



## CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2016/17

### A Cat's 'Disability' Doesn't Diminish their 'Ability' to be a Cat!

Gus arrived at Cats in Need, in Hinckley, Leicestershire as an 18 month old stray. He had been lucky enough to find a garden shed to shelter in, where the home-owner kindly fed him and kept an eye on him. However, it soon became clear he needed a proper home.

Gus has a form of feline dwarfism, which has resulted in him being very small, with a slightly flattened face and shortened limbs. Feline dwarfism is often due to a faulty gene passed down from one of the parents, or more rarely due to an underactive pituitary gland.

Once in rescue, Gus's sweet, gentle nature won everyone's hearts. Cats in Need wanted to find Gus a home where he would receive lots of fuss and cuddles, which he loves! He also needed to be an indoor cat, or go to a home with a very secure garden as he can't jump or climb as well as other cats, which does leave him a little vulnerable. For this reason it was also felt he would be better as an only pet.



Gus

The great news is that Gus was soon spotted on [Cats In Need's Cat Chat Homing page](#). A spokes-person for the shelter told us:

*"We were lucky enough to be contacted by a fab lady, who was initially considering a different cat on our Cat Chat page, but then it became apparent that she had the perfect home for our little Gus. He is now a spoilt, happy pet and still just as scrumptious. You are all amazing!"*

Sadly, a cat labelled 'disabled' may all-too-easily be overlooked when choosing a pet from a rescue centre. But adopters who look beyond the impairment, will be rewarded with love, companionship, and the satisfaction of knowing that a needy cat has been given the chance of life in a loving

home. Check out our page of tips and advice for [Adopting & Living With a Disabled Cat](#)

### Bezzie Mates - Beno and Blackie

After six long months of waiting with all paws crossed at Aylesbury Cat Rescue, Beno, a 6 year old spotted tabby Bengal, and his best friend, 8 year old Blackie have finally found their purrfect home together.

Their rescuers said: *"Thanks for all your help with adding Beno & Blackie to your Overlooked Cats section. Finally after six months of no one showing any interest in them, we have found them a wonderful home. Their new owners came to us after seeing them on Cat Chat. Thanks for your help in getting them a forever home!"*

We wish these 'best buddies' all the very best in their new home! To see 'overlooked' cats looking for homes in your area, visit: [www.catchat.org/overlooked](http://www.catchat.org/overlooked)



Beno and Blackie

## Little Black's Big News

Little Black, a seven and a half year old black cat, was being cared for by Stokey Cats... & Dogs, in Hackney. While seven-and-a-bit is really not old for a cat, his age together with his black fur had resulted in him being constantly overlooked by potential adoptors.

This handsome and friendly lad was added to [Stokey Cats... & Dogs' cat homing page](#) and the hunt for a new home began!

His rescuers said, *"Little Black's story is a sad one. He grew up with his brother in a loving home. However, over period of time due to unforeseen circumstances, the brothers got separated. His previous owner was very busy with work, and furthermore, was planning to move abroad and so made the difficult decision of re-homing. We were asked to help to find a loving home for Little Black. We all know that it's hard to re-home black cats, or at least it's harder than homing 'colourful' cats. As soon as we received Little Black's picture we created his profile on our Cat Chat page, and began sharing the link every day. Then, one day we received an email from a lovely couple who fell in love with him instantly after seeing his picture on Cat Chat. We couldn't be happier!"*

Little Black's new family said *"He settled in so quickly and it feels like he's been here forever. He's quite the character - always looking for cuddles and likes to know where we are at all times (usually so he can watch us eat our dinner!) He's also found his favourite spots to relax, so he doesn't have any problems drifting off!"*



Little Black

What wonderful news for Little Black and his new family. We couldn't be more pleased, and wish them a long and happy life together.

There are many reasons to adopt a black cat - you can read our Top 10 reasons here...

### Top 10 Reasons to Adopt a Black Cat

#### Cold Weather Advice

It's that cold, frosty, icy time of year, when our feline friends need extra help and consideration. Cats should not be left outdoors for long periods in very cold temperatures, as they risk developing hypothermia or even frostbite. Cats who live outside should still have access to food, water, warmth and shelter. Here are our top suggestions for keeping cats safe and well this winter:

- Provide a warm, dry sheltered space for feral and stray cats.
- Supply food and water for feral and stray cats, and replenish if frozen.
- Check for cats that may be trying to find warmth, under the car or bonnet before starting car engines.

- Be careful when using / storing Antifreeze. It is Ethylene Glycol based, and highly toxic to cats, so always clean up any spills.
- Check that cat flaps don't become frozen shut.
- Keep your cats away from paths where rock salt has been used, or wash their paws when they come in.

