

# Catchat.org

The Cat Rescue Resource  
Reg. Charity No. 1100649



## CAT CHAT NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2017

### A REAL-LIFE HERO

Marley had spent around four years living on the streets, and although people fed him, no-one took responsibility. Luckily for Marley, he wandered into the garden of a lady called Suzanne. Suzanne managed to coax Marley into a pet carrier, and took him to Rolvenden Cat Rescue, Kent where she works as a volunteer. On



arrival at the rescue, poor Marley was dirty, hungry and exhausted but he still made friends with everyone despite all his problems.

As you can see from his photo, this poor boy also had a problem with his ears. The vet said he had previously had skin cancer which led to the removal of part of his ears, and of top of that, he had also sustained further injury due to fighting. Marley had not been neutered and had suffered greatly as a result.

If that weren't enough, it was also discovered that Marley had broken teeth on one side, and a urinary infection that prevented him from passing both fluid and solids.

Rolvenden Cat Rescue set to work, giving Marley all the care and attention he so badly needed. He responded well to the tender loving care, and veterinary treatment, and after two weeks at the vets, his urinary infection was beaten. He was neutered when he was strong enough, and he became happier by the day. The fur began to grow back on his ears, and he could use a litter tray.

After his years on the streets fighting for survival, Marley was also found to be **FIV positive**. But he was healthy, happy and ready to move on. If ever a cat deserved a loving, kind, caring forever home at last, it was Marley! His rescuers knew that finding the right home for Marley wasn't going to be easy. He needed somebody very caring and special to adopt him.

Marley's dreams came true, when he was spotted on [Rolvenden Cat Rescue's Homing Page](#) on Cat Chat and taken to his new home; Marley now has a fresh start with someone to truly love and care for him.

Marley's rescuers said, "If you see a cat in your neighbourhood without an obvious home, please feed them, give them water and shelter and if you are unable to offer a home yourself, inform a rescue centre. They will scan them for microchipping and where possible reunite them with their owner and if not, they will find them a new home." It could make all the difference to a cat's life! To see how much of a difference, watch Marley's video here... <http://bit.ly/2umu7Xh>

**See cats** currently for homing at [Rolvenden Cat Rescue](#)

Cat Chat's **Lost and Found** information page has advice on what to do if you find a lost cat in your area:

[www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-missing-lost-found](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-missing-lost-found)

**FIV** - find out the Facts not the Fiction: [FIV - the Facts](#)

WIN a copy of  
**'The Real Pet Detective'**  
Free prize draw - page 5



## Farewell Dear Friend

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long-standing dear friend, and Cat Chat assistant Ziggy (or Ziggypig as he was known affectionately), who made his journey across Rainbow Bridge on 6 April aged 17.

Ziggy's humans told us *"Ziggy was everything that a cat should be; fun loving yet sensitive, playful yet peaceful, and a first-class fuss pot! However, like all self-respecting moggies, he had his own special way (!) of letting you know when your attention wasn't welcome."*

Ziggy, probably be best known for the photograph of him catching a snowball, which appears on Cat Chat's *"What a Save!"* Christmas card, will be sadly missed by all his friends, family, and colleagues at Cat Chat.

A tribute to Ziggy, along with those of other special cats who have left pawprints on their human's hearts is now on our Remembrance Gallery page. This is a place to remember your much loved cats, and a way to pay a real tribute

to them by helping rescued cats find the homes they need:

[catchat.org/index.php/support/remembrance](http://catchat.org/index.php/support/remembrance)



*Rest in Peace Ziggy xx*

### Services No Longer Required...

Seven year old Tallulah arrived in the care of National Animal Welfare Trust, Tameside branch in March of this year, when she lost her job! She had been living at the back of a shop where she had been 'employed' as a mouser, but the shop closed down and Tallulah was no longer wanted.

When she arrived at the shelter, poor Tallulah was underweight and very shy, as she had never been given much fuss or attention. However, she



**Tallulah**

responded well to her change in fortune, and soon began to quite enjoy having a cosy place to stay, a full belly and lots of love!

Tallulah's rescuers decided that she would be best suited to a quiet home. Somewhere she could get used to in her own time, with someone who would show her what it's like to be loved.

