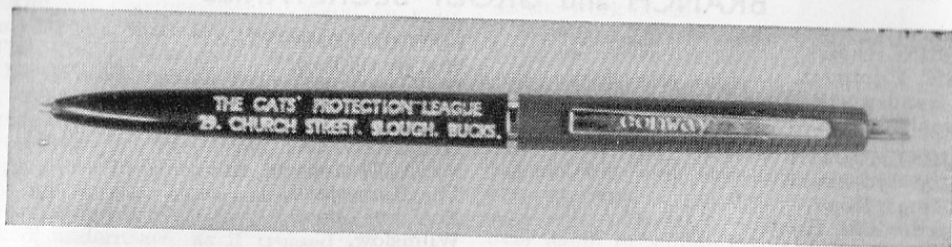


SHOP WINDOW



C.P.L. PENS: 7½p each REFILLS 2½p POSTAGE 3p

Two or more post free from Headquarters only

FAULTY PENS OR REFILLS REPLACED FREE

OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

Astrological analysis of character. Letter with date of birth, stamped addressed envelope and donation for the C.P.L. to Mr Curtler, 5, Hill Avenue, Worcester.

Buy: Hand-knitted **dishcloths** and/or **Aprons**, from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland. Prices, Aprons 45p. Dishcloths 9p.

Wanted: Cat "Charms" — gold and silver. All silver charms received will earn 50p and all gold charms £1 for my C.P.L., collecting box. Your interest and help will be much appreciated. Miss D. Gowing, Rosemary, Cromer Road, Roughton, Norwich NOR 29Y.

Wanted: by cat lover/writer: unusual cat stories for eventual publication; part of proceeds to go to the Cats Protection League. Epton, 58 Vale Road, Seaford, Sx.

Toy Mice — home-made and a source of enjoyment to your pets for only 12½p including postage. All proceeds to the C.P.L., — orders please to Miss R. Schefer, 1, Castle Court, Pollard Road, Morden, Surrey.

C.P.L. members writing paper now available at 20p plus 5p postage and packing. Orders of two pads or more post free. Available only from 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

C.P.L. Slogan Labels are sold in Aid of Funds 17½p per packet. The Cat's Protection League, 29, Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

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.

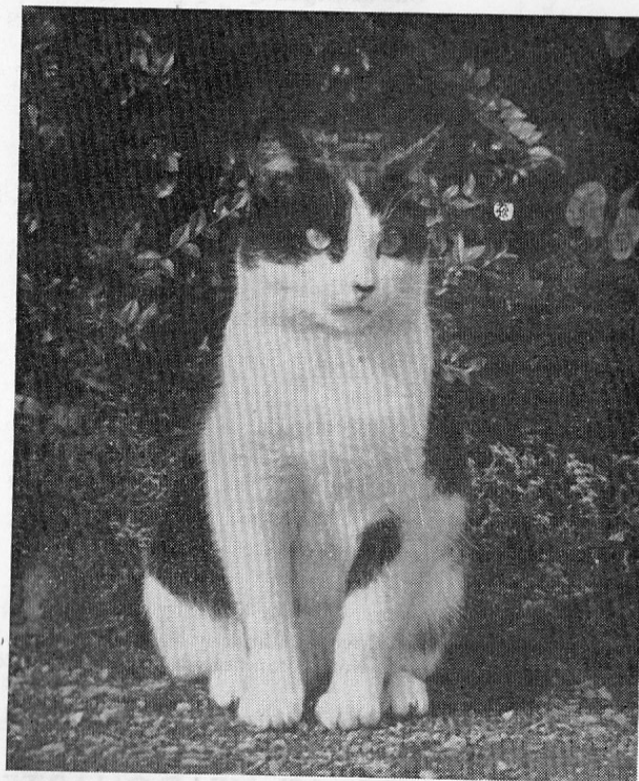
Cat Blankets — home knitted all wool cat blankets — matching colours at 30p each proceeds for my C.P.L., collecting box. Mrs. M. Foster, 11, Monmouth Road, Oxford, OX1 4TD.

Water colour portraits of pets or children — from clear snaps with description — price 60 pence. All money for C.P.L.

Dorothy Hall,
78 Hill Road
Watlington,
Oxford.

THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
CATS AND THEIR
WELFARE



The Cat is indeed the symbol of the home. Mark Twain summed this up when he wrote in Pudd'nhead Wilson that 'a house without a cat, and a well-fed, well-petted, and properly revered cat, may be a perfect house, perhaps, but how can it prove its title?'

THE CAT Vol. XLVII No. 3 MAY/JUNE 1973

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

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 N. 203644

Headquarters Office and Clinic are at
PRESTBURY LODGE, 29 CHURCH STREET, SLOUGH, BUCKS. SL1 1PW
Telephone Slough 20173

Editor
Arthur E. Parratt

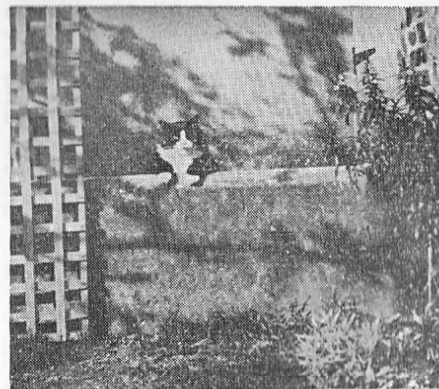
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(all above include magazine)		

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

ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable. | News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given. |
| Notification of change of address. | Used stamps. British Foreign and commemorative. |
| Linen and blanket pieces, for use in the Clinic. | Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries. |



ROUND AND ABOUT

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

EDITORIAL & SECRETARY'S NOTES

As this edition of The Cat is being issued concurrently with the League's Annual Report, a much larger portion than usual of the magazine is being placed into the hands of our readers' articles and various offerings.

This has resulted in the May edition of our magazine containing many articles that have been held over from recent issues and gives me the opportunity of showing how many of you send your own stories and poems, centred always around our feline friends.

The branch reports do include several accounts of the 1972 activities but following the pattern embarked upon last year, we have decided to combine these reports in our normal issue, thus leaving the Annual Report to concentrate on the available figures, both work and financial, of the League's efforts throughout the past year.

We hope that the two varying publications will meet with your approval and give you an extra portion of reading material during the months of May and June.

V.A.T.

After several visits and interviews with the Customs and Excise authorities, it has now been established that the League will not, at present, be called upon to register for V.A.T.

This decision has been welcomed in many respects, not least, for the reason that at Headquarters we shall not now be faced with the necessity of employing extra staff to carry out all the accounting procedures and records that are involved with any such official arrangements.

Regretfully we shall still be faced with an ever increasing burden of expenditure for many of the bills and services we have to meet will be increased by 10% and our Voucher Scheme, alone, will rise by some £1,100 annually if we are to keep up the same

neutering campaign as was carried out in 1972. This extra expense will, of course, also affect all our branches and groups and whilst they, like Headquarters, will be making every effort to reduce their costs and overheads to meet this expense, they will need all your continuing support to their fund raising efforts and even an extra amount of support both financial and practical will be essential if we and they are to maintain our recent efforts.

NEUTERING

Many members from all parts of the country have written to me recently drawing my attention to the claims and advertisements made by a sister society regarding the launching of the first ever "pets family scheme" and the fact that they were introducing a pilot scheme for neutering in selected areas of the country.

On your behalf, I wrote to the society concerned giving recent figures of our own neutering scheme, making it perfectly clear that we had been conducting an ever increasing campaign for the neutering of cats for many years and whilst we welcomed this new assistance in the battle, we were not happy with their "first ever" claims. I have had an acknowledgement of our efforts and give herewith an extract from the letter I have received from the R.S.P.C.A., in answer to my comments.

