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Newsletter No 91

January 2010

Dear Supporters

Happy New Year Everyone!

I will begin with lots of thank yous.

Firstly thank you to everyone who sent me (and the cats) a Christmas card. Thank you to all the past adopters who enclosed photographs of their cats looking very smug, either in the garden / on a bed / by a fire. Thank you for all the kind donations and to all the people who organised a whip round in their offices instead of exchanging cards. Thank you to everyone who organised a Christmas Dinner Appeal in their place of work to help restock our food cupboard. Thank you to everyone who worked hard throughout 2009 to care for our cats on both sites. In 2009 we admitted 215 cats and kittens and we adopted out 196. Let us hope 2010 will be a successful adopting year for us.

We have several events planned for 2010 already so please put these dates in your new diaries.

June 29	Moggery Auction
September 4	Sponsored Walk
December 18	Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair on November 28 raised £1,088! (double the 2008 total). This year's Fair will be even bigger and better.

We also have more fundraising days booked – please note the dates and ring me and offer help.

May 8	Almondsbury Garden Centre
July 10	
December 4	

I hope to see you all at our forthcoming events in 2010 and I hope you enjoy the 2009 DVD which Becky Allen has cut for us.

Last but certainly least the Jean Sainsbury Animal Trust has given us a very generous grant to enable us to continue our assisted neutering scheme in 2010. We will be leafleting offering help in the inner city areas where we take in the most cats.

Christine

The Moggery Diary

28 October

Admitted tabby and white Luke, Muggy and Caliente from Warmley. This family are very friendly 6 month olds.

Davy a friendly fluffy black cat has been rejected many times because he is long haired and today a caller rang asking for a long haired black cat to replace the one she has just had put to sleep. Davy was in the Animal Health Centre being neutered and identichipped today so the caller arranged a taxi to the vet surgery to see him. Using a tape measure to measure his fur the prospective new home discovered the hair was less than 3" and so Davy was rejected again!

2 October

A pregnant black and white cat has been living outside sheltered accommodation in Bedminster for some time. We have no space but I left a message saying we would have her in tomorrow.

3 November

Opened the door this morning to find a black cat in a basket on my doorstep. Volunteer Ness took her straight to the vet to ascertain age and search for a spaying scar.

Booked in 2 female cats under our assisted scheme who are owned by a disabled woman in Withywood. The house is on an extremely dangerous road and I am very saddened that we are required to return the cats after surgery.

Asked for neutering help by an elderly woman in Southmead for a female kitten. I questioned about the kitten's origin and discovered she was purchased from a local road where the owner had 8 unneutered cats (because she didn't believe in neutering) I was flabbergasted to be told the vendor had given The Moggery number to the

kitten purchaser telling her "The Moggery will neuter her for you!"

The 'pregnant' Bedminster cat arrived with a care worker. She was the wrong shape to be pregnant but obviously just liked her food. I scanned her and found she was chipped and registered to a family in Windsor.

As I was leaving for our Brentry side this afternoon a tearful woman came up the path carrying a cat basket. She had just become homeless and although friends had offered to take her in they wouldn't give shelter to her cat. Jasmine a quiet tabby came into care even though we are bursting at the seams.

4 November

A St George man was evicted yesterday and he had left two cats in the garden. He was staying temporarily with his parents who would not accept his pets. I couldn't bear the thought of them being locked outside no bonfire night so Esme a feisty tortie and Tigger a tabby were admitted this afternoon.

9 November

Sadly black and white Ellie who was adopted in August was returned today. (fortunately we only have two or three returns a year)

11 November

A Clifton woman who had just had twins rang to say she was moving in two days and would put her 9 year old cat to sleep if a rescue didn't admit her. (The cat had been a much loved pet until the babies arrived)

12 November

Thankfully after I offered to take in the Clifton cat the owner has decided to keep her.

13 November

"I couldn't answer the phone just now I am a bus driver – can you ring me back?"



"You can ring me now I am in between buses"

"I'm the lady you've just rung – can you ring me back?"

Three messages but I still didn't know who it was and no number was left. I record details of the cats that need to come in but not the owner's occupation!

After the fourth message I tried automatic redial and contacted a bus driver whose son's relationship had broken up and he didn't want three cats his girlfriend had left behind.

14 November

All day bag packing at Cadbury Garden and Leisure in Congresbury. At one point we had 9 volunteers on the checkouts. (Some helpers came for an hour and stayed all day!)

We raised a magnificent £497!

15 November

I can sleep through kittens nesting in my hair but when a fight breaks out and their claws get caught in my scalp then it is too much!

Duchess a 14 year old tabby came back to us. She had been adopted from here 12 years ago and now her elderly owner was entering a residential home and couldn't take her.

16 November

Very sad first call today. A middle aged Bishopston woman has died unexpectedly leaving two very elderly cats. Lily and her daughter Domino aged 16 and 15 years respectively and will be very hard to rehome.

19 November

"My mum's gone into hospital and last time she was in 8 months. She's got a heavily pregnant cat and a cat who's recently had kittens. They are all with me and my dog is attacking them."

I asked helper Lisa to pick them all up from the Knowle West area of Bristol as soon as I heard this message.

Where will they go? I haven't a clue – but we can't leave them. Two friendly and bewildered young tabbys arrived late tonight. Sadly the kittens have been given away – underage. The mother cats are obviously sisters they are so alike.

20 November

I have placed the two girls together in a large convalescent pen in the Dayer Suite. Both cats are starving and growling at each other over the food. (Dishes are always kept full here so they will have all they can eat)

24 November

"My boyfriend bought me a kitten as a surprise and I am allergic to it." When I contacted this young girl she admitted it wasn't just the allergy she was also in rented accommodation and the landlord wouldn't approve.

