

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



WELCOME TO THE CATCHAT NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013

3 x 3 = 9 Happy Cats!

We were thrilled to hear the following news from Kirkby Cats Home in Notts recently, no less than three terrific trios homed together:-

Wilbur, Dotty and Katie

"The adorable fussy friendly Wilbur made sure his new mum and dad took him... They came for nervous little Dotty and Katie but were ambushed by the big lad as they walked through the door! They then couldn't make up their minds so took all three. Wilbur doesn't mind sharing, he just wanted to get out. He says, "Thank you Cat Chat, I'm sorted!!"



Maisie, Hetty and Oliver

"Although Maisie, Hetty and Oliver came in separately, they also ended up moving on together. Again their new owners couldn't make up their minds so decided that nobody would be left behind."



Billy, Barney and Bruce

"These boys also went together... well eventually anyway. They were together in the pen and Billy and Barney were chosen, leaving poor little Bruce crying for his mates. His new mum was racked with guilt and after a sleepless night returned for Bruce, and the brothers were reunited. Billy, Barney and Bruce also had a sister Bunty who was homed the week before. Her lucky escape from the rescue was also due to Cat Chat."



That's a lot of purrs and pointy-up whiskers!!

Cat Chat's Newest Patron

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Suzy Gale, our latest Patron. We're delighted Suzy has accepted the role after many years of supporting us informally alongside her husband Roger.

Suzy has always loved animals, and has worked in animal welfare for many years both at home and abroad, initially for Parliament's All Party Animal Welfare Group and then, in 2007 founded her own charity, Animals Worldwide: www.animalsworldwide.org which is an important global initiative bridging animal welfare and tourism.

Welcome Suzy... We're proud to have you on board!



Special homings that made us Smile



DUKE

DUKE

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottinghamshire

'Mr Grumpy', as he was named, had been in rescue for several months because he put people off with a well-aimed swipe. His forewarned new owners overlooked this however, and Duke now has a new home and family, and a new cat-titude too. They can't believe how affectionate he is!

REBUS

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire

Nervous, semi-blind Rebus had never lived in a house before, but is now safely tucked up in the spare room at his new forever home, where he is receiving regular attention while he gains confidence, and will now be loved for the rest of his days.



REBUS

3 PAIRS... 1 MONTH... 1 SHELTER!

Clacton Animal Aid reported some smashing rehoming news in May, thanks to their Cat Chat homing page...

Alice & Shane, Bob & Ted, Ronnie & Reggie

"We are delighted to report that we have rehomed 3 pairs of cats in May with a little help from catchat. Especially exciting was seeing Alice and Shane go as they have been with us a really long time. Also great to see Ronnie & Reggie, two little black chaps go together. For Bob and Ted it was second time around as we originally homed them in 2010 as kittens, but sadly they were in need of a new home again. It was great that they were only with us a few weeks when, with your help, we found them a lovely new home. So 6 big thank yous from Clacton Animal Aid".

Wahay!!!!

There are literally thousands of cats in rescue shelters, who are being overlooked when it comes to adoption. When adopting a cat, why not ask the rescue shelter staff who is the neediest, most overlooked resident? Find your nearest rescue shelter here: www.catchat.org/adoption



TED & BOB



ALICE & SHANE



RONNIE & REGGIE

Latest Cat Chat pages go Live

Cat Chat offers free cat homing web pages to any UK rescue centre, rehoming group, or vet practice, enabling them to feature their cats seeking homes. Here are the latest organizations to take up the offer:

Canterbury, Dover & District RSPCA
Harlow, Epping Forest & District Cats Protection
RSPCA Bryn-Y-Maen Animal Centre, Conwy
Thingwall Cat Rescue, Merseyside

FREE PAGE!
CATS for HOMING

Cats Nottingham Rescue
Ward End Cat Rescue, Birmingham
Bedfordshire South RSPCA
Sophie's Refuge For Animals In Need, Notts.
Cherry Tree Cat Rescue, Herts.

