CATS PROTECTION



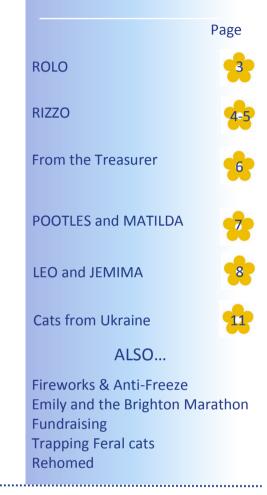
NORWICH & DISTRICT BRANCH

HELPING CATS IN NEED



Pootles and Matilda ... Almost a year on... read more inside

A quick look at what's inside



WELCOME TO OUR 2022 Autumn NEWSLETTER

We hope you have all had a good year. It seems every year we have a different problem to cope with regarding giving the best care possible to the cats in our care. Hopefully we have now gone through the worst of COVID, but this year we have struggled with the record temperatures.



Our fosterers have been wonderful, improvising with all kinds of cooling ideas in the fostering pens, and during the worst heat wave they even brought the cats indoors. Thankfully none of our cats suffered any ill effects.

Karen Alexander, one of our fosterers, covered the pens in wet towels (pictured left); she explained, "as the breeze goes through, it will help to cool the air"- a tip Karen remembers from her time serving in the army in the Middle East.

By Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)

Registered Charity no. 203644

www.norwich.cats.org.uk

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 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 is a while since I put together the last newsletter, and sadly this edition will be my last as editor. I have very much enjoyed putting together so many of your stories since 2014, they have brought me laughter as well as tears. Some stories I will never forget. I do hope you have enjoyed reading them.



It is now time to pass the batten on, and I am very pleased to announce Dave Sewell has kindly agreed to take this role on.

As always, Bella has helped me while I continue with 'Hybrid' working and knows just when I need 'silent' company when she lays by my keyboard and nods off to sleep; or 'full on' annoying 'ginger-ness' by blocking my screen whilst in a 'teams' meeting!

She is showing her age a little now, but still keeps us on our toes; and can still gallop the full length of the house at break-neck speed, which always makes us laugh. She is still our special Ginger Ninja.

By Karen Blyth

THANK YOU - A huge thank you to Karen for covering the role of editor since 2014 from us all at Norwich & District CP and all our members and supporters – *Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)*

Adoption Fees

For many years now our branch Adoption Fee has been one of the lowest in the country. But Cats Protection has recently generalised this, so all branches will now be asking for the same fee as follows:

For a cats which are over 6 months old £75.00

For kittens up to 6 months old £95.00

By Maureen Bennett (Coordinator)

Fireworks Night and The Dangers of Anti-Freeze

As Fireworks night is not that far away, please remember not all animals cope with loud noises.

Please keep you 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.





Registered Charity no. 203644

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)

www.norwich.cats.org.uk

ROLO



Rolo came into my care in March this year, having had a very unsettled time where he had been moved around homes that weren't suitable for him.

This beautiful little four-year-old cat was an Exotic Persian, and had been bred to have the extremely short snub-nose that is now prevalent within the breed. As soon as I settled Rolo into his foster pen I could hear that he had difficulty breathing. The poor boy would also make loud snorting noises because he couldn't breathe properly through his nose.

At his vet appointment the next day, the vet immediately heard a prominent heart murmur and Rolo was booked in for scans the day after.

Sadly, the scans showed that Rolo had a severe heart condition called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM). This is a genetic condition and is prevalent amongst certain breeds, in particular the Persian, whose short noses contribute to breathing difficulties, which in turn affect the heart.

The prognosis for Rolo was very poor, and the vet advised that he would only live for another 6-12 months. I had naively hoped that we could rehome Rolo to a calm and quiet home where he could enjoy his remaining time being spoiled and loved, before passing away peacefully in his sleep. However, the vet spelled out the appalling reality of Rolo's condition: the scans already showed what are known as "smoke signs", which indicate that a blood clot is already forming. The blood starts to pool and form a clot near the cat's back legs, and once the clot is formed and stops the blood flowing to the limbs, the cat is paralysed and suffers extreme agony until they are euthanized (which is the only option at that stage).

