

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



WELCOME TO THE CATCHAT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

Cheeco the ASBO Kitty - Part 1



A rather special person called Jo from Notts. had an amazing story to share with us. This is proof that even the most seemingly irredeemable cats can have happy endings in forever homes:

"I lost Bramley; a magnificent black tom in July 2011, suddenly to a brain tumour - and common sense advice would be that I needed time to grieve before even thinking of offering a home to another feline. However, life doesn't always work that way: I hadn't chosen any of my cats - they pick me!

In the days following Bramley's death - it was very strange... Cat Chat became a permanent fixture on my PC. I wanted to give a home to a cat who was having



trouble finding a new human. So Cat Chats Top Cat feature directed me to the kind of cats that I was looking for. And there, sitting at the bottom of a page, looking like an angel

and described as some kind of devil, was Cheeco!

I tried to resist him, really I did, but instead found myself emailing his rescuers at Kirkby Cats Home in Notts. to tell them about my 20 years of experience

with rescue cats, and how I'd like to meet Cheeco. I knew he would be a challenge, and that his rescuers had reservations about placing him in a house with another male cat. I therefore explained that my resident cat Tiddles (yes, "Tiddles", it's a

long story...!) may be just what Cheeco needed.

His rescuers were naturally cautious, and eventually agreed for me to visit. So, one sunny weekend, I drove up to North Nottinghamshire and met Cheeco and his staff. It wasn't a question of me doing any choosing. Cheeco looked me over and sized me up to see if I was suitable, and the answer was yes, I would do! He walked straight into the box, curled up and waited to be taken to his new home."

Find out how Jo, Tiddles and Cheeco got on later in our newsletter!

Cat Chat Extends it's Paw to Help Vets

We've tried it, and it works!!

Occasionally, in the past we have helped vets practices to find a home for a cat. This may be a stray cat that has been handed in, or perhaps where an owner is no longer able to care for their cat, and the vet has agreed to take it in. Not all vets practices are able to help with rehoming of course, but we've come to realise that many do.

More recently we've helped several cats from a couple of vets practices, by finding homes through our Top Cats section, so it's clear that this is a successful route.

"It's great news that Vets can use Cat Chat! We go through periods of having strays handed in and also the occasional pet given up by owners, so I am sure we will be posting more in the future. Many thanks

for your help. Sidcup Veterinary Centre, Kent"

Vets tend not to have the usual avenues for finding homes as rescue shelters do, and can find themselves sheltering a cat for months on end. But as vets practices are just as likely as rescues to ensure cats are neutered, and that the owners are suitable, we have decided to officially extend our homing services to verified vets practices.

So if a veterinary practice is located in the UK or Ireland, then Cat Chat can now help. Currently, we find homes for over 5,000 rescued cats and kittens each year throughout the UK, and our services are free. Vets and rescue centres can find out how we can help them with rehoming on our 'Help for Shelters' page.

We look forward to helping even more cats!

Speedy Homing Snippet

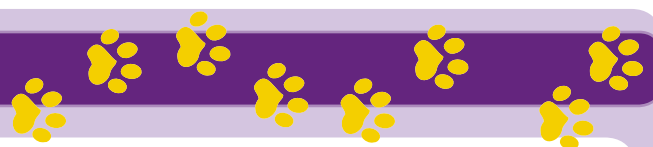
Daisy

"This little girl was only on the Cat Chat website for 24 hours before she was spotted and subsequently offered a loving new home - which must be a record! We couldn't be more delighted as Daisy had been so poorly we nearly lost her but now her life couldn't be more different."

