



FELINES

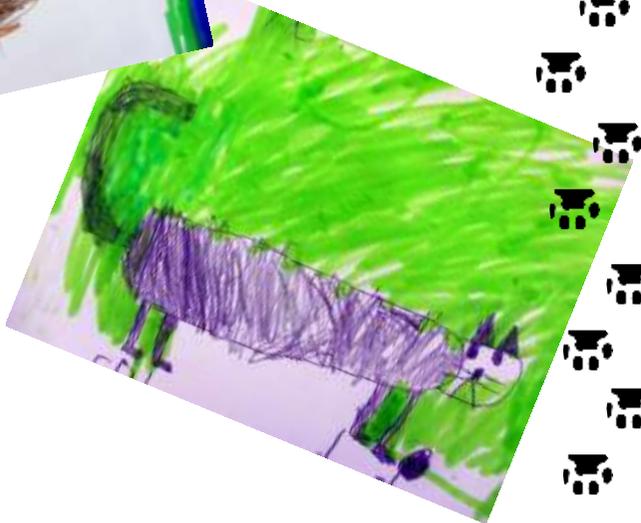
Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter
Summer 2017 (No. 118)



In this Issue:

- Back to school!
- Happy rehoming
- Microchip update
- Cool for cats





Clockwise from top left -
By Sam
By Lexi
By William
By Gracie

KATIE THE CAT CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY!

Every year, the children in Reception Class (4-5 year olds) at North Curry Primary School, Taunton, celebrate a special cat day which has been the highlight of our calendar for 5 years. The local post office has a cat called Katie who is a bit of a local celebrity. The class make cards and have a cat-themed party on the village green. Katie is very good tempered and usually listens to the children singing Happy Birthday, including a verse that is entirely miaowed! It's a valuable opportunity for children to learn about cat welfare and being kind to animals.



I loved seeing Katie the cat as it was fun giving cards to her. I have a cat called Daisy and she is 10. I stroke her gently. If her tail is wagging she is cross I give her some cat biscuits and don't stroke her. (William)

David looks after cats. He told us to look after cats lots. Feeding them and giving them something to drink. (Charlie)

You have to give cats a little bit of food and water before they go to bed. It's nice to play with them. (Harry)

You blink your eyes and you face away from the cat to make it happy. David the cat man showed us how to do it! (Lexi)



We brought in cat food for David for his cats. He looks after cats and kittens. (Alana)

This year, David and Ann from Wellington CP, joined us for the day so that the class are now "cat experts" and are able to talk about what cats need to stay happy and healthy. Hopefully, we are raising a generation of cat and animal lovers who will join us in caring about cat welfare when they are grown up.



*We had party food by Katie's shop. We had sausages and cakes and buns! We went to see Katie the cat and gave her the birthday cards.
(Gracie)*

We have also had a bit of fun with the class, pretending that local cats use our classroom when we've gone home, teaching the kittens how to read and having boisterous discos! The children have loved writing secret messages to the cats which are replied to by learned furry paws! We all love reading The Cat magazine, or rather, looking at the cute photographs and imagining what the cats are thinking, and you'll always find a child in the reading corner with their nose in a copy! We would like to say a big thank you to CP and your volunteers for helping to make our cat project come alive.

Alex Colling and Mary Tottle



The cats in the village come to our classroom to have a party. They dance to music! They climb through the windows! They leave cat fur and letters! We write to them. (Sam)

Hello Friends and Readers,

Welcome to our Summer edition of our Felines Newsletter!

After a very quiet start to the year, we suddenly had a complete change of demands following the late May Bank Holiday.

Having been used to no such thing as a 'kitten season' for the past few years, we had no kittens to offer for adoption for the first four months of 2017 —THEN in early April we took in a pregnant stray who gave birth to three kittens at the end of the month. She proved to be a delightful and attentive mum, though probably little more than 2 years old herself, and she raised her family and they all finally moved on to new homes in July — as we write this newsletter.

Then, on 30 May we had a mass intake of cats and kittens and suddenly found our fosterers managing a total of 26 cats which included 24 kittens! They came in all shapes, sizes and colours. Some were orphans, their mum having been killed on the road, others complete families with mum, and most have now found happy homes.

