



## Welcome to the Winter 09/10 edition of the Cat Chat newsletter!

### 2009 RAFFLE REVISITED!

**Q:** What do you get if you cross 50 Prizes, with 792 Raffle Tickets?? **A:** Lots of Happy Cats in 2010!

Cat Chat Congratulations go to all the winners in our Cool Cats Stuff Christmas 09 Raffle!! A magnificent £792.00 was raised through the event, every pound of which helps us continue our work helping find homes for rescued cats across the UK.

Thank you to all the prize sponsors, and ticket purchasers for making the raffle such a success. Winners and prizes details can still be viewed at: <http://www.catchat.org/coolcatsdraw.html>



#### 22nd October 09 - Horace's plea:

"Hi, Horace here. I was the runt of my litter and no-one wanted me. Then I caught cat flu and was quite ill for a bit, but now I'm better and ready to find a proper home!

My mate Malacky who I met at the rescue, was a stray, living rough, and when his eyes got poorly, there was no one to take him to the vet, and by the time he got rescued it was too late to save his sight. He's about 8 years old. Now because Malacky can't see he's naturally a bit wary of new people and he lashes out in defense, but that's just that because he needs time to get to trust you.

I help him of course, I always cuddle up with him and reassure him, so it would work if you adopted us both, see?

Some say that no-one will want us, but I'm going to try to prove them wrong!"

#### If My Friends Could See Me Now...

(They'd Never Believe It!!)

If you've been feeling a bit cold recently, this story is sure to warm you. We were contacted last October by two very special chaps called Horace & Malacky, who wanted our help:-

#### 2nd November 09:

"Hi everyone, I did it! I found Malacky and me a home, and it's a lovely home too. We had chicken on the first night! I didn't know it was chicken as I've never had anything like that before but Malacky told me all about it. So thank you to our new mum and dad for finding us on Top Cats and thank you to all you at Cat Chat for helping to make our dream come true."

Their new family said: "Both boys have settled well. It brings a tear to our eyes to see how Horace looks after Malacky all the time, he leads him around like a guide dog."

Kirkby Cats Home in Notts (Horace & Malacky's rescuers), hope that this story will touch a few hearts, and encourage people to consider adopting a disabled cat.

**To Horace & Malacky's adopters: You take our breath away...**



Malacky 'before' and 'after'. He is living proof of what a loving home and a little TLC can do!



### SERVING CAT & COUNTRY – Introducing Cat Cat's New Volunteers!

A big warm furry, purry sort of welcome to Nicola, who joins Graham in monitoring the Top Cats section. A huge welcome round of appaws also goes to Lisa, who will be compiling our Quarterly Newsletters (including this one!).

*Thanks guys, it is very much appreciated.*



The Cat Rescue Resource  
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



*Cold weather warning, we want MICE not ICE!*

It has certainly been an exceptionally hard winter so far, and cold weather isn't good even for those cats that are used to being out all the time, let alone domestic moggies! They are at risk of developing hypothermia or even frostbite if left outdoors for long periods in very cold temperatures. Subzero temperatures could also be fatal for older cats.

If your pet answers the call of nature outside, please ensure they can get back in again! If cats are to remain outside for prolonged periods, please make sure there is some outside shelter, which is dry and waterproof. This could be a shed, garage or similar, with some warm and dry bedding to snuggle down in.

At the very minimum, something as simple as a dry, waterproof cardboard box could make all the difference to outdoor cats: Cover a box with a bin liner or some cling film, and weight it down against the wind, or tuck it under a bush for stability. Ideal bedding to put inside is a thick layer of straw, which acts as a heat-conserving 'nest'. If straw is not readily available, a jumper or towel will do, but this will need to be changed regularly as these retain moisture and can encourage mold or mildew.

## SO HOW DOES CATCHAT WORK THEN?

### Part 5 - Spotlight on the Monitors

Organised? Hopefully! Effective? Well over 5,000 happy cats a year can't be wrong... Up-to-date? Yes - thanks to our Homing Pages Monitors and Top Cats Section Monitors!! These are the volunteers who soldier on behind the scenes, to make sure that all the cat homing information is kept up to date. Top Cat Monitors Graham and Nicola (take a bow guys!) keep in regular contact with all the rescue centres with current Top Cats. It's their job to make sure we find out as soon as possible if any of the cats have been re-homed. We can then remove those cats from the site,

avoiding the disappointment of people contacting rescue centres about cats who have already been homed.

