

THE CAT

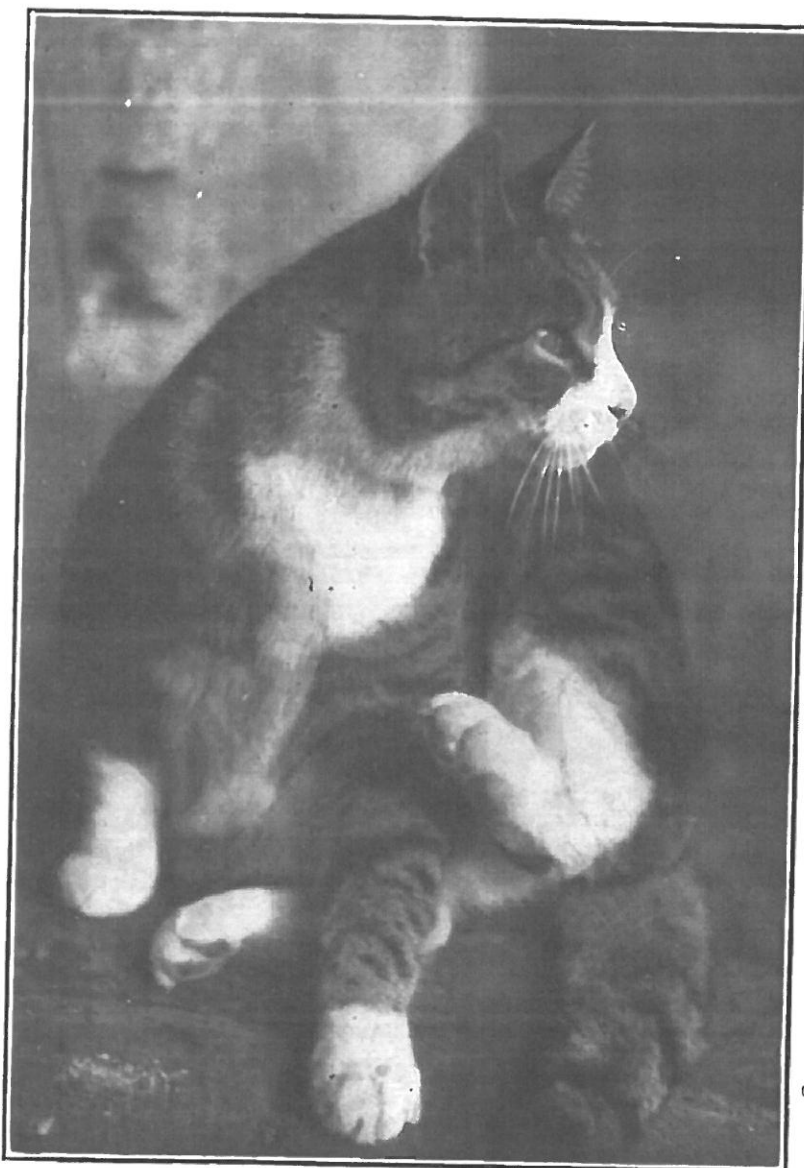
Vol. IV. No. 1

Monthly Price Twopence.

15th JANUARY, 1934

Editor—JESSEY WADE

“Cats,” said Sir
Walter Scott,
“are a very
mysterious
kind of folk”



“There is more
passing in their
minds than we
are aware of”

Issued by the Cats' Protection League
42 DOLPHIN ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2/6

Notes of the Month.

"The Cat."

As foreshadowed in the December issue, it has been decided to double the size of our little monthly, and to re-name it, so with these alterations we hope it will continue to please our readers, and that they will not mind the slightly raised cost per month. We are not launching into a greatly increased cost for the printing, and as we now have a page that can be devoted to paid advertisements we are venturing to hope that the paper will in future at least be made to pay its way. With our readers' help, it should do this.

Get us fresh subscribers, please, send us advertisements of things "Wanted" or things to sell. Send us interesting photographs, and news of the cat world generally—either personal or news cuttings.

The Cats' Protection League, whose organ this is, is carried on solely in the interests of the cats themselves, not as a profit-making enterprise. We do not aim at making money out of cats as hobbies, nor do we encourage the keeping of them as mere "pets" for the children.

Rather do we realise that the cat family has its own problems, demanding solution.

