

Felis Catus



Newsletter of
Woking & District Cats Protection
July – December 2025



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Welcome

Welcome to Felis Catus!

This is my fifth year as Editor of Felis Catus and during this time I've had the honour of receiving many updates and photos of cats and kittens now living their best life, thanks to Woking & District Cats Protection. This issue is crammed full – I hope you love reading them as much as I did.

Every cat is special and without exception they are adored and appreciated by their forever home. When we eventually lose them they leave a hole in our hearts and our lives, none more so than Jacob whose memory is shared with us (opposite) by Fiona, who also kindly sponsored this newsletter in his name.

In this issue we look back ten years to 2015, when Felis Catus first reported on tiny, tabby Leonard who was rescued and treated for an almost-certainly-fatal heart condition. Against the odds, Leonard continues to enjoy a delightful life with his own in-house vet and nurse, Mark and Ros, who give us an update about him on page 20.

Have you ever thought about visiting a cat café? It might be time to think again. The national Cats Protection Advocacy, Campaigns & Government Relations Team explains its latest campaign on page 19.

Last but not least: fundraising. We couldn't function as a branch without it! Were you at our annual quiz in February? If so, I'm sure you had a blast. Perhaps you even remember your score in the spelling test! Or maybe you came to the Spring Fayre? However large or small your contribution to Woking CP this year, we are very grateful for your continued support.

Jane

editor@woking.cats.org.uk



Volunteers Matter

Welcome to: Hannah Burse-Tregust, Siobhan Delaney, Marion Phillips, Sarah Stoner.

We are always in need of volunteers – please get in touch if you are interested in joining our lovely team. Contact us at: enquiries@woking.cats.org.uk or call us on 01483 928018 (mailbox 4).

Cover star: Willow – see page 26.

Like what you see?

We also share our news on social media - please follow us!



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In memory of Jacob

Between “Hello” in 2009 and “Goodbye” in 2024 there was so much love and joy. 15¾ years to be precise.

I first thought about writing this piece shortly after we recognised it was time to let Jacob go and he was put to sleep peacefully at home in early December*. Despite the time that has passed I’ve struggled to put “pen” to “paper”. So here I am just before the deadline, tapping away at my laptop trying to do justice to Jacob’s memory.

I can still clearly remember the day Jason and I met Jacob and his two brothers in Knaphill (yes, we adopted them all). He was sitting in a corner of their pen minding his own business whilst Archie (always the adventurous one) was climbing up the iron mesh. Jacob was such a small bundle of fluff that he fitted in the palm of Jason’s hand – hard to believe now, given how chunky he was as an adult. I think that time stuck with Jacob too – throughout his life he continued to adore Jason, his all-time favourite human.



There are many things I could share about Jacob but here are just a few of his beautiful quirks.

- He was a one-cat welcoming committee – dashing to the front door with us to greet pretty much everyone who came by and dashing round to the front garden to meet us when we came home (how we miss that welcome).
- Turning brushing sessions with Jason into games of “Bitey bitey”.
- Sitting in the cat nip scratch box in the kitchen so he could keep an eye on what was going on and, more importantly, be close to food.



- Play fighting with the bottom stair (so much so that the carpet on that side now looks a little worse for wear).
- Sneaking into my place when I got up from the sofa in the evening (clearly a warm seat was a highly prized thing for Jacob as he even used to give up Jason’s lap for it).
- Calling to us after he’d been out to find out where we were so he could come and say “Hi, I’m back”.
- Sunbathing on the back patio and bird watching for hours (and hours).
- Closely supervising me whilst gardening, including sitting right by my feet and peering over my shoulder to inspect recently dug plant holes.
- Sleeping on our feet or tucked behind our knees at night – lovely and toasty but not so great when you wanted to turn over!

Jacob was such a laid back, food and lap-loving, gentle giant of a cat. We are so very grateful to have had him in our lives and miss him immensely. Ben, his remaining brother, misses him less so – it seems Ben likes being an only cat after all these years! Jacob (his ashes) is back home with us now, but his presence is sorely missed.

* With huge thanks to the Lynton House team who were so compassionate and truly wonderful at such a difficult time.

Fiona 

Meet the volunteers

Siobhan

Earlier this year, I lost my beautiful cat Lesty (Celeste) very suddenly when she became unwell and had to be put to sleep. She was only five years old. We had adopted Lesty during lockdown from a rescue charity – she was blind, which was likely why she hadn't found a home yet, but to us she was absolutely perfect. Lesty brought so much love into our lives, and losing her left a huge gap. It also inspired me to want to help other cats who might need a little extra patience and support to find their forever homes.

As my daughter, who was especially close to Lesty, may be moving out soon, we aren't quite ready to adopt another cat permanently – so fostering felt like the perfect next step. It's a way to keep helping without making a long-term commitment just yet.

Our first foster cat is Henry, a shy ginger and white tom who arrived very nervous and unsure of himself. For the first two weeks, Henry barely moved from his cushion whenever anyone was in

the room – we even joked that we weren't sure if he had legs! Slowly, with a lot of quiet time and gentle encouragement, we discovered that he loved being combed. Bit by bit, Henry started to relax, eventually rolling over for tummy rubs and even seeking out cuddles. Seeing him build his trust and confidence has been incredibly rewarding and healing, and a real reminder of the resilience and love that rescue cats have to offer.

Fostering has helped turn my grief into something positive, and I'm so grateful for the chance to honour Lesty's memory by helping cats like Henry find their second chance.



Sharon

I have been volunteering with the Cats Protection Lost and Found team for a few months now. I also volunteer as a Scan Angel, scanning all pets for their microchips but most importantly, animals that are deceased, bringing closure to families who don't know what has happened to their precious pet. I started off being a Scan Angel after I lost my own pet to a road traffic accident. I also volunteer at our local community fridge.

I am originally from South Africa, and I have three teenage boys (four if you count the husband!). Unfortunately I only have one cat, Felix. A slightly (very) chunky tuxedo boy, but once my house is cat-proofed, I would like to have many more. One day, I would love to foster.

I was first in contact with Cats Protection when I was trying to arrange for a feral cat to be neutered, and they could see my passion for cats and asked if I wanted to join the team.

In the short time I have been volunteering we have had many success stories, such as one cat that I was called to scan and we found his family who lived in the same road, but after talking to the owners, we found out that they were struggling to look after a large number of cats. They were not in the financial position to have them neutered so, with the help of the CP team, we were able to get them all neutered and find homes for the kittens, making sure that the cats they kept were well taken care of.

Another one of my proudest moments was with a beautiful little lady who was so hungry, she was eating the bread that a family was putting out for the birds. She was unfortunately not chipped but was pregnant and the team stepped in and put her into foster care so she never has to eat bread again. I am so proud that we have changed the lives of many cats.

This is my dream job and I am loving every minute, not to mention all the kitty cuddles I get along the way.