This shy, black cat was spotted by caring new owners on [the branch's Cat Chat Homing Page](#) at the beginning of April. Her rescuers said, *"We want to say thank you for helping Tallulah find a loving home, as her new owner saw her on the ad on our homing page. Tallulah is now enjoying life in a proper home, and she is flourishing!"*

Right now, there are thousands of amazing and unique cats in rescue centres around the UK and Ireland, waiting for someone to offer them a new life.

**Are you Ready to Rescue?** Just visit our "Cats Needing Homes - UK & Ireland" section, and select your area to see cats for adoption near you!

[www.catchat.org/adopt](http://www.catchat.org/adopt)

# Special Appeals for Homes

All of the following cats have been waiting over a year for someone to adopt them, through no fault of their own. If you live in any of the following areas, and are thinking of adopting a cat please read on!

## **HARRY & WILLS at New Beginnings Cat Rehoming, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear**

These lively boys have been waiting for their new home for over a year now. Harry has hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and needs medication 3 times a day, so ideally they need a home where someone is around during the day. The rescue are happy to place Harry as a long term foster and they will pay for his medication, but he needs to be homed with his best friend Wills.

Tel: 01661 835941 / 01914 823126 or Email: linda.robinson23@outlook.com



## **MAGGIE, JAKE & KRISTIE at Garston Animal Rescue, Merseyside.**

These three cats have been in rescue for a whopping 3 years now! They were rescued from a Liverpool car park on a cold and wet November night. They were cold, frightened and hungry. They are looking for a home with someone who is experienced with timid cats. Kristie is very friendly but Jake and Maggie are nervous and shy. They are best friends and would love to stay together.

Tel: 0151 494 0470 / 07745 167170 / 07913 420 341 or

Email: info@garstonanimalrescue.com.

## **BADGER at Furry Tails Feline Welfare, Blackpool, Lancashire.**

Badger is a handsome black and white chap who has been at the rescue for over a year now. He is a shy chap seeking a home with a patient human, who will let him adjust in his own time, and who will help him to build his confidence. He is loving once he gets to know you and will do almost anything for treats!

Tel: 01253 839500 or 07905 074353 or Email: rose467@btinternet.com



## **TABS at Cats In Need, Hinkley, Leicestershire.**

Tabbs is a little enigma; he was being fed in a garden but, nothing else was known about him when he arrived at the rescue a year ago. He is a very friendly boy and a bit of a lap cat as long as it is on his terms. He had to lose most of his teeth and just has his canines left, but he is much happier now he is not in pain. Tabbs is looking for a home with no other pets and no young children as he likes his space. Tel: 07804 742246 Tel: 0113 218 8262 or

Email: enquiries@catactiontrust1977leeds.co.uk

## **GINNY at Animal Accident Rescue Unit, Nottinghamshire.**

Five year old Ginny has been at the rescue for almost two years! She enjoys life's little luxuries; especially smoked salmon and tummy rubs. Ginny is an independent lass and will retreat to her blanket for a snooze when she has had enough attention but rewards you with licks and kisses when she's happy. Ginny is looking for a home with a garden as she is really missing being able to go out.

Email: admin@aar.org.uk.



## **BUFFY at Cat Action Trust (1977) Doncaster South, South Yorkshire**

Poor Buffy was an unwanted pet who was left out in the cold when her owners decided they didn't want her anymore. Buffy needs a home with someone who can help her realise that humans can be friendly and will look after her. She needs a home with no dogs, but could live with another laid-back older cat, or cat savvy older children. Buffy will need a home with a garden to explore.

Tel: 07940 792205 or Email: doncastercat77@gmail.com

Some rescue cats get overlooked for far too long, and are deemed "harder to home" for all kinds of reasons; perhaps they are older cats, or have special needs, or are timid. Sometimes cats are overlooked simply because of their colour. Whatever the reasons given, one thing is certain, it is through no fault of their own!