Details here: www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

Virtual Volunteers

We'd like to give a warm whiskery welcome to our latest Cat Chat Virtual Volunteers:

Marina has climbed 'into the cat basket', to become one of our Help Desk Administrators, and **Bryan** joins us in the role of Journalist.

Thank you Marina and Bryan!

If you love cats, and would like the chance to help, without needing to get to a shelter, Cat Chat's 'Virtual Volunteers' work from home, in any part of the UK, on their own computers, at whatever time of day suits them.

We are currently seeking a Top Cat Administrator, and a Google Adwords Administrator. Details here:

www.catchat.org/volunteer.html



A Cautionary Tale



Losing a pet is heart-breaking - especially if the animal just disappears, leaving an owner wondering what has happened.

Ensuring your cat is micro-chipped may not always guarantee a happy ending, but it can often reunite a worried owner with a wandering pet, as Maureen from Ramsgate revealed.

Fifteen months ago Maureen welcomed two gorgeous kittens, a brother and sister called Charlton and Chelsea into the football supporting family home.

As she wanted the pair to roam free in and out of the house, they were micro-chipped and neutered and the curious duo were then introduced to the garden – initially on harnesses, and then within human sight until they were confident in their surroundings.

“All was fine until one evening Charlton (below) went off for his usual stroll after he’d been fed,” she told Cat Chat.

When he didn’t appear home later Maureen, although a little anxious, told herself not to worry as it was a very warm evening: He was probably still investigating his surroundings.



“Morning came and then I really began to worry. Charlton still wasn’t home and didn’t come when my husband called him. I asked my husband and son to go around the neighbourhood to see if they could find him,” she said.

Around 10.00am she answered the phone. “It was a nurse from the vet’s surgery who asked me to confirm if we’d lost a cat called Charlton. She immediately reassured me that he was all right and with them.”

It turned out a woman had seen Charlton crossing the road and apparently being clipped by a car. She went to his aid, took him home and – to her credit and Maureen’s everlasting gratitude - phoned around to find a vet or rescue to take him in.

Maureen’s veterinary clinic had agreed to take the kitten to the surgery to check him over. Charlton’s minor injuries included mild concussion and a little bleeding from his ear.

“The first thing they did was to check to see if he was micro-chipped. He was. That was how they were able to find us. They had decided to monitor him overnight, and call us in the morning.

I can’t tell you how happy we were to get him back!

“If he hadn’t been micro-chipped then it’s possible we may never have seen him again. Please make sure your gorgeous boys and girls are micro-chipped,” Maureen advised. We couldn’t agree more!

Please sign this government petition calling for compulsory microchipping for cats:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/48749>

Rescuer's Corner

BARC (Registered Charity no. 1052158) was formed in 1995 and is one of Yorkshire’s largest animal rescue charities. Managed by Kath Bailey, BARC provides care and shelter for 100’s of abandoned animals in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. They rescue and rehome mainly cats, dogs, rabbits and other small furrries, and also have a wildlife rehabilitation section.

BARC’s vision is for all animals to live in caring, loving homes.

BARC have a growing number of charity shops, raising funds to help rescue animals in Barnsley – all details on their listing on the Cat Chat shelter pages here:

www.catchat.org/adoption/yorkss.html



The Kennel & Cattery, based in Wath Upon Dearne in Rotherham is open for rehoming between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm - 7 days a week. Further information and contact details can be found on their website: www.barnsleyanimalrescue.org.uk

As well as their other animals, BARC currently have many cats in need of loving homes.



Including, Sooty, Reg and devoted friends Orla & Pepe (pictured). More details on these, and other cats seeking homes can be found on their Cat Chat homing page: www.catchat.org/barc/cgibin/prtoc.cgi





A picture is worth a thousand words, so taking a good photo of a cat looking for a home is an important part of the rehoming process.

Cats aren't the easiest pets to photograph, but in my three years of photographing rescue cats, I have found a number of strategies that sometimes work, although with cats it's never certain!

1. Get down to the cat's level: this will make the image more intimate and dramatic. It also keeps the correct perspective, so the cat doesn't look like it has a huge head and tiny legs.

