



ELTHAM, SIDCUP & DISTRICT BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 203644

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

MY FAIR SADIE!

THERE was a big mystery about Sadie - why was she with us for so long when she was such a nice girl?

Every now and then a cat takes weeks, even months, to find a home for some unexplained reason and sadly it has been Sadie this summer.

Maybe it's because a lot of potential owners want kittens or because many people are on holiday and delaying a decision to adopt a new pet.

Her website listing made it clear she had a lot to offer as "an affectionate and lovable young cat who will be a super pet".

Jacqui first met Sadie last year in dramatic circumstances, as she recounted: "Picture the scene. The heavens had opened, thunder and lightning, and she was about to give birth hidden under a pile of rubbish in someone's garden.

"In the middle of all this, the people living in the house (who didn't know she was there) let their large dog out (who did know she was there).

"He started barking and pushing his face in while she was having her kittens.

"Once the people realised what was going on, they called me. When I arrived, she was soaking wet and so were her three babies. She was a good, protective mum and wasn't going to let me near them. It's difficult in this situation because if I try to grab her and it doesn't work, she will run off.

"You can't take the babies without her because that would be so cruel (apart from the fact that they need mum). And if you leave, she will move them and you won't find them until they are older, by which time they are not friendly to humans and mum is pregnant again and so history repeats itself.

"Anyway, I ignored the growling and hissing and took a chance, grabbed her and put her in a basket before she knew what was going on.

"Collecting her family was an easy task and off they all went to Diane. Once the kittens were old enough, they were found good homes and Sadie had settled down and was a loving pet."

Sadie, aged two, was initially adopted by a family with young children but it didn't work out and six



months later she was back in our care. Unfortunately sharing a home with youngsters was too much and so she needed a second chance.

A few weeks after putting Sadie back online, Jacqui posted on Facebook: "She is still waiting for a nice home, she is a loving cat who doesn't want to live with other cats, only humans.

"She has had a bad start in life and through no fault of her own she is now homeless.

"Sadie loves a fuss and attention but so far no-one has called to inquire about her."

But just as we were thinking it would never happen for this lovely girl, the call we had been waiting for finally came in.

A couple from Bexleyheath with a 13-year-old son had seen her listing, came to visit and immediately fell in love with her!

So at long last, Sadie met her special family and we wish them all the best for their future together.

www.elthamsidcup.cats.org.uk

www.facebook.com/cpelthamsidcup



A stable home..

IT is a peaceful and pastoral scene with fields and hedgerows stretching into the distance as horses graze contentedly.

These equine residents are the new neighbours of two of our former foster cats Shay and Kelly.

The sisters have been getting used to life in the countryside after being offered a home by Alison, who owns three horses and looks after them in fields on a large farm near Offham in Kent.

It is the perfect place for the cats who came into us aged six months and were very shy as they had not been handled much.

After lots of care from their fosterer Jeanette, they gradually came round enough to be suitable for rehoming.

As she had devoted a lot of time and care to the cats, we asked Jeanette if she would like to adopt them.

She declined as she already had her own cat, telling us: "Thank you for the offer, though. I will miss them when they go."

We were looking for a special home with an owner who accepted that the girls would

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SHAY



KELLY

Kelly & Shay's stable home

Continued from Page Two
never be lap cats and would only welcome human contact on their own terms.

Kelly and Shay, now aged two, needed a place where they were given food and shelter while being able to come and go as they wished.

They were featured in a previous newsletter and their story was passed on to Alison by a friend who lives in our area.

Alison got in touch, saying: "I would love to have these two girls and care for them."

Then she had a long chat with Jeanette to find out all about the cats and decided that she could offer them what they needed alongside her horses Toppe, a Dutch Friesian, and piebalds Spirit and Cyrus.

Alison's plot includes a modern wooden stable unit with plenty of space for Kelly and Shay to stay while they became acclimatised to their new surroundings.

The next challenge was getting them there! Although they were much more used to humans and more confident, it would have been too stressful and difficult to get them into cat carriers.

The answer was to use a small animal pen which Jeanette set up in her home with blankets and food so they could get used to it while making themselves comfy and cosy. Then, when the time came, she simply locked the door with the girls inside and the pen was put in a van which Alison had borrowed.

Once Kelly and Shay had arrived at their new abode,



Alison moved the pen to one of the stables, opened it up and let the girls settle in. They still had the security of the pen and bedding which they were used to, along with space to explore among the bales of hay in the stable. After three weeks of acclimatisation, Alison decided it was time to open the stable door to let them out. She said: "I braved it today and wedged open the stable door. Shay has gone out but Kelly is still tucked up and isn't rushing to go out. It's nerve-racking!"

There is a small wood next to her plot and it seems that Kelly, once she braved the outside world, and Shay headed there, catching their own food and topping up with what Alison left out in the stable.

But there were no definite sightings until the day Kelly was spotted on the track between the wood and stables by a friend. It was the second

time she had seen the cat and she snapped a photo to show Alison (*above, left*). Kelly looked content and healthy as she surveyed her new domain, which was a big relief.

Then a few days later, Alison saw Kelly as well and told us: "She let me get quite close. I'm thrilled." After a few more weeks, Alison was able to report: "Kelly is happy and living it up." It seems that Shay, who had always been the more shy one, is proving to be the more adventurous.

She has been spotted on a neighbouring farm looking healthy and appears to be living separately from her sister at least for now.

Alison said: "She's a loner and seeks no affection sadly but is safe and fed."

We're very grateful to Alison for offering the girls a forever home and glad that they are making the most of it in their different ways.

