

THE CAT'S WHISKERS

SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

WINTER 2023



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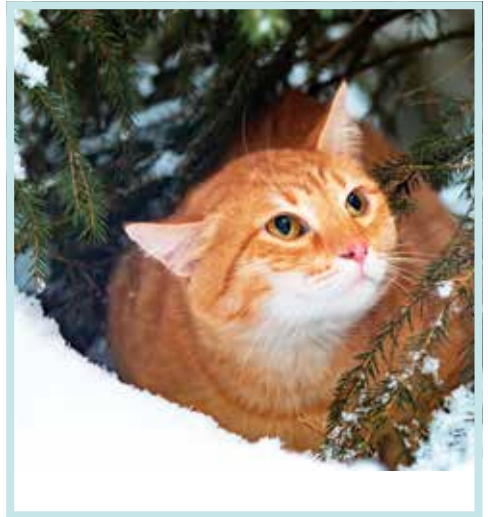
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WELCOME TO WINTER

What a busy year this has been – so far!! Autumn wasn't as quiet as we had thought it would be; our staff room is still full of cats and kittens but our Shrewsbury town shop has done us proud and our fundraisers have been out and about raising much needed money which isn't easy with the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Winter is the time of year when the heaters come on, cosy bedding is in demand and food often has to be warmed up in the microwave to keep underfed tummies warm. Cats that have been living as strays in gardens, under hedges or in exposed car parks are increasingly at the forefront in the minds of concerned members of the public as the weather becomes wetter, colder and bleak. The pressure is on and our space is limited but we urge the public to contact us - even if we can't offer shelter, a vet check will ensure that cats are able to thrive in the great outdoors, most strays can do so with a little help from their human friends.



Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers, you are amazing and without you we wouldn't be able to move forward. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

Marion Micklewright
BEM 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.

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

A TRIBUTE TO OUR QUEEN MOLLY



Molly was a cat who came to Shropshire Cat Rescue from Cats Protection, along with her three siblings Mindy, Willow and Cracker. Over the years, Molly's siblings each passed away, whilst Molly assumed lead of the Village. She was an amazing cat who enjoyed going around the shelter seeing what everyone was doing. She loved also going back to the Village for naps and sitting in the cupboard seeing what extra food she could get from the volunteers. Molly celebrated her 22nd birthday in February, enjoying her own birthday cake and lovely gifts from volunteers and supporters who helped make her day perfect. Over the last few

months Molly was becoming more frail, and in October we had to let her go and join her siblings over the rainbow bridge. I personally will miss Queen Molly as she really was my best friend and we enjoyed some lovely times, including a sleepover last September when Molly really enjoyed cuddling up to me all night and protecting me.

I would just like to personally thank everyone for all your support since the passing of our Queen Molly; all your lovely memories and comments about her have been lovely to read and to share with all the supporters and volunteers.

Molly is a cat who will never be forgotten. Love you Molls.



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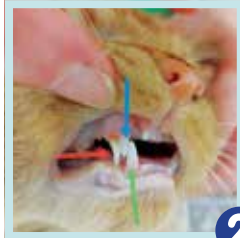
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VET DETECTIVE: THE CASE OF LEO AND HIS CROOKED SMILE

by Rebecca Bennett, Quarry Vets. Shrewsburys



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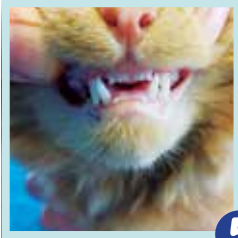
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3



4



5



The handsome Leo thought it was his time to shine in this edition of the magazine; he was a particularly handsome chap although he would not pose properly for his photoshoot!

For this article, continuing with the theme of the dental problems that we see at Shropshire Cat Rescue, I thought Leo's teeth deserved a mention.

We saw him for his routine check over and vaccination at around 6 months of age. When a cat is 5 months old, the canine teeth (the big 'fangs' at the front of the jaw) start to become visible and these teeth are then usually fully erupted at 6 months. The baby, or 'deciduous' teeth, should be pushed out by the developing adult teeth. A general rule in dentistry is that there should never be an adult and baby tooth

of the same 'type' visible in the mouth at the same time. If there is, problems can develop.

