



CATS' AID NEWS

Winter 2007

'Give a cat a dinner'

Cats' Aid continues to care for many cats in permanent and temporary foster care and living in colonies around Dublin city and we also provide veterinary care for many of them. As you can imagine our food bills are considerable. So, once again, as part of our Christmas Fair, we will have a large box at the Cats' Aid stall where

we invite people to donate tinned or dried cat food to help with our feeding costs. All the food collected in this way will be distributed to our foster homes and to those kind, caring individuals who, in all weather, travel to our various colony sites to feed the feral cats who live there.

PLEASE HELP TO GIVE A CAT A DINNER.

We're getting ready for the Cats' Aid Christmas Fair

Our ever-popular Christmas Fair will take place this year on **SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER 2007** at the **Iris Charles Centre For Older People, Newbridge Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4** from 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m.

The Christmas Fair is one of our major fundraisers and **ALL** proceeds go to help cats and kittens in need. Each year calls for help to Cats' Aid increase and the bills are soaring so any support you can give us would be greatly appreciated. If you can't attend on the day maybe you would like to send us a donation to assist in our work?

Stalls include **Gifts, Jewellery, Books, CDs, Tapes, Videos, Plants, Cakes** (would you bake something for our **Cake Stall?**) and **Wheel-of-Fortune**. Start your Christmas shopping at the Cats' Aid stall where we will have lots of merchandise: **Christmas Cards, Notelets, Mugs, Cotton Bags, Tea Towels, T-shirts, Pens, Car Stickers and Keyrings;** and **Cats' Aid gift membership** for those who have everything! There will also be super prizes in our **Raffle** and lots more. If you need a break you can sit down for tea/coffee and biscuits and enjoy the activity around you.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION: Madame Zelda

Once again Madame Zelda will be in attendance. She will have her crystal ball with her, also pen and paper. She wants you to sign your name for her and she will give you a unique interpretation of your signature. Madame Zelda awaits you!

APPEAL FOR STALL HOLDERS

We are always glad of help to run a stall and assist with the clearing up afterwards. Would you have a few hours to spare? Any assistance would be very much appreciated and you can leave a message on our helpline (01-6683529) and one of the co-ordinators will get back to you.

DONATION OF GOODS

We are also looking for donations of goods to sell at our stalls: unwanted gifts, new items for the ever-popular Wheel-of-Fortune, books, plants, jewellery, unwanted CDs and videos. Anything we can sell will bring in much-needed funds for our work.

Goods for donation can be delivered to the **Iris Charles Centre for Older People, Newbridge Avenue, Sandymount** on the evening

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Editor: Maeve Bradley

before the Fair, Friday 30 November between 6.30 and 8.30 p.m. If you are unable to call on Friday evening we will accept donations of goods up to 12.00 noon on the day of the Fair but, we regret, we cannot take in goods after 12.00 noon because we would not have the time or personnel to sort and price once the Fair has started. If you have goods to donate but are unable to transport them we will do our best to collect them from you. Please leave a message at 01-6683529 NO LATER THAN Saturday 24 November (a week before the Sale) and someone from the Sale's organising committee will contact you.

UNFORTUNATELY WE CANNOT ACCEPT BRIC-A-BRAC, ELECTRICAL GOODS, CLOTHES, SHOES, MAGAZINES OR FURNITURE.

Publicity is always important so perhaps you would put the leaflet enclosed with your newsletter in your local shop, library or supermarket; or photocopy the leaflet and drop it in to friends and neighbours. It all helps to raise the profile of Cats' Aid and hopefully will encourage people to attend the Fair. We look forward to seeing you all on 1 December. MB

Peregrine Bootle says: 'Dear Readers, they need your help'



Peregrine gazed out of the window. He was finding it very difficult to get motivated after his trip of a lifetime to the United Species Conference held in Cape Town. Right now he was reliving those magic moments when, safe and smart in his new red harness and lead, he had trotted along with Mo absorbing all the beauty around him. So many people had stopped to pet him and tell him how amazing he

was that it would have been very easy to become quite big headed! But Peregrine was a sensible fellow and, while he enjoyed the admiration, he knew he was just a sub-editor and reporter on *The Dublin Daily Mews* and was a very lucky cat to have been sent as a representative to this mind-blowing conference. But, back in Dublin, it was hard to turn his mind to the weekly column.... He sighed. 'It has got to be done. Maybe a visit to the house on the hill will help'.