What's in the kitty?

A BIG thank you to supporters who donate saleable goods to the shop to help raise valuable funds.

But sadly a lot of items not suitable to put on our shelves are also brought in. This diverts money away from cats as we have to pay for their disposal, and all our rubbish collections, along with window cleaning, cost us just over £1,700 in the first six months of the year. On the plus side, we do receive a lot of better quality goods and our customers continue to come in for our excellent-value clothes, household items, books, toys etc. In this period, the shop's income from the sale of goods was an impressive £26,048.

Obviously a chunk of that was eaten up by expenses for January to June, including just over £7,100 for rent and rates, and £622 for power bills, while running our van cost more than £2,000. However, the balance went directly to cat work by helping to pay our veterinary costs and fostering bills. These are our biggest expenses, and vet bills for the first half of the year (which include treatments, vaccines, flea medication and microchips) totalled just over £9,800. Fostering expenses were nearly £5,000.

Our treasurer Jan also reported that subscriptions amounted to £1,583 in this six-month spell and said: "A big thank you to our loyal members."

New owners who adopted from us contributed £2,105 and another £3,262 came in from donations including standing orders, Pet Plan commission, online easyfundraising and one-off gifts. Many thanks for your support, financial and otherwise, as we couldn't do it without you.



POP INTO THE SHOP

OUR shop is vital to the branch in raising funds so we can help as many needy local cats as possible. It has been open for 30 years, a testament to the hard work of volunteers and generosity of supporters who donate saleable goods and buy the clothes, books, household items, toys, jewellery etc on offer at very reasonable prices.

On some occasions, however, we have had to close our doors early because we didn't have enough helpers.

So if you're looking for a way to help cats and have some spare time, please consider joining the shop team.

It would take just a few hours a week on a day to suit you, morning or afternoon, to assist with sorting donations and serving our customers.

(Please note that lifting and bending is involved so this would not be suitable for anyone with a bad back.)

You can find out more from Jacqui on 07796 856296 or pop in to see us at the shop at 14 Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham SE9 6SX; telephone 020 8859 6009.

We have made a slight change to the opening hours which are now 10am to 3.30pm, Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and 10am to 1pm on Thursday.

So whether you'd like to help out or have items to bring in or are looking for a bargain, we look forward to seeing you!

THE FOOD SAMARITAN

IT'S always nice to receive a surprise gift and Diane was very pleased when a benefactor dropped off a generous donation of cat food at her home. Unfortunately her husband Ron forgot to get the details so Diane didn't know who to thank. But Facebook saved the day when she posted a photo and message saying: "Just want to say a big thank you to the lady who dropped off this bundle to me today. Sadly my hubby forgot to ask you your name so all I know is that you had two kittens from me. I hope you read this and let me know who you are. Thanks again!"

Jacqui responded by saying: "Great news, some people are so nice", and our fosterer Allison added: "What a lovely thing to do."

Luckily the generous lady who wanted to help our foster cats revealed herself as Jenni and also posted a photo of her two adopted cats, now looking very grown up (*right*). She posted: "It was me! Franny and Tissie don't like wet food too much so hope that helps your kittens." Once Diane knew who had kindly given the food, she was able to tell Jenni: "Thanks so much, such a shame I didn't get to talk to you."



My hubby says he feels stupid not asking your name! The foster kittens had some of the food for their tea."

OUR LIFE IS ALL WHITE!

IT'S always rewarding when owners update us on their adopted cats - especially after ten years! Jane shared this super snap on Facebook to mark a decade since the arrival of Alfie and Charlie from the branch.

She said: "They are still mummy's best boys. Thank you for letting me adopt them. They are probably the two happiest cats I have ever had. My house is covered in white fluff but it is worth every hair to have them make me smile every day." Diane replied: "Thanks for the update - we love to get feedback! Hope they had a lovely day with special treats."





KIRA



WILLOW

Feline right at home

BEAUTIFUL calico girl Kira was one of our recent homings. The four-year-old had been in our care before and was adopted but sadly her owner was evicted, leaving both on the streets.

Like lots of cats, Kira didn't like being in a pen and became a bit grumpy but Jacqui reassured potential new owners: "Once she has settled in, she will revert back to the loving cat we know she can be."

Her words had the right effect and after being on our website for only a few days, Stephanie in Lee got in touch and Kira was set for her new life.

Willow was a very affectionate girl aged about four months when she came in. She loved to play and have company so was going to make a great pet. Just a day or so after being featured on Facebook, Willow was snapped up.

We later posted a short video of her meeting her new companion in his cage - a large white and grey parrot! Hopefully they have settled in together to share their human owners with no feathers or fur flying...

Archie was a stray rescued from a life outside and proved



ARCHIE

to be a special character. The one-year-old was billed on our website as "the most affectionate young cat you will meet. He loves company and cuddles!"

His fosterer Allison enjoyed looking after him, posting: "He is a super friendly boy who loves his tummy rubbed."

And after the full works from our vet - neutering, chipping, vaccinations, plus flea and worm treatment - Archie was ready to go to his new home. It didn't take long for friendly boy Bryan to find a home after he went on to our website. He



BRYAN

certainly had a lot going for him as Diane described Bryan as an "adorable young boy. He's very affectionate and loves company."

The lovely boy, estimated to be a year old, just needed someone to get in touch.

It all paid off as a call came in soon after from Louise and family offering him a new start. Allison then gave an update: "Bryan, now known as Dexter, has gone to his forever home today with the lovely Louise and her family. Thank you for the pictures Louise, he seems to be settling in well."

