(atchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource Reg. Charity No. 1100649

WELCOME TO THE CATCHAT NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2012



A Tale of four kitties

Four kittens were bought in to Paws Inn Cat Rescue, Cheshire with their Mum, Rosalind, who was just a youngster herself - believed to be around 12 months old. Sadly, shortly after her arrival, Rosalind's health deteriorated and she was rushed to the vet. The vet advised that Rosalind was separated from her kittens permanently, as the problem seemed to be caused by a calcium deficiency, whereby milk production could be very dangerous for her.

Paws Inn founder Teresa, then began the exhausting task of hand rearing the babies who were nicknamed 'the fusspots' as they were not playing ball when it came to feeding! When the time came for them to be rehomed Teresa, for the first

time in over twenty years of rescuing, allowed them all to go to the same home. She knew these bottle-fed babies had found the most perfect home together after being spotted on Paws Inn's Cat Chat homing page.

Titania, Perdi

Here's an excerpt from a recent update from Titania, Perdita, Cobweb & Tom Snout's new owner:

"Hi... Titania (now named Mimi) is very clever and inquisitive. Cobweb is a real climber, Perdita nibbles fingers and Tom is a scaredy, but full of bluster. I am writing now as all are snoozing, 2 in one cat bed and 2 in another.

Everyone is eating well and getting bigger. All are using the litter tray well and enjoying the toys, especially the large climber. Mimi and Cobweb have been to the top. Tom's not sure. Everyone can climb stairs and Mimi likes to see the garden from a low windowsill. We have played for about 3 hours each day and they have played longer as a group with soft balls and dangly toys. They use us as rescue when the play gets

rough and run over to us, then everyone enjoys cuddles and purrs loudly. Cobweb has been over the piano repeatedly and Titania has investigated the children's bedrooms.

Thank you so much for all the love and care. We are thrilled with our new feline family."

We're thrilled too. Without the tender care and devotion that this little family received at Paws Inn, this story could have had a very different ending.

Cat Chat salutes all involved in the rescue and adoption of these beautiful kittens, and we are delighted to have helped.

Cool for Cats

Smart Pets Beat the Heat this Summer... When we launched our hot weather advice page a few weeks ago, the weather just got worse... we wondered if we should have launched a 'Wet Pets Advice' page instead!



Most of us long for a little warm sunshine this time of year to ease aches and pains, and put the cheer back into our hearts. But now that summer is finally here, please spare a thought for the animals who need a helping hand to stay cool. To help with this, we've put together a hot weather advice page aimed at keeping your furred, feathered and finned friends safe and happy throughout the hot spells:

Cat Chat's Hot Weather Advice

Enjoy the page, and enjoy the summer... (now that it's finally here!)



Seniors Success Story!

"11 year olds Timmy and Chloe were handed in, in January of this year by the family of a lady who had sadly died. These two cats had been in the same home all their lives and were traumatised at being uprooted. They retreated to the back of their pen and there they stayed until recently, when a lovely couple spotted them on our Cat Chat homing page, and came and gave them their new forever home."

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts.

Congratulations Timmy & Chloe!

<u> Long-stay cats - homed</u>





Opal

It took a while but, the lovely Opal has now moved onto a loving home thanks to Cat Chat, this is especially good news as she was unwanted and had been taken to the vets to be put to sleep.

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts.

Peachy Edward & Mr Mole

Big, massive hugs and kisses from both Peachy Edward and myself the gorgeous Mr Mole, to the Catchat guys. We finally have our dream home with catflap and are going together - meowwwwww. I've been at Willows since a baby and when Peachy arrived 10 mths ago we fell into a 'bromance'. Our mam is fab, we have fields behind the garden, and she lives out of our area, so found Willows on Catchat. The rest is history- finally our own proper, forever home. We will be very much missed but will keep in touch with Willows - meooowww.

Willows Cat Adoption Centre, South Shields, Tyne and Wear

June

"June was dumped in a box on our doorstep in February with her sisters - April and May, who quickly moved on. June for some reason had been with us ever since. But this week was her lucky week, and she moved out of the pen for good after being spotted on Cat Chat, and went off to her new home."

