

Lea Valley Branch Newsletter



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**Please
volunteer to
work in our
shop.
See page 6.**

Kay Catches Colony Cats

In comparison to trapping colonies of cats, trapping a single cat is relatively easy. One can set an automatic trap and leave the cat to find its way into it, enticed by the food bait. Trapping colonies of cats, however, takes a lot of time and patience. Automatic traps are of limited use when trying to catch all the cats in a colony. A manual trap needs to be set and the trapper has to wait for the right cat to enter the trap before triggering it. Not only does the trapper have to wait patiently for the right cat to enter the trap but also the logistics of travelling back and forth to the vets with individual cats is hugely time-consuming.

At the beginning of March we were asked to help with a colony of undomesticated cats in Edmonton. The colony had started a couple of years ago with two, owned but unneutered females; the initial reports suggested that there were probably 8 or 10 cats in total.

The cats were congregating and sheltering in the large courtyard garden at the back of the flats where their owners had let their unneutered females out. The inevitable happened and soon there were many more cats than two. When Kay visited to assess the situation, it became clear that the cats had created two groups, one in the courtyard and another in a nearby back garden. Kay found a kind couple feeding them twice daily, as you can see in the photos.



Kay set about establishing how many cats were around and she was shocked to find well over 30 of them.

So, to cut a very long (two months to be exact) story short, 34 cats were dealt with one way or another, as follows:

17 cats were trapped, neutered and returned to site.

7 cat were brought into care because they were either heavily pregnant or unwell, (unfortunately two of them died in care). Three of them were slightly older kittens that Carole, one of our fosterers, has valiantly 'tamed' and a

(Continued on page 2)



Lea Valley Branch 0333 567 4746

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"She was shocked to find well over 30 of them."

Trapping 34 cats, one at a time, takes over a hundred hours. Add the 68 journeys to and from the vets and you will realise just how much time and effort Kay puts into trying to control the explosion of ferals in our area.

Vets 'tip' the left ears of ferals to denote that they are neutered. This prevents them from being re-trapped unnecessarily.

Kay Catches Colony Cats

(Continued from page 1)

fourth, a young, ginger tom called Harry, was also cared for and 'tamed' by Claire, another of our fosterers (you can read more of him on page 3).

These have all been adopted by new, understanding owners.

2 more were, unfortunately, found to have FIV and showing signs of illness so were, on veterinary advice, put to sleep.

8 kittens were born in our care and Pat had the difficult task of 'socialising' them, with their undomesticated mum looking on.

So, as you can understand, teamwork is required to cope with such a situation. Kay cannot do this vital and humane trapping work without the support of our welfare and fosterer volunteers. Also the trapping equipment and the branch van, which are vital, are financed by all the hard work of our fundraising volunteers and, of course, by the Enfield shop and all the great volunteers there; without this funding the Branch would cease to function.

Two pleas at this point. Firstly, Kay is rather a 'one-man-band' when it comes to



Kay had to wait to pull the trap string to catch 34 individual cats!

trapping and we would ask if anyone reading this would like to learn how to trap and take on similar (not necessarily so large) 'jobs' on: Kay will give first-class training. Most of our requests to trap are for small groups of cats, e.g., one or two, or a mum and kittens; colonies of 34 are, thankfully, less common, so please don't be put off by this story.

Secondly, if you are aware of any cats that are not neutered, please ask their owners to have them neutered, both boys and girls. If financial assistance is required, then we can help by issuing vouchers that will cover part or all of the veterinary costs.



One of the ferals on its way to the vet to be neutered.



Note the tabby on the right has had its left ear 'tipped' by the vet to denote that it has been neutered - so Kay knows not to trap it again!

Bernie Till

Co-ordinator's Message

In the previous newsletter, it was noted that it costs around £85,000 a year to fund the Branch's work with cats. To raise this sort of money is no mean feat. Our fundraising volunteers organise and attend events such as our Quiz Nights, Plant Sale, Potters Bar Carnival, RSPCA Family Fun Day and provide catering services at a number of boot sales in the summer months. Together these activities raise significant amounts of cash, as does the Enfield shop, of course, plus the Branch Sponsorship Scheme, Branch Lottery and subscriptions from Friends. Other income is received from the Adoption Fees paid by those kind folk who give a home to one or more of the cats in Branch care. The balance is generated through donations and, occasionally, through the receipt of a legacy.

