

SUMMER EDITION 2021

Island Mews



The sunshine edition!

www.isleofwight.cats.org.uk

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF ISLAND MEWS

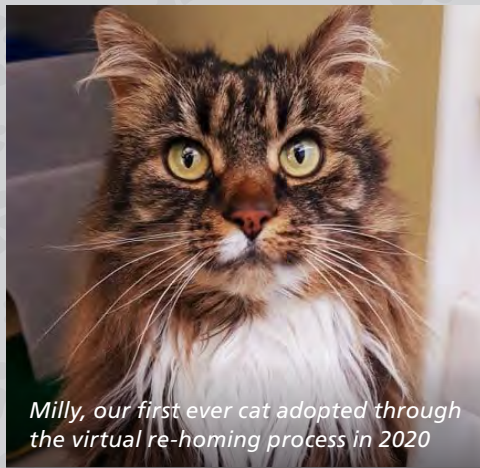
A huge welcome once again to all our readers. Thank you for staying with us and continuing your support for our Isle of Wight Centre and all the cats in our care.

Summer is indeed bringing us some much-needed rays of hope. Our staff finish their part-time furlough and we are thrilled to be inviting more of our volunteers back on site.

During lockdown, we introduced hands-free homing. This scheme has been so successful in helping us find the perfect match of home for our cats, that we will continue to offer virtual re-homing as an option.

We will also be welcoming potential adopters to the Centre (although initially by appointment only), so people have the opportunity to meet their moggy match. *(However for everybody's safety, and to ensure we stay operational, please may we ask all visitors to wear face masks).*

We're also really excited to tell you about our brand new Cat Care Collection.



Milly, our first ever cat adopted through the virtual re-homing process in 2020

Every item you buy helps your Isle of Wight Centre. Do find out more on page ten.

And finally, we would like to say a big thank you for everything you do for us. We really couldn't achieve so much without you.

Mel, Jo and rest of the CP team

MY DUCKLING RESCUE

When you love animals as much as we do, any animal rescued brings huge joy. Here's our Deputy Manager Jo to tell her tale.

"My Sunday morning started with a rescue of ducks, not cats! Heading to work, I was met with a distressed duck and two ducklings. When I realised they weren't moving out of the road, I stopped the car and tried herding them back into the hedge. Mummy duck wasn't having it and was pacing around on the edge by the verge. Then I saw that four babies had fallen down the drain. They were frantically calling to mum.

The drain was too heavy to budge. Luckily bird keeper Keely Woodberry from Haven



Falconry was driving past and stopped to help. She whizzed home to grab some nets, which enabled us to pull the ducklings safely through the grid.

Rescue complete and family reunited, they waddled off through the bushes and back to safety.

Thankfully there weren't any cats around!"

FOSTER CATS GALORE – A MILESTONE REACHED

Meet foster carers Kevin and Claire Eastwood, who've been fostering with us since 2018. Despite having eight of their own rescue cats, they decided they wanted to do more to help cats in need.

Luckily for us, they signed on to join our Foster Care Team and over the last three years have welcomed nine foster-care mum cats and 55 kittens into their home. Thanks to Claire and Kevin's incredible care and support, these cats were all able to get the best start in life and find loving forever homes. A huge thank you from all of us here at Cats Protection.



EURO 2020 COMES TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The kitten season hit us once again, with over 40 kittens needing care at our Centre so far this year. Thankfully our team of foster carers were on hand to help.

The first eight weeks of a cat's life are crucial in developing the social skills and confidence that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives. That's why we're always desperate to welcome new fosterers to help get all our kittens used to a home life, and of

course, give the mum cat a stress-free, loving environment to take care of her kittens and ultimately find a home for herself.

If you would like to know more about fostering, please contact Emma, our Volunteer Team Leader, who would love to tell you more. In the meantime, here's just a few more of the lucky feline families (including our Euro-Star team) in the care of the Eastwoods!



THE EURO 2020 KITTENS

Emma and her kittens. "As they were born on Euro 2020 Final day, we named them Saka, Rashford, Kane, Pickford, Philips, Shaw and Southgate."



THE DISNEY KITTENS

Belle's kittens. "As we named mum cat Belle, we thought we'd stick with Disney names so we have Cinders, Mulan, Merida, Jasmine, Elsa, Anna and Gaston."

