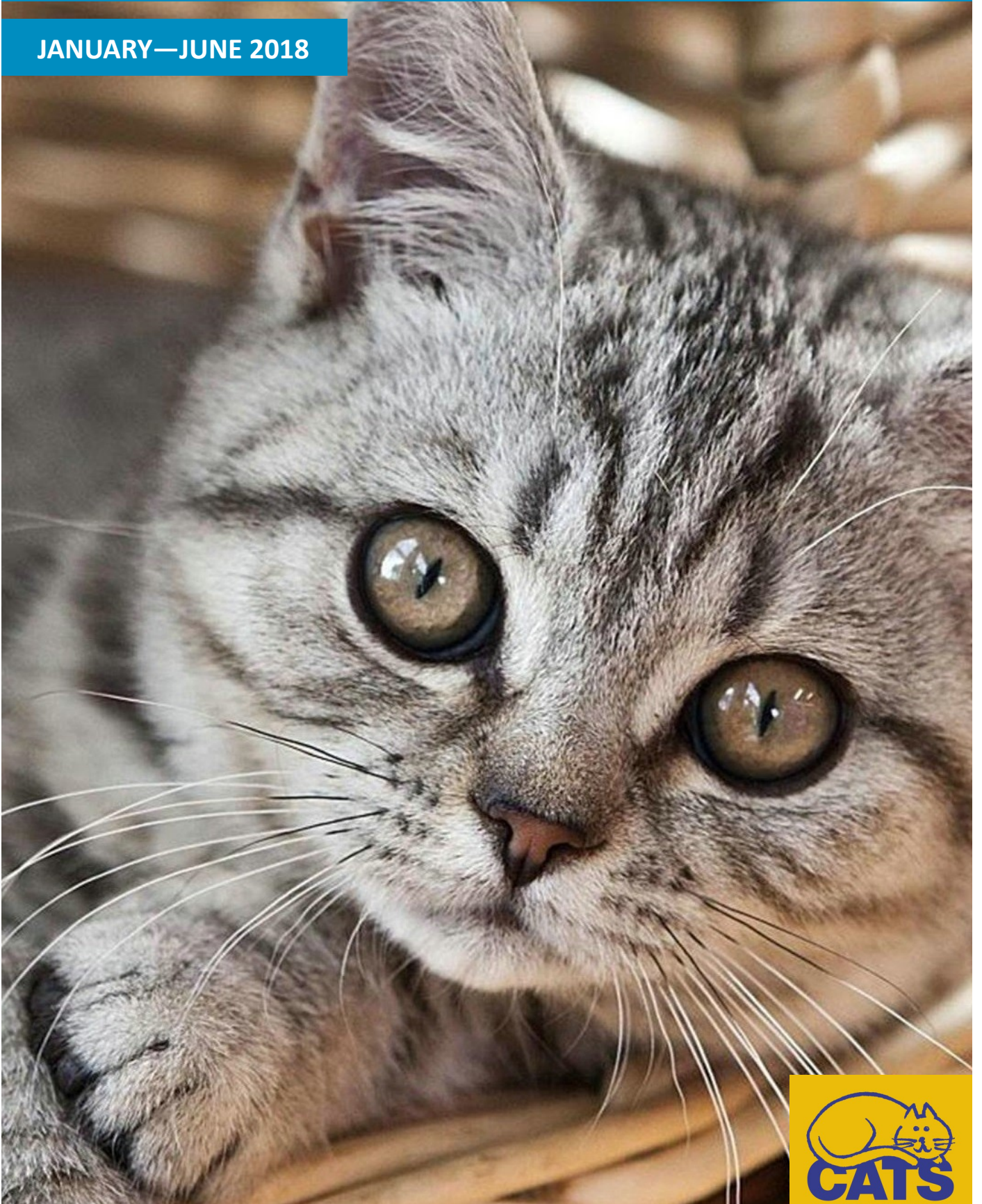


FELIS CATUS

Newsletter of the Woking & District Cats Protection

JANUARY—JUNE 2018



Registered Charity:203644/SC037111

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

IN MEMORY OF “DAVE”



After the sudden death of Dave, I needed time. After a few months, I saw Patch on the website and went to look at her at Kim's. It was more a case of her choosing me. She came to her forever home, with a new name, and I have named her Molly.

She settled in very quickly, and became the boss! She has many sleeping places, but her favourites are the bath and window ledge. She loves sitting and sleeping on my lap while we watch television. I get an early alarm call in morning for her breakfast. She is one very happy lady, as am I.

Many thanks for allowing me to have this 9 year old lady who is now coming up for 11 years young.

Love from Ann Saunders



HELLO & WELCOME

Hello and welcome to your first Felis Catus of 2018! You've probably already noticed that it looks a little different, and that's because Felis Catus has a new editor. Before I go ahead and introduce myself, I'd like to thank Mary Morgan for her commitment and outstanding work she's done in producing the newsletter during the last 12 years she has been the editor. I have very big shoes to fill, but I hope you all enjoy the new style newsletter as much as the previous ones.

My role as the new newsletter editor started all because of a cat—a rather special cat with a chipped canine tooth, moth eaten ears and a slightly scruffy but handsome look about him. A cat who had been “living rough” for the first 3 years of his life and had contracted feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). That cat was Joey—but more about him later...

When my partner and I adopted Joey from Woking Cats Protection some months ago, I saw the fantastic work that the volunteers do and wanted to get involved. At the time, there was a vacancy for a new newsletter editor on the branch website, and as my working life involves the production of publications (mainly for the education sector), I thought this could be a way that I could help out. The rest, as they say, is history.

Should you have any articles you would like to submit for the June edition of Felis Catus, then please submit them to wokingcpeditor@gmail.com

Jason Sells

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

FAREWELL TO MARY MORGAN

Mary joined the branch in early 2004 and it wasn't long before she volunteered to produce the Newsletter. The subsequent 40 editions that rolled out thanks to her commitment and hard work have been much enjoyed by the many readers, be they members, adopters, or vet surgery clients. When the branch needed a Co-ordinator in 2012, Mary took on the challenge and has successfully steered the branch onwards and upwards. She has overseen many great fund-raising events from our regular Fayres to the more recent and very popular Quiz Night. Indeed, who will forget the guest appearance at the 2017 quiz by Honey M who bore a striking resemblance to our very own Mary. With her support and encouragement, the branch welfare team have helped many cats and kittens and of course many people.



You may not know but Mary has also been honing her cat care skills over the years. Her finest hour is fondly remembered by our Welfare Officer Pauline. Mary volunteered to catch an adorable, long haired stray tom cat when the WO was otherwise engaged (what – again!). No problem. Sylvester was picked up, well probably grabbed. The carrier was at the ready, well probably nearly ready. In Sylvester went. Hooray. Oh no – out he came and legged it away from that crazy woman. One embarrassed Branch Co-ordinator had to make a phone call to the WO. Needless to say, we can't print her reaction to the news of the escape but luckily, they both share a giggle about the great escape to this day.

