

WINTER EDITION 2022

Island Mews



Winter's Tales
to warm
the heart



www.isleofwight.cats.org.uk

THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY TWO!

Yes, that's the amazing number of cats we've managed to find loving homes for in 2021. And we would like to thank every single person who has helped make this happen – whether you've donated money, toys, food, raised funds for us, volunteered your time, fostered, adopted or simply spread the word – you have all made a huge difference in helping our charity.

We've also been incredibly lucky to receive support from so many local businesses who have donated prizes and helped us put together one of the biggest raffles in our history - our Mega Raffle. We managed to raise a whopping £1,700!

Thank you also to Dee and Linda who worked very hard asking for prizes. Congratulations everyone. And thank you to our supporters, prize donors, and the volunteers who made this event possible.



Our lovely Charlie, wondering what Santa brought him for Christmas

We know that with Covid casting its shadow, everything is still so uncertain. However we are confident that with your continued support, 2022 will mark a new beginning and a new life for so many cats in need. Thank you!

Wishing you all the best for 2022.

Mel, Jo and the CP team

XMAS SING-ALONG

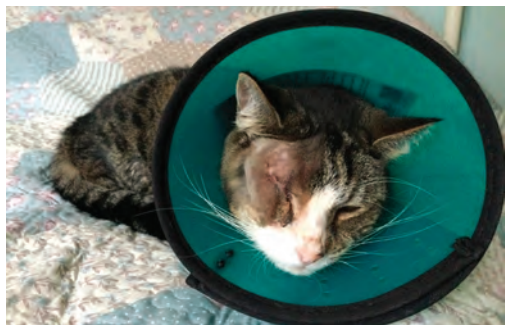
As much as we tried to bribe and cajole this trio to meow a few carols and get into the Christmas spirit, only Henry obliged.

His two sisters, Lucy and Calico, refused to take part and clearly thought the whole thing beneath them. "We're just going to sit here and look pretty instead!"

This adorable trio is just of one of our many 'families' of cats looking for a home together. Do check out our 'Adopt-A-Cat' page on our website to find out more.



WINTER APPEAL



VINNY'S STORY

Poor 14 year-old Vinny lost his home when his beloved owner sadly could no longer keep him. Vinny looked in great condition, but we could see his right eye was causing him pain.

We think it likely that Vinny had a bad eye-ulcer in the past that hadn't healed properly and he had been left with a large area of scar-like tissue called a sequestrum. This is very difficult to treat and can cause a lot of pain so we made the decision to remove his eye.

Thankfully Vinny was able to go into one of our lovely foster homes before his eye was removed. After the operation, his foster carers could see he was much happier in himself, which proved we made the right decision. Here's what his foster parents told us:

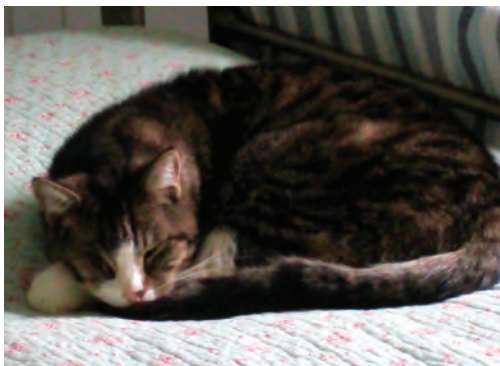
"Vinny is a chilled out, easy-going cat. He loves to keep you company so, wherever you are, Vinny will be close by. He'll be there to greet you when you get up in the morning and when you get home.



"Vinny probably could live with another cat. He has conversations with our own cats through the door which separates them and he meows and chirrups like he wants to be friends.

Vinny is such a huge character and has so much charm and personality; to see him finally happy and settled in a loving home would be just wonderful."

If you could see Vinny in your hearts and home, please do let us know.



AN AMAZING £650 RAISED!

Medical care, such as that provided for Vinny, is very expensive. Thankfully, our supporters managed to raise over £650 on our JustGiving campaign to help fund Vinny's care. We can't thank you enough. Your donations will help Vinny, and many others like him that Cats Protection care for and get back to health, ready for their forever homes.

