

Felis Catus

Newsletter of the Woking & District Cats Protection

January - June 2022



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Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of Felis Catus!

The last six months have been as busy as ever for Woking Cats Protection; there have been plenty of rescues, re-homings and adoptions, all possible because of the amazing work done by our team of volunteers and supported by our members. A steady stream of cats and kittens have spent a little time in foster care before going to their forever homes – you can read about all the temporary residents of one foster pen on page 6.

Like many people, I've continued to work from home regularly and have enjoyed the companionship of my two black cats who are never far away. We all talk to our feline friends – it might be a one-sided conversation but we know they are listening, especially when we're walking towards the food bowl! In this issue, two adopters imagine what their cats would say if they could tell their own story (page 20).

It's always cheering to hear about stray cats who have come in from the cold and found a new home and the ones on pages 22 and 23 are fantastic success stories. But we mustn't forget that other cats find new homes because their owners bravely make the decision in the cat's best interest to give them up. Cats Protection fully supports this and always ensures they go on to owners who will love them just as much – as you can see on page 14.

Finally, fundraising events have made a welcome return and more are planned for this year. Do take a look at our Treasurer's report (facing page) and at the update on pages 8 and 9 to see the importance of ongoing fundraising and how you can be involved in 2022.

Read on and enjoy the latest local branch and national cat news, and don't forget to send updates, ideas and photos to editor@woking.cats.org.uk.

Jane

Volunteers Matter

Welcome to: Suzanne Benton.

Farewell to: Janet Dunn.

We are always in need of volunteers – please get in touch if you are interested in joining our lovely team. Please contact us at: info@woking.cats.org.uk or call us on 01483 721700 (mailbox 4).

Like what you see?

We also share our news on social media - please follow us!



WokingCatsProtection



@wokingcp



@wokingcatsprotection



Treasurer's annual report

Happy new year!

With another new year upon us, I think it goes without saying that 2021 was very successful considering the constraints most of the team have been working under.

I don't usually get to see the "cat side" of things from my mainly office-based role, but I do like to look on our website to see who we have for homing and who has "reserved" against their name. I love it when I see that a cat who has been on our adoption page for a considerable length of time suddenly gets a reserved sign. I know then that our homing and welfare teams have taken their time and used their experience securing the right home for the lucky cat. It makes some of my more tedious tasks worthwhile and makes me realise why I am doing what I do for the cats and for the branch.

Most of our usual fundraising events like the Quiz Night, Spring Fayre and RSPCA Day were cancelled in the first few months of 2021 but our fundraising team arranged an online Easter Raffle which was a great success and easily covered some of our losses. Thank you to everyone who took part.

It was really heart-warming to meet so many supporters at our recent Christmas Fayre. All of the stalls were very busy and at the final count we had raised £3655, which beat our previous best-ever fayre total.

Alison's fabulous face masks made an incredible £4848 for the branch. It was a great effort and very much appreciated by us all, although I am now reliably informed that Alison never wants to see or sew another mask in her life!

The neutering team have been equally busy with a total of 353 cats neutered – 176 male and 177 female – at a cost of almost £19,000.

I would also really like to thank all of our regular supporters who donate monthly by standing order, online or otherwise, and those of you who send donations in by post, leave a donation with Pauline at Lynton Veterinary Practice, do the Cat Lottery in our favour or take part in the online cat sponsorship. Not all branches are as fortunate as we are at Woking with the continued support we receive – and that's down to you, our members. The committee recognise and applaud you all.

Finally, with spring just around the corner and the Spring Fayre already planned, we would be very appreciative of any unwanted Christmas gifts that you could donate to us for the New/Nearly New Stall. We hope to see you there too!

Gill

In memory of Harry and Diesel

We moved to Bisley in 1997. The existing neighbours soon moved out (hopefully nothing personal) and new ones moved in. They came with a cat, had a kid and their cat moved out. Cosmo was a long-haired black beauty who decided we might be a better option and we loved him dearly in a "shared" agreement with the owners (who got to look after him when we went on holiday). Our neighbours then got another cat, and then when Cosmo sadly passed away they got another, and then a dog. And so, we took "shared" charge of their two latest feline additions for much the same reason as their first.

Diesel was the first new feline arrival. A two-tone brown tabby with a dropped shoulder blade that forced him to walk a bit lop-sided and often on the back of his right paw. The second new arrival was a beautiful grey and white kitten named Harry. He was semi-feral, arrived whilst an extension was being built and lived in a cage for a long time. I'm not sure how long, but long enough to imprint a firm distrust of humans in him.

Diesel and Harry were as thick as thieves and spent a fair amount of time in our front and back garden. We hardly ever saw them apart and were not too surprised when they both started venturing into our house when winter hit. I won't pretend that we discouraged them. Neither of them was the most affectionate of cats, but both were tremendous characters and in obvious need of some assistance. We were more than happy to oblige.



Kim and I always wanted cats of our own. We'd spent a lifetime looking after other people's and wanted to experience the process of bringing up one or two from grass roots level. So, once we'd had some building work completed, we contacted Woking Cats Protection to see whether we could adopt two kittens. We spoke with Joanne initially, had a survey of our house and surrounding area, were given the nod to proceed and finally got a call to visit Heather to view a couple of likely candidates. Badger and Minstrel have been with us ever since and have enriched our lives immeasurably. Their story has been documented in previous editions of *Felis Catus*, but they needed to feature a little in Diesel and Harry's as there was, obviously, an impact...

Our two adopted charges from next door owned the territory. They were there first and had dibs on it. As hard as it was, we had to segregate the two factions to inside and out. So, as Badger and Minstrel adapted to their new surroundings inside, I set about converting our garage for Diesel and Harry. The cat flap had migrated with the re-purposed kitchen door to the side door. An enclosed wicker basket was sited in front of an electric heater. Both cats could, amazingly, squeeze in together, but when a cardboard box was inadvertently left on the floor, they both took up residence in it. After several months an upgrade project was undertaken. An MDF box was constructed with an open-lipped front. The interior was lined with polystyrene tiles. A carpet offcut was placed in the base and topped with a replaceable blanket. They loved it and used it for the rest of their days when the weather became inclement. In the warmer weather they simply preferred the freedom of outdoor life. All four cats rubbed along nicely; Minstrel could often be found in Harry's company flat on his back, all four paws in the air and exposing his belly. Harry would often follow suit in a kind of subservient stand-off!

As Diesel and Harry grew old, they started to lose weight. Harry especially lost muscle tone around his back legs, leading to restricted control of his walking. He was a smart one though as we witnessed him aiming for walls, car tyres, toolboxes – anything he could use as a vertical support for his un-cooperative rear end. As an animal lover you know when the dear little soul is no longer having a good time of it and the heart-breaking decision has to be made. We had Harry put to sleep in January of 2019.

