

Newsletter Spring 2022

Building Now for our Future

Our pace really has been gathering in the last couple of years, despite the dip in activity due to unhealthy times. It is on the human resource side that we have made particular progress with an expanding team of newcomers to strengthen further our stalwart inner circle. Within the fundamental Welfare part of the process, we have established three distinct geographical zones; West, Central and East, equating basically to Worthing in the middle with peripheral zones spreading out on either side. The West is coordinated by Ana Sales, Central by Sandra Collins and the East by Joss Loader.

Their role is to oversee the arrival of needy cats, arranging the various veterinary requirements – which in some cases can be very extensive - and safe billeting while they are our guests. Our main catteries are located in Angmering, East Preston, Findon Valley and Lancing, to which we have only just recently added Durrington (see page 2). Once our cats are ready for re-homing, they then become the concern of our Adoptions team, coordinated by Emma Wollaston with her squad of Adoptions Officers. This entails administration of the large number of incoming adoption enquiries and very careful screening, including home-check visits, to ensure that we find truly suitable, sustainable destinations for our little furry friends. A final home visit is conducted about a month after adoption to ensure all is well, both for Puss and new owner. In some cases, cats are not quite ready for permanent adoption, as they may still need specialist fostering for a while.



Welfare: Sandra, Ana and Joss

Continues p.2

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

Trustees* and Management Group

Chairman	Mike Glennon*	Welfare	Sandra Collins*
Treasurer	Christine Jones*		Joss Loader
Secretary	Catharine Duff*		Ana Sales
			Jackie Riddles
Administration	Lynn Benfield*	Lost &	Germaine
Marketing	Mike Glennon*	Found	Conroy-Schneider*
Membership	Linda Kenealy	Fostering	Miriam Lopez
Website	Lucy Todd	Adoptions	Emma Wollaston
			Pam Fellows*

(Continued from front page).

Our provision for interim fostering has grown greatly in the last six months and is coordinated by Miriam Lopez, who also researches and arranges potential homes for our semi-ferals, typically in rural settings, such as riding schools, stables or small-holdings. Without this solution, conventional re-homing of certain cats would be virtually impossible.

New Pen Block Construction

It's not just on the personnel side that we have been striding forward. In March we completed the construction of a brand new, purpose-built block of seven pens in Durrington (see further story and photos on opposite page). Five of these units are of standard size and the other two are extra large to accommodate mums with their new families.

The project represents a considerable investment in our specialist care capability and, together with our East Preston site, will house litters and any other cats, which require careful nursing and monitoring of their medical conditions. As both of these facilities are situated within the gardens of long-term Worthing Cat Welfare Trust supporters, round-the-clock care is at hand where special cases require that.

This brings our own in-house pen count to 19 with an overflow capacity of at least another dozen with our very supportive commercial cattery partners. Needless to say, the volume of needy cats can easily absorb all of our space, so the efficiency of our Adoptions function in moving adoption-ready pussies onwards to good quality Forever Homes is absolutely crucial.

Pen Construction Huge Commitment

The new pen build began back in the late Autumn of 2021 and effectively it has been the reconstruction of a huge existing shed, which was more like a small warehouse. The quality of build, in the basic infrastructure, is of a very high level, as are the internal fixtures and fittings. All of these pens are centrally heated, though TVs and mini-bars will require some additional funding at some point in the future.



Building Site or Bomb Site?

Work progress over the Winter was slowed down by the inevitable bad weather, but the more painful aspect has been the eye-watering price inflation in practically all categories of construction materials. Even ancillary costs for things like rubbish skips have almost doubled over a 12-month period. We put out a special appeal to our supporters to help raise more funds and sponsorship is flowing.

The new block received its first guests early in April and we are now already running at full occupancy. Over the coming years - and indeed decades - one wonders how many hundreds of our little friends will pass through this wonderful new creation.



Almost ready - just needs cats

So, in summary, WCWT has great volunteers (though needs more!), also great facilities, but what else do we need? Yep, you've got it: more money! That is surely the eternal conundrum for any charity and we are no different. Any bright ideas - or a share of your recent lottery win - would be humbly received!

Mike Glennon
Chairman 2021-22

Furry Finance

Once again, we are approaching the end of our Worthing Cat Welfare Trust financial year, which seems to come round more quickly every time. Bit like birthdays as we grow older!

Gazing forward to the financial year end, we are certainly looking at a very different picture, when compared to the past two years. As I write this piece, our projected income is likely to be in the region of £140,000 and our expenditure £215,000, which would mean a loss of approximately £75,000.

This may be slightly offset by some small legacy payments, which have not yet come through - but we'll count those chickens when they hatch. We are very pleased to say that around £200,000 or over 90% of our expenditure has been allocated directly to the welfare of the cats in our care. Our vet fees alone are likely to be in excess of £150,000.

Although we have not had the final count of felines that we have re-homed, this will almost certainly exceed 200 cats and kittens and may even be a record since we have started reporting the numbers.



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Furry Finance *continued*

The final cost of our new pen block in Durrington will amount to between £55-£60,000. Once completed, the pen block is classed for accounting purposes as a fixed asset of the charity and will be depreciated over five years. For readers with a deeper interest in accounting, we'll be using the straight line method, rather than the reducing balance - given that it's not a practically resale-able asset.

