

ANIMAL CRACKERS

Thank you!

We are so grateful for your continuing support during the past year - we couldn't have carried on without it. Our Cats and dogs now have comfortable accommodation thanks to your assistance, and the feral cats have a purpose-built enclosure which is easy to clean and maintain (and is safe for us all to walk in now that a concrete floor has replaced the rotten and crumbling floor boards!).



Pets at Home donated £5,000 to the enclosure - our sincere thanks goes to them, and their staff, too.

The huge boulders were donated by the builder (Jimmy Robertson from Seil) to stop vehicles causing damage. The photo was taken just after the cats had access, and since then they have been given loads of things to climb on, play and hide in, and to simply sit on to watch the birds.

Some of them are very resourceful and have worked out how to put their paws through the wire to grab birds out of the large bush at the end of the enclosure.

The things that the cats are capable of doing never cease to amaze us!

Contact Info:

Chairman : John Lloyd - 01631 562762
Dogs : Jean Sutherland - 01631 566406
Cats etc : Pat Blunsden - 01852 300362

Email - aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com

Web site - www.smallpaws.co.uk

Registered charity - SC 013211

Registered address:
Achabeag, Cuan Rd, Balvicar, By Oban PA34 4RJ

Don't forget that we have links on our web page to all of the big stores - anything ordered via those links will generate commission for us at no cost to yourself.

You'll also find links to the Rainbow Bridge page where you can leave tributes to a pet who has died, plus links to loads of other pages and sites.

A Purrfect Present for Somebody Who Loves Cats!

We have two new cats on the Guardian Angel scheme - Starboy and Barney Rubble.

Starboy is one of our 'tame' feral boys, is black and white, is 2 years old, and had to have a back leg amputated a few months ago.

Barney Rubble is a sweet black boy, a stray, who we're unable to rehome as he gets lost whenever he goes outside. He now lives in the house with some of our other cats.

We were heartbroken when our beloved Shu Shu died very suddenly a few months ago. He had become ill and thin, though no cause could be found, and collapsed after having a reaction to antibiotics. He had been here for many years and we miss him very much.

If you're interested in joining the Guardian Angel scheme by sponsoring one of our cats please contact Geoff Miller for more details.

Phone: 01631 710627.
Email: argyllanimalaid@btinternet.com

Details are also on our website.

Tails From The Kennels

We have had a busy year so far with a variety of dogs coming and going. We have also been lucky with people coming up to walk the dogs which is heartening. They so enjoy a walk as it's not an easy life for them being in the kennels for lengthy spells. So ...if you have a spare hour or so please think about a nice walk in the forest with a wee companion!!

WAGGY TAILS

Sweep: 2yr old collie. The usual story not used as a worker and surplus to requirements. He was a big lad but very nice and affectionate. A wee bit timid but he went off to a retired couple in the country and soon settled in.

15 week Pup: A little black and white lab cross collie came in because the owner couldn't cope. He was soon rehomed. Youngsters are that bit easier.

Roy: A 10 month old Staffy Cross came in with his brother. They were super dogs with fantastic natures albeit full of beans! They had been travellers dogs and had been very well looked after. A lady came to look at Roy and decided he would do very well and at that time we also had **Toby:** an elderly Lab Cross (11yrs) who thought he was two and a very sprightly gent he was too. My lab used to be hard pushed to keep up with him on our Sunday walks. Anyway when this lady saw Toby she decided that she would take him too and both Roy and Toby were popped on to the back seat and off they went. Fiona had a call later that day to say they were in fine form and had made friends with her elderly Westies and were at that moment enjoying jumping into her pond! She has since been in touch and our boys are doing very nicely and she adores them. Doesn't get better than that.

Robby: Roy's brother became a firm favourite with us all and a family who come regularly to walk our dogs decided to give him a home and I'm pleased to say he has become part of the family and still comes back to walk the charity dogs. It's been nice to keep up with him.

Oscar: You may remember the litter of partially sighted pups we had. Unfortunately one of them ended up back with us because he was being a bit of a pest with the baby, not in a bad way but not recommended either. However Sharon one of our members decided she would like a second dog and Oscar has gone to stay with her and has as they say landed on his paws.

Eddie: A super wee JR x Westie of 8yrs came to us. He was a lovely wee chap and a very fit retired lady came from Aberfeldy to see him and immediately decided he was the dog for her. Eddie went off and has since met all the lady's friends and become a firm favourite.

