


Felis Catus



Newsletter of the
Woking & District Cats Protection
January – June 2025





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Welcome

Welcome to Felis Catus!

Another year has come and gone and many, many cats and kittens have been taken into the care of Woking Cats Protection and then found their forever homes. We love sharing their adoption updates in our newsletter and hope you enjoy reading about these former strays, surrenders and too-young mums who have fallen on their paws. The story of brave Willow (page 23), who overcame infections, operations and rehabilitation, is a great example of one cat's progress to a happy life.

Sadly, there is always a very long waiting list, so the branch continues to strive to help stray, abandoned and simply unlucky felines and this is only possible with the help of our amazing supporters, some of whom are celebrated on pages 3 and 4. We wish we had room for you all!

We know how hard our volunteers work, but even off duty they are doing incredible things for cats. A huge well done to Louise, a fosterer, who achieved the remarkable rescue of Maurice (page 5). He really is one very fortunate Siamese and the best advert for microchipping your cat there could possibly be!

All the best for a happy and healthy 2025

Jane

editor@woking.cats.org.uk



Volunteers Matter

Welcome to: Emily Baldrick, Sharon Buckley, Amanda Cox, Carolyn Hill, Claire Pettet, Mike Rapkin.

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: Freya

Design credit: Annie Cope

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WokingCatsProtection



@wokingcp



@wokingcatsprotection

Meet the furry bikers!

- says our coordinator, Mark

Volunteers from the Woking branch of Cats Protection were recently contacted about four kittens that had been found living rough outside Dave Goddard Motorcycles in Cranford, just east of Heathrow airport. The owner of the business was, understandably, very concerned about their wellbeing and enlisted the help of Samantha Reed in a rescue operation.

The four gorgeous kittens were all extremely scared, hungry and very wary of humans. Eventually, Samantha, Dave and his employees were able to capture three of the kittens and their mum, and Samantha not only contacted us about them but then kindly delivered them into our care. The fourth kitten was caught a few days later and was immediately reunited with his family.

After seeing them settled into a clean and warm pen with a good supply of healthy food and clean litter, the time came to choose some names. Kim, their carer, eventually settled on (from left to right) Suzuki, Harley, Aprilia and Maeving, or as they're now collectively known, the Furry Bikers.

They were taken to the vets for a checkup, who gave them all a clean bill of health as well as precautionary treatment for fleas and worms.

We were lucky to find them at the age they were, even a week or so more of rough living is likely to have seen them become totally feral, and having to take their chances in what can be a very unfriendly world for a kitten. Even so, proving to them that not all humans are not out for their blood took a great deal of time, patience and persistence.

All of them are now well on their way to finding a loving, permanent home. They're much more comfortable around people now and are quite happy to sit on a lap and exercise their little engines, even Maeving who keeps forgetting he's electric.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers in Woking branch whose skill and dedication got them to this stage, in particular, Kim, their main carer.

I'd also like to publicly thank Dave of Dave Goddard Motorcycles and Samantha Reed for their prompt action and their generous donation. It has, without doubt, given these little guys every reason to look forward to a long and happy life in a very loving home.

Mark



Star supporters

Celebrating some of our star supporters during the year

★ Lady Z

★ Kathy C

★ John & Sarah

★ Ruth D

★ Angela G

★ Petra J

★ C Marsters

★ E Slater

★ Ghazala J

★ Hannah I

★ I Roos

★ Andrew I

★ Sandra G

★ Janet D

★ Pauline W

★ Jemima H

★ E Heaton

★ Tom L

★ Cari C

★ Fiona Mc

★ J Naish

★ J T Jones

★ Patricia C

★ Nicola S

★ A Morris

★ D Watts

★ T Parish

★ L Pais

★ Bilal Q

★ Monika D

★ Dorothy F

★ Robert P

★ Neil & Alison

★ David J

★ David C



Treasurer's report

When I first started volunteering for Woking Cats Protection it seemed we had a more defined kitten season but as this newsletter goes to print, we sadly still have kittens in our pens. It now seems that we are rarely without them, despite many years of offering free neutering. There is probably never going to be a solution to this problem so we do the best we can for the fortunate ones that come our way.

To date this year we have spent £22,865 on neutering 171 females and 158 males.

We have had some truly heartbreaking stories this year, but the team have stepped up to the challenge, not always with the result hoped for, but always there for the cat.

We have also had some very heartwarming stories, like Willow, our "Fitzpatricks" cat (page 23) who, without a very generous donation from Jenny and the determination of Kim our Welfare Leader, might not be living the active life she now has today.

None of this can be achieved without our amazing welfare team of fosterers, socialisers, transporters, trappers, the

fundraising team and lastly, all of the "star" people listed here who donate on a monthly or regular basis, nominate our branch to receive donations when they participate in a sponsored event, or those who just go out of their way.

I hope you recognise yourselves and I sincerely apologise to anyone I may have missed, a massive thank you from the committee.

And finally, on a practical note, it would help enormously if I can claim all the gift aid that we are entitled to. As many of you now pay your membership online, I can't be sure that I have your current gift aid status. And some members who contact me by post don't always tick the box to indicate whether or not you are a taxpayer and therefore whether I can claim the gift aid on your behalf. So, I would be very grateful if you could email me on treasurer@woking.cats.org.uk just giving your name, address and your gift aid status. Then 2025 could be an even better year for our cats!

Gill

★ Sean & Jackie

★ Yvonne C

★ C Wooden

★ Edith R

★ Louise B

★ N Butters

★ N Meeajun

★ Jeanette W

★ Pinewood Cattery

★ J Levins

★ Ann S

★ Deborah E

★ Jill S

★ Tonia W

★ Carol I

★ Lynton Vet Group

★ Bob & Fiona

★ Andrew H

★ Jane L

★ Lesley T

★ C Nicholls

In memory of Lin Caulfield

I first met Lin in 2015 when she and Pete adopted a nervous kitten called Alice from us and gave her the special home she needed. Then in 2019 she started volunteering for us as a socialiser which led to her becoming a pen fosterer, thanks to a legacy donation. Lin was truly inspirational – she always gave her very best and cared so much about the cats. She will be sorely missed.

Pauline



I knew Lin for many years through Woking Cats Protection, she was a dedicated and caring fosterer and many cats have her to thank for their new forever homes. She always helped out in the kitchen at our Spring and Christmas Fayres with a smile on her face. She will be greatly missed by us all – a lovely lady.

