

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



**WELCOME TO THE CATCHAT
NEWSLETTER WINTER 2013/14**



RIP Gemini (‘her tabby gorgeousness’)

This newsletter is dedicated to Gemini Cat, one of the ‘Founding Felines’ of Cat Chat, who sadly passed away on 4th January 2014, aged 18 and a half.

Gemini was a smart, independent, affectionate, sociable, fearless, nose-y and determined cat. She was a true one-in-a-million and will be lovingly remembered by all who knew her. Now re-united with George, rest in peace little lady.

Bob’s Roving Days are Over

Finding homes is what we do, but with Bob - incredibly, this meant finding his original home!

Bob’s family moved home about a year ago, and as cats sometimes do, Bob decided he would try to get back to his original house. However, he got sidetracked on the way, and was fed by kind people who did not know to whom he belonged. Then, because he had a tail injury, he went to the vet and then came to us. When he was better we put him on Cat Chat for rehoming, and his original owners spotted him and came to claim their long lost boy.

“It was obviously meant to be, because although his owner and her friend keep an eye on our Cat Chat page, they hadn’t looked for a few months. The friend spotted Bob just a couple of days after we had put him on Cat Chat! If it hadn’t been for his tail surgery and recuperation time, he would have been put on Cat Chat weeks ago and may well have been rehomed before they saw him. We had already had him microchipped and vaccinated for homing, so if he does go walkabout again, he should be reunited more quickly.” **Clacton Animal Aid, Essex**



Bob - finally home again!

Bob has now settled back home really well - a great result!





End Kitten / Puppy Farms

This petition aims to urge the Government to end the cruel practice of puppy/kitten farming in the UK

Begun by vet Marc Abraham BVM&S MRCVS, the petition already has over 100,000 signatures.

It calls for the Government to ban the sale of young puppies / kittens unless their mothers are present, (the only exceptions are rescue animals that have been orphaned / abandoned).

If successful it will raise awareness & encourage the public to either adopt from a rescue organisation or to choose a responsibly bred puppy / kitten at least 8 weeks old. Please sign to support a ban on kitten/puppy farms.

Sign the petition here:
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49528>

Closing Date: 02/05/2014

Speedy Homings

In a flurry of fur and cat carriers, these cats were homeless one minute, and snapped up the next after appearing on Cat Chat!



Dotty

Clacton Animal Aid, Essex
 Lucky Dotty was homed after only a very short time on their catchat pages.

Cola

Kirkby Cats Home, Nottinghamshire
 It wasn't long before this little lady landed on her paws with a purrfect pad.



Bastian

Cavan Vets, Wolverhampton
 This beautiful white and ginger boy was adopted in no time after becoming a Top Cat.

Venus

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire
 The lovely Venus only appeared on Cat Chat for two days before receiving so much interest, people had to be turned away! She is now superbly settled into her new home..



Cat Chat hopes that one day every cat will be a wanted cat. To bring that one day closer - please adopt a rescue cat! See who is waiting for you at your local rescue shelter:

www.catchat.org/cat_rescue.html



Microchip Scanning for RTA cats

This petition calls for all UK cleansing departments and councils to have microchip scanners, enabling them to check for microchips in cats found deceased on the road.

Many cats currently go un-identified when killed in RTA's, this would at least give owners the closure they need.

Please sign this petition here:
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/53894>

Closing Date: 16/08/2014

Supporters Corner

Well what can we say... Our friends are so important to us. and to all the cats we help on their way to a loving home. We'd therefore like to pay tribute to our 'Friends of Cat Chat'. There is an ever growing number of you out there, and we want you to know how important you are to us...

We currently source homes for well over 5,000 rescued cats and kittens each year, from shelters across the UK and Ireland, and our Friends of Cat Chat are vital in helping us to achieve that. But we are just getting started, and plan to help even more cats and kittens in the future. So to our longstanding Friends, and also our brand new ones, hearty purrs of thanks! We couldn't do it without you.

When you join Friends of Cat Chat, you will receive an exclusive 'Friends of Cat Chat' badge and a car / window sticker (both shown below). Our Friends are the first to receive our quarterly Newsletters, and are also entered into a quarterly Friends prize draw, for some fab cat-themed prizes. Friends who renew their membership for additional years will also receive a small mystery gift.

If you haven't taken the leap yet, now is a great time! You can join as a 'Silver Friend' (£10 for a year), or if you go the extra mile and become a 'Gold Friend' (£25 for a year) you will also receive a copy of the stunning full-colour Royal Canin 'Cat Encyclopaedia' (see right, kindly donated by Royal Canin Petfoods in support of our Friends scheme).