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts



Hermes had been with us since October last year - so it was good news when his prolonged appearance on our homing page and on Top Cats paid off, and he got his chance to move on to a new life! He had to put up with a kitten, but he's taken this with good grace and is reported to have settled in well.

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts.

Maddie

Lovely Maddie has found a home after ten months with us, thanks to Cat Chat.

Cat Action Trust 1977, Doncaster branch, South Yorks.

Sugee

Hi, I want to tell you how grateful we are that after months and months of waiting, Sugee has at last found her forever home due to being spotted on Catchat's Top Cats section! Being Black (and there being SO many black cats looking for homes) we began to despair. But someone saw her and fell in love. Hopefully more will follow in her footsteps.

South Oxhey Animal Rescue, Herts.

Patch

Hi, After a whole year in our rescue - our gorgeous Patch has FINALLY found someone to love him and offer him a very much needed home, thanks to your top cats section. He is going to be spoilt rotten and we couldn't be more thrilled. Never give up hope we say! Thanks a million catchat.

Cat Homing and Rescue (CHAR), Warrington









A Call for change

Please sign this petition calling for changes in the Laws governing animals for sale on Internet sites.

Currently, live animals can be advertised for sale on commercial internet sites, and there are no laws and very few rules or checks to protect them. Some animals offered for sale or "free to a good home" can end up in the ownership of unscrupulous people involved in criminal activity, or worse still, animal cruelty such as dog fighting, or being used as "live bait".

These internet sites are rapidly expanding and the petition calls upon the Government to bring into effect new legislation, or to expand existing Animal welfare laws to cover the sales of live animals on Internet sites.

http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/29242

Closing date – 14th February 2013.

NB: Our advice to anyone needing to rehome an animal, is to contact their local animal rescue centres.



Jasper's Story

Poor Jasper... He was in a sorry old state when he was taken in at Kirkby Cats Home, in Notts. He'd spent his life unwanted, unneutered and doing whatever it took to survive. And, at age 12, it seemed as if everything was against him finding a home. Jasper had resigned himself to living out his days in the rescue shelter.



What happened next was truly wonderful! A very special person saw Jasper on Kirkby's Cat Chat Homing Page, and decided he was the chap for her. Things must be going great, as Jasper has even taken the time to write to us!

"Hello everyone it's Jasper here, this is just a little update for all those lovely people who enquired about me and were disappointed.

As you can see I'm not dead! The picture shows me enjoying the lovely comfy sofa in my new home, my lovely new mum

had just got up to make herself a cup of tea and I jumped in her spot, she doesn't mind though as she loves me and I absolutely adore her. I owe my new mum my life and as I am a very loyal boy I won't forget what she has done for me. I really thought that I was going to end my days in the rescue but there are some people out there who prefer us more mature cats!

Anyway I must go as there are so many comfy spots around here that I haven't tried and I'm sure it's time for a little snack so I'll say goodbye and thank you for showing an interest in me. Oh and remember just because a cat is older, he or she will still make you a super

pet. Admittedly they are not all as super as me but that goes without saying."

Thank you to everyone involved, for sharing Jasper's story. If it inspires just one person to adopt an older cat, that's the best outcome of all:

Senior Kittizens Rock (between naps)!



Purrs of Thanks to Feliway!



If cats did have thumbs, we'd be giving a big thumbs-up for Feliway... who have recently increased their support for Cat Chat, and now sponsor four of our information pages:

Bringing a New Cat into your Home

Feline Introductions and Hierarchies

Meowing at Night - Breaking the Habit!

Soiling or Spraying Indoors

Feliway helps cats naturally cope with stressful situations and stops unwanted feline behaviour, providing a contented household for you and your cat. When a cat is secure you will see it brush up against furniture rubbing it's face on it, thus marking it's territory. The absence of these familiar marks is believed to lead to an increase in anxiety. Feliway's special formulation mimics the facial pheromones used in this natural marking, helping cats feel safe and secure.