Alison

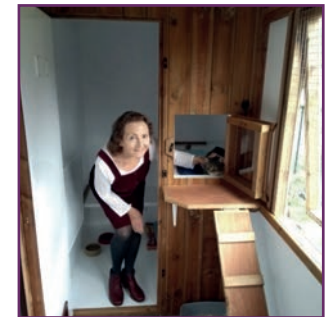
I first met Lin in March 2019 when she started socialising my foster cats in my double pen. She was a natural with the cats. By summer 2020 she was a single pen fosterer! Lin was such a lovely, vibrant, positive person. She was so full of life, always smiling despite her illness. A woman of many talents, fostering cats, writing poetry – she wrote some beautiful poems which she shared on the Welfare group chat. She was also a cat walk model for the Royal Surrey Hospital gala – she was a glamour puss! She was truly inspirational and will be missed by everyone.

Kim



Lin was a wonderful and lovely lady. I had only known Lin for just three years but I felt as if I had known her forever. Lin would always come and chat to me when I was visiting the cats, no matter what the weather was like. Lin had a way with all the cats who came into her care, she had such a lovely calming voice and soon they would feel loved and safe. Lin will be much missed.

Tonia



Lin was amazing and a fighter! She was a great friend and I loved her dearly. She will be missed by everyone who knew her – always with a smile on her face however much pain she was in. I have been so lucky to have known her.

Sandy

A tribute to Tony

Tony Jackson, a long-standing volunteer and supporter of the branch, will be remembered with gratitude for the many years he spent as a socialiser for our cats and kittens, together with his wife Sylvia. First an adopter of 15-year-old Dickie and then tabby and white Cooper, Tony always had a smile and a cheery conversation and will be missed by all who knew him.

Adoption updates

Milo

After a couple of years without a cat, we felt it was time to add a new furry friend to our family. With so many cats in need of good homes, we decided to check out the Cats Protection website and immediately came across Milo. He seemed perfect for us so we arranged a visit with his fosterer, Alison. We fell in love with him straight away and in no time at all, he was installed in our home.

Milo loves to play, dashing up and down the stairs with various toys, particularly a small bouncy ball. We now understand the concept of "zoomies"! His mischievous nature keeps us on our toes as he enjoys nothing more than jumping out and grabbing my legs when passing – my family find this quite hilarious. Milo still had quite a kittenish look when he arrived last June, and now after five months he's turning into a very handsome cat. He loves being outdoors, exploring and patrolling his territory, chasing squirrels around the garden



(fortunately they're a bit too quick for him), and bringing in feathers as a present for us. We're thrilled we were able to offer Milo a home and look forward to many happy years with him as part of our family.

Kenny, Diane and George 🐾

Luscious Lottie!

We lost our little half-Bengal cat, Flo, of fourteen years to cancer in March, leaving her paw prints on our hearts forever. A house just isn't a home without a cat and, after a little time, I started looking on the Cats Protection website where I saw Lottie – there was something about her appealing eyes that tugged at our heart strings. We made an enquiry, but at that point Lottie had a "forever home" lined



up so a few days later we were surprised to get a call from Alison to say that it had fallen through.

After some home checks via video we arranged to pop over to meet Lottie. We learnt that she had been found as a stray and, pregnant, the decision had been made to spay her. Feeling a sense of loss at not having children ourselves, I found Lottie's story particularly poignant and, of course, it was love at first sight.

She is now purrfectly at home. She loves playing with her toys, her water fountain, exploring our small garden, and is fast becoming Top Cat amongst the neighbourhood feline community. She joins me in the garden studio where I work in the day and her most favourite place to sleep is on a velveteen throw – a place that Flo had loved too. Alison was excellent throughout the whole process and we appreciate her help in bringing luscious Lottie in to our lives.

Estelle & Gary 🐾

Remarkable rescues

Maurice the miracle cat

When Woking Cats Protection volunteer Louise was visiting her parents in the Lake District last October, she and her mum went on a fell walk. After climbing Red Screes in rain and high winds they had planned to walk down a ridge into Ambleside. The weather changed their plans and instead they took the Scandale valley route – and as Louise explains, she was very glad they did!

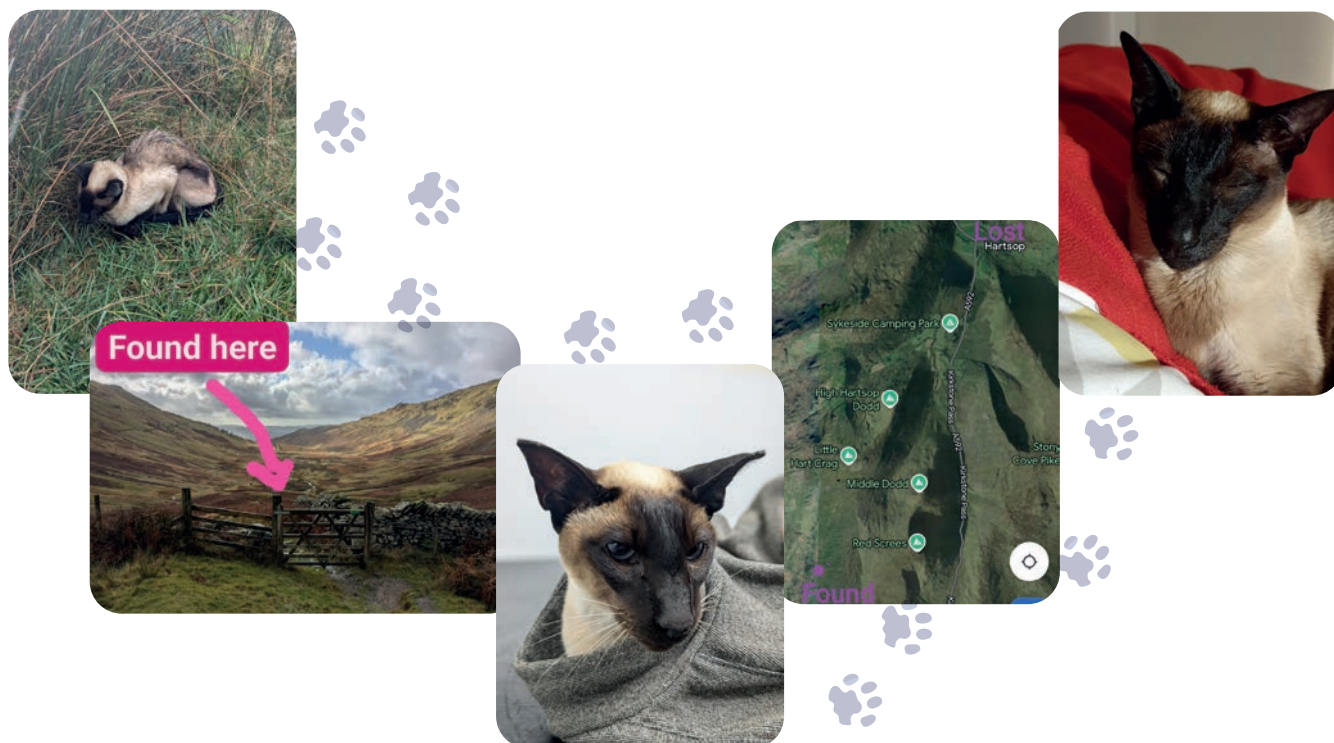
It was still raining, very windy and we were about three miles from Ambleside in pretty miserable conditions... just off the path and crouching by a clump of rushes was a Siamese cat! He was very thin, wet, shivering but alive. I wrapped him up in my fleece jumper and carried him down off the fells. He wriggled and meowed for a while until I think he realised that I was trying to help him. We got a few strange looks and questions as we passed walkers, but hurried down the valley as he was not in a good way.