Find more information on keeping pets and wildlife safe and warm this winter, here:

[Cold Weather Advice for Pets & Wildlife](#)



## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES

**T**hrough no fault of their own, these cats have been waiting far too long in a rescue shelter; each longing for the chance of a real home life, with people who care about them. Please make 2017 their special year:

### Melvin at Thingwall Cat Rescue, Merseyside

This little lad has been waiting for over a year for somebody to take him home. He is six years old and loves his cuddles and affection. He is seeking a like-minded human to adopt him.

Call: 01516 481905 or 07985 208902



Melvin

### Sally at Ipswich & District Animal Welfare, Suffolk

Three-year-old sally really isn't enjoying life at the rescue shelter. She desperately needs a home with no other pets, where she'll get lots of time to settle in, and show what a loving girl she can be.

Call: 01473 727496 or Email: [idad@ipswichcats.co.uk](mailto:idad@ipswichcats.co.uk)



Sally

### Marmalade at RSPCA - Macclesfield, South East Cheshire & Buxton



Marmalade

Poor Marmalade has been at a rescue shelter since her owner had to move into care.

She would be happy in a home with no other cats, and no very young children. Marmalade is a friendly girl who deserves a loving home.

Call: 01625 669620 or Email: [felines@rspca-macclesfield.org.uk](mailto:felines@rspca-macclesfield.org.uk)

### Mucker at Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Essex

This poor little 18-month old girl hasn't had much experience with kind friendly people. She is still quite scared of humans and needs someone with a quiet home, who has time to spend with her while she learns to trust them.

Call: 01708 440453 or Email: [abcatrescue@btconnect.com](mailto:abcatrescue@btconnect.com)



Mucker

### Meg at Cats Protection - Peebles & Biggar, Scottish Borders

Meg found herself homeless at the age of 14. This has turned her life upside down, as she was previously a much loved pet. Please could you offer this friendly girl a loving home where she will be the only cat, and can have all of your love and attention?

Call: 0345 3714 208 or Email: [catspeebles@gmail.com](mailto:catspeebles@gmail.com)



Meg

Adopting an overlooked cat could be the most rewarding thing you ever do!

You will find lots of overlooked cats waiting for you here: [www.catchat.org/overlooked](http://www.catchat.org/overlooked)

And even more cats here: [Cats Needing Homes](#)



## Star by Name...

**S**tar is a two-year-old, black & white lass, who arrived at Canino Animal Rescue, Northampton, as a pregnant stray. Her rescuers told us, "Star was found in Birmingham as a heavily pregnant stray, with her (also heavily pregnant) sister. We called her Star because she was just that, an absolute angel in every way! She gave birth a week later to five beautiful babies, and when her sister unfortunately became very poorly when she gave birth, Star took on her three kittens too!

When the kittens began to wean Star developed some hormone issues, lost all of her fur and was completely bald. She also began to stumble and show signs of neurological problems. Her blood was tested, and thankfully the results were clear. Miraculously, after several medication trials she recovered completely!

It was at this point in October that Star, utterly deserving of a new home, was added to the Cat Chat Overlooked Cats section in the hope that she would not have to wait too long for a home. We are delighted to say that after four weeks on the section she was seen, and adopted. Star has settled into her new home really well, and the shelter told us that she is now living the 'life of Riley'!



Star

We at Cat Chat are very proud to have played a part in helping such a deserving cat go from homelessness to happiness.

See more cats at: [Canino Animal Rescue's Cat Chat page](#)

# Stanley - My Best Christmas for 3 years!

**S**tanley is a gentle, loving 8-year-old tabby chap, who found himself bereaved and homeless. His elderly owner sadly passed away, and for the next three years poor Stanley lived under bushes outside his home. He was being fed by neighbours, but sadly no-one could offer him a permanent home, so eventually he was taken into care with the Tameside branch of the National Animal Welfare Trust.

All this gorgeous, faithful boy wanted was a 'forever' home of his very own again; a place with a mature family where he could live a quiet and settled life, comfy and cared for once again.

Thankfully, Stanley's dream came true, after being spotted on **the branch's Cat Chat Homing Page**. The rescue said: *"He is going to be an only cat which for him seemed the best outcome. He is going to live a quiet life - all in all the perfect home for Stanley to settle."*

We were delighted to have been able to help Stanley find his purrfect humans, just in time for Christmas! His rescuers have since updated us to say that Stanley has since enjoyed his first home Christmas since living outside for three years - cosy, warm and well fed!

