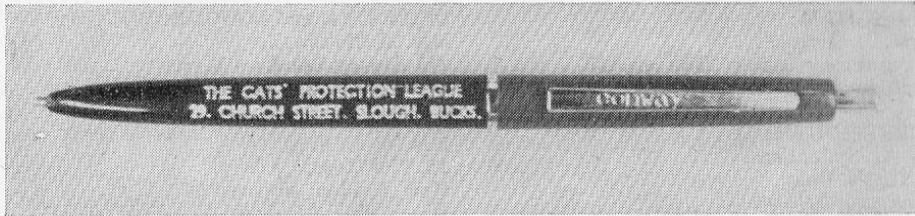


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**OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE  
WORK OF THE LEAGUE**

**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.

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**THIS MONTH'S "SPECIAL"**

**GIVE C.P.L. PENS**

**FOR XMAS**

# THE CAT

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.*

# THE CAT Vol. XLIII No. 5 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 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.**  
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## ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

Notification of change of address.

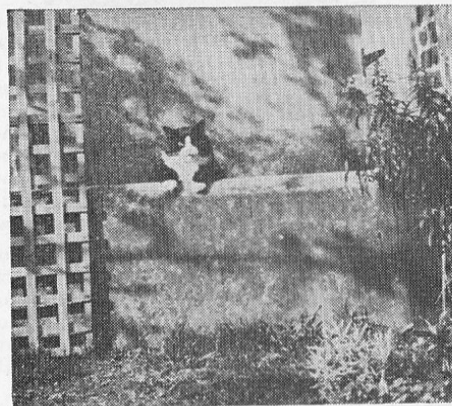
Linen and blanket pieces, newspapers and odd pieces of string (about 18 inches long), for use in the Clinic.

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.



## ROUND AND ABOUT

*Report and Comments on "this and that" concerning the welfare of cats and kittens and the work of the League generally by the General Secretary/Editor.*

**On being different.** Some years ago one of our members referred to the C.P.L. as "the Society that is different". It was accepted as a compliment and we have tried to live up to the reputation we unwittingly acquired. We like to feel we are different in a helpful way, realistic without being pretentious, progressive but not too ambitious with our ultimate object always very much in mind.

**We must agree to differ.** On some things we do not see eye to eye with other organizations and, indeed, within our own Society there are widely differing views on the controversial subjects of "home finding" which so very often entails boarding for lengthy periods, "humane destruction" which, to say the least of it, is very depressing, "rescuing" strays and unwanted cats and kittens which necessitate feeding and/or trapping prior to rehabilitation or destruction as the case may be.

The League's A.G.M. (July 12th) was well attended and Branch representatives from Canterbury, Chelmsford, Derby, London Committee, Newbury, North London, Nottingham and Ulster. It was encouraging to meet again, friends and members who, like Mr. Chamberlain, had travelled from Norwich, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer from Leicester and Miss Good from Ipswich. There were others too who had made a special effort to be present and we were glad to have had the opportunity of talking to them at the tea interval. Amongst those who sent apologies for absence through illness etc., was our Chairman Mrs. Sherratt who had only recently returned from hospital. We are pleased to say she is making good progress and will soon be out and about again. The main features of the meeting were; the re-election en bloc of the Executive Committee; branch delegates reports and the presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts. Refreshments were provided and, coupled with the opportunity for a chat, rounded off a very satisfactory meeting.

**Our Neutering Project** (Cat Population Limitation) is progressing according to plan and our Voucher records show that 882 Vouchers have been issued to date for neutering male and female cats, mainly the latter. This will obviously prevent the birth of thousand of kittens, the cost at a conservative estimate coming up to two thousand pounds. Veterinary Surgeon's fees vary, some are almost twice as much as others apparently depending on where the cat owner lives.

**The need for tolerance.** In any situation where differences of opinion are evident there is the need to exercise tolerance, to be prepared to give and take. There is no room for dogmatism because no "cause" human or animal can expect to achieve success in the fullest terms if personal opinions feelings and actions are allowed to cloud an issue so vitally important as say the "stray cat problem".

## OUR NEUTERING PROJECT—continued

In previous comments I have said how much is being revealed, by the correspondence received at Headquarters, of the situation in the cat world that is responsible for the stray and unwanted cat/kitten problem. Every week fresh evidence is forthcoming of the apathy, lack of thought on the part of some cat owners or the inability of others to do what they realize is necessary for their cat's welfare. The inaccessibility of animal surgeries, the problem of transport and lack of neighbourly assistance are very important factors in the lives of a large number of cat owners. Sexing kittens is beyond some people and what to do with the kittens at birth or at the "unwanted" stage presents an outsize headache. It is these problems that are responsible for so many people finding themselves with an ever increasing cat family, the feeding of which becomes another headache.

All these points are being carefully noted in the hope that a solution will be found in the near future. We are dealing with the matter at the "planning stage" at present and expect to get a scheme under way by the beginning of next year. There is so much ground work to be done but we will press on to the fulfilment of our endeavours.

In the meantime we face the realities of the unwanted kitten problem. Despite the promises of "homes for kittens" via pet shops the same situation arose this year as it did last year and the years before, too many kittens, too few homes. Pet Shops were flooded with them and turning them away, ironically enough at the same time as the advertisements were appearing in the press up and down the country. We at Headquarters know only too well, some local Pet Shops were sending enquiries to us and we were taking approximately fifty kittens a week, very few of which found homes. Complaints have been received from many places of similar situations.

Why raise hopes of good homes when promises cannot be kept? Why encourage cat owners to keep kittens for which, in many instances, there will not be an outlet for them? No doubt in some parts of the country and at certain times of the year it is not difficult to place kittens, indeed we have read of one Pet Shop who had sold two or three thousand kittens. We would not presume to doubt this statement but shudder to think how many of these kittens will "get lost" or be turned out or be given away when they become troublesome or worse still play a big part in producing more and more kittens to provide next years crop of "unwanteds" if they are not neutered.

We are touching only the fringe of this gigantic problem but at least we have made a start. We are doing something about it. We have got to persuade a lot of people that this is a serious matter and that we are taking it seriously and not advocating and sponsoring neutering as a gimmick. We must pursue our policy to the bitter end and enlist co-operation in any and every field that offers the slightest hope of response.

We believe there is sufficient support for our policy and project in connection with neutering to be confident of success and carrying out our proposed three year programme but would like to find out how everyone who subscribes direct to Headquarters feels about it.

In the past we have celebrated Cat Week in various ways but always with the object of raising funds for this purpose or that. Not everyone liked the collecting box method and some of our members just could not afford to give anything extra to their annual subscription. As we were the originators of Cat Week we are privileged to adopt it to our requirements provided, of course, that they are justified for the purpose of the exercise.

As it was not possible to get things moving earlier in the year and because in the past Cat Week has lingered on to the end of October or beyond, this year it is proposed to stretch the time limit to December 31st so we shall have almost three months to see what we can do to give 1970 a good financial start.

### You can co-operate in one of three ways

- a) Have a collecting box: we will send you one on request: contents to be remitted by December 31st.
- b) Donate in the usual way any time between October 1st and December 31st.
- c) Give us your blessing.

