



TRIUMPHANT TRIO

ANYONE who is involved in cat rescue and rehoming will tell you, the best part is finding out a loving new home has been found for a cat. So imagine how we felt on hearing the news of these lucky three!

Their story began in Autumn 2013, when a litter of seven kittens and their mum were rescued by National Animal Welfare Trust – Clacton. The mum and her four boys quickly found homes, but the three girls – Becky, Coral and Lizzie – were not so lucky.

The sad truth is, black

cats are the hardest to home and can spend much longer in rescue.

Becoming more and more timid, the odds were stacking up for these three little girls.

In spite of it all, Becky, Coral and Lizzie were still friendly and would play with toys, but just did not want to be fussed.

However, their rescuers could see that, given the chance of a normal home environment for the first time in their lives, they would flourish and gain confidence.

Thankfully, this chance came along in August this year. After being spotted on Cat Chat's Overlooked Cats section, their new owner decided to adopt all three!

National Animal Welfare Trust – Clacton told us: "It's a real victory for black cats, thanks to a little Cat Chat magic! We cannot believe they



Becky



Coral

are all going together."

Congratulations to Becky, Coral and Lizzie, who will finally be able to blossom into happy, contented, grown-up cats – and experience what it is like to be much loved pets.

For more happy homing stories, visit the Cat Chat **Rehoming Roll of Honour** >>



Lizzie

**Puurfect
Xmas
cat gifts
inside!**

'Cats Needing Homes' launched

WE'VE recently rolled out our new **Cats Needing Homes** section on the Cat Chat website.

If you are thinking of adopting a rescue cat, just visit Cats Needing Homes to find cats and kittens available for adoption in your area.

In just one click, you can narrow your search down to cats in or near to your nearest town, or you can 'search by shelter' to view the cats at each rescue centre.

We hope this will result in even more happy homings. Go on, give it a go...

Visit Cats Needing Homes >>



GO CATNIP CRAZY THIS CHRISTMAS!

CATNIP! It's what every discerning cat would want in his or her Christmas stocking this year – and you won't have to go out shopping for it either.

The Cat Chat online shop has gone catnip crazy, with three new products now on sale...



Yeowww!

Catnip (£3.99)

The strong stuff – a 1oz bag of 100% organic catnip that your cat will love!



Kong Refillables catnip rat toy (£3.50)

Includes a clever hidden pouch for stuffing with catnip time and again.



Kong Naturals catnip spray (£4.79)

Perfect for spicing up cat toys without any mess.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Cat Chat's own Dave the cat kindly tested Yeowww! Catnip and gave us his verdict in this short video: [Dave Cat Discovers Yeowww! Catnip](#) Thanks Dave!

SWEET SIXTEEN

SARA came into rescue aged 16 when her owners simply couldn't care for her.

Coming into rescue can be strange for any cat, but for older cats, it can be a devastating and bewildering change. Sara found rescue stressful. She couldn't understand what had happened and why she was there with cats she didn't know. She became growly and grumpy, further decreasing her adoption chances.

Cats over 10 often struggle to be adopted as most people want younger cats. Although healthy and looking younger than her years, the outlook for Sara was still bleak; that is, until she was spotted on Bromley and District Cat Rescue's Cat

Chat homing page...

A lady thought Sara was perfect for her brother, who had lost his elderly cat. Sara's knight in shining armour (OK, shining people carrier!) met her and, after a successful home check, whisked her off to her castle (OK, apartment!).

Now in a loving home again as the only cat, Sara can relax and enjoy her retirement years in peace and comfort. We couldn't be happier for her! Cat Chat's advice to rescue shelters is never to assume a cat is too old to be adopted – there is nothing to lose and everything to gain by posting his or her story on your Cat Chat page.

See more cats looking for loving homes at [Bromley and District Cat Rescue >>](#)

For more happy homing stories, visit the Cat Chat [Rehoming Roll of Honour! >>](#)



Sara

Don't forget...

