



ELTHAM, SIDCUP & DISTRICT BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 203644

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021

BLOOMING MARVEL

MANY supporters will remember our “plant lady” Marion and her stall at our fairs laden with tempting pots.

She always had plenty of customers for her home-grown offerings.

After the events stopped, Marion continued to cultivate plants for us to sell in the shop.

Now, however, after four decades of helping our branch, she is stepping down.

We’re very grateful for all her efforts and marked her ‘retirement’ with a bouquet of flowers.

Our shop manager Jacqui said: “We say a sad farewell to Marion. She and her husband John joined our branch as members in 1981 and soon after they started to grow lovely plants from seed for us.



“Once the events stopped, they would bring them to our shop and became well known because the plants were of such good quality. As soon as they arrived, they were snapped up by customers.

“Sadly John passed away in 2015 but

Marion continued to keep us supplied.

“However the time has come to hang up her trowel and we would like to say a huge thank you from everyone on the branch.”

It all started when a ginger cat appeared in Marion and John’s garden in Lee and they took him in, naming him Ginger, of course.

The couple went on to rehome six cats from our branch. Marion, 86, wrote to say: “It was a pleasure to be doing what I like - growing plants - and to know that the proceeds helped all those cats.”

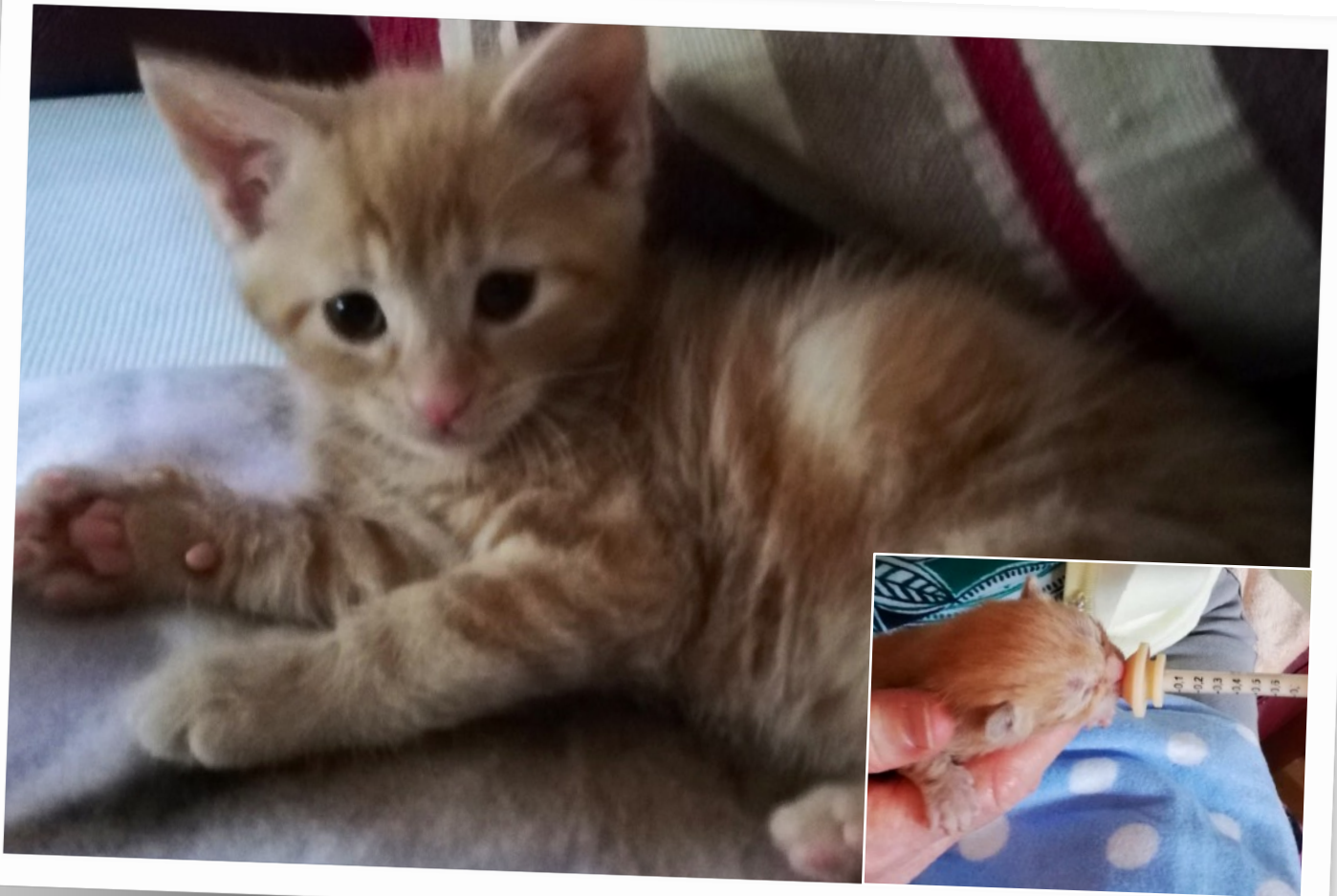
She signed off as “The plant lady” which is how we will always fondly think of her and wish her all the best for the future.