SHY FOXY FINDS A HOME

Remember our Foxy appeal from our last issue? This very shy cat had been abandoned so many times in the past. And, despite all our appeals, nobody wanted to adopt her. So, we were absolutely thrilled when a very special family just fell in love with her.



Here's her new mum to tell the tale

"As soon as we saw Foxy on the website, we just knew she was the one for us.

When we brought Sooty (her new name) home, she was a very scared little cat. For nearly eight weeks, she would not leave her 'safe' room. She was also very defensive and would tell us to back off with a swipe of her paw. She never had her claws out – it was only a warning. She could not have bitten us either because all her rotting teeth had to be removed by Cats Protection because they had been causing her so much pain.

We wondered what sort of life she must have had for her to be so terrified. We knew she had been abandoned by numerous owners before. I am sure she wondered how long she would be with us! I wish I could tell her she needn't worry. When I adopt a cat, it is for her entire life – there was no way we would ever abandon this sweet little girl. We really would be her forever home.



As you can imagine, we were so happy when one day she tentatively ventured into the living room to join us. Sooty had finally turned the corner.

Three months later...

Sooty has blossomed. She spends so much time on my lap now – purring all the time and she talks constantly. The transformation of Sooty, from when we first adopted her to now, is truly astonishing. I feel the miraculous change in Sooty is due to giving her the time she needed to adjust to yet another home.

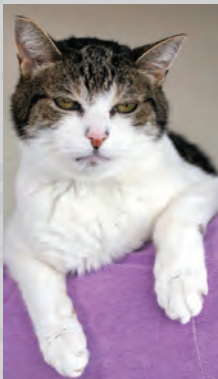
Each day she gets more and more loving. We have earned her trust, and we have been rewarded with her love and affection. This little nervous cat only wanted a quiet and peaceful home and wanted someone to love her to bits. I feel she has now found this, and we will always be there for her".

Shy cats like Sooty often get overlooked at the Centre, sometimes waiting for many months to find a home. If you're looking to adopt, please do think about giving one of these shy cats a second chance in life.

COULD TOBI BE CATS PROTECTION'S CAT OF THE YEAR?

A cat adopted in 2005 from our IOW Centre, has been named as a finalist in Cats Protection's National Cat Awards.

Tobi beat hundreds of other entries to take his place as one of three contenders in the Outstanding Rescue Cat category, celebrating cats adopted from rehoming charities. The results will be announced later this year.



The 15-year-old puss was selected as a finalist in recognition of how he helped Misha (now 26 years old), cope with a traumatic childhood. Having suffered mental health issues, Misha attempted to take her own life before she was taken into foster care at 15 years old.

Having insisted on keeping her beloved pet with her in foster care, Misha had a constant source of companionship and comfort, helping to heal her emotional scars. Sixteen years later, the pair are still together living in a home of their own.

Here's what Misha told us...

"Tobi has been there for me through thick and thin; he has seen me at my lowest and stuck with me. He's got a huge personality so he is constantly making me laugh. When things were very bad when I was a teenager, he would always be there for me to cuddle when I was crying. Nowadays, whenever I'm upset, I guarantee he'll be by my side in five seconds.

Tobi has been my rock, best friend and soul mate, and I know for sure I would never have made it this far without him.

Tobi is now nearly 16 and has been diagnosed with kidney disease, so it's my turn to be strong for him, and it breaks my heart.

Every Christmas and birthday is a blessing and I am grateful every day for the love, friendship and security he has given me for most of my life."

A celebration of feline companionship

The Cats Protection's National Cat Awards is a celebration of the real-life stories of heroism, loyalty and companionship in the feline world.

It's incredibly moving to hear just how important Tobi has been to Misha during the most difficult years of her life.

They've come so far together, and their story highlights the remarkable bond between people and cats.



All of us at the Isle of Wight Centre wish Misha and Tobi lots of luck with the Awards, and above all, many more happy years together.

LEXI - A GIRL WITH TORTITUDE

Just look at that comical face! Affectionate, playful, bags of personality and with a little bit of that sassy character we love Torties for. So we just didn't understand why we couldn't find her a home? Ok, she wasn't one to be bossed around, and yes, she could be mischievous at times; but we knew there had to be somebody out there who loves a cat with a bit of character. And along came that very person!

David, who adopted her, absolutely adores Lexi and keeps us up-to-date with all her exploits (which we absolutely love to hear - as we do for all our adopted cats!).

