

WELCOME AS ALWAYS

One of our very latest arrivals

Our Trustees would like to thank everyone who helps to make this charity the great success it is today.

Whether you are committee member, volunteer, fosterer, sponsor, adopter, advertiser, shop customer, donor or benefactor. It's only with your kind support that any of this happens. Our workload is growing steadily in line with the sheer volume of rescue and rehoming cases we handle and in the last financial year we found good homes for no fewer than 242 cats and kittens.

In this issue you can read about our cats, kittens, finances, shop, new pen sponsors, a tragic story with a happier ending, our Golden Oldies, veterinary partners - even about cats in Canada! Hope you enjoy being part of our family.



Pixie playing real cool

Escapologist settles in just fine

I adopted dear little Pixie back in May 2018 after my beloved male cat died after nine years of wonderful companionship. I saw Pixie on the Worthing Cat Welfare Trust website when she was about two and a half years old and just knew right away she should belong to me - and I to her! She let me stroke her when I went to visit her in her pen and that was it; she came home with me to start her brand new life.

Tracie Wase Continued on page 2

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

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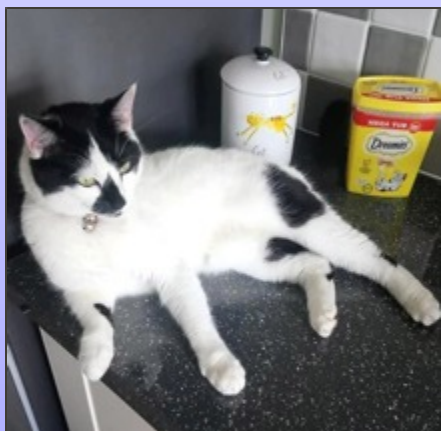
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Escapologist Settles In ...

(Continued from front page)

It took her some time to adjust and she did in fact make an escape bid, despite my efforts to keep her indoors during the first two weeks. She disappeared and then on her return went to the wrong flat door, but I brought her home safe and sound. The next time she went out she disappeared all day and eventually - with me in the garden constantly calling - she came through the cat flap late at night covered in silt from the nearby stream! From then on she knew her way home. I have had many 'presents' brought home and many a mouse running around awaiting humane capture and release!



Pixie - easy enough to bribe

Nowadays she will sit happily on my lap for ages and when I come in the front door, she even pulls it with her paw to help me in! A real adventurer, she also loves to climb fences and trees, which amuses my neighbours no end!

I wouldn't be without her for the whole world and I feel really privileged that Pixie has decided it's just fine living here. Thanks Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for bringing Pixie into my life!

Tracie Wase

How we sell items too large for our shop

We receive lots of lovely donations at our charity shop, but inevitably some are just too cumbersome to hold in stock - or maybe too specialist to shift them locally. Recently, we started trying to sell some of them on eBay, which reaches a huge audience, of course, and the increased demand will usually get a much better price for things.

So far we have sold high-value shoes and bags, but the biggest success was a huge photocopier in excellent condition, which was donated to us by a businessman in Brighton, who leases office equipment all around the county. Initially, we considered whether it might be



viable to keep it for our own use, but the thing was enormous and we would have had nowhere to locate it.

Getting the machine inside our shop would have been more difficult than getting our shop inside the machine! Eventually, we sold it for £113, which admittedly was a snip for the buyer, but at least we have turned it into useful cash that will feed one of our cats for 113 days or more.

So, please do bear in mind that we can turn big things into cash, not just the smaller items on our shop shelves. If you have any vintage Bentleys or old Rembrandts hanging around, we'll have 'em please!

Gone for £113! You copy?

In the third quarter of the year we received notification of 126 lost cats, which we publicised through our normal channels and 62 were subsequently re-united with their owners, which represents a 49% recovery rate.

**LOST &
FOUND**

Happy stories included a 17 year-old girlie making her way home to her distraught family, who had thought puss had gone off to find a peaceful place to pass away, just as her older sibling had last year. Another cat magically turned up after a six week safari to heaven knows where.

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Money Matters - Investing for Growth

You have probably noticed that this world revolves around two things: the sun and money - and managing the latter is of vital importance for a small charity like ours. Of the financial resources available to us about a tenth is held in what one might describe as *liquid* form, i.e. money we can lay our hands on at short notice to meet our considerable outgoings, such as veterinary costs, which are averaging over £1,900 every week! With 114 Golden Oldies to support on top of the regular through flow of cats and kittens, that can hardly be a surprise.

