



APRIL 2018

# Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

[www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk](http://www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk)

Tel: 0345 1947 292

# PAWPRINTS

NEWS AND STORIES FROM YOUR LOCAL CATS PROTECTION GROUP

## Welcome!

### NEW LOOK PAWPRINTS FOR THE SPRING

Welcome to our 'New Look' Spring newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading about a few of the cats we have been able to help so far this year.

We unfortunately no longer have as many fosterers as we have had in previous years for various reasons, so have not been able to assist in as many cases as we would hope, however, thanks go to all the fosterers and those who spend many hours trapping in our feral cat colonies in all weathers throughout the year. (So far this year we have managed to trap, neuter and return to their colony 33 cats and we have re-homed another 20) with a further 5 cats being transferred to the Leeds Homing Centre

### DATA PROTECTION

We continue to send you our newsletters as you have, in the past, expressed interest in our work. However, Data Protection is very important to us as a charity and if you no longer wish us to hold your name and address on our records, please do contact us either online at our website or via our postal address on the last page of the newsletter and we will be happy to remove your details from our database. Thank you

#### Inside

Read about the progress of Gonzo, Gracie and Gizmo. More about Fizzy and a tale of a lost cat finding its home....  
Plus many ways in which you can continue to support our work.....

## FIZZY'S STORY

Fizzy's family were moving house from Sheffield to Wiltshire. They made arrangements for Fizzy & her cat mate Tinker to be boarded and then transported to the new home. Unfortunately Fizzy escaped in Silsden - the town where she was to be boarded - around 60 miles from her old home.

Leaflets with pictures of Fizzy & contact details were distributed around the town initially by a relative of Fizzy's family. Then Wharfe Valley Cats Protection was informed & what was to be a 6 week search began.

New leaflets were distributed & posters put up. Postings were put on local websites & Facebook pages - Fizzy even had her own Facebook page - 'Find Fizzy'. A wildlife camera was bought by Emma to try to find Fizzy. This was originally set up in the allotments & was stolen but returned after a plea about it on Facebook.

There were various sightings - a couple of them were likely to have been Fizzy as it was in a rural area where she was eventually found & where all the cats were known. One other sighting turned out to be a boy.

When there was a second Fizzy lookalike sighting near the golf club the camera was set up in some bushes & when checked the next day showed a Fizzy lookalike! So, a trap was set in the same place baited, of course, with sardines! A couple of hours later as it was going dark it was checked & found to have an occupant which turned out to be Fizzy. Next day, following a vet check she was taken to rejoin her family in their new home.

Key to this successful outcome was felt to be the involvement of local people who continued keeping an eye out for her & passing on anything they thought significant. Lots of people got involved with looking for Fizzy.

*Continued inside in the yellow columns.....*

 Find us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) - Search for 'Cats Protection Wharfe Valley Branch'  
Just add 'lost and found' to read the latest news and advice  
[www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk](http://www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk) - Tel: 0345 1947 292

## FIZZY'S STORY

Continued from front page...

In particular – Emma leafletting etc, setting up her camera & finally trapping Fizzy; Hayley & Tina also helping her out with posters & leaflets; Deirdre also with originally spotting what was probably Fizzy & then keeping an eye on the trap where Fizzy was found as it was near to her house; Louise spotting again what was probably her on 14 September; dog walkers looking out for black & white cats when they were out & about and so on.

Cat's Protection & its people are great but it's not easy to find cats if there's nobody in the relevant area to help with the search.

After Fizzy was found the posters were removed & people informed via Facebook & face to face. One poster near where she was found was replaced with an updated one to let people know that Fizzy had been found. That was really well received with many people (many of whom had been looking out for Fizzy) saying how nice it was to be informed as to the successful outcome rather than left wondering.



PHOTO: Fizzy happily back at home

Continued in opposite yellow column...

