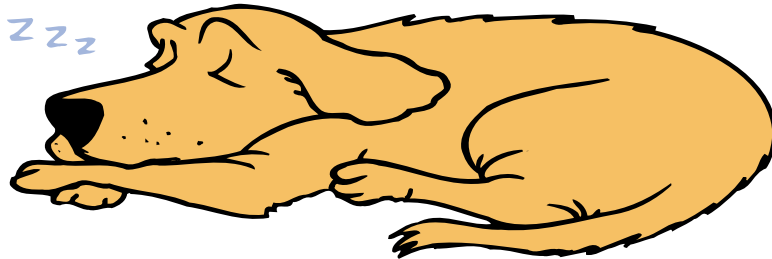


"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside a dog, it's too dark to read".

Groucho Marx. American Comedian (1895 - 1977)

Zzzzzz



Have you thought of becoming a member of Animal Samaritans?

Your Annual Subscription entitles you to:
Four copies (quarterly) 'As News' post free,
a car sticker, badge and membership card.

APPLICATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Date.....

What type of pet(s) do you have.....

I enclose a cheque made payable to ANIMAL SAMARITANS for £.....

Membership Fees: £8.00 per year - Child/Senior Citizen £5.00 per year

Donation £.....



Please return to :
Animal Samaritans c/o Mrs Val Croxford
'Teal', Berrylands, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8AP

Newsletter

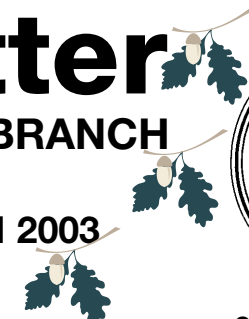
NORTH WEST KENT BRANCH

No. 31



AUTUMN 2003

Registered Charity No. 295345
Patron "Twiggy"



OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL

**For Admin, general enquiries, make a donation,
join as a member**

**Please ring
Valerie on 01474 703542**



To give a kitten or cat a home - Please ring

**Valerie 01474 703906
Silvana 01959 572319
Jill 01322 665815**



**To give a dog a home - Please ring
Vivienne 01689 817787**

**Items for fund raising stall wanted - can collect
Ring Valerie on 01474 703906**



PRESS RELEASE

Christmas Cards are now available. £2.00 for a pack of 8 (four designs). For the first time and by popular request we can now offer a 2004 Calendar costing £6.99 incl. P&P. You need to place your order early for this as stocks will be limited.

This branch is nearing its tenth year in operation. It started with a small group of volunteers. It is still a small group doing a **BIG** job. We offer a unique service to the public. The administration, accounting, etc. is from an 'office' set up in a corner of a volunteer's lounge and therefore no costs are incurred. All animals are looked after in a home environment and are carefully observed and socialised. The collection and delivery of animals to and from the vets is a major part of a volunteer's weekly tasks. Collection from all parts of the area of stray and abandoned animals is another aspect of the work involved. The volunteer is naturally entitled to out of pocket expenses but we cannot remember when anyone has asked for re-embursement for these trips, or indeed has claimed for the hundreds of telephone calls made each year. Their dedication and contribution is astounding. Veterinary bills and food for the animals is paid for from our funds, admin costs are kept as low as possible, but advertising and postage, printing and stationery are a necessary part of our being able to inform the public and members of our progress. As a registered charity, we are regulated by The Charity Commission who are there to oversee and advise us, if necessary.

Whilst mentioning our lady volunteer's who attend to the welfare of the animals, we should not forget the husbands who provide the brawn to lay concrete, erect outhouses, construct and provide warm, sheltered accommodation for cats and kittens, etc. devote corners of their gardens or grounds, give up their lounges and best seats in the house, drive anywhere, anytime and support their wives wholeheartedly. Frustration does creep in from time to time when the person who has asked for our help fails to keep an appointment or lets us down by not phoning to let us know we are not now needed. A courtesy call is all we want. Time is a precious commodity.

Year's ago we applied to the National Lottery for funding. Sadly we were turned away. Money which has come from the public's pocket from all over the country has been distributed to other causes, some of which beggar belief. Enough said. We have carried on without their aid. We thank all our friends and members who have supported us for these past nine/ten eventful years.

NOTICE BOARD

Your very own Pet Plaque

A Pet Plaque puts your favourite pet's photo onto an attractive plaque made of real Scottish hardwood. Sealed, varnished and polished, it will last for years.

Prices start from as little as £25

FOR EACH PLAQUE ORDERED

ANIMAL SAMARITANS WILL RECEIVE A DONATION

Leaflets and order forms can be requested by ringing:

01474 703542

Why not order one for Christmas

They are good quality plaques and make ideal presents. You do not need to confine this to pets, the plaques make an ideal background for children's photos.

*Your photo will be returned to you
and you should allow 28 days for delivery.*

"Loving & Gentle Pet Care"

Holiday home for dogs ~ Walks and special outings

£7 per day - bring own food - Treats provided

Hextable 01322 663322 or email: jeanphillips@cwctv.net

PET BEREAVEMENT

If you need to talk to someone about the loss of your pet, Angela Gatfield would be pleased to speak to you. Angela knows what a lonely experience this often is and has given over 26 years to the pet bereavement service.

Telephone: 01634 253195

or email: gordons@taransay.flife.co.uk

STRAY AND ABANDONED CATS

Abandoned cats that are forced into becoming strays cannot always take care of themselves as this tragic case proves. This summer we have to thank a gentleman in Larkfield for bringing to our attention a distressing case.

