



CATS PROTECTION

NORWICH & DISTRICT BRANCH

HELPING CATS IN NEED



Galileo and Jarret

Our adoption story – read more inside ...

A quick look at what's inside

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WELCOME TO OUR 2023 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Hello to all of our readers - how quickly this summer has whizzed by. We hope you have had a wonderful 2023 so far.

What a busy year we have had again. Despite working tirelessly in educating the general public on the importance of getting cats neutered, we, like all other cat rescues have been inundated with unwanted kittens. Thankfully, we have also had some amazing success stories in finding loving forever homes for the cats and kittens in our care.

Cats Protection are now operating a new scheme to help those cat owners on benefits to get their cats neutered and microchipped. Please see page 6 for further details.

By Maureen Bennett, Branch Coordinator

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you will enjoy this edition of the Norwich & District Cats Protection Newsletter. We are very lucky to have some wonderful supporters who have taken on challenges to raise funds for our branch, and you can read about their magnificent efforts in the newsletter. Also featured are some heart-warming stories from the kind people who have adopted cats from the Norwich and District branch. As well as tips on keeping cats safe from the dangers of antifreeze and fireworks, you will find details of the Cats Protection neutering and microchipping scheme, and an update on the new microchipping law in England.

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 really do need more volunteers to join us. 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**. We have many different roles available, and we would love to hear from you if you can spare a few hours a month to help out.

You may recall that my wife and I are both fosterers for the branch. Over the past few months we have welcomed many cats (and a small number of kittens) to our foster pens, where we cared for them until they were ready to be adopted. All of them come with their own little stories, some of which have been truly heart-breaking. We are so pleased to be able to make a difference to their lives, and to secure a better future for them.

We are always telling our two boys how lucky they are to have a loving home and food on demand, but we're not sure they fully appreciate it (and they sure wouldn't tell us if they did!).

By Dave Allen



THE DANGERS OF ANTIFREEZE – KEEPING OUR CATS SAFE

Ethylene glycol is the tasty (to cats) but highly toxic component of antifreeze. Spilt antifreeze can be licked off paws, or ingested along with water from puddles. Early symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, drooling and lack of co-ordination, followed by lack of appetite and excessive, or very little, urination. If a cat is showing these symptoms, take it to the vet immediately – prompt treatment is vital.

Antifreeze is said to be sweet and animals like to eat or drink it. Ingestion of antifreeze can often be fatal if it's not immediately treated. Even a relatively small amount can prove lethal: one teaspoon (1.4ml) is enough to kill a cat. It also acts very fast - in many cases, your pet can die within 24 hours and if you are not treating it within a few hours of ingestion, there is a serious chance of permanent kidney damage, which is usually fatal.

Prevention tips

- Watch for leaks in your car and keep pets away from the area where antifreeze is stored
- Be careful not to spill antifreeze when using it - make sure you clean up carefully if you do. A cat may walk through it then lick it off their paws
- If you drain your antifreeze, do not leave it in an open container because animals will be attracted to it
- Dispose of this waste properly and keep empty and full antifreeze containers away from dogs, who may be tempted to chew on them
- Choose an antifreeze that does not contain ethylene glycol

GALILEO AND JARRET

We adopted Galileo and Jarret on 25th June (we have since renamed them Millie and Peach) after we saw their pictures and read about their story on the Cats Protection Facebook page. We met them at their foster carer's and instantly fell in love. We had missed having cats in our lives since we said goodbye to our old ginger boy Crumble in 2021 so we were so happy that we made an instant bond with them, and them with us.



When we first got them home they were a little nervous but they soon started exploring all of the nooks and crannies in our house. Peach (light ginger) was keen to play and would tap Andy on the leg to get his attention or do a little hop if we weren't paying attention to her. Millie (grey with ginger specks) seemed more self-sufficient, happily playing with toys on her own or carrying them to us in her mouth when she wanted some extra engagement. She liked to run in front of us and lay on the floor for a belly rub. Both of them were extremely affectionate from the very beginning and have brought character and joy to our household.

After four weeks of being inside we introduced them to our enclosed back garden. They were completely mesmerised, having always been indoor cats. They love to climb on the fences and shed and chase butterflies and watch the birds. It has been a whole new world for them to explore. It's been so lovely seeing them develop emotionally and physically. They are small cats for their age but at their first vet visit they had both added 0.3kg in weight and continue to get stronger and more confident with each day. We are so happy to have them in our lives and are looking forward to continuing to help them have fulfilling and enriched lives. Catflap training next!

