



Charity Number
203644/SC037111

FELIS CATUS

NEWSLETTER OF WOKING & DISTRICT CATS PROTECTION ~ OCTOBER 2015

Featured Felines

Inside this issue:

- Direct Homing - A Great Success
- Philip & Debbie - Love's Miracles
- Reasons to Microchip
- 2016 ~ Diary Dates



Kitty



Gizmo & Alex



Sammy



Kimi



Charlie



Lucy



Lloyd



Jessie & Woody



Troy



Peppa



★ Phillip



Eddie



Pickle



Fluffy



Buzz & Woody



Mini



Faith



Special Feature
The Wonderful Leonard



Jasper

The postage for this newsletter has been kindly donated by Fiona Bishop IMO of George.



Definite Date for Your Diaries
Saturday 28 February 2016
Branch 4th Quiz Night
BOOK EARLY to AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Editor's Paws



Hello and welcome to our October 2015 edition of Felis Catus. We have pages packed with wonderful articles, news and advice. My Star Story is Philip and we have a **very special feature on Leonard**. Check out the article on Direct Homing and do get all our 2016 dates fixed in your diaries. NB: Our Xmas Fayre is in a new venue and at different times next year. The tickets for our February 27th 2016, 4th annual quiz night will be on sale from 1st December 2015. Don't leave it too late to book your table, this year we sold out!

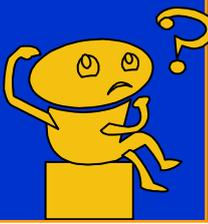
This year we have been blessed to have some wonderful new volunteers join our teams and there are more who will be joining us soon. I would like to produce a film about us next year and would love to hear from anyone with media/film making skills who could help with this. It would be a brilliant project for a media student....do you know anyone? Please ask them to get in touch with me: cats@mjmorgan.plus.com

Microchip, microchip, microchip, neuter, neuter, neuter! This cannot be emphasised enough and I am sure all our members and supporters have responsibly had their cats done. However, time and time again we come across problems that would have been completely avoided, if the cat/s had been both microchipped and neutered. At the very least it could have secured a speedier & happy homecoming of a beloved lost pet and at the very worst, we would not be attending multi cat households or rescuing kittens that are having kittens or desperate and forlorn females that have been subjected to having litter after litter. Sometimes, this is done purely to make money, with no proper care or concern for the cats. We cannot emphasise enough that buying kittens on line from unregulated individuals can be a recipe for heartbreak for the purchaser and at worst illness and even death for the kittens. Please help us stamp this awful activity out, we are overrun with unwanted cats and kittens. Don't buy kittens from Gumtree/Face Book or anyone who is not properly regulated or part of a registered Charity, where you can be assured that the animals have been well cared for and received full health checks, and if old enough been microchipped and neutered. We will also be there to offer continued support, should it be needed, while settling your new furry family member/s in. I have decided not to include an index this time and leave it for you to browse and dip, all our featured feline authors...what page is your cat on? Our next Felis Catus will be issued in March 2016, membership renewals will be moved from the usual January to March.

Best Wishes

Mary ~ Branch Co-ordinator & Newsletter Editor

Woking & District Cats Protection 2016 ~ Calendar of Events

January	February	March	April	May	June
No Events	Saturday 27 7.30pm to 10.30pm Annual Quiz Night New Haw Community Centre New Haw	Saturday 19 10am to 1pm Spring Fayre Brook Hall Ottershaw	No Events at the moment	Monday 2 11am to 4pm Chobham Village Carnival Chobham Village	Saturday 11 12pm to 5pm Shepperton Fayre Village Green Shepperton Sunday 28 1.30pm to 5pm Strawberry Fayre Village Green Bisley
 <p>Get booked early for our ever popular annual quiz. Last year we sold out! Bring your friends!</p>					
July	August	September	October	November	December
Garden Party TBC	No Events	Sunday 4 11am to 5pm RSPCA Gala Day Millbrook Animal Centre, Chobham	Saturday 29 11am - 2pm <u>NB: NEW VENUE & TIMES</u> Xmas Fayre New Haw Community Centre New Haw	No Events	No Events

QUIZ TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FROM 1ST DECEMBER 2015

Tables of 6 @ £8 per person, available from: **The Treasurer, 12 Golf Close, Woking Surrey, GU22 8PE**

Cheques payable to **Woking Cats Protection** ~ Please remember to enclose an SAE for us to post your tickets to you.

Kitty's Blog ~ (With a Little help from Ruth Lighton)

'No More Animals' were the words uttered to my son as he headed off to University.

He had left me to look after his Gecko and a 19 year old Goldfish! But now things have changed. A kitten arrived in our garden late one night. It was very timid and looked bedraggled. It wouldn't let anyone get close to it. Any sudden noise and it ran away. It kept visiting us on a regular basis. We began to look out for it coming under or over the fence.

The more it visited the more concerned we became and after reading the advice on the Woking Cats Protection Website gave her a small amount of food and water in an evening. She was not a playful cat. She appeared to be scared and was very timid but bit by bit she introduced herself to the house finding places to hide and sleep.

Speaking to the volunteers at Woking Cats Protection was a great help and support. They were able to guide and help us make a decision about what the best thing for the kitten's welfare would be. It had come to the point that she had made herself at home and we had all become very fond of her despite my son being allergic to cats.

We made a family decision that we could provide this kitten with a permanent home. Woking Cats Protection guided and helped financially with the recommended vet procedures. Kitten became known officially as 'Kitty' and has settled so well into the house. She chooses her 'places' and makes it clear to us all when we sit in her favourite chair! We have spent hours watching and learning about her. Her character has developed, she slowly overcame being timid and is now more confident around people and she has a sweet nature. We don't even seem to mind being woken early in the morning with her gentle meow or hearing her tearing up and down the staircase. She brings a smile to all our faces. How lucky we are that she arrived on our doorstep. What a magnificent additional member to our household.

We cannot thank Woking Cats Protection and their volunteers enough for all their help.

But - 'No More Pets!'

Old Enough IS Good Enough

(Sammy & Kimi Part 2)

By Julie Taylor

Cats have always been part of my life and over the years I've been fortunate to have had five of them share my home and been devastated when each of them sadly passed away. When we lost our two boys last year (mature 12yrs olds which we also adopted from Cats Protection) my husband and I decided that now was the right time to adopt again. I was straight onto Woking Cats Protection website and although we were looking for one cat, I found two – a male Bengal called Kimi and a white/tortie female called Samantha (Sammy for short) – who were brought up together and clearly had to be re-homed together! So with excitement I went over to their owner Don's house to meet them. Don explained that he had asked Woking Cats Protection to find some adoptive parents as he was looking to re-locate back to Australia and was worried at the prospect of taking two 14 year olds with him. As soon as I got there, Kimi and Sammy came over to me – Kimi being a Bengal was very inquisitive and asked me lots of questions about where he was going to sleep and what he was going to have for tea! Sammy was a bit shy at first but when she saw how much her brother had taken to me, she rolled over and let me tickle her tummy. I was hooked there and then.

I'd never had a Bengal before and wasn't quite sure how

Kimi would settle – but I needn't have worried. He is very talkative and likes lots of conversation. He is also a very clever cat and very obedient to the point you could almost train him, even coming to you when you call him. Sammy is a bit more reserved but is not shy at coming forward when it comes to snuggles. She is a real company cat and has a very sweet nature.

Kimi and Sammy have been with us since March, when we first got them, they would sleep together – Kimi being much larger than Sammy squashing her against the sides – quite sweet. After a few days though they got the hang of it and it wasn't long before they both started bossing us about! Particularly in the evening when they each get a 'fish supper' before bedtime. We are really glad we adopted them – I can't bear to think of them cooped up in a strange environment after all these years together in a loving home waiting for someone to come by and take a shine to them – or even worse being separated. It is so rewarding adopting mature cats, they get so easily overlooked in favour of the younger ones but they are so easily integrated into the family and are just looking for some peace and quiet in their retirement.

My plea for anyone looking to adopt, please consider the older ones – they have so much to give and are very rewarding.

