

# Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource

Reg. Charity No. 1100649



## WELCOME TO THE CATCHAT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

### Homing Successes on the Emerald Isle

We were delighted to hear from Wicklow Cat Concern that three of their cats had found smashing new homes in the same week, after being seen on their Cat Chat homing page. First to get lucky was Bubbles, quickly followed by youngsters Hank & Sparkle, who were homed together. The rescue said: "We are delighted to have homed three cats to good homes this week. More people lately have told us they see our cats on Catchat, so it is getting a bit better known in Ireland now which is great."

**Cat Chat is delighted to be helping to find homes for cats in Ireland as well as the UK. We hope to bring you more news of happy homings from Irish rescues in future newsletters.**



### Latest Cat Chat Homing Pages

These are the latest Cat Homing Pages to go live on the Cat Chat website. We'd like to wish good luck, and many happy homings to the following rescue shelters, and to all the cats currently in their care:

- RSPCA Chelmsford, Brentwood & Mid Essex
- Derby & District RSPCA
- Canino Animal Rescue, Northants
- Feline Cat Rescue, Beds
- RSPCA Gonsal Farm Animal Centre, Shropshire
- Velvet Bunny's Animal Rescue, West Midlands
- Helping Pets (North-East), Tyne & Wear

**Coming soon!!** We are currently developing a new, improved style of homing page, unique to Cat Chat. These new style pages will also be free to shelters and rescue groups in the UK and Ireland.

To Shelters: If you regularly have a number of cats to rehome, ask us for a free Cat Homing Web Page:  
[www.catchat.org/rehoming\\_page.html](http://www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html)

**FREE PAGE!**  
CATS for HOMING 



# What Goes “Boing Tick Tock”? Spring Time!



As bird song fills the air, frogspawn fills the pond and bluebells pop their heads above the ground, it can only mean one thing... SPRING IS HERE AT LAST! It has been a particularly long and drawn out winter, and we'll all be eager to make the most of the longer, brighter milder days. This goes for our pets too! But there are a few things to consider to ensure they can make the most of it, and stay safe and well:

The blossoming of flowers and trees, and growing grass can trigger allergic reactions in pets. Spring and summer are also the prime biting seasons for fleas. The saliva from fleas coming into contact with a cat's skin can cause allergic reaction. Allergy symptoms can include itching, hair loss and inflamed skin. If left untreated, your pet will scratch, lick and bite to get rid of the irritation, which in turn can cause sores. In

rare cases, a pet's allergy can also cause anaphylactic shock.

Give your pet a breather and reduce the amount of pollen brought indoors, by removing shoes at the door, using a doormat and closing doors and windows when grass is being mown. Vacuum your home frequently, and keep pet bedding clean and fresh. Groom your pet frequently and treat your pet, and your home for fleas regularly. If you suspect your pet has an allergy, visit your vet for advice.

Getting your garden back into shape after winter is always a priority, but do take care with any fertilisers, insecticides, weed preparations etc used. Follow instructions for use carefully, and store these potentially poisonous products safely out of harm's way. Remember also, that many popular springtime plants, including lilies, rhododendrons and azaleas are highly toxic and sometimes fatal to pets.

And finally, more daylight hours means more time for your cats to explore outdoors, and more chance of unplanned kittens! If your pet hasn't yet been neutered, please arrange it RIGHT AWAY!! Thousands of cats and kittens are needlessly destroyed every day because there are not enough homes to go round. This is true also for dogs, and neutering is the only humane answer - don't wait until it's too late! Do also ensure your pet is microchipped. If your pet should become lost, this greatly increases the chance of them being returned home.

So please... 'snip and chip'... and enjoy Spring!



## Now you see them...!

Here are a few of the speedier rehoming that have taken place through the Cat Chat website, since our last bulletin:

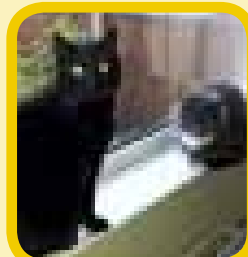
### **Winston & Peppa** from Willows Cat Adoption Centre, South Shields, Tyne and Wear

This lovely pair of cats were rehomed just three days after arriving at Willows and appearing on Cat Chat, having not even been named yet!