This devastating prognosis meant that the risk of Rolo suffering and dying in extreme agony was too great and, sadly, it was decided that Rolo would be put to sleep. Knowing that I only had a short while left with Rolo was very hard to take. I had spent a lot of time with him since taking him into my care – he was a very affectionate cat and he always wanted to curl up on my lap. He also loved being able to go outside in our garden, which is secured with protective fencing. He had the time of his life trotting around on the grass in the sun, chasing butterflies and stalking unsuspecting squirrels. Rolo had previously been an indoor cat, and in the five months prior to me taking him in he had been shut in one room.

When Rolo came to me he was underweight and malnourished, and around 2kg lighter than his ideal weight. Despite tempting him with all sorts of varieties of food and tasty treats, Rolo ate very little and he was often sick, which meant that he wasn't able to put on any weight. Rolo didn't let that bother him, and he still had plenty of energy. This outward appearance of a happy, affectionate and relatively energetic cat made it even harder for me to accept that I was going to lose him.

The day finally came when we had to say goodbye. It was the worst feeling in the world and I still cry when I think about losing Rolo. He was a very special boy who had been let down by people throughout his short life, and I can only take comfort in the thought that during his last few weeks with me he experienced love, comfort, nourishing food and a calm environment with a garden that he adored.

I will always love and remember him.

By Vanessa Sewell, Fosterer



RIZZO

Early this summer we had to say goodbye to our lovely eleven-year-old tabby boy Rio after a very short illness. In his last few years Rio had been at his most content sitting on his favourite chair in the kitchen and cuddling up on his blanket on the settee at the end of the day, so our home felt a bit empty without his loving presence. We did still have his lovely brother, Zico, but as he has always been much more of an outdoor and bedroom cat, we started to think about whether we were able to give another cat a loving home. I did worry that it might be too soon, but I also knew that we had a lot to offer a cat that maybe hadn't had the best start in life, and I strongly felt that we had Rio's blessing.

Our initial thoughts were for another adult cat as it was a long time since we had looked after a kitten. I started to look online at a few options and quickly realised that the Cats Protection website was very user friendly and had lots of useful information on regarding rehoming. When you are ready to think about adopting a cat you have the option to put a postcode in so that you get directed to your local rehoming centre and mine was the Norwich and District branch. Having done a little research we felt that rather than introducing an adult cat in to or home, Zico might feel less put out by a kitten – which was just as well as the photo that stood out to me on my local Cats Protection page was a little tabby kitten called Candy (who we have renamed Rizzo).

There was a little of her background and most importantly the fact that she could live with other cats, so I sent off an email enquiry. It was then that I was introduced to Kathy, a local lady who fosters cats and kittens, caring and looking after them until they can find their forever homes.



I had a phone conversation with Kathy who told me a little of Rizzo's background. This was a very informal and honest chat. Rizzo had been abandoned by her mum when she was very small and despite searches, mum could not be found nor could any brothers or sisters, so she was a little orphan. Kathy also told me that Rizzo had been with her for a few weeks and that she was a pretty little girl and very lively. It turned out that Kathy lived very locally to me, so I was able to visit the same day. I can remember walking into Kathy's kitchen and seeing Rizzo for the first time. She is the most unusual looking little girl with striking amber eyes and amazing markings, with a mixture of spots and stripes and it was love at first sight.

I had a cup of tea with Kathy, and we talked about Rizzo's journey in life so far. She had been introduced to Kathy's other cats with no problems. She hadn't wanted to be hand reared, as most abandoned kittens do, but had taken milk from a saucer instead. She had lots of play time and liked to explore but also spent some time in a large crate so that she could rest and to keep her out of mischief whilst Kathy was looking after her other foster cats and kittens. Rizzo had already had all her vaccinations, so was ready to be rehomed.

There was no pressure to make a decision, but I think I knew that from the moment I first saw her I would love her to join our family so a home visit was arranged within a few days. This involved a chat with Maureen, who co-ordinates the branch. Luckily, we were given the go ahead to adopt Rizzo and within a few days we had picked her up. Kathy had given me lots of information about things such as her routine, feeding and when she should be spayed (this would be paid for by the Cats Protection.) There were also forms to be signed and an adoption fee to be paid. Kathy gave me several of Rizzo's favourite toys to take home with her, including a small zebra that she still has a love hate relationship with. Then it was into a secure cat basket, along with her favourite teddy, for the short journey to her new home.