We managed to make contact with the vet in Ambleside so they were expecting us, but it still took about two hours to walk the three miles downhill as we had to cross many rivers that were

flooding the path. The first thing the vet did was to scan for a microchip; it was a great feeling when the machine beeped!

This is where the story gets even more amazing! The owner lives in Cambridge and Maurice had gone missing from Hartsop Hall on 23 September, whilst they were on holiday. He had survived almost a month and travelled a long way over the fells. She set off straight away to drive from Cambridge to the Lake District to collect him.

Maurice was given food and water, and had many ticks removed. We then transferred him to the vet in Windermere, where we left him in their capable hands. The following day I got a lovely call from Maurice's owner when she was back home in Cambridge. He had lost a lot of his weight and was anaemic, but recovering from his adventure. Since then I have received further Maurice updates and he is doing well. As a thank you for rescuing her Miracle Maurice, his owner has made a generous donation to Woking Cats Protection which will help make a better life for vulnerable cats and kittens in our care.



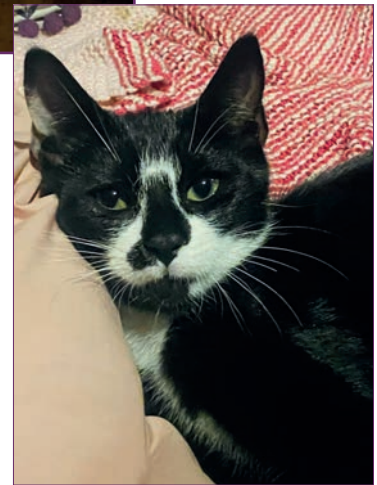
Remarkable rescues

Mayhem on the M25!

Were you stuck on the M25 on a Friday night last September? If so, it was all in a good cause – at least that’s what we at Cats Protection think! The traffic was brought to a halt for an amazing rescue of a young cat who had the misfortune to find itself on the motorway, dodging vehicles and trying to get to safety. In its panic, it jumped into the chassis of a car that was slowing down and the occupants had the good sense to pull onto the hard shoulder immediately and seek help.

Three Fire Service crews responded to their call, closing the motorway for an hour so they could work in safety and finally extract the kitten from the engine. Crew Commander Kevin Mitchell from Woking Fire Station rang Woking CP Lost and Found Officer, Sue, and we are delighted to report that the car’s owners decided to adopt the very brave and immensely fortunate kitten, who is now – obviously – called Lucky!

We can’t thank the Fire Service enough for their unbelievable compassion and skill at rescuing the vulnerable little feline.



Hello from Joanne – our newest indoor fosterer



I'm Joanne and I have been an indoor fosterer since August. Having lost my rescue cat last year, I decided to volunteer with Cats Protection as my home was far too quiet without a furry friend.

Willow was my first foster cat and she's been a dream to care for – it has been so rewarding watching her grow in confidence and to see her making herself at home. She was great company and very helpful at catching spiders!

We very much enjoyed our trips to hydrotherapy where she quickly became a favourite with the care team – read all about Willow’s remarkable recovery on page 23.

Fundraising update

Books for cats!

In July our branch was contacted by the Community Champion Elizabeth Britton at Brooklands Tesco. She had very kindly chosen our branch as the first charity to take part in a new fundraising initiative which involved selling new and donated books in August and September from a bookcase in the store which Elizabeth had created. Customers gave a donation for their chosen books by using either the collection tin or the QR code. When our volunteers Ruth and Alison went to meet

Elizabeth for the presentation of the cheque they had no idea how much money had been raised so were absolutely delighted to be presented with a cheque for £450!

We would like to thank everyone who donated books for this cause and send a huge thank you to Elizabeth for choosing our charity and enabling our branch to benefit from this new initiative.



Alison, Elizabeth and Ruth at Tesco



Big Summer Roam

The Big Summer Roam fundraiser challenged participants to select their own target distance and reach this distance goal their own way, for example a wander every day in August, or a few days of intense strolling while exploring new lands on their summer holiday. We are incredibly grateful to Nicola, Jen and Andrew who between them clocked up 245 miles and raised over £500 for Woking Cats Protection.

Nicola on the Big Summer Roam



Fundraising update

Christmas fayre

It might only have been the beginning of November, but our supporters were in a merry mood and ready to have fun on the chocolate and bottle tombolas, choose cat-themed gifts and cards, buy raffle tickets and enjoy all the other stalls at New Haw Community Centre for the Woking Cats Protection Christmas Fayre. A massive £5420 was raised, all to help the welfare of the cats and kittens in the area.



Thank you to everyone who came along, especially to our lovely volunteers and organisers who ran everything like clockwork. Special mentions to Gary at Lakeland Guildford, who donated a slow cooker to the raffle, to Emily Lockhart for donating chocolate for our tombola and to Petra at Addlestone Tesco for a mountain of goods.



Pet carrier donation

A shout out to Vets for Pets in Walton on Thames and Beech House Vets in Hersham, who donated around 20 pet carriers to us recently. Thank you so much!

Happy homes...

Alfie

We decided to adopt a cat rather than a kitten a few months after our much-loved elderly cat passed away. Partly because we are older now but mainly because so many cats are looking for a loving forever home.

We were looking through the Cats Protection website when we came across Alfie. He sounded like our sort of cat so we contacted the Winchester branch and a couple of days later Anna got in touch. We visited Alfie at his fosterer's house and once we'd met him we knew he was the cat for us. We took along a blanket that we had all slept with to leave with him, so he would know our smell.



