

Curiosity can lead cats into big trouble

AS spring takes hold, Trafford's householders are being asked to check their garages, sheds and other outbuildings for animals that have been accidentally locked inside. That's the message from Petline organiser Chris Butterworth, who says cats are particularly at risk, as a result of their curious nature.

Being imprisoned in such premises can leave pets in a state of distress, she adds.

Moving on, Chris is urging pet owners not to take their animals on car journeys as the weather warms up.

Pets can die within a matter of minutes, if left in hot cars, she warns. Trafford's hard-pressed animal sanctuaries always need volunteers and donations of everything from cash to tinned pet food.

If you can help, contact Trafford Cats Protection on 0161 969 0331, the Society for Abandoned Animals on 0161 973 5318 or Altrincham RSPCA on 0161 286 2503.

On a different note, 12 cats and two dogs have been re-united with their relieved owners.

Lost
●SLY: a small, tabby,

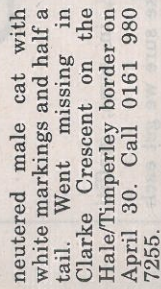
neutered male cat with white markings and half a tail. Went missing in Clarke Crescent on the Hale/Timperley border on April 30. Call 0161 980 7255.

Using Petline

If you would like to put a lost pet on the register or have any news about animals, but do not wish to speak directly to the owners, call Chris Butterworth on 0161 902 0483, between noon and 9pm.

If she is not around, please keep trying.

If you would like a photo of a lost pet to accompany a written appeal, send it to Rick Bowen, Messenger, 7 Crossford Court, Dane Road, Sale, M33 7BZ - but speak to Chris at Petline first.



Every dog has its day at Stretford's Crufts

DOGS and their owners descended on a Stretford park last weekend for a fun dog show, dubbed Scruffs by organisers.

Mutts and mongrels of all types attended the event at Victoria Park, each hoping for a rosette in one of a number of categories.

Cath Johnston, spokesman for the Friends of Victoria Park group, said: "This was a fantastic event - we had a really good turn-out, despite the usual bit of rain and the clash with a certain football event!

"Thirty dogs and their owners entered the fun dog show, hoping to get a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize in one of the categories. Winners were selected for the cutest face, waggiest tail, smiliest face and more!

"It was really fun to watch the agility, and see all different types and sizes of dog trying to master the jumps and a seesaw," she said.

Proud winner of the agility event was Tony Slater with pet labrador, Maisie; waggiest tail went to husky Kaisha, with owner Tina; saddest eyes went to Fizz, with 10-year-old Harry; biggest smile went to Bruno, with owner David; dog who looked most like its owner, Boris, led by owner Andrew; cutest face went to Phoenix, with owner Heather, and best party trick went to Baily, a King Charles spaniel for his sit, stay and finish trick, with 11-year-old Matthew.

The overall Champion of Champions was won by Rob with his Jack Russell, Ron.

Shelly Quinton-Hulme, FOVP chairman, added: "We welcome responsible dog walkers in Victoria Park, and would like their support in making the park a safe and clean environment for all. I would like to thank Sam Kingham-Quinton for her hard work in organising the event."



Alsatian Fizz with 10-year-old owner Harry