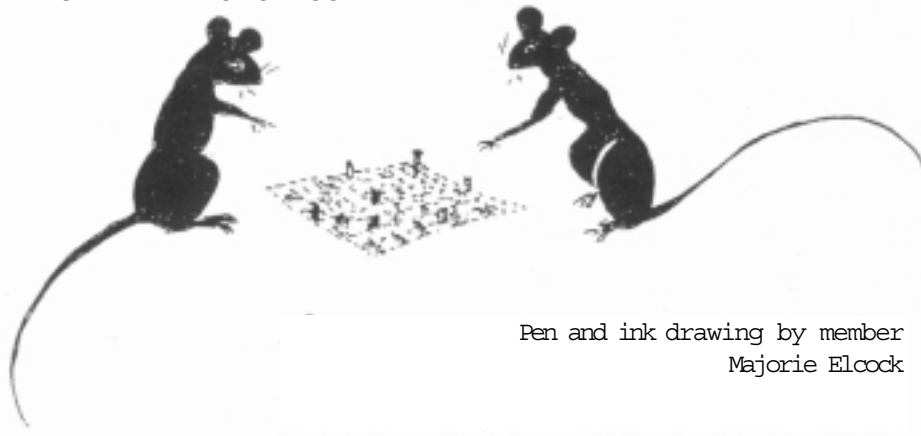


MICE PLAYING CHESS



Pen and ink drawing by member
Majorie Elcock

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. 33



SPRING 2004



Registered Charity No. 295345

Patron "Twiggy"

OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL

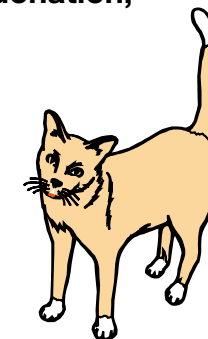
**For Admin, general enquiries, make a donation,
join as a member**

**Please ring
Valerie on 01474 703542**



**To give a kitten or cat a home
Please ring**

**Valerie 01474 703906
Silvana 01959 572319**



**Emer. Boarding - kittens/cats only
Contact - Valerie Wagland on 01474 703906**

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

January 2004 started with a vengeance. We received a call from the veterinary practice in Perry Street. They had taken in a bantam cockerel and wished to find a permanent home for it. He was quite vocal and had been "singing" to them, as cockerels do. A phone call to one of our members bought a swift response and she said she would give it a home. The cockerel was collected and delivered in no time at all. Our member writes *'The cockerel has settled down very well, a really nice boy. I have re-vamped the run, and he is now in a nice light dry area with a hen for company. I am collecting some more layers at the end of the month and I will give him my two other old girls. The noise in the morning is amazing. How such a small person can make such a huge row. It really is a crowing competition'*.



Also in January we had a call from a lady in Strood who had geese and ducks. She was very agitated and tearful because a fox had killed one of the geese and was sitting in her garden waiting for his next meal. She bought all the ducks and the one remaining goose and put them in her conservatory. She then rang around trying to find a home for them. Fortunately someone came to her rescue and collected them. They had a large pond with an island in the middle and all the fowl are put in at night. She now visits them at weekends but is very sad to lose them because they were so much her pets. The fox, his mate and three cubs are still in the area and believed to be responsible for the death of at least two cats.

There was no let up in the requests for help and on the last day of January I took in an English Springer Spaniel bitch of approximately 8 months old. I had been told by the previous owners that she was too lively for them and they could no longer keep control and in desperation had to cage her. Lively



was an understatement. She was with me for three weeks and it was clear to see that she needed to WORK. With observations from fellow dog handlers and from my own conclusions it was decided that I should contact Customs & Excise to see if they needed a recruit. I learnt that all their dogs were trained by the Metropolitan Police and after a few phone calls I was visited by a senior member of the dog training school. He was enthusiastic about the spaniel's attitude and carried out a few tests here at my house. At an appropriate time he returned and

collected her and warned that she first needed to pass the vet's inspection and then she would be put through more training tests. Time passed and I wondered how she was progressing. I am pleased to report that she passed her tests and is now in the pool of dogs waiting to be linked with a suitable dog handler. She will either be used for passive drug work - eg. at airports or port crossings which require her to walk through the passengers and detect anyone carrying illegal substances. The other work is pro-active drug detection. This is when the police invade premises, detain suspects, and then send the dog in to seek and find. I am hoping to have more news of her and in the meantime we have rescued and given a beautiful dog a chance to help the community and gain for herself the much needed desire to let her natural instincts work for her.

Silvana in Sardinia early March 2004.

She writes in her own words as follows:

Within one hour of arriving in Sardinia last week, we had bought a load of food and set off for the port and the docks to visit our friends.

To our horror, one of the cats was staggering towards us with horrendous mouth injuries. She had just been hit by a car. We rushed her straight to the vet who put her out and set about her injuries.

She had fractured her jaw in half which had to be wired up and had split her tongue almost in half. It had to be stitched. She had hit her head and eye badly too. We were not sure of the outcome. I took Fortuna home and settled her in my bathroom. She was in so much pain and discomfort it broke my heart to see it. I took her to the vet everyday for painkilling injections and antibiotics. She responded very well but being a feral cat did not really like being handled.

The next problem was that I was going home within the next few days and the vets in Sardinia do not have facilities for keeping animals in the surgery. I decided to go and buy them a big dog kennel to keep her in until she is better. It will be a slow process, but I am in touch with the vet and she is doing well. They will release her when she is ready BUT I have to re-capture her to be able to have her wired mouth sorted. That will be fun! Another lucky Sardinian cat!