As it turned out, Alfie had been with the Woking branch for a while before going to Winchester so Woking dealt with the adoption. A vet check-up, a vaccination booster and flea treatment were all sorted out, so when Alfie came to us he would have plenty of time to settle in before needing to go anywhere.

Alfie is a gorgeous two-year-old. He's friendly, playful, affectionate and loves being near us all the time. He chooses to snooze on the chair next to me and sleeps next to our bed. Every day he has a mad half hour, racing about, not sure what to do with himself, which makes us laugh. He runs off upstairs as soon as the doorbell goes but is so nosy that within five minutes he's back in the lounge inspecting whoever has come round. He's settling in with us so well. It's only been six weeks but it feels much longer. We are so happy that we went down the adoption route. We feel very lucky and happy to have found our Alfie.

Lisa 

Freya

My son has been asking for a cat since the age of two. Now fifteen, it took him a while to convince us!

After drawing up "the cat contract" with promises to do extra homework, help around the house and for us all to have a role in caring for a cat, we signed our agreement. And now as a very smitten family, we have no idea why we didn't say yes years ago.

Freya is the best cat ever (obviously) and as soon as she came to live with us, she impressed us with her football and table tennis skills. Chasing a ball is her favourite pastime which means she fits in well. Freya is now confident in her new home, exploring everywhere, including the garage. She has a cat flap to start her next adventure and is very happy to sit with us and be adored.

Freya is a big part of our family already, thanks to some great advice and preparation from Kim at Woking Cats Protection.



Melanie 

...for deserving cats

Thomas

I have always had rescued cats from the wonderful team at Woking Cats Protection. As with most happy stories of adoption, it followed the sad passing of Jess my last cat, who I was blessed to have as part of my family for three years.

I waited a long time before Kim found me another rescue cat who was a match and, in May, happiness arrived in the shape of Thomas. He is a nine-year-old dark tabby with white paws. Prior to arriving he was fostered by Deirdre who had him for some time and looked after him so well.

He was very nervous when Kim brought him over, but soon came out to look around his new home and hopefully realised this was his fur-ever home.

At the moment he does not want to go out but loves it when neighbours come in to see him. He has great fun playing with his toys; favourites are small balls and his fish catnip. He is a hungry boy and loves his food, so I do have to watch his waistline.

If you are unsure about adopting, my advice is talk to the team as they take a great deal of care to ensure they find you a perfect match. You may, like me, have a wait, but my goodness it is so worth it. When you open up your home and your heart to a cat needing adopting, you open up a world of joy and love.



Ann 

Laila

Having finally completed on our first home, we decided the time was right to adopt a cat of our own. We looked at lots of cats on the Cats Protection website and I was excited about every cat I saw, but the one my other half kept coming back to was Laila. So, just five days after moving into our new home, Kim arrived to drop off Laila.



She has quickly settled in and has us well trained to let her in for her morning cuddle in bed and to provide treats and belly rubs on demand. She is totally bonkers, with her daily evening zoomies around the house and we can even hear her playing with her ball overnight. Her daft antics keep us entertained for hours, she gets into everything and loves to watch the birds in the garden. Laila follows me from room to room and is very vocal when I arrive home from work to question where I have been. She's a big fan of Bake Off and slowly gets closer to the TV throughout the episode.

Adopting Laila has been the best decision we could have made, and we couldn't wish for a more playful and loving cat. Thank you to Kim and everyone at Woking Cats Protection.

Charlotte 

Delightful Delilah and daughter Olive

Delilah had been living on the streets when she came into foster care with her three kittens, who were all given names beginning with "D".

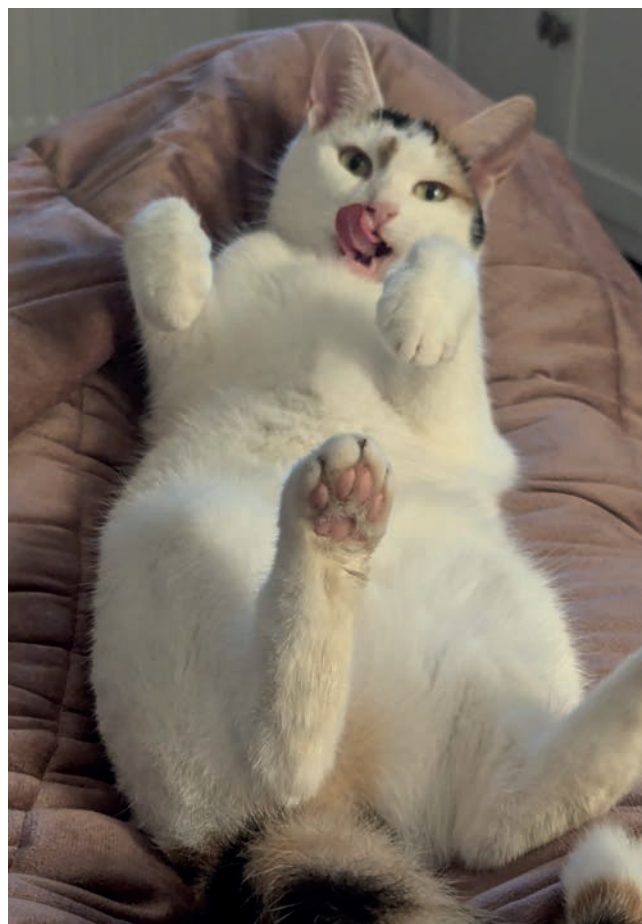
We contacted Cats Protection as we were looking for a cat to join our family. Being first-time cat owners, we wanted their support and expertise to ensure a smooth transition. When we were invited to meet Delilah for the first time, we loved her playful and happy nature. We spent an hour getting to know Delilah and it was cemented that she was the cat for us. Six months later and Delilah brings us joy every day. Delilah quickly adjusted to our home; we set up a "safe room" for her with a litter tray, cat tree, diffuser and food. After a day Delilah had eased out of her room and was roaming around her house comfortably. Since then she has never left our side and her joyous personality always shines through. Delilah is the cat that was right for us and we are glad we are the right owners for her. A large part of this is due to Cats Protection's expert advice and dedication to making sure cats like Delilah get to live in the home that they deserve.

Oliver 

Olive



From the moment we reached out to Woking Cats Protection, it was clear that they genuinely cared about both the cats in their charge and the families looking to adopt. We saw an advert for three kittens called "The Three Ds" and visited their foster carer to meet them. As we only wanted one kitten, we chose to adopt Olive (formerly Daphne).