Meanwhile the trapping team are being kept really busy with feral colonies (TNR Trap/Neuter/Return) but more willing volunteers for this essential work are needed. If you think you would like to volunteer please call 03452 602 397 and we can discuss the commitment and what is involved. Full training is provided.

Please email any stories, pictures or events you'd like to feature in Felines at: 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!



Hello friends. I know I have been quiet recently but I have been out enjoying my garden in the sunshine. Which means that I lie around and don't do much. Rupert was in last night - not his choice, but his attention was taken for a second by a piece of catnip waved in his face, and he was grabbed before he could leap over the fence. Anyway, we were let out of our bedroom very late this morning. I almost thought we had been forgotten about as it was nearly eight o'clock. As we trotted past our person on our way to the back door I chirped at her, which I think she must have misinterpreted as "Good morning person. How are you today?" Whereas what I actually meant was, "About time too. I have things to do. The humans you have to put up with!"

Love, Wilfred x



SKYDIVE WITH THE RED DEVILS FOR CATS PROTECTION!

Branch volunteer Evie Leigh has signed up to make a tandem skydive with the Red Devils Army Parachute team at Salisbury on Tuesday 8 August 2017.

Evie says:-

" Many of my friends are calling me the crazy cat lady for taking on this challenge, but it's one which I've contemplated for a long while, and if by taking up this challenge I can raise funds for our local cats and kittens then it will be worth all the nerves and stomach butterflies!

The Taunton and Wellington branch of Cats Protection have plans for a new and improved fostering facility and I would be proud, happy and thrilled to be able to make a contribution to that. Wish me luck and please sponsor me! "



**It is not too late to sponsor Evie, please visit her
Just Giving page at
<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Evie-Leigh>**

It is safe and easy!

Follow this link to see what will happen!

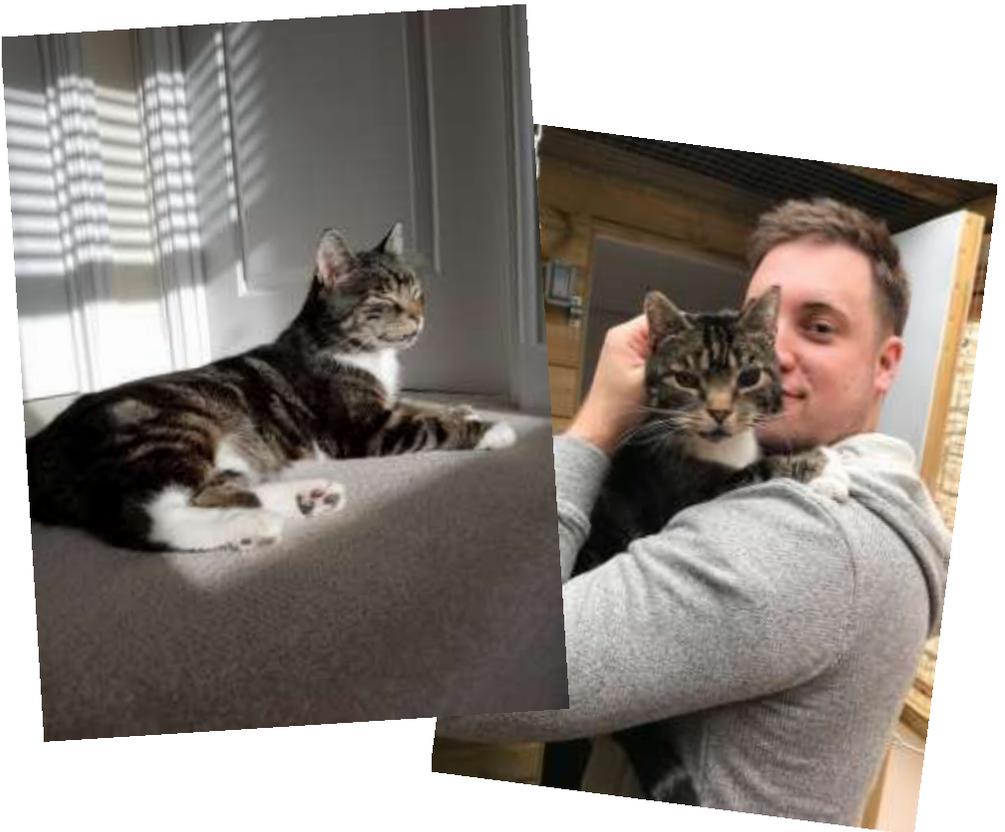
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



