



CATS PROTECTION

NORWICH & DISTRICT BRANCH

HELPING CATS IN NEED



Simon ...

The cat who came in from the cold – read more inside ...

A quick look at what's inside

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WELCOME TO OUR 2023 SPRING NEWSLETTER

We hope you and all your much loved pussycats have all kept well.

Since our last newsletter there have been some staffing restructures to Cats Protection. We now have a new Chief Executive, a new Area Branch Development Manager and a new Regional Welfare Advisor.

Last year, as before we all continued our vital work with rescuing and rehoming many cats in need, as well as trapping lots of feral cats for neutering.

It is at this time of the year when we will be taking in many litters of unwanted kittens born to cats which haven't been neutered, which we will do our best to rehome to the most suitable new homes.

By Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)



Note from the Editor

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the Norwich & District Cats Protection Newsletter. You can visit your local Cats Protection Facebook page at “Cats Protection Norwich & District”. The branch is always extremely grateful for all your continued support and although we are very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers, we always need more. If you or anyone you know would like to become a volunteer, please contact us via the website: www.norwich.cats.org.uk or by telephone on **0345 494 1900**.

I would like to say a big Thank You to Karen Blyth, who has been a fantastic editor for the newsletter over the past nine years. I’m sure you have all enjoyed hearing Karen’s tales of Bella, the Ginger Ninja who she adopted five years ago. Having recently visited Bella, I can confirm that she is just as playful and pretty now as she was when we had the pleasure of fostering her.

I’m delighted to take over from Karen as your new editor. My connection with Cats Protection began just over five years ago, when my wife became a fosterer for the Norwich branch. Since then, I have helped her to look after the many cats that have come into our care. Every one of them has their own little story, and it is very rewarding to care for them until they find their forever homes.

We have two very cheeky cats of our own who, as you can see from the photos below, have an awful lot to say for themselves!

By Dave Allen



TRAPPING FERAL CATS

Again we have been very busy trapping feral cats. On one particular site we have managed to trap 12 adult cats which have now been neutered, and seven of these have been rehomed. Sadly, one cat which we trapped was so poorly that the vets had to euthanize it. The sites of feral colonies can be very unpleasant when in populated areas, especially when the cats have been defecating and urinating there for some time, and the sites then become infested with flies. The work on this site is still ongoing as there are still more feral cats to trap. The RSPCA are now assisting us with this.



By Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)

NEUTERING

This year we have already issued 251 neutering vouchers. Over the past six months, in addition to offering neutering vouchers we have also been offering free microchipping at all three Vets4Pets practices in Norwich. This has proved very successful and we have already covered the cost of well over 100 microchips to be implanted, which the vets have kindly offered to register on the database.

SYLVIA

Just two weeks into the new year we had to say goodbye to our lovely companion, Phoebe. She had been with us for 18 years of her possible 20 years, a rescue cat, we were never quite sure of her age. My husband and I announced to the family that we would not have another cat unless there happened to be an older cat whose owner may have found themselves unable to care for it.

Our granddaughter immediately set to work and sent us a photograph of a lovely silver tabby name of Sylvia who was in just that situation! At 12 years old, she had come into the care of Cats Protection just three days after Phoebe had died. Following telephone conversations with Maureen and then Karen, in whose care she was, it was decided we would go to see her. It was so very easy; we were smitten right away!



Instead of perhaps two days to settle in, it took Sylvia all of two hours to explore her new surroundings. Over the next two days our family came to meet the new arrival, she took it all in her stride and allowed whoever wanted to have a cuddle. As an older cat she is living a more relaxed life, perhaps fonder of the armchair than hunting expeditions! In our later years, we too are less hurried, and it is such a joy to share this time with her.

We are so grateful to Cats Protection for the work they do and for making the adoption so easy for us. Tomorrow she is having her second vaccination which is being paid for by Cats Protection – a real blessing. We can't save them all, but it is so rewarding to give affection and a comfortable home to an older needy cat.

Wallace and Ann Houston

SIMON

Last December, I was asked to scan a cat that had been straying in Loddon for many months. The cat was fortunate to have someone who was looking out for him and feeding him, but to have him living outdoors clearly wasn't suitable, particularly as winter was already very much in evidence. Posters had already been put up in the local area and a photo and description of the cat had been placed on social media, but no-one had come forward.

At this time we were in the middle of a very cold spell, with temperatures below freezing at night. A bed with warm blankets had been provided in a shed for the cat, but we were keen to bring him in from the cold as soon as we could. Once a pen was available, I arranged to meet the person who had been looking after him, in the hope that the cat would be there so that I could scan for a microchip.



It was a cold, dark night and luckily the cat appeared out of the bushes as soon as he heard the packet of food being opened. We quickly got him into the carrier where I was able to scan him for a microchip – unfortunately he wasn't chipped, and he wasn't neutered. I decided that I would call him Simon – a handsome name which very much suited him!

