

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2011

Bagpuss, dear Bagpuss, old fat furry cat-puss...

No, not our feline patron, the famous and much-loved pink and white striped Bagpuss. This is another Bagpuss, a very real 'fat furry cat-puss' who got lucky in January, when Cat Chat's chairman, Maggie, and her husband Ray adopted him from Feline Friends rescue in Medway. They'd been looking for a companion to keep their female rescue cat Katie company, and when they spotted Bagpuss on Feline Friends' Cat Chat homing page, they knew it was meant to be. Bagpuss is a super-friendly, laid back fella, which is ideal for Katie, who Maggie knew wouldn't be happy with a bossy type!

Bagpuss wouldn't have been everyone's first choice, it has to be said. He's middle aged, black and white (not the most popular of colours), and FIV positive. He had also had surgery to correct a painful eye condition called entropion, which causes the edge of the eyelids and eyelashes to turn inwards, which has left him with a slightly 'sleepy' look. Oh, and he has a chunk of ear missing from his pre-rescue days too. But still handsome? You bet!



Maggie and Ray have been owned by FIV+ cats in the past, and knew that as Bagpuss was neutered and completely non-aggressive, that there was no risk that Katie could contract the virus. As it turned out the only risk was to Bagpuss... just how long would Katie put up with him following her around like a lovestruck teenager before biffing him round the ear? Three months on, and Katie has not only accepted Bagpuss in his role of admirer, but has positively benefited from his friendship. His relaxed ways have rubbed off on her, and even her small patch of

eczema has cleared up for the first time in months. They now regularly sit together on the sofa to watch TV, whilst Maggie and Ray regularly have to find somewhere else to sit!

Taking on an FIV+ cat is hugely rewarding, but should be carefully considered first. If there are other cats in the household, the natures of the cats must be taken into account, and introductions taken slowly. Long-term studies by Glasgow University and the Celia Hammond Animal Trust have proven that FIV positive and negative cats can live safely in the same household, provided they are neutered, and are not fighters. The possibility of additional vet visits should also be considered. Due to their impaired immune system, FIV+ cats may sometimes need longer, or more frequent, courses of treatment for common ailments. In some cases, FIV+ cats may not reach a normal life expectancy, but these days, with improvements in diet and veterinary care, it's not unusual to find FIV+ cats reaching 15 years or more.

We are very keen to promote the adoption of FIV+ cats, as they have had rather a raw deal in past years. Thankfully, these days, as education about the virus has improved, more cats like Bagpuss are being given the chance to live a happy life, in a home of their own.

All of us at Cat Chat wish Bagpuss many happy years in his new home!

You can find out more about FIV here: www.catchat.org/fiv.html
Or meet other FIV+ owners on our friendly Feline Forum: [FIV Owners Club](#)



Maisie & Myrtle's Story



This is the story of two very timid sisters. Both girls had deformed front paws, Maisie only having single pads and Myrtle having partially fused, sideways growing claws. After several months at the rescue, rehoming was looking doubtful. However, whilst browsing on the Cat Chat website in February, 2 very special people spotted these 2 very special cats at Burton Joyce Cat Welfare in Notts. This is what they said: "You may remember when Maisie & Myrtle left you, they were spitting, hissing and biting at every opportunity. I would just like to say that we are so pleased we gave these 2 little girls a chance as they have progressed so much over the last couple of weeks, you wouldn't know it was the same 2! They are real bags of fun, playing with scratching posts and any toys they can find, chasing, wrestling one another. They have taken to coming onto the bed at night to sleep, they let you know when they want a fuss (they come over to you and just keep bumping into you until you put down whatever you're doing and give them a fuss). Maisie has started meowing

for food now, as she has got to know the routine, Myrtle just sits there and waits, but we did hear her meow for the first time the other day (when she was carrying one of her toys around). They no longer bolt behind the TV when someone walks into the room. They are coming round to having their front feet checked, and getting calmer every day! We are so glad that we gave them a chance."

This is a wonderful example of how disabled cats can, if given the chance, adapt to their circumstances and become truly delightful companions. Please consider adopting a disabled cat – Maisie & Myrtle's humans are glad they did! We at Cat Chat send our very best wishes to the girls and their new family.