### **Gabrielle & Zoe** from Celia Hammond Animal Trust, Lewisham Branch, London

After just a day on the Top Cats section, this very lucky, adorable pair found themselves in a lovely new home.



### **Hughie & Minnie** from Ellesmere Port Cat Rescue, South Wirral

Hughie & Minnie had four days to find a new home before their owner had to leave. So we were overjoyed that they were rehomed within two days of being on 'Top Cats'!

### **Garfield** from Belfast Animal Rescue, Ireland

No sooner than his little whisky face appears as Top Cat, he was spotted and has found himself a new home... It must be the luck of the Irish!



**No waiting around for these folks! Fond farewells to all!**



## Triumphant Trio



### Bagpuss and his Two Friends

*“Hi Cat Chat, Just a quick note to say thank you! Due to your Top Cats feature on Bagpuss, we not only rehomed Bagpuss, but also a pair of our oldies too. They all went to the same lovely family who originally came to see Bagpuss, and fell in love with the other two while they were here! Thanks!”*

Angel Wings Animal Rescue, Derbyshire

(Bagpuss was featured on our ‘Special Appeal for Homes’ in the last Cat Chat newsletter, so we were exceptionally thrilled by this news.)



## Jasmine's Lucky Break!

“Hi Cat Chat,

I'm happy to tell you that after a year of being in foster care, Jasmine has finally found a new home!

Being black, 12 years old and suffering from hyperthyroidism it was very difficult to get anybody interested in her. We registered her on your Top Cats section, and after only a day we had an enquiry from a local family with young children. The adoption duly went ahead and Jasmine now spends her day playing with a 2-year-old child, who she adores!

Many thanks for your help.”

Safe and Sound Animal Care, Farnborough, Hants.



## Introductions and Reintroductions

Cat Chat's voluntary Vet Advisor, Zeta told us recently, “Two of the biggest problems we are seeing, is the introductions of kittens in the home, and also bringing a cat back home following a stay at the vets.”

Zeta offered the following good advice...

Introducing a new kitten or re-introducing a cat to your home after a stay at the vets can sometimes cause friction with other cats in the household. It can however, be made less stressful for all parties (including the owner!) by taking things slowly.

If possible, keep the two cats in separate areas of the house initially, and use a cloth to wipe over one cat and then the other, so that the cats get used to each other's scent before they actually meet.

The next step is then to try and swap the cats' areas around, again so that they can become familiar with the scent of the new or re-introduced cat before seeing them.

Finally, when you introduce the two cats, ensure that you are there to supervise. Try to center the initial introduction around food or play, so that a positive association is formed in the presence of the other cat.

With a new kitten, each of these steps may take a couple of weeks, and hopefully just a few days to re-introduce an established cat.

Zeta is chief vet at [Kitten to Cat Veterinary Clinic](#) in Kew. Further advice here: [Cat introductions & Hierarchies](#)



## Back to Black

They say 50 is the new 40, but did you know that black is the new tabby?

Rescue centres around the country will all confirm that black cats are the hardest to home. Through no fault of their own, black cats are overlooked time and time again, as most people tend to choose 'prettier' or brighter coloured cats. Even black kittens are left until last for adoption, while their more colourful siblings are chosen first. The outlook for a black, adult cat in rescue is therefore very bleak. Some spend many months in rescue, sometimes even years, waiting for someone to see past their colour...

Therefore, we are delighted to announce that this year started with an upturn in the fortunes of these beautiful, sleek felines. The photos below are the black cats homed recently from Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Essex. January and February brought homes for a number of other black cats too, check them out on our [Rehoming Roll of Honour](#).

