

THE CAT'S WHISKERS

SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

WINTER 2022



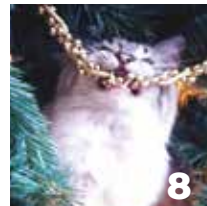
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HELLO TO WINTER 2022

We are all starting to feel the effects of the “Cost of Living Crisis” and whilst our charity is dreading our next electric bill arriving we are also struggling to keep up with the huge burden of cats and kittens needing our attention as a result. The long hot and dry summer has produced multiple litters for unneutered cats with the latter tending to be weak and requiring veterinary aid. Our staffroom has temporary pens, my house has temporary pens and Susie and Anne have helped when needed with orphaned kittens. Our grateful thanks go to all who support us whether it is by sending money, donating unwanted goods, putting food in our collection bins or volunteering time.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Marion Micklewright
Chairman and Shelter Manager



We hope you have a Purr-fect Christmas!



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.

Banner Strip - £35 per edition - £105 for the year

Half Page (vertical or horizontal) - £55 per edition - £165 for the year

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



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OUR SHOP ANNIVERSARY

by Anna Kent, Shop Manager



We have just celebrated our first anniversary in our new shop on Mardol and would like to say a big thank you for all the wonderful donations we have received.

Donations can be dropped off at the shop or at the shelter on Lyth Hill.

One way for us to get even more from your generous donations is using the Gift Aid scheme.

If you earn enough money to pay tax in the UK you can sign up to the scheme. When we sell a Gift Aid donation we can reclaim some of the tax that the donor has paid, this amount is 25% of each donation. If we sell a coat for £10.00 that is an extra £2.50 provided by the

Government, this is a significant boost for funding the shelter at no cost to the donor.

All the money made from our shop, Facebook market place and fund raising events goes directly to care for all the cats and kittens. With the cost of living crisis it is vital that we can raise as much money as possible to cover the cost of food, utility bills and mostly vets bills.

If you are not already signed up please give it a thought and keep the fantastic donations coming.

Anna Kent

Shop Manager

Shropshire Cat Rescue



Meowy Catmas

Season's Greetings
to all of our readers
and supporters
from everyone at
Shropshire Cat Rescue

WINTER HAZARDS FOR CATS

by Susie Phillips



Winter brings hazards into our homes and garages for our cats and even local cats in some cases. It is important to be aware of them so that you can help protect your cats.

Anti Freeze is highly toxic to cats who will need immediate veterinary assistance if they ingest it or get it on their fur. So please use extra caution when storing or using anti-freeze and ensure that any spillages are cleaned up quickly.

Seasonal Plant Risks – Poinsettias, Mistletoe, Holly, Ivy, Christmas Cherry, Christmas Trees and Cyclamens.

Christmas Trees and Decorations – Pose an injury due to climbing, eating decorations and chewing wires.

Candles and Essential Oils – risk of burns and ingestion of oils.

Food Risks – Chocolate, Grapes, Raisins, Turkey and other poultry bones and other human foods.

Check out our Winter Hazards Blog for more information about each hazard.

<https://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/post/winter-hazards-for-cats>

The Animal Poisons Line is run by the Veterinary Poisons Information Service. You can call their helpline if you are concerned or unsure that what your cat has eaten or licked off its fur is poisonous. Their website is:

www.animalpoisonline.co.uk
and the helpline number is:

01202 509000.

If you have any concerns that your cat has possibly ingested any poisons or hazardous items then please call your Veterinary Surgery immediately.



SANTA PAWS WISH LIST

by Susie Phillips

Mickey our mascot cat 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 for your cats.



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, one of the volunteers wrote a blog about how they help you can read it here <https://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/post/puzzle-feeders-helping-cats-in-different-ways>

Cat nip toys like the Moody Moggy range. A variety of styles of toys including stick/rod toys, kickers and bat and chase toys to ensure that each cat can play in their favourite way.

Ball chaser toys are a huge hit with cats of all ages, so they would be great too.

Raised bowls and steps for the super senior residents to help make eating, drinking and getting up to higher areas easier. It is really helpful for the older cats to have raised food and water bowls combine this with some steps we can really make a difference to their wellbeing.

