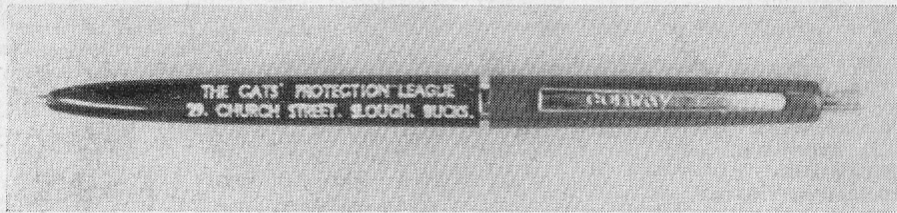


SHOP WINDOW



C.P.L. PENS: 1/6 each REFILLS 6d. POSTAGE 6d.

Two or more post free from Headquarters only

FAULTY PENS OR REFILLS REPLACED FREE

OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

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 and/or Aprons to, order in aid of funds. 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.

Perspex Name Brooches in various colours 1/6d. each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E. to Miss P. E. George, Rose Villa, Ackhill Prestiegne, Radnorshire.

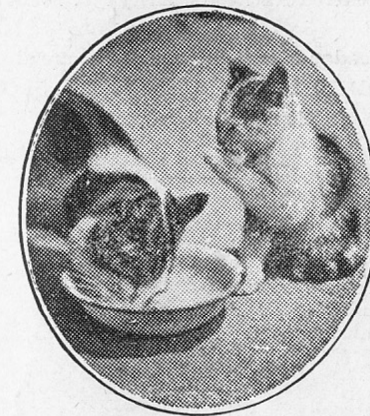
Water Colour Portraits of Pets from a clear snapshot, 10/6d. each. Snaps of pets or children, Enlarged and Coloured from own negatives, £1. Please give description. Cheques should be made payable to C.P.L.—Dorothy Hall, Plemont, Hill Road, Watlington, Oxford.

THIS MONTH'S "SPECIAL"
**A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING
PEOPLES OF THE WORLD**
6 VOLUMES (As new)
By Sir Winston Churchill
COST PRICE £6 WHAT OFFERS

Published Bi-monthly by the Cat's Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough and Printed by C. Luff & Co. Ltd., Albion Close, Petersfield Avenue, Slough.

THE CAT

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



"Perhaps the most valuable gifts which the cat can give to man are its tranquility and grace and detachment, and in this distracted era of ours we were never more in need of tranquility and grace and detachment." *Compton Mackenzie.*

JANUARY 1969

THE CAT Vol. XLIII No. 1 JAN/FEB 1969

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY - FIRST OF THE MONTH

CONTENT: Short Stories — Branch and Group News — Members Letters — CAT CHAT dealing with published references to Cat Welfare and the League's activities and appeals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Selected photos of Members cats and kittens.
Literary contributions and photos welcome. NO PUBLISHING FEES PAID.

Official Organ of
THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE AND TAILWAVERS
(Founded 1927)

Registered National Charity No. 203644

Headquarters Office and Clinic are at
PRESTBURY LODGE, 29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH, BUCKS.
Telephone Slough 20173

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(all above include magazine)		

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

ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

Notification of change of address.

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

Beads of any size, colour etc.

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

1968-9 THE PAST YEAR has been one of problems. Some disappointments and some very favourable events and other rather mixed blessings, but from one or the other we learn something and on the whole, progress has been made and we have achieved more than we had expected.

Now we look into the future and plan for 1969, with the faith and hope of a "charity".

What we expect to do is explained in Round and About so please read it. It is important.

THIS ISSUE OF THE CAT is the outcome of a concept intended to enable us to continue publishing our little paper at a cost price that will allow it to be included with the annual subscription and provide a margin of saving that can be directed into other channels.

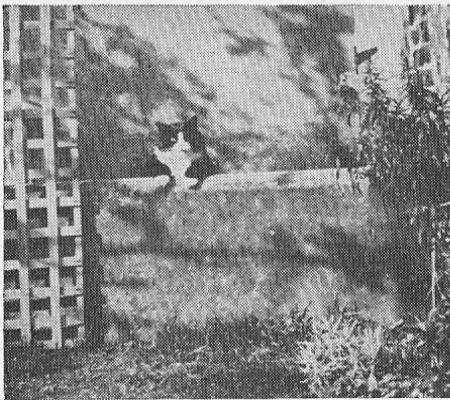
AS FROM THIS NUMBER the magazine will be published bi-monthly making six issues instead of ten. The number of pages will be increased from sixteen to twenty and there will be no increase in the subscription rate £1 1s. 0d. per year and nothing added for postage.

CAT POPULATION LIMITATION this is our version of Animal Birth Control. The same thing only more to the point as far as the C.P.L. is concerned. We are going forward with our proposals to extend our neutering (both male and female) scheme by "vouchers" issued direct from Headquarters or by our Branches etc. So here's to success in 1969, beyond expectations.

EDITOR

**MY APOLOGIES FOR NOT
GETTING THIS ISSUE OUT
ON TIME. FLU, STAFF
PROBLEMS AND XMAS
HOLIDAYS ARE NOT A
GOOD COMBINATION.**

A. L. Steward



✠ ROUND AND ABOUT

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

CAT POPULATION LIMITATION

Since its inauguration in May 1926 the League's Policy has been based on education, rehabilitation and the solution of the stray cat problem; not necessarily in that order because each has something in common with the other.

Our efforts along educational lines have never ceased and we have greatly extended our range of literature on this subject. Home finding or rehabilitation has been, for a long time, one of the very controversial matters with which we have had to deal sympathetically in view of the strong opinions for and against amongst supporters of the League's work throughout the organization. The stray cat problem is perhaps most difficult to deal with for obvious reasons and in the past five years we, at Head Quarters, have explored most avenues and turned over many stones (obstacles) in an effort to get something done.

Progress has been made but not to the extent necessary to eliminate this "black spot" in cat welfare. The best results were obtained by or becoming involved in a spate of speying and neutering, touched off by a notice in one of the Sunday papers about which we had no prior warning.

In about six months we had arranged for 212 speys at a cost of £462. Applications for vouchers came from all parts of the country. This seemed to open up possibilities especially as we had been operating a "voucher scheme" on a limited scale for some considerable time. The matter had been discussed in committee several times prior to a decision being taken, which in effect gives priority to the develop-

ment of the voucher scheme for neutering both male and female up to National coverage, but operating from Headquarters mainly, although anticipating co-operation with our branch groups or accredited representatives if or when they are appointed.

The scheme is simple and easy to operate but could easily occupy the whole time of one person, so addition to the office staff may be necessary. What will be most needed is sufficient funds to meet the expenditure (operation fees) involved.

On the basis of what we have already done under the existing scheme we estimate to arrange and pay for 1,000 speyings in the first 12 months which, according to the law of averages, would prevent the birth of from 6 to 8 thousand kittens each year of a cats breeding life. If at the end of the first year we can claim success and justification for a further expansion, the scheme will be given the trial period of three years.

FUNDS: That legacy so much in the news at the time it became known will, because of the manner of its investment, have to remain largely as it is but should yield an income of between £2,000 and £3,000 a year. This we propose to use as the foundation of a fund for financing the scheme to which we augment by adding the Annual Cat Week proceeds plus donations etc., which members wish to be devoted to this particular work.