TABBY boy Obi is one of the kittens we helped this summer. See inside for the full story.

www.elthamsidcup.cats.org.uk

www.facebook.com/cpelthamsidcup



HOURS of dedicated care from our welfare officer Diane saved these kittens and set them up for a new happy life.

Peanut and Poppy had been born outside in a garden in New Eltham where the householder was feeding their semi-feral mum. Unfortunately the cat was disturbed and abandoned her litter, leaving them helpless.

The tiny kittens came to Diane when they were only two days old, covered in mud from being outside.

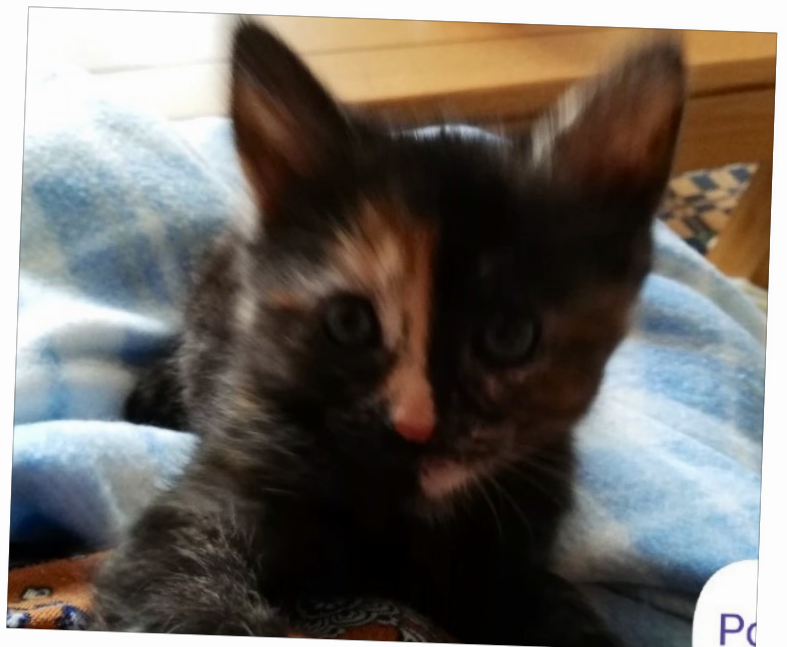
She began the demanding task of bottle-feeding them but sadly a third female sibling died after a week.

The fate of the surviving pair hung in the balance as they were very ill and needed lots of care and help from our vet at Passey Place. Peanut, a ginger male (*above*), had to be put on a drip for a couple of days.

But he and his sister Poppy, a dark tortie (*right*), were little battlers and gradually they pulled round, becoming stronger and healthier.

By the age of three months, they were ready to be homed. This was later than normal because they were a bit small for their age and we had to wait until they had gained enough weight to have their vaccinations. The kittens have now been homed and their mum was neutered to be returned to the care of the lady who had been looking after her.

PEA'S SWEET



TEDDY BOYS!



THE stairwell of a block of flats is no place for any cat to live but sadly this had been the fate of two brothers for most of last year.

Ted, *above left*, and Jasper belonged to one of the tenants who started being away from home for long periods after her relationship broke down.

Sadly she made no provision for her pets but neighbour Ilona and other kind residents began feeding the boys and giving them warm bedding. They also let Ted and Jasper into the building in Sidcup when it was raining or cold. The owner of the three-year-olds did not allow them into her home even when she was there and told neighbours they were on a waiting list to be taken into care. But the situation dragged on

and on with no help arriving for the boys. Ilona then approached several charities but without success until she contacted us in a heart-rending email.

She wrote: "The situation is dire, how long can these two lovely cats keep living like this? It's so sad. Me and my neighbours either have cats or dogs so aren't in a position to adopt. Me and another neighbour feed them daily but I can't continue to do this. I just want them to find a forever home.

"I understand that the cats don't belong to me but the owner is happy for me to try and get help for them.

"She won't ever have the cats at home or let them in or feed them. She just isn't in a position to give the cats the love and attention they both

really deserve. Can you help?"

