

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2016

A SHINING EXAMPLE!

Adult cats come into rescue shelters for a wide variety of reasons. In this particular case the reason is sadly all too common... An elderly cat owner passed away, leaving their much loved pets with nowhere else to go:

We were contacted by Tails Cat Rescue Northwich, in Cheshire, who told us about the two 13 year old boys Felos and Barney, and asked for them to be featured on our Overlooked Cat section. They told us "Barney (AKA Barney, if there is food involved in the conversation!) is a gregarious character who especially enjoys sunbathing in flower beds! Felos (which means friend in Greek!) is a very affectionate boy once he gets to know you, who enjoys sleeping on laps and sofas".



Barney

Cat rescue centres agree that older cats are harder to rehome than kittens, because a lot of adoptors are thinking about cuteness rather than companionship. The plight of the older cat is even worse in summer when there are thousands more kittens available, and loving Senior Cats are left behind, waiting... and waiting...

It took almost 6 months, but a wonderful couple eventually spotted Felos and Barney on Cat Chat, sending a most wonderful enquiry to the rescue shelter: "We are interested in taking on Felos and Barney. We have just lost our much loved 19 and 16 year old cats and want to offer a home to cats who may be "overlooked". If they have already been rehomed, please keep us in mind for similarly overlooked cats who would thrive in a safe, warm environment".



Felos

We are sure you will agree, stories of selfless kindness such as this, really do warm your heart. This particular story also filled the hearts of two older cats with happiness as they went off to their new home. And what a home! Lovely gardens and constant company, where they can really enjoy the rest of their days.

Everyone knows kittens are adorable, irresistible etc, but they don't stay like that for long! Before deciding on what kind of cat to adopt, please consider giving a home to a Mature Moggie! Ask your [local rescue shelter](#) about their Older Cats in need of homes.

[Read our Top 10 Reasons to Adopt an Older Cat »](#)

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:



Missy

Missy at Peterborough Cat Rescue, Cambridgeshire

Missy is 6 years old, and has sadly already been rehomed a few times due to owners circumstances. Because of this she can be a little nervous at times, and so requires a peaceful home with no other cats, dogs or children, where she can be content at last.

Tel: 07502 134006 or Email: peterboroughcatrescue@gmail.com

Olive at Feline Network, Devon.

Olive was found as a stray in Plymouth, and is being fostered in Wells, Somerset. She is around 8 years old (but is a young 8!). Olive seeks a home with a secure garden, away from busy roads. She has a healthy appetite for ham & turkey, and good quality dry food. Olive will make a great feline companion.

Tel: 01803 392550 / 07948 624512 or Email: tabby.cat@blueyonder.co.uk



Olive

Parsley at National Animal Welfare Trust - Thurrock, Essex

Parsley is a shy but incredibly sweet male, age 1 year. He has recently gained in confidence and is a gentle, very good natured cat who loves to play. Parsley arrived at the rescue at 2 weeks of age, and 14 months later is still waiting, probably just because he is black with white, and shy.

Tel: 01375 376682 or Email: brian.gloria@virginmedia.com



Parsley



Nalah

Nalah at Helping Pets (North-East), Tyne & Wear

Eleven year old Nalah is shy at first, but easily brought round and is super-affectionate! She is a gentle, sweet-natured fuss-loving cat who doesn't like young cats, but with the right introduction can live with another cat of similar age and temperament.

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

Milly at Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Fife

Little Milly was rescued in a poor state, but thanks to the TLC of her rescuers, is now ready for a new home. She needs a home with an experienced owner, with no other cats or dogs. If the new owner lives locally and has transport, any vets bills will be covered by Whinnybank (through their own vets in Newburgh).

Tel: 01382 330457



Milly



Prince

Prince at Kingsdown Cat Sanctuary, East Kent

Having been rescued as a stray, 2 - 3 year old Prince has now been blood tested, neutered and chipped and so is ready to pack his cases and leave the shelter. He is very shy to start with but when he trusts you, he is friendly. He would suit a family with older children, and a house with a garden.

