

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



WELCOME TO THE CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014

...and then there were FOUR!

Occasionally, we've heard of people adopting three cats in one go, but we think this is a first for Cat Chat. Oh, hold on, let's introduce the cats first...

Mia and her daughter Lottie were rescued by Bromley & District Cat Rescue from a heartbreaking situation. Unwanted and neglected by her owners, Mia had hidden her kittens under the floorboards, managing to feed them even though she was herself very malnourished. Once in rescue, her other kittens were soon homed but Mia and Lotty were constantly overlooked, due to being plain black. But Mia & Lottie's luck was about to change...



Frankie came into the rescue in summer 2013, with a broken tail, and in a very poor state. His story is sadly all too common - he was simply no longer wanted when he grew out of being a kitten.



and finally... **Hetty** (another black cat) who incredibly, had been at the Bromley shelter since 2007, overlooked for all of that time, due to her colour. But Hetty's six year wait for a home was about to be over...



FRANKIE BEFORE

In February this year, a lovely couple contacted Bromley & District Rescue, after seeing Lotty and Mia on their Cat Chat homing page. On visiting the rescue to meet them, they also fell for Frankie, but rather than choose between any of them, adopted all three! Well, that would have been a fantastic happy ending, except that isn't quite the end...



This fabulous, caring couple kept thinking about Hetty, who they had also met at the rescue, so just over a week later, they went back and adopted her too!

The latest report is that all are settling in well. The rescue said: "*Mia & Lotty looked at home the minute they walked out of their carriers, tails held high, and it's great to see Frankie so happy*".

Needless to say all of us at Chat Chat, and at Bromley & District Cat Rescue are thrilled. This is a truly inspirational event, and we would like to wish the cats and humans involved, long and happy lives together.

To see more of the super cats needing a home at Bromley & District Cat Rescue, visit their [Cat Chat Homing Page](#)





COLIN



DAVE



SOOTY



PIPPA



LYDIA

Did you know black & white cats often get overlooked when it comes to being adopted? Sadly, through no fault of their own these cats are often passed by because more people tend to choose the "prettier" coloured cats first.

Bicolour • Piebald • Tuxedo • Van Pattern • Cap-And-Saddle • Mask-And-Mantle • Magpie, whatever you call it, it all comes down to the same thing: Black & White cats, along with black cats, find it harder than others to find homes.

So, we are particularly happy to report an upturn in the number of black and white cats adopted via Cat Chat during the first part of this year! So ladies, gentlemen and cats, please give it up for the following victorious felines, who are just a few of the lucky ones, and who we hope may herald the start of a new pro-black-and-white era in cat rehoming:

Colin

After many months in a pen, our longest serving detainee has finally found the perfect home. His new dad spotted him on our Cat Chat homing page, and not only did he fall for him, but when he came to see Colin the feeling seemed to be mutual! We are thrilled, thank you so much to the Cat Chat team!

Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue, High Wycombe

Dave

Just wanted to tell you that our gorgeous Dave was rehomed a week ago to a lovely family who saw him on Cat Chat. Dave is such a lovely cat he really deserved a good home. He had been with TAG Pet Rescue for almost a year, getting overlooked simply because he is black and white. At last he has got a super home with people who will give him the love he needs. Thank you Cat Chat for all you do for TAG.

TAG Pet Rescue, Thanet, Kent

Sooty

Great news! A couple who saw us on Cat Chat then came looking for a cat, and reserved two kittens. They phoned us a few days later saying they couldn't stop thinking about Sooty and as they knew the kittens would get rehomed quickly, they wanted Sooty instead! I took Sooty to his new house and although he was nervous, I'm sure he will settle in well.

Barnsley Animal Rescue Centre, South Yorkshire

Pippa

Just to let you know that Pippa found her new home this week after being seen on Cat Chat and is settling in well. Many thanks.

Cats in Need, Warwickshire & Leicestershire

Jericho

We are writing with some amazing mews! Thanks to Cat Chat Jericho (aka Eric) has gone to his new home, after being with us for 18 months. He came to us as a tiny, dirty, feral ball of fur that stole every heart that saw him, and a now fully grown, more social and beautiful Jericho has left us. We all hope that he has a fantastic life and the BIGGEST thank you to Cat Chat for all you do to help home cats and kittens.

Bolton & Bury Cat Rescue

Lydia

Another lucky mog homed through Cat Chat and fantastic news for Lydia! The last of three who had been in the rescue since they were six weeks old, she's gone to the same person who had her mum. After spotting her and seeing she was the last to go, her new mum gave in and collected her that afternoon.

Kirkby Cats Home, Notts.