In October last year, a further £100,000 was invested with our financial advisors, St. James's Place, and - as always - we invest cautiously to keep risk to a minimum. Against a backdrop of market ups and downs, we have seen this investment grow by 22% in just over eight years.

Of course, this big gap between our income and our expenditure cannot be sustained. It is likely that we will have to start cashing in more of our investments sooner than we would like, to ensure that we can keep offering a vital lifeline to the cats coming into our care.



Pussy finance can be utterly exhausting

We are truly indebted to those kind folks, who continue to support us via donations and legacies. Financial assistance can range from cat food donations (please see our article on page 28 about supporting us in this particular way) right through to major bequests. Each and every donation is greatly appreciated - and one thing is for sure, your money couldn't be better spent than on alleviating the plight of these dear little creatures.

Would you like to offer further help in a practical hands-on way too? If you feel you have the time, expertise and enthusiasm to strengthen our very active Worthing Cat Welfare Trust team, please do visit our main website and open up the *Volunteering* page for further details on how to get involved. There's a form there you can fill in to start the ball rolling.

Christine Jones Treasurer

Neighbourhood Terror Arrested in Shed

In the cat rescue business you come across your fair share of bizarre tales – bizarre tails too sometimes! Last Autumn and Winter we spent a lot of time and effort trying to trap a huge, un-neutered stray male not far from Worthing Hospital. He had been making a real pain of himself with local residents, raiding their houses for cat food – and as they might say in Scotland - paying his hosts with a wee present. A little too literally though! With the help of a kindly, cooperative resident we finally managed to bag puss in her shed.



We took him to our Lancing location. Coming in with a reputation like his, though, we exercised more than the usual caution when handling him, but soon realised he was far more Jekyll than Hyde. In fact, he was one big, loving, misunderstood softie and soon won the hearts of all who met him. We named him Chesney, a corruption of the place name where he was captured.

Another drama was about to unfold just a week later. After bringing him back to our cattery from his neutering procedure, the door to his carrier broke apart and out bursts Puss. Right on the side of the busy, rush-hour A27 - shock, horror, nightmare!

Fugitive Recaptured

Being a wise street Puss, though, he bolted away from the road and jumped right over the fence into a neighbour's garden and there he burrowed safely under their garden shed. Relief all round, but how to lay our hands on the fugitive? After much searching around under the shed for an hour, our colleague Rachel, now covered from head to foot in mud finally managed to set a trap cage and eventually the hungry Chesney ambled in obligingly. A lesson in how to turn a disaster into a crisis and then back into major victory!



On to a life of love and luxury

(Continued from p.6)

Anyway, happiness was soon to follow, as his new adoptive owner, Bob, explains: "We were left sadly without a cat in our lives when, on New Year's Eve, we had to have our dearest friend, Treacle, put to sleep. We had had him for 15 years and it left a big gap in our house and lives. Luckily, we came across Worthing Cat Welfare Trust's website, where we spotted the gorgeous Chesney, who must be the biggest cat I've ever seen. He also has got a big heart to go with it, so friendly and we love him more than words can say. He has been with us now for three months and it's as if he's been here forever. Thank you WCWT for bringing him into our lives!"

Cute Canarian Cats



Lanzarote Puss no like garlic

After 18 months denied our usual globe-trotting antics, my husband and I were feeling the cabin fever pretty badly. No vaccine for that. So, boldly casting caution aside, we managed to raid our favourite place on earth, the Canarian Islands once again. Best climate on the planet all year! In Lanzarote we had this dear little Tabby turn up on our window sill each day, so breakfast time entailed the usual furtive purloining of ham and sausage, which impressed this little chap enormously. He didn't much like garlic sausage though. Strange that.

On Fuerteventura we were very near the resort where we met gorgeous Cinny (we wrote about her in the Spring 2018 newsletter). We ambled up to the hotel complex, where she had lived, but it was all closed down, due to the drop in the holiday trade. Crazy, but we almost expected to bump into her, but just silly wishful thinking. Anyway, nearby we came across this sleepy little chap, who bears a striking resemblance to Cinny. Now, I wonder...?

Mee Tiltman



Felix Fuerteventura Flops Out

Doctor Foster went to ~~Gloucester~~ Worthing

One of my first successful stories since I took on the role of Fostering Coordinator was the story of Sanka, which was a peculiar one.

I was having my morning coffee when I came across a message on a social media website from a lady, who lived fairly local to me. Her circumstances had suddenly changed, she needed to move house urgently and she was looking for someone to adopt her cat, Sanka, as sadly, she just couldn't take her with her.



Sanka lands on her paws in Lancing with Liz and John

Moved by this heartfelt appeal, I contacted the lady and she was very pleased that a local cat rescue was able to help her so quickly. Sanka was a very friendly cat, but when we brought her into our care to one of our catteries, she completely shut down, stopped eating and became very distressed. We knew it was a matter of some urgency to protect Sanka's health and, in order to do that, we needed to bring her to one of our loving and patient foster homes with Liz and John in Lancing.

