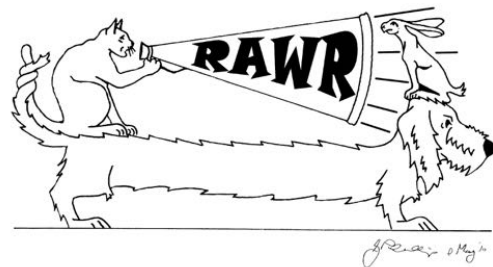


Keep RAWR Ring!

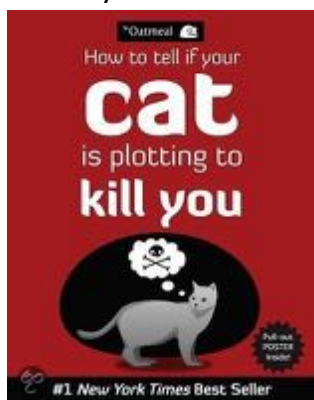
March 2015

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RAWRing good stories

At RAWR we all love a good story, especially when it has a happy or hopeful ending. And it seems we are not the only ones. World wide peoples' favourite books included classics such as The Jungle Book, Watership Down (although not 100% a happy end), Black Beauty, The Wind in the Willows and Animal Farm. The last book is a great example that animal(related) stories allow authors to present politically and socially loaded messages that would otherwise not be acceptable. In a way RAWR does the same in our 'RAWR stories'. And like George Orwell who wrote 'Animal Farm', we wouldn't disagree that, sometimes, humans can be beastly in their treatment of animals.



Luckily both authors and readers alike have kept their fascination for animal-themed stories since Orwell's day. Although quite frankly, we don't know what to make of the best seller on the New York Times animal-related books last month: "How to tell if your cat is plotting to kill you" by Matthew Inman. If anybody read the book, do let us know what it is like and more importantly: if we need to worry ...?

New date for the AGM!
25th April 2015
Company members will receive their invitation for this new date for the AGM shortly. Relevant documents will be available for inspection to all interested at the RAWR shop for a week from the 25^h of April 2015.

RAWR Shop Special!

The RAWR shop received an amazing donation recently, brand new

NEWBRIDGE
silverware

Come and have a look at it in the shop window. If you need a special gift, we can help. Or just have a good browse to find a little treasure to decorate your home after the Spring Clean?

... having mentioned the 'clean', any textiles you are discarding, drop those in to the shop too for responsible recycling.





The dangers of Spring bulbs & Easter treats

As Easter approaches we count down the days until we can rip the shiny wrapping from our chosen chocolate eggs or chocolate bunnies. However, not everybody is aware that some of our favourite Easter treats and traditions pose a serious danger to our pets.

Chocolate contains a caffeine derivative (theobromine) that cannot be fully metabolized by small animals. In sufficient amounts, it can create severe health complications or kill your pet. Also the wrappers, plastic toys and boxes we buy our treats in, can cause serious issues when chewed and/or ingested. If you are planning an egg hunt just take care to hide your treats where your pets won't find them (before your EGG-cited children) and make sure to collect all hidden items after the fun ends. Unfortunately there is another threat to your pet this season: Many popular springtime plants and bulbs are highly toxic to pets and can be fatal if eaten e.g. the traditional Easter lily. Eating even small amounts of any part of these can have a fatal outcome for cats.

A RAWRing good (double) story

Gabriella first came to RAWR's attention when her puppies were found wandering in the countryside. Puppies and Mum were taken in by volunteers, working together to help this animal family who found itself homeless and in distress. RAWR is not a rescue, but many volunteers do their own animal welfare work alongside their volunteering for RAWR. The puppies were successfully rehomed quite quickly, but Gabriella herself was not so easy. She is an elderly lady not used to living indoors, and blind. Gabriella was spayed, and spent the next three months learning to be part of a family, and enjoying simple things like a warm bed and clean, brushed fur.

Through Retriever Rescue we were extremely lucky to meet a volunteer in the UK who specialises in looking after elderly rescue dogs. He was able to give Gabriella a forever home, so she made the journey by ferry and car, to a new life. Three years on Gabrielle is settled and happy. A few months after her arrival, her guardian found an elderly spaniel tied to his dustbin. Investigations found that "Iris" had been left for him to find as the owners could not/didn't want to cope with her cancer. Gabriella immediately took Iris under her wing.

Over the last couple of years Iris has had to have two serious operations. After the last operation Iris was very poorly, she could not settle and seemed to be in distress. Not sure how to help her best, her guardian decided that Gabriella may be able to help, even though Iris was still very ill. So he gently laid Iris down near her bed. Gabriella immediately laid herself down full-length next to Iris, and gently licked her face. Iris responded by relaxing, and the healing could begin. The two are now inseparable and Iris is doing well. A great end to a (double) good story.



TNR Adventures

Having had lunch at a friendly local restaurant on a cold January day, as I was leaving I passed this little guy who was hanging around outside. He was very chatty, but he wouldn't come close enough to be touched. However, even at a distance, I noticed that he was limping. I went back inside the restaurant to find out more about him. "Oh yes, he comes around every day and we give him food. He is a stray, he doesn't belong to anyone around here" I was told. "So, you won't mind if I trap him and get him checked out by the vet and get him neutered?" I said. "No, no, work away" came the reply.



Two days later, having picked up a trap and telephoned to warn them I was coming so they should not to feed the cat (a hungry cat is easier to trap), I was back. . . . and so was the cat.



The traps used in TNR – trap, neuter, return - are humane traps. They are a wire mesh box about 30 inches long by 7 inches wide by 9 inches high. One end opens so that you can put food in as bait. Sardines work very well with cats – the aroma will reach them and draws them from hiding. Once the food is in, this door is closed and clipped shut. Then the door at the other end is set open.

The cat is attracted by the food, and if all goes according to plan, it walks in and stands on a step next to the food. This triggers the door to close behind it. The trapper, who is always nearby – so they can watch or hear the trap close – approaches and covers the trap with a throw so that the dark calms the cat preventing injury. It then is a simple matter to carry the cat and trap to the car and transport it to the vet.

I was lucky that day at the restaurant, even though people were coming and going he was hungry enough to walk straight into the trap. 3 days later, he had been checked out by the vet and neutered. His limp was an old injury which had healed with no indication that it was giving him a problem. So he was returned to his home territory where he was welcomed back by the restaurant owner. They now continue their mutually beneficial relationship. They feed him and he deals with any mice or rats which may be in the area, and now he is neutered they won't be overrun by kittens. **A happy ending for all, wouldn't you agree?**



If you are inspired by my adventure with TNR come and meet me and other RAWR volunteers at the **next coffee morning on the 30th of March.** We are hoping to increase our TNR programme in 2015 and can use your help. Proper training and support are provided. No previous experience is required. All you need is a love of animals and patience (plus a good book to read while you wait for the cat to walk into the trap).

