

CAT LOVERS ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER No.54

October to December 2015

Dear Catlovers,

Winter nights are drawing in as we head towards the next solstice. Our cats are seeking warmth indoors, away from the soggy weather we've been having lately. Evenings find my lot clamped to the various forms of heating around the house, proving trip hazards on the way to the bathroom and kitchen! We count ourselves lucky not to have had any of that terrible flooding we've seen on the news, and thoughts turn to those animals which have no shelter available to them this winter. It shocks me that animals continue to be in need in this day and age, when life could, and should, be so different for them. Maidenhead is lucky to have C.L.A.W.S in its community!

NEWS FROM HQ

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Can it really be December already? We are almost at the end of our 20th anniversary year – and we could equally ask where those 20 years have gone!

The cat rescue business continues to tax our resources, both human and financial, and to be one of contrasts.

After 2½ years of unstinting love and patience on the part of her fosterer, EBONY was ready for adoption. She went to her lovely new home and all is well. We are delighted. (See separate article)

We welcomed 7 new volunteers this year, who are helping with the whole range of cat care and fund-raising activities.

The number of abandoned cats and kittens continues to escalate and threatens to reach epidemic proportions. The problem is not helped by the attitude and actions of some of the "big players" in the cat rescue world that are unwilling to get involved at grass roots level.

C.L.A.W.S. continues to take in elderly and infirm cats and cats that have been mentally or physically abused, as well as those that are ready to be re-homed. By definition, this means that some cats will remain with us for a long time, but when they go to a new home where they will live a peaceful and happy life, it makes all the effort worthwhile.

We go into 2016 determined to do our best for the underprivileged cats in our area – please help us to help them.

FACEBOOK

Helen has been managing our new Facebook page for a few weeks now. Please stop by and have a look. Leave some comments. Share photos of your own C.L.A.W.S. cats, to emphasise this is why we do what we do.

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ClawsMaidenhead>

WEBSITE

Don't forget to have a look at our website too!

Visit: www.c-l-a-w-s.org.uk

CAT TALLY

We have re-homed 19 cats during 2015.

A tough year by any standards.

Do you know of anybody who could be a fosterer?

If so, please get them to call Sue on the Helpline.

01189 341699



2016 CALENDARS

With less than a month to go until 2016 is upon us, we still have hundreds of our special 20th anniversary calendar to sell.

*****ONLY £3.50 EACH*****

Have you bought a copy - for yourself, members of your family, colleagues at work? If not, why not??!

We rely on the proceeds from the sale of our calendars to fund special projects (the golden oldies house is a fine example of this) and to help pay for the everyday running costs of all the cats we have in care.

PLEASE MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TO BREAK THE PREVIOUS RECORD AND THUS MAKE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR EXTRA-SPECIAL.



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ALMA VETS

Thanks to Tim Hosken of Alma Vets for allowing C.L.A.W.S. to have a display in the cat waiting room to celebrate its 20th birthday and for once again agreeing to sell calendars.

The support we receive from them is much appreciated.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2016

No events have yet been booked for 2016. The website will be updated once these are known and will also be highlighted in the next Mewsletter.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

11 Sept Maidenhead Street collection - £106.36
24 Oct Maidenhead Combined Charities Fair - £199.50
Cox Green Christmas Bazaar- £214.70



TALES OF OUR RESCUED CATS

CONNIE & OSCAR

Their "Mum" writes :-

"Connie (black with white) and Oscar (white with black), now 19, came to live with us in 2011. Being brother and sister, one would have thought that they would be friendly towards each other; but no, they still hate each other and rarely curl up together and meals have to be given in separate locations.

Each has their own favourite sleeping place; during the day, Oscar has a cushion in the lounge and Connie favours a chair by the radiator. At night, Oscar sleeps on the bed

beside me or under the bathroom radiator and Connie sleeps under the bed on a cushion or in her igloo, but as soon as she knows "Mum" is awake, she appears for a stroke and cuddle, closely followed by Oscar. When their disabled "Dad" was alive, Oscar made a point of keeping him company, both during the day on his lap, and, at night, sleeping on the bed.

