



FELINES

Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter
Autumn 2022 (No. 139)



Read all about Leap - or
is it Frog ? - inside

In this edition:

- *Celebrating Black Cats*
- *Jamie walking for cats*
- *One woman went to mow*
- *Lemmy's great adventure*
- *The Journey Home*



How to keep cool in very hot weather



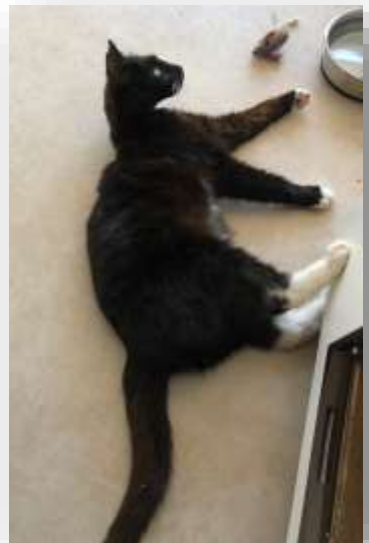
Freddy - A former stray who was with us during the very hot weather and decided stretching out on his floor was the coolest place to be.

Sometimes in front of his door - which made entering with his food challenging. Not that even his tea could get him to move at times.

Now happily rehomed.

Beautiful **Esme**, had a similar idea, lying down beside her water bowl being her answer to the heat. It was tempting to join her and throw the water bowl over us both.

When the temperature cooled, she liked nothing better than to keep her toys close and give them some serious attention.



Esme has now gone on to her forever home and is reported as having settled in well.

Hello Friends and Readers,

*Welcome to your Felines Newsletter — **Autumn 2022***

No moaning about a lack of a summer this year - still some of us complained about it being too hot. Temperatures were very un English for us and our feline friends at times. Just as human behaviour changes in extreme weather so too can feline. In order to stay cool, outside under a shady bush or deep within an overgrown one, was the place to be day and night if you were a cat. As long as there was lots of water available, food was of less interest.

Even a stray in our homing pens, who woofed down everything as soon as it was put out, as strays have a tendency to do, stayed put lying out on his floor hardly stirring. Keeping our cats cool in very high temperatures was a challenge, so too the sudden appearance of a lot of wasps . A nest nearby resulted in the homing pens having more than the odd wasp buzzing around.

A challenge to human and felines. In order to keep windows open to maximize air circulating, but reduce the numbers of flies and wasps, open weave netting was placed over the windows. It may have reduced the cats' ability to see the birds in the garden, but it did the trick, cooled the pens down. Also some wasp traps outside discouraged them from seeking sustenance inside the building.

Now that the temperatures have returned to something more associated with Autumn, this has made the pens altogether more pleasant for everyone.

AP

Calling all cat lovers - do you have a little time to help us care for the cats whilst they are with us?

We need cat care volunteers to feed and clean at our cat pens, Full training and uniform is provided and the amount of time spent volunteering can be tailored to individual availability

Call us on 03452 602 397 or email enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk If this is something that would interest you and you would like to join the team

The reasons given to take cats into care

The Branch has seen a rise in the number of requests to relinquish owned cats. For one year, up to June 2022 we have the following figures -

Owner died/gone into care—11. Of these, two cats were under the CP Cat Guardians scheme

Financial—15

Cats didn't like children—6

Landlord issues—2

Relationship breakdown—1

Owner health (Many reports of mental health problems) - 10

Cat not happy in new home—1

Cat not happy with other animals—2

Stray—2

Working hours/other changes—2

We are simply not able to accommodate every request to take cats into care, but we do the best we can to redirect owners to other organisations who might be able to help.

Where strays are concerned, the work involved in establishing that a found cat is actually a stray with no home takes time and effort and we are obliged to honour the legal aspects of cat ownership. Very often an owner is out there and it is vital that they are identified and reunited with their pet if possible.

If a cat is reported as a stray there are many checks to make. Does the cat belong to a neighbour? Has the finder asked neighbours if they know the cat? Is it injured? Is it unwell? Is it being fed? Is it microchipped?

All these things need to be fully investigated before we could consider taking the cat into care or adding it to the waiting list and should the cat then be admitted, we may not be able to carry out some treatments for a set period of time whilst all aspects of tracing an owner are pursued.

Our poster boy on the back of this edition of Felines, **Simba**, is one such. A beautiful ginger cat with interesting stripes on his head. Simba was with us for quite a while, took his time settling in, always a quiet boy who liked some attention and let you know when he'd had enough.

After all searches had been exhausted, some essential dental work was carried out and this lovely elderly boy found his forever home with a kind lady seeking someone to share her life with.

