



# FELINES

Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter  
Summer 2018 (No. 122)



**Dotti** (now Teddy) sitting beside a picture of much loved Robbie

*"You never replace a much loved cat, you just move on and make room for another".*

## **In this Issue:**

- Dotti and Ditto—a happy ending
- Neutering update
- Volunteering Opportunities

## **Percy and Dobby a year on:**

Evie, a branch volunteer and organiser of the trapping sessions, adopted two kittens from the Branch last year, after their much loved 19 year old cat died. Having talked through with her daughter their liking for black & white cats but also having seen quite a few lovely ginger ones - the decision was suddenly made for them.

Two brothers, one black & white, one ginger & white were looking for a new home -- how magical was that ?

*'We named them Percy (as in Percy Weasley), ginger and white and Dobby, black and white — yes we are Harry Potter fans!*

*Percy & Dobby are a joy to watch, tearing around the house chasing each other. Though brothers they are totally different. Percy is very friendly, loves attention, chirps and talks back to you, and is a great fan of the David Attenborough wildlife programmes. Whilst Dobby is less sociable, fastidious about cleaning his toes, but he will come upstairs at night and spend some time with me.*



*June this year, sees their first birthday - a year has flown by and they have grown so. Perhaps some fish or chicken as a treat for them and cake for us?'*

*"They are a joy and we wouldn't be without either of them" Evie*

*Hello Friends and Readers,*

*Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of Felines Newsletter!*

*At last some warmer weather and a change in the behaviour of our feline friends.*

*A reminder with the sun, cats like humans can burn in strong sunshine—particularly on their ears and nose. So they need a waterproof, non toxic sunscreen, they can't lick off, reapplied throughout the day. Hopefully your vet should be able to recommend a suitable product, for those with white cats that enjoy a laze in the sunshine at this time of year.*

*Why not freeze a bit of catnip into an ice cube*

*—perfect fun for a sunny day.*

*A question often asked is why do cats sleep so much? It appears as if they spend the entire day asleep — but during the longer days in summer of course they are up and active once dawn arrives, whilst their human companions are still abed. So often by the time you've struggled downstairs little gifts have been caught and brought in.*

*Never let it be said, cats don't share.*

Hot News:

Our Branch has been chosen as one of the Waitrose charities, so please if you shop there, use your tokens to vote for the Taunton & Wellington branch in the coming weeks.



This issue of Felines is generously sponsored by The Mount Veterinary Hospital, Wellington.

# The naming of cats



We had some lovely names suggested as a result of a request in the Spring Felines.

## Here are a few of them:

Minim, Crotchet, Quaver and Tempo

—suitable for talkative cats

or Tinky-Winky, Dipsy, Laa Laa & Po . Two 'sets' that are really helpful when seeking names for a quartet of kittens.

Bonzai a fun name for a very small cat

and just loved Wishoo for a cat that sneezed a lot!

It was so nice to come across 'Lucky' for a black cat when they so often languish waiting for a new home, as not as popular as cats of other colours.

So thank you very much,  
and don't hesitate to keep them coming.

## Cat Census

The UK's first cat census has been launched by Cats Protection in an attempt to track the number of strays in the country.

It is hoped the census will help to identify where the largest populations of homeless felines are living.

The census coincided with the largest neutering drive, one in which the Taunton & Wellington branch took an active part during May. *(see report page 8)*



## **Remember Pickle?**

(a stray adopted by his finders)

Well he has really settled in and made friends with all the other cats and dogs in the household.

Here he is with Puddle (ginger), who was also found in the same place and circumstances as little Pickle.

(R&S)

**Shadow** has landed on his paws -

abandoned just before the snow came down.

This now lucky boy has found his perfect human-companion.

*"A lovely boy it is difficult to understand why someone would abandon him - their loss is our gain". JC*



# Wilfie's Blog

As featured on  
the branch Facebook page!



Well, that was  
very funny!

Rupert, Humphrey and I had been sitting watching a patch of greenery in the garden for some time, and the Mr Person decided to investigate to see what we were looking at.

It had to be something special for the three of us to sit in perfect harmony for so long.

He stirred the leaves around, and whatever it was shot up the inside of his trouser leg.



He came indoors, clutching himself in a personal place, and I think he honestly believed that he would be allowed to remove his trousers indoors, but no!

The Mrs Person wasn't having any of that, and invited him to go down to the bottom of the garden - still clutching himself - and divest himself down there. We all got a bit of a shock when he discovered that he was harbouring a young rat.

