

SPRING EDITION 2021



Island Mews



Lets get
Baking!



www.isleofwight.cats.org.uk

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF ISLAND MEWS

Spring has arrived! And with it, real hope for a much happier year.

Amazingly, our Centre has been closed for over 12 months now. However during this time, we have never shut our doors to the many cats that have needed our help.

Since June last year, we've succeeded in rehoming almost 250 cats. No mean feat, considering we often had to manage with only two people on site, due to many of our staff being on part-time furlough, and no volunteers able to help at the Centre.

So let's bring out the cakes and celebrate this achievement! And perhaps we can tempt you to celebrate with us by entering the Pawsome Baking challenge on the back page. Every cake raises money for our cats.

If you're not up for baking, don't forget you can still support us by purchasing an item from our lovely new range of merchandise including cat essentials, treats for yourself and some great gift ideas. Do take a look at our website to view the full range - www.cats.org.uk/isleofwight/support-uscp/shop.

Moments of joy and sadness

In a year tinged with so much sadness at the loss of our human and cat companions, we



treasure even more every single moment of joy. Take 17-year-old Jess (featured on page 4), reunited with his owners after having been missing for 14 years. Good news travels fast and we soon found the story and our IOW Centre featured in the press nationwide. And yes, we admit it, we loved our little moment of fame!

As we look ahead, we are sure it won't be long before we can welcome all of you back to the Centre. We have missed you!

We are so very grateful for all your help over the last year. We know how much you care and we really hope that you will continue to support us in our journey of helping cats in need.

Mel, Jo and the CP Team

PLEASE HELP ELDERLY FELIX GET BACK ON HIS PAWS

Poor Felix has been in care with us now for over 210 days. Diagnosed with a thyroid problem, Felix went to a wonderful fosterer, Linda, who has cared for him for many months, giving him daily medication and getting him to the vet for checks.

Felix has just had a thyroidectomy and is recovering well. This means he no longer needs daily thyroid medication. The operation was a costly one but we wanted to give Felix his best chance of enjoying his

senior years. If you can, please donate a few pounds to Felix's appeal. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/iowfelixvetappeal



Thirteen-year old Felix came to us when his much-loved owner died

RAISING MONEY FOR CATS

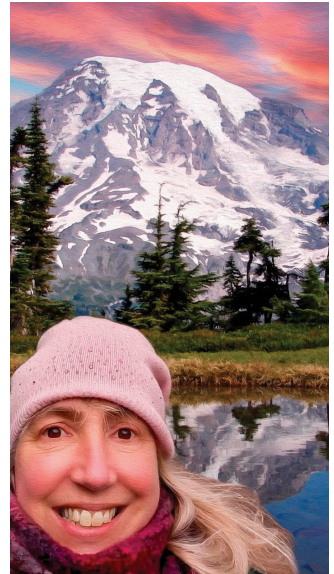
JO CLIMBS EVEREST

Here at Cats Protection, we just love a challenge! So, when Jo, our Deputy Manager, heard about the Cats Protection virtual Mount Everest Climb to raise funds for our Centre, she got her gear together and set off.

Over a total of five weeks, Jo trekked round Ryde and climbed her stairs to conquer (virtually) the highest mountain in the world – raising over £800 in the process. Tracking her total elevation using an app on her phone, Jo climbed 30,314ft.

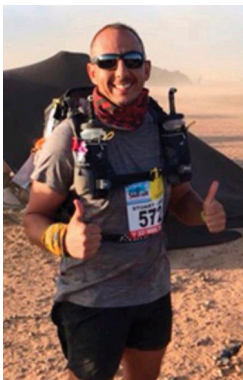
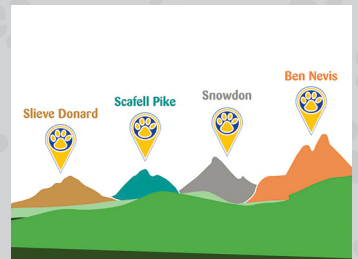
Jo says “I must have been mad choosing Mount Everest, but let’s face it, I need the exercise. I’ve always helped with fundraising but this has been the most physically demanding event I’ve done, particularly as I suffer with sciatica, so I’m really proud to have reached the top.