All these things have been accomplished whilst Mary continued to work full time and pursue her many other interests including photography, elephant conservation and native wildlife especially hedgehogs. We mustn't forget her successful funeral celebrancy role either. What a woman!

So, a massive THANK YOU Mary for your unwavering commitment, drive, steady pair of hands and your broad shoulders. Lordy, Lordy, we shall miss you, your boundless energy, that enormous heart and of course your very cheeky humour accompanied by that sunny smile. LOL!!!

WELFARE REPORT

I'd like to wish all our loyal members, new members and supporters of our branch a very happy new year. 2018 sees us begin a new chapter in the life of the Branch.

This relaunched Newsletter sees our new Editor Jason take over the quill pen. Welcome Jason. You have a hard act to follow but we are all behind you. We hope you have plenty of patience—because you're going to need it!

To summarise 2017:

- The trend of fewer kittens being signed over for rehoming continued. We believe this is the result of the internet websites that facilitate the exploitation of cats and kittens by enabling their indiscriminate sale for gain. Please do what you can to persuade people that supporting this trade is bad news for cats and kittens.
- We had fewer adopters coming forward for our more challenging cats but we never lost heart as we were confident their purrfect adopters were out there and yes, they were or they will be, we just need them to find us. An example of one of our more challenging cats is Tinkerbelle who you can read about later on. She was with us for over 6 months.
- Our mission to reduce the number of unplanned kittens, as always, was high on our priority list and our long running policy of offering free neutering helped us continue to reach the owners we need to.
- We strengthened our relationship with the RSPCA and worked with them on problems such as multi-cat households. We continued encouraging Housing Associations help us tackle this issue too.
- We continue to trap, neuter and return where appropriate—however in 2017 a number of strays came into our care through this and left their hard lives behind them to find loving homes.
- Up until the end of November we have rehomed 88 cats - made up of 33 kittens and 55 adults.

Looking forward to some more success stories in 2018!

Pauline Welch (Welfare Officer)

CONTACT US:

Call us on 01483 721700 and leave a message

Mailbox 1 - If you would like to adopt a cat

Mailbox 2 - If you need to rehome your cat

Mailbox 3 - Lost & Found

Mailbox 4 - Neutering and all other enquiries

TREASURER'S REPORT

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all of you that continue to support us, whether it be by membership, monthly donations, attending our events, doing cat sponsorship and lottery online via our HQ and those of you that just post in or discreetly pass me envelopes with fabulous donations. Then we also have the wonderful supporters that canoe down rivers, write books, run or walk for us and the generous people that sent in donations for the amputation operation on a kitten with a badly injured leg.

Secondly thank you to everyone at the vets, especially Lynton House and Pinewood Cattery that sell our merchandise and Alison's infamous 'knotties'.

Without this support we would be unable to offer our free neutering service which to the end of November 2017 resulted in 259 neuterings comprising 127 boys and 132 girls. The cost of these neuterings came to over £15000 but the benefits to these cats far outweigh this amount.

Our total outgoings to the end of November totalled almost £50,000 with veterinary fees on top of the neutering costs coming to £18222.

Donations this year have totalled almost £10000 with another £7941 coming in from fundraising and our events and just over £6600 from adoption fees. Gift Aid and Pet Plan commission are also a valuable source of income for us. I wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that with your support we can continue to help the many cats and kittens that need us.

Gill Parker (Treasurer)

VOLUNTEER MATTERS

A WARM WELCOME TO

Alison Keeley (mailbox 4 helpline support)

Paula Rosati - pen socialiser

Nicky Smythson - pen socialiser

Julie Bennet - pen socialiser

Kim Gibson - membership secretary

FAREWELL TO

Nicky Capstick—kitten fosterer

Jan Wright—pen socialiser

Georgina Rigden—website editor

IMPORTANT NEWS

CAT KILLER: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

OPERATION TAKAHE.

The Met Police set up Operation Takahe in 2015 to investigate a series of animal killings, working alongside SNARL (South Norwood Animal Rescue and Liberty) & the RSPCA. Cats, foxes, and rabbits have all been victims. There have also been cases of swans, other birds, a squirrel and even a deer being linked—and over 300 cases are now being investigated by Operation Takahe. At this stage, investigators are working on the premise of this being one perpetrator—based on post-mortem evidence.

UK-WIDE CASES.

Although cases initially began coming to light in the Croydon area, linked killings have also been reported across Greater London and the South East—with cases as far north as Manchester.

POLICE HAVE RELEASED A DESCRIPTION OF A POTENTIAL SUBJECT.

"A white male in his 40's, between 5'8"-5'11" tall with short dark brown hair & wearing dark clothing with a hood. He possibly has scarring or pock marked skin on his face. He has

no discernible accent and may be wearing a head torch and backpack, or carrying a handheld torch"

If you see a man matching this description attempting to coax or feed a cat/fox or other animal, or attempting to enter gardens anywhere in the UK, call 999 quoting "Operation Takahe". You can also call SNARL on 07957 830490 or 07961 030064. Do not approach or try to apprehend him

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A SUSPECTED VICTIM.

If you find a mutilated animal's body or body parts, try and preserve the scene wherever possible. Prevent anyone from removing the body or taking photographs and call SNARL on 07962 030064 or 07957 830490 IMMEDIATELY.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION.

If you have any information relating to this case, call Met Police Operation Takahe on 0208 649216 or SNARL on 07961 030064 or 07957 830490. There is a £10,000 reward being offered by PETA and Outpaced for information leading to the arrest and conviction of this killer.

KEEP PETS SAFE.

The hours of darkness are when pets are most at risk from this killer, although there have been known attacks during the day. Routinely ensuring pets are indoors after dark and supervising their outdoor activity is the best way to keep them safe.



Recent research has shown that 68% of litters in the UK are unplanned - and that some of these litters are born to cats who are just four months old.

Our advice is simple - have your cat spayed at four months to protect her from getting pregnant. Male cats should be neutered too, to protect them catching diseases, such as FIV and getting nasty injuries from fighting - a male cat which hasn't been neutered is much more likely to fight over a female mate. Neutering can also help to stop male cats from spraying indoors - which can be really smelly. He's also more likely to stay close to home as a neutered male cat is less likely to stray.

One unneutered female can be responsible for producing 20,000 descendants in just 5 years.

TO RECEIVE **FREE NEUTERING** FOR YOUR CAT

Please contact 01483 721700 (mailbox 4)

MEET THE TEAM...