Bridget's story

We had known for a long time that we wanted to have a cat in our lives, but had to wait until the time was right. One thing we did know, though, is that it was always going to be a rescue; partly because we had ethical concerns about buying privately, and partly because the idea of giving a cat a second chance felt like the right thing to do. Woking Cats Protection has a great presence in the area, and they do such good work, so there was only one place we were going to look.

The question was, how would we know when the time was right? Well, it was when we looked at the Woking Cats Protection website, and the first listing we saw was for a little black and white cat called Smudge. One thing led to another and a few weeks later we welcomed Smudge (subsequently renamed Bridget) into our home. What was really appreciated about the process was the level of rigour

shown by Cats Protection; we really noted the determination to find the right home for the right cat. The communication was clear, everything was documented, and there were no surprises from the beginning to the end.

From the moment Bridget came into the house she showed confidence, curiosity, fun and affection, and she started to settle in straight away. Now, six months down the line, she truly feels at home here. She's out every day, but always knows that this is her home; any strange noise, neighbouring moggy or unexpected rain and she's back in with us for reassurance, strokes and treats. She even joins in with games of frisbee and Swingball!

We'd like to thank Woking Cats Protection for all the amazing work that they do, and for bringing Bridget into our lives!

Andrew



Bridget's Kittens

Tiger Lily & Bisley

My son and I got our previous kittens, Smokey and Caramel from Cats Protection. We lost Caramel to a car accident but Smokey lived for 18 happy years. When he died of old age a couple of years ago we wanted to get a pair again so they could keep each other company as we both work. Cats Protection was the natural choice as we had great service from them previously.

They told us about a litter of five kittens and we thought getting two would mean the others wouldn't be left alone. So we adopted Tiger Lily and Bisley as we wanted a boy and girl. I can't even begin to tell you how much we adore them and what a difference they've made to us. They have brought so much fun into our lives – it's like having two babies in the house!

Tiggy (short for Tiger Lily) and Bisley are cute, mischievous, naughty and adorable and have now grown into beautiful cats.



We love them so much and can't thank Cats Protection and lovely Alison enough.

Bindu 

Luna



Luna (previously known as Mango) joined our family at the end of August last year. She has settled in so quickly and is now very much one of the family. Initially quite timid but very inquisitive, she is gaining in confidence and loving exploring the garden now the weather has improved. She is trying to hone her hunting skills, not that the birds have anything to worry about as she is not the most stealthy – the most she is catching are flies and spiders!

We are looking forward to celebrating her first birthday in early June and may let her have unlimited access to a running tap as her birthday gift as her favourite pastime seems to be guarding the sink in the utility room, watching for a drip from the tap. Thank you to Woking Cats Protection for supporting our adoption of Luna.

Sarah 

Bridget's Kittens

Marley & Fern

When we had to say goodbye to our beloved grey and white cat, Sapphire, in May 2024 at the grand old age of 18 she left a big hole in our family. Her brother, Blue, had sadly died a couple of years earlier and it felt very strange living in a cat-free home, especially for Annabel (14) and Jasmine (11) who had grown up with cats. We knew we'd get more cats when the time was right and were keen to adopt rather than go to a breeder.

We were on holiday in France when Lawrence started browsing the Cats Protection website. He quickly found the profile of five beautiful kittens available via the Woking branch and made contact immediately. We were excited to find that the black and white brother and sister – Marley and Mopsy – were still available and it was agreed that we'd go and visit them the day after we got back from our holiday.

We'd had a long and delayed journey back, but that didn't stop us excitedly heading to Alison's home early the next day to visit the kittens. From the moment we saw them we were all certain they were a perfect fit for our family! We spent some time playing with Marley and Mopsy and talking to Alison about the adoption process and went home excited at the prospect of the kittens joining the family.

Once Cats Protection were happy that our house was suitable for two energetic kittens, we set about getting everything ready for them to move in – the most important things were removing everything breakable from the room they were going to be in and getting in



their favourite kitten food. We also decided to rename the girl kitten from Mopsy to Fern.

A few days later, after the kittens' final vet visit, they were brought to our house, together with some of their favourite toys and blankets to help them settle in. They were a little unsure when they first arrived, but quickly started exploring the kitchen, which would be their world for their first few weeks. Alison brought a pack of information and talked through all the important paperwork and things we needed to do, such as registering with the local vet and when to plan for their neutering operations. It was great to have Alison's support and she checked in with us after a few days to make sure everything was going well and we knew we could contact her with any questions.

Marley and Fern very quickly settled into their new home and found favourite places to sleep. They're friendly and affectionate and real characters. Marley has grown very big and Fern is a more petite young lady but definitely the most energetic of the two! They are best of friends and it's lovely to watch them play together. They are particularly partial to a cardboard box and are keen to help with any kind of food preparation that's going on in the kitchen!

They've fitted into the family brilliantly and we can't imagine life without them; they really have brought so much joy to our lives.

Jenny, Lawrence, Annabel & Jasmine

The Furry Bikers ride again!

In the January issue of *Felis Catus* we reported on the rescue of four kittens found living rough outside a motorcycle shop near Heathrow. They were taken into care and collectively known as the "Furry Bikers". We're very happy to hear how they have stepped up a gear and are doing so well with their adoptive families – another great success story for Woking & District Cats Protection!

Buster & Bella

After we lost our much-loved cat, Saffy, in November 2023, my husband and I both knew we wanted to have cats again but equally knew it would be a little while before we were ready.

Browsing the Woking Cat Protection website, I discovered four kittens in need of loving homes – the little adventurers known as the Furry Bikers. After a phone and video call with their carer Kim we went over that same afternoon to meet the kittens. It was love at first sight between us and Suzuki, the little boy and Aprilia, the pretty little girl with the heart-shaped nose. They were to be rehomed as a bonded pair as Suzuki gave nervous Aprilia confidence and they played together nicely. The other two kittens were also gorgeous, but Suzuki was just so affectionate and adventurous he completely won our hearts immediately. Aprilia was certainly much quieter and timid, but we were sure once she was with us, she would start to come

out of herself. A week later they were delivered to our home and we became a cat family again.

Suzuki was promptly renamed Buster (after Buster Bloodvessel, the lead singer of Band Manners) – after his initial act of toppling CDs, hinting at a budding DJ career combined with his perpetual tongue-out expression and insistence on being the centre of attention all the time. Aprilia became Bella – quite simply because she is just beautiful.

Roll on four months – I think I love them more every day, if that is possible. They've claimed our house as their own and we now can't imagine being without them. Buster is still loving and gets into everything, and Bella, whilst she can still be wary, is now very sociable and will come looking for affection – as long as it is on her terms of course!

They play together all the time, chasing around the house; first Buster chases Bella then they swap. The laser pen is their nemesis, and they'd probably perform a Shakespearean monologue for a Dreamies treat. Buster loves climbing to the top of the curtains – Bella calmly sits and watches, clearly thinking that is such a waste of effort! Buster is definitely a "lover not a fighter" and cuddles up next to us on the sofa every night, while Bella prefers her basket but still is very happy when one of us sits on the floor next to her and gives her loads of attention. Buster's purrs could break the sound barrier, we do sometimes think that a motorcycle brand for his name may actually have been more apt!

