



FELINES

Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter
Summer 2021 (No. 134)



Lovely Queenie—Read her story inside

In this edition:

- ***Famous Four Homed***
- ***Mature Moggies Day***
- ***How old is my cat?***
- ***Action for Animal Welfare***
- ***Fundraising update***
- ***School visit***
- ***Paws Protect***
- ***TNR update***
- ***Running to raise funds and more***



The Famous Four — renamed and now homed

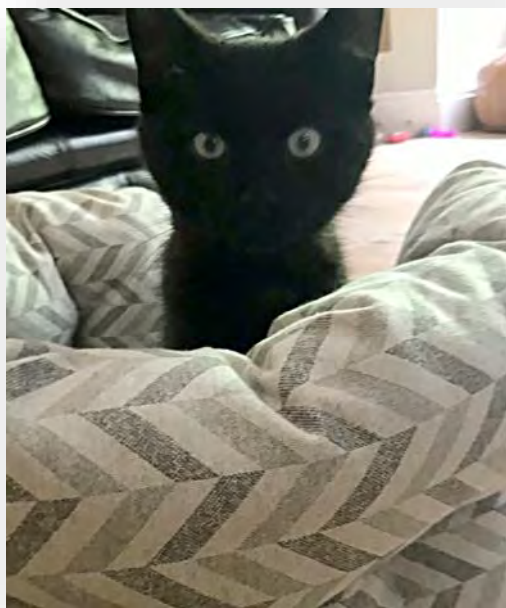


Fingle (Oscar)
showing off his extra toes



Ingra
Boss kitten

Puggle (Teddy)
Still a curious kitten



Furze (Simba)
such a beautiful boy



Hello Friends and Readers,

Welcome to your Felines Newsletter — Summer 2021

At last the sun has come out, and we are taking baby steps towards how things were before lockdown and the restrictions that dominated our lives. Some of the systems that were devised to keep our work for cats going during the dark days of early 2021 are likely to continue. Hands Free Homing and semi distant trapping has worked really well. Since the beginning of the year, we've taken into our pens some 30+ felines and found new homes for an extraordinary number of cats and kittens; some of their stories are in this edition.

So far this year, curiously there have been fewer kittens being admitted into special care as an emergency than in previous years, something other branches have been reporting. The very first hand reared kitten by this Branch's coordinators is featured on the back page. More recently they played foster parents to the famous four: Fingle (now called Oscar), Furze & Puggle (renamed Simba & Teddy), who were homed together whilst Ingra kept her name and is now bossing two dogs in the seven acres she has to roam around in. Fingle brought the Branch to the nation's attention, when he was reported in several national and local newspapers and magazines. Reports about him aired on a number of radio stations, and a number of national news websites, including BBC News Online! As a very appealing polydactyl kitten he was also mentioned and pictured in an article about such cats in Cats Protection's most recent edition of 'The Cat' Magazine. A publication celebrating its 90th birthday.

With hopefully a warm and sunny summer underway we need to ensure cats have plenty of 'shady' places to rest in when outside, and plenty of water to keep them healthy.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has continued to support the branch over recent times.

Cat Care Volunteers Appeal: We welcome more volunteers to help at our foster pens, feeding, cleaning and socialising the cats in our care.

We seek those who can offer a few hours and can do so on a fairly regular basis please get in touch:

Call : 03452 602 397 or email: coordinator@taunton.cats.org.uk

Full training is given and you will have the chance to become a member of our volunteer team who provide the support essential for preparing our fostered cats to get ready to go to their new homes.

Mature Moggies Day

On 16 June Cats Protection launched its first ever Mature Moggies Day

This was to celebrate the older felines in our care around the country. Sadly along with black cats, 'senior kitizens' can take over three times longer to find a home than their younger counterparts.

The Branch's pen residents come in all sizes, colours and ages, but recently we've had quite a few older cats. By the time a cat's age can be counted in double figures, they are in human years over fifty years of age.

Recently one of the Branch's older ladies in particular stood out: 'Talkative Tash'. A beautiful black & white cat with medium long hair, so a very pretty fluffy cat with attitude. At fourteen years old, Tash was in her early seventies in human terms and could have been expected to take life a little more slowly. Tash, however, was a talkative lady who never stopped letting you know her opinion on the weather, the birds she could see from the top shelf of her pen, or enquire why it was taking you so long getting her tea ready. Residing in pen 5, the furthest from the preparation area of the pen complex, you had no problem knowing Tash was awake and ready for some company and conversation. For a while her nearest neighbour Georgie, was also something of a chatterer - and though unable to see one another, they talked away putting the world to rights.



