

THE CAT'S WHISKERS

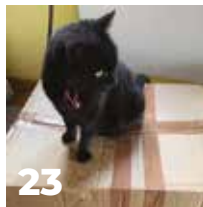
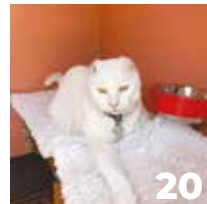
SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE

SUMMER 2022



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HELLO TO SUMMER 2022

Welcome to this Summer edition of the Cats Whiskers. We are slightly late getting to print this month as some of our volunteers have suffered with Covid and all focus was on looking after the cats and kittens in our care.

You might notice that our beloved magazine has changed a little. We hope that that you will still love to read it but we wanted to make it easy to view online too. Our lovely designer Sam at Spotty Penguin has helped us to develop a new, modern, square format which makes us stand out from the crowd and in the next few issues you might see a few more tweaks too as we develop our publication to make it even more interesting and vibrant.

Our plans for global communication underpin the firm plans we are putting in place to reach more supporters, and raise more money so that we can finally make PURR a reality. We look forward to giving you an update in our Autumn edition of Cat's Whiskers.

We have also been spending time raising funds and animal welfare donations for Paws for Ukraine, a wonderful initiative driven through Shropshire Cat Rescue by one of our volunteers Susie. We have been blown away by the generosity of cat lovers across the UK as we have been able to support so many animals in Ukraine following the war in their country. This hasn't stopped us continuing to care for our furry friends here at Bayston Hill but we were very proud to do what we could to support people and animals suffering so much at this time.

Marion Micklewright
Chairman and Shelter Manager



VILLAGE LIFE

by Karen Wainwright, Volunteer

During the last three months we have only had a couple of new cats in the retirement village. Generally speaking the moggies get on very well with each other but we do have one or two who like to make out they are in charge. For example you may remember Misty who I introduced to you in the Spring edition. She is adorable but she lets all the other moggies know she will not be messed with; she will often create if any other moggy tries to enter the cottage she is residing in at the time! She can also be bossy but I still adore her.



JENNY is around 15 years of age. She arrived at the Shelter towards the end of January. Jenny had to have both her thyroids removed in March/April. Jenny is doing well. Jenny is very affectionate but is not keen on being picked up. She will give you a little nip if you don't behave!



LEWIS arrived at the Shelter In February after his owner sadly passed away. Lewis in 15 years of age. Unfortunately he has had cancer in both ears and his ears had to be amputated in March 22. As you can see from the photo he now looks a picture of health and can still hear OK. Lewis is very friendly and enjoys lots of attention.



One of my favourite moggies in the village is **TITCH** who I have known since she arrived at the Shelter back in 2013. Unfortunately she was blind in both eyes. However, this never stopped her getting around the Retirement Village as she mapped it out very well. Back in February this year she had to have her left eye removed due to a burst ulcer. The surgical site didn't heal completely and she has had to have a further operation and is being closely monitored by both the vets & volunteers. Titch is a very loving cat, who is very popular with the volunteers and visitors to the Shelter (pre Covid-19). I will update you in the next edition. We all are keeping our fingers crossed and wish her well.

During the last few weeks the Retirement Village has had some new perimeter fencing installed to help ensure we keep the Villagers safe and sound as the original fencing was past it's best after being damaged in the hurricaines earlier this year.





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CAT TAILS

Dolly and Tammy

Dolly and Tammy both came to us after being abandoned by their owner. Both were heavily pregnant and in desperate need of shelter. Luckily, we were in a position to take them in and allow them to have their kittens in safety.

Whilst they both looked ready to pop on arrival, they made our volunteers sweat waiting for these babies! Eventually they both gave birth within a few days of each other, safely delivering 9 kittens between them. We often find that if we have 2 pregnant cats in the nursery, the cries of one litter will set off the labour in the other. Maybe coincidence, but it is fascinating to see and try to predict.

They have both been wonderful mothers, so friendly to volunteers and visitors, attentive to their kittens and made our jobs extremely easy. Their kittens all seem to have been guided by their mothers calm personalities and developed into wonderful, friendly kittens who will make purrfect family members.

By time of print, these beautiful mothers and kittens will be settled in to their new homes.





Violet

We received a message from a vet practice asking for us to take in a lovely young cat who had been involved in a road traffic accident. She had a fracture of one of her hind legs and a “de-gloving” of her other hind paw. We agreed we could help this little cat, and made arrangements to transfer her to Quarry vets for further treatment before she made her way to us.

