

Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



Welcome to the Cat Chat Autumn 2010 Newsletter

Now You See Them....!

No hanging around in rescue centres for these lucky cats... No sooner had they appeared on their rescue's Cat Chat Homing Page, they were snapped up right away!

SHEILA

from Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten rescue in Hornchurch, Essex was spotted within a day of appearing on the homing page back in July!

DAWN

from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare in Notts was added to the homing page one morning in August, and had been reserved by lunchtime!

STORM

from Cat Action Trust 1977 (Doncaster Branch), was added to their page in September, and was homed within a week!

Great news for them, and for their rescuers, who most certainly had another furry customer waiting to take their place.



Dawn



Sheila

Cat Chat now has around 200 Homing Pages featuring cats in rescue centres all over the UK. To see who might be waiting for you, go to: www.catchat.org/adoption and select your area, (look out for the red 'pawprint' buttons!)

Supporter's Corner

Featuring Cat Chat's first commercial supporter, advertising with us since 2002, before we became a charity!

ERIN HOUSE
PRINTS & FIGURINES

ERIN HOUSE



Erin House Prints is a family business and was established over 12 years ago originally selling just cat pictures. They have grown a lot since then and now sell a wide range of other Limited Edition pictures and feline collectables, figurines, pictures, leather bags, door stops, paper weights, mugs and other ceramic items.

Linda Jane Smith is their specialist subject. Her cat pictures, figurines, book and greeting cards are available and they have added lots more feline artists and cat related products including Ciccia "Little Cat" handbags and purses and Dora Design doorstops and scented paperweights all of which make great collectables for you or brilliant gifts for your cat loving friends.

New for Christmas 2010.

Kitschy Kats, art deco style contemporary cat figurines from Enesco.

From Country Artists Magnificent Meerkats, a new range of tongue in cheek figurines illustrating some of the most illustrious meerkat heroes throughout the ages. To give you an idea their names are Monte, Horatio, Bader etc, need we say more!

New Comic and Curious Cat figurines from Border Fine Arts including, for the first time, some Christmas decorations. Also a great 2011 Linda Jane Smith Calendar with stunning pictures for each month.

Additional Kitten Tales figurines have also been released by Country Artists.

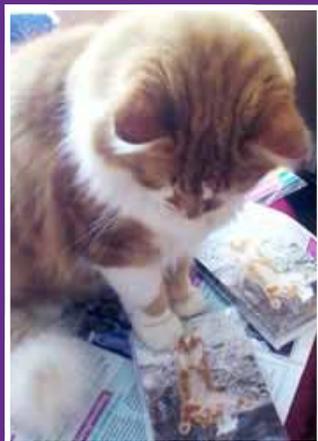
Their website is split into 3 main categories, Pictures, Figurines and Gift Ideas and you will find lots of great feline products in each category.

Visit: www.erinhouseprints.com and browse their website today!



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CAT'S EYE VIEW

by Ziggypig Cat

The Making of the 2010 Cat Chat Christmas Card

This is for all the cats out there who know what it's like to have a human who's a keen photographer... The long suffering felines, who find themselves

popping out of printers everywhere, in all manner of stances. Sometimes, lucky enough to be snapped at their best; looking like proud jungle beasts, or perhaps fine porcelain ornaments. Other times they might be captured mid-play, in total abandonment when all dignity goes out the window!

I think back to one such day in our back garden, when the snow had fallen. I couldn't wait to get outside and bounce around, taking out any snowflake that dared to come near me. When right before my eyes, came the biggest group of snowflakes I had ever seen! A whole gang of vigilante snowflakes, and they were after me! It was payback time! No, No, No, get a grip Ziggers! I then realised my human had thrown a ball of snowflakes which was supposed to go over my head. Too tempting I'm afraid; it needed to be thwacked! I can tell you now, that if you ever find yourself in that position, think twice before thwacking one of those things!

Anyway, the point of this issue's report is to let you know that this image was captured on camera, and made into this year's Cat Chat Christmas card! 'My' card is now on sale in the Cat Chat shop:

www.catchat.org/catalog

The best thing is that by buying these cards, you'll be helping more cats out of shelters, into homes!

I've decided that when we cats are photographed, be it sophisticated or just plain funny - it matters not. The bottom line is that we are beautiful, interesting, enigmatic creatures and the humans can't get enough!

This is Ziggypig Cat, reporting for Cat Chat News, down beside the radiator.

Successful Senior Kittizens!