2. Focus on the eyes: this is the window of the soul and cats' eyes are particularly expressive so keep them sharp.

3. Enlist help: trying to dangle toys to get a cat's attention whilst taking a photo is not easy. Ask someone to help you out. For nervous cats, I often ask for them to be held. This will help you get a good photo and also shows the cat to be approachable and friendly.



4. Uncluttered background: try and make sure the focus is on the cat by ensuring the background is simple and

uncluttered. You could use a simple backdrop - a sheet will do, although I use a fleece blanket as it doesn't need ironing!

5. Fill the frame: if you can't avoid a cluttered background, get in close and just photograph the face. This can be really powerful. If you photograph the whole cat don't cut off the ears, tail or feet.

6. Try not to include any cage bars in the image: although some people respond to a 'poor little cat behind bars' photo, most want to imagine how the cat would fit into their life and onto their sofa. Make the cat look as appealing as possible.

7. Be noisy: a sudden noise is a really effective way of getting a cat's attention. Use bells, scrunch a paper bag or crisp packet, stamp your feet, click your tongue, whistle, even hiss - anything that makes them look up in your direction. However, most only seem to respond to the noise once, so be ready!

8. Kittens: include a toy. This not only shows the kitten to be playful and fun, which is what everyone wants, but also gives a sense of the kitten's size. We often get asked this, especially if the kitten is slightly older.



9. Take your time: some cats take a while to get used to a strange person making weird noises and pointing something at them. Be patient and wait for them to relax; however don't make the session too long and if the cat seems to be really stressed, just accept that you won't get the ideal photo.

10. Timing: Some cats won't sit still long enough for you to take a decent photo, so take the photo just after they have woken up or eaten. They are more likely to be a bit sleepy and more relaxed.

Kathryn has helped Cat Chat out on many occasions with the perfect photo. Check out her professional work here: www.coppercatphotography.co.uk



Happy Retirement

Congratulations to these two gorgeous Senior Kittizens, proving once again, that it's never too late to find love:

Lucas

"We are so excited here at Grendon and just had to pass on the wonderful news that the lovely Lucas, an old boy, who has been here at the shelter for the past 2 years, has finally gone to a new home today. We are all so happy for him and hope he has a good life with his new owners; a lovely couple who will give him all the love he so deserves. Thank you Catchat."



Grendon Cat Shelter, Atherstone, Warwickshire

Ziggy

"We'd had Ziggy for a fair few months, and despite being a lovely affectionate boy he was constantly overlooked for his age and being black and white, but not anymore! He's now happy in his new home and loving his new life, after being spotted on Cat Chat."



Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue

Before deciding on what kind of cat to adopt, please consider giving a home to a Mature Moggie!
www.catchat.org/seniors.html

Purrfect Pairs - Homed

A big round of appaws please, as we salute the following felines, who have not only found their forever homes, but get to share it with their best mates:



Lily & Lulu

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare,
Nottingham



Basil & Nutmeg

National Animal Welfare
Trust, Thurrock Branch



Peanut & Willow

National Animal Welfare
Trust, Thurrock Branch



Marco & Tia

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts



Ripple & Renee

Rolvenden & Romney Marsh
Cat Rescue



Bonnie & Roxy

Kirkby Cats Home,
Nottinghamshire



Chas & Dave

Cats Protection, Harlow,
Epping Forest and District



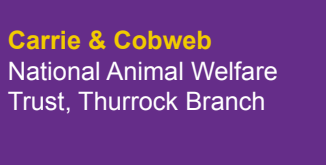
Smudge & Tiggy

Cats Protection, Harlow,
Epping Forest and District



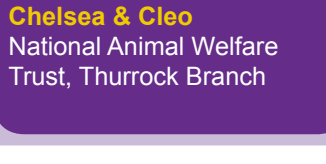
Teddy & Floyd

Cat Homing and Rescue
(CHAR), Warrington



Carrie & Cobweb

National Animal Welfare
Trust, Thurrock Branch



Chelsea & Cleo

National Animal Welfare
Trust, Thurrock Branch

**We wish all these cats and their
adoptors long and happy, furry,
purry lives together!**



eBay & Paypal Giving Fund

In June, we were delighted to hear that Cat Chat was chosen by eBay & Paypal Giving Fund to feature on their 'Give £1 at the Checkout' scheme for a week. This was to help us celebrate the 13th Anniversary of Cat Chat's launch.

