

FUNNIES

Q: Why are cats so good at video games?

A: Because they have 9 lives, of course!

Q: What's a cat's favourite dessert?

A: A mice cream cone.

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Newsletter of the Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill Branch of Cats Protection
Registered Charity England & Wales 203644 – Scotland SCO 37711



CAT FLAP

Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill Branch

Newsletter



June 2025



Please Please Please
neuter your cats and pass this
message on to others.

It's an absolute nightmare out
there for
unwanted abandoned cats, kittens
and pregnant mums.
All rescues centres are full, and they have
nowhere to go!



To Donate to our Branch
Scan code which will take you to our
website and scroll down to
the Donate Section
Thank you



Branch News

Sue Jones Branch Co-Ordinator

Since our March edition we've homed 14 cats and kittens including Cinnamon and her 3 kittens who I wrote about. We've also homed 2 cats that we thought might be difficult to find homes for, gorgeous Nabat who is deaf and handsome Mojo who is 13 years old. Both are happy and settled in their new homes.



We currently have 2 cats and 16 kittens in care that are not quite ready for homing. This includes a few with "special needs". Aba is a lovely female around 5 years old who is diabetic and on medication and a special diet.

Maxine is fostering a couple of separate litters, and I have 8 from a multi-cat household where the adults, both male and female, had not been neutered. I'm pleased to say that 2 of the mums have now been neutered and Karen, our Neutering officer, is in the process of arranging this for the remainder.

3 of the 8 kittens with me have cerebellar hypoplasia (CH). For those of you who do not know what that is, it is a neurological condition where the cerebellum, the part of the brain responsible for coordination and balance, doesn't fully develop. This leads to a range of motor skill impairments, often referred to as "wobbly cat syndrome". While it can cause noticeable symptoms, such as tremors and a wobbly gait, CH is not painful or contagious. Cats with CH have a normal lifespan and normal life. It is a non-progressive disorder that doesn't worsen or get better over time and they are born with it.

They will need an indoor home when they are ready, as they are unlikely to be able to defend themselves from predators. They tend to like climbing as they can't jump but should never be left alone on furniture in case they fall. Kittens with CH tend to be very affectionate, sweet and loving and bond with their human family.

I hope by the time of our next Newsletter we will have found loving homes for all our cats and kittens including the "special" ones. Then it will be on to the next lot!

Reasons My Cat Rejected His Food Today...

1. You *looked at me* while I was eating.
2. Ate this yesterday. *We've moved on.*
3. Served in the **WRONG** bowl.
4. I wanted wet food, but you *should have known that.*
5. Smelled it, decided it's *suspicious.*
6. I saw a crumb *outside* the bowl.
7. The bag crinkled way *too aggressively.*





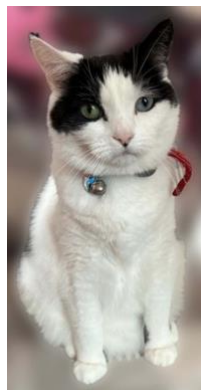
THE EDITOR'S CATS *Betsy reporting*

Well, here we are again. So, what's been happening since I last wrote my article. We've been adopted by yet another stray cat. A ginger one who has been called Sidney and what a pest he is. He comes into the house and is spraying everywhere. I, and my fellow house mates have tried to educate him, but he will not listen. He sulks if he is reprimanded. He comes in at least four times a day to demand food and then eats his way through at least four sachets each meal. An attempt to worm him failed miserably. First, he spat the tablet out and then when put in his food he ignored the part where the tablet was hidden. He doesn't know it yet, but he has an appointment at the vet for his first vaccination and parasite treatment – if he turns up. This vet will only castrate once a cat is fully vaccinated.

If you think this was bad enough, we now have 8 foster kittens in the house. Two litters in separate rooms. What a noise they make screaming for food. The first litter from a mum who went out and got pregnant are friendly, brave and very calm. They love a cuddle. The second litter were born by caesarean section because their mother's diaphragm was up near her heart, possibly caused by an attack, and a natural birth would have killed her. She was rescued by a member of the public who has kept her and one kitten. This lot are really demanding, wriggly and badly behaved. They are very untidy and create havoc with anything in the path. I've never seen our house so untidy.