Cats are in many ways outside the laws governing other domestic creatures, being possessed of great independence of character, and, therefore, never having been reduced to complete slavery. Man has been unable to adapt them to serve any purpose of his own. They have really no definite place in his scheme of things, they do not provide his food, nor share in his wars, his sports or his work. The life-history of the ordinary cat contains possibilities of tragedy greater than that of any other animal, such as drowning or more brutal destruction as kittens—subjection to cruel operations by unqualified persons—being turned out every night in all weathers, and also during owners' absences. When homeless they face the risk of being picked up by evilly-disposed people. If no rescuer comes they may join

the huge army of semi-wild, half-starved back-alley scavengers, diseased and disseminators of disease.

Consideration of these tragic possibilities, which are, only too often, actual happenings, should be enough to convince all humane persons that something must be done to stop so much unnecessary and unmerited suffering.

And all these things, as we stated three years ago, are still happening, and need special attention.

Cat Gleanings from the Press

A few weeks ago, in Hull, Mr. Pearson whilst trying to rescue a cat from a high roof, fell and was killed. It will gratify cat lovers to know that this brave action was generally appreciated. A fund was started in aid of his widow and family.

Cat's 200-Mile Trip.

A cat which had been taken by a farmer from Maesyrcrugiau (Cardigan) to Daventry (Northants) has just returned alone to her old home—a distance of 200 miles.

Cat's 100-Mile Trip.

Another is reported in the "Sunday Express" (17th Dec.) as having found its way home alone from Framlingham, Suffolk, to Uppingham, Rutland, in six days.

Cats as "Civil Servants."

One of these is "Rufus," the famous red Persian cat, to whom we have referred before. The Treasury allows him a weekly wage of 1s. 6d., and we expect he more than earns that sum by his exertions.

We learn, further, that there are "Station Cats" in several Air Force quarters, and we know they are invaluable servants to the Post Office.

Think of the mail bags which would be ravaged by rats without these cat officials, and in that department an allowance is made of 1s. a week for each of the cats. So they are not expected to live by rats alone.

Cat Shows and Ourselves

Members will be pleased to know that the League has decided upon a campaign of publicity in an endeavour to reveal the light that has for so long been shining under the bushel of financial difficulties.

In accordance with this decision, the first effort was the representation of the League at the Croydon and Crystal Palace Cat Shows, where with the kind permission of the respective managers a table was devoted to a large display of literature, calendars, and cat collars.

It was a very pleasing experience for me, as the League's representative, to find the majority of the visitors, and not a few of the exhibitors, expressing their interest and sympathy with the cause, and accepting with pleasure the leaflets offered to them.

It would be as well, perhaps, at this point to mention that over two thousand leaflets were distributed at the two shows, and I feel sure that some of the seed will fall on fertile ground and bear fruit. Many interesting talks ensued: the Cats' Door aroused great interest, and our safety collars were much discussed, to their advantage.

In summing up my impressions, I feel that by regularly attending the Cat Shows within travelling distance, the League will cover a greater area for distributing its literature, and will bring to local cat lovers the knowledge of its existence. Many were also interested in and purchased copies of our Velvet Paws Calendar. A. STEWARD.

In Praise of the Farm Cat

She deserves more appreciation than she usually gets. There is hardly a farm throughout the length and breadth of the land without at least one cat, and usually more, but we hear little about them, and see little notice taken of them.

Yet what would a farm be without its cat? Indoors one sees her curled up in front of the fire, and the sight of her makes all the difference to the cosy look of the room. Out of doors she is invaluable. In barns she keeps the mice down, and in the garden she catches the little field mice that

do so much harm nibbling off the seedlings and devouring the bulbs.

She is so quiet and unobtrusive too. If you neglect her there is no fuss. She is quiet and keeps her opinion to herself, but if you do take notice of her she is so responsive. Backwards and forwards she rubs you, her tail up and her back arched, while that most comfortable of noises, a loud purr answers your remarks. Cats always love the person who talks to them though few people realise how much they appreciate a little friendly conversation.

E. M. HAINES.

A Cat's Favourite Recipe

There is a certain cat at West Newton U.S.A., who, through the pen of his "Missie," would testify to the charm and value of Catnip Tea.

To make it, you take 1 tablespoon dried Catnip, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup boiling water and saucer of cream, or canned evaporated milk (ordinary milk is too thin). Let the water stand on Catnip two minutes, strain and pour two tablespoonfuls into the cream. Serve warm.