Luckily, despite predications of possible amputation, Violet has made a full recovery with very little to show for what she has been through. She showed us all how full of life she is, playing with everyone and giving them lots of attention. Sadly for our homing team who saw the best of her, she didn't want to show that side to potential adopters. She had a few appointments, all of which didn't result in adoption. We couldn't understand how anyone could turn her down, but she is a bit of a crafty miss. She was waiting for her favourite volunteer to agree to take her home! So it was very exciting for us all when we received an offer of a home from Trish, a volunteer who we knew would give Violet everything she wanted and more, and the best thing is we can have regular updates as she grows up! So whilst it may not have worked out with her other appointments, some things are just meant to be.



Max and Charlie

Sadly not every cat comes to us as as friendly and outgoing as Dolly, Tammy and Violet. Poor Max and Charlie came from a home without much socialisation and care. They were both terrified, older cats who we knew we were going to struggle to home. We needed to gain their trust, see who they were underneath and really work with them. Luckily, our volunteers are very understanding of these types of cats and are able to give them the time and patience needed. One of our team, Pat, is extremely skilful when it comes to the shy, nervous cats and we quickly took advantage of this. She spent her free time just sitting with them, talking gently about anything and everything and simply showing them that nothing bad is going to happen.

Charlie came around first, soon greeting her with head boops and waiting for his special treats. He was instrumental in showing Max that everything would be OK and getting them in a position to start showing them to potential adopters. Thankfully, Pat's hard work paid off and Max and Charlie found new homes quickly.

There's always a worry that the process of rehoming can set these types of cats back, so we were thrilled to hear that they are doing well in their new home. Max is still a little shy, but compared to the terrified cats that came to us, we would call that a win!

Did you know ...

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There are a number of ways you can support **Shropshire Cat Rescue**. Did you know we have an **Amazon** page where you can donate to our wish list? Or you can make a donation on our **Virgin** money giving page.

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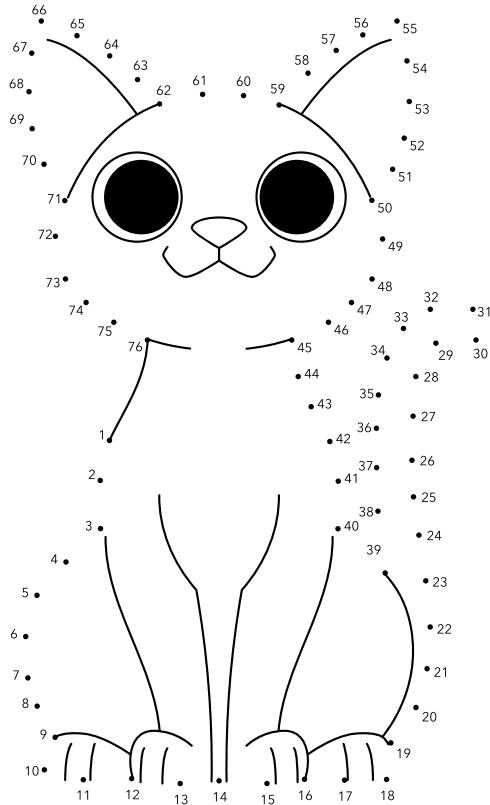
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Kid's Corner

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HEATWAVE CARE FOR CATS

We all hope that we have a summer filled with long, warm days and balmy nights, but if a heatwave arrives over the warmer months, it can mean danger for some cats. It is important to care for your furry friends and make sure that their sensitive skin is protected from the sun's rays.

Like us, cats can suffer skin damage from the heat of the sun. White cats, cats with bald patches and older cats are most susceptible to sun damage. The areas most affected are the ears, nose, and eyelids; anywhere that the skin is thinner and not covered by fur. Sun damage can turn into cancer so keeping an eye on these areas is a good idea. Regular monitoring is important to pick up any early signs which are the area turning pink or red, sometimes hair loss and itchy, scaly skin. There might be small ulcers with raised, hard edges and sometimes the scabby areas can bleed. If caught early, then treatment can be effective so keep an eye on those sensitive areas for your moggies.



To avoid the risk of skin cancer becoming an issue, try and keep susceptible cats out of the sun during the hottest or sunniest part of the day between 10:30 and 15:00. If you cannot keep your cat out of the sun, there are some pet friendly sun blocks that can be used, and we recommend that you speak to your vet about the options.

