

# COVENTRY CAT GROUP



## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2015

Registered Charity 1065043

Visit our website-

[www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk](http://www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk)

Or our Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/CoventryCatGroup](http://www.facebook.com/CoventryCatGroup)

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# Somewhere a cat really is waiting.....

As I was packing up my household bits and pieces for yet another house move I came across the old cat carrier that had lay in the garage for some time, will it get used again I asked myself ? Or should I give it away? Something was telling me deep down to retain it, although at that particular time another cat was far from my mind.

The past five years had been a difficult time for me with my dear wife of 46 years declining fast with dementia. I was married without a wife as she had been in a home for a very long time and I was living on my own having finally realised that professional care was needed , and so it was. In December 2012 I moved into a lovely little bungalow in the countryside just outside of Warwick. I had planned the bungalow for my wife but that was not to be, life had to go on and after a few months I settled into such a lovely neighbourhood with kind people as my neighbours.

There were three cats including one large black and white one which would come to me for a fuss and roll over at my feet. Once when the owner was in hospital I would feed it and stroke it, then off he would trot . About that time a friend suggested that I read a book called 'Somewhere a cat is waiting'. The moment I started to read that book I yearned to have another puss in my life. In my mind I conjured up this picture of a cat following me around in the garden and sitting in the sun.

Soon my search was on for a cat and this led me towards one called 'Ozzie' who was with Coventry Cat Group. Soon I had arranged with Judith Stanley to go and see this black cat, it was a very hot day and Ozzie was right at the back of his hideaway, his eyes peering at me , he hissed at me! But little did I realise at that time Ozzie had led me to another cat, the one that wanted me in his life. As I stooped down in the pen I felt a cold wet nose brush my face. I had not noticed this ginger cat sitting on the pedestal. I knew from that moment that 'Ollie', the cat in front of me was the one I really had come to see! I brushed his forehead and he responded by head butting my hand, at that moment I just said "He is the one I want"! I am convinced that Ollie had found me after being with another owner for a while.

We did the formalities and then Ollie was strapped by my side in the car for the

journey home. Judith followed to undertake the home visit, meanwhile Ollie meowed and meowed on the hot journey home in busy traffic. The fella did not eat much for the next few weeks as he just sat nearby as I constantly talked to him. I had this fear of him running away after the six weeks inside just had to trust him,, my fears were unfounded, he went out for over three hours obviously exploring his new territory and can you imagine the joy to see him come wandering in again!!

As the weeks went on I began to know his funny little ways but he was never far away , sleeping by my feet, but when he went out I still worried about him. Eventually his night-time trips out declined as he would rather be cuddled up with me, slowly bit by bit he was bonding beautifully and I began to recognise his various different noises. Although Ollie was not really a lap cat he eventually would come and sit and curl up on my lap. In December 2014 I eventually lost my wife who died in hospital before I could even get to see her. It was a very sad time for me but my dear Ollie filled my life with his love and joy of just having him around. I am convinced that he had been sent to me as a beautiful gift from my Angels, and he continues to enrich my life to this day, he looks after me and I look after him, and that is the way it should be. He really is a gift in my life and has found his forever home with me.

Barry Clay



# Open Day

On August 9th we opened the rescue for our second Open Day. Despite our earlier worries we were blessed with beautiful sunshine. We had a great turnout from both old friends and new and all the residents were on their best behaviour.

There were lots of stalls, Raffle ,Tombola etc. and of course the most popular of all, the refreshment tent, stocked with a delicious array of cakes and pastries.

Graces Rest and Hogs Rest were on hand to educate and offer advice on the care of Exotic pets and Hedgehogs respectively.

Many Thanks to all the volunteers on the day, manning the stalls, keeping everyone fed and watered, selling raffle tickets and organising the car parking, and also to all who helped behind the scenes in the preceding days, gardening, tidying and putting up gazebos . A massive Thank You too to all our loyal supporters, you never let us down!

A Grand total of over £1,250 pounds was raised, which will go towards a Pergola to keep our residents cool in Summer and toasty in winter.

Many Thanks again,

We Couldn't do it without you.





# SPONSOR CATS

mister



Formerly Mark Spitz ,a beautiful boy who overcame the harshest of starts. He came in as a hissing, lunging boy , covered in scabs and scars. He is an FIV positive cat so will have to have an indoor home, during his time with us he has transformed into a purry , loving boy who trots up for a head tickle at every opportunity.

EM



Is a long term resident, her gorgeous looks and loving nature having attracted many potential adopters, however Em has not fared well in a home environment and on three occasions has had to be returned to us after suffering anxiety attacks, so Em is our forever cat, who loves us so much she never wants to leave.

## Our golden oldies



Live with a variety of fosterers who help them to live their lives to the full in a home environment.

marmaduke



Trapped from an industrial site as he was intimidating the feral colony we support there. He may look worn and weatherbeaten, but he is turning into a bit of a gentleman since arriving at Feral Towers.

