



# Coventry Cat Group Newsletter

Registered charity 1065043

## Winter 2009

Chairperson – Cynthia Smith  
Homing Co-ordinator – Angie Willems  
Secretary – Brenda Williams  
Treasurer – Nicola and Patrick Jennings  
Membership secretary – Antony Patchett  
Newsletter editor – Kayleigh Patchett  
Fundraising officer – Emily Williams

Website - <http://www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk/>



Hello Cat lovers

My name is Kayleigh and I'm the new editor of the Coventry Cat Group Newsletter. I have been fostering for the charity with my husband for a year now and find that nothing compares to seeing a cat go to a brand new loving home. I felt I had the time to do more for the charity and decided to put my diploma in journalism to use: so here we go, I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it and putting it together.

Kayleigh Patchett, Newsletter Editor  
07849776089



### About Coventry Cat Group

Coventry Cat Group has been running for 20 years!

We are small group dedicated to the care, welfare and improving the lives of abandoned or feral cats in and around Coventry.

We take calls from the public and other organisations e.g. RSPCA and Cats Protection for cats and kittens that are abandoned or found surviving rough. We catch strays and take them to a veterinary centre for an assessment on their condition. They are treated as necessary and checked for a micro chip. If there is no chip, they are placed with fosterers while we try to identify and contact owners. If that fails the cats are then adopted into the charity and continue to be cared for by fosterers and go up for re-homing until adopted into a loving home.

Our methods are extremely successful.

In this year alone (since April) we have found loving wonderful homes for 90 cats despite a very slow June/July. The number of kittens we have had this year has been huge and we still have several litters of kittens as yet unhomed.

We follow a policy of NEVER having a cat 'put to sleep' unless it is suffering extreme pain or distress from untreatable conditions.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us out. This ranges from fostering cats to helping us out on fundraising events.





Volunteers must be 16 years old or over

Becoming a member helps us out and any donations are also thankfully received. See back page for donations and membership application. Or for more information visit our site

<http://www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk/>



### The fight to save tiny lives

Antony and I got back from our honeymoon in August and took on one heavily pregnant mother and a mother with 5, 8 day old kittens the very next day.

The day after the second mother gave birth to 4 kittens. For weeks they developed well and were very healthy.

The kittens were 5 and 6 weeks old when Astrid, the mother of the younger litter began to get ill. No more than 3 days later Belle the mother of the older litter also came down with what appeared to be the same thing. It was a rush to the vets with the whole lot of them, the 2 adults and 9 kittens in all; which resulted in the back seat of our car being filled with 4 cat carriers full of mewling upset felines.



Astrid and newborn kittens



Belle and kittens

The adults were given injections to prevent further vomiting and help them get better. They were also put on a dose of antibiotics and we were told to keep them away from the kittens so what ever it was wouldn't pass onto them. (Thankfully they were all as good as weaned and on solids). We were hopeful we had caught it in time.

The next day a few of the kittens began to show the same symptoms that the mothers had. They were rushed once more to the vets where to their extreme dislike they had their temperatures taken (which were fine). The ones showing the worst symptoms were given injections to help and they were all given a weeks worth of antibiotics. Once back home we put them on a light, tummy friendly diet and kept a very close eye on them. We

decided to stay up on night shifts to get at least some kitten milk and rehydration fluids into them while the antibiotics got to work. After a few days the symptoms lessened and they all perked up and began eating again. We let out our sighs of relief and went back to their normal food and care routine.

The week after disaster struck again, this time suddenly and deadly and took one of the younger kitten's lives with it. It was one of the single most devastating things we have ever had to deal with but the other kittens still needed us and we had to stay on track for them despite the pain and upset. The vets again gave us antibiotics and stuff to rehydrate them. For night after night we took it in shifts to do hourly feeds and fluid while literally having to put a few of the kittens inside our clothes to keep their body heat up enough for them to fight the illness. One kitten was also on an IV in the emergency vets for the night and half the next day.

It was heart wrenching, hard work but they miraculously all pulled through and after a week or so were all healthy and back on track for re-homing.

The illness showed reared its ugly head once more, this time with only one of the younger kittens. We separated her from the others immediately and managed to catch it in time. After a few nights of shifts once more, sharing our warmth and persuading her it was a good idea to drink we got her through it and have decided to keep her ourselves. ☺

All of the kittens have now been adopted into loving wonderful homes.