Our current Homing Pages Monitor, Tracy (cheers matey!) keeps a close eye on all the current Cat Homing Pages, regularly checking the dates of the most recent cats on each page. If any of the pages are more than a few weeks out of date, Tracy contacts the rescue centre to ask if they need any help. Then, our Homing Pages Help Team (who we spotlighted in a previous newsletter) can assist where needed to bring things up to date again.

Regular monitoring is crucial to Cat Chat, because by keeping our pages as up to

date as possible, visitors will return again when they are looking to adopt a cat... and of course, having potential adopters returning to Cat Chat is crucial to all those cats seeking homes! We also know from experience that having up-to-date pages increases the visitor's confidence in our service, and therefore increases the number of good, genuine, quality offers of homes.

So huge and heartfelt hugs and thanks go to our Monitoring Team, who are an extremely important cog in the Cat Chat machine!!

**Coming up next time... Spotlight on the Roll of Honour Team.**

## WELCOME TO OUR LATEST ADVERTISER - ANIMAL SEARCH UK!

Cat Chat welcomes new page sponsor - ANIMAL SEARCH UK. Formed in 1999, they are the UK's leading Animal Rescue / Missing Pet Search Service in Britain. They specialize in helping owners find stolen pets, lost cats and dogs, and in fact can help reunite owners with any kind of stolen pet or lost pet. To find out more, visit their website: [www.animalsearchuk.co.uk](http://www.animalsearchuk.co.uk)

**Animal Search UK are the new sponsors of our Lost & Found information page:**  
<http://www.catchat.org/lost.html>





## CAT'S EYE VIEW

by Ziggypig Cat

**Sadly, at this time of year more than any other, we pets are at risk of falling victim to a silent killer. The beast in question is lurking in most households, and is called 'Antifreeze'. Less than a teaspoonful can be fatal if ingested, and usually causes death by kidney failure.**

Believe it or not, the sweet taste of antifreeze attracts us animals, so much so, that dogs have even been known to chew through containers to get at it - with devastating consequences!

So what's to be done? Well there is a current petition calling for a bittering substance to be added to the liquid, so that even the slightest sniff would make us turn tail and hop-it! Details of this petition, (which closes on 19.6.10) and how to sign it can be found here: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/killerfreeze/> But perhaps the most immediate way to protect us if you do use this sinister substance is to use it cautiously: So while

in use, don't leave Antifreeze unattended in places where we can get to it. Take care to mop up any spillages, so we don't end up helping with that bit! Then afterwards, make sure you replace the lid on the container - and tightly too, before storing it away somewhere safe. Even a simple thing such as checking your vehicle to make sure you have no leaks, can save lives.

This next bit isn't suitable for the fainthearted cats among us, but the sad truth is, that some people who hate cats have been known to use Antifreeze as a deliberate poison. One way to help stop us from falling victim to this crime,

is to provide a special space (toilet) for us on our own territory. This might be a newly raked patch of loose soil, or part of a border, or perhaps a cheap bag of compost. You can even mix in some cat litter, which makes it all the more attractive for us to do our business in!

The symptoms of Antifreeze poisoning can vary, but some signs to look out for are: excessive thirst and urination, lack of coordination, weakness, nausea and vomiting. If you suspect that your animal may have ingested Antifreeze, take them to your VETS **immediately**.

***This is Ziggypig reporting for Cat Chat, from the garden shed.***

## The Latest FIV VIPs to be Homed Via Cat Chat!!

Due to the misconceptions about this virus, FIV positive cats in rescues find it harder to find new homes, even though in all other respects they are just normal cats. So it is with booming pride, and great happiness, we bring news of the latest FIV+ puss's to be rehomed through our pages. We wish the cats and their new human staff, long and snuggly lives together:



### FB (FUNBOY)

FB is a three year old ginger and white male. He is tremendously affectionate and playful and loves a good fuss. Unfortunately he is also FIV positive, however this hasn't deterred his new owners at his forever home. He was rehomed just before Christmas, thanks to Cat Chat.  
Cat Action Trust, Nuneaton & Hinckley

