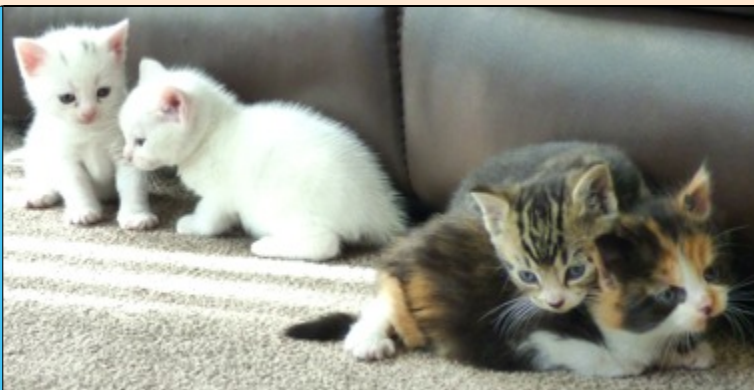


# Newsletter - Spring 2019

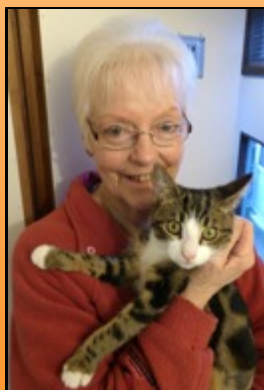
## Four Little Kittens - Where Did They Go?

One Litter  
Two Girls  
Two Boys  
Two White  
One Tabby  
One Tortie  
All Naughty  
See Page 2



## The Cat Stops Here Greetings from Chairman!

As Chairman of this charity, I have my very own version of President Truman's old slogan, *The Buck Stops Here!* Whatever the issue and whatever the problem, it's not long before something ends up in my in-tray! It is coming up for two years since I took on this particular role,



but what a wonderful year we are having at the moment – and how lucky I am to have a growing circle of able and willing colleagues to share the load. With around 180 cats and kittens coming through our care system each year now, the amount of welfare work we are undertaking is at the highest level ever. We have also been busy streamlining the way we manage our organisation and excellent progress has already been made in areas, such as Finance, Marketing and also our charity shop.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

**Horatio Helps Out**



# Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

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

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

## Our Trustees and Management Group Members

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Sandra Collins</b>	<b>Lost &amp; Found</b>	<b>Julie Stevens</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Christine Jones</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>Mike Glennon</b>
<b>Welfare</b>	<b>Jackie Riddles</b>	<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Julie Stevens</b>
<b>Co-Founder</b>	<b>Iris Green</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Lucy Todd</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Linda Kenealy</b>	<b>Shop Manager</b>	<b>Abigail</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Catharine Duff</b>		<b>Corcoran-Green</b>

(Continued from front page) ...

## The Cat Stops Here

Functions like Administration and Databases, however, still need much improvement and we also need to expand human resources available for the operational side of the charity, i.e. rescuing the cats and managing their journey through this charity on their way to permanent adoption. But we can't take anything for granted in the future and so continuing support

from our members is crucial, both in terms of financial contributions and a willingness to give practical help at the sharp end.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy reading our new Spring **Mewsletter**, which should provide you with plenty of evidence that we are a thriving organisation on a sacred mission!

*Chairman - Sandra Collins*



## Four Huge Kittens!

Happily, the Fab Four all landed on their paws in one fantastic new home, kind courtesy of Diane and Steve Parsons and two of their grandsons, Freddie and Reggie. Now re-christened Millie and Winston (Whites), Oreo (Tortie), Tommy (Tabby). All of them growing fast and eating like lions!

## For Your Summer Diary!

**Saturday 20th July** - From Noon until 4pm at the **Ferring Fair**. Selling stock from our charity shop and distributing leaflets to the public. Lovely day out!

**Wednesday 7th August** - From Noon until 4pm at the **Worthing Kids Play Day** on Broadwater Green. Plenty of fun and games for all the family. We will have a charity stand offering games, selling stock from our shop and promoting adoption of our cats.

**As always, any help you could offer us in manning these events - just for part of the day perhaps - would be much appreciated. Spreading the workload makes it so much easier on those who actually participate.**

## Cat Re-Homing Day

From time to time we organise special cat re-homing events in conjunction with local veterinary practices. The next one will take place between 11am and 3pm on **Sunday 19th May** at the main branch of **Northdale Vets**, 48 Victoria Road, Worthing BN11 1XE. Normally we bring along about eight cats for viewing on the day, but our staff will be there to discuss all the cats and kittens available in our main **Catalogue**. Please see our main website for further details nearer the time and tell friends.