With the hot weather, I and my fellow house mates have been refusing to come in at night which is of course, a worry for our owner. Paddington has had several trips to the vet because he was unwell – lethargic and not eating. He looked such a mess because he also had ear mites, and the ear drops played havoc with his long hair! He is much better now although at nearly 15 he has become a grumpy old so and so. His litter mate Sixpence has also been in the wars. We don't know how, but she damaged her hip and could barely walk. She's also extremely obese which did not help. She doesn't eat much so we cannot understand this. So, with vet visits, blood tests and medication it has cost rather a lot of money to help them. I may have to find a job – modelling!

I could go on but will stop now because I must visit a neighbour to get a piece of cheese!



A HEARTBREAKING STRAY *Janet Warren*



At the end of the summer last year a sighting of a previously reported missing cat was referred to our helpline. Upon investigation it was not the cat, albeit it short-haired and not medium-haired, but a pitiful looking black and white cat.

From what I could see it was in a terrible state, being pathetically thin and malnourished with a lot of its body hair missing, in fact almost bald on its flank and half of its tail, with chunks missing out of its fur with sores and wounds.

When I got close it ran into the bushes, but I was able to see that it was a male cat. Once a bowl of food was put down, he came running back and couldn't eat quick enough, crying as he did - it was heartbreaking to see! At this point I was able to scan him and he was not microchipped.

After a second pouch he let me stroke him, so I put him in a carrier (he was so light to pick up) and brought him home - there was no way I could walk away and leave him!

Upon a vet visit soon after it was reported that he had been previously shorn and was about 13+ years old, also being severely malnourished and dehydrated, grossly underweight, he had cataracts, the onset of kidney disease, a skin condition and fleas.

After being vaccinated and given various treatments/medications, 6 months down the line, he is now in the best possible health he can be. He's a very long, lean cat, but unfortunately his coat is thin and patchy and has not regrown in places due to the hair follicles being damaged when he was shorn.

After all that he has endured and been so badly treated and neglected he's a lovely, affectionate and friendly old boy. As soon as you sit down, he jumps on your lap for strokes and purrs and head butts away.

I've adopted him and called him Casey. He's now having the best life in his twilight years, which he greatly deserves 🐱🐾🐾



FLORA (Mary Kellow)

You may remember me from my article of 2023. I thought you would like to know how I am getting on so far this year.

In the cold weather I decided to become an indoor cat as I didn't see any point in going outside only to get cold paws. In any case I do have several

warm and comfy fleece rugs and mats to sleep on plus my Mummy's bed. My favourite day time sleeping place was a fleece mat on a table a few inches from a radiator, which is usually on in cold weather as, like me, my Mummy feels the cold and needs warmth.

When the weather warmed up, I decided to venture out and to check my territory. I discovered a lovely bush which is sheltered and from where I can get a great view of all the bird activity in my garden. Recently there has been a great deal of activity as the birds, along with their babies, take full advantage of all the feeders my Mummy keeps topped up for them. I must stress that I am a bird "watcher" and not a bird "catcher". However, one evening last month I managed (for the first time) to catch a mouse!! I think they might have a nest under Mummy's shed. Obviously, I brought the mouse indoors as a present for my Mummy as I knew how pleased she would be to receive it. She came into the lounge, saw me chasing the mouse and began to scream. It was a scream of pleasure and delight!! Very quickly my Mummy got the mouse into a dish, took it outside and locked my cat flap with me still in the lounge. I was left feeling extremely deflated, although my Mummy did say that I was a very clever and skilful girl. She then said that she didn't want any more such gifts! How appreciative was that?

