

THE CAT'S WHISKERS

SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

SUMMER 2023



SCAN TO
DONATE



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Magazine SubscriptionSam Rushby

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CRAZY SUMMER!!

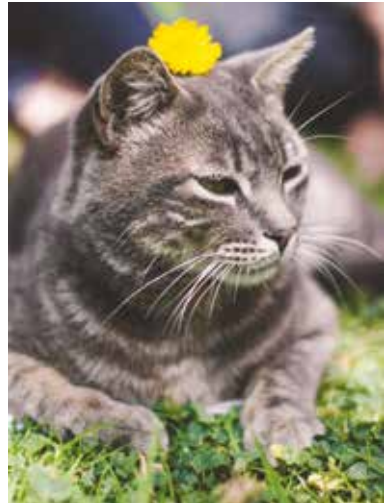
A video of our village posted on Tik Tok has created a phenomenal storm of support, visits, donations, enquiries and interviews after going “viral” (over eight million people viewing it). This has led to people from much further afield visiting our shelter on Open Days with a father and son travelling over from Belgium. Of course, this has coincided with our very, very busy kitten season, with additional pens being erected in our staff room to accommodate the additional pressures of stray cats needing veterinary surgery or additional care.

Our Open Days have been extremely successful so far, with an additional event shelter providing much needed shade on sunny days, an extra water play area, a Potions and Puddings play area as well as our new Guinea Pig enclosure with sixteen inhabitants.

Our shop and all our fundraisers are working hard to bring in the much-needed funds and at this time of year we are particularly keen to receive unwanted plants and planters to sell.

Our thanks as always, go to our hard-working volunteers and our much-needed supporters. Thank you.

Marion Micklewright
Chairman and Shelter Manager



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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



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NEW SHOP MANAGER

by Katy Walker, shop manager

My name is Katy and I'm the new manager at the Shropshire Cat Rescue Charity shop in Shrewsbury.

I am surrounded by boys at home, with a husband, two boys and two tomcats, called Ziggy and Sonic.

I have been obsessed with cats since I was little and have always had them in my life. I just love how they have their own characters, are independent, funny and very therapeutic to have around.

Outside of work I enjoy listening to music, watching films and having fun with the boys. I'm a big foodie and enjoy trying a variety of different cuisines. My husband and I enjoy going to concerts together, the next one is Guns and Roses. I grew up in the 90s and remain obsessed with the decade. Anything 80s/90s that gets donated to our store gets my fascination immediately.

I have been working in retail for around 20 years, for a variety of



different high street stores. I was beginning to lose my love of retail, due to having to follow too many rules and regulations on the visual and sales part of the job. I have to say I'm a bit of a rebel! I needed to be motivated to make money for a

good reason, rather than for a big corporation. The shop has renewed my love of being a manager. I love that there is freedom to put our own stamp on the store.

My favourite part of the job so far is definitely doing the displays, especially the windows. I love merchandising and creating little stories from the random objects we get donated. The other part I enjoy is researching some of the vintage items that come into the store. I find it fascinating what has managed to stay around for so long

and still look cool and collectible.

Our store has so many lovely volunteers who have been welcoming and helpful from day one. Going forward, I hope to continue to have fun with the shop, having special displays for different occasions and to continue to thrive and make as much money as we can for the shelter. I also look forward to meeting more lovely customers, volunteers and cute dogs that visit our store.

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VILLAGE LIFE

by Karen Wainwright Volunteer

Welcome to Village Life I am pleased to be able to let you know that our awesome residents are doing very well. Since we are now experiencing warmer weather our residents are venturing out a lot more.

Since our last edition we have had five new residents. I'd like to introduce them to you:-



TWINKLE is a very pretty Tortie. Aged 13 years, she arrived in February. When she arrived she needed some dental treatment. When I went to see her, all she wanted was lots of fuss and to play with my pen, I had to distract her with other toys to get it back! She is adorable.



WILLOW is a handsome 15 year old male, who joined us in March. Willow is a bit of a loner, I think he is missing his owner who sadly passed away. Our volunteers are giving him as much attention as they can. I found him sleeping in an outside cabin named 'Smokey Joe' and he was very sleepy.



CATHERINE came to the shelter in April. We are not completely sure of her age. The photo has kindly been provided by Tara Gale, a volunteer, as I couldn't find her to take a photo myself! Catherine is sweet and enjoys having cuddles. Usually, she can be found on the cottage roofs & likes to give head butts!



