



**FREE**

Issue 124 Winter 2018/19

# The Cat's Whiskers

Quarterly magazine from **Shropshire Cat Rescue**



**Inside ...**

Your cat questions answered.

Latest news from our Bayston Hill Shelter and Shrewsbury Shop.

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# Welcome to the Winter 2018 edition of The Cat's Whiskers.

I hope you like Bernard our cover star. Bernard is 15 years old and has been in the Retirement Village for 2 years. Unfortunately, he has a heart murmur. Thanks to Nikki Trow for this lovely picture. Nikki is a local blogger who adopted a beautiful Ragamuffin cat called Sugar from Shropshire Cat Rescue, having met her at one of their open days earlier this year.

It is amazing to think that we are fast approaching Christmas. I would like to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and to

thank you for supporting Shropshire Cat Rescue. There is still time to purchase our Christmas cards and calendars. Please visit the SCR shop in Shrewsbury.

Many thanks to those contributing to this edition and a special welcome to our new contributors.

Comments or suggestions for future editions of this magazine are always welcome. Please let me know your thoughts.

David Bates, Magazine Editor.

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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

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# Shelter News

By John Coles, Assistant Shelter Manager.

Winter is here..... Kitten season is nearly over, and the nursery is all but nearly quiet.

The shelter is still caring for one lone kitten Sooty, who is gradually recovering with the aid of volunteers and a small incubator for comfort.

Summer passed with the hectic open days, massive thank you to all who gave up their Saturdays to help out, especially Shelter Manager, Marion who managed to squeeze them all in! The busy period passed, and we had some new cats arrive in the village and sadly some passed.



Visitors during one of our summer Open Days



John and Annwyn



Tuppence who you might remember as the village escapee from last winter, has been loving the summer days as one of our free roaming cat members. He's forever on patrol around the shelter and greets most visitors along with Annwyn and lately, Alma. All will be looking for a warm bed as the cold nights close in.

Photographs supplied by John Cole and Marion Micklewright



Ford has come on this year and remains a character in the village, closely joined by Lola, who has managed to recover from a suspected stroke and proves this by regularly jumping across the cottage roofs. Bernard and Snoop are still the meet and greet pair, Bernard, our cover star, starting to grow his winter white coat and looking back to his handsome self. Lucy struggled

to find a new home, due to having 3 legs and being a little grumpy, is now loving life in the village and regularly greets the volunteers. Two new arrivals are Max and Summer and they are already looking to make a name for themselves. Sparkle turned 21 and had a little cake and purrseco to enjoy the day.



Lucy



Bernard



Sparkle



Snoop



We look forward to next year with the extended coffee/tea seating area, being able to cater for more visitors and enjoy cake with the

residents. Many thanks to Richard Micklewright for all the time he has given to prepare the area.

# Duke of Edinburgh awards.

By Tracy Frampton, DofE and Student Volunteer Officer.



Photograph supplied by Tracy Frampton

Here at Shropshire Cat Rescue we have a Shift dedicated for Students to help look after all of the animals including our goats, ducks, chickens and sheep.

We teach them the importance of cat care, so they can pass it down generations to come. It's hard work but we have a lot of fun along the way, with "quote of the week" for those moments when its sounds better in our heads (e.g. Saying to a blind cat "look there's your food"). We encourage team work and strong communication with 3 adults leading the team we ensure that safety is top priority. Kittens are always the most popular so last year when we had a litter of 10 that were being hand reared it was all hands-on deck for the feeds and bathing, a task enjoyed by all.

As the DofE Officer I have watched these students grow, the shyest of those becoming more and more confident over the 12 weeks, many not wanting to leave. Friends are made, and bonds are built, no

matter your age, likes or dislikes, what school you go to or where you live. All are welcomed with open arms and open hearts.

This is what our students say.

"I started out as a student for my Duke of Edinburgh award but have now continued for over two years helping care for hundreds of cats. I have met the most amazing people who have made my time there even more enjoyable. Volunteering every Sunday morning has made such a large impact on my life. My confidence within myself has grown so much and this has been helped by the team leader Tracy believing and encouraging me."

"Before joining Shropshire Cat Rescue, I lacked in confidence but within the first few weeks I could already feel my confidence gaining which helped me to make new friends."

If you are aged between 14-18 and doing your DofE please contact Tracy on [lovetopurr@virginmedia.com](mailto:lovetopurr@virginmedia.com) - We also have a 12 week programme for those young animal lovers who just want to help, but priority will be given to those doing DofE.

