

## **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](mailto:gordons@taransay.fslife.co.uk)

## **“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](mailto:jeanphillips@cwctv.net)*

### **Have you thought of becoming a member of Animal Samaritans?**

Your Annual Subscription entitles you to:  
Four copies (quarterly) 'As News' post free.  
On joining you will receive copies of previous newsletters (if still in print).  
An introductory gift, a car sticker 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. 34



SUMMER 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**

### **Volunteers Needed for Pet Care**

You will see from our newsletters that we are geared up to rescuing and rehoming cats. Sadly we lack volunteers locally who can help us with other domestic animals and we urgently need volunteers to foster rabbits, guinea pigs and dogs until new homes can be found for them. Help will be provided with food and vet bills. Please telephone 01474 703542 if you can assist in any way.

**Now available, young adult rabbits.**

**Mini lop ears and lionheads.**

**Please telephone Alison on 07981 250227.**

**All beautiful and in good condition.**



**Thank you    Thank you    Thank you**

Angela Bond who helps Silvana and supports her in so many things. Always there at the other end of the phone, assists with the homing and looking after the cats while Silvana is in Sardinia.

Joan Seaman who helps Val Croxford with the office accounts from time to time. Joan was our past treasurer and her knowledge of computerised accounting is invaluable. She still keeps in touch and is a very good friend of the charity.

Ann Hammond provides valuable assistance at our fund raising stalls. She came from Bromley to the Darenth Fete and contributed various items for the stall and we raised £72 on the day.

Valerie Wagland who does wonders fostering and homing the many, many cats that come in also raised enormous sums of money doing various fete stalls throughout the year. She recently raised £200 for us. I know how tough it is to pack items in a car early in the morning (or even the night before) put up a gazebo and arrange tables, lay out all the items for sale - arrange volunteers to man the stall. Stand all day, pack up unsold goods, load the car again and go home weary, find the energy to unload, etc. Think about the next day's work. Feed the cats, a trip or two to the vet, litter trays and cat houses to be cleaned, visitors coming and going. Cats being delivered or collected, the many telephone calls to be dealt with.

***What would happen to all these animals  
without such good people?***

Silvana returns to Sardinia to continue her work helping the island cats to a better life. Fortuna the road accident cat mentioned in our Spring newsletter will be recaptured and the wires on her fractured jaw removed. More cats will be treated and neutered.

Silvana would like to thank all the generous people who have donated funds for this special cause. There have been some very supportive people who have given money here and there. Valerie Wagland raised a magnificent sum of £500 and this means another grand total of a further £1100. The pennies and pounds keep coming in.



***Neil Diamond's Hit Song "Love on the Rocks"  
takes on a different meaning in Sardinia.***

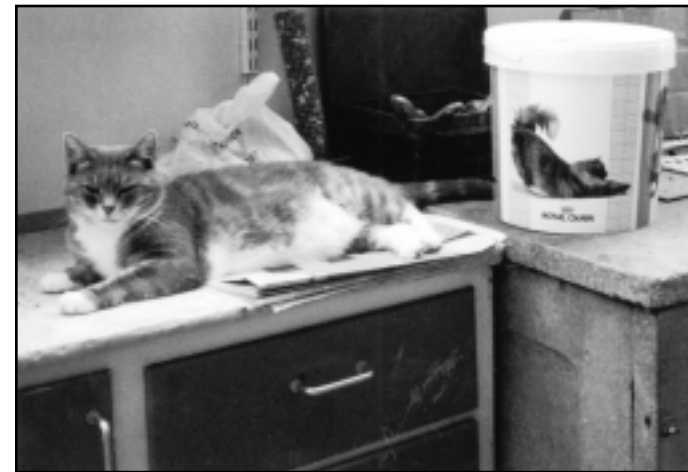
The English Springer Spaniel, also featured in our Spring newsletter, has been settled with a dog handler and his family and is loved to bits. This is a family with children. You may recall that she was recruited by the Metropolitan Police and was considered to be suitable for training with Customs and Excise. She progressed through her early training and is currently undergoing an 8 weeks course with her dog handler. I am keeping in touch with the training school and will let readers know if she makes the final grade and if they decide which branch of the service she will enter.