THE ISLAND RIDING CENTRE COMES TO OLLIE'S RESCUE

Ollie was one of our shy cats who was with us for quite some time. Like so many of our timid kitties, Ollie was often overlooked and we found it hard to find a home for him. However the wonderful Island Riding Centre (based in Newport) soon came to his rescue.



Ollie (soon to be Boycie), at Cats Protection waiting for his new home

Having already previously adopted two cats from us, the Centre felt that they still had room for one more rescue kittie; they fell in love with Ollie, adopted him and renamed him Boycie. They told us "We already have an 'Only Fools and Horses' theme going on with our other two beautiful cats – Uncle Albert and Buster – so Boycie seemed the perfect name!"

Boycie seems to be settling into his new equine life perfectly: "Boycie loves our other two cats and they all sleep in the office every night together. He now sits on our knees while we are working in the office and, if we don't pay him attention, will head-butt our computers until we stop what we're doing and give him some fuss.

We can't thank Cats Protection enough for our three wonderful cats. They all spend most of their time in our office, having cuddles and fuss - often we don't get much work done! They are all such characters and visitors all know our cats' names. Children often pop



Boycie's new pals, Uncle Albert and Buster, both adopted from Cats Protection

into our office to see and ask about them. When I tell people they are all from Cats Protection, they think it's wonderful. There's nothing better than knowing you are giving a great loving home to a cat in need. We love them all very much and it makes our time at work extra special. I'm sure in the future we could have more."

Well, I'm sure our Cats Protection team will be very happy to help you if you do decide to extend your feline team.

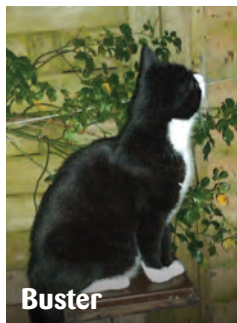


Boycie, surveying his new equine kingdom at the Island Riding Centre
www.islandriding.com

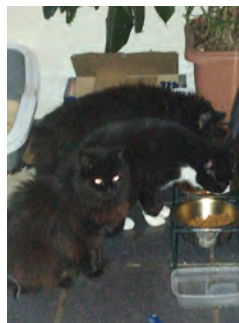
THE JOY OF ADOPTING AN OLDER CAT (OR MAYBE TWO!)



Lucky (11 years) and TC (17 years)



Buster



Meet TC and Lucky - two of our older cats who were struggling to find a home. Fortunately, they caught the eye of a lovely couple who came in looking for... a kitten! Here's what they told us:

"When our cat Twinkle died earlier this year, Buster (our other cat) missed her badly, so we thought we would look for a kitten for him to make friends with.

We looked at all the cats up for adoption but something kept drawing us back to TC and Lucky.

But, I hear you cry "they're old!" Yes, well you look at them and you see two sweet cats in a sad situation looking for love. After much talk - should we, shouldn't we?...and oh the heartache - we decided to go for it.

But would they get on with our dog?

So we took our bouncy Todd to meet them, and for once in his life he behaved himself. We were so relieved when they didn't react to him. So it was settled, we would have them.

After a couple of weeks of slow introductions, TC and Lucky were finally free to roam the house. Todd soon learnt his place in the home. He is ruled with one hiss from Lucky and a devil stare from TC, so no problem there.

Buster was very curious about the new

arrivals, and them with him. But after a couple of weeks of them tip toeing around each other and a few hisses later, they all get on well. Buster and TC are now the best of friends, play-fighting (who would have thought it of a 17 year old?) and loving life. Lucky just loves to be on your lap and be cuddled and shown as much love as possible. Both Lucky and TC love a treat and will prod you with a paw - we are now paw-activated treat dispensers.

We absolutely love the pair and the answer to the question is YESSSSSS - do give an oldie a home; the amount of love and amusement these two have given us is immeasurable."