Tel: 01304 363071 or Email: purrusrus@talktalk.net

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 often end up waiting months, or even years for a home. Could you adopt an Overlooked Cat? Please Visit: www.catchat.org/overlooked

Cat Chat going Meowbile Summer Update!

Since our last newsletter, our web development team have been "heads down, tails up" busily upgrading more of the Cat Chat website to our new mobile friendly design. This new design means that pages will load quicker and display better on multiple devices, and will also improve our search rankings - bringing in more visitors - and getting more cats adopted!

Most of our 'Advice & Information' pages have now been upgraded to be mobile friendly. As this newsletter went to press we have just started work on our 70-page rescue centre listings section, which details cat rescue and

rehoming centres across the UK & Ireland. That should keep us out of mischief for a bit!

Below are a few of the latest pages to be upgraded. We hope you like them:

Adopt a Black Cat (including our Top 10 Reasons to adopt a black cat)

Neuter / Spay your Cat (including Low Cost neutering options)

Adopting / Living with a Disabled Cat

Cat Fostering - could You Foster?

Kittens - Why to Rescue, and not Buy

Thank you to... Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

We are very grateful to the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust who recently awarded Cat Chat a grant to purchase a new laptop computer and updated software. It is a much needed replacement for a very old machine, and will certainly be well used!



FROM POORLY TO PAMPERED

Smokey arrived at National Animal Welfare Trust – Thurrock one Sunday morning; having been spotted, apparently lost and alone by the Cat Homing Officer. Staff at the shelter said “Smokey was in a bad condition, biting and scratching at herself as a result of fleas, and had sores on her body, legs and paws, along with a very matted coat. Smokey was checked for a microchip; but sadly, and is often the case, she didn't have one. She visited the vet, who treated her for fleas and worms and prescribed antibiotics for her wounds. Despite all she had been through, Smokey still craved human attention, and thanks to all the love she received at the cattery from both staff and visitors, she made great progress.”



Smokey - now Sophie

As soon as Smokey was well enough to start her search for a new home she was added to [the Trust's Cat Chat Homing Page](#). A couple got in touch with the rescue to ask about a different cat they had seen on Cat Chat, but when they visited the cattery, they spotted Smokey and fell in love with her instantly.

One month later and settled in her new home, Smokey (now Sophie) is being loved, spoilt and kept in tip-top condition.

A new start and a new name - congratulations Sophie!

Super Smithy... (and why pet owners should make a Will)

While it is often said that cats have nine lives, we humans have just one. Making a will may not be a pleasant subject to tackle, but it brings peace of mind. It is also the best way to ensure a secure future for your beloved pets.

Take the story of Smithy for example, who through no fault of his own, found himself alone in the world – twice! Smithy's owner had died, and a neighbour had reported that Smithy had stopped eating so he was taken to a vet to be put to sleep. Thankfully, the healthy six-year-old was instead taken to Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue in Bucks. A chip scan revealed that Smithy had actually been registered to a previous owner, who had also passed away. Smithy had seen two owners die in six short years, but thankfully his story has

a happy ending.

Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue found that Smithy would eat if someone sat with him and gave him encouragement. He just needed some fuss and TLC. He turned out to be a lovely cat, friendly, affectionate and quite laid back. He settled into life in his pen really well - happily sitting out in the sunshine, watching the birds in the garden.

Fate smiled on Smithy one day,

when a young couple looking for an adult cat spotted his details on [Marjorie Nash Rescue's Cat Chat homing page](#), and arranged to meet him. They wanted a cat that would be happy to do his own thing whilst they were out at work, but who would enjoy some quality time at evenings and weekends. Smithy, being so laid back and undemanding fit the bill



perfectly! He even turned on the charm when they came to see him, rolling on his back at their feet... The deal was done!

Smithy has since settled into his new home well, and is used to his new routine. The new owners report: “*Smithy is such a sociable fella, always wanting to be close by wherever we are in the house. We love having him and it's lovely to be greeted by him when we come home.*”

If you have pets, don't put off making a will, no matter what your age.

