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www.c-l-a-w-s.org.uk

Facebook: @ClawsMaidenhead

Helpline 01189 341699

NEWS FROM HQ



MESSAGE FROM BEVERLEY

I hope that this newsletter finds you all in good form and looking forward to Christmas.

As usual you have all encouraged Sue and I with your calls and emails finding out how we are coping. It is comforting to know that you are with us in the supporting the cats

To this end good news! As I write this Matt, Mark and Pelo have started to build our last enclosure. This was all due to your donations and support. This will be for more cats that we cannot re-home. It should be finished by the end of January. It is so exciting!!!!

So on this high note I will say once again, a big thank you for all your kindness and support in our endeavours to help the waifs and strays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

With love from all at Bear Cottage.



NEW ARRIVALS

There's still time to buy a CLAWS calendar for 2022. Perfect for a
Christmas present !



C.L.A.W.S.CALENDAR FOR 2022



PRICE £5.00

**To obtain a copy ring the C.L.A.W.S. helpline on
01189 341699**

Helping cats since 1995 !

www.c-l-a-w-s.org.uk Facebook : - @ClawsMaidenhead

Helpline: -01189 641699

AMAZON WISH LIST 2022

Felix Goody Bags

Toys

Soft cat nip toys especially cat nip bananas

King Catnip Soft Refillable Plush Cat and Kitten Toys Loose Organic Leaves, Bananas or similar



Ceva Feliway Defuser 48 ml refill

Dettol Wipes Antibacterial Bulk Surface Cleaning, Multipack of 6 x 126, Total 756 Wipes

Gentle Giant Better Than 3 Ply Paper Towel - Extra Thick Kitchen Paper—Strong, Absorbent & Durable Made in the UK (18)

CIF Original crème cleanser

For a full list go to the CLAWS Facebook Page

GIFT AID

When donating to CLAWS if you pay Income tax, we can claim gift aid.

Please download the form on our web site, complete it and return it to : -

PO Box 1646, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3TL

This will enable us to maximise your donation to CLAWS.

You only need to complete the form with your first donation.

Remember, remember—have fun and stay safe

Text of article:

Fireworks displays are set to happen across the Thames Valley soon — and animal specialists and the fire service have some tips on staying safe this season.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is asking residents to remember to stay safe when planning their fireworks celebrations this year.



With many events cancelled due to the COVID-19 control measures, emergency services are preparing for a busier night than usual as celebrations are expected to take place in private gardens.

Gail Muirhead, West Hub prevention manager, said: "Whilst most people enjoy fireworks responsibly, in the wrong hands they can cause real misery. Remember that fireworks are explosives, and as such should be treated with respect."

Superintendent Bhupinder Rai, head of local policing for

Thames Valley, said:

"Last year we received more than 160 calls related to fireworks on Halloween night, the majority of which related to fireworks being used inappropriately by young people.

"If you have fireworks in your home, please ensure that these cannot be accessed by your children."

The cut-off time for private firework displays is midnight on Bonfire Night and 1am for Diwali. Fireworks can only be used on private property with consent from the landowner.

RBFRS advises telling neighbours if planning to let off fireworks.

Sue Collins from CLAWS cat welfare charity in Maidenhead said it a 'stressful time' for many animals. As such, CLAWS supports the campaign to restrict fireworks to organised displays only.

"Bring your pets in before it gets dark," she advised.

"Lock the doors and windows, pull the curtains and switch on the radio or television to help deaden the noise of the fireworks.

"Keep calm — animals pick up on your emotions and your anxiety will transmit itself to them. Please help to protect these innocent creatures which rely on us for their every need."

Graham Whiddett, dog behaviourist at Wiggle Waggle Pets in Cookham, said:

"Animals have been known to have heart attacks or run off never to be seen again. Don't allow pets in the garden at these times.

"It may not be too late to desensitise your pet to firework noises. Download sounds of fireworks and play them at low levels to your pet, slowly increasing volume over time."

Fireworks displays will be taking place across the region. Ref:130559.27

adrianwataylismedia.co.uk @AdrianW_BM

FUND RAISING

COX GREEN VILLAGE FAIR SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2021

We made £320.00

Thank you to our volunteers who manned the stall and to our supporters for their generosity.



RAFFLE 2022

Fancy a week's holiday in the last week of July 2022 ? A luxury four berth caravan in the seaside town of Minehead on the north Somerset coast could be yours !

Watch CLAWS web site for further details.



GEORGIE



In 2010 a stray cat was picked up in Windsor by CP and taken to Knowl Hill Cattery where they kept cats awaiting adoption.

