

# CATTITUDE



Newsletter of Haverhill & District Branch of Cats Protection

Spring/Summer 2021

**FREE**

Donation appreciated

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)

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## A Word From The Branch Co-ordinator

Hello and a very warm welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

It feels like we are re-living another *deja vous* moment, here we are emerging from lockdown once again.

At least this time we have the Summer ahead of us and the promise of hot sunny days. With the easing of restrictions and activities starting to resume, we have been invited to attend the Haverhill Show this year on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Please come along and say hello.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise our Publicity Officer, Julia, who has worked tirelessly to raise enough funds for the branch through a trekking challenge she will be embarking on later this year in Nepal. As you will appreciate it hasn't been easy during the lockdowns but she has continued in her efforts and, the stalwart that she is, raised £82 recently

after holding an Easter raffle. A big thank you to all who purchased a raffle ticket and to those who have already given their support. For more information about the trip and how you can make a donation please visit:

**[justgiving.com/fundraising/juliacieslalnepal](https://justgiving.com/fundraising/juliacieslalnepal)**

Hopefully we will have more information to share with you in our Autumn/Winter newsletter. For now, make yourselves a cuppa, put your feet up and enjoy browsing through this edition.

Stay safe.

Co-ordinator.

## Publicity Update

### #MicrochipsReunite

Cats Protection recently launched a petition to make microchipping compulsory for owned cats.

Across the UK, over a quarter of owned cats are not microchipped. Microchipping is a safe and permanent way to identify a cat and the best way of ensuring lost cats are returned to their loving families.

We are pleased to confirm that the UK government has since

announced an 'Action Plan for Animal Welfare' which included the commitment to introduce compulsory microchipping of cats. Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign.

The action plan also committed to a review of snares, so we will be stepping up our campaign for an outright ban on their use.

For enquiries related to publicity, social media, the newsletter or our website, please contact **publicity@haverhill.cats.org.uk**

## Fundraising Update

Over the past year, our fundraising has been very limited.

If you are keen to fundraise for our branch, please visit the following page for ideas and resources to help you:

**[cats.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us](https://cats.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us)**

Please also feel free to get in touch with our branch to discuss how you could help.

## Paws Protect

**Paws Protect is a service offering help to the cats of families torn apart by domestic abuse.**

The service is open to anyone fleeing domestic abuse, regardless of their gender identity.

We provide a free fostering service, taking care of cats until their owners are in a position to reclaim them. The cats referred will be health checked before going to the home of one of our foster carers, where they will be treated as a family pet.

Paws Protect operates in the following areas: London, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Surrey and is able to accept referrals from owners and professionals supporting those fleeing domestic abuse, such as support workers, social workers and the

police.

Referrals are handled by our experienced, female-only staff team via our referral line or email: **0345 260 1280** or **pawsprotect@cats.org.uk**

### **What happens next?**

The team will find a suitable fosterer for your cat. All information between the client and foster carer is confidential. The fosterer will not know the identity or whereabouts of the cat owner and vice versa, ensuring complete anonymity.

While it is not possible for the owner to visit their cat while it is being fostered, the Paws Protect team visit the fosterer on a regular basis and provide monthly updates to the owner.

For more information about the service, please visit: **cats.org.uk/what-we-do/paws-protect**

## Microchipping and Neutering Costs

We are often asked what the average costs of microchipping and neutering cats are.

### **Microchipping**

In the UK, you can expect to pay anywhere between £20 and £30, depending on where you live.

Speak to your local vet for details, or get in touch with your local rescue centre or cat charity. Charities and reputable cat rescue organisations may be able to microchip your cat for a reduced rate.

Amending your contact details on a cat microchip database can mean paying a fee. Depending on the database, this might be a one-off fee for the lifetime of your cat, or a cost every time you update your details.

### **Neutering**

The cost of the operation varies according to where you live. The average cost for a male cat is between £30 and £60 . The

average cost for a female cat is between £40 and £80. Your vet will be happy to give you a quote before the operation takes place and you can phone a number of veterinary practices to compare prices.

### **How Cats Protection can help**

If you adopt a cat from Cats Protection, you can rest assured that your cat will be microchipped and neutered (if old enough). If not, we will cover the costs of these procedures when they reach the appropriate age.

