



Now in our **60<sup>th</sup>** year

## Spring Newsletter 2024

The Barn House, Chapel Street, Welford-on-Avon, CV378PX

01789 750235 [avoncatrescuewelford@gmail.com](mailto:avoncatrescuewelford@gmail.com)

[www.avoncatrescue.org](http://www.avoncatrescue.org) Charity no. 1162192

### 1964 to 2024

Who would have thought a visit to a dog pound in a police station in 1963, would develop into a registered cat rescue charity housing over 70 cats in 2024.?

There were so few options for unwanted or abandoned dogs and cats back then.

The animals we rescued had to be transported and boarded in kennels and homing was very slow. Move on 10 years and the dog side was taken over by NCDL and the cats were housed at our house in Welford, first all together and gradually into various pens and enclosures.

At one time we had 120 cats and kittens in residence.

We did survive the lack of space, resources, time and funds and when Helen arrived on the scene and drummed up support from so many, we were able to pay the bills, repair the buildings and set up a supporters' group, newsletters and regular fund raising events. We went from one volunteer, to a loyal group of volunteers coming every weekend and sponsors and supporters who kept us going with regular donations and gifts.

And day to day caring for the cats carries on 24/7. The poorly, the neglected, the abandoned, the frightened, arrive confused and unhappy. The much loved pets whose owners have died or who have lost their home.

All need so much care, time, attention, medication sometimes.

On average we have taken in and found homes for 2 to 3 hundred cats and kittens every year.

The cats that can't find homes often stay with us, unless we can find a suitable farm or stables.

So we have had ferals, disabled, incontinent and aggressive cats living with us. They become our pensioners and now we find sponsors for them.

We did have 50 pensioners at one time but over the years, people have taken on all sorts of problem cats so we don't have to. We now have about 18 permanent residents.

With the charity registration, we have become more financially stable, accessed gift aid and received legacies we may not have had before. We are also given all sorts of food donations which keep us going day to day.

Every day brings another challenge/problem/story, sometimes heart breaking, sometimes heart warming. How great it is when a frightened cat begins to relax and come forward for a stroke.

Or an elderly cat who has been overlooked for weeks, grabs the heartstrings of a visitor and is taken home for another chance.

We have come a long way from rabbit hutches in the garden and a few boxes of cat food in the store. But cats still need our help and the waiting list is longer than ever.

It is a relief to feel that we can help as many cats as we do, but it is never enough.

We still feel proud that we have come so far.

Thanks to everyone who has helped us get here.

Rosemary

NT/Naughty Tabby/Entee as he is known, here on the right enjoying himself.

NT was one of a very few cats who arrived on foot and rescued himself!

He came in 2012 and has firmly established himself as being in charge.



### [Legacies and gifts left to the Avon Cat Rescue in 2023](#)

#### [Legacies](#)

*Daphne White*

*Cyril Charles Hopkins*

*Jean Ross*

*Mrs Jeanne Bowker*

*Rita Eynon*

#### [Gifts in memory of](#)

*Mrs Jill Scruby*

*Miss Karen Batham*

*Miss Gina Szwelika*

*Muriel Birch*

*Richard Cann*

*Mrs Marjorie Hicks*

*Mrs Margaret Burt*

*Gail Lambert*

*Elaine Broad*

*Patricia Chamberlain*

*Graham Harris*

*Mrs Tina Woodley*

*Robert Caswell*

*Rosemary Hale*

*Joan Burch*

*Mr R A Howell*

*Mrs Heath*

We are indebted to these people as each year it becomes increasingly more difficult to raise the money we need to give the cats the best care we can. Please, if you are making your Will, consider leaving us a legacy.

Or if making a collection we are grateful to be nominated.

## Maytrees

One of the services we provide here at ACR is the long term housing of feral or otherwise un-homeable cats. Maytrees is one of our large pens that houses such a group. The pen has room to roam with a large sunny outside area, combined with a warm bedroom area filled with comfy beds for the cats to retreat to. In addition to these luxuries, the Maytrees residents enjoy room service provided to them of course by volunteers who visit several times a day.

Syssal was the first of our current Maytrees residents to arrive. When we first got to know him at the rescue he threatened to kill us all, hissing profusely - if we so much as looked at him he would lay his ears back flat and his massive eyes would bulge. Despite



the threats, within a few days he was following us around demanding food with menaces. These days, although he still isn't a fan of being touched, we can place treats next to him without being savaged; he's even given up the ear thing.



Maxwell (left) was next to move in. He isn't completely tame, but he's not as ferocious as Syssal was on arrival. Within a few days Syssal and Maxwell were close friends and now they are always together, often lying together as one big heap of fur. Maxwell is looking a bit scruffy these days, especially compared to suave Syssal - we think he's probably an older cat.