Lady : A 16yr old collie came in with Toby (above). The reason being their owner died and another rescue society got in touch with us and asked if we could take them on. Poor Lady was very elderly and confused with being in a kennel and we were really not sure what the outcome was going to be. However, lo and behold a lovely couple from Campbeltown phoned and said they would take her. They had quite a few dogs, some elderly and were happy to give our old girl a retirement home. It's sad to say that she didn't last long. Only a couple of months but in that time she was loved and in a home situation with lots of company so I think all in all it was a happy solution.

Bertie: came to us, a nice young Patterdale Terrier. After Fiona gave him a shampoo and trimmed him up he looked a very handsome wee chap. He went off to a very nice young girl, whose family we know, and he is doted on and settling in well.

Ferrets: are not usually on our rehoming list but someone phoned to say he had two and could we take them! He brought them in their living quarters and Fiona put them into a cat pen where they were able to run about. These ferrets wouldn't work and only wanted to play, hence the reason we got them. However, as luck would have it a lady who is a bit of an expert on Ferrets came to see them and decided to give them a home with her own (6)! I think it's fair to say they landed in Ferret heaven.

TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS

We have an 11year old collie coming in soon. His owner is having to go away to work so he needs to find a new home. Always sad when they are older and lose their home.

Max: a 5year old Staffy who is super with people but not so good with other dogs is off to boot camp to see if that can be improved upon! He has had two not very good homes in his past and could do with a break. Hopefully we will be able to find something suitable for him.

Well that's it for just now but hope you have all had a very nice summer and thank you once again for all your support.

Jean

A Nose Through the Cat Flap

Lola, Boxer, Jake, Tobago, and many others, including all the wee pet kittens, found good homes.

Ollie, the diabetic boy, did very well on his insulin and became a permanent fixture in the cattery - we never found anyone interested in either taking him or fostering him. He was a good ambassador for the charity and met and greeted all visitors looking for a cat to take home. Unfortunately, over the months we realised that he was becoming less well and he gradually stopped eating. A visit to the vets confirmed that he had some kind of abdominal tumour, and we sent him on his final journey to the Rainbow Bridge. Not one of our happiest days.

TIPSY is waiting for his special purrson

Friendly black boy with some white bits. History mainly unknown. Is neutered.

TIGGER is also waiting for his special purrson

Very friendly and big tabby boy. Is neutered. History not known.

MARMITE(ginger torty girl) and her brother,

FLUFFY, fluffy ginger boy, have been here a year.

Need to go together. Owner died, so history unknown. Both neutered and have had dental work. Friendly cats.

2 small feral kittens were found at the Oban tip. Both covered in brown slime and both very sick. Despite treatment, one of them died a couple of days later. The other has done well and seems to be healthy. Is around 12 weeks old, or even older, but is smaller than normal.

SANCHO

A gorgeous red and white boy, about 18 months old and neutered. Looking for a new owner.

NUGGET

This torty girl came over from Mull after her owner went on holiday and became ill. Having been on her own in the house for some weeks, she became a very affectionate little cat. She was here a few months before being rehomed.

HEIDI

A fluffy dark torty girl, she has always been a very difficult cat. We've never been able to handle her or even touch her. Because of her constant fearful demeanour she's bullied by the other cats, and we've had to separate her from them and give her access to outdoors. As she came in as a 'pet' cat we can only assume she has been badly treated by her previous owners. She is now on the Guardian Angel scheme as she's obviously never going to be rehomed! Heidi is such a pretty girl, if her behaviour had been different she'd have gone to a new home faster than snow off a dyke.

A black girl came in after she was taken to the vets by holidaymakers who said she'd got into their car when they'd stopped somewhere north of Oban. She was very thin at the time, is quite friendly, and has never been claimed.

ELLIE came from Ardrishaig, wasn't neutered and was found to be pregnant. Her kittens were all rehomed. Ellie was also rehomed and went with a **semi-feral pregnant black and white girl**. This wee thing was only around 7 months old and very sweet. She eventually had 2 kittens, one of which survived, and all three went off together and were looking good last time I saw them a few weeks later!

PUKHA is also looking for a home after his owner went to university. He's a nice big black boy, neutered, with a damaged ear.

ABBIE is a grey and white girl, still a bit frightened because of her change of circumstances, but is, apparently, a friendly lap-cat when she knows you. Is spayed.

