

WINTER EDITION 2020

Island Mews



Mikey's Magical Journey



www.isleofwight.cats.org.uk

WELCOME TO THE FESTIVE EDITION OF ISLAND MEWS

As we look back on this strange year, we reflect how fortunate our Isle of Wight Adoption Centre is. There are so many people who give their time, their skills and their donations to support our Centre.

We would have loved to have thanked everyone by name in this introduction, but there are just too many people to mention. But this edition is dedicated to all of you.

...To all our team, who have kept the Centre running throughout lockdown and taken such good care of our cats.

...To our volunteers, for your patience, enthusiasm and your continued support.

...To our fosterers, who have made such a big difference to the lives of cats in their care and helped them find loving homes.

...To our fundraisers, for hosting events, running (and rollerblading!) miles and using all their talents, skills, creativity and sheer chutzpah to raise funds in so many ways.

...To all our donators; every single penny, and every single toy makes a difference.

...To all our local businesses who have



Mel and Jo, getting ready to welcome all our visitors to our virtual Christmas Fayre

promoted us and helped us with food donations and much much more.

... To all our newsletter supporters, especially those who have been with us from the start.

All this support from our local community means so much to us; we couldn't achieve as much as we do without you. Thank you.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and hopefully a much happier New Year!

Mel, Jo and the CP team



BEATRICE DOES US PROUD

We would just like to say a HUGE thank you to Beatrice (just seven years old) who decided to rollerblade the length of Ryde Esplanade (all two miles of it) to raise funds for our Centre. She managed to raise an amazing £40 for the cats in our care!

This was all her own idea and an amazing feat, since she only learnt to rollerblade a couple of weeks beforehand.

We are so incredibly grateful for all donations, especially during this difficult time. And don't forget, we LOVE to hear about some of the ways in which our supporters are raising funds for us - so do let us know what you're up to.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

OUR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A huge thank you to everyone who watched, or took part in, Cats Protection Isle of Wight's first ever Virtual Christmas Fayre. We are so grateful for all your wonderful support.

Christmas time is usually a very busy time for us, but sadly, like so many other charities, we've had to put a halt on all our fund-raising events. Never to be defeated however, we leapt at the chance of hosting such a fun event. It was a challenge, but we did it!

Christmas carols from the Boogie Woogie Sisters, cat-balloon and cat-cookie workshops, heart-warming tales of our lovely cats, virtual tours of the Centre, a Christmas card competition, prize draws and live video

events. We had it all. Thank you to all our virtual visitors who helped us raise over £400.

And thank you also to all the children who took part. We absolutely loved seeing all of your creative items and we will be giving them to the cats on Christmas day!

For those of you who couldn't attend, we thought we'd highlight one of our favourite videos 'Tip Tap on the Beach', featuring our very own Deputy Manager, Jo. For those of you non-islanders (yes, we even have a wonderful subscriber from Nashua in the USA) we thought we'd showcase our beautiful Sandown beach, overlooking Yaverland. All the more reason to visit us!



♪♪♪♪♪
"For once in my life,
I have someone
who needs me..."
♪♪♪♪♪

.....so say all our adopted cats!
Thank you to everyone who
has adopted and given a
second chance to a homeless
cat in need.



AN UPDATE ON LOLA

We were so chuffed to receive this photo of Lola who has landed on her paws in her new home. (You may remember her 'appeal' from our last edition).

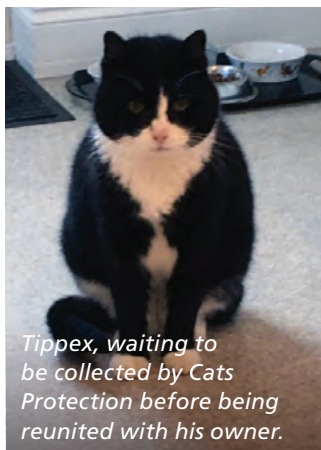
Lola is one spirited character and found cattery life very stressful and kept all the staff on their toes! She went to stay with one of our lovely fosterers who turned things around for her until her perfect forever home was found.

Just look at her now. We are so happy for you Queen Lola.

