

**PETER
DID IT!**

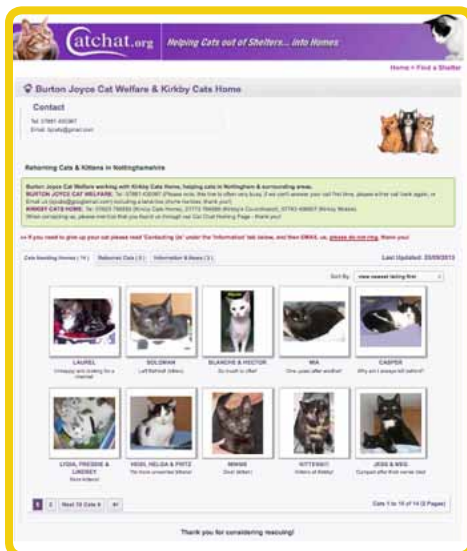


See page 4



EXCLUSIVE!

NEW CAT HOMING PAGES GO LIVE!



After two years of development, our new style Cat Chat homing pages go live!

Not only do the pages have a great new look, they are much simpler for rescue shelters to use and have bags of new features, including:

- Cats' photos on the front page;
- Up to 4 photos per listing;
- Much larger/higher resolution photos;
- Option to view oldest / newest listing
- Capacity for YouTube videos;
- News/Information section;
- Plus, they are FREE to all shelters & rescue groups in the UK & Ireland.

All cat homing pages on Cat Chat will be upgraded to the new style in the coming months, but these are the first rescue shelters pioneering the new pages...

- **Willows Cat Adoption Centre**
Tyne & Wear » [visit page](#)
- **Bromley & District Cat Rescue**
N. Kent » [visit page](#)

- **National Animal Welfare Trust**
Grays, Essex » [visit page](#)
- **Burton Joyce Cat Welfare**
Nottinghamshire » [visit page](#)
- **RSPCA Tunbridge Wells & Maidstone**
West Kent » [visit page](#)
- **Grendon Cat Shelter**
Warwickshire » [visit page](#)
- **TAG Pet Rescue**
East Kent » [visit page](#)
- **Somerset & Dorset Animal Rescue** » [visit page](#)
- **Blue Cross Rehoming Services**
London and South East » [visit page](#)
- **Woodland Nook Cat Rescue**
Derbyshire » [visit page](#)
- **Ward End Cat Rescue**
Birmingham » [visit page](#)
- **Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue**
Hornchurch » [visit page](#)

We are delighted that shelters are giving the new look a Thumbs Up too...

"I love the new pages, especially now you can add more than one picture"
– 8 Lives, Sheffield

"I just love our new page. It looks fab and I love messing around with it"
– Willows Cat Adoption Centre, Tyne & Wear

Special thanks to: Ark Animal Welfare Trust, National Animal Welfare Trust, and Avon Cat Rescue for their patience in helping us with some last minute testing - purrs to you!

Shelters with an old style Cat Chat homing page, who would like to be among the next batch to upgrade to a new style page, let us know at freepage@catchat.org

Shelters who don't currently have a Cat Chat homing page can find out more here: www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

Happy Retirement!

There are thousands of older cats in rescue shelters across the UK. Cats as young as 8 or 9 years get overlooked, even though these days, that's just middle aged! However, these cats' adopters saw past their ages and gave them the chance they longed for:



Beauty

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottingham

After worries of him becoming a permanent rescue resident, senior boy Beauty was seen on Cat Chat and now has a lovely home to spend the rest of his days in.



Gloria & Gladys

Bromley & District Cat Rescue, Greater London

Their rescuers told us: "Aged 14 and 16, Gloria & Gladys could easily have spent months in rescue, but a lovely lady saw them on Cat Chat and offered them a home, which they share with an elderly dog, and no other cats, making it easier to get Gloria to stick to her diet!"

Everyone deserves comfort and companionship in retirement, and these cats never gave up hope! Most rescue centres have many adult and senior cats longing for a new home. Ask at your local centre or rehoming group. Many Senior Kittizens appeal for homes on our [Top Cats section](#) too!

Home for Christmas!

