

FUNNIES

- Q Why are cats great singers?
A Because they're very mewsical!
Q What's a cat's favourite subject in school?
A Hiss-tory!

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CONTACTS

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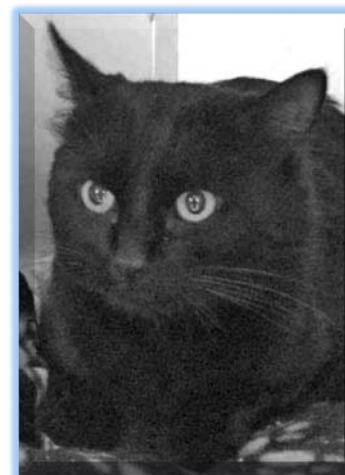
borehamwood.shopmanager@cats.org.uk

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 or writing to us at Freepost RTJK-TJKK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT Please visit 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



SEPTEMBER 2019



*Remember Barney
featured in our last
issue? Well there is
good news.*

*Read more about
Barney inside.*

FUTURE EVENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

16 November 2019

7.30pm £7 including refreshments

One Stonegrove Community Centre
5 Hayling Way Edgware HA8 8BN

Bus routes 107 stops outside The London Academy Spur Road
or 142 at St Peters Church just a short walk from each stop



Cats Protection National Black Cat Day is held each year on 27 October, recognising the black cats in our lives - especially those in need of homes

It's official. Black is the new black.

Consisting of fifty shades, CP's latest collection combines a range of opulent red tones, lavish green shades and shimmering noirs, brought together to form a palette that is the very essence of 'black cat.'

While some might think that black cats are boring, we wholeheartedly disagree. In aid of National Black Cat Day, our colour collection shows the world how brilliant monochrome moggies can be.

Google National Black Cat Day for more information and to purchase gifts and see the list of shades of black



Follow us on Facebook



Autumn Crunch Crumble



Diana Lamont one of our committee members shares another of her favourite recipes

Ingredients

140g plain flour
100g margarine
4 tbsp rolled oats
2-3 tbsp demerara sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
4 eating apples or pears or 6 plums (or a mixture)

handful sultanas, soaked in hot water for 10 mins
1-2 tbsp honey
natural yogurt, ice cream or crème fraîche, to serve

Method

- 1 Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Sift the flour into a bowl and add the margarine.
- 2 Using a fork or your hands, mash together the margarine and flour until it resembles breadcrumbs and there are no remaining lumps of margarine.
- 3 Add the oats, sugar, and cinnamon to the flour and margarine mixture.
- 4 Core the apple and/or pears, and stone the plums, if using. Chop all the fruit, keeping the skin on for added flavour, vitamins, and minerals, and put in an ovenproof dish in layers.
- 5 Drain the sultanas and add to the fruit. Drizzle with the honey.
- 6 Sprinkle over the crumble mixture. Bake for 20-30 mins until the crumble topping is golden and the fruit is bubbling.
- 7 Serve with a large spoonful of natural yogurt, ice cream or crème fraîche.

Barney's story

He just turned up....

Back at the beginning of the year around February a black cat was making rare visits to our back garden. He was wearing a red handkerchief round his neck like a collar and although he was shy he was very friendly. He was of course coming to see Jesse, one of our cats, who wasn't impressed. Then all of a sudden he was here every day and slept in Jesse's outdoor cat house, much to her dismay.



It was obvious that he had been left behind by his family as he was no longer wearing his handkerchief and was looking skinny. He was welcome here but not adopted because we already had two cats.

We fed , watered and generally looked after him. We put more bedding in the cat house and bought a canopy umbrella to put over his cat house to protect him from the bad rain.

After a lot of discussion we decided to contact our local Cats Protection Branch to ask if they could find his forever home. It was a very hard decision to make as he was a gorgeous black cat with a matching character but having three cats all letting you know what a favour they are doing by living with you doesn't bear thinking about!

A lovely lady From Cats Protection called Irene came to collect him and immediately called him Barney which really suited him so hopefully that was the end of the story, but no!

We kept an eye on the CP website and rang after his welfare as we thought he would be adopted straight away because he wasn't very old and he was such a gorgeous black cat.



Fast forward six months to when we were putting our two cats, Felix and Jesse into the boarding cattery for their "annual holiday". where CP have a rescue block. We saw that Barney was still there waiting for his forever home so we decided by Wednesday of that week to phone from Malta to say that we wanted to reserve him.

Barney is now living in the home he chose way back last February. We decided that it wasn't going to be too much hassle to have three cats My main reservation was where will I sleep now that all of the places on the bed have gone? Well, I suppose there is always the cat house!

