

SHOP WINDOW

Aprons to order in aid of funds 6/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1, Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland.

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.

Buy your hand-knitted dishcloths from Mrs. Peggie Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland. **Price** 1/9, including postage.

Aprons to order in aid of funds 6/11 each. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland.

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

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.

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

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

Water Colour Portraits of Pets from a clear snapshot, 10/6d. 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.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

SEE PAGE 97

ALWAYS WANTED

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable for 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.

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

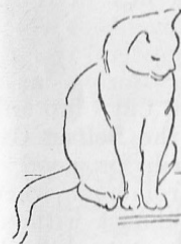
Used stamps, British Foreign and commemorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.

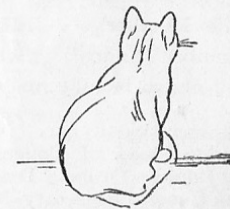
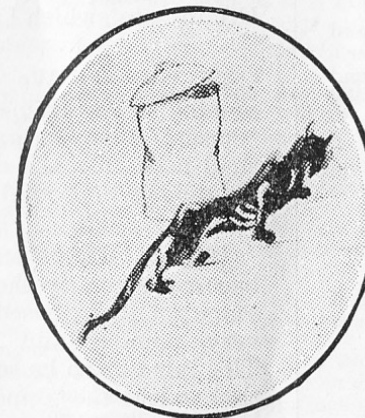
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THE CAT

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



Stamp 101.
Christmas Cards 102.
Book 107.



A CAT'S A CAT FOR A' THAT

SEPTEMBER 1968

THE CAT

VOL. XLII No. 7

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

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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.

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NEXT ISSUE 1st Nov. 68

Catching up with the correspondence, and gathering together the loose ends is always a problem. Being out of circulation for several weeks tends to create situations that cause concern, like the non-appearance of "The Cat" for July. I am sorry about this but am pleased to learn from letters received from members that the little magazine was missed.

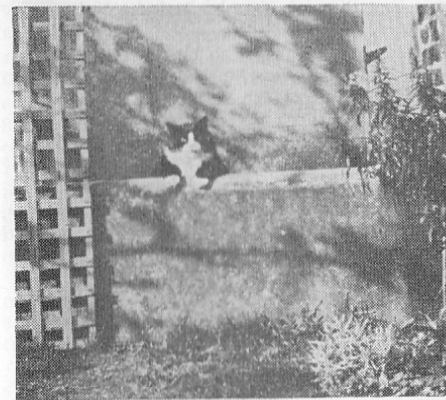
Another of my problems has been inability to attend meetings or events to which I have been invited. I am grateful to Mrs. de Clifford for "standing in" for me at a recent meeting of the Oxford Cat Club and the more recent opening of the Belfast Cat Sanctuary. Having removed for good I hope, the fear of being away from home when the blow struck, as it did almost without warning, it should not now be very difficult for me to play my part in such functions as may be arranged in the future by Branches/Groups, etc., which I will do if at all possible.

CAT WEEK: We are rather behind in making arrangements for something "special" this year and I rather fear that we shall need to make do with what has been mentioned in Round and About, page 97.

If what I have said in my comments becomes a reality there will be considerable scope for ideas based on what should be a very popular and necessary innovation. This remains to be seen but I feel confident that with the opportunities the scheme presents it will be acceptable both at Executive level and by the majority of our members and friends.

THIS ISSUE MAY POSSIBLY BE A LITTLE LATE OWING TO THE FACT THAT SOME BRANCH NOTES DID NOT ARRIVE ON TIME AND OTHERS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED UP TO THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. THIS NECESSITATED ADDITIONAL COPY FROM THE EDITOR.

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.

Although it has not been possible to "get around" very much since my previous notes in this column, matters which have been and still are occupying our attention are worth mentioning to bring you up to date.

In view of your many requests to "Get Well Soon" what could I do but respond and here I am, back at the desk at which I have sat for so many years.

For cards, letter and messages of sympathy and good wishes my wife and I thank you most sincerely, they cheered me considerably through that somewhat worrying period.

Ruxton Rodents: On page 104 we reproduce a picture of Miss Ruxton's famous toy mice. For more years than either of us care to remember these hard-wearing toys have been made by Miss Dorothy J. Ruxton and sold in aid of the League's funds. A total of £1,000 was raised for the C.P.L. in this manner.

Miss Ruxton was a very familiar figure at Cat Shows and her tray of toy mice was always an attraction. Unfortunately this good friend of the League is now unable to pursue her favourite hobby for her favourite Charity, she has been forced to retire on account of ill-health much to her regret. We thank her most sincerely for all that she has done for the League and for the pleasure that she has given to thousands of cats at home and abroad.

J. L. Milton Memorial: Readers will have noticed in the London Committee's report in last month's magazine that the J. L. Milton Memorial Gardens have been opened and that quite a number of cats from the districts previously patrolled by the late Mr. Milton have been accepted there and some have been

rehabilitated. We appreciate that our members and friends are most generous in their support both to Headquarters and to our Branches and I feel sure that this particular Memorial is one that appeals to a large number of our supporters in London. We are hoping that when the Memorial Gardens are *officially opened* there will be a good representation.

We are not as yet able to estimate the annual cost of this project. We hope to prepare a detailed report in the early part of 1969 giving the working expenses over a period since the Memorial Gardens were established. Basically the position is that Headquarters supplied the money that enabled the property on which the Memorial Gardens stand to be bought. The London Committee/South London Rescue Centre have allocated the cat houses which Headquarters will maintain as regards repairs and necessary additions, alterations, etc., and up to date we (H.Q.), have settled the Veterinary Surgeon's examination account and the cost of feeding the cats that are or have been in residence. I think we ought to make it clear that there is a limit to the number of cats that can be accepted at number 10, The Close and furthermore it is impossible to extend the Cattery beyond the number of houses that are there at present. More about this from time to time.