I love cats, I love the Adoption Centre cats and I especially love my own two cats Sylvester and Tippy (both from Cats Protection of course!). Cats have been my passion all my life and I hope this ‘ClimbForCats’ helps a few more cats in our IOW Centre”.



IF JO CAN DO IT, YOU CAN DO IT!

Why not have a go yourself and raise much-needed funds to help our Centre? Conquer one or more of the UK’s highest peaks with our ‘ClimbForCats’ challenges. Use your stairs at home, or some steps near to where you live, and complete the climb in one go, or spread across a number of days, weeks or even months – it’s your choice! For further details, visit www.cats.org.uk/virtualchallenges



MORE OF AN ARMCHAIR SUPPORTER?

If all this sounds a bit too energetic, you can still be part of our fundraising effort by supporting one of our fundraising volunteers. Here’s Stuart who will be running for our charity at the Virtual London Marathon 2021.

“Our family have supported Cats Protection for many years now and we currently have two cats from the Centre - Bertie, who was tied up in a carrier bag and Guy, who was a stray living under a shed. I would love you to be part of our fundraising effort, so if you can donate (however small), please do – if only to see me suffer!”

You can donate via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuart-peachey

REUNITED AFTER 14 YEARS

At the grand old age of 17, Jess was finally reunited with his owners after having been missing for 14 years. His owner, Leigh, was absolutely thrilled when she received our call to say Jess had been found.

Leigh told us that Jess went missing from a family friend's home back in 2007. He had been staying there while his owners had to move into temporary accommodation while they waited to move house. Leigh was devastated "We thought he was lost forever."

And yet the adventurous moggie had found a new home not far from where he had gone missing. He took shelter in the grounds of the Ryde House Group assisted living home where residents kept him well-fed and affectionately named him Tibby.

The Ryde House Group told us: "Tibby, as we called Jess, found his way to our doorstep around 13 years ago, and made such a regular appearance that he was dubbed The Ryde Cottage Cat.

You can even see him on our site map, as he was so often spotted along that driveway.

However he was starting to show his age and we had the sad realisation that he needed to be brought to a place that could give him the care he needed.

We'd like to say thank you to Jess for bringing smiles to the faces of our residents and staff for so many years. We were so sad to see him go but are so glad that he's been reunited with his original owners."



Jess arrives at Cats Protection IOW

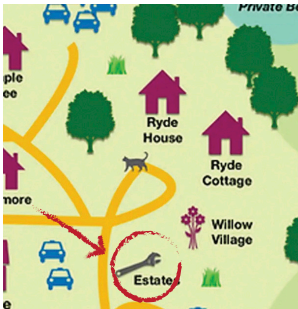
At the Centre, we immediately scanned Jess for a microchip and, joy of joy, we found he had one! Even better, Leigh had kept her details up-to-date, meaning she and Jess were reunited after just one phone call.

Leigh adds: "I truly can't believe he's back with us after all these years. We're so pleased to have him home"

Wow, the power of the microchip!

Jess's story just goes to show why we microchip all cats before they leave our care at Cats Protection. We might never have known Jess had owners who missed him if it weren't for his chip. It was wonderful to be able to reunite Jess and Leigh and for him to go home to his family.

It's always a joy when we scan a cat and the scanner says it's not only found a chip but then the details are up-to-date. Our message to everyone would be 'chip your cat' – it makes reuniting cats and owners so much easier.



RE-HOMING THE ISLAND'S STRAYS

Some people are wary about adopting a stray, fearing that they may never adapt to home life. But time and time again, the wonderful people who adopt our strays can tell you that nothing is further from the truth.

Let's not forget that many strays have been part of a home at some stage in their lives, but have either got lost or simply abandoned. For many, given time and patience, they soon settle in to the comforts of home. Here's the story of one such stray.

Max, the Nettlestone stray

Six-year-old Max had been a stray in Nettlestone for years and always managed to elude capture. Finally however, in November we managed to catch him - maybe he was just really hungry that day.



