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**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.

**Wanted:** Cloth Badges, County, Club, School Cap or Blazer. Each will earn 2/- for my C.P.L. Collecting Box.

Your interest and co-operation will be much appreciated. Miss D. Gowing, 40 Heath Crescent, Cromer Road, Norwich, NOR 58N Norfolk.

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

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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.*

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)		

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## ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

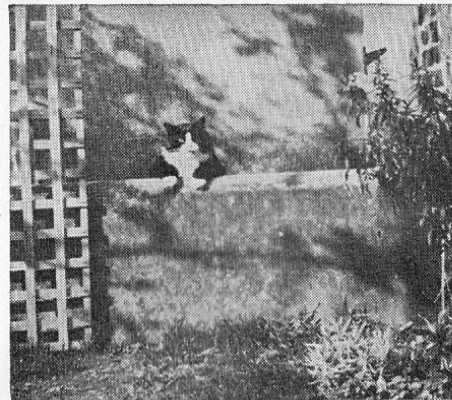
Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable. News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

Notification of change of address.

Used stamps, British Foreign and com memorative.

Linen and blanket pieces, newspapers for use in the Clinic.

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.

IT IS rather early to wish our readers a happy Christmas but as there will not be another issue of "The Cat" until January 1970, we take the opportunity of including Christmas greetings with this number. We hope you, our members, and cat lovers generally will have a restful and happy Christmas and we sincerely hope that there will be much less suffering in the cat world not only during this particular period but in the future. We at Headquarters will do as much as we possibly can to foster better conditions in a practical way, not only direct from this office but through our Branches as well.

IT IS never too early to express appreciation of the support our members and friends give and we do so now in recognition of the response you have made to our many appeals, Headquarters and Branch, that have enabled us to continue and extend the practical work on which depends the success of our endeavour to combat the stray and unwanted cat/kitten problem. We plan to open up a wider field in 1970.

**The Animals Fair - 1969:** will be held Friday November 21st and Saturday November 22nd - 12 noon to 7 p.m. The C.P.L. will be represented as usual but the four stalls may be in "line" instead of the "square" formation of the last two years. Don't forget the date and please don't forget to call on us if only to say Hello - Goodbye.

You have perhaps noticed that the Editorial and Round and About are now combined. This was to a great extent necessary as a space saving medium and I hope that the magazine has not lost any of its interest through this change in set-up. You will also

have noticed that from time to time we have had to omit members contributions to the magazine mainly because some of the Branch reports have taken up more space than was originally allowed to them. I have asked the Branches to co-operate so that it may be possible for me to use the various stories, etc. that are sent by members and friends in the number for which they were intended. My apologies to all those who have contributed and have looked in vain for their "story."

As from this issue we are omitting string and beads from the items that we have asked for for use at Headquarters. The death of our friend and member Mrs. Bazin, to whom I referred in the last issue of "The Cat", has closed the request for beads. A change in procedure at our Clinic and the fact that we now have as much string as we can possibly use in the next two or three years indicates that we shall not now require further supplies or at least for a very long time. To all our friends and members who have contributed these items we express our sincere appreciation.

**Editor's Dilemma:** There are times when things go wrong and no time to make explanations to the individuals, members, correspondents, etc., concerned.

Editing a publication, as small as "The Cat", is quite exacting and often involved, the more so when it is an added responsibility and has to be squeezed in with what is normally a full time job.

These comments are made to explain, without going into great detail, why literary contributions are quite often "left over" until the following issue and "photos" do not



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## ROUND & ABOUT—contd.

appear as expected. NOTHING is deliberately omitted (other than where the editorial blue pencil is used) so please bear with me on this matter and particularly now that our "neutering project" is swinging along at a rate that keeps us extra busy.

**Sanctuaries - Shelters and Temporary Accommodation.** One of the serious problems of today is the urgent need for somewhere to house cats and/or kittens pending homes being found for them and the demand or appeal, according to how strong one's views on the subject are, for Shelters, here there or everywhere is growing. Ardent supporters of this objective do their very best to bring about the desired establishment of a "shelter". Opinions vary as to the purpose of a Shelter and very often are confused with "Sanctuary" which indicates permanency as opposed to the temporary facilities of a Shelter.

**Sanctuaries** must of necessity be large, preferably all embracing as is the Ferne Sanctuary in Dorset, and a "charity" in its own right, concentrating on fund raising for its special purpose and devoting itself to the purpose for which it was established.

**Shelters** serve a very useful purpose if managed and used realistically but unfortunately they are inadequate in size and can provide only a token service.

THE general public are prone to think that "shelters", or for that matter anywhere where cats are "taken in" are expandable at will and able to accommodate anything at any time. Attempts to explain limitation and other problems are looked upon as "excuses" and described as such.

**Shelters** have been described as animal scrap heaps, available to all who have a pet to dispose of, where those in charge sort out the good from the bad and deal with them accordingly.

**Animal Welfare Societies** are all too aware of the plight of the unwanted pet, the outcasts of the feline and canine world and valiantly try to stem the tide by establishing Shelters and centres for the reception of animals and birds whether, lost, stray or unwanted. The "intake" is seldom if ever balanced by "output" and invariably the situation is that the limit has been reached and humane destruction the alternative. This gives rise to criticism and unflattering comments and is not good for the Society's image.

**Experience** opens up a volume of facts but sometimes lights the way to the solving of problems and for this we must be grateful however bad we feel about our experiences and the truths they reveal. So the question arises, what can be done to solve this particular problem. We all know what should be done but theory and practise are sometimes poles apart.

**Knowing** the limitation of even the largest Sanctuaries and the acute shortage of Shelters (which in any case can only play a minor role) and the scarcity of alternative accommodation, such as private boarding catteries, where the owners are prepared to co-operate, and cat lovers who will look after one or two cats for a week or so, we have to admit to an impasse but not necessarily defeat.

**My own feelings** on this subject are very mixed, probably due to personal experience of "shelter" work and the problems of others who are or have been similarly engaged. In the previous issue of The Cat - Sept./Oct. on page 75 I mentioned differing opinions and the need for tolerance. I should perhaps have added a "realistic" attitude. Frequently one finds those who consider themselves realists are bogged down by a dogmatic outlook and this applies so very often in cat welfare and especially on controversial subjects.

**It is possibly** because a person's views are based on purely local experience or knowledge that the broader aspect has never been realised or considered. Balanced thought is essential on any subject and especially where matters of life and death are concerned.

One cannot expect 100% conformity, nature being what it is, fixations are bound to be met with.

**Because** my feeling on the subject of Sanctuaries, Shelters, etc. are mixed, I felt it necessary to write at length in the hope that the matter will be given considerably more thought in the future.

**There is no need** to tell you how I feel regarding "neutering" motivated by years of experience and a burning desire to find a solution to the "stray and unwanted cat problem." Lest I should be considered dogmatic I would refer to what I have said, in my comments, in the past which is that neutering should be "priority", over home-finding but not to supersede it.

**Now for an up to date survey** of the Neutering Project (Cat Population Limitation.) By the time these notes are read we shall have completed our first book of 1,000 vouchers so we are, running to Schedule as predicted.

## ROUND & ABOUT—contd.

Requests are still being received and dealt with almost by return of post as the system we devised to meet the requirements of the project is working well.

There are of course a percentage of requests that cannot be adequately covered by the "system" and require special attention or explanation. This was expected on account of the varied circumstances and problems of the cat owners, some of which have been mentioned previously.