They both have to have medication for thyroid problems; Connie is very good being held, although hates taking her medication, but knows there is a treat afterwards. Oscar has to have his pill hidden in chicken, which he loves and rarely spits it out.

Connie has been given the nickname Twinkle Toes because of her white feet and Oscar is known as Big Boy!! Oscar is very good at going out for his walk in the garden and often comes in very wet – not pleasant having a wet and muddy cat leap on one in the middle of the night! Connie is much more ladylike and although still goes out, not in the rain, will use the cat litter tray."



Connie & Oscar

CHESTER & SUNNY

Chester and Sunny were adopted in March 2005. Sunny was renamed "Soleado" (which is Spanish for "Sunny" because his "dad" is Spanish) and then immediately his name was shortened to Soli.

Their "Mum" writes:-

"Although they are litter brothers, they have very different personalities. Soli is loud, extrovert and demanding; Chester is much more nervous, but will sit on any available adult lap, whereas Soli, despite being the braver of the two, will only sit on his "mum's" knee. Most evenings, they will both squeeze on to my lap, which is no mean feat as they are not small. Everyone says how sweet natured they are. They've kept their distance from our children (aged 7

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and nearly 10) up to now, but as the children get older, they now tolerate being stroked by them.

Fortunately their lives have been pretty uneventful. Last winter, however, I shot out of my chair one evening because the Ten O'clock News came on and Soli hadn't asked for his dinner. This was unprecedented, and I was certain he was locked in a garage... or worse. I checked our shed and garage, shook his biscuits, nothing. Finally, I searched the house and found him curled up in the spare bedroom. I knew straightaway that something was wrong. I tried to pick him up, but he cried so much, I had to put him on a pillow and carry him downstairs as gently as I could. When I took him to the vet, he managed to walk, but he was very lame. The vet found he had a temperature and put him on a course of antibiotics and painkillers. When he still wasn't 100% a few weeks later, she started talking about investigations and worst-case scenarios. Despite feeling very anxious, I had a feeling he was going to be OK though — perhaps it was the fact that through it all, he never lost his appetite! So we agreed to delay the tests until after Christmas (another few weeks) and as I predicted, he staged a full recovery.

They both got into a few scrapes when we moved house two years ago. We back on to a park now and I'm sure they have come across foxes, badgers and dogs more than once. So for the first few weeks, they kept coming home with bumps and scratches. One time, Chester's wounds were more serious and the vet had to glue a couple of gashes — she thought he had squeezed through somewhere small in a hurry. I was reminded of Peter Rabbit squeezing himself under Mr McGregor's garden gate and I went out and opened up a few fast-entry routes for them in the garden fence (good for hedgehogs too). Now they love their new territory, but never go too far away. When I call them, they're nearly always there within seconds.”



Chester & Soli

LULU & MOLLY

LULU and MOLLY (who used to be known as Cherry and Blossom) were homed in 2013

Their “Mum” writes: -

“We are all well and happy! I have attached a picture of the girls in their new 'activity centre'. It is a little taller than I thought it would be, but they like it! The girls tend to be quite lively so getting pictures of them can be difficult. Lulu is easier to capture on film, but Molly is more difficult.”



Lulu & Molly

DENNIS

You may remember that over the Christmas/New Year period 2014/2015, Dennis was ejected from the home where he had been since a kitten, but thanks to the kindness and concern of neighbours, he found his way to C.L.A.W.S.

Sylvia, his fosterer, writes: -

“Dennis is quite a solitary cat and, due to his blindness, prefers to be on his own with no other cats. Also, due to his blindness, he cannot locate voice pitch but, by gentle clapping, he will follow this and can be guided by this if he gets a bit lost or forlorn as he does tend to go around in circles. He is 18 years old, but a very handsome boy. He is not a fussy cat and loves his food, his own bed and a good comb.

He nuzzles whilst being combed and petted, but is not a lap cat and does not like too much fuss, preferring his own space. He does compensate by talking to you with lots of chirrups, but does not actually purr! He is an exceptionally clean cat and always uses his tray and so he is very easy to look after.

