

Felis Catus

Newsletter of the Woking & District Cats Protection
January - June 2020



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Happy New Year...

Co-ordinator's Words

A very Happy New Year to all of you, I hope that you all had a wonderfully festive and furry Christmas and New Year!

I am both delighted and excited to have joined the Woking Cats Protection team as the new Branch Co-ordinator. I joined in Summer 2019 and have been busy bringing myself up to speed with all things Cats Protection!

I have been a cat lover since a very young age, always having cats and I grew up adoring them with their wise eyes, cuddly fur, and independent (but very different) personalities. We typically had 4 cats growing up and then there was the love of my life Buster, I was blessed to call him my baby for 13 wonderful years! I moved to the UK in 2009 from Canada and have since settled here, got married, and adopted the new love of my life Nova. Like many of our cats, she had experienced a tough start to life (of which we know little) and it has taken many years for her to feel comfortable being herself, but what a wonderful cat she is! She lives the life of royalty to say the least, I'm sure many of you have these "kings and queens" in your own homes!

Professionally I have always worked in corporate roles but always felt the desire to "give something back". After searching for many months I came across the role for a Branch Co-ordinator at the Woking Cats Protection branch, went through the recruitment process, and since then I have seen what wonderful work the branch does, how dedicated the volunteers are, and how fantastic our supporters are. It has been a pleasure to be part of the team thus far and I look forward to the work we will all achieve together in the community, to rescue as many cats as possible!

The Woking & District Cats Protection Branch has had a very strong 2019 and we have highlighted our successes throughout this issue. We have had a lot of recruitment activity over the past 6 months with new volunteers (mentioned in this issue) as well as some volunteers who have moved on to other ventures. Our previous Newsletter Editor Aimee has moved on to other things however, we are continuing to recruit passionate volunteers and I look forward to updating you on our new joiners in the next issue!

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

Until next time!

Holly

Welfare's Words

Hello and welcome to our first edition of Felis Catus for 2020. We have pages packed with wonderful articles, that highlight the great work that we do, alongside news updates and advice.

A huge welcome to Holly, our new Co-ordinator - it is great to have her on board. I am also currently working with our new Welfare Team Leader, Fiona, who will be taking on some of my welfare role, so I can focus my time on other areas.

Sally, who has been a great asset to our welfare team for many years has recently moved down to Cornwall with her husband, John, who has also supported the branch. Wishing them well with their new move and retirement. That said, we are very fortunate that Sally is still going to continue remotely, overseeing our mailbox 2 (rehoming cats), which remains busy with an ever growing waiting list, not forgetting an increase in calls about stray and abandoned cats too. This puts us under constant pressure to help as many cats as we can, so much so that we are turning to our adoption centres for help. We found lovely new homes for 80 cats last year - let's hope we can help even more cats in 2020.

Thank you all for your continued support

Pauline

Treasurer's Report

In my last report in which I said that we had basically broken even in 2018, we had in fact ended the year with a surplus of £132 between our yearly expenditure and income. Quite a rare occurrence according to our regional manager from Cats Protection HQ, so as a committee we were very proud of ourselves. There has been a complete turnaround this year so far and already we have a deficit of over £7k.

This was not altogether unexpected by us as our neutering costs have gone up considerably, to almost £18k this year and the homing has been slow which obviously impacts on the adoption fee income.

Our financial position is not as dire as it sounds but support at our fayres and other events is crucial to the success and longevity of our branch and we thank all of you that make them the success that they are.

To date, this year, we have neutered 412 cats, 226 females and 186 males and our aim, is as ever, to help the many needy cats and kittens in our local area and to enhance the lives of many overworked and overused female mum cats.

Gill

Dates for your Diary!

8th February	Quiz Night, 7.30pm - 10.00pm New Haw Community Centre
21st March	Spring Fayre, 10.30am - 2pm New Haw Community Centre
8th May	Chobham Carnival, 11:30am onwards Chobham Recreation Ground
6th September	RSPCA Millbrook Gala Day
7th November	Christmas Fayre, 10.30am - 2pm New Haw Community Centre

Volunteers Matter

Welcome to Holly Smith, Fiona Reid and Sophie Jay.

Farewell to Aimee Rolls – thank you for all your help with our previous newsletters.

Farewell to Mary Chant – best wishes for your retirement.

We are always in need of volunteers – please get in touch if you are interested in joining our lovely team. Please contact us at: info@woking.cats.org.uk or call us on 01483 721700 (mailbox 4).

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@wokingcatsprotection



A TALE OF TWO KITTIES

FAREWELL TO MY FOSTER FELINES

This year I heard that two of my previous beautiful foster cats had passed over to Rainbow Bridge – Gizmo and Sophie. They came to me from their previous home suffering badly with ear mites, fleas, underweight and were timid. Despite this they were gentle souls who despite having to put up with twice daily ear cleaning and drops never complained instead rewarding me with purrs, dribbling, head butts etc. Gizmo's owner Sam and James actually came to view a much younger cat but they fell in love with gentle Gizmo and gave him a wonderful loving home.

Sophie had to have her ear amputated due to the repeated ear infections but that didn't dim her spirit and she went to a wonderful loving home as well with Nicola, Ian and Olly.

Gizmo and Sophie thank you both for being such wonderful, loving foster cats you both reinforce exactly why I foster cats and we will meet again at Rainbow Bridge.

Kim

GIZMO



Sadly we said goodbye to Gizmo at the beginning of August. He was one of the most kind, caring, friendly and loving cats we have ever adopted. He had been through such a bad time before Kim from Woking Cats Protection fostered him, we fell in love with him straight away even when he dribbled everywhere when he got excited, the dribbling will be missed as will the paw that would tap your hand when you stopped fussing him.

Gizmo had become friends with our neighbours cat which according to them is very unusual as their cat doesn't make friends easily, they would sit together in the sun. Gizmo struggled at first when our first son Alex was born but soon adjusted as they became best friends, then son number 2 Toby arrived and Gizmo took to co-sleeping with Toby on the bed – they too became best friends and Toby would look for Gizmo every day if he wasn't on his bed when he woke up. Gizmo stole the hearts off friends and family he was just loved by everyone.

