

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



WELCOME TO THE CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2011

Mookey's Story

Mookey had been in rescue for nearly four years, six months of which was at The Blue Cross. She may have been overlooked for so long because she has a rhinitis condition - a result of untreated cat flu at some time. She was 11 years old when she arrived at The Blue Cross.

Mookey adored the other cats, and had no doubt seen many come and go over the years. She was always trying to make new friends. Despite a few people meeting Mookey during her time at The Blue Cross, she was constantly left behind.

In April however, Mookey's luck changed when she was spotted on Cat Chat by a young couple, seeking a companion for their 2 cats. She took to them instantly

and was curled up in both their laps in turn when they visited - her charm worked and they adopted her! Mookey's new family had the following to say: -



"After losing one of our cats; Bonnie to old age, I had logged onto Catchat to find details for local rescue charities. We were specifically looking for an older female cat to provide a good role model for our kitten, and company

for our 15yr old cat. Mookey sounded an excellent match for our family, so we phoned her fosterer and went to meet her. She was the first cat to come over and say hello and it was soon apparent how affectionate she was. This immediately had us questioning how a cat like Mookey could have found herself in rescue for 4 years. She had a history of cat flu which seemed to be putting off potential homes, however given Bonnie had lived with cat flu for over 10 years without it causing her any problems, the occasional sneeze was never going to be an issue for us, as it obviously wasn't a problem for Mooks!

Mookey has only been with us for a few weeks and already she is a favourite in the family and neighbourhood - she likes to say hello to everyone she meets. She is very bright, inquisitive and active despite 'officially' being a senior cat;

she loves playing with the kitten and chasing leaves in the garden. Mooks has such a happy disposition, is never grumpy, and certainly not one to sit back and watch the world go by. I would encourage anyone thinking of adopting a cat to consider an older cat and those with medical problems; these cats often struggle to find a home and so often are fantastic characters that just need someone to give them a chance to be part of a family again."

If Mookey's story has inspired you, please consider adopting a cat who for reasons of age, or disability, is struggling to find a home. All they need is a caring person to give them a chance, and they will surely blossom in a loving home of their own. It could be the most rewarding thing you ever do! Visit our **Top Cat's section** to see who is waiting patiently for their big chance...

Kittens! Kittens & Even More Kittens!

At this time of year, rescue centres are inundated with kittens... So please consider rescuing a kitten (or two!) from a shelter rather than buying from a pet shop or breeder, as there are so many unwanted or abandoned kittens waiting for the gift of a home.

If you would like to adopt a kitten, please take a look at our web page detailing rescue centres who currently have adorable kittens looking for a new home: **Rescue Centres with Kittens for Homing**



We cannot stress enough the importance of having your cat neutered. Did you know that if you don't, your cat and its offspring could potentially spawn 21,000 descendants in seven years! So by neutering your cat, you are helping to reduce the stray population and in turn, help rescue centres all over the UK. Neutering can be done from 4 months of age, but can be done at any age thereafter.

Incidentally it is a myth that female cats should be allowed to have one litter. There is no biological or psychological benefit to the cat, and un-neutered females are more likely to develop cystic ovaries later in life. Un-neutered male cats can be very aggressive towards other males while fighting over females, often sustaining horrific injuries, and putting them at risk of contracting viruses such as FIV and feline leukaemia. Neutering them will also prevent the unwanted problem of indoor spraying!

For many people, neutering their pets is simply too expensive, but DON'T PANIC - help is at hand! If you are receiving benefit, are a pensioner, or are on a low income you can get low-cost, and sometimes even no-cost, neutering! See our neutering page for more information: www.catchat.org/neuter.html



Harder to Home Cats - Homed



PERCY

Percy, whom you kindly featured on Top cats for Lewisham Branch Celia Hammond Animal Trust London East section has found a new home. He was spotted on Catchat! so thanks for all your help - he will be off to his new female-only home later this week - even the other three cats residing there are all female!