Cats aren't ones for frippery and fanciful gestures. They just appreciate the fundamental things in life, such as love, warmth and security. You can be sure these long-term cats, recently homed via Cat Chat, will have everything their hearts could desire this Christmas!

WILMA – CAT ACTION TRUST (1977), DONCASTER SOUTH

After a year in rescue, Wilma finally has a loving new home.

TRUDY - CLACTON ANIMAL AID, ESSEX

Long-term resident Trudy is now happy and settled in a home.



MINDY – CAT HOMING AND RESCUE (CHAR), WARRINGTON

The last of her siblings to leave rescue, Mindy now has a brand new home to call her own.

GERRY – SOUTH OXHEY ANIMAL RESCUE, HERT-FORDSHIRE

Following quite a wait, this chap now has a loving new pad.



BERT & ERNIE – ASHCROFT CAT RESCUE, WETTENHALL, CHESHIRE

Their rescuers told us: *“After a year in our care, Bert & Ernie (feral brothers) finally found the most beautiful home, with a lovely couple who live 1/2 a mile from the nearest road. They now have their own 2 storey cat chalet, with acres of land to run around and explore. The perfect home is always out there, you just need to sit and wait! It was because of Cat Chat they found their forever home.”*

OLIVIA – GATESHEAD CATS PROTECTION, TYNE & WEAR

Having been in rescue for a year and a half, Olivia has finally found her forever home thanks to just a few weeks appearing on Cat Chat.



New Christmas Card Design for 2013!

Our new Christmas cards this year (right) feature the cool, cute 'Cat Santa' by Lee Nicholls. Cards are in packs of 10 and measure 13cm x 13cm. The wording inside the card reads:

“With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year”.

Look out for more of Lee's work featured on Cat Chat in the future. We love his charismatic cats and we hope you do too!

'Cat Santa' and other cards, all exclusive to Cat Chat are available now in our »» [Webshop](#). Find out more about Lee and his work here: www.leenicholls.co.uk



VOLUNTEER'S SPOTLIGHT

Marina – Cat Chat Helpdesk Advisor

Hello, my name is Marina and I am the latest addition to Cat Chat's team of volunteers.

Having recently taken early retirement, I found myself with lots of spare time and, being a lifelong cat lover, decided to look into volunteering for a cat charity. I was familiar with Cat Chat as I've used its forum many times before and found it very helpful, so I was pleased to see they had a vacancy for volunteering on their helpdesk. Luckily, I got the job and here I am!

The Helpdesk Advisor role involves answering emails from the general public on a variety of cat-related questions. It's early days and I'm still learning, but the Cat Chat team has been, and still is, extremely welcoming and helpful, and I feel well supported and confident.

Volunteering has given me the chance to utilise my existing knowledge and experience of cats in a different and rewarding way. Knowing some of my replies could make the difference to cats' lives and happiness (and their people) is what drives me.

Why cats? It's one of those things that can't be explained. I've been drawn to them since I was a small child, even though no-one in my family likes them. I think some people are pre-programmed to be cat lovers. It just happens; the same as having blonde hair or a big nose.

At the moment, I'm the proud owner of two nine-year-old spoiled princesses – the gorgeous ragdoll sisters Luna and Stella (pictured below) – rescued through one of the pedigree rescues mentioned on Cat Chat, but all of my previous cats have been moggies.

It's always been a source of wonder to me that cats put up with us, the superior lifeforms that they are.



Luna & Stella

THE MYSTERIES OF SCENT MARKING

by Katrina Zurbanu BSc (Hons) (Psych) BSY(PetPsy) MSc (PRM), behavioural adviser to Cat Chat

Common causes

Cats can easily become stressed – particularly through changes in their environment, such as a house move or intrusive outdoor smells being brought indoors. Because of this, they may use scent marking for reassurance. The most common form of scent marking is inappropriate urination or spraying indoors.

Defensive scenting can occur if your cat sees another animal outside visiting the garden, or even getting into the house and spraying. Your cat will then mark and protect his or her territory to tell the other cat to stay away. Blocking the cat's outside view from those particular areas in the house might help.

