

Coventry Cat Group Newsletter 2016

Meet our very own street cat called Bobster....



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)

Or Twitter

[@CovCatGroup](https://twitter.com/CovCatGroup)

A message from the Executive Committee of CCG

In 2017 we will be celebrating 20 years of CCG being registered. Much has changed over the years. From small beginnings we have steadily grown. What began with a few enthusiastic cat lovers trying their best to help feral colonies around the city, is now a thriving rehoming centre at Willand with a network of wonderful home fosterers. There have been huge improvements in animal care and welfare: we now neuter, vaccinate and microchip all our cats and kittens before rehoming. Offering a chip-and-snip scheme to the public helps to support pet owners. We work with other charities and vets to provide the best we can with our limited resources.

Over the years we have developed a way of working where the cat remains at the core of what we do. Our focus may have moved away from its beginnings with purely feral colonies to embrace domestic cats too, but empathy for all homeless or abandoned cats who can't help themselves is vital. It takes skill and patience to gain the trust of people who call us, so we can get to the truth for the sake of the cats. We often have to make difficult decisions as there is a never-ending stream of calls from the public for help.

Assessing a new home fully is vital. We aim to give our cats the best we can, and match a new home with the right cat or kitten for them. This individual approach gives us the opportunity to see our cats rehomed to loving new homes, for life.

We are blessed with a wonderful band of helpers who have a vast range of skills, be that helping at the centre, socialising, assessing homes, transporting, fostering kittens, fundraising or admin. We are only too aware that we need to be flexible and move with the times – we are getting lots of calls at the moment about colonies now the colder weather has come. Social media has made it easy to raise awareness of the work we do.

So what of the future? Few of us can remember how we started, before the internet, email, mobile phones and apps. CCG has a wonderful reputation locally, thanks to the vision of Di, Angie, Mike, Maggie and Cynthia in the early days. Through Di, we had the opportunity a few years ago to build on their hard work with the establishment of Willand. We should be mindful that in rescue work you can become desensitised over the years. If we lose the ability to be affected by what we see or hear, perhaps we need to think hard about why we continue. Be assured, all at CCG remain committed to seeing empathy and a cat-centred individual approach remain at our core. No one-size fits-all here. In the short term, we are already striving to improving care at Willand with the building of a dedicated isolation/intake unit. With your support we look forward to another 20 + years. Now to raise the funds . . . over to you Faye

Financial Report

It's safe to say that this year has been a rather challenging one for several reasons. In February we said goodbye to Angie Willems after many years with CCG. She had been the main driving force behind the project at Willand and spent countless hours working mostly behind the scenes, including in her role as treasurer. I would like to hope we can continue the great work she has started. I, together with Graham Stanley, took over the financial side using our experiences in business to aid us.

Overall, our accounts show a loss of 16.5 K for the year ending 31st March 2016. The majority of this over expenditure was the ongoing refurbishment of the Bungalow and outbuildings to create a 2nd rental unit. I am happy to say has been successfully occupied since November 2015. The rental generated by the units helps to off set our considerable running costs.

Total expense for the financial year was 48k. The major cost generated by our cats was vets fees (12.5k) which includes microchipping, neutering and fully vaccinating all cats before rehoming. We had an income of 31.5k with the major contributions coming from membership, donations and homings along with tenancy.



We had an advisory inspection in the Spring by an ADCH adviser, and were very pleased to receive a silver standard award for their voluntary Good Practice scheme. The advice to build a dedicated Isolation Unit to improve our facilities at the centre was much appreciated and we started researching funding grants straight away.

I'm very pleased to announce that after much hard work by Faye and her fundraising team, I received a cheque (pictured here with my Tom) in November 2016 for £20,000 from **SupportAdoptionForPets** to build an isolation unit for intake of cats. Such a project can only improve the life and care of our cats. Rik and I are working hard to see the plans come to fruition next year and we hope to have the foundations laid in the Spring.