Katrina & Andy, Norwich

WILL'S HALF-MARATHON IN AMSTERDAM

Will is taking on the challenge of completing the Amsterdam Half Marathon on 15th October, in order to raise funds for our Norwich and District branch. Here's what Will had to say about his reasons for doing taking part in the race:



"I'm absolutely thrilled to be running the Amsterdam Half Marathon for such a noble cause. I grew up with cats and am very happy to be doing my bit to help further their safeguarding, particularly in the Norfolk area. Having run a number of these races before, I'm very glad to be finally raising some money ahead of one, for a cause close to my heart."

All of us at the Norwich and District branch would like to say a big Thank You to Will for choosing us to receive much-needed funds for the cats and kittens in our care.

COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING LAW IN ENGLAND

The Government's announcement on 13th March 2023 means that all pet cats in England must be microchipped by **10th June 2024**. After this date, cat owners will be given 21 days to get their pet microchipped; failure to do so could result in a fine of up to £500. Cats Protection's Advocacy, Campaigns and Government Relations team have been working hard to call for the compulsory microchipping of cats and will continue to campaign for the measure to be introduced in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Why should I microchip my cat? Microchipping your cat gives them the best chance of being identified and returned to you if they are lost or stolen. Microchips are safe, easy to implant and effective. Unlike collars and ID tags, microchips don't come off and they won't put your cat at risk of injury.

How does microchipping work? A small chip (around the size of a grain of rice) is inserted under your cat's skin – usually by your vet, a local authority or a trained and insured member of an animal welfare organisation, such as Cats Protection. This microchip gives your cat their own unique code. If your cat were to go missing, the microchip would be scanned with a microchip scanner and matched to your contact details, which are kept on a cat microchip database.

How much does it cost to microchip a cat? In the UK, you can expect to pay anywhere between £20 and £30. Speak to your local vet for details, or get in touch with your local rescue centre or cat charity. Often, charities and reputable cat rescue organisations may be able to microchip your cat for a reduced rate. The cost of microchipping for cats adopted from Cats Protection is included in the adoption fee.

How do I go about registering a cat microchip? If you've adopted a cat from Cats Protection, we'll update your cat's microchip on your behalf. You'll be given the paperwork once you have formally adopted your cat, complete with your cat's microchip number. If you have had your cat microchipped by a vet or organisation, they'll let you know how to register your details online. You'll usually be sent registration documents following the procedure, within a couple of weeks. If you don't receive anything, check with the person or organisation that microchipped your cat. Remember to keep your registration documents and cat's microchip number safe.

What if I move home or change my phone number? Keeping your details up to date is vital to ensuring you can be contacted – many cats are unfortunately not reunited with their owners due to forgetting to update their details. Here are our three easy steps for updating your microchip.

1. **Get your cat's microchip number** Keep your cat's microchip number stored away so you can have it to hand. Not sure what it might be? Call your vet to see if they have it in their records, or take your cat to the vet to have them scanned.
2. **Get your cat's microchip brand** Lost your original paperwork? You may be able to check your cat's details by entering their number using Petlog's look-up tool.
3. **Update** Now that you have your cat's number and contact information of the brand they are registered with, call them or go to their website to update your details.

RESCUING AND REHOMING FERAL CATS AND KITTENS

In October 2022 a feral kitten turned up in my road, lifeless, only around four weeks old. I immediately set to work and brought her back from the brink of death and decided to keep her. I named her Hattie. In July 2023, whilst on a dog walk in Alington I spotted a cat with around five kittens. I realised this was the mother of Hattie and sadly she had delivered another litter. I decided the least I could do was to catch her and get her spayed.



Cats Protection lent me two traps. I managed to catch the mother and her litter. She was spayed thanks to Cats Protection. I rehomed all her kittens once they had been treated for fleas and worms. Most were also covered in ticks.

I left the traps out for a few more days to make sure I had them all and was shocked to trap another mother and litter. This was probably the sister to Hattie. She was still young enough to be rehomed after she was spayed. I also rehomed her kittens. Leaving the traps out for a couple more days then led to me catching more kittens. I was shocked there were so many feral kittens out there.



I was lucky enough to catch the male cat - he was in a very poor state and as well as covering the cost of his neutering, Cats Protection also paid for the surgery that saved his life. The vet said he only had about a week to live as he was being eaten from the inside by a vast number of worms. He also had a large cyst. I looked after him at home before he was rehomed.