THRIVING MISS DAISY

SOME owners overwhelm their pets with what they think is kindness but which can make them unhealthy.

As we reported in the last newsletter, Daisy was one cat very much loved by her elderly lady who sadly showed this by overfeeding her. The 11-year-old became severely overweight and this distracted from her lovely character when she came into us after her owner died. We advertised her on our website and Facebook but there were no early takers. Jacqui posted: "I can't believe Daisy still hasn't stolen someone's heart. It's such a shame as she has so much to offer. As you can see from her photo, Daisy is very overweight. I have seen a few posts on Facebook of 'fat cats' and some people find it funny.

"But animals are only fat when a human feeds them too much. Daisy's elderly owner loved her with food, and now sadly her owner has died."

Our fosterer Lynda looked after Daisy and helped her start to shed the pounds with a strict diet.

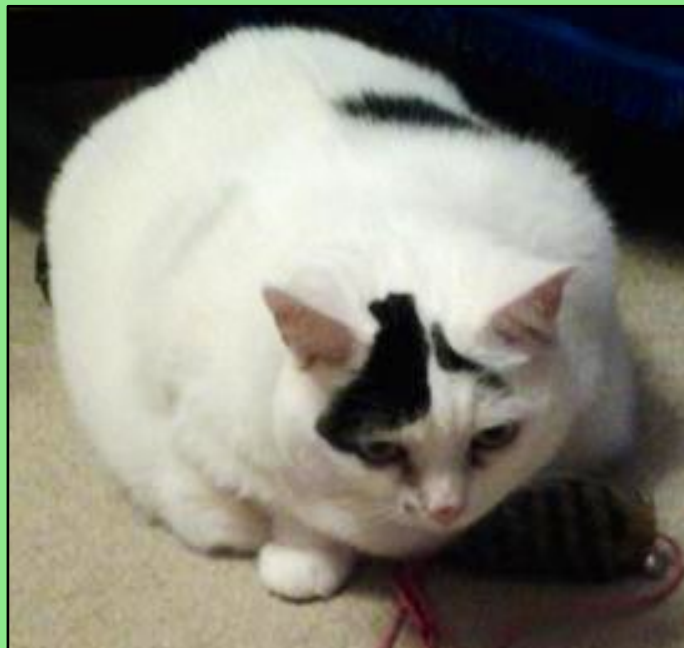
"She is such a loving cat. Loves a comfy lap and lots of brushing," Lynda posted.

Diane added: "The good thing is she is being monitored by our vet and, apart from the weight, they say she is in good health.

"She is losing weight but she needs to lose another 2kg."

Candice commented: "Thank God she's on a diet, bless her. Must be awfully uncomfortable for her."

Lynda gave an update, saying: "She's lost some weight already. It doesn't seem to interfere with anything she wants to do. She



likes to sit on a padded windowsill in the sunshine and has no problem getting up there.

"My bed is quite high and she just hops straight up! She can also run and play when she wants. She is very timid but will come round with love and patience - she certainly has for me. She is a real treasure."

Christine also posted about her pet: "Matilda my baby is 6kg - overfed by her previous owner. She loves her food but is now on a calorie-controlled diet.

"Thank you for reminding us. I so hope someone offers beautiful Daisy a home soon." Luckily Daisy was given a new home by a lovely couple in Lewisham who continue her diet and make sure she stays fit and healthy.

WE NEED MEW!

IF you have spare time on your hands and want to help cats, could you volunteer for one of these roles?

1. PROMOTE NEUTERING

We need someone to put up notices offering free neutering in community centres, libraries, noticeboards, shops etc. This vital role will help us reach as many owners as possible to cut

the number of unwanted kittens. It can be done whenever you have some free time and it would help if you have a car.

To find out more, please text or call Clare on 07500 506395 or email coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk

2. TRAPPING

Do you have experience of trapping cats? We sometimes

need help with catching strays or other cats who need our help or to be scanned for a microchip.

You would need to drive and be flexible.

To find out more, please speak to Jacqui in our shop at 14 Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham, London SE9 6SX or call her there on 0208 859 6009.



ANGEL'S DELIGHT

ANGEL came to us because her owners were emigrating and could not take the six-year-old with her.

However, a photo of the stunning grey girl and her story attracted some negative comments about the owners when we featured her on Facebook.

They included Karen saying: "I wouldn't emigrate if I couldn't take my cats."

Diane replied to explain that we don't judge and our top priority is a cat's welfare.

She told our online followers: "There are always reasons why people have to give up their pets. We are here to support families who have to do this."

Angel was friendly and good with children so she was appealing to potential new owners and happily was soon adopted.

Also happily homed were two young cats who had at least a dozen kittens between them. Libby came into us pregnant after

being handed into our local vet as a stray. A few weeks later, and after being well looked after by Diane, she gave birth to a litter of seven.

Unfortunately the kittens had picked up an infection passed on to them by their mum. But thanks to lots of care and hard work by Diane and our vet, they all recovered and have been homed.

Then it was time for Libby, a friendly and chatty black-and-white girl, to embark on a new life when she was adopted.

Holly was another cat left unsprayed who ended up having a litter outside in a garden. The tortie then came into us and had five more babies. By then Holly was very fed up with being a mum!

Once her litter was nine weeks old and set for new homes, their lovely and friendly mum was also definitely ready for a new start.

LAYLA'S LOSS

A TINY kitten fighting for life after all his siblings have already died is a heart-breaking scenario.

But unfortunately this happened to Layla's litter of six. She came into us as a pregnant stray although she was only about five months old.

