



**GREGORY**  
Page 5

C.L.A.W.S Newsletter No 85 March 2024

**SID (aka BAGPUSS)**  
**and ARTHUR**  
Page 7

[www.c-l-a-w-s.org.uk](http://www.c-l-a-w-s.org.uk)

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## NEWS FROM HQ

### **MICROCHIPPING**

There are over 9 million pet cats in England, with as many as 2.3 million unchipped, meaning that it would be very difficult to reunite them with their owner if they get lost or stolen.

The new rules mean cats must be implanted with a microchip before they reach the age of 20 weeks and their contact details stored and kept up to date in a pet microchipping database.

All owners must have their cat microchipped by 10 June 2024 and owners found not to have microchipped their cat will have 21 days to have one implanted, or may face a fine of up to £500. Owners with cats that are already microchipped should ensure their details are up to date.

The cost of microchipping is usually between £10 and £30.00. You may also find that some vets include inserting a microchip in their health plan,.

The chip is the size of a grain of rice and its insertion is virtually painless.

**DON'T DELAY CONTACT YOUR VET TODAY  
TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**

### **SAINSBURYS FOOD BIN AT MAIDENHEAD REFURBISHMENT March 2024**

The food bin at Sainsburys Maidenhead has had a spring clean as you can see from the photos.



**TOP**



**FRONT**



**LEFT SIDE**



**RIGHT SIDE**

Thank you to all the Sainsburys customers for food, toys and other useful items they donate on a regular basis.

**KNITTED BLANKETS**



Thank you to the customers of ASDA at Lower Earley who kitted these colourful blankets for the resident cats at the sanctuary

## NEW ARRIVALS

### BARNEY



BARNEY'S owners decided to buy two dogs, which Barney detested, and moved to the West Country

They took him to the vet as he had been involved in a dreadful fight and a tooth was extracted from his thigh. They told the vet that they would take him with them and decide what to do with him when they got there.

Luckily for Barney one of the vet nurses took a shine to him and asked for him to be signed over to her. Her cat and dog didn't like him so he came to CLAWS.

He is a dear, gentle boy, about 16 years old, and would make a good companion for an older person.

### CHOPS

Towards the beginning of last autumn one of our supporters rang Beverley to say that once again, she had a stray cat in her garden!!!! Her own cat did not want it in the house and told her in no uncertain terms !!!!!

Luckily at that point CLAWS did have a few spare pens, so Beverley went round to pick him/her up. What confronted her was a beautiful, big British shorthair. By the size of his face and his smell he was an unneutered tom - hence the name Chops. All of the way home Chops chatted to Beverley and let her know his feelings about being in a basket and then being put into a pen.

He is a lovely natured cat, always wanting a fuss, and always chatting to you. Beverley then



booked him into the vet to be neutered.

When Beverley took him down the vet that she saw was Alex who thought that he was wonderful. Her fiancé had always wanted a British shorthair and kept talking about it.

SO she took some photos of Chops and showed them to her other half. "Yes we want him".

So Chops now has a fantastic home to go to. This is the sort of re-homing that Beverley likes. Swift and to people that she knows.

## NEW ARRIVALS

### LUCY



One of our supporters had spotted a little cat wandering about in her neighbourhood and started to feed her, After a couple of months she noticed that her two male cats had started jumping on her so she asked Beverley if there was a space at the sanctuary, Fortunately there was so she brought her round straight away.

She has been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

She is a sweet, friendly little girl only about eighteen months old and will make someone a lovely pet.

### MONTY 2

Monty 2 , a white and black boy, came to Beverley from the same veterinary practice as Chops but a month later.

He is a domestic cat that had either got lost or whose owners had moved away so he had been left to fend for himself. He had cuts, grazes and patches of hair missing and had not been neutered.

He was so nervy that Beverley put him into a pen with a Feliway diffuser to calm down.

At the moment he still backs away from Beverley and hisses. This is an improvement on hiding behind his bed. He is a work in progress.

Photo to be supplied when Monty 2 agrees to pose.

## ADOPTIONS

### 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) so when in the summer of 2020 we were asked to take in a cat from a local rescue group we were able to help. That was when GREGORY, as we named him, a beautiful big ginger boy, came to CLAWS. Sadly he had suffered deep puncture wounds in his back and thighs, inflicted by a dog. We put him in the isolation unit and after 4 weeks of good food, veterinary treatment and loving care he was well on the way to recovery and the hissing and spitting had stopped and his pupils no longer dilated when he was

spoken to.

