

Signs of Light at the end of our tunnel?

Hello Folks and welcome to our Spring newsletter, which is now back to normal frequency. We remember this time last year, having spent huge time and effort preparing the Spring issue, then having to scrub it all and push back to the Autumn! Not surprisingly, the full impact of the Covid saga on Worthing Cat Welfare Trust has been considerable.

Our welfare activities were impeded by the difficulties in having potential adopters view our cats, but also our ability to get out there and conduct home inspection visits. Catteries and other foster carers have also been affected themselves, so at times the capacity to billet our cats was in question. Another constraint was that securing vet appointments at short notice became more difficult, so having just rescued a poorly stray, it wasn't the fast turnaround that we had always been used to.



Seemingly hard to explain, however, was that the flow of cats in need seemed to dry up during the crisis. Nor was this peculiar to WCWT, as all the other similar charities experienced the same, with volumes of incoming adoption enquiries outstripping the availability of cats by a country mile. We had enquiries from as far afield as Southampton, Eastbourne and even London! Thank heaven “the market” swerved this way, rather than the opposite way around. Needless to say, in keeping with our fundamental ethos, we spared no efforts in terms of the personal time and commitment required to achieve the best for each and every feline that came our way.

Continued on page 2



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust Registered Charity No: 1049596, Registered Address: 141 Downside Avenue, Worthing, W. Sx. BN14 0EY (01903) 830717

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(Continued from front page) Apart from the implications for the hands-on side of our business, there has been the complete moratorium on social gatherings, so we were unable to attend the usual external events, which allow us to promote our sacred cause. Whilst such events are not substantial fund-spinners, they are a chance to talk to large numbers of potential members and practical supporters. On the subject of generating money (see p.5), the slump in retailing also precipitated the sad end to our charity shop in Tarring (see p.10). Meanwhile, happily however, the Board of Trustees has been greatly strengthened by the arrival of two new members, Lynn Benfield and Pam Fellows and it's with a sense of optimism and enthusiasm that we move onwards.

Mike Glennon

Kind Pen Sponsors Queue Up



A former trustee, Tracy Read, told us a couple of years back that this pen sponsorship scheme would be a big hit with supporters. How right she was. Since we last wrote, we have attracted these new folks to join our numerous ongoing sponsors: Helen Abrahams, Amanda & Andy Birch, Terry & Jane Burke, Sheila Cooper, Neil & Teresa Dixon, Symoon Dodd, Rachael Edwards, Christina & Kenneth Goy-Smith, Lyn & Gerald Salter, Malcolm & Maria Smailes, Geoffrey Hyde-Price R.I.P. and the DLG Hair Studios. Happily, our annual sponsorship income now exceeds £600.

Mavis & Margo become Peanut & Pixie

Jackie warned us in advance not to get too attached, as these nervous little sisters might prove quite difficult. A little feline TLC, experience with previous cats from WCWT and our own bonding techniques (i.e. gentle grooming) soon got them on side though!

Pixie fell in love with my son and quickly developed a morning routine. She burrows into the front of his dressing gown, snuggles up and starts up her loud purring. She'll grab any chance she can during the day as well.



Mavis & Margo when kittens with WCWT in January 2020

The other evening she forced her way inside his zipped fleece and purred without stopping for 62 minutes before he had to move!

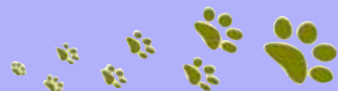
Peanut was a lot slower to show her affection and it was four months before she finally revealed her deep rich purr. Now she can't get enough love and will run after you if she considers she hasn't had enough fuss.



They both adore playing. Nothing beats a good chase around the house (or garden), especially if they can hide and ambush each other. The latest craze is play fights and enthusiastic wrestling matches are great fun for them, although apologetic nose rubbing will follow if one gets a little bit too boisterous. Every bundle ends up amicable with these two friends.

It is so sweet to see them grooming each other before cuddling up together for their daily snooze. Clearly, there's a deep bond between them and - day by day - the bond between them and us, their new dotting owners, gets stronger and stronger. Thank You, Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, for giving us all this chance!

