



**Adoption Brad**

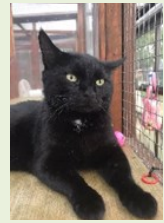
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**C.L.A.W.S Newsletter No 73 June 2021**

Facebook: @ClawsMaidenhead



**Adoption Panda**

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Helpline 01189 341699

## NEWS FROM HQ

### **FOR NOW by VERA HOOKER**

Animal rescue can drain your soul  
 But then again it can make you whole.  
 And despite the anguish, joy and pain  
 We'll do it again and again and again.

This verse by the CLAWS poetess perfectly encapsulates what animal welfare involves and so introduces our latest newsletter.

### **ADOPTION GEMMA**



When her mum died in 2018 Gemma was homeless but fortunately her mum's daughter knew Beverley and CLAWS took her in.

She was very timid to start with and has always remained reserved except when she hears the rustle of the treats bag when she rushes up to you.

The breakthrough came when a pen in the run of six became available and Beverley thought she might enjoy the company of the other cats. Initially she thought she had made a mistake as when Panda came up to say

"Hello" she spat at him !

Given time she did settle down and that is when she caught the eye of one of our supporters. It wasn't long before he was back with his mum. She loved Gemma too so it won't be long before she goes to join Chrissie, the cat from Cliveden, that has been enjoying life in her new home for the past few months.

Sadly Gemma never went to her new home. She became unwell and a trip to the vet revealed that she had a lymphoma so she was gently put to sleep.

## **ADOPTIONS BRAD AND PANDA**

In the summer of 2020 we took in two cats.

One had been with a feral colony in Slough and had been trapped and taken to be neutered. The vet said he had cat flu and needed to be confined for 2 weeks so antibiotics could be administered. After that he would be transferred to another rescue. One of the helpers suggested CLAWS should be contacted as they had an isolation unit. They rang Beverley, she said "Yes" and he arrived the same evening. When the time came that place did not materialise so he stayed with CLAWS.

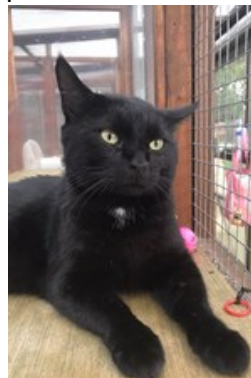
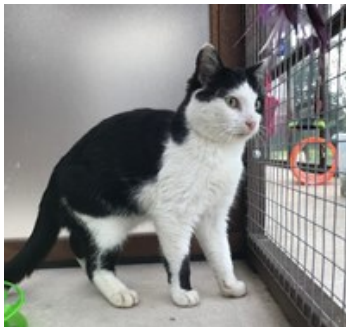
Once he had settled in we took him to the vet for a check up, He is about 3 years old and in good health. We called him BRAD.

Later in the summer a long time supporter of CLAWS got in touch. Over the years Valerie had rescued many strays that had made their way into her garden. She would have been happy to offer a home to the latest one but unfortunately the elderly resident cat (a feisty tortoiseshell diva) had other ideas. She rang CLAWS and we agreed to take him in.

She had called him PANDA a beautiful big black boy about 6 years old.

They soon settled down together and became best mates, even curling up together in the same bed.

Earlier in the year Sally and Don had come to see us. Recently one of their cats had been put to sleep - that meant they only had six (at one time they had had 10!) "So we thought we'd pop in to see if you had any that might suit us" We took them out to introduce them to the residents. Sally liked Brad and Don liked Panda. "That's alright isn't it Don? We can take both of them" As they had done when they adopted Jet and Darcy and Cooper and Sasha.



Due to previous commitments they were unable to take them until June. So just the other day they came to collect them. We watched BRAD (now called MISHCA - which means Little Bear in Russian) and PANDA set off to their new home with mixed feelings. We were delighted they had such a wonderful home but we will miss them.

STOP PRESS Mischa and Boots were taken to their own room which had been prepared for them. Sandra kept a watchful eye on them and a good job she did as they disappeared up the chimney! She persuaded them to come down and Don blocked it off.

They are settling down and beginning to explore the house and meet the members of their new family

## **NEW ARRIVALS DINKY**

Beverley was asked by Simon at Kelperland if she would take in a 17 year old cat whose owner, a valued client of his, had died without making any provision for her cat.

Fortunately there was a space so Beverley went to collect her and that is how DINKY came into our lives. She suffers from hyper-thyroidism for which she is given medication

At first she screamed her head off and would not be pacified. Gradually she calmed down. When the library became free Beverley decided to bring her in and the result has been very pleasing. She greets Beverley with a happy chirrup and climbs on her knee for cuddle.

