

Autumn 2007

CATS' AID NEWS

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WORLD VEGETARIAN DAY FAIR 2007

Please come and support the Cats' Aid stall at the World Vegetarian Day Fair on Saturday 6 October 2007 from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. in the Chapel Room upstairs at **Cultivate, 15-19 Essex Street West, Temple Bar, Dublin 8** which is located off **Fishamble Street (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)** and meet like-minded animal lovers. Cats' Aid Notelets, Mugs, Cotton Bags, Tea Towels, T-shirts, Pens, Car Stickers and Keyrings will be

available for sale and you can stock up with Christmas Cards well in advance of the rush. The Fair will feature talks and information stands on vegetarianism and other related issues, fresh organic fruit and vegetables, restaurants serving a variety of vegetarian foods as well as raffles and entertainment throughout the day. There will be a wide variety of exhibitors from the food, drinks, catering and retail industries. We look forward to seeing you. **MB**

SUMMER FAIR

When I look back on the dreadful weather we have experienced over the last couple of months I am so grateful for the magnificent sunny day we had on 9 June for our Summer Sale. Everyone was in high spirits and I am delighted to report that our total takings were €3,801.76 which sum included donations/memberships of €1,112.00. A huge 'thank you' to our faithful supporters and to our helpers without whom it just wouldn't happen. **MB**

LADIES' MINI-MARATON

As not all monies have been received at time of going to print a report will be held over to the next issue of *Cats' Aid News*.

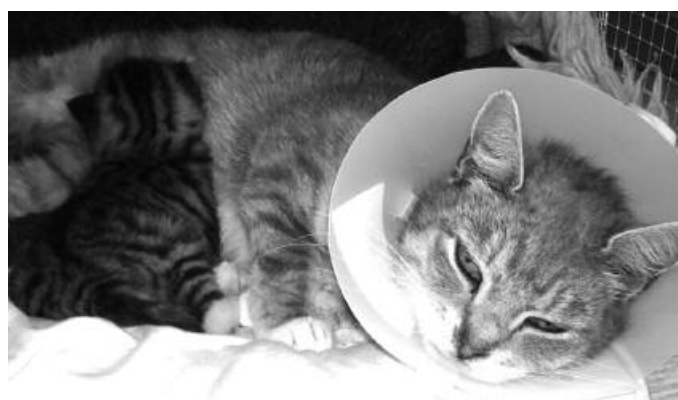
Jack



This magnificent cat was homed to Hazel last autumn. He was shy at first but he soon got used to the comings and goings in the household and loves to see visitors. In the spring he got an injury from a window and, when seen by the vet, Hazel was told that Jack must lose some weight. He made an excellent recovery from his injury and this is what Hazel wrote recently: 'Just to update you on Jack. He's doing really well now he has lost a bit of weight but he still has a good way to go, he loves his food too much so he isn't impressed by his diet! He's able to go out to the back garden now for his exercise, he's very good and just stays on the grass. I don't think he would make it over the wall to be honest! He's so loveable and is waiting at the door every evening watching for me to come home. He has totally taken over the bed but I don't mind!' **(Note from the Editor: Jack is much loved by house residents and visitors alike. I think you'll agree that he is a very lucky boy. MB)**

Penguin And Soyer

We had been feeding Penguin, a feral cat, and then we continued taking care of her as she became pregnant and then went into labour. We kept her indoors in order to have some control. As it turned out later her labour caused her to get infected and I had to rush her to Tolka Vets in Dunboyne. She ended up having two operations (she had an infection in her womb) during which time we were hand-feeding her kitten, Soyer, at home. Charles Cosgrave, the vet, did an excellent job (especially considering that the emergency happened at a week-end) and Penguin and Soyer are in good health now. We have sorted a cage for them at home as she needs time to heal. **IS**



Diary of a Trapper

A call came in to the Cats' Aid Help Line in early January requesting help with feral cats in Clonee. We supplied a trap and advice on how to go about trapping and treating these cats. This is the story since then, told in the words of the couple who have worked tirelessly to help these cats. This story is typical of so many that we encounter every week.

12 Jan: Hello there, all at Cats' Aid. We've had our first success with the trap and got one of our local feline moms called Dirty Paws. She's been spayed today and is currently in our kitchen till the morning when we will release her. We are so happy to have caught one cat and plan for more tomorrow. I would just like to thank you for helping us out with these moggies. We know Dirty Paws has had three litters since last summer and are delighted to have got her first. Hopefully our luck will increase tomorrow when the trap is put out again.