TIPPEX – FIVE YEARS MISSING...

If there's one message we want to get across more than anything, it's 'GET YOUR CAT MICROCHIPPED, AND KEEP IT UP-TO-DATE'. Tippex's story just proves how important it is.

Five years ago a scruffy stray cat, Thomas (as he was then known) came into our care. He had been involved in a road accident. Luckily, he wasn't badly hurt but he was terrified and acted like a feral cat. We thought he might prefer a more outdoor lifestyle and so, after giving him the veterinary all-clear and the all important microchip, we found him the perfect home. He had food, company if he wanted it and a cosy caravan to live in if he wanted warmth. Thomas came and went as he pleased, appearing every few days. But then one day, he vanished and never came home again.



Tippex, waiting to be collected by Cats Protection before being reunited with his owner.

Move on five years later....

We received a call from a concerned cat lover, who was moving home. She wanted to make sure the stray they had been feeding (they named him Tippex because of his splodge of white fur) would have somewhere to go.

When we collected and brought him to the Centre, we could see how well he had been fed. We were even more delighted to find that he had a microchip. We contacted the owner, Dawn, who was gobsmacked, as she never expected to see her much-loved cat again.

Within the hour, she was with us with a cat basket to take him back to her new home (no longer the caravan).

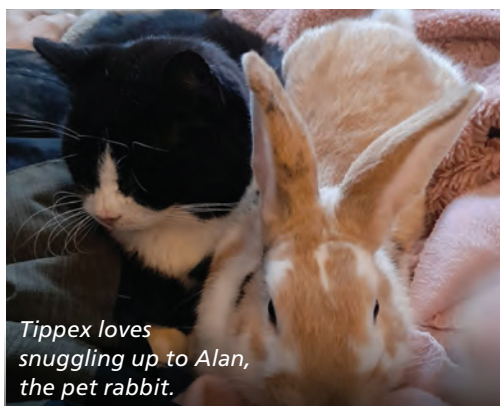
Dawn was so pleased to find out Thomas was alive and so grateful to the very kind person who had been caring for him. She also couldn't believe how happy Thomas was to be in a home.

"It's fantastic; please thank the people who brought him in...they have no idea how much it's made my day seeing this boy's face."

And yes, Dawn is calling him Tippex from now on. He just seems to prefer it!

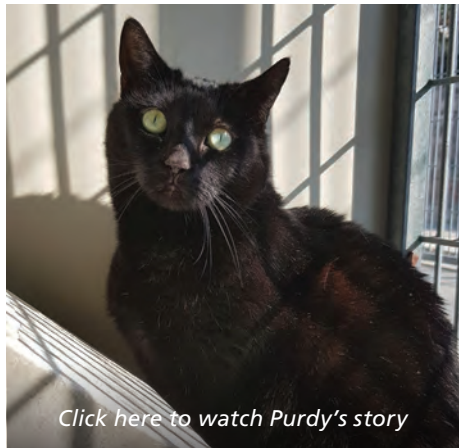


Back home after 5 years. "He didn't leave my side all night". Just click on the photo to see how content he is.



Tippex loves snuggling up to Alan, the pet rabbit.

PURDY KEEPS US ON THE EDGE OF OUR SEATS



[Click here to watch Purdy's story](#)

Poor Purdy had been struggling in very challenging conditions on her own whilst her owner was in hospital for a long stay. Although a kindly neighbour kept an eye on her, Purdy was becoming increasingly distressed. Fortunately her owner agreed to rehome her, and she was brought over to our Centre in February.

Well, lockdown certainly helped this little cat get by. The team put together a socialisation programme to help rebuild her trust, and although still slightly shy, she became friendly and playful. Not surprisingly, she soon found a home.

Purdy goes missing

A few days later however, she disappeared. Her owner was distraught – and so were we! Together

we put up posters and flyers and started a social media campaign to ask people to look out for her. Days turned into weeks and months and there was still no sign. It was difficult to stay positive when we hadn't even had a sighting of Purdy.

