

Newsletter 59

Winter/Spring 2017

Issue 59



Another busy year has come to a close. We have neutered 98 cats in 2016. We were kept very busy towards the end of last year with some groups of cats that needed neutering.

It starts off with one which turns into five and ends up as twelve! They were being fed by a cafe owner so food was available. The only thing they didn't think about was keeping the numbers down so now hopefully after a trap, neuter return session they will just keep what they have.

Another lady had the same problem feeding one cat then she brings four kittens along, we trap, neuter and return (all females!). Then a short while later another four

kittens turn up but no mum cat (that's a bit worrying) so again another neutering session.

Another group of cats being fed again by someone who seemed to think feeding was enough until it got out of hand so another job of trap, neuter return. A few of these were quite friendly so we were able to move them on. Some we were able to find homes for, some were sent to other organisations and some were returned back on site as people wanted to carry on feeding them. These ones were ear tipped so anyone seeing these cats and worried that they could be breeding it would show that they had already been neutered.

Foster carers are very important to help look after our rescue cats enabling them to turn into friendly cats again ready for their new homes. As we are always short of foster carers it is not always possible to help some cats in need, living rough on the streets. We try to prioritise the



AGM is on Saturday 8th April at 2pm at the Lorraine Estate on the Holloway Road opposite the Coronet.

All are welcome to spend a pleasant afternoon with us and meet friends old and new.

ones that are most desperate, where they have injuries and are looking very thin and dirty. A dirty cat shows it is not looking after itself as it spends most of its time searching for food and shelter away from the dangers of living on the streets.

Un-neutered cats pose a problem where they become a nuisance to people by spraying tomcat urine smells in peoples gardens and even in their homes. Fighting is always a danger to the resident cat or other un-neutered cats in the neighbourhood as this causes many injuries and also the spread of the FIV virus which a high proportion of tomcats carry through their lifestyle. It is not their fault but it is down to the owners of these poor cats who do not neuter them and they then wander off looking for females, fighting over territory when they venture onto another cats patch and then the fighting begins. These are the strays of the future waiting for a call to say I have this cat in my garden.....

Another big problem we now have is people who move around alot. They get a cat, don't neuter it and then just move out and leave the cat behind. This is almost a daily problem as a large proportion of the calls we get are

about a cat left behind. I think the landlords need to be made responsible for these animals as it is their tenants who leave them behind I'm sure the landlord would not accept them moving out owing them rent so he should be made responsible for abandoning pets they get enough rent money for their properties.

Councils and Housing Associations also need to be more involved with their tenants as the tenants sometimes have multi-cat households and when something happens the Council/Housing Associations phone up and say we have a problem with this tenant who is having to move out and has ten cats can you help?

When I say you should not allow your tenants to have all these cats and you should be more involved with your tenants and make sure their pets are neutered they get quite huffy about it as if to say what business is it of yours.

Well it is our business as you are trying to dump your problems onto other people instead of dealing with them before it gets to the stage where you are having to ask for help with problem which should never have arisen in the first place!

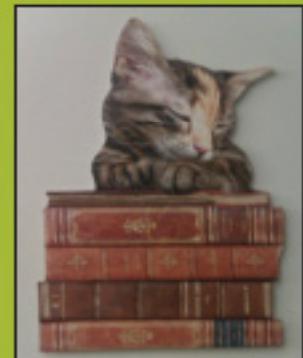
The Charity Shop



Our **charity shop** is the lifeblood of our charity and the competition now with many other charity shops opening is showing in the income that has reduced in the past and particularly this last year. We are always looking for good quality donated goods.

Our **Bookshop** in the Highbury area also offers extra added financial support to the charity.

The Bookshop



All donations are welcome and we are willing to collect if fairly local to our area. **Charity shop at 48 High Road East Finchley London N2 9PJ and Bookshop at 203 Blackstock Road Highbury N5**

For further information you can visit our website at animalaidandadvice.org

Cats who have found new homes

We have had six FIV cats come into our care during the year and they have all managed to find really good homes with some nice people. Read their stories and I'm sure you will agree that they certainly look very happy in their new homes.



Boyzie is a smart lad.

