

Getting Our Teeth Into Welfare

Dental procedures are performed daily in our clinic, but how does a cat owner know if dental treatment is needed? Ideally, owners should examine their cat's teeth and mouth at least monthly. First smell your cat's breath. If you detect an unpleasant odour, your cat may have dental disease. When examining your cat's mouth, look for tooth chips or fractures and closely monitor their eating habits. If they are eating less than normal or showing obvious signs of pain when chewing (e.g. yowling or pawing at their mouth), then a dental issue is probably the cause. If your home examination reveals something or if you are uncertain, a trip to the vet is necessary.

A regular examination by a veterinary professional is key to diagnosis and helps determine the type of treatment needed. We recommend examinations every six months, the same frequency as dentists check our own teeth! Periodontal disease is the most common ailment we see and is treatable. Gum problems come from bacteria accumulation on the gum line around teeth and unless brushed away daily, they can destroy tooth-supporting bone, causing bleeding and even tooth loss. Usually the first sign is bad breath.



Gums - a major component

The veterinary oral examination will begin with a complete visual examination of the face and mouth. We use a record chart similar to the one used by human dentists to identify and document dental problems. If a dental problem is identified, a more detailed exam then follows. Unfortunately, cats cannot point to dental abnormalities with their paws and, therefore, to determine the proper treatment other tests are needed.

General anaesthesia is essential for a proper tooth-by-tooth evaluation. We use safe and effective anaesthetics and state-of-the-art monitoring equipment to make it as safe as possible. We start the thorough examination, using a periodontal probe to measure gum pocket depths around each tooth. One or two millimetres of depth normally exists around each tooth. When a cat is affected by periodontal disease, the gums bleed and depths may increase. Unfortunately, by the time some cats come in for dental care, it is too late to save all of the teeth.

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First Anniversary with Jacko

We came across Jacko's picture on the off-chance on the Worthing Cat Welfare Trust website and - after Pam had come round to our house for a home-check chat - we arranged to go and meet him in the cattery.

We went armed with treats, of course! We saw a very fluffy chunk, who although timid and ready to shrink back, would still come forward to have a chin tickle. We were smitten. He had his final health check and we collected him the very next day.



For the first two weeks we kept him separated from our four year-old cat, Wilfred. Gradually, Jacko came out of his shell and one thing was for sure: he certainly *loved* to eat and would never skip a meal. Also, he is the laziest cat I've ever known!

It's been over a year now since we re-homed him. So, he will be about 11 years old now. He has so many funny little quirks, so he is always making us smile.

He has a fondness for lying on his back in the middle of the room waiting to be tripped over and is also partial to nipping at my ankles first thing in the morning if I am not moving to get his breakfast quickly enough! Only ever in the mornings though.

And he loves sitting with me while I work too. Although his name is Jacko, he has become accustomed to answering to Dr. Jacques Phillipe Floofenhousen! His crazy name suits him just perfectly and we feel very privileged that he is now part of our family - Danielle, Isobel, Wilfred and Dr. Floofenhousen.



Danielle Bowman



Lockdown Loki Gets Lucky

A **bedraggled puss** crept through the cat flap in our daughter's kitchen back in March – despite the large Husky and another cat lurking on the other side! Initially, he cowered underneath a bench, but was extricated gently and taken for a thorough vet check. Alas, because of the existing pets a return to the home was really not feasible and so he passed into the excellent care of the Worthing Cat Welfare Trust.

That is where my wife, Rosine, and I came in, as we had kept rescue cats all of our lives and had lost our last one just prior to the Pandemic. We just knew we had to help in some way. Following further WCWT veterinary checks, neutering and chipping, along with a search for an existing owner, we eagerly collected Loki in April.



Loki was a very traumatised cat and would need plenty of care and patience, but Rosine and I weren't put off by this and were happy to let Loki adapt to our home. He spent his days hiding under the sofa when we were around, but really enjoyed his food and emerged at night to sleep on an armchair. After one week he made an unexpected dash for freedom and disappeared over the garden wall. A couple of anxious days followed, but then he suddenly returned through the cat flap for his dinner!