Adopting Bella and Buster has been the best thing we have done. I am so glad we were chosen to be their adopters and we really hope the other two Furry Bikers are as happy in their new home as our two are. A big thank you to Kim for taking such good care of them when they were first found.

Tracey & Paul 



The Furry Bikers ride again!

Harley & Neville

Having lost our previous cats, brothers Merlin and Elvis, in November 2024 after 18 and 19 years respectively, we realised that our home and our lives were incomplete without some feline companions – hence we started looking for kittens to adopt. So we left our contact details on the Cats Protection website, Kim called us back and said that she had two kitten siblings in need of a home. She went on to explain that the pair had been found living outside a motorcycle shop. With Ian being a lifelong motorcyclist, there was no question in our minds that this was meant to be.

We had a virtual home check and then received photos of Harley and Maeving who were looking for their forever home. We agreed to go to meet the pair and were immediately smitten! Kim set the adoption process in motion and in early December they came home to us, accompanied by a few familiar items to help them settle in.

A couple of things about Maeving ... his motor is too loud for him to be "electric" (Maeving is an electric motorcycle manufacturer) so he has been given a new name, Neville, after Ian's 1977 Triumph (Bon) Neville. He was also the kitten who went missing for a few days beyond the day that the rest of his family were rescued. We are giving him all the love and attention that we can as he does appear to be a little bit "different".

Harley was more "human social" than Neville from the outset – possibly because Neville, on his early travels away from his mum and siblings, was tending towards turning feral. The pair slept together and played together and Cats Protection seem to have kept a very bonded and affectionate pair of kittens together. Kim warned us that Neville was prone to bumping Harley (the larger of the two) away from the food, which he continues to do. He must burn it all off with his dynamic, at times bonkers, behaviour. We were also told that Harley played with her water, but both of them often put their paw into the water and then drink from their wet fur. Their use of the litter trays has been exemplary, although their enthusiasm for digging or covering things sometime leaves the



area looking as though a landmine has gone off! Both cats have settled in well with us. They both enjoy watching the TV, especially any football or snooker and we often need to dissuade them from trying to join in by pawing the screen or going round the back to see where the balls have gone.

Harley and Neville have done some growing up and following their six-month birthday, we have tentatively allowed them into our garden. Initially we accompanied them on their forays and kept an eye out for local cats who pass through. Not surprisingly, Neville is the more adventurous, keen to get out through the cat flap, and has visited most corners of our garden. Harley was initially very timid but after a week or so, has now gained her confidence. The pair still play with each other Harley also looks to us for company more often than Neville does – he's too busy flying around – but he does settle with us during his few quieter moments, revving his very loud engine.

Lynn & Ian 

Fundraising update

12th Quiz Night – a roaring success!

The annual Woking Cats Protection quiz night has been going for 12 years now – where does the time go? This year Mark Lancaster and Steve Dunn took charge of proceedings at the New Haw Community Centre on 15 February where 16 teams battled for supremacy, while also doing great things for needy cats in our area. The evening raised a very impressive £1682 from our very generous supporters. We wholeheartedly thank you.

Interestingly, this did not include the team composed entirely of teachers!

A highlight of the evening was a short video showing the numerous cats and kittens we were able to help in 2024, set to the tune of "What's New Pussycat". Many thanks to Andrew for putting it together – it was a great reminder of why we were all there.

Round Five was general knowledge and scoring was high, with The Formidable Felines



Kitty Kitty Bang Bang - 2025 Champions

A particular thank you to Pauline Welch who rounded up three of the raffle prizes, including a weekend stay at the Runnymede Hotel, a garden centre voucher and a voucher for Lynton vets. Thanks also to Alison Lancaster who donated two delicious-looking hampers.

The quiz consisted of six diverse and entertaining rounds, testing knowledge of famous "other halves", Eurovision winners and theme tunes to cop shows. For Round Three, Mark aimed to recreate the childhood thrill of learning that there's going to be a spelling test. It involved ten of the most commonly misspelled words. Scoring was very impressive with no fewer than four teams avoiding detention by scoring 9/10.

achieving a maximum 10/10. Unfortunately, it was not quite enough to take the lead which still belonged to The Prosecco Cat Fanciers.

The final round was the wipeout: five increasingly tricky questions with increasingly higher points. A team could choose not to answer a question, but if they gave a wrong answer, they would score zero for the round. When the dust settled, there was a tie for 3rd place between The Prosecco Cat Fanciers and The Thamesiders, second were The Formidable Felines and the top prize went to Kitty Kitty Bang Bang, making them our 2025 champions!

Mark is now compiling ideas for the 2026 quiz. We really hope you'll be able to join us then!

Fundraising update

Spring fayre 2025

Our second big fundraiser this year was the Spring Fayre, and we welcomed our wonderful supporters on 5 April to enjoy all the stalls and activities. As well as the cakes, tombolas, refreshments and raffle, we launched a new game of "Name the Cat" which raised a fantastic £113. The lucky winner was Sylvia Jackson who correctly named the cat Billy. A huge thank you to Sarah who bought the beautiful soft toy and for the generous amount of Easter eggs she and her mum contributed to the chocolate tombola.

Other special mentions go to Petra Jackson at Tesco in Addlestone for the numerous items which she kindly donated once again, and to Emily Lockhart for the generous amount of Lindt chocolate. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed towards the massive total of £3010 for cats in need in the Woking area – and, of course, to our great team of volunteers who gave up their time to pull it all together.



Award nomination!

Woking and District Cats Protection is so proud to be nominated for the Petplan & ADCH Animal Charity Awards 2025. The awards celebrate the outstanding work of staff and volunteers in animal charities across the UK, Ireland and Channel Islands. We know how much work our team puts into supporting cats and kittens in our area, but it is a real achievement to have it recognised with this award nomination!



Thank you to our vet supporters

A big shout-out to Kingswood Vets in Woking and The Chobham Vet who have provided fantastic care to our cats in need. We really appreciate their compassion and generosity.

BREAKING NEWS! New Branch Coordinators

Welcome to
Sarah and John McElroy
We are thrilled to have you!

The "Friends" kittens...

Phoebe & Ross become Bonnie & Fergus

Four kittens who were surrendered into the care of Woking Cats Protection last Christmas became known as the "Friends" litter, with names to match. It didn't take them long to start the new year with lovely new homes...

We sadly lost the last of our beloved cats, Cuthbert and Dibble, when Dibble passed away at home on New Year's Day 2024. We had raised them from kittens, and they had both enjoyed 16 and 18 years with us respectively, giving us so much love and joy. A year later, we were more than ready to adopt new kittens when we visited Kim's rescue kittens, in response to an advert on the Cats Protection website during the Christmas holidays.



My husband, two daughters and I were thrilled to meet Bonnie and Fergus, who were then named Phoebe and Ross. Phoebe and Ross were also sharing a pen with their sisters Rachel and Monica. Bonnie, as her name suggests, was so friendly, playful and excited. She seemed the happiest kitten you could meet, and we loved her purr. She was so pleased to meet us, even though we were all crammed into the pen, and she so loved all the attention. Fergus, the male kitten of the litter, with his more mature, calm and mellow demeanour took more time to introduce himself. But we particularly loved his friendly, content and laid-back personality. We knew straight away that we could give them both a very loving home and that they would be happy with us.