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Dennis will need an owner who is patient and understanding of his age and blindness and prepared to give him his own space so he does not feel threatened."

Thank you, Sylvia, for looking after Dennis. He is a very lucky boy!



Dennis

TUPSY

When her owner, a long time supporter of C.L.A.W.S. died, aged 93, Topsy was all alone and homeless.

The Pastor of the local church took her in and contacted C.L.A.W.S. to see if we were able to care for her and we said "Yes", but asked that she keep Topsy for a few more days to enable us to make the necessary arrangements.

First, it was a trip to Alma Vets for a thorough examination, including blood tests. Although a couple of these showed results at the higher end of the normal spectrum, on the whole she was in good shape for a cat of her age (about 10 years old).

She settled in and ate well, so it was a matter of concern when we realised she was losing weight. Another trip to Alma was called for and a scan was undertaken which revealed a tumour on her liver, for which there is no treatment.

It was decided that she should be transferred into a foster home where she would enjoy all the comforts of home and get lots of TLC.

As you can see from the photo, she soon made herself at home and there is a strong bond between her and her fosterer. We do not know how long she will be with us, but she will live out her days in comfort, surrounded by love.



Topsy

GEORGE & LILY

GEORGE and LILY (then Dorcus) were adopted in 2010. Their "Mum" writes: -

"This is George And Lily. I have had them for 5 years. George is trouble but Lily is the perfect little lady!"



George



Lily

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EBONY

You may remember that Ebony was part of the Cardboard Box family that was packed into a box destined for the middle of the M4, but was rescued just in time by C.L.A.W.S.

She was more severely traumatised than her siblings and only recently has she begun to blossom (two years after her horrific experience), so we started looking for a very special quiet, indoor home with an owner who had cared for shy cats before and has the patience to continue her rehabilitation.

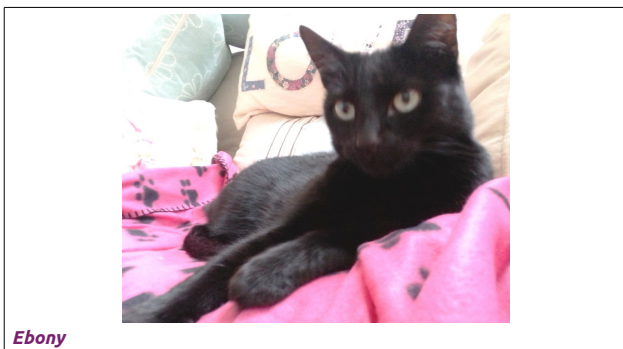
And it's happened! A lady read about Ebony on our website and got in touch. The home visit went well and Ebony went to her new home in early October.

A couple of days later, I heard from her new "Mum" saying:-

"Ebony is amazing!!! A different cat even after 2 days ... so affectionate. She laid over my lap on sofa for 40 minutes yesterday afternoon. She is very nosy and has explored every worktop and table and climbed the curtains. She wants to explore everywhere!"

I am so happy to have her - thank you all!"

We have received several more emails and it's all good news: we are delighted that dear Ebony has found that special home.



Ebony

ZAC, PUMPKIN & MARMITE

When Josh and Eve, his brother and sister, went to their new home, ZAC, then 5 months old, was fine as he still had his friends PUMPKIN and MARMITE to play with.

Earlier in the year, a lady, who had adopted a C.L.A.W.S. cat before, got in touch to say that, once they had settled into their new home, and completed the refurbishment,

they would be coming to C.L.A.W.S. to adopt a cat or two

And that is what they did. The home visit was completed successfully and then they came to meet the cats. They loved Pumpkin and Marmite – and the feeling was mutual – so they decided to adopt them.

But what would happen to little Zac? He would be left all on his own. What about adopting him too?

They went away to think about it and next day got in touch to say they wanted to offer Zac a home too!

What a wonderful outcome. We are thrilled.

