Inside …

New SCR Boutique opens its door.

Latest news from our Bayston Hill Shelter and Shrewsbury Boutique.  www.shropshirecatrescue.org.uk
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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 2019 edition of The Cat’s Whiskers.

In this edition we cover some recent fund-raising activities. Many thanks to all those who spend time and effort in organising these events and those who generously support Shropshire Cat Rescue. We also cover the opening of the newly refurbished SCR Boutique and our new manager, Mel. We wish her every success in her new position. The money raised from sales supports the shelter and all the outreach and community work we do.

Our cover star is Holly seeking water from a can. As we have mentioned previously, some cats will not drink out of a water bowl if it’s near their food bowl. Others prefer a fountain or even the kitchen sink.

As ever, thanks to our contributors and advertisers.

Comments or suggestions for future articles in this magazine are always welcome. Please let me know your thoughts.

I hope you enjoy reading this Summer edition.

David Bates
Magazine Editor.
We learnt a long time ago that you can never believe what you are told and so therefore never really know what a cat is going to be like (age, colour, temperament) until it actually arrives at the shelter. Admitting four cats that we believed to be in good health turned out to be four cats all with heart murmurs and most requiring lifetime medication. It seemed for several months that every cat that we admitted had a heart murmur and so we have some placed in our retirement village and some living freely as residents at the shelter.

Willow, a longhaired brindle tortie is one of those and has quickly become “top cat”. She has a look that when presented to other cats makes them quiver in their boots and leave the Shelter with speed. Yet, whilst she has the other cats under control, she is the most endearing little cat who is regularly found helping out in the office as well as ensuring our volunteers are entertained whilst having a well-earned break in the staff room.

Dilly and friends

Our retirement village is a wonderful place for elderly cats to relax and be waited on. Some of our new residents take to village life beautifully like Smokey Joe, an elderly chap who hadn’t had a real home for a long time but had been fed by a lady who then passed away. Smokey Joe gets on with everyone and everything whereas Lucy, a three-legged longhair does rather a lot of swearing at both the other residents and the volunteers. She will not be groomed or picked up but as time goes by it has to be said that Lucy is mellowing!

Also new to our village is Dilly, whose elderly owner went into a care home. Dilly is very shy and spent a few weeks hiding in her igloo. Whilst she is still not too keen on venturing out of her cottage, Dilly loves to sit in the doorway and observe the outside world.
People often ask, “what do you do when you go on holiday?” Well, I am very fortunate to have a reliable and competent team of helpers who go above and beyond their normal volunteering to help me out and so to Rene, Karen, Rachael and John, I am very grateful for the care you gave to my own animals as well as the residents at the Shelter.

Thanks also to Bob, Carole and Helen who all independently help out with the Shelter’s grounds and gardens. Bob has been clearing an area of land that we want to use for nature exploration with our younger visitors – a very large oak tree overlooks the area and I am sure would have many a story to tell of the creatures that have lived in, on and around it. Meanwhile Helen has been creating a Willow structure on the event field as well as maintaining the fruit bushes and Carole looks after the village and its window boxes. Thank you all so very much.

Bonnie has had her first litter of kittens, born and reared at the Shelter.
Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique opens its doors.

Shropshire Cat Rescue Charity Shop closed on 7th April and after a makeover was reopened on Saturday 13th April as the new Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique. Thank you to SCR Charity patron, Jim Hawkins, for cutting the ribbon. The new Boutique is managed by Mel Smith, and you can read about Mel on page 8. The Boutique is now open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Thank you to everyone who helped on the opening day. We were delighted to be joined by Smelly Cat Club and Gareth Rhys Jones who provided live music throughout the day.

The makeover was masterminded by Mel, and through her hard work and the support of volunteers the shop has been transformed into a Boutique. A big thank you to the volunteers that provided funds for the makeover, Kim Mason, Mel Smith, Margaret Lloyd and a wonderful customer from America. Huge thanks also to Nigel Sermon, Alison Ashlee, Jamie Graham, Julie Kamplar, Ben Sabin, Kim Williams and Miles, Cherry Turmock, Bobbie Nugent, Sue Romei, Rebecca Jayne White, Melody Coster, Kim Mason, Elayne Bates, Rose Laird, Shirley Wright, Avril Chidley, Ruth Saunders, James Fletcher, Michelle Capener and Susan Marine for all your time given and hard work with the makeover. You were all amazing and it couldn’t have happened without you.
Visit our Boutique on Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury.