When we first brought Olive home, we were nervous about how she would adapt to her new surroundings. Thankfully, she settled in remarkably well! From day one, Olive was loving, curious and loved to climb things (mainly our legs and curtains). She was exceptionally curious and eager to explore her new home. She loved playing with her new toys and was particularly fascinated by outdoors. Once she was cleared to go outside, there was no stopping her! She loves climbing and brings us leaves that she has hunted. Olive is not just curious, she is also affectionate. She greets us with gentle head nudges and soft purrs, she loves to be around people and her sweet nature is just perfect. She has filled our home with love and laughter and we are grateful to Alison and Woking CP for bringing us together with this wonderful feline friend.

Elaine 

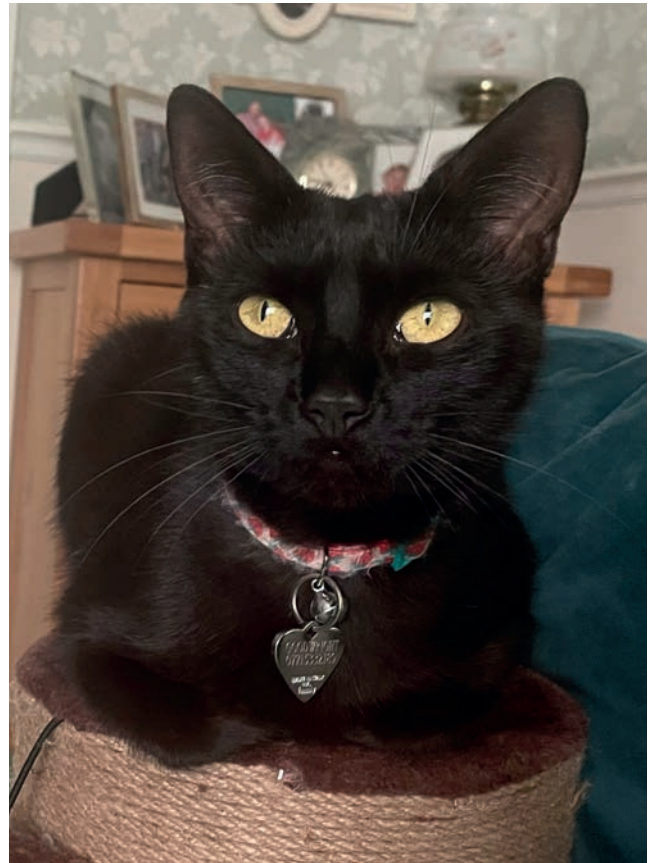
Poppy and her purr-fect kittens

We contacted Woking Cats Protection Woking as my father knew a volunteer at the branch. I have had cats all my life but unfortunately in the last year both passed away. It took me a little time to grieve but I missed the company of a furry friend. I also wanted to give a cat in need a forever home and second chance.

At first, choosing Poppy "on paper" and on advice from the branch as a suitable match seemed a bit of a risk, however any doubts I had all vanished when I met her for the first time.

Initially Poppy was anxious in her new environment but over time and once we could let her outside her personality changed completely and she came out of her shell. She was a lot calmer, lovable and seemed happy within herself and us. She can be elusive and spend time exploring outside but she always comes home and sometimes brings in "gifts" from her travels! Returning from her adventures she has also managed to lose three collars which we still haven't found.

For anyone looking to adopt a cat, I would highly recommend Cats Protection – give some patience and consideration towards the process, and it will be well worthwhile.



Emily 

Lexa and Luna



Lexa and Luna are four months old and really setting in well. They are both so affectionate, loving to be stroked but not so keen on being picked up. They don't say much, but you can hear their purrs for quite a distance!

I work from home and they spend most of the day in the office with me, either on the window sill, the bookcase, or draped over the desk. It can make typing difficult, but I wouldn't be without them now. They are a part of the family and I am so pleased that I was chosen to be their adopter.

Amanda 

Effie and her family

Glorious Effie is a small cat with a big personality. She was a pregnant stray before finding her way to a Cats Protection volunteer fosterer, who welcomed her along with her litter of kittens. Happily, each member of the family is now thriving in their own forever home.

When we visited her at her lovely fosterer's, this pretty tortoiseshell spent the whole time hidden behind the sofa. We've had shy cats before so weren't in the least fazed and decided we should give her a new home.

We decided to name her Effie; it means melodious voice as she chirrups and chats away to us all day. She has been with us a little over a month now and her sunny, inquisitive personality is really starting to shine through. We often lose her, and she'll have found an excellent secret nook to nap in, emerging triumphant from under beds with her whiskers covered in cobwebs. She marches around the house singing when she wants to know where we are, or more importantly, when she thinks it's breakfast time.

She's the sweetest, cutest little cat who wants nothing but love and kind words. We are completely besotted with her.



She likes to nibble fingertips and is very excited at the prospect of squirrels. She's really just a kitten herself so it's so fantastic to get to see her play and relax in her new single life.

Annie 🐾

Kit



After losing our beloved ginger and white cat, Bobby, back in May 2023 the time came for us to once more add a cat to our family. We approached Cats Protection through Alison. We were invited to view a few kittens and immediately fell in love with Kit. We were kept in contact with Kit whilst the formalities of the adoption took place. The process was extremely professional and straightforward, but also thorough.

Kit moved in with us on 22 August and settled in straight away. Within two weeks she was running the place and fully in charge. Kit is extremely friendly, rather mischievous and follows us everywhere. So nice to have a cat again. She gets plenty of cuddles and is very much loved.

Noel, Lucia, Oskar & Rebeka 🐾

Effie and her family

Cynder and Neelix

My partner and I have always shared a dream of having a couple of cats. For years, we talked about how much we'd love to welcome some furry companions into our lives, but since we were living in rented properties, it was something we couldn't make happen. That changed last July when we finally moved into a property where pets were allowed, and we knew right away that it was time to make our dream a reality.

From the start, we agreed that we didn't want to buy cats from a breeder. There are so many cats out there in shelters that need loving homes, and it felt more meaningful to adopt. My partner had volunteered with Cats Protection at the Christmas Fayre a couple of times, so it was only natural that we reached out to you when we were ready to adopt. We got in touch, and after a call and visit with the amazing Alison, we met Boots and her brother Ed – and we were instantly smitten. They just felt like the perfect pair for us.

Neelix



As soon as Alison brought them home, we decided to give them names that reflected their personalities. Boots became Cynder, named after the clever and mischievous dragon from Spyro the Dragon, because she quickly showed herself to be quite the little troublemaker in the best way. Ed became Neelix, after the character from Star Trek: Voyager. Much like his namesake, Neelix is sweet, gentle and nurturing – a true softie.