Feliway is available as a spray and / or as a diffuser. You can buy online, from your vet, or from your local Feliway stockist. All details can be found on their website:

www.feliway.co.uk



Discover the Historic York Cat Trail

The York Cat Trail is great, free fun for all the family. The trail is based on cats that appear on buildings around York city centre. It has been designed to ensure that you see not only the cats of York, but also the most interesting and beautiful parts of the City.

Highlights along the way include the Museum Gardens, Clifford's Tower and York Minster plus a walk down the Shambles and on the City Walls. The trail should take around two hours to complete... and accompanied children who complete the mini quiz will qualify for a reward!!

York Cat Trail is sponsored by long-time Cat Chat supporters, The Cat Gallery: Cat Gallery

For more details on the York Cat Trail, including how to take part, download a PDF leaflet from The Cat Gallery here: The Cat Gallery PDF



Purrfect Pairs & Tremendous Trios Homed



BILL & BEN

Homed from Peterborough Cat Rescue, Cambs.



ABBEY & ALEXIS

Homed from Ann and Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Hornchurch, Essex



JEANIE AND TWO
OF HER THREE KITTENS

Homed from Caring for Animals 2001, South Ockendon, Essex



Homed from National Animal Welfare
Trust, Thurrock Branch, Essex



MERLIN & MEGAN
Homed from Kirkby Cats
Home, Notts.



2 BENGAL BROTHERS

Homed from Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Hornchurch

Giveacar revisited

Now you can give HALF a car and keep half!

In our last news letter, we brought you news of our latest supporters - 'Giveacar'. Giveacar is a UK based social enterprise that specialises in auctioning or scrapping old cars for charitable causes, including CAT CHAT!

It works too... and it's with great pleasure, we give a big, furry 'THANK YOU' to the first people to donate the proceeds of their old car to us. They are Matthew from Newcastle, and Simon from Woodford Green. Thanks guys, your actions will help many unwanted and homeless cats across the UK, find loving homes.

Unwanted vehicles are collected free of charge by Giveacar, and it doesn't cost you a penny. You can choose to either donate the whole value, or you can donate half and keep half the proceeds yourself, it's up to you! To find out how to donate your old car, van, motorbike or lorry and make a real difference, visit: CAT CHAT - GIVEACAR





for Homes

Special Appeal The following cats haven't had the best start in life, most of them knowing what it's like to be unwanted, or even abused. All they need is a caring person to give them a chance, so they can blossom and feel safe, in a loving home of their own.

Charlie

from RSPCA Macclesfield, S.E. Cheshire & Buxton, Cheshire

A sweet natured 3 year old, whose unstable home life has left him feeling nervous. Charlie is looking for a loving home, with someone who has the time and patience to teach him to love and trust again.

Cats Seeking Homes - Cheshire





Topsy & Tansy

from Celia Hammond Animal Trust, Lewisham, London.

Absolute stunners! A little shy on first meeting, but a loving, reassuring, slow strok down their back will have them purring for England!

Cats Seeking Homes - E.London





Drake & Charity

from 7th Heaven Animal Rescue Trust, Co.Antrim, Ireland.

These little folks were rescued from a room with 48 other cats! Needless to say this experience as left them in need of a special and caring home, while they come to terms with their new life.

Cats Seeking Homes - Ireland





Peaches & Marie

Aristocat Rescue, Newton Aycliffe, Co.Durham.

These females are beautiful and friendly, and both under four years old. They would like a safe, loving home together - without dogs or young children.

Cats Seeking Homes - Co. Durham





Elijah

from Willows Cat Adoption Centre, S.Shields, Tyne & Wear.

Four year old Elija craves human interaction, and loves affection. He will amaze you with his vocals, and amuse you with his acrobatics! He needs someone with patience to build up his trust.

Cats Seeking Homes - Tyne & Wear



Rescuer's Corner

Featuring 'Rain Rescue' Rotherham Rain Rescue is a ten year old, small rescue based in Rotherham, South Yorkshire whose primary aim is to actively go into dog pounds and save dogs shamelessly dumped on the streets and facing being put to sleep. It was during one of the harrowing dog pound visits that they happened to



see a cat with her kittens. They thought it was an unusual sight but later found out that cats are regularly placed into Council pounds by Social Services when things go wrong at home, such as bereavement, long-term hospitalisation, or relationship breakdowns.