In coming to such a decision as we have made we had to consider many aspects of our work; two of the most important being "Protection" and "Rescue". There are some who see only one method of protection but we believe, and we are convinced of our belief by years of experience, that in many instances cats need protecting from their owners. Not all who have cats realise their responsibility or, for that matter, accept them if they do realise them, otherwise we would not have the number of strays that there are.

RESCUE: from what and to what end. Cats can be rescued from the unenviable position that some occupy in premises where their life is a misery and where they are capable of reproducing more of their kind and so increasing the number of stray, homeless and unwanted cats. Rescue does not necessarily mean that every cat can be rehabilitated. There are some, and indeed a good many, for which a painless passing would be a mercy. Until we recognise that both "protection" and "rescue" should not be taken to mean something that one would wish it to mean, we shall be faced with this eternal problem of the stray cat.

PRIORITIES: We must get our priorities right if we are to avoid confusion within the organization. We are agreed there are

ROUND AND ABOUT—contd.

diametrically opposed views on cat welfare and cat lovers lean very heavily towards one or the other. Granting that there are two or even three "necessities," invariably there is one of greater importance than the others.

In the long term view the one that does the greatest amount of good and therefore most beneficial is the one that heads the list of priorities. This then is why it was decided, neutering, both male and female kittens or fully grown cats is a "must". It is the only way to arrest the flow of kittens, all too many of which are destined to become part of the vast army of unwanted that degenerate to the homeless felines that haunt derelict buildings etc., and depend on the nightly or periodical visits of cat lovers who often travel miles in order to feed their protégés. Can anyone doubt that what we propose to do is right in having placed a definite priority on "neutering".

HOME FINDING/REHABILITATION: Knowing there is a strong feeling in some sections of our organization in favour of home finding and being committed by our original policy to give support to this side of the League's activities, we will continue to do so and honour our obligations within limits and will arrange that any donations received at Headquarters specifically for the purpose of home finding etc., be allocated to the Branches and Groups that are already engaged in rescue operations that come within this field of welfare.

In order to conserve funds by regulating expenditure incurred in maintaining cats for indefinite periods we would sponsor any practical scheme for effective rehabilitation/home finding within a specified period provided the League's official Home Find Questionnaire is used for the purpose for which it is intended.

NOW WE HAVE TO FACE OTHER ISSUES: Should every unwanted cat or kitten be rehabilitated regardless of the expenditure involved or should there be a limit to the time they are kept pending a satisfactory home being found?

Should unwanted female cats, in kitten or with a family of very young kittens be kept until the offspring are ready to go to a home (a matter of from eight to twelve weeks in some instances)?

Should all the kittens in such cases be kept or should they be kept at all if they are not healthy?

Should female kittens be given away unless the prospective owners agree to have them "neutered" at their own expense?

Should any kitten be given away without a "promise of neutering" for sentimental reasons (to save its life)?

Should we be responsible for providing food indefinitely for homeless cats here, there and everywhere or should we do so for a limited period pending their "rescue", in most cases by trapping and should we keep them indefinitely, trusting that time the greatest healer, will restore the balance between semi-wildness and domestication.

Should we accept the responsibility for the care, housing, treatment, etc. of cats that have to be "adopted" as so many are, because the original owner cannot or will not provide for them any longer.

These are vital questions because the questions posed are based on requests made to us at Headquarters or actually in practise in various parts of the C.P.L. organisation.

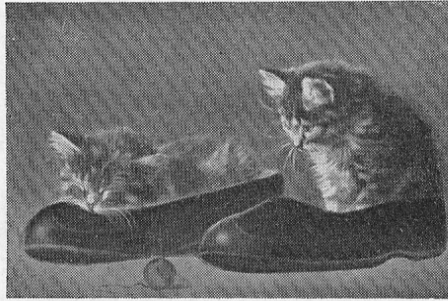
We the Trustees and Executive Committee have had to consider all these aspects, weigh the pros and cons and come to a decision.

ARE WE JUSTIFIED in calling a halt in some directions and limiting expenditure in others. We consider we are but in order to ensure there are no recriminations we have introduced the scheme mentioned on page 3, that will enable our members and friends who "donate" to H.Q. to decide to which branch of practical work their gifts are to be allocated. We undertake faithfully to carry out their wishes, provided they are clearly indicated whether the donations are intended for "neutering" or "rescue" and rehabilitation. Please note this applies to *donations* and *legacies* only and *not* subscriptions, whether annual, life or covenanted.

Your views on this matter will obviously be indicated by your reaction donation-wise.

It has been the privilege of the Trustees of whom I am one, to advise the Executive Committee on so many matters of importance to the League and in the light of its status, financial or otherwise; in the world of animal welfare we can be relied upon to do what is best for the cause to which we are all dedicated. Your support in the past has expressed your confidence in our judgement and guidance and we feel sure we can rely upon it in this all important matter.





MEMBER'S CORNER

My sister and I were delighted with the Pens you sent during the summer. I gave one to my friend who is in the Nursing profession and has now gone out to South Africa. She is using it in the Hospital in Johannesburg. A.E.H.

Once again we had our little whist drive and I am glad to send you £4 17s. 6d. the proceeds, for your funds. E.B.

I held a Coffee Morning for the C.P.L. this week, and send with my good wishes the sum of £10 5s. 0d. for your funds. H.E.

Please accept £2 10s. 0d. towards a cat basket, in memory of my dear Tiger, Tail-waver 269, December 25th, 1954 age 17 years 9 months: Whisky, 9 years 2 months, January 12th 1963, and dear Teddy age unknown, a lost cat, only with us 15 months died suddenly April 27th 1965. J.T.

Enclosed is a postal order for £2 as a small donation to your Society. As before it is from the sale of dolls which I dress. A.G.B.

I think the pens are a splendid way of advertising the C.P.L. I.E.M.

The cat is eloquent of home. The cat is the companion of the fireside. The cat is the banisher of pessimism, the comforter of loneliness and the humbler of false pride. The cares of the day may be heavy, the problems of living may oppress and discourage, but come home from them in the evening, sit down with the family cat by your side and there comes a new perspective, a new understanding of the philosophy of life itself. Edward E. Whiting.

A Member writes

I am very glad to see that you are planning for a scheme to encourage more people to have their cats spayed or neutered, it would certainly prevent the problem of unwanted kittens.

We have taken dozens of cats to the Vet for this purpose, I pay for the operations, collect the cats and bring them back, and the owners pay me back in instalments if they cannot afford the full amount at once. I look in the local papers, and on advertisements on cards in the shops put in by people wishing to give away kittens. I then call at the addresses given and try to persuade the owners of the mother cat to have her spayed. This of course, does not apply to cat breeders. I try to find out the sort of homes the kittens are going to, but unfortunately there are very few good homes. Too many people get kittens as playthings for their children, which would be all right if the children were kind and sensible, and if the parents supervised the care of the kitten, but otherwise it's very far from ideal.

In so many homes nowadays, the whole family is away all day, and the kitten is either shut up in the house, or left outside. It is odd that people can at the same time be so sentimental and yet callous and insensitive. H. B. M.

Homing kitty does 300 miles in 4 months.

HALIFAX - (CP) - Kitty didn't want to stay at grandpa's so she went home.

Home for the family cat of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fitz-herbert is in Western Halifax. Grandpa John Corston, Mrs. Fitzherbert's father, lives in Saint John, N.B., 300 miles away.