Here's what Dave told us:

"Lexi is settling in nicely and she's loving being outside. She often sits in the next door garden and spies on my dog through the gap. It's very funny to see. She's been so well behaved and very affectionate. She also loves her food - she's always screaming to be fed. (Well you did warn me she could be quite a character!)

She's still not a big fan of the dog but she tolerates him; he shows little interest in her but does get a bit jealous when I fuss her instead of him. I'm not sure he knows what to make of this new addition to the family.

Thank you so much for allowing me to give Lexi her home"

And thank you David for rescuing one of our many cats in need!



Did you know...

- 'Tortoiseshell' is not a breed of cat. Tortie cats are so named because their fur pattern has a similar look to the shell of the larger exotic tortoises and turtles.
- They usually have very distinctive personalities (often known as Tortitude). They can be very wilful and are often known as the divas of the cat world.
- Torties have a huge fan club around the world. Such is their appeal that most Tortie owners wouldn't dream of having any other cat. As one Tortie owner told us:

"Once you 'go Tortie' there's no going back. Life is just plain boring without one!"

PLEASE HELP US FIND MIFFY A HOME

Miffy is a dear little Tortoiseshell cat. She is five years old and has been in our care for over three months. Miffy came to us all the way from Wales where her owner had been evicted and Miffy was left homeless. Understandably, she was very stressed and had lost a lot of fur because of this. Fate then hit her hard and she got very ill with cat flu. Thankfully she's a fighter and pulled through but she had suffered so much, we thought she would be best placed in foster care for some love and affection in a quiet home.

Her coat has started to improve and we are confident that with time and lots of TLC, it will soon be back to all its natural gorgeous colours of amber, cinnamon and chocolate. She's also gaining in confidence.

Here's what her foster mum told us

"Miffy is an affectionate cat who likes company but enjoys her own time as well. Being a curious Tortie, she likes to poke her nose into everything and, when she finds something that can be a toy, she will appropriate it until it no longer amuses her.

She explores high places and soft duvets, settling down wherever she feels comfortable for a quick or extended nap. Her purr is sweet and low but never far away and Miffy also has an occasional enquiring voice which she uses to establish where others are.



Miffy, when she arrived at Cats Protection



She loves running up and down stairs, preferably batting a toy but sometimes just for the fun of it. I think she would be happiest with an older family who will be able to give her a secure and happy home with plenty of attention. She is an adorable cat".

If you would like to find out more about Miffy, please do give us a call. We would be so happy to tell you more about her.

Did you know...

- All Torties are ladies. (Torties have a unique genetic code so only about one in 3000 is a male).
- In folklore, Torties were said to bring good luck. For this reason, they're sometimes called 'Money Cats' in the USA. And in Japan, they're believed to ward off evil spirits. In fact, Japanese sailors sometimes kept these cats on their boats to keep themselves safe from harm while on the water.
- Even today, in many places, it is still regarded as good luck if a stray Tortie settles in your home.

We certainly believe that any home with a Tortie is a lucky one!

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

As restrictions are lifted, we want to reflect on some of the volunteering that has been going on during COVID and various lockdowns, and to say a big...

THANK YOU!



Our COVID volunteers include:

- Fosterer **Dave** who has not had a break between foster cats during this time, going way above and beyond what we would normally ask.
- Lost and Found volunteers **Pauline, Christine and Danielle** who are available to give advice about lost or found cats outside of adoption centre hours via lostandfound@isleofwight.cats.org.uk
- Charity Shop Media volunteer **Pauline** who has been posting donated items for sale on Facebook and eBay, raising hundreds of pounds for the Centre in the process.
- Social Media volunteer **Maeve** who has been creating posters, videos and graphics to promote our cats; writing success stories about happily homed cats and kittens; and creating promotional media for fundraisers raising money for our Centre.

- Newsletter and Promotions volunteer **Janine**, who put together this very newsletter you are reading, and also creates videos and media content to showcase the cats.
- Fosterer **Linda**, who looked after Felix for a lengthy period before homing in order to stabilise his thyroid condition.
- Fundraising volunteer **Lara** who managed our Beauty Hamper Raffle, organising ticket sales and contacting our supporters who donated to the raffle.
- Food Sorters **Dee and Matthew** who record and organise all the donations our very generous supporters leave in our food donation bins around the island.
- Food Collection volunteers **Sandy, Shaun and Lynne** who have been transporting us the food (and litter) donations throughout COVID and multiple lockdowns.