Give it up if you will, for Mallory & Oxo and Ravi (homed with his mate Blackjack)... All firm believers that life begins at 10:

Mallory & Oxo



We have success with two of our golden oldies Oxo & Mallory who have gone as a pair to a lovely home today. We are very pleased as these two beauties have been together all their lives and love each other and rub up to each other all of the time. They have taken to their new owner like they were meant to be and we wish them all every happiness!

PAWZ FOR THOUGHT, SUNDERLAND

Blackjack & Ravi



Blackjack and Ravi have found a lovely home together with a fabulous family, a very happy ending especially for Ravi; an older cat! Many thanks.

CAT ACTION TRUST 1977, DONCASTER BRANCH

Congratulations. May your days be filled with warm radiators, easy chairs and tasty nibbles!

Latest Cat Chat Homing Pages to go Live:

Good luck and purrs of contentment to the latest Rescue Organisations to have one of our FREE homing pages!

- Poor Little Pets Rescue & Rehome - Keighley, West Yorks
- RACR - Nottingham
- Thorneywood Cat Rescue, Nottingham
- St. Giles Kennels and Cattery, Somerset
- Huntly & Keith CP, Aberdeenshire
- Ray of Hope Animal Rescue, Leeds
- Welwn/Hatfield District Cats Protection
- Feline Friends Rehoming, West Kent
- Argyll Animal Aid
- Hendon, Finchley & Mill Hill Cats Protection

Our homing pages are available to all UK Rescue Centres and Rehoming Groups, large or small. For more information, visit: www.catchat.org/rehoming_page.html

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Purrfect Pairs - Homings To The Power of Two!

It's always great when cats are rehomed with their friends or siblings, as they can comfort each other whilst settling into their new home. Once settled, they can occupy each other during the times you are going about your daily routine. These are some of the 'Purrfect Pairs' to have been homed together since our last newsletter:



COCOA & COFFEE
from Pawz for Thought, Sunderland



CHOCOLATE & PEACHES
from Pawz for Thought, Sunderland



FABIO & FREYIA
from Whiteknights Rescue, Reading



STAN & OLLIE
from Kingsdown Cat Sanctuary, Deal



SCAMPI & SNOWBALL
From Stourbridge & District RSPCA



ANGEL & MORGAN
from Cats' Friends, Northants



SUGAR & SPICE
from Wellingborough & Rushden Cats Protection



ANNIE & BEATRICE
from Midlands Animal Rescue Team, Walsall



BOBBY & BRIAN
from Ann & Bill's Cat & Kitten Rescue, Hornchurch



TABBY ONE & TABBY TWO
from Feline Friends, Sunderland



ARTHUR & MERLIN
from Pet Rehome, Bolton, Lancs



SAMMI & STEVIE
from All Animal Rescue, Southampton

Also homed, but not pictured:

POLLY BLACK & HER KITTEN from Burton Joyce Cat Welfare

LULU & PANSY from Clacton Animal Aid

Hats off and tails up to all of you... We wish you every happiness!

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Featured Rescue: Welwyn / Hatfield District Cats Protection

This new CP branch had been operational for just a couple of weeks when they received a very 'hands-on' (not to mention gloves!) kitten rescue request. An elderly, gentleman had taken in a stray female cat just before Christmas. Predictably, kittens soon arrived in the front room, and this is where they stayed until late July! The kindly gent tried to cope, but the kittens grew fast, became overrun with fleas during the summer, and were all trying to use one small litter tray. They were then forced to relieve themselves wherever they could, and eventually the gentleman realised he needed help!



One of the branch volunteers describes the scene as a truly desperate situation; with kittens so hungry they rushed forward to gorge themselves on the food they'd put down. "We were not quite sure where to start as there was excrement everywhere; the smell of ammonia was choking". The clean-up operation began, and the gentleman agreed for the kittens to be taken into care, leaving him with mum cat. A friend had already kindly taken mum cat to the vets to be neutered under the C4 (London Cat Care & Control Consortium) free neutering scheme - so thankfully there would be no more unwanted kittens!

Mum cat is now enjoying one to one companionship with her gentleman, and the kittens went into the care of a dedicated fosterer who taught them the joys of affection and play (and sufficient litter trays!) There are many adorable kittens available for rehoming from Welwyn Hatfield CP. See their Cat Chat Homing Page for details: www.catchat.org/welwyncp/cgibin/prtoc.cgi

A lack of neutering can quickly and easily lead a situation to get out of hand; pregnant cats are often abandoned to face great hardship, any surviving offspring may also go on to reproduce and add to the ever increasing numbers of unwanted cats. This situation could have quickly deteriorated even further, putting animal's lives at risk, not to mention the health risk at the property. Help towards the cost of neutering is available from many animal charities including C4 and Cats Protection.

