

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2016

HOORAY for the DIVAS! (Overlooked 15 update)

We are delighted to announce that finally, Angel and Muffet, the remaining two cats on our "Overlooked 15" Campaign have both found homes!

The campaign, launched last year to mark Cat Chat's 15th Anniversary, aimed to find homes for 15 of the most overlooked rescue cats across the country. All of the cats featured had been in rescue for over a year, and some, like Angel and Muffet for much longer.



Angel (from Thanet Cat Club, Kent) and Muffet (from Celia Hammond Animal Trust Sanctuary, East Sussex) both had very similar, temperaments; 'unpredictable' natures, not keen on other cats, sometimes seemingly not very keen on

people either(!) and both a bit handy with their claws on occasion – all in all, feisty Divas with plenty of 'cattitude'!

Muffet got her chance in March. First, the shelter arranged a 'home environment trial' for her, which went well, followed by lengthy chats with her potential adopter. Then, after a successful home visit – Muffet went to her new home... and everyone crossed their fingers!

It wasn't long before Muffet's new person contacted the shelter to say how well it was going and said: "... we have even had fussing

and purring and walking across laps!". A spokesperson at Celia Hammond sanctuary told us that Muffet "really seems to respond to being in an environment totally free of other felines!".

Not long after, Angel too was offered a home, having been seen on Cat Chat by a lovely lady whose elderly cat had sadly died. Angel's new 'mum' started by coming to visit her at the shelter, to begin the bonding process before taking her home. This can be a successful tactic with some cats, reducing any stress when they finally go to their new environment.

Angel went to her new home mid-April and reports so far are that she is settling in well. She is now the cat-in-charge of her very own bungalow, with her very own person who dotes on her, and later when she is allowed out, she will have a lovely big garden to explore. This will certainly be Angel's best summer for a long time, and we at Cat Chat are thrilled to have helped her on her way!



Congratulations to Muffet and to Angel – and all the other formerly 'Overlooked 15' cats - we wish you all long and happy new lives!

Cats with 'cattitude' in rescue can be the sweetest cats once in a regular home. When adopting, please consider the Diva's!

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES

Here are just a few of the cats that have been waiting in rescue shelters for over a year, for someone to take them home:



Pushka

Pushka at National Animal Welfare Trust - Heaven's Gate, Somerset.

Pushka is a 5 year old ginger and white chap who is looking for a pet free home. He is a little nervous, but once he gets to know you he is very nosy and likes to explore. Pushka would like an experienced owner, who will give him plenty of time and love.

Call: 01458 252656 or Email: hg.reception@nawt.org.uk

Magic at RSPCA Canterbury, Dover & District, East Kent.

Magic is a 4-year-old chap, who suffers with Cerebellar Hypoplasia which affects co-ordination and balance... not that Magic will let it stop him! He is looking for a childfree home with a secure garden. He has been waiting for a new home for over a year now. Find out more about 'CH' here: [Cerebellar Hypoplasia](#)
Call: 01227 719113 or Email: info@rspca-canterbury.org.uk



Magic



Jemima

Jemima at Kats Cradle, Coven, Wolverhampton.

Jemima is looking for a home where she will get plenty of attention and strokes. She is looking for a family home with older children only who will understand that she doesn't like to be picked up. Jemima is only a youngster and has already spent too much of her life at the rescue.

Call: 01902 791794 or Email: debbie@katscradlewv9.fsnet.co.uk

Timmy at Thingwall Cat Rescue, North Wirral, Merseyside

Timmy is 12 years young, a friendly and active chap, he is looking for a new home full of love and where he can become your best friend. He would prefer to be the only cat, but could share his home with a cat friendly dog.

Call: 01516 481905 or 07985 208902



Timmy

Cat Chat is committed to finding homes for 'harder to home' cats. Older cats, black cats, nervous cats, feral or farm cats and disabled cats are among those who sadly end up waiting months, or even years for a home. Could you adopt an Overlooked Cat?

Visit: www.catchat.org/overlooked



Give your old car new life this spring

Time for a spring clean?...
Don't forget about your old car!

Giveacar will collect your old vehicle and either sell in at auction or recycle it, donating the proceeds to Cat Chat. No hassle and free collection!



0207 736 4242

www.giveacar.co.uk

THE SOUTH NORMANTON TRIO

We were thrilled recently to hear the tale of how the desire to rehome one rescue kitten led to *three* lucky felines starting a new life in the care of a couple in Derbyshire.

Caring cat owner Leanne explained how, after visiting Burton Joyce Cat Welfare's Cat Chat page, a visit to the shelter with partner Mick led to the choosing of *Madame Luna*, a nine-month-old, short-haired black and white kitten. The pair then heard how *Madame Luna* had developed a close bond with a four-year-old, black cat, now called *Mini-Moo*, so the decision was made to adopt both.