Moreover, Cats Protection offers financial assistance to cat owners on benefits or low income in some cases. Please contact us if you would like to discuss your individual circumstances.

We also run annual Snip and Chip campaigns, during which we offer to cover the cost of

neutering and microchipping your cat (subject to T&Cs).

However, we do not recommend that you wait until these campaigns, as your cat will be at danger of getting lost or pregnant before then. Even if you have a male cat which is not at risk of getting pregnant, being unneutered increases their chances of getting lost whilst searching for a mate.

You can neuter your cat at 4

months of age or younger. There is no minimum age for microchipping, although it is often done at the same time as the neutering procedure, whilst the cat is under local anaesthetic. We strongly recommend that you do not let your cat outdoors before they have been neutered or microchipped. Even if you intend to keep them as an indoor cat, both procedures will help you keep them healthier and safer, so we encourage you to microchip and neuter your cat regardless.

## Cats and Allergies

Are you allergic to cats or looking to limit cat-allergy symptoms? Find out more about coping with your cat allergy.

### **What causes an allergy to cats?**

While it is commonly thought that cat hair causes allergy symptoms, the truth is more complex – it's what's on the hair that is the issue. In fact, cat allergies are caused by a protein produced in a cat's saliva and sebaceous (oil) glands, which is

then spread onto the cat's hair and skin during grooming. Whenever a cat sheds its fur, hair and dander (dead skin cells), the sticky protein attached is transferred into the environment. This often leads to the allergy symptoms you may experience.

However, cat hair can also act as a carrier of other airborne allergens: pollen, dust mites and mould, which can also cause allergic symptoms in individuals



with hay fever, asthma or eczema.

### **Am I allergic to my cat?**

Before you suspect that you might be allergic to cats, it is worth mentioning that there are a number of things you could be allergic to. Dust mites or hay fever may be allergies you could easily misinterpret as a cat allergy. That said, cat allergies are one of the most common allergies in the UK, particularly for those who also have allergic asthma or hay fever. So how do you know if you are allergic to cats?

### **Symptoms of cat allergies**

Immediate reactions to cats could include:

- sneezing
- itchy skin
- watering eyes
- coughing
- wheezing
- breathing difficulties
- a flare-up of eczema
- skin rash or hives

For many people, the signs are more subtle and it can be tricky to identify the cause of your allergic reaction – particularly if your symptoms are triggered by another factor. Some people are allergic to some cats but not others, as all cats produce their own individual amount of cat allergens.

Want to get a cat but not sure if you are allergic? Try visiting someone that has a cat, or head to a cat adoption centre, to test if cats trigger a reaction.

### **Do you suspect you may have a cat allergy?**

Before you plan on what to do next, it is important to discuss your allergy with a GP or health professional. This is particularly important if you have other allergic conditions, such as asthma, rhinitis or eczema.

Your GP or health professional may refer you for testing to confirm whether or not you have an allergy to cats. This can be done by a blood test and/or skin prick testing. In some cases, referral to an allergy specialist may be needed.

### **Can you become allergic to your cat if you weren't before?**

Most allergies occur in childhood or as a teenager – if you've previously lived with a cat in your family and didn't display allergy symptoms, it is likely that you'll be fine as an adult.

In rare cases, there is a chance that adults who lived with cats as children can develop allergy symptoms.

Sometimes, when someone has lived with an allergen for a prolonged period (living with a cat as a child, perhaps), they become tolerant to that particular pet. Then, when they are re-exposed to a different cat as an adult, they develop symptoms.

While this is rare, this can explain why some people feel that their allergy symptoms come on quickly with no notice. In addition, different cats produce different levels of allergen, meaning humans can be more or less sensitive to different cats.

Luckily, there are plenty of ways to manage your cat allergy symptoms.

### **I'm allergic to my cat. How can I manage my symptoms in my home?**

If you have found out that you do have an allergy, your doctor is the best person to give you advice on managing and alleviating your allergy symptoms. For example, you might benefit from using antihistamine tablets or nasal sprays. There are also a number of things you can do within your home to keep your symptoms at bay. These include:

- Having hardwood floors instead of carpets
- Using blinds instead of curtains
- Installing air filters to remove allergens
- Regularly cleaning where your cat sleeps
- Washing your cat's bed regularly
- Moving litter trays and cat beds away from air vents
- Create cat-free zones in your home, especially your bedroom
- Regularly open windows

for good ventilation

### **What can I do with my cat to manage allergy symptoms?**

Aside from keeping your house clean and free of allergens, there are several things to be mindful of as you interact with your cat. These include:

- Avoid being licked by your cat – this will spread allergens to you and could make symptoms worse
- Gently clean your cat with a damp cloth. You can use an anti-allergen coat cleanser too e.g. PetalCleanse
- Groom your cat outside
- After giving them a stroke, make sure you wash your hands thoroughly
- You can feed your cat special diets that help reduce the amount of active allergen that your cat releases into the environment.

