

Felis Catus

Newsletter of the Woking & District Cats Protection

July – December 2024



CATS

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Act now to microchip
your cat!

...and adoptions galore!



Sai is looking for a home - could it be yours?

Welcome

Welcome to Felis Catus!

Summer is officially here and if you're a supporter of Cats Protection, you surely can't have missed the news that all pet cats in England must now be microchipped. If you've adopted a cat from us, then your cat will already be chipped as part of the rehoming process, but please help us spread the word to your family, friends and colleagues – in fact anyone you know who might have a cat or be thinking of getting one. It's such an important part of cat welfare and could save a lot of heartache. See page 25 for answers to your microchipping questions.

At Cats Protection we believe in matching the right cat to the right home. That's why we look at everything from your potential pet's personality to where and how you live, creating the perfect match for both cat and owner, even if it takes a little longer. A great example of this is Maggie – you can read her adoption story on page 21.

As with any charity, volunteers are the backbone of our branch and we were so sad to lose a long-standing colleague and friend, Jenny Ingoe, at the beginning of the year. There's a tribute to her on page 4 and if this inspires you to become one of our team, please get in touch – you won't regret it!

And finally, thank you so much to everyone who shared their adoption stories and updates in this issue. Read on to meet some of the lucky adopters and their special felines who are enjoying life together.

Jane

editor@woking.cats.org.uk



Volunteers Matter

Welcome to: Mickie Jacobs, Ellie Horsnel and Mark Lancaster.

Farewell to: David Nunn, Sally Yarnold-Spence and Pauline Welch.

We are always in need of volunteers – please get in touch if you are interested in joining our lovely team. Contact us at: enquiries@woking.cats.org.uk or call us on 01483 928018 (mailbox 4).

Cover star: Sai. Can you give this handsome one-year-old boy a home? Find out more about him at www.cats.org.uk/woking

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Meet Mark

- our new branch coordinator

I have shared my life with cats for as long as I can remember. When I was a child, we had a ginger tom called Timmy who was a rescue cat and must have been mistreated before we adopted him. He had a constant fear of men and wouldn't go anywhere near my dad, who was quite offended because he wouldn't harm a fly, but fortunately for me, children were not a threat and I remember having hours of fun playing with him. He was also polydactyl with seven toes on each front paw, so it was always obvious to the neighbours exactly which cat had been digging up their flower beds.

There has always been at least one cat in my life, each one a completely unique character. I think that's why cats are so appealing and make such good companions: you're expected to adapt to their life choices not the other way around, but the mutual love is always beyond doubt.

My wife, Alison, has been a Cats Protection volunteer for around 14 years and we have a double pen at the end of our garden, where we (she) can look after cats who are waiting for the right home. There must have been several hundred come into our care over the years and it's always very satisfying to see them move on to a situation where they can have a long, happy and healthy life. My role in this has mainly been in lugging heavy sacks of used cat litter to the tip. Not glamorous I know, but someone's got to do it.

I also help out at the spring and winter fayres, where you'll usually find me running around like a mad thing behind the chocolate tombola. One thing I really enjoy is writing and hosting the annual quiz night, preparations for which usually start as soon as the previous one has finished. If you plan on attending the next one, you might like to brush up on your Eurovision knowledge... just saying.

For my day job, I've been a computer programmer for most of my life and now own a small software company called ZirconBlue, specialising in Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). In case you don't know, EDI is one of those technologies that is critical to modern business, but most people are completely unaware of it. I could bore you to death with the details but all you really need to know is that if it didn't exist, everything you buy in the shops would be a lot more expensive, and on-line shopping would be virtually impossible.

In my spare time, I tinker. I like to learn new things and my current obsession is 3D printing. I really like the idea that you can imagine an object, design it on a computer and then some time later, be holding it in your hands. I hope to design and make the ultimate cat toy as some stage, but have no idea what that looks like just yet.

It was a real privilege to be invited to become the new coordinator for Woking & District branch, although I've a feeling I won't need to do that much actual coordinating. The volunteers in the branch are all highly experienced, know exactly what they're doing, and work like Trojans to get the best possible outcomes for all the cats that come into our care. If I can help their efforts in some way, then I'm more than happy to do so.

Mark



Tribute to Jenny

Jenny Ingoe was a dedicated volunteer who had been with the branch for many years. She originally adopted a cat called Bala from Heather, who was the original founder of our branch, and then when Jenny retired she contacted Heather to do some socialising. Over the years she fulfilled various roles, including lost and found, looking after Mailbox 4 for neutering/vet bill enquiries and in the latter years rehoming cats, which she continued to do even when she moved from Woking to Littlehampton in 2016. She was helping to deal with adoptions right up until she went into hospital at the end of last year. Sadly, she passed away earlier this year and here are some of our memories of Jenny's huge contribution to Woking & District Cats Protection.

Pauline

I knew Jenny for 14 years as a colleague and later a friend through Cats Protection. She often came to my foster pens to socialise for me especially the naughty kittens. We went on several trips together to pick up cats and kittens - one that I remember very well involved Jenny upside down in a bush trying to round up a litter of five ginger kittens. Needless to say, Jenny was not going to be defeated by them and they were all safely retrieved from their hiding place, plus mum cat as well. In later years Jenny and I would chat on the phone about what we were both doing and our grandchildren. Jenny was a lovely friend and I will miss her more than I can say.

Alison

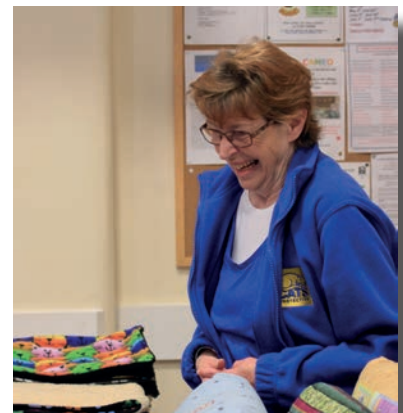


I first met Jenny when I joined the branch in December 2012. She took me on my first vet run and also my first couple of homings to show me the ropes. She was a real stickler for detail and had a dry sense of humour. Jenny was always helpful and ready to share quips and jokes. I will miss speaking to her about potential adopters and our favourite phrase, "Jessica, wand at the ready, please," whereas Jenny is most probably thinking, "Thank goodness I don't have to deal with Mrs Fussy and her 'No's'!"

Kim

Jenny was an absolute legend and she taught me everything I know about being a home visitor about 10 years ago when I joined Cats Protection. She was a very kind, sincere and reliable person and extremely knowledgeable on all things cat-related. She had great vision and thought wisely before making a decision as to whether a cat would be happy in a certain home. The action taken was usually dependent on multifactorial probabilities! I shall remember Jenny with great fondness, she was a credit to Cats Protection and a great volunteer!