Diesel had lost his bosom buddy but soldiered on. He became frailer and was suffering from poor hearing and vision. Each morning I would sort his breakfast to often find him having a stretch and a clean, so there was still good quality of life we think. He was quite the trooper. Diesel passed away just three weeks away from his 20th birthday. Although neither he nor Harry came from Woking CP, they did pave the way for us to adopt through this most worthy of charities. We miss them both terribly and wanted to tell their tale in the hope that it may inspire you, dear reader, to keep an eye out for a little one in need. Sponsoring an issue of Felis Catus in their memory seemed fitting.

Thank you for reading and, more importantly, thank you for supporting Woking CP.

Paul and Kim



Need to talk to someone?

Cats Protection understands just how much your cat means to you and what you may be going through if your pet is missing, had to be rehomed, nearing the end of their life or recently passed away. We have a large range of resources, information and support to help you at this difficult time, including ways to help celebrate the life of your cat.

If you're experiencing the loss of your cat, you can talk to us. Our volunteer listeners can provide emotional support and practical information.

Please get in touch, we're here and ready to listen:

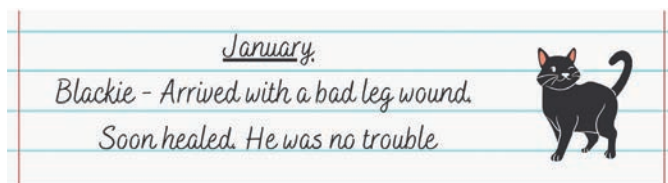
t: 0800 024 9494 (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri) free & confidential

w: www.cats.org.uk/grief



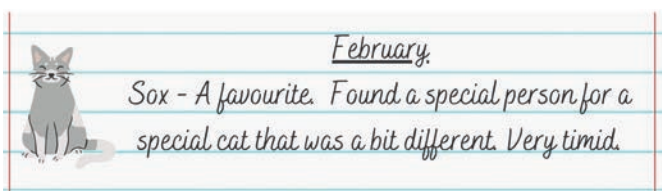
A year in the life of a foster pen

On their journey to finding a permanent new home, many cats spend a little time with a Cats Protection fosterer. A spacious, comfortable pen in the fosterer's home or garden provides a safe between-homes environment where their needs can be assessed and they can receive lots of loving attention from the fosterer and volunteer socialisers. One of our fosterers, Lin, tells us about her pen set-up and the cats who have temporarily made it their home.



What equipment do you have in the pen?

The pen is equipped with everything a cat needs: litter trays, scratching post, selection of toys, blankets that are kindly knitted and donated. There is a heater for the winter, a fan for the summer and the local station on the radio. Only the best will do for these temporary residents.

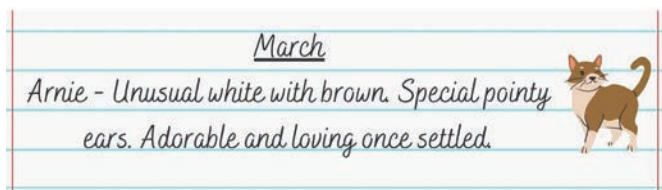


How do you keep your residents "entertained"?

I have a socialiser who comes to play with them once a week and I also play and sit with them. The garden is full of bird feeders for them to watch. They have a lovely view of the garden and can keep an eye on the vegetable patch, the greenhouse and the neighbours' gardens. My washing line is also opposite the pen so there

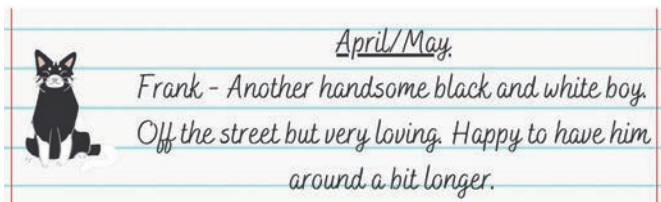
are lots of comings and goings to supervise from a distance.

During the evening they play on their own with their toys. We have visiting foxes and hedgehogs, and the odd cat that strays into our garden.



Do your own cats interact with the fostered cats in any way?

Our black and white tom cat tends to ignore them unless it's a lady. Then he will lie and roll on the path. Our own CP adopted cat is very timid and choosy who she makes friends with, whether human or animal. If she is nervous of them, she stays away, if not she will watch them on their shelf.



June
Sassie - Would sit on your lap for ever. Beautiful colours: white, ginger, tabby. Someone is one happy owner.



Sassie

July.
Mabel - A rehomed. Very sweet. A treat to look after until her forever home came along.



Who stayed the shortest amount of time?

The shortest was probably Mabel but she had been with a previous fosterer with her kittens. Sometimes the street cats move to an indoor fosterer to get used to being indoors before going to their new homes.



Mabel

What do the cats get up to when you're not looking?

Having a little camera in the pen allows me to see what they get up to. Some like Sox were looking for a route out, climbing up the wire windows. Sassie was like a child on a sugar rush. She never stopped neither did Mabel. I never saw her sleep! Lenny was relatively quiet unless he spotted something outside.

Aug/Sept
Lenny - Gorgeous jet-black Lenny. A street cat for four years but very affectionate. He went to the perfect home he deserved.



Lenny

What does the cat take with them when they leave?

When a cat leaves us for their forever home, we give them their toys and blankets. We use egg boxes and tubes to hide treats in and if they have not been destroyed, they go too. We also provide a little wet litter with their scent on for their new litter tray.

Oct/Nov
Gino and Gordon - Young black and white brothers with different personalities. Gaining confidence all the time.



Was the pen ever empty during the year?

The pen has a new occupant as soon as we have had time to clean it. I did have a little break due to an injury but as soon as another cat came along, I was ready to receive it. I believe we have a long waiting list for cats needing to be taken into our care. With limited fosterers we are always busy!

Fundraising update

Golf event

The London Mark Masons event at Chobham Golf Club in September marked a welcome return to in-person fundraising, after a Covid-enforced break of around 18 months.

Ruth, Cheryl and Gill provided savouries and cakes for eleven teams of golfers at the 9th tee in return for donations. At the evening event a raffle was held, culminating in a grand total of £800 raised for the branch!



Christmas Fayre 2021

Delicious jams, scrumptious cakes, Christmas crafts, a chocolate tombola and all kinds of cat-themed gifts were to be found at the Woking & District Cats Protection Christmas Fayre. Held at New Haw Community Centre on 6 November, the fayre was incredibly well attended by members, volunteers and other supporters, raising an amazing £3655.

A huge thank you to all who came along, and also to those who baked, sewed, donated, organised, made tea and cleared up! Special thanks to the [Runnymede Hotel, Egham](#) for their generous raffle prize – their fantastic ongoing support is much appreciated.



