

# THE CAT'S WHISKERS

SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

SPRING 2023



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# GETTING READY FOR SPRING!

There's nothing like a good old sort out during winter. Putting things where they belong, throwing out the damaged cat beds, replacing with our new Christmas presents. Repairs, maintenance, plans and schemes are all part of shelter preparation for the oncoming year, for who knows what it will bring.

Our new guineapig enclosure is nearly finished; home to 20 noisy but entertaining cavies all of which have come into our shelter to live with our "herd". We have castrated all the males so that they can live in harmony with one another and with the females.

We are looking ahead to opening up our shelter to visitors again this year, whilst this is a lovely time to meet our existing and potential new supporters whilst showcasing our charity's shelter, it does involve a lot of input from our volunteers who we rely on for so many things. Volunteering is at the heart of all successful charities, and we are extremely grateful for those who support us in this way.

**Marion Micklewright**  
Chairman and Shelter Manager



# ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE CAT'S WHISKERS

## **Published quarterly – March, June, September and December**

In June 2017 Shropshire Cat Rescue relaunched its quarterly magazine as a brand new, full-colour glossy magazine. It is full of interesting and informative articles about cat care and the work the Shelter does.

With a quarterly distribution of 1000 copies, your advertisement can be seen in homes, Vets and more all around Shropshire. It is available online through our website and Facebook page, which has an audience of around 50,000 cat lovers.

BUSINESSES – WHY NOT PROMOTE YOUR GOODS AND SERVICES TO THESE CAT LOVERS WITH AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS EXCITING NEW PUBLICATION? THE MAGAZINE IS A CONTEMPORARY, SQUARE FORMAT MEASURING 148X148MM.

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**Full Page** - £80 per edition - £240 for the year

**Prestigious Back Cover** Position - £120 per edition - £360 for the year

**Contact us NOW to be part of this exciting magazine! Telephone Marion Micklewright on: 01743 872857. Email: [info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)**



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# GEMMA'S STORY

by Gemma Sinister, volunteer

Hi, my name is Gemma, I'm thirty seven years old and I'm a Shrewsbury girl born and bred.

For the past ten months I've been a volunteer for Shropshire Cat Rescue working at their charity shop in the town centre.

Since birth, I have limited mobility and use a wheelchair to get around. I also have a mild learning disability but this doesn't hold me back.

I chose to volunteer for SCR because of my love for animals, especially cats. The feistier the better! This and wanting to socialise more motivated me to help.

Since I've been working at the shop I've gained new skills such as tagging, sizing, hanging and labelling clothes as well as sorting through donations. The staff are great, they accommodate my needs and always make me feel welcome.

I enjoy meeting new people, everyone is friendly and I'm still meeting new faces and enjoy having a cuppa and chatting with them during my shift.

My favourite part of the job is looking out for Disney memorabilia as I'm a big fan. The worst, is usually my commute to town, that and breaking the odd nail...

After finishing for the afternoon, my support worker accompanies me to a café for a well earned hot drink. Each week I look forward to my shift and hopefully I'll continue to volunteer for Shropshire Cat Rescue for a long time as I love it!





# WINTER WONDERLAND

by Susie Phillips

On the 18th December we held our Winter wonderland, it was so lovely to see everyone and Santa Paws helper loved meeting our supporters. Everyone who came were super generous and we raised over £500 which was amazing. The Paws Gift Bags donated were then handed out on Christmas Eve by Santa Paws and was filmed live on Facebook. The Retirement Village cats greeted their supporters and showed off their cottage's decorations. Letters for Santa Paws asking for what our shelter cats wanted and cats who had their forever homes for Christmas, were carefully handed to Santa Paws on Christmas Eve to ensure Santa Paws knew what cats wanted for Christmas.

Our meet and greet resident cats made sure visitors were greeted with a purr and fuss demand, they also checked out the Paws Gift Bag donations and Pongo of course found the cat nip toys. Molly decided she would prefer to

supervise the event in the gift shop and helped select the comfiest beds up on the top shelf. The Paws For a Cuppa café did a roaring trade and the staff room played host to our visitors who were entertained by the cats and kittens in the emergency pens in there.

We look forward to meeting you all at our 2023 Winter Wonderland.