We have since heard from their "Mum" who wrote :-

"They were quite shy for the first few days but with the help of some Dreamies and da bird toy, we won over Pumpkin and Marmite and then Zac a few days later. Since then, we've made steady progress and now they don't run and hide when we get home, in fact Pumpkin has started running to greet us. It still takes a few more minutes for Zac to come out of his hiding hole, but once he does, he really enjoys a good stroke, he just needs to overcome his suspicions first. Marmite is the most interested in food and will be the first to follow us to the kitchen, just in case it's food time. Pumpkin likes to explore the most and is busy investigating everything he can and finding new places to sleep (we are not sure where they are – he vanishes for several hours and then appears when he thinks he's missing out on something).

Pumpkin and Marmite keep pawing at the patio door, so I think they really want to get out there, so that will be the next big step."

As you can see from the photo, they have made themselves at home and are very happy and relaxed.



Marmite, Pumpkin & Zac (gorgeous photo, eh?)

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HECTOR & ZENA

Hector and Zena were born in August 2014 and were partially hand-reared as their mum didn't have enough milk to feed them.

They have had a perfect "childhood" with other kittens to play with and are the apple of their foster mum's eye.

Homing has been very slow over the last 12 months, but even so, we had been at a loss as to why these beautiful tabbies had not found a permanent home.

But then it all started to happen! Within a few days, three people had expressed an interest in them! We work on a "first come, first served" basis and we were asked by a long-term supporter of C.L.A.W.S, who runs a local cattery, if we had any suitable cats for a client of hers who sadly had lost his beloved cat recently.

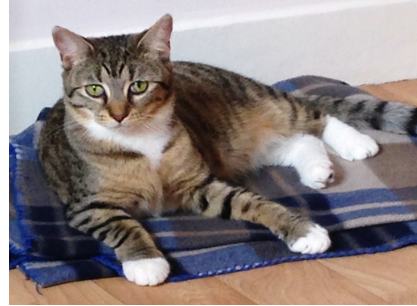
Of course, we immediately thought of Hector and Zena, and so a home visit was arranged. All was well and the gentleman came over the next day to meet them.

They connected immediately (especially to his shoe laces!!) and went to their new home in October. It has a large garden and is situated in a rural location.

They have settled in well but haven't yet gone outside. They sit in the window watching the local wildlife and are particularly interested in the chickens! Their new owner thinks that Zena will be the most accomplished hunter.



Hector



Zena

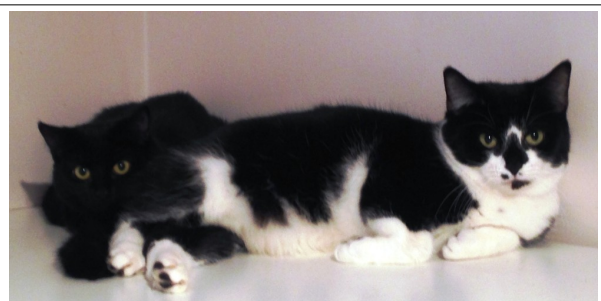
MINSTREL & TINA

When the last newsletter went to press in September, Minstrel and Tina had only just come into our care. They had been found hiding under a hedge, so were trapped and taken to the vet for an M.O.T. Both passed with flying colours.

Minstrel (mum) soon began to settle down, but Tina remained very skitty. Initially, she sat on top of the cupboard and hissed and spat at anyone who approached her.

Progress has been made over the last two months. First, Tina came down and sat with her mum on the floor, but still hissed. Very gradually, her fosterer managed to stroke her cheeks and then the top of her head before she rushed away. Recently she has allowed herself to be picked up – but it isn't long before she wriggles to be put down. Minstrel is very laid back now, but always keeps a watching eye on her little daughter.

They love to play together and, when the time comes, we will find them a loving home where they can enjoy a happy life.



Tina (L) & Minstrel (R) (bribed with Dreamies for the photo lol)

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KITTENS AT HOLIDAY INN

Helen was on her way to the gym at the Holiday Inn when she noticed some cats under the hedge.