There is no sense in judging cats by the colour of their fur... As every cat lover knows, it's their personality, and not their colour that you will end up falling head over heels in love with!

HOMES NEEDED!

Special Appeals for Black and White Cats

Poppy from Luton, Bedfordshire

Hello, I'm Poppy. I'm 7 years old but I've spent 4 of those years at the shelter, waiting for a home. I'm an independent sort of girl and like to potter outside in nice weather... I've been waiting so long, please will you come and take me home?

Poppy is in the care of Feline Cat Rescue, Luton, and can be rehomed to areas around: Luton, Dunstable & Hatfield

See Poppy Here: [Top Cats in Bedfordshire](#)

Doris from Scunthorpe, Lincs

I had a lovely lady looking after me but sadly she died.

I'm no bother at all to look after. I'm just looking for somewhere with someone I can cuddle and keep company as they get on with housework... I'm very good at supervising!

Doris is in the care of Burton-Upon-Stather Cat Rescue, Near Scunthorpe

See Doris Here: [Top Cats in Lincs](#)

Megan from Walsall, West Midlands

Sweet, shy-at-first Megan was dumped in an alley by her previous owner, and left to fend for herself. She is slowly coming round to enjoy a little more fuss, so is looking for an understanding, patient home to help her realise her potential.

Megan is in the care of Cats Protection, Walsall

See Megan Here: [Top Cats in the W. Midlands](#)



POPPY

MEGAN



DORIS

**PLEASE
CONSIDER
ADOPTING A
BLACK & WHITE
CAT!**



Goodbye Mr Chips!



Cat Homing and Rescue, Cheshire is a voluntary organisation helping both domestic and feral cats in North Cheshire and South Lancashire. We were absolutely delighted when they contacted us with the following news:

"It was a fantastic start to February! Despite our Mr.Chips being 16 years and 9 months old - a lovely lady came forward and offered him a wonderful indoor home after reading his story on our Cat Chat re-homing page. We are so thrilled for him. Thanks a million Cat Chat! Cat Homing & Rescue, Warrington, Cheshire."



Mr Chips

Mr Chips had been very well loved previously, but his owner sadly passed away and he found himself in rescue. This story could have had a very different ending, as cats as young as 8 or 9 years old often find themselves spending many years, or even the rest of their lives in rescue shelters because people choose to adopt younger cats.

So with great happiness and pride, we tip our hats and twitch our whiskers to Mr.Chips' new adopted human Mum, who opened her heart and her home to this adorable Senior Kittizen. Older cats have so much love to give. If you overlook the oldies, you will be missing out on some of the most special cats - and that very special cat in the shelter is missing out on the loving home they so dearly long for.

Please consider giving more cats like Mr.Chips a 'happily ever after'... Most rescue centres have many adult and senior cats, just longing for new homes.

Read our Top 10 Reasons to Adopt an Older Cat here:

www.catchat.org/seniors.html

Ask about mature mogs at a shelter near you:

www.catchat.org/adoption

Long Termer Rescue Cats - Home at Last

These are just some of the long term rescue cats, who have finally made their break since our last bulletin:



Puss Puss

Homed from South Oxhey Animal Rescue, Herts:

It took six months to rehome this grey lady, but it was well worth the wait!



Macy

Homed from Kirkby Cats Home, Notts:

This lovely tortie long termer can now enjoy a puuurrrfectly relaxed new life as a house cat.



British Blue

Homed from Life For Cats,

Lincolnshire: After being in rescue for a long while, 'British Blue' now has a loving new home.



Gorgeous Girl

Homed from Life For Cats,

Lincolnshire: This tricolour lady's luck changed after having been in rescue for a long time.



Toby

Homed from Burton Joyce Cat

Welfare, Notts: This gorgeous boy finally fell on his paws with a new owner, after a long while in rescue.



Gizz

Homed from Clacton Animal Aid, Essex:

After waiting for a while, this beautiful ginger boy finally has a home to cal his own.



Sophie

Homed from Grendon Cat Shelter,

Warks: Having been in rescue since Easter 2013, Sophie is egg-static to have found a loving new home!



Samuel

Homed from Animal Accident Rescue, Notts:

Long term boy Samuel has finally been adopted into a loving home.



Tabs

Homed from Maesteg Animal

Welfare Society: Tabs was in rescue for three years, but is now puuurrrfectly happy in her new pad.



We are always chuffed to bits when long-term rescue cats are rehomed... it makes us very proud to be serving cat and country!