We knew she would have to stay in for several weeks and this wasn't always easy having to keep windows and doors shut during the hottest summer in years, but we coped (although the purchase of a fan was very necessary). She did settle into a routine very quickly - she is very good at using her litter tray and we have had no accidents - she also loves her regular mealtimes. We discovered she is not afraid of anything - maybe being abandoned at a very young age means you have to be brave, and she certainly is.

RIZZO cont...

It hasn't all been plain sailing, she has a crazy streak and we have found out that kittens have sharp teeth and claws, but she will often come and curl up on laps when she has tired herself out and has a very loud purr! From the start we have left a radio on in the background for her for the short times she has to spend on her own and overnight – this does seem to settle her if she has had some boisterous play.



She has now had her spay operation which went very well – we opted for the all in one vest to cover her wound instead of the cone – she managed to keep this on for several days before we came down one morning to find it hidden beneath the sofa – all the snaps were still done up, so we have no idea how she got out of it!

She has recently had the all clear from the vet that she has healed very well so has today ventured outside for the first time – handy tips from Kathy and Maureen were to make sure she was hungry when she first went out. This worked well as after a little exploring she did

come back for some food but as time goes on, we know she will be getting braver and want to explore more – luckily, we have a lovely large garden for her to do this. We have also found that a small mouse shaped laser beam toy comes in very useful for times when we want her to come back indoors – when she pounces on the red light, I turn the beam off and tell her she is a good girl - like most animals (and humans!) she loves lots of praise.

As I finish typing this, she is sitting beside me stretched out on the chair purring contently. I am so grateful Cats Protection are there and can see why they are the UK's leading feline welfare charity. Their vision is to ensure that every cat is given the chance of a life where it will be treated with kindness, compassion, and understanding of its needs, and I am so happy that we have been trusted to love and cherish our Rizzo who is already an irreplaceable member of our family – thank you from the bottom of my heart.



By Donna

Emily and the Brighton Marathon

Emily will be running the Brighton Marathon on 2nd April 2023 to raise funds for our branch.

Emily wrote on her 'Just Giving' page - I always had cats growing up and when I moved out/was able to, I got cats of my own as well. So why not raise money for the species I absolutely adore whilst training to run 26.2 miles in Brighton? Cats Protection do such great work caring for cats and kittens in this community!

Before COVID I was pretty into fitness, spending a fair bit of time rowing, cycling or doing something at the gym. The pandemic caused this to fall out of my routine so signing up for a marathon is the motivation I need to get back into those habits that I enjoyed so much. So, let's see how this goes shall we?

Emily's 'Just Giving' page is shown below if you wish to donate

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marathonforthecats

Good Luck Emily!

By Maureen Bennett (coordinator)



FUNDRAISING

The branch once again, has been fortunate in being chosen as Sprowston's Pets at Home Charity Partner. In addition to our usual bucket collection we have been given a space for a table, enabling sales of Cats Protection branded goods and small, donated items. We will be in store from (approximately) 10am - 4 pm on 15th and 29th October, and 12th and 26th November. We are also awaiting confirmation that we can attend the annual Santa Paws event during December. We will have Cats Protection calendars and diaries available in October and November, together with some cat related items. Please come and say hello if you are in the area.



Norfolk Knitters and Stitches have been busy making the branch various items during the year (see pictures). The knitted mice from Helen Jenkins sell well.

The Norfolk and Norwich Deaf Association's knitting group have donated to our branch, beautiful hand knitted blankets for which we are most grateful. The cats send lots of purrs.

Thank you to everyone who has donated, and to our wonderful volunteers during the past year. We couldn't do all this without your very valuable and much appreciated help

By Cathy Butcher





Dereham Adoption Centre

ATS

FROM THE TREASURER

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Derek and I have been a volunteer at Dereham Adoption Centre for over 15 years now. This includes a period during which I was also helping the Norwich Branch for a while when they were having some difficulties before returning to my main role at Dereham Adoption Centre.

