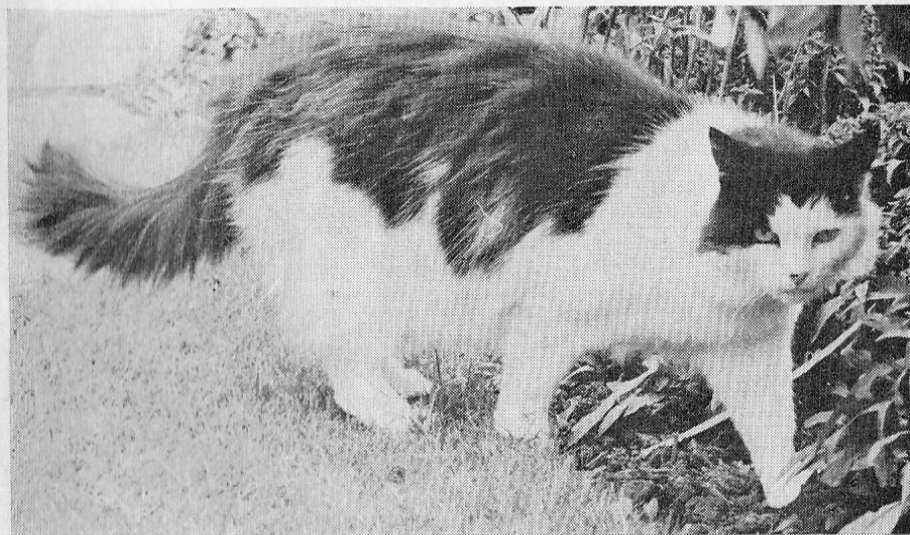
MANCHESTER BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mr. C. Cadley, 89 Northern Grove, West Didsbury, Manchester.

NEWBURY AND DISTRICT BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw, "Heather-pine", Curridge, Nr. Newbury, Berks.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss B. M. L. Sayce, "Dungarvan", 79 Portswood Road, Southampton. Phone 57212.*

WALSALL BRANCH: Hon. Sec., Miss R. A. Nash, 25 Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, Staffs. Walsall 21630.*

Where names and addresses only are given Branch—Group news had not been received at time of going to press.—Editor.





CATS ON STAMPS - 2

by Philaticus

We started this series with a charming set of cats on stamps from Poland. The time, we are remaining in the same part of Europe, at least politically, and turning to what must surely be one of the remotest and cut-off countries in Europe today, namely Albania. This is one of the countries that has raised its philatelic productivity remarkably in recent years. The first Albanian stamp was issued in 1913 and, by 1939, about 275 different stamps had been issued. By now, the number has reached over 1100. Obviously, most of Albania's recent stamps have been issued to attract collectors rather than to meet postal needs. While this is often regrettable in the case of better known countries, it is of greater merit in Albania's case, since many of these recent stamps enable us to catch a glimpse of events behind her own particular kind of iron curtain.

There are, naturally enough, amongst these modern sets several devoted to animals, not necessarily always of those to be found in the country itself. Our set, devoted to cats, appeared in 1966 and consists of seven multicoloured stamps. They are attractive stamps, as are the cats depicted on them. The variety in types of cats is not great. The 10 quint value shows a Siamese cat, the 15 quint value a tabby cat (described on the stamp as a European cat), the 25 quint value shows a charming little black kitten (described on the stamp as a European kitten), while the remaining four stamps in the set show various by-coloured Persian cats, personally not my favourite amongst the members of the cat family. All in all, however, this is a delightful set and a welcome addition to any collection devoted to cats on stamps.



I wish to give a donation in memory of my very dear friend Ethel M. Williams, who loved all cats. I am therefore enclosing £10. Part of this money was collected and given to me by her friends and neighbours and I made up the sum to £10.—Miss M. Rea.

With great pleasure I enclose a little Xmas donation for all the pussies at No. 29. We have just held a very successful sale and Coffee morning and want them to share in the profits!—J. K. Morrall.

