

## SHOP WINDOW



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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. Jives, 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.**

**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"**

## The 43rd Annual Report

**IS COMBINED IN THIS ISSUE**

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

# THE CAT

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



**AND**

**FORTY THIRD**

## ANNUAL REPORT

**(Jan. 1st - Dec. 31st)**

**1969**

**COMBINED**



"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.*

**JULY/AUGUST 1970**

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY - FIRST OF THE MONTH

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

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

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

Registered National Charity No. 203644

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

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(all above include magazine)		

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

ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

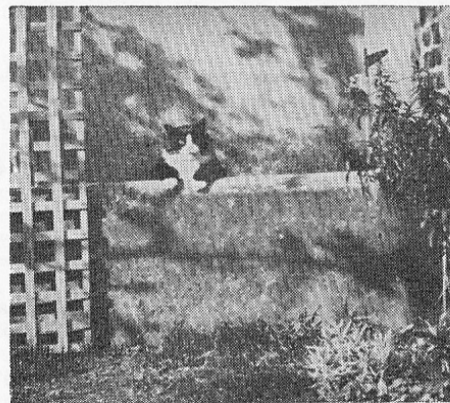
Notification of change of address.

Linen and blanket pieces, for use in the Clinic

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

Used stamps, British Foreign and commemorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.



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.

As you will see the Report and Income and Expenditure Account for 1969 is combined with the current issue of The Cat. This follows the innovation of last year which was remarkably successful. It ensured that all who were entitled to a Report got one and effected a considerable saving in printing, postage and office work. Economy in this direction allows for expenditure in the field of rescue.

STAMPS. In the past twelve months the sale of cancelled/used British stamps has added about £50 to the League's funds and Miss Cozens contribution from the sale of foreign and other stamps totalled £150/16/9d.

Some of the stamps we receive are wasted either because they have been torn during the process of peeling them from the envelopes or cut or torn too close, not leaving sufficient paper edging around the stamps.

PLEASE look carefully at the illustration on page 68 this shows the minimum amount of paper that should be left around the stamp. The people to whom we sell the stamps prefer this way and definitely not "peeled".

KITTENS—GOOD HOMES SERVICE. We have already had a spate of newspaper cuttings enquiries etc., in connection with the above. This is a repeat of last year's advertising project by the same people. The scheme came into active operation about two or three years ago. It is controlled from a London office and sponsored by one of the Pet Food manufacturers who admit it is a commercial enterprise but with a humanitarian object.

THE OBJECT is to counter the destruction of kittens born during the period when home finding is a big problem to many of the owners of thousands of female cats.

THE MEDIUM through which homes are found is Pet Shops or stores where cat foods are obtainable and the advertisement guarantees good homes.

IMPRESSIVE CLAIMS regarding the number of kittens placed in good homes are bound to find favour in the eyes of those whose motto is "homes at any cost". We at C.P.L. headquarters are all for home finding but with the very essential assurance that the homes are really good to our way of thinking. To qualify for a kitten from us the prospective owners must do much more than signify on a slip of paper that they will give a kitten a good home.

They would not only have to believe in neutering but agree to have the operation done at the right time. There is, in fact, a questionnaire which has to be completed satisfactorily before a cat or kitten is passed on by us to a new home.

WE ARE CONCERNED about any scheme for placing kittens in good homes where neutering is not a condition and where no advice on feeding and general care is given at the time of purchase or handing over the cat or kitten to its new owner. We have stressed these points in correspondence with the organizers and sponsors and if our suggestions have not yet been adopted, we hope they will.

Naturally it is to the advantage of manufacturers to encourage a demand for their foods but without conditions or advice they will also encourage the over production of kittens and aggravate the stray and unwanted cat problem which we are trying so desperately to solve.

THE "ASTON" MEMORIAL HOME. We had hoped to be able to give the official opening date of our Isle of Wight Memorial Home using the new name by which it will be known. The development is progressing satisfactorily although somewhat slower than we would have wished. The re-housing of the old age pensioners cats will shortly be a fait accompli and all three new buildings should be erected before the next issue of our magazine. Fitting out the second Cat House and Clinic Building will be completed as soon as possible leaving only the tidying up before the grand occasion which we expect to take place well before the Autumn.  
Albert A. Steward, Editor & General Sec.

## 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

How time flies! Birmingham Branch has now been in existence for two years, and on May 19th we held our second Annual General Meeting. The evening was most successful, and we enjoyed meeting and talking with over 30 of our members and their friends. A Bring & Buy Sale prior to the business of the evening brought just over £10 for our Branch Funds.

Looking back over the year, our Annual Report showed that during 1969 we rescued 138 cats and kittens, placed 121 in good homes, mainly through advertising in the "Birmingham Mail" and "Erdington & Sutton News". All homes were vetted, and a follow up visit or telephone call was made later. All adopters were asked to sign the official Agreement form, supplied by Headquarters, to say they would have their kittens neutered when old enough. Older cats were neutered before they were placed. Eleven cats had to be put to sleep, mainly with incurable diseases, or because their condition was too poor for Veterinary treatment to save them. Three kittens died of exposure, having been found abandoned, one before, and two after treatment.

Over 200 cats and kittens received Veterinary treatment, including immunisation against feline enteritis, for those we had to board.

118 cats were neutered or spayed.

Nine lost cats were traced, although some were found dead, having been involved in accidents, mainly because they had been left out at night. Advice was given on many aspects of Cat Welfare.

Our Branch Membership rose from 78 to 143 by the end of the year.

Fund raising activities during 1969 included: Four Jumble Sales; three Bring & Buy Sales; one Dance and two stalls at the Animal Fayre at Birmingham Town Hall. Members, readers of "The Cat", H.Q., and friends supplied us with gifts to sell, knitted cat blankets, collected Jumble, and saved postage stamps, which have been sent to Headquarters. Our thanks to all who have given their support.

Our Financial Report was heartening, although, as our Treasurer pointed out we still have far to go if our work is to expand. A copy of our Financial Report will be sent to any Reader on request.

The Officers of the Committee were re-elected and we were fortunate enough to find two more Members willing to serve on the Committee. At the moment it is our Committee who tends to do all the active work, from Fund Raising to Rescuing, and we do wish our Members would give more PRACTICAL help, instead of leaving so much to be done by so few.

The highlight of our A.G.M. was an illustrated talk by one of our Veterinary Surgeons, Mr. Barry Griffiths, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. who chose as the subject of his talk; CATS & THEIR PARASITES. An enlightening, though rather disturbing aspect of cat welfare!

Our next venture is a Bring & Buy Sale at the home of Miss Snape at 30, Douay Road, Erdington.

Meanwhile, we are inundated with requests to find homes for kittens and unwanted expectant mums. Neutering continues wherever, and whenever possible. Our thanks to all those who sent donations to have a cat neutered. Happily a new quota of Vouchers arrived from Headquarters this morning, so we are hoping to visit all Pet Shops to ask them to issue leaflets to those buying kittens and to those bringing in kittens to sell, advising them of our Neutering Scheme.

#### CHELMSFORD

First we have some good news. At last we have been granted outline planning permission for our Shelter. The final plans will not come before our R.D.C. Planning Committee until mid-June, but at least we now know that it will exist. The great worry is that we need at least £400 to complete the Shelter as it is envisaged. So far, we have only enough money to pay for the main 'communal' shed and the concrete and wire netting (both very costly items) throughout the Shelter. We have a little

#### CHELMSFORD—continued

money towards each of the 9 special Mini-Shelters, but not enough to complete any of them. We will also be without electricity which we can't afford to have laid on, and there is no money left to pay for a fence to surround at least part of Mrs. Middlemiss's garden. We find this rather worrying as one of our greatest fears is that vandals would break in and release the cats—or worse.

We are trying to feel not too discouraged about us not having enough money. We know that it is now or never and we are very anxious to get the finances sorted out as quickly as possible so that we know just what we can do. It will be impossible to only part-build the Shelter to start with, because each and every one of the different units is an integral part of the Shelter as a whole. Please help us to make it complete and fully operative right from the start by donating something, however little, towards one of the following Mini-Shelters: 1. Nursery unit, for kittens. 2. Laying-in unit, for cats about to have kittens. 3. Maternity unit, for cats with kittens. 4. Awaiting neutering unit. 5. Convalescent unit. 6. Special care unit, for very timid cats. 7. Kitchen/store room unit. 8. The all-important Isolation unit. 9. Hospital unit.

We also should have No. 10, which is not a unit, but a Special Fund to pay for all the many miscellaneous items which we shall need and which are all extra to the cost of the actual buildings themselves. This will include feeding bowls, cat litter and trays, cat baskets (carrying) and cat baskets (sleeping), and the fibreglass kennels which will be part of the Isolation units.

We have a special form for you to complete if you would like to help found the Chelmsford Shelter, and your name (or your cats' name) will be recorded in the Shelter if you wish. We have been greatly touched by the gifts we have received in memory of much loved cats. For your interest, the Mini-Shelters so far most subscribed to are No. 4 and No. 6, and a lot of fat (greedy?) and contented cats have donated towards their less fortunate brothers' future by choosing No. 7! We shall have no problem whatever in filling all the buildings with our temporary cat guests just as soon as we 'open', but we may have difficulty in getting the cupboards in No. 7 filled, so please ask your cats to spare us a few tins to get us started!

Anyone donating to our Shelter is put on our special 'Friends/Fairies/Founders Mailing List' and will receive progress reports and news of our Shelter from time to time.

Our next big event is a Strawberry Fair

in early July. We had hoped to combine this with the Grand Opening of the Shelter, but it is not to be. However, perhaps some more good fairies will smile kindly upon us and we shall be able to combine opening day with our Autumn Fair. One good thing—if it should be a rainy day, we can all get in the Shelters with the cats instead of getting drenched and dripping outside in our plastic raincoats as is usual!

Good homes were found for 88 cats in March and April, and 79 cats were neutered.

#### DERBY AND DISTRICT

A big "thank you" to H.Q. for the allocation of vouchers which are a very great help indeed. Instead of the usual large number of abandoned kittens after Christmas, we were inundated with adult cats, some of these were most handsome long-haired creatures. For the first time since Derby Branch opened, the number of homes found for adult cats exceeds that of kittens; this is most encouraging. Judging by the paucity of kittens advertised in the local press we feel that the neutering and spaying project is being felt in this town—if only in a small way—though no doubt we will be eating our words in the next few months! As we go to press homes have been found for 45 adult cats this year, and we have issued 30 vouchers for spays. We have come up against a few cases of female cats, when, after having undergone anaesthetic for their operation, it has been found that they have already been spayed, no doubt other branches have met with this problem also. But really we cannot afford to take the risk of ever assuming a female cat has been spayed before taking action, and obviously the problem will arise again in the future. Our first kittens of the season were born on St. Patrick's Day, they and their mother, a lovely tortoiseshell, were cared for by one of our members, Mrs. Jean Gratton, and excellent homes were found for all, including the mother cat. Apart from these kittens, the numbers born in the future will be rigidly controlled. We held our second annual general meeting on Saturday afternoon, 9th May, run on similar lines to H.Q.'s A.G.M. which we think is a good example to follow.

