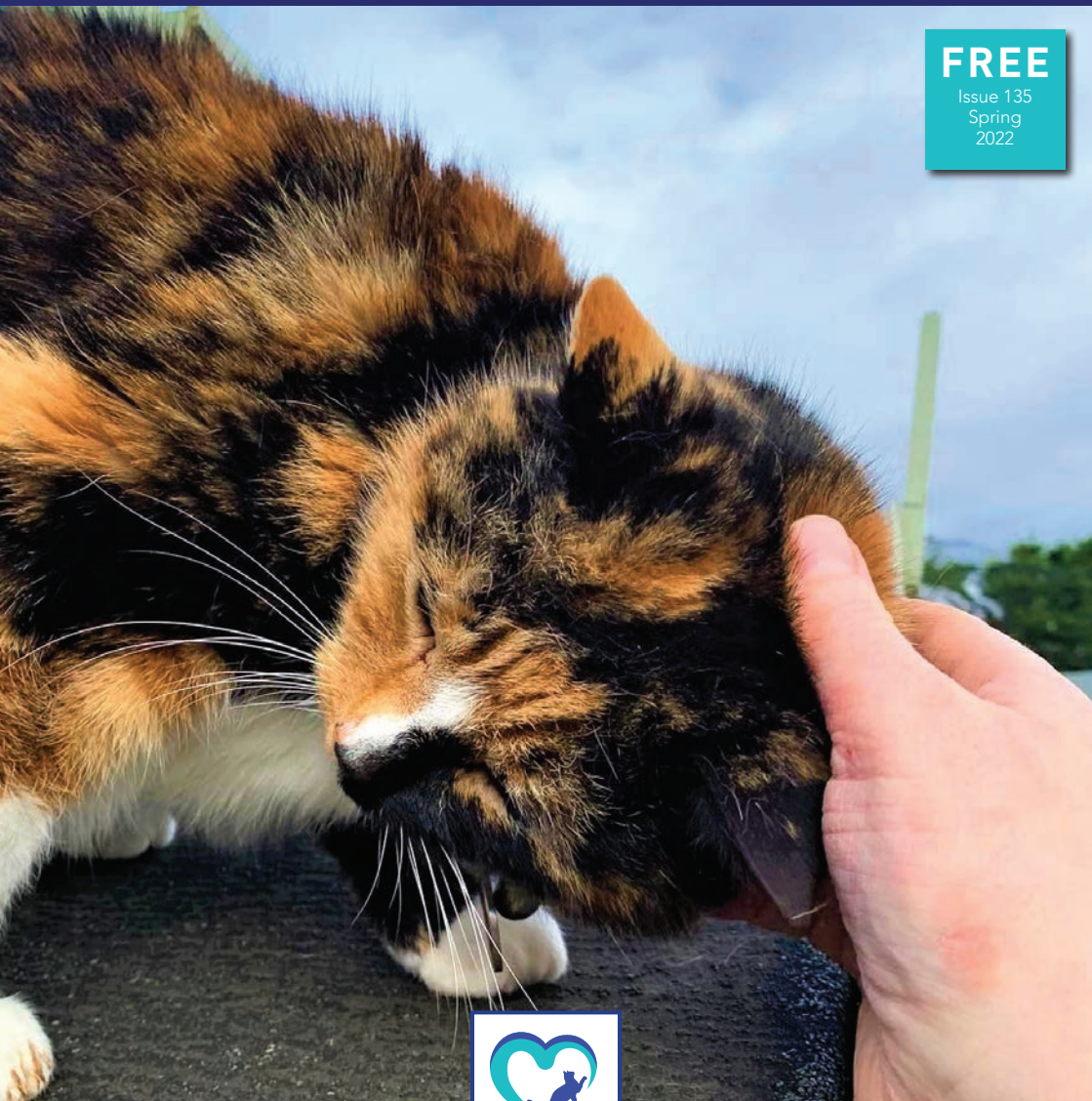


THE Cat's Whiskers

Quarterly magazine from Shropshire Cat Rescue

FREE

Issue 135
Spring
2022



Inside...

- Latest news from our Shelter and Shop

follow us



www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

Contents

A Meow-ment with the Editor. 3

Easter Sponsorship 4

Cat Tails 5

Ella the Village Volunteer 9

2023 Forever Homes Calendar 12

Let’s Talk: Drinking & Toileting 14

Village Life 15

How to Sponsor SCR 17

Meet the Villagers 21

Vet Detective: A Game of Cat and Mouse. 25

Poetry Corner. 28

Top Tips for Choosing a Kitten 30

Paws for Ukraine 34

Who’s Who at SCR 35

Disclaimer: The information contained within The Cat’s Whiskers we believe to be correct at the time of going to press. No responsibility can be accepted for any errors or omissions. The features in this publication are intended as guidelines only. The businesses and products advertised in this publication are in no way endorsed by the Charity

Printed and published by www.spottypenguin.com 07545551596

Editor
Melissa J Severn
Email: melissasevern@outlook.ie

Copy deadline for the
Summer 2022 edition is
Monday June 6th.