Maisie & Myrtle were adopted from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts. Meet some of the other cats awaiting adoption from Burton Joyce here: www.catchat.org/bjcw/cgibin/prtoc.cgi

Featured Rescue - Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue

Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue consists of a small group of volunteers who work with various charity groups in Bristol and Wales rescuing and rehoming cats and kittens. It has about 26 foster homes, and rehomes 30-40 cats a month (with a lot of help from Cat Chat!), but the record was 69 at the height of kitten season!

Despite forming to help cats from Wales, this rescue centre has had enquiries from all over the UK and even as far afield as America.

The Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue works with organisations in the South West and Wales, such as other animal rescue centres, veterinary surgeries and several charities caring for animals in various capacities. They also work closely with local vets, who pass over any cats who need help. This rescue centre has seen them all – the old, the blind, the tail-less, you name it. Jacie, their longest staying cat, was actually spotted on Cat Chat and rehomed after six months at the centre.

Sadly, still waiting for the chance of her forever home is Molly: She has a beautiful face and

will purr and tap you with her paw for attention. However, at times, fear will take hold of her and she will hiss at you. She's improving all the time though, and hopefully, in a loving patient home, she will relax more!



Like most rescue centres, Bristol & Wales Cat Rescue relies only on donations and its own fundraising, and has come up with a novel way of raising money. One of the volunteers takes her Maine Coon/Rag Doll crosses Zephyr and Brenin to the local supermarket collections – they love to meet people and do tricks for cat treats!

To find out more about adopting Molly, or to see other cats seeking homes at Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue, visit their [Cat Chat Homing Page](#)

Hats Off to eBay for Charity



We've been blown away recently by the generosity of those who choose Cat Chat to benefit from their eBay auctions, or who give a donation at the checkout when buying on eBay. Your thoughtfulness helps us to continue our vital service to Rescue

Centres, and helps more Cats out of Shelters, and into loving Homes! HUGE purrs of appreciation to you!

On average, the donations we receive from eBay are enough to home 65 cats every month... That's an awful lot of contented hearts and upturned whiskers!

In case you didn't know, there are 3 ways to help us through eBay - and it all starts on the [eBay for Charity - Cat Chat page](#):

1. **Buying:** Choose from dozens of auctions supporting Cat Chat when you buy on eBay!
2. **Selling:** You can choose to donate between 10% and 100% of the final sale price on items you sell!
3. **Donate:** Just click the 'Donate Now' tab! Just decide on the donation amount, complete the process using Paypal. If you are a taxpayer, we can even claim Gift Aid on your donation.

If you haven't tried eBaying already, why not turn your trash into treasure, and help a homeless cat go from rags to riches! More info here: [www.catchat.org/ebay.html](#)

Cat's Eye View by Ziggypig Cat

Kittens! Ah, I love to reminisce on those golden sunny days of kittenhood... although sadly for some, things aren't so nice. In fact, between now and autumn, most rescues will be inundated with unwanted kittens.



This is often resulting from humans who have not had their cat neutered, and then find themselves with unwanted litters. 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 find Low Cost Neutering Information here: [www.catchat.org/neuter.html](#)

If you're thinking of adding a kitten or two to your family, then Please Rescue, Don't Buy! Rescuing a kitten can be one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. It is a long-term commitment of course, but just look at the end result: A gorgeous, intelligent, contented Senior Kittizen! (remind you of anyone??) Or perhaps you could consider adopting a Mum and kitten together if you have room? Often the kittens get homed while poor Mum is left alone waiting!

You can find out which rescues have kittens available for rehoming right now, by visiting our natty [Rescues with Kittens for Homing](#) page, or by locating your [Local Rescue Centre](#) and giving them a call.

This is Ziggypig Cat reporting for Cat Chat News, on top of the newspaper my human is trying to read.

The Cat Chat Anniversary Raffle 2011

In a flurry of fur and ticket books, we are proud to announce that our Cat Chat Anniversary Raffle for 2011 is now underway! This year we have 50 fabulous prizes including:

£100 Gift voucher • £70 Theatre Tokens • Cat Beds • Bagguss items • Natural Cat Food • Cat Toys • Cat Magazine subscriptions • Feeding Bowls • Cat Treats & Storage Containers • Feliway items • Rosina Wachtmeister Candles • Cuddly Toys • Mugs, Bags, and more!

Tickets are on sale until 12 o'clock Midday, on Tuesday, 21st June 2011, and the draw will take place at 8pm on the same day.

On average it costs us just over £5.00 to find a home for a rescued cat... So by buying just 5 tickets, you'll be helping another rescued cat into a happy home!

