

# Catchat.org

Spring 2009 Newsletter



## Welcome to the Cat Chat Spring 2009 Newsletter!

### KITTEN SEASON IS UPON US!

Many rescues find themselves swamped with mums and kittens from April through to September and often beyond, which makes it even harder for the adult cats to be chosen, and of course takes up rescue places whilst they are being cared for. For the last couple of years we have run a "Rescues with Kittens" list on the Cat Chat website throughout kitten season, which we know brings in homes for many kittens.

This year, we have launched a new, improved Rescues with Kittens section, which is being looked after by one of our willing volunteers. We are in the process of contacting rescues across the country to let them know about this facility. Already we are hearing some great results from it so hopefully we can help find even more homes than in previous years! So...

If you are thinking of adopting a kitten or two: look out for the new section on site, or just call your local rescue between April and September, most rescues will have kittens (and their mums) needing homes. If you can take two new furries into your home, please consider choosing a mum and kitten together – often the kittens get homed and mum is left waiting!

If your cat is not yet spayed or neutered: Please get them 'snipped' before it's too late! If cost is an issue, you can get reduced cost neutering from Cats Protection and RSPCA branches, and many other rescues too.

Low Cost Neutering Information here:  
[www.catchat.org/neuter.html](http://www.catchat.org/neuter.html)



### HELP FOR RESCUES...

A note for Rescue Centres and Rehoming Groups: your rescue can be included on our Rescues with Kittens section whenever you have kittens available for homing - and taken off it whenever you don't - just by contacting our Kittens List Volunteer here: [kittens.list@catchat.org](mailto:kittens.list@catchat.org).

We hope we can bring in lots of extra homes for kittens this year – freeing up those places for other needy cats!

## Happy "Mother's" Day!!!



For one particular cat Mother's Day came early – and no, we don't mean she had kittens! KittyKare Rescue and Rehoming in Swindon had been looking for a home for a cat called Mother since July 2008. Ten-year-old Mother was being constantly overlooked, so in January they decided to put her story onto our Top Cats rehoming section – and we are delighted to report that Mother went to her new home just a few weeks later. The rescue said:

*"Just to say a big thank-you and let you know that Mother has now been rehomed with the help of CatChat. She settled down within the first couple of hours of going through the door, and now wakes her new carers up every morning by patting them gently on the face then going downstairs to play with her toys until breakfast is ready. She is a house cat and enjoys every minute of it. Many many thanks - such a good result after her being abandoned, almost being put to sleep and having her in rescue since July 2008. Her new carers are thrilled with her."*

Who needs chocolates and flowers? This particular Mother got the best present ever - a loving home!

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource 1.  
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



## PERFECT PAIRS HOMED!

*To kick off our success stories this issue, what better than some happily homed pairs...*

When cats come into care in pairs, the rescue will do all they can to keep them together. Here are just some of the pairs happily homed together, since the last newsletter...

**ELLIE & BENNIE** – from the National Animal Welfare Trust, Grays, Essex

“It is always so lovely when a pair of cats that have always lived together are homed together. This has happened to six year old brother and sister Ellie and Bennie, following being seen on Catchat. There are now well and truly settled in and enjoying the good life!”

**DUSTY & GISMO** – from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts.

The rescue said: “Despite them being vile when viewed they have been given a chance. Latest news is that they have settled well and got over their tantrums!”

### **DOUGAL & GREY OSCAR**

from Clacton Animal Aid, Essex

The rescue said: “We have rehomed another pair of cats thanks to all your efforts on our behalf. What did we all do before CatChat existed?!”

### **DEREK & DAVE and TOBY & PETAL**

both from Kirkby Cats Home, Notts.

The rescue said: “Toby and Petal were spotted within a day of going on and were snapped up. Once again thank you for all your help.”

More news on perfect pairs later!