After a couple of weeks on our waiting list and checking that the owner would allow us to help them, we had the space to take in Ted and Jasper, finally ending their time living in the stairwell. Despite their ordeal, the boys had kept their lovely natures. After settling in with us, Diane put them on our website, writing: "They are the most affectionate boys you are likely to meet. Ted loves to be carried around like a baby and Jasper is just as affectionate."

The brothers attracted lots of attention and inquiries before being reserved after only a few days online. They were adopted by Naomi to finally start their new lives in a loving home.

Where there's a will..

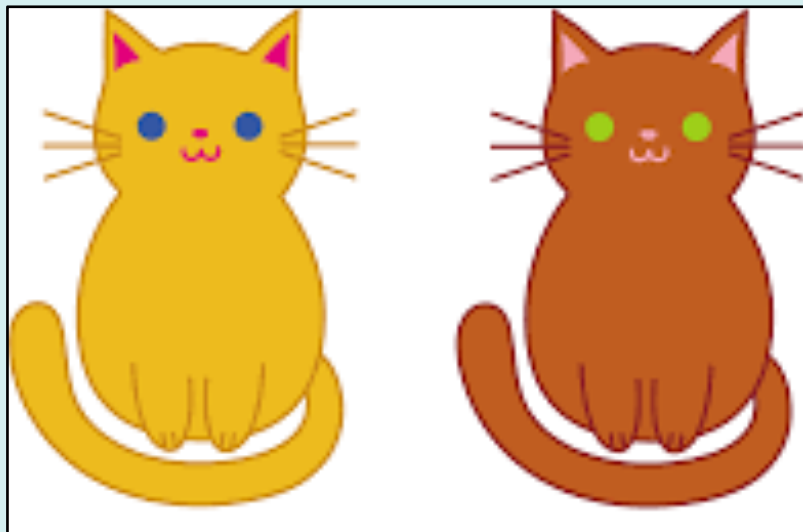
MANY supporters do a lot to help cats now but it is also possible for this generosity to continue once you are no longer here by remembering Cats Protection in your will.

If you wish to help our branch (Eltham, Sidcup and District), please state this clearly as money not specified for a particular branch will go towards general head office funds.

In the unlikely event that this branch ceases to exist, please give directions as to what area of work or particular purpose you would like the money used for, eg neutering. Many thanks if you are considering leaving a legacy to help cats.

MANY thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for this year, it is always good to hear from you and we really appreciate your support. We aim to have another newsletter before the end of the year so will be sending a plea for your 2022 memberships then!

Many thanks,
Sue Kelly (membership secretary)



V-WORD

THE V-word is crucial to our branch and other charities - volunteers. Without people willing to give their time and effort, we could not continue to help local cats. But Cats Protection and other charities are struggling from a long-term decline in the numbers coming forward. There are lots of reasons: lack of time, work, family commitments, health problems or other priorities, to name a few.

Although our volunteers don't receive a financial return, the rewards are huge: knowing their contribution is making a big difference to so many cats and kittens.

Please consider helping in one of the following ways and spread the word among neighbours, family and friends.

OUR SHOP: Several helpers left during the pandemic so now we can't open every weekday. The shop is small but busy and friendly, playing a crucial role in our branch. We have two shifts, 10am to 1pm or 1pm to 4pm, so helpers can choose the one best for them. Please pop into 14 Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham SE9 6SX, or call Jacqui on 07796 856296.

FOSTERING: It's really simple and incredibly rewarding - you look after a cat/s giving them lots of TLC while we pay all the bills. When they find a home, you wave them off to a new life before welcoming the next cat in need.

Cats Protection has a very helpful online training course and our welfare officer Diane offers plenty of support.

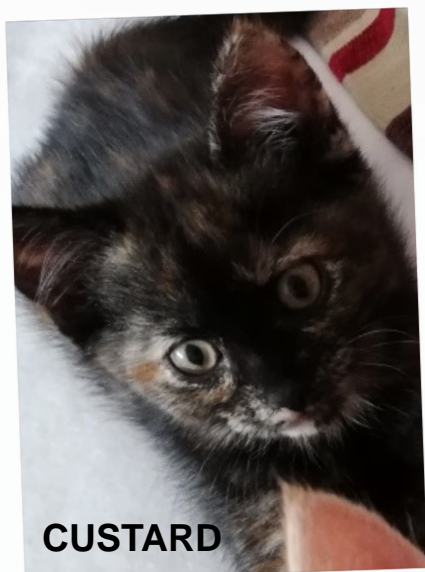
TREASURER: This involves keeping tabs on our financial ins and outs. Most of our transactions are online or by direct debit, making it quicker and easier. Financial experience would be a bonus but the main requirement is to be organised. Our head office offers training and support.