From letters received we learn that a big percentage of "kittens supposedly males are discovered to be females."

that old age pensioners appear to be recipients of all the spare female kittens that unthinking people are anxious to dispose of.

that people who can ill afford the expense of more than one cat eventually end up with several.

that too many people, owning a female cat cannot bear to have any of the kittens put to sleep but hope that homes can be found for them and eventually "keep them" and so increase their responsibilities.

Far too many elderly people are undertaking other people's responsibilities and are being imposed upon.

Far too many kittens are being given away without any thought as to whether the new owner can afford to feed the cat properly or whether it will be neutered.

Not all elderly people can cope with cat problems and if no aid is forthcoming when the need is greatest the situation becomes desperate. Result; cat is destroyed. Those who give kittens to elderly people should be prepared to be on hand if wanted for advice or help.

**London Joint Animal Flag Day.** This year's Flag Day was most successful according to the official report. The total sum collected being £30,878 17s. 6d. The share, distributed between London Committee, North London and Edmonton, in proportion to what each collected, was £312 7s 6d. Our grateful thanks to all who gave their time to a cause which is so deserving.

Christmas cards, Calendars, etc.: As much as we would like to have one or other of the above "on sale" it is not possible for us at Headquarters to do so. We regret the disappointment so many of our members and friends will feel at the continued omission of these seasonal greetings but there just isn't the time to deal with the additional work

involved. We are always working at full stretch and there are times when even routine office work gets in arrears. It is a question of "first things first" and we are sure you know what is given "priority". AAS

**Obituary:** Since the last issue of our magazine we have learned of the death of two other prominent members of the C.P.L.

Miss Agatha Higgins like so many true animal lovers was one of the very retiring people who did so much good without it becoming publicly known. She supported the C.P.L. for years in a very generous way and indeed contributed to a large number of "causes" not only animals. She passed away in her 79th year.

Miss A. B. Joy of whom so many of our members will have read in The Cat in the early days of her Wardenship of the Grace Blyth Memorial Home, Haslemere, devoted her life to "rescue and care of cats", an indefatigable worker, an extremely strong character, she pursued her own policy to the end but with the welfare of cats always foremost in her mind. She died at Holycross Hospital. The C.P.L. was represented at the Cremation.

Both Miss Higgins and Miss Joy gave us much and more than could be expected of them and will be a great loss to the Animal Welfare cause.

To the above we have to add the name of another of our cat loving members who has passed on. Mrs. E. T. Mehliiss of Bulawayo, aged 91. Born in England, emigrating to South Africa in 1902 as a missionary, a linguist of no mean order, she served in the 1914-18 War in charge of a casualty clearing station. Went to Russia with the Red Cross and was there during the rebellion of 1917 where she worked in a small hospital on the Siberian border. Awarded the Czarist Cross of St. George and the Croix de Guerre for services in France. She lived a very full life and accomplished much that was of benefit to both humans and animals. On her retirement she devoted her time to caring for cats and particularly the strays. No words of mine can adequately express the admiration we must all feel for this outstanding personality. A.A.S.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

WE WISH OUR READERS AND THEIR PETS A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS, FREE FROM PROBLEMS OF ANY KIND.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

## 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

The summer months have taken their toll of our funds. By the end of August our General Fund was exhausted — all that remained was £58 15s. 11d. of our Shelter Fund which once stood at almost £80 and which we were hoping not to touch, but with cats and kittens coming in faster than we could find homes for them we have been forced to use this Fund to pay for their boarding at a friends cattery.

With branches still having to pay all their own vet's fees, for neutering and spaying operations, as well as for other treatment it did not take long to exhaust our General Fund. Headquarters are willing to honour vouchers only when applications are made to them directly, but we are dealing, in the main, with slum areas, and it is useless to ask these people to apply to Headquarters for a voucher. Many of them do not even SPEAK ENGLISH. Practical, *on the spot* help is needed for animals belonging to these people, for much suffering is caused through ignorance and lack of communications. Educating these people in animal welfare is essential — and many ARE willing to learn if SOMEONE will take the trouble to show them the way. Often they are touchingly grateful for offers of help and often I have been welcomed into immigrant homes and invited to take tea with the family. This has sometimes been quite comical, — especially with Indian families who have spoken no English, as it is not always easy to keep nodding and smiling while trying to puzzle how to eat the exotic Indian foods laid before you.

Help in communities such as these is essential. We should like to get notices printed in Urdu to advertise neutering — unheard of by most of these people. But with funds so low it is impossible for the Branch to undertake any more commitments at the moment. We are hoping that in the New Year, Headquarters will be able to offer Branches some direct help by issuing us free vouchers so that we can concentrate in raising funds for our rescue work and a shelter.

Meanwhile we are struggling to raise enough funds ourselves to help all those cats and kittens who need our help NOW.

Last weekend we held a Bring and Buy Sale at the home of our Chairman, Miss Jenkins, when we made almost £30.

Our thanks to Headquarters for two boxes of saleable goods, also to all our supporters and friends who contributed.

At the beginning of November we hope to hold a Jumble Sale and on SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER we have two Stalls booked at the annual ANIMAL LOVERS CHRISTMAS FAYRE in BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL. Gifts suitable for Christmas presents to sell on our stalls would be appreciated.

Our sincere thanks to all readers who have sent donations during the past two months, especially to the two people who donated anonymously and to whom we cannot write a personal note of thanks. Suffice to say your money has been well spent in helping some of the many unfortunate cats and kittens in our large city. Calls for help still arrive daily, and we are advertising continually and finding homes, but have no Shelter to put them into while homes are found we are often desperate. People are usually unwilling to keep strays for more than a few days and expect us to be able to produce homes for them immediately.

Those of you who have tried to find homes know that good homes rarely drop out of the blue. One must advertise — and from one advert you might get half a dozen replies, but probably after travelling many miles and spending several hours vetting the homes, you might find only ONE which is suitable. We MUST have somewhere to put our cats while good homes are found for ALL of them. Next week we are holding a special meeting of the officers of the Committee to discuss this, for one reader appalled at the difficulties under which we are working, has written offering us a sum of money for a Shelter IF others will also donate. Will anyone? Please help to make our plans and hopes a reality by

*concluded next page*

sending your donations, large or small to Birmingham Branch Cats' Protection League Shelter Fund, c/o our Treasurer, Mr. A. Bennett, 36 Rodborough Road, Dorriedge Knowle, Warwickshire.

*Note:* I appreciate what the Hon. Sec. has said in her notes re: neutering in the Birmingham area but there is an alternative about which I have written. On the question of "funds" this too can be dealt with by Headquarters. It seems that owing to either a misunderstanding or pure mischance we at Headquarters were unaware of the Branches financial problems until recently, but has now been dealt with, on a temporary basis, until the matter has been investigated.

A. A. Steward

#### CHELMSFORD

Will all our kind friends please note that our secretary, Mrs. Jean Middlemiss, has now moved to a new address; 112 Watchhouse Road, Galleywood, Chelmsford. This move of house almost caused our Branch to collapse in complete disorder because for three weeks Mrs. Middlemiss was without a telephone. This was during the month of September which we have always found to be the best in the year for home finding, and cats were being taken to the cattery and no-one knew from whence they came, cats were being taken *from* the cattery, supposedly to good homes. And unknown to us, cats were being taken to be neutered on our account and without appointments. All in all pandemonium reigned, and it is taking weeks of investigation to check up on the cat movements during those three weeks. This makes the rest of us on the Committee realise that without Mrs. Middlemiss (bless her), and her telephone in action for at least sixteen hours a day, seven days a week, our Branch would have gone under long ago!