MEMBERS CORNER

A year past September my cat who was 14, had to be put to sleep, and I bought a black/white lady to replace him. She had been put into the Edinburgh C.P.L. to find a home, and she looked so sad I just had to take her, and Mrs. Steel said she was a very nice pussy. Well we decided to call her Mitzi, but she didn't respond, and one night we went over all the possible and impossible names she might have had. Then I remembered a dog I knew called Sweep, so I said Sweep, no response, then Sooty, and that was her name. She was so thrilled, and from then we just couldn't move without her. I even took her on holiday this year away up to the West of Scotland.

Four weeks ago she took ill, and I got the Vet, and he diagnosed jaundice. He said very few cats recovered and he didn't hold out much hope. She really was very ill for nearly three weeks. Now I am not a religious person, however I took a chance and asked St Francis, since he was the patron Saint of animals if he wouldn't help her. I also said if she recovered, I would send a donation to an animal organisation. The next day when the Vet came he said there was a slight improvement, and from that day she hasn't looked back. No doubt the Vet would say it was the antibiotics, but it makes you think. So perhaps this will help some other sick pussy.—Susanne Brown.

I felt I just had to let you know how delighted I am with the bookmark calendars which you sent to me recently. They are lovely, so much nicer than anything I had expected and the cats are gorgeous—of course.

Thank you very much for making them so attractive, and congratulations on the splendid result of "Cat Week."—Mrs. J. Hayhurst.

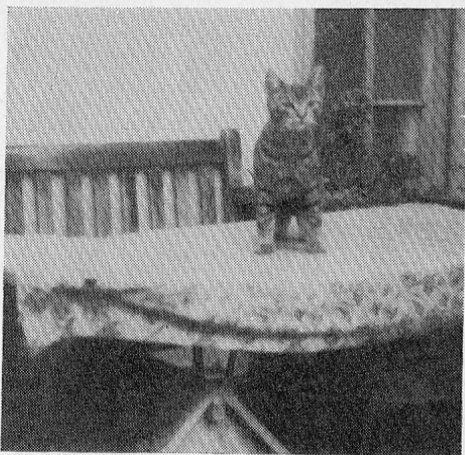
Please accept £2. 10. 0d. towards a cat basket, in memory of my dear "Tiger" Tailwaver 269, Dec. 25th, 1964 aged 17 years 9 months: Whisky 9 years 2 months, Jan. 12th, 1963 and dear Ginger Teddy, age unknown, a lost cat with us only 15 months, died suddenly Apl. 27th, 1964: and Tibby 16 years 2 months, July 1967. Mrs. J. Thomson.

I am happy to be able to send a donation again this year, for the welfare of unfortunate cats. I raise the money by baking cakes for one or two of my friends. I am particularly fond of cats and as we are owned by two Siamese I like to think that I am of some small help to the welfare of cats.—Mr. M. B. Chambers.

I am a diabetic and live alone with my pet. Seven years ago I went into diabetic coma. My cat jumped on my chest and by repeatedly hitting my face with her paws, brought me back to consciousness time after time. Eventually, I realised I was seriously ill and was able to get one of the neighbours to fetch the doctor. I was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary, where I was unconscious for four days. When I was discharged (after three weeks) the doctor told me that if I had been brought in an hour later they could not have saved me. So—I owe my life to "Ginger". An article with her photo was published in the local paper "The Telegraph & Argus" and aroused much interest.—Ernest V. Wolfenden

Would you please note the disappearance of my Chinchilla Persian Stud Cat aged 3 years from the address below and be kind enough to let me know should you hear of anything that would help me recover this beautiful animal.—Mrs. C. Paine, "Hunters Lodge", Park Road, Uxbridge, Middx. Tel. UX 30978.

MEMBERS CORNER



This little Abyssinian kitten, a little four months old Tom, was brought to safety here, as he was wandering in to the local post office. He has now been returned to his own good home after a few days enquiries.

I thought perhaps, this snap shot of him in our garden, might perhaps go in to your C.P.L. magazine.—Dorothea Short.