Jenny's Job is Happily Homing

Q. How long have you been a volunteer for Woking & District Cats Protection?

A. *I've been a volunteer since April 2009. First of all I was the Lost and Found Officer and I've been Homing Officer since November 2014.*

Q. How did you find out about volunteering for the branch?

A. *We adopted a little black cat from Woking CP about 20 years ago. I was so impressed with the work the branch did to help cats that I decided, when I gave up full time work, that volunteering for Woking CP was something I would like to do*

Q. What is it about cats that attracts you to them?

A. *Their independence and their individuality; no matter how many cats you have, each one has that something that says, "I'm me, this is how I am but you love me anyway, don't you". And, of course, on a purely practical note and speaking as a former dog owner, you do not have to take a cat for a walk in the pouring rain and a Force 9 gale!*

Q. What aspects of the role do you love most about being Homing Officer?

A. *Giving cats who have lost their home, through no fault of their own, a second chance. It's particularly rewarding when you speak to someone who turns out to be the perfect match for a long stay, difficult to home cat.*

Q. I am sure all the cats are special but are there any that have left a particular impression on you and why?

A. *This is a really difficult question to answer, as I've dealt with many amazing cats in my time, but if I have to choose just one it has to be Stumpy. He and his brother were rescued as tiny kittens from under a garden shed and Stumpy was found to have been born without rear paws. Did this bother him, not a bit of it. He did everything a normal kitten would do and has grown into a wonderful, happy cat, who can climb the garden fence and catch a mouse with the best of them. Inspirational.*

Q. How many cats do you have?

A. *At the moment I have 2, an elderly tabby and white boy, Bala, and a young black girl, Jessica.*

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

A. *If you love cats and want to help them, and help people at the same time, then go for it. Get in touch with us; you'll meet some lovely people and some truly fantastic cats.*



Jenny on her usual stall



The other Old Blue Eyes!

Old Blue Eyes by Nicky Mundy

We had seen Charlie on the Woking Cats Protection website. Having initially spoken to Jenny with regard to homing a cat, who was very helpful and informative and after visiting the site on a number of occasions, we decided it was time to meet Charlie.

We went to meet Alison (Charlie's foster mum), another kind and helpful lady, and were taken down her garden to Charlie's

temporary home.

The website had described Charlie as very affectionate with **lovely blue eyes**. How true that was. We were smitten straight away! By the time we had got back home we were certain he would be a lovely addition to our family.

Charlie settled in very quickly and certainly made himself at home! He has a lovely nature, quite chatty and is very handsome (everyone says so!)

He really loves his food and likes to see off any other cats that venture into the garden!

Re-homing a cat brings a feeling of doing something good for a lovely animal but really that cat brings more to you in terms of loyalty, love and affection. We wouldn't be without Charlie now!

Sammy & Kimi (part 1)

I used to live in Australia and at one time had a tabby point Siamese who was a fantastic character so when I moved to the UK I thought I'd try and find a similar type of cat. I couldn't find one locally but found a three month old Bengal boy 'Kimi' whose new owner sadly couldn't take him as their house purchase fell through. Shortly after I also adopted a three month old tortoise shell moggy girl Samantha (Sammy) from Woking Cats Protection with the idea they could keep each other company while I was out at work during the day.



The family pecking order had to be established as Kimi soon tried to do the typical Bengal bossy boots trick but he soon learned I was boss cat. Sammy was quite happy to leave him to do his thing although if he got too frisky she'd still give him a quick bat with her paw. The rest of the time they'd quite happily cuddle on the bed. I think it helped getting them both at the same time as kittens.

After 14 years of living in the UK the time came for me to plan a move back to Australia. Unfortunately the only quarantine facility is located in Melbourne which is the wrong side of the country from Perth, Western Australia. The Australian authorities have also got quite strict on the import of non-indigenous species such as cats as they prey on the small marsupials, birds etc. They prefer cats to be kept in runs or similar confined areas. I decided that it wouldn't be very kind to subject Kimi and Sammy to this experience after a life of being able to roam.

Next step was to contact Woking Cats Protection to see if they could offer any advice on re-homing older cats. They provided a range of contacts but in the end they were successful in attracting a lovely new owner Julie who has had older cats in the past (no Bengals though!) so, following a check-over by the vet, both Kimi and Sammy have a great new home and Julie has sent me a couple of photos of them relaxing in her back garden. It's great to see them settled. I miss them both but when I settle again I'll definitely be looking for some feline friends to adopt.

After this experience **I would really encourage everyone to consider adopting an older cat.** They are a lot easier to look after, even the Bengals! Hope you find this story helpful to you and everyone at Woking Cats Protection.
Kind regards,
Don Boyack

After this experience I would encourage everyone to consider adopting an older cat!

More Cake Makers Needed

Do you like baking, would you like to join our team of cake makers? We always have delicious home-made goodies at our spring & Christmas Fayres and would like a few more volunteers to help us with this. Please contact me: cats@mjmorgan.plus.com if you can help.



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

"She must have been a beautiful ~~baby~~ - kitten!"

By Kath Street

"...then opened the door and spent a lovely time running all round the house



*Dear Kim,
As you can see, I'm now called Lucy - I don't mind too much. Thank you for looking after me and for bringing me to my forever home.*

I'm hoping it will be my forever garden if Kath ever lets me out.

She is quite good at looking after me, but not as good as you. I don't think she's had many cats, but she's doing OK.

Thank you for telling her how I like my food; no more morning sickness - that caused a bit of a worry for a day or two.

Kath has made a couple of

mistakes, but I think I can train her. She didn't realise that I can open doors, so I waited until the early hours of the morning, then opened the door and spent a lovely time running all round the house with my mouse. I also went charging up the stairs, but I'm not supposed to go there. It was great fun. Unfortunately I left the door open & mouse in the hall so she knew what I'd been up to!!

She's changed the lock some how, so now I can't get out. I have to wait until she's ready to give me my breakfast.

There are lots of new noises here

including a very noisy lawn mower that I didn't like this morning.

I love rubbing my head on Kath's flip flops and I have been known to sit on her lap when I feel like it.

Well, time for another groom, so I must go now.

Once again thank you for looking after me and bringing me here.

Love from

Lucy (purr, purr)

P.S Do you like my latest photo? I am a pretty girl!

Cuddles for Peppa ~ Insects for Lloyd

We'd heard about the Easter Bunny, but the Easter Kitties were a treat we weren't expecting!

After several months of searching for the ideal cats to join our lively family, we were lucky enough to stumble across Pauline at a Woking Cats Protection fayre. At last! - Someone who believed that a home with young children could be just what two very calm pussy cats crying out for some love and play could need. So, on a slightly rainy Easter Monday, we were lucky enough to adopt Mummy cat, Hazel, and her fluffy son, Peanut. Thanks to some rather avid fans of Peppa Pig and Lego here, our new arrivals were quickly re-christened Peppa and Lloyd (after the Lego Golden Ninja...it's a long story!) and

we settled them into their own bedroom.

Peppa was brave and affectionate from the beginning; venturing out from under the bed for tickles and play. Lloyd was more cautious at first; scampering out for a quick stroke and snack before disappearing behind Mum again. A few days and toilet hiccups later, Peppa and Lloyd confidently strode out to explore the rest of the house; excited by the vast playground that was their new home and in awe of the garden that lay beyond the kitchen window! It wasn't long before they took their first tentative steps outside to play with the children in the garden (and the bees, balls, flowers...in fact anything bright and moving!).

Fast forward a month or so and it's like they've always been here. Peppa is more of a home bird, spending most of the day sleeping, cuddling and following us around, including half of the school run one day! Lloyd is a classic boy; loves being outside, chasing insects and eating.

It's not a bad life being a cat.

By Vicky Davies



Cuddles with Peppa

HALSTEAD SCHOOL is COOL!
A very special thank you goes to the pupils of **Strachan House** for their wonderful and fantastic donation of **£171.06** raised in their Christmas and Summer Fairs and a cookie bake sale.

Dear Mary,

I have spoken to Pauline this week and she said that you both would welcome some photos and an update on Troy. I am attaching some very cute photos - he is so adorable! He certainly knows how to look cute while snoozing the day away.

Unfortunately, since we had to start off with applying ointment in his eyes, even though he is a very chilled cat, this resulted in him being a bit cautious around us. He was hiding a lot in the first week but was eating well.

