



CATS PROTECTION

NORWICH & DISTRICT BRANCH

HELPING CATS IN NEED



Luna and Baxter ...

1 year on... read more inside

A quick look at what's inside

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WELCOME TO OUR 2021 NEWSLETTER

We hope none of you have been affected too badly by the awful virus; 2020 was an unprecedented year for all of us. Every aspect of our work at Cats Protection was badly affected by COVID-19 from fundraising to rehoming.

Due to some reports of the possibility of cats having the ability of carrying the virus, Cats Protection was forced to take drastic measures. They introduced a new system of rehoming our cats known as 'Hands Free'. This meant some of our volunteers had to pass an online course to train in this system. Initially we had to ask Dereham Cats Protection to assist with our cats, and even when we were managing ourselves it was still very difficult.

We were no longer able to carry out home visits and anyone interested in our cats were not allowed to enter the fostering pens, and could view the cats from outside. Any vehicles used in transporting cats had to be thoroughly cleaned and fosterers were obliged to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). However, through all of this our branch still somehow managed to rehome 75 cats successfully.

By Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)

Note from the Editor

I hope you will enjoy this long awaited 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 it is very fortunate to have some great volunteers, it is always looking for more. If you know anyone who would like to become a volunteer, please contact them via the website: www.norwich.cats.org.uk or telephone on 0345 494 1900.



It seems a long while ago since I put together the last newsletter, and like many of you have worked from home. This has given Bella the opportunity to help me in the study, or just remind me by 'moaning' very loudly just outside the door that her lunchtime starts at 11:20 and she is ready to go and enjoy the sunshine in the garden.

Whilst she is another year older and has reached double figures (10), her 'ginger' attitude has not diminished. She still loves playing with scrunched up paper balls, and now realises she can paddle with her needle-like claws on un-clothed legs; whilst freely dribbling at the sight of 'treats' being offered.

By Karen Blyth



Fireworks Night and The Dangers of Anti-Freeze

As Fireworks night is almost here, please remember not all animals cope with loud noises. Please keep your furry friends safe; make sure they are kept indoors, with curtains shut, a light on and ideally a radio, to provide some constant background noise for them.



ANTI-FREEZE - With the cold weather creeping in, please be cautious with antifreeze, it is deadly to cats.

If you use antifreeze and spill any, please clean it up - Thank you.

By Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)

WELCOME TO REBECCA TO OUR FOSTER TEAM

We are so pleased to welcome Rebecca to our fostering team. Due to lockdown and the problems with supplying the materials used in the manufacturing of Rebecca's fostering pens, it has taken 2 years before Rebecca has finally been able to begin fostering for us.

Although Rebecca has 3 beautiful daughters, she also finds time to help us with trapping feral cats for neutering. Rebecca feels fostering cats is very good for her children with learning to respect and love animals and they often spend time cat cuddling and chatting to the cats.

Pictured is a photograph of Rebecca holding Moco, the very first kitten that she rescued, fostered and rehomed.

By Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)



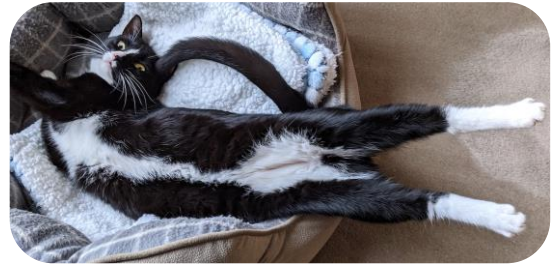
LUNA and BAXTER... 1 year on

Hello Karen,

I hope you don't mind me getting in touch with you but a year ago we adopted two kittens from you and they thought you might like to know how they are getting on. We adopted Rose and Norman, now Luna and Baxter...

To the bestest foster Mummy,

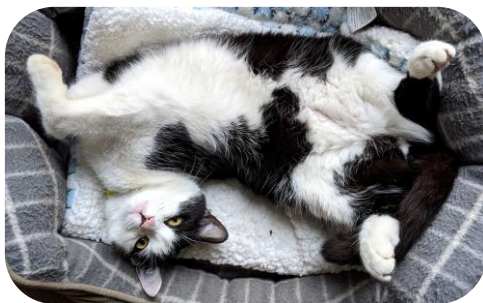
Hello, I am Luna. As you can see from my picture I have grown a bit since you knew me. I have come a long way since my baby picture. My family wondered what they had let themselves in for as I meowed a lot on the way to my new home, and boy do I know how to meow! Baxter helped me to get my confidence in the first few days even though I was too small to do everything he did. I spent my days playing with toys, sleeping, eating and chasing Baxter around the house.



Now I'm older I can go outside and I love playing in the garden and I've been putting all the hunting practice I had as a kitten to the test which my family are not very happy about. They can be mean to me sometimes and get a thing called a brush out which takes my fur away and I don't like it. So I squiggle and squiggle but they tell me it is so I don't get fur balls that can make me poorly, but I am not so sure.

