



Editorial

It is great to be typing this edition of the BCA Newsletter in the sunshine! I hope you and your cats are managing to keep cool during these long hot and sunny days.

I am sure I am not alone in noticing a drop in numbers at the cat shows this year. It makes me wonder how long the clubs will be able to continue to put on a show each year if this trend continues. At the Northern Counties Show in May, there was just ONE Burmese entered! At other shows that I have entered this year, there has been just a handful in each section and some are classes completely empty. I do still enjoy showing but as I only have two cats that like the experience and I only go to shows within 1-2 hours travelling distance away, my contribution to the hobby is a fairly small one. Entry fees have remained pretty constant so I assume it is the price of fuel and a general lack of spending money amongst exhibitors that is resulting in the general decline in popularity. What do you think?

On another note, I must tell you that I am stepping down from my role here as editor. So, if you would like to be more involved in the BCA, perhaps this is a job you could consider? Please get in touch with Sheila for more details.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter and if you have not yet contributed, then please do feel free to send in your stories, articles and photographs.

Very best wishes
Chris

Burmese Cat Association Tea Party 26th May 2013

Our 2nd Association tea party was again held at Goatacre Village hall to the familiar accompaniment of the sound of bat and ball on the cricket field outside. Activity inside the Hall was decidedly more energetic with the committee carrying in bags of raffle prizes, bric a brac, cat paraphernalia and, of course, the all important food. Friends were greeted and cat exhibits vetted in and penned. 32 members attended, some having driven great distances, and although we would have liked to see more the atmosphere as ever was pleasantly informal and convivial and there was time to chat and catch up on news as well as admiring our eclectic collection of Burmese exhibits. This year we tried to focus on rehomes and pets and it was very rewarding to see how loved and treasured they all were and, naturally, how very beautiful. A delicious lunch provided by members (surely Anne Bell's avocado salad should be on Master Chef!) was presided over by Stevie Hillman, aided by Lorraine Pritchard and Tracey Keegan who all worked incredibly hard – a big thank you to all of you.

Helen Hewitt presented her financial account and it seems the Association has now enough in hand to pay various expenses and to have a substantial fund for our all important welfare work. As at 31.12.12 our general account stands at £1630 and the welfare account at £2563. We have paid £1060 for setting up our website which I think you will agree is a worthwhile investment. Maureen Smith, Chairman, welcomed everyone and said how much she had appreciated the help and support not only of the Committee but the members in general which she found very encouraging. There was no doubt that the Association had gathered strength and motivation during the year and this was due to the cooperation and assistance of everyone – particularly as she herself has had to cope with ill-health and moving house. Sadly, she also had to tell us that our speaker, Margaret Walkden, had had to cancel her visit at the last minute due to ill-health and she wished her a speedy recovery. However, Maureen is nothing if not resourceful and she proposed that instead of a talk and formal judging there should be round tables presided over by herself, Sylvia Rose and Jane Francis Wilson and the cats should be assessed and discussed under their guidance and expertise. This proved to

be extremely popular, not to mention democratic, as opinions could be aired and questions asked in a very informal atmosphere. An event well worth repeating because it was fun and we learned a lot.

As usual, the raffle was very well supported, (lucky the person who walked off with a luxurious heated kitten bed) and over £100 was raised. Yvonne Bruckel raffled a beautiful beaded cross stitch picture worked by her daughter-in-law and raised another £100. Sheila and Mike Kimmins did sterling work selling all manner of bric-a-brac and plants – and some specially made glass pendants with our logo engraved on them. Yet another £100 was raised and the left-overs were taken off by Doris Bubb-Porter to sell at our stand at the Kensington show in July. No wonder our welfare fund is looking so healthy! And a special thank you to Claire James who seemed to give help wherever and whenever it was needed. In fact, everyone worked hard to make the day a success and it was. We went home tired and happy. And Mike Kimmins and Trevor Cooke photographed us all so those of you who couldn't make it can share the day with us!

Elisabeth Amies

A selection of photographs from the day...







BCA Committee Notices

1. Due to the concerns regarding defects within the gene-pool of Burmese cats within Europe we would advise that owners seek advice before importing cats at this time.
2. The committee has vacancies, including the post of secretary and the committee will be holding an election in the next month. Should you wish to be considered please contact Sheila Kimmins by email Sheila@exertus-training.co.uk or telephone 01373 864513

Biscuit settles in!

Biscuit was re-homed to her new owner, Caroline, via the BCA. Now read on, to find out how she is settling in!