Marion & Kieran Leon



Neuters Now Nearing Ninety

When we launched the scheme last Autumn it was completely free to all applicants. With the volume of enquiries we have been receiving, however, we have had to qualify the offer now as being available to those owners facing particular financial difficulties in the current economic downturn. Whilst we had set aside a substantial budget to cover the costs, we have to be mindful of the need to protect our own finite resources. From an administrative point of view, the scheme has been working very efficiently: Enquirers are sent an on-line form by our administrator, which captures all of the relevant background data on puss and owner. When we receive back the completed application, it is verified and the authorisation is then forwarded direct to our chosen veterinary partner and copied to the owner, who then arranges an appointment. In certain cases, the owner will be expected to make a contribution and despite their own obvious hardships, many folks have been very keen to donate something towards our funds. Overall, the scheme is proving a big success with nearly 90 cases so far and we feel future savings on our welfare budget will offset much of our outlay.



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Lock Down Finance

This time last year, a month into our first lockdown, I was wondering what challenges the new financial year would bring for our charity.

Our re-homing operation had to be largely suspended during lockdown periods, but we continued to take in cats in need of our support. Our income through donations has reduced by about a quarter and is probably a reflection of difficult times being experienced by us all. However, we have been very fortunate, in that we have had two very generous legacy payments to boost our income.

On the expenditure side of things, our vet bills are running at about 10% higher than they were last year. Again, we have found that some people are struggling with vet bills and we have been pleased to help with treatment costs for our growing contingent of *Golden Oldie* cats.

The shop was closed until early September and then only opened again for 61 days up until Christmas. During this time, income was only 40% of what would be expected at this time of year. With overheads so high, the difficult decision was taken early in the New Year that we could not continue to run the shop and there is a full explanation of this on page 10 of this edition.



On a positive note, the uptake on the neutering and micro-chipping support scheme has been good, with nearly 90 cats having been relieved of the pressure to wander off and mate. We anticipate an exponential benefit yet to come, regarding road accidents, lost cats and the spreading of infections. The trustees had set aside a sum specifically for this scheme and we are very pleased with the results. We elaborate a little bit further on this subject on page 4 opposite.

Now as we plough steadily into a new financial year, we look forward to better times for all of us – I'd like to say they surely can't be worse, but I won't tempt fate!

Christine Jones
Treasurer

Spectacular Skippy Settling Nicely

As you can see, this puss is something rather special with his exquisite eyes and stunning, long brown, sandy fur. He is two years old and very friendly, but his previous owner, who had bought him from a breeder, just couldn't keep him any longer for various domestic reasons.

New owner, Nicola Connolly, takes up the story: We adopted Skippy from WCWT in October last year, after having just lost our first cat (an elderly, black rescue). I don't really think we appreciated how much impact a cat can have on your life and, as a family, we felt something was missing. Then along came our little darling Skippy!



He is the most handsome fella you could meet and uses his charm to his great advantage. When we brought him home there was no hiding, he just perused his new domain and made himself comfortable. He has an insatiable appetite and eats like every meal is his last. The first few weeks he was on the work tops trying to get the food before it was in the bowl, but now he knows to wait. I don't think I have ever seen a cat eat so quickly. Things are better now and he has learned he gets three meals each and every day, although it does not stop him having a swipe at you if you have food and you aren't sharing it with him.



Being so young, Skippy loves to play and his favourite is the tunnel, which he loves to hide in and pounce on anything you might be dangling. In fact, everything is game to him: shoe laces, handbag straps, long hair! The garden is a new adventure and he is overcoming his nervousness, enjoying the fresh air and nosing around in the neighbours' garden. He has every intention of catching the squirrels that run along the fence, though I won't tell him he has no hope.

This big ball of fluff does have some very naughty habits, but with a face as cute as his, you just can't be cross with him!

Nicola Connolly

May I see your Identification please?

Over the years WCWT has re-homed literally thousands of cats and we always ensure they have been vetted, neutered and micro-chipped before they leave us. We then instruct new owners very carefully about how to re-register the chips into *their* name and at *their* address. Sensible, simple advice? Hmmm! Well ...

It was only recently, when we finally managed to get full on-line access ourselves to all the UK's microchip databases that we got something of a shock: It was immediately apparent that scores of new owners hadn't bothered to do the re-registrations and so WCWT was nominally still owner of cats we hadn't seen for a decade or more. One was born in 1999! Luckily, after weeks of research into past records (bear in mind the hysterical ravages imposed by GDPR had purged some of our older data), we managed to track down and onward register most of them. Huge concern was, of course, that a missing puss could be reported to us, but then we wouldn't know where that owner was after so many years.