I have put a lot of effort into trying to make Troy comfortable in his new home and the results are starting to show now. In the past few days there has been a very visible improvement in his mood and we are now getting into a nice routine. The mornings start with me and Troy cuddling up on the sofa downstairs for a few minutes. He is very affectionate at this time and I make sure I reward him for this with lots of strokes and chin scratches. After this I prepare his breakfast and while he eats I get ready for work. I spend as much time with him as possible in the morning to make sure he does not feel neglected. I also talk a lot to him while I do my make-up which he seems to enjoy as he usually sits there looking and says a few meows back.



“He certainly knows how to look cute while snoozing the day away.”

When I get back from work again he greets me with lots of affection and we have our second stroking session on the sofa. He keeps 'head bumping' and rubbing against me and is demanding strokes and scratches. I stay on the sofa stroking him as long as he wants it. Then we prepare for dinner with which he happily 'assists' me in the kitchen. After dinner he cuddles up to me and falls asleep while watching TV.

Night times are still a bit tricky as I can clearly see that he would want to sleep with/near us which would not be a problem. He has not ventured upstairs yet though and is unwilling to give it a go. He just sits at the bottom of the stairs meowing for me to come down to him. I can't wait until he finally ventures upstairs as I know this will eliminate his night time stress.

He is an amazing pet and I am really grateful we had the opportunity to give him a forever home. Thank you to both of you for helping with this.

Please feel free to contact me any time you would like an update and photos of him I will also happily do a success story within the next month as promised.

Troy says meow to both of you!

Best wishes,
Csilla

You Gotta Friend in Me - By Sam Smith



Gizmo and Alex, blissfully unaware 2 years ago that they would become a pair of inseparable friends!

We adopted Gizmo nearly 2 years ago and he is just perfect. We couldn't resist that gorgeous face and what we call his "dribbley" personality due to only having 1 tooth. A year later Baby Alex arrived which Gizmo was a little unsure of in fact slightly jealous and naughty around Alex. However as time went on Gizmo soon real-

ised there was room on our laps for him and baby Alex (which majority of the time we'd be giving Alex his bottle. Gizmo would put his head on our lap or on Alex's foot) and after lots of investigation he has learnt actually baby Alex is not so bad after all, in fact when Alex plays with his toys on the floor you will find Gizmo by his side.

When Alex sees Gizmo he has a big smile and having Gizmo in the room has encouraged Alex with rolling as he will see Gizmo and roll to touch him. Gizmo has always tapped our hand with his paw for fuss but with Alex it's a tap on his foot which Alex thinks is hilarious.

Everywhere Alex is you will know where Gizmo is except the nursery!

Hi Suzy, Pauline,
Thought I would give you a quick update,

Both are now firmly part of the furniture and getting along with our older cat Millie. Woody still gets the occasional whack when he invades Millie's personal space but no other issues.

Woody (aka Woodster, Woodrow) is a complete softy, always looking for a stroke and some fuss. He is also showing signs of being a house cat as he is not that bothered about going outside. He is ok at being picked up, I wouldn't say he likes it but will put up with it.

Jessie (aka Jessie J, JJ) is still full of energy and still jumps about if she gets surprised. She now likes being stroked, as long as she doesn't have to stand too close and loves being outside and chases anything that moves. My daughter can pick her up, the rest of us are still working on it. They both still love Dreamies and will take them out of your hand. Overall they have made a lot of progress but still more to do.

Andy, Clare, Katharine & Alex

Now we are two by Chris & Mark Anderson

Or more accurately, now Pickle is two. I thought you might like to see how he is getting on.

He has trained us to give him two pouches for dinner; I am monitoring his weight and he seems to be keeping it under control.

Although he can use the cat flap in both directions when Mark is in the

kitchen Pickle manages to get him to open the door for him. He loves being in the kitchen with Mark and sits on the chair watching him. But he still gets on the table at the drop of a hat so you can't leave anything uncovered or he will have it.

He is taking the fight to Tigger and is often seen over in Tigger's garden

but all they seem to do now is stare at each other.

He is a lot less "bitey" and we can go whole days unmolested. So on the whole I think he is happy and settled in.



Another Microchipping Story!

I thought you might like to read the story of Philip, the lost boy who was reunited with his owner after 12 months, almost to the day! The emails below are in reverse chronological order starting with our first request for help back in June 2014 till the day he was reunited in June 2015! It is a remarkable homecoming indeed and I hope also highlights that behind the scenes there is a huge amount of work being done by members of our fantastic volunteer teams that most of the time the public may not get to meet face to face. Had Philip not been microchipped it is 100% sure that his owners would never have seen him again. However, sadly he was not neutered, so how many kittens could he have fathered in this time! On a more positive note, Philip has now had his procreation capabilities curtailed and been neutered! For sure, he will be much less likely to wander off again now.

Sent Wednesday 4 June 2014 - 9pm

Subject: Philip – Missing Cat

Hi Catherine,

Here is another one for Facebook please. This rather handsome ginger boy is Philip, who has gone missing from Rowhurst Avenue, Addlestone. His owner last saw him on the evening of 28th May, although he was spotted by a neighbour on 1st June. However, he still hasn't come home. Philip hasn't been neutered yet, he doesn't wear a collar but he is microchipped. Can you help at all?

Jenny (Lost & Found Officer)

Sent: Monday, 15 June 2015 at 7am

Subject: Philip – Missing Cat

Hi all,

Some happy news this morning!!! Ange has been in touch on Facebook to say Philip has been found! He was handed in to a vet in Fleet. They think he has a broken leg but otherwise he's fine yay! I'm just trying to get a bit more info from her.

Catherine (Social Media Editor)

Sent on Monday 15 Jun 2015 at 10.28am

Subject: Philip – Missing Cat

That's fantastic, he's been missing for over a year! Thank God for microchips!

Jenny (Homing Officer)

Sent on Monday 15 Jun 2015 at 19:01pm

Subject: Philip – Missing Cat

OMG! That is so amazing. This is such an amazing story. If only they could talk and tell us what happened.

Sarah (Lost Cats Helpline)

Sent on Monday 15 June 2015 at 8.23pm

Subject: Philip - Missing Cat

Missing for over a year, Addlestone to Fleet, this is extraordinary! I would like to create an article on this but will need help, from the owners and those of our team who have been directly involved please. Where has this boy been, we will never know?

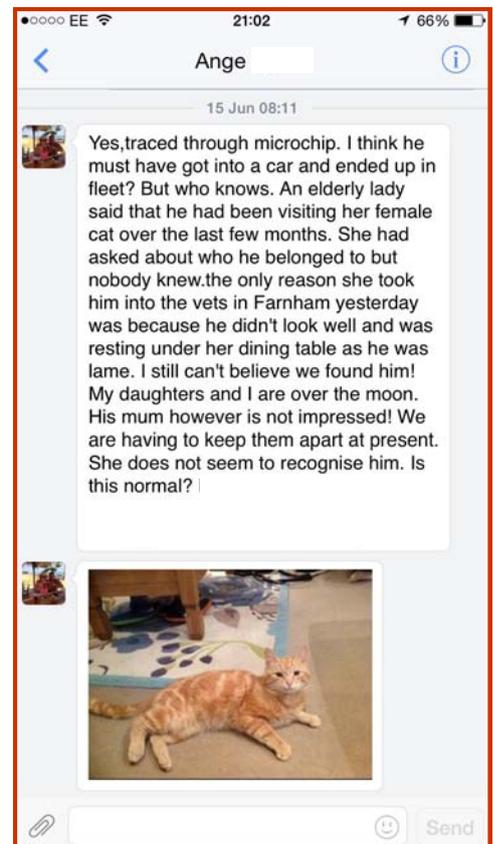
Mary (Branch Co-ordinator)

Sent on Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 11.30am

Subject: Philip – Missing Cat

Philip was one of mine. Not much to tell you really; Ange reported him missing, I gave the usual advice and got him on the website and Facebook. There were a couple of possible sightings that she followed up but they came to nothing. As Sarah says, pity they can't talk, we'll never know what happened to him.

Jenny (Homing Officer)



XMAS FAYRE 2015

It won't be Ho, Ho, Ho if you miss our fabulous festive fayre on:

**SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER,
10am to 1pm at Brook Hall
Ottershaw!**



We have some ghoulish treats in store for you, be afraid, be very afraid....for Halloween is the time for black cats, witches and Pecan Pie!

We look forward to seeing you all.

Every day, we see little miracles happening, both for cats and for people. Our volunteer teams make this happen, time after time after time. Then, on occasion, along comes a feline that takes things to a different level. Leonard, is one such young man! Here is his story. His little heart has touched a huge group of people. And, his little life has been saved by that same group of people. Please have your heart lifted...he is a BIG MIRACLE!