In a multi-cat household, inappropriate urination, spraying or defecation can be attempts to establish authority by territorial marking. You can spot hierarchical issues by bullying over use of litter tray, hissing and growling at feeding times and trying to steal each other's snoozing places.

Ensure the cats have sufficient areas they can claim as their own and don't have to share, including food bowls and feeding areas, toilet areas, toys,

scratching posts and hiding places. Cats who are more attached to their humans may spray on their favourite human's personal things for reassurance when suffering from separation anxiety.

Possible solutions

Encourage alternative scent marking methods, such as scratching or cheek marking. Scratching is not only a form of exercise, but also an important scent marking method. Therefore, sufficient scratching areas or posts should be provided.

Soiled areas of the house must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent reoccurrence. Mask the area with Feliway spray or the cat's own scent (use a soft clean cloth to gently pat the cat under the chin and round the cheeks, then apply this to the soiling area).

Remove 'favourite' areas by either moving furniture, covering with sticky tape, tinfoil or applying citrus products. Try putting dry food or water down, as generally cats won't soil where there is food. Place a litter tray on the spot, and then move it gradually to a more ideal place.

Avoid stress. Cats don't like change, so keep a routine where everything is kept in place. Maintain regular feed and play times and

ensure sufficient human attention.

Bach Flower Remedies can help prevent scent marking. For a cat that is stressed because of environmental changes, a combination of Chestnut Bud, Willow, Larch, and Walnut will help. Different remedies would be needed for other causes.

Inappropriate urination can also simply express a cat's dislike of their litter tray, or its location (if it is in a noisy area, or near a door, for example). The litter may be wrong for them, dirty, or even too clean!

In these situations, the places a cat chooses to urinate can give clues as to the reasons for doing so. Try to compare the litter tray with the soiled areas, to find out what the soiled areas offer that the litter tray doesn't.

Based on this, replace the old tray with a new one, place it in a different area of the house and try different brands of litter. In rare cases, cats have special preferences and will only use one tray to urinate and another to defecate!

Sudden changes in a cat's behaviour should always be checked by a vet, to rule out illness.

Donate your Old Banger, or even Half a Banger!?



Give your car, to find him a home

If you have an old car that you no longer need, why not put it to good use? We will collect it from you and either sell it at auction or scrap it, then give the proceeds to Cat Chat, The Cat Rescue Resource. To find out more, call us on 0207 736 4242.

catchat.org
The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg Charity No. 1101848

GIVEACAR
Making a difference, one car at a time

- ✓ FREE COLLECTION
- ✓ ANY CAR
- ✓ COUNTRYWIDE

£1 million raised for charity

Giveacar is a UK based social enterprise that specialises in auctioning or scrapping old cars for charitable causes, including CAT CHAT!

You can choose to donate all the money raised or send half to the charity and keep half. Even half the value of cars that are only worth scrap value can raise enough to find homes for 8 cats! Here's how:

Step 1. Contact Giveacar to arrange collection of a vehicle. Visit Giveacar.co.uk or call 020 7736 4242, quoting Cat Chat as your chosen charity.

Step 2. Your unwanted vehicle will be collected free of charge, at your agreed time, usually within 1-3 days.

Step 3. Depending on its age and condition, your vehicle is either sold at auction, or sent for disposal / recycling. All proceeds, after admin costs, are donated to your chosen charity. If you have chosen to donate half the value, your receipt letter will also contain your cheque.

Give a car will take: cars, vans, motorbikes, lorries. Every vehicle is worth something!

Find out more here: www.catchat.org/helpus_giveacar.html



Feeling generous?

Donate it ALL



Need the cash?

Donate HALF

Latest Homing Pages, now Live!

With a warm and hearty welcome, we extend the paw of comradeship to the following rescue shelters, who are the latest to take up one of our free Cat Homing Pages:

- Blue Cross Rehoming Services (North)
- Blue Cross Rehoming Services (London & South East)
- Blue Cross Rehoming Services (Central & West)
- Weymouth & District Cats Protection, Dorset
- The Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary
- Worcestershire Animal Rescue Shelter
- Cambridge Cats Protection
- Guardian Angels Animal Support, West London
- Cat Welfare, Bedfordshire
- Cat Rescue, Blackpool
- Angels House Animal Rescue, Ireland
- West Yorkshire Persian Cat Rescue, Wakefield
- Kenmare Locality Animal Welfare Society (KLAWS), Co. Kerry
- Furballs Rescue, Surrey
- CatChums Cat Rescue, Norfolk
- Roxies Rescue, Leics

We wish lots of forever, happy rehoming to all of the above.