PROMOTE NEUTERING: We need someone to put up small posters in community centres, libraries, noticeboards, shops etc - anywhere where people will see them. This will help us reach as many owners as possible to cut the number of unwanted kittens and is flexible as it can be done whenever you have time.

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



KITKAT



CUSTARD



OBI

Break for KitKat

CUTIES Custard and KitKat were very sweet kittens who lived up to their names. They were from different litters and owners but sadly were both not wanted and came into us separately.

Dark tortie Custard and tabby KitKat were very similar ages and when the time came, they were chosen by Dorothy and her family to go and live with them in Orpington. They

were certainly wanted there and will be much-loved pets. Tabby boy Obi was also rejected after his owner's cat had a litter. She decided to keep two ginger kittens but not him!

He was a very nice character and fine on his own so when he was old enough, Obi was on his way to a new loving home with Bella and her partner in Sidcup.

CIAO BELLA!

BELLA is a striking girl, mostly white with a tabby face, ears and paws, which our vet said was due to her being part-Siamese. But, despite her sweet character and lovely looks, this year-old girl was sadly left behind when her owner moved. She was being fed by a neighbour but was not neutered so inevitably had a litter.

The kittens were cared for and then homed by the lady who was feeding them but Bella was being attacked by a male cat so came into us. She was spayed ready for rehoming and was then off to a fresh start with Louise in Eltham.

Black-and-white Luna, *inset right*, had been acquired as a kitten but was being bullied by the two resident cats. Her owner asked for help when Luna was aged five months and she was fostered as we arranged her vaccinations and neutering.

We had two possible owners on our waiting list so were aiming to have her settled in a new home as soon as possible.

Meanwhile Penny, *right*, a friendly tabby-and-white girl, was finding life difficult with her family's young children. The youngsters were too much for the 11-month-old so she came into our care.

Penny had been well looked after and was already spayed and micro-chipped. As no vet treatment was needed, we were able to rehome her quickly to Tina and her mum in Plumstead who were on our waiting list.



WHO remembers the story of the three kittens who used to live in our shop?

For our supporters and customers who recall the trio, Jacqui tells their story right back from when it all began.

She said: "I had a call from one of the shopkeepers in Westmount Road, Eltham, where the flat above the shop was empty and the ceilings were falling down, stairs collapsing and it was generally in a bad condition.

"But a few days before, they had seen a mum cat bringing her young kittens from the railway (one by one) into the flat. 'When I went to investigate, I found that the kittens were about eight-weeks-old and knew the art of hissing at a human and showing very short, sharp teeth.

"It didn't take me long to realise that I was not going to be able to pick them up so returned the following day armed with a cat trap. It took a few attempts but soon I had caught all three plus their mum.

"The litter of Minstral, Sherbet (*main picture, right*) and their all-black sister Black Jack (*inset*) was taken to our shop in Well Hall.

"After some TLC, the mum was neutered and, as she turned out to be friendly, we were able to rehome her with a nice family.

"But the kittens were another kettle of fish. Our helpers tried really hard to bring them round so they could also be adopted but the cats were happy to live at the shop. They had free rein to explore out the back and roam around to come and go as they pleased.

"It took about 18 months for them to be confident enough to be stroked and all seemed OK. Then tragedy struck one Sunday when Minstral tried to get across the road and was hit by a car. Sadly he didn't survive.

"It was with a heavy heart that I decided the other two should be moved to stop them suffering a similar fate.

"Sherbet was homed to a family who I know and went to live in Rochester where he had woods at the back of the house for miles. He would spend most of his time exploring but always appeared at meal times.

"Sherbet opted not to go into the house and had his own shelter in the garden. Life was good for him until he was clipped by a car one day. After a short spell in the vets, he was brought home and started living indoors.

"The other two resident cats were a little suspicious of him being there at first but soon got over that. Now Sherbet loves being inside and has become a loving lap cat.

"Black Jack was the most timid of the three and would hiss when you went near her but she never tried to scratch or lash out.

"I took her home with me to give her extra TLC and socialising, and she was there for a few months until a couple offered her a good home. Or at least I thought so then - but we all get it wrong sometimes.

"The new owners lived locally to me and I stressed how important it was to keep Black Jack in for at least four weeks and even then we should reassess her to see how she was coping with the move.

"After some time, I contacted them to ask how things were and was horrified to be told she had got out in the first few days but they hadn't even let me know. I put up some notices and hoped she would be found as she was microchipped.

"But I didn't hear any news and feared she probably hadn't survived.

"Now skip ahead about three or four years when I had a call from the Bromley branch of Cats Protection to ask if I



SHOP CATS

could scan a stray cat in Orpington. As it was a house that almost backed onto me, I called round to have a chat with the lady and recognised Black Jack straight away.