To join our happy band, please visit:
Friends of Cat Chat: www.catchat.org/friends.html



Thank you!





Give a stray some comfort this winter

What to do about a stray? Your heart says one thing, and your head probably says another...

Most of us at some time will have encountered a 'stray' or lost cat, either just hanging around or more likely trying to find food. But what to do for the best? If you cannot take a lost or stray cat into your home while welfare enquiries are made, please provide food, clean water and shelter to prevent it from succumbing to hypothermia.

A simple cardboard box covered with a bin liner, and filled with straw or towels etc will provide adequate shelter. Cat carriers can also be turned into emergency shelters, as can increasingly popular plastic storage boxes. Polystyrene, newspaper or straw are good insulators. Make sure your shelter is in a safe place, weighted down against the wind, or tucked under a bush for stability.



Meanwhile contact your local animal rescue groups and vets in case the cat has been reported missing, and also to arrange for puss to be scanned for a microchip, and/or taken into rescue as soon as a place is available.

A full step-by-step guide on helping lost or stray cats can be found here: www.catchat.org/lost.html

For details of vets in your area go to:

www.any-uk-vet.co.uk

For details of rescue shelters across the UK go to:

www.catchat.org/adoption

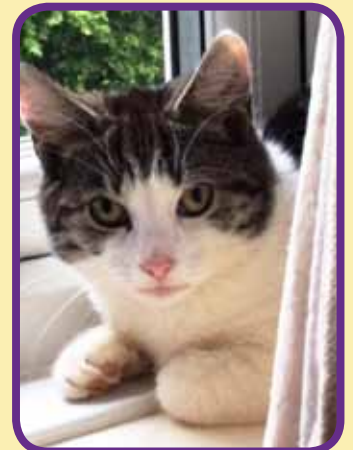
Barney's big news

Barney's homing story, as told to us by 8 Lives Cat Rescue, Sheffield...

"Hi, we have brilliant news! Barney who has been one of your Top Cats for a while has found a new home!

A family found us on Cat Chat a couple of weeks ago, and came to reserve a couple of kittens. The boys in the family were so excited and took some photos to do a presentation at school about their "news".

Their Teaching Assistant, listening to them, decided it was finally time to think of getting another kitten, since her elderly cat had died over the summer. She did a Google search, found Cat Chat, came to 8 Lives Cat Rescue as it was local, and then realised it was the same rescue that the little boys were getting their kittens from! She and her family are having the remaining kitten of the litter the boys reserved their kits from... and are also taking Barney!



We're delighted, as Barney is such a lovely cat - gradually turning from desperately timid, to gentle and loving. We're so glad he's going to a home with another cat around."

Antifreeze Reminder

Tragically, antifreeze still kills thousands of domestic pets each year. Even the smallest amount if ingested, can lead to kidney failure and death. But a few simple precautions can prevent this from happening:

- Take extra care when using antifreeze
- Store it in clearly labelled, robust, sealed containers, away from pets
- Clean up any spills immediately
- Check of your car regularly to ensure it is not leaking water coolant
- Dispose of antifreeze and water coolant safely and responsibly

If you suspect your pet has come into contact with antifreeze or leaked water coolant, get them to a vet immediately!

Petitioning UK & EU parliaments (law) - DEFRA: Ban ALL antifreeze preparations unless they contain a bitterant. Please sign this [petition on change.org](http://petition.onchange.org).





Long Termers - seen on Cat Chat - Homed at Last!



Olivia
Gateshead & District Cats Protection

Having been overlooked for a year and a half, Olivia was at last snapped up after just a few weeks of appearing on Cat Chat!



Shuna
Cat Homing & Rescue (Char), Warrington

Despite being a long-term rescue cat, Shuna and her rescuers never gave up hope of her finding a forever home, which she is now thrilled to have.



Annie
National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock Branch, Essex

After being in rescue for almost 18 months, this lady finally has a forever home to call her own.



Dudley
Kirkby Cats Home, Nottingham

Following quite a wait at the rescue centre, this chap now has a loving home, and a ready made family.



Lola
Lina's Cat Rescue, Derbyshire

Lovely Lola has found her 'happily ever after' at last, after over a year in rescue.



Fifi
Animal Accident Rescue Unit, Nottinghamshire

Congratulations to this lovely lady on being adopted after a whole year in rescue.



Cleo
Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue, Lincolnshire

This lovely lady finally has a forever home after over a year in rescue.



Beau
Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue, Lincolnshire

After several months of being in rescue, Beau now has a wonderful new home to call her own!



