



Annual Report

2011

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The Committee 2011

President:	Yolande Bishop
Vice-president: (30.01.2011-16.09.2011)	Pam Revell
Secretary:	Ros Blackburn
Treasurer:	Chris Haskell
Acting committee member: (11.07.2011 -)	Carolyn Miskin

Introduction

Despite the worldwide economic situation, 2011 has been a very active year for our association *Les amis des chats* (LADC), based in southwest France. Although we are active in small rural villages, as members of the CNSPA, WSPA and RSPCA International our work is recognised nationally and internationally.

Our trap-neuter-return (TNR) programmes have expanded in 2011 in terms of both number of cats and area covered. Legally, the municipality can control stray cat populations either by trapping and euthanasia *or* by giving an association permission to run TNR programmes. We are really pleased that yet again more *mairies* have opted for the latter humane method of population control, so that LADC now has authorisation under a byelaw to work in more than 50 communes across *départements* 82, 47 and 46. LADC pays the total cost of procedures for stray cats. Although the sums that LADC receives from *mairies* may be modest compared to the financial outlay by LADC, this positive attitude to our work is also reflected by the increased number of *mairies* that were able to provide grants in 2011 and is gratefully appreciated.



Our means-tested system of neutering vouchers to help cat owners to have their pet(s) sterilised continues to be successful and for the second consecutive year LADC was able to provide vouchers throughout the year. We are pleased that in 2011, we were again able to help more cats because the distribution and percentage of neutering vouchers used has again increased, particularly the male cat neutering vouchers, as outlined in this section below.

We continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our TNR programmes and uptake of neutering vouchers. However there are many cats that LADC is unable to help due to financial restraints and with the continued economic problems this situation will only worsen in 2012. Ideally we need as many cat owners and carers as possible to take responsibility for their own pet and stray cats they choose to care for.

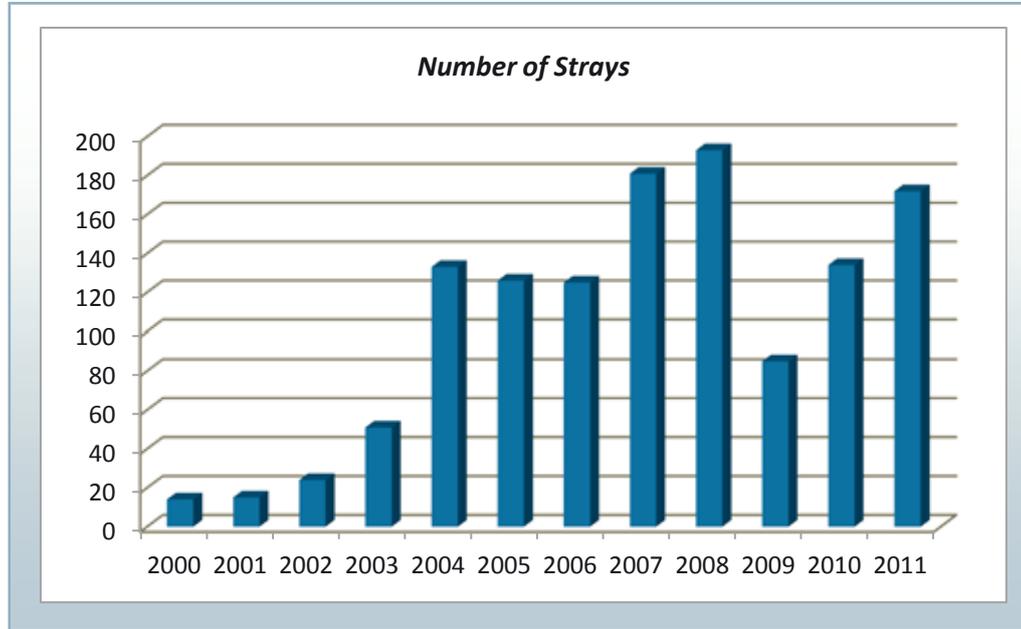
To this end we are really pleased that we have been able to develop our education programme *Anglais avec les chats* in 2011 with the creation of a children's page on the LADC website hosted by the character Kevin the Kat and production of a DVD. Education in schools raises awareness and is an invaluable long-term way to change community attitudes and, in the short term, children will tell their parents about what they are doing at school and the message spreads.

