



The Sunbeam

Newsletter

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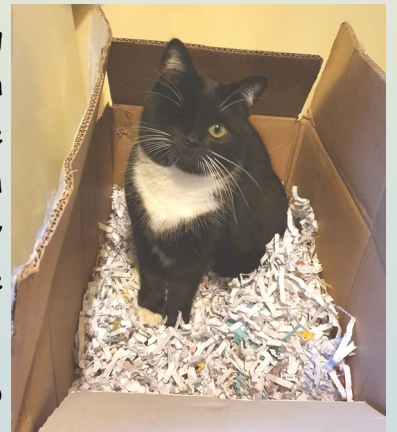
It's hard to believe that the summer is already over and the autumn is settling in. This is a great time to sit back with a nice hot drink and your favourite feline companion and enjoy the latest edition of *The Sunbeam*. As always please feel free to pass on to friends and family.



Jessica Wilson, Editor

A Feline Friendly House Move

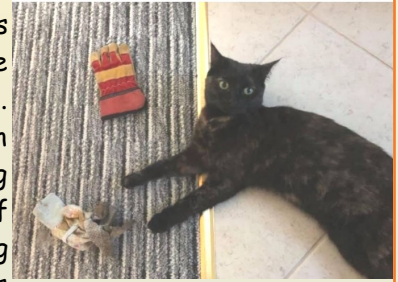
We've recently learned that we're going to have to move house and thinking about how to move our four cats safely and comfortably hundreds of miles then settle them into a new house is something in the forefront of our minds. House moves are inevitably stressful for humans, but it's the same for cats too. Much of their feeling of security and ability to relax comes from being surrounded by the familiar sights, sounds and scents of their own territory. Thankfully, I've found some tips to help make the move the least stressful as possible.



Allocate a room in your home that can be cleared of furniture a week or two before the move. At the same time, decide on a room in the new home where you can put your cat when you get there. Ideally, both rooms should be out of the way so your cat can be left undisturbed for as much of the move as possible. About a week before the big day, start getting your cat used to 'their' room. Pop an additional sleeping place, litter tray, cat carrier and blanket in there. You could begin feeding them here too so they become really familiar with their 'safe place'. On the evening before the move, move their scratching post, toys and water bowl into the room and shut them in to make sure they don't go missing. If you have more than one cat, make sure they have separate resources if possible, to help prevent further stress or any toileting accidents. If you know your cats don't enjoy each other's company, it may be better to give them separate 'safe rooms'. Using Feliway pheromone spray can help de-stress the cat as well. If they are staying at home, keep them in their room, feed them a small meal, make sure they have fresh water, clean the litter tray and shut the door. Once you are ready to leave, you can put them into their carrier and load them into the car along with all of their belongings. If they are prone to travel sickness it is worth withholding food for three to four hours before the journey. Once you have arrived at your new home, take them to their secure room with all their familiar bits and pieces that has their scent on them. Then close the door and leave your cat alone for a while to let them settle in undisturbed. It is a good idea to keep your cat in their new room for a few days to acclimatise and most cats will let you know when they are ready to venture further and explore their new home. However, when you let them see the rest of the house, make sure that all doors, windows and cat flaps are closed. Make sure they always have access to their 'safe room' in case they feel the need to retreat. Give your cat at least two or three weeks to get used to their new home before letting them venture outside so they know where they now live and have the best chance of finding their way home. Hopefully with these tips we'll have an easy move, at least for the cats. One thing I do know is they'll be in paradise with all of the cardboard boxes to explore! 🐾 **Source: [CatsProtection.org](https://www.catsprotection.org)**

