

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2015

15th Anniversary 'Thank You's'!

Amazingly to us, June 8th marked Cat Chat's 15th anniversary. The time has flown by! So much has been achieved in that time, with many thousands of cats helped into happy homes. We could not let the occasion go by without some very special 'Thank You' toasts to the lovely people who do so much to make Cat Chat work.

It's not often that our trustees (pictured right) come out of the shadows to be photographed, but on this occasion we thought it would be fitting. So it's 'Happy Birthday' to Cat Chat, and big 'THANK YOU's to...

Thank you to our fabulous **Volunteers** who have given, and continue to give their time, effort and skills over the last 15 years, on behalf of rescue cats everywhere. We are so grateful, and very proud of our team!

Thank you to our **Supporters and Sponsors**, whose kind and generous help, both financial and otherwise, is greatly appreciated. We cannot thank you all enough!

Thank you to the **'Friends of Cat Chat'** and to all who support us by **donating**, or who **help us** via eBay, Easyfundraising, Giveacar, our **Webshop**, and much more!

Thank you to our **Patrons & Famous Friends**, whose support, advice, help and encouragement is invaluable!

We know we can help even more cats, and shelters in the future, and we are so grateful to all those who are helping us to make that happen...

Here's to the next 15 years!



15 MOST OVERLOOKED CATS



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



CATCHAT.ORG #overlooked15

'Favourite' Facebook Post

We loved this post from Angela B, spotted on our Facebook page recently, in response to a post about one of the 'Overlooked 15' cats:

"Next time I am in a position to adopt a cat, I'm just going to ask who is the longest resident. Colour, breed, gender are unimportant; to be able to give a home to a cat who really needs it, is much more important."

Well said Angela, we totally agree!

Follow us on Facebook us here:
www.facebook.com/CatchatCharity



Together Forever: Kitten trio trot off to new home!

It's often said that three's a crowd, but for a trio of utterly gorgeous kittens rescued by City Cat Shelter in Brighton, East Sussex an exception was most definitely made, leading to all three being adopted into the same home!

Born to mum Emily on March 7, 2015 the kittens were the talk of the shelter – some volunteers had never seen newborn kittens before, and Emily and her brood became quite the cat celebrities!

Staff were fascinated that a black cat had produced kittens coloured black, grey and tortoiseshell, and to see them grow and develop over the following weeks from furry jellybeans to miniature cats with different personalities. Lizzy Rinder from City Cat Shelter explained: "The tortoiseshell was the first to walk, talk and eat solids, but was the shyest with people, whereas the little black one was the last to reach milestones, but the loudest, most chatty and most cuddly!"

At the age of eleven weeks, the trio left the shelter and went to their new home all together after an enquiry through their Cat Chat page. As they were by then the City Cat Shelter's

oldest kittens, they were much missed at first – that is until the next litter found their paws and their voices!

There was good news for Emily too – she was neutered and has now been rehomed through Cat Chat as well. "She was a brilliant mum, chatting constantly to her babies and flying to their side at the slightest sign of alarm," said Lizzy. "She definitely helped them to become the social and confident little trio they were when they left."

"Cat Chat is proving to be a great way for us at City Cat Shelter to advertise cats; we mention it constantly on our Facebook page and lots of visitors ask for cats by name now."



See more super cats on [City Cat Shelter's Cat Chat page](#)

Sweet seniors become little gems

Handed in to **Kirkby Cats Home** in Nottingham because they were unwanted, and being of a more mature age, eight-year-old pair Treacle and Truffle (below) were keeping all paws crossed that their dream of finding a loving home together could one day come true... and with a little bit of Cat Chat help, it did!

Now named Emerald and Ruby (which they are answering to so approval seems to have been given!), they have filled the gap left by a much-loved family pet. Their new owner said the pair are already settling in:

"Emerald settled in really quickly and is snuggling up to us all at any opportunity," she said. "Ruby needed some space and hid for the first few hours at home, but once I bought a catnip toy she ventured out of her hiding place and has now decided the office chair is her spot. She's going to need a lot of confidence building, but we've got all the time in the world. Hopefully she'll come round, but if she wants to remain mardy, that's ok with us."



