



FELINES

Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter
Spring 2022 (No. 137)



Our cover
girl Foxy

In this edition:

- ***Volunteer with us!***
- ***Will they or won't they? Tales of TNR***
- ***How are adopted cats getting on?***
- ***Wayne Anthony's Day Out***
- ***Welcome to our Taunton & Wellington Shops***
- ***Helping needy cats—food and carriers***

Recent successful adoptions



Socksy enjoys spending time relaxing on her dad's lap .

Sassy has settled very well, is very relaxed and sleeps between her mum and dad's pillow and loves to sleep on her mums lap in the afternoons.

Benji likes to play ping pong and then watch his mum retrieve the balls



Hello Friends and Readers,

Welcome to your Felines Newsletter — Spring 2022

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all our readers - here's hoping we have now finally come to the end of full on Covid and can establish a new normal.

At our homing pens we have welcomed a whole host of new arrivals. Some stay with us for a while, whilst others move to new homes within a few days of arriving once they have been fully vet checked and undergone any necessary vaccinations or treatments.

Every week there is the frisson of anticipation for the volunteer cat carers of 'who's who' at the pens this week?' A notice board in the kitchen/preparation area details the calendar for who is ready for rehoming and who is arriving so we know who to say goodbye to and about the planned arrivals in the weeks ahead.

It is always lovely to hear about the cats we have got to know, and been sad to say goodbye to, and who are now well settled in their new homes. News that they are well into training their new staff with their particular likes and dislikes is always good to hear. If you are a recent adopter from us, please keep in touch, as we love to hear from you and receive pictures of what they are getting up to in their new homes.

AP



LOVE CATS? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would like to volunteer as a cat carer at our homing pens to help with feeding, cleaning and socialising the cats in our care, we would love to hear from you. Even if you can only spare a few hours a week, then you could join our team.

Full training is given and you would have the opportunity to learn more about cats and enjoy time helping those that are seeking new homes. You need to have your own transport and to be willing to reliably commit to your sessions at the pens located on the outskirts of Taunton.

For more information -
Tel: **03452 602 397** Email—enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk

Taunton & Wellington Branch Charity Shops

Welcome to our new feature in Felines highlighting our retail charity shops in
Taunton and Wellington

Hello! My name is Heather (K) and I volunteer at both the Taunton and Wellington Branch Cats Protection shops and also as a cat carer at our homing pens.

Our **Taunton shop** is located near the Market House in Fore Street.

Firstly I would like to say a big welcome to our new shop manager Heather (F). She started with us at the beginning of the year and has plenty of charity retail experience. She looks forward to seeing you all.

Opening hours— 7 days a week: Monday to Saturday from 9am—5pm and on Sundays from 10am—4pm



Heather is also very keen to recruit some new volunteers to the shop, so if you could spare us a few hours a week to give us a hand and help raise even more money for the cats/kittens that would be great.

We are a friendly team and free tea, coffee and biscuits are always a bonus!! Just pop in and see us for a chat. Taunton shop will also be introducing an electrical section, so watch out for some bargains.

Contact Taunton shop on: 01823 331390

Both shops are getting ready to introduce their spring/summer range of clothing, so we are always looking for good quality donations especially ladies fashion, accessories and in particular handbags. If you have any donations please drop them in to us.

Our **Wellington shop** is located in South Street, Wellington

Contact Wellington shop on: 01823 663455

Opening times at Wellington may vary, so please phone first and speak to a person rather than a machine to avoid a wasted journey.

If you have more than two bags of donations for our Wellington shop, please give the manager, Christie, a ring first, as storage space is very limited.



Christmas now seems such a long time ago but I could not finish without mentioning firstly the Christmas raffle in which both shops raised a combined total of over £430, with the Taunton shop a top seller in the region.

Also, the Wellington shop won the best Christmas CP window display in the region and was 2nd nationally.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering at either the Taunton or Wellington shops please contact the Managers directly on the above telephone numbers.

We would love to hear from you.

HK

ALL funds raised at our shops goes to the Branch and supports all our activities and the care of the cats in our homing pens. Donations of good quality, clean clothing, accessories, books, CDs, DVDs etc are welcome.