To date, I have saved 21 cats and kittens. It has been the most exhausting but rewarding thing I have ever achieved, and I am extremely happy to have made a small difference to these cats and kittens' lives.

Angela Bell, Alington



Although we have some wonderful volunteers who go out in all weathers to trap strays and feral cats, we cannot always be everywhere when we are needed. This year we have been overwhelmed by the number of cats needing to be rescued, especially kittens. We couldn't believe our luck when Angela offered to help with trapping several litters of kittens and adult cats in her area, and even managed to get many of them to a vet for any treatment they required. Incredibly, Angela also found wonderful homes for several of them, after caring for them in her home. Because of this we are so grateful to Angela for all she has done in rescuing so many cats in her area. We hate to think what fate these poor cats would have met without Angela's help. Thank You Angela, from us all at Norwich and District Cats Protection. You truly are a star!

NEUTERING AND MICROCHIPPING SCHEME

Following the introduction of a reduced-cost neutering and microchipping scheme, Cats Protection supported eligible cat owners with financial assistance to neuter over 120,000 pet cats in 2022.

The average cost for neutering in the UK is around £50-£100, plus £20-£30 for a microchip. The Cats Protection scheme allows those who are eligible to have their cat neutered and microchipped for £10. If any of the following criteria is met, cat owners can have their pet neutered and microchipped for £10 at one of our participating vets:

- in receipt of any of the following means-tested benefits: universal credit, income support, housing benefit, council tax benefit, pension credit, income-based ESA, income-based JSA, working tax credits and child tax credits
- have a household annual income of less than £25,000 before tax
- are a full-time student living away from home

Applicants should contact a participating vet directly to book an appointment. It is important that the vet is made aware that the applicant is eligible to use the Cats Protection £10 neutering scheme, due to one or more of the above criteria having been met.

Participating vets in Norwich include Rackheath Vets, Medivet Horsford, and Bridge Vets Wroxham. Details of participating vets in all areas can be found on the Cats Protection website www.cats.org.uk

Please note: anyone who uses this scheme should always check with the relevant microchip database that their cat has been registered to their home address.

PAIGE'S GREAT NORTH RUN

You will recall the article in the spring newsletter about Paige's participation in the Great North Run to raise funds for our Norwich branch. We are very pleased to report that, after putting in many hours of training, Paige completed this awesome run and completely smashed her fundraising target! We are all incredibly grateful to Paige for choosing Cats Protection as the recipient of her amazing fundraising efforts. She has kindly sent us a photo of one of her own beautiful rescue cats, who is keeping Paige's precious GNR23 medal nice and safe.



EMILY'S BRIGHTON MARATHON

"It's a marathon, not a sprint" - I can categorically say after 26.2 miles round Brighton I'd have much rather done a sprint! I had signed up for a 10k (RunNorwich) in 2022, and needed a goal to keep me training afterwards - another 10k maybe? A half marathon at a push? Nope, I went a bit wild and signed up to run the full marathon distance. It was only 8 or so months away!

Training over winter was difficult, many mornings at 5:30am I'd put on a billion layers, beanie and gloves and get out to slip around on icy roads. I think the coldest was when it was -4, I ran around Earlham Park in central Norwich about 12 times. Monotonous AND cold. Coming home to my cats each time reminded me of why I'm doing it, even if they were only excited to see me because I'd be feeding them breakfast...

The marathon weekend itself went by in a flash. We drove down to Brighton a few days before and set up in the AirBnB. To my surprise, my mum also turned up to cheer me on and she lives about an 8 hour drive away! The day before, I jogged from the AirBnB to the start line - only about 1.5km each way and yet my legs felt like lead. I see why they call them 'shake out' runs the day before, I was a bag of nerves!

Then the day came. I got up early, had my peanut butter bagel and got myself all kitted out. I wore my Cats Protection vest like a cape and I'm grateful I did because the amount of people who yelled about cats as I ran past really boosted me. I even had a few people run alongside and talk to me about the cats they'd adopted! Mile 15 was when I hit the mental wall. Brighton marathon is mentally draining because you can see people running for miles. It's what's called an 'out and back' and I'd definitely not recommend it as a first marathon... but I hadn't known that when signing up!