We take the subject of micro-chipping very seriously, so from now on **we** are doing the re-registering on behalf of new owners to ensure it really does happen. As nominated administrator, I am liaising directly with cat owners and with the microchip agencies and by using our on-line facility I can very quickly resolve specific problems or anomalies as they occur.

A particular conundrum recently was how one of our kittens ended up registered as a Cockapoo puppy in Cheshire! With much detective work we got to the bottom of the situation and so there was a happy ending for everyone concerned - and the dear little kitten even stopped barking!

Also, we can't urge owners enough to remember that contact details must be kept up-to-date with their agency when moving home. It's easy to forget this, but the consequences could be dire.

Lynn Benfield
Trustee - Administration

CAT'S WHISKERS

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Human Generosity - Feline Bravery

At Cat's Whiskers we have remained open throughout all the Lockdowns to provide essential services to our feline patients. Due to the small size of our consulting rooms, we have not been able to allow owners in to consultations with their cats, as we would not be able to maintain a safe social distance. Hopefully this will soon change after the team are fully vaccinated, when we will be welcoming owners back inside the clinic. We have been supported for the past year by our wonderful volunteer, Lynn Benfield, who has provided a taxi service for cats, whose owners are unable to leave home. Lynn has given up her free time to help those in need, often at very short notice, so she deserves a massive round of applause.

We never cease to be impressed by just how resilient cats are and we could all learn a thing or two from our furry friends. One of our recent patients has really touched our hearts, as he has faced more than most cats and yet always manages to bounce back.

12 year-old rescue cat, Sid, had to have his left eye removed after it was badly damaged in an accident a few years ago. Unfortunately for Sid, not long after his eye was removed, his owner found a lump growing on his right forelimb. Surgery to remove the lump was not successful, as it was invading the deeper tissues and so the only way to completely remove the lump (which was cancerous and causing Sid pain) was to amputate.



Cats don't come much braver than Sid

To keep us on our toes, Sid also has a heart condition and suffers from seizures, which meant a general anaesthetic was more risky than usual. Thanks to the skills of our fantastic veterinary nurses, the anaesthetic went well and I was able to perform the amputation surgery, which has resulted in Sid being cured of the cancer.

Within days Sid was up and about on three limbs, going up and down the stairs and outside into the garden. Sid is working his way through his nine lives and we hope he doesn't use up any more!

Dr. Amanda Nicholls MRCVS

Sad Farewell to Number 31

Debenhams, Beales, Halfords et al. So many sad closures we see around Worthing in this dismal age, the tip of a commercial iceberg of retail departures in every town right across the country.

With great regret our dear little charity shop in South Street Tarring has now joined the exodus. Since last Christmas Eve our doors have been closed for business and our lease is about to be transferred as we write.

These premises, which we had operated since 2012, were facing uncertainty in any case: Our lease was due to expire in May next year and we would have needed to carry out a careful review, as to whether we continued trading from that particular site. The body blow, of course, has been the financial effects of the Covid drama with all of its inevitable – and some of it contrived – chaos.



The reality has been that the shop was forcibly closed for half of last year and the Lockdowns then spilled over into 2021, turning a mildly profitable concern into a distinct black hole for cash flow, with little indication that we could remedy this in the short to medium term. As a result of the Covid turmoil, we were at least £25,000 out of pocket and this precipitated the unanimous decision by the Board of Trustees to call a halt.

Clearly, this was fully in keeping with our fundamental and moral duty as custodians of the Trust's finances.

You'll doubtless recall how the Swiss philosopher, Karl Jung, talked about the concept of *Synchrocity*, the notion that at times an invisible hand seems to be shaping fate. No? Well, anyway: Coincidentally, another local charity, Super Star Arts, had been yearning for a unit in that part of town as a retail outlet, but also as a practical workshop facility for their beneficiaries. An amazing opportunity.

Continued on p.12 ...

Our Website – Vital Communication Tool

I truly love cats, so when WCWT needed volunteers back in 2018, I offered to help and have been managing their website ever since.

In this digital age an attractive and functional website is an important tool, which can facilitate extensive communication with the public about who we are, what we do and how you can help us. As a registered charity we also benefit from reduced fees, so the running cost is minimal and it really is excellent value, given all the content we can feature on it.

Profiles of those cats currently available for adoption are located on our Rehoming page and those reserved or already rehomed can be quickly marked as such, so prospective adopters know who is still available. Another vital area is our 'Lost and Found' section. Here we provide guidance on what to do if your cat wanders off, as well as what to do if you find a wanderer. It's a busy page this!