### **Are any cats hypoallergenic?**

All cats produce allergens. Even hairless cats produce Fel d 1, the major cat allergen. The allergen

that is produced in the cat's saliva is spread onto skin and hair during grooming, and even hairless cats will shed dander (dead skin cells) with the allergen on it.

### **Should I keep my cat if I'm allergic to it?**

There is not a single correct answer to this question. But before you decide whether to keep your cat, you must make sure that it is your cat causing the allergic reaction. You don't want to go through the stress and upset of rehoming a much loved pet if your allergic reaction is caused by something else.

You have to decide whether the severity of your allergic reaction means you need to re-home your cat.

In some cases, the symptom-easing tips we have mentioned are enough to make living with a cat sustainable, but other people find that their allergic reaction makes living with a cat unbearable.

If you are not sure what to do, talk to your GP, your local Cats Protection branch and/or seek advice from Allergy UK.

## Cats and Toxoplasmosis

Did you know that people are more likely to pick up toxoplasmosis from their garden or undercooked/raw meat than their cat? By following good hygiene around your cat's litter tray, you can minimise the already small risk.

### **Can you catch toxoplasmosis from your cat?**

The good news is that your cat is unlikely to transmit this micro-organism to you. A study in the British Medical Journal concluded that contact with cats was not a major risk factor for toxoplasma infection.

Although cats are a link in the transmission of toxoplasmosis, you are more likely to get infected through contact with contaminated soil (from gardening without gloves), eating unwashed fruit or vegetables, or by eating undercooked meat.

Vets who work with cats are no more likely to be infected with toxoplasmosis than the general

public, including people who have no contact with cats. At the same time, 20-30 per cent of the population has already been infected with toxoplasmosis, giving most of them lifelong immunity to its effects.

The majority of people infected by the parasite, *Toxoplasmosis gondii*, or *T gondii*, will be unaware of it because infection goes unnoticed or causes mild flu-like symptoms.

However, for people with impaired immune systems, toxoplasmosis may be more serious.

### **Toxoplasmosis and pregnancy**

If a previously unexposed woman becomes infected during pregnancy, her unborn child may be at risk. Miscarriage could occur, particularly if infection occurs during the first trimester. However, it is estimated that only between 0.2 and 1.6 per cent of women become infected while pregnant.

Congenital toxoplasmosis, when the baby is born infected, is very rare, occurring in one in 100,000 babies born in the UK.

### **Minimise the risks of toxoplasmosis infection**

While the risk of getting infected with toxoplasmosis from your cat is small, there are steps you can take to minimise the risk further:

- wear disposable gloves and an apron when cleaning litter trays
- clean litter trays every day to prevent toxoplasmosis spores from developing from contaminated faecal matter
- wash the cat's litter trays periodically with detergent or cat-safe disinfectant and boiling water. Soak for 5-10 minutes
- cover children's sand pits to prevent cats soiling in them
- avoid feeding cats raw or under-cooked meat - or unpasteurised products

You can also reduce the risks of contracting toxoplasmosis from

other sources:

- wear gloves when handling raw meat, fruit and vegetables and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards
- avoid consuming cured or raw meats or unpasteurised dairy products
- wash all fruit and vegetables thoroughly, including ready-prepared salads, to remove any traces of soil
- wash all utensils, chopping boards and surfaces with hot water and detergent after handling raw meat, fruit and vegetables
- boil or filter surface water before drinking
- wear gloves when gardening and avoid putting hands or gloves to your mouth. Wash your hands thoroughly after contact with soil
- avoid contact with sheep and new-born lambs at lambing time

## Caring for Elderly Cats

Your elderly cat might still seem - and act - like a kitten, or they might be showing their age and struggling to do things that used to be easy.