Refreshments were handled expertly by our social secretary Miss Brenda Hayes. We are pleased to announce the election of our new President, Mrs. Clare Prince, whose wealth of experience and advice in cat care has been so very helpful to Derby. Plans were discussed for our forthcoming fund-raising efforts; we have jumble sales in June and September, and our Christmas Bazaar will be held in early December. We would like to take this opportunity to draw to the

## DERBY—continued

attention of members who did not attend the A.G.M. that items for sale at the bazaar are urgently required, sewing or knitting offers will be gratefully received—please, please—may we have your help in this direction. Our grateful thanks to the lady from Guernsey for her most generous donation during February, which we have allocated towards our shelter fund, to the lady from London who sent us a parcel of goods for re-sale, to Mrs. Betty Nilson who reserves a section of her shop window and sells small articles for Branch funds, and to Mr. K. Saunders, chartered accountant, who donates his services of auditing our accounts, and made up a balance sheet for 1969 for which we are most proud. In closing we would echo the words of the Birmingham Branch in their last report—"on with the neutering

## GLOSSOP

Many thanks to all friends old and new who sent donations in response to our 7th Birthday Appeal. The financial position is however still critical.

This is the worst period of the year for home finding. These northern industrial towns completely close down for a fortnight during the annual Wakes Holiday. Many cats are abandoned some in kitten, others with little families. As we already have thirty-one cats in our care, five of these each rearing a kitten and Tina who came in with four partly grown kittens, we do not know how we can possibly manage to take another. 2/6d. a day would pay for one until a home could be found.

One of our greatest worries is the danger of infection to cats boarded out in catteries. We need two more isolation kennels with runs. The last we bought cost £15 each but probably like everything else the price will now have gone up. Would any friend care to hold a little garden bring and buy sale or coffee morning and send us the proceeds towards one of these?

We thank all who sent parcels, coins, trading stamps etc. We are now collecting things suitable for Christmas presents for our Annual Market. Perhaps some one who grows lavender may care to make us some lavender bags. We hope to have a collector's corner with foreign and special issue stamps, coins, picture cards from tea packets etc.

Miss M. Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley, Nr. Stockport, Cheshire still collects Green Shield and S. and H. trading stamps for us. As postage is so heavy receipts will be sent only for complete books. I would be pleased to send a little collapsible collecting

box to any friend who would care to collect pre 1954 pennies and other coins for us.

## LEICESTER AND LOUGHBOROUGH

We are very pleased to report that we have been able to trace the youth who strangled a large friendly ginger cat with wire. The police and R.S.P.C.A. have the matter in hand, and we hope are going to prosecute in the near future. The pet's unhappy but grateful owner has now become one of our new helpers because of Mrs. Gray's determined following-up of this animal's cruel treatment. The "hand-out" leaflets printed for us, free, by our friend at Nottingham are also gaining us a lot of publicity.

On a busy Saturday afternoon, recently, three cats had been injured by road vehicles in different parts of the city, and were left in the gutter to die. But three people who cared, phoned Mrs. Linwood-Wright, who picked them up, not caring that her new swede coat was going to be spoiled by the blood. She roused up relaxing Vets. who mended broken jaws and legs and stitched up torn skin and paws. Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Manger patiently nursed the little animals back to near health, squirting diluted baby food down the throat of the one with the broken jaw. Now, here's joy. On advertising in our local paper, three delighted owners came forward to claim these cats, and two have paid the Vets' bills. Mrs. Linwood-Wright also rescued a pretty long haired Persian-type grey kitten. It was being savaged by two large Alsatians, much to the great amusement of the dogs' owners. The kitten had been bitten and was shocked, but worst of all its neglected fur was matted into tight little balls, through being lost and neglected for so long. Our Vet. had to cut off most of its fur under anaesthetic, as even to touch the kitten caused it great pain from the tension of the skin.

Owing to a great wave of 'flu. amongst the cats with us, our Vets' bills are very big, but Mrs. Gray rallies us all round on our House-to-House Collection, for which we have obtained permission from the police to hold for six months. Anyone going for the first time, or is nervous, trots along with Mrs. Gray for the first few houses. Each of us receives a receipt for money collected in our individual boxes.

We are most grateful to all who have sent us used stamps, milk bottle tops, money and things for us to sell to help these little creatures in our care. We have a stall at Enderby Show on June 6th, and for the first time we are going to be allowed space at the Leicester Show on September 1st. So that I can be free to help fetch in gifts etc., Mrs. George is kindly helping me with the

## LEICESTER & LOUGHBOROUGH—continued

Secretarial work, as at the moment we are sending out raffle tickets, and hundreds of envelopes have to be written and stamped.

Manxie, our tail-less ginger mascot, once abandoned in a closed biscuit tin on the canal bank, and with only two teeth left in her mouth, always draws a sympathetic (and generous) crowd at our Shows, but to make her seen more clearly, we need a perspex cat-basket. If anyone has one to spare, we'd be more than grateful to receive it. One of our bugbears is the number of people who borrow our baskets and forget to return them.

## LONDON COMMITTEE

Our big Summer Fair was well-attended and I think that everyone enjoyed the afternoon. We had altered the arrangement in the hall, and it was generally agreed that we had improved it. Now we are asking for more stock, so that we can have more sales! I am afraid that we are insatiable.

On Saturday 19th September Countess Grudzinska will have the big Autumn Bazaar in Wimbledon. Offers of help will be welcome, and anything you can send to sell, please send direct to her:

Countess Grudzinska,  
48 Home Park Road,  
Wimbledon Park,  
London, S.W.19.

Saturday 24th October will be our Christmas Bazaar at the Cathedral Hall, Westminster, please make a note of this date, which is earlier than usual. We depend on your help.

Our special request this month is for a tea-caddy, if you happen to have one to spare, of any kind, please let us have it—and of course, any other old "bit" you can spare. Curio Corner is almost empty now, so please find us something. I am starting a new stall, called The-Cat-and-Mouse Stall. It is for anything which has a cat on it, or which would appeal to a cat, cat food, cat-blankets, cat-toys, (mice) baskets, or china or pottery cats. If you can send something to help to launch this, I will be very glad.

The Rescue Centre is full, very full indeed, cats are sharing pens, and small kittens seem to be everywhere. We have some pleasing varieties of torties this season, light and dark, and with white trimmings. We also have a fluffy black who seems to be possessed, he has fallen into his milk, bitten his poor mother's ears and whiskers, climbed too high and yelled for help till we thought the neighbours would panic, and upset a tray on which a dozen tempting dinners had been carefully laid out. I am sorry to say he has

been named "Sweetie-pie" before we really knew him. I have another name for him now! We also have some very good little cats, so if you should hear of any good little homes, please remember us.

## NORTH LONDON

We are now at the beginning of the period when callous humans, preparing for their holidays, are bringing to us pets to be humanely destroyed. No amount of persuasion by us, sometimes bordering on rudeness, will make them change their minds and if we refuse to destroy a fine healthy animal, we are told that the owner will abandon it some way from it's home. After the holidays, these same humans will frequently call offering a home for a cat—but will receive short shrift from us.

Miss Hutt, our worthy treasurer, is still in hospital. Despite 5 visits to the operating theatre in the last six months, she still comes up smiling and, between operations, works out our wages, P.A.Y.E. and other financial matters which are such a mystery to the rest of us.

We thank all those who braved the elements for us on Flag Day. Despite the very wet weather, the total taken was little less than last year, when the day was fine.

This year again, we have for sale our usual selection of attractive Christmas Cards. We have four varieties, one of a beautiful Siamese and all taken by the well known photographer, Mr. John Gay. Unfortunately, because of increased printing charges, the cost is 12s. 6d. per dozen including postage and packing.

Our next Jumble Sale is on Saturday October the 10th. This advance warning is given because we urgently need goods for sale, since we have more hungry mouths to feed than usual and because donations to our Branch dramatically dropped.

## NOTTINGHAM

I regret that we have not been "in print" in the last few issues. However, we have been quite busy with our neutering scheme and finding homes for the odd stray cat and kitten.

We were recently approached by Sir Oliver and Lady Welby to see if we could find a good home for an Abyssinian female cat of theirs which was having a very unhappy time as their other cats would not accept her. They were willing to pay for her to be spayed if it would ensure getting her the right type of home. We were very fortunate in being able to put them in touch with a local Abyssinian breeder who has had her herself. As she is such a very nice cat, and has settled in well with her others, she is

## NOTTINGHAM—continued

hoping to breed from her. Sir Oliver wrote a very nice letter expressing his thanks and gratitude for our help.

The following has been sent to me by one of our members who is a Veterinary Nurse:

"I met Tiddles (now named Toddles) for the first time when she was brought to our surgery by her owner, with one very dead right front leg, the claws on her other three paws were completely worn down, and all her pads were bleeding. She had been caught in a trap, managed to free herself and return home. Her owner was told she would either have to be put down or have her leg amputated. After all the effort she had made to free herself her owner decided she would let her have the operation. I made her up a nice warm pen, and we admitted her. Twenty-four hours after her op. she was as bright as a new button, her owner visited her, and then we let her go home. Everyone was upset except Tiddles—two days later she was back for a fresh dressing and a request for us to find her a good home as her owner was worried about keeping her. I said I would be delighted if she could join my family of four cats, but might I change her name to Toddles? Toddy thoroughly approved the change and has settled in well with my two Siamese and two Burmese. Toddles is a beautiful three year old Tortie and white short hair. When she walks she "toddles" along, runs like the wind and takes a wicked pleasure in chasing the others around the house and garden, and is very pleased that she was not put to sleep. I hope that she will live to a ripe old age".

On our stalls at the Notts. and Derbys Cat Show we took £15/15/3d. which was quite a good figure. The cards drawn and painted by one of our members were a great attraction.

## SUSSEX

The kittens are coming along, but seem to be late this year like everything else.

Our six babies who have been looked after by Miss Mark are now eight weeks old, and four have gone to homes. The other two are waiting. One gentleman took such a fancy to the little mother when he and his wife went to choose a kitten, that they took her as well, which is ideal from our point of view, and they have gone to a lovely home in the country.

A little stray kitten was taken up to Cat Haven, and we very soon found a home for that one. Now there are two young cats wanting homes; a black one, and a very

pretty nearly all white cat about five months old. She has a little black marking on her head and a little black and ginger on her tail, and has one green and one blue eye. She was a stray, and very thin and dirty, but she is now fat and clean and is no longer timid.

Unfortunately Mrs. Banks, who looks after the cats, has to go into hospital in the near future, and so we must not take in many cats for the time being.

On May 14th we held a Coffee Evening preceded by our Annual General Meeting. We made £24/16/0d. profit, and our thanks goes to Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Young who were our hostesses, and to all who helped with raffles etc.

## ULSTER

I am glad to report that at last the situation at the Shelter is getting back to normal with the arrival from England of Mr. and Mrs. Tredrea who now live in the Flat. At the moment our Staff consists of Mrs. Miller, (who continues to come in each day and is, I'm glad to say, rather better) assisted by Mrs. Tredrea and Mrs. Ann Jones. Since the departure of Mr. Wilson we've had a whole series of unsatisfactory kennel-men and have now decided that as far as looking after cats is concerned—it's a woman's world. (I except the two excellent male voluntary helpers and wish we had more like them).

Talking about voluntary helpers I'd like to revert to this subject which I touched on in the last issue of "The Cat". It may not be fully appreciated just how much we are indebted to the members who come along week after week to help in the Cattery. I've done a very rough estimate and if my arithmetic is correct, approximately 60 hours work is done in the week by voluntary helpers, or over 3,000 hours in a year. And I must hasten to add that this does not take into account the hours given to the money-raising functions, collecting and sorting jumble, baking for coffee-parties, much of which is done by the same people who do practical work in the Cattery. I feel we should, occasionally, take time to think on these lines and say "Thank You". If the hat fits, please wear it!