Two's Company - Photographing Cat Pairs

by Kathryn Collinson, Coppercat Photography



If photographing one cat is tricky, then photographing two together is even trickier. Shelters who are trying to home two cats together, find that it's always better to show both cats. This gives prospective owners a clear idea of what both cats look like but more importantly shows the close bond between them. So whether you are photographing your own cats, or whether you help a shelter by photographing their rescued cats, the following tips will help you get the best photo possible:

1. Do background research: watch the two cats carefully and see how they interact. If they snuggle up with each other, then maybe that should be the photo you take - maximising their cuteness. If they are happy to chase the same piece of string, then take a photo of them playing together. It won't matter if their faces aren't the focus of the photo, as the bond between them is just as important.
2. Choose the setting carefully: as you have two cats to manage restricting how far they can roam is a good idea. Think about putting them both on a table or in something with sides i.e. a basket, so it's more difficult for them to move away. It might give you the precious seconds you need to get the photo.



3. Get help: unless they are both asleep you will find it impossible to get a good photo on your own. Get someone else to 'manage' them and help with getting their attention at the crucial moment.

4. Be prepared: frame the photo, have your finger ready on the shutter, then get your assistant to dangle toys, make a noise, stamp their feet, whistle - anything which makes the cats look in that direction. If your finger is on the shutter ready to go, you are more likely to get the photo you want.
5. Take your time: It will probably take you longer to get a decent photo, as inevitably one cat will always be looking in the wrong direction. Put aside at least 15 minutes. To maximise your chances of success avoid times when they are really active. Go for just after they have woken up or eaten.

6. Cheat: if you are really struggling to get a decent photo of both cats together, then take one of each and put the photos side-by-side using a photographic programme or image editor.



A good photo editing programme is also useful if you want to make further adjustments to the contrast, colour balance, brightness etc, or to crop or resize your photos for posting on a web site or social network page. Professional photo editing programmes come at a price though, so here are some free options:

Pixlr is a free online photo editing software that's really easy to use. <http://pixlr.com/editor>
Or these free to download photo editing software packages:
www.getpaint.net - for Windows PC's
<http://picasa.google.co.uk> - for Windows or Mac

Happy snapping!



Thanks to [Coppercat Photography](#) for these top tips & fab photos

Latest Cat Homing pages go Live

These are the latest homing pages to go live on the Cat Chat website:

Blue Cross Rehoming Services (North)
Framlingham & Saxmundham Cats Protection, Suffolk
RSPCA - Barnsley & District, S.Yorks.
Plymouth Cat Rescue, Devon
Tendercare Cattery Rescue Centre, Co.Durham
Colne Valley Cats Protection, Essex
Drifters Reach at Westgate Ark, Tyne & Wear
National Animal Welfare Trust - Heavens Gate Rescue,

FREE PAGE!
CATS for HOMING



RSPCA - Newport Adoption Centre, South Wales
Bow Lodge Cat Rescue, Essex
Katiecat's Rescue, Surrey
Small Pet & Cat Care, Hull

Our cat homing pages are free to Rescue Centres and Rehoming Groups in the UK and Ireland.
Find out more here:
www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html



Purrfect Pairs - Homed

Lots of Great things come in twos... oh yes. Things like chopsticks, warm fluffy socks... and of course, cats!! If you have the room, why not spread the love and adopt two cats? That's what happened to the following felines:



Bo & Prince

Homed from Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue, Bucks



Tom & Lily

Homed from Peterborough Cat Rescue, Cambs



Harry & Diesel

Homed from Furry Friends Animal Rescue Surrey



Jubbley & Garfield

Homed from National Animal Welfare Trust, Thurrock



Buttons & Smartie

Homed from Yorkshire Animal Shelter (YAS)



Bella & Alfie

Homed from Grendon Cat Shelter Warwickshire



Archie & Tilly

Homed from Anim-Mates Near Rochester, Kent



Heidi & Fritz

Homed from Kirkby Cats Home Notts

Veterinary Medicines Directorate is There for You

If your pet (or a human) has an adverse reaction to a veterinary medicine, or if you suspect a lack of efficacy in any veterinary product (pills, flea treatments, vaccinations etc), you can report it on-line to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate via the DEFRA website, here: www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/adversereactionreporting

The information you provide can help to improve the safe and effective use of veterinary medicines.



Help a Cat from Rags to Riches by Turning Trash into Treasure!

Now that Spring is well and truly here, what better time to have a good old sort out and de-clutter? And while you're at it, you can earn a bit, give a bit - and help homeless cats when you sell your unwanted items on eBay. Everyone's a winner!!

Find out how to donate a percentage of your

profit to Cat Chat when you sell on eBay here: www.catchat.org/ebay.html

You can also choose to donate at the checkout whenever you buy from eBay using Paypal.

