

Newsletter - Autumn 2018

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE 23 years of rescuing cats around the Worthing area - and with an annual average nowadays exceeding 150, our grand tally to date is well over 2,000! Truly, we all have something to be proud of at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust.

Efforts really are being stretched this year with 90 cats and kittens coming into our care in the first half, the most we have had in years. Kittens stay a minimum of 10 weeks and leave with a voucher for half the cost of a neuter or spay - and YES we do check to ensure the vouchers are used! Also, we chip, inoculate, worm and flea treat every cat and kitten that comes to us.



Sandra Collins

Overall, things are going well within the charity and our volunteer network is strengthening. My thanks to everyone for giving so generously with their expertise and time. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and so on Saturday 1st December we are having an afternoon Xmas party in Goring (details on page 3). Hopefully, we'll see you all there!



Tarring Shop Turnover Rises 26%

Takings for the first six months of the year were 26% up on the same period last year, which clearly reflects the greater efficiency in operations since we employed Abigail as our dedicated shop manager. Nevertheless, thanks are ever due to our wonderful squad of volunteers, who make the whole thing possible - as Abigail never ceases to point out. Further good news is that we have a new, qualified electrician volunteer to test electrical products for sale, which was becoming a barrier to stocking such items recently.



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust - Registered Charity No: 1049596, Registered Address: 36 Orchard Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7PY (01903) 202251

Independent Examiner - A. Kelly FCA, Roffe Swayne Chartered Accountants, Woolsack Way, Godalming GU7 1LQ Tel. (01483) 416232 www.roffeswayne.com

Our Trustees and Management Group Members

Chairman	Sandra Collins	Lost & Found	Julie Stevens
Treasurer	Christine Jones	Marketing	Mike Glennon
Welfare	Jackie Riddles	Facebook	Tracy Read
Co-Founder	Iris Green	Website	Jessica Read
Membership	Linda Kenealy	Shop Manager	Abigail
Secretary	Catharine Duff		Corcoran-Green



**Foster Kittens
Mattie and Tilly**

Helping Them On Their Way

Not being an experienced fosterer and still mourning the loss of one of my own beloved cats, I was apprehensive about taking on two little foster kittens. But this brother and sister, Mattie and Tilly, were nigh impossible to ignore.

When they arrived they were extremely nervous and they would hide at the slightest noise. I had serious doubts that I would be able to help them at all, but gradually day by day they started to trust me. It was very time consuming, but well worth it seeing the subtle changes coming over them.

Over the five weeks I had them, they grew from nervous balls of fluff into confident, cuddly little lap cats. When it was time for them to go to their new home I had mixed feelings and I will admit I shed a tear as they had filled a hole in my life after losing my own cat suddenly. However, knowing they have gone to a loving new home, happy and well on their way to cathood has made me very glad I took on the challenge.

The big question is would I do it again? And the honest answer is yes, probably but don't tell our re-homing officer, Jackie, or I'll have a house full of kittens inside a week!

Tracy Read



For Winter Diary!

Saturday 24th November From noon until dusk at the **East Preston Xmas Celebrations**. Selling our stock and distributing leaflets. Could you help us? mike@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org.

Saturday 1st December 1:30-3:30pm - **Christmas Party** for all members and volunteers at Goring United Reformed Church Hall. Food, drinks and chats. This is your invitation! Please **r.s.v.p.** tracy@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org.

Thursday 20th December 10am until dusk - **Xmas Fundraiser** in front of the Guildbourne Centre. Selling stock from our shop. Santa and the Town Crier will help us raise donations. Could you help? ruth@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org.

Amazon Donations

We have recently registered our charity with **Amazon Smile**. If you ever purchase from Amazon, please go in via Smile, click on *Worthing Cat Welfare Trust* and then make your purchase in the normal way. It will cost you no more, but we will receive a donation of 0.5% of the net purchase prices each quarter.



Cat's Whiskers
Veterinary Clinic



01903 830577 www.cwvet.co.uk



Independent veterinary clinic 'Exclusively for Cats' based in Worthing, West Sussex.

"If only I could give Amanda and her team a 10* review. The most genuine, kind, caring and compassionate vets I have ever come across. Outstanding!"

Finance - nothing happens without it!

YOU RECALL LAST ISSUE we were seeking a new Treasurer, but luckily (and happily) our quest is over. Christine Jones has taken over the financial reins from outgoing Treasurer Roger Lovell, to whom we owe enormous thanks for a decade of sterling service.