A Meow-ment with the Editor

Happy Spring, readers! We have some blooming brilliant articles for you this season, including the story of eight Exotic Shorthairs in Cat Tails, a first-hand account of our fabulous Village in Ella the Village Volunteer and a beautiful poem from Trustee Tracy Cross in our Poetry Corner. We also have Vet Detective Rebecca Bennett's fantastic latest instalment, an opportunity for YOUR gorgeous felines to be featured in our next Forever Homes calendar and Susie Phillips shares some super valuable tips about

choosing a kitten. Our breathtaking Village takes centre-stage this season; check out Meet the Villagers to become acquainted with our adorable retirees and Karen Wainwright's touching Village Life. We also have our paw-some Easter Sponsorships for you! I will be spending this Spring lounging on the lawn with my scruffy rescue cat Shrew, a book in one hand and Dreamies in the other to deter him from the birds! Enjoy the sun, the flowers and your lovely cats.

- M. J. Severn

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.

Advertising space for sale

BUSINESSES – why not promote your goods and services to these cat lovers with an advertisement in this exciting new publication? The magazine is A5 (14.8x21cm)

Quarter of a page - £35 per edition - £105 for the year

Half Page - £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

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk



EASTER SPONSORSHIPS



How about getting something a little bit different and special this Easter?

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
or email Sam via sponsorship@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk



Shropshire Cat Rescue

CATails



by Rachael Ashton

We have another round of Cat Tails for you all this edition! Some unique cats have passed through our Shelter doors these past few months and here's just a few...

Polly & her kittens

Polly came to us in early October '21 after concerned owners contacted us for help. Polly's owner had fallen seriously ill and, after Polly had her kittens, she became harder for the parents to care for. We took in this dedicated Mum and her babies to give them the care they needed.

Polly soon turned out to be what we affectionately call a 'crabby tabby' – known to be loving and affectionate but unafraid to swipe and fight you if she's not happy! But still, even with her spunky attitude, she has raised five beautiful and playful kittens.

Despite their playfulness and wonderful personalities, the kittens proved to fall victim to the Shelter's 'Black and White Curse'! Most of the kittens were uniquely black-and-white and finding homes for



them was hard; we often hear people assuming that black cats/kittens are hard to home, but we often find the combination of black-and-white makes it more difficult somehow! Luckily, our patience and perseverance meant that we eventually found the perfect families for these troublesome bundles of fur.

This left us with Polly, who made it very clear that she would be the one to decide who she went home with! Whilst her attitude towards more regular volunteers mellowed, she would often give visitors the cold shoulder. After nearly two months of searching and advertising across our website and social media, we

got in touch with a family who have adopted from us before: a family who have experience and love a challenging cat.

Polly instantly knew that this was the family she needed. We no longer had to worry about her and knew she would be in safe hands.

Nessa

Pedigree cats are rare in our Shelter, especially young, fit and healthy ones. Nessa's previous owners called us for help after their personal life became quite hectic; turning their home into their workplace meant that Nessa had become very unsettled.

As any owners of Ragdolls will know, Nessa needed attention and a quiet, loving home where chaos wasn't the norm. Being such a high-maintenance breed, we needed to find Nessa a new home where she would get all the love and attention she needed – and also the chance to be the playful cat she proved to be in the Shelter!

We soon found her the perfect home where she could be a big sister to the young cat already



living there. Her new owner would have all the time in the world for her.

Abraham, Eva, Esther, Martha, Luka, Troy, Ali & Fleur



Abraham



Eva



Esther



Martha

As those who follow our work will know that, back in November '21, we took in eight Exotic Shorthairs from a breeder who was no longer able to care for them. The cats' ages varied from 6 months to 2 years old, and all were suffering from Calici Virus, resulting in bad dental issues.

Before we could begin to find these cats new homes, we needed to ensure we could help them and find out the extent of their illness. This meant a long waiting period, as every cat needed to undergo several operations and treatments that couldn't simply be done overnight.

Once we knew how the cats were

coping and what steps we needed to take, we searched for experienced owners. Our Admin team worked extremely hard, filtering through applications and meeting families, until we found the perfect homes for them!

We were thrilled to find families who were patient throughout the process of vet clearance. They kept in constant communication with our Admin team, who provided them with updates and arranged visits to ensure that the cats were well-acquainted with their new families in time for their homing dates. In

the meantime, our volunteers made the most of the cats' stay with us; the eight were spoilt rotten with affection and playtime whilst they waited! Now, February has seen the last of the eight go to their new homes.

These eight Exotic Shorthairs have highlighted how important it is to understand a breed's need. Some Pedigree cats require more care than others and it's always worth doing the research before taking on such incredible cats.



Ella the Village Volunteer

Written by Ella, our youngest and super helpful volunteer!



My name is Ella and I love cats. My Mum calls me the crazy cat girl! I volunteer with my Mum when I'm on holiday from school, or when my Mum covers a shift for someone after school.

I love the village because it such a nice place for older cats to enjoy their golden years. I help my Mum change their water and fill up their dry food. I really enjoy it! I enjoy brushing the cats and they love it. All the cats are so loving. They always sit on me while I stroke them.