PURRS of THANKS to all of you who support Cat Chat through eBay for Charity!



Speedy Homings



Billy - from Rolvenden Cat Rescue, Kent

A couple fell in love with Billy on Cat Chat, visited him the same day, had a home visit that evening and adopted him the day after!



Dora - from RSPCA Stort Valley, Herts

Just to let you know after a short stay with us Dora the adorable boy cat has found his new home with help from Cat Chat. Thank you from Dora and us.



Kenny - from Little Cottage Rescue, Beds.

So very pleased to tell you to that Kenny found a home after just a few days on our Cat Chat homing page.





How it began: Animal Search UK was founded by former police officer, Tom Watkins, with the aim of reuniting missing/stolen pets with their owners throughout the UK. They deal with any type of pet ranging from hamsters to horses.

Cats Protection: Animal Search UK are the only lost and found organisation officially linked with Cats Protection, working in partnership with them to assist with the reunification of 100's of lost pets.

Free to use website and automatic lost/found pet matching system: The main way that Animal Search UK works is through their free to use website www.animalsearchuk.co.uk. Owners can report their missing pets, including up to four photographs, and members of the public can report details of found pets, also including photos.

The website features an 'auto-match' system whereby, if a found pet is added to the database that is from the same area and type as a missing pet, the website database will automatically notify the owner.

The Animal Search UK website is becoming increasingly popular with Cats protection branches and rescue centres alike, as the simple, fully automated process saves them valuable time and undoubtedly leads to more pets being reunited.



Publicity Campaigns and 24 Hour UK Call Centre: Animal Search UK also provides help with publicity, in the form of a poster and leaflet service using a confidential free 0800 phone number. This allows anyone who has news on a missing pet to come forward, anonymously if they wish. Lines are open 24/7 and the service continues for as long as it takes to find the pet. The cost of this poster and leaflet service is often covered by pet insurance companies or there is a small cost to the owner if a pet isn't insured.

The UK's only Professional Search Team for Missing Pets: Animal Search UK can also help by sending out members of its professional, uniformed search team. The team conduct searches of sheds and garages as well as speaking to members of the public and distributing posters and leaflets. The team's high-viz vehicles will patrol an area and alert members of the community to the pet's disappearance, encouraging people to keep an eye out for them.

Lost Alert: Animal Search have recently launched a new, free to join, proactive service called 'Lost Alert'. Based on DNA profiling, your pet's genetic fingerprint is stored on a specialist database accessible by UK police forces. This enables proof of identity in cases of theft or ownership disputes, and helps pets to be reunited much more quickly. Visit www.lostalert.co.uk to find out more.

For more information on how Animal Search UK can help with either a missing or a found pet please contact them on 01432 266 900 between 9am – 9pm Monday to Friday and between 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday or visit their website www.animalsearchuk.co.uk

Visit Cat Chat's lost & found advice page, sponsored by Animal Search UK, here: www.catchat.org/lost.html



Harder to Home Cats - Homed

Waving goodbye to some of the feistiest, willful, independent and downright self-opinionated cats around... and to some of the shyest wall-flowers... we love them all!!



Hennessey

This opinionated, independent chap has at last found someone to put up with him! **Homed from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts**



Sage

Self-centered Sage fortunately was given a new start as an only cat, meaning he is now happily master of all he surveys! **Homed from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts**



Pepsi

After worries he would spend many months in rescue due to being so timid, shy boy Pepsi thankfully now has a forever home.

Homed from Cat Homing & Rescue (CHAR), Warrington



Polly Poddy

The cheeky but nervous Polly Poddy found the perfect home with someone who didn't mind timid cats.

Homed from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Notts



Betty

Betty has gone to a couple with lots of patience, as she is a bit shy.

Homed from Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Essex



Coffee

Coffee, a tortie, likes her strokes but on her terms, and will let you know when she's had enough. She has found a her new home with a very caring lady.

Homed from Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Essex

Congrats you guys... may the wind never ruffle your tails, and may the vacuum cleaners in your new homes be quiet ones. Wishing you all the best with your new owners... Sorry, we mean your new 'servants'! No cat deserves to spend their life in a rescue shelter. Please give a harder to home cat the chance of a loving home: www.catchat.org/topcats

Disability Rights for Cats Campaign!



We'd like to raise awareness for those cats who need an extra helping paw to succeed in their nine lives. To the wounded soldier cats, the accident survivors, those who have overcome illness and those who were simply dealt a difficult hand from the off. They all bear the scars of their situations, but do not let it get them down in the slightest! In fact, their ability to adapt and overcome disability will amaze and inspire...