After adoption, Simba gave up watching our feathered visitors in our garden, but he now has a large garden all to himself, other than the six guinea pigs that live in a hutch. They will make an interesting change to the scenery for Simba - enjoy your new life you deserve it!

An Update from Lord Peanut!

It's been nearly a year since you've had an update from Lord Peanut. I'm pleased to say he's very well and keeping his 'staff' busy attending to his every need.

Peanut will be having a change, hopefully in the near future, in that we have our bungalow on the market. We are moving to be near the rest of the family. It will be our last move to our forever home. Each property we view, the first question is where Peanuts new 'Garden' aka Catio, room be located, so he can still enjoy his outside space. Peanut loves his Aunties, Uncles, cousins and Granny, who will all be nearby and he'll enjoy even more attention, which he adores.



With one of us having recently retired, and the other working from home two days a week, his Lordship has even more time with someone at home, which he loves.

Today, he has been foreman, whilst watching us gardening and then pursuing his favourite hobby...laying in the sunshine, on his back, with his legs wide open. Thankfully, he has the sense to move in the shade, when he needs to cool down.

L&C and Peanut

The Journey Home

This story was contributed by a school friend of our Branch Coordinator. The amount of planning that went into this journey is just awesome! AM

In 2009, after living in Crete for nearly 8 years, we decided to return to the UK, but by that time, we had taken in every little stray puss cat in the neighbourhood that came to us asking for help.

They were all immediately taken to be neutered as a matter of course, and the vets at the rescue shelter would check them over. It was found that one little puss cat we called Bonnie had *Pyometra* so needed extra special care. Over the 8 years, we also ran neuter clinics for strays in our kitchen when kind volunteer vets could be persuaded to come for a week or two from the UK or Germany.

After all these years, more and more puss cats had arrived at the front door asking for help. So in the end, we knew we needed to get 18 puss cats and 3 doggies back to the UK and they all had to have rabies immunity tests, microchips and passports which took about nine months.



We bought a very large van from a couple who had recently arrived in Crete, and my partner fitted it out with insulation (against the heat) and 24 individual little pens.

On the journey home, each morning I cleaned their litter trays and gave them their breakfast of plenty of wet and watery food (my fear was that they would dehydrate), and then we started off.

They cried their little hearts out all morning until we stopped for lunch, and they ate their wet food hungrily, then they all slept peacefully for the afternoon, until they got hungry again and we stopped to give them their tea.

When we found somewhere to stop for the night, they would all get more food, and be cleaned out again. They each had a litter tray and bedding area and we had a gangway down the middle so I could take each puss cat out of its pen and let them walk about to stretch their legs whilst I was cleaning their pen without any fear of them escaping. A wire gate had been put at the back of the truck that I could secure when inside, so we could have the back doors open whenever we stopped to see to them.

The journey took about 7 days, and when we got within 24 hours of Calais, we found the vet whose name we had been given who then had to re-apply worm & flea treatment in order to be allowed in to the UK.



Customs checked every animal's microchip and matched it with their passport, and made us agree that should there be a catastrophe in the tunnel, we wouldn't hold them responsible for the animals.

There was also the rule that each person could only bring in a maximum of five animals to the UK, but unbelievably, they allowed us through and onto the train, because we hadn't been warned about this restriction when we booked the Eurostar tickets, i.e. they shouldn't really have accepted the booking of two adults with 21 animals.

Phew! I nearly cried with relief.

JR

Pyometra is an infection in the uterus. Pyometra is considered a serious and life threatening condition that must be treated quickly and aggressively. However the prognosis is good with early treatment with nearly 92% survival.

Lemmy's Great Adventure

Lemmy is a Marble Bengal cross tabby, sixteen months old. The first we knew that he'd gone missing was he hadn't been home for any food in the night which was highly unusual. Our next door neighbour recalls seeing him further down our road where there are lots of hunting areas and places to shelter. When we went down looking for him there were a lot of feathers!! We knocked on neighbours' doors and searched gardens and garages to no avail.

I have been a long time supporter of Cats Protection so I registered Lemmy as missing, together with other sites available. Kind, concerned friends posted on Facebook generally and in the local area. We were out doing a search at dusk with Dreamies and food, calling him. I forgot to take my phone with me as I was in a state, but when we got home there were messages and texts from Cats Protection Lost and Found, with the details of a cat of Lemmy's description having being located fairly close by. With full agreement, I was given the name of the lady who had been in touch who has reported where he was located, He was forty feet up on a roof - in fact on top of a chimney! Another lady had tried to coax him down with food but he was having none of it.