However, he still ran off if approached and so we got a cocoon bed to put in our summer house. Since then he's grown more confident and forged a happy relationship with the other local cats, but established "his" own territory. Autumn is now here and he's still in the summer house and out on patrol during the day, but comes in to be fed. He still runs off if we get close, but the important thing is he's healthy, happy and settled, so we hope that perhaps this Winter, we might actually get to stroke him!



John Clandillon-Baker



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More Local Business Support for the Trust

In the last issue we outlined how one local business in the town centre, DLG Hair Studio, was helping us with ongoing fund-raising.

Encouraging it is to attract interest from commercial partners and so we were delighted to be approached recently by RenaSan, a small business based in Ashington a few miles up the A24. They specialise in a niche market for pet care products, including cleaning supplies and natural remedies for cleaning eyes and ears. The key common denominator in the product range is Hypochlorous acid, which sounds aggressive stuff, but is anything but. It's actually a natural substance that occurs in the human body and which Cambridge scientists had been adapting for application to hygiene and body care.

The product range includes cleaning fluids for any areas where your pet sits or sleeps and is both harmless on the one hand, as it's a purely natural compound, but is more effective than bleach or alcohol in doing the job. Sounds a bit too good to be true, though sometimes facts are stranger than fiction. All products are compliant with our UK and EU regulations, are independently verified and have been tested in conjunction with the NHS and the Royal Veterinary College.

As sole UK distributors for the product range, RenaSan have been reaching out to selected local animal charities with free supplies and this was their very welcome proposition to Worthing Cat Welfare Trust.



Dan at RenaSan packs yet another Red Puss Parcel

Every time a cat moves out of one of our pens, we need to do a complete sterilisation before the next guest arrives to ensure there is no spread of infection. Over the Summer we piloted the products in one of our care pen locations and were impressed with how effective they actually are, particularly the products for attending to weeping eye or ear conditions. With further generous supplies from RenaSan, we are now rolling this out across our other sanctuaries. Not only are we confident with these products, but we are also saving a considerable amount of our own money across the year.

The Long Arm of WCWT

Finding capacity to take in the endless stream of needy cats is something of a headache – and Paracetamol doesn't seem to help. We have a strong marketing machine, which is currently re-homing about 250 cats each year, but where do we hold the reservoir of cats when our own total capacity is only about 30 pens? One solution we have been developing over the last year or so is the **Arm's Length** Adoption.

When asked to take in a cat for re-homing, the first thing we ask is about urgency. Clearly, some cases are extremely urgent, e.g. a young lady recently facing eviction the next day and going into council accommodation. Puss homeless. Many cases, however, are simply not urgent, so we ascertain the very latest possible date that the cat could be handed over and that could be several weeks – or even months - away. Immediately, we then feature the cat in our marketing to generate enquiries, but meanwhile puss is still comfy in his existing home, rather than being in a pen – and our poor old accommodation budget doesn't get mauled.



Alfie facing uncertainty

As we receive specific enquiries, we home-check carefully in the normal way to verify suitability and then introduce the existing owner to the fully screened enquirers, so that they can reach a suitable adoption agreement between themselves. In short, WCWT is acting as Agent, rather than as Principal in the “deal”, but bringing into play all of our knowledge and experience to achieve a good result for everyone concerned.

After the re-homing, we remain in contact with all parties to ensure that puss has settled down in his new home and also offer a long term guarantee to provide further re-homing assistance should anything go awry. To illustrate the process, let's take a look at Alfie's case. It starts with Margaret's side of the story:

After our lovely neighbour had to go into a nursing home my partner, Kevin, and I started looking after Alfie, her beloved cat. Originally we hoped that my neighbour was coming home, but this wasn't to be, which was sad for us and for Alfie. We started looking for a loving home for him, but everyone we knew already had a cat (or two or three!) and we have already adopted three wonderful cats ourselves from WCWT, so I decided to make

contact with Mike there at the charity to see if he could help. He was so helpful and suggested we put Alfie up for adoption through their 'Arm's Length' process, which meant he could stay in my neighbour's house for the time being. It meant me popping in to feed him twice a day and he had a cat flap to come and go anyway. This was ideal for Alfie, as he could stay there where he was happy until a new home could be found. I took photos and supplied a background description, which was featured immediately in the WCWT Catalogue marketing system. Within a week I got a call from Mike saying, "Good news, I think we may have found an ideal home."