Cat Homing & Rescue, Warrington



Purrfect Pairs Homed



MEGAN & WOODY

Crescent Cat Rescue, Tendring, Essex

DAISY & HER SON MUFFIN

Clacton Animal Aid,
Clacton, Essex



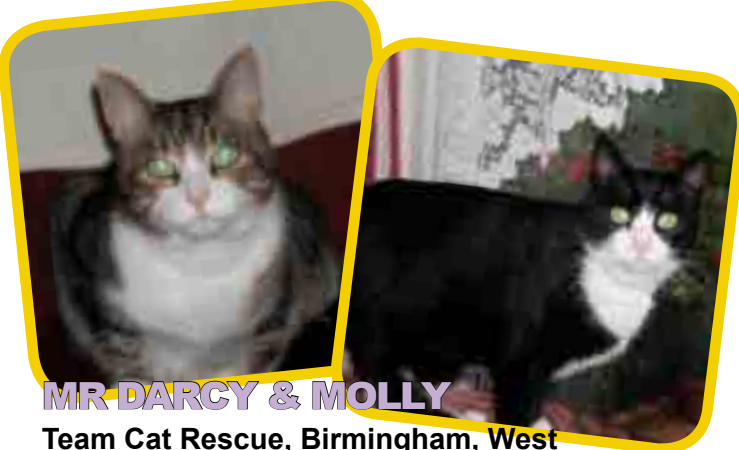
DRAKE & DARWIN

Willows Cat Adoption Centre, South
Shields, Tyne & Wear



JOSH & CLARENCE

Clacton Animal Aid, Clacton,
Essex



MR DARCY & MOLLY

Team Cat Rescue, Birmingham, West
Midlands



FABIAN & FLEUR

Willows Cat Adoption Centre, South
Shields, Tyne & Wear

**MITZI & HER
DAUGHTER**

Cavan Vets
Wolverhampton



JOSEPH AND MARY

Anne and Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue,
Hornchurch, Essex



Spotlight on Volunteer 'Corporal Smokey'



My real name is Amy. I got involved in cat rescue after I lost my beloved cat Hope to Feline chronic renal failure. I had no idea about the illness at the time and it was diagnosed so late I always had the feeling I could have done more if only I'd been armed with more knowledge.

I decided to start volunteering for my local Cats Protection branch and they repaid my volunteering efforts by sharing their years and years of experience and support. And of course, they introduced me to my neglected (at the time) Persian, Corporal Smokey.

I'm a sucker for a story. As much as I adore the beautiful teddy-bear looks of a British Shorthair (I have one, Lord Chester Red Bear who was mistreated in a former life, he doesn't like to talk about it), I'm equally at home with a 23 year-old mangy stray with one ear and three legs. I began as chief-updater of Ashfield and Amber Valley CP's Cat Chat page and then I started in my role as a Top Cat volunteer with Cat Chat, (assisted by Corporal Smokey!)

In my day job I work in radio advertising, so I use my writing experience to try and bring each cat's personality to life. I like it best when I have a little nugget to go on. Maybe the cat has a distinguishing feature? Maybe he has a funny purr or loves a particular brand of catnip. Even an interesting name helps me to create a whole life story sometimes.

It's so rewarding to get that email saying "thanks to your write-up, Tibblesworth has found a new home" and it gives you the kind of fuzzy feeling that only a wake-up call from a persian can match!



Apologies!

In our Winter Newsletter, we wrongly stated that two of the pairs of cats now homed - 'Rosie & Minnie' and 'Jeeves & Wooster' were from Clacton. They were in fact from Willows Cat Adoption Centre, South Shields. Sorry guys!

How to Text a PURR!

Now you can bring love and happiness to needy cats throughout the UK, just by texting a Purr!! 'JustTextGiving' from Vodafone makes it easy to donate to Cat Chat from your mobile.

To donate, just text: **PURR12** and the amount you wish to donate, to **70070** (for example: PURR12 £5). You can choose to donate anything between £1 and £30, and you will receive a confirmation text quoting 'CatChat' thanking you for your donation.

For more information visit the [Vodafone 'JustTextGiving'](http://Vodafone.com/JustTextGiving) website.

It costs us on average £5.37 to home each cat... so just five pounds will help us give a homeless cat a whole new future – Now that's something to PURR about!

Texts are charged at your mobile phone operator's standard rate.

The charity will receive 100% of your donation. You must be 16

or over and please ask the bill payer's permission. For full terms

and conditions and more information, please visit www.justgiving.com/info/terms-of-service.



JustTextGiving™
by  **vodafone**

PETITION TO ADD BITTERING AGENTS TO ANTIFREEZE!

We've all read about the dangers of antifreeze to animals... There is a current petition, calling on the UK government to vote upon and enact legislation preventing the sale of any antifreeze products without a bitterant additive.

Many cats, dogs and wild animals still die in horrific circumstances each year from antifreeze poisoning - deliberate or otherwise. Animals find the taste of antifreeze sweet and palatable and thus they will often ingest the substance if it is made available. The results are catastrophic and often fatal.

A bittering agent introduced into commercially available antifreeze will greatly reduce the number of such poisonings.