Cilla



Tribute to Jenny

Jenny was a stalwart of the "Saturday Club" at Tresta Walk for many years – right up to 2011 when I retired as Homing Officer. I never doubted that Jenny and the others would battle through floods and snow to be here and spend time with the cats and kittens in the pens. We had several lovely Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award students and they were also ably supported by Jenny, Toni and Ruth, proudly gaining their animal welfare award in due course. After spending time with the cats, we would gather for tea and biscuits and enjoy a good chat – invariably about cats! Such was the camaraderie of the Saturday Club that we kept in touch long after the pens had moved on. Those were happy times and I treasure the memories. Thank you, Jenny, for your enduring friendship to the cats and to me.

Heather



Jessica

Jenny's very special cat has been happily rehomed by the branch.

I never met Jenny in person but felt that I knew her through her phone calls and messages of advice regarding new owners for my pussy cats. She had the talent to choose the purrfect homes for them. My thoughts are with her family at the loss of such a lovely lady. We will miss her and the pussycats will miss her love and expertise. You have travelled, Jenny, over the rainbow bridge to be with the many pussycat souls that went before you. Forever now in your company.

Lin

Jenny was my mentor when I was just starting off as a newbie home visitor. She guided me brilliantly, always giving me sound advice, in a practical, no-nonsense and amusing way! I really valued her experience and took on board so much of what she taught me; the branch has lost a highly valued and much cared-for member.

Sarah

Once upon a time...

Lili

Back in October 2023, my husband and I decided that we were in a position where we could give our time and energy to an adopted cat – we started scouring the websites of some of the big charities and came across Woking Cats Protection who were local to us.

We were open to adopting a cat or kitten but, upon searching the adoption list, came across a listing of five kittens who would shortly be ready for re-homing. I work from home, so we knew we'd be able to take on the needs of a kitten (with additional feeding and play!).

We went through the initial adoption process of an introductory call and were then put in touch with their fosterer, Kim. We arranged a date to see the kittens at Kim's home and spent some time chatting, playing and cuddling the kittens. The second smallest of the litter, then named Tina (who didn't shy away in telling the rest of the litter what to do), decided to climb up onto my husband and lie flat out on his hand... I don't think Lili could have made it more obvious that she was going to be our new kitten!

We spent the next week making a safe room and purchasing toys, cat scratchers, tunnels and all manner of exciting items for our new kitten, along with a cosy igloo bed and other necessities. Within minutes of Lili arriving, she was making herself at home, meowing for attention and exploring her new space.

The last five months have been an absolute whirlwind, but Lili has been the most wonderful addition to our family – she quite literally rules the house, but we wouldn't have it any other way! Following her neutering, she now has full access to the garden and in recent weeks has learnt how to climb the fences and is now exploring some of our (thankfully cat safe) neighbours' gardens too!

The adoption process was very streamlined and professional and the support we've had along the way has really helped us as new cat owners – big thanks to Kim for all her help and for introducing us to Lili!

Carla & Neil 



there was a litter of five kittens...

Nala and Nova

We rehomed Nala and Nova from Cats Protection Woking branch last year. We decided to look for a pair of kittens after losing our previous cat after 14 years (he was also a rescue kitten from Cats Protection). We felt an empty hole in our hearts and just needed that furry pet around. We had a look on the Cats Protection website and found "The Five Ts" up for rehoming and we instantly fell in love with Terri and Tallulah, as they were called then. After a few visits and house tours, we agreed to adopt them and brought them home in November 2023 at just four months old.

We've had them nearly five months now. We've been through a few challenges, but they are the best additions to our family. They never fail to make us laugh with their silly moves and crazy moments. They love a cardboard box and a snooze on their tree but their favourite is chasing the laser pen and tipping out their toys from their toy box! They have grown so much and have both recently explored the outside, enjoying chasing bugs and running around. We love them to pieces, thank you Woking Cats Protection!



Charlotte 

Smartie

Our previous cat Archie was only 11 years old when he suddenly got ill last October and had to be put to sleep. We were shocked and very sad as he'd been such a key member of our family. We started off saying we would wait before getting another cat, but then I saw the kittens that Woking Cats Protection were trying to find homes for. We got in touch and by mid-November Smartie had moved in.



Smartie is smart and looks smart in his black and white tux colouring. He is a real character and we are having a lot of fun with him. While he was small and not able to go outside, his favourite game was to chase small woolly pom-poms. We'd flick them off the bed and he would go flying in pursuit, pick them up in his mouth and then jump back on the bed so we could do it all again.

Another favourite pastime was to sit in a cardboard box on the kitchen table and to bite big chunks out of the box, which he very indelicately would spit out, before biting another chunk. Now he is eight months old and able to go outside, he has given up the pom-pom game but still sits and bites his box occasionally. He brings home feathers and leaves for us now. In the evenings he likes to jump up on the sofa, get under my legs which are covered with a cosy blanket, and sleep stretched out with his head poking out from under the blanket.

We are very pleased with him and he seems very happy with us!

Ellen 

...in need of good homes

Louis Toulouse

We were lucky enough to adopt Louis Toulouse as a kitten. One of the reasons we wanted a kitten is that we thought it would be an easier match for our two middle-aged cats.

We were somewhat right but didn't count on the bags of energy that came with Louis once he grew a little bigger. The remedy was found in a very regimented play routine – which delighted Louis (and spared the older cats) who knew what to look forward to and got a lot of happy chirps when it was playtime. Feather dangler toys were the best, even though the "dead" ones litter the house as he likes to keep them as trophies. He's also great at fetch, which is helpful when you don't have as much energy as him!

After playtime Louis is happy and very affectionate, he loves to flop down on or next to you for a stroke or brush, and he returns the favour by licking our hands. He's now just a bigger version of the very confident, friendly kitten we first met.

Louis maintains somewhere around a 75% approval rating with our two other cats. That's a lot to be said for an adorable, yet rambunctious feline equivalent of a teenager. Biggles, 9 years old and Bams, 11, are definitely more mature personalities and at times have struggled with Louis's constant kitten energy.



Biggles took to him in no time. The jury stayed out with Bams but, with Biggles's approval, in time Bams accepted Louis as part of her new norm. Adhering to Louis's playtime routine was – and very much still is – the apex of maintaining the peace amongst our trio.

We are so happy we've been able to give a home to another rescue cat. There is a lot of time and work involved, but Louis pays this back in full.

Kerry & Alex



Smitten by Shaun

Shaun came into our lives quite unexpectedly. We lost our beloved cat who was 18 years old last summer and made a conscious decision not to have another, certainly not for a while. However, before long we felt a big void in our lives without a cat to share our home.

We also realised how many cats are looking for their forever home with Cats Protection and we thought we could give a loving home to another cat sooner than we had planned. What we didn't quite expect was to be completely smitten so quickly by Shaun, a



handsome ginger and white senior gentleman at 14 years old looking for a peaceful home. The team at the Woking Cats Protection shared a little about his background and why he had come into their care. Shaun's owner had very recently passed away and unfortunately no one was able to care for Shaun so the branch stepped in.

It all happened very fast and before we knew it Shaun had moved in. He was of course very wary at first as he was still shell-shocked after losing his lifelong owner. He camped out, hiding under the table and just venturing out for food and then running back to the spot which he made his own. But before long he started to explore and interact with us with lots of head rubs along the way.