So much work has been going on behind the scenes to help us keep Cats Protection Isle of Wight operating, and we can't thank our volunteers enough for what they've achieved during COVID. As restrictions ease, we will be looking forward to having our hands-on Cat Socialising volunteers back, as the last time they were able to do so was December 2020! We miss you and are looking forward to seeing you.

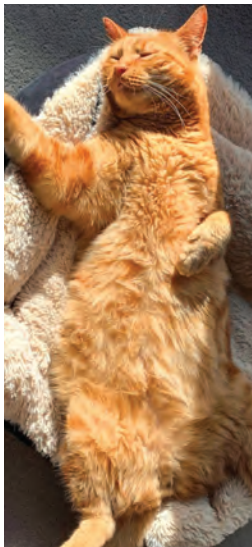
COOL FOR CATS?

Is your cat a sun-loving fluffball? Most kitties love the sun, but just as for us, sunburn, skin cancer, dehydration and heatstroke are real threats and can be fatal. Here's a few tips to keeping your cats safe during summer.

Keeping your cat cool

- Dab a small towel soaked in cold water over your cat's fur, or just stroke your cat with wet hands, to bring some relief.
- Use a cooling mat. There are a wide range for pets available to buy, but placing freezer blocks or pads, or even a pack of frozen vegetables, well wrapped in a blanket will have a similar effect.
- If possible, keep your cat indoors from 10am-3pm when the sun is at its strongest and most dangerous.

Heatstroke can be serious. Signs include collapse, panting and dribbling. If you suspect your cat is suffering, move him to a cool place, wet his coat with cool water (not freezing) and contact a vet immediately.



Sunburn and skin cancer

Sunburn and skin cancer are possible in all cats. However pale-coloured cats, or cats that have unpigmented white noses or ears, are at particular risk.

Use a sunscreen to protect these sensitive areas. Focus on your cat's nose, tips of the ears, belly and groin areas as well as anywhere that has thin to no fur. Use a sunscreen designed specifically for pets. Do not use human sunscreens as many contain products that can be toxic to animals if ingested. (And we all know how much cats like to groom themselves!)



Watch out for those cats that love to snooze inside by their favourite sunny window – he will still be absorbing UV light. You can get UV blocking film to prevent the rays from coming through your windows.



Dehydration

Pinch a bit of skin at the top of your cat's neck - if the skin doesn't fall back immediately, your cat is likely to be dehydrated. Sticky gums (rather than simply wet gums) are another sign.

The following tips will help to encourage your cat to drink more and stay hydrated during the summer months:-

- Cats prefer to drink away from where they eat, so place your cat's water bowl in a separate location.
- Put water bowls in different places around the house so cats always find somewhere to drink.
- Try different sized bowls. Many cats prefer wide-rimmed bowls because they don't like their whiskers touching the sides. However some prefer drinking from a glass of water, so provide some 'cat-only' glasses but make sure they can't easily be knocked over.
- Avoid plastic bowls, especially in the heat. These can taint the taste of the water. Use glass or ceramic instead.
- Consider adding a tasty flavour to the water such as low-salt tuna ice cubes.
- Many cats prefer running water, so try offering a cat fountain.
- If you feed your cat tinned food, small amounts of water can be mixed into the food, which will increase fluid intake.
- Some cats hate the taste of chlorine in tap water, so try offering bottled water instead.

Dehydration is serious, so do contact your vet if you suspect dehydration.

A PLEA FOR YOUR HELP

As the world starts to open up again, here at Cats Protection we're bracing ourselves for more tough times. We don't know what's going to come through our doors. But we know that we will help every cat that does.

Over the next few months, we know we are about to become exceptionally busy as we continue to deal with the impact of lockdown.

Sadly, many people are struggling for financial, physical or mental health reasons due to the pandemic. As a result, we will see many cats whose owners will come to us heartbroken, because they can no longer care for their beloved cat.

We will see cats who are ill, having missed vaccinations and having had veterinary treatments delayed or cancelled. We will see litters of tiny kittens whose young parents haven't been neutered. And sadly, we will see many more strays - cats evicted or abandoned. Cats Protection will always be here for the cats but now we need your help more than ever.

One of the best ways to help (beside adopting a cat!) is to purchase something from our great IOW merchandise shop.