See Overlooked Cats near you here: [www.catchat.org/overlooked](http://www.catchat.org/overlooked)



# Bitten and Abandoned by his Mum

**N**emo had a terrible start in life; his mother had chased him away and given him a nasty bite in doing so. It turns out this was a lucky escape, as she had also killed his siblings. Mother cats killing their kittens is rare, but can have various causes, such as an under-developed maternal instinct, hormone imbalances, perceived threats to the 'nest' if the mother is stressed or inexperienced, or if kittens are born with abnormalities or illness.

Luckily, little Nemo found a kind human who put food out for him, but being un-used to people, he was too scared to go into the house. Eventually, he was taken in at [Cat Rescue Chippenham](#).

When he first arrived at the shelter, he hid away when anyone was around. But with his rescuers patience, and lots of TLC, he began making progress; eating well and even purring when stroked. So, in March the shelter asked us to add Nemo to our [Overlooked Cats](#) section.

Nemo was now 18 months old, with a very sweet nature, he was happily living with the resident dog at the rescue, and enjoyed playing with his toys when he was alone. His rescuers told us, "*Sadly Nemo is just another black cat, and he has a scar on his neck, a reminder of the hard times when his Mum bit him. Naturally he is shy, and needs to find a special home where he can take as much time as he needs, to gain confidence and join in with the family and show his true colours.*"

At the beginning of May we had some fantastic news - Nemo had been spotted on Cat Chat and offered a home. Cat Rescue Chippenham emailed to say: "*A very big thank you for helping us once again. We have now rehomed Nemo to someone who saw him*"

## Hot Weather Advice

**G**lorious summer sun is lovely, but the hot weather poses many risks for animals, including dehydration, sunburn, flea infestation, allergies, and perhaps the most serious; heat-stroke. All kinds of pets and animals need extra consideration in summer, as well as the wildlife in your garden.



Prepare to beat the heat - visit our page for tips and advice...  
[Hot Weather Advice for Pets & Wildlife](#)

*May you and your pets have a safe and happy summer!*

*on your website. He has just gone to his new home today after a 4 month stay with us. Many, many thanks!"*

Nemo's special new human said: "*Nemo (now called Teddy!) is the sweetest little fella we have ever known. He may have had a rough start in life but from now on he will be loved, cherished and spoilt with us. I knew when we first met him that he would be the perfect cat for us. I've been going to bed really late as I hate saying goodnight to him. We really love the little fella & we couldn't do without him now!"*



For a black, adult cat in rescue, the outlook can be bleak... Some spend months, sometimes even years in rescue, waiting for someone to see past their colour. Could you adopt a black cat?

Read our [Top 10 Reasons to Adopt a Black Cat](#)

tune in to  
**'Adopt a Cat Wednesdays'**  
on  
**COAST & COUNTY RADIO**

Cat Chat together with  
**Coast & County Radio...**  
finding homes for rescue  
cats in North Yorkshire

[coastandcountyradio.co.uk](http://coastandcountyradio.co.uk)

# The Real Pet Detective

For nearly 20 years, Tom Watkins, founder of Animal Search UK, has been helping to reunite lost pets with their owners. Now, ex-police officer Tom has written a book about his incredible journey – The Real Pet Detective, True Tales of Pets Lost and Found.



Since Tom's first successful pet search - finding a lost dog in Wolverhampton - he has dedicated his life to bringing lost animals home to their owners. Drawing on his experience in the police force, Tom uses an impressive array of techniques and gadgets to help him and his team. As well as co-ordinated door-to-door enquiries, the team utilises everything from walkie talkies and thermal imaging cameras, to filming Crimewatch-style re-constructions.

A highly entertaining read, The Real Pet Detective is funny, honest, heart-warming and often emotional. Animal lover Tom and his team will stop at nothing to find a missing pet for an often distraught owner. Searching in all weathers, on-call at all hours, you can't help but be impressed by the dedication of Tom's 'pet

police force'.

Animal Search is now the UK's leading animal search service and free website for missing pets: [www.animalsearchuk.co.uk](http://www.animalsearchuk.co.uk) They now have around 80,000 volunteer 'Pet Patrollers' around the UK keeping an eye out for pets missing in their areas. Their free 'Pre-registration' service, is as a backup plan for all pets, complimenting a microchip, in case your own pet should go missing.

