



FELINES

Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter
Autumn 2018 (No. 123)



Jesse playing with Percy
(See inside also)

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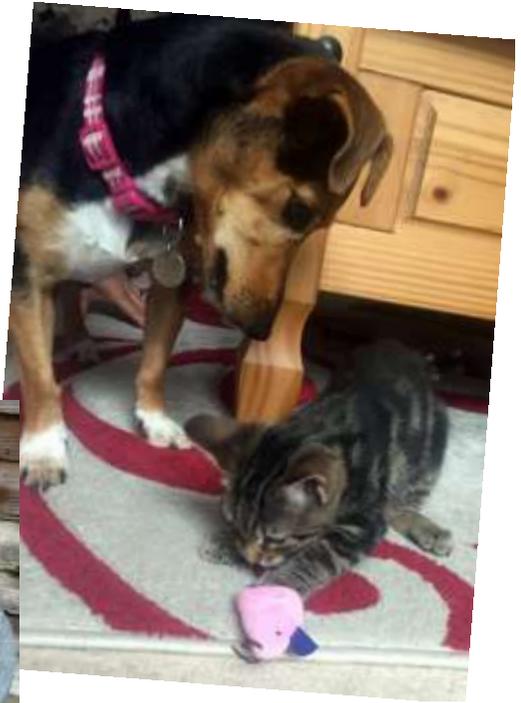
- New CEO for Cats Protection
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Percy is doing great and has fitted in so well.
He is so well behaved and has a lovely temperament.

He and Holly (the dog) are best friends and always playing together. Ha Ha.!

Jesse (son) is learning to play with Percy (photo on front cover)

He has grown loads the last few days. SD



Luna Bleu has also bonded with her new companion — and won!!



Hello Friends and Readers,

Welcome to the Autumn 2018 edition of Felines Newsletter!

After our wonderful summer, Autumn is now with us, and though the mornings and evenings are chillier and nights drawing in, the days remain warm and pleasant.

With the seemingly endless summer days, kitchen door permanently propped open, would our cats remember how to use the cat flap, or even where it was, when it became too cold to keep the door open?

They'd spent the summer out of doors, days and nights, only trotting in for meal times. No lap cat of an evening and no one around over night. Lovely though it was to have the leg room, a little bit of me missed the tussle for space.

The change came when after a late evening snack instead of rushing out again, they started group grooming indoors. Having waited to see if they would head out, I shut the kitchen door. Bed time.

The following morning, two were outside and came trotting in for breakfast, and one was already in. So two at least had worked out the cat flap location. Had the other gone out and come back in again, I will never know.

A few weeks on and their winter behaviour has re established itself as if it was always thus — lap cat is back every evening. Even positioning herself by the sitting room door, if I am delayed messing around and not settled down for the evening yet. As for room for stretching ones legs at night—but a distant memory already.

*Now mostly indoors during the day, even though there are many **days that are as pleasant as those of the summer we've enjoyed.** They have declared it is time to return to home comforts, and though they would prefer we kept the kitchen door open for their comings and goings, they have proved they can take the change in our behaviour in their stride.*

Clever cats.



Our **Cat Name** request is proving very helpful in having names to hand when suddenly there is an unexpected litter of kittens to name and home.



Recently three tiny little black kittens with hardly a hint of white in places to differentiate one from the other, were suddenly in need of not only names, but a foster home where they could be hand fed for the first few weeks



Hand feeding is not for the faint hearted—at 2 hourly sessions, day and night it is a huge commitment. Huge if only the one, but three! Over and above the call of duty.



Crochet, Minim and Quaver, as they were named, are now hopefully safely through the difficult early weeks. Their futures much more secure than when first found.



Crochet

Minim

Quaver

We are accumulating a good bank of names for the future.



So a continued thank you for your suggestions. Like kittens—please keep them coming.



Shadow is King of all He surveys

Remember Shadow? — abandoned just as the snow came down earlier this year.

Finding a home at short notice for an older cat, can sometimes be challenging—but for Shadow this was a match made in heaven. A lovely lady, confined to her home, proved to be just right for them both.

“Having grumbled the whole way to his new home, Shadow wasted no time in exploring throughout the house and slept at the end of mum’s bed on the first night.

As for eating that’s going well too, in fact the way he is going, a diet is not unlikely. He enjoys the Sheba sachets and the Purina ones.

Mum is over the moon, carers love him too attending to her, they also call him Dave.. not sure why but Shadow doesn’t seem to mind.



Mum did complain that the carers are spending more time sorting out Shadow than attending to her.

I find it hard to believe that anyone could give up such a king among cats, its our gain and Shadows.

Many thanks with all your help in making Shadow available to us.”