As you can imagine, the other 90% we invest carefully to protect ourselves against the ravages of inflation, which in many of our cost areas is well above the 2% per annum that is currently being quoted nationally. Our investment funds are managed by a highly acclaimed financial organisation called **St. James's Place** with our money spread across a range of specific investment funds, such as company shares



and bonds, both in the UK and abroad. Clearly, as a charity, we adopt a prudent approach to investment, avoiding higher risk assets, but still taking advantage of opportunities to grow our money. At the time of going to press our fund growth since the start of the year has been around 4%, although this can fluctuate.

In the last Mewsletter, we said that **BT My Donate** was closing down and we have now sourced a new facility for online donations - **CAF Donate**, which can be accessed by Links on our website pages. UK taxpayers can increase the value of their donation by 25% by stipulating the Gift Aid option. It is simple and easy to use and we're very pleased to be working with CAF (Charities Aid Foundation), which is the bank we use for practically all of our cash and current account handling within Worthing Cat Welfare Trust.



As for the main fuel that stokes our financial boilers, **Legacies**, amounts received during the financial year ending 31st March 2019 came to almost £76,500, including a delightful small car, which we sold on for £4,500!

These windfalls are, of course, impossible to predict in advance, but without them our financial status would be heading forever southwards. Please do remember us when you are planning ahead yourself.

Christine Jones

Cats-Only Clinic Expansion and Upgrade

After a highly successful **Grand Re-Opening** event back in April, the team at Cat's Whiskers are enjoying working in the newly extended and refurbished clinic, which includes a new parking area at the rear.

The focus at Cat's Whiskers, one of only a handful of cat-only clinics in the UK, is to provide *Fear Free* vet visits for their feline patients. The calm, quiet environment free from sounds, smells and sight of dogs, ensures most cats are relaxed in the clinic, but for those who still experience anxiety, vet Amanda has put together calming kits to ensure cats arrive as relaxed as possible. Obviously, relaxed cats are easier to examine and this facilitates prompt treatment and faster recovery from illness afterwards. The Cat's Whiskers team are happy to arrange behind-the-scenes tours and can tell you more about the current re-opening offers available to clients.



Cat's Whiskers
Veterinary Clinic



01903 830577 www.cwvet.co.uk



The purrfect place to take your cat has just got bigger and better

Dr. Amanda says, "Although we have expanded, we are still a small friendly team and our unique personal service will not change. We will continue to treat every Cat's Whiskers client as a friend and every cat as if it were our own."

Kittens Corner - cute and cuddly

Well, luckily, so far this year we have had 61 kittens fewer than at the same point last year - fingers crossed it stays that way! Twenty's plenty, as they say. The litters of kittens this year have nearly all been in 5's, all inevitably beautiful and to date we have rehomed 15 to loving homes.



Batches and batches of five this year

I have also been looking after a pregnant stray, who had to be "trapped", because she is not at all socialised with people. She is not happy to be here at all and any close contact with her is totally out of the question.

On 6th September she started having her babies, but as she was so hostile it was difficult for me to identify exactly how many

she had had. When I was taking her food to her, she practically sat on them like a chicken roosting on its eggs! Gradually, it became apparent that there are four of them, though the prospect of getting near enough to identify which are male and which are female is distant. Problem is, of course, that potential adopters won't be allowed near them either!

Sandra Collins

Continued from p.3

**LOST &
FOUND**

Another lady who had just lost her cat to old age, reported that a stray had dropped by for a visit and simply refused to leave. She said it had brought so much comfort that another feline had come along at such a sad time for her and her whole family.

Welcoming strays into a new life is a wonderful thing to do, but one has to observe certain caveats, of course. There is a clear duty to try and identify if the puss already has a home and that some poor traumatised person isn't out looking for their loved-one. The first step is to look for a microchip and vets will do this for you free of charge or get in touch with us here, so that we can come with our reader

Julie Stevens

Lost & Found Officer

Rehoming Show - three adoptions in a day!

Our Summer Rehoming Show took place on 23rd June at the Victoria Road practice of Northdale Vets. The event had been well promoted in advance by Northdale and by the Trust, so a good number of potential adopters flowed through during the five hours we were open.