A simple solution to an age old, devastating problem! Make your vote count here: [Antifreeze Petition](#)

Closes 19th August 2012!!



Latest Cat Chat Supporter



Giveacar is a UK based social enterprise that specialises in auctioning or scrapping old cars for charitable causes.

Unwanted vehicles are collected free of charge by Giveacar and either sold by auction, or disposed of in an environmentally friendly way at an Authorised Treatment Facility. Proceeds from the sale are donated to a charity of your choice.

Even real 'old bangers' sent for scrap still net between £40 and £160 for your chosen cause! Here's how it works:

Step 1. Contact Giveacar

Visit www.giveacar.co.uk and fill in their online form, or call 020 0011 1664 to arrange collection of a vehicle.

Step 2. Your car is picked up

Your unwanted vehicle will be collected free of charge, at a mutually agreed time, usually within 1-3 days.

Step 3. Proceeds donated to charity

Depending on its age and condition, your vehicle is either sold at a salvage auction, or sent for disposal and recycling at an Authorised Treatment Facility. All proceeds, after admin costs, are donated to your chosen charity!

Don't forget, if you choose Cat Chat as your **chosen charity**, you can get rid of your old car and help Homeless Cats at the same time!



Special Appeal for Homes

Please consider adopting an overlooked cat. All they need is a caring person to give them a chance, and they will surely blossom if given love, stability, and a home of their own. Here are just a few of them:

Blackie

from **Eden Animal Rescue, Cumbria**

This young chap is shy (although can't resist a good tickle behind the ears!) and has been in rescue for far too long! To find out more, visit :

[Cats Seeking Homes - Cumbria](#)



Ozzie

RSPCA East London

A gorgeously handsome, long-haired boy of two years old, who was left to fend for himself. More about Ozzie here:

[Cats Seeking Homes - London \(East\)](#)



Jake

from **Whinnybank Cat Rescue, Fife**

Jake is a handsome, gentle ginger and white male. He is very laid back and would make a perfect pet for an elderly person, as well as fit into a family. If you'd like to offer Jake a home, visit:

[Cats Seeking Homes - Fife](#)



Scritty

From **Castaways Rescue, Norfolk**

Scritty was very nervous, but after the TLC she has received at the rescue, she will purr, do head bumps, and can now even do laps! If you have a forever home for Scritty, visit:

[Cat Rescue Centres - Norfolk](#)



These cats know what it's like to fall on hard times, and therefore will be even more grateful for the love of a human, and the comfort and security of a home of their own.

Consider giving a harder to home cat their lucky break this spring, and visit our [Top Cats homing section](#) to see who is waiting.

Penny

from **Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, Bridgend, S.Wales**

Pretty Penny is a 2 year old tabby coloured female. She was found alone, wandering in Penarth without food, shelter and warmth. Penny would like to move on, and find a permanent, loving home. More on Penny here:

[Cats Seeking Homes - Wales](#)



Special Appeal Update!!

Last issue, in our 'Special Appeal for Homes', we brought you news of Poppet from Camberley Cats Protection. Poppet, friendly, chatty tabby female, had been at the rescue shelter for a whole year, patiently waiting for a home.

We're delighted to tell you that after three months appearing on Cat Chat, Poppy

has at last found her dream home! Congratulations Poppy, we wish you a life of love and exciting cat things!!

If you enjoy reading about cats who were once unwanted, and are now much loved pets Visit the [Cat Chat Rehoming Roll of Honour](#) and enjoy!



Cheeco The ASBO Kitty - Part 2

Wed, February 1, 2012

**Anti-Social Behaviour Order –
6 month review**

Subject: Cheeco - a.k.a. "Muppet"

Cheeco came very close to a successful appeal against his ASBO-Kitty status this month. Unfortunately his claws let him down at the final hour. An episode of over-enthusiastic play resulted in a rather expensive and inelegant trip to the vet for his house mate Tiddles, who had to have his rear-end shaved so that George the Vet could remove a claw that Cheeco's had left behind. Cheeco's 'bite-first-ask-questions-later' approach to life has mellowed.: He has learnt to complain loudly first. If his complaint is then ignored, well, biting seems a pretty fair way to make his point understood. He has also learnt that a gentleman does not draw blood in play. He still nips a bit too much, but he never breaks the skin. All he needs to do now is learn to keep his claws in his paws. Cheeco will submit another appeal against his ASBO in August 2012.