I asked if the kitten was vaccinated and she didn't understand what it meant, neither did she realise her kit would need spaying at 20 weeks or she would be pregnant. She's had the kit 8 weeks – I suspect the 'allergy' set in when the novelty of a tiny kit wore off.

25 November

Stayed up to 2am this morning with the tabby and white female who came in heavily pregnant.

Kylie had delivered a dead kitten at teatime last night and she was lying in the litter tray with her second live kitten when I saw her. I rescued and dried off the second kit and put him on a hot water bottle because he was very cold. The poor cat was straining for three hours to produce the next kitten so I rang an emergency vet to ask for a caesarean. When I came back she was producing a third dead baby so I hoped the rest would follow naturally. A fourth kit arrived at



midnight as a breach birth and a fifth at 1.30am. Both kittens were dead but the mother licked them hopefully each time.

I wish the original owner and everyone else who thinks it is funny when their cat gets pregnant, or thinks it is 'kind' to put their cat through the process had been sitting with me assisting her as she suffered for eight hours and for what? There are no homes for the kittens she was struggling to produce.

The only live kitten is much stronger this evening. Spunky is tabby like mum and walking around having a choice of feeding places.

27 November

Took Spud for a check up this morning as he is still congested despite lots of treatment. He's now been booked in for exploratory surgery on Tuesday to see if he has a polyp which is causing his heavy breathing.

I buried the four dead tabby kittens in the garden this morning with a heavy heart. Even as I covered them over my mobile rang. "My granddaughter bought a kitten and now she doesn't want it, it's the second time she's done this." The granddaughter was in a high rise flat in the Stockwood area of Bristol so the kit would not have had access to a garden. I agreed to take her in and asked how old she was "I think 8 / 9 weeks now when she brought her a few weeks ago she was supposed to have been 8 weeks but she looked like she was only a month or so old."

New mother Kyle was admitted to the Animal Health Centre today for observation as she was in distress. By teatime I had had a phone call to say she was struggling to breathe and her lungs were full of fluid. Nicky suspected she had a tumour and advised me strongly that the kindest option was to have her put to sleep, I held her head as she had her final injection at 10.30pm.



28 November

Spunky had a 5am feed but didn't want his 9am breakfast. By 11am I realised we were losing him. I wrapped him up warmly to die quietly in a box.

Ian Fergusson opened our Christmas Fair this afternoon and Tony Bullimore made a guest appearance. A large crowd attended and we raised £1,088 (more than double last year's proceeds). Next year's event will be even bigger and better!

1 December

Two students tapped nervously on my door. They were doing a study on toxocarid and needed samples of faeces hopefully containing worm eggs. They left me six brown envelopes to post them! I'm going to wrap the samples in sandwich bags first otherwise they will leak through especially if there is a postal strike!

2 December

Panther (who has been here 13 years now) insists on going out through the back but coming in through the front door. He cries to come in but won't enter if he hears anyone talking in the house so I have to ask all volunteers to stay in the kitchen and not speak until I get him in. However if there is a new object in the hallway he won't pass it so it takes several times before he will come in because all the conditions have to be just right. I hold the door open (letting out the heat) for ten minutes at a time but even if the conditions are right inside it just takes someone to walk down the pavement behind him for him to be offended enough not to come in. I've come to the conclusion – he does want to come in but not when the door is open!

4 December

An adopting family came today and said they would be happy with "anything furry". They chose Sapphire and Steele the five year old brother and sister whose owner had been evicted.

12 December

A 9 week old kitten who had been purchased through Trade It arrived this morning from Severn Beach. Black and white Tao was unwanted after just one week. I put him in the office much to Panther's disgust.

15 December

Admitted an adult black and white male who had been left behind outside a block of flats when his owner moved out in September. The poor cat had rushed inside each time the security doors were open and had been chased out because the other residents didn't want him inside. Kingsley as a result is now frightened of people and half wild. I only knew of his plight when another tenant phoned. How many other abandoned cats are there that The Moggery doesn't get to hear about?

20 December

Tao sleeps on the pillow next to me but about 4am usually decides that we have all had enough sleep now and it is time for play. I daren't move my fingers or toes because he pounces on them. (he sleeps in the afternoons so that he can be fresh for night time play)

22 December

Tortie Tess and her sister Harriet were adopted today. They are fluffy kittens who look like big caterpillars and both look permanently depressed, however when they are not being watched they are fighting and playing.

They now have a lovely home in Winterbourne.

25 December

Maria, Lisa and Lydia and Robin came to help today. Supporter Jackie Rouge also came by so Lisa and Lydia left to clean our Brentry site. A few hours of hard work and everyone was free to enjoy the rest of Christmas Day.

26 December

A grim Boxing Day for me as I was the only helper available at HQ today and it took from 8.30am until 3.20pm to do the morning round of cleaning and feeding. Sarah Bishop very kindly cleaned and fed at our Brentry site.

30 December

A Thornbury family rang wanting to adopt a kitten. Tao has now progressed from sleeping under my chin to sleeping under my toes under the duvet. I explained to the family that there was no point in them visiting if they were the type of family who didn't allow pets upstairs and that Tao would suit them perfectly but he must be allowed to sleep in someone's bed.

The family arrived and Tao loved the teenage son (whose bed he will be sleeping in) and off they went to start a new life together.

I rang tonight to ask how things were going and was told the son and Tao were upstairs 'bonding'.