Calling Shelters! If your rescue group has cats needing homes, then you need a free Cat Chat Homing Page! Here are the latest cat rescue organisations to have one:

- Ravens Rescue UK
- Beacon Animal Rescue Centre
- Strawberry Persian Cat Rescue
- Hay Cat Rescue
- Blue Cross Foster Scheme – Hadlow College
- RSPCA - Suffolk East & Ipswich
- RSPCA Croydon, Crystal Palace & District
- Crofter's Rescue
- MK Cat Rescue
- Tendring & District Cats Protection

All cats entered to the homing pages automatically appear on our searchable '**Cats Needing Homes**' section.

Cat Rescue Centres wanting a page should visit: www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

Volunteer Spotlight

I began volunteering with Cat Chat after my adopted Senior Kittizen, Leo (below) passed away. I didn't feel ready to adopt again but really wanted to help cats find loving homes, as I had been able to offer Leo. I have always been a cat lover and had come across Cat Chat when looking to adopt Leo. When I saw that the charity were looking for a new trustee I felt that the role would be perfect for me, as a way to still help cats and kittens even though I wasn't feeling ready to adopt again yet. I immediately felt like part of a family at Cat Chat - we all share a great love of cats and commitment to helping those cats in shelters find their forever homes. As a trustee I attend monthly meetings to update on how many cats we are currently helping to home, and how we can continue to increase that number! My role is primarily focused at using social media to support the Cat Chat website and the other volunteers who update our Facebook and Twitter pages.



Having joined just before Cat Chat's 15th Birthday I started working on ideas to use social media to celebrate this milestone and also use it as a means to start an online campaign to help home 15 of the most 'overlooked' cats. This took some coordinating between a few of us on the committee to prepare photos and information about each cat and then post about one cat per day in the 15 days leading up to the birthday. So far there have been enquiries made about several of the cats, and some homings too; cats that had been in shelters for over 2 years! This is one of the most rewarding parts of being a volunteer. Hearing that the cats have found their forever families and are now in loving homes makes an already enjoyable volunteer role even more fulfilling. [Lynsey Mahmood](#)

You can follow the campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) by searching [#overlooked15](#) or on the website: [Overlooked15](#). We will be updating followers on any homing news we hear for the cats still needing homes.

The 15 Most Overlooked Rescue Cats in the UK..?

To mark Cat Chat's 15th Anniversary, our birthday wish is to find homes for 15 of the most 'overlooked' rescue cats, all of whom have been waiting for a home for over a year! Here are just a few of them:

STAR at Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, Bridgend

Waiting Over 4 Years

It's no wonder this 5 year old girl has 'catitude'. All she needs is a loving home with someone patient she can learn to trust to make her happy again.



SID at Celia Hammond Animal Sanctuary, Sussex

Waiting for Over 3 Years

A friendly, cheeky chappy, who likes to be centre of attention! He would like an adult home with a safe garden, away from roads. Overlooked purely because he is 'just plain black and white'.



ANGEL at Thanet Cat Club, East Kent

Waiting for Over 2 Years

7 year old Angel, loves a warm lap and lots of fuss, but can be unpredictable at times. She needs a cat-wise person, who will accept her quirky nature, and build her confidence. She longs for a loving, understanding home with a garden.



FLUFFY & SPOT at Cats in Need, Leicestershire

Waiting for Over 2 Years

12 year old Fluffy and her 10 year old son Spot would love to find a home with no young children or other pets. They have lots of love and affection to give to those they know and trust.