All this fundraising of one type or another is, of course, the work of the Branch's volunteers; where would we and, especially the cats, be without them? However, the Branch really does need more people to join in the work. Please, if you are able to spare any time to help us with the satisfying and enjoyable work of caring for cats in need, or raising funds to do so, make contact by 'phone or through any of the media listed at the foot of the page and tell us what you are interested in doing.

As always, very many thanks for your support.

Bernie Till

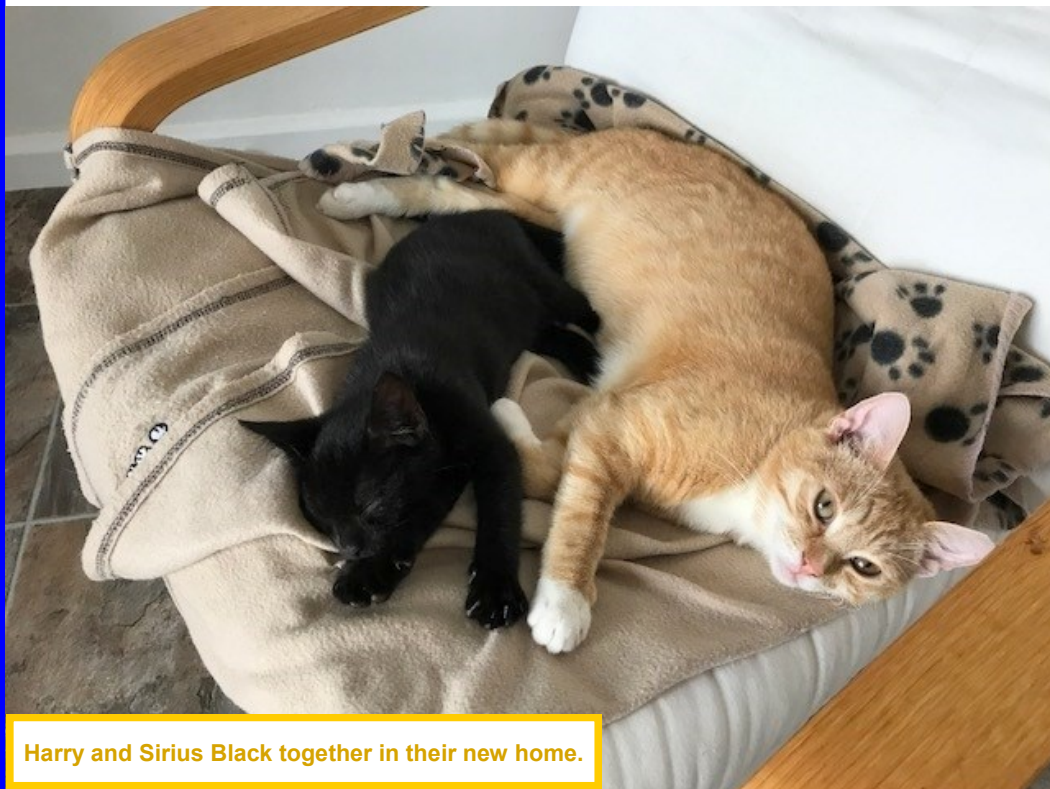
How Harry Met Sirius Black

Young, ginger *Harry* came into our care as an 8 month old, unneutered, unsocialised male. He was nervous, apprehensive, withdrawn and unused to human contact. Our original thought was that we may have to neuter him and then return him outside to the regular feeding ground where we found him. However, his experienced fosterer Claire, with her partner Paul, was prepared to allow him more assessment time in her home. Weeks passed with *Harry* constantly hiding and eating inside a domed litter tray. Placing igloo beds in two corners of the room, *Harry* became visible as a flash of ginger as he slipped between one and the other. Never aggressive, after nearly two months, there seemed to be some progress and we thought that we might promote *Harry* for adoption, stressing his extreme shyness.

A young family who came to meet *Harry* barely got a glimpse of him, but said that they would like to offer him a home. Then Claire had a thought....how about a happy, friendly kitten to help bring *Harry* out of his shell in his

new home? The children jumped at this thought but insisted on a black kitten. As *Harry* Potter fans, they couldn't contain their excitement. Another fosterer, Lynette, had an uneven number of kittens in her two litters, so she suggested an ideal black kitten called *Treacle* - sweet, perky, confident and un-phased. Less than a week later, after an uncertain introduction, the change in *Harry* was remarkable....and dear *Treacle* (soon to be *Sirius Black*) had found an amazing older brother and friend....and now they are living happily ever after!