Helen takes up the tale :-

Monday 19th October 2015

It was a normal Monday morning and I was heading to the gym. As I climbed the back steps at The Holiday Inn in Maidenhead and neared the doors to the gym, I saw some cats eating from food bowls! I looked again at this unusual sight and saw that there was a cat and 4 kittens all huddled together and munching breakfast! I went for a swim, but I couldn't stop thinking about their beautiful faces.

Tuesday 20th October 2015

After speaking to staff at the gym, it was clear that the cat and kittens were strays and they were living in the bushes and being fed by the hotel staff! My friend Jemma (another cat lover) and I felt sure that we should try and save them, but that was easier said than done! Unfortunately, they were very scared and we could only get close to the mother cat, who was very hungry!

Tuesday 27th October 2015

A week later, after discussions with Beverley at C.L.A.W.S. and a Manager at the Holiday Inn, we decided to have a go at catching these strays by using traps. I had already contacted The Blue Cross at Lewknor where I used to volunteer, and they were happy to take all of the strays if we could catch them. Time was ticking; winter was approaching! With the help of Beverley on the first day, we managed to catch the mother and one of her kittens (which we named Marley) and I drove them to Lewknor. They meowed most of the way and Marley tried her best hiss!

Wednesday 28th October 2015

Jemma and I took charge from today onwards and decided that we needed to leave the traps there overnight, so we borrowed the equipment from Beverley; chained them to the steps and put lots of food inside. We knew that we needed to catch these kittens, now that the mother had been removed! The staff were asked not to feed them, so the kittens would head towards the traps!

Thursday 29th October 2015

I got up very early and crept up the steps at 6am with anticipation! I was ecstatic to find a kitten (Mavis) in the trap. I took her home and made her comfortable in the

downstairs toilet. Mavis was very nervous. My cat Pixie took a little look, but wasn't too bothered!

The traps were re-set and our fingers were crossed to catch the other two, although we knew it wouldn't happen until the evening, once the hotel was quiet and the gym had closed. With this in mind, Jemma and I drove to Lewknor and reunited Mavis with her mum and Marley! It was a very happy reunion.

6pm - We decided to leave some tasty tuna in the traps!!! Around 9pm, Jemma and I went to the hotel to check the traps. As we advanced up the steps, we both thought we could hear a faint cry. Surely not? We looked at each other but didn't dare speak. As we got closer, we moved quickly with excitement! Could it be our third kitten? Yes it was!!!! Feeling elated and relieved, we took Mabel home to my house and kept her there overnight. Time for some sleep. Alarms set for 4am.

Friday 30th October 2015

We arrived at the hotel just after 4am (clothed in pajamas, Ugg boots and a warm coat) and we sneaked like mice towards the back entrance of the hotel. We actually felt like intruders; everywhere was silent, apart from the trap! There was a faint sound coming from the trap, which disappeared as we approached it. The traps were covered to shelter them from the rain and wind, so we couldn't see what was inside. We felt sure it would be a hedgehog. We prayed that it was the final kitten. Pulling back the covers, it was hard to see though the darkness, but suddenly we noticed something huddled in the corner of the trap. It was a black kitten!!! Our mission was complete!!!

I took the final kitten Marlon home to be with Mabel. Next stop was the Blue Cross at 10am.

Jemma and I were delighted to take the remaining kittens to Lewknor. We were so excited to see the family back together again. The others were all cosy there with beds, toys, food and the love of their mother (Catherine). Words cannot describe the sounds and sight of the reunion. It really was so emotional and such a great feeling to know they were now all safe.

After the rescue, we remarked how lucky it was that I saw them that one time on my way to the gym. The cold wet weather had started and fireworks were banging overhead. We were pleased that the strays were saved and being looked after.