24 Jan: Just to give you guys an update. We've had another two kitties spayed this week, so we only have one more female to get. She's a feisty three-legged puss called Gimp and we hope to catch her next week as we haven't seen her lately, so fingers crossed! Gimp was born like that and we looked after her and her two siblings since they were kittens. She gets around just fine crossing the busy village of Clonee at least twice a day. She's the last female to get and she knows something's up because we haven't seen her in a few days, little madam! She, like Dirty Paws, has had three litters and we desperately want to get her spayed. Dirty Paws was also around last week and her stitches were still intact, to our relief. The boys are clever and haven't been

around that much but we are quite pleased with ourselves with most of the females done already.

29 Jan: Big Tom hasn't been around for a while, which is very strange but his young son (who's nearly as big as him now) is around mating age so it would be great to catch him and get him neutered. Also our Piggan from last week's spaying is looking good just like her mom, Dirty Paws. My boyfriend saw her today and she seemed in fine form but they both are a bit wary coming over for dinner. If they're hungry they'll come I'm sure. The stray cat, Pinky, whom we've been looking after also got spayed last week but, being the bold kitty, she pulled out her stitches. The vets said she would be fine but she was off form the last few days so we brought her back today and they said she could have some reaction to the operation. Poor thing is on pain killers now and hates the pet carrier because she knows it means one thing, VETS! She may learn from it and not be so naughty as to pull out her stitches again. We are just glad that she's with us and that it didn't happen to her after we had released her. Hopefully we'll have news of catching the three-legged wonder herself soon.

1 Feb: Hello there, gang, hope you are all well. We nearly caught Gimp the other night but alas she was playing games with us, half in the cage and sitting down, then turned on her heels and left, only for her youngest kitten (too young to neuter) to get caught in it; he just couldn't resist the smelly sardines. So near and yet so far! She truly is the wisest of cats and we had a feeling she wouldn't give it up that easily. She is the 'ace in the pack' as far as we're concerned and to get her

done would be worthy of some celebration. We currently have three kittens, the three amigos as we've named them, who are all her offspring yet, remarkably, all different ages and all under six months old. That says it all, doesn't it? They hang out together which is especially good for the youngest one as mommy doesn't want to know him anymore; he's tiny. So next week is another week and maybe our luck will change. Piggin came in for a nosey tonight, which was excellent, since we thought we had scared her off for good. Thankfully she seemed in a forgiving mood and we did explain to her it was for her own good!

2 Mar: Hey Guys, been a while since we've been in touch. We've



actually had some bad news. One of the three ginger boys, whom we call the three amigos, was killed on the main street yesterday. He was called Stalker because he would be outside our back door all the time. Pinky, the cat we are keeping, is his sibling and his mommy is the three-legged wonder herself, Gimp. We are so saddened at his death and it just annoys me so much to think all of this would not have happened if someone had the decency to spay the original mother of all of them. We are so upset at



the moment. We still haven't managed to catch Gimp; she's only just back to us the last couple of nights. I wouldn't mind but we loaned the cat trap to someone else and Gimp comes back to us then. She knows the trap's not here; she is so clever. Hopefully we will catch her soon and there are two new kittens around the village too. Oh it never ends!

5 Mar: Well tonight must be the night for insane cat behavior. It must be the weather or something because our little Pinky is going nuts! The youngest of the three amigos came for a meal, poor little fella, I invited him into the house but he was having none of it, I'm afraid. We know the feeling of frustration trying to catch bold, clever cats.

6 Mar: Well the latest from Clonee Village is not good. We had heard

of another black cat around here, with two young kittens, a black and a ginger. But only tonight had we properly seen him or her. Oh, how many are there around here?! We've Gimp and her kids, i.e. Pinky and the two young boys, Pig Weasel and tiny little Foxy. Then we have Dirty Paws who's had our other little girl Piggin and then two boys. We haven't thought up names for them yet. There are too many, especially if Gimp is pregnant again, which is likely. We thought Stalker may have died looking for her to mate with, poor boy. And they are nearly all ginger. Well we know that ginger cats are almost always males and that there could only be one daddy for all of them, the Big Tom himself. But alas he isn't around at present and hasn't been for quite a while, which I don't know is good news or bad. Let's face it - this little village doesn't need any more kitties running around! Oh by the way, we let our Pinky out for most of the morning and she must have enjoyed herself because she is exhausted.