Last year, about mid-November time, after the previous treasurer had to give up

the post due to family reasons (about September time), I was approached and asked if I would be willing to step into the position to help out. I took a little while to think about it before deciding that, as I still knew some of the committee members, and they me, I would be willing to try it, bearing in mind it is not a position I have been fully involved with in the past. Now after a few months of being in the role I feel I am gradually becoming more familiar with the ins and outs involved. Mind you, there are still several things I need to work at. All this as well as continuing my voluntary work with Dereham, good job I am retired!

Some of the things I still need to work out are to do with the electronic finance program that Cats Protection use on a day-to-day basis. There is an instruction manual but like in most of these systems, although the software is kept up to date the written version does not always agree with what the screen shows. I have also agreed to assist some of the fosterers in putting their cats/kittens onto Cat-a-log as required by Cats Protection thus allowing them more time to perform their primary role of looking after the animals in their care.

Overall, I believe together we are getting there; the branch has a healthy holding fund and a good balance in the current account. Speaking recently to our BDM regarding the possibility of one of the fosterers having another pen unit erected. She said it is a good idea as CP do not like branches to have too high an excess of money, and wherever possible our money should be used to help more cats in need in our area.

Regards Derek

POOTLES and MATILDA



When we moved into our first home, we knew that we wanted to rescue two cats and have them bring character into our lives. Both of us grew up around cats, so the house felt lonely without them. When we first saw Pootles and Matilda we immediately fell in love with their beautiful faces, and enquired.

The foster carer, Vanessa, was so welcoming and friendly, whilst having the best interest of the litter in mind. We met the kittens and their precious mum just before Christmas and our love for them was solidified. Spending an hour sitting with them and chatting with Vanessa, we felt very comfortable with the process and the knowledge being shared about cats in general. A neutering voucher was provided by the charity, which was greatly appreciated.

Just after Christmas, we brought Pootles and Matilda back to our home. They were very hesitant to leave the cat carrier initially, with little 'Tils' being the first to adventure. After an hour of exploring under sofas, the characters of them both and their love for each other was obvious. The first few nights we would check up on them to make sure they were okay and slowly they were making themselves comfortable.

As they both grew older their personalities came out more and more. 'Tils' is a very talkative, dainty and clever cat. Despite her tiny size, she holds a big presence in the room. 'Poots', despite being the opposite in stature to his sister, is loveable, laid back and playful. The two of them are inseparable. If they lose each other around the house, they will call out to find one another. Whilst working from home, their company really helps Ben's mental health and they both give a big welcome to Laura



when she comes in the door. They have brought us so much joy and happiness in such a short while.

We really appreciated Cats Protection in the adoption process of these two lovable kitties, and can't thank Vanessa enough for her advice and support throughout.

By Pootles and Matilda's mum & dad

Puss and Her Three Kittens by Tom Hood

Our old cat has kittens three — What do you think their names should be? One is tabby with emerald eyes,

And a tail that's long and slender, And into a temper she quickly flies If you ever by chance offend her. I think we shall call her this — I think we shall call her that — Now, don't you think that Pepperpot Is a nice name for a cat?

One is black with a frill of white, And her feet are all white fur, If you stroke her she carries her tail upright And quickly begins to purr. I think we shall call him this — I think we shall call him that — Now, don't you think that Sootikin Is a nice name for a cat? One is a tortoise-shell, yellow and black, With plenty of white about him; If you tease him, at once he sets up his back, He's a quarrelsome one, ne'er doubt him. I think we shall call her this — I think we shall call her that — Now, don't you think that Scratchaway Is a nice name for a cat? Our old cat has kittens three

And I fancy these their names will be: Pepperpot, Sootikin, Scratchaway — there! Were ever kittens with these to compare? And we call the old mother — Now what do you think? Tabitha Longclaws Tiddley Wink.

TRISTAN (now LEO) and JEMIMA

A few weeks ago before going to bed I had a quick look at the local CP cats. I was instantly drawn to the two Maine Coons and filled in the enquiry form. I tried very hard not to be too hopeful as I knew they'd be hugely popular so I was thrilled the next morning to get an email from their fosterer to say she'd ring me the next day. We had a long chat and it began to sound like I might be able to provide the home they deserved.

