

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2015

*Exclusive! A special birthday is fast approaching. Cat Chat is turning 15!
Go to page 4 to read all about it.*

Positive thinking about FIV

F^{IV} positive cats can be difficult to rehome, due to a general lack of awareness and education about the virus. We know more about FIV today than ever before, and that's why, thankfully attitudes are slowly changing. For some 'positive' proof, check out the news of **Suki**, **Dillon** and **Al Capone** in this issue!

Success for Suki!

W^{ITH} a friendly, fuss-loving nature and a gorgeous, striking tortoiseshell coat to match, it is hard to imagine how such a lovely cat like Suki could have ever ended up in rescue searching for a forever home.

Sadly though, when this three-year-old moggy was first brought to National Animal Welfare Trust (NAWT) in Thurrock, Essex by social services, it was because her owner had died, leaving her a lost and lonely cat. Step by step, the rescue gave her the TLC she craved, and before long, Suki, though quiet

in nature, was thoroughly enjoying being made a fuss of and often spoke to her carers to let them know she appreciated being stroked and made a fuss of! She was given a cat MOT, consisting of being spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed, de-fleaded and blood tested. That's when it was confirmed that she was FIV positive. Suki was added to **NAWT's Cat Chat homing page** in the hope someone would notice this beautiful little lady, be understanding of her condition and, hopefully,

see her for the stunning cat she is. The rescue and all its cats crossed their fingers and paws in hope...



Thankfully, Suki's luck was in! Her new owners were told all about FIV, and went ahead and adopted her. She is now settled in a home where she is truly worshipped (naturally, she says) and is thoroughly spoiled!

• Find out about **FIV**.

Big Thanks to ITV's 'Give a Pet a Home'

We'd like to say a double Thank You to the ITV Series 'Give a Pet a Home'...

"Thank You" number 1 is for helping to raise the profile of rescued animals. Whilst the series naturally features many friendly and cute animals up for adoption, it also showcases some of the less 'easy' animals needing a home. So full marks to ITV for a programme which helps to educate and inform about the genuine welfare needs of animals, and not just another 'pretty pets' show. Give a Pet a Home goes out on Wednesday nights at 8pm.



"Thank You" number 2 is to the show's production team, who decided to include a link to Cat Chat on their Show page, which gives information and links to those wishing to adopt animals in all parts of the UK. You can visit the showpage as follows, then click on the UK map link, titled "Give a Pet A Home from wherever you are in the UK"

www.itv.com/giveapetahome

Well done ITV for putting 'animal rescue' on the prime-time map!

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HOMES

All of these beautiful cats have been waiting in rescue shelters for over a year for someone to take them home!



BILLY - FOUR PAWS CAT RESCUE, OXFORDSHIRE

Sweet natured, affectionate Billy wants to be your best friend. He would like a quiet home with a garden to potter around in!

Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – Oxfordshire >>

TILLY & CHERRY - KINGSDOWN CAT SANCTUARY, KENT

Tilly and Cherry are sweet, gentle females in spite of their difficult past. They'd like a quiet home, where their owner is around quite a bit for company.

Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – East Kent >>



OLIVE - FELINE NETWORK, DEVON

This little lady is such a great character. She is a beautiful green eyed girl, who is inquisitive and likes high places!

Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – Devon >>

MOLLY - CAT CUDDLES SANCTUARY, LONDON

This beautiful Senior Kittizen has it all... She has an affectionate, gentle nature and a calming aura! Now all she needs is some Tender Loving Care in a new home.

Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – East London >>



FLAME - KENMARE LOCALITY ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY, CO. KERRY

Flame is an affectionate, charming young chap. He loves chatting to humans, and needs lots of love and a special diet.

Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – Munster, Ireland >>

JEMIMA - KATS CRADLE CAT RESCUE, WEST MIDLANDS

If you are looking for a cat that likes to be fussed, you've come to the right place! This youngster is looking for a home where she will receive lots of fuss and affection!

Visit Overlooked Cats seeking homes – West Midlands >>



OVERLOOKED CATS: To find out more about these and other overlooked cats, visit our 'Overlooked Cats' section, and select your area from the map:

www.catchat.org/topcats

Happy Homing UPDATE!!

In our winter Special Appeals section, we featured Lazer (left) from Angels House Animal Rescue, Dublin. We were thrilled when his rescuers contacted us to say "Lazer has gone to a new home thanks to Cat Chat. Thank you so much!"



