



# FELINES

Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter  
Autumn 2017 (No. 119)



Five chums who were adopted last year!



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- Sponsorship news
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## Taunton & Wellington CP at local events

At the end of August we had a stand at the Western Counties Heavy Horse Society event held near Wellington. Our reason was to try and promote how Cats Protection can help owners of farms and stableyards by relocating feral cats to work as rodent controllers and of course to promote our Trap Neuter Return (TNR) services. Despite somewhat windy and unsettled weather, we had a great day, met many friends old and new, and June, a member of our TNR team, even managed to plough some very successful furrows with a plough drawn by three magnificent heavy horses. Our new gazebo withstood the winds and kept the volunteers dry and cosy too!

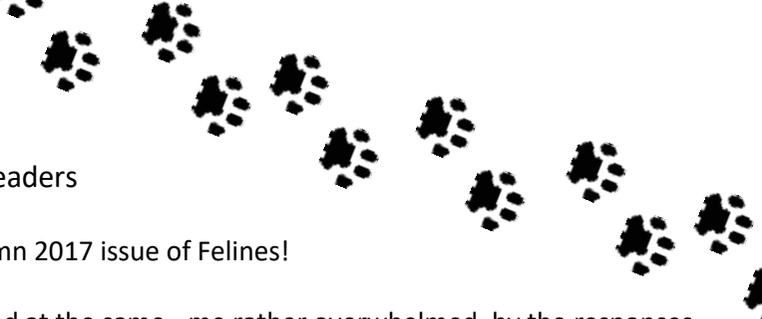


September saw us at the very popular Wiveliscombe Street Market (part of the 10 Parishes Festival) where again our bright yellow and blue gazebo attracted visitors and we offered a range of small pocket money items for sale together with plenty of opportunities to talk about cats. We again met many former adopters and it was lovely to catch up with the news of cats and kittens who we had fostered across the years. Once again the weather was a bit unkind, we managed to break even financially but more importantly created greater awareness of what Cats Protection and our Branch has to offer.



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at these events.

# Autumn is here!



Hello Friends and Readers

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 issue of Felines!

We were delighted, and at the same time rather overwhelmed, by the responses we received about the last issue of our newsletter, especially the article about the cat loving youngsters at North Curry School. The drawings and article were sent in by their class teacher and we know that all the children in the reception class were delighted to each receive a copy of Felines. Cats Protection head office also picked up on the story and it featured as a two page item in the Autumn issue of 'The Cat' magazine, which is sent to all full members of the charity, as well as including another item about Taunton & Wellington kitten Bear, Colleen, his adopter and her daughter Belle who is learning to care for him from a very early age! Belle and Bear featured in our Spring issue and also on CP's digital media site, Meowblog ([meowblog.cats.org.uk](http://meowblog.cats.org.uk)).

"Best issue ever!" was the comment from many of you, so we are glad you liked it.

Congratulations go to Evie Leigh, our volunteer Neutering Officer for her successful skydive with the Red Devils Army Parachute team, finally made in September. For the full story, see her article in this issue. Evie has so far raised over £1200 ! Well done!

There are more sponsorship opportunities detailed as well – David Forman-Cummings is running in the Great West Run in Exeter on 15 October, and on 29 October, Ann and David Manners will 'y' the Velocity Big Zipper, the longest zipwire in Europe, high across the old slate quarries in Snowdonia, to raise funds to help a very special little hand-reared kitten, Pogo. Her story features along with details of how to sponsor them.

As always we welcome your stories and photos for use in future issues. Please send them in and every effort will be made to include them.

Please email any stories, pictures or events you'd like to feature in Felines at: [tandwcats@gmail.com](mailto:tandwcats@gmail.com) or write to :

Felines FAO: Felines Editor, Cats Protection Shop, 19 South Street, Wellington TA21 8NR.

# Wilfie's Blog

As featured on  
the branch Facebook page!



My staff are a bit thin on the ground at the moment and are not around for me to dictate to, so I've been rather quiet of late. The reason is that we have lots and lots of small kittens to care for, so they are rather preoccupied.

But honestly, sometimes I am deeply disappointed in my person. The other morning I was trotting down the garden path, minding my own business, when the door to the foster pens just in front of me opened. I froze. And it's just as well that I did because, as I had anticipated, there was a deluge as the contents of the overnight water bowls were thrown onto the garden. If I hadn't stopped, I would have been soaked. Did she not look first before she threw? ..... Obviously not.!