# VILLAGE LIFE

by Karen Wainwright, volunteer

The moggies who reside in the retirement village are happily going about their business unaware of the pressures our charity is under due to the energy crisis. All of the residents enjoy the warmth of the electric heaters which older cats in particular do need. Unfortunately, our energy bills are spiraling out of control; a situation to which we have all become accustomed. If you are able to make any donations to Shropshire Cat Rescue it would be gratefully appreciated to help pay towards our electricity bills.

Due to the cold snap that we have had most moggies have been very sensible in staying in the cottages and Moggies Mansion during this period. It's not very often that there is little activity going on outside their little homes.

Since our last edition I can report that we have had a number of new additions to the retirement village. All of them are adorable, the details of three of them are shown on the following page.

**ebay**™ **Did you know ...**

You can help to support us by buying items from our ebay shop? We have a unique range to choose from.





## LILLA



## LACEY



## BISCUIT



### Lilla & Lacey

These sisters came to us due to their owner's health problem. They are both 12 years old and are very affectionate and enjoy lots of company. Lilla isn't very keen at being picked up at the moment but I'm sure it won't be long before I can hold her and give her lots of love. Lacey cannot get enough love.

### Biscuit

Biscuit is a very affectionate cat, he purrs so loudly and craves attention. I found that Biscuit didn't like me to pick him up much. I will persevere!

# THE BIG PURR PROJECT

(Plan for Ultimate Rescue Relocation)

Several years ago now we launched our very important PURR project. Our aim is to raise £2Million to relocate within a five-to-seven mile radius of our current shelter. Our stipulation, a large country house to offer short term accommodation to students or other visitors, warden housing and office space, and land to accommodate and rehabilitate our animals, carparking and eventing.

In December 2021 we reached the half way mark of £1Million, unfortunately this didn't last too long as our money is invested and our MPs decided to make a few unsavoury decisions which led to a fall in the investment market. To date we are close to half way but we are very reliant upon generous legacies to give us that final push towards achieving our goal. If you are interested in becoming an important part of our journey, or would like to learn

more about PURR, please email [marion.moggies@gmail.com](mailto:marion.moggies@gmail.com) and Marion will be happy to send you our brochure and/or discuss legacy options with you.

PURR will happen, but whilst we wait for our investment to grow and our legacy promises to come about, our current shelter is where we learn, build contacts and relationships and expand our reputation as a charity that helps animals who in turn help people.



# STATISTICS FOR 2022

by Marion Micklewright, Chairman and Shelter Manager

As part of our report that is sent to the Charity Commission each year, we include the following data which may be of interest.

- We admitted 283 cats. Out of those, 131 were abandoned or strays, 16 were born on site, 8 were admitted due to their owners moving house and 18 were admitted due to the ill health of their owner.
- The busiest month of the year for Admissions was October. Busiest rehoming months were September and October.
- The maximum number of cats and kittens at the shelter at one time was 95 in October.
- We have worked to trap, neuter, release (TNR) with five different sites this year covering the full costs of over 34 adult cats (blood test for FIV, FeLV, worm/flea treatment, ear-tip, neuter) costing in excess of £2,424.56, whilst admitting young kittens into the shelter. We also provide food donated by the public to support the feeding of feral colonies.
- We have issued neutering vouchers for 27 cats at a reduced rate of £30 for a male and £40 for a female, to help those who are struggling financially.
- We have authorised vets to treat 21 stray or abandoned cats with the full cost being met by ourselves, that we were not able to admit into the shelter due to lack of space.



# VET DETECTIVE:

## THE CASE OF HOW INFLATION AFFECTED JENNY

by Rebecca Bennett

Last February at our routine vet visit, we first met Jenny, a cat who many of you will now know as a long-term resident at the shelter. At the time, she was frail and thin, certainly looking as though her future was uncertain. Her heart was racing, and she weighed in at just 2.4kg (an 'average' cat weighs 4kg); this was despite her having an excellent appetite. The combination of these clinical signs fitted with a diagnosis of Hyperthyroidism; a hormone condition commonly seen in older cats.

Hyperthyroidism can be successfully treated with options such as such as daily tablets, or by surgery, as well as more specialised procedures such as radioactive iodine treatment. Mostly at the shelter, we stabilise cats on tablet treatment for around a month, then operate to remove the overactive thyroid gland.

