

Felis Catus

Newsletter of the Woking & District Cats Protection

July - December 2018



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Welcome!

When the opportunity to utilise my skills for the charity arose, I leapt (like the cats we serve!) at the opportunity. I hope to bring together the best of Cats Protection to you! So I'd like to say hello to you all!

I too have an incredible love for cats, as all of us who volunteer for the charity, and as a new member of the Woking CP "Crew", I hope to grow and develop and help out more and more. My own little cat, Buddy just celebrated his 1st birthday with me, and gosh, don't they grow! It feels like yesterday I was trying to get him down from the curtains and the Christmas tree. Safe to say, this year we're having a more eco, cat-friendly decorated home!

Since the beginning of the year (which seems like a lifetime ago now!), we've been massively successful in rehoming our many feline friends that have come through our doors. Strays, elderly and unwanted cats have been released to fantastic forever homes, and we have especially wonderful news in finding our FIV+ cats homes.

We are excited to announce the dates of our Christmas Fayre and our Quiz Night and have updates from past events, such as the Spring Fayre and Quiz Night.

We have a wonderful feature on the do's and don'ts of flowers around cats, important information on our campaign for free neuters and stories of our past cats, coming back to tell us how they are doing!

As ever, laugh, love and enjoy every moment with your furchildren!

Aimée

Welfare Officer's Words

Welcome to our second edition of Felis Catus for 2018, be it a little behind schedule. I'm very pleased to say that Aimee has now come on board as our Newsletter Editor, joining our fantastic team of volunteers - Welcome Aboard Aimee!! I hope you will agree, she has done an amazing job.

It has been a very busy few months for our branch, dealing with many calls about unwanted and stray cats, neutering, trapping ferals and adopting. Our team does a marvellous job, continuing to offer a great service. However, we are still in need of more volunteers, especially fosterers, to maintain this and to cope with the growing need. We are also still looking for a Co-ordinator.

Make sure you put all our planned 2018/2019 event dates in your diaries. The tickets for our February 23rd 2019, 7th annual Quiz Night, will be on sale at our Christmas Fayre on November 10th - don't leave it too late to reserve your table - we sold out last year.

Unfortunately, I have to finish on an extremely sad note, as it is with great sadness that I have to tell you that "our Margaret" recently passed away unexpectedly - a lot of you would have known Margaret and seen her on our CP merchandise stall at our events. We will miss her so much. In our next edition, we will be paying tribute to her, remembering the special times we shared with her. If any of you would like to share your special memories please email editor@woking.cats.org.uk

Best Wishes

Pauline

Volunteers Matter

Welcome to:

Aimee Rolls
Sue and Gary Elson
Sylvia and Tony Denison
Ian Yates
Liz Smith

Farewell to:

Sophie Smith
Kate Eidens has stepped down from Mailbox 2 support role but will still be helping us with events.

Dates for your Diary!

All to be hosted at the New Haw Community Centre

10th November	Christmas Fayre, 10.30am-2pm
23rd February	Quiz Night, 7.30pm
30th March	Spring Fayre 10.30am-2pm

Farewell to Doris

Farewell to Doris Macdonald – friend to all felines and particularly those from the wrong side of the tracks

Doris died on 20th February 2018, aged 91. I met Doris in the early 1980s, when a few of us got together to form Woking branch of what was then known as Cats Protection League.

Doris loved all cats, but it soon became apparent that she had a special place in her heart for the wild ones. In those early days, a lot of our activities involved dealing with large feral colonies – not only the trapping and neutering, but the on-going daily commitment of feeding the cats. We would tame and find homes for the tiny kittens, but for many years there would be groups of ferals for whom the arrival of the Cats Protection dinner ladies was the highlight of their day.

Doris took part in all the activities of the branch, including manning stalls, making cakes and generally being a persuasive ambassador on behalf of needy feline waifs. As time went on, Doris developed a particular affinity with the railway ferals and became especially fond of one pretty little long-haired girl, imaginatively named 'Fluffy'. This fragile-looking creature lived a long life, surviving amongst foxes, rats and any amount of casually jettisoned rubbish and at the very end of Fluffy's life, her loyal friend did not desert her. At an age then when most people would be lifting nothing trickier than a supper tray, Doris somehow reached over a high barbed wire fence, scruffed the ailing and ancient Fluffy and took her to Lynton House for that final kindness.

Towards the end of Doris' long life, she met and loved my pets as therapy cat, Tiny Trixie Tribble. Tiny and I would call for Doris and off we would all go to Woking homes where Doris had many friends. When Doris moved into Kingsbury Court a few weeks ago, Tiny visited Doris and although by then Doris was slipping away from the world, she spoke to Tiny and reached out to stroke her. Tiny curled up next to her on the bed – a warm and furry presence on a dreary February afternoon.

Doris has reached safe harbour now. I hope that her final moments were as peaceful and as painless as the one she gave dear Fluffy all those years ago.

Heather Cook

Contact Us

Call us on 01483 721 700 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

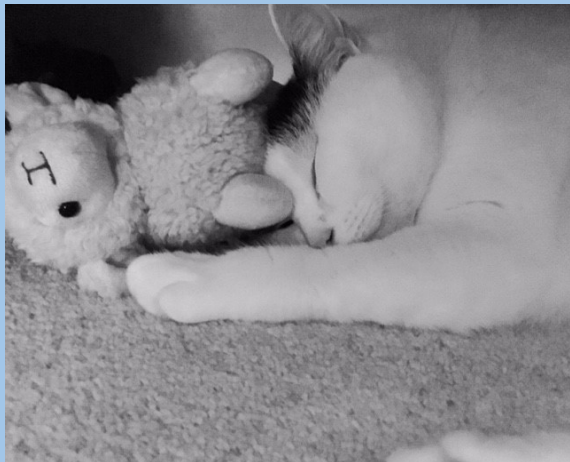


Doris - incomplete without some feline friends



Left to right - Doris with good friends Wendy and Jean

FIV+ - POSITIVELY ADOPTABLE!



MIMI

A year ago we decided we wanted to adopt a cat, we didn't mind how old or what type it was, we just knew we wanted to provide a loving home for a cat that really needed it. I contacted our nearest Cats Protection branch and spoke to them about our circumstances - we live in an upstairs two bedroom flat and needed a cat that could fit into this environment.

They spoke to us about a little cat called Mimi who had been through a rough time after having had a litter of kittens at a young age and then when she was blood tested she was diagnosed with FIV. Woking Cats Protection had rescued her and although she had needed to be spayed, she was now on the mend and on the way to recovery. Woking Cats Protection spoke to me at great length about what Mimi's diagnosis of FIV meant and asked to me to go away and research it myself before making a decision on whether we wanted to take it further. After looking into it and googling extensively, I learned that FIV was no longer thought of as the death sentence it once was and that cats can live a very long and healthy life with the disease, often dying of other natural causes before experiencing a single symptom caused by their FIV. Perhaps my greatest concern was if she could pass on the disease to humans, my young daughter in particular, and if we could pass infection on to her. I was relieved to find out that this is NOT possible, FIV DOES NOT

cross species. Unfortunately it can be passed onto other cats though, mainly through fighting or the mating process, so it was essential that Mimi be the only cat in the household and be kept indoors (or with access to a secured run outside). As both our circumstances seemed a perfect match the next step was to meet Mimi, we'd already seen photographs of her and when we saw her in 'person' it was love at first sight. Mimi came to us the very same day and settled in almost straight away, purring madly and rubbing her scent on everything and everybody. A year later Mimi is totally thriving (if a little tubby!) and is as normal and healthy as any cat we have had before her. She doesn't seem to miss the outdoors too much and is an incredibly contented and happy little cat. Giving her a home was one of the best things we've ever done and she's a perfect addition to our family.

Jill

BANDIT'S RESCUE (NOW OSCAR)

I first noticed Bandit, or 'The Bandit' as my Auntie Pauline called him, in early 2017 when he was eating the old cat food that I'd put out for the foxes that ventured in from the golf course at the end of the road. They were very dark evenings so I wasn't sure how long he'd been doing this but after a few more weeks I noticed that as soon as I put the bowl out he would appear from the side of the house and head straight for the bowl. I assumed he was lying in wait.

As the evenings got lighter I could see that he was a beautiful, semi longhaired, tabby and as he looked fit and healthy I thought that maybe he lived locally and that he was probably a cheeky chancer who just thought he'd help himself to some extra food. I did however notice that he had quite a pronounced limp and dragged one of his back legs.