I like Pippa; she is so fluffy and cute. Ralph is really gentle and happy every time he sees me, as he knows I will give him a fuss. I love all the cats but my all-time favourite has to be Flump. He is the first cat I see when I go to Village; I always sit on the bench so he can come and get some fuss from me.



Sponsorship

My Mum has sponsored Annwyn for one of my birthday presents next month. Shropshire Cat Rescue's Sponsorships are such a good way to help the charity to continue their amazing work with the Shelter cats!



The SCR team would like to wholeheartedly thank Ella for all the love she gives to our Village cats. She keeps them young!



Quarry
VETERINARY GROUP

Brassey Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 7FA
Tel:01743 362556

Opening Times

Mon-Friday 8.30am-6.30pm

Sat 9.00am-12 noon



Happy to support Shropshire Cat Rescue

Daisy & Tilly's SHOP ON THE HILL

Artisan foods from near & far

Great choice of vegan, gluten free and organic foods

Fresh fruit & veg daily

Fresh fish from Barkworths

Fresh meats from Ensdon and Wenlock Edge Farms

Milk from Mawley Farm, Proper Good Dairy & Cotteswold

Artisan breads and pastries from La Bonne Parisienne

Plus lots of interesting (and delicious!) products:

everything from Black Garlic Ketchup to

Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee to

our own extensive range of herbs and spices

Fine wines and spirits from Tanners

Large selection of beers from 5 local brewers

13a Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill,
Shrewsbury SY3 0EW

www.daisyandtillys.shop



Design Print Promotion For Businesses & Charities

- Roller & Vinyl Banners
- Stickers, Labels & Signs
- Promotional T-Shirts & Bags
- Business Stationery
- Leaflets, Flyers & Posters
- Workwear & Corporate Clothing
- Promotional Videos



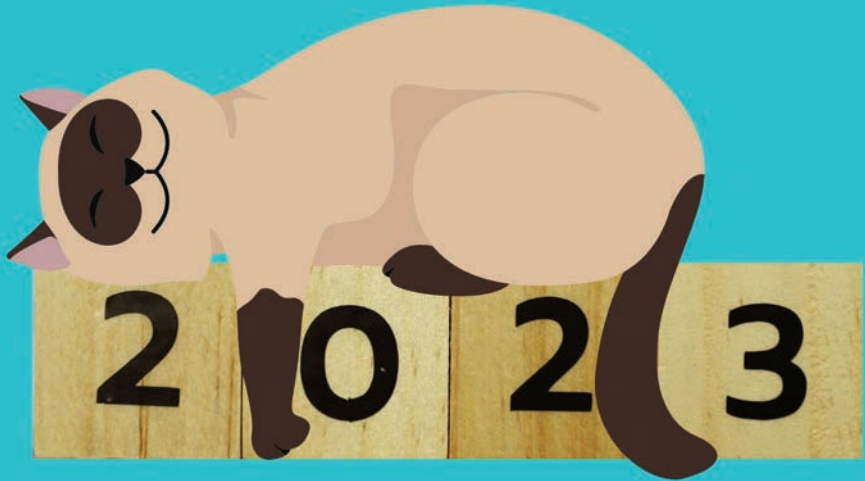
www.amdpromotions.co.uk

Contact 07825133056

enquiries@amdpromotions.co.uk



2023 Forever Homes Calendar: We Need Your Pictures!



Written by Anji Smith

Have you ever adopted a cat or kitten from us at Shropshire Cat Rescue?

We are inviting you to send us as many of your favourite pictures of them as you wish; we want to include them in our 2023 Forever Homes Calendar.

It doesn't matter when you adopted your cats - it could be years ago or just last week. If your pet has passed away and you would like them to be included in the calendar as a memorial, we would be pleased to do that for you.

Every cat entered will be included in the calendar. Unfortunately, we can't include every cat on a main page, but all the runners-up are featured in the calendar collages with their names and brief descriptions of them.

Please send your photos as unedited attachments to Anji at:

shropshirecatrescuecalendar@gmail.com

The best dimensions are 3:4 or 1:1 and preferably in a high quality / resolution.

The closing date for entries is 8th May 2022, so you have plenty of time to choose your favourite photos or snap new ones! The judges prefer to have several of each cat to help them choose which ones will go where in the calendar. We include a few details about each cat with their picture;

please send some information with your entries such as names, ages, when adopted, favourite toys and activities.

Anji will send you a proof of your cat's page for your approval before the calendar is sent for printing. Your personal details will not appear in the calendar - your privacy will be protected.

Most importantly, we must thank all the wonderful people who have given our cats and kittens the loving forever homes they deserve. We look forward to seeing all of your pictures and learning about how your beloved pets are enjoying life!



Let's Talk: Drinking & Toileting

Written by Susie Phillips

Cats diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease, Diabetes and Idiopathic Cystitis hugely benefit from an increase in drinking and toileting opportunities. Here's some advice about how to provide these for your cat at home!



Drinking

Golden Rule 1: One water bowl per cat, plus an extra one e.g. two cats = three water bowls.