Monitor your cat and take them to the vet if you are concerned by their changes in behaviour as there could be an underlying medical reason.

Nevertheless, your older cat(s) can benefit from small changes to your home. These little things can make a big difference to the cat's quality of life and help them cope with any aches and pains they may be experiencing.

### **Beds suitable for elderly cats**

Older cats will appreciate having a variety of cosy, well-padded beds in safe, warm places that are easy to reach. If your cat likes sleeping somewhere high, help them climb up by providing a ramp or a stool. You may also wish to consider providing a bed near a radiator to give them some extra warmth and comfort.

### **Grooming**

Your senior cat may find it difficult to look after their coat. Gentle grooming will help keep their skin healthy and provides valuable bonding time.

### **High perches**

Many older cats still love high places, but they may struggle to climb up the way they used to, especially if your cat has arthritis or another disease that causes pain. Older cats may also struggle to calculate the height of surfaces and so are more likely to fall and get hurt.

You can help your cat reach their favourite high perches by providing a ramp or a piece of furniture to act as a stepping stool. You could cover this in carpet to provide extra grip. It is a good idea to fashion a crash mat underneath the ramp in case the cat falls. Cushions under windowsills make perfect crash mats for uncoordinated or wobbly cats.

## **Litter trays and toileting**

Provide several litter trays in the house at all times, even if your cat has toileted outside all of their life. There will be times when an older cat needs an indoor litter tray, such as when it's raining, or if the usual toileting site is frozen, or if they feel intimidated by neighbouring cats. Place the litter trays in quiet areas of your home so your cat feels safe.

Large litter trays give your cat plenty of space to move and low sides make it easy for them to get in and out. Some litters may be too rough for an elderly cat, even if they were fine when they were younger. Don't make any sudden changes, but provide additional trays with 3cm of soft, fine litter that will feel more comfortable under their paws.

Older cats are less able to defend themselves and their territory, so they can become more anxious and more dependent on their owners. By going outside with your cat, you may help them to feel protected against neighbouring cats.

If your cat still prefers to toilet

outside, provide a newly dug-over border as close to the house as possible and maintain it regularly.

## **Playtime**

Older cats can still be playful, plus a little exercise is beneficial for their mental and physical health. Use toys that are unlikely to intimidate them, such as a feather attached to a string that you slowly move past them. Experiment with different toys to see what captures their attention. Any interaction - even just watching - provides useful stimulation.

## **Routines**

Cats love routines. This is even more true as cats get older, when they appreciate familiarity and predictability, such as being fed at the same time. Avoid moving furniture if possible so the home environment remains familiar and easy to navigate.

## **Scratching posts**

Older cats may still want to scratch, but they might find it more difficult as they get older. You could provide a horizontal scratching surface or one with a

lower gradient and softer material, such as carpet, which may be easier for them to scratch. Remember to check their claws regularly.

### **Water and food bowls**

Place water and food bowls in a few different easy-to-reach spots around your home, both upstairs and downstairs, so your cat doesn't have to struggle with stairs just to eat and drink. Ask your vet about a suitable diet for your older cat.

### **Veterinary care for senior cats**

Visit your vet if you have any concerns about your cat's health. Many conditions are treatable, and your vet may be able to help your cat get more enjoyment from their twilight years.

### **Saying goodbye**

As an owner, you'll know your cat better than anyone, so it's important to keep an eye on any changes in health or behaviour. There will come a time when your cat is in continual pain, discomfort or distress, and the most loving and courageous thing you can do is to end their suffering. Choosing to have your cat euthanised is one of the most difficult decisions you'll face, but it is often kinder to let your pet die in peace and with dignity.

### **Paws to Listen—grief support line**

Letting go is a decision that isn't made easily. If you feel you need support or someone to listen to your worries, get in touch with our free and confidential grief support line.

# Need to talk to someone?

Please get in touch, we're here and ready to listen.



# 0800 024 9494

(9am–5pm, Mon–Fri) free and confidential



## A Personal Fostering Story

“

“If I became a fosterer I wouldn't be able to part with the cats that come into my care , I would want to keep them all”.

We hear this frequently from people interested in fostering for us. It isn't easy by any stretch of the imagination parting with cats that you have been fostering for a while, especially when a cat comes into care that has been badly mistreated. It takes a lot of time and patience from the fosterer to earn that cat's trust. To know that a confident cat is finally emerging from its timid shell is rewarding in itself, but the biggest reward of all is when that cat goes off to it's forever home.