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Wednesday 25th November 2015

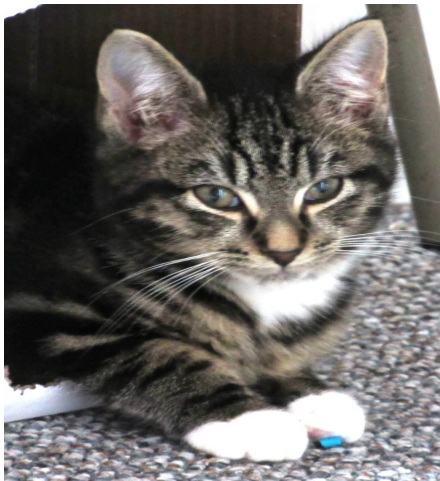
Catherine is doing well at the Blue Cross and is now on their website ready to be re-homed. Her kittens are in foster care being nurtured. They thought of some nice names for them (in order of rescuing)...Guy, Flame, Sparkle, and Bonnie.

What a fantastic ending to a heart-warming story.

(Editor: I think that Helen & Jemma deserve a medal, don't you?!)



Catherine – the mum



Guy



Sparkle

KITTENS IN SLOUGH

"There is a litter of kittens in my garden (5, I think) but no sign of the mum, so I have been feeding them. They are very nervous and I cannot touch them. I think they may belong to the lady next door."

This situation was fraught with difficulties.

We needed to: -

- find the mummy cat and establish who owned her;
- arrange for her to be neutered;
- trap the kittens and bring them into care

So, Beverley set off with a couple of traps – and managed to catch all 5 kittens at the first attempt. Amazing! They were about 4 months old - 2 tortoiseshell girls (named Prudence and Penny) and 3 boys (one ginger called Rupert, one black called Yogi and one black and white called Paddington: Paddy for short). But there was no sign of the mum. Although she was told that the mum was feeding, Beverley asked how could that be as she had caught the kittens. The owner was insistent "No, No – not Mummy Cat," so Beverley arranged to collect her in a few days. When Beverley returned, the owner again insisted that she could not take the mummy, beckoned her over to a basket, took off the lid and there was another litter of kittens, only a few weeks old.

Poor little mum-cat! Beverley arranged to return in 3 weeks when she would take the mum and kittens, have the mum neutered and returned to the owner and keep the kittens for re-homing.

Within a few days, she received a phone call to say she could collect the whole family and when she got there,

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she was told she could keep the mummy cat as well!

The whole operation was made more difficult as the owner could not speak English and Beverley's Urdu was not up to scratch!

C.L.A.W.S. did not have room for the whole family. A quick phone call to D.B.A.R.C. (Diane Brimblecombe Animal Rescue)– yes, they had a spare pen and so the little family went there. Problem solved.

We should like to thank D.B.A.R.C. for helping us out (again!) – we do appreciate your support.



Prudence (stunning, isn't she?)

We managed one kitten photo, but they are camera-shy!



Penny & Paddington (Paddy)

RUPERT

From the very start, RUPERT was a happy and confident kitten. Even before he came to C.L.A.W.S., he went into the house of the lady who fed him looking for company (and food!) How can one kitten out of a litter of five be so different?

He is now 5 months old - a friendly, extrovert little lad, loving to play and be made a fuss of.

He is looking for a quiet home and an owner who will be able to spend lots of time with him. As a single kitten, it is important that he has company for a large proportion of each day, otherwise he will be lonely and become bored and not develop into a well-adjusted and affectionate companion.

*****STOP PRESS!!!!****

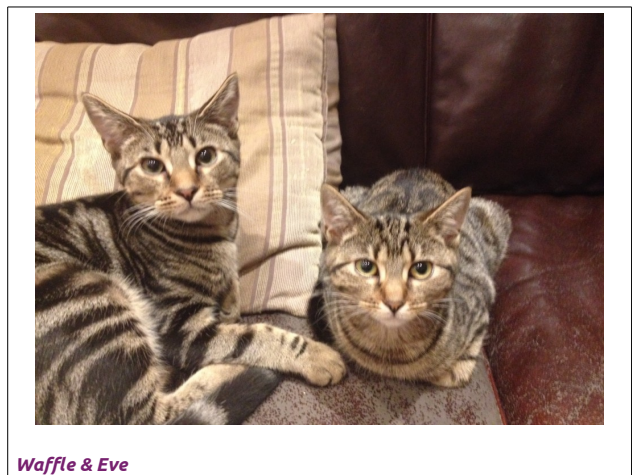
**RUPERT HAS GONE TO A LOVING HOME
UPDATE IN NEXT NEWSLETTER...**



Rupert

JOSH (WAFFLE) & EVE

Here is the latest photo of JOSH (now WAFFLE) and EVE. Haven't they grown!



