

## FUNNIES

Q: Why was the cat sitting on the computer?

A: To keep an eye on the mouse!

Q: What is a cat's way of keeping law and order?

A: Claw enforcement!

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### CONTACTS

Areas covered

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Main Branch number: 020 8952 1350

Postal address: PO Box 690, Edgware, HA8 4JY

Email: [enquiries@hendon.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hendon.cats.org.uk)

Website: <http://hendon.cats.org.uk>

Shop: 65 Ballards Lane Finchley N3 1XP - 020 8371 0575

[finchley.shopmanager@cats.org.uk](mailto:finchley.shopmanager@cats.org.uk)

We'd love to keep in touch, by telling you about our work with cats, inviting you to support fundraising appeals, join events and campaigns or to volunteer. Rest assured, we'll never swap or sell any details about you with other organisations. If you'd like to receive information please contact Supporter Services by telephoning 0800 160 1012 Monday to Friday during office hours (9am-5pm), emailing [preferences@cats.org.uk](mailto:preferences@cats.org.uk) or writing to us at Freepost RTJK-TJJK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT Please visit [www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy](http://www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy) if you have any questions about how we use your data.

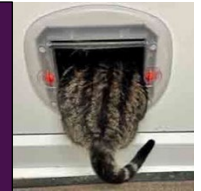
Newsletter of the Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill Branch of Cats Protection  
Registered Charity England & Wales 203644 – Scotland SCO 37711



## CAT FLAP

Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill Branch

Newsletter



March 2025



Pippin is one of our current foster kittens

### Branch News

Sue Jones Branch Co-Ordinator

Some good news this month is that we've recruited 3 new fosterers. All 3 have now had their first cat and seem to enjoy caring for them. Even better is that one of our fosterers is about to rehome her charges, a lovely pair of male cats and is now awaiting her second foster. Having more fosterers is a great bonus as it means we can bring in and help even more cats in need.



This month also saw routine welfare inspections. This is where the Regional Welfare Advisor from Head Office does the rounds and visits all the fosterers in her Region to ensure there are no problems and that welfare protocols are being followed. I think what is most enjoyed is meeting the cats and kittens in our care! Needless to say, our Branch got a full clean bill of health!

Neutering is never ending. We now have the services of a Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) volunteer. This is another bonus as it means we are able to trap more ferals and strays and get them neutered, thereby stopping the birth of so many kittens and the never-ending struggle of finding homes.

Our shop in Ballards Lane Finchley is doing well. It opened in 2014 and is still going strong with excellent sales. All monies raised goes towards helping more cats.

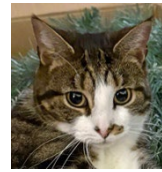
Well Spring is here, or so they say, the clocks are going forwards, so maybe the weather will improve, and summer will finally arrive! Enjoy whatever you are doing.....until the next time.

#### THE EDITOR'S CATS **Betsy reporting**

In January a male, 3 months old kitten was found wandering in the street by John the Music shop. Cats have a strange way of gravitating to him, and he is always finding strays and taking them in. This does not go down well with his partner. Anyway, I digress. It turned out the kitten was owned by a neighbour whose little boy kept leaving doors and windows open and the kitten was escaping. The boy had named him "Julie". They lost another kitten last year who just disappeared after the door was left open. The family were persuaded to hand the Kitten over to CP and we called him Albert.

*His behaviour left much to be desired – we prefer a quiet life!*

Charlie was next to be taken in. He had been straying in our area for over 9 months. We were not fond of him. He walked along the street making funny noises and he smelled horrible. We could not work out if he was brain damaged or unneutered. Even worse he

