



FREE

Issue 129 Spring 2020

The Cat's Whiskers

Quarterly magazine from **Shropshire Cat Rescue**



Inside ...

Latest news from our Shelter and Boutique.

What to do if you think your cat may have been poisoned.

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Disclaimer: The information contained within The Cat's Whiskers we believe to be correct at the time of going to press. No responsibility can be accepted for any errors or omissions. The features in this publication are intended as guidelines only. The businesses and products advertised in this publication are in no way endorsed by the Charity

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Welcome to the Spring 2020 edition of The Cat's Whiskers.

We are indebted to Lorraine Fletcher for our unusual cover photograph, taken on Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury. Lorraine is a Shropshire lass born and bred, mum to 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 3 cats. She loves Shrewsbury and photography. Lorraine runs two Facebook groups: "For the love of Shrewsbury" and "For the love of Shropshire" where group members inspire each other with their photography ideas and places to visit. Why not check these groups out? You can of course follow SCR and the Boutique on separate Facebook pages.

As we begin this new decade, I wanted to take time to thank our fantastic Fundraising Team. Shropshire Cat Rescue relies on the generosity of volunteers and supporters to do the job they do. As well organising events, the Fundraising Team also run raffles to add to the Charity's funds. I and the Fundraising Team would like to express our thanks to everyone who has donated a prize for raffles held at the fundraising events during 2019. This list is not exhaustive as many companies and individuals do not leave their names.

Thank you to...

- Has bro
- Laura and Richard - Lefevre Chocolate
- The Salon
- National Trust - Attingham Park
- Peach Tree
- David Trumper
- Julie Kampler
- Cat World - Oswestry
- Tootsies
- Jenna Blair
- The Shrewsbury Club
- Chris Tipton
- Pat Piggott
- Rose Laird
- Vicky and Sandra Matthews
- Kayleigh Bowden-Garner and Jill Bowden
- Ola Trillo
- Daphne Owen
- Ann Butt

...and many others who didn't leave their names with their donations.

I would also like to thank Mel Smith, Boutique Manager for her magnificent Christmas Raffle, you can read more about this on pages 22 and 23.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

David Bates

Magazine Editor



Shelter News.

By Marion Micklewright, Shelter Manager.

As winter arrived at the shelter, we were inundated with cats whose stories were more complicated than we originally thought. Often through no fault of their own, or their owners, these cats have hidden illnesses or behaviour problems that mean finding them new forever homes has proved difficult.

Esme is a beautiful tortie, who came to us after she couldn't settle in her new home. Once with us, we went on the information we had and proceeded to try find her a new home. As we soon found out, a normal home is not ideal for Esme and she was not a fan of being cooped up in her pen and was quick to attack if she thought she was being threatened. Whilst not the friendliest cat we've seen at the shelter, she isn't what we would consider feral and untamed. However, at the time of writing this, we have been desperately seeking a small holding in which she can have the comfort of food and a warm bed but the freedom to do what she pleases. Until we find that perfect place, she has the privilege of being let out her pen and granted the freedom our free rangers have during the day.

Whilst cats like Esme take longer to home and require more time and assessment, others require staying



with us for the foreseeable future. Recently we took in a pair of friendly cats called Sooty and Pudding. Sooty was perfectly healthy and happy but his companion, Pudding, was not so lucky. We discovered he had a bad heart murmur among other issues, Pudding was to stay and become a village cat. Whilst Sooty was well enough to have been rehomed, he was found pining and yowling for his companion whilst Pudding was at the vets. He was going to make sure he didn't go anywhere too!

Christmas was hard on those living in the Retirement Village, with so many old and frail cats, the weather and their declining health meant that sadly we lost a significant number in the last few months, including a much-loved favourite, Sparkle aged 21. Whilst it has been a tough time for the Village, the decreasing numbers have meant we were able to take and help other cats who otherwise would have had to be turned away due to overcrowding. It's at times like this we must always try to look on the bright side and make the most out of every loss.