Waffle & Eve

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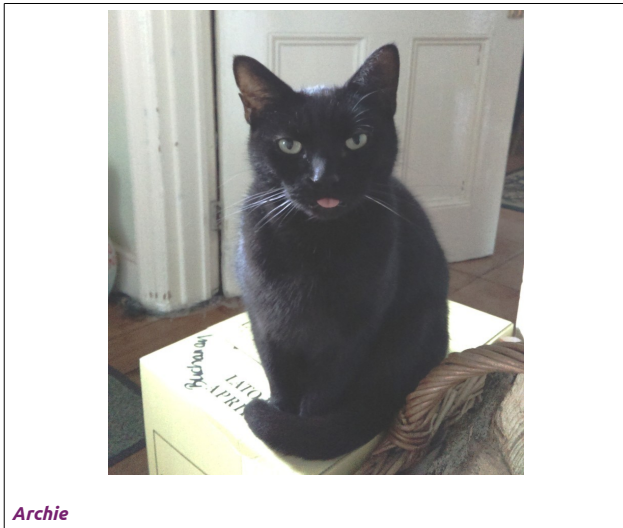
IN MEMORY OF ARCHIE

We were sad to learn of Archie's passing.

He developed a tumour and gradually went downhill until he had to be gently put to sleep.

He had a short but very happy life. He was much loved and brought joy to all who knew him.

He is greatly missed by Iain and Charles and his sister Chloe.



Archie



UPDATE FROM OZZIE (a C.L.A.W.S. rescue cat) Cat Correspondent from Deepest Devon

Since the last Mewsletturr, am very pleased to report that my logburner got fixed and it has been on almost every day since then. I love to spread out on the fleecything in front of the fire. I turn on my back and warm my belly. Sumtimes I even watch the flames cos it's like CatTV. MummySam even puts pixiedust in there to make the flames blue & green. It's magickul!

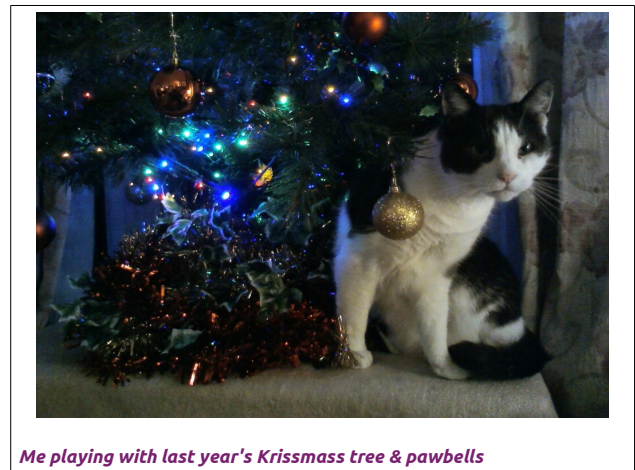
MummySam has got a new fleecything to put over her knees when she sits on the sofa. Leppard print – what else? When I get too hot from roasting my belly in front of the fire, I like to push my sister Jet off MummySam's lap and cosy up to her. My mate Rocky is often already

cuddled up on the other side, so we make a cat-sandwich. It's especially good when she stretches out full length on the sofa cos we can pin her legs down too!!