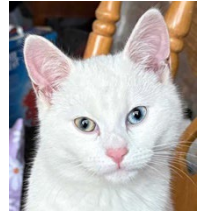


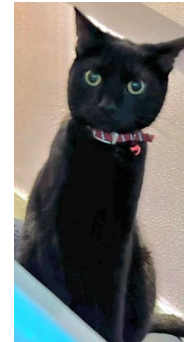
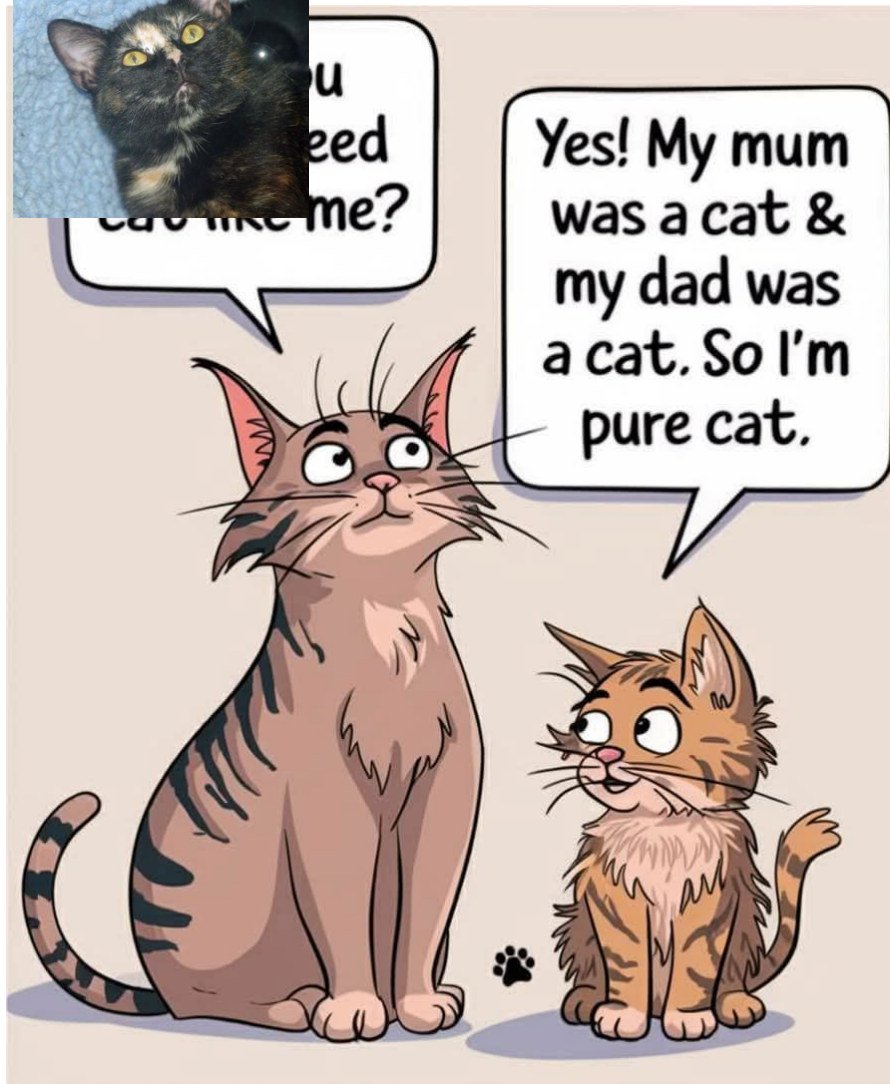
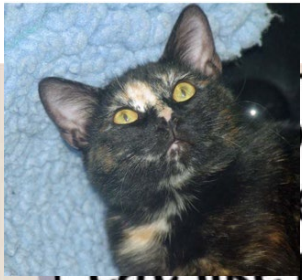
kept coming into our house and spraying. It was impossible to trap him. He then started to limp and had difficulty putting his paw to the ground. It all came to a head when he followed us into the lounge and was captured by the editor. The vet discovered a very large abscess on his leg, he was covered in flea dirt and had not been neutered. He was microchipped. He was sent back to our house where he continued to yowl 24 hours day and was in deep distress. This went on for a fortnight while we waited for him to heal so that he could be neutered. Eventually contact was made with the owner who appeared oblivious to his suffering and finally agreed to hand him over.

#### **Albert and Charlie now have loving new homes**

Well, I am rather occupied the moment because we have rats under our floor and at that of a neighbour and I spend my time listening for them. I managed to catch one but cannot, much to my dismay, get to the others.

There are so many new cats in the area, including one that comes through the cat flap in the middle of the night and appears in the bedroom. I am shut in downstairs so can do nothing. Paddington and Reuben just sit up on the bed and watch. We now have 4 tiny foster kittens in the back room but will tell you more about them next time.