Still, it cheered up an otherwise dull and cold Sunday afternoon and Mrs Person observed that it made a change from a ferret down the trousers!.

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 write to: **Freepost RTJK-TJJK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Sussex RH17 7TT.***

# 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.

## Another Free Neutering Campaign!

Following January's campaign, we ran a further one in May with free neutering for cats whose owners are receiving certain means tested benefits, and just £10 for a male and £15 for a female for other owners. Free microchipping was also available at the same time.

This time we have issued vouchers for 89 cats from 51 households. That's around 170 cats and kittens neutered since the beginning of the year – just in our TA1, 2, 3, 4 and 21 postcode areas.

Sadly, some of those to whom vouchers were issued did not bother to get their cats neutered. We find this difficult to understand—there will never be a better offer than this.

A happy ending for **3 'B&Q' kittens** living on a busy and dangerous site near the M5. They were trapped and taken to the vets for a full medical, this always includes neutering. Then relocated to a farm near the Bath & West Showground site at Shepton Mallet.

For these 3 kittens a safer location & hopefully happier future.

Update in the Autumn edition.

# What to get up to on a hot day—or not!



**Lolly** prefers the outside of a trampoline, to the inside, for exercise.

Whilst **Missy** chooses to chill. Staying still and finding her inner calm.



Chilling out under a bush is just what is needed.

When it is too hot for any activity.



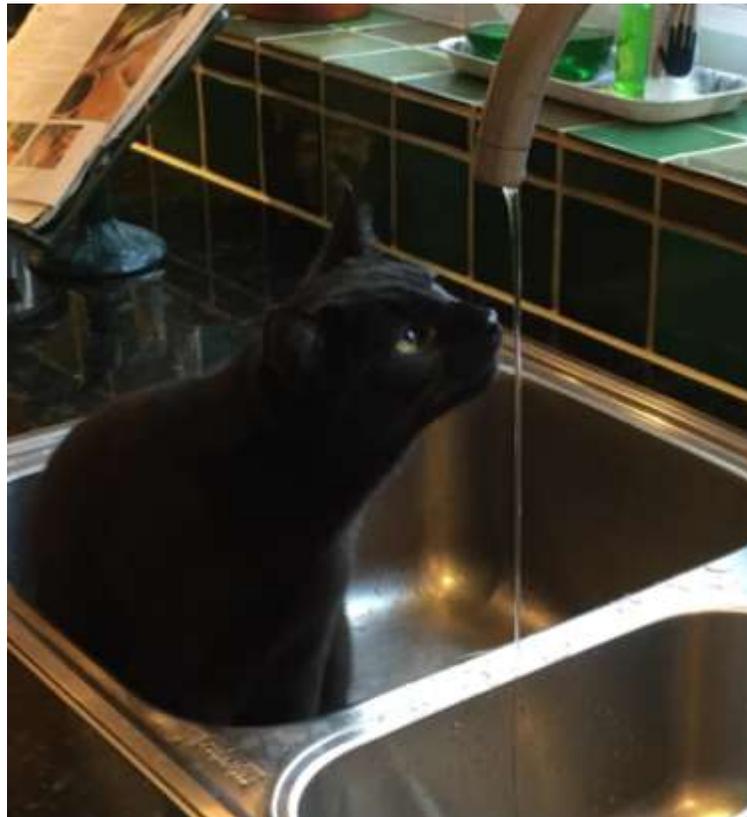


**Ditto** resting up after a hectic time with the colourful rod.

**Lucy** waiting for tea to be served.

**Mowgli**, Investigating a strange water feature.

Well when you are thirsty no need to wait for your water bowl to be refreshed - go to the source.





## **A NEW GENERATION OF CAT LOVERS DECLARE THEIR BEST DAY EVER!**

Minnow Class at North Curry Primary School, Taunton, have been celebrating their love of animals, and cats in particular. They are the reception children (4-5 year olds) and every year Minnow Class hold a celebration for Katie the Post Office Cat.

This year Katie (or Kaytee as we spell it phonetically!) celebrated her 11th birthday in style. She is a local celebrity and children love saying hello to her as they pop into the post office with their parents.

The class made special cat cards and miaowed Happy Birthday to her before tucking into a fantastic cat picnic on the village green, courtesy of their brilliant parents and carers. *"We miaowed the song so she understands"* explained Jack.