We have more preloved items arriving every day. The shop is located on Roushill Bank which is between Lloyds Bank and Café Nero at the bottom of Pride Hill, Shrewsbury.

We are open Monday to Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm and closed on Sunday. You can contact us on telephone: 01743 236222 or keep up to date by following us on our new Facebook page (Shropshire Cat Rescue Charity Boutique).

Photographs supplied by Mel Smith
Pleased to meet you…
By Melanie Smith, Boutique Manager.

Hello, my name is Melanie and I am the new manager of the Shropshire Cat Rescue Boutique in Roushill Bank, Shrewsbury. I have been a volunteer at the SCR shop for the past six years whilst managing the two Grape Tree stores in Shrewsbury. I always enjoyed the time I spent at the shop, so I was delighted to be offered the position as full-time manager as it allowed me to give all my time and energy to such a good cause.

I have many years of retail management experience including managing a recruitment consultancy in London and two bar restaurants in Spain. I love being creative and bringing new ideas to a business so taking on this new role is my dream position. I love cats and get so much job satisfaction working for SCR knowing all I do is helping a local charity.

Throughout my career I have always enjoyed antiques and built up knowledge about them over the years. I had a stall at Ludlow antiques market for a while which was most enjoyable. My knowledge will be useful as this will enable me to spot something of value and raise even more funds!

I’d like to say a big thank you to all our customers old and new, our volunteers that give so much of their time and to those wonderful people that give donations so generously to help the cats. I look forward to meeting all our customers when you pop in the boutique.

If you can spare a couple of hours volunteering in our new boutique or have donations that need picking up, please call me at the Boutique on 01743 236222 or 01743 872857.
BUSINESSES – why not promote your goods and services to these cat lovers with an advertisement in this exciting new publication? The magazine is A5 (14.8x21cm)

- Eighth of a page - £20 per edition - £60 for the year
- Quarter of a page - £35 per edition - £105 for the year
- Half Page - £55 per edition - £165 for the year
- Full Page - £80 per edition - £240 for the year
- 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
Shropshire Cat Rescue wins Silver Award.

The unsung community heroes of Shrewsbury have been officially recognised by the Mayor for playing their part in helping to make Shrewsbury a special place to live, work and visit.

The Mayor’s Awards scheme is Shrewsbury’s equivalent of The Oscars, with local individuals, organisations, groups and businesses being recognised for achievements, which benefit the town.

We were proud to be recognised for our Community Contribution. Mandy Lloyd-Butler and Carol Beels were presented with a certificate by Shrewsbury Mayor, Councillor Peter Nutting in April 2019 to recognise the contribution all the Boutique and Shelter volunteers make. Thank you to the members of public who nominated the volunteers.

Thank you …

Team Oswestry… Trustee, Gill Bowler, and Volunteer, Trish, spent a sunny Good Friday at the Oswestry Family Fun Day, tempting the crowds to spend money on two ‘Prize Every Time’ tombolas. They raised a fantastic £150 for the shelter.

Miaowvellous!
Shropshire Cat Rescue was delighted to learn, two or three months ago, that the charity had been selected by Little Waitrose, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury to benefit from a share of its monthly £500 donation to local good causes.

Becky Richardson from Little Waitrose contacted SCR to say that she now had a cheque ready for collection. Marg Lloyd, one of our Trustees and Volunteers went along to meet Becky and also her colleague, Karen, to collect the cheque.

The amount raised was a fantastic £195. Thank you to Waitrose, their staff and customers for so generously supporting SCR. This donation will be put towards the charity’s Big PURR Project Fund.
On 10th April, Shropshire Cat Rescue held the final Twenty 20 fundraising event, a Dinner and Auction, in Origins Restaurant at Shrewsbury College. What a fantastic event it was to round off a year of fundraising for the Big PURR Project. This amazing event raised almost £2,500 for the Big Purr Project. A big thank you from all the cats that pass through the Shelter doors of Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Sixty guests attended the evening, and all gave generously. We had some amazing auction prizes, all kindly donated, and all snapped up by our generous supporters.

We enjoyed a Pussy Galore cocktail, Prosecco and blackcurrant, on arrival. I’ve never tried one before, but very much enjoyed it. The food was excellent, far beyond my expectations, the service was exceptional too, and all the students were attentive and polite. I would highly recommend this venue.