Our popular Free Neutering Scheme has a dedicated page, giving us the opportunity to highlight the benefits of neutering and micro-chipping, and to explain how the scheme works for owners struggling to meet the cost themselves. At the same time, the Pen Sponsorship page provides details of this popular way to get involved with our welfare support effort.

You may be surprised to hear that banks charge us to pay in cheques, so receiving donations on-line is cheaper for us, as well as very convenient! The Charities Aid Foundation allows us to receive contributions directly, both one-off amounts and regular monthly donations and provides a Gift Aid declaration facility, so that we can benefit from the government tax relief subsidy at no additional cost to our supporters.

If there is anything you would like to see on our website or you have any suggestions for improvements, please do get in touch with me at tech@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org

Lucy Todd

Sad Farewell to Number 31 *continued*

The good news is that they have taken up the remaining period of our lease! For the casual observer this may all seem like quite a simple handover procedure. However, the various legal formalities and the practical task of emptying our shop of the bulk of the huge donated stock has kept our trustees and volunteers busy in the extreme.

It's important to state, though, that none of this is indicative of the financial stability of the Trust itself, which courtesy of worthwhile legacy income has been - and continues to be - wholly solvent and fully active.

Needless to say, we express our sincere thanks to the band of valiant volunteers, who kept No.31 such a busy and happy location for so long, and to Abigail Corcoran-Green for her three years enthusiastically managing the store for us. As for the future, it is hard to speculate whether we'll include retailing in our financial plans again. Who knows what the future brings? Mind you, if that Debenhams department store in Worthing town centre becomes available

Mike Glennon



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Are Foxes Dangerous for Cats?

GIVE A DOG A BAD NAME is an old quip, but are we always sure it's the right dog we're barking at? Clearly, canines are bigger than cats and further up the dreaded food chain, but are we blaming foxes for some things without any real justification?

ALTHOUGH MANY PEOPLE WORRY about neighbourhood foxes attacking their pet cats, the reality is that it is very rare for a fox to attack a cat. Usually, there is little or no interaction between them at all – both being very adept at staying out of each other's way. There are many anecdotal reports of cats and foxes actually getting on together!

However, that is not to say there is no danger from foxes. Weak, old cats may potentially be vulnerable to attack, as may be young kittens.

Foxes in other parts of Europe are known to carry a particularly nasty form of tapeworm called *Echinococcus Multilocularis* and they are also implicated in the spread of rabies, though fortunately the UK is free of those diseases at present. There is a far greater risk of attack from dogs, other cats and cars than from foxes. This risk is again made worse if the cat is weakened in any way, so it is important for cat owners to show caution in allowing their pets outside if they are unwell, or have reduced mobility.



That is not to say that all elderly or arthritic cats should become house cats – for many of these that would seem like a prison sentence and a lot of cats will not toilet properly unless allowed out. But if you have a cat that you feel may be vulnerable in some way, for example deafness, then try to limit the time it spends outdoors, or otherwise consider making your garden escape-proof!

Dr. Julian Hoad
Crossways Veterinary Clinic



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The Miracle of Vaccinations

We live in strange times, but maybe there is some light coming at the end of this tunnel. Dear clients of mine, Sue and Phyllis, have had their first Covid vaccinations and brought their cats - on the bus - from Arundel to visit me at my newly-launched Stellar Vets in Littlehampton. I absolutely love their cat carriers, which can be wheeled like suitcases or worn like a back pack. What a treat for puss!

As veterinary surgeons we have always known about the amazing power of vaccination. A worldwide epidemic of Parvovirus was killing dogs back in the 1970's, but vaccines that we're still using today, brought that disease under control. Even now though, we still get flare-ups in untreated animals. For our Feline friends many of you will remember when Feline Leukaemia Virus first appeared around the early 1990's. Another horrifyingly fatal disease, but again brought under control by the miracle of medical science.



Carry Me Home!

One senses that the spectre of Covid-19 is starting to be tamed at last - thanks to the amazing research and development work of the pharmaceutical companies and the sterling work of Government - and, of course, our fantastic National Health Service.

At the same time, let's not forget the army of volunteers, who have all done their bit in this impressive fight back.