We decided we would contact the Fire Brigade and ask if they could assist us which they were happy to do as it is animal welfare. The GreenWatch team of five coordinated the rescue which was no easy task as Lemmy was obviously scared, but with gentle calm persuasion he ate the food and after a lot of toing and froing he eventually was down. They were brilliant, so professional with such a precarious situation.

We can't thank Cats Protection, the Fire Brigade, friends and neighbours and the two ladies where Lemmy had taken refuge, enough.

He is now on house arrest which he has to accept, and being spoilt as usual.

None the worse for his escapade. We are nervous wrecks, but it was my birthday recently and I couldn't have asked for a better birthday present.



Why are you feeding me poison?

For volunteers, arriving to put out breakfast or tea each day at our homing pens, there are two sources of information as to the likes and dislikes of our guests. The main notice board that gives you the name of each pen resident, age, male or female (sometimes the name is not a clear indication) as well as food preferences if known. Then there is the twice daily computer log that is completed at breakfast and tea times, recording whether food, wet or dry has been eaten and what else has been going on.

So it is challenging at times, when 'Sooty likes fish flakes but not beef' is recorded and when provided at tea time, having noted that all the dishes from breakfast have been cleared, Sooty regards a fish supper with distain. In fact having taken a sniff, turns to look at you as if you are trying to poison him, and then walks off to take to his bed in a huff.

Oh dear, leaving it for the time being, you carry on dealing with the other residents, only to come back to Sooty, to see if he's perhaps had a morsel of food in the interim. No. Now what?. Food is an important event in a pen resident's life – apart from a little play or lap time with volunteers each day, not much is going on to stimulate or entertain our cats. Yes they can watch the birds outside coming and going to the feeders, but it is important that their food is tasty and appealing. So why do they behave like, well like difficult toddlers at times?

Because they are cats. Much as our own cats, as soon as you've bulk bought something they appear to find the equivalent of cat caviar, they then promptly ignore it. Putting out something else to see if perhaps chicken is to be in favour today, only works sometimes.

So our logs are an important record of how our residents are getting on. Perhaps they are not well, if off all food, they are in pain. Do they need a visit to the vets? Do they have problems with their teeth? This is not an uncommon issue as they get older. So our volunteers not only ensure our pen residents are fed and watered – it is so much more – they are the eyes and ears responsible for the welfare of the cats in our care.

So thank you for all that you do and the time you give.



**If you think this is something you could do please ring:
03452 602 397 or email: enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk**

Let's Celebrate National Black Cat Day!

National Black Cat Day was created by Cats Protection on 27 October 2011 to help celebrate the majesty of monochrome moggies and beautiful black cats. When the campaign was launched, statistics revealed that black and black-and-white cats took, on average, seven days longer to find a home compared to cats of other colours.

Years later, we're still celebrating black cats in all their glory - although our campaigning has now paid off! Black and black-and-white cats now spend less time in our care than when we started promoting the campaign, resulting in thousands of happy cats and owners.

Each year, we get huge numbers of cat-lovers engaging with our **#BlackCatDay** hashtag on social media and best of all, we get to see how beloved black cats and black-and-white cats have made a real impression on their owner's lives

Here are some of the lovely black cats that have passed through our homing pens in the last year!



Scarlet—a larger than life character

Peaches—with beautiful amber eyes!



Bessie - a tiny girl, and delightfully friendly girl with a big heart.



Ophelia — A very laid back girl once she had settled with us at the homing pens. She is now happily settled with her new family



Thor— a big lad who is FIV positive and therefore was adopted to an indoor home

New arrivals – from black cats to torties!



After all the black cats, we have welcomed four torties. All girls, which is normal as genetically this colouring is linked to the female gene. Although male tortoiseshells can occur, they are very rare and usually sterile.

Cleo has a beautiful soft coat and very pretty toes. She is a lovely girl, very friendly, who no doubt will be one of those cats, that don't stay long before being adopted, but manage still to leave a big hole in your heart when she moves on.



Bobo was a noisy, attention seeking madam. who gave her toys some serious welly.

Bobo occupied the pen next to the kitchen. She would let you know, if you didn't serve her tea first.

She wouldn't put up with tea time bowls passing by for the other pens. So always best to serve her first to reduce the noisy complaints.

Lottie a very active cat who settled in quickly.

She would always come out to see you. Not one to rush at her food, preferred lots of chin rubs, and liked to get up close and personal.



Poppy was a pen resident back in the summer. When she came to us her skin and coat were in very poor condition.

By the time she left us her skin and coat glowed with health.

