THE CAT'S WHISKERS

SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

Cat Rescue FREE

AUTUMN 2023



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WELCOME TO AUTUMN

Many see the end of Summer as a time for rest after an exhausting month of holidays, gardening and other outdoor hobbies and pursuits; we however, don't!! September and October mark our busiest months as people return from holidays and want to adopt new friends before winter sets in. Our emails, telephones, twitter and Facebook pages are super busy as people spot their ideal new companion on-line or through a visit to the shelter

With the bizarre weather showing no real patterns or trends, it is really difficult to plan and book outdoor events but we are hoping to look at gutting our current training room to create a larger indoor café/staff area. But first we will have to find room for all the boxes we have managed to accumulate over the years – we may have less kittens coming into the shelter in Autumn and Winter but there is always plenty of jobs for our helpful volunteers!

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.

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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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OUR FIRST AFTERNOON TEA WITH CATS

by Susie Phillips

On Sunday 23rd July we had our first Afternoon Tea with Cats. Fortunately, the one rain shower we had didn't dampen spirits and we timed it perfectly to when guests sat down for their Afternoon Tea. We had extra help from Starbucks Telford Queensway staff who have made us their Charity of the Year; some of their staff joined our event volunteers to help

us make the day a success. The Starbucks team also brought some goodies to raffle off on the day.
Of course, as usual Rudy (the shelter manager's cat) joined in to help set up and loved pouncing on the bunting. It was a fun day for all and we will be holding more in the future so keep an eye on our website events page.



HELPING HANDS

by Marion Micklewright. Chairman and Shelter Manager

We were extremely grateful to receive help from a team of Muller ladies recently, the task was to empty our store room onto the event field, paint it and put everything back. After a very long and hard slog, the task was completed so thank you ladies, you are wonderful.





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VILLAGE LIFE

by Karen Wainwright Volunteer

Welcome back to Village Life. Since my last report we have had a number of new residents who you can read about below. It is amazing how the dynamics have now changed in the Village as a result of the new additions so far this year. However, our oldest resident, Molly, is still commander-in-chief at the grand age of 22 1/2

years. Unfortunately, this summer the Retirement Village has been plagued with wasps and a number of moggies have been stung. This is particularly difficult for volunteers to manage as food has to be left out for the residents to eat as and when they like and the food appears to be attracting the wasps.



BAILEY Is a very handsome boy who has been with us for a while. He is 11 1/2 years old. He arrived following the death of his owner. I found Bailey to be very relaxed and extremely friendly.



BEAU arrived with Sam and is a 15 1/2 year old male. Beau is very friendly and affectionate but appears to have poor eye sight and he has hyperthyroidism.



SAM arrived with Beau and is extremely nervous and hides in the bushes. I did however pick him up recently and he enjoyed the cuddle, he has recently had a thyroidectomy on his left hand side.



STARIA Is aged 16 1/2. She is longhaired. When I met Staria she really wanted to be left on her own, she was hiding in the long grass behind a bench. I did manage to stroke her but she was not inclined to purr.



BUENO is a 19 year old female. When I met her she was locked in a cottage as she had recently arrived at the shelter and is having to adjust to her new surroundings. She is extremely friendly and purred instantly, she wanted so much attention and of course I obliged!



GIGI Is a lovely 16 year old. She is extremely welcoming and so friendly. She loves rubbing herself around your legs and the furniture in the cottages. She was purring nicely when I picked her up and she likes to talk to you which is adorable.

CREATING JOHNNY'S ENCLOSURE

by Susie Phillips









Johnny is a 3 year old deaf and blind cat who came to us in June from another rescue who were struggling to find him the home he needed; his desire to be outside meant he was becoming increasingly stressed he started to overgroom and was trying to break out of the fosterer's house to get outside. Not being in a position to provide a secure outside space, they contacted us to see if he could live in the Retirement Village where he would be safe and outside as

he desperately wanted. On arrival at the shelter we quickly realised he needed his own space as he wasn't going to cope with the cats in the Retirement Village and they would struggle to understand him. So, we set about with an appeal to build him an enclosure that would be fully secure and contain all that he needs to have a fulfilled life. We reached our target within 4 days and we were truly amazed and grateful for all the support.



We set about designing and planning Johnny's enclosure - it was felt his inside area needed to be special and the idea of him having a castle came up. The castle was built by the husband of one of our volunteer's and then painted by our volunteer. It has 2 floors inside so he has a separate sleeping area to where his food and water is, there is also a ramp for him to climb so he can relax on the roof. His enclosure is a process of development as we are learning what he likes and needs; he loves the climbing pole and we will be adding another one now we know he likes and uses it. We also discovered his love of tunnels so he currently has a waterproof material one but we



are formulating ways to create more weatherproof versions for him. Cat safe plants will be going in that he can use for shade and also rustle through. A scratch post cannon has been built to give him a horizontal scratching post as well as the vertical ones already included. Careful consideration has taken place to ensure we include items that engage Johnny's existing senses whilst keeping him safe. It has been a team effort to get Johnny's enclosure sorted. Of course we were helped by the shelter residents and our volunteer who built the castle had their cats to help check it was going OK too! Johnny is enjoying being outside and loves climbing.

