



Coventry Cat Group Newsletter

Registered charity 1065043

Winter 2010

Chairperson – Cynthia Smith
Homing Co-ordinator and Treasurer – Angie Willems
Secretary – Brenda Williams
Membership secretary – Antony Patchett

Trustees : Cynthia Smith, Angela Willems, Judith Stanley and Nicky Clark

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

About Coventry Cat Group

Coventry Cat Group has been running for over 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.

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 and administration 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/>

Membership renewal

Dear all, at the end of this newsletter is the renewal form for membership. Membership is still set at a nominal £5 per year (or £2.50) though we may have to consider increasing this next year. Some of the membership money is spent on producing a yearly newsletter and the rest goes towards our work each year.

For those of you that elect to pay by direct debit, obviously your membership will be renewed automatically.

Please note that membership payments do qualify for Gift Aid so please let us know if you are a UK tax payer and are happy to collect this tax back from your membership money/donations as it is true and every little helps!

It has been a difficult year.

I know we always say that but this year is the first time we have had to refuse to accept kittens and pregnant mums due to lack of space.

We have been squeezing them in as much as we dare and then, because of low homing rates, have been having to look after high numbers of cats for extended periods.

As of the beginning of December, we have only homed 75 cats since the beginning of January – half as many as last year.

This year has also been unusual in that a lot of the mums and kittens coming in have come in with various viruses. This means that our vet bills have in turn been much higher this year.

Last year Judith and Kayleigh battled with poorly kittens, this year it has been my turn and you can read about this later in the newsletter. I have also had to hand rear a litter of kittens from 4 days old, their mother having been let out and killed by a passing dog.

We are also turning away a lot more cats this year due to people moving into rented accommodation. Sadly, most private landlords do not look favourably on pet ownership. It is a great shame as I'm sure the average child causes more damage than an adult cat.

To try and encourage people to adopt we have invested in three photo frames that have been placed in Vets across the city. So if you use Bell and Partners in Wyken, Medivets (formerly Regents) in Earlsdon or Yourvet (formerly pet vaccination clinic) in Canley you will be greeted by a slideshow of photographs of the cats we have in.

At the beginning of the year we were lucky enough to have a volunteer to do some fundraising for the group. Several stalls and events were booked and attended, though at the moment it is very hard to raise funds and we decided to stop mid Summer when we suddenly became overrun with cats and kittens. We hope in the future to restart some limited fundraising but will restrict ourselves mainly to collection days.

The importance of cat neutering

As usual, there seems to be a lot of people who choose not to neuter their pets. It can be for a variety of reasons but sadly very few of them good. Again we have been working closely with Cats Protection Neutering Officer to try and encourage neutering but still the number of kittens seems to be on the increase.

This year we were lucky enough to do some filming with Maverick TV/Channel 4 on their new series, Animal Madhouse. Part of the show is to try and promote neutering pets. According to the introduction on the first show screened November 3rd, there are 100,000 homeless dogs and 2 million cats in the UK. With numbers like these it's no wonder we, and every other rescue across the country, have been so busy this year.

Community Wishes

Coventry Cat Group was one of 28 charities selected by the Coventry Evening Telegraph for its community wishes campaign. We applied to the campaign seeking some funding to buy an outside pen to be used as an isolation pen. We have seen a lot of cats coming in with viruses this year and are hopeful that by having some proper quarantine housing, we will be able to reduce any cross infection and so reduce our vets bills, which in the first 6 months of the year were about £11,000. I am happy to report that we were awarded £150.

A Thank you to Mike and Maggie

Mike and Maggie retired from the group last year and have sent in the following as a goodbye. The Cat group would not exist if it hadn't been for their hard work and we wish them a happy retirement.