Diane said on Facebook: "Layla's story is one our branch is so familiar with. Not much more than a kitten but old enough to become pregnant, Layla was allowed to roam outdoors before being spayed - and the inevitable happened.

"Thankfully she was being fed by a lovely caring lady who contacted us. Layla wasn't microchipped and efforts to find an owner were to no avail.

"After less than a week of being in our care, Layla went into labour early and had six tiny, tiny kittens - two were stillborn and three died over the next 36 hours.

"Layla showed no signs of knowing how to look after her kittens and it was decided that the remaining kitten needed to be hand fed if it had any chance of survival.

"Her baby is now four days old but it's early days and things can easily go wrong.

"Layla's story is a lesson to everyone who has a young female and thinks they are too young to get pregnant! And this is why we offer free neutering to everyone.

"We have to deal with this situation time and time again, and believe me it doesn't get easier for our fosterers - it's heartbreaking."

Jacqui added: "So sad for Layla, still a baby herself and she has to go through this. That's her kittenhood taken from her when it was all so easy to prevent. Sadly this is happening every day somewhere - please have your cat neutered."

Layla's story attracted a lot of comments on our Facebook page.

Laura said: "It makes me so incredibly sad. Getting a cat neutered is such a simple procedure and can be free - absolutely no excuses. Keeping everything



crossed for Layla and her little baby." Claire added: "My two nearly met the same outcome as Layla's babies. Both were very poorly kittens but due to Diane at CP constantly running them to the vet when at death's door, they pulled through."

Tessa posted: "It is not necessary or 'best' for a female to have a litter first. As you say, Layla was just a baby herself. Fingers crossed she and her kitten pull through."

Ana said: "Poor baby girl. Hope she pulls through and that her kitten does too. Thank you to the fosterer who is feeding that baby through the night."

Our fosterer Allison joined the debate: "So angry that there are still so many ignorant people. There is no excuse not to get your cat neutered!"

The next day, Diane posted an update on Layla, who had needed some medical care.

She said: "Layla is back with her fosterer after spending the weekend at the vets. She is doing well, blood results all good but she is anaemic.

So she will be with us while we build her up."

Unfortunately we could not pass on positive news on her kitten, with Diane adding: "He sadly lost his fight for life and passed away this morning. He wasn't alone, he had his fosterer with him."

Laura came back on to the page to say: "This is really heartbreaking. I really hoped her little one would pull through. It is nice to hear that Layla is improving though, she deserves it."

Elaine added: "Sad news for the kitten but good luck to mum, who's still a kitten herself."

Samantha posted: "Oh no, bless him, lots of love going to the foster mum."

Thankfully, Layla went on to regain her health and was put on our website for homing after being spayed.

Her listing said she "enjoys playing and loves cuddles - she will make a perfect pet".

A call came in for her and we hope she is now well on her way to the happy life she deserves.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New members

A very warm welcome to our following new member:

David Jones of Eltham

Please remember to encourage your friends, relations, neighbours and colleagues to join us. It is always good to have more members to support us.

Membership renewals

Yes, I know this is really early to remind you to renew your membership for 2020 but this is the last newsletter planned before Christmas.

You are most welcome to renew early or else please put a reminder in your diary or calendar to do so when it is due. Most members have membership which expires at the end of December - just check your membership card or contact me if you are unsure.

If you wish to pay for a few years in advance to save this annual chore that is fine. Please just

make it clear that the extra money is for that reason and not a donation.

Please enclose the membership form from this newsletter with your cheque or postal order for your subscription. New membership cards will be sent with the next newsletter.

Email newsletter recipients: please print off the form and enclose with your subscription. If that is a problem, just make it clear who it is from. Also please let me know if you would like your card posted to you. It does act as a reminder of renewal date.

We have difficulty processing payments by standing order but we do not want to lose any members so if this is the only way you can pay, please set it up for 1st January each year. This makes it easier for our treasurer to identify it. Lastly, I always send a thank you for donations over £5. If you would rather not receive one to save postage, just let me know. Stamped addressed envelopes (or just a stamp even) are always welcome too.

Sue Kelly (membership secretary)

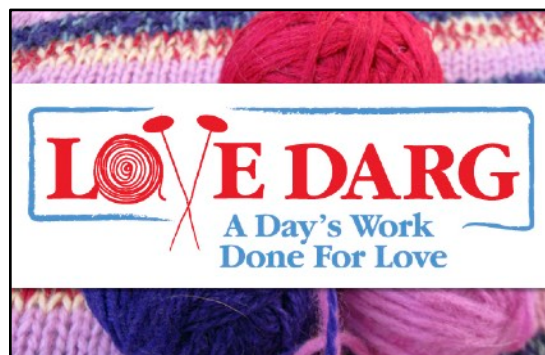
In memory of..

We are sorry to announce the deaths of two long-standing members:

Alice Edwards, of Bexleyheath, having celebrated her 90th birthday in May, sadly passed away on August 1. She joined our branch in 1982 and for much of that time was a very keen hands-on supporter, helping both with fundraising and working in our shop.

Maureen Anastasi, of Aston Somerville, Worcestershire, joined us in 1991 and loyally kept up her membership even after moving from Chislehurst many years ago. I met her once in the early 1990s and she used to email me often so a friendship was formed between us. I knew she was battling with multiple sclerosis but she had a cheerful and positive manner and rarely mentioned this.

I was worried when I had not heard from her for some time and even more when her membership lapsed. I received a letter from her husband recently informing me that she passed away peacefully earlier this year after exceeding her MS consultants' predictions by 15 years. I miss her humorous emails.