At this point I decided that I needed to check to see if he was a stray and so every time I saw him I put out food and tried to encourage him to approach me. For many months he would just sit and watch until I went back in the house. Under the guidance of another Pauline, our welfare officer, I tried to set one of our traps but Bandit was too streetwise and savvy to enter it, he would pull the food through the side bars with his paw. By now he was also featuring on our Lost and Found website.

At around this time Bandit had taken to eating and then lying on the grass at the bottom of the garden, cleaning himself. It was here that I found what I thought was a dead pigeon but it turned out to be a massive matt of fur that had torn away from his body.

Some cats are harder to find a forever home for, through no fault of their own, just a reluctance by people to give them a chance. These are the FIV positive cats and the senior cats (golden oldies). Some special adopters would like to share with all of us the joy these cats have brought to their lives - where would these cats be if it wasn't for people like you? THANK YOU

If he had matts that bad then he couldn't possibly have an owner, or at least not any self-respecting one. I wondered if it was the matts that were causing him to limp.

As he got more confident Bandit would often be sitting in the garden in the morning waiting for 'breakfast' or for 'tea' when I came home from work and he would happily eat whilst I was in the garden or sitting on the patio. Before long I could put the bowl right next to me and he would eat there, one eye on the bowl, one eye on me. Then we progressed to eating chicken or treats out of my hand, but should I make any movement at all I was rewarded with a hiss. I could never touch him but I did manage to run a scanner over him to check for a microchip - nothing.

This went on for weeks and weeks until one day I was dead heading flowers in the garden and Bandit had just finished eating. Suddenly he was at my side, I put out my hand and instead of a hiss his head landed on my palm. I stroked and scratched and pulled him about, he couldn't get enough of it. I got a brush and gave him a good grooming and put a paper collar with my phone number around his neck. He didn't have any matts around his legs or anywhere else on his body so I realised his limp was a medical problem of some sort.

Over the next few days I put three collars on Bandit, he always returned with them on and I didn't receive any phone calls from an owner. He was now officially a stray and as soon as there was a space in one of our pens it was decided that I would take Bandit to the vets before he went onto Kim's for fostering.

I was a bit nervous about getting him into a carrier but with a bit of encouragement and advice from Pauline I decided to give it a go - I'm sure I heard her laughing as I put the phone down. Well he didn't go without a struggle, but he did end up at the vets and I ended up at the walk in hospital. My injuries were minor but little did I expect the news back from the vets that he was unneutered, had a badly broken leg that had fused, had broken teeth and exposed nerves and to top it all he was FIV positive.

I thought that with his FIV status Bandit would be harder to home, but within weeks of being at Kim's he was on his way to a new home. I couldn't have been happier for Bandit, if not a little envious, as he was a fabulous cat with a really gentle personality and he'd been 'mine' for the best part of 9 months, I really missed him. The feedback was encouraging, he'd settled in almost immediately and from the photographs I have seen of him since, Bandit certainly got the home and the loving owner that this boy from the wrong side of the tracks deserved.

Gill



OSCAR - LOOK AT HIM NOW!

Meet Oscar, this big beautiful bundle of fluff came into my life in November 2017, I had moved into my own place 6 months before and knew that I had the time and space in my life for an additional someone. I wanted to adopt a cat, partly because I knew there are so many cats out there needing a good home and because I wanted an adult cat. The problem was my flat was on the first floor with no direct access to the outside, I knew I wanted a cat but it didn't feel right to keep a cat inside for no reason. I began to look at 'inside only' cats and learnt about FIV positive cats.

FIV or Feline Immunodeficiency virus reduces a cat's immune system, and leaves it more vulnerable to cat infections but no risk to or from humans therefore its actually best for them that they stay inside.

This seemed like a great solution for me and for the cat but I needed to read up on what it would mean to have an FIV cat and what implications it might have. I found out that while I would need to pay more attention to my cat's health mostly, an FIV could live long healthy lives. Cats Protection were really helpful in talking about adopting a cat and implications of FIV. They really held my hand through the whole process and were there for any questions after.

Adopting Oscar has been one of the best decisions I have ever made, I am totally in love with him and he brings such joy into my life. It is a pleasure to come home to him and his cuddles and a privilege to see how he has transformed from the shy cat he was to the brave boy I now have. You would never know he had FIV and he continues to be strong and healthy. I do now have to limit myself to how many pictures I post on Facebook in case everyone unfriends me but then again he is gorgeous!

Please don't dismiss a cat with FIV, you could be the perfect place for them and they for you.

Affy

MARCEL



We stumbled across Marcel's profile on Cats Protection website, and needless to say, it was love at first sight. His foster mum, Kim, described him by saying "If you are looking for a cuddly tiger then look no further, he is a big cuddly cat" and boy was she right. We also noted that Marcel seemed to have a lot of people interested in adopting him, no surprise really; he is an extremely stunning and sweet young gent. We knew we could provide him with a superbly warm and loving home with a safe enclosed terraced garden for him to enjoy and we already had experience of having a previous FIV cat from Cats Protection. We were delighted to be invited to meet him the very next day. Our suspicions were soon confirmed that Marcel is simply an amazing and majestic boy.

He has now been with us for nearly six months and every single day is such a joy with him. He is an extremely happy, and chatty, catty. He wakes like a child on Christmas Day and roams around from room to room singing until we are all up, he is an early riser, but that is ok, as I would much prefer him as an alarm clock than my uninteresting phone! After his breakfast and scratching post sessions, he is ready for his morning stroll around the herb garden, straight to his home grown catnip (of course), he has a little scratch on his shed and then it is inside for his first round of playtime! He will demand play by pushing

a ball to you, or hitting the nearest toy to you, he will never let you forget that his play time runs periodically from 9am to 5pm! I am extremely lucky to work from home and he can often be found hanging over the chair next to mine (he is a big boy after all) with his head pushed on my lap as I tap away. Every now and then he jumps up on the table to remind me to take a well needed screen break and prompt me of his playtime – how thoughtful!

He is an extremely smart cat and loves to learn a new trick or two; so far he can sit for a treat, climb to the top of his scratching post for a treat, have a little dance for a treat, and something new we are now working on....singing for a treat "if you are catty and you know it say meow <Marcel Meow>". He just loves to be stimulated and any puzzle toy I buy for him seems to be learned rather too quickly and then he is on to the next challenge.

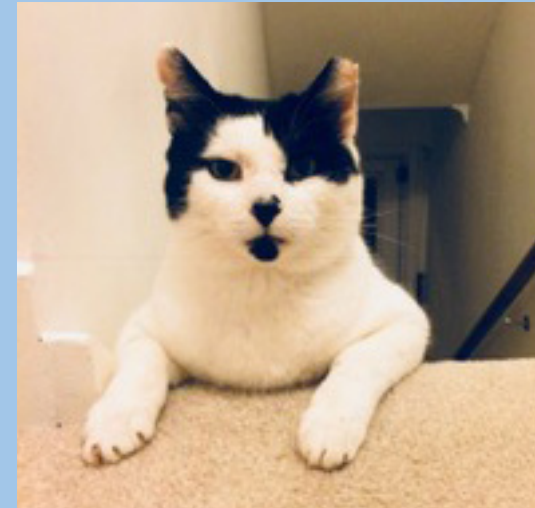
After dinner he transforms into a couch potato, this is when he likes to be groomed with his brush, letting you cradle him in your arms like a baby so you can brush and groom his very furry fluffy belly. He will often kiss you on the nose to say thank you. He comes to help you shower, often popping his head over the side of the bath to warn you with a "Reooooow" that you are being attacked by the very scary watery stuff!

Marcel LOVES, and I mean, LOVES bedtime...if it gets towards 9pm and you haven't ventured to bed, he will sit in front of you on the sofa, staring you out with half opened eyes until you say the magic words "ok, let's go to bed" and then he will bolt it to the bedroom, where he can be found at the end of the bed waiting for his bed time snack... his bed time snack is actually Logic toothpaste, which he seems to think is a treat... wonderful!

Watching Marcel's confidence grow every day and his transformation so far has been tremendously rewarding and we feel quite humbled by the kindness and trust he has shown us.

Having an FIV cat is really no different to having any other kind of housecat - their lives inside need to be full of enrichment, love and warmth, lots of play, top quality food and regular grooming. In return, you might be lucky enough to have a new best friend who will return the favour!