Valerie Wagland took care of a stray cat that was wandering in Hartley. The cat was deaf and could have been involved in a road accident. The normal procedure is for all animals to be health checked at the vets. This was done. While waiting in the surgery Valerie noticed a "lost cat poster" and thought it resembled the cat she had with her. The vet agreed and it was decided to ring the number provided on the notice board. Sure enough it was the missing cat and owner and pet were duly reunited. Tears all round, but nevertheless a very happy ending.

Miss Goodwin of Meopham has sent in a picture of Sadie and writes as follows:

*"Sadie, now almost three years old has been with us for over a year. She was brought into Animal Samaritans by a kindly rescuer after a rather traumatic start when she was abandoned by her owner over a torrentially wet Christmas. She has settled down very contentedly and is domesticated and most companionable. She enjoys running this household. Sadly her mother never taught her to speak but she has the loudest purr of any of the six cats we have owned. She has a passion for midnight feasts and one is expected to rally nightly (after about 3am) to a plea for a saucer of biscuits. Fortunately we keep a ready supply on the landing!!!"*



Animal Samaritans works with other charities to better the lives of animals that cannot speak for themselves. Battersea is well known for it's dogs home, but the public may not realise that cats also feature largely in their caring programme. Our volunteers help wherever and whenever they can and occasionally we assist with some of the cats that need to be rehabilitated. The following stories submitted by Silvana illustrate the ways we help.



### **Stella**

Was a Battersea cat that just was not getting on at all well in the surroundings of the London branch. She hated the dogs barking and the people in and out. As with many other difficult to settle cats, they telephoned me and I immediately took her. She had started to pull out her fur due to stress. Strangely enough I had a call after a week from Alison Shaw from Lewisham who was looking for a white indoor cat, who could go out if she wanted. Alison had just what Stella needed - peace, a gentle approach and understanding. Stella has been at her new home for only a short while and is really getting on well with Alison's help. She has stopped pulling her fur out, but we are still keeping our eyes out for her excessive grooming that she sometimes does. It will take some time but she is definitely in the right place.



### **Simi**

Another cat transferred from Battersea. When rescued Simi had been used all of her 7 years for breeding as she is a Bengal cross. Not much of a life for her. Simi also could not cope with the stress of the noise and people. The staff were so worried for her and could not offer what she needed. They phoned me and I took her in. Within days she became a loving purry cat, still nervous of too many people, but so much happier - Robert and Maria came to see another cat and fell for her. She is sweet and gentle. She is in her new home and doing very well. She has a quiet environment and Robert and Maria adore her. Simi has her up and down days, but given time and with her new owners she will improve. We are very grateful for that.

## **More happy endings.....**

### **Brandon**

An elderly work colleague of mine kept telling me about a cat that would just sit in her garden come rain, thunder or sun, just looking sorry for herself. Her husband fed him and took to him but their own tomcat did not! I told them what to do to see if he did have an owner - nobody came forward. After a year we decided that he could not be out another winter getting wet and cold. He had been fed cod and chicken everyday so probably stayed put for that. I went equipped with my cat trap as I had been told he would be difficult to catch. When I arrived he took one look at me and came over as if to say "you can take me now". He was so adorable and friendly. Just ate and purred and slept all day in his cat house. After only two weeks a lady called Win from Blackheath came along to see him and fell in love with him. They are living so happily together. He is still purring and sleeping all day, loves his cuddles and is still getting spoilt.

**Jasmine** came in a little stressed. She was a stunning grey cat but gave a little nip every now and then. It did not take her long before she settled here and started to enjoy her cuddles. Her new owners in Hartley fell in love with her and have given her the time and patience she needed. They did not push her and she has settled very well. They have to watch her as she sometimes still give a nip or two!

**Silvana**

## **HOMES ARE NEEDED FOR CATS**



Moppett is a 7 year old very independant cat. She loves home comforts but not too much fuss.



Pebbles is a 4 year old very friendly female. She is good with older children but no other cats.



Poppett is 1 year old. She is a shy but loving little girl, neutered and microchipped. Must have a very patient owner and not other cats.