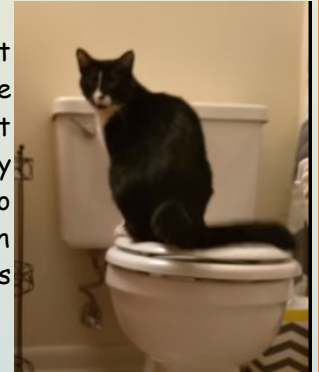
A Real Cat-Burglar

A woman in Andover, Hampshire is attempting to return the items her cat Pixel has snaffled from the neighbourhood. Owner Kate Baker says she had seen a "surge" in the amount of gloves being brought home, which had led her to attempt to return the items. "My cat's thieving has got so bad my brother bought her a box!" Ms Baker apologises in advance to the community for her cat's thieving ways. She added, "She will always bring us something every night, pine cones, huge carpets of moss, large feathers, blocks of wood, but when sheds are open and kids have toys out, she will go for more exciting things". All of the items are listed on a local Facebook site to try to find the owners and thankfully the feedback from neighbours has been positive with many finding it quite comical. That's just as well because it's likely that Pixel isn't going to give up her wayward ways anytime soon. 🐾 *Source: uk.news.yahoo.com*



Flushing Feline Financial Follies

Cat owner, Curt Coleman, couldn't figure out why his water bill was so high. He was out most of the day, and the only other person in the house is Crazy Eyes, his pet cat. Then one evening, as Curt was chilling on the sofa, he heard the toilet flush. He went to investigate, but the only thing he found was Crazy Eyes. And, as usual, Crazy Eyes was sitting in the hallway with that innocent look on his face. After setting up a camera in the bathroom, Curt found to his amazement that it was Crazy Eyes doing the flushing and running up his bill! He would flush the toilet numerous times a day. It's not clear how his owner is going to curtail Crazy Eyes ways, but a firmly shut bathroom door would be a good start! 🐾 *Source www.wamiz.co.uk*



Does Catnip Really Make Cats High?

Most of us have indulged our kitties with a pinch or two of catnip or given them catnip toys to watch the ensuing comical, crazy behaviour. But what kind of effect is this herb actually having on our feline friends? Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) belongs to the mint family Lamiaceae, which includes aromatic herbs such as rosemary, oregano and basil. The compound that plays the biggest role in the so-called catnip effect in cats is produced in specialized glands in catnip's leaves and flowers and is called nepetalactone. Cats are attracted to the odor of nepetalactone, which binds to receptors in their noses and often produces behavior that appears euphoric, whilst other compounds in catnip affect neurotransmitters, "resulting in inhibition of central nervous system activity. The way cats react may look similar to a human who's high, but here's no information to show that catnip is operating the same way that medical cannabis, marijuana or cocaine does. So it's safe to assume that our kitties can't get addicted to catnip and won't suffer any ill effects and can continue to enjoy this treat! 🐾



Source: www.livescience.com



First Year Fostering, By Charlotte Henderson

This is our first year fostering kittens for Sunshine Cat Rescue. We have had 4 kittens so far - Buttons & Beau as well as Hugo & Gizmo. Over the days and weeks of having them we saw them relax with our family and become very loving and friendly. Although I've had cats for over 50 years, it's still been a learning curve and Lou, the Welfare Coordinator, has provided much appreciated support throughout. As part of our fostering we set up an Instagram account #sunshinecatrescuekittens so we can post lots of pictures and videos of them online. All of them have found *purrfect* loving and caring homes which are just right for them. 🐾



Fundraising's a Treat for Sunshine! By Rosemary Harris, SCR's Photographer

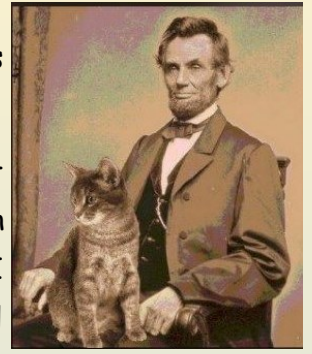
In September my village of Stonesfield held a Mega Garage Sale, so I thought it would be an ideal opportunity to hold another cake sale, with other stuff as well. Altogether there were over 40 stalls all around the village, some raising money for charity, others just selling off items cleared out during lockdown. I steamrolled friends into baking cakes, while other supporters donated books, jigsaws and bric-a-brac. Everyone was amazing - we all worked so hard. The weather was beautiful, sunny and warm and the cakes sold like...well...hot cakes! In just a few hours we raised £250 in sales, I also publicised the event on Facebook and added a 'donate' button for people to click if they felt inspired to add their support. Added to the online donations, the day raised £285. The kitties were very grateful!! 🐾



Famous Cat Lovers

Those of us who love our feline friends are in good company. Here is a list of famous cat lovers from over the years.