A will ensures that your family, friends and loved ones (human and animal) are provided for, and the causes you support are remembered after you die.

Find out about making a will, and how to make provision for your pets here:

[Wills, Pets and Legacies](#)

Cat 'dumped' in a Wheelie Bin has lucky escape when discovered by family

Sadly, the above is an actual headline, featured in a Birmingham newspaper earlier this year. Cat Chat Reporter Bryan takes up the story:

Ten year old Madame Cholet was indeed found in a wheelie bin, when thankfully passers by heard her meowing. Obviously she was quite distressed when she arrived at Cramar Cat Rescue & Sanctuary in Birmingham. But in spite of it all, she was friendly, had a great appetite and a very loud purr!

Attempts to find her original owner using press and social media failed, and unfortunately she was not microchipped. So Madame Cholet was put up for adoption, in the hope of finding the loving home she deserved. She was then adopted, but her first new beginning ended within just 24 hours as the adopter felt that she did not get on with the resident cat, so - sadly - she went back to Cramar.

It seemed that the friendly black cat was out of luck...

It's always harder to rehome older cats, especially black ones, so Madame Cholet was placed on Cat Chat's 'Overlooked Cats' section - this time to find a home as an only cat - to maximise her chances of being seen.

In March, a family with three young children spotted her on the site and reserved her. After the usual home check, the advice from staff at Cramar was that she would be fine with a young family. It was stressed that she would need plenty of time to settle in, and that Cramar staff were always there for back up and support. Madame Cholet went to her second - and thankfully - 'forever' home early in April, and the family is

delighted with her!

It took her a couple of weeks to settle. Initially she spent most of her time in the spare room, but her family were very patient, allowed her plenty of time and space, and as her confidence increased, she slowly started to explore the house.

Her new human Mum says that, while settling in, she was always friendly and affectionate with the family, but seemed to be scared of the house - she feels that it was the new environment that took time to get used to, rather than her new family.

She's settled in well now, and is very tolerant with the children who love her.

Now known as Elsa, she enjoys spending time in the garden... although she doesn't go far. Most nights she sleeps on the younger son's bed, who strokes her as he falls asleep. It really does sound like a perfect match!



Madame Cholet

Cramar Cat Rescue & Sanctuary, Redditch Road, Hopwood, Birmingham is open for cat viewing 11.00am-2.00pm daily.

See some of Cramar's cats for adoption here:

[Cramar Cat Rescue & Sanctuary - Homing Page](#)

Latest Cat Homing Pages

Big, furry welcome headbumps to the following rescue centres, who now have one of our free cat homing pages:

- **Cats Protection - Mitcham Adoption Centre, London**
- **Cats Protection - Downham Market Cat Adoption Centre, Norfolk**
- **Phibsboro Cat Rescue, Dublin**
- **Redditch Cat Rescue, Worcestershire**
- **Paddy Paws MK, Buckinghamshire**
- **Cats In Distress, Somerset**

All cats who are uploaded to our homing pages automatically appear on our well-visited Cats Needing Homes section:

www.catchat.org/shelter_centre

Any cat rescue centres or rehoming groups reading this, who would like a free page to feature your cats needing homes, visit www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page



NERVOUS CATS NEED LOVE TOO!

Dandelion from Rolvenden Cat Rescue in Kent, and his daughter Pansy had been featured on our Overlooked Cats section for well over a year. They were both very shy around people, and therefore were constantly overlooked by potential adopters. Rolvenden Cat Rescue decided to pair Dandelion up with his son Arabis to see if they had more chance of finding a home together, and then to rehome Pansy separately... This decision turned out to be a good call!

Dandelion and Arabis were finally spotted within a couple of weeks of being paired up. When their new human visited the shelter, they also fell in love with a nervous cat called Neville, and adopted all three! The rescue shelter staff said, "Brilliant news - the change of partnership worked and through Cat Chat, Dandelion and Arabis went to their new home yesterday, along with Neville. They are still a little shy, but it's still early days. Fantastic result!"

