

# Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource  
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



**CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • AUTUMN 2016**

## FROM RESCUE CAT TO RAILWAY CAT

Percy (formerly known as Troy) was 3 years old when he arrived at Mitzi's Kitty Corner, Totnes as a stray. The rescue shelter added him to their Cat Chat Homing Page in July, and he was also featured on our Overlooked Cats section. Then, in early August, Troy was offered a home... and a job!

Following a successful interview, Troy secured the coveted position of resident station cat at Okehampton

Station on the Dartmoor Railway. A spokesman for the shelter told us "He was chosen especially because he was 'overlooked', and has settled fabulously well!" Now renamed Percy, he has his own quarters in their historic signal box, and spends his days greeting travellers and making sure the station is running smoothly. He has become quite a celebrity too; he even has his own fan club and Facebook page: [Percy's Facebook Page](#)

Percy's story proves that black cats are not only great companions with smart 'uniforms', but can make excellent employees too!



Percy



See more 'Cool Cats' for adoption at [Mitzi's Kitty Corner](#)

## A THOUGHT FOR THE BLACK CAT

Black cats do seem to get unwarranted negative publicity this time of the year, with Halloween conjuring up images of dark skies, a rising moon, witches on broomsticks, glowing pumpkins... and black cats. Perhaps the old association with witchcraft may be one of the reasons black cats are among the hardest to rehome, as well as many people passing them by in favour of 'prettier' cats.

However, there is plenty of positive superstition in favour of the black cat too. In Britain, Scotland and Japan, a black cat crossing



your path, or even if you dream of a black cat, is said to bring you good luck. A black cat's presence has been credited with bringing about show-stopping performances in theatres. And, in Scotland, finding black kittens sitting in your

porch is said to be a sign of riches, and happiness to come...

We think we have an altogether better idea - forget superstition, black cats are just as lovely as any other. Although adopting one could well be a sign of happiness to come - for you and for them!

**Read our Top 10 reasons to Adopt a Black Cat here:**

[www.catchat.org/index.php/adopt-lucky-black-cat](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/adopt-lucky-black-cat)

## The Miracle before Christmas!

As told to Cat Chat by Lizzy at City Cat Shelter, Brighton...

Sylvester arrived at City Cat Shelter in June 2015, sad, confused and angry. He'd been given up due to his owner's illness, but it soon became obvious that he was himself poorly with a raging urine infection. He soon got over this, but continued to trust no one, and lay in his basket growling constantly and lashing out at anyone - cat or human - who came

near. For months he refused to interact, just eating and sleeping.

I wouldn't give up trying though, and eventually he consented to touch my hand with his nose. I wrote

a special post for this handsome boy and added him to our Cat Chat homing page. Then one day, a phone call came from someone wanting to meet Sylvester, after seeing his write up.

I made a short video, (during which he whacked my phone out of my hand three times!) and took it along to the home visit. Despite seeing Sylvester at his worst, the lady was still interested, and a few days after her visit to meet him, we got him in a basket (without any blood being shed, thankfully!) and put him in the car. I put a finger through the basket and whispered to him, and was rewarded with my first ever tentative head butt! That was worth every scratch and bite.

On arrival at the house Sylvester hopped out of the basket and wandered off... we held our collective breaths... and finally, he returned with his tail up, rubbed around our legs, and then started purring!

I was in tears watching him, it was as if he was coming back to life. We stayed a while longer watching this miracle unfolding, then left with the empty basket.

The latest report is that he's settled beautifully, he's "extremely polite" in requesting food or a clean litter tray, he sleeps on the lady's bed and has also sat on her lap!

We are thrilled that someone wanted to take a chance on him, and wanted you to publish his story to give hope to other shelters who might have cats like him. Never give up on a cat, as there really is a cat for every home, and a home for every cat. Sylvester is our very own Christmas miracle!!

We at Cat Chat are delighted to have had a hand in Sylvester's change of fortune, and wish him a very happy Christmas in his new home, and many more to come!

To see the current cats waiting for homes at City Cat Shelter, Brighton, visit their Cat Chat homing page:

[City Cat Shelter's Homing Page](#)



Sylvester  
(at the shelter)



Sylvester  
(in his new home)



## Light at the End of a Two Year Tunnel

Babe from [Neutering4paws](#) in Wigan, Lancashire who featured on the rescue shelter's Cat Chat homing page, was described as being "initially quite shy" and in need of "a quiet home - where she will be given time to adjust to her new surroundings".