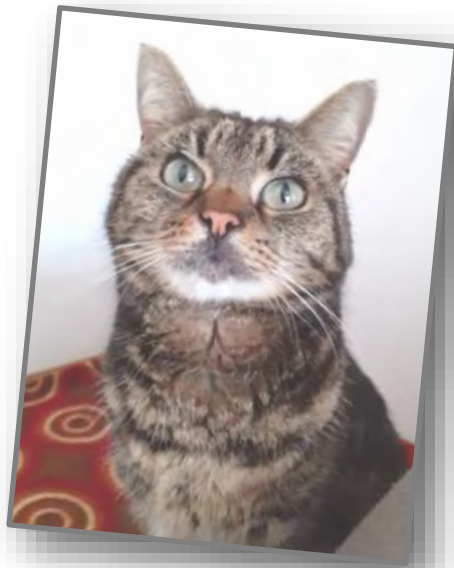
Tash has now gone to her forever home, proving there is always someone who is perfect for all of our cats, however challenging to place. Indeed it is reported she has settled well, with the lady of the house's husband away a lot, talkative Tash is the perfect companion.

We wish her all the best.

How old is my cat? Check out some recent pen residents



Alfie — 52 in human years



Zelda - 40 in human years

Cat ages equivalent human years

Kittens: 1 month = 1 year, 3 months = 4 years, 6 months = 10 years

Juniors: 12 months = 15 years, 18 months = 21 years, 2 years = 24 years

Adult: 3 years or more, starting at 28, then add 4 to every one human year

Senior: 11 years & over = 60 + then add 4 years for each successive year.



Left: **Izzy**
A very small
ginger girl
around 9 years,
so nearly 50 in
human years



Right: **Pablo**
A youngster at
only 3, so late
20's in human
years

Slinky—a story of a long lost boy

For about 18 months I had been aware of an unneutered male cat visiting my garden – that pungent odour left me in no doubt. I'd had a glimpse of a big black cat walking up the lane, very furtive looking, disappearing into the hedge when he saw me watching him. I asked around locally and looked on our local lost cats pages but he didn't appear to be listed anywhere as missing or lost.

Quite a while later I became aware that he'd come inside through my cat flap - my cats' bowls were empty and I could smell tom cat in my kitchen. Over many nights when I heard the cat flap opening I crept downstairs, but as soon as he heard me he dashed back out pretty sharpish. This went on for quite a few months. What to do.....?

As the weather was pleasant, it now being summer, I decided to put his bowl of food out in the garden on the pathway every night before bed, he'd be sure to see it and it would save him coming in and spraying. Or so I thought. He still came in but not quite as often, and I wondered why he still needed to come in if it was food he was after, so I set up a motion activated camera to see what was going on. It appeared that a couple of the local cats had cottoned on to the idea that there was free food so they made the most of it! A Change of Plan was needed!

I put his food bowl in my front porch before I went to bed, and the camera showed that it was indeed this big black cat eating it. Over the weeks he got used to this and started to arrive earlier, he'd let me know he was around by sticking his head in the indoor cat flap and back out again. I'd get his food, open the door and put it down, at first he'd go back outside until I'd gone but eventually it got so that he'd announce his arrival, I would open the door and he'd be sitting there looking up at me with his gentle and trusting beautiful green eyes and meow at me as if to say "Please may you feed me now". I'd give him a stroke, which he seemed to like, over time we gradually got used to each other and he'd enjoy a head rub, and a stroke before he had his dinner. I realised that he was not just big but HUGE! We called him Slinky after a sleek black cat called Slinky Malinky in a children's book.



It was at this point that we came to the decision that, as he appeared to be a lost boy, we would get him neutered and invite him to live with us as we'd become very fond of him and he seemed to like us too.

One night, I noticed that he was limping a little so I invited him in and got my cat basket out with the idea that I'd have to take him to the vet, but he was having none of it, and anyway he was too big to fit in the basket! Instead of bolting out of the cat flap as I thought he'd do he went the other way and sat in a corner of the dining room so I took advantage of his stillness to scan him for a chip as he was sitting so quietly, almost as if he understood that I was trying to help him. Lo and behold, the scanner beeped and up came a number, much to my surprise.

I called my local vet who located the chip number and who he was registered to. Because of the data protection policies the vet couldn't give me the contact details but I was happy for her to pass mine on. Sure enough about half an hour later I got a call from a lady in Sidmouth! Sidmouth, how on earth did he get from Sidmouth to just outside Wellington?