Kitty came home Saturday, four months after the Fitzherberts had left her with Mr. Corston while they made a vacation trip to Prince Edward Island. When they returned to pick Kitty up after the July vacation, the cat wasn't there.

Mrs. Fitzherbert said she glanced out of the window Saturday and saw Kitty, somewhat thinner, in the back yard.

She called and "Kitty came running into the house".

Mr. and Mrs. Greene publish the Kent newspaper and they had an article in it about your work and gave your address . . . They wish you well in your wonderful work . . . J. G. G. Bluff Road, Kent, Connecticut, U.S.A.

CANDY

We own a pussy, rather I should say she owns "us", named Candy. She is a tortoise-shell speyed Queen, nine years old.

The first eighteen months of her life are unknown to us, but from the moment she set foot in our garden it was evident our home was her target. We really did not want her because we were still sorrowing over the death of our much loved Jinty, a black beauty.

With perseverance and winning ways Candy made her debut. She was scrupulously clean, accommodated herself in the most delightful way in sunny positions in the breakfast room—she even developed her own language, and with every different miaow we knew exactly what she wanted.

The day came when a major move for us was imminent from Leicester to Perthshire. We wondered how she would travel—would she go berserk in her basket in the train—and above all how would she fit into the wild grim surroundings where she would be free as in comparison to a small walled garden?

The first hurdle was to get her into her basket. For preceding days we kept her basket lid open—we put her in for five minutes with the lid down, lengthening the time each day. Her spitting made us realise she hated it.

On the day of our departure, once our furniture was on its way, we brought Candy in and put her in the basket and fastened it securely. She had previously seen to Nature's Call and had been fed. For the journey I had food for her, milk in a sterilised bottle, fresh water and most important, a tray also sawdust. WE WERE OFF!

Boarding the train for an eight hour journey we searched for an empty compartment. We found one and settled down to a very surprising journey. Soon Candy regaled us with singing, not of Opera standard—more

like the awful pop groups which cause pain and distress to one's eardrums. It just couldn't continue, so I opened the lid—fixed her lead to her collar (this had her name disc attached) placed her cushion on my knee and set her on it. Our surprise knew no bounds, she commenced to purr. The rest of the journey despite the speed of the train, its noise, the incoming and outgoing of passengers, she was not upset one whit, she is a queen and she travelled like one.

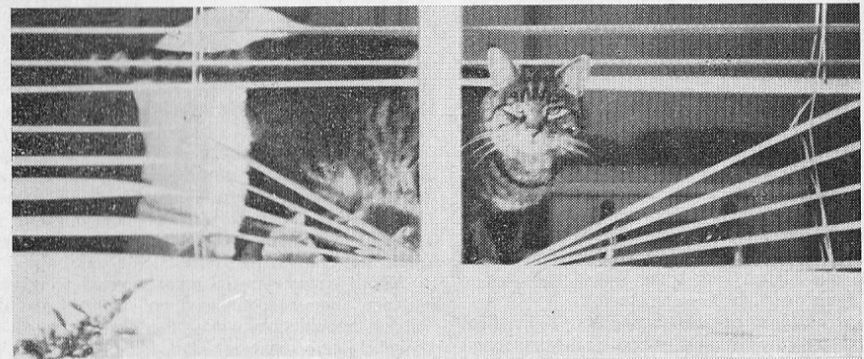
On our arrival at our hotel where we broke our journey in Glasgow, she amazed us even more. With permission we let her loose in our bedroom, she used her tray, had a meal and a drink of milk, stalked round the bedroom giving it the seal of satisfaction, chose a bed and showed me she wished to sleep there. I placed her own rug on it and she settled down. We returned from the dining room two hours later, she was still sleeping, but opened one eye and with a faint miaow of pleasure at seeing us back she buried her head in her two front paws and slept peacefully on.

We resumed our journey the next day. Candy travelled once more like a veteran out of her basket.

The first hostility was when Shuna (a Cairn) sniffed her basket, bad language flew on all sides. Were our troubles now to begin?

We will never know if cats have a sixth sense or premonition, but Candys rota at home was out all day and in all night. Since coming here she has reversed her way of life—one could set their watch by her. She goes out all night and sleeps all day—thus peace reigns in a cat and dog world.

This little story may not apply to all felines, but Candy's journey her good behaviour, and her evidence of pleasure PURRING whilst travelling may be worth noting by others faced with a similar circumstance.



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

The month opened in the throes of a pet-stealing wave, which caused much anger and anguish. A number of cats were reported missing, also several dogs, before we realised what was going on. As reported in 'The Cat', as in other areas, some were taken in broad daylight. A letter was published by one local paper in which we warned owners to keep a special watch on their pets and asked any member of the public who saw anything suspicious to dial '999' and report it. We deplore the ridiculous 'sentences' (?) and the fact that 'receivers' cannot be brought to court. Having received a petition form from Mrs. Bent of Oadby we decided to join hers and wrote for a supply of forms, which we are distributing.

Our fund raising activities this month seem to have been limited to two Whist Drives — we are drawing breath for the Christmas effort! However, tickets for a Grand Christmas Draw are going well, to be drawn at a 'Coffee Evening' on December 17th. We regret that the Witham Christmas Fair has to be cancelled because Mrs. Gumbrell, the organiser lacked enough local support. She is forced by personal reasons to give up her work for the 'C.P.L.' but will find homes for cats until the new year. The local papers published this and was approached by Anglia T.V. with the result that a 'rush job' was done on a film at the Cattery, Featuring Mrs. Middlemiss, our General Secretary, which appeared as a thirty-second 'flash' on the 6.00 p.m. programme 'Today', with all the wrong facts and figures. We do not have 200 cats in the Cattery costing £200 per month, nor will these nebulous cats be put down in the first fortnight! Our Vet. would 'have kittens'!! It was due possibly to an article in the Daily Sketch on Nov. 28th who qualified it by saying that only 50 or so cats were actually boarded in the Catteries (and we don't run them!!) A remark in Mrs. Gumbrell's report to the Braintree and Witham Times seems to have started the ball rolling. Altogether, we seem to have 'hit the headlines' in November — an appealing kitten picture appeared, although the two month old kitten was back home before the paper came out, but no matter.

The Sketch's article and the T.V. film resulted in homes for several cats and promised support from a Headmistress and School

in Basildon and quite a number of P.O.'s, cheques, etc. — which, as the saying goes 'Only shows, it pays to advertise.'!!

This magazine will appear just after Christmas, so, before you put those cards away, how about cutting off the fronts, (only) of the pictorial ones and sending them along to us for Calendars, please — and the used stamps? (With borders) And don't forget all those chocolate foil wrappers and milk-bottle tops too — can anyone else collect and sell these to a dealer and forward the cash, if this is easier? Most towns have a dealer who will tell you how he buys foil — ours buys 'mixed', in any box or bag.

13 cats and 20 kittens have gone to homes in November. Most of 'our' kittens have gone now — no doubt there are some 'late starters' to provide 'New Year Kittens'!!!

GLOSSOP AND DISTRICT

Gales, several days of continuous rain and floods threatened to ruin our sale of Christmas presents on November 2nd. We thank all who came through the storm to help with the stalls and refreshments and particularly Mr. & Mrs. Swinden who crossed the treacherous flooded Snake Pass with a car full of goods for their stall. Also we would like to thank our friend in Bristol for printing the tickets for us free of charge and at short notice. Proceeds amounted to £33. We had a lot of things left over and were very fortunate to obtain the use of the charity stall in the Glossop Market Hall on November 30th. This raised £18.