The Animals Fair: This year's Animals Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday November the 22nd-23rd at the Royal Horticultural New Hall, the same place as last year. C.P.L. will be fully represented and we hope to meet as many of our friends as possible that can attend.

The Special Offer which we make each time the magazine comes into circulation has been quite a success probably because it is something unusual. We are hoping to maintain these "offers" and will be glad to receive any item that would lend itself to future sales.

I have an enquiry for silver filigree articles or paintings on tale of Indian origin or any similar paintings and drawings from that country. Collectors pieces are obviously in demand so I am hoping that what I am offering as a special Cat Week contribution from my own collection of cat items will attract attention. The item is what I believe to be a sofa rug three foot six inches by one foot nine inches and made of chenille in a variety of brilliant colours, red, green, fawn, blue, etc., illustrating what would appear to be one of Louis Wain's pictures, six cats looking over a fence. At the moment I have no idea of its potential value but hope to get some idea of this before the next issue of the magazine. The offer will be open until the end of Cat Week—October the 12th.

ROUND and ABOUT

continued next page

ROUND AND ABOUT

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL:

Members and readers of our magazine who have followed my comments and what has been written about the work of the League will know that I and the Executive Committee have been more than a little concerned about the many unpleasant things that happen in the daily life of cats and kittens that are not fortunate in having good homes.

I refer to the cats that live or exist and breed on derelict housing sites or waste land, the cats that are "unwanted", those that are stolen and used for purposes which are deplorable. These are the outstanding problems which to a great extent remain unsolved and yet the answer is as simple (or as complicated as our caption indicated).

Before launching into the details I would like to say if it seems that my comments in last month's issue of "The Cat" under Round and About appear to skate lightly over some of the problems mentioned it was because of the regularity with which these matters crop up and, let's face it, the ineffectual results of even the combined efforts of Animal Welfare Societies to create a break-through. I do not in any way belittle what is being done by all, including the C.P.L. but I feel that it is not good enough and at any rate we, the C.P.L. have got to do more. So, what can we do?

In the very early days of my association with the C.P.L. I was invited to talk about the work of the League at a meeting of members of the Animal Benevolent Club in Maida Vale. The details are irrelevant but the A.B.C. stuck in my mind and I feel quite sure that the C.P.L. was the first Society to give these letters a much more significant meaning. Animal birth control has been mentioned by many and for a considerable time but how far has A.B.C. been used in an operative sense. Whatever has been done seems only to have touched the fringes of the problem and we have got to concentrate on this medium, the only effective one, to combat the evils that are consequent to promiscuous breeding amongst the very large population of domestic cats (in the sense that these cats have homes) and the homeless and unwanted.

Illness has its compensations. When the worst is over and one cannot do anything else one can think and quite recently I had time to think about this problem. The unsolicited publicity to which I referred in "The Cat", July and August numbers and the appeals received as a result of this letter in one of the Sunday papers brought into focus the very important factor "spaying" and the urgent need for action on a very large scale. The contacts made in many parts of

Great Britain with members of the Veterinary profession have been recorded for future reference and could form the nucleus of this envisaged attack on the foundation on which the stray cat problem has been built.

About two years ago I spoke about the stray cat problem, by request at the Conference of Animal Welfare Societies and I gave the facts and figures that the C.P.L. had collected through its questionnaires, circulated in the London area and stressed the need for a national campaign in regard to neutering and spaying.

I cannot say at this stage what support can be expected in any scheme that might be launched so the C.P.L. may have to go it alone. It is estimated, including what Branches and Groups spend, that the League's expenditure last year on neutering and spaying was over £2000. This year it will be a great deal more and we should obviously have to budget for many times the amount already being spent even at the start of the project to which I have referred.

Whilst appreciating we have moral responsibilities regarding home-finding and providing, within limits, for cats and kittens that have no homes, we must bear in mind that ABC if it is practised to its logical conclusion could eliminate or considerably reduce these problems to a manageable dimension. The aim must therefore be to strike at the root of the trouble and without allowing ourselves to be imposed upon to meet our moral obligations within our financial resources.

A word of warning is perhaps admissible at this juncture. I am expressing my own views and that is with the League's Executive Committee is conversant but no decision has been made as yet and no plans have been considered. These, the decision and plans, will most likely be dealt with at the next meeting of the Executive. Secondly my mention of financial resources will no doubt automatically bring to mind the £60,000 legacy, which we have not as yet got, and whilst it might appear great to make one big splash when we have received the money we would have to consider such a scheme as I have mooted as a long term project and it would be wise to husband our assets in order to provide an income wherewith to back our commitments. This income would of course be additional to any funds donated to this particular sphere of activities and we would without doubt have to make a nationwide appeal to supplement the fund that could be allocated to the scheme. So much then for the results of my contemplation. It would be the fulfillment of almost a life's work "in the cause" if the C.P.L. could really get down to this long overdue reformation.