The children made cat hats with big cat ears and had cat whiskers drawn on their faces for the occasion. They also made exclusive hats with giant glittery cat ears for our special CP visitors! We spotted a few confused sparrows on our walk to the picnic! *"It was the best day ever"* said a happy Sonny.

## Pictures and quotes from Minnow Class

Rocco "We made birthday cards for Katie. We wrote inside".

Sam "I thought cats like pizza, they don't. David told us they have their own cat food".



Eliza B: "I loved it when we miaowed Happy Birthday to Katie in the post office. Katie the cat was looking at us! We miaowed softly so Katie would like it".

Rosalind "If you see a frightened cat, blink slowly".

George "Cats need a scratching post to make their claws sharper—they need them for running up trees and catching mice and rats".

Mollie "I thought milk was good for cats but it's not. You should give water".

Isobel "I was allowed to scan the toy cat. It gives you a special number. It will tell you where they live if they are lost. All cats need a special number in case they get lost".

Tabitha "I thought cats like vegetables, they don't. They are meat eaters. Carnivores!"

Jack "We had a special party, with lots of food"



## The birthday girl - Katie, the Post Office Cat. >^ . ^<



The highlight of the day was our annual visit from David and Ann from our local branch of Cats Protection.

We are so grateful for David and Ann's contribution to our cat topic and the children learnt so much from their talk, including the *special cat blink*.

Our favourite parts of David's workshop were when he introduced his "cuddly" flea and the buzz of excitement when the children got to try out the microchip scanner.

It still surprises and disappoints me to think that so many cats are still not microchipped or that owners don't update their details if they move or change phone numbers.

If we can raise awareness about cat welfare in little children then hopefully we will raise a generation of animal lovers and future CP members!

The class are very kind and considerate about animals and have been very concerned about my newly adopted cat, Fred, who has come with a whole heap of problems caused by anxiety. Every day they ask me how he has been doing and are great at making suggestions and writing him notes to help him become braver! AC and MT

*Thank you to class staff for sharing the children's pictures and comments. They have been told they are writing to "the cats who write Felines magazine".*





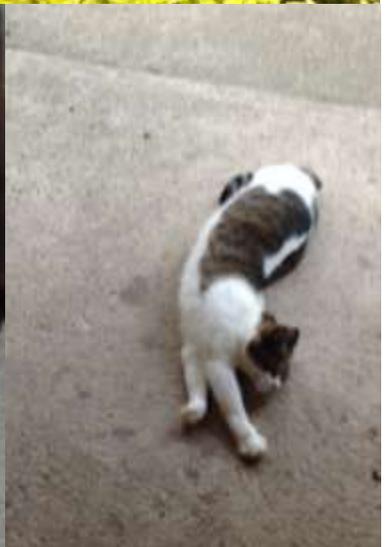
When you are thirsty any port of call will do

Just what was that?  
George checking out non plant life in the herb garden

...when not stretching out on cold concrete on a hot day.

Kittens will find fun in the most mundane of domestic items—no need for expensive toys.

Just as Rupert (opposite) preferred a paper bag to rest in, the kittens enjoy playing in a cardboard box.



## Some of the Branch's previously adopted cats



Stanley (top left) with Tommy (top right) and Rupert (below in a bag)

- all three with their own ways of chilling out and ignoring everyone.



## Extract from a poem by Ashley Owen Hill

RESCUE EXPLAINED.....

The neglect changes you.  
The abuse hardens you.  
The suffering breaks you.  
The ignorance angers you.  
The indifference disturbs you.  
The injustice destroys you.  
You'll learn to trust a little less.....

In their eyes, you'll see their  
journeys...  
You'll remember their beginnings.  
You'll know how far they've come.  
You'll remember when they didn't  
know you...  
When they didn't trust you...  
When they'd given up.

You'll remember how you healed  
them...  
How you loved them...  
How they loved you, too.  
And as you look back...  
You'll want to move forward...  
For them... and because of them.

Then ... at times... you'll forget why  
you matter.  
You'll question what you're doing.  
You'll wonder if it's worth it.

But...here's the good news.  
When you forget...  
When you question...  
When you wonder...  
All you have to do...  
Is take a look around...  
And you'll see them.

You'll see their faces.  
You'll see their smiles.  
You'll feel their love.  
In their eyes, you'll see their jour-  
neys...  
You'll remember their beginnings...  
You'll know how far they've  
come...  
You'll remember when they didn't  
know you...  
When they didn't trust you...  
When they'd given up.



