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www.themoggery.org.uk



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Dear Supporters

I hope you have enjoyed all the sunshine we have had this year.

Many congratulations to patron Piers Morgan both on his recent marriage to journalist Celia Walden and for being offered the opportunity to front CNN's most popular show replacing the retiring Larry King. We wish him every success and look forward to the shows being broadcast in the U.K.

Every year I look forward to a week's break from cleaning litter trays and answering phone calls – this year I had a break but not the one I had in mind! (see diary)

Autumn is upon us and we have our Christmas fundraising days to look forward to, so please clear your diaries for SAT DEC 18th when we have our CHRISTMAS FAIR, 2 - 4.30 PM at the FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE on GLOUCESTER RD, to be opened by BBC weatherman IAN FERGUSSON.

Come along with all the family and friends and have hot drinks and mince pies in our café while finding lots of stocking fillers.

FRI DEC 3rd is our second venture at bag packing at CADBURY GARDEN & LEISURE CENTRE in CONGRESBURY. Last year we had fun standing at the checkouts helping pack customers' purchases and we raised over £500!

If you are able bodied and can offer even an hour's help on the Friday then please call me today!

Last but not least on SAT DEC 4th we will be at ALMONDSBURY GARDEN CENTRE again. The centre is very festive at this time of year and fundraising is very enjoyable as all the customers are happy!

Please don't leave it to others to volunteer help on these days – do call me even if you have never done any fundraising before – you will enjoy the experience! See you all at our Christmas events

Christine

The Moggery Diary

June 23

I've put Ptolemy with three kittens of his own age, He's a third of their size and they are 'mothering' him i.e. pinning him down to wash his ears despite his noisy protests.



Uncle Roma and Ptolemy

June 25

"There's some wild cats at the bottom of my garden and one of them has just had kittens". I loaded a trap into the car and went to a house in Lawrence Weston in North Bristol. Using tuna as bait I placed the trap and waited. The homeowners' dog, Rosie, placed a ball hopefully by my feet and I occupied myself throwing the ball into bushes for the next hour. The trap had still not sprung so I decided to go home for a sandwich and as I opened my front door the phone rang and yes, a kitten was in the trap. "Don't touch it" I said "I'll be back in half an hour". When I arrived back at the house the husband had opened the trap to catch the kitten and she was now loose downstairs in the house. I spotted her behind a hall cupboard. "Whatever happens we mustn't let her get to the stairs" I said. The next minute the tabby kitten ran from the cupboard and hopped upstairs where every door was open. Rosie the dog followed me with her ball upstairs and despite all my encouragement to her to seek out the kitten she just dropped the ball by my

feet. I went back in the garden to check the trap again and the mother cat and a grey kitten were caught. Meanwhile the errant kitten had been found in a drawer under the television. The husband was badly bitten catching the kitten for the carry basket. Still on tomato varieties I thought Jersey Devil a suitable name for the tabby kitten. I brought the whole family back to H.Q.

June 26

Rosie's owner rang to say she could hear crying at the bottom of the garden - there must be a third kitten. I returned with the trap and set it again.

June 27

A tiny black and white kitten was in the trap and I brought him home to rejoin his family

June 28

Goram and Blaze were chosen today by a Filton family. These abandoned kittens will be the children of the couple who chose them.

June 29

Patron Ian Fergusson opened our auction tonight and the most popular lot was number 30 - a two hour cuddle with Ptolemy! Volunteer Ailsa bid £45 for the privilege.

June 30

Vet nurse Judith at Companion Care vets has offered to be a maternity foster home. Ponderosa has gone to stay with her as her first case.

July 1

Admitted Venus a black and white cat from Brentry whose owner had moved without her. She has a family of four new born kittens. Her grey and white sister Cherrola came into care at our Brentry site also.

July 6

Judith rang at 10.15 pm to say that Ponderosa had had four fat kittens and none of them are black!



July 7

Sadly two of the new kittens have been found to have cub feet. Next week they will be x-rayed to discover if it is bone or Ligament damage. "A cat has come into my house and won't leave". Volunteer Lisa brought in a tiny tabby kitten from Knowle West. Dave is very confident and is already playing with kittens Sam and Marzano who were brought back after three weeks because they were "hard work".