Sadly, though, with the risk of new variants, Covid is likely to become an ongoing threat. Accordingly, the annual jab is likely to become the norm and, just like the vaccination boosters we give our cats and dogs, we will need to keep topping up our protection to keep us all safe.

At the end of the day, there's perhaps an irony for us animal lovers: It reminds us how much we share the same vulnerabilities with our cherished pets in this scary world.

Dr. David Hodges
MA, Vet MB, MBA, BSc, MRCVS

Homing Houdini's Home Run

Cat owners know only too well that puss likes to chase birdie, including pigeons. Here at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust, however, it wasn't so much about cat chasing pigeon – it was cat becoming one!

We received a report about a stray besieging a local lady resident, who was kindly feeding him, though she couldn't actually adopt him. So, we collected the dear little fellow with a view to re-homing. Stopping off on the way to our care pens to collect something, however, we hadn't realised that pussy Houdini knew how to open doors on cat carriers!



Houdini Homeward Bound

Out he burst like a Jack in the Box, sprang out of the car and trotted off into nearby gardens and despite every enticement refused to re-join us. Anyone who has tried to catch a puss, who doesn't want to be caught will empathise. Crisis time. Here was a poor little cat without any idea of where he was and nobody he could identify as a friend and ally. He was two miles away across a busy town from where he had been roosting, which might just as well have been the dark side of the moon to him.

The next two days and nights were spent by our staff combing the locality, knocking on doors, distributing leaflets and posting on social networks. Besieged Lady even came over to help us.

Meanwhile, the winter weather was becoming more savage by the hour, so cold and hunger were now the looming enemies. By this time our rescue volunteer, blaming himself, had set a special cage trap with food bait inside and been out every two hours throughout the night checking it. Heaven knows what a passing police car would have made of the covert nocturnal activity. By now our volunteer had sunk into a severe depression in imminent need of either psychiatric counselling or taking to the bottle. Although his wife is a qualified nurse, he opted for the bottle.

Then on the morning of the third day he got a telephone call. It was Besieged Lady, announcing that Houdini had just wandered in through her cat flap again. Utter disbelief all round! It had taken him 35 arduous hours to navigate his way two miles along bustling streets, across gardens, over fences, through a shopping area, kipping down somewhere for two nights sleep on the way. Absolutely astonishing, especially as he had no compass, no SatNav nor even a street map of Worthing with him. Maybe one of his distant ancestors was indeed a homing pigeon?

Happy ending to the story is that Besieged Lady has now adopted Houdini for good and homing puss is now called Homer. Moral to the story: Never underestimate cats, especially if they start cooing!

Petplan Award - reflects huge commitment

BLOWING YOUR OWN TRUMPET is not encouraged around here, so let's have Petplan Insurance do it for us (then we'll have a blow ourselves for good measure!). Our staff and volunteers were nominated for one of the firm's 2021 Animal Charity Awards, which are intended to give thanks to teams and individuals, who are truly committed to improving the life of animals in need. Does sound a bit like us.

Modesty apart, we do want to express tremendous gratitude ourselves to our volunteers and our supporters, without whom Worthing Cat Welfare Trust would soon grind to a halt. Although we are a relatively small organisation when compared with the big players, what sets us apart is the level of personal commitment of time and energy, not to mention financial cost in some cases. Which charity that you know answers the telephone on Saturdays, Sundays and Christmas Day? Which charity answers the telephone at 11:30pm at night and then a trustee leaps out of bed (well *climbs* out - we're not as young as we were!) and drives off into the night to rescue a poor little stray? Only Worthing Cat Welfare Trust.



Running Out of Lockdown

My name is Sacha Bennett and I'm a Registered Veterinary Nurse at Pet Doctors in Rustington, where I have worked for almost 18 years. I started as a student veterinary nurse there and then qualified in 2011.

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust have been coming to us for the treatment of their cats for well over a decade and I see the passion they have for the animals under their care, not to mention the lengths they go to, in order to help people in our local community.

With this in mind, I wanted to help in some really constructive way. We have all been through tough times during this pandemic and with the gyms closing, I needed to start doing some outdoor activity. Pot-holing, hang-gliding and bird-watching didn't seem strenuous enough, so I decided to start running! I had never really run before, and when someone suggested starting the "Couch to 5k" challenge, I was unsure! But then I thought why ever not!