The People's Friend magazine Love Darg for Cats Protection

The Love Darg is a day's work done for love and the magazine has carried out this scheme for different charities since way back in 1885. This year it is for CP and it has a knitting pattern and a crochet pattern for cat toys which I can photocopy (or scan on computer) and send to anyone interested. The toys will be used in shelters to help cats settle in and feel at home while some will be sold in CP shops to raise funds. There is an address to post them to or the article says they can be donated directly to a CP shop.

PURR INDOORS!

By SAM SHORTT

OVER the summer, our Lost & Found page on Facebook has been contacted by several owners with indoor cats who have gone missing.

It is very easy for them to slip out of a door or window, particularly when they are left open on a hot day.

One was Hades, aged one, who thankfully found his way home to New Eltham after disappearing in June. What was even better was that his owners had ensured he was microchipped and neutered.

This meant that while he was out, he wasn't able to mate, adding to an already overwhelming number of kittens.

His microchip also meant that if anyone had found him, a simple check with a scanner would allow Hades to be reunited with his humans easily and quickly.

Unneutered pets who live as indoor cats are more likely to leave home when an opportunity presents itself and they are then likely to roam further.

We also had a striking Sphynx cat go missing from her indoor home in Catford.

Owner Jess put up posters and said on Facebook: "She is a house cat so will not be familiar with the area. She's a huge part of our lives. We're devastated."

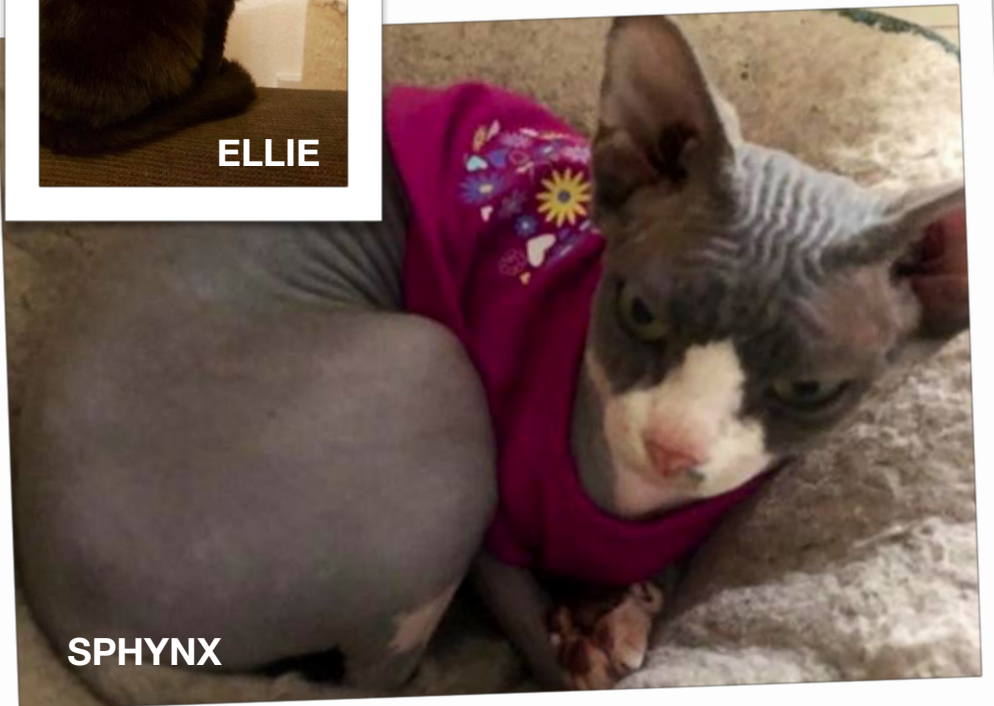
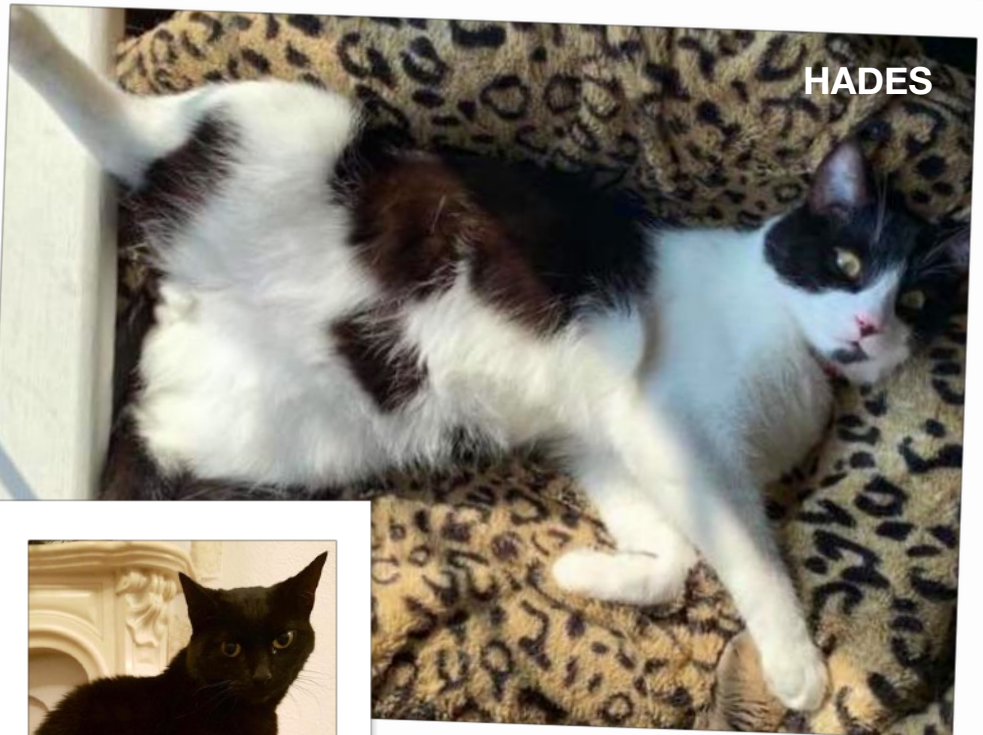
Thankfully a kind family took her in and saw the missing posters so were able to reunite Jess with her pet.

