



Welcome To The SUMMER 2010 Cat Chat Newsletter!

We are delighted to announce that Petplan Insurance will be sponsoring our Top Cats (Cats Seeking Homes) section, and our Animal Rescue (A – Z) section for another year - thanks guys!

Since entering the market back in 1976, Petplan has continued to specialise in domestic pet insurance, assisting millions of owners by providing cover for their pets. They offer a range of pet insurance plans for dogs, cats, rabbits and other animals, as well as insurance packages specially tailored to Rescues, Catteries, Pet Sitters & Dog Walkers.

You can get 10% off your first year's premium when you take out a Petplan Covered for Life insurance policy for your dog, cat or rabbit on their website today! There is lots of information on choosing the right policy also available on the website, along with a helpful 'Frequently Asked Questions' section.

Getting a quote is quick and easy - just click the Petplan banner on our Top Cats section: www.catchat.org/topcats/topcats.html (that way, Petplan will know the enquiry came via Cat Chat!). Then, once on their website, click the 'Get Quote' button and enter the details of you and your pet.

We at CatChat are proud to have Petplan as a sponsor!



BEAU'S STORY

Beau is a blind cat who was rescued by Cats in Crisis, Kent, after being in a road traffic accident. His rescuers brought him back to health, and then asked us to feature him as a 'Top Cat' on Cat Chat. Beau struck lucky, as you can see from this excerpt from a letter that his adopter wrote to the rescue:

"Thought I'd let you know how Beau is doing. I was amazed how quickly Beau found his feet after you left, he soon came out from his hidey hole under the kitchen worktop, had some food and began to explore. Beau has become my little shadow, he follows me from room to room, sits with me on the sofa and sleeps on the bed at night. He is happy so long as he can feel my presence. Play time has become very important to Beau, his hunter instincts are very alive and he now has several toys which he stalks and chases. His blindness never seems to hinder him in any way and he knows the flat inside out now. He loves visitors by the way and so long as he knows I'm here as well is something of a showoff! Thank you once again."

*Beau is clearly a super-cat, a survivor, a hero! He can now enjoy the life he deserves, with his new human.
Best wishes all!*



WHAT'S NEW IN THE CAT CHAT SHOP?

Commemorative Trolley-Token "Pound for Life" Keyring - Marking Cat Chat's 10th Anniversary. (Exclusive Cat Chat Design!!)

With one of our Pound for Life keyrings you'll never get caught out when you need a £1 or Euro substitute for a supermarket trolley, or for lockers such as at the gym or airport. Simply unclip the Pound for Life token from the key ring and insert into the trolley or locker, and just clip back in after use, ready for next time.

Get yours from the [Cat Chat shop](http://www.catchat.org/catalog) today, and help spread the 'Rescue' message: www.catchat.org/catalog





(L to R) Jaine (Treasurer), Mandy (Co-founder), Maggie (Chairman)

After the Party!

Cat Chat's 10th Anniversary bash on the 22nd of May turned out to be an evening of great excitement, and good company. It was a chance for new friendships to form, old ones to be re-kindled, and to meet up with some of our own volunteers (a few of whom we'd never met before!) It was wonderful to see so many cat lovers, and rescuers from home and abroad - such as Celia Hammond Animal Trust, Paws Inn, Hounslow Animal Welfare Society, The Mayhew Animal Home, the Cat Action Trust 1977, the Greek Cat Welfare Society, Care 4 Cats Ibiza and many more...

The band; 'Left of the Dial', the buffet & BBQ, Stephen's disco, the 'Goody Table', silent auction and the raffle were all fantastic additions: Raffle winners had to choose mystery tins, and told that the 1st prize tin had a mobile phone inside! With tins clutched to ears, after a tense build-up, the mobile number was dialed... only to hear... 'It has not been possible to connect your call'... oh well. Much later we found out that it was due to mobile phone signals not being very good at going through tins! (who's idea was it...? Seems no-one is owning up to that one!)