The story begins

We received one of our many calls, this one was about a mum and her three kittens that had been found in a shed. When our welfare Officer, Pauline went to investigate she was told that one of the little nites had been given away! There was no hesitation in her action, this tiny little kitten was far too young to have been taken away from its mother. The "owner" of the vulnerable kitten was "persuaded" to hand it back into our care. Immediately Pauline knew there was something not right as on holding him, he actually was vibrating. He was taken straight to the vets by Janice, our longest serving volunteer fosterer. Thomas diagnosed him with a suspected 5/6 level heart murmur. We now had a decision to make....his little life was hanging in our balance. On referral to a specialist, Mark Oakley from Kynoch vets his prognosis was pretty grim. However, there was some hope and that is what the committee unanimously decided to focus upon.

As soon as Leonard was big enough for surgery (1.45kg), he went over to our East Hampstead Kynoch Veterinary branch to see David who was to perform the surgery. The surgery 13 week old Leonard needed, involved 'ligating' (tying off) the Ductus Arteriosus, a blood vessel which should have closed soon after birth, but remained 'patent'. To get access to this very small vessel, involved an 'intercostal thoracotomy', where the chest is opened by an incision between the ribs. For this type of surgery, intensive support is needed. The open chest means that he could not breathe for himself, and that he could lose body heat at a critical rate. So to help him through the surgery, he was continuously ventilated by the nurses, and was 'cocooned' in a warm air blanket throughout. David very carefully located the Ductus Arteriosus and gently worked around it until he was able to pass the suture material around safely. This was an extremely delicate procedure as even a tiny tear in these major blood vessels could be devastating.

Leonard with his mum before his op



The Miracle Operation by David Potter

Prepared for surgery



Dissecting the PDA



Ligatures in place



Closing the chest



In recovery

Our Branch motto is: *Always and in Every Way Caring for Cats*. This is what motivates all of us. It did not take the committee long to decide that, "this little fella deserved a chance." As you can see from this special feature he is a beautiful, handsome and lively young man, is now living with a wonderful family and has as much chance as any other cat to lead a full and happy life. We are all very proud of that.

His total treatment has cost us **£2483.05**, but what price can we put on life, precious as it is? If anyone would like to make a small contribution towards this precious little life we would be most grateful. Please send payment to:

The Treasurer, 12 Golf Close, Woking Surrey, GU22 8PE (cheques payable to Woking Cats Protection) (Please put a note in with your payment to say it is for our "Little Leonard.")

THANK YOU

Thank you to Lisa, the vet nurse at Lynton House. Leonard was named by her after a character from the Big Bang Theory!

Mark Oakley's Love for Leonard

Leonard first popped his needy furry head above the radar in May. On the face of it, he was just another kitten referred for a heart murmur. However, he came with promise having been referred by Thomas a valued colleague in Woking and he was accompanied by the branch Welfare Officer, Pauline she is well known to me having brought 'Simba' an adult cat a year or so earlier for cardiomyopathy treatment.

Pauline arrived showing enthusiasm for a positive outcome and sympathy in equal measure, for our tiny patient weighing just 0.8kg! I examined the



Pauline, Mark & Rose with Leonard

friendly confident, who submitted to handling and the all-important stethoscope, which confirmed what Thomas had suspected, Leonard was showing all the evidence for a Patent Ductus Arteriosus, (PDA) a communicating vessel between the main artery called the aorta and the Pulmonary artery which has failed to close-down at birth. I had to scan him

and if I was correct he would surely go into heart failure within six months and need treatment, but would be expected to pass-away due to the condition before he reaches a year old. I asked Pauline, "How is he getting on at home?" I was assured he was coping well and keeping up with the other two kittens and not looking any different really. So, here was dear Leonard a 'ticking time bomb' with a certain disastrous outcome as most kittens with this condition do not make it as far as vaccination age such that I have only seen three in a nearly thirty year career. In spite of this, he looked like any other kitten, lively and playful, friendly, pleasingly easy to handle – such a worrying diagnosis, surely not.

So we clipped a patch of fur off each side of his tiny chest through which we could feel the unearthly continuous vibration caused by turbulence due to his PDA which replaced the normal steady but fast heart beat normal kittens have. Next to come was the best job of the day for the nurses, each competing for a chance to hold a kitten for a heart scan. 'Amy' was the lucky one and revelled in the opportunity to secure his tiny furry form. Leonard was unusually good and enabled me to scan and confirm the presence of a PDA without needing any sedation. Pauline's understanding of a PDA was fast-tracked to realisation that Leonard's future was hopeless without the theoretical opportunity to have a scary operation to enter his chest and tie-off this errant vessel by hand, as he was too small to have a key-hole approach and have a special occluding device deployed remotely by catheter in the PDA. Pauline was delighted I would look into it rather than concede defeat and assume he would need to be euthanised to avoid later disappointment.

Not expecting to see Leonard again, I said goodbye to Pauline and rang a few colleagues then contacted Pauline later that evening. I explained the best we could do was to medicate him to keep him out of heart failure until he was at least 1.5kg and then maybe arrange for an operation. However, assuming an operation was out of the question, I explained my wife and I were offering to look after him whilst on medication until the day it was necessary to let him go and be put to sleep. Pauline took me by surprise and confirmed the branch committee had made the decision that he should be offered the chance to be operated on. I listened while Pauline explained Leonard should receive 'whatever was best for him', even if there was a surgical and anaesthetic risk of failure, in which case on behalf of Cats Protection, she would accept his death philosophically. So here I was with my mind working overtime with the exciting news for Ros that we might be

looking after Leonard for several weeks and having to find a surgeon to operate on him. Such an operation would be like "wiring the house with the mains switched on!"

Leonard had a weekly scan to monitor his worryingly enlarged heart which grew larger each time. All set to come home after a couple of weeks, we had a false alarm as he developed what might have been 'ringworm', however after the all-clear the exciting day came for Leonard to come home to Ros and me. Pauline lavished upon us every possible assistance to enable her new "fosterers" to look after Leonard and make his stay with us as easy and as successful as possible. We were loaned a collapsible pen, given food and cat litter and some toys, some of which have become very firm favourites, especially the pink tunnel.

The evening we took him home was magical – on the one hand we had this delightful bundle of "energetic fun" to look after weighing just 1.2kg and on the other hand we knew he was very ill and could possibly die or fail to progress toward his target weight of 1.5kg for his operation. After an exciting evening introducing him to his new home, we settled him in his pen which he then climbed up on the inside – then I saw it, "the spotty underbelly", he was part-Bengal! I was sure of it – what had we let ourselves in for I wondered! After a few days, he relaxed and settled in and my word he was lively, the extra-value aspect of his Bengal genes really showing, nothing stopped him not even his heart condition. He charged from one end of the room to the other, threading himself at speed through his pink tunnel, dashing up to the scratching post for few seconds, then launching himself towards our ten year old Ragdoll as if to say "hello", then immediately throwing himself down in friendly submission. Sabrina wisely just yowled and with hardly any reaction apart from an occasional uncommitted bat with a gloved paw. Leonard was a real live-wire and so friendly to us and Sabrina, so compliant with receiving his considerable array of medication on which his life depended.

The Operation

After fourteen days of unrestricted vigorous interaction with his numerous toys, including a scratching-post and playing in his pink tunnel through which he would race at break-neck speed, he was ready for the operation. If successful, there was every expectation of a normal life and even if he shouldn't survive, he'd had two weeks of fantastic quality of life following the CP's initial care. We waited and prayed and hoped and at lunchtime the good news came through, that he'd made it without drama. Even following open-chest heart surgery, little Leonard at 1.45kg and just 13 weeks of age was home again that evening! After a delicate start, he went from strength to strength and after a week or so he'd grown out of his bright red medical tee-shirt and was almost back to full-speed.

With fur re-growth came increasing vigour and in early August 2015 already neutered and chipped, we adopted Leonard officially aged four and a half months and he has been a growing delight as he develops and evolves new ways of taking-on his environment as his lovely personality blossoms. Thank you so much to Woking Cats Protection, for rescuing Leonard aged four weeks, for Thomas referring him, then Pauline bringing him to us for a heart scan and for making sure he was able to receive the best possible care and for enabling us to adopt him. He is now going outside, still receives a limited amount of heart medication and his heart is contracting towards a more normal size. Every day with Leonard is a delight and an opportunity for a daily 'fur-fix'!