Then out of the blue.... there was a post in November on Isle of Wight Lost Cats Facebook about a black cat coming for food in Binstead. Could it be Purdy? And yes, it was!

A nail-biting rescue...

Luckily, Andy Marshall, one of the Island's most experienced cat-rescuers, stepped in to help. For anyone following Andy's live posts on the LostPetsIOW Facebook page, it was nail-biting stuff. Having managed to get close enough for a few seconds to scan her chip and confirm it was Purdy, she then eluded capture. Over the next few hours, it was touch and go as to whether she would go into the cat trap. But eventually, Andy got her and brought her to the Centre.

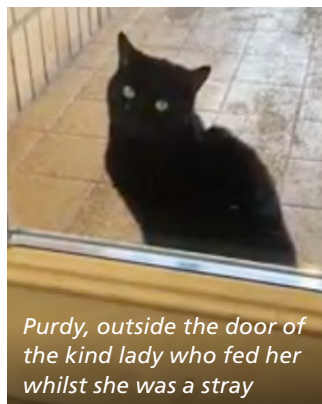
And a happy ending

After being missing for over four months, Purdy was now safe and sound. Unfortunately, her previous owner could no longer have her, but luckily we soon found her another loving home.

"Rescues like this are only possible thanks to people recognising a cat in need of help and reporting it – well done to them!"

Andy Marshall

We agree. At this time of year, when cold sets in and food is scarce for a stray, please don't ignore them. If you do see a stray cat, take a look at our tips on the next page on what to do. And don't forget, if you do lose your cat, never give up hope. Do remember, we're always here to help if we can, so give us a call.



Purdy, outside the door of the kind lady who fed her whilst she was a stray

SPECIAL REPORT – STRAY CATS



Christmas out in the cold

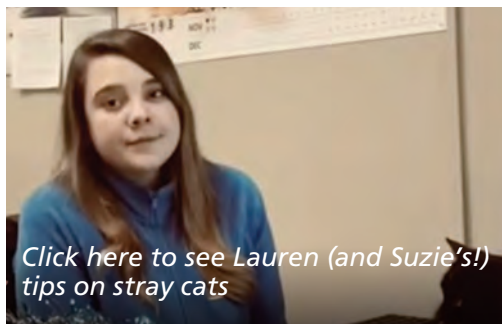
Cats Protection estimates there are over ten million cats living homeless in the UK today.

At our Centre, we certainly get our fair share of strays being brought in, but luckily this year we have managed to find homes for them all. We've also managed to reunite 15 of them with their owners, who had lost hope they would ever see their loved cats again. This was

only possible due to their microchips.

It's so important, especially in this cold wet weather, that if you do see a stray or a cat that may be suffering, to see if you can help. It may just save their life.

Lauren, one of our Reception team, gives her advice about what to do if you spot a stray. Do click on the video, but we've also listed a few of the tips below. Please don't forget that Cats Protection will always try and help any cat in need – so just give us a call if you need any advice.



Click here to see Lauren (and Suzie's!) tips on stray cats

WHAT DO I DO IF I SEE A STRAY CAT?

- Make a temporary 'lost and found' paper collar for her – give us a call and we'll pop some in the post for you. Ensure the fitted collar allows for two fingers to be placed between the collar and cat's neck, to make sure the cat isn't harmed.
- Ask your neighbours – or even your local shops. They may be able to tell you how long a cat has been around, whether it is owned or whether her owners have moved.
- Scan for a microchip – if after two to three days the collar remains on the cat and no owner has called, then you can bring the cat to your local vet for a microchip scan (assuming the cat is friendly and you can entice the cat into a cat carrier). Any vet should perform a microchip scan free for charge for a suspected stray cat.
- Stray kitten? – no kitten should be outside before the age of 6 months. If you find a solitary kitten or litter of kittens living outside, please contact Cats Protection as soon as possible for further advice.
- Is the cat sick or injured? – you can phone the RSPCA or take it to your nearest vet, who has a duty to provide care to sick or injured animals at no cost to the finder. If you do find a sick cat however, approach with care. You can try gently covering the cat in a blanket before picking her up and placing in a cat basket.

A BIG THANK YOU!

