

AUTUMN EDITION 2019

Island Mews



**Nothing is
ever just
Black &
White....**



www.isleofwight.cats.org.uk

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF ISLAND MEWS

The golden colours of Autumn may be on their way, but here at our Centre, we've had a stunning array of black-and-white adorning the cattery. Over 50 of these strikingly-patterned kitties have joined us since May, including our lovely Pie and Harriet pictured here. Twelve alone came from just one house where the owner could no longer care for her cats.

We also had a big transfer of cats (would you believe, mainly black-and-white again!) from the mainland RSPCA, which had run out of space and needed help.

Like their black cousins, black-and-white cats always seem harder to re-home, for no other reason than their colour. But turn to page 7 and you will see that nothing is ever just black-and-white, or indeed just black. We guarantee you'll see these gorgeous cats in a completely new light!

Thankfully the kitten season is gradually coming to an end. We've re-homed over 70 kittens so far this year and have another 19 still in foster care! But at last, they're starting to make way for their older buddies who tend to get overlooked whilst the younger ones hog all the attention. Fortunately, our oldest cat Orly (a very sprightly 18-year-old) managed to out-shine the youngsters and got herself a lovely forever home. Do read her heart-warming story on page 8. We just love happy endings!

Mel, Jo and the CP team



AND ON THE SUBJECT OF KITTENS...

We just couldn't resist sharing this photo of Milly's seven kittens - pictured here at just 8-weeks old.

Milly came to us from the RSPCA and shortly after gave birth. Sadly, she became poorly and one of our volunteer fosterers had to hand-rear all seven kittens until Milly was well enough to look after them again. We are delighted to share the news that Milly and all her kittens have now found loving homes.



FUNDRAISING ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT



RAISING FUNDS FOR OUR CATS

It's been an eventful Summer with our fundraising efforts.

In July, we had another one of our ever popular Cats' Tea Parties at the Centre, and raised £323 in the process. Thank you to Tesco for supplying the food and to Jan Gibson, Tesco Community Champion, who worked her socks off in the kitchen on the day.

In August you would have found us at the Chale Show where we chatted to lots of visitors, handed out cat masks to the kids and sold lots of CP goodies, raising a great £233.

Then came Jack up the Summer...

We always have great fun at this Newport festival, and just love all the feel-good music from the 80s and 90s. However it didn't feel quite so good on the opening Friday. To say it was windy was an understatement. Putting up the gazebo in strong winds on the Friday was a daunting task, but Mel hammered those pegs in like a pro and we borrowed weights to help keep the gazebo in place.

When we returned on Saturday, we did wonder if it might have blown away but no, ours was still standing. Others had not fared so well! Even the main stage had to be rebuilt, so the day was in effect a write-off.

Fortunately on Sunday, the weather was kind and our team pulled together and had a fantastic time. You could see so many people wearing our cat-ear headbands and our flea market was a huge hit. We raised over £600 in one day and got to have a boogie to the music too!

Scaling the heights for our cats...

A huge thank you to Angela (pictured) and Marie who braved the heights of the Spinnaker Tower for a thrilling 330ft abseil for our Centre. Between them, these daring ladies raised £892. Go Girls!



GOOD NEWS STORIES

Often we get cats here at the Centre that have a few health problems and need quite a bit of initial veterinary care and TLC to help them on their way. Sadly, many of these cats often get overlooked by our visitors and find themselves staying with us for many months.

All our long-stay cats get lots of love and personalised daily socialisation programmes to ensure their well-being, but we are always delighted when someone comes along and is prepared to offer them a home. Here's an update on three of our 'special needs' cats featured in our appeals in previous newsletters.

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JELLYBEAN

Fourteen year-old Jellybean came to us back in March due to her owner moving. Sadly, she had a few health issues and needed a thyroidectomy. This, combined with her age, meant that she became one of our long-stay cats. However, after five months of waiting, it was her turn to find a loving home. Here's what her new family told us:

"I was looking to adopt an older cat to give her a comfy place to spend her time. As soon as I saw Jellybean in the cattery, I knew she was the one.



On the day we brought her home, Jelly surprised us completely – she just walked out of the cat carrier and onto the carpet and made herself comfy very quickly. She was affectionate right from the start and was super-eager to rub against us and get to know us.