Sam

MY ONE-EARED WONDER

It was back in November 2013 that we adopted Sophie our 'one eared wonder'.

I have to admit to having had a sneaky look at the Woking Cats Protection website in the weeks leading up to the demise of our 7 year old son's last hamster. When a few weeks later the hamster died peacefully in its sleep, rather than being upset, my son looked at it philosophically and said to me, "Oh well, never mind Mum, at least you can now have your cat!".

Lucky for us, Sophie was still available. She had been through a very traumatic time as she had needed major surgery on a severely infected ear when Cats Protection had taken her in. As a result, it had to be amputated. It never bothered us that Sophie only had one ear. She didn't seem bothered by it either!

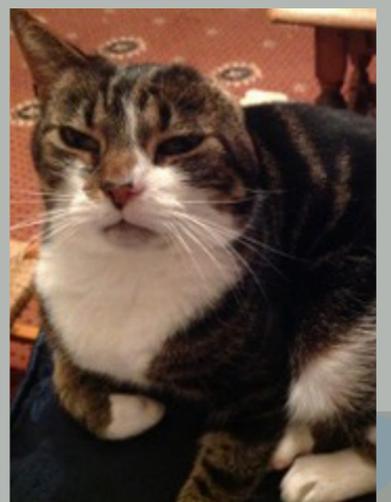
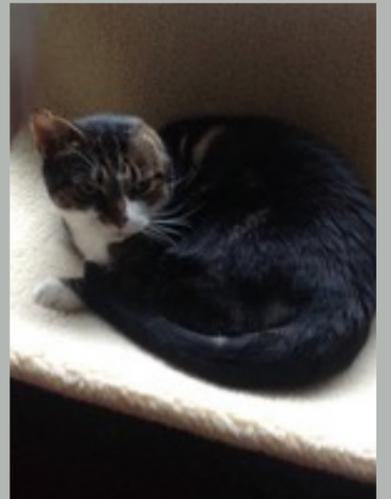
She was a tiny cat with an enormous 'purr' and we quickly fell in love with her. She quickly fitted into our lives. We installed a cat flap that she quickly mastered. She never went further than the end of our cul-de-sac and never got into fights with the neighbouring cat population. For one so small, she had a massive 'holler and howl'. The nearest she ever got to interacting with the neighbours cats was by screaming at them through the window and banging the glass to tell them to go away which always had us in fits of laughter. The other cats always seemed to get the message too!

Whilst Sophie wasn't keen on being held, she was a devoted lap cat who would sit on you wherever your bottom rested. She would often sit on the arm of the sofa waiting patiently for the first person to sit down. Sophie was also incredibly accommodating in that, when you needed to stand up she would, without complaint relocate herself back to the arm of the sofa and wait until you returned. Should you ever stand too close to the arm of the sofa, she would forcefully head butt the back of your leg to get your attention to say 'Oi – sit!!'

Sophie had her inner kitten throughout her life and from the very first Christmas in 2013, we had a collection of small baubles scattered around our living room all year round that she delighted in tossing about. She found it even more fun to see how many baubles she could fleece the Christmas tree of overnight in December!

Sophie was a tiny, beautiful cat with the biggest heart. It was a privilege to have her in our lives. My one sadness is that we only had her for 5 years. We very successfully had her overactive thyroid treated but a short while later a mass in her stomach was found that we were told was lymphoma. She became very poorly quite quickly and it was with a heavy heart that we knew that it would be a kindness to have her put to sleep. Sophie was our friend, and we will always remember the love and affection that she gave back to us.

Nickie



THE SECRET LIFE OF PARASITES...

This edition, we're addressing... Ticks

What are ticks? What do they look like?

Ticks are spider-like small parasites that suck blood from other animals. They have 8 legs with an egg shaped body which will become larger and darker when filled with blood.



Tick habitat

Ticks are common in grassland, woodland and heath areas, but can also be found in your garden if you live in an area with lots of wildlife. They tend to be more active in warm and humid conditions, making them more troublesome in Spring and Autumn.

Unlike fleas, they don't jump or fly, instead they climb or drop onto your cat's coat when they brush past the area they are sitting in.



How do I know if my cat has a tick?

Ticks are large enough to be visible - they can look like small warts and on closer inspection you can see their legs too. You can check your cat for ticks by running your hands over their body, checking for any lumps or bumps on their skin.



How do I remove ticks safely?

Ticks carry disease, so it's important to remove them as soon as possible. Rapid removal lessens the risk of disease.

Never pull a tick out of your cats skin as you may end up leaving the mouth part behind which can cause an infection or inflammation.

To avoid squeezing the body or leaving the head in, you'll need to twist the tick off. This can be done using a tick removal tool, which can be bought from a pet shop or vets.

Your vet will be able to show you how to use it.



Why should I protect my cat against ticks?

Tick attachment can lead to skin irritation and they can transmit a number of diseases.

They feed by biting an animal and feasting on blood. This may take several days. Once they have had enough, they drop off.

If you live in an area with ticks, it's a good idea to use a tick treatment that will kill them if they attach.

It's best to consult your vet about what is most suitable for your pet.

Please NEVER use a tick treatment designed for dogs on your cat - this is extremely dangerous for their health.



Felines Who Have Found Their Paws Again!

Helping our stray cat community is part of our everyday job at Woking CP and it is a mammoth task. Sometimes we take them in and rehome them, other times we just assist with the veterinary side of things, health checking and neutering - whatever is necessary to restore them to the best of health. Trapping is often necessary to achieve this initially. On occasions, we are fortunate that the reporters/finders of such cats are kind enough to take them under their wings and look after them, integrating them eventually into their own families. They can often take time, trying to build up their trust and confidence again in mankind. They all get there though, as we so learn from those that we take into care - time and patience is all that is needed. Here are a few success stories about the "lucky ones".



