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C.L.A.W.S Newsletter 70 September 2020

Facebook: @ClawsMaidenhead



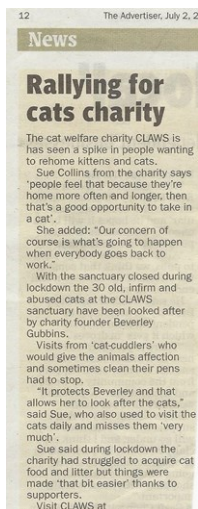
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Helpline 01189 341699



## NEWS FROM HQ

### RALLYING FOR C.L.A.W.S.



In July of this year we were approached by the Maidenhead Advertiser to comment on the effect Covid 19 was having on the sanctuary.

The cat welfare charity CLAWS has seen a spike in people wanting to rehome kittens and cats.

Sue Collins from the charity says 'people feel that because they're home more often and longer, then that's a good opportunity to take in a cat'. She added: "Our concern of course is what's going to happen when everybody goes back to work."

With the sanctuary closed during lockdown the 30 old, infirm and abused cats at the CLAWS sanctuary have been looked after by charity founder Beverley Gubbins. Visits from 'cat-cuddlers' who would give the animals affection and sometimes clean their pens had to stop.

"It protects Beverley and that allows her to look after the cats," said Sue, who also used to visit the cats daily and misses them 'very much'.

Sue said during lockdown the charity had struggled to acquire cat food and litter but things were made 'that bit easier' thanks to supporters.

## C.L.A.W.S Calendar for 2021



**STILL ONLY**

**£4.50**

To obtain a copy ring the C.L.A.W.S. helpline on

01189 341699

Helping cats since 1995 !

Despite the extraordinary times we have found ourselves living through in 2020 we decided to go ahead and publish the C.L.A.W.S. Calendar for 2021.

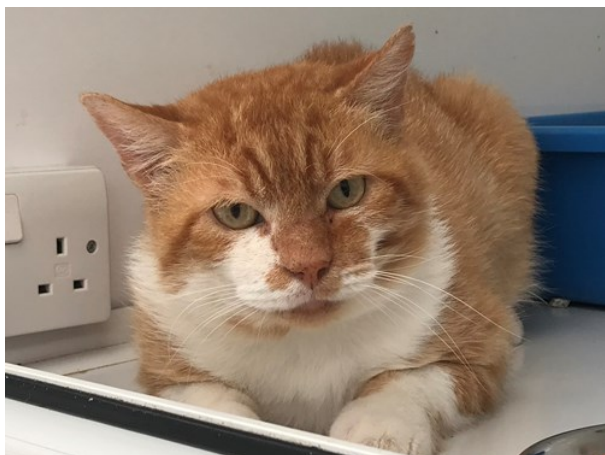
We are still in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis which continues to have a major impact on our lives. It has made the running of the sanctuary at Bear Cottage very demanding.

Early on the decision was taken to close it down to visitors and volunteers alike to protect Beverley's health and thus enable her to care for the 30 cats and other animals resident there. It has been an enormous responsibility and a huge amount of work, all done to the highest standard.

And so in turbulent times nothing has changed for our residents.

## NEW ARRIVALS

### GREGORY



At CLAWS we are very lucky as we have our own isolation unit (purchased with money raised by a specially organised fund raising event – the Mountain Marathon).

When we received a call from a local cat rescue group that had an injured cat needing to be isolated we were able to take him in.

That was when GREGORY , as we named him, a beautiful big ginger boy, came to CLAWS. Sadly he had deep puncture wounds in his back and thighs, inflicted by a dog.

We put him in the iso unit with an igloo, food and water and left him to get used to his new surroundings. During the following days he settled in quite well – eating, drinking and sleeping. Slowly but surely the hissing and spitting stopped and his pupils did not dilate when he was spoken to. Five weeks after his arrival he allowed his carer to stroke his nose. He came on in leaps and bounds allowing us to stroke his chin and head. When he placed his head in his carer's hand and purred it was the icing on the cake.

He will stay with CLAWS not going back to the streets of Slough.

### BETTY AND BOBBY

“You have helped me in the past, can you help me again ?” asked Gillian. It transpired that a year ago we had helped her with a stray which had been knocked over.

The little cat was seen running away with two other strays. All three were being fed by kind neighbours in the area. The two cats that were left were in a bad way – scrawny, bad coats and looking quite ill.

Luckily CLAWS had room for them so Gillian trapped them and took them to the vet for a check-up.