**£10**

coral



Coral is a beautiful girl who came to us via a local vets , as a stray , ( hence the tipped ear ).Initially a little cat with a BIG attitude, she has mellowed into a determined girl who loves cuddles on her terms.

From just £10 a year you can sponsor one of our lovely furies, or one of our feral pens. You will receive a photo and E-Mail updates and also be helping us to continue our valuable work with local stray and feral cats. We are a local charity and receive no government funding , so every penny we receive is vital and enables us to continue... If you feel you could sponsor one of our residents , please fill in the enclosed form and return it to our treasurer 175 butt lane, Coventry , cv5 9fd.

## **.Coco the lifesaver.**

I had a cat (CoCo) a few years ago , who I sincerely believe saved my life . I am a type one diabetic and one night my sugar levels had dropped really low. Coco must have sensed that i was unwell as she woke me up by persistently patting my face and miaowing loudly. After treating my hypo I fell back to sleep. I was woken by Coco again a couple of hours later. I tested my sugar levels and they had dropped dangerously low. My partner Mick was away so if she hadn't woken me I don't think I would be here today.

Julianne



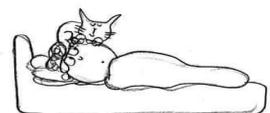
At Coventry Cat Group we have cats in foster homes and at our centre looking for permanent loving homes. If you can offer a suitable home for one of our cats/kittens, please visit our website [www.coventrycatgroup.org](http://www.coventrycatgroup.org). Standing Orders Coventry Building Society Sort code 40-63-01 Account No 060180178 Coventry Cat Group Trust

To Donate by text ie £10 , Text 70070 CCGRO1 £10

You can also support us by shopping online with Easyfundraising to earn us donations on your purchases. There are hundreds of stores signed up to this scheme <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/coventrycatgroup>.

Or send a cheque to “ Coventry Cat Group Trust” 175 Butt Lane, Coventry, CV5 9FD.

**HAPPINESS IS**



*...waking up in the morning  
with a cat on your head.*



## The Meaning of Rescue.

Now that I'm home, bathed, settled and fed,

All nicely tucked in my warm new bed,

I'd like to open my baggage,

Lest I forget,

There is so much to carry,

So much to regret.

Hmmm....Yes, there it is, right on the top,

Let's unpack Loneliness , Heartache and Loss,,

And there by the perch hides fear and shame.

As I look on the things , I tried so hard to leave,

I still have to unpack my baggage called pain.

I loved them, the others , the ones who left me,

But I wasn't good enough –for they didn't want me.

Will you add to my baggage?

Will you help me unpack?

Or will you look at my things,

And take me right back?

Do you have the time to help me unpack?

To put away my baggage, to never repack?

I pray that you do– I'm so tired you see,

But I do come with baggage, Will you still want me ?



# The Mann Cat Sanctuary

It was my 50th Birthday in June and with the help of Pat Whitehouse I ticked off No 5 on my bucket list. It had long been my ambition to visit The Mann Cat Sanctuary on the Isle of Man, and in June this year my dream was realised .The Mann Cat Sanctuary motto is “ Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace” Albert Schweitzer, and as we pulled into the car park, we immediately felt that peace. The Sanctuary, and it really is a Sanctuary saw two grown women reduced to tears behind our sunglasses at the sheer joy of actually making it here, and at the assortment of cats that ambled across the grass to welcome us.

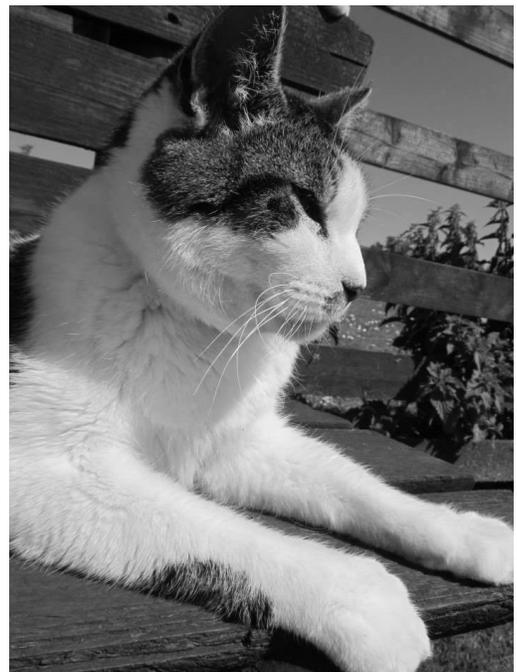
It is hard to voice the emotions that ran through us, but we were moved beyond words by the atmosphere of contentment and love that emanated from the Sanctuary. There were over 300cats in residence, and between us we must have stroked or cuddled most of them. They came in all shapes and sizes, ages and imperfections, but I sensed they all knew how valued they were. They climbed over us impatiently waiting for cuddles or a dreamy or two, they lay about on the grass dozing in the sunshine, or they lazed about inside savouring the shade. Some visitors sat reading books, adorned by a sleeping cat or two. It was Heaven!