The thought and detail that went into this evening was very much appreciated by everyone, even down to the seating plan. Each table was given a cat’s name from Shropshire Cat Rescue, and the table I was seated at made my evening. For those that know me, I adore ginger cats, and I do have a special place in my heart for Sparkle, one of the retirement village cats. To be on a table named after him, with his picture on, was wonderful. This was also the case for Sandra Harris, as she was sat on the Titch table. Titch is another village resident and is sponsored by Sandra in memory of her mum.

This event would not have been possible without the tireless work of our hard-working volunteers, Marg Lloyd and Dianne Beaumont. Special thanks to Daphne Owen (Volunteer for Media coverage), Sandra Harris’s Buttonbury Bags for the flower arrangements, Amanda Mullins (Battlefield Printing), Anne Butt for the wonderful cat...
shortbread we enjoyed with our coffee, and the auctioneer for the evening, Alan Miller.

Finally, Shropshire Cat Rescue would like to thank the following businesses/people for so generously donating auction and raffle prizes and cash donations.

@Lesley Palmer Art, @Buttonbury Bags, @Lajina Masala, @Little Yurt Meadow, @La Bonne Parisienne, @Crescent_Cakes, Cindy Mason-Morris, @FJ Jewellery, @Daisy and Tilly Shop on the Hill, @Lefevrechoc, TimberJacks.(Peter Wines), @TootSweetsShrews, @authoraj66, @abbeyforegatPO, @lovelyworld16, @Battlefield_Pri, @bluebellkitty, @pettonpreserves Charles and Maretta Jerrett (in memory of Ollie), Ola Trillo, Majestic Wines, Quilter Cheviot, Jaynie Carpenter, Emma Hill, Elements, Shrewsbury Food Festival, Mitton Manor, Diana Nuttall, Rene Jones, Daphne Owen, Sabrina Zeif, David Harris, Julie Kampler, Tiger Gin, Peter Richardson, Mandy Lloyd-Butler, Melanie Smith, Val Brown, Stan Sedman, Anne Butt.

Photos supplied by Julie Kampler and Marg Lloyd
Welcome to ‘Village Life’. Since the Spring edition we have had a number of village arrivals including Smokey Joe, Molly, Cracker, Dilly and Rob.

Smokey Joe is a lovely boy aged 13. Sadly he came to us as his owner had passed away.

Molly is a very pretty girl aged 18. Unfortunately, she has a Grade 2 heart murmur. She arrived in February 2019.

Cracker is a handsome boy and is aged 12. Sadly, Cracker has a grade 1 – 2 heart murmur. He also has very few teeth!

Dilly is a 10-year-old female. She is very nervous and hides for a lot of the time. We hope, with time, she will settle down.

Rob is 9 years old. He is very friendly and enjoys attention. Rob has a grade 1 heart murmur and also suffers from hyperthyroidism.

It is important to remember the cats that passed away at the Shelter. I create a memorial stone in their memory and these stones can be found around the outside perimeter of our Retirement village.

Photos by Karen Wainwright
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.

**Advertising space for sale**

BUSINESSES – why not promote your goods and services to these cat lovers with an advertisement in this exciting new publication? The magazine is A5 (14.8x21cm)

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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
My name is Kitty. My sister Sophie and I lived very happily with an old lady. She was very kind. Our water and food bowls were always full and her lap so soft. One day she went to sleep, and we could not wake her. The neighbour came to see what the matter was and when no one was looking Sophie and I ran outside. We realised we could not get back in and it dawned on us that we would have to fend for ourselves. One day, when we were very hungry, we heard a noise at our old house, so we rushed back to see if there was any food. We had an awful shock! Sophie and I were pushed into a dark box and after what seemed like hours the box was opened, and we found ourselves in a cage.

Soon after a kind lady came in and brushed our coats. Sophie’s coat was matted as she had long hair, but mine was ok. We had to go to the doctors for a check-up, but all seemed well, however the next day Sophie felt ill. We had a visit from 3 grown-ups who made a lot of fuss of us. I wanted to go with them, but I was worried about Sophie and wanted to stay and look after her. After a while, they decided to take both of us, and we got into baskets and went to their house. It was lovely, we were fussed and given food and water, we really felt at home though we did miss our old lady.