A lovely mother and daughter duo called Lady and Fudge now reside in the Village, along with new friends Sooty and Pudding. Also, a trio of cats came to us after their carer



sadly passed away over Christmas, all three just over 10 years old and will become accustomed to their new Village life. We expect to see lots of new friendly faces in the next few weeks!

We continue to raise funds for The Big PURR project. This ambitious project is aiming to raise £2m to create a new centre near Shrewsbury. The current total for The Big PURR project is £608,733 and our thanks go to our fabulous Fundraising Team and all our supporters.

During 2019 we had 312 cats arrive and 313 leave the Shelter. As happens every year not every cat story has a happy ending and a forever home. In 2019 we rehomed 85% of our cats, 3% were returned to their original owners, 2% were fostered or claimed and sadly

10% were not well enough to be rehomed. Our new arrivals in 2019 were mainly cats handed into the Shelter, 55%, with a further 33% being strays or abandoned. We had a number of cats born at the Shelter, 4%, and the remaining 8% arriving for a variety of other reasons such as temporary stays or transferred from another Shelter.





Mr. Price



Our pre-Christmas visit from Runcorn students provided lots of fun including an arts and crafts session to make inventive snowmen. Of course, the visit wouldn't be complete with lots of hands on with our animal friends too.

Our Moggies Christmas Wonderland event was well attended, though more so on the Saturday evening

than the Sunday evening. Thanks to Anne Butt for making some wonderful cakes and to all the volunteers who braved the cold to make the evening a success.

Our shelter continues to receive grand makeovers by Tracy and Andy. Our gift shop was the latest addition and continues to look very in vogue. Future projects include fireplaces for the cottages in the village and the positioning of a lovely post-box so that visitors can send cards to their cat friends throughout the year.

Congratulations to Mrs Price for winning a prize in our Christmas Raffle. Mr Price collected the prize on her behalf.

Pleased to meet you...

David Bates, Magazine Editor.

For the last three years I have been editing "The Cat's Whiskers" working as part of a team of volunteers, Marion Micklewright, Karen Wainwright, Susan Marine and Heather Acheson, producing this magazine on a quarterly basis. I was volunteered for this role by Trustee, Marg Lloyd, with whom I had worked previously. We are both now retired.

I have visited the Shelter and the Boutique on many occasions but also follow closely what is going on via social media.

My wife, Elayne, volunteers in the SCR Boutique in Shrewsbury and also helps with the magazine. Our cat, Belle came from the Shelter some four years ago. She featured on the magazine cover in Autumn 2017. Holly, who was also a rescue cat, lived with us for 20 years. There always seems to have been a cat in my life, as a child we had a female tabby, called Tiny, who came to us as a small kitten and lived to a great age.



My late father with his cat

Having lived in various places around the UK due to work, I have been in Shropshire now for some thirty years. I very much enjoy exploring the beautiful county and Wales, especially the coast. I take many photographs of the countryside the coast and of course cats! We have quite a large garden to look after and Belle has a big outdoor space in which to hunt for mice. She does not get on well with other cats and dogs. Fortunately, that is not a problem.

I would like to thank all those who work on the magazine Team and those who support it through advertising and contributing articles. If you have an article or some pictures that you would like to share via the magazine, then please let me know.

I was amused by this quote from the late Sir Terry Pratchett: "In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods; they have not forgotten this." I think we can relate to that.



Belle

Village Life.

By Karen Wainwright, Volunteer.

Since our last edition we have had two newcomers admitted to our Retirement Village.



Fudge

Fudge arrived in the village in November 2019 and is settling in well. Fudge is approximately 9 years old. She came to us when her owner passed away. Fudge does have a heart murmur which is monitored.



Lady

Lady arrived with Fudge in November 2019. Unfortunately, Lady has a much higher graded heart murmur than Fudge. We monitor her very closely. Like Fudge, Lady is settling in well in the village.



Sparkle

It is with great sadness that we finally said our goodbyes to Sparkle in December 2019. He was 21 years and 5 months and suffered significant weight loss and deterioration in his health. Sparkle had been with us since July 2015. He will be greatly missed by volunteers and visitors alike.

VILLAGE FACTS:

- The average age of the residents in the retirement village is 14 years.
- Currently we have 7 males and 16 females.