## Anti-Freeze Reminder

February's snow and ice may be a distant memory now that Spring is here – but we felt that it isn't too late to remind everyone about the dangers of anti-freeze to pets, wildlife, and indeed children too. Only a few licks of anti-freeze can be fatal to animals, so it's very important to ensure that no spills are left on the ground, and also that containers are kept securely closed and safely out of reach. The presence of Ethylene glycol in engine coolant and anti-freeze makes it taste sweet, and as a result thousands of cats and dogs are poisoned each year, often fatally. There is an ongoing campaign to put pressure on manufacturers of engine coolant and antifreeze to add a bittering agent (denatonium benzoate), to render them unpalatable, or alternatively to stop using Ethylene glycol, and therefore reduce the number of poisonings in children and animals.

To find out more or to support the campaign, visit: [www.antifreezekills.co.uk](http://www.antifreezekills.co.uk)

And please, if you have a car, please check that any anti-freeze containers are secure, have no leaks or drips, and are safely shut away for the summer. Thank you!



## **Please sign to help stray cats and dogs in Europe**

*Despite the existence of animal protection laws, in parts of Europe stray dogs and cats still suffer tremendous torments each day; they are hunted and maltreated, beaten up or poisoned, and worse.*

*EU parliamentarians Alain Hutchinson, David Hammerstein and Neil Parish have written a declaration on the welfare of pets and stray animals. The declaration calls for hard punishments for abandoning and maltreating pets and stray animals. It also calls for EU Member States to commit themselves to regulate the overpopulation of stray animals with sterilization and vaccination programmes to be laid down in law.*

*A vote on this declaration will be held in the EU parliament shortly - the time limit to sign this declaration is May 7th, 2009. It is crucial that a majority of the EU parliamentarians' votes are obtained for this declaration. You can help by asking EU parliamentarians to support the declaration by signing this petition run by the Stray Animal Rights Society. Sign the online petition at [www.strayanimalrights.org](http://www.strayanimalrights.org) (click where it says 'Sign Petition').*

*Thank-you!*

## **RESCUERS' CORNER RSPCA Lincolnshire & Mid Lincoln**

Just as we have started putting the focus on the people behind the scenes here at Cat Chat, we also wanted to bring your attention to the people who work at the rescue centres around the country, caring for animals every day. This time we are focusing on the Lincolnshire Mid & Lincoln branch of RSPCA, one of the rescue centres that Cat Chat helps through their own Homing Page, and the Top Cats section, to find homes for some of their harder to home cats.

This Lincolnshire branch of RSPCA, covering Mid-Lincoln, Lincoln City and surrounding villages, and Gainsborough, has only one paid member of staff (an administrator). The unpaid staff include seven trustees, who are responsible for making all important decisions, as well as a cat fosterer and a rabbit fosterer.

The branch has been known to have up to 70 cats in at one time. Karen Ansell, chairperson, says that with the current economic climate, they have seen an unfortunate increase in the number of animals needing to be signed over to them. On top of this they also have two long-term residents, Sooty and Annie (pictured below), who have been with them for over a year (if you are interested in giving one of these lovely cats a home, take a look at the Lincolnshire Mid & Lincoln RSPCA homing page here: [www.catchat.org/rspcalincs/cgibin/prtoc.cgi](http://www.catchat.org/rspcalincs/cgibin/prtoc.cgi) )

Apart from housing animals that are looking for a new home, the Lincolnshire RSPCA is continually offering help to people who are struggling with the cost of care for their pets. At the moment they are offering micro-chipping for £10 per animal. This is carried out by one of their Animal Collection Officers in their own home.

Like all branches of RSPCA, this Lincolnshire branch is self funding, which means that they are not financially supported by the main RSPCA. Therefore, they rely heavily on volunteers to help make a difference. Karen Ansell comments: "We are always looking for volunteers to help in the shop, walk dogs or fundraise on our behalf, which would be a huge help". So, if you have some spare time, you live in the Lincolnshire area and you want to do something for charity (with the potential added benefit of getting some exercise!), get in touch!

