

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • AUTUMN 2015

OVERLOOKED 15 UPDATE!

WE are now four months into our "Overlooked 15" campaign, which aims to find homes for 15 of the longest-stay cats in shelters across the country. We have had some super successes so far, so here's an update, and news of the most recent of the 'Overlooked 15' to find a home.



In September we were delighted to hear from the Ayrshire branch of Cat Action Trust 1977, to say

that Daisy, who had been in care for 15 months had at last been homed, after her new owner saw her on the Cat Chat website. The branch told us:

"Her new owner particularly wanted Daisy because of her story, and that she was a more difficult cat to home, and also because she's black, and he knew black cats and dogs are harder to home. Cat Chat does it again!"

As well as Daisy's great news, we are thrilled to say that since our last newsletter, two more of the 'Overlooked 15', have been homed after being spotted either on the Cat Chat website or on the campaign itself; Star from Maesteg

Animal Welfare Society, and Macca from Tain Cats Protection. Star and Macca's stories also appear in this newsletter.

When we launched the campaign, 15 homes were needed. So far 10 cats have been homed, and at the time of writing, three more are currently 'reserved' (fingers crossed for those). Sadly, two of the Overlooked 15 have had no serious interest yet, and are still waiting...

Muffett at Celia Hammond Animal Trust Sanctuary, in Sussex; a beautiful 'diva', who has been waiting for over 3 years. Angel from Thanet Cat Club in Kent; loving but unpredictable, Angel has been waiting for well over 2 years.

Overlooked 15 campaign details here: www.catchat.org/overlooked15.html

Please help by sharing / re-tweeting #Overlooked15 posts on social media, thank you!

15 MOST OVERLOOKED CATS



Join the **UK-WIDE SEARCH** for their **FOREVER HOMES**

CATCHAT.ORG [#overlooked15](https://twitter.com/overlooked15)

CAT CHAT GOING MOBILE...

As more and more people access the web via mobile phones, it's becoming increasingly important that websites look as good on phones as they do on the web. In website terms this means updating to a 'responsive' design, so that mobile users don't end up having to scroll left and right to view pages!

A whopping 37% of visitors to Cat Chat now view the site on a mobile device, so we are currently updating all of our pages to a 'responsive' design.

The first sections to be updated were our **Homed Cats** section, (the re homing 'Roll of Honour' which shows some of the lovely homing successes), and the **Overlooked Cats** section.



We are now working on other sections of the site. So bit-by-bit, page-by-page over the next few weeks, you will see Cat Chat gradually evolving to the new design. With a bit of luck, we hope it will all be done by the next newsletter.

We hope you like it!!

Spread Some Feline Love this Christmas!

By sending Christmas cards supporting Cat Chat, you are also helping to spread the 'rescue' message. Our quality Christmas cards come in packs of 10 with envelopes, in 4 designs exclusive to Cat Chat:

Visit our shop here: Catchat.org/catalog

"Jessie" (right)

Featuring the lovely Jessie Cat, investigating the Christmas tree.



"What a Save!" (left)

This Christmas card features Ziggypig Cat, a feline friend of Cat Chat, catching snowballs.

"Tangle & Friends" (right)

A Cat Chat favourite, featuring some of the cats rehomed through the Cat Chat homing pages.



"Cat Santa" (left)

Artist **Lee Nicholls** very kindly allowed us to use his delightful Cat Santa painting for these cards.

Cat's Christmas Stocking

Share the joy of the festive season with your feline friend, with a traditional Christmas stocking. It's perfect for stuffing with your cats favourite treats and toys, and hanging up on Christmas Eve.



All these, plus a super range of cat toys, and gifts for cat lovers are on sale now at the Cat Chat webshop

Every purchase helps more cats out of shelters... into homes!
THANK YOU!

Supporters Corner:

easyfundraising
.org.uk

(raise funds for Free - no catch!)

Without a doubt, one of the easiest ways to raise funds to help us find more homes for rescued cats is through Easyfundraising. If you ever shop online, you can raise funds for us at **no cost whatsoever** to you - there's no catch! Here's how it works:

Whenever you shop online at one of your favourite retailers, just log in to the Easyfundraising website first, and Cat Chat will then receive a **free donation from the retailer** for every purchase you make. It's that simple!

It's easy to register with **Easyfundraising**, and from then on, every purchase you make, going via



Easyfundraising will raise funds for us - and costs you nothing! Each time you make a purchase they will tell you how much you raised for us, and you can keep track of it in your Easyfundraising account.