Very quiet initially, he soon found his voice especially when looking for a comfy lap to sit on; either my husband or I will do depending on who sits down first! Even if we aren't ready to sit down and relax he makes it clear he is and lets us know until we relent!

We were very surprised to see and hear him playing with the interactive toys we bought for him. He especially likes a small ball that rattles as he races around the room throwing from paw to paw – very agile for a senior gentleman! It isn't long though before he is ready for a rest and stretches out on the floor waiting for a tummy rub.

I have to be honest, when we first met him I wasn't sure whether Shaun was a name I would choose for a cat but now there is absolutely no way I would change it and Shaun – or Shauney as he is now affectionately called – definitely suits him down to the ground.

We are so grateful to the Woking Cats Protection team as they were super supportive and helpful, able to give a huge amount of advice on adopting an older cat. A very special mention goes to Kim, Pauline and Caroline who are dedicated beyond measure to Woking Cats Protection and all had a huge part to play in bringing Shaun to us and we are so happy that we were able to give Shaun his forever home.

Sandy 

Important notice – price of membership

Due to increasing costs, we regrettably need to put up the membership fee for 2025 to £12 a year (£8 for senior membership).

Fundraising update

The Big Winter Roam 2024

A huge thank you to all the intrepid Woking & District Cats Protection supporters who signed up to the Big Winter Roam in February and nominated our branch to receive the funds they raised. Andrew, Gill, Catherine, Alicia, Nicola, Louise and Jason all challenged themselves to walk a purrpuss-ful 100 miles during the month. These superstars raised more than £500 between them and their amazing support has gone towards everything from medical treatment to blankets and toys for cats in our community.



Miles for Moggies

As well as the Big Winter Roam, our branch Social Media Volunteer Andrew also took part in the Miles for Moggies challenge and accumulated an impressive 120 miles of walking during May. Some of it was even done in sunny weather! Thank you to everyone who sponsored him.

Thank you, Runnymede Hotel!

Our friends Sue and Luisa at the Runnymede on Thames Hotel have yet again done us proud by completing the Easter 50 Ultra Challenge – a massive 25km walk in just 4 hours, 44 minutes, despite the wind and the mud! Their generous sponsors helped them raise over £1000. Not only that, the Runnymede Hotel provided Champagne Afternoon Tea vouchers for the Quiz Night and Spring Fayre prizes, as well as a further donation to our funds.

Thank you



Fundraising update

Quiz night

The 11th Woking Cats Protection Quiz Night in February hosted 17 teams, presided over as usual by Quizmaster Mark. "The Moggie Minors", "What the Cat Dragged in" and "Feline Friskies", to name but three, puzzled over questions on fictional dogs, types of dance, and Pac-man ghosts: something for everyone! Scores remained close but Prosecco Cat Fanciers clinched the top spot with the Lint Roller Rebels being awarded the traditional cat-themed wooden spoons. With a raffle and a couple of other games for good measure, this popular fundraising evening was enjoyed by many of our fantastic supporters.



Prosecco Cat Fanciers:
Top spot on the clean washing in the sunshine!

Lint Roller Rebels:
Tried hard but landed at the bottom of the litter tray!



Spring Fayre

It feels like a while since the Spring Fayre back in March, but this was an incredibly successful fundraiser, smashing our previous totals for this event. A massive thank you to everyone who attended. Ruth, our fundraising volunteer, says: "I would just like to thank everyone who helped at the fayre. In addition to the Committee members, our fantastic volunteers once again gave up their time to help out. We received a huge amount of donated chocolate for the tombola which raised the highest amount ever. Thanks again to Emily Lockhart for the a large donation of Lindt chocolate. "



Holly proudly guards her owners' winnings from the chocolate tombola.

Cats at a dog show!

Our eye-catching stall, resplendent in the new Cats Protection colours, attracted plenty of interest at the RSCPA's Fun Dog Show at Millbrook, Chobham at the end of May. Our volunteers were rewarded with a sunny day, steady sales and even enjoyed an ice cream or two!



Christmas Fayre

10.30am-1.30pm
Saturday 2 November 2024
New Haw Community Centre

Put it in your diary now!

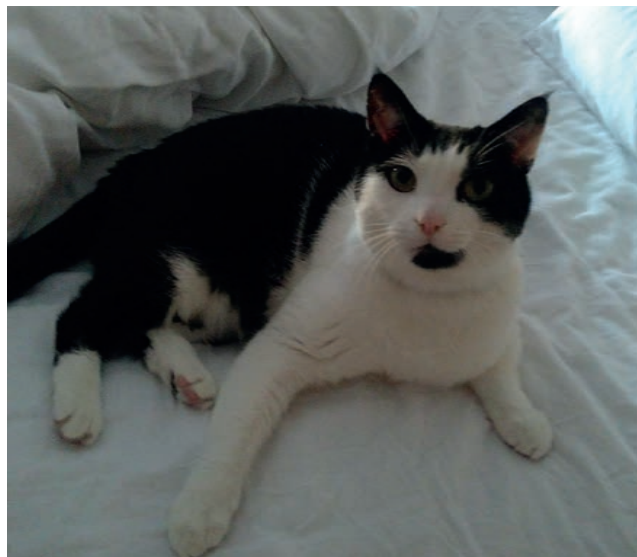
Hugo supervises the gardening

Hugo came to Woking Cats Protection when he was found some years ago in a bag at Byfleet station. He was then adopted but sadly had to be returned to care when circumstances changed for his household. Now he has a new home and, once again, all the love he deserves.

I saw Hugo's photo on the Woking Cats Protection website and decided to leave a message on the answerphone. As it was just after Christmas, I doubted anyone would be available, but within a day I received a call from a very pleasant gentleman, followed by another from Louise, Hugo's fosterer. After I met him on 29 December all the admin went very smoothly and efficiently (despite it being the Christmas holidays), and Louise brought him to me on 1 January.

He has settled in perfectly, and we are the best of friends. Hugo is super affectionate, chatty and playful. He enjoys his scratch post which Lou kindly brought along with him and his catnip toys. He's remarkably good at turning sheet-changing day into an extreme sport too!

Best of all, he loves the garden, often following me about to supervise my tidying and weeding! All this



exercise has helped him to lose some weight and increase his fitness, which he proves as he gallops up and down the stairs!

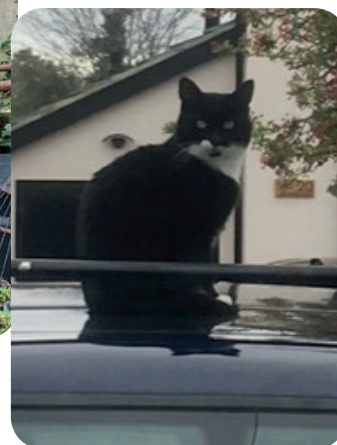
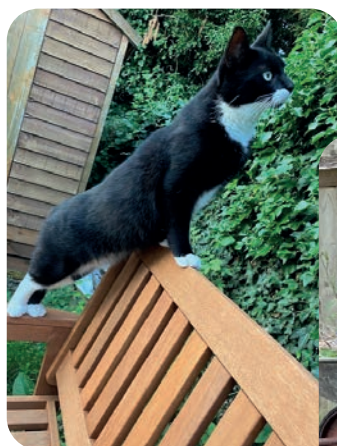
He is such a kind natured and generous cat, which is testament to all the care and love shown to him by everyone at Woking Cats Protection. I'd just like to thank you for introducing me to Hugo: I feel blessed to share my life with him.