This time last year I was putting up a big display board in the IOW Adoption Centre staff room showing our volunteers' contributions month by month, to highlight and recognise their efforts, and to say thank you. For obvious reasons it's not something I am able to repeat this year, but that doesn't change the fact that I and the whole team want to say a big "THANK YOU" to our volunteers for always helping out behind the scenes.

There are many ways to volunteer for Cats Protection beyond the obvious "hands-on" cat care you might first think of.... such as fostering, managing our social media, collecting and sorting the donations of our generous supporters...and even putting together the very newsletter you are reading right now!

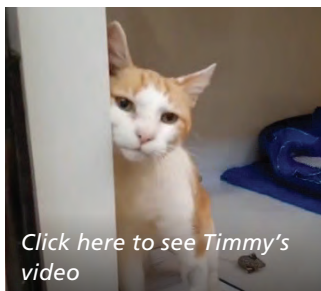
At Cats Protection we think recognition for our volunteers is very important, and when they hit a milestone in their volunteering they receive a cute kitty pin-badge. In 2020 many volunteers in different roles have hit their "1 year" milestone, a few their "5 year", (some are currently approaching 10 or more years!), and we want to thank them all for their time, care and dedication to our Isle of Wight Adoption Centre. We could not do what we do without you.



If you are interested in volunteering with us, click here to watch Emma tell you more

2020 has proven we can all adapt and make it through some truly unprecedented challenges, all for the sake of the cats. They are the reason we are all here at the heart of it, which keeps us strong, and makes us a wonderful team. Here's to many more years of us all making a big difference to cats together!

Emma, Volunteer Team Leader



Click here to see Timmy's video

TIMMY, IN NEED OF A FOSTERER

This gorgeous boy is 15 years old. He is such a loving friendly boy with the loudest purr ever. Sadly, his owner became ill and could no longer look after him.

Timmy does have a slight thyroid issue but this is easily being managed with medication. He's not quite ready to be rehomed right now, so we're looking for a volunteer fosterer who could give him lots of TLC. Do let us know if you think you can help.



LUDO AND MISSY STRIKE LUCKY...

These two five-month-old kittens were rescued from the streets, having been living rough in Southampton.

They were so very scared when they arrived at our Isle of Wight Centre. However luck shone upon them and they were soon adopted by a lovely family who were prepared to spend a lot of time and patience to help bring these kitties out of their shell and gain their trust. Although Missy is still a little shy, Ludo has become quite bold and decided to write to us with a update on how the two of them were getting on in their new home.

Dear all,

Thank you for looking after us when we were little and finding us such a wonderful home. We have great fun here; regular meals, lots of toys to attack and play with and loads of soft things to sleep on. I am having the time of my life. Missy is a bit shyier than me; she has yet to learn that when they pick you up and stroke you it's actually quite nice.

Our favourite hobbies are watching the birds in the front garden, watching the birds in the back garden, kneading arms, shredding net curtains and eating human food. Do you know they left a quiche out on the kitchen worktop overnight?! It was very good. We left the crust, which meant even more fun when they put it on the back lawn for the birds to eat. We got to watch them for ages.

I hope all the other cats get good homes. It's sad to think that not all cats get what we have. But there again, there are not many cats as gorgeous as us!

Love Ludo (and Missy)

MIKEY - OUR FRONT COVER CAT

In July, eight-week-old Mikey was found straying with his mum and litter mates, homeless, hungry and suffering from cat flu. We quickly came to their rescue and gave them urgent medical care and lots of TLC.

Sadly, Mikey suffered structural abnormalities to his eye, which were likely to cause painful ongoing ulcerations. Therefore, the difficult decision was made to remove his eye. It has been a long journey in care with lots of ups and downs but Mikey is such a little fighter!

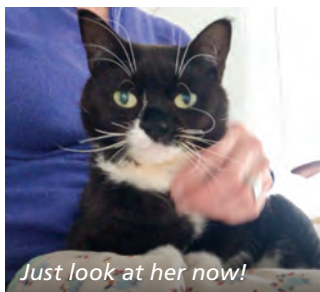
A huge thank you to Lauren, Iso and family for taking care of Mikey whilst he recovered and thank you to everybody for donating towards Mikey's operation. You've made it possible for Mikey to find his happy-ever-after home.