I can't be cross with the little kittens though, especially as some of them are orphans. I have to remember that it's not very long since I was in the same situation and my person was looking after me. Here's my picture, at the same age as they are now. I hope they all do well.



Love, Wilfred x

**Note: The Poets celebrated their third Birthday in September**

**– how time flies!**

# TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) Update

We now have an excellent team of volunteers dealing with the many requests we receive for trapping and neutering feral cats. They do other volunteering tasks for the Branch as well, so have been kept very busy throughout the year. New members have also joined the team this season, and have been trained by the experienced volunteers in the intricacies involved in successful trapping exercises.

As has been explained before, trapping work can be very sporadic, but during the summer months of 2017, it has been non-stop with several rural colonies being tackled as well as individual cats and kittens.

Now that the evenings are drawing in, it can be quite demanding and less appealing since waiting for a cat to go into a trap, so we really do appreciate their commitment to the task. We have been fortunate enough to be able to rehome several young kittens from some of these colonies this year, who have been quite delightful and who have socialised very well as they were trapped early enough in their lives to befriend humans successfully.

We were nominated this year to receive CP Volunteer Stars Awards for this work which enabled us to acquire more of the necessary and appropriate trapping equipment to carry out these tasks.

This scheme is run within the charity and recognises volunteers and groups who undertake tasks and achieve successfully. The 'stars' can then be exchanged for a wide range of items and equipment from a 'shopping list' so it may enable the work to expand or be carried out more easily. Our TNR team needed more suitable traps and the associated kit to manoeuvre cats once caught, into the preferred carry baskets without harming or stressing them and at the same time protecting the operators from possible injury from a frightened feral cat.



**Lenny** has now met the dog twice. First time caused a lot of growling from Lenny and Jess didn't see him. Second time Lenny was more relaxed and they have had a few kisses.

Jess the Westie is now totally in love with her new friend and they spend most of their free time playing.

I do wonder if Lenny thinks he is a dog so I show him his recognition quite often. He hasn't met Roxie (the other cat) yet. She still hates the scent swapping.

She refuses to acknowledge Lenny's existence apart from an occasional hiss in the direction of the living room. We have a Feliway Friends plug in and wonder how much worse she would be without it.

Meanwhile he has fallen in the laundry bin and had lots of fun play times!



TM

*Note: Introducing a new pet to the home can be very stressful not only for the pet, but also for the family. CP has plenty of advice available to help the process go smoothly but basically patience is the key to success. If things seem fraught, backtrack and proceed again slowly allowing the pets to gain trust especially by using scent.*



*Feliway is a great help and there are other 'treatments' available—speak to your vet for advice if necessary.*

## SKYDIVE WITH THE RED DEVILS FOR CATS PROTECTION!



After a postponed date in August for my skydive, it was touch and go for the rescheduled date. The weather wasn't brilliant and we had a delay for the cloud to pass over but I finally managed to take the plunge on September 7th. The airfield was buzzing with excitement and a certain amount of buffooneries from the jumpers! We were given a basic training session from the Red Devils team leader, were kitted out in the famous red jump suit and body harness, and then began the wait for our turn, it seemed like ages but was probably not that long.

Eventually my turn came. Gulp! But strangely, as soon as we boarded the plane my nerves vanished and I was completely calm even when I was sitting in the open doorway with my legs dangling in mid air. The next thing I knew I was being buffeted by cold air as we free-fell from the plane. It was very noisy and quite hard to catch a breath but there was no sense of falling. And then the main chute opened and it went very quiet and peaceful. The view was fantastic and my instructor pointed out various landmarks, we did a spin or 2 and just enjoyed the feeling of floating in the air. Again there was no sense of downward movement, even when we came into land.

It was a fabulous experience, smooth and safe, largely due I think, to the professionalism of the Red Devils team. After all, they are the best in their field, and I wouldn't hesitate to jump with them again.

Evie Leigh



BOW



Bow is settling in fantastically! She is eating well and not destroying too many soft furnishings. She has taken to us all but more so my son, she spends all of her time with him so we don't get too much of a look in until we put him to bed!