Sat, April 7, 2012 - Update

I learnt by accident that the way to discipline Cheeco is to ignore him and armed with that knowledge, I have taught him to keep his teeth to himself. We are

still working on getting him to keep his claws in his paws. He and Tiddles seem to accept each other, although they argue over who is entitled to sole access to the human!

Last night all three of us were curled up on the sofa and there weren't any fights at all. Just as described on Cat Chat's pages, Cheeco is very affectionate, he's also a little clumsy, and daft as a brush! Thanks to Cat Chat, Cheeco has his forever home, and I have an angelic devil, or devilish angel, to keep my heart and hearth warm.

Best wishes - Jo, Tiddles & Cheeco"

We wish Jo, Tiddles & Cheeco a life of love and feline fun together, and by the sound of it, it definitely won't be dull!! If you have an extraordinary 'Cat Chat' rescue story to share with us, please forward it to: cats@catchat.org



Ban Snares



We recently received yet another email telling us about a pet cat that had got caught in a snare. We decided to highlight this subject for this newsletter, and to urge you to sign a petition for its ban.

Farmers have long been using free-running, or non-locking snares to try and prevent damage to farmland from rabbits, foxes and other wildlife. They argue that these metal snares, made out of wire, are a humane way of dealing with wildlife on their land.

The way these snares work is that when an animal gets caught, the snare tightens as the animal tries to break loose. The argument that they are a humane form of pest control is that they are supposed to loosen as the animal relaxes. But since

an animal caught is bound to struggle to try and break free, this is unlikely to happen. The animal will keep struggling and the snare will dig in further into its body, eventually leading to horrific injuries or death.

The National Anti Snaring Campaign says that almost 70 per cent of animals caught in snares are not the intended targets, i.e. the foxes and rabbits that farmers claim they set the traps for.

What's worse is, these cruel snares are completely legal, as several cat owners have discovered. In Norfolk, Freddie the tabby got caught in a snare and managed to drag himself part-way home, still trapped, and howl loud enough for his owners to find him. He was rushed to the vet where the snare was removed safely. Sadly, not all cats are that lucky – earlier this year a family in York had to have their one-year-old tom cat Marmite put down

Latest Homing Pages to go Live!

These are the latest rescue centres to take advantage of our free cat homing pages:

Cats-R-Us, Shildon, Co. Durham
Balham & Tooting RSPCA, W. London
Inverclyde Cats Protection, Strathclyde
Woodland Nook Cat Rescue, Derbyshire
RSDR Cat Rescue, Norfolk
Staffordshire North RSPCA
Milton Keynes & North Bucks RSPCA
Huthwaite Cat Rescue, Ashfield, Notts.

Rescues: If you need more homes for cats in your care, a FREE Cat Homing Web Page on Catchat.org can help! We set the page up for you, and host it and promote it on the Cat Chat Charity's web space, at no cost to you. All you do is input the cat's details... and wait for offers of homes to start coming in!

Find out how to get your free cat homing webpage here:

www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html



after he suffered horrific injuries that the family vet suspected were from a snare. And in 2009 a couple from Aylsham found their dead cat Marmalade hanging from a snare near their home. They were shocked to find out that the contraption that killed their beloved cat was not illegal, and started a petition to try and make it so. Sadly this has not yet happened, and we are therefore urging you to support petitions to try and outlaw this horrible treatment of innocent animals:

Petition: **Ban Snaring in Scotland**

Help call for a petition to ban snares in England: **Ban Snaring in England**

For more information, see the National Anti Snaring Campaign website: www.antisnaring.org.uk



Rescuer's Corner



Aristocat Rescue, based in Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, was launched on the 1st January 2003, by a few dedicated cat lovers. In July of that year, they became a registered charity, no: 1098383. Aristocat is a volunteer organisation, with over 24 years of experience in rescuing and rehoming stray, unwanted and homeless cats and kittens in the north east of England. They also offer advice on cat related problems.

Over the years they've found loving homes for many strays found living rough, and cats sadly left behind to fend for themselves when their owners move house. Other cats have come in to the rescue as a result of road traffic accidents.

Tragically, a lot of cats just end up being unwanted by their owners. Aristocat says: "These cats are the hardest to rehabilitate, they don't know what they have done wrong, why they are no longer wanted, they lose their self-respect and can get very depressed. The older they are the longer it takes to restore their confidence, and for them to regain their self-respect and to know that they are loved and wanted."