Over the next few editions, we'll be talking to some of our fantastic volunteers and ask them about their work for the branch. In this edition, we will showcase the wonderful work of Helen, Sally, Alison and Jill—who have 4 very different roles.

HELEN—LOST & FOUND OFFICER



How long have you been volunteering for Woking and District Cats Protection?

I have been volunteering for just over a year – the time has flown by! During my first year as Lost & Found Officer I have dealt with 138 lost cats and 152 found cats.

How did you find out about volunteering for the branch?

We adopted a kitten from the branch in November 2014. After a home visit from Jenny, we popped to Alison's and met the kittens she was fostering. We decided on Ernie (all the kittens were named after Sesame Street characters!) A few days later, Pauline brought Ernie around to us, complete with a kitten pen. She spent time going through things; we had another cat so wanted to ensure they were both introduced correctly. Pauline and Alison kept in touch during the following weeks to see how Ernie was getting on. Sometime later I wanted to donate some cat items to the branch so I dropped them off to Margaret who had just got back from kitten socialising. I had been so impressed with all the volunteers that I wanted to give something back so I visited the website and discovered they were looking for volunteers. I spoke to Mary (Branch Co-ordinator) and she felt I would be a match for the Lost and Found Officer role that they were keen to fill. I met with Mary and Pauline at a local CP Garden Party to find out more and the rest is history!

What aspects of your role, as Lost and Found Officer, do you like the most?

Recently I received a call from someone who had found a

mum and kittens living under a portacabin. I work closely with Pauline and they were quickly collected and brought into our care. I saw them all a few days later doing really well with their fosterer. They now have a bright future ahead of them – who knows what their fate would have been if we hadn't rescued them? It's also very rewarding when you hear of a missing cat that has been reunited.

Information about lost and found cats is shared on Facebook, Twitter and our website. Social media is a key part of L&F and is growing in popularity. The visits and likes we have to our dedicated L&F Facebook page are steadily increasing.

<https://www.facebook.com/wokingcplostandfound>

What would you say to someone else thinking about becoming a volunteer for Woking Cats Protection?

Do it! At least try it – what have you got to lose? The branch has a really friendly team but needs more help in a vast variety of interesting roles. So if you want to do something rewarding, that is good for your wellbeing as well as helping the cats in your local area then make that call! You know what they say: 'Saving one animal won't change the world, but it will change the world for that one animal.'



JILL—CAT SOCIALISER

How long have you been volunteering for Woking and District Cats Protection?

I can't recall exactly how long, but certainly several years. I started by helping at fairs, and somehow ended up becoming a 'kitty cuddler', which I love!

What aspects of your role, as a Cat Socialiser do you like the most?

Best bits - you mean apart from meeting lots of gorgeous cats?! The most rewarding aspect has to be being trusted enough to cuddle, and be cuddled by, a cat that previously didn't seem to understand affection, and to watch the progress to that point.

What would you say to someone else thinking about becoming a volunteer for Woking Cats Protection?

Go for it!!

SALLY—WELFARE SUPPORT



How long have you been volunteering for Woking and District Cats Protection?

I've been volunteering for the branch since summer 2012. My how the time has flown!

How did you find out about volunteering for the branch?

Since moving to the area we've always adopted from Woking CP so I was aware it was run wholly by volunteers. When I decided my commuting days were finally over I knew immediately I wanted to volunteer for the branch so I went online and emailed to say I was interested in helping in whatever way I could.

What aspects of your role, as Welfare Support Officer, do you like the most?

There is very little I don't enjoy if it involves helping cats and people, but the standout part for me has to be taking a cat or kitten to its forever home, especially if it has been a stray. To see it is going to be much loved and cherished helps counteract the odd challenging welfare situation the branch helps sort out.

What would you say to someone else thinking about becoming a volunteer for Woking Cats Protection?

If you are thinking about volunteering don't hesitate to get in touch to find out more. There are a multitude of ways a volunteer can help - built around what time they are able to commit to. We're a friendly, varied bunch (not all mad cat ladies) and neither we nor the cats bite, well not most of the time!

ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



Woking Cats Protection



@WokingCP

ALISON—MAILBOX 4 SUPPORT

How long have you been volunteering for Woking and District Cats Protection?

I have been volunteering for Cats Protection for 6 months.

How did you find out about volunteering for the branch?

I adopted a cat through Woking Cats Protection and then came to the Cats Protection quiz. I learnt via email that Woking Cats Protection was looking for a volunteer to manage mailbox 4. I wanted to find a way to help the charity and talked to Pauline and Mary about what was involved in looking after mailbox 4.

What aspects of your role, as mailbox 4 support, do you like the most?

I really like managing mailbox 4. I respond to calls from

people who are looking to get their cat neutered and help them to do so. The people I speak to are incredibly grateful for the charity to being able to help them to neuter their cat. It also makes me happy to know that every time I speak to someone and help them to get their cat neutered I am also helping to prevent unwanted kittens from being born.

What would you say to someone else thinking about becoming a volunteer for Woking Cats Protection?

I can completely recommend volunteering for Cats Protection. It is a fantastic charity to volunteer for, the other volunteers who work for the charity are lovely and were very welcoming. My role fits in around my work. I have even introduced the other volunteers to Dropbox which has helped us to share information more easily.

WOKING BRANCH EVENTS

We held the following events last year :

Quiz Night - Feb 25th - Raised £1953

Spring Fayre - April 8th - Raised £1850.46

RSPCA Gala Day - Sept 3rd - Raised £426.70

The London Mark Masons Golf Day, Chobham - Sept 7th - Raised £750

Xmas Fayre - October 28th - Raised £2951.16 with £525 in donations

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported us at these events. A special thanks also to The London Mark Masons—especially Alan Wakeford and Dave and Vanda Ashbolt of Pinewood Cattery for running the Golf Day at Chobham Golf Club.

Dates for your 2018 diary :

Quiz Night - Saturday 24th February 7.30pm - New Haw Community Centre

Spring Fayre - Saturday 21st April 10.30am to 2.00pm - New Haw Community Centre

QUIZ NIGHT

The New Haw Community Centre played host to the annual Cats Protection quiz night on 25th February. 21 teams participated and raised a total of £1953. The money was raised from the proceeds of an auction, raffle, and collecting tin. This was the 5th one we have held, and we were grateful for all the support it received. Who can forget the infamous “Honey M.”



The jubilant winners



The losers

We are holding another quiz night this year, on the 24th February, and it's not too late to submit your team for this fantastic event. Contact us via email at wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com

RSPCA GALA DAY



GOLF DAY



CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2017



Last years Christmas Fayre was held on 28th October at the New Haw Community Centre.

We're happy to say that our volunteers and members turned up in force to make this event a great success. So a big thank you to everybody!

