

Keep RAWRing!

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Off to a RAWRing good start

We have had a tiny great break over Christmas and the New Year, but from now on it is go, go, go again. First making sure we find forever homes and foster homes for all cats in our care. RAWR doesn't rescue unless the cats we trap do not have a chance of survival in their original habitat. If there are medical issues we keep them until they can be returned. The second making us busy is the preparation for kitten season: It is coming! We invested in some more traps and transport cages as our equipment does suffer wear and tear. And we really hope to grow our trapping team this year. We can't keep asking the same group to do so much for RAWR. If you are interested in joining the TNR team, please contact us: info@rawr.ie. Last but not least, the RAWR brochures have gone out promoting clean streets and dog health. Don't forget to collect your free dog bag dispenser in the RAWR shop, while stocks last!



The Know-It-All is back!

why do we say it rains "cats & dogs"? Honestly? Etymologists (people who study the origins of words) don't know for certain. It could be after Odin, the Norse god of storms, often pictured with dogs and wolves (symbols of wind) and witches, supposedly riding their brooms with black cats during storms. But there are many more stories! Visit www.rawr.ie for other (possible) explanations....

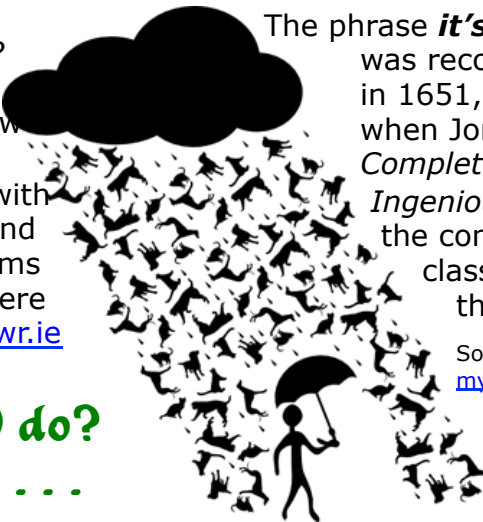
The phrase **it's raining cats and dogs** was recorded (in similar wording) in 1651, but it became popular when Jonathan Swift's published *Complete Collection of Genteel and Ingenious Conversation*, a satire the conversations of the upper classes. One character fears that it will "rain cats & dogs"

Source: www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/rainingcats.html

Wonder what we (really) do? Have a look into RAWR...

RAWR's email is often busy and we mostly receive questions about neutering (when is best, how much it costs and if we can help in anyway). However last year – doesn't that sound ancient? – we got this email: *"Hello! We are Americans renting a house in [...] this week. We have been befriended by an amazingly sweet black and white stray male cat who we would love to help. He is not fixed, has a few paw injuries, but is otherwise in good health. He is absolutely starved for love and would make a fabulous pet for a very lucky owner. We are leaving town [...] Is there any way we can get him to you before we go? We're hoping you can help! ☺"*

This little fellow is now called "Oreo". He was lucky. Not just because this family cared to contact RAWR. Not just because we had a volunteer able to collect him. Not just because a foster could take him. And not just because he has now moved to his Permanent home where he will be a pampered pet. It is because we all could do our bit when it was needed, **That was his luck!**

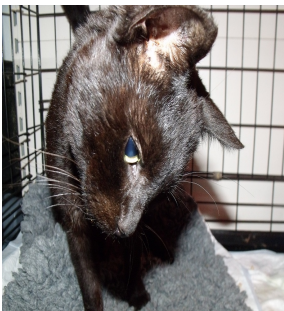


Barcelona has a new tourist attraction: it's cats!

Catalonia leads the way in Spain in the humanitarian control of street cats. In Barcelona BCN♥Cats offers a tour of the beautiful city that gives tourists a chance not only to see and hear how the street cats are cared for, but also to hear the inside stories about Barcelona. The tours raise funds for the humanitarian control of the street cats throughout Catalonia.

The project has more ambitious aims for the future. BCN♥Cats hope to raise from this project as much as will allow them to set up cat welfare projects in other parts of Catalonia and Spain where they don't currently exist or are uncommon. What BCN♥Cats and RAWR share is the hope that in drawing attention to the symbiosis between man, animal and the surroundings (city, nature) it is seen how caring for our pet and feral animals adds to our reputation and tourist appeal. We think this is a great initiative and if we had better weather in West Cork RAWR may have been tempted to explore doing something similar. If you are travelling to Barcelona this year, don't miss out and help cat welfare in CATalonia.

For information contact Barcelonalovescats@yahoo.es



Friends of RAWR scheme Open for All!!!

The start of this New Year is always a good time to change. RAWR's resolution for 2014 is to make our financial means stretch further than ever before. In this light we are changing the Friends of RAWR scheme. All funds raised are going to be dedicated to the care and long-term support of a fantastic feline: Helix. He will be in RAWR's foster programme for the duration of his natural life.

Helix was reported to RAWR while wandering with a tilted head, a cut on his neck and blood coming from his paws. It turned out he had pododermatitis, sometimes called *pillowfoot*. It makes the pads of the paws swell up and become spongy. When left untreated, the foot develops sores and ulcers, as was the case with Helix who had to have surgery to improve his condition. The head tilt was most likely caused by a blow to the head. The tilt remains despite treatment.

Since his rescue, Helix has been diagnosed with an incorrect immune response. Basically his immune system attacks his own body, causing ulcers and damage to the mucous tissue like his gums and oesophagus. Medication (for life) stops the progressive damage and Helix can eat. With medication Helix has a long and happy life ahead as seen on the right. This is Helix today in the foster home he shares with Bonnie (adopted too via RAWR).

RAWR has a "no kill" policy. This inevitably means that some animals remain in our care as they cannot be returned due to long-term medical conditions nor be re-homed due to the cost of their health issues. If you become a Friend of RAWR or if you renew your Friendship for €15 a year it provides Helix with medication and a secure home. To renew or sign up as a Friend, visit our website www.rawr.ie and press the 'donate' button using the word 'Friend' and your contact details in the additional message box. Alternatively you can email info@rawr.ie for a printable form or drop into the RAWR shop.

If you wish to give a Friendship as a gift, do let us know and we will amend the certificate to say it is a present from you to RAWR's new Friend.



Love the feel
of FUR?
Stroke a cat!