"Her story was that she had arrived at this house a few years ago looking very bedraggled, losing her fur and very hungry.

"Luckily for BJ, this family took pity on her and started to feed her. They put a little shelter outside for her and all was OK.

"The reason for the call to Cats Protection was because she had recently started to go into the house and make herself at home. This wouldn't have been a problem but they have two large dogs which had to be kept away from the cat (now called Lou) and were no longer able to roam the house.

"So Lou came back into our care and is looking for a new home, somewhere she can just be left to look out of a window and have a comfy place to sleep.

"A home with dogs or young children would not be suitable although I think she could live with other cats as long as she has a bolt hole if she needed a bit of space.

"If you could offer Lou a loving home, please Diane on 07985 329525."

Kits a knockout!

THESE gorgeous kittens came into us aged 12 weeks when they could no longer stay in their home.

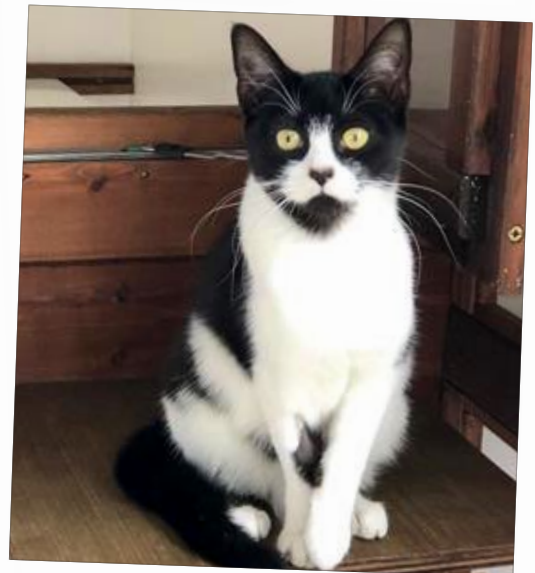
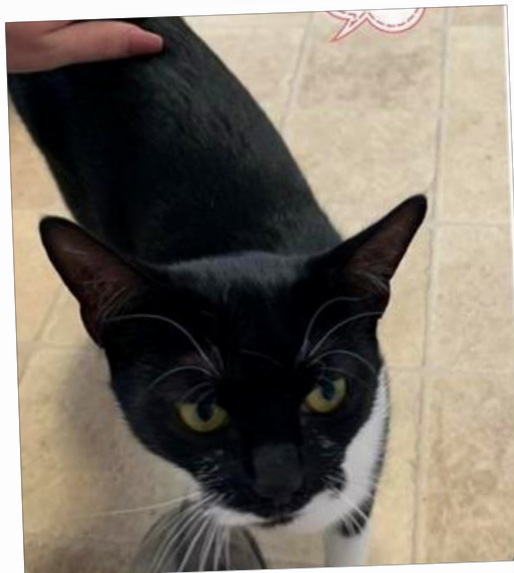
After a spell in foster care, ginger-and-white boy Alfie was homed with Tilly to Jane in Chislehurst.

The siblings, *main picture*, stayed as a pair because they were so close.

In contrast, tabby-and-white Molly had always been a loner so she was happy to go as a single cat to a new home with Liam in Bromley.

Two more sweet girls came in when their owners became concerned that their two young children were too full-on and unsettling for them.

Both Topsi, a young mum aged 18 months, and Tammy, her six-month-old daughter, were very gentle-natured and would be lovely pets for anyone. They were very close so needed to for stay together as we looked for a calm home with no young children for them. Topsi, *near left*, and Tammy went on our website and several inquiries came in before they headed off to a fresh start with Tina and her partner in Welling.



MOTHER'S DAY



GORGEOUS grey girl Wolfie is settling into her new home after being a good mum to her litter of three. She featured in our last newsletter when we told how she came into us with her kittens when they were less than a day old. Her owner had just had a baby herself and the situation was not working so she decided it would be better to give up her pet.

It was all very unsettling for two-year-old Wolfie, *above left*, who took a while to settle. However, with lots of patience and TLC she gained confidence and trust in her fosterer. In time, her grey kittens - brothers Louis and Shandy plus sister Dusty, *above right* - were ready to be adopted.

Emma from Orpington came to view them, looking to give a home to two. But she could not decide between the siblings and eventually

decided to take all three! Then it was time for Wolfie to take centre stage.

Her hard work as a mum was over and she was spayed, ready for a fresh start with Terry and his partner in Welling.

However they phoned Diane after a few days, worried that Wolfie was staying upstairs and was reluctant to venture further.

Diane was able to reassure them that Wolfie had done the same with her fosterer and just needed time to become used to the different sounds and scents of her new home.