## Molly Moves On - R.I.P.



**Readers might recall** the piece I wrote for the Autumn 2018 Mewsletter about my cat Leo and his elderly companion, Molly. Sad now to report the passing of this dear little soul back in January in her 20th year of a long and happy life. Molly came to us aged twelve with her sister, Megan, who died at the age of 15 from kidney problems. Despite suffering from epilepsy in the last two years of her life, Molly remained a sweet and loving little ball of fur and fun. Although only with us for seven years, she really was our little

treasure and we shall miss her, as does Leo. He used to shepherd her around and keep her safe when she lost her sight. He looked out for her and stayed by her side right up to the day she made her last trip to the vet. I am so glad we had little Molly in our lives and thank Worthing Cat Welfare Trust for allowing us to take care of her.

***Pennie Billingham***

# Money Matters - Costs Still Surging

**As we draw to the end of our current financial year** I am looking back and wondering where the time actually went!

Our fosterers have had a really busy time, due to the number of incoming cats and especially the kittens that were born and raised in our care. Fortunately, at the time of writing, we have run low on stock, meaning that most of our cats and kittens have found homes thanks to the fantastic work carried out by our Re-Homing Officer, Jackie Riddles (please see pages 6 and 7 for more about her pivotal role).



**Treasurer Christine with two of her own treasures**

Not surprisingly, the effect of having so many little ones on our hands during the past year has been that our veterinary bills have been exceptionally high and our overall running costs have exceeded our income by a long way. All of our kittens go to their new adopted homes having been wormed, had their injections and been spayed / neutered or having a voucher towards the cost of the procedure. We want our kittens to have the very best start in life, but more importantly that includes the prevention of the countless litters of newcomers, which would likely find their way back into our care in the future!

During the past few months, some lovely people have remembered us in their wills and we have received a very welcome sum of £19,500. There are three further legacy payments, following the sad loss of some of our members, whose generosity is greatly appreciated. As with most small charities, our fund is constantly eroded as on-going costs exceed regular income. On that basis, funds would hit zero at some point in the future and it is the intermittent windfalls from legacies that keep the ship afloat.

On a final note, at the end of June BT is closing down its cash donation service, *BT MyDonate*, used on our own website. We are seeking an alternative for folks to donate to us on-line, but rest assured, we'll find something suitable and let you know more in the next Mewsletter.



## Tarring Shop Steaming Along

**At our shop** in South Street, Tarring we are blessed with a plethora of good quality - and sometimes quite unusual - items donated for sale. Just recently, this gorgeous Mamod steam traction engine was donated and sold for a brilliant £80 to a keen collector, who was just as delighted as we were with the deal.



Don't forget, we can collect your donations if you are struggling to get in to the shop. Just call us on 07594 184432 and we'll arrange a convenient time. Of late, some items have simply been left outside our door out of hours and not surprisingly such things soon disappear!

If you have four hours a week to spare, why not join us in our friendly shop team? Call us on the number above or pop in for an application form. We look forward to seeing you!



**NORTHDALE**  
Veterinary  
Practice Ltd

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[www.northdale.co.uk](http://www.northdale.co.uk)

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## A Re-Homing Officer's Lot ...

**... is not a happy one? Well, no that's not true**, but it's a seemingly endless job in a charity like ours, where animal welfare is given absolute priority. Jackie Riddles has been doing this job for us for 10 years now, having joined us when we launched, originally to work in one of our shops. Nobody ever sat down to write a formal job description for her, which may be just as well, because it would look pretty daunting.

The front end of the process is collecting the needy cats, usually from previous homes where a change of circumstance has led to puss facing eviction. It may be because a retired person is moving into new accommodation, where pets are not permitted or perhaps a domestic split-up. Sometimes there will have been an element of neglect and so the incoming cats, apart from being homeless, may have health issues.



**Re-Homing is Hefty Work**

This is even more so with strays, of course. We provide an immediate sanctuary for every animal, so they need to be placed by Jackie with one of our temporary foster carers, who play a particularly important role where cats are traumatized. All new arrivals are also destined for a prompt veterinary M.O.T. by way of inoculation, general physical check and vital neutering if it has not already been done, that is.

The amount of work involved in arranging vet appointments and shuffling the cats around between sanctuaries and surgeries is immensely time-consuming, especially when one considers that nowadays we are actively processing approximately 180 cats and kittens every year. It is not too difficult to appreciate the mounting costs of all this work.