If you were to ask any one of the long-term fosterers in this branch, they will tell you that, at some point during their time fostering, they succumbed to the temptation and adopted a foster

cat they have been caring for. Suffice to say that it doesn't occur all the time, but when it does, it usually happens unexpectedly.

Several years ago, I was asked to go and collect a litter of kittens from a household to bring into care. On arrival at the household, the owner informed me that they were going to keep the kittens but she did have a young cat who was nursing a kitten in a cage in a bedroom. On seeing this young mother cat for the first time, I was very concerned at the conditions she was living in, a cage much too small, dried food on a bowl that appeared not to have been cleaned in days and no water. When I approached the cage it was apparent that the cat was very nervous and protective of its only kitten. At that moment, I knew that I had to bring the cat and her kitten home with me. The owner agreed to sign the cat

and kitten into CP care and I became their fosterer.

The little female cat was only five months old, still a kitten herself. She was being fostered in one of my spare rooms with plenty of room to roam about if she required. Each time I would go into the room, I would call her name and approach her slowly so as not to frighten her. She was still very nervous but was beginning to appear more relaxed in my company. Her little kitten was thriving and growing bigger by the day. The breakthrough came when she eventually let me stroke her without cowering down and a faint purr could be heard. As the weeks passed, I had a very confident kitten on my hands who would run up to me when I entered the room. Mum was still cautious but enjoyed a fuss and stroke.

The Homing Officer found a wonderful new home for the kitten and off he went. Mum had been neutered and was also ready to be re-homed. I remember going in to feed her

one morning and, upon opening the door, she came over to greet me, tail erect and confident. I think that was the moment I knew I just couldn't let her go and the decision was made—I adopted her as my own.

That was five years ago. Polly has become a much loved member of my family. She will never be a big cat, but what she lacks in size she makes up for in personality. She is a flirt around my male cats, rolling over to get their attention and generally annoying them until they take notice of her. She is still wary of strangers and won't go further than the back garden, but has blossomed into a loyal, loving and confident family cat.

Subconsciously, I believe that I had already made the decision to adopt her, on that very first day when I saw her in that tiny cramped cage protecting her kitten. ”

## **‘Behind the Scenes’ at the Branch**

You might rehome a cat from us, engage in one of our campaigns or meet us at a stall. But you might not know the full scope of our branch’s work.

We are a small team of volunteers, made up of a Branch Coordinator and Committee, as well as fosterers and fundraisers who work tirelessly to help improve cat welfare in our area.

### **Helping cats find new homes**

When a cat is admitted, we will conduct vet and behavioural checks, blood tests and, if the cat is not neutered or microchipped, these procedures will also be done. Because we are a small branch without a physical rehoming centre, the cat will be taken into the care of one of our trained fosterers. The majority of the cats will be kept indoors within a home environment, to minimize stress and make the transition easier for the feline.

We will then assess whether the cat is ready for adoption.

Following this check, we will either work with the cat until it is suitable for adoption (for example, if it has behavioural issues), or we will start looking for the right home for the cat right away. Some cats will also have medical issues that first need to be treated, before we can rehome the cat.

Our rehoming procedures give the cat the best chance of settling into their new home. We carefully review a potential adopter’s experience, living circumstances and lifestyle to see whether the cat is the right fit for them.

After the cat is rehomed, we are on hand at any time if the adopter needs advice or assistance with their new cat. In very rare cases, if the cat doesn’t settle in well, we will take the cat back into our care and look for a new home that is more suited to its needs.

## **Fundraising**

The care of cats naturally comes at a cost – medical bills, food and equipment. Luckily, a lot of our costs are minimised by the fact that our branch is fully run by a dedicated team of volunteers who manage the branch on a part-time basis, alongside work, university or other commitments.

However, the remaining costs rely on the funds that the charity can raise. There are a variety of ways our branch fundraises.

Some initiatives are managed by the central Cats Protection team. For example, supporters can sign up for the weekly lottery and choose to donate the funds directly to our branch.

Additionally, there are ways in which we, as a branch, have to fundraise. In normal circumstances, we might arrange stalls, bucket collections and other face-to-face events. Apart from fundraising for the cats in our care, these events are a useful means of spreading awareness on cat welfare and our services.