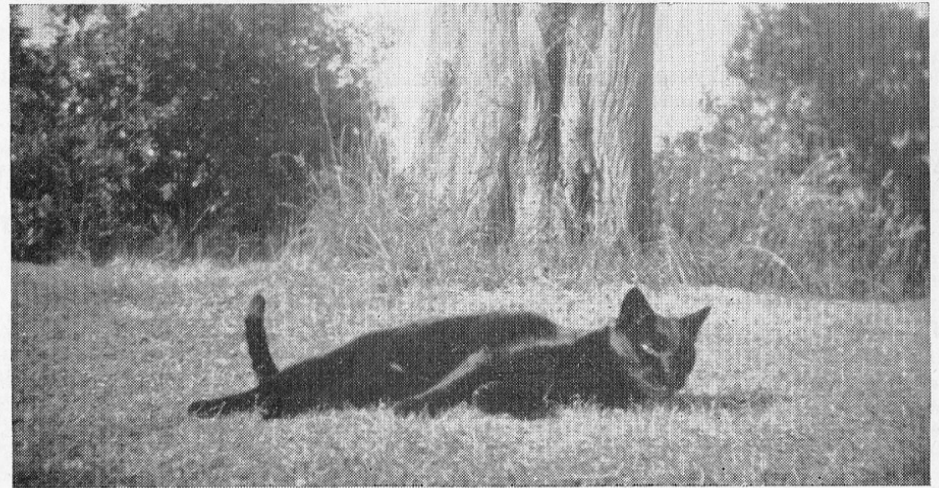
The choice is yours and we know you will not fail us in this year's appeal for what we, at Headquarters, believe to be the most important ever.

A. A. Steward.

Free accommodation offered to Lady (or Ladies), fond of cats, in return for help with them.

Share home with one other lady — out every day. Other help provided. Suit early retired, healthy pensioner looking for warm, comfortable home with no other obligations of their own. Harborne area of Birmingham. Close to buses and local shops.

The Secretary of the Birmingham Branch of the Cats' Protection League, Miss J. P. Scriven, 83 Cranbrook Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 21 will pass on all enquiries for further information.



BAL-DHU

Would BAL-DHU be of use for inclusion in "The Cat"? He is a Gentle Giant, 1 yard 4 ins. long, 22lb. (before eating), very vocal, very sensitive and kind. 1st prize for Housepet blacks at Southport, a silver cup (The "Smutty") for housepets over seven at Chester.

Miss Isambard-Owen.

I wish people who think neutering cruel, but don't think there is anything cruel in turning kittens adrift to find homes for themselves had known my much loved Whiskers. She came on a pouring wet night, a thing of skin and bone. She was obviously house-trained, so not a barn kitten, or born under a hedge. For fourteen years she was loved and petted, but she never forget what she had undergone. To the end she was terrified of strangers, even cat-lovers. The time came when liver trouble and old age made the last mercy all that could be done for her. I hope she has found some happy life where at last she can forget. Winifred Roberts.

### RABID CAT DIES:—

A cat in quarantine at Kennels at Acle, Norfolk, has died from rabies even though it had received vaccine. The cat, owned by a Liverpool couple, was the first to die in Britain with the disease since 1965. It had come from Kenya.

*The Daily Telegraph*, Friday, August 1, 1969

Last night I went to see a friend who has an old cat with one damaged lung so that he cannot go out-of-doors much, and never when it is wet. She and her husband have given their cat a wonderful scratching-post just a thick piece of tree-trunk lain flat on the floor! He used it last night while I was with them. I noticed he had spoilt one of their chairs with his claws, so the scratching-board was a good idea. Jean McDonald.

My name is Ginger Monckton, and the reason for my wonderful heavy coat is because my home is in Canada, the snow lasts a very long time. I believe you had rather a severe winter in England about five years ago, but we hardy Canadians have one every year. How would you English cats like that?

I should like to see it made very much more difficult for anyone to have any animal. Compassion is not a characteristic of the human species. The newspapers are always full of horrors, of cruelties perpetrated whenever and wherever the perpetrator could get away with it without fear of retaliation. Animals are pitifully helpless against the gangster-types. If hens could protect themselves there would be no batteries!

H.P.

I'd never known anyone smile at a tombstone until the other day. Passersby saw a cat snoozing on the words "Just Sleeping".

## 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.

### SEE INSIDE BACK COVER — FOR BRANCH AND GROUP HONORARY REPRESENTATIVES NAMES AND ADDRESSES

#### BIRMINGHAM

I suppose that all new ventures have setbacks and since our branch was formed nearly two years ago we have certainly had our share.

Boarding our rescued cats and kittens has always been difficult but it has now become a major problem. We had been boarding with the Vet who did most of our spaying and neutering, but when we discovered that some of the cats were in a poor condition through lack of care we were forced to make a complaint. The Vet refused to discuss the matter and instructed us to remove them all at a moments notice. As there were six adult cats and eight kittens, we were desperate, but fortunately, one of our members kindly took them in until homes could be found.

As in all large cities each day brings more cases of cats and kittens cruelly abandoned by their callous owners. Vast slum clearance programmes and road building projects result in the movement of many families, who leave their pets behind. Thirteen cats and nine dogs were rescued from one terrace, a mother cat with three tiny kittens was rescued from another house while workmen were demolishing the house next door. Two cats were buried under rubble but others were not so unfortunate.

When the local gas works was closed a number of cats and kittens were discovered haunting the derelict sheds. We managed to rescue some of the tamer cats which were neutered, and some were placed in good homes. Our Treasurer adopted two but has not had an easy time getting them to mix with his own cats. Rehabilitation is difficult when cats and kittens have been born in disused vats and under heavy machinery. They instinctively distrust humans, and who can blame them! They need a breaking-in period in a cattery with an understanding, experienced person in charge before they are suitable to be placed in new homes. It is a shelter such as this that is so badly needed in Birmingham.

Another problem is the growing number of colonies of semi-wild cats living on or near to derelict properties. One colony exists at the rear of a furniture removal premises. The unsympathetic manager has threatened to poison them if they are not collected soon. One litter of kittens disappeared — presumably stolen by cat thieves. As we have no shelter and local private boarding catteries are full during the holiday period, there is little we can do except to have them put to sleep. Only workers who have had to face the same situation can know the heartbreak and frustration experienced when rescue activities are hampered in this way.

In spite of fund raising activities such as jumble sales, bazaars, dances etc. our funds have dwindled fast. Hundreds of pounds have been spent on spaying, treatment and boarding during the past year, and, although we have a shelter fund, it only contains £60. This was donated by sympathetic members whose help was greatly appreciated, but we need so much more if our rescue activities are to continue.

There is a brighter side, our work is progressing. Cats and kittens are found good homes and owners of female cats are encouraged to have them spayed and this often entails transporting them to the Vet ourselves, and visiting the homes later to remove the stitches. However, when we see our poor rescued cats grow into happy contented pets we feel well rewarded for all our efforts.

#### CANTERBURY

Formed in 1956 as "The Siamese Cat Society", a small group of cat owners met regularly to spend a pleasant evening at the home of Mrs. Rosalind Spencer in Palace Street and to discuss their pets. When asked if I was interested, I replied "no" as my work was mostly on the Welfare Side. A member of the C.P.L. since its formation, I used to distribute "The Cats Mews Sheet" (one penny per month) to a circle of friends and any funds collected were sent to Head-

#### CANTERBURY—cont.

quarters. When Mrs. Spencer heard of this she thought it would be a good idea to work together, and so "The Canterbury Cat Society" was born and activities extended.

From then the Society grew and in 1958 was officially affiliated to the C.P.L. although keeping its own title and constitution.

By this time so much local work was being done that most of the money raised was spent in rescuing strays, boarding them till good homes could be found — boarding pets for sick and aged people or anyone in temporary difficulties. Our rules are practically the same as the C.P.L. as regards registration of homes, neutering and Veterinary treatments and loan of baskets.

We run a library and are always ready to answer questions or supply information re: boarding establishments and Veterinary addresses — in fact anything to do with cats.

