



CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2017

WOUNDED STRAY, NOW A MUCH LOVED FAMILY MEMBER

Mr Softee was rescued in a sorry state; he had been straying for some time and was found injured. He had a fractured jaw, which had to be wired, and also some sight loss in one eye, which it is thought was the result of being kicked. The treatment was expensive and his rehabilitation period long.

Mr Softee was being privately fostered and thanks to all the love and attention he received, made a good recovery. His rescuers, Burton Joyce Cat Welfare in Nottingham paid for the treatment, the funding for which was raised by dedicated volunteers manning a market stall in all weathers!

On recovery, it was time to find Mr Softee a loving home as an indoor cat, due to his diminished sight. Thankfully, he didn't have to wait too long... a spokesperson for Burton Joyce told us *"Poor old Mr Softee had been through the wars. He was damaged physically and emotionally after being severely beaten. Now, after only a couple of weeks on our Cat Chat homing page, he has found a new dad and a new life."*

After his terrible ordeal, Mr Softee now has all the love and support he needs. We are so pleased to have been able to help, and wish him and his new dad all the very best that life can bring!

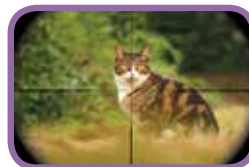
Sadly there are thousands of cats in rescue centres that need extra love and support to help them over cruel or traumatic pasts. The reward of seeing such a cat learning to trust again is beyond compare.

See some of the current cats at **Burton Joyce Cat Welfare** and many more cats looking for love all over the country, on our **Cats Needing Homes** Section



Extend Air Gun Laws Petition

Page 5



Petition! Cat lovers are urged to back a Cats Protection campaign seeking a change in the law on air gun licensing in England and Wales... see p5.

New in the Cat Chat Webshop

Page 8



Special Offer: 3 cards for a fiver! Check out the fab new greetings cards in our webshop. Six fun, quirky cat designs... see p8

3- LEGGED YO-YO BOUNCES BACK TO A NEW LIFE

Poor little Yo-Yo appeared to have been involved in a road traffic accident when she was taken to a vets. Her back leg was broken and so badly damaged, that it had to be amputated. She was taken in by **Cat & Kitten Rescue in Hertfordshire** for rehabilitation and rehoming.

Cat & Kitten Rescue operate from bases in Borehamwood, Harpenden, Harrow, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Northolt and Watford. They take in and care for unwanted and abandoned cats and kittens, and find them loving, responsible homes.

It took a while for six-month old Yo-Yo to recover and rebuild her confidence. But gradually she began to love being fussed, and began to perform (slightly lopsided!) rubs against her fosterer's legs.

When she was clearly ready for rehoming, the shelter added her to their Cat Chat Homing Page.

She was also given a slot on our **Overlooked cats** section as a 'harder to home' cat, and within just a few weeks was spotted by her new owner, and adopted!

We wish Yo-Yo a long and happy life in her loving, new indoor home.

Disabled cats may require a little additional consideration for their environment, but their ability to adapt will amaze and inspire. Find out more here:

Adopting and Living with a Disabled Cat



Cats in Springtime

Spring is a beautiful time of year, but it's also a time to remember some important considerations for your cat...

The longer daylight hours means cats spend more time out exploring, increasing their chances of **becoming lost**. A microchip gives your cat the best chance of being identified and brought home. **Vets practices** often have special deals, particularly in June - National Microchipping month.

For un-neutered cats, hormones run high at this time of year leading to fighting, and unwanted kittens. **Neutering** is the kindest thing an owner can do keep their cat safe and healthy, and to help control the future cat population.

As gardens burst into life, remember some plants and flowers, such as lilies are poisonous to cats and should be avoided. Poisonous plants lists can be found online. Take extra care, and if possible avoid using slug and snail pellets, pesticides or other chemicals. If you suspect your cat has been affected by toxins contact your vet straight away,

www.any-uk-vet.co.uk

Buzzing off to Happiness!

Buzz arrived at Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue, Amersham, after turning up as a stray in someone's garden looking lost, hungry and with his coat in a dreadful, matted state.

Poor Buzz was very scared at first, but with love and patience he became a lovely, friendly boy who enjoyed being brushed, and was very appreciative of his regular meals. The rescue believed he must have had a loving owner at one point, and can only imagine what his story was. Based on his teeth, he was estimated to be around 7 years old.