Tracy has worked at the Shelter for 4½ years as a Shelter Volunteer, Shift Leader and DofE and Student Volunteer Officer. She believes in teaching cat care to the next generation who become the cat owners of the future.

# Forthcoming Events



## *Save The Date*



### **Shropshire Cat Rescue The Cat's Whiskers Dinner and Auction**

Wednesday 10th April 2019  
6.30pm for 7pm.

Origins Restaurant, London Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 6PR.

**£25 per person**

Includes a glamour puss cocktail  
and canopies, followed by a 3-course meal.

Coffee will be by donations.





## Shropshire Cat Rescue Shop Shrewsbury Needs Volunteers



**The purrfect role is just waiting for you! We need Retail Assistants for our shop in Shrewsbury Town Centre. You will need to:**

- Make our customers feel special when you serve them.
- Sort the donations we receive from our fabulous supporters.
- Find hidden gems in the Stock Room.
- Advise customers about our Charity, what we do and why we do it.
- Show us how creative you can be to make the shop attractive to our customers.

### **What will you get from us:**

- A warm SCR welcome, relevant training and you will join a friendly sociable Team.
- A 20% discount off goods you purchase from the Shop.
- Staff rest area
- Flexibility to fit with your lifestyle.
- Knowing that you are making a difference to the lives of the cats rescued, rehomed or cared for.

For more information call into the SCR Shop on Roushill Bank, contact the Shop Team Leader on **01743 236222**, the Shelter on **01743 872857** or email [info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)





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Contact us NOW to be part of this exciting magazine!  
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# Pleased to meet you...

Susan Marine, Volunteer.

Hello, my name is Susan and I've been a volunteer at Shropshire Cat Rescue for two and a half years.

I first came across the charity through Marg Lloyd, a trustee, on Twitter. We met at a local networking event, "Tweet Up Shrewsbury", and I was bowled over by her enthusiasm and decided to visit the Shelter to find out for myself what is so special about Shropshire Cat Rescue. The rest, as they say, is history!

I started off by volunteering at the charity shop in Roushill Bank in the centre of Shrewsbury. I enjoy helping to organise the stock, keeping things clean and tidy, and chatting to customers, many of whom are regulars.

I soon discovered that there are lots of other ways to help including fundraising, shelter tours, social media and helping out with the magazine. There is always something interesting to do!

My favourite aspect of volunteering, apart from helping to raise awareness and funds for the many cats in SCR's care, is meeting new people and making friends. Oh, and visiting the cats, of course!

Remember... "Time spent with cats is never wasted." Sigmund Freud.



**You can follow Susan on Twitter @bigPURRproject and Instagram @shropscatrescue**



# Village Life

By Karen Wainwright, Volunteer

Over the past few months we have had a lot of changes in residents of the Retirement Village. I would like to tell you about some of our newest arrivals.

'Summer' a gorgeous tortie arrived in October, she is aged 10+ years and is very friendly once she recognises you, she has previously been a house cat. A couple of days earlier we introduced 'Max', a caramel domestic shorthaired ginger and white male. Max is 11 years old and is very shy, but we hope that we can make him very happy with volunteers giving him lots of TLC and some treats if he is good!



Summer



Max



Truly

During August we took in two ragdolls namely 'Truly' and 'Precious'. Truly is a very pretty Seal Point, she is very friendly and is aged 16 and loves to go on your lap and enjoys being picked up. Precious is a lovely Lilac Point, she is friendly but sometimes not keen to be picked up. Both love to sleep in the pod.



Precious



Judy



Chloe

In July we took in two sisters named Judy and Chloe. Judy is an adorable black cat aged 10 years she is extremely friendly and cannot get enough attention. Whilst her sister is only aged 1, she sadly, has a grade 5 heart murmur which is why she is in the village along with her older sister.

Generally speaking, the majority of cats in the village are not suitable for rehoming because of on-going health problems.

Although it is lovely to report on the new arrivals it is also very sad that I have to report that we have lost some adorable cats including Sophie, Diago, Cookie and Missy, all of whom have touched the hearts of the volunteers.



The Pod

Photographs supplied by Karen Wainwright

# Finding my forever home.

By David Bates, Editor.

These beauties have all gone to their new homes with our best wishes. Check out our Facebook page for all the latest news and photographs.