It has now grown to quite a large Society covering the surrounding areas. One of our most useful services is a rota of car drivers for transport — and 4 members who assist owners with dressings, giving pills or medicine and advise on diets and seeing that Vets instructions are carried out. We employ only qualified MS. R.C.V.S. and run accounts at Canterbury, Ash, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Faversham and Folkstone. Our boarding fees are perhaps the heaviest drain so we are always organising "money raisers".

Tea parties, coffee mornings, jumble sales, summer and Xmas markets, Strawberry Fair, raffles, competitions and outings.

There is a monthly meeting and a news letter is sent to all members and friends.

There is a wonderfully happy social atmosphere but it would take too much space to name all who have built this up.

Sufficient to say that there is a first class Committee of real workers and cat lovers and "The Cat" is still our magazine.

#### CHELMSFORD

Because it is both the height of the kitten availability season and the height of the holiday season, the months of July and August are always the most hectic of the year for us, "protecting" cats. Our Secretary, Mrs. Jean Middlemiss, has no respite at all from the daily cry "A stray cat has had kittens in my garden". We are constantly surprised at the large number of people who feed and shelter a cat for months, or even years, and yet strongly deny ownership when the cat has kittens or when it becomes essential that it should be neutered. We wonder how long a cat must take up residence before it ceases to become "a stray"!

The other eternal cry at this time of the year is "My cat has 5 kittens. I can't find homes for them and I am having them all put to sleep tomorrow unless you take them away now". We pity the poor mother cats who have been adopted by such unthinking and irresponsible people. We try to persuade them to keep the kittens until September, for we have found that more homes are forthcoming in September than at any time of the year. And, of course, we make immediate arrangements to have the mother cat spayed providing the kittens are more than ten weeks old.

The Branch is still very proud of our record of never having had a healthy cat painlessly destroyed. We know from past experience that with sheer hard work in home finding, *all* the hundreds of cats passing through our hands will eventually be found a good home.

Mrs. Middlemiss has had many cats (and dogs) dumped upon her, but an episode in July was very upsetting for both the Middlemiss family and the cat concerned. Late one night an extraordinary note was found under their door, saying:— Dear Sir, I have put a cat in your car. It is very vicious and children are not safe with it. It was you or vivisection. Hope this is convenient". (No signature of course). You can imagine what happened. In pitch darkness and armed with only a torch, Mrs. Middlemiss prepared to extract the savage beast from their car, parked outside their house. To cut a long story short, two hours later they ended up with the front seat of the car completely dismantled and with all the springs removed, the poor frightened creature having hidden right inside the seat. In all her years of handling frightened cats, Mrs. Middlemiss had never seen one so terrified. He trembled under their bed all night and next day took hours of gentle coaxing to get him to emerge and eat something. And then — lo and behold — one of our helpers arrived with a very small daughter, to transport the cat to the kennels. As children do, and before she could be warned off, she ran to cuddle him and from then on it was perfectly obvious that this was no vicious, savage, scratching villain, but quite the soppiest and friendliest cat imaginable! He is now neutered and waiting for a good home to turn up. But we fear he may have a while to wait because with so many kittens available, the older cats are not so quickly adopted. We will gladly deliver him anywhere within 30 miles of Chelmsford if some kind person would take pity on him.

In the meantime, we are trying to make up to him for his awful experiences, and he and all the other long stayers in the cat

boarding kennels really appreciate a special treat of rabbit, liver, chicken and fish once in a while instead of their everyday food. Please could you help us to provide these tit bits by sending a donation to our Car Cat and his Companions? At the moment there are 39 cats and kittens in the kennel and 125 kittens on the list, the owners having been almost *beaten* into promising to hang on until August is over! We can really be tough with some humans if we have to be! During June and July, homes were found for 34 adult cats and 63 kittens, and 23 cats were neutered at our expense.

Our Strawberry Fair on July 12th was a very pleasant occasion and we made several new friends. We were able to reduce our debt to kennels and vet by £60, but sadly, we still owe a lot.

By the time you read this, our next event which is still ahead of us, will be over. A pity because we feel that lots of you would make an effort to get to Chelmsford on August 9th particularly to meet 'Arthur' (who will be very closely guarded!) and 'Jason' of T.V. programme Blue Peter fame. And a host of other famous cat "stars" too. These will all appear, along with about 40 pedigree cats, at the Essex Cat Club "Cat Gala". We are to run two stalls and the refreshments at this event, and let us hope that we can make lots of money to help all our poor unwanted cats.

We are now very short of bazaar type items to sell at our many money-raising events, and we are also completely out of good second-hand clothing for our monthly "Saturday Sales". In fact, we look like having to sell the clothes off our backs at the next one (which might, on reflection, at least draw in the crowds!) But won't you please come to our rescue and send us bazaar items in time for our September Fair on 20th September, and clothes and white elephants for our next Saturday Sale on October 4th? We find that we are having to run some sort of money raising event once a fortnight at present, and we do need lots of things to sell.

Finally, we are nursing a secret which we hope to reveal in our next report. A hint—our own shelter, in our Secretary's garden, has at last become a possibility *if only* we can get enough kind people to help us get it started.

\* \* \*

## EDMONTON

We are happy to report that dear 'Fluffy's' 23rd Birthday Party was a huge success. She received birthday telegrams, gifts and cards galore. Her many friends and admirers came from miles around, including Miss Betty Tay, the famous pets columnist of the *Daily Mirror's* 'Pets Club'. Fluffy's cake was beautiful, with white and red icing and 23 little red candles; she even had her name on it. Fluffy herself had a very happy day and wishes to thank, most sincerely, all those kind Members and friends who made it a most memorable occasion.

On July 19th we had two wonderful stalls in Grundy Park, Cheshunt, as it was Carnival Week there. The affair was such a tremendous success that we are hoping to get a stall at our Edmonton Carnival later in the year. Therefore, we now need more saleable articles, so if you have anything to spare we shall be most grateful for it.

Mrs. Walledge would like to say that she is tired of people bringing kittens here and dumping them on her doorstep or in the road. Also, Members telephone Mrs. Walledge and demand that she takes in various cats and kittens into her Sanctuary and keep them; these Members will not hear of these cats being put down and as Mrs. Walledge is a voluntary worker there is a limit to what she can do, however, she is always willing to help within reason. If only people would realise that there are only two pairs of hands to attend to the Feeding and Cleaning, Trapping, being called to Accident Cases, taking cats for Spaying and Neutering to and from the Vets, etc., and answering the Telephone, sometimes until nearly midnight, perhaps they would understand that this is not an easy job. We cannot close at 5.30 p.m. as we live on the premises, and there is no easy way of closing early.

Could someone please offer 'Elsie' a good home. She is a highly intelligent 5 year old tabby cat who is used to much care and affection and quiet surroundings. Unfortunately, it is now necessary for her owners to travel abroad for several months each year and they will reluctantly have to part with her.

## BOOK REVIEW by Marjorie Boulton

LOUIS WAIN, the man who drew cats, by

William Kimber (London), 204 pages. £2.2.0d.

See page 89.

## GLOSSOP AND DISTRICT

107 stray and unwanted cats and kittens placed in new homes during 1968. 55 so far this year to the end of July. These figures represent a good deal of thought, work, patience and expense.

If you consider, as we do, that this job is very well worth while please give us your continued help however small.

Donations in response to our S.O.S. Appeal to Save Our Strays amounted to £45/17/6d.

At present we have 21 cats and 14 kittens in our care. In addition to food and shelter some of these need veterinary attention.