Buzz lost some of his coat as the matts had to be clipped and so wasn't looking his best when he was first added to **Marjorie Nash's Cat Homing Page**.

His rescuers explained that he had a bushy tail and would look very handsome when his coat finally grew back. So all fingers and paws were then crossed that someone would see past his bedraggled state and fall in love.

Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue told us:

"Finally, after a few months and a false start, Buzz has found a place to call home, after being seen on our Cat Chat page. He has joined a lovely family, where



he is the only cat and with a very friendly dog. Buzz wasn't hugely impressed on first introduction to the dog, and he hissed at him. But the dog, determined to be friends, went off to fetch his beloved tennis ball, and laid it in front of Buzz as a peace offering!

After only a week, they were happy to sleep in the same room and, while not quite there yet, they are working on becoming best friends. So, it's a big thank you to Cat Chat from us, and from Buzz!"

At Cat Chat we thrive on news of cats homed through our pages. If you, (or your shelter) has adopted/ rehomed a cat via the Cat Chat site, please let us know about them on: homed.cats@catchat.org

Special Appeals for Homes

All of the following cats have been waiting over a year for someone to adopt them, through no fault of their own. If you live in any of the following areas, and are thinking of adopting a cat please read on!

Tilly & Cherry - Kingsdown Cat Sanctuary, Deal, East Kent

Tilly & Cherry are very timid cats, who were abandoned and left to fend for themselves and their kittens. They need a special home with a patient owner who is at home most of the time. They have the nicest temperament and given time, will make wonderful companions.

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



Jess at Kathy's Cat Rescue, The Wirral, Merseyside

Jess is a very shy cat due to a traumatic past. She needs a quiet home with a patient understanding owner, who has experience of cats and who would be willing to take the time to work with her. All Jess needs is to gain confidence, and to understand that she is safe now.

Tel: 07746 134803 or Email: kathycatsrescue@aol.com

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

These young females are very much bonded! They greet each other, and spend most of their days larking around together; chasing butterflies and climbing trees! They need a home away from a main road, as they have been used to romping around in a large garden.

Tel: 07960 182728 or Email: lincsarkcharity@gmail.com



Heidi at Cat Action Trust 1977 - Leeds, West Yorks.

Heidi was abandoned when her owners moved house and left her behind. She had been living outside in the cold before being rescued. She needs a quiet home away from busy roads, with no very young children or other cats.

Tel: 0113 218 8262 or Email: enquiries@catactiontrust1977leeds.co.uk

Florrie at Celia Hammond Animal Trust Sanctuary, Nr Hastings, East Sussex

Florrie loves to interact with people and have a fuss, and like most cats she'll let you know when she's had enough (there's no aggression behind her behaviour). She needs a home with a safe garden to explore, away from busy roads, with no other pets or children.

Tel: 01424 882198 or Email: sanctuary@celiahammond.org



Del Boy at Four Paws Cat Rescue, Oxford, Oxon.

Del Boy is a loveable chap who didn't have the best start in life. He was taken in at Four Paws Cat Rescue after he was found living rough on the streets. In spite of his difficult past, this young boy (around 2 years old) is a very friendly little lad.

Tel: 01865 340489 or Email: fourpawscatrescue@hotmail.com

When visiting your local rescue shelter, please ask the staff which cats have been waiting the longest - the longer the wait, the more they deserve a home!

Find your nearest Rescue & Rehoming Centres here: [UK Cat Shelter Listings](#)

A Chance to Shine Again...

Back in November, Cat Chat was contacted by National Animal Welfare Trust, Tameside branch about a very special girl called Angel.

Angel had been rescued after living rough on the streets. As you can see below, she was very thin and her fur was so matted it had to be removed. Naturally, Angel was very nervous after her past experience. It was clear she was going to need an extra helping hand in finding a home. She needed to find someone who would love and pamper her, and to help her move on.

While Angel was at the rescue shelter, it became apparent that even after a few moments with a kind human, underneath it all she was a very friendly girl. Her rescuers had to build her up physically and she became a confident little cat while in their care.