This is poor Fortuna



Winners of the Why I love my Pet competition

The Miller children from Hawley, Nr Dartford.
Bradley (aged 9) and Annie (aged 5).
This is their entry...

We have loved the cat as soon as you left the door and we couldn't stop playing with her. We decided to call her Mitsy because we wanted her to be called Lu, Lu but when we called her for dinner we accidentally kept calling it Misty. On Sunday the 30th we went to Polhill and had a look at the cat section and bought a collar, a toy mouse and a play house. She has just got used to the cat flap. Here are our pictures of Misty.



by Bradley
age 9



by Annie
age 5

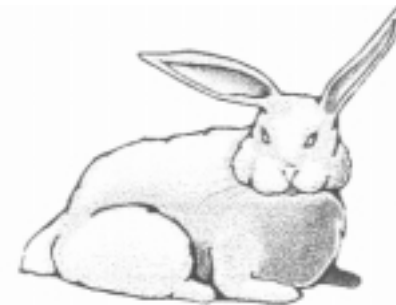


Victoria Norey from Catford (aged 10)

I have a pet Rabbit called Flossy, he is two years old and his birthday is on the eighth of February. He likes to eat carrots, tomatoes, rabbit food, apples, parsnips, peas, pears, lemons, lettuce, brussel sprouts, turnips, grass and cauliflower. His favourite food is fresh mint and when he has a bellyache I feed him parsley. I never feed him too much cabbage because that causes bellyache.

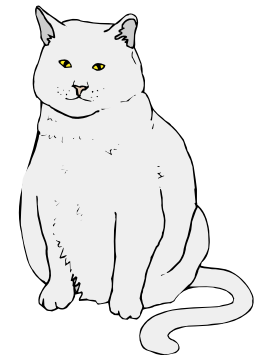
I love him because he has a bright red nose that quivers and when he hops around the garden his fluffy white tail goes up and down. When I'm upset and all alone Flossy run's up to me and cares for me. When I first got my rabbit I trained it to go to the toilet in his tray. I love seeing Flossy doing tricks like spinning a ball on his nose and dancing around the garden. I love seeing him play with other animals. But the best part of having a rabbit is when it cuddles me.

His ears are big and long, which are, called the Englishlots. He came from angora and his long white fur is long enough to make a woolly jumper.



Ben O'Donnell, Maidstone (8 years old)

My fat cat called Holly was left by her owners, she is now the most lovely, cuddly, happy, playful cat ever. I believe she found us and is so loving and funny. She hides in cupboards and in my toy boxes. Mummy makes her sleep downstairs, but she creeps up and sleeps at the bottom of my covers. She purrs all the time. I love her.



Animal Samaritans would like to thank the following:

Linda and Adrian Croxford for donating part of the proceeds from the Supa Dog Agility Show, sponsored by **Burgess Supafeeds**, held in May 2003. We received a magnificent cheque for £2,500.0. A similar amount was donated to The Arrow Riding School for the Disabled. Well done to all the people who helped make this event such a success. Here's hoping, Linda, you and your agility competitors, judges and helpers have a very happy, sunny and rewarding 2004. I know it takes a full year to organise and when one show is put to bed, your thoughts turn to the programme of scheduling agility classes, evening entertainment, children's entertainment, catering, venue, caravan parking and all the other facilities that are needed to run an event for a week.

Peter Goodwin for handing us £57.90 from his collection tin, together with boxes and boxes of dog and cat food donated by the people of Orpington.

Bob and Ann Hammond for collecting and delivering all the food to my house. To Ian Hammond for raising £7.62 in his collection box. Ann is working hard crocheting cat blankets and finding other fund raising items that will sell on our stalls.

Special thanks go to my family and friends, volunteers, etc. who have helped me get through the past few months when I went into hospital for a total knee replacement. I have it all to go through again when I have the other knee joint replaced.

Val Croxford

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.fslife.co.uk

Be careful what you wish for you might just get it!

So says Helen a friend of Silvana. Helen writes.....

When people ask me about children I say if I could have a small furry one I'd have one tomorrow and that's how it happened. Helping Silvana one day clear out the cats she got a call from Jill about a feral kitten who needed a foster home where someone could spend time with her. 'I know just the



person' Silvana said grinning at me. I already have a 3 legged 3 year old black and white feral cat who's the love of my life but is never indoors!

So..... home I went, box, cat litter, food and kitten! Much to my husband Tim's surprise.

(Apparently he fell in love with her the moment he saw her). I don't know these men lose their hearts so quickly, not like me I can foster and not get attached I said to myself. How wrong!

On the third morning of her stay with us Indianna (the name she'd given to herself by her amazing displays with a length of string) had not only found her way out from behind the bathroom sink, but had also discovered a

very loud cry - at 6am - and a huge hunger for my fleecy nightwear and it's been that way ever since. She climbs up or on to me to suckle my clothing and I have to get on with my chores, etc. carrying her around like a baby (it's great). However, my laundry basket and washing machine work overtime due to all the damp tops I now have to wash, but she's part of the family. No in fact she makes us complete. Tim, Milli, Indi and me. Sound like a pop group. I'm so pleased that Milli has settled down to play with Indi. It was tough for her the first few months and I didn't know who would leave home first, Milli or me. There is never a dull moment in our flat now and I'd recommend going from foster mum to adoptive mum anyway.