

Cat Chat

**Latest news from
Worthing Cat Welfare Trust**



Welcome to the Summer issue of Cat Chat.

As I write this, we are about to celebrate 30 years of Worthing Cat Welfare Trust. What a remarkable achievement.



From 40 cats and just £40 in bank, we have grown and flourished over the years. To read more about the charity's phenomenal story, please see pages 2 and 3.

Looking ahead we are bracing up for a busy few months as the summer inevitably brings its own challenges - including kitten season.

Much as we love the little bundles of joy, it creates all manner of welfare issues when people fail to neuter and spay young cats. This results in pregnant mums, who are little more than kittens themselves.

Frequently, we rescue cats and new-born kittens from under sheds and outbuildings, as well as over-crowded homes with multiple cats. Some are sadly dumped.

Likewise, unneutered tom cats get into endless fights and are prone to straying. All this can be prevented with a simple, low-risk operation that will improve cat welfare standards across the board.

**Issue two
Summer 2025**

As a small charity, the burdens on our finances are relentless. Last year alone we spent approximately £179,000 on vets' bills, helping rescue cats, our Golden Oldies and Supported Cats. Like to help? Please check out fund-raising page inside.

On a positive note, we are continuing to rehome an average of 25 cats and kittens every month. Seeing their happiness and contentment never fails to warm our hearts and reinforce why our hard-working volunteers do this relentless and sometimes heart-breaking work.



A sterling example is little Troy. When he came into our care his coat was heavily matted, meaning he had to be shaved.

Just look at him now - what a magnificent lad! Huge thanks to his owners who have given him a loving, caring and settled home. This is what makes it all worthwhile.

For more heart-warming tales, please see P4 and 5.



With thanks for your ongoing support.
Joss Loader - Chair of WCWT

Celebrating 30 years

Courage, conviction, compassion and commitment – just four of the key attributes for running a successful animal rescue service.

As Worthing Cat Welfare Trust celebrates its 30th anniversary as a registered charity, we look back on our remarkable story.

Set up with 40 cats and just £40 in the bank – WCWT was in a precarious position back in the 1990s.

Thanks to the vision, dedication and sheer hard work of our founder members Iris Green and Sandra Collins, Worthing Cat Welfare Trust has gone from strength to strength and is now one of the leading small charities in the county.

Sadly, Iris died last year, leaving a remarkable legacy in the animal welfare world.

Sandra, who is still an extremely active trustee and volunteer, takes up the story:



"Both Iris and I had fostered for another cat rescue charity before we decided to establish our own, focused on the Worthing area.

"I can't pretend it was easy but knowing that we were rehoming unwanted cats into loving, caring homes made it all worthwhile and compensated for the hard times.

"To start with, Iris and I paid all the food and vet bills ourselves, looking after scared and unwanted cats in our own homes until we had some money coming in.

"It was tough, it was often heartbreaking, but the success stories were legion, along with the amazing support of the public and our volunteers.

"We are now rehoming up to 300 cats to loving homes per year – all vaccinated, vet checked and spayed or neutered if required.

"The photos of happy, relaxed cats enjoying their new lives speak for themselves. I have never regretted a single moment."

There are many heart-warming tales but I will always remember the day when Iris visited the Vale School in Findon Valley, where I was a dinner lady. She was there in her role as Mayoress of Worthing, along with her husband Cllr Peter Green.

"As usual when seeing them, I greeted them with a hug and kiss. A little lad was in the queue waiting for his lunch, and he said to me "Ey lady was that the Queen?"

"My reply was: Yes she is the Queen of Cats!"

So what were the chief challenges?

Finances have obviously been a huge issue over the years but our bank balances have been boosted by some very generous donations and legacies. Last year alone, we spent £179,000 on vets' bills to cover the care of our rescue cats, Golden Oldies and supported cats.

We've also huge amounts of public support. From a donated van, kindly gifted by volunteer Carole Gordon-Harper's mother, to a "food mountain" organised by Di Orme, at the Alliance and Leicester – the support has been phenomenal.

Throughout we've battled with ongoing welfare issues – largely a minority of people's failure to spay or neuter cats, leading to litters of kittens without a home, straying tom cats and very young cats ending up pregnant.

Undeterred, we've always put animal welfare first, running neutering schemes and most recently a microchipping event.

