



THE SUNBEAM NEWSLETTER

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Finally the UK has been granted some sunshine and heat! May it last long enough for you to grab a cool glass of Pimms and enjoy this edition of the Sunbeam in a sunny spot in the garden. As always, please feel free to send in your stories, artwork or suggestions and pass on the newsletter to your friends.

Jessica Wilson, Editor



BEING A GOOD CAT GUARDIAN—IT TAKES MORE THAN LOVE ALONE

A lot of the readers of *The Sunbeam* already have feline family members. However, some readers may not have and may be considering adopting a cat to join the family. Before you do, please consider everything that goes along with being a responsible cat guardian.

Costs

The first thing to consider is can you afford a cat (or two)? Remember that on top the cost of the adoption fee there are other financial obligations to consider:

Equipment and toys - Food, water bowls, and a litter box—at least one per cat is recommended—plus a scratching post to help keep kitty from using the furniture or carpet. You may also need to buy a cat flap and have it installed.

Food - Cats should always be fed the best quality cat food that your budget can afford. Cheaper foods are a false economy and better quality foods, although more costly, are much better for your cat's health and condition. If you are unlucky enough to have a cat that needs special food, this is rarely covered by insurance and prescription food can be quite costly.

Yearly Vaccinations - Each year your kitty will need a booster vaccine for the various viruses they may be exposed to.

Flea and Worm Treatment - Monthly flea treatment and quarterly worming treatment are a minimum to help insure that your kitty keeps free of pesky parasites that can be a problem for them and you!

Insurance - It is highly recommended that your kitty is insured against accidents and sicknesses. The last thing you would want is to be unable to afford treatment for your kitty who has been in an accident or is ill. Without insurance, the sky is the limit with regard to the cost of treatment (the editor had an £8,000 bill for her ill cat—thankfully she was insured!) Even with insurance, the cost of the insurance excess must be taken into account.

Additional Responsibilities

Other than the financial aspect of having a cat, there are additional responsibilities to consider:

Training - Yes cats do need training! Even if it is just to ensure that they don't jump up on the counter tops or use your leg as a climbing pole. Taking the time to ensure that your cat behaves properly will ensure that you and she have a happy, lifelong relationship.

Companionship - Cats are more independent than dogs but still need you to commit time to them. If you work and the cat is going to be left during the day, it is important that you commit time in the evenings to playing with and socialising with your cat.

Remember, cats can live for 20 years and even longer. Are you able to commit to this length of time? Consider your future plans—do they include travelling, children? Will the cat fit into these plans? Too many cats end up in rescue centres due to people not considering everything that comes along with cat guardianship. If you can't adopt just now, why not consider fostering! It's having a pet part time with all costs paid for! And it's very rewarding as you'll be helping a cat(s) or kitten(s) on their journey to a loving forever home! Contact lou@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk for more information. 🐾



NEWS & VIEWS

At Last - Someone On Downing Street Who's Getting Things Done!

The whole Brexit saga is taking ages and it makes you wonder what Mrs May's doing! However, at least someone on Downing Street is getting the job done! Yes, while the politicians spend their time squabbling, Palmerston, the Foreign Office cat has working hard at his job catching lots of mice. A Freedom of Information Request has revealed that staff at his office have recorded Palmerston having caught 27 mice since he moved in. Considering humans are only usually aware of one third of the animals their cats catch, it is likely that he could have caught over 100 mice by now. Palmerston's usual fare is funded by the staff of his office, but he obviously likes to supplement his vittles'. If only all of the other politicians could be so efficient!

👉 *Source: www.bt.com/news*



Moggy's Mayonnaise Malaise

A very unfortunate kitty living in New Jersey found himself in a real pickle when he got his head stuck in a mayonnaise jar. The young kitty was seen by a motorist driving by the farm where the kitty lives. Unfortunately, he was a feral cat and unused to human attention so helping him wasn't straightforward. It was difficult to catch him as the feral colony had made all sorts of tunnels in bales of hay in the barn. However, thankfully, the passer-by contacted a cat rescue who set a trap and were able to catch the kitty and remove the jar. While they had him at the rescue, they also neutered him. Eventually when he had recuperated from his op, the kitty was released back to his home. *Source: 👉 www.nj.com*



Cats Not Bureaucrats!



Apparently if it's good enough for Winston Churchill it's good enough for Buttons! The students of Aberdeen University are trying to get a cat named Buttons to be the new rector of the university. Students fed up with university management not representing their interests have nominated Buttons the cat for the position as they claim that Buttons is apolitical, fluffy and lives on campus, making him the 'ideal candidate'. More than 300 students have signed the petition calling for Buttons to be the rector for 'the sake of student interest, democracy and fluffy feline friendliness'. However, since Buttons does not meet the university's requirements he has been denied the opportunity to stand for this role. To be fair, it's doubtful Buttons would really have enjoyed the role as it was likely to severely limit his nap time! 👉 *Source: www.guardian.co.uk*