On sunny days Beverley puts her in with the Chalet girls so she can enjoy the fresh air. On the first occasion Joules and Violet could not believe their eyes. Who was this interloper invading their space? Dinky, unperturbed, spat at them and marched off to explore, leaving the girls "lost for words".

Soon all was peaceful, each cat having its own space.

## **NEW ARRIVALS—BEN**



One of our supporters had been trapping ferals in Iver and asked Beverley if CLAWS would take one in and she said "Yes".

It is a black and white male, very bedraggled and very scared. He had been sleeping on an old mattress in a lady's garden and she had been feeding him. His coat had become very matted and somewhere along the line great patches of it had been shaved off so he looks very scruffy.

We called him BEN.

We put him in a small room upstairs where he immediately found the highest place (on top of the kitten cage which had been put on the storage unit.) From this vantage point he viewed his new surroundings. Beverley had already put water, litter and an igloo down and now added a bowl of food and then left him to settle in.

Ben was able to see the comings and goings up and down the lane and gradually he began to relax.

He was fed in his lofty abode but came down when all was quiet to have a drink and use his litter tray.

Beverley approached him very slowly and held her hand out - no response. Then a day came when he stretched forward and sniffed her hand ! He got braver and let stroke him under his chin, still remaining on the top of the kitten cage.

Then one never to be forgotten day he rolled over on his back and let her tickle his tummy !

It is another case of mistaken identity : he is not a feral but yet another abandoned domestic. We are hoping that with time, patience and lots of love he will be ready to go to a new, loving home.

## **NEW ARRIVALS FRANKY**

We were contacted by a gentleman from Wokingham who had gone into his garden that morning and spotted a cat lurking in the bushes. Could we help ? Beverley said she would bring a trap over.

When Beverley arrived later in the morning the cat had disappeared so she set the trap amongst the bushes and went into the house to talk to Alan, the owner. They had hardly finished their first cup of tea before they heard a clang - the trap had been sprung. They hurried outside and approached the trap quietly. Inside was a beautiful ginger cat.

Back at Bear Cottage Beverley took him to the pen she had already prepared with cosy igloo, water and litter, added a bowl of food and left him to settle in. When she returned later in the day he was hiding behind his igloo. He was scared but made no attempt to attack her.

We've called him FRANKY. He was about 6 years old and in good health. He had been neutered but was not chipped. He needed a dental. The surgery went well. Three teeth were removed but when he went back for a check-up one of the cavities had failed to heal. More antibiotics were prescribed and a blood sample sent away to be tested for FIV and FeLV as failure to heal can sometimes indicate the presence of one of these diseases.

We were on tenterhooks whilst waiting for the result. The vet rang to say the test was negative. What a relief ! She described Franky as a slow healer but said that if the cavity had not started to heal when he came for his next check-up the cavity would have to be flushed out with antibiotics and stitched. Fortunately that wasn't necessary as it had started to heal.

He was given another course of antibiotics and has to go back in 10 days for what we hope will be his final check-up.

**STOP PRESS !** Franky has been given a clean bill of health. We are delighted.



## IN MEMORY OF RONALD WALLER

We were sorry to learn of the death of RONALD WALLER.

He had been a supporter of CLAWS for many years and was part of the family team that produced “BARBARA’S BOXES “. His wife Barbara and daughter Tina washed and dressed the toys and Ron added the finishing touches by putting them in boxes and wrapping them in colourful paper.

We send our love to Barbara and her family at this sad time. We shall miss him.

## MEMORIES—HEIDI

Before Beverley moved to Bear Cottage CLAWS used to rent pens at Knowl Hill Cattery. When the manager learned that Beverley was moving she asked if she would give a home to two feral kittens that had recently been brought in. Of course she said “Yes”. But the feral pen wasn’t built until 2012 so it was two years before HEIDI and her sister JEKYL came to CLAWS.

They settled in slowly and gradually began to make their way up the garden. Jekyl stopped half way and made herself comfortable in one of the cat kennels but Heidi continued until she reached the back door. She hesitated. Taking her courage in all 4 paws she crept in and she was met by Maggie and Toby. They gave her a cursory sniff and went about their business. She had been accepted

She began to explore the house and soon found her favourite spots - on a cushion by the radiator in the lounge or cuddled up in a cosy bed which Beverley had thoughtfully placed over the hot water pipe in the bathroom.

And, of course, on Beverley’s bed ! She used to drape herself round Beverley’s head on the pillow and was nick named Beverley’s bonnet ! As the first sign of light in the morning she would nudge Beverley awake so she could have her breakfast.

She died at the beginning of the year. It was the end of an era as, with her sister, Jekyl , they were the first two cats to come to Bear Cottage.

Sadly Jekyl died last year.





## **MEMORIES—TOPSY**



TOPSY, aged 17, came to CLAWS in the summer of 2020, when her owner was rushed into hospital and died there a few days later.

