

Tales from the Riverside

Newsletter January 2017

Downham Market Adoption Centre



Registered Charity No 203644 (England & Wales)



Welcome to the Newsletter of Cats Protection Downham Market Adoption Centre

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Rehoming Figures

At the start of the new year we take a look back on 2016, and how many cats we sent off to their new homes - 384!

However the staff and volunteer team here at Downham Market Adoption Centre, do so much more than just find new homes for cats.

In 2016, 570 cats passed through our care. Some are still in our care waiting for someone to choose them, some cats' wishes came true and they are in new homes; others came to us beyond any help we could give and we gave them dignity and respect to pass on; some lucky ones found their way back to their original homes after being lost and we also welcomed some fresh and new into this world.

We love the work we do and we love the support and kindness you give us in order to do that work. The team and all the cats that come through our care would like to say THANK YOU for your help in 2016, and if the first week of 2017 is anything to go by then hopefully we shall be able to help even more cats as we have already had 11 cats go out to their new homes and another 9 have been transferred to our London homing centres to hopefully improve their chances of finding their forever homes. That figure is 6 more cats than last year in the same period, so fingers crossed for 2017 as a great year for homing.

New Year's Resolution

Have you made any New Year's Resolutions? Or are you still looking for inspiration? Here are some ideas for you to consider:

To do more Recycling

We are always looking for new fundraising ideas and we make a lot of money through recycling all of these products:

- Household cleaning wipes packaging;
- Biscuit wrappers;
- Cleaning products trigger heads;
- Ella's Kitchen snack packets;
- Any brand baby food pouches with lids;
- Used stamps;
- Empty inkjet cartridges;
- Old mobile phones.

So if you could save any of these items for us and then drop them off at the Adoption Centre, our charity shop at Tottenhill, one of our donation stations or hand to us at one of our events then it really does help.

To Volunteer

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers and these can vary greatly including cat cuddling, cleaning out of pens, fundraising, gardening, trap neuter and return of ferals; so whatever your skill we can find a volunteering job for you.

And of course a big way to help us is

To make a Charitable Donation

Be it a few pennies into one of our collection boxes, a one-off donation through our website or by setting up a monthly direct debit, it is all really appreciated and as a charity we would not be able to continue without your kind donations.

Or even if you wish to stick to the traditional resolution:

To Lose Weight

Then why not donate your unwanted Christmas chocolate which we can use as a raffle or tombola prize at one of our events throughout the year.

Obesity

It is important that you manage your cat's weight by ensuring that they are not overfed and have plenty of opportunities to exercise. Prevention is better than cure. You should be able to feel your cat's ribs easily when stroking them lightly and you should clearly be able to see a waistline when you look at them from above.

Overweight cats can have restricted grooming ability as well as suffering with joint problems and having an increased risk of developing weight related diabetes or urinary infections.

The range of pet foods available at your local pet shop may seem rather overwhelming, so how do you know which one to feed your cat?

Like humans, cats need a balanced diet with the right amount of nutrients to stay fit and healthy. Cats have a higher protein requirement than many other mammals and so must eat meat or fish to satisfy their needs. An unbalanced diet can cause growth problems and/or medical conditions. Once you have chosen a particular type of food for your cat you should not suddenly change their diet, but instead slowly introduce a different type if you wish to change to reduce any stomach upset. If however your cat is obese you can ask your vet for advice to help find the appropriate feeding regime.

It is a good idea to weigh food out daily to prevent overfeeding and if you wish to also give cat treats then remember to reduce the amount of other food you give accordingly so you do not increase the total amount of food eaten throughout the day.

Overweight cats should never be starved or put on a crash diet as this could prove harmful. A gradual, steady decrease in bodyweight is ideal.

If you own more than one cat your obese cat is probably eating their own food as well as finishing off that of another, so it is a good idea to feed an overweight cat in a separate room and then pick up any food that is left by other cats before letting the overweight cat out.

There are a range of biscuit balls and puzzle feeders available (or you could even get creative and make your own using some toilet roll tubes) which increases the amount of time your cat spends eating and also gives them a little exercise.

Also remember to always put down fresh water for your cats, although of course some will still prefer the look of that muddy puddle outside!

Cat King Cole

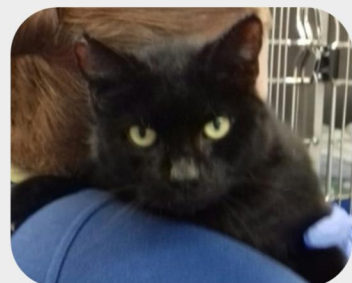
Cat King Cole was brought in to Downham Market Adoption Centre in quite a sorry state by a member of the public who was concerned about his health. This poor chap was considerably underweight and had signs of infection in both ears.



When scanned for a microchip we were delighted to discover he was microchipped and managed to contact his owner. Sadly due to her personal situation she felt unable to give him the veterinary attention he so desperately needed and he was then signed over into our care.

A trip to our vets revealed painful ulcerated polyps in his right ear, which had become infected, he also requires dental treatment. He was put on antibiotics pre surgery and has already become a firm favourite amongst the team, for his affectionate nature and squeaky meow!

Surgery went ahead on Friday 6th January by the fabulous team at London Road Veterinary Centre and we're told he's recovering well.



We've set up a JustGiving donation page to help towards the cost of Cat King Cole's extensive surgery with a target of £500.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Cats-Protection-Downham-Market-ACCatKingCole>

Or donations can be made via text, to donate £5 please text KITTENS17 to 70660

Texts cost £5 plus network charge. Cats Protection received 100% of your donation. Obtain bill payer's permission

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The Centre is open 6 days a week, closed Tuesday's.