We have had several very successful fundraising events this year and are grateful for all your support— surely we are the only cat charity in the country with a rescued GSD, (proudly owned by Graham and Judith) the very cuddly Teddy, as an added attraction!

We would like to thank all our helpers, vets, supporters and adopters for all they have done for our cats this year. Onward and upwards in 2017.





Some before, during and after pictures from our Feral Whisperer James. What a joy to see these lovely kittens blossom under his expert care



Jazz, who must be about 6 yrs old now. it's taken James 18 months to get her to be relaxed enough to sit next to him on the sofa for a fuss



Eric is one of a small group living in a barn. He's been trapped, neutered and returned. Just Mummycat to TNR, and her tiny kitten to be trapped for socialising before rehoming.

Long Term Fosters

CCG are currently supporting 10 cats long-term.

Many of these cats are elderly and/or on long-term medication.

Their fosterers kindly support them to live in a home environment, whilst CCG offers support with vet bills. etc



Em is one of our sponsor cats who is resident at the centre. This pretty lady is just not happy in a domestic home. She loves life at Willand and likes to snuggle in her bed at night under the covers when it's made right!

Lottie-Lulu is living with Nicky, where she was born 5 years ago. She was born with wobbly kitten syndrome, which in her case means she sways when she walks, circles when stressed, has a heart problem and cataracts in both eyes. An independent lady, she loves to be outside in the garden sitting in a plant pot pretending to be a gnome to stalk butterflies!



Friday lives with Corrine.

He has issues with his bowels which we support via the Vets.

He's a lovely boy who copes very well with his condition and is much loved by his foster mum.

If you are interested in fostering short-term to help socialise our cats and kittens in your own home, please let us know!

Fundraising 2016

Well what a busy year it has been for the CCG team! We held our Summer Open Day which raised an impressive £1380.69p profit and between £400 and £500 worth of food donations. **Thank you to all that attended, donated and volunteered** to make it such a huge success! We have also been partnered with two Pets At Home stores in Coventry this year. We attended their summer fundraisers and also had access to their food donations which has been wonderful. **Thank you Pets at Home**. We attended a fundraiser at Fargo Village which helped raise the profile of our charity. We also had a pretty enjoyable day liaising with other charities. **Thank so much for our invitation** and to all the other charities which made the day so successful. We have received ENDLESS support from our Facebook and CCG Member community with food donations, cake sales to raise funds for CCG and some breathtaking cash gifts which we are so grateful for... we really couldn't do any of what we do without you! Our next up and coming event (at the time of typing this) is our CCG Christmas Fayre, we hope this will be a huge success and with such wonderful supporters I'm sure it will be! One final mention and **thank you is to SupportAdoptionfor-Pets**. This year they have granted CCG an impressive £20,000 so we can build an Isolation Unit for new intake. Being a small independent charity this would have been impossible without their help and support, from the bottom of our hearts we are truly grateful. **THANK YOU!**

Now for the future fundraising we have planned. Our brains have been working overtime to try to find new ways of raising funds and new ways of keeping CCG as successful as possible. Over the next few months and in to 2017 we are hoping to implement a number of fundraising ideas including a **Pen Sponsorship Scheme** for local and nationwide businesses. For £1,000 a year a business can sponsor one of our pens. There will be a sign over that pen stating their business name, free advertising on our web page, Facebook and Newsletter and also a certificate for their place of business to show their customers that they are supporting a local charity and worthy cause. This will help care for every single furry resident that enters that pen and give CCG a fighting chance at being able to help as many cats as possible.

We are in the process of setting up a number of **Food Drop-off Points** around the city to make it easier for people to donate food. Donations will be collected by CCG volunteers and brought up to the centre to be shared out between the centre and our many fosterers.

We are revamping our **Cat Sponsorship** to offer people the chance to sponsor any cat that comes in to CCG care, not just long term residents. This will mean once that cat is rehomed you will have the option to transfer your sponsorship to another furry resident or cancel your sponsorship until you see another cat that melts you heart.