**Hobbes**



**Dottie**



**Honey**



**Peggy's kittens homed together**





**Bertie and Bobby**



**Rodney, Tinkerbelle and Sampson  
homed together**

## **In Loving Memory.**



**Kovu - Loved for 18 years, leader  
of our cat gang, missing him every  
day**



**Teddy sadly missed , you left us too  
soon xx**



**Holly – a very special cat and sadly missed.**





## Meowtown Night.

By Susan Marine, Volunteer

Saturday 15th September was a great night for Motown fans and cat lovers alike at the Salop Unison Club. Affectionately known as the Meowtown Night, SCR's Twenty 20 fundraising team hosted a Motown evening in aid of the Big PURR Project.

Around 50 people attended and were treated to an excellent choice of music by local DJ John Davies, including a visual display of Motown Artists and cats from the Rescue Shelter.

Guests tucked into delicious fish and chips from the Monkmoor Fish Bar and were wowed by a surprise appearance by SCR's mascot, Micky! A total of £544.55 was raised on the

night, including proceeds from the raffle.



Poster designed by Hannah Marine



Thanks to the staff of the Salop Unison Club, Sarah Louise Images for photographing the event and providing the photo booth, Sandra Harris of Buttonbury and everyone who contributed to the raffle and supported the event.

Last but not least, SCR would like to thank the volunteers and their partners for making this, and all our fundraising events, such a success.

Find out more about the Big PURR Project on page 25.



**Photos supplied by Susan Marine**

# Wow, what a window.

By David Bates, Magazine Editor.

In September Suzanne Phillips of Felt Sew Woolly dressed the shop window and our grateful thanks go to her. Suzanne sells a variety of yarns, fabric and haberdashery. crochet, knitting and patchwork workshops for grown-ups and children from Unit 10 Radbrook Shopping Centre, Shrewsbury where there is free parking. You can follow her on Facebook, visit [www.feltsewwoolly.co.uk](http://www.feltsewwoolly.co.uk)

Bobbie Nugent dressed the window to commemorate the Armistice. For the remainder of November, the window was dressed by Mel



Smith. Beverley Baker, former Mayor of Shrewsbury, will be covering the festive season in December. Interestingly Sandra's grandparents used to live in the shop many years ago when it was still a house with a garden and cellar.

Sandra is inspired by the discovery of her late mum's button box. She makes handmade bags which are



beautifully lined. She combines new and vintage fabrics and always a button. You can see examples of Sandra's work on Instagram @buttonbury and on her website [www.buttonburycraftcrafts.co.uk](http://www.buttonburycraftcrafts.co.uk)

We will feature the November and December window displays in our next magazine.

The shop is located on Roushill Bank which is between Lloyds Bank and Café Nero at the bottom of Pride Hill, Shrewsbury. It is attractively laid out on two floors and sells a wide range of books, CDs, DVDs, clothing, bags, bric-a-brac, jewellery and vintage goods. There are some real bargains to be found; why not come and look when you are in Shrewsbury?

## Opening hours

**Monday to Saturday 11:00am to 4:00pm.**

**Closed on Sunday**

**Telephone: 01743 236222**

**Photographs supplied by Margaret Lloyd.**

# 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, pet shops, waiting rooms 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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## Grrrrreat News!

By Susan Marine, Volunteer.

Shropshire Cat Rescue were delighted to be contacted by local, award winning gin company owner JJ Lawrence of **Tiger Gin** who wanted to present the Charity with a donation personally and have a tour of the Rescue Shelter.

JJ and his wife Vicki not only turned up with a cheque but also some "Tiger Cubs" and treats for the Villagers! The cat loving couple



enjoyed their tour and were "blown away" by the amazing work that we do.

You can follow Tiger Gin on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit [www.tigergin.co.uk](http://www.tigergin.co.uk)

**Photographs by John Benge Photography**



# How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

## Sponsor a Cat - £12 a year



**Pickle** moved into the Retirement Village in 2016 at the age of 10. She is tabby and white.



**Titch** is an elderly stray who came to live in the Retirement Village in February 2013. She is black and white and blind, but she still enjoys a good life.



**Annwyn** is a 12 month old tortoiseshell and white female. She now lives at the Shelter and has put herself in charge of vermin control.



**Mandy** moved into the Retirement Village in October 2014. She is a blue Chinchilla Persian with lots of character.

## Sponsor the Rabbits and Guinea Pigs - £15 a year



There are seven hutches and a large enclosure for the rabbits and guinea pigs. The rabbits are neutered and vaccinated. Some are rehomed whilst others are cared for at the Shelter.

## Sponsor the Nursery - £25 a year



The Nursery was built in 2011 from a grant by Support Adoption for Pets. There are seven pens for pregnant and nursing females and two incubators for orphans.

