

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



**Newsletter of High Wycombe and South
Bucks Cats Protection**

Regular Features

Fundraising News

Cats in the News

Forthcoming Events



Registered National Charity
No. 203644
SC037711 (Scotland)

Branch Web Page:
<http://www.buckscats.org.uk>

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Received a Membership renewal
form with this issue?

Please complete and return to the
Membership Secretary as soon as
possible.

EDITORIAL

Hello,

WELCOME to the Summer issue of *Paws for Thought*.

My colleague Blythe says the family cat Soren Lorenson, *pictured below* – named by his daughter Jess, when she was four after a character in the children’s favourite Charlie and Lola – is much better behaved these days.

Sorren, a rescue cat, who is now aged five or six, was always “an overly playful cat” said Blythe. “He was unable to moderate his behaviour so would scratch and bite and he became very aggressive towards my wife and Jess.

“When he heard the car arriving he would run up the garden and hide in the hedge, then wait and attack their legs as they walked past. Jess was about five then and he felled her at least once.

“Soren was also showing signs of stress – when new cats came into the neighbourhood he would lick the backs of his legs until they were bald. He was fighting frequently and getting abscesses.

“We were seriously thinking of rehoming him – all my cats have been rescue cats so it was not a decision we would have taken lightly but the children’s safety (we also have a baby son) had to come first.”

The vet recommended Feliway® (a plug-in spray that’s a synthetic copy of the feline facial pheromone, used by cats to mark their territory as safe and secure) and now Soren is a changed moggy.

Blythe said: “He is a much nicer cat to have around. He is ultra-tolerant of the baby – he’s a different cat. He used to bully my wife and Jess – they had to walk past him with cushions in front of their legs. Now he wants affection before breakfast every morning. He’s reformed character and there’s no question of rehoming him.”

Blythe added however that if the Feliway runs out Soren’s behaviour changes straight away.

If you have any contributions for the next issue please send them to me either via email or post, to the addresses below. All hard copy photographs will be returned.

With thanks to everyone who sent contributions for this issue.

Best wishes,

Tracey

Editor

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CHANGED CAT: Soren

£££ Fundraising £££

THE cancellation of Beaconsfield stalls because of the weather continued and we lost the stall scheduled for March 12th.

Finally on April 9th we were able to hold the first stall of the year and raised £389.

A street collection was held in Marlow on the following day Saturday 10th April and £359 was achieved.

The Beaconsfield stall of May 7th raised £217.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the stall due to be held at the Marlow May Fayre on 29th May because of the dreadful weather.

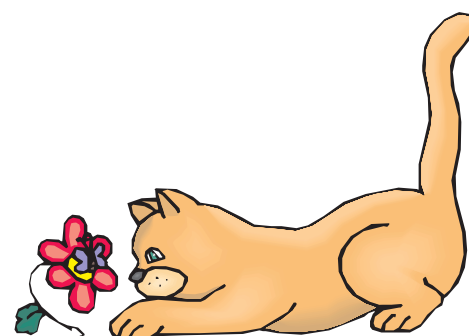
We continued with the Beaconsfield Stall on June 4th and raised £232.

On a very cold June day, Saturday 19th, we had a stall at the Downley Day which was quite successful and raised £209.

The Beaconsfield street collection on Saturday, 26th June raised £257.05.

With thanks as always to our small band of helpers and collectors.

Dennis & Pam Marshman



WE have at present a good supply of second-hand cat carriers and beds for sale at reasonable prices.

Please contact Dennis or Pam on 01494 676702.



WANTED

IF you are having a clear-out we are always in need of good, clean books (especially paper-backs), CDs, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles for sale on our stalls in Beaconsfield and at our other events. We can arrange collection.

If you can help please contact Dennis & Pam on: 01494 676702. Thank you.

Home from home

THE branch recently bought some much-needed new cat pens from funds raised by our members.

The new pens – their total cost including base and electricity was around £6,300 – are now at fosterer Rachel's in Seer Green.

Rachel, who has been a foster for Cats Protection since 2006, said she was "very impressed" with the new pens which are much more spacious than the old ones.