This, from Winston Cat from Willows Cat Adoption Centre, Tyne & Wear after being seen on Cat Chat... *"Winston here... I arrived at Willows on a Thursday, and flew away on the Friday evening! Do you know Willows have had quite a lot of young, glossy black toms in lately and they are being adopted like hot cakes - MEEEEOW!!! At the mo, the good people in the NorthEast are just lovin' black moggies... Mind you, we are very stunning!"*

Yogi Cat of Cat Chat Towers adds: *"Black cats are sleek, chic and dressed to impress. Of course, our smart black coats are just an added bonus, it's the cat inside that really counts. So next time you go to adopt a cat, ask about the cat inside the black coat, you could be missing out on a right little gem... like me!"*

And if that hasn't whetted your appetite for all things dark and furry, we have a Cat Chat page with lots more information, including Our Top 10 Reasons to Adopt a Black Cat: [www.catchat.org/black\\_cats.html](http://www.catchat.org/black_cats.html)

**Adopting a Black Cat may be lucky for you...  
and it's definitely lucky for them!**



## Adopting an 'Overlooked' Cat

We always smile, and lick our paws with contentment when 'harder to home' or 'overlooked' cats find loving homes, especially when Cat Chat had a little something to do with it... like the following fab felines:

### Pepper

from Clacton Animal Aid, Essex  
**This mature lady has now found the perfect retirement home, as her new owner is a vet!**



### Myrtal

from Feline Friends Rehoming, Medway, Kent  
**Despite not really liking other cats, Myrtal was still able to find a lovely new home as the only cat.**



### Kelly

from Feline Friends Rehoming, Medway, Kent  
**Kelly was so nervous that she needed a quiet home, but was lucky enough to get just that which should make her very happy indeed.**



### Tinsel

from RSPCA, Gonsal, Shropshire  
**Due to sensitive tummy issues, as well as a crooked jaw and canine which left her head at a bit of a tilt, we're thrilled that Tinsel found a forever home with a family that adore her, understand her needs and will spoil her rotten!**



### Marley

from Clacton Animal Aid, Essex  
**Marley was lucky enough to be rehomed within a week of being put on our Catchat homing page, which is even more remarkable as he only has three legs!**



**These cats are so deserving of love and of a second chance... and thankfully, that's what they now have.**

Sadly though, there are still many thousands of incredibly loving, intelligent and unique cats waiting patiently, in rescue centres throughout the UK and Ireland. Some of them for whatever reason will remain there for many months, or even years, waiting for their special person to come along and adopt them.

Could you offer a harder to home cat a new future..?  
Meet some of the 'overlooked' cats in your area currently waiting for a home: [www.catchat.org/topcats](http://www.catchat.org/topcats)



## Special Appeal for Homes

These cats have spent many months in rescue, and we would love to see them finally settled in a home of their own, with someone to love. For full details of these cats, visit our Top Cats section: [www.catchat.org/topcats](http://www.catchat.org/topcats)

### DAINTY & FONTAINE

at Paws Inn Cat Rescue, Weaverham, Cheshire

Fontaine was born at the rescue shelter, and then watched as the rest of her family all went to forever homes. She has befriended Dainty, and they would like a home together.



### Missie

at Second Chance Cat Rescue, Grimsby, Lincs

Missie is a pretty tortie and white lady who was made homeless when her human had to move abroad. She is very friendly and loves human company... If you love feline attention, please consider adopting Missie!



### Lotty

at Bromley & District Cat Rescue, Greater London

Lotty is a beautiful, young cat who has spent many months at the rescue shelter waiting for someone to come and sweep her off her paws... But it hasn't happened yet!

### Tiny

at Sidcup Veterinary Centre, Sidcup, Kent

Tiny is the perfect part-bengal package... well apart from one little problem - but we'll let him tell you about that!! He is looking for a home where he'll be chatted to all day long.



### Tia

at Tain & District Cats Protection, Highlands

Tia was taken into the shelter after suffering some neglect. Life has not left her angry or down. All she wants is a loving home... Oh, and some primula spread in the fridge!



All these cats are showing great courage and endurance, and never give up hope of a better life. These, and more 'overlooked cats' here » [Top Cats](#)

If you have room in your heart and your home for a rescue cat, contact a rescue centre near you today: [www.catchat.org/adoption](http://www.catchat.org/adoption)

It could be the most rewarding thing you've ever done!

