

Spring 2007

# CATS' AID NEWS

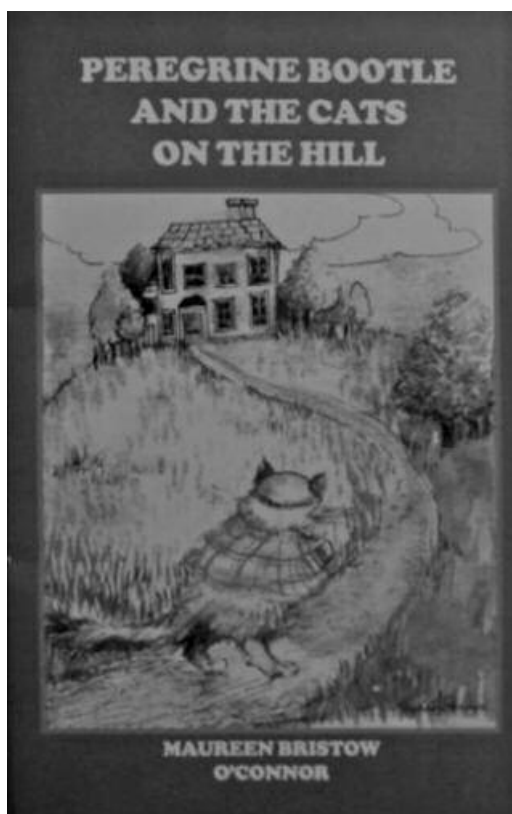
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## Launch of *Peregrine Bootle and the Cats on the Hill* at the Christmas Fair



*Peregrine Bootle and the Cats on the Hill*, written by Cats' Aid Founder Member Maureen Bristow O'Connor, was officially launched at our Christmas Fair on 2 December last. Mr John Gormley, Green Party TD for Dublin



*Mews* newspaper. The book describes how Peregrine accepts the challenge of compiling a collection of stories about some of the cats rescued by Cats' Aid during our 18 years in existence. The stories, some sad, some amusing, are all true and they reflect the often appalling plight of cats in our country. It is to be hoped that the new legislation for animal welfare planned for next year will help all our animals, wild, farm and domestic.

The book is available by email, [catsaid@gmail.com](mailto:catsaid@gmail.com) or by phoning the Cats' Aid Helpline 01-6683529. The book costs €5 plus postage (add €1.25 for one copy, €1.75 for two copies; postage cost for more than two copies available on application). **CP**

The Christmas Fair was a great success and, apart from the book launch (reported above), we had a new attraction in *Madame Zelda* who saw approximately 35 clients and told them what Christmas or the New Year

South East, kindly agreed to launch the book for us. Mr Gormley complimented Maureen on how well she conveys the different personalities of the cats. He also noted the fact that Cats' Aid has always had a 'no kill' policy and he acknowledged the work that Cats' Aid carries out. We are very grateful to Mr Gormley for taking time from his busy schedule to be with us and for his encouraging words.

Regular readers of this Newsletter will be familiar with Peregrine Bootle, feline reporter for *The Daily*

might have in store for them. *Madame Zelda* hopes to join us again at the Summer Fair so watch this space! The Fair raised



the wonderful sum of €5,204 (which included €907 memberships and donations) and a great day was had by all. To mention just some of the stalls, the New/Good as New, Videos/CDs, Books, Cakes and Cats' Aid merchandise did great business and Doreen revived our flagging spirits with plentiful supplies of tea and coffee. A special thanks to our junior members, Orla, Emer and Laura, and to all our supporters without whom the Fair simply would not take place. **MB**

## Ladies' Mini-Marathon

Are you taking part in the Ladies' Mini-Marathon this year? It takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 4 June 2007 and the first entry form will be in the *Evening Herald* on Thursday, 1 March 2007. Entry is also available online at [www.florawomensminimarathon.ie](http://www.florawomensminimarathon.ie) from 2 March 2007. The closing date is Tuesday, 24 April or when maximum number of entries is reached so get your entry in early. If you would like to raise funds for Cats' Aid please leave your name, telephone number and a short message on our helpline 01-6683529, or email us at [catsaid@gmail.com](mailto:catsaid@gmail.com) and you will be provided with a t-shirt and sponsorship forms. Please help us to continue with our vital work helping cats and kittens.