Fortunately order is now almost restored and it is cat business as usual at 112 Watchhouse Road. During August and September homes were found for 52 adult cats and 66 kittens, and 28 cats were neutered — but actually we are still counting after those three muddled weeks.

Our refreshments and two stalls at the Essex Cat Club Gala raised more than £30 much needed money, and our September Fair raised nearly £70, and our very grateful thanks to all you good people who helped us by sending items to sell. We have two Rummage Sales and three Saturday Sales (good second hand clothing and white elephant items) still to come in 1969, and of course our big, big effort, the Christmas Fair on December 6th. Won't you please send us something to sell? We are also holding our own Christmas Draw (which brought us in

£100 last year), with fifteen major prizes of turkey, chicken, pheasants, wines, spirits, cigars, cigarettes, chocolates and other festive gifts, and we will gladly send any readers books of tickets to sell. (2/6d per book of five tickets, and a stamped addressed envelope would be much appreciated).

We now need to raise £1,000 per year to keep pace with all our work for unwanted cats, and our main concerns are, neutering, rescuing and home-finding. Where does all the money go? We continue to take into our temporary care large numbers of unwanted cats from all over mid and North Essex, *all* of which are eventually found a good home. (We have even "swopped" four cats recently with a wood yard! They had four friendly but very prolific females and no-one to pay for them to be spayed. We had four very battered old toms — neutered late in life by us — but still rather too unruly for the average home. So we swopped. The four now-speyed females have gone to good homes, and the four old boys, after a fortnight of rest and rehabilitation in a large shed at the wood yard, have now been released there, and are venting their pent-up wrath and indignation on the local rats and mice — which is why the wood yard wanted the cats in the first place).

The majority of our unwanted cats come from 4 main sources. (1) Genuine strays who have obviously once had a home of some sort and are quite at ease with humans. (2) We get a large number of adult cats, usually much-loved pets, belonging to the sick and elderly who have had to give up the cat because they are moving into hospital, old person's home or council flat where animals are not allowed. We deal with very many heart-breaking cases of this kind. (3) Kittens from people who have not bothered to have their female cat speyed. We now insist upon a promise from them that the mother cat must be speyed if we are to help find homes for the kittens. Many people do not realise that a cat can be neutered at any age providing that it is in reasonable health. We very often finance the operation if the owner is genuinely too poor to afford it, i.e. old age pensioners. (4) We acquire a large number of cats for a variety of often strange reasons. Their owners state such things as:—"We have now got a dog/baby and don't want the cat any longer". "We are emigrating tomorrow". (We are still amused at the lady who turned up at Mrs. Middlemiss's door complete with cat in a carrier bag and said they were on their way to Australia *now*. The funny thing was she was wearing an old pair of carpet slippers! What would the Australians think we wonder). "We don't want the cat because it steals food if we leave it on the table". (What do they expect?). "We are going on



holiday and don't want the cat any longer". (This means that they won't pay for the cat to be boarded at a cattery, and also they must be on bad terms with the neighbours). "We don't want the cat because it scratches/bites the children". (We wonder what the children have done to the cat?) "We don't want the cat because it stays out at night" (or will not go out?) "We don't want the cat because it catches birds". (What about all the humans who catch birds, we wonder). "We don't want the cat because we shall have to pay for it to go to the vet to have it doctored" or "it has an abscess" or "it has worms" or "it has fleas" or "it has a limp" or "it has a cough" or "it has a runny eye/nose" or "the milkman says it is not healthy with the children". (We wonder if they also ask the milkman's advice about their children's ailments).

And so it goes on. The reasons for not wanting the cat are endless! All these villainous cats, according to their owners, are otherwise doomed to die unless we "do something about them immediately". And guess what? When we take them to the cattery they turn out to be just ordinary, loveable pusscats, independent, full of character, and each with its own built-in individual charm. What else can we do but make every effort to find them a good new home where their special qualities are appreciated?

Our "Car Cat" was adopted by some good people on September 28th, but before he left for his new home he and his companions sent their very best purrs of thanks to their thoughtful friends who sent them donations for special titbits. And we thank our anonymous friends for their donations, bazaar parcels and good used clothing. Mrs. Middlemiss will reply personally to all who send their name and address when she can snatch a few minutes from all the cat problems. We also collect left over knitting wool for cat blanket cotton material suitable for aprons, postage stamps, milk bottle tops (and we will start collecting just about anything else you can think of if it will make us some cat-care money!)

Finally, we are giving Mrs. Middlemiss a few weeks to settle down in her new home (and garden) before we can be truly realistic about our plans for our shelter there. In the meantime, our Shelter Fund is now open and we have £5 in it. More news in the next issue of the magazine when we have had time to think up some ways of raising money for the shelter. Any ideas you may have will be most welcome and gratefully acknowledged.

## EDMONTON

An appeal this month, please, for a good home for a young white neutered male cat; described by his owners as being of the "Kosset Carpet type of cat". If you can offer him a good home please contact us as soon as possible. His present owners must part with him due to the fact that they are living in a flat over a Baker's shop and there is a cat already in residence; also, they have no garden or open space for the cat to exercise and play in.

Mrs. Walledge still has lots of cats and kittens in residence at her Sanctuary who are looking for kind, loving homes.

Trapping continues to be an important aspect of our work, as does our Speying and Neutering programme.

A big "thank you" this month to Mr. Chamberlain of Norwich who kindly gave up a week of his holiday to come and stay with us and do repairs and odd jobs in the Sanctuary, thus saving us the expense of professional repair men. Mr. Chamberlain was so enchanted with one of our residents 'Lady' that he is sponsoring her and is sending money for her upkeep every month. Would you, also, like to sponsor a deserving cat? Details on request from Mrs. Walledge.

Our 23 year old cat 'Fluffy' is still hale and hearty and going strong. She won a special cup presented by the Daily Mirror Pets' Club at The Herts. & Middx. Show. Do you know of any Grand Old Cats of her age, or even older?

Mrs. Walledge is still supplying food to needy Old Age Pensioners to help feed their cats. Please will you help by donating the price of one tin of cat food?, more of course if you can afford it.

Finally, we must thank our very good friend Mr. Lidsen for the way he is always "on call" to us. He is always willing to close his shop and help us in any emergency, which is quite often. Although his own business must suffer, Mr. Lidsen thinks nothing of using his own van and petrol, and money, to help a suffering animal; so, a big "Thank You" Mr. Lidsen for all your help.

Widower with two cats unable to cope and lonely. Would appreciate assistance from animal lover.

Accommodation available if required.

Phone: 01-788-1374.

## GLOSSOP

Christmas Dinners for Strays, nothing elaborate - just pilchards, tinned pet food and if possible a saucer of milk - this is our aim.

We would also like to provide some extra tit bits for the rescued strays and unwanted in our care, particularly those recovering from gastro-enteritis which has swept through the area and affected two of the catteries where these are boarded, resulting in prolonged boarding and heavy vet's fees.

Tibby and Mac and their brothers and sisters at Cowbrook are again having a Christmas tree for less fortunate cats. For each donation received before Christmas a red foil stocking recording the gift will be hung on the tree. On Christmas eve the largest donation will be inscribed on the Star of Bethlehem at the top of the tree.

If any other cats would care to have their own little tree send us the proceeds we would be pleased to supply details and patterns of stockings and stars for a donation of 2/-. Please state approximate size of tree.

