



CAT SANCTUARY EMBARKS ON 1,000 FIV CATS PROJECT

THE Catwork Sanctuary in Somerset has launched a project to document the lives of 1,000 FIV cats, aiming to prove that FIV positive felines deserve good homes and happy lives – just like any cat.

If you, or someone you know, owns or has owned an FIV+ cat, you can contribute to this project, help change minds and give more FIV+ cats a chance.

Bob and Barbara, who run the sanctuary, said: "An FIV cat in a home is

one of the lucky ones. By showing lots of lucky FIV cats and their stories we can spread the word that they deserve good homes just like any cat. If potential new owners can read the stories of lucky FIV cats that are cared for, then perhaps they will gain the confidence and reassurance they need to enable them to take on their own FIV cat."

"Nothing beats real-life experience and that is what we want to collect with this project. The information gained by this collection could really

help the understanding of cats with this virus."

Anyone willing to help by telling the story of their FIV+ cat can get more details at www.v63.net/fivcatslives

To submit a cat's story for the project, visit www.v63.net/fivcatslives/mycatsinfo.html

To see those already on the project, take a look at the initial results page at www.v63.net/fivcatslives/catSearch/cat-search-extra.html

Any information will be gratefully received by The Catwork Sanctuary.

Brooke bowled over by fantastic new home



NOT one for hiding her emotions, 18-month-old tortoiseshell Brooke, though beautiful, was finding it tough to convince anyone to give her a new home due to her fiery nature!

Thankfully, a lady spotted her on [Burton Joyce Cat Welfare's](#) Cat Chat homing page, saw she was the spitting image of a cat she had recently lost – right down to the quirky nature – and had to have her. Thanks to a caring owner who understood exactly who Brooke was and what she needed, this lucky lady settled in straight away.

£ £ **BIG** £ £
£ **January sale!** £

NOPE, we don't sell sofas... but there are some great savings to be had at the [Cat Chat Web Shop](#).

Here are just a few of the discounted items available:

Pocket-size notepads, set of four
Handy size, spiral bound and include four photos.



£5.99
£4.99

£4.95
£3.95



Kong Swizzle Bird cat teaser
Perfect for fun, interactive play and strengthening the bond between you and your cat.

Living With a Rescued Cat
An essential read for both new and experienced cat owners.



£7.99
£5.50



FURminator Deluxe
Reduces shedding by up to 90 per cent and helps prevent hairballs.

£24.95
£19.95

Chips to the rescue

EACH year, thousands of animals go missing and, sadly, many of them never find their way home.

The lucky ones will eventually be taken in by a rescue shelter, while those less fortunate face the grim and dangerous prospect of life as a stray.

Microchipping gives your pet the best chance of being returned to you if it becomes lost or stolen. Microchipping means less strays, therefore



A microchip compared with a 5 pence piece.

lightening the load on already overstretched animal shelters. It can also assist when the ownership of a pet is in dispute. Microchipping identifies your pet permanently.

The procedure is simple and is no more painful than an injection. A microchip is slightly smaller than a grain of rice and is inserted under a cat's skin between the shoulder blades. Once the microchip is in place, your cat will not be able to feel it.

When a cat is found and handed in to a shelter or veterinary surgery, a scanning device is used to see if the cat is microchipped. If so, a unique 15 digit code will be displayed and the microchip database



A microchip applicator syringe.

the cat is registered with can be contacted.

Microchipping is only effective if you keep your details up to date. If you move house or change your telephone number, for example, you must make sure you tell the database you are registered with so it has your current contact details.

You can do this online or by contacting your microchip database – details are on your microchip paperwork.

Minimise the risk of losing your cat – neuter, microchip, safety collar.

RAGS TO RICHES



Oliver

AS a long-term stray, it's expected for a cat to not be in the best condition, but poor Oliver arrived in the most awful state – so bad that he had to stay at a vets for days, to recover enough before moving on to Bromley & District Cat Rescue in Kent.

A rescue spokesman explains: "Oliver was the knottiest cat we had seen. You could hardly tell what colour his fur was – it was just knots and dirt. What was worse, however, was the state of his mouth, probably due to a bad diet during his stray years. His teeth were either broken or falling out and his gums were bleeding, not to mention he was thin because of being unable to eat."