Baxter and I still love to play together and we like to give each other kisses and wash each other. At the end of the day, when I can sit on my "hooman" sister's chest or my Mummy's lap I know you made the right choice for me.

Love and purrs from Luna. X



Hi, I am Baxter. I'm all grown up now as you can see in my picture. When the "hoomans" were taking me to my forever home I sat curled up quietly in the back of the basket. But once I got there and saw the toys I knew I was going to have fun. I soon became the king of climbing and my favourite toy was the stick of the Da Bird toy. I liked to put my toy balls into my drinking water then dot them around the house so the "hoomans" got a surprise when they had to pick up wet toys.

I started to outgrow the house and when I was able to, I couldn't wait to go outside. I climbed everything I could. I especially liked the garage roof and could often be found sitting up there watching the world go by. I like to go off and bring things home. Feathers and twigs are my favourites. I am so proud that I run home with it in my mouth meowing at the top of my voice. My "hoomans" prefer these to the birds I bring home, I don't know why. I have also been spotted leading my lady friend away, which was embarrassing. I may not really like cuddles, but when I get in after doing important cat things and someone is ready to play with me with my toys, I know you made the right choice for me too.

Love and leg rubs from Baxter. X

Thank you for everything you did for them and the tips and advice you gave us to help them settle in. They really are such lovely little cats and we hope they will be part of our family for a long time to come.

All the best,

Yvonne Wootton

JACK



7-year-old Jack came into my care just before Christmas last year; and I could see straight away one of his eyes was cloudy. For the first couple of days he hid up when I went into his cattery, but once he had settled down it was clear he couldn't see at all. He still managed to get down the steps from his bedroom to eat and use the litter tray. I was so worried for him.

After seeing the Vets he was put on medication to reduce the pressure in his eyes and pain relief. He was such an incredibly tolerant cat with the multiple times a day he needed his eye drops and pain relief. He was a lovely affectionate boy, who not once struck out - an ideal patient.

After a few weeks it showed the medication had made no improvement and he was referred to Dick Whites in Newmarket to see an eye specialist. We all had our fingers crossed that Jack's eyesight could be restored, at least to some extent.

I felt so anxious for Jack on the day of his appointment, and due to COVID I could not go in with him. After what seemed like an eternity he was returned back to me.

Sadly his eyes were so damaged there wasn't anything that could be done to restore his sight. It was recommended for Jack's comfort and to be pain free, he should have both eyes removed. It was so upsetting to hear this. He had been such a good boy at the Vets and again tolerated so much, been in the car from 10am until 4pm apart from his appointment.

A couple of weeks later he had both his eyes removed. I felt so emotional handing him over to the vets that morning, fretted all day about him until I got the call it was all done and he was in recovery.

He was quite stressed when he came home to me, pacing in circles constantly until he fell asleep exhausted. From the next day he improved quickly. After a week he ventured around the house for short periods and it was incredible to watch him find his way. He would circle at times to map that particular area and then move on. Up and down the stairs like a sighted cat. He was amazing and so affectionate.

Some people said to me, what quality of life is he going to have - a very good one!



He may not be able to see but his other senses are heightened. He loved to lie down in the sun, which streamed through the window. He would play with toys and would jump up on tables and loved fuss and cuddles.

Once fully healed, Jack went off to a wonderful home in the country. He is adored and has supervised visits in the garden, which he loves; and he has even caught a mole.

It was very hard to let Jack go. I loved that boy and wanted to keep him but thought my dogs would stress him. He has been an absolutely amazing cat. I will never forget him.

We will never know what caused his blindness, it could of been blunt trauma or disease. We will never know. The main thing is he is pain free, happy, healthy and enjoying his life for many years to come.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to The Veterinary Hospital in Gorleston, for the first class care given to Jack. Especially Jack's Vet, the wonderful, Kristina Grant, for your truly special care of Jack.

From Karen Alexander (one of our fosterers)

JACK cont...

We decided to adopt Jack because we felt that being blind he may have been overlooked and we knew we could give him a good and loving forever home. He is full of character and despite his disability he is very independent and loves exploring.

Being blind has not stopped his ability to hunt, in the short time he has been with us; we have had everything from a mole to butterflies brought in for us. He has learnt that if he gets up when Terry gets up for work in the mornings, he will be given some breakfast, he will then come back to bed with me and stay with me until I get up and then he has seconds.

He knows when Terry cooks chicken for his packed lunch, and will sit and wait for his little treat. Once he gets to know you he is very affectionate and loves to cuddle beside me on the sofa or on the bed.



We love having him as part of our little family and he certainly keeps us on our toes.

By Jody Harris & Terry

FUND RAISING

Special memories of our dear friend - Julia Webb, who sadly passed away in October 2020.

Julia was the life and soul of our days manning the Hay Hill Charity Stall in Norwich City Centre. Her signature red lipstick, cat costume with swaying tail and trips to the nearby coffee stall, not to mention Primark!

