



The Sunbeam

Newsletter

ISSUE 30 - JULY 2019

It's summertime at last! Hopefully we and our feline friends will be able to enjoy many days of warmth and sunshine. Grab a cool drink and a spot of shade and enjoy this edition of the *Sunbeam*. As always, please pass it along to your friends. *Jessica Wilson, Editor*



Heroic Cats

Dogs often get praise for heroic efforts but there are a fair few felines who deserve the title 'hero'!

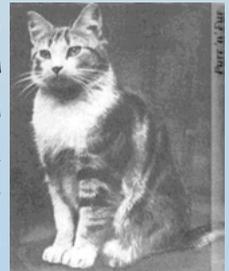
Simon the Navy Cat

Simon was born in 1947 in Hong Kong. As a half-grown cat, he was taken aboard the HMS Amethyst to control rats. In 1949, the ship was attacked on the Yangtze River in China. Simon was wounded, but not found for days. The injured sailors had been evacuated, so the ship's doctor nursed Simon's facial burns and shrapnel wounds. As Simon recovered he resumed rat catching, but also added the duty of visiting sick and wounded sailors. Upon his return to Hong Kong, Simon was presented with a campaign ribbon and news that he would receive a Dicken Medal, an award for animal gallantry. When the Amethyst reached England, Simon had to go into quarantine. He developed an infection and died just before his planned formal medal ceremony. Simon was buried in a specially-made casket with full naval honours.



Faith

A stray cat wandered into St Augustine's and St. Faith's Church in London in 1936. She was named Faith and adopted by the rector and parishioners. She would sit at the pulpit while Father Henry Ross preached. In 1940, Faith gave birth to a single kitten named Panda. On September 6, Faith demanded access to the church basement. When a door was opened for her, she carried her kitten down to the dark cellar. Father Ross retrieved the kitten twice, but Faith carried him back downstairs—twice. She even missed a church service, which was unusual. The next day, air raids began in the Battle of London, and by September 9, 400 people had been killed and eight churches were destroyed by bombs. Father Ross returned to the church to find it ruined. He called for Faith and heard faint meowing in return. He retrieved both Faith and Panda from the rubble just before the roof collapsed. Faith was nominated for a Dickin Medal, for which she was not eligible as a civilian, but she was awarded a special medal for bravery anyway. Faith was presented with the medal in a special ceremony in 1945 attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury. When Faith died peacefully at the age of 14, the church was again packed for her funeral.



Scarlett

In 1996, a fire broke out in a suspected squat in Brooklyn, New York. A cat later named Scarlett was observed carrying her kittens out of the building one by one. She was severely burned, and blinded by blisters. She touched each kitten with her nose to make sure they were all safe from the fire, then collapsed. A firefighter took her to a rescue centre nearby. Scarlett made a full recovery, albeit with damaged eyelids and ears. The hero cat was taken by Karen Wellen, who cared for her until her death 11 years later and an animal heroism award was created in her honour. 🐾



Flap Stops Hunting Cats in Tracks

A new artificial intelligence cat flap has come onto the market which aims to 'punish' cats who try to bring in furry or feathery gifts for their owners. When the flap detects that the cat has a rodent or bird in its mouth, a computer attached to the flap's lock triggered a 15-minute shut-out. In order to programme the software, the inventor had to use over 23,000 images of cats, each of which were hand-sorted to determine whether the cat was in view, whether it was coming or going and if it was carrying prey. However, the system isn't 100% fool proof so there is still work to be done. However, if it helps stop our cats hunting vulnerable wildlife it may be worth it. 🐾

Source: www.bbc.co.uk/news



Carolina Cat Cloned

A couple in North Carolina, USA paid \$25,000 (£19,800) in order to clone their pet cat Cinnabun, who had been a part of the couple's lives since they married in 1999. They heard of the option after singer Barbara Streisand got her dog cloned. The couple went on to purchase a DNA kit from a cloning company and after a while of contemplation decided to go for it. "Cinnabun was so dear to us and she slept next to my wife's head on the pillow every night. If we had a chance of getting another cat like that, we had to try," Bryan Bullerdick stated. When the kitten was born she was remarkably like their original Cinnabun, even down to sleeping on Ashley's head. However, for nearly £20,000 many homeless cats could have a better life so although it can be done, should we really clone our cats? 🐾 *Source: www.people.com*



Kitty in Bunker Bother

A cat called Droptop got stuck after squeezing inside a WW2 bunker in Martlesham, Suffolk, this past June. Dozens of locals got together in an attempt to get him out, but eventually called a team of expert volunteers from Warrior Fire and Rescue service. It took them about three hours to safely retrieve the "very scared" and dehydrated animal. When Droptop was discovered in the bunker a plea went out on social media for help. The leader of the fire and rescue service said his team arrived to find about 30 local residents who had been trying to get to Droptop. "Some of the local residents had started to break a hole in the side of the concrete so we just took over and finished that job," he said. They had made "an amazing effort" he added. Thankfully despite being a little worse for wear, Droptop is now back at home and getting on with life like nothing happened! 🐾

Source: www.bbc.co.uk/news



Upcoming Events

- Saturday 20 July - Carterton Carnival 11 am - 4pm, Recreation Ground**
- Sunday 28 July - South Leigh Fete 12 pm - 4 pm, Southleigh Village**
- Saturday 10 August - Book Sale, The Tolsey, Burford 10 am - 4 pm**
- Sunday 18 August - Leaffield Sponsored Walk, Leaffield Primary TBC**