With huge thanks to Pauline, Mary and their colleagues for enabling Leonard to live, when he might otherwise have had to accept inevitable deterioration.

*Dear Mark, I think it is us that should be doing all the thanking to both you and David! Leonard's story is truly remarkable. **Life IS precious.** Best wishes from all of us at Woking Cats Protection
Mary, Branch Co-ordinator*



Philip & Debbie - Love's Miracles



“....if he hears a loud noise or when workmen have been chatting outside he hides under the sofa....”



Debbie's twitter post on Philip

To be honest I wasn't looking for a cat. Just over 2 years ago I lost my beautiful girl, Charlie, after 21 and a half years and I thought I could never replace her. Then in April I saw an article in *Felis Catus* about Philip and something drew me to him. His eyes seemed to 'speak' to me and I knew I had to meet him. Well it was 'love at first sight' for me and happily Philip seemed to like me too. A match made in heaven? I think so.

Philip has had a troubled past. Kim, his lovely fosterer, gave me the details and explained she had been looking after him since November. Philip had particular needs, no other cats, dogs, children or men! Perfect for me then.

When Philip came to me he immediately went under the sofa. He's a big boy and how he managed to get under there I really don't know. But he did and he stayed under the sofa for several hours before finally venturing out and exploring his new home. Each day he gained more confidence and after a couple of weeks he seemed

very settled and happy here. We have endless fun playing the bootlace game and he absolutely adores being brushed and having his tummy tickled. However, if he hears a loud noise or when workmen have been outside chatting he hides behind the sofa until he feels safe to come out again! His scars run deep.

Philip is also a hit on Twitter. I posted a tweet of introduction. Philip was retweeted 19 times and "favourited" 68 times! The numbers are now 23 and 76 respectively.....Philip is a star.

I am so pleased I saw the article about Philip and feel very privileged to be the one who has given him his forever home. He is a beautiful boy and a complete joy.

Thank you so much Kim, Pauline, Mary and everyone else at Woking Cats Protection. You do an amazing job.

The story of Philip has a very particular poignancy for us at Woking CP.

He was one of our very long stay residents and we began to despair that he would ever get his HHH. *Hearth, Home & Happiness.* Our Lost & Found Officer was visiting a local vets and mentioned this handsome boy in passing. As it also happened he had featured on *Get Surrey* as well as *Felis Catus* and Debbie had been thinking about him. Synchronicity is a wonderful thing and it all came together and Debbie soon had Philip sharing her home. They are a match made in heaven.

Tragically and very sadly Debbie had a serious accident and was in hospital for quite some time. Both their lives were turned upside down. As I write this, we hear that Debbie is making an improvement. It was agreed for me to continue including her article. Kim, Philip's fosterer was sure Debbie would want this to happen.

Final Update: Debbie and Philip are now both back home safe and well, that is all any of us could ever have wished for.

Jasper's Pub Crawl - By Lindsey Cook

In February 2015 I went to Thames Court for dinner to celebrate my friend's birthday and when we got in our cars to leave, I spotted a beautiful tabby and white cat in the car park. He followed me to my car and hopped in when I opened the door. I sat there for a few minutes and held him. He was ever so sweet and didn't behave like a stray cat so I thought maybe he belonged to the pub. We got out of the car and I went back into the pub to enquire about him. The manager said that the cat had appeared only two days prior and they had never seen him before. They too thought he might be lost.

I went back out to the car park as I planned to take him home as it was so cold and I wanted him to have a warm place to sleep that night. When I returned to the car park, he was nowhere in sight. I left my name and number with the manager and asked that she call me if the cat appeared again. Later that week I received a phone call and the cat was back at the pub. I went back and picked him up and took him to the vets to have him scanned. He actually was microchipped and the vets were able to contact the owner via Petlog. We discovered he was a 12 year old called

Jasper. He had recently been re-homed twice as his previous owners separated and moved. We couldn't reach the new owner and the original owner couldn't take him back, so Jasper came to live with me until I could find him a forever home. I really enjoyed Jasper living with me, but one of my other cats didn't approve. Even though I wanted it to work, I have two cats, a dog, and 10 month old baby, and it just wouldn't be fair to force it to work.

I met Pauline in June at the Shepperton Fair and with the help of Woking Cats Protection a new home for Jasper was found. It just so happens that Norma had also met Pauline that same day and Pauline thought that it might be the perfect match!

Just a few weeks later, Norma came to meet Jasper and it was love at first sight! Jasper is now in his forever home with Norma and he couldn't be more happy! I'm so pleased we found a forever home for Jasper and I must say it was an absolute pleasure working with Pauline and Woking Cats Protection to make it happen!

Norma's article is on page 17

ADOPTING BUZZ AND WOODY - By Amy

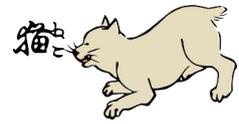
We adopted Buzz and Woody 11 weeks ago and now can't imagine life without them! At first they were very nervous and stayed curled up in a little ball behind the sofa, but their curiosity soon got the better of them and it wasn't long before they were running around, playing and also managing to take up the whole of the sofa when having one of their very long sleeps. Buzz is really cute and funny; one look in his huge, adorable eyes and you're practically

hypnotised. But don't be fooled- Buzz is a tiny killing machine, he loves catching any flies or moths that get in the house and goes crazy when you play with him. He's always getting into scrapes, not that he seems to mind. I think he enjoys all the excitement!

Woody is a bit calmer and always up for a cuddle. He loves sleeping on window sills and staring longingly into the garden. Both he and Buzz can't wait till they're able to go outside and

make frequent escape attempts. Buzz and Woody take turns in being boss and run on a "tight" schedule: eating, washing, chasing each other and playing with us but they always make sure to fit in lots of cat naps!

We love having Buzz and Woody as pets, and as long we keep the cat food coming, the litter tray clean and make sure there is lots of playing and stroking and cuddling they seem pretty happy too.



"He loves catching flies & moths...."

Special Note!
Buzz & Woody are Leonards' brothers.



Some Fayre Faces!



Events & Fayres Updates

EVENT	RAISED
Saturday 7 February Quiz Night	£1,563.50
Saturday 28 March Spring Fayre	£1,573.62
Monday 4 May Chobham Carnival	£229.56 + £111 from Perfect Pad Cattery's CP collecting tin!
Saturday 13 June Shepperton Fayre	£175.34
Sunday 28 June Strawberry Fayre	£145.65
Sunday 5 July Garden Party	£1,226.46
Saturday 11 July Black Cherry Fayre	£244.86
Sunday 6 September RSPCA Gala Day	£527.20

Thank you for your continued support!

Our diary of events has grown over the last few years and we try do like to keep our old favourites going and at the same time try new places. This year it was Shepperton Fayre and we know this is going to join our favourites list! It is always good to see so many of our supporters at these events and of course to make new friends. Raising awareness of our work and providing information and advice on responsible feline welfare is equally important as raising funds. I think you will agree our volunteer teams do brilliantly at both!



Fluffy and the cobwebs By Kate Eidens

Hello Everyone,
My name is Fluffy and I recently moved to my new home. I want to tell you about my experiences in my new home with my new mum.

When I moved in I was a bit scared and wanted to hide, mum was really embarrassed when I hid behind a bookcase and Auntie Pauline the Cats Protection Welfare Officer had to get me out and I was covered in cobwebs. I thought it was a good game and continued to find all these great places to hide and every time, came out with a good few cobwebs on me, much to mums annoyance. Mum told me she's been working hard for a long time which is apparently why I found so many cobwebs, but she's retired now and has more time for the

cleaning, although she spends most of it playing with me.

I love my new home, I have loads of toys and loads of beds, but don't sleep in any of "em", I much prefer mums bed. I love to watch the birds out of the windows, and can't wait to go out when I have had my spaying operation.

I have to go now as I can hear the cat food cupboard opening, but before I go here's a little poem I put together....

*"Hope you like my photo with cobwebs?"
Fluffy*

Never mind about liking your "cobwebby" photo Fluffy. You got more likes than any other post ever on our FB page - over 100!

[facebook.com/wokingcp](https://www.facebook.com/wokingcp) - please all visit and like us TODAY!