A beautiful girl who deserved the best.

Four lovely tortoiseshell girls but all different in nature!



FRIENDS OF THE BRANCH

'Friends of the Branch' is available to anyone who cares about cat welfare in our area. Membership is free, but we welcome a donation towards the printing costs of 'Felines'.

You can either donate by cheque or postal order payable to:-

'Cats Protection T&W – Friends of the Branch'

and send to :- Friends of the Branch

51 Yarlington Close, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6RR

Please enrol/re-enrol me as a 'Friend of the Branch' for one year.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £.....

OR donate by BACS payment to sort code: 20-42-66

Account number 90478105 Cats Protection Taunton & Wellington
mentioning Friends of the Branch as a reference.

Gift Aid - I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year (6th April to 5th April) it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

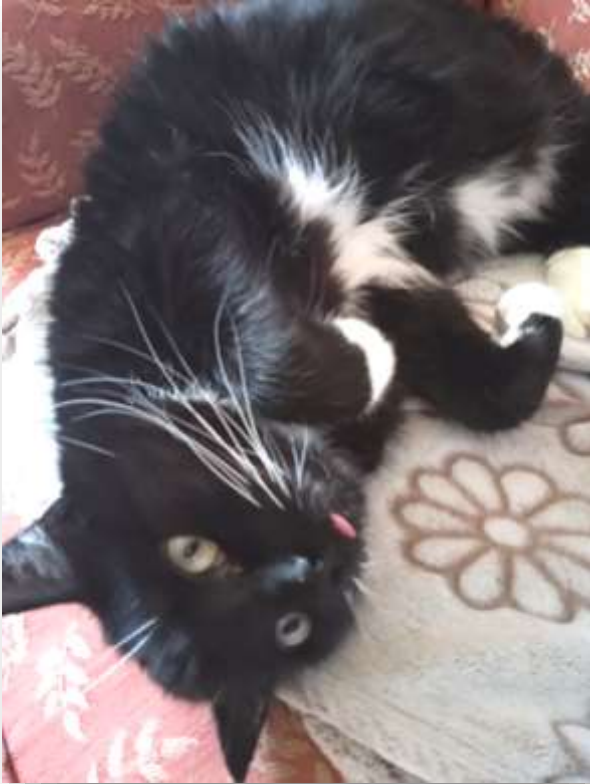
Please tick this box if you want to Gift Aid this donation and any other donations you make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Cats Protection, ☐

OR If you are not a UK Tax Payer please tick this box ☐

If you would prefer to receive Felines by email, please tick this box ☐

*If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Supporter Services by telephoning **0800 160 1012** Monday to Friday during office hours (9am-5pm), or by emailing **preferences@cats.org.uk** or write to: **Freepost, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Sussex RH17 7TT.***

Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy if you have any questions about how we use your data.



Having settled myself comfortably on the bed the other evening, I was just dozing off when I was disturbed by Mrs Person muttering to herself, as she attempted to wedge herself into the narrow gap between me and the edge of the bed, at the same time trying to grab herself a sliver of the duvet.

I could have been dreaming, but I am sure I heard her grumble that the reason for buying a super king size bed was for us all to be able to spread out and have room to sleep comfortably, not for me to plonk myself right in the middle of her half and become an immovable dead weight.

Oh? Well I just need to remind her of one thing – who got there first?! Sleep well.

Love, Wilfred X

Another Successful Feral Relocation

We recently relocated two pretty little black feral sisters (named **Frog and Leap!**) to a farm in East Devon and were delighted to receive the following feedback from the owner.



"The nicest thing happened this morning! My other (black and white) semi feral kitten Sid comes for his food every day and it took almost a week for Frog and Leap to be spotted on the lane.

Well just one of them. Today they're all here for food! It has made my week at least!

The girls have grown lots plus have suddenly become a lot less scared and quite like me talking to them. I don't mind them being a bit wild as I think they're quite happy like that and so great they've got each other.

VG

My mum (a great cat lover) gave this to me and they all love it. They still get their meaty cat food too



Also, either Frog or Leap features as our cover girl on the front of this issue!

A snip from the Times newspaper recently on people having major makeovers to their kitchens in order to provide special accommodation for their dogs, including dog showers in a utility room.

It ended with the following comment: *There was no guarantee cats would use anything designed specially for them!*

Ha, don't we all know it - they'd rather sleep in the box that contained the lovely comfy sleeping bag that you just bought for them!

What do you call cat lovers?

We've all heard of people called 'mad cat lady'
but what about: ailurophile?
ie: A cat lover or fancier.