Thyroid glands are located on the underside of the neck, beside the windpipe (trachea). There are two glands, but often only one is overactive so commonly we do a 'unilateral', or one-sided operation. Closely linked to the thyroid glands are tiny glands called the parathyroid glands- inadvertent damage to these can be life threatening.

In March 2022 Jenny had her first operation; at this stage we found that both her glands were enlarged and bilateral surgery would be needed to remove them. We generally find it safer to do the operation as what we call a 'staged procedure' – remove one gland, allow the patient to recover, then remove the second gland a few weeks later. Over the years we have found this the most effective way of reducing post-operative complications.



Jenny after her second surgery, showing us that her appetite was still excellent (lick-e-lix on her nose ).



Jenny now, a perfect weight and a happy cat.

Jenny recovered well from her first operation and after just a month her weight was 3kg-she had gained 25% of her initial bodyweight! Six weeks after her second operation she had increased to 3.4kg. We were pleased that she then steadily improved, and now weighs in at a healthy 3.9kg.

Inflation has been reported as having many negative consequences over the last 6 months, but at least we can confidently say that Jenny has benefitted from the non-financial version!

Rebecca has worked as a Veterinary Surgeon at Quarry Veterinary Group in Shrewsbury since 2008. Alongside Veterinary Nurse Michelle, they visit the shelter weekly to provide veterinary care to the cats. They fondly call it their 'Therapy Thursday'- we all know how important cuddling cats is!

## How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

### **SPONSOR A CAT**

# £20

There are so many different kittens and cats who really benefit from your support; from young mothers to elderly cats who need extra medical support. See our website to find out more.

### **SPONSOR THE NURSERY**

# £30

The Nursery has 7 units and 2 incubators. It is closely monitored by the dedicated volunteers as young kittens can get into trouble very quickly. Immediate veterinary attention is available to the mother and the kittens should they require it.

### **SPONSOR THE RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

# £60

The Retirement Village was created using donations, sponsorship and the hard work from volunteers. It compromises 6 chalets and a summerhouse to house our permanent residents.

### **SPONSOR THE SHELTER**

# £100

The Shelter was established in Bayston Hill, Shropshire in 1998. Currently home to residents and villagers, our full capacity is around 122 cats and kittens. In addition there is a Hospital, Nursery, Retirement Village, office, laundry room, feeding Village, shop and café for visitors.

[www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/donate](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/donate)



## Some of our cats who need a sponsor.



A

**Pickle** was admitted into the Shelter in 2014, rehomed and then re-admitted in 2016 at the age of 10. She is tabby and white and lives contently in the Retirement Village.



B

**Titch** was born in 2000 and lives at the Shelter. She is blind but that doesn't deter from her loving nature.



C

**Annwyn** came to live at the Shelter in Spring 2017 as a very young mother to one kitten. She is a tortoiseshell who lives life to the full!



D

**Morris** is just over 2 years old and has been one of our free rangers since December 2019. He's a tabby and white cat, and loving son to Vera, another one of our free rangers.

## Your sponsorship or your gift

Sponsor a cat <b>A   B   C   D</b> please circle your choice	<b>£20</b>		Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months.
The Nursery	<b>£30</b>		You will receive a Sponsorship Certificate, plus an information sheet about your chosen sponsorship package, one or more photographs and an annual update to keep you in touch.
The Moggies Retirement Village	<b>£60</b>		
The Shelter	<b>£100</b>		In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine
<b>TOTAL PAYABLE</b>	<b>£</b>		

Please return this form with either a cheque, made payable to: **Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU**, or a BACS payment to Shropshire Cat Rescue. Account number: 12504025 Sort Code: 555005. Reference: **SPONSORSHIP**. More information about our sponsorship packages can be found online at [www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)

*giftaid it* - boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

I am a UK Taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid the cost of my sponsorship package. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.	Please tick
---	-------------

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Shropshire Cat Rescue from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

## Your details

Title:	Address:
First Name(s):	
Surname:	
Tel:	
Email:	Postcode:

## Is this a Gift?

If you are purchasing a sponsorship package as a gift, please provide the recipient's details below. Your gift will be sent directly to them with a gift card bearing your name. **To ensure your gift arrives on time, please order your gift package at least 2 weeks before the special day.**

Date gift should arrive by:	Occasion: Birthday/Anniversary/Christmas
Who is gift from (to appear on card):	Other occasion:
Name of recipient:	
Address:	



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# SPAR HEROES

There's nothing quite like a group of 14 willing and very able volunteers arriving on a cold but dry January morning ready to tackle a very lengthy list of backbreaking jobs. But that's exactly what happened when Jim from the Bayston Hill SPAR shop coordinated volunteers from various sites from Stoke to Ludlow to "give us helping hand". Our very grateful thanks go to all who came and our understanding is that they want to come again later in the year!



