



FRIENDS FESTIVE WEEKEND

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th December

Our Festive Weekend was well supported as usual, by Friends, supporters and visitors looking for a last minute gift.

Santa was there with his trusty dog Bryn, and people brought tins of food, toys and treats for the animals, for which we give man, many thanks. Extra special thanks to the Brownies of who donated a box full of food and treats – Santa and Bryn are pictured next to their gifts.



We love you, Brownies!

The Friends' Christmas Raffle had some super prizes, including a night's stay (with breakfast & dinner) at Lucknam Park Hotel, tea for two at Bath Priory Hotel, a month's free pass to the pool & spa at Fieldways Hotel & Health Club, a luxury Christmas hamper, chocolates and Katrina Hurley's wonderful Christmas cake. Many of the prizes were donated by local companies, and thanks are due to Clare Crew who organized them; she also made up the luxury hamper. Thanks also to the Edwards family who donated a magnificent Marks and Spencer hamper to be added to the raffle.



FRIENDS AGM

This will take place on Wednesday 20 June at the Home starting at 7.30pm, with light refreshments at 6.30pm. Details are shown in the attached leaflets.

We are always looking for people who are interested in becoming a trustee of the Friends. If you think you have the time and the inclination and can bring skills which would be useful to the Friends, please contact the Secretary on friends@bathcatsanddoghome.co.uk or write to her at the address at the top of this newsletter.

To contact any committee member, please email us on friends@bathcatsanddoghome.co.uk or write to us at the address on the top of the newsletter.

FRIENDS COLLECTION DAY

On Saturday 19 May, the Friends are going to be shaking their collection tins in the Southgate Shopping Centre in Bath in the hope that shoppers are in a generous mood and willing to help us raise lots of funds for our animals at the Home. This is the first time that the Friends have ventured into the centre of the city so we are hoping for good weather and lots of animal-lovers willing to donate

their spare change. If this goes well, the Friends hope to organise other city centre collections in the future.

If you are going to be in the city centre on the 19th any time between 11am and 4pm, please come and say hello and lend us your support. If anyone would like to help us on future occasions, email us on friends@bathcatsanddogshome.co.uk.

HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT

Over the last 12 years or so, the Friends have donated significant sums to the Home – a précis of the major donations is given below.

1999/2002	£1.35m towards the reconstruction of the Home, including new kennels and runs, the new cattery and the new reception
2004/5	£300k towards vets' fees
2006	£450k towards the 2 new circular kennels and runs
2007	£156k towards vets' fees
2008	£170k towards the upkeep of cats; £3k for the new Paw Store
2009	£3.3k dental equipment; £150k towards general costs; £50k towards the upkeep of feral cats; £17k refurbishment of the Frome shop; £11.5k for the new EPOS system
2010	£9,000 for the Dog Behaviorist building
2011	£70,000 to repair the car park

In addition, the Friends also funded some smaller projects at the Home. For 2011/2012, the Friends have agreed to donate £500,000 towards the second cattery/isolation unit which we hope will be built in 2012. We have also agreed to fund the salary for an additional behaviourist for a year at a cost of £15,000 and £14,000 for new doors for the new kennels and runs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012

Saturday 19 May <i>11am – 3pm</i>	Collections at Southgate
Sunday 20 May <i>11am – 3pm</i>	Refreshments

Sunday 3 June <i>11am – 3pm</i>	Refreshments
Sunday 17 June <i>11am – 3pm</i>	Refreshments
Sunday 1 July <i>11am – 3pm</i>	Refreshments
Sunday 5 August <i>11am – 3pm</i>	Refreshments
Sunday 19 August <i>11am – 3pm</i>	Refreshments
Sunday 2 September <i>11am – 4pm</i>	Fun Day at the Home

All events are at the Home, except where indicated. Keep an eye out for more events on our website or notice board at the Home.

REFRESHMENTS



Yummy cakes for sale

The Friends run 2 refreshments days on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month (with a few exceptions, see calendar of events above). Can you help, by volunteering to “own” or help out on the 3rd Sunday, or by baking cakes or savories for either day? Please contact Lynda Pearce on 01225 333507.

1000 CLUB FOR 2012

136 people have signed up for the 2012 “1000 Club”, so the monthly prize is now £66 and giving a profit of some £800 for the Friends funds. Winners so far are:

January	Mr M Edwards. Keynsham
February	Mr A Hunt, Bath
March	Miss J Somerville, Bath
April	Mrs C Clark, Melksham

GOODS & CLOTHES

Do you have any good quality clothes (and in particular designer clothes), bric-a-brac and toiletries for our regular table top sales? Please contact Lynda Pearce on 01225 333507, or Sue Forder on 01225 317355 if you can help. Or leave them outside the Friends Office at the Home, clearly marked for the Friends.