I had been a lady of leisure for a while, but always devoted to our cats with up to eight in our care at any one time. With my husband's full support, I applied for the position of Treasurer and have been in the role since July and learning fast how the charity works. It is even more time consuming than I imagined, but so enjoyable and rewarding.



Christine Jones

I have joined at an interesting time. After two years of careful research, we have realised it is not really a viable aspiration to purchase a property for the purpose of running a sanctuary. The money earmarked for the sanctuary would have to be used in its entirety for the purchase of a likely property and we simply can't ensure enough income to fund the permanent staffing and the running costs. However, a "virtual sanctuary" has already been running across our dedicated network of foster carers for many years and our honest conclusion is that this needs to be developed further as the way forward.

Additional locations are being sought among our members and supporters, where we might be able to install accommodation facilities in their gardens or grounds with the trust fully funding construction and maintenance.

Other income from fundraising and donations is generally on a par with last year. However, costs have shown a significant increase, due mainly to vet services. We are proud that our *Golden Oldies* scheme has been so successful and we currently have over 70 cats in the scheme, but medical costs associated with caring for older cats are substantial.

In summary, Worthing Cat Welfare Trust is solvent and achieving great things, but we are very conscious of our dependence on legacies - without which we would gradually fade away. Therefore, if you possibly can, please remember us in your will.

Christine Jones

Could you sponsor a sanctuary pen?

At any one time we have maybe a couple of dozen cats in our care. Happily, most are ready for immediate re-homing and last year we relocated 134 cats and 21 kittens. Others, however, need to be cared for by us in the longer term, maybe because they are still unwell, traumatised or simply too old to move on.

Not surprisingly, we need considerable accommodation to hold all these pussies in a safe environment and that is where our network of “safe houses” comes in. Our virtual sanctuary is currently spread across six locations, where our cats can enjoy every facility: safety, peace, good food, full medical support and daily affection.

But despite the enormous goodwill and dedication we have from our carers, the system can't run on air and water! It needs some of that good old-fashioned commodity - yep, that's the one: money!

So, we are inviting our members and supporters to become pen sponsors at an annual fee of £30. All sponsors would be featured in one of our newsletters and will be able to go and visit (by appointment) the present occupants.



Safe care needs secure funding

It may be an older cat, peacefully enjoying retirement or a spritely Tom awaiting his next exciting stage of life. It could be an injured patient recovering from an operation or perhaps even a new mother nursing her new-born kittens. Whatever, you can be sure it is a cat in great need and your kind support will be key to its welfare and its future.

If you feel you would like to help Worthing Cat Welfare Trust with the funding of our pens in this way, please do get in touch with us at enquiries@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org or otherwise you could telephone us on 01903 202251.

Ruling The Roost - and the extension too!

It seems almost impossible that four years ago Nordlys and Purpurino Atlantico were born in Sandy and Andy's rescue pen at Findon. The pair came to live with us as companions for Ffoulkes, our senior cat and they have brought so much joy with them - although we are not so sure *he* would have agreed with this in the early months!

Nordlys is a tortie with oodles of attitude and has a huge capacity for treats (preferably Hi-Life "Indulge Me!"). With her nose blaze and matching under tail flash, if we could nominate a life-style song for her, it would be Roxette's "She's got the Look"!

Nordlys



Purpurino Atlantico



Purpurino is a fragile soul; he suffers from anaemia, but for all that, with controlled medication he enjoys life, the universe and everything else. As the family sleepy-head he likes to wake up slowly, unhurriedly swaying as he does so. Therefore, what else could we play for him in the mornings than "Rock me Gently, Rock me Slowly" by Andy Kim.

Last year we had a garden room constructed at our house. Nordlys was first in the foundation trenches and since then the Tinies (as we call this pair - though something of a misnomer these days) have considered it their very own personal space, though Ffoulkes still demonstrates occasionally who is the senior boss cat around here!

All three cats eat in the new garden room, they have their water fountain there and they can elect to sleep "under glass" or inside the house itself - multiple cat flaps are a wonderful thing if used strategically! None of the cats is permitted to go out at night time and heated pads are mandatory in winter - all safe, sound and in the lap of five-star luxury!

One thing is for sure, these three dear cats make the world a much better place to be in!



Donna Everest

King of the Castillo

High above the coastal city of Almeria in southern Spain is a massive and magical ancient Moorish fortress. But who is the king of that castle?

Well, you soon find there are two actually: one ginger and one jet black - possibly the friendliest cats on the Costas, these chums have the run of this exquisite site with a daily smorgasbord provided by Juan, who runs the little cafe up there. Out of hours the snack list includes exotic lizards, mice and the odd snake. Ginger followed us around the castle for an hour or so, while Blackie (the wiser) was on serious Siesta duty. *Mike Glennon*



Castle Cat King of Almeria



Based within Arun Veterinary Group's Storrington hospital our new service is one of only a few independent, dedicated emergency and critical care centres in West Sussex.