DID YOU KNOW: CAT COLOURS



1. The coloured points of cats like the Siamese are due to a phenomenon called 'partial albinism'. The recessive gene c^s causes temperature-sensitive expression of colour pigments: on the warmer parts of the cat's body, the fur is paler, but on the cooler parts of the body such as the ears, face, tail and legs, the colour is darker.
2. All cats are tabbies. Whether they show their tabby pattern or not depends on whether the genes the cat has inherited. Solid-colour kittens will sometimes show their underlying tabby pattern when young before their kitten coat sheds and the adult coat grows in. However, when an adult cat with a solid coat lies in bright sunlight their underlying tabby pattern can often be faintly seen too.
3. Tortoiseshell cats are almost exclusively female. Ginger cats are predominantly male. If a male tortoiseshell cat is born he will be sterile.
4. Black cats are the hardest cats to rehome both in the UK and North America—in fact in most places around the world. 👉



CATS AND BIRDS: WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

It's probably safe to say that most people who love cats love other animals as well. The UK is blessed with a wonderful variety of wildlife and its beautiful birds are no exception. Many people worry that cats are having a very negative impact on the UK's wild bird population. However, the RSPB reports that this is not the case. Despite the large numbers of birds killed by cats in gardens, there is no clear scientific evidence that such mortality is causing bird populations to decline. This may be surprising, but many millions of birds die naturally every year, mainly through starvation, disease or other forms of predation. There is evidence that cats tend to take weak or sickly birds. Additionally, of the millions of baby birds hatched each year, most will die before they reach breeding age. This is also quite natural, and each pair needs only to rear two young that survive to breeding age to replace themselves and maintain the population. It is likely that most of the birds killed by cats would have died anyway from other causes before the next breeding season, so cats are unlikely to have a major impact on populations. If their predation was additional to these other causes of mortality, this might have a serious impact on bird populations. Those bird species which have undergone the most serious population declines in the UK (such as skylarks, tree sparrows and corn buntings) rarely encounter cats, so cats cannot be causing their declines. Research shows that these declines are usually caused by habitat change or loss, particularly of farmland.



However, this doesn't mean that we shouldn't do our part to help our wild birds by limiting the amount of them caught and killed by our feline family members. After all, we want to prevent the suffering of our feathered friends. The following are suggestions from the RSPB to help deter cats from catching birds:

- Put a bell on your cat's collar. A recent study suggests that this may reduce predation of birds, and may reduce predation of mice and voles, too. The collar must be correctly fitted and should have a quick release mechanism to allow the cat to free itself, should it become snagged. There are commercially-available sonic collars which are designed to alert the potential prey to the cats presence.
- Keep your cat indoors when birds are most vulnerable: at least an hour before sunset and an hour after sunrise, especially during March-July and December-January, and also after bad weather, such as rain or a cold spell, to allow birds to come out and feed.

It's our job as responsible cat guardians and responsible citizens to help try to keep Britain's wildlife safe!

For more information, please visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/animal-deterrents/cats-and-garden-birds/>



SHORT STORY: BELL THE CAT

There was a grocery shop in a town. Plenty of mice lived in that grocery shop. Food was in plenty for them. They ate everything and spoiled all the bags. They also wasted the bread, biscuits and fruits of the shop.

The grocer got really worried. So, he thought 'I should buy a cat and let it stay at the grocery. Only then I can save my things.'

He bought a nice, big fat cat and let him stay there. The cat had a nice time hunting the mice and eating them. The mice could not move freely now. They were afraid that anytime the cat would pounce. The mice wanted to do something.

They held a meeting and all of them said 'We must get rid of the cat. Can someone give a suggestion?' All the mice sat and brooded. A smart looking mouse stood up and said, 'The cat moves so quietly that if we can tie a bell around her neck, then things will be fine. We can know the movements of the cat.' 'Yes, that is the answer', stated all the mice. An old mouse slowly stood up and asked, 'Who will tie the bell?' After some moments there was no one there to answer this question.

MORAL: Empty solutions are of no worth.



LOVING FOREVER HOMES WANTED!

SPECIAL APPEAL

Sugar and Spice - deserve everything nice!



These two cats have been with SCR since the summer of 2016 and they desperately need their own home. They are very nervous and would suit a family that would be patient and let them come out of their shells in their own time. They need a home with no other pets or young children and a garden to explore. They've been neutered and been treated for worms and fleas. Please consider giving a loving home to this pair or spread the word that they're still looking for their loving forever home.



Millie

Pretty Millie is an attractively marked black and white Domestic shorthair, about 6 years old. She has been a companion to an elderly lady who is now unable to look after her any more for health reasons. She's friendly, enjoys attention and strokes, and LOVES her bed! She'd appreciate a quiet home with no young children. She's used to seeing a dog around but we think she'd like to be the only cat. By the time she is re-homed she will be wormed, flea'd, vaccinated, microchipped and she has already been spayed. Are you able to give this lovely girl a loving forever home?



George



Gorgeous George is a silver grey and white short haired cat. He is about 2 years old and has been a stray for some months. He is very friendly and he doesn't even mind a passing dog! He looks after himself well and has a lovely clean coat. He would love a home where he has company. If he's alone he cries, so it would be good if he could have somewhere where there are people around most of the time. He'd probably be OK with older children but hasn't had much experience of other animals.



**If you would like more information on any of these beautiful cats,
please phone 01993 831 279 or email
homing@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk**

CONTACT US!!!



For more information on our work, to rehome a cat, donate, volunteer or seek advice on cat rescue, please contact Lou on:

	01993 831279
	lou@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk - General Advice
	sunshine.cat.rescue@gmail.com - Volunteering
	www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk
	facebook.com/TheSunshineCatRescue