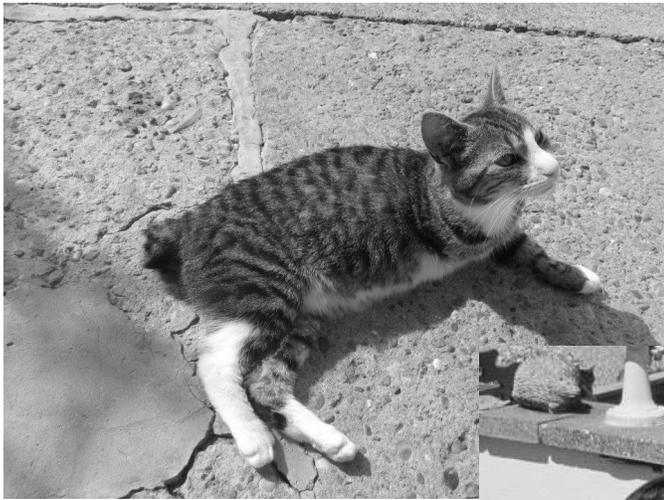
We also got a chance to talk to Sue , one of the Co-Founders, about Rescue, and all things Feline. Time flew and we realised that the Sanctuary had closed while we chatted. We felt honoured that we were allowed to stay while the residents had their suppers, and we left elated.

Thankyou Sue for allowing us for a few hours, to share your vision.

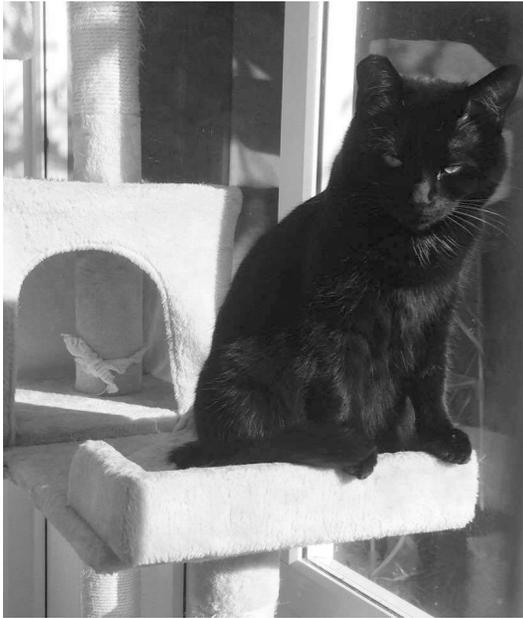
It truly was an inspiration for us. We will be back.

Lin..





[www.mannecat.com](http://www.mannecat.com)



Some of our residents awaiting their forever homes.....



If you are interested in Adopting one of our cats or kittens, please complete the enquiry form on our Website.....

[Www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk](http://www.coventrycatgroup.org.uk)

# THE STORY OF FAILED FOSTER CARERS

As a family we had volunteered with CCG for many months but we had only ever helped with socialising and Open Days etc. After much consideration we agreed to become fosters carers because we could see how in need the group were. We are a family of 2 adults and 3 children (ages 12, 14 & 17). Fostering was a big step for us as we are a family of animal lovers and we all



had to agree to take in these cats/kittens and then let them go again. We were given Ellie and Sophie to care for, 2 kittens that had been trapped with a severe case of cat flu. Although they were on the mend both cats still needed medication. Ellie was trapped a few days before Sophie and the difference this made was very noticeable. Ellie was happy to play and enjoyed a love but Sophie was going to take a lot more time. Poor Sophie spent a few weeks hiding away from us but every day her confidence grew. After a couple of months we let the kittens out of their bedroom and introduced them to the rest of the house. Ellie loved this, she had a new massive play ground and some new friends to play with, Sophie wasn't sure of anything but we could see her wanting to explore. Time went on and every day our visitors became more and more a part of the



family. It was very clear that all of us were falling in love, not just the humans but the other cats as well (especially my 2 year old boy Ernie who was hilarious to watch, strutting past them and even trying to climb the curtains to show off in front of his 2 new girlfriends). The idea of them leaving and finding a new home became too painful to consider. So that was it, we had to admit failure and let CCG know we wanted to adopt these beauties. So after a terrible start in life these 2 gorgeous lumps of love have a home for life. There is no question that without the selfless volunteers that put their own lives on hold to trap throughout the night, feed and

administer medication when the rest of the world is fast asleep and fundraise endlessly to pay for vet treatments and food etc, these 2 would not be a part of my family and I am eternally grateful to everyone involved with keeping my babies safe before they reached their final destination (my lap ! )

Angie L

