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The Kitten

North Sheffield Branch of Cats Protection

Registered Charity No. 203644

www.northsheffield.cats.org.uk
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December 2016





CO-ORDINATORS REPORT



Welcome to our December edition of "The Kitten" we hope you enjoy reading about our cats. Our membership has decreased over the years but with your help we would like to bring the numbers back up. Tell your friends and family about us and ask them to become members for only £4 a year or £1.25 for non wage earners.

2016 has been a mixed year with both ups and downs. The ups are always when one of our cats or kittens who all have their own stories to tell, go to a forever home. The downs are that the number of cats needing help far outstrips the amount we are able to accommodate. We do however do our best to help in some way, neutering and advising how to keep them warm and dry etc.

Several people who adopt our cats keep in touch with us to update on the progress of their C.P. cat. We are always delighted to hear any news of them, particularly the more challenging cats. The foster Mums and Dads who have cared for them whilst with us especially like news of them. Our policy is not to pester any new owner after the initial settling in period but we are always here if they need any help or advice.

I would personally like to thank everyone who helps in any way to keep North Sheffield Branch running. We are a team; at the heart of our activities are the fosterers. They are there day after day for the less fortunate felines in our care, feeding, changing litter trays, giving medication etc and of course plenty of TLC. Needless to say this all needs the support of fundraisers, admin and much more.

On a sad note our colleague Janice Martin, co-ordinator of Sheffield Hallam Branch, unexpectedly passed away earlier this year. She will be sadly missed.

Happy Christmas to you and your family, not forgetting the cats, and every good wish for the New Year



Pat



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



LEO, our gorgeous mini lion look-alike, has really landed on his paws! Coming to us from a loving home where he wanted for nothing meant he was not too keen on being in foster care. After the first week of assuming he was in a high class cattery and that very soon his family would come back from holiday and he would return to his home, it gradually dawned on him that this was not going to happen. He was a gentle giant of a cat without an aggressive bone in his body but he desperately wanted to go outside into the garden.

Pat's mantra that the right home is out there for every foster cat proved correct yet again and Leo has gone to live with a lovely family, experienced cat owners, who's house is very similar to the one Leo had left behind and which offered him plenty of space as well as several neighbouring moggies with whom he is making friends. All's well that ends well!

CINDERS (aka Sophia) owners have used our Facebook page to report that a year down the line she continues to thrive and her strong personality has definitely developed. Sophia was one of our more active kittens but she has developed into a much more relaxed adult cat who loves life with her forever family. This goes to prove that manic kittens do eventually calm down. Great to hear from you Cinders.

Do have a look at our Facebook page as this seems to be where we now receive most of the updates on our rehomed foster cats.

Izzy's latest adventures are on our News and Mews page.





CURRENT CATS IN CARE*

**As of December, 2016*



Phoebe a tabby and white female about 1 year old was taken in by someone as a stray and very soon after she produced a litter of kittens. This person was prepared to keep them all but Phoebe decided she no longer wanted to be with her kittens or any other cats. She is a small and friendly cat and is now reserved and should be going to her forever home shortly.

Billy is a very friendly ginger and white male cat about 3 years old who came to us after being left home alone when his previous owner had a breakdown and was taken into hospital; she was unable to look after herself let alone the cat. Billy was heavily infested with fleas and had many open sores on his body and a large raw and bleeding raw patch under his front leg and onto his chest. Most of his fur had fallen out with his continual scratching and licking. After applying flea treatment and being given antibiotics and his foster mum bathing his sores he began to improve. He is doing quite well now but it will be a while before he is ready for a new home. Billy is a delightful cat.

Loki is another cat left home alone when his owner did a “moonlight flit”. He is a sleek black boy with beautiful green eyes and about 3-4 years old. Loki is very friendly, loves life and a good fuss, He is reserved and should be in his new home very soon.

Ed is now about 6 months old, we have had him since he was a tiny kitten but due to health issues this handsome black and white boy has just become available for adoption. He is friendly, affectionate and loves to play although he is a little wary of strangers.

Tink a 3 year old female calico tortie was handed over after she had already had two homes and more than one litter of kittens. Unwanted by her current owner she was a little wary and confused when she was brought in but she has settled well in her foster home and is proving to be a nice natured and playful little cat.

Mollie is an attractive grey and white female cat about 6-7 years who has been with us for quite a while now. After an uncertain start she has now settled well and loves a cuddle and a stroke. She needs a forever home with no other cats and a garden to play in.

Jessica tabby and white, **Shauna** grey, both female and **Lucas**, a male tabby and white, are all from the same litter and 12 weeks old. Born to a cat taken in by a gentleman with mobility problems who was concerned that he might trip over and injure them. Their foster mum and dad have done a great job with them as they were not litter trained. They are now clean and have made healthy happy little kittens.