We'd like to congratulate Mycroft for winning the raffle—and as you can see, he looks positively proud and delighted with his prize.

With the upcoming Spring Fayre on 21st April, we are currently looking for raffle prizes. Should you be able to help, please contact us on :

01483 721700 (mailbox 4)

WISHKER - BY HEATHER PINDAR

We are delighted that Heather has written her fabulous book *Wishker* inspired by her beautiful cat, Madge that she adopted from us back in 2014. She was one of our long stay cats and we could not have wished for a better home for her. Heather kindly donated some of her books at our Christmas Fayre. Should you wish to read *Wishker*, we still have copies available for purchase.

CONTACT US ON:

01483 72100 (Mailbox 4) for more information





We received £130 from the Waitrose Community Tokens recently. Well done Gill Parker for organising this on our behalf—and thank you to anyone who put their little green tokens in our little bin!



DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR OUR BRANCH NEWSLETTER?

Do you have an article that you would like to submit to be printed in the branch newsletter for the June 2018 edition? We are currently looking for successful rehoming stories (with photographs), fundraising stories, or in fact anything Cats Protection related!

Contact: wokingcpeditor@gmail.com

GIVE THE CATS A GIFT!

Our Amazon Wishlist has lots of gifts for the cats in our care including food, toys and treats. In these difficult times, instead of donating money to cats and kittens in need, this a different way to help our cats!

All you need to do is visit the webpage below which takes you to the Woking Cats Protection Amazon wishlist. There you can buy whatever you feel you can and Amazon will deliver it to us.



www.woking.cats.org.uk/woking/send-the-cats-a-gift-page



GIFTS IN WILLS

It is thanks to the wonderful kindness of people who remember Cats Protection in their wills that we are able to carry out much of our day to day work. These special gifts fund more than half of everything we do and are vital to our work helping abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens. Above all, we rely on gifts in wills to help us keep the special promise that underpins all of our work: that we will never put a healthy cat to sleep.

You could help us keep our special promise and care for even more cats by leaving us a gift in your will.

We are incredibly grateful for every gift we receive, no matter what the size. Even the smallest gifts help us to provide cats with food, a warm bed, veterinary attention and most importantly of all, find them a loving home. Refurbishment of pens, purchase of new pens and the purchase of a van to carry out our work have all been made possible because of the generosity of people remembering us in their will. We have also been able to continue our free neutering programme, something we are all passionate about and would like to keep as one of our most effective service provisions.

If you would like more information, please visit

www.cats.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/gifts-in-wills

SUCCESS STORIES

Here are just some of our success stories since our last newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed!

LEONARD UPDATE

Our ex CP tabby cross Bengal DSH 'Leonard' is now two and a half years and is thriving, especially as he now has a playmate. Leonard of course was miraculously saved by the CP in the spring of 2015, following the discovery of a congenital heart defect which was operated on. We have also 'rescued' Sienna another tabby Bengal cross kitten this year (now approaching six months of age). Leonard now plays vigorously with Sienna, just as he always wanted to play with our other older less responsive Ragdoll 'Sabrina', when Leonard was still a kitten. He's great fun to have around and is the friendliest ever cat allowing lots of cuddles and playful interaction. He fills the gap along with Sienna and Sabrina which our boys Thomas and Philip left when they went to university. Sienna loves Leonard and it's just a whirl of tabby fur as these best of friends play endlessly with each other, Sienna ambushing Leonard, who then trots after her and gives her the same treatment. After half an hour of this, they can often be found snuggled up with each other.

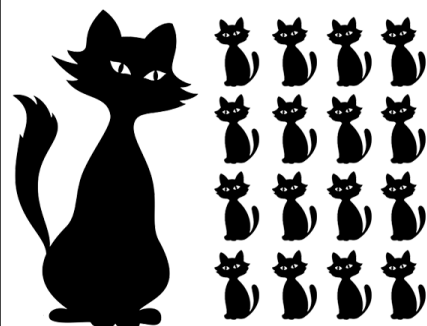
In April 2016 when Leonard was about a year old, he went very lame on his left fore leg unexpectedly. He was not unwell and had no wounds and so we sent him to see the same orthopaedic vet David who operated on his heart in the spring of 2015 - and as he couldn't find anything specifically wrong returned him to Mark for further evaluation.

It was then that the penny dropped and that Mark realised he might be suffering from a blood clot due to his heart and sure enough his left front paw was cold compared to his right front paw. Immediate ultrasound proved he had the remnants of a clot in his heart and a treatment for blood clots was prescribed. He spontaneously recovered in a few days and has to remain on treatment for life to discourage recurrence of a blood clot.

Leonard was therefore lucky again that we all cottoned on fast enough between us and saw the remaining blood clot in his heart. Otherwise without a heart scan, his natural recovery would have masked his need for a treatment for life. His first lucky break of course, came when Pauline (CP welfare officer) found his mum and two other kittens in a shed in Woking in the spring of 2015 and insisted on having the third missing kitten 'Leonard' handed over.



(Mark and Ros Oakley)



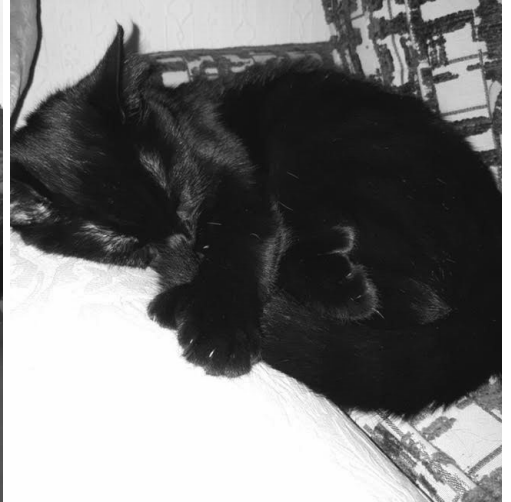
CATS CAN'T ADD...
...BUT THEY CAN MULTIPLY!

NEUTERING HELPLINE

01483 721700 (Mailbox 4)

FIZZY

We adopted Fizzy in June when she was just 11 weeks old. We had said goodbye to our Tomtoms in December 2015 after a short battle with cancer, and felt the time was right to give all our love to a new feline family member. We are so happy we made the right decision. She has completely melted our hearts, made us laugh, and love her entirely. She was very nervous at first but has turned into a beautiful, loving and mischievous kitten. She has the cutest thumbs and gorgeous eyes that make her even more adorable. Thank you so much to Woking Cats Protection for giving us our little blessing.



Thanks Sarah and the Crown Pub in Knaphill for your continued support, not only by giving one of our cats a lovely home but for donating a prize for our Xmas Fayre Raffle and also raising £57.77 in a collection tin.