Cats Protection shops in Taunton and Wellington

As we say goodbye to summer, both Taunton and Wellington shops are now starting to stock autumn and winter donated clothing, boots and shoes.

Also just arrived is a range of new goods, winter accessories including hats, gloves and scarves.

Dare we mention that Christmas is on its way!!

Our festive Christmas cards are now in store and 2023 calendars both featuring a collection of our very cute feline friends, ideal for any cat/kitten lover. In the next few weeks, a further selection of Christmas gifts both donated and new will be arriving into our shops, so pop in get yourself some goodies and help the cats and kittens in our care at the same time.

Please also remember, if you have donations to drop off, give us a call first to confirm our opening times.

(Below inside of the Taunton shop).



Taunton shop 01823 331309

18 Fore St, Taunton TA1 1JA

Wellington shop 01823 663455

19 South St, Wellington TA21 8NR

Jamie walks and walks for cats!



Jamie is a member of a family which boasts no fewer than three members as Cats Protection volunteers for our Branch.

He has just completed a walking challenge in support of cats organised by the National Cats Protection Events Team.

In fact Jamie walked on beyond the 9 miles set to cover a further 2 miles.

Congratulations and Thank You Jamie.!

"I was inspired to help our local branch by the amount of work they put into giving cats a second chance to experience life to their fullest. The tricky part of my walk was the last stretch beside the canal which was vastly overgrown - I had to fight the foliage to get to the other side! It was also quite a challenge as I had never walked that far along the canal before".

At the time of going to press, Jamie has raised just over £140! Brilliant!

If you would like to sponsor Jamie's 9 mile challenge, cheques (payable to 'Cats Protection T&W') can be sent to :

The Treasurer

Cats Protection Taunton and Wellington Branch

51 Yarlington Close

Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6RR

One Woman Went to Mow



Left High Summer in our lovely foster pen garden.

Below Late Summer and in need of a serious annual tidy up.

We have had a visit from Andi Rickard, National Scything Champion since 2019 and nine times ladies champion.

She came to mow our wildflower garden at the foster pens and she made it look so easy.

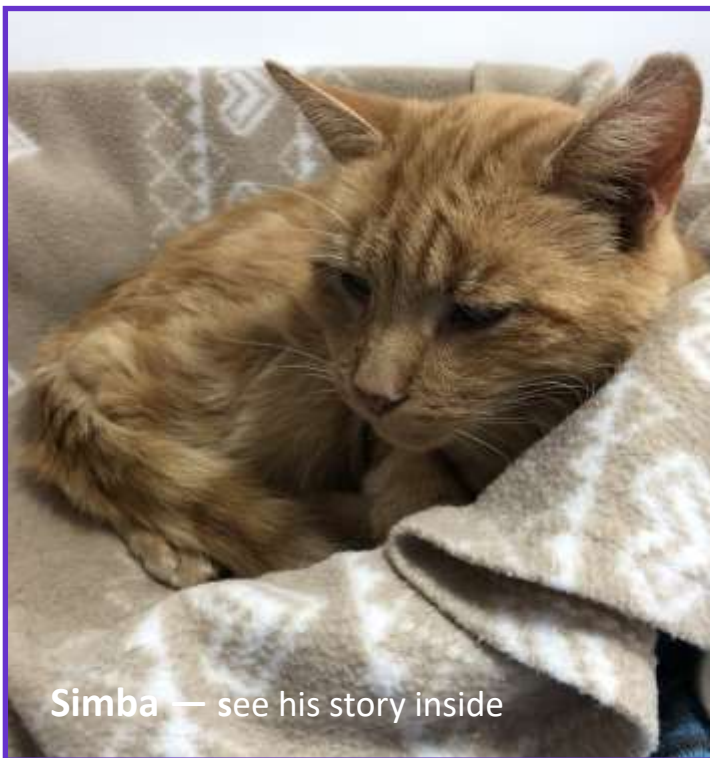
It was siesta time for the resident cats but one or two of them were curious enough to sit and watch as the scythe swished through the plants.

It was so much nicer than a noisy strimmer, and much less stressful for the cats.

Andi was interested in the history of all the cats in care, and kind enough to donate her fee to the branch.

Thank you Andi, and see you next year for the next mow!





Simba — see his story inside



Taunton & Wellington Branch

Tel — **03452 602 397** (standard rate)

Email — **enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk**

For lost and found please email -

lostandfound@taunton.cats.org.uk

Website—**www.taunton.cats.org.uk**

Taunton & Wellington Branch offers help in the following
postcode areas: TA1, TA2, TA3, TA4, and TA21.



We are on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/cpTauntonandWellington