Max was terrified when he came to us. He constantly hid and shunned all contact.

After a month, there had been little progress. We knew there was no way he was ready for re-homing, unless he went to an outdoor environment such as a farm. However we sensed that just possibly, inside this big fluffy lad, was an affectionate puss just waiting to emerge. The only way we could find out was to seek the help of one of our foster carers.

Fran rises to the challenge

"On day one, Max went and hid straight under the bed; nothing was going to entice him out. So much for being a tough tom cat! I knew the best thing would be to leave him alone so he could adjust in his own time.

After several weeks his confidence grew, eventually letting me rub his head and even giving me a little purr. This was a real turning point. The shy and terrified gentle giant had begun to blossom, and soon Max was ready for his forever home".



Max in his new home

"Max is very relaxed with us now, although he is still a little shy. Max has a lovely temperament and greets us each morning with a gentle meow, looking to be made a fuss of. Each day he seems to grow more confident with us and his new surroundings.

He is such a lovely cat, and we are so pleased to have Max as part of our family, enjoying all the comforts of home."



YOUR TAILS

It always brings us cheer to see our previous residents now happily settled in their new homes. Here's just a few of the happy moggies from the last few months.

Simon - 6 years old

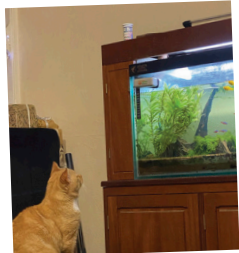
Simon had gone missing from his original home a few years ago. However when he recently turned up again, his family had other pets and he didn't settle so he was given in to us. His new family told us "Within fifteen minutes of bringing him home, he was sitting on my lap. I think he is definitely king of the house; he likes us to pull up a chair so he can join us for dinner! He comes to bed with us, and seems to think he needs all the room. He loves the children and is always following us all around. Thank you finding us our purrfect cat."



Buster - 3 years old

Buster was a stray who gradually befriended a lady for food. He had been living in her garden for a year and was trying to move in but she brought him to us instead.

Here's what his new family says: "Buster has really settled in. He eats more than a horse and guards the pantry (where his food is kept of course!). He has met the fish and appears to want a closer relationship with them (I think not, Buster dearest!). He has learnt what underfloor heating is and approves of this. We love him".



Charlie - 10 years old

Charlie was brought into us when his owner died. With his comical face and mischievous personality, we soon found him a home.

Here's what his new family says:

"Charlie may be ten years old, but he tears around the house like a kitten and then thinks it great fun to play hide-and-seek in whatever container he can find. He provides us with no end of laughs. We're so pleased we got Charlie, He's an absolute joy!"



A VOLUNTEER'S TAIL

One of the wonderful things about our volunteers (beside all the great work they do to support us) is they often end up adopting our cats, especially the harder-to-home ones such as the oldies, the shy ones, the 'not-so-fit' and the 'not-so-pretty' cats.



Here's Christine, to tell us more about her experience and about her lovely 13-year old Matilda.

"In 2015 I took early retirement and wondered what I was going to do next with all my free time.

I regularly passed the Centre and thought what a great place it would be to work in, so I applied to be a volunteer.

I started off volunteering in Reception and then moved on to socialising the cats. I've loved every minute. You're constantly learning new things (the online learning is brilliant) and the staff are always on hand to advise and support you.



Timid Matilda (note the death stare!) found her forever home with Christine

Matilda, my Rescue Cat

When the time came to adopt a cat myself, I knew I wanted an older cat and was introduced to Matilda. I was told she spent all her time under her blanket in her pen. Once I met her however, I decided she was coming home with me.

Matilda soon made herself at home. Her favourite place is the sofa. If someone sits on it and she wants to get on it, she will give you a death stare until you move. Breakfast and dinner must be served at certain times and she sure lets you know if it's not. We love her to bits and can't imagine life without her".

A NOTE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS - AND ASPIRING VOLUNTEERS!

Although our Centre still remains closed to both the public and volunteers, please keep a look out on our website and Facebook pages. As soon as we are ready to welcome back volunteers and recruit new ones, we will let you know.