Sophie started to go off her food and didn’t want to eat. She said she felt very poorly. I started getting tummy ache and could not eat so we were taken to the doctors. We both had injections, but it didn’t help Sophie and that evening she passed away. I was heartbroken. My new family gave me a lot of love, but I could not get over losing my sister after all we had been through together. A few weeks later I was picked up and cuddled as usual and told about a little kitten who needed a new mother.

A little kitten arrived, and they introduced me to Holly. Holly was allowed to wander around my kitchen. I took no notice, she was not Sophie. I slept on my owners’ bed and that night the little kitten did too. During the night the kitten cried. I moved over towards her and licked her head. She looked at me and said, “I miss my mum”. I drew her to me and held her tight. At that moment she was mine and I knew I would have to protect and love her.

Well, months have gone by and it is no mean task bringing up a child, especially one as energetic as Holly! She is now seven months old and can fight almost as well as I can. She has to stay in the garden as she has no road sense yet. When the time is right my little adopted kitten will be shown the estate and introduced to my friends. I shall never forget Sophie but, don’t tell my family, I will always thank them for bringing me Holly.

Ruth Saunders is a long-standing Boutique Volunteer. Ruth’s family adopted Sophie, Kitty and Holly. Kitty passed away at the grand old age of 23 and left Holly to learn how to wash herself at 19 years old. Holly passed away 2 years later.
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.

Anwyn 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

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<th>Sponsorship Package</th>
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<td>- 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.</td>
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<td>The Shelter</td>
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<td>- In addition to the above you will also receive 4 editions of The Cat’s Whiskers Magazine</td>
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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

## Your details

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## Is this a Gift?

If you are purchasing a sponsorship package as a gift, please provide the recipient’s details below. Your gift will be sent directly to them with a gift card bearing your name. **To ensure your gift arrives on time, please order your gift package at least 2 weeks before the special day.**

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**Gift Aid it** - boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

I am a UK Taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid the cost of my sponsorship package. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Shropshire Cat Rescue from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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**Shropshire Cat Rescue**

19

**The Cat’s Whiskers Summer 2019**
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.

Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that can turn your old car into cash for UK charity.

To buy a unique range Shropshire Cat Rescue merchandise from our eBay shop.

Visit our page and donate goods from our wishlist.

By Cheque, payable to Shropshire Cat Rescue and sent to Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU.

When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Shropshire Cat Rescue.

A free way to raise money for Shropshire Cat Rescue when you shop online! Shop at over 4,300 leading stores via their website and you’ll raise free funds for us.

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.

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.
People and their Pets Art workshop.
By Susan Marine, Volunteer.

The People and their Pets Art Workshop by Tanya Raabe-Webber, in aid of Shropshire Cat Rescue’s Big PURR Project, was held on 9th February at Quatt Village Hall. Tanya invited participants to bring a photo of themselves with their pet dog, cat, rabbit, budgie, stick insect or any other pet! Tanya, who is a cat lover, had adopted her cat from SCR. Tanya’s cat, Beeny, often spends time in her studio. She explained that Beeny was given her name because she’d “been here” and “been there” but lucky for Beeny, she’s now finally found her forever home.

The morning workshop was fully inclusive, open to anyone, and Tanya soon put everyone at their ease. She showed us how to capture the characters of people and their pets using very simple techniques, giving confidence to those with no or very little artistic ability. Quatt Village Hall volunteer Jaqueline Cooley said, “Tanya is brilliant at making people comfortable and bringing out the best in them, even if they don’t think they can draw. They always surprise themselves!” This was echoed by Di Beaumont, SCR Trustee, who attended, “I really have no artistic skills, but went along as they were supporting our charity. I was pleasantly surprised how much I enjoyed it!”

A huge thank you to Tanya for providing the workshop, all those who attended, and to the Quatt Village Hall volunteers, Jackie and Steph, for setting up and providing the refreshments including a vast selection of delicious homemade cakes. The proceeds from the workshop, raffle and donations for refreshments totalled £257.42 which were donated to SCR.

You can find out more about Tanya Raabe-Webber at www.tanyaraabe.co.uk/ or about Quatt Village Hall at www.quatt.info/index.html
Why Do Pet Cats Hunt?
By Anji Smith, Shelter Volunteer.