Thanks to Welwyn Hatfield CP for their story. Visit the 'Support Us' page of their website to find how you can help them continue their work: www.welwynhatfield.cats.org.uk

More on neutering assistance coming up in this newsletter!

NEW IN THE CAT CHAT SHOP!

CHRISTMAS CARDS (Pack of 10) - "What a Save!"

This Christmas card features Ziggypig Cat, a feline friend of Cat Chat, who kindly donated this fabulous photo of himself catching snowballs last winter. Cards come in packs of 10 with envelopes, (all cards are the same design). The cards measure 15.5 cm x 10.5 cm (just over 6" x 4").

www.catchat.org/catalog/



WHITE CHIN (signed copies) - "The Cat that Walked by his Wild Lone" by Marilyn Edwards.

The debut novel for children (aged 10+), and cat-loving adults, by the best selling author of "The Cats of Moon Cottage". Marilyn is a huge supporter of Cat Chat, and has personally signed each of the copies on sale through our Webshop, (Thanks Marilyn!) www.catchat.org/catalog/

KONG "Zoom Groom" - Multi-use cat brush

The Zoom Groom is a gentle but very effective brush, ideal for use when grooming or bathing your cat. The flexible rubber cones remove loose hair, reduce shedding, and stimulates capillaries for healthy skin and coat.

www.catchat.org/catalog/



KONG "Wubba" Mouse - The Ultimate Cat Toy

This super toy is approx. 20cm (8 inches) long with an irresistible catnip scent, a jingly bell inside the body, and crinkly tails to encourage play with both front and hind legs. Cat Cat's own Yogi Cat Demonstrates! www.catchat.org/catalog/

Every purchase from The Cat Chat shop helps more cats out of shelters and into homes! Plus, we also donate a portion of each sale to a cat rescue shelter via our Feline Fund. Happy Shopping!



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Long Termers

This is where we pay tribute to those cats who have been patiently waiting for their lucky break. These are the guys who've built themselves up at the prospect of being adopted each time visitors went to their shelters, only to be let down time and time again. But now they've done it!

So without further ado, lets hear it for:-

ALFONSO, LINCOLN & MAGNUS from Animal Accident Rescue Unit, Nottingham:

Homed in July; these lovely male cats had spent quite a while at the rescue centre.



FLORA from Cat Action Trust 1977, Central & West London branch:

This lady spent almost a year at the rescue, and was homed at last in July.

GINGER from Cats Friends, Northants:

A long awaited, happy outcome for Ginger who has been rehomed in August after many months at the rescue.



MINNIE from Cat Homing & Rescue (CHAR), Warrington:

Minnie had been care for such a long time, and finally went to her new home in September.

SETH & BETTY BOOP from Phoenix Cat Trust, Liverpool:

Finally, the stars of this section have to be these guys, who had been seeking a home since April 09. Finally homed in August 2010!

News of other cats, sadly still waiting for someone special, in our 'Appeal for Homes' feature in this newsletter. Perhaps they'll get their lucky breaks soon too?



Harder To Home Cats - Homed!

Whatever it is that deems cats as 'harder to home' it hasn't stopped the 5 felines below from finding happiness:



CHARLIE

Charlie has indeed found a home, just a few days ago. He has gone to live on a farm where he has full time access to the outdoors, his toilet problems have improved so much since. It was via CatChat that he found this home, so a huge thank you to you once again.

Poor Little Pets Rescue, Keighley, West Yorkshire

MR JONES

Mr Jones our battered, grumpy, late neutered boy has found himself a new home after he was spotted on our Catchat page. We hope he is grateful and behaves himself!

Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, Nottinghamshire



YOURKA, SOCKS AND SOPHERA

We have homed Yourka, Socks and Sophera all to one family via Catchat! It was great they were able to stay as a family group.

Kingsdown Cat Sanctuary, Deal, Kent

Best wishes and Mrrrrrr to all... (nope, we're not sure what that means either, but the cats will understand!)

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Three... Two... One... and ACTION!

We're always looking for new and exciting ways to promote rescue cats, and bring about rehoming. Our latest development, is that we are now able to include videos of cats on Cat Chat. Not only can we now add videos to the Cat Chat Homepage and our Top Cats rehoming section, but rescues who have a homing page on our site, will be able to include them on there too!