"I must apologize for giving the impression that this society is the only one which is doing anything about sterilization and the fact that you have drawn this matter to my attention confirms that I should have been more explicit in the article.

We are, of course, fully aware of the immense value of the work that your own society has done and is doing in this field.

Thank you again for taking the trouble to write to us and I hope that we can continue

to co-operate in any way that would be mutually beneficial".

MEMBERSHIP

Following last year's gratifying number of new members joining the League i.e. 309 including 44 life subscriptions, it can now be reported that in the first three months of 1973 a total of 96 new members including 21 life subscriptions have been received.

Will you try to enroll just one member during 1973 in order that last year's total can be well and truly surpassed.

OBITUARY

It was with deep regret that I received the news of the untimely death of Mrs. D. I. Kent of Derby, known by all her colleagues as Rene. Mrs. Kent was a member of the Derby Branch Committee and apart from her untiring efforts to that branch and the C.P.L., in general was also responsible for the arranging of the local jumble sales and she will, no doubt, be greatly missed.

My own personal memories of her are brought so readily to mind by a photograph taken at Headquarters in late 1971 when the branch Committee visited us in Slough. for this picture shows Mrs. Kent and myself with our arms linked together in true friendship and companionship, that the support of our cause produces amongst so many members and workers.

Her work will, of course, be carried on but the memory of her cheerfulness and her devotion to all our feline friends will linger on for many days to come.

Arthur E. Parratt.

THE LATE DONALD CHAMBERLAIN

Another of the League's staunch supporters has passed on and will be sadly missed in many fields of animal welfare and especially where cats are concerned. He gave what help he could to several of the Branches and had a particularly soft spot for Edmonton. In addition to his C.P.L. activities he interested himself in local (Norwich) cat welfare; all this despite ill health which preceded his death on Tuesday, April 3rd 1973. I was glad to count him a friend.

A. A. Steward

BIRMINGHAM EVENING MAIL

Monday April, 2nd.

A MICE JOB

A suburban shop window advertisement in Sydney reads: "Home wanted for female kitten. Will do light mousework".

BOOK REVIEW

Abandoned - by G. D. Griffiths

This is a most descriptive story of an unwanted kitten abandoned in the lonely

wastes of Dartmoor and describes her life as a stray growing up in this desolate spot of the country. The story gives a most vivid description of her life, the rearing of her kittens and her eventual settling, in the home of an old couple who slowly win her confidence and give her the shelter so long denied.

A simple story, wonderfully told and one that will leave the reader in no doubts as to the surroundings and the problems of survival of, but one abandoned cat.

Published by
Worlds Work Ltd.,
The Windmill Press,
Tadworth, Surrey.

Price £1.20p.

Please note this publication is not available from Headquarters.

SHARNI

Sharni the Siamese cat took one look at Wales and turned up her nose. Not a patch on Sussex, she decided.

So the 12-year-old cat awaited her chance, and when it came she high-tailed it for home - on foot.

Twenty months and 250 miles later Sharni is back in Chailey. And, as a reward for her incredible journey, she is to stay in her old backyard.

Sharni's adventure began when her owners, Mr. and Mrs. Brian James, almost two years ago left their home at the Pump House, Chailey, and moved to Gly Ceiriog, a village near Port Talbot.

For a few weeks Mrs. James kept Sharni indoors to get her used to her new home. Then she let her out - and that was that. Sharni began her marathon journey.

Twenty months later Mrs. Dorothy Thorne of Coppards Bridge, Chailey - a stone's throw from Sharni's old home - spotted Sharni wandering in some nearby fields.

"We rung up Mrs. James and asked her about her cat. She said it had disappeared".

Sharni was in a poor state after her long journey, but she soon picked up again. She and Mrs. Thorne "adopted" each other and when Mrs. James travelled back to Chailey to make sure it really was Sharni she decided to let Sharni stay.

So Sharni has made her bed on the top shelf of a shed in Mrs. Thorne's garden: "She is ever so affectionate," said Mrs. Thorne.

"It seems extraordinary I can't think how she got across the motorways and the rivers".

Said Mrs. James: "It's fantastic. If anyone saw her during that time we would love to find out exactly where. Maybe she spent the winter with someone".

EVENING ARGUS, Thursday, March 28th, 1973.

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

Once again the kitten season is almost with us and we shall again reap the harvest of unwanted mites sown by the thoughtlessness of owners who refuse to have their cats neutered. In the meantime the comparative quiet spell has enabled us to place a number of adult cats in cosy homes, where they will repay any kindness they receive tenfold. We had such a heartening letter from one of our members that we asked, and received, her permission to share it and we hope it will inspire others to take in older cats who may lack the obvious charms of tiny, fluffy, kittens, but will, if given the opportunity, make most affectionate companions. My own dear old Duffy, who sadly, died early this year, was such a stray and I speak from experience, as he laboured under the illusion that he was a scarf and the only possible place for him to be was round my neck - flattering but inconvenient. Our member writes as follows:-

"I was very interested in the article in the March News Letter on 'Wild Cats'. I have, over the years, given a home to three such animals. Two were very wild indeed, number three has just taken up residence and is living peaceably with the rest of the family. I gained his trust fairly easily as he was in no fit state to argue being desperately thin, totally blind in one eye, a filthy mouth with a very decayed and loose tooth at the back and a roaring Staphylococcal infection of the feet causing all his toes to bleed. Apart from all this he could scarcely stand due to weakness and general toxæmia. We visited the Vet poste haste and I was told the only practical thing to do was to have him put down as his chances of recovery were practically nil. One trusting eye looked up into mine and I decided to hang on to that word 'practically' and give him a chance. Ricki is now on his feet! Toes healed, teeth attended to and neutered. Still very thin, but the hollows are filling out. He is still a bit of a Hobo or else it is taking him a very long time to cancel all his appointments. However he comes home and proudly uses the cat door along with the others. He knows that he is loved and wanted and appears very grateful. His life with us may

not be a very long one as it is impossible to assess the amount of permanent damage which may be left from his illness.

We have a Bring and Buy in June and our cupboards are almost bare, so if anyone is Spring cleaning in spite of inclement weather and finds any suitable items to spare we shall be most grateful.
Miss F. Primmitt,
109, Handsworth Wood Road, Birmingham,
B20 2PA.

CHELMSFORD AND DISTRICT

The Easter Fair was a great success and a very pleasant day for all of us. £115 was raised to help to care for the cats in the Shelter. Thank you very much to our good friends for the lovely things which arrived for the Easter Fair stalls, some of them sent anonymously. (Please send your name and address as we would like to thank you personally. Thank you too for the beautiful cat pictures, cards and calendars which you have sent for our calendar making lady, who is quite delighted with them.

Our "Permanent Aunts and Uncles" continue to send regular donations to help to support their adopted cats - the old and the timid ones - and we are indebted to them for their care for these cats.

We can now tell you some more news about our new Shelter to be. The bungalow, which stands in almost 1 acre of ground, mainly orchard, has now been purchased and we can apply for planning permission for our cedar wood buildings to be erected. Some of these will be removed and rebuilt from the existing Shelter, but we shall have to buy several new ones as we have expanded in our work so much during the past 3 years. We hope to have 3 large buildings, with compounds, each to take up to 20 cats comfortably. These cats will be the "normal" ones, ready and able to go to homes, so their stay in communal quarters won't be for long.

Then we shall have 10 "Mini-Shelters". These will be for pregnant cats too late to abort, for mothers with kittens, for slightly timid cats "coming round", and for cats waiting for their spaying and neutering appointments.