With Christmas just around the corner, there's no better time to start Easyfundraising. You won't be stuck for choice either... **Over 2,700 top retailers now belong to the Easyfundraising scheme**, such as Argos, Asda, Debenhams, Next, Tesco, Marks & Spencer and John Lewis. Even sites such as eBay, Amazon and Groupon belong to the scheme. Services and utilities can also be purchased through Easyfundraising, so next time you are shopping for **event tickets, travel & hotels, insurance, mobile and broadband** etc, start at Easyfundraising and raise free funds for Cat Chat!

Register for your free Easyfundraising account, and start raising funds for us right away. Register here:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/catchat

We'd like to say a really big **THANK YOU** to those who already support Cat Chat through Easyfundraising!

One-in-a-Million homes DO exist!

This is one of the most heart-warming adoptions we have known. When Bromley & District Cat Rescue received a homing enquiry for Paris and Harvey, two nervous cats featured on their Cat Chat homing page, they were thrilled, as both cats had been at the rescue several years due to their shyness. Their new 'mum' had experience with bringing round nervous cats, and wanted to give these two the kind, patient home they needed.

Six year old Paris was rescued from a hoarder's house, where over 30 cats had been living in one squalid, cramped room. The owner had lost track of how many cats they had, and most of them were extremely nervous of people. Harvey had been rescued several years ago from a situation where cats were being shot. He had been considered unhomeable to most homes due to his shyness, and also as he is older, at



Harvey

around 12 years. The shelter said they had put Harvey on their Cat Chat page "in the hope that his one-in-a-million home is out there"... Well as it turns out it was, and Paris and Harvey were both offered a home together!

However, the story doesn't end there; Four year old Doreen had been at the rescue for over two years, despite being a little sweetheart, just rather shy. Whenever potential adopters visited, Doreen hid away, which put people off and meant that she was constantly overlooked. After having 'reserved' Paris and Harvey, the lovely lady who would be adopting them took another look at the shelter's homing page... and decided to adopt Doreen too!

A few weeks on and the lucky trio are in their new 'forever' home, finding their paws and settling in. We are really delighted for them all, and so grateful to their new mum for opening her heart to not one or two, but three beautiful cats who each deserved their lucky break.

Any experienced, cat-wise person will tell you that even the most nervous cats will, in their own time, respond to kindness



Paris

and patience. All they need is someone to give them a chance. Adopting a nervous cat and turning their life around, is one of the most rewarding things you can do!

Next time you adopt, please ask about the shyer cats. They might be hiding away, but perhaps that's because they are waiting for someone like you?

If you could adopt a shy cat... visit our [Overlooked Cats section](#)



Doreen

FROM WOE TO WIN!

Poor Isaac – a six-year-old, tabby and white boy – had been waiting for a home for absolutely ages! With his beloved owner having passed away, Isaac was alone in the world. Thankfully he was taken in by Willows Cat Adoption Centre in South Shields, Tyne and Wear.

There was a glimmer of hope for this mustachioed mister when he went on a trial adoption! However, once again fate dealt Isaac a poor hand and he was returned to Willows. For the

rescue centre's staff, it was particularly saddening because of his attractive personality.

A spokesman explained: "Isaac was very friendly, liked to play fetch like a dog and was always happy sitting on volunteers' knees for cuddles – not to mention chin tickles!"

Isaac's luck finally changed for good when not one, but three new owners spotted him on Cat Chat and wanted him! Needless to say, Isaac now has his forever home with a lovely family.

Well done Isaac!



Isaac

LID FINALLY CLOSED ON PANDORA'S BOX OF MISFORTUNE

Poor Pandora was found wandering in a churchyard with one of her back paws severed, leaving the bone exposed. After receiving a call from those who found her, Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue in Amersham, Bucks. wasted no time rushing to Pandora's aid and taking her to a vet.

On inspection, the vet concluded that Pandora had been in this painful condition for a few weeks, and found that infection had set in, leaving no other option but to amputate her leg. She was also found to be FIV+. This poor girl had not even reached her first birthday!



After recovering from her terrible ordeal, the team at Marjorie Nash made it their mission to find Pandora the loving home she so deserved.

Thankfully in spite of it all, Pandora was a very friendly and affectionate girl, which, coupled with her beautiful and unusual coat, would give her a good chance of a new

start. She was added to Marjorie Nash Cat Rescue's Cat Chat homing page and everyone crossed their fingers for a happy outcome...