**Everything is Up**, vet's fees, boarding, cost of food. The recent purchase tax on pet foods has been a big blow to us. We now pay almost as much for 3 crates of tinned food as we previously paid for 4. Old people with several cats of their own and in some cases also feeding strays are finding things increasingly difficult. At the same time we are at a loss to know how we can continue to help them. The absolutely destitute strays must be our main concern.

We have recently taken in a little mother with six kittens found straying in Droylesden. A man rang to say he had found 5 kittens, would we take them? We agreed on condition he also brought in their mother and looked around for any other kittens. Timmy duly arrived with 6, the last one being found asleep on a wall.

Late one afternoon we received a phone call telling us a little cat suffering from milk fever was wandering round an acid factory in Stalybridge, closing that night for the Wake's holiday. We managed to get Cleo to the vet for treatment just before the end of surgery. Sometime previously her kittens had been destroyed. We would emphasise how cruel it is to take all young kittens away from their mother unless this is done within a few hours of birth and the mother given any necessary treatment. Eight months old Merry must leave his home and his young owner. The parents have decided they no longer want him. As we have said before, such people must fail to realise the harm this can do to a child's mind. Perhaps they may one day reap what they have sown, but will probably fail to realise it.

There have been so many unwanted kittens this summer that we have just been unable to take them. There is a very great need for spayings and neuterings in this densely populated industrial area. We need financial help in this task which is far too great for us alone.

We have found that among the people most needing help — working mothers with

arge families — old and young people, it is useless to ask them to make their own arrangements with the vet. The only way to get the job done is to make all arrangements for them and take the cat to and from the vet. In most cases they will at least pay transport costs, quite a considerable item.

**We are collecting:**

1. Green Shield and S. and H. stamps. Miss M. Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley; Mr. Stockport Cheshire deals with these. A receipt will be sent for a complete book.
2. Foreign and special issue stamps should be sent to me at Cowbrook. Please leave a margin of paper all round.
3. Half-pennies. For a time banks will take these from Charities.
4. We have been asked for tatting patterns and old English picture post cards prior to 1930.

On Saturday September 13th Mrs. Cherrill is holding a coffee morning with gift stalls at the Mechanic's Institute, Whaley Bridge. The date for our sale of Christmas presents in Glossop is not yet fixed.

I would send a Christmas collecting card or box for food for needy cats to any friend who would care to have one.

We thank all who have helped us in any way, some anonymously.

Finally a reminder. Please put out clean drinking water for strays and the birds. A plastic litter tray with a flat stone in it is very suitable for this purpose.

## LEICESTER AND LOUGHBOROUGH

First, I would like to say how very grateful we all are for the generous gifts sent to us from people all over the country to help us get on our feet again, and, through this magazine, send our sincere thanks to the anonymous cat lovers who sent blankets, stamps and other things, and to whom I naturally could not reply. A real tonic for tired people trying to give the "Cinderellas" of the animal world a better deal. I'm sure that if there was a machine which could measure the work and effort of the Members of this Branch of C.P.L. it would explode after few seconds.

We hesitantly held a Summer Raffle, wondering whether anyone would want to part with money so near the holiday season, but we made £143, and found lots of new friends, many of whom work in large Leicester factories, and they have asked us to let them have many more books of tickets in time to give them a chance of going further round their workmates, at the next Raffle.

We also had a stall at the Enderby Agricultural Show, and Mrs. Linwood-Wright, Mrs. Freer, Mr. Cooper and I had an enjoyable

## LEICESTER AND LOUGHBOROUGH—cont.

and rewarding day in hot sunshine, selling many lovely articles given to us after a local appeal for gifts. We took just over £27. Our "Wig Party", which showed that many of us could be potential beauty queens, made £9, and Mrs. Novak and Miss Dewson held a Bring and Buy coffee evening for us, and handed over £14 to our Treasurer.

In the early spring we had requests for ginger kittens, but at the time of asking we simply could not find even one. However, one Saturday morning, just as I was standing back looking with belated pride at my at-long-last scrubbed kitchen floor, an elderly gardener, his boots leaving chunks of mud and wet twitch-grass everywhere, walked in and carefully placed a tiny scrap of dirty ginger fur on the table. It was a kitten, about five weeks old, which had been abandoned in the rain on the man's allotment. As the gentle, slow man with large grubby hands happily and eagerly helped me clean up the little cat, and feed it with warm milk and glucose, I thought what a good shot for a film the scene would make. An hour later, ginger lay on his back near our fire on a soft piece of blanket in a shallow round work-basket which had been sent to me that week. He was playfully weaving invisible cats' — cradles with his tender front paws just as though he was still with his mother. Parting with him, even to good people, was quite a wrench.

Also in the Spring, an April morning about 7 o'clock, I had a phone call. I pushed a hot cup of tea at my astonished half-awake husband, grabbed my daughter as a driver, and rushed to the assistance of a young black and white cat being strangled by a boy at the other side of town. The boy had vanished, and the cat was only just alive. Its tongue hung out of its mouth, and its pop eyes were crossed. I placed it on the top of our cat-basket, (which was covered with a small woollen cloth) its nose and mouth facing the open side window of the car whilst we drove along again. After a little while, the rush of cold clear air into his face made him take a deep breath, and then another until he came round. My mother gave him a very good home, and we had him neutered, but he was killed one Sunday lunch time by a car whose driver had just left the public house near here, and in his erratic haste mounted the grass verge where the little cat sat sunning himself. He had been a gay, lively creature, and a great many elderly people were left with broken hearts.

Not all of us have the courage to fetch in and deal with injured cats, but Mrs. Austin

worked wonders with a beautiful white abandoned cat which had spat at a group of lawless youths as they tugged at its tail, and they had then kicked it in the face, causing blood to spurt from its nose all over its chest and front legs, and several front teeth to be knocked out. It was useless trying to catch these boys, the young ones can also run fast. The cat sought refuge in a large commercial garage nearby, and hid under a lorry. It no doubt would have died in desperate silence had not a driver saw what had happened. He patiently retrieved the animal and took it to Mrs. Austin. Our Vet. did all he could for it, removing loose teeth where necessary, stopping the flow of blood, injecting, etc. Then Mrs. Austin had the task of cleaning Snowy, and the slow task of winning the cat's confidence. She cut away the blood-matted fur with fine sharp scissors rather than use water, which cats dislike on them. Snowy is now a gorgeous fairy-like creature, and loves her new owners.

The enclosed picture is of a cat which was tied up in a cardboard box and left in the lobby of our local hospital. He had severe cuts on his face (not caused by fighting) and injuries to his kidneys and other internal organs, consistent with kicks or blows from a weapon or booted foot. Mrs. Gray nursed and tended him with special care as he had a lovely temperament, but had to very reluctantly have him put to sleep.

At the moment we have about fifty cats and kittens rescued during Leicester's holiday break including a mother and her five kittens simply dumped on a lay-by miles from any habitation. The motorist who found her thought she was just a bit of wet brown paper — it was raining at the time — but fortunately she flicked her tail as she huddled over the little ones.

## LONDON COMMITTEE

Please Note: This is the last notice of our two big events:

### THE AUTUMN BAZAAR

Saturday 20th September at 2 p.m.  
St. Mark's Hall, Compton Road,  
Wimbledon;

and

### THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 25th October at 2 p.m.  
The Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden  
Avenue (Ashley Gardens), S.W.1.

We do hope that all our friends will come to both of these, and we will be very grateful if everyone who can do so will please send us things to sell. Goods can be sent to Countess Grudzinska, 48 Home Park Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19, or brought to several depots in London (addresses of these from

## LONDON COMMITTEE—cont.

12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey) We will also arrange to collect if that is preferred. We rely on these bazaars to help us throughout the year, so please do all you can for us.