Babe was playful and sociable with other cats, but her shyness meant she had been overlooked time and again. She also needed an indoor home as she had never been outside. Neutering4paws were looking for someone special to give Babe the time and patience she needed.

The great news is that Babe has finally got her fur-ever home... Cat Chat was delighted to receive the following

message from Neutering4paws:

*"It's a very big thank you for helping us home Babe, who had been in our care for two years. No one had come to see her although she was a loving cat. She was shy and this put people off but, thankfully, a couple have given Babe a chance along with Pringle, another indoor cat we had in our care.*

*"Both Babe and Pringle have been in their new home for several weeks and have settled in really well. This has made our little rescue shelter's year!"*

*Babe (right) relaxing in her new home!*



## Supporters Corner featuring: Kitty Collars

Kitty Collars has been selling safe cat collars and sponsoring Cat Chat since 2004.

In 1997, our quiet house became chaos when we adopted 9 week old black and white kittens Flo and Rosie. They were joined in 2012 by precocious young Timmy and last year by huge Teddy.

Our cat Flo gets the credit for starting Kitty Collars. One day in 2004 she hobbled through the cat flap with her front leg caught up in her elasticated collar. We were very concerned,

but thought it was a one-off. When it happened again, we looked into it further, learned of the potential dangers of elasticated collars, and decided to seek out a safer alternative. And Kitty Collars was born.

Our speciality is personalised cat collars where we print your phone number directly on the collar. Even if your cat is microchipped (which we

strongly recommend), a personalised collar means you can be contacted sooner if your cat gets lost or injured.



We are proud to be a sponsor of Cat Chat and so impressed with all the work that the team does.

Visit us here: [www.kittycollars.co.uk](http://www.kittycollars.co.uk)  
Sponsors of Cat Chat's [Shelter Listings](#)



personalised reflective cat collars from [www.kittycollars.co.uk](http://www.kittycollars.co.uk)



personalised soft cat collars from [www.kittycollars.co.uk](http://www.kittycollars.co.uk)

## Cats Needing Homes

Right now, there are thousands of amazing and unique cats in rescue centres around the UK and Ireland, waiting for someone to offer them a new life.

Our Cats Needing Homes section currently features over 3,000 cats and kittens awaiting adoption. If you could offer a rescue cat a new future, please select your area from the menu here: [www.catchat.org/shelter\\_centre](http://www.catchat.org/shelter_centre)

Also, if you run a Cat Rescue group and would like to feature your cats for rehoming on this section, ask us for a free Cat Homing Page - full details here:

[www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page)

These are the latest cat rescue organisations to have a Cat Homing Page:

Leeds Cat Rescue (LCR), West Yorks • Hope for Cats Rescue & Rehoming, Billericay, Essex • Friends of the Animals RCT, South Wales • Spotty Dog Cat Rescue, Spalding, Lincs. • Feline Friends London, Hackney • Blue Cross Rolleston Rehoming Centre, Burton-Upon-Trent, Staffs • All for The Love of Paws, West Bromwich, West Mids

We'd like to wish Rescuers and Adopters 'Many Happy Homings'... Together we can help even more cats out of shelters into homes!



## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES

These fine felines have been waiting in rescue shelters for over a year for someone to come along and adopt them. If you or anyone you know lives in any of these areas, and are thinking of adopting a rescue cat, please consider one of these little guys... they've waited long enough!



Pepper

### Pepper at Independent Cat Rescue, Dewsbury, West Yorks.

Pretty Pepper is 5 years old, and has been waiting approximately two years for her forever home. Pepper is a very friendly girl, and would like a quiet home with a garden. She would be especially suitable for a mature couple, or someone who lives alone.

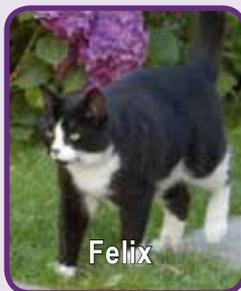
Call: 01924 500 138 or

Email [elaine.pendle@ntlworld.com](mailto:elaine.pendle@ntlworld.com)

### Felix at Cat Action Trust - West Wales (Carmarthenshire)

Felix was rescued from a derelict house where she was trying to care for her kitten. Since then she has blossomed into a friendly girl, although she will need a little time to learn to trust her new humans. She is a confident girl, who enjoys the outdoors. She would like to be your only cat please.