In the meantime, we are still looking for volunteer foster carers to join us. As you can see from the wonderful work that Fran did to get Max ready for his new home, and also the recuperative care that Linda gave to Felix, fostering is an incredible opportunity to turn around the life of a cat. By providing a temporary loving home environment, we can really get a much better understanding of a cat's potential, what type of home will suit the cat best and most importantly, help rebuild their health, trust and confidence ready to go to their forever home.

It's a hugely rewarding role and we really hope we can encourage more people this year to volunteer as fosterers. If you would like to learn more, please do contact Emma, our Volunteer Team Leader (e: IsleofWight.VTL@Cats.org.uk). She would love to tell you more.

A BEST FRIEND LOST - A BEST FRIEND GAINED

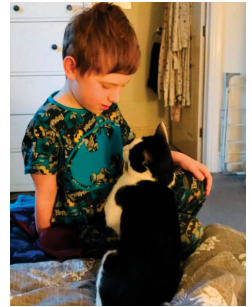
George had been adopted last year, along with his best friend Barney. They loved each other and were always together. Sadly, tragedy struck, and Barney died suddenly a few months after adoption. George had lost his life-long companion and now seemed to lose all interest in life. After giving him time to grieve, his family decided that maybe a new feline friend could help.

It's not always easy for a cat that has recently lost its companion, to bond with a new cat, but we knew George's personality well (from the many months he had been with us during lockdown!) and we thought if we could just find the right cat, it may just work.

It took some time to find a suitable companion, but then lovely Mikey came along. Although he had come to our Centre as a stray, he was super-friendly and ticked all the boxes – and Mikey soon was on his way to his forever home.



George (left) and new friend Mikey



His new family told us "George accepted him from day one. And now, they often go outside together and sit on our shed roof watching birds! Mikey is such a lovely cat with a great temperament. He has also really taken to our son and always hunts him out in the morning when we get up. We are so happy that Mikey came along. He has given George a whole new lease of life which has been so lovely to see".

LUCY MAKES THE FAMILY COMPLETE

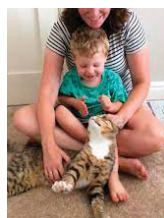
Lucy (five months old) came to Cats Protection as an unwanted kitten. She was a really gentle loving cat and was also used to children, so we were pretty sure she'd get on with a young family. So when we got a special request for a 'child-friendly' cat, we were pretty sure that Lucy would be the perfect fit. Here's what her new family told us.

"Lucy has been a blessing to our family. She is a sweetheart who has settled into our family perfectly. We have a five-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl who has learning and mobility difficulties. Lucy is brilliant with them both. She loves to play boisterously with Blake and is so gentle with Phoebe. When Phoebe had her physio session, Lucy was right there throughout, like she was encouraging Phoebe. She even gently put her paw on her hand and jumped up on her tray stander. We feel very lucky to have Lucy - she is a perfect match for us. There always felt like there was something missing in our family and now I know it was Lucy.



CATS AND KIDS

Choosing the right cat for your family is vital. That's why we go to great lengths at the Centre, in not only profiling each cat – its background, personality and specific needs but also getting as much information as possible about your own home, your family and what you're looking for from a cat.

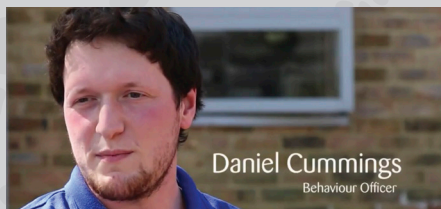


If the cat is friendly and confident, but never lived with kids then we would recommend a family with older kids, who know more about cat behaviour. For young kids, we always recommend a cat who can cope with a busy noisy household and enjoys being around children (they do exist!). We will never rehome a cat unless we are pretty confident that it is the right home for the right cat.

Teaching children to care for cats

Many children find that their cat becomes their friend. It is through this friendship that important lessons can be learned such as trust and empathy, compassion and responsibility.