He knew exactly how to handle his new owners, just pretend he had always lived there and they may not notice he looks a bit different from their previous cat.

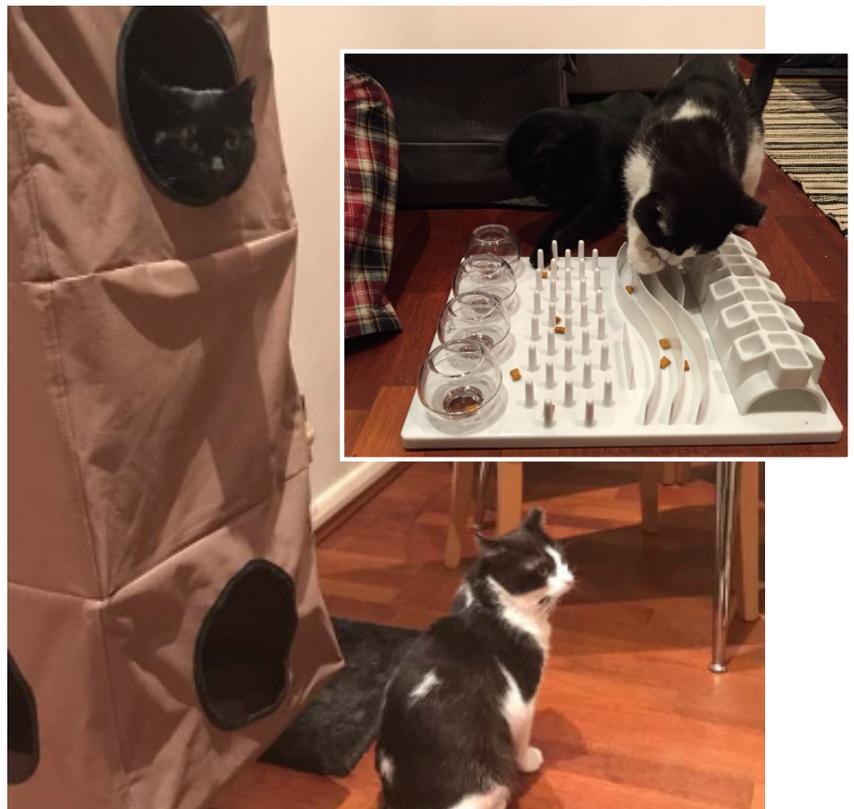


Yep! All sorted they didn't notice a thing.

After a cautious start Tom and Slinky, now called Winston and Clementine have certainly taken over and are enjoying investigating all the corners of all the rooms and inspecting the furniture.

Their new toys have been a great success and passed the 'cat test'

**Winston, black and white
Slinky, the black one**



Lottie and Slinky



Animal Aid and Advice kindly brought Lottie and Slinky (they had different names then) to live with us a year ago (Jan 2016). They were very shy at first so we made them some cosy corners to hide away in. Slowly they are getting used to us. Slinky lets me stroke him but only when I am sitting in a certain chair and he purrs. He won't let Tony stroke him at all yet. Lottie likes to sniff our fingers and push her nose onto our hands, although she has not allowed us to stroke her as yet. She loves to play and has a basket full of catnip mice as well as her scratching posts, which don't last very long! She rolls around with her legs in the air, tummy up!

They both like to watch TV especially any wildlife programmes. They jump up and try to look behind the TV! They enjoy their food especially Dreamies!! They are both so sweet and lovely and we are delighted to have them. It is lovely seeing them relax more as the months go by and trust us. I am a proud mum!

Thank you Animal Aid and Advice





Andrzej: polish for Andrew

After a cautious start and a bit of hiding under the settee he has now settled in really well loves to be stroked and have his tummy rubbed. If you stop he will come and put his paw on you asking for more.

