

Newsletter Autumn 2021

Getting Back to Full Steam Ahead

Here we are with the seventh edition of the Worthing Cat Welfare Trust newsletter since we adopted this current style and format. When we look back over these editions – all of which can be found on our website – it makes us realise how frenetically busy the charity is and how much ground we cover. As though we really needed reminding!

We try to keep it a punchy and positive read with a blend of content, ranging from factual updates to members' cuddly stories to brief medical insights. There are tales of joy and occasionally sorrow, all mixed with advertorial from our supportive partners. The latter being very welcome, not only as it broadens the read, but also the revenues generated now exceed the cost of printing and so not a penny of our own money is diverted from hands-on welfare expenditure. As for the countless hours it takes to concoct the newsletter, we'll not worry about that, as we have a malleable editor working quite happily for tap water and thin air! Oh, and you might have noticed we're acquiring something of a weight problem: Once a 12-page newsletter, we grew to 16 pages, then to 20, to 24 and now we are at 28 pages (and have still struggled to cram in all we wanted to say!).



On the main business front - **needy cats** - we are now more or less back at full operating speed after the global crises and you will notice from our website that our adoption Catalogue is now ... [Continues p.2](#)



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

Our Trustees and Management Group

Chairman	Mike Glennon*	Welfare	Sandra Collins*
Treasurer	Christine Jones*	Administration	Lynn Benfield*
Secretary	Catharine Duff*	Marketing	Mike Glennon
Rescue	Jackie Riddles	Website	Lucy Todd
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Continued from front page ... hovering around the twenty puss mark again. It had been averaging just half a dozen right up until the summer, which on the face of it seemed to suggest fewer cats in need, but we know that can't have been the case. It was more likely that the torpor of Lockdown had also slowed down people's proactive attitudes to animal welfare.

In August we participated in a **video-conference** with a host of other animal charities across Sussex, which had been organised by our friends and colleagues at Wadars (Worthing and District Animal Rescue Service). It was the first chance we have had for a long time to rub shoulders (albeit on screen) with folks similar to ourselves. Experiences were shared of how we had all coped with recent pressures and we came away from that gathering with a definite impression that WCWT has been right at the forefront of personal effort: phones not switched off, no recorded telephone message left from Friday evening onwards, asking callers to ring in at 9am on Monday. How well we recall numerous instances of getting out of bed ourselves, maybe late on a Saturday night, to assist a puss in plight. That's our philosophy and it ain't going away any time soon.

The Trust held its **2021 Annual General Meeting** on 4th September at the usual Ardington Hotel venue in Steyne Gardens, Worthing and we were delighted that our Board has now expanded to seven with the arrival of a bespoke trustee for Lost & Found. As always, the current trustee and management team can be seen in further detail at the top of this page.

At the AGM gathering it was a mark of great satisfaction on our part to relay to members that over the last two financial years the tally of needy cats and kittens rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed was over 450. Truly, this shows how WCWT boxes well above its weight and why we enjoy such generous support from our own members – and indeed *all* genuine members of the cat-loving community in this part of the world.

Mike Glennon
Chairman 2021-22



Isla & Ivy



the other sisters

In the Spring 2021 issue we gave an update (on page 3) on two dear little sisters, Mavis and Margo, from an all-female litter of four born in 2017 (erroneously stated as 2020, sorry!). We thought you might like to know what happened to the other two girls and so here's their tale:

Last June Isla and Ivy went from Worthing Cat Welfare Trust to a delightful, peaceful home in Salvington with an ideal garden and now enjoy a five-star lifestyle, courtesy of Bill, a retired accountant. The physical similarity between all four siblings is quite obvious if you study the photos, though Isla distinguishes herself with one eye blue and the other green. Ivy is a bit more symmetrical, though equally beautiful.



One Blue, one Green!

They have settled in serenely, as Bill explains, "They are equal partners, neither having the upper hand particularly, though much of the time they politely ignore each other. There is the odd bundle for a laugh, of course, but nobody comes off the worse and at night they sleep in close proximity. Whilst affectionate cats, they haven't really understood the concept of *lap* yet, but they sit quite amicably with me on the sofa." Since re-homing to Bill they have been in excellent health and clearly are having a life of contented leisure.

When the four sisters first came in to Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, they weren't in top condition and they spent many weeks in our care going through the usual vetting processes, not to mention the therapy of peace and kindness to reassure what had been quite timid little souls.

Overall, we feel the tale of Mavis, Margo, Isla and Ivy is a perfect example of the value added by Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. Long may we continue to enjoy the support – not least of all financial – that enables us to do this vital work.



Greener and Greener

Compulsory Chipping Coming

In May this year, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced that micro-chipping will be compulsory for cats as part of a general action plan to support animal welfare.