Christmas Hamper Winner
Congratulations Karen!



Save the date - 4 April 2022

Come and join us at the Spring Fayre -
keep an eye on the website for details:

<https://www.cats.org.uk/woking>

Other ways to get involved!

Climb for cats

The Climb for Cats campaign launches in January 2022! Cats Protection challenges you to push your body to the max and scale the dizzy heights of...your staircase! By climbing your stairs at home, finding local steps or walking up nearby hills you can conquer the equivalent of the UK's highest peaks.

You can complete the climb in one go, spread it across a number of months or over the dedicated climb weekend of 28-30 January. As always, sup pawtters will be able to raise money for their local branch or centre - please choose Woking! For more info, go to: <https://www.cats.org.uk/climbforcats>

Miles for moggies

Looking ahead to April, can you complete a marathon distance to help cats? Clock up 26 miles during April and help cats and kittens in the Woking area!

Track your miles on your favourite app, and receive a virtual medal to share your success. You can take on the challenge across days, weeks or even the whole month. However you choose to do it, you can help exceed last year's national total of an incredible £30,000.

Sign up here: <https://www.cats.org.uk/milesformoggies>

Eight precious weeks

Please help support the Cats Protection winter campaign, Eight Precious Weeks. Some kittens in our community are being taken away from the nurture and safety of their mums too soon and sold online for profit.

- A kitten sold too young is far more likely to suffer a life-threatening illness than if they have built up immunity through their mother's milk.
- They may be poorly socialised and stressed, increasing the risk of later behavioural issues such as spraying, destruction or aggression.
- The time and cost of caring for a sick kitten makes it more likely that they are given up to charities like Cats Protection, or even abandoned to fend for themselves.

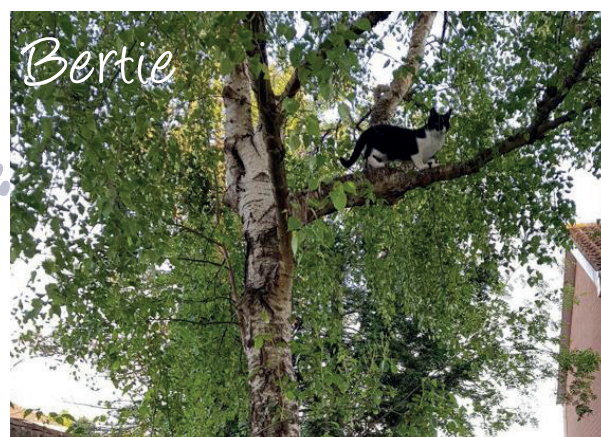
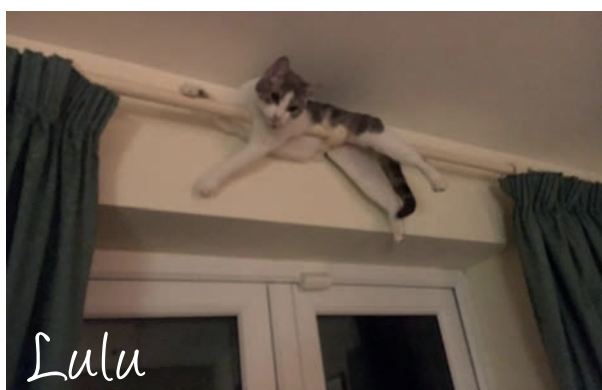
This winter, please donate to Woking and District Cats Protection to give the most vulnerable kittens a fighting chance. You can read more about the Eight Precious Weeks campaign at: <https://www.cats.org.uk/support-us/eight-weeks>.



The highs and lows of cat antics

Cats love to get up high – it makes them feel safe, they can see their surroundings and sometimes it's just their natural curiosity that leads them on a vertical adventure. But trying to climb inside or underneath things is just as popular, as illustrated by these gorgeous CP cats.

Don't forget to send your photos to: editor@woking.cats.org.uk.





Clyde



Bear



Nellie



Alice



Billie



Tommy

Meet the lucky black kittens...



National Black Cat Day every October shines a light on those gorgeous house panthers who sometimes get overlooked in favour of their more colourful counterparts. Take a look at these beautiful kittens, whose mother Frankie was featured in the last issue of Felis Catus.

Frankie was found hiding under a fir tree in a garden with her four kittens, sheltering from the elements. Squashed right in a corner, she couldn't be caught until she had moved her family to another part of the garden, under a bush. With a little frightened hissing, Frankie allowed herself and her kittens to be gathered into foster care, where they flourished before being adopted into their forever homes.



My husband and I knew we were looking for two kittens to adopt. Whilst I work from home and am around a lot, we thought two would keep each other company if we were ever away on holiday. Kim called up and told us about two kittens, whom we have named Rosie and Jasper. Rosie is a black short hair; her brother is fluffy and his fur a more chocolatey brown colour than black. As you can see, they are both gorgeous!

Of course, when we first got them, they were tiny! After an inevitably tentative exploration, Rosie took the lead in their new home, dominating the games we had set up for them, in what is now called the cat's playroom! Jasper was happy to let Rosie try out the games before getting involved himself. Even now they are out, with a garden and field to play in, Rosie leads the way. She is a confident climber and hunter. Jasper is finding his confidence more each day, but he is still a sensitive soul and likes to be near his mummy (me) as much as he can. Rosie, whilst more independent, is still an absolute cuddle-monster and has the loudest of purrs.

Both of them love to be with us. It's almost impossible to work on a laptop without Jasper sitting on the keyboard! Or to look out of the window and not see Rosie swaying on the top branch of our tree. We feel very lucky to have been able to help Rosie and Jasper, and in return they have brought such joy to our home.

It was especially wonderful to have them at Christmas, climbing the tree and making us laugh with their antics. Having two kittens is quite different to having one, as they entertain themselves as well as wanting to engage with us. Sometimes we just watch them playing together, mock wrestling like tiny furry bears – it's hilarious to watch.

It was lovely to hear also that Rosie and Jasper's two brothers had also been adopted together. That warms our hearts.

Charlotte



In Scotland, a stray black cat on your doorstep is a sign of prosperity





...shining in their new homes



Our friends told us that when we had to make the decision over our aged cat, it would be good to start looking for new kittens as soon as possible. Our daughter had just obtained a cat from Cats Protection in London and recommended we try looking on their website. So we did, and soon found two male kittens in Woking who needed a home.

At first we thought we would be outside the catchment area, but this fear was unfounded. Then we discovered that 40 other potential owners had shown interest in the brothers and that the process of selecting the new owner was rigorous and thorough. Quite rightly, CP needs to ensure that its charges are relocated to suitable homes.