Brilliant news on Lucky - he has just gone to a new home. I'll let you know how he goes on and meanwhile many thanks to everyone who enquired about him. Lucky's new home came via the 'FIV Owners Club' on the Cat Chat Forum, and we will soon be setting up our own Rehoming Page on the site too. Thanks again.  
National Animal Trust, Leicester

### LUCKY



### SAM

Hi there, Sam went to his new home yesterday and is apparently already making himself quite at home. His new family saw him on Cat Chat and were also able to research about FIV so they were well prepared for him. Thanks for your help and it just shows there is the right home out there for every cat no matter how long it takes. Gateshead & District Cats Protection

**More information on FIV can be found here: <http://www.catchat.org/fiv.html> If you think you might be able to give a home to an FIV cat, ask at your local rescue centre here: <http://www.catchat.org/adoption>**



## CAT CHAT'S TOP 10 REASONS TO ADOPT AN OLDER CAT:

1. The personality of an older cat is already known - making it easier to match you with the right cat!
2. Older Cats are generally less demanding than youngsters, and need less supervision, so if you work outside the home, an adult cat is much better able to content itself while you are out than a youngster.
3. Most older cats are seeking little more than a warm lap, regular food and love!
4. Adult cats from a rescue will be neutered, litter trained, and calmer than a youngster.
5. The older cat is far less likely to catch birds and mice than a youngster, or at least much less often.

6. IF YOU HAVE AN OLDER CAT ALREADY, ANOTHER OLDIE, CAREFULLY INTRODUCED, CAN BE LESS STRESSFUL FOR HIM/HER THAN A KITTEN

7. Cats regularly live into their late teens these days, so most seniors will have many years of life and love to give.
8. A senior puss is unlikely to leap up on your shelves and knock your ornaments off, or to climb up your curtains!
9. Mature Mogs are so grateful to have found a loving home again - they will repay your love ten-fold!
10. And last but by no means least ... Senior Kittizens Rock! (between naps)

## SOME OF THE LATEST LUCKY SENIOR KITTIZENS TO BE REHOMED ARE:



### WILSON

Great news, loving Wilson has found a fab new home with a caring couple who already have 2 older cats. Thank you very much for your help, as they saw him on Cat Chat!  
ANIMAL ACCIDENT RESCUE UNIT, Nottingham

### SKIPPER

Great News - Skipper - our old white boy (11) - has a new home! A lovely lady saw him on Cat Chat and now he is very happily living with her - so another Cat Chat success story! Many Thanks.

FELINE NETWORK, Devon



### DAISY

Daisy (15 or 16 yrs old) is now in a long term foster home thanks to Cat Chat - she will be supported by us at White Knights so is well sorted and enjoying sleeping on the bed in the warmth - thank you for helping us find a suitable foster family for her.

WHITEKNIGHTS ANIMAL RESCUE, Reading



### SONNY

I am very pleased to let you know that Sonny has been rehomed with a very nice and special family. Their cat had recently died at a very old age and bravely they wanted to give a home to another older cat. It was thanks to one of their two boys that found his details on our Cat Chat web page. Sonny slept on the sofa between the grown-ups the very first evening! Again many thanks for your support.

CATS FRIENDS, Northamptonshire

### FLUFF

Just to update you with some good news - Fluff (aged 15) has found a new home via Cat Chat.  
CELIA HAMMOND ANIMAL TRUST, Canning Town



**There are lots more Mature Mogs looking for love on our Top Cats section:  
<http://www.catchat.org/topcats/topcats.html> Why not take look!**



## Triumphant Trios!

Not only did the guys below get to stay with their nearest and dearest furry friends, they get a new loving home into the bargain...

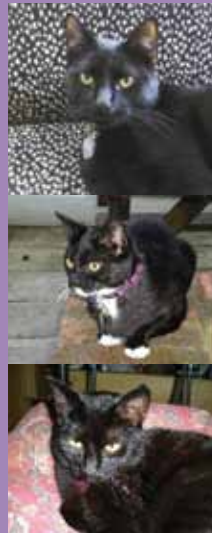
### FRED, WILMA & CLEO (pictured right)

Good News – Fred, Wilma and Cleo have all been re-homed together and it was thanks to you – can't begin to tell you how thrilled we were. Thank you for all your help. Central & North East London RSPCA