Currently, cats in the UK do not have to be micro-chipped by law, but that's all about to change with the new legislation currently going through Parliament. Partially, this is being brought in following a surge in cat thefts during Lockdown and with some pedigree pussies having a value of £1,000+ on their heads the black market has been buoyant. Crime finds opportunity, as ever. It is expected that compulsory feline chipping will resemble the current law for dogs, which comes with a £500 fine for non-compliance.

Chips - as well as fish - for Puss

Continues on p.24



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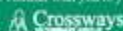
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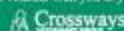


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Funding Medical Costs – Big Challenge

I am pleased to tell you that last year's accounts were signed off by our Independent Examiner and presented for members' approval at our Annual General Meeting on 4th September. Roffe Swayne became part of Azets on 1 March 2021 and so it is their name you will now see in our reports and accounts as our Independent Examiner.

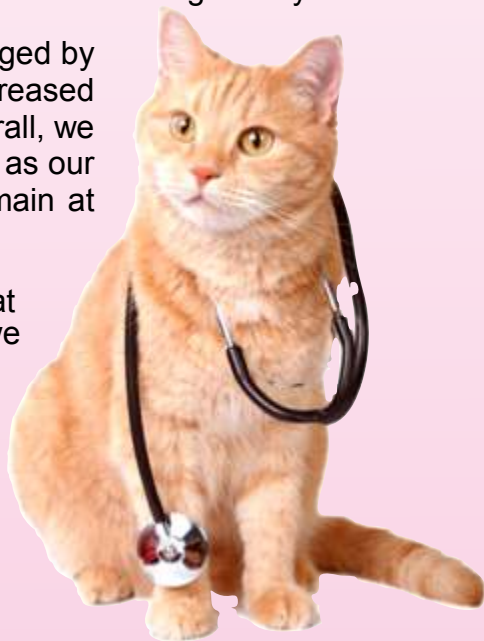
The first quarter of our new financial year (April-June) showed income of £35,000 and expenditure of £38,000. Our income included a legacy of £20,000 and another generous donation of £5,000. As we would expect, our veterinary fees of £27,000 constituted a major part of our expenditure in the period and about two-thirds of these fees were spent supporting our *Golden Oldies* and other cats that came into our care needing ongoing treatment. Echoes of the realities facing our National Health Service, you might say! One of the more common of these cat treatments is dental work, which can sometimes be extensive. Unlike with humans, feline dental procedures virtually always require full anaesthesia, so it's not like a quick NHS filling for fifty quid! Whatever the medical problems, the tests we fund to diagnose and monitor them play a key part in better quality of life in the future.

To put all these costs into perspective, we currently support over 200 cats, including younger ones with significant health issues. We are pleased to be able to help our older felines who, without this scheme, may not have found a home in which to live out their golden years.

Our main investments, which are managed by St James's Place financial advisors, increased by £56,000 over the same period. Overall, we are pleased with this result, particularly as our interest rates for cash investments remain at absolute rock bottom.

As I write this, I would like to believe that more stable times are ahead and that we can concentrate fully once again on the things we do best – in other words, the rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing of our beloved cats and kittens!

Christine Jones
Treasurer



Bambi been to the Barbers

We believe there are two types of humans - those who empathise with other creatures and those who simply don't. All the people at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust are clearly in the first category and so to be trusted with the adoption of one of their cats is a privilege indeed.

After our two beloved rescue cats, Jigglypuff (a Pokemon name!) and Toby died a long time ago, it took us several years to feel brave enough to face the potential heartbreak of losing another older cat.



Re-homing officer, Pam Fellows, found us a choice of two, so we opted for the older one on the natural assumption that it would be happy inside a flat and not want to roam. His name is Bambi, a big ball of fluff, who understands but one word: "Food". We soon decided that he wasn't actually the brightest puss on Earth and also he didn't like his back touched at all either. He would also lay flat-packed on the floor until we gradually discovered that the fur on his back was very compacted and matted, so it was a trip to the "barbers" for a short back and sides!

After a good shave he was transformed and no longer lies flat, occasionally napping on the bed and playing with a piece of string and balls of paper! We try not to laugh at him, offending his cat dignity, but he does look like a vase from the 1950s!

His summer hair cut must have been lovely and cool for him, but he's now limbering up for winter with his proper fluffy mantle.

He is settling down well and gets a thorough brushing each and every day, accompanied by copious bribes of *Dreamies*. He has both of us completely wrapped around his big fluffy paws ... so who's the clever one, really?

Dawn and Will Smith

**Cool Cut for
Summer Cat**



Don't wait to be invited – just turn up!

When I moved down here to West Sussex from London my ginger and white male cat, Ollie, migrated too. My main hope was that he would settle alright, as he had a known tendency to roam and he was, in fact, adopted as a stray after he found his way into my garden.

On the day we moved into our new home in Rustington, Ollie and I were greeted by a black and white cat, who seemed already to have made himself at home in the garden. We were concerned about any territorial issues, which might create conflict, but the two cats seemed to tolerate each other surprisingly well.