If you missed the chance to donate £1 in June, you can still help by adding Cat Chat to your list of Favourite Charities in your eBay account. That way you can donate through eBay any time you wish. To save Cat Chat as your favourite, follow this link: www.ebay.co.uk/egw/eBay-for-charity/charity-profile/?NP_ID=14210

Huge THANKS to all who already choose Cat Chat to benefit from a percentage of their auctions. For more information about how to support us via eBay, visit: www.catchat.org/eBay.html



Latest Pages Sponsor

Looking for a pet boarding service? Find Pet Boarding can help! They list over four thousand boarding kennels, boarding catteries, dog home boarding and small animal boarding services in the UK for you to browse through to help you locate the right boarding service for your pet.

For more information on how Find Pet Boarding can help you, visit their website at: www.findpetboarding.com

Find Pet Boarding sponsor our 'Choosing a Cattery' page: www.catchat.org/catteries



If you or anyone you know runs a good boarding cattery, you can support us by hosting a collection pot at your premises. Find out more here: www.catchat.org/helpus_pots.html





Like to help rescued cats, without a lifelong commitment?

Fostering could provide the answer - ensuring a cat is prepared for a loving home while freeing up busy rescue centre space, allowing them to better meet the demands of as many needy cats as possible.

Fostering means taking a cat into your home temporarily and providing all the necessities to ensure it is healthy and happy. Most rescue centres continue to pay for litter, food and vet bills. Some provide a garden pen, others say a cat can be kept in a spare room.

While perhaps more in demand during kitten season, volunteer fosterers are needed all year round. They can help socialise a cat, and prevent it becoming institutionalised or depressed. It is a good way to find out about the cat as the fosterer will probably get a much better idea of temperament, likes and dislikes when in a home environment rather than a shelter situation.

Fostering could give a cat or kitten the best chance of being socialised and, therefore, successfully rehomed. Every feline has a different personality and history, and will react differently to being fostered.

Rescue centres often post such fostering appeals on their Cat Chat rehoming pages.

Each rescue organisation has its own criteria for fostering. It's usual for a rescue to begin with an in-depth discussion to find out about you, your lifestyle, existing pets, or children. If you are thinking of fostering, everyone in the household should be up for it.

If you decide to proceed, someone from the welfare side of the organisation will probably visit you at home. This is to ensure the safety of the animals and to assess where you would keep the foster cats or kittens. This is also your opportunity to ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have.

Fosterers are as diverse and individual as the cats that need them. A caring fosterer can really turn lives around. The feeling of achievement when a nervous ex-stray finally comes to you for a fuss, after shying away from human contact, is wonderful. But real 'catisfaction' comes with the update or photograph revealing how the cat has settled into a new home.

Rewards can't be more Purr-fect than that!

Contact your local shelter or cat rescue group here (UK and Ireland) www.catchat.org/adoption.

Please remember most rescue workers are volunteers with day jobs, and most shelters are extremely busy. If you don't get through immediately, leave a message or email them.

Long Termers - Now Homed

These cats waited so long for their special someone to find them, so it makes our day when we receive news that a long-stay cat has been rehomed via Cat Chat!

Missy

This beautiful girl was in rescue for over eight months due to a bit of cat-titude. She's now calmed down since being adopted by her new owners, who have assured the rescue she won't be coming back!

Bristol and Wales Cat Rescue, Bristol



Freddie

Despite his lovely personality, Freddie took a long time to be rehomed but now has one very delighted owner who feels incredibly lucky to have him.

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts



Columbus

This long-term resident has now been rehomed by a very kind gentleman.

