



Lockdown litter of kittens

We have been on lockdown with the rest of the country – but that was the calm before the storm. The last month has been extremely busy!

Our Operations Manager Hayley has been out rescuing and taking cats to the vets for checks – while social distancing and using PPE.

She picked up 11 kittens (as pictured), two mum cats and a dad cat from a single household when the owners were unable to cope. The good news is that we already had a raft of potential people to adopt the kittens and the adults. Just recently, in a single day and with the brilliant help of Vets for Pets at Bagshot Pets at Home, Hayley and Julie our homecheck co-ordinator completed a massive exercise with all 11 going to new homes.

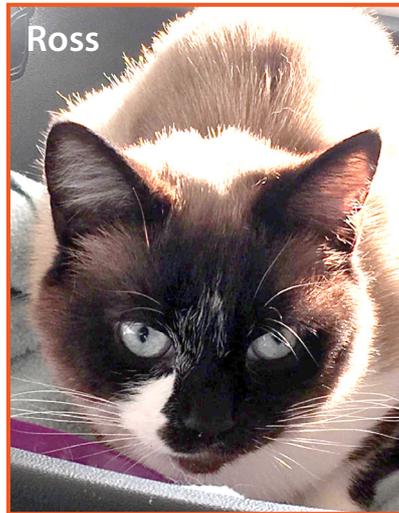
The charity is following Government guidelines on social distancing and has launched virtual adoptions to comply with current regulations. This has involved online interviews and house tours to ensure that the cats are matched with the right homes.

Hayley says “We have been bombarded with applications for cats and kittens as people have been on lockdown. The result has been that the charity has been able to rehome cats very quickly by matching them up with people already registered.”

Here for Cats to the rescue

Pressure on both emergency and council services has had a major impact - not just on people - but also their cats.

In March Here for Cats received a call from a housing association that asked for help after an eviction in one of its premises.



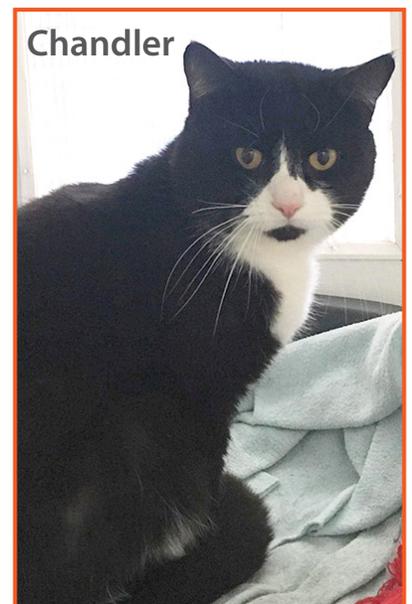
Here for Cats and other charities were at full capacity. However, our operations manager Hayley, asked one of our cattery supporters for help and they thankfully offered us a couple of pens.

Hayley was forced to wear full protective gear when she turned up to the premises to rescue the four cats. She described the scene as "pretty horrendous" as the two-bedroom flat was not only full of cat faeces but also human excrement. There was also a room full litter trays that could not have been emptied for at least a month.

The cats were terrified but eventually Hayley was able to catch the four who have been named - Rachel, Chandler, Joey and Ross. The cats, who look to be aged between two to four years old, were suffering from fleas, did not look as if they had been neutered and needed the help of two vets when they were taken for a check up.

"The place was a health hazard for the owner who obviously had their own health issues. The cats get caught up in this and if there is no-one to help who can take them on?"

The poor cats were terrified but turned out to be friendly happy cats and the good news is they have all now found loving homes.





Chloe

We have recently taken in Chloe, a young and friendly cat who had been hit by a car resulting in a dislocated hip and a fractured pelvis. Hayley said: "The owners are an elderly couple with the husband looking after his wife who has dementia. They have surrendered the cat to us. Her treatment is going to cost at least £800, and she will need six weeks of cage rest to recover." She is lucky to have Wendy and Martin, who are experienced fosterers caring for her. She and we are grateful to them for their continuing support.

We know times are tough for many of you but if you can help to pay this vet bill we would be very grateful. You can pay through the DONATE button on our website www.hereforcats.org or send a cheque made payable to Here for Cats and send to:

Here for Cats, PO Box 338, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 9DS



Feral Colony

The work at Here for Cats is not always straightforward. We were alerted to another colony of feral cats, this time in Ashford, Middlesex. There were reports of pregnant cats and even dead cats at the site. Hayley rescued a kitten but didn't see many other cats on her first visit. On her second visit she picked up 3 kittens who are now being fostered with Annie. The mother cat causing most of the problems was located. She had an owner who agreed to her being spayed. Hayley is set to return for further investigation.

Trap, neuter, return

Cats can breed very quickly if unchecked and the sooner we hear of cats in need we can investigate. Here for Cats have a TNR (trap, neuter, return) scheme which enables us to help communities with colonies of feral cats. As part of this policy we will rehome any that seem friendly and those that need to live outside can be moved to a suitable location, if possible. We were very lucky that Here for Cats were recently able to re-site a pair of feral cats when Cats Protection, Farnham branch, offered us a lovely home on some stables. We can't highlight how important it is to let us know of any feral colonies as early as possible. We will keep you updated if there is any more news.



Monty and Robyn with the ring

Lockdown hasn't been all bad news

It was a magical time for Robyn and her boyfriend Ben as well as the boss of the house Monty. It was Robyn's birthday on 28th March and Ben decided to propose after a day celebrating in lockdown.

"I was really shocked when he said he had lost the ring," said Robyn.

"Monty came in with the ring around his neck and then we had to spend 10 minutes chasing him to get it."

Monty, who looks like a "grumpy cat" was adopted by Robyn and Ben from Here for Cats in November 2019.

"We got our house a year ago and I wasn't sure about having a cat. We started speaking to Hayley at Here for Cats in August but it was months later that we looked at the Here for Cats website and saw him," she said.

"I had to have him."

Monty has settled in well and is now the boss of the house and Robyn describes him as "real character".

"I think we hit the jackpot with him," she said.

How to donate

Please go to our website www.hereforcats.org and click on the blue donate button.

This will take you to our CAF Bank page where you can donate via debit card, credit card or Paypal.

Alternatively please make cheques payable to: **Here for Cats** and send to the following address:

Here for Cats, PO Box 338, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 9DS