When Sanka arrived there, we warned them both that she was very shy and distressed and it might take her a little bit of time to come around and show her real personality. We were all prepared for Sanka to hide away as soon as we opened the carrier, but to our great surprise, as soon as she came out and realised that she was in a home again, she came to us and asked for a stroke!

Her appetite came back straight away, and her personality started shining day by day. Liz and John kept us updated regularly and told us all about Sanka's favourite spots in the house, which included curling up next to John on the sofa, and also her preferred meals, always craving tuna, she certainly knew what the good stuff was!

When the time came and after we assessed Sanka's character, she became available for adoption on our website. Right at that time, Anne Pearce contacted us from Selsey and told us that she had lost her cat last year and was now ready to open her heart and home to a new feline friend, preferably a *Golden Oldie*, who would be happy to enjoy a quiet household and a small, secure garden. What is great about fostering is that Anne was able to speak directly with Liz and John and find out everything about Sanka before adopting her. The transition for her was, therefore, very smooth and she didn't shut down in her new home, as she did when we brought her to the cattery from her previous home. (I am sure it helped that Anne picked her up from the foster home with a good supply of her favourite treats ready in her hand!). **This is what Anne has to say about the whole experience ...**

Miriam Lopez

Sadly, I lost my last cat to illness when she was quite old. I waited for several months without a cat, but realised that I missed the company so much, especially during the pandemic. I didn't find it easy to find a rescue cat at that difficult time. Catteries only had photos to look at and I nearly gave up. Then I came across Worthing Cat Welfare Trust and was struck by their kindness and understanding and, although I was outside their re-homing area, they came all the way over to do a home check. Then one day, out of the blue, they rang to say they had a needy cat, which might really suit me. I went over to see Puss in a lovely foster home and she was beautiful! She was thin and had a few problems, but she came home with me that very day.

I have now had her for five months and she is doing absolutely fine. She eats all the food I give her and spends plenty of time in my nicely sheltered rear garden – and usually she comes trotting back in when I call her!

She truly seems to love it around here! She was one of Worthing Cat Welfare Trust's so-called *Golden Oldies* and I hope dearly she sees out many long years here with me.

Anne Pearce





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I **wasn't** going to have another cat after losing our lovely Cindy, but after a year I "just happened" to be looking at the cat rescue websites in our area. Since moving from a bungalow with a large garden to a ground floor flat with communal gardens, I was doubtful about being accepted as a suitable adopter. However, along comes Pam, who declared me as "definitely suitable for one of their pussy cats". A few days later my daughter and I found ourselves visiting the WCWT contingent at Alley Cats cattery in Angmering. We didn't really see a suitable cat until we came to a small black and white one called Mandy. "But I don't want a black cat." I said, having always been used to a tortoiseshell.



Could be a lot worse

However, Mandy seemed quite friendly and she allowed me to pick her up and give her a cuddle. She wasn't deemed suitable for any home with younger children, so we suited her needs perfectly. Within a week or so, Mandy (now renamed *Dottie* by my daughter) arrived at our home and immediately dived under the sideboard, though Dreamies coaxed her out soon enough. After a few days of hissing, hitting out and occasional scratching, she settled down just fine and she decided our home wasn't going to be too bad after all.

These days it's mega cuddles from her, paws plonked on my face with her loving eyes staring into mine and she even waits outside the bathroom for me to come out. What a delight she is! We have good access to the rear communal gardens, but Dottie prefers just to roll around on the concrete outside the door or simply watch the world through the window.



Dottie reflects on her new life

Gloria Morgan

New Kitties find Canine Love

Since losing our two lovely cats last year at the ages of 20 and 21, we noticed our dog, Jeff, becoming quite subdued. He had lived with these cats ever since his puppy days, so it must have been really difficult for him when they finally passed away. So, I got in touch with Worthing Cat Welfare Trust to see if they might have a cat or two that would make suitable new friends for him.



He's a bit big, isn't he?

After a good chat with the wonderful people there, we decided a kitten would be the best option. It was love at first sight when I saw Colin and Graham and, after some curious sniffing, Jeff agreed they could stay! We have never had kittens before, but we have really enjoyed watching them grow and all the mischief they get up to. I am lucky that I can work from home, so I was able to keep an eye on our new hairy gang to make sure they were comfortable with each other and to give Jeff some space when the kitten energy was getting too much!

We named them after racing drivers and they are certainly living up to their names, charging round the house like it's a race day at Silverstone. They are fast down the straight, but cornering on the polished floors is a bit scary and they slide around like they're fitted with slick tyres in the wet. Then after a fuel stop for food, performance slackens and they coast in to the pits for a nap.

Jeff loves watching them play and we often find them all asleep together, which is so lovely to see. He's even happy sharing his own bed, although it's becoming a tight squeeze now as Colin and Graham are growing so fast! They'll soon be venturing outside, so it's nice to know they have their big brother Jeff to keep an eye on them.



All this working from home nonsense!

Clare Bartlett

Seven Between Two Working Fine

Most of our rescue stories fit in to a fairly predictable and regular template. But not this one - in fact, it still eludes us as to how it even came about, but here it is for the record:

One of our volunteers came across a posting from a cat charity up in the North West, trying to find salvation for a homeless pair of sisters with only seven legs between them. Before we could really gather our senses, they had been delivered down here to the South Coast! Speed of the paw deceives the eye, it seems!