The Lincolnshire Mid & Lincoln RSPCA is a registered charity (224482).

If you are interested in volunteering, find details here: [www.catchat.org/adoption/lincs.html](http://www.catchat.org/adoption/lincs.html)



*Annie*



*Sooty*

*Calling Rescues! If you would like your rescue centre to be featured in a future newsletter, please email: [cats@catchat.org](mailto:cats@catchat.org)*



## Happy Homings UP... by 900% (crikey!)

We wanted to give a special mention to the Central & West London Branch of Cat Action Trust 1977, who have been so successful finding homes with their Cat Chat page they are giving up on their old method of finding homes through the local paper! One of the volunteers at the rescue told us that they have never rehomed so many cats in such a short space of time. She said that the branch used to rehome averagely 1 cat every 2-3 months through the local paper but now with their Cat Chat page, they are regularly rehoming 1 or 2 cats a week, some of whom have been long-stayers and pretty wild!



The branch said: "**Over 20 cats and kittens have been rehomed since the New Year, many of which were virtually classed as impossible to rehome!!**" So here's a nice little roll-call of cats homed this year so far, cats who are now enjoying their new life due to the dedication of this small, busy branch... and a little help from their Cat Chat page:



**Pearl & Lavender, Peter & Paul, Snowdon & Nevis, William & Mary, Rupert & Paddington, Bonnie, Punch & Judy, Fleur & Jasmin, Bettina-ballerina & Orlando, Biscuit & Ginger, Snowdrop & Lilly, Flopsy & Cottontail, Pepper, Emily and Ambrose.**



Congratulations to all of them! We at Cat Chat wish them all a long, happy and pampered life!

More '77' cats' success stories later in the newsletter!

## Finally... it's Okey-Dokey for Smokey!

It is hard to believe that some cats get overlooked... and overlooked... for weeks, months, and occasionally years. Poor Smokey... despite being totally gorgeous (aren't all cats?!), and despite the continued efforts of Mid-Cheshire Animal Rescue to find her the right home, she stayed at the rescue for two whole years. Finally, after being spotted by her new folks on their Cat Chat Homing Page, they came to meet her and said 'Okey Dokey' to Smokey! The rescue said: "Hi Everyone at Catchat, we are so pleased to announce we have found Smokey a lovely home after 2 years in our care. She was spotted on Catchat so a very big thank you to all."



We would urge anyone who is thinking of rescuing, do ask your local rescue about their long-stay residents, you may find a special cat like Smokey just waiting for you to come along and whisk them off to a better life.

Congratulations Smokey!



## MORE PERFECT PAIRS!

And by way of a mini Roll of Honour... here are just a few more perfect pairs who have found a new home together, through the Cat Chat pages recently:  
Take a deep breath.... special Cat Chat congratulations go to...

**TULLAR & MALONE** from Whiteknights Animal Rescue, Reading  
**APOLLO & CALYPSO** (top picture) from RSPCA Middlesex North West  
**FUDGE & TOFFEE** from Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Fife  
**THELMA & LOUISE** from Lincoln Cat Care  
**BETTY & SCOOTER** from Grendon Cat Shelter, Warks  
**BIBI & BOZZI** from Beverley & Pocklington Cats Protection  
**STEVE & TRACY** from Cat Action Trust 1977, Bewdley  
**CLEO & SQUIBBY** from Springfield Animal Rescue, Chelmsford, Essex  
**GRAHAM & ARTHUR** from Bromley Cat Rescue, Kent  
**TOM & GERI** from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts  
**SMOKEY & JACK + PHANTOM & SOCKS** from Kirkby Cats Home, Notts  
**ALFIE & ANGEL** from RSPCA Medway West Cattery, Kent  
**EVIE & FLYNN + SNUGGLES & GIZMO** (middle picture) from Cats in Need, Nuneaton  
**ROXY & MADDIE** from Tain & District Cats Protection, Scottish Highlands  
**CHELSEA & LAYLA** from Harlow, Epping Forest & District Cats Protection  
**GARFIELD & GIZMO + TINCA & UNA** (bottom picture) from Clacton Animal Aid, Essex