Lynnette Belch



Harry and Sirius Black together in their new home.

What a Score!



My Nan with Oliver, a cat that she took into her own care in 2005.

Valerie Everett, my Nan, has been fostering for Cats Protection Lea Valley Branch for 20 years this month. During this time, she has fostered over 450 cats and kittens and has kept records of every single one. Her first cat was 'Polo' who came into care on 12 September 1997. My Nan has always had a love for cats and began fostering cats with my Grandad in Cuffley, where they had a set of pens in the garden; they would care for cats until they were ready to be homed. When my Nan and Grandad moved to Watton at Stone, they continued to foster in a set of pens in the garden.

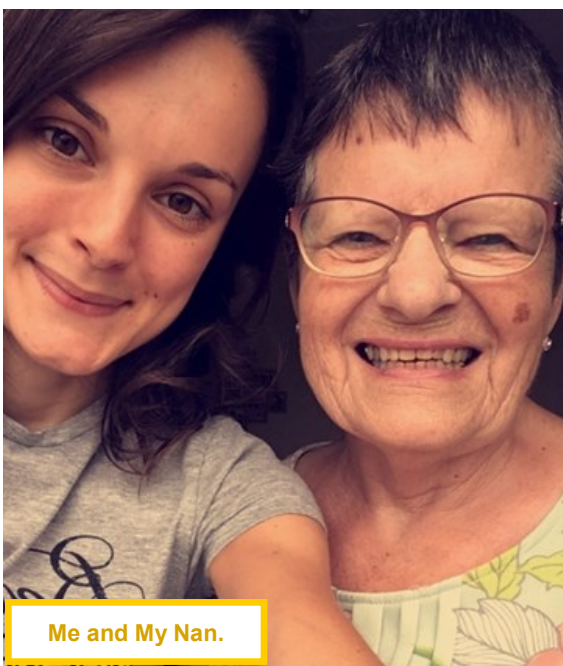
Sadly, my Grandad passed away in 2012 but this did not stop my Nan from fostering.

Caring for kittens, cats, strays and her own cats means that my Nan is kept busy. On top of this, she has been making marmalade for the Branch's charity shop for many years. This dedication to Cats Protection highlights her caring nature, kindness and compassion.

She might be a 'crazy cat lady' – but my family and I are very proud of her. I have found a quote which I think represents my Nan -

'People who love cats have the biggest hearts around'.

Lucy Parrianen



Me and My Nan.

Textgiving

We now have an easy way for our supporters to help us to help cats in need - Textgiving. To make a one-off £3 donation, simply text "CATS59" to 70660 or a one-off £5 donation text "KITTEN59" to 70660. Simple! You can GiftAid your donation too. Our thanks in advance for any donations you make in this way.

This is a charity donation service run by a third party for Cats Protection. Texts cost £3 plus network charge for the keyword CATS and £5 plus network charge for the keyword KITTEN. Cats Protection receives 100% of your donation. Obtain bill payer's permission. Customer Care Number 0800 917 2287.

For just £7 per year, you can be a 'Friend of the Branch'. It's a small sum but a simple act of kindness towards cats in need. Please email cpleavalley@live.co.uk to request a standing order; complete the form and send it to your bank. It's as simple as that.



Just £4.00 per month brings a good chance of being one of the four lucky winners of £20 each month in our Lottery.

For details, call Kypros on: 01992 631556 or email: kyprosav.44@hotmail.com



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Homing Scrapbook

Here are some pictures of just a few of the many kittens that we have homed this year. You can see how well *Woody*, *Bella*, *Jasmine*, *Freddie* and *Freckle* and *Speckle* (our IT gurus) are settling into their new homes.

See more snaps of homed cats on page 7.