Peaches (white/black) our third Maytrees resident, moved in when we were removing an old pen. In her old spot she had always stayed well away from us. We couldn't get near her at all. Since moving to Maytrees she has relaxed a little, and although she will never be friendly to people she will happily stay in bed when we

are feeding and cleaning, rather than running to hide. After a week or two she found her place in the group, and seems to get along well with her roommates.



**Lulu** (left on top of Peaches) moved to Maytrees at the same time as Peaches. She has been with us at the rescue since she was a kitten (a long time) but never tamed. It has taken her a long time to feel comfortable around us, much longer than Peaches. But now, after hiding from us for months she now sits amongst the others and is much happier, although she is showing her age.



**Toby** (left on top of Maxwell) was in a homing pen for several months after he first came to us. He didn't have much chance of a home, having never been touchable. After some time in the smaller homing pens we noticed that he wasn't doing much, and it seemed Toby was rather depressed, so we decided to move him across to Maytrees where he would have more room to be active, and other cats to interact with. Within a couple of days he integrated into the group and seemed more relaxed. Toby is always easy to spot, as he has a bare patch on his face. But his new Maytrees friends don't seem to mind.

It's a delight to see how our Maytrees cats get on, and they are favourites of everybody at the rescue. Providing this sort of safe, warm, and permanent home for cats like these has always been a key part of ACRs mission.

### **SPONSORSHIP**

**This helps us provide for the cats that we cannot find homes for.**

All these cats are available for sponsoring. If you are able to sponsor one of them, it costs £25 for the year, a form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

A BIG thank you to everyone who collected their small change for us last year. The total was £691.10

Our Christmas cards for 2024 have been chosen. Featuring this year are Squeaky, a black kitten; Alfie an adult tabby and Luna is a tabby kitten.

Is there anyone able to sponsor our Christmas cards this year please get in touch. The cost is £105.

### **2025 Calendar.**

It is time to put together our calendar for next year. Would you like your cat to feature? The cat needs to be an ex ACR cat.

If you are interested I will need 3 or 4 photos plus an interesting story (no more than 200 words) to accompany them. Either send the photos .jpeg and story to my email address.

[mgth.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:mgth.hall@btinternet.com) or hard copies to my home address which can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Closing date for entries March 16th

If we are over subscribed an interesting story my help us to select your cat.

Is there anyone who is in a position to sponsor the calendar for next year. The cost is £330. Once again please get in touch.

## Pathway to our new pens

By the time you receive this newsletter our new pens, seen here on the right, will be being cleaned and set up. We hope to have them in use by our Spring Bazaar. Do we have anyone who feels able to lay us a pathway of slabs from the path I am standing on to the new pens? If so please get in touch with the rescue.

We hope we will see many of you at one of our events this year. We use a lot of kitchen rolls, black sacks and cat food pouches. If you have room in your bag when you come please help us.



## Cat Stories

### SMUDGE

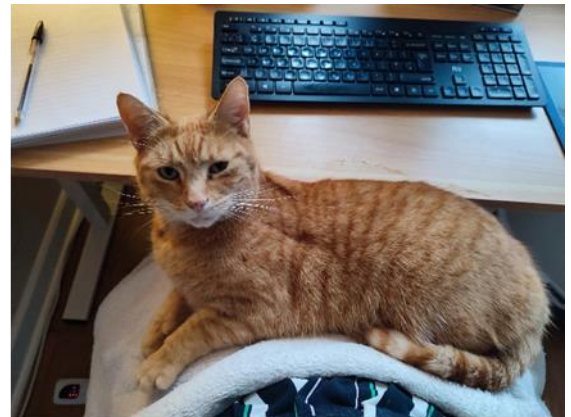
He is now called Smudge, as from seeing the smudge of black on his white patch on his nose, he is a cheeky lovely character, he likes to play with lots of toys, likes to watch what's going on outside from the lounge window, also when there are animals on the t.v. he is very interested and sometimes jumps to to catch them ! He's a very loving cat who likes lots of fuss.



### TOM & JERRY

As an update on Tom and Jerry, they are both doing really well. Jerry is incredibly confident and settled in almost straight away. He loves lap cuddles in the evenings and play time in the mornings, and makes it his business to visit the various windowsills/cat beds/sofas at different times throughout each day. Tom has been living under our bed for the most of the last two weeks (except for meals), but we had a bit of a breakthrough yesterday when he unexpectedly turned up in the kitchen for breakfast and rubbed himself against my legs. He's since spent more time out from under the bed and is getting used to coming downstairs for meals and having tummy rubs and some play time - he is turning into a completely different cat! We are really over the moon with both of them and can see they are both going to be happy with us. We are very interested to know if they were indoor cats before they came to you though, because (contrary to previous rescue cats) they are not in the slightest bit interested in the outside when doors are opened, and their feet pads are extremely soft.