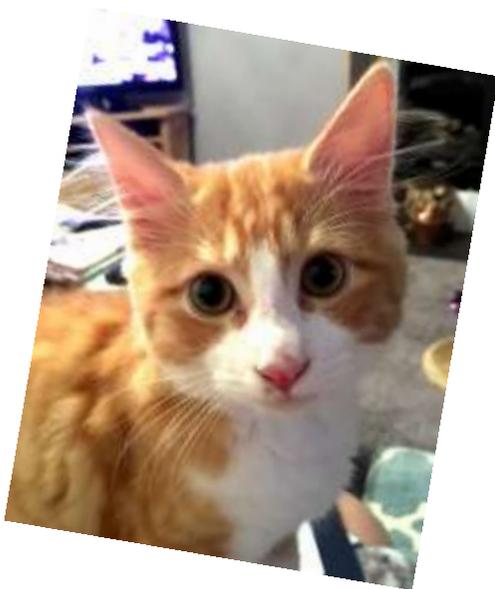


LH

*Note: Well done for holding and supporting Bow correctly. She looks very comfortable.*

Bertie is fine and seems to have taken over the house! He is full of fun and a bit playful at times but he is a kitten and we love him to bits. He comes up to bed with us every night and has the run of the hall and our room and sometimes I wake up to find him sat on top of me purring.

PE



## The Three Amigos

Just to let you know Thor, Odin and Freyja have celebrated their first birthday. Not a brilliant photo but it is hard to catch all three together. They're often in twos (any combination) and still great buddies.

They are all keen on hunting and killing (and eating- yuck!!). Their personalities remain as before i.e. Freyja very active and naughty, Odin daft but sweet and Thor laid back and doesn't believe in expending any more energy than he has to!

They are still very friendly and loving and I can't imagine life without them.

Thanks yet again for rehoming them with us.

RM

# Sponsorship Opportunities!



October 2017 brings two more sponsorship opportunities.

On **28 October**, Ann and David, Branch Coordinators are joining other CP volunteers and staff from across the UK, to 'try' the Velocity Big Zipper across the old slate quarries at Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda, in Snowdonia. At 1,560 metres it is the longest zipline in Europe and the fastest in the world, where participants can achieve speeds over 100mph (165kph)! *Wheeeeeeee!*

*We have set ourselves modest targets to raise funds which will all go towards the veterinary costs for a very special little kitten in our care – Pogo.*

*She came to us at only a few days old, part of an abandoned litter born to a feral mum. Sadly her two siblings did not survive, but against all odds Pogo has now reached her fourth month although during her short life has suffered a number of setbacks, including a sudden and severe collapse at just four weeks old. At the time she died belief as the three vets caring for her on an emergency admission could not believe that she recovered in an oxygen tent after a couple of hours of being in an almost coma like state. She has already undergone many tests and examinations to try and establish just what is happening, and she remains a very small, but perfectly formed little cat with a great deal of tenacity and character! Our vets have been superbly supportive in her care, but it may well mean that further investigations will need to be carried out to assess her future more fully. So, we dedicate this challenge to Pogo and hope that sponsors will help to provide the support she will need. We know that we are not out of the woods with her yet, but hopefully what we and the vets will gain will be a better and fuller understanding of the survival of such kittens, about which very little published data exists.'*

**You can sponsor Ann and/or David online at:-**

**https://zipworldcats.everydayhero.com/uk/ann**

**https://zipworldcats.everydayhero.com/uk/david**

Zip for cats!



#CatChampions



Please help **Pogo**  
by sponsoring  
Ann and/or David  
Thank you!



**Supporter David Forman - Cummings** has signed up to join the Great West Run in Exeter on **15 October** and he is raising funds for the branch with his sponsorship.

Thanks to you David!

To sponsor David, please go to :-

hp [://www.justgiving.com/David-Forman-Cummings4CPL](http://www.justgiving.com/David-Forman-Cummings4CPL)

## Tinkerbelle and Bambi!!



They are both very well thank you.

Tinkerbelle is brave, Bambi is more resilient!! She is doing a brilliant job of calming my son.

They have started to investigate the garden when we're home. They feel part of the family already!



## Taunton & Wellington Branch

Call 03452 602 397 (standard rate)

Email [tandwcats@gmail.com](mailto:tandwcats@gmail.com)

Website [www.taunton.cats.org.uk](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/cpTauntonandWellington)



[www.twitter.com/CPTaunton](http://www.twitter.com/CPTaunton)



## Leo and Tinho

Happiness is cat shaped!

KT



# Cats Protection Shop

19 South Street, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8NR

As always, our shop in Wellington is pleased to receive donations of quality goods for sale.