Woody

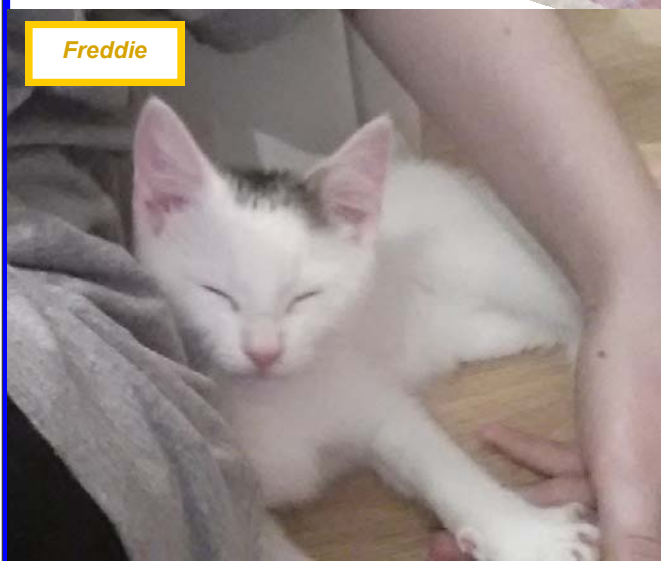


Bella

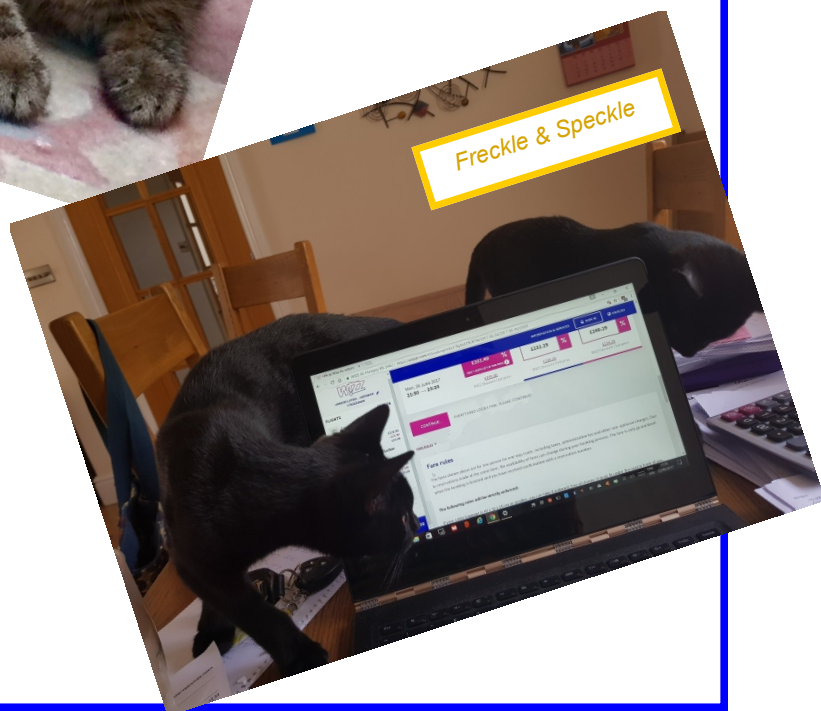
*Thanks to these
cats' delighted
adopters for sending
in these photos.*



Jasmine



Freddie



Freckle & Speckle

Shop!

The shop continues to thrive, generating sufficient income to pay for most of our vet bills.

However, we are in **urgent** need of some more volunteers to make running the shop viable.

Each day sees a different volunteer 'crew' take over running the shop and leaving it clean and tidy for the following day's volunteers. Could you help? Do you know someone who could help?

Please contact me if you are able to; the lack of new volunteers really is becoming a serious matter and the Branch cannot afford to lose this precious income.

If you haven't visited our shop yet, to buy a bargain or donate items, you really should - and, if you like the look of it, why not consider volunteering? It is most interesting work and meeting and getting to know the regular customers is a bonus.

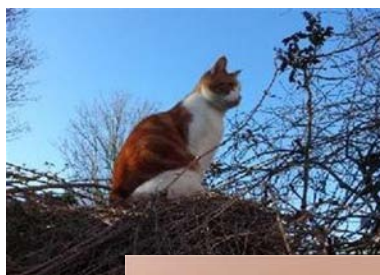
We'd love see you - come on in!

Bernie Till



Sponsorship scheme

Why not sponsor one of the cats in our scheme? A few of them are shown here; a full list with pictures is on our website.



Please call Stephanie on: 01707 657876 or email: stephanie.duffy1@btinternet.com who will send you more information.