Lots more cat-themed Christmas gifts and cards can be found at the Cat Chat online shop – Every purchase helps more cats out of shelters and into homes! Visit our shop:

www.catchat.org/catalog



VOLUNTEER'S SPOTLIGHT: EMMA

MY volunteering journey began with adopting my first rescue cat, Poppy, in January. I've always been a cat lover and knew from an early age my future would involve a feline or two.

We've had ups and downs, like all pet owners, from litter tray tribulations to scratched furniture, but with the addition of senior kittizen Falco, my cats are my world.

Through volunteering with Cat Chat, I strive to help other needy kitties find loving homes. Although I haven't been a volunteer for long, I felt like part of the family only a few months into the role. My duty centres around helping cats and owners via email, whether a lost-and-found query or update on how a kitty is doing in its new home.

Occasionally, I've found it difficult to receive upsetting emails – especially when an owner feels the need to surrender his or her cat, or if a cat has passed away. In these situations it is particularly rewarding to volunteer at Cat Chat, knowing I can help a cat into a home or assist a grieving owner in a small way.

Conversely, many emails leave me smiling. Success stories of cats in loving homes, potential new owners enquiring about adopting – it's a comfort to know every minute I devote to Cat Chat is well spent.

I feel volunteering is vital – not only to ensure needy cats are given a second chance at a loving home, but also to install faith in those sharing our passion for helping cats. Caring for my own cats and experiencing problems I've come up against during my time at Cat Chat has made me realise I want to help others like me and other cats like Poppy and Falco.

Whether happy or sad, it's always a pleasure to devote time to helping people and their cats. It is a cause that will always be close to my heart.



Poppy

Trotting off to happiness (on three legs!)

SOOTY'S Christmas should be a great improvement on that of 2013 thanks to the wonderful care and rehoming efforts of RSPCA Durham and District Branch.

Sooty arrived with the branch last December after being involved in a traffic accident, with injuries that resulted in having a leg amputated.

A frightened Sooty was fostered on Christmas Eve for much-needed TLC. She spent much of her time in a small gap between a wall and wardrobe or under a bed. Her fosterers recognised she was almost feral in behaviour.

After working with her every day for a month (and receiving scratches and bites!), the foster family persuaded Sooty to stop running away. She even allowed them to stroke her. Although Sooty would not go to her foster parents, she would meet them halfway, purring so much she would drool and even roll over when being stroked.

After six months of devoted care, it was decided Sooty had improved so much she was ready for her forever

Sooty



home, where a new family could continue building her confidence.

A mother and daughter from Wynyard had seen Sooty on [RSPCA Durham's Cat Chat web page](#), and approached the branch. They had the time, love and space to give Sooty the attention and loving care she needed.

After a successful meeting and home check, Sooty went to her new family, who are still in touch with her original foster parents. She no longer hides under their desk, but enjoys sitting on her bed looking out the window.

RSPCA Durham and District reported: "*Cat Chat is the best thing to happen to this small group in a long time. Sooty has just trotted off to her new home on her three legs.*"

For more happy homing stories, visit our [Rehoming Roll of Honour >>](#)

FLEA TREATMENT WARNING

PERMETHRIN-BASED spot-on flea products for dogs can be fatal for cats.

High concentrations of permethrin are used in a number of spot-on flea treatments for dogs that are available as over-the-counter products in many shops.

These products are often sold to owners without any advice or precautions, resulting in them sometimes being used on cats, with potentially fatal consequences.

International Cat Care is petitioning to change the rules so permethrin-containing flea products would legally require verbal advice at the point of sale from a suitably qualified person.

This would help prevent unsuspecting pet owners from purchasing unsafe products from pet shops and online websites.

To find out more, and sign the petition, visit www.icatcare.org/permethrin/petition

EASING THE STRESS OF FIREWORKS

FIREWORK season is upon us! With events reaching explosive highs for Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night, bonfires, sparklers and large, loud fireworks will appear across the country.

However, sadly, with them comes the potential for harm or distress for pets. Some pets will take the noise and commotion in their stride, but others will react in fear.