Mrs. Christine Peterson

DERBY BRANCH

Here in Derby we are averaging five to ten cats and kittens in and out of our Cattery each week, but we are having a good response to placing adult cats in loving homes. The first of the years kittens influx is now upon us and could be due to the mild weather. Tape and round worm is dominant at this time of year. Our cattery has no individual runs because one intake of cats can so easily leave the germ worms for the next intake of cats to pick up. Tin cat food does not appear sufficient and needs solids such as puppy meal as an additive.

Our recent Jumble sale on Saturday February 24th raised a total of £33, for which we thank all our helpers. We are shortly to receive a legacy, with grateful thanks to the late Miss D. Barrington. At the time of going to press we have just had our A.G.M. - Saturday March 31st and resulting from that meeting I am pleased to report that moves are afoot to reduce our rather large vets' bill.

S. Pratley,
Derby Chairman.

It is with great sadness that we have to record the passing of three members of the Derby Branch. We have only recently heard of the death of the Rev. Vivian Thomas; many will remember him when he was Vicar of St. Osmund's Church, Derby, and as Chairman of the local branch of the Anti-Vivisection League in Derby, before his retirement to his native Cornwall; we send our sincere condolences to Mrs. M. Thomas, St. Day, Redruth, Cornwall. Miss D. B. Barrington, of Kirk Langley, Derby, a very generous lady, died shortly before Christmas, and will long be remembered as a benefactress for many causes.

Finally, the untimely death of Mrs. D. I. (Rene) Kent. She was one of our first members when this Branch was formed, and was devoted to the cause. She was a member of committee and arranged all our jumble sales. We all loved her, and she will be with us always in spirit.

We welcome three new members to the Branch: Mrs. J. Barraclough, Chaddesden, Mrs. A. Winson, Sunnyhill, and Mrs. D. Sinclair, of Spondon.

D. Ellis, Derby,
Treasurer.

14, West Avenue South, Chellaston, Derby.

DOVER BRANCH

The work of the Dover Branch is small, but it is helping with a number of cats of both sexes, mostly female, being neutered. People whose cats need treatment by a Veterinary Surgeon, are also helped. The cats of old people in hospital are boarded and needy cats are fed.

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.

M. Smalley *Joint Hon. Treasurers.*
L. Kelly *and Acting Secretary.*

EDMONTON GROUP

This year I would like to give Members some idea of the amount of work that we have done. We collected or had brought into my Sanctuary 1,937 Cats, plus 2,197 Kittens, of these we have had to destroy quite a few. Of course, we do not like to destroy any, but as home finding becomes increasingly difficult, this is the only practical solution.

We have had to reduce trapping work during the past year because we have cleared so many sites, factories, hospitals, etc., that we have become sickened by it. We naturally would rather try to save lives than take them and it is hard going.

In addition to all this, 2,974 female cats were taken to be spayed, plus 561 female kittens, males neutered 478 adults and 537 kittens. Really, it is all a lot of work for us, together with running a Charity Shop for collecting stock for the shop takes a lot of time and energy. To be at the shop selling goods, means a morning and evening rush to feed and clean out the cats. However, it is the late calls at all hours that get us down at times. We have got a large black and white board on the wall next to the front gate giving details of times to call, but people will insist on thumping on the porchway door for any triviality at times to suit their own convenience, often quite late. Emergencies are one thing, but I do like a bit of peace and quiet late evenings, and not to have to disturb all the cats by unlocking and lighting up the Cattery to find a travelling basket or something for some non-urgent case which could well wait until the morning. Some of those same people, no doubt, would strike at the mere suggestion of clocking off late in their own jobs. A little more consideration and a lot more help would do much to ease the work load for us.

We would like to thank H.Q. for all the help received and Mr. Parratt for kindly making the odd journey from Slough with goods for the shop. Also, all those kind members who give support throughout the year with donations and goods for sale, which are always welcome.

"Fluffy" will be 27 this year, and her party will be held on July 21st. Should any Members like to attend, please write for an invitation as space is limited. Mrs. C. Walledge
Oxford Road, Lower Edmonton, London, N.9.

GLOSSOP

Having held our Annual General Meeting on the 29th March, it was disappointing to find that only two members other than the Committee attended even though it had been advertised in the local press and individual letters sent to all members. In spite of this setback we are determined to carry on as best we can and it would be appreciated if members could give more practical help instead of leaving so much to be done by so few. The reason we ask is that the few are so overloaded with work that they become discouraged and we are in danger of losing their valuable help. If we could only spread the load it would make life easier.

Anyone with transport, who is willing to make a journey or two a week, would be an absolute Godsend. Also, we need volunteers for House to House collections and Flag Days in the Denton and Marple areas and also for our sales at Community House, Glossop. Please ring Mrs. Edge at 061-336 1461, who is now our Assistant Hon. Secretary, for information.

S.O.S., for goods for resale, knitted or crocheted goods, china or pottery, jewellery, unwanted Christmas presents or anything of saleable value.

Thank you to our stalwarts who continue to send their "widow's mite" but it would be helpful if we could look forward to some form of regular donations - for instance, if members could perhaps organize weekly collections amongst their cat loving friends or take a collection box.

We are sorry to write such a pessimistic report but we hope to have better news next time we write, providing our requests are fulfilled.

Mrs. R. Ward,
21, Palmerston Road, Denton, Manchester,
M34 2NZ.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT

During the first few months of 1972 it was impossible to engage a reliable animal welfare worker to see to the care and welfare of rescued cats and kittens at our Centre in Manchester. This obviously means that no statistics are available for these particular months. However my son and his wife took over at 155, Burton Road, and records are available for the last eight months of 1972. We received a grand total of 387 cats and kittens. Homes were found for 287 cats and kittens; 81 received a humane passing and 27 kittens, in spite of veterinary attention, died from natural causes. Thirty spays were arranged and taken to and from our veterinarian and neutering operations were arranged for the remainder requiring same and these

were taken to the veterinarian by the new owners. Eleven desperate cases were taken to the veterinarian immediately following collection and these creatures survived after treatment and good homes were found. During the year under review, twenty-five urgent calls were received in respect of accidents involving cats and kittens.

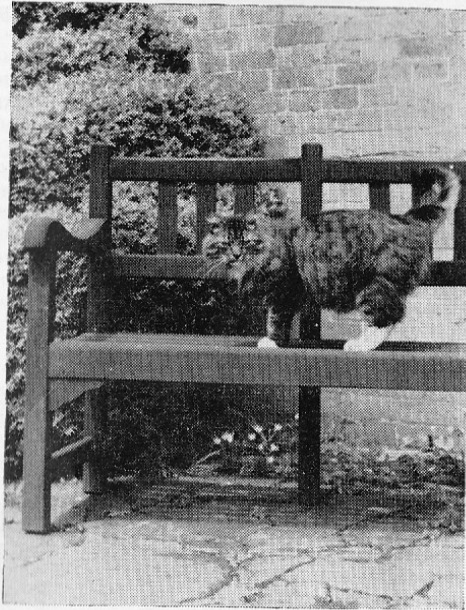
I shall not elaborate on the other creatures received at our Branch. Suffice it to say that I have collected rabbits, guinea-pigs, hens, tame rats and mice as well as dogs and pigeons etc. and all these creatures have been immediately transported to the Animals Convalescent Home at Wilmslow where facilities exist to accommodate these creatures.

