



CATS' AID NEWS

WINTER 2009

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

Unfortunately our usual (and very popular) Christmas Fair could not be held this year because the premises we use is being renovated. This was a great disappointment to us all, not least because of the huge loss in our fund-raising efforts but also because the Christmas Fair is greatly enjoyed by all, including the kind people who run it. Despite our best efforts we were unable to find a suitable alternative location.

As well as the financial loss we are also feeling the loss of our annual 'GIVE A CAT A DINNER' appeal. If you would like to contribute some cat food to help needy cats please leave a message on our helpline 01-6683529 clearly stating your name, address and telephone no. (preferably a landline) and we will arrange to collect the food from you.

Alternatively, if you care to make a financial contribution to us this can be done by one of the following methods: (a) send a cheque/postal order to Cats' Aid, P.O. Box 2874, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 (**please do NOT send cash**); or (b) if you have access to the internet you can contribute to us via Paypal – see our website www.catsaid.org (and follow the directions).

We would really appreciate any help you can give us.

Maybe you could help us in one of the following ways?

Why not hold a coffee morning or a table quiz night in aid of Cats' Aid. Such events are great fun and any amount you raise, big or small, will be greatly appreciated and go directly to helping cats and kittens in need. Have you any other ideas for a fundraiser? How about asking your friends and family to help. If you are thinking of holding a

fundraiser for Cats' Aid, please contact us and we can provide literature for display or Cats' Aid merchandise for sale if you wish. We are happy to help and support in any way that we can, if required.

Tell your family and friends about us and maybe they can help in some way too. Do you know someone who is looking to give a cat a home, or might be interested in fostering or becoming a member... give them our contact details – see our website www.catsaid.org.

We will have our usual Summer Fair in June and we hope to have a smaller fundraiser in the spring – we'll keep you informed. **MB**



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Editor: Maeve Bradley

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Missus,

Holly the Supercat here again.

I had a few very bad days a little while ago but I got a great bit of news at the end. My paw was sore. I went out one day before breakfast and I did not come back until late that evening as I was not feeling the best. I could see that the people here were very glad to see me and they got some Poulet Poché ready for me right away. Anyway, next day there was no getting out first thing and we all went of the Cat Doctor's instead. He gave me an injection and some pills for later on.

I hate taking these horrible pills. Years ago someone told the people here to put them in my food. Of course I always know that they are mixed up with the food and I won't eat it at all. You can't pull the fur over the eyes of a supercat! Anyway, one of the people here was at the Cat Doctor's and the very nice lady who fixes up when I am to come was asking after me. I heard all about it when he got home. She was told about the pills. 'Oh', she said, 'there is an eight day injection. Holly could have that instead the next time. We give out the pills because they are cheaper!' They are very good there but I don't think that they realise I am a supercat. So next time I won't get any more pills. And you know why of course, it's because I'm worth it!

I could see that the people here were very disappointed when they heard that the great Cats' Aid sale is not on this month. Of course I asked them to send you a donation so you can keep on looking after the good cats who really need help.

Yours
Holly the Supercat.



AN UPDATE ON TORC



I want to let you know that Torc is doing very well and I enclose some photos for you. Torc arrived in Co. Westmeath at the beginning of October and has settled in very well. After a period of time indoors we let him out and he was very much at home here on the farm. To my delight he gets on really well with my four other cats all of whom are rescued. Torc is named after my favourite mountain range in my home town of Killarney, Co. Kerry. Torc waterfall is also very famous.

We love Torc so much and will always take care of him. I enclose a donation towards your good work. MM

(Note from the editor: I think you will agree that Torc is a magnificent cat!)

DUBLIN WOMAN DONATES €10,000 TO CATS' AID

IN THE LYONS TEA EXTRAORDINARY CHARITY GIVEAWAY



Susan Ronayne from Dublin has won €10,000 in the Lyons Extraordinary Charity Giveaway for her nominated charity Cats' Aid. (See photo showing Doreen Grant receiving the cheque from Susan at the official presentation.) The Lyons Extraordinary Charity Giveaway focuses on how people would like to make a difference and help out charities, but often don't have the time or the means to do so.

Cats' Aid is run by a dedicated volunteer committee who rescue, rehabilitate and find good homes for unwanted cats. Another aspect of their work is educating the general public about how to care for cats with particular emphasis on the importance of spaying and neutering.

Susan had a personal experience with the wonderful work of Cats' Aid when she was looking to rehome her parents' cat, Fluff. When Susan's Father died suddenly and her Mother had to go into a nursing home with Alzheimer's, they left behind beloved pet cat Fluff. It was really important to Susan that Fluff be well looked after but she was unable to take him in herself as she already owned a cat and lived in an apartment. Fluff was so lonely living in her parent's house that she decided the best thing to do would be to rehome him but many animal charities she contacted were unwilling to accept an adult cat. Then she was fortunate enough to hear about Cats' Aid.

Susan explained: 'I contacted Cats' Aid and explained Fluff's story and they were marvellous. They called out to see him to check that he would be suitable for rehoming. Fluff was on his best behaviour and passed with flying colours! They introduced me to a foster-carer, Beatriz, who looked after him for a few weeks until Fluff eventually got a lovely new home with a lady in Bray.'

Maeve Bradley of Cats' Aid commented: 'We are delighted that Susan kindly nominated us as her favourite charity in the Lyons Tea Charity Giveaway and gave us this amazing donation of €10,000. Often people don't realise that the day-to-day work of our charity is carried out by a very small number of volunteers and this money will go a very long way to providing care for many cats in the future.'

Lyons Tea is aware of the fundraising effort it takes to generate €10,000 and is making it easier for people to give something back to their favourite charity with the Lyons Extraordinary Charity Giveaway. People simply collect 1 token from any box of Lyons Tea and post or enter online with the name of their favourite charity. People can submit multiple entries and one lucky winner will be drawn each month.

(Note from the editor: On behalf of Cats' Aid I wish to thank, most sincerely, Susan for choosing Cats' Aid and Lyons Extraordinary Charity Giveaway for their generosity. This donation has meant so much to us,)



THE LEGEND OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

(Note from the editor: I printed this, three years ago, for the first time but I think it bears repeating. MB)

Just this side of heaven is a place called the Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour, those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special to them who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His or her bright eyes are intent: the eager body quivers. Suddenly he or she begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, legs going faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face: your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

Author: Unknown

IN MEMORY OF LOUISE PRICE

Louise Price, who died in December 2007, was a most generous supporter of Cats' Aid during her lifetime. Her niece, Ann Tighe (a life member of Cats' Aid and a member of the Core Group for many years), has made a donation, in Louise's memory, to purchase two new traps. We never have enough traps to meet demand so Ann's thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by us all. May Louise rest in peace. MB - editor



CATS' AID OBJECTIVES

1. To rescue, rehabilitate and find good homes for unwanted cats 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. MB

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

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 MB-editor