## Sam's Song!

Sam's owners sadly passed away, which ultimately led to him being rescued by Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Newburgh, Fife. The whole event had left Sam distraught, and very stressed. Because of this, last October Sam was offered a place on our Top Cats section, for harder to home cats. *"He was quite frightened and prone to hissy fits when arrived at the sanctuary"* his rescuers told us, *"but he landed on his feet when a kind lady spotted him on Cat Chat, and was convinced she was going to have him whatever his temperament!"*

Sam's wonderful new human wrote to Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary in January, with this news:

*"It's now 24 hours since I collected our Sam from your barn. I am happy to report that he is settling in well. I have been pleasantly surprised that we've had a couple of cuddling sessions on my big sofa...not huge chats with Sam as he's been busy purring. It is as you know a long process for such a timid, frightened chap but he has eaten, and given himself a good wash - so good indicators of settling."*

*He is currently, taking a break back in the spare room - under the bed. I will leave him in peace and see if he can be coaxed back out once the washing machine cycle has finished!! I had thought it would take much longer to get to this stage of settling in so please be relieved that he has found a safe, warm forever home."*

We wish Sam, his special person, and his rescuers lots of love and purrs for their part in giving this story such a happy ending.





Alsager Animals In Need offer shelter and veterinary care for sick, injured, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Cheshire and North Staffordshire. Should an animal coming into the care of the rescue be sick or very old, then a long term foster home is sought. Short term foster care may be available if people have to go into hospital.

Every effort is made to trace the owners of animals brought in to Alsager Animals In Need, but failing this, once the animal is confirmed as healthy by the Veterinary Surgeon, he or she is vaccinated, micro-chipped and if necessary neutered.

Alsager Animals In Need endeavour to find loving, responsible homes for their animals, and all potential homes and owners are thoroughly vetted prior to re-homing taking place. An 'after-care' service is then offered, giving advice and support.

Dogs that come into the care of the rescue are accommodated at a local boarding kennel, which is able to provide shelter and an exercise area for 5 dogs. The rescue is able to provide accommodation for 8 cats within 3 shelters, all of which have roomy pens and exercise areas.

The main costs incurred are for the boarding kennels, veterinary bills (which are always very high due to the poor state of health of some of the animals that come to the rescue), erecting and maintaining the cat shelters and pens at foster homes, food, litter, advertising, hire of premises for events and the running costs of the rescue vehicle.

If you are able to help Alsager Animals In Need in any way, please contact them. Their contact details, and animals for rehoming can be found on the Alsager Animals In Need website:

[www.alsager-animals.org](http://www.alsager-animals.org)

Current cats for homing appear on their [Cat Chat homing page](#).

If you live in the Alsager area, and might be interested in cat fostering, please drop them a line: [jemaain@googlemail.com](mailto:jemaain@googlemail.com)



Something a bit special for our Spring supporter's corner feature... Whereas we would normally focus on one of our supporters, this time we thought we would feature all our page sponsors, and highlight the pages which they are kind enough to sponsor. So without further ado, we give hearty purrs of thanks to the following companies, whose support is invaluable to us:

**Purr...fect Fence:** [www.purrfectfence.co.uk](http://www.purrfectfence.co.uk)

Cat-proof fencing - Houdini-proof cat enclosures & fencing systems.

Sponsors of our 'Pedigree Rescues' page: [www.catchat.org/adoption/pedigree.html](http://www.catchat.org/adoption/pedigree.html)

**Kitty Collars:** [www.kittycollars.co.uk](http://www.kittycollars.co.uk)

A fantastic range of cute and comfortable personalised cat safety collars:

Sponsors of our 'Shelters Section': [www.catchat.org/adoption](http://www.catchat.org/adoption)

**Animal Search UK:** [www.animalsearchuk.co.uk](http://www.animalsearchuk.co.uk)

The UK's leading search service and free website for missing pets.