Hot weather can be tough for cats, and they need us to look after them. They always need plenty of fresh water; you can pop in some ice cubes to help bring the temperature of the water down. If you are concerned they might be dehydrated, carefully pinch their skin. If it recoils quickly, they are well hydrated. If it responds slowly consult your vet as soon as possible.

Always make sure they have a cool shady spot to sit in away from the sunshine; you could put a cardboard box in a nice, shaded location in the garden to encourage them to move out of direct sunlight.

You can also freeze a bottle of water and wrap it in a towel or blanket and place it somewhere your cat sits often. This can stop them from feeling over-heated.

Enjoy the summer months together with your purry pets and stay safe.

LEAVING A LEGACY

If you would like to remember Shropshire Cat Rescue, please write us into your Will and register it with your solicitor; that way you can rest assured that you are going to make a real difference to the lives of many cats. Ask your solicitor to record our charity name “Shropshire Cat Rescue” and number (No. 1071884) or contact the Shelter if more information is required.



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 permananet 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.

Your sponsorship or your gift

Sponsor a cat	£20		Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months.
The Nursery	£30		
The Moggies Retirement Village	£60		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 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 IMPORTANCE OF PLAY AT ANY AGE



As kittens move into adulthood their need and desire for play does change but it does not vanish completely. A cat at the grand age of 21 will still play, the intensity and length will be less but it is still very important for them to have that interaction. Older cats may be less inclined to jump and leap for toys but that doesn't mean rod/stick toys are no use as they can still pounce and chase them if dragged across the floor. Blind cats will still interact and play, some can see shadows so ones which light up could be useful and those with bells or make sounds mean the cat can locate them by sound and then use their other senses including smell and their whiskers to locate the toys. Titch who is blind and lives in the retirement village shows off her play skills regularly as does Pookie who is partially sighted. Playing and interacting with cats and kittens is enjoyable for both you and the cats, it can help build a bond and is a lovely way to spend time with your cat.

Some golden rules to remember:

- Don't play with kittens or cats using your hands or feet
- Laser toys can cause frustration as they are unable to physically catch it, if you do use them then ensure it lands on a toy they can then pounce on
- Rotate toys to keep interest
- Let the cat dictate length of play

LEWIS THE LIONHEART



Lewis came to us in February 2022 following the death of his owner and relocation of his other main carer. Luckily for Lewis, he had someone looking out for him who contacted us for help.

We weren't quite sure what to expect when Lewis was admitted, but he took us all by surprise! Weighing over 7kg, visible cancer to both ears and very grumpy, I'm sure a lot of volunteers would admit to being a little frightened of him. A check up with the vets quickly gave answers as to why he was so irritable – the poor boy had one of the largest flea infestations we had seen.

Being such a large cat, grooming was incredible difficult for Lewis. He developed a large area of matted fur down his spine. Once our vet team started to shave this off, they were confronted with the sight of fleas running to hide. The matt had been the perfect breeding ground for them. They managed to remove the matt, clean him up from all the flea poo and soothe his skin. And most importantly, they were able to give Lewis a fast acting flea treatment.

But it wasn't over for Lewis yet, due to the cancer on both of his ears they had to be removed. This was done the week after and we were

all pleased to see him looking and feeling so much better.

Lewis is the definition of 'Gentle Giant' He loves receiving attention from our volunteers, visitors and vet team. You can usually find him lounging in the grass on warm days, or curled up in his cottage on cold days. Of course, that soon changes once it's time for his daily walk up the village! We wouldn't want him getting lazy and spoiling his weight loss journey.

Lewis had to go through a lot in his first few weeks with us, but it seems he knew we were all trying to help him. Whilst grumpy on arrival, he soon changed his tune and it just goes to show how uncomfortable he must have been. He is now settled in our retirement village and is losing weight at a steady, but impressive, weight thanks to being more comfortable to move around. We are all looking forward to watching him progress further and are thankful to have been in a position to help when Lewis really needed it.





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THE FREE RANGER CATS AT SHELTER TAKE ON SUPERVISORY ROLE.



The volunteers gathered at our shelter to start packing donations for the first Paws For Ukraine lorry. The lorry took animal welfare aid to Poland to help Foundation ADA who are rescuing animals from the Ukraine. They have also set up pop up shelters and taken in pets carried over the border by their owners but for different reasons can't continue on their journey with them, even though it is hoped they will be reunited as soon as possible. They have also set up a Traumatized Animal Adoption Centre that will be open for incoming animals 24/7 whilst also taking and arranging for much needed food and supplies including vets getting to locations where needed. Items from our first lorry were sent via train to





Odessa and into a village that had been previously cut off and were desperate for animal food and aid.