## **Feral cats**

A less known way in which we contribute to the local community is by controlling local feral cat populations. We operate a 'Trap, Neuter, Return' system whereby we trap feral cats when we are notified of them, then take them to the vet for a health check and neutering.

Trapping a feral cat to get them to the vets for neutering can be a stressful process – for the cat and the trapper. As feral cats are particularly scared of humans and don't like being confined in small spaces, it can take a lot of time and effort. Our volunteers sometimes have to try multiple times, sometimes taking days or weeks, in order to successfully trap a feral cat.

Next, neutering is a quick and safe procedure, after which they can recover from surgery, and then be returned to where they were found. Additionally, to make sure that an already neutered feral cat isn't unnecessarily trapped, they will have their ear 'tipped' or 'notched'. This is where between a half centimetre and one

centimetre of the tip of the left ear is removed while the cat is under anaesthetic. This serves as a permanent visual mark and can be seen from a distance. Ear tipping doesn't harm the cat as it is surgically removed by a veterinary professional while the cat is under anaesthetic. It heals quickly and has no lasting effects.

Finally, as feral cats are not socialised to humans or the domestic environment, it is the kindest thing to return them to where they were found.

### **Campaigns**

With ferals, neutering controls feral cat populations and helps prevent diseases spreading between ferals and domestic cats.

However, you may have also heard or even taken advantage of our free microchipping and neutering campaigns for domestic cats in our community. This is because Cats Protection champions neutering as the only effective way to reduce the number of unwanted cats in the UK.

The campaigns require the

coordination of our whole team. The committee decides on a budget for the campaign and when to run it. We then discuss it with our partnering veterinary practice. Our Publicity Officer creates a website article, posters, social media posts and anything else that can help us publicise the campaign. Then, our team take telephone, email and social media enquiries and direct them to our Neutering Officer who checks whether the owner is eligible for our help and if the cat is ready for neutering, then issues the vouchers and liaises with the vet.

### **Education**

Occasionally, our branch gets invited to give talks in the local community, such as in schools or community groups. We talk about the work of Cats Protection and cat welfare.

We are also available through email, telephone or social media to answer cat care and welfare queries. There is a lot of misinformation on the internet regarding microchipping, neutering, feeding and other aspects of cat care, so don't be

afraid to reach out! You can also find more information on our branch website or **[cats.org.uk](https://cats.org.uk)**

### **Publicity**

Finally, to publicise the work of our branch, we regularly update our website, social media and send out our bi-annual newsletter to keep our

supporters informed of what we are doing.

### **The wider work of the charity**

The work of Cats Protection as a whole has an even bigger scope. To find out more about our wider services, please visit: **[cats.org.uk](https://cats.org.uk)**

## **Animal Cruelty Sentencing—New Law Passed!**

### **Animal cruelty sentencing has increased to five years!**

The Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill has completed its passage through Parliament and has become law, meaning the maximum animal cruelty sentence will increase from six months to five years in England and Wales.

Cats Protection has been part of a coalition of animal welfare organisations calling for this change and we are delighted that this bill has passed, ensuring the UK is one of the world leaders on animal welfare issues.

We know that cats are one of the nation's most well-loved pets, yet all too often they are subjected to horrific cruelty. This new law reflects the views of the majority of the public which takes animal welfare seriously and will not tolerate the abuse of defenceless animals.

Cats Protection has also welcomed legislation to address low welfare pet imports, the licensing of animal sanctuaries, and measures to tackle pet theft. There is much more work to be done, but we are pleased at the recent developments.

## Adoption Information

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are still operating 'hands-free homing'. More information on the modified procedures will be provided upon your adoption enquiry.

If you are interested in adopting a cat from us, please email us at **[enquiries@haverhill.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@haverhill.cats.org.uk)** or call **01440 535131**, leave a message and a member of our team will call you back as soon as we can.

We advise that you do not enquire about adoption through social media, as you will be advised to contact us via email or telephone to discuss your query further.

We endeavour to make sure cats and kittens in our care are:

- Health checked
- Blood tested
- Neutered, where appropriate
- Vaccinated against cat flu and enteritis
- Microchipped
- Flea and worm treatment administered
- Provided with 4 weeks of free Petplan insurance