Sponsors of our 'Lost & Found' information page: [www.catchat.org/lost.html](http://www.catchat.org/lost.html)

**Feliway:** [www.feliway.com](http://www.feliway.com)

The secret to happy cats. Sponsors of the following pages:

'New cat in the Home': [www.catchat.org/bonding.html](http://www.catchat.org/bonding.html)

'Feline Introductions': [www.catchat.org/hierarchies.html](http://www.catchat.org/hierarchies.html)

'Meowing at Night': [www.catchat.org/meowing.html](http://www.catchat.org/meowing.html)

'Soiling or Spraying Indoors': [www.catchat.org/urination.html](http://www.catchat.org/urination.html)

**The Cat Gallery:** [www.thecatgallery.co.uk](http://www.thecatgallery.co.uk)

Quality cat-themed gifts for the cat lover and their home.

Sponsors of our 'Senior Cats' information page: [www.catchat.org/seniors.html](http://www.catchat.org/seniors.html)

*("Being owned by two Senior Kittizens, it feels right for us to sponsor your Seniors page", Peter from The Cat Gallery.)*

**Erin House:** [www.erinhouseprints.com](http://www.erinhouseprints.com)

A stunning range of figurines, prints and gifts, with a feline twist.

Sponsors of our 'Roll of Honour' section: [www.catchat.org/roll\\_honour](http://www.catchat.org/roll_honour)

**Animal Gifts 4 U:** [www.animalgifts4u.co.uk](http://www.animalgifts4u.co.uk)

A gorgeous range of animal themed gifts.

Sponsors of our 'Neutering' information page: [www.catchat.org/neuter.html](http://www.catchat.org/neuter.html)

*("We're sponsoring the neutering page because it is something I personally think is very important", Sue from Animal Gifts 4 U.)*

**Applaws:** [www.applaws.co.uk](http://www.applaws.co.uk)

100% natural cat (and dog) food.

Sponsors of our 'Black Cats' information page: [www.catchat.org/black\\_cats.html](http://www.catchat.org/black_cats.html)

**Burns Pet Nutrition:** [www.burnspet.co.uk](http://www.burnspet.co.uk)

A natural diet based on non-caged chicken or ocean fish.

Sponsors of our 'Adopt a Cat' page: [www.catchat.org/cat\\_rescue.html](http://www.catchat.org/cat_rescue.html)

**Find Pet Boarding:** [www.findpetboarding.com](http://www.findpetboarding.com)

Search here for your local boarding catteries, kennels and small animal boarding

Sponsors of our 'Choosing a Cattery' page: [www.catchat.org/catteries.html](http://www.catchat.org/catteries.html)

**Katzecure:** [www.katzecure.com](http://www.katzecure.com)

Safe and efficient garden cat-proofing system.

Sponsors of our 'Kittens information' page: [www.catchat.org/kittens.html](http://www.catchat.org/kittens.html)

**World's Best Cat Litter:** [www.worldsbestcatlitter.co.uk](http://www.worldsbestcatlitter.co.uk)

Dust free, organic, flushable, biodegradable and long-lasting litter.

Sponsors of our 'Fostering' information page: [www.catchat.org/fostering.html](http://www.catchat.org/fostering.html)

To enquire about page sponsorship, please email: [veronica\\_brown@catchat.org](mailto:veronica_brown@catchat.org)



## Purrfect Pairs - Homed

Presenting some of the lucky feline duos that have been homed via Cat Chat since our last newsletter:



**Bo & Tinker**

Canino Animal Rescue,  
Duston, Northampton



**Bodie & friend**

Crescent Cat Rescue,  
Tending, Essex



**Chico & Queen**

Prevent Unwanted Pets,  
Fylde Coast Branch



**Duchess & Marie -**

Velvet Bunny's Animal  
Rescue, Dudley



**Earl & Otis -**

Cat Action Trust 1977,  
Leeds Branch



**James & Mike**

Furry Friends Animal  
Rescue, Old Coulsden



**Tibby & Tiger -**

Velvet Bunny's Animal  
Rescue, Dudley



**Laurel & Hardy**

National Animal Welfare  
Trust, Thurrock Branch



**Liz & Anne**

Peterborough Cat Rescue,  
Peterborough



**Malka & Harry**

Aylesbury Cat Rescue,  
Aylesbury, Bucks



**Pixie & Poppy**

Peterborough Cat Rescue,  
Peterborough



**Rupert & Hugo**

Helping Pets (North East),  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