We would also send a dinner table collecting card and, or, small collapsible collecting box to any friend who would care to have one.

As we approach our 7th Birthday we are faced with the fact that unless our income is considerably increased in the near future we shall be compelled to make drastic cuts in our work. As we become better known more and more demands are made on us and the task is far too great for a small group of voluntary workers.

We are very much concerned about food for O.A.P.'s cats and the many strays they feed. We need considerable help to be able to send them even just enough to keep out the cold this winter. Please make gifts for these 'O.A.P.'s cats.'

Three more little abandoned mothers with kittens have been rescued, Megan and two kittens from a field, Jet and four kittens from under a heap of timber, and Blackie and her five three weeks old lovely kittens from the attic of a derelict house due for demolition. These particularly need plenty of milk and nourishing food. Gifts specially for these should be marked "Little Families".

Proceeds of Mrs. Cherrill's Coffee Morning in Whaley Bridge amounted to £11 10s. 7d. We would be pleased to receive any gifts suitable for a sale of Christmas Presents including little things for a dip tub and 1/- and 2/6 parcels. We expect to sell all our present stock on October 11th when we have the use of the Charity Stall in the Market Hall.

Would the friend who some time ago sent us a pair of statuettes 'L'Art' and 'La Science' please write to me as I have lost her

address and would like to have some idea of their value. It would help us considerably if friends sending gifts for sale would kindly give us some idea of what we should get for them.

Miss M. Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley Nr. Stockport, Cheshire collects Green Shield and S. and H. stamps for us. I deal with foreign and special issue stamps. Please leave a margin of paper round them.

We thank all who have helped us in any way some anonymously, and wish all cats and their friends everywhere a very happy Christmas.

## LONDON COMMITTEE

We are living through an exciting but anxious time, as we try to get together the £100 for the care of old cats, which sum will be doubled by a kind friend, if we have collected it before the end of this year. Slowly it is mounting, we have passed the halfway mark, and we are feeling hopeful, but time is slipping away, and we would like to feel more certain. These old cats are dear creatures we know that there cannot be any chance of their having more than a very few years, but they do enjoy their lives, and we want to keep them for as long as possible, but we think that first consideration must be given to young cats who can go to new homes and perhaps have up to 15 happy years, so the general funds must be kept for them, the old dears need their own special fund - and we are doing our best to get it for them.

Christmas dinners for cats is still one of our activities. If anyone wants our help this year, or can help us in this work, please write soon. We arrange that food is taken to cats who have to be left alone over the holiday, but we do need to know well in advance where our help is needed.

Every year we have a Christmas kitten at the Rescue Centre. Last year it was Little Claws, a very small tabby, who was semi-wild and a "bad doer". He had to be nursed and cossetted for several months, but now he is a big cat and in a happy home. He has not forgotten us, and his family are kindly sending a special Christmas treat for the homeless ones we have this year.

Our big bazaars are over for the year. We are very low in stock now, having just about sold out of everything. We will be grateful for replenishment, so please send us anything you can. Parcels can be sent to 12, The Close, New Malden, Surrey. Or we have depots in the centre of London. We can arrange to collect with due notice.

We have some interesting tortie cats at the Rescue Centre. One poor darling has lost her ears, but seems quite happy. We have an imp of a kitten, all black and full of life

## LONDON COMMITTEE—contd.

he manages to get into everything — if anyone wants a really interesting pet, we recommend him.

On December 13th Countess Grudzinska will have a big Jumble Sale at St. Mark's Hall, Compton Road, Wimbledon, we will be glad of *everything* you can spare for this.

We are making plans for next year. First among them will be a real effort to improve our total for Animal Flag Day. Who will help? We do need fresh helpers for this, as well as all our old friends. I know that it is not pleasant but it is important to get sellers into the streets, so will everyone please try either to sell, or to find a kind young friend who will sell, even for half an hour.

Curio Corner has brought in a lot of money for us during the year. We have special requests from collectors for some rather odd things; hat pins, tie-pins, bouquet holders, small ornamental boxes, anything in ivory, mother-of-pearl, jade and amber. We are glad of anything old at all, in fact. Please hunt through your house, and see if you can find something for us.

Our circle of Florin Friends of the Strays is growing. We have enrolled 19 members, and would welcome more. It costs 2/- to join and receive full particulars.

## NORTH LONDON

We thank all those members who have responded to our appeal to place orders early for Christmas cards. During the past six weeks, orders have poured in, with the result that Miss Hutt, our Treasurer and the officer responsible for packing and posting may well, this year, have time for her own Christmas shopping. In the past, she has been busy sending out cards right up to the 20th December. We still have stocks of cards and we ask members who require them to order as soon as possible.

Yet again, we have taken into the Shelter a pure white cat, our eighth this year. We are grateful to Mrs. Gardner of Leigh on Sea, who has taken him into her home to act as companion to 'Arthur', one of our earlier white intake. Upon arrival of his new friend, Arthur greeted him like a long lost brother.

We have at the Shelter a brown cat, who, influenced by two snooty lilac point Siamese brothers, who have recently left us, claims to be Burmese. We, however, are not so sure of his parentage, but do know that he is a lovely animal.

Another little kitten of eight weeks who requires a home, cannot be quite so certain of its pedigree, being pure Siamese save for four little white paws. Mum, no doubt,

had had an affair with the ordinary Tom next door.

A young lady, who is a friend of our Branch, was walking home late one evening when she heard a paper bag rustling in the darkness. Upon investigating she found that in the bag were three adorable little tabbies of six weeks, dumped by some callous human. They are now with us and awaiting good homes.

Earlier this year, a poor young cat injured in a road dragged itself into a motor repair garage, one leg gone and in a dreadful state. Found in a dark corner by the mechanics, she was given love and attention and is now a happy three-legged pet of all the staff. It was in kitten at the time of the injury. The kittens have been found good homes and we have arranged to neuter two kittens and the mother, whose past sufferings are now receding from her memory.

May we ask members to grant us some indulgence and to bear with us if we cannot at all times oblige them. We receive calls from Clapham, Catford and all parts of London asking if we can send our Driver to collect a stray cat or a pet for neutering. Very often, the places are far outside the scope of our abilities and we cannot spare our own driver for the time it takes to drive such distances, even though the caller may be a member of the League.

One of our activities consists of helping pensioners and poor people to have their cats neutered or treated for sickness where they could not otherwise afford it. The people are asked to have the treatment carried out and to request the Vet. to send the account direct to us. When the account arrives, the members of our Committee frequently club together to pay, rather than draw on the meagre funds of the Branch. This system has been operating for several years, and, until recently, we had never once received a word of thanks from those we had helped. The exception, and the case which restored our faith in human beings was a little boy of 12 who had taken in a stray but could not afford the £3 10s. 0d. neutering fee. We helped him and received a wonderful letter of appreciation and £1 0s. 0d. which he had saved, with a promise of more when he had saved it.

We again remind you of our Christmas Bazaar on the 29th November at the Hall of the Holloway Baptist Church in Holloway Road, N.7. We would be very grateful for goods for sale. At the moment, our cupboards are bare.

# A Happy Xmas

## NOTTINGHAM:

Since we were last in print we have received ten guineas being our half of the proceeds from the Wig Party and Coffee Evening held on behalf of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and ourselves. It was a very pleasant evening (our hostess, who is now a member of the C.P.L., had put in a lot of hard work and also her helpers) and seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended.