Given that this was during lockdown, the interview process took place as a video call. My wife made the arrangements and we both needed to be there. Kim from CP wanted a full virtual tour of the house and garden, so that she could assess its suitability, and she wanted clear confirmation that we were both committed to supporting the brothers. We were also able to confirm that I work from home, even in normal times and, with an elderly relative living in the annexe, there was always someone in the house.

A few days later, we got the great news that we had been selected and then we demonstrated where the cats would eat, sleep, play and have their litter trays. As both children have left home, we were in the fortunate position of being able to turn one of their bedrooms and their bathroom into a self-contained kitten kindergarten. We furnished it as proposed by CP and then had another video call with Kim to show that everything was ready.

Kim kept us informed of the brothers' progress, sending videos and pictures of them. We also decided to rename them so some paperwork had to be amended, including the chip registrations, but this was no trouble at all. The big day arrived and a socially-distanced handover of Max and Felix duly took place on the doorstep. Two tiny bundles of fur in a basket, with a pile of toys and blankets that they were used to. With food and water laid out, we initially let them out in the bathroom whereupon they hid behind the toilet. It was little Felix who first came out, older brother Max taking much longer to pluck up the courage to emerge. The same pattern followed when it came to going into the bedroom, then the rest of the house and finally outside. Always Felix first.

Yet it was also obvious that Felix was behind in his development. A great advantage of CP is that neutering is included in the adoption fee and when they were old enough we took them to the local vet but Felix was deemed too small for the operation. It was a further three months before he was ready, despite being exactly the same age as Max. It was at this point the vet diagnosed probable cerebellar hypoplasia.

The boys have great affection for each other and will play together. Felix rests a lot, whereas Max is already roaming the garden, and practising his hunting. In the early days of being outside, Max would climb trees and had to be rescued with a ladder three times! They both have healthy appetites and seem happy with life in Berkshire. We are very grateful to Cats Protection in Woking for bringing Max and Felix into our lives.

Chris & Elizabeth



In Italy, if you hear a black cat sneeze you will have good luck



When your face doesn't fit...

Cats arrive at Woking CP for many different reasons. Sometimes a new baby has to be the priority, or a house move means pets can't come too, or there is a personality clash with another cat in the family. Whatever the reason, it is often a heart-breaking decision to have to re-home your cat. The charity puts huge effort into ensuring that each cat has the best chance of finding the purrfect home and each adopter enjoys the particular personality of their new-found friend. Here are a few of our success stories of the last few months, where a rocky start turned into a fabulous finish.

After the sad loss of our cat Molly last year, our home wasn't feeling complete - it was too quiet without a cat meowing hello and snuggling on the sofa in the evening - so we decided that a kitten was the answer!

Originally named Saffron, this beautiful girl joined us from Woking Cats Protection and we renamed her Autumn because of her gorgeous colours and markings. Autumn has settled in incredibly well and her cheeky and mischievous personality is really coming through. Now seven months old, she is a typical kitten with plenty of classic "tortie-tude"!

After being a little timid in the beginning (jumping a foot off the ground when I dropped an apple!) she has now gained a lot of confidence and has really found her voice, she loves to chatter as she wanders around the house. She has also been getting acquainted with one of the neighbourhood cats through the window - hopefully they will be friends once she is ready to go outside!

She has made best friends with our nine-year-old daughter (who is a little star helping to feed and groom her) - she is definitely Autumn's favourite! Autumn enjoys playing catch, and will even bring

the ball back. She often sleeps at the end of the bed at night and will playfully attack our feet when she wants us to wake up. When she isn't playing or meeping for cuddles, Autumn can usually be found in her hammock by the radiator, which is also in a sunny spot - perfect for her afternoon naps.

Autumn is an absolute joy to have in our home and has really made our family complete. We are very grateful for the amazing work done by Cats Protection.

Lucy, Steve & Rachel



Autumn



Kobe

After losing our 19-year-old Dandy, we decided we couldn't live without a cat. We gave it a few months and then I was pointed to Woking CP to find out more about becoming an adopter - cat or kitten, it didn't matter. I called and left all our details with a lovely man called Ben and he told me all about Kobe, a young Bengal cross around 10 months old. We were sent a photo and it was love at first sight. After going through all the procedures with Alison, we were very excited to say yes to our new boy, Kobe. Six and a half months later and we love him so very much. A big thank you to each of you at Woking CP for making our life happy with our beautiful fur baby.

Samantha & Daniel



...a new welcome awaits

We adopted 13-month-old Pepper in May 2021, after looking to adopt a rescue cat for some time. I saw Pepper's photo on the Woking Cats Protection website and read her profile and thought she might be suitable, so decided to enquire. We had done this several times before for other cats from various cat rehoming organisations but had always missed out. I was delighted to receive a call from Alison, Pepper's foster carer and we chatted to see if we were suitable. We were very happy to be told that we could adopt Pepper and busily set about getting all the equipment and food that we needed.

Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to meet Pepper before we adopted her but we had a video call so we could see her. The following week Pepper was brought to us and when her basket was opened she jumped out and was eager to explore her new surroundings. The first evening she cuddled up on the sofa with us.

She is a very friendly, loving and affectionate cat and adored by anyone that comes to our house. She loves company and being stroked and cuddled. We had not had a cat before but our two boys who are 12 and 8 are completely besotted with her - the first thing they want to do when they come home is see Pepper.

She settled into our family life and comes in and out of the house during the day to see us. For the first four weeks we kept Pepper indoors and gradually let her explore our house. She loves hiding and we found her in all sorts of place. At four weeks we opened the French doors into our garden and she was very eager to go outside. This was the first time she had ever been outside - as her previous home was a flat - and she really enjoyed her new surroundings.

We accompanied her outside every day for a couple of weeks until we felt she was ready to go alone, and we were very relieved when she came back to us! It took her about a week to be able to use the cat flap we had installed and she now comes and goes as she pleases during the day.

She is a lot more confident outside and can be seen on our garage roof, shed roof, garden wall or up a tree.



She loves hiding in the bushes and if we go into the garden she often rushes up to us for a stroke and play.

Everyone who meets Pepper says how lovely cat she is and we feel so blessed to have her in our lives.

Sue & Kevin



Welcome home - tips for settling in

First impressions count, so take your time when welcoming a new cat into your home. Here's a few things you can do to make the transition as smooth as possible:

- * Bring home something familiar - take some of your new cat's litter or bedding home, as a familiar scent can help them feel more secure.
- * Create a sanctuary in your home - start by keeping your new cat in a separate room, with everything they need in one place. Providing a place to hide can make them feel safe too.
- * Share your smell - give them a piece of your clothing to help them get used to your smell.
- * Give your cat time and space, let them explore in their own time and approach you when they feel comfortable.