The events in Stanley's life are sadly all too common. Find out about making provision for your pets, in the event of your death here: [www.catchat.org/index.php/support/legacies](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/support/legacies)



## Marvellous Matilda - at last!

**M**atilda found herself in rescue, due to the very common situation of her owner having to move into accommodation that wasn't suitable for a cat, so regrettably had to find her a new home.

Four year old Matilda had only ever lived with one owner, and with no other cats, so when she arrived at Lucky Cat Rescue in Skegness, she was understandably nervous. It took her a week or more to start to relax, and allow herself to be cuddled.

Matilda quickly progressed to being a friendly, playful little girl, who just adores attention! She soon got used to being around other animals, and it was felt she would be fine living with other friendly cats, responsible older children and even cat-friendly dogs. Matilda it seemed, would slot in nicely to any home...

However, despite her friendly, adaptable nature, Matilda spent seven whole months in rescue, before finally landing her new, forever home after being spotted on **Lucky Cat Rescue's Cat Chat page**. Maybe her wait was due to being plain black, or because she isn't considered a 'youngster' at four years old - or maybe other cats just got noticed first. Either way, we are delighted that Matilda finally got lucky, and wish her a long and happy life.

When you next adopt, ask the **rescue shelter** which cats have been waiting the longest for a new home - you may just meet a little marvel, like Matilda!



## Rescuers' Corner – featuring Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue

**B**urton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue is located in North Lincolnshire, and has been working to find homes for cats since 2010. Their cats are housed in the garden of their dedicated fosterer, who spends many hours talking to and socialising the cats in their care. This especially benefits the cats who are timid and lacking in confidence when they arrive. The rescue carries out checks on all potential homes, and pride themselves on matching the right cat to the right home; they feel this approach leads to their high success rate for placing cats.

Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue often has cats in their care for many months before they are adopted. Their policy is that they would rather keep the cats a little while longer until they are happy that they have found the perfect home. As with most rescue shelters, the number of calls they receive to take cats in, far outweighs their capacity. So Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue offer a direct homing service whereby the same rescue shelter rehoming procedures apply, but the cat remains at home until a new home is ready.

A spokes-person for the rescue said, *“One of the most pleasing aspects of re-homing is receiving the updates and pictures of cats thriving with their new families.”*

Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue have many cats available for rehoming; some of the current cats for adoption appear on their [Cat Chat Homing page](#).

Two such cats are Cosmo and Moon, who came into the rescue when their previous owner had to move to accommodation that didn't allow cats. They are very sweet natured boys who love to sit on your lap. Moon was the shyest of the two cats but he has gained in confidence since he has been in rescue. Because Cosmo and Moon are very loving with each other they are to be homed together. Cosmo is 2 years old and Moon 20 months. Both boys are neutered, wormed and de-fleaed. The rescue said, *“Although the pair have lived as housecats we feel they would now enjoy a safe garden to explore.”*



Cosmo & Moon

If you would like to enquire about adopting Cosmo & Moon or any of the cats at Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue, or to find out more information, contact:

**Tel: 01724 720225 or 01724 721722**

**Email: [catworld@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catworld@hotmail.co.uk) or [pauljanr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pauljanr@tiscali.co.uk)**

## Latest Cat Homing Pages



**A**ny rescue centre or rehoming group in the UK or Ireland with cats needing homes, can apply for a Cat Chat Homing Page. The pages are free, and designed to look great on desktop PCs and mobile devices alike. All cats featured on these pages automatically appear on our well-visited, regionally-targeted **'Cats Needing Homes'** section.

The latest rescue and rehoming organisations now using a Cat Chat Homing Page are:

- Cat Rescue (Chippenham), Wiltshire
- Kitty Kats Rescue & Adoption, Thurrock, Essex
- Bristol & Wales Cat Rescue, Bristol
- Donegal Cat Rescue, Ulster
- Cats Protection - North Hertfordshire

We'd like to wish all of the rescue shelters working so hard out in the field, a great year for happy homings, and we hope all the cats featured on their homing pages find their perfect home soon!

Rescue shelters can find more information about our free cat homing pages, here:

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



## Happy New Year to Sebastian, Luke (and Luke's Mum!)

**T**hanet Cat Club, Broadstairs, contacted us with some great rehoming news to start the New Year, which we are sure you'll enjoy...

First up, we have Sebastian who was a stray, un-neutered boy regularly scavenging for food in a garden. The owner of the property provided food for him. A neighbour who was a volunteer at Thanet Cat Club heard about the stray who was in a poor state, also helped to put out food. Whenever she could, she would sit him on her lap in her car and groom his long fur. It was estimated he had been around the area for a year, but over time, he had begun to look the worse for wear, and had developed some abscesses.