After completing all the necessary procedures, we were absolutely thrilled when we knew that we could formally adopt Bonnie and Fergus. We enjoyed preparing their safe space and we appreciated Kim's experienced knowledge and guidance. It was surprising how much you forget the second time around and then how much you remember! A key preparation was to dismantle the Christmas tree the morning before they arrived, and our beautiful kittens arrived on a cold and icy January day.

A couple of months later and Bonnie and Fergus have settled so well into their new surroundings and are now confident to explore every nook and cranny. Both love cupboards and seem to appear out of nowhere to leap in, as soon as a cupboard door is opened. Both are also proving to be very useful additions around the house, and they like to earn their keep. Fergus is a master at guarding piles of laundry by sitting on them and Bonnie is talented at pulling items of clothing off the airers, whether they are dry or not. Emptying the dishwasher is also an exciting part of the day and they both love to be involved.

In their leisure time a favourite game involves hiding under the armchair and randomly sticking a paw out to tease the other one. Fergus, true to his placid nature, loves playing with wand toys whilst lying on his back and Bonnie's favourite toy is her tartan mouse, which she carries around in her mouth with pride. They also love watching the birds and squirrels and will be ready to enjoy our garden very soon now.

As I work from home, they have become my constant companions and they have even adapted to the rhythm of my routine, reminding me when it is time for our lunch and eagerly awaiting the moment my daughters return home from school to play with them. We are so thrilled to have Bonnie and Fergus in our family, and we are so grateful for Kim's dedication in helping us find and adopt our two gorgeous and adorable cats.

Catherine 

...we'll be there for you

Rachel & Monica become Zuri & Ellie

One chilly day at the end of 2024, heading to my usual volunteering at Cats Protection Fosterer Kim's home to socialise the next arrival of gorgeous furry newbies, I sighed wistfully. I knew I'd fall in love with them as usual, and then have to say goodbye once they were ready to head off to their new forever homes. The amount of wise, gentle, elderly cats, gorgeous fluff ball kittens and angry, scared and abandoned cats I'd met, I'd seen them all, loved them all.

Today was different. I checked the pens, the newbies were two torties and two black kittens, all a few months old. One of the torties and one of the black kittens immediately approached me, bold as brass, fawning over me purring and that was that, as expected, I fell for them. But this time I did something about it and adopted them officially back in January this year.

Three months on: they love picking their favourite toys from the box and carrying them downstairs to play with us. They follow us to every room, they sleep curled up together, they chase each other

for hours in laps round the house and play rough and tumble, and they always love a lazy, sunny windowsill session. They are fascinated by the washing machine; they sit in front of it and watch it go round and round and jump at all the different gurgling water noises.

They watch TV avidly. Tilting their heads, ears twitching, following the movements, flickers and sounds. As for the Hoover, they like to lie nearby to keep an eye on the monster's movements and seem to like the noise.

Little Ellie (née Monica, the little black kitty) has a favourite pot she climbs into and sits with her ear tips peeking out. She loves sitting in the sink with the water running! She also partakes in extreme sports: impressively long side-skids, parkour, trapezing, and banister-balancing. She's crazy! Ellie also does these hilarious and overly dramatic flops down by your feet or on the sofa with you, like she's just had a really trying day with exaggerated paw on her forehead and sighing, then lays her head on you and gazes up at you. Melts me.

Zuri (née Rachel, the tortie kitty) is a bit more sophisticated, observing her sister's antics with a watchful if disdainful eye, sometimes joining in. She was quite partial to a good curtain climb, the odd lamp shade swing and curtain rail hangs when she first arrived! She adores having her tummy stroked and brushed and loves having her ears rubbed. In the morning she will have a mouthful of food and then come running for her ear rubs before returning to her bowl.

They have provided both my sister and myself some much needed humour and respite from our caring roles to our mum and subsequently following her passing away in February this year – they have provided us with amazing cuddles and morning snuggles. It has been a total privilege and pleasure having them in our lives. Thank you for letting me be their designated safe-human.



Rachel 

Black and white cats...

Betty



I really wanted a pet and the family all agreed on a cat. We enquired with a few local cat charities, but when I saw Betty's profile with Woking Cats Protection, I really wanted us to adopt her. We went to meet her and although she was very timid, by the end of the visit, she had her paw over my arm and let me tickle her tummy!

Matilda Faith

After the quiet grief of loss settled over our home, my three-year-old cat Milly and I felt the absence like a shadow in every corner. Two beloved rescue cats gone too soon, left behind a heavy silence. Milly was desperately lonely and so was I, so I looked to Kim at Cats Protection to enquire about suitable cats needing new homes.

Faith came home with an immeasurable burst of life and joy, leaping around with playful kitten swats, catching shadows, chasing light, stalking her own tail. Everything became a game again, with her squeezing into impossibly small spaces, just to view the world from a different angle.

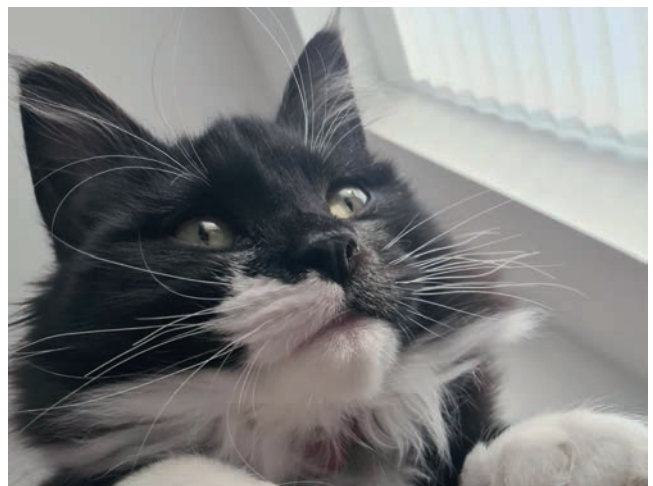
Faith arriving was like opening a window after a long winter. She tumbled into our lives with kitten clumsiness, pouncing on sadness and replacing it with laughter. Milly, cautious at first, watched as her playful paws and endless curiosity nudged warmth back into our days. Their bond grew quickly, and

When Betty came to live with us she was nervous to begin with, but gradually came out of her "bedroom" and now roams all over the house. She has also just started to go outside. She has her routines and favourite spots in the house. She wakes me up in the morning by jumping up to my bed and walking on me and then plays a bit of football. She has a favourite foil ball to play with, and sometimes she picks the ball up in her mouth and carries it until she finds someone to play with her. She is so cute and little but also knows what she wants (more food!).

