



The Sunbeam

Newsletter

ISSUE 33 - JULY 2020

It's a new season in the UK but what a strange time we are all going through. Hopefully this edition of the *Sunbeam* will give you a little bit of light entertainment to pass the time. As always, please enjoy this edition pass it along to your friends.



Jessica Wilson, Editor

Helping Cats on Your Holidays

Most of us will probably be having a 'staycation' this year and keeping ourselves in the UK. However, for anyone who is travelling to distant lands for their summer holiday there's a good chance that your hotel, apartment or villa will have a local cat - maybe even a handful. It's very easy to become attached to these cats. You may want to feed them, pet them and possibly even consider bringing them home. But how can you make a difference to these cats without upsetting local people or encouraging 'bad behaviour'? Animal charities who help domestic animals overseas say that the best way to help these cats is to support organisations which are carrying out work locally, such as neutering programmes, as these are the most effective ways of improving cat welfare in the longer term.



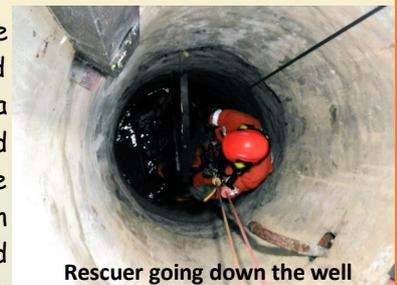
To avoid encouraging begging behaviour, as hard as it is, don't feed the cats. Lots of people feed stray cats meat and other titbits, but how do we know that the cat doesn't belong to someone and is on a special diet? Also, cats tend to remember where they are able to get food from, so if supplied with food by a tourist, when tourist season ends, this food source disappears and it can lead starvation. It is therefore better not to feed them.

Thinking of bringing a little bundle of fur home? Maybe think again. Depending on where the cat is to be transported from and to, there can be a lengthy wait for legal entry into the UK. Additionally, many cats find the experience of being transported over long distances very stressful and every year a number of cats that were adopted overseas taken to UK rescue organisations because of their failure to adjust to a new home, climate and environment. Additionally, there are already thousands of cats in need of a home right here in the UK.

So perhaps a good thing to do before you go on holiday and get emotionally blackmailed into forking over all your food to the neighbourhood felines is to do some research on rescue organisations in the area you'll be visiting. You may be able to take them donations of items they find hard to source in their own country and you can keep their contact details handy in case you find a kitty in desperate need of help. Remember, although it's hard to say no, what we think of as kindness can actually be cruel in the long run. *Information: World Society for Animal Protection and Cats Protection*

Well, What a Mishap!

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's Technical Rescue Unit's rope rescue skills were called upon after a cat found itself stuck in a well. Six-year-old Charlie the cat had been missing for two days when he was discovered around 20 feet down inside a neighbour's garden well and floating on a section of the wooden well cover which had also fallen in. One of the rescuers said, "Charlie had an incredibly lucky escape, and he was very fortunate to be able to climb onto the wooden well cover which had also fallen down the well to keep himself out of the water. When we arrived we quickly realised the only way of getting Charlie out safely was to go down inside the well ourselves using a line rescue and bring him out. This was quite a challenging rescue because the well was quite narrow, but fortunately we were able to lower a member of the crew down safely, and after some negotiations and reassurances, he was able to retrieve Charlie back up to safety. We were so pleased to be able to reunite him with his owners, and thankfully he wasn't injured despite his ordeal." So it seems for Charlie, all's well that ends well! 🐾 *Source: www.spiritfm.net/news*



Rescuer going down the well



Guard Cat Saves Her Cycling Companion

You may remember in October's *Sunbeam* the story of a man cycling the world with a kitten he had found was featured. It turns out little Nala the kitten is more than just a companion on Dean Nicholson's round-the-world cycling trip, but she's also brave guard cat! One night while camping in Hungary, Nicholson was awakened by Nala who alerted him to a burglar rifling through his panniers. The man then pulled a knife on Nicholson who wrestled him and chased him off. If it wasn't for Nala warning her companion, the episode could have had a much different ending. 🐾 *Source www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com*



Nala in her sleeping bag.

World's Oldest Cat Crosses Rainbow Bridge

Rubble was officially the world's oldest cat at the ripe old age of 31 years old, but sadly he has passed away. Rubble was given his 🐾 title in May 2019 and his age equates to 150 in human years. His owner credits his long life to being treated like her child for all of his life. The cause of Rubble's death has been noted as 'generic old age'. The oldest ever cat was a cat called Cream Puff from Texas who lived to over 38 years old! There's no word on who the new title holder is but as cats are living longer, healthier lives these days, no doubt there will be a few contenders. 🐾 *Source: www.newyorkpost.com*



Rubble as a kitten and as an OAP



Covid Losses Hit Sunshine

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, Sunshine Cat Rescue's (SCR) coffers have been hit hard. Here is a note from the SCR Treasurer: Please remember that Sunshine Cat Rescue are still caring for cats and kittens and paying out for, amongst other things, food, litter and vets' fees, despite a big drop in our income. Any financial donations are very welcome and very much needed so that we can continue in our work. If you make a donation and are a UK tax payer, please fill in a Gift Aid form, so that we can claim further funds from the government. Food and supplies donations can be left in collecting bins around the area or sent direct to the Charity. Donation bins can be found at:



Morrisons, Carterton; Hook Norton Veterinary Group, in Charlbury and Deddington; Chipping Norton Vet Hospital and the Co-Op; Tesco, Farringdon; Cogges Vet and the Co-Op, Witney; and Medivet, Woodstock **Huge thanks to everyone who supports us!** 🐾

Fundraising During Lockdown? A Piece of Cake!