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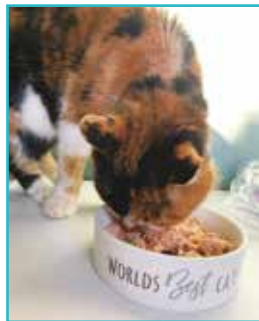
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# MOLLY TURNS 22!



This February we had a very special birthday in the retirement village. Molly came to Shropshire cat rescue in 2019 and due to her age, we decided the retirement village would be the perfect place for her to spend her golden years. Molly really settled into the village and she thinks she's the boss of them all. She is the only cat who is allowed to roam outside the village as she is very good at letting the volunteers know when she wants to go back to the village, to go for a rest in moggies mansion. Molly

sees the vets for regular check-ups with lots of treats on offer. She has had an amazing birthday with her own cake and lots of attention off all the volunteers. She had presents and cards of supporters too. Molly would like to thank everyone who has wished her a happy birthday. Cats like Molly would not have the life they have if it wasn't for all the amazing donations and support, we have off you all so thank you from Molly and all the rest of the village cats.



# IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATIONS

We see a lot of cats admitted to the shelter who have not been vaccinated. Some had kitten vaccinations but not boosters, some boosters ran out and never got restarted. Something we hear very often is “He/she doesn’t go out very often so doesn’t need vaccinations” which sadly is simply not true.

We see cats being treated weekly for diseases which are easily prevented by yearly vaccinations, which is so upsetting to see.

Core vaccinations are essential for cats to protect against numerous diseases, including Cat Flu and Feline Enteritis. The initial starting vaccination is given in 2 parts, 3-4 weeks apart. This then needs to be boosted yearly to ensure they remain protected. The longer they go without yearly boosters, the more at risk they are.

Yearly boosters are also a great chance for your vet to give the cat a thorough check over and pick up

on any issues before they become too extreme.

Did you know...

- Some insurance becomes invalid if your cat does not receive annual boosters
- Your indoor cat does still need vaccinating! Whilst the risks are not as great, they are still there and are still potentially deadly
- Boarding catteries can have strict vaccination history requirements in place; meaning you won’t be able to only get them vaccinated if you want to use a cattery.

Vaccinations are also available for FeLV and FIV. These diseases are often transmitted to and from cats that like to spend a lot of time outdoors or are known to fight other cats. It is always worth a discussion with your vet to see if this vaccination is suitable for your pet’s lifestyle.

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# FOREVER HOME 2024 CALENDAR COMPETITION

by Susie Phillips



It's that time of year when we ask those who have adopted cats from us to send in pictures to go in our Forever Homes calendar. We love to see pictures and receive updates, each year we hold a competition to find the stars of our Forever home Calendar.

So, if you have adopted a cat from us then why not enter them. Send your pictures to [shropshirecatrescuecalendar.org.uk](http://shropshirecatrescuecalendar.org.uk) with some info about your cats by 14th May.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP SENIOR AND SUPER SENIOR CATS

by Susie Phillips

As our cats age there are different things we can do to help them.



Providing steps up to places that are higher up where they like to rest can really help, especially those who have Osteoarthritis.

Raising bowls up reduces the risk of leaning down to drink or eat being painful.

- Elderly or injured cats may need low sided entries as easier to enter.
- Get creative, large plastic boxes can be adapted by carefully cutting out a side and smoothing cut edges or covering them with tape.
- Plastic style dog beds or large garden trays could also be used.
- Creating an outdoor toileting area where they will be hidden also helpful, loosen soil and add fine/play sand (not builders sand) to aid drainage.



- Some cats prefer running water this can be achieved by using water fountains, when you're not on hand to turn the tap on for them.
- Providing safe drinking water outside is also important. Ensure outdoor water fountains and watering cans are free from dangerous chemicals.