We have had cats since the early seventies. The first was a stray which 'adopted' us by walking into our lives from off the street. We called him Dax but sadly, we only had him for 18 months before he died. We then had 2 all black short hairs called Amber and Jet and these stayed with us for 18 and 19 years respectively. After those, we adopted Cleo (black), Julius (black and white) and Twiggy (black) from the group. Cleo died after 5 years but Twiggy and Julius were with us for 17 and 18 years respectively.

During that time we also had an outdoor Tabby come visiting on a daily basis even though she visited several other houses and appeared to live elsewhere. When she became ill, it was our back door that she came to for help. Sadly, the vet diagnosed FIV so we had to have her put to sleep.

More recently, we adopted Ebony (black), Ginger (guess!), Panda (black and white) and Blaze (ginger and white) all from the Group. Sadly, Ginger died in 2010 from Feline Peritonitis aged just 5 but the other 3 are still thriving OK.

We joined Cat Action Trust (Coventry Branch), which was the fore-runner group to Cov-Cat, in 1987 just after it had been started by a lady called Joyce Ostick, sadly no longer with us.

In the early years, we were involved with some fostering, a lot of fundraising and equipment and pen maintenance and transportation. Maggie regularly 'manned' (or should that be 'womanned') along with others a bric-a-brac stall in the City centre, originally in the Precinct and later in Hertford Street. The group -and us - went to Carnivals galore and jumble sales of 2nd hand clothes, the like of which you would hardly believe.

In the early nineties, we had a sabbatical because our time was taken up with an ailing relative.

When we became involved with the Group again, it wasn't long before Maggie ended up as Newsletter Editor and Membership Secretary and Mike was nominated as Treasurer. We happily carried out these duties for about the next 15 years. During that time, Maggie produced numerous Newsletters and when the Group split away from Cat Action Trust to become Coventry Cat Group, Mike was instrumental in drawing up a Constitution for the Group and applying for its Charity Status.

In 2008/2009, family circumstances arose which meant that we had to relinquish our duties in the Group and give our time in other directions so we are now very much inactive, perhaps 'retired', members.

Hopefully the Group can thrive and continue its good work.

Angie Willems



Poorly Kittens and me

The first sickly litter that I dealt with this year were trapped in Coundon, a mum and 4 kittens seen living under a bush in late July. A weekend of trapping and we had mum and the 4 kittens (all black) and also a black male who was hanging around. Mum and Dad I named Romeo and Juliet, and true to their namesakes a tragedy evolved when 3 of the kittens died over a period of 2 weeks – two with no warning, the poor things found collapsed and later to die after a rush to the vet. We tried very hard to save the life of the third but after a week the battle was lost. The one remaining kitten (Portia) is a timid little thing and yet to trust humans. Poor Romeo, a handsome fussy young man, has been tested for FIV and has proved to be positive so will now need an indoor home.

A few weeks after this, we received another call from Wyken. A mum and 4 kittens (one black and white and the others black) and again these were caught over a few days. Mum was suffering with mastitis and the kittens all came in with cat flu and bad eyes. Again two of the kittens, including the black and white one, didn't make it and we fought hard with a third one for weeks. During the days he would spend time at the vets so that I could sleep and at night he was back with me being syringed every couple of hours. Squirt, as the vets called him, was a right little battler and has pulled through. He developed a very deep ulcer in one eye and for a couple of weeks we thought he would lose his eye. The vet suggested we try a human anti-viral drug and this seemed to do the trick. Squirt is however a wobbly kitten, the viruses he was exposed to attacking his brain and causing permanent nerve damage. Again Squirt will need a secure indoor home to ensure he is kept safe.

Squirt's mum, Dawn has found a new home and Squirt and his brother Midnight, were adopted by Romeo and the three of them are now inseparable. I dream of an indoor home for the three of them together – very unlikely but sometimes these things do happen.



Squirt, Romeo and Midnight – Indoor cats

Angie Willems



So you want a kitten? – one story of life with an adopted kitten

Margery tells the tale of Sandy, a kitten adopted from us last year. We always like to hear stories about our cats in their new homes and if you have a story to tell please send it to us.