### ARCHIE, EBONY & MONTY

1-2-3! Lovely little brothers all found a home together thanks to our friends at Cat Chat. So thank you, thank you and for a 3rd time thank you! Clacton Animal Aid, Essex

**We wish them all lots of meaty chunks, chin tickles and catnip toys in the years ahead.**



## THE LATEST HOMING PAGES TO GO LIVE:

**Medway & Gravesham CP,**  
West Kent

**Warrington Animal Welfare,**  
Cheshire

**St. Albans & District CP,**  
Hertfordshire

**Cat Action Trust,**  
North Lanarkshire

**Crescent Cat Rescue,**  
Essex

**We wish you all many happy rehoming!**

## Long Termers - NOW HOMED!

With tears of happiness and crumpled tissues, we say: 'good luck in your new home!' to the following cats. They have all spent many months (even years!) in rescue centres, and are at last going to experience life in loving homes:-

1. **LUCY** - Purr Love Cat Rescue, Wales
2. **GINGER** - (11 Months in Rescue!) - Cat Action Trust 1977, East Kilbride
3. **LILY** - Cat And Kitten Rescue (Beds/Bucks/Herts/W London)
4. **SCRUFFY** - Yorkshire Animal Shelter
5. **BOUNCER** (12 Months in Rescue!) - Cat Action Trust 1977, Bewdley Branch
- 6 & 7. **MAISIE & MONTY** - Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire
8. **ANGELA** - Furry Tails Feline Welfare, Lancashire (she'd waited patiently for two years!)
- 9 & 10. **ROSE & JAKE** – (Born at the Rescue!) Animal Accident Rescue Unit, Nottinghamshire
11. **SMUGGLER** (7 months in rescue!) - Kirkby Cats Home, Ashfield, Nottingham
- 12 & 13. **TOBIAS & PURRDIE** (1 Year in Rescue!) - Second Chance Rescue Uk, Bucks, Beds, Herts, West London
14. **MR SOFTY** - Prevent Unwanted Pets (Pup) Wigan, Lancashire.





## Together 4ever - Purrfect Pairs Homed:

Cats are often brought into shelters in pairs, and if possible rescues will try to rehome them together. Here are some pictures of the lucky chums homed together recently through the Cat Chat pages:



**GEORGE & LOLA** - Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire



**MAXINE & WEE SEAMUS**  
Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Fife And Tayside



**TUPPENCE & MOLEY** - London South East RSPCA



**STAR & ANNA**  
Bromley & District Cat Rescue, North Kent



**PANTHER & BLOSSOM**  
Cat Homing & Rescue (CHAR), Warrington



**AMBER & ALICE**  
Bromley & District Cat Rescue



**BETTY & WILMA**  
Ann and Bill's Cat And Kitten Rescue, Essex

And here's a quick mention for some others who were camera shy but just as happy to have a new home:

**NIEVE & ISIS** - Cat Homing And Rescue (CHAR), Warrington

**CHARLIE & IZZY** - Mid Cheshire Animal Welfare, Northwich, Cheshire

**CHARLIE & LOLA** - Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire

**KIRA & HEIDI** - Clacton Animal Aid, Essex

**LUCKY & PRINCESS** - also from Clacton Animal Aid, Essex



**BISCUIT & BUSTER** - Cat Action Trust, Lanarkshire



**CHAS & MILO** - Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Fife And Tayside



**PEBBLES & MILLIE**  
Stourbridge And District Rspca (October 2009)



**BELLA & TRIXIE** - Ann and Bill's Cat And Kitten Rescue, Essex

If you have room for two furry friends in your home, then take a look at our shelter pages, for rescues with purr-fect pairs near you! <http://www.catchat.org/adoption>



## Harder to Home Cats – Homed!

Although sometimes considered a challenge, offering a home to a harder to home cat can be very fulfilling. The comfort and contentment on the face of a once dejected, nervous, ill or disabled puss, will reward you many times over... disabled cats, are very good at overcoming / adapting to their situation, unaware that while doing so, other senses and physical attributes are strengthening to counterbalance their weaknesses. Disabled cats can live happy, quality lives, especially if they have an understanding, supportive human to live with! Thankfully for these guys, the wait is over, Cat Chat proudly waves goodbye to the following felines, who despite their emotional or physical issues, have been given the chance to move on and blossom in a home of their own:-



**TIZZY** Three-legged Tizzy was advertised in the local press for 12 days with no response. We put her on Cat Chat as a Top Cat and she now sends whiskery kisses as she has been rehomed with another fellow 'tripod'.  
Thank you!