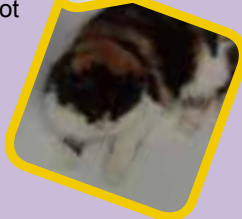
CELIA HAMMOND ANIMAL TRUST, LEWISHAM EAST LONDON SECTION



OSSIE AND NINA

Ossie and Nina went to a wonderful home on Saturday to a lovely young woman who contacted us via catchat. I'm really pleased for them as they were a bit special these two, not that they are not *all* special to us. Thank you SO much again.

FRIENDS OF FERALS CAT GROUP SWANLEY, KENT



ROSIE & QUINCY

Rosie was with us a few months because her temperament was difficult to judge due to her dislike of being in the cattery, yet after just a week of being listed as a 'top cat' we had a call offering her a new home. To our surprise the lady wanted a 'harder to home' cat and was also interested in Quincy on our Cat Chat homing page, who was extremely nervous and didn't bond well with people. The lady came and fell in love with both cats. We explained Rosie didn't like other cats but the lady had a very large house where they could have their separate space. I'm pleased to say both cats got re-homed.

The lady is over the moon, and both cats are gradually becoming more confident and appearing for fuss and cuddles. Thank you for doing such a great job, you are a god send to us small self funded branches.

RSPCA MEDWAY WEST, KENT



BELLA

Good news, our Top Cat Bella, has found a new home after being seen on the Top Cats section. Thank you for helping Bella.

KIRKBY CATS HOME, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



SHERRY & HARVEY

We are delighted that Sherry and her last kitten Harvey to whom she is devoted have found a home together after being seen on Cat Chat, despite being nervous they have been given a chance.

KIRKBY CATS HOME, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



CLEO & TOMMY

Our two sweethearts Tommy with his cheeky tongue sticking out and Cleo our permanent cleft lip smiler have both been snapped up. Very pleased to have these two in loving forever homes with plenty of affection for the rest of their lives, thanks so much for your assistance.

PAWZ FOR THOUGHT SUNDERLAND



BENJI

So pleased to tell you that Benji is now lounging in his new home as a result of being featured in the Top Cats section. Many thanks from us and lots of purrs from Benji.

CRESCENT CAT RESCUE, ESSEX



COCO & PAGAN

We're very pleased to report another success story - our identical semi-feral sisters Coco and Pagan were spotted as Top Cats and are now happily settling into their new home with a lovely lady who has had timid cats before and knows all the tricks to bring them round!

BRISTOL AND WALES CAT RESCUE, BRISTOL



ADE, JASMINE & KATIE

Great news - all our three Top Cats went to their new homes today and all were spotted on Cat Chat! Ade (now Mr Jinks) has already made himself at home and Jasmine and Katie are settling in well to so thank you once again - we don't know what we'd do without you!

BRISTOL AND WALES CAT RESCUE, BRISTOL, AVON



JASON

Just wanted to thank you for your support and with your help we have managed to rehome Jason, one of our FIV positive cats. Hope our working relationship continues for many years to come. Thank you very much for your help again.

CAT ACTION TRUST 1977, LEEDS BRANCH



Diabetic Cats



It is estimated that as many as 1 cat in 200 develops diabetes at some stage of their life. Inevitably therefore, rescue centres will from time to time take in a diabetic cat for rehoming. It can be much harder for them to find the right home, and they may stay in rescue far longer than other cats due to their condition, even though in most cases it is easily manageable, with a little extra patience and commitment.

Cat Chat's Chariman, Maggie and her husband Ray have been owned by two diabetic cats so far, so here is their 'Owner's Eye View', of living with a diabetic cat...

"Over the years, among the cats who've shared our lives, there were two who developed diabetes. It was the usual symptoms - excessive drinking, weeing, eating but getting thinner - that made us take the first one, Monty, to the vet. When diabetes had been diagnosed, the vet talked us through the treatment and what we would need to do. On first hearing it did sound scarily complicated. But the instructions were in fact quite easy to follow and once we got into a routine of twice daily insulin injections, watching the diet, and learning to keep an eye out for any changes in Monty's behaviour, we relaxed and so did he.

People are often worried, as we were, in case they might hurt the cat while giving the injections. However the syringe needles are very fine, and the dosages (which the vet will indicate) clearly marked, so it's just a question of practice and confidence. Our vet suggested practice runs injecting an orange before trying on Monty and that was really helpful!

vet for three monthly checks. It is possible to do the urine test at home, but I'm afraid we were never very successful at it! Our vet also advised on a special diet for Monty - which he did get used to... though, as he was a Siamese cross, not without some complaining!