Dandelion and Arabis' new human says, "Dandelion is a lovely laid-back cat, and Arabis is into everything! He loves his Dad, and makes a great fuss of him. Arabis also makes a fuss of our nervous cat Neville (when Neville decides to come out from under the sofa!). Neville came out from his hidey-hole for a few minutes last night and rolled over on his back, but soon went back under cover. He is a beautiful boy and I hope he soon finds some courage to come out for good. It will just take a bit



longer with him, but I look forward to the day he decides I am not really frightening!"

Cat Chat is so pleased to have helped find a home for these shy cats. Please consider rehoming a shy cat... They often get passed by because they aren't confident enough to come to the front, but earning their trust in a loving home is incredibly rewarding.

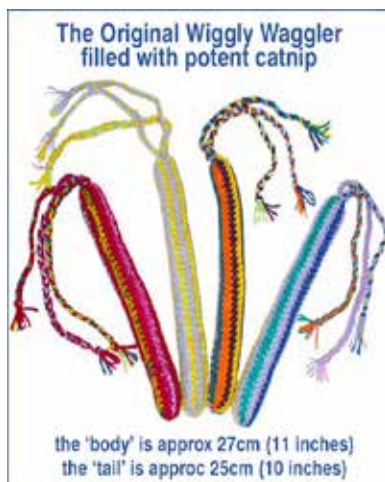
Pansy is still looking for her perfect home. You can find her, and many more timid cats, on our Overlooked Cats section:

www.catchat.org/overlooked/

WIGGLY WAGGLER Catnip Toy - BEST SELLER!

WIGGLY WAGGLER Multi coloured Catnip Toy

If your cat doesn't yet have a Wiggly Wagglers, he or she is missing out on some major fun. Not to mention, all the exercise they get from grabbing, wrestling, 'bunny-kicking' and rolling! With the obvious added pleasure of most felines' favourite recreational substance - catnip- this toy has it all!



The body of the Wiggly Wagglers is approximately 27cm long and has potent catnip within the stuffing. There are three plaited tails at one end for added chasability. Wagglers are made with double thickness, double knitting wool - virtually indestructible. Wagglers are great for interactive

fun, but equally exciting for cats to play with by themselves. The Original Wagglers come in a variety of bright multi-colours (see below left).

Limited Edition BLACK WIGGLY WAGGLER Catnip Toy!

We also have some limited edition plain **Black Wagglers** - great for style conscious cats, or for boy cats who think the multi-coloured ones are for sissies! (black Wagglers are exclusive to the Cat Chat webshop - while stocks last!)

Currently over 8,000 rescued cats and kittens annually, find a new home via Cat Chat. Every purchase from our Online shop helps more cats out of shelters and into homes. *Treat your cat - and yourself today...*

www.catchat.org/shop



Rescuers' Corner featuring CatChums Cat Rescue, Norwich

CatChums Cat Rescue is a charitable organisation currently run by three trustees with helpers and volunteers for fundraising, plus lots of 'cat friends', especially on social media.

Covering the Norwich area, the team aim to find good homes for cats in need, supporting, encouraging and carrying out cat neutering and improving people's understanding of cats and their care.

In 2009, five people came together while fundraising for a national animal charity and decided to start their own rescue group. In June 2010 CatChums was born. In the first two years CatChums rescued, treated and rehomed well over 100 felines!

In 2013 the team applied for grants and were able to build more pens, and refurbish an outbuilding in the garden of the main fosterer which now houses up to 10 cats in modern and comfortable conditions, and includes outside spaces for exercise. That year CatChums rescued and re-homed 160 cats and kittens.



In 2014 another grant saw the purchase of a mobile building that was fitted out with another seven cat pens. In 2015 CatChums proudly rehomed its 700th cat. The rescue is well on the way to safely rehoming its 1000th cat by the end of 2016.