For more information, or to get your tickets, visit: [www.catchat.org/raffle.html](#)

Thank You for your support and Good Luck!



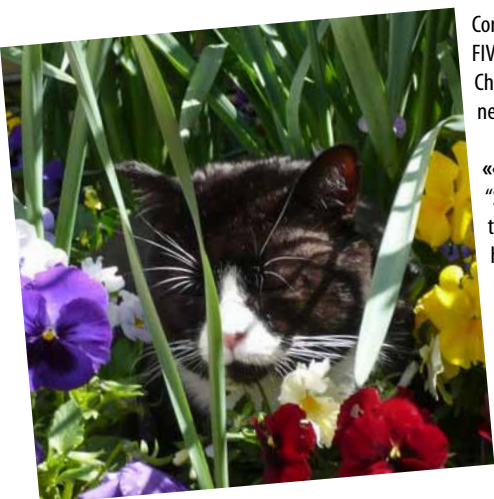
Serving Cat & Country

A warm furry welcome if you please, to our latest volunteers. They are Rosemary - our new Merchandise Co-ordinator, and Julia - our latest Feline Forum Moderator.

They are the latest feline fanatics to join our wonderful team, giving their time and expertise to make Cat Chat work.

Thanks Guys! Prrrr!

Most Recent FIV VIPs!



ENZO »»

Congratulations to Bagpuss and Enzo, who are the latest FIV+ cats to find love on the internet! Bagpuss is now a Cat Chat cat, and his full story appears on the front page of this newsletter.

«« BAGPUSS

“Some wonderful news, I am sure you have heard already, that our lovely big FIV positive boy Bagpuss has gone to his new home thanks to being spotted on Cat Chat. His new mum and dad have already sent me some photos of him. He certainly looks as he is enjoying his new home and I am sure he will very soon have his mum and dad doing just what he wants. Very best wishes.”

FELINE FRIENDS REHOMING, MEDWAY

“Great news, due to your site we have found long standing foster cat Enzo, a lovely FIV cat, a fantastic indoor home. He had been waiting a long time and will now have a special home in a rather posh area as a much loved cat!”

ANIMAL ACCIDENT RESCUE UNIT, NOTTS

Take care you guys, and enjoy all the fuss, chin tickles and snuggly beds you so deserve x



Latest Homing Pages to go Live

Rescues » If you need to find MORE HOMES for cats in your care, A FREE Cat Rehoming Page on Catchat.org can help! We're well indexed with Google, so your page will get noticed, and no special software is needed to update it.

To find out more about getting your own page on Cat Chat, please visit: www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

These are the latest Rescue Centres to have done just that:

- » Riverside Animal Centre, Sutton
- » Cats Galore Rescue, N.Wales
- » Burton-upon-Stather Cat Rescue, Lincs
- » Second Chance Cat Rescue, Lincs
- » Lothian Cat Rescue, Bonnyrigg
- » Teesside Cats Protection, Cleveland
- » RSPCA Sussex East & Hastings (Bluebell Ridge)
- » Peterborough Cat Rescue, Cambs
- » Cat Concern, Lanarkshire
- » Paws 2 Walk, Manchester

Good Luck and Happy Homings All!

Hard to Home Cats! (Part 1)

Since our last newsletter, we've had so many exciting snippets from rescue centres from across the UK, telling us of 'harder to home' cats who've now been homed! So we'll tell you about them in 2 parts:



RUBY

BELFAST ANIMAL RESCUE, BELFAST

Ruby was a very timid little lady, spotted by a lovely family on Cat Chat. She is watching the television and interacting with their

15 year old cat. Hurrah for CC. Thank you sooo much!

SEAL

WILLOWS CAT ADOPTION CENTRE, SOUTH SHIELDS

Seal was one of our 'hard to home' cats. A fab couple who understood his boundaries said they would love to adopt him. He now has a Perfect large home, and a garden with no children. Many

thanks as always.

DUDLEY

MIDLANDS ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM, WALSALL

Dudley is a beautiful, gentle ginger-haired chap of around 8 years old. Despite his charms he found himself living as a long term stray before being rescued. Luckily for him, his appeal on Cat Chat has netted him a nice new home for life.

Thank you!



ELLIOTT

BURTON JOYCE CAT WELFARE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Elliott has really gone up in the world, after living life as a matted, dirty stray in an abandoned factory. He has taken a trip down south and moved into his new Des Res in London. Elliott thanks Cat Chat for his happy retirement home.

