



KIT-E-MAIL

News and events from Cats Protection
Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted Branch

registered charity 203644 (England & Wales) SCO37711 (Scotland)

Tel: 03453 711851 Spring 2016

www.cats.org.uk/dacorum

Hi,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter, how lovely to see daffodils everywhere and new green shoots. What a shame the Easter weather was a bit chilly but let's hope for some warm sunshine soon.

We have a number of black or black and white cats waiting for new homes, so if you are able to offer a home to a cat please spare a thought for them. They are just as loving and individual as cats of any other colour but are often overlooked. If you've never owned a cat before and are concerned about your lack of experience we will be happy to give you as much advice and support as you need. After all, our primary aim is to match cats with people, and if you need help you'll find that we have lots of experience that we'll gladly pass on.

It is the kitten season again and prospective kitten owners should be aware that cats start breeding earlier than you might think possible (and it won't matter to them if it is with their sibling!) so neutering is essential. Contact our neutering help line on 01442 251536 if you'd like to find out about financial assistance towards neutering your kitten. You can also visit our Facebook page or website. Don't forget to have the cat microchipped too – if your cat gets lost for whatever reason it gives you a much better chance of getting it back.

In 2015 132 cats were re-homed and we helped a further 12 cats to be homed directly from the owners, and 300 neutering vouchers were issued.

Finally, as ever, please consider joining our volunteer team or helping in any other way, you will be very welcome.
Please contact us on 03453 711851.

Having got my leg in plaster due to a broken ankle and not able to put any weight on it I won't be leaping about in the sun any time soon but hope to see you at one of our events in 2016, thanks for your support!

Vanessa x
Vanessa Peters, Co-Ordinator



This is Destiny. She is need of a new home. Just like Guinness, Mojo and Tessa and Dennis and Snoopy and other cats in our care, see some of their stories on page 2. Those with black or black and white fur often have a longer wait, we find it is harder to get new homes for them, so maybe black cats are not so lucky after all. It does not help that it is difficult to get good pictures of black cats because their fur absorbs the light and they just look like black blobs on a printed page.

We have more handsome cats and kittens who would love to meet new owners. All they want is somebody to love them. If you are willing to offer any of our lovely cats a forever home and want to know more call 03453 711851.

There may be others in foster care who are not shown on the website so please do register your interest
www.cats.org.uk/dacorum

Destiny is approximately 10 months old and was found in a poor state after being involved in a road traffic accident. She sustained fractures to her pelvis. With loads of TLC and 8 weeks of cage rest she has recovered very well. She is a very friendly little girl and has started to learn how to play again. She has also learnt not to be ignored, she will tap you to remind you she is here. Once she has your attention she is like putty in your hand and will show her appreciation. A beautiful little girl that so deserves a second chance of a loving home.

Dennis, an 11yr old handsome black cat who came into rescue due to incompatibility with the family dog. He can be a little aggressive until he knows you well but loves his grub, so is very bribe-able! Dennis will require a home with no young children, no other pets and preferably with a seasoned, experienced lion tamer (only kidding)!!

Guinness is a stocky black and white boy approximately 7 years old. He would be best suited to a quiet home with no young children but gets on well with other cats. He loves a fuss but will let you know when he has had enough, loves to lie on his back and relax all day. Sometimes he likes to have a chat with you and will let you know if his hungry.

First there was **Mojo**, who has been in care for a while. He became very close to his human foster mum but he needed a diversion. Hello **Tessa**, she came in after being trapped between two walls and caught in netting, she has made a complete recovery. They were neighbours in care and started to show an interest in each other so we decided to see how they would react to each other over a weekend. Well, Tessa pinched his bed but as the gentleman he is, Mojo used hers. Then she pinched his food, and got away with it. Next day they were sharing both a bed and food! Short haired Mojo is approx 8/10 years old while semi longhaired Tessa is only 11 months old. They are now inseparable and so good for each other. You have to see them to see how beautiful they are together.