When our cats are ready to go into the shop window, i.e. to be advertised in our **Catalogue** for re-homing, all serious adoption enquirers are visited at home personally by Jackie to gauge the environment a cat would face and also which of our pusses might suit which homes. Some older cats might prefer quiet adult owners, for example, rather than a busy family environment with young children, which may be fine for younger cats.

## Continued from page 6 ...

Eventually, we conclude the successful adoption with a formal pact, securing written agreement from the new owners to really honour their commitment and to return puss to us if there should be any subsequent problems. After a long busy day every day, Jackie gets home at last to mop up all the paperwork and her evenings are then her own – apart from a raft of outgoing and incoming telephones calls, of course!

A chap who lived in a house called *Chartwell* summed it up rather well:

***We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.***

Well, for our many volunteers, like Jackie especially, there is no Get. It is all Give, though as Winston well knew, the immense satisfaction of doing what is right and what one truly believes in is rewarding beyond description. Any members or supporters, who would like to get more involved with our charity work in a practical way are always welcome.

Don't worry, there are plenty of small jobs as well as big ones!



## The purrfect place to take your cats is about to get bigger and better ...

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

## Pen Sponsors Surge Forward

**What a wonderful response we have had** from members and other supporters for our cat pen sponsorship scheme, which was launched just in the last issue of *Mewsletter*. To date eleven folks have come forward to support nominated pens, some actually sponsoring two!

As you can well imagine, these £30 contributions per unit are a very welcome injection of cash for our charity when all of our running costs are rising so steeply every year. Our sponsors are routinely invited to come along and meet some of the current pussy occupants and to see for themselves the level and quality of care we provide for the cats and kittens entrusted to us.



**Pen sponsors Simon and Hannah Ware**



**Pen Sponsor Joyce D'Agostino**

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust pens are all quiet, heated, spacious, contain snug bedding, plenty of toys and interesting features. The cats are checked regularly and have plenty of human contact with their carers at feeding time and during daily room service when the pens get a good clean-out. Generally, cats will have individual accommodation, though where cats have come in as a pair they are billeted together. Obviously, mums and kittens remain as a family unit until she is eventually ready (and possibly quite glad!) to see the back of them. Kittens often seem to pair up as natural pals within the litter and soon become independent beings.



Some of our carers also believe very gentle, intermittent radio sound somewhere in the background brings a therapeutic benefit, though ascertaining which programmes the pusses prefer is proving a bit of a challenge. There are no plans to introduce TV, though one cat we know quite enjoys watching football and chasing the ball around the screen with her paws.



**Pen sponsor Margaret MacDonald**

The sheer volume of our rescue work has been increasing over the last year and currently we are handling maybe 180 cats and kittens per annum. Having said that, there are periods when the flow slows right down as it did between Christmas and Easter when our feline stock was at a surprising low. If that were the real trend we would be delighted, but alas that is unlikely with plenty in the window again now. Our latest **Catalogue** is posted on [www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org](http://www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org).



**Pen sponsor Julie Lawrence**



**Pen sponsor Simon Lawrence**

We extend our gratitude to current pen sponsors: Julie and Simon Lawrence; Margaret MacDonald and partner Kevin Brown; Diane Firth; Bernice Gandolfi (who also recently adopted from us); Joyce D'Agostino; Hannah and Simon Ware; Jo Irving; Sharon Peters, Carole Willson (R.I.P.). If you feel you would like to help Worthing Cat Welfare Trust with the funding of pens in this way, please do get in touch with Mike Glennon on 01903 830717.

# Hope Springs Eternal

**Back in the Autumn of 2018** Hope came to us as a poorly little stray and went straight for her vet check-up. Initial assessment confirmed she was mal-nourished, her fur was brown due to mal-absorption and she had lesions/scabs and patches of alopecia from a skin condition/allergy. However, blood tests thankfully indicated that she was sound internally.



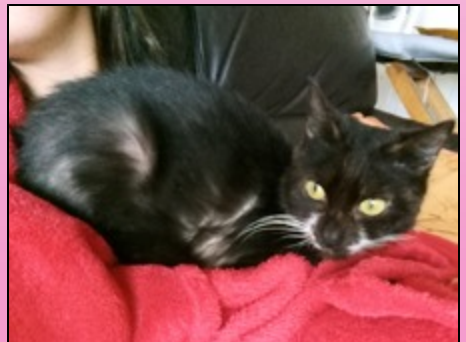
**Hope was facing euthanasia**

She was given antibiotics and pain relief for her inflamed and irritated skin to make her more comfortable and her foster carer was provided with the special flea treatment, medications and shampoo to continue looking after her at home. Unfortunately, after a month she was showing really no improvement and it seemed that the quality of her life was too low to continue any longer.

