

Stream for Cats

Pack of abandonment cat case studies

You can use this resource to tell the story of abandoned cats that have come into our care.

This is a great tool to motivate your audience to donate.



Content of cats

Caramel

Stig

Harry Potter kittens

Alpine

Alaska

Niblet

Mack

Eureka

Hope

Peach

Strawberry

Lychee

Plum

Sparrow

The biscuit kittens

Johnny Boy

Johnny and Cash



Caramel

Caramel, a gentle one-year-old cat, was found near a busy carriageway on an industrial estate. She'd been left to fend for herself, alongside another abandoned cat with three small kittens.

A kind-hearted staff member from a local Greggs bakery noticed her and brought her into our care, and on inspection by our team at the Wales Cat Centre, it was discovered Caramel was heavily pregnant too.

Understandably Caramel was scared being brought into care having already been abandoned, but thankfully was able to give birth to her four beautiful kittens within the safety of our cat centre instead of on the roadside.

Despite everything she's been through, Caramel remains as sweet as her name suggests.



Stig

A member of the Cats Protection team came to work early one morning to find an email saying a cat had been dumped outside the security gates. They rushed outside to find the cat and saw the small carrier bag hanging on the gate alongside a busy main road.

The poor cat was so subdued and anxious. After a quick health check, he was found temporary accommodation until Cats Protection could do a full vet check on him.

He was named Stig, from the book *Stig of the Dump*. In this case, Stig of the Dumped!

Stig didn't do well in the pens. Huddled inside his cat fort, not really responding to anyone who came near. He showed no interest in play or food distractions, making behaviour training almost impossible. Given his behaviour and that we didn't know his history, we knew that it'd be in Stig's best interest to be out of the centre. He needed to be living it up in the countryside somewhere where he had lots of space, and he wouldn't have to have too much interaction with people if he didn't want to.

Stig was to be relocated to his new outdoor home, a game farm in Lockerly, Romsey. Stig's journey was fraught with challenges, but now he's a happier, more relaxed cat, enjoying his new life in the great outdoors.



Harry Potter kittens

One Saturday afternoon at the Cats Protection Headingley Shop, a cardboard box was discovered outside the shop door. Inside the box were four young, frightened kittens. These kittens had been left exposed to the heat on a hot day with little ventilation, and it was clear they were in distress. Upon closer inspection, they were found to be infested with fleas and in need of urgent care.

After consulting a vet, the shop manager took the kittens in overnight before transferring them to the Leeds Cat Centre where they could receive proper care and attention. They then deep cleaned the Headingley Shop.

Each kitten had unique markings which inspired their temporary names after the Harry Potter houses.

All four kittens have now been rehomed. Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw have found a home together, whereas, true to their names, Griffyndor and Slytherin have gone to separate homes.



Alpine

Alpine was abandoned outside the South London Cat Centre alongside his siblings Alaska and Niblet, left in a cardboard box out in the elements on a business park.

The scant information on the box gave no more information than the cats' names and plea to rehome them. Any unexpected arrival like this causes issues with pen availability and as Alpine was an unneutered male, the assumption was the females would be unneutered too, so they needed separate pens. Luckily, the centre did have one empty pen and a cat due to be adopted later that day so Alpine could be separated off as soon as that pen had been vacated. All three cats had veterinary health checks, were microchipped, vaccinated, tested for FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) and FeLV (feline leukaemia virus) and neutered. The fact they needed to be neutered meant using up three valuable operation slots with our local vets.

Alpine's time at the shelter was marked by his timid and reserved nature. While Alaska and Niblet quickly found homes, Alpine often hid during potential adopters' visits, retreating into his cat hide. Despite his initial reluctance to engage, the team saw beyond his fear and knew that Alpine had the potential to be a wonderful companion, he just needed time, patience, and the right person to understand him.

This was confirmed when his new owner informed us how Alpine (now renamed Paisley) spends most of his time lying all over him!



Alaska

Alaska, previously known as Lunar, was one of three cats left outside Cats Protection South London Cat Centre in a cardboard box, abandoned alongside a small, black, female named Niblet and a grey-and-white male named Alpine. The trio had been left with a simple note asking for help rehoming them due to the passing of their elderly owner.

The team at the South London Cat Centre quickly realised that, although shaken by the sudden upheaval, Alaska with her striking green eyes and affectionate nature would find a home quickly. Alaska settled into the shelter with ease, displaying an almost immediate warmth and friendliness toward the team. It was evident that her loving nature would capture the attention of potential adopters and within no time, Alaska found her forever home alongside her sister Niblet.