I adopted two cats from CCG nearly 4 years ago, Charlie who was approx. 4 years old and Tammy who was obviously an old lady, but quite fit. We didn't know their history, sadly after 3 ½ years I had to have Tammy put to sleep as she had an inoperable tumour. I intended getting another cat but then I thought I would love another kitten. However, I'm knocking on a bit, I'm 80 years old so I asked my youngest son if he and his wife would look after them if they outlived me and they readily agreed.

I was advised to go and see Judith who fostered cats and I was spoilt for choice, she has what seemed like dozens. I choose a little boy who was mainly white with several ginger patches and a beautifully marked very long tail and decided I would call him Sandy.



Judith brought him to me a few days later and as soon as she let him out of the carrier he was off exploring the room. After Judith left he jumped over the arms of my chair on to my chest and tried to lick my face. Well as every cat lover knows their tongues are like sandpaper, hands and arms are ok, face and neck no way.

He then went to sleep still on my chest until he woke when my other cat Charlie came in. Sandy went straight up to him and introduced himself. Charlie was a bit bemused at first but after Sandy had given him a few friendly head butts they bonded. Sandy then challenged him to a wrestling match and they were off. I was a bit concerned at first because Charlie is a big heavy cat and Sandy was only 2 months old then. But I needn't have worried, if Charley made Sandy squeak he would back off but Sandy would dive straight back on again. This happens several times a day. Another of their games is to take it in turns to chase one another round the room at fifty miles an hour, jumping over the furniture and me too.

When I've got my rollers in my hair Sandy sits on the back of my chair and tries to pull them out so I have to sit with my hands on my head until he gets fed up and goes off.

He has pulled down two full length heavy velvet curtains. He also shins up my net curtains and when he gets to the wire at the top and tries to go over the other side he usually manages to get tangled up but eventually makes it down. That curtain should be in shreds but there isn't a single hole that shouldn't be there.

If any lady visitors put their handbag on the floor, I have to remind them to make sure they are closed because I have what you might call a cat burglar in the house, he will pick it up, drag it or

roll it and if its too big for him will push it over.

He's already broken two ornaments. I used to keep a large vase of artificial flowers on the table but he has knocked it on the floor 3 times trying to get the flowers out so I have had to remove it and I dare not buy real flowers.

I did not dare put up a Christmas tree or decorations – he would have had a ball!

I have 4 wall lights but I usually only have two on near where I sit. They have individual short cord pulls. For weeks he was trying to reach the cord on one of the lights that was off, from the back of the sofa. A few weeks before Xmas, he finally managed it and switched the light on and then ran off. Sometimes I manage to chase him off before he gets it on.

He's not doing the wallpaper much good either.

3 days before Christmas I took him in to be neutered. When the vet brought him out to me she said, he's fine, he'll soon be back to normal. I said "that's what I'm afraid of"! He hadn't been back in the house an hour when he was after the light switch again.

His latest trick was to turn on the kitchen taps, they are levered taps (he's not that clever) but I am on a water meter and it was the hot tap he'd turn on. I knew he'd do it again so I rang my son at work to see if he had any idea. The only thing he could think of then was to cut a hole in a plastic bowl to go over the spout and put it on upside down over the taps, and it worked but you can imagine it doesn't look very elegant. I know one of my sons will come up with something better eventually but as they are both very busy at the moment I don't know when that will be.

Well that's just a few of the things Sandy gets up to.

He's the seventh cat I've had but he is without doubt the most affectionate one I've had. He's also the naughtiest, he's more trouble than a cartload of monkeys but I love him to bits as he does me and I wouldn't be without him for the world! But if any CCG members have any tips on how to tame a kitten send them on please....

Margery Vickers



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. We are now registered with gift aid so if you are a tax payer please indicate that we can claim back the extra money.