JC

Wilfie's Blog

As featured on
the branch Facebook page!



It was Rupert who started it. He went behind the TV to retrieve a toy, and suddenly there were people speaking on the screen but no sound. The Mr Person started twiddling his hearing aids as he thought the batteries had gone, but no, it was Rupert who had managed to dislodge something.



As he got quite a lively response from the humans, I thought I would have a go, so I went round the back and started fiddling with all the cables until I achieved the same effect.

Interestingly, I discovered that the humans can move quite fast when they are cross, but the trouble was, I just couldn't stop doing it! Every time I was encouraged to vacate the space, I just turned round and did it again - eight or nine times. The Mrs Person said that I was like a toddler who'd had too many E-numbers, and eventually Rupert and I went to bed a bit earlier than we would have liked.

Today I have been trying to make up for it by being incredibly cute, but I think I may have only been marginally successful.

Love, Wilfred x

FRIENDS OF THE BRANCH

'Friends of the Branch' is available to anyone who cares about cat welfare in our area. Minimum membership is £7.50 a year.

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to:-

'Cats Protection T&W – Friends of the Branch'

and send to :- Friends of the Branch
19 South Street, Wellington TA21 8NR

Please enrol/re-enrol me as a 'Friend of the Branch' (One year membership)
I enclose a cheque/postal order for £ (£7.50 minimum)

Gift Aid - To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must equal at least the amount that all charities you donate to will reclaim in the tax year (6th April to 5th April). Please tick the box to enable us to treat all your donations in the last 4 years, and all your future donations, until further notice,

as Gift Aid OR If you are not a UK Tax Payer please tick this box

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

If you would prefer to receive Felines by email, please tick this box

"Please do not leave your renewal form and subscription at the Homing and Information Centre at Blackdown Garden Centre. This is not a Branch facility, and has different staff on duty each day, so it could be very easy for paperwork to be mislaid, as volunteers may not understand its significance.

By all means leave your form at our shop at: 19 South Street, Wellington.

*If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Supporter 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 Cats Protection , National Cat Centre, RH17 7TT***

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

Some wonderful news that will help the charity's work with cats.

Cats Protection to benefit from the People's Postcode Lottery!

News from Cats Protection (Head Office) that the charity has been selected as a beneficiary of the People's Postcode Lottery (PPL).

With over £310m raised for charities since inception, and three million players in Britain, this is a fantastic opportunity for the Charity, not only to fund the work that CP does but to raise awareness of our activities.

How does the People's Postcode Lottery (PPL) work?

Lottery players pay £10 a month to be entered into the prize draw with guaranteed winners in selected postcode areas every day – 32% of the ticket price goes to charities.

The proceeds of each draw are then allocated to various grant-making trusts, such as that set up by PPL, Postcode Animal Trust or given directly to other charities, such as CP.

Waitrose green token collection

A big thank you to everyone, who shops at Waitrose and used their green tokens to vote for the Branch in July

We were awarded **£241** from the collection.

THANK YOU!





TAUNTON & WELLINGTON BRANCH SPAY AND NEUTER

Every year, thousands of kittens are born with no homes to go to. Rescue Centres are inundated with unwanted kittens.

Please do the right thing and spay and neuter your pets



DURING OCTOBER 2018 ONLY

GET YOUR CAT BOTH NEUTERED* AND MICROCHIPPED FREE!**

For full details and to register for this offer please call 03452 602 397 in the first instance

THIS OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE
AT THESE VET PRACTICES -
THE MOUNT VETERINARY HOSPITAL, WELLINGTON
TONE VETERINARY CENTRE, TAUNTON
PRIORY CLOSE VETS, TAUNTON

* TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY - OWNER MUST BE IN RECEIPT OF CERTAIN MEANS TESTED BENEFITS OWNERS NOT RECEIVING BENEFITS CAN GET THEIR CAT NEUTERED FOR JUST £10 (Male) or £15 (Female)

OWNERS MUST LIVE IN TA1,2,3,4 or 21 POSTCODE AREAS

Written proof will be necessary of both benefits and residential address (e.g. Utility bill)

** Microchipping can only be included at the same time as neutering and is not available as a separate offer

Why do we trap? - in sunshine, rain and snow. - Stemming the tide with a toothbrush!

Part of Cats Protection's mission statement is '*every cat a wanted cat*', or at least living a healthy life if in a feral colony or as a community cat.

Thus this branch is very active in organising trapping sessions, where we have been notified of a feral colony or stray and invited in to trap and neuter.