All cats that pass through the shelter are vet checked and treated if necessary, flea treated, wormed, microchipped, tested for F.I.V And F.E.L.V and neutered. Homes are thoroughly checked before any cat or kitten is rehomed by Aristocat Rescue.

Please get in touch with the staff at Aristocat Rescue if you would like to help them with their work. They are looking for help with fundraising events, and for people to foster

cats, until permanent homes can be found. Details of how to contact them, plus some of the many gorgeous cats awaiting adoption, can be found on their [Cat Chat Homing Page](#)

One such cat on the homing page - patiently awaiting his 'forever home', is a white and black tom cat called Smudge. He is a very friendly two year old who is neutered, microchipped and ready to meet you!



Smudge

Longer term cats - homed



SYLVESTER

SYLVESTER

"Sylvester had been with us for 18 months and has never known a proper home. Now homed via Cat Chat."

Clacton Animal Aid

WISP

"Wisp was born in the rescue and at 8 months old he was still with us, however last week saw Wisp move on to a new life, after a ropery start where he struggled to come to terms with living in a house all is reported to be fine and Wisp has a new life. Wisp was seen on Cat Chat."

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottinghamshire

BELLA

"Beautiful Bella has eventually found her perfect pad, she is reported to have settled in straight away and her new mum considers it a bonus that her colour coordinates with the kitchen units! Bella was seen on Cat Chat."

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare

WILLIAM & LOUIS

"Brothers William and Louis had been with us a year, since they were kittens, and are now homed via Cat Chat."

Clacton Animal Aid



WILLIAM



LOUIS



BELLA

BETSY & SAPPHIRE

"Mother and daughter Betsy and Sapphire have moved on together, their new owner came to see another cat after looking at our page on Cat Chat but fell for Betsy and her last kitten. Sapphire was born in the rescue and the last to go and Betsy has had a rotten life so far, but New Year, New Start - and all thanks to Cat Chat."

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire

NIMROD

"Nimrod came to us in June last year, he couldn't cope with the rescue, hid away and attracted nobody until last week when his knights in shining armour took pity on him, took him away from Kirkby and gave him a chance. It took a long time but it's been worth the wait, Nimrod has a lovely home with people that will give him time and work with him; he owes his change of fortune to being seen on Cat Chat."

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottinghamshire

JACK

"Jack who has been waiting for a new home for a long time has now been rehomed via Cat Chat. Happy New Year to him and all at Cat Chat."

Cats In Need, Warwickshire, Leicestershire



BETSY



NIMROD



WISP



JACK



Cat Chat Extending its Paw to Vets... (contd.)

As mentioned earlier, we are now extending our rescue resource to vet practices as well as rescue centres. One such practice that we assisted recently, told us about their Cat Chat experience in verse!-

"Why Cavan Vets, Oxley, Wolverhampton are Proud to Work with Cat Chat:

*Cat Chat is a website, where wise cats are found,
Read all about them, the info is sound.*

*We as a vets practice have re-homed our last 8 / 10 cats through this site,
Those precious cats have new caring, responsible owners and sleep safe at night.*

*During the past 2 years, the number of cats brought into the practice is double,
We are not a rescue centre just animal lovers, so we go to the trouble.*

*Cat Chat's website enables our cats, to leave us and go to new homes every day,
So we recommend that you visit the Cat Chat website without delay.*

*With pictures so purrfect you'll be spoilt for choice,
Rehoming cats, without their own voice.*

*Follow Cat Chat's guidelines to seek your new pets,
The website will guide you to local rescue centres and vets.*

*If you wish to find the cat meant especially for you,
Log onto the website, you know what to do!"*

By Lorraine Evans (very clever Mom of Jody; Veterinary Nurse at Cavan Vets, Oxley, Wolverhampton)



Marmaduke, Mabel & Buttons have all been homed for Cavan Vets, through Cat Chat

Gin & Tonic - Shaken, but not Stirred!



This is one of our favourite recent homings from Kirkby Cats Home, Notts. Here's what they had to say:

"This homing is especially special. Gin and Tonic came to us in April last year after their owner died. They were petrified and just curled up and hid away, they were also disadvantaged as they were 5 years old and for over 7 months they just existed miserably in our big run.