Flash and Billy



Rex and Wesley



Velvet and Silver



Y	Q	Y	O	Y	E	M	M	E	Q	H	B	D	R	B	M	W	G	R	S	L	H	Z	M	E
E	M	P	M	L	Y	P	L	D	Y	T	P	K	K	B	C	D	F	S	O	Q	J	X	I	F
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I	C	G	Y	N	V	P	G	H	U	F	E	Y	D	H	C	D	Z	R	J	F	D	M	A	V
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K	Y	T	M	E	T	T	W	F	O	H	W	Z	T	F	P	L	B	Y	Y	Y	Q	Y	W	D
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C	L	O	W	F	V	W	D	M	A	Z	Z	H	V	Q	E	M	D	R	R	T	V	G	U	K

## Cats Word search

- Domestic
- Whiskers
- Pouncing
- Paddling
- Kittens
- Purring
- Playful
- Long haired
- Short haired
- Ginger
- Litter
- Tabby

- Paws
- Grey
- Tail
- Ears
- Toys
- Food
- Cats
- Claws
- Noses
- Furry
- White
- Black

## Packed lunch kitty

I have a small pure black cat called Daisy. Most cats when they go hunting they tend to hunt for mice, rats, birds, butterflies. Okay, one of mine hunts for leaves also but Daisy has very strange ideas of what cats should be eating.

One day last month Daisy came sauntering down the path with that swagger to her step that says she is very proud of herself. In her mouth was a strange brown thing, I immediately thought it was some sort of rodent, but as she came closer, I realised she had a whole sausage roll in her mouth.

She attempted to meow at me around the flaky pastry then proceeded to plop it down in front of the back door. Before I had a chance to remove it, she had begun to tap it with her paw and pick it up in her mouth and generally fling it around. I rushed outside and took it off her much to an offended looking kitty.

The week after I heard Daisy jump over the fence and I looked out to greet her and again she came trotting, very satisfied with herself down the path. This time she had a whole cheese salad sandwich in her mouth. Cheese salad I ask? Not even tuna or chicken?

Since these incidents Daisy has continued to bring home various lunch box type foods and plonk them down by the back door before attempting to play with them.



Daisy



## Caring for your new kitten/cat

When bringing home your new kitten/cat how should you introduce him or her to your household?

What is necessary to have for them? And how do you go about introducing them to other pets?

This article will give you the answers to these questions and help you make sure you have a settled, happy kitty in no time.

### Things that you might need for your new kitten/cat:

- ★ Cat carrier (for vets visits and bringing your new cat home)
- ★ Food and water bowls
- ★ Cat litter (we find wood based litter to be the best as it doesn't give off as much smell)
- ★ Litter tray
- ★ Bedding (boxes with blankets are a great 'cheaper' choice as most cats love to hide in boxes)
- ★ A scratching post
- ★ A collar (with a quick release are the safest and will release if your cat gets caught on something. Having a bell on the collar is a good idea for an outdoor cat, to warn animals of their presence. We always recommend that you get your cat micro chipped for identification purposes)
- ★ Toys (to keep your new kitty stimulated, entertained and occupied)



### Helping your new kitten/cat in:

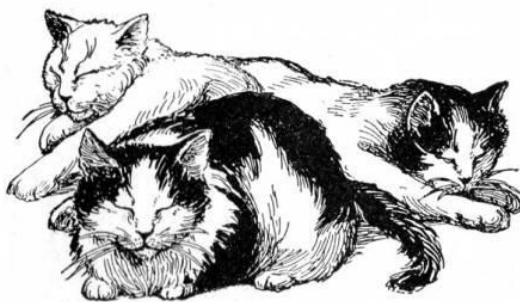
Both kittens and cats need time to adapt to their new environment. They will probably be frightened at first and will need patience and encouragement.

- ★ When you arrive home confine your new feline to one or two rooms (this will usually become their safe space, the place they run to when they get scared or nervous).
- ★ Make sure this is a room that is suitable – where nothing can harm him or her and they can't accidentally ruin anything precious or expensive.
- ★ Make sure the room is set up with everything they will need – a litter tray, food bowls and water, toys and a bed.
- ★ Stay with your new cat and encourage them to explore and play to get used to their new surroundings.
- ★ Try to make sure the room is kept quiet and peaceful to avoid loud noises scaring your new nervous kitty.
- ★ Don't be surprised if your new cat prefers to hide at first, it may take a little time for them to find their confidence and may just need a little more encouragement. Simply allow him/her come to you and don't force them out.
- ★ Never let a cat outside until they have been 'fixed' and have had plenty of time to settle in and get used to their new home. We also recommend that you get your cat's jabs done before allowing them outside.
- ★ Once your cat is comfortable with his/her room(s) allow them into the rest of the house and let them explore in their own time.

### How to introduce your new cat to other pets:

When your cat/kitten has settled down into their new surroundings you may introduce them to your other cats and dogs.