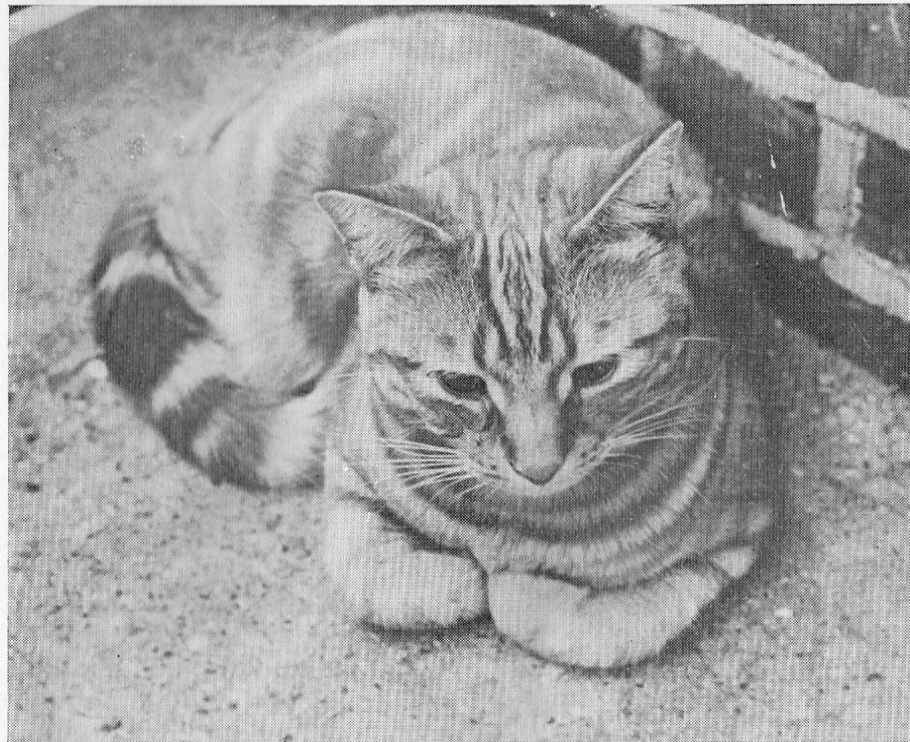
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ROUND AND ABOUT

It would be a wonderful theme for our Annual Cat Week appeals and could create the kind of publicity that would gain support and enable the C.P.L. to achieve its most important aim, as mentioned in the League's constitution, "to raise the status of cats".

Speaking of Cat Week, the date of which is Saturday, October the 4th to the 11th inclusive, wouldn't it be a good idea to make the League more widely known through the C.P.L. pen? See page 10.

Re: cheques and postal orders, etc. We have been asked by some of our friends to state, in the magazine, the best way of ensuring that donations cannot go astray if sent by cheque or postal order. It is preferable that both postal orders and cheques be made payable to The Cats' Protection League and Tailwavers and of course crossed. This should ensure absolute safety. It also ensures that the cheques or postal orders could not be used by anyone else should the letter and enclosure go astray.



SAMSON

One of the two H.Q. 'residents'

A.G.M., 1968. It was in the middle of the railway troubles and we expected that hardly anybody would bother to make the effort to come to the A.G.M. In fact I was prepared to send the very few stalwarts who might have struggled through, home with a sandwich as a consolation. Tea had been ordered and must be eaten. However, no such situation arose. Over 40 members were present, with representatives from Sussex,

Newbury, Derby, Edmonton and North London. As Mr. Steward was necessarily absent, there could be no fruitful discussions or answers to questions. But the routine business of the meeting was accomplished followed by reports from the branches present.

After the meeting was closed, I think we all enjoyed the tea, mixed with very pleasant chats with old and new friends. Osyth Sherratt, Chairman.



TWO OF A KIND

A short story by J. W. F. Chadwick.

Cats have given me many hours of pleasure, their clever little ways and cunning actions always fascinate me, they are such intelligent animals.

One day I came across a small child dressed in blue jersey and trousers, his hair dark and wind-swept. The boy was stroking the black sleeky fur of a small kitten which seemed short of nourishment as it was so thin. He huddled it to his chest. The purrs of delight at being made a fuss of, and those green sparkling eyes gazing up at him, made me see that here at last was a person who was kind and understanding in the true sense and knowledge, so far as tenderness and the love of animals was concerned.

I went up to him and asked: "What do you call him?" In a rather quiet and timid manner the answer I received was: "I have not yet found a name for him. I found him in a sack down by the stream. I thought it strange he should be fastened by a cord and left in a sack; the poor dear thing would have been dead by now if my hearing had failed me. As I got near to the sack I noticed that it moved, and after having unfastened the cord I brought out this small creature all of a shiver and trembling. What a cruel thing to leave it like this. How long he had been like this even I cannot say. What it needs now is comfort and food." "You intend to keep him then?" I said. "My parents think the world of all animals and so do I. We have a large grey tabby cat at home, he's

beautiful and I am more than certain that he will take to this one and fondle it".

I looked around and took in the rural country scene. In the distance was the centuries old weather-cock church spire which made a marvellous land-mark, the small old-fashioned shops; but sad as it did appear some had modern buildings. I saw a few sheep bunched together, also some cattle huddled against and old oak tree. A small mist was rising and it looked as if the rain would soon fall. What blue clouds has been in the sky were being replaced by black ones which looked watery. This was spring and not a very good one, considering this was towards the end of May.

The boy began to slowly make his way towards the village still fondling the kitten. I took my pipe and pouch from out of my pocket. After giving one rather pathetic glance towards the child's direction I began to fill the bowl slowly. After having lit my pipe and thrown the spent match stick away I walked on.

I couldn't help but think how cruel and hard some people appear to be. The manner in which they act towards dumb creatures who are helpless, and cannot give themselves a chance to defend these foul actions shown towards them. My thoughts time and again always reached the same conclusion: one must stamp out this wicked and unkind injustice. Why was I so interested in this incident of a boy and a kitten this late afternoon? It so happened I was a Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inspector on holiday.