Finally but most importantly a huge thank you to everyone that has assisted LADC throughout 2011 whether by helping at fund-raising events or our charity shops, membership, sponsorship, or administrative tasks. All our helpers are volunteers and do a tremendous job – very many thanks and we look forward to working together to help cats in 2012.

Yolande Bishop
President

Stray cats

LADC has had a very busy year with its trap, neuter, return (TNR) programmes for the sterilisation of stray cats. Under a byelaw and with the assistance of the mairie, the association currently has authorisation to work in 51 communes in and around the Tarn and Garonne, including five additional for 2011.



During 2011, LADC was able to help with some 65 assignments where strays were reported in different localities. This could be possibly a stray cat looking for food at a property and being a nuisance to the owner's existing cats or a colony of feral cats living on private land or in public places such as scavenging from the local bins, but having an impact on the local area. The cats are trapped, taken to the veterinarian chosen by the person undertaking the trapping, they are sterilised and then returned to where they were trapped so that they continue their life in their familiar territory but within a controlled population. The inhabitants of the commune organise the trapping and LADC pays the veterinary bill. A total of 172 strays were helped by LADC during 2011 under the TNR programmes, which is an increase of over 28% compared to last year.

Funding will be a major issue in 2012. The average cost of sterilising a stray cat, including a health check, tests for feline leukaemia and feline immunodeficiency viruses if appropriate, parasite treatment and the legal requirement to identify, is approximately 100 euros. If the cats are left to breed in feral colonies not only will they become more numerous, each female having 2 to 3 litters of kittens per year, but may also spread disease, thus causing health problems and a nuisance to the local community.

In 2011 LADC was very grateful to receive neutering vouchers from the Brigitte Bardot Foundation and the 30 Million d'Amis Foundation, which helped to cover the cost of procedures.

TNR is world recognised and endorsed by CNSPA as the only humane method of controlling feral cat over breeding and over population. In 2011, LADC started to monitor the impact of TNR in villages and we will continue to evaluate the effect of our work in this area.

Ros Blackburn
TNR organiser

Neutering vouchers

2011 has seen a 20% increase over last year in the number of Neutering vouchers (*bons de stérilisation*) issued for sterilisation of owned cats. LADC has been able to help 325 cats and their owners this year. We have managed to fulfil all the requests where the people involved meet our income and residence criteria. The total number of cats sterilised with the aid of a LADC Neutering voucher in our 11 years is now 2,393.

It is good to see that owners of male cats are taking more responsibility for them, with the number being neutered with the help of our Neutering vouchers for male cats up by 59% on last year. This continues a trend within the local population and in particular is helped by those members who actively encourage cat sterilisation in their village.

We do get requests from all over France, although sadly we are unable to help the cats and owners from outside our area. This area includes the whole of *département 82* and also an area of about 15 kms around Tarn et Garonne including municipalities outwith *département 82* where LADC has permission from the council to run TNR programmes, currently:

- 46300 Saint Projet
- 46800 Lascabanes
- 46800 Saint Laurent Lohmie
- 47110 Dolmayrac
- 47270 Saint Maurin
- 47470 Beauville
- 46700 Lacapelle Cabernac
- 46800 Montcuq
- 46800 Sainte Croix
- 47140 Dausse
- 47370 Tournon d'Agenais

The value of our Neutering vouchers remain at 50 € for a female and 20 € for a male, the owner paying the remaining cost of the operation at the veterinarian of their choice. The value of the Neutering voucher is paid directly to the veterinarian.

Our success this year is very encouraging, and we would like to think this can continue. However pressure on our finances is increasing.