Photographs by Karen Wainwright.



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In June 2017 Shropshire Cat Rescue relaunched its quarterly magazine as a brand new, full-colour glossy magazine. It is full of interesting and informative articles about cat care and the work the Shelter does.

With a quarterly distribution of 1000 copies, your advertisement can be seen in homes, Vets and more all around Shropshire. It is available online through our website and Facebook page, which has an audience of around 50,000 cat lovers.

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Prestigious Back Cover Position - £120 per edition - £360 for the year



Contact us NOW to be part of this exciting magazine!

Telephone Marion Micklewright on:

01743 872857

Email: info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

Animal Rescue Kefalonia

By Marilyn Burgess, Volunteer.

My daughter Claire and I spent a few days volunteering at Animal Rescue Kefalonia (ARK) in 2019. They have over 350 dogs and cats who are all happy and well cared for. Funding is low and the Animal Rescue Centre depends entirely on volunteers to help out by providing love and cuddles and making donations. Sadly, during the winter months,

when everything shuts down, they quite often have to resort to begging in the streets just to raise enough money to feed all the rescue animals.

We found it a very rewarding experience and as you can see from the photographs, I think the cats were equally pleased to see us. The dogs were all gorgeous too.



Photographs supplied by Marilyn Burgess.



We also rescued a young kitten from the street who was in a bad way and took her to a vet for treatment. Sadly after 24 hours on a drip she lost her fight for life but at least she was in a safe place and loved for a short time - RIP little Hope, run free

over the rainbow bridge. If anyone is interested to learn more about this wonderful place or even maybe visit yourself, you will find them on Instagram **@animalrescuekefalonia**

Save the Date.

Our fabulous Events Team are raising funds for SCR. Please come and support our events.

<p>SCR Quiz Night. Friday 20th March 2020. Salop Unison Club at 7.30pm. Includes raffle. Ring Carol Beels to book your table on 07860 620931.</p>	<p>Sabrina Cruise Live music and nibbles Thursday 23rd July 2020. Tickets £15. Ring Carol Beels to book on 07860 620931.</p>
<p>SCR Stand and tin shake. Saturday 30th May 2020. The Square, Shrewsbury.</p>	<p>SCR Quiz Night Thursday 10th September 2020. Havana Republic, Abbey Foregate, SY2 6AE. Includes raffle. Ring Carol Beels to book your table on 07860 620931.</p>
<p>SCR Quiz Night. Friday 12th June 2020. Salop Unison Club at 7.30pm. Includes raffle. Ring Carol Beels to book your table on 07860 620931.</p>	<p>SCR Quiz Night. Thursday 3rd December 2020. Shrewsbury Club. Includes raffle and food available. Ring Carol Beels to reserve your table on 07860 620931.</p>

Keep up to date about events and other news at www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/shropshirecatrescue) @shropshirecatrescue, [Twitter](https://twitter.com/shropshirecatrescue) @shropshirecatrescue or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/shropshirecatrescue) @bigPURRproject, [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/shropshirecatrescue) @shropshirecatrescue.



How can you help reduce stress?

By Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.

In Part 2 of this article I focus on the importance of play, providing scratching facilities and a safe place, to help prevent stress or reduce existing stress in both single and multi-cat households.

The importance of play: **Golden Rule** – Cats don't stop playing when they reach adult hood.



Pippin by Susie Phillips

The intensity and length of time that cats play alters as they grow from kittens into adults, so several 10-minute bursts of play are more suited to them rather than one longer session.

Set aside 10 minutes throughout the day when you can play with your cat/s using rod or stick toys. Alternate the toys which are left out for them to play with every 1-2 days to keep them interested. Once a cat plays with a toy they see it as killed and are less likely to go back to it so rotating the toys keeps their interest. Interactive toys like ball towers and tracks keep them interested and have the added bonus that the balls don't get lost under the settee.

Laser toys are not ideal as cats cannot catch and hold the light, resulting in frustration. It is also important to allow your cat to catch any toy you are using during a play session to prevent the same kind of frustration. Play mimics hunting so your cat will need to make its "kill".