Our pet cats only started on the long road to domestication 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, which is a very short time in evolutionary terms. Their direct ancestor was the North African wildcat that depended entirely for survival on its solitary hunting skills (as it still does today) until humans adopted a new lifestyle which changed that for some of them. Cats of all species are opportunistic hunters. They will search for their prey, but if the chance of a quick and easy kill turns up, they’ll seize it, with both paws. When humans turned from hunter gatherers to farmers, their grain stores attracted rodents. The bolder, more adaptable wildcats moved closer to these, to capitalise on this new bounty.

Gradually, the descendants of these cats evolved into our domestic cat, but they haven’t had time yet to diverge completely from their ancestral species. For example, they can still inter-breed with their wild cousins. The Scottish Wild Cat has become endangered as a pure species due to interbreeding with local stray and feral domestic cats. Scientists have discovered that the DNA of the North African wildcat is still written into the DNA of our domestic cat. Feral and many stray and abandoned cats can survive without human intervention. No other domesticated animal can do this well enough to survive for long. Some argue that the domestic cat isn’t truly domestic at all, merely tamed.

Taking all this into account, it’s not surprising that some of our pet cats still feel the need to take a walk on the wild side. Their instincts are urging them to hunt, even if they are well fed at home. In the wild, cats don’t know when their next meal will be, so if they see a chance to seize a prey animal they will, hungry or not. To survive, a cat needs to make 10-20 kills per day and only about 50% of hunts result in a kill. They must be opportunistic. Our pet cats are still hard-wired in the same way as their wild cousins. They haven’t had time yet to lose their instinct to hunt or to take advantage of an easy capture or kill.
Why do some cats become persistent and successful hunters and others less so, with some not even interested in hunting? Opportunity plays a part in a cat’s hunting activity. If a cat lives in an area rich in prey, it is more likely to hunt successfully, without even having to try very hard. Genetics also play a part in a cat’s predisposition to hunt. Feral parents or grandparents will have survived due to their innate hunting skills and will have passed these genes onto their descendants. Similarly, a pet cat with a strong hunting instinct is likely to pass this on to its offspring.

Not all cats hunt successfully. They might be enthusiastic hunters but cannot manage the killing bite, so you end up with a small maimed creature in your house, or even an uninjured one hiding under your fridge. This isn’t because your cat is deliberately cruel but rather because it lacks the learned behaviour and skill necessary to complete its kill. Kittens separated from a feral mother at around 6 weeks of age are still young enough to socialise to humans, but their mother will have already started training them to become successful hunters. They are more likely to hunt, catch and despatch their prey than kittens raised by a mother with no hunting skills or with no opportunity to teach her kittens how it’s done.

And why does your cat persist in bringing its prey back to your home, even though you make it clear that these gifts aren’t welcome? Again, it is instinct guiding your cat. Wild and feral cats, unless their hunger is urgent, prefer to take their prey back to their core territory to eat, where they feel safe. With a pet cat, your home is its home too, its core territory, so naturally it will bring its kills there. It may eat them or leave them for later when it might be hungry, again an instinct for survival that your pet is unable to ignore. Contrary to popular opinion these are not gifts but are more likely to be insurance against future hunger.

Cats are still evolving from their wild ancestors. Through no fault of their own it will take them, as a species, many more years before that instinct to hunt is completely lost, if ever. Even the most cherished cat can’t help being a predator any more than it can help being black, or ginger or tabby.

Anji is a Shelter Volunteer who has completed the International Cat Care Certificate in Animal Behaviour.
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The Big Plan for Ultimate Rescue Relocation (PURR) Project aims to raise £2 million to create an exciting new centre near Shrewsbury to encourage education, community activities, leisure, tourism and animal welfare, to benefit the whole community.

In this edition we feature laboratory facilities. One of the many lessons I have learnt through my work with animal welfare, is that there is so much to learn and discover especially as the parameters involving veterinary research are extending all the time. Regular physical examinations and routine diagnostic tests are essential for cats. Changes in a cat’s health can occur at any time and may not be clear to you as some diseases and conditions have few obvious visual signs. This could mean potentially long periods of time may go by that you think a cat is fine, when in reality it may be suffering through illness. This is the case especially with cats, who have been trained through generations in the wild to hide their ailments even when experiencing extreme discomfort.

