



Welcome to the first of the Sunny harbour Newsletters for 2010!

We must apologise for the lack of a Newsletter for the last few months but due to huge workloads with the rescue and a lack of time it has been very difficult to find time to get everything done, and of course the cats must come first.

2009 just seems to have whizzed past and we hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year Celebration.

Christmas was, as usual a quiet though fun affair with Paul, myself and the cats and lots of new toys for the cats and of course their obligatory Turkey Dinner. We would like to say a very special thank you to all of you who sent a little something for the cats this Christmas whether it be toys, blankets, money or food. All have gone down brilliantly with our Harbour Babies.

We would also like to say a very special thank you to Jenny King and her colleagues at State Street Bank for organising a collection for the cats this Christmas. We were overwhelmed by the response and the kindness shown in the amount of food, bedding, towels and toys as well as lots of teddies for the cats to snuggle up to. Thank you so much guys.

We'd also like to say a very big thank you to Mike & Moya who are the new and very proud owners (or maybe that should be slaves) to our little Weeman! They brought in a great bundle of bedding and towels and also 2 big bags of teddies which have been a godsend with many of our residents having made use of them already for a wee snuggle.



There have been so many people new and old supporters over the last few weeks who have thought of the cats and kittens in our care and we thank you all so much.

We would also like to say a very special thank you to Caroline our sole volunteer who does so much for the cats and us. We really appreciate all your help and support!

End of Year Round Up!

We were staggered to learn at our year end just how many cats and kittens we have helped this last 12 months. Whilst we know the numbers are great we never really take stock until the end of the year and our figure for 2009 is a whopping 104 cases, averaging out at 2 cases per week.

The vast majority of these cases (60%) have sadly been owner surrender however we have also helped many stray, abandoned and emergency assistance cases and of course we had the birth of Skye's kittens as well, a very happy occasion.

For a rescue of our size we were rather taken aback by our figures this year and are proud of the hard work and happy homes we have found for all our Harbour Babies.

We have taken on a number of Rehabilitation cases this last year including Henry, Skye, KT and Hiro and it is so wonderful to see all those months of hard work to socialise and gain their trust pay off when they are SO happy in their forever homes.

The Year Ahead

What will 2010 bring? We hope for you all it brings much happiness and trouble free times.

For the Harbour? Well so far this year we have begun work on our Feral Project to manage and maintain a feral colony living in the Burntisland area. This will be an ongoing project which will see us approach the colony with a Trap Neuter Release (TNR) approach so that the cats can live out their lives happy, healthy and without huge increases in numbers from uncontrolled breeding. We have more on this later in this Newsletter.

With a new year in 2010 it has also seen some behind the scenes changes for Sunny Harbour as we have put in place new documentation and our Cat Care Education Packs continue to help many of our new cat owners and are jam packed with helpful information.

We hope in the year ahead we can help many more cats and kittens from a life of homelessness and instead show them love, happiness and comfort.

Our Cat Advice Line has been very well received this year and we hope to extend this to include factsheets that will be available for download from our website over the next few months (time permitting).

We are also beginning preparations and plans for our Summer fundraising activities at the various Gala's and Fete's. If anyone knows of an event local to them that may be a good opportunity for the Harbour to raise funds then please contact us.

We rely entirely on our internal fundraising and adoption donations to continue our work so these events are crucial to our ongoing success. Dates will be posted as they become available and if anyone would like to come along and help out or just pop by to say hello – then please do get in touch or visit us at the venues on the day.

Feral Project

The Feral Project came about after we received a call about a cat and kittens under a portacabin. Closer investigation later revealed that the cat was in fact a resident feral and part of a colony currently residing on an industrial site.



We contacted local rescue's to find out if this was an established and managed colony and as we suspected this was not the case. At this time we decided that the colony could not be left to breed indiscriminately and we made plans to put in place our own Feral Management Program.

Suspecting the numbers to be huge we spent the first month watching the colony at varying times of the evening and night to establish groupings and routines. The snow could not really come at a better or worse time really as the snow helped us to find and follow tracks, but the temperatures were totally freezing and definitely not comfortable to sit in for 2-3 hrs a night.

We have begun this project working on the first group of 12 adult cats and 4 kittens. The important and primary objective was to capture the kittens of around 8 weeks so that we could bring them into Sunny Harbour for taming and therefore find them loving homes.

This proved rather tricky as mummy is a very sly little cat and in the end we managed to get 3 of the 4 kittens purely by chance and plain old good timing!