I can't tell you how happy we felt, but dare we hope the prospective new owners would really take to Alfie? A few days later Jacqueline and family came to see him in his home, where he was so relaxed and affable. They all took to one another straight away and a few days later Alfie went to live with them. We have been to visit Alfie since then and he has settled in to a happy new life. I can never thank Mike and WCWT enough for helping to re-home dear little Alfie. Clearly, 'Arm's Length' adoption works!

Margaret McDonald

And from the joyous new owners ...

Since welcoming Alfie into our family home, he has settled in so well with everyone, including Sid the tortoise! We had seen Alfie's picture and both my daughter, Emily, and I were very drawn to him and wanted to adopt.

The process was very efficient and after Mike came round to meet us for a Home Check I got to speak to Margaret, who was looking after Alfie. We went over to Littlehampton to meet Alfie *in the fur* and as soon as Emily saw him she fell in love. He was still nervous, because he had been living on his own for some time, but we brought him home and introduced him to his new surroundings. As time progressed he became much more relaxed and loves rolling around on his back. After an initial fortnight of indoor lockdown to familiarise him with his new domain, ...

Continued on back page



Hate it or Love it?

We've been burgled! I still remember my husband's indignant cry. But it turned out to be a particularly mysterious crime. The intruder had obviously walked past our priceless Rembrandts and Ming vases, past my Faberge eggs and Rolex watches and headed straight for the kitchen.

It got worse. The sumptuous Turners chicken pie I had left out on the work-top for hubby's favourite dinner had been broken into and the thief had nibbled out all the chicken and then licked out all the creamy sauce. Although we dialled 101 the police didn't seem interested somehow, so no criminal justice was to follow. At least the pastry was safe though.



Katie just loves it

But be sure your sins will find you out. At breakfast recently, the toast and Marmite was all spread for my husband's sleepy arrival and I was in the kitchen brewing tea. When we both went back into the breakfast room, there was Katie sitting on the table boldly licking off all the Marmite. You hear of cats eating odd things, but this is ridiculous! Now, although caught red-handed (actually brown whiskered), could one indict her for the pie job too? Trouble was, we had eaten the evidence. Well, my husband had!

Mee Tiltman

Continued from page 19... After the procedure, we often recommend that owners change their cats' diet to sugar-free wet food and dental dry food to help prevent tartar build up in future.

Cats do not have to suffer the pain and discomfort of untreated broken or loose teeth or infected gums. With the help of thorough examinations, X-rays and daily tartar prevention, though, your cat can keep its teeth well into old age. Cats hide pain very well, so we have to be proactive.

At Cat's Whiskers we are passionate about preventative health care for cats and we have designed a dental care plan to ensure cats have regular and effective treatment in the clinic.

Dr. Amanda Nicholls
MRCVS

Houdini Finds Forever Home

Readers will recount the story of Houdini from our Spring 2021 edition, where a cat made a daring expedition right across darkest Worthing to get back to his home patch. This puss has remained on our radar screen on and off since then, as he had reverted to his itinerant wandering around his territory. He did actually have an owner, but seldom spent time there. Then recently he was reported to us loitering around with quite a nasty neck wound, so we gave him a hike to the vets, followed by some recuperation at one of our 5* feline resorts.

As it happened, the vet's mum was looking to adopt a cat at the time and Houdini was in need of a more settled future. So, consulting the owner, we all agreed that a brand new life would be best for him and the adoption was promptly completed. Puss now looks forward to 6* deluxe accommodation and free 7* veterinary support for the rest of his life. Knowing his navigational prowess, though, he was kept indoors for a whole month to re-programme his cerebral territory software.



Our kittens soon became superb cats!

Since the last newsletter, our kittens have become cats and our lovely dog, Jeff, just can't imagine life without them. He seems to have formed a particular bond with Graham and loves giving him a good clean when he comes back from exploring. Poor thing gets well and truly soaked, but he seems to quite enjoy it!



Colin is the bolder one of the two brothers, but he is actually an absolute softy, always wanting to be around whenever people come to visit, so that he can check them out. Our happy, hairy gang is now fully complete!