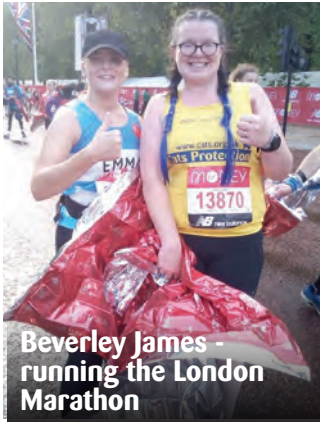
TC asserting his superior status over Todd, the Collie

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Yes, one of those small dots half-way up the Tower on the right is one of our volunteers - and she's doing it all for cats! Just think, it could be you! We're always looking for fundraisers willing to commit a bit of time to help raise money for our Centre. And it really doesn't need to be quite as daunting as abseiling down a 100-metre sheer vertical wall.

As we look back over the last year, our fabulous fundraising team have raised over £10,000 in 2021 - running marathons, baking cakes, washing cars, knitting mice, sharing our stalls with donkeys, hosting quiz nights and holding collection tins in the pouring rain – every penny raised makes a difference. A big BIG thankyou!

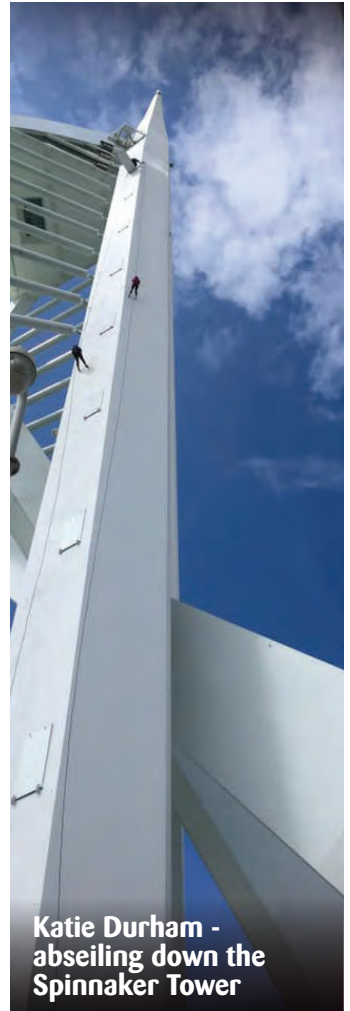
Whilst we just couldn't feature everyone in this edition, here's just three of the many volunteers who have raised funds for our cats in 2021. We would like to say a very special thank you to Beverley James who has raised over £2200 through all her fundraising activities over the year. Amazing work!



**Beverley James -
running the London
Marathon**



**Beth Sharp -
completing the Nine
Mile Challenge**



**Katie Durham -
abseiling down the
Spinnaker Tower**

INTERESTED IN HELPING US RAISE FUNDS?

Every penny you raise helps us care for abandoned, unwanted and neglected cats and kittens, providing them with the food, shelter and veterinary treatment they need until we are able to find them loving new homes. From peddling your perfect bakes, to sharing your celebrations with us or doing something daring, we have plenty of brilliant ideas and top tips to guide you through. Whether you know what you want to do or need some guidance, we're here to help. Find out more on www.cats.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-cats-protection.

RAISING FUNDS WITH THE ISLE OF WIGHT DONKEYS

Thanks to everyone who came to support us at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary Winter Market at the end of November. You helped us to raise over £100 on the day! And a massive thank you to our star fundraising volunteer Beverley James for setting up and hosting the stall. And thank you to all the very lovable donkeys that kept us company throughout the day and made fundraising so much fun.



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR YOUNGER FUNDRAISERS

We are always amazed at the passion shown by many of our younger supporters and we are so appreciative when they choose to support Cats Protection Isle of Wight.



A special thank you to the kids at Bay Church of England Primary School, Sandown, (on the left), who organised a cake sale to raise funds for our Centre; and a big thank you to Open Minds (who organised a charity car wash for both our Centre and the RSPCA). Open Minds is an amazing organization based in Binstead, that provides an outdoors nature-based alternative to the classroom for youngsters who may have experienced social or emotional trauma or those who simply find the classroom environment a challenge.

www.openmindsiow.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS – THANK YOU

In August we invited all our volunteers onsite to reunite! It was the perfect opportunity to thank everyone for their support and award some statues for Exceptional Contributions.