MITCH

When we saw a picture of Mitch on the cat's protection website in January this year, we knew immediately that we wanted him! After a visit to meet him at Mary's, his foster house, Pauline and Mary brought Mitch to us on Friday 13th February. I have to admit we were a little nervous. We had never had a cat before and we really wanted Mitch to enjoy living with us.

Here we are and 10 months down the line and Mitch is just one of the family! It didn't take him too long to get to know us, even my 2 sons who are 9 and 11 who can be a little rowdy for him. The boys love him, especially when he comes and sits beside them when they are watching TV.

Mitch really comes to life at night. He will sit on our knee to be stroked until we go to bed and then he comes to life. We keep our bedroom window open and he loves to sit on our roof and watch all the animals – although I think he is still more afraid of them! I think he feels safe sitting up high.

When we come home, he can hear the car pulling into the drive and he is always at the door to greet us. We put a cat flap in to allow him more independence but he can't quite get the hang of pushing his nose to open it so we have left it for now and he just meow's when he wants out.

Everyone one who visits us thinks Mitch is the most beautiful cat they have seen. We think so and I am sure you will think so too!

(Lorna Richards)



Mitch was originally owned by Janice, a long term fosterer of ours who sadly died in Nov 2016. I'm sure Janice will be looking down with a smile, knowing Mitch has settled well into his new home.

JOEY

At the beginning of May a call came through to us from a lady in Ottershaw, informing us of 7 feral cats that were living on her land. A couple of them (Joey being one of them) had been there for a few years and she just used to feed them - they weren't a problem until she realised numbers were increasing!

Pauline decided to visit straightaway to assess the situation before it got any worse. During that visit, four were trapped, neutered and returned, as they were totally unhandleable. The remaining three (of which Joey was one), have since been rehomed.

When Joey was brought into care, he was in poor bodily condition, dirty and with a large abscess on his ear. Following treatment by Lynton House Vets and a lot of loving care from his fosterer Kim he was put up for adoption.

However, during Joey's treatment it was discovered he was FIV positive, which made homing him a little more difficult due to the special conditions with which he had to be kept.

My partner and I already owned a FIV positive cat, Shrodinger, and were looking for a playmate for him—so we approached Cats Protection and after some lengthy phone calls and a visit to assess our suitability for a cat with special needs, we went to visit Joey. The rest, as they say, is history. We instantly fell in love with him, and he with us (albeit with some bribery due to the packet of Dreamies I had in my pocket!). He came home with us the same day.

Being self-employed and working from home, I can give Joey my undivided attention. There isn't a day that I'm working on one of my client's publications and he's not sitting beside me on his little perch, or curled up in a ball on my desk with his head resting on my mouse hand.

In fact, nowhere is safe (or sacred) from his attentions or curiosity. Whether I'm falling asleep and he's climbing onto my shoulder re-arranging my hair, or staring at me whilst I'm trying to have a bath—he's always there, like a second shadow.

Before I paint him in a completely angelic light, he does have one not so endearing trait. Joey is a drooler. The more he is stroked, the more relaxed he becomes. The more relaxed he becomes, the more he drools. I won't elaborate more, but when he shakes his head, it's not pleasant! When I queried this with my vet, I was told that a small (but significant) percentage of cats drool in response to positive stimulation. I had no idea—so you learn something new every day.

Working with Joey to bring out his confidence and playful side has been so rewarding. New toys are something exciting, and to be chased around the house. When the doorbell rings, he runs to his little perch on the windowsill to see who it is – rather than hiding under the sofa. When Kim came to see me the other day with Pauline, I think she was surprised and extremely happy at how chilled out and confident he was.

If anyone is put off at the prospect of homing a cat that has been living a feral lifestyle or suffers with FIV—don't be. Obviously sensible concessions have to be made by keeping the cat indoors or keeping a closer eye on their general health than a non FIV positive cat, but a FIV positive cat need not have a shortened life expectancy.

Every cat deserves to have a long, happy and healthy life, and although I've only had him for 6 months, I couldn't dream of being without my 6Kg, drooling, strangely handsome great lump of a cat—with his chipped teeth and slightly moth-eaten ears.

In the next edition of Felis Catus, you will get to read the success stories of Buddy, Mimi and Bandit (Oscar) - other difficult to home cats, who have FIV.

Jason Sells (Newsletter Editor)



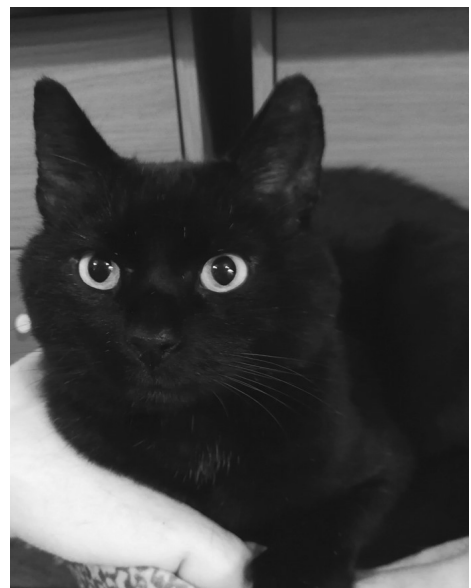
ABOVE

Joey, when he was brought into Cats Protection. Dirty, in poor bodily condition, and with a large abscess on his ear



BELOW

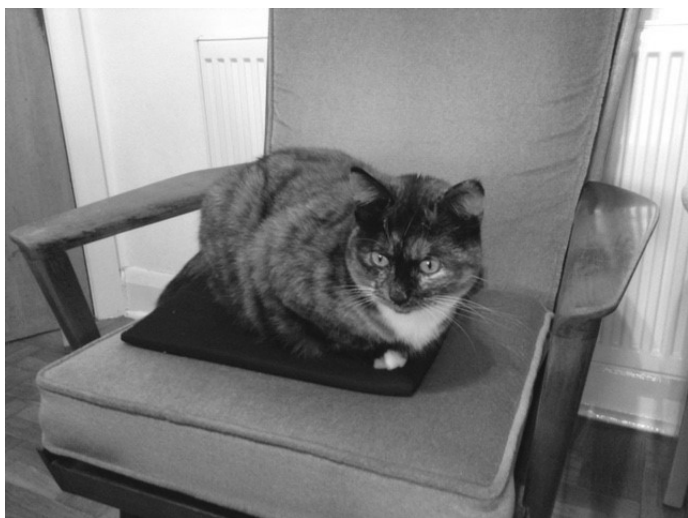
Bright-eyed, soft coat and absolutely spoilt rotten



TINKERBELLE

Thanks to Cats Protection 3 year old Tinkerbelle moved into her new home with Alexandra & Rupert on 4th September. Previously she was in a foster home and had been kept indoors for 6 months but at the end of September she was allowed out into her new garden in New Haw.