Niblet

Niblet, a small, black, female cat, was one of three cats left at Cats Protection South London Cat Centre, abandoned in a cardboard box with her companions, Alaska and Alpine. Shy by nature, her quieter demeanour couldn't hide her affectionate side, and as time went on, it became evident that she had a strong bond with Alaska, and the two were inseparable.

Niblet's gentle nature was clear to the centre team and although she wasn't as immediately outgoing as Alaska, her sweet personality was clear. The decision was made to rehome Niblet and Alaska as a pair, recognising the comfort they found in each other's company. Niblet's adoption journey was a success, as her bond with Alaska proved irresistible to a family who recognised the quiet beauty in her shy, loving ways.



“Arriving for work early one day in May, I saw a cardboard box sat by the entrance door. My heart sank when I saw holes punched into the sides and a note scribbled on top: ‘Please can you rehome my Nan’s cats due to her passing away.’”

Jane, South London Cat Centre

Mack

Mack was left abandoned when his elderly owners moved into a care home. Tragically, their family chose to shut him out of the only home he'd ever known, leaving him alone in the bitter cold. Day after day, Mack could be found sitting by the door, crying to be let back in. Thankfully, a neighbour noticed his plight and contacted us.

When he first arrived in care at the Berkshire Cat Centre, Mack was in rough shape. The cold weather had taken its toll, leaving him with a painfully sore and cracked nose. He was underweight, and it soon became clear why. Mack had a large lump on his tongue, likely caused by an allergic reaction. This swollen, infected lump made eating a struggle for him. But with the right care, including a course of antibiotics and steroids, Mack began to heal.

At first, he was understandably scared, often hiding under his Hide & Sleep® cat hide and hissing to keep people away due to feeling vulnerable and in pain. But as his tongue started to heal, so did his trust in people. Slowly but surely, Mack revealed his true, affectionate nature. He began to rub up against us, rolling around on the table for more attention, and it wasn't long before he became a team favourite.

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After two months of recovery, Mack was ready for a new home. He found his perfect match in a loving couple who provided him with all the care and patience he needed to feel safe again. They gave him a cosy igloo bed where he could hide, relax and build his confidence. Although Mack was shy at first, the couple took things slowly and went at Mack's pace. One day, as they sat on the settee, Mack hopped up next to them and fell asleep, a sign that he had finally found his place.

Now, Mack is thriving in his new home, where he loves nothing more than a good scratch and plenty of fuss. His purrs say it all, Mack is finally happy, healthy and loved.



Eureka

Eureka, a sweet, young black cat, was found abandoned in the Berkshire Cat Centre car park, left alone in a dog crate. Even though she was only about 18 months old, upon inspection by our team, it was clear that poor Eureka had previously had multiple litters of kittens.

Despite her rough past, Eureka remained incredibly friendly and affectionate. Though she was quite skinny when she arrived, with lots of love and proper care, she soon regained her strength and was ready to find her forever home.

Now, she's thriving in a loving new home where her family absolutely adores her. Eureka has finally found the warmth and happiness she deserves.



Hope

Hope, a four-year-old cat, was left alone outside the gates of a local dog rescue charity (Hope Rescue), with her three newborn kittens by her side. Their umbilical cords were still attached. Abandoned and vulnerable, she was discovered just in time.

When the Wales Cat Centre received the call from the team at the dog rescue, Hope and her tiny family were brought into our care.

Despite her ordeal, Hope is a loving and affectionate cat who craves attention and affection. Now, she and her kittens are thriving and will soon be ready to find their forever homes.



Peach

Abandoned in a cat carrier in Reading, Peach and her six tiny kittens arrived in our care in a desperate state. Barely six weeks old, the kittens were underweight, suffering from cat flu, and had runny eyes that needed immediate attention. Little Lychee, the smallest, was still trying to nurse, but Peach could no longer produce milk.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our team at Berkshire Cat Centre, Peach and her kittens began to thrive.

From the start, it was clear that Peach and Lychee shared a close bond, always following each other around, and happily they soon found a loving family to take them both.

Like Peach and Lychee, all the kittens; Strawberry, Melon, Grape, Kiwi and Plum, have all found their forever homes. Melon and Grape were rehomed together, as were Kiwi and Plum, with Strawberry the last to be rehomed due to her treatments necessitating a longer stay.



Strawberry

Strawberry came into care at barely six weeks old, having been abandoned with her mother and five littermates in a cat carrier.

Aside from being underweight, suffering from cat flu and having runny eyes, Strawberry also had an eye ulcer. All of which required immediate treatment via a course of eye drops, antibiotics and moving the kittens onto substitute kitten milk, as their mother could no longer produce milk.

