

Cat Chat

**Latest news from
Worthing Cat Welfare Trust**



**A very warm welcome
to the first edition of our
new-look newsletter.**

Like most small charities, we've had a busy and challenging year so far - with many success stories but also financial headaches and a host of welfare issues to deal with.



From cats and kittens abandoned on doorsteps - to heart-breaking cases of neglect - it's been a tough time for our rescue teams and devastating for the scared, bewildered pets arriving in our care.

Thankfully, love, security and care pay dividends. Even where the road has been long, with no immediate solution in sight.

On a positive note, we've seen an average of 24 cats a month securing loving homes and that's what makes it all worthwhile.

Seeing the photos of happy, relaxed cats revelling in their new homes is always a joy. To read some of the success stories, please see pages 4 and 5.

Looking ahead, we remain under sustained financial pressures to meet our ever increasing veterinary and rehoming costs.

We are truly grateful for the public's support - please see the back cover for various ways that you can assist.

To keep costs down, we continue to use our purpose-built pens at East Preston and Durrington, plus a commercial cattery, offering a heavily subsidised charity rate. Our committed teams offer a compassionate and caring approach, with animal welfare at the heart of all we do. We cannot thank them enough.

We have also welcomed new faces to the team, including Sandra Godden, who took over as adoptions officer from Ana Sales. Ana has departed these shores to return to her native Portugal - we offer her every best wish for her new life in the sun!

Finally, I end by paying tribute to one of our founder trustees, Iris Green, who sadly died earlier this year. For a full tribute to this remarkable lady, please see P2.

Joss Loader
Chair of WCWT



**Issue one
September 2024**

Paying tribute to

Iris Green



Worthing Cat Welfare Trust is giving thanks for the life our of our co-founder Iris Green who sadly died, earlier this year.

Tributes poured in for Iris, aged 85, who set up the now-registered charity with Sandra Collins nearly 30 years ago.

The wife of Honorary Alderman Peter Green, Iris served as Worthing Mayoress at his side from 1996 to 1997.

At the time of establishing WCWT in 1995, Iris and Sandra had 40 cats and the princely sum of just £40 in the bank but, thanks to their determination and sheer hard work, WCWT quickly went from strength to strength.

Former WCWT Chair and current Trustee, Sandra said: "Iris was an inspiration and we worked closely together, supported by our hard-working and loyal volunteers, to create and sustain the successful local charity that we see today.

"Initially we paid for cat food and vets bills ourselves, until we got our first charity shop, in Brighton Road, which was opened by animal welfare campaigner Carla Lane, and proved to be very successful for the charity. This started us out on the path to where we are now.

"Above all, Iris was my very dear friend



and I am deeply saddened by her death. My thoughts and prayers remain with her husband Peter, and their son Nigel and his wife Paula".

Iris was a former Chair of WCWT, stepping down in 2017, and took a keen interest in the charity until the end of her long life.

Current WCWT Chair Joss Loader said: "I first met Iris when I was working as news editor for the Worthing Herald series, both in a professional capacity and also when I adopted cats from our incredible charity.

"Her passion for cat welfare, compassion for all animals and sheer drive and hard work were simply phenomenal.

She leaves a remarkable legacy and WCWT is forever in her debt."

Iris's funeral took place at Worthing Crematorium.



WCWT

welcomes new microchipping laws

Along with other charities, we have welcomed new microchipping laws, aimed at promoting responsible cat ownership.

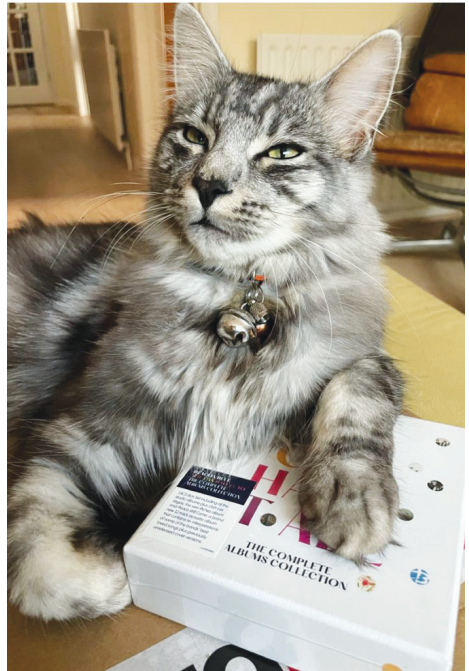
All too often, we rescue cats who are lost and displaced but they are either unchipped, or the details are out-of-date. The new laws came into force on June 10th. Failure to comply could lead to a fine of up to £500.