Golden Rule 2: Locate water bowls away from food bowls (cats, unlike humans, do not tend to eat and drink at the same time).

Golden Rule 3: Keep water (and food) locations away from litter trays.

Remember to use raised bowls for elderly or injured cats. Does your cat prefer running water? Try a water fountain to encourage them

to drink! Ensure that outside water facilities are free from dangerous chemicals or substances.

Toileting

Golden Rule 1: One litter tray per cat, plus an extra one e.g. three cats = four litter trays.

Golden Rule 2: Have a litter tray on every floor to ensure access at all times.

Golden Rule 3: Locate litter trays in quiet areas - cats are private creatures!

Get creative! Large plastic boxes can be adapted; remember to smooth cut edges with tape. Remember that prime litter depth is 3cm.

Although these tips will help, please contact your Veterinary Practice if you notice a change in your cat's drinking and toileting.





by Karen Wainwright

Since the last edition of *The Cat's Whiskers*, we have taken in six new cats at the Retirement Village. The Shelter had to contend with storm damage but, thankfully, the Retirement Village got off quite lightly. However, some parts of the Shelter required significant repairs. The cats were kept safe and well at all times.



MISTY is a beautiful 17-year-old Seal Point Snowshoe. Misty always gives everyone a warm welcome. She is very friendly, enjoys being picked up and adores affection. Misty arrived at the Shelter at the end of December 2021. She has a low-grade heart murmur.



MARLEY is a 13-year-old Tricolour who arrived at the Shelter in January with George. Unfortunately, shortly after arriving at the Shelter, she was diagnosed with a serious heart murmur. She is well looked after by our volunteers and vets. Marley is very independent and enjoys fuss... on her terms!



GEORGE is a lovely black cat with a white blob on his chest. He is 13 years old and he purrs very loudly. Like most cats in our care, he enjoys affection. George arrived in January with Marley.



ARTHUR arrived at the shelter in January. He is shorthaired. We do not know his age. Sadly, he is not in very good health and is being closely monitored by our vets. Arthur is super affectionate and thrives on love. He can be very talkative and purrs a lot.



PRECIOUS is a lovely little girl. She is 15 years old. She arrived at the Shelter towards the end of January. Precious is very loving and talks quite a lot. She loves to explore and she is affectionate; she has a loud purr and cannot get enough attention! She has recently been diagnosed with Hyperthyroid.



TULA is a cream-coloured, long-haired moggy who also arrived at the end of January. She is 15 years & 9 months old. She has a low-grade heart murmur. Tula has behavioural issues and this is being investigated – but she purrs for England! She doesn't like to be held for very long but loves to chat.

Editor's Note: We are saddened to announce that, at the time of publication, Precious was put to sleep. We will miss this adorable chatterbox very much.

Photos by Karen Wainwright

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor a Cat - £20 a year



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.



Titch was born in 2000 and lives at the Shelter. She is blind but that doesn't deter from her loving nature.



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.

Sponsor the Nursery - £30 a year



The Nursery was completed in 2011 and 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.

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor the Moggies Retirement Village - £60 a year



The Retirement Village was completed in June 2010 and was created using donations, sponsorship and the hard work from volunteers. It comprises 6 chalets and a summerhouse.

Sponsor the Shelter - £100 a year



The Shelter was established in Bayston Hill, Shropshire in 1998 and has continued to grow. The Shelter is currently home to 17 residents, 22 villagers and at full capacity holds around 122 cats and kittens. In addition to the Shelter there is a Hospital, Nursery, Retirement Village, office, laundry room, feeding room, a shop and café/snack bar for visitors.

Your sponsorship or your gift

Pickle	£20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months. 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.
Morris			
Titch			
Annwyn			
The Nursery	£30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine
The Moggies Retirement Village	£60		
The Shelter	£100		
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

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue



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:	Occasion: Birthday/Anniversary/ Christmas
Who is gift from (to appear on card):	Other occasion:
Name of recipient:	
Address:	

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.

How you can help us

Not everyone can adopt a cat but there are lots of ways you can support the work we do at the Shelter.

You can find out about our sponsorship packages on **pages 17 and 18**, visit us online at **www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk** or contact Marion Micklewright at the Shelter on **01743 872857**.



Donate any sum of money at our Virgin money giving page.

The Bank The High Street		Sort Code 00-00 00
Pay: <i>Shropshire Cat Rescue</i>		Date: _____
£ <i>100.00</i>		Mr. John Smith
Cheque Number 001234	Sort Code 00-00 00	Account Number 01234567
<i>L. Smith</i>		

By Cheque, payable to Shropshire Cat Rescue and sent to Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU.



Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that can turn your old car into cash for UK charity.



To buy from a unique range of Shropshire Cat Rescue from our eBay shop.



Visit our page and donate goods from our wishlist.



When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Shropshire Cat Rescue.



Give as you Live™

A free way to raise money for Shropshire Cat Rescue when you shop online! Shop at over 4,300 leading stores via their website and you'll raise free funds for us.