The statistics given are indicative of strenuous efforts having been made to bring succour to creatures in need of care and welfare as well as affection. I am most grateful to my son and his wife who came to my rescue and accepted my invitation to reside at our Centre in order to see to the care and welfare of all cats and kittens received. At first the hours of business were restricted to the evenings but this proved to be a little unsatisfactory because people were unable to gain access during the day. My daughter-in-law, upon my request, gave up her occupation and is now working full time in an honorary capacity and I am deeply grateful to her for the sacrifice she has made. I have been associated with the Manchester Branch for the past twenty-six years and I can state quite categorically that very little in the way of repairs have been carried out with the exception of the dire necessities. This means that, in comparison with the funds at our disposal, a vast expenditure must be involved in order to carry out the vitally necessary repairs and decoration. The pointing of the premises has been carried out and paid for by Headquarters but this still leaves the interior decorating to be fulfilled and this can be a costly business. Again I am grateful to my son for doing most of the work gratis because this only necessitates the purchase of materials. Given time, co-operation and especially the very necessary financial support, our premises in Manchester should be brought up to standard and made presentable for all and sundry who visit when bringing cats and kittens or calling to collect one. Our Branch is fortunate in so far as I am also the Organising Secretary of the Humane Education Society who have an Animals' Convalescent Home in Wilmslow. Therefore both organisations can and do work smoothly together. Wherever possible, cats and kittens that would have to be "incarcerated" for long periods in pens can be removed to the Convalescent Home and enjoy the freedom of their spacious cat chalets. I wish to extend an

invitation to all readers to visit our establishments and those who are on holiday or on business are welcome to view. It is advisable to ring Wilmslow 20802 or Wilmslow 31171 to make an appointment before visiting the Convalescent Home and for our Branch in Manchester, please ring 061-445 9202. There is a great deal to be accomplished as far as the rescue and care and welfare of stray and unwanted cats and kittens are concerned. Financial help is desperately required and assistance from animal lovers in the Manchester area in the finding of good homes is always welcome and deeply appreciated. We are running at a financial loss every year and our membership must be increased if we are to survive as a Branch. I can only plead through the medium of this report to the supporters of the Cats' Protection League for their immediate help and I shall endeavour to solicit the co-operation of other animal lovers outside of our movement. If this financial support is forthcoming we shall survive and be able to accomplish far more in the years to come on behalf of those creatures desperately in need of care and attention.

In conclusion I wish to express my most grateful thanks to the General Secretary as well as his staff and Committee and also my own Committee and subscribers for the excellent co-operation they have given my staff and myself in helping to fulfil the numerous obligations thrust upon us during the year under review. I now look forward to the future and I trust that our service to animals and the public will not diminish but increase because people who have a great love and respect for cats and kittens will not desert colleagues and myself in our hour of need.

Arthur Thompson,
The Homestead, Newgate Lane, Wilmslow,
Cheshire.



“MICKIE MOUSE”

POSTAGE STAMPS

A Cry from the Heart

This comes from Miss Cozens. So many good stamps go into the wastepaper basket because (1) the perforation has been trimmed away or (2) the stamp is torn, or (3) the stamp has been trimmed at the back by being pulled off the paper without first soaking it. So please be very careful.

**NEXT ISSUE
JULY/AUGUST
1973**

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Builders recently working on the roof of a derelict house found a kitten of about six weeks in a rainwater pipe, soaking wet and ravenously hungry. The kitten was brought to us, dried off and fed with a bottle. No sooner was it comfortably settled than the builders again called on us. The cries of another kitten could be heard on the roof but no kitten could be found. After much searching, the kitten was at last found in the same pipe but too far down to be reached. A strip of rag was let down into the pipe, and fortunately, the kitten bit on to it and was hauled out to be re-united with its sister. Neither had learned to eat solid food and they are now being taught that art. How they came to be in the rainwater pipe no one knows but it is felt that after such an ordeal, they certainly deserve to go to a good home. Will any kind member offer them such a home?

Fred, our clumsy permanent resident, has a happy knack of making friends and now has a second sponsor. A Fred Fund stands on a mantelpiece in some office for the staff to contribute to his welfare. Fred, however, shares his good fortune with his pals at the Shelter.

Our next “Happening” is our Jumble Sale on the 16th June. Any goods for sale would be gratefully received.

We are already collecting things to sell at our Christmas Bazaar so, if you have any Christmas presents as yet unused, we would be very glad to have them. Any discarded toys which could be renovated with a touch of paint or a screw or two would also be welcome.

In every issue of “The Cat” we seem to be begging for something or another but that must be in the nature of any charitable organisation. We are most grateful to all who respond to our pleadings for trading stamps and all sorts of goods.

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1972

It is twenty-two years since the founding of our organisation by the late Dr. Kathleen Matthews and twenty years since we became the North London Branch of the League. Sadly, it is ten years since we lost, through her death, the driving force and wisdom of Dr. Matthews. How much her guidance is still missed! The Branch has, however, continued its work helped still by two valiant ladies who were involved with the original founding of the Branch. One of them, Miss Magee, is responsible in the main for our neutering campaign, and the others, Miss Smallman, though in her eighties, still lifts and carries jumble and serves at all our sales.

That working for cats keeps one young is amply illustrated by the case of Mrs. Smith of Woodside Park who runs a gift stall at our Bazaars. She, at 88, raised a record sum on her stall this year.

During the year, we received into the Shelter 1956 stray and unwanted cats. It is sad that, after 22 years of unremitting work for cats and a vigorous neutering campaign, so many stray cats and kittens still abound in our area. The most distressing part of our work would be greatly reduced if only we could persuade more cat owners to believe in neutering and thus prevent so many unwanted kittens being born.

Among the cats taken in was Straykins II, so named because of his resemblance in colour and age to Straykins, a former much loved permanent resident at the Shelter. Fed for many months on a flat roof by our Shelter assistant, “Daisy” Neary, Straykins II was taken in when he became ill and was then found to be homeless. He is now fit and happy as one of our permanent residents.

Soon after the founding of this Branch, a little tabby kitten was found in a gutter, soaking wet and on the point of dying. After long treatment, he was restored to health save for the loss of an eye and was placed in a good home. Enquiries at the time revealed that children had taken the kitten to a pet shop in the hope of getting a few coppers. As he was not particularly attractive, he was refused by the pet shop and the children dumped the kitten in the street. Ever since that time, we have persuaded our three local pet shops to take in all cats and kittens offered to them on the basis that we would accept all unsold ones each week. In this way, 235 of the cats taken in this year were pet shop kittens.

Fred, our cockney cat, still plagues us with his clumsiness but now has a sponsor, who supplies him with his food each week. Perhaps some one else would like to sponsor one of our permanent residents. There are seven of them apart from the forty cats in transit which are always at the Shelter.

Of the cats brought in to us, only ten per cent were placed in good homes. We set a high standard for the homes to which our cats and kittens go but it is sad and disappointing that only about one in ten goes to a home. Many cats we take in are ill or too old to place, but we do wish that the proportion were higher.

Trapping of semi-wild strays still continues, mainly through the good offices of our two helpers, Miss Mervyn and Miss Tomlin. During the year, they spend many of their evenings each week clearing sick and hungry cats from building and derelict sites and our grateful thanks are due to them.

NORTH LONDON—cont.

Thanks to the kindness of our Veterinary Surgeon in giving us an extra day for the work, our neutering figures have increased. During the year, the Branch has arranged for the neutering of 951 cats, mainly female, and 150 more than in the previous year. This side of our work is in the sole charge of Miss Magee and Daisy Neary who are assisted by our Driver, Mr. Reggie Smith, who is fully occupied for six mornings each week in the transport of cats. His van has travelled just over 18,000 miles during the year in the cause of cats. Our Minivan has journeyed nearly 6,000 miles in the same cause.

Strangely, white cats have been predominant at the Shelter and, during they year, we have received twelve pure snowy whites, easily placed in good homes, fortunately.

Another arrival was a day old kitten whose mother had been run over. The kitten was rubbed against and placed with one of our nursing "mums" who readily accepted it. The mum had several kittens of her own so the orphan's diet was supplemented with cow's milk from a doll's feeding bottle. The kitten (named NIGEL, after the Veterinary surgeon who delivered him to us) is now a strapping young cat urgently in need of a good home. So also is another young cat found dumped in a dustbin at four days old and similarly reared.