Another piece of good news is that we have learnt that we are beneficiaries under the Will of a Nottingham lady who died early this year and left us a legacy of £100.

We need hardly say that all this money will be put to very good use.

The "stray" population at Nottingham University, through the efforts of one of our members who works there, seems to be getting a little more under control.

Recently this same member was going home to lunch, along a main busy road, one day when she saw walking along in front of her two ladies, who stopped and looked into a clump of bushes and trees and then walked on. As she reached the same spot she heard a faint cry but walked on, being anxious not to miss her bus. However, as another faint cry followed her she retraced her steps as she thought it must be a baby's cry, the sound being too feeble for a kitten. Nevertheless, on peering into the undergrowth she found a dear little marmalade and white kitten, too weary to do anything but hold up its head and cry for help. She managed to gather it up, and took it home and nursed it back to life. After putting out the usual enquiries amongst the houses in the vicinity and through the R.S.P.C.A. and P.D.S.A. — all to no avail, she took it along to her Vet for a check up etc. and through this has found it a very good home.

(Until this happened its new owners were unaware of our existence — we hope that we shall have recruited another two members).

Another dear little "waif and stray" which has obviously been ill-treated as it had its tail broken in two places is being cared for by one of our members and is to be speyed and found a good home when the time comes.

## MANCHESTER

May I, at the very outset, express on behalf of my Chairman and Committee, sincere thanks to Mr. Steward and colleagues for the excellent co-operation they have given to this branch since the last publication of *The Cat* appeared.

Colleagues in Manchester are striving most conscientiously to bring succour within reach of many turned adrift and unwanted

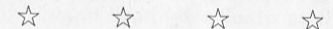
cats and kittens. At present we have 12 adult cats and numerous kittens all awaiting good homes. From May until the end of August one encounters many difficulties in the finding of good homes due to the holiday season. People are most reluctant to accept a friendless cat or kitten in their homes until after the holiday period has expired. This obviously means that those who strive to see to the welfare of these unfortunate creatures have many mouths to feed as well as seeing to their comforts. I am sure that most subscribers to Headquarters and Branches throughout the country do possess a feline companion and they will be fully aware of the cost involved with regard to purchasing food, etc. To those who have found joy and inspiration from one feline friend can well imagine the cost involved to feed 20 or more hungry mouths. Needless to say we are striving to do this and sustaining a debit each month. It is my intention to try and overcome this monthly deficit and this can only be achieved through financial support from those who love and have great respect for one of man's best friends — THE CAT.

Many cases of neglect and suspected cruelty are reported to me through my office and every allegation is investigated and often this necessitates having to remove cats and often kittens from the people concerned.

Needless to say they readily hand over the animals in question because they have no further interest in their pets and are only too glad "to be rid of same." Wherever possible colleagues and myself endeavour to place these deserted animals in approved homes and it is a joy to behold when one sees a turned adrift animal accepted into a home where the people extend a joyous welcome to devoted cat or kitten who would otherwise have had to receive a humane passing.

Money, Money, Money, is the constant cry and I do assure all your readers that my appeal is genuine and whilst I do not wish to encroach upon the territories of other Branches I would be most grateful for any contribution great or small from those who are in a position to help the Manchester Branch to purchase food and milk for the numerous destitute cats and kittens in our care.

Renewed thanks to Mr. Steward for his excellent co-operation and my very sincere best wishes to the staff at Headquarters as well as those voluntarily involved in this work in all Branches throughout the British Isles. For the sake of all the destitute cats and kittens that come under your control may I wish you continued success.





## SUSSEX

We are very busy preparing for our Christmas Bazaar at the end of October. Parcels of goods for the stalls are arriving and there is sorting and pricing to be done and "thank you" letters to be written, and all this apart from the usual routine work.

Like Mrs. Walledge of the Edmonton Branch - I am tired of having kittens dumped inside my door. Fortunately we have a vet who is always willing to collect and take them up to our Shelter which is five miles or more from here. I found the last little lot in a cardboard box - at least, two were in the box and the third had scrambled out and was wandering around looking very bewildered. Such a pretty little trio and so tiny, not more than six weeks old and really shouldn't have left their mother.

I am glad to say that on the whole we have not been asked to find homes for quite so many kittens this summer. I hear from the Bexhill Cat Club that it is the same with them, and the P.D.S.A. have not had so many brought in to be destroyed, and so it does seem as if our policy of helping people to have their cats spayed is beginning to have effect.

Ever since our Shelter has been opened again, after being closed because of enteritis, it has been full up with stray cats and kittens, but I am glad to say that now the Autumn is here we have had more offers of homes for them.

It is surprising what a small space a cat can manage to get through. Mrs. Banks went to feed them one morning and found that one was missing. She couldn't think how it could have escaped until she found a tiny hole where the wire netting had come away from the post, but puss had found it and gone. About two weeks later she was walking out of the lane and a very thin black cat jumped out of the hedge and followed her. He was returned to the Shelter where he settled down quite happily and seemed glad to be back.

At one Coffee Evening in August we broke all records with our takings which amounted to £37 11s. 4d. Our thanks to Mrs. Lickley and Mrs. Squires who acted as hostesses, to all those who helped on the stalls and with raffles, etc., and our many members who came along and brought foods to fill the Bring and Buy stall. The proceeds went towards the upkeep of our Shelter where the repairs are now under way.

## ULSTER

I should like to start by expressing sympathy to Mrs. McBride on the death of her husband. Mr. & Mrs. McBride have been generous supporters of the Ulster Branch and the Ballots which they have organized raised

large sums of money for our funds. Our sympathy also goes out to our energetic Welfare organizer, Miss Lorna Gulston whose father died suddenly during the summer.

Next I want to thank most sincerely the many, many friends who, horrified by the tragedy of Ulster, have sent most generous gifts to help us cope with the inevitable influx of stray and homeless cats. I have acknowledged these where possible, but some were anonymous and others requested that no receipt be sent. So now, to all, may I say just "Thank You". You must be a bit tired hearing about Ulster but may I briefly for the benefit of those who are interested, explain that over and above the extra strays coming into the Shelter we have temporarily housed many cats for people who have lost their homes or been ordered out. I can't tell you how many times we have blessed "Cassius" for that splendid wooden hut with surrounding run. I think it must have been ordained for just such a time as this. We are indeed grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Smyth who presented it to the Ulster Branch in memory of their pet.

We are finding fund-raising rather difficult these days as, quite rightly of course, a vast amount of money and practical help is being directed to innocent human victims of the riots. We held a couple of White Elephant Sales recently but they were not well supported. This is not surprising, of course, when you realize that Cliftonpark Avenue is on the edge of the riot area and many of our former "customers" lived in the streets which were in the forefront of the fighting. Miss Gulston and Miss Kent tackled their 21 mile walk on a sunny September Saturday. They survived the experience and were still smiling when I picked them up in Larne at 8 p.m., though a few blisters told a tale. Up to now I think about £30 was subscribed by well-wishers (one even added the price of a little liquid refreshment at the end). The "lady walkers" as one member described them, thank you all and feel the blisters were worth the effort.

A letter to the local Press, pointing out the plight of cats abandoned because of the riots brought an unexpectedly generous response and what is even more valued, offers of homes. Many cats, with us for quite a long period, have been rehabilitated. It means a lot of work for our two Welfare organisers as homes, offered on impulse, have to be carefully vetted. The majority of the homes were offered by people who do not belong to the League, but some have now joined and we welcome them warmly. So finally I'd like to send, from all of us in the Ulster Branch, our best Christmas wishes to our friends everywhere.