Although rescuing a diabetic cat should be carefully considered, for the majority of them, the illness is easily controlled. Obviously additional vets visits, insulin/syringe costs and special diet food need to be budgeted for but cats with diabetes are as loving and friendly as normal cats. It's true that they need more of their owner's attention but we were complete novices who, with our vet's help, managed to master caring for Monty (and later another of our cats Katie). Monty lived to a happy 18 and Katie (now 16) is still with us and in fact has been in remission for the last few years."

Maggie and Ray

Common signs of diabetes in cats are: drinking and urinating excessively, or straining to urinate or passing blood in their urine, as diabetic cats are prone to urinary tract infections. Some may be lethargic or off colour, or may vomit, or show an increased or decreased appetite and lose weight. If you suspect your cat may be diabetic, it is important to go for a health check with the vet straight away. Once stabilised, most cats will live a relatively normal life, with check-ups every 2-6 months at the vet.

Diabetic cats can often live into their teens with a good quality of life, so a diagnosis of diabetes is definitely not cause for despair! We hope that Maggie and Ray's experience may also help anyone considering adopting a diabetic cat.

For more information about feline diabetes, and links to other helpful websites related to the condition, visit our web page here: www.catchat.org/diabetes.html



Initially, for about six weeks after diagnosis, we had to make weekly visits to the vet so Monty could have blood/urine tests. These are necessary to track glucose levels in order to find out the correct insulin dosage. It's a bit of trial and error, but for Monty things became stable fairly quickly and once that happened he only had to go back to the

Welcome to our Latest Advertiser



Cats & Canines pride themselves on being one of the very first pet supplies businesses that offered pet products online, delivering throughout Kent and the UK since 1998.

They're an independent, family run business specialising in a quality range of goods, including pet id tags, dog collars, dog leads and cat collars. They have a quality range of wicker pet baskets and pet beds for cats and dogs. The Cats & Canines selection of cat beds is ideal for the fussiest of felines, with a quality range of beds to suit. These include the traditional wicker igloo cat basket, the simple yet very comfy fleece cat bed and the pet blanket for cats with a fish bone design.



Their cat id tags from Red Dingo are made to a very high standard and can be engraved on the back. They are thicker than usual cat tags and are available in any design and colour combination!



Cats & Canines help the environment by recycling the boxes they receive from manufacturers, and using them to pack their own deliveries.

The company endeavors to provide quality pet products, great customer service, fair prices and prompt delivery. AND as an EXCLUSIVE OFFER to subscribers of our Cat Chat newsletter, they are offering free delivery on orders throughout August 2011. The code to qualify for this offer is: MSE08

More Cat and Canine details available at: www.catsandcanines.co.uk



Special Appeal for Homes

Here are 5 long-term rescue cats, who through no fault of their own, are left month after month, wondering if they will ever see 'home' again...



Ruby-Red from Whiteknights

Animal Rescue, Berks.

A fun-loving tortie female, who needs someone to give her a chance to trust again.



Thompson & Timmy from Somerset & Dorset

Animal Rescue, Somerset

Two handsome tabby brothers, seeking a new home and some TLC to help them over their past...

Hetty from Bromley & District Cat Rescue, Kent

A beautiful, lovely natured female - enjoys lots of loving and lots of playtime too!



Misty from Hounslow Animal Welfare Society, West London

A lovely sweet-natured lady, who loves exploring and being a little busy-body



Zig from Kats Cradle Cat Rescue, Wolverhampton

A fine 18 month old male who just loves to play - oh, and have a fuss when he gets to know you.

Good luck in your search for happiness guys, and don't give up! Our paws are crossed in the hope that your special human is right around the next corner! Hopefully we'll have an exciting update for some of these cats, in our next newsletter!

For further information on these, and other proud, beautiful cats, plus contact details if you wish to make an enquiry, go to our Top Cats rehoming section here: www.catchat.org/topcats

Latest Homing Pages



Shelters - do you need MORE HOMES for cats in your care? A FREE Cat Homing Web Page on Catchat.org could help!