It all became clear when the lady, (I've called her Sally) told me that she'd homed him about 3 years ago when he was about 3 months old to a family local to here; she'd advised them to get him neutered and to update the chip details. She was horrified that they'd done neither, and the contact number she had for them was disconnected. She then said she wanted to have Slinky back as she still had his mum.

So the next evening I put his food in the trap and after a short hesitation he went in and I quietly closed it so it didn't scare him, covered it with a large towel, made the call to Sidmouth, and just over an hour later she arrived with a dog crate in the back of her car (she knew he would need a crate and not a basket as his brothers and sisters were huge too!) She'd also brought a blanket that Slinky's mum slept on. We went to transfer him, he was a little hesitant at first, then slowly he sniffed the air and went from the trap into the crate, straight onto his mum's blanket and snuggled down, he must have recognised her smell as he looked so relaxed and comfortable. All our doubts about letting him go went at seeing this, we realised he was going home, where he needed to be, and he knew that too. I was delighted for him. Sad for us though as I knew we'd miss him and had been looking forward to 'adopting' him. It was a sad moment seeing him being driven off.

Sally has updated us on how he's doing. His name is Big Bear, he's now been neutered and she says he sleeps in the same place he slept in as a kitten with his brothers and sisters.

A very happy ending for Big Bear thanks to the power of a chip. Although he would have had a happy home here and would have been much loved it is absolutely the best thing for him to be back home, with his mum. EL

How does our garden grow?



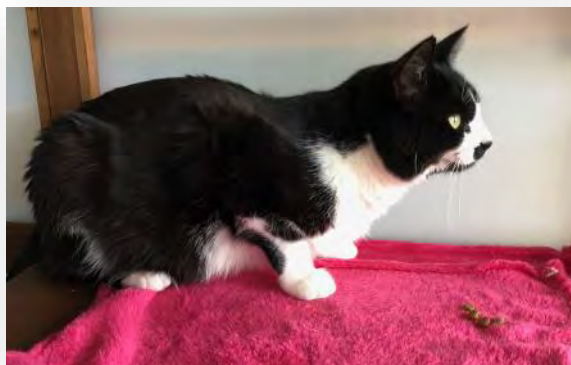
From a boggy patch of mud, after a lot of rain and a little bit of sun our garden is now bursting with wild flowers. The bird feeders providing not only for our avian visitors, but entertainment, for our residents.

The seeded 'wildflower meadow' area has started to bloom—one notable plant is Yellow Rattle, a semi-parasite of grasses that will help to keep them under control.

All pens look out to the garden, so from the high shelf, cats can sit and watch the comings and goings of birds of all sizes.

Jersey below & right, was an avid watcher, high up on his shelf by his pen door, he would study the antics of the birds, as has they swooped down to the bird feeders.

We also had a less welcome guest in the form of a rat (or two) who thankfully stayed outside, eating up the seeds dropped by the birds. Haven't seen him recently & don't like to ask why, not a bother as long as he remained outside.



Former pen residents, now in their new homes.



Pretty **Holly** had some health issues that might have made it more difficult & time consuming to find her a home. However, a perfect family was found.

They report *"She's doing well, nicely settled and has us wrapped around her little paw! She's been to the vet and they are happy with her health. Here is a picture of her relaxing in the shade, she loves spending time in the garden with us"*

B&S

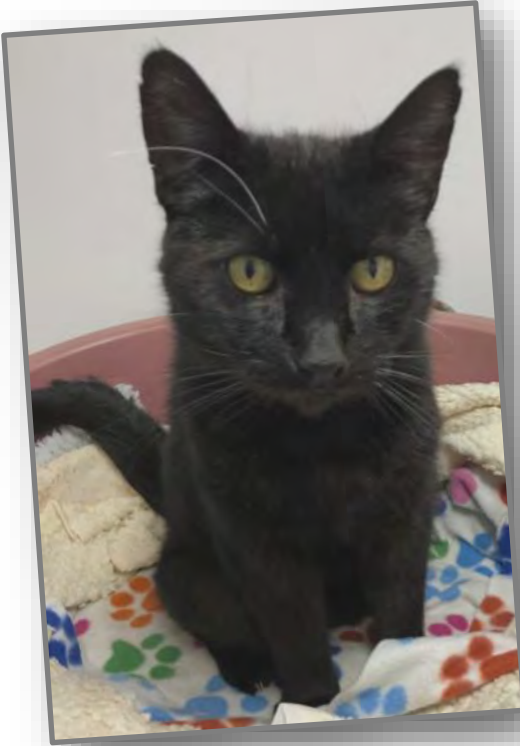


Tiggy was taken in to the Branch foster pens, as his owner had issues with allergies. He had been an indoor cat, but not from choice.