Toppy

It was almost four years ago when I first contacted you regarding Toppy, who had developed an angry looking pendulous tumour/growth that hung from his side.

Having caught him in one of your traps, he was so wild and unhandleable that the vet wouldn't go near him. Fortunately, with the aid of one of your crusher cages, the vet was then able to sedate him. The growth was successfully removed (along with his testicles and a couple of teeth) and after a night recuperating in our back room, he was released back into our garden.

Six years later, Toppy is still a daily visitor. Most mornings he waits close to our back door, waiting to be fed. I open the door to retrieve his bowl - he hisses at me and runs back a few yards. I get the bowl and put the food in and place it back outside. Only when I shut the door and he hears the key turn does he go to the bowl.

Your funding of his veterinary bill back then, was not wasted money - he still looks a picture of health. There are a few more white hairs in his coat now, but despite his advancing years, he continues to be a healthy, handsome cat. What a shame he still won't let us get close to him. I often wonder what his background and history is.

He is very bold too. Our cat eats "little and often". Toppy scoffs all of his food (1 pouch and a handful of crunchies) in one go. If I don't remember to lift our cat's bowl on to the worktop when we're not in the kitchen, when we come back, he'll have cleaned her bowl out too!! And he waits at about 5pm each evening for tea.

With the colder weather, he's taken to sleeping in our conservatory at night! Bloomin' cheek! I hear the rattle of the cat flap as I come down the stairs in the morning and observe the tell tale black hairs on a white cloth settee.

You've got to hand it to him - he's a survivor.

Philip



Albert

We have just taken on this big boy. Nobody wanted Albert, and he was in the care of Woking Cats Protection for almost a year, and nobody even came to see him.

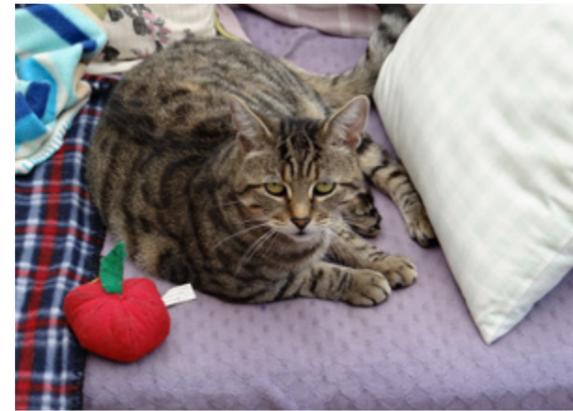
He is about 10 years old with a heart murmur and hyperthyroidism. He has to take two tablets a day, and like many people, I was not sure how we were going to administer these tablets as I was expecting a fight twice a day. No problem, he virtually eats them like sweets. This is the start of a new adventure for us, and a new start for big boy Albert. He has settled in so well, and many thanks to Mary, his foster mum, for teaching him to be such a lovely happy cat.

If you have the opportunity to give a cat a new start, look at older cats as a possibility.

"THEY WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT"

Best wishes to Pauline and all at Woking Cats Protection

Jan & Roger



Mr Tiggy

It was about 2 years ago that we first spotted Tiggy in our garden. There was snow on the ground and it was bitterly cold. He looked pretty hungry and lost, so we gave him some food, and he settled in our old greenhouse overnight for a few days. Then he disappeared again.

He started coming back into our garden after some time, always starving with his tummy all bloated, and he could eat 5 or 6 packets of cat food at one sitting. We couldn't get too close and any attempt to touch him were met with a swipe of his claws. We put the food down and walked away and left him to get on with it in peace, topping up the bowl if it was empty.

We made up a box and put a warm blanket in it and left it on the greenhouse for him and he seemed to be using it. We already had 3 female cats - 2 of which were getting on in years so we were not looking to take in another cat. However, he was so desperate and small that we felt we couldn't leave him to look after himself, as he so obviously needed our help.

We managed to get a worming tablet down him mixed into some fishy dinner, and from then on, he was eating a lot less each visit. He decided that he quite fancied moving into our conservatory which has a cat flap, so we used to let him inside and feed him there. He started sleeping on the sofa on a fleecy blanket and he seemed to be so happy and content. This put the 3 girl's noses out no end, as they now had a little boy in their territory.

I contacted Woking Cats Protection and asked Pauline if I could have some help to get him to a vet, as any attempt to pick him up resulted in me being scratched or bitten or both! A day was arranged, and the plan hatched for an early morning visit from Pauline on the other side of the cat flap, while I shooed him out straight into it. Genius - it worked a treat! He was neutered and chipped and returned to us. He was now our little boy!

From the first time I saw him, I knew he was going to be called Tiggy - he walks just like a baby tiger. Several months have now passed and he is the most adorable sweet and cuddly little cat and he stays very close to us. If we go into the garden he follows us out. Most of the time he is stretched out on the sofa in the conservatory waiting for one of us to join him for a stroke.

When he first arrived, we could never have imagined that this feisty little fellow would be a house cat and the most adored little boy. He is not so territorial now and the girls can get past him without a lot of hissing. It proves that with heaps of patience, TLC and love, a frightened, starving little cat can be turned into a lovely companion. Someone who was a great cat lover once said to me that cats don't want much. All they want is a warm place to sleep, some love and a bowl of food. She was right! His favourite things now are his cat nip banana, and a toy with a sun face and a bell inside.

We lost our oldest cat last year, and having Mr Tiggy helped us get over her passing. He is our bundle of joy and I can't wait to get home from work every day to see him.

So my message is that no matter how difficult and impossible it seems, don't give up on a little cat that needs you. It takes a long time sometimes as in Tiggy's case, but you will be rewarded with a lot of love and contented purrs in the end!

Faye



Archie

Archie was one of my foster cats who found his way into my home full-time.

He is a very timid, gentle soul as long as he gets his own way! He reminds me of two of my previous cats which was why I was hesitant to adopt him.

He is slowly helping to heal the hole left in my heart by the sudden death of Fat Boy Sox who was also one of my fosters who I adopted. I was definitely not looking or was ready for another cat but after several months of unsuitable enquiries and gentle persuasion by our rehoming officer Sally and my son I succumbed to the handsome ginger chap.