In July of this year, lady luck smiled on Pandora; she was spotted on Cat Chat, and found the perfect home!

By all accounts she is settling in well. A spokesman for the rescue said: "Pandora now has two adoring slaves to pander to her every whim, which is no more than she deserves. We are thrilled for her, and very grateful to Cat Chat for giving her that chance – thank you!"

Her new owners told Cat Chat:

"Pandora has settled in beautifully. She has a very healthy appetite and no trouble letting us know when she is hungry! Though walking is not her strong point, she makes up for it by flying around the house, from ledges to tables, with more ease than Superman."

Her day usually begins between 5am and 6am with a nuzzle, pat or 10 with a paw or head butt to tell us it's time to get up and play with her – and, of course, feed her. She doesn't tire easily!



She does love a snuggle, sitting on my chest with her paws around my neck and nuzzling me. Her favourite resting places are window ledges and the computer desk – sleeping on the mouse is essential, of course, especially if we are trying to use it."

No one will ever know exactly how Pandora lost her paw, but thanks to the kind people who spotted her, a devoted rescue centre, a little help from Cat Chat and a loving new owner, Pandora now has a happy future.



Cats Needing Homes

Right now, there are thousands of incredibly loving, intelligent and unique cats in rescue centres all over the UK and Ireland, waiting patiently for loving homes. There are currently well over 3,600 cats awaiting adoption on the cat homing pages at CatChat.org. If you can offer a rescue cat a new future, please visit our 'Cats Needing Homes' section:

www.catchat.org/shelter_centre

If you run a rescue group and would like to feature your cats for rehoming on our Cats Needing Homes section, ask us for a free cat homing page - find details here:

www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

Here are the latest cat rescue organisations to have cat chat homing page:

- **Cats Protection - East Northumberland**
- **Kingdom Cat & Dog Rescue**
- **MCL Rescue, Merseyside**
- **Cats Protection - Stourbridge, Dudley & Wyre Forest**
- **Cats Protection - Aberystwyth & District**

Together we can help even more cats out of shelters into homes!



JOLLY GOOD RESULT FOR MUM AND SON!

Adopting a pair of cats presents double the responsibility; cost, attention and commitment which often makes them harder to rehome. For Mum and Son Ellie and Jolly, they were perhaps also overlooked due to their colour. Sadly, black cats and black & white cats are often passed by in favour of 'prettier' coloured cats.

Shockingly, the pair had been at Celia Hammond Animal Trust Sanctuary in Hastings, East Sussex for well over 3 years! Desperate not to have to

rehome them separately, and knowing what lovely companions they would make, the rescue shelter put a special appeal on their Cat Chat page.



Ellie

They were soon spotted, and visited



Jolly

by a wonderful lady, who made the decision to adopt them both!

We wish them a long and happy new life together!

See more **Happy Homings** here

Rescuers' Corner - Ward End Cat Rescue, Birmingham

Ward End Cat Rescue in Birmingham has been running for almost 20 years. It is owned by Tony Hunter, and run with the help of volunteers Janet and Shaun.

Tony told us the team rescues as many stray and unwanted cats and kittens as possible, and cares for them until they are rehomed. The cats live in a large cattery at a private residence, with access to outside runs with countless scratch posts and activity centres.



He added "Ward End Cat Rescue is only a small centre, but dealing with the 35 or so cats and kittens here takes up all our time.

We have seven resident feral cats that could not be returned to where they came from, but they are happy and enjoy playing with their toys. Some of the cats are able to socialise with each other, but there are some who prefer being on their own, which means they take turns going into the outdoor runs."

The group ensures its cats are neutered and vaccinated before being rehomed, and also microchipped wherever possible.

Ward End Cat Rescue is constantly trying to educate people on the benefits of neutering, but sadly, still finds its facilities completely full due to the ever increasing number of stray cats and kittens living rough. Therefore, the group helps neuter cats, and undertakes 'trap neuter return' (TNR) of feral cats locally.

Volunteers carry out fundraising activities such as Facebook auctions, and selling craft items on-line. A local, monthly table-top sale also allows the team to meet supporters.

Some of the rescued cats are nervous, so the group spends time calming and socialising them. Sadly, older and nervous cats get overlooked for adoption.

"Helping save these cats and kittens is hard work and very stressful, but the rewards of seeing a cat getting adopted into a loving forever home makes it all worthwhile. The happiness and welfare of each cat and kitten is always our top priority, as we care so much for them all," said Tony.