At first she wasn't particularly grateful for the good food and excellent care she received but just sat behind her igloo and swore at her carer ! As time went on she did gradually come round but has never been a particularly friendly girl.

She was hyper-thyroid and suffered from kidney trouble. She was given medication for the thyroid condition and was already on a renal diet which helped to preserve her kidneys but still she didn't thrive. Many visits to the vet followed and many tests were done but none of the results were conclusive. We kept her comfortable but sadly we lost our battle and in March she had to be put to sleep.

We miss her.

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

### **VOLUNTEERS MEWS LETTER 30 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2010**

#### **JACK & POPPY**



**JACK**

In July 2008 Yvonne adopted Mowgli (now known as Jack ).

She tells me that he is a little treasure, so loving and affectionate, just what she needed after losing her dog and cat after 18 years. He sometimes keeps her up at night just because he wants to be with her. As soon as he sees her he purrs like mad and is content.

He settled in quickly. The first time Yvonne let him out he just ran to the bottom of the garden and disappeared. She thought that was it, he was running away. He was gone for 4 hours and Yvonne was beside herself. She didn't go back to work but waited in the garden for him to come back. When he did she was very relieved.

He soon learnt to use the cat flap, probably going in and out a 100 times a day. He keeps coming back in to check that Yvonne is still there. He gets on well with Lois, the cat next door, who is 15 years old and black just like Jack.

During the summer he was out and about quite a lot, climbing trees and basking in the sun. He brought in a lot of animals, birds, mice and even tried a hedgehog! He had his eye on some chickens that lived next door. Yvonne is surprised he didn't catch one but thinks he was wondering if he could get it through the cat flap!!!!



He loves being brushed. As soon as the colder weather returned he sat on Yvonne's lap and curled up on the end of the bed. When its raining, he seems to go outside deliberately and get wet as he knows he will be dried when he comes in and then get another brush!!!

In September Yvonne adopted Poppy, when she visited Knowl Hill Cattery for one of the CP open days. At first Jack was a little dominant over her but most of the time they are OK .

Now and again he charges towards her and bops her on the head!!! This has made her a little nervous, although she has settled in very well. She has a totally different character to Jack.



They both had lots of goodies for Christmas, Poppy loved her radiator bed and Jack his new mice! They both loved their advent calendar- probably because the catnip drops inside drove them wild!!!



**ARCHIVED PHOTOS**



**PUDDING REBECCA LOIUSE 2001**



**MAGGIE TOBY AND ELVIS 2017**



**PATSY THE PERSION 1998**



**BOB 1994**





CHARLIE 2013



GUMMY BEAR 2006



PAUL AND BEAUTY 2018



MAGGIE. MAGGIE AND TOBY 2010

## ALICE COMES INTO THE HOUSE

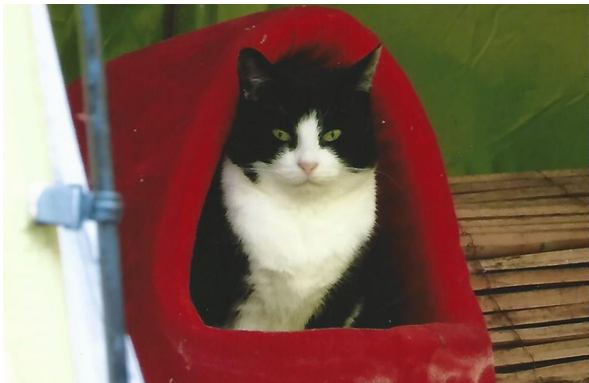
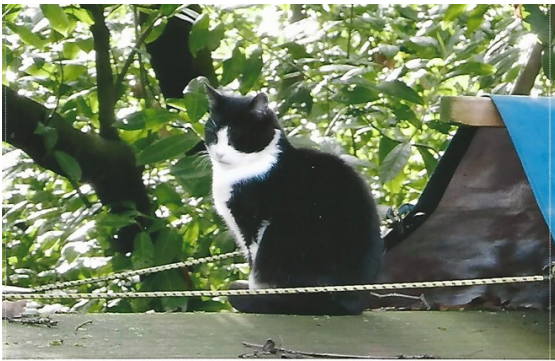
The helpline rang. It was Denise. She was so excited. For the first time in 4 years Alice had come into the house that morning !

By 10.00 am she was at the vet and had had a check up and her first vaccination.

During her four years in the garden, come rain, come shine or snow !) she had been served three meals a day (plus biscuits and treats) in bone china dishes (no stainless steel ones for her !)

She still prefers to live in the garden (who can blame her when she has a full sized tent furnished with every luxury including a chair and a number of cosy beds)

She graciously agreed to be put in her basket and be taken to the vet for her second vaccination. He said she was in good health and that her teeth were in excellent condition.