A few rescues have been helping us with the initial trials, and have now started using videos on their pages, such as:

Kingsdown Cat Sanctuary: www.catchat.org/kingsdown/cgibin/prtoc.cgi

Bromley & District Cat Rescue: www.catchat.org/bromley/cgibin/prtoc.cgi

Over the coming months we'll be working to see how we can best place cat videos on the Cat Chat site for maximum effect.

Watch this space!

... And they All Lived Happily Ever After!

Don't you just love it when a story ends with those words? Well that's exactly how the story has ended for the 3 cats below. These are the brave heroes of CatChat, who have endured so much in their lives so far, and have finally ended up at the right place:



SONNY

Sonny has found his Karma at last, this gorgeous boy was a little beaten up after his car accident – but a broken jaw and damaged tail didn't hold this outgoing sweet natured guy back, and he's now well loved by his new owners and well missed by the Paws crew whose hearts he stole. Thanks as always to Cat Chat for the well received assistance and hard work.

PAWZ FOR THOUGHT, SUNDERLAND

LEON

Our gorgeous Leon, who cruelly lost his ear tips to someone with a pair of scissors, has been homed via CatChat! He has gone to a great new home 50 miles away, with a sister to play with and some new laps to sit on. Thanks for your help.

SAFE AND SOUND ANIMAL CARE, FARNBOROUGH, HAMPSHIRE



PEGGY

I'm pleased to report that our little black cat Peggy has finally found a new home. She has gone to live with a lovely lady who found us through your site, and saw Peggy on our CatChat homing page. Peggy came from a horrible home where she was used to produce litter after litter of kittens, so now she can finally look forward to a nice life with someone who cares about her. Thanks again.

BROMLEY AND DISTRICT CAT RESCUE, WEST KENT

We salute the cats, rescuers, vets and adopters who gave these stories a happy ending!

So How Does Cat Chat Work Then?

One of the most satisfying sections of the Cat Chat website has to be the "Rehoming Roll of Honour". This is the place to go, to relax for a while, happy in the knowledge that all the cats on these pages have gone off to loving homes. What makes it even more exciting for us is that they were all homed via Cat Chat!

This part of our website is managed by 'PurrfectPaws'; our Rehoming Roll of Honour Administrator, who collects and processes the emails that come through to the section. The photographs for the newly homed cat(s) are standardised to our 'in-house' style, before being placed on the web page for to see. Finally, an acknowledgement email is sent out to the rescue centre concerned.

The cats on our Roll of Honour are just a small selection of cats homed through Cat Chat, although it's estimated that 435 cats/kittens are homed via the website every month. We'd love to feature even more homings on our Roll, so we encourage rescue centres to let us know about their Cat Chat homing successes, by emailing 'PurrfectPaws' on: homed.cats@catchat.org Our Roll of Honour not only celebrates all those happily homed cats, but also gives a well deserved mention to the many hard-working rescue centres out there. 'Roll' on more successes!

So go on... Put your feet up for a bit, and lose yourself in the Cat Chat Rehoming Roll of Honour!

www.catchat.org/roll_honour

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Cat Rescue Abroad

Extreme climate, financial problems and lack of animal welfare standards and neutering programs, mean that rescue shelters abroad are often pushed to their limits. Cats are constantly being born to a life on the streets, often subjected to starvation, disease, poisoning, and untreated injuries.

If you are visiting another country, you might consider finding out about the rescue organisations in the area to see how you can help. You can get in touch with them, often through a website, and find out if there is anything you can take with you that they need, or any help you can offer while you are there.

Many small overseas rescues are desperately in need of items such as basic medications, like flea and worm treatment, which can be a lifesaver, but which are often very expensive abroad. Therefore you may be able to help greatly, by taking these sorts of supplies to them from the UK.

Always make contact with the rescue in advance to let them know you'll be visiting, and to ask them what items they would find the most useful.

Here are just a few websites for rescues in commonly visited countries:-

Cyprus Cat Rescue: www.cypruscatrescue.co.uk

Amsterdam, The Poezenboot: www.poezenboot.nl

France, Les Amis Des Chats: www.les-amis-des-chats.com

Italy, Tuscany Cinni Cat Refuge: www.rifugiogatticinni.org

The Gambia: www.gambicats.org.uk

Malta, Tomasina Sanctuary: www.tomasinasanctuary.org

There will be an animal sanctuary or rescue organisation pretty much wherever in the world you visit. More details can be found here: www.worldanimal.net

Or here: wsipa-international.org/members

Whatever you can offer, however small - will mean a lot to the animals, and to the staff who are working hard to overcome very difficult circumstances in rescues abroad.