JENNY THE VILLAGE CAT I LEARNT TO LOVE

by Claire Herzig, volunteer

Jenny came into the Village in January 2022 - she had a condition called Hyperthyroidism for which she had started medication. On arrival and after veterinary assessment, she had a thyroidectomy. She was a cat who I was very cautious of when she first came into the Village as if you approached her, she would make it clear she didn't want you near her. Over time Jenny settled into Village life and I decided to show her that humans could be nice and show her love. To start with I sat on the floor outside her cottage, just talking to her and in time she started talking back in her own way. One day I decided to get a soft brush and see if she accepted it, and she did. To start with she only accepted a minute or two but after weeks of me going at her pace, she







finally started allowing me to stroke her. One day I called her, she came out to me and rubbed her head on my leg, and I stroked her; she was purring away happily. Over the weeks she carried on coming out to me when I called her, wanting fuss and attention. A few weeks later I decided to see if she would allow me to pick her up. She meowed at me but seemed happy cuddling into me. Finally, I had shown sassy

Jenny that cuddles and fuss were a nice thing, and that I could be trusted to give her these

Nowadays the minute I sit down in her cottage, Jenny is straight up on my knee demanding fuss and wanting me to talk to her. She loves making Tiktoks

with me every week showing our followers how much she loves being cared for in the Village.

This just shows with love, time, patience and understanding, even the sassiest cats can learn to accept love and attention again. Jenny has a big place in my heart, and she shows me the feeling is mutual all the time.

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

£35

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 room, shop and café for visitors.

Some of our cats who need a sponsor.



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!

В



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!



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 A B C please circle your choice	£20		Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months.
The Nursery	£35		You will receive a Sponsorship Certificate, plus an information sheet
The Moggies Retirement Village	£60	£60	about your chosen sponsorship package, one or more photographs and an annual update to keep you in touch.
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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IN MEMORY

by Marion Micklewright, Chairman and Shelter Manager





Two of the most hardworking charity volunteers who loved their cats and helped so many over the years. They helped with fundraising and fostered cats in their home in Horsebridge, Minsterley. Some of you may remember Skinny and Twin two cats that were part of our popular Sponsorship programme, they were part of the Pontesbury Colony and lived in the garden of Maureen and Harvey after they trapped and neutered them. It was a privilege to have known such a lovely couple whose help we were so grateful to receive.



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Christmas Gift Sponsorship



Shropshire

It may only be Autumn, but we like to plan ahead at Shropshire Cat Rescue and let you know about a Christmas Gift Sponsorship.

Sponsoring is a wonderful way to support us to help us to continue to give the cats and kittens in our care all the creature comforts they deserve.

They start from as little as £20 a year & the gift pack can be sent directly to the recipient with your personal message

You can do this directly via https://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/sponsor-a-cat or for more information email Sam via sponsorshipsshropshirecatrescue.org.uk

CAT TAILS

Rachael & Karen Ashton

Since our last edition, we have seen plenty of new faces to keep us busy here at the shelter! Here's a couple who proved to be memorable to us.

Oscar



Oscar came to us in January 2023 with his brother Pip. They moved into the Village in hopes of a peaceful retirement. Initially shy,

Oscar quickly settled and became a firm favourite with both visitors and volunteers. He loved open days, where he got to meet so many new people and enjoyed rummaging around in their handbags!

Unfortunately, as Oscar became more confident, he soon started displaying bullying behaviours. He would attack some of the other cats, particularly the smaller, weaker females and even his own brother. His Free Range trial did not go well after he was found pinning Morris, one of the large males, to the ground. If he could do this to a cat known for being able to defend himself, he could easily injure weaker cats like Pipsqueak and Maya. As much as we all loved him, we decided that it would be in everyone's best interests for Oscar to find a new home A check with the vets confirmed he was healthy and suitable for homing, and so the search began.

It did take several weeks, it can be hard to find someone willing to take on a 14 year old. But luckily, a previous adopter who had already met Oscar during his time as a Villager saw him advertised on our website and came forward to offer him his new home. He has settled straight in and is now Lord of the Manor! He even has his own twitter page - @KingOscar520199

Penelope



Beautiful Penelope came to us after being found straying. She was hungry, frightened but very sweet. After being neutered, she found a home as a companion to another cat but sadly this did not work out. Penelope found herself under attack by her new companion, and we knew we had to get her back before any physical or behavioural damage was done. Despite everything she had gone through, she was still the friendliest girl who desperately wanted a friend.

We restarted the search for her home, one which we hoped would be her furever home. A lovely lady and her son came to meet her and fell in love with her beautiful eyes and sweet nature. They took her home, and we're very happy that she has been given her second chance away from fear and trauma.

Part of our rehoming policy is that we will always take the cat back if things don't work out. Penelope just goes to show how important that is - who knows what may have happened to her if she had been left in that situation any longer. It also shows that whilst you may think your cat needs a companion, some really do not want one!