After four weeks he was transferred to a pen in the run of six. He came on in leaps and bounds allowing his carer to stroke his chin and head and then one day he put his head in her hand and purred. We were elated !



In September 2021 we had a phone call from one of our supporters. Not long ago her mother had lost her beloved cat to cancer. She was feeling lonely and was looking for a feline companion to keep her company. Had we a suitable candidate ? We thought of GREGORY, He is a gentle boy, and although shy, we felt with time and patience, he would settle in and become a loving feline companion. So we took him over and introduced them. He had a quick look round and then went behind the sofa and that is where we left him. He settled in well and there he stayed until 2023 when sadly his owner died and he returned to CLAWS.

It isn't often that a cat comes in one day and is re-homed the next but that's what is happened with Gregory.

One of our supporters had a friend who had lost her beloved elderly cat recently and wanted another feline companion. When she heard about Gregory she said "Bring him over today I can't wait to meet him" so that's exactly what we did. It was love at first sight so he stayed !



Gregory's mum was soon in touch to tell us :-

"Gregory is settling in well.

He is a hungry boy, loves his food so I've got to keep an eye on that. He loves being cuddled and fussed, he slept well last night loves playing with his toys and is laying on his cat nip banana right now. He will be fine. Drinking water well and using litter trays OK. Washing himself now, very relaxed."

There was soon another message :- "He follows me every time I go into the kitchen. I'm going to take him to the vet for a check-up and will update you afterwards." "I went outside yesterday to feed the birds but he showed no interest preferring to stay inside in the warm.. He struggles to get up on the sofa but a friend is going to give me some steps" Recently we had another update "He now ventures out into the garden but likes his home comforts"

## ADOPTIONS

### SHEBA

It wasn't long before we received an e mail from Mark, her new dad.

"You would be so proud of her. She really has settled herself right in with the minimum of fuss.

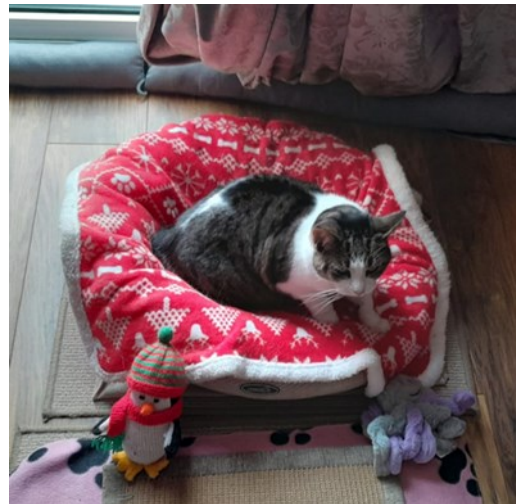
She was a little bit timid on the first day but when we came down the following morning it was like she had made her mind up (just like Mau Mau did) and decided that this was her new home, we were her new humans and she was happy and safe.

She now walks around with confidence, doesn't pull away from us at all, loves her cuddles, tickles and belly rubs.

She joins us on the sofa in the evening, loves a good play session and is generally eating and pooping just fine.

She's not as much of a piggy as we expected. She's getting through a pouch and a half of food a day and a ration of biscuits, and she always has a little drink of water.

Hope this is nice for you to hear. I know you were both a bit worried as to how much her trauma would have a lasting effect on her but, so far, she seems happy and relaxed and well aware that she has won the cat lotto. "



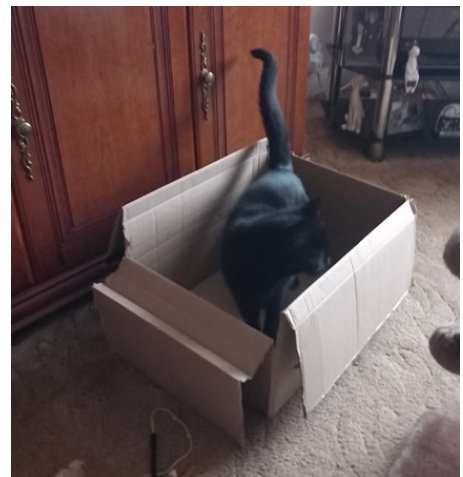
**SID (aka Bagpuss) and ARTHUR WATCHING THE TELE**



**STELLA AND FRANKIE UPDATE FROM SUE HUSSEY JANUARY 2024**



**Helping unwrap the presents !**



**Aren't boxes fun ?**



**Need a rest after all the fun !**

Frankie is slightly asthmatic but the medication the vet prescribed is keeping the condition under control.