The elderly couple who I collected Archie from (he was a stray that they had been feeding for months) told me that I should adopt him when I collected him and that Archie appeared to have already chosen me, it just took me several months to realise that they were dead right!

Kim



Hugo

I lost my dearest darling Robbie last May 2018 and I surprised myself at how upset I was. A friend of mine said that she was surprised that I had lasted so long without a cat; at the time I thought this an odd thing to say however in hindsight she was absolutely right.

The truth of the matter is that I have had cats for most of my life. From Sweepy (Mr Baggins), who used to post mice under the fridge in a neat row to sweet Robbie, named by his rescue vets after the sublie Robert Downey Jnr (in reality, he was more of a George Clooney), to my Hugo, from Woking Cats Protection, think Michael Caine as a personality and James Bond when undercover operations are required.

Hugo was eating the neighbors out of house and home. They contacted Pauline at Woking Cats Protection to say that he needed rescuing. The problem was that he was so fast that nobody could catch him or get near him. After several attempts Pauline came up with a cunning plan: all the neighbors bar one closed their cat flaps and he only had one option for breakfast, as soon as he went in, they put the cage on the outside of the cat flap and as soon as he decided to leave, he leapt straight in.

I decided to extend his name, officially he is now called Sir Hugo Bond due to his elusive nature, though he thinks his name is Beautiful. Why Sir Hugo? I had a Guinea Pig called Demetrius Fudge, homage to Harry Potter, the vet told me that she loved coming out into the foyer and saying his name. As a nod to this happy memory, Sir Bond was clearly his surname, as super clever Hugo must have been an undercover agent for MI4, (think French for 4).

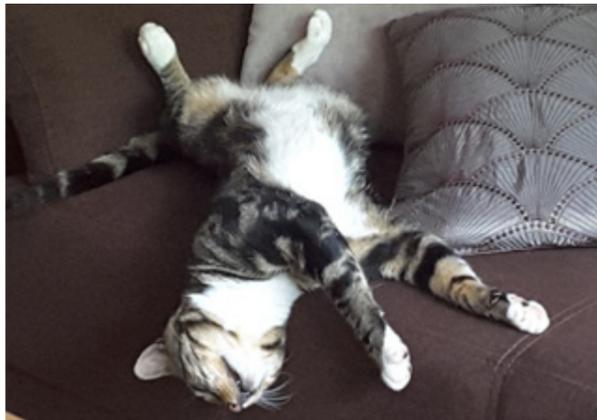
On the first evening he walked up to his reflection in the glass of the back door and unusually for a cat, checked how he looked and walked away. Which was great and impressive but then a few nights later I turned my fan oven on and I had a howling cat on my hands: the oven door has a mirror finish and he could see a cat in the oven. This new woman was clearly cooking cats! I put a tea towel in front of the door and he calmed down. He still does not like the oven being on and sits in the hall and watches it from afar, just in case.

For all his coolness and bravado he still sofa dives when people come round whom he does not know. I am amazed at how such a solid chap can squeeze behind the sofa, all it takes is for the door bell to ring and he is gone!

Hugo took three months to wiggle his way onto my bed and I have to say that he is the best cat ever to sleep with; he stays put and hardly snores. It took him a while to properly purr and quite a while before he would play with his toys - he is unstoppable now! He purrups when ever he decides to do something, getting off of a chair or remembering that there are still some biscuits left. He is quite dignified and not a lap cat but then he is fabulously well proportioned and barely fits: before we met I was contemplating a Maine Coon, but given their health issues, Hugo, is the best of all worlds, an XXL large ginger tabby, with just that extra flourish of neat white mittens on his front paws, he still rubs noses and cheeks and exchanges many slow blinks with his much smitten owner.

When I was young there used to be a TV ad for a cat food where the food was so delicious that the ginger cat came charging up the garden at the sound of his mistresses voice. I always wanted to have a cat so eager that they would do the same, previous cats have gone well yeah she's calling but I have more important things to do first, Hugo bless him fulfills the dream, he is super cat doing the 4 minute mile up the garden path, so fab. Thank you so much Woking Cats Protection, certainly a dream come true on so many levels and in so many ways.

Margy



Timmy

Timmy has settled in really well, spends a lot of his time indoors. He is very affectionate, snuggles in alongside me on the settee every night. He loves Fudge and Fudge tolerates him, a few hissy fits but no punch ups. We are moving to another home on site, a lot bigger, so it will be new to both of them. It might help Fudge accept him more. We had to take him to the vets as he wasn't well for a couple of days, just a temperature which an injection sorted out straight away. We had him chipped so he has his own "door key". He has figured out he can open it to go out but he doesn't come in on his own yet, doesn't realise he has to push on the flap when it clicks. He has filled out as well, eats like a horse.

Thanks for everything you and the team did for turning an unwanted stray into a home loving pet.

All the best

Alan and Karen



Pepsi and Shirley

I was shocked to find a box of kittens taped up in a shoebox on my daily walk. It was a quiet road, so I heard them crying and meowing and had to stop and have a look. It was deliberate, because the box was hidden under a bush, with small holes in the top and tape wrapped around the lid so the kittens couldn't escape.

I didn't live far away so I picked up the shoebox and hurried home to open it. I sped home from where I found them and on opening the box, I saw two beautiful kittens inside! I took them out of the box and put them safely on my bed - they fell asleep almost instantly!

Eventually they had some food and had a little play with a toy mouse my friend picked up for me. I couldn't leave them on their own, so I asked a friend to collect me some bits to make them more comfortable until I could get them the help they needed.

Thankfully, Woking Cats Protection picked them up and took them to their shelter. I couldn't be more pleased to know they will find a forever home and are now in safe hands and ready for a new start.

Charlotte



Yami and Sita (Pepsi and Shirley)

We brought Yami and Sita (formerly Pepsi and Shirley) home on 29th June 2019 after visiting them with Cheryl who had been fostering them.