Cynder

Both Cynder and Neelix have settled in wonderfully. During the day, they love nothing more than lounging on the sofa, especially when a patch of sunlight streams in through the windows. They're both so relaxed and happy to just chill and soak up the warmth. But as evening rolls around, their energy shifts – they become the ultimate cuddle companions, snuggling up with us while we wind down from our day.

Of course, there's one little nightly ritual we've come to expect: the "zoomies." It's like clockwork. Just about ten minutes before bed, they both go into hyper-mode, darting around the house as if they've just discovered they have jet engines strapped to their paws. It's hilarious to watch, and though it might make getting ready for bed a bit chaotic, we wouldn't trade it for anything.

As for their favourite activities, these two are full of personality. Their favourite toys include furry mice that they love to bat around the floor, the ever-enticing laser pointer that turns them into acrobats and, of course, our feet, which they've somehow decided make the best "toys" to pounce on when we least expect it! They've brought so much laughter and joy into our home, and we feel so lucky to have them as part of our little family.

Mike & Ryan 

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**



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Registered office National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 7TT | PTL_1131

Campaigning for cats

A post-General Election update from the Cats Protection Advocacy, Campaigns & Government Relations Team

The Cat Manifesto

Ahead of the UK General Election in July 2024 Cats Protection launched The Cat Manifesto which is a definitive guide of everything decision makers need to do to make the UK a better place for cats. As part of this campaign over 30,000 emails were sent to candidates standing in the General Election across the UK. Every candidate received at least one email (some have had over 30!). Exactly 644 candidates from across the political spectrum responded to the campaign and 114 of these candidates have now become MPs including Liz Kendall (Secretary of State for Work and Pensions), Daisy Cooper (Lib Dem Deputy Leader) and Adrian Ramsey (co-leader of the Green Party). Many candidates also took to social media to share pictures of their cats.

Pet theft now a specific crime

On 24 August, the Pet Abduction Act came into force in England and Northern Ireland. This important piece of legislation makes the theft of a cat or a dog a specific offence and recognises the emotional and welfare impact the theft of a pet has on pets and their owners. This will hopefully deter unscrupulous individuals from stealing pets as well enabling the police to better record this type of theft. Cats Protection has been a leading voice on this issue and campaigned to ensure that cats were given the same rights as their canine counterparts. With the Act now in force, Cats Protection has been featured in 544 media articles, reaching a total audience of 4.4 billion. This included broadcast coverage on BBC Breakfast (TV), numerous BBC national and regional radio stations, and multiple national titles including The Times, Telegraph, Daily Mail, Guardian, Independent and Mirror.

Voluntary sector: House of Lords debate

The contribution of Cats Protection volunteers, along with other leading animal welfare charities, was recognised during a House of Lords Debate on the voluntary sector in November 2024. Lord Black of Brentwood said, "Every day, the UK's largest animal welfare charities – Cats Protection, Dogs Trust, RSPCA, Blue Cross, Battersea and PDSA – do astonishing work on limited resources that is made possible by the work of around 29,000 volunteers, contributing an average of 2.5 million hours of work each year. Cats Protection values its 9,000 volunteers' priceless gift of time at around £37 million each year... As Cats Protection says to its volunteer army, and it is the same across the sector, 'We wouldn't be here without you'".



The Five-Star Kittens

Mabel & Teddy

We moved into our new house in January and wanted to make it our home. For us, this meant adopting cats as we knew this would make our family complete and so I started to look on the Cats Protection website. I'd been looking for a little while as we wanted two sibling kittens. The "Five Star Kittens" appeared on the website one Sunday afternoon and I instantly knew I had to enquire as I love tabby cats.

Each kitten had their own bio, describing them as individuals, which I loved. I completed the form and was so excited to hear back the next day to discuss my enquiry further. A week later I received an email from Helen, the kittens' foster carer, asking to do a virtual house visit. We did this a few days later and Helen was able to check our house, garden and location were suitable for the kittens, which thankfully they were! We went to Helen's that evening and I could not contain my excitement. Five beautiful kittens and we were able to pick two to come and live with us, we felt very, very lucky! We chose Bonnie and Freddie and I was on cloud nine! Once we had paid the adoption fees and got all the bits we needed, they came to live with us the next week.

They were so tiny and full of beans - I was instantly in love and our house felt like home. We decided to rename them Ted and Mabel. The aftercare was incredible: a Day Five check-in video call and a Week Three check-in video call. This was really reassuring and a great opportunity to ask any questions we had. Vaccinations had been done and a voucher was kindly given to us for neutering.

Ted and Mabel are everything we wanted and more. Confident, friendly, playful and affectionate, just the best cats for our family. I am absolutely obsessed with them and don't remember the house without them. They each have such different personalities, Ted is my shadow, always wanting to be near me and have lots of cuddles. Mabel is more of an independent lady and will do a little sideways shimmy to greet us in the mornings or when we come home. They get on so well with

each other, look out for one another but also know how to wind each other up like siblings do! They are really confident cats and are content with any visitors that we have, having been socialised well since they were born. We recently got married and they featured heavily in speeches as well as having photos of them at the reception so it felt like they were with us. Some people might have thought I was crazy, but they had to be part of our day!

Ted and Mabel had been fostered with their mum and siblings and were a well bonded brother and sister. Helen and her daughter Emma did an



incredible job in looking after them for their first 12 weeks, for which we are incredibly grateful. It made our life much easier as Ted and Mabel have been a dream since day one. We still send updates to Helen, who loves to see how they are getting on.

I would encourage everyone to adopt from Cats Protection, to get the best cat(s) for you. We feel so lucky to have Ted and Mabel in our lives!

Sam



The Five-Star Kittens

Benny

As a family we were all really excited to welcome Benny to our home in Farnham in April. We thought it would be lovely to give a home to a rescue kitten/cat and contacted Woking Cats Protection, which was most local to us. We had looked on the website and left our contact details, having seen Benny and his siblings. Cats Protection made everything so easy for us. They scheduled a video call and ran through some questions with us to ensure our suitability and then we gave them a "virtual" tour of our home and garden. The next step was to go and see Benny in person.

All four of us went up to Woking where a fosterer was looking after Benny, his mother and siblings. We were instantly drawn to him. He was incredibly playful, having a rough and tumble with his siblings and also very inquisitive. That was it, we were all smitten and wanted to take him home right there and then. However, there were a few formalities first, and it was protocol for him to be delivered to our home when everything had been organised.