Call 01994 205020 or Email [catcarmarthen@btinternet.com](mailto:catcarmarthen@btinternet.com)



Felix



Ruby

### Ruby & Fudge at Thingwall Cat Rescue, Merseyside

This Mother & Son (aged 3 and 2) are very gentle, affectionate cats. They have lots of energy and would be happy living with children and other cats but no dogs. Their ideal home would enable them to have access to outdoors. They both love their cuddles too!

Call 01516 481905 or 07985 208902



Fudge



### Pansy & Buttercup at Lincs Ark Animal Welfare, Boston, Lincs.

This striking pair of 1-year old brindle-tortie sisters are seeking a home together. They get on very well, and love playing, chasing butterflies, climbing trees and rolling around at someones feet! They'd like access to outdoors, and can live with other cats, but don't have experience with children or dogs.

Call 07960 182728 or

Email [lincsarkcharity@gmail.com](mailto:lincsarkcharity@gmail.com)



Nalah

### Cat Keeley at Pet Rehome, Bolton, Lancs.

Cat Keeley is a young cat who through no fault of her own has spent most of her life at the rescue shelter. She is desperately seeking a home with an experienced cat person to show her some kindness and patience while she settles in. At just two years old, she would like the chance of a long life in a happy home.

Call: 01204 304679 or

Email: [kathy@petrehome.org](mailto:kathy@petrehome.org)



Cat Keely



Tamsin

### Tamsin, James, Lesley & Cilla at Celia Hammond Animal Trust, Lewisham, London, South East

Presenting three 1-year-old siblings, and their best friend Cilla: These cats had no human contact for the first six months of their lives and are still wary of humans. They will however be friends with their new human in time (and will certainly keep down the rodent population!). They will suit life in a dry shelter such as a tack room or hay barn or as garden cats.

Call: 0208 694 6545 or Email: [lewisham@celiahammond.org](mailto:lewisham@celiahammond.org)

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. Please Adopt an Overlooked Cat!

Find Overlooked cats here: [www.catchat.org/overlooked](http://www.catchat.org/overlooked)

Just a little reminder if we may...

When you are Christmas shopping online this year, please don't forget you can help rehome rescue cats at the same time, at absolutely no cost to you!

Just log into the Easyfundraising website first, then shop as you normally do at over 3,100 major retailers online. Cat Chat receives a free donation from the retailer for every purchase you make. It really is that simple! Join now and start raising free funds, here: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/catchat](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/catchat)

Thank you!



## Give more than a gift

Shop online this Christmas and raise donations for free!

#MoreThanAGift



If you enjoy the freedom of a self-catering cottage holiday, you are going to love this! Sykes Cottages are now supporting Cat Chat by donating 10% of any bookings to us, when the booking is made through our special 'Cat Chat' link or dedicated phone number. Many of their cottages are pet-friendly too.



Sykes Cottages are the UK's leading independent self-catering accommodation provider, with over 7,000 properties on their books and over 25 years of experience.

Charlotte from Sykes told us: "Each and every cottage in our

collection is hand inspected and approved in order to ensure quality for customers. From romantic retreats for two with an open fire, to properties sleeping over forty eight, for the largest of get-together's, we're positive we have something that will suit your needs.

Sykes Cottages are teaming up with Cat Chat and will be donating 10% of cost of all bookings generated through Cat Chat! What better way to help than by going on holiday! To ensure that your booking results in a



Click here to browse & book, or call 01244 746602 and Sykes Cottages will donate 10% of your booking cost to Cat Chat!



donation, please follow this link:

[www.sykescottages.co.uk/?rfx=11264&infx=11264](http://www.sykescottages.co.uk/?rfx=11264&infx=11264)

or give us a call on **01244 746602**. We're open from 9am until 9:30pm seven days a week."

So if you are looking for an unusual Christmas retreat, or even looking forward to a break away next year, please go through our special link or call the number above. While you are relaxing in your comfy cottage, you'll know that Sykes donation will be helping more cats find their own home to relax in!



**A big Thank You to Sykes Cottages for this lovely, unusual way of supporting us.**

For this, and other ways to help Cat Chat visit: [Support Us](#)

## Against All Odds

**Star from Cat Action Trust 1977** - Doncaster South was rescued on Christmas eve in 2011. Her Rescuers described her as a loving, playful girl, with a very gentle nature who adores fuses. They said that although Star was not very confident with new people, once settled she'd make a great family pet."

Star had been diagnosed with feline asthma. Her rescuers were hopeful that a kind family would accept her illness, and come for her. Sadly, no-one came forward to offer Star a home.