## Bon Voyage! Gute Fahrt! Buon Viaggio!

However you say it, it all comes down to the same thing... **a well deserved break!**

Using the Easyfundraising website when you shop online raises funds for Cat Chat, at no cost to you. But, did you also know that many travel companies, hotels and car rental firms are signed up to Easyfundraising too? So when you plan your next trip or hotel stay, sign in to Easyfundraising first, and help us at the same time! For example...  
Premier Inn hotels • Holiday Inn •

Lastminute.com • Disneyland Paris • Hotels.com • LateRooms.com • Hertz car rentals • Thomas Cook • Virgin Atlantic • Co-operative Travel • TheTrainline.com • Eurostar •

These, and many other companies will give us a free donation, for bookings made by people who chose to support Cat Chat through Easyfundraising. It really is that simple!

It's FREE to register and use, you simply sign into Easyfundraising when you shop online, and then

shop with each retailer in exactly the same way. Many retailers even offer additional discounts and money saving e-Vouchers to Easyfundraising shoppers.

Visit our Easyfundraising page for more info, including how to get started: [www.catchat.org/easyfundraising.html](http://www.catchat.org/easyfundraising.html)

Goede reis!

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

## Peter's in Training... 6 months to go!

Spare a thought - and perhaps a donation - for Peter Hanson from The Cat Gallery, who is now training hard, to run the Yorkshire Marathon for Cat Chat, on 20-October-2013.

**It's his first marathon - 26.2 miles!**

To sponsor Peter, visit his MyDonate fundraiser's page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/helpneedycats>

Way to Go Peter!  
(he'll be the one with cat-ears and tail!)





# Long Termers - Homed

## Jack and Jill

South Oxhey Animal Rescue,  
Watford, Hertfordshire

After eight months, someone fell in love with this gorgeous pair, who are now happy in their forever home.



## Blackie

Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, Bridgend, South Wales

Having been in foster care for a tremendous amount of time, this adorable puss has now found a loving new home.



## Bella

Kirkby Cats Home,  
Nottinghamshire

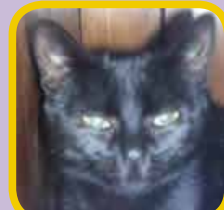
Bella had been in foster care since July 2012, so it was lovely to hear of her new home after being overlooked for so long.



## Milo and Ripley

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottinghamshire

These two were originally paired up due to limited pen space. During their 9 months in rescue, they became great friends and now live together in their forever home!



## Imy

Small Pet and Cat Care, Hull

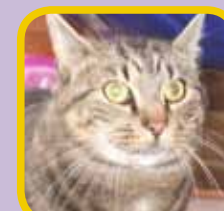
Imy has finally found her fur-ever home through Catchat, after seven months in care.



## Lucy

Kirkby Cats Home,  
Nottinghamshire

After a year in care, Lucy has finally settled into the forever home she deserves. Her only complaint is that the vet has put her on a diet!



## Ella

Team Cat Rescue,  
Birmingham, West Midlands

This adorable fluffily lady is now happy in a new pad, after a year of being in care.



## Missy

Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue,  
Bristol, Avon

After over eight months of taming her 'catitude', Missy is now settling in and getting calmer in her new home.



# Brad and Angel

Kittens Brad and Angel were found in a cardboard box by a couple walking their dog in a park. The couple saw the box move and went to investigate. Thankfully, this lovely pair of kittens were fine, although obviously very frightened after their ordeal. They were taken in by National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock Branch in Essex, and consequently made their debut on the Cat Chat website. They were spotted, and ended up being rehomed together!

We wish them the 'Happily Ever After' they deserve, and so nearly didn't get.

Sadly, unwanted and abandoned kittens are still an everyday reality... and with 'Kitten Season' upon us again, the situation is about to become even more desperate.