Yep, this place will do alright

The first winter came and went and we still hadn't located any owner for Archie, the name we had given to our new lodger. He made himself at home, but wasn't really people-friendly. When his original owner was finally located - just a mile away - Archie was not really able to return there.

He had become lost when he was just one year old and was now nearly four, so it was decided to give him a permanent home here, register him with a veterinary practice and get him neutered and micro-chipped. As he proved difficult to handle, the vet suggested that Worthing Cat Welfare Trust might be able to help. Soon he was with one of their volunteers, where he stayed for a holiday while being health-checked, vaccinated, chipped and neutered.

Then after a month or so, he returned to his now forever home with his fur bro Ollie and me. After a few weeks and a hormonal transformation, he jumped up onto my lap one evening and he has now morphed into a loving, homely cat. Just shows; I didn't really adopt either of them. They both adopted me!



Denise Bamford

Gate crasher and host in mellow truce

Stan stands his ground – with courage

In the Autumn of 2020, when Stan was just over two years old, we noticed that he was spending more time indoors and seemed quite quiet and listless - unlike his usual adventurous self. This continued, so in January we took him to our vet, Dr. Amanda Nicholls, who found a suspicious mass in his abdomen and lots of fluid. She carried out tests and he was diagnosed with Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). The fluid was drained, but there was little more that could be done for Stan at that point. Before the pandemic, a potential treatment for FIP was showing promise, but this was discontinued due to the ring-fencing of that particular medication for use in treating Covid patients.

Desperate owners were buying a Chinese variant of the drug on the black market and treating cats themselves, but this wasn't something we would consider. Stan's prognosis wasn't good, but he still had reasonable quality of life. However, by June he was going downhill, eating very little, emaciated, and we felt we were losing him. At this point, Amanda informed us that she was now finally able to order the drug (which from early August has become generally available) and she felt that Stan was a good candidate. It would involve daily injections for 90 days and be very costly. It also carried no guarantee of success, but vets in Australia were seeing very encouraging results. Once we decided to go ahead, we contacted WCWT to ask for help in administering the injections, as this solution is extremely stingy and the

dosage is high, so it wasn't something we felt we could manage alone. They put us in contact with a wonderful local veterinary nurse, Laura, who has come every day to do injections. It is quite an ordeal for all of us, but it has become part of our daily routine and we are now approaching the end of the course. Stan is eating well, gaining weight and has regained much of his appetite for life.



Brave little Stan soldiering on

Continues on back page ...

Sorrow surely - but Life Springs Eternal

In the cat welfare business, every conceivable emotion comes our way: anxiety, joy, satisfaction and, of course, sadness. Earlier in the year we received a call from staff at a small production unit on the edge of the South Downs, saying that kittens were wandering around in the decrepit barn at a nearby farm, seemingly alone, hungry and frightened.

WCWT attended immediately and – with the help of a very kindly lady, who kept her horse in nearby stables - we managed to trap three in the hay store, where they had been sleeping. They were clearly weaned, though only just and there was no sign of mum anywhere. Poignantly, further searching found her curled up in a corner, quite dead. She was a beautiful tabby, seemingly uninjured, her kittens absolute replicas of her. Very likely there would have been others also that perished.



It was not known for sure what may have happened, but rat poison had been in use in the vicinity and poisoned rats surely make for poisonous food for feral cats. God bless her. Her struggle to survive and feed her babies brought an end to her own sad little existence in this world, awash as it is with suffering of one kind or another.

The staff were all very upset and arranged to have her body cremated. Meanwhile, one of the contracted tradesmen working there took pity on the little ones and kindly took all three of them home for a secure, new life with his own family. The last we heard of them, all three were happy, healthy and safe, three little carbon copies of their poor, beautiful mum.

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Arthritis in Cats

It is well recognised that as humans get older, we are likely to suffer from arthritis and joint pain, but until recently these were not commonly diagnosed or treated in cats. This is, in part, due to the cat's natural instinct to hide signs of pain, which makes it hard for owners to recognise.

It is thought that as many as 90% of cats over the age of 12 have arthritis in at least one joint, the most commonly affected being the hips and knees in the hind limb and shoulders and elbows in the fore limb. Signs of arthritis to look out for in older cats include:

Reduced Mobility, e.g. not able to jump on and off furniture and difficulty with stairs;

Reduced Activity, e.g. more time spent resting and less wandering around outside;

Reduced Grooming, i.e. coat looks matted and scruffy and claws become overgrown;

Temperament Changes, e.g. grumpy when handled or stroked and avoiding interaction with people and other animals.



But there are ways to cope ...

Arthritis attacking joints

Thankfully, we now have many options available for managing arthritis in cats. It is important to make changes in the home environment to make it easier for arthritic cats to get around, e.g. using steps or ramps for cats to access higher resting places; making sure the cat flap is easy to open and easy to navigate through; providing an indoor litter tray with at least one low side and making sure that food, water and trays are all easily accessible. Not surprisingly, arthritic cats will need help with cleaning and grooming and may need to have their claws clipped regularly.