Betty loves company, and will follow me round the house with her tail in the air. She sits with me when I'm doing homework and I have to stop her pressing all the keys on my laptop! She also likes sitting on my mum's lap on the days she works from home. She loves going into the sitting room with us in the evening, playing with her toys, running and jumping everywhere. At about 9pm she starts miaowing, asking to be put to bed. We all love Betty and are so pleased she is living with us.

Henry 

within a week, they became inseparable, doing everything together. Thank you, Kim, for finding the perfect cat to welcome home.



Theresa 

...deserve colourful lives

Coolio

Hello, my name is Coolio. Apparently I was named after an American rapper which actually I think is quite cool. My brothers and I had a very tough start in life as we were abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. We were cold, hungry and always scared. Then a lovely lady started to feed us and let us into her flat to keep warm. Because there were now four of us living with her, she contacted Cats Protection for help. And that's when the lovely Pauline from Woking Branch came to my rescue and some people came to visit me. Of course I wasn't going to come out in the open but I did take some Dreamies from the hand that offered them. The people said that they loved me anyway and I was finally taken to my new home in Hartley Wintney.

At first I was so scared I hid under the settee, refusing to come out unless I was sure no one was there. The lady whose house it was used to sit quietly and watch me and eventually I trusted her enough to let her stroke me. I was happy and felt safe in my new room, but then Mum opened the door and I saw there was a big house out there which terrified me. So I went back under the settee to keep safe.



Slowly I felt brave enough to venture out and guess what, it was really quite fun. There were lots of new places to explore and furniture to climb on, windowsills to look out through and extra treats when I ventured into the kitchen. I discovered that the Sky box is a very comfortable place to lie, as is the lounge radiator! Mum bought me toys and I love playing with my bird on a stick – Mum says I'm the most acrobatic cat she's ever seen. Probably because I've had to catch birds for real. I was a bit more frightened of Dad but now I steal his golf balls when he's putting in the lounge.

Yesterday Mum thought I might like to go into the garden as I've been shut in for nearly seven weeks. She opened the door to the garden – blimey it's a bit big out there and cold and a bit scary. So I didn't go out, think I'll stay in for a bit longer!

I'm so grateful to Cats Protection and my new Mum and Dad for taking me away from my scary life and giving me a warm, safe and loving new home.

Dictated by Coolio to Mum Michelle



Meeting Maximus

After our previous much-loved tuxedo rescue cat Twiggy passed away, it was clear she had left a huge absence in our lives. We missed the slightly mischievous and loving feline energy she brought to our home, so after a while we decided to start to tentatively look around for another furry friend. Little known to us, a gorgeous all-black male stray of around five years old had recently come into Woking Cats Protection's care.

Having only ever adopted older cats and never having had a boy cat before we were not sure what to expect, but as soon as we met him we were smitten! How could anyone resist his affectionate nature, huge round eyes and soft glossy fur? A week later Peter (now known as Maximus) arrived on our doorstep and we welcomed him into our house. Well, once we could entice him out from behind the TV where he had immediately hidden.

He settled in very quickly: within a few days he was gingerly exploring other rooms and even venturing up the stairs, and within a week he was regularly zooming around the house, a real bundle of energy!



What have we learned about Maximus in our first five weeks together? Well, the big surprise is that, having been allergic to cats in the past, Gary has no hint of an allergy with Maximus – as you can see from the photo! It is so nice to be able to fuss him without having to wash hands every five minutes.

He is a very affectionate boy who likes company, loves his dry food, hates the Hoover, and adores being fussed in front of his ears or under his chin. He is a proper little hunter too and very strong –



the first cat toy lasted less than 24 hours – and he loves a game with his rodent-on-a-string. Also, he is very fast on his paws – particularly when he hears the rattle of crunchies in his food bowl! Ah, the energy of youth!

But most of all he has made our house a home again, bringing such lovely energy into the room, sitting next to us while we work or following us around like a friendly little shadow.

We would like to thank everyone at Woking Cats Protection and especially Kim for doing such a wonderful job caring for Maximus, and for helping us adopt him. Nothing beats that joyful little "meep" that we hear as we come down the stairs every morning, or the feeling of sitting on the sofa with him purring on your lap. It has certainly been a very happy new year with Maximus in our home.



Penny & Gary

Lucky for some

2024 was a busy year in our lives: we bought our first house and got married, so clearly the best third life event to do was to adopt a cat. Thus, Po came into our lives.

Tharshini had grown up with cats and adored her childhood black feline (Stitch) and wanted to adopt one just like him. Black cats may get a bad rap, but whatever bad luck they were supposed to bring clearly wore off some years ago, in Po's case anyway.

Initial meetings were love at first sight for Tharshini. Po's sleek black coat and love of pets was enough to get Tharshini's buy-in almost straight away. Cameron, whilst being less enamoured with Po, became the cat's obsession quickly. Constantly she would vie for his attention, be it screaming at him in work meetings, jumping up on his lap, or staring longingly at him while he was eating dinner.

Po settled into our lives in record time. Less than a minute after being let out of the crate Po was off – exploring the space, playing with toys and begging for attention. We weren't surprised at this reaction – in our first meeting she had shown off her confident personality, to the point we weren't sure she'd let us leave without her.



In the proceeding months we have learned she loves nothing more than attention, chasing around the laser pointer and rushing full-tilt up and down the stairs at 10pm. She's a bundle of energy when she isn't stealing office chairs for naps or chowing down at dinner time.



Alongside her (quite frankly unhealthy) obsession with Cameron, Po also adores the outside world. So, six weeks into her time here, we unleashed her upon the unsuspecting Surrey countryside. It's not uncommon to see her perched on top of garages, clambering up trees and rushing around the garden chasing her own tail.

Po fluctuates between moments of serene calm to full-on sprints around the house, you never know quite what you'll get with her. It's one of the reasons she has settled into our little family so well. Lucky for us.



Tharshini and Cameron

Confidential grief support

Paws to Listen is Cats Protection's free and confidential grief support service run by volunteers who are dedicated and compassionate in helping pet owners at times of loss.

Volunteers are formally trained in providing emotional support and understand that every loss is deeply personal and meaningful. They can also give practical information on after-death options and ways to celebrate the life of a beloved cat.

A telephone support service is available on **0800 024 94 94** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, excluding bank holidays).

Alternatively, you can email the service at **pawstolisten@cats.org.uk** and general advice can be found at **cats.org.uk/grief**



Cats Protection is a registered charity 203644 (England and Wales), SC037711 (Scotland) and is listed as a Section 167 institution by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (06772997).
Registered office National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 7TT | PTL_1131

Campaigning for cats

An update from the Advocacy, Campaigns & Government Relations Team

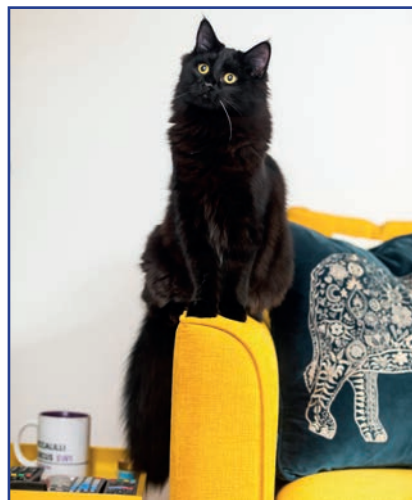
Renting with cats

Cats Protection has been campaigning against the use of blanket “no pet” policies in rented homes for many years. Refusing pets without consideration means many people who rent their homes are precluded from owning a pet and experiencing the joy and companionship they bring.