We were satisfied with the outcome with three cats being adopted as a direct result. **Rosie** (left), **Coco** (centre) and **Oslo** (right) were the happy trio. Subsequently, Rosie had to be returned to us, as her new owner developed a cat allergy, but since then Rosie has found her forever home with another very sensitive - though not quite so *sensitive* person!



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Separate Cat Waiting Area and Cat Ward

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162 Findon Road, Findon Valley



Severe injury, massive operation, slow recovery with loving care - a case study

So many of us cat-lovers know only too well - in some cases from tragic experience - that cats and cars don't really mix. When we sound out potential new adopters, it is always right at the forefront of our mind to find homes, which are not too close to busy roads.

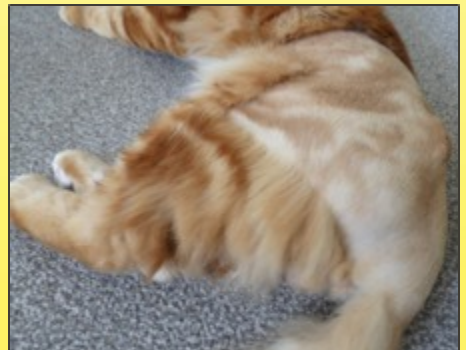


Benji after £3000 operation

Sadly, **Benji** was in the wrong place at the wrong time and was hit by a car in Worthing town back in May. He was taken to Northdale vets with a badly broken pelvis and sadly his owner just couldn't afford his vet bill, so we were asked if we would take him on. He is only a year old and deserves a chance at life, so we agreed and took him to Wilbury Veterinary surgery in Hove for pelvic surgery by the very talented vet, Peter Haggis.

Benji then had to spend six weeks on cage rest in my spare room, much to the disgust of my own cats, Purdy and Sammy. He did really well and was such a patient little lad, but when the time had passed he wasn't using his rear right leg properly and he was walking on his knuckle, so we began to fear if things didn't improve he would lose his leg. He also had a lot of muscle wastage. He was due back at the vets for his second inoculation and was booked to have his amputation the next day. Miraculously, the few days before his appointment he started to put his foot properly on the floor when he was walking, albeit with a limp, but better than no leg at all. It was confirmed that amputation was no longer required and, since then, with further convalescence and increasing activity he has continued to improve.

It has been a real pleasure to have him to look after. He has gone through his ordeal so patiently and he is the most loving little boy, who deserves to spend the rest of his life in a safe and loving home. I only wished it could be my own, but with the big through-flow of rescue cats here, it wouldn't have been fair to Benji. Happy ending is that he has now been rehomed in a lovely safe area with kind new owners.



Benji's pelvic area reconstructed

Sandra Collins

Emma sponsors care pen for three years

Our pen sponsorship scheme is growing and since the last issue we owe thanks to three new sponsors: Jo Irving of Findon, Shayne Cuthbert of Lancing and 10-year old Emma Beacroft from Brighton.

When Emma came along to visit her sponsored pen recently she was just a few days short of her 10th birthday, which makes her easily our youngest benefactor to date. What she hadn't realised, however, was that her first guests had beaten her to the door. When she took her very first look inside the pen, there, as large as life, was a very affectionate long-haired Tortie mother, called Chilli, with her five adorable two-month old kittens - one little boy and four little girls, none of which had been named yet. It wasn't long before Emma found a name for the one pictured here. Yes, you've guessed it. Emma's the name!



Emma Beacroft with Emma Kitten

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust operates a virtual sanctuary across half a dozen locations, rather than one fixed establishment. As we have explained in previous newsletters, the costs of acquiring, running and maintaining the premises would be prohibitive and so we use professionally-built and serviced pen blocks situated at the homes of some of our very dedicated volunteer members. Recently, one of these members moved out of the area and so the number of pens available dropped by four units. Happily, another new member has just joined, making us a firm offer of long-term premises, where new facilities can be constructed. Hopefully, we'll be able to report progress on this in our next newsletter.

Clearly, there will be periods when the number of cats in our care simply exceeds our in-house capacity and for that we use carefully selected external catteries. We have been working with one of these for several years now and so an excellent relationship has been established, whereby we have full access to our cats and are confident that they are in very caring hands while billeted there. However, the more in-house capacity we can achieve, the lower will be our running costs.



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Doctors Away - Vets Here to Stay

If you've wandered in to see your family GP recently at the Strand Medical Centre by Durrington station, you might have noticed the patients look a bit odd. They all seem to have four legs! Some have even got feathers. Must be some kind of a mistake? Well ...