Millie and Poppy are utterly adorable, loving, six-year-old sisters from the same litter and we were able to park them with a very caring fosterer, pending permanent adoption. Now they have a happy life together, as Verity explains:

I am so lucky to have been able to adopt dear Millie and Poppy (hoppy!), who unfortunately has only three legs, but this doesn't stop her, as she keeps up with her sister with no trouble at all. These gorgeous cats have had a tough life, but amazingly are very chilled and trusting. I thought that I'd have to take it very gently, but on arrival they were into everything.

They were not used to being picked up, but slowly, and little by little, we are getting there. They both have the loudest purrs, so I never have any trouble finding them! Poppy loves the climbing tower, which considering her missing leg is quite a feat, but if you put treats up at the top there is just no stopping her. Meanwhile, Millie loves playing with anything attached to string. I can't imagine my life or home without them, as they are well and truly part of the family now.



Millie and Poppy

Verity Frost

Cockney Cat Comes to Coast

For many folks nowadays swapping the pressures of city life for seaside sanity is a smart move. Sparky had been abandoned to live on a balcony near a busy railway station, when he was noticed by electricians working on the property. Christening him wasn't too difficult! He was brought to the attention of our fostering coordinator, Miriam, who works close by and she caught him with the help of one of the cleaners at the flats, before treating Puss to the delights of Britain's extremely cheap and under-crowded railway system. Worthing, here we come!



Sparky's new owners pick up the tale:

As soon as we saw dear Sparky on Facebook, we knew we had to give him the chance of a new forever home. We couldn't understand why nobody wanted him, but it seems black cats aren't the easiest to rehome, though we have only found luck in his gorgeous black coat. As with most pets we have had, he has accumulated a whole list of nicknames, including sparky-warky,

Cosmopolitan days are over

sparky malarkey, sparkles and marks & sparks, just to name a few! He's made new furry friends in our ginger and white cat, Springsteen, and Golden Retriever, Ruby, even if he does put Ruby in her place most of the time. Despite a nervous start, Sparky has made himself very much at home, sleeping on our beds and our favourite chairs, or 'helping out' by lying close to or right on top of my laptop while I am trying to get my work reports completed.

You also have to be very careful sometimes, as Sparky has a habit of following you close by without you actually realising it.



Continued on p. 15 opposite

**Sparky's Bad Old World
- no place for a cat**

Sparky *continued*

For instance, if you are in the kitchen and turn around quickly he might be right at your feet! He's very much an indoor cat, maybe having spent too much time outside in the past, though hopefully he will spend some time out in the garden with us this Summer. Sparky is still wary of sudden movements or noises, but generally he's a happy, calm cat with a very loud purr. He's come a long way - in every sense - and over the months we have had him, he has become totally part of our family and loved very much.

**Working from home.
That's the purrfect life!**



Nigel Hole

Stan R.I.P.

Readers may recall the article we carried in the last issue, describing the long battle to treat Stan for Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP).

Sadly, towards the end of Stan's three month treatment, we noticed his appetite was diminishing and he was becoming more lethargic. Once the treatment was withdrawn, he quickly went downhill and his quality of life was obviously at a low ebb. It appeared that the FIP had affected his brain and there was nothing else that could be done for him. We took the very difficult decision to have Stan put to sleep and he spent a comfortable last weekend cuddled up with us and



**In happier times
with brother Ollie**

was showered with lots of love. We are so desperately sad that he didn't make it, but we have no regrets, regarding the treatment. It gave him a Summer of good appetite and fun and games in his garden with Ollie, his partner in crime, living life to the full. R.I.P. our dear, dear little Stan!



Patricia Clarke

Reaching Out - but how far?

In this brave new world of on-line shopping it seems that virtually any supplier will send you virtually any goods at virtually any time. And it arrives yesterday. In the service sector, of course, it's not so simple and a plumber from Plumstead isn't going to come down to Worthing to fix my tap. And so it is in the cat rescue business; we are a service industry and we have to have a limit to our geographical reach. That's not always easy, mind you, because when you are driven by compassion, rather than profit, it's surprising the efforts you go to to help a cat in need.



When does Worthing become Worldthing?

When Sandra and Iris launched this charity over a quarter of a century ago, the word **Worthing** appeared in the title for a good reason. The Borough area was the effective (and ambitious) extent of their reach on Day One, when they had 40 cats on their hands and £40 in the bank! Times move on, however, and it wasn't long before needy cats in Sompting and strays in Ferring were enjoying our kindness and salvation too. As more time went by our endeavours stretched as far afield as the rivers Adur and Arun, but where does it stop? And it does have to stop somewhere, due to the human and financial constraints.

There will be times, though, when compassion knows no bounds and two recent examples illustrate that. In this issue on page 13 we have the case of two dear little sisters we received from a rescue centre near Manchester. Likewise, page 28 tells of our rescue more recently of eight tiny, distressed kittens from Hampshire.

So do we have a policy?

That's an easy question to answer: Yes and No. As far as taking rescue cats in to this charity is concerned, we have to have a limit and that remains the Adur to Arun territory for resource and logistical reasons. Despite what we have just admitted!