They were both undernourished, full of worms but basically not too bad. The vet thought they were about 14 / 15 years old.

They will stay with CLAWS

Sadly Bobby was put to sleep on 29 September 2020 – we are publishing this article as a tribute to him Ed

## PANDA



Over the years Valerie, a long time friend of C.L.A.W.S, has taken many stray cats into her care so when another made its way to her house from the back through her orchard and into her garden it seemed only natural to offer him shelter. Sadly the elderly resident cat had other ideas and Valerie put her in the shed for her own safety. This was very unfair on the resident cat so she took the new arrival to the vet and had him neutered and checked for a microchip. He wasn't chipped. Reluctantly, because she had grown very fond of him, she asked C.L.A.W.S. to take him in. Luckily for him we had a space.

She had called him PANDA.

He is a lovely big black boy about 2 Years old and very very friendly – so friendly in fact that when our photographer / cat cuddler tried to take his photo she only got his nose on the lens as he loved her so much.

## TOPSEY



It came as a shock when Diane, one of our supporters, went to out patients at the local hospital and was admitted instantly.

No one knew how long she would be in for so we agreed to take in Topsy, her 17 year old cat.

Sadly Diane died a few days later so Topsy will be staying with us. Not that she wants to ! Lots of love, good food and the best of care means nothing to her. She just goes behind her igloo and swears at her carer !

## ADOPTIONS

### CHRISSIE



We were delighted when Chrissie found a new home. We had scanned her – there was no chip so we took her to the vet to get her chipped.

When the vet scanned, prior to inserting the micro-chip, he found that she was already chipped, it was behind her left front elbow.

It was an Identibase chip. It had been allocated on 22 November 2011 but not registered.

We were able to register it to C.L.A.W.S. and then transfer it to her new owner.

What a palaver – but all's well that ends well !

## **FUND RAISING**

There have been no fund raising events so far this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic and those scheduled for later in the year have been cancelled.

Normally it is now that we are booking dates for the 2021 street collections. We do not know if the RBWM will be issuing licences but in any event have decided not to apply for any to protect our volunteers that man those events.

We have continued to receive generous donations for which we are most grateful.

The ways you can donate are : -

Through Just Giving

By paying into our bank account

By cheque

By purchasing items from our C.L.A.W.S Amazon wish list

For more details

Ring the C.L.A.W.S. help line on 01189 341 699



## **MEMORIES**

### **BAGPUSS**

We clearly remember Bagpuss – he was such a beautiful boy.



Julia believes he was approximately 16 years old as we have had him for 11 years and he was thought to be around 5 years old when we rehomed him. He was such a character we are going to miss him terribly.

### **DARCEY**

Darcey came into our lives after seeing her and her brother's photo in the Maidenhead Advertiser in July 2006. They had been dumped at a cattery near Maidenhead. We instantly fell in love with them and decided to adopt them in January 2007. Sadly Marco died suddenly and unexpectedly in August 2015

#### **DARCY AND MARCO**

A beautiful, dainty cat but a very fussy eater. She was fit and healthy until August 2018 when she became very lethargic. Over the weekend of 11th /12th August she would not eat and just laid on the carpet.

We had to call the vet out and he instantly diagnosed chronic kidney failure and took her back to the surgery. The outlook wasn't good and he said we should prepare ourselves for the worst.

Eric then decided to dig her grave next to our other two cats but would you believe it a day later she started to recover. She was on a drip at the vets for 5 days but her body scale readings (much too technical to name !!) started to come down and by the following Friday she was back to her old self. We brought her home the following Monday. She had to have special renal food and was on a variety of tablets for about a month.

After that there was no stopping her. We had to put netting up the trees in our garden to stop her escaping as she seemed to have a new lease of life. She was a real daddy's girl and always slept on Eric's lap at night. She battled on for nearly two years and it was only

## MAISIE



A single mum, with a young son to look after, and already heavily pregnant again, had three cats that she was unable to care for.

They were in a poor state and her mother asked C.L.A.W.S. to take them in. Her son was very fond of the youngest one and refused to part with him but the two older ones were taken in by C.L.A.W.S.

TIA, 12, and MARIA , 8, needed intensive care to bring them back to health and a lot of patience before they regained their confidence.

They went to a lovely new home and, to celebrate, were given new names. They are now known as ROSIE and MAISIE and have fallen on their paws ! They are waited on “hand and paw”, provided with a variety of treats as well as delicious meals and enjoy being brushed.