Simon quickly adapted to his surroundings in the pen, and he loved having a warm and safe place to snuggle up in. He was very brave on his trips to the vets, where he was neutered, microchipped, blood-tested and vaccinated. He was a very affectionate and easy-going boy who loved a fuss. Not surprisingly, Simon was very popular and was soon adopted. He is now living a wonderful life in the countryside.

By Vanessa Sewell, Fosterer

PAIGE'S GREAT NORTH RUN

Paige is taking part in the Great North Run on 10th September 2023. Here's what she had to say about her reasons for running in this impressive race to raise funds for our Norwich branch:

"My rationale for choosing to run and raise funds for Cats Protection is because I have two floofs, they were both pre-loved but found themselves in a position with no homes. Myself and my partner had the privilege of adopting them, but obviously not all floofs have that opportunity and rely on local branches like yourselves to help out, just whilst they are awaiting their fur-ever home. I hope this gives you a little insight into my reasons for running, raising awareness and funds."

Here's Paige in training for her event...



And here's one of her beautiful rescue cats



Paige is donating 100% of her fundraising to the Norwich & District branch. If you would like to sponsor Paige you can do so via her Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paige-simmons2>

Thank you so much Paige, from all of us here at the branch and all of the cats you will be helping. Good luck with your training, and we look forward to hearing all about the event.

DANGEROUS PLANTS



While daffodils are a beautiful sign of spring, they are unfortunately dangerous for our feline friends. Daffodil bulbs contain crystals that are extremely toxic to cats if eaten. The heads and leaves can also make your cat unwell if consumed. Daffodils contain a poisonous substance called lycorine. If digested, this can cause stomach upset, vomiting or wider serious illness.

Lilies are particularly toxic to cats. Although you might find that your cat is disinterested in eating them, there is always a risk that they may come into contact with the flower's pollen by rubbing up against it and absent-mindedly licking their fur. Unfortunately there are several types of lilies that are poisonous to cats, including Easter Lily, Tiger Lily and other members of the lily family. All parts of the lily plant are toxic to cats if ingested, and consuming small amounts can result in severe poisoning. The best way to prevent your cat from being poisoned is simply to not have lilies in your home or garden.

If you suspect your cat may have ingested any part of these plants, **please seek advice from your vet immediately.**

The Cats Protection website www.cats.org.uk has some very useful information about plants that are toxic to cats and those that are cat-safe, as well as advice on keeping your cat safe from dangerous plants and flowers both indoors and outdoors.

BANDIT

'Bandit – Ready for Adoption' – a cheeky, wide eyed little face popped up in a phone message. It was a Sunday evening in late November when I received the text from my sister. She knew we were looking to adopt a cat and had found Bandit on the Cats Protection website. I immediately registered my interest by completing the online form.

Less than a week later I received a call from Vanessa, Bandit's fosterer, who told me all about her energy, playfulness and love for food. "Great" I thought, just like all of us then, she's a perfect match!

We promptly arranged to go and visit her and it was love at first sight. She was just as Vanessa had described. The wheels were put in motion to continue the adoption with a home visit arranged at which Vanessa provided us with handy information about Bandit, a kit list and general cat advice. A date was agreed and as the countdown to the day of collection got closer, the more excited we became. We would have her just in time for Christmas!!!

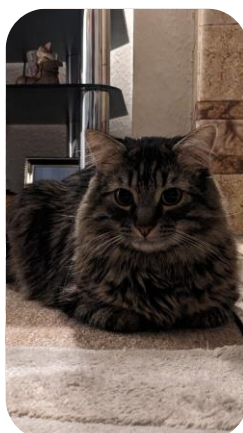
She has now been with us for over two months and has settled in beautifully. She is such a little character and an absolute joy to have as the fifth member of the Wilson family. She is very curious and is now enjoying the outside, bouncing around the garden exploring her new surroundings. Bandit is an independent little cat but is now starting to trust us enough for lap-time cuddles and fuss. We look forward to many more adventures with Bandit over the years to come – welcome to your forever home!!! Thank you Vanessa and Cats Protection for introducing us to Bandit.

Mel & Charlie



SIMBA'S STORY

Hello, my name is Simba. I was born on the streets and rescued in September 2020 by my human Mum when I was just a few months old. My biological Mum was rescued by Cats Protection and needed an emergency operation to save her life. She is now living her best life with her new human Mum. I now rule the roost and make my human Mum play with me as that's my favorite thing, apart from treats and sleeping. I am an excellent hunter, my favourite things to catch are spiders and flies. I will forever be thankful to Cats Protection for saving my biological Mum.



ADOPTING SENIOR CATS



Some of you will remember seeing the article in our spring 2019 issue about sweet little Prinny, a 15 year old cat who was adopted by Janice. We are so pleased to say that Prinny is still living her life to the full at 19 years old. Prinny settled into her new home immediately and apart from having to have part of her ear removed due to a tumour, she has kept perfectly healthy and still enjoys playing with her toys. Prinny is still the ideal lap cat, and Janice says her and her husband love her to bits.