To get this desperate cat back to full health, his fur was shaved and all his teeth had to go. This meant Oliver's appetite came back, his body built up strength and shape, and his new fur revealed a handsome lad! He was understandably nervous at first, but slowly gained trust and confidence – and finally a loving home.

His new mum and dad, whose elderly cat had recently died, saw him on **Bromley & District's Cat Chat page**, drove more than 120 miles to meet him and fell in love. He settled in brilliantly in just a few days, sleeping on their bed and enjoying plenty of fuss on nice warm laps!

A HAPPY NEW HOME FOR HEATHCLIFFE

A HEART-WARMING cat rescue tale can make all the difference for cat carers, and this one certainly tugs at the heartstrings!

In late October a family were trying to give their male cat away, using the highly risky route of advertising him on a classified ads website, whilst making the cat live outside in the cold.

Thankfully, **Willows Cat Adoption Centre** in South Shields stepped in to help the homeless feline. Due to be-



Heathcliffe

ing full, they couldn't take the cat in, but renamed him Heathcliffe and set about finding him the loving home he deserved and craved.

Willows added Heathcliffe to their Cat Chat homing page... and just two days later, a family came forward to adopt him! They couldn't bear the idea of him feeling scared with Bonfire Night on the horizon.

Heathcliffe arrived at Willows, and following their usual checks, went to his new home the same day. Reports are he has settled quickly and is an affectionate boy. He is adored!

Anyone needing to rehome their cat can find help and advice here:

Cat Chat - rehoming advice

Rescuer's corner – Cats Friends, Northamptonshire

FOUNDED in May 1998, Cats Friends is a small, voluntary and self-funded group covering the towns of Rothwell and Desborough in Northamptonshire.

The group prides itself on being small and friendly, taking in and caring for cats that find themselves abandoned, lost or looking for new homes.

Bernie at Cats Friends said: "It is a sad reality of modern society that year on year an increasing number of stray, mistreated, unwanted and even well cared for cats, whose owners – for genuine reasons – are unable to look after them, come into our care.

"We do our best to support the local community by rescuing and fostering these cats, providing them with food and shelter, veterinary treatment, care and socialising until they are ready to find a purrfect new home. We try to be there for those who need us most."

All rescued cats are microchipped and neutered prior to rehoming. For those too young, a neutering agreement forms part of the adoption

process. Great care is taken to place the right cat in the right home. A home visit is made prior to adopting a cat to assess mutual suitability and a follow-up call is made.

A donation is required on adopting, to enable Cats Friends to continue helping other cats.

Permanent, loving homes are always needed in safe, quiet areas, away from busy roads. Kittens are often available in the spring and summer, while adult cats are available throughout the year. Cats for rehoming are cared for by volunteer fosterers rather than at a rehoming centre. Therefore, visits are by appointment only.

Fundraising events and public donations are vital to the work of Cats Friends. Events are held throughout the year to raise funds for the upkeep of the cats and the ever-increasing veterinary costs.

To find out about donating, fundraising events or to find out about Cats Friends' cats for adoption, visit their [Cat Chat Homing Page](#), where



you can see cats such as Summer:

"I am Summer. I'm approximately six to seven-years-old and was found pregnant and fending for myself at a hotel in May 2011. This obviously left me very nervous and, although my kittens were happily rehomed, my new home didn't work out.

Cats Friends came to fetch me, so now I am looking to find a human with patience and experience, who will understand me and give me a chance. Slowly I am realising humans are good and I do let my fosterer stroke me all over when in the safety of my bed. You can find out more [here!](#)

Rescued cats make loving, reliable pets with established characters and great personalities. Every one comes with its own sad story, but, hopefully, a happy ever after ending!

Declutter your home to help homeless cats

IF you received an unwanted present for Christmas, cats will love it... Yes, even a vacuum cleaner!

Why? Because selling your unwanted items on eBay – using eBay for Charity with Cat Chat as your chosen charity – helps us help even more cats find a home. Visit www.catchat.org/ebay.html to find out more. Happy selling!



Blindness - no big deal for Grace!