Please take your clean, unwanted clothes, bric-a-brac, and books to the shop where they will be most welcome.

It is helpful to phone first as the storage facilities at the shop are restricted and if a donation is large, we may not be able to accept all of it in one delivery.

Call 01823 663455. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm.

*Please note that we are unable to accept electrical goods, furniture, some soft furnishings/soft toys or items such as children's car seats, cycle helmets etc (e.g. items which have a safety function)*



All money raised in the shop goes to help cats and kittens in our Branch area

# Please don't send me to that cattery again!

I thought that you would like this photo of Daisy hiding in the bedding on her return.... made me laugh!

LB



*Actually, by being in a cattery, she was in the best possible place!*

Every year we get reports of 'Found' cats who go wandering if they have been left to be cared for by neighbours or relatives when their owners go on holiday. Nothing wrong in doing so, but cats, despite what they will tell you, are creatures of habit, and the change in their routine might cause them to go walkabout despite still being in their home territory.

We do actually have a list of cats who have been reported to us over the years, who do just this and there have been numerous occasions when we have interrupted an owner's holiday by calling them in some far flung location especially if their cat is microchipped!





## Fireworks and parties

While firework displays and parties might be entertaining for us, they can be distressing for pets.

To ensure that your cat will be safe and sound, keep them in after dark and provide them with a litter tray, food and water bowls and a place to hide. If necessary, create a hiding place, even a large cardboard box placed in a quiet corner of the room, where the cat can hide away is good. Hiding when faced with a frightening situation is normal, so please don't try to discourage them.

During firework season, make sure that all doors and windows are securely closed to prevent your cat from escaping. Try to reduce outside noise by keeping curtains drawn, which will also reduce awareness of any flashes. Playing soothing music or having the TV on may also help.

Try not to reinforce fearful behaviour by overly comforting a cat that is looking anxious.

A pheromone plug-in diffuser can be used to decrease anxiety and can have a calming effect - start using it a couple of weeks before the fireworks season starts and site it in the room where your cat spends most of their time.



**Lola and Nimbus** have settled in so well and are adorable! Everyone who visits wants to take them home with them! They've been totally relaxed with all the noises and coming and goings of a family house, even the vacuum cleaner doesn't seem to bother them!

Nimbus is a little mischief, always exploring, climbing up things and in cupboards and enjoys playing with Melly's (our other cat) catches! Once she has the bird or mouse it is quite difficult to get them off her as she is very quick and clamps tight growling at us! Melly just watches Nimbus amused we think and doesn't seem to mind. Nimbus does enjoy being centre of attention and will push right into your face and even just come and sit right on top of Lola on your lap who is enjoying a snooze!

The kittens are so intrigued by Melly, running up to greet her rather enthusiastically but Melly is not so sure and is her usual reserved self but we are pleased to say we don't think they have affected her personality at all or her habits which is great. We've had a little bit of hissing from Melly when they get too close so we only let them mix supervised at the moment. My sister visited this weekend and said Melly is exactly the same as she only trusts a few people but when she does she is so cute and funny.

Lola likes lots of attention and cuddles and is a real sweetie and she enjoys being cradled and her tummy tickled. She also likes eating (!!) and as quick as a flash will run and gobble up Melly's food if you give her half a chance. She seeks out human company a lot but they still play and sleep together and also groom each other

# RELOCATED FERAL KITTENS

In the last issue of Felines we reported on some working cats/kittens we relocated to a hotel near Bristol airport. The hotel is situated in a very rural wooded location on the Mendip Hills and the owners were looking for cats to manage the vermin being attracted to the waste bins, but they were very reluctant to use baits and poisons. We chose cats from a feral source, as the hotel wanted to have cats that would not come into the hotel willingly and try to mingle with guests.

Here is a brief pictorial follow-up. The photos say it all—you can never know what a cat or kitten will decide!

Then.....



.....and now!

All four kittens are well and earning their keep, but have obviously decided that they want to enjoy the finer things of life!



**New decking—time for another sleep as the sun slowly sinks!**

**Tommy xx**



**If you have any items to include in future issues of Felines, please send them to us at:**

**Email—[tandwcats@gmail.com](mailto:tandwcats@gmail.com)**

**Or by post to :**

**Felines Editor,  
Cats Protection Shop,  
19 South Street,  
Wellington  
Somerset TA21 8NR.**