## Fundraising – with help from the Revenue Commissioners

Some of you are already aware that your contributions to Cats' Aid can generate further cash for our cause in the form of tax rebates from the Revenue Commissioners. We have been looking into this and as a registered charity we can claim tax rebates on contributions from PAYE earners who donate sums

to us of €250 or more in any one financial year.

The Treasurer will be in touch, in the near future, with those who contribute large amounts requesting your RSI number and your signature on a form declaring that you have contributed these amounts to Cats' Aid.

Those of you who fall just short of the €250 annual amount might consider donating a little extra to Cats' Aid so that we can avail of this refund.

We appreciate all the financial assistance received over the years and hope that you will continue to support us so that the cats who come into our care receive the best possible care and go on to live long, happy and healthy lives. **EP**

## Animal Taxis

There are two Dublin taxi drivers who are more than willing to transport cats, and other animals, with or without their humans, to and from their vets. The cats must, of course, be in secure carriers. The drivers are also willing to collect medications from veterinary surgeries.

They have been doing this for many years and cooperate with each other, one covering the northside and the other the southside of Dublin. They operate as normal taxis, of course, when not helping out animals. Their phone numbers are:

Patsy (Northside): 086-3847662  
and

Rob (Southside): 086-3847661

We can highly recommend these two caring men whose phone numbers are available in many veterinary surgeries.

## Grand Prize Draw 2006

The Grand Prize Draw 2006 raised €5,202, which was a record. Sincere thanks to all who supported us. The list of prizewinners will appear in the next newsletter. **MB**

## The Wish List of Marina, Jessie and Christopher, as told to Peregrine Bootle of *The Daily Mews*

'Now my dear friends', said Peregrine, 'it is the beginning of 2007. Marina, what would you like to say to the humans, what would be your wish for 2007? Take your time, and Jessie and Christopher, think about your wish lists.' After a lengthy pause Marina replied: 'I would beg all human cat owners to have their cat companions neutered, at five months for the

females and six months for the males. This would stop much of the suffering endured by the feline population. You would think that this message would have been heard, that there would be fewer abandoned pregnant cats and unwanted kittens, but no, 2006 was a heartbreaking year; in fact kittens were still coming in at Christmas. That is my wish.'

'And you, Jessie?' 'I would ask all humans to make provision for their companion animals so that, in the event of death or illness, they are not abandoned and left to fend for themselves. It is not enough to rely on the goodwill of friends and relatives. This kind of goodwill often lasts only as long as the owner is around. Please, don't be in denial. You are going to get old, you are going to die, your circumstances are going to change. Make provision for the companion animal who has given you so much loyalty and

love. That is my wish.'

'And finally, Christopher, what would you like to say?' 'I would like to ask people to think long and hard about the responsibilities which go with taking in a companion animal. Remember that a cat can live for many years. Young would-be owners need to think about their future plans. What will be the position of the cat if they have a baby? Somehow there is a notion that babies and cats are incompatible – not so, but what is the thinking of the would-be adoptor? Please don't take on an animal if your life is not settled, if you are not committed to working your lives and moves around the good of this sensitive, loving, intuitive creature you are inviting into your life and your home. Think long and hard! And that is my wish.'

A peaceful New Year to all our friends!

## Tigger's Travels

At the beginning of January I got a frantic call from my friends, Claire and Ray, who live near Louisburgh, Co. Mayo. Their beloved cat, Tigger, was missing and they were looking for advice. Tigger, a gorgeous, gregarious ginger and white puss had an unfortunate habit of liking a



snooze under car bonnets. Claire was doing her best to cure him of this bad habit and carefully gave each car the 'once over' before it left their home. Despite her best efforts and searching far and wide Tigger could not be found.