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



The Joy of older cats

It is very difficult to home cats once they are a couple of years old. Cats in their teens are almost impossible to home but we are fortunate in having Jill associated with the group. Jill specialises in taking in cats over 16 years old or cats with behavioural problems.

Currently we are sponsoring 10 cats with Jill. In this article Jill tells of the sadness involved when taking in new older cats...

There can be fewer sad sights for cat lovers than the elderly cat in a basket, sitting in a hallway, having just arrived, with bed, food bowls and remains of their food from their previous home. Usually it is because their beloved friend and carer, often since birth, has died or gone into a home and can no longer keep them. They sit forlorn looking and confused as to why they are here. They are here because unfortunately, there is no where else to go.

I have cared for the elderly of all kinds (people, dogs, cats), during my life. But the reward you get from an elderly cat is great.

They soon adjust to their circumstances. Whatever current thinking is, you would be surprised at how "not used to other cats so must be placed on own" cats adapt to a multi-cat household. More often than not they end up sleeping in a pile with others by the fire. If not, there are des-res private beds to curl up in.

You see, when you discover that most of the people prepared to give an old cat a home, are rarely without other cats, there is very little choice than for them to get used to sharing.

Most of my cats' next visit would have been the final trip to the vet. All elder cats need is understanding, fuss, food, warmth, privacy when required, and a tray to save them having to get their tired paws dirty. And, most importantly, a dignified parting at the end.

They sleep lots. Sometimes you wouldn't know they existed.

Oddly cats whose carer has died or gone into a home seem to adapt more quickly to their life with me. Whether they understand and accept (even though it is not uncommon for them to mourn for a period of time) I don't know. The ones who are given up for other reasons seem to take longer to adjust. Somehow they know that they still have an owner out there.

Cats often do not like being split up. Even if they don't appear to have much to do with each other, a relationship has usually been formed. A tale to illustrate this;

Two elderly strays, un-neutered, left by students, my neighbours informed me, when I moved in. Both were promptly "done" and moved into my house.

Both seemed to loathe each other and spent a lot of time waiting to pounce from behind trees, top of garage, round corners and eventually a truce was forged. When Charlie died, Jasper was inconsolable. He waited every day on the garage, watching for him. He lost weight and did not want much to eat. My vet was totally foxed. He really couldn't believe Jasper was mourning but could find nothing wrong. Eventually, he admitted that Jasper must be depressed and after 6 months, he recovered in every way. He had missed his sparring partner.

What I do know is that these cats still have a tremendous amount to give, often years to live and have remarkable characters. My home is a forever home for my cats, I do not move them on. They are my family.

If you are thinking of acquiring a cat, please consider an older one, "ready made" as they say.

If you are considering giving "senior" up coz it's not fair on him on his own for long periods or such like. Please remember, they are not like us. They are more accepting of their lot and seeing you once a day and sleeping, dozing, eating, sitting in the sun in their familiar home, is better for them than losing you. I have no doubt in mind that the people who give them up for this reason, truly love their cats. But you see, they truly love you too, and what you give them is often better than the alternative.

Two of the 10 sponsored Residents currently with Jill

Sooty



A beautiful black boy of 15yrs when he came to me. His friend/carer had died following a long period in hospital. The American relatives had thought of taking him back but felt he would be too traumatised. They had tried to get him in everywhere but as usual everywhere was full. They regrettably made an appointment at the vets for PTS, but made it for the day before they went back to the US, just in case....then they tried CCG and Sooty became one of my long-termers.

He has been with me for over a year now and despite a small stroke that means his head tilts slightly to one side, he has settled and become a prominent part of the family. He always had fresh fish on a Friday, and so this practice continues, with fresh chicken on other occasions.

He waits for this quietly but determinedly and eats it with relish. He goes out, spends time in his garden, comes back, eats and goes upstairs to his bed where he sleeps for hours on end.

Just a nice elderly man who knows his own mind.

Fluffy



Fluffy was 17 years old when he arrived in June 2009.