These were good times Julia, we were all honored to have known you X

Face-to-Face Fundraising came to an abrupt halt in March 2020.

However Pets at Home, Sprowston had, once again, chosen our branch as their Charity Partner of The Year. Their staff continued to raise funds on our behalf during their Summer Event, Santa Paws in November/December 2020 and the Summer Event in 2021. Our sincere thanks to you all; the cats send lots of purrs.

We sold cards, small gifts and 2021 calendars, which we purchased from Cats Protection wholesalers, making a very reasonable profit. We are now in the process of selling for 2022.

The Cats Protection lottery and Cat Sponsorship, arranged by head office have been a steady source of income. Thanks to all of you who have participated.

At this point in time we have no plans to book any events for 2022, but rest assured the cats in our care will receive the very best attention. Our rainy-day fund is being tested but will survive!

By Cathy Butcher

Casper the Surlingham Stray

It was a story I'd heard twice before – an unneutered male cat wandering from house to house in the village, looking thin and battle-worn, trying to find food. As well as having a number of "stray" cats in our village, fortunately we also have caring people who look out for them. Caspar is the third unneutered male cat that I've brought in for treatment and rehoming. His predecessors, Desmond and Teddy, both now have wonderful homes where they are loved and cared-for. By the time this newsletter reaches you, I am sure that Caspar will be settled in his forever home, surrounded by love and comfort and free from the ravages that life as an unneutered cat brings.

You could say that Caspar and his predecessors are the lucky ones. Despite being exposed to all weather and potentially life-threatening wounds from fighting, these boys managed to get food from cat owners in the village. These caring people kept an eye on them and alerted me, as a Cats Protection fosterer, to their plight. Once it has been established that the cats are not owned, we are able to bring them into our care.

Like all unneutered male cats, Caspar had a wide range in the village. He visited four homes, each a fair distance apart, and each one giving him food. Between us, we were able to keep track of him until I had a pen available. It appeared that, despite being a stray, Caspar was actually quite docile. This meant that we were able to pick him up and put him into a carrier, rather than use a trap.

Caspar has gone from strength to strength since he came into our care. He has been blood-tested for FIV and FeLV (thankfully both negative), neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and treated for fleas and worms. He loves his food and is affectionate, gentle and loving. His beautiful red coat is now thick and healthy, and he loves being brushed. His life has been completely turned around thanks to the kindness of people in the village and those who support the work of Cats Protection.

By Vanessa Sewell (one of our fosterers)



Donate whilst shopping online

Did you know you can donate to the branch whilst shopping online?

All you need to do is instead of going straight to an internet site i.e. Amazon, to buy your items, go via the Easy Fundraising site, ([easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk)), log in, and then go to the internet site. Every time you buy something, the company donates a percentage to the branch.

For example: Marks and Spencer donates an amazing 2% directly to the branch every time you buy your clothes from them. You pay the same price as if you have gone to the site directly. Therefore it is a win-win situation for both you and for our cats.

Coming up to Christmas last year, the donations came to a total of over £100, and it would be great to exceed that this year.

This initiative is supported by various companies, Amazon, John Lewis, Ebay, Boots, Marks and Spencer and it is not just shopping, but when you book your holidays online, buying furniture or insurance, and even buying cat food!

For more information and to sign up, the link to Norwich branch

<https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/norwichcatsprtn/?invite=N9EBRD&referral-campaign=c2s>

By Claire Wragg (Treasurer)

Neutering

During the first lockdown I was unable to issue any neutering vouchers, and it wasn't until this lifted that I was able to resume. However at this time we received very few requests, probably due to the fact that many vets were operating on a very reduced intake.

Unfortunately as we currently have a shortage of vets, cat owners and our fosterers now have to wait a long time for appointments.

On a very sad personal note I lost my very dear friend Rachel and her husband Sonny to COVID 19 in January. Rachel I went back a very long time with Cats Protection. We both volunteered on Sunday afternoons and carried out home checks for our branch of Cats Protection when Rosemary Howard ran the branch at Gressenhall.

Rachel and Sonny will be greatly missed by all who knew them

By Janice (Neutering Officer)

An Ahhh Moment...

REUNITED - This beautiful friendly boy came to us after he pitched up at an old farmhouse. He tried to make himself at home, but the family already had a cat, which didn't want him to stay.

Unfortunately he wasn't microchipped, but after posting him on our Lost & Found page; various other sites and putting up lots of posters we were contacted by his owner who lives about 2 miles away and he is now back where he belongs.



This is Karen feeding two of three two-week old kittens that were found near stables after their mother disappeared.

They are doing very well due to Karen's expertise and feeding them every two hours even through every night.



The first kittens of the year were born under a hedge in the grounds of a house, which was about to be reopened as a holiday let.

The mum was trapped the following day so they were all reunited, a wonderful result.



This is a feeding station set up, all ready to use

REHOMED

Here are just a few cats and kittens that have been rehomed.



Three Litters from same home



Sooty



Moco



Norman Wisdom



George



Feral Kittens

