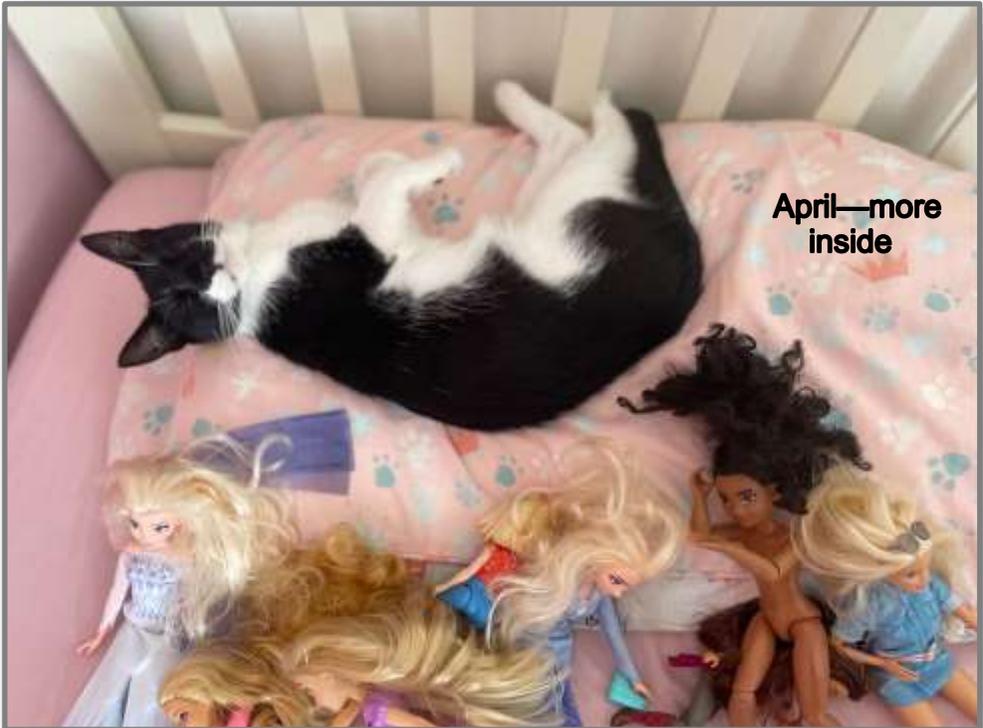




FELINES

Taunton & Wellington Branch Newsletter
Autumn 2021 (No. 135)



April—more
inside

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Recent new arrival - Foggy



A lovely new arrival at the homing pens – a 12 year old stray ginger tom named **Foggy**.

Not foggy by nature, as he is interested in all that is going on around him. Foggy is blind in one eye, with reduced sight in the other, resulting from untreated high blood pressure, but this doesn't stop him wanting to investigate every inch of his pen.

Like many strays, when there was no regular mealtime in the past, Foggy ate all that was offered to him. A beautiful boy, with a semi long haired ginger coat and a fan like tail. He is gentle and loves being stroked. Sitting on your lap he will gaze into your eyes.

STOP PRESS! - Foggy has now been adopted to a lovely rural home where he will enjoy all the love and care he deserves! Good Luck Foggy!



May I have some more please?

Hello Friends and Readers, Welcome to your Felines Newsletter — Autumn 2021

The year is rushing away and we are on the gallop down to dare one say it the 'C' word - Christmas.

It was obviously tempting fate in the Summer edition, to mention that there were few kittens short of a kindle. (*Kindle: a litter of kittens*). Of course not, almost immediately three were admitted to the homing pens. All boys. More about them later.

Turnover at times at the pens is bewildering - one week you are greeting new residents, the next thing, they are off and away to their new homes. We are always delighted to receive reports about how they have settled in when we follow up after adoption. Length of stay doesn't always relate to how you remember a particular cat - some make much more of an impression and they are remembered long after they have moved on to their new home.

Lockdown has resulted in many more people acquiring animals as pets. Unfortunately, it has provided fraudsters with a greater opportunity to prey on the unwary - so please take care if the latest addition to your household goes missing.