Volunteers were supervised by our shelter's free ranger cats. Bertie instantly inspected boxes and food donations until he found a comfy bed to test out where he stayed until it was packed. He of course then moved on to boxes and found the highest vantage point possible.

Rudi and Sushi sniffed out items to check they were up to scratch.

Flump and Maya investigated and guarded the packed and weighed boxes waiting to be loaded in to vehicles until they go on their long journey.

The volunteers worked really hard and we are all so thankful for all the

wonderful donations coming in via our Amazon wish list and collection points. Other rescues are donating items too Cuan House, Grinshill Rescue, Rose Cottage Cat Rescue, Yorkshire Cat Rescue and Stray Cat Rescue, Albrighton have all donated items.

Donations can still be made to our shop and other collection points along with purchases from our Amazon wish list as we work to fill a second lorry.

Thank you everyone for the amazing support, please check out our Paws For Ukraine blog for collection drop off points and items needed.



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MEET THE VILLAGERS

by Karen Ashton



Misty – 17 years old

Misty came to us in December 2021. Misty is a beautiful Seal Point Snowshoe and is very friendly. Unfortunately she had developed a habit of sitting on her bed-bound owner's chest and face, which may have been her way of showing love but caused serious health issues for her beloved owner. A very upsetting situation for everyone involved, but the right decision overall to hand her to us.



Misty has had her fair share of health issues, which is extremely common in pedigree cats, but, so far, she has pushed through and showed us her fight and determination. She has decided to claim one of the cottages as her own and is quick to welcome visitors and volunteers in to see her.

Jenny – 15 years old

Jenny came to us in January 2021 after spending some time with another rescue. Unfortunately she came with a whole list of health conditions! Due to her age, we knew she would ultimately end up in our retirement village but we needed to get her health up to scratch first. Therefore, she had the privilege of living in the Shelter Manager's house for the first 4 months. We heard tales of this cat who bossed the dog around, decided when Marion was finished with her computer and gave her the run around during med time. Of course, she showed everyone else her super sweet side during visits to the vets.

Jenny has had both her thyroid glands removed, along with extensive dental surgery and was finally able to make the move into the village. A little sassy cat, she has made sure the other cats know who is in charge now! Luckily, they have accepted her decision and most tend to give her the space she requires.

With cats like Misty and Jenny, we have to keep a close eye on them to ensure living in close quarters with so many other cats isn't causing excessive amounts of stress and causing them to stop enjoying their lives. We want to ensure every cat in our care has the best quality of life that we can offer them.





Pookie – 19 years old

Pookie came to us in December 2020 following the death of her owner. Interestingly, she was also adopted from us way back in 2008. She was used to living in a multicat household with lots of different personalities, so we knew she would settle well in our retirement village.

Pookie is very petite, half deaf, half blind and always looks in a bit of a state. But you could not meet a sweeter cat! Visitors are always commenting about how lovely she is, we're a little worried she is going to develop a bit of an ego. At 19 years old, Pookie is very closely monitored to make sure she is in as good a condition as is possible. Our dedicated volunteer team ensure that cats like Pookie receive all the attention and love that they require, it's a hard job but someone has to do it!



Molly – 21 years old

Molly came to us in February 2019, part of a group of cats given up following a hoarding situation. We were able to work alongside another rescue and helped take in the elderly, sick and hard to home cats from the bunch.

Ask a volunteer, and they will tell you Molly is a lovely cat, very friendly with a little bit of spice. Ask a vet, and they will tell you the opposite! Molly is a cat who knows who she needs to butter up to get exactly what she wants. We think she secretly likes her visits with the vet, probably due to the sneaky Lick-e-lix's they get whilst having their check ups.

Molly is now the eldest feline resident of Shropshire Cat Rescue, but you wouldn't know it. She's always running around, playing with anything that dangles or rolls and hanging out on volunteers shoulders. She's truly enjoying life, and we are loving helping her live it to the fullest.

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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 Boutique (3 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury, SY1 1PN) 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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Trustees.....	Dianne Beaumont Marg Lloyd, Helen Smith, Amy Callahan-Page, Tracy Cross
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