Although kittens are lots of fun to have around, an older cat can be wonderful company in many other ways, especially if you are looking for a lap cat as they are more relaxed and happier to spend more time indoors. If your cat is elderly, Cats Protection can offer lots of advice on how to improve their lives. We've listed a few ideas below:

- Use low sided litter trays to allow the cat to get in out more easily
- Consider putting up a shallow sloping ramp to allow the cat to reach its favourite resting place
- Horizontal scratching posts are much easier for arthritic cats
- Older cats might be more comfortable with extra padding in their beds
- They might need more help with grooming and may benefit from having their claws clipped
- Often senior cats become less tolerant to stress, so it is important that they have a quiet area to retreat to
- If you have any concerns regarding the health of your cat, it is vital to speak to a vet.

MONEY-SAVING TIPS FOR CAT OWNERS

Make your own toys - toilet roll tubes and egg boxes are perfect for turning into puzzle feeders to make mealtimes more interesting for your cat. Just hide some of their dry food inside and let them hunt it out. Old socks can be reinvented into a fun cat toy – simply fill with a couple of spoonfuls of dried catnip, tie off the end and give to your cat to enjoy. A length of string and a garden cane can quickly be transformed into a fishing rod toy to dangle.

Bargain treats - when buying cat food, look for companies that do a subscription service with a discount for regular orders, making it easier to budget, or buy in bulk to reduce the cost per serving. It's not essential to give your cat fancy treats in addition to their regular meals - instead, try taking some dry food out of your cat's daily food allowance to offer as treats. Also remember that plain old water is by far the best drink for cats – milk and cream should be avoided.

DIY scratching stations - all cats need access to somewhere they can scratch to keep their claws in tip-top condition. For a cost-effective addition to scratching posts, look out for old carpet samples which are often cheaply available or even free at carpet shops.

Get pet insurance - high vet bills can be very stressful – make sure your cat is insured to help you cope with any unexpected costs.

Cosy cats - if you're out of the house all day, you probably don't need to leave the heating on to keep your cat warm. The majority of cats have thick fur and a knack for finding the cosiest spot in the house – so even if it feels chilly to you, your cat will most likely be perfectly snug.

FUNDRAISING

Pets at Home, Sprowston, Norwich

Our volunteers attended the Pets at Home Santa Paws events in December 2022 and the branch has received a cheque from the Pets at Home Foundation for £2,180.28. Lots of “Thank You” purrs from the cats in our care.

We are very pleased to have been chosen as their charity partner for 2023 and will be collecting in the Sprowston store twice-monthly, except for July which is reserved for Pets at Home’s Charity of the Year (Hearing Dogs for the Deaf). Please come and say hello if you see our volunteers.

In conjunction with our Partnership with Sprowston Pets at Home, our Norwich branch receives food and litter, as well as benefits from the Lifelines scheme.

Do you shop at Pets at Home? Do you have a VIP card? If so, please consider donating your lifelines to us – the Cats Protection Norwich branch. Through the lifelines scheme, the branch receives vouchers to spend in store on items such as scratching posts, toys and extra treats for our feline friends.

Street collection, Norwich city centre

This is in the very early planning stages but whenever we decide to hold this, it’s bound to rain!

MICROCHIPPING

In addition to offering you help with the cost of neutering your cat, our branch is currently offering free microchipping when you book the neutering at any of the Vets4Pets practices listed below. Please mention that you are entitled to one of our free microchips. Vets4Pets have agreed to register your cat, but it is always advisable to check this has gone through with the microchip database.

Hall Road Retail Park, Hall Road, Norwich, NR4 6DH
Tel: 01603 623040

Sprowston Retail Park, Salhouse Road, Norwich, NR7 9AZ
Tel: 01603 484150

Norfolk Retail Park, Longwater, Norwich, NR5 0JT
Tel: 01603 513100

CAT CARRIER SAFETY

As cat owners, we all know what escape artists cats can be when they are determined to get out. Unfortunately, if they escape in an unfamiliar area it can be very difficult to recapture them. Many cats escape when taken to a vet, and this is often due to cat carriers that are not secure enough. Some of the newer cat carriers have numerous small latches on the doors, so it’s easy to overlook if one isn’t closed properly. Also, unless the carrier is robust a large strong cat can often force its way out. Often, a metal carrier which is top-loading is a much more secure option, and is easier to get a nervous cat into.



REHOMED

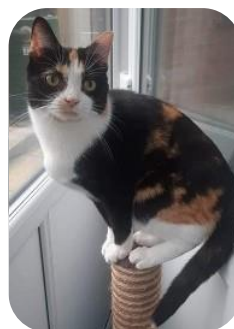
Here are just some of the lovely cats that our branch has rehomed over the past few months:



Cocoa



Lucy



Nugget



Pixie



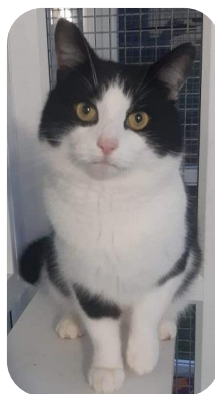
Gladys



Mindy



Smokey



Simon



Bandit