## News from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

### PROGRESS BEING MADE

**THREE CATS WERE CRUELLY ABANDONED AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY. THEIR OWNER HAD MOVED OUT AND LEFT THEM TO SUFFER IN ALL THE COLD WEATHER. THEIR NAMES ARE GRACIE, GONZO AND GIZMO. THIS IS THE STORY OF THEIR PROGRESS WITH US**

10/2/18

The trio were collected from the vets this morning. Wonder if they would still have been alive if they'd been left out there any longer. All three have improved tremendously having had treatment for 2 days. Blood tests for FIV and Felv were all negative. Health issues have been ruled out, but the trio were just getting weaker and weaker due to starvation and anaemia. They have been wormed and de-fleaed as well as having lots of ticks removed. Fluids were given and lots of food and even more TLC. Hopefully now all 3 will show signs of beginning to look as cats should. They now have a bit more energy. They don't seem to have got round to cleaning themselves yet, but I expect they have been too weak to do so. Not only have they been starved of food and water, but also have had their blood sucked out of them by ticks and fleas. The little boy is about 5 months old as he still has some baby teeth, but the major problem is his eye. It is very badly damaged, but hopefully not permanently. The vets have examined the eye very carefully and he now has cream and painkillers to help him. At last in a warm, safe cat house, they will come on quickly. They are now called Gracie, Gonzo and Gizmo.

Whilst at the vet, some of their clients saw Gizmo (the kitten with poorly eye) and were told the story. All were disgusted. Gizmo is a favourite at the vets as he just loves being held and purrs a lot. One of the staff had him in her arms most of the day whilst he helped her work and they both loved it.

You can see from the photos that Gonzo looks more like a

stray cat that has been unloved for months. You can feel his spine and ribs and his lovely white coat is filthy down to the skin. Wherever they had been sleeping must have been really filthy.



PHOTO: Gonzo looks more like a stray cat.

11/02

Food is given little and often as their little tummies will have shrunk. The cats are on a special diet of wet food as it is vital that they keep it down. No signs of the runs so in a couple of days they will move onto small amounts of normal food mixed with the special diet, then hopefully we can increase the amount. No point in rushing things. At first we thought the boy cat had been neutered, but bless him he has partially undescended testicles, so guess we have Mum, Dad and son. Once they have put on a bit of weight they will all go for neutering. Vital the older boy gets neutered soon as the hidden testicles can turn cancerous. As I mentioned before, the kitten despite having a really sore eye, is super friendly. His Mum and Dad are a bit shy and shell shocked but much brighter today. Their fosterer told me today that when she rescued them they hadn't the energy to run or argue, they were in the cat carriers in double quick time and at the vets in treble quick time. They were depressed and close to giving up. She knew they were in a really bad way, so

did the vet, instant admission and all three on drips within minutes of arrival. It really was touch and go. They have had a combing session to get rid of some of the muck and rubbish and confirmed all ticks have been zapped. If not clean enough at neutering time then we will ask for a wash and blow dry whilst they are sedated. The last thing we want to do is to upset or stress them as not many cats will thank you for a bathing session. So far we are really pleased and relieved with their progress. Just hoping Gizmo's eye can be sorted, he was in a lot of pain, but the pain killers have kicked in. It won't be for lack of trying, time will tell if the treatment is working. If not then it's not the end of the world if it cannot be saved but here's hoping we were just in time.

16/02

Having been in a warm, safe place with plenty of food, the 3 survivors that were abandoned and left to starve are improving. Gizmo, the 5 month old, who is presumably the son of the other two, has lost another baby tooth. The tooth fairy won't be calling though as the tooth couldn't be found! His eye is much improved, but still looks very red and painful. The two adult cats are still very traumatised and do not feel up to washing themselves. The parts that look like oil on their fur will probably have to be washed off, but that will wait until they go in for neutering and can be sorted whilst they are asleep, so lessening any further trauma.



PHOTO: Gizmo, a favourite at the vets!

## More news from Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

### FURTHER SUCCESS

Gizmo is very friendly and loves fuss and attention. Being only a youngster, he obviously didn't realise the full extent of what was going on. Gracie is coming round and does like to be held and will just about purr, but she is still very wary. Gonzo is really traumatised though and sits at the back of the pen with his ears flattened. I can stroke him and hold him but he is so frightened that I am not pushing my contact onto him too much. All three cats have put on weight, so they will nearly be ready to be neutered and vaccinated and then just need a new home that they can call their own for ever.