### Letter From Raven

Dear Mummy Maxine

I have been having lots of fun since I last wrote to you. I helped M Gill to paint those three poppy magnets by climbing onto her board and trying to drink her paint water. I also help D Alan with his jigsaw puzzles. This is good as I can get the pieces into my mouth and move them around or catch them with my paws or tail and they go flying around all over the place! They are very big at 1000 pieces, so it takes quite a while to finish them. Sometimes pieces do hide themselves on the floor - oops. Never mind it all ends well and he enjoys having my company especially when I sit on the puzzle.

I also have fun as I just love climbing. Up bookcases - well they do look like ladders! On to windowsills, cupboards, tables, especially when they have just been laid up for people to come for lunch, top of the settee, dressing tables, in fact anywhere I can.

I was naughty when I started scratching things as I have a lovely scratching post which I do use a lot. Now my Uncle David, who is staying with us now, has made me a lovely new scratching post which I have in the conservatory. It is really tall, and I can reach up to the top and have a good stretch. I do like Uncle David; we have such fun playing together and he often slips me the odd treat! Also, he is someone else to go and jump on in the night!

My best fun at night was when I got down the back of D Alan's bed and couldn't get out. Of course, it woke him up and he had to move the pillows and mattress to get me out. Ha Ha. They have got wise to that now and blocked it up. Boo.

I often wake them up early for a cuddle. D Alan is the only one not too pleased about this.

Isn't lovely being so light and sunny? We sit in the conservatory and watch the birds and squirrels. I don't want to go out there though as they might not like me.

Lots of love, kisses and hugs for now and Happy Mothering Sunday

From Raven xxx

### Fostering pregnant cats – Sue Jones

Fostering pregnant cats, being there for the birth and watching the mums care for their kittens can be a wonderful experience. There can also be sad and traumatic times.

Pregnant Cinnamon came into my care on 20 February 2025. She is an adorable brindle approximately 19 months old, friendly and affectionate who loves to kiss and be kissed!

In the early hours of the 17 March, Cinnamon decided it was time to give birth. She found the smallest space possible, got in and started. There was no way I could see what was happening, so I had to do everything by feel. Having been doing this for nearly 26 years, I have become somewhat adept at spotting problems.

I could feel a couple of wriggling kittens, then the sadness came, as I felt a still, cold body. I took the kitten out and it was stillborn, a horrible feeling and so sad. Cats always



know when something is wrong with one of their kittens and tend to concentrate on the ones that are OK.

She carried on giving birth and had 5 in total including the little stillborn one. Of the remaining 4, one concerned me as she was so small, weighing less than half the weight of the others. Two days later, the sadness came again. The little one, who I had called Avon, didn't make it.

I think both were possibly from another litter and were simply not developed enough to survive. As you may know if a cat is impregnated while being pregnant, she will have a second pregnancy whilst still carrying the first one. Unfortunately, when the first litter is ready to be born, they are all born. This has only happened to me once before and traumatic doesn't describe the feeling.

The happy news is that Cinnamon appears happy and healthy as do her remaining 3 kittens. 2 are males, Max is tabby, and Flint is ginger. Ember is black and a female. At the time of writing this, they are 10 days old, their eyes have opened, and their ears have pricked up.

In kitten terms - all is good!



### Signs of Spring Fever in Cats

When cats experience spring fever they may run around, play more, or get clingy, following you around. If you see any of these signs, your cat may be getting their seasonal spring fever itch:

- More lively or rowdy behaviour
- Meowing or howling more
- Waking up at earlier hours
- Shedding more fur than usual
- Increased appetite
- Yearning to go outside more often
- Desire to mate
- Heightened aggression

These are a few signs of spring fever in cats. Some cats even forget their litter box training and urinate or defecate around the house. Luckily, there are ways to manage your cat's behaviour while also tending to its instincts.

### Treating Spring Fever in Cats

The first step in managing spring fever in cats is ensuring they get enough mental and physical stimulation. Provide your cat with plenty of toys, interactive play activities, diet and lifestyle changes, and mental stimulation. Your cat's energy will be at peak levels due to its wild



nature so make sure they have plenty of toys indoors to play with.



### Some interesting Information

**What is the 3-3-3 rule for cats?** New Cat? Set Realistic Expectations! You can expect that it will take your cat some time to get used to the new routines and environment. The 'Rule of Three' means that you can gauge the time it might take for your cat to fully acclimate to his home in threes: three days, three weeks, and three months.