Congratulations Lazer!

CATS NEEDING HOMES NEAR YOU!

MORE and more shelters and rehoming groups are taking up our free Cat Homing Pages to help with their rehoming. The latest rescuers to start a page are below. **So it's a warm Cat Chat welcome to...**

- Limerick Feral Cats, Munster
- Cats Protection - Worcester & District, Worcs
- Wanderers Haven Animal Sanctuary, East London
- National Animal Welfare Trust - Hertfordshire
- RSPCA - Lincolnshire North & Humber, Lincs.
- Cats Protection - Tenterden & District, Kent
- Burtonport Animal Rescue, Ulster
- Poppy's Place Animal Rescue, Kent
- Cork Animal Care Society, Munster
- Paws A While Cat Rescue, Hants
- Carla Lane Animals In Need, Merseyside
- The Ark Animal Rescue & Retirement Home, Lincs
- Rescued Animals In Need (RAIN), London
- Berwick Animal Rescue Kennels, Northumberland
- Country Hill Animal Shelter, Devon
- Clay County Cat Care, Cornwall
- Pawprints Cat Rescue, West Yorks
- City Cat Shelter, Brighton, Sussex
- Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary, Bristol
- Here for Cats, Surrey
- Cats Protection - Telford & District, Shrops
- The Demanding Cat Rescue, South Yorkshire
- Cats Protection - Chiltern, Bucks
- Cats Protection - Portsmouth, Hants
- Feline Care Cat Rescue Norfolk

Calling Potential Adopters!

There are thousands of super cats featured on our Cats Needing Homes section right now, all longing for their special, 'forever' home. If you could adopt, please visit our **Cats Needing Homes** section.

Calling Rescue Shelters!

All cats and kittens entered onto our free homing pages appear on our central 'Cats Needing Homes' section. If your shelter could do with a helping paw to find more homes, visit our **'Help for Shelters'** page.



Rescuer's corner - Homeless Cat Rescue, Bedfordshire

The cats in the care of Homeless Cat Rescue, Bedfordshire, are cared for in foster homes rather than a shelter. The organisation believes that such an environment gives the best quality of life while waiting for adoption.

Homeless Cat Rescue is firm on the policy of a home check to ensure rehomed cats and kittens will have a safe environment. A follow-up visit is also carried out – usually two-to-four weeks after adoption, to check on how the cat or cats concerned are settling in with their new owners.

The group recognises the dilemma of many adopters on the issue of keeping a cat indoors, or letting them have outside access – perhaps to a garden. They believe that while the outdoor world can be dangerous to cats, that has to be weighed against the natural instinct to explore. Dave from HCR said:

"We can't take that away from them. If we have a cat that shows no interest in going outside, then we will be happy for it to go to an indoor only home. Or, if the cat has a health issue such as deafness, then an indoor home will be

requested. But, on the whole, we love homing cats with access to a garden."

With this in mind, Homeless Cat Rescue always microchips cats before adoption. They are also spayed or neutered before re-homing.

Homeless Cat Rescue raises their funds through car boot sales, selling cat nip toys and of course donations from the public. The group would love to hear from anyone in or near Luton, with items suitable for a car boot sale or that can be sold on eBay. There is also a recommended adoption donation of £50 - willingly paid by the vast majority of adopters.

The charity was established in 2012 and the main people involved are founder and trustee Jackie, treasurer Allie and web manager and trustee Dave. They gratefully acknowledge the willing help of many volunteers and fosterers.



As well as their own website, Homeless Cat Rescue, Bedfordshire have a Cat Chat Homing Page where you can see many super cats waiting for a home. Cats like Bruce (pictured) who had been living as a stray for at least 6 months in the Luton and Dunstable hospital area.

Bruce was not neutered or chipped when he was rescued, and is estimated to be around 18 months to two years old. He likes his home comforts and a fuss but will let you know when he has had enough. Bruce would like a home with no other cats and no young children. He has now been microchipped and neutered!