PFEIFFER a tabby arrived during April, she is 16.5 years of age. Sadly her companion moggy passed away days before she was handed in. I found that she gives you a wonderful greeting & fusses around your legs and is very good natured. Pfeiffer enjoys cuddles.



JERRY is 14 years of age arriving in early May, she seemed a little timid, but after being with her for a couple of minutes she started purring loudly, and I encouraged her to eat some food. Unfortunately Jerry is going blind. Previously, she had been a feral/outdoor cat. I fell in love with her as soon as I met her.

GEORGIE'S STORY

by Susie Phillips

A heart-warming story about how an older cat found his loving forever home and gave support to his elderly person when they needed it most. This really highlights how older cats can make a huge difference to someone's life whilst they're making a difference to theirs. The love and power of companionship a cat can give really shows throughout George's story.

George the tripod cat was adopted by Hannah's grandmother in December 2016. He was 14 years old with 3 legs when adopted and he and Hannah's grandmother completely fell in love. He would roll around and make loving blinky eyes at her. Unfortunately, about 18 months into his adoption, Hannah's grandmother had a fall & she was on the floor for about 12 hours George was by her the entire time. Due to subsequent health issues she made the difficult



decision that he should go to his granddaughter's and husband Adam's to live, initially temporarily, ultimately it was permanent. He was ill tempered and liked to bite elbows and loved the sound of his own voice, especially around 5 in the morning. However, over time he completely mellowed with them becoming incredibly loving & even

making friends with their tortoise Harry. He formed a particularly strong bond with Adam. They were each other's best friend, Hannah couldn't even be annoyed as it was too adorable. They said goodbye to George last May, and they firmly believe he was holding on to life more for them, than for himself. He went very peacefully and they were

with him. Hannah's grandmother followed a few months later. He's now buried in the garden of her house, the place he found his forever home. Even though he wasn't with Hannah's Grandmother the entire time, if he could have, he would have, Hannah and Adam loved him extra specially hard in her stead.



SUSIE'S CHALLENGE

by Susie Phillips

As I write this I am sat on a campsite looking up at tomorrow's challenge, the magnificent Ben Nevis.

Shropshire Cat Rescue has helped me along my path to recovery after receiving Physio4FMD after getting on the trial I went from years where I thought I would not ever manage a challenge walk again. Just walking to the shop 5 minutes' walk away became a massive challenge for me. In February 2022 I spent a week receiving intensive physio. I have Functional Neurological Disorder which for me caused mobility issues along with brain fog and dizziness I felt drunk without touching a drop.

After the physio I slowly built on the progress and volunteering at Shropshire Cat Rescue had not only kept me going during the time I thought there was not a treatment and could only see deterioration, it helped me on my recovery. The



Paws For Ukraine appeal kept me busy and was a huge part in my recovery. My hubby says the Physio and Paws For Ukraine appeal run by Shropshire Cat Rescue played a massive part in my recovery.

So now to thank this amazing charity and help them work towards their goal to achieve the PURR project which can open so many doors for others to discover the



amazing healing power of animals and the massive importance of the human-animal bond. It will be helping cats, animals and those who care for them.

I will be accompanied by Little Dick the teddy who is named after my Grandad Dick Dawson. Little Dick has been on all my walks and adventures since I got him the week after Grandad passed away in August 2021 2 weeks before his 100th Birthday.

Due to a surprise Birthday week away in Scotland I have now walked up Ben Nevis too something I had thought I never would be able to so I have included it in this challenge. On the 10th September I will walk 50km along the Ultra Challenges Thames Path.

One challenge complete Ben Nevis was tough going but oh so worth it. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored me so far and for your support.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/susie-phillips7>

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

SPONSOR A CAT

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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

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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

£60

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

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.

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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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MUMS AND THEIR SONS

by Karen and Rachael Ashton

The bond between a mother and her son is a very special one, even for cats! In a previous edition, we highlighted resident Vera and her son Morris. In honour of the popularity of such a bond, here are some of the other Mother/Son duos we've had recently:

Treacle and Pumpkin



Treacle came in with 7 week old Pumpkin around Halloween 2022. They've spent much of their time

in Isolation due to various illnesses, which has only strengthened their bond. Once released from Isolation into a large pen, they were still all over each other and showed that they did not want to be parted. They were soon lucky enough to find their new family together and have settled in fast, still looking out for each other.