Last week their luck changed, a lovely young couple fell for their faces and story on Cat Chat and gave them a chance. Although timid they settled well and loved the attention, the only problem being when they were left at night they both cried until someone got up and comforted them, the conclusion is that they are terrified they are going to be left again. This tearful, happy ending for two lovely older boys is due to Cat Chat, without you they would still be sitting miserably in their pen..."

Thanks to the folks at Kirkby Cats Home for sharing this with us. We'll make a toast to Gin and Tonic!!



The Sweet Success of Caramel



This is the bit where the Cat Chat Team get to curl up and indulge in a bit of a chin tickle! In March, we received one of those emails that makes you go warm and tingly. We'd like to share it with you:

"Hi there,

Just wanted to send a huge thank you to Cat Chat - it is a brilliant advertising tool for animal rescue charities. Bolton and Bury Cat Rescue is run entirely by volunteers and any help that we can get is greatly appreciated.

We listed a female long-haired tortoiseshell that we had for rehoming on Saturday 17th March, received a telephone enquiry on Thursday 22nd March as a result of the lady searching Cat Chat, carried out a home visit on Saturday 24th March and Caramel was collected to go to her new furr-ever home on Sunday 25th March.

What a perr-fect result! Thanks again. Kind regards

Bolton & Bury Cat Rescue"

Thanks for sharing this with us guys - glad to be of service! It's always great when cats don't have to remain in rescue shelter for long periods... Best wishes to Caramel and her new family.

To find out who has taken Caramel's place at Bolton & Bury Cat Rescue, visit their [Cat Chat Homing Page](#)



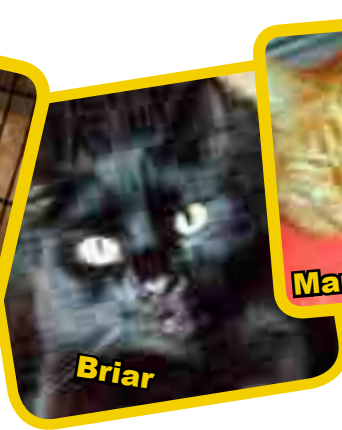
Top Cats - Homed!



Panda



Shakira



Briar



Marmalade & Tigger



Coffee

Panda & Shakira

"Big thanks for having our girls promoted on Top Cats. We had lots of interest in them but when we said how old they were people were put off. 1 year & 1 day on they've finally been re-homed. These special, wonderful people fell in love with them thanks to the story that your talented staff wrote. We're very happy they're rehomed, but we're sad to see them go. Again I would like to thank you all at Cat-Chat for all your support."

RSPCA Medway West Branch

Coffee

"Hi oh wonderful folk at Catchat! Thank you so much from Coffee our Top Cat. She has just been homed to a lovely lady who saw her on Chatchat and on the first night in her new home, slept at the bottom of her new mother's bed! How good is that? Many thanks."

Belfast Animal Rescue, Belfast

Timmy

"Great news Timmy one of our Top Cats has been rehomed after being seen on Catchat's Top Cats listing. Many thanks."

Crescent Cat Rescue, Tendring, Essex



Timmy



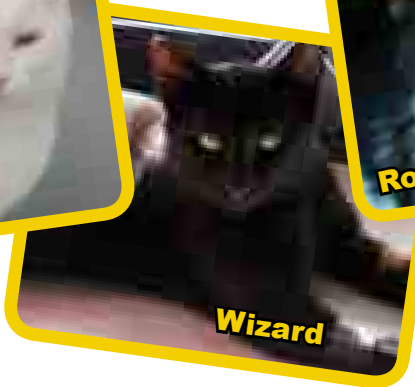
Ollie



Penny



Roly



Wizard

Ollie

"Hi. Ollie from the Top Cats section has now found a lovely new home having been seen on your site. Thank you very much for your help."

Midlands Animal Rescue Team, Walsall

Marmalade & Tigger

"Hiya. Just to let you know that our Topcats, Marmalade and Tigger, have gone off to lovely new homes - separately as it happens but they're not missing each other at all just enjoying having all the attention! They were spotted on Cat Chat so thank you once again."

Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue, Bristol

Penny

"Penny has been rehomed recently thanks to being on your Top Cats page. Thank you."

Huntly and Keith Cats Protection, Huntly, Aberdeenshire

That's all for this edition... Don't forget you can stay up-to-date with our furry frolics by visiting our website: www.catchat.org and by looking us up on Facebook or Twitter.

'Till next time... Toodaloo Prrrrp!