So, when the November lockdown cut in, I started my serious exertions. I listened to the NHS podcast along the way, helping me with distance, when to start and stop, etc. By the mid-December, I was running for a full 28 minutes. As Christmas season unfolded, I continued with my efforts and actually started to enjoy it all. Then in January I decided to take on the challenge of running 100k and raising money for wonderful Worthing

Cat Welfare Trust at the same time, a really great incentive to keep going and not to give up. By the end of January, I had done it. 100k completed and £400+ raised for the charity. I haven't stopped either: I am now running my best ever 5k times at just a cat's whisker over 28 minutes and I do this about three times a week. It truly is a win-win situation: good fun, real fitness and a worthy end result.



Sacha Bennett RVN

Our Lost & Found Stats - first quarter

In the period from New Year until the end of March, WCWT advertised 90 cats as lost, 47 of which were reunited, though four of these were sadly found deceased. We also advertised 31 cats as having been found



but only reunited three of them, so leaving 28 unclaimed. Of these one is pregnant and now in our maternity care, while another four tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). Alas, as they were in such a pitiful state, they were euthanised on veterinary advice. Five other cats that weren't advertised were also found deceased from road accidents. Clearly, Lost & Found can be a sorrowful business.

On a practical note, we feel there's still a need for additional collaring and tagging, despite this being the age of the ubiquitous microchip. If you do collar puss, though, make sure it's a quick release type and that the release clasp itself doesn't close too tightly in its seat. Bend it out!

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Grace
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Lizzie
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Give A Little Bit ...

... as so memorably sung by *Supertramp* (what do you mean, you're too young to remember them?). Anyway, food donated to Worthing Cat Welfare Trust has been running at a high this year with a series of generous gifts, not only from our members and pen sponsors, but also from the public at large.

Some donors ask us in advance what is the best food for our purposes. Generally speaking we'd have to say *Felix Good-as-it-Looks with Gravy*, quite simply because this seems the one with the least line of resistance. As we all know, pusses can be right little fuss pots and most of them turn their noses up at various brands, but this one pleases most and wastes least. To paraphrase an old saying: *You can please all of the pusses some of the time and some of the pusses all of the time - but you can't please all of the pusses all of the time!* We know what you're thinking, some you can never please!



Some donations come to us for that very reason, where an economical bulk purchase has been made by a canny owner, only to find it's rejected in the bowl. Occasionally we receive wonderful Red Cross parcels of the most expensive foods and our poor old strays think birthday and Christmas have all come at once. With dried foods though, most brands seem acceptable.

We must also offer our thanks recently to Grove Lodge Vets in Worthing when they were having a clear out of stock and passed us a big consignment of specialist dietary foods. An even bigger windfall came our way from the RSPCA at Mount Noddy when they were refurbishing their cattery accommodation and needed to clear space in advance.

Our champion donor, though, has to be Millie Roberts, who right through the lockdown crises has been parachuting in box after box of sustenance. Every parcel - from wherever - saves us vital funds.

New Chaos, Now Bliss

writes Donna Everest...

In the summer of 2019 my husband, Paul was feeling broody, while down in Findon Valley, Sandy and Andy had 15 kittens in the rescue pens! All of them were enchanting, but when we met Mama Star and her five babies it was magical. The plan was to adopt two, but we came home with three (two boys and a girl), much to the distaste of our senior cats ffoolkes, Purpurino, Nordlys and Seti.



To celebrate our love affair with Italy, these kittens became the Italian Collection – the Piccolo Banditi (Little Bandits). Tortie became Sirena Bimonte, the black one became Orafi Nero and Ginger became Faustino D’Oro, who, as my mother says, is so pretty he should have been a girl and thus narrowly missed being named Adorabelle! Now aged 22 months and fully grown they remain turbo-charged kittens at heart, plaguing the life out of the Seniors. Faustino is a ginger tank of a puss, barging his way through life and loving a cuddle with Daddy, while Sirena, our petite little weasel on speed, is unstoppable and Granny’s girl.

The biggest change, apart from size, is in Orafi, who was an unmitigated hiss tail, but now he’s Mummy’s skittish, affectionate little boy. Naturally, the music goes on – all our cats have their theme songs: For Orafi, what else but Hot Chocolate’s ‘It started with a H(K)iss’, Mud’s ‘Tiger Feet’ for dear Faustino and Tom Jones’s ‘Why, Why, Why (Sirena) Delilah’. Our Piccolo Banditi, the messiest, most destructive and wholly adorable threesome around!