There are several diets and dietary supplements available for cats with arthritis, which are designed to reduce inflammation and support the cartilage in the joints, but these should only be used on the advice of a veterinary professional. Weight management is important for older cats too, so a prescription diet may also be needed.

Continues on p.13

Fires & Foxes = Feline Fright?

As much as we all adore our cats, we wouldn't pretend they're the most courageous of creatures. Admittedly, they do outpoint every other sort of pet in terms of charm, wisdom, guile and eccentricity, but we wouldn't look to them for protection when Burglar Burt breaks in.

But courage lurks in strange places. Take our generous Tortoiseshell landlady, Katie (who allows us to share her home and garden). Two years ago she appeared on WCWT radar as a so-called "House Cat", having spent the previous two years living in flats, and a potential new adopter was enquiring for a puss to share hers. Putting two and two together a solution seemed nigh. Alas, the lady then had to pull out, as she was due for a hip replacement and so Katie was back in play. My husband and I went to visit Katie and she resolved there and then to adopt us.

That's when we realised that House Cats are rare indeed. One look at our large, lush garden and she knew she'd chosen well. Initially, we kept her under lock and key for a fortnight before offering a bit of freedom, but she immediately established herself in her Garden of Eden. We have a large fire pit and enjoy sitting out on crisp winter evenings, so were scared she'd run a mile when she saw the flames. In fact, it was mere minutes before she joined us in the firelight to warm herself up!

One evening this summer we noticed her with ears back, head down, muscles tensed about to make a charge across the lawn - and then Bang she launched like a rocket. But at what prey? Then we saw her victim lurking in the bushes, probably the largest fox in Offington, who promptly fled in terror, clearing our back fence like a Grand National winner!



The weird thing about all this, is that Katie is actually frightened of the wood pigeons that treat her lawn as a conference centre and utterly terrified of the squirrel community. Oh well, perhaps Burglar Burt can come and visit us after all and we'll just have to give him a lift to A&E after Katie is finished with him!

Mee Tiltman

Arthritis in Cats - Continued from p.11

Modern medical treatment can actually be highly effective at controlling the debilitating pain associated with arthritis and this will also need to be prescribed. There are now also many safe oral medications available, which owners can dispense in their cats' food at home, as well as a recently introduced monthly injection administered by the veterinary surgeon or nurse in a clinic.

Here at Cat's Whiskers we are now also using laser therapy and acupuncture to help treat the chronic pain of arthritis. Perhaps it is only folks who have personal experience of arthritis that can imagine the relief this brings for poor cats suffering in silence.

Dr. Amanda Nicholls MRCVS



Laser therapy in action



Pen Sponsorship Latest



New sponsor Miriam

Since our last newsletter we have had new sponsors arrive in the form of Violet Cook, Amanda Nicholls and also Miriam Lopez Serrano of Portslade, who has also become one of our Lost & Found Officers for the eastern part of our territory (she has even rescued an abandoned puss from the streets of London recently, which we have re-homed to a lovely, safe Forever Home here in leafy West Sussex).

Memories of our dear, departed supporter, Diane Firth, were also brought back to us through a dedicated contribution from her friends, Debbie and Donald Croft to sponsor **five** pens this year!

Go Forth and Don't Multiply!

The Trust's subsidised neutering scheme was approaching the 120 score as we went to press, though the number of incoming enquiries has dropped considerably since the Lockdown peaks experienced during last winter and spring. Subsidies up to the full price have been offered in certain cases, though specific donations invited have often offset the full impact on Worthing Cat Welfare Trust coffers.

At present our neutering budget is on a bit of a go-slow until the beginning of December, partially because another cat charity has nobly stepped in with a similar scheme for the Worthing postcode areas, which will run up until that time. Once their scheme switches off, we'll step back into the breach, no doubt. By definition, this battle never ends.

It's when administering a scheme like this, that one realises how slack attitudes can be towards limiting the feline population. Sometimes we are approached, because Tibbles is on her *third* litter, which is probably only the tip of the iceberg, because Tibbles' *first* litter are now likely to be on *their* second litters! Slack Owners = Litter Bugs!!

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New job turned out Cat–astrophic!

I joined **Pet Doctors** in **2002** back when I had just one cat – Monty. Within four months, thanks to dear old Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, I had acquired Robbie, Megan and Molly! Molly and Megan spent several happy years with me before passing away.

Five years ago, I fell for a grey and white kitten that had to have a badly broken leg removed. The team here felt he needed a good home, as “nobody would want a three-legged cat”. Easily I relented and having agreed to take Mog, I was then told that I couldn’t possibly separate him from his black and white brother – so I came home with Kevin as well!