Now a message from Mrs. Wilson, our Stamp expert. She asks me to thank the many people who keep on sending stamps, but being a bit of an Oliver Twist, she wants more—and more. Stamps should not be peeled off the envelope but cut or torn off, leaving a narrow margin all round. Furthermore, if you are posting them, please could you send them to her direct rather than to Cliftonpark Avenue. Her address is:

## ULSTER—continued

"Athelford", 16 Quay Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. However if it is more convenient to leave the stamps at the Shelter or with me or any Committee member—don't worry. They get to Mrs. Wilson in the end.

Saturday, 7th November. Please note in your Diary for that is the date of our annual Sale of Work. It's not a bit too soon to start gathering up articles for the stalls. It's hard to go on raising a higher amount each year and this time I'm being a proper funk and not setting a target. Let's just do our best. Last year we made £350 all but a few pence.

It seems a long time since any mention was made of Collecting Boxes and perhaps not all members know that Mrs. Carson keeps us supplied with gay, attractive boxes into which odd coins can be popped from time to time. Lots of people are happy to have one and if the individual amounts are small the sum total is considerable. So if you have not a box and would like one—let me know. If you have a box which has not been opened recently—please could we have it soon.

So far I have said nothing about the cats but we are, of course, at the busiest time of the year. Cats and kittens seem to stream in—homes are hard to find and there are staff holidays and voluntary helpers' holidays to be coped with. It's not easy and we would welcome offers of help during July and August so if anyone can spare a little time I'd like to hear.

## WEST CORNWALL

Imagine rats invading a cattery, destructive rats eating through walls and leaving a tiresome mess. To make matters worse the cats enjoyed their company and invited them to join them in their meals. With heavy hearts we were forced to admit that conditions had become impossible and something had to be done, so the inevitable question of finance was dealt with and we decided to call in the builders. At the time of writing the walls have been rebuilt and the building made rat proof. We have made improvements and the place looks and smells sweet again. The cats may miss their rodent company and the hole in our funds is frightening but we are sure we did the only thing and we are now on a money raising campaign and we hope you will join in. We like to give value for money at Cathlowena so will list our popular fund raisers.

1. CATS' BAZAAR which is a lovely old stable used to house any saleable goods. Books, china, jewelry, cosmetics, good clothes, childrens things and toys, fancy goods, old bric a brac and we can even

sell small furniture. We do need more things to keep our shelves full.

2. AMBER'S GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE. A wall overlooking a flowery garden is gradually filling up with Cornish pebbles bearing the names of departed pets. A donation secures a pebble and the name etc of the cat can be inscribed for cat lovers to see. We have room for hundreds more pebbles, so we should be glad to hear from anyone wishing to remember a beloved pet.
3. KING CORINEUS' TROUGH. The magical water garden for coin tossing and wishing. Cat lovers have sent glowing reports regarding the outcome of wishes made at the trough. We could toss your money and your wishes if you write to us.
4. FOREIGN STAMPS. We usually make a good income selling stamps, but unfortunately our stamp expert has left the district and we haven't time to sort, price and mount the stamps on selling sheets. Perhaps a kind philatelist who has time on his or her hands would like to help us out. We have beautiful stamps, and we would appreciate any suggestions to make the most of them.
5. CATHLOWENA PRINTS from an original drawing of our home—where so many cats enjoy life. At 3/6d. these pictures are a real bargain. To sell at this low price we had to order an enormous number from the printers so we want to sell as many as possible.
6. POSTAGE STAMPS (unused) and DONATIONS are always gratefully received, and we like to send the givers some of our useful leaflets.
7. OPEN DAYS every Saturday afternoon when we invite you to join us and the cats for teas (all home made) shopping in the Bazaar, inspecting the pets and catteries, cat chatting or sitting peacefully in the garden contemplating the glorious countryside. Would-be visitors should write or phone for a map to be sent as the district can be complicated for strangers.

Looking forward to hearing from you or seeing you when we hope the cats will be nicely settled in their rat-proof domain.

---

**A.G.M.—July 11th**  
**Kent Room**  
**Caxton Hall**  
**Victoria, S.W.1**



## MEMBER'S CORNER

### "The E.E.N. says TOO MANY CATS"

Some revealing figures about the animal pet population of the neighbourhood were given at the annual meeting of the Norwich and Mid-Norfolk branch of the R.S.P.C.A.

The enormous total of 4,317 animals were destroyed last year at the Society's Drayton Road home—a figure which was one-third more than the number put to death in the previous year.

#### Unpleasant

The deliberate destruction of a healthy cat or dog that has been someone's pet is an unpleasant task for the society's inspectors, but the alternatives are worse.

If there were no temporary accommodation, such stray creatures would die a lingering death from starvation or from injuries sustained on the roads. To accommodate them all indefinitely is obviously out of the question.

So the short-stay home where they can be given lodging and food for a few days is the only means of giving owners a chance to reclaim their pets.

But the real significance of the figures is surely the fact that there are far too many cats and dogs about—many more than the people of this district are prepared to feed and care for.

Of the total of animals destroyed by the society last year 2,333 were cats.

#### Birth Control

Some misguided sentimental people would turn an animal adrift rather than have it painlessly killed.

The only sensible answer to the problem of over-population is birth control. It should be made compulsory for anyone keeping a male cat to have it neutered by a veterinary surgeon.

A licence would then be necessary to keep a male cat for breeding. Such a simple measure would save much animal suffering and the R.S.P.C.A. the disagreeable job of slaughtering the creatures it was founded to protect.

*Eastern Evening News. 15.5.70.*

### "CONTROL OF CATS"

"Congratulations on your leading article in the "Eastern Evening News" on May 15th.

The matter of cat birth control has been regarded of utmost priority by all concerned with the welfare of cats for some years, and in parts of the country progress is being made.

Unfortunately Norwich has no branch of the Cats' Protection League for this society supplies branches with vouchers which are allocated to those wishing to have their cat neutered but are unable to pay the veterinary fee.

Some people have the idea that an operation will adversely affect the character of their pet. On the contrary, both temperament and habits will be improved.

Those doubting the need for cat birth control, or those too lazy to take the necessary action should spend a few days at a cat sanctuary. There they would see dozens of beautiful but unwanted kittens and cats. Kittens brought in half dead having been abandoned, stray kittens injured in accidents or by louts, and so it goes on at the rate of 25 to 30 per day at this time of the year.

Thank you for your plea on behalf of the domestic cat, and may it contribute to raising the status of puss.

D. Chamberlain, Aspland Road, Norwich".  
*Eastern Evening News. 19.5.70.*

On holding a small fair in our home we raised the sum of seventeen shillings. We decided to donate the money to you as Nicola has a cat. We hope this small sum will be of some use to you.  
Nicola Kutapan and Helen and Fiona McDonald.

Please accept the enclosed donation to your funds. It is sent in lieu of flowers in memory of a friend and ardent cat lover, Mr. Robert Bingham. R.M.B.

Please accept the enclosed cheque for your work for stray cats, in memory of my beautiful black cat BARNABY who died on Saturday, May 16th. He began life as a stray and I had the joy of his company for almost 10 years until a serious illness took him from me. J.R.

## MEMBER'S CORNER—contd.

I would like to tell you that I have been considering where my cat gets these fleas, and have come to the conclusion its hedgehogs, which seem to live under a shed in my garden, and I fear that the grass and dead leaves etc. have become infested by fleas from the hedgehogs. I do not know what to do about these animals, except the other night rather late I went up the garden, and saw one about the size of a cat almost, drinking the cats water, it was so large that it tipped a large bowl up, as it rested its paws on it, feeling I must remove it, I tried to pick it up, but it plunged into a hole in the shed knocking things over as it went, however I grabbed it with a duster and put it in a box and took it about half a mile over the fields, I think it has been living with me some years and I do hope it does not walk back.

It is something that has troubled me for such a long time; when reading of people's efforts to resuscitate a dying or very feeble kitten, I would say to myself "No, no, no. Put it quietly to sleep". The best and kindest thing to be done, when there are so many healthy kittens requiring homes. Neutering and spaying is the only solution for over-population of cats. G.S.

### TABBY RETIRES

One of the staff who did not move into the new Post Office Telephone Manager's "skyscraper" in Great Western Road recently was "Tabby" the official mouser at the old headquarters in Bearland House.

Tabby was paid 3s. 6d. a week by the Post Office to carry out his duties and gave faithful service for ten years.

Now he is declared redundant because of modern technology. The new headquarters is alleged to be mouse proof and so Tabby's attentions are unnecessary.

Although he is not superannuated, Tabby will be well provided for in his retirement. He is living with Mrs. Betty Bevan, the Gloucester Area Telephone Manager's Personal Secretary, and her two other cats "Baggars" and "Jenny".

Says Mrs. Bevan:  
"Actually Tabby's expenses were about 15s. a week and I used to pay for the difference out of my own pocket. Some people used to say he was too well fed to catch mice. He purrs a great deal now and is obviously enjoying his retirement.

*The Citizen. 3rd April, 1970.*

## CAT'S CHRISTMAS

We have seven farm cats, sleek, well-fed daily, and all of them good ratters. They live in the "cat-house", an outbuilding formerly the wash-house, where there is a "cat-hole" in the door and a wide open fireplace. It is used as a plucking shed and to burn wastepaper, etc. One wintry day some years ago I noticed how the cats gathered round and appreciated the unaccustomed warmth, and thought "I'll give them a fire on Christmas Day"!

Since then, every year, either my husband or I lay a fire of logs on Christmas Eve ready to light next morning. How the cats enjoy it. They have a special Christmas dinner and when we peep in afterwards, there they are, sitting on the chairs we used for plucking, cleaning their whiskers and purring; a picture of feline contentment.

We even drape the plucking smocks over the chair backs to stop the draught. In recent years we've extended the treat to Boxing Day. Some of our friends think we're a little bit mad, but that doesn't matter.

I've always felt very deeply that Christmas should be a special time for animals as well as humans. I remember my mother visiting the gun dogs every Christmas afternoon with a special dinner. After all, animals were very much in evidence at the crib on the first Christmas night, so why should they be forgotten now?

Mrs. M. Carling, Boughton Home Farm, Geddington, Kettering, Northants.

I have pleasure enclosing a cheque for £20. From the Committee and Members of The National Cat Club Great Britain. We hope this will help you with all the wonderful work you do.

Invaluable help towards the general recognition of 4th October (St. Francis' Day) as Animals' Day would be rendered if individuals would approach their own parish priests or other denominational ministers to ask for the arrangement of special services for animal welfare, or special prayers, on that day, in conformity with those it is hoped will be arranged in other churches in London and the provinces.

## MEMBER'S CORNER—contd.

A black and white cat, very handsome and well looked after, calls every morning for a drink and to give me the news of the night. About a week ago he spent some time after rushing up to greet me, dodging back to the end of the garden and then obviously trying to entice someone else to follow him up to the door. At that distance the "someone" was out of sight but I filled a saucer with cat food and advanced warily, setting it down on the grass. The cat never eats here, except a polite snack. This time he sat by the saucer making the right noises. Finally a very depressed black remnant of a cat ventured to join him and was so hungry that he paid little or no heed to me. While the black and white cat sat beside him he submitted to being given first aid and left to sleep it off in the cat basket while I finished chores and begged a ride to a friend who could take the stray in. My friend is a Vet: and has a farm near the town. She says that when he is clean and out of quarantine he will be an asset to the farm. So it is not only humans who help the poor! A.S.