# How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

## Sponsor the Moggies Retirement Village - £50 a year



The Moggies Retirement Village was built in 2010 and is currently home to over 25 elderly cats.

## Sponsor the Shelter - £100 a year



The Shelter was built in 1999 and has continued to grow. We have 13 free ranger cats, 25 cats in the Retirement Village plus up to 122 cats and kittens waiting for homes.

## Your sponsorship or your gift

Pickle	<b>£12</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months.</li></ul>
Mandy			
Titch			
Annwyn			
Rabbits and guinea pigs	<b>£15</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>
The Nursery	<b>£25</b>		
The Moggies Retirement Village	<b>£50</b>		
The Shelter	<b>£100</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine</li></ul>
<b>TOTAL PAYABLE</b>		<b>£</b>	

Please return the form and a cheque, made payable to **Shropshire Cat Rescue, to Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU.**

More information about our sponsorship packages can be found online at **[www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)**

# How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue



## Your details

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr	Address:
First Name(s):	
Surname:	
Tel:	
Mobile:	
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.**

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--	--------------------

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 19 and 20**, visit us online at **[www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk)** or contact Marion Micklewright at the Shelter on **01743 872857**.



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£ <i>100.00</i>				Mr. John Smith	
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<i>J. Smith</i>					

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



*Visit our page and donate goods from our wishlist.*



**Text** SCRT75 to 70070 to **donate** £3 to the Shelter



**Text** PURR15 to 70070 to **donate** £3 to The Big PURR Project.

## 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 online at [www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](http://www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk) or contact Cindy Mason-Morris at 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.

## What a year!

By Dianne Beaumont,  
Trustee.



# Twenty20

The Twenty 20 committee were a group of volunteers who got together to put on 20 fundraising events to celebrate Shropshire Cat Rescue being a Charity for 20 years. Shropshire Cat Rescue would like to thank Carol, Mandy, Julie, Daphne, Susan, Marg and Dianne for all their hard work. Altogether the Twenty 20 committee raised an amazing £7,000 towards the Big Purr Project.

Organising the events and promoting them to the widest audience was a challenge and the group rose to the occasion. There were many quiz nights in the Shrewsbury Club, Havana Republic and The Salop Unison Club bringing the charity into contact with many new people. By the end of the year there was a regular following of teams! Other quiz nights were held at Three Fishes in Shrewsbury and Oswestry pubs.

We held two successful music events, a 70's night to launch the Twenty 20 celebrations and a Motown Night, which included a fish and chip supper. Both events were

enjoyed by all who attended, and we have a request for a further event in Autumn 2019.

Other quirky events included Art Squad Anarchy and All Things Auctioneering. Volunteers held coffee mornings and raffles were held at events we were invited to including, Pet Rescue Day, Mitton Manor and Health and Wellness Network. There were also sponsored walks and we held a number of store collections including at Shrewsbury Market Hall.

We're not stopping there, we already have a Dinner and Auction planned for Wednesday 10 April 2019 at Origins, Shrewsbury College. We hope to meet many new friends. You can book your place now by calling **07955 744198**.

Thanks to everyone who supported our events and everyone who turned up and enjoyed them. All our venues and acts generously provided their services free of charge.



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# The Big PURR Project

By Marion Micklewright, Chairman



The Big Plan for Ultimate Rescue Relocation (PURR) Project aims to raise £2 million to create an exciting new centre near Shrewsbury to encourage education, community activities, leisure, tourism and animal welfare, to benefit the whole community.

In this edition we feature Health and Wellbeing. It is well documented that stroking cats is relaxing, and we see for ourselves how people smile, relax and enjoy being in the company of the animals at our shelter, whether it be the Moggies Retirement Village, the Bistro Garden or just a bench under a shady tree.



We now want to create a haven of pure contentment at our new larger premises. Visitors are keen to thank us and praise us for the atmosphere at the shelter, but really that is down to the animals who share the space with us and the thoughtful

volunteers who work with us.

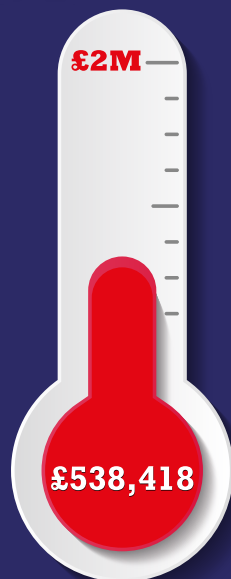
Respecting when someone wants some quiet time is important and equally, recognising when someone wants to help themselves through confidence building and social skill development

– all of this is possible with our “baby steps” approach to wellbeing; volunteering on quieter afternoons can develop to becoming part of a small and then larger team.