Pinky
RSPCA Ashford, Tenterden & District, Kent

Having been overlooked for seven months, Pinky was taken home by a lovely couple.



Robbie & Hannah
Kingsdown Cat Sanctuary, Kent

After two years in rescue, Robbie & Hanna have gone to their new home.

Latest Cat Homing Pages to go Live!

- The Ark Animal Welfare Trust, Hants.
- Animal Concern Cumbria - North Lakes & Solway
- Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue, Bucks.
- Sally's Cat Rescue, Cornwall
- Royston Animal Welfare, Barnsley
- The National Animal Welfare Trust, Berks.
- RSPCA - Essex North West
- Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, Sussex
- Community Cats Network, Co. Cork
- Cats Protection - St Austell & District, Cornwall
- Eden Animal Rescue, Cumbria

If your rescue could use some rehoming help, ask us for a free Cat Homing Web Page:

www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

FREE PAGE!
CATS for HOMING

Senior Kittizens begin their Comfy Retirement!



Robbie
Feline Network, Devon

At 15-years-old, this lovely chap now has the forever home he has dreamed of.

Susie

Sally's Cat Rescue, Cornwall
With Cat Chat's help, this lovely tortie lady has found the most perfect home at 16 years of age!



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 - Part 1

Some of the lucky 'duos' who have found happy homes together via Cat Chat since our last newsletter:



Biscuit & Cookie

Canino Animal Rescue
Duston, Northampton



Pumpkin & Pie

Guardian Angels Animal
Support, Hounslow



Lily & Gladstone

Kirkby Cats Home
Nottinghamshire



Leo & Elsa

Kirkby Cats Home
Nottinghamshire



Minnie & Ned

Ann and Bill's Cat and
Kitten Rescue, Hornchurch



Mickey & Ricky

Ann and Bill's Cat and
Kitten Rescue, Hornchurch



Sam & Torres

Clacton Animal Aid
Clacton, Essex



Astra & Bridie

Kats Cradle Cat Rescue
Coven, Near Wolverhampton



Felix & Shadow

Little Cottage Rescue
Luton, Bedfordshire



Lucy & Alice

Little Cottage Rescue
Luton, Bedfordshire



Bam Bam & Millie

Cat Action Trust 1977
Leeds Branch



Quito & Tawny

Cats Protection, Beverley
and Pocklington branch



Keith & John

Last Chance Rescue
West Yorkshire



Pepper & Nutmeg

National Animal Welfare
Trust, Thurrock Branch



Lily & Jess

Kirkby Cats Home
Nottinghamshire



Meow & Tiggs

National Animal Welfare
Trust, Thurrock Branch

Casper's Story - No Lion, No Witch, just the Wardrobe!

"We've always had an affection for black and white cats. Knowing they are often hard to home and can spend long periods in rescue centres is part of that emotion. Casper appeared to fall into that category, and had spent most of his young life at Kirkby Cats Home. He hardly sold himself either, viewing us with suspicion and resisted arrest so to speak.

Undeterred, we took him home and gave him our spare room. Unsurprisingly, he hid; at first under the wardrobe, before moving into it for a few days. We'd spend time in the room with him, just doing other stuff and very soon he started to get a bit braver and more interested in us. We just let him build his confidence at his own pace and let him come to us when he was ready.

Then, the purring, playful and affectionate Casper arrived. This is one of the many ways he can find to relax on you. Not that he does much of that as he's busy trying new stuff, like bringing in leaves and playing with his toys.

He's now grabbed his opportunity with all four paws and is enjoying the inside and outside life to the full. A week of patience and touch wood, a long happy life together.

I really just wanted to promote the 'less desirable' cats - with a little patience the reward can be fantastic for all. Casper is a brilliant cat and has brought us lots of laughs and joy. I'd also like to thank Kirkby Cats Home for the work they do and hope they continue to re-home many more cats. Especially, black and white kittens." **Many thanks, from Casper's Humans.**

Casper was rehomed from Kirkby Cats Home, Notts, after being spotted on their [Cat Chat page](#).