Catherine 

Remembering Speedy, the perfect pet

I would like to share some pictures of the lovely cat we adopted 18 months ago, but who sadly died suddenly of heart failure at only three years old.

We called him Speedy and he was the perfect pet, so affectionate and gentle. He loved his garden in the summer, sitting by the fire in winter and watching the world go by from the top of the car. He brought so much joy into our lives and will be greatly missed.



Eniko 

Hazel: hair bobble thief

Hazel was found as a stray in Woking. Her owners couldn't be traced especially as she wasn't microchipped, but it didn't take long for this gorgeous tabby to be adopted.

WEEK ONE:

When Hazel came to us she was called Melissa. The day was 21 January 2024. At first she was meant to stay in one room but she escaped quite a lot so we let her out after three or four days. She took a liking to some hair bands she found and was soon stealing them from our parents' bedroom. She has a big bald patch on her left side from a spaying operation which we are hoping will go soon.

WEEK TWO:

Hazel went upstairs (the attic) and found a very comfy and warm desk chair which was where she spent the following couple of days. She then started to quite like pawing at our fluffy things we have around the house. She is also allowed out in the house at night to play now.

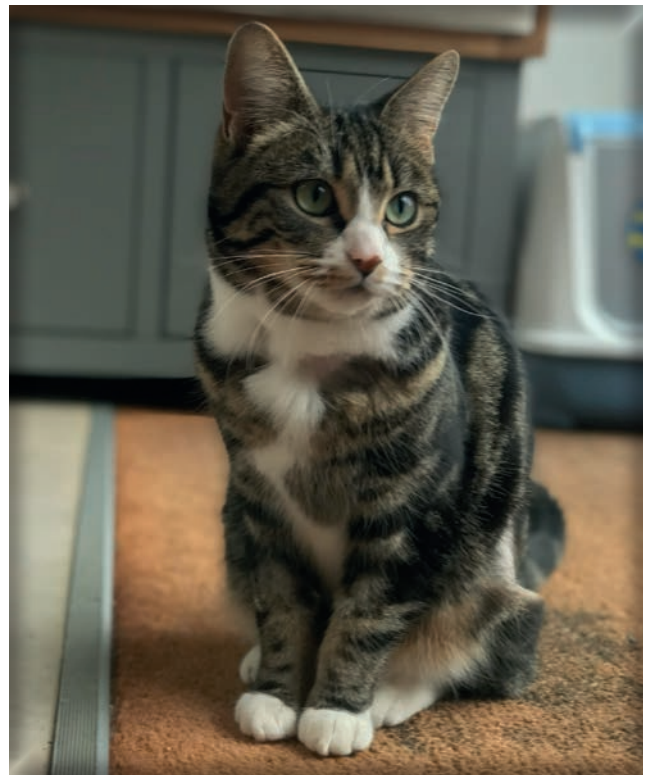
WEEK THREE:

Hazel has settled in nicely and we are hoping to get her outside soon. She has lost a few hair bobbles under the fridge now, but we have lots of spares (by that we mean she steals a few more!). She also has found the eaves in our attic and loves slipping into cracks between the storage boxes. We have a triangular window above some trifold doors that she likes to scramble up and sit there surveying the garden, when it's time to come down she just leaps onto the nearest soft object (an orange chair).

She is also an idiot sometimes, like when she pokes the hair bobble she is playing with under a closed door and can't get it back or when she flops down on us and slides straight off us without noticing! She is an idiot but she's our idiot.

Note: Hazel contributed to this by stepping on my keyboard and typing random things.

George & Daniel 



Spotlight on volunteers

Deirdre - indoor fosterer

I became an official indoor fosterer for Woking Cats Protection in November 2023. However my fostering really began in June 2022 with Monty, a stray cat who had been frequenting our garden. I reached out to the branch for help and advice. They were an invaluable support and once I caught Monty and got him an initial trip to the vets for a check-up and chip scan (no chip!), it was then arranged for him to be neutered and get the necessary vet treatment. He then came back to me to be cared for until a new home could be found. As a fosterer, I get to meet the potential adopters and saying goodbye to Monty was made easier knowing he was going to a good home, as well as seeing some updates on him afterwards, where he looked so contented.

Later I took in another stray, Shadow, who again turned out not to be chipped. He unfortunately was getting into fights and carried a myriad of scrapes and scratches which were not being treated. He had a trip to the vet for neutering and treatment and is now in a lovely home having the life he deserves.

I was then asked if I would like to become an indoor fosterer, and knowing the joy it brings, I

was very happy to do so. Although it is always sad to say goodbye to a foster cat this is far outweighed by the happiness of knowing that they are going to a good home, and of course there is always another cat waiting in the wings. These cats are often strays who have not known much love or attention in their life. I spend time with them, getting them used to human contact, playing with them and hopefully bringing out the best in them – they are all different and wonderful little characters. My biggest joy is watching the transformation in them, often from a timid little cat into a loving, attention-seeking lap cat, ready for their new forever home.



Monty



Stanley



My own first liaison with having cats goes back about 25 years when we took in a stray and, having unsuccessfully tried to find her owner, decided to keep her. We called her Nikita and we had her for 16 years. When we lost her we then adopted Keira who was around 12 and Willow, a kitten, whose mother had been rescued. We lost Keira on the first day of lockdown in March 2020. Then in October that year, we adopted Kayleigh, another rescue. I cannot imagine our home without a cat and the joy they bring to it. Fostering allows me to bring that joy to others whilst also helping a cat find its forever home.

Spotlight on volunteers

Mickie - socialiser

Hello Woking! Until December 2021, we had been living in Johannesburg for over 20 years. However we made the decision to follow our younger daughter and her family to the UK.

At that time they had two cats, Lucifer and Ginger, who were young enough to be relocated with them, but our three – Dot, Scotch and Squeak – were too old to ask to move. They came with us to our interim flat in Jo'burg but as we spent more and more time in the UK they had to be looked after by other people. Sadly Dot died at the age of almost 20 but Scotch and Squeak adapted well to flat living.

In September 2022, Squeak disappeared in a freak incident and died while we were on a trip to the UK but I managed to persuade a good friend, who was really looking for kittens, to take our gorgeous ginger Scotch – who was 11 years old – for “just three weeks”. Scotch turned on the charm as I knew he would, and he has been loved and cosseted with them ever since. We always had cats, sometimes as many as four at a time, for 47 years and I felt



utterly bereft without them. Because we still spend about three months a year in South Africa, homing or adopting a cat isn't really an option. I have therefore asked to become a cat fosterer for Cats Protection and as a first step, I have become a socialiser and have recently loved visiting Larry, Rosie and Willow.