Microchips are a permanent solution to identification of animals and should drastically reduce the numbers of lost, stray and abandoned cats in our communities. This will benefit cats, owners and rescues alike: fewer cats will need to be found new homes and more owners will be reunited with their beloved companions.

To celebrate this long awaited and much needed legislation, WCWT held a microchipping event in April at Pampered Pets Parlour, Tarring.

One of our volunteers Sheila is a qualified and insured microchip implanter. She and another hard-working volunteer, Pam, gave up their Sunday morning to help the owners of 23 cats and kittens comply with the new laws.

In return for voluntary donations to WCWT, top quality "PetTrac" microchips were implanted between the shoulder blades of each pet and registered.



Sheila said: "All cats should be scanned prior to implanting to verify they don't already host a microchip (and potentially belong to somebody else!). Two cats that came in were scanned and found to have microchips already in place but neither had been registered correctly. We provided the relevant references and contact numbers for the owner to comply with the law without the need for new microchips in his cats."

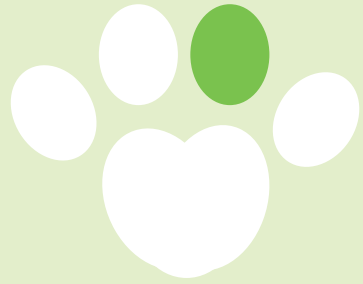
If your cat isn't yet microchipped, or you're unsure if the contact details are current, please contact your vet or local welfare organisation to assist. Also watch our social media outlets for future microchipping events that may held by WCWT and other organisations locally.

Looking for advice about an apparently lost or stray cat? Check out our website at Lost and Found



<https://rb.gy/osllvo>

Feline- Forever Homes



Meet Mr Pickles - one of the most challenging but heart-warming success stories of recent years.

There were times when we almost despaired of finding this lovely lad a forever home - but his penholder, Rachel, never gave up!

A pedigree Bengal, Mr Pickles turned up as a stray and all efforts to find his owners drew a blank. He was horribly frustrated in a pen but also failed to settle in foster, as he was

so territorial when in the company of neighbourhood cats.

Now - after finding a forever home in a semi-rural setting - he's a happy and settled cat and loves his new, caring family. Wishing you all the best, Mr P!

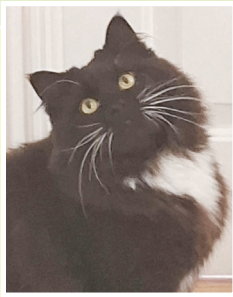


It's all systems go for Casper - one of the liveliest, most affectionate young cats you could hope to meet!

After coming into our care as a kitten with a broken leg, it quickly became apparent that Casper was profoundly deaf - not that this dented his joie de vie or boundless energy!

After surgery and full cage rest, to allow his leg to heal, Casper has made a full recovery, supported by generous public donations.

He's now enjoying his new life with a couple who have pulled out all the stops to create a safe, outdoor space for him. Huge thanks from the WCWT team.



A cat's view on adoption - meet Bertie!

I adopted my new staff earlier this year, and they are doing very well.

True, it did take them some time to settle into my routine, but they are getting the hang of it now.

I still have to remind them about food time. I like my breakfast at 7am but must start calling them about half an hour earlier.

Same with lunch, dinner and for my bedtime biscuits.

Other than that I am happy with my new home and would like to thank everyone at Worthing Cat Welfare Trust who looked after me when I really needed it.



A hello from Echo - who's now enjoying his best life after a really tricky start.

Born during the dark days of the first lockdown, he found it hard to settle in a home environment and was fond of attacking his human's legs - without any warning at all.

Thanks to the patience, commitment and perseverance of one of our fostering team, his playful, affectionate nature emerged - meaning his fosterer could take off her shin pads and long socks.

Thank you for all your phenomenal efforts, Chris, and also to his adopter who gave him the chance he so richly deserved.

He's now happily prowling around his countryside home and is an affectionate, sweet natured boy.



Greetings from lovely Troy - another cat who's had his life turned around by one of our caring adopters.

When he came into our care he'd been living on the streets and was matted from head to foot. On the advice of a vet, he had to be shaved to give his fur a chance to recover.

Despite his ordeal, Troy is a sweet-natured lad and he soon found a loving home. Wishing you every happiness in your new home, beautiful boy - who could resist that face!

Fostering goes from strength to strength

Could you open your heart and your home to a foster cat?

The Worthing Cat Welfare Trust (WCWT) team sees many heart-breaking sights but to see a cat struggling to adjust to life after rescue can be particularly distressing.

Many flourish under our team's commitment and care, before leaving for new loving homes. Sadly, others remain frightened and bewildered. Their trauma can make it much more challenging to find them a suitable home.