The Cat Chat website sources homes for over 5,000 cats and kittens each year, from rescue groups and shelters across the UK and Ireland.

Shelters can find out more about our free Cat Homing Web Pages here: www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

FREE PAGE!
CATS for HOMING

Marathon Success – Well Done Peter!

On Sunday 20th October, Peter Hanson, Co-owner of The **Cat Gallery** in York, ran the Yorkshire Marathon in aid of Cat Chat.

Peter completed the gruelling 26.2 mile course in a phenomenal 3 hours 49 minutes, 53 seconds, finishing 820th out of 6,500 runners!

This was Peter's first ever full marathon, and he had been training hard for most of the year.



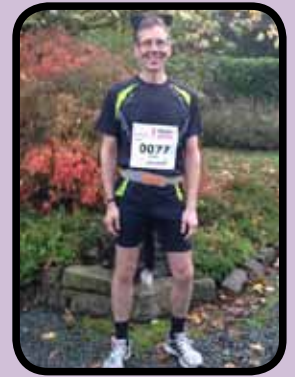
Peter said: "I was looking forward to the run, but was apprehensive because I had sustained an injury 11 days before the race."

Support from Cat Chat supporters and Cat Gallery customers has been amazing. Sponsorship came from as far afield as New Zealand, and the USA, and some much needed all-weather training gear was kindly donated by **Blacks** outdoor clothing store.

Peter has put his best foot forward for Cat Chat before, raising over £1,000 when he completed the Jane Tomlinson 10k York run in 2009. This time, he decided to run more than twice that distance. And, as you can see, Peter kept his promise of running with cat ears, cat make-up, and even a tail!

Peter told us: "The first 13 miles whizzed by in 1 hour 45 mins but By 15 miles I was starting to flag. Most of the second half was into a headwind and there were a couple of psychologically tough (uphill!) sections.

The biggest thing that kept me going? The fact that I had the financial support of hundreds of cat lovers riding on me completing the challenge. I was pleased with my time of 3h 50m, but was even more pleased to know that my efforts have already raised in excess of £3,500 for Cat Chat. I am particularly grateful to customers of The Cat Gallery who generously supported my fundraising efforts."



A big **THANK YOU** to Peter, and all who supported him. We'll announce the final total raised in the next newsletter.

Sponsorship donations can still be made on Peter's MyDonate fundraising page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/helpneedycats>



Speedy homings!

No hanging around for these guys, homed before you could say meat and vegetables (easy on the vegetables eh? Prrrrmeow!)



Moses
RSPCA, Stort Valley, Harlow, Essex

This gorgeous ginger boy found a home in record time, taking just over two weeks.



Dotti
Clacton Animal Aid, Clacton, Essex

"Thank you for helping us find a home for Dotti. She was a very lucky girl only being with us for a short time."



Brucie
RSPCA, Stort Valley, Hertfordshire

"We are delighted Brucie has found his new home really quickly, thanks to his Cat Chat advert. He was the victim in an eviction and was left traumatised. With loads of TLC from one of our volunteers, he immediately started to come out of his shell and trust people again. He now has a proper family, and a home to snooze through the cold weather in".

Special Appeal for Homes – Autumn '13

If you are thinking of adopting a cat, that's great! If you live in any of the following areas, perhaps one of these long-term rescue cats may be just who you are looking for:



SANDY LOTHIAN CAT RESCUE, BONNYRIGG

A suave, sophisticated chap, searching for a quiet home with a garden to stroll in. Will make a great companion.

BLACKIE – PREVENT UNWANTED PETS, LANCASHIRE WEST BRANCH

Could you bring some luck to this black cat? He is easy going, friendly, good with other felines and ok around children.



