38 Maisie the mouse

Maisie had 46 breadcrumbs.

The problem can be solved by experiment.

Alternatively, list all the multiples of 4. Add 2 to each number in the list.

Now list all the multiples of 5. Add 1 to each number in the list.

Now look for a number lying between 30 and 50 that is common to both lists.

To adapt the problem, group the breadcrumbs in 5s and 6s, or 7s and 9s.

39 Kieron's cats

Kieron's cats weigh 5 kg, 2 kg and 6 kg.