The Bronte Sisters: Emily, Charlotte, and sister Anne were three of the biggest cat lovers of all time. All three enjoyed having cats at home. Emily penned an essay lovingly praising cats, writing, "I can say with sincerity that I like cats; also I can give very good reasons why those who despise them are wrong. A cat is an animal who has more human feelings than almost any other being."



Catherine the Great: At one point during her rule, Catherine allowed over 300 cats to roam the halls of St Petersburg Winter Palace.

President Abraham Lincoln: When asked if her husband had any hobbies, Mary Todd Lincoln is said to have said 'cats'. It is thought that President Lincoln was the first president to have cats in the White House. He even found time to play with some kittens while visiting a civil war battlefield.

Florence Nightingale: This famous nurse reportedly owned 60 cats during her lifetime and up 17 at one time. Late in her life, she and several cats were sequestered in her bedroom in her house in London.

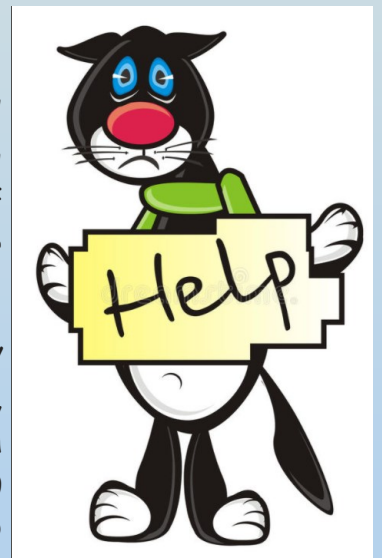
Sir Isaac Newton: Rumour has it that this famous scientist had two holes cut out of his office door so a mother cat and her kittens could come and go as they pleased, perhaps making the cat flap one of his many inventions and discoveries. 🐾



Ways to Help Sunshine

Last year, our fundraising events raised £6,794 (by contrast our vets' bills came to £22,873). Because we're still unable to hold any fundraising events and this could continue for several months, we're losing a lot of income which could sadly affect the welfare of the cats and kittens in our care.

We're doing all we can to increase income, amongst other things by applying for grants and having set up an on-line shop to help raise funds, but in the meantime, any donations that you can make would be very much appreciated. Maybe you could set up a monthly payment? Or join our 200 Club for £5.00 a month, with the chance to win in the monthly draw? Donate cat food and/or toys? Also, please remember to use www.easyfundraising.org.uk or www.giveasyoulive.com when you make any online purchases. Every time you shop online, after you've checked out, the retailer will make a free donation to our cause. Are you ordering from the supermarket online? We can benefit financially from all your food deliveries if you've signed up to one of these sites.



Living in these difficult, uncertain times, we're aware of the problems that everyone is facing, but please remember the cats and kittens that we're trying to help. Thank you for caring and your support and keep well. Sharon , Sunshine Cat Rescue Treasurer 🐾

treasurer@sunshinecatrescue.org.uk

Loving Homes Needed



This sweet girl is 13-year-old Leia. She came into our care after her owner had a bad accident. As Leia is insulin dependent with type-2 diabetes, her owner was not able to look after her and sadly had to give her up. Leia is a sweet natured girl and is okay with receiving her injections. She is looking for a home where her new family will be confident to give her the injections/ willing to learn. Leia would like a quiet adult home with no other animals. Are you able to give this lovely girl a caring, forever home?



This beauty is Frisky! She is a 10-year-old tortoiseshell shorthaired girl. Frisky is affectionate and attentive, but can be bossy with another cat, so we think best rehomed where she is only pet. She also likes that affection on her own terms, please! She'd like her new people to have experience with cats for this reason. Frisky has been neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and flea and worm treated. If you're interested in giving this pretty tortie a loving forever home please get in touch.



These pretty semi-feral kittens are 15 weeks approx (as of 1 September). Their names are, Dennis (black male) and Dora (tortie female). Dora is more accepting of interaction with humans than Dennis who is still nervous. They would like a home experienced with cats and no other pets or children. Dora and Dennis have been given the usual treatments - vaccinations, flea and worming. Do you have room in your home and heart for these two? Working with them to see that humans are loving and fun would be very rewarding.



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



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