Our heartfelt thanks go to party sponsors: Royal Canin Petfoods Burns Pet Nutrition • Buxton Spa Bakery • Cat Gallery (The) • Cats of Moon Cottage (Marilyn Edwards) • Feliway • Igloo (Igloocats) • Kitten to Cat Veterinary Clinic • Kitty Collars • Monster Graphics • Lush • Pets at Home • Purr-fect fence, cat-proof fencing • Purrs in our Hearts forum • Scruffs, luxury pet products, and to everyone who helped to make the party such a success. Here's to the next 10 Years!

For more great party pictures, please visit:
www.catchat.org/party.html



Clare and Kieron (CC & Purrs Peeps!)



Ron (Friend of Cat Chat) & Steve (Co-founder)

"CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CAT HOMING"





White Heat!

CAT'S EYE VIEW

by Ziggypig Cat

I was having a chat with Snowball the other day, and he was telling me about something that affects pets and humans at this time of the year... He was sitting in a patch of cool, shady soil just below the willow tree looking very regal I must say! But when he refused to cross the flower bed to join me in the sun for a session of 'Who can stare at who the longest before one of us gets biffed', I knew something wasn't right.

We all need to take care in the sun, and to have plenty of shade and drinking water available... But now I'm beginning to understand that; with very little skin pigment, and not much fur for cover, white cats like Snowball are even more at risk of sunburn to their ears, noses etc... That must be very difficult indeed, given that cat's ears point towards the sun!

Snowball is one of the lucky ones, as his humans see to it that he stays out of direct sun as much as possible, during the hottest part of the day. Good plan I thought! Something else that helps protect pale pets from sunburn (which can lead to skin cancer), is to apply some pet-safe suncream to their pink bits. So if you are owned by a white cat, or a cat with thin hair or bald patches, you can help protect them by keeping them indoors between 11am and 3pm on sunny days, and by covering vulnerable areas with a non-toxic waterproof human sunblock or a suncream specifically for pets - your vet can recommend the best pet-safe creams.

Take care out there feline and human friends, and enjoy the rest of the summer!

This is Ziggypig Cat, reporting for Cat Chat News, beneath the garden bench.

HARDER TO HOME...

...Says Who?

The following cats, deemed 'harder to home' have proved us all wrong again. Can we have a roll on the drums please? No... Perhaps a fanfare on the kazoo then?? Our congratulations go to:

JASMINE – A timid lady has now gone off to her new home in Cheshire.

JASPER - A timid little fellow, who is also going to a new home in Cheshire.

MAX – A reformed feral has found himself a home in Nottinghamshire

JUDY – Judy was shy of people, but has found someone she trusts in Essex.

JUDY'S BROTHERS – Shy ginger males, now off to a new des. res. also in Essex.

DELL BOY – A 10 year old black cat, who struck lucky in Cheshire.

THREE FERALS – These guys have a new home together in Tamworth.

REG - A larger, shy chap, who has found his forever home in Essex.

MACAROON – Larger, older gent, has also found the right home in Essex.

Our Top Cats section features lots of rescue cats that are overlooked, and has been very successful in finding new homes for them, some of whom had almost given up hope! To find out more about our Top Cats visit: <http://www.catchat.org/topcats/topcats.html>





SO - HOW DOES CAT CHAT WORK THEN? - The 'Kittens Available' Page

From spring through to late autumn, thousands of kittens come into rescues across the UK. All too often this is because owners have neglected to have their cat neutered, and then find themselves with unplanned, unwanted litters.

In order to help spread the 'Rescue - Don't Buy' message we set up our 'Kittens! Kittens! Kittens!' Page: <http://www.catchat.org/kittens.html>

However, a few years ago, we realised we needed to do more to encourage people to stop buying kittens from pet shops and private sellers, and to adopt from rescue centres instead. The result was our '[Rescue Centres with Kittens for Homing](#)' page.



To organise the large amount of information on this webpage, we use a regionally grouped spreadsheet, which is monitored and regularly updated by Jo; our Kittens List Administrator. When Jo receives an email from a rescue centre to say they have kittens available, she will first update the spreadsheet with the information, before adding them to the webpage for the viewing public to see. The rescue will then remain on display, until such time as they let us know they have rehomed their kittens.