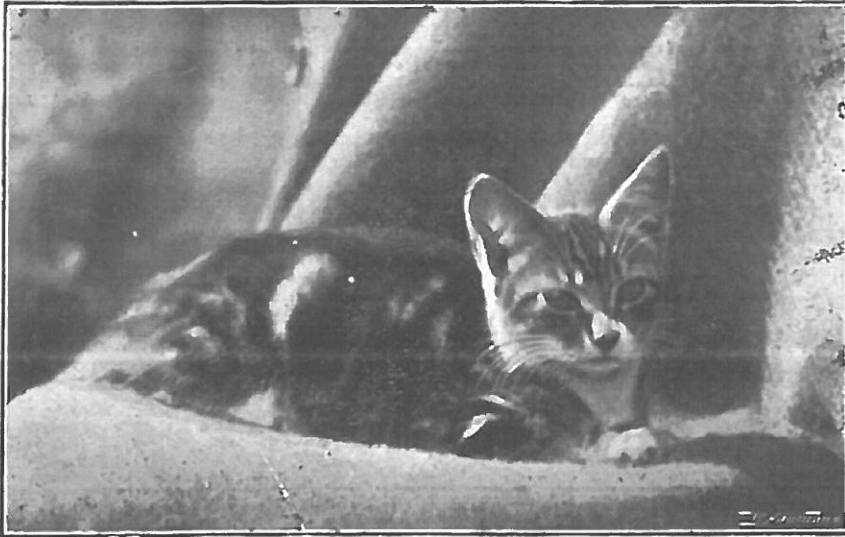
We shall be pleased to hear if this beverage meets with as great approval by English puss-cats as by "Monkey, Mulatto, Maynard."

A Cat who eats Nuts.

In a cutting from a New Zealand Newspaper we note the following interesting and unusual "taste" in a cat:

"Domestic animals generally seem to have no fondness for vegetable oils as part of their diet. Although dogs may have a more universal palate, cats are generally credited with epicurian tastes. Perhaps, then, peanuts are not such a 'common' article of diet as is often thought by those who object to the crackling of shells. A male cat owned by a resident of Bayswater, Auckland, is unperturbed by such thoughts. He chews off the shell, manages to discard most of the skin, and munches nuts happily for as long as they are fed to him. Although the cat is naturally bashful, give him some peanuts and he is your friend for the evening.

Poison and the Law



We have never dwelt much upon the darkest side of feline life as disclosed by reports of prosecutions for cruelty. Our aim is to induce our readers to become more interested in cats, to learn how to appreciate them, to understand their needs and, above all, to co-operate with us in trying to better their conditions and in removing that standing reproach to our civilisation—the stray. Ignorance and indifference are responsible for more suffering than actual brutality, and the study of cases of cruelty is not a study of cats, but of degenerate human beings.

Sometimes it happens that a prosecution sheds light on a little understood point of law affecting cats; thus the punishment of a careless owner for neglect may be the means of educating others to a sense of their responsibility. It is useful to recall these cases.

Two fairly recent prosecutions, resulting in convictions, are of interest as clearly illustrating the law on poisoning.

In the first, a farmer was convicted of putting down poisoned grain in the middle of a field, with the result that many pigeons fell victims to it. He was severely admonished by the magistrates, though, as the costs of the case were heavy, he was excused a fine.

In the second prosecution, another farmer was proved to have put some meat, poisoned with strychnine, in a field. A dog found it, ate some, and was seriously ill, though he subsequently recovered under treatment. The offender was fined £4. The farmer's defence—that the poison was intended for vermin—was not accepted, because the condition attached to the acceptance of such a defence was not fulfilled by him. The sections of the Protection of Animals Act of 1911 and the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act of 1927

relating to the putting down of poison are as follows:—

If any person :

- (b) shall knowingly put or place, or cause or procure any person to put or place, or knowingly be a party to the putting or placing in or upon any land or building, any poison or any fluid or edible matter (not being sown seed or grain) which has been rendered poisonous; such person shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Ten Pounds.

Provided that in any proceedings under paragraph (b) of this section it shall be a defence that the poison was placed by the accused for the purpose of destroying insects and other invertebrates, rats, mice, or other small ground vermin where such is found to be necessary in the interests of public health, agriculture, or the preservation of other animals domestic or wild, or for the purpose of manuring the land, and *that he took all reasonable precautions to prevent injury thereby to dogs, cats, fowls, or other domestic animals, and wild birds.*

In the two prosecutions quoted above neither of the defendants had fulfilled this last necessary condition, and their defence failed.