JINXY

CELIA HAMMOND ANIMAL TRUST, CANNING TOWN, EAST LONDON

Just to let you know the good news that Jinxy; a three legged cat at our Canning Town Branch has found a new home -

thanks to being spotted on Catchat! Thank you so much for all

DINKY

PAWS INN CAT RESCUE, WEAVERHAM, CHESHIRE

Great news, Dinky our Cerebral Hypoplasia girl who appeared on your Top Cat section has been rehomed. We updated our page and less than 10 minutes later got a call about her, she has gone to live with Pud, another Cerebral Hypoplasia cat who also found his home through our Cat Chat pages just over a year ago.



WILMA

WILLOWS CAT ADOPTION CENTRE, SOUTH SHIELDS

Wilma, a hard to home cat, was spotted by a lady who has a busy life and wanted an

independent cat. She saw Wilma

on Cat Chat, so thanks as always from us, we are always eternally grateful.

DENTON

CAT AND KITTEN RESCUE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Denton was dumped at a dog pound in North London. He was un-neutered and had ingrowing eyelashes. He was neutered and had his eyes corrected surgically. He has now found a lovely indoor

home after being spotted on Cat Chat, thanks!

DOBBY

BROMLEY & DISTRICT CAT RESCUE, BROMLEY, WEST KENT

Dobby has really fallen on his paws, and found the most fabulous home thanks to being on our Cat Chat page! He was in such a terrible state when we took him in originally, and had

to have virtually all his fur shaved off, but his adopters saw past that and fell in love with him. He's now a very spoiled cat with two dotting humans catering to his every need. A real rags to riches story – thanks to you guys!

More Coming Up...!

Harder to Home Cats - (Part 2)

Could YOU give a Harder to Home cat their LUCKY break...? Take a look at our 'Top Cats' Rehoming Section to see who is waiting!

LOTTIE

CELIA HAMMON ANIMAL TRUST, CANNING TOWN BRANCH

Great news! Lottie, the slightly incontinent cat has found a new home after being spotted on Top Cats! Thanks so much for your help - We were worried that no one would give her a home.



THOMAS

ANIMAL ACCIDENT RESCUE UNIT, NOTTS

Thomas, is a senior kitty, rescued after he was found dumped. He has only one eye in which he is partially sighted. He needed a caring indoor home and found just that after being featured on Cat Chat. He is settling in wonderfully well with a fab lady who adores him and thinks he is just perfect!



SMOKEY

BRISTOL & WALES CAT RESCUE, BRISTOL, AVON

A big thank you from Top Cat Smokey; an old grey stray who turned up in someone's garden. His fur was matted and crawling with fleas. He was skinny and didn't have a single tooth in his head. He was such a friendly old boy, who the vet estimated to be about 17 years. After lots of TLC, a good brushing and having put some weight on, his story appeared on Cat Chat, which is where his new owner she saw him - and it was love at first sight!



MISSY

BURTON JOYCE CAT WELFARE, NOTTS

Shy little Missy who started out semi-feral has eventually found someone who is willing to work with her, she is reported to be a changed cat already. Missy owes her new start to Cat Chat.



SUMMER & SUNSHINE

PAWS INN, WEAVERHAM, CHESHIRE

Little Sunshine is Cerebral Hypoplasia and still managed to find a lovely home with her sister Summer, thanks to Cat Chat. Many thanks.



ZEUS

CAT HOMING AND RESCUE, WARRINGTON

Zeus has finally gone to his new home thanks to his advertisement on the Cat Chat website. He was a difficult cat to handle but is now very happy with his new owners. Thanks a million.



HARVEY

BRISTOL AND WALES CAT RESCUE, BRISTOL, AVON

Our lovely, but hissy, Harvey has been spotted on Cat Chat and has gone to live in his perfect home - a small holding where he will be Chief Ratter. We couldn't have asked for anything better - they were even looking for a black cat! Thank you once again.

ALFIE

COLCHESTER CAT RESCUE, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

We were really delighted for Alfie as he was very nervous and has now really settled in his new home - each day becoming less nervous. Thanks to being seen on our Catchat homing page. Meow!

Quick as a Flash

Was It a Bird? A plane? No - It was a Cat!