This breed has the distinctive character of being hairless so it was even more urgent that she made her way home.

Ellie was another indoor pet who went missing in Sidcup and was featured on our page.

Jacqui commented: "Ellie must be very frightened as she is usually an indoor cat. Can everyone in the area keep an eye out for her?"

"I know there will be other black cats around but she will be a bit nervous so if you think you see her please contact the owner. Let's try



and get her home safely." Luckily the seven-year-old was back home soon, but missing house cats are more common than we might imagine.

For that reason we always recommend neutering and microchipping all cats, including those who live indoors.

Generally speaking, neutered cats are happier and have a lower

risk of straying so this will lessen the urge of indoor pets to escape! Chipping also means they can always be traced back home.

Some owners may think these two things are not needed for indoor cats but experience shows they definitely are. So if you have a house cat who is not yet neutered and chipped, then please get in touch to see how we can help.

YOU CAN TEACH AN OLD CAT NEW TRICKS

HONEY was an older lady whose owner was sadly also elderly and could not look after her any more after developing dementia.

Luckily for the 18-year-old, her story tugged at the heartstrings of shop volunteer Barbara who offered Honey a home for the rest of her days. Honey had been an indoor cat and an only pet with her previous owner, but with Barbara she had the company of the resident male feline and the chance of getting out into a garden.

Maybe you can't teach an old dog new tricks but this elderly feline was certainly willing to learn! Jacqui said: "She is happy and settled. If only more people would give an older cat a chance of a new life. I understand that people think taking on an older cat means you will have to face the inevitable sooner rather than later.

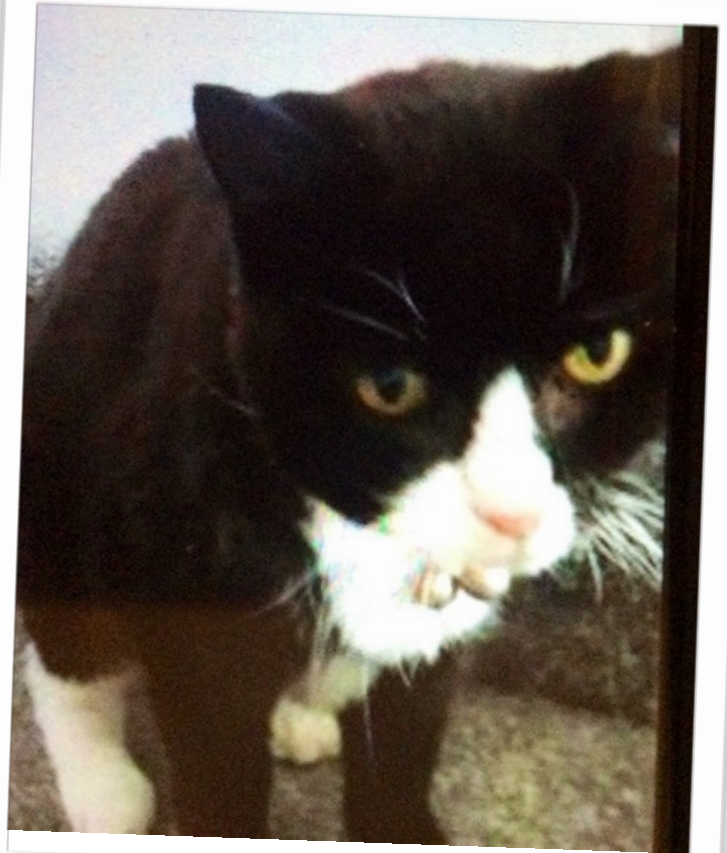
"But if only they could put the cat first and give them the love and comfort they deserve in the last part of their life, it's so rewarding. Thank you Barbara..."

Honey's story was popular on our Facebook page. Ana commented: "Thank you Barbara for giving Honey a happy and secure retirement. I've adopted older cats in the past and loved them.

"The 'inevitable' is made easier to accept by the knowledge that you've given the cat a safe and secure life for the years it has left."

Nikki added: "Ah bless her heart. Just because they are older doesn't mean they are less loving. I'd happily take an older puss on if I didn't have my three."

Christine posted: "I love older cats. They are



less inclined to go off hunting or stray very far. My baby Matilda is 11 this month. Not quite elderly but middle-aged..."

Lesley said: "Ahh it's nice that she has a home to live out her remaining years."

THE HOLE TRUTH ABOUT GRACIE

THANKS to our supporter Graham for this eye-catching photo of his cat Gracie.

Not that you can see all of her and we'll leave it to your imagination whether she managed to get through or not. We owe Graham an apology for not crediting him with two other photos featured in previous newsletters.

Instead we said it was his wife Shirley. She would like to put the record straight and we're happy to oblige.

If you're inspired to snap some feline photos of your own to share with our supporters, please email them to Clare at coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk





EVEN CUTER NEUTERED

NEUTERING is one thing we can't get enough of - we want as many male and female cats to be snipped or spayed as possible!