Angie received a call from a woman one Saturday to say that she needed to rehome her cat, because she was going abroad later that day. Angie explained that there was no room and asked if she had tried elsewhere, the woman said no. A very exasperated Angie told her to ring around and recontact her if no luck but gave no assurances. At that age, he would be going nowhere but here.

When Angie arrived, the woman (in tears!) was sitting on the floor in an empty house, with Fluffy in a basket on her knee. Her neighbour had advised her just to put him out and lock up.

He was not used to other cats and at first was aggressive, he wasn't one to back away. But the other cats are used to this with newbies and tended to ignore him. It took a few weeks but he has turned into a charming chap, he sits on the back of the sofa by the radiator with the others and loves fuss and attention. He has a passion for chicken or coley, and reluctantly eats whiskers in the evening (if nothing else is going). His character is amazing, he should be called the Major but at 18yrs we kept his own name, afterall, sometimes that is all they have left.

Jill Etherington

Cat Group People news

Cynthia Smith has announced her intention to retire from the group. Cynthia is one of the last of the original gang following the retirement of Mike and Maggie Tarry last year. We hope that those of us left can continue to make Coventry Cat Group the success it has been over the last 20 years or so and wish Cynthia a relaxing time.

This does mean at present we are short of a chairperson and will be looking to 'recruit' one soon.

We've had a mini human baby boom as well! Kayleigh and Antony had a little girl in August and Judith and Graham became grandparents in October.

As most of us in the group have not been around for very long, here are a few of the people that make up the group.



Brenda Williams - Secretary

Hi My name's Brenda and I'm retired now after serving a 20 year sentence with a Bank. I have 3 grown up children all married and living away from home, and 4 lovely grandchildren, all growing up frighteningly fast.

I've had pet cats for as long as I can remember, the first one being Tinker, a little black & white kitten my Dad brought home in his pocket when I was about 7 or so. At present I have four cats, Jasper (11) who is a huge fat black long haired boy, Carrie who is a nervous tabby rescue cat(?8), Harvey(2) who was a foster cat who just had to stay as he's pure white and my first ever pet cat as a grown up was white - Polly.

Then there's Jess(11) who is Jasper's sister and lived with us until they fell out big time - as siblings often do - so she left and went to live with my Mum who usefully lived next door. Since Mum died last year Jess has come back home and lives upstairs. The other 3 stay downstairs as Harvey's aim in life seems to be chasing and intimidating Jess.

I'm Secretary to the Group, which involves taking notes at the meetings, typing up minutes and circulating them in good time for the next meeting. I can also foster cats in an emergency and in the past have looked after and found new forever homes for several lovely moggies.



CARRIE



JASPER & HARVEY



JESS

My first contact with Covcats was when I only had Jasper and went on a lovely holiday - Egypt I think. I took Jasper to Corley Cattery and happened to mention that I was thinking of getting another cat. Lynn told me they had a lovely cat currently lodging with them as Covcats had no room for her. In a soft moment I said, "well, introduce them while I'm away and I'll think about it if they get on OK" Fatal!!! Of course, I ended up taking two cats home. Carrie had been a stray and came to the group with a very bad dental condition and had had surgery. She's very nervous still but does like a cuddle on my lap. However, she won't be restrained in any way so she must have had a traumatic past.

I got to know the group by coming to a couple of meetings and then I was hooked!



Angie – Trustee, Co-ordinator and Treasurer

Hi all, I'll keep this short as I was introduced when I joined the group 6 years ago. I am now down to having five of my own cats, having lost two of my girls this year – both in their teens. I'm trying not to increase my numbers but that is not always possible!

As Co-ordinator, I take all the emails and phone calls from the public. Where we have space, I can take a cat in else I have now learnt to say NO. We have a responsibility to the cats in our care to look after them as best we can without overcrowding them and also we have to look after our fosterers. People underestimate how stressful it can be – especially during a period when cats become ill and die.

