



Cat fosterers Jess Christie, Maja Hasan, and Sarah O'Reilly. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## Cat aid

**Like them or loathe them, cats are real survivors. The case for neutering them comes from the rather scary statistic that over a 5-year period an unneutered female and her offspring could be responsible for producing around 20,000 cats. If they stray and live rough, cats can become feral or wild. Feral kittens can quite often be tamed but not feral cats. When the Animal Aid and Advice charity hear about stray cats they trap and neuter them.**

Unlike the larger animal charities AAA has no cat shelter and the cats are initially fostered by volunteers in their own homes. Kittens are re-homed but adult ferals usually have to be returned from whence they came.

AAA's charity shop is next door to the Phoenix Cinema and distinguished by the large amount of bric-a-brac in its windows. The charity is generally concerned to promote responsible pet ownership in North London and specifically with the welfare of stray and other cats. It is run solely by volunteers who both fundraise and care for the cats; all the money made goes to the animals.

### Looking for homes

At the moment the AAA are looking for more people to foster cats, providing temporary homes. The length of time a cat

is fostered depends on how long it takes to find it a permanent home, the less attractive or older cats taking the longest time. Fostering is ideal for someone who likes cats but doesn't want to have a permanent pet.

Volunteers to help trap feral cats are needed too, as are those with transport.

The shop is also looking for people who are prepared to stand in occasionally when regular volunteers are away: ideal for those not wanting a regular commitment but able to do the odd day or half day in the shop.

If you can help in any of these ways please get in touch with Doreen Rolph on 020 7607 1723. She is also the person to contact about stray cats. For advice about cats, stray or otherwise, or free neutering, call the shop on 020 8444 6290.

## Did you know?

A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.

A rat can last longer without water than a camel.

A male emperor moth can smell a female emperor moth up to 7 miles away.

Some insects can live up to a year without their heads.

A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue!

A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.

Every night, wasps bite into the stem of a plant, lock their mandibles (jaws) into position, stretch out at right angles to the stem and, with legs dangling, fall asleep.

Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.

Cat's urine glows under a black (UV) light.

An elephant can smell water three miles away.

Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

Most lipstick contains fish scales.

Termites eat wood twice as fast if you play loud music.

A snail can sleep for 3 years.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

Did you know that you are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider?

More people are killed by donkeys than by plane crashes.

## RSPCA news

### Stabilising cat numbers

**Spring is on its way and this year a further decrease in the number of 'Spring kittens' dumped, abandoned or taken into RSPCA animal homes is anticipated. The Home Checker for the placement of adoptive cats now makes significantly fewer visits than three or four years ago.**

This is due to the C4 neutering scheme that is running in the Greater London area. Since it started four years ago over 12,500 cats have been neutered at no cost to their owners. The aim is to maintain a stable cat population and the halt in growth of numbers is now becoming a reality.

### Safe and happy

Neutered cats live longer, safer and happier lives. They do not stray or get lost seeking a mate, and are less likely to catch the deadly feline AIDS virus.

You may apply for free neutering if you:

- are in receipt of benefits/pension
- are feeding feral or stray cats
- are on low income
- have large numbers of cats
- cannot afford to pay

The C4 Free Neutering Scheme is funded by several animal charities. In East Finchley the RSPCA and Animal Aid and Advice participate.

If, as a cat owner, you qualify and would like your pet 'done', call in for an explanatory leaflet and application form at the Animal Aid and Advice charity shop beside the Phoenix cinema or at the RSPCA Clinic which is open Monday and Thursday evenings from 6.00 to 7.30 pm, in Park Road, opposite the children's playground.

But hurry up – the mating season will soon be upon us!

The Christmas Fayre raised over £150. Thanks to all who gave their support on a cold winter's day.



East Finchley therapists Simone Baroke, Kathryn Scorza, Fiona Hurlock and Marj Lawrence. Photo by R Scorza.

## Therapists in new venture

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Cootes pharmacy is starting a new venture in its Church End (Finchley Central) branch next month. Director Alnoor Thobhani is setting up an NHS health check and a complementary therapy service, which he hopes will work in co-operation with local GPs. Four therapists well known in East Finchley will be spending part of their working week in the Ballards Lane premises, while still keeping their links with N2.**

The East Finchley Four – nutritionist Simone Baroke, homeopath Marj Lawrence, Shiatsu practitioner Fiona Hurlock and healer Kathryn Scorza – see this as a way of extending the principle of patients' choice, tying complementary treatment in with the mainstream. "We are complementary, not alternative," they told *THE ARCHER*.

Fiona, who will still be working at the Isabel Douglas Centre as well, believes

that "the body's natural estate is health" and explains that health will be the emphasis in the Cootes practice, (though beauty can be a by-product of that).

While the hope is that GPs will refer patients, anyone is welcome to contact the therapists for treatment. As they will be working at different times in shared premises they would prefer to be called on their individual phones. (See their advertisement.)

Alnoor Thobhani told *THE ARCHER* that there will be ample room in the Ballards Lane premises to hire out to practitioners of other therapies, but he wants to consolidate the practice first. He expects the treatment rooms to be open before the end of February.

The Ballards Lane shop (no 110, on the site of the former Boots premises) can be contacted on 020 8346 0051, and the Cootes branch in the High Road on 020 8883 0073.