Puddles and Louis



Puddles came in with what was thought to be her daughter, who turned out to actually be a son!! They were very clearly bonded with each other, so we decided we had to find them a home together. Puddles had issues with her teeth which required dental work, and Louis had an umbilical hernia so they weren't in the best of condition. Luckily, our vets sorted them both out, with their healing time giving them more to bond over, and they found a very loving home together. They continue to cuddle up and adore each other.

Sabrina and her kitten



Sabrina was very unceremoniously dropped off at the shelter with two young boys. She was extremely frightened and her kittens, influenced by mum, meant they were all very scared. Over time, with a lot of habituation and patience, one of the kittens found a home by himself where he is now called Jack. The other kitten had always been very close with mum Sabrina, so we decided they were better off being rehomed together. Now called Nala and Simba, they found a very patient home where they can start to thrive together. After everything they've been through, they deserved it!!

Missy and Jazz



Even grown up sons need their mums! Missy and Jazz found themselves at the shelter following some unfortunate change of circumstances. After Missy struggled to deliver Jazz, needing her humans' help, they kept him and she raised him beautifully. Although she was only slightly tortie, she showed she still had

some of the traits! She was a sassy madam who knew what she wanted. Jazz was happy to just be told what to do by mum and was a very sweet boy. They found a nice, quiet home together where they can continue to love each other and their new human.

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VET DETECTIVE:

SMALL FRACTURES, BIG CONSEQUENCES

by Rebecca Bennett

Performing dental procedures is one of the most common things we do for the cats that we see at Shropshire Cat Rescue, and the cases in this article show how important it is to treat dental disease.

Have you ever had toothache? Was it sore?

A frequent comment that we hear during our consultations is 'but my cat is eating so their teeth can't be sore'. Our pets are no different to us- they tolerate toothache, and continue to eat as this is their survival instinct, but they are still in pain! Cats are notorious for hiding signs of illness and discomfort; it is often not easy to look at their teeth and therefore a lot of dental disease can go un-noticed.

Two cats came to us this year- Blue and Coco, who both had fractures of their canine teeth



(the big 'fangs' at the front of their mouths). Blue, the handsome chap pictured, had a problem with the tooth in his mandible (the lower

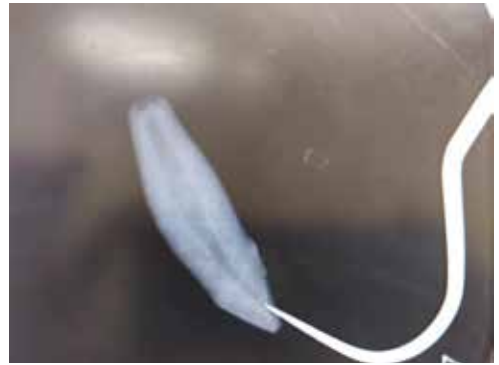
jaw) and Coco had a fracture of his maxillary canine tooth (in the upper jaw). Both these cases were good examples of how a seemingly insignificant chip from the tip of a tooth can have severe consequences.

The pulp cavity is the soft tissue forming the inner structure of a tooth, and contains nerves and blood vessels. This is surrounded by dentin; hard dense bony tissue forming the bulk of a tooth, and covering this is a layer of protective enamel- humans have relatively thick enamel but in our pets it is very thin; between 0.1 and 1mm. In cats, the pulp cavity is very close to the tip of the tooth, meaning that the smallest chip off the tip of the tooth can expose the pulp cavity, allowing infection to enter. Even a fracture of a few millimetres can result in pulp cavity exposure, commonly resulting in death of the tooth. Left untreated, this causes chronic pain.

This can be seen nicely in the radiographs of Coco. The red arrow points to the normal pulp cavity in



the normal tooth (this is an older cat- the pulp cavity narrows with age) and the green arrow points to the dentin of the tooth (this gets thicker with age). The blue arrow shows a wider pulp cavity- this tells us that the normal development of the tooth has stopped or slowed, and it also tells us that this fracture happened a while ago. On the side view, the yellow arrow points to the tip of the tooth and if you look closely you can see the pulp cavity communicates with the outside- there is no protective enamel. This has led to the very end of the root



of the tooth- the apex, to start having an abnormal appearance (purple arrow). When we extracted the tooth, you can see that the dental probe goes right into the sensitive part of the tooth- Ouch!

This tooth had a chip of just 2mm off the end of it- small fracture, big consequences.

If you have any concerns about the dental health of your cat, do get it checked out by your vet.

We have received a review on the **Yeowww Cigar Cat Nip toy** you can purchase via our online shop.

The reviewer is Pongo one of our freeranger resident cats.