I am currently fostering 5 black cats featured in this newsletter and also feed two feral cats that escaped from an outside pen during the year.

I also maintain the website and keep a database of all homed cats so that when on occasion, they need to be returned, I have the information available. It also means that I know how many cats we home each year.

I have also recently taken on the role of treasurer by default as no-one else offered so now pay all the bills, bank all moneys, send out receipts and report monthly on the state of the group.

Our next AGM is in April and I live in hope that we will get some new volunteers to help out with some of the 'backroom' tasks.



Karen - Fosterer

I'm Karen from Wyken, I have been fostering for 2 years now and love every minute of it. I am very privileged to be able to foster as I have 5 young children aged 9,8,7,6 and 4 and many other rescues wouldn't let me foster because of the age of my children. I think it is a great experience for both my children to help and learn about rescued cats and also the cats/kittens to be around young children. My kids love to name the kittens that come here and so the poor things end up with silly cartoon character names at least until they are homed and get more suitable ones!

When I started fostering I had 2 cats of my own but as most fosterers do I failed a couple of times and fell in love with 2 foster cats that stayed so now I have 4.



Rowen – Fosterer

Hi I'm Rowen. I live in Stoke Green and started fostering for the group only about a month ago. A few years ago I was a fosterer for the Warwickshire branch of Cats Protection for several years. I have no pets of my own instead preferring looking forward to the different personalities of each new little friend that I get the pleasure to share my home with, until such time I feel settled enough to make a commitment to having a pet for life.

I am now looking after a beautiful young all black and oh so soft cat called Wilma. She's a very clever girl and last week she displayed her talents fetching a ball & bringing it back to me. It's now her favourite game and we play it everyday for ages, usually me giving up before she does!

A good friend of mine is coming to meet Wilma soon and I'm hoping she will want to give her a permanent home.

I am self employed and work as a children's entertainer and circus skills instructor. Hmmmm a chance for a bit of free promotion....please do check out my website for a picture of me and to see what I get up to - www.custardmoon.co.uk



Nicky – Trustee and Fosterer

Hi, I'm Nicky and I live in Eastern Green with my 6 cats, 3 dogs and 9 chickens. I work in Education. I began fostering cats in London. I had a brief break when I moved back to Coventry 6 years ago, then one fateful day I was out with the dogs and met Judith!

I have fostered for the last 18 months, and love it. It is very rewarding to see a stray or nervous cat blossom in your care, and go on to become a much loved member of a new family. It can be difficult to let them go (hence Willow and Bob still living with me). However, it makes it possible for me to help another little one in need.

I feel very lucky to have such good support from my friends and my bosses, who don't mind the occasional visitor into school for socialising or hand rearing. One or two have since found homes with members of staff that way. My own cats and dogs also welcome any newbies into the house with few problems. The dogs don't mind being used as hot water bottles, and even my kitties have been known to wash a stray little one. "Uncle Gary" is a particular favourite with fosters.



Nicky's spaniel Issy with numerous cats, including Polly - foster cat



Judith – Trustee and Fosterer

I am Judith and have been fostering for around 4 years. I also own 7 of my own cats. Three go out, if they wish to, apart from night time of course. I have owned cats for over 33 years, and would never be without one. We have two German Shepherd dogs who are respectful of the felines and they have been trained to Kennel Club Gold level.

The most difficult thing about fostering at first was the "letting go" bit as each cat went off to their new home. I have improved on that side of things, but I still feel as if they are my own, and unless I would be happy to leave my own cat at the property, I will not progress the adoption.

Now I find the most difficult thing to cope with is if they are poorly, especially the little kittens who have had no life, and probably a bad start to their short time on this planet. It is made worse when we sadly lose the fight to save one of the kittens or cats.

I take the dietary needs of the cats seriously and cringe when I walk past the aisles in the supermarkets and pet shops! I am grateful that we are able to feed an excellent product to our charges. I feel it really helps the cats that have had a tough life so far.