Reggie



Beautiful Reggie came to us in April 2023 after her owner emigrated and she was not eligible to go with them. Whilst we waited for space, she was kept fed and watered by relatives but spent the majority of her time alone. She was extremely nervous and stressed when she came to us, but thanks to our patient volunteers she has come around.

Reggie has proved a difficult cat to rehome, due to her long list of needs for her new home. She is a cat that picks up on stress easily. and will go on hunger strike when stressed out, so she needed a really calm home. She showed us during appointments with potential adopters that she was afraid of men, so we were on the lookout for a female dominant home. Above all else, she needed someone to give her the time to settle at her own pace and accept her for the way she is without trying to force her into what they are looking for. This can be difficult for the best of cats, but when add in the fact that she is 10 years old, Reggie has proved challenging for our admin team! Thanks to a huge push on social media and an article in the Shropshire Star, we were able to generate some interest in her. At the time of writing, Reggie is still waiting for that ideal home, but we are extremely hopeful that by time of publishing, she will be settled and, above all, happy.

Ellie & Bluebell



Mother and daughter duo, Ellie and Bluebell, came in late February 2023; both had been left behind by their previous owner and both were heavily pregnant. So, they came in to kick start our slow but steady Kitten Season.

Both girls were incredibly friendly and wonderful mothers, they each raised their kittens well and both litters grew up to be friendly and playful kittens who found great homes themselves pretty much straight away!

When the time came to find their own homes, it was found that whilst Ellie and Bluebell would tolerate each other well, they were far from a bonded pair. So, Ellie soon found herself a new home with a lovely young couple where she gets her new parents' attention all to herself! Bluebell eventually got to go to her own home, with a fellow mother cat from the nursery called Morgan. The two had time to be introduced and got along well in their pen whilst waiting for the right time to go to their new home. Once settled in their new home, the two have let their personalities shine brightly and keep a smile on their new parent's face daily.



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HELPING CATS IN WITNESS PURRTECTION

by Susie Phillips

Behind the scenes, our volunteers work with cats that have been through traumatic experiences and need additional help to settle and learn to trust humans. These cats can't always be advertised and are found their forever homes quietly to help keep their cover.

The arrival of one cat recently meant our volunteers had to devise a plan quickly to help a traumatised cat whose reaction to people was to lash out in fear and attack their legs in particular. Volunteers spent time quietly chatting or reading whilst sitting outside his pen and we used Feliway to help make the pen a safe place for him. Feliway mimics the pheromone which is known to help comfort cats and can make them feel safer in their environment. We also added a supplement to his food that helps reduce stress and anxiety along with a calming dry food; this combination helped

reduce his fear and stress levels to enable volunteers to help build positive emotional interactions with him more easily. He was particularly reactive to loud noises and fast movements so volunteers entering his pen would move slowly and chat to him quietly. Only toys without catnip inside them were given to him to avoid over stimulating him and risking his reactivity worsening. Over time he began to trust more and quickly started to initiate contact for head rubs. He loves playing with rod/stick toys and it's the perfect way to engage with him

If something triggers him he will still lash out with his paws but this happens a lot less and by carefully monitoring his behaviour we are starting to learn what triggers this reaction. For example, the shelter's dog appearing, although at a distance, triggers a reaction, as does

leaning over him. Loud noises and sudden movements are still and will be for a long time a trigger for him to react with his defensive actions. When looking for a forever home for him he will need people who have experience, an understanding of cat behaviour and are willing

to continue working with him to help understand what triggers him whilst working to alleviate his stress, anxiety and fear. He still has a long road to walk but with the right care and support he will be a rewarding and lovely cat that will probably keep his new people on their toes.

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SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

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We rely on donations and sponsors to keep our shelter going each year. By setting up a lottery we hope that our supporters will join and so generate more funds to support our work.

In addition to the satisfaction of helping the cats and kittens in our care, our lottery supporters will have a chance of winning a prize which could be as much as £25,000.

For more information please check out our website.

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/lottery

NATIONAL BLACK CAT DAY IS ON 27TH OCTOBER

We need your pictures to create a Black Cat film to post on our social media. Please email pictures to sales@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk to help us celebrate the beauty of black cats.



Santa Paws Wish List

Mickey our mascot cat is getting ready for Christmas already and has written a letter to Santa Paws asking for some goodies to be delivered to the shelter for the resident cats and those awaiting their Forever Homes. Check it out you may get some tips about what your cats may want for Christmas and to help you write your letters to Santa Paws.

Dear Santa Paws

Please can I have for my cat friends at Shropshire Cat Rescue:

Some puzzle feeders will really help the cats at the shelter and encourage them to use their problem-solving skills.

The shelter cats love the Yeowww! Toys and I would love them to have some in their stockings. They love the Moody Moggy Kickers too.

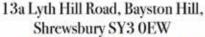
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Love, Mickey

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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

ChairmanMarion Micklewright

Dianno Rosumont

info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

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