

# Pupils rescue pregnant cat and her five kittens

May 21 2009 by Sam Wood, Evening Chronicle

A PREGNANT cat and her five kittens have been rescued by two schoolboys.

Best mates and cousins Liam Atkinson and Joe Ward were on their way to Thomas Walling School in Cowgate, when they found the mother wandering the streets.

She had been abandoned by her owners and was next to a broken pet carrier. The boys took the cat into school and told teachers about what had happened.

As she was being transferred to the Newcastle Cat and Dog shelter on Benton Lane, she began to give birth to the kittens.

Mum, who has been named Thomasina after the school, and the newborn kittens are doing well, all thanks to the quick-thinking pupils. They are being cared for by staff at the shelter.

Eleven year old Liam, of Fouracres Road, said: "She came nuzzling up behind us as we were on our way to school and then she started following us. I picked her up and she looked very fat so I thought she must be pregnant. I went home to get a basket to carry her in.

"We decided to take her to school and tell our teacher."

Joe, also 11, of Rose Terrace, Cowgate, said: "We told the teacher and phoned the RSPCA first but they couldn't come so the caretaker brought her into the shelter."

Leyla Rutter, chief executive of the Newcastle Cat and Dog shelter, said: "The school caretaker arrived and there were three kittens. We put them somewhere warm and then eventually five were born. They are all doing well and are healthy.

"These cats could have died if they hadn't been brought in, they have done a great job. They would have been vulnerable to predators and weather conditions so Liam and Joe have probably saved their lives.

"It's heartwarming to see that not all young people are thoughtless as is sometimes portrayed. They have done themselves proud.

"We get quite a lot abandoned like this. The owners probably thought they wouldn't be able to afford to feed all the kittens.

"We are now looking for homes for the kittens and the mum especially, she is a very special cat."

You read it at [CatOddities.com](http://CatOddities.com)

Yesterday Joe and Liam were reunited for the first time with the animals they had rescued.

Joe said: “They are dead cute and so soft and they look happy. We both feel proud of ourselves for saving them.”

The boys’ teacher Linda Richardson said: “It is nice to see a positive story about children. Everyone is very proud of them.”