They are very lucky girls.

June was in touch recently to say : -

My darling Maisie passed away on 17 August after a short stay at Alma Vets. Nothing more could be done so she came home and Tim came to the house to put her to sleep. She went peacefully. She was such a lovely feisty little cat.

My broken heart will miss her. I love Charlie and Mr Dolly (so called because originally they thought she was a girl !) they will be such a comfort to me now.





### CHESTER AND SOLI

Alex and I had both grown up with cats, so when we moved into our first home and got married, the natural next step seemed to be to get a cat or two — “It’ll be good practice for when we have kids!” I said. Little did I know I’d be pregnant with the first of those kids within a month of taking on our cats.

In 2004 we signed up with CLAWS and soon there was a call saying there were two ginger brothers up for adoption. We went to meet them and their brother Sparkie,

and were soon captivated. They were shy of us of course — Joy and her family were the only humans they’d known — but we could see they had personality. In fact, they had so much personality, poor Sparkie was getting a bit of a hard time. But I later learnt that he settled down nicely after they left, and stayed with Joy permanently.

For the first couple of days, they refused to come out from behind the sofa, so we gave them their meals there. But on day 3, I decided enough was enough, and tempted them out with some ham. After that, there was no stopping them — they were everywhere — and after a month or so, we started letting them go outside.

Chester (all ginger) and Soli (ginger and white) were big boys and incredibly loving, shattering the stereotype of cats being snooty or aloof. For the first few years, Soli wouldn’t sit on anyone’s lap, preferring to snuggle up next to me, while Chester would sit on anyone who sat down for more than 5 seconds. Eventually, Soli became a lap cat too, and I spent many a winter night with them both stretched out on me like one very heavy, ginger blanket.



They were pretty contented most of the time and although they killed the odd mouse, weren’t really hunters, preferring instead to eat, sleep and stretch. One time though, I heard a terrible racket in the garden and when I went to investigate, I found Chester very carefully making his way down the bay tree with a whole nest of baby birds in his mouth. He got grounded for that !

They used up a few of their nine lives between them. Both cats jumped from first floor windows onto the patio, but they only did it once of

course. Chester came off worse, needing a trip to the vets and some good painkillers. Another time, I found Soli spread out on the floor looking in a bad way. I feared the worse, but he was right as rain after an expensive trip to the vets and a dose of Metacam.

As they reached their teens, we recognised they wouldn’t be around forever, but still thought we had a good five years or so left. It wasn’t to be, though. Soli died suddenly on Harry and Meghan’s wedding day in May 2018. It was a breezy day, and we think he got clipped by a slamming door. It had been tied open, but a sudden gust must have been too much for the rope. I found him in a very bad way in the garden when he inexplicably missed his dinner, and rushed him to the vets, but they called me in the early hours of the morning to say “Goodbye” to him. It was a terrible shock for him to be fine one minute and not the next, and we were all devastated.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

Chester mostly took it in his stride, as cats do, but he took to crying at night and sometimes when he wouldn't come in at night, I'd find him gazing at the spot where he last saw Soli. I would have to carry him in, then he would carry on as normal.

Chester was always frightened of fireworks, and would wee all over the house during firework season, so we would keep him indoors and try to keep him calm. However, on 4th October 2019, he was startled by a particularly loud firework close to the house and came racing back through the cat flap. He settled down on Alex's lap for the evening and seemed fine, but when he got up to go to the kitchen, he collapsed in the hall and died a few minutes later.

We are all heartbroken to have lost our lovely boys, who we thought would be around for a few years yet, but we are so incredibly grateful to have had them in our lives.

Thank you so much for all the good work you do.

### DARCEY



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### DARCY AND MARCO



Darcey was a beautiful cat but a very fussy eater. She was fit and healthy until August 2018 when she suddenly became very lethargic. We were told to expect the worse as she had kidney failure but against all the odds she pulled through (see Darcey Memories for further details.)

### DARCEY

Over the weekend of the 11th / 12th August she would not eat and just laid on the carpet. We had to call the vet out and he instantly diagnosed chronic kidney failure and took her back to the surgery. The outlook was not good and he said we should prepare ourselves for the worst.