BELFAST ANIMAL RESCUE, Northern Ireland



### GEORGE AND PEBBLES

Spotted on Cat Chat by a lovely family who like the challenge of a difficult cat.  
KIRKBY CATS HOME, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts

**BILLY AND BENNY** We have homed our two lively little tabby brothers, thanks to our Cat Chat page. Benny has a slight heart murmur but that doesn't stop him racing around with his brother. They were homed in November thanks to Cat Chat.

CAT ACTION TRUST 1977, Nuneaton & Hinckley



**CHER** Now has a loving new family to help her over her extreme shyness.  
ANN AND BILL'S CAT AND KITTEN RESCUE, Hornchurch, Essex



**TEDDY** A special mention for our stray ginger boy Teddy with the in-growing eyelashes; he's been adopted by a lovely couple, had his eyes operated on and can see properly and without pain for the first time in ages –

he was seen on Cat Chat! So thank you!  
BRISTOL AND WALES CAT RESCUE, Bristol, Avon

### TREACLE AND SOOTS

Man-hating, cat-hating Treacle and little Soots who came in as a scabby bag-of-bones, can both now thank Cat Chat for their new homes and new start in life.  
KIRKBY CATS HOME, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts



**RUBY** "Ruby had an ulcerated eye which left a scar, and has affected her sight". We are delighted to let you know that Ruby was adopted today after being spotted on Top Cats.

CAT AND KITTEN RESCUE  
Watford, herts

**A loving home can do wonders for a cat with emotional scars, so if you feel you could home such a cat, speak to your local cat rescue centre about adopting an 'overlooked cat'.**

**<http://www.catchat.org/adoption>**

Rescues are very careful about placing each animal in the right home, and will offer advice and support where necessary even after adoption. If for whatever reason things don't work out (such as not getting on with another pet), the rescue will take the cat back into their care.



## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES – WINTER 09/10

“We the undersigned puss cats, feel that we have been in the rescue centre too long. In spite of our best efforts, to get noticed when visitors come to the centre, still we are left behind time after time, while other lucky cats get taken home with someone.

If you live in Lancashire, Kent or Somerset and would like to consider adopting a special friend, please come and see us, and perhaps give us the chance to feel wanted again”



Dobbie - Blackpool Cats in Care, Lancs: Found sealed in a cardboard box...



Bubble - TAG Pet Rescue, Kent: A friendly, loveable feline!



Comet - Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Somerset: With the best head butts for miles around!



Sherbet - TAG Pet Rescue, Kent: Seeking a des.res. with a garden...



Mia - Blackpool Cats in Care, Lancs: A bit of a diva!

**If these cats get their lucky break soon, we will be delighted to give you the news in the next newsletter!**

If you could offer a home to one of these or any other deserving cat, log on to <http://www.catchat.org> and make them purr!

## ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONER SUPPORT (ARPS)

ARPS is run by volunteers in support of people who are imprisoned for trying to save animals from being caged, abused or killed. Once in prison these people are often isolated, and separated from family and friends.

Cheerful news from outside the prison can help to keep spirits up, so please consider writing. To find out more, visit the ARPS website: <http://www.arprisoners.org>

**It's always great to get feedback, and to find out how we're doing. We were blown away by the email below, and wanted to share it with you:-**

**Date:** Thu, 19 Nov 2009 10:17:03

**Subject:** CAT Lanarkshire-our web page on Cat Chat website...

We know you always like to know if one of our cats gets homed through Cat Chat. I honestly can say your website really, really helps us to home our cats and probably about half of the cats and kittens we home every year are homed through Cat Chat.

So probably you help us to home about 150 cats and kittens a year, so many thanks for that, and you can use that figure to add to you're website statistics, if you wish!

**Cat Action Trust – Lanarkshire**

## Speaking of feedback... we would like some from you!

We want to make our newsletters as interesting as possible for you to read. In order to do this we need your help! It would be great if you could let us know what you like best about them, what you would like to see more of, or less of...

So please puts paws to keyboard and email all and any comments to [news.letter@catchat.org](mailto:news.letter@catchat.org) - we look forward to hearing from you!