### HAVE A GO

QUIZ by Michael Godfrey

#### Solution

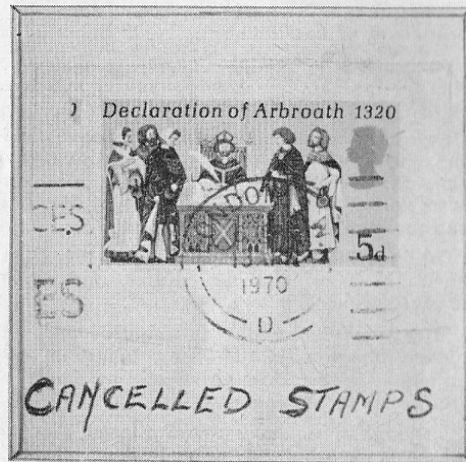
1. "Ginger and Pickles" by Beatrice Potter.
2. Tom Kitten, also by Beatrice Potter.
3. Tales of Mystery and Imagination by Edgar Allen Poe.
4. Dick Whittington's.
5. Puss in Boots.
6. Dame Trot's.
7. "I love little Pussy" Nursery Rhyme.
8. Dick Dead eye's song in Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinnafore".
9. "The Owl and the Pusycat" by Edward Lear.
10. "The Tailor of Gloucester" by Beatrice Potter.
11. "The cat that walked by Itself" by Rudyard Kipling.
12. "The Maltese Cat" also by Kipling.
13. Lewis Carroll's Cheshire Cat.
14. "The Slum Cat" by Ernest Thompson Seton.
15. The Crooked Man's cat in the Nursery Rhyme.

I am happy to enclose a cheque for £6/6/0d. as a small contribution to your splendid and essential work. It represents a collection of threepenny pieces made over a considerable period. E.C.H.

I enclose cheque for £2 herewith, in remembrance of a very dear friend, Mrs. Crimmin of Dartford, who introduced me to your good work, and who has recently died. W.F.

My wife and I thank you very much for the kind attention given to our cat during its illness. Please accept the small donation enclosed. We wish we could give more. W. & D.F., Slough.

A small donation to your funds from Siamese Nanki-Poo now in his 18th year. E.W.B.



## STAMPS

see Round  
and About



## MOTHER CATS

'SHE' is the cat's mother—on motherhood and feeding

The cat's mother has quite a responsibility when it comes to the rearing and nourishment of her kittens. To equip her for the task of mother-care a female cat has a large repertoire of instinctive maternal activities. She, and her newborn kittens, have certain basic requirements, however, in the satisfaction of which they will benefit from their human owner's help.

Preparations for kittens on the way should be timed for about the 63rd day after mating. It is a good idea to prepare a box, well before the event, in a quiet, dark corner. A warm and dry place is essential and the box or basket should be raised an inch or so off the floor to avoid draughts. A piece of clean blanket or an old towel makes suitable bedding.

Despite these careful preparations the mother cat may choose a dark cupboard or the corner of the toolshed for her family. If she does, she is best left undisturbed until all of the kittens are dry and have had their first feed. The whole family can then be moved to the box that has been prepared—without exposing the kittens to bright light during the move. In 10-14 days the youngsters will open their eyes, but they need a few more days in the semi-dark to grow accustomed to their new found vision.

During her pregnancy and while she is feeding her kittens, the female may like a little milk—an excellent food for nursing mothers and newly weaned kittens. It

should not, however, be fed as a sole diet, as it lacks many elements vital to the healthy nourishment of kittens and fully grown cats alike. Also, the milk should never be left in the saucer for more than two or three hours since bacterial action starts as soon as the milk is exposed to air. Dr. Jim Corbin of the Purina cat care centre warns that, for some cats, excessive milk can act as a laxative.

At the centre, scientists have created complete and balanced foods for cats that are also economical. Indeed, Purina Seanip dinner was voted 'best buy' in a recent pet food survey by 'Which', the consumer magazine. Growing kittens fed on Purina are assured of all of the 43 nutrients necessary to their growth and wellbeing, from weaning—as soon as they start on solids. Seanip or Dairy dinner can be made easier for young kittens to eat by moistening with a little water, while older cats often prefer their food crunchy. The kittens will take to these foods readily as the products are all taste tested at the centre by a panel of 144 cats.

Palatability is an important test for any cat food, as no matter how complete a food is, it must be pleasant to eat or pets will refuse it. It is for this reason that all Purina foods must pass the 'taste-test' before going into full production.

As the kittens grow older there arises the problem of what to do with them. Some People simply put them out into the street. Only a few find homes, the remainder become strays.

A starving cat is a pitiable sight and although the League and the R.S.P.C.A. are doing their best to alleviate the problem of stray cats, misguided cat-lovers who create strays are making this important task increasingly difficult.

The cure is to contact a veterinary surgeon and request that the kittens be despatched. This can now be done absolutely painlessly so that even the most sensitive of cat lovers should have few qualms. Far more desirable, of course, is the prevention—neutering!

A female cat is capable of producing dozens of kittens in her lifetime and as it is difficult to find homes for all these kittens it is wise to consider having her spayed.

Many veterinary surgeons feel that the ideal age for spaying is four to five months, that is, before the first seasonal period. On the other hand, Dr. Corbin points out that the operation can still safely be performed at a later age, even after the cat has had one or two litters.

## MOTHER CATS—continued

This solves the owner's problem but not that of his neighbours, who will object strenuously if plagued by a wandering tom.

The operation required to neuter a male cat is very simple and may be performed at any time after the age of eight or nine months. A mature, unaltered tom has an almost uncontrollable desire to roam or fight and some male cats develop a habit of spraying the walls or furniture, creating a smell that is almost impossible to de-odorise.

It is a common idea that altered tom cats get fat. This can happen to any cat fed the wrong food and kept shut indoors all the year round. Animals, like humans, do tend to put on weight as they get older but while a tom cat's well-known roaming decreases after neutering he should not necessarily become overweight. He can, however, become too plump if given the wrong foods or even if given the right foods in the wrong proportions. This is why foods such as Purina, which are complete and balanced, are so important to pet owners. The relation of one nutrient to another is vital to a cat's health. If one is missing, the others may not be able to do their work. Also, a complete air dried food enables an accurately controlled portion to be fed which bears a direct relationship to the size of the cat. For example a 9 lb. tom requires 2½ ozs. of Seanip per day. No mixing or supplementary foods are necessary but simply bowl of clean drinking water.

At weekends, air-dried foods come into their own. A bowl of the dry food and a bowl of clean water can be left for the cat and the food will not deteriorate over the weekend. Kept in a cool, dry place, air-dried foods have an almost unlimited storage-life. Finally, if a pet owner is ever in doubt about any matter concerning the cat's welfare, it is always best to consult a qualified veterinary surgeon.

From: Sabatini Taylor & Associates Ltd.  
On behalf of: Jenks Brothers Foods Ltd.  
U.K. distributors for Ralston Purina (Canada)  
May 1970.

## PURINA CAT FOODS

ARE AMONGST THE FOODS IN USE AT  
C.P.L. H.Q. CATTERY

## THE STORY OF SEEKY

At Christmas this year we were presented with a very small black kitten. Our neighbours had found some children swinging her round and dropping her, by a string tied to her tail. We had been without a cat since our Siamese died of old age eighteen months ago, so we welcomed our unexpected Christmas present. She was very tiny but with large black feet, so we named her Siksika, the Indian name for the black foot tribe in America. This has naturally been shortened to Seeky except on special occasions.

After she had been with us about six weeks we introduced her gradually to the garden where she made friends with a very mature black and white tom, who used to wait for her every morning and he seemed to us to "keep an eye on her"; but one day she was missing. We called and searched to no avail. We turned out the garden shed and questioned neighbours and at 10 p.m. when she had been missing 12 hours, sadly retired. First thing the next morning we went searching again but without result; so eventually I sadly decided she had gone, and started some household chores. After a while I noticed her "friend" on the back door step. Until this time he had never allowed me to get near enough to stroke him, but on this day was positively friendly, but would keep mewling. I tried to explain to him that Seeky was gone, but he suddenly got up, moved down the garden, sat outside the garden shed and howled! There was no other word for it. I automatically called Seeky and thought I heard a faint squeak, but almost decided I'd imagined it. However, I opened the shed and called again, and this time there was no doubt that *something* was there. Never was a garden shed emptied at such speed and there right at the back jammed between two sacks of fertilizer was a very frightened, and very hungry, Seeky. Our theory is that she must have found her way back during the night, crawled under the shed and been unable to turn round and crawl out again. She is now a very lively teenager, who very seldom roams beyond her own garden and whose friend still keeps a fatherly eye on her, and on whom we look with gratitude and affection.

M. Barnard.

## IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our dear BETTINA passed away March 9th, 1964; also dear NICHOLAS age 14 missing since September 6th, 1964 and MISTY HEATHER who died on May 14th, 1967 at the age of 15 years. "Resting where no shadows fall". With love from Auntie Ada and the late Auntie Maude.

In ever loving memory of our darling STEPHEN, Tailwaver 2286 who passed over 29th June, 1957 aged 13 years. Sleep peacefully dearest with all our other pets until we are re-united with Uncle Billy in God's Kingdom. A. Horsfield.

Remembering again my darling PUD, gently released from suffering on 17th June, 1967 aged 14 years 4 months, and my sweet PINKY, died 18th August 1965, aged 19 years 3 months. Time changes many things but never my precious memories of you. Still miss your lovely little faces as much as ever. M. Burgess.

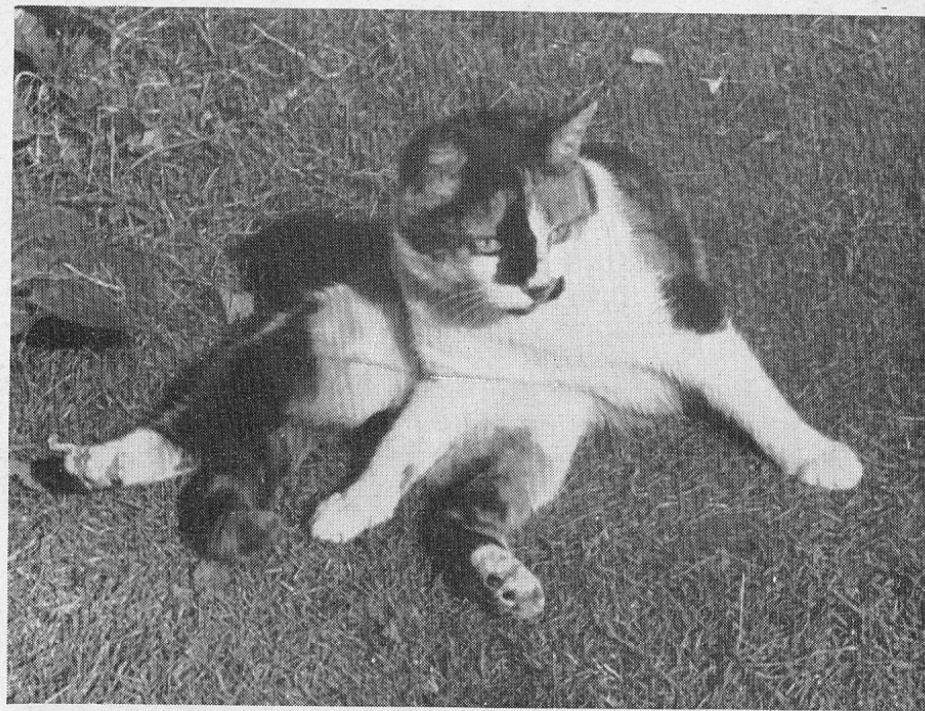
In loving memory of CINDY T.W. 4216. J.B.