MUFFETT at Celia Hammond Animal Sanctuary, Sussex -

Waiting for Over 3 Years

A sweet natured cat, with lots character; sometimes a bit of a madam if she doesn't get her own way! Muffett longs for a quiet, child-free, pet-free home with a garden, and someone someone who has time to devote to her.



Could you adopt one of the most Overlooked Cats?

Could you help by spreading the word? You can find out more about all 15 cats here:

[Visit... Overlooked 15](#)

Rescuer's Corner - Safe and Sound Animal Care, Hants.

Founded in 2010, the aim of Safe and Sound Animal Care is to help with the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of the increasing number of stray and unwanted pets in an area covering a 40 mile radius of Fleet, Hants.

The charity started with just three volunteers and has grown to a team of over 50, with between 60 – 65 animals in care at any one time. While the principal intake is of cats and rabbits, other rescues include chinchillas, rats, degus and birds.

Foster animals come from various sources such as vets and social services as well as strays and beloved pets needing a new home due to a change in owners' circumstances. They are looked after in volunteers' homes, where they live as part of the family. Safe and Sound Animal Care believes this helps with their adoption as prospective owners see the true temperament and personality of their chosen pet. It also lessens the stress for the animal, especially if they have been through a traumatic experience, and enables foster carers to monitor the animals' progress.

Animals are neutered before adoption, or are homed under



a neutering contract if underage. Cats and dogs are microchipped and vaccinated where necessary. Safe and Sound Animal Care carries out home visits with prospective owners to ensure the best match between owner and animal. A post adoption check is also carried out 6 – 8 weeks after homing, and lifetime backup is

offered in case of a change in circumstances.

Sadly, the rescue organisation has noticed a growing reluctance to adopt black or black and white cats. A spokesperson said: "Every year we struggle to find homes for these cats and kittens, yet they have lovely personalities and are no different from any other cat needing a home."

One example is two-year old Squidge (right), who has now been with Safe and Sound Animal Care for 10 months. Abandoned by her owner, along with her sister and kittens, she's a lovely, friendly family cat who is great with children.



As the number of animals in need of help is growing, the charity has a list of animals needing foster care and the group is always looking for volunteers to help. There are a number of roles available, from foster carers to transporters. Safe and Sound Animal Care is self-funded - so constantly looking for ways to raise money to cover daily expenses and the large vet bills.

Anyone interested in helping with any aspect of the rescue, please contact Clare on **07785 724194** or email: general@safeandsoundanimalcare.com

As well as on Cat Chat: **Safe and Sound Animal Care** you can see Safe and Sound Animal Care animals on their website, www.safeandsoundanimalcare.com or Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SafeandSoundAnimalCare .

Getting Social for the Overlooked 15!

We've been delighted at the recent increase in the number of people 'liking' our Facebook page or 'following' us on Twitter! If you follow Cat Chat on social media you will have noticed all the extra activity lately, especially around our 'Overlooked 15' campaign #overlooked15.

The Overlooked 15 campaign, aims to find homes for 15 of the longest-stay cats in shelters across the UK. This is our first major initiative to be primarily promoted via social



media, and we are so grateful to all of you who are helping to get these cats noticed, by 'sharing' or 're-tweeting' our posts about the cats. Special thanks to writer **Tom Cox** and **HiLife Petfoods**, who have tweeted about the campaign, to their many followers!

At the time of writing, two

of the 15 cats have been homed, both of whom had been in rescue for well over a year. **Billy** (below) from Four Paws Cat Rescue in Oxford, and **Titus** (left) from Stray Cat Rescue, Toddington, Beds have both found smashing news homes following their appearance on the campaign, and we couldn't be happier for them!



To see which cats are still looking for a home, check out the **Overlooked 15** web page. We sincerely hope to bring news of more happy homings next time – but for now, it's...

Congratulations to Billy and to Titus!