Biscuit has everything here how she likes it now. She sleeps on 99% of my bed and allows me the remaining 1%. I bought a luxury cat igloo for her before we collected her. She lets me know if I'm encroaching on her bit of the bed, in a friendly if slightly sharp way. She thinks the cat igloo is a charming ornament and likes to keep her pipe cleaners in it. She came with a nice red pipe cleaner and we have bought her a multi-coloured pack so she will never be deprived. We also de-fluff her daily with a sticky tape roll. Bryony (who we adopted her from) gave us the first roll. She's too sensitive for brushes of course!



I bought her milky drop cat treats which she despises. I tried again with Dreamies which have crunchy outsides and squishy middles. She really likes those. She stole a whole mini bag in her first couple of days and got a funny tummy, which worried me until I found the empty packet. Won't make that

mistake again. Cat treats are now kept in Fort Knox. She has been with us for six weeks now and takes up at least 50% of everyone's attention. Maybe 85% in mine! The main greeting here is now 'where's Biscuit?' She'll either be out throttling small furry



mammals or sleeping in a pile of clothes in my daughter's wardrobe. My bed is just for night time. Her decision, of course.

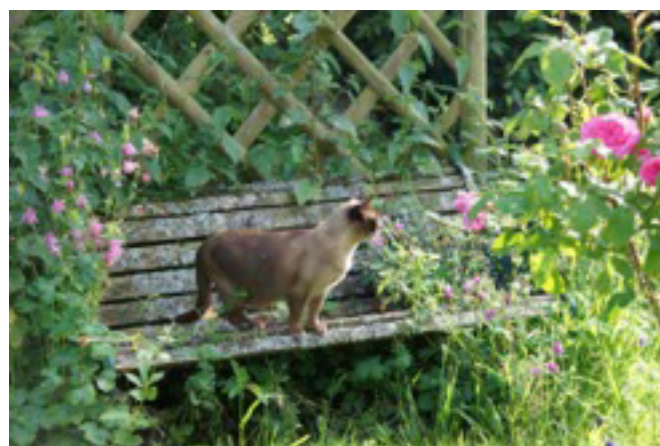
I have just ordered fruit cages for the garden. I have lots of lilies and discovered last week how toxic they are for cats. I'm going to wall them up in big fruit cages so that there is no chance of Biscuit brushing against their pollen. I lost lots of sleep until I came up with this cunning plan!

I'm attaching pics of Biscuit. Do feel free to use any if they are of any use. I intend to take lots more pictures. These are just the tip of an iceberg. I have to spend quite a bit of time lying on the ground trying to get her face in the lens. She is totally gifted at looking away as the shutter falls.

Our only sadness with Biscuit is that she seems to love being a single cat.

This means I can't add more Burmese to the pile as I would dearly love to. On the bright side, if we did have more I'd have no bed left to sleep on!

Very best wishes,
Caroline



HOW TO GIVE YOUR CAT A PILL IN TWENTY EASY STEPS



1. Sit on sofa. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your elbow as though you were going to give a bottle to a baby. Talk softly to it.
2. With right hand, position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. (be patient) As cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow. Drop pill into mouth. Let go of cat, noticing the direction it runs.
3. Pick the pill up off the floor and go get the cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process. Sit on floor in kitchen, wrap arm around cat as before, drop pill in mouth. Let go of cat, noticing the direction it runs.
4. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away and go find the cat. Bring it back into the kitchen. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Drop pill into mouth. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Pry claws from back legs out of your arm. Go get the cat, pick up half-dissolved pill from floor and drop it into rubbish bin.
6. Retrieve the next pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of cupboard. Call spouse from the back garden. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered Doulton figures from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
8. Get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with rubber band.

11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Call fire department to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take another pill from foil wrap.
13. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed, force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour one cup of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Get spouse to drive you to the nearest A & E, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call at furniture shop on way home to order new table.
15. Get last pill from bottle. Go into bathroom and get a fluffy towel. Stay in the bathroom with the cat, and close the door.
16. Sit on bathroom floor, wrap towel around kitty, leaving only his head exposed. Cradle kitty in the crook of your arm, and pick up pill off of counter.
17. Retrieve cat from top of shower door (you didn't know that cats can jump 5 feet straight up in the air, did you?), and wrap towel around it a little tighter, making sure its paws can't come out this time. With fingers at either side of its jaw, pry it open and pop pill into mouth. Quickly close mouth (his, not yours).
18. Sit on floor with cat in your lap, stroking it under the chin and talking gently to it for at least a half hour, while the pill dissolves.
19. Unwrap the towel, open bathroom door. Wash off scratches in warm soapy water, comb your hair.
20. Go and lay down in a dark room it's only half an hour till the next tablet.

Cartoon fun!





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