Jellybean has to be one of the most beautiful cats I have ever met. She is a bubbly, affectionate girl who loves to greet me every time I come back from work. She is always the best thing to come home to. She has very chilled-out days, either lying in the sun on the decking (being the older lady she is), or right in the middle of my comfy double bed. Of course, I have to lay around her as she gets top priority.

Jellybean is perfect. She is my first cat and has blossomed my love for cats completely.

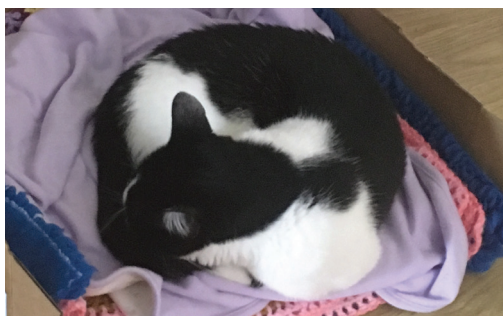


COOPER

Cooper arrived at our Centre in May. He had been suffering from a urinary condition and his owners found it difficult to cope. They were on the verge of putting him to sleep, but luckily the vets suggested that Cats Protection might be able to help, taking him into care and finding another home for him. After many months of trying to find him a home, one lovely family came to visit and fell in love with him. Here's what they told us.

Cooper's story...

"Both of our young children were quite nervous around animals, so we decided that a child-friendly cat would be best for them.



We first saw Cooper on the website and decided that we would give him a visit. That weekend, we popped in to see him and both of our children were completely at ease with him and spent the next few days talking all about Cooper. He had made quite the impression, and despite having a bit of a medical history, we felt that we could give him the love and care he needed to feel stress-free, as well as a very busy home to keep him entertained.

Cooper has settled in amazingly. He loves playing in the garden now, chasing our feet first thing in the morning before his breakfast and running with his toy mouse around the house (with the kids joining in too!) and his health has been perfect.

He is the most cuddly, fun, handsome cat ever and is completely part of our family. We love him!



PURDY

Purdy originally came into our care back in April 2018 and was very soon adopted.

Unfortunately, Purdy started spraying around the house and there was clearly a problem. Neither the vets nor behaviour experts could understand why. Eventually her owner couldn't cope any more and brought her back.

We soon found out that Purdy had a urinary infection and she was immediately put on a long course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. This, together with a special socialisation programme, high-quality food, and the use of Pet Remedy and Zylkene (to reduce stress), helped Purdy improve dramatically and she appeared much happier. Could it have been she had always had this urine infection, which had simply gone undetected?

And could Purdy now at last be re-homed again? A resounding YES!!

An understanding adopter came forward and in May 2019, Purdy left for her forever home. Thankfully Purdy has never sprayed in her new home, which she shares with the resident budgie! Needless to say, she is very interested in her feathered companion.

Purdy's mum tells us "Purdy is extremely affectionate and loves exploring the fields behind the house. I'm so pleased I gave Purdy the chance she deserved"



SPECIAL FEATURE – BLACK (& WHITE) CATS

NATIONAL BLACK CAT DAY

While some might think that black cats are boring, we wholeheartedly disagree. In aid of National Black Cat Day on 27th October, Cats Protection has brought out its very own colour collection, which shows the world how brilliant our monochrome moggies can be.

Consisting of fifty shades, their latest collection shows the different subtle hues you'll find in each of our stunning black cats. Look closely at any one of our black cats, and you'll see a range of opulent red tones, lavish green shades and shimmering noires.

All of these are bought together to form a palette that is the very essence of 'black cat.'

Download the chart and find out what your cat's true colour is (https://www.cats.org.uk/media/1873/all_swatches_-_180927_bcd_colour_swatch_0244.pdf).

Whether they are a 'Rosello red', 'dusky black' or Brewster Green', we believe all shades of black cat are beautiful.



Black Panther? Or Knight Rider black? Come over and discover our stunning 3-year old Olly

Download our colour swatches

Think you know your cat's true colour? Download our swatches to see what shade of black they are.

Download

ISLE OF WIGHT & BLACK DAY

Meanwhile here at the Centre, we're celebrating our very own *Isle of Wight-and-Black* day in honour of the fifty or so beautiful black-and-white cats we currently have in our care. They too have their very own Cats Protection colour chart. Five crazy patterns of black and white - Zebra, Oreo, Dalmatian, Posh Penguin and Cow Patch. Why not come over to the Centre and see for yourself? We're pretty sure you'll find one of each kind here, along with a whole range of colourful personalities, ages and sizes.