FIV VIPS!

A big round of a-paws for the latest FIV+ cats to find love, and a home of their own via the Cat Chat pages.

Good luck boys, and chin tickles aplenty!

THOMAS

"Eventually Thomas our FIV boy has found himself a home thanks to your Top Cats section, his new owner was very knowledgeable about his condition after extensive reading and we are sure Thomas will have a happy life. He was a very healthy boy who'd never had a day's illness with us!"

Kirkby Cats home, Kirkby-in-Ashfield



EDWARD

"The most affectionate indoor FIV Cat Edward has been homed to two really kind sisters, thanks to Top Cats! Thank you so much, he has been waiting so long!"

Animal Accident Rescue Unit, Nottingham

FIV positive cats find it harder than most to find new homes, even though in all other respects they are normal, loving cats, and deserve a chance at a happy life. To find out more about FIV, see our information page: www.catchat.org/fiv.html or visit the FIV Owners Club on our Feline Forum: www.catchat.org/forum.html

Help Homeless Cats when Shopping Online this Christmas:

Don't forget, you can raise funds for Cat Chat whilst shopping online with over 2,000 major retailers! It doesn't cost you anything extra to shop in this way. Simply register at Cat Chat's Easyfundraising page:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/catchat

Then when you want to shop, just log in to Easyfundraising first, and help cats every time you buy!

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NEUTERING YOUR CAT

Every day, 1,000's of healthy cats and kittens are destroyed in the UK because there are just not enough homes to go round. Neutering your cat, both male and female, is the most humane and responsible way of reducing the stray cat population.

Neutering also saves lives:

- Lowers the risk of male aggression and severe fight-injuries
- Reduces the risk of diseases such as F.I.V. and FeLV
- Avoids the risk of female cats developing cystic ovaries or the potentially fatal pyometra.
- Reduces the risk of traffic accidents; un-neutered males chasing after un-neutered females puts them both at risk of road accidents, and of getting lost.

Female Cats should be neutered (spayed) at 5 - 6 months but can be neutered at any age. Neutering can be done earlier, provided the kitten is in good health, but you will need to be guided by your vet. To prevent unwanted litters, your kitten should be kept indoors until it is neutered. Even if your cat is to be kept as an 'indoor cat', it is kinder to neuter her, as she will still come into season.

Male cats should be neutered at six months, but can be neutered at any age thereafter. If your cat is kept indoors, neutering is still the best option. Neutering will prevent him from become sexually frustrated and continually trying to escape, and will also save you from the smelly problem of urine-spraying.

Free and Assisted Neutering!

If you are receiving benefit, are a pensioner, or are on a low income you can get low-cost, and sometimes even no-cost, neutering:

CATS PROTECTION Neutering Vouchers:

Helpline: 03000 12 12 12. Website: www.cats.org.uk

RSPCA Neutering Vouchers:

Helpline: 0300 1234 555. Website: www.rspca.org.uk

PDSA PetAid Hospitals and Practices:

Helpline: 0800 731 2502. Website: www.pdsa.org.uk

INDEPENDENT RESCUES:

Many independent rescue groups will help with neutering costs, or have arrangements with local vets for low cost neutering.

To find out more, or to look for help available in your area, visit our Neutering Information page: www.catchat.org/neuter.html

In just 7 years, 1 un-neutered female cat can give rise to 21,000 cats... The time to neuter is **NOW**.

Special Appeals for Homes!

These [Top Cats](#) have been searching for loving homes for over a year now, and would be very grateful to hear from anyone willing to give them a chance:

TOM

Stunning ginger tom, loves to stroll in the garden - Anglesey, North Wales



HETTY

A Beautiful black cat with a lovely nature - Bromley, Kent



MADDIE & LAINEY

Black & white, and a tabby. FIV+ looking for a quiet home together - Harold Wood, Essex.



CHINA

Long-haired black female, looking to be an only pet - Colchester, Essex.

Stop Press: China is Now Homed



THOMPSON & TIMMY

Two tabby boys, who'd like to be only pets - Wincanton, Somerset.



MELISSA

Black female, who likes cuddles and a fuss on her terms - Wincanton, Somerset.



...and to finish with a 'Bang!' Please enjoy your bonfire night - but don't forget to keep your pets safe and calm. Find out how: petfireworkfear.co.uk