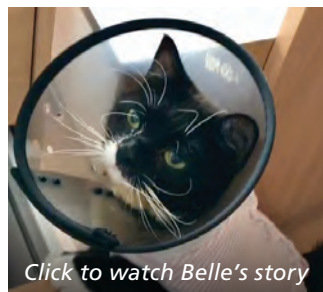
Mikey, now known as Murphy, much loved by all his new family



Belle, in her early weeks in the Centre



Just look at her now!



Click to watch Belle's story

BELLE'S TALE

One-year-old Belle came to us back in November 2019, having been rescued by the RSPCA in Southampton.

When she arrived at our Centre, she was a tiny (only 2.4kg) terrified little girl and hid away all the time. As much as we tried to build her trust, she didn't improve and gradually her skin started to suffer. We knew that this was going to take time to resolve, and finding an adopter for her was going to be very difficult. So we decided that foster care would be best.

Here's her foster mum to tell us more...

Little Belle was certainly one of the shyest cats I've ever come across. She never emerged from her hide-away except at night, when she would eat. Her eyes were permanently dilated in fear and she had absolutely no interest in toys of any kind.

A bigger challenge however was her skin. I naively thought that once in a loving home, her stress would go and her skin would get better. But of course, here was this little cat who was terrified in the Cattery, suddenly finding herself in yet another new alien environment. Her skin deteriorated. Here was a cat which instead of thriving in my care was actually getting worse. I was mortified.

Thankfully, I got lots of help from the CP team. They advised me just to let her be. Time and patience would be the best solution.

And it worked. Gradually, over many months, we began to bond. Shy little Belle, became cheeky little Belle – and what a playful thing she became. Her skin slowly began to improve (aided by a temporary 'bonnet and jacket' recommended by the vet to stop her from scratching her skin and give it time to heal).

Needless to say, I fell in love with Belle. and I adopted her. She's also now become big Belle (3.3kg - she does love her food). And she's also now bossy Belle with my other cats – it's so funny to see her barging them out of her way as she runs to be first to get to her breakfast and dinner.

The skin challenges still remain. Once skin has been compromised to the extent it was with Belle, it can lead to life-long skin issues. But Belle and I (and my vet!) are on a long journey together and we'll get through this. The most important thing is that Belle is loved and she's happy. [Do take a look at her video to see Belle's tale.](#)



KEEPING YOUR CATS SAFE OVER CHRISTMAS

In all the festivities over Christmas, it's easy to forget the dangers lurking for our feline friends. Here are a few things to watch out for:

Christmas trees and decorations hazardous to cats

For some cats, a lit-up Christmas tree presents a climbing challenge they won't be able to resist. If you've purchased a real tree, ensure your cat doesn't ingest any parts of it. Some oils produced by these trees can be toxic, making your cat very unwell, and the needles can stick in their throat and intestines, causing serious problems. Decorations also present hazards. Hanging baubles can look like fun toys for felines, but if they fall and shatter, they can cause harm. Tinsel can cause serious illness if ingested due to the blockages they can cause and can even be fatal. Christmas lights can also be dangerous to cats and should be used safely. Cover any wires leading to the tree by using plastic or cardboard tubes, and also switch your Christmas lights off at the mains when you're not home.



Poisonous plants at Christmas

There are a number of festive plants around this time of year – from beautiful poinsettias to lilies and flowers adorned with berries. Many of these plants can be toxic to cats, causing illness and in some cases, even death. All Lilies and all parts of the lily (even small amounts of pollen) are very dangerous to cats – whether they are brushed against, licked (especially if a cat treads on the pollen and licks its paws); even the water the flowers are kept in can be fatal if sipped by a cat. Poinsettia, Amaryllis plants, Mistletoe berries and Holly can also all cause poisoning if ingested. Contact your vet urgently if you know or suspect your cat has eaten any poisonous plants.