Graces Rest, a Reptile and Exotics rescue and CCG are looking at having a joint Valentine's fundraiser . . . more details nearer the time. Rest assured there will be another CCG Summer Open Day which we look forward to welcoming all our supporters to.

Alongside the new ideas that are constantly being looked into we would like to take this opportunity to remind you all of the ways that you can already support CCG (further details available on our website)

- **Sponsor-A-Cat:** For long-term residents Harley, Mister and the adorable Miss Em, photos on our website.
- **Payroll Giving:** Donate as you earn - Have a set amount from your salary paid directly to CCG.
- **Leaving a Legacy:** Gift an amount to CCG in your Will.
- **Amazon Wish list:** Search for the Coventry Cat Group wish list on Amazon and view the items we need for our furry residents. Order them direct from Amazon and they will be delivered straight to CCG. The link directly to the Wish list is also on the CCG website.
- **Easy Fundraising:** Sign up for Easy Fundraising via their website and whenever you order items on-line see if the retailer is part of Easy Fundraising. If they are, order that item via the Easy Fundraising site and the retailer will send us a percentage of what you have spent. This costs you no more but means part of what you have spent has helped CCG.
- **Gift Vouchers:** What do you buy someone who has everything? Order a Gift Voucher for a friend or family member and they get to give the gift of Neutering, Micro Chipping, Feeding, Trapping, or Feral care to a CCG cat.
- **Monthly or one off donations:** Pay a sum directly in to Coventry Cat Group via a bank transfer or a regular direct debit.

As a small independent charity one of the biggest hurdles we face is regular monthly funding. If you can donate a small amount every month to us then that gives us a regular income so we can continue month in and month out to help as many cats as possible. Some people can manage £1, others a larger amount, however every penny counts and every penny makes a difference to a cat's life. If you would like to set up a monthly donation via your bank account please make payable to:

Coventry Cat Group, Coventry Building Society,

Sort Code 406301, Account Number 60180178

Finally . . . all that is left to say is **THANK YOU!** Without you Coventry Cat Group is nothing and if a Charity's worth was measured by the quality of their supporters then CCG would be priceless! Lots of love and gratitude from us all at Coventry Cat Group and our Furry residents. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to set up a fundraising event for CCG please email: fayefarndon@hotmail.co.uk

My very own street cat called Bobster

When I first volunteered with The Coventry Cat Group I had no intention of actually having a cat in my life again. I was still grieving over the loss of my beautiful black cat, Gatsby. Fortunately, Bobby was unaware of this decision. He arrived at the centre at pretty much the same time as me. Having lived in a car park for two years he was finally trapped by Pat after being hit by a car. My first 'job' was helping transfer him into a hospitalisation pen. He was scared, had his leg in plaster and his main obsession was food. He didn't play, had a habit of swiping out or hissing and yet.... there was something about Bobby.

Gradually, we built up a routine. I would go to the centre on a Saturday, grab a chair and talk to The Bobster. He would stare back in his inscrutable cat way and reward me with a scratch if I ever ventured an arm into his pen. However, it was amazing when we put some carpet in – he looked at it suspiciously and then stretched out. I'm not sure he had ever seen carpet before. We also heard his first miaows ... he was still ignoring us but he clearly loved to talk to the other cats. Then kitten season arrived. The centre was quickly filling up (please, will people neuter their cats!) so I decided to become a fosterer. Bobby had made some progress although he was still limping badly but I did wonder if the change of environment would set him back. Amazingly it didn't. He was becoming strokeable ... even if his fur was coarse from living outside and he could still lash out if he felt threatened.