The offences took place in the country, where domestic animals are not so numerous as they are in towns. The poisoner in a town is a worse offender, and could scarcely look for the same leniency as was shown to the two farmers. There is hardly a place, in a town, inaccessible to domestic animals, particularly to cats, and the precautions for their protection demanded by the law would practically limit the layer down of poison to his own house, unless his garden or yard were so well wired-in as to be normally unapproachable. Only then could he hope to make an acceptable defence should some unforeseen accident occur.

People such as bird fanciers, pigeon breeders, gardeners and cat-haters, who are sometimes heard to threaten to poison a trespassing cat should be told that they are deliberately proposing to commit an offence against the law, and are as much intentional criminals as thieves. No one is allowed wantonly to injure another's property, any more than they are allowed to appropriate it, and cats are a form of property, sometimes of considerable monetary and, in most cases, of great sentimental value to their owners.

A word of caution must be written regarding suspected poisoning. We receive many complaints of this, but it is very difficult, unless owners will take a little trouble, to trace the culprits, and it is also not always possible to be certain that poison is in question. The epidemic known as "cats' flu" presents several symptoms suggestive of poisoning, and when many cats in one district are suddenly taken ill and die within a few hours, this scourge of feline life may be responsible.

The only really satisfactory method of establishing the cause of death is a post-mortem examination by a Veterinary Surgeon.

We have said before now that many cat owners are too timid or too apathetic about their rights, and are too prone merely to lament, when they ought to be taking

steps to bring the offenders against their cats to justice. It is because of this supineness that cat thieves and cat poisoners continue their criminal practices, on the assumption that "cats don't matter."

We appeal to you—cat owners—to stand up for your own rights, and for the protection of your cats. Never allow any attack, of any description, upon your cat to pass unnoticed; if you are real cat lovers you will also do your best to protect all cats against harm. Do not let people threaten cats in your hearing without reminding them that all domestic animals are protected by law. If a tragedy happens do not content yourselves with regrets, but invoke the help of that law, specially framed to give you and your pets security.

Legally you are responsible for any suffering caused to your own cat through your negligence in "permitting cruelty." The Act states:—"an owner shall be deemed to have permitted cruelty . . . if he shall have failed to exercise reasonable care and supervision in respect of the protection of the animal therefrom." If you know your cat to be threatened with the danger of suffering and take no steps to prevent this, you are getting dangerously near "permitting cruelty."

Morally you are also responsible for suffering inflicted on other people's cats if, when your own falls a victim to a thief or a poisoner you do nothing to bring the criminal to justice, because your inaction ill lead to the encouragement of the offender and the repetition of the offence.

B.A.

Manchester Branch.

Members are reminded again that there will be a Whist Drive on Saturday, January 27th, 1934, at the residence of Mrs. Whiteside, 148, Barlow Moor Road, West Didsbury. Tickets, which are 2s., including refreshments, may be obtained from Mrs. Whiteside or from the Hon. Secretary, at 54, Northen Grove, West Didsbury.

Slough and District Cats' Club.

42 Dolphin Road,
Slough, Bucks.

Fifth Annual Report (Abridged),
Year ending December 31st, 1933.

I do not propose to take up too much space in connection with our report, as a separate one is to be printed for general distribution in the district: but I do feel that a brief account of our activities as well as the financial statement, will be of interest to all our readers.

Our membership is slowly but surely creeping towards the 500 mark, which I hope will be reached before the end of this year, and there is every reason to think that it will, in view of the increased interest of the residents in our work, and the constant demand for our help and advice.

The necessity for the use of our Lethal Boxes can be judged by our Chloroform Account, which totals £3 15s. 9d. for the year, and it will be necessary to obtain more boxes as soon as possible, as two of our old boxes are becoming unserviceable, and it is essential to have two boxes for emergency cases; a number of such cases were dealt with last year.

Our temporary shelter has been constantly in service, sometimes only one cat, at other times as many as eight, and we see the need for further extensions; one new house has just arrived, two others are to be obtained as soon as funds permit.

The outstanding event was Cat Week. This effort, and its results, have already been commented upon in the Cats' Mews-Sheet, so there is no necessity to dwell on that, other than to say that it was a great success, thanks to the splendid co-operation of our members and the wonderful support that was given us. Cat Week has come to stay.

Before dealing with the financial side, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those whose whole-hearted support enables me to say that 1933 was our most successful year.

GENERAL FUND.	£	s.	d.
Donations, Subscriptions, etc. ...	83	16	3
	<hr/>		
	£83	16	3

	£	s.	d.
General expenditure	80	12	10½
Balance in hand	3	3	4½
	<hr/>		
	£83	16	3

(The above expenditure includes £25 transferred to Shelter Fund.)