Property checks and follow-

ups for new adoptions aim to make sure the cats are happy in their new home. An adoption package includes neutering (kittens too young for neutering before adoption, are followed up at the appropriate age), microchipping, the first year's vaccinations, flea and worm treatment, four weeks free insurance and advice about letting them outside for the first time and feeding.

Each year a full programme of fundraising includes weekend collections at CatChum's partner Pets at Home Store. Through 'Support Adoption for Pets', the store also raises funds and provides a food bin for donations of cat food.

Special Appeal for Fergus

Fergus was born at CatChums in April 2012. He was initially seen as a healthy kitten, but it was soon discovered that he had a deformed back leg and then that he had problems using the litter tray. Despite news that he might not be able to walk, the staff at CatChums decided to give him more time and, within a few weeks, he was walking, albeit with a rather odd gait. Scans and x-rays revealed Fergus also had spinal nerve damage, some of his organs were in the wrong place, and he was doubly incontinent.

Four years on and Fergus has become a bit of a mascot for CatChums. He is the most loving gentle boy, the most popular cat with visitors to the cattery. He has never been up for rehoming, as he would need a specialist home, like a 'Cateo' built onto a house, but CatChums would be delighted if someone was willing.

For more information on adopting a cat from CatChums, visit their [Cat Homing Page](#)

Now Serving Cat and Country!

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our latest recruit Fran, who has kindly volunteered her services to maintain and develop our [Useful Links](#) section.

This section links to various useful animal welfare websites, plus resources for pet behaviour, pet health and care and more, plus a growing directory of links to animal rescue facilities helping all animals, not just cats.

Our links section has recently been upgraded to our new mobile friendly design, so we are delighted to have someone on board to develop it even further. We are sure Fran is up to the challenge!

Thanks Fran, and good luck with your mission!

A Warning about indoor 'Cat Trees'

If you have an indoor cat climbing tree, please keep a check on the condition of the fabric which covers the hiding boxes/caverns.

If the fabric becomes worn, and you notice small fibres coming away, please check the material for signs of fraying or holes. When the fibres have fallen away, it can lead to tight strands of cotton. A kitten playing inside the box can easily push their head through these strands, and may be unable to free themselves. Very sadly we recently heard of a kitten having died as a result of strangulation in this way.

Please check your indoor cat tree regularly, and remove any worn or damaged fabric.

MDC – Advice, plus an Exclusive Offer to Cat Chat Members!

MDC are delighted to be a sponsor of **Cat Chat**. Along with our support to towards this valuable resource, we'd also like animal rescue organisations to know that we are always available to provide help and advice to anyone involved in cat trapping - capturing injured or needy cats, TNR, or other important welfare work. In this edition we're sharing a few top tips and offering rescuers an introductory deal on our range of traps and baskets.

Trapping Tips:

- Know in advance how you are going to transfer, transport, treat and accommodate the cat once it's caught. This may seem obvious but you'd be amazed at how many people expect cats to fit in with a 9 to 5 working week!
- Practice using the trap and transfer technique before using them in the field. In many cases you will only get one opportunity to trap a cat. Don't let your mistake be the cat's misfortune.
- Take the time to understand the characteristics and behaviour of the cat you are aiming to catch. Talking to locals or anyone feeding the cat will help you to learn it's particular habits and routine.
- Find out who and what else shares the environment. This information will help form your decision whether to use a manual or self-activating trap and when noise and distraction will be minimal.
- Make sure the trap is placed on ground that is flat and level with a good margin of cover around the sides and back of the trap making it impossible for the cat to get at the bait without entering the trap.
- Covering the trap can help encourage the cat to enter and will provide it with protection from the elements.
- Position the trap where the cat is known to source food. Bait the unset trap and allow the cat to eat from the trap (uninterrupted) over a period of several days.
- Self-activating traps should be checked every two hours. This avoids having the cat held captive too long and also provides an opportunity to check that the trap has not be accidentally sprung or interfered with.