As soon as a pen was available at the shelter, Sebastian was taken to the vets for neutering and treatment of his wounds. Over many months and plenty of TLC, Sebastian became a handsome looking boy! He put on weight, healed and enjoyed his cattery comforts - plenty of food, warm beds and volunteers to care for him and provide his favourite pastime... grooming!

Thanet Cat Club said: *"One day in November a lovely couple and their grand-daughter visited the cattery after seeing Sebastian on our Cat Chat page and chose him to live with them. We've had several updates since and it is obvious that Sebastian and his new owners (and their family) adore each other. We are pleased to report this as a very successful homing!"*



Then we have Little Luke, who spent the first 6 weeks of his life being cared for by his stray, semi-feral Mum outside in a garden. The owner of the property provided food and looked after them the best she could, (although the Mum cat wasn't all that friendly!) Luke, was eventually caught and taken to the vets for a check up at 6 weeks of age. Thankfully he was in good health, and was taken into Thanet Cat Club's shelter for homing. (Mum has also since been rescued).

Despite all he had been through, little Luke was such a friendly, confident kitten and settled in to life at the rescue shelter straight away!

Surprisingly it took a while for someone to offer Luke a home with a garden. The first home he went to sadly didn't work out, as the resident cat didn't accept him. Luke was taken back into rescue after a month.

Then, finally at the age of 6 months, Luke was spotted on Cat Chat. The family visited him and offered to give him a loving home with them and their placid, seven year old cat, Libby.

The rescue said: *"It took Luke just 10 minutes before he gave himself an un-guided tour of his new home, and then settled on each of the family's laps purring loudly. The meeting with cat Libby was also successful. He is very much loved."*



All of us at Cat Chat are so pleased to have been able to help these cats on the road to happiness. We hope that 2017 will bring this shelter many more happy homings! See some of their current cats for adoption here: [Thanet Cat Club's Cat Chat page](#)

## Supporter's Corner - eBay

In this issue, we wanted to give a special thank you to eBay for Charity, and to those who use it to support us:

**There are 3 ways to Support Cat Chat through eBay...**

1. Choose Cat Chat as a "Favourite" Charity on your eBay account: This enables you to make an optional donation whenever you buy or sell on eBay.
2. Donate to Cat Chat when Selling on eBay: When selling your items (especially useful at this time of year!), you can choose to donate between 10% and 100% of your final selling price to Cat Chat.

3. Look for Auctions Supporting Cat Chat when you Buy on eBay: you can find all current items being sold to benefit Cat Chat on this page: [eBay Auctions Benefitting Cat Chat](#)

Find more information about supporting us through eBay for Charity, here: [www.catchat.org/index.php/support/eBay](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/support/eBay)

Finally, we like to give HUGE PURRS of appreciation to all of you who already support us through eBay for Charity!



## Alice & Ben

Alice and Ben spent eight whole months in the care of Paws A While Cat Rescue in Southampton, before being spotted on our Overlooked Cats section. They are now settled into their new home. The rescue said, "We are so excited for them! They were seen on the Overlooked Cats section by a friend of the family who adopted them. Thank you so much for your help, and for putting them in that section."



To find cats in your local area looking for a home visit our Cats Needing Homes section: [www.catchat.org/shelter\\_centre](http://www.catchat.org/shelter_centre)

## MDC - Helping Cats Abroad

Most vets and rescue organisations will know MDC exports for their top quality cat traps, carrying baskets and animal care equipment. Cat Chat supporters may know them for kindly sponsoring our Help for Shelters web pages. What many people may not know, is their commitment to improving animal care and welfare further afield.

In October 2016, MDC partnered with Cats Protection and SNIP International, to give away thousands of pounds' worth of MDC cat handling/trapping equipment to needy cat rescue organisations across Europe. Additionally, SNIP International donated an extra £4,000 worth of equipment to the host country's animal welfare organisations specializing in cat Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR).

The massive give-away was facilitated at the 18th Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC), in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Managed by Dogs Trust, the ICAWC is the key conference of its kind, with around 250 delegates attending. Participants who work in stray and unwanted cat and dog population control met their international counterparts and attended seminars and workshops to learn about best practice and latest techniques in the sector. MDC also held a very successful workshop on Humane Trapping.

On receiving donated goods at ICAWC, each recipient is required to provide a report and photos to show that the equipment is being used correctly and effectively.