The Renters Rights Bill contains a clause that would enable tenants to request a pet and require the landlord to grant permission unless they believe the request is unreasonable. If passed, this would make a huge difference to so many people in rented accommodation as a request for a single cat should almost always constitute a reasonable request.

We hope the Bill will pass before the summer parliamentary recess and there will be more information available on the website once it has become law.

Recent joint media with RSPCA resulted in 600 items of national, regional and broadcast coverage. We have heard that some cat cafés are now closing after deciding they were unable to adequately meet the needs of the cats in their care.



Cat cafés

The environment offered within a cat café makes it almost impossible to meet the welfare needs of cats. Sharing an enclosed space and competing for resources with a number of unrelated cats, with lots of different people coming in and out and handling them, can lead to a range of issues including stress, aggression and behavioural issues, as well as posing a risk of disease spread amongst the cats living at the café.

Together with the RSPCA, Cats Protection has been calling for a phase-out of cat cafés after results from freedom of information requests revealed a remarkable 44% increase in licences granted for the cafés during the last financial year. And that could just be the tip of the iceberg – with many more cat cafés believed to be operating without any form of oversight or regulation, because of unclear legislation. It isn't mandatory to license cat cafés which means some businesses may be completely unregulated.

Smuggling of cats and kittens into the country

There is a Bill in Parliament which, if enacted, would tighten up controls regarding the way animals are brought into the country. Previous proposals haven't always included cats so we are pleased that our work to highlight the importance of ensuring cats and kittens are included has been recognised.

The current proposals would also make it illegal to bring mutilated cats and dogs into the country and this would include cats which have been declawed. Additionally, it would prevent the importation of kittens under six months and pregnant cats in the last third of their pregnancy. The Bill is unlikely to make much progress in this session, but we hope it will be carried over to complete its passage through Parliament in the next session.

Leonard lives on...

From the worst of starts as a tiny kitten with a heart defect to the happiest of lives in an ideal home, Leonard's story is told by veterinary cardiologist Mark Oakley, now retired. Leonard survived the odds to land on his paws, with the support of Cats Protection and expert veterinary teamwork.

Ten years ago Pauline, then Welfare Team Leader, was handed a tiny scrap of a kitten by a well-meaning but misguided young person who thought they could look after a stray. Having met the young man in the vets' car park, it was a relief to Pauline that the weak and vulnerable little kitten, later to be named Leonard, was now in the care of CP. Leonard's mother was a stray domestic short hair (DSH) and had made a home under a shed. Her kittens had few prospects until their predicament was reported to Cats Protection. The queen and her kittens were safely gathered and reunited with Leonard and cared for by CP for later rehoming, but Pauline knew the vibration in Leonard's chest and his difficulty breathing meant that he needed expert help.

A risky operation

Thomas, one of the Lynton House vets in Woking, recognised that Leonard was affected by a really serious heart defect because he could hear and feel what we call a palpable "thrill" in his chest and referred him to the practice at which I worked. Being able to hand over tricky cases for a cardiac referral is such a relief for any vet who hasn't the resources to take the case further, so I was pleased to help, for cardiology is my veterinary vocation. I recognised that Leonard was affected by a cardiac shunt called a Patent Ductus Arteriosus and that he would surely die soon unless treated with medication that older cats might receive for acquired heart disease. However, he could only be expected to live six months, so my wife Ros and I said we would be happy to look after him and give him a good life for as long as it might last, which was good for Leonard as Ros was a former midwife and then children's nurse.

Worryingly for all, there was one somewhat extreme possibility – open chest surgery. The CP committee convened and by the end of that day

they had decided they would sanction going ahead towards surgery to save his life, even though he was so young he hadn't even been vaccinated. These cases are so rare that I would only see one every eight years on average and this was because they lacked sufficient resilience to even make it to their first vaccination, which is when they might first meet a vet.

Leonard was a DSH cross Bengal kitten and grew up to become beautiful with it, complete with spotty undercarriage and strikingly good looks, even if he



did have wonky whiskers! With his white muzzle and chin, complemented by strong dark facial and foreleg markings on a silver background, he became a handsome cat for sure. His tabby lineage was characterised by bold marbling on his sides and a nearly black back and tail.

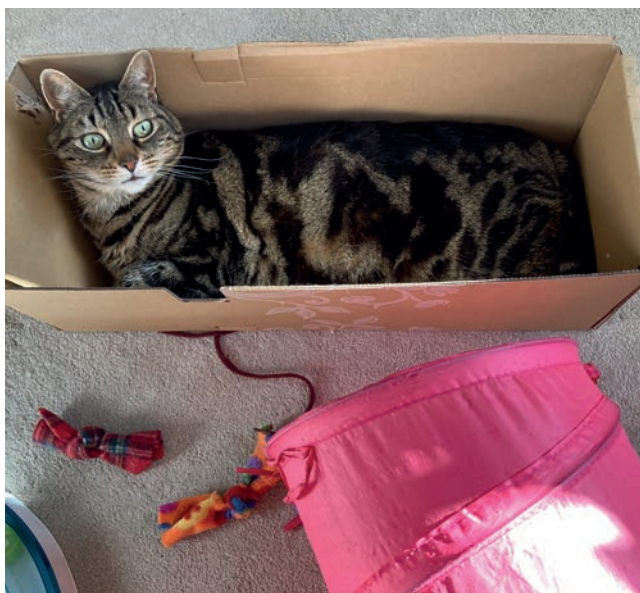
While it is possible that the pedigree element of his genetics brought him this particular predisposition towards a heart defect, he turned out to be a most wonderfully compliant DSH tabby with "added value" and is the personification of optimism, often adopting a jaunty, upbeat trot when anticipating something good. Following successful surgery

...now 10 years old!

by my colleague David Potter when Leonard was still only 13 weeks old and weighing just 1.5kg whilst threatening to go into further heart failure in spite of oral medication, he went from strength to strength having more fur to wash every week as his tail got longer and his body grew!

From before his surgery, Ros and I had agreed to foster Leonard and shortly after, we adopted him and with great joy Pauline and Cats Protection had found this wonderfully brave and determined little kitten an ideal home. The home we were thrilled to provide included his own nurse and veterinary cardiologist to look after him, so we were members of Leonard's staff in more ways than one! Amazingly, CP had found a home in which his problems and ongoing medication would cause no further worry.

Following surgery, Leonard recuperated at home, his personal space being a large collapsible cage loaned by CP, and he received gifts of a pink poly tunnel, some food, cat litter and fabric "knotties" which were Pauline's personal gift. Leonard loved the tunnel and knotties when allowed out of his safe space, for otherwise he was a handful and we feared he'd hinder the healing of an enormous wound between two ribs, stretching from spine to sternum on his left side which was required to get access to his greatly enlarged heart and tie off the shunt. Gradually over a month or so, he spent more and more time out of the cage so it was returned.