## WEST CORNWALL

At the close of an eventful Summer we are able to take stock. A bazaar needing replenishing, Amber's memorial garden due for weeding and an overflowing cattery. Why is it that when we have so many really beautiful cats needing good homes would be adopters cannot make up their minds which one to choose and leave without a new pet? We spend hours of precious time assisting visitors to select a cat and although we usually have twenty five eager little felines waiting they are spurned because they are not quite the right colour or not fluffy enough. However always optimistic we believe the genuine cat lovers will eventually arrive and ease the situation. We have put down so many unwanted kittens this year. As usual we keep mother cats and have them spayed as it saves much worry and time if we know that cats in new homes will not reproduce.

The bazaar has done very well this year, and attracted some delighted well wishers. Your parcels have been arriving regularly and we are most grateful for the kind thoughts and generous gifts. One lady recently sent us a large box of wonderful Victorian clothes and bits and pieces which we hope to include in an exhibition of period clothes etc. when we have enough articles. We are gradually obtaining a worthwhile collection which will help to make funds. Musical instruments

## IN MEMORIAM

In ever loving and devoted memory of our darling GEORGINA (GEORGE) T.W.4646 who fell asleep, after nearly 3 years of love and constant companionship, on 15th August, 1969. She will be loved and remembered always by her Aunties, Edith and Winnie.

Remembering BEE-BEE (1950-1965) and all the other pussies who have given me companionship and delight since pre-1900 (Mrs. Brown" 1898 was the first). My thanks and love to them all. F. G. Sansom.

Always thinking of our darling "TINKER" who died on October 29th, 1954, aged 17½ years also our beloved little "SMUDGIE" who died on August 4th, 1966, aged 13 years, as well as all our other much loved pets who have departed this life. Eric and Alsa Martyr.

are selling well, an anonymous parcel of two piccolos caused much excitement and an old musical box is to be used for visitors to "pay for a tune". In this way we can preserve our treasures, give more pleasure, and raise funds. A place like Cathlowena needs a barrel organ for open days, and we are still hoping to discover one in someone's shed . . . . .

Amber's garden has been a blaze of colour and the wall is becoming lined with pebbles. Still plenty of room if you wish to have your pet remembered on a Cornish pebble. A donation to the feline O.A.P.'s and the particulars will secure this. King Corineus' Trough is very full and we aim to collect the coins from the water for Christmas, this should help us to entertain the Cathlowena animals with their usual Christmas party. We did not have any Christmas cards printed this year, but our lovely prints of Cathlowena would make attractive calendars with very little work, and with a handwritten message on the back could be used for original and very personal greeting cards, at 3/6 each this would solve quite a few gift problems too. We have had some photos printed of the stray catteries at 2/- each. They would make nice postcards.

We shall be thinking of you all at Christmas and we all send our kind wishes and hope you have a happy time. Loving thoughts to cats everywhere.

In memory of my precious little TABITHA PRIESTLEY who had to be put to sleep on August 30th, when only about four years old. S.P.

In ever loving memory of our very own BABY TWEENS who passed over on Sept. 21st., 1968: also our very dearest BOY who passed over Dec., 1st., 1967; Both aged 10 years 9½ months. Our most heartfelt thanks for all the love they gave us. Forever in our hearts. Mr. and Mrs. W. F. H.

"SUTI" died 21st September 1969 aged 20 years - In grateful memory of a happy life. D.M.M.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

NEXT ISSUE JAN. 1970

## SAMBO THE INSTANT CAT

He arrived at three months, via a friend who brought him in his overcoat on the London Underground, and left him at my husband's place of work. I collected this little black and white kitten and brought him to his first residence—a London flat with a public garden. We wondered how he would settle as rumour had it that he was born on a golf course; however, the garden seemed to his liking and after taking him out on a harness and getting mixed up with trees, we let him go on his own, and the farthest part of the garden across a road was the place he liked the most for all pussy necessities. The only difficulty with such a rambling garden was getting him in at night, as we would not risk letting him stay out after dark in London streets or gardens, so he was rounded up at dusk. To compensate for the loss of night frolics we played with him indoors, where he would tear up and down long corridors and a curious habit was formed of sitting in a large carrier bag while I dragged him round the corridors in it and this he thoroughly enjoyed.

It took little time to discover that we were his servants and instant attention was demanded where food was concerned. He commanded us to rub his tummy by pushing our hand down his chin to the lower portions.

After a year we moved to Windsor where the job gave us another flat overlooking a busy road, which gave us many qualms; however, we acquired a roof garden, down which he could obtain access to other gardens at the rear. At first Sam would go across the road to fields the other side and I carried him back

### The Story of a little stray cat.

For weeks my sister had been feeding a small black cat. It was always very hungry and thirsty, altho it was given three or four saucers of milk and food (fish & meat) each day.

One morning to our great surprise, as we had thought it to be a very young cat, she presented us at the back door of the house, a very lovely fat black kitten. This was not all, sensing that the kitten had been accepted by us, the next day she brought three more, making four in all two black and white, two black. These four fat kittens had been well cared for, she had looked after them well. Now we understood the amount of food and drink the small cat ate and drank, she was, unknown to us, feeding these kittens in a shed at the bottom of our garden. It is a joy to

in a basket to safety many times. After coming home very dirty and oily one day he was not seen over there again, I suspect he learnt of the dangers the hard way.

Life at Windsor was no doubt more interesting than London, having water rats near the Thames, but these also were a menace, as he was badly bitten on the back, causing an abscess which required the Vet. Then he was poisoned by eating a rat which had been taken warfaring, the Vet thought, and very nearly died. He was too weak to get on or off his low chair but by feeding him forcibly with soft food we managed to pull him through.

During our stay at Windsor we took Sam caravanning many times and he was very patient and travelled pretty well, I never let him go free while away for fear of losing him, but on a lead he walked round strange fields and woods with me and seemed content to lie up all day if I took him for about an hour each night. He caught mice while on the lead and even pounced on them when tethered just outside the caravan in daylight. The most difficult walk by night was on a farm in Kent, with battery hens, as I couldn't tear him away from the outside of the houses, and the birds kept waking up and chirping!

After eight years of flat and caravan dwelling he is now with us in a house and garden in Devon, and life is undoubtedly much calmer for our ten year old puss. He's getting portly and sleeps a great deal though is still game for a rough and tumble at bed time, and the nearby churchyard provides excellent sport with succulent Devon mice!

He is a great companion, but with a strong voice, still demands instant attention.

see these lovely kittens and their mother drinking and eating together. Now they are old enough to feed themselves she has brought them out to do so. Miss B. Corke.

I think the Neutering Programme is wonderful and very much needed. I visited a friend a few weeks ago. While we were in the garden her neighbour came to talk to us and told us about her daughter's cat which had just had its 104th kitten, an event of great pride to this person. I asked what became of the kittens. "Oh, some we gave away, the rest we drowned". I was told. I suggested spaying for the cat but was told that it was cruel! I just can't understand the mentality of such people. It is people like this who help to increase the vast army of strays and unwanted cats. B.R.

"Jandy" (a much travelled cat).

He was born and lived the first few years of his life in Wiltshire. Then we moved to a country cottage in Dorset for five years where he became a great hunter catching rabbits, mice, rats and even a stoat. Here he lost several of his nine lives, being rescued from a rabbit snare and dodging heavy army vehicles, crossing the road to catch water voles in the village stream.