We are very pleased to be able to report that Lily (shown on previous page) & her 2 siblings (above) are now undergoing the taming process and are coming on brilliantly. Sadly one of her siblings (on left) lost half of his/her ear not long after arrival as we believe it had been chewed as a younger kitten and the tissue had died away.

Our next stage is to continue to build up a routine with the adults so that we can then capture them for neutering, worming, vaccination and release. Whilst the last 6 weeks has got us off to a good start the routine has been knocked out of sync by a new feeder in the area. (If you happen to read this please do get in touch so we can work together!) So plans to begin their capture in 2 weeks will now have to be put on hold until we can re-establish our existing routine.

This project alone has put a huge additional drain on our already low resources but it is a necessary step to prevent the cats in the colony from becoming sick and numbers swelling out of control. Shown in the photo below is Sam as we call him our first TNR.

The cats must be visited every day with fresh food and water and a 20minute drive away this takes up a good 2 hours of our evening every night. Not to mention the financial implications of feeding this many cats and then their neutering, worming and vaccination prior to release and their ongoing management of feeding and routine wormers and veterinary care when sick or injured.



A new page on our website will go live for the Feral Project soon and we hope to run some additional schemes to help us to meet the care costs of the colony. If you would like to contribute in any way then details can be found on our website regarding the different ways to make monetary donations. Equally donations of wet and dry food for the ferals will be **very** gratefully received.

Bedding Appeal

We are still running our Bedding Appeal and this will run year round. If you are having a clear out of old bedding and especially towels no matter their size then please consider donating them to Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue for the cats. Pick up can be arranged for large collections of items if required in the local area.

Harbour Babies – Updates!

Here are some updates on Harbour Babies who have passed through our doors in recent weeks and months.....

Honey



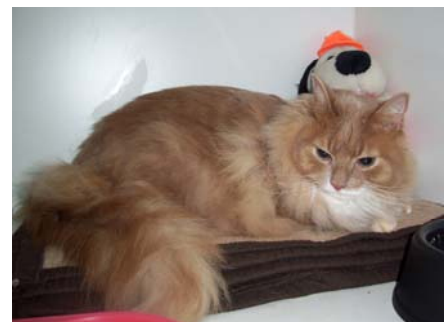
Honey came to us as a stray cat that was having one litter of kittens after another continuously. After her last litter we received a call about her and went to investigate and found her with her 2 young babies of approx 7 days old. They were all brought to the harbour where she could rear her young in peace and warmth and with a full belly.

Sadly, Dolly, Honey's daughter did not survive but her brother Sam after a very shaky start has survived. He is however exceptionally stunted for his age and for this reason he will remain with us at the harbour until such times as we are happy for him to leave.

Honey however is now looking for her forever home and would love a home in the country with someone who will allow her to settle back into home life at her own pace. She has such a wonderful nature and so wants to be loved by someone.

Hiro

Hiro found himself at Sunny Harbour after his owners were at their wits end of what to do with him. He was always very grumpy and aggressive to everyone in the house and especially the dog and had spent the first 18mths of his life under the bed in fear.



We took Hiro on as a rehabilitation case and based on reports from his owners and his initial reaction we expected Hiro to be with us for several months. Now having been with us around 5 weeks Hiro has made exceptional progress and is now a big cuddly teddy bear.

We aren't sure if he is perhaps a cross Somali but one thing is for sure he is a very gentle giant and will make someone a very special companion. We hope that Hiro will be available for adoption very soon once he has been reintroduced to the activity of grooming as a positive experience.

Wilfred



Wilfred came to us a short while ago after living on the streets as a stray for the last few years. Though having been fed the recent very cold, snowy weather had residents concerned and we were called to help.

We brought a very frightened, scared Wilfred into the Harbour and after a few shaky days in the beginning and his neutering op completed he has turned out to be one of the sweetest most

affectionate cats you could wish to meet.

He has that typical street wise Tom Cat look and is a muscle bound lad who has had a hard paper round leaving him looking much older than he actually is. Whoever falls in love with this little charmer is going to be a very lucky person indeed.

Mimi



Mimi came to us as a found cat when her owners could not be traced and she was in danger of being attacked by dogs. A very very sweet little girl we have held Mimi back for several weeks whilst we ascertain her neutering status. She will be up for adoption very soon once her neutering operation is completed and she has such a sweet little nature we are very sure she won't wait long.