Eric then decided to dig her grave next to the to our other two cats but would you believe it she started to make a recovery. She was on a drip at the vets for 5 days but her body scale readings (to technical to name) started to come down and by the following Friday she was back to her old self. We brought her home on the following M. She had to have special renal food and was on a variety of tablets for about a month. After that there was no stopping her. We had to put netting up the trees in our garden to stop her climbing as she seemed to have a new lease of life. She was a real daddy's girl and always slept on Eric's lap at night. She battled on for nearly two years and it was only in June this year that she started to show signs of falling ill. She lost her appetite and her back legs were beginning to fail. Sadly we decided it would be kinder to have her put to sleep.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

The day before the vet came she managed to walk over to her favourite patch in the garden by the runner beans and pond. Our dear little cat had to stop half way there on the lawn to have a rest but she made it and laid in the sun for a couple of hours. That was her last day in the garden. Jason, the vet, came out on Thursday, 11th June – we were so lucky that he could make a house call in view of the lockdown as we did not want to go to the surgery and hand her over and not be with her when she died. When we adopted her the vet thought she was about 6 or 7 so she could have been about 20 or 21 when she died. A good age for a very special cat.

And then we heard about CHESTER.



What a sad story. We had said that we would eventually we would get another cat not fussy if only 3 legs, 1 etc. Would you believe it a lady got in touch with us and said “I know a cat with three legs who desperately needs a home”. It seems that poor Chester had been living rough for most of his life. He was not neutered or microchipped. Someone had seen a cat in Bicester around the fire station area limping and looking extremely thin. Cats Protection managed to catch it and took it to Bicester Vets. They got back to CP to ask if they could take him in. The answer was “Yes”. He was in a terrible state – full of fleas, thin as rake and had this horrendous injury to his front left leg. They reckoned he had been in a road a traffic accident. His elbow was so badly crushed that he must have been in terrible pain. As it had been like this for probably a year a decision had to be made – should he be to put to sleep or should his leg be amputate. As he was only about 5 years old CP opted for surgery. They raised about £1,000. When he first arrived at Portway Cattery he was very aggressive which they put down to the pain he was in.

That was back in March this year. He had been at the cattery for some 4 months when we first saw him. He was very nervous but strangely quite affectionate rubbing his body against our hands. After 2 or 3 visits we decided to adopt him. He has been with us since 3 August but is but won't stay out but won't stay out for more than a still very nervous. He doesn't like going in- to the garden. He tried two or three times to eat some grass but won't stay out for more than a few minutes. If you approach him carrying anything in your hands he runs under the table. It is very ear-



ly days and CP said it could take anything up to 6 months for him to settle down. During the last few days we have noticed that he is becoming more confident. He jumps up on the settee in the conservatory and lounge and on our bed. Eric made some ramps to help him but does not use them preferring to use his own strength to jump. He doesn't swear as much now but he has the loudest meow you have ever heard. You only have to go into the kitchen and he thinks it's feeding time again. We shall have to keep an eye on hi weight because of his disability. It will take time and patience before he becomes fully comfortable with his new home as he had been in the cattery for nearly 5 months.



### PATSY THE PERSIAN

There came a knock at the door. There stood a man with a very smelly hessian shopping bag in his hands. "You are the cat lady aren't you ? Can you help me please?" The bag was gently snoring as I opened it up. There was a big ball of twigs, horse manure, leaves and god knows what else. Very very gently I parted the leaves to see two big golden eyes staring at me. This poor little cat had obviously been wandering for a long time, had got caught in bushes and goodness knows what and was now in this sorry state.

There was nothing that I could do to help her without hurting her, so I took her straight to the vet who very gently took her out of the bag for a better look. It was then that the thundering purrs hit us. I felt that this little creature knew that we were trying to help her. As this was going to be a long job, I went home to await a call.

It turned out that she was a beautiful grey Persian queen. She had been used for breeding and was now no longer wanted. The nurses had had to shave all her fur off because it was so matted and full of rubbish. She was given a health check and neutered.

This adorable little girl then came to live with me. I called her Patsy because she looked just like the character that Joanna Lumley played in Ab Fab. Hair piled on top of her head and squinty eyes. And character she stayed.

She would sit every week on the kitchen wall between the gardener and his son. They always had fish and chips for lunch and Patsy would join them ! Her fur grew back and she became a wonderful companion for many years leaving us at a ripe old age of 20.

I always have a friend to decorate for me, and he loved Patsy. Whilst out shopping I saw his wife, and she said that her husband had asked her to put more filling in his sandwiches because Patsy liked every filling that he had!!!!!! He just got to eat the bread!!!