I was invited to meet them the next day and again tried very hard not to get too excited. I have to admit it was love at first sight, although that was pretty much guaranteed. They are the most chilled cats I have ever met (and I have met a few having been a CP volunteer in the past). Their fosterer has a brilliant set up so I was able to sit in the garden with them and watch them playing and exploring. They each came for some fuss and Leo is so chilled he even strolled back to their pen for a snooze on his favourite shelf.

A couple of days later I had my home check and I was able to pick them up less than a week after I first saw their pictures. I had everything set up for them to spend time peacefully acclimatising but they walked out of their baskets, investigated their new digs and within 5 minutes they were playing with their catnip mice. It turns out they are catnip addicts.

From the first night they have slept with me on the bed, snuggled up and purring gently. They love sitting on the windowsills looking at the garden, no doubt planning adventures once they are allowed out. They are the most affectionate cats ever and I feel like I have 2 (very large) furry shadows as wherever I am they will be very close. They are lovely together, they love to chase each other through the house (they sound like a small herd of elephants) but they are always gentle, even when play fighting. They adore their flying feather toys and take it turns to bash it with their monster paws.

Once they've played enough they curl up, often together, and snooze quietly. I've been really surprised by their voices, I had expected such large cats to have loud meows but they actually make little chirruping noises which are really sweet. They spend a lot of time grooming (being that beautiful takes effort) and fortunately they enjoy being brushed so we can keep their coats in top condition.

They have been so at home from the moment they arrived it's almost difficult to believe they haven't been here forever.

It's obviously nice that they are stunningly beautiful but what is important to me is that they are such affectionate, playful, gentle and loyal cats. I definitely can't imagine my life without them. I have to say a huge thank you to Norwich & District CP first for taking them on and then for entrusting them to my care. I couldn't be happier and look forward to many years with my massive Maine Coons.

By Louise





Trapping Feral Cats

Some of the most rewarding work with cats is helping colony cats through trap-neuter-return schemes, 'TNR'.

In Norfolk there are many colonies of cats in our area and many of these cats are scared of people due to lack of or not enough socialisation. There are so many cats needing homes that socialising adult cats is often not possible with the time and people available, so often the best thing that can be done for the cats is 'TNR' of their colony, where the cats are caught and then neutered, given routine parasite treatments and checked by the vet to make sure they are well, then returned to their home. Before being returned the cats are 'ear-tipped', where a small piece is removed from the top of the left ear - a clear way of showing the cat has been neutered so avoiding the stress of the cat being taken for neutering at another time.





One colony we have been helping recently lives at some workshops just north of Norwich. When we first went to see these cats we were told there were about ten cats, but as so often happens, we soon found out there were far more than this. Back in Spring of 2021 we caught around 15 adults, this took many weeks, but we persevered until there was only one very trap-shy cat left. This was a very savvy cat and try as we might, she wouldn't go in, she had seen all her fellow cats caught and being the least bold of all of them, gave the trap a wide berth whenever it was out, so we left a trap with the cats feeders so they could try again, hoping she would forget what the traps were in time.

Time passed, with several other colonies being TNR'd in the meantime, with this one little cat still successfully avoiding the trap, so we returned to collect our trap and to find out if she was still being seen around. As luck would have it, one of the people in a workshop near the cats' feeders' workshop lived in a house behind the units, and was there that day.



We decided to go over and see if he had seen our evasive cat recently, and discovered that not only did he know and feed the cat, but there were quite a few other cats living in the

vicinity of his house, which he believed were not neutered. We braced ourselves for more weeks of trapping and vet trips, gathered traps together at the location, but thanks to the dedicated feeder, the trapping and transport were done by him after the first four cats, leaving us free to organise appointments and help other cats. In total 19 more cats were neutered, treated for fleas and worms and returned, and three kittens were taken in so new homes could be found for them.



Once all the cats in a colony have been neutered it is important to keep an eye on them, and support colony caretakers with things like cat food or flea and worm treatment, so we get to see how well the cats are doing and often hear stories of cats becoming less scared as their colony transitions from a breeding one to one with less fighting and a more stable hierarchy. Many times cats will become much more friendly with their feeders which is lovely to hear and a relief as it means cats can be cared for more easily, especially if they become unwell at some point.