In Leo's case, although both his permanent lower canine teeth were developing normally (marked with a green arrow in photo 2), his upper permanent teeth were not as well developed (blue arrow), and in fact the deciduous teeth were still present (red arrow). The presence of these 'persistent' teeth was abnormal; it is a problem seen relatively frequently in our canine patients, but not as commonly in felines.

Why does this matter? In Leo's case, the persistent deciduous teeth were sitting in the position where the permanent teeth should be, meaning the permanent teeth were erupting further forwards in his mouth. This resulted in the space, or 'diastema' where the lower teeth normally sit to be narrowed. In Leo's case, this was causing his lower teeth to traumatise his gums and rub against the upper teeth, a painful situation. This can be seen in photo

3, marked with yellow arrows.

The solution? Extraction of the problematic baby teeth. Leo came in for castration, and at the same time we removed his persistent deciduous teeth. Sometimes they will eventually fall out on their own, but Leo's teeth did not even have a little wobble! Photo 4 shows the x ray we took before extractions, the deciduous teeth marked with a red arrow and the permanent teeth with a blue arrow.

Photo 5 was Leo's mouth a week after extractions had been completed. Pressure had been removed from the developing adult teeth, allowing them to naturally move into a normal, comfortable position. Leo can now have a happy, pain free life with his particularly winning toothy smile. Problem solved!

Rebecca Bennett graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1999 and has worked at Quarry Vets, Shrewsbury since 2008. She particularly enjoys working with cats, the highlight of her week being the weekly routine vet visit to Shropshire Cat Rescue



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING DAY

by Marion Micklewright. BEM Shelter Manager

We have been blessed this year with groups of volunteers being "gifted" by their companies to spend a day volunteering at our Shelter. In October we met the Home Serve group of five volunteers who came together from all around the UK to support us. Battling with an array of creepy crawlies, the team cleared and

cleaned our event shed, enabling us to have a good sort out prior to our Christmas events; of course we did allow them some cat cuddle time too!

Thank you all for your hard work and sense of humour, we now have a clutter-free event shed!

VILLAGE LIFE

by Karen Wainwright Volunteer

During the past three months we have had quite a few new residents in our Retirement Village. Before I introduce them to you, I thought I would give you some facts on the occupants at the time of writing.

Firstly, we currently have a fairly balanced number of males to female, with a ratio of 10:12

(males:females). The average age of our male occupants is 14 years 10 months, compared to our females whose average age is 15 years 4 months, making the average age of all residents in the Village to be 15 years 2 months. I will now introduce you to our new residents.



Lucky (male) and Lucy (female) arrived at the Shelter at the beginning of September and they have settled in very quickly. They are both 17 years of age and I found them to be very friendly. Both of them enjoy being picked up and are happy to stay on your lap. Lucy, bless her, is deaf and she enjoys her own space whilst Lucky suffers from arthritis.





Sweep arrived in mid September. He is a 15 year old male who has had both of his ears amputated due to cancer. Sweep also has a heart murmur. He is an introverted moggy but does enjoy a quiet fuss. Sweep often becomes stressed and is reluctant to leave his bed.



Phoebe arrived at the shelter towards the end of September. Phoebe is 13 years old and is a very friendly moggy - she runs up to you when you arrive in the Retirement Village, and will then follow you around but doesn't appear keen to stay on your lap. I found her adorable.



Sweetie came towards the end of October. She is nearly 17.5 years old. Sadly she is very arthritic and has no teeth! She seemed very reserved when I met her and stayed in one of the cottages



Milo



Bailey

Milo and Bailey (both males) arrived together. This is the second time that Milo and Bailey have stayed with us, as sadly their most recent owner suffers from poor health. Milo is 14.5 years and Bailey 13.5 years old. Milo has a heart murmur and Bailey has only one eye.



LIFE AT THE SHELTER

by Marion Micklewright. BEM Shelter Manager

At the time of writing (mid-November), the weather has been very wet but mild for the time of year; this has brought a huge number of kittens into our already crowded shelter, the majority of which came to us with and still need expensive veterinary intervention. Our temporary pens are becoming less and less temporary as we aren't tempt

fate by taking empty ones down. The cost of living crisis is driving an influx of untreated injured and sick cats into our care and our vet bills are growing each month.