Included in the annual report is a copy of our account for the year and, as usual, our expenses are very much increased and, sadly, our receipts follow behind. The accounts have been prepared by our excellent Treasurer and Chairman, Miss Hutt, who, at 78, looks forward to many more years in office, and are audited by Mr. King-Farlow who has for many years given us the benefit of his professional services and sound advice without charge.

In conclusion, we thank all those who have helped us to keep the Branch running throughout 1972. We certainly could not have done so without Miss Neary, our Shelter assistant, or Mr. Smith our Driver. Both have done far more for us than their duty called for and we are most grateful. The members of our management committee have also worked hard and long for the Branch. We also thank so many other people who have done voluntary work for us, from manning the Shelter at odd times to lifting, sorting and selling goods at our sales. They will be happy to know that the takings at our sales have exceeded all previous years.

Mainly, we thank all members of the League who have given us encouragement and have sent us goods for sale, trading stamps and donations without which we

could not have kept going.

With so many friends, how can the Branch face 1973 with anything but great optimism. If we have other friends who would like to help us but are not sure how, any of the following would help us enormously —

Finding good homes for our strays.

Collecting bazaar and jumble goods for us. Serving at our sales.

Collecting Green Shield and other trading stamps.

Collecting for us used postage stamps, making sure that a small margin of paper is left around each stamp.

We have found that the toy stall at our bazaar pays us well and old toys that can be repaired or repainted would be most gladly received.

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

NORTH KENT GROUP

We would like to thank the many members who so kindly wrote to offer us support and encouragement in our work amongst the "Kentish Cats", also thank you to the people that have sent articles for sale at our May Bazaar.

We are all working feverishly to get as many cats neutered as possible before the holiday season starts, and so try to prevent the procession of people carrying boxes of much too young kittens telling us they are off on holiday and can't possibly ask the neighbours to look after the Mum cat if she still had the kittens with her, and as the boarding catteries don't like them either, what can they do!

Of Course we tell them what they *should* have done about three months previously, but it does not solve the immediate problem.

This being the quiet period for kittens, we have been able to find very good homes for most of the older cats although we still have a very nice long coated tabby, and also "Bandy", a black and white neutered male who needs no further description! I have two young mother cats each with three lovely kittens residing in the Mini-Cattery in my garden and these will all be needing homes later as they were abandoned by persons unknown and uncaring!

Our Group will be having a stall at Northfleet Carnival on July 7th so would welcome anything suitable for sale there, especially toys, jigsaw puzzles and books — we have a good friend who re-dresses dolls for us and another that makes lovely ornaments with sea-shells. Please may we have your Milk-tops and Tin-foil, also stamps, knitting wool and pieces of material for making soft toys. All these things may be sent to me, and I will pass them on to the various helpers.

NORTH KENT—cont.

We are being asked more and more for help with food for the cats of older people, and will do our best to supply as much as funds will allow. The local Welfare Workers are very good and have put me in touch with several needy cases, all of whom were very grateful indeed for our assistance.

Mrs. E. Brooker,
5, Park Avenue, Northfleet, Kent.

SUSSEX BRANCH

We have just had our first Bring and Buy of the season at Ore Village Church Hall, and though the rain chose that moment to pour down for the first times for ages, we did quite well and made just over £30, and had a very pleasant evening. We nearly cleared the stalls, and now must set about collecting for our big Sale and A.G.M. in May and for our stall at the Charities Fair on the Pier in June.

A dear old cat we have had all the winter has just found a wonderful home — a Lady from Battle phoned that their old cat had died at the age of 17, and they missed him so much, had we an old cat that couldn't find a home. I described him to her — beautiful long-haired tabby, lovely face with magnificent eyes and about nine years old, and she said that as soon as she could get a taxi she would be over to fetch him, and arrived in little over half an hour. She has twice phoned to say how wonderful he is, and even more beautiful than I said, and he sits on her lap with his front paws round her neck, adding how much they all adore him. Another one, a lovely greyish tabby, but a bit crotchety or so it seemed, was much admired by a Scots couple who came and when he heard their voices he went mad with excitement, rolled about like a kitten and rubbed round their legs and purred and purred — didn't seem the same cat! Needless to say they took him home, and when the young man returned later with the basket he said that Tabby hadn't yet stopped purring. Two cat stories with a happy ending to cheer us along with the Spring sunshine.

Miss P. Mark,
113, Ashburnham Road, Hastings, Sussex

SOUTH LONDON COMMITTEE

Now we are arranging delightful tea-parties in private homes. On June 17th, Mrs. Manvers and her four handsome pussies will receive us and we are hoping to arrange similar parties during July and August. Everyone who would like to come, please

write for an invitation to 12, The Close, New Malden. Also, of course, I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to give a party of this kind, either Bring-and-Buy Tea-Party, or Coffee morning or Cheese evening.

Little Perdita is grateful for all the "extras" which we have been able to give her. She still has a sad air, but she is a much more friendly creature, and we hope to place her in a new home soon.

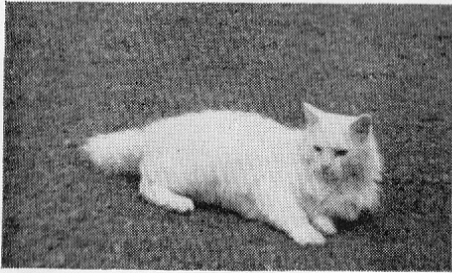
We have a poor little cat, Penelope, who arrived with four tiny kittens, born more or less en route. She did not seem to know what they were, and there was a busy time while bottles were prepared and kittens hand-fed. Fortunately, Penny suddenly realised and immediately began a career as the world's best mother-cat, just in time. If anyone would like to send her a present, she would be glad, so would I, because these extras are a real help.

Our friend who is furnishing a dolls' house, has asked me to appeal again to anyone reading this who has any small objects to spare, which might be put into a dolls house. Old dolls-house furniture, the older the better, would be welcome, so would tiny dolls. We have already been able to provide quite a number of little things, for which she has paid us most generously. What is most in demand is, curiously, very, very old wallpaper. If anyone can possibly find us any, even a very small bit, we will benefit by a large sum of money. Has anybody retained the almost lost art of making dolls' furniture from empty matchboxes? If anyone could make these things for us, they would have a wonderful sale.

With holiday time coming soon, please may I remind you of our "holiday souvenir" stall. This was a great success last year, we would like to restock it, so if you are able to have a holiday this year, please bring us something, just anything, or if you have a souvenir of a previous holiday which you could spare, we would like to have it. Thank you very much.

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

Stop Press News — We will be having a small bazaar on Saturday 7th July at St. Philips Church Hall, Earls Court Road, W.8. This has been arranged because we just must continue to have as many sales as we can; of course, some people will be on holiday, so will everyone who is free, please make a special effort to come and help to make the day a great success.



ULSTER BRANCH

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 31st March and all things considered we had a reasonably good attendance. I had hoped to be able to announce a new Honorary Secretary, but it seems no one is interested in the job, so I have no option but to battle on for another twelve months. Mrs. Dillon was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer and I want to give you the address again so that correspondence involving finance can be sent to her direct rather than to the Shelter, where it either has to be re-addressed or lie till she calls, which can result in replies and/or receipts being delayed. Here it is:

Mrs. L. Dillon, 19, Ferndale Avenue, LISBURN.

Our new Magazine Secretary is Miss M. B. Bradshaw, 21, Knockburn Park, Belfast, BT5 7AY and she has asked me to say that she is still finding her way and if any mistakes are being made please let her know. Also, she's anxious to get all the proper code numbers, ready for the time when they will be compulsory so if she has not got yours do let her have it. By the way it's Miss Bradshaw who does the wonderful crochet work which brings in so much money so we hope you'll keep on sending her bits and pieces of wool. The envelopes, suitable for sending out the Magazine, should also be forwarded to her in future and in this connection may I thank all who responded so splendidly to our appeal—they flowed in and I would like to make special mention of the large parcel of brand new envelopes which arrived with a Scottish post mark but no indication as to the identity of the sender. We are most grateful.