He is now very happy living in the countryside with his new family who report he is a loving and gentle cat.

Laid back whilst with us, he has continued to enjoy a lap to loll on.

News of recent fostered cats who have moved to new homes



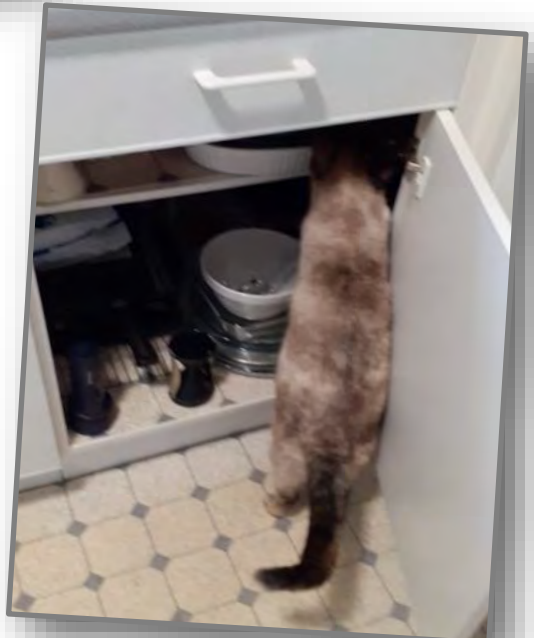
Woody too, has now moved on to a new home, after his ghastly experience at the hands of some mindless youths, who had dipped him in diesel. Why they should have thought this might be fun, is impossible to understand.

His fur has now grown back and he is living a quiet and safer life with a lovely lady who admits he has her wrapped round his paw.

Included in the new Animal Welfare Bill is provision for longer sentences for animal cruelty. Hopefully the message will get out.

Pearl was one of the earlier pen residents late last year. A very attractive cat with beautiful colouring, but a quiet shy girl.

Renamed **Elsie** on moving to her forever home, she wasted no time settling in, checking out every nook and cranny of her new home.



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 and supporters to decide how much to donate, and how often. It really is up to you. As a result we have already had several such supporter/sponsors—THANK YOU SO MUCH!

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, 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 in the future. So it could become a memorial garden.



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.

North Curry School—Minnows class—June 2021



We were so lucky this year to have a visit from David and Ann of the Taunton and Wellington branch to North Curry Primary School, Taunton. The highlight of our year is always our annual Cat Week and we were determined to go ahead with it this year, after last year's restrictions. We thought carefully about making it as covid-secure and

socially distanced as possible and were able to run it outside in glorious June sunshine.

Minnow Class has 28 mixed Reception and Year 1 children (4-6 year olds), all desperate to find out more about cats and celebrate the birthday of Katie the post office cat! It was a real treat to have visitors into our class to make the day come alive.

David and Ann ran a wonderful education workshop in the morning and taught children the golden secret- the cat slow blink! Children then made cards and wrote letters for Katie and had a fantastic cat party in the afternoon with a mouth-watering selection of cat-themed treats!



"It was really fun seeing the scanner on the cat. We were looking to see if the cat had a microchip," explained a YR girl. "You can find out if the cat has an owner but make sure your phone number is the right one." This was especially pertinent as the law will soon expect all cats to be microchipped so it's great that children have seen how it works and understand why it's important.

David and Ann explained how to keep cats safe and happy and there was a great discussion about lilies and other hazards. Children were able to join in with a sorting activity and have all become great welfare ambassadors, sharing their enthusiasm with friends and family.

Another favourite moment was David showing us his giant pet flea toy! Minnows learned how important it is to treat their pets for fleas and worms "or we might get bitten by horrible fleas that live in the carpets". Minnows are now cat body-language experts. They learned when to give cats a bit of distance "their tails wag and their eyes may get big. Sometimes they hiss to show that they want you to leave them alone, explained a Y1 boy. "If they sniff your finger you can stroke them gently but don't tickle their tummy or you might get scratched"

Minnow Class have enjoyed daily visits from a local cat (Sooty) who we have named Mr Tinkles! He sometimes listens to our lessons or joins in with our playtimes. "He tried to eat a mouse yesterday and the teachers had to rescue it!"



We were so surprised to hear that David and Ann have looked after about a thousand cats over the years "That's a lot of cat food and litter trays" said one YR boy! "It was the best day ever!" said a Y1 boy, "Now I know all about cats!"