The Big PURR Projects aims to have a laboratory at the new site. This would enable students and volunteers to study and learn more about skin, blood and parasitic problems, whilst providing basic equipment enabling us to perform routine in-house diagnostic tests. Routine diagnostic tests currently cost Shropshire Cat Rescue a lot of money, so in addition to saving money in the long term we would have access to test results very quickly.

The detailed planning for all aspects of the Big PURR Project continues as the Charity aims to reach £2m to fund this ambitious plan.

You can donate to the Big PURR Project in many ways. Please go to page 20 to see how you can help us achieve our target.
Let me tell you about the ‘emotional rollercoaster of investing’!
By Dianne Beaumont, Trustee.

Shropshire Cat Rescue is still working towards realising the Big PURR Project, our goal, the Plan for Ultimate Rescue & Relocation. Through a variety of fundraising activities, donations and legacies the Big PURR total is rising. All of last year’s Twenty 20 events added to the Big PURR total. Over the last 3 years we have amassed a considerable sum, which we wanted to make work for us. Hence came the idea to look at investment. We met with a financial advisor Chris Oakes, from Croft and Oakes, who was also a supporter of Shropshire Cat Rescue, and began to explore the area.

Finally, we settled on a firm called Quilter Cheviot and then the journey began with talk of a diversified portfolio, estimated returns and risk, alongside terms such as income and capital.

We wanted a balanced approach between income and capital, with the capital to grow and the income to be reinvested. Primarily we needed to consider our ethical responsibilities, both in terms of the charity’s money and what the charity represents. For example, animal testing companies must not be part of our portfolio and we should invest low to moderate risk commodities.

Our investment has been in place for a year now, we received quarterly reports, initially with good rises and then a slump. The trustees were all taken aback and questioned our responsibilities. This was part of the ‘emotional rollercoaster of investing’.

In the beginning we had the optimism, excitement and euphoria, we were achieving something for Big PURR Project. But then there was a drop, which caused anxiety and fear, maybe a little desperation, had we made the right choice? The next quarter the investment rose, and we felt relief, hope and optimism again. We had to be courageous and move onwards, leaving a large sum of money in our bank was not an option, the Charity Commission do not condone money sitting idle with no growth opportunities. In one year, our investment is 2.5% up, that’s just over £11,000. We are looking to the long term with a minimum investment of 5 years.

Keep an eye on the Big PURR Project thermometer to see how the money grows. It is featured in every edition of the magazine.
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What is Give as you Live?
By Marg Lloyd, Trustee and Volunteer.

A free way to raise money for charity when you shop online! Shop at over 4,300 leading stores via Give as you Live website and you’ll raise free funds for Shropshire Cat Rescue.

Where does the money come from?

Like other price comparison websites, they generate money through affiliate marketing. This means that retailers pay them commission each time a sale is generated for them through the Give as you Live site and they will pass at least 50% of this on to the charity.

Give as you Live works for all registered charities and causes including:

- National, regional and local charities
- Schools, pre-schools and playgroups
- Churches and Rotary groups
- Sports and social clubs
- Scouting associations
- Hospices, street pastors, care trusts, zoos, musical organisations

You can shop through the Give as you Live website, the Shopping Bar or on the go with the Mobile App, so no matter how you shop, you will never miss an opportunity to raise funds for SCR. Simply visit the Give as you Live web page on the mobile device you’d like to use. Follow the instructions to add Give as you Live to your home screen, then once added simply use Give as you Live by clicking on the icon.

The amount you raise on one transaction depends on how much you spend; however, all of these small amounts can accumulate into £’s. Every little bit helps! You get an email from Give as you Live after each transaction letting you know how much you have raised and giving you your accumulated total.

SCR signed up to Give as you Live in 2013 and over the last 5 years, we have received £3,818.62 to support our work.

So next time you are shopping online, please think of Shropshire Cat Rescue and consider signing up to Give as you Live. You don’t even have to be a tax payer.
Raise FREE funds for us when you shop online

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/scr

Simply visit the above link and raise FREE funds for us every time you shop online via Give as you Live!

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HEALTH MATTERS - Diarrhoea.
By Rebecca Bennett, Quarry Vets.

One regular problem we see in kittens, and cats in general - both at the Rescue Centre and in veterinary practice is diarrhoea and upset tummies. A broad term to describe this is 'Gastroenteritis' which means inflammation of the stomach and intestines. It can be unpleasant and frustrating for all involved.