After greeting everyone and presenting the household with a large bag of biltong (a South African delicacy), which was much appreciated by all those with strong teeth, he got down to business. 'I can't wait to hear all your news and tell you about my trip but by tomorrow I have to have my weekly column written and I haven't an idea what to write about — as usual I have come to you for help. What have been the main concerns for the people in Cats' Aid? What have you heard them saying?

Christopher smiled wryly. 'That would take a book, not a column, but let's try to help you. Angel, what have you picked up that you feel should be highlighted?' 'I don't even have to think' replied Angel. 'They are desperate for volunteers to help with the work. Like ourselves they are an ageing lot and there is so much work that they don't know how much longer they can carry on unless more people volunteer. Lots of people would like to help in a shelter but

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 10 November 2007 at 12.00 noon in the Iris Charles Centre For Older People, Newbridge Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4. The AGM is a good opportunity for members to come along and hear, firsthand, about our work. Perhaps you might have some fundraising ideas or can offer some help in our work? All members welcome. MB

there is no shelter. What is badly needed are people to be trained in the work of homing cats and the intake of cats. So volunteers for homing and intake would top my list.' 'Thank you, Angel, anyone with other ideas?'

Juliette gave an embarrassed little cough. 'I think that finance is a huge problem. Do people who hand in their cats, for one reason or another, realise that these cats have to have veterinary checks, be fed and cared for until new homes are found? I know that this can run into triple figures and more very easily. During the kitten season older cats can wait a very long time before a new home is found. So people to help with fundraising would be very helpful, also donations are the life blood of the organisation. Our wonderful fosterers make it possible for us to take in needy cats and so a few more fosterers would also be great.' Shy Juliette couldn't believe she had said all that and climbed under the table to recover!

'You have probably got more than enough material' said Marina 'but I would like to ask people to give a thought to the many feral kittens who are born in gardens. If these kittens are brought in as soon as they are weaned they can easily be socialised and then found good homes, where they can live out their lives happily and bring a lot of joy to their human families. Leaving them until they are older makes socialising much more difficult and, at times, impossible. This only adds to the already huge feral population with all the attendant misery of hunger, interbreeding and disease. Taking kittens to be put down (as in killed) is cruel and unnecessary, life is a precious gift no matter what your species. So, if there are kittens in your garden, feed the mother, contact Cats' Aid for advice and, above all, socialise the kittens. The mother can be spayed and returned, she will then be a happy and healthy cat and no trouble to anyone.' Marina sighed. 'I wonder if anyone will take to heart what we have said?'

Peregrine gave Marina a hug. 'Never forget the power of one! Thank you all for your help. I'll be up again soon to hear all your news and tell you about the conference but now I must fly.' Donning his little panama hat (Waterfront Cape Town) he hurried off to write his article and keep Ed happy. MBO'C

ANVIL CONFERENCE

ANVIL (Animals Need a Voice In Legislation) hosted a Conference on 23 September 2007 at Citywest Hotel in Dublin. Over 100 Groups and individuals came from Northern Ireland and the U.K. as well as from Southern Ireland to address the problems of Animal Welfare in Ireland. This was a very wide-ranging forum which considered the often appalling plight of Ireland's companion, farm and wild animals.



Cats were represented by Ian Farrar (see photo) from Cats Protection UK. Ian outlined the main problems facing feline rescue. People are working harder and are more transient – this trend is going to continue. Many landlords won't allow pets. The costs of veterinary treatment and food and peoples' attitudes towards cats are also significant problems. The

emotional toll of rescue work is considerable, but not generally quantifiable when collating statistics. Groups should work together

to set basic standards. Co-operation could also save money, for example in negotiating reduced veterinary fees.