Then about one year later, my neighbour’s cat had kittens. Keen they went to good homes, a little tabby female called Pula joined my family. On the day I took her to work for a vet check, who should show up, but WCWT again with a dear little tortie female kitten. Swiftly, the team popped her in the same kennel with Pula and they were delighted at how well the two got on together, so I left work that day not only with Pula, but with Mara as well!



Then WCWT brought in a handsome, ginger boy for a check. He was only two years old and a combination of his big sad eyes and the team pinning me against the wall and saying he needed me, resulted in Simba joining the gang. Robbie passed away in 2019 a few months after his 19th birthday, but I am pleased to say that I still have five furry friends causing havoc at home. Three-legged Mog is the hard nut, spending most of his time in the fields and pops home once a day for food! Simba is a nomad in the summer and sleeps on the landing in the winter. Rejected by his brother, Mog, Kevin follows Simba everywhere, even if Simba is trying to lose him! My girls Pula and Mara love their home and garden best, although Mara’s pastime of chasing flies around the house often ends in disaster, as all she sees is the fly and nothing else! Working from home, due to the pandemic, has at least helped me to control the size of my feline family. It’s chaotic at times, but a home is not a home without a cat - or five!

Karen White

Rapid Action Saves Three

We received a heartfelt plea late one evening back in May: three kittens in Lancing waning fast and unlikely to last the night.

Maureen's cat, Petteril, had given birth to four kittens just eight days earlier and had then developed a very bad case of Mastitis, which made feeding little ones virtually impossible.

Alas, one kitten had already died. Mummy was in dire need of veterinary treatment herself, but moving her from the family might spell the end for all.



Attempts to raise the alarm with other welfare organisations had run up against the usual stone wall of "The office is now closed, please ring back at 9am tomorrow morning." Not much help when crisis calls. But that's not the way we do things at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. Within an hour of receiving the call, we were tapping on Maureen's door.

While 18 month-old Petteril was Grove Lodge bound, we rushed the three tiny 8 day-olds to Tracie, one of our expert foster carers in Worthing, who specialises in hand-rearing orphans. Here's the bizarre twist to this story: When she took the tiny three in, she said immediately, "Right, urgent supper time for the little ones and then I'll give them all to the dog!" Eh, what? Have we brought them to the right place? An obvious and alarming question until one witnesses one of this world's true canine phenomena.

Dexter, Tracie's two year-old housekeeper lives there alongside 12 cats and a huge, adorable Newfoundland (think donkey, but slightly bigger).



Dexter caring for previous charges

Clearly, Dexter, who's the size of a large cat himself, has experienced something of an identity crisis in his short life. What is he? He can't be a dog like Newfie, because dogs are gigantic. All the cats are roughly his size, so he must be a cat himself. That is where his true allegiance has developed and with the regular flow of kittens coming though the home he simply adores them and gives all of them a tender

wash and groom as required. After bottle feeding is over (Tracie still does that, as Dexter hasn't got the knack quite yet), the kitties snuggle up with him for warmth and protection. It's straight out of Walt Disney!

Anyway, fast forward 24 hours. Mummy at Grove Lodge has made good progress and Julie, another of the WCWT volunteers, took the three babies back to her there. Joyful reunion and plenty of fresh, warm milk for hungry little tummies. Three days later the whole family were back with Maureen and going from strength to strength, as she explains:

"After the terrible thought that all was lost for this dear little family, the relief and joy of seeing them all pulling through was truly indescribable. I can't stress enough our deep gratitude to the folks at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for their prompt action and the superb level of care they show when it really counts.

"By August all three kitties; Bobby Brown (ginger male), Jaffa (ginger female) and Oreo (black male) had gone to safe and loving new homes locally, one just 10 doors further down my road. As for Petteril's next crisis? Well, there won't be one, as her next outing was to a spaying appointment!



So glad to have 'em back



What's all the fuss about?

"She has now fully recovered from the procedure and regaining lost weight. One of her favourite roosts is in the back garden under a large clump of bamboo and she regularly brings in a fair sized sprig as a present to the rest of the household. She means well ..!"

For us here at WCWT this was an incredibly satisfying case to work on and reminds us all that crises require immediate action. "Ring us Monday morning" just isn't good enough!!



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Golden Hello for Oldies

Invariably, we have a number of older cats in our care, who are looking for loving new homes to live out their retirement years. These cats over the age of ten can be adopted under our renowned *Golden Oldies* scheme, which provides financial assistance for owners to meet age-related medical costs. Currently, we are supporting over 170 ex-Worthing Cat Welfare Trust pussies in this way, which actually accounts for nearly two-thirds of our total veterinary outlay!