In the balance : Dou Dou's story

Dou Dou came to us after a cat-less year, our 19-year-old British Blue Sophie having sadly departed this world. Dou Dou was very different. Expected to be timid and re-homed from a household of rag-dolls, his spectacular climbing and pouncing from the start nearly made us think we had made a mistake in homing a tabby-Bengal cross. We knew they could be lively, closer to their ancestors in behaviour, but had we underestimated the challenge?

The first week was scary. He was dynamic, fast moving, climbing everywhere, onto wardrobes and bookcases, jumping eight feet



into the air and landing on beds or furniture and hiding in spaces you didn't know were there.

Cats Protection were always ready to talk through challenges. Limiting access, then gradually expanding room by room was the answer. The second week was better. Launching himself at us and furniture at speed, usually with claws extended continued for a while. Our legs were tree trunks to him in preference to his tall scratching post. There was only one accident, a large pot plant: no harm done, just some mess.

With week three came knowledge of how to wear him out, throwing his soft ball up and down stairs which he retrieves and brings back like a dog. His most outstanding skill

is undoubtedly his football which he often practises on his own. Many a time in the middle of the night he can be found dribbling his favourite woollen ball around the wooden floor of the dining room, making long shots which he then chases to continue dribbling.

He can even toss the ball into the air and catch it. If you're privileged to witness this he will bring the ball to you for a throw-in.

But he's young and will crash into sleep, having spent several hours in high-level activity, more recently balancing on picture rails for late-night spider hunts.



Sensing the verdict on whether he stayed was in the balance, he started to exhibit two personas. He could amaze us with his ball and retrieving skills, occasionally ambushing us from strategically identified posts. He could seamlessly transform into the most affectionate tabby who would sleep on your lap, dreaming about his next escapade and recovering his energy to fulfil it.

The verdict is he's here to stay, giving hours of entertainment and company. He's certainly got into our life and enhanced it: we're so glad we persevered with his induction into the family.

Christine & Chris



Ivy climbs to the top

I have to be honest - we were very apprehensive about getting another cat. We had lost Dinah, our much loved 10 year old tortoiseshell, to cancer six months ago and felt guilty about "replacing" her. But Dinah herself had come along after the loss of our previous cat - both rescues - so we knew how important it was to give a home to a puss in need.

I had been checking the Cats Protection website and then we saw Lily. A petite white and tabby lady, aged 18 months, who had always been an indoor cat but, according to the blurb, would perhaps be better suited to a life in which she could come and go, outdoors and in. From a cliff path walk on holiday in Wales, I called the Woking CP office and - phew - she was still available.

As soon as we got home we had a Zoom interview with Alison, Lily's foster carer. I had worried about not being able to meet our prospective new family member in person, but Alison was great, answering all our questions and showing us Lily in her temporary surroundings. We heard that she was quite timid but very friendly when her trust had been won. As soon as the call ended I knew I desperately wanted her to be ours.

A few days later we did another Zoom call to arrange the "virtual" adoption. Again, it was a chance for CP to provide us with loads of helpful information about taking on a new cat. I've had three previous cats and thought I knew everything, but this call was actually really helpful - particularly about letting Lily outside as she had never set foot in the great outdoors before.

And then, she arrived. Delivered to our door in her little CP supplied pet carrier. We expected a scaredy cat but what we got when we opened the lid was a little poppet who purred and rubbed her head into our hands. We had decided to rename her Ivy, so said a little hello and then left her quietly on her own to explore her new room. We thought she would retreat to a dark corner but she was sitting right in the middle of my desk when we opened the door again. She jumped off and ran towards us. That set the scene for the next few days, in which we gave Ivy space but also love, and let her adjust in her own time. As each new room was opened up to her she would prowl around, with big eyes and sniffing nose.

For four weeks she got used to us and the house. She quickly went from being timid to completely bonkers - running around as if chased by a hurricane. Up and down the stairs, under the beds, onto the bath. Then she would collapse in a heap on the rug and purr so loudly you could hear her from the next room. She is very vocal - I've never had such a chatty cat before. Every morning we have a full-on conversation and she always announces her arrival into the room if we're there.

Then the day came to let Ivy out. I was scared stiff - visions of her bolting over the fence, never to be seen again. I followed the CP advice to just



quietly open the door and let her follow me into the garden. She stayed very close, never leaving the patio for the first few days. Then she ventured onto the grass, then into the borders. She absolutely loves it out there now and comes and goes through the cat flap whenever she pleases, although we always keep her in at night. She did get stuck on top of the shed once - she made such a din as she paced up and down but we gained her confidence by waving a cat treat and she managed to find a path down.

We absolutely adore her and she is already at the centre of our family. We don't forget our beautiful Dinah, it's just that now we also have beautiful Ivy.

Sara

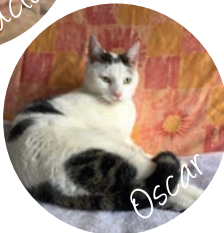
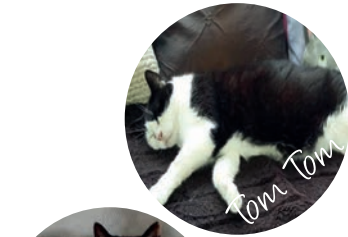


Branch news

Farewell to Janet

A huge thank you to Janet Dunn, one of our amazing fosterers, who has recently retired after eight years with the branch. Since taking charge of her first cat, Pudding, a three-legged tortoiseshell, Janet has looked after numerous rescues on their way to a permanent home.

Despite attempting to retire a couple of years ago to go off travelling, Janet's plans were disrupted by Covid restrictions, so luckily for Woking CP she came back to us and ended up fostering a few more before finally hanging up her litter scoop.



All change for the welfare team

Although still a valued volunteer for the branch, Pauline Welch has stepped back from her role as Welfare Team Leader and passed the baton to the capable hands of Kim Gibson.



In Memory: Jill Trevor

Jill Trevor, a socialisation volunteer, will be remembered with gratitude for the time she gave to Woking Cats Protection.

The time is meow!

Advocacy update from the National Cats Centre

It has been another busy six months for the Advocacy & Government Relations team.



Campaign to stop kitten smuggling

We launched our campaign to stop a kitten smuggling scandal in response to a government consultation on pet travel. The Government proposed to tighten the regulations for the commercial import and non-commercial movement of dogs but not for cats. Cats Protection believes that if changes to the pet travel arrangements for cats and kittens are not introduced alongside the changes proposed for puppies and dogs then unscrupulous pet smugglers may well simply switch their focus to kittens, compromising their welfare.