We settled into another routine. He lived in the spare room, I slept in there to keep him company and my original intention remained intact. He wasn't my cat, he was a foster cat. Eventually, I felt it was time to let him have the run of the whole house. Bobs decided he would only do this under cover of darkness. We had a chat about that. I told him it was very hard having an upstairs only cat. When he came downstairs and sat by me about ten minutes later I realised we had an understanding. However, I didn't want another cat...especially a ginger cat with a limp and undeveloped social skills. Unfortunately, no one had told me how rewarding it is to watch a cat learn to play with toys, to jump on sofas and chairs and transform into my little shadow before my eyes....

So, that is how I came to adopt the Bobster. We had some tough times. It is hard when you are trying your best and walking around with scratched arms. The real break through came when I introduced him to the garden. He seemed to feel safer there, probably because he had spent so long outside. It wasn't long before he would quite happily curl up at my feet and 'socialise' with my friends.



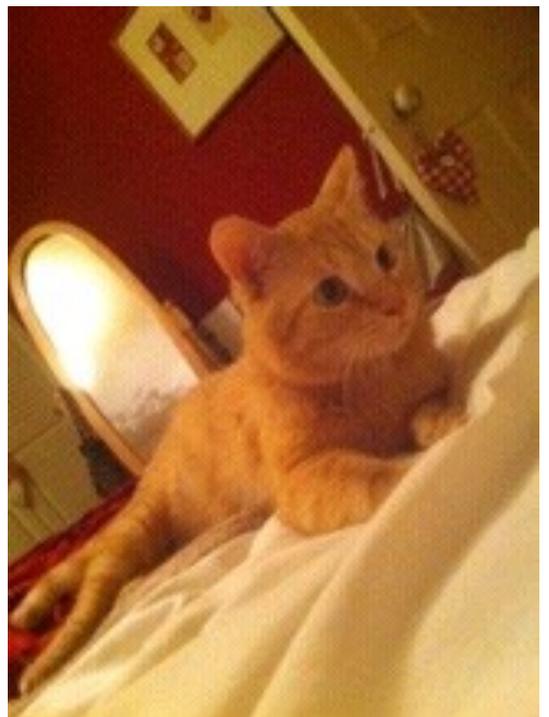
**When Bobster first arrived,
complete with plaster cast on his leg**



**Enjoying the garden,
waiting for Olaf to pop
round**



**What a long way he`s come in
just a few months, reaching out
for a fuss!**



We have a totally different routine now. He sleeps on my bed at night and is always there when I wake up. He then has the run of the garden during the day. He has become best friends (or partners in crime!) with Olaf, my neighbour's cat and no longer hides when friends visit. His fur is soft, he knows his name and comes running through the cat flap when I get home from work. In fact, my friends think he is a dog. All he wants to do is roll over and over and he always comes when he is called. He has progressed a long way from the little scared boy in a cage, will pull his toys out when he wants to play and those first miaows have progressed into Bobby speak. He really is a vocal cat!

Bobby's journey has been incredible. I wake up and his head is on my shoulder and his paws curled around my arm. He is not just a lap cat but a lap invader! He has his annoyed 'humph' sound and an overexcited purr. I would love to know what he is thinking. Does he realise he will never be left out in the cold again? Oh, and the name? I tried so many times to change it....but I always came back to Bobs. He may not be as famous as his namesake but all my friends think he is adorable. They can't quite believe that the cat in the cage in the spare room who shrank back in fear at unexpected noises and strange people will now happily be picked up. He initially seemed most scared of men...now he just wants to play with their shoelaces! And yes, we were right in our initial assessment that he loves other cats. He has turned my garden into his own private local cat meet up!



Bobs and his pal Olaf just chilling in the garden

As I write this, he is draped over the chair, fast asleep. People have said that I did amazing things with Bobby but actually it was Bobby who was amazing. He has learned how to trust, he has let me see his personality and, somewhere down the line he must have thought 'yes, you'll do. I think I will stay here'. I did not want a ginger cat with a limp (actually, this is improving due to ligament supplements) but I would not be without him now.