My name is Fluffy and I have a new home, I have lots of toys and play games while making a happy cat noise. I am now able to be how a cat should be - Happy settled, fun loving and free. My mum is so kind and really spoils me Thanks Cats Protection for re- homing me!

Neutering

An unneutered female cat can be responsible for over 20,000 descendants in only five years! Neutering remains the single most effective way to stop the unplanned kittens of today from becoming the unwanted cats of tomorrow. Not only is it a safe, painless way of controlling the cat population, it also helps reduce your household costs, as caring for a mother and kittens is very expensive. In addition, neutering has many health benefits for both male and female cats.

Woking & District Cats Protection offers a **FREE NEUTERING** service that has been available for the last four years. In that time we have spent literally thousands of pounds paying for cats to be spayed and neutered. The amount of unwanted and/or seriously neglected cats & kittens that could have been born is impossible to calculate. What is calculable is that it could be thousands! More serious are the unscrupulous people that subject cats and kittens to a life of abject misery by breeding and breeding from them to sell their offspring on line or perhaps to pet shops or friends. Thereby subjecting future generations to the same dismal fate. We will continue to work hard against this cruelty - those kind and responsible who owners that understand this and put the welfare of the their cats first and get them neutered. Please be a responsible owner and help us to educate those that don't see this as important. The message is simple:

Please get your cats neutered

HALLOWEEN

Branch Xmas Fayre

Don't forget to join us at our Xmas Fayre on Saturday 31 October at Brook Hall, Ottershaw.

10am to 1pm

We might have a few new surprises on offer this year?

We look forward to seeing YOU!

FREE NEUTERING

Woking & District Cats Protection will pay for neutering your cat

The misery suffered by many cats when they are left unneutered is a huge problem and one that we are determined to stamp out. Some callous & unscrupulous people use cats as breeding machines to make money, this is totally unacceptable and very often leads to illness, abandonment and death for hundreds of kittens and cats. The health and social benefits to the cat and the owners are significant.

PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE OWNER AND GET YOUR CAT NEUTERED!

For further information please contact:
T: 01483 721700 (Mailbox 4)
E: wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com

Woking Cats Protection FREE NEUTERING voucher. Contact us on 01483 721700 or wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com

Direct Homings ~ what are they and why do we offer them?

Q. Why are we direct homing?

A. Because over the last 3 - 4 years we have seen significant increase in demand for all our services and as other charities have made changes to their policies on unwanted cats we decided to expand on offering this as a way to maintain supporting customers who for whatever reason need to re home their cat/s.

Q. How effective has this proved?

A. We have limited capacity in our ability to take cats directly into our care, as we only have a small but highly effective team of Volunteer Fosterers. So, this has been a positive and successful method to manage our unwanted cat/s waiting lists.

Q. Are people wishing to give up their cats happy with this service?

A. People are sometimes desperate to re-home their cat/s and even if their need is not so immediate, we have never had anyone express unhappiness that we are offering this as an alternative way to help when all our pens are full. Quite the contrary, their relief and gratitude that we have made contact is evident, most times people just want to know someone is there offering support.

Q. Are people adopting the cats happy with this service?

A. More often it has proved very positive for both parties. The general feedback is that it is helpful for the adopter to see the cat/s in its current environment and talk with the owners. Also the owners are often reassured by meeting the potential adopters. In fact many of them continue to share stories.

Q. What is the process for direct homing?

A - 1. The owner and cat/s receive a home visit from our Welfare Officer.

A - 2. An assessment is made on the cat/s i.e. temperament, behaviour, current home environment.

A - 3. Images are taken ready for our Website and Facebook.

A - 4. The cat is given a full health check just as in the same way if it were in our direct care.

A - 5. Prospective adopters apply to us and we arrange the visit to the owners home.

A - 6. Following a successful viewing the delivery of the cat to its new home and adoption documentation is carried out by us in

Direct Homing History - "HHH" Home, Hearth & Happiness for all these cats!

2013 - 31 cats

Digby, Whisper, Boris, Benny, Belinda, Bernard, Barty, Billy, Smye, Tigger, Patch, Malinki, Marmaduke, Marmalade, Enya, Fluff, Marcie, Missy, Poppy, Willow, Louie, Bonnie, Clyde, Thomas, George, Norma, Norman, Bob, Kizzie, Lucy and Louie.

2014 - 17 cats

Polly, Batman, Robyn, Buffy, Tiger, Tiddles, Marlie, Roxie, Chester, Duchess, Daisy, Colin, Gizmo, Cassius, Olivia, Izzy and Coco.

To date - 2015 24 cats

Jemima, Sox, Brenda, Honey, Tallulah, Lulu, Simba, Liquorice, Eddie, Kimi, Samantha, Daisy, Jerry, Jasper, Lexie, Stripes, Fluffy, Ronnie and Reggie, Tiggy, Bobby, Mitzi, Tiger and Smudge.

Comments from a few of our customers:

Deborah Adopted - Tiger & Tiddles ~ 2014
 "Lovely to see the cats in their own home with such a lovely family and to chat with them directly about the cats." "The service from Woking CP was seamless & perfect with lots of ongoing support."

Nicky ~ Re-homed ~ Eddie & Stripes ~ 2015
 "Woking CP could not have done more, Pauline was brilliant, it is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do." "It was quite reassuring to meet the new adopters and know where they were going." "100%, I would recommend Woking CP!"

Vivienne - Adopted Stripes ~ 2015
 "Pauline was most helpful & thorough, it was very reassuring the amount of care given to ensuring the cat went to the right home. Getting some background from the owners on Stripes was most helpful to me. His favourite food and his nocturnal habits!" The ongoing support is excellent, I highly

Sarah Adopted - Enya & Fluffy - 2013
 "The advice we received was excellent & really helped us to make the right informed decision on what cats would suit us best." The whole process was managed well, we were clear at every stage." Our two cats are so happy and it has all worked our brilliantly!" "We would absolutely recommend Woking CP."

Read Sammy & Kimi's direct homings stories, part 1 & 2 on pages 3 & 5.

Beena ~ Re-homed ~ Mitzi ~ 2015
 "For the cat it is fantastic because of less disruption." "Meeting the new owners was reassuring that she would be well looked after." "Woking CP provide a great service & I absolutely recommend them."



Volunteer Updates

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS



*A huge warm
welcome to :*

Carol Norman

Volunteer Pen Fosterer

Feral Kitten Socialiser

Anna Holland

Volunteer Website Editor

Kate Eidens

Volunteer Mailbox 2

& Committee Secretary

Suzy Barnett

Feral Kitten Socialiser



*Farewell & a
huge thanks to:*

Domanique Nicholson

Volunteer Mailbox 2

Ps: we are delighted to say that Domanique is only going to take a sabbatical from her volunteering with us now, while she settle into her new job. Sometime in the future she will come back on board. Fab news as she has been a huge asset to us.

Working Cats Protection would be nothing without our amazing teams of volunteers and I do not overestimate in saying we actually would not be able to operate without them. Every part of our service is managed by a dedicated person or team. Fosterers, Home Visitors, Social Media, Cake Baking, Merchandise Sales, Lost & Found, Refreshments, Homing, Events, Website, Printing and of course YOU! Our Members and Supporters.

As you can see on the left we have welcomed some new volunteers to our teams and I hope in the next few months we will have some more who are going to join us. Marketing & Publicity and a Feral Kitten Specialist to mention a few. Some volunteers take on new or extra roles and this is a great asset. We have two new members joining our Committee, Ruth and Kate. Ruth has also taken on the "Found" responsibility supporting Sarah with Lost & Found. We now have dedicated volunteers for specific stalls at our events, Paul & Katrina on books, Sophie & Adrian on Bric a Brac, Toni and Margaret on merchandise, Sue on toiletries and Ian on puzzles. This works really well and has made a huge difference to our fayres and events. Our website has very sadly been neglected for some time now, it is such an important area and with Anna on board we have someone who will not only give the whole site an overhaul but will keep it fresh and up to date. There is real synergy with our social media and Anna & Catherine, our social media volunteer are going to be working very closely together. Keep your eyes open for our re-launched website.....coming soon! Carol, our new fosterer has already taken charge of her first resident and she has been out with Pauline, our Welfare Officer to get a hands on insight at the coal face. Having Kate on the committee as our new secretary is going to be a huge help to me personally.