There is a lot of good advice online on how to care for your furry friends during the firework season. The RSPCA have produced a PDF

– **Fireworks frighten animals – help them feel safe** – available to download, while vets can also be a good source of information on how to keep pet stress to a minimum.

If you haven't already, please get your pet microchipped as confused, frightened animals can easily become lost.

My dearly departed cat Boogie was a very laid back home bird, never venturing far from me. But I always made doubly sure he was safe indoors during fireworks.

Soon enough, he would be on my knee, maybe

alarmed at the first few bangs, but when he saw I was not fussed, he soon began purring - or snoring!

Wishing you and your cats a safe and happy bonfire season,

Bryan

Cat Chat Journalist



IMAGE: freeimages/Greenbay.

VICTORY AT LAST

WHEN slightly disabled, timid and partially sighted cat Victor was recommended to be put to sleep by the vet, it seemed like this lovely boy's luck had just about run out.

Thankfully, Burton Joyce Cat Welfare in Nottinghamshire refused, priding itself on always giving every cat the best chance of a new life – often keeping them for months until a home comes along.

Now, after being spotted on Cat Chat, Victor has a loving new home with a couple in a nice, quiet household.

Feedback from his owners, is that he is doing really well and has changed so much from the timid little chap they first brought home.

"He is eating like a cat on a mission," explained Victor's owner Suzanne.

"His favourite treat is prawns – he will do cartwheels for a couple of those!"

"He runs around like a mad thing when the mood takes him – particularly at night when he races about usually with a toy in his mouth, often giving our feet a nip as he is passing for good measure, the cheeky monkey.

He loves to play with all of us and has developed into a happy cheeky little chap in such a short space of time."

Victor also seems to be taking a front row seat when it comes to the outside world, trying his hardest to attract the attention of a cat that visits the garden by rolling about and tapping the patio window, as well as chattering and pawing the window when blackbirds descend!

"We're so glad we have taken him," said Suzanne. "He loves being cuddled and makes us laugh with his naughty ways."



OVERLOOKED NO MORE

TASHA was handed in as a stray to Thanet Cat Club in Kent in November 2012. She was microchipped, but sadly the information was out of date and all attempts to locate the owner failed.

At first she was very frightened and hated having other cats around, even though she was in a separate pen. She became very grumpy at having lost her freedom and this put people off adopting her.

Weeks became months and Tasha became quiet and subdued, sitting on her chair with little interest in the outside world. It seemed like she had given up hope of ever having a proper life again and was getting sadder by the day.

The more experienced volunteers found that with a gentle approach, Tasha could be affectionate. She loved to get on a lap and be fussed and stroked, and would purr and dribble with pleasure.

Her true nature just didn't come across to visitors, even though the shelter knew she would blossom in a loving home. So Tasha remained overlooked and months turned into a year and a half.

Then, in July this year, following advice from Cat Chat, the shelter decided on a "big push" for Tasha. Her full sad, sorry tale was posted on the shelter's Cat Chat homing page, along with some lovely new photos.

Tasha was billed as their "Cat of the Month" and also added to our Overlooked Cats section. Less than three weeks later, the shelter emailed to say: "Guess what?! We've homed our Tasha!"

A young lady had spotted Tasha's photo and write-up on Cat Chat and



Tasha

then showed her mum. They went along to meet her and fell in love. Tasha's high profile had, in fact, resulted in no less than three offers of a home in the space of three weeks.

Now settled in her new home, the shelter told us: "Tasha is so loved and it sounds like she feels the same about them.

"She is excited to see them, very playful, loves sitting on laps having a brush and fuss, and is eating so well. Tasha (now Poppy) has her life back – she's come alive! Thank you for all your help."

Tasha's story highlights how important it is to keep microchip details up to date.

Also, we would urge any shelters reading this to make full use of Cat Chat – especially for their long-staying cats.

See more cats at [Thanet Cat Club >>](#)

For more happy homing stories, visit our [Rehoming Roll of Honour >>](#)

Shop & Help Cat Chat for Free!