One such recipient was Skiathos Cat Welfare Association (right), who were in urgent need of travel / transfer cages for use when collecting cats for neutering. This small Greek charity's main priority is neutering, and since 2005 they have neutered around 4,000 cats. A spokesman for the charity said:



*"Although Skiathos is a relatively small Island the lack of suitable cages*

*has always proved difficult and time consuming with transferring cats to holding boxes to allow the few cages we had to be collected and utilised in another part of the Island to maximise the number of cats neutered.*

*Thanks to Snip International and MDC, we received four cages which allowed us to increase the number of cats caught in a day by at least 30%. This increased the number of cats caught which in turn will prevent fewer kittens been born into a life of hardship. These cages will help us to continue to maximise the number of number of cats neutered."*

Cat Chat is honoured to have MDC as sponsors of our 'Help for Shelters' pages, and we applaud their efforts to assist the humane control of cat populations overseas.



## Caroline's Recovery

Caroline was taken into the care of The Ashmore Rescue for Cats, Wolverhampton, after being callously thrown from a moving car. Thankfully she was not badly injured physically, but she had been left terribly traumatised.

Due to her experience, she would not allow anyone to touch her and would lash out at anyone who tried. Thanks to lots of love and care in her foster home, her confidence began to improve; she wanted to be fussed but her fear and anxiety would often get the better of her.

At only 14 months old, Caroline was so very insecure because of her treatment. She needed a loving and patient home, with humans who would understand why she behaved that way, and who could continue to help her overcome her fears.

Her profile was placed on [Ashmore Rescue's Cat Homing Page](#), and then in August last year she was also added to our Overlooked Cats section, to give her an extra helping paw to find a suitable home.



**Caroline**

It took a little while, but in October Caroline was spotted by her new family. A spokes-person for the rescue told us:

*"Caroline has settled so well in her new home. She is loving life with her new family. She was adopted by a couple whose elderly cat had passed away, and who weren't at all concerned about Caroline's sudden mood swings. Her new*

*name is now Betty and she's become a really loving cat now she has learnt to trust people".*

Such a well-deserved happy ending for Caroline (now Betty). All of us at Cat Chat are so pleased to have been able to help!

Nervous cats often get overlooked, yet they will flourish in a caring, patient home. Winning the trust and love of a nervous cat is one of the most rewarding things you can ever do! Ask about shy cats at **your Local Rescue Shelter**.

## Cat Chat Volunteer

featuring **Cat Chat Help Team and Overlooked Cat Administrator - Gail (AKA Tabby!)**

"I became a member of Cat Chat waaaay back in 2003! However, the circumstances that initially led me to Cat Chat were sad:

My handsome Tabby boy Beau was very poorly, but at the time we didn't know what was wrong with him. I joined Cat Chat's Feline Friendly Forum, and the words from the forum members were comforting. Beau was diagnosed with 'wet' form FIP and sadly passed away at just 21 months old, on the 10th January 2004. We still have his sister Thai who is now 14, and a total Princess.

A few months later I saw a notice on the forum from Cat Chat founder Mandy, asking if any members would like to become a Forum Moderator. I jumped at the chance, and during 2004 I became a 'Mod' (not the Parka wearing, scooter riding kind!!)

Fate struck another cruel blow in January 2005, when my lovely Bengal boys went out to play, and my Gorgeous spotty boy Zak was run over and killed 2 weeks before his 1st Birthday (just 3 weeks after Beau's first anniversary). Once again I was devastated and it was Cat Chat that kept me going and gave me the support I needed. My garden has since been cat proofed!

I became an Advanced Moderator for Cat Chat in 2006, monitoring posts, and moving threads and topics when needed. As Cat Chat grew, volunteers were needed to help with updating some of the Cat Homing Pages for rescue shelters, and again I jumped at the chance.

Things were very different back then: We were allocated about 5 or 6 rescue shelters each, who would email us with cat photos and write-ups and we would add them to their page. I have seen the charity develop so much over the years; in fact I have been with Cat Chat in some capacity for 14 years! Wow it doesn't seem that long, how time flies. I am now also part of the Overlooked Cats team, creating write-ups for those cats who need a bit of extra help to find them the right home.

So that's a little about me and my cats as a long serving Cat Chat volunteer. Thai often hinders... I mean helps with the updates, although she makes things a little difficult sometimes, when sitting on my 'mouse hand'!"

**Gail, (AKA 'tabby')**

*Find out more about Cat Chat's volunteer team, and details of any vacancies here: [Volunteers Page](#)*

Now, as we embrace a new year, we hope that 2017 will be a great year for you and your loved ones (human and furry)! We'll be back with another edition of our newsletter in the spring, but meanwhile there are lots of ways to stay in touch. See our website [www.catchat.org](http://www.catchat.org) for details. Tooodle-Pip!