Will they or won't they?

A series of trapping outings were organised recently in order to offer some control to a colony of cats on a farm near Wellington.

As with all trap/neuter/return (TNR) exercises, it takes a lot of pre-planning. Firstly, there are the relevant agreements to establish with landowners to access the site where the cats live as well as making vet appointments for neutering.

Prior to actual carrying out the plan, traps may be placed on site, to get the cats used to feeding inside. Establishing a feeding pattern, location and times is essential prior to a trapping session. Checking the availability of volunteers who will help with the task, so that the operation can run smoothly. If the cats are not to be returned to their original location, we liaise with the new sites to set up the relocation temporary holding pens. Everything needs to be in place to minimise stress to the cats .

When all is in place - we agree with the landowners a time when we intend arriving that evening to ensure that the cats we are seeking to pick up are not fed beforehand. Very important! Hungry cats are more likely to be waiting to see you, or at least be willing to venture out from any hiding places.



Come the day, after we arrive and as has been reported previously in Felines, it can be a long or short wait. On this occasion, we hadn't even set the multi cat trap to go off before the cats we were aiming for were inside - two immediately obliged us by going in together. Wow!

Our plan that evening was to pick up two of the younger ones to relocate to another site on the Quantocks, plus trap two older ones to neuter before returning. Our first two couldn't wait. It was possible to gently close the trap door once they were inside, so there was no noise and the other cats milling around weren't startled.

Having transferred the two from the trap to cat baskets for delivery to the vets - we reset the trap and almost immediately, two older ones obliged us by going in together - really helpful. To have another couple of cats, of the size and age we were aiming for actually go into together was amazing.

Quite often when we are managing a colony and relocating some of the cats, the landowners wish to retain particular 'favourites' for ongoing rodent control which means we have to be able to identify specific cats. If a colony has a number of look-a-likes, this can sometimes be challenging! At this particular site, the owner did indeed have some specific cats they wanted returned. and as we were visiting for several weeks, the 'favourites' had to be clearly recognised.

As with most colonies, early trapping sessions usually are quite easy, or at least go to plan. With repeat visits, as this colony will need, the remaining un-trapped cats will have become more wily and have worked out why we are there, so it becomes a much more challenging exercise, particularly if several previously trapped and returned cats feel the need to repeat the exercise and willingly return time and again into the trap. Previously trapped cats will have had the internationally recognized ear tipping performed when neutered., so we can at least recognise them.

So not so much cat and mouse, but cat and humans pitting their wits against each other, which is why it is such an addictive activity, come rain or shine!

AP

If you think that volunteering for TNR activities might be of interest you, we would love to hear from you with a view to joining our trapping team.

Such activity can be very sporadic by nature and does require a very special mind-set. If you can 'think cat', sit patiently and quietly, at times for long inactive periods and in sometimes uncomfortable surroundings, then please contact us on -

03452 602 397

or email enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk

We will call you back and have a chat to explain more about what TNR involves. Full training is provided

WARNING—TNR is addictive!

Thomas O'Malley



Photo: courtesy of Jeremy Collyer. www.jeremycollyer.co.uk
(All profits from website sales are donated to the charity - Parkinsons UK).

Thomas was homed by the Taunton & Wellington branch about ten years ago. He's a great cat who had a rocky start as a stray. When we took him in he was dirty and dishevelled and had lost his self esteem. But he found exactly the right home. His adopters still keep in contact. The following message was received from them recently:-

"Thought you might like this photo of Thomas, which my friend Jeremy, took in the New Year. He was practising with a fancy new lens and needed a suitable model. The knowing smirk to camera is because Thomas had wangled a second helping of Dreamies for the extended photo shoot! It sums him up quite well!"

In the autumn, Thomas broke his cat flap, bashing his way through. Our lovely builder fitted him a new cat flap, and, just as he finished up, Thomas deposited a nice fresh mouse at his feet, as an expression of thanks. The builder was suitably impressed, but after a polite period of sitting and waiting, to see if he'd eat it, Thomas decided that it would be a shame to let it go to waste, so promptly ate it in front of us both.