My fiancé and I are very fortunate that we are at home 90% of the time through the week which meant that we could be dedicated to socialising the girls and giving them lots of attention. This included lots of play with toys (feathers and chasers are their favourite), lots of cuddles and lots of good food and - their favourite - milky treats!

Since we adopted the girls in June, they have had lots of love, and they have developed great characters as they grow. Sita is extremely gentle and likes to show affection on her own terms (although sometimes she is a real softy and can't help but settle on our chests to purr all night), and Yami is our little dog-cat: she plays fetch with paper balls, seems to have extremely expensive taste (literally) in handbags, and loves to chat to us about her day as we cook.

Yami and Sita have completely debunked the myth that cats are aloof and like to be alone; we can't get a moment's peace! Recently the girls have even started to take over our kitchen stools while we cook - my fiancé thinks his food lures them in but I am sure they just love our company.

In October the girls had their spay operation (they were very brave and even got coloured rosettes from their vet!) and now that their little wounds are healing they are slowly being let into the garden, where they are the most intrepid of explorers and look like little panthers in the jungle.

Yami and Sita have brought lots of love into our lives and it has been so exciting to see them grow from 10 old weeks to 7 months old. We can't wait to see what they do next!

Thank you Woking Cats Protection for choosing us for Yami and Sita!

Steve and Rachel

Event Updates

Chobham Golf Day



The annual London Mark golf day took place on the 19th August with 15 teams doing battle for various prizes and trophies. A superb spread of homemade cakes, savouries and drinks were laid on by Alison, Ruth and Gill at the ninth tee with Alison's scotch eggs selling out quickly as usual!

On completion of the golf, 11 of us joined the teams for a delicious carvery, followed by a raffle and auction. At the end of a very enjoyable evening we were presented with a cheque for £800 and a rum cake made by Jerry Gangadeen.

A big thank you to Alan Wakeford and Dave and Vanda Ashbolt who organised this very successful event.

RSPCA Gala Day



A great day was had by all at the Millbrook Animal Centre, Chobham on the 1st September, with lots of people attending.

We raised £782.60, selling donated nearly new goods and Cats Protection merchandise.

Christmas Fayre

Record numbers came through the doors for our Christmas Fayre on the 9th November, helping us to raise our best ever amount of £3548.

As a voluntary run branch we fundraise all our own funds, so a massive thank you to all our supporters - it is very much appreciated.



Thank you for all your support at our recent events

The Runnymede Rabble...



Having unexpectedly discovered a stray cat under our hotel buildings in April, with four beautiful yet hungry kittens, we decided to look after them and are pleased to say that all four survived and are very healthy and happy!

However, in July, the mother disappeared and by sheer chance, we discovered that she had made a home in a neighbouring garden and given birth to four more kittens!

The owner of that house did not like cats and was due to go on holiday, at which point he asked us to feed the mother and four kittens as, although he was not a cat lover, he did not want to see the kittens starve. He informed us that he had phoned the Cats Protection and was hopeful that in the next few days some action would be taken. I therefore decided that we would make sure that we fed the mother and kittens as requested and also contacted Cats Protection myself so that we could co-ordinate any successful rescue between us.

To cut a long story short, with the help of Pauline and Helen, we managed to trap the mum and the four young kittens so that they could be looked after temporarily and then hopefully re-homed. Pauline and I kept in contact so that I could be assured that the mum and kittens had gone to good homes. It is great to see that they have now all been re-homed and are happy!

During this period, Pauline and I also arranged for the four original kittens to stay at the hotel as they are a managed feral colony and it would be quite hard to integrate them now to a domestic environment, plus they have a very close bond with each other. In order for this to be achieved it was critical that we did arrange for them to be neutered, which the Cats Protection Team assisted us with, for which we are very grateful, especially as it turned out that two of the kittens are female and two are male!!! I am pleased to let you know that since they have been neutered, de-wormed and de-fleaed by the vets provided by Cats Protection, these kittens have grown into very happy and healthy cats and are extremely well cared for. They are fantastic individual characters that remain hugely attached to each other and are well loved by us.

Without Pauline and Helen's intervention, I do not think that there would have been such a happy ending for all nine cats and I can assure you that I and the hotel team will continue to support the work of Cats Protection.

Sue

General Manager

The Runnymede On Thames

We wish to thank Sue and the team at The Runnymede Hotel for their generosity and support. Be sure to watch out for the follow up story on the rescued mum and four kittens in our next issue.

Woking Cats Protection to the Rescue!

My name is Ann and I am a volunteer for Swansea and District branch of Cats Protection.

On 2nd May 2019 I received a phone call from a friend of mine Wendy, who is a big animal lover and supporter of our branch. Wendy informed me that her son Kieran was working away from home and that he and some of the lads had discovered two kittens living on the building site they were working on. Initially mum wasn't thought to be around and so Kieran phoned the RSPCA. Kieran wasn't happy with the advice given, which was "to leave them there" so he phoned his mum. After several phone calls between Wendy, her son and myself the mum appeared and it was discovered that there had been five kittens but now sadly there were only three.

The only hope we had for this little family was to contact the nearest CP branch to the building site. I contacted Cats Protection Head Office and gave the postcode to the building site. I was then given the phone number for the Woking branch of Cats Protection. I rang and left a message and very shortly I received a phone call back. I explained the situation and how urgent it was as Kieran and his friends had been feeding and looking out for this little family but they would be leaving to come back to Swansea the following morning.

A volunteer called Pauline then contacted me and I gave her all the information I had and tried to get any more that she needed. I sent her the videos that Kieran had sent his mum who had sent them on to me. Pauline informed me she would call to the building site the following morning, Friday 3rd May 2019, and Kieran was thrilled to hear that help would be coming. Pauline arrived just as Kieran and the lads were leaving and was shown to the mum and kittens. Kieran left for Wales and Pauline set about her rescue mission.

Within a few hours Pauline had sent me photos of mum and kittens safely in the care of Woking Cats Protection. I immediately sent them to Wendy, Kieran's mum to show him. Kieran was absolutely ecstatic and also so relieved that they had been rescued.