Children learn best by example. If you treat your cat with love and respect, it's more likely your children will grow up to do the same. Explain to your kids that cats like to be left alone when eating or sleeping and that they can be frightened when people shout, make sudden movements or try to grab them. Children soon learn the signs of an unhappy cat – the swishing tail, ruffled fur or hissing – and will avoid doing things that upset them. Kids love to get involved with cat care, so get them to help with the feeding, grooming and playing routines.



Our Cats Protection behaviour expert outlines his top tips for cats living with kids.

- 1. Always supervise your child around the cat** – even if you completely trust that your cat is friendly, something may happen to spook your cat, or your child may act differently than you were anticipating.
- 2. Never force your cat to interact with a child** – cats feel threatened when they feel trapped or forced into situations and they may behave in unpredictable ways. So never force a cat on to a child's lap or to be stroked. Don't feel the need to pick your cat up and present it to the child to try and tell the cat the child is not a scary thing. This will often make the cat a lot more scared. Cats will adjust and learn in their own time and in their own way.
- 3. Ensure your cat always has a safe place to retreat** – cats feel safe when they can watch you from an accessible high vantage point such as a high windowsill or cupboard top. This will allow your cat to still be involved in family life but avoid all the hectic hullabaloo going on below.
- 4. Research cat body language** – so you and your children can understand what your cat is trying to communicate. This sets you up much better for success.
- 5. Only trust advice from the experts** – don't rely on friends, Google or social media. Each cat and each family is different. Always seek advice from a vet, a qualified behaviourist or the Cats Protection group from which you adopted the cat. This ensures you get the right information for yourself, your cat and your children.

OUR FEATURE CAT

OUR FABULOUS FOXY'S GOT THE LOCK-DOWN BLUES

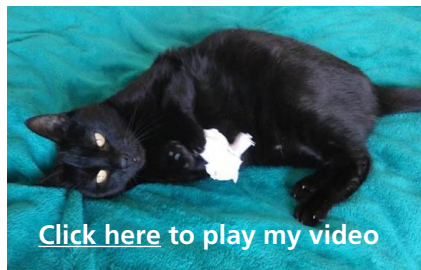
Affectionate, playful and loves laps! What more could you want from a cat?

Foxy (nine years old) has been with us for over two months now. No one seems to want her, which is very sad, since she has so much love to give and would make a lovely companion; she just needs to find a loving home where she can settle herself.

Foxy loves being fussed over, and will happily curl up on your lap in the evenings. She's a very calm cat who quickly settles into a routine and would be perfect for anyone who can provide a peaceful home with a nice garden for her to explore. She likes playing with her little catnip mouse but really, for Foxy, it's all about the cuddles and, for the lucky person who adopts Foxy, there's an added bonus - she has a fantastic purr to soothe you.

She's very gentle and gets a little spooked by loud noises, so a quiet home without children or other pets, is best.

We're desperate to find Foxy her true forever home so do get in touch if you'd like to know more.



[Click here to play my video](#)

WE'RE ALWAYS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

As much as we all love sharing good news, sadly there are times when some stories just don't have a happy ending. It's certainly true to say that over the years we've shed our fair share of tears here at the Centre. We always try and do our best for our cats; and we know that you do too – but sometimes fate just deals a cruel blow.

All of our team understand just how much your cat means to you and what you may be going through. Whether you are facing the heartbreak of your cat's death, facing difficult issues like euthanasia, or have a cat who has gone missing – Cats Protection is here for you.

If you need to talk about any cat you've adopted from our Centre, do give us a call. We'll do what we can to help. You may also find it helpful to call our Cats Protection 'Paws to Listen' service. Our trained volunteer listeners are on hand to lend an ear and offer support to any cat owner, wherever you are.



Need to talk to someone?

Please get in touch, we're here and ready to listen.



0800 024 9494

(9am–5pm, Mon–Fri) free and confidential

COOKIE – THE IMPORTANCE OF GROOMING

Just look at this huge fluff ball! Cats like Cookie, certainly need a lot of help with grooming, otherwise all kinds of problems can appear.