Rescue is pain.  
Rescue is joy.  
Rescue is worth it...because  
they are worth it.

And that's the honest truth.

Ashley Owen Hill

# Boogie & Woogie



Boogie  
(black &  
white)  
top left  
with brother  
Woogie'  
(grey & white)  
below.



Boogie & Woogie were part of a feral colony the branch had neutered. However a wily female had outwitted us.

As often is the case: *'then there were kittens'*. Mum having decided after a few weeks, she'd done her bit for motherhood, left a kitten under a bush.

This near the home of some very supportive owners, who had been involved in the trapping exercise. So Boogie was picked up and placed with foster carers. He was very distressed at being parted from his mother. However not too long after, Mum appeared again with another kitten, and as before left him under a bush. Named Woogie, he was placed with his brother. Boogie immediately stopped crying.

As they are devoted to each other they will be placed together.

## More happily adopted cats .....



One of our older cats who found a wonderful home.

Beautiful **Tabitha** fell on her paws when she found her forever home.

This 10 year old still thinks she is a kitten.

Her new human companion reports she settled in immediately, her son Martin's dog Whisky who visits regularly, loves to share her basket—something of a tight squeeze, as Whisky is a big dog, whilst Tabitha enjoys stretching out in Whisky's large basket.

*"She is a sleep 'all day' cat, coming to life around the 10 o'clock news, when she tears around the house, up and down the stairs. Whisky is less than impressed when Tabitha heads for Martin's lap. So different from what we imagined, she keeps us all laughing"*

BC

## Felix and the fish



**Ditto**, (here left) brother of **Dotti** (see front page)

*Two kittens, survivors of a larger litter born to a homeless mother. They have totally changed their new home for the family they joined.*

*Ditto and Dotti are the lucky ones.*

*So often being born to a mother having to fend for herself, is a very poor start in life.*

**Riley (black & white) & Zodiac (ginger & white)**

What a difference a few months makes—Riley enjoying the sun



## How did 'Possum' and the 'Bush Babies' get their names?

Volunteering takes many forms—recently David undertook some tree surgery to locate these newborns.

Mum had made a warm nest from leaf litter up in the branches of a tree.



Bruce, Barry & Humphrey, the Bush Babies with Possum, their mum.



*Is it a bear?  
No it is a 'Baloo'  
up a tree.*

## **Cats Protection—How did it all start?**

Set up by a group of volunteers reacting to injustices they had seen in their community and beyond, Taunton and Wellington is just one of the many branches contributing to over 90 years' experience of changing the lives of cats, kittens and people for the better!

*Just to give you an idea of the impact volunteers make across the charity, here are some interesting facts from 2017:*

*Cats Protection UK—were involved with around **10,200** volunteers helping some **193,000** cats*

*Nationally a total of **46,000** cats were rehomed and reunited*

*Volunteers delivered **1,063** education talks reaching **31,479** people*

*Thus the importance of volunteers within Cats Protection cannot be overestimated.*

### **So cat volunteer — could this be you?**

*Become a Branch volunteer full training is given and there is lots of support and the chance of attending specialist training days with other like minded volunteers. Call 03452 602,397 or email [enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk)*

**Socialising:** some of the many cats that come into our branch for rehoming for whatever reason need human contact until their new forever home is found.



However short or long a time you can offer, all our cats benefit for seeing new people, hearing new voices to help them get ready for rehoming.

You will be kept up to date about the cats in our care, their special needs, and your reports and comments on behaviour help us to match them with the right future home.

If this sounds fun — get in touch with the Branch.

## Volunteering opportunities with the Taunton & Wellington Branch



### Volunteers needed to help in the shop.

Volunteers such as Polly (pictured) and Evie are two such regular volunteers in the branch shop in Wellington on a Monday.

Help is needed taking in donated items, arranging displays, serving and advising customers.

If this is something you might enjoy call in and have a word. Volunteers and Manager would be pleased to see you and full training is given.

However little time you may have, as the saying goes, 'every little helps'.





**Bertie**



### **Taunton & Wellington Branch**

Call 03452 602 397 (standard rate)

Please note our new email address  
**[enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk)**

Plus for lost and found please use:

**[lostandfound@taunton.cats.org.uk](mailto:lostandfound@taunton.cats.org.uk)**

Web: [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)