Pawz For Thought, Sunderland



Sox

It took a while, but Sox's new home was well worth the wait.

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts



Rehoming groups who have homed a cat via the Cat Chat website - please let us know on: homed.cats@catchat.org

Special Appeal for Homes

These long-term rescue cats have been waiting over a year for someone to take them home. They never give up hope and neither do we. Please make this their lucky day:



Marvin from National Animal Welfare Trust, Tameside
shy boy needing a patient, cat-experienced home. [More...](#)

Cornelius from Paws Inn, Cheshire
A truly gorgeous, lovable, laidback kind of guy. [More...](#)



Suzy from Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Essex
Shy nervous girl, looking for a quiet home filled with love. [More...](#)

Details of these, and lots more cats seeking homes in your area can be found here: www.catchat.org/topcats



Meowhooosh!

Here are some of the *speedier* rehommings we've had through Cat Chat recently. No hanging around for these guys!

Cleo & TC

Little Cottage Rescue, Luton, Bedfordshire

After a very short time on Cat Chat, Cleo and TC have now found a loving home.



Cassie

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts

Lovely big Cassie found a new home within days of being put on Cat Chat!



Kit

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottingham

Beautiful Kit was soon snapped up. He didn't have to sell himself as his looks did it for him!



Lucy

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottingham

Lucy was quickly snapped up and is reported to have settled in well and is just perfect.



Charlie

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottingham

This striking lad was spotted, viewed and adopted within days of appearing on Cat Chat.



Sky

RSPCA, Stort Valley, Harlow, Essex

Having been snapped up quickly, the sky's the limit for Sky!



Marathon Training Update!! - (Peter doesn't look 92 to us...)



Peter Hanson, owner of **The Cat Gallery** in York, will be running his **first ever** full marathon this October, in aid of Cat Chat. Please support Peter, to ensure he wears his cat ears and tail on the day...!

"I'm convinced that my family now hear me coming before they see me. Training for the York Marathon means that my body now creaks and cracks in a way it never used to! I'm much fitter now than I was, but after a long run I can resemble someone twice my age (that would be 92!) as I stagger into the lounge and collapse with a glass of water.

Training for a marathon is hard, and a massive time commitment. It's taking several hours out of my week which is already fairly congested as my wife, Alison, is stuck at home with a broken leg. It would be tempting to use her misfortune as an excuse not to train, but I've resisted so far and am trying to keep to a couple of running sessions a week. The most time I've run for in one go is 2 hours and 15 mins and the biggest distance I've gone in one day is 16 miles (couldn't have gone another step!).

All in all, I'm happy with how things are going. The run is on October 20th and I'm hoping that by then, 16 miles will feel like a stroll in the park and I'll have something in reserve for the last 10 miles. What is also keeping me going is the fantastic financial support that cat lovers have been offering. Over £800 has already been donated and I'm hoping to raise £2,500 by the date of the race. ALL the money raised is being donated to Cat Chat.

A lot of donations so far have been from customers shopping via our cat themed shop at

www.thecatgallery.co.uk.

Many have rounded up their orders to the nearest £1 or £5



which makes a massive difference when lots of people do it. I have promised that if enough money is raised (let's say £2,500) then I will run the marathon in a "minimalist" cat costume (black cat t-shirt, black leggings, ears, painted face, tail etc)."

Please support Peter!

Online donations can be made at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/helpneedycats>



The Joy of Oldies

When cat-lover Michelle saw a sweet little female cat, on the Cat Chat site she went along to Maesteg Animal Welfare Society to meet her. She intended to adopt two cats... but ended up with three! Over to you Michelle...

"I had already chosen two cats to adopt when I was introduced to Tom, a black 12 year old. I would like to say that we fell into each others arms/paws and made an instant connection but he barely registered me at first, I had to give a lot of strokes just to get a nuzzle. I think a year in a rescue centre, being overlooked week after week, left him fed up. I took a picture of him and friends all said '...but he looks so sad!'. Being plain black and a bit arthritic and



inelegant did not help his image. I couldn't leave him behind. On the day they arrived in their new home, the 4 year old spent the day hunched in a corner, the 2 year old had a rather messy accident and (after a wash) spent the day hiding behind the microwave, but old Tom strode out of the carrier, claimed all the toys as his own, curled up on the sofa and fell asleep. It felt like he had come home, rather than just moved in. He spent his first night snuggled into me on the bed, where he has spent almost every night since.