Sandra said: "From the start, no cat was turned away and we were all united together with our volunteering and enthusiasm. It was a huge achievement, which we are very proud of today."

And the success stories?

Iris's vision to open a charity shop was a major boost – particularly as there weren't many charity shops around in the late 1990s.

Sandra took up the story: "We roped in lots of people to help with cleaning and decorating at 39 Brighton Road, and the shop was soon ready to be opened.

"Iris contacted Carla Lane, who lived over in East Sussex. She wrote the scripts for the Liver Birds, Bless this House, Butterflies, and Bread.



"She also rescued and was a big campaigner to stop Live Animal Exports. We were very lucky to have her on board."

Looking ahead, Sandra thanked the legion of supporters who have helped with her life's work, rescuing and rehoming cats in needs.

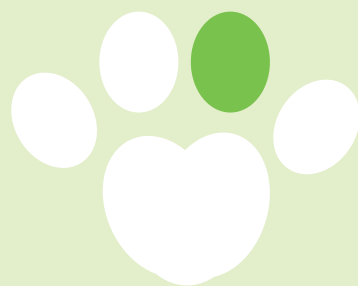
She added: "We couldn't have got through the early years without the help of Carole, Di, Mel, Brenda, Pete and Jackie, Sharon and Tony, Janet, Diane, Vela, Tina, Pat, Carol and Mrs Gotch, the ladies that helped in the shops, and also at our Jumble sales, and fundraising, not forgetting my husband Andy.

"I cannot thank everybody enough for your help back then, and now - and also our current volunteers and Board. We make a great team."

"As with most small animal charities, our main challenges now are still to rescue and rehome cats, that will never change, but we just hope that our money doesn't run out, and we can no longer do the job that we have all put our hearts and souls into.

"Whatever happens, we will always do our very best. Here's to another 30 years."

Feline- Forever Homes



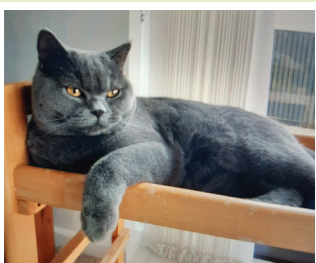
Meet Dusty and Stormy -

two little sister kittens who went to their new homes at the end of last year.

The adorable duo have both settled in really well and enjoy all the cuddles and fuss that they truly deserve.

Their new owner Clare said: "They bring us so much joy and make us laugh with their cheeky and playful personalities, we are in love!"

We are so happy and grateful that we were given the opportunity to adopt them and give them a better life together so thank you. What a wonderful charity!"



It's great news for Otto -

who suffered a very difficult start to life, being moved in and out of a number of homes before coming to us.

Sadly, he was bored and sometimes aggressive - displaying frustration as he wanted to go outside.

Fortunately, we found him kind, patient adopters, Jon and Anna, who have offered him a stable home environment, plus the chance to explore the garden and the local area. This has transformed him into a much calmer, happier and more affectionate cat.

It wasn't all smooth sailing but our sincere thanks go to his owners, for their kindness and perseverance.

They said: "Thank you so much to WCWT for trusting us and allowing us to adopt Otto and for all the work you do!"



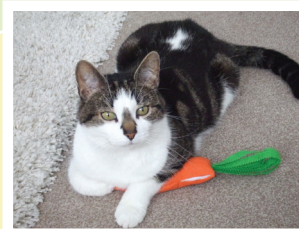
Paprika might be an old lady but she definitely doesn't act her age!

New owners Rebecca and Andy had started to look for a new cat when they saw Paprika's pretty face on Facebook.

They told us: "She was 14, which seemed too old but, all the same, we went to see her. She was cute and desperate for cuddles - we came away covered in cat hair and dribble and knew she was the one for us."

"Paprika might be an old lady but she doesn't act as such. She's loud and determined, demanding meals and cuddles in equal measure. Happily under her paw, we acquiesce."

"Her favourite thing is a good, long tummy rub. Paws in the air, bliss on her face, she's just the cutest."



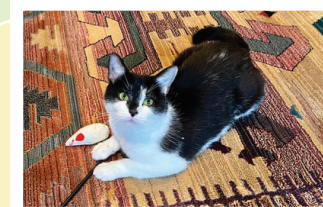
Henry - another adorable, older cat who captured his owner's hearts.