Losing and Finding - the battle goes on

Our own WCWT Lost & Found function, driven by long-standing colleague, Julie Stevens, connects to a web of similar on-line search groups. Here's an insight into one of them in our own area led by Germaine Conroy-Schneider:

I started the *Cats Lost-Found Lancing-Worthing-Sompting* Facebook group when I lost one of my own cats a couple of years ago, as there wasn't a group that covered our area then. I'm the main administrator, but ably assisted by Diane Orme and Tammy Hewitt with the aim of reuniting missing cats with their owners.



Home at last after four long months missing!

We recognised him as soon as we saw the photo and are so happy to have our boy back. Thank you so much for helping us!

Holly and Edward

We share information on lost or homeless cats with local vets and charities like WCWT. Often I'm out scanning microchips to try and identify pussies, so they can be reunited with their owners as soon as possible. We actively advise owners to microchip and neuter their cats and either to get pet insurance or ensure they have the funds themselves to pay for veterinary treatment, as nowadays it can be so very expensive.

The group has grown considerably in the last year and we now have over 2,000 wonderful members, who help us in our quest. In addition to our core area, we also cover the surrounding towns and villages, as cats can easily get into cars and vans and travel a fair distance. A London cat once made it to Paris!

We also share pages when cats are injured and owners simply can't cover bills - especially in the last year with people losing their jobs. Crowd funding can be a saviour. We all support each other in spreading the word and trying our best to reunite fugitives with their anguished owners.

If you aren't already a member, please join our group. You can contact me via Facebook Messenger. I look forward to hearing from you some time. We need you, that's for sure!

Germaine Conroy-Schneider

Fondest Memories of Sam - R.I.P.

Back in 2006 Phil and I had recently lost a much-loved cat and had room for one more in our family, so we contacted WCWT. Following a home check visit from them, we were given a list of available cats. We went to see Sam (named Topsy then) and also a long-haired black female, but Sam got it by a short whisker. He was a large, extremely friendly puss and so into the basket he went and home we all came.

We had some hissing from Mia our resident Grey & White (another rescue), but Sam simply turned his back and started to wash himself. Actually, they became great friends and went everywhere together, ate together, even slept together (in with our Labrador, Bess!). Sam did love to munch and would take himself off to neighbours for desserts. In 2008 he had major surgery, due to his urethra blocking up with crystals, so he had a periannual urthrostomy, but he took it in good spirits and was soon back to his normal mellow old self.



Fishing time for Sam

Sam was an absolute gent and would wake me up, so I wasn't late for work ever. He was my constant companion and would greet me when I came home. He was never actually a lap cat, but preferred the sofa next to me or with Bess (who passed away in 2017) and later with Roxie.



Perfect way to spend an evening

We moved from our house, which was on a main road to a bungalow with a massive garden and pond. I'm so pleased Sam was able to wander in a large garden in his final days. It was clear he was beginning to struggle, as he couldn't jump up where he always used to, even the sofa. So, he passed over Rainbow Bridge right next to me, where he spent most of his time. We miss him so much, but he had a long, happy life and we feel privileged that we had him for so long.

Carole Packham

Old Black Jack needs a Farm

Jack, who is now well into his golden years, lived in some local stables, quite happily sleeping in barns and chasing mice and rats, but the owner decided to sell the premises, so poor old Jack was out on his ear.

He gained confidence with our "Cat Whisperer", Allison, enjoying tummy tickles and ear and head scratching, but then he had to have his routine WCWT vet check. Unfortunately, this proved something of a trauma for the poor old boy and when he came back into our care, his behaviour had regressed somewhat. Clearly, any trust he had built up had waned.



Since being fostered by me, he spends a lot of time in the tube bed on the scratchy post. If I get too near him he will hiss at me, but I am giving him a few treats, shaken from the bag, as I have enough scars on my hands and arms already! I do hope that with time and patience, he will become brave enough to trust me and let me make a fuss of him. He really needs to be back in the freedom of rural open spaces. Anyone got a farm handy?

Sandra Collins

Food Collection Points:

Gatleys 2 Mill Lane, Storrington
Exotic Pets 36 High Street Littlehampton
E. Worthing Community Centre Pages Lane
Strand Pet Supplies 17 Strand Parade, Goring



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

General: 01903 830717 07923 014458 Lost & Found: 07724 781430

Rehoming to us: 07818 824407 Adopting from us: 07881 607026

www.facebook.com/wcwt1 www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org