As ever, we are so grateful to David and Ann at CP for making our Cat Day really special. It was gutting that we couldn't celebrate last year and seeing them wearing their giant cat ear hats has cheered us up! The children have gained so much from the workshop and are still buzzing!

We know that times are very tough for CP and other charities due to the pandemic, so it's very rewarding to capture the attention and hearts of young children who will hopefully grow up to become responsible and caring pet owners. As passionate animal lovers - cats in particular - we feel very privileged and lucky to have David and Ann come to our school every year to help us spread that devotion to our class.

AC and MT

VIRTUAL CHALLENGE FUNDRAISING! Update -

You may recall from the last issue of Felines, that David Forman-Cummings has committed to run the equivalent of America's Route 66, a 2448 mile run! Instead of pounding the actual asphalt, David is running and cycling between 10 and 20 miles each day from his home in Taunton and aims to raise money for our Branch. You can follow his achievement and progress by visiting

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-forman-cummings>



David has also run the Frome Half Marathon on 18 June wearing his CP running vest and has also signed up for the Weston-Super-Mare Half Marathon on 17 October and hopes to reach his target on that run!

Anyone wishing to help David achieve and beat his £500 target and support local cats should visit the website detailed above.

Queenie—our cover girl -

Queenie, our seven year old cover girl for the summer, is a success story with a difference. Queenie was a very unhappy cat as she was not comfortable in her home environment. This had made her aggressive, which just made the matter worse. When she came into our pens it was obvious that this didn't suit her either, and she would hiss and growl at her carers, some of whom found her behaviour quite traumatic. It was obvious that we needed to quickly change things for her or lose some of our volunteers, so we put our heads together and came up with a plan.

We had already set up receiving pens for a relocated feral at a wonderful rural property with acres of woodland attached. We hadn't yet found the right feral, so we asked the property owners if they would consider Queenie, and were totally honest about her behaviour to date. Fortunately they agreed and Queenie was installed. From the beginning, she was a different cat, and this is best summed up by the following feedback from her new owners:

'She is absolutely delightful, she always comes to meet me when I go outside and follows me round the garden, she sat next to me whilst I was weeding today, it is difficult to get anything done as we have to keep playing with her. She uses the cat flap into the garage and I think she sheltered there last night during the storm. So a huge success I would say.

Many Thanks JT

Pancytopenia — Why have certain pet foods been recalled?

Vets at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) launched an investigation after noticing an increase in cats presenting with pancytopenia, a severe reduction in all major types of blood cells. The spike in cases began in May and since then vets across the UK have been gathering data from affected cats to try to establish a cause. So far, around 130 cases have been identified.

Based on the evidence to date, the RVC has been able to find a possible link to the diet of the affected cats and while this link has not yet been definitively established, as a precaution certain pet foods have been recalled.

What is feline pancytopenia? Pancytopenia is a rare bone marrow condition where the number of blood cells (red, white and platelets) rapidly decrease, causing serious illness. Cats with this condition may seem more tired than usual and may go off their food. One of the first more specific signs is bleeding from the mouth, nose, or bowel. In very severe cases, excessive blood loss can lead to collapse.

What pet foods have been recalled? In response to the findings from the RVC, the Food Standards Agency have recalled a number of pet food products manufactured by Fold Hill Foods. These include: -

- **the Sainsbury's Hypoallergenic Recipe range**
- **Pets at Home's AVA range**
- **Applaws Cat Dry products**

What should I do if I am concerned about my cat? Please contact your vet so they can examine your cat and discuss further investigation as necessary. Vets that are treating affected cats have been asked to get in touch with the RVC by completing a survey to help them to investigate the condition.

My cat has been eating a recalled brand of cat food. What should I do? Do not feed your cat any more of this food. Please contact the product manufacturers for brand specific questions. You could discuss with your vet whether you would like a blood test performed looking at the levels of red and white blood cells and platelets in your cat's blood as decreases in these levels are seen if your cat is affected with pancytopenia.

How can I find out more information? The RVC is updating their news page regularly as more information becomes available. Visit -

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/news-and-events/rvc-news/feline-pancytopenia-update>

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 :- The Treasurer, 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.

Wilfie's Blog

As featured on
the branch Facebook page!



Well, we've had some nice weather at last. A bit hot for me with my black fur so I hid away in the long grass, but it made a nice change from all that cold and rain.

Doing nothing made me very tired, and I had already requested my supper and asked to go to bed, but we all had to stand around waiting for Rupert, who was in the garden

playing with his new best friend, Malcolm the Maybug.