Congratulations to Kevin, Claire, Dave, Linda, Fran, Matthew and Janine. Between these seven volunteers, they have amassed over 20 years volunteering for Cats Protection Isle of Wight.

We count ourselves so incredibly lucky for everything all our volunteers do for us.



HOW CAN I KEEP MY CAT SAFE IN COLD WEATHER?

How to tell if your cat is cold

Ears, paws, and the tip of their tail will lose heat first. If these areas feel cold, your cat is probably uncomfortably chilly. If they are just cold and showing no other worrying symptoms (see right), they can be brought into a nice warm room.

Please remember that old cats and those with certain medical conditions are at an increased risk of hypothermia and should never be out in the cold.

How cold is too cold?

If the temperature dips to freezing, hypothermia (or even frostbite) can quickly set in if the cat is left outside. Warning signals include mental stupor or confusion, shivering, dilated pupils, difficulty breathing and body stiffness. If the cat is hypothermic, he needs to be wrapped in a warm towel and taken to a vet as soon as possible since hypothermia can be fatal if left untreated.



A temporary shelter can help outdoor cats survive cold weather



GIVE A HELPING HAND TO STRAY CATS IN YOUR AREA

If you know of strays in the area, one way of helping them is by constructing a temporary shelter (see above) and providing access to food and water.

Keep an eye on the water to ensure it hasn't frozen.

Without a shelter, strays will go looking for other warm, covered places such as under the hoods of cars. Here, they are protected from the elements and the engine can emit heat hours after it has been turned off, but if the car is started while they are hidden away, it can cause horrific injury or prove fatal. So if you know a stray is in the area, do check your car before you start up the engine.

Also be careful when using anti-freeze. De-icers use

ethylene glycol, which attracts some cats to its taste and can prove deadly if cats ingest it or even try to lick it off their fur or paws.

If you suspect a stray cat is suffering in the cold, please give us at Cats Protection IOW a call. We will always do what we can to help. We will NEVER ignore a cat in need of help.

Between 9am and 4:00pm, please contact us on t:03000 120 251 e:isleofwight@cats.org.uk. Outside these hours, we may be able to provide support. Please email lostandfound@isleofwight.cats.org.uk, and, where possible, our volunteer team will be able to advise you on what to do next.

Please help us find Bobby!

Missing from Middleton, Freshwater since Sept 17. He is believed to still be in the area.



Shy little 12-year old Bobby went to his lovely new home in September. But, the very next day, we got a distraught call from Pauline, his owner, saying that Bobby had gone missing.

Posters went up, leaflets distributed, appeals made on social media. But for four weeks, no sightings were reported. We were beginning to despair and so we asked one of our West Wight volunteers, Janine, to see if she could help. Here's what she told us:

"Pauline and I were determined not to give up. So, we re-ran our campaign – putting up over 30 new posters, posting over 150 'missing cat' leaflets in doors, and talking to anyone and everyone in the area to keep an eye out for our missing boy. Bobby was probably now the most famous cat in Freshwater!

Then, we got a call...

Someone had spotted him (or rather his dog did) and sent us this photo. Bobby was alive!

But how to catch him?



After a few more sightings, we gradually narrowed down his territory to one particular garden. I set up a trail camera and some food each night and soon discovered Bobby's favoured meal times (3 - 6am in the morning).

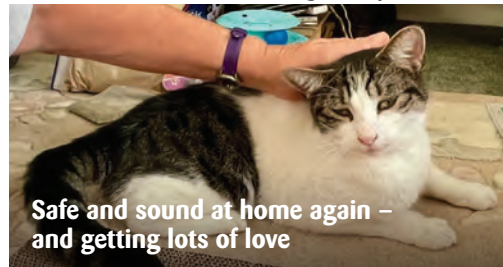
Now was the time to set up the trap cage (closely monitored by myself at a distance). All the neighbours were rooting for us, and even agreed to keep their own cats in overnight so that they didn't accidentally get caught in the trap cage or scare Bobby off.