Sylvia went there to choose a cat for her mother, Doris, who suffered with dementia. She lived in Maidenhead with her brother, Tom, and sister, Jane, who were her full time carers.

Sadly both died within a few weeks of each other so Doris had to be transferred to a care home which meant Georgie, as they had named him, was all alone. Nancy, an acquaintance, offered to come in and feed him twice a day and make sure he was OK.

This was not a satisfactory state of affairs and, in any event, the family home had to be sold to fund Doris's care.

Nancy offered to adopt him and Sylvia accepted gratefully not realising that Nancy had two large dogs. These proved too much for Georgie who voted with his paws and ran away. He turned up a few weeks later in a supporter's garden who rang CLAWS and asked us to take him in which we did.

In the meantime Nancy contacted CLAWS explaining she had adopted Georgie and saying she would like him back. We got in touch providing her with our e-mail address and telephone number but we did not hear from her again. We understand that her partner was very ill so assumed that was the reason.

Georgie is a very youthful 11 year old, a beautiful tabby and white boy. He is friendly and loves a cuddle. One day Beverley decided to scan him to see if he was microchipped. Nothing on the nape of his neck but she continued to scan down his back and round his shoulders and there, where his left front leg joined his body, was a microchip number.

This enabled us to trace his original, owner, Sylvia, and as nothing had been heard from Nancy, and the legal length of time (7 days) had elapsed he was transferred to CLAWS.

When we took Georgie to the vet he was diagnosed with a Grade 5 heart murmur. On the scale 1 to 5 5 is the highest. He is on medication for the condition and will stay with CLAWS to ensure he receives the very best of care.

TOFFEE



A lady had gone shopping in Woodley and had spotted a cat in the middle of the road. It lay still and she thought that it was dead but as she approached it it raised its head just a fraction.

She scooped it up and took it home. She found a box and put some cosy towels in it and lay the cat gently in it and put it in the garage to protect it from the elements. She went to the local pet shop and bought food, a bed and litter tray.

She then took it to the local vet who said it was an elderly male with arthritis in its back legs and ad-

vised to return it where she found it. She took it home feeling dissatisfied with the outcome of the visit and decided to seek a second opinion. This failed to throw any further light on the cat's condition. She would have loved to keep him but couldn't as her husband is highly allergic to cats.

With winter drawing on she was anxious to find him a home where he would be loved and well cared for so she rang CLAWS. Fortunately we had a space so she brought him over with all his paraphernalia. "Does he have a name?" "Yes, it's TOFFEE. My granddaughter named him after a kitten in a story book she had read". We agreed to keep in touch.

He has a dark brown coat with copper highlights, four white paws and his back legs are white too. We put him in one of the rooms in the cottage so we could keep a close eye on him. He was warm and well fed. Heaven !

After a few days we took him to our vet. He was a she !! She was elderly and had been living rough for some time. She weighed just over 2 kilos and was almost blind and almost deaf with chronic arthritis in her back legs but apart from that in remarkably good shape. She was given an injection (only recently available) to help her arthritis and would return in a month for a check-up.

In that month she got to know her surroundings and her carer and now comes running to her as soon as she senses her presence. She loves playing with her cat nip banana.

The check-up went well. She had put on weight and her arthritis had improved so she will return each month for a booster injection.

She is a delight, is not phased by her disabilities and enjoys playing with her cat banana.

Early in the morning on the day after she had been for her check-up we went to feed her only to find her collapsed on the floor.

We took her straight to the vet. She had had a stroke. Nothing could be done so she was gently put to sleep. Although she had only been with us for a few months we had grown very fond of her. We shall miss her.

DINKY



Dinky, aged 18, came to CLAWS earlier this year when her owner died without making arrangements for her care.

She is a tiny little tot with a big personality, a piercing scream and very firm opinions.

“If you think I’m eating that food when I know there’s medication in it you’re very much mistaken”

Although you can’t help but laugh at her there is a serious side to her behaviour. She is hyper-thyroid so needs medicine to control the condition and help her put on weight.

To reduce the stress for her (and her carer !) we agreed with her vet to try a long lasting steroid injection once a month and applying a transdermal gel to her ear each day.

This certainly helped but did not solve the problem completely so after further discussion with her vet it was decided to operate on her to remove her thyroid. She came through the operation well and returned home the next day.

Although still a feisty little madam she does seem to have mellowed somewhat and sits on her carer’s knee for a cuddle. She was even spotted the other morning sharing a plateful of food with Hector. We never thought we’d see the day!