HOPE – THE CATCUDDLES SANCTUARY, GREENWICH, EAST LONDON

This strikingly beautiful girl has a sensory impairment. Therefore your love, guidance and companionship would mean the world to her.



TESSA, TOPSY, NANCY & MARINA CAT RESCUE, CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE

Four young girls seeking a safe environment, where they can live outside, with humans around who will care for them.

If not, don't despair. There are thousands of cats waiting to be adopted all over the UK and Ireland! See who is waiting for you today: www.catchat.org/cat_rescue.html

Christmas Shopping on-line? You can help Cat Chat too...

Whenever you shop on-line, did you know you can also raise funds for Cat Chat without it costing you a penny?

Just make the same purchases you would anyway, at over 2,700 major retailers via the Easyfundraising site.

Cat Chat receives a free donation from the retailer for every purchase you make. It really is that simple! Here's what to do:

1. Visit: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/catchat

2. Click on 'Support Us Now' – the form will automatically choose 'Cat Chat' as your chosen charity.

3. Whenever you want to shop, login to your Easyfundraising page first, so that Cat Chat benefits every time.

Prrrrs of thanks to those who already help us to raise funds via Easyfundraising!

easyfundraising
.org.uk

The Joy of Oldies

Earlier this year, a lovely lady called Elise opened her heart and home to no less than three middle-aged mogs from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire. She had seen the lucky eight-year-olds, Mathilda, Millicent and Tibby, on the shelter's Cat Chat page.

Elise is no stranger to adopting older cats, and she would like to persuade others to consider the merits of adopting a senior puss (we couldn't agree more!). Over to you, Elise...

"Through no fault of their own, older cats often end up in a rescue centre after being used to the warmth and comforts of a home. They sit and watch as adopters pass them by, making their way to the kittens or younger cats, not knowing when or if they will ever be chosen. A depressing thought, isn't it?"

"The love you get from an older cat is so special. They know how to behave in a home and have an abundance of love and affection for you. You also know by that age how they are with children and other animals. They still love to play too and

to watch an older cat play like a kitten is magical.

"People sometimes dismiss an older cat as they "won't have as long left" but this can be true of any cat regardless of its age.

"An older cat will wait to be offered food, whereas kittens and younger cats will grab what they want when they want it. As for furniture, to younger cats it is an additional scratching post, but to older cats it is somewhere comfortable to sleep.

"They are less likely to get in to fights as they get older too - why fight when you can just lay down and get a fuss? The older cat has also learned about traffic and roads, so is more likely to stay safe.

"I adopted a 15 year old cat and 3 years on he is still going strong. He will still fly around the house playing, and to look at him you wouldn't think he was 18. I have seen less active younger cats than him. The pleasure he has given over those past three years has been second to none, so much so that I recently adopted three eight-year-olds too.

"Cattery life doesn't suit older cats, and I just can't resist that little face looking out of the bars at you saying, 'please let it be my turn now'. Please give the older cats a chance – they will give you so much love and affection, you will wonder why you never adopted older cats before."

Mathilda



Tibby

Millicent



Purrfect Pairs - Homed

Announcing just a few of the purrfect pairs homed via the Cat Chat website since our last newsletter:



MOLLY & MILO – CAT HOMING AND RESCUE (CHAR), WARRINGTON



ALICE & DUDLEY – BROMLEY & DISTRICT CAT RESCUE, KENT



TEDDY & FLOYD – CAT HOMING AND RESCUE (CHAR), WARRINGTON



JAMES & THOMASINA NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST, THURROCK, ESSEX



GYPSY & PEPSI - CAT CONCERN, LANARKSHIRE & GLASGOW



COOKIE & CANDY CAT ACTION TRUST 1977, LEEDS BRANCH



DOTTIE & WILLOW LITTLE COTTAGE RESCUE, LUTON, BEDFORDSHIRE



TEDDY & TIMOTHY – WILLOWS CAT ADOPTION CENTRE, SOUTH SHIELDS, TYNE & WEAR



MUFFIN & BISCUIT CATS PROTECTION, BEVERLEY & POCKLINGTON



DANNY & BENNY – ANN & BILL'S CAT/KITTEN RESCUE, HORNCHURCH, ESSEX



TANGO, FANTA, JAZZIE & SPRITE NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST, THURROCK, ESSEX



EDWARD & ELIZA WILLOWS CAT ADOPTION CENTRE, SOUTH SHIELDS



WANDA & WILLOW BROMLEY & DISTRICT CAT RESCUE, KENT



FAYE & KITTEN CANINO ANIMAL RESCUE, DUSTON, NORTHANTS.