We have had two very successful parties lately. Dear Lord Thomas celebrated his birthday as usual with a grand tea for all his friends, and made no less than £41. He is a wonderful cat, and with the help of all his friends, through Miss Mavrogordato, has collected over £300 for us. Miss Hamilton's twin blue-point Siamese held their birthday party, and managed to make it a record. The weather was lovely the cats posed elegantly in sunbeams to be admired and our kind friends who came patronised the Bring and Buy Stall, at the end of a long afternoon, we found we have taken £125, which is an all-time record for a tea-party, so our cats are purring.

Early in October, our "Old 'uns" are planning a tea-party in London, probably in Kensington, at which two of the oldest will welcome the guests in person. Admission will be by ticket, so will anyone interested in meeting a couple of distinguished old cats, please send a S.A.E. for full particulars.

Orlando sends thanks to all his golden brothers who have made a wonderful response to his appeal. His living expenses are now paid till the end of the year, and he has something in hand for a further few weeks, and any vet bills he may have to pay.

New arrivals at the Rescue Centre include four small kittens who arrived clinging together in a regular scrum, they still cannot bear to be apart. They were saved from a nasty life, in the basement of an old house, dependent on food lowered by strings, with no cleaning done at all. They are very small and scared, and will need a lot of attention before they can go out into the world. Anyone who would like to endow them, please mark your donation "The Four". We also have a young mother cat who needs help, she came after having been shut up without food or water for 8 hours, and she at once gave birth to 6 kittens, a bit extra for her would be very welcome, her name is "Mama" (sometimes pronounced My! My! at the sight of her with her large family)!

The Magic Roundabout has its full quota of kittens, silver and jet black, they are growing fast, and we are home-hunting with ceaseless vigour. Countess Grudzinska is our homefinder-in-chief she has asked us to put in a note that she could not do all that is done without the constant and un-failing help of her very good friend Mrs.

Westwood-Morris, a member from Wimbledon, who has driven many hundreds of miles investigating homes and then taking our cats. We are very grateful, for this is a most important part of our work.

At the A.G.M. we mentioned a wonderful offer which has been made by a member who will not be named. He is in sympathy with my own fondness for the very old cats and my wish to keep them for the few extra years possible, and he has offered that if I can raise £100 by donations before the end of the year, he will double it, and over the first £100, he will triple. So now, can I please ask for special donations for the special object? If only we can get enough, we get double, so please do help us it is now or never, for this year will slip away very fast, so please hurry!

Curio Corner is much depleted, so if you have anything left that we have not already forced you to send us, please look it out and send it now! A collector has asked us for old brooches of any kind, no matter if they are broken, the older the better.

Our gold nugget is still growing, any tiny speck of gold is wanted for inclusion. We have been glad to receive sets of teeth, for the gold in them! And I have not shrunk for a little golden skull, which we were sent.

Would anyone like to join our circle of FLORIN FRIENDS OF THE STRAY CATS? Send one florin for particulars, with s.a.e. to 12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey.

## MANCHESTER

Since last writing to the Editor of "The Cat" much progress has been made and a great deal accomplished.

At this time of the year most people spend a holiday away from home and in doing so many cats and kittens are taken to Headquarters and Branches to be found good homes or alternatively to receive a humane passing. Alas! many cats are "dumped" and left to fend for themselves. This is a thoughtless and cruel action but never-the-less many inconsiderate people do this and it is difficult to locate the guilty people. The responsibility then falls upon animal welfare organisations to see to the rescue as well as the care and welfare of these unfortunate creatures. We here in Manchester received our fair share of turned adrift, lost and unwanted cats and kittens.

It was reported at our last Committee Meeting that 86 cats and kittens had passed through our "Welfare Centre". With the exception of a few cases who had to receive a humane passing the vast majority were found good homes. This type of work must be carried out in all C.P.L. Branches and

## MANCHESTER—cont.

this proved beyond all doubt the invaluable humane work being carried out in the name of "The League" we all represent.

Miss Joan Bradbury our Assistant Secretary and welfare representative has purchased a small car and it is proving invaluable in the collection of strays and unwanted cats and kittens in and around Manchester. I also play a prominent part in the collection of strays etc. reported to my office staff. It would be true to say that since I took up my honorary position of Secretary and Lecturer for this Branch in July of 1968 we have re-established ourselves and more people know of our existence and are taking advantage of the humane facilities we have to offer.

May I, dear Editor, through your magazine, reiterate my most grateful thanks to all subscribers in the north and those who live in the south who have supported the Manchester Branch with most welcome donations.

It would be foolish of me to pretend that I do not solicit financial and physical support to assist our humane endeavours and this opportunity is no exception to the rule. Any Reader desirous of sharing in our humane activities can do so by sending a donation or goods for sale to Arthur Thompson, Honorary Secretary and Lecturer, 13 Gawsworth Avenue, East Didsbury, Manchester, M.20-ONF.

My sincere thanks to the Editor for having published this report and to all Cat Lovers for having taken the time to read same.

## NORTH LONDON

It was wonderful, once again, to meet so many old friends at the A.G.M. of the League at Caxton Hall in July. We find these meetings most interesting inasmuch as we learn of the problems of other branches and groups.

We are now in the nightmare months of July and August. At the moment, we are receiving into the Shelter twenty cats a day, nearly all from people going on holiday who will not pay boarding fees. Sadly, at this time of the year few people are offering homes.

Our neutering programme goes on apace, and we have been able to make arrangements to have more operations carried out than in past years.

A lady recently telephoned asking for a fluffy tortoiseshell kitten. We had exactly the kitten she required. Enquiries were made as to the suitability of the home, the lady arrived with basket, all necessary forms were signed and the kitten was enthused over.

However, when the lady turned to put the kitten in her basket, there sat the recently neutered mother of the kitten, looking up with appealing eyes. What could a cat lover do but take the mother cat and leave the adorable, but easier placed, kitten. Happily, the kitten was placed in a good home within a few days.

Our next Jumble Sale is on Saturday, the 4th October at 2.30 p.m. in the Upper Holloway Hall, Holloway Road, N.7 (almost adjoining the Royal Northern Hospital).

Goods for sale and help at the sale would be gratefully received. We will gladly collect goods from our own vicinity but would be glad of sufficient notice so that we do not have to collect in the week immediately preceding the sale, when things are hectic.

Our Christmas Bazaar will be held on the 29th November at 11.30 a.m. in the same hall. Again goods for sale will be very welcome.

Once more we remind you of the beautiful Christmas cards which we have for sale, all showing past residents of the Shelter. Orders are already pouring in so please order now and avoid the last moment rush. Write to the Treasurer at 435 Caledonian Road, N.7.