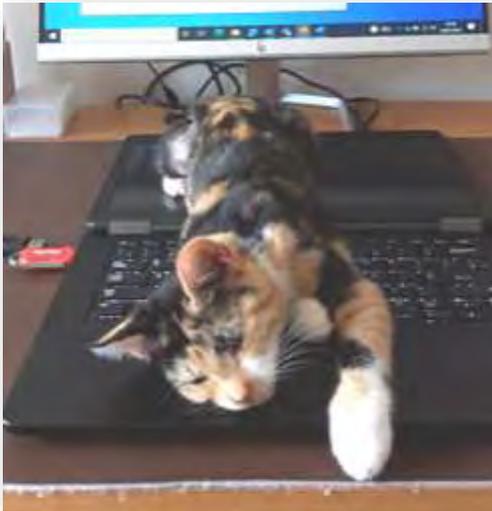
This report has appeared recently in the press -

Missing pet scam – RSPCA issues warning

The RSPCA has been alerted to a number of cases where owners of missing pets have been contacted by fraudsters posing as the RSPCA. After getting the owner's details from missing pet websites, the fraudsters contact the owner claiming to have found the missing pet. They then ask for bank details whereby they can steal money from the owner.

There are reports of fraudsters claiming to be from other organisations and charities. They will even use the trick of 'mirroring' the organisation's telephone number so the call appears to be legitimate, or using charity logos. As far as we know, Cats Protection has not been involved in this particular way yet, but please be vigilant. If you become aware of a case involving CP, please speak to your local Branch or contact the CP National Helpline on 03000 12 12 12.

Some recently homed cats and what they got up to -



Lily 'Am I in the way? Just keeping the keyboard warm'



Jorah is one relaxed cat



Jersey - a warm spot to nap on, during a chilly spell in the weather.



Sheba (who we knew as Flick) chilling at home



Lily, Louise when in care, has finally settled into her new home. She is a rather nervous cat, but has decided that life is now good!



Zita, above, who was called Zelda whilst with us.



Izzy who caused a lot of heart ache when she was lost for a while. - Her new owner could not believe the upset after she'd only been with her for such a short while. when she chose to go on an adventure. She was located not far from home but was a bit disorientated in the new and unfamiliar environment. Now thankfully safely returned home.



Ingra

It's good to see Ingra being held correctly — safe and secure.

We are grateful to Dr Sarah Owens for her generous sponsorship of this issue of Felines. Thank you!

Remember, remember...your cat during fireworks season

Whilst the celebrations can be great fun for people, cats and other pets can become stressed, confused or injured by fireworks. A few simple precautions can help owners to keep their cat out of harm's way:

- Keep your cat in after dark with access to a litter tray as well as food and water bowls
- Try to reduce outside noise and flashes by keeping windows shut and curtains drawn. Playing soothing music or having the TV on may also help. Try not to reinforce fearful behaviour by overly comforting a cat that is looking anxious
- Cats de-stress quicker if they can hide, preferably in high and/or dark locations, such as behind sofas and under beds. A cardboard box on its side or blankets placed on shelves or wardrobes can help your cat feel safe
- A pheromone plug-in diffuser (e.g. Feliway) can be used to decrease anxiety and can have a calming effect on a cat during fireworks - start using it a couple of weeks before the fireworks season starts and site it in the room where your cat spends most of his time. For more information, consult your vet

If you are having your own bonfire night celebration this year, then consider:

- Holding a 'silent' fireworks display — many companies now offer quiet or almost silent fireworks — giving you the same spectacle without the loud bangs
- Check bonfires before lighting to ensure that no small animals are sleeping inside

Lovely Storm - too often a mother



Lovely little **Storm** is only about two years old, but already has had multiple litters. After a number of false starts we were able to take her into our care.

Once settled, she underwent our routine of vet health checks, spaying, vaccinations and microchipping.



She is full of beans, quite a chatterer and loves company. Given half a chance she likes to get up close and personal and will climb up to look you full in the face.

A very pretty grey cat with a white bib, lovely white whiskers and pretty white toes on her front paws. Storm didn't stay long in foster care before being rehomed.

Early reports indicate that she is already ruling the roost. She has obviously settled in very fast, and is now training her new staff according to her own 'cat' timetable, with playtime scheduled for 4.30am. She catches up with sleep later in the day!

Storm's fur will grow back quite quickly after being spayed.



Black cats, black and white cats and everything in between!

Black cats, black and white cats, and cats that are white with some black. Our homing pens have played host to a number of cats with these permutations of colouring recently.



When all together it can be tricky to differentiate between them, especially in the first week when Mum, a black-white cat was sharing with one of her offspring, also black and white. The following week, they are in separate pens, and the second sister, also black-white, in a third pen.