We then took him to live in Somerset where he had to adapt himself to a small garden. He was taken on all our holidays to relations and friends and to our caravan. There, one Christmas he got out of a very small window and found his way to the farmhouse where we were attending a party, stalking into the middle of a group, which included several farm dogs, quite unafraid and sure of his welcome.

During the middle ten years of his life his companion was our little black schipperkee dog "Ricky" whom he treated like a kitten at first, washing her face, etc. He always brought Ricky the first of his catch of baby rabbits, cleaning up after him burying the entrails, etc. and then going off to catch another for himself.

### MISTY

A few years ago I looked after a lovely big grey cat, whose home at that time was at Southwold, Suffolk. His Mistress is an artist, and used to paint in different places, with a group of friends, and sometimes abroad. During this time I lived in her house, and took care of Misty and he and I became great friends. In the evening, when his supper time arrived I used to call him from the back door, and "clash the cymbals", otherwise make a noise with the saucepan that held his fish. He was usually quite near and came at once, but just occasionally he would have a tiresome attack and be very late, and I could not go and look for him, as I had no idea which way he had gone. One night he did not appear and it was 2.30 a.m. when I heard him come in. He may, of course, have been tree-d by a dog, some distance away, and when he came back he was very tired and hungry. I gave him his supper, and put him to bed, but he knew I was not pleased at his being so late. The next morning I had a talk with him—"Misty"

Jandy obviously felt safe from other cats when Ricky was there. We once saved a blackbird uninjured from him and later when Jandy was immobile from a rat bite, the blackbird tormented him, flying down and chattering at him as he lay on the lawn.

He would join our afternoon tea-parties, sitting on the arm of the settee and helping himself to a fancy cake and eating it out of the paper frill quite daintily, leaving no crumbs or mess.

We then took him to live in the Lake District for the last five years of his life, where he became well known and loved by all.

He had the easiest death we could give him when his kidney disease became serious and he could no longer eat, being given a tranquilliser (which the vet commended me for as a very good idea) so he was fast asleep when given the final injection.

Jandy of course was fed on the best we could get in the post-war years, he loved the top of the milk, which shocked most non cat lovers.

As St. John says, if I were to write all his adventures and many intelligent acts, the world itself could not contain all the books I could write! Miss L. Tetsill.

Miss Dorothy Godwin Foster.

**ANIMALS' FAIR 1969**  
**NOVEMBER 21st & 22nd - HORTICULTURAL**  
**OLD HALL, VINCENT SQUARE, S.W.1.**

— HAPPY XMAS —



## MEMBERS CORNER

### CATS' COLLARS

Tailwaver 4716 declines to wear Mrs. Collier's collars, and, on that account denies himself an outing in our parks!

Can you suggest a remedy to this dilemma, please? Nelson bites through the collars, and is thus free to roam as, indeed, a wild animal should and perhaps meet an early demise, no collar, no identification either!

Is there any member of the C.P.L. in our city, to whom I could appeal for help, please?  
Cyril E. King

THE CAT is sent to me every month by a kind friend in England and I have noticed that "Used stamps, British, Foreign and commemorative" are wanted by you. I am sending the enclosed to you hoping they will be of use to you in gaining funds for your very worthy efforts on behalf of THE CAT. Mrs. N. E. Harris, The Island Club, Nassau, Bahamas.

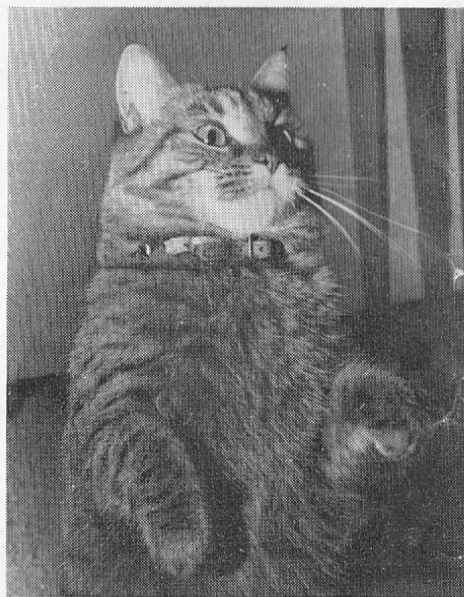
Thank you also for your willingness to put a notice in "The Cat" re: my neighbour's pet, but I am delighted to tell you she has got her "Smut" back. A short time ago I heard my name being called and went to the window and there she was with the cat in her arms. Six weeks I think it was she said he had been gone, and he was found some distance from this road, near a hotel, no doubt he was chased by a dog and panicked and lost his way or else somebody *did* steal him, hoping to keep him.

I do hope she will be able to make him happy and keep him. I think he must have been shut up for a time because Mrs. Fox has been up for a walk that way with her dog, calling it because I told her a friend of mine had said she had seen a black and white cat about there, but *she* had been told it belonged to the road.

Cat lovers will find something to please them in . . . THE QUIET WAYS, a book of poems by GEORGE F. TULL, recently published by The Mitre Press, London, 12/6d. Obtainable from local book-sellers.

### TAUNTON'S OLDEST CAT?

Tigger is the human equivalent of 147 years of age. The feline king of Greenway Crescent, Taunton, celebrated his 21st birthday on Sunday with the suave dignity expected of a senior citizen of his years - and an extra helping of rabbit.



### GINGER MONCKTON

(ref. page 77 Oct./Nov.)

Born at Burnham-on-Sea in the days of the ration book, he was found wandering by Mr. Cecil Hitchcock, of 49, Greenway Crescent, and enticed from his wild way of life with chunks of raw meat.

In his youth, Tigger was an adventurous, swashbuckling cat who chased rabbits, got stuck in disused pipes and played in the snow.

Now, with the equivalent of 147 human years behind him, he is content to spend his days in idle retirement - and in anticipation of next year's birthday treat. Has any Taunton reader an older cat?

*Somerset County Gazette* 29/8/69

Luxury Cats' Hotel. Heard on BBC and seen on T.V. Four miles Torquay, heavenly view, large garden. Retired couple require well educated partner's to share home and care for cats.

Brochure from Mr. Millicent Grover, Torbay Cats' Hotel, Watcombe, Torquay, S. Devon. Tel: Torquay 37728.

## MEMBERS CORNER—contd.

Please accept the enclosed as a donation from my wife and me.

This part of the year brings back memories of holidays of the past and Sweet Twiddles stay at the Cattery and what performances we have had.

As Twiddles realised it was near to Holidays she would spend more time in the garden and the night we took her to the Cattery she would object strongly to going in the basket, and two grown up people would be near to tears having to put her in the basket and feeling guilty about going away. After taking as long as possible to take her and then going to bed without her in the house made us more guilty than ever. Holiday would not pass quickly enough for us so that I could race to the Cattery to get her back home, set her down in the house, and making such a din in all the rooms and gardens, and after about 2 hours she would come in and settle down and then continue to purr for hours.

We knew then that we were altogether and that home was home. Mr. and Mrs. M.

We had a Jumble shop recently, where we made £5 5s. 0d. The shop was in aid of the C.P.L. and R.S.P.C.A. so the money has to be split into two, so that £2 12s. 6d. goes to each Charity. We hope this will help. Susan Nash, Grahame Burt, Joanna Nicholls, Ian Cope, Hazel Williams and Kevin Cope.

I enclose a cheque for the neutering fund, in memory of my cat Pompey who had to be put to sleep recently. F.S.