Footnote: We had to have Barney neutered so his original owners not only left him to his fate but didn't bother to neuter him. He was also very shy when he first came into our care, hiding away from everyone, but he eventually came out of his shell and became a really lovely friendly cat. He also has now a very smart collar with a name tag which he is wearing with pride.

Branch News Sue Jones Branch Co-Ordinator

Well quite a lot has happened since my last report and not much of it good. On the 23 July, we got the very sad news that Sue Cooper, our Welfare Officer, had passed away. This was an incredible shock to us all as it was so unexpected. Sue had been volunteering for Cats Protection for around 40 years. In addition to her extensive knowledge on all matters cat related, she did much of the trapping and neutering of the feral colonies in our area. This knowledge coupled with her sunny disposition will be deeply missed by us all.



For the last 9 years, almost to the day, we have been boarding our "ready for adoption" cats at Cosy Cats Cattery in South Mimms. Unfortunately for us, the owners, Stephanie and Sean have decided it's time for them to put their feet up and retire. Whilst we are sorry to lose this great facility, we wish them the best of luck in their retirement.

A piece of good news now. In the last edition of our Newsletter, our Editor mentioned a rescued mum cat and her 2 kittens that I was fostering. I am very pleased to say that mum Babe has just gone to her forever home and the 2 kittens will shortly be off to theirs.

We are looking forward to the opening of a new Adoption Centre in Harrow. This is scheduled for early next year and hopefully means we will be able to help even more cats and kittens in our area.

I will sign off now and hope to see some of you are our next quiz in November (details on the front cover).

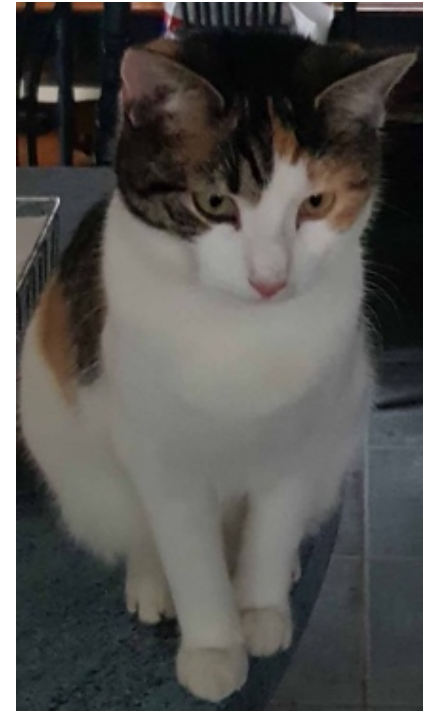
MORE SAD NEWS

Bella the contributor to our regular feature "The Three Amigos" disappeared in July and there have been no sightings of her since. Her owners are distraught. They have done everything to find her but without success. Our hearts go out to them. We live in hope that she will return home one day.

Bella was one of a threesome when adopted but strangely about three years ago a family adopted another threesome from us.

They named one of the kittens Bella and she too disappeared. She turned up once and a few week later disappeared. Again there have been no sightings since. One wonders if they have been stolen.

Please if you find a stray take it to the nearest vet to see if it has a microchip. Some of the calls we receive report that the cat has been around for weeks, months or even years with nothing done to seek its owner.



MILO BY ELIZABETH CLARKE

Five years ago, when I had just reached what they now call "a significant birthday" (one with a Zero at the end), in my garden appeared a kitten! I guessed that he belonged to the boys next door who told me they had 'found him" in the park. He was a beautiful ginger, what the vets call "Red Tabby" and they called him Milo. He was very confident and easy to handle and during the next few weeks spent most of his time sleeping on my sofa. Then without warning the family moved away and my other neighbours (who had already taken in another ginger cat some years before adopted him.



After a time as the family were expecting a baby, they asked me I knew anyone who would like a kitten and the rest is history.

I have always had two or three cats until a few years ago when I decided I was now too old for any more. I already had a caflap in the kitchen door, but Milo could not work out how to use it! In the end I propped it open, *very draughty in the winter!* His other habit is early rising! Winter or summer he wakes me by scratching my bed. I go down, open the cat flap, give him some food and go back to bed until 8 am. The expression, "there is no fool like an old fool" springs to mind, as early means 3 am. He is now overweight. A routine visit to the vet resulted in monthly weigh in sessions and special diet slimming food He lost quite a bit at first and I hope I will not be in trouble at his next visit as he has started supplementing his diet with very small mice. I do not think he will ever feature on the Vet's "Slimmer of the month's notice"

PS last time he saw her the vet said he is beautiful - long may it last.