She is clearly making up for lost time as in the last 2 days she has dragged in through the cat flap a mouse and a pigeon! She is obviously relishing her new found freedom. Tinks or 'Twinkletoes' as we call her is an absolute delight to have around. She has a quirky personality and is very cuddly and affectionate - but on her terms. We have totally fallen in love with her.



She is eating and drinking well and using the litter tray and scratching post. We have had lots of fun and games with her already involving shoe laces and a laser light amongst other things!

Tinkerbelle has selected her favourite chair in the sitting room and loves to cuddle up with us on the bed at night - when she's finished her hunting trip of course! We are looking forward to many more special times with Tinkerbelle because she gives us so much pleasure and hope she would think the same about us!

Thank you Cats Protection - if it wasn't for you & Pauline Welch we wouldn't have met such a lovely cat.

(Alexandra Toomey)

DID YOU KNOW...?

Cats in need of food will make an urgent cry or meowing sound in the 220 to 520-hertz frequency.

Babies also cry in this frequency range (usually between 300 and 600 hertz). This is why humans find a hungry cat difficult to ignore.

TILLIE

We decided to adopt another cat after losing our two in the past two years. Our intention to begin with was to look for either one or two kittens, but decided that could be a little too much excitement.

We checked various charities and eventually spotted a cat on the Woking Cats Protection website which appealed to us. Unfortunately this cat was spoken for a few hours earlier, so we were asked if we were interested in Tillie, a 2 year old female tabby, and so made arrangements to visit her at the foster home.

Pauline met us there and took us upstairs to introduce us to a rather timid cat, who looked at us from behind a settee and then promptly disappeared downstairs. Obviously we didn't impress her! Eventually, with some treats from Pauline she came back upstairs and settled down looking out of the window allowing us to stroke her, at that point we decided that she was rather cute and offered her a home, we firmly believe she chose us as well.



Tillie became part of our family at the beginning of April, Pauline brought her across one Monday morning and settled her in a bedroom, advising us of what to do and how to cope with her. Tillie had no intentions of staying put and by that evening was roaming the kitchen and making herself at home. She was quite timid and was not too keen on being picked up but enjoyed playing with a ping pong ball and her "toys". This changed over the month and when we let her out she was in her element, exploring everywhere, disappearing over fences and arguing with the neighbourhood cats, firmly telling everyone she was in charge of her own garden.

Tillie is now a very confident cat, thoroughly spoilt (especially at 4 a.m. when it's breakfast!) but still does not want to use the cat flap unless secured open. (We are getting there – slowly). Pauline continues to be at the end of the phone if we have any queries. A big thank you to Cats Protection for rescuing Tillie to begin with and allowing us to adopt her. She is a beautiful cat with a will of her own and we wouldn't change her for the world (possibly at 4 a.m.!).

(Celia Dickinson)

SYLVIA

Sylvia is a cheeky monkey,
You play, she follows, she loves a game,
Like a ball she curls up on our laps,
Very gently her meow goes,
I very much love my cat,
And I think she loves me too,

My cat sadly lost a leg when she was little,
You would not guess because the vets did an amazing job,

Cats do not normally like water,
Although Sylvia loves to splash and plunge,
These things are what makes Sylvia great.

By Millie Pearson (Age 9)



SYLVIA'S STORY

Sylvia was brought into a local vets on Tuesday 1st August 2017 after sadly being run over. After being x-rayed and assessed by a vet, Sylvia's owner was presented with various options. At this point, Sylvia was signed over to the care of the vets and we were contacted to see if we could help. As the break to her leg was so severe, it was decided that it would be in her best interests to amputate her leg.

The branch decided to fund Sylvia's operation at a cost of £500 and raised money to fund this via a Just Giving page.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wokingcatsprotection

All our funds donated via Just Giving are used to support cats in the local area and all donations enable us to continue the work that we do to help cats like Sylvia in their time of need.

A big thank you to everyone who made donations towards Sylvia's operation. We'd like to especially thank Lynton House Vets for their outstanding assistance and care in getting Sylvia up and about again.

In total £610 plus £133.75 gift aid was raised

As you can see, Sylvia is now in her lovely new home and is doing really well. Another happy ending!

SMOKEY

Smokey has well and truly settled into her forever home now. She arrived on Boxing Day 2017... very nervous and very unsure.... and now she has transformed into a very loving girl. She loves lots of attention and follows us around the house and garden, curious as to what is going on, and very excited when food is involved. She likes to sit in the garden watching the bees and the butterflies on the flowers.

She has got very good at 'Cat-ball': (chasing ping pong balls around the lounge) Just recently, she has started to sit on my lap and enjoy a cuddle, something we thought might never happen.

She is a real pleasure to have around and we love her very much.

(Isabelle Bean)



Smokey is the mother of Sid. We re-homed them separately so they could both have individual attention.

SID

Hi Pauline,

Better late than never, here are some photos of Sid. He is now 9 days free of the steroids and so far so good there has been no itching or scratching, so hopefully it was just a one off reaction to something this summer.

Sid has been going outside since about March time, he just stays in the garden playing in the grass and catching flies! He doesn't attempt to jump up the fence, we still think that perhaps he doesn't know how to jump, he just uses furniture as stepping stones.

He seems happy in the garden though and comes in when we whistle (or rustle the treat bag). We keep him in at night and he sleeps all night, sometimes on our bed or on the landing between our son's bedrooms. Sid has settled really well. We totally adore him.

He's such a softie, and still not so keen on being held / carried. He doesn't seem to see it as a nice thing at all - more that it is just something to endure! He always wants to be around us and have company and be stroked, which is wonderful.

He's very playful and still loves his chicken toy! We do love how he finds the fun & play in everything, such a character. I do think it's amazing that he had such a hard start in life but he has such a gentle soft temperament, and still so trusting.

(Alison, Dan, Ethan & Harry)





OLIVE

We have had Olive for just over one year. We called her Olive as it's the colour of her fluffy tummy—dark brown like kalamata olives. She is quite timid with strangers but very confident at home.

She has no eardrums and is therefore practically deaf. As such she finds new people moving around the house quite stressful, particularly in more narrow spaces, as it's unpredictable for her. She is not very athletic either, as the damage to her ears has probably affected her balance, but on the plus side she's not bothered at all by fireworks or the vacuum.

Her favourite things are cuddles, she can't get enough and she also loves watching the world go by out of the bedroom window - we call this "cat tv". She's very nosy and loves monitoring all the activity on the street outside!