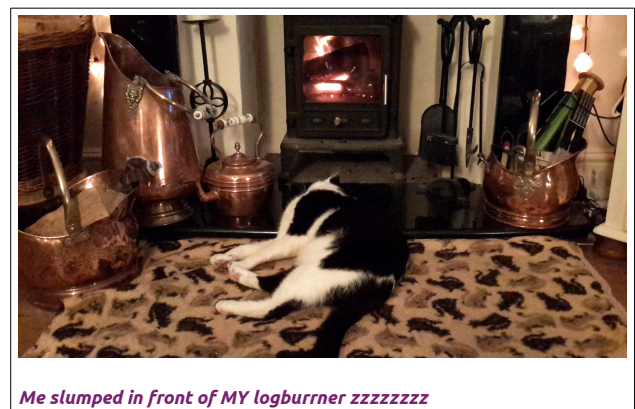
DaisyNextDoor came to play with us again a couple of weeks ago. She was nice to us and sprayed catnip on our toyz and playtunnel. MummySam bought us a new whizzy toy but it's noizy and my wusspuss sister Jet runs away from it. We've also got us a new scratchposttthingy for AtTheTopOfTheStairs. We're not sure about that either, but we're lurning to like it.

MummySam has been muttering about Krissmass again. She reckons there will be no tree for us this year or any pawbells for me to play with. So here's a photo of me from last year when I got to play with the tree and the pawbells. Aren't I hansum?

Merry Krissmass from me, Ozzie, and my best mate Rocky and my sister Jet xxx



Me playing with last year's Krissmass tree & pawbells

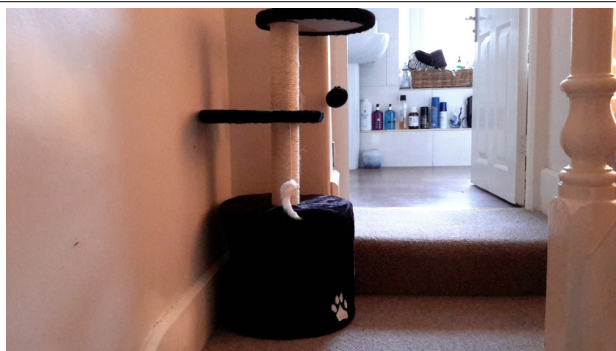


Me slumped in front of MY logburner zzzzzzzz

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Rockhead & his gurrfriend Jet, and me stretched out



Our new scratchpostthingy. My sister is invisible when she goes inside it and shuts her eyes!!



HELPING CATS

REMINDER

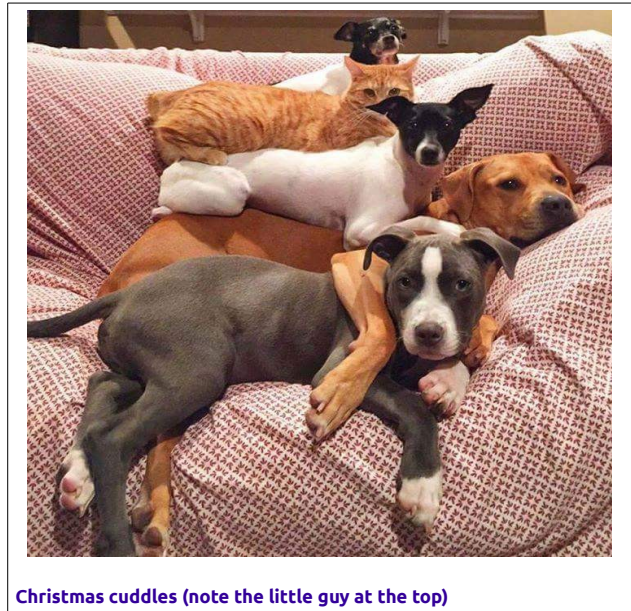
If you have an enquiry about taking a cat into care please ring Sue on the Helpline (01189 341699).

She holds the master plan to the pens and foster homes which she updates daily.

Currently we are full.



ON A LIGHTER NOTE



Christmas cuddles (note the little guy at the top)



CAT LOVERS ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

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Thank you for reading this bumper update. Hope you enjoyed it.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope that your celebrations are full of love and laughter, and that your animal companions do not overdose on too much Christmas fare – so much turkey, so little time..... Enjoy!

See you next year.

Sam Collington
December 2015
www.c-l-a-w-s.org.uk