As a failsafe to avoid displaying out of date information, Jo regularly checks through the spreadsheet, and contacts those rescues who haven't been in touch for a while, to ask if they still have kittens available. (Note to rescue groups: If you'd like your rescue added to or deleted from our Kittens for Homing page, please email: kittens.list@catchat.org)

We hope that if more people are persuaded to adopt kittens from rescue centres instead of buying from pet shops and breeders, and ensure they are neutered when old enough, our 'Kittens Available' page will no longer be required... But for now, 'keep up the valuable work Jo!'

Photograph © Pete Stevens of www.creativeempathy.com

FEATURED RESCUE - Ark on the Edge

Animal Rescue/Sanctuary & Wildlife Education Centre
(Reg. Charity No. 1116552)

Ark on the Edge is totally committed to the health and welfare of animals. Their successful rehoming program involves initial, quality house checks, and continued care and contact for life once an animal has been rehomed. In some cases where rehoming is not possible, animals will be cared for long term at the sanctuary. They operate a no kill policy, and have continued contact and guidance with local vets for all their animals.

The Sanctuary & Wildlife Education Centre is set in 40-acres of land, at Woolley Hill Farm, Woodland, Co Durham. As well as the Animal Sanctuary, you will find a Nature Trail, incorporating a large viewing platform over the pond with water voles, newts and other pond life. Ark on the Edge is also committed to education. Their 'Lantra Small Animal Care' courses are run from the Education Centre at Woolley Hill Farm, in conjunction with Houghall College. The Education Centre is open to all and has full disabled facilities throughout. Birthday Parties with a difference are a new venture at the sanctuary, which are proving successful.

The work they do is totally reliant on donations, sponsorship and fund raising activities, as they do not make a charge for admission to the centre, or have a standard charge for animal adoption.

There are lots of ways you can help the Ark on the Edge! Why not join them at Woolley Hill Farm for their Family Fun Day on Saturday 31st July 11am – 4pm. Or sponsor their patron Philippa Tomson (Weather Presenter - Tyne Tees and Border) who is running the 'Bupa Great North Run' for them, and for another charity she supports. You can also donate on-line, or pay a visit and sponsor one of their long-term animals. Gift Aid scheme now in operation too!

Details of events, plus lots of news, photos of animals for adoption, and contact information can be found on their web site: www.arkontheedge.org.uk



**ARK
ON THE EDGE**



We're glad to bring you news of some of the Cats that have found happiness together through the Cat Chat pages recently. To kick off our 'Purrfect Pairs' news for this issue, we have one of those emails that just makes you feel all warm and smiley:



PURRFECT PAIRS - What beautiful girls!

ANNIE & CLAIRE

Just a short note to inform you that we chose Annie and Claire from the shelter at Little Clacton last week, and are very happy to tell you that they have settled with us remarkably quickly and have brought us much joy in the week that they have been with us. We'd like to thank all at the centre and look forward to many happy years with our two lovely ladies!

The rescue (CLACTON ANIMAL AID) said: "Annie and Clare would like to say a big thank you to all the helpers at catchat for helping them to find their new home." (May 2010)

Don't mention it girls, it's always a pleasure! We wish you and your humans long, happy lives together with, fishy treats here and there...

MORE PURRFECT PAIRS

We'd like to wish congratulations and fond farewells to the following felines, who, not only have now found homes, they get to keep their best mates with them too!