As this will not go very far towards paying our bills we are collecting unwanted Christmas presents etc. (not Jumble) for our portable Shop in a Box.

I have received a lot of lovely sea shells from the Seychelles Islands and British beaches for making shell boxes etc. I still need rock whelks, limpets of all sizes and Islandic cockle shells. Please only collect empty shells. I would not wish to cause distress to any of God's creatures. At present I can supply shell mice at 1/6d. each plus postage, and towards Easter I hope to make crinolene ladies etc. S.A.E. for list.

Would any stamp expert care to give us advice or recommend a simple booklet which would help us to value foreign and special issue stamps?

continued on next page

GLOSSOP

At present we have 19 cats and 7 kittens in our care, boarded out until homes can be found. These are our main responsibilities.

We have been compelled to reduce supplies of tinned cat food to elderly people feeding strays, as there just is no money to buy it. We are relying entirely on the generosity of our friends to enable us to send these cats enough food to keep them warm during the bitterly cold winter months.

There are so few of us trying to cope with so many needy cats over a large area.

We have not yet managed to catch the tortoiseshell cat living under a shed. After being out so long she is very wary and timid. The trap has however been useful to bring in a timid cat and kittens living in a barn. They are doing well and Darkie is becoming a little more friendly.

As Darkie and her kittens and several other very nervous cats will be with us for some time, friends may care to send a few shillings for extra tit-bits for them.

I would be pleased to send a little collapsible collecting box for food for strays to anyone who would care to have one.

Miss M. Thomas, 292 Hyde Road, Woodley, Nr. Stockport, Cheshire, collects Green Shield and S. H. stamps for us. A receipt will be sent for a complete book.

Please remember to put out clean drinking water for strays as well as for the birds, and to see the ice is broken in frosty weather.

We wish all cats and kittens and their friends everywhere all the best for 1969.

LONDON COMMITTEE

The New Year finds us with more cats in our care than we have ever had before, with a good record of homes found during the past year and a big circle of friends and helpers who are working hard for us. We are facing a future of rising costs and dwindling funds. We are running on a very narrow financial margin, living from paw to whisker. We have plans for expansion and improvement, but at the present moment, we are mostly concerned with getting in enough money to pay the food bills for the needy cats who come in and out of our shelter all the time.

We are all braced for some very big efforts during the coming year. Our first will be a Mini-Bazaar and Maxi-Jumble Sale on Saturday 25th January at St. Mark's Hall, Compton Road, Wimbledon. Doors will open at 2 o'clock. This is being organised by Countess Grudzinska, 48 Home Park Road, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19., tel. WIM 2025, who will be very glad to receive gifts for sale and offers of help. We need helpers on the day, and as much stock and jumble of every kind we can get. We will arrange

to collect in the neighbourhood. Please help with this, our first sale of the year.

Our calendar for 1969 is not yet complete, it will certainly include an April Market early in April, and Our June Fair, several jumble sales, another Mini-Bazaar, and we hope, coffee mornings and bring-and-buy tea-parties in private houses, we are waiting hopefully for members to offer us homes for these! Please do come forward if you have a few square yards where members could meet.

Animal Flag Day. It is not too soon to start plans for this, which is our one opportunity of the year to approach the public, and which would bring in funds to rescue dozens of extra cats — if we could find enough helpers. One single person can collect up to £20 in the week with real effort. This is an occasion when we might enroll friends to help. Will everyone who is prepared to give us even half an hour's help, please write in without delay. We will be having a special meeting of Animal Flag Day helpers soon to discuss the arrangements for the busy week, the flag day will be 26th April, the week starts on the 20th.

At the Rescue Centre Minnie Ha Ha is still with us. We have offered her to several adopting families, but her bad manners and shocking behaviour has put them off. A family has just arrived, mother and four kittens, who are suffering from malnutrition and a lack of drinking water, the poor creatures are in the condition, our vet says, of people who have been in an open boat, we call them the "shipwrecked pussies" they are picking up nicely. We are starting a special fund to ensure that they have all the extras wanted, if anyone would like to send them 5/- they really need it.

We have a new idea for our sales, and that is a stall of articles for under 1/-. We want a great many things which could be sold for less than one shilling, any and every sort of little thing, old or new. Will some kind people please set to work to make us trifles or turn out some little things? And, on the other hand, we are still asking for gold, if you happen to have any gold you can spare. Our nugget is growing wonderfully from all the scraps we have been sent. Please hunt around for us.

We have lost our helper Mrs Kelly, who looked after lace for us, we need someone to replace her. Would anyone take on this work? I will give full description of all she did to anyone interested.

Curio Corner has just about sold out, we need stock to start it again. Anything and everything over 50 years old. Carved ivory, or anything which looks like ivory, is in great demand, and so are samplers and silver

continued on next page

LONDON COMMITTEE

spoons, and Tunbridge Wells ware. We are always being asked for Staffordshire cottages and old dogs, and Toby jugs and glass paperweights and any kind of ornament with seed pearls. Well, as you see, we are ready for anything if you would please send it to us!

Special help is wanted for a fluffy black cat, called Douglas, he needs haddock and eggs for his tea and a specially soft blanket and a taste of rabbit and chicken dinner on Sundays, and then he is quite happy. Anyone who understands his modest ways is asked to send him a florin or so, he will be most grateful.

NORTH LONDON

As we write these notes, the Animal Fair at the Horticultural Hall has recently finished. Our stall was a great success, financially and socially. It was wonderful to meet so many old friends there. We are always grateful to Headquarters for affording us the opportunity of being represented at the Fair.

In January it is appropriate to thank all those who have done so much for us in the past year. However, so many people have done so much for us that we cannot possibly name them all and therefore we should name none. All their efforts are none the less appreciated however.

Among all the many cats we have taken into the Shelter in the last three months have been four pure white strays, each arriving at a different time. Three of them have already gone to good homes. Will any member give the last one a secure and happy future? She is a little nervous but we are sure that, in a good home, she would respond.

The problem of the strays on the Euston Station re-building site is nearly solved, thanks to our very good helpers, Miss Tomlin and Miss Mervyn. For the past three years or more, they have visited the site regularly and slowly and patiently have collected and brought to us nearly all the colony of poor strays, cats who have been constantly harried by bull-dozers, excavators, workmen and porters for so long. One of the first to arrive from the site was Lady Jane, our permanent resident. She came to us nearly three years ago, a frightened and nearly wild animal. She is now a happy and contented cat who loves to be fondled.

We are often surprised to receive telephone calls from members, asking if they can bring a stray in to the Shelter. Members should know that we will always take in a stray and that it is not necessary to seek permission. The only cats we refuse to take in are those for temporary boarding since we have not applied for a boarding licence, our function being with stray and unwanted cats only.

In the coming year, we should be glad to see more of our members and friends visiting the Shelter to obtain a first hand knowledge of our work. A prior phone call would enable our Secretary to be present to show any visitor round.

This year, we have sold more of our Christmas Cards than ever before and we are grateful to all who have bought them. We must also thank our Hon. Treasurer, Miss Hutt, who, since October has been busy taking orders, packing and posting the cards in addition to her normal voluntary hard work for us.

Lastly, we wish all our readers a very happy New Year.