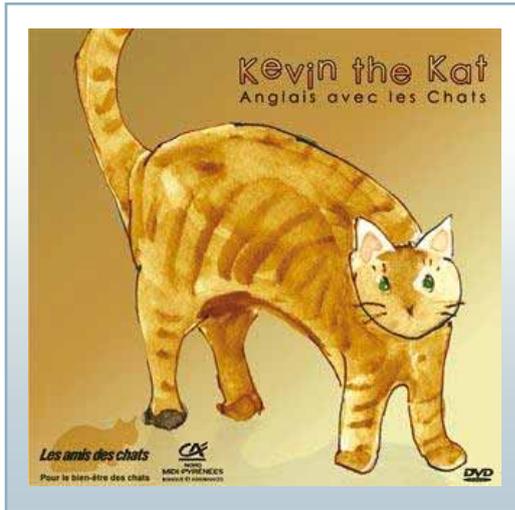
Neutering vouchers used

	2010	2011
Total	248	325
Female	184	216
Male	64	109

Pam Revell
Neutering vouchers administrator

Education

The TNR programmes LADC runs have greatly reduced the number of free-living cats in certain localised areas, and appears to have changed attitudes of local residents as more owned cats are sterilised, some with the aid of our Neutering vouchers. However there are still too many cats that are not neutered, whose kittens are abandoned, become stray or feral cats, are drowned or dumped in rubbish bins. There is a great need to create a better understanding of cat welfare through education in order to be able to help more cats over a much wider area now and in the long term. In 2011, LADC was able to develop its education programme for children.



We created a children's page on our website. Kevin the Kat, a *Les amis des chats* character designed to bring some fun into learning, hosts the page.

In 2011, we presented our new educational resource, the DVD entitled Kevin the Kat : *Anglais avec les chats*. The DVD includes 3 lessons about cat welfare to be used as a resource for teaching English to children aged 8 to 12 years. The DVD also includes a version in French. We have chosen the format of a DVD in order to reach the maximum of children, using a popular and accessible method. In 2011, the DVD was sent to English teachers in schools and nearby schools of municipalities where the association has permission under a byelaw to run TNR programmes.

The DVD was created in collaboration with the audiovisual association CMBL Productions. We greatly appreciate the sponsorship provided by the bank Credit Agricole Nord Midi-Pyrenees for this project.

As members of the CNSPA, we were asked to assist in advertising their drawing competition *Mon chien, Mon chat, c'est mon ami. Je le respecte, je doit l'éduquer et le protéger*, and we sent out the information packs provided in addition to details about LADC to 140 schools in Tarn et Garonne.

Yolande Bishop

Web site

Our web site continues to be very popular, and over the last few months the number of visitors has increased by around 20%, with almost 700 visits to the site in December. The *Les amis des chats* web site continues to be very well-ranked by search engines, and most of our new visitors come from searches on Google.

We are currently updating some of the Fact Sheets to ensure that we continue to be a good source for information on many of the most important aspects of cat care, and to take account of some important changes in the laws affecting cats.



Of course the site also contains information on future and past events, and our new “Cat Of The Month” feature will put a photo of a new cat on the front page every month.

Encouragingly one of the most popular pages with visitors is the one dealing with Sterilisation, though the pages on our shops are also popular.

We have also added “Kevin The Kat” for children this year – Kevin is even on Facebook – and we hope he will be a long-term success, especially with our younger visitors.

The site continues to have French-language and English-language sections, each with the same content. You can visit it at <http://www.les-amis-des-chats.com/>.

Doug Revell

Fund raising

Shops profit in 2011:	7248.82 €
Fundraising profit including calendars in 2011:	6597.88 €
Total profit from shops and fundraising for LADC in 2011:	13,846.70 €

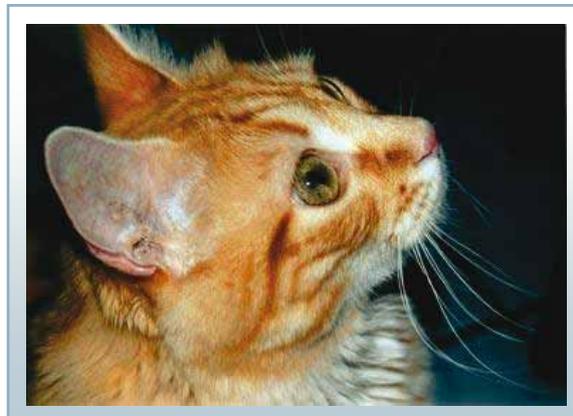
LADC runs two shops: in Beauville (47) and Roquecor (82). Both shops are fortunate to receive donations of goods from the public and from members. The shops sell brocante, clothes and books, which are priced at low cost to encourage sales.