Chomp, chomp, squish, squish, crunch, crunch!" T O'M

Pen Sponsorship

If you are a regular reader of Felines, and have subscribed to the Friends of the Branch in the past, you will recall that last year we decided to stop annual subscriptions.

We suggested instead that you may wish to make a donation to support the Branch, but that we would not ask for a specific amount but leave it to our readers to decide how much to donate, and how often. It really is up to you.

We also suggested that you may want to think about sponsoring a pen by way of a plaque, and we said we would let you have more information about how to do that. We provide a metal plaque with a silver background, 15cm x 5cm, with wording of your choice. It could be a family sponsorship, as shown here, or a commemoration of a much loved cat, past or present.

If we should fill the space above the pen doors, then we have a large fenced garden around the pen site with plenty of space for many more plaques. So it could become a memorial garden in the future.



We understand that people may like to have some guidelines before they donate, and we can say that a plaque of this size would cost the Branch approximately £15 to produce.

So, if you would like to support the Branch in this way, please get in touch with us by email at coordinator@taunton.cats.org.uk or speak to our answering service at **03452 602 397** and mention sponsorship plaques, and one of our volunteers will call you to discuss.

Wayne Anthony's Fund Raising Day Out

Supporter Wayne Anthony ran the challenging Cranborne 12 hour Frolic Race last summer and raised funds for the Branch—here is his story -

“Race day itself was fantastic from start to finish (literally!). It was warm and sunny with a great atmosphere. The course was set in rural Dorset, with plenty of hills and challenging terrain to negotiate.

I wore the yellow Cats Protection vest with pride and could be easily seen by my spectating partner who also provided me with plenty of food and drink throughout the day.

I completed my 10 lap target of the 5.6km route and enjoyed every minute, especially knowing that each kilometre was raising money for Taunton & Wellington Cats Protection.

As you can imagine it took time to recover from the race (my feet needed some rehab!) and since then I have embarked on several other races.



During the time since the race I have been busy collecting sponsorship money; with projected sponsorship at around the £450 mark, at present ”.

WA



Well done Wayne, that hill looks awfully steep! A big thank you from all the cats we support.

UPCOMING EVENT!

We will have a stand at the Friends of Wellington Park Spring Fayre on Sunday 1 May 2022 - 12.30–4.30pm
Please come along and say hello!

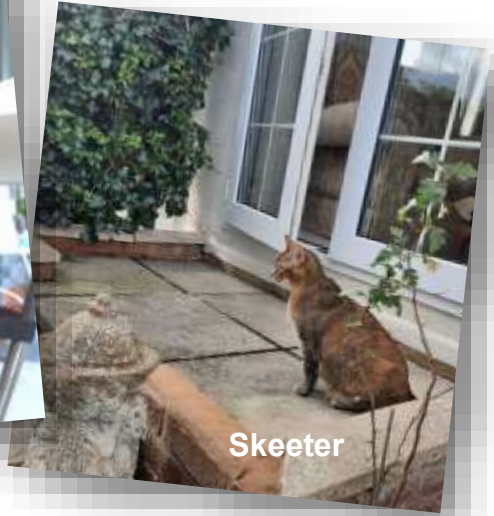
Our mascot cat Higgins will be there to **SAY ‘Hi!’ AS WELL!**



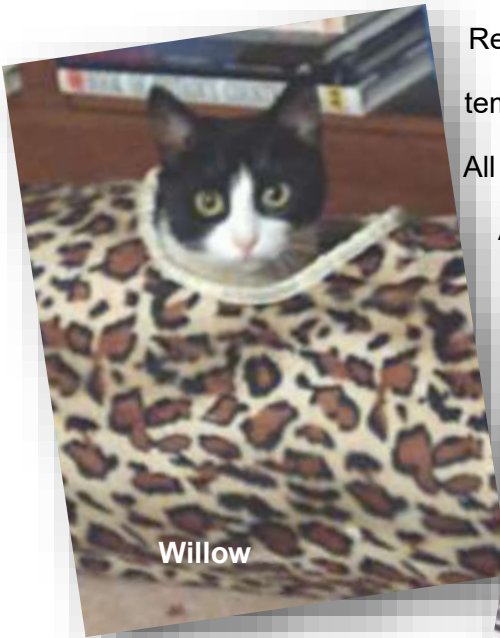
Where are they now?