Stella has a low grade heart murmur – nothing to worry about - but the vet suggested a CT scan and this will be done.

**INNOGEN (MAINE COON) AND ELSA (RESCUED FROM EGYPT} BOB WESTAWAYS 2 CATS**

Bob got in touch recently :-

I think it's a little while since I sent you pictures of my two cats, Innogen (Maine Coon) and Elsa (rescued from Egypt) so here are some now.

To be honest, I feel as though I'm holding my breath at the moment; you might remember that two years ago Elsa was in hospital all over Christmas and last year I spent the holidays thinking that Innogen probably had cancer.



So I'm just grateful at the moment that all seems to be well and that they are both OK. They are both on diets, as Elsa's appetite has gradually got the better of her. I suppose while she was a stray she got used to eating whatever she could find and she's never really got used to having food there when she wants it. But the vet has warned that there is a danger of her getting diabetes if I can't get it under control, and so, as they eat together, they both have to be on a diet, which isn't a worry as Innogen too was putting on weight.

INNOGEN (back) and ELSA (front)

ELSA



Elsa had fourteen teeth out on one day a few weeks ago. I've always known that she would need some dental work eventually, but I didn't expect that much!! She made me laugh, though. Callum at the Pines put in the discharge notes that she might like a small, bland meal that evening. He didn't know Elsa; I let her out of the basket when we got home and she marched straight into the kitchen and sat by the empty plate demanding to be fed.

INNOGEN



Innogen is nine-and-a-half next week and Elsa is a similar age. They seem to get on OK together, but I don't think you can ever tell what cats think of each other. They sleep on my bed together and sometimes they chase each other around the house briefly. I choose to think that this is playful, and I think it is, but how can you tell for sure? Sometimes Elsa seems to want to play with Innogen but Innogen arches her back a little aggressively, and it just seems to be enough to put Elsa off without any further problems. They're very jealous of each other when it comes to getting my attention, and

there's a definite hierarchy with Elsa being the dominant one. But as I say, 99% of the time they just seem to get on without being exactly great mates.

I know how difficult this time of year is for cat charities and you will doubtless have lots of worries over the coming weeks. But I know the great work you do for cats and their owners is appreciated and I'm sure it gives you a lot of satisfaction.

So I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas-time., Bob



### OLIVER



I first met Oliver in November 2017 after a discussion with C.L.A.W.S about the type of cat I was looking for. They sent me all the information they had on Oliver, and I was really keen to meet him. He was a little nervous of me at first but bribery and corruption with treats got over that little problem. I talked to him all the time without looking at him and passed him a treat every now and again. Over a number of visits, we started to connect, and he allowed me to stroke his head.

I visited him several times and he started to know me and came out of his home to meet me when I arrived.

Oliver arrived in my home in early December and I was prepared for him to be very nervous during the first two or three weeks. My living room was set up with a litter tray, his food and water and an igloo bed under my table to give him as much privacy as he wanted.

He leapt out of his carrier and walked along the back of my sofa, jumped down onto the floor and up onto the sideboard where his dining set was situated. After a quick nibble to eat he jumped onto my table and then went underneath the table to explore.

Next was his toybox, he had a good nose around and then went in front of the TV and up to the front window where he could see all that was going on outside.

Oliver settled in over twenty- four hours and the next morning I gave him the run of my home to explore after first showing him the extra litter tray in the back hallway.

He nosed around for ten minutes or so and then came back to see where I was and what I was doing and that was how he went on for a few weeks. Explore and then check I was still at home. Oliver came up for a head scratch or a quick stroke from day one, but I never forced him it was all on his terms. He was always up for some play time with his favourite toys and his absolute favourite was his feathery thing on a rod and line. It still is, he has quite a collection.

From day two Oliver slept on my bed at night and over a period of time moved from the bottom of my bed to sleeping next to my pillow.

After six or seven weeks I thought it time to see if he wanted to go outside and left the garden door open while I potted around outside. He was happy to sit in the doorway but wouldn't venture outside. I left him to see what would happen and thought he would either walk back inside or come out.