**LETTER FROM MAU MAU'S NEW OWNERS TO THE
DAUGHTER OF HER PREVIOUS OWNER**

We haven't met before, but my wife and I are the lucky couple who have been fortunate enough to bring your parents cat Mau Mau into our home and very much into our hearts.

It was back in November of last year that we brought her home, but to be honest it feels like she has always been here.

Based on the amount of affection that she gives (as well as demands) we're guessing that's where her name comes from). We have no doubt that your parents must have smothered Mau Mau with love and attention. As such we consider it our duty to continue in this fashion.

We noticed that she doesn't like going up and down stairs as much as the average cat, so we have adapted the downstairs of our home to be her living quarters, and she seems very grateful for the numerous places that she has to snooze.

She begins every day with breakfast, served promptly at 6am, which seems to be when she wakes up. This is followed by a play session, then a brushing session and, more often than not, a little cat massage. I swear this cat lives better than we do.

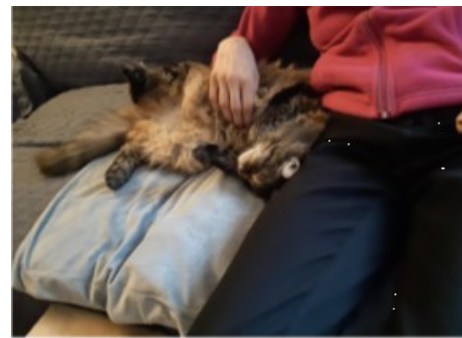
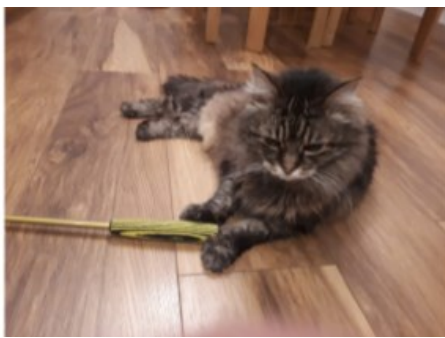
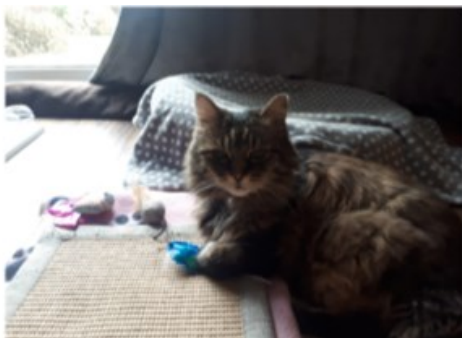
The afternoons are usually quite a lazy time for her. Both my wife and I have been working from home since the first lockdown, and so Mau Mau has quite often been able to enjoy a little cuddle on the sofa during the day.

Based on the level of purrs that she produces, it would seem that her favourite time of the day is the evening, when, after wolfing down as much food as she can handle, she has both my wife and I to herself on the sofa. She loves nothing more than to cuddle up between us, often with her front paws on my wife and her back paws on me, and then rolling over so that she can have tummy tickles until she falls asleep.

It may sound like she has us wrapped around her little paw, and truth to tell, I would have to agree. However, her constant displays of affection and contentment are worth every moment.

We hope that if your parents are ever looking down on Mau Mau this brings a little extra peace and happiness to their souls.

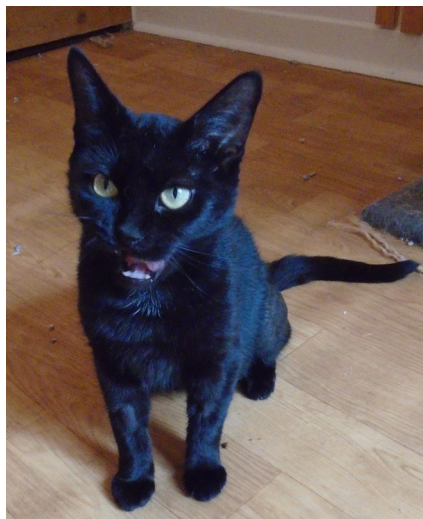
Warmest wishes



CHLOE

We are delighted to report that Chloe has found a permanent home.

She has settled in well and enjoys the company of the children.



LEMONIA.

Have you ever been on holiday and become so attached to the stray that you've been feeding, that you wish you could bring them home?

Well, we did!

This is the story of Lemoniá.