Thanks to Kieran and Pauline this little family were safe and guaranteed a much better life. Pauline kept me updated with mum and kittens so I could inform Kieran.

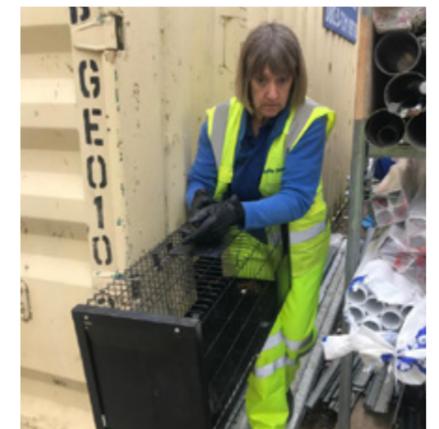
Swansea and District branch of Cats Protection would like to thank Woking Cats Protection branch so much for their invaluable help in this rescue, special thanks must go to Pauline for her quick response and rescue of the mum and kittens.

Thank you again

Ann

Trap Neuter and Return Officer

Swansea and District Cats Protection





Leia (Beatrice)

Beatrice, now known as Leia, arrived at her new home on 29th June 2019. She was around 3 years old when she was found as a stray with kittens. Leia was then taken to a Cats Protection foster carer for about 8 weeks till the kittens were rehomed.

She was very shy for the first three to four weeks and stayed upstairs in one of our bedrooms. The one thing that originally drew us to her was her pretty face. When we first met her at the foster home where she had been staying it was immediately apparent that she had a very nice nature. She loved being stroked and was very attentive when it came to playing with her cat toys.

At first, she was very hesitant to venture out from the back bedroom so one day we shut the door and waited to see what she would do. She immediately took up residence in the box room underneath the desk. She continued to stay in this room for about another week but after moving her litter tray and feeding bowls to the bottom of the stairs she started to venture out. Slowly but surely, she started to investigate other rooms and eventually came to the bottom of the stairs, popped her head around into the lounge and immediately ran back upstairs again.

After five weeks Leia is now fully integrated into the house with her favourite place being the chair in the conservatory.

She would look out the back door and we decided that it was time for her to go outside. On her first visit into the garden she went straight through the only hole in the garden fence and into next doors garden. Paul had to retrieve her. Time to try the cat flap after 6 weeks. Treats put at the entrance but not interested. All the time the back door is open she uses it; don't blame her! She is happy going out and comes back without any problems through the door. She now regularly goes out into the garden and lays in the sun. Thankfully she always returns to her favourite chair and has not run off.

The newly fitted cat flap has been used once but only on exit. This will take time, but we are sure she will get used to it eventually. Winter is coming so that back door will be closed.

Leia comes alive at night and we can often hear her flicking her balls around the kitchen which seems to give her great pleasure. She often comes upstairs now to play or see where we are. She loves the garden and often sits next to the pond (no doubt waiting for a frog).

Leia has the quietest meow we have ever heard in a cat, in fact we think she has not found her voice yet. However, this does not stop her getting what she wants i.e. food. She truly is a loving cat and loves to be pampered. Every day when we come back from work or shopping, she is there to greet you.

She still loves cuddles and purrs while you stroke her. She has gained weight and her fur is soft and shiny. She loves to be with you and is a different cat, not scared of people and her eyes are bright. She looks happy and we hope this will continue. Leia's personality is now coming out and she is a little sweetie. She can be stubborn but is easy swayed with Dreamies.

The one thing Leia does not like is the large TV which she has to walk past to get upstairs and runs past it as fast as possible. We are sure she will get used to it in time.

After 8 weeks Leia is now part of our family and she gives us both great pleasure and joy to be with and has not disappointed us with her soft nature and we are grateful to Woking Cats Protection for letting us rehome Leia.

Shirley and Paul



Sky and Orion (Hattie and Bobby)

As a family with two children, aged 9 and 12, we were looking for two young cats or kittens who the boys could grow up with. Our previous cat passed away when our youngest was a year old, and we felt ready to welcome some new members to our family.

Sky and Orion were 10 weeks old, two fluffy bundles with wide eyes when we first met them at the end of May. We couldn't believe how beautiful they were. We understood that they were not fully socialised. We felt we could offer them lots of love, and gradually win them over.

When the kittens first arrived, they were quite nervous, and initially needed to stay in a pen (which Cats Protection loaned us) in the spare bedroom. Every time we entered the room, they did a little hiss and shied away from us. We went gently, letting them sniff our hands and talking to them in soft voices. We worked with getting them used to being touched and handled. After about 10 days, they started trying to escape from the pen. We let them out for short periods for a couple of days, and then removed the pen completely. We debated names for them, and chose Sky because she was so quick, mercurial and a little wild. Orion seemed more earthy, chilled, andingly.

The second week was the hardest for us, as we realised that it was going to take longer than we had thought for the kittens to become relaxed with us. They were still shying away from us most of the time. We continued to spend a good amount of time in with them, letting them get used to our presence, and playing with them. Luring them in with a toy mouse on a string worked wonders! They started to let us give them the odd stroke. The Cats Protection were really helpful on the end of the phone to talk through our queries.

Over the next few weeks, they grew more relaxed and happier to be around us. Sky particularly liked my two sons and let them stroke her, although she was still nervous with my husband and me. Both cats liked to jump up on the desk when my eldest son worked at his computer.

By the end of the summer holidays, the cats had grown and were ready to explore the rest of the house. They spent several days tentatively trying out the rooms upstairs, finding little

hiding places under beds. Now 2-3 weeks later, they are venturing downstairs for longer periods. They are much more affectionate. It is lovely to have them in the whole house, and feels like they are fully part of our family now. The next stage will be to let them outside in a few weeks' time.

It has been a journey of patience, letting the cats go at their own pace whilst encouraging them with play. It is also great fun. We have laughed a lot, watching them play with the plants, discover toilet rolls and try to catch the shower drips. We feel very lucky to have these two beautiful beings in our home, and we are enjoying seeing them continue to grow in confidence.