The charity is concerned that the proposed inequity on pet travel between dogs and cats will create risks to cat welfare and open up the possibility of unscrupulous cat breeders abroad importing kittens under six months for sale. We also called on the Government to ban the commercial and non-commercial movement into Great Britain of cats in the last 50% of their gestation period in line with the proposals already made for the movement of pregnant dogs. The charity also urged the Government to include a ban on the importation of any cat which has been de-clawed. It is already illegal for cats to be de-clawed in the UK.

The team is delighted that more than 16,000 supporters emailed the Government asking them to protect kittens from trafficking, trauma and tragedy. Thank you if you got involved. We will be updating our supporters on the progress of this campaign and we will let you know when the Government announces the findings of its pet travel consultation and their next steps on this issue.



Licensing laws in Scotland and Wales

In September both the Scottish Government and Welsh Government introduced new licensing laws which prevent pet sellers from selling kittens that they have not bred themselves. This brings the devolved nations into line with England where this has been the case since 2018. In all three nations commercial cat sellers now require a licence and their licence number must be displayed on any advert for their kittens. In addition, the licence bans the commercial sale of kittens under eight weeks of age.

In Scotland, the new licensing laws go further so that anyone breeding three or more litters of kittens in any 12-month period must be licensed and female cats are limited to having a maximum of two litters within a year. Breeders have also been banned from breeding cats with extreme traits which can lead to health conditions, such as the Scottish Fold.



Looking ahead

As we move towards a new year the team are expecting the outcome of the microchipping consultation in England. We will be relaunching our Purrfect Landlords campaign with new statistics and new materials for branches and members of the public to use to persuade landlords to allow responsible tenants to have cats. The charity will also be launching a new campaign to stop the mis-selling of cats. So watch this space!

Help us speak up for cats

If you are interested in helping our advocacy work - perhaps by letter writing, sharing campaigns online or even gathering evidence, please get in contact with us.



Please email: advocacy@cats.org.uk
Follow us on Twitter: [@CPAdvocacy](https://twitter.com/CPAdvocacy)



If only they could talk....

Dolly came to the attention of CP when she was hit by a car. Taken to the vets, pregnant yet without a microchip, Dolly needed urgent attention followed by a lot of looking after – as she explains.

The lovely people at Woking CP found me a new family to live with at the beginning of June. I'd had a bit of a tough time earlier in the year because I had been involved in a road accident. I had a broken pelvis which meant I had to spend a lot of time in cage rest. But I didn't complain and I gradually got better. It is fully healed now and my 0 to 60 time is better than a Ferrari!

Although I am 20 months old, I still love to play. My family bought lots of different toys but my favourite is still a wand. Originally it had a pom pom on the end but I soon got rid of that. The humans replaced it with a toy fish but again, I pulled that off. I think they now realise that it's the string itself that I really love to play with. I run to one end of the room, crouch down and hide, then launch myself at high speed to catch it. I also hide in my crinkly cat tunnel and wait to pounce. It makes the humans laugh. I'm also quite a chatty girl now. If I wake up and the humans are in another room, I find them and tell them I'm

awake again. I also tell them loudly when I have used my litter box so that they can clean it for me. I think I have them well-trained now. Next week I will be allowed outside for the first time. I have been sitting on the windowsills around the house and at the patio doors looking out and watching the birds and squirrels. I think I might introduce myself to them when I go out ...

As told to *Steve*



Harley, another injured stray, is now living life to the full with a new family.

Well here I am, all settled into my new home and loving it. When Cats Protection rescued me I was in a bad way and the lovely lady Kim looked after me whilst all my wounds healed, and she ensured I was given medicines to protect me from worms, fleas and all sorts of nasty medical conditions. She was great but I wasn't there for long as my new family picked me quite quickly. My fur has been stroked and brushed so much it is no longer like a door mat but more like a soft cushion, my family tells me.



I have recently started making a noise they refer to as a purr; I am not sure I remember making it much before but, to be honest, I didn't have a great start to life. I am still scared of sudden noises, but my new family keeps me safe and I even let them hold me sometimes as they seem to think it is cute (and I secretly enjoy it too).

They have a garden for me to explore which is great, although I do like just hanging out with them, but it is nice to have options. We have got some great toys that we play with from time to time. I am becoming quite an expert on Minecraft; heaven knows I watch enough of it with three kids in the house who all have to take turns on this funny gadget thing.

I have only been here a couple of months but it feels like I have been here forever, and my family agrees. I feel safe, I am happy and my family feels the same way so I guess we all feel extremely lucky. Thank you to Cats Protection for making me so presentable and healthy, and thank you to Kim for the first bit of kindness I'd ever really experienced.

As told to *Chloe*



Moving Morris - a cautionary tale

Morris and his little sister Mini came to us from Woking CP seven years ago. Last June we moved from Surrey to Sussex. On moving day, Mini and Sidney (our other cat, also from Woking CP) were in their carriers and the dog was in the car. All that remained was to get Morris into his carrier. My husband made what is apparently a classic mistake, trying to catch Morris outside. He evaded his grasp, leaving a trail of blood behind him, and shot down the garden. We waited for some time but he did not re-appear.

Meanwhile all our possessions were on the road and the estate agent was chasing us for the keys. We dropped off the keys and then returned but still no sign of Morris. Thankfully our wonderful neighbours Julian, Sam and Star stepped in to help. We left them with his carrier and promises that he would be fed.

After two miserable days without Morris I phoned Pauline at Woking CP and asked for her help. A trap was then dropped off to Julian by Helen with full instructions. Pauline was concerned Morris might remember that it was a trap that first brought him to Cats Protection.

Thankfully his love of food (sardines I believe) won and we soon received a phone call to say he had been captured: such a relief. My brother-in-law collected Morris and drove him straight down to Sussex to be reunited with us all.

Morris wasn't at all affected by his adventures and as you can see from the photo below, he didn't take much time to settle in and stake his claim on the best cat bed in the house.


A massive thank you to Julian, Sam, Star, Pauline, Helen and Andy.


Bev & John





Tips on moving home with your cat

Moving home can be a big deal for you and your cat - much of their feeling of security comes from being surrounded by familiar sights, sounds and scents of their own territory. With some careful planning you can ensure the move is smooth for everyone.

 There are two options when moving house with your cat - take them with you as you move, or book them into a cattery so they are out of the way during the upheaval. If you do book your cat into a cattery during the move, make sure their vaccinations are up to date.

 If you'd rather take your cat with you, you'll need to allocate a "safe" room in your current house as well as your new house for your cat's transition, where you can leave them with all their familiar things.

 Once you've moved into your new home, it is a good idea to keep your cat in their new room for a few days. It can often be overwhelming to have access to the whole house straight away.

 Generally, cats will let you know when they're ready to venture further. It is recommended that 3-4 weeks is a good timescale for letting your cat out into their new surroundings.

Stray cat strut!