It's the only way to cut the number of unwanted cats and kittens which need help from us and other charities every year.

We regularly raise the issue on our Facebook page, and Jacqui did so again using this image of a mother cat and her tiny baby at the height of the kitten season in July.

She wrote: "This photo is adorable, and I'm sure some will find this boring but no matter how often we say 'get your cat neutered' it still goes on. I have heard all the excuses but in the end it's rescue places that suffer. Although we pay the cost for anyone regardless of circumstances or income, some people still don't bother.

"The reasons include 'I didn't think she was big enough to get pregnant', 'I didn't think a brother and sister, mother and son would mate', 'I don't

think it's fair to stop her having a litter'. And the list goes on but when the kittens arrive and cost is involved, we have to take up the slack.

"Since Christmas, we have been taking in mums and kittens. At the moment, we have five mums and over 20 kittens with the branch.

"Also, some people don't understand that a pregnant cat should be kept in. Often we are called out because a cat has had kittens in a shed or under a bush. This is someone's pet but now she either can't find her way home or has been dumped now she has kittens and they are left to fend for themselves."

She signed off: "Please encourage anyone you know with an unneutered cat to **GET IT DONE.**"

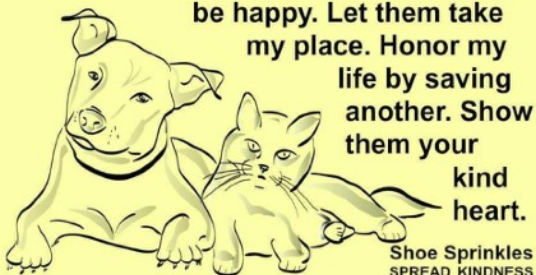
No matter how old your pet is, neutering will make them healthier and happier. For advice, please inbox us on Facebook, see our website or email neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk.

There is also more info on the next page.

A KIND MESSAGE FROM YOUR PET

When I cross the rainbow bridge, please don't say "*I'll never have another pet.*"

Please go to the the shelter and give a home to an abandoned and forgotten animal. Give them a chance to be happy. Let them take my place. Honor my life by saving another. Show them your kind heart.



This recent post on Facebook sums up our feelings on how the loss of one pet can ultimately open the door to happiness for another animal in need.

Tired of builders who let the cat out accidentally, or leave puss under the floorboards?

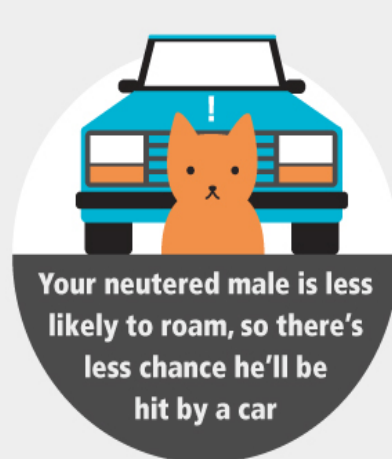
For all building work and quotes ring Mr Wall, the cat-aware builder.

07772 876 801 or email ray12604@hotmail.com



Why should I neuter my cat?

Getting your cat done is good for them... and you! Why? Read on...



Cats can breed from four months of age

Cats will mate with their brothers, sisters and parents

Did you know?

One unneutered female can be responsible for 20,000 descendants in just five years

Cats don't need 'just one litter' before being spayed

Want to know more?

Neuter your cat at four months of age or younger.

Visit www.cats.org.uk/neutering or speak to your vet for advice.

Call our Neutering helpline on 03000 12 12 12 to find out if you're eligible for a voucher. It's kinder to neuter.

WORTH EVERY PENNY

THIS little beauty is Penny who sadly found herself homeless with five babies.

She is adorable, loves a fuss and is a really good mum. This wasn't her first litter but it will be her last as she will be spayed ready for homing once her little ones are old enough.

Penny is with a fosterer as her litter is still very young and we had to tell our Facebook followers: "Please don't ask about rehoming the kittens, we won't even be thinking about it for weeks."

Edwina loved the photo, posting: "Aren't she and her wee kittens just the sweetest! I hope they all have a happy home and life."

Every year, lots of mums and kittens just like Penny desperately need our help. It would really relieve the pressure if we had more fosterers. Could you help just for a few months over spring



and summer when kitten season hits? All you need is a spare room, dollops of TLC and to be able to drive for any visits to the vet. We pay all the medical and other bills until the mum and kittens are ready for homing.

Then you see them head off to new lives, knowing you have played a vital role in their path back to happiness.

Please give it a try... text Clare on 07500 506395 or email coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk



YOUNG Tigger is a striking looking girl who sadly was not neutered and has had three litters in her short life. She's been a good mum but it's now time for Tigger to enjoy a more relaxed life after being spayed.

Once she has settled, she will make a friendly pet who will appreciate home comforts.

Tigger will be best suited as an only cat in a home with no children. She has also been microchipped ready for adoption.

Please could you offer Tigger the chance of a happy life? Call Diane on 07985 329525 if you would like to meet her or find our more.

Mind the nap!

A GLIMPSE of animal life can sometimes relieve the daily grind for commuters on the Tube. This was highlighted in a small book which Jacqui thought would interest our supporters. It reads: "Pebbles the cat can often be found snoozing on top of the ticket gate machine at the Barbican where he adopted the staff. He makes himself at home in the booking hall and seems to be unfazed by the noise of the trains below and doesn't mind the rush of the customers.