- PATCH & TINKERBELL** - Grendon Cat Shelter, Tamworth (homed April 2010)
- BLAZE & DUDLEY** - Clacton Animal Aid, Clacton, Essex (homed April 2010)
- JACK & OLLIE** - National Animal Welfare Trust, Essex (homed May 2010)
- CHARLIE & DUFFY** - Kats Kradle, Midlands/Staffordshire (homed May 2010)
- 2 SISTERS** - Ann And Bill's Cat And Kitten Rescue, Essex (homed May 2010)
- SOXES & JESS** - Ann And Bill's Cat And Kitten Rescue, Essex (homed May 2010)
- HERBIE & PADDINGTON** - Cat Call, Sussex (homed May 2010)
- SKY & POTTER** - RSPCA, Medway West Branch, Kent (homed May 2010)
- OSCAR & TOSCA** - Cat Action Trust 1977, Central & West London (homed May 2010)
- MISCHIEF & MO** - Celia Hammond Animal Trust, Lewisham (homed May 2010)
- LOUIS & MONTY** - Cats Protection, Gateshead & District (homed June 2010)
- SPOT & BABY** - Ann And Bill's Cat And Kitten Rescue, Essex (homed June 2010)
- PATCH & TIGER LILY** - Allerton Cat Rescue, Bradford (homed June 2010)
- GLORIA & MARMITE** - Grendon Cat Rescue, Tamworth (homed June 2010)
- FUDGE & BENNY** - (Celia Hammond Animal Trust) (homed June 2010)

If you'd like to share your home with two furry friends, contact your local rescue centre: www.catchat.org/adoption to find out which feline duos are waiting for their lucky break!



Jack & Ollie



Sky & Potter



Shadow

Grace



Oscar & Tosca



Louis & Monty



Herbie & Paddington



Could Cat Chat be one of your eBay 'Favourites'?

It's a big Thank You to eBay again this year, as they were kind enough to featured Cat Chat in their 'Give £1 at the Checkout' scheme, during our 10th Anniversary week. Not only does this bring in a good number of £1's but it also raises awareness of our Charity, and lots more people are choosing Cat Chat to benefit from a percentage of their eBay auctions.

Well that's good enough you'd think, but it gets better; you can now choose your 'Favourite Charities' in your eBay account, and eBay will display one of them every time you sell or shop... all year round! (genius idea, eh?)

To select Cat Chat, or any other Charity as one of your 'Favourites'...

Either; visit Cat Chat's eBay page by clicking the link below, and click the 'Save as Favourite' button:
http://donations.ebay.co.uk/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=14210

Or, alternatively;

1. Sign into your 'My eBay' and visit your Donation Account, under the Account Tab
2. Click on 'My Favourite Charities' under My eBay
3. Search for your favourite charity and click 'Save as a Favourite'

This new feature will help you to easily support your favourite charity(ies) whilst doing what you do every day on eBay!

Also, if you ever wondered how much of these donations might go in admin, Missionfish (eBay's Charity partner) takes just .05p in each pound to run the scheme, so a massive .95p of every pound goes directly to the Charity!

Learn more at <http://www.ebay.co.uk/ebayforcharity>



Serving Cat and Country!

Cat Chat warmly welcomes it's latest Volunteer to join the team:

Simon Crutchley – Photographer

"Pssst! Simon will be making a big impact later this year, with the photograph for our new 2010 Christmas Card – available in the Autumn!"

3 Cheers (and 3 Legs) for these terrific Tabby Tripods!

Three legged cats can live full, contented lives, and be as agile as their four legged friends. Give them a chance, some love, and a suitable home, and they'll get on with the business of adapting, and building up strength in their other limbs to compensate. Here is news of 2 such cats! Best wishes for the future guys! You are an inspiration to us all.

BILLIE

Many thanks to all at CatChat yet again, I have some great news: Billy our Tripod cat that featured on the Top Cat section has found a new home. Many thanks for your help and support.
RSPCA, MEDWAY WEST BRANCH, KENT (homed May 2010)



JAKE

We are really pleased to let you know that finally Jake, our three-legged lad has found his perfect new home. A lovely couple contacted us after reading about him on our CatChat page, and then came along to meet him. It's an ideal home for him, as he will have another cat for company, a friendly little female, and a safe garden for him to explore. He loves being fussed so now he will have his own people to give him all the cuddles he needs. Thank you once again! BROMLEY & DISTRICT CAT RESCUE (homed June 2010)





LONG TERM RESCUE CATS – HOME AT LAST!!

The following cats have been waiting far too long for loving homes. Thankfully for them, the wait is now over!