Curing Leonard's loneliness

Our other cat at the time was a rescued aristocratic ten-year-old Ragdoll, however Leonard's antics and desire to play with "Princess" Sabrina were met with a wail and her disinterest. Leonard's loneliness for "his kind" was miraculously met following the long-term lodging of another cat and her three kittens at the vets where I worked. When they were old enough, two of the kittens were rehomed locally but the third was returned to the vets the very next day, as she was found to be "unsuitable" by her prospective new owners. We agreed to take her on also and CP wonderfully re-loaned the large cage for a few weeks to allow this kitten a safe place too, away from a rather bouncy Leonard and Sabrina.

Leonard was scared of the wee mite for two days (wimpy or what!) and stayed outside for most of the time, but soon his curiosity overcame his fear. Not long after, it was time to allow them direct contact and within hours they were all over each other, playing and romping about, with the new kitten hanging around Leonard's neck as he came down the stairs and through the door – they loved each other! We named the kitten Sienna which related to her colour and romantically spoke of the Italian city Siena – classy, hey? Sienna being less than six months old was, of course, small and so she was called Sienna-kit, which has stuck and she and Leonard remain inseparable.

Leonard lives on...

This was Leonard's belated, animated and full-on Christmas present at last! His true answer to a new and vigorous quality of life. As for Sienna, she gave as good as she got and her timid confinement in a large kennel at the vets was over – her "winter" had given way to a joyous "spring" and an unbelievable upturn in her life, now encompassing freedom, a loving home and Leonard!

Sadly, Sabrina died in 2018 aged 13 years, and since then Sienna and Leonard have been the cat equivalent of soulmates and maintain each other's mental health, for with the best will in the world we can't fully do that for our beloved cat, even if we provide for their every physical need and sense of safety in our homes.



Recently we acquired a cosy pet bed; Leonard immediately claimed it for his own and within hours, Sienna too was curled up inside. Since then they can usually be found intertwined as one for much of each day, displaying every conceivable permutation of intermingled fur. Often their heads are side by side, one or another with their foreleg and paw outstretched across the other, their bodies blending into a slowly breathing mass of fur.

Leonard spends a fair bit of time outside, also catching the occasional excess mouse straying from the beautiful and popular Cotswold wall in our garden. This is the wall on which he loves to sit in the sun and also meets other cats from time to time. Because of his almost institutional upbringing (fostering by CP, living in kennels and large cages, spending much time at the vets as a kitten), he

doesn't quite understand normal cat etiquette on meeting cats who have their own territories. He invariably rolls over offering his underside, with legs in the air as if to play.

Leonard the peacemaker

Leonard is our local feline peacemaker, for we rarely hear those quintessential howls and screams pre-empting a cat fight on a summer's evening round here! When any of next door's cats claim their patch on the favoured wall or wander into our garden, Leonard is oblivious as if to say, "You're welcome," whereas Sienna flies out in a flash to confront the chancer and see them off!

Leonard and Sienna are both good at applying a pre-wash to crockery, having considered any family meal a "communal meal" and have to be discouraged, but apart from this Leonard has never sinned I say, for he can't do anything wrong in my opinion and is the most compliant cat I have ever met. We can do anything with him, so trusting is he and travels in a cat box relaxed with a paw fully extended out the front through the wire door. Sienna on the other hand wails a little and settles down with Leonard, only when Radio 3 or Classic FM is playing, although a small dose of the food supplement MediCalm also helps her.

Leonard is not a cuddly cat: he can be cuddled for less than half a minute before he starts to wriggle. He's not a lap cat at all, however when any new box – large or small – appears, he's straight into it and and then starts to destroy a corner with his claws



...now 10 years old!

to make it his. That done, he settles in and folds himself into whatever small space he's chosen to claim. Only then can we pick up the whole box with an unfazed Leonard on board and place the entirety on one's knee as Leonard remains conformed within its shape. Whilst we sit watching television or being otherwise entertained, Leonard just stays put and sleeps on, sometimes shifting his position to settle down again. Eventually, his staff member simply has to get up and get on with other things, so the box is lifted wholesale to the ground for Leonard to continue his committed cat-nap or deeper state of unconsciousness.

Taking his tablets

Whether awake or asleep, he's the most agreeable and straightforward cat we've ever met when it comes to being tableted. Ever since kittenhood he's needed daily tablets and fortunately, those he needs are so conservative that each are only required on alternate days, resulting in one or two quarters each day. These he accepts even in the middle of the night without even seeming to wake from sleep! Otherwise, the dose is given

immediately before being fed and with that incentive, he accepts his lot without even batting an eyelid – he'd be a dream cat to practise on for novices or those a little nervous about dosing a cat. The other wonderful thing about having to tablet a cat each day is the sense of their dependence on you that endears them to you all the more!

Amongst the most important medication prescribed for Leonard by the vet are two drugs to combat recurrence of a blood clot. This is because at the tender age of twelve months old he suffered the effects of a clot affecting his left front leg, a consequence of an enlarged heart. Fortunately, between myself and my colleague David, the soft-tissue and orthopaedic vet who operated on his heart the previous year, we proved his profound lameness had indeed been caused by a visible thrombus at an unusually young age, although before the scan this possibility had not been at the top of the list. This was doubly important because within days the clot had resolved and with his lameness already improving, we ensured that the best protection against an otherwise inevitable recurrence of a blood clot had been confidently provided for. Recurrence is usually fatal, often affecting both hind legs simultaneously, so that's why we celebrated Leonard's tenth birthday on 14 March 2025. However, Leonard is not automatically protected from acquiring other forms of heart disease as he ages and these too can be accompanied by a blood clot, the latter being less likely as a result of his medication.

Thanks to the care of Cats Protection and Pauline especially, Lynton House vet Thomas's original referral, the expert veterinary teamwork supported financially and practically by CP and also with the arrival of Sienna, Leonard has landed on his paws in our home and has had a normal quality of life, also enormously enriching our own, for which we are very grateful.

Mark & Ros Oakley 



Marvellous marmalades!

Piper

When my husband Tom and I decided we were ready to adopt, we knew we wanted to give a cat a loving home. We'd both grown up with cats, and after temporarily fostering a neighbour's cat who had to relocate, we realised how much we missed having that presence in our lives. We weren't sure exactly what kind of cat we were looking for, but we knew we wanted to support a local, ethical organisation – Cats Protection ticked all the boxes. We spotted Piper's photo and read that she had been abandoned and was looking for a quiet, calm home. Something about her just felt right. Within two days, we had our first call, and soon we were speaking with Helen, her foster carer. The vetting process was reassuringly thorough, and Helen was fantastic – so kind, informative, and clearly devoted to Piper's wellbeing.



When we visited Piper, she was understandably nervous, but Helen and her daughter Emma gave us all the time we needed to sit with her, ask endless questions, and help Piper feel as safe as possible. We left knowing without doubt: she was the one. Over the following week, Helen sent us photos and videos while we got everything ready for her arrival.