National Animal Welfare Trust, Tameside are a small home based group rescuing and rehoming stray, unwanted and abandoned cats. All adult cats are



neutered before leaving their care, and help is given to neuter kittens that are not yet old enough. They contacted us in January, with this wonderful news:

"Hi Team! Just want to thank you for another

Love at First Sight

Gorgeous Dixie had a case of love at first sight when she first met her new owner (we are informed that the feeling was mutual!) after being spotted on the Cat Chat homing page for **Paws and Claws Animal Rescue Service** in West Sussex. Having only ever lived as an indoor cat before, she now had a taste of some fresh air and was fascinated by the wildlife around the cattery. Dixie turned out to be a huge sun worshipper, so she was delighted to have landed herself a new fur-ever home complete with safe outdoor space. Dixie can now enjoy many sunbathing years to come! The cattery are overjoyed that Dixie has found her new owner, and such a perfect home too, as she was in rescue for far too long. A happy ending indeed!

successful advert for homing on Cat Chat. A lovely couple came along with their 14 yr old daughter to meet Angel. They were just the right people for her, and very understanding! When we took Angel to her new home, she had a new 'igloo' bed and plenty of toys waiting for her. She starts her new life in a lovely big



underfloor heated conservatory, where she can relax and gain confidence before exploring the rest of the house so it won't be overwhelming for her. She's going to be really spoiled. We just want to thank you again."

The second photograph (above) was sent in by Angel's new owners, which really shows her wonderful transformation. Her new family said, *"Angel is really lovely and is starting to settle in.... she's still hides when she hears an unfamiliar noise but also plays like a kitten. We're giving her all the time and space she needs to build her confidence, and the period of time she spends exploring grows every day."*

Visit the **NAWT Tameside cat homing page** Angel's story illustrates how those who rescue, and those who adopt really do give animals their lives back. See more smashing cats happily homed through Cat Chat on our **Rehoming Roll of Honour**

All of us here at Cat Chat are delighted that love was in the air that day. Best of luck little lady in your new home.

See cats looking for homes in your area here...
Cats Needing Homes UK & Ireland



Catching-up on Cuddles

Four-year-old Tomte had been living rough on the streets for months, where thankfully, a kind person had been feeding him. Poor Tomte had been left un-neutered, and was full of fleas when taken in by 8 Lives Cat Rescue in Sheffield.

This small rescue shelter which covers most places in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire had Tomte neutered and microchipped, treated him for fleas and worms and arranged his vaccinations. He was then added to their Cat Chat homing page.

While he was at the shelter, Tomte's rescuers discovered that his ordeal hadn't left him wary of human contact at all. In fact, quite the opposite! His main concern (apart from food!) was to catch up on missed cuddles.

Tomte is now in a loving home of his own after being spotted on **8 Lives' Cat Chat page**. We wish him and his new family lots of love (and don't forget lots of cuddles!).



Tomte

PLEASE SIGN! Petition to Update Air Gun Laws in England and Wales



Cat lovers are urged to back a major Cats Protection- campaign seeking a change in the law on air guns to bring England and Wales in line with the rest of the UK.

Cats Protection's online petition seeks to encourage cat owners to back the campaign, and put pressure on the government to update the law on air guns.

Both Northern Ireland and Scotland already have air gun licencing laws in place, and with a lack of UK-wide regulation, it has been reported that 90% of air gun attacks on cats happen in England and Wales.

To help stop lethal air guns falling into the wrong hands, please sign the petition below, and share the page link on social media if you can:

<https://cats.e-activist.com/page/7153/petition/1>

Sibling's Success

Ebony and his sister Treacle were born to their stray cat mum in a barn next to a busy road. Sadly soon after, their mother was hit by a car leaving the kittens to be fed by the barn owner.

They hadn't been handled and were much too scared to approach humans. By the time they were caught and taken in at Cat Rescue Chippenham in Wiltshire, they were 4 to 5 months old and therefore had missed out on vital socialisation as young kittens. However an experienced and determined fosterer for the rescue took them into her home, where they received good care and vital rehabilitation.

Gradually Ebony and Treacle began to get used to human contact. Ebony started to enjoy a fuss, purring loudly whilst being stroked! He even got used to his foster family's collie dog (but was not so willing to accept the Hoover!). Treacle was more nervous than her brother, and would tolerate being stroked, but would sometimes shy away. Both cats needed combing to keep their long fur tangle free, and this was something they needed to learn to accept.

The siblings needed quiet homes with no young children,

and someone patient and prepared to continue the work to improve their confidence. They were neutered and microchipped by their rescuers, and featured on the shelter's **Cat Chat homing page**

We were happy to get the news from Cat Rescue Chippenham, that both cats were rehomed with in a month of each other, after being spotted on Cat Chat!