GEORGIE – Waiting a considerable time at Independent Cat Rescue, Dewsbury

PIPPY – Spent many months in foster at Bristol And Wales Cat Rescue, Bristol

LILLY – Now rehomed after 6 months at Feline Network, Devon

BEAU & BLANCHE - Ex long-term rescue cats at Kirkby Cats Home, Notts

CHRISTOPHER - Settling into his new home after almost 2 years at Paws Inn Cat Rescue, Cheshire

TRIXIE – Rehomed after 8 months at National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock, Essex

WHITNEY & PRINCESS - Long termers had been in rescue for a year. Chatteris, St. Ives & District CP, Cambs

Love, snuggles and warm windowsills to all! Lots more cats in rescue shelters across the UK, waiting patiently for your call - find all your local rescues on Cat Chat.



GOLDEN OLDIES and HAPPY ENDINGS!

Join us in waving fond farewells to some of the Senior Kittizens who have recently found love through Cat Chat:

GYNGEE - An elderly gent, has found his new, forever home in Essex.

GILES - A lovely older cat, who had recently had a thyroidectomy has found his dream home in Nottingham.

VICTOR - Lovely old man Victor of 18 years with a heart murmur, has found his wonderful new five star home in Nottingham

TIGGER - Tigger's homing is especially good news as he is an older cat, his new home is in Nottinghamshire

HENRY & KITTY - Smashing Senior Kittizens Kitty & Henry have found their happily ever after in Notts!

TAFFY & TIPSYPY - These 11 year old brothers have gone together to their dream home in Sunderland.

MANDY - 10 year old Mandy has now gone to her new home in Fife.



FIV VIPs!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Cats & Kittens! We proudly present our latest FIV VIPs, now blissfully happy in their new homes:

FIVER

Great news - our FIV+ boy Fiver has been rehomed after being spotted as a Top Cat. We actually had two offers of a lovely home for him but then he is

very handsome! He did hide away at first in his new home, but is now settling in a treat. Thanks for all your help. Bristol And Wales Cat Rescue (homed May 2010)

SNOWFLAKE

We have some very good news this month as we have homed Snowflake our lovely white long haired girl who has FIV, to a home with another cat with the same virus and to a very experienced owner. Thanks Cat Chat! GRENDON CAT Shelter, Atherstone, Tamworth (homed June 2010)

FIV positive cats find it harder than most to find new homes, even though in all other respects they are normal, loving cats, and deserve a chance at a happy life. If you think you might be able to give a home to an FIV cat, ask at your local rescue centre:

www.catchat.org/adoption Fiver and Snowflake's new humans did...!

Latest Homing Pages now Live:

Armagh Cats Protection, Ulster • Ark Cat Rescue, Bucks • Blue Cross Rehoming Pet Fostering Scheme • Four Paws Pet Rescue, Cumbria • Leeds Feline Friends, West Yorkshire • Cat Call, East Sussex • Feral Cat Welfare, Leeds • Kitten Rescue & Tendring Feral Rescue, Essex • Four Paws Cat Rescue, Oxon • Reading with Oxon Border RSPCA, Berks • Any Breed Cat Rescue, North Wales • Goldies Oldies, Romford, Essex

Don't forget, if there is anything that you would like to see more of (or less of) in these newsletters, please let us know by emailing news.letter@catchat.org

If you are looking for a rescue cat or kitten please find your local shelter at www.catchat.org/adoption and see who could be snuggling on your sofa soon!

If They Could See Me Now!

This is a wonderful example of how cats that have fallen on hard times, can still land on their feet. All they need is someone to believe in them, and to lend a helping paw. That is what happened to Judy, when she was rescued by Bromley & District Cat Rescue, Bromley, West Kent:

JUDY (homed May 2010)



"Hello Cat Chat - we are thrilled to let you know that Judy went off to her new home yesterday after a lovely family saw her on our Cat Chat page. Judy's was a real rags to riches story as she had come to us in a terrible state; no more than skin and bones. She is looking much better now and has put on weight, but she is still very much a 'work in progress'. Her new owners are not put off by this, and in fact is has made them more determined to give her a lovely life. She has gone to live with a smashing family in a quiet cul-de-sac, and now has a bright future ahead."

Thanks to the folks at the rescue for sharing such a heart-warming story with us, and well done Judy!