The detailed planning for all aspects the Big PURR Project is continuing as the Charity aims to reach the £2m to fund this

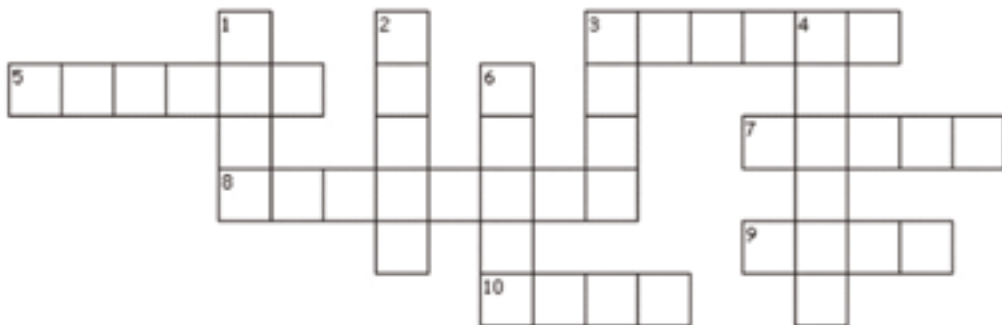
ambitious plan.

You can donate to the Big PURR Project in many ways. Please go to page 22 to see how you can help us achieve our ambitious fundraising target.



# Kitten Club

Welcome to Kitten Club! These pages are just for kids. Have fun!



## Across

3. Kitties don't jump, they \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What people called me when I was young.
7. Sharp, pointy and not in my mouth.
8. Your dad shaves his off, but I need mine!
9. You like to knit with this, I like to tangle it.
10. Funny noise I make when I'm happy.

## Down

1. My favorite word.
2. I like to chase these if they come in my house.
3. I don't have feet, I have \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Goes around my neck.
6. I do this for most of the day.



Answers on Page 38

# Fun facts



Cats have 32 muscles in their ears (humans have only 12). This gives the ear mobility, enabling it to precisely locate prey such as mice or the opening of their cat food! Cats can also hear frequencies that are both below and above those that can be heard by humans. The ear also has the job of helping to maintain balance and the ability to right themselves when falling – which is where the phrase “Cats always land on their feet” came from.



Cats are able to jump up to six times their own length.



The record number of cats kept by any one person was by an owner named Jack Wright, from Ontario, Canada who kept 689 cats

## Jokes

Q. Why was the cat disqualified from the game?

**A. It was a Cheetah.**

Q. Why did the cat run away from the tree?

**A. It was scared of its bark.**

Q. What is a cat's favourite colour?

**A. Purrrple.**



## Do you want to share your story or your artwork?

Have you heard a great cat joke you think will have us rolling around laughing? If so, please send it in! We love seeing what kids write, draw, paint and create.

Send any contributions to:

Magazine Kitten Club, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU or email them to **waltonbarns@zen.co.uk**

We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be published.



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# Indoors or outdoors? What's best for your cat?

By Claire Kirby, 4 Legs Good

It is increasingly seen as preferable to keep cats exclusively indoors for their safety: accidents, injury, disease, theft, increasing density of cats in the neighbourhood and resultant increase in territorial disputes are all cited as reasons for keeping cats indoors and evidence of longer life spans of indoor cats corroborate that physical safety is enhanced in indoor cats. Hunting and killing increasingly vulnerable wildlife is another compelling reason for keeping cats indoors.

However, avoidance of physical harm is not the only important aspect in any individual's life. Any discussion of an indoor lifestyle for cats must include overall quality of life. This needs to include physical/physiological, psychological and emotional aspects.

The UK Animal Welfare Act 2006 describes a duty of care to:

- provide a suitable environment
- provide a suitable diet
- allow normal behaviour patterns
- house with other animals or separate as appropriate
- protect from pain, injury, suffering and disease

The suitable environment is not always that easy to achieve for cats: modern houses are notoriously cat unfriendly with few hiding places. In addition, they are often cramped and noisy giving a shy cat little chance to get away. Also, cats need adequate feeding and water stations and plentiful suitable toileting facilities. If there is more than one cat, then they need even more resources providing. These facilities need to be consistently provided to allow the cat some feeling of control. Then there is mental and physical stimulation; naturally cats would spend at least 6 hours a day hunting for food and if they don't have this opportunity then the owners need to compensate with play



and foraging opportunities.