I would like to clarify a point which has puzzled several members and which was brought up at the A.G.M. In the annual report the amount shown against Jumble Sales was £6.30. This was actually for a small amount of jumble sold at the Shelter — the

main Jumble/White Elephant sales were included in the £770.89 shown under the heading Open Day, Sale of Work, etc. In spite of the almost hopeless conditions at present we raised over £100 at Jumble Sales last year. However the very first one we tried to have in 1973 ran into trouble — a bus driver had been shot dead and ALL public transport stopped for four days so only a handful of locals turned up and all our hard work resulted in about £15 being raised. Oh well, this is Ulster to-day. To revert to the A.G.M. I'm happy to say that at long last we are going to be able to cope with Covenanted subscriptions. Mr. Hill, 19, Bawnmore Road, Belfast B19 6LA has offered to take charge so if you are a Tax-payer and prepared to covenant your annual subscriptions please contact him immediately. It could mean a dramatic increase in our income. I think there are about to be some changes, but at the moment if you covenant £1 per annum it becomes £1.64 so you can see it is very well worth while. Another change announced is our plan to make all annual subscriptions payable at the same time. This will take effect as from 1974 and we'll let you know later what month has been chosen. This should save us having to send out individual reminders as we can make a general announcement in the Magazine each year that subscriptions are due.

Now for some cat chat. We had a bomb scare at the Shelter recently. A car with "AN OBJECT" on the back seat was parked right at our front gate and the driver was seen to run off. Mrs. Tredrea was in bed with a chill, but had to drag herself up and she and Mr. Tredrea hastily got all the cats out into the garden at the back while the soldiers stood over them urging them to hurry. The whole area was evacuated but it turned out a false alarm though we had some very anxious moments. Eventually all the cats were safely retrieved, though naughty Misty decided to make a night of it and didn't show up until midnight. By the way readers who were horrified about the story of the two little cats destined to repose under a headstone will be delighted to know that Snowy and Scoopy have gone together to an excellent home. Finally, the story of Darkie. I tell this for several reasons the main one being the importance of keeping up the search for a lost puss, even when it seems hopeless.

When Darkie's "mum" died with tragic suddenness in the Autumn her family were grief-stricken and it was another heart-break when Darkie got lost early in the New Year. Somehow he had managed to smuggle himself into the car for a quiet nap, unknown to anyone, and when the car was driven off and the door opened at a point some considerable

ULSTER—cont.

distance from his home he shot out and disappeared into the blue. He was wearing a bright red collar with name and address disc attached so it seemed reasonable to hope that he would be traced fairly easily. Every effort was made to find him — continuous "lost" advertisements in the press and notices in shops. The family notified us, the U.S.P.C.A. local hotels/schools and called at houses in the area but the days went by and there was not a sign of the missing puss. Many a person would have lost hope and given up but not Darkie's folk! THEY pressed on and the first breakthrough came after a month. The collar had been found in the back garden of a house not far from where he disappeared. It had not been there the previous day so obviously he had been in the garden during the night. The wording of the advertisement was altered and people were reminded that Darkie was still missing, now minus his red collar. They were asked to look out for him and put out food to encourage him. In conversation with the family we discussed the use of a trap and eventually I fetched our trap from the Shelter. We first set it in the garden where the collar was found. Sadly none of the cats we caught were the right one, so we set them free again. Then came a phone call — a black cat was hanging around a certain house, in fact they had been chasing it but now they had seen the advertisement — it might be the one we wanted. The trap was hastily moved to the new venue and to cut the story short, six weeks after his disappearance a hungry Darkie in search of food walked into the trap and was joyfully conveyed to his home where he is now settling down happily after his terrifying experience. If Darkie's family had been content to write him off as lost after a few weeks one shudders to think what his fate might have been.

I'm afraid I've already taken up too much space so may I end by thanking the anonymous donors of goods for our next sale, also our friends, name I think Alun Jones but no address given, for a most welcome donation.

Miss E. McKee,

92a, Earlswood Road, Belfast 4, Northern Ireland.

WEST CORNWALL BRANCH

The arrival of Spring is somewhat marred by the influx of pregnant cats. It is thought provoking to discover that so many people

have been so very kind to stray cats throughout the Winter only to find that the dear little stray is expecting kittens and could we take her in. Usually it is too late to spay before the births, so we are faced with extra work, extra costs and the miserable job of destroying all these little cat families. "Oh you can't put them down" they wail, we can, and we do. Usually we have the mother cats spayed as soon as possible and find homes for them, but regrettably the kittens have to die. Apart from the obvious reasons of too little money and too few helpers there is the problem of home finding — there just aren't enough homes for the ever increasing cat population and unless cat lovers unite and prevent breeding they must face up to the consequences which is destruction . . . not a pleasant thought is it?

Due to pressure of work we were forced to close down in the Winter, but intend to resume our Saturday Open Days during the warmer months. We are very lucky with voluntary workers who help us on Saturdays, but "behind the scenes" work has grown and permanent helpers are difficult to find, especially as much of the work is tedious and soul destroying, so only very dedicated folk are willing to devote their working hours to animal welfare.

Your parcels have been much appreciated and when we are able to repair the leaks in the Gift Shop we shall indeed have an enviable show of goods, and perhaps holiday makers will buy their souvenirs from us, I am convinced they are of a high standard in quality and assortment. Especially attractive are the woven bags and mats made beautifully for us by Mrs. Tungatt.

Miss Loane has been sorting and pricing our growing collection of foreign stamps most diligently and we are able to make a nice regular income selling stamps. Many of you save your foreign stamps and English ones too and we are grateful, but I would like to mention that some of you have very tidy minds and trim the paper carefully around the stamps quite often "nicking" the perforation, this happens sometimes with large parcels of stamps, and I have to go through them regretfully throwing most of them away. So if you are saving stamps, please leave a very generous margin, they are soaked off the paper eventually and only perfect stamps are saleable.

K. Beesley,

Cathowena, Cusgarne, Catteries, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall.

Cat Competition

I must congratulate Miss Lewis, who made up the competition, on being to clever for us all. Very few members were brave enough to send in any answers, even forlorn hopes. The best of them had four mistakes, and the sender, Miss Leggatt of Broadstairs wins a small consolation prize.

I must admit that I had hoped for a better response. However, I am very grateful to Miss Lewis and I only wish that her very clever puzzle had earned a better reward.

OSYTH SHERRATT

Solution

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Indicate | 22. Medicate | 43. Catgut |
| 2. Inculcate | 23. Vindicate | 44. Prevaricate |
| 3. Catachysm | 24. Catalpa | 45. Cat-fall |
| 4. Syndicate | 25. Catch-poll | 46. Placate |
| 5. Ducat | 26. Education | 47. Cat-walk |
| 6. Catacomb | 27. Scatterbrain | 48. Precatory |
| 7. Scathing | 28. Catherine-wheel | 49. Intricate |
| 8. Toccata | 29. Scatch | 50. Cathode |
| 9. Catcall | 30. Caterpillar | |
| 10. Predicate | 31. Pole-cat | |
| 11. Dedication | 32. Sno-cat | |
| 12. Catholic | 33. Cats-eyes | |
| 13. Bifurcated | 34. Cataract | |
| 14. Catch | 35. Pontificate | |
| 15. Delicate | 36. Piscatory | |
| 16. Scattered | 37. Category | |
| 17. Catarrh | 38. Suffocation | |
| 18. Concatenate | 39. Caterer | |
| 19. Dessicated | 40. Catodon | |
| 20. Complicate | 41. Rusticate | |
| 21. Catamaran | 42. Cathedral | |

IN MEMORIAMs

In loving memory of our dear Barnaby who went to St. Francis 16th May, 1970. Still sadly missed but who lives on in Oliver Twist - our newest cat.