There are so many street cats out there, named Bob or otherwise, that really deserve a home to call their own so please don't overlook those cats that initially appear timid or afraid. Thanks to the people at the University Hospital, Walsgrave who fed him and Coventry Cat Group who rescued him, I now have my very own street cat named Bob . . . A very special cat who has made me smile again. I like to think that my beautiful boy Gatsby would be proud.

Boris & Chester

Aka The Polar Bears



On 14th. May we had a call from our vets to say that they had had a request to put to sleep two elderly cats. Their owner had passed away and no-one in the family could take them on. Various other rescues had been tried without success and the decision had been reluctantly taken to take them to the vets. Thankfully our vets do not believe in putting healthy animals down and they rang us to see if we could help. We were able to say yes and Billy and Bobby joined us at Di's Place.

We were asked if we would return them to the vets one they had settled in for further examination on their ears, as being white cats, there can be problems if they spend too much time in the sun. It was found that they were both showing signs of cancer and they needed an operation to remove the tips of their ears to stop it from spreading. The operations went well and the boys were returned to us to recover.

All of us fell in love with these beautiful friendly boys. We were concerned that due to their age and loss of half their ears they might be overlooked and remain with us for a long time. They needed a special type of owner. So we took the decision to contact the Coventry Telegraph to see if they would feature them to help us find that special person. The journalist at the Telegraph, Antonia Bannister, was only too happy to help and the feature appeared online and in the newspaper. Happily it brought about the right result, when a lady contacted our helpline and asked to meet them. She did and promptly fell in love with them. A few days later, after a successful home visit, Billy and Bobby (now Boris and Chester) went off to their new home. They settled in very quickly and are living very happily together.

Such lovely cats, and very special indeed. We hope you have a happy and long retirement shedding fur all over the lovely blue throws you love to lounge about on!

Tales from a Trappers Diary 2016

There are so many reasons a cat becomes feral, indeed the term “feral” is often overused. Many people use the term to describe a stray, lost, or wary cat that looks a bit grubby, that is often unneutered and down on its luck.

A true feral has lived “wild” (as part of a colony or on its own) for several generations and stays away from humans most of the time, interacting only when there is a food source. Left unneutered a feral colony will breed unchecked. If a feral female lives to 12 years old she could be responsible for over 3,000 offspring. A sobering thought.

The life of a stray, abandoned or feral cat isn't an easy one. No regular food, no shelter, no vet care and no protection from harm. Such cats are the Homeless of the cat world, a far cry from the lives of our beloved pets.



There are “hot spots” around the City where we are called out regularly and “feed sites” where I monitor and trap feral/semi feral colonies. Sometimes, if appropriate, the cats and kittens come into our care and are homed, otherwise they are trapped, neutered and returned (T.N.R.) - provided that there is shelter and a regular feeder/food source

and of course a safe environment to live in. We get calls from kind people who need help and advice with a feral or stray and after trapping and neutering are happy to have the cat(s) returned to them and provide food and a comfy bed.

Trapping isn't an exact science and it certainly keeps me on my toes! Sometimes the cat in question goes straight in the trap but it's not uncommon for it to take days or even weeks; it can be a real waiting game! Below is just a sample of the kind of jobs we receive in a year that require trapping.



The year started with a trapping job at a regular location that I have trapped on/off for 5 five years. There was a tortie Mum and three kittens. Sadly, by the time I could trap, only one kitten was there, alone sheltering under a metal workshop. A tortie, like her Mum, she came out every day to eat the food I had been putting down. We named her “Leafy”. At the same time as trapping Leafy I trapped another female and two males, all quite feral. After neutering they went to our

specialist feral fosterer James to work his magic. We named them Inky, Stanley and Livingstone.