July 8

Took in a ten year old cat whose owner has had to move to a one bedroom flat with her six dogs. Lottie is a very dark tabby and I've stationed her in the living room in a pen. She can spit at the family there and they can reciprocate without anyone coming to any harm.

July 10

It's not just the public who bring me cats, today volunteer Laura brought me an unwanted tabby from her neighbour and Lydia brought in an Abyssinian type cat which had been living on the Henbury school playing field for several weeks, being fed by a kind pupil each lunchtime.

July 12

The first two calls were from concerned householders whose neighbours had moved and left behind their cats. I've arranged to have both cats neutered and they will be kept in the streets they know as several neighbours are feeding and sheltering them.

July 14

Supporter Jeanne Fairman was on my doorstep this morning with a tortie cat who had been following people in nearby St Andrew's Park. Sadly Andrea does not have an identity chip and has been admitted.

"I've caught a heavily pregnant stray can you take her" A Stoke Gifford resident rang at lunchtime so I've arranged to take the cat in tonight.

"A stray cat had kittens in my garden last year and she's just had kittens again and one of her kittens has now also had kittens". I told the caller from Patchway that I could have taken in the mother cat last year while she pregnant to prevent the feral colony that now existed. I'll call in the two traps that are out and hopefully start catching the adults tomorrow. If only people would call for help sooner rather than later when the problem has got out of hand.

The heavily pregnant stray turned out to be a neutered male when he arrived tonight and has a German identichip.

July 15

Two callers rang and asked for help with neutering today. The first caller had four unneutered cats (one of which had just had a litter). The second caller had two female kittens which she had bought through TRADE IT from someone local who had also purchased them through TRADE IT two weeks before and didn't want them because they "ran around".

I wondered why the bowl of Science Diet biscuits wasn't being eaten until I caught Ptolemy in the act of using the dish as a litter tray! (A Ptolemy puddle is obviously going to discourage them).

July 16

"We bought four kittens through TRADE IT and we can't keep them because my girlfriend's allergic" I asked the caller to contact the homes they had bought the kittens from but neither breeder was willing to take them back. I then suggested the use of Petalcleanse on the cats to wipe away the allergens causing the reaction until we had space to take the cats in.

July 17

A surprise three tabby kittens were brought to H.Q. tonight. I asked foster home Valerie Andrews to care for them.



July 20

So far I've trapped six spitting kittens and the grandmother Patchway cat. Granny has been spayed at Companion Care vets and I'm hoping some of the kittens can be tamed enough to rehouse otherwise they will all be neutered in the next few weeks and returned to the site.



Ginny, Vinnie and Snap

July 21

Three kittens had been trapped overnight at Patchway. Two were from the older litter and at an age they could be neutered. These were spayed and returned to the waiting mother this evening.

A Kingswood woman arrived at H.Q. this evening with 6 two week old kittens that had been rejected by their mother. One sadly died within minutes of being handed in but the others had a good feed on arrival. I'm not hopeful of raising them as in 14 years I've only managed to raise two orphan kittens beyond six weeks. Even when they are feeding well they suddenly fade.

July 22

Another of the kittens died in the night. The others are being kept warm, well fed and cleaned. They are drinking their bottles well but time will tell.

July 29

Despite all my efforts the last Kingswood kitten died today. Food and warmth isn't enough – they needed a mother (I had tried them with foster home Elaine's mother cat but she rejected them)

**Aug 2**

Admitted three beautiful adults from the same home today. Miller is a beautiful serious ginger who does a 'high 5' as you approach him. Molly and Mandy are black and tortie respectively.

Aug 4

Driving back from Brentry tonight I saw a wounded wood pigeon on Horfield Common so I picked him up and loaded him into a wire basket. I drove to H.Q. to let the volunteer know I was taking the pigeon straight to the vets and found out someone had just left a basket full of young black cats on the doorstep. I could only see pairs of frightened yellow eyes in the gloom.

I took everything to Companion Care vets and while sitting with the pigeon on my lap was questioned regarding the abandoned cats which I had brought in for neutering next day. "What are they called"? "How old are they"?

"I don't even know how many there are never mind their ages!" I said. "There's a basket load for surgery tomorrow and here's a list of suitable 'M' names for you to choose from". (Sadly the wood pigeon's wing was shattered not just broken and he had to be put to sleep).