Oscar – 4 years old. Probably a very 'Posh Penguin' - and looking for a home.

A NEW HOME FOR ORLY

Being a volunteer at Cats Protection over a period of some 25 years, I have come into contact with so many lovely cats and kittens of all ages, colours and personalities. I love each and every one of them, but sometimes a certain one comes along that pulls at your heart strings. It happened to me in August, when I met 18-year-old tabby girlie Orly.

In June, my heart had been broken because we had to let our beautiful Merlin go to Rainbow Bridge when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. He was our youngest fur-baby at just under 11-years-old and we have Marti who's 20 and Minky (another CP rescue we have had since 2002) age 17. Merlin would never accept another cat into our family so I had steeled my heart when certain cats or kittens had taken my eye but, when the pain of losing him lessened slightly, I began to think that maybe giving another cat a loving home would help my husband and I to heal.



Orly was that cat

I always feel so sorry for older cats who have come into care through no fault of their own. Although I know they are well-looked after and cared for at the Centre, it is not the same as being in the loving home that they have been used to all their lives.

When I first held Orly's bony little body in my arms and was rewarded with purrs and dribble, my heart melted. At first I decided to wait and see if someone else would come forward and offer her a loving home but, deep inside, I think I knew from the start that Orly was coming home with me. At 18, I felt she would settle in well with my 17 and 20-year-olds, as their day consists of eating, drinking and napping - something that they could all do together.



ADOPTING AN OLDER CAT



Taking on an older cat can be so rewarding; they love their home comforts and Orly, who we now call Molly, just revels in being able to curl up on the bed in the sunshine or cuddle up on our laps. She hardly stops purring and as soon as she sees us, she chats away telling us how grateful she is to be part of the household. She has also blossomed in the two weeks we have had her, gaining in weight and definitely feeling less bony day-to-day.

Of course we don't know how long we will have Molly (Orly), but I have come to realise that life is not predictable anyway. We will give her the best things in life for however long she is with us and, when the time comes, we will do the kindest thing we can for her, however hard that may be.

Fostering-to-adopt is an option offered by Cats Protection and is a good way of seeing if an older cat will settle with existing furries. We have had no trouble with Marti and Minky accepting Molly so. After two weeks, we signed the adoption papers and she is now officially part of the Brook household. I would urge anyone to think about adopting older cats in CP care as it is a very rewarding experience and makes such a difference to these beautiful senior kitizens. We are so hoping we will have Molly for many more years to come; after only just over two weeks, we love her to bits.

Thank you to all the staff at CP who helped and encouraged me to make the decision I knew was destined to be from the start.

Pauline Brook

HELP! MY CAT'S GONE MISSING

It's a desperate time when your cat goes missing. Follow our checklist of what to do...

☐ **SEARCH EARLY**

Cats are territorial, so a lot of cats that are missing are often found in the first few days within roughly a five-house radius from where they live. Cats that are new to the area, or shy cats, may have panicked and gone into survival mode, so are probably hiding even closer. They are too scared to move and will probably not respond to your calls. So check your garden and garage thoroughly and also those of your neighbours. Don't forget to ask the local kids - they tend to notice animals.

☐ **CHECK UNDER AND IN EVERYTHING**

If they're injured or scared, they'll often be hiding in or under something. Your cat might be hiding in the unlikeliest of places – from cupboards to bin stores. Don't underestimate your kitty's shrinkability skills. That tiny gap under the shed? Check it.

☐ **LOOK WHEN IT'S DARK**

Cats will often wait until it's dark to search for food. At this time, your cat is also more likely to hear your calls and to respond. Take a flashlight to look in bushes, under cars etc where he or she may be hiding.

☐ **TEMPT HER BACK**

Cats have a strong sense of smell, so leaving out a tasty treat such as tuna might be enough to tempt her back. Do it at the same time every night, then try to keep watch from a distance. (Some people even place a baby monitor near the food so they won't miss her if she returns). If you see it's your cat and you need help catching her, we may be able to help you set up a trap cage.

☐ **CONTACT LOCAL VETS & RESCUE CENTRES**

Somebody may have brought your cat in. If your cat is microchipped, contact PETLOG, who may be able to help with the search.