In loving memory of JASON JOLYON T.W. 4156 put to sleep May 5th. "He is a portion of the loveliness which once he made more lovely". E.McC.

Tailwaver 2332 "JUST PANDA" my dearly loved amber and white cat who passed peacefully out of this world July 3rd, 1958, aged 10¼ years. A beautiful memory which time cannot dim. Also "RUFFLES" a little white stray who lived with us for 18 months then disappeared; last seen March 10th, 1961. Finally a tribute to all my other feline friends which I have owned from time to time. \*Memories of the past entwine with thoughts of times to come!\* Muriel A. Julian, Sheffield.

Remembering with love ROGER (T.W. 1437) who died 27th July, 1964, aged 17 years 2 months. A kind and gentle cat. Gwen Woolgar.

Alice Candy, Tailwaver 4694. Born March 1969. Died suddenly April 1970. Most dearly loved and loving little cat. Chloe Pearce.





# THE FORTY THIRD

JANUARY 1st to  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

1968					
5,078	GRANTS TO BRANCHES		8,821	2	5
	DIRECT EXPENSES OF CLINIC AT SLOUGH				
1,982	Salaries and Wages ..	2,171	10	10	
296	Food .. ..	292	9	1	
541	Veterinary Expenses ..	619	19	7	
123	Rates and Insurance ..	73	13	2	
171	Lighting and Heating ..	137	13	10	
1,333	Repairs, Replacements and Improvements .. ..	473	16	0	
645	General Expenses .. ..	865	18	4	
39	Depreciation of Ambulance	29	0	0	
			4,664	0	10
5,130					
512	ISLE OF WIGHT MEMORIAL HOME		499	7	6
—	HASLEMERE MEMORIAL HOME		855	13	3
2,575	VOUCHER SCHEME		3,269	14	3
	PUBLICITY AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES				
3,963	Salaries and Wages ..	4,343	2	4	
142	Rates and Insurance ..	147	9	2	
343	Lighting and Heating ..	275	7	9	
97	Repairs and Improvements	375	19	2	
1,159	Printing, Postage, Station- ery and Telephone ..	1,010	6	4	
1,231	Magazine, Printing and Postage .. ..	1,140	6	2	
—	Legal Charges .. ..	237	6	0	
163	Audit and Accountancy ..	183	0	0	
523	General Expenses .. ..	897	2	3	
34	Depreciation .. ..	33	19	2	
			8,642	18	4
7,655					
£20,950			£26,752	16	7

We have audited the books and vouchers of the Cat's Protection League for the year ended 31st December, 1969 and prepared therefrom the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly

Orchard House,  
12, The Grove,  
Slough.  
March, 1970.

# ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31st 1969  
For the YEAR ended 31st DECEMBER, 1969

1968					
9,328	Subscriptions and Donations .. ..	7,989	15	8	
877	Collection Boxes .. ..	793	13	10	
425	Receipts from London Flag Day .. ..	312	7	6	
261	Sale of Pens and Literature .. ..	298	15	7	
6,115	Income from Investments including Income Tax Repayment .. ..	10,335	16	8	
264	Surplus on Realisation of Investments ..	2,796	7	0	
3,680	Excess of Expenditure over Income not including Lagacies .. ..	4,226	0	4	
£20,950			£26,752	16	7

drawn up so as to Exhibit a true and fair view of the League's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us as shown by the books and vouchers of the League.

HEMSLEY MILLER & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants.

# 43rd ANNUAL REPORT

Registered National Charity  
Headquarters Office and Clinic:  
29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH, BUCKS  
Telephone: Slough 20173

## Executive Committee:

Chairman: Mrs. OSYTH SHERRATT  
Vice-Chairman: Mrs. N. DE CLIFFORD  
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. E. PARRATT  
Miss E. LEEMING  
Mrs. J. A. EARNSHAW  
Miss V. TROUGHTON  
Mrs. B. PARRATT

## Trustees:

Mrs. O. SHERRATT  
Mr. A. A. STEWARD

## Headquarter's Clinic:

Under Veterinary Supervision

## Auditors:

MESSRS. HEMSLEY MILLER & Co.

## Solicitors:

MESSRS. BARRETT & THOMPSON

## Bankers:

WESTMINSTER BANK LTD. (Slough Branch)  
General Secretary: Mr. A. A. STEWARD

THE OMISSION OF REPORTS FROM SOME OF OUR BRANCHES AND GROUPS IS REGRETTABLE BUT UNAVOIDABLE AND DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HEADQUARTERS' CONTROL.

## INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

The end of the year finds the League in a very good position. The work goes steadily on and we have been able to give good grants of money to the Branches and other working centres. The voucher scheme whereby help is given for spaying and neutering is growing.

All this could not have been accomplished without untiring and unending work by all those who have undertaken to spend their energies on behalf of cats. To all these I should like to say "Thank you" on behalf of the Executive Committee.

The report gives you a picture of most of what is happening throughout the country. With a few exceptions the other centres have taken the opportunity of telling our members of their successes and difficulties, by doing so win interest and sympathy from us all. The others, for some reason best known to themselves, keep silent. A pity one wonders why. It is not unreasonable for members of the League to wish to know what is being done with their money.

To all our members who have so generously supported us through the year, to our Secretary whose work is never ending and to Mrs. Steward who so patiently stands by

him; to the Honorary Treasurer and all the Executive Committee I want to extend every sincere thanks.

OSYTH SHERRATT, *Chairman.*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

1969 was a successful year. That, in brief, sums up the situation, but our members will naturally want to know what was achieved to enable us to claim "success". Facts and figures provide the proof and we are very pleased to give them, but first of all we must deal with the necessary, but not so interesting routine events that contribute to the management of the League's affairs and participation in Annual Welfare generally.

The Executive Committee met every other month and the Finance Committee when required.

The Officers and Trustees dealt with urgent matters either by specially convened meeting or agreement over the telephone. Very often considerable time is saved by telephone discussions.

London Joint Animal Flag Day, April—C.P.L. share £312/7/5d.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday July 11th in the Kent Rooms, Caxton Hall. There was a good representation by members and delegates from Branches.

The Executive Committee was returned to office "en bloc" by unanimous vote.

The Animals Fair was held November. Head Quarters, London Committee and North London Branch and Edmonton Groups were represented.

The Annual Report and Accounts were incorporated in the July number of The Cat, an innovation that served a double purpose. Every member was assured of a copy of the Report and a considerable saving of postage and printing was effected. This overall saving must have proved beneficial to the Branches too.

That Legacy. In our previous report we enthused over the prospect of being able to extend our Neutering Scheme through the medium of the income from the bequest and we planned accordingly. Early in 1969 we were informed the will was being contested. The fact that Mrs. McNeal was domiciled in Jamaica made the bequest invalid in Jamaican Law. After many months of legal haranguing a compromise was reached, the League retaining that part of the legacy received before the decision to contest the will and renouncing any further claims to the estate. So at the end of 1969 your Executive Committee could at least

## SECRETARY'S REPORT—continued

relax and begin to consider the next step to take to ensure a more profitable return on the capital than the 3% Government Bonds were providing. At that stage, the report, to date; December 30th 1969, ends.

The Neutering Project. In the interim period having "set our hands to the plough" we could do nothing less than continue the voucher scheme along the lines planned but with some reservations. We could not publicise our project to the extent we would wish nor could we bring the Branches into the scheme on a "guarantee to pay their neutering accounts" basis, in addition to giving financial backing as and when the need arose. However, we did increase our grants to Branches by 50% as our Income and Expenditure statement (page 1) shows. We were still at the "hope springs eternal" stage, but not knowing how lucky or unlucky we might be.

We were able to meet the obligations to which we had committed ourselves in the first twelve months of the proposed three year trial period and accomplished what we had planned; approximately one thousand Cats and Kittens neutered at an estimated cost of three thousand pounds.

Future achievements depend entirely on the favours of the Gods. We feel sure they will smile down on us.

The inclusion of Branches in the voucher scheme is likely to add considerably to our expenditure in 1970 and to what extent we can meet Branches requirements will depend

on funds available. Over the first twelve months we shall be faced with the "unknown quantity", not knowing beforehand what the Veterinary Surgeons charges are likely to be, as we do at Head Quarters through the system we use before issuing a voucher. From the support being received; moneytary and otherwise the neutering project is the most popular and certainly the most progressive undertaking of the League's many schemes to raise the status of cats.

BRANCHES. Where it has been possible for Branches to speak for themselves through the medium of their own reports it will be seen what has happened in these parts of the country where we have representations: elsewhere, the absence of "reports", does not mean progress has not been made. Every where, we are making our presence felt and our cause known and in some places the practical aid being given is of such measure, no time is available to see to deal with paper work other than is necessary to keep essential records.

APPRECIATION. So many contribute to our success, it would be difficult to name them all apart from the fact that many shun publicity and request to remain anonymous. Response to our many and varied appeals either direct to Headquarters or to Branches has been tremendously encouraging and we are most grateful.

OBITUARY. Each year takes its toll of members and friends whose support for, and adherence to our cause is a memorial. Those who have passed on are remembered for all time, hereunder.

## DECEASED 1969

Mrs. Abbey, Mrs. A. L. Bazin, Miss Rose Beavan, Miss Bedwell, Mrs. C. Bennington, Mrs. M. Berline, Miss Ross K. Black, Miss V. V. Blacker, Miss M. Bloxham, Mr. E. H. J. Brooks, Miss E. V. Clarke, Miss C. B. Cousins, Miss P. M. Dickson, Mr. Peter Drew-Ingall, Mrs. D. Eagle, Mr. Fairweather, Mrs. Marie Forgas, Miss M. Forwood, Mrs. S. Fryer, Miss R. Gilbert, Miss A. F. Higgins, Mrs. M. A. Holman, Miss W. A. Higgins, Mrs. M. A. Holman, Miss W. A. Humphrey, Miss E. G. Ingram, Miss A. Bruce Joy, Mrs. Marie Kay, Miss W. E. Kirkby, Mr. M. G. Maycock, Mrs. E. T. Mehliss, Miss E. A. Poole, Miss M. Rae. Miss D. Annette Raymont, Miss D. J. Ruxton. Miss Phylliss Sharrah, Mrs. Smith, Miss S. Wade, Miss Hilda Warry, Mrs. Watkins.,

CLINIC AND RESCUE. It would seem the pattern of activities is changing, if what is happening in the area covered by Head Quarters is any indication of the general trend. It is a complex situation born of a variety of contributing factors, common to development areas and an age when progress cannot always be rightly defined as such.

Rescue, requests mostly trapping were more frequent than ever before, and many more traps have been in use than in previous years. The balance between Clinic Service and Rescue has tipped considerably towards Rescue and more attention will have to be paid to this in future. Our Records for 1969 are:

HQ. AMBULANCE REPORT	
JANUARY - DECEMBER 1969	
Stray Cats collected .. .. .	146
Accident and other cases attended .. .. .	118
Trapping requests dealt with .. .. .	91
Cats collected for Homes etc. .. .. .	170
Cats collected for treatments (and returned) etc., etc. .. .. .	216
THE ABOVE APPLY TO HEADQUARTERS CLINIC ONLY.	