Piper has now been with us for just under a month. The first few days we spent quietly coaxing her out for treats and mealtimes, taking it at her pace. By the day five check-in, she had already begun to settle. With Helen's ongoing support (and very



welcome cheerleading!), we've watched Piper's confidence blossom. She's now curling up in our laps, exploring more of the house – and just this morning, she discovered how cosy the bed is!

Watching her grow in trust and comfort is more rewarding than we could have imagined. We didn't know how much we could love her until she arrived – and every day, we love her a little more. We're so grateful to Woking Cats Protection, and especially to Helen and Emma, for the incredible care, guidance, and support they've given us and Piper. She's truly found her forever home.



Lucy



Marvellous marmalades!

The dynamic ginger duo

The house had never quite been the same since I lost my beautiful Twix back in January 2023. Well that all changed with the arrival of the dynamic ginger duo Thunder and Butternut (now affectionately known as Lotso and Woody from Disney's Toy Story).

For the first few weeks I did wonder what I had let myself in for – their behaviour wasn't the best – but luckily that all changed once they were allowed outside. Being let outside didn't come without a couple of days of anxiety when Lotso disappeared for hours – endless walks in and around the area in the pouring rain shaking the treat tin to no avail. But on both occasions he just casually appeared at the patio door – we'll never know where he went. Now both boys rarely stay out longer than 30 minutes at a time.

Life is certainly not dull with those two around. Woody is such a cuddle baby and will always snuggle up, even more fun when Lotso wants to get in on the act and I find myself lying right back just so the both of them can fit on, with Lotso usually pressed up against my neck – personal space is a thing of the past!



Night times are even more fun – the still of the night is suddenly broken by Lotso crying at the bottom of the stairs, not sure why but he always ends up coming up if you call him. Now these boys are not the smallest of cats, especially Lotso. When he sits on your chest, boy you certainly know it, but at night he will always insist on paddling his giant paws around my neck and then he will eventually move to my pillow and proceed to massage my head whilst purring loudly in my ear. When he moves, taking his purring with him, the room seems so deathly quiet. Not to be outdone, Woody jumps up on the bed most nights and will nestle in close to my front with Lotso sleeping next to my back – very cosy, but not easy if you have to get up in the night!



Now I did say these boys are big, they've already broken the cat flap and I have just had the glass in the patio door replaced and a bigger pet door fitted. Since this new door has been fitted Lotso thinks it is great fun when Woody taps the flap to get in – he sits on the other side and taps it back and doesn't let Woody in. Woody is very forgiving though as he is often seen washing Lotso. I am so glad that Kim gave me the opportunity to adopt them as they are the most enjoyable company.

Donna



And not forgetting...

Nico & Nelly

Cats have always been a huge part of the households we grew up in. We even chose our house based on whether we could see a cat being comfortable there. Once we had decided we were ready to add to our family, I did the unthinkable: used company time to look at cat adoption websites.

Nico and Nelly were the third cats that I enquired about, and the first and only to view. The moment I saw them on the CP website I completely fell in love with Nelly's beautiful tortoise shell coat, but it was Nico's playful personality that sealed the deal for us when we met them three days later. My husband, Mr "We Can't Fall In Love With The First Cats We Meet", didn't want to leave them after that first visit. We knew they were meant to be ours.

One week and a lot of panic buying of litter and toys later, they were home. Initially shy but curious they soon began dominating the house like they had always been there. Nico's playfulness has only grown, the braver one of the two, he was the first to try and get into new nooks and crannies. Nelly, a little more timid, hot on his heels. Their

personalities are absolutely gorgeous, and they are both super cuddly!

Now, we can't imagine our lives without them and miss them even if we are only gone for a couple of hours. A huge thank you to Cats Protection and Alison for uniting us with our gorgeous babies. They made the process easy but made every effort to make sure that Nico and Nelly went to a good family. I'm endlessly happy they chose us!



Kim 

Willow (our cover star!)

After moving somewhere more rural, my partner and I knew we'd love to give a home to a rescue cat who needed a place to call their own. I came across Willow's photo on the website with her big green eyes looking out at me, and after reading about her medical condition and knee surgery (and watching the adorable video of her on the water treadmill!) we thought we'd register our interest. We'd applied for a few cats unsuccessfully so didn't want to get our hopes up, but we received the call to discuss her and she sounded perfect.

Willow was with a great foster home so we went to meet her there. She was timid and unsure of us but she'd had a tough start (see the last issue of Felis Catus) and we really wanted to give her a home of her own in the hope she'd come out of her shell.

She's been with us since the end of October and has become the sweetest, most affectionate lap cat who is now obviously the head of the household. She is incredibly gentle and loves to follow us around the house when she's not watching the birds or playing with her favourite toy – a measuring tape. Her knees are all fixed and you'd never know there had been an issue, she's making the most of all her mobility!

We are so grateful for the donation to fund Willow's surgery, and the volunteers who took care of her. She can now run and jump to her heart's content, and we have a new best friend to curl up on the sofa with.

Sophie 

Ways to help

DIARY DATE

Christmas Fayre: 1 November 2025

We look forward to seeing you for our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 1 November at New Haw Community Centre!

If you have any unwanted gifts in excellent condition which could be sold on our nearly new stall to raise funds, please get in touch with Gill: treasurer@woking.cats.org.uk



Get in touch!

Call us on 01483 928018 and leave us a message:

Mailbox 1 - If you would like to adopt a cat

Mailbox 2 - If you need to rehome your cat

Mailbox 3 - Lost & Found

Mailbox 4 - Volunteering, neutering, all other enquiries.

General email: enquiries@woking.cats.org.uk

See: cats.org.uk/woking

Easy fundraising - sign up now!



Did you know, there are over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend online with them directly back to Woking and District Cats Protection?

Take a moment to sign up with:

easyfundraising.org.uk

and generate donations for us whenever you shop online. There's absolutely no cost to you and every donation will make a difference to cats and kittens in your area. We are already receiving additional funds from this, but with your help, it could increase even further!

Be in control of your data

If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Support Services by telephoning 0800 160 1012 Monday to Friday during office hours (9am - 5pm), emailing 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: <https://tinyurl.com/347a7sur> if you have any questions about how we use your data.

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

Keep them purring with a gift in your Will

Keep them chasing toys and pouncing, snoozing on our laps and eyeing up whatever's on our plate. Keep them head bumping and kneading our jumpers. Let's make sure they always feel safe and loved, no matter what.

This is why gifts in Wills are so important. They help us to keep caring for all kinds of cats and kittens, now and for years to come.

Almost half the cats we help at Cats Protection get the care they need because of gifts in Wills. It helps us keep our promise to never put a healthy cat to sleep and continue to help around 157,000 cats every year, each with their own unique personalities.

**Find out more and request an information pack at
cats.org.uk/giftsinwills-catmag**

Or contact the team at giftsinwills@cats.org.uk or 01825 741 271



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