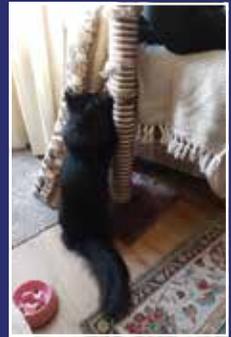


Tyrian by Susie Phillips

Scratching Facilities: Golden Rule – Scratch posts need to be tall enough for the cat to stretch fully.

Provide scratch posts that have a sturdy base preferably square as a round one tends to move and topple when used which may stop a cat from using it again. Ideally the post will have strong sisal string wrapped around it. You can get scratch pads that wrap around the corner of the

settee which means your furniture is protected and your cat still has the place they may have chosen to scratch. Cardboard scratchers are made from corrugated cardboard and are usually horizontal.



Scratch Posts by Susie Phillips

Provide a Safe Place: Golden Rule – Never disturb your cat when in its safe place.

Cats are solitary by nature so you may find that sometimes your cat will be less keen to interact with you. If this is the case continual attention from yourself or others will cause stress. Respect your cat's need to sometimes be alone and provide it with suitable places where it can hide away. Once a cat has chosen a safe place make sure you never forceably remove it from there or

disturb it by initiating interaction. Cats like to be in control of situations so allowing them to dictate the amount of contact they have is the best policy.

Cats like to either be high up or hidden so to avoid stress it is essential to provide them with both sorts of space.

Provide routes for your cat to get up high. It is better to have more than one possible route of entry or exit from these high spaces in case a need arises to flee from another cat or unwanted human attention. Activity centres are also great for providing safe high places.

Igloo beds in quiet areas provide a good safe place. Cat carriers, cardboard boxes or chairs with

blankets over are also ideal. Some cats like to hide in wardrobes or drawers so try to allow this but ensure they are always available if they become a chosen safe place. Of course you will also need to be careful not to inadvertently shut the cat in these spaces.

Some cats may choose a few safe places and alternate between them.



Bob by Susie Phillips



Tallulah by Susie Phillips



Alice by Susie Phillips

Susie Phillips is a Registered Veterinary Nurse and has completed the ISFM Advanced Certificate in Feline Behaviour. Susie has volunteered for Shropshire Cat Rescue with her mum for over 5 years and loves it.

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Lost Shrewsbury.

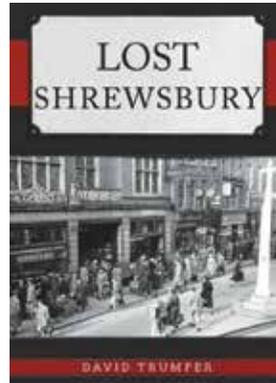
By Carol Beels, Volunteer.

The title of the new book by local historian David Trumper, was the theme of an illustrated talk given by David at Shropshire Unison Club. The audience of 61 came out on a cold, dank November night to support this SCR fundraiser.

David as usual gave an interesting narrative to all the photographs, some of which were very new to his extensive collection. Everyone who attended, including two people from Leamington Spa thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

David kindly gave us a signed copy of "Lost Shrewsbury" which was a very well received Raffle prize at

the Motown night the following weekend. Including the raffle, the Fundraising Team raised £337.50 on the night for the Big PURR project.



Volunteers Night Out.

By Daphne Owen, Volunteer.

On 17th January Shropshire Cat Rescue held their Volunteers Night at The Peach Tree, Shrewsbury. A great night was had by all. Paul Cowdroy of Solid Gold Entertainment took the opportunity to present our fundraising team with a giant cheque for £1,210 raised at November's Motown and Soul Night held at the Lord Hill.

Paul presented another Motown and Soul Night on 15th February at Shrewsbury Town Football Ground,



again supporting Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Paul Cowdroy said, "I've always loved cats and am glad to do my bit for such a worthwhile charity".

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor a Cat - £12 a year



Pickle moved into the Retirement Village in 2016 at the age of 10. She is tabby and white.



Titch is an elderly stray who came to live in the Retirement Village in February 2013. She is black and white and blind, but she still enjoys a good life.