I can't wait to be able to foster and to actually have that special feline presence in the home. I miss their love and affection and especially their empathy at difficult times in my life.

Filipa - socialiser

I'm Filipa and for a long time I've wanted to do some volunteering with pets. I contacted Cats Protection to find out if there was anything I could do to help, and they told me about socialising. I've been doing it since 2023, and I love it!

Going every week, helping cats getting ready to be adopted is amazing! There is no better feeling than hearing that one of the cats you've been helping has found a home.

I don't have a cat myself but my family cat called Tigro is a chubby, grumpy boy who loves to sit in the bread basket pretending not to care, but won't leave your side and is always checking what the dog is doing.

Eventually I would love to adopt a cat, once I have enough space to offer them the best life possible, and maybe even become a Cats Protection fosterer myself.



Cats Protection is an amazing organisation that is making a difference to the life of so many cats. I want to thank CP and fosterer Alison for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it.

Sasha came to stay

Sasha was brought into Lynton Vets as a stray, having been found locally in someone's garden under a bush. She was in a neglected state, underweight and very matted. Cats Protection funded her veterinary tests and she was found to have hyperthyroidism. She stayed at the vets for a few weeks being cared for by staff until a Woking branch indoor fosterer could take her into care. However when the fosterer suddenly had to go away for a short time, alternative arrangements were made. And look where that led...

Her birth certificate says 14 years old, well that may be the case on paper, now she is behaving more like a two-year-old! Being deaf, the volume of her voice is enough to wake the dead and alongside this she communicates more attitude and instructions with her swishing tail than I have ever known a cat before to demonstrate. Without doubt she has made her home here with me. She even has her own TV channel – as you can see!



Before

There is a popular saying, "Everything happens for a reason." And this may well just so be the case with a deaf, little old tortoiseshell lady called Sasha. A few weeks before Christmas 2023, I was having a catch-up with Pauline. During our chat, a request was gently dropped into the conversation: could I look after a puss for a few days? Why not, I thought, it's just a few days and as she had nowhere else to go, how could I possibly say no? Well, need I say more, said little old lady has never left and five months on she has me bang to rights, running about all over the place in order to satisfy her every demand!



Some of you may remember my beautiful boy Kinell, who used to assist me with editing Felis Catus in my 12 years as Woking Cats Protection Branch Co-ordinator. Sadly, I had to say goodbye to him exactly two years ago and having another cat had not been on my radar. Indeed, everything happens for a reason and for some reason that phone call and that small request has made two old ladies very happy, because Sasha Came to Stay!

Please consider adopting an older cat, they all deserve a safe place during their senior years and they will turn your house into a home.

Mary



After

Rudy - a big part of the family

Spotted in a garden, lost and hungry, Rudy was taken in temporarily by his kind finder who had cats of his own. Rudy had not been neutered or microchipped and despite the best efforts of everyone, no owner was found, so Woking Cats Protection organised his medical checks and put him up for rehoming.

My family had wanted a cat shortly after the last of our rats passed away mid-2023. I didn't want to rush into things, but once we were back from an early holiday this year, the time seemed right.

We contacted Woking Cats Protection with an enquiry about a black cat we'd seen on their website. It turned out that cat was a little too old for what we wanted, and so two others were discussed. We said we would like to meet them both. A video home check was carried out and an intro was arranged for us with Rudy (formerly Digby). He was to be our first meet, so we went to the home of the very kind gentleman who had found him and taken him in.



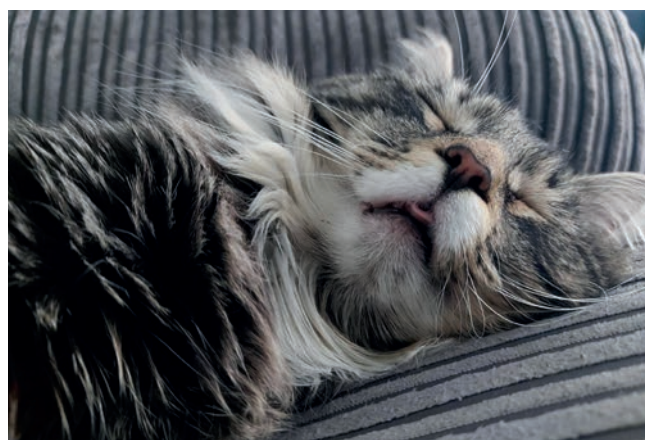
The moment we met Rudy we loved him. He was happy to say hello to us and ably demonstrated his use of the litter tray – gee, thanks! We decided then and there he would be ours. No further viewing necessary!

Pauline at Cats Protection was brilliant at going through everything with us (over a cup of tea, naturally) and he came to live with us the following week. Cats Protection had neutered and microchipped him and his course of injections had



been started. He had a clean bill of health. He settled down with us like this has always been his home.

Rudy is around 18 months old and is a big part of our family already. His antics, sweet pictures and videos have captured the hearts of cats lovers on Instagram from all over the world. We can't imagine being without Rudy and the whole family adores him. Thanks to Woking Cats Protection for your amazing kindness and organisation in getting Rudy into his new home with us.



Krista



Confidential grief support

Paws to Listen is Cats Protection's free and confidential grief support service run by volunteers who are dedicated and compassionate in helping pet owners at times of loss.

Volunteers are formally trained in providing emotional support and understand that every loss is deeply personal and meaningful. They can also give practical information on after-death options and ways to celebrate the life of a beloved cat.

A telephone support service is available on **0800 024 94 94** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, excluding bank holidays).

Alternatively, you can email the service at **pawstolisten@cats.org.uk** and general advice can be found at **cats.org.uk/grief**



Cats Protection is a registered charity 203644 (England and Wales), SC037711 (Scotland) and is listed as a Section 167 institution by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (06772997).
Registered office National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 7TT | PTL_1131

Campaigning for cats

At the time of going to press the general election had not yet taken place but, whatever the result, the Cats Protection Advocacy, Campaigns & Government Relations Team will continue to work to progress these key bills through the new Parliament.



Pet Abduction Bill

We're delighted that the Pet Abduction Bill completed its remaining stages on the final day Parliament could pass new laws before the election. This means that cat theft is set to become a new specific offence, helping to keep cats safe, give owners reassurance that police will investigate pet theft, and deter criminals looking to exploit our much-loved cats. From August it will make taking a cat, or taking or detaining a dog, a criminal offence. Under the new law, anyone convicted could face a fine or a maximum of five years in prison. Initial government proposals on pet theft didn't include cats, so it is wonderful that our campaigning efforts have been successful to give cats and dogs the same protections.



Renters (Reform) Bill

The Renters (Reform) Bill was progressing through Parliament before the election was called. The Advocacy Team has been campaigning for a long time to encourage landlords to allow pets and the team welcomes the proposals in the Renters (Reform) Bill to give tenants the right to request a pet in their property, which the landlord must consider and cannot unreasonably refuse. We believe that the timeframe between request and response should be reduced to 28 days and we are calling for this amendment to the Bill.