CARRIE has been here for 2 whole years. She came in with her brother (who was rehomed after a few months) but she is so timid that she runs away whenever anyone comes to see her. When she knows you she is a very sweet thing - torty and white and spayed.

SMUDGE and **SIMBA** came in when their owners were moving into a flat where there wasn't room for all the cats they had. Simba, a red Oriental, was very thin, went rapidly downhill, and died 2 days later. Smudge, a lilac point Balinese boy, was physically healthy but turned his face to the wall. He didn't respond to us, curled up with his back to us, and was obviously eating and using his litter tray at night when everything was quiet. After a couple of weeks we decided enough was enough, and we hauled him out of the cabin and put him onto the floor in the cattery so that he had to interact with Starboy and the little tip kitten. This worked, I'm pleased to say, and he gradually started to behave normally much to our relief! Luckily, a lady who had had Siamese cats in the past saw his picture in the paper, and took him home with her a few weeks later!

A very large **Ginger boy** was brought over from Ardnamurchan after somebody saw him being badly treated by dogs who were in the same home. He was rapidly rehomed to somebody we know, and was found to have an airgun pellet lodged in his neck. He must have thought he was living in hell, - happily he is now living in heaven!

If you are interested in seeing any of the above cats who are still looking for homes, please give me a ring on 01852 300362. They are all nice little souls and deserve to have a place of their own with a warm lap to sit on!

Pat

Autumn Babies

It's that time of the year to keep a lookout for small hedgehogs. Any which are under 600gms when winter and hibernation set in most probably won't survive until Spring. If you see any smallish hedgehogs about at the moment it would greatly help them to put on weight if food was left out - meaty dog food is the best.

This year there are many autumn 'juveniles' wandering about - very small hedgehogs weighing in at around 300gms. These babies won't survive the winter without help. Please take them in if you can - they are so easy to look after. Contact your nearest hedgehog rescue centre for more information on what to do. If you are *unable* to take them in please ask the centre if they have room.

Last winter I overwintered 19 small hedgehogs, all of which were released back into the wild in the Spring!

oo0oo

More hedgehog stuff ...

Guy Fawkes night is almost upon us (the following advice, given by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, would also apply to all-year-round garden bonfires) -

'Please check bonfires carefully for sleeping hedgehogs before lighting.

If possible, the entire pile should be re-sited before being lit. If this isn't possible, use broom handles to lift from the base of the pile, and shine torches underneath and inside. Look and listen carefully for any signs of life.'

Afterwards, you can enjoy your fireworks and bonfire without the danger of cooking a little spikey lodger!

Forthcoming Attraction!

**Christmas Fayre, Corran Hall, Oban. Nov. 19th.
11-3**

Application forms for stall hire available on our Website or from Sharon 01866 822408

You can **DONATE** to Argyll Animal Aid via Pay Pal -
(aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com)

Text **SOLO12 £1** to donate £1 to the charity.

We are always grateful for ...

Animal food - collecting bins are in Oban and Appin Co-ops, and Pets at Home. Oban Vets will also accept food for us as long as prior arrangements are made with us so we can collect it quickly.

We are always pretty desperate for cat food!

Bric-a-brac and **bottles** for our fundraising stalls at various events. **Books** also sell well, but they need to be in good condition.

Bin bags, A5 envelopes, wood-based cat litter.

Please contact Pat on 01852 300362 if you have any questions about the above.

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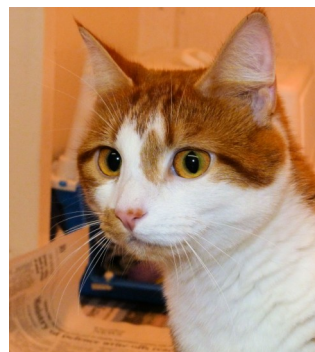
Help always needed ...

Dog walkers - Jean is always looking for dog walkers at the kennels in Barcaldine. Please contact her directly on 01631 566406.

Assistance with fundraising stalls - Just an hour or two is very helpful. No commitment involved! Ring any of the numbers on the first page.

Join the Bakers' Register - At the moment we need home baking for our Christmas Fayre (just once a year). Please contact Catherine Goodbrand on 01631 565990.

Place a can and service it - We need collecting cans in as many places as possible. You would be responsible for emptying it and sending us the contents!



Sancho