This put Terry's mind at rest and thankfully he was able to report a week later than Wolfie was coming round and settling in with them.

So we're very pleased that she's finally enjoying life after overcoming some major hurdles along the way...

Grey escape

CURIOSITY landed this cat Freddie in a spot of bother. A post on our lost and found Facebook page revealed how he had gone missing and it emerged that he had gone exploring in his neighbours' house and unfortunately got trapped inside when they went away.

Luckily he was okay and quickly found his way home once he got out. We were able to tell followers that he was happily reunited with his family – and hopefully has learned his lesson!



RAISING THE RUF



RUFUS

HANDSOME ginger boy Rufus needed a new home when his owner moved abroad.

The seven-year-old went on our website where his listing read: "He has a beautiful nature, very loving and enjoys all the fuss his fosterer showers on him. Rufus is a very attractive boy, enjoys playtimes and even likes a brush!"

It didn't take long for him to be snapped up and Rufus went off to a new home with Marc in Beckenham. Another male we helped was Timmy, who was reported to us as a stray in poor condition.

We arranged for him to go to our vet for neutering and it was clear he needed more than that as he was covered in fleas and not in good health.

So Timmy stayed at Passey Place for some extra TLC and antibiotics before going to a fosterer.

She says he is a beautiful and loving boy who is now enjoying his home comforts.

Timmy still needs the all-clear from the vet but we're happy he's back on track and hope to put him up for homing soon.

Tabby Gaz and all-black Eric are affectionate lads whose owner sadly had to go into a care home because of dementia.

His family asked for help and the six-year-olds came in, quickly showing they were lovely cats, enjoying attention and playtime.

They would make super pets and Adam in Lee was the lucky one who took them off for a fresh start with him.



TIMMY



GAZ



ERIC

BACK FUR GOOD

OUR volunteer Sam runs our lost and found page on Facebook, monitoring and updating it daily to help owners whose cats have gone missing.

Speed is of the essence when trying to get them back home as these two stories show.

Sam writes: “I live on the Progress Estate and since the pandemic started we have had an active community WhatsApp group.

“In July, one of my neighbours shared an urgent message about her missing cat Mila, *above right*. She is a very special pet as she provides therapeutic support to the family’s child, who has additional needs, so they were desperate to find her.

“I posted Mila’s details on our Facebook page and the next day I received a message from a kind-hearted member of the public who had found Mila in her garden.

“She and her husband did a great job of encouraging Mila to stay put while I quickly contacted the owner, who immediately rushed over to collect her.

“Mila was very close by and thanks to the kind people who found her is now safely home with her family.

“Another plea for help came from a family whose young cat Opal, *below right*, had gone missing and they were desperate to find him.

“Remarkably a local vet nurse from Park Vets in Sidcup saw the appeal post and instantly recognised Opal as the cat who had been handed into the surgery earlier that day.