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.

BOURNEMOUTH

Doubtless many readers imagine that because it is some time since any news appeared of our activities that this group has packed up! On the contrary, the calls on our woman power and other resources have become more than we can adequately cope with. Much as we need the revenue that Coffee mornings, Card parties, Film shows and Jumble sales yield, we are all too busy with our own domestic and business responsibilities to do all the extra jobs that these events entail and unlike other welfare societies we lack the paid staff to attend to all the publicity side and cars to do the running around in all weathers. So much more could be done if only . . . !!

CHELMSFORD

The month began with a Coffee Evening arranged by Mrs. Jean Gumbrell at Terling near Witham, which raised £12. A Strawberry Fair on July 6th, in the garden of the "Plough Inn" at Springfield was blessed this year with a dry afternoon with little wind, but being Carnival Day the crowd was thin and some helpers were on holiday—but the strawberries were ripe! They sold in punnets and with sugar and cream along with other refreshments and the usual stalls and competitions. £43 were taken including proceeds from the remaining strawberries sold by our hostess in the bar. Three Whist Drives "kept the pot boiling" and a number of donations have helped.

7 Cats and 16 Kittens have gone to homes in July but the cattery is full, it being the local holiday weeks.

A pensioner in West Hanningfield is being helped with the 9 cats and a number of kittens, which she has befriended, before, we hope, they multiply much more!

DERBY

"ARE THERE ANY MEMBERS OF C.P.L. LIVING IN MATLOCK OR AREA? IF SO, THE SECRETARY OF THE DERBY BRANCH WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WRITE TO MRS. M. A. NORTON, 24, SEVENOAKS AVENUE, MACKWORTH ESTATE, DERBY".

GLOSSOP:

A sale of Christmas presents is planned for October—date and details in our next report. We hope to make this, our biggest event of the year, a big success.

Already we have received a large box of lovely knitted toys from friends in Bristol. Any little saleable gifts would be welcome including items suitable for 2/6d. and 1/- parcels and 6d. dips.

We need a greatly increased income in order to keep up the supplies of tinned food for the many cats being fed and sheltered by elderly people, for boarding fees for the strays and unwanted in our care, and also to help us to cope with increasing demands for help with speyings etc.

We have just heard of two more little strays with kittens. One is being cared for temporarily in an outbuilding, the other is wandering about in Chapel-en-le-Frith seeking food and has now brought along two very thin kittens. We shall bring in these wild ones if they can be caught, also another timid tortoiseshell kitten which has been abandoned and is living under a shed. This is a problem, as all our kennels are in use in various places. However, we shall find room somewhere for these if we can get them.

We could make very good use of one or two more kennels with runs. These now cost £15 including carriage. The ones in use have been donated by readers of "The Cat" in memory of much loved pets.

Since writing our last report we have admitted six cats and eight kittens and found homes for four cats and four kittens. At present we have nineteen cats and twelve kittens in our care. Several of these have had 'flu and would appreciate a few extra tit-bits if anyone cared to send them a few shillings. We hope that Michelle who is expecting kittens and has been in contact with them will escape infection.

We are still collecting Green Shield and S and H trading stamps. These should be sent to Miss M. Thomas, 292 Hyde Road, Woodley, Nr. Stockport, Cheshire. A receipt will be sent for full books.

I would be pleased to receive special issue and foreign used postage stamps. Please leave small margin of paper around them.

Tibby is sitting on my writing table watching the younger ones play, and purring his thanks to all who help less fortunate cats.

BRANCH & GROUP NEWS

LONDON COMMITTEE:

When this appears it will be very near the first of our big bazaars, the Autumn one at The Community Centre, St. George's Road, Wimbledon, on Wednesday 11th September. Doors will open at 1 o'clock. Our next occasion THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be on Saturday, 19th October 1968, at the CATHEDRAL HALL, Abroseden Avenue, (Ashley Gardens) Victoria, S.W.1., doors will open at 2.30 p.m. We hope that everyone who can do so will be sure to come, and to bring friends. We will be very grateful for stock for these bazaars, and we can collect in London. Please send us anything you can spare.

Is there anyone living in Hampstead, or near, who would like us to have a small bazaar? Two Hampstead members have written to suggest that the C.P.L. is not as active as it might be in Hampstead, and if we can find a bit more support, something may be started there. Who will help?

The RESCUE CENTRE carries on, at present we seem to have an extraordinary number of extraordinary cats. We have some beautiful cats who would do us credit anywhere, elegant creatures that deserve good homes, but we have one or two of the other kind, small wicked and out to make life interesting by any means. Jenny is one, black and white and active, all ready to climb a tree, or a table whichever is nearest. She has a passion for tinned salmon, and if anyone would like to send about 2/6d. to get her a little extra, she would be very glad.

Curio Corner: It may sound grasping, but we are still asking for gold—any little scrap of a broken bit of gold to help us. We have been asked for some other things: A. An elegant paper-knife, B. any kind of Tea Caddy C. a paper weight, D. any sort of old puzzle-game, E. old chessmen. In fact we are delighted to have anything old of any kind. It all helps for the cats.

The Milton Memorial Garden:

In the Memorial Garden there are the special London cats who have been brought to us from the bad parts of London. There is: Perry, gold and white and lovely but shy, nearly all white, growing friendlier but still scared, Bunny who is very small, black and white, Honey who is white with black trimmings, Sonny who is all black and tiny, Meg a magpie who loves everyone, she would like a home at once, Spot who has just had kittens, spotted like herself, Tigger a real tiger cat.