Whether it's essential cat care items for your kittie, a gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself, (such as this quirky Simon's Cat shopping bag) we have them all available from our IOW Centre.

And now we've made it even easier for you, since you can now choose from the comfort of your armchair.

What's more, every single purchase you make, helps raise money for our Isle of Wight Centre and the cats in our care.

Now that really is something to be 'Feline Good' about!

To purchase any of our merchandise (all items are listed on our website www.cats.org.uk/isleofwight), simply call us on 03000 120 251 or email us at isleofwight@cats.org.uk. Then just let us know when you're ready to collect, and we'll have it waiting for you.



Tried and tested by our very own Suzie

Our resident cat, Suzie is certainly 'Feline Good' in her donut bed. Despite her rather large size, she snuggled in perfectly and was determined to steal it from the shop and claim this as her very own.

This bed is just one of the many items available from our Cat Care range. A deep and snuggly bed, such as this one, is especially ideal for shy cats since it helps them to feel secure and safe.

Check out some of Suzie's other favourite items on the next page.

CAT CARE COLLECTION – SOME OF SUZIE'S FAVOURITES

GIFT YOUR KITTY!



GROOMING ARCH £7.99

Grooming Arch

We all know cats love to rub around things - this allows them to mark the area. This grooming arch allows Suzie to indulge that behaviour and groom herself at the same time (as if Suzie doesn't get enough groom time from us already!). It also gives her a lovely massage as she rubs through it. If only they made a human version!

POUNCE AND CAT-CHI!



DANGLY FISHING ROD TOY £2.99 EACH

Dangly Fishing Rod Toy

Pounce and Cat-ch (we do love a good cat pun!). Although Suzie is just a wee bit lazy, these dangly rods seem to stimulate her interest and are just the thing to give her a bit of much-needed exercise. Feather or mouse - which to choose? Well Suzie likes to alternate. It reminds her of her hunting days long ago – although these days, she leaves the leaping, bounding and twirling around in the air to the younger kitties.

INDULGE THEIR NATURAL INSTINCTS!



DOUBLE-SIDED TEXTURED SCRATCHER £6.99

Double-Sided Texture Scratcher

Being a lady, Suzie is quite particular in keeping her claws in their best condition. And this scratcher is perfect for her self-manicure. Also, surrounded by other moggies in the Centre, she wants to leave them in no doubt that this is her territory. (Scratching enables cats to leave their own distinctive scent and visual markers). This particular scratcher is Suzie's favourite since it has two different textures on it for her to explore.

PERFECT FOR ARTHRITIC CATS!



STEP-IN LITTER TRAY £5.99

Step-in Litter Tray

Being a rather elderly lady of a certain age (almost 17 years old), Suzie doesn't like to admit it, but she has a little difficulty getting into high-sided trays these days. This one has a lowered entry to make it much easier. It's also nice and large, great for bigger kitties like Suzie, giving them lots of room for manoeuvring. (We all know how cats love to turn round and round in circles to find just that perfect spot in the tray).

BARGAINS GALORE! GET THERE FAST!



The Isle of Wight Cats Protection Online Charity Shop

You can now shop all the best items from our charity shop, from the comfort of your favourite chair. Every day we feature some of the best goodies from our shop – whether it be a snazzy piece of jewellery, the occasional designer dress (or suit!), a gorgeous handbag or some great items for your home. It's a chance to grab yourself a bargain. But you need to be quick. We get lots of great stock donated to us, but it goes fast.

How does it work? We make it really easy

- Simply log on to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/IsleOfWightCatsProtectionAdoptionCentreCharityShop
- Select the item you want and tell us you'd like it, via the 'Comments' section
- We'll message you to confirm the item is yours
- Then all you do is hit the 'Donate' button to pay for it
- We'll put it aside for you and you can let us know when you want to collect it from our Centre (any day between 9am-4pm)

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Sign up to our newsletter

To subscribe to our newsletter, just phone or email Reception for a sign-up form and return it to us, and we'll do the rest. You'll receive four issues of cat-infused happiness per year, free of charge.

If you'd prefer a printed copy by post, we do ask for a small contribution of £8 per year to cover printing and postage costs.

Unwanted clothing, shoes, sheets, towels?

We want them!
Just drop them off
in our green bin at
our entrance gate.
All donations very
gratefully received.



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Reg Charity no. 203644 (England and Wales) SCO3771 (Scotland)