Often overlooked for adoption, older cats have such a lot to offer:

Older cats make purr-fect pets for quieter, mature homes;

They are less demanding than younger ones, so they require less amusement and supervision;

They are more likely to fit into the often-sought “House Cat” category;

Personalities are well developed, so we can match the right cat with you and your lifestyle;



Old Gentleman Ted

Re-homed by us earlier this year



Long Ginger Sonnie

Re-homed two years ago

Older cats are so very grateful to have found a home that they seek little more than a warm lap and regular food and with advances in veterinary care and more informed owners, cats are living longer lives, and can bring you years of happiness.

Remember too that a kitten born today, could well be alive in 2040. As our own finite decades trickle by, it might be quite reassuring to think that we ourselves will be around long enough to care for our beloved pets right through to the end of *their* little lives!

Pam Fellows

Trustee - Adoptions

Fugitives, Detectives and Egg

Of the 450 cats rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed by WCWT in the last two years, maybe a third have come to us as Lost Souls. Truly, it is among these ranks that one finds the saddest and neediest of our customers and it is here that much of our effort is spent.

Not surprisingly, the biggest tool for finding and reuniting missing cats is **Facebook**, but this is only just the ship's radar screen: fighting the actual battle requires a bit more hands-on firepower, as newly appointed Lost & Found Coordinator, Germaine Conroy-Schneider explains, "When we encounter a lost puss, there are two immediate issues to consider. Firstly, their physical state in terms of being undernourished, sick or possibly injured and so getting puss quickly to a veterinary surgeon may be the top priority. The next issue is finding a rightful owner, which may be relatively easy when a microchip is present, but otherwise it may be a Sherlock Holmes job. And a long one."



L&F Detective - Germaine

An example of this was a delightful little black puss in West Worthing recently, who had been besieging a local – and kindly – resident. Germaine managed to scan a microchip and thus a simple reunion loomed. Except that Sooty hailed from South Wales. Possibly been down the mines a bit? However, the owner's details were clearly available through our on-line database facilities and a phone call was made. In fact, half a dozen, but never an answer. A letter was sent to the relevant registered address over in the Cardiff area and still no response. Germaine put her Deer Stalker hat on and telephoned various veterinary practices in the owner's area and after the fourth call - *Bingo!*

Yes, they knew Sooty – they were the ones who inserted his microchip! But what about the owner's dud phone number? When it was read over to them they noticed that the last digit should have been **8**, rather than **9**. Hey Presto! Vet rings owner to tell them to contact Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. Owner rings us from 200 miles away? No, owner rings us from 2 miles away (their new West Worthing home for the last nine weeks). Oops, forgot to change their cat's microchip registration!

The Legendary White Cat - egg coming!

Throughout last winter we had been receiving reports of an emaciated, diseased, white cat with a blue collar on the loose in the south-western parts of Worthing, including along the seafront. Accordingly, we assigned this mission to one of our top guns; the one you read about in the last issue. Yep, the one whom Houdini made a monkey of!

After each sighting, Top Gun (TG) would make a personal scouting visit to whomever phoned in to take notes of where Snowy had been seen. Door-to-door leafleting and knocking ensued throughout the surrounding streets, but after a week or so the trail would go cold. Months went slowly by with more sightings – often a long way from the previous bout - more hunting, still no success. Then came spring-time and the trail grew warmer and one of the doorstep interviews revealed that Snowy marched across this gentleman's garden each evening. TG trotted back to his car to get a trap cage, but on the way just happened to spot – guess what – a slender white cat with a blue collar. Eureka after six anxious months!

TG grabs puss, a surprisingly healthy, happy, chappy, despite all the legends surrounding him. Back they go to TG's house and against all expectations a microchip is found. On-line database identifies registered owner – but at what address? **Catford, Felixstowe, Purley?** No, the very same address from which Snowy had been lifted! So, here is a cat, who had been reported across a large area - maybe a mile across - supposedly on death's door and is bagged at his own gate. Timid phone call to owner, a charming young lady. Snowy had easy cat flap access to the home and plenty of food, his fur and skin complaint had been inspected by a local vet in the past and he had indeed been neutered. The fact is, that he's just a serious, serial wanderer and always will be.



The Fugitive Rests

The moral of this story is that whilst there are countless genuine strays in dire need of help, there will be cases, where innocent misunderstanding and natural assumption leads *us* astray. So where do the eggs come into this story? Well, the words **scraping** and **off one's face** come to mind!

The Taming of the Fluff

Fluff came to me a few months ago after two failed adoptions and nearly a year in the cattery. I was told he was unpredictable and had attacked his two previous adopters, who had both ended up in A&E, but I thought that really meant he just needed the right home. I have had experience of rescue cats - one of mine was very nervous and had been rescued from under a hedge, pregnant and with eye trauma, which required removal.

Fluff is such a handsome boy and I decided to call him Loki, the God of Mischief. Initially, he hid upstairs for a couple of days, so I just left him and put down food, water and litter up there, so that he didn't have to go anywhere he didn't want to. After a few days, he started to move around and then ventured into my bedroom.