Despite a longer stay in care than her siblings due to the ulcer, the care our Berkshire Cat Centre provided has allowed Strawberry to recover and find her new, loving, forever home.



Lychee

Lychee was the smallest kitten in a litter of six that were abandoned with their mother in a cat carrier in Reading. The kittens were barely six weeks old, underweight and suffering from both cat flu and runny eyes which required immediate attention.

To make matters worse, little Lychee was still trying to nurse, but her mother could no longer produce milk. Thankfully, our Berkshire Cat Centre were able to treat all these ailments, and in no time Lychee and her littermates were able to start thriving.

Lychee displayed a very close bond to her mother, Peach, and they have been rehomed by a loving family who could take them both.



Plum

Plum was one of seven cats that came into care having been abandoned in a cat carrier in Reading. Plum and the other kittens were all barely six weeks old and in a sorry state; underweight, suffering from cat flu and having runny eyes, all of which required immediate treatment.

After a course of treatment including eye drops and antibiotics, and introducing substitute kitten milk, Plum made a full recovery and was able to be find their new forever home with their sibling Kiwi.



Sparrow

This tiny kitten was found injured, abandoned and alone at an abattoir, with no sign of mum or littermates anywhere nearby.

Sparrow's eye had sustained trauma from an unknown incident. Without knowing how long she had been in such pain, the team at Cats Protection Launceston took her straight to the vets to receive the care and treatment she urgently needed.

At the vets, it was confirmed she would need an operation to remove the eye. Weighing only 340g, this is a risky operation for such a tiny kitten. After her operation, Sparrow was hand-reared and delicately cared for to give her the best chance at a successful recovery.

Thankfully Sparrow already has a loving home to go to and is looking forward to years of playing and exploring!



The biscuit kittens

A box covered in wire with a kitten trying to escape is never a good sign, but that is exactly what was thrust into the arms of one of our cat centre team by a distressed member of the public last July.

Crammed inside were 13 terrified kittens, exhausted and sweating from the cramped conditions and 27°C heat. The kittens were underweight and estimated to be about 10 weeks old. All our team knew was that they were from three different mother cats.

Thirteen kittens needing to undergo a full vet check. Thirteen kittens needing to be neutered and microchipped at the vets. Thirteen kittens needing pen space. Pen space that had already been allocated to owners who had responsibly placed their cats on our waiting list and were due to bring them in later that day.

Thankfully, the kittens soon adapted to life in the centre, with the extra space, plenty of food, rest and play. Initially, they were what we call 'food aggressive' and would try and defend their food as soon as it arrived, but it didn't take long for our team to resolve that behaviour.

Despite their rough start, they all turned out to be incredibly friendly, and it was heartwarming to see how much they enjoy playing with toys. It was likely the first time they had such attention and fun! As a result, the resilient little ones were all named after biscuits, a nod to their sweet and playful nature:

Biscoff, Garibaldi, Hobnob, McVitie, Bourbon, Dodger, Didgie, Gingernut, Jaffacake, Cookie, Lotus, Lemonpuff and Maryland.

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Happily, all these kittens quickly found homes when they were ready to be adopted. But when cats come into care like they did, with treatments, microchipping and care being required, they're going to be in the centre for a while before they're ready. This impacts our resources heavily.



Johnny Boy

This handsome boy is Johnny. He came in with his sister as they were both found dumped in a lane near the Northern Ireland Cat Centre. We had a hard time rehoming Johnny Boy, as he'd struggled to get attention from visitors due to taking a little more time than usual to come out and say hi.

Though a little shy at first and often running away, he eventually will come back to investigate. Once he knows you're not a threat he'll roll around and enjoy scratches from you. It sometimes takes work to rebuild the trust of an abandoned cat.

Johnny has feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) so this means he needs to be an indoor cat and can't live with other cats.

We're delighted to report Johnny is now doing amazingly well with his new family and has settled in. The Cats Protection team couldn't believe how happy he looked and how comfortable he was being around his new family. This has proved to us again that all it takes is the right home and environment for a cat to show their true colours!



Johnny and Cash

Johnny and Cash were abandoned outside Pets at Home, near the Derbyshire Cat Centre. Though these two were lucky and soon found a loving home.

They have quite different personalities. Johnny, is slightly more nervous of people after being abandoned. But he is the naughty one and has a fascination with water in the kitchen sink! Cash is more loving and cuddly. He is loving all the affection with his new owners.



Thank you for supporting Cats Protection

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