Two kittens homed to Hove

The reality is that we could overwhelm ourselves if we set out to save the feline world at large. Happily, there are other cat charities, who do their share in their own areas. If they want to have a slice of our territory, great!

It's a somewhat different picture, however, when it come to the re-homing and interim fostering of cats. The limit here is how far are our team members willing to travel - and I remind you here that we use our own cars and fuel, as well as our own unpaid time - to find the right Forever Home for a particular Puss.



**What's all this
reach rubbish?
Where are my
Dreamies?**

A while ago, we received an enquiry from a wonderful retired couple in Ardingly (think South of England Show!) and we re-homed Tyler to them - and he's landed in Paradise. Distance didn't stop us.

On pages 8 and 9 you can read how we took in a Puss from Hove, fostered her in Lancing and then re-homed her to her heaven in Selsey. Distance, so what? The home check was carried out by one of our team on his way to the West Country for a short break.

The spectacular Siamese on page 29 went to Lewes, because that is where the ideal adopter surfaced.

Finally, let's also consider our vital Fostering activities. A poor little semi-feral in very deep emotional trauma, having been cared for at our Findon Valley location was placed in an excellent medium-term foster home over in Portsmouth.

So, what is our territory? It depends on what aspect of our business one is talking about. And how much we are willing to put in.

Terry Tory



Put 'em to work! They love it!

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Vital Importance of Pet Insurance

The veterinary world has advanced considerably over the last 20 years since I qualified and we are now able to treat many more conditions much more effectively than we were previously able to. We complete major surgery here on site and we have a number of specialist teams that we can refer cats to if need be.

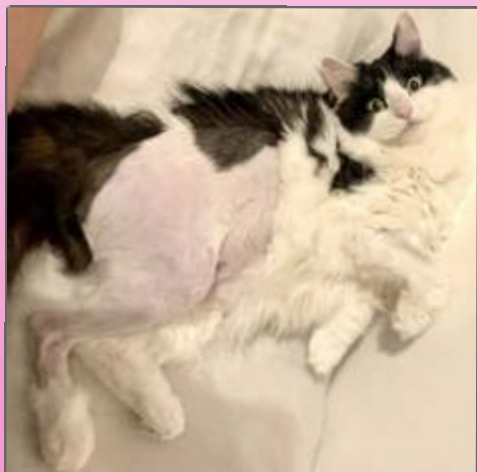
Of course, these additional treatment options come with a cost and I truly recommend pet insurance for your cat to ensure that you are able to fully protect them against any illness or injury they may have. This is just as important for indoor cats as outdoor ones, as many accidents happen in the home: tails get trapped in doors, kittens misjudge their jumps and cats ingest foods and other items they shouldn't.

Mimi's owner was very relieved that her very precious 1-year-old was covered by insurance recently when poor Puss had an accident, resulting in a fracture to her femur (thigh bone). Mimi was rushed into the clinic for emergency treatment and X-rays and was then referred the following day to orthopaedic specialists, who were able to repair the fracture, using tiny pins.



Complex orthopaedic pinning

Mimi has been recovering well, but was bored resting in a crate! We are following her progress closely and she will need further X-rays to ensure the fracture has healed before she is allowed out and about again. Altogether, her treatment has cost around £4000 and all of this - bar the policy excess - has been claimed, so that Mimi's owner has been able to provide the very best treatment for her without the great financial burden of paying for the invoices out of personal cash!



Gradual post-op recuperation

Continued on page 21



Dennis - chat sans frontieres



We welcomed Dennis into our home back in June 2019. We know very little about his background, but have a Pet Passport for him, which shows that he came from the South of France. When we picked Dennis up from his foster carers, we were told that he had been a stray in France, where an English couple had been staying. They had paid for his vaccinations, passport and travel to the UK, but unfortunately, Dennis didn't get on with their other pets, so he was taken in by Worthing Cat Welfare Trust to find him a new life.

He had already been re-homed to someone, and although they tried to take him in twice, it didn't work out for them either. So Dennis had been in and out of care for a few months. My husband and I had re-homed an elderly cat just the year before and sadly he died after we had had him only six months. We didn't want a kitten, as we didn't want to go through the trauma of the little 'gifts' kittens and young cats bring home – been there and done that! We were looking at the WCWT website - on separate laptops - at the photos of all the cats available and both Alistair and I were drawn to the same cat at the same time.



We just loved Dennis from the start, although he wasn't the easiest of cats to look after to start with. He is a bit of a grumpy old man and is very vocal! But he is very loving when he wants to be and enjoys nothing better than sitting on our laps and falling asleep. He is full of character and makes us laugh a lot, especially when he catches his own reflection in the window: He thinks there's another cat lurking there and goes in to full defence mode!



Cleanest Puss in town

He really doesn't like other cats (we notice that none come into our garden any more!) and we even have a video of him, from our wildlife camera, chasing a fox away! Strangely, he seems to be quite content when a dog is around and he ignores them completely. I'd love to know more about his background. When we were settling him in to our home, we spoke French to him, but it didn't make any difference at all which language we spoke, though he seems

multilingual enough when he wants something! We got Dennis through the **Golden Oldie** scheme, as it was thought that he is over 10 years old. Apart from bad teeth, he is a very healthy cat and is quite agile for his age and can jump over our 6' fence to get to our neighbours – happily the only other place he will go outside of our garden. Fortunately, the neighbours love him as much as we do!