Harder to Home Cats - Homed

Presenting just a few of the fine, upstanding felines who have now been homed after being spotted on Cat Chat:



Brucie

Having been the victim in an eviction that left him traumatised, Brucie (with help and loads of TLC from a volunteer) came out of his shell and now has a loving home and family. Didn't he do well!
RSPCA, Stort Valley



Meg

This grumpy, antisocial madam instantly transformed into the perfect pet after a new home was found for her.
Kirkby Cats Home, Nottinghamshire



Virgil

Big, boisterous Virgil left what remained of his pen(!) for a lovely new home with a young couple. He settled in within the first hour of arrival and sorted the dogs out too!
Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire



Taget

After being homeless for 18 months, then another 6 months in rescue, Taget finally got a lovely home when he was spotted on Cat Chat. He now gets love and attention all day long!
Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Fife

Soloman

Soloman used to be a nervous kitten who had never lived indoors before, but is now settling into a new home with a loving, patient family.
Kirkby Cats Home, Nottinghamshire



Dolly

Although Dolly is known for taking a time to trust new people, a loving lady took her and gave her a loving new home.
Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Essex



Bianca

Someone saw through this beautiful girl's shyness and gave her the lovely home she deserves.
Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue, Buckinghamshire



Sox

Having arrived into rescue as a neglected boy with stones in his bladder, Sox has had to endure numerous x-rays and operations. After being in rescue for 11 months, he now has a loving home with a caring owner who understands his needs, thanks to Catchat.
National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock



When contacting cat adoption centres please ask about their harder to home cats...!

Photographing White Cats - by Kathryn Collinson, Coppercat Photography



White cats possess a stunning beauty, but can be just as difficult to photograph as black cats. These tips will help you capture them at their best, and for shelters, a better photograph may help rehome them quicker!

Avoid dark backgrounds: a white cat on a very dark background will look great, until you try and photograph it. There will be too much contrast and the camera will struggle to expose correctly. Go for a background which complements the colouring of the cat's eyes such as gold or green, but go for lighter shades than those you would use for black cats.

Avoid white backgrounds: Although you won't have problems with contrast, the cat will merge into the background, so you won't be able to tell where the cat starts and finishes.



Not too much light: white fur reflects the light so if you saturate the cat with too much light, it will come out as a bright blob. White/light-toned cats reflect enough light in most indoor areas under normal room light conditions.

White cat's fur looks grey: ever taken photos of snow and wondered why the snow always looks a dirty grey? This is because

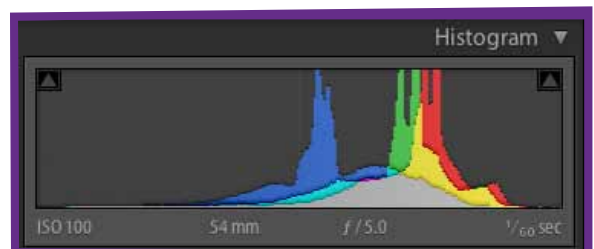
a camera's meter compares everything to a specific tone of grey. Most of the time this works fine, but when the image is predominantly white the camera tries to make the white darker and the result is a grey image. If this happens, you need to tell the camera to make the picture brighter. Simply set the EV (exposure compensation button) to between +1.0 - +2.0. This will make the fur white again.

White cat too bright: Sometimes you might get the opposite problem, and the cat comes out as just a white mass with no discernible features. This means the cat is over-exposed and you need to let less light into the camera by decreasing the exposure. Set the EV to -0.7 or -1.0.

Use histograms. Even the most basic digital cameras have lots of features which give you instant feedback. The histogram is one of the most useful, but often the most misunderstood. In graph form it displays the tones in your image from black (on the left) to white (on the right). Checking the histogram can tell you whether you are over or under exposed which you might miss if you just rely on the tiny image on your LCD screen.



The histogram below favours the right-hand side of the graph, which is what I would expect for a photo of a white cat. If there were more lines across to the left, it would point to the cat being under-exposed and therefore the fur would be grey.



More tips in previous, and future newsletters - thanks Kathryn!

Rescuer's Corner: Maesteg Animal Welfare Society

The Maesteg Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) is a small registered animal charity (No: 1020630) in Wales, run by Volunteers.

They have two catteries in the Bridgend area (close to J36 off the M4), and rely on their support shops in Maesteg and the Ogmore Valley for funding - along with donations and text donations.

MAWS has a large selection of cats, all looking for forever loving homes. They know the history of some of the cats in their care, but not those who have been brought in from wandering the streets.

All cats are vet checked and treated for fleas and worms, neutered and microchipped before adoption. If not old enough for neutering, MAWS follows this up - so no cost to the owner. All MAWS asks for is for is a minimum donation of £20.



Cats are kept in large runs together so volunteers know which ones get on best, and which are the bossy ones! MAWS can also give advice on cats suitable for adoption to homes that already have a feline in residence.

The cats have also been introduced to dogs so, again, MAWS can advise on which pussycats are suitable for adoption to a forever home with a dog.

Both catteries, are run by volunteers from their own homes so can be very flexible with opening times.

You can contact Maws on 01656 721496 or 01656 769855. Callers are encouraged to leave an answer machine message if required.