The first two nights, Bobby turned up, ate the food, but clever cat that he is, managed to eat the food in the cage by side-stepping the trigger mechanism that would close the trap door.

Determined not to be outwitted by Bobby, I hung some chicken at the end of the cage, to force him to step on the trigger plate. It worked. Just after 6am, I heard the cage door slam shut. We finally got him!"

Almost five weeks after disappearing, Bobby was found safe and brought back home to a very delighted Pauline, who really didn't mind at all being woken up so early in the morning by the return of her beautiful missing Bobby.

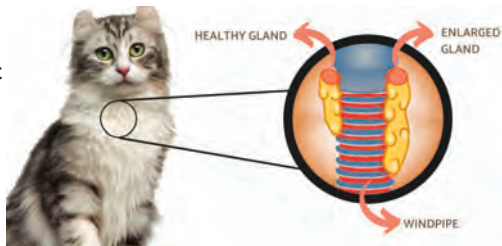


Safe and sound at home again – and getting lots of love

HYPERTHYROIDISM: SPOTTING THE SIGNS IN YOUR CAT

Is your cat showing signs of increased appetite and/or thirst, weight-loss, hyperactivity, being overly-vocal, vomiting, diarrhoea, increased heart rate or poor coat condition?

While many of these could be linked to other conditions or even be innocent, they could be the first signs of increased metabolic rate, caused by hyperthyroidism. This condition is diagnosed through a simple blood test and it can be managed with medication or surgery. But if left untreated, the condition could affect major organs such as the heart and liver and, in worst cases if left untreated, could be fatal.



What is hyperthyroidism and what causes it?

The thyroid is made up of two glands located on either side of the wind pipe at the base of the cat's neck. These glands produce thyroxine, a hormone which helps to regulate the metabolic rate. In some cats, the thyroid becomes overactive and produces excessive amounts of thyroxine. This is called hyperthyroidism and it speeds up the metabolism.

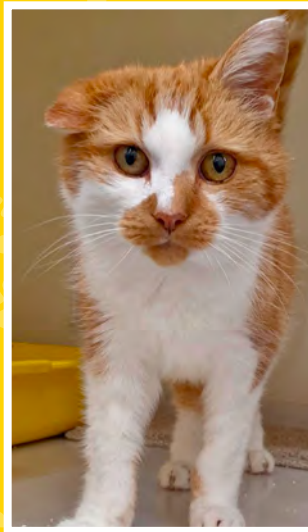
Scientists do not know what causes the thyroid to change. Although it is seen in younger cats occasionally, it mainly affects cats over the age of ten and can occur in either one or both of the glands. If you feel that your cat is showing any of the signs of hyperthyroidism, we advise that you consult your vet as soon as you can.

At Cats Protection, we are seeing more and more cats diagnosed with hyperthyroidism. But, with the right treatment and care (and of course, a loving home), the cat should live a good quality life for many years.

Three of our oldies (all profiled on the opposite page), Merlin, Archie (also pictured here) and Puss Puss, are just a few of the moggies that have come into our care recently with the condition, but were soon adopted, once we had managed to stabilise their condition.

We are so grateful that cat lovers see past old age and health issues and love the cats for who they are. Veterinary treatment has come a long way, and to see elderly cats thrive once their condition has been diagnosed and managed, is very rewarding.

Thank you to everyone who has adopted, fostered and helped us fund medical care for those kitties that need a little bit more help and support in life.