Mum Willow (left) has two black rimmed eyes, whilst April (below right) one of her daughters has a black all over face, with just a hint of a white muzzle beneath.



Not to be confused with Blossom, (left) her other daughter, who has one black rimmed eye.

Blossom loved looking at the birds and grasses in our garden where the wind made them sway provocatively outside her pen window. April was less curious.



All are very small cats, particular mum, and they have now gone to their forever homes.

Still more black and white cats!



Barry, (left) another black & white cat, an elderly boy occupied a pen at the homing pens whilst our family of girls was also in residence. A little difficult to see at times as he'd been given a black and white blanket, so he sort of merged into the background when resting. However, he is a inquisitive lad who liked to get up close whenever you entered his pen. A charmer, always pleased to see you, Barry has now gone on to his forever home.

Although an elderly boy (in his nineties in human years) it is reported he has settled well.

To quote his new companion:

"He's my everything, I love him and he makes me feel loved.
PR

As soon as Barry left, **Teddy & Freddie** arrived. At least Freddie, a ginger cat, couldn't be confused with his pen companion Teddy - another black-white cat. These two had very different temperaments.

Teddy would be happy to have you in his pen, and never minded you flicking around with a dustpan and brush and always ready to check out what was for tea.

Freddie was much more nervous, and indeed hid most of the time, though could be lured out with something tasty, as long as you didn't hover too close.



Becoming a cat care volunteer

All sorts of people become cat care volunteers. Some come to clean and feed our residents, others just to play, sit and socialise. The time commitment can vary according to individual availability. Most important are the two key feeding/cleaning sessions at breakfast time and teatime every day of the year.

Each of our five pens has a notice board about its resident—any special requirements, health issues, and whether friendly or nervous having just arrived. In the preparation area there is additional information about feeding and individual food preferences. recorded on a daily log so that we can provide the exact needs for each guest.

Full training is given by one of our experienced cat care volunteers. In addition, there is essential Cats Protection online training. Once fully trained and confident, some like to work alone, others might pair up. The choice is yours. Relevant uniform is also provided free of charge

So if you have some time to offer and help our cats get ready for their new homes, please get in touch. We always welcome new volunteers.

Email: coordinator@taunton.cats.org.uk

or telephone: 03452 602 397 and we will get back to you and discuss further.

Skeeter: Week 1 hiding behind her bed at the back of the pen.

By week 2 she was up on the shelf close to the pen door, staying put, and totally unfazed by volunteers entering her space. Just an amazing transformation in such a short time as a result of good care and the understanding of her needs.



Branston the Galmington Community Cat

Branston had been cared for locally and a collection was made after he died for a commemorative plaque. The remaining funds were donated to the Branch, for which we are very grateful. It was good to hear that he was much loved.

Pen Sponsorship

If you are a regular reader of Felines, and have subscribed to the Friends of the Branch in the past, you will recall that last year we decided to stop annual subscriptions.

We suggested instead that you may wish to make a donation to support the Branch, but that we would not ask for a specific amount but leave it to our readers to decide how much to donate, and how often. It really is up to you.

We also suggested that you may want to think about sponsoring a pen by way of a plaque, and we said we would let you have more information about how to do that. We provide a metal plaque with a silver background, 15cm x 5cm, with wording of your choice. It could be a family sponsorship, as shown here, or a commemoration of a much loved cat, past or present.

If we should fill the space above the pen doors, then we have a large fenced garden around the pen site with plenty of space for many more plaques in the future. So it could become a memorial garden in the future.



We understand that people may like to have some guidelines before they donate, and we can say that a plaque of this size would cost the Branch approximately £15 to produce.

So, if you would like to support the Branch in this way, please get in touch with us by emailing coordinator@taunton.cats.org.uk or speak to our answering service at 03452 602 397 and mention sponsorship plaques, and one of our volunteers will call you to discuss.

FRIENDS OF THE BRANCH

'Friends of the Branch' is available to anyone who cares about cat welfare in our area. Membership is free, but we welcome a donation towards the printing costs of 'Felines'.

You can either donate by cheque or postal order payable to:-

'Cats Protection T&W – Friends of the Branch'

and send to :- The Treasurer, Friends of the Branch
51 Yarlington Close, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6RR

Please enrol/re-enrol me as a 'Friend of the Branch' for one year.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £.....