Meet some of the cats seeking homes at MAWS here:

[MAWS' Cat Chat homing page](#)

To find out more about MAWS, and how you can help them, visit: www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Purrfect Pairs - Homed - Part2



Chloe & Lily
Clacton Animal Aid
Essex



Moonlight & Tiger
Burton Joyce Cat Welfare
Nottinghamshire



Boris & Rory
Kirkby Cats Home
Nottinghamshire



Ruby & Sapphire
Prevent Unwanted Pets
Fylde Coast, Lancashire



Ollie & Archie
Sally's Cat Rescue
Cornwall



Two Kittens
Burton Joyce Cat Welfare
Nottinghamshire



Cinders & Toffee
Canino Animal Rescue
Nottinghamshire



Robbie & Hannah
Kingsdown Cat Sanctuary
Near Deal, Kent



Jess & Meg
Kirkby Cats Home
Nottinghamshire



Twinkle & Alfie
Little Cottage Rescue
Luton



Cody & Toby
Canino Animal Rescue
Northampton



Sydney & Rosebud
Willows Cat Adoption Centre
South Shields



Choosing to Volunteer

Often you will hear it stated that cats are aloof, cold or selfish - that dogs are the real pets.

Well, through recent injury that confined me to the house and put me off my feet for three months, and a serious motorcycle accident 20 odd years ago, my experience with the family cat or cats keeping me company by my side – or perhaps more accurately I should say, stretched out on my knee - I would disagree with that opening generalisation.

Yes, of course, as I could not move too far or too fast, they got extra attention and, in the case of current feline companion, Boogie, (from Belfast Animal Rescue) had my raised and plastered leg to stretch out on so that he could lie upside down to have his tummy brushed – his idea of catty heaven on earth.

As the cat settled down on my legs or beside me and started to purr, I often wondered - just who was comforting who?

I came across the Cat Chat volunteering opportunity while trawling the web. I knew of Cat Chat already, and visited the site often to get feline information and to read the success stories and the efforts to rehome 'difficult' cats.

Yes, making contact was daunting. This would be something new. An activity that was not centred around my chosen path. Already it has given me a new way of looking at things and I have already come into contact with some great people!



Boogie

Reading the available information on cats and doing some research, is always interesting: Always an opportunity to learn. In my mind there is no doubt – all cats have individual characters that should be allowed to shine in a feline friendly home.

There has always been at least one cat in the family home and my own house. I cannot really imagine not having a cat. A night before a holiday when puss is safely in the cattery with his papers, favourite food and brush is always strange. The house is lonely and empty. I miss the 'let me in' scratch at the door, and being squeezed onto the corner of my sofa.

If writing articles for the Cat Chat web pages helps even one cat get a new and loving home, it will be time very well spent. Bryan – Cat Chat Journalist

Sadly since this was written, Boogie who was Bryan's beloved cat, and a dear friend of Cat Chat was put to sleep on veterinary advice, following kidney failure. This is a devastating time for any cat owner, but Bryan assures us that as soon as he is ready, he will adopt a rescue cat again.

FIV+ No 'Biggie' for Carter!

FIV positive cats still find it harder than most to find new homes, even though in all other respects they are normal, loving cats, and deserve a chance at a happy life.

One such cat is Carter... We were chuffed to bits to hear from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare in December saying that after being seen on Cat Chat, Carter had found a loving home. He now has a doting dad, a comfy sofa, and has settled in well.

2014 is going to be a good year for Carter... Lets hope it is a good year for lots of other FIV+ cats too!



If you think you might be able to give a home to an FIV cat, please ask at your local rescue centre:

www.catchat.org/cat_rescue.html

More information on FIV can be found here:

www.catchat.org/fiv.html

Or visit the 'FIV Owner's Club' on our Feline Forum:

www.catchat.org/forum.html

The Yorkshire Marathon Grand Total

You may remember back in October 2013, Peter Hanson, Co-owner of [The Cat Gallery](#) in York, ran the 26.2 mile Yorkshire Marathon in aid of Cat Chat.

He completed the run in 3 hrs, 49 mins, 53 secs. Peter said, "I went through a lot of pain and could barely walk for 3 days after the run!" Well Peter, our paws are aching just at the thought of it!

Peter managed to raise a staggering (no pun intended!) £3,500 for Cat Chat!!

You are amazing Peter... Thank you so much for helping us to rehome more rescued cats!



That's all for this time... Although this edition has been tinged with a little sadness, it is a good time to reflect on how precious our cats are, and how lucky we are to have them in our lives. Please give your special furry friend an extra treat and a tickle, and hope that 2014 is a great year for cats! Bye-bye.