Since that time, countless cats and kittens have found their way from dog



Rescue's care and Junior's story is just one of them: "Junior (shown right) was a kitten when he was signed over to a dog pound by Social Services

following his owner's long term hospitalisation. His owner finally left hospital but could not cope with Junior at home and he was placed for adoption after living in the pound for eight months. However, the same old story with black cats, no one came forward for him and his time was up. He was going to be put to sleep on a cold Wednesday in December. At the last moment, we received a call from the pound and within minutes we were bundling Junior into a cat basket and off to the vets. The little lad had been famous for his sloppy kisses and our vet found out why - Junior, although no more than a year old, had a mouth full of bad teeth. He was kept in for a full dental, neutering and microchipping. It cost Rain Rescue a small fortune to get him sorted in readiness for his new forever home but we thought it was well worthwhile. Junior is now living with the dad of a lovely girl

who adopted a dog from us and who happened to be trawling the Cat Chat website! Dad had recently lost his elderly cat and adopted Junior in time for a lovely Christmas together. Junior will never know how close he came to not seeing another Christmas, he now hasn't a care in the world!

Most of Rain Rescue's cats cannot be called 'chocolate box cats' when they arrive at the shelter. but all of them have that distinction when they leave! Little Alfie, fished out of a local canal, was rehomed as a result of his lovely owner reading about him

on Cat Chat, just one of the fortunates. Rain Rescue and other small rescues are indebted to Cat Chat for providing Internet presence with a huge national audience."

Details of how to get in touch with Rain Rescue, plus cats currently seeking homes, can be found on their Cat Chat homing page:

RAIN RESCUE

Volunteers Spotlight

My name's Maureen, I'm 65 and I've been a volunteer with Cat Chat for about five years. My Husband and I have always loved cats - and so throughout our married life there hasn't been a time when cats haven't been part of our lives.



Sadly, we lost our cat Rueben about two years ago, and Ben just before Christmas. But happily now we've just had the arrival of a gorgeous little girl, now named Chelsea (yes I'm a massive Chelsea supporter!!)

and a lovely little boy named Charlton (you've guessed it, my Husbands team!!). Chelsea is going to be a proper little madam, and is showing attitude already, which I love. Charlton loves to play and loves cuddles, typical bloke!

I was made redundant in 2007 and was finding it very difficult to find full time work again, so I thought it would be a good idea to utilise my skills as a Receptionist / Secretary for charity work. As luck would have it my Husband spotted an advert in our local paper for volunteers, so we looked up the Cat Chat website and I knew immediately that I just had to give it a go. I contacted co-founder Mandy to arrange to meet and have a chat, and haven't looked back since.

Mandy was easy to talk to and very encouraging, and I started with fairly straightforward jobs, such as processing donations, and co-ordinating goods sold through the charity's webshop. I didn't have any previous experience of this, but with some initial training and support, all went great.

It wasn't long before I was asking for more to do, so recently I took on the job of monitoring the Cat Chat Homing Pages, and administrating the Kittens Page - and I'm loving every minute of it! Bonita, Mandy's second in command and the charity's volunteer coordinator, is so supportive and has helped me enormously with these additional jobs. She is so good at pumping up your confidence!

As well as being a volunteer, I'm also now a Trustee and because of Cat Chat, I have found a whole new group of friends. We meet from time to time at Cat Chat events, and

of course the committee's monthly meetings, and I couldn't be happier.

Wherever you live in the UK, if you've been wondering how to fill up some of your time, make new friends, and feel like you are making a difference to so many homeless cats and kittens, keep an eye out for vacancies, on the Cat Chat Volunteer page.

You won't regret it, I didn't!





Free Cat Chat Homing Pages

If you run a Rescue Centre, Shelter or Rehoming Group - Cat Chat is here to help You and your Cats. We are also able to help vets practices with cats to rehome!

