

What's been going on at Stockport CP ...

Hello and welcome to our second newsletter.

We hope this newsletter finds you and your families, human and 4 legged ones, happy and above all healthy. What an incredibly stressful and strange year we have all had. This Covid pandemic has turned all our lives upside down and has certainly kept us all on our toes.

It has been a tough year for us (and all charities) as we haven't been able to put on our normal fundraising events and the opportunity to keep in touch. Roger has filled the gap with regular fundraising Zoom meetings that cheered us all up.

This year, despite Covid restrictions and long periods when we were not able to rehome, we have managed to find 21 cats their forever home plus we have provided discounted neutering vouchers for over 500 cats. We continue to provide help and support for cats and their feeders in the Stockport area.

The incoming emails and calls from people wanting to give cats up, or reporting strays, or found cats this year both in and outside of our catchment area has been overwhelming. We have helped them all best we can either with advice or hands on rescue, many of the cats we have helped recently have been long standing unwanted elderly strays.

We found Alfie a forever home after a dental at the grand old age of 18!

George (you might remember from Facebook) was an elderly unneutered and elusive stray we'd been trying to catch for

ages, he was scratching a living near Bredbury tip. He had the most terrible teeth and mouth problems, but after treatment he is healthy and happy, and he now has his forever home.

Another elderly unneutered stray we helped was Bear who had been wandering around Offerton for years, he now has a lovely new home and owner.

We have been busy with our TNR work and one recent difficult and stressful job was a large feral community on Bredbury industrial estate. Over several weeks we trapped and neutered the adults and 3 kittens also came into our care from the estate. All had cat flu, one kitten ended up in Woodcroft vets as an emergency with fluid on his lungs. Without our intervention he would have died. All the kittens have been socialised and will be up for adoption soon.

Now a big thank you to all our volunteers, donators and supporters who have helped us in so many ways this year, thanks to Jackie and Chris for the website, Ian, Sian and Julia for Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.

A huge thank you to Kerry and Sonia who have helped in so many rescues this year and another big thank you to our homing team for all their hard work. Thank you to the fantastic Castlecroft Cattery for taking in our stray cats at short notice.

Please enjoy our stories and if you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

Melanie

Fundraising

2020 has obviously been a year without being able to fund raise in our usual way.

We would usually look forward to our annual dog show in August as well as our Pets at Home fundraisers, cat shows and much more - sadly all cancelled. However we are looking forward to getting back out there next year as soon as we are able. We have already provisionally booked our Dog Show at Woodford Community Centre for the first Saturday in August and will be coming back bigger and better! Can't wait to see everybody again but in the meantime stay safe and if anybody has any fund raising ideas that they think they would like to suggest please get in touch. Xx



Luna (Suki)

Some of our members have been waiting for an update on our long-stay cat Suki. She is now Lazy Luna and here she is enjoying herself in her new home.



WE ARE STOPPING SENDING THE NEWSLETTER BY POST - PLEASE READ

To save on our printing and postage costs and reduce our environmental impact, future newsletters will be sent out by email. It will also be posted on our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. If you are currently getting your newsletter by post you can help by providing us with your email address at enquiries@stockport.cats.org.uk or calling on 0345 260 1854 and leaving a message.

If print is the only way we can reach out to you please call 0345 260 1854 and confirm you still want to hear from us. Unfortunately, if we don't hear from you we will have to assume you no longer want to receive news from us. Please reply as soon as possible - we don't want to lose you and email is the most cost-effective way forward, thanks.

Castlecroft Boarding Kennels & Cattery

Castle Hill, Bredbury SK6 2RY

0161 494 0786

info@castlecroft-kennels.co.uk

www.castlecroft-kennels.co.uk

Ann & Andy Salter



We are on facebook, twitter and instagram!

Why not join us? We already have thousands of followers and we would love to have more! Just look for 'Stockport Cats Protection' and follow us to get updates on cats in our care and events we have coming up. On instagram you can find us under stockport.cp. On twitter you can find us under @StockportCP

Also ... if you have had a cat from us at any time in the past, please feel free to post pictures to our facebook page.



Greenbank

affordable healthcare for your four legged friends

Greenbank can now offer a wide range of surgical procedures previously only available at referral clinics. Greenbank continues to offer discounted vaccinations, neutering and dental treatments. Please visit our website for more details.

www.greenbankvets.co.uk 0161 428 5655/5200
Brook House 2-4 Northenden Road, Gatley, Cheadle SK8 4DN

Positive FIV Happy Homings

Clarence – all claws and cuddles ...

First meeting Clarence in the kennels was a scary experience – a huge tabby with teeth a sabre-toothed tiger would have been proud of, he wasn't exactly friendly. He was a bit snarly in fact, but there was something about him which made us go back...and back. We took the plunge, signed on the dotted line and then wondered what on earth we'd let ourselves in for... A lap cat he wasn't...or so we thought.



His first evening in his new home was eventful – hiding behind the microwave, a lot of hissing and spitting followed by an escape attempt up the chimney – things could only get better, and yes they did. It took a while and we got through a lot of plasters, but once he realised he was warm, dry, fed and the master of all he surveyed, the fearsome tom turned quite soppy. He's FIV positive so the outdoors was never



an option, but he's more than happy curled up on the sofa, chasing a ball or a piece of string. Lockdown has been fun for him as well, with full-time company (no you don't want to work, play with me instead!) and lunchtime treats. He's most definitely a lap cat now – a rather heavy one who snores a lot, but the claws have given way to cuddles and we couldn't be happier! We can't thank Mel from Cats Protection enough for all her help and advice – we've filled a cat-shaped gap in our lives and Clarence has found the laps he's always wanted!