Ebony's new owner told the rescue: *"Ebony is doing very well. He has been introduced to our cats. Everything good there. He is a very loving and loves being stroked under his chin. He is doing brilliantly. He is adorable. So cute - thank you for letting us have him!"*

Treacle's new owner said, *"Treacle has come on leaps & bounds - a different cat to a week ago. She is an absolute beauty with so much character. She makes us laugh every day!"*

Thanks to a dedicated fosterer, and some kind and patient new owners, Ebony and Treacle now have normal happy lives in spite of their difficult start in life.

Could you foster? Find out more: **Cat & Kitten Fostering**



Cat Gallery - Championing the Golden Oldies

We were delighted to hear that longtime Cat Chat supporters, leading cat gifts supplier the Cat Gallery have very kindly nominated us as one of their charities of the year for 2017. They will also be supporting the Cinnamon Trust, a charity which helps the elderly and their pets.



Ethel

Cat Gallery owners, Peter and Alison have a particular soft spot for senior cats, not least of all because they are owned by the very lovely 'senior kittizen' Ethel, who they adopted in 1998 along with Geoffrey, who sadly passed away in 2014.

At a stately 20 years old, Ethel is still very active and showing no signs of losing her inner kitten!

When we re-designed the Cat Chat website a couple of years ago, it was no surprise that Peter and Alison chose to sponsor our 'Adopt an Older Cat' page. This year, as part of their increased support, the Cat Gallery will also soon be sponsoring a new 'feature slot' to help find homes for older cats who have been in rescue for too long. With the additional publicity for this slot, we aim to further raise the profile of older cats, and show what great companions they can make.

As we draw near to this year's 'kitten season' the plight of older cats in rescue is even more evident. Many people automatically choose kittens without realising they are missing out on some of the most characterful older cats. Even cats as young as 7 or 8 are passed by in favour

of youngsters, so all those super seniors aged 10 and over are often left at the back of the queue.

Cat Chat, with extra help from the Cat Gallery will soon be shining the spotlight on some fabulous golden oldies, with the aim of finding them a new home for the rest of their retirement years. As Ethel proves, mature moggies maybe too old to still climb up your curtains, but they're still young enough to climb on your lap!

Check out our [Top 10 Reasons to Adopt an Older Cat](#), then visit [The Cat Gallery](#) and treat yourself!



Patience Pays Off!



Willow and Jess were taken into the care of Lucky Cat Rescue in Sleaford early in 2016. This lovely natured male and female were constantly purring and loved cuddles, as well as having boundless energy!

The rescue then began trying to find them a rural home, where they would have plenty of space to explore.

Pairs of cats often have to wait longer to find their forever homes, as not everybody's situation is suitable for two cats. And while these cats waited for their new home, days turned into weeks and weeks into months. Then at last, almost a year later Willow and Jess were spotted on Cat Chat.

The rescue said "Our longest residents, beautiful Willow & Jess, have finally found their forever home. Unbelievably this beautiful pair had been with us for almost a year, but in December a family spotted them on Cat Chat, and after meeting them decided they were the right pair for them. Thanks for helping Jess and Willow find their new home!"

We are really pleased to have been

able to help Willow and Jess find their ideal home.

If your circumstances allow, adopting a 'bonded pair' is a great idea. Not only are they great for providing each other with exercise, friendship and play, you will get twice the feline company!

Visit: [Lucky Cat Rescue's page](#) Or, find long-stay cats seeking homes near you here: [Overlooked Cats](#)



That Was the Week that Was!

Kovo, Mickey & Scooby's previous owners had originally rehomed the trio privately, but unfortunately, as is too often the case with private homings, the placement didn't work out, and the cats were handed back.

Their lives changed for the better however, when they were handed in to Kirkby Cats Home in Nottingham.



Once they had all been neutered and had fully recovered, they were added to the shelter's **Cat Chat homing page**.

Their appearance on the page captured many hearts, and there were more offers of homes than there were cats!

Kirkby Cats Home said "Kovo, Mickey and Scooby came in on the

same day from the same household due to unforeseen circumstances. A week later, they also left on the same day - albeit to different homes - after spending just a week on our Cat Chat homing page."