SUSSEX

One of our biggest problems is that of the stray cat or kitten which has to be trapped because it is half wild. In some cases, after a great deal of patience and perseverance by Mrs. Banks who looks after our shelter, these cats gradually lose their fear of human beings and are able to go to homes, but in other cases, specially with cats, they can never be tamed, and very regretfully we have to have them put to sleep.

We have a mother and kitten now in one case, trapped by the R.S.P.C.A., and taken to our Shelter terribly nervous and will spit and claw at anyone who approaches them. Well - we are hoping! and if anyone could work a miracle it would be Mrs Banks.

Last week a lady came to the office carrying a shopping bag out of which peeped a little black and white face. When we opened the bag out jumped a kitten, after inspecting everything in the office, he came and sat on my foot and looked up into my face as if to say "well, what are you going to do about me?" He had been wandering about on the main road for several days and would most certainly have been run over. Fortunately I knew of someone who wanted an affectionate kitten and I felt this one would be just right. So he is now settled in a good home. And here is an idea.

One of our members, when bringing us a nice parcel of goods for our Bazaar, told me that she has a cat drawer. In this drawer she collects all through the year anything she really doesn't want, all unwanted and Xmas gifts, and articles that she collects from friends. At the end of the year it is surprising what a number of things this drawer contains too be brought to us for our Bazaar. Perhaps some of our members would like to copy this idea and start a cat drawer.

* * * *

ULSTER

Happy New Year to you all - and Happy Birthday to us! The Ulster Branch comes of age in 1969 and we have planned to celebrate our 21st Birthday in grand style. A circular will be sent to all our members giving details but, briefly, we propose to concentrate on raising more money, gaining more members and finding more good homes, and here's the very first thing we want you to do. Find a suitable tin, dickey it up with a nice cat picture and each week (for twenty-one weeks) pop a shilling into it. Then, in June, we hope to have a special At Home at which these Birthday Guineas will be received. More Members is another "must" - can every member try to find one - that would double our membership right away. Easy?

Here is an important announcement. We have a new Honorary Treasurer. He is Mr. Ian Parker, 170 Shore Road, Greenisland, Belfast, and he has taken over from Mr. James Montgomery who resigned owing to pressure of work. We thank Mr. Montgomery for his help in recent months.

Before we leave 1968 too far behind I would like to say once more how much we appreciate the help given so generously by our friends in Britain and abroad. Parcels of tinfoil, jumble and used postage stamps, also books of trading stamps and cheques and postal orders arrive regularly and many interesting letters along with them. Others parcels are anonymous and I can't reply so may I here and now thank everyone. I try to answer every letter and acknowledge every parcel but it's quite possible I may have slipped up - If so please forgive.

The Cattery continues to overflow and we could use more voluntary help. If only some members could spare an hour now and then just to play with the cats and do a little grooming. They get so little individual attention and yet it's so important. One nice bit of news - our long desired outdoor run is to be provided by a member in memory of her friend, who was also a member and life-long rescuer of strays. Work on this will be well in hand by the time these notes are being read. Another member is planning a memorial to her cat but the form of this has not yet been decided.

WEST CORNWALL

Poor old Amber, the Queen of the old aged pensioners died on the 25th November. She has during her stay with us helped in her odd imperial way many other less fortunate cats. Her fan mail has been most useful for helping to cover some of the costs for the O.A.P.'s, and we shall miss this tremendous personality. Part of the garden

adjoining Cats' Bazaar has been used to scatter Ambers' ashes and if cat lovers should wish to donate towards the fund and add the name of their pet to be inserted in "Ambers' Garden" then this valiant old cat could continue helping cats well past their prime.

Last week the gallant Open Day helpers managed to raise another £10 in the bazaar and during the afternoon six cats were adopted by delightful families. We have a waiting list and the empty places will soon be filled. We have been busy cleaning up the loft over the stable to house our collection of pictures and old and more treasured items, so do remember us when turning out your by-gones - an old fan, a snitch of lace or even damaged old things could be repaired and sold to help these cats who always need help.

We are still seeking another pair of hands to help full time. We have so many cat lovers offer to help with the cats, but we can manage the animals beautifully, we just desperately need someone to help with the humans. The constant phone calls, the casual callers, the innumerable letters, the sorting, clearing tidying and million and one things that crop up daily . . . yes we know we are looking for a miracle worker, but there is nothing like trying is there?

Thank you all so much for your letters, parcels, donations and good wishes. A very Happy New Year from us all.

The Animals Fair was a great success, from C.P.L. point of view and we hope it was equally so for other Societies. Although we do not know the total takings of the London Branches, we feel sure the effort was well worth while. H.Q. stall concentrated on pens and refills and the result was very satisfactory. I would like to thank Mr. Parratt who "stood in" for me as H.Q. representative and all who helped during the two days by relieving Mr. Parratt periodically.

The cat rug was on show and sold for £5. The sale of pens, rug and donations added £33-9-0 to the League's funds.

Branches: We are very pleased to hear from Mrs. Smalley that the work of the Dover Branch is continuing and that the C.P.L. flag is still flying in that area. We know the grand work that has been done and are delighted to learn of the continuance.

The Leicester and Oakham Branch that was is now covering a wider area, having divided into Leicester and Loughborough, and Oakham and district and are now working under these titles.

A. A. Steward

SIMBA THE CLIMBER

A friend of mine has two cats, Simba a handsome tabby and Topsy, an attractive tortoiseshell lady. Topsy and Simba are devoted friends of about the same age. When they were a year old they had the following adventure.

It was summer time and Simba was feeling adventurous and inspired for tree-climbing... He thought it would be fun to climb up a very high fir tree in a garden near his home, and show his lady friend what a fine climber he was.

He started off gaily, going up and up and finally reached the top with a fine view all round. Meanwhile Topsy did not realise where he had gone and after a time began to feel anxious about her friend. Simba was away for a couple of days and no one knew where he was. The fact was he had lost his nerve and got stuck at the top of the tree.

On the second night he was heard mewing piteously away up in the high tree, and in the morning his mistress brought a very long ladder, hoping to get him down but it was no use. She sent for the Fire Brigade, but they were too busy to come. Meanwhile Topsy was getting so worried about poor Simba's plight that she made up her mind she must do something.

With the help of the ladder she started to climb the high tree. Up and up she went, and when Simba saw Topsy climbing up, he took courage and after a little time, very haltingly and encouraged by brave Topsy, the terrified Simba made the perilous descent and returned to terra firma.



What a joy and relief to all concerned. There were two happy pussies that night and a still happier mistress. All's well that ends well. E. M. F.