Jaime & Ted



BUDDY

I adopted Buddy in November after spending 6 months in foster care with Kim. She was very sad to see him leave and I can understand why. He had been found as a stray, more black and grey than black and white but he was just too friendly to be released back again.

I love coming home from work to Buddy charging at me as soon as I get in the door, desperate for attention (and dinner!), rubbing against my legs and getting under my feet. He loves to play with some of his favourite toys – he can keep himself entertained for ages with his ball game or will chase and kill anything on a string! Since arriving with me Buddy has spent every night sleeping on my bed. He gives the best cuddles, when he has had enough of the stroking he will go sit on 'his'

armchair but never wanting to be far away, if I go upstairs he will follow me to sit on the landing or bed just to keep me in sight.

Buddy has a unique feature in that he is FIV. Buddy has to be kept inside to prevent him spreading FIV to other cats and also prevents him from picking up any infections that his immune system might not be able to fight off but this actually suited me perfectly as I needed an indoor cat due to the busy road I live on. Aside from this he is a perfectly healthy and happy boy, you wouldn't know he had this condition and I love him very much!

Thanks so much for allowing me to rehome this special boy!

Steph

Check out our newly designed neutering leaflet and spread the word for us!

**WOKING CATS PROTECTION
WILL PAY FOR THE
NEUTERING OF YOUR CAT**

Cats Protection generally recommends that cats are neutered at around 4 months of age.

Neutered cats live longer, healthier lives and it is the most humane way to stop unwanted pregnancies.

Neutering also prevents some cancers, reduces straying, fighting and spraying.

PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNER AND GET YOUR CAT NEUTERED!

Contact us today for **FREE NEUTERING**

We'd love to hear from you xx

For further information please contact:
T: 01483 721700 (Mailbox 4)
E: info@woking.cats.org.uk
W: www.woking.cats.org.uk

Reg Charity
20204 (England and Wales)
1037711 (Scotland)

Thank you xx

Young at Heart

Unlike a kitten, an older cat is very much an established cat, and when you adopt, what you see is what you get – you don't tend to get many surprises! These mellow and beautiful seniors tell us their tales and how we helped them find their forever kitty care homes.

Billie



I was not going to get married again or have another cat. In 2017 I remarried and got another cat. My husband had been saying for some time how nice it would be to have a cat – for me. We would get the one that no one else wanted and give it a few years of nice life. So we looked at the board at LongAcres and saw Billie. Black, age unknown but assumed to be older because she had been recently diagnosed with hyperthyroidism. My previous cat Lizzie had that and lived to nearly 20, so I must have been doing something right. Contact was made and I went to see Billie shortly after. She was a sweetie and a few days later she was delivered to us. She settled in really well after a few days and soon found her favourite place in the whole world – Paul's lap. My cat? Only when Paul isn't there when second best will have to do. Without a doubt, she has enhanced our lives and I hope we have done the same for her.

Gwen

Solo and Saffron



Having lost our first cat at the age of 20, we made a conscious decision that should we adopt more felines, we would seek out older cats who needed a home. We felt that they were often overlooked purely because of their age (although the cats themselves have absolutely no concept of this). Where two or more older cats are looking for a home together, the potential for them finding a home together quickly is even more difficult. We found it all too easy to find older cats for adoption and quite a few duos, and occasionally trios.

When we found a trio of 9 year olds wanting a home we didn't have to think too hard in deciding to adopt. Seeing photos of

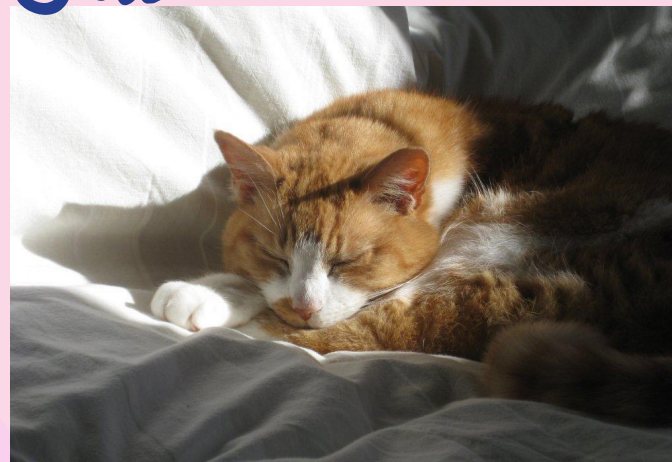
them on the website didn't do justice to the reality of visiting them 'in person'. Although they were quite shy on our first visit, this did not in any way detract from us seeing a set of beautiful animals who just wanted a permanent loving home. They were more than ready to accept us and happily settled with us into their new home. We love the fact that our trio (and now our pair), of older cats have had their own developed personalities and it has been fascinating to see how they have trained us to their way of thinking.

Of course, rehoming older cats could well mean losing them sooner rather than later. With our trio, even though we only had them for 6 years, the pleasure and joy they brought us in that short space of time was immeasurable... We have now embarked on a new journey with our pair of 11 year olds and already they have brought us a lot of happiness which can only increase as they settle more into their new home.

As we have aged, it was important that we gave our cats as stable background as possible. We like to think that we will outlive our cats, so that they don't have the upheaval of finding themselves back in a foster home looking for another forever home to settle into. In adopting older cats, we have a greater peace of mind that they will be with us to the end of their lives.

Steph

Taz



Taz came to live with us at the end of August 2017 and 10 months on has settled herself into her new home extremely well. She is the fifth older cat which we've adopted since 2004.

Taz came into the care of Woking CP as a result of her owners moving abroad. She had been with this family from being a young kitten so leaving a familiar home and family members must have been a great upheaval for her.

Our previous elderly cat had been sadly PTS in the previous year a few months short of her twentieth birthday so almost twelve months on we were ready to adopt again. Pauline had mentioned to me that a fourteen year old cat, Taz would be needing a new home in the near future, knowing that I had a preference for adopting older

cats. I went with my husband to view Taz in her foster home where she had been for several months with Mary. Taz immediately jumped on my knee where she sat for a couple of minutes before moving to sit on my husband. I think the decision was made there and then.

Taz is a beautiful ginger and white girl with very soft fur and a very loud purr. She clearly has been well cared for by her previous owners and we aim to maintain this level of care for her.

After her initial three weeks of being kept indoors she ventured out into the garden on a sunny day for a good supervised inspection of her new territory. We think it met with her approval as she subsequently used the cat flap to let herself out for short excursions. Taz has certainly made the house her home, having slept on all the beds but has now decided that the sofa is the best option for her many hours of uninterrupted beauty sleep. She is eating well and knows how to entice a tasty morsel from me by giving me a look with her gorgeous eyes.

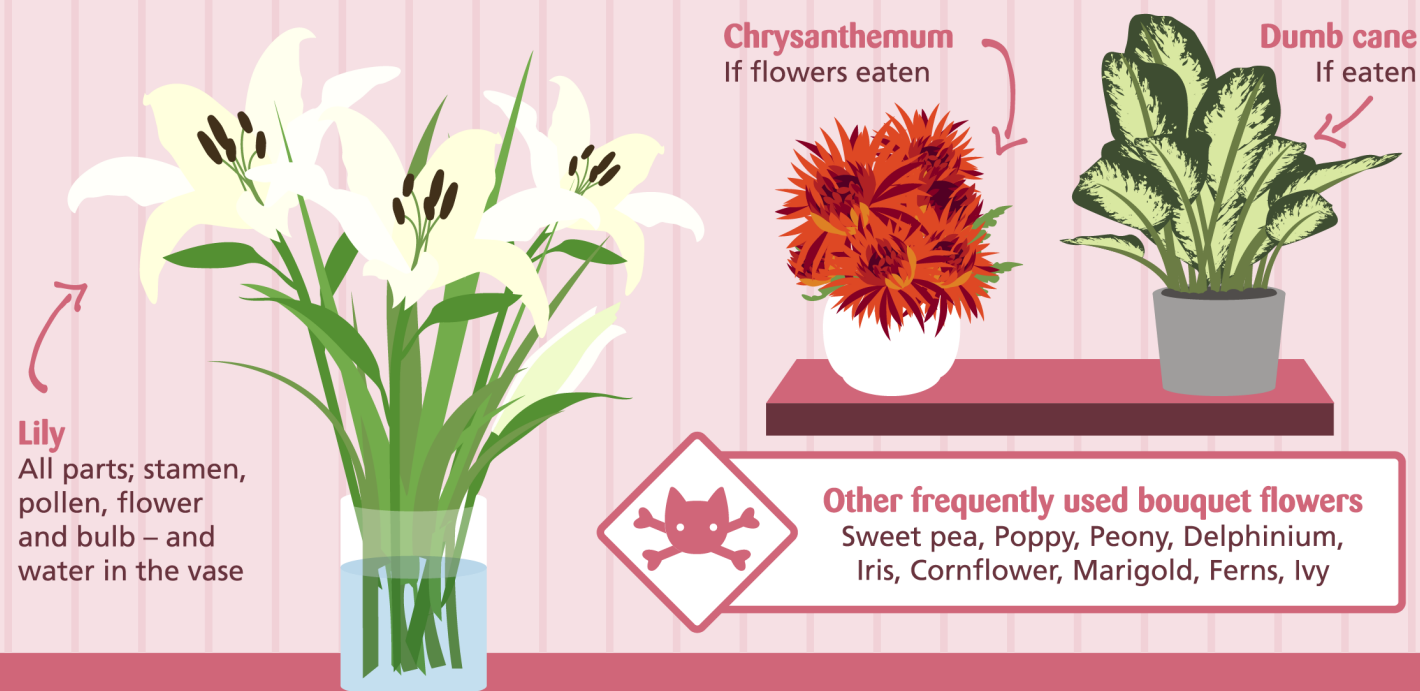
Our previous golden oldies from Woking CP, Ben and Rosie aged twelve and thirteen followed by Jess and Jade aged fourteen and thirteen didn't fail to give us years of happiness. They were all a joy to share our home with and I would encourage anyone thinking of adopting a cat to consider giving the older ones a home. They need a safe and warm place to live where they can be loved and spoilt as much as the younger cats. We are looking forward to sharing our home with Taz for many years to come.