From spring through to late autumn, literally thousands of kittens come into rescue shelters across the UK. Sometimes they are taken in when a stray cat has had kittens, but all too often it is where owners have simply not bothered to have their cat neutered, and then find themselves with an unplanned, unwanted litter.

Neutering your cats, male or female, is the best and most

humane way of reducing the stray cat and kitten population! For more information visit: [www.catchat.org/neuter.html](http://www.catchat.org/neuter.html)

Most rescue centres across the country have mums & kittens needing homes right now... If you have room in your home, and love in your heart to share with a kitten (or two!), PLEASE RESCUE: [Rescue Centres with Kittens for Homing](#)

Lets make stories like Brad and Angel's a thing of the past!





# Excessive vocalization in cats

Cats meow for many reasons, the main one being to get attention from their humans. They use at least 16 different meows and over 100 vocal sounds (comparing to only 10 for dogs) to communicate with us. They are intelligent and quickly learn how to get what they want from us!

Cats that sleep a lot or don't do much during the day, perhaps when their humans are not home, are especially prone to excessive vocalisation. If they are to be alone during the day, give them plenty of safe toys to play with, and hidden treats to find. They need sufficient places to hide and play in - paper bags or cardboard boxes for example, and places to hide or climb to keep them occupied.

Another cause for excessive vocalization is separation anxiety. Despite common belief, cats are social creatures, forming strong bonds with people and other animals. Orphaned, early-weaned, or pet shop bought kittens may be at greater risk of developing this stressful condition.

In general, the best thing a cat carer can do when the cat meows (day or night) to get attention, is to try to ignore it. Persistence is needed, so as not to confuse the cat. Eventually they will learn that meowing doesn't really work. If the loud meowing happens during the day, you should wait until they are quiet again, and then offer a small treat to show that meowing doesn't necessarily pay off.

Keeping to a routine makes cats feel more assured, preventing stress that can cause loud meowing. The routine should include feeding, attention and play time. Playing, particularly interactive play, will release pent up energy, and provide the attention they need. Play

sessions should last around 10 -20 minutes and end with the cat being allowed to catch the toy. If possible, play with them just before bedtime so they become tired and ready for bed too.

Older cats that meow loudly at night may be suffering from age related illnesses such as loss of hearing, sight, memory or agility making them feel less secure and more dependent on their humans. In these cases, the carer needs to be more tolerant; making sure the cat knows where their humans are. Having the cat bed in the same room, or allowing them to sleep on your bed can help. Keep the food and litter tray accessible, and allow them to come and go freely. The carer should avoid getting up to reassure.

Pain and discomfort may also cause excessive vocalisation. Check with your vet if you are unsure.

Feliway Diffusers can help with a very vocal cat, as well as some of the Bach Flower Remedies: A mixture of Chestnut Bud, Heather with Cerato and Chicory is good, but establishing the cause of the excessive vocalisation will help formulate the right remedy.

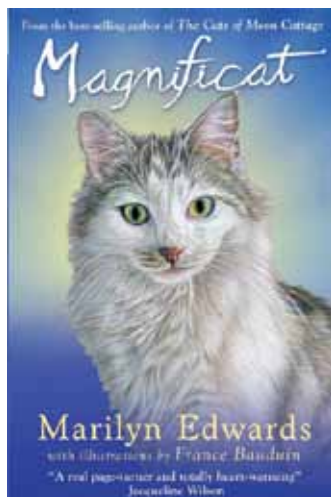
Thanks to our volunteer Behavioural Adviser - K.Zurbanu BSc (Hons) (Psych) BSY(PetPsy) for this information.

Further advice here: [Meowing at Night](#)



Photograph by Simon Crutchley

## Meet Magnificat... and oh my goodness, Cat Chat's in it!



Magnificat is the forthcoming new book for 9 - 12 year olds, by renowned cat-loving author, Marilyn Edwards, out on 1st June, 2013. Marilyn is a long time supporter of Cat Chat, and we are proud to have her as one of our 'Famous Friends'.

The story includes a fictional rescue centre, and also a very non-fictional Cat Chat! We were thrilled to be mentioned in the book, and it's also a great way to introduce young people to the idea of rescuing. Magnificat is a smashing story, and is sure to inspire today's readers to become tomorrow's cat rescuers.