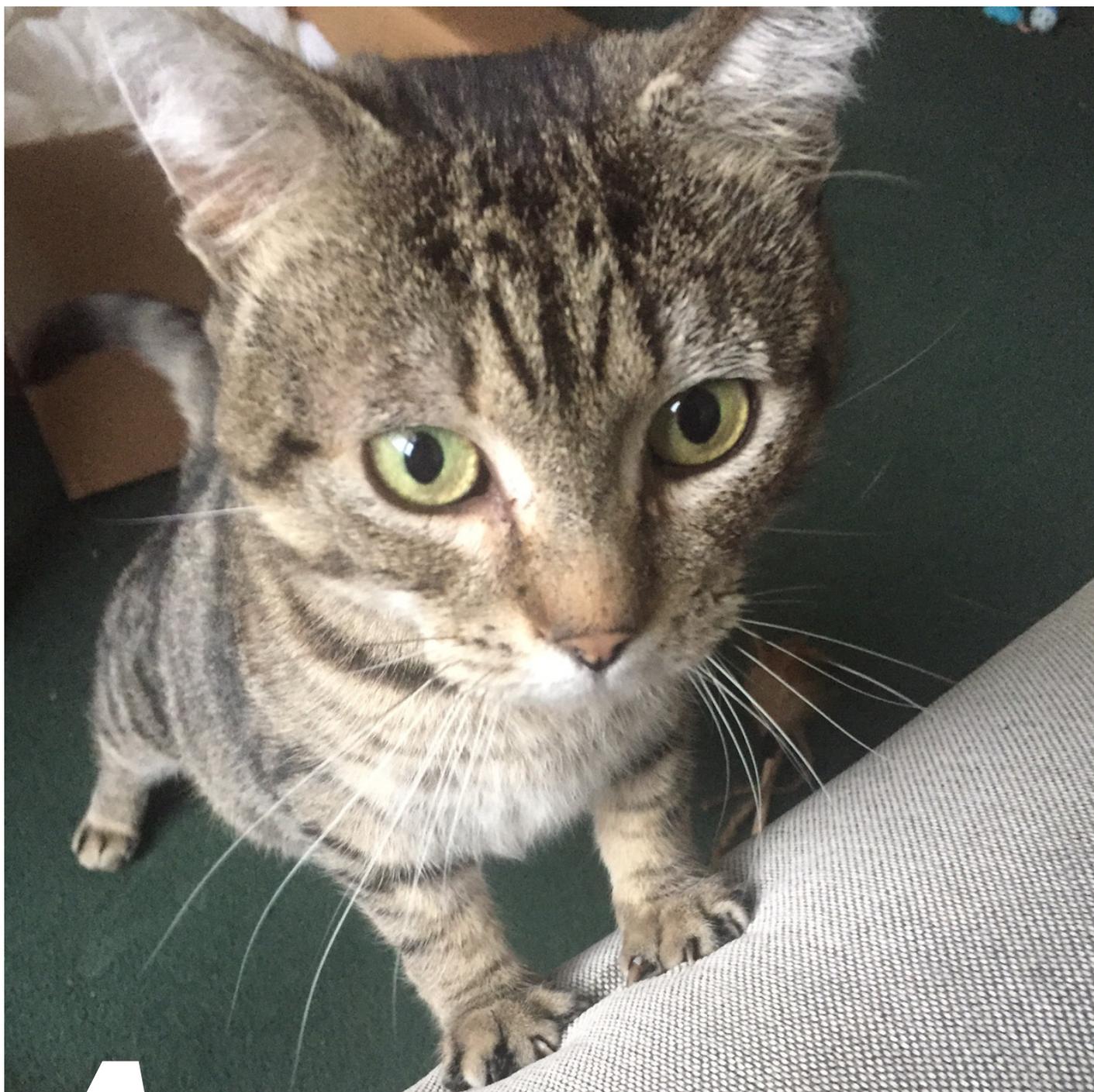
He enjoys sleeping on the bed with us and kept my partner company when I went away for a few days so he now has to get used to sharing the bed again with us both. He plays nicely with his toys and we are both so pleased to have such a lovely cat.

Oscar & Pat

Pat who wanted an older cat is now the proud owner of Oscar who is a constant companion to her. Pat says he loves cuddles and is a very loving chap who prefers to sit on her lap rather than the nice big bed she brought him.



Sam the facebook star



Adam and I had been debating adopting a cat for a long time; we both grew up with cats, and really wanted one of our own, but London living made us wonder if it was possible. We live in a flat, and although relatively spacious there is no direct access to the garden, as we're on first floor.