If the cat elves are too busy you can purchase puzzle feeders, steps, bowls, toys and raised bowls from our online shop:

<https://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/shop?Collection=For+Pets>

Love

Mickey



CAT TAILS

by Karen Ashton

Merlin



This young boy came to us following the death of his owner. He arrived with a bit of a concerning vet history! His history showed that the vets who performed his neutering were concerned about his breathing, they could feel a dent in his chest and suspected he had an ingrowing sternum.

Upon arrival at the shelter, he was whisked away for x-rays and

investigation to determine what is going on. Our vets found that he has a condition called Pectus Excavatum, which is likely congenital and can compress the

heart. Luckily for Merlin, there was no need for invasive, corrective surgery and he has found a wonderful home with an understanding owner. His new family know they need to watch his weight to ensure there's no added pressure on his heart, and they are making sure he gets all the love he needs.



Ella and Merlin

VET DETECTIVE: THE CASE OF GEORGIE AND HIS HOLEY LEG

by Rebecca Bennett

Little Georgie came to Shropshire Cat Rescue with a history of having needed antibiotic treatment for an infected leg. When we first met him, his sweet character won us over and on initial examination, no abnormalities were found. After vaccinating him and stealing a moment for an obligatory cuddle (the highlight of our Thursday vet visits) we popped him back in his basket.

A few weeks later he was brought to the surgery to be castrated; a short operation done under general anaesthetic. When shaving his leg to administer the anaesthetic injection, a new swelling was noticed; curious to know what it was, we took an x-ray.

To our surprise, we found that he had a hole in his leg! Above this there was a small fragment of loose bone that had become infected; this is called a Sequestrum. The



piece of bone was acting like a foreign body, and infection had built up around it, hence the swelling that we could feel. We presume that he had been bitten by another cat, and because he was young, with soft, growing bones, a fragment of bone had been pushed out. The initial course of antibiotics before we met him had

settled the infection, but because the sequestrum was still there, the problem had recurred.

We performed a small operation to remove the fragment of bone, which was 3mm long and very sharp. Infection was flushed out and sutures placed. At his check up a week later his leg was fully healed. A very satisfying case.



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



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

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 A B C D 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	£30		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	£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

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:	

VILLAGE LIFE

by Karen Wainwright, Volunteer

It is very unusual for villagers to be given the opportunity to join the 'free rangers' at the Shelter. However, a number of villagers have chosen to have a life with the 'free rangers' which gives them access to wherever they want and they are enjoying their freedom and make fleeting visits to the village. Since the last edition we have had four new additions to the village.



PHILLY an adorable Tortie arrived during September. She has settled in very nicely and can be found regularly running and jumping

over the cottage roofs! Philly is aged 11 years and is very friendly. Her markings on her face gives you the impression that she is wearing a black mask.



NOAH arrived in the village at the beginning of October. We are unsure of his age as little is known about him, it is thought that he may be a stray. Health wise our vets have discovered that he has a heart murmur. Noah is very affectionate and cannot get enough love.

MONTY & FELIX, both boys, arrived at the end of October. They are 14 years of age Monty (Ginger) is struggling to settle in, however Felix (Black & White) is quite confident. Sadly their owner has passed away.

Monty is still very upset as you see from the photo and Volunteers are spending more time with him to help him settle in. Felix is doing fine.



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PERCY AND HIS CARROT

by Susie Phillips



Percy came into the shelter in the middle of September at 2 weeks old, he was found alone and there was no sign of his mother so he needed hand rearing. He was one of the big influx of kittens we received in September and one of our volunteers took on hand rearing him. Hand rearing is a

big commitment and he needed round the clock care, fortunately the volunteer is a veterinary nurse and was able to take Percy to work. Percy had lots of carers at the vets and was adored by everyone, he was on hand when anyone needed a kitten cuddle.

Percy became well known on

Twitter; our followers loved that he cuddled and played with his toy carrot. The Carrot Toy was introduced to help him play as he had no siblings. He enjoyed a lot of play fighting with the Carrot (even though it was a dog toy!) and it became an essential part of his development. Fortunately to help his development one of the volunteer's cats Tyrian took a keen interest in Percy. Tyrian and Percy enjoyed playing together and became a little tag team trying to steal food.