In my experience, it is rare to find indoor cats adequately provided for contributing to stress, behaviour problems and even stress related disease. If you are going to keep your cat exclusively indoors or even if you allow some access to the outside, then you will need to make a real effort and adjust that effort to your cat or cats' individual needs.

Claire Kirby is a member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC), The Canine Behaviour and Training Society (TCBTS) and is a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist. Claire is also a visiting lecturer and consultant at Harper Adams University. 4-Legs-Good Community Interest Company, based in Shrewsbury, counsels clients in and around the West Midlands. Visit [www.4-legs-good.co.uk](http://www.4-legs-good.co.uk), email [Claire@4-legs-good.co.uk](mailto:Claire@4-legs-good.co.uk), or phone 01743 249968 or 07929954310 for more information.

Claire has published her cat articles on the 4 legs good blog. If you would like to comment on the article visit [www.4-legs-good.co.uk/blog.php?p=90](http://www.4-legs-good.co.uk/blog.php?p=90) <http://www.4-legs-good.co.uk/blog.php?p=91>.

# How to Choose a Carrier for your Cat.

By Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.

**Strong Construction – prevents escape.**

**Multiple access points – Opening at the top and front helps when getting cat into carrier.**

**Secure – to prevent escape during journey or in waiting room.**

**Ventilated but not completely open – Cats like to hide so being completely exposed can cause stress.**



**Removable lid – Means cat can be examined without being dragged out of carrier.**

**Easy to open and close doors – essential to prevent escaping, complicated doors can be closed incorrectly.**

**Needs to be big enough for the cat to turn around.**

**Solid base – For comfort, easy cleaning and preventing leakages following accidents.**

# X



Open top bags that are not enclosed can be jumped out of too easily

# X



Cats can easily escape cardboard boxes by using their sharp claws to make holes.

# X



Not being in a carrier risks the cat being lost or attacked. The cat may attack another animal.

## Top 5 Tips for Helping Your Cat

- Leave the carrier out for them to sleep in, make it inviting put a blanket inside and over the top.
- Use pheromone products like Feliway to help make the carrier have a safe calming scent to it which helps the cat relax.
- Once they're comfortable sleeping in the carrier, start putting the door on then gradually closing it. This can take time don't rush it, gradually do it in stages and reward them for keeping calm.
- Get a new carrier if the existing one has been used when you have battled for ages to get the cat into it. They will associate that particular carrier negatively.
- Keep calm as your cat will pick up on your emotions.



Photographs supplied by Susie Phillips

# All Things Auctioneering with John Crane of Cato Crane Auctions.

By Alan Miller, Volunteer.

## What a fabulous night!

As part of the Shropshire Cat Rescue's Twenty 20 celebrations on the last day of October, volunteers and supporters of Shropshire Cat Rescue were treated to a delightful and informative evening at Salop Unison Club, when John Crane of Cato Crane Auctioneers gave us a glimpse of what really goes on in the country's auction salerooms. His fascinating talk entitled "All Things Auctioneering", lifted the



curtain just a little on some of the everyday working practices which go to make up this most interesting of occupations, providing a realistic counterpoint to the glib assertions which regularly are trotted out on those television programmes which focus on the subject.

With family roots in Shrewsbury, and a thriving auction business based in Liverpool, John, ever the consummate professional, was able to draw upon a lifetime's experiences to offer a true picture of what really goes on behind the scenes. All this presented with what can only be described as an undoubted theatrical flair which kept his audience spellbound throughout.

Following his presentation, questions were taken, and members of the audience were invited to submit such articles of interest as they had brought along for appraisal, this "Antiques Road Show" format generating a lively discussion amongst those in attendance. With refreshments available throughout the evening from the Club's bar, together with the sale of raffle tickets, the event proved thoroughly enjoyable for all concerned and some £100.00 was raised for S.C.R. Funds.

The event closed with thanks



extended to John Crane, who had driven down from The Wirral for the occasion, by Marg Lloyd on behalf of The Trustees and Volunteers, all of those present having very much enjoyed a fine evening's entertainment.



**Photographs supplied by Margaret Lloyd**



# HEALTH MATTERS- HYPERTENSION

## (High Blood Pressure)

By Rebecca Bennett, Quarry Vets, Shrewsbury

In the world of veterinary medicine, there are always new and exciting developments in the medicines and procedures we have available to help your pets. This provides opportunities to provide care and recommendations that were not available in past times and means that cats in particular are living to greater ages; we commonly see cats who live happily until 16, 17, 18 years and older.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is one of these problems, and there is an increasing awareness of it in Veterinary Medicine. A 2006 study showed that 1 in 6 cats over 7 years old suffers from hypertension. It is often seen as a primary problem, with no underlying cause or reason, but also frequently occurs in combination with other medical problems such as kidney and thyroid disease, which have been discussed in previous articles. High blood pressure, even if it starts as a primary problem, can easily lead to damage to other body systems; in particular eyes, kidneys, heart and brain.