Our team of night vets and nurses are always fresh, alert and available to deliver seamless care for your pet when your daytime vet is unavailable.

From routine emergencies to high dependency care, we are on site all night for you and your pet.

Find out more

www.southdownsemergencyvets.co.uk



Marketing Matters

The marketplace for charities is highly competitive, so small players like us face quite a challenge making our voice heard. When you consider that *Cats Protection* has an annual income around £72 million, here at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust we have to make our pennies work very hard.

Over the last year we have revamped practically all of our promotional items and this includes display boards and banners, leaflets, posters, our regular catalogue of available cats and, of course, this our *Newsletter*.



New marketing designs for WCWT

All of the design of our marketing materials, including the copy-writing and typesetting, is done here in-house and with a bit of careful research we are able to access very competitive rates on-line for production. Sometimes, however, larger items like our outdoor display banners require some extra help, but through our contacts we can usually get very preferential rates or indeed free favours from sympathetic, professional design studios.

Meanwhile, we are also making good use of electronic communication with our various target audiences through Facebook and our new WCWT Website (please see back page of newsletter).

We are always looking for more helpers, of course, so if any members or supporters have any background in marketing with practical design skills, please make contact with Mike on mike@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org. There are plenty of jobs to go round, that's for certain!





Arun Veterinary Group

ESTD 1972



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Arun Vet Group is a family-run, independent practice with traditional values. We take pride in delivering a personal service to you and your pet - care, compassion and continuity are at the heart of what we do.

Our established practices in Pulborough, Ashington and Westergate are supported by our fabulous hospital in Storrington alongside our dedicated on-site emergency service - South Downs Emergency Vets.

We welcome you to take a tour and discover the difference our team can make to the health and happiness of your pet.

www.arunvetgroup.co.uk

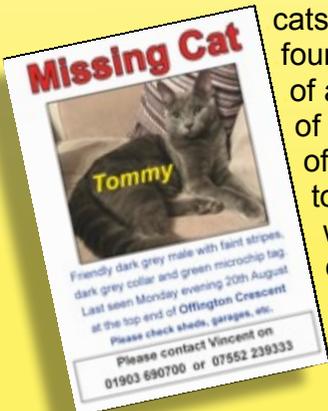
PULBOROUGH • ASHINGTON • STORRINGTON • WESTERGATE

“I once was lost and now am found”

Amazing Grace (John Newton)

Owners who have had cats go AWOL know only too well the terrible anxiety which that brings. Our trust has a new dedicated co-ordinator for tracking fugitives and trying to find their rightful owners. Julie Stevens took on this role earlier in the year and business has been, well ..., very brisk. In the second quarter we had notification of 37 missing

cats, of which only 14 have not been found so far. When we are notified of a loss, we make very active use of Facebook to publicise it and we offer an immediate poster service to owners, so they can spread the word in their neighbourhood. But one thing is really clear, micro-chipping is the most vital rescue tool of all, so do make very sure yours are properly tagged!



Julie Stevens

Zeus falls to Earth and right on his paws

Well, someone in their wisdom decided to call me Zeus. I ask you... Zeus? OK, I am big, but I'm also fluffy and cute. Zeus I most certainly am not, especially as I'm an indoor type scared of going out alone!

I found myself homeless a few months ago and I was kindly taken in by the good folks at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, who tried to re-home me. It took a little while, but then a sad lady, who had just said goodbye to her lovely cat after 17 years, wanted to adopt a feline friend.



“A little, female, indoor, cuddly lap cat about six years old” was the specification. I only fitted into the indoor bit, so chances were slim. When she came to see me I was so nervous, but she fell in love with me instantly and took me to her home, where my new life began.

It's turned out to be pretty good here and I think I may have landed on my paws. A variety of soft places to sit, like thick carpets, fleeces, sofas and beds and I can sleep wherever I want. Just the two of us, so a quiet house and the food's not bad either! Sometimes she pops out (presumably to get me more food), but I don't have much time on my own which is really nice.

Zeus became Snuggly

We play every day and I have got loads of toys. Actually, I'm not really very cuddly, but I let her make a fuss of me from time to time, as you do. I suspect it's probably in my best interests and it keeps her happy. I am still young, but am mellowing a bit, so who knows? I may turn into a right lap cat one of these days. Although I used to be a bit nervous about going out on my own, I'm even getting the hang of that lately. Watching the seagulls and enjoying the wind in my fur is great, but when she rattles the *Dreamies* pack I come in pretty sharpish like.