In March I trapped on site at a local hospital after calls from the public about an injured stray/feral. The unneutered tom cat had been clipped by a car and needed urgent vet care. This cat was fostered later and adopted by one of our volunteers and named “The



Towards the end of the summer a call came in about a friendly Mum cat living in a garden shed with a single 5-6 week old kitten. I went out to do a recce and the little Mum cat was so friendly she came straight up to me and jumped into the cat carrier I had ready! Her kitten had gone to ground so I used Mum cat as bait to flush out the kitten. Hours later in the rain the trap went off and kitten was caught. I named the Mum Summer and her kitten Daisy.

At the end of the summer volunteers Judith and Faye went out to collect a young Mum cat and her kittens. Another older kitten was hanging around but refused to be scooped up. I went the following day with Judith to take a look and saw the kitten playing in some bushes and a small adult darted under a nearby fence. I set traps. The kitten went into the trap, I then used the kitten as bait to get the young adult. Once trapped we took them to our Adoption centre to settle in. I named them Derek and Janet after the couple who, now retired, got me interested in trapping and rescue nine years ago. Derek is a cuddly boy who is being fostered by Vicky— and he just loves her own two cats.

Some trapping jobs are ongoing as in I monitor feral colonies that we have previously TNR'd at. When new cats join the colony or kittens appear we go in and trap to prevent the colony breeding out of control.

I have been feeding daily at one feral site for a year and gradually trapping, neutering and taking the cats into care. So far only one proved to be so feral that to keep it would be detrimental to its wellbeing so it was returned to site and I continue to put food down daily, there are also three kennels on site for shelter.

I trapped the last of the current colony at the beginning of October. Last winter an adult cat and a kitten showed signs of mild Calicivirus (Cat Flu) with some sneezing and runny eyes. The kitten was successfully trapped in the spring but the adult was very timid and remained elusive. The male had been named Fagin and was the last to be trapped after sweet friendly Nancy, both very dear to my heart.

Fagin was well when I trapped him but the cat flu came out again due to the stress of being caught. Despite careful nursing and excellent vet care Fagin became poorly with full blown cat flu developing sores inside his mouth. Under guidance from the vet sadly Fagin had to be put to sleep. I had fed this boy daily for a year and cradled him on my lap as he left this world, his passing weighs heavily on my heart. We can't save them all despite our best efforts and it upsets us.



**When we help a cat or kitten we say
“another life saved”. This helps us carry on.**

Our Open Day 2017

We were blessed with glorious weather after a day of storms when we held our Open Day on September 11th. Again it was a huge success with a great atmosphere in the garden and lovely to see the Centre buzzing with people.

This year we raised a record breaking £1,300 in cash for CCG together with an astonishing £400-500 in donated food.

Many thanks to all our volunteers for helping on the day, to the stall holders and to you, our wonderful supporters who never fail to make us proud.



Bonfire & Beanfeast

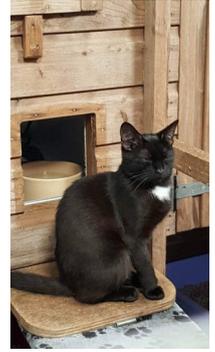
On November 5th we had a Volunteer get together. Roaring fire, baked spuds, toasted marshmallows, sparklers, and laughter. Thank you to everyone who attended.

We really couldn't do it without you .





Fosterers` Tails...



I started volunteering as a cat socialiser for CCG last year. I am so proud to be involved with this wonderful charity. It is so rewarding, really makes a difference and I have gained so much from being part of such a fantastic, committed team and meeting other likeminded people.

I put my name down to be an emergency fosterer. That emergency came on the 12th May this year . . . the centre was full to bursting when a heavily pregnant feral cat called Bianca came in. She gave birth the same day fortunately to four live kittens! My daughter, Holly has kindly loaned out her bedroom for the last five months to these beautiful and lucky kittens. It has been an amazing experience which we don't regret and will never forget!

