



# CATS' AID NEWS

SPRING 2009

## CATS' AID OBJECTIVES

1. To rescue, rehabilitate and find good homes for unwanted cats and kittens on the explicit understanding that no health-recoverable cat taken in by Cats' Aid will be destroyed.
2. The education of the general public in the care of cats with particular emphasis on the importance of spaying and neutering.
3. The establishment of a permanent shelter/sanctuary for cats.



### FUND-RAISING FOR CATS' AID can you help us?

In common with most charities and, indeed, people in general, Cats' Aid is feeling the effects of the recession. Our veterinary bills and fostering costs are on the increase all the time. We are always glad of help with fund-raising and ask if you can assist with this.

### Would you (or a friend) host a COFFEE MORNING/AFTERNOON or a CAKE SALE in your home?

Our experience shows that such events are extremely successful and pleasant social occasions. Cats' Aid is happy to advise and support anyone who is prepared to try this. Any amount of money raised is very welcome towards helping the cats/kittens who come in to our care.

### WOMENS' MINI-MARATHON



Are you taking part in the Womens' Mini-Marathon this year? It takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 1 June 2009 and entry forms have been in the Evening Herald since Thursday, 26 February 2009. Entry is also available online at [www.florawomensminimarathon.ie](http://www.florawomensminimarathon.ie) from 26 February 2009. The closing date is Tuesday 21 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.

### FUND-RAISING IDEAS

If anyone has an unusual idea for fund-raising the Editor would be delighted to hear from you. Please write to: The Editor, Cats' Aid News, P.O. Box 2874, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, or email (marked for attention of the Editor, Cats' Aid News) to: [catsaid@gmail.com](mailto:catsaid@gmail.com)  
**MB-editor**

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Editor: Maeve Bradley



## IF IT SHOULD BE

If it be I grow frail and weak,  
And pain should wake me from my sleep,  
Then you must do what must be done,  
For this last battle can't be won.

You will be sad, I understand,  
Don't let your grief then stay your hand,  
For this day, more than the rest,  
Your love and friendship stand the test.

We've had so many happy years,  
What is to come will have no fears;  
You'd not want me to suffer...so,  
When the time comes...please let me go.

Take me where my needs they'll tend,  
But stay with me until the end,  
And hold me firm, and speak to me,  
Until my eyes no longer see.

I know in time, you, too, will see,  
It is the kindness you do for me;  
Although my tail is last waved,  
From pain and suffering I've been saved.

Do not grieve that it should be you,  
Who must decide this thing to do.  
We've been so close – we two these years,  
Don't let your heart hold any tears.

## 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 assist with the ever-increasing demands for our help, especially with regard to spaying and neutering feral colonies. **MB**

## 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.

## FURMINATOR

Recently, when I was collecting bags of cat litter from Liam, who runs Boardwalk Pet Centre, 15 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2 (tel. 6779060), he told me about a new product called the Furminator (a de-shedding tool for cats and dogs). It removes shedding up to 90% by removing the loose, dead, undercoat without damaging the topcoat. According to the literature it

- is guaranteed to reduce shedding better than any brush, comb or rake;
- works great on all shedding long and short-haired cats and dogs;
- brings out the pet's natural oils, promoting healthy skin and a shiny topcoat;
- reduces the amount of airborne elements that cause allergic reactions in many people;
- helps to eliminate hairballs in cats.

The furminator has worked wonders on all five of my cats but especially on two who, though short-haired, have exceptionally thick coats. **MB-editor**

## SNORKEL

My first meeting with Snorkel was in October 2002 when she came on to the roof of my garden shed with two other cats. She was so named because of her breathing problems. She dragged her tail behind her and had very little fur and she looked so sick. Cats' Aid to the rescue – two kind ladies came to help bringing with them a trap which they left with me. In due course all three were brought to the vet for neutering and treatment, returned to my back garden and got used to being fed regularly. Snorkel was administered two tablets a day for her nasal problems and she blossomed, her fur grew again and she became a lovely cat. They liked to sit on the bin and, when I went to feed them, Snorkel loved to 'headbutt' me. She would watch me carefully while I gardened and she lay in the sun. She only allowed me to touch her, patting her on the head, when she sat on the bin. This was her 'safe place'. Snorkel was with me for a few years, getting great treatment from the vet, but she lost her battle for life in April of last year. I lost a good friend and I miss her so much. **RD**



## OUR KIZZY

Kizzy came to our house in the millennium year 1988. She was abandoned in our garden by her mother. We worried that Sam, our terrier, would frighten her but Kizzy was very sweet and, although we set up a little house for her in the garden, she was having none of it. Every chance she got she would race in through the back door and skirt around the chairs to reach the sofa. She had her basket and Sam had his. When Sam was taken out for a walk Kizzy would sit in his basket but would return to her own only when she heard Sam coming back. Sam would sniff his basket and then turn and bark at Kizzy but they became great friends and remained very close until Sam's death the following year.



One evening when I was looking at television I happened to glance down at her basket and there she was along with a large black cat with white paws whom we called Tom. Over the years Kizzy had several companions but she outlived them all.

One summer on returning from holidays I got a call from my nephew about a small kitten he had found near the dual carriageway in Finglas. He couldn't keep her because he had pigeons. So he brought the kitten to me and I introduced her to Kizzy who was distinctly unimpressed at my telling her that here was a new friend for her. A week later Kizzy left home in protest at Lou Lou's arrival. She had been missing for a month when a young girl called to say that they had been feeding a stray cat in their garden for a few weeks but had only just managed to look at her collar and disc. We were overjoyed at her return. We kept Kizzy in for a few weeks and, finally, she accepted Lou Lou. They had separate baskets and lived companionably until August 2008 when Kizzy passed away aged 20 years and 5 months. Lou Lou is still with us aged 14 years. Our cats have given us such joy and happiness over the years. **RD**

## Cats' Aid Core Group

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

Deirdre McCormick  
Lorraine O'Conaill  
Eileen Penston  
Cyrileen Power  
Eileen Warren  
Ann Woulfe

**CATS' AID HELPLINE:**  
**01-668 3529**

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)**

**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? Have you an opinion about something feline which you would like to share with us? Write to us along with a photograph and we'll do our best 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-editor**