- ★ One idea for this is to place a clear screen or stair gate at the door to your new cats' safe room and allow the animals to greet each other through this to prevent any possible fights occurring.
- ★ It is perfectly normal for cats to hiss and growl and fluff themselves up at each other at first. They are merely protecting their territory and their humans.
- ★ Once they have calmed down a little allow them to meet each other properly with your supervision in case you need to spit them up or distract them from one another.
- ★ There is no set time for them to settle down and learn to get on, sometimes it subsides in a day or two in other cases it takes longer.



## Willow's story

I always wanted a cat as a child; my dad really wasn't a cat person and wouldn't even listen to the idea. Once I was old enough I often walked backwards and forwards to the library. One day as I was walking through the fields I noticed a small very thin tabby cat. She ran to me as I approached and I stroked her for a short while (she was extremely thin and had no collar) before carrying on walking home. I turned round after a few minutes and the cat was following me. She followed me all the way home and I just couldn't turn the poor thing away. She was adopted into our household. We put up signs and adverts but no one came forward to claim so she became a permanent resident. My sister and I adored her, my dad however wasn't impressed; I think he half hoped that she would find her way to someone else when she was out of her travels but she always came home.

After we had had her for about a month we noticed her putting on a great deal of weight. At first we hadn't thought anything of it as she had been so thin and was bound to put on weight being fed well. The weight continued to go on and then her tummy started to move. There was no mistaking it; she was very pregnant.

In February Willow gave birth to 3 beautiful little kittens (on my bed). I was on hand to help out with the birth which turned out to be a good thing as there were a few problems with the births. There was a very dark brown and black boy, a pure grey boy and a white and grey tabby girl. Within a few weeks we had homes lined up for two of them but my mum my sister and I had become attached to the grey one.

As soon as Willow was no longer feeding we got her 'done' and ended up keeping the grey boy; who we called Misty-Angel.



Willow



Misty-Angel

### Left outside alone

George and Harry came to Coventry Cat Group after being left sitting outside in the cold and pouring rain. The irresponsible 'owner' simply refused to let them into the house; they turned out to be the older kittens of his un-neutered female cat.

When they were first brought into the charity they were referred to as 'itchy' and 'scratchy' because of their horrendous flea infestation. A dose of Frontline cured them and they are now called Harry and George. They have both since been neutered and are coming on leaps and bounds with their new confidence and joy in life.

George and Harry are still looking for a loving home to be adopted into; please take a look at our website to find out more.



Harry



George



### Pippin and Lucian – from feral to friendly

Over the week between Christmas and New Year two 6 week old kittens were caught and adopted into the charity from Ryton Pools. They were completely feral and terrified of humans. We took them on and at the time were fairly new fosterers; it was only our second lot of foster cats.

Lucian (a pure black male) was the worst of the two; he would hiss, spit, growl, scratch and even bite given the chance. We had to wonder a few times if it would be possible to actually tame him up. Pippin (a black and white female) was quieter; she was simply petrified and would sit and stare and tremble in the corner of the room.

Week in week out we spent as much time as we could merely sitting in the room with Pippin and Lucian getting them accustomed to human company. Pippin unsurprisingly showed signs of coming round first, she began to cock her head to one side and listen to our voices instead of shaking and staring. She began to eat in our presence then we managed to stroke her once or twice while she was preoccupied with food. Lucian then followed her lead and began to hesitantly eat in front of us, we would have to sit frozen to the spot while he did so but it was a huge leap forwards.

Pippin began to sometimes allow us to stroke her and they both started to wash themselves and go to the litter tray with us in the room as long as we didn't move round too much. Every day they gained in confidence.

We realised after a few months that it was time for a worming dose; which meant a squirt of paste in their mouths. Pippin was very well behaved and allowed us to do it without too much struggling.

Lucian on the other hand was a nightmare, He scratched us both quite badly and if it wasn't for the leather gauntlets we wore he would have bitten us too. Finally we managed to get the much needed dose into him. We dreaded that it would put us back weeks with them and their confidence with us. But to our astonishment the following day we got away with giving Lucian a stroke while he ate and Pippin was still allowing us to fuss her. Instead of taking a step back, we had somehow taken a step forwards.

The two cats would come to us when we came into the room and allow us to fuss them and even to hold them. We began to let them into the rest of our house and found that they got on very well with our cats.

Pippin stole my heart from the first moment I saw her and for our anniversary my fiancé signed the adoption papers and said we could keep her. Lucian still needed a little work, so it was decided that he would move over to another fosterer who had more room for him to wander around and had more appropriate space for him to go outdoors also.

Lucian is still with the charity, looking for some lovely people to adopt him; he is nothing like the scared kitten he once was; he can still be a bit nervous but other than he is a friendly, calm and loving cat. Please take a look at our site for more information.