Melissa known to us as Mel, female black and white, 1 year old. Mel was an unwanted kitten apparently left behind at a flat where she lived with a floating population of adults and dogs. A resident was concerned about the plight of the little cat and contacted one of our fosters to ask for advice. Fortunately we had a foster home free and little Mel, as she was renamed, at last had a home suitable for her needs.

When she arrived she was understandably nervous, shy and a little underweight. It took her nearly three weeks to begin to investigate toys and we can only assume she did not have any as a young kitten.

Mel is now making up for lost time! She loves toys though prefers to play on her own. You can watch but she likes to be in control of table tennis balls and furry mice. A crinkly tunnel has now been accepted and has proved very popular.

Mel will probably always be on the shy and reserved side. A stable home where there is plenty going on but no sudden unexpected noises and definitely NO dogs would suit her best.



SUCCESS STORIES!

WINNIE AND GABRIELLE

Winnie and Gabrielle, who have been with us for most of 2016, have now found good homes. Rather mature ladies, both have ongoing health problems.

Winnie has upper respiratory nasal difficulties and Gabrielle has a serious heart murmur. Both will need medication for the rest of their lives but we are supporting the new owners, continuing to pay for treatment. A big thank you to the people who are giving the girls a home of their own.



LILLY AND SPARKY—now known as Ola and Seb

Lily and Sparky, two very timid cats from feral stock, were with us for about six months before they were finally homed over a year ago. Lily could not be handled or touched but Sparky was a little better. The new owner did not really see Lily before she adopted her as Lily hid most of the time. A few days ago we received an e-mail.



' It is now just over a year since these two cats came here. They are now named Seb and Orla.

Just wanted to share that for the first time ever last week

Orla jumped on my lap and demanded to be cuddled.

She is

now truly gorgeous. Seb is just one big softie. Fantastic! Two very healthy, happy cats.'

A photo was attached showing both cats stretched out in front of a log burner. A success story indeed!

We always say there is a home out there for every cat but some take a little longer to find.



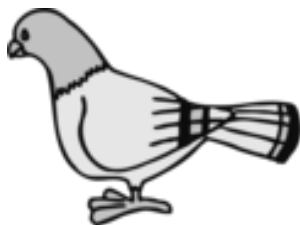
TALES OF A FOSTER MUM

It had been a busy morning. A new guest had recently arrived in the foster room and I had just spent several minutes trying to persuade him that it was perfectly acceptable to play with a cat nip mouse. Having been uprooted from a loving home where he wanted for nothing (for very genuine reasons) he had mounted a campaign of non co-operation. Food he had previously adored was being refused and he was showing no interest in toys. His only hope was that a campaign was being mounted on social media for his release. He was now demanding a meeting with the escape committee at the earliest opportunity. Temporarily defeated I headed back downstairs.



Strange unidentified noises were coming from the kitchen. Assuming that either Wetherby or Hamish had returned and the sounds had something to do with them I opened the kitchen door. Nothing. No sign of my cats. No sign of any disturbance. Very odd. I crossed the kitchen to check out the garden. Hamish was chasing a butterfly. All seemed as it should be and I turned back to the kitchen door. As I entered I came face to face with a young pigeon blinking at me from the top of the fridge. How on earth . . .

Having spent a couple of post retirement years working at my local vet very little animal related phases me. Slowly I bent down to retrieve a clean tea towel intending to cover the pigeon and carry it outside.



The pigeon continued to blink at me from its temporary perch. Dazed, trying to work out how it had one minute been in the garden and the next on top of the fridge it seemed uninjured just shocked. I grabbed the tea towel and spread

it out ready to pounce when the pigeon shot up into the air and headed out in the direction of the open back door.

At exactly the same moment Hamish decided to leave the butterfly to live another day and headed up the steps from the garden into the kitchen. The pigeon had already set his flight plan and swooped down out of the door straight into the path of Hamish who was coming up. There followed what I believe in aviation terms is classed as a near miss and the expression on Hamish face had to be seen to be believed. The pigeon banked sharply to starboard and flew off in the direction of the ash tree presumably to file a report to the Civil Aviation Authority. Hamish continued to look bemused for several minutes.



The sound of a cat bell announced the arrival of Wetherby whose body language suggested he had something to do with the presence of the pigeon in the first place. He was, however, admitting nothing.

A quick scan of the kitchen revealed that our feathered visitor had thankfully left no evidence of his presence. A couple of cat treats provided compensation to Hamish for his experience.

From upstairs I could hear noises from the foster room. It was the unmistakable sound of a table tennis ball being batted against the skirting board. Thank goodness! Simba had finally come to terms with the situation and was taking out any negative feelings on the ball. Leaving him in peace I made a cup of tea and decided to go and watch the lunch time news on the television. Hamish never watches television but today something seemed to take his interest. We had caught the end of the previous programme where a famous Michelin starred chef was demonstrating to a group of eager amateurs his dish of the day—pigeon . . .!