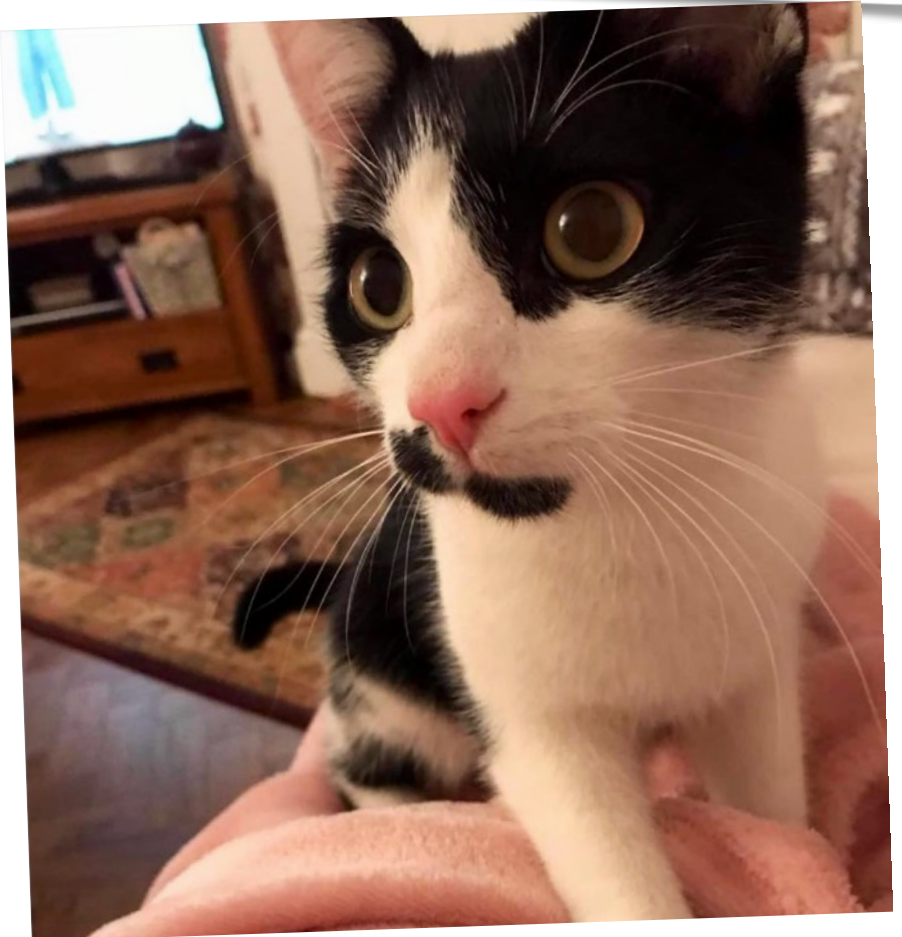
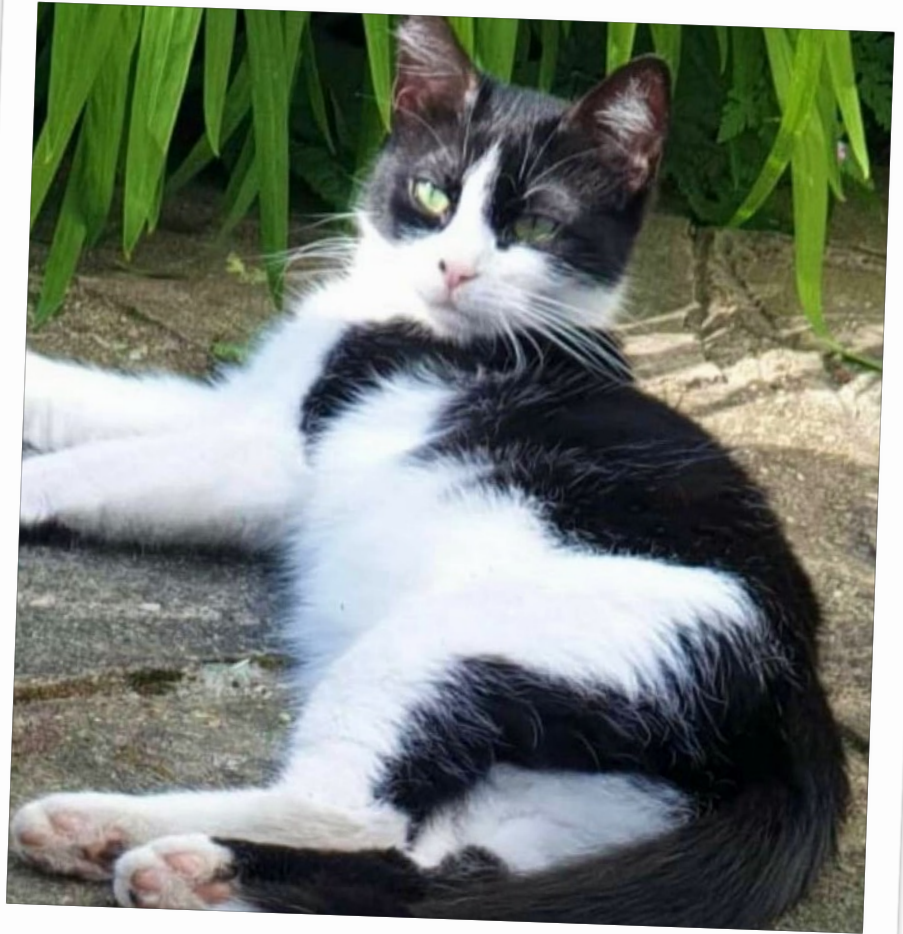
“What didn’t add up though is that Opal was microchipped but the vet had not been able to use this to trace his owner.

“It turned out that when his chip was implanted, it had not been registered with the owner’s details.

“I studied the pictures and was sure it was the same cat so took the microchip number from the owner and checked with the vet and the numbers matched!

“Thanks to the diligence of the vet nurse, Opal was reunited with his family. We are so grateful to the person who handed him in and to the lovely staff who took care of him.

“This tale serves as a timely reminder to get your chip checked and make sure the details are registered and up-to-date. Then if a pet goes missing, it can be traced to the owner quickly and easily so they can be reunited.”





Why should I neuter my cat?

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



Reduces spraying
and wailing



It's normal to neuter!

92% of owned cats
are neutered*
(*PDSA PAW Report 2019)



Reduces fighting,
injuries and vet bills



Kittens are hard
work and cost time,
effort and money



Reduces risk of cancers
and other diseases
through mating



Less likely to roam,
get lost and injured
on roads



Did you know?