Outwardly there is often minimal signs of high blood pressure but as vets we see cats who suddenly show problems, whilst the high blood pressure has probably been present for a while. Sudden blindness, bleeding in the eye, and signs associated with the nervous system (neurological signs) such as disorientation and seizures

can occur.

Some of these problems may be irreversible.

Blood pressure can be easily measured in cats, in a similar way to that done in humans- we put a 'cuff' usually around their front leg or sometimes tail and take blood pressure readings. Cats are very susceptible to their blood

pressure being raised due to stress of coming to the vets ('white coat syndrome') so it is important to get a few readings before deciding whether a cat has hypertension.

High blood pressure is very easily treatable with tasty tablet treatment (the tablets have won an award for being easy to give to your pet). Your vet would usually diagnose the problem, start treatment then monitoring is often carried out at regular periods. If you have concerns, contact your vets.

*Rebecca Bennett graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1999, and has worked at Quarry Vets, Shrewsbury since 2008. She enjoys all aspects of her job, especially working with cats.*

**Photograph by Rebecca Bennett.**







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## Your Cat Questions

Answered by Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.



**Tyrion by Susie Phillips**

**I have been struggling with my cat; he attacks me when I stroke his belly. Is this normal? He rolls towards me showing his belly whilst I stroke him so I stroke his belly but then he attacks my hand. I don't understand why he shows me his belly but then attacks as I respond.**

It is confusing as your own instincts make you want to stroke your cat's belly when he rolls over to show it to you. However, unlike with dogs who enjoy a belly rub and roll over to ask for one, a cat is not doing it for this reason. When your cat shows you his belly it actually means he feels safe and relaxed around you. Interpret it as "I am exposing my most vulnerable part to you because I trust you not to touch me here." Please take this as a compliment. It is a sign that you have a good relationship with your cat. Your cat is attacking your hand because you've misunderstood his signal, not because he's being aggressive. He is instinctively trying to defend himself and is showing you touching his belly is not what he wants. It is important for you to interpret your cat's signals correctly

as he is unable to understand why you're ignoring them. This could result in him becoming anxious and stressed which could spoil the good relationship you obviously have with him. So, when he rolls to show you his belly appreciate that he is happy and comfortable in your company and resist that temptation to touch.

---

**I have recently taken my cat to the vets for his vaccinations. He is normally nice natured but he turned evil, hissing, growling and lashing out with his paws. It was a horrible experience and I don't want to have to take him ever again. What can I do to help him for future visits to the vets?**

Congratulations on still wanting to take your cat to the vets. It is important for your cat to receive vaccinations and regular check ups and asking for help in getting him there is the first step to helping him and yourself have less stressful veterinary visits.

Firstly you need to understand that your cat's actions were due to fear and he became aggressive as he could not see any other way to escape from the situation he was in. Cats will, freeze, flee, fiddle or fight when they are fearful. The last option a cat will choose is fight because they know they are risking injury by fighting. It really is the last resort for them when no other option is available.

There are some things you can do to help your cat stay calmer before a visit to the vets. Leave his carrier in a room he uses a lot, with



the door off and a blanket over the top. He will begin to see this as a safe place rather than the sight of it predicting a negative experience like going to the vets. The use of Feliway spray on the bedding in the box and on the blanket covering the top will also help. The Feliway spray needs to be applied 15 minutes before the carrier is to be used. Feliway mimics the feel-safe pheromones that make a cat feel calm and relaxed in his surroundings.

A lot of veterinary practices are joining International Cat Care's "Cat Friendly Clinic" scheme. They are adopting cat friendly handling whilst also implementing ways to help cats feel as relaxed as possible during their visits to the clinic, such as "cat only" waiting areas and consultation rooms. Speaking to your veterinary practice and asking them for advice specific to your cat is advisable. They may have quieter times that would be better for your cat so he is less stressed before he sees the vet. For more information about the Cat Friendly Clinic scheme go to [www.catfriendlyclinic.org](http://www.catfriendlyclinic.org). You can also gain more information on how to help your cat on veterinary visits from [www.icatcare.org](http://www.icatcare.org). They have advice on all aspects of caring for your cat including a section on taking your cat to the vets.