Jackie



Boris

Boris was quite nervous at first, meowing for his siblings and would hide under the sofa. Even when he got quite big he would flatten himself to get under, it was quite comical to watch.

When Boris met our other cat, Ziggy, he did all the right things to make friends but she was having none of it and would just hiss at him. Although she still hisses from time to time it's nice to see them playing together and even eating from the same bowl. Today they were sleeping side by side on the rug.

Boris is such a greedy kitty. If Ziggy isn't around he eats her food after polishing his off. As soon as I start to open a pouch of cat food he appears as if by magic.

We found out that he is a bit of a Houdini (maybe we should have renamed him Harry). On the day of his neutering, I placed him in the carrier and locked the door securely, a few minutes later he is upstairs brushing at my legs to be fed. I told off my daughter for letting him out, which she vehemently denied, and I put him back in. I went back in the room a minute later to see that he'd already gotten the lock half open, cheeky monkey.

Boris isn't very vocal, he only meows in protest at being brushed. We love him and can't imagine our house without him now.

Dawn

Vacancies

Volunteer Website Editor

Our volunteer website editors promote the activities of our local volunteer groups and teams by helping keep their websites relevant, exciting and engaging for members of the public. It can include:

- Sourcing news and information for websites
- Communicating with others across Cats Protection
- Sourcing and updating information around rehoming, welfare, fundraising and volunteer recruitment
- Regularly updating and posting on your group's website

We're looking for someone with:

- Good interpersonal skills
- The ability to communicate well with a range of people
- Willingness to be part of a team
- Good IT skills
- Editorial and photo editing skills

Newsletter Editor

Our newsletter editor volunteers tap into the nation's love for cats, which helps raise our profile across the UK. They source, capture and share exciting photos, images and stories relevant to the varied and exciting things we do at Cats Protection to help our feline friends, with the aim to help raise funds, promote adoption and neutering and encourage people to learn about feline welfare. The Role includes:

- Sourcing articles and pictures (with relevant permissions)
- Editing newsletters alongside others
- Meeting deadline submissions
- Ensuring content complies with policies and guidelines
- Organising the printing and distribution of newsletters

We're looking for someone with:

- Good organisational skills
- Creativity
- Excellent written communication skills
- Willingness to be part of a team
- Good IT skills - editorial and photo editing skills
- Editorial experience would also be an advantage

Transport Volunteer

Our transport volunteers help our teams and volunteer groups move equipment, litter, food, money – and even cats! They have the vital role of connecting our network of volunteers, sites, vets and donors. Without them we wouldn't be able to help the thousands of cats each year that rely on us as they enable our volunteer groups and teams to effectively help our feline friends. It includes:

- Collecting and delivering funds raised by the group
- Transporting equipment, litter and cat food
- Transporting cats to and from vets, foster homes and adoption centres
- Transporting equipment to and from events
- Organising the printing and distribution of newsletters

We're looking for someone with:

- Good organisation and time management skills
- Knowledge of the local community
- A full, clean driving licence and access to a vehicle
- The ability to carry out some heavy lifting

Fosterers Needed

Our volunteer fosterers provide a safe haven for our cats until we have found them their new forever homes.

Fosterers are very special, is this you? Do you:

- Live in Woking or surrounding areas
- Have access to a car
- Have a spare room
- Or garden space for a pen

We're looking for someone with:

- Basic knowledge of cats, cat care and understanding their needs
- Appreciation of cat welfare and hygiene standards
- Good interpersonal skills
- Patience, commitment and empathy
- Enjoys being part of a team

To find out more about these roles and volunteering for the branch, please contact us at: info@woking.cats.org.uk or call us on 01483 721700 (mailbox 4).

Look At Me Now!



Leonard

Leonard is now four years old and thriving on life at home with Sienna and full run of the house and garden.

His life-saving operation courtesy of Woking Cats Protection and our enthusiastic delight in adopting him has left him outwardly normal and able to romp about with Sienna as if nothing was ever the matter. His heart has effectively been returned to a healthy circulatory status and so he is able to express himself normally.

He catches mice, stays out all night sometimes (his preference), plays with leaves and mini-beasts in the lawn, roams his territory and enjoys our full attention. He's not a lap-cat, but a box-cat and tests out any new box immediately. Whenever he's in a box, we can have him on our knee for as long as desired, so long as he's in a box, a long thin flower box being his current favourite.

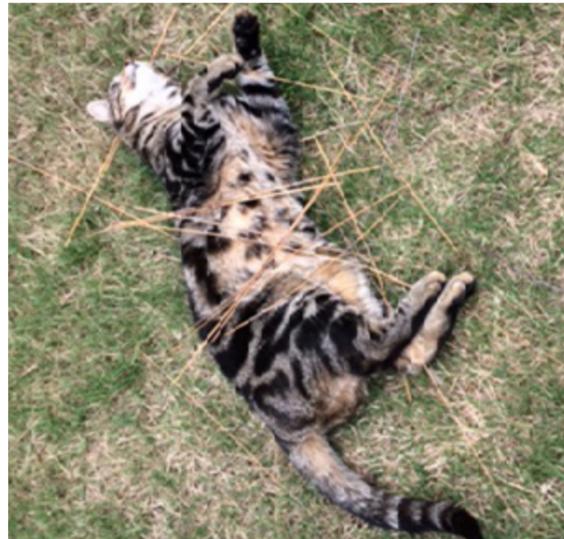
His heart is scanned approximately every nine months and since August 2018, he has been receiving Vetmedin as a precaution, for it was noticed his heart had enlarged mildly over the previous year. Earlier this year, there was some evidence of a tiny blood clot reforming and so his medication was modified to discourage this.

Without his operation so generously paid for by Woking Cats Protection he would not have survived even six months on medical treatment I suspect, so the lovely personality we now see in all its diversity and uniqueness (as are all cats), simply wouldn't exist and so our quality of life being richer for Leonard's company is mainly down to Woking Cats Protection too!