Pre-registration on the Animal Search website is free, and allows you to store up to 10 photos and a video of your pet on their database. Then, if your pet goes missing, rather than waiting for them to (hopefully) be found and scanned for a microchip, Animal Search will share your pet's photos with their volunteers in your area. If your pet is spotted, volunteers can get in touch with you via a free, secure messaging service. For more information visit <https://www.animalsearchuk.co.uk/pre-register>

Animal Search UK sponsors Cat Chat's Lost & Found information page, so as well as finding missing pets, they are also helping us to find homes for rescued cats! Tom said:

*"I'm delighted to sponsor the Lost and found advice pages on Cat Chat. A Great useful tool for owners in their moment of need. Together we're bringing cats home again in more ways than one."*

**WIN!** Tom has kindly donated two copies of his book to give away to Cat Chat supporters...

**For your chance to win a copy of The Real Pet Detective, enter our Free Prize Draw here:**  
[www.catchat.org/index.php/prize-draw](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/prize-draw)

Entrants must 18 or over, only one entry per person. Closing date is Sunday 20th August. You can also enter by emailing your name, address and email address to: [prize.draw@catchat.org](mailto:prize.draw@catchat.org)

## Latest shelters to take up a free Cat Homing Web Page

We are delighted that the following rescue centres have taken up one of our Free Cat Homing Pages. We look forward to helping more cats into homes from...

- Star Cat Rescue, Market Rasen, Lincs.
- Pennine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Todmorden, West Yorks.
- Joans Arc Animal Sanctuary, Co. Cavan, Ireland



All cats who are added to the Cat Homing Pages automatically appear on our well-visited and regionally targeted 'Cats Needing Homes' section here: [www.catchat.org/adopt](http://www.catchat.org/adopt)

Any rescue centre or rehoming group based in the UK or Ireland can apply for a free cat homing page. visit: [www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page](http://www.catchat.org/index.php/cat-homing-page)

*Here's to More Happy Homings!*

# Rescuer's Corner

by: **Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, Wales**

At our Rescue Centre in Caernarfon, North Wales we deal predominantly with abandoned, neglected and unwanted cats and kittens. There are usually 70 to 80 in residence at any one time. We neuter, vaccinate and generally rehabilitate these amazing animals before seeking out new and permanent homes for them. For every cat or kitten that goes to its new home, there are 10 more vying for a place at the centre.

We also provide shelter to approximately 32 horses and ponies. These animals have come to us for any number of reasons, sometimes as a result of neglect or abuse, often abandoned and sometimes because the owner simply cannot afford or is not able to look after them anymore. Through sheer hard work and determination, we do the very best we can for every horse and pony in our care. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers play a vital role in the long term rehabilitation of these wonderful creatures. Our accomplishments would be far less without them.

The Welsh branch of Freshfields also works hard to support stray and unwanted dogs locally. We do not have facilities to admit dogs to the centre itself and instead rely heavily upon our dedicated team of foster carers. Many a dog on death row has gained a last minute reprieve thanks to those people who open up their homes to desperate cases and these same individuals have greatly influenced our ability to be there for emergency rescues. So often these emergencies are unwanted, neglected or underperforming farm dogs and we are so grateful that through our foster families we have found a way to be able to help them.

Never let it be said that we are anything but resourceful! With an increasing number of smaller animals, most typically rabbits,

guinea pigs and occasionally ferrets also in need of rescue we have adapted our services to cater for these animals too, albeit on a small scale. There is rarely a time when we don't have two or three of these poor creatures also in need of forever homes! We remain passionate about the rescue and re-homing of dogs, cats, small animal and horses in North Wales.

One of their current cats for adoption is Karla (below). Karla was extremely stressed at first, and would lash out at members



of staff without warning. She was not a happy cat at all. Fast forward a few months, and Karla is now such a happy, relaxed cat. She does not lash out anymore, in fact she is more likely to purr loudly and demand attention and a tickle under the chin!

Unfortunately, Karla is constantly being overlooked even though she is a reformed character. She needs to be homed with experienced cat owners where she will be the only cat in the home, and rehoming with very small children would not be advisable. She is a sweet girl who deserves to find herself a loving home.