Percy has now gone to his forever home, one of the receptionists at the volunteer's work has adopted him and he now pops in for check-ups so everyone gets cuddles and play time with him.



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INTRODUCING VERA & MORRIS

by Rachael Ashton

As a rule of cat behaviour, mother cats will start to teach their kittens how to fend for themselves from as young as 4 weeks old and by time a kitten is 8-10 weeks old, their mother is more than happy to leave them to it!

A natural mother/kitten bond is rare but not impossible – Just ask our residents, Vera & Morris!

Back in 2019, a call for help came in to take in a young boy and his mother after she started to become territorial over the kittens she once doted on. Following worries they would struggle in our homing pens after a life outside with free reign of the land, volunteer Karen Ashton headed out to visit the pair and very quickly fell in love with them.

By December, the pair came to the shelter, and it was soon clear we weren't going to find them the perfect home together. With Vera being nearly 10 and Morris only 2, the age gap seemed to scare the potential adopters away. So, the decision was made to release them into our Residents area, as the shelter grounds were a similar location to what they were used to – and boy, did they settle!



The pair have thrived considerably since becoming residents, making friends with the other cats on the grounds and still maintaining their bond with each other despite the numerous visitors and cats they meet daily. Vera has enthralled visitors with her funky little meow and piercing eyes, she comes alive at dusk and is often found playing and climbing trees when the sun goes down.

Morris has been such a hit with visitors that he is now a sponsor cat, famous for his big green eyes and beautifully round face. Although a huge mummy's boy, Morris loves the female volunteers, but most of all, Karen. We think he remembers her from the original meeting and will spend all day in her lap if she lets him!

Next time you're at the shelter, be sure to say hello to our famous mother/son duo!



Shropshire Cat Rescue
rescuing and rehoming cats since 1989

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We are asking for a minimum deposit of £1 which will help us to continue helping the cats and kittens come into our care.

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/tree-of-light



SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

Lottery



Registered Charity 1071884

CHECK IT OUT,
WE HAVE A LOTTERY

You could win £25,000

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

THE CATS AT OUR SHELTER ARE ENJOYING THE BENEFIT OF THE **DONATE TO THE SHELTER OPTION**

We now have some great goodies for the cats in your life on our online shop, the best part is we have made it so that you can purchase them via our online shop and donate them to cats at the shelter.

Here are some of the grateful recipients enjoying the toys that have already been donated via the online shop. It is really lovely receiving the gifts for the cats from our supporters. The cats looking for their Forever Homes as well as the resident cats are all having extra fun with the toys donated so far.



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



THE FUNDRAISING TEAM HAVE BEEN BUSY

The fundraising team have spent the year collecting items and getting creative in preparation for the Christmas Fairs they are attending.

The team have been made some lovely items including stockings and cat gift sets. The volunteers houses look like Santa's Grotto whilst they prepare, so they have been getting into the Christmas spirit early. The team work really hard throughout the year attending events to raise funds for Shropshire Cat Rescue and help the cats in our care. Christmas is a extra busy time for the fundraisers, so please support them and pop along to say hi at one of the events they are attending. You could treat yourself or purchase some goodies for the cats and cat lovers in your life.



They will have stalls at the following events:

Bayston Hill Methodist Church, Bread and Breakfast event, 19 November, 9:30am to 12pm.

Christmas Fair, The Square, Shrewsbury, 3 December, 9am to 4pm.

Bayston Hill Walking Christmas Market, on Sunday 11th December, 11am to 3pm. We have a stall on Beeches Drive.



Christmas Gift Sponsorship



Looking for something a little bit different and extra special for a gift this Christmas ?

How about a 12-month sponsorship for Shropshire Cat Rescue.

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 To find out more, please visit our website

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk/sponsor-a-cat

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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**

Chairman	Marion Micklewright
Trustees.....	Dianne Beaumont Marg Lloyd, Helen Smith, Anne Butt, Susie Phillips, Sam Rushby
Shop Manager.....	Anna Kent
Legacies Officer	Peter Kampler
Outreach	Julie Kampler
Personnel Manager	Helen Smith
Shelter Manager	Marion Micklewright
Social Media Officer	Dianne Beaumont
Sponsorship	Sam Rushby
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Volunteer Recruitment Officer.....	Katie Ho
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