Apart from one portaloos toilet break, I didn't stop moving the entire distance. I absolutely walked parts of it, but I did everything I could to just. keep. moving. Then I saw it, the finish line and I got myself over it! I'll definitely end up doing another one, just maybe not for a while yet... I'm so proud to have raised over £700 for the Norwich Cats Protection - and would absolutely fundraise for them again

By Emily Delva



We are extremely grateful to Emily for all of her hard work in training, and her fantastic efforts to complete the Brighton Marathon in aid of our branch. We love these photos of Emily's cats Pigeon, Squid and Kiwi posing with her medal.

GEORGIA AND TINKERBELL

We first saw Georgia and Tinkerbelle on the Cats Protection website. A few days after, we couldn't stop thinking and talking about them after seeing their pictures and reading about them. So we decided to make an enquiry. A few days after this we had a response and we were arranging to have a home check and find out a bit more about the girls. Before we knew it we were looking forward to going and meeting them for the first time and we fell in love.

They were very shy when we met them but we still felt a connection to them and knew we could offer them a lovely home. This was on the Sunday, we then spent the next few days gathering cat supplies and went to fill in our adoption paperwork and collect the girls on the Wednesday. They spent the whole journey home meowing away and when they came home we let them out of the cat carriers and Georgia ran straight under the nearest item of furniture. Tinkerbelle was a little bit more inquisitive but still cautious. We found our adoption experience so positive and fast, we felt so supported throughout.



The girls were very shy with us over the first few days in their new home but we soon began to learn about their different personalities. Georgia loves relaxing and making the most of the sofa and armchair, whereas Tinkerbelle is more adventurous and active and loves exploring the house. A couple of weeks after adopting the girls we had begun to build a strong bond with them and Tinkerbelle has even been coming up to sleep on our bed in the early hours of the morning. She follows me around the house like a shadow sometimes. Georgia loves receiving as much attention as possible and if you stop stroking her she taps your hand with her paw very gently to ask for more fuss. We found

that giving them space and allowing them to bond with us in their own time was extremely beneficial in developing our relationship with these lovely cats.

Georgia and Tinkerbelle are 10 years old and every day they prove how worthwhile it is to adopt a slightly older pet. They have just as much energy and love to give as a younger cat, and they're playful and incredibly affectionate. Adopting the girls has been such a life-enhancing experience for us and we feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to adopt them.

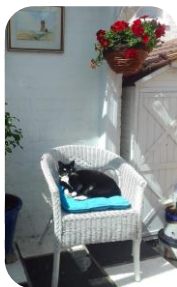
From Molly and Callum

FIREWORKS

Fireworks Night is nearly upon us, so this is a timely reminder of the stress and danger it can bring to many animals. Not all animals are able to cope with loud noises, and explosions and bangs can cause them great distress. To keep your pets safe, please make sure that they are kept indoors on and around Fireworks Night, with the curtains closed and a light on, and perhaps a radio playing in the background.



LILLY



Lilly, now Miss Lilly. She arrived June 14. My previous "Baby", Mr Dudley, had died in my arms on May 26. I had not intended to adopt another cat as I was still grieving for Mr Dudley. However I had a friend in Cats Protection locally. This prompted me to just wander on the Norwich website. Lilly's face appeared. I was drawn to her. I thought, if I could find a girl cat that visually could believably be his sister, then I might adopt. So the process began.

She was understandably shy and defensive. However, quite quickly she took to sleeping on my bed. Her eating and toiletry habits have been good. This has been wonderful progress as she came with supposed urinary infection issues, which were believed to have been stress-related. She has not had any problems since she came to live with me.



Lilly has claimed all the different sections of my home and garden as her own. She comes to get me out of bed if I "take too long". She likes to be patted and frequently rolls over "calling me" to pat her tummy. Daily she seems to become more secure in my love for her and delight in all her ways. She is a beautiful life to care for. I am so grateful that she has come to fill it.

By Sharmaine Pullman

FUNDRAISING

This year, we were very fortunate to be partnered with Pets at Home Sprowston again. Our fundraising volunteers have been busy collecting at this store twice a month throughout the year, with the exception of July when Hearing Dogs For The Deaf held a collection.

As we are partnered with Pets at Home Sprowston, we will be participating in the annual Santa Paws Event which runs from 27th November until Christmas Eve. Our volunteers will spend 24 hours in store over this period, collecting for our branch. Charities which fully participate will receive 50% of the funds raised; the remaining 50% will go to the Foundation Grant Programme. Please come along and have a chat with our volunteers who would love to meet you and will be happy to help you with any queries you may have.

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

It's rather early to mention the 'C' word, but from all of us at the branch we must wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2024. We thank you all for your continued support.