You can join us for updates on the campaign, and for all our news-between-newsletters here: Facebook or Twitter:

Facebook - facebook.com/CatchatCharity

Twitter - twitter.com/catchatcharity

Web page www.catchat.org/overlooked15.html



NERVOUS NELLIE PACKS HER TRUNK AND SAYS GOODBYE TO THE SHELTER

Scared out of her wits, violent at times and with no confidence, white and tortoiseshell lady Nellie was never going to be an easy cat to care for. But thanks to persistence and TLC from Thanet Cat Club in Kent, and some Cat Chat 'Overlooked Cats' magic, she defied all the odds!



Nellie was rescued from a garden where a kind resident had been feeding her, but could not take her in.

Poor Nellie was so frightened. Michelle from the shelter explained. "Even cleaning her pen and

talking to her made her hide or wet herself, and when trying to approach her, she would get into a real state and scratch out."

Time passed and Nellie settle into a routine. Adopters came and went, but didn't choose her due to her fearfulness. She began to accept people gradually, as long as they didn't try to touch her.

Signs were showing that Nellie would possibly settle into a home, but on her own terms. She loved to be talked to, and would dribble, 'nest' and purr," said Michelle. "She loves her food and you could actually stroke her for a short time while she was eating. There were a couple of volunteers Nellie actually took

to and felt safe with, and would venture out of her pen and rub herself against their legs."

In March 2015 Nellie was added to the Cat Chat Overlooked Cats page and incredibly, after two-and-a-half years of her being with Thanet Cat Club, she was spotted by a lady called Bianca, who fell in love with her immediately! She sat with Nellie, listened about her life so far and decided no matter how long it took or how much she would improve, Nellie was the cat for her.



"Nellie has found her human soul mate," said Michelle. "She runs to Bianca when her name is called, and rubs around her legs while watching television. When Bianca was ill, Nellie laid we her on the bed"

"She also comes running when she sees Bianca pick up the brush and enjoys hour-long pamper sessions. I've recently been informed she has since sat on her owner's lap and had a five-minute fuss!"

All of us at Cat Chat are delighted for Nellie!
See cats needing homes on [Thanet Cat Club's Cat Chat Page](#)

CAT CHAT IN THE PRESS

Being a web based charity, most people find cat chat on-line, but there's no doubt that coverage in good old printed media helps to raise extra awareness beyond the internet – and reach even more potential cat adopters!

So we'd like to say a big "thank you" to those publications who have included cat chat in their pages recently.

The first thank you goes to Cats Protection, who included a super three-page article about Cat Chat in the summer issue of their magazine 'The Cat'. The article gave a 'potted history' of cat chat and how we have developed over the last 15 years. We are delighted to be able to help many Cats Protection branches to find extra homes for cats



in their care, and were thrilled to have been given such lovely coverage in their excellent magazine.

Entitled 'A tale of two kitties', a reference to Gemini and George, the 'feline founders' of Cat Chat, the full article can be viewed here: [A tale of two kitties](#).

Our second thank you goes out to

those caring regional newspapers that have kindly helped publicise our "15 most overlooked cats" campaign. They have featured whichever of the 15 cats are in need of a home in their area, both in print and also in their on-line newspapers.

At the time of writing, some articles are still yet to appear, but those who have helped so far are: the Surrey Mirror, Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser, Grimsby Telegraph, East Lindsey Target, Northern Times, North Star, Hinckley Times, Leicester Mercury, Kilmarnock Standard, Bridgend GEM, Rye Observer, East Anglian Daily times and Bedfordshire on Sunday.

Thank you all!

Supporter's Corner

Featuring HiLife Pet Foods



GETTING YOUR CAT'S DIET RIGHT

Out in the wild cats get all the nutrition they need by preying on small animals such as mice and birds. That's all well and good in the great outdoors but the chances are that your cat, like millions of others in the UK, comes rolling home when he's hungry and relies on you to provide sustenance.

While dogs are omnivorous and able to digest vegetable and animal proteins, cats are carnivores, which leaves them needing muscle-based meat in their diets. In theory felines can draw enough protein from eating plant material to survive, but they need the amino acid taurine that is commonly found in meat, if they are to thrive.