### RECORD OF CLINIC SHELTER FIRST AID AND RESCUE WORK DURING 1969

DESCRIPTION	
Cats/Kittens received as strays or unwanted .. .. .	6,207
Cats/Kittens for which homes have been found .. .. .	4,615
Cats/Kittens destroyed either directly or indirectly .. .. .	2,709
Cats/Kittens (Males) Neutered .. .. .	6,105
Cats/Kittens (Females) Spayed .. .. .	5,420
Cats/Kittens given treatment on premises or on voucher scheme or by arrangement with local veterinary surgeon .. .. .	17,605
Cats/Kittens boarded by arrangement .. .. .	590
Accident cases dealt with directly or indirectly .. .. .	879
Cats/Kittens (stray or unwanted) collected .. .. .	5,132
Our ambulance record differs considerably from those of last year because we have not now got a full time driver, but we have done a great deal of necessary work even under such circumstances.	

## BRANCH REPORTS

### BIRMINGHAM

During the year 1969 Birmingham Branch rescued 138 cats and kittens. Many were unwanted, others were strays, and some were abandoned, often left behind in derelict houses when their owners were re-housed.

121 cats and kittens were placed in good homes, mainly through advertising in the local newspapers, the "Birmingham Evening Mail" and the "Erdington & Sutton News". All adopters were asked to sign the agreement form to say they would have their kittens neutered when old enough. Older cats were neutered before they were placed. All homes were vetted, and a follow up visit or telephone call was made later.

Eleven cats had to be put to sleep, mainly with incurable diseases, or because their condition was too poor for Veterinary treatment to save them. Three kittens died of exposure having been found abandoned,—one before, and two after Veterinary treatment.

Over 200 cats and kittens have received Veterinary treatment, including immunisation against Feline Enteritis, for boarders.

118 cats were neutered or spayed.

Nine lost cats were traced, although some were found dead, having been involved in accidents, mainly because they had been left out at night.

Advice was given on many aspects of Cat Welfare.

We ran a Membership Campaign during the year, asking all our Members to recruit one new Member. This was very disappointing, as very few members were recruited. However, our Branch Membership rose from 78 to 143, by the end of the year. These Members were usually recruited from amongst those who had cats from us.

Fund raising activities during 1969 included: Four Jumble Sales; three Bring & Buy Sales; one Dance and two stalls at the Animal Fayre at Birmingham Town Hall last November. Members supplied gifts to sell (and jumble); they knitted cat blankets, and saved postage stamps, which have been sent on to Headquarters.

News of our Branch has appeared regularly in the bi-monthly magazine "The Cat" and many readers have responded generously to our various appeals. Our thanks to Headquarters for all their financial help, gifts and advice; and to all readers, members and friends for their support during the year.

Miss J. P. SCRIVEN, *Hon. Secretary.*

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### BOURNEMOUTH

This has been without doubt the most difficult year we have had since we started our Group and it is because Bournemouth itself is in a state of complete chaos! Until recently it was known deservedly as the Queen of Watering Places, a place where health, peace and beauty were natural products, but since criminal lunacy seems to be running riot it has turned our dear town into a short cut between other places, destroying the natural beauty of parks and gardens, and health-giving pines, polluting wider and wider areas with excessive traffic stenches. Worst of all, large numbers of good houses have been and will continue to be, pulled down, causing hundreds of residents mental, physical and financial distress, many having been deprived of both home and livelihood. Many are now homeless, some pushed into blown-up blocks of flats, others sharing with relatives or emigrating. In any case it has increased our work out of all proportion, as in addition to the hordes of those cats already known to be homeless, we have had appeals for help to find alternative homes for many where they were not allowed, also for transport and temporary shelter, to say nothing of the drive for neutering and spaying! There is no place of refuge for several miles in any direction and the fantastic increases in bus fares and animal foods have caused much suffering to the older and poorer fraternity.

It has become increasingly difficult to raise funds, with depleted helpers through accidents, more and more calls on their own domestic difficulties etc. erst while offers of help by Coffee mornings, jumble sales etc., fizzling out. We have had much gratitude and praise from many whom we have been able to help and unfailing support and work from some who already had more than their share of trouble. We have also, of course, had much good advice and criticism, which didn't cost the givers much, nor us much cause for thanks, so we can only carry on as best we can for the large number of helpers and victims of human error or misfortune that cross our path.

### CHELMSFORD

It is hard to measure our success during 1969. Financially, although we raised much more money than in 1968, we were unsuccessful. We raised a total of £2,058, from our four annual "Fairs", monthly "Saturday Sales", numerous rummage sales, whist drives, sale of stamps, grants, members'



## CHELMSFORD—continued

subscriptions and donations. Despite these efforts, at the end of the year we owed more than £300. We were all desperately worried and feared that this would mean the end of our Branch and all the sheer hard work and determination that had gone into it to make it successful in the practical work we had done for cats. During 1969 our Secretary had literally hundreds of telephone calls and visits from people with a cat problem. Homes were found (and later checked up on) for 584 cats and very many of these were neutered at our expense. Apart from our nine "evicted cats" (now all happily settled in their new homes), no cat, not even the most timid, was boarded for more than three months. Most "normal" cats were in and out of the boarding kennels within 2 weeks. We realise only too well that we do not have the problems of some Branches in built up and densely populated areas where the unwanted cats are too numerous to save every one of them, but nevertheless we are still proud of the fact that we have not had to have a single healthy cat humanely destroyed in our 7 years of existence. Sometimes we feel that we must reach saturation point and every other house in mid and North Essex must by now have one of our cats, but still the homeless and unwanted cats come pouring in and still we manage to find the homes, and we are so very thankful that we are able to. It is probably true to say that each of these unwanted cats brought us "a cat problem" which entailed a great deal of work on the part of our Secretary Mrs. Middlemiss. Telephone calls galore, callers, loaning baskets, transporting many cats for many miles, and trapping (mostly in the dead of night).

Talking of traps, we won't leave a trap set for more than 1 hour without checking to see if a cat has gone in it. Has no-one yet invented a more gentle and less frightening device than the only type of metal trap which seems to be available for cats? The noise alone of the spring releasing is enough to send most cats quite demented with terror and we find that unless a cork is stuck on the sharp bait hook, they often tear their noses on it, and they often tear their claws and pads by pulling at the grass and ground under the door, in their frenzy to get out. All very distressing for the cat and for us, but so often trapping is the only way to catch them. What a joy it is, later, to see such cats go docilely off to a home!

The thanks of all the cats we have helped in 1969 should go to Mrs. Middlemiss, our Secretary, for her absolute dedication to the welfare of cats, to Mrs. Adamson, our mainly

very worried Treasurer, to our Chairman during 1969, Mr. Snell who tried so very hard to guide us in a sensible and financially sound way and to his wife, Mrs. Snell, who made wonderful cakes and preserves and grew vegetables, fruit and flowers for our stalls. Both sadly missed as they have now moved to Yorkshire. Our thanks to Mrs. Paterson who does almost all of our transport at her own expense and never ever says 'no'. To the rest of our Committee for their loyal and unfailing help, Mesdames Drury, Fowler, Greening, Hughes, Masfield, Peachy, Rush and Stiling. To the writer, Mrs. Peterson, who tries shamelessly to get money for our Shelter and items for us to sell at our many events, from anyone who will read what she writes, and to all our good friends who help man the stalls and give us things to sell. A great purr of thanks to all!

## DOVER

The work of the Dover Branch is small but it is helping with a number of cats being neutered of both sexes, also helping people in need with treatment at Veterinary Surgeons also some help to boarding fees of aged people and the feeding and treatment of needy cats etc.

We are grateful to all box holders who contribute to our funds.

Our grateful thanks to our Veterinary Surgeons for their help and attention at all times.

In conclusion we record our thanks to Mr. F. G. Gossling our Hon. Auditor.

## EDMONTON

During this year over 500 cats and kittens have been rescued and placed in good homes. We are pleased to have saved so many, as a large number of houses are being demolished and the occupiers rehoused in council flats.

Due to the increase in the price of pet food, we are helping more O.A.P.s and needy people to feed their pets, also we assist cat owners with veterinary fees in emergency and hardship cases. Accidents to cats have kept our ambulance busy, and we would like to express our gratitude to our very good friend Mr. Lidsen for closing his own shop and helping us cope with emergencies, which never seem to come singly. Also, Mr. Lidsen frequently does odd jobs and repairs to the Cattery at no cost to us.

Mr. Donald Chamberlain, who lives in Norwich, was kind enough to spend part of his annual holiday working in the Sanctuary, and we are most grateful to him. Mr. Chamberlain regularly sends parcels of 'goodies' for our sick and needy cats, and has kindly sponsored "Lady" a 17 year old female resident. Sponsors are also needed

## EDMONTON—continued

for some of our other deserving felines.

The Sanctuary is now much larger and houses more cats and kittens each year, so we hope that our funds will continue to increase to enable us to cope.

Always needed at the Sanctuary:- Jumble, unwanted gifts and clean blankets or pieces of blankets to use as beds for the cats.

Jumble Sales are one of our main sources of income, and this year we have been fortunate in having the free use of a shop from the Council. Our Charity Shop was quite successful, and we are hoping for another, so please remember us when you have anything saleable. Donations, large and small are, of course, always welcome.

Spaying and neutering have averaged 15 to 20 per week, for which we meet some of the cost. The fees for this operation have risen together with other veterinary fees.

Kittens are, of course, plentiful, and as is usual at this time of the year, homes are scarce. Spaying and neutering is vital in order to stem the birthrate of unwanted kittens.

Pet stealing continues to rear its ugly head, so please do your utmost to warn pet owners of this evil trade in animals.

Trapping wild cats continues to be part of our everyday work, and as much as we dislike the job, it is of vital importance.

Finally, we must thank most sincerely Mr. Steward and the Executive Committee for their unfailing help and support, also our Veterinary Surgeon for his practical help in keeping his fees at the minimum and unfailing assistance at all times.

N.B. We are holding an Open Day at the Sanctuary one Saturday in July when it is hoped that the Mayor will be able to attend.

## GLOSSOP BRANCH

When we started this Branch of the C.P.L. in the Spring of 1963 we had little idea of what would be required of us during the ensuing seven years.

For some time I had been concerned about the reports of strays in this area and decided to do something about it, if only to give them some kind of temporary shelter until their owners could be traced or new homes found.

A public meeting was called and enough interested people were found to form a small committee. It soon became clear that the income from our sales could not meet the increasing demands for help with veterinary fees and food for O.A.P.s cats, spayings and neuterings, boarding of stray

cats and kittens, advertising for homes, transport etc.

We very much appreciate the help given to us by readers of 'The Cat' without whose help with donations and other gifts we would find the task impossible.

Glossop itself is a small town at the gateway to the Peak District National Park, backed by moorland and hill farms, but large housing estates to take people from Manchester's slum clearance have been built in this district. Our local paper also covers a vast industrial area fanning out towards Manchester. Advertisements for homes bring in more strays and unwanted than offers of reliable homes.

WHERE THERE IS NO OTHER HOPE FOR STRAYS THERE CAN BE NO RIGID BOUNDARIES TO OUR AREA.

During 1969 we found homes for one hundred and twenty cats and kittens. At the end of the year we had twenty seven in our care, most of them waiting for homes, but a few very old and nervous cats have a permanent home with a friend in the country who cares for them at very little over the cost of their food.