My two Siamese cats are well. They have taken a great exception (perhaps I should say dislike) to a furry (looking) hat (not *real fur!*—but nylon) and when they get the chance they really “go to town” grumbling at it and carrying it around the flat and shaking it to pieces. It seems strange as it is only in *appearance* that it looks like an animal (not in smell as it is imitation). I do wish that people that want to wear fur would wear these *imitation* furs instead of wearing those poor animals that are killed to make the article of clothing. The imitation is so marvellous especially as it fools two CANNY Siamese cats! They are usually so difficult to deceive. It shows that human beings could be deceived more easily if *cats* can be fooled in this way.—E. McInnes.

Enclosed is a postal order, with best Christmas wishes. It is from the sale of dolls which I dress, to enable me to send money to the three Animal Societies.—Miss A. G. Bradford.

I do sympathise with R. R. Scott's little verse in the last “Cat” number. I have the same problem, but doubled, and was inspired to compose a second verse which I hope may amuse readers:—

Hey diddle diddle,
TWO cats in the middle
Of the bed that I used to call mine.
As long as they're purring
I must keep ignoring
The draughts that are freezing my spine.

How much nicer cats are than humans!
If I tried to heave a human out of the way,
he (or she) would grumble a good deal, but the cats merely purr louder, though they “stay put” just the same!—H. W. Ashton.

WATER COLOUR PAINTS: has any member water colour paints for which they have no further use? This appeal is made on behalf of Mrs. Dorothy Hall, of “Plemont”, Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford, who for many years has contributed to the League's funds through her water colour portraits of pets. Please send your “gifts” direct to her.
Mrs. D. Hall

LETTER OF THE MONTH

I feel so very strongly that a collecting box is a very much nicer way to collect for Cat Week, and I should think will appeal to members of the Cats Protection League and result in a much larger result being obtained.

Anyhow we shall see but I shall always (if you will allow me to) give my contribution in this way.
Hilda Warry

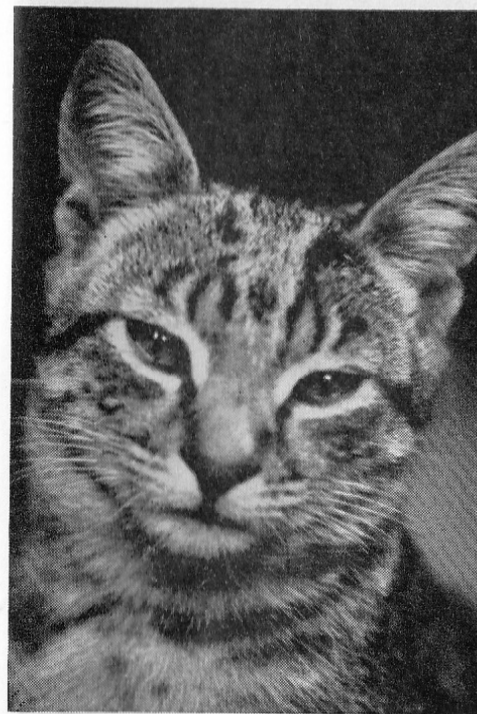
JUST FANCY THAT

Dinky, British Railways, “natural-born travelling cats,” has gone too far this time. He vanished from the transit shed at Dover on February 13th. He was posted missing and his 8/- a month food allowance was stopped. Yesterday news reached Dover: “Railwaymen in Basle, Switzerland, have got him—and they won't send him back.”
—*Daily Express*

HOMES WANTED

Nicholas, the retired works cat, black and white neutered male, urgently needs a very good home with understanding people. He is about 4 years old in good condition and with a very good appetite.—Mrs. du Prix.

Good home wanted for young tabby cat (female, spayed) of gentle disposition and has clean habits.—Miss Grigson.



EVERY INCH A CAT

It isn't always the pure breeds who make the best companions. Healthy waifs rescued by welfare workers often find good homes and reveal qualities which belie their lowly birth.

Such a one is Tabby, of unknown origin, who, some four years ago came into our lives and with a quiet dignity and assurance, proclaimed his superiority over all other domestic pets.

Tabby, sleek, elegant, agile, is unsurpassed in the noblest qualities of cathood. Fascinated, we watched his movements from a first-floor window overlooking the garden. His early indifference changed to curiosity, until, one day, jumping on the lean-to, then through the window, he made our acquaintance. It was fully a year before we were accepted and our friendship passed the test; he enjoyed the tastes of a quiet home and his freedom to come and go.