The Cat's Whiskers Magazine

The quarterly magazine can be sent to you by post for a minimum donation of £5 for 4 editions. This covers the cost of postage and packaging. You can subscribe by emailing info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk or contact the Shelter on **01743 872857**.

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.

Meet the Villagers!

By Rachael Ashton

As many SCR supporters know, as well as being dedicated to rehoming cats and kittens of all ages, we are home to a Retirement Village. Older cats, or ones who require lifelong medication, stay with us in the Village where we aim to give them a quiet, peaceful space to retire.

Some cats come to us as strays and turn out to be much older or sicker than we originally believed. Others are handed over to us by their owners for an array of reasons. Our Village is built to hold 20-25 cats at any given time to ensure a stress-free, uncrowded life for our cats.

During the first COVID-19 lockdown, our Village cats took some time to adjust to living without a lot of people around. Most have since settled down and now enjoy not having so many people in their home. However, we didn't want people to miss out; we turned to Facebook to show the public how the cats were doing and our watchers virtually met our new additions. In honour of that success, we've decided to introduce a new segment to the magazine – it's all about the Villagers (and Free Rangers), so everyone can get to know them!

Titch

One of our most famous cats living in the Village is Titch! Not only one of our longest-standing cats, she's also a Sponsor cat. Sponsoring Titch means that you can receive up-to-date, regular and in-depth information about her. Titch came to us in early 2013 from a vet surgery. She had been handed in as a stray. She was full of cat flu and her blood showed a likelihood of kidney failure. They believed she was old; she was also blind, so she couldn't continue to live outside as a stray.

Over the years, Titch has thrived in her Village home. Despite being blind, she can get around just fine



and is always quick to find a lap to snuggle on. She's a huge fan of playing and is often chasing balls around the pathway!

Titch has had ups and downs health-wise (including a nasty ear infection that required surgery to correct), but has shown us that she wasn't as old as we originally thought. She must have been a young girl when she came to us and is now likely to be entering her double-digits this year! Most likely due to having untreated cat flu as a baby, it has aged her body (and is almost definitely the reason she's blind). However, hardship hasn't aged her kitten-like mind!

Due to her history of cat flu, Titch is often catching infections and has

daily doses of Flumax (a nutritional supplement containing amino acids, vitamins and minerals). The supplement has been keeping cat flu at bay and allows her to live a comfortable life.

Throughout the years, Titch has been a constant in the village and a friendly face for volunteers. Keeping us entertained with her knack for using legs as a climbing tree, she is a happy girl who is quick to be everyone's friend. Her disability has never slowed her down.

Piper

Piper is about 17 years old. She came to us originally with two other cats; their owner couldn't take them with her to new accommodation. When Piper arrived, she soon found her own pace and didn't cause any problems. She was happy to settle in a warm bed or lap. Her younger companion, Elsa, is often seen in the farm just behind the Village and sometimes says a brief hello through the fence.

Piper also came to the Village with an older companion, Henry. Henry was adored by everyone, but sadly he had a shorter time with us due to illness. After his passing,



volunteers took extra time with Piper and made sure she was okay – but being the friendly little thing she is, she coped surprisingly well. She often shares her bed with other villagers.

Piper has been a Villager for over two years now. It feels like she has always been there. She is a good snuggle companion for many of the new villagers, and a friend to any volunteer who sits down for a few

minutes near her! Piper is quick to say hello in the mornings... before retiring back to the warmth of Moggies Mansion after mealtimes. What a life!

Jinxie

Known as the Village's resident roof-hopper, Jinxie is a sprightly 13-year-old girl who came to us in January 2020. Her owner had passed away. Having spent most of her adult life outside, Jinxie was a little confused and wary at first.

After her initial vet check, we found that Jinxie had an enlarged heart chamber and a Grade 3 heart murmur. This ultimately meant that she would have to live in the Village in order to be well looked-after by our volunteers. She settled surprisingly well into Village life and enjoyed the outside huts, choosing to keep herself at a safe distance.

Whilst Jinxie originally accepted her medication (that helped to reduce the risk of heart disease and strokes), she soon started to distrust us, choosing to run away and cause a fuss when we tried to medicate her! Nothing worked and it became clear to us that the stress and upset was increasing the risk



of illness – it's hard to explain to a cat that you just want to help!

Jinxie was taken off her medication... and it didn't take long before she became a lot friendlier! She began running across the roofs of the cottages to say hello and be fussed. She's still often found lounging on a roof or in a hut, but soon comes out to greet you when you talk to her. In the warmer months, you might even find her snuggled into your legs if you sit for long enough!

Jinxie's quality of life has been vastly improved in the Village, though due to her heart-related issues, we don't know how long she'll have with us. However, we know she'll be happy and loved until the end. Instead of being stressed and messed with daily in order to

ensure a longer life-span, she is free to roam and make friends on her own terms. A friendly girl with a temper when she's unhappy, Jinxie fits the naughty Tortie trend very well! We wouldn't have her any other way.