NEWBURY:

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting at Newbury on May 25th, 1968. All officers were re-elected, in addition Mrs. Cose was elected to the Committee. Hon. Secretary reported she had placed 84 cats, and Miss Mumford 73 during the past year. Many more were rescued. During this time three jumble sales, a coffee morning and a stall at a Cat Show had been most successful. Two of the leading Siamese Cat Clubs had made generous donations to our cause and Headquarters had sent us a very welcome gift at Christmas.

We should like to record our very grateful thanks to these donors. J. M. Newton, Chairman.

NORTH LONDON:

All work necessitated by the "Dangerous Structure" notice served on us has now been completed. A chimney stack and fifteen feet of a flank wall have had to be demolished and rebuilt. Dust and soot has been everywhere but our cats have not been unduly disturbed. Only the humans have been inconvenienced! All that now remains to be done is the redecoration of the inside of the demolished wall—this is in hand.

In the height of Summer, we must mention Christmas. This year, again, we shall be selling Christmas cards, all showing some of our Shelter cats. Among the choice is one of a proud black and white mother with her two kittens. Our past experience has proved our cards to be very popular, so please order early. The price is nine shillings a dozen, plus postage.

Circumstances beyond our control have limited our branch report on this occasion. M.D.

SUSSEX

This month has been a very quiet time as far as finding homes for cats and kittens is concerned. Our shelter is full and we receive almost daily requests for help in finding homes, but never a request for a cat or kitten. We have many calls from people who move from a house into a Council flat where no pets are allowed, and in many cases their cats have to be put to sleep as we have no room for them.

Recently we took a cat from a Pet Shop. Her kittens were all sold, but the poor little mother was not wanted and spent most of her days in a cage in the shop window. She is now at our shelter which is quite spacious, and we hope to find her a good home before long.

Sussex Branch continued on next page

Sussex Branch cont.

About eight weeks ago we had a phone call from a lady who told us that a little stray cat had been around for some time, and now had four kittens under the hedge in her garden. The poor little cat was very thin and was only getting a few scraps given to her, so she was killing birds for food. We sent money regularly for milk and food for her, and a basket was provided in a shed and the kittens put into it. At first the mother, who was very wild, took them away and hid them, but when eventually they were found in a neighbour's shed and brought back, she decided to stay. When the kittens were seven weeks old we took them up to Cat Haven but could not get the mother. Finally the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector went at our request and trapped her, and she has now joined her little family. Mrs. Banks, who looks after our cats, reports that she is getting a little less frightened, and she hopes that she will soon be a normal happy little cat ready for a home.

On August 1st we had our last Coffee Evening for this year. We hope to announce the result in the next number of The Cat.

ULSTER:

Among "forthcoming events" the most important is, without doubt, the Sale of Work which will be held on Saturday, 5th October in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast. This year we are starting a little earlier. Morning Coffee will be available from 11 a.m. and from them until 4.30 p.m. we hope to be kept very busy indeed. We have, greatly daring, set ourselves a target of £250. Maybe it's a wee bit ambitious but let's try anyhow. I think we can achieve it if everyone will do a little. Do try to come along—it's not too early to start on your Christmas shopping. You'll enjoy the chat and for me it is always an opportunity to meet out-of-town members. Here is a list of Stall-holders who are expecting (and are sure to have) your support. Hilary has already received many nice handkerchiefs including some from Spain.

Gift Stall: Mrs. K. Jackson, 30 Ladas Drive, Belfast, 6. White Elephant. (Good Quality) Miss L. Gulston, 25, King's Drive, Belfast, 5. Cake and Sweets. Dr. L. McElroy, 268, Antrim Road, Belfast, 15. Kitchen Stall. Mrs. K. Y. McBride, 265, Cavehill Road, Belfast, 14. Grocery Stall. Mrs. K. Livingstone, 10, Wynchurch Terrace, Belfast, 6. New and Used Jewellery Mrs. Kennedy, 3, Waterloo Gardens, Belfast, 15. Toy Stall. Mrs. Gilmore, 36, Malone Avenue, Belfast, 9. Handkerchief Girl. Hilary Clark, 16, Kinvara Avenue, Belfast, 4. Refreshments. Mrs. Elliott, "Nara", Station

Road, Graigavad. Books (new and second-hand). Mr. and Mrs. Oldham, 26, Summerhill Park, Belfast, 5.

Last month I gave details of the Catless Cat Show and the first entry has already arrived—from Ottawa. I've also heard from the Seychelles that the cats there will be entering for the competition. Now let's have lots of entries from the British Isles as well. Don't forget—if you want your snap back send a suitable stamped, addressed envelope.

We've had some wonderful collections of stamps in response to my appeal but one word of exhortation is required. Mrs. Wilson has asked me to draw attention again to the importance of perfect specimens. They should never be peeled off the envelope but cut or torn with the paper still attached, leaving a small margin. It is sad that so many beautiful stamps must be discarded because of some small imperfection. I'm sure many people have not realized that even a tiny flaw makes a stamp worthless.

We still need Jumble and White Elephants. Our White Elephant Sale in June was extremely successful bringing in over £100. We thank Miss Taylor who did such a great job on this—and of course all the members who helped her. Keep on sending us all the things you don't need.

Finally, may I once more express our thanks to all the kind folk who send us contributions in cash or kind (including Anon of Bow) and may I say how deeply we appreciate their interest in the Ulster Branch.