And... there were so many pairs homed from Cat Action Trust 1977 - Central & West London branch, that we had to give them their own slot! (see page 4)

## LATEST ADVERTISER - [www.microchipcatflaps.co.uk](http://www.microchipcatflaps.co.uk)

We would like to say a big Cat Chat welcome to our latest advertiser - MicrochipCatFlaps.co.uk, the UK's leading retailer of the Pet Porte microchip cat flap.

The Pet Porte microchip cat flap is an innovative development in cat flap design, allowing entry only to your cats, by reading the unique number on their microchip. It works with all leading microchips, doing away with the need for cumbersome, magnetic collar attachments. They are currently offering an extended 40 day risk-free trial (was 30 days) and a comprehensive 18 month manufacturer-backed warranty covering all parts and service. So if you or your cats are troubled by neighbouring cats coming in through your catflap, this could be the solution for you.



Find out more here: [www.microchipcatflaps.co.uk](http://www.microchipcatflaps.co.uk)  
(please mention CatChat when making an enquiry – thank-you!)

### Welcome to our latest volunteers...

*These smashing folks have offered their valuable time, expertise and energy to help us serve 'Cat and Country'(!)*

**Emily • Jane • Lyndsey • Nicola • Patrick • Wanda**

*Our volunteers are a vital part of our operation, without whom Cat Chat could not operate. So a big 'Miaoooooooooow' of thanks to you all!*

## OH GOOD! SOME MORE 'TOP CAT' SUCCESSES!

### Donut

This happy homing story is the tale of a very special and affectionate cat called Donut! This gorgeous tabby from RSCPA Medway found his forever home after being featured on the Top Cats section of the site. Donut had had a rough past, suffering a severe flea allergy and losing one of his back legs. Fortunately, his new owner spotted him on Cat Chat and they bonded instantly!



### Hugs

Beautiful white and tabby cat Hugs was literally snapped up by her new owners after they fell in love with her on the Top Cats section. She was another RSPCA Medway success story: after being in the rescue for three months she was rehomed after a mere 24 hours on the site! Well done Hugs!

## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES (Part One) – The “Overlooked Top Ten”!

Despite the many cats homed through the Cat Chat pages, there are still a few who are continually overlooked or passed by, despite our best efforts and the efforts of the rescue, so we thought we'd highlight a few of these so-far-unlucky cats in our newsletter, just in case... anyone out there... could offer a loving, permanent home to...

**Mystique** from Cardiff, South Wales – a gentle, loving tortie female.

**Solo** from Workington, West Cumbria – a friendly, one-eyed, black and white youngster.

**Angela** from Blackpool, Lancs – a pretty tabby & white female, longing to get out of the cattery!

**Alex** from Atherstone, Warwickshire – a quirky, black, characterful lad who loves a fuss.

**Hamish** from Ipswich, Suffolk - a lovable, loving, long-haired old codger!

**Tina** from Carmarthen, South West Wales - a long-haired tortie and white female who loves laps!

**Bessie** from Kingsdown, Deal, Kent – a loyal, loving female, would make a fantastic furry friend!

**Heidi & Hetty** from Bromley, North Kent – two beautiful black females, one longhaired, one short.

**Betsy** from Southend, Essex – 4 year-old female with lots of purr-sonality, lost her tail in a road accident.

**Sabrina** from Newburgh, Fife – a shy 2 year-old, looking for a quiet, caring home to help her to blossom.

For further information about each cat, plus each rescue's contact details, go to our Top Cats rehoming section here: [www.catchat.org/topcats/topcats.html](http://www.catchat.org/topcats/topcats.html)

If you might be able to offer one of these cats a home please don't wait, these poor furryheads have been waiting long enough! We'd love to be able to report a happy ending for at least one or two of these cats by the next newsletter – fingers and paws crossed...