Annwyn is a 12 month old tortoiseshell and white female. She now lives at the Shelter and has put herself in charge of vermin control.



Mandy moved into the Retirement Village in October 2014. She is a blue Chinchilla Persian with lots of character.

Sponsor the Rabbits and Guinea Pigs - £15 a year



There are seven hutches and a large enclosure for the rabbits and guinea pigs. The rabbits are neutered and vaccinated. Some are rehomed whilst others are cared for at the Shelter.

Sponsor the Nursery - £25 a year



The Nursery was built in 2011 from a grant by Support Adoption for Pets. There are seven pens for pregnant and nursing females and two incubators for orphans.

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue

Sponsor the Moggies Retirement Village - £50 a year



The Moggies Retirement Village was built in 2010 and is currently home to over 25 elderly cats.

Sponsor the Shelter - £100 a year



The Shelter was built in 1999 and has continued to grow. We have 13 free ranger cats, 25 cats in the Retirement Village plus up to 122 cats and kittens waiting for homes.

Your sponsorship or your gift

Pickle	£12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your sponsorship begins on the first of the month following receipt of payment and lasts for 12 months.
Mandy			
Titch			
Annwyn			
Rabbits and guinea pigs	£15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will receive a Sponsorship Certificate, plus an information sheet about your chosen sponsorship package, one or more photographs and an annual update to keep you in touch.
The Nursery	£25		
The Moggies Retirement Village	£50		
The Shelter	£100		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat's Whiskers Magazine
TOTAL PAYABLE		£	

Please return the form and a cheque, made payable to **Shropshire Cat Rescue, to Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU.**

More information about our sponsorship packages can be found online at www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk

How to sponsor Shropshire Cat Rescue



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Surname:	
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How you can help us

Not everyone can adopt a cat but there are lots of ways you can support the work we do at the Shelter.

You can find out about our sponsorship packages on **pages 19 and 20**, visit us online at **www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk** or contact Marion Micklewright at the Shelter on **01743 872857**.



Donate any sum of money at our Virgin money giving page.



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The Cat's Whiskers Magazine

The quarterly magazine can be sent to you by post for a minimum donation of £5 for 4 editions. This covers the cost of postage and packaging. You can subscribe online at www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk or contact Cindy Mason-Morris at the Shelter on **01743 872857**.

Leaving a Legacy

If you would like to remember Shropshire Cat Rescue, please write us into your Will and register it with your solicitor; that way you can rest assured that you are going to make a real difference to the lives of many cats. Ask your solicitor to record our charity name "Shropshire Cat Rescue" and number (No. 1071884) or contact the Shelter if more information is required.

Solid Gold Motown Night.

By Carol Beels, Volunteer.

Oh, what a night!!

320 people of a “certain” age packed the Lord Hill Hotel ballroom for a Solid Gold Motown and Northern Soul Revival night, re-living the Saturday nights of their youth in the 1970’s.

Sadly, the last one ever at the Lord Hill, as it will soon disappear to be replaced by houses. Other Revival nights at other venues are planned. The dance floor was packed all night, with people were even dancing in

the bar area, including the security guys!!

Mr Solid Gold, Paul Cowdroy, staged the event in aid of SCR Big PURR project, for which we are extremely grateful. The total raised was a wonderful £1,210.

The Fundraising Team organised a Grand Raffle and with some very generous donations from local businesses and individuals, raised a further £353.00.



NEXT deliver Christmas cat treats.

By Marion Micklewright, Shelter Manager.

A big thank you to Sam, Connie and Alex who brought a box of goodies, collected by the staff at Next, Meole Retail Park, Shrewsbury, for our cats to enjoy over Christmas.



Boutique Christmas Raffle.

Thank you to all our Boutique customers who bought tickets for the Boutique Christmas Raffle and to all our supporters who donated the prizes that went into the 50 prize hampers. We raised a whopping £1,000!



We had a lovely afternoon on 21st December at the Boutique for the draw of the Christmas raffle by Shrewsbury Mayor, Phil Gillam. Music was provided by Smelly Cat Club, who sang Christmas jingles from 1-3pm. We had lots of home-made cakes and mince pies with a glass of sherry for all the customers. Kevin Horak, author of the recently published 'Midred Crazy Cat Lady' also called in to say 'hello' and buy some last-minute tickets.