### ALICE SELF ISOLATING IN HER TENT IN JUNE 2020



Alice, known as Belle when she was with C.L.A.W.S., mother of Oliver and Beth, has been self-isolating in her tent !

### ANGEL

Angel enjoys the outdoor area rubbing on the cat mint plant.



She also likes to climb and scratch on the bit of fallen tree that Mel brought back from the woods.

The other cats also enjoy climbing and scratching on it.

Earlier in the day she can be found in her basket sitting on her heated blanket on Mel's desk.

When Mel brews her cafeterie of coffee, Angel is instantly alert as she knows this heralds a treat for her – a little drop of lactose free milk.

She needs a pill which is put in a small helping of food. Mel takes some treats from a nearby drawer and Angel is there to receive a few as a reward for taking her medication.









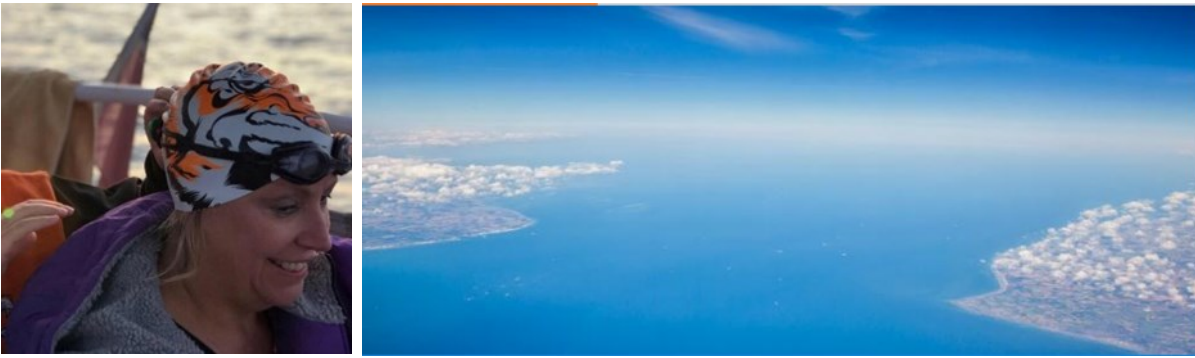
### TWINKLE

Jan got in touch to tell us that TWINKLE (then known as Baby Spice) had just celebrated her 18th birthday ! She had been adopted from C.L.A.W.S. as a kitten.

We have had 18 very happy years with her so far, and hope for a few more, as long as she remains well and happy! Our son was 8 when Beverley first visited, and still remembers her visit very well and was so excited when we were accepted. (He asked if we had “passed”!)

Here is the birthday girl !!





### MEL'S ENGLISH CHANNEL SOLO SWIM

One of our volunteers – Melanie Tyrrell is a keen swimmer. We wrote last year in the newsletter about one of her swim endeavours, taking part in an English Channel Relay swim.

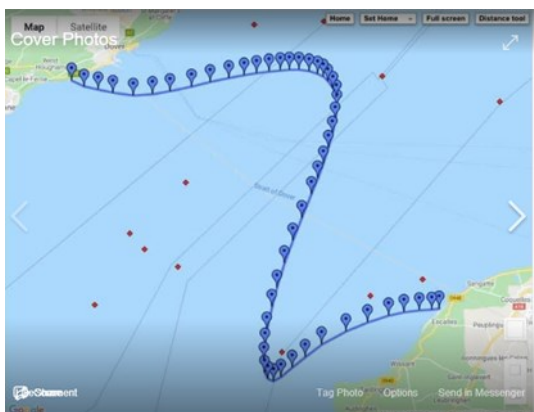
For Mel, this was the start of a number of swim challenges she wanted to undertake, culminating in an English Channel solo in the future. In order to build up to this, she planned a couple of long swims to build up her endurance. These included a Jersey to France solo swim planned for August and Gibraltar Strait in September 2020.

The Jersey swim was scuppered by permit issues and bad weather and culminated in Mel returning having not been able to do the crossing. She did however get to visit Jersey Zoo whilst waiting for the call and was saddened to learn from some of the local swimmers that the Zoo was struggling for funding since the pandemic.

With the Gibraltar Strait swim also not looking likely due to travel restrictions, Mel decided to contact her English Channel pilot and ask if it would be possible to bring forward her English Channel Solo booked for 2021. There is usually a 3 year waiting list to get a swim slot however the pandemic had resulted in swimmers either deferring due to lack of training as a result of lockdown or being unable to travel if coming from abroad. (The Channel Swimming season runs from mid-June to mid-October).