Sully ...

We were looking for a new rescue cat, our previous beautiful rescue cat died in October 2019. She was a black cat and we decided not to have another black cat. However when we read Sully's story on the Cats Protection site we knew we had to meet him. He was another black cat.

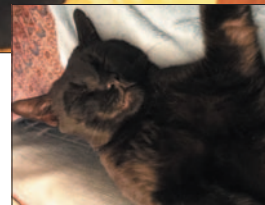
Sully hasn't had a great start in life, a car accident, abandonment and illness. He had been diagnosed with FIV. All this had left him a very sad cat. Melanie, from Cats Protection, had done wonders for him whilst looking for a new home. He was clearly on the mend health wise but still very shy with strangers.

Melanie and I talked before we went to visit. She was incredibly honest about the FIV and about his timidity with people. So we were prepared to take things slowly. Melanie was great - she let us spend lots of time with Sully. He slowly started to come out his shell and let us stroke him. We knew at that point he was our cat.

He arrived in February and the first few days were interesting. He was terrified and spent all the time under the sofa. We knew he was starting to settle in when he stopped hiding under the sofa and started hiding behind it. We were given the top tip of bribing him with food. Over the next few weeks he started to build his confidence, explore the house, discovering the upstairs was a revelation.



Eight months on he is a mischievous, naughty boy, we love him! He can't go out alone because of the FIV, but we bought him a harness and he loves walking us around the garden. He is healthy and playful with a love of destroying carpets. Cats Protection gave Sully a chance and we are so happy that we were allowed to give him a home.



SUPPORTING THE BRANCH

Stockport Cats Protection is funded entirely by donations and we rely on the generosity of our supporters to help us to continue our work to ensure a bright future for all the cats and kittens in our care. If you would like to make a donation to our branch then you can in the following ways:

- Via our website at www.cats.org.uk/stockport and click on the donate button. You can choose to send a one-off gift or to set up a monthly direct debit.
 - Into our branch bank account and sending a one-off donation or setting up a standing order via your bank. Our bank account number is 60851612 and the sort code is 20-42-66.
- All donations will be received directly by our branch and any donation large or small will be greatly appreciated. If you have any further queries on donations, would like to receive a receipt for your donation or if you are currently a UK taxpayer and would be happy to Gift Aid your donation please email our treasurer Catherine Harrop at treasurer@stockport.cats.org.uk for further information.

Max ...

The best thing we did this summer was to adopt a 2 and a half year old cat called Max, who was waiting patiently for a new home after being rescued by Cats Protection in Stockport.

Since arriving in August he has become part of the family and is a great character!

If course these are unusual times, and homing a cat during Covid meant that social distancing had to be observed. Fortunately Cats Protection provided lots of support and careful planning to ensure that the process was safe and effective. First they shared photos, a short film and Max's story to help build a picture. Then they sent lots of useful information and kept in touch by phone and on line to help plan for his arrival. They warned he might be a little nervous so we were well prepared.

On August 2nd this year, Max arrived at our house in his cat carrier with his own yellow blanket. We had everything ready, including his favourite food ... but he was terrified and dived under the sofa! Despite all coaxing he hardly appeared for 10 hours.

It didn't take long after that, though for Max to make himself at home. First he began to make small explorations around the room. By the end of the week, he was sitting with us on the sofa, being very affectionate and welcoming lots of cuddles.

Since then he has gone from strength to strength and delights us every day. He has found all the most



comfortable places to snooze, and races around the house in between times. He loves chasing toys, treading old wool blankets and also occasional cat treats. He does have a mischievous streak, and enjoys batting people through the banisters if going upstairs. With his big friendly features, friends have likened him to a popular cartoon cat. He often makes us laugh, too... he has adopted an old yellow draw string bag and drags it around like a prize trophy. In the last week he has begun to take some tentative steps outside in our small enclosed garden. His face was a picture, having never seen the sun, sky or flowers! He stayed very close to us but was fascinated by the butterflies!

Throughout the time since he was adopted, Cats Protection have offered encouragement, good advice and an easy, efficient paperwork system. He arrived in beautifully cared for condition, clean, healthy and house trained. All he was missing was a home! It was great to be able to share photos and videos of Max and hear feedback that he has blossomed and grown hugely (in confidence, not size!) with us. He is certainly now more vocal and also lets us know if, for example my son is sitting on the armchair which is rightfully his. It was also very reassuring to know, in return for a reasonable donation, that all necessary injections, microchipping and other procedures had been taken care of including the first month's pet insurance.

In summary I would encourage anyone who loves cats to consider adopting one. We are very glad we did and think Max would agree!

Join the Very Important Pets Club today!

Did you know that when you register your Pets At Home VIP card you can nominate Stockport Cats Protection as your charity of choice - so we will benefit every time you use your card! Please check the Pets At Home website for details and nominate Stockport Cats Protection.

When you receive your card - do not forget to go online or phone Pets at Home to nominate Stockport Cats Protection as your charity of choice and receive your benefits.