As usual during the Summer months we were asked to take many litters of kittens. This we just cannot afford to do and we have no facilities for caring for them. We found homes for as many as possible and encouraged the owners to get the cats spayed.

We know of at least one Pet Shop which advertised for kittens encouraging people to rear litters, then finding itself overstocked directed the owners to us. This underlines the need for spayings and neuterings which are a very important part of our work.

We welcome the Headquarter's Voucher Scheme for 1970 and will make good use of our quota. With very little advertising we could greatly extend this much needed work if sufficient Vouchers were available.

## LONDON COMMITTEE

As usual we have had to cover a wide field. All Greater London, and then a bit further out. We have rescued cats, helped owners, given vouchers arranged for treatment, found living accommodation, interviewed housing managers and local council representatives, organised lectures to school children and inspected boarding catteries. Those are just the routine "business as usual" bits of work. The addition, which has been a very heavy burden, has been the need to tackle the ever-growing problems of the poor cats left behind on derelict sites. We have visited sites, tried to arrange collection of cats, and at the Rescue Centre in the Milton Garden we have housed a small number of

## LONDON COMMITTEE—*continued*

them with a prospect of giving them a happier future. This is a problem which we hope to alleviate somewhat during the coming year, if it is possible to do anything by sheer hard work, we will do it, but funds are our great worry. This is one evil which can only be remedied by spending money, and we haven't very much, although we do our best, raiding our kind friends and relations on every occasion. I am generally known now as the Pirate, no one's teaspoons are considered safe from me!

Seriously, there has been a falling-off of all our income, I think that this is the same everywhere, but it has hit hard. One thing which has kept up is the splendid work of all our helpers. At our big bazaars they have toiled all day, and I am immensely grateful. It just is not possible these days to write a letter to each person, but I should like everyone to know that I am truly thankful for the wonderful way they help. Thank you to everyone.

## NEWBURY AND DISTRICT

The General Meeting was held in Newbury on May 10th 1969. 24 supporters attended and many apologies for absence were received. Mrs. Newton was selected Chairman, Mr. Lucas Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Earnshaw Honorary Secretary. The Committee were re-elected and consist of Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Cox, Miss Hill, Mrs. Penglase, Mrs. Ford and Miss Wood.

Three Committee Meetings have been held during the year, 29 cats and kittens have been either spayed or neutered; chiefly spayed. Then taken in and good homes found, 55 cats and kittens have been placed in good homes.

This does not include those whose owners, not being able to keep them for various reasons, with our help have been found homes.

In some cases they have boarded them in catteries suggested by us, where the owners of these catteries were willing to help place them in homes.

We were able to trace the owner of a large white cat after it had been lost for over 3 months.

Where necessary we have helped with food, where people have been willing to take a cat in for a short time, but could not afford to pay for food.

A most successful tea party was held at the house of our chairman and £20 was raised for the Funds.

An Evening Garden Party was held in the garden of a friend of the Branch at Hermitage. This made £20 which was divided

between ourselves and the Dog Rescue Society.

A Jumble Sale was held at Cold Ash which also was a great success.

We try to help all we can with advice etc., when asked. A cat belonging to an old lady who had to go into hospital was taken in and found a good home.

Four kittens were dumped in the garden of the Honorary Secretary. Our R.S.P.C.A. Inspector reported that he had not had to put down quite so many kittens this year.

We have received most generous help from Headquarters and most people who come to us for a cat or kitten give a donation.

We are more than grateful for all the help we have received in the way of Transport, visiting homes etc.

## NORTH LONDON

The year has been one of many problems and we ask forgiveness if some letters have gone unanswered or if there has been delay in answering enquiries.

During the year, our long-serving driver, Mr. Corroyer, retired at the age of eighty. We lost the services of our honorary treasurer, Miss Hutt, for a period of two months while she was in hospital and Mrs. Dempsey, our very loyal shelter assistant, broke a bone in her shoulder towards the end of the year. In addition, our larger van gave its last gasp after many years.

There are, however, few problems without their solutions. We were very fortunate in replacing our driver immediately with Mr. Smith, a gentleman who had been giving us voluntary service for a long time. Since working for us, he has proved himself invaluable, willingly performing tasks outside the terms of his employment and giving of his time after his working hours are finished. Miss Hutt's work was willingly taken over by volunteers who carried out their tasks ably until our Treasurer and Chairman was, happily, able to resume her usual hard work on discharge from hospital. Our old van was quickly replaced with a sparkling new one, thanks to the generosity of a sympathiser in the United States, the Lady Kinnoul, who has given us so much financial help in the past and who, incidentally, also runs an animal shelter in California.

Sadly, Mrs. Dempsey is still out of action at the end of the year, but we look forward to her return in the not too distant future. In the meantime, the work of the Shelter is being carried on by Miss Neary ('Daisy') our other Shelter assistant and Mr. Smith, our driver, with the help of good volunteers. We are most grateful to them all.

During the year, we have taken in 2,176 stray and unwanted cats, of which 437 were

## NORTH LONDON—*continued*

purchased or handed to us from our local pet shops. We are happy in the knowledge that these pet shops do not refuse to take in any kittens, knowing that we will take them off their hands.

Among our intake for the year there have, surprisingly, been eight pure white cats and many pedigree cats. No doubt the abandonment of Pedigree cats is a sign of the times in which we live.

While we are happy to report that, in 1969, we took in 550 fewer strays than in the previous year, we are very sad to record that less than ten per cent of them were found good homes. We cannot hope to find many good homes in our own area, since it is more of a 'cat abandoning' than a 'cat adopting' district, and we must rely on friends in better areas to recommend our cats for adoption. We earnestly ask all, during 1970, actively to seek good homes for us, not homes in factories nor where a cat is needed simply for mousing, nor even homes where there are young children to harm a cat, but homes where a cat will receive affection, comfort and good food.

Our neutering policy has gone on apace and during the year, 877 cats (of which 52 were our shelter cats) have been neutered through our service and the assistance of two veterinary surgeons who are very helpful to us. As a service, we collect the cats from their owners, take them to the respective 'vets' and deliver them back to their homes after the operation. In many cases of real hardship, we pay the fee for the operation out of our funds, but, in the main, owners are asked to contribute towards the fee. Both Miss Magee and Miss Neary are now involved in the organisation of this service and we are most grateful to them both.

During the year, we have come to the notice of the national press now and again. Once, it was quoted as an amusing story, that we, with forty cats in residence, should suddenly be plagued with mice. On another occasion, the finding, by our secretary, of an abandoned python in a brief case was reported.

The lack of good homes has resulted in an increase in the number of our permanent residents. These are usually cats who come to us with the hope of a home because of age or temperamental disability. They remain with us as pets for the rest of their days. Apart from Lady Jane, Twink, Panda and Jason we now have Granny, who was rescued from the yard of an empty house, surrounded by walls fifteen feet high and with no hope of escape. How she got there, no one knows. We believe her to be about 14 years old.

From the annexed accounts, it will be seen that our earnings from Jumble Sales, the Bazaar and the sales of Christmas cards have increased, but so has the hard work involved in earning these receipts. Even more has increased the cost of the running of the Shelter.

Lastly, we thank all those who have done so much for us during the year. We have, during 1969, been under constant veterinary supervision through the generosity of the member who has paid for this service for so many years. Our Auditor, Mr. King-Farlow has again given to us the benefit of his advice, guidance and professional services during the year. We have received help of all kinds from so many people whom we will always be grateful. We know that they will give us their support during 1970 and we hope that many others will join them.

## NOTTINGHAM

We have continued our neutering programme throughout the year. Several cats have been saved and found good homes through the efforts of various members.

Our Shelter had, fortunately, not been too busy this year. We housed a couple of male cats there for a student when he had to give up his digs and take up residence in his college. We had them neutered for him and kept them well, until he got a friend to give them a good home. He wrote a very nice letter of thanks for all the help we gave him. We had three newly born kittens in for a time, but they eventually had to be put to sleep.

Towards the end of the year we received an appeal for help from a young girl who, together with her husband was emigrating to Australia, and was unable to take her beloved cat with her. Through the efforts of one of our new members, whom also during the year has been instrumental in saving some of the wild cats at the Nottingham University, she found a lovely home in the country for CoCo, where he settled in very happily with his new owners, one other cat and a Basset Hound. His former owner was so grateful to us, he wrote us a very nice letter and enclosed a small donation for our funds.

We have had a good year financially. We received a legacy of £100, various small donations and half the proceeds from a Wig Party and Coffee evening held jointly on behalf of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Ourselves.

We have during the year increased our membership to twenty-seven. More active members are still needed.

**NEXT ISSUE SEPTEMBER**

## OAKHAM AND DISTRICT

We are rather late with our "Thank you" for 1969 but the reason being the "Flu Bug" hit us all very badly but we sincerely thank all our C.P.L. Members and friends for buying our dishclothes, aprons, and calendars, without your help we couldnt do as much as we are doing for the Cats in distress. Thanks also to Head-quarters for their nice cheque sent to us in December, this was greatly appreciated.

Our group is going along steady, help is given where and whenever possible. We help many old people with their pets with Vets treatment and food, we find it is nice for a pet to stay with their owners when the only reason for parting is the Vet's bills which they cannot afford. The voucher scheme from Slough we will find a big help.

Members who like to hear of our cases will be interested in "Pinky Green" a ginger female turned out of her home after the lady of the house died, she was hit by a car which resulted in her having to have an eye removed, 24 hours later she was washing and purring away like an engine, she of course will be one of our resident ladies. Next comes "Fellows" a huge black and white Tom belonging to a corner shop, he was as his owner put it, going to the "slaughter house" on Christmas Eve, we heard about it so quickly went and fetched him, he has now settled down in a new home. Our most sad case was a lady who had helped us over the years in many ways with our cat work. She came and told us she was going to be put into an old peoples home and could not take "Snow Queen" her 13 year old cat, we assured her that 'Snow Queen' could come and live with us—the next thing we heard was that she committed suicide—it took us 10 days to find 'Snow Queen' but she has now settled down with us and is very happy. If any kind members would like to send the cost of an extra tin of food they would be very grateful I am sure.

Now to the cash side—as all our Branches do, we need just that little bit more. Over the last 12 weeks we have overspent our Food Quota by £30 and we would so like to clear it. We have plenty of dishcloths 1/9d. each and Dutch style Aprons at 7/6d. each for sale, also we are doing a raffle for a very nice Tray Cloth, on this we embroider your pets name at 1/- a name plus stamp for return of raffle ticket. When the cloth is full a name is drawn and the lucky name wins the cloth. So please if you could help in any way, we would be delighted.

## SOUTHAMPTON

The year as a whole could be considered satisfactory but whether the increase in funds made during the year was sufficient to offset the increase in prices of Animal Foodstuffs, etc. is problematical. All the functions run by the Branch during the year were well attended and showed a profit. One pleasing feature was the fact we were able to hold eight Jumble Sales in the year thanks to the generous people who supplied us with enough Jumble to stock them. Also we are most grateful to all the helpers who assisted in making these fund-raising events successful. The Christmas Bazaar was well supported and did a great deal to swell the funds.

On the expense side of our activities there was more spent on most items due to increased prices and services. Our Veterinary Expenses were £434 and one can see we need to raise a lot of money each year to keep on the credit side, so donations, unwanted gifts for Stalls, Jumble etc., are always urgently needed and greatly appreciated, as are also new members who are very welcome.