Roz said: "I wanted to rehome a cat and having scoured cat rescue sites, this big boy caught my eye."

"I visited and met him; why did I feel the need to cuddle him? A cat who did not know me and could have been so easily spooked? He settled into my

coat, kneaded, head butted, purred and dribbled. Who could resist that love? He was older than we were looking for but he is calm and peaceful.

"The love that little body has shown us has made me so glad that we were smitten with a Golden Oldie. Nothing has changed apart from our lives have been enriched in ways we would never have thought possible. Thank you so much WCWT!"



Lily - little more than a kitten herself, this sweet-natured cat is revelling in life after raising a healthy litter.

Her owners were smitten from the start, after losing a much-loved older cat.

Carol said: "Lily settled in very quickly and right from the start made up for her lost kittenhood."

"She's such a character and has boundless energy. Her playful nature keeps us entertained, she loves going out in the garden and is often up a tree. She's not quite a lap cat yet as she has too much energy to sit still, but she is very sweet and affectionate and loves snuggling up next to us for a chin rub when she finally stops zooming around."

"She's not just a pet, she's family and we wouldn't be without her."

Fund raising for Worthing Cat Welfare Trust

As a small charity, we are under sustained pressure to balance our books. Our vets' bill for rescues, Golden Oldies and supported cats was £179,000 last year – despite generous discounts from our partner vets.

Here are ways you can help:

Donating:

Please visit our website to discover a number of ways to donate, including online donations, Gift Aid, food donations and our Amazon wishlist. Every donation, however small, helps to make a difference:

Donate – Worthing Cat Welfare Trust
<https://shorturl.at/JlrJu>

Staging sponsored events:

This is a great way to raise cash and boost our charity's profile.

Walking for the Cats: We are very grateful to a team from Grove Lodge vets who walked 20 miles from Cissbury Ring, boosting our bank balance by more than £1,250 in March.

Shaving her hair for WCWT: Likewise, we couldn't thank Carrie Robson enough, after she shaved off her long, curly hair to raise much-needed funds.

This caught the attention of the local press. To read Carrie's full story, visit:
<https://shorturl.at/21SEC>



Supporting events:

We are always looking for volunteers to help us run our local events. This year's calendar is as follows. To help, please email enquiries@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org for more information:

Saturday 7th June - Durrington Festival, Pond Lane.

1pm – 4.30pm.

Saturday 19th July – Broadwater Carnival/Fire Station Open Day, Broadwater Green

10am – 4pm.

Sunday and Monday 24th/25th August – Worthing Rotary Carnival, Steyne Gardens

Saturday 13th September – Findon Sheep Fair, Nephcote Green.

Open to the public from 10.30am.

Debunking the myths - cats DO need to be spayed and neutered



Female cats don't need to have kittens and "experience motherhood" in order to live long and happy lives.

Cats aren't fully grown until 10 to 12 months but can reach sexual maturity at just four months. Early motherhood can harm both the cat and her kittens.

Likewise, "boys don't need to be boys" - tomcats are far more likely to stray, get involved in fights and can father scores of kittens, with multiple female cats (including relatives).

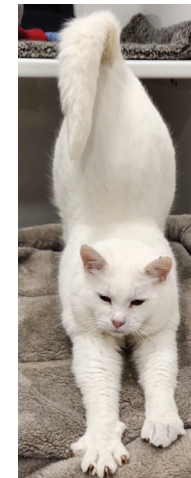
Please take vets' advice about the right age for neutering. You can also email rescue@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org for details of how we can help those on lower incomes/in receipt of benefits.

All cats need to be microchipped

All cats aged 20 weeks, and above, now need to be microchipped to comply with new laws introduced last summer.

The laws apply retrospectively - not just to kittens born after June 2024.

Microchipping is a safe, cost-effective way to help ensure you are reunited with your cat if he or she strays or is injured. Please ensure you keep contact details updated.



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

Adopting from Us:

07376 644085
(between 9am-5pm) or adoption@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org

Fostering for Us:

07838 379599 (between 1pm and 5pm, weekdays only.) or fostering@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org

Lost and Found:

07340 986609 or rescue@worthingcatwelfaretrust.org

LOOKING TO HELP CATS IN NEED?

Worthing Cat Welfare Trust is celebrating 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 check out the contact details on the inside back cover.



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