Clare Bartlett

A Happy Separation

Sadly in October 2021 we said a fond farewell to our black cat, Dexter, whom we had had for nine years, due to it being the kindest thing for him, as he became very poorly. It broke our hearts and we said Never Again. Then two months on and our home was just too quiet, so we started to look into adopting again. We filled out the forms and straight away had the home check by the lovely Pam and were given addresses to view all the cats up for adoption. One afternoon in December we saw a pair of cats that we took a liking to: Albus (grey & white) and Errol (grey tabby) were their names, both had been brought in in a very bad way, but were nursed back to health and were ready to be adopted. We were keen to adopt in time for Christmas, as we both had two weeks off work to help them settle in. Not normal procedure, because of likely celebrations, but we were told we could, because we were having such a very quiet Covid one!



Albus & Errol while still awaiting adoption

We brought the pair home on the 18th December and changed their names to Smudge (grey & white) and Simba (grey tabby). It was a tough start knowing what they needed in the beginning: somewhere high up to feel safe and somewhere to hide too. They were both petrified. Day by day they came around to learn to trust us and know they were safe, with caring new owners. After 12 days we opened up the back garden to them, which they seemed to enjoy, not going far, and coming back to the rustle of a *Dreamies* bag!

Pam then came round to fill out all the final adoption forms in the New Year and then they became ours. Another month passed and we noticed a change in the boys. Simba had become very confident and domineering and the playing between them became more fighting and bullying by him, which in turn upset and stressed Smudge out. He was having urinating problems and on medication, so we had to make a very hard decision to re-home Simba again.

Continued opposite

Separated, but everyone doing just fine ...

Thankfully, he went on to somebody we knew, who now absolutely adores him. It broke my heart, as he was a lovable lap cat, but we knew it was the right thing to do. I looked upon the experience as fostering Simba until he found his feet (paws) and was ready to move on.

We still go and visit and we still get love and cuddles from him. Neither cat has missed the other, however, and they are both living their high lives apart and are very happy cats in every way now.

Over time, Smudge has learnt to relax and not worry about when he was going to get picked on next. He has mellowed and is a real gentlemen, loves the garden and doesn't want to wander far. He is also a bit of a hunter, two birds and a mouse so far. (I'm truly honoured really!)



Exhausted Smudge

He loves chasing a laser light and anything filled with catnip too! He is not really a lap cat, but he loves a fuss when you sit next to him. He is an absolute pleasure and we are so pleased we made the decision to part the boys for the benefit of both.

So, a big Thank You to Pam and to the charity as a whole for giving us that chance to foster and adopt all in one!

Elaine and Tim

Wallace



Foxed Again



One cold day back in early Spring a lady in Worthing town centre found some very young kittens under the hedge in her garden, so she put them in a cardboard box and took them indoors and rang us - could we go and rescue them please?

I phoned Allison in East Preston, one of our pen holders (please see other story on page 2), to see if she had any space to take them in, as well as a ready supply of special kitten milk. Bless her, she immediately offered to hand rear the poor little waifs.

They were very cold, so we left them covered and got them straight over to Allison. When we uncovered the box we looked at each other in utter disbelief - they all had somewhat un-feline little snouts. Bit like what foxes have perhaps? Hmmm ...



**Never a dull moment
in the cat business**

Now, we know a man, who knows things about things that have foxy snouts, so phoned the renowned Billy at *Wadars* to check out the distinguishing features. Yes, grey in colour and always a white tipped tail - and have snouts! So, definitely they were fox cubs. Billy's advice was to fill up their tummies with milk and take them back promptly to where they had been found.

We left the cubs back under the hedge right where they had been found on a towel for a little bit of warmth. The kind lady promised to keep an eye out to see if mummy came back. They were still there when she went to bed, but had gone in the morning, so hopefully they were found by their mother and have grown up happy urban foxes.

I wish I had checked the box before taking them away with me and I certainly wouldn't do it again. Oh well, the only people who don't make mistakes are people who don't do anything! Anyway, at least I know what a young fox cub looks like now!

Sandra Collins
Trustee Welfare

Preston from East Preston

Right the way back in 2020 we were approached by a resident in East Preston besieged by two strays, a black male and a ginger female. Alas, Ginger we were never able to trap, but eventually we bagged the black puss and took him in to refuge.