We like playing with her, and brushing her long hair to keep her looking as handsome as ever. She sleeps at the end of our bed on her blanket. We love having her around, she is a gentle soul and an excellent companion to our family life.

(Emily and Stefan)

Olive is the mother of Bob, Milly and Molly. They were rescued from someone's back garden. Let's say that it wasn't the easiest of rescues and involved a tiny wendy house and a super sized WO. We'll leave the rest to your imagination!

BOB

Pauline from Cats Protection gave me a little kitten who I named Bob. When I got him he was small and cute. He was shy but everyday before school I picked him up, gave him a hug and I said, "see you later Bob".

When I come home I shout "Bob"! He comes running to me. Bob is 1 years old now and he follows me everywhere. He waits outside my bedroom until I get up. I have taught him to high five and to roll on his side to be brushed.

He doesn't go outside in the garden much but my mum says he is waiting for me to go out there.

Thank you Pauline for my friend Bob (Bob Bobalicious Spidercat Payne for short)

Love from Olivia

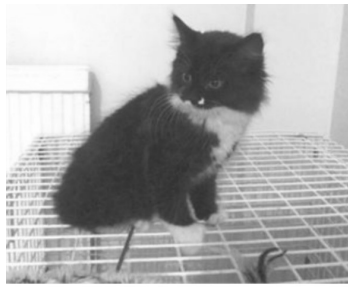
Aged 9



A YEAR WITH PROSECCO KITTENS MILLY AND MOLLY

NOVEMBER 2016

Our story begins last November when our beloved cat Poppet had passed over the rainbow bridge earlier in the summer and we were heart broken. We said we needed time but around Halloween/Bonfire Night we were looking online and saw two darling kittens on the CP Woking website - 'Milly and Molly'. We umm'ed and ahh'ed, and consulted family and friends what to do. The consensus of opinion was that these rescue kittens needed a family and we were the lucky ones they chose. The following pictures chart their year of settling in and how they have, in fact, rescued us. We'll always be grateful to Cats Protection for letting us have the girls and we are thrilled they're part of our family. They make us laugh, they're full of fun and they will always be our little prosecco kittens.



Milly and Molly **Reserved**



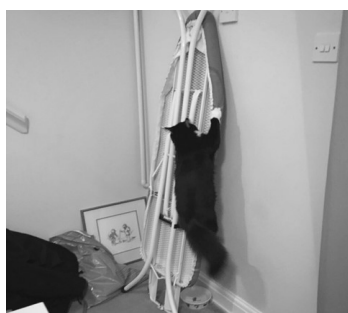
DECEMBER

December brought Christmas excitement. Received wisdom advises that you put your tree up a week or so before you decorate so your kittens get used to it. Well that worked !?!?!



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

After partying hard at New Year (which is where they got their nickname), the girls resolved to help around the house with chores - stopping along the way to wish friends and family happy Valentines Day.



MAY

May bought with it a trip to the National Pet Show where the girls got lots of presents, bandanas and bows - and their very first bottle of pawsecco!



JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

The girls decided to do a spot of amateur dramatics, wished American friends happy 4th of July and celebrated their own (and brother Bob's) first birthday



SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

So here we are in Autumn which sees the girls helping put the garden to bed, have some lazy days relaxing by the fire, and getting ready for Halloween. The year has flown by but we've had fun and laughter and we're so glad these two cheeky kittens joined our family. Here's to more fun next year!



As a postscript, Milly and Molly's Halloween picture was entered into a competition on Twitter which was judged by Gladstone the Treasury cat...they WON – not bad for rescue kittens!



Gladstone @Tre... · 01/11/2017

And the winning photo is of Milly and Molly. A fabulous achievement to get two cats in Halloween scarfs @tjd19 How cute are these two?



39

80

614



Gladstone @Tre... · 01/11/2017

(Timandra & Sue)

TROY & TOBY UPDATE

We are pleased to report that Troy is in good health! If you remember from previous articles he had a tumour in his ear that was removed about 2 years ago. Since then he has been doing very well and has had no signs of recurrence. He generally eats well, enjoys lounging around in our garden particularly in the summer sun, and appreciates some lap time relaxation with scratches. We do try to encourage him to be active and even with some food related persuasion he is still a bit lazy, although he may disagree!

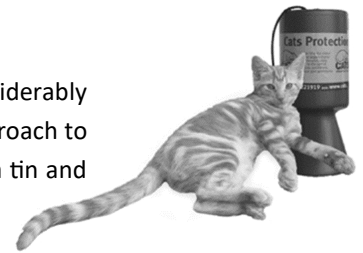
A few months ago, there has been the arrival of a new friend for Troy! This is a black and white cat named Toby. He also is a rescue cat who was found stray and injured that needed a good home. He too loves the attention and affection, but is very much controlled by his tummy, gobbling up any food offered and licks his bowl clean!

Troy and Toby have been taking their time to get 'acquainted' with each other. We shall let you know how they get along in future updates!
(Csilla Yeoh)



COLLECTION TINS

Cats Protection collecting tins are a great way to increase our profile, and can also help considerably with the raising of funds. If you know of a shop, pub, club or public place that we could approach to have one of our tins, please let us know. If you could take on the responsibility of placing a tin and collecting it when full, that would be even better!



Need to talk to someone?

If you're experiencing the loss of a pet you can talk to us. Our volunteer listeners can provide you with emotional support and practical information at this difficult time.

Please get in touch, we're here and ready to listen:

t: 0800 024 9494 (9-5, Mon-Fri) free & confidential
w: www.cats.org.uk/grief

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)





Be there for cats by becoming a
volunteer co-ordinator

VACANCY FOR A VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

A bit about this role

At Cats Protection we help thousands of cats and kittens each year thanks to our dedicated and passionate volunteer groups. We have over 250 branches across the UK, all of which help our feline friends in different ways. Branches take in stray and abandoned cats and ensure they receive the veterinary care and attention they deserve, help raise funds, promote neutering and help spread cat welfare messages. Our volunteer co-ordinators lead their local team by supporting and managing volunteers within their group, maintaining communications with both volunteers and staff, and helping promote a positive and professional image of Cats Protection.

What can you expect to be doing?

- Liaising with your Regional Development Manager (RDM) to plan activity
- Making sure the team observes charity best practice and compliance
- Leading the team to follow Cats Protection's policies, procedures and guidelines
- Supporting and guiding other volunteers in their roles

What are the benefits to you and the cats?

You will develop new skills, expand your knowledge and make a real contribution to improving the lives of cats and kittens in your local area by supporting a dedicated and passionate volunteer group. You will meet new people, make new friendships and be part of a dedicated team of volunteers.