I love cat nip and this toy is packed with the lovely stuff. I enjoy grabbing it with my paws and nuzzling into it. I feel very happy afterwards. Thank you to the kind person who donated it to the

shelter cats it's my favourite toy

You can buy the Yeowww cigar cat nip toy for your cat or donate one to the shelter cats by popping along to our online shop.

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/shop

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/product-page/yeowww-cat-nip-cigar-shaped-cat-toys

CRESSAGE FERALS

by Karen and Rachael Ashton



On the 19th of April we received a message from Next Steps Rescue, informing us of a colony of cats in Cressage in desperate need of relocating. They were living at a property on a main road and their feeder had moved out and left them behind.

Being hungry, they were travelling across the main road and were being killed. Most were unneutered, some were obviously sick and there were kittens. It was a pretty desperate situation.

We went to assess the situation, and managed to trap 4 there and then. There were others that we hated to leave behind, but simply did not have the space to take them with us. Thankfully, Next Steps were also trapping and together we have managed to trap all but one and move to safety. At the time of writing, there is just one Tom left which is playing hard ball!

We have taken in 12:

- 3 were pregnant, 2 early stages and 1 full term
- 1 was too injured and had to be PTS
- 4 have been relocated to outdoor homes
- 4 are waiting to find farm/ outdoor homes



work together for the health and safety of cats.

If you are concerned about a colony, please contact a rescue. Most rescues are able to provide help through Trap, Neuter, Release or arrange relocation if the area is not safe.

Nearly all of the cats were covered in ticks and had heavy worm burdens. They had all been well fed up until the feeder moved, but sadly help had not been sought for neutering or treatment of these animals.

Pictured are Chilli, Kimchi and Nacho being weighed. They all received flea and worm treatment on arrival, but we needed to know a weight for accurate treatment. Ferals are not very good at stepping on scales for us!

Also pictured is Wasabi, who was full term pregnancy. Over the course of 3 days, she gave birth to 3 kittens but only 1 has survived. She is doing an excellent job as a mother, and is such a sweet little girl. A real diamond in the rough. It's times like this that show how important it is for rescue groups to



VISITORS FROM FAR AND WIDE FOR OPEN DAY

by Susie Phillips

We had visitors from far and wide come along to our May open day following our new found supporters via TikTok; we had visitors from Sunderland who made a weekend of it by staying overnight in Shropshire. Steven and Victoria came especially for our open day from Belgium it was a bank holiday weekend for them, so they made a special long weekend visit to Shrewsbury and Birmingham so that they could come along.

We are truly amazed by the keenness of people to travel to visit us. We are equally pleased that people coming to visit are also discovering the beauty of Shropshire and helping to support local businesses by staying and visiting the area.

Our open days have become extremely popular and they become fully booked quickly. For



information about our next open day please check out our events page on our website. Our open days are suitable for all the family and we have a wide range of children's activities to cover all ages.

SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE GOES VIRAL

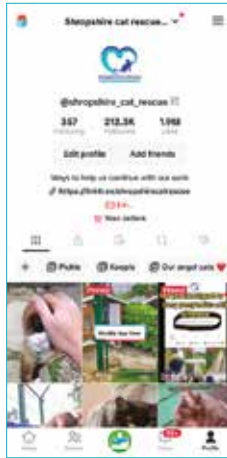
by Claire Herzig

Since the last edition of The Cat's Whiskers here at Shropshire Cat Rescue, we have all been overwhelmed with the amazing support we have received on TikTok. A volunteer decided to do a tour of the Retirement Village showing the amazing work we do within the Village and people have gone crazy for it.

We have made local press and even had reports done by an American news company showing the amazing work of Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Everyone loves the Retirement Village; the older cats can live out their golden years in peace and having the best care any cat could wish for in their later years.

We have all been blown away with all the donations on our JustGiving page, Amazon wishlist and the number of people who have sponsored the Sponsor Cats,



Nursery, Retirement Village and Shelter.

The whole Shelter has been buzzing with the amazing comments we have received about how well we care for the cats and how happy they are.

Open days have been fully booked within hours of tickets being released, with people coming from far and wide to visit the Shelter and meet the cats.

We even had a couple from Belgium that planned a trip to the UK so they could see the amazing work we do.

If anyone would like to follow us on TikTok there are weekly tours uploaded on a Wednesday and small videos of the Village cats posted daily.

Everyone at Shropshire Cat Rescue would like to thank everyone for their likes, follows, comments and donations. We look forward to continuing making content for all our followers.

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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**

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