Ollie

Ollie came to us in August 2021 with his brother, Arthur. They are two of the newest boys to join the Village. Their owner moved abroad and, at 17 years old, the boys would not have handled the move well. We were happy to take them in! Unfortunately, after many tests and examinations, we found that Ollie's brother had many health issues that altogether proved impossible to fix. Ultimately, it was kinder to let poor Arthur go.

Shy compared to his brother, Ollie was monitored closely whilst settling into the Village. After some blood tests, it was revealed that he had hyperthyroidism; Ollie is now on a steady course of medication to stabilise him.

Despite the medication and change in lifestyle, Ollie takes things in his stride. He is often found lounging by himself on a windowsill or outside the Mansion on a castle bed... fit for



the king he is! He's often slow to say hello but accepts your attention and fuss at his own pace. Ollie is a content boy and we intend to ensure that continues!

Stay tuned to meet more of our beloved Villagers in the Summer edition!



VET DETECTIVE: A Game of Cat and Mouse

by Rebecca Bennett

Creaky joints, a slow potter outside to catch a few rays of sun as Spring finally arrives... that's how we often think older, arthritic cats spend their days. However, the Villagers and residents at Shropshire Cat Rescue may disagree! A lot of the older cats have a spring in their step; these days they can be found jumping from roof to roof in the village and enjoying a new lease of life. How can that be?

In this edition, we have not solved a difficult case, but have instead found a successful solution for managing arthritis in SCR's Village cats.

Osteoarthritis is common in older cats and often underdiagnosed. Recent studies have shown evidence of arthritic changes on X-rays in 60-90% of cats, being

more severe in older patients. The affected areas are the shoulder, hip, elbow, knee (stifle) and ankle (tarsi) joints, as well as the spine.

It is a progressive condition, often slow and subtle in how it affects the quality of your pet's life. Your pet may be obviously lame but, more often than not, they hide the signs - this is their survival instinct. You may notice that your pet has stopped jumping up or hesitates before they do so. They may also stop using scratching posts as much; stop grooming themselves; get overgrown claws; have interrupted sleep patterns; become withdrawn or grumpy, especially when being stroked or groomed. This is often just put down to 'old age' but is more commonly a pet's way of showing - or hiding - pain.

Decreased mobility makes cats more prone to weight gain, which results in further detrimental effects on their joints... and so the cycle goes on. Many cats gradually become less mobile and more arthritic over time.

In the past, a lot of the Village cats were on a daily liquid oral medication to help with arthritic pain. This is an excellent thing to do but also a bit fiddly; administering the medication is more work for the volunteers and introduces the possibility of side effects, both short and long-term.

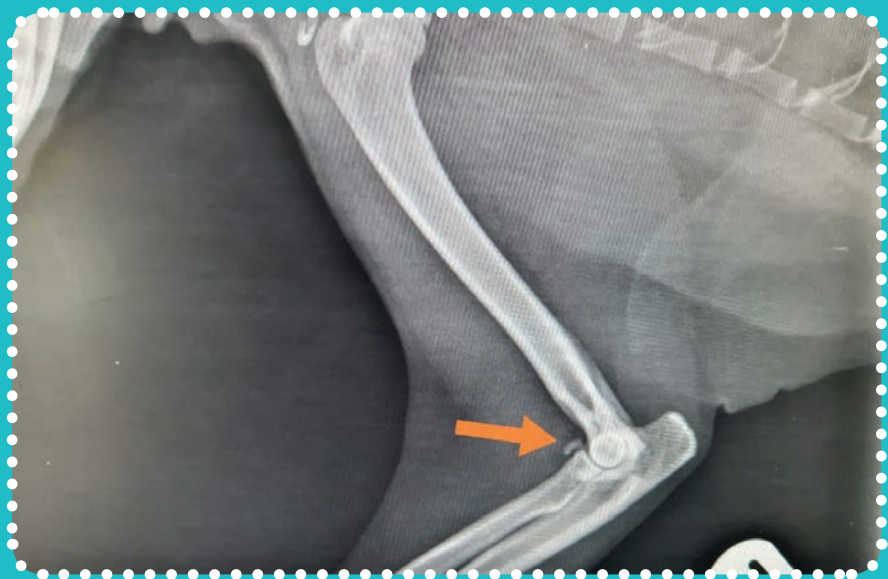
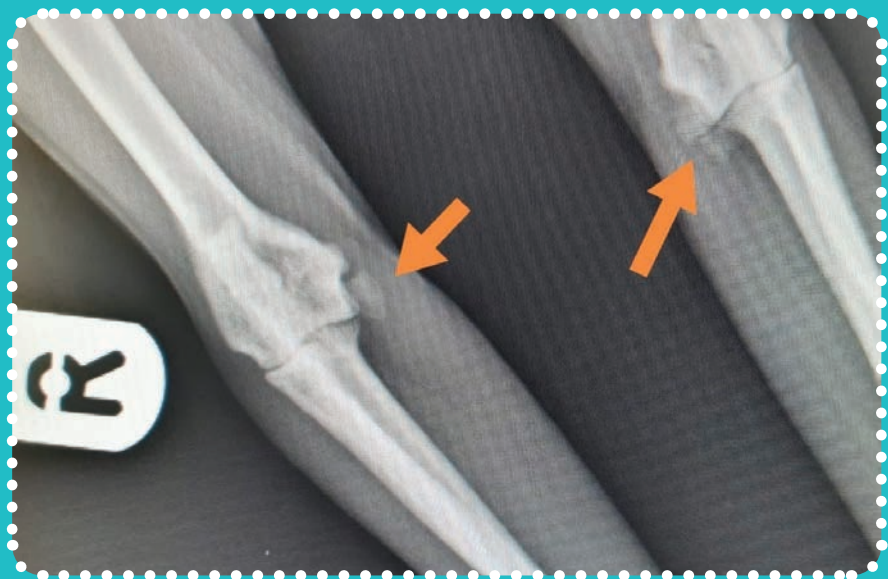
Luckily, there is now a monthly injection available to help treat