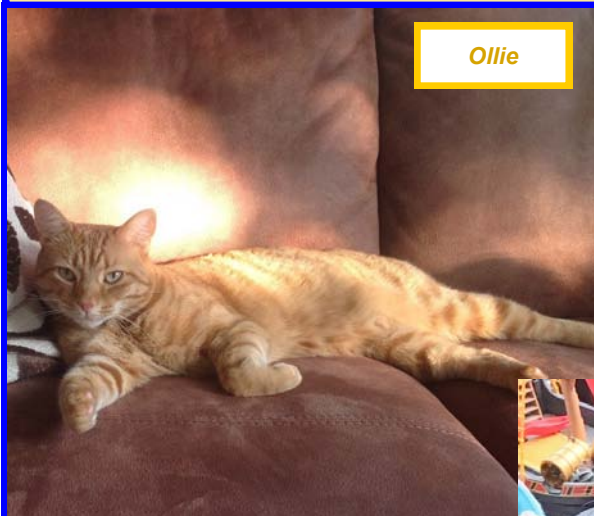


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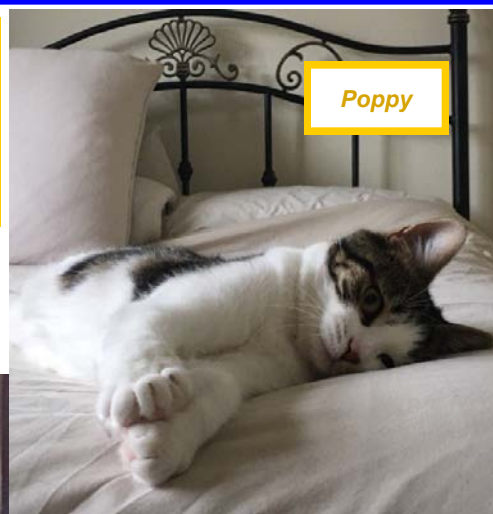
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Homing Scrapbook



Ollie

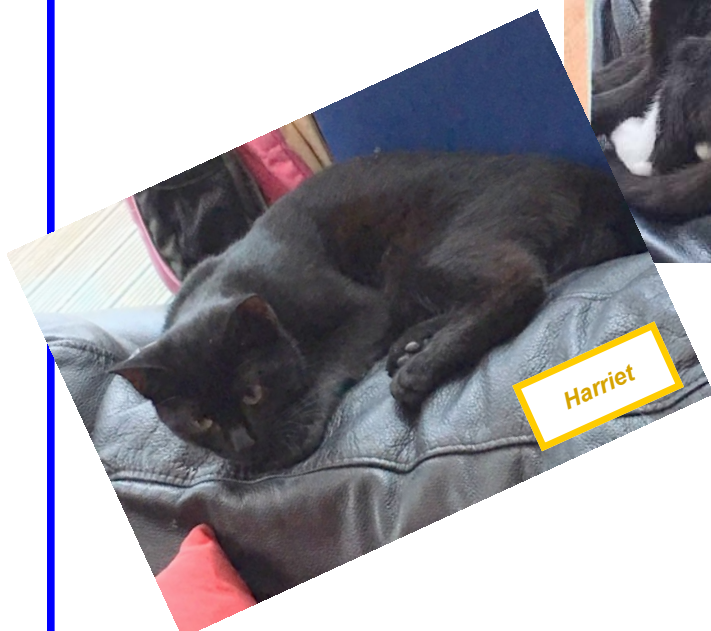
Thanks to these cats' delighted adopters for sending in these photos.



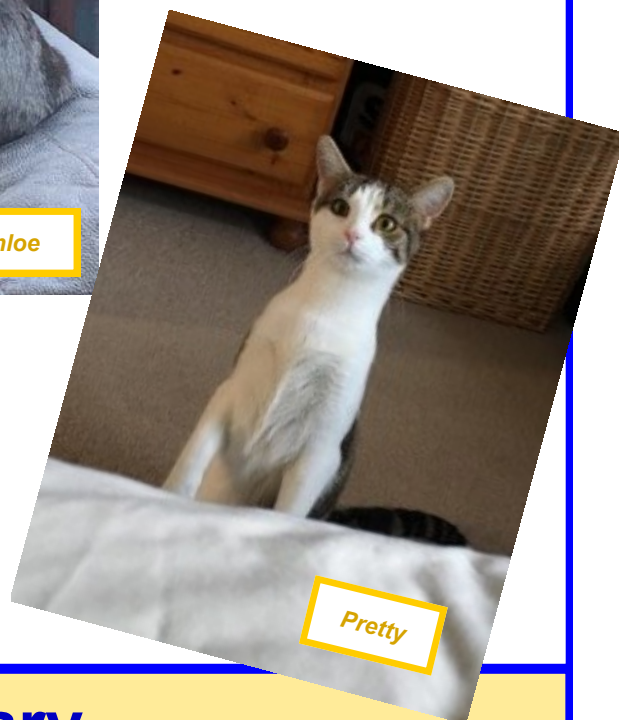
Poppy



Chloe



Harriet



Pretty

Events Diary

Christmas Bazaar:

11 November; 11.00 – 13.00; entrance 50p or cat food donation

The Undercroft, St Andrew's Church, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4DR

As usual, packed with great value Christmas gifts, cards and 2018 calendars.

Quiz Night:

18 November; 19.30 – 22.30; £6.00

Elm Court, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3BP

£6 per person includes entry to the Heads & Tails game with a chance to win £20 cash.

Maximum of 10 per table. Please bring your own food and drink.

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided during the interval.

Plenty of free parking at the venue.



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About the Branch

Branch activities cover the postcodes E4, EN1, EN2, EN3, EN4, EN6, EN7, EN8, EN9, N9, N18 and N21. Amongst other areas, our postcodes include Barnet, Cheshunt, Chingford, Cuffley, Edmonton, Enfield, Potters Bar, Waltham Abbey, Waltham Cross and Winchmore Hill.

The Branch has a very active group of volunteers that provides much-needed care and attention to cats in need, education and advice on neutering and cat welfare and, of course, fundraising to pay for all the cat care, vet bills, food and associated expenses. Branch activities are overseen by the management Committee:

Pat Frankland, Adoption Team Leader

Roger Hales, Treasurer

Kay Moore, Secretary and Neutering Officer

Yvonne Rapley, Welfare Officer

Bernie Till, Co-ordinator

Maureen Till, Fundraising and Advertising Officer

Contact us:

Adoption Team Leader:

Pat Frankland

0333 567 4746

patricia4cats@gmail.com

Co-ordinator:

Bernie Till

07801 926 171

cpleavalley@live.co.uk

Friends of the Branch:

Bernie Till

07801 926 171

cpleavalley@live.co.uk

Fundraising, Advertising & Volunteer Liaison:

Maureen Till

07769 973 724

Lottery Organiser:

Kypros Savopolous

01992 631 556

kyprosav.44@hotmail.com

Neutering Officer:

Kay Moore

0333 567 4746

Shop:

145 Chase Side, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0PN

020 8367 4813

cpshop@live.co.uk

Sponsorship Scheme:

Stephanie Duffy

01707 657 876

stephanie.duffy1@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Roger Hales

020 8505 9910

rogerbhales@hotmail.com

Welfare Officer:

Yvonne Rapley

0333 567 4746

yvonne.rapley@hotmail.co.uk

Correspondence address:

145 Chase Side, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0PN

Neighbouring Branches

All CP branches co-operate with one another, but operate within recognised areas. Lea Valley covers postcodes E4, EN1, EN2, EN3, EN4, EN6, EN7, EN8, EN9, N9, N18 and N21. If you know of cat care issues in surrounding areas, they should be addressed initially to the relevant local branch. The table below lists contact details for surrounding branches.

National branch coverage can be found through the main Cats Protection website at www.cats.org.uk/find-us

| Neighbouring Branch / Adoption Centre | Telephone | Website |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Basildon, Brentwood & District | 01268 285778 | www.bascats.org.uk |
| Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted Branch | 0345 371 1851 | www.dacorum.cats.org.uk |
| Harlow, Epping Forest & District | 0333 200 1484 | www.harlow.cats.org.uk |
| Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill | 020 8952 1350 | www.hendon.cats.org.uk |
| Hornchurch & District | 01708 755211 | hornchurchcats@yahoo.co.uk |
| North Hertfordshire | 01438 228877 | www.northherts.cats.org.uk |
| North London Adoption Centre | 020 7272 6048 | www.northlondon.cats.org.uk |
| St Albans & District | 0345 371 2064 | www.stalbans.cats.org.uk |
| Three Rivers & Watford | 01923 283338 | www.threerivers.cats.org.uk |
| Waltham Forest | 0345 260 1681 | www.cats.org.uk/waltham |
| Welwyn, Hatfield & District | 0345 371 1855 | www.welwynhatfield.cats.org.uk |



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