Nigel

Well I just have to tell you about Nigel as he is one of the sweetest most loving and affectionate cats. Always looking for cuddles and kisses he is the purrfect companion cat and will make someone very very happy. Sadly he is yet another found cat that no-one has ever come forward to claim but we are very sure that his new forever family will fall in love with him instantly.



Nismo & Evo



Well Nismo and Evo had barely touched base at Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue and they had been snapped up for their forever home. These very shy little girls are going to have a life of love and spoiling just as they deserve once they are over their neutering operations.

Sadly they came to us after their owners were made homeless but we are very pleased to be able to say that the girls won't be waiting long for their new home.

Louie



Louie came to us in October of 2009 and spent around 2 months at the Harbour while we investigated the cause of his limp. As it turned out Louie was suffering from an old knee injury which had most likely never been seen by a vet and had formed a false join / callous.

Although no long term issues to be of concern some people were understandably put off by this despite his fantastic nature. Luckily for Louie he met his new pawrents at the end of December and he found himself in a new home for 2010 where he is *very* happy with his new sister Gladys and his servants. He is now also sporting the name of Archie which suits him perfectly!

Paws

Paws was an abandonment case who was not with us very long at all due to his exceptionally sweet nature. Once neutered and vaccinated he was soon off to his new home where he is treated like a king.

Rocky

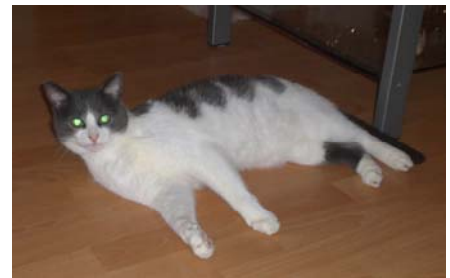


Rocky was a case that really upset all of us here at Sunny Harbour. Sadly his owner had died / moved away and he had been thrown into the street. Unaware that his home was no longer his he would sit and cry at the door to get in and instead be met with water being poured on him.

An older cat Rocky was so frightened by humans and everything around him when he came in not to mention very badly matted. He was so afraid we decided to have him dematted under sedation to make it as low stress as possible for him. Shortly thereafter with time and patience Rocky showed himself to be a true lap cat and it didn't take long for his stunning looks and great nature to win over his new pawrents. He is now living very happily in his new home as you can see from his photo.

Ollie

Ollie was another little fella who came to us as a stray cat who had been wandering the streets for months. Dirty, wormy but with such a loving nature once he had cleaned himself up and 'had the works' it was only a matter of days before he found his new forever home where he is very very happy as you can see in his photograph.



Chi Chi



Chi Chi an exotic cat (Persian Cross) won us over instantly with her fantastic temperament and loving nature. Sadly Chi Chi was for sale on the freeads but we were fortunate to be able to intervene and have her brought to the Harbour for safety. At 12 years old she is a spritely, happy little girl who is now loving life in her new home.

Henry



We were delighted to get an update on Henry at Christmas to say that he is doing so so well. A cat who was once a scared little fella is now an affectionate little lap cat who loves to be groomed and it makes us smile from ear to ear to hear about his antics and that he is SO happy.

Wilfred reminds us SO much of oor Henry! Now known as Smudge!

Trixie



Trixie was a feisty wee girl who certainly landed on her when she found her new home. We received an update at Christmas to say;

Trixie has never looked back and is purrfectly at home here. She's been enjoying the snow and loves knocking it off the hedges for a short while before wanting back in to lie on the back of the sofa, her favourite spot. She's still playful and loves to be petted. She's grown too has matured over the last nine months. She was definitely meant to come here.

This is what makes all we do worthwhile. To hear these stories and to see our little ones happy in their new homes really does make us smile from ear to ear and makes a bad day oh so much better.

If you have a story or update on your Harbour Babe then please do send them in, we'd love to hear from you.

Volunteering Opportunities

Due to huge workloads at the rescue with the day to day care of SO many cats and kittens we are currently looking for volunteers who can spare a couple of hours once or twice a week. Current roles available can be found on our website at www.sunnyharbour.org.uk and include Cat Socialisers and General Care Assistance.

Please check our website for more detailed information and/or contact Sarah.

We hope to have our Newsletters back on track very soon and if there is information you would like included in a future issue or a question you would like addressed in the Newsletter then please do let us know.

We hope this gives you a little insight into the huge amount of work going on at Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue just now and we hope that you will continue to follow our progress and lend your support throughout 2010.

Hugs, Purrs and Furry Nosebumps

Sarah, Paul & Harbour Babies

xxx