Shrewsbury Mayor draws Boutique Christmas Raffle.



Smelly Cat Club and local author Kevin Horak.

It is sad to have to report that the Boutique suffered a theft, but local retailers were extremely generous donating replacement prizes.

Finally, a huge thank you to Melanie Smith, the Boutique Manager, who organised the Boutique Christmas Raffle.



Tesco "Rachelves" donate replacement raffle prizes.

Shrewsbury's Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition 2019.

Once again Shropshire Cat Rescue entered the Towns Best dressed Christmas Window competition. This year the theme for the window was pantomimes.

Our Boutique Manager, Mel, decided on Puss in Boots, we are after all a 'cat boutique'!

We were very happy and proud to win the Christmas window for the

Charity Shop category and pleased as punch to be awarded the overall winner as well!

Mel collected the trophies for the winning Christmas window with the other category winners and she received a fab Appleyards hamper for being the overall winner.



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What is a Feral Cat?

By Marion Micklewright, Shelter Manager.

The definition of a feral cat is one that has not had any contact or interaction with humans at all. A feral cat is therefore rarely if ever seen and is not at all dependent upon humans for food or attention. Though if their food source disappears, they may move closer to populated areas to steal food from other animals or from bins.

Animal charities are regularly asked to get involved with feral cats that have “become a nuisance”. These cats are rarely fully-fledged feral cats but are domestic cats that some time ago become separated from their owners or have been abandoned by their owners and are frightened or wary of humans

(unsurprisingly). Sometimes these cats are keen to get back on the “good food giving side” of humans and will respond well to socialisation techniques used in the shelters.

Then there are those cats that have been born to a previously domesticated cat but have had little or no contact with humans since their birth. Unless they are handled before they reach eight weeks of age, most chances of domesticating them are lost and these kittens will grow up to be semi-feral; they need us but don’t want us and there lies the problem.

In all cases a cat that has not been neutered needs to be, the alternative is a growing colony which will very

quickly spiral out of control. People who have enthusiastically tried to pick up an unknown, unneutered cat will quickly learn why traps are the way forward. Cats have teeth and claws and whilst you may be lucky enough to touch the top of the cat's head whilst feeding, it is very unlikely that the cat will tolerate any more. Shropshire Cat Rescue has numerous traps and transfer baskets that we can lend to people but there is a condition. These cats must be

neutered and returned to site with the only exception being very young kittens. There is a good reason for this. These cats do not want to be and more often than not, cannot be tamed. They have not been socialised at the crucial age and will not adapt. People who have tried will find they have a cat that hides, lives in fear and does not socialise with its owners or other animals.



TNR Trap Neuter Return is a nationally recognised programme and in order to identify cats that have been neutered the top part of the ear is removed for easy recognition (this does not cause any suffering to the cat). Male cats are often tested for Fiv and FeLv (Aids and Leukemia) to ensure that disease is controlled within the colony.

We would therefore advise anyone

that is concerned about a cat that has no owner, to get it checked out by a vet to ascertain whether or not it has been neutered. (Shropshire Cat Rescue may be able to help with costs). We would also advise that if you see or know of a cat that is raising her kittens outside, that you contact us as soon as possible so that we can put together an action plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all concerned.

Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique



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HAS MY CAT BEEN POISONED?

By Rebecca Bennett, Quarry Vets.



A common telephone call we get at Quarry Vets is 'I think my cat has been poisoned'.

Whilst cases of poisoning in cats are less common than in dogs, it certainly does happen. Cats are generally more fastidious in what they eat than dogs so poisoning by intentionally eating things they shouldn't is less likely. However, because cats groom their coats and walk in things then lick their paws, they can be susceptible to poisoning by substances that we would not necessarily think of.

This article cannot cover all the problems we may see as vets, and often unfortunately if a case of poisoning has occurred it is not always possible to know what the toxin or poison was, we can only try to deal with the consequences. Some clinical signs of poisoning we see are seizures, collapse and kidney failure amongst others, however some signs of poisoning can come on over a longer period of time rather than instantly.