Wet food with the primary ingredient of meat or fish, is likely to provide a meal that fits perfectly with the dietary needs of the majority of cats, if you choose a brand synonymous with top quality ingredients. However, it's worth noting that a poor quality wet food is less likely to provide as much nutritional goodness as a top quality dry meal.

Some people opt for dry cat food because it can work out cheaper than wet, doesn't spoil as easily and tends not to smell too strongly after being left for a while at room temperature. Unfortunately carbohydrates feature prominently in dry food and the proteins that a cat craves naturally are not as prevalent as they tend to be in wet food.

Our HiLife tempt me! Meal range, provides excellent nutrition for your cat. Each variety contains real fish or meat and in jelly, sauce or gravy. It comes in easy to use pouches and contains natural ingredients, all-important taurine, plus a range of nutritional additives, including vitamins. We don't use any of the artificial ingredients that your cat doesn't need and the range continues to attract rave reviews from pet owners.

Based in Melton Mowbray, we have been successfully manufacturing pet foods since 1974 and are delighted to be supporting Cat Chat. Cat Chat performs wonderful work in finding caring new homes for the thousands of cats who reside in rescue while awaiting a new life. We are proud to sponsor such a worthy cause and wish everyone involved in Cat Chat continued success for the future.

The HiLife brand of dog and cat foods is owned by family-run Town & Country Petfoods, based in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. HiLife is one of the UK's most popular pet food ranges. Its high quality, wholesome products are available in most leading supermarkets and pet specialist stores as well as online at www.hilifepet.co.uk

Love-struck family give heart-throb Paddington a new lease of life!

Four-year-old Paddington is a very special cat. Abandoned when he was no longer a kitten, he spent most of his life fending for himself. Someone took pity on him and started to feed him, and eventually he was trapped by **Little Cottage Rescue** in Luton, Beds, and taken to the vet for neutering.

The vet fell in love with the charming chap and flatly refused to allow him to be released back to where he was found (very often the only option for feral cats if they cannot be handled). He thought he was a "lapsed domestic" and would be homeable.

During his month's stay at the vet, Paddington captivated everyone. While unpredictable at times, it was clear he wanted to fit in and be loved. The nurses could handle him with care, and he finally started to purr.

Champagne-coloured Paddington had striking good looks, and though desperate for affection, would still lash out if he was scared. After slowly starting to trust people, hope was in sight, but what Paddington needed was an experienced cat owner with the patience and knowledge to work through his problems.



After appearing on Cat Chat for a few weeks, a lady contacted Pam Price of Little Cottage Rescue about Paddington, before then visiting him with her family. "It was love at first sight," said Pam. "The family had kept rabbits and guinea pigs as pets, so had a large, custom-built shed with a run that was perfect to settle Paddington in."

"Once he's settled there are lots of fields and a warm bed in the house if he wants to go indoors which we all are sure he will." Life is now looking **puuurrrfect for Paddington!**

New in the Cat Chat Shop!

Catnip Sack - Natural Hessian Cat Toy.

This is the ideal gift for the discerning moggy who needs to 'unwind' from the stresses of daily life.

These **hand crafted catnip sacks** are stuffed with super strength pure Canadian dried catnip leaf and bud, alongside high grade polyester filling. They are made using high quality natural hessian (perfect for claws and 4-paws play!) and double bagged for extra strength & durability.

Each sack is approximately 14cm x 7cm (5.5" x 3") in size and finished with a colourful cuff, in three designs:

After Eight, Blue Kaleidoscope or Flaming Norah.



Every purchase from the **Cat Chat shop** helps more cats out of shelters and into homes - thank you!

That's all for now! We hope you and your cats have a wonderful summer, and don't forget to stay cool. We'll be back with more cutting edge (well, maybe slightly fluffy) news in the Autumn. Toodle-pip!