CHI CHI & OZZIE PETERBOROUGH CAT RESCUE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Rescuer's Corner | Aughrim Cat Concern

Recently renamed as Aughrim Cat Concern, this Irish rescue centre has been aiding and rehoming unwanted domestic, stray and feral cats in Co Wicklow, Ireland, since 2010.

Aughrim Cat Concern, which has recently erected new pens, says there is a huge problem in the area.

Along with unwanted domestic pets and stray cats, the group is heavily involved in the trapping and neutering of animals in feral colonies. They are currently working through a colony of up to 60 feral cats in the region. Members also invest time and effort in the successful taming of ferals prior to seeking homes.

Aughrim Cat Concern will carry out a home visit to potential feline adopters. Anyone wishing to view cats needing loving homes should make an appointment.

Aughrim Cat Concern can be contacted on:

TELEPHONE

040 294612 (ROI)
00 353 40 294612 (UK)

MOBILE

0871 757395 (ROI)
00353 871 757395 (UK)

EMAIL

katherineleahy@gmail.com

There are lots more beautiful cats and kittens seeking homes at Aughrim Cat Concern! If you live in or near County Wicklow, please visit their Cat Chat Homing page for more details: www.catchat.org/wicklow/cgibin/prtoc.cgi

NEW! Gifts for the Special Cat in your Life

Check out these new cat toys, recently added to the range on the Cat Chat webshop. There's exclusive gifts for cat-loving humans too: www.catchat.org/catalog

Faux Leather Mice (pack of 2), £2.70

Two great looking chase-and-play mice, made of a synthetic leather-look material. Enticing catnip-filled mice for hours of feline fun. The body is 7cm long and the tail 8cm (15cm overall length).



Acticat Jittery Mouse, £2.25

Just pull the cord at his (ahem) rear end and watch this mouse jitter across the floor for your cat's delight. Watch as

your cat stalks, lunges, jumps or pounces on it. Play should be supervised (...well, someone's got to keep pulling the cord!).

Mice-A-Go-Go (set of 3), £3.95

Furry fellas to scoop up and bat around the floor! Fun, enjoyment and exercise for your cat, plus catnip for added encouragement. These mice also have brightly coloured plaited tails for extra claw-holds!



Princess

Princess is black and white and one year old. She needs someone who will have time and patience until she settles as she has been at Aughrim Cat Concern since she was three months old.



Harry

Harry has been in the care of Aughrim Cat Concern for six months, since his owner died. He is 18 months old, very friendly and desperate to be in a good home.

Trio homed in this 'weather report'!

"Hi Cat Chat. Through yourselves, Storm, along with her two kittens Thunder and Lightning, have all been homed together to a lovely home. The lady couldn't spilt them up, so took them all! Many thanks again."

Feline Friends Rehoming, Medway, Kent



Storm



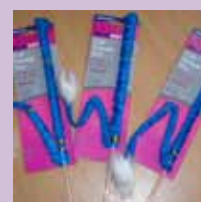
Thunder



Lightning

Keep Calm Catnip Pillow, £1.70

Perfect for the catnip-loving, patriotic puss. Measuring 8cm x 8cm, it's a manageable size for kittens too. Made from sturdy material, and washable. A great stocking filler!



Cat Teaser Toy (Super-Looong!), £3.65

Designed to keep your cat entertained for hours, this toy is irresistible, whether you flip, wiggle or trail it. Guaranteed to get them lunging, pouncing and playing like a kitten, even senior cats love this one!

Photographing Black Cats

Black and black-and-white cats are more difficult to rehome and, unfortunately, are also more difficult to photograph. With Cats Protection's National Black Cat Day celebrated this month, (www.cats.org.uk/black-cats), here are some useful tips for taking photos to capture the beauty and personality of a black cat.