He belongs next door and never feeds with us. He doesn't understand our world without meat and sniffs disdainfully at, what is to him, strange cooking smells. But he likes quiet music and the lilt of a reading voice. Evident pleasure is shown by the

upturned tail, the arched back and a loud, responsive purr. A gentle, expressive face with inquiring eyes highlights the intelligence of an alert cat mind.

Tabby can't quite turn on the radio but knows how it works. He paws open a cupboard door and taps on the closed window for admittance, and he'll scamper in from a downpour to be dried.

He is intensely shy of strangers and traffic and keeps strictly to the seclusion of the garden.

A sun-worshipper, he screens every inch of pale winter's glow through an uncurtained window and indulges long moods of smug complacency. Why the haste and fuss, he asks, through half-closed eyes, as he watches and listens to the bustle of a jet-propelled generation.

But Tabby's no angel. He hates birds with every hair in his glossy coat, nothing we can do prevents their persecution. He hunts, torments, questions their very right to the bird-table and glowers with rage when they are out of reach. Dogs, too, are no less detestable and more dangerous. From the safety of a wall, he scowls at the dog next door, purposely inviting attention and causing uproar. There are times when he despises indoor comforts for a night on the prowl, neither coaxing nor trickery can sway his independent mind. When desirable, he has his special method of extracting food from his home larder. His moods vary from composure and placidity to that of the artful and inquiring, that curiosity which leads to exploration of the unknown.

If Tabby could speak, his ideas would be worth recording. Birds, he'd say, are stupid, they can't keep still; dogs, noisy, clumsy and unfriendly. Humans are alright if they're trained, but they worry and hurry and never relax. Yes, I know the world's a better place for cats, but more and more people are going in for silly pets, tortoises, hedgehogs, budgies and white mice. Yes, mice! I ask you!

Almost every family has its cat, though few attain real kinship or an insight into the cat mind. Our association with Tabby has coloured our lives and when we move to a new home, we shall not miss the friendly neighbours so much as our friend Tabby. Gordon Sadler, 36, Ivey Road, London, S.W.4.

HOME WANTED

Urgently wanted a good home for six months old male cat. All enquiries direct to Mrs. E. M. Harvey, 10 Hanover Gardens, Hainault, Ilford, Essex.

PASHA'S PROWESS OR PERSISTENCE PAYS

In submitting the enclosed for publication in the "Cat", I wonder whether you agree the potential usefulness of the service described—I feel *particularly* when the desperate owner has left no avenue unexplored and no stone unturned (literally in most cases).

The C.P.L. Member picked up her copy of the local paper with a sigh. For eight days she, with others, had vainly sought a lost cat—chased by dogs when in a new home only five days and by this time theoretically somewhere within a seven-mile radius, although possibly anywhere between its new and old homes... The (Gordano Valley) areas was impossible to search effectively, being wild and overgrown to a degree, with inaccessible cliffs and wooded slopes. Helpers were naturally tiring and beginning to despair of finding the little creature before the weather—mercifully fine so far—eventually broke.

It seemed everything possible had been done. "Reward" Notices had gone to Press, Postmen, Bread and Milk Roundsmen, Grocery and Laundry Vanmen, Dustmen, Newsboys, Veterinaries, Doctors, Mobile P.D.S.A. Vets., R.S.P.C.A. Dogs' and Cats Home and individual Inspectors, every Post Office in the area, three local schools (whose Heads made announcements at Assembly) and sundry points between the cats' two homes—for example Quarry messrooms, Caravan site "shops and Building sites as well—in fact, she had made a confounded nuisance of herself to one and all, receiving endless sympathetic consideration in return. But no trace had been found.