SHELTER FUND.	£	s.	d.
Balance to our Credit.....	90	3	4

A. STEWARD,
Secretary.

Cat Foods.

We have to thank Messrs. Spratts Patent Limited for samples of their Cat Food and their WeetMeet product, which have been distributed to as many of our members as possible.

Samples of Grass for Cats (*Dactylis glomerata*) have been received from Messrs. Sutton and Sons, and these have also been passed on to members. We tender Messrs. Sutton and Sons our thanks.

Cat Brackets.

In response to several requests made at the Animals Fair, the League has now obtained a stock of the small Cat Brackets; these can be obtained from the Secretary, at 42, Dolphin Road, Slough, Bucks. Price 1s. post free.

Collecting Boxes.

Also in response to requests, Black Cat Collecting Boxes have been obtained, and will be forwarded to any member willing to accept same to collect funds for the League.

A Garden-lover who Loves Cats

"Why do people keep cats when they love a garden?"

I do not know.

But I know that as far as I am concerned dogs and cats and birds and babies, and fishes are part of a garden; they make their tiny musics there: each the small singing eddy of its personality, its temper, its caresses, its givings and withholdings upon the full stream of life that flows about our feet where flowers and trees and grasses grow.

I love them all—the little gleaming manifestations . . . but especially and dearly do I love the cats—anyone can love a dog; indeed, it would be difficult *not* to like the clumsy, well-meaning, good-natured things, but it takes other taste and other temperament to love a cat.

I love cats; I have never ceased to find a full measure of fun in pitting my brain against those clever little brains, in forestalling their mischief and making them tread the path more convenient to the home: it needs some doing, for they are infinitely intelligent, infinitely resourceful."—From "I Know a Garden," MARION CRAN.

The Animals' Benevolent Club

By kind invitation of Mrs. Craufurd, the founder of the A.B.C., the League was represented at the Annual Meeting of the Club at Maida Vale on Saturday, November 18th. One could not fail to be impressed by the atmosphere of keen interest of the members in the work for animals generally, and especially in the welfare of our pussy friends. The report of the year's efforts is an excellent proof of their sincerity.

The work of the Cats' Protection League, its hopes for the future, and the cat's welfare generally, was explained in an address of

over an hour's duration, to which the members listened with marked interest, and at the conclusion responded to the invitation to ask questions, in a manner that augurs well for the cat community in their respective districts.

Cat among the Pigeons

Playmates on a London Roof.

A cat at Marble Arch finds her playmates among the pigeons of the district. She actually makes friends with them and shares her titbits.

She is a nameless cat—just one of the 16 "strays" who found their way to the site of the new Cumberland Hotel simultaneously with the arrival of the contractors.

As each new floor has taken shape on the site, Puss has moved up one. So far as is known she has never once descended. But her travels are at an end—she is now on the roof. Here she met the pigeons.

We have been asked—

Is it correct to call cats "vermin"?

No; this is a gross error, and the policeman who made use of this expression was evidently a very ignorant man. Cats are, legally, domestic animals and enjoy the full protection of the law, as our leaflet, "How cats are protected by law," explains. Every cruelty, whether of commission or omission, forbidden in the case of dogs, is equally forbidden in the case of cats.

The Cats' Protection League.

Membership 5/- per annum. Associates 3/6. These payments include copy of the monthly publication "The Cat."

Subscriptions to be addressed to the Secretary, 42 Dolphin Road, Slough, Bucks.

Communications for "The Cat" to the Editor, York House, Portugal St., London, W.C.2.

Sick or Injured Cats are treated (if necessary, humanely destroyed) at the following R.S.P.C.A. DISPENSARIES in and near London :

WALWORTH DISPENSARY	..	..	Morecambe Street, S.E.
BETHNAL GREEN	..	..	St. Andrews Institute
ISLINGTON	..	..	397 City Road, E.C.1
PUTNEY	..	..	35 Felsham Road, S.W.15
BARNES	..	..	7 White Hart Lane, S.W.
EDMONTON	..	..	Harvey's Yard, Gilpin Grove, N.18
CAMBERWELL	..	..	Railway Arches, Medlar St., Camberwell
GULLINGHAM	..	..	Skinner Street, Gillingham
SHEERNESS	..	..	The Broadway, Sheerness

Cats can be boarded at the R.S.P.C.A. Home for Animals, Ember Farm, Orchard Lane, Thames Ditton.

For further details of any of these please apply to the R.S.P.C.A., 105 Jermyn St., S.W.1