# CLASSIFIEDS

## “Free to a Good Home”... “Pets for Sale”... Oh no, not the dreaded Classifieds!!!

Our hearts sink every time we see these words. Unfortunately for the animals being offered, this type of advert is all too common, particularly in kitten season, when owners have ‘forgotten’ or simply not bothered to have their cat neutered, and then find themselves with a litter of kittens that they need to find homes for. Newspapers and some classified websites often include a “pets for sale” section in all good faith that people will be offering friendly, healthy pets which will end up in caring, loving homes. But in far too many cases this isn’t what happens...

### “Free to a Good Home”

Of course, some of the animals given away like this will be lucky and end up in caring homes for the rest of their life. But many won’t. We are contacted quite often by people asking ‘where can I get a free kitten?’ Giving an animal away for free invites the ‘on a whim’ adopters, who may well not have considered expenses such as vet bills and/or pet insurance, vaccinations, flea and worming treatments, cattery fees, etc. Often they lose interest in the pet later (especially when a kitten or puppy grows up!) or they will give up on them if they become too expensive. When this happens, all too often the pets are given up to a rescue centre, or abandoned... or worse.

### “Pets for Sale”

These sorts of classified sections invite all sorts of problems – and the animals are the ones who suffer. In most cases, there will be no home check or matching procedure carried out to assess the suitability of pet to home, which often results in a rescue centre having to pick up the pieces later. People sometimes use Classifieds (particularly on the web) to ‘offload’ animals who may have health or behavioural problems, and there will be no back-up or support later. Classified ads are often used by ‘backyard breeders’ or kitten/puppy mills. We have also heard, all too often, of kittens and puppies being sold at under 8 weeks old, which can lead to both health and behavioural problems. A particular problem with website classifieds is that the buyer may be from many miles away, hence the poor animal is subject to long distance travel.

So what’s the GOOD NEWS then, we hear you ask? Well there is some... after consulting Cat Chat on this subject, one classified ads website, PoundAd ([www.poundad.co.uk](http://www.poundad.co.uk)), has adopted a “No Pet Classified” policy and has even included a page on their website, giving the reasons why they don’t allow pet trades. So **hooray for PoundAd!** We hope that other classified websites may follow their lead.

Say no to Pet Classified Ads – please don’t perpetuate this method of trading animals. Whether you are wanting to adopt or need to rehome a pet, it’s far better to contact your local rescue. Please don’t risk the Classifieds!

## AIRGUNS AND ANIMALS DON’T MIX

Sadly there are still far too many reports each year of animals being injured or killed by guns, usually airguns. The Gun Control Network is campaigning for tighter controls on gun ownership and use in Britain. Their website includes a Pet Owners Factsheet, which gives practical advice to pet owners whose animals have been shot with guns, usually air weapons. If your cat has been involved in an airgun incident, they also have a ‘Cat Champion’ who can contact you to offer support.

To find out more, to report an incident, to get practical and legal advice or to support their campaign for tighter gun control, visit:  
[www.gun-control-network.org](http://www.gun-control-network.org)



## Would you call your cat “Tiddles”?

Some people wouldn't dream of it – in fact we never cease to be amazed at some of the unusual, inventive, amusing and odd names some cats are given. Here are just a few of the cat names that made us smile – none of these names are made up by us - all these cats were rescue cats homed through Cat Chat! (So any rescue folks reading this... you may well spot some of your ex-inmates here...!)

First, there's those cats who are so scrummy, they are good enough to eat (or drink!), like:  
Doughnut, Scampi, Pilchard, Biscuit, Bovril, Marmite, Bounty, Guinness and Vodka...

And there are those who come in twos like...

Diana & Dodi, Bonnie & Clyde, Rolf & Harris, Thelma & Louise, Katie & Peter, Gucci & Chanel and Oxford & Cambridge...