My Mummy decided to buy me a cat tree. It's wonderful! It's about four feet high and has two areas where I like to sit to watch events in my garden. Also, my Mummy has recently bought me some interactive cat toys which I enjoy playing with, although I do still expect her to play with me with my other toys such as my laser toy, fishing wand and cat tunnel. A couple of months ago, my Mummy had to buy a new clothesline. She first took the old one down and it trailed along the ground as she coiled it, so I had a lovely time chasing it. It was even more fun for me when she put the new line up and I was able to chase it

Provide plenty of shaded spots in your garden. Trees, shrubs or sun sails are the best way to create shade. You could also try placing your cat's favourite bed in shaded areas to encourage them to keep cool. But keep in mind that cats may avoid their warm, cosy beds altogether in the summer.

Placing a cooling mat in your cat's bed is a great way to keep them cool. There are a wide range of cooling mats for pets available, but you can get a similar effect by wrapping freezer blocks, or ice packs in a blanket.

Most cats hate getting wet, so they're unlikely to want to take a dip in water. But dampening a small towel with cool water and dabbing it over your cat's fur can bring some relief from the hot weather. You could also try stroking your cat with wet hands.

Excess fur on your cat will trap heat. Grooming your cat daily to remove the dead hair will make them feel more comfortable during a heatwave. You may also notice that your cat is grooming themselves more than normal – this is nothing to worry about. When your cat's saliva evaporates off their fur, it cools your cat down.

When the weather is particularly hot, it's best to keep your cat indoors during the hottest parts of the day. Early in the morning and late in the evening are the best times to let your cat explore outdoors, as this is when the weather is coolest. You can also keep it cool inside by keeping curtains closed to block out the sun, while using a fan – this will create a cool room for your cat to sleep in.

HOW TO MAKE A TUNA ICE LOLLY

What you'll need

A can of tuna in spring water

Jug

Water

Ice lolly moulds

Open a can of tuna. You can also substitute this with low-salt chicken stock if you haven't got any.

Dilute the tuna spring water in a jug with some cold water

Pour the contents into ice lolly moulds and freeze

Give the lolly to your cat in a bowl or hold it for them. They'll love it!



Keeping your cat cool and safe during the summer

When the heat arrives, not only can cats feel hot and bothered, they're also more at risk of heatstroke. While cats often seek the shade to keep themselves cool, there are some steps you can take to keep your cat safe.

It's important to keep your cat hydrated to prevent dehydration during hot weather. If your cat needs some encouragement to drink water:

- Move their water bowl away from their food bowl and litter tray – many cats do not like to drink water near their food or toileting area, so moving their water away may encourage them to drink. Some cats may prefer ceramic or metal bowls over plastic. Try different types of bowls and place them in different areas to see if your cat has a preference. You can also try different bowl sizes, as many cats prefer larger bowls filled to the brim.
- Some cats prefer to drink from running water. Try offering them a drink from your tap or consider investing in a water fountain
- Provide plenty of water bowls indoors and outdoors – this will give your cat constant, easy access to fresh water
- Collect rainwater – many cats prefer to drink rainwater instead of tap water. Place a bowl outside to catch rainwater or fill up a bowl from a water butt.
- Ice lollies are the perfect way to keep your cat entertained and cool in the heat. It's easy to make an icy snack with your cat's favourite treats – all you need to do is freeze some spring water from a can of tuna, or low-salt chicken stock into an ice lolly mould. A tuna ice lolly is a handy ice treat recipe for cats who need a little more encouragement when trying new things. (See recipe opposite)



along the ground and make it very difficult for her to secure one end to the tree at the end of the garden.

In the warm summer weather we have been having, and because it stays light until late, I like to be out in my garden in my bush. I have to remain very alert and to keep an eye out for any more mice; the birds usually feed until dusk; other cats sometimes visit; also I have seen foxes in my garden. My Mummy prefers it when I come indoors at night. I have a great game with her – she comes out dressed in her pyjama, calls me, and as I come towards her, she tries to grab me, but I dart back to the safety of my bush!! I can repeat this several times, but I do usually run indoors as I like to sleep with my Mummy on her bed as I can get quite tired with all the concentration needed to remain alert and watchful.