Cats can
breed from
four months
of age

Females can
come into
heat every
2-3 weeks



Females can
have up to
18 kittens a
year

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

Cats will
mate with
their brothers,
sisters and
parents

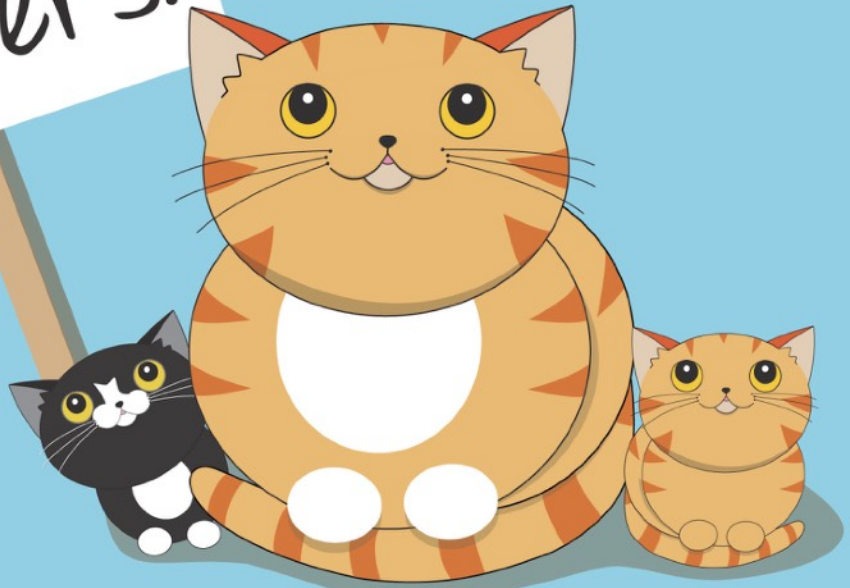
We can give you a voucher for your vet to pay for your cat/s to be neutered.
Just contact us and we can help:

- email neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk
- pop into our shop at Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham SE9 6SX
- inbox us on our Facebook page
- call us on 07591 120331



Eltham, Sidcup and District

We need
fosterers!



- UNABLE TO COMMIT TO LONG-TERM CAT OWNERSHIP, BUT CAN'T PASS A STREETCAT WITHOUT STOPPING FOR A STROKE?
- IS YOUR PHONE FULL OF PICS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S CATS?

THEN WHY NOT TRY CAT FOSTERING?!!

- Caring for our cats & kittens in your own home while they wait for adoption won't cost you a penny, & we provide training and lots of support.
- Time and love are all you need to get started!

**Please contact us via our website or Facebook page,
or email: adoption@eltham.cats.org.uk**

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

Gift Aid It! Cats get an extra 25p for every £1 with gift aid

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year (6th April to 5th April) then it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please tick this box if you want to gift aid this donation and any other donations you make in the future or have made in the past four years to Cats Protection [☐]

Or if you are not a UK taxpayer, please tick the box [☐]

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

We would 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 [☐]

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

Visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy to see how we use your data.

Eltham, Sidcup and District Branch Committee



SHOP MANAGER

JACQUI TRAYFOOT

Tel: 0208 859 6009

Email: eltham.shopmanager@cats.org.uk

(Shop address: 14 Tudor Parade, Well Hall Road, Eltham, London SE9 6SX.

Open Monday 10am-3.30pm, Tuesday 10am-1pm, Wednesday 10am-3.30pm,

Thursday closed, Friday and Saturday 10am-3.30pm)

CO-ORDINATOR

CLARE CHEESERIGHT

Email: coordinator@eltham.cats.org.uk

HOMING AND NEUTER VOUCHERS

DIANE WILLIS

Tel: 07591 120331

Email: adoption@eltham.cats.org.uk

neutering@eltham.cats.org.uk

TREASURER

POSITION VACANT

LOST AND FOUND SOCIAL MEDIA

SAM SHORTT

Email: lostandfound@eltham.cats.org.uk

socialmedia@eltham.cats.org.uk

SECRETARY

LESLEY ROBINS

Email: secretary@eltham.cats.org.uk

AUXILIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SUE KELLY

Email: membership@eltham.cats.org.uk

*IF you would prefer not to receive information by post or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Supporter Services by calling **0800 160 1012** Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, emailing preferences@cats.org.uk or writing to us at **Freepost RTJK-TJKK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT.***

Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy to find out how we use your data.

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),
14 Tudor Parade,
Well Hall Road,
London SE9 6SX

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.

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

Email ☐ SMS ☐ Telephone ☐

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.