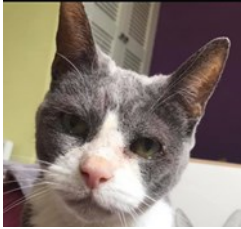
Channel rules dictate that the swimmer is only allowed to wear a single swimsuit, swim hat and goggles, ie no wetsuit. The swimmer is not allowed to touch the boat during the swim and feeds are thrown to them on a rope. The shortest distance across the Channel is 21 miles, if landing at Cap Griz Nez. Tide, wind-speed and swimmer speed create a lot of variables and swimmers can land at any number of points along the French coastline, with the tides pushing the swimmer sideways at various points.

The swim commenced at 1:28am on Sunday, 6th September and took a total of 14hrs 44min, landing at Cap Blanc Nez. The swim track below shows Mel's track across the Channel and the effect of the tides on the crossing. For the final two hours of the swim, Mel had to sprint as fast as she could in order to beat the tide and land on French soil before reaching Calais, at which point the swim would have had to be aborted on safety grounds due to the Ferries.



Mel is keenly aware of the impact of the pandemic on CLAWS which has meant she and Fenton have been unable to help out as much as normal and is proposing to undertake the swim in aid of CLAWS to help raise funds to support the many cats in our care. After also learning of Jersey Zoo's financial struggles, with Beverley's blessing, she decided also to fundraise for the Zoo.

If you would like to sponsor Melanie, she has a fundraising page which can be found using the link below:



Dolores would like to have the final word.

***"I gave my permission for this challenge purely because it was in aid of the charity that brought me back to health and matched me with my new home."***

## **PETS POINT OF VIEW**

My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be painful. Remember this before you get me.

Don't be angry with me for long. And don't me up as punishment. You have your work, entertainment and friends. I only have you.

Talk to me sometimes, Even if I don't understand your words I understand your voice.

Be aware that however you treat me I'll never forget.

Please don't hit me.

Before you scold me for being un co-operative, obstinate or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right foods, or I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is getting old or weak.

Take care of me when I get old. You too will grow old.

Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say "I can't bear to watch", or "Let that happen in my absence" Everything is easier for me if you are there. Remember I LOVE YOU.



## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

### ANGIE AND THE FRUIT CAKE !



There was a rustling noise in the kitchen – usually a sign that either Fleur or Angie are up to no good.

Sure enough there on the kitchen floor was some silver foil, some crumbs and Angie eating a piece of fruit cake !

Being the mean person that I am I picked up the foil and what was left of the fruit cake and consigned them to the waste bin

I had been given a piece of fruit cake and had saved the last little bit to have with my coffee. I had wrapped it in silver foil and put it in a piece of cling film but that didn't stop Angie!

The picture of innocence but appearances can be deceptive !

### What really happened in Wuhan



When you lie on the application but still get the job



Dogs might be called  
"mans best friend"



But we don't show the police  
where your drugs are

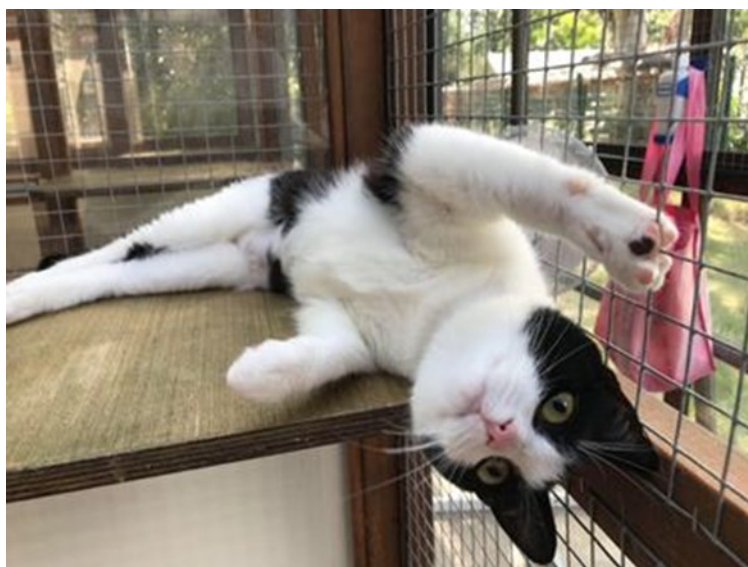
## RECENT PHOTOS



GEMMA



BORIS



ROSIE



GEMMA