



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. 32



WINTER 2003



Registered Charity No. 295345

Patron "Twiggy"

OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL

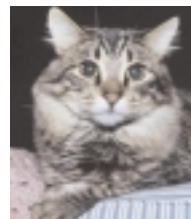
**For Admin, general enquiries, make a donation,
join as a member**

**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**

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

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



Dear Reader

We have had a very busy year once again with rescue and rehoming both cats and kittens in this and surrounding areas. I think I can speak for Silvana and myself when I say it's a really nice feeling to know we have helped a lot of poor souls to happier existences and loving homes.

Added to our normal work this year, we have helped with the S.O.S. Cats in Sardinia Appeal. Silvana was very much involved - collecting and administering help to the poorly and sick cats. This appeal is still running and if you can spare a little cash, please send donations to Silvana Valentino-Locke, Romney House, Luxted Road, Downe, Kent BR6 7JX. Telephone 01959 572319.

Before I sign off I would like to say a big thank you to all of our loyal folks who bring round bric-a-brac for fund raising. This really helps to pay the bills.

I must tell you the best part of Christmas for me is opening the Christmas cards and reading the many letters from the adopters telling me how my kittens - now their cats - have grown into happy confident four legged friends. With the letters come such lovely photographs to prove the point. Huge thanks to one and all for giving them homes and love along the way.

Happy New Year to all.

Valerie Wagland



The 4 gorgeous ferrals that Valerie Wagland took time and effort to domesticate



Feeding time for another group of 8 cats that homes were found for



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



“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

Youthful Endeavours and Achievement

23rd Camberwell Beavers - Ian Hammond says...

"We would like to thank Val Croxford and Animal Samaritans for the lovely piece written about us in the Autumn Newsletter. I would like to thank Val on behalf of the 23rd Camberwell beavers for giving such a lovely talk to the children, which they all enjoyed very much. We are pleased to say that all the beavers have now achieved their Outdoor Challenge badge and are nearly at the end of their Friendship badge. Thanks again from Lauren, Ian and the 23rd Camberwell beavers. Merry Christmas."



Miss Sydney Nash and Cobham Hall School

On behalf of all the Trustees at Animal Samaritans we would like to thank everyone who contributed and donated such a huge amount of food for the animals this Christmas.

A lot of effort went into your achievement and the design and colourful rejuvenation of a cardboard box is remarkable!! All the working and the artwork in the lettering must have taken ages to complete.

The fluffy and squeaky toys were lovely and the packets of treats will be enjoyed with enthusiasm by the cats and dogs.

Sydney writes *"Myself and all the girls at Cobham Hall School have been collecting animal food for you to pass on to any animals that may need it this Christmas. I hope that it will come in useful, and will try and do the same next year. I hope you and all the animals will have a lovely Christmas."*

Love from Sydney and all the girls at Cobham Hall."

Happy Endings by Silvana

A really happy ending for two cats, Jasmine and Felix.

Both came to me very stressed and traumatised, especially Felix who did not come out of hiding for most of the time he was here. Slowly he trusted me to stroke him and eventually after 2 months used to come out of his little cosy igloo bed for a stroke and a purr. As soon as he heard anything or saw anybody he would hit the roof and hide for the rest of the day. I would make really good progress with him one day and then he would take two steps back the next. He came from an awful household where he was being abused by a large dog who chased all the cats around a small flat. Jasmine came from the same household, but was a little more confident, a typical tortie and a little more bossy but still traumatised.

They were obviously needing a special home with no noise, children and somebody who would spend time and give them all the space they needed. Well that very person came along. Sandra Wall from Addington decided to take the challenge on. A real cat loving person who had lost her beloved cat a week before. The cats settled a lot quicker than expected as Sandra had so much patience and time for them. They are now doing brilliantly.

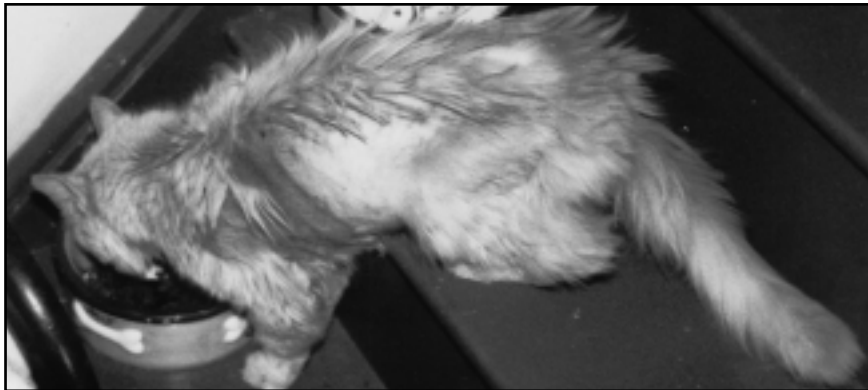
Christmas Raffle Draw Winners 2003

Ticket No.

00890	Mr R Munday, SE16	£200
06349	Ann Keatley, E10	£100
05483	Mrs D Richards, Bromley	£ 75
07922	Lynda Webb, Ash	£ 50
05961	Mrs Z Cownley, SE13	£ 10
00370	Mrs K Thomas, Sidcup	£ 10
04882	Mrs J Green, Ripon	£ 10
00232	E Humphrey, Welling	£ 10

Silvana and Valerie still have lots of cats needing good caring, loving homes. We have re-homed and cared for 64 cats/kittens last year.

We have also dealt with many cats who needed transferring to our network of rescue friends and centres who are able to cope with the more specialised needs of some cats. We have to thank Billy at The Retreat for assisting us with a cat called Jarman who was tested positive for F.I.V. Our policy is not to destroy animals unless absolutely necessary. It was, therefore, a blessing that Billy helped us with this cat who will be assured of every care during it's lifetime. Visiting Billy was a humbling but uplifting experience and one I shall never forget - his compassion for animals is second to none.



Jarman



Valerie Wagland saying goodbye to Jarman

Update on the Sardinian Cat Appeal

As many as 22 cats and 2 kittens were caught and treated by Silvana and Gemma, Head Nurse from Darwins Veterinary Centre of Biggin Hill, and a local vet. All were neutered or castrated and nursed at Silvana's home in Alghero and were given antibiotics, worming tablets and vitamins before being released back into their environment.

On her last visit Silvana took this photograph and was pleased to find they were well and healthy and benefiting from their treatment.

For a much fuller account of what has been achieved and to view additional photos go to our website - www.animalsamaritans.org.uk and click to NW Kent Branch, then click on S.O.S. Sardinian Cat Neutering Appeal.

We would like to thank all members, friends and supporters who have donated to this appeal. We are pleased to announce that the sum of £1170 has been raised by Animal Samaritans and used for the treatment of these feral cats at the port of Alghero. Silvana is returning to the island on a regular basis and extra cash will be available for her when she visits in the New Year with our English based vet. In the meantime Silvana continues to do what she can each time she returns. Animal Samaritans North West Kent Branch are pleased to provide support for this cause.