OR donate by BACS payment to sort code: 20-42-66

Account number 90478105 Cats Protection Taunton & Wellington
mentioning Friends of the Branch as a reference.

Gift Aid - I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year (6th April to 5th April) it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please tick this box if you want to Gift Aid this donation and any other donations you make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Cats Protection,

OR If you are not a UK Tax Payer please tick this box

If you would prefer to receive Felines by email, please tick this box

*If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Supporter Services by telephoning **0800 160 1012** Monday to Friday during office hours (9am-5pm), or by emailing **preferences@cats.org.uk** or write to: **Freepost, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Sussex RH17 7TT.***

Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy if you have any questions about how we use your data.

Wilfie's Blog

As featured on
our Branch Facebook page!



I was basking in the sunshine, idly watching a squirrel scampering around in the garden - wondering whether I should get up and go and say hello and deciding not! Suddenly, Rupert burst out of the hedge and chased the squirrel, which shot up a tree and sat looking down and chattering loudly.



Rupert couldn't understand why the squirrel would think his intentions were anything other than honourable, and eventually wandered off. I suppose the four breakfasts he'd consumed meant that he wasn't that hungry anyway. I went back to sleep.

Love, Wilfred X



In Memory of Charlotte by Liz Peebles

We were contacted by Liz Peebles with the most wonderful, emotional tribute to her sister-in-law Charlotte. Here is the story in Liz's words.

Sadly, on 21st May 2021 we lost a very special person, Charlotte Wormald. She was so many things to so many people; a beloved wife, a lifelong friend, a treasured daughter and sister.



Charlotte and Tom Wormald

Charlotte's passing was a great shock to us all and she has left behind an impact on every one of us that will never be dulled. Her warmth and compassion for the people and world around her was truly admirable, and those who know her know especially how dedicated she was to the welfare of our animal companions. Charlotte's 45 wonderful years were filled with a great love and countless hours spent caring for animals

of all kinds, including rescuing several members of her own little furry family. She would have gone to the moon and back fifty times, to do whatever she could to help an animal in need.

Over the past year and a half, like all of us, I have missed spending time and creating memories that I can treasure for the years to come with my friends and loved ones. I was sadly only able to see Charlotte on one occasion over this period and will greatly miss the chance to be with her in the years to come and to share a chuckle over just about anything and everything, as was Charlotte's way!!

In honour of the incredible, loving woman Charlotte was, and in the spirit of making sure we all treasure our time together, I will be covering 500 kilometres in raising funds for the Cats Protection Taunton and Wellington branch in her memory BUT NOT ALONE, as I would like to invite you all to join me and contribute miles towards my goal too. This will be done over the course of the next 10 or so weeks simply with strolling, hiking, cycling, (maybe even roller skating?! who knows?!) and whether you can manage to join me for just a single kilometre, or whether you'd like to come along for a little longer of an adventure, I would love to see your smiling faces and enjoy some precious time together.

I'll be keeping track of my progress and will keep my Just Giving page updated along the way. For each kilometre that somebody has joined me, I will add this to the total, so please support me in honouring my wonderful sister in law and get in touch to let me know if you'd like to come out and join me as I would be over the moon to see you.

For those of you who are further afield, or for whatever reason feel you can't join me in person but still wish to take part, I would be delighted to hear from you and your contribution to my 500km, so please get in touch so that I can shout about your efforts in stomping towards the goal from wherever you are. The Charlotte fan club is a global affair, so no matter where you are, please join me in strolling in her ever lasting memory.

30 August 2021

Well the challenge ended but there was one final walk we needed to do. This weekend Tom and I went to meet the famous Wilfred! We had the pleasure of meeting him and his siblings, along with his wonderful owners Ann and David who coordinate the Cats Protection Taunton and Wellington Branch we were raising funds for. The work they do is so amazing and was so important to Charlotte and with all your help we are continuing that in her name ♥

Charlotte would've loved to be there but we shared all about what a joy she was and always will be ♥☐ We miss you xx



Meeting Wilfred on the day of the final walk—
L-R Liz Peebles, Wilfred with Ann, Tom Wormald

The final sum raised is £1,760 plus Gift Aid and other in memoriam donations amount to a fabulous total of
nearly £3000
Thank you so much!