The photo is not of Malcolm, but one of his friends. Malcolm was whizzing around the garden with a clattering of wings, and Rupert



was doing a series of balletic leaps in the air, trying to catch him. He would come down and disappear among the plants, only to emerge again somewhere different.



I have to say it was interesting to watch, but Malcolm eventually buzzed off over the fence to live another day, and Rupert came indoors so we could all go to bed.

Love, Wilfred x

Trapping, Neutering, Returning and/or Relocating.

During lockdown, as we were unable to perform our usual TNR services, the Branch loaned out a number of traps to individuals who were concerned about unknown cats frequenting the area around their home. Some appeared to be strays, or perhaps lost cats, some semi friendly, others much more wary of humans. We are obliged to follow strict guidelines before any 'invasive' procedures are carried out but where permitted, some of these cats were neutered.

Now that we can get out and about again, some of the true feral cats need to be found new homes, as although being fed by kind cat lovers, that is not a permanent solution. We had a number of people seeking cats for rodent control. So the first action was to match the two up.

At one site, following an incomplete trapping of a feral colony back in 2019, when we had been unable to trap a female, this resulted in two litters of kittens and a concern there might be a third on the way. The landowner was feeding them all, but desperate that all females were spayed, and at least five kittens from two litters relocated to new homes.

We had a farm wanting up to five cats, so a marriage made in heaven. We loaned a 'family' trap to the farmer who'd been feeding the original mum and her kittens, the first litter more than old enough now to be thinking about starting a family of their own – so time was of the essence.

A family trap is three times the size of the usual ones we use. By feeding in the trap for a number of days, the cats get used to it before we return. On our first trip we were able to pick up three cats, including mum, our main priority, the maximum the vets could manage to neuter initially.

We had already set up five large puppy cages as a single unit ready for relocated cats at their new home – a large farm outside Taunton. Once vet checked, vaccinated, flea/wormed, and neutered they were delivered. The following week we returned to the farm and the continued feeding in the family trap meant we did not have to wait long before we were able to trap another two. The remaining cats were returned to the farm as rodent control once vet checked and neutered. A pleasing outcome.

On a roll, we moved on to a private home on the outskirts of Wiveliscombe where a kind gentleman was feeding three feral cats. Surrounded by fields, they came for regular meals in his garden. He was keen to keep them, but concerned about one or more being female and all that might ensue. He was loaned a family trap, asked to feed them inside it for a few days, and we would be back as soon as our vets could take all three together.

The day came and we set off with some trepidation, after two successful outings previously since resuming trapping we wondered if we had been

spoilt – so many outings can result in no shows. Cats that circle traps, sit and watch you watching them, so no guarantee we would be successful.

On arrival, one cat was already in the trap having its tea but scuttled away when we turned up to reset it – then was back almost immediately. Question - Do we trap it and hope the other two that had been circling the garden, but keeping their distance whilst we were there, would come back?

As they continued to appear and disappear, we decided at least to take the one we had. During the process of moving it from the family trap to our vehicle, having transferred it to a carry basket, when we got back to the garden, the other two were back and circling the trap. Patience was needed, the home owner continued to call, we kept out of sight. Then both went inside at the same time, the trap was sprung – good to go. *(It is an adrenalin rush waiting and watching!)*

Their vet check showed them to be all healthy and they were returned back on site the next day. Subsequent reports are that all is well, and they are back at meal times. Two of the three were female, so another job that certainly needed doing.

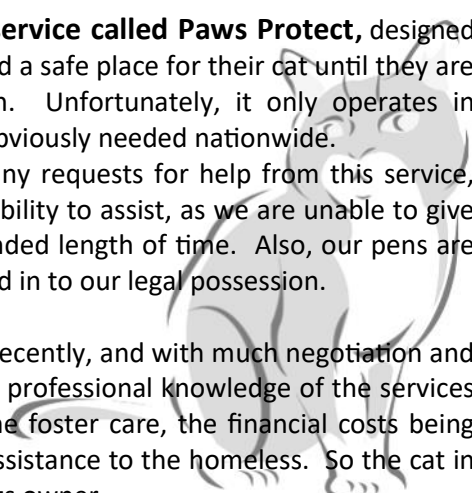
We've been lucky, perfect weather in April (no rain), though chilly, the cats have been accommodating in appearing when we do – not only are landowners asked to feed inside our family traps, but to try and keep to a regular time so that we can arrive roughly when the cats are likely to be about – cats really can tell the time!