Caring for a protective feral mummy cat has been challenging and a learning curve. It has been a privilege to watch mummy-cat begin to trust humans and to watch her flourish back with her family now at the centre. She will never have to fend for herself or have babies ever again. Bianca even inspired me to write a poem about the appreciation of feral cats! It has been so lovely to help nurture these kittens develop into the healthy, cheeky little cats they are today.

CCG Volunteer.
The charity have been lucky enough to find a wonderful home for three of the kittens to be adopted together and I have joined the 'Failed Fosterer Club' and adopted the remaining kitten, Kovu.

Alison Rogers.
CCG volunteer

Bianca and her babies

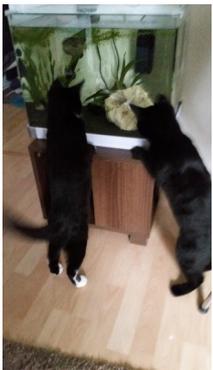


Mummy`s boy Kovu

What is it to be a fosterer?

A fosterer to me means providing a safe, loving environment for cats who would not be able to get the one-on-one care they need at our centre. Below is my latest and most challenging, yet rewarding experience.

Portia and her three, day-old babies came to me as part of a stray trapping job (we took in seven cats). Even though she had been being fed by a human she was semi feral and desperately trying to protect her kittens in a new very scary environment. It was really hard at times, even feeding her or changing a litter tray was a major operation as in the beginning she viewed everything as a threat and would attack. This was made all the harder when the stress brought on cat flu and Mum and babies needed several doses of antibiotics. Easy for mum as I hid them in her favourite sardines, not easy as she wouldn't let me near the babies! This involved some ingenious engineering in the cages to create something like the hatches you see in the lion enclosure at the zoo to be able to separate the kittens from mum!



I named the kittens Bumble, Flash and Zoom. Portia slowly began to trust me enough to handle her kittens. Once they were weaned she left me to join the rest of her family at Feral Towers at the centre. By this time I was able to brush her. She had also started to play, a massive step forward for her and so rewarding for me that she trusted me enough to do it.

Even though this fostering job was really hard and there were times I thought I would never be able to get Portia to trust me or that I had it in me to get her to do so, I can honestly say it taught me so much about what patience, perseverance and love can do. I would do it again without hesitation because it genuinely saves lives. So what happened to the kittens? Bumble went to a new home with some really lovely people.

Flash and Zoom.... well I fell for them both so they have been adopted by me!
Lyndsey B



I have been fostering for Coventry Cat Group for just over three years now and in that time I have had 35 cats and kittens. It has given me so many different amazing memories, watching and helping them develop and letting their unique personalities shine through. I love and cherish each cat and kitten I have fostered and although it is heart breaking when they are adopted, it is also wonderful seeing them go to their new homes and hearing how well they have settled in. I have been very lucky and hear from almost all of the families who have adopted the kitties I have fostered.



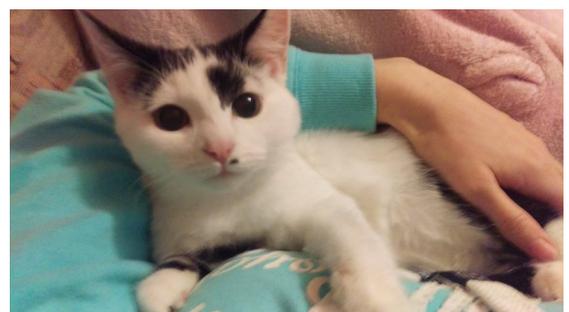
Generally I foster young mums and their kittens as the adoption centre is not the best place for them. This means I tend to have quite a lot at once. Almost all have stayed with me until they have been adopted so they are often with me for 4-8 months. I do the home visits and like to take them to their new homes when they are adopted. This really helps me to let them go and I like to think it helps the cats to settle slightly better too.