Not forgetting those cats who demand some respect and a proper title, like...

Mr. Moo, Mr Lodge, Miss Lodge, Mrs. Barney, Mr. Big, Mr. Twinks, Mr. Bits and Miss Delamere...

Or those down-to-earth sorts that can't be doing with fancy names, like...

Dave, Brian, Derek, Ed, Graham and Kevin...

And then there are those cats who just can't... no way, no how... absolutely *cannot* have a regular name, like...

Beano, Dandy, Chequers, Domino, Screwball, Rigsby, Crusher, Tyson, McFeegle, CeFor, Sputnik, Sonic, H, Squibby, Earwig, Teabag, PowderPuff, Thursday, Jetski... and Tiggery Jiggery!

So now... would you call your cat Tiddles? No, we thought not!

## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES (Part Two)

Desperately seeking a safe, rural home: **Fred & Max**, two male, neutered Bengal Crosses...

These guys have been looking for the right home for sooooo long, but we know it's out there... somewhere!

These handsome lads are aged 3 years and inseparable. Fred & Max need a safe, rural home, away from roads. The boys are fine with cat-friendly dogs, but hate all other cats, so they will need to be the only cats in your home, and preferably the only cats in the immediate area too. Being Bengal crosses they are huge cats with huge personalities, they are friendly and funny and very talkative! Their needs are very specific, so someone with Bengal experience would be ideal, however any genuine and determined cat lovers are welcome to enquire about them, (although it would be a good idea to read up about Bengals on the web first). They are being cared for by Whiteknights Rescue in Reading, but the rescue will travel almost anywhere to get these boys the perfect home.

Do you live on a farm perhaps? Or is your home surrounded by fields? To find out more about them, or to contact the rescue, **visit our Berkshire rescues page and click through to the Homing Page for Whiteknights Rescue.**

Good luck guys – we hope you get lucky soon!!





**NEW IN THE CATCHAT SHOP! [aka 'some no-holds-barred blatant advertising']**

The profits from our web-shop make a very substantial contribution towards keeping CatChat running, and we are delighted to say that we had a really good level of sales last year, particularly at Christmas. Lots of people must have had a Senior Kittizens shopping bag in their Christmas stocking... and we lost count of the number of cats who had a Wiggly Wagglor or Catnip Cushion in theirs!!!

Many of the items in our shop are designed by us here at CC, and as such are exclusive to us. So what's new? Well, for a kick off we have designed two new coffee mugs – one as an addition to our popular Senior Kittizens Rock! (between naps) range (featuring the ever-popular Wilf), and a properly purple "Rescue Cats Rock!" mug, (with our logo and a cat's bum on the back, well sort of...). There's now also a new cotton shopping bag; a black one this time. For those of you who remember our very first ever item of merchandise, the original 'Please Rescue' t-shirts, well it's like that... only it's a bag, not a t-shirt... and it has a different cat on it...



but the message is the same, and you really need one. Also new in the shop... Kitten-size Wiggly Wagglors!

So next payday, have a look on the shop, see what's new, and treat yourself, and your cat! Every purchase helps cats out of shelters and into homes – but you knew that.

Visit the Cat Chat shop here: [www.catchat.org/catalog](http://www.catchat.org/catalog)

**I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY – WELL, FRIENDS OF CATCHAT COULD BE!**



It's not just the cats who are the winners, thanks to our smashing 'Friends of Cat Chat' supporters. We are very grateful to Royal Canin for donating the superb Cat Encyclopaedias as a joining gift for all our Gold Friends, and they have also yet again donated prizes for our current quarterly 'Friends' prize draw – two of their super-snuggly donut cat beds. Also up for grabs this quarter are two of our super new exclusive design cotton shoppers, with our 'Please Rescue' message (the bags are also available to buy on the Cat Chat shop of course!). All Friends of Cat Chat as of 30th June, 2009 will be entered into the draw, and the four lucky winners will be announced on site in early July. So if you haven't yet joined as a Friend of Cat Chat – or you know someone else who might like to join too – now's a good time!