Arun Veterinary Group (AVG)'s new, long-awaited Worthing practice opened its doors to the public on 31st August at completely refurbished premises, formerly used as the doctors' surgery.

AVG owner, Matt Gittings, addressed the large gathering of visitors at the launch event, "We are proud to be a locally run and owned practice and we recognise that each pet is unique and deserves the bespoke care an independent organisation provides. Our new branch here in Worthing reflects our established blend of traditional and modern design and boasts all the comprehensive facilities needed to ensure your pet remains in fine health. When you come to AVG you are in the hands of highly experienced vets, nurses and support staff, who are all committed to delivering a long-term relationship with you and your pet."

The new surgery is now the firm's fifth branch with others at Storrington, Pulborough, Ashington and Westergate. It has dedicated cat areas, both in reception and in a specific consultation room, as well as an **exclusive cat ward**, which plays soothing classical music for inpatients. No Rap or Punk for the pussies of Worthing!



Extensive dedicated facilities for cats

Radiography, dental, surgical theatre and prep suites ensure all patients receive complete care on the one site. The AVG team welcome the opportunity to show clients - existing and new - around the new facilities and to explain how they can provide the highest level of care for our furry (or feathery) friends.



Hyperthyroidism in Cats

Hyperthyroidism is more common in older cats. The word *hyper* means *too much*, i.e. the thyroid gland is producing too much of the hormone thyroxine. This leads to a dramatic increase in metabolic rate, resulting in body cells working extra fast to keep the body functioning. For this they require extra energy via food, hence the cat being continually hungry. However, food will not result in weight gain, as the cat will be unable to eat enough to provide the huge amount of energy required.

Ravenous appetite with weight loss often implies hyperthyroidism. Other signs include rapid heart rate, increased thirst, frequent urination, restlessness, irritability and often a dishevelled appearance. Not all cats will react in the same way to this disease, so it is advisable to note any changes in your cat's behaviour and seek veterinary attention.



Sue with Tommy, her own rescued stray at Heene Road surgery

On examination your veterinary surgeon might feel enlarged thyroid lobes in the cat's neck and then carry out a blood test to measure hormone levels. This often comes as part of a senior blood profile to assess the function of other organs, such as the liver and kidneys, which although in themselves not directly linked to the hyperthyroidism, may develop problems at the same time in older cats.

Hyperthyroidism can be treated successfully and involves regular daily medication, which can be in liquid or in tablet form, to bring the level of thyroxine hormones in the cat's blood stream back to normal, thus enabling the metabolic rate to stabilise.

If left untreated, your cat could develop other serious conditions, like high blood pressure, and will require regular check-ups and repeated blood tests to make any necessary adjustments to the dosage over time. In addition, there are therapeutic diets available through your veterinary surgery that support a diagnosis of hyperthyroidism, but whatever you feed your cat, you should make sure that it is highly digestible to meet the needs of a senior cat.

Sue Griffiths RVN

It's a Record! But why are they so popular?



Gramophone like one we sold recently

Our shop in South Street, Tarring receives a huge amount of donations of good quality clothes, ornaments, CDs, DVDs and books. In addition, we have an excellent selection of vinyl, including many classical records, which are increasingly popular as vinyl enjoys a puzzling resurgence in popularity.

The most interesting recent donation was a gramophone player with about a hundred 78s (remember them?). We were delighted when this was sold to a very enthusiastic couple, who were looking forward to using it at parties, something for which it has been used ever since it was made in approximately 1928!

As ever, we need more volunteers to help in the shop, so if you can spare maybe 3-4 hours a week, we'd love to hear from you. Call **07594 184432** for more information or drop in at No. 31 for a chat and an application form.



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www.crosswaysvets.co.uk

Another of our happy adoption tales

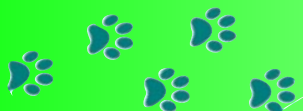
We adopted Lemmy and Mittens in August 2015 when they were just three month old kittens. Their mother was feral and ran away when they were rescued by **Worthing Cat Welfare Trust**. When we were first introduced, we immediately knew we wanted to take Lemmy, but Mittens made herself stand out from her other two sisters by coming up to us and getting her first cuddle on our lap! Irresistible.