8am the telephone rang - could we help. Yes we could. On arrival a pitiful scene of a cat that had been lying out all night, covered in maggots (through an old wound not properly healed) and fleas, so weak and barely alive, suffering and in obvious pain. Gently and without hesitation we took "puss" to the vets in Perry Street, Northfleet. Sadly two hours later the little one died.

These cases do not happen overnight, so please could you whatever your feelings are regarding cats, do not turn aside if a cat is in distress or seems to be neglected. **MAKE THAT PHONE CALL AND LET SOMEONE KNOW. WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP SAVE A LIFE.**

Valerie Wagland

Meet "Slinky" - 16 years of age. This old timer has used up several of his 9 lives, having been involved in some nasty road accidents which necessitated putting pins in his hind quarters. He still potters about and enjoys his golden years with Animal Samaritans. Just recently he has had



problems with cysts on his inner eyelid. As you can imagine this is painful for him. To keep him comfortable and happy we need to put medication in his eyes daily. Would you like to sponsor Slinky's eye drops. A £10.00 donation would enable us to pay for his repeat prescription.

Valerie Wagland



Member Ms. Treen of Hextable adopted two rabbits from Animal Samaritans and has sent us this photo of them seen happily soaking up the sun and eating contentedly.

Ian, Jan, Adam and Jenna Lomax have written to Valerie Wagland as follows:

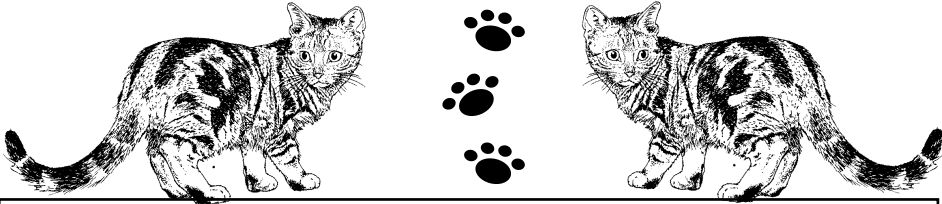
It's a year ago today (20.08.03) that we collected our kitten "Blue" from your lovely home, and we just thought you would like to see how he is getting along.



Blue has a wonderful nature, comes when we call him, and makes friends with everyone who comes into the house, young and old. He loves climbing, trees, houses, walls, anything. He also loves rolling in the dirt, and always comes home more black than white. Needless to say we all adore him, and we thank you for saving him, so we could give him a home.

IN MEMORIUM

In our Spring Newsletter we printed a letter from Benji's mum. Benji was one of our earlier rescue dogs and was already getting on in years. May Rayner had Benji for 4 years and three months (she knew exactly) and he had been suffering with severe arthritis and had reached the ripe old age of approximately 16 or 17 years. With a rescue dog you can never be precise about their age. Benji had to be put to sleep to save any more suffering and the indignity that comes with old age. The residents of West Kingsdown will miss the sight of Benji and May out for their walks. She loved him dearly and Animal Samaritans share her grief and give grateful thanks to all the people who supported us at a time when Benji needed it.



UP-DATE ON THE S.O.S. SARDINIAN CAT NEUTERING APPEAL

Thank you to all the members who have contributed donations to this appeal. Silvana has just returned from another trip to Alghero and tells us that she has managed to get some of the paperwork sorted out with the Italian authorities and has made tentative enquiries from a veterinary practice on the island who would be willing to carry out the neutering programme on a permanent basis. Initially the scheme will be kick-started by our own English Vet who will go over with Silvana (maybe as early as October). Silvana travels at her own expense. She was able to supply certain medications to bring relief to the cats who suffer from eye and skin problems and have open infected wounds. Sadly visitors abroad often relate the tragic conditions of animals and many a creature has been rescued and brought back to the UK at great expense but with the welfare of the animal uppermost in their thoughts.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We send good wishes to Gwen Weeden who was for some time our rabbit fosterer and re-homing co-ordinator. Gwen has had rabbits since she was a child and gave Animal Samaritans all the support that she could in the time she was with us. Gwen has moved from our area and her services will be sadly missed. She will remain in touch with us through her membership.

We currently need someone to take her place and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a knowledge of rabbits and is willing to volunteer their services. Help will be given with the cost of feed, etc. and if animals need veterinary attention, the bills are paid by us.

Irene Russell, who has also been a good friend and has supplied us with many items for the fund raising stall, is also on the move. Thank you Irene for all your help. It was lovely to see you in the summer when you visited with your friend Jo. Good luck with your house move.

Ann and Bob Hammond have been invaluable in giving their time and energy to attend the Animal Action day at the Rare Breeds Centre in Ashford in August. Their children's lucky dip was a great success. Ann, Bob and their son Ian have also been busy with their collection boxes and filled them with small coins, but which grow to large amounts when counted. Ann and friends have also donated cat food.

Also this summer the Beavers of Peckham were given several tasks to achieve their Outdoor Challenge badge and Friendship Challenge badge and take part in a fund raising activity. Lauren Allsworth and Ian Hammond had asked the beavers to decorate a plastic bottle and fill it as much as possible with small change. On Thursday evening the 18 September we were invited to speak to the beavers and encouraged them to talk about their own pets. It was a pleasure to learn how interested they were and how knowledgeable they were about the welfare of their animals. At the end of the evening two of the beavers gave our representative the magnificent sum of £60.00 which considering this was a small group of young people was a worthy achievement.

Thank you Linda Webb of Brownbread Horse Rescue for donating, dog beds, blanket and food for the cats.