**!CONGRATULATIONS!**

...To the two lucky winners of our Jan-March Friends draw:  
**J. Robinson of Thetford AND J. O'Reilly from Manchester**  
 who both won a Deluxe Petmate Fresh Flow pet drinking fountain, also donated by site sponsors Royal Canin.

**SO... HOW DOES CATCHAT WORK THEN? (Part II – The Top Cats Team)**

In the last newsletter we gave you an insight into how our Homing Pages Team works, and this time it's the turn of the Top Cats Team. We have a wonderful success rate of homings through the Top Cats section, but exactly HOW does that happen?

**Top Cats Team – the Magnificent Seven!**

We currently have seven volunteers making up the The Top Cats Team: Our Top Cats Co-ordinator who ensures the section runs smoothly, four Top Cats Administrators who write the actual entries, and two section Monitors keeping everything up to date.

The first step is when a rescue centre submits details of a cat to be included on the section, either by emailing us or using our Top Cats submission form on the site. We encourage rescues to submit their harder-to-home cats to the Top Cats section: such as older cats, or pairs, or cats with behavioural or health issues, as our homing success rate for the more difficult cats is very good. The Co-Ordinator will then log all the details and allocate it to one of the Administrators to add to the section.

The Administrators take care of cropping and sizing the photo, and then comes the fun bit – writing the entry! Over the years we have developed a 'house style' of writing the homing appeal in the first person, as though it is the cat themselves speaking, and each of our Administrators do this wonderfully! Often a cat is submitted with only very basic information, and it's the Administrators' task to assess the "purr-sonality" and needs of the cat from the information given, and then weave it all into a homing appeal that hopefully will find just the right home.

And then there are our unseen heroes - our Section Monitors, who are beavering away behind the scenes to make sure the whole thing is kept up to date. They keep in contact with all the rescue centres with current Top Cats to make sure that we know when any of them are homed, and which ones are still looking. So although the cats are the undoubted stars of the Top Cats section, it wouldn't happen without a nice bit of human teamwork...

So it's Three Cheers for our Top Cats Team - Well done everyone!

*In the next Newsletter, we will turn the spotlight on our Forum Team.*

**MORE SUCCESSES FOR 'CAT 1977' CATS!**

Earlier in the Newsletter, we told you about wonderful success stories from The Cat Action Trust 1977 - a small national charity, dedicated to the welfare of feral cats. They have eleven branches across the country, all run by volunteers. Although their mission is to assist feral cats, they inevitably find themselves helping out with domestic cats in times of need. We are delighted to assist them with finding homes for some of these cats, and several of their branches now have a Cat Chat Homing Page.

The latest branch to take up a page is the East Kilbride branch in Scotland. Their page was launched on 3rd March, and less than three weeks later, we heard that they had already homed no less than seven cats as a result! The rescue said: "Gosh what a surprise. This site is wonderful. We've homed 7 cats already: Charlie, Kizzy, Shadow, Ben and Gizmo and Suen and Cheesecake. The quality of the homes is really good as well. Thank goodness for CatChat."

We are all delighted with results like this, and we look forward to helping more '77' cats on their way to a new future!



Cheesecake



Suen



### CAT CHAT SUPPORTERS CORNER

This is the bit where we give a corner of our newsletter over to one of the super feline-friendly companies who support us. Burns Pet Nutrition have supported us by advertising on our shopping section for five years now... where does the time go..?! So, it's over to Michelle to tell you a bit about Burns...