A couple of days later he arrived. He was micro-chipped and fully vaccinated and came with a few of his toys and blankets to help him settle in with us. Cats Protection also paid for neutering a few weeks later and we were able to take him to a local vet to have this done.

He has been an incredibly lively and playful kitten, certainly keeping us on our toes. He has loved launching himself on his climbing post and demolishes anything with a feather on the end of it. He also loves playing with toes and feet! As soon as he was old enough to go out, he would chase after anything that moved, leaping up into the air to catch even the tiniest of insects, mostly without success, but highly amusing nonetheless.

We had one situation when I thought we had lost him. My husband had just left for the airport in a taxi, I was in the middle of cooking dinner and Benny was no-where to be seen. I was out calling everywhere – no sign of him, the dinner was beginning to burn and at this point I was convinced he had gone off in the back of the taxi. Suddenly my son said, "Look where the cat is!" – he had been curled up fast asleep on one of the dining chairs totally oblivious to the panic going on around him. Needless to say, now, whenever I am looking for him, I make sure to check under the table first.

He is a gorgeous black cat and a great addition to our family. We would highly recommend Cats Protection. Helen whom we dealt with throughout the process was amazing and couldn't have been more helpful.

The Silvester Family



The Five-Star Kittens

Danny

We had given a home to several rescue cats over the past 30+ years and, having recently said a sad goodbye to one of our cats, we didn't really feel ready to welcome a new member to the family. We were both thinking of a break of a year or so.....

Then, after a couple of months had passed, for some reason, we started looking at the Woking Cats Protection website. Although no longer living in the area, we had, over 25 years ago, adopted Buffy from the Woking branch and she enriched our lives for nearly 20 years! We were only looking at the lovely photos and reading the interesting bios, we had no intention of doing anything else. Then we saw Danny. What a handsome boy!

We reminded ourselves that we weren't really looking to adopt, especially a six-month-old kitten, but something about Danny drew us in.



We thought, "He's so beautiful, he'll have been adopted already", so there's no harm asking about him, we'll leave it to fate.

To our surprise, Danny was still available. We arranged to go and meet him at his foster home and he immediately claimed our hearts. Bold, playful, but respectful of boundaries, he had clearly been looked after and properly socialised by people that knew how to raise cats. One of five siblings he was, luckily for us, the last to be rehomed. He was absolutely lovely and we would have taken him home there and then, if it were possible!



Danny has been with us for nearly two months and has settled in really well. He's enjoying having the run of the house and he loves playing chasing games. The laser pointer is his favourite toy and he likes nothing more than chasing around after the red dot until his battery runs out!

We're so pleased we chanced upon Danny, and it's wonderful to see him really enjoying himself in his new home. Thank you also to Helen, his foster mum, for trusting us with him!

P & J 

Willow's progress

- from fragile kitten to resilient survivor

Last August a tiny three-month-old kitten named Willow arrived in the care of Woking Cats Protection. Early on, she faced a battle with several bacterial infections, overcoming them with extended courses of antibiotics. As she began to recover, a concerning issue with her knees became apparent. Whether sitting or walking, her knees seemed misaligned.

After a series of vet visits and x-rays, Willow was diagnosed with patellar luxation in both knees – her kneecaps were dislocating, causing significant discomfort. The solution required patience and precision. Weeks of cage rest followed and then Willow was referred to the renowned Fitzpatrick Referrals. There, the skilled surgeon Mario Coppola performed delicate surgeries on both her knees.

Post-surgery, Willow faced six further weeks of cage rest accompanied by twice-daily physiotherapy exercises. Her resilient spirit shone through as she allowed the exercises, proving herself a trooper. She passed her post-operative check with flying colours and began several sessions of hydrotherapy, quickly becoming a favourite with the team at Fitzpatrick's.

After a long journey of recovery and perseverance, Willow has finally found her forever home. Her story is a testament to resilience and the extraordinary efforts of those who cared for her. Willow's treatment was kindly funded by a donation in memory of Jenny Ingoe, a long-term volunteer with Woking Cats Protection, by her children Neal and Alison.

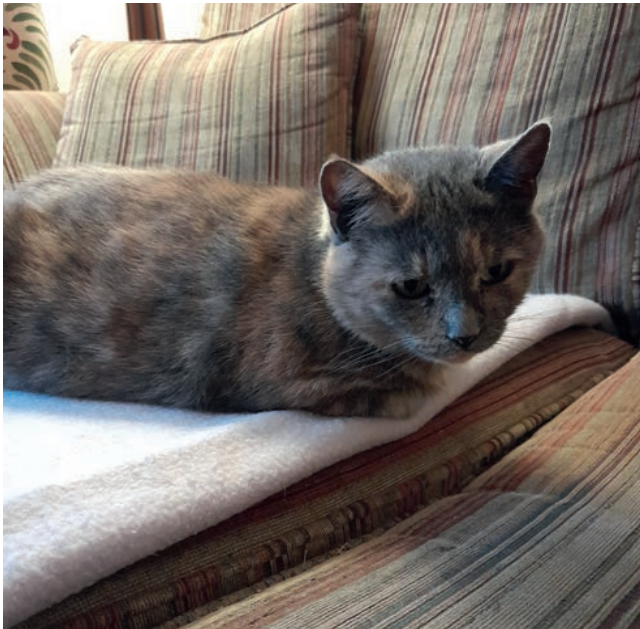
The best veterinary care for a very brave cat



Willow arrives at her new home!

Skye's the limit!

The last time I owned (I was owned) by a cat was over 25 years ago. But due to a change in circumstances, I happened to be on the lookout for a fluffy companion and stumbled upon Skye's photo on the Woking Cats Protection web page, and was instantly smitten.



Skye's details said she had been rescued as a stray living on farmland. After discussing her with my family, I applied online and was contacted by Pauline to chat about whether I was a suitable candidate to adopt Skye. We had a video call and I showed Pauline around my house and garden via mobile phone – it was very much like the TV programme "Through the Keyhole"! Pauline then arranged to meet me and my adult son at the foster carer's house so we could be introduced to Skye.

Skye seemed a bit shy at first but took an instant shine to us. I thought Skye was absolutely adorable. We arranged a suitable handover date and Skye duly arrived. At first I spent some time attempting to persuade Skye to come out from under the dining table. Luckily, the lure of her dinner was too powerful for her to deny it. Skye then spent a few weeks being the most boring, dull cat ever – she spent a lot of time quietly hiding away, only coming out for food and a visit to the litter tray. She then progressed to coming and sitting on the sofa next to me and we discovered a mutual affection. She is very partial to a gentle tummy rub.