Fluff just needed patient approach

He did start to let me stroke him, but still lashed out at me regularly. I got a few scratches and bites from him, but clearly he was just scared and didn't know how to defend himself. Patience is the watchword and I never grumbled or pushed him away. I would just step back, let him settle and try again a little bit later. By having patience and letting *him* decide when he was ready, I now have a fabulous cat, who loves to sleep every night on the pillow right next to me and I wouldn't be without him for the whole world!

He will still hiss at me sometimes, though, if I have to pick him up or move him somewhere. He certainly knows how to wake me up, so that he can have a good fuss and he loves his ears tickled.

So, please give your rescue cats time and patience. Don't push them to meet your own expectations and you will end up with the best cats in the world - and know that you have done something really good.



Maxine Gregory

Don't pass the quiet ones by

Some of the poor cats that are looking for a new home haven't had the best start in this life and, as a result, they are very fearful of the world around them. This was very much the case with our cat, Nessa.

She was found in a flat with several other cats and had clearly not been getting the love and affection that she needed. When my partner and I met her in a Worthing Cat Welfare Trust pen, she would not come out of her hiding place. However, she did enjoy attention and would purr and rub her head against our hands whenever we stroked her. After a couple of visits, we knew we wanted to give her a new life.

The whole of the first night she hid behind an armchair and would not even come out to eat. The next morning, at a loss as to how to reassure her, I rang Sandra at WCWT. Once Nessa had heard a familiar voice, she quickly realised that she was in a safe place, and she started to relax.

Eighteen months later and Nessa is like a different cat. She is friendly and confident with the humans she knows and no longer feels the need to hide away. Whilst she may never be a 'lap cat', she does like to rest a paw on you when sleeping beside you on the sofa. She also loves being a gardening companion, while honing her insect-hunting skills!



The perfect tonic after a really hard day at work

13th August 2013

Here are more needy cats looking for a new life. May we with you?

<p>Agnes - This sweet little Agnes was found in a cage at a local shelter and is now looking for a new home. She is a very shy cat and needs a lot of love and attention. She is a very good cat and would be a great addition to any family.</p>	<p>Lucy - This sweet little Lucy was found in a cage at a local shelter and is now looking for a new home. She is a very shy cat and needs a lot of love and attention. She is a very good cat and would be a great addition to any family.</p>
<p>Lucy - This sweet little Lucy was found in a cage at a local shelter and is now looking for a new home. She is a very shy cat and needs a lot of love and attention. She is a very good cat and would be a great addition to any family.</p>	<p>Lucy - This sweet little Lucy was found in a cage at a local shelter and is now looking for a new home. She is a very shy cat and needs a lot of love and attention. She is a very good cat and would be a great addition to any family.</p>

Contact Pam on 07881 887026

Whenever you glance through our adoption **Catalogue**, which I post regularly on our main charity website, you will often see quiet and shy cats!

I wanted to share Nessa's story with our readers as an example of a cat, who appears less friendly initially, but has so much potential and can blossom into a lovely member of the family with a little patience and lots of love.

Lucy Todd

Compulsory Chipping Coming - Continued from p.4

For responsible owners, the new law is excellent news, as it will help protect them from the devastation of losing their beloved pets to “poachers”. Meanwhile, for cat welfare charities like ours and for veterinary practitioners, this will be a very valuable move forward in the perpetual game of lost and found. Some of our fun and games on the L&F front are told elsewhere in this issue!

At Worthing Cat Welfare Trust we also believe that collaring is a worthwhile additional safeguard – provided the collars are either elasticated or genuinely quick-release. It's surely intuitive that local residents are far more likely to take a peek at a disc or tab on a cat's collar, than haul puss down to the local vets for a chip reading.

If your own cat is not already micro-chipped, it's a good idea to make an appointment with your vet while you think of it. Compulsion is coming, so you may as well do it now.

Costs are around £22-£25, but demand will push them higher when the inevitable rush cometh.

Lynn Benfield Trustee - Administration



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Separate Cat Waiting Area and Cat Ward

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Recent Re-Homing Reflections

It's now eight months since I took on the role of Adoptions Officer for the Trust and I must say it has been one of the best jobs I have ever had. Beats teaching by a country mile - mind you, you need to be retired like me, as this is a job that grows on you - and all over you!

I work alongside our Rescue Officer, Jackie Riddles, who retains the responsibility for reception of cats inwards and the whole process of billeting and vetting. My part is the liaison with adoption enquirers, carrying out home checks and then arranging for folks to come and see the pusses. Once a suitable match has been made, I then oversee all of the transfer paperwork and get puss to new home.

Another link in the chain is ensuring that microchip details are all re-registered, though that is a job for my colleague, Lynn Benfield, who has on-line access to all of the national databases. The final stage is when I make follow-up visits to ensure cats really have settled in and that their new home really will be their forever home. If not we can take them back straight away.