We don't just turn up without permission—the land owner must have sought the help of the branch. Having visited first to determine just what is involved. We need to get some idea of the number of cats in a feral colony. Whether they are being fed regularly and if so, when. If not, we seek to establish a regular feeding routine. Often leaving one or more unset traps, with food, so that the cats can get used to them. Then members of the trapping team will turn up to set the traps, having placed food inside and hope our feline guests turn up on time.

Cats as we know are unpredictable creatures. They can be seen in number one day, and not at all the next. A large colony last year took us over seven months to complete to be sure we'd hadn't missed anyone. So patience is a virtue well practised by the trapping team.

Every session requires a lot of preplanning, not just with land owners and the team. We use a specially adapted vehicle that can accommodate a large number of traps and baskets, as well as the food, torches, night vision glasses and towels (to cover traps—darkness helps to calm a trapped cat). Plus many feral colonies are located in difficult to access places, so a 4x4 vehicle helps, as do stout boots and a disregard for mud. Additionally the Branch will have arranged in advance how many cats the vet practice can accommodate on any one day for surgery.

So we mostly trap afternoons and evenings, though very early mornings are not uncommon.

Especially for feral cats, we don't wish for them to remain in a confined space too long. Trapped late afternoon or evening, to be left overnight at the vets, for blood testing first thing the following morning.

Continued

This is then followed by neutering if found to be healthy, and is the routine we practise. Once given the OK by the vet, they are picked up the same day for returning to their home site.

Not all outcomes are happy ones. Some cats we trap, once blood tested are found to have one or more infectious and life shortening if not life threatening, cat diseases. If this is the case they are humanely put down. The importance of this was brought home to the trapping team last year, when attending to a huge colony of over 30 cats on the Blackdown Hills. It was obvious from an initial visit there were a lot of sick animals - and so it proved to be. Which can be hard to deal with, when so many are ill and you can't leave them in that condition. At least for those whose blood tests were fine, they were protected and given the chance of a healthy future.

So it may seem at times that we are trying to stem an endless tide of cats and kittens. However, every cat trapped and then neutered will live a healthier life. Every female spayed will be spared a never ending round of kittens, weakening the mother and what sometimes happens to an over tired mother, kittens abandoned, to die of cold and neglect if we don't find them in time. Every neutered cat will also be ear-clipped—the international sign of neutering.

Most feral cats are returned to their pick up site, unless we've had a request for feral cats - many farms, garden centres and nurseries like to take an outdoor cat to help with keeping rodents down. So some of our feral friends find work, a new home and care that way. The others are returned, having been checked out, to live hopefully a healthier life than if we hadn't intervened.



The branch is again running another neutering campaign this October for domestic cats. Please spread the word, so that we can achieve the aim of every cat a 'wanted cat'.

It isn't just feral colonies that present us with unplanned kittens.

Do you remember Boogie & Woogie?



Woogie

The two little brothers left separately by their mother under a bush. The aim to home them together was achieved.

***Woogie**, as expected, was confident from the start and found my lap on the first evening.*

***Boogie** in particular, after a nervous first couple of days, has really come out of his shell and has been very much enjoying lots of fuss and chilling on the sofas with us!*

They have clearly had a great start with their foster carers, which has made for a smooth transition.

They have settled really well, better than we could have hoped and also adjusted very quickly to the children.

PH



Boogie

Dotty, a new future



Dotty, who was Dimpsy, was found in Nynehead Village.

Despite a wide spread leaflet drop to try and locate her owners, no one came forward.

She'd obviously had a litter or more of kittens, so it was important that she'd been found and a visit to the vets organised. So this 3-4 year old can now look forward to a better life.

As her owner reports, she has settled well, and during the cold weather earlier this year, could be found in front of the wood burner, her favourite spot, when not under our bed.

She is not keen on TV, finding the any 'Big Cat' programme unsettling, so now gives the television a wide berth.

"We love her—it feels right to have a cat back in the house". *D&T*

From one of our newest volunteers.

Hi. My name is Daisy and I am a volunteer for Cats Protection. I am 15 years old and am a "Cat Cuddler" This means I can visit the cats that are currently being looked after by Cats Protection and offer them some much needed company, love and affection. I am really enjoying being able to do this. I look forward to seeing the cats each week (I am particularly fond of two of the cats and am happy to hear they are able to go back to their owner soon, although I will really miss them). I think what I do is valuable, and it really helps them. I am looking forward to helping out with some other volunteer activities when I am a little older. Cat cuddling is ideal for someone my age to do, and it makes a real difference.

National Black Cat Day: October 27

Why do Black cats spend more time in care than any other colour ?

Despite being just as loveable as all other cats, whatever their colour, for years black cats have been languishing in Cats Protection's pens and foster homes, waiting longer than others, for their forever home.

Research by Cats Protection has found, that on average, it takes 13 per cent longer for black cats to find a new home compared to others.