### KITTEN LEFT TO DIE GETS A TOP JOB

Phili the tortoiseshell kitten was hurled into a stream with her legs lashed together with wire. But nine week old Phili was fished out - more dead than alive - and taken to a nearby factory at Monkhill, Pontefract, Yorks.

And suddenly the unwanted kitten that was left to die found a new and cosy life.

Factory boss Norman Slater signed on little Phili as apprentice mouse catcher.

### ORDEAL

He said yesterday: "Few kittens could have gone through such an ordeal. Our nursing sister bandaged her cut legs. Now Phili has a job for life."

"She has captured the hearts of everyone at the factory."

Phili will go home with Mr. Slater in his car each evening until she is a little older.

Then she will live at the factory - as a fully-fledged mouse catcher. *Daily Mirror* 23/8/69.

I have just found a copy of "The Cat" for May 1956, with his photograph on the cover, and an extract from a letter of mine on the next page. I notice that Tabby was said to be 4½ years old in 1956, but my friends seems to think that he must have been nearer 19 years old when he died.

Tabby was a quiet character who had been a wonderful companion for many years, and I miss him dreadfully. After enjoying excellent health for most of his life, he developed a lump on his side and had some trouble with his teeth and ears, but he did not appear to suffer any pain.

Our kind Vet kept an eye on Tabby during the last few months, but hesitated about putting him to sleep until it was absolutely necessary, when he had difficulty in walking, and had to eat and drink only a little in a more or less lying down position. Even on his last evening with us, Tabby purred loudly at our approach and enjoyed being shown affection.

I only wish that so many poor cats could have received the loving care that was given to Tabby. One is appalled to hear and read of so much suffering among cats and dogs.

J. S. Jones

### OF CATS AND MEN

Sir Winston Churchill, walking round his Chartwell home, commented: "Dogs look up to men, cats look down on men but pigs just treat us as equals."

One wonders what Mrs. A. L. Kaye's cat, Hattie, (Sept. 3), thinks of her!

E. L. Tomkinson, Group Capt., Egerton, Kent. *Daily Telegraph* 22/9/69

Classified advertisement in a local paper: "To the person who dumped a cat at the Campbell farm recently - Your kittens are ready!" *Reader's Digest* Jan. 1969.

25th of July, 1969 *Herts. Pictorial*.

### THE RECTOR, A CAT, AND THE CHURCH FUND.

One of the latest donations to William Church's £2,000 tower restoration fund has come as the result of a St. Swithin's day visitor to the grounds of William Rectory - a half-grown ginger and white cat.

The cat was found by the Rector, the Rev. Robert Blakiston, and taken by him into the Rectory and looked after for a few days. Then, last Friday, he learnt that a family in Springshott had lost their cat.

Mr. Blakiston visited them, found it was their cat he had, and, at the weekend, received a donation to the fund "from Rusco" - the cat itself.

**"CAT REMEMBERED THE CURATE".**

Sir - In spite of what naturalists may say I have found that cats most certainly have memories, not to mention reasoning powers. But then all our cats have been considered part of the family and treated as sensible creatures to be made much of and talked to.

For example we had a pedigree blue Persian cat called Peter, a great favourite of one of my father's curates, who usually came to supper on Sundays. My mother would not allow our pets to be fed at table (consequently they never begged for food when we ere eating) but unknown to her, this curate would drop tit-bits to Peter, who sat under the table close to his legs.

Every Sunday at 7.30 p.m. Peter would take up a strategic position in the hall, facing the front door, on watch for his friend, whom he would follow into the dining room. In the 1914 War the curate became a Chaplain-to-the-Forces and no longer came to supper.

After the first Sunday Peter gave up waiting in the hall and he was not seen at supper time until the curate came on leave some months later. Peter duly noted his return and the very first Sunday was back in his old place in the hall. When the curate went back to his regiment Peter no longer came to supper until after the war, when the old routine began again.

That great animal lover "Elephant Bill" once told me that the secret of developing the intelligence of any animal, be it elephant, cat or dog, was to love it and talk to it as much as possible, no matter what one said.

An animal who was not talked to was usually stupid, in his experience, just as a child would be who was not talked to. How right he was I have found by experience. Dorothea St. Hill Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.



**TOES GIVES HIMSELF UP**

Toes, the ginger cat with eight extra toes, decided that he was tired of going it alone.

So after two months of freedom he gave himself up to a likely animal lover and from there found his way home.

Two year old Rebecca Sampson and year old sister Helena were overjoyed when they awoke to see Toes strolling into the room.

Toes has lived at Middle Hill Lodge, Ralph Allen Drive, Bath with them for three years, since he was 11 weeks old.

But at the beginning of August the Sampson family returned from their holiday to find that their cat had fled - on his 24 toes - from the friends' house where he had been staying.

And nobody had seen him since.

"He hasn't been roughing it," said Mr. Richard Sampson, "He looks very fit."

Toes is a good hunter and can look after himself, but he decided he wanted human company. *Sunday Chronicle.*

**CAT-DUMPERS LEAVE A TRAIL OF TRAGEDY . . . .**

During the past few years, Mrs. B. E. Scarratt has found homes for dozens of kittens and provided food for many others - dumped by their heartless owners to fend for themselves.

**HOMES URGENTLY WANTED**

Beautiful assorted cats (all neutered/spayed) and five kitten (neutering in hand) looking for good homes. Please apply:- Mr. Fea, "Heron View", Wyke, Gillingham, Dorset. 'Phone Gillingham 298.

Assorted cats (small kind) one white and two black long furred kittens, gentle dispositions. Un-neutered. Good homes urgently wanted. Apply: Mr. Baker, "River View", West Stour, Gillingham, Dorset. (no telephone).

also

Home urgently wanted for abandoned young male cat (black and white) now on the streets in Chelsea area. His feeder would arrange to get him neutered before placing him with prospective owner.

(1) Young black and white male cat (homeless since a kitten - probably abandoned). Will be neutered before placing in home. Understanding adult owner essential.

(2) Lovely tiger-striped tabby female kitten rejected after insecure adoption. Will be spayed at appropriate age. Adult owners preferred.

Details from: Miss Gavin, 18 Parthenia Road, Fulham, S.W.6. Tel: REN 1528 before 10 a.m. or between 6 and 7 p.m.

**BIRMINGHAM: \***

Miss J. P. Scriven, 83, Cranbrook Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 21.

**BOURNEMOUTH:**

Miss A. Sydenham, 59, King's Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

**CANTERBURY: Affiliated to C.P.L.: \***

Miss M. W. Paine, 37, Beverley Road, Canterbury, Kent.

**CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT: \***

Mrs. J. Middlemiss, 112, Watchouse Road, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex.

**COVENTRY: \***

Mrs. P. Skinner, 3, Ridgeway Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.

**DERBY and DISTRICT:**

Mrs. M. A. Norton, 24, Sevenoaks Avenue, Mackworth Estate, Derby.

**DOVER:**

Mrs. M. Smalley, 46, Alder Road, Folkestone, Kent.

**DUBLIN:**

Mrs. S. Connolly, 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 Gawsworth Avenue, East Didsbury, Manchester 20.

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**NORTH LONDON: \***

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Miss M. J. Marriott, Risewood, Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Notts., NG12 5HZ.

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**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.

**LAST - MINUTE BRANCH REPORTS HAVE AGAIN CREATED EDITORIAL PROBLEMS MY APOLOGIES FOR OMISSIONS**