***“Burns Pet Nutrition is a family-run company that places a great emphasis on quality and customer service, supports numerous charities and organisations both locally and further afield, and works hard to minimise its environmental impact. We support independent retailers and outlets, and our products are not available from the large supermarkets.***

***Burns is based around a home-made diet, and was developed because of John Burns’ (Veterinary Surgeon) concerns over the quality and type of ingredients being used in many commercial pet foods.***

***All Burns diets for cats are wholesome, hypo-allergenic, natural, and not tested on animals. Burns is a premium product made from quality ingredients, the quality your cat deserves.***

***We have now included into our cat food range two complementary foods: Cod & Rice and Salmon & Rice, both suitable for adult cats including seniors. Only the finest fish caught daily from sustainable Icelandic fish stocks are used.***

***Burns Pet Nutrition – Developed by a Veterinary Surgeon to promote good health and nutrition  
For more information on Burns products or to search for your nearest stockist, visit their website:  
[www.burnspet.co.uk](http://www.burnspet.co.uk)***

***Or, to speak to one of their highly trained Nutritionists, call free on: 0800 083 66 96.***

***Burns Pet Nutrition is happy to support Cat Chat and hope to work with them further in the future.”***



### LATEST HOMING PAGES TO GO LIVE (since the last newsletter)



- RSPCA South Cotswolds
- Hastings & District Cats Protection
- Bramcote Animal Rescue, Notts
- RSPCA Fylde, Lancs
- The Kats Whiskers, Derby
- Sunny Harbour Cat & Kitten Rescue, Fife
- Farnham & Wey Valley Cats Protection
- Cat Action Trust 1977, East Kilbride
- RSPCA Oxfordshire
- Cats in Crisis, Epsom, Surrey
- Second Chance Feline Rescue, Retford



**ANOTHER HAPPY TOP CATS SUCCESS!**

***Harmonia***



Great news from the Middlesex North West RSPCA! One of their beautiful, but rather shy cats, Harmonia found a loving new home in February. The rescue said:

*“To the Top Cat Team, We are pleased to say that Harmonia has found a new home. Thanks very much for adding her to the Top Cats section, and it’s great to have such a quick result for her. Thanks for all your help from us and all the cats at the branch especially Harmonia.”*

A lovely, happy ending for this quiet cat who loves nothing better than to sneak under the bedclothes for a quick, goodnight cuddle!!!

**How to help us for FREE – and save yourself money – and now you can Price Check too!**



When we first registered with Easyfundraising we didn’t know what to expect. Would it work? Would people use it? Would it raise funds? Well it does, people do, and it has! In fact, the total funds raised since we’ve been registered with Easyfundraising is enough to home 70 cats! It’s so easy, if you shop on the web anyway, just click through to any of the 600+ major retailers from your Easyfundraising account, and the retailer pays Cat Chat a percentage. It costs you nothing extra to shop this way, not a penny! And now Easyfundraising have introduced a PriceChecker on their site, allowing you to compare prices of thousands of products from Easyfundraising retailers, so not only can you help Cat Chat, but you can save yourself money too.

Getting an Easyfundraising account is quick, and completely free... [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/catchat](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/catchat) (Pssssst!! Visit their ‘Free Funds’ section too, that’s where you can raise funds for us without buying a thing!)

**SOME LONG-STAYERS HOMED!**

*No cat really wants to stay in care for a whole year, and thankfully these fab felines didn’t have to... but only just!*

**STEVE & TRACY (In care nearly a year)**

Homed by Cat Action Trust 1977 (Bewdley Branch).

We received this lovely message from the happily-homed pair: “Hi, we found a lovely new home thanks to CatChat! We had been waiting for a home of our own for nearly 12 months and we were so happy when someone came to see us and took us home. Being in a cattery pen over the winter months was not a pleasant thing to think about - but now we have a wonderful new home of our own, and its all because of Cat Chat. Thank you so much. Love & Exceptionally Big Purrs from Steve and Tracy.”



**DEDICATION:**

This newsletter is dedicated to Pickford (the Brave) Cat, much-loved resident of Cat Chat Towers, who very sadly died recently. Pickford was an inspiration to many, proving that even the most scruffy, nervous stray has inside the potential for greatness.

Sleep Tight Pickford  
1996 (approx) to April 2009