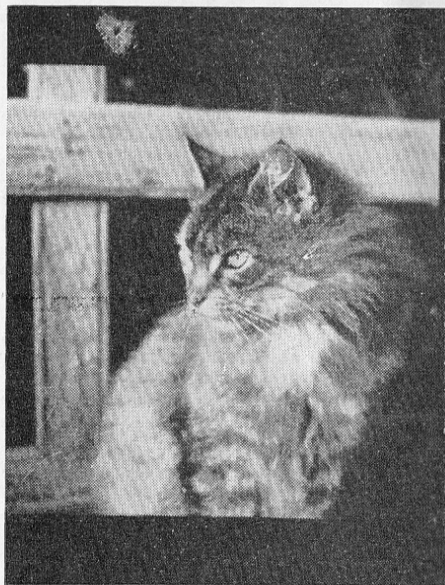
Disconsolately turning the pages she chanced upon an item describing the Guard Dog service offered by a new Clevedon (Somerset) resident, which included a reference to the skill of his dog at tracking. After eight days or more this seemed a forlorn hope—but anything was worth trying and our voluntary worker retired for the night with a feeling of optimism, for the first time in a week.

Early next day Mr. Royce Plyer was contacted and appeared more than willing to co-operate, mentioning that his "Pasha" had recently recovered a watch, lost no-one knew where in the course of a seven-mile moorland tramp, after merely sniffing its old strap which had been removed a week or more before the watch was lost! However the watch had been missing for three days and not nine.

To cut a long story shorter: a meeting was arranged and Pasha "introduced" to the missing cat's blanket and the place from where she was chased, with the result that within a very short time Mr. Plyer pronounced it a ninety-nine per cent certainty that poor pussy was lying low and possible trapped in a certain building or its foundations. With the area of search narrowed it was possible then to concentrate all efforts—including a baited R.S.P.C.A. cat trap and almost constant vigils—the combination of which met with success during the next forty-eight hours.

The (hitherto pampered) cat was soon "home and dry"—very dry, apparently having been without water during the entire time she was missing—and, apart from being a pound or so lighter, remarkably little worse for the experience! —J.E.V.J.

I haven't seen anything in "The Cat", from anyone speaking, so venture my own opinion regarding wool-eating Siamese. My "first-child" stopped the trick on being joined by a companion—in his case not of his own breed—and I am told this is the case in ninety-nine cases in a hundred. It seems to be irrelevant whether the second cat is Siamese or not, or even a cat at all—a kitten "works" equally well! It might be an idea to place this theory in juxtaposition to your pieces regarding "good homes wanted". J.E.V.J.



PRESS REPORTS

SCOTTISH EXPRESS
(Scottish Edition)
November 19th, 1967

Bridge Worker is paid in Cat Food.

One of the most important members of the expert staff which keeps the £20 million Forth Bridge in operation accepts his salary in cat food. For Darkie, the bridge's rat-catcher, is a cat.

Shortly after the bridge opened rats moved in. They got into cable ducts under the toll plaza at the south end of the bridge and caused short circuits by gnawing the cable coverings.

Assistant bridge master Mr. David Grewar said yesterday: "Faults kept recurring in the telephone system and in the cables to the toll collecting machines.

"We tried all sorts of experiments, including poison, tougher cables and sealing off the ducts. But the rats still got in."

"Then was when life changed for Darkie. He was brought from an Edinburgh cats' home and is now on the official staff.

During the day he sleeps in the luxury of one of the administrative offices and strolls out in the evening to do his job, which is saving the bridge board hundreds of pounds.

CAT SHOT DEAD FROM PASSING CAR THREE FINED

The Derby Evening Telegraph. Sat Nov. 11th
1967

As a "foreign-looking" car was passing her cat, Mrs. Susan Towndrow, of Rose Tree Farm, Milltown, heard a shot and the cat rolled over dead; it was stated at Clay Cross yesterday.

Later the car returned and Mrs. Towndrow's son, who identified the car as an Aston Martin, took the number.

George Clements (21), farm worker, 15 Meadow Road, Holmgate, Clay Cross; Richard Hedley Turner (18), apprentice turner, 29 Brook Street, Holmgate; and Peter Lucas (18), joiner, 42 Rock Crescent, Holmgate; were each fined £2 for killing a cat and ordered to pay £2. 14. 4d. costs. They pleaded "Not guilty".

Police-constable C. Rowan said the three men agreed that they were in the area in an Aston Martin car and had two guns in the back of the vehicle, but denied using them at all that day.

In court the three repeated their denials. They claimed that it would be very difficult to shoot a cat from that type of car, and Clements said he used larger pellets than those found in the cat.