## NOTTINGHAM

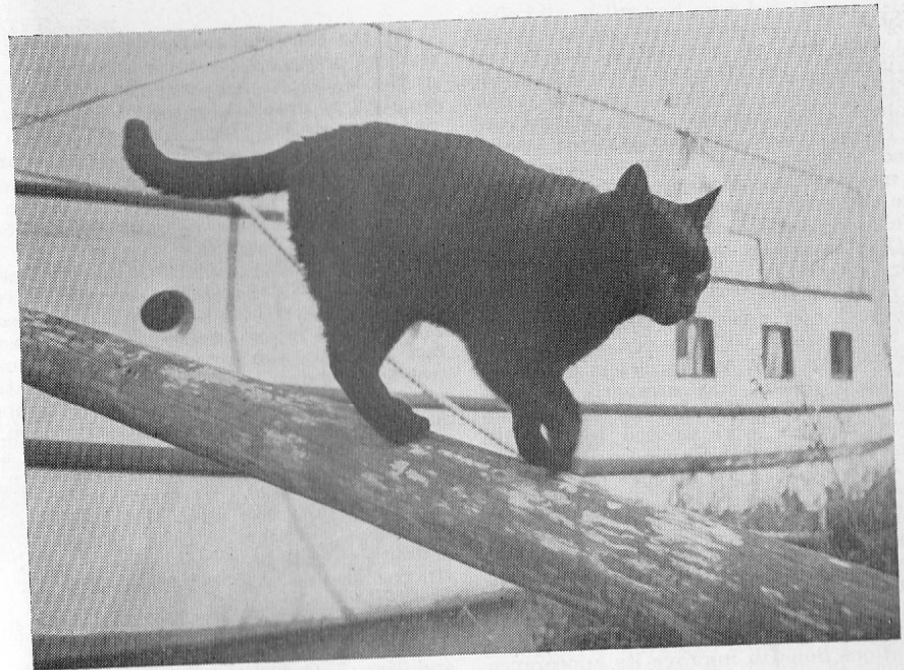
Not a lot to report. We are, as usual, undertaking a number of spayings and neuterings.

We have to date five new members. One of whom already appears to be quite a 'live wire' where the interests of the League are concerned.

There are a number of wild cats and kittens in the grounds of Nottingham University, and this new member is helping to try and catch them, particularly the kittens, which we shall endeavour to tame, find good homes for them and, of course, have neutered and spayed when ready. The mother cats present rather more of a problem.

During June we had a 'get-together' of members (paid for out of our own pockets) which consisted of a dinner at Grange Farm, Toton. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and it was an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and views etc.

During August a non-member of the C.P.L. has promised to divide the proceeds of a Wig Party and Coffee Evening which she is organising, between ourselves and, perhaps, ironically, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Needless to say, she is a lover of cats (has a lovely one herself) birds and dogs. She is hoping to enrol a few new members for us — and she is going to join herself! More of this next time.



## Where Have All The Ships' Cats Gone

In all the rousing stories of the sea which we read as youngsters the complement of any ship invariably included a resourceful cabin boy and an equally resourceful ships' cat.

Both have been victims of time, it seems. Cabin boys are no more—and I don't know of any local vessel which nowadays boasts a ships' cat.

It may be, of course, that some of the ships taking part in the commercial trade of the port do have pet cats (or dogs) on board and that when they visit Lowestoft the animals are confined to quarters to prevent them jumping ship. But it seems strange that one or two of our local trawlers don't carry a cat as a mascot—especially with all that fish around!

## A Character

One famous local cat which almost certainly arrived in Lowestoft on board a visiting ship was Ginger, the venerable animal which for many years terrorised any rodent which dared to approach the vicinity of the Railway Station.

Ginger was quite a character, and it was generally assumed that he had one day decided he had had enough of a seafaring life.

## Lowestoft Porthole

Even if the cats of Lowestoft don't often go to the sea these days, however, they certainly seem to have a liking for salt-laden air. One angler friend has a pet cat which hopefully tags along in his wake whenever he walks off with his fishing tackle to the nearby beach.

The cat sits patiently on his fishing basket for hours at a time, and displays great excitement whenever a fish is landed.

## Special Call

Up in Scotland the other day a black and white cat ensured a plentiful supply of fish by stowing away on board a Peterhead fishing vessel. And once she was comfortably installed as an additional member of the crew the cat produced a couple of kittens.

And what did the fishermen do? They made a special call at their home port to hand over the cat and kittens to the safe keeping of the local police.

*Easter n Evening News*, Tuesday, May 6, 1969

**BRANCH REPORTS CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 86.**

## SUSSEX

In June we had our stall at the Grand Charities Fair on Hastings Pier, and made £19/4/6d. and enrolled several new members. We showed our model of Cat Haven, made by Miss Madden, which helped to bring in the money, and a cake, also made by Miss Madden in the form of a white cat, which was for guessing its name.

We were again invited by the Bexhill Cat Club to attend their Cat Picture Show, a very interesting event. We enrolled two new members and Trudi, one of our former strays and now owned by Miss Darlington won three awards with her photograph. She was voted the most popular cat in the show.

A coach outing was arranged by Mrs. Morgan, our Chairman for the Vegetarian Society, and we were invited to go with them. We visited Cat Haven on the way to Rye, where we had a very nice tea. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Unfortunately we had an outbreak of enteritis at the Shelter and lost four little kittens. We managed to have the remaining two inoculated and they survived. Now the Shelter is closed for a month and being disinfected and we are also having some renovations done to improve its appearance and to preserve the wood. We have also decided to have the wired-in run enlarged to give the cats more freedom, and the pathway to the shelter will be paved.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Kenwood of "Watlands", Rye, who is one of our members, for very kindly sending us a cheque for £50 — a most generous donation. We would also like to thank an anonymous donor from Eastbourne for a donation of 10/-.

We have a long list of kittens needing homes as is usual during the summer months, and we hope to be able to place them all eventually.

We were asked by a nurse in a local hospital if we would take a little stray cat that was going to have kittens. We arranged for Mrs. Wilson, our Vet at Bexhill to board her for us. Mother and the kittens were eventually found good homes.

At our Annual General Meeting it was suggested by one of our Committee Members that it might be a good idea to start a Good Neighbours Scheme, whereby neighbours looked after each others' cats in the case of illness or holidays. This was again discussed at our last Committee Meeting and it was decided to start the scheme. We ask anyone who feels they would like to help by undertaking the responsibility of caring for a cat or cats in their owners absence to send us their name and address, so that we may compile a list, and anyone needing help in this way may get in touch with us and ask if that help is available.

By the time this magazine is sent out we shall be preparing for our big Autumn event at the White Rock Pavilion in October, and we shall be grateful for gifts of all kinds for our many stalls. These should be sent to the office at 35 Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

## ULSTER

The "Open Day" held in connection with our 21st Birthday celebrations was a very happy event although the evening session was more or less a "washout" — due to the fact that the film about the Royal Family was being shown on Television. The weather was only fair but a large number of members and friends came along in the afternoon to admire the cats and present their gifts and so far the amount raised is somewhere in the region of £190. However the Birthday Fund will not close until 31st December so you have still time to save up twenty-one shillings if you have not already done so. All the visitors were delighted with the big new run and during the afternoon the "Cassius" Memorial Cattery was officially opened by the nice little grandson of Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Smyth who gave us the new building. Incidentally, the suggestion that cages in this Cattery be dedicated to favourite pets has proved most popular and we hope that eventually all cages and the outdoor run will be financed in this way.

Did you spot the mistake last month? NO? Well, the date of the Sale should have been Saturday, 15th November. This was entirely my fault. I now give a list of Stalls and the ladies in charge of these are confidently expecting you to help make this the BEST SALE EVER! I know you won't disappoint them.

*Gift Stall.* Mrs. K. Jackson, 30 Ladas Drive, Belfast, 6.

*Cake & Sweets.* Dr. L. McElroy, 268 Antrim Road, Belfast, 15.

*Kitchen.* Mrs. K. Y. McBride, 265 Cavehill Road, Belfast, 15.

*Grocery.* Mrs. K. Livingstone, 10 Wynchurch Terrace, Belfast, 6.

*New and Used Jewellery.* Mrs. J. Kennedy, 3 Waterloo Gardens, Belfast.

*Toys.* Mrs. Gilmore, 36 Malone Avenue, Belfast, 9.