I enjoy being a Coventry Cat Group fosterer because everyone tries to help everyone else, and we are all there for the sake of the cats, which is paramount.

Being a fosterer is a way of life now, I cannot imagine life not looking after a waif or stray. I hope that we can find some more keen fosterers to help us help more cats. There has never been a greater need than we seem to have at the moment. I would like to thank the people who have been there at the difficult times when I have needed a willing ear to listen to me. You know who you are!



How do you persuade people to help Coventry Cat Group?

Running a charity is very difficult in these times. We are always asking for help for fostering, fundraising and a host of other things and struggle on trying to do our best.

Even homes are becoming more difficult to find. There are so many cats being given away, their owners just wanting to get rid that people are reluctant to approach a rescue where homing 'donations' are required.

Luckily, there are still people 'out there' who understand the importance of rescue and are happy to donate – be it when adopting one of our cats, blankets for the cats and even equipment. We have been given a few scratching posts this year which help to enrich the lives of our foster cats and have even been offered an outside pen to be able to isolate newcomers once we sort out moving it. We also receive some cat food from time to time. We are indebted to **Stuart Threlkeld**, whom we met at a fundraiser, for allowing himself to be press ganged into auditing our accounts so that we could get them submitted on time to the charity commission. And bless his heart, he has agreed a repeat performance next year (Oh yes you did!). **We thank all our members for their support.**

So why do we carry on? This is a few of the reasons why.....



Cats for adoption

Here are a couple of the long-timers that we 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 9 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. Jade has been with us over a year.

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 has been with us for over a year now and not liking other cats has currently chose to live in a neighbours garage with occasional visits back to the fosterer.