Find out more about Homeless Cat Rescue, Beds here:

www.homelesscatrescue.co.uk

Or see Bruce, and other cats for homing on their Cat Chat page



TABOO TRIUMPHS OVER TIMID NATURE

This grey and white beauty is certainly not a taboo subject any longer, having been successfully homed despite her extreme shyness. She was with Cat Action Trust 1977 Leeds branch for more than two years due to being so timid. Thankfully, with a helping paw from Cat Chat's **Overlooked Cats** section, she was rehomed, initially on a trial period. We are pleased to report that Taboo has now become a permanent part of her new family!





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Pssst! Cat Chat is nearly 15!

Did you know Cat Chat will be 15 years old in June? The first, very modest version of the site originally launched on 8th June 2000; little did we know how it would grow! More about that in our summer newsletter, but for now we just wanted to let you know. What better excuse to raise a glass - or even just a cup of tea – on 8th June to toast our 15th Anniversary. The toast, we think, should be “here’s to the next 15 years of cat homing!”

Updates on Facebook at: [#CatChat15](#)
and on Twitter here: [@catchatcharity](#)

Cheers!

Catchat15
15 YEARS OF HOMING • 2000-2015

3 x NEW & EXCLUSIVE WRISTBANDS

Want to get your hands on the coolest, most exclusive wristbands in town? Want a choice of colours to match your mood? Want to promote cat adoption too? Then look no further!

Our groovy, colourful, silicon wristbands are designed to help promote adopting a rescued cat. There is a different slogan on each of the three bands, plus two moggie paw-prints and our web address www.catchat.org. The slogans are:

ADOPT A RESCUE CAT (Purple band)
ADOPT A BLACK CAT (Black band)
ADOPT AN OLDER CAT (Pink band)

You can buy them singly (£1.50), or get the set (£4) and save 50p!

Available from the Cat Chat shop:
www.catchat.org/catalog



Cats Protection: A Manifesto for Cats

You've probably had enough General Election news recently to last nine lives... but here's a Manifesto that we hope will get everyone's backing - Cats Protection's "Manifesto for Cats".

The 10-point Manifesto for Cats was unveiled at a parliamentary reception earlier this year. It calls on the new Government to put in place measures to protect cats from abandonment, harm and neglect. Read the full Manifesto here: www.cats.org.uk/uploads/documents/Manifesto_for_Cats.pdf



Find it on Facebook at: [#CatManifesto](#)

Cat Chat fully supports this campaign, calling for a better nation for cats!

AL CAPONE - AGAINST ALL ODDS!

With a name like Al Capone, you might think this cat is a big bruiser that loves to scrap and has a devious nature – but you'd be wrong. In fact, Al Capone's name best suits him for being immensely tough to have withstood all that life has thrown at him.

Having arrived at **Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary** in Merseyside from a local vet, life was already hanging in the balance for this eight-year-old Tabby. His chance of finding someone to take him in and care for him was fading... Al Capone definitely had the odds stacked against him. He looked as though he had been straying for quite some time and had a horrendous abscess, a terrible ear condition, he was an older cat, an ex-feral and to top it off, he was FIV positive. However, thankfully the team at 'Rescue Me' threw this brave boy the lifeline he desperately needed.

Once treated and tidied up, a friendly face was revealed and Al Capone was all set for rehoming. All that was needed was for someone to look into those big green eyes and give him the loving home he so needed... And that's just what they did!

Defying all the odds, Al Capone found the home he deserved. Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary said: "This is our second FIV cat to have found a home recently, thanks to Cat Chat (see Dillon's story also in this newsletter). We honestly thought Al Capone would be with us for quite some time, but someone saw him and fell in love! We

cannot thank Cat Chat enough."

We're delighted that for this Al Capone, prowling the streets is now a thing of the past!

Many lovable rogues like Al are picked up as strays, usually due to not being neutered. If you could give an ex-stray a new life, ask at your local rescue centre:

www.catchat.org/adoption



14 YEAR OLD SQUIRTLE'S BATTLE FOR HAPPINESS!

When Rugeley Cats Society in the West Midlands first heard a big-eyed, tortoiseshell Senior Kittizen named Squirtle was to join their ranks, they knew he was one of a kind...



Nicknamed "Squirtle the Turtle" due to his tortoiseshell coat

(and a Pokémon character!), this 14-year-old boy arrived a bewildered and very sad soul, due to his beloved owner passing away. As time passed however, he slowly began to shine again – being a loving, social, fuss-loving feline. His incredibly expressive face and those big eyes won the hearts of the shelter's carers! Squirtle loved to chat and purr while being stroked and made a fuss of.