Archie started off as Billy the Whizz when he was found at about eight weeks old, living under a bush in someone's front garden. However it didn't take long for him to find a proper family home...

Our 15-year-old daughter found his photograph online: a 12-week-old kitten with a fluff of black hair and startled eyes. It had to be him, she said. We were cautious. His description said he was hyperactive, a ball of energy. "Really?", we asked. She was adamant. So we sent an online enquiry. The very next day, a Sunday, a Cats Protection volunteer telephoned to screen our suitability.

Two days later another volunteer arranged a Facetime call. She asked to see the room where he might live, and the height of our garden fence. Then we had a virtual introduction to the kitten. Our daughter loved him. They said yes. We said yes.

A week after our first email, he was delivered to our front door in a basket, with some familiar-smelling blankets and cat litter. Our daughter named him Archie. He sniffed around the room we had frantically rearranged for his arrival, including boarding up the fireplace. He seemed content.

We were very grateful for the warning about his temperament, which helped us to brace ourselves. We were told he bites ankles. He does. Instead of climbing curtains, he scales our yucca plant and dragon tree and digs compost from their pots.



We had a vase of roses on the kitchen table. He jumped up and delighted in patting the blooms and biting the sweet-smelling petals, over and over again. No, Archie!

Archie is a rascal. But he is a sociable rascal. He pads into the room where we are and sits a short distance from us. When we read a book, work at a laptop or watch television, he snoozes nearby. He purrs. He has captured our hearts.

Greg & Christine

Jeeves was a three-year-old male stray who had been visiting the finder for about three to four months before he came into care.

Lockdown got us searching for a feline companion. We first saw Jeeves on the Cats Protection website and knew immediately he was the one. Such an



intelligent and pretty face, and gorgeous black and white markings.

He took refuge in our cat-house at first but was soon out and exploring the house. When the time came to allow him outside he quickly established the garden as his exclusive territory. Quite early on he disappeared for about 12 hours, leaving us frantic. We needn't have worried - he often takes himself off exploring but always comes back, loudly announcing his return, and sometimes carrying the results of his hunting skills!

We've had many cats in the past, but never one with such character. He loves to be stroked and tickled, and adores play-fights, grabbing you with paws and mouth but never using claws or teeth. A clever chap, he knows where to do his business and where and where not to sharpen his claws. He knows exactly when meals are served and will

make sure you don't forget. Like all cats he will sleep for many hours and in many different spots around the house, wriggling his long body into all kinds of improbable positions, which frequently have us chuckling. But he is especially happy to have his head on a pillow, human-style!

Though I wanted a lap-cat, he won't always agree to sit on my lap; he is his own boss and will seek you out when he wants, on his terms. If he wants your attention he will fling himself at your feet, narrowly missing being trodden on sometimes.

All in all, a very special cat, who has really added to our lives, We kept his name, Jeeves, but are still waiting for him to open the door to visitors or serve drinks on a tray!

Rachel

As an unchipped stray, Hebe was unclaimed so CP set about matching her up with her forever home.

It was a Tuesday lunchtime when we received a very special delivery from Cheryl. Soft, furry, stunningly beautiful, our first meeting on the doorstep was rudely interrupted by a noisy dust cart. Quietly, inside, our newest member of the family settled in. Then the fun began.



First person downstairs would be showered with attention, and unable to walk far until food was administered then they'd be freed. If you opened a cupboard or wardrobe Hebe would suddenly appear and climb in to explore - you never know, it could contain food or treats.

Next, the garden. At first we found we had a cat-shaped shadow until the lure of trees and shed roof beckoned, and the cat mint had been well and truly rolled in over and over again until it was quite flattened.

Another member of the family awaited introduction. On a warm day he got out of bed to sunbathe on his patio in the garden. He didn't realise his new "sister" was watching in the bushes, creeping in from behind for a closer look. Now right next to him he was unaware a paw was going to tentatively reach out and touch him - he immediately withdrew into his shell with a little snort of indignation. Luckily Hebe does not like to eat cucumber, lettuce or tomato so Timmy tortoise can eat all his dinner himself.

Hebe is her own cat, she keeps us all guessing. She does not have rituals, apart from rushing to anyone opening or rustling a packet for a sniff of the contents. She loves her food, prefers to lie on hard surfaces rather than soft, will sit just about anywhere except your lap, unless you are very honoured (or have a couple of her biscuits in your hand!). She especially loves sitting just out of reach! But she still appreciates all the strokes, cuddles and chin tickles she gets. Hebe loves to play with her kickers and her favourite toy is her feathers on a stick.

We feel so lucky to have Hebe with us - she is so gentle, clever and beautiful. Thank you to all at Woking Cats Protection, you were exceptional.

Paula





Update on Mac

In the last issue of *Felis Catus*, fosterer Catherine introduced us to Mac – a mature cat in need of a new loving home. And along came Penny, who continues his story....

It was early September when Mac came to share my home with me and we have settled down well together – two mature beings enjoying each other's company.

My husband died in February after having had Parkinson's for many years and, latterly, dementia as well. We had talked about getting a cat again as our family cat had died many years ago, but the time just wasn't right.

One evening in August, I looked on the Cats Protection website, more out of curiosity than searching for a cat. Mac's photo leapt out at me. Not only was because he was such a handsome cat and the type I like, but that his name was Mac.



All my husband's childhood cats, which were mainly stray and adopted the family, were called Mac. I just felt that I was meant to look after him.

The next few weeks were a flurry of video calls, as everything had to be done remotely. Pauline from Cats Protection and Catherine his fosterer, were both so helpful with tips, advice and support. It is a big decision to take on a 12-year-old cat.

I was quite nervous when Mac was delivered to my doorstep, but after a few wary days of hiding in the smallest space imaginable, Mac came out and made himself at home.

He has found his own routine of where he likes to sleep at different times of the day. In the evening, it is nearly always curled up next to me on the sofa. Somehow, he knows when it is time for bed and will jump down and go off to his comfy area. If I don't switch off the lights and follow him immediately, he comes back for me – no staying up late for me!

He now goes out in the garden and has tried chasing a squirrel or two, but mainly he has a short wander round then ambles back into the house as if to say "I have done that, now back to sleep!"

Even in this short while, Mac has been a great comfort and companion and, yes, it is true that you end up talking to a cat and I think they listen!

Penny

Cats help our wellbeing - official!

For the second year running, Cats Protection has produced the CATS (Cats and Their Stats) Report, a survey of over 10,000 cat owners throughout the UK. It's clear from the report that our national passion for cats remains as strong as ever – with many of us becoming even more reliant on our pets for emotional support. We have seen lots of people obtain a cat for the first time through the pandemic.