Two more cats needing a home together are **Snoopy and Minnie**. Snoopy is a long haired black cat, approx. 7/8 years of age and due to a road accident he lost his back leg but he gets around just as well on three legs. Minnie, a light tabby, is a little older approx. 10 years of age. Snoopy is very outgoing and loves fuss and being with people he also loves being brushed. Minnie loves people and will come up and greet you with kisses but they get their confidence from each other and need to be together in their new home, ideally in a mature family environment

There are pictures of these cats and others on our website but if you don't have internet access we'll be happy to tell you more about the cats in our care and introduce you to those appropriate for your situation. They need new loving homes – could you be the special one to offer a forever home?

Consider the Lilies

There is a heart-breaking story in the Spring edition of The Cat about a beautiful kitten which died as a result of ingesting plant material from a bouquet of flowers which had been placed on a table. If you are going out to get plants for your garden, or if you bring cut flowers into the house do remember that all parts of lilies are toxic for cats. They may try to chew the leaves or brush past the plant and get pollen on their fur which they lick off. If you suspect your cat has been poisoned it is important to take it to a vet immediately.

And a warning from Suze not to ignore apparently trivial symptoms in your cat, as they can indicate something more serious. *Our Mia had just a slightly runny eye and occasionally she sneezed, but she did not seem unwell. However tests showed she had an aggressive cancer of her jaw. The nature of her problem was such that taking her any earlier wouldn't have made any difference, but in some cases it might.*

Kitty Cat Care, Mobile Cattery

If you are thinking of making plans for summer holidays but need somebody to look after your feline friends while you are away, **Kitty Cat Care** can help.

You can have peace of mind and your cat(s) can stay stress free and safe in their own home, a familiar environment being cared for by experienced loving carers. Any special needs and diets are catered for on request and for every booking made our Branch receives a donation.

For information contact
Vanessa Chenery on 01442 879974
or email kittycatcare@live.co.uk

Ebay



Please could you help to keep the sales up by turning out your cupboards, garages and attics to find anything suitable to sell on Ebay to help our dwindling funds. Thankyou!

Our Ebay supremo Caroline is usually to be found at the jumble sales so you could pass bubblewrap and donated items to her there, or contact Caroline at caroline@wwsl.co.uk (for ebay please mark your email with subject 'CP eBay item for sale') or call 01442 230874. Her user ID on ebay is 99kittykats if you're interested in buying. Packing materials are always required - selfseal mailing bags (the plastic ones), bubble wrap, especially sellotape / parcel tape and sturdy boxes of all shapes and sizes.

Sallie Dove has also set up her own account and started selling things on eBay so you could do it too - more listings, more money, we hope!

Fundraising

Sallie needs to replenish her stock of **soft toys** If you have any toys to spare please contact Sallie or bring them in a bag marked with her name on it to the next jumble sale on 21st May. Also we need things to sell at the jumbles, clothes in particular but all items which are clean and not broken will bring in some much needed funds. We usually do well at jumble sales and we are happy to receive clothes, bric a brac, puzzles, toys, games, ornaments and other items but, please, they must be clean, unbroken, and usable, even for a jumble, or we can't sell it and that means our volunteers end up having to dispose of somebody else's rubbish – not nice! We also need volunteer drivers to take stuff to the jumbles and/or give lifts to volunteers who don't have a vehicle.

Di always needs **knitting wool** – she makes things herself and supplies other people who are knitting for CP so she would welcome some nice wool to knit up. Also nice clean bits of fabric suitable for making pet beds - fur fabric and tartan patterns are particular favourites and always sell out first. contact diwhittaker001@ntlworld.com

Thank you to all volunteers who have helped at events, and to all those who have given donations or bought items from us, your support is much appreciated and all the money we raise is used locally by our branch. If you are a tax payer and if you are willing to complete a gift aid form that makes your donation even more valuable as we can reclaim 25p in tax from the Inland Revenue for every £1 you donate.

Contact Ali for a gift aid form 01442 251536

Every Little Helps!

We were allocated two collection dates in January at Tesco in Hemel Hempstead and in Tring and thank you to all who helped with collecting donations of money and cat food. The Hemel Hempstead collection raised over £245 in cash plus the approx. value of food donated was £170. This year staff took pity and allowed us to move our stand inside the store so that was lovely compared with our usual location in the wind tunnel! Tesco Tring is difficult because the entrance area is so small but shoppers donated over £150 in cash plus the value of food donated was about £140.