The cats I have fostered are:

- Clay
- Chloe and Bowie
- Sheila, Mia, Freddie, Ella, Rafi, George and Buster
- Gerry, Tuffers and Bobby
- Andy and Arthur
- Ava, Toby, Heidi, Susie and Billy
- Annie, Rex, Charlie and Josie
- Juno + 4 premature kittens
- Luna, Gracie, Sophia, Sasha and Ashton



I am currently fostering the adorable Derek who is a very playful, cheeky little chap and very cat friendly. I also have Charlie and Josie who were adopted by my husband and me – finally letting me into the coveted 'Failed Fosterer Club!'



Victoria Woolley

Those who know me well will vouch for my reluctance to embrace technology. I never see the need to be tied to my phone, tablet or pc 24-7. However, working with teenagers I am aware this is probably as much due to my age as my personality! The internet is a valuable tool for charities to advertise their work, greater I think that anyone would have predicted 20 years ago. I can remember life before emails, but admit it`s often easier to use this method of communication now.

Social networking is a thing I resisted for years. Do I need to know what a "friend" had for tea? No hiding from anyone it seems these days. Eventually I dipped my toe into a well-known site. I`ve been heartened to read many stories of pets stolen or lost being reunited via posts going viral. Animal welfare campaigns are able to reach many more people almost instantly. However, I find it distressing to see how easily people sell pets, sometimes within a few hours of getting them. Years ago if you wished to buy a pet you had to put in the leg work. Now it seems, 2 or 3 clicks and it`s yours. Some people put more thought into which shoes to wear each day than if this pet`s right for them, for life. If you pick the wrong shoes you can simply change them. If you make a mistake in your choice of pet, then pop it on the internet and it`s as much as sold it seems today.



Just this summer Judith was asked to take in a pedigree 6-month old British Shorthair kitten Oliver, well-bred and sold in good faith to what seemed like a knowledgeable home. The owner had him only 6 weeks but felt unable to cope as he didn't just sit still and want to be petted. Knowing we were full I took him on privately the same day. He`s fitted right in with my dogs and cats including my other BSH kitten Stanley and they play together for hours. Was he lucky? Or was I in the right place at the right time? Thank goodness they chose to ring Judith instead of just putting him on the internet.

Hopefully our cats and kittens are some of the lucky ones, safe and will be rehomed to the RIGHT home, not the first person who comes along. However, all rescues face a real dilemma. Dogs, cats, rabbits, exotics are being traded without thought for their welfare. People are not willing to hold onto an animal: in our instant society it`s usually take it now. Selling to the first person who stumps up the cash. You will fall in love with the look of it without making sure it's the right pet for you. Hey, she`s not been spayed so you can breed from her! Rescues cannot help every cat, kitten, dog, puppy. Whilst some people are willing to make a quick quid, and others happy to buy without asking the right questions, this trade in innocent animals will continue in a country famed for its love of animals. Perhaps we need to be asking ourselves:

What is our rescue role in this?

2017Coventry Cat Group Membership Application

Name.....

Address

.....

.....

Post Code

Tel No

E-Mail

(E-Mail address will only be used for sending out receipts and other CovCat news.)

Membership January 2017- December 2017

Membership- £10.00

Senior Citizen/Unwaged - 5.00

Other Donation £____,____ (Thank You)

Please tick this if you are a UK Tax payer and agree to allow us to claim tax on your membership and any donations for this year and the last 6 years.

I will /will not * be attending the Annual General Meeting of Coventry Cat Group to be held

Friday May 12th 2017 at Willand, starting 7.30 pm

- please delete where applicable
- Please return to: The Membership Secretary, Coventry Cat Group, 8 Locke Close, Keresley, Coventry, CV62ET

Top Reasons For A Cat To Come In

- My child/partner/I am allergic to it
- I`m moving and can`t take it with me
- I`ve found a pregnant stray/mum and kittens living in my garden
 - My dog/other cat/other pets don`t get on with it
- My landlord wont let me keep it—I knew I didn't have permission but got it anyway
 - A relative/friend has passed away/gone into care and I cant take it on