This is the bit where we pay homage to the fortunate puss cats who passed through the rescue shelter as quick as a flash, after appearing on our website

BENTLEY

COLCHESTER CAT RESCUE,
COLCHESTER, ESSEX

Bentley was spotted the day he was added to Cat Chat and was adopted the next, our quickest Cat Chat success yet!



PIXIE

BURTON JOYCE CAT WELFARE,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Pixie was extremely depressed in the rescue. We are therefore delighted that she quickly found somewhere.



BEANO

CLACTON ANIMAL AID, CLACTON,
ESSEX

Beano has been one of the really lucky ones, he was only on our Cat Chat page for a couple of days and he was homed!
Thank you



MORRIS

BURTON JOYCE CAT WELFARE, NOTTS

Morris was with us before Christmas, we didn't list him as he never came out of his bed. In desperation he was then added, and in less than a week he'd got a home.



LILY, TIGER & WILLOW

BURTON-UPON-STATHER CAT RESCUE,
LINCOLNSHIRE

Within ten days of our Cat Chat homing page going 'live', we had homed all three pussies in our care to wonderful homes.



CALYPSO

PAWZ FOR THOUGHT, SUNDERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR
Calypso our 1 year old queen stole the hearts of the visitors to Cat Chat after only being with us a few short weeks. Just how we like it!

We wish all these cats kindness, catnip and happiness (just don't try saying that with a mouthful of spaghetti!)

Love Plus One Purrfect Pairs Homed!

These cats go to their new homes, complete with the feline bosom buddies. . . ahh bliss! And how could we compile this list without starting with...



BILL & BEN

Ann And Bill's Cat And Kitten Rescue, Hornchurch, Essex



WILLIAM & KATE

National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock Branch, Essex



BORIS & DORIS

Furry Tails Feline Welfare, Blackpool



FANNY & MARGE

Bromley And District Cat Rescue, Bromley, Kent



FREDDIE & TOBY

Ashfield And Amber Valley Cats Protection, Derby, Notts



BONNIE & JET

Clacton Animal Aid, Essex



GEORGE & MILDRED

Ann And Bill's Cat And Kitten Rescue, Hornchurch, Essex



MONTY & PYTHON

Newmarket Cats, Newmarket, Suffolk



LEIA & MOLLIE

Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Fife



ALFIE & CHESTER

Cat Action Trust 1977, Doncaster Area



OLIVER & KIZZIE

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts



SIMBA & MANDY

National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock, Essex



OSSIE & NINA

Friends Of Ferals Cat Group, Swanley, Kent



COCO & CAILAH

All Animal Rescue, Hants



ARCHIE & TINKERBELLE

Clacton Animal Aid, Clacton, Essex

Paws crossed for lots more Purrfect Pairs homed next time!

Congratulations!

Three best mates from Durham managed to bag themselves a loving permanent home together in January.

The terrific trio; Jazz, Floyd & Rupert were spotted on Cat Chat, while residing in temporary digs at Aristocat Rescue, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham.

Have fun guys!



Rupert



Floyd



Jazz

Oldies

There's Life in the Old Cat Yet!

These Senior Kittizens have had turbulent lives, culminating in a spell (or two!) at a cat shelter. So we are as pleased as punch, that they have finally found smashing retirement homes in which to enjoy their twilight years. . .

BETTY, CUDDLES & MABLE

TEAM CAT RESCUE, BIRMINGHAM

Betty, Cuddles & Mable were three older cats who were with us for no time at all after being spotted on your website. Thank you for your continuing support, we couldn't do it without you.

THOMAS

BRISTOL AND WALES CAT RESCUE, BRISTOL

Thomas, our distinguished gent of 18 years, is now happily sleeping on the bed in his new home. He's going to be very loved and spoilt in his retirement and was spotted on Cat Chat so thank you once again.



MITTENS

CELIA HAMMOND ANIMAL TRUST, LEWISHAM BRANCH

Good News! Mittens has found a new home and it was all thanks to being spotted on Cat Chat. As an older cat of 13 years, wanting a home as the only cat, it was a worry as to how long she could be waiting. Thanks so much for your help!



MAX & SYDNEY
FRIENDS OF FERALS CAT
GROUP, SWANLEY, KENT

Wonderful news Max and Sydney - our two golden oldies have found a wonderful retirement home together with a really nice lady in South London who saw them on Cat Chat, thank you soooooo much.