AP

Cats Protection has a very valuable service called Paws Protect, designed to help people fleeing domestic abuse find a safe place for their cat until they are able to find alternative accommodation. Unfortunately, it only operates in London and the South East, though it is obviously needed nationwide.

Although our branch doesn't receive many requests for help from this service, when we do we are frustrated by our inability to assist, as we are unable to give up one of our foster pens for an open ended length of time. Also, our pens are intended for cats which have been handed in to our legal possession.

However, we did receive such a request recently, and with much negotiation and the help of one of our fosterers who had professional knowledge of the services available, we were able to facilitate some foster care, the financial costs being met by a charity whose remit is to give assistance to the homeless. So the cat in question is safe, giving peace of mind to its owner.



Update of an earlier feral cat relocations

Wild cats move in

We got Panther and Tiger, our wild cats, from Cats Protection last year. Our cats are about two years old and live outside. We unfortunately can't keep cats indoors because of allergies. However, we wanted to provide a home to a couple of cats because we have a three-acre orchard and surrounding fields for them to roam in.



When Panther and Tiger arrived they went through the usual process of being inside cages for a few weeks until they were used to their new home and us. Then we released them and initially we didn't see much of them, but now we see them every day roaming around especially at feeding time!

They are a friendly pair and are always together. We are often amused by their antics when they play fight, climb trees or sunbathe.

My children love them and chose their names because they looked like mini versions of a panther and tiger. Though luckily they are not fierce like their wild cousins but very friendly.

'Thank you so much to Cats Protection for their help in bringing Panther and Tiger to us.'

The Park Family

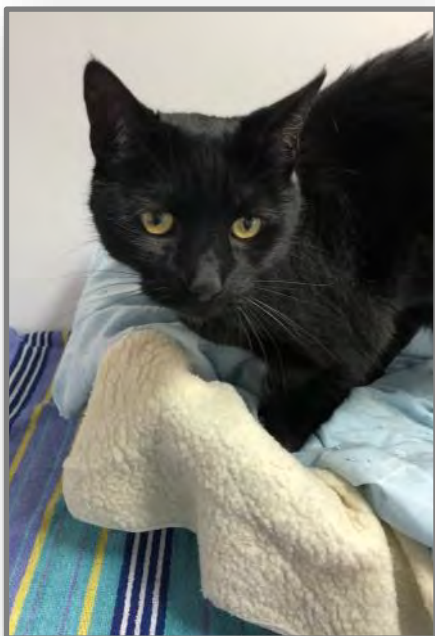
Keeping in Touch

We love to hear how the cats in our care are getting on

Rehomed into what we hoped will be his perfect home, a week later **Monty's** new mum reported that he had settled in well. Already he has made an impact and they love him. He has not shown any signs of stress and his lesion has healed, with the fur over the lesion grown back and thickened well.

He has his own bedroom but likes to join them in their bed at night watching films on Netflix. He especially enjoys the films for cats on Amazon Prime, his favourite one is about a chipmunk eating a corn cob!

Monty was not too sure about the stairs so his mum came down them with him sitting on her bottom, after three sessions he's up and down them on his own. In the morning he gets his breakfast at 7.00am then joins dad in bed for half an hour until he gets up.



His mum wonders if he might have had an accident with his previous owner, because when the clothes horse is taken out, he does not like it. Once it is set up whether or not there are clothes on it, he relaxes again.

His new owners love him and are so grateful to everyone at CP for looking after him and allowing them to give him his forever home.

We are thankful there are families willing to take on some of the more 'challenging' cats in our care - they are not always your picture perfect felines, but with love will become so.

NB: Perhaps an accident with a clothes horse is similar to one reported in a recent edition of CP's 'The Cat' magazine about recliner chairs. where a near fatal accident occurred when a cat had ventured inside. Cats can get just about everywhere, so there is always a need to check underneath for a resting cat, before closing, folding or moving any piece of equipment.

Action for Animal Welfare - 2021

Included In the Queen's Speech at the May 2021 Opening of Parliament was a Government Bill : '**Action Plan for Animal Welfare**' .

There were some 40 different measures to be introduced. At last we will see the compulsory microchipping of pet cats and a review of snares. So a big 'Thank You' to everyone who signed those petitions in our Winter 2020 edition of Felines.