From the Norwich and District Cats Protection Fundraising Team

KATE'S FITNESS AND FUNDRAISING QUEST



I have reached a point in my life where I feel I need to push myself to do new and exciting things and to take myself outside of my comfort zone. One of those things is that I have decided to fundraise for Cats Protection by exploring the towering mountains of the island of Madagascar in October 2024.

Anyone that knows me well knows that I am quite a lazy so-and-so, and it's been a bit of surprise to some that I'm doing this. What's even more of a surprise are my personal challenges in preparation for going to Madagascar.

I have decided to complete a variety of walking and cycling activities, and so far I have walked 1,357,000 steps (660 miles) in 100 days between the 2nd of June and the 9th of September. On my last day of the challenge my husband (Rich) and I decided to walk from our house to Cromer, along to Sheringham, catch the train to Norwich and walk home from there -a total of 31 miles. There were some achy feet and bodies afterwards, but it was such an achievement it made it all worth it.

I also completed the 50-mile leg of the Tour de Broads bike ride in August which was a lovely route around the Norfolk Broads and surrounding area. This really pushed me as I hadn't got as much time on my bike in preparation as I'd have liked, but alongside my 76-year-old dad we completed it in just under 4 hours. My dad offered amazing support and I hope I'm as fit as he is at that age. I also wore my Cats Protection T-shirt and had a little Cats Protection sponsorship flag made up for my bike.



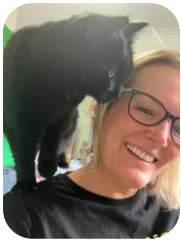
It's definitely turning into a family affair with fundraising. My mum is helping by growing and selling veg throughout the summer. She has raised, so far, a fantastic total of just over £100 which will go to my total amount on my Just Giving page. My sister is currently crocheting little mice which we will fill with catnip and sell with all proceeds going towards my fundraiser. She also has a design for some cute cat-themed tote bags.

Lastly, my husband has been helping me with my steps, encouraging me to get out and about when I am struggling and has been a massive help with fundraising, right down to having my QR code stuck to the front of his laptop for everyone to scan.



KATE'S FUNDRAISING AND FITNESS QUEST (continued)

The next part of my fundraising and fitness quest started on the 7th of October. I'm attempting the equivalent of the End-to-End Trail which is Land's End to John O'Groats, 1,215 miles in 200 days. It's really going to push me as it's through the winter. Dark, cold mornings are a massive deterrent as my last challenge saw me stomping around the north Norwich countryside at 6.30am completing at least 7 miles before breakfast in the glorious sunshine, so I'm really going to have to push myself to get out of bed to get the miles and steps done for this one.



My main reason for choosing Cats Protection? I have two beautiful girls (Tabitha and Gizzy) and they mean the world to me. If there is anything I can do to help their feline friends and family then I will. They aren't rescue cats, but our 3rd (and even 4th) will be, my husband just doesn't know I'm on the lookout to grow our family!

By Kate Greeves

We feel out of puff just reading about Kate's adventures! Huge thanks to Kate and her family for their amazing achievements so far. We wish Kate the very best of luck for her future events.

ISSY AND LOTTY

Issy and Lotty, who came to us aged 9 weeks, have been wonderful new members of our family. They have brought us so much joy and happiness, not to mention entertainment!

We consider ourselves so fortunate in being associated with Cats Protection who were so kind and helpful in enabling us to choose these wonderful girls. Karen and Maureen could not have been more helpful and we shall always be grateful to them.

Here are some pictures of their life with us. We think they have a really good time running, jumping and exploring our home, still waiting to get outside - but not until they are neutered at the end of October.

Liz and Tony



REHOMED

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



Twinkle



Willow & Winston



Kittens



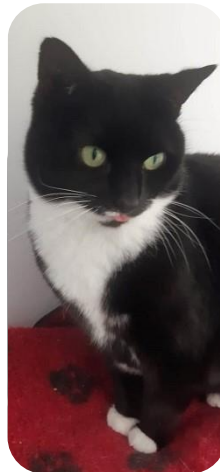
Kitty



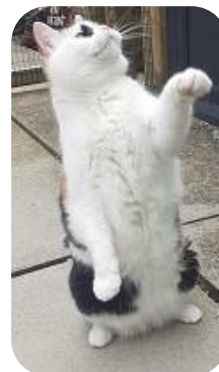
Betty



Olly



Lilly



Tinkerbell



Martha



Pebbles & Poppet



Georgia