Cat Breeding

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee launched an inquiry last year to look at issues including animal mutilation, pet smuggling and breeding. Following a public call for evidence and a series of oral sessions which heard evidence from experts including Cats Protection, the committee

has now published its findings. The committee acknowledged that cat breeding is becoming an increasingly accessible and lucrative business, but there are few legal safeguards to protect cats and their kittens. They recommended that cat breeding should be awarded the same legislative safeguards as awarded to dogs under Licensing of Activities Involving Animals Regulations. The Advocacy Team will work with the next Government to improve standards in cat breeding.



Kitten Smuggling

The team also welcomed the proposed Animal Welfare (Import of Cats, Dogs and Ferrets) Bill which will bring with it much-needed restrictions on the animals which can be imported into the UK, including a ban on transporting heavily pregnant cats and kittens under six months old. This Bill replaces an earlier proposal which aimed to prevent pet smuggling, but excluded cats and kittens. Thanks to the thousands of Cats Protection supporters who contacted their MP calling on the Government to stand up for cats and kittens, the new Bill was proposed which included cats.



Annabel & Charlotte from the Advocacy Team

Phoebe - a cat obsessed with water

Following the sad loss last year of our dear boy, Scamp, at the age of 18, my sons and I were thoroughly bereft without feline company. Within weeks we had the good fortune of meeting three-month-old Phoebe, lodging at the time with her brothers under the loving foster care of Alison in Woking.

Having passed our rigorous Cats Protection vetting for suitability, Phoebe joined us in August and has been ruling the roost ever since. She has a wonderful nature, very loving, intelligent, inquisitive – and certainly athletic as she tears around the house like Tom after Jerry! As for lounging around after all her exercise, Phoebe has developed an uncanny sense of when my boys are about to sit on their beanbag and jumps in with seconds to spare, staking her claim as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth!

Phoebe adapted well to a staycation with my parents when we went on holiday recently and they, like all who meet her, immediately fell under her spell! She is regularly delighted to host a very gentle labrador and has endless fun chasing his wagging tail and playing hide and seek with him, before they settle amicably together in front of the wood-burner.



She chatters away on window ledges, watching a variety of songbirds come to feed but sadly salivating with natural feline killer instinct. She's only recently discovered the great outdoors; our first job was to raise the bird feeders from her reach, but I fear it will be only a matter of time before she finds other means of capture.



We've had cats in the past who enjoy fresh tap water, but Phoebe is nothing short of obsessed with water, be it from a glass, cup, loo, basin (under which tap she even immerses her head and shoulders) and not least from vases of fresh flowers. I've learnt to use heavy-based receptacles that can't be upturned; her solution here is to remove the flowers, have a drink, then soak her front paws and shake them around the window panes. It's as well she's so adorable and cannot be admonished!

Phoebe has brought so much enjoyment to us all and is a wonderful addition to the family. It's been many years since we've had a kitten – and my boys were very tiny at the time – so it's fabulous for them to be part of her entertainment team, and we're enjoying seeing her character develop. Thank you so much, Alison, and all at Woking Cats Protection!

Fiona



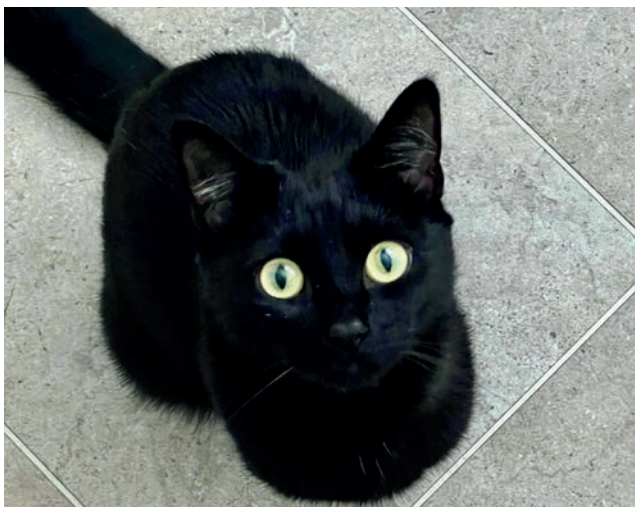
Chatty Maggie is a bundle of fun

Maggie came into care when her previous owners moved and sadly couldn't take her with them. As always, Woking & District Cats Protection made sure she was matched with the right new home.

When we lost our furry best friend late last year, I was distraught and couldn't imagine ever having another cat. However, back in January Alfie's little face appeared on my Facebook feed, and this changed my opinion completely and showed me I was ready to adopt another cat needing a loving home. But when I met Alfie I immediately knew it wasn't right. I knew he would rip apart my shutters and curtains, meaning our home wasn't right for him. I wasn't his human, however, he led me to Maggie.



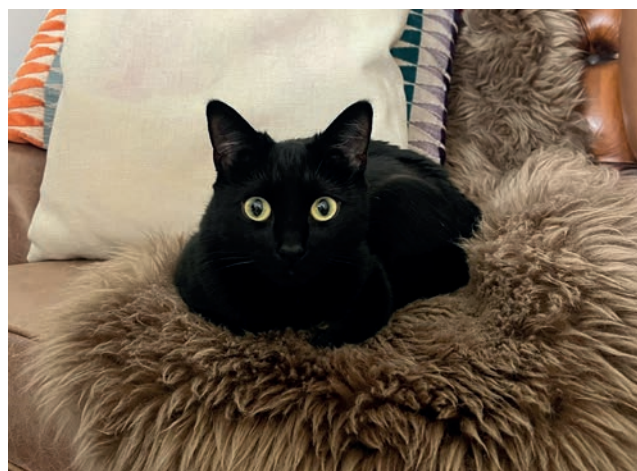
I was so impressed with the process from start to finish. From the honesty of Pauline in backing up my feelings about Alfie and then suggesting we meet Maggie, through to her settling Maggie in with us on her "Gotcha Day" and the follow-ups with Maggie's lovely fosterer Deirdre. We fell in love with Mags right away and we're so happy she has become part of our family.



I worried initially that we wouldn't ever hear her voice as all she did for weeks was squeak. However... fast forward three months and she is quite the conversationalist. Particularly whenever she needs to know EXACTLY where you are in the house, or to tell you she needs a snack or remind you it's very nearly teatime.

She is a real bundle of fun, keeping us entertained with her jaw-dropping jumps and leaps. Equally, she is such a snuggler and if she isn't sleeping with us at night she is napping in my pyjama drawer.

She has twisted her dad around her little paw. My husband was more reserved about having another cat. But Maggie has been sure to change this view by becoming quite the daddy's girl. She will only sit on his lap (not mine) which of course he loves but will never admit.



We'll always miss our girl, Kizzie. She gave us 16 years of love and joy. But, in losing her we have been able to love Maggie too.

Thank you for all you do at Cats Protection for finding the right home for these furry babies and not just any home.