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

- Alsager Animals In Need, Stoke-on-Trent
- Wonky Pets Rescue, Northamptonshire
- HULA Animal Rescue, Milton Keynes
- Hollies Animal Re-homing Trust, Lincolnshire.
- RSPCA London East, E.London
- Lea Valley Cats Protection, E.london
- RSPCA Durham & District, Co.Durham
- RSPCA Lincolnshire East. Lincolnshire



If your rescue shelter or rehoming group would like a free Cat Homing Page on Cat Chat, email us with the name and location of your rescue, the contact details you wish to be displayed on the page, and any other information you'd like included (such as your own website address). Also helpful, is a list of main towns you rehome to, so that we can better reference your page for search engines. Please Email us at: freepage@catchat.org

All the details about our homing pages, plus other rehoming help available can be found under the 'Help for Shelters' heading on our website » Help For Shelters

Psssst! Keep this under your hat, but just so you know, our brand new design / easier to use Cat Homing Pages are almost ready to roll out!!

Cerebellar Hypoplasia cat Taffy homed!



We were especially delighted earlier this year when a lovely home was found for Taffy, from Bristol & Wales Cat Rescue. Taffy had had a very bad start in life at the hands of a previous, violent owner, and as a resut of injuries inflicted he suffered brain damage, and has a condition called cerebellar hypoplasia. As many people will not be familiar with this condition, we thought we would throw a little light on it here. Basically it affects a cat's motor skills, causing them to walk with a wobble - an exaggerated cowboy-style swagger you might say! Depending on the severity, it can mean they fall over sometimes, or fall off things, so a bit more attention needs to be paid to their environment, and supervision would be needed if they are allowed outside. Cats with cerebellar hypoplasia don't require any treatment, and they still have a normal life expectancy, but they are often passed by in rescue centres as a result.

Despite his bad start and his wobbly walk, Taffy is a super-friendly boy, who adores cuddles, so he just needed someone to see past his unsteadiness, and love him for who he is. The great news is he was homed within 10 days of being featured on the shelter's Cat Chat page. The shelter said: "Another success story courtesy of Cat Chat - our wonderful boy Taffy has just gone off to his lovely new home complete with secure garden where he can have a little wander and a sunbathe. Thank you once again." Bristol & Wales Cat Rescue

Find out more about cerebellar hypoplasia and meet another cat with this condition, in this video:

Cerebellar Hypoplasia



Cat Chat Shop makeover



If you go down to our shop today, you're sure of a big surprise... (Cue the music...?) The Cat Chat Online Shop now has a fresh new look for summer. We think you'll like it - and that it will give you an even more pleasant browsing experience.

Also, you can now pay with Paypal in the Cat Chat shop, as well as the usual debit or credit cards (or even cheques.!)

One thing that hasn't changed, is the unique range of cat themed gifts you will find there - including our Cotton Shopping Bags! Designed by us here at Cat Chat, these are consistently one of our best selling items.

- Environmentally Friendly:
 Cotton bags are an eco-friendly way to shop forget plastic bags
 re-use these again and again
- Spread the Rescue Message: There are many thousands of cats in rescue centres all over the UK, longing for a home of their own. Carrying these bags will help promote the idea of adopting a rescue cat.

Three designs to choose from, exclusively available on the Cat Chat shop, and only £3.95 each: Cat Chat Bags

Every purchase from the Cat Chat shop helps more cats out of shelters and into homes!







Top Cats







Benny Boy

South Yorkshire

Hello. We would like to add Benny to your Roll of Honour please. He was on your Top Cats section and has now found a lovely home. After being in our care for 15 months we are so happy for him and it's all thanks to catchat so thank you!

Cat Action Trust 1977, Doncaster,

Belle

Nottinghamshire

Hi. Good news, our beautiful Belle has found a new home and mum after being seen on Top Cats, we are delighted as temperamental Belle is not the easiest of cats but she appears to have met her match with her new mum, she's not intimidated by Belle's tantrums.

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare,

Tiggy

Hi Guys. We have now homed Tiggy via Cat Chat - she was one of your 'top cats'. Many thanks.

Caring for Animals 2001, Essex

Special Appeal for Homes - Update!