Fast forward to a car journey to Dublin taken by Sarah Fleury and her friend, Brian McGowan, following their short stay in the Louisburgh area. They thought they heard a strange noise in the car but, on checking during their stop in Longford, found no explanation. On arrival in Dublin they parked in the Jervis Centre for a couple of hours before stopping off to have the car washed. The cold shower finally decided Tigger to make his presence known and he emerged from the engine to the great surprise and shock of Sarah, Brian and the garage manager.

Sarah contacted Mid-West Radio and, thanks to their broadcasting the story, Tigger was reunited with his grateful owners, and his feline companions Max and Ginger, a few days later. Claire and Ray became proud parents of a baby son, Darragh, on 4 February and I'm sure they will regale him with the story of 'Tigger's Travels' when he is old enough. **MB**

## Department of Agriculture Grant

Cats' Aid acknowledges, with thanks, the generous grant of €12,000 received from the Minister for Agriculture towards our work. This enables us to help with the ever-increasing demands for our help, especially with regard to spaying and neutering feral colonies. **MB**

## Photo Competition – closing date is extended

The closing date for the Photo Competition has been extended to Friday, 27 April 2007. If you have mislaid your entry form a copy can be downloaded from our website [www.catsaid.org](http://www.catsaid.org) or you can leave a message on our helpline, 01-6683529, and a duplicate will be sent out to you. **MB**

# Peaceful Rally for Animal Rights

10 December 2006 was International Day for Animal Rights, and here in Ireland a vegan-based national animal rights group called ARAN organised a peaceful rally in Dublin City Centre to protest against animal cruelty. ARAN was formed in Ireland over six years ago to work towards ending all forms of animal cruelty and to speak out for their rights. A number of the Cats' Aid core group went along on the day to lend their support and join the 200-plus crowd of committed and concerned people, which included members from many other animal protection groups from around the country. ARAN believes that we can move mountains for animals if we all work together, individuals and groups. The day started wet and windy but, by the time the rally set off down O'Connell Street at 1.30 p.m., the sky had brightened and the mood was positive and purposeful. Some people held banners high, others waved placards, a few had their dogs with them. It was a well-organised, compassionate, peaceful rally which gave us a chance to make a big noise for the animals who cannot speak out for themselves. I hope someone was listening! For more information on ARAN, please visit their website [www.aran.ie](http://www.aran.ie) Also worth checking out is ANVIL (Animals Need a Voice In Legislation) [www.anvilireland.ie](http://www.anvilireland.ie) which currently has an online petition calling on the Government to allocate ministerial responsibility for companion animals. **LF**

# Just a bit of tom(cat)-foolery: little known feline ailments

## Part 3:

## Collapsible Legs Syndrome

*Symptoms:* The affected cat places one side of its head on the ground as though cheek-marking the concrete, carpet etc. After several such manoeuvres, the legs on that side of the cat suddenly collapse, leaving the cat wagging its feet in the air.

*Treatment:* This involves placing the palm of one hand on the exposed belly and rubbing gently. There may be side-effects, though – some feline sufferers attack the rubbing hand, while others recover spontaneously, often after prolonged treatment. This condition is probably incurable and any cat which requires prolonged treatment after an attack will, most likely, suffer repeated attacks of collapsible legs throughout its lifetime. **MB**

## Quotable Quotes

Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many different ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia! **Anon**

## 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](mailto:catsaid@gmail.com) **MB**

## AND FINALLY, A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER:

A small number of members continue to send us cash in the post, sometimes quite large amounts. **PLEASE, PLEASE** send us your donations, which are extremely gratefully received and will be acknowledged, 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**

## CATS' AID HELPLINE:

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

## CATS' AID ON THE WEB:

[www.catsaid.org](http://www.catsaid.org)