WITH the busiest shopping season of the year looming, why not help us to help more cats while making purchases you would make anyway? It's easy!

With Easyfundraising, you can raise funds for Cat Chat while shopping online at more than

2,700 top retailers – and it doesn't cost you a penny extra.

Sign up for free by visiting the [Cat Chat Easyfundraising page](#) and clicking "Support us now".

You'll be both shopping and helping Cat Chat in no time.

Purrs and thanks go to those of you who already support Cat Chat by using Easyfundraising.

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Special appeal – cats needing homes



PATCH – CARING FOR ANIMALS 2001, THURROCK, ESSEX

Poor Patch has had to leave two homes through no fault of his own. On top of that, he has spent the past year in a shelter waiting for someone to adopt him. Could you or someone you know give him the loving forever home he longs for?

Visit [“Overlooked Cats” Seeking Homes – Essex >>](#)

FLUFFY & SPOT – CATS IN NEED, HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE

This mother and son have been waiting patiently for more than a year for someone to offer them a home. They are healthy, neutered and when they can trust you, are very friendly and affectionate cats. Hopefully their dream will come true very soon.

Visit [“Overlooked Cats” seeking homes – Leicestershire >>](#)



TABITHA – LINCS ARK BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

A beautiful girl who likes to potter around outside, before retiring for a good night's sleep (and maybe even a sneaky lie in!). If Tabitha sounds like the cat for you, please get in touch with her rescuers – she has been waiting so long to find you.

Visit [“Overlooked Cats” seeking homes – Lincolnshire >>](#)

TIVVY – GUARDIAN ANGELS ANIMAL SUPPORT, HOUNSLOW, WEST LONDON

Tivvy is an ex-stray cat turned would-be princess! Her straying days are long gone and she yearns to settle down in a loving home where she will at long last be loved and cared for. This gorgeous green-eyed Tabby is waiting for your call.

Visit [“Overlooked Cats” seeking homes – West London >>](#)



DOTTY & DAISY – ROYSTON ANIMAL WELFARE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

These sisters were born in rescue and have been there for more than two years! Sadly, Dotty and Daisy are finding out how hard it is for black and white cats to find homes. They never stop hoping someone will see past their colour and shyness.

Visit [“Overlooked Cats” seeking homes – Lincolnshire >>](#)

Rescuer's corner – Little Cottage Rescue

THE name Little Cottage Rescue might only have been adopted two years ago, but the three dedicated ladies behind the Bedfordshire-based group claim more than 100 years' hands-on experience between them in caring and rehoming cats and kittens.

Cats in their care are housed with fosterers around the Luton area, ensuring they receive care, food and love – all ready for rehoming. All Little Cottage Rescue cats have to be neutered or spayed.

The women behind Little Cottage Rescue also do a lot of work with other rescue organisations, such as Cat Welfare, in their area, assisting them with trapping, neutering, home

checks and necessary vet runs.

The group will carry out its own home checks, finding out what a possible “forever owner” is looking for in terms of colour, age and breed. Other checks, all aimed at getting a successful adoption, include location, family and existing pets.

Along with strays and what it describes as “an awful lot of kittens”, Little Cottage Rescue does a lot of trapping, neutering and returning of ferals. Ideally, feral cats are rehomed to suitable locations, such as smallholdings, or returned to their own patch if it is apparent they are being cared for and are in a safe area.

The group is also keen to educate

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HOME AT LAST



BBLACK and white Tizzy from Cats in Need in Hinckley, Leicestershire spent more than a year in foster care. Through no fault of her own, this beautiful kitten was initially unwanted – and then overlooked.

Tizzy was described as a sweet little black and white baby, less than a year old when she came to Cats in Need. She had been bullied and attacked quite aggressively by an existing cat in her previous home.

The friendly kitten loved to curl up beside humans for some loving fuss, or give a groovy high five. She was friendly and playful – an ideal companion for other cats or children.