WEST CORNWALL:

What a frantic time our visitors have had this summer, they arrive after hours of searching and we console them with cups of tea and soothing words. I anticipated this happening, the people at St. Day have never heard of us, though everyone in Cusgarne knows about us. Frustrated beyond words, yours truly has spent more than can be spared time pleading with the powers that be to officially change our address to Cusgarne. The local postmasters are an obliging fraternity and they looked into it all very carefully, one kindly official set out one fine afternoon to visit us and could not find the place at all, so his sympathies no doubt helped proceedings, for shortly afterwards we were informed that our address would be changed from St. Day Redruth to Cusgarne Truro. Note address on heading. We are now keeping the printers busy altering all our leaflets etc. We have some rather good maps printed which can be sent to anyone on request and is a tremendous help to anyone visiting the catteries.

West Cornwall continued next page

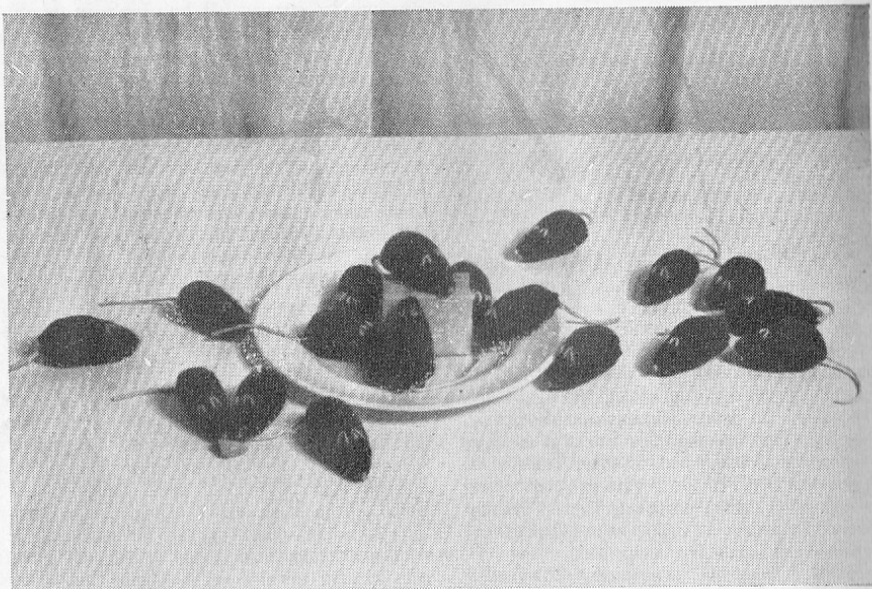
West Cornwall concluded

Every Saturday afternoon is an Open Day and we are taking an average of £10 a week which is a wonderful help to our funds. Although we could do with more local people visiting we are glad to welcome cat lovers from long distances and they seem to enjoy their afternoons, and tea in the Pussy Patio surrounded by delighted family cats and dogs. The old stable which houses Cats' Bazaar is a great attraction and the lovely things you send us have been fetching good prices, but stocks are getting a little low and we would be very pleased for replacements. Anything in good condition sells, particularly Victorian jewellery and bric-a-brac, and anything old and unusual. If anyone has a harp that needs

a good home we would be very glad of it, also garden chairs of any kind to seat the people (and cats). Someone gave us some strong trestle tables which have been invaluable for stalls and teas. An enormous unwanted fridge has saved us money by keeping large quantities of cat food fresh in the heat, and an electric fan is keeping the cattery air moving, so you see we can make use of many items which often clutter up a shed or attic.

Plenty of unwanted cats and kittens again this year and we have been reasonably successful in finding homes, although it is still our rule to take in adult cats only, and we have an attractive crowd waiting for new homes. They love it so much here that we feel tempted to keep more, but we like to empty the pens to allow more to replace them.

RUXTON'S RODENTS



SEE OUR COMMENTS ON PAGE 97



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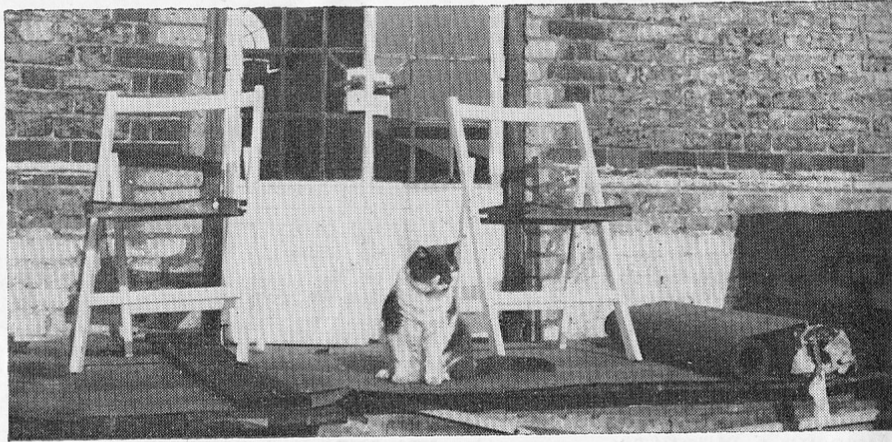
Miss E. R. McKee,
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WALSALL:

Miss R. Nash,
25, Wolverhampton Street,
Walsall, Staffs.

WEST CORNWALL:

Mrs. K. Beesley,
Cathlonena,
Cusgarne Catteries,
Cusgarne,
Truro, Cornwall.



CATS, PLACES, AND PERSONS

by Frieda Le Pla

Of all the various accusations against cats, the most frequent and persistent, and the most believed in, is that which declares that cats care only for places, not people. I think a collection of testimonies to the contrary, published either in "The Cat" or as a separate leaflet, could be very useful in refuting this false notion.