A limited number of **signed copies** will be on sale on the [Cat Chat webshop](#) from 1st June.

**Want to attend the launch?** Cat Chat supporters are invited to the book launch on Sat 1st June, at [Country Harvest](#), Ingleton, Lancs, LA6 3PE (noon to 4pm). So, if you are in the area, do pop along and meet Marilyn, it's a lovely venue and would make a great day out.

More about Marilyn, her cats and her books here: [www.thecatsofmooncottage.co.uk](http://www.thecatsofmooncottage.co.uk)



## Understanding Aggression in Cats

Anyone owned by a cat will understand that they are unpredictable, and have very individual personalities. This is one of the things that makes them so fascinating to us! But what happens when your cats show signs of aggression?

Cats aren't aggressive just for the sake of being aggressive, and they are not doing it out of spite. Once we begin to understand what lies behind it, we can work towards possible solutions.

Understanding Aggression in Cats: [www.catchat.org/cat\\_aggression.html](http://www.catchat.org/cat_aggression.html) is a new Cat Chat advice and information on the most common causes of cat aggression, and how to recognise and deal with it.

Cats eh? You gotta love 'em!!



## Please follow us!

**Facebook** » Please 'like' us on Facebook! Well over 2,000 people now [follow us on Facebook](#), could we make it 3,000 by the next newsletter..?



**Twitter** » We are on the verge of a big breakthrough... At the time of writing, we have 990 followers on Twitter! Please follow us: [@catchatcharity](#) so we can reach the landmark - 1,000 followers.



**Can you help us spread the 'Rescue' message?  
Every new person who discovers Cat Chat is a potential Cat Adopter!**

## Kong Kickeroo and Kong Moppy Balls!?

Nope, we haven't just read that from a Chinese food menu!! They are in fact among the brand spanking new items in our Cat Chat shop this spring! Whatever the particular 'penchant' of that special cat in your life, there is certain to be something here to get them excited:

### Acticat Combat Play Tunnel - £12.99

The large Acticat tunnel is 130cm / 51 inches long, very durable, with crinkly material inside which cats love. Also features two peep / pounce holes and dangling toys.

### SquishBalls (pack of 3) - £2.90

Squish Balls are such a simple little idea, but cats love 'em! Made of rubber, Squish Balls are easily washable too!

### Kong Premium Catnip Tubz - £5.40

Tub contains 56.7g (2 oz.) of pure, premium catnip - plus a little bonus, of a catnip toy inside.

### Kong Kickeroo - (adult size £4.25, kitten size £3.05)

The Kickeroo size, shape and material promote wrestling and hind paw kicking. The fluffy tail provides movement for extra excitement. Infused with a catnip aroma.

### Kong Moppy Ball - £2.25

Moppy Balls are covered in swipe-able string-things, with a fascinating rattly whatnot in the middle, which cats will love to stalk, swipe and bat around!

### Catnip Sisal Balls (pack of 2) - £2.50

Sisal rope is used for scratching posts 'cause cat's love to get their claws into it! These play balls are covered with sisal, and infused with natural catnip, to encourage play and exercise.

You'll also find some nice cat-themed items on our shop to treat yourself too, such as bags, mugs, books, and more.

**Every purchase helps more cats out of shelters and into homes!**

Visit the Cat Chat Web Shop here:

[www.catchat.org/catalog](http://www.catchat.org/catalog)

**Happy Shopping!**



So all that is left is for us to bid you Goodbye... "Parting is such sweet sorrow that we shall say goodnight till it be morrow..." well July actually... but meanwhile, you can keep up-to-date with all things furry on our website: [www.catchat.org](http://www.catchat.org) and on our Social Network: [facebook.com/catchatcharity](https://facebook.com/catchatcharity) or [twitter.com/catchatcharity](https://twitter.com/catchatcharity). Any comments, or suggestions for future newsletters are always appreciated: [newsletter@catchat.org](mailto:newsletter@catchat.org) ... Thank you for your support, and a Prrrpmeow to you!