Ruth



Cats: Poisonous flowers advice – a visual guide to keeping your pet safe

Some flowers are toxic or harmful to cats when brushed against or nibbled. Take a look at our flora-danger list and keep your bouquets feline-friendly.



What should I do if I think my cat's eaten a poisonous flower or plant?

Do

- Take them to a vet immediately
- Give your vet information about what you think your cat has consumed
- Keep other pets away from the source

Do not

- Wait for symptoms or assume they will go away
- Try to make your cat vomit or feed them salt water
- Panic

Prevention is better than a visit to the vets!

For more details of these plants go to www.cats.org.uk/dangerous-plants

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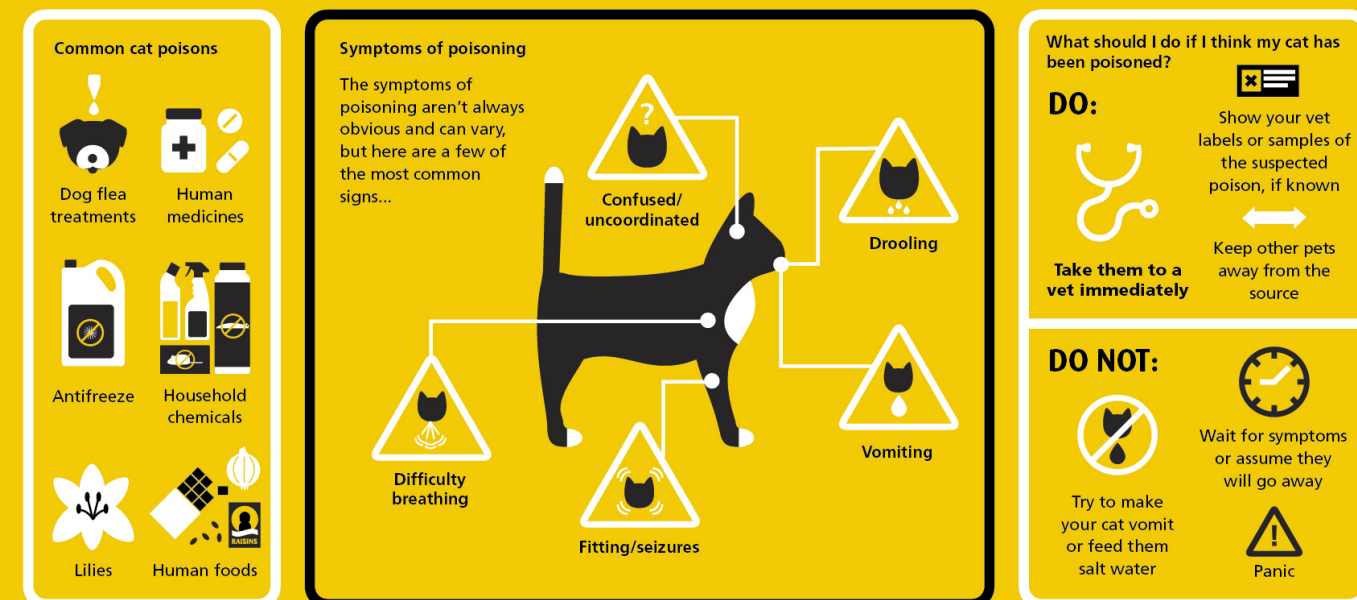
0800 024 94 94

THE DANGER ZONE...

How do you spot potential poisoning signs in your feline? If your cat does get hold of those chrysanthemums or medicines they shouldn't have, the below article gives you some top tips on getting the best help for your babies...



CAT POISONING ADVICE – A VISUAL GUIDE TO KEEPING YOUR PET SAFE



PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A VISIT TO THE VETS!

Remember, keep poisonous substances out of cats' reach – ideally stored in a sealed container or closed cupboard or shed.



This list and advice is not exhaustive. For further advice please consult your vet. ©Cats Protection 2014. Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland). COM_860

Need to talk to someone?

If you're experiencing the loss of a pet, you can talk to us. Our volunteer listeners can provide you with emotional support, and practical information at this difficult time.

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

t: 0800 024 9494 (9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday) all of our calls are free and confidential

w: www.cats.org.uk/grief

Meet the Team!



Janet Dunn
Fosterer

I was conned into it! My 22 year old cat had died and I took my litter and food to my neighbour who I knew volunteered for Cats Protection. As I sobbed on her doorstep she said whenever I was ready for a new cat..... I declared maybe in a year. A few weeks later she popped in to tell me there were kittens in her pen if I wanted a look. No no said I - but I spent a tortuous weekend wondering if I should look! I went to tell her I wasn't ready..... And anyway I would be no good with a kitten - I'd spent most of my life with an elderly cat. "As an alternative, we do have some lovely older cats" said she..... But I was resolute. She popped by a week later (all credit to her determination!) to ask how I would feel about looking after an old cat who needed an emergency placement..... Just for a couple of days. The cat's story was so sad I couldn't say no. And that was the start - 5 years ago!

I had no idea that it is only a volunteer team that runs local branches of Cats Protection. There are loads of people in the Woking team doing a vast array of jobs, all unpaid, but I've got the best job of all! I get to share my home with a cat in difficult circumstances and then see them find wonderful forever homes. I usually have cats who need some acclimatisation to a home after their ordeals. Often they are sassy feisty very scared animals but I love it when they begin to trust and relax, and let their true personality shine through.

I meet so many different people in my home who view the cats with rehoming in mind

.....All united by 1 common theme, adoration of cats!

I meet all other CP volunteers who are all totally different but united by 1 common theme.....

Obsessed by cats! What a quirky bunch we are but what fun we have texting, emailing, quiz nights, seasonal fayres (great cake stalls!!).

I love doing what I do....Cannot bear it when I have no cat living with me and nag for my next inmate.

How can I part with the cats? The 1st cat I had was very tough to hand over to another and say goodbye to, but I knew if I kept her I couldn't be a volunteer fosterer.

That's what I so enjoy doing. I respect the Cats Protection for its integrity and care: all cats are thoroughly checked out by vets, and we do whatever is necessary to make the cat as healthy and happy as possible. Standards are very high, driven by the expectations of the volunteers. It's really so worthwhile working amongst them all. You should give it a go... Just for a few days!

Janet has now retired and has gone off travelling! Whilst we all wish her well in her travels, we look forward to her return!!



Cilla Santos
Home Visitor

How long have you been volunteering for Woking and District Cats Protection?

I have been volunteering for Woking and District Cats Protection for three and a half years.

How did you find out about volunteering for the branch?