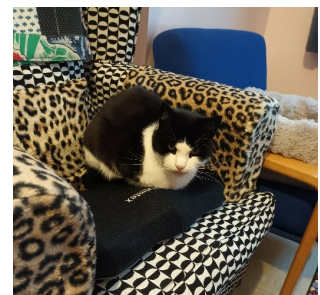
### OLIVER (Continued)

After carrying him round the garden every day for a few weeks he got brave and followed me outside so from then on he goes out in the day if I am at home. If I go out, he stays inside until I come home and then he goes for a wander. Over a period of time, he became the boss of the neighbourhood, and he began to bring me “gifts” every day-he became a very good hunter. Living in a semi-rural area we are troubled by vermin and Oliver is popular with my neighbours as he does a good job keeping them down.

Going to the vet is not something Oliver enjoyed so after some thought I got him a small animal back-pack and set about getting him used to it by taking him out in it. Now when he needs to go to the vet he jumps in his back-pack and I cycle there carrying him on my back - much easier to handle. He seems to find it comforting as he is completely calm when we get there and is much easier to handle.

Oliver and I have lived together for over six years now and he has definitely made himself at home. He loves his comfort, as soon as I get up if he is not asleep in his furry doughnut bed he leaps into my place. He is still not fond of strangers but some visitors he will approach and some not. Even at the age of thirteen years he is still hunting and racing up and down my neighbour's tree. If he is in a playful mood and I don't have my slippers on he will nip my toes if I move. When I say to him “What have my feet done to you”? he jumps up and licks my hand sort of say “ Sorry mum I was only playing”. He has never bitten or scratched me except in fear and is up for a fuss whenever he can get one. He is not a lap cat but sleeps on my bed every night. He will sit on the arm of my armchair or on the footstool with his front feet on my lap demanding attention.

He is not a lap cat but sleeps next to me most nights and certainly sleeps on my bed every night. He will sit on the arm of my armchair or on the footstall with his front feet on my lap demanding attention. Oliver is a wonderful companion and I hope we have each other's company for some years to come.



### CAT TALES FROM DEVON

Martin writes : -

“All is going well but much still remains to be done as far as the house is concerned

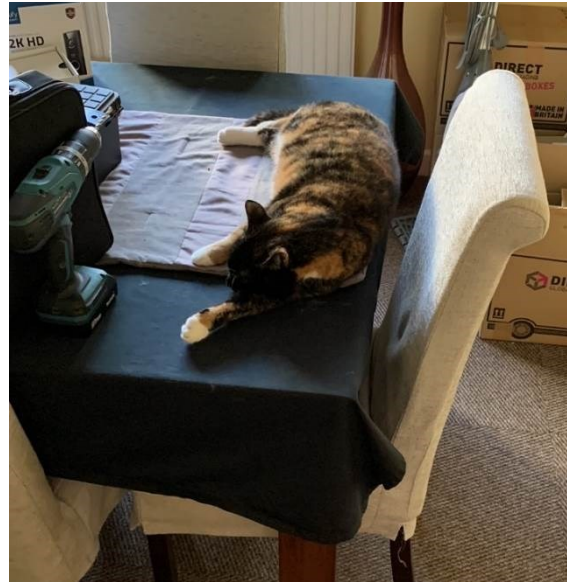
The cats have settled well, as you can see from the photos.. We kept them in for a week and then let them out to explore. They have been so good, and love exploring their new garden and the fields.

They are pretty good at coming in in the evenings too, I think the weather is helping that!!

Alfie now has diabetes!! He’s on a new oral medication, which is so much better than having to do injections. LEMONIA is a cuddly home bird and Trefor is just Trefor! Maisie in her favourite place on the dining table!



TREFOR



MAISIE

### ...AND MORE FROM DEVON



Our Webmaster, who lives in Devon, was on holiday with Tracey, his wife in Gran Canaria. At the hotel were many cats, all very well looked after. Does this give a new meaning to an all-inclusive hotel?

One of the cats decided to hide under our sun lounger. I mentioned CLAWS to it and let the cat know that Beverley was not with us. The cat raced off...

### MUSICAL HOUSES PART 1



As you followers of Tales from Bear Cottage know Joules and Violet, her friend of 10 years, lived in an enormous enclosure with a chalet in it. Sadly we had to say “Goodbye” to Violet in the summer of 2023 which left Joules on her own. SHE LOVED IT. No pinning for her friend. She loved all the extra cuddles and attention.

One day the wind blew open the gate on the enclosure and out shot Joules. She took off like a greyhound, running around the pony field to the amusement of the horses. Beverley was not too worried because animals always come back to a food source. During the rest of the day she explored the hay barn, the stables then back into Beverley’s garden and chatted with all of the other cats. Then at 5.00 o’clock sharp there she was, sitting at the kitchen door waiting for her food.!!