NEW FRIENDS

We are always looking to increase our membership – do you have any family and friends who might be interested in becoming a Friend? It costs as little as £12 a year and with gift aid could increase by 25%. Please ask for an application form.

A YEAR WITH KARLA - ANN & MICHAEL TREVANION

In November 2010 we visited the Cats Home for a coffee morning. Our last cat from the home had died the previous April, and we had decided not to have any more pets as we are now in our 70s. However, after the coffee we couldn't resist a look around the cattery! There was this poor very thin female cat with prominent bones, patches of missing fur, a sizeable operation scar and a very loud voice. The cage label announced that she was a 14 year old stray called Karla. My husband was immediately smitten, and so (rather unwillingly) I was persuaded to enter our details on the application form on the way out. "It will speed things up if you decide to go ahead" said the receptionist. "No chance" I thought!

The winter was very cold last year and my husband kept up a constant barrage of remarks "I wonder if that poor old cat is still there?" "It's so cold for that poor old cat; she should be in a home" etc.

One day he was late home from University swimming and I wasn't surprised to find he had detoured into the Cats Home – and yes she was still there. So, rather unwillingly I agreed she should come to us, and she arrived in mid December (after home visits etc). Because of her age we agreed to a regular pattern of visits to the Home vets for blood tests etc.

On arrival she seemed surprisingly calm, but the next day she was roaming around the house wailing like a banshee! Thinking she was dying we gave her our undivided attention; almost 24/7, and in time the truth emerges – she is TOTALLY DEAF! Although we have always had cats this is a completely new experience for us. Luckily we live at the end of a cul-de-sac so traffic is minimal. Nevertheless, I leaflet all neighbours warning them to drive very carefully and give her a wide berth – despite the fact that I have not yet let her out.

The time comes (mid January) when she is desperate to get through the closed cat flap – so we bite the bullet, open the cat flap and off she goes. An hour and a half later she has still not returned, I'm becoming increasingly anxious when I see her strolling along the road opposite, tail vertical – queen of her patch! I'm so excited I run down stairs, slip on the hall floor, fall and jar my back (which was broken the previous year) badly, resulting in pain for the next 2 weeks. Never mind – she is worth it – I think! That first excursion into the great wide world was her one big adventure, as subsequently she has declined to go out at all; unless to do the necessary or accompany one of us into the garden.

The Home vets had quickly diagnosed a thyroid problem, (so she will always need tablets). Because of the dire state of her (few remaining) teeth, a dental procedure is recommended, which involves a general anesthetic – a risky procedure for an elderly frail cat. However, over the months she steadily gains weight, her fur grows wonderfully thick, and we learn to interpret her (now wide range) of miaows. Consequently, in October we agree to the dental. We are warned that she may not survive the anesthetic, but the news is good and we are invited to collect her that same day. We are told that she will be quite unwell for a couple of days, but Karla is a "tough old bird". On arrival at home she strolls, somewhat unsteadily, out of her basket heading straight for her food. I know it's preferable that she should not eat, but after an hour of constant miaowing I give in and she gobbled up a sachet of food, went to sleep and woke up the next day "good as new". I was amazed to find, when we took her for a check up, that she had several stitches in her gums – how

could she have eaten that first night?

Since her dental she appears to have become friendlier – could it be that her (presumably) much more comfortable mouth makes her more confident? Previously she would never sit closer than about 1 metre to us, now she jumps onto our laps at the least opportunity.

For our part, we have learned:-

1. Never to approach her from behind, (it's a big shock for a deaf cat);
2. Not to reach out to stroke her head – she immediately ducks and runs away (presumably remembered behaviour from her past life);
3. To interpret her wide range of miaows, which tell us anything from the fact that she's hungry to she wants a game with her favourite ping pong ball. (This cat is supposed to be 15 now, but plays ball like a kitten);
4. Not to let her rule our lives too much!



As you see from the photograph, she is now a well covered, contented old lady, and we are glad she is sharing her old age with us.



A dog isn't just for Christmas

If you have any articles which you think would be of interest to our readers, or stories of your pets adopted from the Home, please send them to the editor, Jean Low, at the contact addresses shown. Please note the editor reserves the right to edit any copy.

Robin Eastman
Chairman
May 2012