In terms of the numbers of cats that Cats' Aid treats each year ANVIL would class us as a medium rather than a small group; satisfying, given the very small number of people actively involved in our work.

There is broad agreement that we need government legislation and ministerial responsibility for all animals. Education of children and the general public in responsible pet ownership is essential and promoting neutering and spaying is crucial.

What can you do to help our animals? Write to your TD and County Councillors – see sample letters on www.anvilireland.ie – and encourage family and friends to write too. Those involved in animal rescue represent a significant voting block – let's make our voices heard.

It is encouraging to see groups and individuals coming together. If we can unite behind ANVIL and work together lobbying for legislation we can change the future for all our animals. CP

Strict, unbending rules for dealing with stray cats

1. Stray cats will not be fed.
2. Stray cats will not be fed anything except dry cat food.
3. Stray cats will not be fed anything except dry cat food moistened with a little milk.
4. Stray cats will not be fed anything except dry cat food moistened with warm milk, yummy treats and leftover fish scraps.
5. Stray cats will not be encouraged to make this house their permanent residence.
6. Stray cats will not be petted, played with or picked up and cuddled unnecessarily.
7. Stray cats that are petted, played with, picked up and cuddled will absolutely not be given a name.
8. Stray cats with or without a name will not be allowed inside the house at any time.
9. Stray cats will not be allowed inside the house except at certain times.
10. Stray cats will not be allowed inside the house except on days ending in 'y'.
11. Stray cats allowed inside will not be permitted to jump up on or sharpen their claws on the furniture.
12. Stray cats allowed inside will not be permitted to jump up on or sharpen their claws on the best furniture.
13. Stray cats will be allowed on all furniture but must sharpen claws on the new €100.00 sisal rope cat-scratching post with three perches.
14. Stray cats will answer the call of nature outside in the garden.
15. Stray cats will answer the call of nature in the three-piece, high-impact plastic tray filled with best quality cat litter.
16. Stray cats will answer the call of nature in the hooded litter tray with a three-panel privacy screen and plenty of head room.
17. Stray cats will sleep outside.
18. Stray cats will sleep in the garage.
19. Stray cats will sleep in the house.
20. Stray cats will sleep in a cardboard box lined with an old blanket.
21. Stray cats will sleep in the special Kitty-Comfort-Bed with non-allergenic lambswool pillow.
22. Stray cats will not be allowed to sleep in our bed.
23. Stray cats will not be allowed to sleep in our bed, except at the foot.
24. Stray cats will not be allowed to sleep in our bed under the covers.
25. Stray cats will not be allowed to sleep in our bed under the covers except at the foot.
26. Stray cats will not play on the desk.
27. Stray cats will not play on the desk near the computer.
28. Stray cats are forbidden to walk on the computer keyboard on the desk when the human is **jdvirikacnk9230-kcekmem,asmjduu USING IT.**

Anon.

Ladies' Mini-Marathon 2007



This year eleven wonderful ladies took part in the Ladies' Mini-Marathon on 6 June on behalf of Cats' Aid. A grand total of €2,371 was raised by Lisa Anderson, Adrienne Brogan, Rosemary Groom, Mary Kelly, Tanya Kelly, Nuala Moody, Karla Nunez, Carmel O'Neill, Anna Maria Prew, Ruth Scanlan and Lila Simmons. Congratulations to them all. This was a wonderful and welcome injection to our funds. **MB**

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**

CATS' AID HELPLINE:

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

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Quotable quotes:

Cats find humans useful domestic animals.

George Mikes (1912-1987)

The more you rub a cat on the rump the higher she sets her tail.

John Ray, *A Collection of English Proverbs* (1670)

A cat can be trusted to purr when she is pleased, which is more than can be said for human beings.

William Ralph Inge, *A Rustic Moralist* (1934)

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CATS' AID ON THE WEB:

www.catsaid.org