Beauville shop premises are available to the association all year round courtesy of Mrs Twilley, and Roquecor shop premises are available four times a year *gratis* thanks to the mairie of Roquecor. Opening times and dates for both shops are posted on the LADC website under the subheading ‘Boutiques’.

The shops are an asset to the association as a constant source of income. The shops have to have willing volunteers who will open the shops for business each day and deal with the day to day running of the shops from welcoming customers to receiving donations and to promoting the association’s aims. Luckily LADC has a fantastic group of volunteers and the shops can be kept open. However to lighten the load we always are looking for more people to help. Many thanks to all the volunteers who give their time and energy and everyone who donates goods to the shops for their help and participation in 2011.

In 2011, the shops purchased 4 folding tables to be used in the Roquecor shop and at events, in addition to a wooden display especially for jewellery. Many thanks to all for donations of costume jewellery, which are sold at stalls and events as it is easy to transport and display.

During 2011, events were held to help boost the funds available to LADC for their activities to help cats. The events take time and effort to organise and the association is very grateful to everyone who suggests a fund raising idea and then organises it so successfully. A lot of volunteer work goes into each event and we really appreciate all the help given so freely and graciously to raise money for LADC.



The events that were held in 2011 were: a spring trivia quiz, an auction, Kate's garden event, the summer fête at Beauville, a book sale, our annual photographic competition that provides superb photos for our very successful calendar, the golf competition at Golf des Roucoux, and Christmas events.

Our events and calendar would not be as successful as they are without the help of very generous sponsors and so very many thanks to:

• Agence Immobilier Marin	• Autrement Immobilier	• Bar-Restaurant Le Bardouquet
• Beauville Arts	• Biscuiterie Les Saules en Quercy	• BlevinsFranks
• La Boutique Anglaise	• Boutique Caprice	• La Brulerie du Quercy
• Café de France	• Chienôtel	• DETP Delbes
• Domaine du Garinet	• Le Domaine d'Homs	• El Colibri Boutique Mexicano
• El Kessi	• ET Brokers	• Le Grenier aux Artistes
• Hôtel Restaurant Le Belvédère	• Hôtel Restaurant Les Voyageurs	• Hôtel du Quercy
• Les Delices de Nos Vergers	• Les Jardins de Moissac	• London Beach Hotel and Golf Club
• Golf des Roucoux	• Charles Miskin	• Monsieur Carl Photographe
• Paul Dixon Charpentier	• Pension Bonnes Vacances	• Pension pour Chats Angeville
• Quercy Bleu	• Quercy Gascogne Immobilier	• QuercyPaws
• Restaurant La Table du Cardinal	• Restaurant La Sirene	• Jean-Luc Riviere Piscines
• Angela Rowlands	• Savonnerie Sapodouce	• Simon Stratford Tree Surgeon
• VetPlan Pet Insurance	• Vins & Saveurs	• Wrightdiggers

We very much appreciate the publicity given to our events in local French newspapers *Le Petit Journal* and *La Dépêche* and the national English language newspaper The Connexion, and other publications such as The Quercy Local and on web sites including AngloINFO and Guide2MidiPyrenees.

Membership

In 2011, LADC had 92 members. This is a decrease from 2010, with 59 individuals not renewing their membership although some individuals remained as part of the Family Membership scheme re-introduced in 2010, which now accounts for over a third of the membership total. There were 25 new members. Subscriptions remain at 20 € for a single adult, 25 € for family membership and 5 € for a child under 16 years.

In order to reduce administrative costs, the committee has decided to correspond with members as much as possible by email. However, at present, we do not have email addresses for approximately a third of the membership and so it would be appreciated if members would confirm their email address (if they have one) when renewing their membership. All personal and contact details are protected and maintained for the use of LADC only.