Homing co-ordinator – Angie Willems

Phone number – 02476 268073

E-mail - angie@coventrycatgroup.org.uk

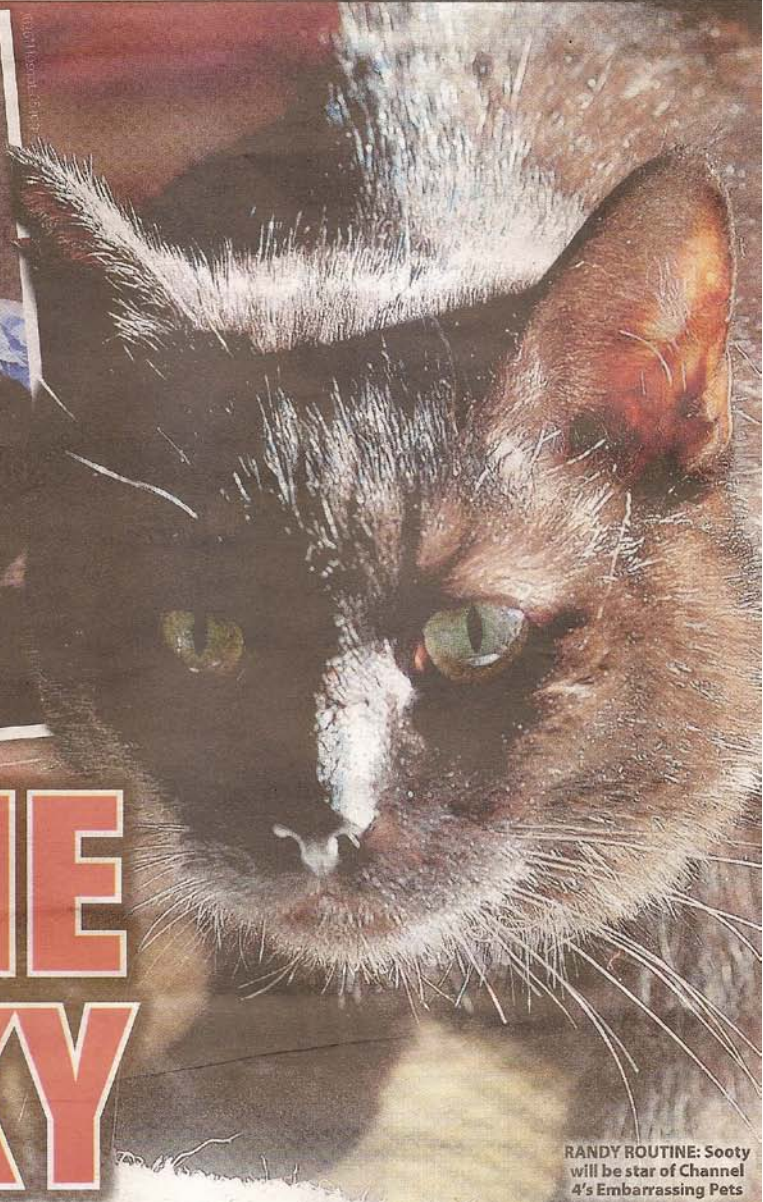
Kittens

We still have some kittens looking for new homes. To see more please visit our site or contact Angie; our homing co-ordinator.





FOSTER: Angie Willems and Judith Stanley of the Coventry Cat Group with Sooty



RANDY ROUTINE: Sooty will be star of Channel 4's Embarrassing Pets

FELINE FRISKY

Saucy Sooty's love for soft furnishings sparks rehome fears

By Sam Dimmer
NEWS REPORTER

EVERYONE'S pet has their own unique character but one moggy has developed a habit that would give even the most dedicated animal lover paws for thought.

Sooty, a five-year-old crossbreed, has taken a shine to a variety of different soft furnishings in his foster owner's Northbrook Road home in Coundon, Coventry.

The frisky feline has been getting up close and personal with cushions, towels and throws – which means Coventry Cat Group fear he may prove difficult to rehome.

"When you are talking to people who want to rehome one of our cats

it can be a little distracting," Angie Willems, 52, a trustee for the cat charity said.

"We had a couple here a few days ago and Sooty was sitting on the edge of the settee. All of a sudden he started to perform behind them.

"I'm sure she could see it going on in peripheral vision."

Sooty is currently living with cat group fosterer Judith Stanley, 54.

He has been living there, waiting for a new home, since February. But the recession has meant that the number of animals being rehomed in the city has dipped dramatically.

Judith said: "I think we would need an experienced cat person to help Sooty and put up with his little habit.

"He is a quiet cat but he is doing

this every day. We thought it might be a health issue, because Sooty has already been neutered, but we had some blood tests done and they came back clear.

"He is currently fond of a red towel and a white cushion. He grabs hold of them and starts growling if you take them off him.

"But he is actually fairly well mannered. He certainly isn't nasty to the other cats."

The plus side of Sooty's randy routine is that he is about to be thrust into the spotlight as a result of a Channel 4 documentary.

Sooty was filmed by the team behind the show Embarrassing Pets, who studied his behaviour and took him to the vets to get his health checked out. They also instructed a

behaviour expert to give their verdict on the moggy.

Judith added: "Cats, as a rule, do better on their own or in smaller groups.

"We've got a lot of cats here and it's probably why Sooty is finding it difficult to cope.

"But Sooty and all of our other cats are here through no fault of their own.

"The behaviourist said we were doing all we can and that Sooty's behaviour would improve in a new home."

Sooty is on TV on Wednesday. **■ If you want to rehome Sooty or any of his feline friends, call 024 76 26 8073 or for more information go online to www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk.**



Coventry cat group membership application

2011 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 2012

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

Donation £____.____ (Thank you)

Please tick box if you are a UK Tax payer and agree to allow us to claim tax on you membership and donation for this year and the last 6 years. This enables us to claim an extra 25p for each pound donated.

Total - £____.____

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

Signature:
Date:

Please return to the membership secretary:
Coventry Cat Group
175 Butt Lane
Allesey
Coventry
CV5 9FD

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 Christmas and a happy new year.



Coventry Cat Group