Microchipping has the potential to reduce the number of 'found' cats that come to our notice that cannot be reunited with their owners. One such instance was Slinky, featured in this issue of Felines, who, even years after having been homed to another county, was reunited happily. Most important is keeping your details on the database up to date. Lots to think about when moving home, but ensuring your cat's new address is correct is vital. We are made aware of 'found' cats, which are chipped, but sadly the ownership details are out of date, so unless very lucky we are not able to reunite cat and owner. Please pass the message on- 'Get your cat chipped, and keep your details up to date'

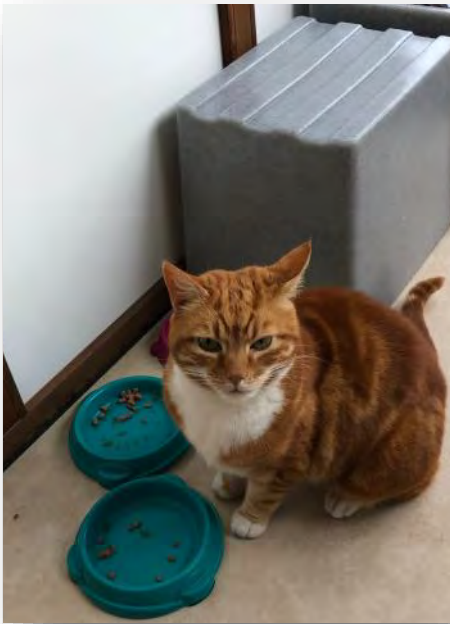
What does microchipping involve? The procedure is quick, and harmless to your cat. The chip is the size of a grain of rice, so once implanted between the shoulder blades, usually at the time of neutering, it won't be noticeable to cat or owner. Vets and welfare organisations have access to the national database and can check a chip number for the registered details and then hopefully reunite cat and owner.

Promoting the rights of cats has continued since inception of Cats Protection in 1927 - there is still a way to go. A need for the licensing of air guns, the inclusion of the obligation to stop and report if you injure a cat whilst driving. It is extraordinary that you are by law obliged to stop if you cause an accident to: a horse, cattle, ass, mule, sheep, pig, goat or dog, but not yet a cat. At one time neutering/spaying was a bone of contention, with many arguing against the practice, less so now, when it is more the norm.

Today Cats Protection supports the largest single-species neutering programme in the world, and have been helping owners with costs since the 1950s.

We are also proud that we never put a healthy cat to sleep. There is always more to do, with your help we will continue to support our feline friends.

Reasons why chipping and record keeping is so important



Ginger a 9 year old stray.recently came in to the Foster Pens. Although chipped, he hadn't been reported as missing.

He turned up at a care home where he was being fed. It was discovered he'd been originally registered living in Bristol, so something of a long distance rambler. A beautiful boy, who ate everything as soon as it was put out - not an uncommon trait of strays, who never know when or where their next meal may come from.

BREAKING NEWS

Ginger was finally reunited with his owners having been missing for some 8 years!

Poppy

Like Tash, an older lady (14) who was handed in to us after her owner died.

Poppy is off to her new home very soon.

Love that moustache!.



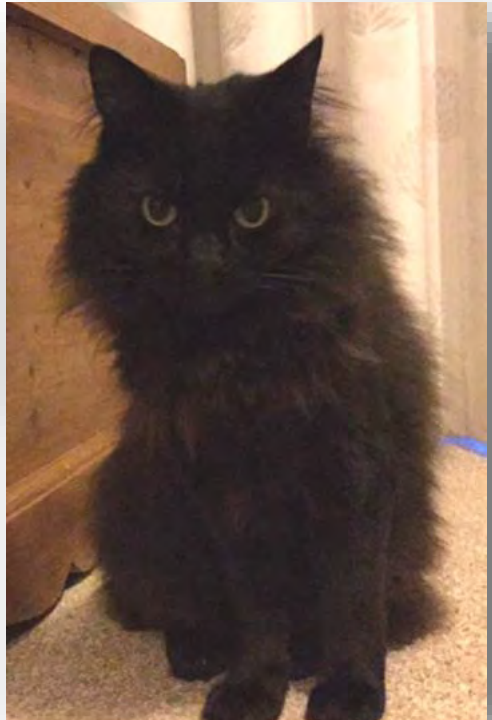
How time flies!

From a kitten to how he
is now!



This is **Barney**, the Branch Coordinator's very first hand reared kitten. He came to us with his siblings from a vet when he was four hours old and recently it was his eighth birthday!

AM



Taunton & Wellington Branch

Call 03452 602 397 (standard rate)

Please note our new email address
enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk

Plus for lost and found please use:

lostandfound@taunton.cats.org.uk

www.taunton.cats.org.uk



Taunton & Wellington Branch offers help in the following areas: TA1, TA2, TA3, TA4, and TA21. We are on Facebook and Twitter!