Then, Sam's picture popped up on my newsfeed on Facebook - his big green eyes and clipped ear melted my heart instantly, and I sent his picture

to Adam straight away! The ad said he had FIV, and needed an indoor only home - so he could be the one for us!

Animal Aid popped over to meet us and tell us more about Sam; he sounded so sweet, we couldn't wait to meet him - and potentially bring him home! It felt like the right cat had come along at just the right time.

We met Sam at the vet the next week, and he was even more lovely in real life than we could



have hoped for, but it sounded like he had been through the wars even though he's only about 2. He'd been anxiously overcleaning and had raw patches as a result, and was very nervous.

We cautiously took him home, and set up a quite corner with a blanket, his litter box, food and water under Adam's desk so he had a private hideaway to relax in. He slowly came out the cat box - and hid behind the desk for 48 hours straight... I was a bit worried he would stay back there forever!

But we knew it would take him time to settle and feel at home, so we left him to it. He migrated to hide under the sofa for a while (and still likes sleeping under there, and will dive under there if he ever gets spooked!) but slowly slowly he started coming out to explore the lounge, and now (after two weeks) we have opened the door so he can explore the hallway and bedroom.

It was a slow process, and it's only really now (after two weeks) he sleeps on his favourite pillow and happily explores the flat, and loves to play and be stroked! His confidence has grown so much, and I think the fact that we were patient with him, and didn't overwhelm him at first, really helped. He just needed time to feel at home and explore the space on his own a bit first. He now comes running to the door when we get home and purrs like crazy when we cuddle him, and it's the best feeling in the world!

We absolutely love Sam and it has been so lovely



to give him a second chance - he seems so happy and relaxed, and his overcleaning anxiety has totally stopped, which I think is a good sign. We look forward to the many purr-filled years to come!!



Louis: a home at last



Poor Louis. He came to Animal Aid, having been passed on by three people. His original owner moved and gave him to a neighbour, who then gave him to her brother and he didn't want Louis either so contacted Animal Aid and asked the charity to take him.



He was neutered (although, luckily not fix) but found it difficult with the other cats at the foster home, they didn't take to him and he started spraying around the house. He couldn't really work out his territory, but stayed upstairs on the landing - mainly in the dark. He was timid and nervous and spent a lot of time outside, often coming back with scratches and tears on his ears.



Other cats didn't seem to like him.

Louis was 9 years old when he came to AA and older cats are not easy to rehome, so he stayed in the foster home for about 18 months, before one of the charity volunteers decided to take him on.



He has transformed in his new home, very pleased to have his own litter tray, and not sharing his space with other cats. His new owner says:

"He is such a friendly, beautiful cat. I can't imagine how anyone, let alone three people, could give him away. He is so good, loves playing with his catnip rainbow and sitting on the sofa with his head on my leg"

Twiglet comes home

Molly, the foster carer deposited the catbox on the sitting room floor and looked around. ‘Hmmm’, she wondered, looking at the coal crackling in the fireplace, ‘it might be good idea to get a fireguard.’

‘What do you mean?’ asked Vanessa, feeling puzzled.

‘It’s not as if she’s going to go up the chimney or anything.’ Upon hearing this Molly raised her eyebrows.

‘You’ve got to be kidding’, she laughed, and explained that one of her cats went missing for three days and after returning late after putting up posters all round the area this strange cat was sitting in her kitchen which she did not recognise as it was a beautiful blue grey colour until she looked closely and it turned out to be her white cat smelling all smokey and greasy. Off to the vet the next day for a bath that was badly needed.

Vanessa began to realise that taking on a rescue cat was going to be slightly more demanding than she had

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bargained for.

Once Molly was happy that Twiggy, as she had been named in her foster home, was settled in her wire pen with a soft jumper to sleep on and plenty of food, she departed. The new family looked at the fireguard, and decided to wait, much to their despair later the next day. (note to self, must listen to others who may know best)

The next evening Vanessa and Pete decided Twiglet would like to explore the front room beyond the confines of her small pen. So they opened the wire door and made some encouraging noises. After poking her nose towards the door and peering in both directions, Twiglet made a break for freedom. The problem was that as soon as she was out of her pen, she panicked. (She drove us up the wall too! said son Callum). As she began to hurtle around the walls at breakneck speed, Vanessa tried not to recall Molly's words about contacting her if they needed help getting the cat back down from the top of a bookcase. After a few minutes of total lunacy, Twiglet launched herself at the highest bookshelf in the room, put out her claws so she could grab hold of something when she landed and promptly brought a pile of books down onto

her head.