Freddie & Teddy



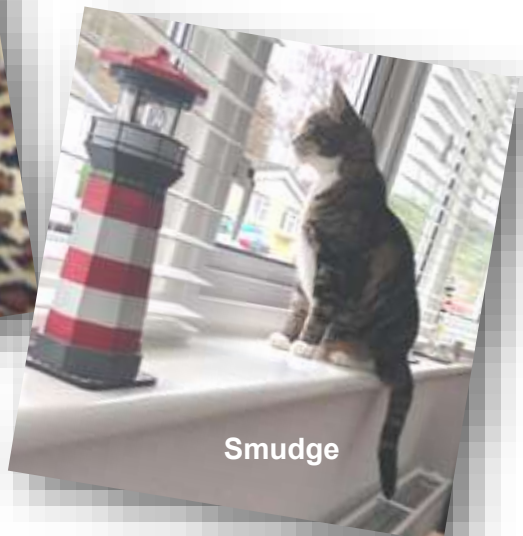
Skeeter



Willow

Rehomed and enjoying life whether it is waiting for treats, testing the temperature outside, watching the world go by, or just exploring a new toy. All have fallen on their paws in their new homes.

A big thank you to all our adopters.



Smudge

What they get up to after they leave us

Lily - has been busy setting up the scrabble board for another game, checking that there are no missing letters.

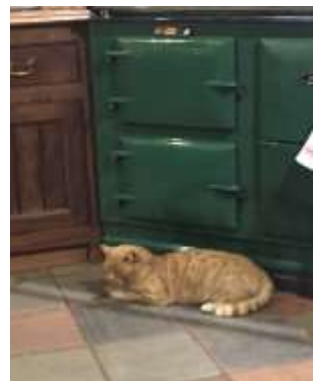


Tequila out investigating his new home - when not engaged in subduing all his toys (*see back page*). JC

From farm to Aga!



'Ginge' was found as a farm 'feral' and despite extensive attempts to trace an owner, none was found. He showed signs of having been an owned cat but was extremely wary of people and would also swipe or bite if you got too close.



Eventually he was trapped and taken into care where he has finally decided that life is much happier and a warm place to sleep is what life should be about!

Well done Ginge!

Lola - *“She has settled well, loving everyone and sleeping in turn on all the beds at night. Bedroom doors are left ajar for her visits - she is now venturing outdoors”.* K deG



Handsome **Thor** is FIV positive and has therefore been homed as an indoor cat.

FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) weakens the immune system and could be passed to other cats through bites via saliva. This means that living an indoor life protects him from the risk of contracting infections which might be problematic or being passed to other cats.



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 Yarlinton 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.



What a lovely day!

I've been out a lot, skittering around the garden.



It's that time of year again, when the humans can be observed with their bottoms in the air, bending down to look in the pond. It looks as though we are going to have taddipoddles again this year after missing out last year.

How exciting, it's like watching a video.

At present they are safely tucked up in their jelly houses, but they are wriggling a bit. Can't wait for them to hatch!

Love, Wilfred X

Multi cat households

From time to time the welfare part of the Branch is asked to rehome cats that are part of a multi cat household. Cats are by nature, solitary creatures and this has passed through generations from their wild cat origins. Whilst some cats will happily accept being part of a group, others will find such situations very stressful and may begin to show behaviour of stress—inappropriate urination, hiding away, aggression or deciding to not want to come indoors for example.

Four cats from one household recently came into our care.



This lovely ginger tom— a gentle laid back boy, actually got on well with this small all-black girl - although she was unrelated. They would both sleep together touching—a good sign that there is a social bond — so remained together in our homing pens before both moving to a new home where they continue to be the best of chums.



Two others, a black and white female and a calico tortoiseshell, from the same household although not related to each other, but the calico was the daughter of the ginger boy.