Squirtle was found to have a growth on his head, and was booked into surgery to have it removed and analysed. The good news was it was found to be completely

harmless. The surgery further enhanced his dashing looks, and also increased the chance of finding a forever home. His age was undeniably going to be an issue, but Squirtle and his rescuers never gave up hope.

Safe to say, Squirtle managed to find himself a fantastic new home! He settled in very well after being spotted on **Rugeley Cat Society's Cat Chat page**. One of their volunteers said he was "the most loving and awesome cat I've ever had the pleasure to meet."

Lets hear it for Squirtle the Turtle!

DILLON SWAPS DOCKS FOR DES. RES!

Abandoned cars, wheelie bins, doorsteps... the list of locations for where abandoned cats are found is endless, but for Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary in Merseyside, there was a new one to add to their list – the docks.

Roaming alone in an awful condition, young boy Dillon (right) was rescued when all hope seemed lost. This two-year-old feline was at last taken in and cared for, and tested positive for FIV.

Determined to turn Dillon's life around, the Rescue Me team rallied round to help the poor little chap. A health check and groom session later, Dillon was transformed into Prince Charming! His gorgeous tabby and white coat was revealed and his

stunning turquoise eyes charmed everyone at the rescue centre.

Dillon was also found to be very good natured – despite a tough start in life, there didn't seem to be a bad bone in his body. Surely there was just no way this boy could be turned down for a new home...

"Drumroll please..." Love was clearly in the air in February; Dillon stole his new owner's heart and he trotted off to a wonderful new home. Rescue Me Animal Sanctuary said: "We want to say a huge thank you as several of our harder to home cats have now found homes thanks to Cat Chat."

Many shelters across the UK have FIV cats needing homes, and some



will pay for any future **FIV related** veterinary costs even after homing.

Thinking of adopting an FIV cat? Check out the 'FIV Owners Club' on our **Feline Forum!**

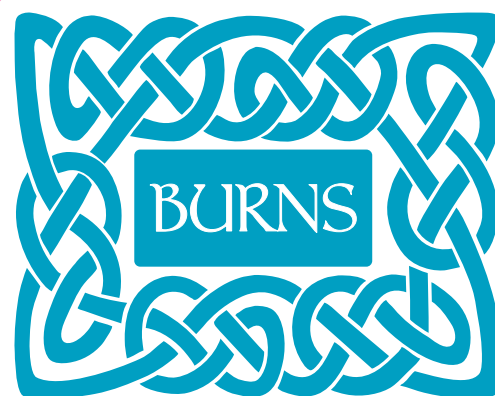
OVER 8,000 CATS HOMED IN 2014

Earlier this year we carried out a 'Cat Homing Survey' (kindly sponsored by **Burns Pet Nutrition**) to find out from shelters and rescue groups around the country how many cats had been found homes with Cat Chat's help during 2014. The results certainly surprised us!

The last time we compiled homing figures was back in 2009, and the estimated figure then was around 5,200 cats annually. We knew the homing numbers had steadily increased in the years since then, but we hadn't realised by how many. This latest survey showed that the number of cats & kittens homed over the course of 2014 through the Cat Chat pages was around 8,300!

The increase is partly due to higher visitor figures and greater awareness of Cat Chat, but also the launch last summer of our new Cats Needing Homes database, which has proved very successful. Needless to say we were all delighted and pretty gob-smacked!

We're extremely grateful to all the shelters that responded so positively to our survey. Massive thanks also to Burns Pet Nutrition, who very generously donated 3 x prizes of 7 kilos of their Original Cat Food, Chicken and Brown Rice to be awarded to three shelters drawn at random from all respondents. The winning shelters were: Cats Protection Glasgow branch, Leeds Cat Rescue, and RSPCA Friern Barnet branch.



Whilst more than 8,000 cats in happy homes last year because of Cat Chat is a fantastic result, we know that there is still much more we can achieve. This year we'll be aiming to raise awareness of Cat Chat further, to reach even more potential adopters!

We won't rest until every cat is a wanted cat!

Well that just about does it! As we trot off back to our cat baskets, we hope very much that you've enjoyed this edition of our newsletter. Don't forget you can keep up with the furry goings on via our website: catchat.org or at facebook.com/CatchatCharity or twitter.com/catchatcharity Toodle Pip!