We were told Lemmy was a boy and Mittens a girl, as confirmed by their Health and Vaccination booklet. What a shock to find out a couple of months later that Lemmy was in fact also a girl! Although they are sisters, they never huddle up together, unless they are hiding at the back of their basket on the way to the dreaded vets (who are actually absolutely lovely at Northdale!). Lemmy will now and again hiss at Mittens if she finds her in her way and Mittens will bat Lemmy on the head in return. Nothing nasty, no fights, but they simply don't show affection to each other.

Lemmy has always been tiny, but is the guardian of the garden. She will chase big Toms right out of her territory and likes to keep watch from the conservatory door to spot any unwanted visitors. However, when it comes to human beings (aside from us) and strange noises, she will promptly scarp and you will not see her for miles until normality has returned.

We call Mittens "Duchess". She is as Posh as can be and holds herself like Royalty. She is extremely curious and got her head stuck in tissue boxes more than once as a kitten! She always runs away and hides if there is any scrap in the garden with Lemmy chasing other cats away.

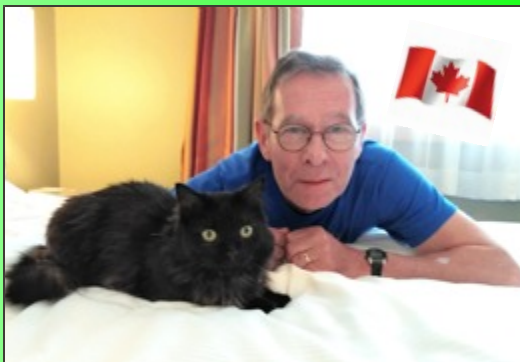
Lemmy has claimed my husband, Richard, as Her Human and cuddles up to him every night, whereas Mittens has claimed me and paws away until she gets all the love and attention she deserves before she can settle down to sleep (my reading a book in bed is proving something of a challenge every night!). They are both a fully integral part of our family and I don't think we could love them more if we tried!



Cecile Stanley

Prompt Room Service - Canadian Style

Awakening early one bright, summer morning at a charming little motel in Nelson, British Columbia, we heard a shuffling at the door. The staff come to clean the room, but hang on a moment, it's only 6am! Back to sleep, more shuffling, so I went to peer cautiously outside the door, but not a soul in sight!



Then a purring sound from ankle level and behold *Bubbs*, the resident hospitality manager. He marched in and supervised our morning routine, perched on the side of the sink while I brushed my teeth and then he washed my face and neck thoroughly with his very rough little pink tongue. Thus exhausted he retired to our bed for a snooze and was still there when we got back from breakfast. He was duly rewarded with a choice morsel of excellent Canadian Cheddar. During our tour around the Rockies we met a number of wonderful hotel cats, including a huge and spectacular Russian Blue. Clearly, our Canadian cousins appreciate feline staff.

Mike Glennon

Who Needs a Man with a Van? We do!

With the large amounts of donated stock we receive, a big challenge is getting it all collected from the kind donors and delivered to our charity shop. Andy Collins is our vital *Man with a Van* and apart from transporting stock, he also moves around the various display things we need when we participate in external fund-raising events. As Andy explains, "Our trusty Citroen has truly earned her keep over 13 years, but as vehicles get older the running costs climb steadily. Earlier this year we had to pay out £800 when the clutch failed and not forgetting that the insurance and the road tax set us back another £560, but these are just the realities of keeping the charity mobile. We'll be looking to replace Citty soon. Anyone got a nice van for sale?"



Andy loading up shop donations

Trawling Petty Cash - can you help us?

If you don't ask, you don't get, as they say. Happily, people in this country will usually spare a few coins - or indeed notes - to help us rescue our beloved cats. We have a network of over twenty cash and food collection points dotted around various veterinary practices and pet shops between Rustington and Lancing, which yields a modest supply of food and maybe a hundred pounds each month. The happy task of touring round to collect the proceeds has now fallen upon me as a fellow volunteer and member.

Food collection points are shown below as always, but we would ask for your help in finding additional new cash collection points. Do you perhaps know any local shops, newsagents, dental practices(?) or anywhere that might be willing to have our cash collection box on their counter? Do let us know!



Lynne Stevens

We don't ask, we don't get!

Our Own Charity Shop - 31 South Street, Tarring

Exotic Pets

36 High Street
Littlehampton

Food Collection

boxes

are at:

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2 Mill Lane
Storrington

Strand Pet Supplies

17-19 Strand Parade
Goring-on-Sea



East Worthing

Community Centre
Pages Lane, Worthing

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