They seemed to get on together but were initially housed in separate pens on arrival, as they arrived with us at different times. Whilst seeking a home for the black and white girl, the prospective adopters said they would like to adopt the calico as well. So plans were made to 'reunite' the two, prior to rehoming.

Having been separated for a while, 'scent swapping' by exchanging their bedding blankets so that they could 'remember' the smells of the other, was carried out and this enabled the bond to be restored. They are now homed together.



A pretty, tiny girl, with white paws and white bib, and lovely long white whiskers.

All four have now settled into their new homes.



The beautiful calico tortoiseshell is also a tiny girl, who ate for England, whilst planning her next escape as soon as her pen door was open!

We are all horrified and saddened by the events unfolding in Ukraine.

We recently dropped off a car load of cat food at Compass Wellbeing in Taunton. Everyone on site is working really hard to keep up with all the donations arriving, getting them packed up and shipped out.

We packed our donated food into redundant cat carriers so they don't need repacking, thus saving time. More importantly, these carriers can be passed on to those who need them most, to transport their treasured pets to a safer place.



If you have a redundant, but secure, cat carrier, please contact us. Or drop it off at our Taunton or Wellington shops. Thank you.

New Food Donation Point!

You can now donate cat food pouches, tins and dry food at the main Tesco in Taunton. This collection point joins ASDA in Creechbarrow Road and Sainsburys at Hankridge Farm, as well as our shops in Taunton and Wellington.

Some of the food goes to feed the cats and kittens in our care, and some to the colonies of feral cats that we support - over seventy individual cats who would not otherwise have a regular guaranteed meal each day.

We are very grateful to our supporters for their donations, and welcome Tesco to that group.

**Please note that we are unable to recycle empty food pouches, but most supermarkets have their own schemes for this waste*



Tesco Checkout Manager Mary with our new bin

Some pen residents, current and homed



Sykes (left) is a lovely ginger boy and in need of a very special home.

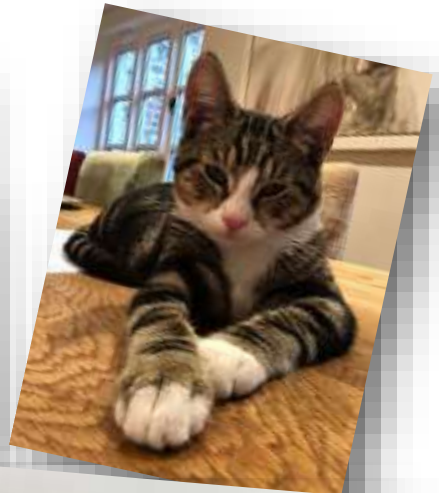
Details are on our website at www.taunton.cats.org.uk

Whilst **Marley** below, is a tabby with white bib and paws and strong tabby stripes and now enjoying his new home



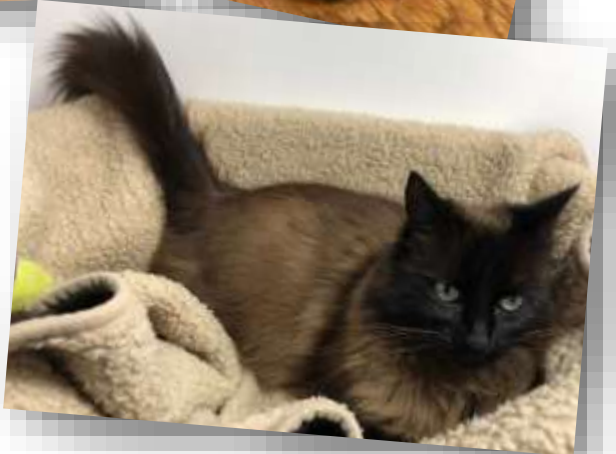
Layla (above right) is a calico tortoiseshell.

A beautiful girl with a black and white face and black, brown white colouring elsewhere.



Foxy (right) our Cover Girl is a 'Chocolate colour point' - quite beautiful and she knows it.

Now rehomed and settled.





**Tequila, now called Louie, with a few of his toys.
One indulged cat!**



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