12 Mar: Hi guys, hope you are all well. Again we've bad news. One of our female cats who went missing in the middle of December has come back. Her name is Salem and she had one tabby kitten. We saw her on Saturday and she was in very bad shape. It was actually quite disturbing; she has either been attacked by a dog or fox, as she is wobbling from side to side. She has always had trouble eating, maybe an abscess, but she's now skin and bone. A complete opposite of when we last saw her. Her tail is quite flat at the end too, which might explain her balance being off. We set up the trap but unfortunately she hasn't come. She can't last for much longer, that's for sure. So hopefully tomorrow will be the day to catch her. One of our neighbours has been kindly looking out for her. And, as a matter of fact, he saw her last night and today. We have to catch her soon; it's just horrible seeing her in such a state. Her kitten is not around either which is quite sad. Gimp (the three-legged one) has just been around for food and just walked by the cat trap, very bold indeed. We feel so helpless. So you guys pray for Salem, so we can get her the treatment she deserves. We are delighted to share our experiences; anything to help and to explain to people how the blood, sweat and tears are all worth it in the end and perseverance is the key everytime. Take care all at Cats' Aid and thanks for listening.

Update: I want to tell you about our best trap yet! We were trying to catch a male coming of age, he had two huge sores/bites on his neck. It all happened on Thursday with me coming home from work every hour! Anyway after so many bold kitties getting caught in the cage, I decided to give up for the day. I came home to take in the trap and found our ace in the pack, Gimp, our three-legged boldest of female cats, caught in the trap. I actually jumped for joy as we never anticipated catching her! We released her early Sat. morning and have just been on cloud nine since it all happened, we are nearly sure she pulled out all of her stitches but she is fine. She came back for more food that morning but we haven't seen her since. Hopefully she is fine, she has to be, surviving on three legs coming across a busy village road every other day, we think she will be! She's our last female that we know of so it's onwards and upwards as far as we are concerned. We've two males of age to catch and then another two males who are still quite young but we are so thrilled that we caught the last female, Gimp, just because she only comes around when it suits her. **CK**

(Note from the editor: I'll hope to give you another report on the Clonee cats in a future issue. **MB**)

A Reminder from our Treasurer:

In the Spring 2007 Newsletter we appealed to members NOT to send cash donations in the post. In spite of that appeal we are still receiving cash in the post. We couldn't continue to function without your donations but **PLEASE, PLEASE** send them in the form of cheques **OR** postal/money orders. It is too dangerous to send cash by post. Thank you for your continued support. **EP**

Animal Friendly Taxis (Update)

Their phone numbers are:

Patsy (Northside): 086-3847662

Rob (Southside): 087-4160412

(please note **NEW** number)

Cats' Aid Core Group

Maeve Bradley
Maureen Bristow O'Connor
Muriel Davidson
Zarah Davidson
Lesly Field
Doreen Grant
Margaret Hopkins
Deirdre McCormick

Lorraine O'Conaill
Penny O'Donovan
Valerie Owens
Eileen Penston
Cyrileen Power
Rita Walsh
Eileen Warren
Ann Woulfe

Would you like to see your rescued cat's story featured in the *Cats' Aid News*? If you enjoy reading the stories of rescued cats in the newsletter, then why not let everyone else know about yours? Send us your feline tale along with a photograph and we'll be delighted to publish it. Please write to: The Editor, Cats' Aid News, P.O. Box 2874, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. It would be a big help to us if you could enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your photograph. Alternatively you can email your story and photographs (marked for attention of the Editor, Cats' Aid News) to: catsaid@gmail.com MB

A Dog Thinks:

These people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a warm and dry home, pet me and take good care of me - they must be gods.

CATS' AID HELPLINE:

01-6683529: messages for Cats' Aid may be left on this number. The helpline is checked daily.

A Letter to the Editor from Holly the Supercat

Dear Missus,

I am writing to you on my official birthday – the day I remind my people here to send something to help all those good cats who have had bad luck. I am doing fine and I have just had 'Poulet Poché à la Holly' which I always like on my birthday (or any other day for that matter!).

I am writing to you especially because I want to tell you how much we all enjoyed your book about cats (*Peregrine Bootle and the Cats on the Hill* by Maureen Bristow O'Connor). We were positively purring with pleasure while reading it. You must write another. If you are going to do so, you may be thinking of other cats to write about. Being Ireland's most modest cat, I won't suggest the name of one myself. Anyway, best wishes to you and all your team. You do great work for us. **HS**



A Cat Thinks:

These people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a warm and dry home, pet me and take good care of me - I must be god.

CATS' AID ON THE WEB:

www.catsaid.org