Dennis loves us to be around giving him attention and whenever we are working he will come and join us wherever we are, rather than be on his own. Quite often he gets in the way, sitting on our paperwork, a jigsaw puzzle or on the fabric when I'm dressmaking! He also loves exploring open doors, so we often find him coming out of the dishwasher, cupboards or even out of the washing machine! He quite likes TV too - as you can see here!

Mary Pirie



Vital Importance of Pet Insurance *continued*



Insurance Saved Her

Some might feel insurance isn't right for them, as it is 'wasted' money and they prefer to put a little bit of money aside, in case of an emergency. That's a risky strategy. Admittedly, this may help financially if you have had your cat for 15 years and you've saved £20 per month. That would amount to £3600 in total, but don't forget that in inflationary times like these, the value of money melts rapidly away, so it might not buy what you think. However, it is possible your cat could be injured or unwell in the first year and you have only saved £240 – would you be able to cover the cost of treatment? We see many cats, which have suddenly become unwell and have needed emergency treatment and this puts financial strain onto owners at an already worrying time.

Dr. Amanda Nicholls MRCVS

Local business giving real support to cats

My name is Daniel Lloyd Grant, owner at DLG Hair Studio in Worthing. We are all huge animal lovers here, especially cats. Having three of my own, I know just what joy and love they can bring to the right home!

We know there are so many worthy cats cared for by our friends at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust (WCWT) and so we wanted to do everything we can to help get these dear Pusses a loving forever home.

That's why we became proud pen sponsors and fund-raisers for the charity. We also help by sharing posts to our social media accounts, which currently have a total of 4,000 followers. We have a huge clientele that also shares our love of animals and we hope that this will provide a lot of potential adopters and general supporters in future.



In our Chapel Road studio we have WCWT collection boxes by each chair and our kind customers make generous donations towards their enormous running costs.

We hope that building awareness of the excellent work carried out by the charity, we can boost the number of cats re-homed each year.

In the Spring we'll be holding a charity event in the studio, when there will be a cake sale and a donation of a haircut/styling to bring in further contributions.

Plenty of support for cats at DLG

We see ourselves as more than a hair studio and want to give something tangible back to these beautiful animals, which are so much more than just pets. Keep your eyes peeled on our social media accounts for our fund-raising events for Worthing Cat Welfare Trust!

Instagram - @dlghairstudio
Facebook - DLG Hair Studio

DANIEL LLOYD GRANT

Always ease new cats in gradually

Our cat **Cinza** recently lost her adopted sibling Jack and was grieving, so we thought it might be a good idea to adopt a cat to help her.

We visited the Manor Cattery in Lancing and there Rachel introduced us to those of her Worthing Cat Welfare Trust guests, who were currently available for re-homing. The first we met was a lovely little black cat, called Spigs, who came out to greet us and sat straight on my daughter's lap. She was really adorable and so, not surprisingly, we made our decision to adopt her on the drive home.

Having already received a home-check visit from the charity, the newly re-named Mica was passed over to us two weeks later. We decided to introduce the two cats to each other very slowly, so for the first couple of days Mica stayed in my son's room with gradual forays around the house, while Cinza was well out of the way. When they first met neither was a happy Puss and it has been a steady process to get them used to one another.

When Mica arrived she was very curious about her new surroundings and climbed everywhere. She was very quiet, which for us was strange, as Jack and Cinza have always been very vocal.



Can't imagine life without her now!

As Mica has settled in she has calmed down and trills, talks to the birds and meows for food. She is a very sweet-natured cat and often sits on our laps. Cinza has now accepted Mica quite happily, so is much more relaxed in herself at last. They often dine together and give each other a good sniff, so contentment reigns all round. We all love them so and can't imagine our lives without them.

Elaine French

That's a Smart Move Puss

Moving home can be a very stressful time. I know only too well myself from recent experience, but when it involves your cat, it requires even more thought and planning. Get it wrong and woe betide ...

They may become anxious well before the big day with all the sorting and packing going on and the disruption to the normal layout of their environment. Ensure that they have a safe place, therefore, a "cat igloo" perhaps or something with a familiar smell. A pheromone spray like *Feliway* may help calm them down further.

It is worth considering parking Puss in a cattery for removal day, because you'll be mega-busy and knowing that your most precious possession (your cat, not your Rembrandt) is safe will be well worth the outlay. Make sure that vaccinations are up to date, though, as this may well be a requirement at the cattery. Plan ahead, don't wait to the last moment!



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... a Truly Moving Story

At your new home you will need to set aside a separate room initially, which is fully self-sufficient: food, water, litter tray and cosy places to hide and sleep. This ensures that Puss has a haven while the rest of the house is in post-move chaos and din. Include something with their own familiar smell on it – so don't wash all the bedding beforehand!

If you are moving far away, try to spend some time getting your cat used to the car before the long trip. Some cats might be sick on car journeys. If that is the case, it may be best not to feed them.

Once in your new abode, keep your cat inside for three to four weeks, otherwise they may try to find their way 'home' to the old place. You'd be amazed how strong feline homing instincts can be - not just a few gardens away, but literally miles.