CATS ARE SECURELY BONDED TO THEIR PEOPLE, TOO

Cats have a reputation for being aloof and independent. But a study of the way domestic cats respond to their caregivers suggests that their socio-cognitive abilities and the depth of their human attachments have been underestimated.

The findings reported in the journal *Current Biology* on September 23 show that, much like children and dogs, pet cats form secure and insecure bonds with their human caretakers. The findings suggest that this bonding ability across species must be explained by traits that aren't specific to canines, the researchers say.

"Like dogs, cats display social flexibility in regard to their attachments with humans," said Kristyn Vitale of Oregon State University. "The majority of cats are securely attached to their owner and use them as a source of security in a novel environment."

One revealing way to study human attachment behaviour is to observe an infant's response to a reunion with their caregiver following a brief absence in a novel environment. When a caregiver returns, secure infants quickly return to relaxed exploration while insecure individuals engage in excessive clinging or avoidance behaviour.

Similar tests had been run before with primates and dogs, so Vitale and her colleagues decided to run the same test, only this time with cats.

During the test, an adult cat or kitten spent two minutes in a novel room with their caregiver followed by two minutes alone. Then, they had a two-minute reunion. The cats' responses to seeing their owners again were classified into attachment styles.

The results show that cats bond in a way that's surprisingly similar to infants. In humans, 65 percent of infants are securely attached to their caregiver.

"Domestic cats mirrored this very closely," Vitale says. In fact, they classified about 65 percent of both cats and kittens as securely bonded to their people.

The findings show that cats' human attachments are stable and present in adulthood. This social flexibility may have helped facilitate the success of the species in human homes, Vitale says.

The researchers are now exploring the importance of this work in relation to the thousands of kittens and cats that wind up in animal shelters. "We're currently looking at several aspects of cat attachment behaviour, including whether socialization and fostering opportunities impact attachment security in shelter cats," Vitale said.

This work was supported through a Nestlé Purina sponsorship for studies in cat and dog emotional well-being and by the National Science Foundation.

KNIT YOUR CAT A MOUSE FOR CHRISTMAS

You will need

- oddments of DK wool
- pair each of 3.5mm and 4mm knitting needles
- 3.5mm crochet hook (optional)
- polyester toy filling



SIZE

Approximately 10cm from nose to tail

TENSION

22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm square over st-st using 4mm needles.

ABBREVIATIONS

cm centimetres;

cont continue;

inc increase;

k knit;

kfb k into front and back of next st;

p purl;

rem remaining;

RS right side;

skpo sl 1, k1, pass slipped st over;

st(s) stitch(es);

st-st stocking stitch;

tog together.

Knitting notes

- The mice are worked from nose to tail.
- To make a stripy mouse, work in st-st in alternating 2 row colour stripes, carry the yarn not in use up the side of the work rather than cutting and rejoining yarn for each colour change.

BODY

With 4mm needles, cast on 7 sts, leaving a long yarn end for sewing up. K 1 row. P 1 row. Next row (RS) K2, kfb, kfb, k3. 9 sts. P 1 row. Next row K3, kfb, kfb, k4. 11 sts. P 1 row. Next row K4, kfb, kfb, k5. 13 sts. Cont in this way to inc 2 sts in the centre of every RS row until there are 31 sts. P 1 row. K 1 row. P 1 row. Next row K1, [skpo] 7 times, k1, [k2tog] 7 times, k1. 17 sts. P 1 row. Next row K1, [skpo] 3 times, k3, [k2tog] 3 times, k1. 11 sts. P 1 row. Cut yarn, thread through rem sts, pull up and secure.

EARS (make 2)

With 3.75mm needles, cast on 3 sts. 1st row Kfb, k2. 4 sts. 2nd row Kfb, p3. 5 sts. 3rd row Kfb, k4. 6 sts. 4th row Kfb, p5. 7 sts. 5th row K. Cut yarn leaving a 10cm end, thread yarn through rem sts, pull up and secure, to form the base of the ear.

TAIL

With a crochet hook and leaving a long yarn end, work 24 chains. Thread yarn through the last chain to secure and sew through all 24 chain sts down to the start of the tail. Alternatively, plait 3 ends of yarn together for approximately 10cm for the tail, leaving a yarn end at the end to sew the tail onto the mouse.

TO MAKE UP

Fold the mouse body in half lengthways and join seam, leaving a small gap in the middle. Stuff firmly and close the gap. Sew on the ears and the tail. Wrap contrast coloured yarn several times around the nose of the mouse until it is completely covered. Knot a small piece of yarn above the nose and unravel to create whiskers. Embroider small stitches for the eyes