In summary, I am having a good year as I know my Mummy loves me very much and she continues to spoil me. I love her too!

Police give stray cat a stable job

By Charlotte Gapper

A stray cat has become a partner in crime for the police.

Blake, 10, had been overlooked by potential adopters at the RSPCA Canterbury & District branch until staff received a request from police who were hunting for a street savvy cat.

Inspector Steve Duffy from the Mounted Branch at Lewisham



Blake, 10, helps a mounted police branch in south-east London

station, south-east London, was looking for a cat to live in their stables, and Blake was ideal.

"Blake's settling in really well and has already charmed everyone at the stables," he said. "The horses seem curious, but he's still a little shy. We're letting him explore at his own pace."

RSPCA branch manager Natalie Archer said: "Blake came into our care after being handed in to vets. He had clearly been straying and fending for himself for a long time."



Paddington and Magic were no ordinary cats. Rescued from a cardboard box in a rainy alley, they had begun life with their two brothers and one sister in a soggy, uncertain world. But fate smiled upon them when Cats Protection swooped in and gave them a second chance. Now, at three years old, these black-furred brothers from the same litter had grown into clever, curious, and heroic little cats with big hearts—and a knack for finding the lost.



Paddington, sleek, yet chunky, and shadow-dark with a single flick of white on his chest—just enough, he often claimed, to keep the witches away—was the more curious of the two. Magic, on the other paw, wore a dapper black-and-white tuxedo and had a twinkle in his golden eyes. Together, they surveyed their quiet domain like pint-sized detectives, checking

fences and hedges, watching foxes and birds, always alert to mischief and mystery.

Their first big case began one sunny afternoon when a frightened meow echoed from across the garden. Fifi, the elegant British Blue from Number 109, had disappeared four days earlier on her first ever garden adventure. Her humans had left food and flyers, but she was nowhere to be found.

“She wouldn’t have gone far,” said Paddington, twitching his tail thoughtfully.

Magic sniffed the breeze and darted off; his white paws silent on the fence tops. They searched under sheds, behind bins, and finally, in the cat hotel on the front porch they found her—wide-eyed and dusty, curled up in a ball.

“Home, please,” she whispered. Magic nudged her gently. “This way, Lady Fifi.”

The grateful humans wept with joy when she padded into their arms. The brothers basked in tuna treats and head scratches for their efforts.

But the adventures didn’t stop there.

A few weeks later, a new cat arrived—a small ginger named Lyra. She was quick and quiet, but something was off. She was very hungry, but no one knew her name.



“She’s lost,” Paddington told Magic.

“Let’s fix that.”

Magic and Paddington checked her ID and said, “we know



who will help us save her” and with Mummy Maxine’s help the intrepid mini detectives discovered that she lived across the road. Her microchip still pointed to a house many miles away.

With the help of a friendly robin who’d seen where she went, and Butch, the grizzled tabby who watched the street from a sunny patch on the driveway, they pieced together Lyra’s story. Magic meowed loudly under her window until Zoe, her mum, came out with her phone and finally updated the address. Lyra, who had looked so worried, visits quite regularly.

But the most unusual case was Bandit—a fluffy black puppy with feet too big for his legs and eyes full of panic. He’d bolted from his house when the gate was left open, and none of the humans seemed to be looking for him.

“He’s just a baby,” said Paddington, watching the pup jumping around the front of the house then charging around the house, all wiggly tail and licks.

They meowed and chirped until Oliver, a neighbour arrived and contacted Alice who immediately fell in love with little Bandit. Alice and Jane took Bandit to the vets and Bandit was soon reunited, after sad good-byes.

Through it all, Butch remained distant but ever present, like a guardian spirit in tabby fur. He never said much, but sometimes, when the brothers returned from their missions, he gave a slow blink of approval.

And so, the two brave cats—one shadow, one moonlight—continued their adventures, protecting their little corner of the world, one whisker-twitching mystery at a time.