Find contact details for Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, Wales, along with some of the current cats and kittens available for adoption, including Karla, on their Cat Homing Page here:

[www.catchat.org/FreshfieldsWales](http://www.catchat.org/FreshfieldsWales)

## Home at Last!

Jethro had been staying on a farm and was left to roam, un-neutered. As a result, poor Jethro had been used to wandering and making a bit of a nuisance of himself by breaking into houses for food. So, in 2014 he was trapped, and taken to [Grendon Cat Shelter](#) where he was neutered, and treated for a wound on his head.



Eventually Jethro found he quite liked having his head rubbed, although he was still timid. He would hide at the back of his pen when visitors came to adopt, and was subsequently overlooked. His rescuers knew that it would take just the right person to offer Jethro a home, someone who would be patient and allow him to come out of his shell in his own time.

Finally in June, after a massive three years in rescue, the right home came along for Jethro via Cat Chat. His rescuers said, "These are just the right people... The lady had fostered for the RSPCA, taming semi feral cats, so she is quite aware of letting Jethro come to her in his own time."

*At the moment she is at home all day. We hope he settles in his new home now that he can get all the love he deserves."*

Most shelters have a few cats who are passed by time and again, when all they need is for someone to give them a chance. Often, once a cat finds themselves in a proper home, away from the shelter, they will start to blossom almost immediately.

By adopting a long-stay cat you are quite literally giving them their life back, and that is a truly fantastic feeling - for them and for you!

Ask about adopting a long-stay cat at your local rescue shelter:

[www.catchat.org/shelters](http://www.catchat.org/shelters)



# Turning Fear into Cheer

**V**ery shy or nervous cats often end up being overlooked. Their life experience has left them fearful and they don't interact with potential adopters at the rescue shelter. News of two recent rehoming stories from Burton Joyce Cat Rescue



Teddy (before)

in Nottingham, highlight perfectly that these cats can be the most loyal and loving of pets once you have gained their trust.

When Teddy arrived at Kirkby Cats Home, Nottingham

before Christmas, he was incredibly depressed and nervous and cowered in the pen, not drawing any attention to himself. He was moved to Burton Joyce Cat Rescue, who often help out with cats from Kirkby, and he slowly got a little better. After a few months

Teddy was spotted on Cat Chat, by a special someone who was prepared to give him as much time as he needed. But, as it turned out that wasn't necessary... within just days of being in his new home, Teddy



Teddy (after)

was sitting on knees, enjoying being groomed and rolling over for tummy rubs! Teddy's before and after photos say it all!!

Another Frightened little youngster called Rowan was rescued from an inner city housing estate that is renowned for semi

feral cats, where neutering is hardly ever done. The cats breed prolifically and people regularly move out and leave their cats behind. Elaine from Burton Joyce Cat Rescue spotted Rowan (below) and was determined to rescue the pretty little youngster who was frightened of his own shadow.

Elaine told us, "*We had Rowan in the rescue for 18 months and he never really got any more confident. Several times he was almost rehomed as a stable cat, but there was just something about him I couldn't let go of.*



*Eventually we had an enquiry from a lovely girl who had seen him on Cat Chat, and wanted him as a companion for her female cat. She'd seen him on the site a year ago and couldn't believe he was still available.*

*Rowan eventually moved on and has not looked back! He is best of friends with his new girlfriend cat Lola, He goes out, enjoys a fuss and purrs his head off. It took a long time but it was worth the wait."*

See some of the current cats at Burton Joyce Cat Welfare, and at Kirkby Cats Home, here: [www.catchat.org/bjcw](http://www.catchat.org/bjcw)

Shy or nervous cats will flourish in a calm, caring home, with loving, patient people. Winning the trust and love of cats like Rowan and Teddy could be the most rewarding thing you ever do! When adopting a rescue cat, ask about shy or nervous cats at your local shelter: [www.catchat.org/shelters](http://www.catchat.org/shelters)

## A Quirky Cat - but Still a Cat!

Soo had appeared on the homing page for [City Cat Shelter](#), Brighton since last November, without attracting the right home. So, in March this year she was added to our Overlooked Cats section to see if the extra publicity could help her on her way.

Soo (pictured) was described as a cat who loves everybody immediately, and who would be fine with children. She purrs non-stop, and is a definite lap cat! She loves nothing better than human company, and is extremely friendly and cuddly. So... why was Soo getting overlooked when it came to adoption?