BOOTS LANDS ON HIS FEET

It's always rewarding when a cat goes off to its new home and we just know that all will be well, especially when we receive such great feedback from new families, much of which you can read about in these pages. Sometimes, though, a cat needs just a little bit more care and attention to find a new owner, and one such cat was Boots.

Boots was a lovely tabby and white boy, aged about ten, who had encountered one or two scrapes in life. He had already had three homes, and at some point had had a disagreement with a vehicle, in which he damaged his jaw causing it to be misaligned, and blinding him in one eye. Despite all this, he was funny and extremely affectionate, but he had come into our care because he was found to be diabetic, and his owner was not able to afford the costs of the necessary treatment.



Boots was with us for quite a while, whilst his insulin level was stabilised, and he accepted all his treatment with great patience. We then needed to find him a suitable home, and we advertised him on our website, explaining his background. We always believe that the right home is out there somewhere for every cat, and we were approached by a young man who was looking for an indoor cat, which Boots needed to be to ensure he received his insulin twice daily at regular times.

The young man, together with his family, visited several times until they were happy about giving Boots his treatment, and we visited our vets together so that they could further explain how to care for this lovely cat. The really positive thing about this story was that Boots' welfare was very definitely a concern of the whole family, who all became involved and supported one another. His new owner said that what he was really looking forward to was arriving home and finding Boots waiting for him. We think the pictures speak for themselves. Good luck Boots.



ALASKA REUNITED!

Three year old Alaska has been happily reunited with her owner after going missing from her home in Taunton for over 10 weeks. It was a somewhat tearful occasion when she was collected by her owner and the purring and chatting showed how delighted everyone was! She had been found in a garden some distance from her home and Cats Protection were called to scan her for a microchip. Unfortunately, although chipped, the registration of the owners details had failed to be recorded onto the national database due, it is believed, to an error with the database system. After extensive detective work, the vet practice who had originally implanted the chip was identified and from their records it was possible to find the details of her owner, who in fact had reported her missing to the vet when first lost. Fortunately the owner had a copy of the microchip number with Alaska's vaccination records and thus it was possible to prove without doubt that she was their missing cat.



The database records will now be registered properly and this story highlights the importance of ensuring any pet microchip details are kept fully up to date. Owners move home, change their phone numbers, or sometimes rehome their pet with a new owner and the recorded details are not updated. When this happens, it is sometimes impossible to trace a found pet's owner and a huge amount of time can be spent by welfare organisations and vet practices, trying to find the owner of the animal. This story shows that it may well be worth just checking that your details are correctly registered by logging on to your record or by calling the database company to check that all is well.

If your cat is chipped and goes missing, please call the database, all vets in your home area, Cats Protection and other animal welfare organisations and in the worse case scenario, the local Borough Cleansing Department. Responsible owners do always want full closure if they lose their pet. If you find a friendly cat, remember that it will belong to someone and therefore please report it, and if possible take it to a vet to be scanned for a microchip - this will be done for free and could mean that a reunion just like Alaska's, will mean a happy ending for the cat and their owner.

More Fundraisers!

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 :-

<http://www.justgiving.com/David-Forman-Cummings4CPL>

More exciting fundraising sponsorship events will be published in the next issue of Felines—watch out for news!