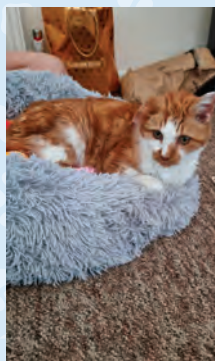
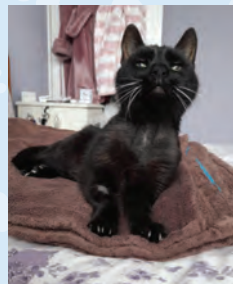
SPECIAL NEEDS KITTIES

A NEW YEAR: A NEW BEGINNING FOR OUR GOLDEN OLDIES

Merlin

When 15 year-old Merlin arrived, he was so thin and bony, your heart went out to him. We soon found out that Merlin was hyperthyroid, so he started down the path of blood tests and medication. After a few months Merlin was stable enough to have a thyroidectomy.

However he struggled with his calcium levels after the operation and had several fits; thankfully he was in foster Dave's care so he got lots of TLC. It was touch and go whether Merlin would pull through, especially since he was also diagnosed with stage one kidney disease. But thanks to Dave and Jill, our vet, Merlin became stable and, after five months in our care, has just been adopted.



Archie

Archie (15 years-old), arrived in September as a stray thin and bedraggled cat. Blood tests proved he had an overactive thyroid. His crinkled ear gave him such an appealing look and he had a swagger walk from a previous injury to his hip.

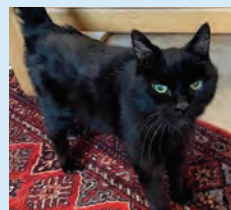
Sadly his thyroid medication disagreed with him and Archie became very poorly and dehydrated. We stopped his medication and once he felt better, he started a alternative medication and then he started to bloom.

A constant lack of foster volunteers meant that Archie had to stay at our Centre for months while we helped him back on his paws. But Archie charmed the staff at Island Vet Care and one of the visiting student vets, Georgia, fell in love with him. Georgia adopted Archie in December and he's been living it up in Guildford ever since.

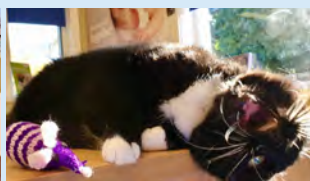
Puss Puss

At 18 years-old, Puss Puss was thin and not caring for himself. His blood tests also showed that he had an overactive thyroid. Once he was on medication, he started gaining weight and looked much better.

Whilst he was recovering, Puss Puss was cared for by fosterers Roma and Martin. He enjoyed sleeping on the bed, and would always wake Roma up for breakfast. Puss Puss was soon adopted and went straight from foster to his forever home.



Never too old to catch a mouse!



That sure must be some top quality catnip; Suzie is having the time of her life.

Here's our very own golden oldie, 17 year old Suzie, enjoying her newly-caught mouse.

A huge thank you to super knitter Diane for knitting our kitties lots of amazing catnip mice. We (and the cats) love them!

If there are any other budding knitters out there, please let us know. We would just love to be overrun with mice!

OUR WISH LIST FOR 2022...

MORE AMAZON PLEASE!

Not only do cats just love squeezing into those empty boxes and tearing through all that lovely crinkly packaging, they also love our Cats Protection Isle of Wight Amazon Wishlist. From toys and treats, to cattery essentials - every donation is greatly appreciated by us and our cats, no matter how small.

If you would like to make a cat's wish come true, please visit the 'Support Us' page of our website.

www.isleofwight.cats.org.uk



Cheeky Charlie (adopted from our Centre) is an Amazon fan



If you have space in your home,
and room in your heart...

Become a fosterer

Calling all cat lovers - could you help us?

Our Isle of Wight Adoption Centre is urgently seeking volunteers who can give a temporary home to a cat or kitten prior to being adopted. You really will make a huge difference!

All you need provide is a spare room in your home, a bit of your time and plenty of love. We provide all the rest.

If you would like to know more, please contact us or take a look at the Fostering section on our website 'Volunteering' page for more information.

We would love to welcome you to our Isle of Wight team!

t: 03000 120 251; e: isleofwight@cats.org.uk

www.cats.org.uk/isleofwight/get-involved/fostering-qanda

Cats Protection, 122 Marlborough Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1AW
t: 03000 120 251 | e: isleofwight@cats.org.uk | w: isleofwight.cats.org.uk

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