We look forward to hearing updates on the colonies we've helped and it's always cheering to see them thriving under the care of their feeders and know we have been able to improve their lives through the many benefits to health of being a neutered cat.

By Anna



ENTIRE MALES – Why Neutering is so important



Tigger is one of our fosterer's pet cats. For some time an entire male cat had been prowling in Tigger's garden and terrifying him.

Rebecca tried her utmost to trap the cat, but unfortunately before she was successful, poor little Tigger was badly attacked by it and this was the result. Not only causing Tigger excruciating pain, but also high vet bills for Rebecca.

This is a typical example of what can happen if cats are not neutered, they also spread awful feline diseases.

Our branch of Cats Protection will help those who cannot afford to cover the cost of neutering their cats, and also at present we are offering free microchipping if the cats are booked in for neutering at designated vets in Norwich.

Please call 0345 494 1900 and chose option 2.

SNIP AND CHIP

Janice has had another busy time so far this year issuing 320 neutering vouchers.

In addition to offering help with the cost of neutering, we are now offering free microchipping to anyone using one of our neutering vouchers, if they can book an appointment with any of the following 'Vets4Pets' practices in Norwich:

Sprowston Retail Park, NR7 9AZ

Hall Road Retail Park, NR4 6DH

Norfolk Retail Park, Longwater, New Costessey NR5 OJT

Hand-Reared

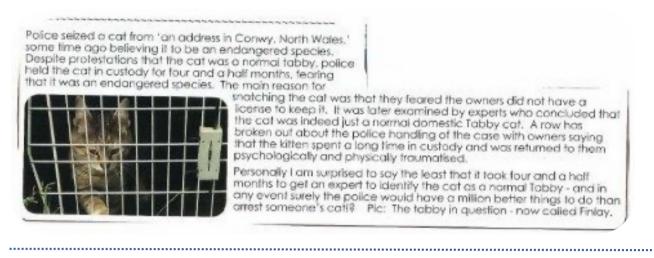


These are some of the beautiful kittens hand reared by Karen, one of our fosterers, from 10 days old



Tabby Cat mistaken for an endangered species

Taken from a Welsh Newspaper clipping:



CATS FROM UKRAINE

I'm sure like myself, as cat lovers, you have all been deeply moved by the reporting of the awful war in Ukraine where families have been shown carrying their beloved cats to safety. Because of this we have often been asked how we can help.

Unfortunately due to the risks involved we have not been able to take any cats directly from Ukraine, but many of us have made donations to various charities that are helping the Ukrainian cats, both financially and with donating cat related items, such as carriers, bedding and food.

We did however manage to help reunite a cat, which had escaped from his Ukrainian owner who has now settled in Norwich. This cat had met all quarantine requirements.

Please see statement from National Cats Protection below

IMPORTING CATS FROM UKRAINE FOR REHOMING

While bringing cats in crisis over from Ukraine into Cats Protection care might seem a good solution, importing cats from abroad for rehoming is not a sustainable solution, and can result in poor welfare outcomes and carries significant risk of infectious disease transmission. The UK has stringent importation and quarantine laws - to consider importing animals without control would put at risk the UK population of animals and, in particularly in the case of rabies, people too.

For this reason, Cats Protection won't take cats into care that have been imported into the UK for rehoming by other organisations.

THE RISK OF IMPORTING CATS FOR REHOMING IN THE UK

Cats entering the UK from Ukraine pose significant risks to cats in our care and to our people. There is a risk of imported animals bringing exotic diseases into the UK, such as rabies and tapeworm Echinococcus Multilocaris. These are potentially fatal diseases, which could be transmitted to animals and people and could become established here.

The UK is currently free of rabies, whereas other countries in mainland Europe are not. The risk is further increased as cats are highly stressed by being transported, especially if in cramped conditions. This stress can result in suppression of their immune systems and increased risk of infectious diseases, both for the cat and others (for example, in catteries) on the arrival in the UK.

REHOMED

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



Lyla



Kittens



Finn



Barnaby



Bailey



Kittens rehomed last year, celebrating their first birthday





Sonic

Tyga is an exceptional looking boy, and because of this, he was very much in demand. But please remember all of our cats are special and deserve a loving home



Dust-Mog