Sarah



Cuddly Colin

Colin was trapped on an industrial site as part of a "Trap, neuter, return" scheme which helps control the population of feral cats. Colin was young enough to be socialised so he came into care and he soon got used to life's luxuries – such as a comfy sofa – and has now found his forever home.

As cat owners for many years, we enjoyed the company of a cat companion (also rehomed via Cats Protection). It therefore felt very natural to turn to Cats Protection last year after our last beloved cat passed away. The house felt very empty without a cat companion, so we were delighted to see Colin the kitten on the Woking website. A beautiful black and white boy, with very wide eyes and huge paws!

We were thrilled to be allowed to adopt Colin. He has settled in well, although still a little timid at times with strangers, he loves a fuss and a cuddle first thing in the morning – usually with lots of licks!

Colin loves to chase and play with various toys – balls and his pink mouse are his favourites. He is just beginning to learn about the outside world, gazing at the birds from various window sills! His current favourite spot is curled up on the sofa by the fire, and although not a lap cat yet, he loves to cuddle next to you, rolling onto his back for a chin scratch! We're delighted to have Colin in our lives and so grateful to the Cats Protection team who made this possible.

Victoria 



Colin...



grows...



...up!

Mochi - what a princess!

I was lucky enough to meet our beautiful Mochi at just a few days old. She was the first of her siblings to venture away from her mum on very unsteady feet and she continued to be the first to greet me on every visit. She immediately stole my heart.

Mochi came to live with us last September and pretty much instantly claimed her spot as the most important member of the family. She is certainly the quirkiest cat we have ever had and there is still a question mark over whether she is part dog!

Her favourite pastime is playing fetch with her favourite ball or following me around the house. She is incredibly nosy and likes to "help" with any activity taking place in the house. She is currently thrilled to be helping make a wedding dress, which can sometimes be a little challenging! All in all, she is the sweetest, most adorable, weird, crazy,

gorgeous little bundle and the biggest princess going. Adopting her was most definitely the best decision we made.

Cheryl 



Ziggy & Teddy: the delightful duo

Ziggy and Teddy became part of our family at the beginning of January and have brought much joy and happiness to our lives. We decided over the Christmas holidays that we wanted to adopt a kitten and when Alison sent us photos of Ziggy and Teddy we couldn't believe how adorable they were – just what we were looking for!

In preparation for their arrival, we decked out the playroom of our house with kitten-friendly toys and soft places to rest. When their moving-in day came, they were slightly anxious in their new surroundings and immediately sought out cosy and confined spaces; Ziggy found a comfy space

has always observed his more extrovert brother's actions before deciding to join in himself. It has been a joy to see how Teddy has grown in confidence and will now regularly come to find us, head bowed waiting for a tickle at the top of his nose or behind his ears.

They are still both kittens, approaching their first birthday and have an unending youthful appetite for fun and play. They will take any opportunity to play with their toys on the end of fishing rods or chase pieces of string. And even on those odd occasions when they can't get the attention of our family, they will entertain



behind the TV whilst Teddy squirmed his way between the sofa and the wall. Over those first few hours, we began to observe their personalities, with Ziggy showing more immediate bravery in coming out to say hello and showing an interest in the toys around the room. As the hours turned to days and the days to weeks, the boys have grown in confidence in our busy and bustling home. The day-to-day family noises which were disconcerting for them at first have now been cause for them to investigate whoever has been moving around, seeking out a tickle and a stroke.

They each have very distinctive characteristics. Shorthaired tabby Ziggy is an adventurer and shows strong interest in whoever has a moment for him. He has boundless energy and will often try to encourage us to join him on his rug in the lounge where his toys are now kept. His brother Teddy has a stunning longhair coat and tail and

one another – tugging either end of a shoelace or playing hide and seek (or should that be hide and pounce?!) in and around a cardboard box.

Every morning they both bound up the stairs and start meowing loudly outside our bedroom doors for us to give them a tickle and food! They are now learning to use the cat flap and are exploring the surrounding area. We purchased mini cat trackers when they first went outside so we could see if they were okay and where they were. Ziggy has basically explored everywhere and recently we have seen that Teddy is steadily exploring more of our neighbourhood as well! We are very happy that they have now settled in with us perfectly. We are so pleased that we have such gorgeous cats in our lives. Thank you very much Cats Protection – you made our lives shine!

Suzanne & Paul 

Enzo turns on the charm

Curious, cute and content, our new addition has settled in seamlessly to his new surroundings. From the moment he jumped out of his basket on the day he arrived with us, he has been keen to explore every corner of his new home, from the washing machine and wardrobes to the dishwasher and even the oven!



We lost our beautiful rescue cat Leo in February and he left an empty space in our home. We thought it would take some time to find another cat to fill that space, but the first time we looked on the Cats Protection website, we saw Enzo (then named Chico). On paper, he sounded perfect. After a few conversations with the charity's volunteers, we set up a meeting.

From the moment we met him, he turned on the charm and purred constantly for the 30 minutes we visited. He played with us, sat with us, gave us cuddles. We knew straight away that he was the one. The following day he was delivered to us and we haven't looked back. He is adorable (even when he climbs the curtains!). It's been five weeks since he arrived and already we can't imagine life without him.

A huge thank you to the Cats Protection team for giving us their time, advice and support. We are very grateful.

Sharon, Izzy & Harry 

Milo: a calming influence

Despite looking for a female kitten to play with, our two children were hooked by Cats Protection's amazing description of seven and a half-year-old Milo! We are delighted with our new member of the family. He is never far from my husband, despite my husband saying no to a cat for the last seven years. It's been amazing to watch Milo blossom during the weeks he has been with us. He understandably covered away in the first couple of weeks, having been in multiple homes before joining us. When Milo came to us the Easter school holidays had just begun and he seemed to find the house too noisy with all of us at home. However, nocturnal Milo enjoyed the sanctuary of the house at night when he happily bonded with my husband.

Although Milo can still get spooked sometimes, he is a much happier cat. His new favourite toy is a feather wand with a bell, despite the noise of the bell scaring him at first. He is now much more confident, as I found out when I let him out of the back door the first time. He returned via an upstairs window,

despite the back door being open! Thank you, Cats Protection, for rescuing and fostering lovely Milo, for taking him back when his stay at his second family was short-lived and for bringing him to our attention. You all do amazing work. Milo has taught us to be a quieter family and personally made me more aware of when I am stressed. A cat chooses his owner and that's never me when I am stressed!



Dena 

Does your cat have a microchip? If not, act now!

Attention cat lovers! Did you know that compulsory microchipping for all pet cats in England came into effect on 10 June? The new rules means that cats must be microchipped before they reach the age of 20 weeks, except for unowned cats like feral and community cats. As part of the new rules, you must keep your contact details up-to-date on a Defra-approved microchipping database.

If you missed the June deadline, the new law states you'll have 21 days to have your cat microchipped, or you may face a fine of up to £500. The microchipping law is only being introduced in England at the moment, but Cats Protection will continue to campaign for this same approach to be introduced in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

What's a microchip?