This sort of scenario is so frustrating, annoying and upsetting for anyone in cat rescue. We have no idea about the former life of these cats, we don't have their names and it's just guesswork to put an age to the adults. Have they been indoor cats before being abandoned, or have they been used to living with children or dogs? Have they ever been loved? How long has Gizmo's eye been bad, is it a recent injury or been like that since he was tiny? How many litters has Gracie had, is she traumatised or always been a bit shy? Has Gonzo always been timid or has

the trauma of being outdoors all through the bad weather in January just waiting to die left him unable to trust us humans? Come on Gracie and especially Gonzo we aren't all bad and we will find a loving home for you that will give you the time to come round when you are ready....we won't give up on you.

06/03/18

Gracie, Gonzo and Gizmo have been with the fosterer for 3 weeks now and have all put on lots of weight and now got beautiful coats. All have been neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. The good news is that Gracie has gone to a new home where she will get all the love and attention that she craves.

Gizmo's eye looks perfect, but we will have to wait and see what it is like now that he has stopped his medication. Gonzo is the sad story, I'm afraid.



PHOTO: Gracie, Gonzo and Gizmo

He is a really handsome cat who is in excellent condition, but he is still so traumatised that all he wants to do is cower away from people. He can be handled, sits on a lap and loves the fuss when he has settled down, but given a chance he will run.

If Gizmo's eye is OK, he will be ready for homing in about 2 weeks, so he can be viewed and reserved. He is adorable and like his mother craves fuss and attention.

Gonzo really needs a very special home where he will be the only cat and is allowed lots of space to feel secure in. Whoever adopts him will need to treat him on his terms and eventually I am sure that he will settle nicely and become a really loving cat, like the other 2 are now.

### ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY

A new cat in the area.

Nearly everyone on our estate knows I am involved with Cats Protection, so as soon as a new cat appeared I was asked to help.

The cat did seem keen to get into anyone's house. The next day a neighbour walked the cat to our house, I managed to get the microchip scanner out, but sadly no microchip. The cat looked healthy and clean so could have recently moved into the area, so the next thing to do was to put a paper collar round his neck in the hopes that an owner would ring me. No calls and the lovely ginger and white neutered boy appeared next day complete with his paper collar.

He had been advertised on FB and loads of comments from folks who had seen him. He had followed one family when they were out dog walking, followed someone else down to the local pub. So starting to look like a lost boy. The best message of all was from someone who thought they had seen the cat sat on a windowsill of a house about half a mile away. Nothing else for it but to pop the cat into a cat carrier, drive down and knock on the door. Yes he was their cat.

The family plus the dog were overjoyed to get their cat back so quickly. They had only moved in a few weeks ago, the cat had been going out and returning, then four days earlier had disappeared. So thanks to Facebook, without local input it could have been days later before he was reunited.

Advice given to owner and a suggestion to get the cat microchipped as he would have been home the day before if he had been chipped.

## FIZZY'S STORY

Continued from previous yellow column

Fizzy's owner Lis says:-

*'I would like to thank Deirdre, Tina, Emma & Hayley & also the Wharfe Valley Cat's Protection volunteers generally for the 6 long weeks of searching at all hours of the day & night for our much loved cat Fizzy.*

*We are also very grateful for all the calls about possible sightings & offers of help from the lovely people of Silsden. We're sure that Fizzy would still be out there, sleeping rough or worse but for the commitment & hard work of these ladies & their use of cameras in particular to eventually track Fizzy down after her long ordeal.*

*She is very underweight now & still a bit dehydrated but is settling in well to her new home in Wiltshire. She knew us straight away & has been enjoying lots of cuddles & home comforts. We are keeping a close eye on her & hoping that with some TLC she will be back to good health soon. Our other cat, Tinker, doesn't seem too impressed about having her back so we'll have to work on that!*

Thanks again to everyone involved.

# How you can help Wharfe Valley Cats Protection

## A REMINDER CATS PROTECTION WHARFE VALLEY LOST AND FOUND FACEBOOK PAGE

 Anyone who has ever had a cat can imagine what it must be like if their cat goes missing. Some of you reading this will have gone through the awful experience and I hope you had a happy ending. I know myself that if I don't see any of my own feline friends for an hour or so I start to panic!