After a few days of sleeping in the chalet and running around outside she decided to live in one of the sheds. This shed held all of the extra cat beds so Joules had the choice of beds, one for every day of the week. So that she would not get shut in a cat flap was installed in the door. This change of scenery lasted about a week, then she

was off again looking for that perfect spot. Nosiness got the better of her in the end and she came through the cat flap into the house.

Finally Lady Joules has settled into a large igloo by the radiator in the sitting room.

About 10 years ago, Beverley was adopted by a lovely, but nervy mingled tortie, that for some reason she named Twinkle. She appeared one day on the window ledge of the kitchen, very hungry, with begging eyes. So Beverley fed her. Gradually she won her confidence and she would let her stroke her.



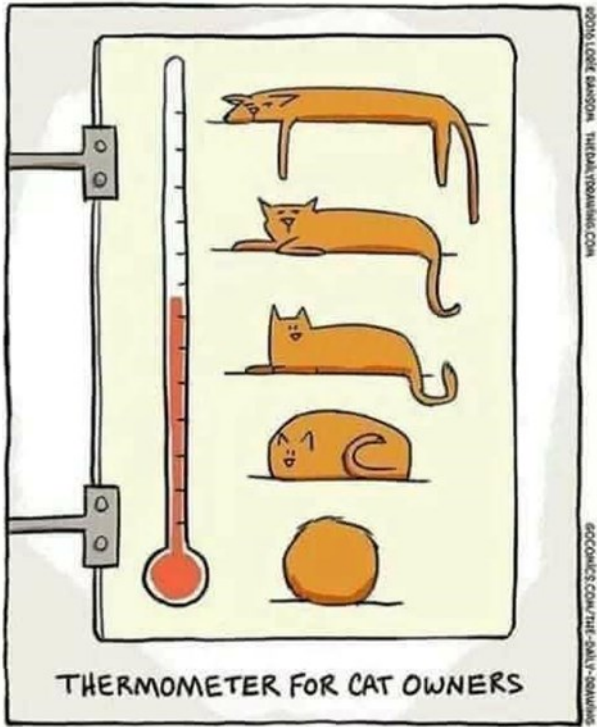
### MUSICAL HOUSES PART 2

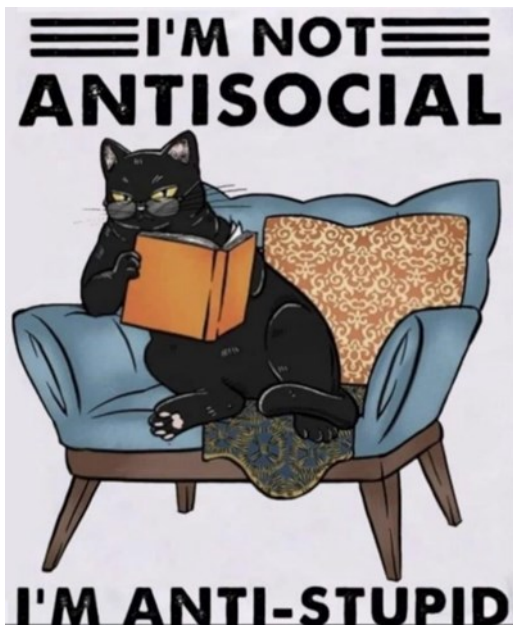
When she arrived it was just coming up to winter, so Carey put two dog kennels up on the flat roof of the utility room which were named 1a and 1b Bear Farm Cottage.. Twinkle loved it. She would come down for breakfast and lunch and dinner and any other time that I put the light on in the kitchen. Slowly but surely she became more confident and started coming into the kitchen. First on the draining board , then for some unknown reason, on top of the microwave!!! Finally she settled on a bed on the kitchen table

All was going well until she had a punch up with Toby. 3kg v 9kg. Then she was walking on three legs. Toby had bitten her foot and it had come up like a balloon. So off to the vet with Twinkle. First of all she had to have cage rest, so Beverley put a large pen up in the library where it was quiet and she could shut everyone else out. She liked that. Then as she improved the vet said to let her out to have the run of the room. Finally she was better and walking on all fours. BUT, the royal we, quite liked living in the peaceful library, with the doors open onto the garden. SO THAT IS WHERE WE ARE STAYING!!!!!!



ON A LIGHTER NOTE





CROISSANT KITTEN



EARTHQUAKE



# ON A LIGHTER NOTE