These are the latest cat rescue shelters to have a Cat Chat Homing Page:

Fluff & Feathers Pedigree Cat Rescue, Sussex
RSPCA Stort Valley, Harlow
Barbara's Cat Rescue, Southampton
All Animal Rescue, Southampton
Maidstone Cat Welfare, W.Kent
Culcheth & Glazebury Cats Protection, Cheshire

These pages are ideal for rescues who do not have their own web site, or who have a site but do not use it to feature cats seeking homes. However if you do use your own site to feature cats seeking homes, you can still have a Cat Chat homing page as well - doubling the chances of each cat featured!

For more information, and how to get a page - visit:
www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

Oh, by the way, don't say we told you - but our homing pages are soon to get a revamp! We hope this will mean new homes for even more cats than before!! Watch this space.

FREE PAGE!
cats for homing



Now Serving Cat & Country



A HUGE thank you and a warm welcome to Jo, the latest Volunteer to join the Cat Chat Team. Jo is our new Newsletter Designer / Editor and we are delighted to have her on board. This issue is her first Cat Chat newsletter in fact (well done Jo - great job!)

Cat Chat "Anniversary Raffle" 2011 Update!



We're delighted to announce that the Cat Chat "Anniversary Raffle" 2011 raised an AMAZING £1,332.00. That's enough to home 248 cats!!

The tickets were drawn at the Northwood Club in Ramsgate on 21st June and the lucky winner's names can be seen here... www.catchat.org/raffle.html

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who purchased tickets.

Purrfect Pairs Homed



HARRY & TOMMY

SECOND CHANCE CAT RESCUE KEELBY
NEAR GRIMSBY



PEPSI & TIGER

KIRKBY CATS HOME
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



HOLLY & IVY

ANN & BILL'S CAT AND KITTEN
RESCUE, ESSEX



ALFIE & CHARLIE

WILLOWS CAT ADOPTION
CENTRE, SOUTH SHIELDS



RONNIE & RILEY

KIRKBY CATS HOME
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



TERRY & JERRY

ANN & BILL'S CAT AND KITTEN
RESCUE, ESSEX



SHERRY & HARVEY

KIRKBY CATS HOME
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



POLLY & PURDY

PETERBOROUGH CAT
RESCUE, CAMBS



JULIET & RYAN

ANN & BILL'S CAT AND KITTEN
RESCUE, ESSEX



CINDY & MINDY

CAT HOMING & RESCUE
(CHAR), WARRINGTON



Rescuer's Corner



Pawz for Thought
Rescue & re-homing of abandoned & ill-treated animals in the North East. No charity fee (2020)

This is where we pay tribute to the wonderful Rescue Centres that work tirelessly to help cats. One such Rescue Centre is Pawz for Thought, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear:

Pawz for Thought is run entirely by Volunteers, and is a special kind of shelter, taking in a range of animals – often those that nobody else will take in. They work with timid or temperamental cats, to help them overcome past experiences, and have also successfully turned feral kittens into fabulous pets that love attention! Much of this work is done through their dedicated fostering homes, but the pens and places they have on site are much better than the street, so they are used also.



When the time comes for a cat to go to a new home, Pawz for Thought has a strict rehoming process - including a questionnaire and home check to help ensure the right cat goes to the right home. All their cats are microchipped and neutered before rehoming. This is included in the donation fee, which also funds ongoing rescues.

One of their most ambitious, recent projects has been to help a terminally ill lady rehome her cats. She rescued them herself in most cases, but sadly when she became ill it all became a bit too much. Pawz for Thought went to her aid - rehoming kittens, organising neutering, providing health care for the poorly cats. There are still about 8 of these cats remaining, and they are now happy, healthy cats with lovely characters.

If you'd like to consider helping these, or any of the cats and kittens at Pawz for Thought,

you can find out more information on their Cat Chat Homing Page: www.catchat.org/pawz/cgibin/prtoc.cgi

The current 'Top Cat' in need of a home at Pawz for Thought is 'Senior Kittizen' Holly (left). She is a 13-year-old lady who would suit an adult only household, or a family home with older children. Holly is a very sweet natured, gentle cat who deserves the chance of some love and home comfort in her retirement years. If you think you can offer Holly her loving forever home, please get in touch with Paws for Thought. Holly's story can be seen here: [Top Cats Tyne & Wear](#).