Jessie

"*Madame Luna* hid under the sofa for a few days", said Leanne, but continues to grow in confidence and, though wary of people, is learning to trust her new human owners. *Mini-Moo* also hid for a few days, until she decided she liked her new humans and jumped on the sofa with Leanne and, soon after, went to Mick to lick and nibble his hand - and get a cuddle. Two became three when the kind couple became aware of *Oliver*, a fluffy tuxedo cat from the same shelter, thought to be about 10 and in a bit of a tatty state after being rescued from living rough. He was also suffering from stomach problems.



Madame Luna

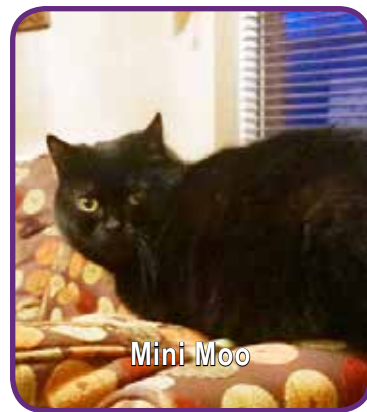
So after some discussion, Leanne and Mick also adopted *Oliver*. He arrived in their South Normanton flat a week later and, latest news is, that he is settling in well with the girls.

The trio are been kept indoors at first, until they get to know each other and their new surroundings. They will then have access to a large, enclosed yard and garden where they will be company for *Jessie*.

Jessie?? *Jessie* is the huge, fluffy, tuxedo cat already living with Leanne and Mick. At a regal 21-years-of-age, it is hoped he will be a calming influence on his younger housemates. As this story went to press, introductions were being planned and the youngsters were sniffing out the presence of *Jessie*. ...and he was returning the gesture.



Oliver



Mini Moo

Cat Chat sends very best wishes for the future to all involved, and chin tickles (for the cats of course!) Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, is based in Nottingham.

The group also offers help with trapping, neutering and managing feral colonies. They have a non-destruction policy, meaning that no healthy cat is ever destroyed. Cats over six months are neutered prior to homing. All are micro-chipped prior to leaving the rescue. Contact details, and cats seeking homes can be found here:

[Burton Joyce Cat Welfare - Cat Homing Page](#)

A Rough Diamond's Time to Shine!

Poor Monty was taken in by Kirkby Cats Home, Notts when his owners moved away and simply left him behind.

Earlier this year the shelter asked us to feature him on our Overlooked Cats section, as he had by that time been looking for a home for two years... and within just one week he had been spotted - he had finally found his forever home!

A spokesman at Kirkby said "Cat Chat does it again! We can't believe it, the 12 year old, not particularly pretty, toothless, grumpy old so and so has got a new home! Monty's

reaction to his new surroundings has been amazing, he loves his new people, adores his home and has had a complete personality transplant! All Monty needed was someone to give him a chance".

We are so pleased to have been able to help Montague find his forever home.



Monty

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Rescuers' Corner, featuring: City Cat Shelter, Brighton

Brighton's City Cat Shelter was established 24 years ago by Michael and Jane Tully. It is run from their home, and can house a maximum of around 30 adults and 20 kittens.

The shelter is staffed by volunteers, including the owners, who have been known to subsidise the funding from their own pockets. It relies completely on donations of money, food, litter etc. and fundraising, which reaches its peak in summer with bookstalls and car boot sales.

City Cat Shelter is also affiliated to Sussex Pet Rescue, who look after several animal charities in the area, and can sometimes offer booster funding.

As a no-kill shelter, there can be heavy vet bills to meet. However, it has a strong and loyal community on its Facebook page, and a recent appeal to help fund bills for one cat raised enough not just to treat her but a little bit over as well. The Facebook page is a big part of shelter life, with homeless cats often featured as Cat of the Day. A link to their Cat Chat page is always published whenever new cats are added.

City Cat Shelter's adoption package includes compulsory neutering and microchipping, the first year's injections, flea and worm treatment to date, and four weeks' insurance. Kittens that are too young to be neutered when homed are followed up when they reach the appropriate age. The shelter also offers assisted neutering for people on low incomes.

Strays in the city are trapped where appropriate and neutered before rehoming. The shelter rarely turns a cat away unless it really does not have the space.

City Cat Shelter carries out home checks for cats when delivered to a new home. The cat will not be left if the shelter has any concerns. Happily, this only happens once or twice a year – out of 200-300 successful homings.

Cats and kittens of all ages, colours, sizes and capabilities have been taken in and rehomed over the years. All are sent to their new homes with much love and luck from the City Cat Shelter team, with the knowledge that they have done their best for each and every one.