*Books.* New and second-hand. Mr. and Mrs. Oldham, 26 Summerhill Park, Belfast, 5.

*White Elephant.* Mrs. M. Billington, 13 Cavehill Road, Belfast, 15.

*Handkerchief Girl.* Hilary Clark, 16 Kincoira Avenue, Belfast, 4.

*Bottle Stall.* Gillian Alford, 490 Antrim Road, Belfast, 15.

*Refreshments.* Mrs. A. Elliott, Nara, Craigavad, Co. Down.

## ULSTER—cont.

I would like to specially mention the Bottle Stall which is a new idea thought up by Gillian Alford. She hopes everyone will send her something in a bottle, from sauce to scent. Also may I draw attention to the White Elephant Stall — I think this could be a real money-spinner if we got lots of good quality stuff so please see what you can do. I'm sure you have several things around the house you'd be glad to part with — but someone else may be delighted to have them. Have you far too many books? Then Mr. Oldham's your man. Contributions can be left with the Stall-holders or at 147 Cliftonpark Avenue.

Don't forget about the Cat photo competition. Last year most of the entries came from across the water. Wake up Ulster! I was amazed at the number of people who surveyed the competition snaps and remarked wistfully "I wish I'd known, I'd have sent a snap of my cat". Well, now you know. I think we can extend the entry date until 31st October in view of the fact that the Sale is so much later this time. Details were given in the last Magazine so I won't repeat.

With a bit of manipulation I organized my holidays so that I was in London on 12th July and I had the pleasure of attending the Annual General Meeting where it was nice to meet my cat-friends again. I also visited Slough, where Mr. Steward took time off from his busy life to show me round the well-equipped premises, and I spent Sunday afternoon at the South London Rescue Centre with Mrs. De Clifford. As I helped to dish out the evening meal I thought of Miss Long, doing exactly the same thing at "147" I felt quite at home among the English cats. (Well, you know what I mean).

Have just been interrupted by the Postman bringing a huge parcel of stamps, all neatly trimmed and classified. Mrs. Wilson, whom I visited in Ballycastle recently, is most appreciative of all the stamps being sent to her but again asks that they should not be peeled off the envelope. Please cut or tear them leaving a small margin of envelope — this is most important.

A final word — we need homes for our cats. Homes and more homes. Please help us to find some. Could members put a small notice in a local shop window and pass names and addresses to us. Miss Gulston and Miss Kent, who do such a splendid job on the welfare front, would check the homes and "deliver the goods". This kind of help would be specially appreciated from people who live in Provincial towns, not too far from Belfast to make checking impractical. We have an overdose of kittens at present — adorable

little bits of fur and purr but they must get homes — or else! Perish the thought. I know you'll rise to the occasion. How about accepting my challenge and taking just one more puss into your own home as a Birthday gesture. Tabitha thinks that is the best idea — she is quite satisfied with her new home, thank you.

## WEST CORNWALL

The response to our appeals have been heartwarming. We have been dispatching pictures of Cathlowena at 3/6 a time, leaflets on the legend of King Corineus are proving most popular, and coins with the wishes of friends everywhere are stirring the magical depths of the trough. Ambers garden flourishes, and the Cornish pebbles with names of favourite pets are filling the wall. Plenty of space for more pebbles, and donations for these help the feline O.A.P.'s. Cats' Bazaar is nicely stocked thanks to our faithful admirers, but we could do with more stuff particularly old bits and pieces or very new articles. Foreign stamps, books, brass, silver, copper and iron things sell readily. Even furniture has a ready market if it is interesting enough. We have had requests for old small musical instruments, so do look in your junk cupboards and attics. Your unwanted things could well save a cat's life.

These money making ideas tend to keep our notes racey and amusing, and we wonder if we neglect to remind you enough of the serious nature of our work. This was brought home to me by a visitor from away who attended our last Saturday Open Day and was surprised to see so many really fine cats in our catteries. "Surely these can't all be strays" she observed. We explained that this enchanting collection were composed of cats whose owners had died, from broken homes, from people going abroad or moving into homes where pets are not allowed, from casual folk who have grown tired of their cats, from old people in hospital for the remainder of their lives, and of course the ever with us strays who are usually rendered homeless when kittens are due. We have become accustomed to human frailties and tend to accept excuses and circumstances we cannot comprehend for the sake of the cats involved. Amazement and often disbelief is shown when we explain that on an average each cat we admit to the catteries costs us £20. Neutering advertising, transport, phone, checking homes, printing and postage takes its toll without bringing into account feeding and labour. Food costs we mainly take care of personally without drawing on funds. Labour is strictly voluntary, and cynics find it difficult to understand that three healthy adults could spend their days working for the good of cats



and their humans without monetary reward. Visitors to Cathlowena practically always respond with similar observations "How

wonderful to see so many animals agreeing together, and looking so very happy and healthy . . . they must be loved" This is our answer to the censorious ones.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Panda, T.W.2332. A tribute to the memory of my dearly loved and loving cat, a charming and interesting companion who died July 3rd, 1958, aged 10¼ years. O, Panda! Also Ruffles, the dear white stray who lived with us for 18 months and vanished March 10th, 1961. Presumed run over. Finally, a memory of all the other dear cats I have owned at different times. To the future, with love. Muriel A. Jullian, Sheffield.

Darling little Minnie, nearly 4 yers old, died on 11th June, 1969. So much loved and so sadly missed, by K.A.W. & B.O.W.

In loving, never-to-be-forgotten memory of my precious Siamese "Tootie" T.W.3103, my dearest and only companion, fell asleep Oct. 18th, 1968, aged 14 years. God is watching over you my loved one, until we are reunited in His Kingdom. Missed more than words can say by her "Mum". Gladys Kent.

In memory of my dear cats, Tibby-Tibs: The Goddess: Mr. Tibs, Bill my dearly beloved white cat, and Mimi his faithful companion and friend. I shall mourn them always. G.L.

In memory of Roger (T.W.1437) a faithful friend and companion for over 17 years. Died July 27th 1964—still missed so much. Gwen Woolgar.

In memory of my dear cat "SIMON" who died last week, only four years old.

M.G.

In memory of my dear old puss "DICKORY" who had to be put to sleep on July 1st, aged 16 years 9 months. I am missing him grievously.

P.L.R.

In loving memory of our dear little JUDY who fell asleep on 18th December, 1966, aged 13½ years. Dearly loved, sadly missed, remembered every day. Miss C. E. Penny.

In memory of KITTYWAKE our 16 year old Ginger Tom who was put to sleep April 28th, 1969. We still miss him terribly; he was so affectionate and good tempered. Mrs. I. A.

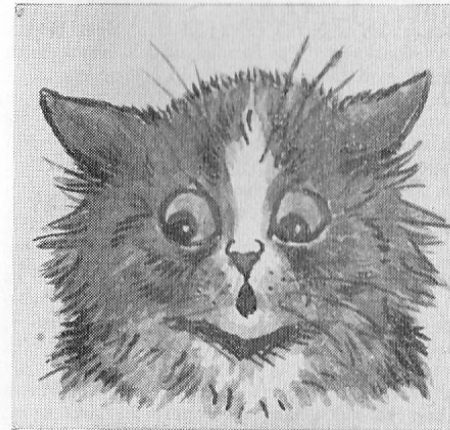
In loving memory of "DO-DO'S" who would have been 14 years old on 15th Sept. 1969, who died 23rd Sept. 1968. A whole year has passed since you left, your place remains empty and can never be filled. Sleep and rest in peace until the time comes when we shall be together again in another life and another place. Greatly missed. Mrs. E. M. Proctor, Miss S. Proctor & Kitty-Witty TW 4125.