Items will also appear on our website at - www.taunton.cats.uk

Cool for Cats

During the recent spell of extremely hot weather, most cats sensibly found somewhere cool and shady to lie and didn't move around much during the day. But for kittens in the pens it wasn't so easy. We were caring for a litter of six orphans who, at the time of the worst of the heat, were not fully weaned. Keeping them well hydrated was the first priority, so we gave them regular drinks from a syringe every hour or so. We also wrapped ice blocks from the freezer in towels and placed them where the kittens liked to sleep. The pens are shaded by green netting across the windows, but we added white sheets which we sprayed with water every hour to keep the temperature inside down. It was only when I was ironing one of the sheets afterwards that I realised it was my grandmother's heirloom pure linen sheet which was completely hand made. All the hems were stitched by hand, including the decorative embroidery along the top. It did hold the water very well, and I hope the kittens appreciated it.

AM

Smokey's news!

Hiya- Smokey here! Remember me? I am the Wyevale Garden Centre cat.

Mum has not been in work this week but she did come in on Wednesday to see me.

Boy, did we have a big fussing and even snuck in a bit of a cuddle!

Just to let you know that I AM getting to do my job and catching **RATS'n mice and even some birds** (sorry).

Hope all the CP cats are doing fine?
That's it for now.

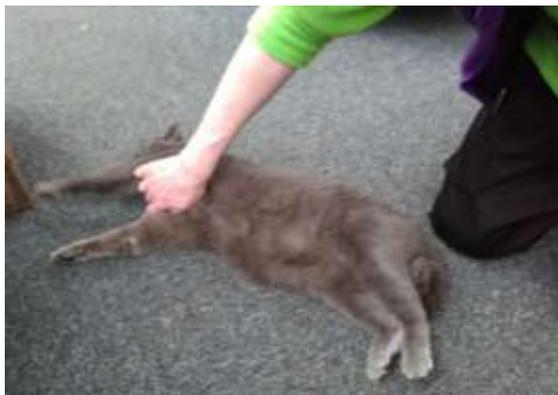
P.S. looking forward to Mum coming **back to work, but don't tell her! XX**



1 day later -

Oh oh oh - had to get Josh to text mum today! I was found with half a rabbit in the shop today! Think I might have been a bit naughty!

Love Smokey



P.S. I do sometimes enjoy a good tummy rub! But only if I am in the mood and I can trust you.

Why not pop in to the Garden Centre and you might meet me!



Taunton & Wellington Branch

Call 03452 602 397 (standard rate)

Email tandwcats@gmail.com

Website 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

Another successful homing for a FIV positive cat

Just to let you know that Lionel is having a lovely time. He loves his bed nearly as much as he loves dinner time and his new mummy. It's funny, he shows no interest in the great outdoors. I've tried introducing him to the joys of a sunny windowsill but he much prefers being cosy in his bed or following me around. He is such a poppet.

LK

(Lionel came to us as a stray who had been wandering for a couple of months. As he was found to be FIV positive, he needed an indoor home.)

The right home for every cat is out there somewhere!



Cats Protection Shop

19 South Street, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8NR

Browsing around our Wellington shop, I was drawn to a lovely scarf on display. It was a beautiful powdery pink, and was obviously made of silk, and I would guess it was made in about the 1960's. I was intrigued to find a label stating it was "Made in Macclesfield" and wanted to know more.

This led me to discover the world of silk weaving in the town, about which I had known nothing. In the late 18th century, London weavers won fixed prices for their work, so silk merchants began to seek lower prices in centres like Macclesfield, where hand loom weaving, often in homes, gradually gave way to weaving in mills. Macclesfield became the biggest producer of finished silk goods in the world. During the Second World War, the town produced silk parachutes and airmen's suits.

Macclesfield now has a Silk Museum showing the history of the industry in the town, and has a large collection of silk goods, and there are two companies in the town still producing silk today. I don't know who produced my beautiful scarf, but I would love to visit and try to find out.

So have a look around our shop at 19 South Street – you never know what you might find.

AM



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

Cats are Wonderful Friends

Gentle eyes that see so much,
Paws that have the quiet touch,
Purrs to signal 'all is well'
And show more love than words could tell,
Graceful movements touched with pride,
A calming presence by our side -
A friendship that takes time to grow -
Small wonder why we love them so.



I'm only a cat

I'm only a cat, and I stay in my place...
Up there on your chair, on your bed or your
face!

I'm only a cat and I don't think much...
I'm happy with cream and anchovies and such!