Aug 5

There were five boys in the abandoned basket, so Morris, Malcolm, Martin, Miles and Maxwell were processed today.

Aug 7

I went to collect four adult cats for neutering under our new assisted scheme this morning and when I reached the high-rise flat in Lawrence Weston the owner said she didn't want them back. When I discovered one had recently had kittens I agreed to admit that family today and come back to collect the other three when space allowed. The mother cat (Lorna Waring) was very thin and the four

kittens are half the size they should be.

Aug 8

One of Lorna's black and white kittens died today and I'm not expecting the others to survive as they are so stunted. However they are eating well and have been flead and wormed. (Their gums are almost white, a sign of anaemia probably caused by being eaten alive by fleas).

Aug 9

Two more of Lorna's kittens died today despite regular food and warmth. I got them into care too late.

Aug 14

A neighbour knocked on my door at teatime and said indignantly "This cat is getting very upset out here" "hat cat" I said and checked outside finding a very loud Siamese/Tabby cat in a basket at the back of the car. The person abandoning them didn't come up the path in case I saw them! Maisie is huge with big blue eyes a tabby tail and head and blotchy cream in between. Typically oriental she has to have a say in everything.

Aug 27

As helper Suzanne left H.Q. at 9.45 she didn't notice tortie May running past her and into the road. I ran after her and rugby tackled her landing heavily. I couldn't move and realised I'd broken something but I carried on directing from the gutter. May kept changing direction as I watched helplessly. A Chinese girl walked by on the opposite side of the road, studied me for a minute and then asked "Do you want to be there - are you chilling out?" "Well, no", I said "I'm just waiting for help to get up but please don't touch my arms". She picked me up by my elbows and helped me inside where I rang for reinforcements. Two nearby volunteers came with their husbands and traced May to the top of a conifer tree in a neighbour's garden. With five people waiting at the base of the tree she realised the game was up

and came down quietly and was carried in. I was sitting in the hall with ice packs around my left arm studying my black and blue knees.

Aug 28

All eight cats in the office wanted to lie on my damaged left arm overnight so nobody had much sleep as I had to keep moving the cats off with my good hand.

Foster home Valerie took me to Frenchay Hospital where x rays confirmed I'd broken my left wrist

Aug 30

Work goes on as normal. I have Moggery red plaster and a strong right arm for scooping litter trays. I had already been doing admin on the draining board in the kitchen as there is no room on the office table - now I'm standing with one arm in sling whilst using the draining board as a desk! How many other charities have an H.Q. like the Moggery?

Sept 5

As I can't drive for 6 weeks I've been calling on every volunteer who lives locally to drive me to our Brentry site each day.

Sept 10

A couple in Coombe Dingle noticed that a white cat had had kittens under the decking in their garden. They put a 'Found Cat' notice in their local shop and the owners rang up but when they realised that the cat had meanwhile had kittens they refused to have her back!

A kind neighbour contacted me and I loaned him a trap to catch the whole family as the kittens being born outside were now feral.

Sept 11

Mum and kits were all caught in one day. All the family were taken straight to the vets for neutering.

Sept 12

Mum cat has found herself a home and vet nurse Judith who is also a foster



home has taken the two kittens to tame them.

Sept 15

Had my plaster replaced with a splint to enable me to go on holiday tomorrow. (I can't fly in a cast as the limb will swell).

Sept 16 - 24

8 days of freedom from litter trays and phone calls.

Sept 30

The sun was shining, Roma, a big ginger and white male was adopted last night and the bin men had emptied all five bins. This was going to be a perfect day I thought until I saw someone coming up to my front door with a cat basket. "Please tell me that basket is empty" I said as I opened the door. Unfortunately not. A large black cat had been found on a main road in Southmead and I couldn't risk putting him back. No ID chip, no collar or disc. I packed Septimus off to the vets to be processed as there is no space at either site.

Oct 1

Miss Millie from the Alice Baker room was adopted today. I was thrilled because she has been here for months. Although a beautiful friendly tortie she was past her 'sell by' date and was always overlooked by visitors. Kingsley can now have his own suite without Millie hitting him every time he crosses the room.

Oct 2

Tabby/white Dragon and tortie Andrea were adopted today. At last things are moving again.

Oct 3

Ptolemy is a very sturdy young cat now with large paws. No need to worry about him dying anymore.



Ptolemy with best friend Opalka