Pippin and Lucian



## Cats for adoption

Here are some of the cats that the charity currently look after that are looking for loving homes to be adopted into. Please take a look and for further information visit our site or e-mail Angie; our homing co-ordinator using the contact details at the bottom of the page. ☺



### Jade

Jade is about 8 years old and was given away by her owners in April 2009.

Although Jade is an older cat, she is very playful and kitten like. She is quiet but can become very dominant and bossy, she loves to sit outside on the grass and roll about being all cute.

Jade would be suited towards a house without children or with older children.

### Jemima

Jemima came into the group as a stray. She is about 7 years old and loves people and attention. She is quite a dominant cat so would do well as an only cat or with cats that will not let her bully them.

UPDATE – Jemima has now found a loving home.



### Oscar

Oscar is very affectionate and loving, and is very funny at times with his mannerisms. He loves to go outside and explore as well as sleeping and sunning himself indoors. He is very vocal and loves to talk.

He came from a very loving home who gave him up due to having a new baby. He is suited to a family with or without children and he is also fine with dogs. Oscar is about 9 years old.

### Kyia

Kyia was found as a stray outside a block of flats; we received a call to say she had gone into labour and by the time she was safely in our care had already given birth to one kitten. She was adopted soon after her kittens were, but due to her family splitting up was given back to the charity and is now looking for a lovely new home. She is about 3 years old and is very affectionate and loves company.



Homing co-ordinator – Angie Willems  
Phone number – 02476 268073  
E-mail - [angie@coventrycatgroup.org.uk](mailto:angie@coventrycatgroup.org.uk)

### Kittens

We currently have several litters of kittens that are ready for and coming up to adoption age. Some are pictured below. To see more please visit our site or contact Angie; our homing co-ordinator. (Please see contact details at the bottom of the page).



#### Eddie

Eddie came into the charity with his mum, he is a quiet little boy who enjoys cuddles as well as play. He is approximately 9 weeks old. He has started his course of vaccinations.



#### Cocoa, Clover, Chip and Cosmos

These kittens are about 8 weeks old and are dewormed and de-fleaed and ready for new homes.



### Feral cats

Currently we have some young feral cats that are in need of homes. Feral cats need plenty of space to hunt, a warm place to sleep, food to eat and someone to keep an eye on their general health. If you would like to give a home to a feral cat then please contact our homing co-ordinator (see below)

Homing co-ordinator – Angie Willems  
Phone number – 02476 268073  
E-mail - [angie@coventrycatgroup.org.uk](mailto:angie@coventrycatgroup.org.uk)

## Up-Coming Coventry Cat Group Fundraising Events

Kenilworth festival of lights (we will be holding a stall with Santa sack and raffle) -  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
2:30pm – 7:30pm  
Kenilworth high street

Tombola, Christmas wrap and Santa sack  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
9:00am – 5:00pm  
Nuneaton Market

Tombola, Christmas wrap and Santa sack  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009  
9:00am – 4:00pm  
Lower Precinct Coventry

Tombola, Christmas wrap and Santa sack  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2009  
9:00am – 6:00pm  
Lower Precinct Coventry

For more information please e-mail our fundraising event organiser Emily:  
[Emily@coventrycatgroup.org.uk](mailto:Emily@coventrycatgroup.org.uk)



### How to make a donation

It is now possible to make donations to Coventry Cat Group by standing order payments (forms available from our website) or a one off payment via our website. The contribution can be any amount and on a regular basis or a one time donation, all are gratefully received. If you would like to send a cheque please make it payable to “Coventry Cat Group Trust” and send to us at 175 Butt Lane, Allesley, Coventry. CV5 9FD.  
Thank you.



If you would like to ask any questions please feel free to visit our website and/ or contact us via  
<http://www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk> or telephone on 02476 268073

Coventry cat group membership application

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**2010** Coventry Cat Group Membership Application  
(Registered Charity 1065043)

Name: .....  
Address:.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
Post Code: .....  
Tel No. ....  
Email: .....  
(The email address will only be used for sending out E-newsletters and other COVCAT news)

Please Tick                  Membership to 31 March 2011

- Membership - £5.00
- Senior citizen/unwaged - £2.50
- Under 16 years old - £2.00

Donation                  £\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_                  (Thank you)

Total -                  £\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_

(Please make cheques payable to "Coventry Cat Group Trust")

Signature: .....  
Date: .....

Please return to the membership secretary:  
Mr Antony Patchett  
1 Springfield Place  
Coventry  
CV1 4GT

Please enclose a SAE for return of membership card



That's it for this issue; all of us at the charity wish you a lovely winter and a happy new year.



Thank you for reading

Kayleigh Patchett (newsletter editor and fosterer)