Mark



Leonard now, enjoying life in his forever home and garden with his feline friend Sienna



Regarde Moi Maintenant!



Alfie

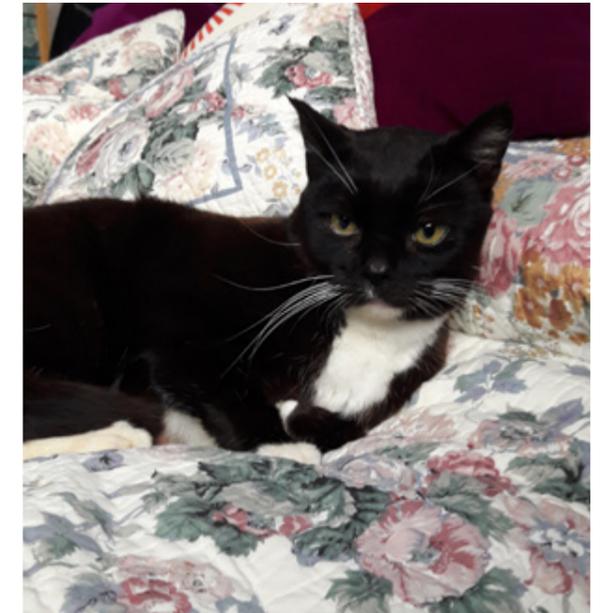
In December 2017 my husband and I were ready to get a new cat. Lili, our lovely little tortoiseshell had passed away 18 months prior and although we were still missing her, we knew it was time to help another cat find their forever home.

Lili came from the RSPCA and we had thought about returning to them, but one of our friends said we should contact Cats Protection! So we looked at their website and saw a picture of a black/white cat crouching in the grass, said to be quite nervous and in need of a home - it was Alfie.

He was still in his previous home at the time, so when we went to visit, the owner explained that Alfie was spending most of his time outside, either in the garden or the shed, due their daughter having developed an allergy to cats. It was cold outside, to the point that St John's Canal was frozen - so we decided to adopt Alfie. He was so timid that we just talked to him, no strokes or cuddles, just reassuring words.

Pauline, the Welfare Officer for Woking Cats Protection arranged the adoption date and arrived with him the following Monday. We gave him our daughter's bedroom (as she's now living in London), so he could get used to our place - we knew it would take time....and it did.

Alfie hid underneath the bed for days at a time but very, very slowly he began to make progress. At times it was difficult to get him in the same room as us, but he knew that this house was his and that he was welcome. Little by little we developed a routine of cuddles, food and a lot of time spent in the garden - it was now summer time - but he would still retreat to his room.



One thing he didn't like was me talking to him in French, so I tried to talk and comfort him as much as possible in English.

In Spring 2019, we decided to move back to France because of my husband's retirement and my ageing parents needing more attention. Pauline, our guardian angel, helped us prepare for the big move, arranging for him to have his health check, rabies vaccination and passport all in order on time.

It was going to be an adventure. We bought Alfie a large pet cage for him to travel in, in the car. After a few protestations on the way to New Haven, he eventually settled down and slept until we arrived at our destination.

We have bought a house with a big garden in the centre of France but whilst waiting for that to be ready, we are staying at our parent's apartment. Alfie, has surprisingly, settled quite well. He has a large enclosed patio he can go out onto and seems happy enough. He has even started to talk to us - to get his food, to have the door opened and for cuddles.

He loves so much to be scratched behind the ears and under the chin! He has changed so much. I'm just hoping that soon he'll be able to come and watch TV with us without feeling nervous. He's such a sweet and lovely boy. We are very, very fond of him and we hope that once in our new home, he won't spend too much time in the garden or in the barn chasing mice or lizards, but that he'll remember us, not only for food.

Brigitte and Paul

Cat Champion!

In September, Martin successfully completed the London to Brighton Bike Ride by cycling an amazing 55 miles in 4 hours 36 minutes. Once out of London he predominantly cycled along quiet country lanes passing through Mitcham, Carshalton, Chipstead, Banstead and Haywards Heath before taking on the challenge that is Ditchling Beacon – a mile long climb to the top of the South Downs where he was rewarded with amazing views and a water break!

Martin raised over £770 for Woking Cats Protection.

If you would like to be a Cat Champion yourself and take part in a challenge for us then please check out <https://www.cats.org.uk/support-us/events/challenge-events> to find an event.

Thank you so much Martin!



Gifts in Wills

It is thanks to the wonderful kindness of supporters who remember Woking Cats Protection in their wills that we are able to carry out much of the day-to-day work that we do. These donations and gifts fund over 50% of all the work we do to rehome cats to wonderful new families and are vital to our foremost mantra:

"No healthy cat will ever be put to sleep"

We rely on gifts in wills to follow this goal and provide abandoned and unwanted cats with a new start and we are incredibly grateful for every gift we receive, regardless of the size. Even little gifts can provide food, a warm bed and veterinary attention to a cat in need, all very important steps to getting our cats into their loving new forever homes. We've been able to refurbish our pens, buy new carriers and even provide ourselves with a van to transport us to our next cases with previous donations. We continue to offer our free neutering programme, and it continues to be successful, all through the generosity of people remembering us in their will.

For more information on what gifting is, please visit: cats.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/gifts-in-wills



If you would like to donate some items to our branch, but are unsure as to what we need, you can try taking a look at our wishlist!

<https://amzn.to/2WXA12w>

Important GDPR Update - 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-TJKK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT.

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



Mary Chant

A big thank you, from us all, for your many years of indoor fostering. Wishing you a very happy retirement now that you've hung up your poop-scoop.

THANK YOU for your dedication - we will all miss you greatly!

And from your last three kitties, an especially big thank you for helping them on their way to a happy home....

*Ash,
Maggie Mae
and Ting Tim
(now Shadow,
Poppy and
Wilbur)*



Contact Us

Call us on 01483 721700
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 - Neutering and all other enquiries

Alternatively, email us at:

info@woking.cats.org.uk

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

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