I'm a locum veterinary nurse, so I move from practice to practice, providing nursing care where required. It was my first day at Cat's Whiskers in Worthing when Hope was brought in for euthanasia. After hearing about her history and meeting her, as corny as it might sound, I just knew she wasn't ready to give up, and so I decided not to give up on her. After speaking with Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, it was agreed that I would care for Hope on a two-week trial basis, keeping her indoors all the time and continuing the medication and care she required.

Now five months later, she is known as 'Niffler' and she owns my flat!

There is still progress to be made; she has her itchy skin days and still has some fur to grow back; but she is comfortable, happy and beautiful. A reminder that those in the veterinary industry really do put animal welfare first, we only give up when we have to and many staff you meet will have permanent foster cats at home that have stolen their hearts while on duty.



**Niffler with much hope ahead**

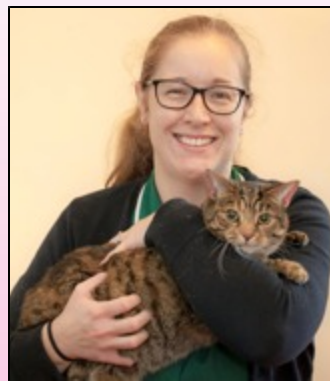
***Natalie Bennett* RVN**

# British Cats Getting Fatter!

***Joint Head Nurse at Northdale Veterinary Practice, Kim Bent RVN, reflects on the numerous problems of feline obesity.***

When considering feline nutrition complaints people normally imagine a stray like poor little Hope on the opposite page, rather than an obese domestic puss, but this is the most common problem in the UK with around 52% of our cats either overweight or obese.

There are certain categories, which are more at risk of being overweight than others and these include: moggies instead of purebreds; neutered pets (as these require less calories); those aged between two and ten years old. Unfortunately, carrying excess weight will also predispose cats to other potentially serious conditions, including diabetes, joint problems and they are also 1½ times more likely to develop urinary problems.



What should be done then to help these overweight cats? Simply reducing the amount of their current diet is *not* recommended, as this could easily cause nutritional imbalances, which in turn brings other issues. There are many diets designed for animals that aren't at optimum weight and these have certain characteristics, including higher levels of fibre to make the pet feel satisfied for longer, as well as having a lower calorie content.

When an animal is considered overweight, professionals in your veterinary practice should be able to advise you about their ideal weight and also about something called a body condition score (1-5). On top of that they can guide you with specific dietary tweaks and also exercise advice with a plan for re-checks and the duration the weight loss should take.

Cats can suffer with various medical conditions if loss occurs too rapidly and, therefore, it is best to seek advice before commencing a programme for your own pet. Veterinary practices like ours have qualified nurses to provide complimentary weight clinics and can recommend a dietary plan, which can help pets lead a much healthier life. It really is a case of prevention being better (and much cheaper!) than cure.

***Kim Bent*** RVN

# Those Senior Wonder Years

**Sadly, Golden Oldies tend to be overlooked** for younger cats, who jump up energetically at the pen door for potential adopters.

However, don't be fooled by the Golden Oldie, who seems completely disinterested in you, head hanging down as though depressed. This Golden Oldie *is* depressed. Whilst all cats may find re-homing traumatic it is even more so for them, maybe having spent their whole lives being adored by a human companion, who has suddenly and inexplicably gone, their familiar territory replaced by an alien pen.

Add to this possible geriatric discomforts and it is no wonder they may barely glance at you. However, if you look beyond that demeanour and take a chance you will be adopting a faithful companion, who will be utterly grateful and devoted to you.



I adopted two Golden Oldies in May 2016 from Worthing Cat Welfare Trust - Peanut, aged 18 and Fizz at 17. These two had been lifelong companions and needed a final home together; my heart went out to them both! OK, my first thought was that they are so old, they will soon be gone and it'll be so upsetting when they die. Well, since then I've realised two things: first of all, it won't be upsetting, it will be heartbreaking.

## Old cats make superb companions

But secondly, much more heartbreaking than this is the thought of these amazing cats, who simply crave love and companionship still being homeless in a pen somewhere, even if it be a comfy one.

It was a decision that I am so thankful I made and no matter what lies ahead, I would make that very same decision tomorrow without the slightest hesitation. Their individual personalities make me laugh so. Peanut soon claimed my pillow as her bed and she keeps me company every night without fail.