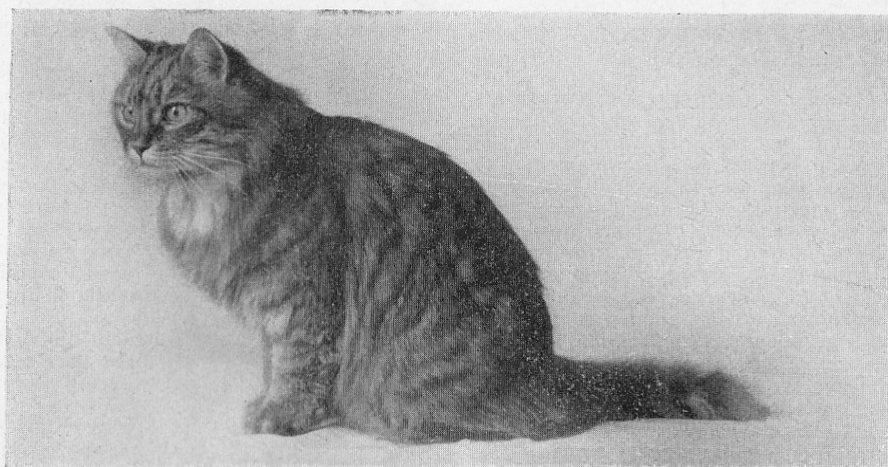
MORE EXPERIMENTS THAN EVER

During 1967 the number of experiments involving live animals, according to returns issued by the Home Office, increased to 4,755,680, compared with the previous highest figure of 4,751,060 in 1965. The downward trend recorded in 1966 has, therefore, been reversed, which the R.S.P.C.A. finds extremely disturbing. A total of 4,615,023 experiments were carried out in 1966.

In view of the continuing delay in Government action to implement the recommendations of the Littlewood departmental committee on experimentation, which were published in 1965, the R.S.P.C.A. has expressed grave disappointment with the returns for 1967. Among the committee's recommendations were measures which could, if carried out, have reduced the number of animals involved in experimentation. The

Society proposes to agitate for the earliest possible action on the report. It has pointed out that more than four-fifths of all animal experiments are performed under a certificate which dispenses with the need to use anaesthetics. Almost 10 per cent of other experiments are carried out under another dispensation which allows animals to recover from an anaesthetic and still be used for experiments.

Despite repeated questions in Parliament, spokesman for the Home Secretary have stated that no date has yet been fixed for implementing the recommendations of the Littlewood committee. The R.S.P.C.A. finds these delays intolerable, in view of the continuing high figure of animals used in experiments. The Animal World October 1968.



Our beloved Lucky Strike has come to Journey's End. On the day after Christmas she slipped away behind the impenetrable veil, leaving behind her hearts that are grateful for the happiness and comfort of her daily companionship through the long years, but also hearts that are heavy with the sorrow of her going. In our home she leaves an aching and brooding void, and so much that was intimately associated with her life, so many poignant reminders of the years she was a cherished and favoured member of our household.

She came into our lives on a spring night sixteen years ago, a forlorn and homeless little kitten seeking shelter. We took her in and she remained to share our affections with our Norwegian elkhound Sonja. When the latter died some years ago, Lucky Strike as we named her, became the sole and undisputed mascot of our home. And how completely she entered into the privileged role!

Thinking back over her numerous predecessors, I am quite sure that she was by far the most unconventional and incorrigible individualist of them all. Yet what I saw in her and what she contributed to our home life goes to largely explain my confirmed liking for the entire species *felis domestica*.

A cat is notable for its grace, whether in movement or repose. Lucky Strike was no exception. I loved to watch her unpredictable actions as she responded to those strange and varying moods that possessed her and reacted to the goings on about her. I marvelled at her superb agility. I admired the rippling play of muscles under her glossy coat, whether she was quivering in preparation to spring or rambling about the house. I sensed in many traits of her character the untamed

spirit of her distant ancestors. I was fascinated by her unflinching self-sufficiency, her supple intelligence, and her insatiable curiosity. I succumbed to her irresistible ways when meal-time was approaching, though I more than suspected that her ingratiating advances reflected little genuine sentiment. I respected her resentment at any intrusion upon what she quite evidently considered her right of privacy. She had a basket donated by a friend, arranged with curtains resembling those in use on Pullman sleepers and bearing the legend "Lucky Strike - Private." Hands off when she was within!

At times she would sit on an elevated point of vantage, utterly immobile, and look at me intently. Unlike the eyes of a dog which mirror its thoughts, those of a cat are largely unreadable. And so, as Lucky Strike surveyed me, I pondered over the mysteries hidden behind that veiled scrutiny. Only in one aspect did her eyes betray her. When unruffled, pensive or drowsy, the pupils contracted to a pin point and her eyes became tawny. When her emotions were stirred, however, the iris receded and her eyes turned to a blackness that somehow appeared to blaze.

There has always seemed to me something exceedingly tranquilizing in the spectacle of a cat at rest. Its consummate mastery of the art of relaxation is reflected in its fine discrimination in electing a place in which to sleep, in its meticulous preliminary ablutions, and finally in the postures it assumes.

After a hard day in the law courts, or when my books and manuscripts were laid aside for the night, and I was weary, Lucky's antics often brought me welcome relief. For instance, one evening she came into

LUCKY STRIKE *contd.*

my chamber and spied a pair of slippers on the floor. Their effect on her was like catnip. After rolling over and over them in ecstasy, she suddenly seized on one and began to bite it violently, and to maul it frantically with her hind legs - whether in paroxysms of rage or in transports of play, I knew not. Suddenly she sprang away and disappeared from the room like a shot. The laugh I got from the performance was as good as a tonic. It is surprising when I come to think of it, how continuously she stimulated my sense of humour. Of course, I have excepted such occasions as when she selected the Aubusson tapestry on some antique chair as a place to exercise her claws!

As the long years slipped by and Lucky Strike passed beyond the normal span of a cat's life, her exuberant temperament toned down, her frolic-someness abated and much of her aloofness disappeared. She became more docile, more gentle, more demonstrative in her affection for us. And, as time marched on, came the melancholy hour when her

powers began to show perceptible decline and pathetic indications that her days were numbered. All the solicitous care we bestowed upon her, all the love we bore her were unavailing to lengthen her days beyond the hour which nature appointed for her going hence.

She sleeps in beautiful and peaceful Pine Ridge Animal Cemetery in the lot where our two dogs Sonja and Peggy were laid to rest. Though her little body has been forever consigned to the earth the blessed memory of her will always remain enshrined in our hearts.

I shudder to think what might have been her end if on that spring night long ago it had not been her fortunate destiny to come to a friendly door.

In this little eulogy of Lucky it has not been my intention to exalt her above others of her kind, but rather to express the unspoken sentiments and give utterance to the inarticulate feelings of all those of my readers who have also loved and lost a cherished pet. For all those I speak out of the fullness of my heart. George R. Farnum, from *Reverence For Life*.

IN MEMORIAM

Minette, Siamese cat, beloved companion of Reg Bowland and the late Mrs. L. G. Bush of Lancaster Road, Hitchin, died October 28th, aged 27 years. "The long day done".

In memory of Kitty, T.W.2943, our little pal for 13 years, who passed away suddenly on 11th November 1964. Remembered every day by E. & M. Emery.

In affectionate remembrance of dear old Bronzie, put to sleep, a sweet companion, faithful and true. Never to be forgotten. Age 17 years.

Romeo Bex, Siamese, aged 17 years died January 23rd, 1963. Darling Bexy, how we miss you. Violet & Arthur Bush.

In loving, never-to-be-forgotten memory of dear, beautiful Rice, son of Semolina (both illustrated in *The Cat* December 1966). Disappeared mysteriously hunting rabbits and not seen again alive. Found dead about 3 weeks later in nearby garden, presumed killed by passing car. The gardener seeing such a lovely cat kindly gave him a decent burial. Later, after a month's search, brought home by owner and his gardener to lie in his own garden under the apple trees, he so loved to climb. Deeply mourned by us all. H. R. H. Storrs Hill, Windermere.