Take Gilbert and his new Dad as a shining example of how an open minded human and a special needs cat can make it in life:

"The gorgeous Gilbert is three years old, with no tail, one back club foot with no nails and the other back partial club foot with 3 nails. He was apparently born like this, and quite rightly wanted to be adopted for love not pity!"

Gilbert's Dad had called me and I asked why he was interested in a special needs cat, just to make sure he'd read the profile carefully! He said that he knew Gilbert would be harder to home and it didn't bother him adopting a cat like this. He is a man who could give Gilbert everything he needed.

Gilbert was a little shy at first in his new pad, but being Gilbert(!) he is now comfy and well settled. His Dad is very happy with him.

The rewards in helping these creatures are huge. We have had some fabulous open minded people take on special needs cats, and all of them have been so happy with their moggies!" **Willows Cat Adoption Centre, Tyne & Wear**



Gilbert

Please don't let a cat's disability cloud your decision to adopt them. After all, a cat's 'disability' doesn't take away their 'ability' to be a cat!

This is a subject we feel strongly about, and so have compiled a brand new page on Cat Chat all about the adoption and care of disabled cats. Please check it out, it could be the start of something amazing...

www.catchat.org/disabled_cats.html





Purrfect Pairs Homed - part 2



Fifi & Jigsy

Rescued together and adopted together in February, from National Animal Welfare Trust Thurrock Branch, Essex



Matt & Astrid

Spotted on the 'Top Cats' section, and homed together in February from Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary Fife



Freddie & Lynsey

In rescue since birth, now enjoying a proper home together, homed from Kirkby Cats Home, Notts



Posh Posh (left) & Sawyer

Two brothers, adopted together in March, from Cat and Kitten Rescue, Watford



Kitty (left) & Dee Dee

Homed in February from Grendon Cat Shelter, Atherstone, Warwickshire



Lhasa & Quito

Spotted on Cat Chat in March, and adopted from Animal Accident Rescue Unit, Notts.

Two cats are great company for each other, and you will get twice the love and fun! Find out about pairs of cats looking for homes together at your local rescue shelter: www.catchat.org/adoption



Rescuer's Corner - Cat Action Trust for Lanarkshire, Scotland

Cat Action Trust - Lanarkshire is a small Scottish-based cat rescue organisation run by a team of dedicated volunteers operating throughout the Lanarkshire region.

Established in 1999, the charity branch is concerned primarily with the welfare of domestic, stray, abandoned and feral cats. They also run subsidised neutering and micro-chipping programmes. CAT Lanarkshire has been able to help about 700 cats and kittens each year, aiming to improve the quality of life of the felines that come into their care.

This self-funding branch relies on public generosity for donations and fund-raising activities organised by members of the team to enable it to carry out endless rescue work. Find out more about their work here:

www.catactiontrust.co.uk



Misty

CAT Lanarkshire does not receive government funding or financial help. The group is very much in need of new volunteers to join the fundraising team, to help with activities such as bag-packing and to man stalls in the Lanarkshire area.

The branch are currently looking for extra volunteers for Saturday 26th April, to help as "Bag Packers" at their fundraising event at Tesco Extra in Wishaw. Helping hands are needed from 10-12am,

2-4pm and 4-6pm. Any willing helpers should contact them as follows: email: vidler390@btinternet.com / Tel: 01555 664867.

Cat Action Trust, Lanarkshire has many felines in care and looking for loving forever homes right now. All are fostered with cat loving members throughout the Lanarkshire area. If you are interested in any of the cats, please contact their fosterer direct - details appear in the cat's profiles on their [Cat Chat homing page](#).

Currently seeking a home are **Mitsy**, a 2 year old black and white female, and **Peanut**, her handsome black and white baby boy. He is semi-long haired with a very bushy tail, only 7 months old. They are both very friendly and loveable and have a close bond so are hoping they can be homed together. They are not used to children under 5 years, and are looking for a home with safe access to a garden. Also seeking a new home is **Duster**, a handsome 2 year old, ginger chap with a very waggy tail! All cats have been de-wormed, de-fleaed, neutered and micro-chipped, and come with one month's free insurance on homing.



Peanut

To find out more, visit their Cat Chat page here: [Cat Action Trust, Lanarkshire's Cat Chat Homing Page](#)

Cats have had a difficult time in the press recently. To get the whole picture, regarding cats and tuberculosis, please read 'The Cat Group' policy statement on [Mycobacteria in cats and man](#)

That's all from us – so until next time, enjoy the spring... Toodle-oo!