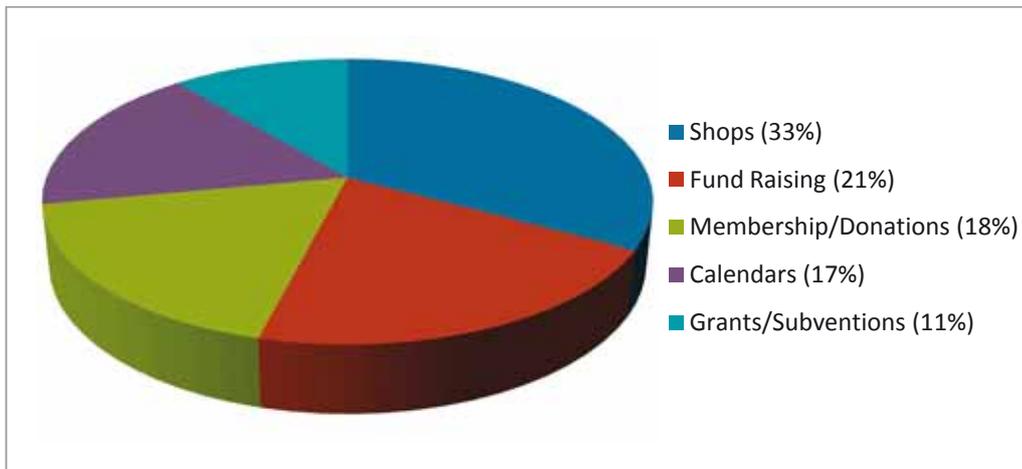
Chris Haskell

Treasurer's Summary Report

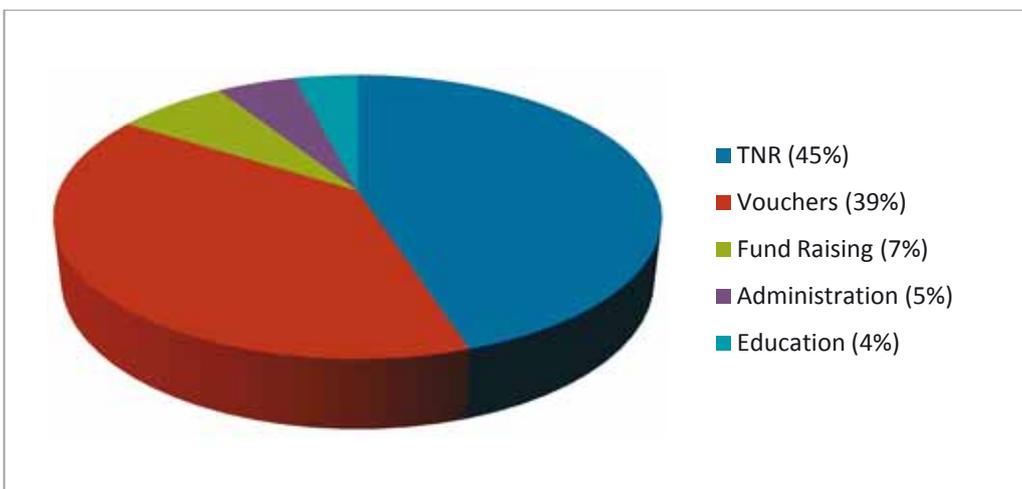
The association started the year in a strong financial position but knew that its income would be greatly reduced from 2010 because of the cessation of grants totalling 11,700 €. Other sources of income either held their own or were slightly reduced from the previous year, although subventions and the calendar saw increases of 27% and 9% respectively.

Although knowing that income would be reduced, the committee took the decision, at the beginning of the year, not to limit the funding of neutering vouchers and the TNR programmes, which are LADC's principal objectives. These saw expenditure increases of 21% and 10% respectively. The cost of the education programme was kept within the grants received and administrative costs were reduced by 22%. A percentage breakdown of the income and expenditure areas is shown below.

Income



Expenditure



In 2011, the fund has incurred an excess of expenditure of 10,200 € which has meant that its value has fallen by just over 50%. The coming year will be challenging and LADC must find ways of increasing income and reducing expenditure whilst maintaining the association's objective.

Chris Haskell
Treasurer