SMOKEY

BRISTOL AND WALES CAT RESCUE, BRISTOL

A big thank you from Top Cat Smokey - he was only on your site for one day when he was spotted. This gorgeous old man has now gone to live with a smashing lady who intends to cherish and spoil him for whatever time he has left - not sure what he's going to make of his new sparkly collar though!! Thank you once again for your help with our 'difficult' inmates!



You can almost hear the purrs of contentment from here!

Long Term Rescue Cats Homed

This goes out to all the cats in rescue centres, who are being overlooked, and left feeling unwanted. DON'T GIVE UP!! Your special human may be just around the next corner, and will come for you soon... Or perhaps they'll spot you on Cat Chat, which is what happened to the following felines:

SOPHIE

POUND PUPPY ANIMAL RESCUE, POOLE, DORSET
After a year of looking for a home for Sophie she now finally has a new home, due to appearing on your Top Cats section. Thanks very much.



MAX

PAWZ FOR THOUGHT, SUNDERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR
Our longest running guy Max successfully completed his trial and snuggled into his new home next to his buddy - who is also a Pawz rescue. Hurray! Thank you so much Cat Chat as always for the invaluable work you do.



JACIE

BRISTOL AND WALES CAT RESCUE, BRISTOL, AVON
Good news for Jacie was spotted on your page and has been adopted by a lovely couple - she was our longest stayer at 6 months! Thanks for your help.



FLOSSIE

KINGSDOWN CAT SANCTUARY, DEAL, KENT
With great news, we have just got back from near Ashford where we have delivered FLOSSIE to the nicest couple ever. They saw her on Catchat and felt that as she has been here for so long, they would give her a home.



LUNAR

BURTON JOYCE CAT WELFARE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Lunar, with us over a year finally caught someone's eye and was given a chance after being seen on Cat Chat.

MAGIC

CAT HOMING & RESCUE (CHAR), WARRINGTON
Magic, has been in our rescue a long time and now has a really special loving home where she is a very happy little girl. Thanks a million catchat with your wonderful website which helps us enormously.

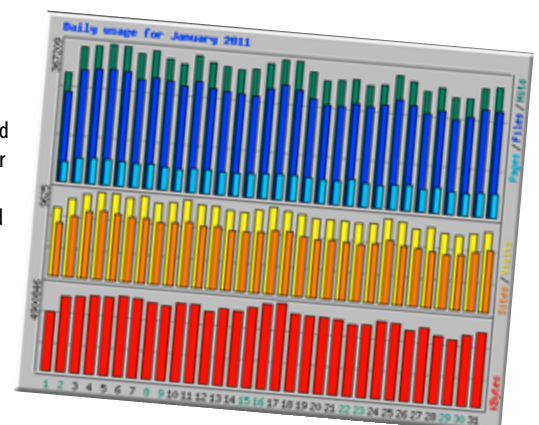


When visiting Cat Adoption Centres, please ask about those cats who are being overlooked, and have spent many months longing for a home of their own. It might be that they are black cats, black & white cats, shy or older cats etc. but whatever the reason, it is through no fault of their own, and each one deserves a chance!

One for the STATS-CATS!

Have you ever wondered, even vaguely, how many people visit Cat Chat these days? If the answer is no, then skip this bit, it'll bore you silly. But if you are a bit of a 'stats-cat' read on... We really have no idea how many people visited us when we originally launched Cat Chat back in June 2000, but we suspect it wasn't that many. But as we grew so did the number of visitors, and over the last six years, visitor numbers have increased ten-fold. In 2004 we averaged 23,000 visitors per month, but by the end of 2010 that had increased to around 250,000 visitors per month! Are you bored yet...? No? OK then... Looking at the visitor stats for the six month period up to the end of March 2011, we found that Cat Chat is now visited

by an average of 8,200 people per day (Monday being consistently the busiest day). Between them, they viewed an average of 59,374 pages per day (that's 7.24 pages per person...?). Now if you're still awake, those 59,374 pages generated 310,610 'graphical hits' per day. Also averaged out over the last six months, the Cat Chat site used up an average of 111 Gigabytes of bandwidth every month. (OK, that's enough - getting bored now..!) Figures aside, we reckon the main thing is that more visitors equals more potential adopters. So the higher the stats the luckier the cats! (p.s. Thanks to Jayne, our super stats-cat volunteer, for keeping track of all this!)



PUPS helping CATS!