I found out about volunteering for the branch after adopting a CP kitten called Cinnamon (now re-named Molly) when our Welfare Officer, Pauline, brought her to us. I realised what a

wonderful organisation Cats Protection is, with its very dedicated team of volunteers, and, yes having had shelter cats since childhood, being an established cat lover, being the owner of four cats at that time, I could possibly contribute to this very worthy charity by volunteering my time. I could fit this easily around my part time locum work as a pharmacist.

What aspects of your role do you like the most?

As one of the Home Visitors, I get to meet some very interesting people and their families, (including their existing pets; dogs, cats, fish, terrapins, rabbits, guinea pigs to name a few) but more importantly I am tentatively looking for a forever home for one or more of the cats in our care who deserve that proper care, attention and human love. It has been a pleasure liaising with Pauline (who must work 24 hours per day), Jenny our Homing Officer, our amazing fosterers, and all other members of our team who are there for support and advice. It is so satisfying to see a cat re-homed in a happy home. I also welcome feedback from the adopters including a pic of the lucky cat, if possible, when they have settled in their home.

What would you say to someone else thinking about becoming a volunteer for Woking Cats Protection?

I would encourage anybody thinking of volunteering for Cats Protection, to whole heartedly give it a try, no matter whatever the role, whatever the task, it is very rewarding, you get to meet many other volunteers, members of the public, and you get to help many felines in our care, and sometimes from other CP branches.



Ruth Dabney
Home Visitor and Committee Member

How long have you been volunteering for Woking and District Cats Protection?

I have been volunteering for the branch since 2011 and have been involved in a variety of roles.

How did you find out about volunteering for the branch?

I found out about volunteering after adopting two cats Jess and Jade who were thirteen and fourteen years old. Following their adoption I was invited to the Spring Fayre and I was very impressed by the effort being made to help needy cats. I had my own stall at the next fayre later that year and subsequently over time took on more roles.

Over the years I've gained a wider understanding of how the branch operates and seen the commitment and dedication of the volunteers.

What aspects of your roles, Committee member/home visitor, do you like the most?

I am currently a Committee member and attend meetings to discuss a range of issues concerning cat welfare, fundraising events, and the running of the branch. I also do home visits and enjoy meeting prospective adopters and I carry out weekly visits to one of our pens to do some cat socialising. I really enjoy this part of my volunteering work as it's hands on with a variety of cats who are in the pens for different reasons. Some are playful and some are frightened but what surprises me is how they change within a few weeks of coming into care. It gives me pleasure to arrive there and be told by Carol, the fosterer, that the cats have a lovely new home to go to.

I've recently agreed to become the fundraiser for our two annual fayres which is a new and exciting role for me to carry out for the branch and am also currently being trained up to assist with the adoption process of our cats.

What would you say to someone else thinking about becoming a volunteer for Woking Cats Protection?

Don't hesitate to get in touch. Volunteering for this charity is extremely rewarding and there are so many ways in which you could help depending on how much time you can commit to the branch. We're a friendly group and would welcome any help that you could offer. Give it a try and you'll be hooked!

Direct Homing

Due to only having a small team of fosterers, we are always working with a limited capacity for cats. To ease pressure on our waiting list and to enable us to help more cats, we sometimes work with owners to direct home their cat (home to home). We apply the same health and veterinary care as we do for a cat in our full care. Here are a few success stories from adopters of cats that have been rehomed in this way.

Mendie and Doza



"We love our new humans, and we have lots of fun. We are teaching them new tricks every day"
Mendie and Doza

We adopted Mendie and Doza through Cats Protection last November. Since arriving they have really thrived, constantly entertained us and brought a great deal of joy.

They arrived on a Monday morning, clearly nervous, Mendie went behind the sofa and Doza hid under a desk. They stayed there all day, getting used to new sounds and smells before coming out and exploring briefly that evening.

At first they were nervy and jumpy while they got used to their new surroundings, but over the last few months they have grown in confidence and their personalities have really shone. Doza is the big boy, but a complete softie, often following little sister Mendie, who is much braver, into new situations.

They are incredibly playful, hours of fun can be had by chasing a piece of twine on a stick and like all good cats, they cannot resist a box to sit in! In the morning, we're woken up by Mendie's little wet nose reminding us it's time for breakfast. Then at night, we're put to bed by Doza who comes up for a final game and takes up as much of the bed as he can.

We feel incredibly fortunate that Mendie and Doza came into our lives, many thanks to everyone at Woking Cats Protection who made it such a smooth process for all of us.

Simon

Like what you see?

We share all of our news onto our social media pages!



Facebook: WokingCatsProtection



Twitter: @wokingcp

Milly and Pepper

We have always adopted cats from CP and were looking for a pair of adult cats. We fell in love with Milly (7) and Pepper (5) as soon as we saw their photos on the CP website and are so happy to have been able to rehome them. They are beautiful, healthy girls and are absolutely gorgeous.

Their favourite toys are pieces of string and sweet wrappers and the best places to sleep are by the log fire and on our bed!

Milly is better than a barometer as she doesn't like bad weather. She puts her head through the cat flap every morning and has a good look! She will come and tell us very loudly when it is raining or cold. Then she sits wistfully gazing at the cat flap in the hope it will dry up/warm up outside. She has a very haughty air about herself sometimes and certainly rules the house, sitting on the stairs and looking down her nose at visitors until she has had a chance to assess them.

Pepper is very much a house cat but loves to watch what is going on from the conservatory. She shouts at birds on the roof and when she does venture out (it has to be very fine weather), she likes to walk across the conservatory roof too! She thinks she is helping me occasionally by sitting on my jigsaw puzzles. Every evening she has a mad few minutes and gets her exercise by hurling herself around the house at top speed!

We're looking forward to our first summer with them and hope they will sit in the garden with us.

Both girls are good company and come to meet us by the front door when we have been out. Thank you so much CP for letting us adopt them!



"Our new humans always save us the best spots in the house"
Milly and Pepper

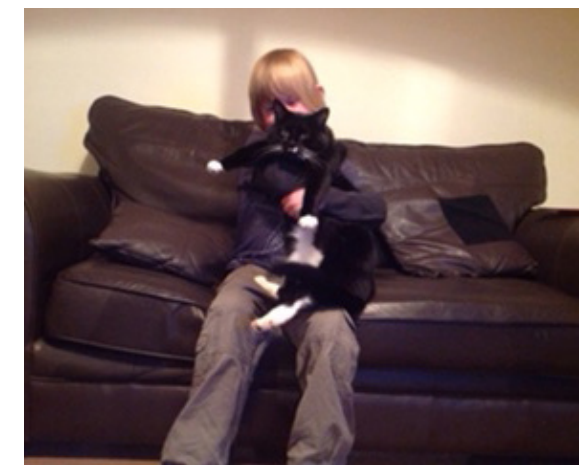
Whiskers

Whiskers has added a joyous new dimension to our family and the kids love him to bits. He is such a gentle and good natured boy. He enjoys the company of adults and children, but equally enjoys his own space and a bit of 'me' time.

Luckily for us, Whiskers arrived in good health although a little overweight. As a family we have enjoyed supporting Whiskers to 'get back into shape'. The children have learnt a few tricks to keep him active and work hard for his treats, and Whiskers now enjoys a new healthy diet.

It really does feel like Whiskers is now well and truly one of the family!

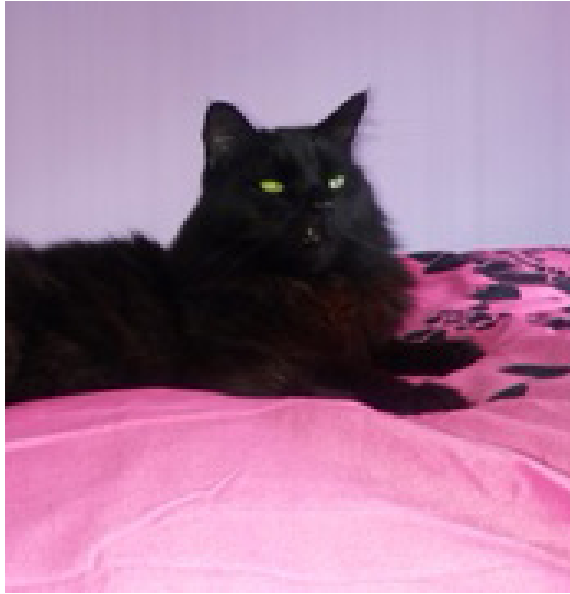
Helen



"My new brother gives the best snuggles"
Whiskers

Cats from the Past

Some of our previously adopted cats and their owners keep in touch. We love hearing how they've been doing in their new homes!