Our Exclusive Offer to Cat Chat Members:

MDC have worked closely with animal rescue and rehoming organisations for 50 years. As we celebrate this important anniversary year, we would like to offer **Cat Chat** members an exclusive deal of 10% off our entire range of traps and baskets. Please call 01582 655 600 and quote **CCAautumn2016** so that we know to apply your special discount (whilst stocks last).

Cat Chat would like to thank MDC for sponsoring the following pages:

www.catchat.org/index.php/shelters/shelters-help

www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page

www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page-tips

You can find out more about MDC on their website:

www.mdcexports.co.uk



MDC

Smart Vets use Smart Products™

Jasper And Jurek Welcomed Into New Home With A Hilife Hamper!

Of course, we are always happy when a rescue cat finds their forever home – and it is particularly rewarding when it is one of our overlooked cats.

If you're a regular visitor to Cat Chat you'll know that we have a section dedicated to cats who need a little more help finding a loving family. It might be because they are elderly, shy, or suffering from a disability or illness.

We are therefore delighted to let you know about two older cats who have been adopted after being seen on our website.

After being cared for at Stokey Cats and Dogs in London, Jasper (10) and 14-year-old Jurek have found a new lease of life with their owner. They have also received a welcome hamper from pet food company HiLife, which sponsors the **overlooked cats** section.

Peter Parkinson, from HiLife, told us: "We have always been proud to support Cat Chat and it's great to hear about all the cats who are re-homed through the website. The story of Jasper and Jurek was very touching so we wanted to send them a few treats to enjoy in their new home."

Jasper, a black cat with kidney disease, had been given to another charity to be put down when Stokey Cats and Dogs stepped in to find a foster home for him. He was not micro-chipped so his owner could not be traced and his age meant that his chances of being re-homed were slim.



However, Stokey Cats and Dogs never refuse an older or sick cat so they took him in. According to staff and volunteers, Jasper is a very playful cat and if you did not know about his health issues, you would not even know he was ill.

Loving Jasper, who likes nothing more than a good cuddle, was added to Cat Chat's overlooked cats section in March and after being spotted by an adopter, he moved into his new home and settled down in no time at all.

Jurek suffers from hyperthyroidism, which can result in weight loss and increased heart rate. He was taken to Stokey Cats and Dogs because his family was not allowed to keep pets in their new accommodation.

Those who meet Jurek say that he is an easy-going, curious cat who enjoys cat milk and snuggling down on a pillow in his wicker basket. Given his age and health condition, which is managed with daily medication, he was considered difficult to re-home so he too was placed in the overlooked cats section.

All he needed was a quiet home where he could sit and watch the world go by, with a warm cuddle every now and then. Luckily it wasn't long before he found it.



A few weeks after Jasper was adopted, his new owner contacted Stokey Cats and Dogs to find out if she could adopt Jurek too. She knew that both cats had had been together in their foster home so wanted to make sure they remained close companions in their later years.

Ella, from Stokey Cats and Dogs, said: "I can't say how happy I am for both cats being re-homed regardless of their age and health issues. I am extremely happy they were re-homed together and can keep each other company. Thank you so much for featuring Jasper and Jurek (now re-named Edmund) on your web page. Thanks to you they have a wonderful home now."

Note from Cat Chat:

We were so pleased about these two being homed together, particularly as both are older cats. Black and black and white cats tend to be overlooked so these boys really landed on their paws. Sadly however, we heard that Edmund (formerly Jurek) has very recently passed away. Our sincere condolences to his adopter, who really misses her "little black and white man", but is pleased to have made his last months happy ones.

HiLife cat food is available from supermarkets, including Tesco, Asda, Waitrose, Ocado and Morrisons. It can also be bought online at www.hilifepet.co.uk. Cat lovers can find out the latest news on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/hilifecat and Twitter @HiLifeCat.



Well that's all for this time... We hope you have enjoyed our Summer Newsletter! There are lots of ways to stay in touch with us until next time, including Facebook, Twitter and our friendly Feline Forum - details on our website. We hope you and your pets stay cool and enjoy the rest of the summer. Toodle-pip!