In loving memory of my precious Siamese "Tootie" T.W.662. She fell asleep on October 18th 1968, aged 14 years. Missed more than words can say by her "Mum". Gladys Kent. "If heaven is kind, I shall wake there to find those two eyes of blue smiling through at me".

HOMES WANTED

6 years old half persian, white with black and orange markings. Very pretty, and she has been spayed. Mrs. Olney, Gallowes Lodge, Shootersway, Berkhamstead, Herts.

Good home urgently required for good looking young tabby male cat. Believed abandoned. Very good mouser. Mrs. P. Kirby, Naden House, Norden, Rochdale, Lancs.



Much more could be done to help the cat

By a Veterinary Surgeon.

Reproduced from the *Animals Quarterly*.

During the life of the practising Veterinary Surgeon who is engaged mostly in small animal work, there must be thousands of cats examined which are suffering from a virus infection, and many of these cats have to be destroyed. Now, maybe this is one of nature's ways of keeping the cat population under control, but it certainly brings no satisfaction to either the owner or his professional adviser.

If only something could be done to attack the virus once it has struck, but there is no weapon in the armoury, at present anyway to deal the final blow to these unseen invaders. Age may have some bearing on the incidence, but cats of all ages are presented from time to time and with alarming regularity, with the hope that a cure will be produced. Then, all breeds are affected, even the respectable cats with the proverbial long armed pedigree are not immune, in fact they could be even more susceptible with blue blood in their veins.

These viruses fall, very generally speaking, into two categories. Firstly, those that affect the respiratory system and secondly, those affecting the gastro-intestinal tract. Treatment for either group is a problem and is aimed only at dealing with the secondary bacterial infection which is usually associated with the feline species. Additionally, vitamin therapy is usually administered in order to help the cat by itself to overcome the viral damage by its own built-in defence mechanism.

Another serious factor concerning these infections is the production through repeated

infection or neglected treatment of the carrier animal and the chronic sufferer. Poor old Felix or his owner may not realise he is a carrier but it is awfully possible, and whilst his friends might not tell him so, he is really a pest for keeping things going.

Then the poor old chronic is a real problem, not only to himself but to his owner also, and it is no fun having to clean up night after night or to be sending your one and only suit off to the cleaners time and time again, just because one's feline companion is an habitual sneezer.

Now, having made the point that viruses are just as real a problem to cats as well as to other species, it should be stated that the Veterinarian in Practice has a vast army of colleagues and technical associates behind him working with unflagging zeal to determine the best way of combating disease and of preventing it. With the general increase of knowledge in the world during the last decade the Veterinary profession has not been missing when the honours have been done, and it is to the credit of the Profession as a whole that small animal practice has become a very highly specialized and sophisticated calling.

One final thought regarding our cats, and this is the old problem of worms, either flat or round. Why is it that so many cat owners assume that as soon as the cat is ill, he must be suffering from worms? And so often the owner proceeds to the chemist or pet shop to obtain the necessary treatment for the removal of these hypothetical parasites before obtaining professional advice. Many a cat has been presented to a Veterinary Surgeon because the owner thought it was wormy and it has, in fact, been in an advanced state of cancer, and has had to be destroyed. There is so much unnecessary suffering caused to animals, not intentional of course, because owners will not take proper advice soon enough. Cats do suffer from many kinds of worm infestation but there are other diseases also which cause them trouble, and much can be done to assist them.

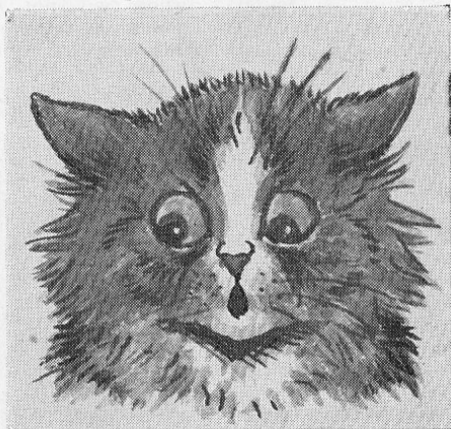


OTHER PEOPLE OTHER PLACES BUT THE SAME PROBLEM

From The Animals Crusader, the official organ of The Animal Crusaders Inc., Hoyt Avenue, Everett, Washington, U.S.A. we quote "A major headache for animal welfare societies is the huge surplus of cats and dogs, kittens and puppies; there is no end to it. Every month hundreds of these innocent creatures have to be given euthanasia. To be practical, this is a tremendous WASTE, both of money as well as of human energy. In order to correct this enormous fault we should strive for city ordinances or legislation on a state-wide basis, which is preferable, to see that no unspayed female dogs or cats are given out from Pounds or Humane Society Shelters. Licenses for bitches and female cats (if licensing is required) should be very HIGH - say £10 for dogs and £5 for cats. There should be Spaying Clinics, so that those who are not too well off can have their pets spayed at a more reasonable figure.

At long last an organisation especially interested in the welfare of ALL CATS has been founded. It is The NATIONAL CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY, 230 Maine Avenue, Long Beach, Calif. 90806. Membership is \$5.00 annually. Their official organ, FELINE DEFENDERS, is \$1.50 per year. The Founder-President is C. Richard Calore, the editor and publisher of VOICE OF THE VOICELESS Magazine. We urge all those who are especially fond of cats to join this organisation and help to further the cause of the neglected, abandoned and abused feline.

And so say all of us.



We have seen a copy of Feline Defenders and give some interesting but frightening statistics from Vol. 1 no. 1 page 11.

Do You Realize?

Birth of Dogs and Cats in the United States
 Each Second 3
 Each Minute 180
 Each Hour 10,800
 Each Day 295,200
 Each Week 1,764,400
 Each Month 7,057,600
 Each Year 84,691,200

21,000,000 dog owners
 24,000,000 cat owners

84,691,200 dogs and cats born yearly
 45,000,000 dogs and cats with homes
 39,691,200 without homes and running loose.

Some die of starvation and thirst, others are killed on highways or sent to the laboratories for vivisection.

These figures are increasing each year and something must be done about it.

What fraction of this staggering number of unwanted animals can be attributed to your carelessness and "do nothing" attitude?

You can help to curb this staggering problem by spaying and castrating your pet cat or pet dog.

These facts that apply proportionately to the problem in this country must surely convince cat lovers here that our policy adjustment, our plan and population limitation is right.

A. A. Steward



An Appeal to All Cat Owners

May I, through your columns, appeal to all cat owners? The problem of unwanted, stray and abandoned cats has grown greatly in this area in the last year or two, due in part to the large number of new residents with unneutered cats, which are allowed to breed unchecked.

Many of the kittens produced are given away to people who when tired of them, turn them out to swell the stray population. Many kittens are just 'dumped' and either die miserably or grow up wild and breed more unwanted kittens on rubbish dumps and in derelict buildings.

One of the policies of the Cats' Protection League of which I am a member, is the neutering of all cats, except those used for breeding purposes. This is the only answer to this problem. The C.P.L. representative in Walsall is almost overwhelmed with the problem of stray, starving and diseased cats, and unless action is taken at once the problem will soon be as bad in the Lichfield and district area.

If you have a cat, please have it neutered. Any veterinary surgeon will advise you, or a leaflet "The Control of Cat Population" can be obtained free from the Cats' Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks. A stamp for postage would be appreciated.