Donations of tinned cat food and rabbit food are desperately needed at the shelter, as well as strong animal carry boxes for transportation. If anyone has any of these items to spare, please take them to the Paws for Thought Charity Shop at 170 Fulwell Road, Sunderland, SR6 9QT.

Shelters - If you would like your rescue centre featured in our newsletter, contact: cats@catchat.org

Supporter's Corner



This issue, we are proud to feature Animal Search UK, who are long standing supporters of Cat Chat, currently sponsoring our **Lost & Found** information page.

Animal Search UK was founded in 1999 by former police officer, Tom Watkins. Its aim is to help reunite missing/stolen pets with their owners throughout the UK. Tom, who has more than 18 years of investigative experience, said: "Our professional, uniformed specialist search teams can usually be at any location in the UK within 48 hours to help owners find a missing pet." They deal with any type of pet ranging from hamsters to horses!

In addition to their free to use website where owners can report their missing pets, Animal Search UK also provides a poster and leaflet service that uses a confidential free phone number, to allow anyone with news of a missing pet to come forward. Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the service continues for as long



as it takes to find the pet.

Animal Search UK can also send out members of its professional search team to the area a pet is missing from. The team has a small fleet of high-viz vehicles that will patrol an area and alert members of the community that there is a search in progress for a missing or stolen pet.

One of their most recent operations was the search for Foyi:

When fugitive feline Foyi went AWOL from his home in Banstead, owner George Theonus called in Animal Search UK to help him. A team of pet detectives armed with walkie-talkies, rescue traps, and police style patrol vehicles were drafted in to rescue this missing moggy.

It could so easily have been curtains for Foyi who had become trapped and frightened- with no means of escape whatsoever!



Missing cat Foyi and his owner George were soon re-united. The wandering four-legged friend was found three hours later having become trapped between two buildings after falling through the gap in a neighbour's roof.

Mr Theonus said: "I am delighted to be back with Foyi. He could have died there. Since he has been returned, Foyi has been much more affectionate. He is not usually a lap cat but he has been very close to me since he came back."

For more information on how Animal Search UK can help with either a missing or a found pet please contact them on 01432 761 406 between 9am – 9pm 7 days a week or visit their website: www.animalsearchuk.co.uk

AnimalSearchUK.co.uk
UK's Leading Search Service and FREE website for missing pets



Long Term & Older Cats - Homed



ABBY



PIGEON



TILLY



TOBY



WHISKY

MICKEY AND PIGEON

Hoorah! After 18 months with us, Pigeon has finally gone to a new home. She will hopefully be happily spending the rest of her life with Mickey, another of our cats, after being spotted on the Top Cats page. We are slightly sad to see her go, but incredibly pleased that she has eventually been picked by suitable people. Thanks!

CASTAWAYS CAT RESCUE, NORFOLK

FATIMA

Hi there, just to let you that Fatima was spotted on catchat and has now been homed, so would you please remove her from the Top Cats section and add her to the roll of honour please. Best regards.

CAT AND KITTEN RESCUE, HERTS

EDDIE

YEEEEAAAAHHH - it worked - young Eddie has been found a loving home - thanks a million for all your help with making him one of your Top Cats.

CAT HOMING AND RESCUE (CHAR), WARRINGTON

ABBY & WHISKY

May is turning out to be a good month for our adult cats, we have Whisky and Abby being our luckies this week - black and white cats rule this time around! Thanks so much for all the enquiries your site helps to generate, conveyor belt moving along nicely, there's always more so keep it up.

PAWZ FOR THOUGHT, SUNDERLAND

BLOSSOM

After the best part of a year on our homing page Blossom has found herself a permanent home, her new owner felt sorry for her as she'd been with us so long and decided to give her a chance.

BURTON JOYCE CAT WELFARE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

TOBY

Could you please add Toby to the roll of honour for May please. After being with us for almost 6 months he has finally found a lovely new home through being spotted on our Cat Chat web page. Thank you!