I'm only a cat, and we'll get along fine...
As long as you know I'm not yours... you're all
mine!

Recently adopted Henry and Bertie ...

The little chaps have settled in incredibly well. They are eating well and enjoying their food, and are very cuddly which is what I was hoping for so I am very happy with how they are doing. They went to the vets on Tuesday just gone, and the vet said they were very well behaved and looked very healthy.

They have been visited several times by my mum, dad and brother and have been fine with them and they have even fallen asleep on their laps so I think that says a lot.

They have lots of toys and enjoy the usual crazy kitten frenzy then fall asleep within minutes.



I think their fosterers gave them a great start to their lives and have made them the lovely little kittens they are now so I am very thankful to them.
FL

...and from the same kitten family, Sofia and Harley



Sofia and Harley are wonderful!

I cannot believe how much they have grown.

We love them dearly!

A and E

Toxoplasma is a microscopic parasite which can infect humans. Most human carriers experience very mild or no symptoms, because their immune system is able to fight off the infection effectively. However, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems need to be much more cautious about toxoplasma, because it leads to serious complications as well as significant birth defects.

So what does this have to do with cats, and why are we talking about it? Well, toxoplasma is carried by cats and found in cat poo.

If you're a cat owner starting a family, then of course this can sound alarming and you'll naturally want to avoid any potential risks. The thing is, despite a number of quite sensationalist headlines, cats are not the only carriers of toxoplasma and in fact, if you do catch it, it is unlikely to be from your cat, and more likely to be from eating unwashed fruits and vegetables or undercooked meats.

If you're a cat lover and become pregnant, then following these steps will vastly reduce your risk of picking up the parasite:

- Follow general advice for pregnant women about food safety, and always give fresh fruits and vegetables a good scrub!
- Wear gloves when gardening and handling soil (even if you don't own a cat yourself, you never know, a neighbour's moggy might have taken a fancy to your flowerbed!)
- Ask somebody else to clean your cat's litter tray (after all, it's the perfect excuse to avoid the job). If there isn't somebody around to help, use gloves and a face mask as you clean the tray, and then wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
- It actually takes 3 days for toxoplasma eggs to become infective in your cat's poo, so if the tray is changed daily then there should be no problem.
- If you have young children, keep sandpits covered so that no cheeky felines can use them as a loo.
- Help your cat to stay healthy by feeding her a premium diet, as cats become infected by eating infected prey, or undercooked meat which contains the parasite.
- The large majority of toxoplasma is shed during the first year of a cat's life so an older cat may still shed but at very infrequent intervals (basically, the longer you've had your cat, the less likely she is to be a risk).

Above all, simply following common sense hygiene and avoiding direct contact with your cat's loo will mean you can live harmoniously and safely with your kitty throughout your pregnancy. There is certainly no reason to part with your purry pal, and cuddling and stroking your cat cannot spread the infection to you. Growing up with a pet can be a lovely way for children to learn about caring for animals, so don't be troubled by misconceptions.

Taken from the Petmeds.co.uk website

RELOCATING FERAL KITTENS

Last autumn we were asked if we could provide some working cats/kittens for 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. After discussions to identify what relationship they wanted to have with the cats, it was decided that kittens from a truly feral source would suit, as the hotel preferred to have cats that would not come into the hotel willingly and try to mingle with guests. Mind you, nothing can be guaranteed with cats!

It took several months to identify a suitable source of kittens, but inevitably one arose and plans were made for the relocation process.



A sheltered 'holding' pen with sleeping boxes, litter trays, food bowls and toys was created in a secluded area of woodland to the rear of the hotel which could easily be monitored by the staff and was fenced off to prevent inquisitive visitors going to the pen. This is where the kittens have been housed for a three week period whilst being acclimatised to a new location, after which they will be free to roam and explore the surrounding woodland and grounds. They will be fed regularly throughout their lives, and they will be provided with a permanent shelter/house where they can sleep when not out and about hunting. Well fed feral cats are much more proficient hunters.

We wish every success to the four kittens who will earn their keep and be well cared for at their new home!



Felix—admiring the trampoline ! KC