Incidentally, the many stories of cats finding their way back to their old homes, sometimes over immense distances, are used to bolster up this widespread belief in their incapacity to attach themselves to persons. But usually these stories are told without adequate investigation into the circumstances which had caused these feline achievements. Was the new home one to which the cat's owners had moved? How had they treated him? Or was it to new owners to whom he had been transferred, who were not adopted by the cat as substitutes for his own family? If moved to the home with his owners, did they take the precaution of keeping him within the new garden for a few days till he had come to recognise the strange surroundings as his own home and would not lose his way when going out further afield for his walks? We have moved house five times, and have never had any difficulty in keeping our cats with us in their new home. So long as they were with us, mere places mattered little to them.

When cats are regarded and treated as beloved friends of the family, they can be as devoted as any dog to their human owners,

and will often follow them about as a dog does. For instance, when we were living for some years in a quiet road where there was little traffic, it was quite a usual thing to look back, after we had started off on some errand, and see a procession of five cats trooping after us!—My male tabby, my sister's tortoise-shell lady, and their three kittens. All our cats have been eager to follow us about, and to be with us wherever we might be.

I might leave my tabby fast asleep in his own appropriated padded arm-chair in the sitting-room while I went off upstairs to conduct domestic operations in my bedroom. Within ten or fifteen minutes I would hear a loud wail from the middle of the stair-case and on rushing out to see what was the matter I would find my tabby crying out as plainly as if he had used words, "Where are you, beloved friend? I don't like being alone, I want to come to be with you, however comfortable that chair is!" Then the moment he saw me emerging he would rush up the stairs, purr ecstatically when I gathered him up into my arms, and then curl himself round my neck like a fur, remaining in that not very comfortable and rather precarious position all the time I continued dusting and sweeping, in preference to going back to his luxurious padded chair without me. None of our cats have liked being left alone for long, despite Kipling's famous, "Cat that walks by himself!"

Now to one of our more recent cats, an all-black stray, Tricksy, something of whose story I told in "The Cat" in its issue for December 1958, accompanied by a snapshot of him. He, too, would follow any of us about in the house and garden, and would

have followed us along the road, but this we could not let him do because our present house is too near the turning of the road which leads into the main street which is full of traffic dangerous to animals—and humans! He always felt most like play-times when we could get one of his human friends to come and play with him, and he could be very eloquent in telling us when he wanted a game in the garden. At night he preferred to sleep on the bed of one or other of his human friends rather than on his comfortable padded chair in the sitting-room alone. This habit led to an incident of real significance.

At first it was on my friends' bed he slept. I cannot recall how it started, unless perhaps he happened to follow her upstairs one night just as she was going to bed, and then on another occasion scratched at her door to ask to come in—a procedure I could not have heard, owing to deafness. Some months after he had adopted her bed as his usual sleeping-place, she went away for a fortnight. On the first night of her absence, thinking he would like to be in his usual place, I settled him there on his special blanket; but also propped my own bedroom door open a little way so that he could come in to me if he felt lonely. I had not been in bed ten minutes before there was a thud on it, and Tricksy came padding over the bed-clothes to my outstretched hand, and rubbed his cheek against my face, purring rapturously, and explaining as if he had spoken: "I've waited and waited for our other friend, and she hasn't come to join me, and it's lonely all by myself, so couldn't I come to be with you?" Needless to say he was more than welcome, and after that he slept with me every night during my friend's absence. What was a mere bed to him, however

comfortable, if his human friend was not there?

More than once we have had a visiting cat from a home where he was well fed and well housed, but was not given much affection. None of these cats ever asked us for food, it was the receiving and giving of affection they wanted, and for this they would spend far more time with us than they did at their own homes.

In conclusion I would like to add that, to ensure right relationships with, and understanding of, cats by adults, it is important that such relationships and understanding should be fostered in children. Most children are influenced in some degree by the stories they read; and I would like to mention here a story I recently read which should be most valuable in helping children to a vivid realisation of the right way to treat their feline fellow-beings. This story, "What Happened to Tabbie" is the fourth in a most unusual little book, "Joyous Guard", by Armored Nance, which could be of much benefit to both children and cats. The author believes that humans and animals alike have guardian angels, so that when Tabbie fled from her first home (where the children had tired of her as a plaything, and had brought in a ferociously anti-dog who terrified Tabbie, and indeed endangered her life), her guardian angel led her to a truly happy home where she received and gave devoted affection. Here it was, too, that a delightful incident occurred in which Tabbie rescued and mothered a tiny puppy thrown in to a stream with a stone round its neck to drown. Attractively bound and only 2/6d. (plus postage) this little book is obtained direct from the author, Miss Armored Nance, Glen Rossel House, Ivershin, Sutherland, Scotland.

RESCUE

A woman made a mercy dash into a smoke-filled flat to rescue a tabby cat while fire raged through a restaurant in Northfield Avenue, West Ealing on Sunday afternoon.

Firemen would not let Mrs. Iris Molinari enter the Del-Rio restaurant to reach the family pet, trapped in a first-storey flat.

Mrs. Molinari went through an adjoining flat and onto a balcony above the street. From there she climbed through a window to snatch her cat from the lounge.

Beneath her a blaze was gutting the rear of the restaurant which she and her husband, John, have operated for the past two years.

IS IT

Oldest Pussycat in the World?

When my son was 5 years old I gave him a kitten. My son is now 31 and the cat is 26. I have heard that cats don't live longer than 20 years. If this is so, do I have the longest-lived cat in the world. M.E.W., Buena Park.

A leading publication says the world's oldest cat was a tabby called "Ma" owned by an English woman. The cat was put to sleep in 1957 at the age of 35. Los Angeles Herald Examiner.