So, what can you do if you realise your cat is not in its usual hiding place, is not sleeping in its favourite chair or has not come home as usual for dinner?



Social media now plays a big role in reuniting lost and found pets. Did you know that we have a dedicated Wharfe Valley Branch page where you can post details? We have over 480 followers so far, many of whom will share your post, enabling it to potentially reach thousands of people.

If you have a missing cat or would like to post on behalf of a friend/relative/neighbour, please post a photo on the page with details of if your cat is male or female, chipped, neutered, when you last saw him/her and an area where he/she went missing. No addresses please.

Check back regularly to make sure you haven't missed any comments. If you are happy to let us have your address/phone number in case we receive a call regarding your cat, then please let us know in a private message on the page. This will be visible to admins only and will not be shared with anyone.

If you have found a cat that you think may be a stray, tell us when it was first seen and in what area. A photo would also be great, but keeping some details, such as any special markings, a distinctive collar, out of the post would help to identify the real owners as only they would know. Proof of ownership should always be seen before handing over any found cat.

There is a pinned post at the top of the page with some advice to follow if you lose or find a cat.

Facebook is a great, free way of spreading the word about

your missing cat or one that you have found, so if you need to post on our page you can find it at:

[www.facebook.com/  
cpwwlostandfound](http://www.facebook.com/cpwwlostandfound)

**eBay**  
**OVER £1,200 RAISED LAST  
YEAR**

We sell many new cat-themed items such as fridge magnets, bookmarks and greetings cards, as well as items donated to us, with the money raised going directly to our branch. Certain items donated to us are sold on eBay with the money raised going directly to our branch. We are always looking for new

goods to sell so please let us know if you have any good-quality items in good condition. Goods can be dropped off at our Otley shop.

Things which sell best include jewellery, branded clothes and cat-related items. If you are selling something yourself on eBay you can choose to donate a certain percentage of what you make to us too. Find us at: <http://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/wharfecat2012/m.html>

**easyfundraising**  
**ALMOST £700 RAISED**

This is a way of raising funds which will cost you nothing! If you sign up to easyfundraising and choose our branch as your charity we will receive a percentage of what you spend online at no extra cost to you. So far we have raised just under £700.

You can now also register a payment card and continue to raise money when you shop in a 'real' store. Sign up here: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

**SPONSORSHIP**  
**SPONSOR A CAT FOR AS  
LITTLE AS 19P PER DAY**

Join the Cats Protection sponsorship scheme through our website and funds donated will come to our branch. Sponsor one of the cats featured for as little as 19p per day. This would make a perfect gift.

Go to <http://wharfevalley.cats.org.uk/wharfevalley> and look for the blue banner at the top of the page.

## HOW TO HELP

### WILLS and WISHES

There is guidance on our web site about making a will to help cats.

If you simply wish to leave some money to this branch just specify this in your will using the words Wharfe Valley Cats Protection.

However should you be concerned about your own cats that might survive you there are two things you can do. Firstly ensure a relative or friend is willing to give them a home. This may not be possible to guarantee in law but it may help.

Also Cats Protection, nationally, runs a 'Guardian' scheme whereby the charity will do its best to find a space for any cats that survive you. You need to sign up for this in advance.

If you would like any further information about the service, get in touch with one of our team on 01825 741 271 or email us at [giftsinwills@cats.org.uk](mailto:giftsinwills@cats.org.uk)

### SUPPORT 500 CLUB

We are looking to expand our regular contact with members now we are having a central focus in our shops.

Why not join the 500 Club? For a small donation annually you can receive our newsletters by post or by e-mail. We would prefer the letters to go out by e-mail so if you now receive it by post, but have e-mail, please let us know through our web site under 'CONTACT'. You will also be entered into a fun prize draw for £50. E-mail us via our web site - [www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk](http://www.wharfevalley.cats.org.uk)

Or write to us at the address at the foot of this page and then our Secretary will send you Standing Order form to sign - all very simple!

**WharfeValley Cats Protection, 19 Market Street, Otley, LS21 3AF**  
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