A microchip is a tiny device, about the size of a grain of rice, which is implanted under your cat's skin in a quick and easy procedure. It contains a unique 15-digit number that can be seen when scanned with a microchip reader. This number, along with your contact information, is stored securely in a microchipping database. This means that if your cat ever gets lost, the microchip can help identify them and ensure they find their way back to you safely.

Why has microchipping become law?

We've been campaigning for all owned cats to be microchipped since the law was first introduced for dogs back in 2016. The vast majority of cats that come into our care are sadly not microchipped, which places a huge amount of strain on our resources as we try and find their owners, or if unsuccessful, look to rehome them. We know that for many, if their cat goes missing, it can feel like they've lost a member of the family. By having your cat microchipped, you're helping make sure they have the best chance of being reunited with you.

What if my cat doesn't go outside?

Even if your feline friend is a pampered indoor cat, microchipping remains a legal requirement in England. Cats have been known to escape out of open windows and have even escaped out of their carriers when on the way to the vets, so don't leave your indoor kitty vulnerable – get them microchipped today!

Why can't I just use a collar or a tracker?

The law is specifically for microchips. A collar with an ID tag or Air Tag may get lost or come loose without you knowing, or even put your cat at risk of injury. GPS trackers also require a power source to work, unlike microchips.

What if I can't afford it?

It costs around £20 to £30 to have your cat microchipped which is a small price to pay to hugely increase the chances of being reunited with your cat if it goes missing. While Cats Protection does not currently have a microchipping financial assistance offering, there may be alternative local schemes available to you to help with the cost of microchipping. Please contact us, another local cat charity or your local vet to see if there is a scheme near you that can help.

Will Cats Protection report me if my cat isn't microchipped and it's brought in as a stray?

At Cats Protection, we're here to support cat owners with these changes. If your cat is found and isn't microchipped, you will have 21 days to get your cat microchipped or may face a fine of up to £500. We'll give you guidance about how to get your cat microchipped as soon as possible.

Are there any other benefits?

Microchipping is a safe and permanent method of identification of your cat. which could mean the difference between a lost and a found cat. Furthermore, there are various devices that use chip technology to improve cat welfare, for example if you install a microchip cat flap, it can also keep your home safe from other cats, saving your pet from stress and ensuring its food does not get eaten by an intruder! And microchip feeders enable an owner of several cats to control what each cat is fed.

Keep them purring with a gift in your Will

Keep them chasing toys and pouncing, snoozing on our laps and eyeing up whatever's on our plate. Keep them head bumping and kneading our jumpers. Let's make sure they always feel safe and loved, no matter what.

This is why gifts in Wills are so important. They help us to keep caring for all kinds of cats and kittens, now and for years to come.

Almost half the cats we help at Cats Protection get the care they need because of gifts in Wills. It helps us keep our promise to never put a healthy cat to sleep and continue to help around 157,000 cats every year, each with their own unique personalities.

**Find out more and request an information pack at
cats.org.uk/giftsinwills-catmag**

Or contact the team at giftsinwills@cats.org.uk or 01825 741 271



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Ways to help



**Please take a look
at our wishlist**



Be in control of your data

If you'd prefer not to receive information by post, or wish to change the ways we contact you, please contact Support Services by telephoning 0800 160 1012 Monday to Friday during office hours (9am - 5pm), emailing preferences@cats.org.uk or writing to us at Freepost RTJK-TJJK-GREZ, Supporter Services, Cats Protection, National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, RH17 7TT.

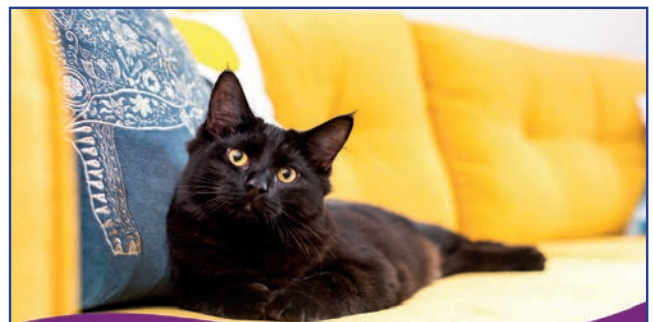
Please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/347a7sur> if you have any questions about how we use your data.

Please note that articles that give out facts are written using the most accurate information available at the time of publishing. Views expressed are individual and not necessarily the view of the charity and its supporters. We cannot be held responsible for any incorrect information inadvertently published. Charity Number 203644 / SC037711



Join our team!

Could you spare a few hours to join us? We would love your help at fundraising fayres, with driving cats to and from the vets, for feral food runs and caring for the cats when a fosterer is on holiday. Come and make a difference to cats in your area!



**We have a new phone
number**

Please use 01483 928 018 to contact
us going forward - Thank you

Get in touch!

Call us on 01483 928018 and leave us a message:

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Mailbox 2 - If you need to rehome your cat

Mailbox 3 - Lost & Found

Mailbox 4 - Volunteering, neutering, all other enquiries.

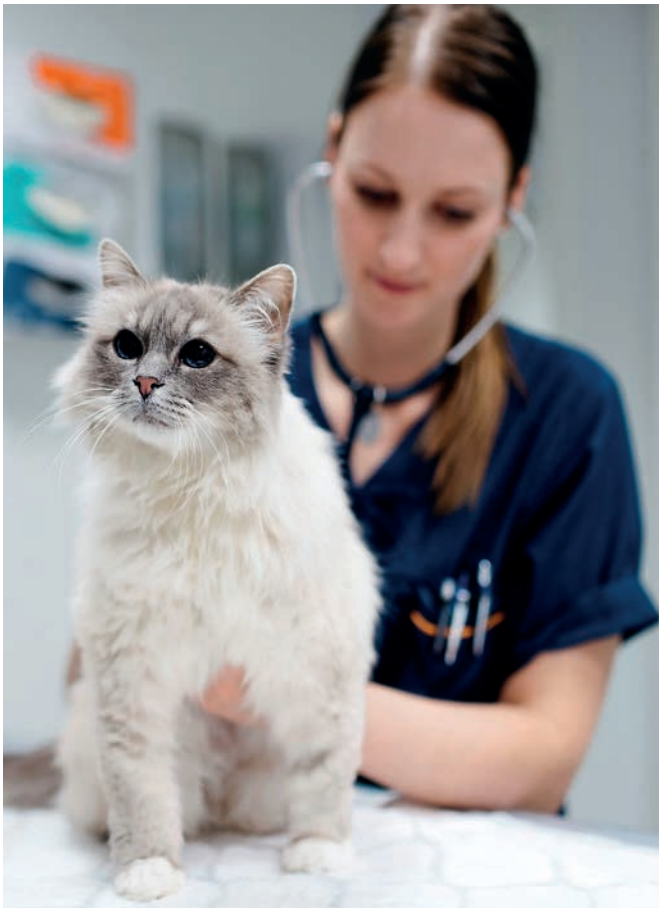
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See: cats.org.uk/woking

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