Our Welfare Officer, Pauline and me are keen to do some work with social services and the housing associations on responsible feline welfare, this is a big project that will need a team to make it work but one we are committed to taking on over the next couple of years. We are also hoping to organise a welfare event in partnership with one of the local vets. Do you know anyone with film/media making skills, if yes please ask them to get in touch with me, to help with a video all about our branch:

cats@mjmorgan.plus.com

Helpline Volunteer Needed

Mailbox 4 is our general enquiries & neutering line. You will need good communications skills and the ability to keep basic records in an Excel sheet and have access to use email. The role require a friendly person able to communicate well with a variety of people.

Some knowledge of cat welfare is also needed

Does this sound like you?

Then please contact Mary: cats@mjmorgan.plus.com

"When George died at the end of July I asked Mary if Jason and I could sponsor the postage of this edition of Felis Catus in his memory. She kindly agreed. I also asked if I could write something about George. However, I've found it more difficult than I thought possible so I'm going to limit myself to saying that for the 9 and a quarter years George shared our home and lives he brought us much joy and happiness. He was/is greatly loved and is sorely missed."

Fiona Bishop

Happiness is Jasper by Norma Kent

At Shepperton Village Fayre Woking Cats Protection had a stall. I went to talk of my need for another cat, an elderly one to keep me company. I was so impressed when the lady asked me what plans I had in case of my own illness or death. What a very wise question to ask a 78 year old - would-be adopter. My answer was that my much younger sister in the village had a great love of cats and a nice, safe garden and was at present without a cat. My house was visited (very small but with a safe garden) and then I went to meet Jasper. Who could not love such a handsome chap? He showed me his pleasure at drinking from a running tap and he

arrived a couple of days later. His first interest was to make sure that I had no other pets. Then he had some time out in the dark of my wardrobe. Later he met my daughter, my sister and my friend. He was charming everyone. At night when I lifted my duvet to slide in, he came in with me and spent the whole of a very long night lying on me. I felt accepted.

The kind lady who had cared for him gave me bags of food but he only eats the Science Diet for age 11+. Our only problem has been that as he is a large cat he has a large litter tray with a cover. He goes in and digs enthusiastically at the far end, but the back end is

still outside the tray, and that's the end that pees! No problem now, he goes out and waters the roses!

Cats Protection have made a very happy choice in bringing Jasper into my life. I think I'm making him happy and I know he's giving me company and purpose. Last night I came home at 10pm, he came out to meet me and made sure my gentleman friend went home. It was like living with my dad again!

Thank you all at Cats Protection.
Norma and Jasper



Jasper is the only man for Norma and Norma is the only woman for Jasper!

Cat Trouble

By Sara Rekhi

Our first experience with Woking Cats Protection was in September 2014, when we decided to adopt a kitten. After waiting to be matched, we were delighted to get a phone call in October to hear that we could meet a litter of three kittens. Mini, a tiny little kitten with black and white markings, walked towards us when we visited and has been a wonderful addition to our household. We often joke that we talk about her more than anything else! Mini's siblings were adopted by friends, so it's wonderful to see them develop too. However, our encounter with Woking Cats Protection doesn't stop there. In the spring, Mini was allowed to go outside. How delighted she was to climb trees, chase wasps and roll about! However, on a number of occasions she came home with deep bites. Each bite required the vet's attention. We witnessed a few attacks by a brown/black cat in our garden. I had seen this cat in our garden many times before and suspected it might be a lost cat.

But now it was attacking our cat. When Mini was on antibiotics to treat a bite for the fifth time, we thought her attacker might be a stray, so we contacted Woking Cats Protection for advice. We received a reply immediately and they recommended a cat-trap to catch the attacker. This way we could check if it was indeed a stray.

Not long after this, my husband and daughter were away and I was at home with my son and an aunt. One night, I heard a loud, shrill cry from Mini and rushed downstairs to see what was going on. Mini was behaving very strangely and I heard shuffling noises coming from our utility room. Not brave enough to enter the room by myself, I woke my aunt, who insisted we call the police after picking up two coat hangers to protect us! The police couldn't find anything and left after I had apologised a number of times for troubling them.

The next morning and afternoon, Mini continued to behave very strangely. She wouldn't enter the

utility room and hissed at the door. She was constantly frightened. We also found not only clumps of her hair around the kitchen, but also some that didn't seem to belong to Mini. I turned the utility room upside down in case there was an animal in there.

At ten o'clock that evening, we heard a meow and then my aunt spotted a black cat peeking out from the utility room. Mini's attacker had been in the house for more than 24 hours, hidden behind the washing machine! Not knowing what to do, we set out food for the invader and closed off the utility room. I sent off an email to Woking Cats Protection who amazingly replied at 11pm on a Saturday night! We would keep the cat in the utility room, so that someone could look at it.

We were delighted to see Pauline the next morning and were extremely impressed with how she managed to lure the black cat from behind the washing machine and scan its microchip. The stray cat turned out to be a Burmese belonging to a neighbour who had

reported him missing. We are trying to work out a timetable to keep the cats apart. It's reassuring to know that the stray cat has a home and who the owner is.

We're so thankful for the help we received from Woking Cats Protection. They went above and beyond what could be expected or even hoped for.



"....been in the house for more than 24 hours, hidden behind the washing machine!"



A lament on the loss of Oscar and Rumpel

All about me the silence shouts with a deafening blow
I feel the pain immediately when my darlings fail to show

They were always there for me coming as a pair
One stretching in the lounge the other lying on the stair
All around me the stillness shouts

*No soft patter of paws treading by
No fleeting movement caught in the corner of my eye
My hands lay idle as my lap is empty
No vibrating purring against my throat
No sensual soft fur for me to tease and stroke*

So deep the sadness I have trouble breathing
Yet I welcome the pain as part of my grieving
Living works of art that is what they were
Beautiful moving sculptures of rhythm and light
Freedom to wander both day and night

*No soft patter of paws treading by
No fleeting movement caught in the corner of my eye
My hands lay idle as my lap is empty
No vibrating purring against my throat
No sensual soft fur for me to tease and stroke*

Illness and pain was the beginning of the end
I had to release them - "Goodbye my best friends"
They were put to sleep in my arms - one last sleep
Leaving me all alone in pain and unshed tears to weep
Loving them meant letting them go
But how I hurt and miss them so

*No soft patter of paws treading by
No fleeting movement caught in the corner of my eye
My hands lay idle as my lap is empty
No vibrating purring against my throat
No sensual soft fur for me to tease and stroke*

*My darlings
Oscar & Rumpel*

Thank you for being in my life
Lindy Banks-Milward 2015

Dear Woking Cats Protection,
As my poem shows the loss of my much loved cats Oscar and Rumpel only ten years old was a brutal devastation. During weeks and months of mourning and missing them my niece gave me some wonderful advice, she said, "Aunty Lindy you will never forget them and missing them hurts, but you adore cats and there are cats out there with no one to love them. So 'Go get 'em'!"

And so began the next wonderful step as I made contact with Pauline from Cats Protection and explored 'Adopt a cat'.

Pauline is a very special person and a true ambassador for CP as her sensitivity towards 'us' mere humans, together with her total dedication to the well being of 'every' cat, are boundless. True I was vulnerable and grieving but Pauline supported my loss and allowed me to feel comfortable dipping my 'paw' into becoming a cat slave again when I was ready.

CP had rescued three cats a young mother with two kittens and called them, Faith, Hope and Charity, how lovely is that? Pauline introduced me to Faith and I was able to spend time in the pen getting to know her and vice versa. What was not to like, she is an absolute darling - white with a black butterfly pattern on her head, so although she is called 'Faith' when we snuggle and cuddle I croon at her and call her 'My Miss Papillon'. I took the guidance Pauline offered me and Faith settled in without any problems and she felt safe in her specially chosen wardrobe! When she was ready after a few days she began exploring the house and her new slaves (Neville and I) and she very quickly had Neville wrapped around her paws, cheeky hussy!

We have had our beautiful Faith three months now and she likes to explore our garden and the gardens of all our neighbours, so enjoys lots of freedom outside. I have not given her the total freedom of a cat flap yet as I prefer to be around when she is out. Bless her heart she is an explorer and tree climber but she does enjoy bouncing back through the 'ever open' door to check her slaves are still within reach.