CAT ACTION TRUST 1977, DONCASTER

PRU

Great news after all this time, through catchat i have just homed Pru to a lady that has just come to England from Canada and living on her own was looking for a companion, saw Pru on my page and thought she was the right cat for her. I took her to her today hope it all works out.

FELINE FRIENDS, MEDWAY, KENT

MAX

Max, 8 year male, lost his home when his owners did. After seeing him on catchat, a young family said yes to adopting him. They've emailed a photo of him sitting on the gentleman's lap, looking so content.

ANN & BILL'S CAT AND KITTEN RESCUE, ESSEX

FIFI

We want to share with you our pleasure at finding a home for Cat Fifi. She had been with us for 11 months, during which time she was shown both on our website and on "Top Cats". One family saw her on the site, came and spent time with her and she showed that she could be happy with them. Reports from them tell how happy everyone is, and the photo (shown below) taken by them in their home show just how relaxed she is. Many many thanks to Catchat from us all!

NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST, THURROCK BRANCH, ESSEX

TILLY

Just to let you know the wonderful news that Tilly has now been rehomed to a gentleman who saw her on Catchat and travelled a 10 hour round trip from Northumbria to come and collect her! This is thanks to CatChat as this is where he spotted her, so thank you for your help.

RSPCA STAFFORD, WOLVERHAMPTON & DISTRICT

MR BLUE

Good morning, and the good news is that dear old Mr. Blue has found a lovely new home in the Norwich area, as a direct result of your website. So many thanks and we wish Mr. Blue many good purrs for his twilight years. Thanks again.

NEWMARKET CATS, SUFFOLK



EDDIE



MR BLUE



MAX



FATIMA



PRU



FIFI



Speedy Homings



MABEL

Mabel we were really pleased to home in quick time as she came in freaked out from a very horrible situation and hid in the cupboard under the sink. We had a new fabulous fosterer contact us through the help of your site and Mabel spent a week or two remembering how to be a loved cat in her gentle hands, until going off to her fantastic new home. In fact her new owners advise us that she is a serial headbutter and extremely affectionate. We love it! Many thanks Catchat for your excellent site!
PAWZ FOR THOUGHT, SUNDERLAND



MATTY

Matty is a long haired tabby beaut of a tom, his owner became homeless and Matty got matted. In he came for a de-mat and not a bad bone exists in this gent, not a claw in sight, completely laid back guy. Small wonder that with his temperament he got snapped up in quick time, off to his forever home today and with a new playmate to boot, happy cat and happy volunteers, thanks Cat Chat, your site really makes a huge contribution.
PAWZ FOR THOUGHT, SUNDERLAND



CHESHAM & EVITA

The Ark is delighted to announce that the Kitten Homing Event on 29th May was extremely successful and we were lucky enough to find homes for 9 kittens !!! The event was only advertised on Cat Chat and the adopters all came after seeing the advert on the site. Since the homing day, 3 more people have come forward to kittens and 2 other adults. All thanks to Cat Chat. Amazing and thank you so much for a fabulous site.
ARK CAT RESCUE, AMERSHAM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Stamp Collecting is Cool for Cats!



Did you know, that simply by collecting used postage stamps, you can raise funds to help Cat Chat!

All types of stamps are accepted, British or foreign. They don't even need to be sorted! Just tear or cut them from the envelope, leaving between an eighth and a quarter of an inch of the paper round each.

Any quantity can be sent, but if you are sending over 1kg, the postage can be refunded to you, or passed on to Cat Chat as an extra donation.

Many of our supporters have been doing just that – So a big THANK YOU from us and the cats you're helping.

If you don't already collect your used stamps, why not give it a go? Please ask family, friends and work colleagues to save their stamps for us too!

For more information on how to turn used stamps, postcards and foreign coins into funds for Cat Chat, please visit:
www.catchat.org/helpus_collect.html



We hope you enjoyed our Summer 2011 newsletter.

**We couldn't finish without acknowledging 'Brian Big Head'! Brian, at the Celia Hammond Sanctuary near Hastings, apart from being one of the most descriptively named cats to grace our website, is looking for a home in Sussex. His contact details can be found here:
www.catchat.org/topcats/sussex**

More next time... have a great Summer!