On the whole, it's looking good. Oh, but I'm now called Snuggly or one of a number of cute nicknames. I'm settling happily in my forever home with my new mum - and she loves me to bits. So, thank you, Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, for sorting out my life - I think things are going to be just fine from now on. You know, some things you can just tell!

Diane Orme

Leo just loves Crosswords and Cuddles

Leo came to us just over a year ago as a rather timid ginger Tom. Since then he has blossomed into a confident, friendly and entertaining member of the family. His favourite place in the morning is lying on the crossword while I'm trying to do it and being tickled and stroked. If he appears to fall asleep and I pick up my pen to start again, he wakes up abruptly and steals the pen to make sure attention is once more on him!

Leo has a bit of a love-hate relationship with Molly, our 20 year-old Calico cat and often he wants to play with her. But maybe not surprisingly, she has to be in the right mood for a game of chase and certainly lets him know that with a swipe when she's not!

He never takes it personally though and will wander off to find something else to play with, like a leaf or a piece of paper blowing round the garden. At night he shares my pillow, usually sleeping on top of my head, which keeps us both warm and if my husband should get up in the night he's very quick to move over into the vacant space.



Morning crossword time for clever cats like Leo



Leo being tolerated by Molly

He's a bit too big now to sit on my lap, but he does sprawl with his top half across my lap and his tail tucked comfortably around my free hand when we watch TV in the evenings.

We are so pleased to have been persuaded to give this lovely chap a second chance. He is an absolute delight in every way.

Thank you Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for bringing us together!

Pennie Billinghamurst

Fun and Fund Raising



Broadwater Carnival

For a small charity like ours it's important to be proactive in getting out into the local community to promote the brand name.

Throughout the year there is a vast array of external events across Worthing Borough and well beyond, where we can have the chance to show our faces, meet potential new supporters – and hopefully raise some much-needed funding to keep our organisation going. It seems the only limiting factor, however, is getting enough volunteer helpers to organise and staff our stands!

In 2018 our calendar has included fetes, fairs, car boot sales and markets in Broadwater, East Preston, Ferring, Findon and Worthing. Typically, at these events we set up a mini-shop selling merchandise from our Tarring charity shop, which brings in worthwhile cash revenue. At the same time though, it's an excellent chance to hand out our promotional literature, reminding folks of the cat welfare service we offer and encouraging them to get involved.

Another good avenue of fund-raising is garden parties like the one arranged by our member, Alison Gilbert, attended by local civic celebrities.



Chair, Mayor & Town Crier at WCWT party



WCWT at Ferring Fair in July

On the run up to Christmas we shall be displaying at East Preston Christmas Celebrations all day on Saturday 24th November and then also on Thursday 20th December in Worthing town, just by the Guildbourne Centre, with a Santa, the Town Crier and a Feline Festive message. Do make sure you come and visit us some time between 10pm and 4pm. Helpers welcome at both these events please!

Kidney Disease and New Remedies



Amanda Nicholls

Here in the first of a series of technical insights by local veterinary surgeons, Dr. Amanda Nicholls MRCVS takes a look at common kidney complaints and how new remedies are being researched.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is one of the most common conditions in older cats and in most cases it is progressive with the rate of decline varying greatly. The most common symptoms are weight loss, poor appetite, lethargy, thirst and increased urination. These reflect the loss of those normal kidney functions, which help maintain fluid balance, produce certain hormones and excrete waste products (through urine).

Although CKD is not curable or reversible, treatment can extend life and increase quality by slowing down the progression of the disease. Senior cats need regular weight checks to detect unexplained fluctuations and to note changes in food or water intake, then investigating further through blood and urine samples. As CKD is such a common condition, annual or six-monthly screening of all mature cats is strongly recommended to help early diagnosis.

The management of CKD is usually supportive if an underlying cause is identified, e.g. infection or kidney stones, so specific treatments can be used and may prevent progression of the CKD. Therapeutic renal diets are very beneficial and have been shown to dramatically improve survival rates. Cats with CKD are at risk of dehydration, so wet foods are preferable to dry, as cats obtain most of their water from food. Diet changes should be very gradual to increase the chances of acceptance of the new diet, which will taste quite different to regular cat food. If the cat doesn't eat the new food, you can try mixing a small amount with their usual food or something strong smelling to make it more appetising to the cat. It is very important not to starve the cat if they are resistant to the renal diet!

Cats diagnosed with CKD will need regular check-ups to monitor high blood pressure and anaemia, which can develop as the disease progresses. These conditions can be controlled quite well though with appropriate medication.

