

Tales from the Riverside

Newsletter December 2016

Downham Market Adoption Centre



Registered Charity No 203644 (England & Wales)



Welcome to the Newsletter of Cats Protection Downham Market Adoption Centre



Illustration: Rus Hudda

Christmas is on its way and the arrival of trees, guests and fancy food will all have an impact on your cat. Cats Protection suggests the following tips to make sure your pet's festive season is a safe and happy one:

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me...

Twelve gifts a-giving Make sure that any toys you buy your cat for Christmas are feline-friendly.

Eleven things a-choking Avoid using tinsel and 'angel hair' as these can get stuck in cats' throats. If your tree is real, vacuum around it frequently – as well as being a choking hazard, pine needles can hurt cats' feet and cause infections.

Ten cords a-shocking Electrical cords for fairy lights could be mistaken for toys, so keep them covered.

Nine candles burning They look pretty, but a fire won't! Keep them out of your cat's reach to avoid them being knocked over or causing him an injury.

Eight gifts a-miaowing Never give cats as presents unless this has already been agreed with the recipient. It goes without saying that cats are a commitment beyond the festive season and are not to be treated as novelty gifts.

Several toxic plants A number of festive plants are potentially fatal to cats, including mistletoe, holly, ivy and Christmas roses so choose carefully and keep them out of the reach of moggies. For more information on which plants may be harmful to your cat visit the International Cat Care website at www.icatcare.org



Six baubles swinging Your cat may well be tempted to biff dangling decorations, so it's best to avoid glass baubles as they could shatter.

Five dressed-up cats Do not be tempted to dress your cat up. You may think it makes him look 'cute', but he'll only feel stressed and demeaned.

Four calling guests Having friends and relatives to visit is part and parcel of the Christmas period, but your cat may not wish to join in with the festivities. Ensure that he has a quiet room to himself with his food, water and litter tray easily accessible.

Tree water hazards If you have a real tree, the base should be a no-go area for puss. The water may contain preservatives applied to the tree that are poisonous to cats. Cover up the base so he can't get at it.

Two turkey bones You may be tempted to share some tasty morsels with puss, but restrict this to a small amount of boneless turkey for his Christmas dinner. Some rich foods – like chocolate – are toxic to cats and should definitely be off the menu.

And a kitten stuck up a tree To kittens in particular, the Christmas tree is a toy-toting gift in itself. Discourage your feline friend from climbing it, but also ensure that its base is as sturdy as possible in case he sneaks off on a festive mountaineering adventure!



Christmas Presents

As the end of the year approaches, we are often asked what the cats in our care would like for Christmas. The obvious answer is a new forever home, but if that's not possible, then why not have a look at our Amazon Wishlist as we are always adding items to this which we need. (and don't forget to shop through easyfundraising.org.uk to make a few extra pennies for us too).

Fundraising

November was a busy month for fundraising, we held our third Christmas Craft Fair at West Winch, which raised just under £650, another Bingo evening which was held in Stowbridge and raised £520 and we also attended the Christmas Lights Switch On at Downham Market which raised us £70. All of these funds directly help the cats at the Centre, so thank you to everyone who supported us at one of these events. This month is a bit quieter for fundraising, but we have got a bucket collection planned at Tesco Hardwick, King's Lynn on the 19th December.

New Charity Shop

The new Cats Protection Supawstore at Tottenhill is now all ready for opening on 10th December at 10am.



They still need more donations of clothes, bric-a-brac, electricals, furniture, books, dvds, cds, etc.

They also offer a free furniture collection service within a 20 mile radius (a small charge will be applied if collection is further than 20 miles), though please note that any donated soft furnishings will need to have a fire safety label.

Cat of the Month - Brutus



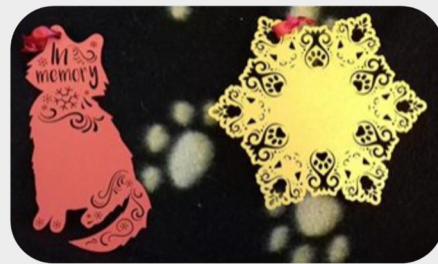
This lovable rogue has been in the wars a bit and is looking for a new home where he can be pampered and enjoy the finer things in life. His distinctive look is the result of a run in he had with a car! He's made of tough stuff and has made an excellent recovery. We'd like to find Brutus a quiet new home with owners who will give him time to settle in, their patience will be rewarded with a great new companion. A garden to explore

would be great but ideally situated away from any busy roads! If you would like more information about Brutus please do get in touch.

Christmas Memory Tree

Remember your much loved Feline Friends this Christmas, for a donation of £5.00 you can have a bauble with a dedication put on the Christmas Memory Tree at Downham Market Adoption Centre.

The dedication can be in memory of a feline friend, in celebration of your current cat or cats, or to show support for one of the cats currently in our care (maybe one of our long stay cats!). Baubles are available from the Adoption Centre or donations can be made through our justgiving page:



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

All money raised helps support the Centre and the work we do.

Important Christmas Adoption News

We will be open 11am-3pm throughout the Christmas period, closed every Tuesday and closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day.

We remain open for the viewing and reserving of cats as per the opening times above, but we cease adoption/collection on Sunday 18th December, so any reserved cat not collected by this date will remain at the Centre until the New Year.

Adoption/collection will recommence on Monday 2nd January 2017.



from everyone at Cats Protection

Tel: 01366 382311

Facebook: CPDownhamAC

Web: downhammarket.cats.org.uk

Email: downham@cats.org.uk

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