Kovo, Mickey and Scooby were incredibly lucky to be homed after just one week; many cats spend months waiting for a new home.

Could you offer a rescue cat or kitten a new future?

Find your local cat rescue centres and rehoming groups here: **Cat Rescue Shelters UK & Ireland**



Lucky Black Cats

Perfect pair Pixie and Trixie were taken in at Stokey Cats and Dogs in East London, and have now really fallen on all four (in fact, 8) paws!

They are the sweetest, playful and most delightful kittens you could imagine! Both adore human companionship and love to play with each other.

However, their black coats wouldn't usually have worked in their favour, as black cats are usually the hardest colour to rehome. However not these two. These super sweet long term foster kitties have found their forever loving home together after being seen on **Stokey Cats & Dogs Cat Chat page**.



What's not to love about these two adorable cuties? Their new family said they were glad to give them a nice home forever

and sent pictures of the loveable twosome in their new home. Double cuteness or what?!

Black cats are often considered 'lucky' but there are plenty of other good reasons to adopt a black cat: **Top 10 Reasons to Adopt a Black Cat**

Latest Cat Homing Pages

Calling Rescuers! If your rescue organisation has cats needing homes, then you need a free Cat Chat Homing Page! Our pages are available to all UK and Ireland-based cat rescue shelters, rehoming groups and vets practices. These are the latest groups to have a cat homing page:

- Feline Fine Rescue, Wolverhampton, West Mids.
- The National Animal Trust, Leicester, Leics.
- Ally Cats Rescue, Bradford, West Yorkshire.
- RSPCA - Northumberland West, Northumberland.
- Glendee Rescue and Rehoming, Hatfield, Herts.

We wish all cats featured, and their rescuers the very best of luck and lots of happy homings!



All cats featured on the homing pages automatically appear on our regionally-targeted 'Cats Needing Homes' section: catchat.org/shelter_centre

The pages are very easy to use, so it takes no time at all to post details and photos of cats needing homes onto your page. Then just wait for the homing offers to come in!

Find out more and apply for a Free Cat Homing Web Page here: catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page

Rescuer's Corner featuring Warrington Animal Welfare

Warrington Animal Welfare in Cheshire was established in 1983 by Joan Rimmer B.E.M. and the late June Jackson. It was set up to provide financial support for pet owners on low income or benefits to help pay for their pets to be neutered, in a bid to reduce the number of stray and unwanted pets in Warrington.

Today, their mission is to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of Neutering and Microchipping.
- Provide low cost neutering for pets whose owners are on benefits/low income.
- Offer help and assistance to rehome unwanted pets.



The organisation is mainly volunteer run, and officially opened

their first rescue centre in September 2014. The centre, which is always full of cats looking for forever homes, can be found at Slutchers Lane, Bank Quay, Warrington, WA1 1NA. They are open daily from 12 to 4pm. Tel: 01925 748638 - Calls are taken between 10am - 5pm (phone lines are closed on Tuesdays).

One of their current residents is two year old Oscar. Oscar (below) will need a patient owner who can give him time to let him come out of his shell. He is a very shy boy, and tends to hide at the back of the shelter. His rescuers don't want him to miss out on a home so if you would like to see him in the fur at the shelter, please ask one of their volunteers to take you to him! Also, see him on the shelter's

Cat Chat page.



Warrington Animal Welfare take great care to ensure their animals fit the adopter's circumstances and family dynamic. If a match is made, they will take additional information, and carry out a home-check, to make sure that the environment is a safe one for the animal.

If you are unable to adopt an animal, supporters of Warrington Animal Welfare now have the opportunity to sponsor a Cat Pen at the rehoming centre. Details of this, and other information about Warrington Animal Welfare can be found on their website:

www.warringtonanimalwelfare.org.uk

New in the Cat Chat Webshop!

The latest items on sale in our Webshop are these fab new greetings cards (right), with six fun, quirky cat designs to choose from. The cards are blank inside for your own message, so great for any occasion

Cards are £1.99 each or...

Special Offer: choose any 3 cards for £5.00

Visit our website to see these, and lots of other cat themed goodies: www.catchat.org/shop

***Every purchase from our shop helps more cats
out of shelters... into homes!***



That's all for this issue... we hope you enjoyed it! If you can't wait for our summer newsletter, you can get your fill of feline affairs on our website: www.catchat.org. You can also stay in touch with us on social media. For now, Toodle-pip!