NEW HOME: The new pens, *above*, a close-up inside, *inset*, the old pens, *bottom*



Good homes needed



ROXY, Milly and Tilly (the tortie) are three delightful kittens who are nine months of age (end of May 2010)

They are very shy with strangers and can be a bit hissy but, with their fosterer, they love having their tummies tickled and enjoy being fussed over.

They love other cats so if not homed together or in a pair, another cat would be good company for them.

They are going to need a home with someone who is prepared to give them time and patience to bring them round.



They do not particularly like being picked up so they are probably not suitable with children.

Cats in the News

What's it all about Alfie?

A STORY in the *Daily Mail* told the amazing tale of a three-year-old ginger tom who seemed to have come back from the dead.

Alfie, said the report, had apparently been killed by a car and his owner Angelo Petrillo buried what he thought was Alfie's body after it was found on the roadside near his home in Greater Manchester.

Mr Petrillo and his wife Katy moved soon after that, with their other ginger tom, Freddie.

Nine months later their former neighbour contacted them to say a ginger cat had been trying to get into their old home.

The couple said Freddie was asleep with them so thought there had been a mistake.

The following day the neighbour said the forlorn feline had sat outside the Petrillo's former home, meowing pitifully.

Mrs Petrillo went to their old home and recognised Alfie straight away. He'd lost his old collar and seemed fatter, suggesting he was being cared for by someone else.

The family were overjoyed to have Alfie back and are having him and Freddie microchipped. But who the cat that Mr Petrillo buried and who it belonged to remains a mystery, said *The Mail*.

Collars banned

THE *Daily Mail* also reported that electric collars that shock wayward cats and dogs into obeying their owners have been banned in Britain.

Wales became the first part of the UK to ban use of the collars after the Welsh Assembly voted that they be outlawed, the story said.

The owner could use a remote control to activate the collar, delivering a shock to a pet's neck when it misbehaved. Other collars, said the report, use a sensor system to give pets a shock if they try to leave their owner's garden.

If pet owners broke the ban they could be fined up to £20,000 or face six months in prison

Stealth cats

SEVERAL newspapers reported that the age-old technique of attaching a bell to a cat's collar to warn birds that it is approaching is losing its effectiveness because cats are learning to walk without ringing them.

Cat owners have been advised by wildlife experts that they need to change their cats' bell regularly.

And they are telling owners to give their cats brightly coloured collars and to install sonic devices in their gardens to scare their pets indoors, said the stories.

The advice was included in a new guide from the British Trust for Ornithologists (BTO) which aims to reduce cats' impact on garden birds.

Cats, added the reports, are believed to be responsible for the deaths of 55 million birds in Britain every year and have been blamed for contributing to the long-term declines of garden birds such as the house sparrow.

The robin and dunnock populations are also said to suffer from predation by cats.

Dr Tim Harrison, from the BTO, was quoted as saying that cats were able to reduce the effectiveness of bells through careful movements. By keeping their heads still as they stalked, they could reduce the sound of the bell.

He said owners should consider how much they let their cat outside at this time of year and to perhaps supervise their time when out of doors.

Maurice Melzak, editor of social networking website PetStreet, warned against measures that treated all cats as equally guilty, said *The Telegraph*.

Some cats were "voracious hunters" he said and "...will bring in absolutely anything, but most do nothing. It is a disproportionate number of cats which do the damage. It is a minority who are responsible."

Karim comes all the way home

THE *Sun* carried the brief – but intriguing – story of a cat called Karim that astonished its owners after it trekked an amazing 2,000 miles across three countries to their new home in Liska, Russia.

Cat blog by Hilary

WE have successfully homed two of our five positive indoor cats. Tom went several weeks ago to a couple in a flat in Chesham and Monty went to a gentleman in a flat in Wycombe.

Rachel took Tom to Chesham as she wanted to see him in his new home, and Eve and I took Monty to his new home.

There were four cats to choose from at the time, and Guinness could not go to the couple as he is long haired and the lady was allergic to long haired cats and the gentleman in Wycombe felt he did not want a long hair; so Rachel took Guinness to the North London Cats Protection Adoption Centre where there is great demand for indoor cats.

I collected a mother cat and three kittens from a family in Wycombe who could not keep the mother and five kittens they had.