Ziggy

Hi Pauline,
Here is an update on the lovely Ziggy who, on 11th February has been at his forever home for 5 years! Having started off a very nervous guy and after lots of loving and nurturing after about 6 months he finally found his confidence and his amazing personality started to shine through. He is loving, friendly, silly, quirky and talks a lot and very clingy and everyone who meets him wants to take him home! Poor Ziggy had some teeth problems recently and the lad had to have 9 teeth out, he didn't like that much but it hasn't stopped him eating!! We are so lucky that he chose us that day at cats protection and just couldn't imagine life without him now!

Lin and Sue
(his mummies)



Bosley

For some time I had been deliberating on whether to hear the sound of little furry feet across the kitchen floor, but circumstances through the years had put that on hold. Constantly moving from one home to the next had made it impossible and also with no stable job.

But over the last ten years life became consistent so the decision was made.

But what should I go for...A dog, a parrot, a tortoise, already had fish in the pond, and you can't exactly cuddle them. Then CAT came to mind. Had cats in the family when I was growing up and found them to make great pets, loving, funny, mad, and the best point of all, you don't have to take them for a walk.

So where do I start? Pet stores are something that I don't agree with and thankfully you don't see many of them around these days. So adoption was the only and sensible option.

On to the internet, to find all my options, and there were many. But the one that stood out the most was Cats Protection. I put in all my details, the home visit was

organised and all the details required were issued.

A couple of days later I received a phone call informing me of a young lad that was in need of a home and had been in care for quite some time, but had a few issues with trust and was very timid with strangers.

With that information I decided to give him a viewing.

As I arrived at the house a lady called Carol greeted me at the gate, and informed me as we walked towards the pen, about his history, the problems that he has had in the past, and, that he was very timid and wary of strangers.

As I approached the pen the first thing I saw were these two bright yellow eyes staring back at me as if they could cut through steel, and was probably thinking, look out, here comes another one.

We entered the pen and Carol called to him where he jumped onto her lap. I wasn't expecting him to come to me because of what I was told, but within a minute or two he jumped down from Carol's lap, walked behind me and leapt up onto some boxes and allowed me to stroke him. I gathered at the time that this was something he didn't do often, hence him being a long termer.

At that point I knew he was coming home with me and the decision was made.

A few days later the day had come for Bosley to start life at his new home. Pauline and Carol brought him round and gave me all the information and advice for what to do in the first few weeks for him to gain his confidence. So four weeks of solitary confinement was ahead of this little fellow.

When Pauline and Carol left, I left him alone in the bedroom for a couple of hours to allow him to settle. When I went in I sat on the floor at the end of the bed and we just stared at each other, and after about ten minutes Bosley stood up from underneath the chair and sat in my lap. At that point all was going to be ok.

Over the next few weeks Bosley began to settle nicely into his new environment, getting used to all the strange smells and noises around the house, particularly the shower. He hated the sound of that, but we have come a long way since then, and he now sits outside the shower waiting for me to come out.

As time went on, and his four weeks of solitary got near to its conclusion, I could see he was beginning to realise that

there was an outside world beyond the four walls of the house. When it came time to let him venture into the great outdoors, this was the most worrying time for me. Would he run off and get lost into the wilderness, we would have to see.

I opened the door and watched. His first few steps into the garden were tentative to say the least. This was a whole new world for him. Slowly he investigated every corner of the garden he could find, and then without notice, over the six foot fence as if it wasn't there. This was it, the big test.

I watched him walk up the hill towards the university and disappear under the fence. I tried to call him back to the right side of the fence for nearly three quarters of an hour with no joy, so I made the decision to leave him and go back to the house and see what happened.

I hadn't been in the house for no more than five minutes, and standing in the bedroom I heard a meow from behind, and there was Bosley standing there looking up at me. He must have noticed that I had walked back to the house and followed me.

Test successful.

From that first day of him being allowed in the garden life has just got better and better. We have been together almost 2 years now and he never ceases to make me smile, there isn't a moment that he doesn't want to be near me, and when in the garden he follows me everywhere. However the furniture is ripped to shreds, he gets me up at 3am to go out, tells me off when he wants to be left alone, and I have had more mice running around the house than I care to think about, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

He is my best mate.

Paul



Poppy

We adopted Poppy back in June 2014 and in June last year we relocated to Scotland.

Poppy has settled in very well and is enjoying her bigger home with a much larger garden. Funnily enough, she now seems to prefer staying indoors with us or joins us when we are out and about in the garden. If at all, she will only pop out for a few minutes to chase birds and squirrels or sniff around the garden boundary. In time she might spend more time outside again, like she did when we lived in Surrey.

When we got Poppy she was a scared 4-year-old, wary of hands and feet. I remember Pauline warning us that she was nervous and may never be a lap cat. We were first-timers then. After only 6 months she started to show affection, something we'd never expected to happen so quickly as we thought it would take a year or longer for her to trust us. Fast forward over 3 years and Poppy is no longer afraid to be around visiting family, friends or e.g. tradesmen. She seeks our company and is very playful and affectionate.

Electronic or flashing toys are of no interest to her. Her favourite game is to chase after a cotton ribbon. We both work from home now and her routine is to spend the mornings in my husband's office watching his 2 monitors, and then join me in my office during the afternoon to snooze in a chair next to me.

She has become accustomed to being touched and likes 'double barrel' cheek rubs, a body massage and will stretch her neck forward for the important 'rub me under my chin'.

Apart from sitting with us to watch telly in the evenings, she sometimes jumps into our laps to nap, often for over an hour, and neither of us dares making a move when that happens which can be quite a challenge. All I can say is that we love her to bits. Thank you Pauline and to all the team at Cats Protection Woking for the great work you do.

Best wishes for 2018,

Elly and Gavin



Madge (the cat formerly known as TomTom)

Hello again it's me, Madge

Well I've been with my new pets David and Heather for ages now so it's time to say hello and give you an update. I'm happy to say I feel really settled here and my pet humans are pretty well-behaved - well most of the time anyway. Sometimes David and Heather spend far too much time doing something called "work" (no, I've no idea either). It seems to involve lots of tapping away at the bright, lit-up box-things, and it leaves a lot less time for lounging on the sofa with me, though I must admit they spend more time than your average human lounging on sofas, so I mustn't grumble too much.

One of my favourite things is finding a plate with cake crumbs, yum, or even better - chocolate fingers! The worst thing is my humans gobble up all the cake and chocolate fingers and then say I can't have any, it's bad for me! Also, I do love a nice mirror, always have, I like to just check myself out - I'm not daft, you know, I know that's me in there.

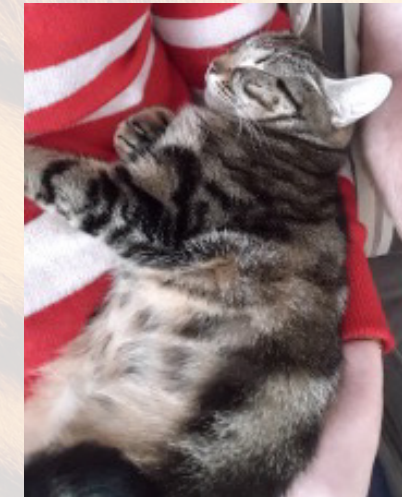
I still love cardboard boxes too, but I don't feel like chewing them up into tiny pieces these days; I like them more as a sort of sentry box now, a quiet place to keep an eye on things. My daily groom from my humans is nice too, very relaxing! Knotties from Pauline and cat nip pillows help keep me chilled, as does squeezing myself under the radiator for that boiling hot back effect - lovely!

It's been such a horrible winter I haven't ventured out for many weeks. So I've been keeping myself busy checking the loft for mice - nothing so far though unfortunately. That still leaves plenty of time for sitting on my cushion by the window waiting for the spring. I can smell it in the air, it's going to be hot soon, I can feel it in my paws.

Madge

TALES FROM THE WILD SIDE

After being signed over to the Cats Protection team, a massive mission to get help for this beautiful girl commenced - after some fundraising, we took this wobbly lady and transformed her into a tabby tripod!



"Three legs won't slow me down - I'm positively over the moon with my remaining ones!"

In late January we were lucky enough to be allowed to adopt Luna - the three legged tabby. We met her at her foster home and took about 3 seconds to fall for her! She was so friendly and affectionate, despite having had her malformed leg amputated only two weeks before. In addition, she'd had a difficult first two years living on a tough South London housing estate. Well, that's the sob story over - Pauline had us hooked.