If you are concerned about your cat's mobility or general health we advise you to contact your veterinary practice. Cats can have a range of different old age related diseases that can be helped with treatment as well as adaptations at home. Due to cats being territorial solitary hunters they are very good at hiding illness and pain as showing them could be detrimental to their survival, which is why we recommend regular check ups with your vets.

# WHY NEUTER YOUR MALE CAT

## 5 IMPORTANT REASONS



**UNNEUTERED MALE CATS STRAY FURTHER** This can mean they can get lost if they stray too far. Males who are unneutered tend to have a wider territory and will follow unneutered females who are calling. This can make them more at risk of getting lost.

### **UNNEUTERED MALE CATS ARE MORE LIKELY TO FIGHT**

They are more likely to protect their territory. This can make them at risk of cat fight injuries.



**UNNEUTERED MALE CATS SUSTAIN MORE INJURIES** Due to them straying further they are at higher risk of being involved in cat fights, road traffic accidents and other accidents.





### **UNNEUTERED MALES ARE AT MORE RISK OF DISEASE**

Due to them being more likely to get involved in fights and having a larger territory, they are at higher risk of contracting diseases like Feline Immunodeficiency Virus.



### **UNNEUTERED MALES ARE MORE LIKELY TO URINE MARK**

They are more likely to spray and urine mark within the home and their territory. Their urine also has a stronger scent to it than neutered males.

**SPEAK WITH YOUR VETS** If you have any concerns about getting your cat neutered please speak with your vet. They can help and advise on the right age and discuss the procedure with you and answer any further questions you may have.



**WWW.SHROPSHIRECATRESCUE.ORG.UK**

Registered Charity Number: 1071884

Windy Ridge,

Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill,

Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU

info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

**01743 872857**



# WHY NEUTER YOUR FEMALE CAT

## 7 IMPORTANT REASONS



**UNNEUTERED FEMALE CATS STRAY FURTHER** This can mean they can get lost if they stray too far. Females who are unneutered come into season and they go searching and calling for a male. This can make them more at risk of getting lost, as they may lose track of where they are due to their hormones taking over.

### **UNNEUTERED FEMALE CATS SUSTAIN MORE INJURIES**

Due to them straying further they are at higher risk of being involved in cat fights, road traffic accidents and other accidents. The act of mating is not gentle for cats and the male will hold the female by biting the back of their neck.



### **UNNEUTERED FEMALES ARE AT MORE RISK OF DISEASE**

They are at higher risk of contracting diseases like Feline Immunodeficiency Virus which can be contracted through intercourse.

**FROM JUST 4 MONTHS OLD CATS CAN BECOME PREGNANT** At around 4 months old cats can become sexually mature meaning cats can become pregnant before reaching adulthood.





**CATS WILL MATE WITH CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS** That means that mums and sons, brothers and sisters, dads and daughters will mate. This can increase the risk of birth defects and health complications along with genetic abnormalities.

**RAISING KITTENS IS COSTLY AND TIME CONSUMING** To keep the female healthy during pregnancy and nursing she will need a kitten food throughout and until the kittens are weaned. At 4-5 weeks the kittens will start to require food meaning you will have more mouths to feed until they have homes. If the kittens require hand rearing the cost in money and time increases dramatically.



**FINDING HOMES FOR THE KITTENS CAN BE DIFFICULT** You could be left with some of the kittens. Caution should be used when looking for homes for them as it is difficult to determine if people coming forwards for them are what they appear to be and the kittens could come to harm.

**SPEAK WITH YOUR VETS** If you have any concerns about getting your cat neutered please speak with your vet. They can help and advise on the right age and discuss the procedure with you and answer any further questions you may have.

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## Who's Who at Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Shropshire Cat Rescue is a Registered Charity (number 1071884). The charity was established in 1998 and is proud to have Virginia McKenna and Jim Hawkins as Patrons.

You can contact the Shelter on **01743 872857** and the Shropshire Cat Rescue Shop (69 Mardol, Shrewsbury SY1 1PZ) on **01743 236222**. You can write to the Shelter Manager, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU or email **[info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)**

Chairman .....	Marion Micklewright
Trustees.....	Dianne Beaumont Marg Lloyd, Helen Smith, Anne Butt, Susie Phillips, Sam Rushby
Legacies Officer .....	Peter Kampler
Outreach .....	Julie Kampler
Personnel Manager .....	Helen Smith
Shelter Manager .....	Marion Micklewright
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