Similarly other rescue centres, such as Blue Cross, report that they have experienced a nearly two thirds increase in the number of black cats coming in to be rehomed. The RSPCA also report that out of more than 1000 cats in its care, 70 per cent are black or black and white and that the struggle to rehome them is not helped by superstition:

"In UK folklore, black cats symbolise good luck, yet sadly in reality they are not so lucky".

Why is this?

There continue even into the 21st century, superstitions regarding black cats—these vary depending on the culture. Historically countries in Europe have considered black cats to be a symbol of evil omens and the familiars of witches. In Germany for instance, a black cat crossing your path from left to right is considered to be a bad omen.

So on **National Black Cat Day**—let's celebrate all black and black-white cats—if you are into social media, a day to upload your pictures of your favourite black cat with tales of what they mean to you. A day designed to promote black cats and bring awareness to those who might be looking to adopt a kitten or an older cat —black is the new black.

Some of our recently homed black and black & white cats



Marbles (was Kitty)

has settled in brilliantly. She is very much at home and has a little routine of where in the house she likes to be at different times of the day. She loves playing with her toy fish and throwing it in the air. She's very gentle and lots of fun! We love having her and she really is part of our family.

MC

Kia and Kiki

These beautiful black kittens — looking silver here—soon changed their baby coats to sleek and shiny black

What's not to love?



Pruning for Kittens!

Volunteering for CP can take many different forms, but we have never been asked to undertake tree surgery before!

Having been alerted to a very pregnant stray cat, we were struggling to find space to take any cats into care, let alone a potential family. She, however, took matters into her own paws, having returned to the house where she had been seeking help and food, very much thinner than she had been when she left earlier in the day!

Careful observation showed that the most likely place she could have had her kittens was across the road in a large conifer tree.

Armed with secateurs, loppers, a step ladder and permission from the owner of the tree, we waited until we heard that mum had returned to the house for food, where she was 'contained' whilst we approached the tree. After a bit of pruning, we located three gorgeous ginger kittens snuggled in a cosy nest of old leaf litter within the centre of the branches, and were able to retrieve them and then reunite them with their mum.

In view of her arboreal adventure, we called her **Possum**, and the three boys have been called **Bruce, Barry and Humphrey**. All have now been successfully rehomed.

Possum (Mum) has been adopted by the kind person who notified us of kittens born in a tree (*as reported in the Summer Felines*).



From little scraps of fur to these three charmers are starting to investigate the world whilst now safely on the ground.

Some news of cats and kittens adopted from the Branch.



LUNA AND LOTTIE (above)
(who were *Nettle & Lottie*) have settled in really well. They appear to be as crazy as the family they have joined. They spend most of their time either asleep or playing together. AG



Handsome **Tom** (left) wasted no time in finding a new home where he will soon have plenty of space to explore out of doors.

CHARLIE (below)

I am pleased to say Charlie is just fine. She went out today for the first time, came back in, went out again for a little longer and is now in her usual spot I am told, on the back of Dad's armchair, keeping his head warm.

He loves her lots already, and I think she is slightly less round! LB



Frejya, Thor and Odin—Two years On.

Hard to believe Frejya, Thor and Odin celebrated their second birthday last month.

They are still great chums and still all very sweet natured. We've had some work done on our house recently which involved scaffolding being erected for several weeks.

This provided a giant climbing frame for them and the opportunity to pop in through a bedroom window when they thought it should be breakfast time!! While we were away on holiday, we had a friend to stay to look after them and he spoilt them and let them sleep on his bed at night so they got into thoroughly bad habits!

Nevertheless they are great company and we wouldn't be without them.

RM



Marley & Benny have settled in extremely well, they have found a new friend in our Bulldog Brooklyn and they are enjoying lots of cuddles with our girls.

Could not have wished for lovelier kittens and they enjoy their new surroundings.

Our other cats are a little 'put out' especially the youngest cat but I'm sure they will all come round and share the house & garden.

VW





Cats Protection

has appointed James Yeates as its new Chief Executive.

James, is currently the RSPCA's Chief Veterinary Officer and will start in November at the charity's head offices at Haywards Heath.

A cat lover, James is pictured here with Monkey, his tortoiseshell cat.



Taunton & Wellington Branch

Call **03452 602 397** (standard rate)

Please note our new email address
enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk

Plus for lost and found please use:

lostandfound@taunton.cats.org.uk

www.taunton.cats.org.uk

Taunton & Wellington Branch offers help in the following areas: TA1, TA2, TA3, TA4, and TA21.

We are on Facebook and Twitter!



www.facebook.com/cpTauntonandWellington



www.twitter.com/CPTaunton