He was un-chipped and very wary of people, a classic stray, so was never going to be an easy re-homing job. One adoption faltered and back he came to us, a dejected little soul. But then one day his fortunes changed and Jess and her family walked into his life:

We adopted Preston in November 2021, falling in love with him the very first moment we saw him. At first he was an anxious and nervous little boy, but we spent a good few weeks persuading him it was safe to come out of his various hiding places.



Please, please adopt me!

He did manage to get into a pickle at Christmas when he decided to hide at the end of the garden for a few nights, but with the help of the team at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, we managed to get our boy back on Christmas morning. Wonderful present for the whole family and we started building his confidence again and making him comfortable. Now, ten months later, let me tell you this special boy has become the King!



That will do nicely ...

He walks around with confidence and enjoys having a good nap on his new scratching tower. Little Preston has quite a large collection of toys, which he likes to play with in the evenings. He is such a loving cat, who also loves to cuddle up with us at bed time - that is if he isn't being cheeky and trying to grab our feet! We are so glad that we found little Preston and we wouldn't change him for the world.

Jess Hustings

Halley's Cat Cometh Round Again

Some things – like Christmas and Halley's Comet - keep coming round and round. It's just the frequency that seems to vary. Here at WCWT we do get the odd Halley's cat and this particular one was coming round every few months. Readers might remember back in the Autumn 2021 issue that we reported on a serial bad boy by the name of Fluff. Well, his story has marched on a wee bit. His previous adopter (our third attempt at shifting puss) was doing reasonably well, but then Fluff was a bit feisty with one of her grandchildren, so back he came *again*. Here is his latest and hopefully settled saga, courtesy of his new adopters:

Both my Partner and I are experienced Catophiles. On the loss of our much loved Ginger of 16 years, we decided to contact Worthing Cat Welfare Trust to offer another needy cat a loving home. Mr. Fluff was introduced to us as a "difficult to re-home cat", due to aggressive outbursts brought on by insecurity after various returns from previous adoptions.



Seen you before, my boy!

He was moody in the cattery, but we decided to give him a chance, though realising that patience would be paramount for a successful adoption. We knew he presented a challenge and collected him fully prepared for a long haul. Well, it has been a bit like fostering a moody teenager, but in this case with the real potential to provide a permanent new life. All of our patience and love and giving him plenty of time to settle in has now paid off and we have formally adopted Mr. Fluff.

He greets us at the front door when we come home every day and he enjoys looking out of the kitchen window to survey his immediate territory – he even has a cat friend, who comes round to visit him. Admittedly, he does still have the odd hissy fit and can be a bit scratchy-bitey if you over pet him, but generally he has now become a contented puss and we feel eventually he will become truly affectionate. Head bumps are one of his current gestures of friendship, but we think - in the fullness of time - there'll be a lot more coming from this misunderstood little fellow.

Diane Hopkins

Escape, Evasion, Recapture then Happiness

When our beloved Tia died we eventually started to think about filling the cat-shaped hole in life. We tried another cat rescue service, but they didn't even come back to us, despite our visiting the two cats we hoped for. We then spotted LiLi and MingMing (who became Calvin and Hobbes - both boys) being fostered through Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, who sent round Pam, a lovely lady, to check us out and we were approved.

Sadly, their fosterer was still in quarantine, but eventually my wife Becca, daughter Elise and I visited and then Miriam and Mike from WCWT brought them over. We planned to keep them overnight in the conservatory, but left the lounge door open. By morning Hobbes had disappeared and Calvin had hidden behind a kitchen cabinet. We thought they were both in there, but two days later still no sign of Hobbes and we realised he had escaped. Miriam and Mike helped us search!



Escapologist Hobbes



Calvin - the good one



We posted on Facebook and put up posters, etc. and some neighbours thought they saw Hobbes, but it was a different tabby. We had been leaving food out each night and this was being eaten, so we borrowed a WCWT cat trap. We caught a tabby straight away, but not Hobbes! We released the innocent prisoner and then baited the trap again. Second time lucky - a wet and bedraggled Hobbes, but otherwise fine. We kept tight security for two weeks and then released them into the garden, but they came trotting back as soon as they were called for dinner!

Now happily settled, they enjoy sitting with us. Hobbes enjoys being stroked on his tummy for ages, while Calvin prefers to lie at our feet.



Gotcha, Hobbes!