But unfortunately, Tizzy, arrived in care in June 2013 at a time when Cats in Need were dealing with an influx of abandoned kittens – some of whom were dumped in a shoebox on a canal towpath and others left on a garage forecourt.

So poor little Tizzy was seemingly overlooked by potential new owners who had heard the stories of the abandoned kittens.

Tizzy was finally adopted in August. Like all the felines who are rescued by Cats in Need, she was spayed and vaccinated before being rehomed. The group has a strict neutering and spaying policy.

We were delighted to receive the news from Cats in Need in August: “Little Tizzy, who had been with us for more than a year, went off to her new home.

“She was seen on Cat Chat and homed as a result. Brilliant job.”

To see more cats needing homes at Cats in Need, visit their [Cat Chat Homing Page](#).

More happy homings can be seen on our [Rehoming Roll of Honour >>](#)

MILLIE FINDS THE PURRRFECT NEW MUM

MILLIE had been in rescue for over a year, but has finally found her forever home...

When she came into rescue, the vet thought Millie was about three years old. She had been left behind by her owners when they moved away.

An elderly lady who lived nearby did begin to feed her, but sadly became too ill, so the lady's niece arranged for Millie to be taken in at Burton-upon-Stather Cat Rescue in Lincolnshire.

Millie was always a very quiet girl in rescue, but loved to sit in the sun in her pen and watch the world go by.

She was overlooked for many months, then at last a lady who lived in a nearby village spotted Millie on Cat Chat.

It was love at first sight for Millie and Karen, who was to become her



One of Millie's favourite snoozing places.

new mum.

"Although Millie was a very shy cat, she behaved impeccably when Karen went into the pen to see her," explained volunteer Janet.

"We were a little apprehensive about how she would behave with a stranger and held our breath, but she was so affectionate and loving – we couldn't believe our eyes."

After the usual home checks Millie went to her new home in the countryside. She has a wonder-

ful home with Karen, who loves her dearly.

Millie has the run of the house and access to a very quiet garden away from any busy roads.

Karen has let her settle in at her own pace until she felt secure and confident, and built up her trust.

Millie loves to go out into the garden, but likes the door left ajar as she is still a little afraid of any new sounds such as lawnmowers and very large pigeons.

She loves laying in the sun by the patio doors and watching the outside world.

The shelter said "We were over the moon when she found her forever home with the help of Cat Chat."

To see cats still waiting... visit Burton-upon-Stather Cat Rescue's [Cat Chat Homing Page](#).



Millie watching Brazil vs Cameroon during The World Cup. A football fan? Who knew!

Rescuer's corner – Little Cottage Rescue – from page 5

about general feline care and the need to ensure family pets are spayed and neutered. Like most rescue shelters, Little Cottage Rescue always has lots of feline friends seeking loving, permanent homes. Cats like the gorgeous Ollie, for example.

Ollie's story

Ollie is around four to five years old and is fine with calm cats, but not keen on bossy felines. He is okay with toddlers, but would prefer to avoid them and is shy with new people at first. He loves cuddles (and his cat biscuits!), is litter trained and can use a cat flap.

Ollie was sadly unloved and uncared for by his previous owners, who moved away and left him to fend for himself. He wasn't even neutered (this was carried out when he arrived at the rescue centre at 18 months to two years of age).

Ollie was chased by men and dogs, and nearly killed. Luckily, he was saved by one of the Little Cottage Rescue trio and is kept safe in a cat shed with a long run. He is now hoping for a kind, loving home where he can at last be safe, loved and can forget his troubles.

If you would like to consider adopting Ollie, or any Little Cottage Rescue cat, more information and contact details can be found on the rescue's [Cat Chat Homing Page](#).

Little Cottage Rescue is seeking new, younger helpers to assist with activities including fund-raising at car boot sales and fetes. Can you help? If so, do get in touch.



Ollie

Well, that's it for the autumn issue of the *Cat Chat Newsletter*. We'll bring you more heartwarming homings in our winter issue in January to beat those winter blues! Until then, keep warm, stay safe, and have a lovely festive season. Toodle-oo!