Kittens, male and female, can be neutered at 4-5 months, and full-grown cats at any age if in good health. The fact that a female has had kittens is no bar to neutering. One unneutered female can produce 2,000 descendants in ten years, so you see that without co-operation from cat owners, this problem will never be solved. Better a restricted number of loved and well cared-for cats, than a vast army of unwanted, diseased and starving strays.

Finally, if any reader is thinking of giving a kitten or puppy to a child for a Christmas present, please make sure it will be welcomed and cared for. Immediately following Christmas the Cats' Protection League homes throughout the country are crowded with unwanted cats and kittens, as are the homes of other animal welfare societies.

We owe a duty to these creatures. They are not toys for a moment's amusement, but living creatures able to suffer cold, hunger and pain like us. Don't let your thoughtlessness cause suffering to some unfortunate little creature this Christmas. Barbara Richardson (Mrs.), 238, Chase Road, Burntwood. The Lichfield Mercury, December 1968.

ASK A GOOD QUESTION?

Ann Landers - Romeo's really the cat's pyjamas.

Dear Ann Landers: Do you believe animals can size up people better than humans? Well, they can and I have proof. Call it instinct or whatever you want, but it's a fact.

We have a cat of uncertain parentage. He is yellow with stripes. We named him "Romeo" because he has so many girl friends, Romeo has a way of brushing up against good people and purring, like his little motor is running. When Romeo doesn't like a person, he jumps up his back and spits.

A few months ago our daughter became friendly with a man who was a mystery to all of us. Romeo hated Floyd from the first day he stepped into our home. One evening Romeo lashed out and clawed Floyd's highly polished shoes. Before we could pull him off, he had torn Floyd's socks and scratched his ankles.

When our daughter announced she was going to marry Floyd we were not very happy. Romeo was depressed - didn't eat for two days. One week before the wedding. Floyd skipped town and left no forwarding address. Our daughter nearly had a nervous breakdown. Romeo perked up and started to eat again.

Our daughter insists that from now on she'll watch Romeo's reaction to her boy-friends. She swears she will never marry anyone Romeo doesn't like. What do you think of this, Ann Landers? - Vancouver.

Dear Van: One need only look at the soaring divorce rate to conclude that some cats might make better selection than some people.

FROM WOMEN TODAY

BY SUCH DEEDS ARE WE INSPIRED

The status of cats may be considerably raised if C. Richard Calore had his way. He has just founded the National Cat Protection Society, chartered under the State of California as a nonprofit organisation devoted to the prevention of cruelty to cats.

"Cats don't get the breaks other animals get from the humane societies and the public in general", Mr Calore says. "To many people a cat is just a nothing. A dog is far better off. He, at least, has a licence which says he's considered a piece of property"

With headquarters at Mr. Calore's home in Long Beach, California, the society will introduce laws to entitle felines to the same protection other animals receive.

"There can be no real mercy or compassion toward our fellow men if it does not encompass some mercy toward creatures who cannot speak for themselves," Mr. Calore says.

"Do you know" he continues, "that there are at least 18 million homeless, abandoned cats in this country? I have picked up many myself."

Mr. Calore has written a book called "In defence of Cats," in which he graphically portrays the plight of cats. In addition, he publishes, at his own expense, a magazine called "Voice of the Voiceless," dedicated to the protection of all animals. He is also editor of "Feline Defenders" the official publication of the National Cat Protective Society.

In addition to his time spent in writing and editing, Mr. Calore's daytime hours are filled with answering pleas for help to find homes for animals. He has been known to drive 50 miles to pick up a hurt or abandoned cat.

His nights are spent in animal rescue along the waterfronts of the Los Angeles area, where unwanted kittens and cats are left. He's accompanied on these excursions by Lucky, a 145 pound German shepherd dog who has been trained to handle kittens as gently as any mother cat.

The entire Calore household is an active and an elastic one. In addition to his wife, Dolores, there are three boys, Chris, 16, Mark, 9, and Brian, 4. There are two German shepherd dogs, four cats, two monkeys, not to mention the numberless transient cats being cared for until Mr. Calore can find homes for them.

For over 23 years Mr. Calore has waged a diligent battle on behalf of animals everywhere - without pay. He works in his office on the second floor of his home, which is filled with books and files. His walls are adorned with plaques and citations from various humane associations honouring him as one of the country's top humanitarians.

On his desk is one of his favourite quotations, from John Ruskin:

"I will not kill or hurt any living creature needlessly, nor destroy any beautiful thing, but strive to save and comfort all gentle life, and guard and protect all natural beauty upon the earth."

Mr. Calore was born in Cleveland. His mother and father were born and raised in southern Italy, migrating to the United States in 1908. "My mother could neither read nor write English," he reminisces, "but she was the kindest, most compassionate woman I have ever known, with a great love for animals. Many a cold winter night there would be six or eight cats sitting patiently in the kitchen waiting to be fed by her. As she fed them she would talk softly in Italian to them all, and they seemed to understand her.

"I guess her example made me a humanitarian at the age of three, and is one of the prime reasons I am devoting my life to opposing cruelty to animals".

To supplement the income derived from his books and articles, Mr. Calore, who gets by with only three or four hours sleep a night, moonlights at various printing jobs and often in the shipyards. The money spent in help for injured animals and finding homes for them comes from his own pocket.

What should be done to aid animal welfare? Mr. Calore believes that humane education programmes should be given in both schools and homes at an early age. He hopes the society can help further that education.

Mr. Calore believes that schools and institutions should stop animal experimentation. Working with live animals in high-school biology classes, he feels, is atrocious. Excess breeding of cats with no homes available to them should be prevented.

Mr. Calore is confident that the National Cat Protection Society will help bring about new laws that will give their own Bill of Rights. Christian Science Monitor.

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Leicester Avenue,
Rathgar, Dublin,
Eire.

EDMONTON:

Mrs. C. Walledge,
39, Oxford Road,
Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

GLOSSOP and DISTRICT:

Miss Wilson,
Cowbrook, Glossop,
Derbyshire.

GREAT AMWELL and DISTRICT:

Mrs. M. Jones,
376, Ware Road,
Hailey, Hertford.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

Mrs. Kent,
Cheviott Cottage,
St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight.

LEICESTER and LOUGHBOROUGH:

Mrs. M. Bakewell,
211 Anstey Lane,
Leicester.

LONDON COMMITTEE:

Mrs. de Clifford,
12, The Close,
New Malden, Surrey.

MANCHESTER:

Mr. A. Thompson,
13 Gawsorth Avenue,
East Didsbury,
Manchester 20.

NEWBURY and DISTRICT:

Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw,
Curridge,
Newbury, Berks.

NORTH LONDON:

Mrs. M. Davies,
435, Caledonian Road,
London, N.7.

NOTTINGHAM:

Miss P. C. Brabyn,
25B, Newcastle Drive,
The Park,
Nottingham, NG7 1AA.

OAKHAM AND DISTRICT:

Mrs. P. Ilves,
1, Penn Street,
Oakham, Rutland.

SOUTHAMPTON:

Mrs. Picot,
22 Cobden Crescent,
Bitterne Park,
Southampton.

SUSSEX:

Mrs. H. G. Perry,
35, Pevensey Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

ULSTER:

Miss E. R. McKee,
92a, Earlswood Road,
Belfast 4. Ireland.

WALSALL:

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

WEST CORNWALL:

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

EVERY GOOD WISH FOR 1969