* * *

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas, Tailwaver 3736, who died 5th June, 1968 in his 15th year. Just "Tommy O' Reilly", but such a perfect little gentleman. Sadly missed by Mr. and Mrs. P.

In loving memory of my dearly loved white cat Angus, Tailwaver 4532, killed by a car, June 20th, 1968, aged 2 years: so sweet and affectionate. Also remembered with much love "Mack" aged 5 years—Feb. 4th 1949. "Binkie" aged 5 months, a stray, March 19th 1949: "Prince" aged 10½ years, 24th July, 1959. "Twinkle" aged 3½ years, Jan. 10th 1961. "Prudence" her sister, aged 8¾ years, April 16th, 1966. Always in my thoughts. Till we meet again in God's Kingdom.
Mrs. Price and family.

In affectionate remembrance of Dear Stumpy who left us June 2nd, 1968. E.M.P. Evergreen memories of Pinky, a cherished and enchanting pet for over 19 years., fell into his last sleep on 18th August, 1965. Always in my heart. M. Burgess.

Remembering always my dear Ming, so gently sent to happier hunting grounds on August 17th, 1967. My faithful companion for 14½ years. Also little Dusty tragically killed on the road on September 9th, 1969, age 4 years. You are together again now, my darlings. D.P.H.

In loving memory of dear Jamie, died April, 19th, 1968. One of the sweetest and cleverest also precious Eustace. Very sadly missed and remembered. Their memories live for ever. Both died of incurable disease. E. Giles

In loving memory of Ching, our beloved Blue Point, who went to rest 19th July, 1968, (T.W. 3486) aged 16 years. Now re-united with his brother Koko. Ever in our thoughts
E. and J. Collier.

On July 6th, 1968 (from rat poison) Lucinda Nerea Schwartz (Luci) aged 2 years 9 months also on July 8th, (also rat poison) Candace Menelika Sputnik (Can Can) aged 10 years. Much missed by their little friend Orlando Marmolata and their Aunties E. M. Tweedie and S. Goldie.

In memory of Micky, beloved cat and companion. Mrs. Walker, "Ingleside" Tannhallt, Meliden, Prestatyn.

In memory of "Timmy" a faithful companion for 23 years. Died June 24th, 1968. God Bless. Mr. and Mrs. Felce and Paula.

Our dearest smokey, Tailwaver 3460 who died on August 21st, 1964, aged 9½ years. Always remembered and ever in our hearts.
N. and D. Revill.

HOMES WANTED, ETC.

Lively, lovely black tom kitten (neutered) will make good mouser. Four pretty kittens, two white with black markings, two tortoiseshell. Also two young black, speyed, short-haired cats. Please ring Gillingham, Dorset, 294 between 6-8 p.m. only.

Beautiful large taby, with white front. Age about 5. Name Billie. Needs quiet home. Very Clean. Apply Mr. Bradley, 267, Wood Lane, Dagenham, Essex. Phone 592-1328.

Good home urgently wanted for "Patsy" a white and black young female (arrangements in hand for spaying). Owner recently deceased. Apply Mrs. Shoater, 29, Ashgate Avenue, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

* * * *

Enclose donation in memory of much loved cats I have had: Baby Kitten aged 12: Orange Pipkin 13, Tango, 14, Snowball 14, and last but not least my darling Squirrel Nutkin, Tailwaver 141 put to sleep July 4th, 1968.

I enclose a donation of £5 for the funds of the C.P.L. It is a little expression of my gratitude for the faithful devotion of my dear "Thomas Tompkins" who was put to sleep last week aged 16 years. P.M.A.

I enclose £1 instead of sending flowers in memory of Mrs. Barbara Ward, of Sidbury, who lost her life in the floods here last week. She was a genuine and life-long lover of cats. M/C

I assure you, that whilst I have a penny to spare my favourite "good cause" will not be forgotten. R.S.

* * * *

Furnished flat offered in Bournemouth for week 8th—15th September in return for care of beloved pet by real cat-lover. Mrs. Kennedy, Top Flat, 8, St. Winifred's Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

* * * *

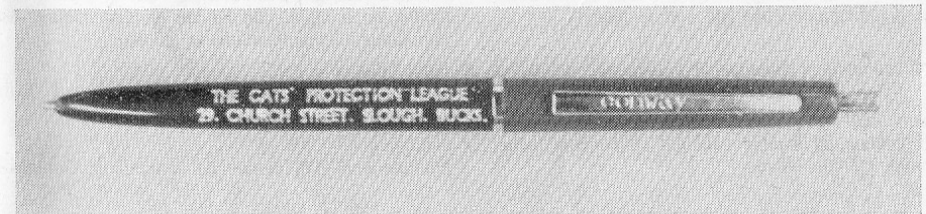
OBITUARY:

We regret to have to record the sudden death of Miss Edith Rice in her 86th year. She will be remembered by many of our readers as the Honorary Secretary of the Edinburgh Cats' Protection League an organisation the other side of the border that was once a Branch of the C.P.L. Miss Rice had been closely connected with animal welfare and particularly cats for many years and without doubt she will be greatly missed.



These pencils are the Cats Whiskers! It is one of the best advertisements that the league has ever put out. My hearty congratulations to the person (or persons—there must be more than one) who thought up the idea. The pencil is extremely attractive; every man, woman or child uses a pencil like this today, and above all all it is a very GOOD pencil for writing. Please send me one dozen more. I am going to have everyone in my area using one as soon as possible. J. M.

Good for you J.M. and for us of course, Editor.



MAKE ALL YOUR FRIENDS 'PEN FRIENDS'