In memory of our very dear SMOKEY, T.W.3460, who died on August 21st, 1964, aged 9½ years. He will always have a very special place in our hearts. N. & D. Revill.

In loving memory of my dearest companion BLACKIE who passed away 6/9/68. A.M.

In memory of a great friend, who had to be put to sleep "TABBY PARRY JONES, or "T.P.J." about 19 years old. Greatly missed. Miss J. S. J.

Remembering, always with love and gratitude, my beloved PINKY, passed away 18th August, 1965, in his 20th year. As precious in memory as he always was in life. M. Burgess.



FROM AN ORIGINAL by LOUIS WAIN

The pathetic story of Louis Wain, told by Rodney Dale with a strong sense of the strange combination of minor genius and lifelong ineptitude, presented in a very handsome volume with a wealth of illustrations, should appeal to anyone interested in art, or abnormal psychology, or cats.

Harmless, courteous and well-intentioned, Louis Wain was never very stable and in later life passed from eccentricity to insanity. In the course of his odd life he made a permanent contribution to art and to cat-lore by his innumerable drawings of cats: beautiful realistic cats, including portraits; realistically drawn cats behaving, in fur alone or in clothes, like people in various situations; caricatured cats; lightning sketches of cats; cats in a comical spiky style he made his own; and, in the later stages of severe mental illness, amazing cats that disintegrated into beautiful patterns suggestive of modern psychedelic art. Louis Wain must have given innocent pleasure to tens of thousands: Mr. Dale tells a touching story of how some cold and hungry urchins were comforted by a sheet of Lous Wain cats in a shop window.

Wain drew many other animals with great skill and charm; he also drew real and imaginary landscapes. His almost obsessive interest in cats developed from his own pet, Peter, who consoled the artist and his wife when the latter was dying of cancer after only three years of marriage. He enjoyed a period of great success, when he might have become quite prosperous had he been a better businessman. His very popular drawings of cats engaged in human activities derive some of their appeal from the gentle

satire, but much from the fact that Louis Wain funny cats are still cats, lovingly observed and with catty individuality.

Many readers of *The Cat* will have noticed that postcards in the Lous Wain tradition, e.g. by Max Kunzli, still enjoy a good sale, but it is doubtful if Wain's delectable tabbies will ever be bettered.

Louis Wain was for some years president of the National Cat Club and did much to raise the status of the cat in Britain and arouse concern for its welfare, though some of his pseudoscientific notions about cats, as about many other matters, were irrational and unfounded. He also made frequent use of his talent to raise funds for charity—and sometimes paid for small purchases or services with precious cat sketches!

Writing a biography of Louis Wain was a particularly exacting task for Mr. Dale, in that Wain himself left behind a great many misleading statements; Mr. Dale has brought a scholarly attitude and much research to sorting out the confused writings of a sick man; he has also had to try to distinguish fair reports from journalistic mis-statements and over-dramatizations. The story of Louis Wain, thus examined in a spirit of scholarship, does not bear out the macabre myth—which I heard first as a child—that Wain brooded upon cats morbidly until they drove him out of his mind; on the contrary, cats seem to have brought the luckless artist much comfort and amusement as well as most of his success, and to have continued to cheer him and give him some contact with reality when his mind was deranged. Certainly it was because a visitor saw him drawing cats "like Louis Wain" that an appeal was made for him and he was transferred from the pauper lunatic asylum to a pleasanter hospital. Mr. Dale tells the story with sympathy and with an obvious appreciation of the artist. His choice of illustrations gives not only much pleasure, but some idea of the range of Louis Wain's styles.

The bibliography must have cost great efforts, and will be useful to collectors. As we see in the lives of so many famous artists in most of the arts, a man inadequate in ordinary everyday life gave far more to mankind than most of the sane efficient people, and his output was tremendous; as a man who drew cats he showed no lack of industry or self-discipline.

This well documented and thoughtful biography, a compassionate and readable tribute to an unfortunate man who gave much pleasure by his art and did much for both people and cats, would make a splendid special present for almost any cat-lover. Marjorie Boulton.

**JANDY—MISTY—A STORY OF A CAT—UNAVOIDABLY HELD OVER TILL NEXT ISSUE**

## HOMES WANTED

### URGENTLY WANTED Good Homes For:

Small black cat 8-10 months, very affectionate. Apply Mrs. J. A. Poucher, 27 Olive Road, Cricklewood, London N.W.2.

also: 1 female, 2 male kittens. Details from Miss I. E. Brown, 18 Howarden Grove, Herne Hill, London S.E.24. Tel: Tulse Hill 8671.

also: 2 fine black cats about 18 months, Siamese type, neutered. Details from Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw, Curridge, Newbury, Berks. Tel: Hermitage 240.

Urgently required, very good home for blue and white, short haired, neutered male cat, aged about 2. Applications please, to Miss A. L. Irvine, 37 Brecon Road, London, W.6.

**S.O.S. CAN ANYONE HELP:** Mrs. Redgment writes: "My family and I have been evicted and in order to avoid losing our animals we are now all living in tents and have all our animals with us, but it is obvious this can be only temporary. We have been flooded out once during recent rainstorm". Mrs. Redgment's address is: C/o Hill House, School Lane, Bromeswell, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Please do you know of a suitable home in the country preferably with one lady who does not go out—or away much. Ginder, Sandy the Cat, is just 8 years old—has been doctored—(male) is very clean and healthy and much too lovely to be put to sleep. I am willing to take him anywhere in this area, up to a radius of 100 miles.

Miss E. F. Vatcher, The School House, Bagborough, Taunton, Somerset.

## OBITUARY

During the past month or so the League has lost several of its valued supporters and we deeply regret their passing. Mrs. Jane Watson who was so well known in the world of cat welfare and crowded more cat rescue into her life than any two ordinary people. She had friends in all walks of life and wherever she went, at home or abroad, stray cats or kittens found her or she found them. She will be greatly missed. Miss Hilda Blanchard was a loyal member of the London Committee for many years as well as a keen supporter of the League's work in general. She did a considerable amount of active work and took a great interest in the stray and unwanted cats with which she came into contact in her daily occupation. She had recently retired after a long illness. Miss Rosa Bevan was better known in Wales than in England, she was honorary Treasurer for the Cardiff Branch for many years and closely connected with animal welfare all

her life. Her personality was something to be admired and respected. Mrs. Bazin, though not so much in the limelight as some of our friends, will be remembered, particularly by those who were able to obtain her milk jug covers. Beautifully made, edged and decorated with coloured beads they were a pleasing reminder of the past in an age when most things are ultra modern. Through their sales they contributed in no small way to the League's funds. Miss D. J. Ruxton whose 95th birthday was recently recorded in "The Cat" will always be remembered for her "Ruxton's Rodents" the felt toy mice that provided fun and exercise for thousands of cats and kittens in most parts of the world and contributed over a thousand pounds to Headquarters funds.

The C.P.L. cause has been well served by these good ladies and the loss of their support, active and otherwise is beyond estimation.

*A. A. Steward.*

### Tax on Cats

Sir—There is one point which has been overlooked in the matter of taxing cats; the difficulty of proving ownership, for it has been well said that no-one owns a cat.

They wander in and out of houses and often spend more time in the house of a neighbour than in their own while stray cats introduce

themselves to a household and are permitted to stay.

A dog quickly lets it be known to whom he belongs but not a cat, the independent, indifferent and lovable creatures!

MARTIN HAWKINS.

*Daily Telegraph, July, 26th, 1969.*

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