Soo's rescuer said, "*Soo has so much personality in such a small body! She also has a few different problems which combine to give her an odd appearance. She has hip dysplasia, which makes her walk strangely, and it's possible she has dwarfism too, as her legs are short. In addition she has an eating disorder which means she is perpetually hungry. She also has poor bowel control. She is certainly litter trained, and tries her best to make it to the litter tray, but not always successfully.*"

Soo was looking for a home with room for a few litter trays, so that she was never too far from one. She needed a kind, special

person who could see past her impairments, and who would be at home most of the time for fusses, cuddles, climbing, purrs and food.

We are pleased to say that a month later, Soo was spotted by someone who saw her both on the Overlooked Cats section and also on the City Cat Shelter Facebook page. Soo had finally found the loving, understanding home she deserved.

Cats with disabilities or medical conditions often spend longer in rescue shelters looking for a home. Disabled cats may require a little additional care or consideration, but their ability to adapt to their circumstances is amazing.

Could you consider adopting a disabled cat? Check out our page of advice to help them - and you - cope with and overcome their physical impairments, here: [Adopting and Living with a Disabled Cat](#)



## Supporter's Corner: featuring Katzecure Elegant Garden Fencing for Your Cats' Safety

For a natural, unobtrusive way to make your garden secure, keep your cat safe and intruders out, Katzecure ticks all the boxes.

Street-wise or not, the great outdoors holds many hazards for the roaming cat, traffic being a prime example. If you're uncomfortable with confining your cat indoors all day, yet equally concerned about the



dangers they face outdoors, a great compromise is to cat-proof your garden, giving you the best of both worlds and keeping other cats out at the same time.

It is possible to make even the most challenging and unique gardens 'cat secure' in a very unobtrusive way that blends in with the rest of the garden landscape. The company behind the elegant and humane way to secure your garden using natural wood is Katzecure, based in Horsham, West Sussex.

Their solution is very simple. Wooden poles, fixed at an inward angle on top of fencing or walls, that spin and rock in their axles on contact making it impossible for the cat to gain that necessary perch to jump over. No two gardens are the same and the more mature the garden, the more likely the need to ensure trees, shrubs, sheds, bin areas and any potential weak points are rendered as secure as the fencing itself. This calls for an individual approach and custom install. Balconies, pergolas and cat-runs can all be made cat proof alongside more mainstream garden features.

Experience in securing thousands of gardens over the last 13 years means the Katzecure team can identify and make secure any potential weak spots.

In the rare event of the most determined Houdini finding an escape route, Katzecure will return promptly to make the necessary adjustments to foil any further escape attempts.

Katzecure prides itself on its excellent reputation and in working with customers to make sure they get the best containment solution and after care service. Their installed double pole system includes an 18 month peace of mind warranty followed by an optional, affordable maintenance programme, which ensures the system remains in tip top condition.

From the outset the Katzecure cat containment solution was designed for both security and elegance. Katzecure aims to develop its installation options,

designed to continue to blend well with new types of garden

materials and features, while retaining its robustness and reputation for being ultra-secure. As fencing styles, trellising and garden walls get makeovers, the team at Katzecure make sure their cat containment solution also adapts to retain its visual appeal for the discerning cat owner.

For more information, visit [www.katzecure.com](http://www.katzecure.com)



Cat Chat would like to thank Katzecure for their support in sponsoring our [Want a Kitten? Please Rescue!](#) page

### Getting Social!

If you don't already, we'd love you to follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#). It's a great way to stay up-to-date with all our furry feline goings-on.

To those who already follow / like us, we want to say a whopping great **THANK YOU!**

Special thanks also to all of you who help us spread the 'rescue' message on social media, by sharing, tweeting and re-tweeting, including page sponsors HiLife Pet Foods, The Cat Gallery, and Find Pet Boarding, thank you!

So if you Like, Share or Tweet, we hope to see you soon!



That's all for now... We hope you enjoyed the newsletter, and look forward to sharing more news with you in the Autumn. Meanwhile, stay cool, and have a great Summer. Toodle-pip!