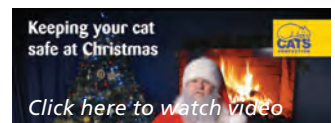
Festive food poisonous to cats

While you might be tempted to provide your cat with delicious treats during the festive season, keeping them away from human food is important. Onion and garlic can be poisonous, so keep your cat away from kitchen counters. Raisins, grapes and chocolate are also toxic to cats, even in tiny amounts.

And do be careful of that string around the turkey. One of our volunteer's cats swallowed the whole length (2.3ft) of string (see right-hand image). Luckily, and much to the vet's amazement, the whole piece had worked its way right throughout the cat's system and out in her poo. Most cats wouldn't have been so lucky and the resultant internal organ damage or choking would have been fatal.



And don't forget, with all the noise and activity, cats can feel stressed and anxious at Christmas time. Make sure you give them space and a safe place to hide. [Watch our video](#) to find out more about keeping your cat safe during the festive period.



MEET SOME OF THE TEAM

Most of you will have read about our management team, Mel, Jo and Emma, but we thought we'd introduce you to the rest of our team who've done such an amazing job of keeping the Centre going throughout this year. They truly deserve an extra special thankyou!

OUR WELCOMING RECEPTION TEAM



Zan (left) and Lauren – our brilliant reception team, who are also ace communicators. They look after all our social media and do most of our Facebook posts. They're also the first point of call when you contact us or if you need help in any way.

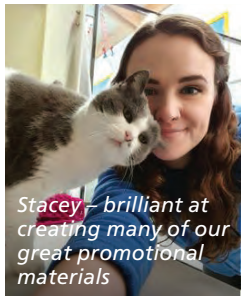


Suzie – also on our reception team, but slightly less helpful. She does however have the distinction of being our Chief Morale Officer. She always brings a smile to our face.

OUR AWESOME CAT CARE TEAM

Our cat care team manage every aspect of looking after the cats in our care (sometimes as many as 60 cats in our cattery at any one time)...from ensuring their pens are pristinely clean and comfortable, to feeding the cats, giving them medication, socialising them to build their trust and keeping them stress-free and happy, showing visitors around (in normal times), doing pre-adoption home checks and post adoption follow-up, and helping to keep

the centre clean, tidy and welcoming. Wow! Our cat-care team are certainly kept busy.



Stacey – brilliant at creating many of our great promotional materials



Mandy – an ex veterinary nurse who also supports our weekly visits by the vet



Wendy – organises all our donated food and prefers to take photos of cats rather than be in them!



Dave – you'll often see him in our van ferrying our cats around the Island



Kelly and Kelly – are also in charge of our foster care programme, giving our fosterers full support when they look after our cats

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR NEWS

Casper's Magical Journey

*Click to watch this year's Cats Protection
Christmas animation starring Holly Willoughby
- a true story of a cat lost and found again*

Make Christmas magical for cats in your Isle of Wight Centre this year

There's a little part in all of us that wants to believe there's something magical about Christmas. And, in a home where a loved cat has gone missing, having her or him returned, as if by magic, is everyone's Christmas wish.

So this Christmas, we're asking you to help restore the magic of a full house, and prevent the heartache caused by lost cats each year.

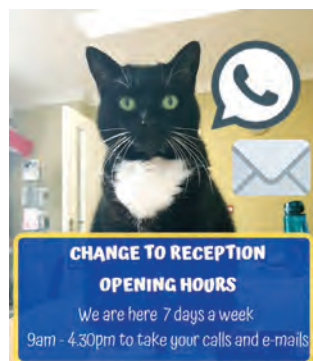
Any donation you can make will help reunite cats like Casper (whose microchip revealed loving owners who had searched for three long years to find their cat) or the many other homeless cats we care for each year who sadly have never had a microchip at all.

[Click here](#) to donate now. A massive thank you from all of the Isle of Wight team!

Sign up to our newsletter

We now feature each issue of our newsletter on our website. However, if you'd prefer to get the latest issue delivered direct to your inbox, please 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, 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.

Although our Centre currently remains closed to visitors, we're still here to help in any way can. Just email us or give us a call.



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