arthritis in cats. We started administering it to arthritic Villagers last year and, because it has been so successful, 17 of the Village cats are now on long-term treatment. Many of the Villagers seem to enjoy their monthly routine. They get a trip to the vet's room at the sanctuary, some fuss, a manicure, a weigh-in, their injection, and then they head back to the Village! Some, understandably, have been more reluctant; Pickle lived up to her name initially but yummy treats helped a lot. We find that most of the cats do not even notice their injection now.



After his injection, Pongo heads outside and stares at us in a slightly scary way through the window... we hope he loves us really? Pookie gets

an extra big snuggle and a groom which she enjoys - maybe Pongo is jealous!



Poetry Corner

We are thrilled to present our Poetry Corner once more! This season, SCR Trustee Tracy Cross has treated us to a fun and heartfelt poem about her very own furry friend Poppy.

Are you creative? In our upcoming Summer issue, we want to feature your poems, drawings, paintings, photographs, jokes, limericks and everything else under the sun. The only guideline we have is that your art must be cat-related, please! All ages and abilities welcome!



Poppy Cat

A poem by SCR Trustee Tracy Cross

Poppy cat, Poppy cat
Sat on the mat
Judging, assessing
Furry and fat.

Poppy cat, happy cat
Sat in her chair
Watching and sleeping
Constantly there.

From gutter to Princess
She's made us her home
Adopted her family
No need to roam.

I move to the kitchen
To make a quick brew
She's right there behind me
For all that I do.

A knock at the door?
She's up on the sill
A trip to the loo
She follows me still.

In thought at my desk
It's not long until
She's up on the table
Demanding her fill...

...Of tickles and cuddles
Morn, day or night
Purring away as she
Shares her delight.

As she sits on my lap
Happy to be
My constant companion
My furry Poppy.



Your Pets Health is our Top Priority!

- **Free Health Checks** for all new pets
- **Pet Health Club** providing your pet with the preventative treatments they need to live a happy and healthy life including **FREE VACCINATIONS**

01743 360614

#wecareasmuchasyoudo

copthorne-vets.co.uk



English Care is a family based company dedicated to providing professional care in friendly and relaxed homes based in Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock.

01743 247071
01952 727203

BOWBROOK HOUSE
LADY FORESTER
FORESTERS COURT

- Nursing, residential, dementia care, respite and day care
- Retirement apartments offering independent living
- Comfortable accommodation in period homes
- Friendly and highly skilled staff
- Pleasant gardens
- Home cooked food offering plenty of choice
- Award winning company recognised both locally and nationally
- Comprehensive activity schedule

www.englishcare.co.uk

LOWER MILL BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY

We know that cats love nothing more than to explore, that's why our luxury heated chalets offer ample space for your cat to wander around during the day. Our outside chalets have fully insulated and heated back cabins.

For more information on our services, for prices or to make a booking call us today:

01743 790160

www.lowermillkennels.co.uk

Pontesbury, Shropshire



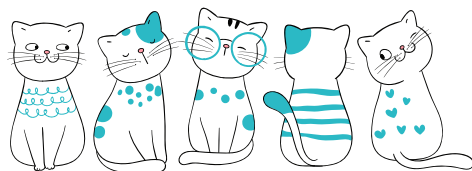
Tips For Choosing A Kitten

Written by Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse, ISFM
Diploma in Feline Nursing, ISFM Advanced Certificate in
Feline Behaviour

Thinking about what sort of kitten will suit you is important. For example, a nervous, timid kitten may not suit a busy household with lots of comings and goings. Before starting your search, it's helpful to have a clear idea of what kind of kitten will suit your lifestyle.

Kittens born in a feral colony (or if the father is unknown) may have anxious traits. The following living arrangements could possibly cause them stress and increase their anxiety:

- **Being kept indoors all the time**
- **Restricted outdoor access**
- **Regular visitors**
- **Young children**
- **Other pets e.g. dog**



Pedigree or Rescue?

Pedigree:

Before choosing a breed, check out the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) website for information about personalities and specific care requirements.

Rescue cats:

They could have an unknown mother or father. Consequently, it is difficult to predict inherited behaviour traits such as boldness or nervousness.

Did you know?