**Do cats remember people?** Cats possess excellent long-term memories. They can recall their animal companions and the people who feed them as well as those who irritate them.

### Spring is here:

Spring allergies can affect cats just like they affect humans. With the arrival of the spring season, cats can suffer from allergies due to various environmental factors such as pollen, dust, mould, and grass.

### What Is Cat Spring Fever?

Spring fever in cats is a form of seasonal affective disorder (SAD) that happens in the spring season. During this time, cats become more restless and active than usual. In some cases, cats may even develop separation anxiety or become overly clingy. Generally, cats with spring fever will display signs of excessive energy, restlessness, and an inability to focus.



### Causes of Spring Fever in Cats?

There are a few possible causes of spring fever in cats. One of the most common is the increase in daylight hours that comes with the spring season. This can cause cats to become more active and restless due to the longer days. Cats may also become overstimulated due to the increased activity of birds and



other animals in warmer weather. Finally, cats may experience boredom due to the lack of activity during the winter months, leading to a natural desire to release energy.

The SIX **GOLDEN RULES**  
for youngsters for keeping your cat happy and safe  
*Some adults could benefit from learning this as well!*

**1 When you are with a cat,** always have your parent/guardian close enough to hear and see you. Listen to their instructions carefully, this will help keep you and the cat safe.

### **2 Leave cats alone when they:**

- Are eating or have a treat
- Have a toy or something else they really like
- Are sleeping
- Are unwell, injured, or tired
- Are blind or deaf.

### **3. Be kind and polite to cats.**

Treat cats with the same respect as other people – most people wouldn't like someone pulling parts of them, so we don't want to do this to cats.

It can be really scary for cats to be picked up, so it's much better to sit quietly and let them choose when they want to be close to you.

### **4 Play with your cat in a way they will enjoy it.**

Cats love to have fun by stalking, pouncing and chasing toys around.

Cats need a chance to calm down after playing before they will enjoy being petted again – they may need 10 or 15 minutes by themselves after playing.

**5 Along with your parent/guardian,** learn the signs of an unhappy cat and leave unhappy cats alone. If your cat looks unhappy or your parent/guardian asks you to, stay where you are and let the cat go somewhere they will feel safe and happy

**6 Before meeting a cat,** ask the owner and your parent/guardian if it's okay to say hello, and listen to how they want you to do that



**Mary Kellow**

Remember to sit quietly and let the cat approach you only if they want to. Some cats may not want to say hello, we can leave them alone to keep them happy. If there's no adult owner around to ask, leave the cat alone.

**Visit to the Big Cat Sanctuary.**

I've been a member of the Big Cat Sanctuary in Kent for about 10 years. Most people will have heard about the 5 African Lions rescued from war torn Ukraine now living in purpose-built enclosures at the Sanctuary. Obviously as an enthusiastic cat lover of all sizes of cats I was longing to see them. A member's day at the sanctuary provided the ideal opportunity.

I struggled to get up at 5.30 am to catch the 09.43 train from Charing Cross to Headcorn followed by a mini cab to the sanctuary. My cat Flora did her best to delay me but eventually I was able to escape her demands.

On arrival the weather was sunny with a chill wind. There was time to wander around before the opening ceremony when we were told of the collaboration with other rescue organisations to transport the lions out of Ukraine. They needed £500,000 which they raised in about a year to enable them to build the enclosures.

The new Lion Centre comprises of 4 large enclosures with grass, shrubs, rocks, tree stumps and wooden platforms. I was extremely impressed with the whole development. I was lucky enough to see all five lions and they seemed very content and happy. They had only arrived two weeks prior to my visit and the keepers were amazed at how quickly they adapted to their new forever home taking their first ever steps on grass. The five lions are all approximately two years old and they had all been very badly impacted by the bombings in Ukraine. Two have neurological problems but are improving.

Yuna lived in a 3x4 m cage on bare concrete floor suffering from shellshock and concussion.

Vanda was rescued from a flat and had been kept as a family pet.

Rori lived in a private menagerie where he was likely used for illegal breeding and was suffering from concussion.

Amani and Lira are sisters rescued together and are assumed to be illegally bred and for photo exploitation purposes.

I think that all five lions had a terrible start to their lives, and just like our foster kittens, I am delighted at how they seem to be settled in their forever home in such a short time.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit.