Amidst all this COVID craziness, earlier this year we were lucky enough to be able to take a holiday abroad. We rented a villa called Lemon Tree House in the North East of the Greek island of Corfu. Two days into our stay, a little tabby and white kitten (around 6 months old) appeared while we were sipping G&T on the terrace. Needless to say, we ransacked our food supplies and opened a tin of tuna (which is very expensive in Greece). She polished the whole tin off and promptly disappeared.

She appeared again the following day to use the swimming pool as her water source. We discovered that she was actually very friendly, loving her head to be stroked and rubbed, non-stop. She became a regular visitor, making herself at home in the villa, sleeping on one of the beds when we left the door open. She was very content to just hang out with us, mostly sleeping in a shady spot close to wherever we were.

Despite her healthy appetite, she snubbed our attempts to feed her with cat food which was clearly beneath her expensive tastes, preferring tins of tuna and prawn heads we brought back from eating out.

As the week went on, we found that she had wormed her way into our hearts. Having lost one of our beloved cats very suddenly recently, we started to think if it might just be possible to bring her home with us. Unfortunately, the life expectancy of cats and dogs in Greece isn't very long. They are often viewed by the locals as a pest and once the tourists have left, they are often poisoned to control the numbers. We couldn't bear the thought of this happening to this sweet little cat we were falling in love with, so we started to make enquiries into how to bring her to the UK.

We found a vet who provided us with all of the information we needed and so the process began! Fortunately, it is easier to bring a pet from the EU to the UK than vice versa. We captured her, with poor Martin sustaining multiple injuries! This was followed by a trip to the vet where she was chipped and vaccinated and issued with her pet passport. She needed a name for her passport so we decided to name her after the villa where she found us. Lemoniá is Greek for lemon tree.

The next problem was how to get her home as neither of us wanted her to go through the stress of a flight. The original plan was for Martin to return by car, travelling more than 3000 miles (round trip) on the road, Eurotunnel and ferries. When the time came, one of the UK-based Greek rescue charities gave us the details for a pet transport company, run by a husband and wife team from Leeds who make monthly trips between Corfu and the UK. They are always fully booked months in advance, but we got lucky and were able to take a spot when another pet was unable to travel.

Lemoniá was collected on a Thursday afternoon; the first pet on the transport. After picking up three dogs and another eight cats/kittens, they left Corfu on the overnight ferry to Italy. The van was fitted with a tracker so we were able to monitor her journey all the way to the UK. It became an obsession with us constantly refreshing the page to find her latest position. We were also provided with update stories and photographs through a dedicated WhatsApp group. We picked her up just after midnight on the Saturday night / Sunday morning at Cobham services on the M25, along with two other eagerly-waiting adopters.

Two months on, she is settling in well to her new life in the UK. She's even secured a warm spot in front of the wood burner. It's a little different to her life in Greece as we haven't let her outside yet since we are waiting to have her spayed and vaccinated. Unfortunately, she seems to remember her previous capture and so our first attempt to take her to the vet was thwarted by her swift disappearance as soon as we tried to catch her. She's already fallen in love with our old boy Alfie (14) and constantly tries to make him play with her. Needless to say, he's just not interested. He tolerates her boisterousness and will occasionally give her a little wash, although it's regularly followed by a gentle bite! That doesn't put her off and she keeps trying to be his best friend.

The next attempt to visit the vet is booked, so fingers crossed we can let her out in the garden before Christmas. She's a feisty little cat with a huge personality and hopefully, we have given her a life that she would never have had a chance of, if we had left her behind.



Left to Right Ready to leave Corfu; Relaxing in her new home; Cuddling her new friend Alfie



Latest Photo November 2021

TORTOISE TALES

Recently we have welcomed two tortoises to Bear Cottage. Both are elderly but in good health.

BINDI, a North African Spur Thigh tortoise, belongs to one of our supporters who asked Beverley to take him in as sadly she is no longer able to look after him.

Beverley was asked to take in ARCHIE, a Horsfields tortoise, by a local rescue centre and, of course she couldn't refuse.

These particular species are not supposed to hibernate but these two have different ideas and are already tucked up for their winter snooze so sadly no photographs are available.

HEAVEN

Heaven is not that far away
In fact, it is very near.
Heaven is taking a cat to bed,
One you hold so dear.

So warm and softly purring,
Nights spent sleeping on my arm,
Knowing I'd do anything
To keep you safe from harm.

Thinking of the other life
This darling had to live -
No home, no food, no mummy
Now you'll have all I have to give.

I'm told my home is like a sanctuary -
Is that what led you to my door ?
Did you feel the loves that emanates
From my every single pore ?

Now the time has come to spoil you
From which there is no escape
Shall I open another tin of salmon
Or peel you another grape ?

