

FRONT PAGE :

**ECOLE du CHAT de la VALLEE d 'AUGE
BP 09
14430 DOZULE**

ecva.e-monsite.com

**I had a hundred cats or rather,a hundred cats had me.
Jules MICHELET**

**THE ECVA NEWSLETTER
October 22 nd, 2011**

The ECVA presents some of the cats adopted this year

PAGE 2 : ALPHA

Alpha is a little black cat who lived by the seaside with 5 or 6 other stray cats. Some roadworks were made not far from their colony and nobody can tell how she managed to trap herself in a plastic ring cut from a pipe. Her back was badly damaged (see photo 1). Fortunately for her, she was noticed by a member of our association and taken to the vet's surgery where she spent 15 days. She had to be put on a drip and then was neutered and tatoood.

Her scar has healed since and her hair is beginning to grow again (see photo 2) She now lives freely on a farm . We would like to find more accommodations for that type of independant cat and we need more families to adopt such cats. On photo 3, you can see the plastic ring in which she trapped herself.

CATS ' LOVER « GRAND PRIX » 2011

Yves GAUQUELIN, mayor of BASLY 14610, has been awarded the 2011 GRAND PRIX, succeeding in this honorifical title to Yves CHRISTEN in 2010 : WHO will be the next laureate in 2012 is still a mystery !

Mr.Yves GAUQUELIN took good care of the cats belonging to one of his fellow citizen, a solitary sculptor who died of an heart attack, leaving his cats by themselves. Thanks to Mr.Gauquelin, the cats found nice people ready to adopt them. Congratulations to him and many thank mews from the cats !

PAGE 3 : AMSTERDAM CATS 2011 (from our special correspondent)

DE POEZENBOOT.....

Who said cats don't like water ? And yet, it's on a barge, moored on the Singel canal at n° 38.G, that 30 cats or so live on the Poezenbo ot. Some of them are allowed to

move freely on the barge, they will stay there for the rest of their lives, whereas others temporarily stay in large comfortable boxes : these cats are well known and identified, but were left at the care of the association because their owners could not take care of them any longer (people entering nursing homes, for example) and waiting for an adoption.

The free cats can walk in and out, and even have a sunbath on the deck safely guarded from falling into the canal by a wire fencing! New cats have to be put in the quarantine quarters of the barge on their arrival. And of course, they're neutered and identified with a microchip.

De Poezenboot was created in 1968 by Henriette van Weelde, a rich citizen of Amsterdam. She had welcomed numerous cats in her house but when she began lacking room, she bought a barge for them and had it turned into a rescue home for cats ! This association only lives on donations, made by the members or the visitors, because you can walk in and pay a visit on the barge 2 days a week. (for more, see www.poezenboot.nl)

It's on this barge that we met Fabiola, from Catalonia, Spain. She also runs an association for cats in her country and hates corrida as well as any bad treatments to animals. We rapidly swapped our addresses to get in touch and exchange ideas. We were happy to learn on september 27th, 2011, that Catalonia has forbidden corrida on its territory : it's great victory for all animal lovers ! (for more, see www.eljardinetdelsgats.org)

..... and the KATTENKABINET

In Amsterdam you can also visit a museum devoted to cats : in a beautiful house standing on one of the smartest canals, at Herregracht 497, can be seen a collection of works showing cats : adverts, paintings , sculptures, drawings are on display but the most amusing are the 3 cats living freely in the museum and following visitors everywhere ! (for more, see www.kattenkabinet.nl)

HUMOUR : SIMON'S CAT

If you don't know these delicious black and white cartoons yet, Google Simon's cat on You Tube and have fun with this irresistible cat ! As Xmas is coming, we particularly recommend SANTA CLAWS to you : a cartoon that kittens should not be allowed to watchor forget about decorating the Xmas tree this winter ! Have good fun !!!!

PAGE 4 CATS & CITIZENSHIP

Moving picture, isn't it ? This charming family scene hides a very preoccupying problem : uncontrolled cat's proliferation. Cats are abandoned or destroyed, victims of their number and of human carelessness. Is it reasonable to own cats without having them neutered ?

This problem does not seem to be near its solution with the development of exchanges on the Net, where anybody can get rid of kittens without taking much care about their future, without any health control, without vaccination, without any assurance about them being neutered later, whereas, serious associations like ours,

have the utmost difficulty to have kittens adopted (often lost anywhere, when they grow too big to remain living toys !)

The number of cats living in France is estimated to 10 millions but only 20 % are neutered and identified by a tattoo or a microchip. It can be useful to remind you that tattoos are still available in France and that microchips are only compulsory when you travel with your animal in the European Union.

Tattoos can be read instantly whereas you need a special tester to read a microchip. In order to be cautious, we recommend you to have the letter P (for « puce », i.e microchip in French) tattooed in the cat's ear when they are neutered, so that anybody can see that the cat is identified . In France, microchips are not so common than in the UK for instance. Another drawback is that microchips can easily be removed or get erased and thus, ownership can't be claimed any more.

Only a full realization of the problem will allow the situation to improve and we rely on each member of the ECVA to put the stress on this slogan :

MALE AS WELL AS FEMALE CATS MUST BE NEUTERED AND IDENTIFIED !

Cats are not an endangered species and neutering them increase the length of their lives. Allowing cats to reproduce freely does not reflect a high degree of care towards animals and even, proliferation induce some people to destroy cats who are the innocent victims of human neglect.

The ECVA tombola

The tombola was organized at the last minute! It was the idea of a member and thanks to her, funds for the association were raised . The first prize was a meal for two, offered by the owners of the restaurant La Cantine in Franceville. It was won by Mme Brissaud, a member of the ECVA.

Many lots of smaller importance were delivered to the people attending the meeting while they were offered drinks and party snacks : a relaxing and friendly intermede! Thank you to Pascal and his son Théophile, who drew the lots and obviously enjoyed it!

Letters to the Editor : ECVA BP 09 14430 DOZULE

Many members sent us their congratulations for our first newsletter in 2010, some even wrote to us, as « Assistance aux Animaux » and also M.Yves CHRISTEN (see page 2) who told us that during his trips around the world, he has never failed to stroke a cat.

Thanks to all of you for supporting us !

SPONSORSHIP : on our new website ecva.e-monsite.com, you can read how you can help us by supporting our cats. Thank you for joining us !