- * 26% of households in the UK have a cat, compared to 23% in 2020.
- * 7% of owners got a cat for a reason related to the pandemic, such as being furloughed or spending more time at home.
- * 20% of cat owners say that the main reason for having a cat in their life is to help them feel less stressed or anxious.
- * 90% of cat owners say they spend time stroking their cat or sitting together every day and evidence shows that human-animal interactions provide mental and physical benefits.

Take a look at the full report at: www.cats.org.uk/stats

Vacancy

Online Fundraising Volunteer



As a charity we are only able to help thousands of cats and kittens each year thanks to the donations we receive from generous members of the public. Our online fundraisers help our volunteer groups raise vital funds by organising online sales of goods, using social media to encourage donations and any other innovative ways to raise funds they can think of! Making a difference can mean as little as raising 18p, which is enough to feed one cat in our care for a day.

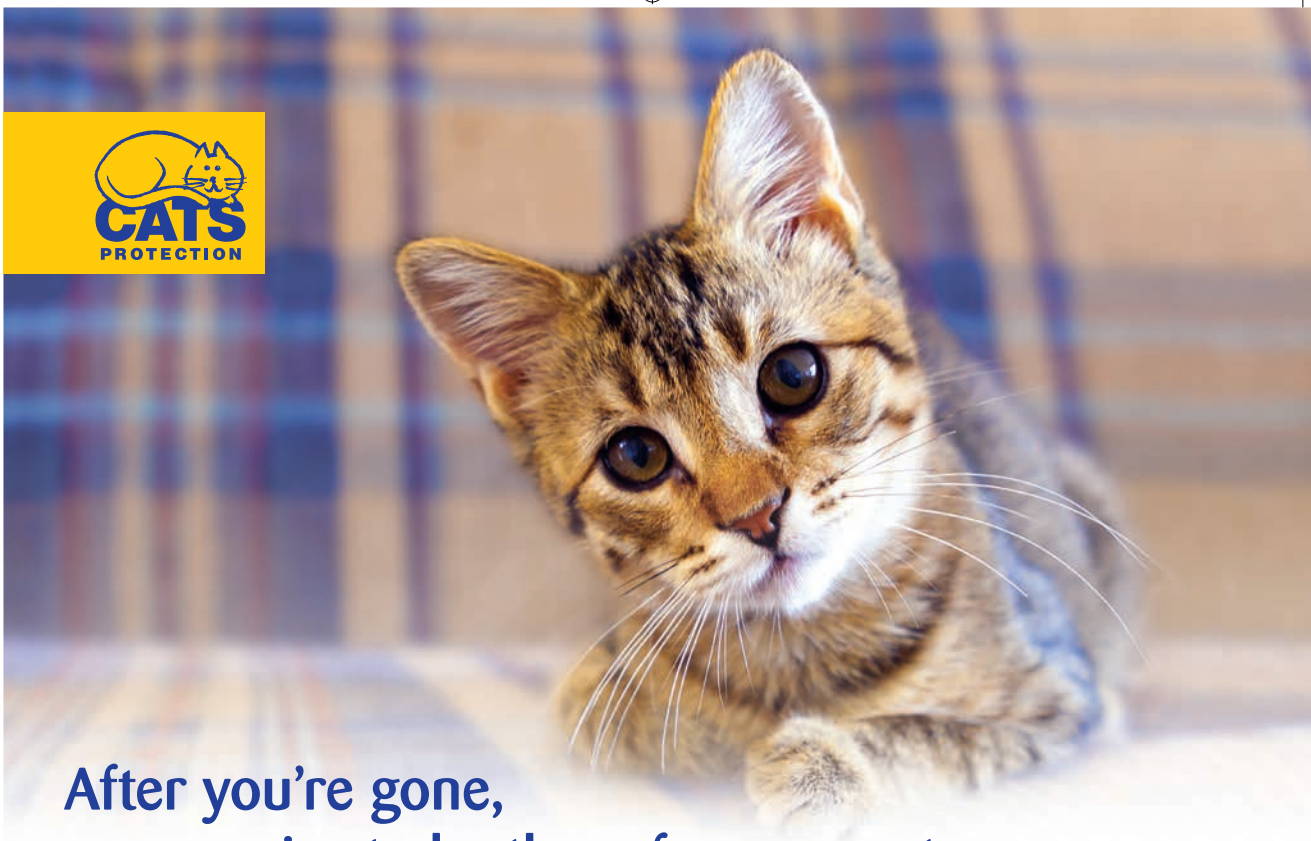
The role includes:

- organising online donations and selling products to raise funds
- raising funds through social networking sites and websites
- asking for pledges and raising awareness of how donated funds are used at Cats Protection
- sharing fundraising ideas and putting these ideas into practice.

We are looking for someone with:

- good IT skills
- good understanding of spelling, punctuation and grammar
- willingness to be part of a team
- the ability to use own initiative
- good communication skills
- knowledge of online fundraising (would be an advantage).

To find out more about this role and volunteering for the branch, please contact us at: info@woking.cats.org.uk or call us on 01483 721700 (mailbox 4).



After you're gone, we promise to be there for your cat

We know your cat means the world to you, which is why Cats Protection promises to be there for them after you're gone.

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Title: _____ Name: _____ Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Cats Protection does not swap, sell or share supporter details with any other charity or organisation. It really helps Cats Protection if we can keep you informed about our essential work, campaigns, activities and fundraising. If you would prefer us to not contact you by post, please phone: 0800 917 2287

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)



20PACG01

Gifts in Wills

It is thanks to the wonderful kindness of supporters who remember Woking Cats Protection in their wills that we are able to carry out much of the day-to-day work that we do. These donations and gifts fund over 50% of all the work we do to re-home cats to wonderful new families and are vital to our foremost mantra:

"No healthy cat will ever be put to sleep"

We rely on gifts in wills to follow this goal and provide abandoned and unwanted cats with a new start and we are incredibly grateful for every gift we receive, regardless of the size. Even little gifts can provide food, a warm bed and veterinary attention to a cat in need, all very important steps to getting our cats into their loving new forever homes. We've been able to refurnish our pens, buy new carriers and even provide ourselves with a van to transport us to our next cases with previous donations. We continue to offer our free neutering programme, and it continues to be successful, all through the generosity of people remembering us in their will.

For more information on what gifting is, please visit:

<https://www.cats.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/gifts-in-wills>

Contact Us

Call us on 01483 721700
and leave us a message

Mailbox 1 - If you would like to adopt a cat

Mailbox 2 - If you need to rehome your cat

Mailbox 3 - Lost & Found

Mailbox 4 - Neutering and all other enquiries

Alternatively, email us at:

info@woking.cats.org.uk



If you would like to donate some items to our branch, but are unsure as to what we need, you can try taking a look at our wishlist!

<https://amzn.to/2WXA12w>

GDPR

Be in control of your data

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

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

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