Well roll on 9 weeks; her fur has grown back, she's started going outside and she can climb - 8 feet of curtains are no problem! She can jump too - sofas, lounge furniture, but kitchen work surfaces are too high!! Luna is a very noisy cat, meows and we are sure she speaks a few words!!! She likes the drums, sitting on the sofa bed whilst I learn - cats can put their paws over their ears!

We were lucky enough to own two cats who were very affectionate and lived for 15 years: Luna is just as affectionate and has us in the palm of her paw. Our grown up kids love her too and she is a big WhatsApp hit!!! We were a bit nervous about her going out - she's already had a faceoff with Stuart, our neighbour's cat. Well, that's Luna's introduction to Surrey - she's a joy to come home to and often has us in stitches. Our final thought as she embarks on being able to venture into the garden and meet the birds she has watched through the patio doors - aren't cat flaps expensive!!!

(Dean and Jackie)



Next time you pop onto Amazon, perhaps you can add a gift to us via our wishlist. To view a list of our current needs, visit www.woking.cats.org.uk/woking/send-the-cats-a-gift-page and follow the link on the page. We're always in need of food for our hungry fluffies and they'll certainly enjoy it!

Meet Lucy, She was found as a stray and picked up by Woking Cats Protection. After some TLC, see how well she's settled into home and telling everyone who's the boss!



"Watch out, I'm coming for treats and cuddles!"

human's knee solely for Ethan! It has been particularly rewarding to see our children bond with their first pet, and to witness the wonderful calming influence that this can have on children. In my day job as a psychologist I was already aware of what a positive influence pet ownership can have on wellbeing, but seeing and experiencing it with my own eyes has been fantastic.

We all feel privileged that Lucy has settled in with us and is sharing her life with our family. She has very much become an integral part of the family, and it is so nice to return home at the end of the day to be greeted by her. We would recommend anyone considering adopting a cat from Cats Protection to just go for it – we certainly feel very happy that we took in Lucy and she brought a wonderful new dimension to family life. I was recently saddened to read news stories saying that black cats are the hardest to re-home because there is superstition around them, or worse still, because they are perceived to be difficult to get good 'selfies' with!

As a part-time professional photographer I can debunk this latter myth entirely – I think black cats are stunning, and I have already taken 100s of pictures of Lucy, although she is quite camera shy, with some of the pictures proving quite popular on my Flickr site. As for the superstition – well a little homework will clear this up and actually you will discover that around the world, black cats are more often thought of as a sign of good luck and prosperity than bad luck, so you see there really is no reason not to adopt a black cat!

Marco

Sometime last year we reached a point in our family's life when we (myself, my wife Victoria, and my boys Ethan and Theo) realised that something was missing. It took a while for us to realise what it was, but then it dawned on us that we were missing a pet to share our lives with. Both Victoria and I had fond memories of childhood cats, and we were aware of the excellent work that Cats Protection undertakes to re-home cats who have fallen on hard times. We wanted a cat that was quite young, well natured, and could cope with living in a family environment, but had no preconceptions about breed, colour, etc. I remember looking at the Woking Cats Protection website without much initial confidence that a suitable cat would be available straight away, but lo and behold, there was a picture and description of a little female black stray called Dolly. She looked so sweet and I instantly had a good feeling about her. A few phone calls and days later, and the whole family were visiting Dolly in her temporary home. She was a lovely little thing, and although cautious, was happy to be stroked by everyone. We all fell in love with her straight away and in the next few days we rushed to get our home in order in preparation for the adoption. Lucy, as she is now known (a name chosen by our boys), has proven to be a wonderful addition to the family, and the whole adoption process was very straightforward thanks to the staff at Woking Cats Protection.

When she came to us she spent a lot of time hiding away under beds and feeling shy, but as she has grown to trust us, she has shown herself to be a warm and affectionate cat with a lovely good-natured personality. She has formed a particularly close bond with Ethan, who is, as much as anyone can actually 'own' a cat, her official owner, since we bought her as a tenth birthday present for him. It has been wonderful to see how Lucy is so loyal to Ethan in particular, preferring his bedroom as her favoured location in the house, and, so far, reserving the privilege of sitting on a

Meet Taz, After being found hiding in Ann and Colin's front garden, they treated him to a view of a settled life. With Cat's Protection's help, he came from the bottom and now lives the high life!



We first encountered Taz in early August, sitting under a conifer in our front garden, looking dejected and very nervous. His fur was not in good condition, being patchy on his back and almost no hair on his tail. We put out some food, initially he ran off, but he came back later when we were out of the way. He was there again the next day and once again we put out some food. This routine went on for a few more days and then he was there in the morning as well. We would come home from work and he was still in his usual spot under the conifer.

As time went on he became less nervous and started to come closer, however we still had quite a lot of hisses and a few swipes if we got too close. As the weather started to change we decided to try and coax Taz round to the back garden, where a sturdy cardboard box covered with bubble wrap and plastic and some warm bedding was awaiting him. To our surprise he took to it immediately and that is where he slept, coming out in the morning for his food and then there in the evening. The cardboard box soon got upgraded to a wooden box, with a foam covered pad and a fleece, which once again he took to. He was starting to trust us, although still very nervous for us to stroke him, so we used a short handled brush that we had, to try and give him a brush, which we thought would help, as his fur looked as if it was starting to recover. A bite, a swipe with his paws and a few hisses changed this to a long handled dustpan brush and this is really how Taz earned his name, short for Tazmanian Devil!!

More bad weather and increasing cold called for a further upgrade in the sleeping quarters, we bought a rabbit hutch, which was modified to include rain proofing, insulation inside, two further foam covered pads, a cat bed and fleece. There was a separate area for his bed to sleep and an area in the daytime should he need shelter, but he could still see

"I'm ready for my photoshoot meow!"

out into the garden. Still not satisfied we were doing enough, in the evening, we would move the hutch into the garage, we bought a lamp with a timer, which stayed on overnight and fixed the door so that he could go in and out.

This arrangement went well for about a month, we would go and see him in the evening and give him a brush and he would play with string on a stick. His hissing had decreased a bit, although there were a few more paw swipes and another bite. When we left him at night, he would follow us to get into the house and his persistence paid off, when on a particularly cold evening we relented and let him into the house.

Taz had settled down, although still a little bit nervous and we still could not handle him. He started scratching and biting himself quite a lot and we attempted to put some flea gel on him, without much success. We also bought a spray, but Taz was having none of it and would run off. We contacted Woking Cats Protection in December and Pauline came round, scanned him for a chip - he was not chipped. She told us that we could keep Taz if no owner could be found. Pauline was brilliant, she arranged for Taz to be neutered and sorted out the flea allergy and worming. The vets said that he was lovely and handled really well, we thought they had got the wrong cat!!

We decided we would take Taz on and had him chipped, so he now has a home, with people to care for him. He is already very protective of his garden, chasing anything that dares to enter. He has had a couple of steroid injections to stop him biting and scratching, so that his skin has time to heal, which, I am pleased to say, is doing nicely.

Taz is stubborn and still has a tendency to hiss and swipe occasionally if he does not want to do what you want him to, but I believe in time he will become a happy and confident cat. His favourite thing is to be brushed, purring loudly and padding on his bed.

Thanks to Pauline and the Woking Cats Protection for helping Taz and for all the work that you do.

Ann and Colin



Thank you to the advocacy team for fighting to protect the cats we love!

Advocacy - What is it, and why is it Important?

The Cats Protection Advocacy & Government Relations team is based at the National Cat Centre in Sussex. We 'speak up for cats' and campaign on issues affecting cat welfare across the UK. We work with and influence politicians and decision makers to create a better world for cats.

Jacqui Cuff, Advocacy and Government Relations Manager says: "One of our aims is to make sure cats are not forgotten by decision makers. Cats are often regarded as not needing protection; that they are able to look after themselves. However they do need protection and through our advocacy work we are highlighting where policy change is needed."

What will be the key issues for the Advocacy and Government Relations team over the coming months?

2017 saw a snap general election which prompted us to launch our 2022 Agenda for Cats. This highlighted three priority issues we wanted Parliament to support by 2022.

Brexit

You could be forgiven for thinking that the argument over Britain's relationship with the European Union won't have anything to do with cats – but that's not the case. We will be paying close attention to the development of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) so we can make sure that cats being brought into the country are subject to enhanced border checks and recorded on a national database. We also want to see the reintroduction of tick and tapeworm treatment for cats entering the UK.