The problem with having sick cats in a Shelter is that their problems can quickly become other cats' problems too. So our dedicated volunteer team have been putting together plans and strategies to

help ease the burden by instigating diet and treatment plans; we have purchased cameras to watch closely cats that are of concern physically and mentally and we are recording daily data on the cats' behaviour, eating and toileting habits.

Susie Phillips and I recently attended an Intensive five-day training course at Battersea Cat and Dog Home in London. We learned a huge amount from our colleagues and are now beginning to adapt our own practices to the

Battersea way of thinking, that is to assess, treat and rehome as quickly, effectively and efficiently as possible, using workable processes to achieve the desired outcome.

In order to keep up with the changing world around us, we at the Shelter are very much kept on our toes. Any advice, experience or observations are welcomed and often implemented as our goal is to provide the best, most cost effective and fair outcomes for the many cats in our care.

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SPONSOR THE NURSERY

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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

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The Retirement Village was created using donations, sponsorship and the hard work of 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

Some of our cats who need a sponsor.



A

Titch came to the shelter in February 2013. She had been taken to Tern Veterinary Surgery as a stray. She was initially thought to be elderly, probably thirteen or fourteen years old, due to her condition. Poor Titch was blind, had cat 'flu and suspected kidney failure.

She was treated for the 'flu and, as she had made a good recovery considering her other health problems, it was decided to give Titch a few last weeks to live in the homely environment of the Retirement Village at the Bayston Hill Shelter. Titch thrived!



B

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!



C

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.

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The Moggies Retirement Village	£60		
The Shelter	£100		In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine
TOTAL PAYABLE	£		

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

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THE LOST BOY – SWEEP

How one of our newest Villagers captured the hearts of the Shelter, reminding us why we do what we do.



Sweep is a little heart breaker. He sadly lost his beloved owner who had to go into residential care and was alone for nearly four months. He had family coming to feed him, but understandably he was too confused and distressed to really allow them to socialise with him.

Due to his owner's ill health before going into care, Sweep had not seen a vet for some time. The cat that arrived at our shelter was a

sorry sight. His ears were being eaten away by cancer, his fur was heavily matted, and he had a flea infestation, ticks and needed a dental check. This is a lot for even the most well-adjusted cat, never mind a potentially depressed little boy.

We took him to the vets for assessment, and asked them to be brutally honest with us. Does this cat stand a chance, or should we

save him any further distress and say goodbye now?

Luckily for Sweep, he showed the vets that he was a sweet boy who needed us to take a chance on him. So they got to work, shaving his matts and treating the fleas and ticks. He then went for a double ear amputation and dental treatment and has been making great progress.

Sweep is not too keen on people, preferring to keep to himself. Our vet describes him as an introverted cat, which fits him well. He does really enjoy the company of the other cats, so we know that village life is not too distressing for him. He likes spending time in Moggies Mansion with Beau, Mabel and Titch - Titch is missing an eye so perhaps they have bonded over their missing parts!

Sweep is very much a work in progress, he is monitored regularly to ensure he is not distressed or in any way suffering. We know that no matter what Sweep's future holds, we will always put his physical and mental health first and show him as much love as he lets us.



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Santa Paws is coming to Shropshire Cat Rescue

On Christmas Eve at 4:30pm live on Facebook and TikTok. Santa Paws will be delivering gifts to the resident cats and those looking for their foreverhome.

You can donate toys to be handed out via our online shop

You can donate toys to be handed out via our online shop



Or drop off cat toys at our shelter in Santa Paws gift box.

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/donate-to-shelter-cats

SLEEPOVER AT THE VILLAGE



At Shropshire Cat Rescue we have been making the Village more disabled-friendly so visitors can come and meet the amazing cats living there. I wanted to do something different but equally exciting to help raise some money towards the materials needed to make it possible.