"For some reason, he has chosen a favourite ticket gate - it is an 'in' machine and every day at the right time, he hops on top and curls up ready to fall asleep. He doesn't seem to notice the tickets popping up close to his ear and the hands grabbing for them as the gate crashes open.

"Pebbles did introduce a friend to the station but this feline likes to keep out of the limelight.

"It goes without saying that rodents are never a problem. Once the trains have stopped working for the night, the cats can be found wondering through the tunnels exploring the miles and miles of twisting tracks."

Thanks to *The London Cat: Its Lives and Times* by James Dowsing for this lovely tale.



ELTHAM AND SIDCUP & DISTRICT BRANCH COMMITTEE

TREASURER

JAN MARQUIS

Tel: 07772 679854

Email: xray126jan@hotmail.com

SHOP MANAGERESS/ HOMING

JACQUI TRAYFOOT

Shop tel: 020 8859 6009

Mobile: 07796 856296

Email: jacquitrays@yahoo.co.uk

CO-ORDINATOR & WEBSITE

CLARE CHEESERIGHT

Tel: 020 8425 9791

Email: cacheeseright@yahoo.co.uk

WELFARE OFFICER & NEUTERING VOUCHERS

DIANE WILLIS

Tel: 07985 329525

Email: diane.aloe@hotmail.co.uk

SECRETARY

LESLEY ROBINS

AUXILIARIES (NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY SUE KELLY

Tel: 020 8319 0920

Email: suekelly1950@yahoo.co.uk

EVENTS

POSITION VACANT

*If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Supporter Services by telephoning **0800 160 1012** Monday to Friday during office hours (9am-5pm), emailing **preferences@cats.org.uk** or writing to us at **Freepost RTJK-TJJK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT.***

Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy if you have any questions about how we use your data.

CATS PROTECTION

Eltham, Sidcup and District branch

MEMBERSHIP FORM



I wish to become a member of this branch/renew my membership:

Full name.....

Address including postcode.....

Date of birth (if under 18).....Telephone number.....

Email address.....Date.....

Tick to receive newsletter by email

☐

Subscription: (tick as applicable)

Individual membership £10

☐

Joint or family

£10

☐

Junior, senior citizen, joint senior citizen, HQ member £7

☐

Donations always welcome! Thank you £.....

Please make cheques payable to Cats Protection and send completed page to:
Mrs Sue Kelly, Membership secretary, 354 Well Hall Road, London SE9 6UE

Cats get an extra 25p for every £1 with gift aid

If you are a taxpayer, please make your contribution go further with gift aid. All you have to do is complete your details above and tick the box below.

I want Cats Protection to treat as gift aid all donations and subscriptions I have made in the last four years, and any donations and subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. ☐ (please tick)

- * You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that Cats Protection reclaims on your donations in the tax year
- * You must notify us if you change your name or address while this declaration applies
- * If your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax, you can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying us.

We'd love to keep in touch, by telling you about our work with cats, inviting you to support fundraising appeals, join events, campaigns or to volunteer. Rest assured, we'll never swap or sell any details about you with other organisations.

If you'd like to receive information in the following ways, please tick accordingly:

Email ☐ SMS ☐ Telephone ☐

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Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy if you have any questions about how we use your data.

To our members who help cats now, please remember that where there's a **WILL** there's a way to go on helping them when you are no longer here.

If you wish to leave money to **Cats Protection** and you would like it to benefit the **Eltham, Sidcup & District Branch**, please state this clearly, as monies not specified for a particular branch are dealt with by our headquarters. **However**, in the (hopefully unlikely) event that this branch ceases to exist, you should give directions as to what area or for what particular purpose you want your money to be used for.

SPONSORSHIP

Please sponsor
one of our many
unhomeable cats

From time to time we have to take cats in that are just not homeable for various reasons. Some are too old and frail and need constant medication; some are too timid or semi-feral and were not able to be relocated or "put back" after spaying or neutering for various reasons; some with behavioural problems, and so on. These cats are placed in foster homes for the rest of their lives, which costs us a lot of money. If you feel you would like to make a regular donation or sponsor a particular cat, please ring either Jan Marquis on 07772 679854 or Jacqui Trayfoot on 07796 856296 for details.

Included in this newsletter is a standing order form for those who might like to consider donating a small sum either monthly or yearly.

Alternately cheques for any amount are very gratefully received. Please make them out to Cats Protection and send to our treasurer Jan Marquis at 202 Kent Street, Mereworth, Kent ME18 5QW. Many thanks.



CATS PROTECTION

Eltham, Sidcup and District branch



STANDING ORDER FORM

Please complete using BLOCK CAPITALS for donations only (not membership renewals) and return to us (not your bank) at:

Treasurer,
Cats Protection (Eltham, Sidcup and District branch),
202 Kent Street,
Mereworth,
ME18 5QW

YOUR DETAILS:

Title:..... Forenames.....
Surname.....
Address including postcode.....
.....
Telephone number (for any queries).....
(To be filled in by CP) Standing order reference.....

NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY:

To the manager of
.....
Sort code ____ - ____ - ____ Account number ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____

Please pay the sum of.....starting on ____ - ____ - ____
and every month/year* on the same day until further notice to the account of
Cats Protection ((Eltham, Sidcup and District branch)

Sort code ____ - ____ - ____ Account number ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ - ____
(These details to be filled in by CP)

* Delete as applicable

YOUR NAME AND SIGNATURE

Name of account holder.....

Signed.....Date.....

Many thanks for your support!

We'd love to keep in touch, by telling you about our work with cats, inviting you to support fundraising appeals, join events, campaigns or to volunteer. Rest assured, we'll never swap or sell any details about you with other organisations.

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