We're excited to tell you that since our 'Special Appeal for Homes' in the last issue, two of the cats have been rehomed! So it's fond farewells to:

- Beau from Catcuddles Sanctuary, Greenwich
- Penny from Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, Bridgend

So long you guys... We wish you a life of love, meaty chucks in gravy, and warm windowsills aplenty. Oh, and lots of chin tickles too!

All the details of homing pages, plus other rehoming help available can be found under the 'Help for Shelters' heading on our website: www.catchat.org/shelter_help.html





Harder to home - homed!



ROCKY

Grumpy Rocky who failed to sell himself (!) was obviously waiting for the right person... When his new mum walked through his pen door, he threw himself at her and purred. we were astounded as all he did to us was swipe us. She had seen Rocky on our homing page and felt sorry for him so it was obviously meant to be.

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts.

MR STEEL

Timid Mr Steel, who was returned when he failed to settle in his first home, has now found the perfect place via Cat Chat, and is reported to have slowly settled in.

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts.







Speedy Homings

Barney

Hi. Great news the lovely Barney has been rehomed after only a few days of being featured as one of our Top Cats on Cat Chat. A big thank you from us all at Crescent Cat Rescue and big purrs from Barney.

Crescent Cat Rescue, Tendring, Essex



Suki

Suki has found her new home by being featured on the Top Cats page of Catchat. Many thanks for your help in finding her a lovely new home so quickly, she has gone to live in Sheffield.

Spotty Dog Cat Rescue,

Cambridgeshire



Jade

Jade was a "Topcat" and was homed within two days after being featured there - not sure if that's a bit of a record!

Peterborough Animal Rescue, Cambs.



Tiffany

Beautiful, gentle little Tiffany was snapped up instantly when she made her debut on our Cat Chat homing page.

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts.





Roachford & Riley

After months in the rescue and only days on Top Cats, Rochford and Riley fell lucky and got themselves chosen.

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts.



FIV VIPS

IGGY AND TY

Hi. I'm very pleased to say that after being with us at Gateshead CP for over a year our two FIV boys, Ty and Iggy, have now found their forever home together after being seen on the Top Cats page by their new slaves. Another success for Cat Chat. Gateshead and District Cats Protection, Gateshead



Ready to Serve Cat & Country!

We'd like to give a warm furry welcome to the Latest Cat Chat Volunteers to join the team...

They are Jo Taylor - who has kindly stepped up to the cat-flap, to help monitor our Top Cats section.

Also, a round of appaws for Kate Matthews - who is taking up the role of Publicity Co-ordinator.

Thanks guys... We couldn't do it without you!

Psst! Have you heard? Cat Chat is on Facebook

As many of you will already know, Facebook is the number one social networking site at the moment. Many people end up using it to stay in touch with family and friends. But businesses and charities have found the benefits of using it to reach potential customers or new supporters.

Of course Facebook has been around for quite a while and has evolved considerably over the years. The latest big change is a facility called 'Timeline'. The Facebook team realised that everyone's pages looked vastly different from each other, and they were looking for a more

consistent, feel and so Timeline was born!

Cat Chat has had a presence on Facebook since 2008, first as just the Gemini Cat Chat profile page, and then later when the 'groups pages' became active, we set up the charity page. Since Timeline was brought in, we've updated our page and have added some significant events in Cat Chat's history!

Watch this space though, as there are more changes to come, along with future postings of any events or news. I'd like to give a big shout out to all of you who have already 'friended' us as Gemini, or liked our charity page... It's great to see all of you! We now have enough likes to gain our own Facebook ur!!!

For any of you who haven't already found us on Facebook, it would be lovely to see you, and you can friend us at www.facebook.com/gemini.catchat - or like our page at www.facebook.com/catchatcharity

Don't forget we're on Twitter too. If you like to tweet, come follow us at: www.twitter.com/catchatcharity

Tracy - Cat Chat Social Networking Officer



As we draw our Summer 2012 newsletter to a close, we celebrate the Olympic Torch - spreading its message of peace, unity and friendship on these shores for the first time since 1948. May this message spread between humans and animals too, so that one day, we will be celebrating the fact that every cat is a wanted, respected being. Till next time... Toodle-oo!

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