Precious, Rupert & Elena

Precious was rescued as a stray,

and shortly after, siblings Rupert and Elena were rescued from elsewhere. As soon as Precious saw the kittens she started washing them, and now cares for them as though they are her own. Rupert and Elena now believe Precious is their real mother.

Precious, Rupert, and Elena are shy of strangers but they would calm down once in a quiet forever home. Due to their strong bond, they are looking for a new home together.



Although they are shy, they all love to play with toys, and Precious loves fuss once she gets to know someone. Ward End Cat Rescue is hoping for a fairytale dream come true where they can stay together as a family in a new home.

Ward End Cat Rescue can be contacted by email through the following pages:

www.wardendcatrescue.org.uk
[Ward End Cat Rescue - Facebook](#)
[Ward End Cat Chat Homing Page](#)

✦ A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR STAR ✦

After four years of residency at Maesteg Animal Welfare Society in Mid Glamorgan, it seemed Star would never be lucky enough to find a new home to call her own.



Being a black cat, very aloof and handy with her paw if she did not agree with you, this little madam was certainly not doing herself any favours on the rehoming front!

So we decided to add Star to our 'Overlooked15' campaign, launched to mark Cat Chat's 15th anniversary,

and aiming to rehome 15 of the most overlooked rescue cats in the UK.

As a result of the campaign, a kind hearted professional lady living on her own contacted Maesteg Animal Welfare asking about the most difficult cat to home. Needless to say, this is when she met Star, and to everyone's delight, she offered her a home!

Star explored and hid for the first few days in her new pussycat palace, but then, realizing this wonderful human gave her TLC, toys to play with and a warm, comfortable home, her true personality came to the fore.

A spokesperson from Maesteg said: *"Star's personality has changed so much since being cared for on a one-to-one basis and getting all the attention*

she needs. She has become the most loving cat and we cannot thank her new owner enough for having the patience, which is all Star needed to shine."



Cat Chat co-founder Mandy Cotter was "thrilled" when she heard Star's wonderful news. *"Star had been in rescue the longest out of all the Overlooked15 cats, I'm delighted we could help her on her way!"* she said.

See more [Happy Homings](#) here!

MARVELLOUS OUTCOME FOR MACCA!

Astunning coat, gorgeous green eyes, the sweetest face, and yet Macca had been in rescue for more than a year. Jean Jardine, spokesperson for Tain & District Cats Protection explained: *"Macca was one of 21 cats that we rescued from the same home. Unfortunately, because of the numbers involved, Macca did not really receive much loving attention and therefore he had become suspicious of humans."*

As a result of his difficult past, on arrival at the shelter, it wasn't long before Macca had the nickname "Hissing Sid", as all he did was hiss at every movement made. Even staff weren't sure whether he would lash out if they got too close to the frightened feline.



The branch then put Macca forward for Cat Chat's **Overlooked 15** campaign, which aimed to find homes for 15 of the most overlooked rescue cats in the UK.

Just one month later Macca's luck changed following the campaign, when a couple came along and adopted him!

A spokesperson at the shelter told us: *"things are looking really good for Macca – or 'Ruffle' as he is now called. His owners are such a lovely couple and he could not have found a better home."*

While it had been a shaky start, Ruffle's new owners said, *"he is doing really well! What a lovely nature – he is gorgeous! We had to be very patient with him at the early stages. We wondered how he would get on with our six-year-old female cat Koshka, but they have gradually taken to each other (or should I say, she has gradually taken to him because he wasn't the least bit put out by her presence from day one!)"*

"Macca is very affectionate, but at times still timid. He can come to you one minute then shy away the next, but he knows where his food is kept and he's a picture to watch; he stands like a Meerkat and leans over to one side waiting to get fed."



"At night he plays with his toys and is very mischievous – a total transformation from the first few weeks when he was very reserved and quiet, not wanting to do very much at all."

Cat Chat would also like to thank The Northern Times and the North Star newspapers for printing our article about Macca to help find him a new home. Cat Chat co-founder Mandy said *"While Macca's new owners saw him on Cat Chat first, there's no doubt the articles helped too. This campaign is the first time we have actively engaged local press, so we are delighted it helped Macca!"*

Thanks for reading! We hope you enjoyed our Autumn Newsletter. Just one last thing before we go: Please don't forget to ensure your pets are sheltered, safe and secure during fireworks season! That's all for now. Toodle-pip!