During the year a large number of cats and kittens were spayed or neutered and a great many homes were found with every effort being made to ensure the homes found were good ones. We still have some people dumping cats on the doorstep without having the decency to ask if we are able to take them. We do our best to help anyone with their problems but dislike being taken advantage of in this despicable manner. Due to slum clearing and rehousing there are still many cats and kittens, either abandoned by their owners when moving or not allowed to be kept at the premises to which they are moving, needing homes and we do our best to overcome this problem and place the cats and kittens in good homes. It is a pity people are not allowed to take their pets with them when they move providing they have no additions.

We end with a hope that 1970 and the new decade will see a further improvement in conditions for the cat population of the country and we shall do our utmost to help bring this about.



## SOUTH LONDON RESCUE CENTRE

Our efforts during this past year have been directed towards helping all cats, but particularly and almost unexpectedly, we have started a new kind of help, for old cats. We are so often brought cats far too old to go out to new homes again, and yet well and cheerful. It seems a pity to put an end to a life sooner than need be, but on the other hand, ought we to use our general fund, always far too small for all our needs, to help the old dears, when strong youngsters need help too? We put this to our members, and had a wonderful response, in funds sent in particularly for the old cats. Then we were offered a bit extra if we could reach a target of £100, a kind member offered to double it for us. We made huge efforts, and reached it, with one hour to spare—and as a result, our old cats are living in comfort without depriving the younger ones. Our new Kittenry "The Magic Roundabout" was never formally opened, owing to the impulsive young kitten who darted in and took up residence before it was quite finished. All through the year, it has housed mothers and kittens. We are thankful to have it, because in a large general centre, kittens do need to live their own lives.

We have had over 300 cats through the Centre during the year, the majority of them waiting for new homes, but some of them came through the hospital almoners while their owners were ill. Taking these cats is a very tricky part of our work, for they are all spoiled pets and most difficult to keep happy, but we feel that it is work which needs to be done, because people who are fond of their cats should be able to have them, even if they have to be ill occasionally!

Our big problem is the very shy cat who takes a long time to adjust to a different life. We have been fortunate in finding two people in the country who have taken some of these for us, but we still need a special place, and we have not given up hope of finding it.

We have kept our record, no healthy cat has been put to sleep. Twice during the year, we have had to let an old cat be destroyed, because there was no hope, but there have been no other destructions.

Our good friends have been wonderful in supporting us throughout what must have been a hard year for many. The 29 people who send us a small sum every month have every one of them kept it up during the whole year, and we are immensely grateful.

The Circle of Florin Friends has been a great help, and we hope to enroll many new members during the coming year.

Our practical helpers, who run to and fro, find homes, fetch and carry for us and help

at our bazaars and sales, have all been worked hard all the time. We need many more, and anyone who has a little time to spare would be welcomed. I am personally most grateful to the people whose hard work make the carrying on of the Rescue Centre possible. I am not at all grateful to the wicked cats, Minnie Ha Ha and her awful friends who are continually finding new ways of making life difficult for everyone; her singing classes specially are to be deplored!

## SUSSEX

Another busy year has passed and we are pleased to report a satisfying year's work. Our main activity has been finding homes and during 1969 we have placed 106 cats in homes, and through our Voucher Scheme we have paid for 74 cats to be spayed.

Our Shelter has been full most of the time, and as soon as some leave here, there are others to replace them. Quite a few of these cats and kittens we have taken from the P.D.S.A. Often they have been brought in to be put to sleep. It is always difficult to find homes for cats when they are over one or two years old.

We have recently accepted with gratitude an offer made by Miss Mark, one of our committee members, to take into her home and care for any small kittens, especially in winter as we have no heating at the Shelter. Her first boarders were three six-week old kittens which we took from the P.D.S.A.

We have had a satisfactory year financially, having received a very generous gift of £200 from Headquarters, and donations from many of our members. At Christmas we were very pleased and grateful to have cards and letters from members, many of whom enclosed donations.

Our fund raising events during the year consisted of three Coffee-Evenings, making a total of £92/15/0d., and our Cats Christmas Bazaar, an all day event at the White Rock Pavillion which made a profit of £231/15/0d. We were again invited to the Bexhill Cat Club Picture Show where we enlisted several new members, and one of our former strays, now belonging to Miss Darlington, one of our committee members, took three prizes. At the Grand Charities Fair we had a stall where we made £19/3/6d.

We have been having some much needed repairs done to our Shelter, and the wired in run is to be enlarged to give the cats more freedom.

Most of the cats we help would otherwise be put to sleep and I hope that in the future we may be able to save even more little lives.

## ULSTER

This has certainly been a 'year to remember' for the Ulster Branch. Our 21st Birthday celebrations began in January when members started saving their birthday shillings for twenty-one weeks, to be presented in nicely decorated tins in June.

The first big event was the 'Cat Lovers' carnival in May and it turned out to be a most enjoyable function. It had been intended to be a birthday frolic for ourselves but we were delighted that it made quite a handsome profit for our funds.

Then, in June, we held an Open Day at the Shelter combined with a small Bring and Buy Sale. The weather could have been kinder but even so we had a splendid crowd of members and friends and the birthday shillings soon filled the big tin which had been decorated to look like a birthday cake complete with candles. Many people stayed to watch the cats enjoy their birthday tea of chicken and cream.

Our annual sale of work was held in November—much hard work went into this. We had well-stocked stalls, lots of people and we made a record amount.

In between these events we were busy with Jumble Sales, White Elephant Stalls and other fund raising activities. Two members undertook a 21 mile walk as their special birthday effort and this brought in quite a nice little sum. In the Autumn Mrs. McBride organized a Draw which was most successful in spite of the fact that Ulster was at that time going through an uneasy period.

During the year we continued to collect tinfoil, metal scraps, waste paper and used postage stamps—these bring in a small but regular income.

On two occasions Miss Gulston was interviewed on the radio and managed to do a little propoganda for us. Later we were afforded excellent press publicity which brought many offers of homes and also generous donations.

A number of new members have joined the Branch and to have them we extend the warmest of welcomes.

As in previous years we were invited to have a Stall at the Show held by the Ulster Siamese Cat Club, an opportunity for which we are most grateful as it gives us a chance to interest cat-lovers who are not aware of our existence.

Many of our members give excellent voluntary help in the Cattery and office. To them and to all who have helped in any way during the year I would like to say 'Thank You'.

## WEST CORNWALL

Routine work interspersed with crises, accidents, adventures and frustrations make up our days, we may be worked and harrassed to death but we are never bored. Phone bells, door bells, and the big school bell we use to summon humans, ring constantly, only the cats are peaceful.

Cat welfare takes up most of our working and leisure time, a shopping expedition can become quite an experience and we are nimble in dodging well meaning cat lovers in the supermarket who bear down upon us to impart the latest news of their felines.

The highlight of the past year has been the rat invasion from the piggeries next door. Risking life and limb with so many resident cats they have eaten their way through the walls of the catteries to join the cats in their meals. We toyed with the idea of changing the name to 'The Ratteries', then decided this all had to stop, the walls were crumbling fast and the mess was dreadful. Funds had to be spent, and builders called in and at the time of writing the building has been pulled down and strengthened and we hope made completely rat proof. The finished results should be very attractive as we have made some improvements, one of them being a comfy lounge with a new window with a field view for the old-timers to enjoy their remaining years in comfort . . . perhaps the rats were conned by our cats into waking us up to better things.

Lost cats and unwanted kittens present our biggest problems. Kittens we destroy and use our energies persuading cat owners to have their pets neutered paying the costs if necessary. We give priority to adult cats finding them good homes when they have been neutered, house trained and ready to settle happily. Genuine cat lovers will give a home to older plain cats in preference to pretty kittens. Lost cats create untold worries. Heartbroken cat owner tells us about Tom Tabby who was lost three weeks ago, no she didn't phone the Police, nor put an advert in the local paper, she feels sure Poor old Tom was eaten alive by a fox or fell down a mine shaft. Tom Tabby most likely popped into a stationary car was taken to the next town or village and is living it up with a kindhearted person who is wondering who on earth has lost such a nice cat. Some cats are stolen for research, some run over and killed, others are taken to the vets or animal societies to be destroyed, a roaming cat doesn't stand much chance, but we can't seem to get this over to some folk, they still won't do enough to advertise their loss.

## WEST CORNWALL—continued

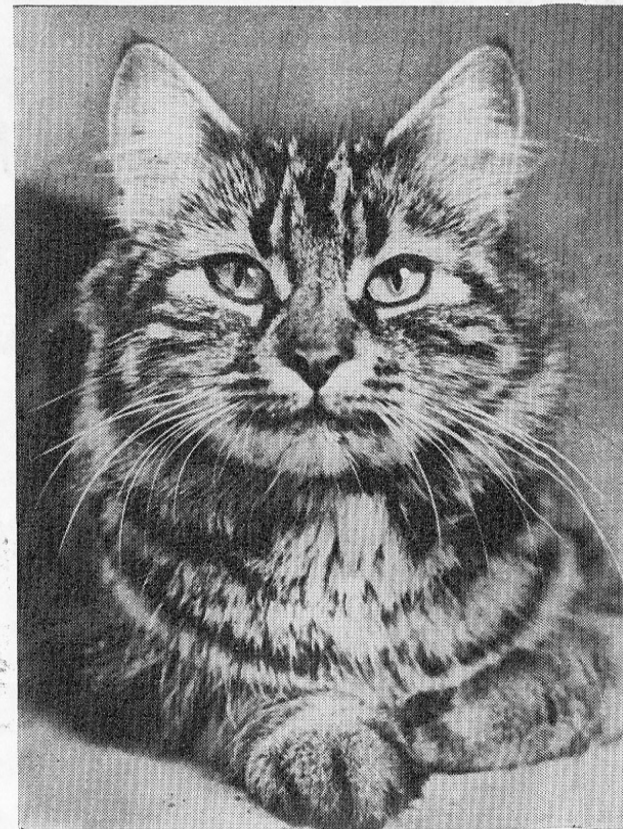
Advice is given through the mediums of letter writing and the phone. Dealing with so many cat problems often requires lengthy discussions and it is not unusual for us to become involved in personal human affairs. A late night phone call about a cat usually spells domestic rife and all that is needed is a sympathetic ear and a few words of comfort, the crisis is averted and humans and cats are safe again.

Since we began our Saturday Open afternoons we have entertained hundreds of cat lovers from all parts of the country and abroad. We show them the cats, provide teas with home baked bread and cakes, and introduce them to Norah Forde and Faith Libby who have manned our bazaar regularly. We are very indebted to this cheerful pair and for the jumble sale Norah organised recently. The money for the sale of goods

is more than useful.

Amber's Garden is a popular fund raiser. Pebbles with names of departed pets painted on are placed on the wall overlooking the colourful plot where her remains are scattered. Donations with orders for pebbles have been a wonderful help, also King Corineus' Trough our magical water where wishers may toss their coins. Parcels sent with goods to stock the bazaar and the kindly donations from well wishers keep us going.

Free cat boarding for O.A.P.'s and poorer people, cat delivering and collecting, travelling basket loaning, the voucher system for poor cats—these are a few of the services we offer. Who is responsible for these activities? Perhaps quite a few of you have met our gang of young helpers who live in and cheerfully do their best for felines and humans. They receive no wages and their reward is the fact that the animals are cared for. Brutus, Peter and Elayne . . . thank you.



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