Particularly ensure that all doors, windows and cat flaps remain firmly closed. When letting them out at last, do it just before a meal time, so that you can tempt them back in more easily.



Don't carry them out: allow them to make their own way. Keep the door open, so that they can come back whenever they want to. Remember, some patience at this time will make the whole process less fraught.

Lastly, don't forget to change their microchip details, and if you are moving right out of the area, then find another vet (ask your existing one for recommendations). But get registered as soon as possible. You never know when a pet might become sick or get injured and you don't want to be panicking through "Yellow Pages" in a time of crisis.



Dr. Julian Hoad
Crossways Veterinary Clinic

Special Deal: Two For One!

Towards the end of last year we had a couple of really sweet little strays housed in adjoining pens at our Angmering location. One of them, Suzie, had been recovering from a nasty injury caused by catching her front leg in her collar while she was living rough. Life was about to change for her as kind new adopters came forward and scooped up both her and her dear little neighbour, Frank, at the same time. Things were looking up:

We adopted Frank and Flo (was Suzie) towards the end of last year and they settled in to our family home within hours of arrival. So intrigued have they become with our garden that their litter trays soon became redundant. Most importantly, they have made really good friends with our incumbent Puss, Fizz.



Flo now in really fine fettle

When we adopted Flo she had been a stray and was very wide-eyed almost like an owl. After showing the boys who is boss, she can often be found hiding in a cardboard box, a cubby hole or even a cupboard if you turn your back and leave the door open. She has a very playful nature and is still very kitten-like in her behaviour.

Frank was also a stray when we adopted him and has had to have some dental work carried out, which the Worthing Cat Welfare Trust *Golden Oldie* scheme has fully financed.

Since having his teeth removed he has had a new lease of life, free from the silent pain that cats are so good at concealing from us humans. Sometimes we laughingly refer to him as our old gentleman who loves a curry, because he will often tap you with his paw if he thinks there's a chance you might share it with him. His stray days are now thankfully a distant memory and he has put on almost a kilo of body weight since coming to live here.



Frank with my son Tristyn

Leilah Scully

Getting the Shakes

Those very kind folks at Asda in Ferring allowed us to fund-raise at their store recently, so a team of four of us set up a reception table and display there and manned it at peak shopping hours over a weekend.

Typically, this sort of effort doesn't raise astronomical amounts – particularly in an increasingly cash-less society, but it is a good PR exercise. It brings the chance to chat with animal lovers, who may well become volunteers, supporters, adopters and fosterers, so probably worth our time, we feel.

As you might have noticed sadly in any town centre shopping area, beggars, regardless of their plight, don't get an easy ride. When you go charity box shaking - so to speak - you get an insight from the other side of the coin (if you're lucky enough to get one, that is!). While I was doing my own two-hour stint, I amused myself by doing a bit of raw statistical research and analysis (it's amazing how time drags if you don't play some sort of internal game)! Quite discreetly, I tallied the number of shoppers walking past our table and noted the ratio of givers, as opposed to those marching rapidly past, furtively averting my affable and affectionate gaze. The ratio was actually 3.7% positive – or for the mathematically (or maybe cynically) inclined 96.3% negative.



In fairness, one has in one's wallet maybe two credit cards and a couple of £20 notes. It doesn't, alas, give the average person much scope for an impromptu outburst of altruistic magnanimity. So, over a total of 8 hours we came home with £133 and had several nice chats, which have led to actual adoptions. Meanwhile of late, one of our quite hefty till-top cash collection boxes was swiped from another well-known food retailer. You win some, you lose some.



NOEL CASHMAN

Aladdin's Cat Cave

At the end of January we became aware of an urgent Facebook appeal from a cat charity over in Hampshire, which had taken in no less than 54 cats, which the RSPCA had rescued from a vile pet-breeding racket. Moves to prosecute the perpetrators responsible are well afoot. The Hampshire cat charity put out a plea to others right across the South East of England to provide accommodation and care, as the numbers would swamp even the most enthusiastic sanctuary.

Events like these are no time to ponder and hesitate. The definitive Worthing Cat Welfare Trust response - unanimous right across our whole team - was: "Yes, now what's the question? Do it, Do it now!"



**Red Cross Parcels
soon cascaded in**

I drove over to Fareham and collected two sets of four kittens - pitiful, mangy little souls, who during their lives had only known filth, darkness and neglect. What had become of their mothers was unclear. They were taken straight to one of our specialist care locations and are now making steady progress. Our initial fears that not all would make it through have happily proven unfounded. We have provided all necessary veterinary support, but knew one of the big costs would be shovelling large amounts of good quality kitten food down the little darlings. Cue the **WCWT 2022 Kitten Food Appeal**.

Obviously, high profile events like this are used by all charities to get the public to dig into their pockets for a worthy cause. And Wow, were the pockets generously deep. Within two weeks about £820 worth of kitten food had been delivered to us via on-line shopping sites. Over and above this, there were also significant cash donations to our website facility. Lessons learned: There are some very kind people out there - and if you don't ask, you simply don't get.