One vitally important measure for new owners is to keep their new pets under tight house arrest for a fortnight, so that puss truly absorbs the new environment as being "home". Cats are natural escapologists and the slightest opportunity is exploited: an open window being the easiest thing to overlook. Trouble is, that if a newcomer gets out, it won't identify yet with its new surroundings and wanders off with little likelihood of homing its way back. Alas, it easily happens. In short you have to make your home like Alcatraz or Colditz for a little while!



Tight Security for New Puss Please!

The satisfaction of seeing a cat truly secure and happy with new owners is absolutely enormous. If you are looking to adopt, then please get in touch with me via our website contact points.

Pam Fellows
Trustee - Adoptions

Helping Domestic Abuse Victims

Recently we became aware of an incredibly worthy scheme run by another major feline charity, *Cats Protection*, called ***Paws Protect***. This scheme aims to assist anyone forced to flee their own home, due to domestic violence, by providing safe, temporary foster homes for their cats.

Here at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust we have come across scenarios like this from time to time and remember a call we had late one Saturday evening last year. A terribly distressed, young woman over in Hove, who said that she was in immediate fear for her own physical safety – or even life – from a violent boyfriend. She wanted desperately to escape the flat, but had nowhere to take her two much-loved cats, which would themselves have been in great danger had she left them behind.



The *Paws Protect* scheme is completely free and it means that victims need not worry about the safety of feline companions while they move into temporary accommodation themselves.

The scheme will even cover the cost of any veterinary treatment that a cat may require during their stay and the owners are provided with regular updates until they are ready to be reunited. One less worry at a terribly stressful time.

Several counties in the South East are covered, including Sussex, so it is well worth spreading the word about *Paws Protect* to ensure that anyone fearful for the safety of their pets when fleeing violence knows that help is available.

By agreement with *Cats Protection*, we have also created a signpost page to this scheme on our own website and further details can be found at www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org/domestic-violence/

Lucy Todd Website Administrator

Wandering Basil became Wonderful Milo

I first saw one-eared Basil on Christmas eve last year when he peered at me through the cloakroom window and I wondered who he belonged to, as I had never seen this little chap before.

So, after seeing him again on our sun lounge roof and on the garden walls, I asked around, but nobody seemed to know anything about him. Then my neighbour (who also has a cat) said that at night he was sneaking through her cat flap in the early hours and sleeping on the stairs! Departure time seemed to be about 5am each morning, as she could hear him exit through the flap again.

Notices were put up on lamp posts with his photo and my telephone number, asking if anyone owned him. No response, so I contacted a large cat charity about what to do. My request fell on deaf ears and so I rang the much more proactive Worthing Cat Welfare Trust in the morning and that very same afternoon a catch trap was delivered. The trap remained in the garden in a closed position for a time while Basil got used to it being around and then that following week, I saw him early one morning asleep on the sun lounge roof. I went out and waved some wet food in the air, popped it in the trap and went in to view from the upstairs window. Milo rose up sniffing the air, crept along the wall into the garden and straight into the trap. Gotcha! WCWT came round almost immediately and Basil was off to a new life.



Lend me your ear a mo'!

Lis Meek

Epilogue: Dear Basil was taken to one of our WCWT rescue locations and efforts were made to ascertain ownership, but he had no microchip. He went through our usual 5* MOT process: vetting & vaccinations, micro-chipping and neutering and finally he was re-homed to a safe, loving, permanent home, where he became Milo. He actually seems to be a bit older than we had all surmised and has a number of minor health issues, including dental, which is all being overseen and financed by WCWT. This is a prime example of how important it is for local residents, like Lis, to become involved when a poor stray is lurking around. This dear cat, who was facing a bleak life now has an excellent future ahead.

Hope for Stan - from p.8

Recent blood tests show that his infection markers are still high, but no fluid was detected in his abdomen. Whilst we realise there are no cast iron guarantees of a cure, we are hopeful that his September tests will show he is going in the right direction. We're giving him every chance.



Patricia Clarke

**Stan (left) with brother Ollie
when they were kittens**



Bob came into our lives as a WCWT kitten three years ago after he, his mum and siblings had been in the wonderful care of Sandra. He's a truly gorgeous boy, whose varied hobbies include knitting, gardening, sleeping and trying to peek at our next door neighbour's elderly cat, who's not a bit interested in him! A big thank you to all at WCWT for the amazing work you do, rescuing cats and finding them their forever homes.

Alison Miller

Food Donation Points:

Gatleys 2 Mill Lane, Storrington

Exotic Pets 36 High Street, Littlehampton

East Worthing Community Centre Pages Lane

Strand Pet Supplies 17 Strand Parade, Goring

Donation Page on worthingcatwelfaretrust.org



Registered Charity No: 1049596, 141 Downside Ave., Worthing BN14 0EY

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General: 07544 226034

Lost & Found: 07519 857744

Rescue: 07818 824407

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