Many adoptive families have returned saying: "I homed a cat from you 15, 16, 17 years ago and she's just passed away. Could I adopt another?" And that is the biggest compliment to the shelter's work.

One of the cats currently at the shelter is ten-year-old Rosie. Like all torties, she knows her own mind, and has firm ideas about who she likes! If she does like you, you are well in, and she can be extremely affectionate. However, Rosie has a tendency to run away when visitors come to the shelter, so nobody sees her sweet side! She'd make a lovely companion for an older person, and may even like being an indoor cat if the rooms are large and light. She needs a home without other cats, dogs, or young children. Rosie has no known health issues, and eats well. Potential adopters outside the shelter's homing area will be asked to get a home visit certificate from an animal rescue in their area before coming to meet Rosie.



To offer Rosie a home or to contact City Cat Shelter, call **01273 606843**, email Lizzy (homing officer) caitlinskitten@gmail.com or Michael (proprietor) michael.tully508@ntlworld.com

More Cats Needing homes can be seen here:
City Cat Shelter - Cat Chat Homing Page:



GIZMO'S HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Gizmo is a 17 year old, healthy and very friendly chap. Due to his age, his rescuers at Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary in Newburgh, Fife were expecting to just find a long term foster home for him. Gizmo however had other plans... after being spotted on the Sanctuary's Cat Chat Homing Page, Gizmo landed on his paws, and was offered a permanent retirement home!

The rescue shelter said "Gizmo was lucky to be offered a new home by two lovely elderly sisters, and he is now living the life of luxury in a wonderful large house, where he is being spoilt rotten!" Gizmo's tale just goes to show that there really is a home out there for every cat!

Please don't overlook the oldies... You will be missing out on some of the most special cats, and those special cats will be missing out on the loving home they long for.

Read our [Top 10 Reasons to Adopt an Oldie](#)



The Meowbile Generation

These days just as many people view Cat Chat on mobile devices as on desktop computers, so we knew it was time to take the leap and go "responsive"! Responsive web pages are so called as they 'respond' to the size and shape of the user's device - so that they look great and handle well on both desktop computers as well as tablets and mobile phones.

We have been busily working away behind the scenes, to make this new design a reality. Apart from having a great new look, our pages will also be quicker to load. Here are some of the pages / sections that have been transformed so far:

Naturally, the Cat Chat Home Page (right) is now 'responsive' as well as our all-important Cat Homing Pages, plus the Overlooked Cats section, Homed Cats section, Forum and Shop. All our other pages are now being upgraded, one by one, as you read this!

Not only do Google recommend 'responsive' web pages as the best way to reach out to the increasing number of

mobile internet users, it also favours mobile-friendly sites when providing results for searches made on mobile devices. The big bonus for us will mean more site visitors - all potential cat adopters - and therefore more happily homed cats!



We've got lots more work to do yet, and will have an update for you in our next edition!

This Boy Won't Be Overshadowed!

At just 18 months old, Shadow was hit by a car... This handsome lad needed surgery to remove one of his back legs, and shortly after was taken in by Little Cottage Rescue, Luton, to complete his recuperation.

Once fully recovered, it was apparent that only having three legs was not going to slow down this mischievous young chap, who loved to play and run around in the garden.

In mid January we were asked to add Shadow to our Overlooked Cats section; as he hadn't had any homing offers despite appearing on the homing pages of both Little Cottage Rescue and Cat Welfare Luton, who had



joined forces to make sure that this little lad didn't spend a day longer than necessary in rescue.

We are delighted to report that after just two weeks on the Overlooked Cats section, Shadow was offered a loving new home.

His rescuers said *"Our wonderful three-legged boy has found a new home via Cat Chat. He also fell in love with a shy tabby girl while waiting for a new home and they were both homed together and are happy in their new home! He climbs the tree in the garden as if he had 4 legs and loves to chase his ball. He has brought his little girl on in leaps and bounds, and she now trusts her new family and always knows where to look if she is feeling a bit insecure: Shadow calms her and takes her under his wing and off they go into the sun to play"*

Cat Chat is proud to have been able to help Shadow - and his new friend - find their forever family. Please consider adopting a cat with a disability.

For information about adopting a disabled cat visit:

www.catchat.org/disabled_cats.html

Latest Cat Homing Pages

These are the latest rescue shelters to take up the offer of one of our free Cat Homing Pages:

- **Garston Animal Rescue**, Liverpool
- **Cats Protection** - West Fife
- **Twilight Cats** - Senior Cat Rescue, Evesham
- **Cats Protection** - Warrington Adoption Centre
- **Lilly's Legacy Cat Rescue and Rehoming**, Hackney
- **Cats Protection** - Torquay
- **Stokey Cats... and dogs**, Hackney
- **Cats Protection** - Grimsby & District
- **RSPCA** - Derby & District
- **Paddy Paws Cat Rescue**, Milton Keynes
- **RSPCA** - Northamptonshire
- **Second Chance Cat Rescue**, Biggar

We wish them all many happy homings!