Air Weapons

We're pleased that Northern Ireland and Scotland have already taken action to licence air weapons, but we want to see similar regulations in place in England and Wales. We believe that licensing of air weapons will make ownership more transparent and help reduce the number of cats killed or injured. Cats like Jalapeno have sadly been victims of these lethal weapons. Jalapeno was shot in both the eye and shoulder causing significant pain and discomfort. After having the pellets removed Jalapeno was very shy but eventually made a full recovery blossoming back into the friendly and playful cat she is.

In 2017, we launched our petition and so far we have over 113,000 electronic and paper signatures. We delivered the petition to No 10 Downing Street in May. This year we launched our online e-mail campaign encouraging cat lovers across the nation to write to the Home Office in support of licensing air weapons in England and Wales in response to the Government's consultation on air weapons. The Government's consultation is now closed and we must wait for them to announce their next steps later this year. However, as a result of our campaign we secured a meeting with the Home Office to discuss the issues we have raised. We have also met the responsible officers for gun crime in the police. We will continue to keep you up to date about the Government proposals. In the meantime our petition is still live and you can add your signature by visiting www.cats.org.uk/airgunspetition to help cats like Jalapeno.

Housing

With more people renting now than ever before, we want to ensure that all housing providers – from social housing to rented flats – have responsible and reasonable pet policies. We want tenancy agreements to allow people to have cats where appropriate while encouraging neutering, vaccination and microchipping.

Three quarters of Cats Protection's branches and centres that responded to our 2017 housing survey reported frequently taking in cats due to their owners having problems with their landlord's pet policy. One such cat was Mabel who came into the National Cat Adoption Centre as her owners recently had a new baby and needed to move to more spacious rented accommodation but could not find somewhere within their price range which would allow pets.

This year will see the launch of our 'Purrfect Landlords' campaign to encourage private and social landlords to accept pet cats. In 2018 we plan to engage landlords through attending housing conferences.

Ways to get involved

We always need evidence to support our campaigns. Please contact us at campaigns@cats.org.uk with as much detail as possible if you have experienced any of the following in the last 12 months

- A cat attacked and injured by a dog
- A cat caught in a snare
- A cat shot with an air gun
- A cat poisoned by contact with cut lilies
- A private landlord that allows or does not allow cats
- A private tenant that is allowed cats

From time to time we send surveys to branches. We understand that our volunteers are very busy and want to maximize their time providing front line services. However, in order for us to run an effective, evidence based campaign; we need to support our arguments with facts. Our branches are our eyes and ears of what is really happening and sharing your experience with us can really help us to speak up for cats.

When it is appropriate we use petitions and letter and email writing campaigns to support our campaign work. We carefully select when to use these tools in order to ensure the maximum targeted impact. Your support is invaluable and we always alert branches to any new campaign through CP Update. There will also be information on the website <https://www.cats.org.uk/what-we-do/speaking-up-for-cats>

Finally, the team is very much looking forward to meeting more of our volunteers and supporters at the regional conferences planned for 2018. We hope to see some of you there! Through you we hear about the issues we are campaigning on and your knowledge and expertise really helps us "Speak up for cats".

Thank you for your support.

The Advocacy & Government Relations Team – Jacqui Cuff and Madison Rogers



Event Updates

Spring Fayre



Our infamous Tina with her wonderful jams - thank you so much for your hard (and delicious) work!



Sally and John manning our chocolate tombola



The plant stall was a success!



Our Spring Fayre raised an amazing £1495.97. It was lovely to see so many new and familiar faces, enjoying what the fayre had to offer. We had an array of outside stall holders join us to raise money, as well as our traditional CP stalls. The tea room bustled with the influx of people coming through - I think the volunteers were happy not to make a cup of tea for a few days after that! The fabulous raffle prizes on offer and the general camaraderie of all who attended made this a spectacular event.



Is it calm before the storm? - Our little tea room ready to go!



Rachel, Austen and Natalie from Lynton Vets in their first CP event appearance raising £63 for us!



If you enjoy baking, how about joining our cake making team? We always need an abundance of homemade goodies for our 2 annual fayres and golf day. If you would like to be added to our list of bakers, please email info@wokingcats.org.uk or contact us on 01483 721700 and leave a message in mailbox 4.

Thank you to Jackie (pictured above) for her delicious contribution!

Quiz Night!

A great time was had by all at our 6th Quiz Night event, held on the 25th February at the New Haw Community Centre. We had a full house - 22 tables of six people on each with supporters and previous adopters competing for the title of brainiest bods. We raised a massive £2184.25 - our best ever result. We also held a raffle and an auction with 3 prizes. We are already planning our next one for the 23rd February!



Our wonderful hostess Catherine, and Quizmaster Paolo



Thank you very much to Carmela Amaddio for donating this signed photo as an auction prize!



The triumphant winners of the quiz - the Cool Cats team



One of the wonderful prizes, donated kindly by Gill Parker and McLaren

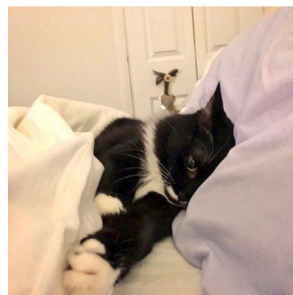


Almost too pretty to eat - thank you so much Fiona Bishop!



THE FACE(BOOK) OF OUR SUCCESSES!

Awwww prosecco kitten Molly stealing the bed!!! Who else has a cat that does this?!!
#proseccokittens



64 37 comments 2 shares

The very gorgeous Sylvia continues to recover after her operation! #thrivingonthreelegs



88 24 comments 2 shares

Remember lovely little Socks?! He was adopted from us in May and look how handsome he is and settled in his new home!
#TBT #throwbackthursday



61 6 comments 2 shares

Lovely girl Tilly has a viewing today!
#pawscrossed



64 8 comments 2 shares

Our Facebook page continues to go from strength to strength with over 1700 followers!

Our followers like to see posts for cats who need new homes and who are awaiting viewings. We get a lot of 'likes' for many of our cats!

Nike (now Marcel) had 86 likes when we announced his viewing had been successful.

Luna and Sylvia both needed operations to amputate a leg and their stories stole the hearts of many with over 80 likes each!

Tilly and Purdy spent a long time in our care so there was a lot of excitement when there viewings were announced with over 60 likes each.

Milly and Molly got their own Twitter hashtag (#proseccokittens) as posts about them were so popular! We continue to get posts from their family, one with 123 likes!

Lots of people liked Sock's original post so when his new family sent us some pictures, we included some of his time in care for a #throwbackthursday post which gained over 60 likes.

Our Facebook page is a great interactive way to communicate with all our followers and supporters. We can get messages out to people quickly and promote our events and campaigns. The Mature Moggies campaign in November 2017 was a great campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of adopting an older cat. Our Black Cat Day campaign is always really popular with many of our supporters sharing pictures of their black and black and white cats with us.

We really appreciate the time that all our followers take to like and share our posts and we would like to thank Catherine for her dedication to keeping up the updates to the page - it wouldn't be so successful without them!

Not sure they are many words to describe this!!!! Milly likes the Christmas Tree!!!

#proseccokittens #cheekymilly

Timandra Dyer



123 20 comments 10 shares

After 3 months in care, Purdy has a viewing on Tuesday!!!! Maybe it will be a very Happy New Year for her!!!
#everythingcrossed #atlast



62 21 comments 2 shares

And it was a YES for gorgeous Nike! He will go to his new home next weekend!
#happynewhomepuscat



86 6 comments 1 share

Woking Cats Protection
Posted by Catherine Orezzi
25 January · 🌐

And of course it was a yes for Luna!!!! She will join her new family on Saturday!!!!
#happynewhomepuscat



85 18 comments 1 share

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 www.wokingcats.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/gifts-in-wills

The postage for each of our newsletters is kindly donated by our generous supporters in memory of their beloved cats who have passed away. If you would like to have the next edition of this newsletter dedicated to the memory of your cat, you can make a donation of £100 to go towards the distribution costs of Felis Catus. Please contact info@wokingcats.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

Making OUR Cats Feel at HOME



Since 2012, the Pets at Home VIP Club has given us vouchers every 3 months. We can spend them in Pets at Home to buy food, toys bedding and vital bits for the cats in our care. Please nominate Woking Cats Protection when signing up for your VIP Card. For more information, visit www.vip.petsathome.com

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-TJJK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT. Please visit www.cats.org.uk/terms-privacy if you have any questions about how we use your data.

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