Tom is completely stress and trouble free, unlike the sociopathic little 2 year old who causes me so many headaches. Tom eats, sleeps, cuddles and purrs. He is steady, adores being in someone's arms, sleeps with a paw on my face, never plays the gravity game with my ornaments and doesn't climb my curtains or walls (unlike the other two little monkeys). I can't imagine a more perfect cat to have. He is awesome - a proper old fashioned experienced cat. And the biggest surprise was that of the three, he is the most playful - he really throws himself into it!

Next time around I will be looking at all seniors - you can see the cat's personality and you get less naughtiness. You never know what a kitten may turn out like. 12 is not really that old, Tom has years left."

We're always delighted to hear of older cats being adopted, and Tom has certainly fallen on his paws! Read our Top 10 Reasons to adopt an older cat here: www.catchat.org/seniors.html

The Launch of "Magnificat" by Marilyn Edwards

"From the instant his fingers touched her back the little cat knew. The boy was someone she would trust. Homeless and hungry, Magnificat is desperate for someone to take her in, so when she sees a kindness in local boy Ben, she is happy to give herself over to him. But a cat isn't something Ben wants. He's got enough problems with a prickly relationship with his mum and an absent father - besides, he's a dog person. He wants an exuberant, loyal, doting companion, not a gentle, self-contained cat. Magnificat might move into his house, but he doubts she'll ever find a place in his heart..."

"Magnificat" is the new novel for young readers (aged 10+) by best-selling author Marilyn Edwards, beautifully illustrated throughout by France Bauduin.

"Marilyn Edwards is the Queen of Cat Stories. Magnificat is her best book yet, a truthful and touching story of a boy and a cat. It's a real page-turner and totally heart-warming".
Jacqueline Wilson, Author.

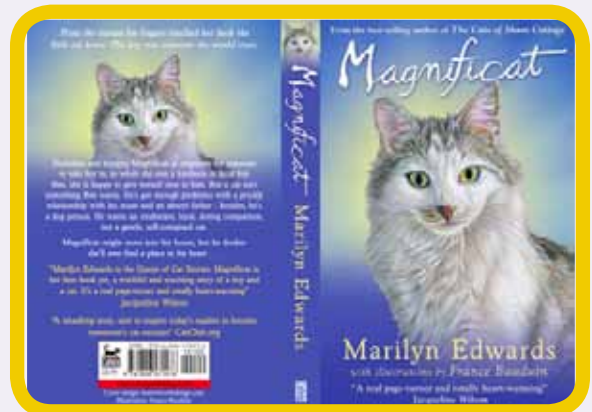
"A smashing story, sure to inspire today's readers to become tomorrow's cat rescuers". Mandy Cotter, Cat Chat Co-founder.

The launch of "Magnificat" took place on the 1st June, in the picturesque village of Ingleton, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Cat Chat's Cat Homing Manager - Bonita Howard, was lucky enough to attend on the day. Bonita told us, "It was

wonderful to be a part of such a special event. Not only is this book about a creature that is dear to all of our hearts, it highlights the plight of many cats who sadly fall on hard times. With it's powerful "rescue" message, Magnificat is indeed groundbreaking material. It was a thrill to join Marilyn, France and friends on the launch day, which turned out to be a great success."

Marilyn is a huge supporter of Cat Chat, and has personally signed each of the copies on sale through our Webshop. Marilyn is very kindly donating her personal profit from the sale of each book sold through our webshop to the Cat Chat Charity!

For your signed copy, visit: The Cat Chat Webshop



Well that's all for this time! We anticipate some exciting 'homing page' news in our Autumn edition... Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer, and take care of yourselves and the animals in this heat! Toodle-oo!"