I've attached a couple of photos to show how well they're doing



## MIA

Safe to say that Mia (Brooke) has made out house a home 😊. We're so in love and thought it would be nice to share an update



## CLEMENT



I just want to say a huge thank you to you and your efforts at the cat rescue, your description of my Clement was absolutely spot on and he has made our house a home, it was his first year gotcha anniversary on the 23rd December. He has the choice to go out but likes to sit in the garden and venture no further. He is the kindest, most loving and affectionate cat I've ever met! He is ALWAYS up for a cuddle and is my shadow. I have attached a few photos of him to this email so you can see his progress. He is still a little jumpy with new people and loud noises but is well and truly settled and a wonderful member of my family and the perfect cat for me and my partner (my partners first pet) and he loves him dearly. He has the funniest personality too, always making us laugh! As we speak, he is curled up on my lap where he will be at any given chance! He will meow at me when I get home from work until I sit down and we have our 5 min cuddle.

## LOLA

Lola is settling in well, she is very independent and has a very strong will 😸 she has given us 8 shrew's 2 of which she let go in the front room 😸 and 1 Robin which she gave me as a Birthday present 😸 luckily the Robin was alive we caught it and watched it fly away. We have some food that we got for Lola that she doesn't like so will pop it over to you

All the very best



## THISTLE

Merry Christmas! Thank you for all you do and we will continue to support you next year and always.

Here are some festive snaps of Thistle.

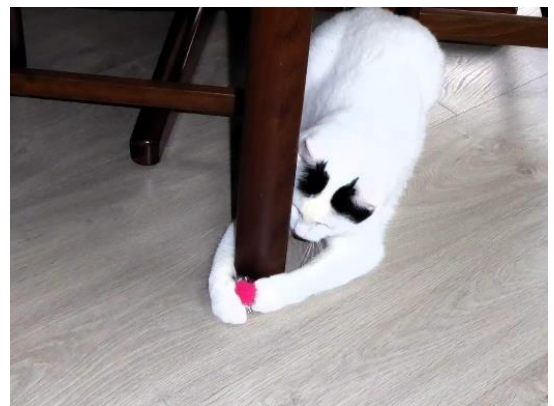


## CASSIE & TILLY

Just wanted to let you know the donation has been sent over and that both cats are settling in well, they hid for a short period before coming out for fuss and then spent the evening exploring their new digs, looking forward to seeing their personalities come out more as time goes on!

## BILLY

As of writing this newsletter Billy, (on the right) is the most recently homed cat already relaxed and playing in his new home.



*Keep the stories and pictures coming we love to see and read about the cats.*

## Neutering and Microchipping

Neutering cats prevents unwanted litters of kittens and behaviours. Entire male cats instinctively roam to search for a mate with an average 5 mile radius from home. Within this vast area they will often get into fights with other cats. Neutering greatly reduces the desire to roam and therefore reduces the exposure to disease and fighting injuries and in turn the cost of veterinary treatment. Females come into season every few weeks and this generally starts when they're a few months old. Female cats are reflex ovulators guaranteeing pregnancy, regardless if they are related to the male or the size of him. Mothering a litter of kittens is hard work and will take its toll on a mother cat's condition especially if she has multiple litters. Neutering female cats also reduces the risk of womb infections plus particular tumours and cancers. There's no benefit to having a litter of kittens prior to neutering. Entire cats of either sex often spray urine as marking behaviour which is particularly pungent and unpleasant in your home. They're often very vocal too.

Neutering operations (females are spayed and males castrated) are both relatively straightforward procedures. When arranging with your vets they will advise when to withdraw your cat's food prior to a general anaesthetic. Recovery from the general anaesthetic is a few hours and you can usually collect your cat the same day as the operation.

Microchipping cats becomes compulsory this summer from 10.06.2024. It's an opportune time to have your cat microchipped whilst at the vet's for neutering, just ask. This way should your cat go walkabout you have more chance of being reunited again.

Working with Avon Cat Rescue we carry out multiple neutering operations every month prior to the cats finding their new homes.

On the right - Nina and Padfoot, with Student Vet Nurse Abby, who were both neutered during January.



**Dates for your Diary**

Saturday February 24 <sup>th</sup>	ACR Jumble Sale	2pm	Welford Memorial Hall
Saturday March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Beoley Animal Fair	9-1pm	Beoley Village Hall
Saturday April 27 <sup>th</sup>	ACR Spring Bazaar	2pm	At the Rescue
Sunday July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Vale Wildlife Open Day	11-4pm	Beckford
Saturday July 20 <sup>th</sup>	ACR Summer Bazaar	2pm	At the Rescue

Help needed for the 3 ACR events. 9-12 setting up; 1-4 serving; 4-6 packing away:

**Our Spring newsletter is due out early June 2024**

**DONATION/SPONSORSHIP FORM**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and address of the recipient (if for a gift).**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Birthday if appropriate** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of cat chosen** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed**

Please send to Helen Hall 24, Hanson Avenue, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4HL

If you prefer to pay by BACS our details:-

HSBC, Avon Cat Rescue

Sort Code 40-43-19

Account number 51012037