Becca, Tony and Elise Stubbs

Meeting Mister Darcy

“IT IS A TRUTH UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A SINGLE MAN IN POSSESSION OF A GOOD FORTUNE MUST BE IN WANT OF A WIFE.”

So begins Jane Austin's *Pride & Prejudice*, the story of Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy finding each other, love and a happy ending!

I'm no Elizabeth Bennett and my Mr. Darcy didn't have £10,000 a year or a country estate, didn't wear a frilly shirt or look like Colin Firth. He was just a 12-year-old black cat with three legs in want of a new home. On meeting him I found a lovely cat, who rubbed his head against my hand and let me tickle his tummy. His age and missing leg wouldn't make him most people's first choice, but I was looking for an older cat anyway. I wasn't fussed about gender or colour, although the missing leg did give me pause for thought. However, after meeting Mr. Darcy, I decided that if he could cope without it, then so could I.

Before I met him, Mr. Darcy had gone from being a short-term boarder at Rachel's Manor Cattery, when his previous owner sadly had to go into full time care, to being a candidate for re-homing through Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. So, our journey began: for Mr. Darcy adjusting to a house on two floors, having spent his whole life in a bungalow and for me learning patience and coping with an elderly tripod. On arrival he took one look at the living room and bolted upstairs, with surprising speed, took up residence under the spare room bed and stayed there.



My unlikely little hero

I spent ages sitting on the floor, trying to tempt him out with treats and tickling his ears and chin. On day three he decided to decamp to the bed in my room, which was more comfortable and much sunnier. While he made forays into the other rooms on the upper floor, he showed no interest in investigating the stairs or the rooms on the ground floor. Around week nine I thought Mr. Darcy might like to venture out into the back garden and enjoy the sunshine. I decided that the best way to get him there was to pop him in the cat carrier and carry him. After we'd done this two or three times he finally managed to get down the stairs successfully on his own -

eleven weeks after arriving here! This momentous occasion was marked with a lot of fussing and treats and texts to Rachel at the Cattery and Pam at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, as well as to friends, who had been following Mr. D's progress. Now that he has made it downstairs there is no need for him to go upstairs if he doesn't want to. His food is in the kitchen, he's worked out the cat flap, so he can get into the garden and, most importantly, he has access to his own private facilities in the understairs cupboard!

Mr. Darcy is very chatty, though not always intelligible. He usually seems to be asking for a chin stroke or a tummy rub and he likes to cuddle up next to me, but isn't too keen on being picked up. He can certainly move remarkably fast on three legs though!

What have I learnt from taking on a three-legged older cat?

A) Give them time to adapt. They don't understand why their circumstances and routine have changed. Spend time with them, but also leave them to explore their new environment and find things out for themselves.

B) If something isn't working or the cat seems uncomfortable, then rethink the situation carefully.

C) Try to see everything from the cat's point of view and work out how you can make it easier or less confusing for them. Always make sure they have easy access to a safe place.

D) Finally, be patient. Eventually they will adjust and reward your patience with love, affection and trust. Nothing can be more satisfying than that.



The day I met my Mr. Darcy

I would like to say thank you to Rachel at Manor Cattery and to Pam and Sandra from Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for their ongoing help and support - especially Sandra for reassuring me when I thought I might have taken on more than I could really cope with.

Barbara Harris

Frankly, he's doing rather well



BEFORE

Readers may well remember Leilah Scully's story in the last issue about her adoption of Frank and Flo to join her incumbent Fizz. Both had been sorrowful strays, but they are now blossoming. These photos of Frank before and after his new regime of loving care tell a tale. After we removed his badly decayed teeth he was able to get back into full munching mode and put on some healthy bulk. The volume of strays coming through WCWT is surging and donations are much needed.



AFTER

From page 25 ... we introduced Alfie to the garden. It was like a great big adventure and he loved it. He has established his daytime routines now, but at night he sleeps with Emily and they keep each other company. He is great for an alarm clock, because without fail he wakes her up at the same time every morning. He is a real character and a welcoming little face when you come through the door.

Jacqueline James

Food Donation Points:

Gatleys 2 Mill Lane, Storrington

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East Worthing Community Centre Pages Lane

Strand Pet Supplies 17 Strand Parade, Goring

Donate Page on worthingcatwelfaretrust.org

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