I issued them with neutering vouchers for the two kittens they were keeping so that history did not repeat itself, and then took the cats to Sarah. I had someone on my books waiting for a tabby male, so one of the kittens had a home after

his vet check.

A family in Marlow who had two cats from us in the past wanted another one as one of the cats had died. The family adopted the mother and one kitten. Then, as those two got on so well with the two cats they had at home, they came back and adopted the other kitten as well.

Gizmo and Smokey have got a new home together with a retired couple.

I had a call from a lady in Aylesbury who wanted us to take back two Siamese we had homed to her four years ago. She said they were wee-ing in the house.

When I said we could take them in on a certain date she said she would have to have them put to sleep if I did not take them in before then.

I rang Gillian at the Chiltern Branch to see if she could help as the lady was also proving difficult to contact.

After many phone calls and a couple of notes through the door Gillian managed to get hold of the cats and they are safely with one of her fosterers.

We have had to have some expensive dental treatment for them since they have been re-



turned. They have been fine using their litter trays since they have come back in. I went to see them and they are lovely cats. The female cat is very confident, but the male is a bit shy with strangers.

May 25th

Sarah now has another set of kittens. She has a mum and five kittens. Homing goes very quiet at this time of year though due to people planning to go on holiday and not wanting to adopt until they get back.

Our grant from Head Office for the neutering scheme was £2,100 for this year.

Last year we were given £7,000 and spent just under that. We are probably going to be spending the same this year so the extra money will be coming out of our branch funds.

The scheme is a very good one and makes a huge difference to cats lives, especially when females are left by owners to have kittens over and over again, but Head Office brought this scheme in and now they are expecting the branches to fund-raise for it as well



as for the day-to-day running of the branches.

On the subject of fund-raising – a huge thank you to Jessica who rang round for volunteers for the Marlow Street Collection and the Beaconsfield Street Collection. Thank-you to the volunteers who helped to collect at both of these.

We have recently bought some much needed new pens for Rachel. The old ones were very small and this didn't give enough room for the cats and didn't give Rachel much room to get around inside to see to the cats. There is more about the pens in an article by Tracey.



June

My old cat Heidi had to be put to sleep this week. The polyp in her ear had become something more serious and it was having an effect in the brain and she could not get

her balance.

She did not want to eat anything either due to feeling so ill.

I also heard at the weekend that

Janet and John have also lost their last cat that they had adopted from Patricia.

Hilary



IN the recent Queen's Birthday Honours, former England goalkeeper Bert 'the cat' Williams was awarded the MBE.

Bert, who was goalkeeper on the England team at the 1950 World Cup, was known as 'the cat' for his spectacular saves

He played 28 matches for England, including the national side's infamous 1-0 defeat by the USA 60 years ago.

Bert signed for Walsall FC as a goalkeeper aged just 15 but his career was interrupted by the Second World War.

He joined Wolverhampton Wanderers in September 1945 and played in the side that won the 1949 FA Cup.

But even his undoubted skills could not save England from their shock World Cup defeat by the USA.

Bert started raising money for charity while still a professional footballer and continued fundraising after he retired.

DID you know... that ONE un-neutered female cat can be responsible, in five years, for more than 20,000 descendants?



Forthcoming Events

2010

JULY

Sunday 11th Stall at the Cherry Fayre, Flackwell Heath 12pm to 5pm

Friday 30th Beaconsfield Stall

AUGUST

Friday 27th Beaconsfield Stall

SEPTEMBER

Friday 24th Beaconsfield Stall

Sat 25th High Wycombe Street Collection

OCTOBER

Sat 16th Autumn Fayre at Chalfont St Peter Church Hall 10.30 to 12.30

Friday 22nd Beaconsfield Stall

The Beaconsfield Stall is held on the Council Green, normally between 9am and 3pm, dependent on weather conditions. If you would like to help, please contact the appropriate organizer (see contact numbers on page 2).

If you've enjoyed reading this copy of PAWS, please pass it on to someone you think may be interested in joining Cats Protection, sponsoring or just helping out.

If you can't think of anyone then please leave it at the dentist, doctor, coffee morning, library or anywhere else you can think of. Thank you.