By 2015 Star was still at the shelter, having watched her fellow foster cats find their new homes, and many other cats pass through to their new homes. It was a difficult time, made worse in September when Star suffered an eye injury. Her eye could not be

saved, but brave Star adapted well to her disability and still everyone hoped a new home would be found soon.

Star was added to our Overlooked Cats section in February 2016, in the hope that just the right person would see her... and we are delighted to say that in July; after more than four years in rescue, Star's purr-fect human spotted her on Cat Chat and offered her a loving home. The rescue said "It's taken 4 years, but finally Star has found her furever family".



Congratulations Star, we wish you a long and happy life with your new family! Visit the shelter's page here: [CAT77 Doncaster South](#)

## Rescuers' Corner - featuring Second Chance Cat Rescue

The aptly named **Second Chance Cat Rescue** is run by a small and dedicated team based near Biggar in South Lanarkshire, Scotland. The group has been in existence since March 2011, and has rescue pens with volunteer foster carers in three different locations.

The team members are only too aware of the number of un-neutered and un-chipped strays, so local fundraising is carried out to support their work.

Second Chance Cats will always visit a prospective home before potential adopters visit the cats. They do not rehome to indoor only homes. All the adult cats are neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and treated for worms and fleas before homing.



Nevil

At the time of writing, Second Chance Cats have kittens available for rehoming; details and photos can be seen on their Cat Chat Homing Page: [Second Chance Cats Homing Page](#)

Also available for adoption is Nevil. He is between three and six years old. He came to Second Chance Cats as a stray in December 2015, where he was microchipped, vaccinated, wormed and treated for fleas and cared for. Looking for his second chance, he is described as "a lovely cat, but timid". He was homed once, but was returned to the shelter through no fault of his own. Second Chance Rescue said: "He is gentle and just needs patient people to give him a chance."

If you'd like to adopt a cat in the Peebles & Biggar area, or to find out more about Second Chance Cat Rescue, contact them as follows:

Tel: 01864 502 681

Email: [jenny@secondchancecats.org.uk](mailto:jenny@secondchancecats.org.uk)

Website: [www.secondchancecats.org.uk](http://www.secondchancecats.org.uk)

## NEVER TOO OLD!

**T**abitha is a beautiful 18 year old Senior Kittizen. She arrived at Lucky Cat Rescue in Skegness after her owner had sadly passed away, and Tabitha had been left alone to fend for herself.

Despite all of her troubles, Tabitha turned out to be an adorably friendly old girl who loved a cuddle, and relaxing in the sunshine. She didn't look her age and was still agile and had no health problems, apart from being a bit underweight.

Her rescuers had thought Tabitha would then stay with them for a peaceful retirement, but she had other ideas! Tabitha didn't take well to life at the rescue shelter. She was completely overwhelmed with so many other cats around and would chase, and swipe them to keep them away. This caused stress to the other cats and to Tabitha. So it was decided that this mature mog needed a retirement home of her own.

So, Tabitha's rescuers kindly offered to pay for any medical problems that may occur due to her age, and featured her for adoption on their [Cat Chat homing page](#). It wasn't long before we received this brilliant

news from Lucky Cat Rescue:



Tabitha

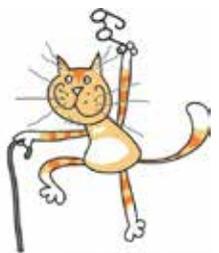
"Amazing news. Beautiful old lady Tabitha has found a new home. We really thought the chances of finding someone

wanting to adopt an 18 year old cat we're pretty slim but thanks to Cat Chat we've managed it! Thank you so much from all at Lucky Cat Rescue and of course Tabitha, your website is simply invaluable."

It gives us a huge buzz to help an older cat like Tabitha go from 'crisis' to 'comfort'. Oldies have many advantages over youngsters too - check out our [Top 10 Reasons to Adopt an Older Cat](#)

If you are as pleased as we are to see older cats find happy homes, check out our exclusive range on the Cat Chat webshop, promoting the adoption of older cats:

[Senior Kittizens Rock! \(between naps\)](#)



## A Little Love Goes a Long Way...

**C**anino Animal Rescue, Northampton contacted Cat Chat about *Basil* back in June. He was the longest stay cat at the shelter, having been taken into care at just 10 months old. He had arrived as a very poorly kitten; so ill that his rescuers felt he may not even survive...

He was suffering from an extremely bad case conjunctivitis that had left him with bald spots around his eyes. He also had dermatitis and balding around his tail.