Any rescue centre or rehoming group in the UK or Ireland with cats needing homes, can have a **free Cat Chat Homing Page**. All cats shown on these pages automatically appear on our regionally-targeted 'Cats Needing Homes' section.

The **Homing Pages** have recently been upgraded to our responsive web design, so they will look great from your desktop PC or mobile!



New in our Shop - Spring 2016

We have some super new toys for the special cat in your life, now on sale in the Cat Chat Webshop:

Rainbow Cat Tikkler

Plush tail, interactive wand toy for cats to pounce and chase. It's even got catnip inside!



Cosmic Refillable Wand Toys

These are great to stimulate natural hunting instincts and encourage healthy exercise. They include genuine Cosmic Catnip; the strongest, most aromatic catnip ever produced!



Yeowww! Stinkies

Contains 100% organically grown American catnip. These toys are made from heavy duty cotton. Safe, bright, quirky and fun!



Large Play Tunnel

Cats favourite - 1.3 metre long cat tunnel, in a classy red polka fabric, with dangling toys inside for extra play.



Every purchase from our web shop helps more cats out of shelters and into homes: www.catchat.org/shop

THANK YOU for your Support!

Support what we do? Please join 'Friends of Cat Chat'

If you love cats and want to help bring about more Happy Homings, please join us! Or if you know somebody with a birthday or anniversary coming up, why not give them something unique that really makes a difference?. Our 'Friends of Cat Chat' Supporters Scheme has exciting benefits for you, whilst helping more Cats out of Shelters... into Homes!



As a Friend of Cat Chat you will be first to receive our quarterly newsletters, plus you'll have automatic entry into our exclusive, quarterly 'Friends' prize draws. New Friends can also choose an Exclusive Welcome Gift and will receive an 'Adopt a Rescue Cat' car/window sticker when joining. But best of all, is the knowledge that YOU are helping more cats to find a home of their own.

Annual membership is just £10! All Friends of Cat Chat as at 30.06.16 will be entered into the current prize draw.

Our Friends of Cat Chat supporters scheme is vital to ensure the 'Rehoming Lifeline' that we offer to shelters and rescue groups across the UK and Ireland. Full details of the draw, our welcome gifts, and how to join here: www.catchat.org/friends.html

On behalf of all the cats who have found a new home, and a new future through Cat Chat, we would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to those of you who support us by being a Friend.



Josie's Story

by Crescent Cat Rescue, Tendring, Essex

Josie first came into rescue in May 2014. She was found abandoned in marshland with her brother Josh. They were about 10 weeks old very thin and full of fleas. After much TLC Josh was homed first as he was a very attractive grey fluffy cat, and after a while Josie was homed too. She went to a lovely family who had another cat and a dog and she settled in well.

As Josie got older, it became apparent that she had a problem with one of her knee joints on her front leg. This was quickly diagnosed as a congenital problem, where her kneecap had popped out of position and needed to be pinned to keep it in place. She soon recovered from her surgery and was back to her usual mobile self. However her family felt that their very lively dog who liked to play chase with her was just too much for her wellbeing, and after a lot of soul searching she was very sadly surrendered back to the rescue.

Unfortunately, Josie was returned to us during last year's kitten season, and as a result got overlooked like many other adult cats at this time. We displayed her on the Overlooked Cats

section of Cat Chat, and very soon a lovely family came to view her and fell in love! Subsequently Josie was rehomed again in the countryside, and has settled in well. Her new family are fully aware of her knee problem, but felt that they could offer her just the home she needed.

See Cats for Adoption in your area here » [Cats Needing Homes](#)



Now Serving Cat And Country!

It is with great pride and happiness that we extend a welcoming paw to our newest volunteer, Katie. As our latest comrade in the cat basket, Katie joins Marina in administrating our Rehoming Roll of Honour. Thanks Katie, and good luck in your new role.

To see Katie and Marina's handiwork (and to read about the latest lovely cat homing news!) visit our Cats Homed 'Roll of Honour' - click below and enjoy!

www.catchat.org/homed-cats

So Spring has well and truly sprung! Seems like a good time for a reminder that Lilies are toxic to cats, so keep them out of feline-friendly homes and gardens. That's it for this edition. We hope you and your furry companions enjoy the warmer weather and lighter evenings. More feelgood feline news next time. TTFN!