Germaine Conroy-Schneider



Roses are red, Lavender's blue

Over the Winter we had in an utterly gorgeous Siamese mum and her utterly naughty, but equally superb son. Whenever we have these highly valuable little creatures in hand, we exercise particular caution: The real danger is that an impostor comes forward, adopts Puss and then they sell onward to heaven-knows-whom for £500! Lavender (now Cleo) and her son Tobias are installed now in two wonderful new homes.

I have owned Siamese cats all of my life. They're not for the faint hearted - the noise, the fuss, the endless neediness - not to mention their sensitive little tummies. I'd lost my beautiful old Meezer boy back in May last year and hadn't really been looking to get another, let alone trying to replace him. I was idly browsing the WCWT website when little Lavender caught my eye. A lilac point Siamese, who was - according to the description - 'a dainty little girl, who loves nothing more than having a cuddle'. So, I contacted the charity and from that point on was impressed at how thorough and efficient the re-homing process was and also how well all the cats were looked after in the foster home.



I met Lavender one rainy day in January. It was grey and cold, but here was this little ray of sunshine, exactly as described. It took me all of two seconds to decide I wanted her home with me forever. Despite the much longer 'probation' period, I applied officially to adopt her within the week.



As she was previously an indoor cat, I have been introducing her very slowly to the outside and, while she now has a whole new world to explore safely, she prefers to spend most of her time beside me, purring away with one paw resting on my arm or face just in case I'd forgotten she was there.

Continued on back page ...

Love Puss, but care for Environment

We all love our cats and put their happiness and welfare at the top of our list. The other question to ask ourselves though is: What impact on the environment does our pet ownership have and how can we minimise it? Here in our home we have pondered on a few questions and suggest some possible solutions, which we'd like to share with you.

Firstly **FOOD!** Yes, like many 'Puss-Parents' we find the topic of food to be the main hobby of our cat. That single Miaow says either "Food" "Feed me", "Feed me now" or "Biscuits!" We decided to stick to simple canned food, because it is economic, there's a good variety and - most importantly - the cans can be rinsed, squashed and put into the blue lid council recycling bins. They are then taken to the Ford recycling facility with the other mixed recycling, sorted and salvaged.



Packaging - environmental issue

The same goes for small aluminium trays that we sometimes buy Puss for a treat. We rinse them out, save them in a pile, squash them together into a lump and again they can go into the recycling bins. We never buy the foil pouches, though, as they are extremely difficult to recycle – you need to take them to a specialist recycling scheme and most people simply don't bother, because it's too much trouble. They end up in landfill.

Secondly **CAT LITTER.** We also buy wood chip cat litter in paper bags, because once the solids are flushed, the urine-soaked wood goes in the general bin and whilst this is not ideal, we have not yet found a good alternative. If you want to go one step greener (and if you are maybe on a tight budget) litter can be home-made out of old newspaper to line the tray and then lots of strips torn up inside. It is possible to put a small amount of cat litter into a 'Green Cone' if you have one in your garden. We actually live in a flat, so I would welcome more information on responsible disposal; do please share your information and ideas.

Love Puss, but care for Environment

Thirdly - CAT TOYS, which are often cheap plastic produced in China and soon get broken and again are thrown in the black bin with a massive carbon footprint. We use cardboard loo roll inner tubes for putting a few treats in, with the end folded in. We also have various bottle tops, old bobbles from woollen hats and my husband, Will, constructed this super play area completely from cardboard. Screwed up balls of paper – especially with a treat inside also keep puss amused! No need to buy plastic junk any more.



Wood chip litter more naturally degradable

If you let your cats roam, please consider putting a good quality, quick-release bell collar on Puss and also limiting the time they are outside after dark?

This is especially important when, in Spring time, birds nest and the nestlings and fledglings are extremely vulnerable. It would be good to hear your positive ideas and suggestions on how we can be more aware of our fragile environment - while still loving and having all the pleasure of being cat owners.



Bambi susses out his Eco Toys!

Lastly, it is time to talk about the effect that ALLOWING CATS TO ROAM has. Not only is the cat itself in danger of traffic and other deadly accidents, but domestic cats have a massive effect on wild bird populations and other wildlife.

Dawn Smith

p.s. You might recognise our dear little Bambi from page 6 in the last issue of *Mewsletter*. He's in full winter plumage now and warm as warm can be!

It's a Fair Cop Felix!



They used to say you know when you're getting older, because police officers seem to look younger and younger. But this is ridiculous, this one's barely five years old, surely? Nice smart uniform though.

The Pen sponsor is Mightier than the Word

Sponsorship of our pens rolls nicely on and we welcome additional new backers in the form of Deni Balban, Simon Bell, Chris Geddes, Andy Petch, Emily-Rose Stubbings and Elaine & Tim Wallace. Our story on page 3 tells more about our brand new pen block in Durrington, which boosts our in-house capacity now to 19 pens with overflow elsewhere.



Siamese Cleo now enjoying new life

Cleo, as we renamed her, loves to play and is the first cat I've ever heard, who growls at her toys! She likes things that dangle, food left on the counter, and eating grass. She fell in the toilet on her second week here and came straight to me for a cuddle. Thanks, Cleo. She makes our house complete and now we wouldn't be without her. Thank you WCWT!

Daisy Pearce

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

Donate Page on worthingcatwelfaretrust.org



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