Happy Tails

Paddington by Vicki Stott

We adopted Paddington just over a year ago from Sunshine Cat Rescue. He was one of a litter that was hand reared after their mother died and I was taking him home to meet two dogs and an existing neutered tom cat, who I got from Cornyard Vets. Well... Paddington now rules the roost! My existing cat - Skippy - is an *enormous* thug of a tabby with a generous helping of Maine Coone in him, we think (judging by his size). I was hopeful that the two cats would learn to carve out separate territories and co-exist peacefully in the house. Skippy had other ideas. He was found in a plastic bag, in a skip, aged about 2 weeks, with two dead siblings and had a 'unique' approach to socialisation in that he liked company, but not touch, and was very clear on his boundaries, and quite rough in enforcing them. And then Paddington came along — Skippy adopted him with such enthusiasm that we wondered whether he'd been invaded by aliens! Skippy has appointed himself as Paddington's surrogate mum. He shares his food bowl with Paddington, and won't eat anything himself until Paddington has had enough and moved away. When Paddington was tiny, Skippy shepherded him around the house and watched anxiously if anyone else was cuddling him (and Paddington is a proper cuddle bundle, so...). Skippy would only go outside if he had checked that Paddington was safe on someone's knee.



Kitten Paddington



Paddington & Skippy

As Paddington has grown, Skippy has introduced him to the outdoors. To begin with, he would stick close to Paddington's side and watch everything he did in the garden. If there was the slightest suggestion of wind or adventure, Skippy would herd Paddington back into the house and call me until I came and closed the door! It really is extraordinary. A week or so ago, I noticed a fire engine in the street. Skippy was pacing up and down on the drive, and Paddington was nowhere to be seen. It was one of the days with a very high wind. I took my granddaughter down the road to see the fire engine, and discovered they were there to rescue a little black cat that had got stuck up a tree in the storm. It was Paddington! We took him home and fed him and Skippy cuddled him warm again. Luckily Paddington was totally unscathed and not one whit abashed by the trouble he'd caused! The next day, Paddington set off for the garden. Skippy spotted him going through the back door, bounded over, cuffed him about the ear and herded him back indoors! It seems Paddington was grounded! He has brought us so much happiness and we love him dearly!



Sponsor Cat Corner

Ruby

This is lovely Ruby! Ruby went to live with her fosterer in May 2019. She's a splendid looking cat, deep ginger and white with lovely green eyes, but has had quite a traumatic time as well as being 15. She's had to have most of her teeth removed owing to infections. On her arrival in her new home she shot into every room and went into hiding. After about 2 hours she reappeared and went to sit on her fosterer's lap, so that was a good start. She is very fond of sitting on her lap, especially to see 'Springwatch' which is her favourite programme. It still doesn't take much to cause her to hide but she soon goes to her fosterer for reassurance. They have formed a strong bond already. In their quite large garden Ruby is Queen, seeing off any intruders who are bold enough to trespass on her territory! Also, she thinks tree-climbing is a great sport. Ruby and her fosterer have given each other great pleasure already and Ruby loves to sleep on her mistress's bed (naughty!)



Candy

Candy is a beautiful OAP (old adorable pussycat) who has reached the grand old age of 21. She is now quite deaf and a bit shaky and spends her time indoors where she is most comfortable, especially her own room (chosen by her). She will venture out of her room though to let her foster mum know that dinner is late! Although she's not fond of other cats she will allow the dogs she shares her home with to enter her room. Candy has been in foster care since she was 16 and is really enjoying the retirement life!



If you would like to sponsor one of these lovely ladies or one of our other sponsor cats please visit their profiles on the Sunshine website or email lou@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk

Loving Homes Needed

Rosie



This ebony beauty is **Rosie**! She is a black domestic short-hair who's 8-years-old. Her owner has moved abroad so she is looking for a new home in the countryside. She can't wait to get out and about again, exploring a rural environment! Rosie is not used to children, or other cats and dogs, so would maybe be good with older people. She's still nervous at the moment owing to her upheaval but should settle with patience and care. Could you offer this lovely girl a home and a place to roam?



This handsome pair are brothers have always been together for their full 5 years. They would like to stay together too please! Nikolai is all black while Boris is black with white markings. Boris is the boss of the pair (well he would be, wouldn't he, with a name like that!) He is very friendly, loves people, purrs a lot and enjoys plenty of fussing. Nikolai (Nik for short) is a little more reserved but is very friendly when he gets to know you. They've been quite spoilt and have been used to sleeping on their owner's bed! They have to be fed separately or Boris will eat all of Nikolai's food as well as his own! They've been neutered and by the time they leave for their new home they will be vaccinated, microchipped and flea and worm treated.

Nikolai



Boris



Molly

Molly is a dear little short haired tortie around 18 months of age. She was found straying, very thin and sad. Since she has been with us, she has put on weight and has become very loving and affectionate. Molly has recently been diagnosed with some deafness so she would be suited to a life indoors or in a home with a fully enclosed garden. Despite her deafness, Molly is very talkative and meows as soon as she sees you! She's not keen on other cats, but is fine with dogs. Molly likes plenty of attention and she should be fine with older children.

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
	lou@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk - Volunteering
	www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk
	facebook.com/TheSunshineCatRescue