I was concerned that she was not like my previous cats, but I soon discovered some of the reasons for her behaviour after reading up on some cat psychology.

1. Fear of going outside: as a farm cat, it must have been scary not having a safe place to sleep, having to hunt for all her food, avoiding predators and other bully cats.
2. Stairs: she had never seen any and couldn't work out their purpose – or how to get down them. She tried this only twice and has worked out it's not worth the bother. No cat hair in the bedrooms – hurrah!
3. Loud noises: she ran for the hills, or at least under the dining table if she heard a loud noise nearby (such as me doing the washing up in a hurry, the telephone or the doorbell ringing).
4. Excessive purring and drooling: she is showing me she is ever so pleased to be living with me and not terrified or stressed.

To say she has blossomed is an understatement as she now goes outside whenever she wants, she greets me every morning with a miaow and rubs up against my legs – but I think it's probably more to do with the fact it must be her breakfast time – and she is bright and perky every day. We have settled into a mutual love and respect for one another.

All my children adore her and many photos have been taken and shared amongst interested friends and family. Skye revels in lording it over my garden and can often be seen sunning herself on the lawn when it's not raining. She especially enjoys the wild patch of garden by the shed – maybe memories of the old farm? She's even beginning to challenge the magpies that dare to invade her space, but only from a safe distance under the shrubbery.

I am so very grateful for Pauline's assistance in helping introduce me to Skye, and the follow-up calls and messages of support. Thank you to everyone for your dedication in helping rehome all your cats – where would they be without you?

All in all, Skye has come along in slow leaps and bounds and seems destined to have a happy and fulfilling life. In fact, Skye has NO limits anymore!

Sue 

Taking a chance on Larry

- a journey from hisses to happiness

When we first heard about Larry in December 2023, he was described as a “work in progress.” Anyone who came near him was met with a firm hiss, as if he had given up on finding anyone to trust. Once a stray, Larry found life in a pen stressful and unfamiliar.

My amazing mother-in-law Kim has worked her magic on many, many cats as their fosterer. Kim had heaps of love, patience, understanding and kindness with Larry, and gradually he lowered his guard. Though he was still shy, when we’d go to visit he would let us stroke him after an initial few hisses.

We already had a rescue cat, Ollie, so it never really crossed our minds that we would get another – Ollie himself is quite nervy and particular! Although we loved visiting Larry, we weren’t sure that the combination of two rescue cats would be right.

Time passed and Larry had been waiting for a home for eight long months. The idea of introducing Larry to our world – and to Ollie – was something we began to discuss with Kim. We knew that Larry

might find it difficult to adapt, but with Kim’s support we knew he’d be in the best hands.

So, with a mix of excitement and a fair amount of nervousness, we took the plunge and adopted lovely Larry. From the moment he walked through the door, Larry amazed us. Despite all his time being on the streets, he seemed to recognise that he was somewhere safe. We gave him plenty of space to explore his new surroundings, letting him move at his own pace. Surprisingly, Larry slotted into our life incredibly easily. Though Ollie was cautious at first, Larry’s gentle demeanour seemed



to reassure him. We introduced the two slowly and carefully, allowing them to get to know each other from a distance before sharing spaces.

Over the weeks that followed, we watched Larry’s true personality unfold. He claimed his spot on the sofa, and each day he grew braver, accepting strokes and even nudging us for attention. Today, Larry and Ollie are good friends. They have their routines, often curling up nearby each other, other times trying to steal each other’s food. Looking at Larry now, it’s hard to believe he was once that wary and hissy stray. To anyone considering adoption but hesitant about taking in a more challenging pet, we can only say this: sometimes the most rewarding bonds are the ones that come from taking a chance – we’re forever grateful we took that chance on Larry!

Charlotte 

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



Woking and District Winter Campaign

Each winter the number of cats in need increases.
Please go to our Just Giving page to make a difference!



Get in touch!

Call us on 01483 928018 and leave us a message:

Mailbox 1 - If you would like to adopt a cat

Mailbox 2 - If you need to rehome your cat

Mailbox 3 - Lost & Found

Mailbox 4 - Volunteering, neutering, all other enquiries.

General email: enquiries@woking.cats.org.uk

See: cats.org.uk/woking

Easy fundraising - sign up now!



Did you know, there are over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend online with them directly back to Woking and District Cats Protection?

Take a moment to sign up with:

easyfundraising.org.uk

and generate donations for us whenever you shop online. There's absolutely no cost to you and every donation will make a difference to cats and kittens in your area. We are already receiving additional funds from this, but with your help, it could increase even further!

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.

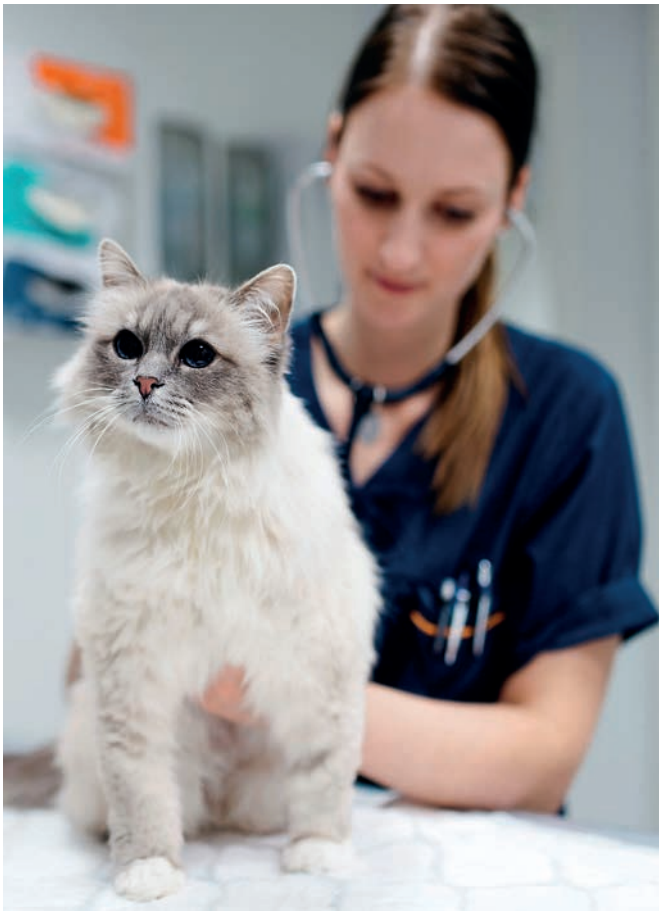
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