Currently, we are working with a major pharmaceutical company and a network of vets around the world to trial a treatment to slow the progression of CKD. If it proves beneficial, it will become the first treatment available to treat cats diagnosed with the disease and be a major step forward.

Kevin and Polly

Our beloved cat, Reggie, was seriously injured by a car in March of this year. Some very kind people took him along to Grove Lodge Vets and because he had been micro-chipped, the staff there were able to contact us immediately. But because of his serious injuries the kindest thing to do was send him on his way to Rainbow Bridge, so I held him while the vet gave him the injection and he just drifted gently away.

Anyone who has lost a dearly loved pet like this will understand the pain in making this decision and the hole that's left in your heart afterwards. To come home to an empty house with no furry feet rushing to meet you at the door is just awful. So we decided to contact Worthing Cat Welfare Trust about adoption. We wanted two and were shown the most beautiful, enormous tabby and white boy named Bubbles and in the pen with him was a tiny long-haired tortie/tabby female called Squeak. They were both so friendly and I was able to bring them home straight away. Reggie would have surely approved of these two, because he was also a rescue cat himself and had seven wonderful years with us before he was taken so suddenly.



Big Boy Kevin



Tiny Girl Polly

We decided to rename our new additions – Bubbles became Kevin and Squeak became Polly. They settled in with absolutely no problems at all. Their previous owner must have been very affectionate with them, because of the way they allow our visitors to stroke them, showing no anxiety at all.

They are both great lap cats too. Kevin is such a big boy and loves kneading before he settles down. Polly loves her long hair being brushed and rolls over for you to stroke her belly. She's so tiny, but has a really big personality!

So, thank you Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for bringing these two little treasures into our lives. We are so very grateful for everything you do for cats in need. Kevin and Polly thank you too!

Frances & Thomas Boylan

Don't Do Nothing!

A wise philosopher once said, "Don't do nothing, because you can only do a little.", though who that philosopher was seems to be a matter of debate. Germans attribute it to *von Goethe*, while we may claim it was 18th century clergyman, *Sydney Smith*. Anyway, what matters is who is saying it today - and right now it's Worthing Cat Welfare Trust!

Our problem is that there are far too few of us active to keep this charity running at full tilt and to grasp all the numerous opportunities that come our way. Let's reflect a moment on what we do and what we attempt.

We go and rescue cats, take them into "safe storage", get them thoroughly checked over by a vet, advertise them to prospective new owners (who also need to be vetted in a different way!) and then we deliver the cats. Meanwhile we have to buy in food and bedding supplies, liaise with foster carers and catteries, make payments against the stream of invoices that come in every week, keep comprehensive accounting records for audit and publication. You still with us?

We promote the charity and our services through a broad range of marketing materials, exploiting social media and our new website to the full. Also, we organise and attend a range of external events throughout the year, such as fetes, car boot sales and cat re-homing shows, as well as running our own busy charity shop. There's a lot more, but let's paws here!



Have cats. Now need volunteers!

Our plea to members and supporters is to think carefully about your own time resources and the skills you have accumulated during your life. Then please, please come forward to see what you can do to help. **We need you!**

Volunteer work can be highly satisfying and you team up with a crowd of friendly, like-minded people, which feels more like a hobby than just work.

Nobody here expects a lot, but a little can go a long, long way. For a chat please do get in touch with Iris Green on 01903 202251 or otherwise e-mail enquiries@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org

Food Boxes Near You



Strand Pet Supplies
17-19 Strand Parade
Goring-on-Sea

Exotic Pets
36 High Street
Littlehampton

**East Worthing
Community Centre**
Pages Lane, Worthing

Gatleys
2 Mill Lane
Storrington

WCWT Charity Shop
31 South Street, Tarring

Herald Offices Cannon House
Chatsworth Road, Worthing

WCWT Website Upgrade



Over the summer we carried out a significant upgrade to our charity website, so please do familiarise yourselves with it when you have a moment. The rights over the old web address were coming to an end and so we took the opportunity to revamp the layout and content, which we hope you'll agree is a step forward. Please note that our new web address (see below) is now just slightly different to what it was before!

Our cats and kittens for re-homing section is always being updated, so do remember to keep checking, especially when you have friends looking to adopt. Remind them that the first place to look for their new pet really ought to be a re-homing charity like ours, rather than commercial sources!



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

General: 01903 873353 / 07933 639666 Lost & Found: 07724 781430

Re-Homing: 01903 883179 / 07818 824407

www.facebook.com/wcwt1 www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org