Catios - safe gardens for our felines friends

A 'Catio' is an enclosed outdoor space. It offers cats a protected place to enjoy fresh air while exercising, watching birds and other wildlife, or just chilling. It's a great way to provide daily enrichment for your cat as a safe outdoor experience. Cats are solitary hunters and territorial by nature. Curiosity can at times result in accidents and worse for too many, death on the road. So if you have space, consider creating an outdoor haven in your garden for your feline friend.

Peanut's owners, after a scare, created a bespoke outside space for him.



A bird table outside his enclosure keeps the birds safe, and Peanut entertained watching them when not napping. He has a sunbathing shelf as well as somewhere in the shade for the really hot days.

Three brothers: Pickle, Pumpkin and Parsley

Three bundles of mischief and mayhem. As with all pen residents, special instructions were posted outside the pen. One of the requests for these three was to 'slide' your feet, rather than run the risk of treading on one of them.

They got everywhere in the blink of an eye. Just because a little black kitten, was at the rear of the pen as you sought to exit, didn't mean he was still there by the time you'd turned round to leave. So not only should you watch who not to step on, two of the three were escapologists, thus when entering or leaving the pen needed your full attention, or you would be chasing kittens down the corridor.



The pen notice also gave the names and how to identify each kitten. Easy with the grey one, (Parsley). However with the two black kittens, it was more challenging, with one only marginally larger than the other. Getting them to stand still, alongside one another long enough to determine, 'slightly larger' was not really possible. The smaller of the two was also supposedly the most vocal. A moot point - apart from the grey, Parsley, who was much the less active, the other two made enough noise for a dozen kittens.



Like all small creatures, human and feline, one moment they were very active, the next in full rest mode.

If they weren't chasing ping pong balls from one end of their pen to the other, a brother's tail was just as much fun. They've all gone together to their forever home.

Good luck to their new owners
They will be a handful!

Update on Queenie, now known as Woolly

It is fairly rare to be able to catch sight of the outdoor & feral cats that we've relocated when we turn up some weeks later to pick up the temporary enclosure they've spent their early days in. However recently we had two pick ups and were rewarded by sight of both the cats we'd relocated earlier. Queenie, our cover girl from the summer edition, had obviously fallen on her paws. Now called Woolly by her new owner, she came running from round the side of the house, and immediately asked for some 'treats'.

She was totally relaxed even with the presence of two strangers. We were amazed. Considering her early difficult experience of confinement in a single room she has taken to the 'great outdoors' with gusto.

Her confident behaviour such a contrast to the hissing and growling cat we had experienced during the brief period she had been in the pens.



Woolly, the 'outdoor' cat!
A terrific mouser.



It was obvious from the very beginning her new carers had taken the trouble to get to know Woolly. Spending time talking and just sitting with her during the weeks of acclimatization.

Update:

"Woolly continues to thrive. She's becoming more adventurous as you can see, and given the chance we often find her dozing indoors. She seems very content"

J and N

Thank you from the Branch - we are all thrilled she is happy and well settled. However short a period we have to get to know a cat, they all leave paw prints on your heart.

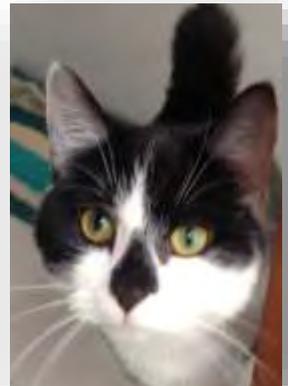
Four Farm Ladies!



Three, eight month old cats, relocated just over two years ago to a farm near Frome, **Faith, Hope & Charity** (*from left to right below*) had spent some time in foster care before being placed as outdoor cats. Their job specification was as rodent control operatives - a job that is reported they do extremely well!

Tied accommodation and full board is also offered to all our placements. So if you or someone you know is looking for specialist agricultural workers get in touch.

**A big thank you to their carer, they really fell on their paws!
And an even bigger 'Thank you' for sponsoring this edition of Felines.**





Just so Peanut - he finds the sunshine whatever the time of year.



Taunton & Wellington Branch

Tel— **03452 602 397** (standard rate)

Email—**enquiries@taunton.cats.org.uk**

For lost and found please email -

lostandfound@taunton.cats.org.uk

Website—**www.taunton.cats.org.uk**

Taunton & Wellington Branch offers help in the following areas:
TA1, TA2, TA3, TA4, and TA21.



We are on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/cpTauntonandWellington