Shropshire Cat Rescue offer Socialisation and Habituation programmes. These will aid a kitten's behavioural development, improving their ability to adapt to life in their new home. Here's some tips:

Socialisation with people of different ages, genders and appearances (along with other pet animals, particularly dogs) between 2-9 weeks of age is essential.

Habituation with items, sounds and smells commonly found around the home that may cause fear (e.g. vacuum cleaner) is important. Introducing carriers and grooming is also valuable. If you have other cats or pets, ask the SCR team if you can take your new kitten's bedding home so you can introduce their scent to your pets before the kitten's arrival.



When you visit us...

Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions before and during your visit with us! This will help you to understand what sort of kitten is best for you. Our volunteers spend a lot of time with the kittens and cats in our care; they are very knowledgeable regarding personalities and behaviour. If you

come to realise that your lifestyle is not suitable for the kitten you're interested in, don't be embarrassed to say so; you are not failing them by saying no. In fact, you're guaranteeing the kitten's success in another home more suited to their needs!

Picking a kitten

When choosing a kitten, their response to you can be a good indicator of their future behaviour traits.

A bold and human-friendly kitten will approach you quickly and suit most homes.

Timid kittens may take time to approach you. A quieter home, where children are older and visitors are less frequent, would be more suitable.

A kitten hiding, backing away or exhibiting other fear signals (e.g. hissing) needs experienced care. They will suit a quiet home where frequent visitors and young children are rare.

Queens (mothers) who take time to approach - or position themselves between you and the kittens - will potentially have timid traits. Be prepared that socialisation may not be easily carried out.

Queens hiding away with their kittens are likely to be nervous, making socialisation very difficult. The kittens will potentially be less-adapted to home life; they will thus require a home where human interaction is purely on their terms.

Hand-reared kittens can be needier and less able to control themselves if they become frustrated. Handling frustration is an important skill learned from their mother during nursing.

Getting your home ready:

- Use kitten-safe toys. Never use your hands or feet to play with kittens, as this is likely to result in aggressive, painful attacks as they get older.
- Provide various safe locations where your kitten can go and be undisturbed by humans.
- Provide scratching posts and/or mats.
- Create or purchase puzzle feeders to nurture your cat's hunting instincts in a controlled environment.



Most importantly... enjoy getting to know the fluffy new addition to your family! You can't go wrong when you give a kitten all the love and care they deserve.



Paws for Ukraine:

Drop Donations Off at the SCR Shop

In light of the devastating conflict occurring in Ukraine, we are asking for donations that will aid the animals affected. If you have any of the following items to spare, please drop them off at the SCR Shop (address below).

- Dog crates of all sizes (the fold-flat style)
- Cat carriers
- Wet and dry dog/cat food
- Food and hay for small animals
- Cat litter
- Puppy pads
- Collars, leads and harnesses
- Food and water bowls

Please check our Facebook page regularly to see updates regarding the items we are asking for. You will also find our JustGiving link on the Facebook page.

Collection Point:

**Shropshire Cat Rescue Shop, 69 Mardol,
Shrewsbury, SY1 1PZ.**

(Open Monday to Saturday, 10am - 5pm)

Scan the QR Code to access our Amazon Wish List for the Paws for Ukraine appeal. The last day to drop off donations is Tuesday 5th April. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



SCAN ME

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**

Chairman	Marion Micklewright
Trustees	Dianne Beaumont
Marg Lloyd, Helen Smith, Amy Callahan-Page, Tracy Cross	
Shop Managers	Anna Kent and Jonah Leese
Gift Aid Officer	Marg Lloyd
Legacies Officer	Peter Kampler
Marketing and Fundraising Manager	Tracy Cross
Outreach.....	Julie Kampler
Personnel Manager	Helen Smith
Shelter Manager	Marion Micklewright
Social Media Officer	Dianne Beaumont
Sponsorship	Sam Rushby
Marg Lloyd @ShropsCatRescue	
Volunteer Recruitment Officer	Katie Ho
Volunteer Recruitment Officer (Shop)	Elle Randles

Who's Who at the magazine.

Magazine Editor	Melissa J Severn: melissasevern@outlook.ie
Magazine Advertising, Distribution & Accounts Officer	Karen Wainwright
Magazine Subscription	Sam Rushby

Printed and published by **www.spottypenguin.com** 07545551596



Croft & Oakes

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Proud to support
Shropshire Cat Rescue

With you every step of the way
to a bright financial future.

“
**FOR EVERY NEW CLIENT
WE WILL MAKE A DONATION
TO SHROPSHIRE CAT RESCUE.”**

CHRIS OAKES

FOUNDER AND INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER

INDIVIDUALS

- Final Salary Pension Advice
- Pension Planning/Transfers
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Investment Advice
- Wills and Inheritance Tax

BUSINESSES

- Pension Scheme Guidance
- Succession Planning
- Business Protection
- Shareholder Agreements
- Corporate Investments

Call or email us to arrange a free, no-obligation consultation...

01743 816115 or info@croftandoakes.co.uk

www.croftandoakes.co.uk



Croft & Oakes Chartered Financial Planners Ltd is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Financial Services Register Number 731020. Registered in England & Wales, Company Number 9879146