Jean and William Sanders-Overy

Mitzi (Keja Kyloo) born March 28th 1958 died March 16th 1973.

A Siamese, who for almost fifteen years was the constant and loving companion of Phyllis Coward, Lewes, Sussex. Purring almost to the end of her life, when heart problems and failing sight made living more than difficult. Grateful and lasting memories, darling Mitzi, from the three of us left at Robin Hill.

H. A. L. Coward

In ever loving memory of our best beloved STEPHEN, Passed over June, 1957. Also our very own dearest FLUFFKINS, aged 13 years, July 1972. Re-united with their own best beloved Uncle Billy.

Auntie Averil

THE DUCHESS NANA 1947-1960. Thirteen years ago and remembered every day. E.C. SIVA - "The devil in brown boots". Died 16th February, 1973. Dearly loved for four short years, and sadly missed. M. Monk.

* * *

MEMBERS' CORNER

WHISKY, THE CHURCH-GOING CAT. HIS OWN STORY.

People that have studied cats say that black and white ones are the most intelligent. I feel sure from my own experience that this is true.

For ten years I have lived less than a stone's throw from the magnificent cathedral in this city so I made a point as soon as I was old enough of attending the services. I always sat on a chair at the back and a dear old lady who sat near took a fancy to me and brought me some whiting for Christmas.

This lady evidently thought I was a good religious cat and for my part I certainly considered I was, but one or two other old dames started telling tales about me to the verger. Now there wasn't an atom of truth in what they said - it was nothing less than meanness and ignorance. They had an idea that cats shouldn't come to church because, as *they* thought, animals didn't have souls. I suppose they'd say cats don't go to heaven. Thank goodness there are people like Val Gielgud who know better.

Well these old witches - I can't call them anything else - went to the verger with dirty tales about me. They were lies because when I first started going to the cathedral the verger showed me the cat's door and I always used it, especially when I spent the night there.

My mistress didn't like me spending the night in the cathedral. Of course she wouldn't do it herself - she wouldn't have the guts - and she didn't understand what a thrill I got out of it roaming all alone in that great building, climbing over the tombs of those old bishops and warriors and looking for mice in all sorts of queer places. I always think it's a pity that our friends can't see things from our point of view.

Well the old gossips went on telling lies and the verger who used to be my friend, got worried, especially when one day the cleaner found some thing, but I swear it wasn't me. I saw a nasty mangy black cat in there one night and chased him out. He was the one that did it!

Well the verger got worried and kept worrying my mistress and she had a business to look after and couldn't go on being worried so in the end he worked on her nerves to such an extent that she agreed to have me put to sleep. To do her justice she didn't want to do it. I know she was most upset about it and never slept all night when she made up her mind to it.

Well she took me to the vet, and while we were in the waiting room where there were a lot of people waiting they all made a fuss of

me and said how lovely I was and begged her to spare my life.

Eventually she was persuaded to do so, but somehow I didn't altogether trust her. She had allowed herself to be persuaded to do the thing in the first place, and I felt she might change her mind back again so, as she was carrying me out I made a dash for freedom and was very soon a long way from the old vet. It didn't take me long either to get up on the hills where I am still living, miles away from the stuffy old town.

Nevertheless sometimes when I climb a tree and see the city in the distance it does look rather nice with the sun on it and the lovely grey cathedral in the midst - the cathedral where, until the old witches interfered, I spent so many happy hours.

But nothing will ever tempt me to go back again. I'm free now. I manage to get food - there are plenty of birds and rabbits about and I sometimes get milk from the farms. A woman on one of these places wanted to adopt me but I won't be adopted again ever - I've had enough of that. Another woman called me Whisky. That means she's been reading the papers, or listening to the wireless, and I fight shy of her as I want all my unhappy past to be forgotten.

There's an old chap here who goes out poaching at night. He's taken a fancy to me and I often pop in and have a bit of supper with him. He's all right but I've had enough of women with their smarmy, untrustworthy ways.

There's no doubt this is the life for me. The only thing against it is that I can't go to church any more. I suppose that means that I'm a heathen. Anyhow whose fault is that?

Whisky.

Nellie J. Drake

CAT

What do you think of me, Cat
You, whom I feed and love
Where do I come
In your small memory?
You give me friendship and peace
You give me tranquillity
How can I ever repay
All that you do for me?
You ask so little of me
Some food and a saucer of milk
A hand to fondle your head
A little corner for sleep.

Why do you never protest
No strikes, no quarrels from you
When shall we ever be
As sweet, as contented as you?

Anna Whitaker

KITTEN IN ROME

A tortoise-shell, orange-eyed, fearful,
Two months - at most - of fragile life behind
her,

Motionless sits amid traffic.

An aeon past (some few brief weeks away)

Was goodness. Maternal bracing tongue, and
liquid

Of love from gladly-yielding glands released

In vibrant rhythm by instinctive paws

In silken siblings' happy rivalry.

Then separation; brush; irrevocable.

Was she by a mother's sign dismissed,

The vital stream by dint of time exhausted?

Or was she seized capriciously - a "pet"?

Somehow, she's sitting there amid the traffic

Far from the Colosseum's chancy catering
(A place her weakened limbs will never reach).

With thirst unslaked in a cityful of fountains
(How many days since that last soothing sip?)

With hunger ignored at the hub of Christian-
tinity.

What can her short-lived future hold? I know

The end when come it does will bring deliver-
ance.

But what must she, before this, undergo?

The agonising touch of lethal wheels?

The torturing unhurried hands of Youth?

Her hours already are a living death.

Still frightened, she will soon no doubt be
mindless

And possibly not conscious to the last.

May God have mercy on you, Roman kitten!

Appealing and unclaimed - just one of most.

Kathleen Lake

THE "CURIOUS" WAYS OF MY CAT "KIKI"

Kiki is a black and white cuddly cat who is

3½ years old. His misdeeds would fill a book . .

Kiki's main feature in life is sleep. One time

he had got upstairs, much to the dismay of

my Mum and Dad.

Whilst lounging on my bed, mum walked

in. I do not think Kiki was sleeping because

when he saw my mum he was down before

you could say "Jack Robinson". She was

laughing!

Go back to Christmas for instance, when he

pulled the tree down - only 3 times! He also

nearly nabbed the turkey, every time she

opened the fridge he went sniffing to investi-
gate. Kiki may be curious cat but, I love

him with all my heart.

Anna Maria Swales. (one of our much

younger members)

TAIL - BY ME - A ONE TIME STRAY

The people who owned me as a kitten seem

to have gone, from what was a sort of home

for me. I was completely bewildered, hungry
and cold. However, one day I struck lucky
as I followed a small black and white cat,
very much like me, so I heard afterwards, up a
garden path when out came, a lady with a dish
of food, intended for the other one but I was
so hungry, I dug in first and the lady had to
bring out more. She was amazed when she
saw two alike and said, "Oh, no", as I now
see she had two cats already.

I wouldn't come in at first but lay in a
cardboard box in a shed near the back door
but she fed me regularly. Then, by degrees I
came in and she groomed me carefully and
wiped my eyes clear of pus, which I didn't
like. There was also a lump on my tail and
also some fur off.

However, gradually I felt better and loved
my lady, as I believe she loved me - sleeping
near her at night and following her about by
day.

I never played although I was still in the
kitten stage, although I noticed the other
two did, a large black and white, they called
"Felix" and a fat tabby and white, called
"Poppett" (the latter I tried to make advances
to, but she only growled and spat).