Thanks to Ali for doing the banking and stashing the food in her 'emporium' (aka garage) for the fosterers to use for their feline lodgers.

Thank you also to Tesco shoppers who were most generous in recognition of the work we do for the cats. It's lovely to hear their stories of cats they have adopted from us in the past.



If you have adopted a CP cat please do let us know how the cat has settled in, we need some success stories to update our website and our readers do enjoy hearing good news about the cats.

WHAT'S ON IN 2016



We need more events and more help to run them - if you have any great ideas for fundraising please don't wait to be asked! Call the event contact if you can help or let us know if you are interested in organising an event of your own. If you are working why not ask your company if you can have

a dress down or dress up day for CP, or bake some home made goodies to sell or devise a cryptic quiz that colleagues could pay to enter. If you like doing car boots we could provide you with items to sell for a CP stall. Or simply set up a direct debit for a regular small gift - it all adds up!

CP National AGM Saturday 14 May 2016

Arora Hotel Gatwick Crawley located approximately 30 minutes' drive from the National Cat Centre (NCC) in Chelwood Gate. An annual celebration of Cats Protection's achievements. There will be opportunities to participate in some interesting workshops and/or a coach trip to the NCC, have a look around the popular stands where you can ask more about CP's work and meet volunteers and staff. To reserve your place, email agm@cats.org.uk or phone 01825 741 353 and quote your membership number/s where applicable. They will confirm your booking once registered and will send further information about the event nearer the time.

More dates for your diary. Sometimes market and jumble dates have to be changed to accommodate other events but at the time of writing these dates are scheduled in and our website will be updated when we have further information.

April 9th Berkhamsted Market stall

Sallie is running bric a brac and jewellery stall and needs help with collecting donations so if you can spare an hour or two please contact Sallie 01442 256545.

May 21st Saturday Jumble Sale at Potten End

Doors open 11.30, close about 1.30pm

June 4-5th Sat/Sun, Pets at Home, Hemel Hempstead

Pets at Home Weekend. We hope to have a stall

September 17th Saturday Jumble Sale at Potten End

September 14th Bank Court Hemel Hempstead

We hope to have a stall and street collection

October 29th Saturday Jumble Sale at Potten End

Future editions of kit-e-mail news:Contact

j.taylor0402@ntlworld.com to be added to the mailing list. If you want to receive it by post call Janet on 01923 400520. We need a contribution of stamps towards post and printing (6x2nd class). We do our best to get the newsletter out at regular intervals but sometimes it is late, for which we apologise. We try to have spare copies available at events if possible.

**THE MAIN BRANCH CONTACT
NUMBER TO USE FOR CAT
REHOMING ENQUIRIES OR
GENERAL ENQUIRIES IS
0345 3711851**

**PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AND
WE WILL RESPOND AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. (with thanks to Chris
who takes the messages and
deals with them or passes them
on to the appropriate person)**

**You can also see information
about our branch at
www.cats.org.uk/dacorum**

**Find us on facebook
www.facebook.com/HemelCPcats
and on
Twitter @HemelCPcats**

**Branch Co-ordinator
Vanessa – 0345 371 1851**

**Homing and Welfare Officer
Debbie 01442 217480**

**Neutering Vouchers/Assistance
Ali - 01442 251536**

**Lost & Found Register
Jackie – 01442 249287**

**Newsletter
Janet – 01923 400520**

**Berkhamsted/Tring Fundraising
Vanessa Chenery - 01442 879974**

**Hemel Fundraising
Vacancy**

**Jumble Sales
Sallie – 01442 256545**

**eBay
Caroline – 01442 230874
caroline@wvsl.co.uk (mark email
subject line 'CP eBay item for sale')**

*We make every effort to ensure
event dates and times are correct
but there may be last minute
changes or cancellations for reasons
beyond our control such as bad
weather or other circumstances. If
in doubt please phone the event
contact. You can also check our
website www.cats.org.uk/dacorum*