She listens and looks as I talk to her and is amazingly responsive and sensitive to my mood; if I'm feeling upset she will come over to me and sit on my lap. When I put my pyjamas on she gets excited, as she knows that it's bedtime and she then climbs on to me for a cuddle.

Fizz, the gentle giant, prowls the house meowing and loves to plop himself on a lap – any lap, as my children soon found out. He won't retaliate when the other cats lash out at him or take his food. His squawky meow and gently swaying stomach as he plods along will always stay in my mind.

Believe it or not, I actually now have two *more* Golden Oldies as well! 17 year-old brothers, Fluff and Blackey, who are complete opposites both in terms of looks and personalities. Fluff is chubby, mostly sleeps the day away and always squeaks when his name is called. Blackey follows me around the house just like a dog, gazes at me with his sorrowful eyes and paws me to stroke him.

Once you re-home Golden Oldies these very special cats have an extraordinary place in your heart and you will never look back. Yes, there may be trips to the vet and medication to administer, but there is less financial burden thanks to the on-going support of the Worthing Cat Welfare Golden Oldie Scheme.

I feel privileged to have my four Golden Oldies and appreciate each wonderful day I have with them. So, just do it – open up your heart and home and make a real difference to your own life as well as theirs.

***Emma***

**FOOTNOTE:** Worthing Cat Welfare Trust **Golden Oldies Scheme** is a special package for folks adopting seniors (i.e. over ten years) to give support with the inevitably higher vet costs associated with older cats.



**Like wine and cheese, they  
just keep getting better!**

# Leona celebrates her 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday

**Time was when you only received a key** to the front door on your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, though it's not clear whether it ever applied to cats.

Leona, a long-term resident with us, celebrated her age of majority in April with a meow and a cuddle from charity co-founder, Iris Green. This dear little soul – and she is *very* little – was born in April 1998 and probably had a rough old life until she arrived here at the Trust in 2010. She had been in a household with various other felines and had produced numerous kittens. In fact, when she came to us, she was again pregnant. After the kittens were safely re-homed, we nipped the problem in the bud – quite literally – by having her spayed, as we do with all cats coming into our care.



**Iris Green with Leona at 21**

For certain cats re-homing is very difficult due to old age, medical issues or life trauma and Leona has been in this category. However, she has a safe and happy haven here with us at the Trust and is such a vocal little companion. Last year she needed a lot of dental work and the removal of a tumour in her mouth, which then promptly grew back again, requiring a second procedure. She was amazingly brave and now she's back on form and eating more like a little horse than a small cat. What an example she sets!

## Lost and Found

This key function within our organisation provides a vital help line for owners facing the terrible anguish when feline becomes fugitive. In the first quarter of 2019 58 lost cats were reported to us here at the Trust, of which 31 were re-united - a 53% success rate. Our most fascinating case was *Bambi*. When we scanned her micro-chip and telephoned the owner that we had found his cat, he just did not believe us, as his two cats were munching away happily at their dinner right there in front of him. So we described what we had. You aren't going to believe this: *Bambi* had gone missing 13 years ago! Puss and owner had tearful reunion, so Thank Heaven for micro-chips! Are *your* cats chipped?

***Julie Stevens - Lost & Found Officer***



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## Our 2019 Annual General Meeting

will be taking place at 10:30am on Saturday 29th June at the Ardington Hotel, 30 Steyne Gardens, Worthing BN11 3DZ (coffee from 10:00am).

We remind members that this is a prime opportunity to come and find out how the charity has been performing over the last year, what our outlook is for the future and it is also your chance to question the Board of Trustees on any and all aspects of our operations. We shall be mailing out official AGM Notices to all members in early June, which will include nomination forms should you wish to put your own name forward for the role of Trustee during the coming year. Worth a thought?



**Ardington Hotel for 2019 AGM**

## HELP S.O.S. MAYDAY

Reading our newsletter today, one thing shouts loud:- We need help in all areas, so please think deep and hard about what you could do and then contact us at:

[mike@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org](mailto:mike@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org)

### Worthing Herald Offices

Cannon House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing

### Our Charity Shop

31 South Street, Tarring

### Exotic Pets

36 High Street  
Littlehampton

## Food Collection

boxes



are at:

### Gatleys

2 Mill Lane  
Storrington

### Strand Pet Supplies

17-19 Strand Parade  
Goring-on-Sea

### East Worthing Community Centre

Pages Lane, Worthing

# Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

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

Re-Homing: 01903 883179 / 07818 824407

[www.facebook.com/wcwt1](https://www.facebook.com/wcwt1) [www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org](http://www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org)