We are pleased to be helping to publicise an important survey project being carried out by the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science (University of Nottingham), focusing on the un-owned pet population in this country. The Postal Un-Owned Pets Survey (PUPS), is a country-wide census being carried out through rescue centres and rehoming groups. Rather like the UK census that we've all had to



complete recently, except PUPS is concerned specifically with the un-owned pet population, initially concentrating on cats and dogs. Over 2,500 rescues have been sent a copy of the census so far. The project was initiated by qualified vet Jenny Stavisky MRCVS BVM&S PhD, who has also worked in rescue herself, and is now aiming to make a difference on a larger, more long-term scale. Cat Chat's founders and chairman met with Jenny recently, and she gave us an outline of the project:

"While much veterinary research is concentrated on pets, we know relatively little about the populations of animals that live in shelters and sanctuaries and who are rescued or fostered each year in the UK. PUPS is the first such study to focus specifically on the needs and problems of these

animals. One of the first questions to be asked is, simply, how many are there? Currently there is relatively little information about the many shelter and rescue organisations, how many animals they care for, and what happens to those animals. As a first step, we are carrying out a census of every such organisation we can identify. This data will then be used to help us to understand the needs of these animals, and the people caring for them. For the survey to be most effective, we need as many rescue shelters and rehoming organisations to take part as possible."

It is hoped that by having accurate data about the current un-owned pet population, it will then be possible to address the issues that contribute to the over-population problem, so that that humane and sustainable solutions can be found.

The more rescue organisations who participate, the more accurate and useful the data collected will be. All individual information is treated in the strictest confidence.

If you, or anyone you know is involved with a rescue centre or rehoming group, please find out if they have received their copy of the PUPS survey. If they haven't received a copy yet, they can obtain one by emailing: jenny.stavisky@nottingham.ac.uk or, it can be downloaded from the Centre's website here: www.nottingham.ac.uk/cevms/sheltermedicine/shelter-medicine.aspx

Tribute to Bonnie

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Bonnie, a very special, brave little cat. Fifteen year old Bonnie was rescued by Stourbridge & District Cats Protection, after her owner died. Bonnie was in a terrible state, underweight, with matted fur, gummy eyes, and chronic renal failure. She was a delightful lady though, and after being de-matted and starting medications, it was decided that she deserved a loving home for whatever time she had left. The branch began advertising for a home, and when Bonnie's story appeared on the Cat Chat Forum, she was spotted by Cat Chat volunteer Janey and her husband Steve, who immediately offered her a home.

Bonnie settled in straight away, relishing the care and affection she received. Sadly Bonnie was in the final stages of renal failure, and only had a short time in her new home before she lost her fight, and had to be put to sleep. Thanks to her rescuers, and her adopters, Bonnie was cared for in a loving home when she needed it most. Janey said: "She was one very special little girl, and we will miss her dearly."

Sleep tight Bonnie - gone but never forgotten.



What's New In The Cat Chat Shop

Introducing our new Spring Collection... We've recently added a fair flurry of feline items to our webshop, so why not treat your cat – you know they're worth it! Buying from the Cat Chat shop means you are also helping more cats out of shelters, into homes of their own!



So what's new? OK, firstly we'd like to introduce the new 2011 model **FURminator Deluxe**: This deShedding / Grooming Tool for Cats reduces shedding by up to 90% and also helps prevent hairballs. This new deluxe model includes the 'FURejector' button which cleans and removes loose hair from the tool, allowing you to keep one hand on your cat whilst grooming. (Have they invented one where you can keep two hands on your cat... and a knee perhaps??)



Also new are these super cat toys, specially selected for Cat Chat shoppers:

The **Kong Kickeroo** – 17 inches of pure wrestling pleasure!
Also from Kong, the **Field Mouse**, with its sneaky secret catnip pouch.
Or how about the irresistible **Swizzle Bird**, with its 31 inch long chase-able tail. Also new in the shop is the ever-popular **ball & feather** toy, and for those feline football fans... a set of 4 sponge footballs! ("Goal!" ... "Ref... hey ref... it's stuck under the telly again!")



Visit the Cat Chat Webshop here: <http://www.catchat.org/catalog>

... and Finally, we couldn't say goodbye without saluting Gertie Gannet, Bigboycockaleakyniagara & Florrieflankett from Paws Inn, Cheshire. They are without doubt three of the most 'unusually' named cats homed via Cat Chat.

More news of all things furry in our upcoming Summer newsletter. and... Good Luck if you have tickets for our Anniversary Raffle being drawn in June.