Sweet natured Grace is congenitally blind. She was taken in by [Cat Action Trust 1977, Ayrshire branch](#) as her previous owners had acquired a dog and no longer wanted her, and even worse, were threatening to dump her!

Grace soon became a favourite at the rescue, being a sweet natured cat who loves to be fussed, and her blindness certainly didn't stop her enjoying life. The great news is that Grace soon found the loving home she was looking for...

The rescue told us: "Our little blind lady, Grace has now been homed thanks to Cat Chat. She is settling down really well with her new big brother. She quickly had the whole flat sussed and races around, playing with her toys just as crazily as a sighted cat.

So, yet again, thank you for your wonderful site. Grace says thank you too. She's a very, very happy girl!"

If you could consider adopting a disabled cat, we have some helpful hints and advice here: [Adopting a Disabled Cat](#)



A feline fairytale home for Princess

P **PRINCESS** arrived at Canino Animal Rescue in Northampton as an emergency after her elderly owners could no longer care for her.

Six-month-old Princess took the upheaval extremely badly; it was the only real home she had known. She wasn't spayed, vaccinated or microchipped, so had probably never been to a vet and had already had a failed family attempt at rehoming.

Initially, Princess didn't eat, sleep, drink or toilet at the rescue, and only moved if somebody entered her room. If volunteers went too close, she would wet herself. It took two months for Princess to even let someone put a hand near her, but suddenly, one night, something clicked – she approached rescue founder Lauren and even began to purr.

From then on, Princess developed in leaps and bounds. "We established a really strong bond just by playing with an old shoe lace," explained

Lauren. "Once she became confident, she seemed to revert back to kitten behaviour and suddenly had limitless energy. It seemed she had never been played with."

"One night, Princess decided to take up refuge in my bedroom. As I slept (with one eye open!) she plonked herself down inbetween myself and my husband's pillows and from then on never left our sides."

Although Princess loved her new-found fuss, she appeared to suffer from flashbacks. Volunteers had to approach her carefully - she could not be touched on her lower back or stomach - and always had to be aware of their hands before they touched her. Due to her behaviour, Princess' rescuers felt she may have previously suffered some kind of heavy-handed discipline, although they hoped they were wrong...

Princess struggled with anyone she didn't know, which made adoption



Princess in hiding under the bed when first arriving at Canino.



Asleep with Lauren.

viewings extremely difficult. However, one night an elderly lady came to visit with her son after seeing Princess on [Canino's Cat Chat homing page](#).

Princess must have picked up a good vibe as she not only stayed in the room, but even sat next to the lady, who would soon become her owner. Princess also had a flashback at the meeting, but, if anything, it made her owner more determined to care for her.

Princess has settled extremely well in her new home. She did spend the first few days hiding behind a cupboard, but has never gone back since gathering the courage to explore, and is now back to her kitten-like ways, despite being more than a year old!

After so long in rescue, Canino was beginning to wonder if she would have to stay permanently, but it was obviously because she was waiting for the right person and, thanks to Cat Chat, they met!



Princess just before leaving life in rescue.

Read about more Happy Homings achieved with the help of Cat Chat: here: '[Rehoming Roll of Honour](#)'

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES



DOREEN – BROMLEY & DISTRICT CAT RESCUE

Four year old Doreen is such a sweetie, yet she has been waiting two long years for someone to notice her. Gentle, and a little shy, she's still waiting...

[Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – East London >>](#)

TIMMY – THINGWALL CAT RESCUE, MERSEYSIDE

Although a 'Senior Kittizen' of 10 years, Timmy remains a very friendly, young at heart and active gentleman – still searching for that special someone.

[Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – Merseyside >>](#)



BONNIE & CONGA – ROLVENDEN CAT RESCUE, KENT

This sister and brother duo have been waiting for a home for more than two years, simply because of their shyness. All they want is a quiet and patient, loving home where they can gain confidence.

[Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – Kent >>](#)



LAZER – ANGELS HOUSE ANIMAL RESCUE, DUBLIN

Lazer (named after his favourite cat toy!) is an incredibly gentle and loving young boy. He would like somebody who will play with him and then provide him with a warm, cosy lap afterwards.

[Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – Dublin >>](#)



SADLY, this is the part of our newsletter where we feature Cats that have been waiting in rescue shelters for over a year, for someone to adopt them.

This might be because they are considered elderly, disabled, nervous or even just an un-popular colour. But, these cats are just as important as any other, and if anything deserve a home even more!

All they need is a caring person to give them a chance, and they will surely blossom.

We hope fortune will soon smile on these very special felines. Please consider adopting an overlooked cat – it could be the most rewarding thing you ever do!

Find 'Overlooked Cats' near you by visiting: www.catchat.org/topcats

A New Dawn for Lucky Poppy

As many cat rescuers will know, when it comes to kittens needing homes, the usual scenario is here today, gone tomorrow.

Sadly, however, for kitten Poppy – with a nervous disposition, black coat and having already been returned once – her chances of finding a forever home seemed remote... until she struck lucky one Saturday.

Dawn had been browsing the Cat Chat homing page for [Kirkby Cats Home](#) in Nottinghamshire and fell in love with one of its feline residents. However, by the time she had visited the rescue, her chosen cat had already been adopted. Undeterred

and still keen to adopt a feline friend, Dawn met little Poppy, looked past her nervousness and saw a young lady with her whole life in front of her, so decided to give her a chance!

To both Dawn and Poppy's delight, the little black love moved in, took over and shed all her nervousness in just two days. She settled in and befriended an older female cat, as well as their boisterous spaniel!

"What a difference!" Dawn said. "Poppy is really finding her feet. She is happy, loves cuddles and rolls over to have her tummy rubbed. Apart from unfamiliar noises like the washing machine or vacuum cleaner, she is not



shy or nervous anymore. As you can see, she is adored by my son, Ashley, who thought it would be great to take a 'selfie' of them both!"

Dawn and Poppy's story is a true testament to what can be achieved if a cat is given a chance to build confidence and character.

SPELLBINDING SUCCESS FOR MOGGIE MAGIC

IMAGINE the terror of being just weeks old, cold, collapsed and alone by the roadside. For six-week-old Magic, this was a harsh reality.

This poor little kitten was found by a kind lady, and handed in to a local vet. With no sign of a mum or siblings nearby, it was unknown whether Magic had been separated by accident or thrown out because she was unwanted – a sad possibility. She was put on a drip, warmed up and given plenty of TLC to revive her weak body. It was touch and go as to whether she would survive...

Thankfully though, and to the amazement of everyone, Magic made it through and recovered. The vet then telephoned Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue in Buckingham-



A gorgeous, grown-up Magic.

shire to see if she could be taken care of there. Space was limited; however, a crate was found to be free in fosterer Helen's bedroom.

Assisted by a heat pad and soft fluffy duck, Magic bounced back, used her litter tray and became a proper playful kitten. Her living space went from unnervingly tidy to a bombsite – definitely a sign that this kit-

ten was better!

At eight weeks old, Magic appeared on [Marjorie Nash's Cat Chat homing page](#) and, as if 'by Magic', was whisked off to a kind and loving home just a week later!

Magic's life is now a world away from her sad, shaky start. She can now get on with the important job of being a kitten, with two cats and two dogs for company.

"I was thrilled Magic went so quickly," Helen said. "She really did need company and playmates. I had a lovely update at Christmas, saying how well she had settled in and that she was really good friends with the family terrier-cross dog. She looks so grown up now, having finally almost grown into those ears!"



Magic resting up with her heat pad and fluffy duck.

Now serving cat and country

LET'S give a big paw to the latest feline fanatics to join our happy band of volunteers.

They are:

- **Kerry Archer** – Google Ad-words Administrator
- **Linsey Mahmood** – Social Media Co-ordinator/Trustee

So, as we jostle along in the cat basket to make room for our new comrades, we would like to wish them all the very best in their roles!

To find out more about the team that keeps Cat Chat working to help more cats into homes– or to keep an eye out for any future vacancies – visit our [volunteers page](#).



Are You READY to RESCUE?

See Cats Needing Homes in Shelters near you, here...



"We very much hope you enjoyed this edition of the *Cat Chat Newsletter*, and that you and your cats stay warm and well this winter. All that's left is for us to wish you a wonderful 2015! Toodle-pip!"