Some cats simply retreat into themselves and hide. Others may hiss and swipe, to mask their fear. These cats need patience, compassion and care to help them settle down.

Although our phenomenal cat welfare teams always go the extra mile, there are often no easy answers. That's why fostering is such a winner.

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust Chair Joss Loader said: "Experience has shown us that many of these distressed cats are able to show their personality and to come out of their shell in a foster home.

"For many it will bring back their sociable and friendly character, while others simply aren't able to make this step and remain introverted with little or no desire for interaction with humans.

"This is where fostering comes in, as we can gauge the best type of home going forward."

"Can you help? We are currently looking to strengthen our expanding fostering team by encouraging new recruits. We can cover all food, litter, and veterinary bills if you have secure space for a cat to adjust, flourish and thrive."

To find out more about fostering, and how you could help, please visit our website.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Ava - one of our current cats, who has grown in confidence and happiness, thanks to the patience and care of her fosterer.

Please spay and neuter your cats



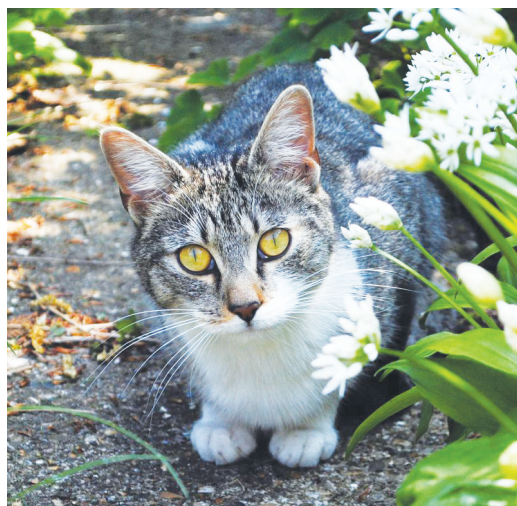
We have experienced a particularly busy summer period with abandoned and stray pregnant cats.

While it's hard to resist kittens, it goes without saying that responsible owners ALWAYS spay and neuter their cats.

We often see young cats, little more than kittens themselves, coming in after giving birth under sheds or in back gardens/alleyways. The poor animals, and their offspring, are often infested with fleas and worms.

Need help with neutering costs?

Please email enquiries@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org for details of how we can help.



Getting in touch:



Contacts:

Please check which of the following subjects you need to talk to us about and use the contact details below:

Rehoming to Us:

07340 986609
(between 8:30-10:30am
and 6:30-8:30pm,
Monday-Saturday) or [rescue@
worthingcatwelfaretrust.org](mailto:rescue@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org)

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Adopting from Us:

07354 442937
(between 9am-5pm) or
[adoption@
worthingcatwelfaretrust.org](mailto:adoption@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org)

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Fostering for Us:

07838 379599 (between 9am
and 8pm) or [fostering@
worthingcatwelfaretrust.org](mailto:fostering@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org)

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Lost and Found:

07340 986609 or [rescue@
worthingcatwelfaretrust.org](mailto:rescue@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org)

LOOKING TO HELP CATS IN NEED?

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust (WCWT) is about to celebrate its 30th anniversary after being set up by Sandra Collins and Iris Green.

At the time, they had 40 cats and just £40 in the bank - now a registered charity, WCWT rehomes up to 300 cats a year.

Would you like to offer support?

We welcome help in a variety of different ways.

Adopt don't shop – check out adoption guidelines and “cats available now” at www.worthingcatwelfaretrust.org

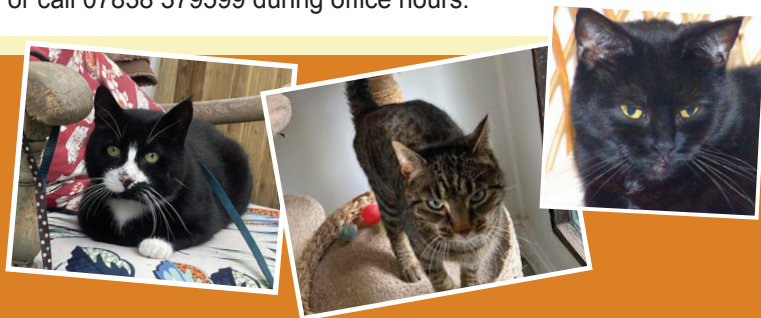
Foster a cat in need – we cover all costs while you help us find cats their forever homes.

Volunteer – from fund-raising to home checking, we'd love some extra help.

Donate – our costs have soared during the cost-of-living crisis. It's easy to make donations via our website, or you can sponsor a pen, or consider leaving a legacy.

Keen to find out more?

Please email enquiries@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org or call 07838 379599 during office hours.



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