We are looking for someone with

- Strong interpersonal, leadership and people management skills
- Experience of promoting a positive team environment
- Confidence and experience of ensuring policies, procedures and processes are met
- Good communication skills with individuals and groups at all levels
- Organisational skills and the ability to prioritise and delegate
- Ability to think and plan ahead
- Good IT skills

Time expectation

Our co-ordinators usually spend 10 to 15 hours per week in this role, which is flexible and can be shared by more than one volunteer if needed. There will be times of year when more hours are required, such as towards the end of the financial year, but support and guidance are always available.

Additional information

At Cats Protection we believe our volunteers should be happy and confident in their roles. To make sure this is the case, we provide support and guidance both remotely from our National Cat Centre and face to face through our regional and local volunteer groups and teams. We also offer varied online and face to face training and have wide-ranging policies covering all aspects of volunteering. We hope the support we provide will ensure our volunteers have a great experience with Cats Protection.

Contact Details:

BSUEE
bsuee@cats.org.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FOSTER A CAT?

Being a fosterer at Woking Cats Protection is a key role but equally one of the most rewarding! It does require a substantial time commitment and you will need to be able to spend 2-3 hours a day with the cats in your care.

You will need to be able to provide temporary accommodation for the cats in our care, either in a suitably adapted room in your home, or by the installation of approved Cats Protection pens in your garden. These can be either single or double pens and is by mutual agreement with us and you.

You will need to ensure the accommodation and equipment is kept clean, along with feeding, grooming and socialising the cats. You may also need to administer flea and worming treatment and on occasions prescribed medications. You will be responsible for taking the cats to the vets for any treatment they may need and/or for their check ups.

Free access to the cats is essential for our Welfare Officer and any other designated member of the welfare team. You will also need to provide photographs and updates on the cats to our Homing Officer and Social Media Editor, so we can keep the details on the website and Facebook pages updated.

Our Homing Officer speaks to any prospective adopters and will ask you to contact them to arrange a viewing. The adopters will need to come and meet the cats with you present. We want to find loving homes for all our cats and your opinions are vital to ensuring we find the right home for the right cat.

Being a kitten fosterer

This is an extremely hands on role but immensely rewarding. Some of our kittens are born in our care and you will be responsible for helping the queen take care of them. This role requires a lot of patience but it is a very special opportunity for the right person. Kittens require a lot of socialising, so you must be able to spend a considerable amount of time on a daily basis with them.

What do you need to be a fosterer?

- * Time commitment
- * Basic knowledge of cats and cat care hygiene standards
- * Ability to use a computer and email
- * Have your own transport
- * Be over 18 years old

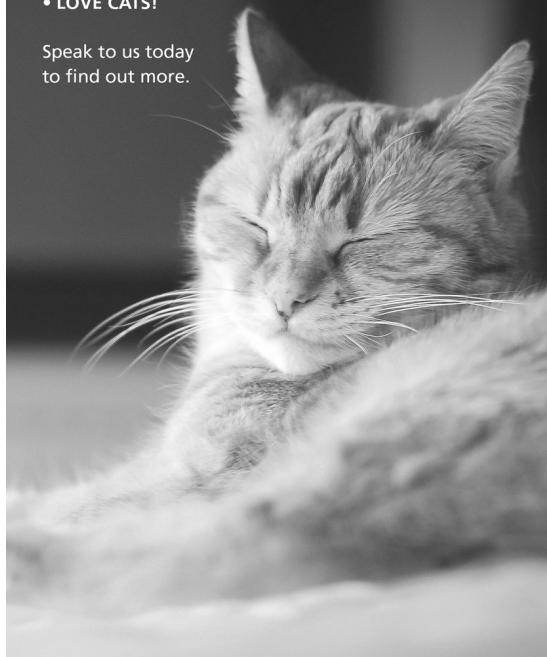
Fosterers are fabulous

Our volunteer fosterers provide a safe haven for our cats until we have found them their new forever homes.

Fosterers are very special, is this you?

- Live in Woking or surrounding areas
- Have access to a car
- Have a spare room
- Or garden space for a pen
- Have good interpersonal skills
- Enjoy being part of a team
- LOVE CATS!

Speak to us today
to find out more.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

TELEPHONE 01483 721 700 (mailbox 4)

Or email: wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com

OTHER BRANCH VACANCIES:

Fosterer cover

This vacancy involves providing cover for our existing fosterers whilst they go away on holiday etc. This is an ad hoc role, for which the duties would include:

- Feeding resident penned cats
- Cleaning out pens and litter trays
- Providing social contact and playtime with the cats.

Full training will be given. To apply for this vacancy, please contact wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com

Leaflet distributor

This vacancy involves distributing our free neutering leaflets on a door to door basis in designated areas. This is an ad hoc role, and own transport is essential.

To apply for this vacancy, please contact wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com

PETS AT HOME VIP CLUB



Since 2012, the Pets at Home VIP Club has given us vouchers every 3 months.

We can spend them in Pets at Home to buy food, toys, bedding and the vital things for the cats in our care.

It is a simple way to support us and really makes a difference.

Please nominate Woking Cats Protection when signing up for your VIP card.

VISIT www.vip.petsathome.com FOR MORE INFORMATION

The postage for each of our newsletters is kindly donated by our generous supporters in memory of their beloved cats who have passed away.

If you would like to have the next edition of the newsletter dedicated to the memory of your cat, you can make a donation of £100 to go towards the distribution costs of Felis Catus. Please contact wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com

Please note that articles that give out facts are written using the most accurate information available at the time of publishing. Also, views expressed are individual and not necessarily the view or policy of the charity and its supporters. We cannot be held responsible for any incorrect information inadvertently published. Charity Number 203644/SC037711



LYNTON HOUSE
veterinary group

EXCITING NEWS FOR
WOKING!

WE'RE BUILDING OUR NEW
'CAT FRIENDLY' PRACTICE
WITH SPECIAL CAT WAITING
AREA AND CONSULT ROOM.

DUE TO OPEN IN 2018.
INTERESTED TO KNOW
MORE, GET IN TOUCH...
info@lyntonhousevets.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL FAMILY VETS

HERE AT LYNTON HOUSE GROUP, WE KNOW JUST HOW SPECIAL
AND UNIQUE CATS ARE. WHATEVER YOUR FURRY FELINE FRIEND NEEDS,
YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THEY WILL BE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE HANDS.

LYNTON HOUSE VETERINARY GROUP

Lynton House
Veterinary Centre
Victoria Road
Woking, Surrey
GU22 7PP
Tel: 01483 761096

Windlebrook
Veterinary Clinic
46 High Street
Bagshot, Surrey
GU19 5AW
Tel: 01276 473516

Spinney Hill
Veterinary Centre
136 Spinney Hill
Addlestone, Surrey
KT15 1BB
Tel: 01932 853991



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www.lyntonhousevets.co.uk