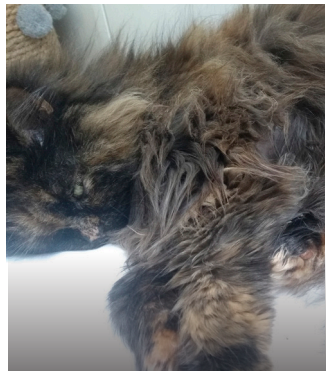
Six-year-old Cookie was adopted last year. Her new owner was under no illusion just how much help Cookie would need with her grooming. Here's what she told us.

"I was brushing her about five times a day - short bursts only (not very tolerant our Cookie!). Everything seemed to be fine but I soon noticed that Cookie was eating less and became very quiet. So off to the vet she went. They soon discovered a blockage and decided to operate. It appears there was a very hard lump of fur embedded in her gut which had probably been building up for over a year.

Since the operation, Cookie is in the best of health, eating more than ever and is actually, dare I say it, a lot more affectionate! She does look like she has had a very bad haircut at the moment but I am sure she will be back to her beautiful self very soon.

The vet gave us Catmalt (an anti-furball food) which she turns her nose up at, but I will persevere. In addition to her daily groom, we are also considering professional grooming, to make it a bit more manageable. The vet bill was over £2,000, enough to encourage any cat owner to groom every day!"

.....



Find out more about grooming your cat

Cats spend about 10% of their waking time grooming, but sometimes they may need a little help. Long-haired cats, like Cookie, should be brushed daily to stop their coat becoming tangled. Short-haired cats will probably only need to be groomed once a week.

Older cats may struggle to look after their coats and require gentle grooming to help to keep their skin healthy. Grooming also gives you some valuable 'together' time with your cat.

If your cat isn't keen on being groomed, ask your vet for advice. For further tips, play our Simon's Cat video or visit www.cats.org.uk/help-and-advice/cat-behaviour/grooming



[Click here](#) to play

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR NEWS

OUR PAWSOME BAKING CHALLENGE IS BACK

We're asking cat lovers on the Island to rise to the occasion and show some love for our furry friends. Join us this April and put your skills to the test. You could be in with a chance to win a pawsome prize! Just send us a photo of your best cat-cake bake and donate some dough to help cats in need.



How to take part

Entries can be made throughout April and you can enter as many times as you wish.

New for this year, there will be junior prizes in each category and one overall junior winner. We've even got a Baking Fail prize, so it really doesn't matter if you nail it or fail it!

To enter, all you need to do is make a donation and send us a photo of your cat-themed bake. You can do this in a number of ways:

- on social media using #PawsomeBaking
- posting in our Pawsome Facebook group
- by emailing Pawsome HQ at events@cats.org.uk

It must be your own baking and will be judged on three criteria: appearance, creativity and effort.

The top three bakes in each category will receive a special wooden spoon (featured on the front cover) and at the end of April, the overall winners (one adult and one junior) will be chosen by The Great British Bake Off's Kim-Joy and will receive a signed copy of her book!

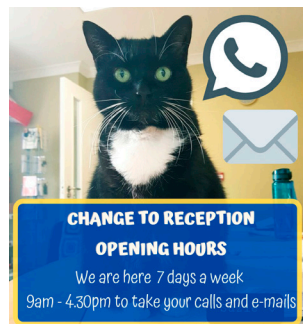
Register now at www.cats.org.uk/support-us/events/pawsome-tea



Sign up to our newsletter

We now feature each issue of our newsletter on our website. However, if you'd prefer to get the latest issue delivered direct to your inbox, please subscribe. Just phone or email Reception for a sign-up form and return it to us, and we'll do the rest. You'll receive four issues of cat-infused happiness per year, free of charge. If you'd prefer a printed copy by post, we do ask for a small contribution of £8 per year to cover printing and postage costs.

Although our Centre currently remains closed to visitors, we're still here to help in any way we can. Just email us or give us a call.



CHANGE TO RECEPTION OPENING HOURS

We are here 7 days a week
9am - 4.30pm to take your calls and e-mails

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

Reg Charity no. 203644 (England and Wales) SCO3771 (Scotland)