Pete dived to grab her, and missed. Twiglet hissed, and scooted up the chimney as fast as her little legs would carry her. The trouble was that she would not come down, and despite the lures of tempting food smells, she would not budge. Hours passed. Hours during which Vanessa could hear Molly's words echoing in her ears, shelves, books chimney and fireguard!

She searched frantically online for other catowners' experiences of chimneys. It turned out there were plenty, but the only helpful one had been supplied by Amy of Chelmsford, who reported that their new cat Henry had eventually decided of his own accord to reappear, and had subsequently, and slowly, become friendlier and tamer. By the time Amy was writing her blog, Henry was sitting on her lap.

Vanessa realised that patience was the only answer, and sure enough that evening Twiglet's hunger got the better of her and she jumped out of the fireplace to make a beeline for her food bowl.

After a few fraught weeks, finally the time came when they all sat down together – and lo and behold, Twiglet even sat on Vanessa's lap.



BOWIE

Bowie' found as an old stray left behind when owners moved, dirty, thin and matted.
by Ashley at Hills



This is Bowie. He was living with us at the vets. and I was going to take him home only to find out he had already got a new home.

Then a few weeks later he came back in and I found out that he didn't have a home anymore. Straight away I said, I'm taking him and now he is my black and white beauty. He lives the life of luxury of eating and sleeping all the time with his sisters who are also rescues. Although he is old he has got a young spirit and is the most loving cat. It was fate we was meant to have each other.



Remember me



Lady, (top left) most beautiful dark tortoiseshell cat in the world, softest fur, gentle nature passed Nov 2016 at 19 years old. Had a bad start in life. abandoned when pregnant but chose to come and live with me and give me the honour of caring for her. Thanks to Yvonne Trion for helping to get her neutered when I couldn't.
Brenda Friend



Sweet Maggie (bottom left) aged 18 who lived a long and happy life. Cookie on left with his best friend Egg who will sadly miss him as they have always been together.



cat news

CCTV captures cat pursuing rat in tunnel

"An intrepid moggy" is captured on camera in "hot pursuit" of a rat through a drainage tunnel. A real-life game of "cat and mouse" has been captured on camera by road workers installing a drainage tunnel.

They sent a camera down to check all was well with their work and saw a cat chasing a large rat. Highways England site supervisor Jason Appleton said it was the first time their cameras had picked up "an intrepid moggy in hot pursuit".

The rat escaped and the cat was later seen exiting the tunnel, which is by the A120 at Wix in Essex.

Mr Appleton said: "It was like an episode of Tom and Jerry live".

The tunnel was been constructed as part of a £5.98m package of maintenance work across the A12 and A120.



sponsor a cat

As you are aware our volunteers go out and rescue the sick and injured stray cats. Some of them have been abandoned by callous owners who just leave them behind when they move away. Old and sick cats are usually the ones that people discard like a piece of litter.

But did you know that there is another way you can help to support us in the work that we do?

Our Sponsor a cat scheme helps towards the care of these types of cats that are with us permanently. These are the cats that would not be adopted because they are too old, have health problems or FIV. Our charity finds permanent foster homes for these types of cats where they are loved and cared for in a home, but without the added expense of veterinary costs to the fosterer. If you would like to be part of their lives, you may be interested in our sponsor scheme, where you would receive updates on their progress and photos from the fosterer. You can learn about their character, their funny little ways, their likes and dislikes and be their benefactor to secure them a happy home for the rest of their lives.



Eddie



Larry



Henry



Stanley



Tom

If you would like to sponsor one of our vulnerable cats, please fill in your contact details below:

Name.....(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Cat I would like to sponsor.....

Return to: Sponsorship Secretary, Animal Aid & Advice, 48 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9PJ.

We will then send you an individual profile of your chosen cat and a bank standing order form.