I have signed up to the Felis Catus newsletter and set up a monthly donation for Cats Protection as my small way of saying a very very 'BIG' thank you to this excellent Charity who continue to do so much for both cats and their slaves!

So to anyone thinking about becoming a cat companion, "Go get 'em."

**Branch Spring & Xmas Fayres 2016
Stall Holders Invitation**

As we are moving to a bigger venue next year we need a few more stall holders to join us. We are looking for unusual & different crafts + a face painter. If you or anyone you know would like to apply to take part, please get in touch directly with me by emailing: cats@mjmorgan.plus.com by end of December 2015.

Getting in touch with the branch

Help Line: 01483 721700
Email: wokingcatsprotection@gmail.com
Face Book: [facebook.com/wokingcp](https://www.facebook.com/wokingcp)
Web: www.woking.cats.org.uk

Sophie & James tell us just why just why love is the best medicine.

How did you feel before Eddie arrived?

I really wanted a cat because I wanted to take care of something.

What was Eddie like when he arrived?

He was too scared to come out of his bed. He was hungry and shy.

When did he start to explore the house?

On his first morning he was walking around the kitchen. The same day he went into the living room and then by the 3rd day he went up to the loft and all the rooms. He slept in the loft that night.

Did he let you touch him?

From the first day he let us stroke him.

What is special about Eddie?

He is blind and very good natured and calm. He is very tolerant.

Who looks after him?

I feed him, brush and groom him. I help do his eye drops every day. I clip his claws when he's relaxed, he lets me. I was able to bathe him and he didn't try to run away. He knew it was coming; he just meowed a few times. Sophie, Sophie and Sophie.

What is Eddie's favourite food?

He likes rabbit and salmon from the pouch.

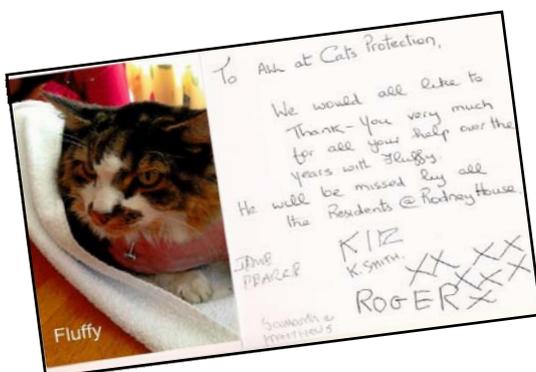
Where is his favourite place in the house?

It used to be the loft but now it's in my room and under my bed. Sometimes he stays under my bed all night (it's a bunk bed). I have to move my music books off the floor because he chews paper and he destroyed my piano teacher's book! He prefers the loft bed.

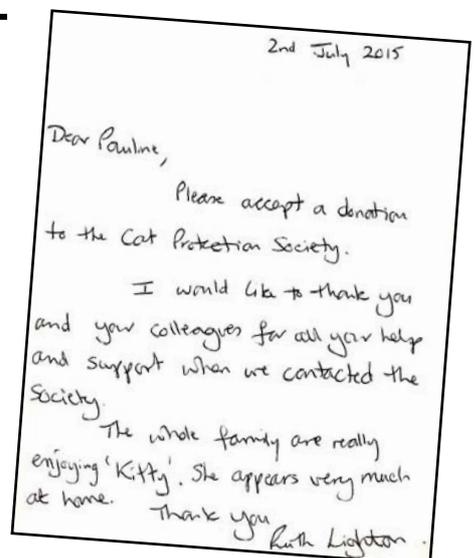
What's your favourite thing about Eddie?

He's cute. He's really good at running up and down the stairs. He waits at the bottom of the stairs for me to come back from school. He even did this every day when I was away on summer camp. He loves when I hold him like a baby and he is very affectionate when he wants food but he ignores me once I've fed him. He pushes open my door to get in my room. Sometimes in the morning we find him on top of his scratching post trying to get down. Eddie hates chicken and is always hungry. He always sits in the most inconvenient places, e.g. when I'm going up the stairs he lies on the middle step. He makes pathetic noises when he wants food. He's very smart and he likes us to hand feed him. He likes to be around people and usually migrates to the room where there are people.

Eddie came to us on 30th April. He'd had glaucoma in both eyes since he was a baby. His eyes had never been treated so sadly, he had to have his left eye removed. Even though we are currently treating his right eye with medicated drops, he cannot see at all.



**“We do what
we can” & you
say thanks for
that!**



'Further to my recent conversations and emails with Sarah & Ruth, please find attached a donation for Woking Cats Protection. I am incredibly grateful to you for enabling me to be reunited with my cat Tom. He had travelled to Cobham from our home in Burwood Park, Walton on Thames, the route and motive are incomprehensible, but he is very happy to be home. Thank you again, yours Helen Pernelet'



WOKING & DISTRICT CATS PROTECTION

Always & in Everyway Caring For Cats



We LOVE you liking us - THANKYOU

We LOVE your stories & posts - THANKYOU

We LOVE having over 1000 likes now - THANKYOU

The Manifesto for Cats is an important piece of work that has been done by the Advocacy team at National Cat Centre. It aims to bring excellence in feline welfare as high as possible up the political agenda. This is important to all of us that care about cats. Do take a look at the full Manifesto at the link provided on the bottom of this brief document.



A big thank you to everyone who kindly sent us Felix Tokens over the past few months. The scheme has now been withdrawn. However we raised over £600, what a massive result! We could never have done this without the hard work from the two ladies above. Lynn & Briony are the ones who with scissors and total dedication have sent all your tokens to Purina on our behalf. I don't think there is a thank you big enough I can possibly send them!

Manifesto for Cats



In brief

Cats Protection is the UK's leading feline welfare charity and we are "Speaking up for cats". As one of the nation's favourite pets, cats have a special place in the home. Almost one in four households (24 per cent) has at least one cat and benefits from the love and unique companionship cats bring. There's an estimated UK pet cat population of 10.5 million. Following our three-month public consultation, 93 per cent of those who took part agreed with all of our suggested 10 manifesto priorities.

- **Breeding of cats for sale:** updating the law to control the breeding and sale of cats to reduce the number of unwanted kittens. We recommend new regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to regulate the commercial breeding and sale of cats. *94.5 per cent agreed*
- **Microchipping of cats:** making it compulsory to microchip owned cats. We'd like to see regulations to introduce compulsory microchipping of owned cats. More needs to be done to raise awareness amongst cat owners of the benefits of microchipping as the safe and permanent way of identification to help reunite a lost or injured cat with its owner. *93 per cent agreed*
- **Cats entering the UK:** creating a national database to ensure that a central record is kept of all cats entering the UK legally so those entering illegally without a rabies vaccine can be identified without delay. We'd like to see Government guidance for Local Authorities, trading standards officers, welfare charities and other relevant bodies, on procedures to follow if a cat is suspected of being an illegal import. *96 per cent agreed*
- **Dog attacks on cats:** creation of a new offence within legislation governing dangerous dogs where a dog that is out of control attacks, injures or kills a cat. *94 per cent agreed*
- **Cats and the curriculum:** inclusion of animal welfare in the National Curriculum so that all children learn about responsible pet care and Government recognition of the preventative impact of teaching animal welfare to schoolchildren. *96 per cent agreed*
- **Cats and housing providers:** Government recognition of the needs of people with cats or other companion animals in rented housing and care homes to allow people to keep their pets and avoid heart-breaking separations of cats from their owners. We'd also like to see more local authorities, social housing associations and private landlords having pet friendly tenancy clauses. *96 per cent agreed*
- **Cats and personal wellbeing:** Government monitoring to ensure that assessments and personalised care plans include consideration of any companion animals that form part of the individual's household and contribute to an individual's wellbeing. *98 per cent agreed*
- **Products toxic to cats:** clear labelling of flowers, plants and household products that are toxic to cats so cat owners know which to avoid. We are seeking Government encouragement to manufacturers of toxic products such as to develop non-toxic alternatives. *97 per cent agreed*
- **Cats and snares:** an outright ban on the use of snares on the basis they are inhumane and cruel and inflict suffering, injury or death on cats and other animals caught in them. *99 per cent agreed*
- **Cats, airguns and crossbows:** much stricter regulation on the ownership of air guns and crossbows to prevent injury or death to cats shot by such weapons. *98 per cent agreed*

You can download and read the full manifesto at:

http://www.cats.org.uk/uploads/documents/Manifesto_for_Cats.pdf