## TORTOISE TALES



In 2018 Beverley was asked if she would take in a tortoise as its owners wanted to go travelling. He arrived in a garden trug and had been named SHERMAN after the tank as he was so large. Beverley didn't like the name and changed it to GERRY. He had been left in the garden all year round and in the winter had simply dug himself a hole in the ground and covered himself in leaves and earth to keep warm.

Beverley took him to the specialist tortoise vet who said that he was a marginated tortoise with a beautifully marked shell and about 40 years old and now weighs nearly 6 kilos. BUT he was a SHE so Beverley re-named her GERALDINE.

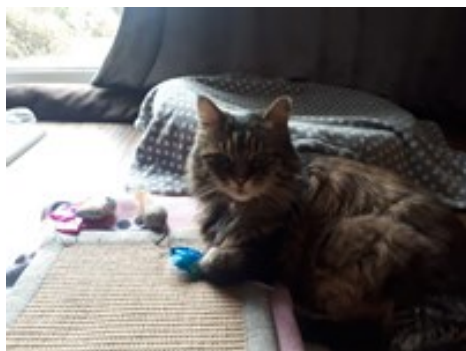
She is a real character ! There was a noise which came from the direction of the lounge. Beverley was in the kitchen at the time and just dismissed it as a usual Bear Cottage morning. When she went into the lounge a little later she saw an inverted litter tray making its way towards her and underneath was GERALDINE.

(Do you remember a few years ago we heard a strange clonking noise coming from the library ? When we went in there a stool was moving across the floor and underneath was TOOHEY !)

She is desperate to go outside and can negotiate the steep step from the kitchen to the utility room. The smell of fresh air acts like a magnet. On a number of occasions she has disappeared, sometimes she burrows deep into the foliage which abounds at Bear Cottage, on another she was found at the far end of the horse field. She has an astonishing turn of speed !

On this particular morning there was no sign of GERALDINE. Beverley had seen her in the lounge the previous evening after she had locked up and closed the cat flaps so knew she must be inside somewhere. She went into the utility room to unlock the door into the garden and something made her look in Toby's larder, the space between the washing machine and the wall. There was GERALDINE fast asleep with a dead pheasant on top of her ! Toby had been out hunting the previous night and stowed the pheasant away for his breakfast !

## **THE ADVENTURES OF MAU MAU CHAPTER 2**



This adorable, fluffy little madam has well and truly settled into her forever home and has established a relatively set routine.

Mau Mau's breakfast is served promptly at 6.00 am every day, including Sunday. Provided her food is in the bowl by 6.00 am Mark and Francessa, her adopted mum and dad, have a polite and placid little kitty,. However, if food should arrive as much as a minute late, whoever is in

breakfast duty, usually Francessa, can expect to be followed around the kitchen to a symphony of meows until food has been served,

Another of Mau Mau's particulars is that she likes to have her litter tray cleaned out immediately, quite literally the moment she has finished. If Mark and Fran are on the ground floor, Mau Mau's domain, then Mau Mau will race through to wherever they are, look them straight in the eye and give them a specific meow. Her mum and dad now recognise it as "clean my poo". If Mark and Francessa happen to be upstairs this is no problem for Mau Mau as she will happily announce her morning poo with a mighty meow that can be heard through the house and possibly by the neighbours as well.

Play time continues to be Mau Mau's main addiction. Now that she has worked out where her toys are kept, it is not uncommon to find her sat by the cupboard with her most pleading face. She can be a little bit naughty if play time is not agreed to immediately. Her favourite way of displaying her displeasure is to stomp across the room to where the TIVO box, an electrical device is positioned. She will then looking Mark and Fran directly in the eye give a warning by placing her paw on the box. If this is not sufficient to initiate immediate play time she will hop on the box and paw at the wires. We believe that this translates to "If I don't get play you can't have television".



Nevertheless proving that all her demands are met in a satisfactory manner, Mau Mau continues to shower Mark and Fran with sopiness and affection, She loves to spend every evening cuddled on the sofa, especially if there are tummy tickles involved.

She seems to prefer book to movie night, although she does enjoy a good nature documentary, especially if there are birds or fish involved.



## AS SAID TO A SEMI-FERAL WILD CAT

Poor little frightened stray creature  
How can I get you to know  
That in this funny old world you have found a friend  
As I really do love you so.

You sit all alone in a corner  
As inaccessible as you can find,  
I spend hours on my face under cupboards and beds  
But I really and truly don't mind.

Just as long as I'm near and can touch you  
To convey all the love that I feel,  
For I know when you trust me enough you'll come out  
And your lost faith in humans will heal.

## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