Some of the more common toxins that can cause problems are:



LILIES

Lilies are common in household flower arrangements and are frequently grown in gardens.

All parts of a Lily are poisonous to cats and cause kidney failure. Chewing of leaves and flowers is sometimes seen, though far more frequently we see the pollen from lilies- often

bright yellow or orange- falling onto a cat's coat and being groomed off. Therefore, even if the lily flowers are not directly accessible to your cat and are up on a shelf or out the way, they can still be a major risk.

The easiest solution –

- **Avoid having lilies in your house and garden**
- **If ingestion or contamination is suspected contact your vet immediately**

PARACETAMOL

Cats will very rarely choose to eat paracetamol tablets out of choice, though it has been known. More likely is that paracetamol is given inadvertently to cats as a painkiller, well-meaning owners not realising that is extremely toxic to cats.

Poisoning by paracetamol causes severe liver damage, and inability of the blood to carry oxygen around the body. Treatment can be successful if started very quickly

after ingestion, however if treatment is delayed the cat may not survive. The easiest solution-

- **store medicines safely**
- **never give paracetamol to your cat**
- **If ingestion is suspected contact your vet immediately**

ANTIFREEZE

Unfortunately, this is one of the most common poisonings we see in cats and usually by the time we see them they are collapsed and usually having severe problems. The toxic component of antifreeze is called ethylene glycol. The prognosis is extremely grave, and they usually do not survive, even with prompt treatment. Poisoning causes rapid kidney failure, collapse and seizures.

Antifreeze (usually for cars) can be licked up off the ground if spilled or licked off paws if a cat walks through some. It is also present in some

de-icers for car windscreens and sadly there have been suspected cases of malicious

poisoning of cats with antifreeze in some areas. Take extreme care when topping up antifreeze levels in your car. Check any screen wash/ de-icer you use to make sure it does not contain ethylene glycol. If ingestion is suspected contact your vet immediately.



There are many other toxins that could cause problems. If in doubt contact your vet immediately if you think there could be a problem. A good source of further information is available at www.icatcare.org. There is also a service provided for owners by the Veterinary Poisons Information service (a charge will apply) called Animal POISON Line phone **01202 509000**

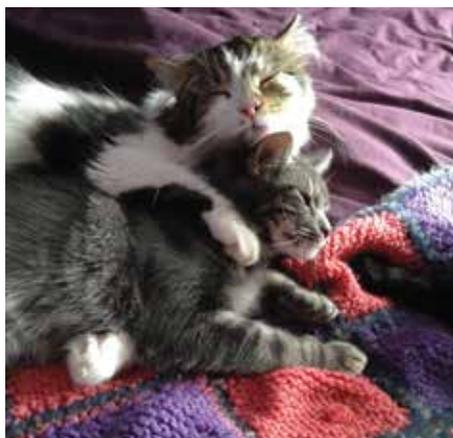
Rebecca Bennett graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1999, and has worked at Quarry Vets, Shrewsbury since 2008. She enjoys all aspects of her job, especially working with cats. Quarry Vets can be contacted at www.quarryvets-shrewsbury.co.uk or telephone 01743 362556.

Your cat Questions.

Answered by Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.

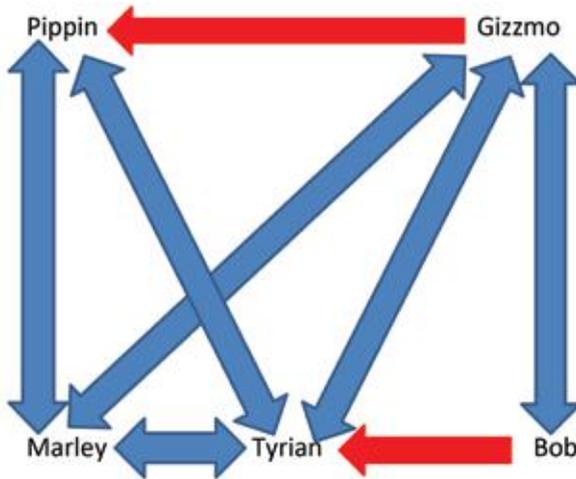
Hi, I am interested to work out what the relationship is between my 3 cats. How can I tell if they like each other? I've heard that even if they all sleep on the bed, they may not be friends although I thought this meant they were.