☐ **PUT UP POSTERS**

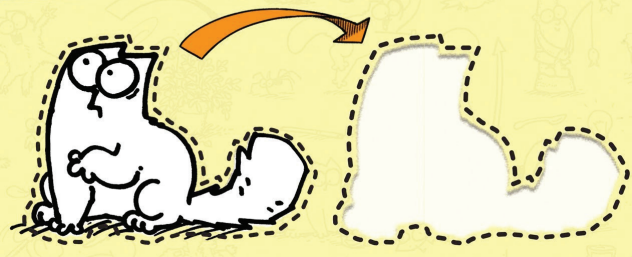
Local shops and community centres will often be happy to put them up. People do take notice. If you need help with creating a poster, we can provide you with a template.

☐ **NEVER GIVE UP HOPE**

Cats are driven by strong survival instincts and can survive a long time on their own. As we've reported in previous issues, cats are often reunited with their owners, months or even years after they've gone missing.

Simon's
Cat
LOGIC

CATS GONE MISSING



SO DON'T DESPAIR!

For more tips on what to do if you've lost a cat, watch our Simon's Cat video at <https://youtu.be/iLJrG0hDI-8>

VOLUNTEERING FOR CATS PROTECTION

HELLO FROM THE IOW VOLUNTEERING TEAM...

Since Emma, our Volunteer Team Leader joined us in April, we are thrilled to have had so much interest from people wanting to join the volunteer team. We're very pleased to be welcoming so many people to join us.

Our main focus now is to ramp up our volunteer fundraising team!

We regularly attend fun events such as the Chale Show, Jack Up The Summer and the Garlic Festival, in addition to the many merchandise pop-up stalls we hold throughout the year. Our fundraising team are absolutely vital - not only do they raise much-needed funds, but also help us share information on cat welfare and, most importantly, help us promote our lovely cats available for adoption.

We are desperate for more people to join the team. If you are a people-person and cat-lover, and if you feel passionately about raising awareness and funds for Cats Protection, we would love to hear from you. Just give Emma a call or email her on IsleofWight.VTL@Cats.org.uk.



One of our volunteers running our merchandise stall at Pets At Home

FROM KITTIES TO KITES.....

One of the newest fundraising events for us is the Isle of Wight Kite Festival, organised specially to raise funds for Cats Protection IOW. We are very thankful to Scout Gregory who organised the September event this year. Here's what he had to say:-

"The festival was a great success! It was so nice to see so many people out enjoying themselves flying kites high in the sky. We managed to raise a grand total of £210.45 for IOW Cats Protection, which is a fantastic achievement for our first ever event.

Of course none of this would have been possible without our amazing team of helpers. A massive thank-you also to 'A Higher Sound' who kindly provided the sound equipment free of charge and 'The Plaza Ices', who generously donated a proportion of their takings. We can't wait for The Isle Of Wight Kite Festival 2020 which will be even bigger and better"

We'll hope you'll join us!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Bingo Night

• Bingo •
Bumper Raffle
Including **NEW**
32 inch TV!

Ticket includes
Ploughmans and
Bingo cards for the
night

£15 PER PERSON

Friday 11th October 2019 7.30pm
Shanklin Conservative Club
Regency Suite

Tickets available from
Cats Protection, Ryde, Isle of Wight

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) SC03771 (Scotland)

Come and join us at our Bingo Night from 7:30pm on Friday 11th October at the Regency Suite, Shanklin Conservative Club.

Ticket includes Ploughmans and Bingo cards for the night, all for just £15, PLUS the chance to win fantastic prizes and BIG CASH Jackpots in our bumper raffle!

Get your tickets from Cats Protection now!

CATS PROTECTION IOW

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Sign up to our newsletter

We will now be featuring each edition of our newsletter on our website. However if you'd prefer to get the latest issue hot-off-the-press, delivered direct to your inbox, please do subscribe. 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, completely free of charge (for an emailed version). If you prefer a printed copy by post, we do ask for a small contribution of £8 per year to cover the cost of printing and postage.

Or join our Facebook group

That way you'll hear the news as it happens:
www.facebook.com/iowcats

More dates for your diary

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 23rd November, 7:30pm start
Newclose Cricket Club, Blackwater
£2pp. Teams of up to four people. Book your team as space is limited

CATMASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 22nd December
Cats Protection IOW
With the Boogie Woogie Sisters – come and sing some carols with us and bring a Christmas toy for the cats

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 22nd February 2020, 7:30pm start
Newclose Cricket Club, Blackwater
£2pp. Teams of up to four people, book your team as space is limited

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