Thankfully, with all the love and care he received at the shelter, he was ready to find his forever home. His rescuers knew they were looking for a very special home for Basil, and asked if he could be added to our Overlooked Cats section.

Basil was only on the section for just over a month, when his special human came along and he was offered a home.

*Canino Animal Rescue said 'Basil is doing absolutely fantastically in his new home and is like a completely different cat! He is now very confident, loves to play and his health issues have cleared up fantastically!'*

These before and after photos of Basil (below) say it all! Visit their Cat Chat page here: [Canino Animal Rescue](http://www.catchat.org)



Basil, before



Basil, after

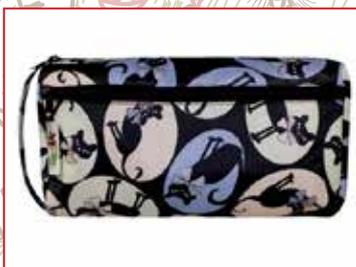
## Feline Festive Gifts and Cards!

If you are looking for something a bit different for cats or cat lovers this Christmas, visit the Cat Chat shop:

[www.catchat.org/shop](http://www.catchat.org/shop)

We have a great selection of quality gifts, some exclusive to us, that won't break the bank, and are sure to bring a purr or a smile. Also, our cat themed Christmas cards are now available in 4 exclusive designs!

The best part of all is that every purchase helps more cats out of shelters... into homes - thank you!



## The Height of Human Kindness

Animal Concern Cumbria, North Lakes & Solway are based in Carlisle, and help neglected and unwanted animals find good homes throughout north Cumbria and South West Scotland. Two of their longest stay residents, Momo and Sooty were added to the rescue shelter's [Cat Chat Homing Page](#) in November 2013.

Sadly, Momo and Sooty had Feline Infectious Peritonitis, which is sadly incurable in cats. Once diagnosed, palliative care and lots of love is the best way forward. Enabling them to leave the shelter environment, and spend the remainder of their lives in a loving home would be ideal, but finding that home would be difficult. Supported adoption or long term fostering was offered by their rescuers, but still it seemed that the pair might never find a home.

After a few more months with no interest, four-year-old Momo and 10-year-old Sooty were also added to our Overlooked Cats section. They needed an indoor only home with no other cats, and to keep their stress levels down, a home with no children or other pets was required.



As they waited for their very special human, weeks turned into months, and months into years. However, we are delighted to announce that finally, in August this year, we received this message from Animal Concern Cumbria - North Lakes, "Momo & Sooty have been adopted thanks to the Cat Chat website."

We wish Momo, Sooty and their adopter all the very best. We are proud to have been part of this amazing story.

Cats with medical conditions require additional care and consideration, but still deserve every chance to live out their lives in comfort, with lots of loving care. If you have what it takes to provide this, please consider adopting a long-stay cat, or a cat with special needs - these are the cats who need you the most.

Overlooked Cats near you here: [www.catchat.org/overlooked](http://www.catchat.org/overlooked)  
Special Needs Cats: [Adopting & Living with Disabled cats](#)

## It's Ready, Steady for Eddie!

Eddie is a 6-year-old male who was rescued by Cats in Need, Hinckley, after his owner passed away. Eddie's rescuers noticed that he was in quite a poor state: He had been left un-neutered, and had plenty of battle scars to prove it! This led the rescue shelter to test Eddie for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). Their suspicions proved correct, when he tested positive.



Cats in Need gave Eddie plenty of TLC, good food and made sure he was neutered, and sure enough he developed into a lovely lad.

Knowing that being FIV+ need not affect Eddie's quality of life, and that he deserved the same life chances as any other cat, his rescuers set about finding him an indoor home. They added him to their [Cat Chat homing page](#), describing him as a placid boy, who loved company, fuss and his food!

The great news is, that Eddie was soon spotted, and whisked off to his new home...

Cats in Need said "We are thrilled that our FIV+ boy Eddie has found his new home after being seen on our Cat Chat page. He is now in a very experienced and knowledgeable home".

Cat Chat are delighted to have been able to help Eddie on his way. With love, good care and prompt veterinary assistance when needed, cats like Eddie can live normal lifespans. Please consider adopting a FIV+ cat!

You can find more about FIV here:  
[www.catchat.org/index.php/fiv](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/fiv)

Well, that's all for this newsletter. From spookiness to sparkle; however you are celebrating this coming season, we hope you have a good one. We'll be back with another newsletter in January, but meanwhile there are lots of ways to stay in touch.

See our website for details: [www.catchat.org](http://www.catchat.org). Toodle-pip!