## **My cat disappears whenever I have visitors around. Why does she do this, and can I help her in any way?**

As cats are solitary by nature your cat is showing normal behaviour when she seeks a safe place to avoid a situation she finds stressful and frightening. Every cat is different and their sociability and temperament is closely linked to genetics and experiences during their kittenhood. Kittens are most sensitive to learning about humans and their lifestyles, and how to live with them, during their socialisation period when they are aged between 2 – 8 weeks. A lack of contact with different people at this age is likely to result in a cat growing up to be nervous of people, especially strangers. This varies as each cat is an individual. It is likely that your cat didn't meet many different people during her early kittenhood. She may also have inherited a tendency to be nervous from her parents. Cats like to be in control of situations so allowing your cat to dictate the amount of contact she has with people is the best policy. It is important for your cat to have a place where she feels safe and that no one tries to disturb her. The best thing you can do for your cat when guests are coming is to make sure she is able to access her safe place.

To feel safe and in control of a situation cats like to be either high up or hidden. You can



**Bob by Susie Phillips**

help your cat by providing several safe places so she can always have access to one of them. Never forcefully remove her from her safe place or disturb her by initiating interaction. She may choose a few places and alternate which one she uses on different occasions. Provide routes for your cat to get up high. It is better to have more than one possible route of entry or exit in case she needs to flee to another safe place.

Igloo beds in quiet areas provide a good safe place for your cat. Cardboard boxes and carriers with the door removed and a blanket over the top work well too.



Tallulah by Susie Phillips

**I have heard that scruffing your cat is not acceptable anymore. I don't understand why this is now frowned upon. Can you please explain why?**

Scruffing was previously used as a handling technique as it was mistakenly believed that it would disable the cat and that it would feel nothing. This arose from observations made when a mother cat carries her kittens by holding the scruffs at the back of their necks. Research has now shown that scruffing causes negative emotions such as anxiety and fear in a cat. This creates stress. Therefore, scruffing should not be used as a handling technique, by yourself or anyone handling cats including all staff in veterinary practices.

If a cat is scruffed it will remember the negative emotions it felt from that and will

link it to any further handling. This fear escalates so it becomes increasingly difficult to handle in any way. Its stress levels are raised further every time it is faced with a similar situation. Even if the cat isn't scruffed again, the previous experience will outweigh any future gentler handling. Scruffing will also destroy any previous experiences when gentle, cat friendly restraint and handling have been used. A cat will remember a negative experience over a positive one and will need a lot of careful handling and positive experiences to help them cope in similar situations and environments again.

Due to the current awareness of the negative effects of scruffing there is now a call for veterinary practices to adopt a scruff free policy and to use only cat friendly handling. Many veterinary practices have adopted this and use cat friendly handling to help reduce stress in their patients. Minimal restraint for cats is quickly being recognised as good working practice and it works well for our feline friends. Cats are control freaks and using techniques that help them to feel more in control of any situation in which they find themselves helps them to feel safer. This is better for everyone, both feline and human.

Susie Phillips is a Registered Veterinary Nurse and has completed the ISFM Advanced Diploma in Feline Behaviour. Susie has volunteered for Shropshire Cat Rescue with her mum for over 5 years and loves it. She has 5 Rescue Cats, Pippin, Gizzmo, Bob, Tyrian and Alice the newest addition.

*Susie would love to hear your questions or queries.*

*Email [info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk) quoting Your Cat Questions in the subject line or write to Shelter Manager, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY30AU. We will try to respond to as many queries as possible, but it may not be possible to answer all questions we receive.*

#### **Kitten Club Crossword Answers.**

**Across** — 3 pounce, 5 kitten, 7 claws, 8 whiskers, 9 yarn and 10 purr.

**Down** — 1 meow, 2 mouse, 3 paws, 4 collar and 6 sleep.

# 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 (3 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury) 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, Gill Bowler, Marg Lloyd, ..... Marion Micklewright, Ola Trillo
Accounts Manager .....	Suzanne Dolphin
Assistant Shelter Manager .....	John Coles
Duke of Edinburgh Officer .....	Tracy Frampton
Facebook .....	Pat Piggott
Fundraising .....	Gill Bowler
Gift Aid Officer .....	Marg Lloyd
Legacies Officer .....	Peter Kampler
Outreach .....	Julie Kampler
Shelter Manager .....	Marion Micklewright
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**Visit:** [vets4pets.com/vets-in-shrewsbury](https://vets4pets.com/vets-in-shrewsbury)

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