I decided a sleepover in the Retirement Village would be different and if I'm honest it's something I have always wanted to

do. I set up a Just Giving page and the donations started coming in. On the night I had the sleepover I went live on TikTok talking to everyone and showing the followers what all the cats thought of me being there.

As soon as Kupala saw my pillow and quilt coming into the big mansion she ran with excitement to come and lie on them, purring away, so happy and content. Molly naturally didn't leave my side and

protected me all night maybe trying to get Kupala off the quilt but Kupala refused to move and Molly had to learn to share for the night. I had Philly and Mabel sitting on the cat tree keeping watch also. Titch enjoyed sleeping on my dressing gown purring away also. It's fair to say the night was enjoyed by all the cats and especially by me. We also had a visit from Rudy (our Shelter Manager's cat), who at one point managed to get through the gate and I had to chase around in the dark to try to find him; typical Rudy behaviour.

I raised £950 and I would like to thank everyone who donated as the money will make such a big impact in helping to make the Shelter better for everyone.

Since we have lost Molly I am even more grateful that I got this opportunity to have this sleepover as it a memory I will always treasure.



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CAT TAILS

Rachael & Karen Ashton

This year has seen a huge increase on kittens coming through the shelter, with large litters and plenty of pregnant cats coming in; we have had a lot of ups and downs. But here are a few stories of kittens and their mums who have touched our hearts and we will remember for a long time.

Monica and Phoebe

These beautiful 18-month old sisters came in after their owner couldn't cope with them. They were both pregnant, and Phoebe had already had an unsuccessful litter. Their owner recognised that they were not in the best place and made the difficult decision to sign them over.

Monica and Phoebe are devoted to each other so we did not want to separate them, but we were all on edge as to how they would be once they had the kittens. Luckily they showed us what a great team they are, giving birth within days of each



other and nursing each other's kittens. Phoebe had five healthy kittens and Monica had four. Both girls have been so friendly and trusting of our volunteers, that they have been an absolute joy to look after.

They now have a fantastic home together, with a wonderful couple who originally reserved two of their kittens but found themselves thinking more about the mums! Both cats are now spayed and never have to worry about future litters again.

Arwen

Poor Arwen was handed in to a vet after being found in the middle of a lane in a very rural location, heavily pregnant and in distress. Due to the location and how friendly and used to people she was, it is believed she was cruelly abandoned when most in need.

The vets she was handed in to were unable to keep her, so brought her to us. Just in time too - she gave birth the next day!! Six beautiful, healthy kittens were born and she has been an excellent mother.



Arwen



Arwen and her kittens

Although she has cost us a fortune in food for her large appetite, we couldn't refuse those sweet eyes.

Arwen found a home with the gentleman who found her in the lane; he couldn't stop thinking about her and was more than

happy to open his home to her once she was ready. It could have been a very different outcome had he not spotted her when he did!

Evan's Kittens

Our next door neighbour got a shock when she found a carrier containing 13 bundles of fluff on her driveway! They were about six weeks old and not fully weaned. Dedicated volunteers ensured they were fed with babycat milk and worked on weaning them.

Unfortunately it wasn't all smooth sailing; one sadly passed away not long after arrival and others were sick and needed medication. But they were little fighters! Twelve out of the 13 got stronger each day and eventually were well enough to go off to their own homes. two went to a volunteer who fell in love with the scruffy, skinny little things that arrived during her shift – it was love at first sight!



Evan's kittens in their new home

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For more information please check out our website.

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/lottery



Mickey is ready to assist Santa Paws at our Winter Wonderland and on Christmas eve so all the cats in our care receive a gift this Christmas.

Mickey will be getting about around Shropshire to different events to say hi to our lovely supporters. So keep a eye out on our social media to find out where Mickey is going to be.



SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

Christmas Appeal

HELP US HELP CATS LIKE MIC



Sadly Mic has come back to us for a third time.
Due to the sudden and tragic loss of his previous owners.

Mic has now lost two loving homes in tragic ways 🐾

Mic is a sweet 13 year old boy who loves fuss.

Due to spinal issues, Mic needs close monitoring and pain relief. Mic has become our most recent Retirement Village resident. He is already soaking up the fuss from volunteers and settling well.



DONATE NOW

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk



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**

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