1. Defluff

Fluff shows up more on black fur and will be obvious in photos. Use a damp cloth (not too wet, otherwise the fur will look wet) and give the cat a once over to make sure they look their best (see Midnight, below right).

2. Avoid white backgrounds

A black cat on a white background might look good to the naked eye, but in photography, it creates too much contrast and creates problems for your camera as it will struggle to focus and expose accurately. Choose a background that complements the colour of the cat's eyes, such as gold (Midnight photo) or green, or something that sets off their fur colour. Many black cats are really dark brown, so browns, reds or blues work well.

3. Get in close

If there is too much background in the shot, the camera will expose for the background, not the cat, and you could end up with a featureless black blob. Get in close as this forces the camera to expose for the cat (see Marmite photo, above right).

4. Switch on the lights

You need lots of light to photograph a black cat, as it is absorbed and reflected by their fur. Avoid flash and use natural light or a lamp. To give the fur texture, try to angle the light across the cat (see Marmite and Midnight photos).

5. Play with exposure

Most cameras have an exposure compensation (EV) button (+/-), which allows you to override your camera's exposure settings. If photos aren't coming out as you'd hoped, try these solutions:

- If the cat looks grey rather than black (overexposed), let less light into the camera by decreasing the exposure. Set the EV button to -0.7 or -1.0.
- If the cat is just a black mass with no discernible features (underexposed), let more light into the camera by increasing the exposure. Set the EV to +0.7 or +1.0.

6. Bracket

If you don't want to manually set the exposure, check to see if your camera has AEB (multi-exposure bracketing). Just pressing the shutter once, will take three shots of the same scene at different exposures (normal, under and over). This saves you manually adjusting the exposure between shots. This can be particularly useful for black-and-white cats, as by default, they are high-contrast. Fingers crossed the cat stays still!

7. Use photo editing

Tweak a less-than-perfect photo in <http://pixlr.com/editor> – a free, online photo editing software, which allows you to crop, resize and change the exposure of a photo. To change the exposure, go into 'Adjustment' > 'Levels' and drag the sliders towards the centre until you get the result you want.

Kathryn helps Cat Chat out on many occasions with the perfect photo. Visit www.coppercatphotography.co.uk to check out her professional work. Find out more on adopting a black cat at: www.catchat.org/black_cats.html

**Kathryn Collinson,
Coppercat Photography**

Now Serving Cat and Country!

Tara is the latest volunteer to come on board and help steer the good ship Cat Chat. Tara joins our busy band of Top Cat Administrators, who work behind the scenes, busily transcribing cat speak into human language, as can be seen on our Top Cat section, for those so far 'overlooked cats': www.catchat.org/topcats

Good luck in your role Tara, and thank you for volunteering!



Harder to Home...? Homed!

Phoebe

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottingham

This feisty lady eventually got lucky with a home after someone fell for her pretty features and loveable nature.

When contacting rescue centres, please ask about their harder to home cats. They have often been through tough times, and have, sometimes developed 'strong characters'!

But, when given a second chance, in a loving home, they can be the most loyal and loving of pets.

To find harder-to-home cats in your area please visit: www.catchat.org/topcats

We love news of all happy homings, but even more so when the cats concerned had the odds stacked against them!

Annie - National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock

After being in rescue for almost 18 months, cat



Annie found her new home when a couple saw her on CatChat. The rescue said: *"Despite the fact that she has broken china and been the erratic temperamental cat we know, the new owners have declared that they could not part with her".*

Cleo

Ashcroft Cat Rescue, Wettenhall

Despite having a naughty, grumpy nature and being a keen swiper with her paws, Cleo's new owners were undeterred and transformed her into a happier, calmer cat.

Timmy – National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock.

Timmy's rescuers told us: *"Beautiful but shy tabby Timmy has not only been homed, but we now know he has settled in well. This all came about because he was seen on Cat Chat. Thank you!"*

If you have any comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please pop them over to newsletter@catchat.org. As we bid farewell for this quarter, we'd like to acknowledge all those who work tirelessly in the name of animal welfare in these tough times. Until next time, have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS, and we hope to bring you many more happy homings in 2014.