Eventually, when I felt really well and
strong, although I am a very small cat,
she says, she took me to a place in a basket
and although I cried on the way there, I
settled down and the rest was a blank until
my lady called for me and took me home - I
was quite wobbly on my legs and couldn't
walk straight. However, I soon recovered and
slept a lot after that, so much so that the lady
took me back again to the same place and a
lady looked at me all over, looking into my
ears and put some nasty ointment on my eyes
which she gave to my lady and told her to
continue doing this every day.

I begun to feel very sure of myself and now
go to the cat door and keep all the intruders
out. I also play a lot with the lady's laced
walking shoes and anything else that moves.

Before I was "neutered", as she says, I was
afraid of the big tom who keeps coming round
as he could give one quite a rough time, but
I'm not afraid of him any more and stand up
to him even on my hind legs, batting at him.
The lady is pleased as he doesn't come in so
much and leave a horrible smell around,
but she says he may belong to someone
although they certainly don't feed him as
he is always hungry - he may even be a
"stray" like I was but she can't have another
one in as her flat is so small for even three cats.

Anyway, I was lucky to find a home where
they cared and this one stray had a happy
ending to his story.

'Pippett' (via A. M. Anderson)

MEMBERS' CORNER—cont.

We are two cats. I, Quicksilver, am a
Long-haired Silver Tabby, age 10, and I,
Quince, am a short-haired Silver Tabby, aged
two. We are both very good cats, both of us
having been blessed by canons of the Church
of England. We have, we think, quite a
sensible mistress because she gives us 5p
pocket money every Saturday. We also get
5p each on 127 Saints' Days throughout the
year, and, of course, a good deal more on
Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Day,
Whitsun, and many other important days in
the Churches Calendar. This means that we
each have a comfortable annual income. No,
we do *not* hide it under the chair cushions. We
actually have our own Banking Account,
with the Midland Bank, with our own cheque
book and our own names printed on each
cheque, - Quicksilver and Quince. (Our
mistress does have to sign her name under
ours on the cheques because for some reason
or other - we can't think why - the Bank says
they cannot accept a paw mark as a signature.

What do we do with our money? First of all,
we pay our own subscription to the C.P.L.
but we support all sorts of other good causes.
For instance, we helped York Minster not to
fall down, and also Winchester, Lincoln, and
Ely Cathedrals, and St. Albans Abbey. We
also send an annual subscription to the
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, as
"conscience money"! We get very nice letters
of thanks from everything we support, all
addressed to *us*, which seems to amuse our
postmen.

Anyhow, we suggest that any of you cats
who read this article should persuade your
mistress or master to follow *our* mistresses
example, and thus have a source of ready
money to help good causes, - and we hope
that *your* bank will be equally co-operative.

Sent on behalf by Beatrice Hill.

P.S.—Since writing the above we have both
been on B.B.C. and I.T.V. - and so was our
kind bank manager. It was all because of our
banking account and our own cheque book,
and the wise things we do with our money.
Our mistress was there too but it was we who
were the really important guests.

I take your furry face within my hands,
And look into your golden eyes,
This is goodbye, it has to be the end,
Far better, than you should suffer needlessly
We shall not walk again on sunlit lawn,
Those magic hours now have gone, I must not
mourn,
For we shall meet again, my little cat
In happiness resumed, on that eternal Dawn.

M. P. Barnaby

PHYLL'S CATS

There's a house in Ashmead Road
That is still the abode
Of Peter and Phyll
And umpteen cats!
Cats that are fat
And cats that are thin,
It doesn't really matter
For Phyll will take them in.
Very much alive
And sometimes half dead,
There's Tiggy and there's Tim,
There's Sally and there's Mum
Not to mention some
Who inhabit the shed.

Excitement rises high
When the coley is nigh,
Tim always starts
To dribble,
His thoughts are on
The nibble
When there's fish in the air!
He gets that glassy stare!
He's a sappy sappy date
But he's never never late
And he sits by his plate
When the coley's on the boil.

We think Sally is Min's child,
For last summer, Min was wild
And she went off a'courting
With Syd.
So, to prevent further progeny
And create complete misogyny
In Syd,
We really must try harder
To dampen his ardour
By catching him to diddle!
That'll teach him not to fiddle,
Not to leave his smelly tiddle
In the shed.

Tiggy plays all day
In his own abandoned way
With the banisters
All down the stairs,
It's dangerous walking there.
And what a "to do"
When the kittens come
Quite new.
And it's all Phyll's fault,
For she cannot call a halt.
She spoils them all the while
And with disarming smile,
Says, "Ah, well - wouldn't you?".

K. B. Daniell

THE WAYS OF WHITE CATS

"And yet you persistently stand on your head; Do you, think, at your age, it is right?"

The Young Man who said this to Old Father William cannot have owned a white cat, otherwise he would have addressed the moggie instead.

Standing on the head is a favourite sleeping pose of white cats. Characteristically they curl into so tight a ball as to appear minus feet, tail and ears, all of which are tucked underneath as if trussed up by an Egyptian mummy-maker. The head is bent so far forward and under that the chin touches the chest and the skull rests flat on the ground.

Why the feline football act? The answer lies in the fact that many white cats – those with blue eyes – are born deaf. Virtually all blue-eyed whites, long or short haired, are so afflicted though strangely the orange-eyed variety is not, hence the recognition of the latter for show purposes as a separate breed. A visit to any cat show reveals how few are white cats compared with Siamese, Persians and other supposedly exotic kinds, particularly the short hair; even at the big Olympia show, short-haired whites are a very small group. White short-hairs as domestic pets are likewise uncommon; vets report that rarely are they found as strays, as C.P.L. workers no doubt realise.

Not least among the reasons for their rarity among ordinary non pedigree pets is that old belief that all whites are deaf. This is in practice a fallacy; almost all common pet whites are orange-eyed, the type born with normal hearing. As a further pointer, when trying to house a white kitten with a doubtful prospective owner, try repeating the strange and unexplained fact that, if the kitten shows a little tuft of black hairs on her head, apparently spoiling her beauty, she will have normal hearing. Why, experts admit they do not know, but the black hairs are a virtually infallible guide in white kittens. It need be only three hairs, or two, or even a single one; one is enough to justify a guarantee of hearing. The tuft disappears at first moulting, leaving a uniformly white animal with good hearing, one of the sturdiest, most affectionate, intelligent and talkative of cats.

So, why the football act? Deaf white cats, those with blue eyes or born minus the vital black smudge, are believed to be compensated by abnormally acute sensitivity to vibrations from their surroundings; they pick up messages from the earth or furniture as normal cats do through their ears, warning of approaching humans, animals or danger. The deaf white cat therefore instinctively sleeps with the top of her head pressed to the

ground so that her responsive little skull can do the work of ears.

Strangely, a specimen born with black hairs and proved to have normal hearing will still adopt this natural white-cat pose, squeezing her whole body into a tight round ball with her head almost underneath her chest and the cranium on the ground. Instinctively, she also adopts another pose characteristic of the deaf cat, lying on the very edge of a table with her head hanging over again presumably to catch warnings of approaching danger from her surroundings.

A white cat without a pedigree is a delightful pet, not least for these little peculiarities inherited from her more highly born but deaf sisters; much gentle amusement can be enjoyed simply by watching her twist into the yoga contortions belonging to her breed.

Muriel V. Searle,

164, Queen Anne Avenue, Bromley, Kent.



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FIRST JOURNEY

The Train was warm and fast,
They travelled well
In single baskets; only now and then
A yowl of puzzlement.
I reassured them gently, all was well.
They do not like to be confined
Or taken unfamiliar ways
(And nor do I!) This journey is
Not taken every day.

George F. Tull.

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