While I was 'at home' the other week - a protected species - I was thinking about how I could raise some money for Sunshine without breaking any rules. I asked myself what people would like during this difficult time and the answer was 'Cake!' So, I thought of having a cake sale on our drive - why not? I chose a day and put a notice on the *Next Door Stonesfield* site, an advert on my Facebook page and an advert on the Sunshine Cat Rescue Facebook page.



Next came some arm-twisting of my baking friends who were happy to help (I think!). On the day, my partner put up a gazebo as it looked like rain, we hauled out the kitchen table, and by 11am there was an array of cakes, breads and muffins...delicious lemon drizzle, iced sponges, chocolate muffins and many more, all set out in their hygienic recyclable plastic bags. Customers flocked; there was even a socially distanced queue up Church St.! It was the first 'event' in Stonesfield for nearly three months and people loved it! So many said "I don't want any change - give it to the cats"; notes flew into the tin. As well as cakes, I sold quite a few books and a boxful of tomato seedlings. Everything had gone by 12.30pm- not a cake crumb remained. I announced its success on Facebook and put a 'donate' button on the post just in case anyone felt generous. They did and an extra £35 was raised. In all, my little sale raised an astonishing £153 and created a lot of local interest in the charity. Maybe one of you could do the same during this testing time? It wasn't difficult to arrange, and it doesn't have to be cakes- it could be a simple Bring and Buy sale. Lots of people have been sorting out their cupboards during lockdown and many charity shops aren't yet opening, so...How about it? 🐾

By Rosemary Harris (SCR photographer and Sponsor Cat lady)



THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING YOUR CAT

Having just moved house and to get to know the area and neighbours I join the local community Facebook page. I was saddened to see that a young cat was missing from one of the neighbours. I messaged her with an offer of help. Once registered on [petsreunited.com](https://www.petsreunited.com) we put the posters around the development and the surrounding areas. The most puzzling thing was that George had simply vanished into thin air. One minute he was playing with his brother Dennis outside the house and the next minute he was gone. A company van had been parked nearby so we thought he may have been curious and climbed in. My neighbour spoke to the owner of the van and we also dropped posters off at the company and surrounding businesses, which were over the far side of town. Every time there was a sighting we would go and investigate with a scanner and cat basket in hand. Days weeks and months past and one day my neighbour saw a post on B.A.R.K.S. Facebook page



regarding a black cat that was hanging around, she dashed straight over. Was it George? It certainly looked like him. She got down onto the ground and he slowly came over. As she was stroking him she scanned him and the number matched. George also recognised his owner and they went straight to the vets for a check-up. With everything ok apart from a little weight loss and some matted fur it was back home with a roller coaster of emotions. We decided a dog crate would give George a chance to settle in the spare room and then also give him some safety to be re introduced to Dennis slowly. George was missing for 6 months but thanks to my neighbour having him microchipped, registering him with [petsreunited.com](https://www.petsreunited.com) and never giving up you can see the results in the photo. We think he did climb into the van without being seen and jumped out when the driver stopped for petrol because this was close to where he was found. 🐾

By Julie Stoney

Loving Homes Needed



Socks is a beautiful black and white girl. She's 12-years-young and is playful and loves attention. Socks would be suited to a home with older children. Socks has been neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, de-flead and wormed. Socks would prefer not to live with any other pets. Do you have a loving home to give to this sweet girl? Please don't let her age put you off—these days 12-years-old is practically middle aged for a cat! 

This sweet boy is **Alfie**. He's a 4-year-old, neutered male. He was handed over to us with a terrible eye issue and sadly he had to have eye removed. He can be scared by noise or spooked when caught off guard so needs a quiet home with no other pets or children. Having an indoor home would probably be the best scenario due to Alfie's disability, although a secure garden would also be okay. Alfie is gaining in confidence and he enjoys playing is affectionate on his own terms. Could you give this special boy a loving, forever home? 



This handsome fellow is **Tommy**. He's a neutered, 7-year-old cat and he is looking for a home with no other pets and where his new people are experienced with cats as the home he came from was very chaotic. He can be unpredictable and needs his space so would be best in an adult home. Tommy has his vaccinations, his flea and worm treatment is up to date and he's been microchipped. Can you give this boy a loving and understanding home? 



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

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