It is true that sharing the same area to sleep does not necessarily mean your three cats are all friends. They may simply be tolerating each other so that all of them can enjoy a chosen area to rest.

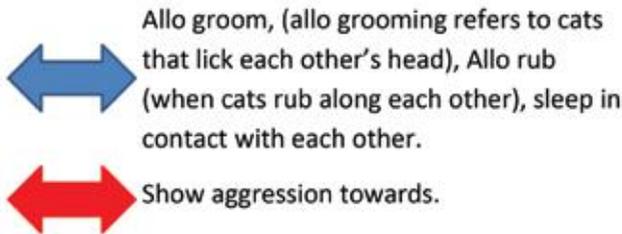


To work out which ones are friendly, and which merely tolerate each other you need to carefully monitor the interactions between them.

Complete a chart like the one below to work out which cat or cats do not see each other as belonging to their social group.



Key:



Cats that allo groom or allo rub or sleep in contact with each other are in the same social group. Those that are aggressive towards each other are not part of the same social group, nor are those that merely tolerate each other, but who have arrived at a compromise between themselves to share their living space to their own advantage. From this chart you can see that

there are 3 social groups, these are: 1) Gizmo and Bob, 2) Gizmo, Tyrian and Marley, 3) Pippin, Marley and Tyrian.

All photographs supplied by Susie Phillips.

Susie Phillips is a Registered Veterinary Nurse and has completed the ISFM Advanced Certificate in Feline Behaviour. Susie has volunteered for Shropshire Cat Rescue with her mum for over 5 years and loves it.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

By Tracy Frampton, DofE and Student Volunteer Officer.

It's been a busy few months for the DofE shift, a lot of new faces have arrived both human and animal.

The highlight, I would say, is when Lauren, Jayde, Cloe and myself went to the National Pet Show at the NEC. Once we got there, we grabbed our programmes and made a plan of action so we could see everything we wanted to.

Lauren spoke with the Sales Director of Pet Remedy and was told a wonderful story of how using the product they managed to help a snow Leopard in a zoo get used to its new home.

Jayde was rather intrigued by the reptile section and went to some of the talks and stood in line for ages hoping to meet "A Street Cat called Bob".

Cloe was rather star struck by Noel Fitzpatrick and enjoyed seeing all the different animals.

I went and spoke to as many people as I could, interested in learning about the products they sell and how they could help us at SCR. One company I talked to for a while was Blink! Cat food. I met a lovely lady called Tash, I told her all about the rescue centre and the work we do on a Sunday morning helping the students accomplish their DofE Awards and helping to improve their confidence along the way. She was so impressed by what she heard she gave me a

box full of treats for me to take back and passed my details on within the company because they have a programme that gives Rescues "Wonky" pouches and within a week Rhiannon emailed me and we received a box jammed to the top with pouches. When she heard that we had some raffle donations stolen from the Boutique, she sent me a box of pouches to raffle off, such a kind gesture.



It is amazing how one conversation telling someone about something you are so proud of can lead to meeting and speaking to new people and making new contacts in the world of Cats!

One thing I can say is all of us enjoyed every minute, went home shattered and slept very well that night, then back to it the next day at the Rescue. I'm sure we will be doing it again this year and who knows who we will meet.

If you are interested in volunteering with Tracy please email her at lovetopurr@virginmedia.com or contact the shelter on info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk
For further information on DofE please speak to your school or visit the DofE website.

Who's Who at Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Shropshire Cat Rescue is a Registered Charity (number 1071884). The charity was established in 1998 and is proud to have Virginia McKenna and Jim Hawkins as Patrons.

You can contact the Shelter on **01743 872857** and the Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique (3 Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury, SY1 1PN) on **01743 236222**. You can write to the Shelter Manager, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU or email **info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk**

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