There are many causes of gastroenteritis in our pets. Some common causes are

- Diet
- Intestinal parasites
- Infectious diseases (viruses, bacteria, protozoa)
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Toxins
- Neoplasia (cancer)
- Diseases of other body systems (for example liver and pancreas)
- ...and lots more!

Normal faeces from your cat should be brown, well-formed and passed easily without any discomfort. With diarrhoea, they become soft, liquid or even watery and the colour and smell will often change. Mucus and fresh blood can be seen, and your cat may need to go to the toilet more frequently. They may strain or seem uncomfortable. Drooling, vomiting and anorexia (being off their food) can also be seen.

Sudden alterations in diet and unsuitable food are one of the most common causes of diarrhoea that we see at Quarry Vets. Often all that is needed, if your cat is otherwise well and bright, is a change onto a high quality very digestible food, sometimes in combination with a probiotic supplement. It can take at least a few weeks for the gastrointestinal tract to recover from an episode of diarrhoea. Changing their food back onto their normal diet must be done very gradually.

If a diarrhoea problem is persistent, or if your cat is unwell then we may send a faeces sample, and sometimes a blood sample, to be analysed and ongoing treatments decided based on the results.

In young cats and kittens, we see more infectious causes of diarrhoea, often needing more specific treatments or antibiotics. In older cats, inflammatory bowel disease and certain cancers can cause problems. And of course, we see worms in all ages of cat. Keeping up regular, good quality anti-parasite treatment at a minimum of every 3 months is sensible.

If your cat is having a problem with diarrhoea, your vet will work out the best course of action depending on their examination of your pet and the particular circumstances.

The long-term outcome for your cat depends on the underlying cause of the diarrhoea. Although we always work to try and ‘cure’ a problem, some cases of diarrhoea are never cured but can only be managed long term. If you have concerns about your pet, contact your vet for advice.

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.
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Opening Times
Mon-Friday 8.30am-6.30pm
Sat 9.00am-12 noon

Happy to support Shropshire Cat Rescue
Your Cat Questions
Answered by Susie Phillips, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Volunteer.

I recently lost one of my cats Phoebe and it not only traumatised myself, but it seems my other cat Buster is grieving. Is this possible? He mopes about the house and seems to look for her. It’s really hard to watch him. Is there anything I can do to help him?

I am very sorry for your loss. It is hard to say if Buster is grieving or not. There is a lot of debate around the subject of cats being able to feel grief. As cats were originally a solitary species and not reliant on others as a pack animal such as a dog would be, some people believe they can’t experience grief. However, there is no doubt that cats can feel negative emotions such as fear so they may also be able to feel loss. It is difficult to say for certain.

As humans we tend to think our feline companions have similar feelings to ourselves. For example, we believe they are jealous when we stroke another cat, so we could be expecting them to feel grief as we do when in fact they can’t. I honestly cannot say whether Buster is grieving or not, but certainly the change in his routine caused by the sad passing of Phoebe will be affecting him, causing him stress, and it can’t be ruled out that he could also be feeling negative emotions related to grief. Through the years I have witnessed my own cats deal with the passing of another in very different ways and I have not found any two react in the same way.

I would suggest speaking to your veterinary practice as it might be an idea to get Buster checked over, in case he has any health issues of his own. They will also be able to suggest different nutraceuticals or calming aids that may help Buster feel more relaxed and able to cope better with the changes that have altered his
routine. Trying to keep Buster’s routine as similar as it was before Phoebe’s passing will help him because cats are sensitive to changes in routines and this can be a contributing factor to stress. I hope this helps you in some way and I’m sorry I can’t give you a more definitive answer. My thoughts are with you, Buster and your family at this painful time.

I recently had to take my old cat Tiger to the vets as one of his claws had grown into his pad. I am concerned this may happen again so how can I prevent this?

When cats get older, they can struggle to keep their claws sharp, especially if they are starting to get osteoarthritis. This makes it painful to scratch at vertical surfaces. Cats do this to sharpen their claws as well as for marking. It also helps remove the dead outer layers of their claws. If you have noticed that Tiger no longer uses vertical scratch posts then you could try a horizontal one. There are different types. It may be best to try a cardboard one initially to see how he gets on with it as they are relatively inexpensive. To help prevent Tiger’s claws from growing into a pad again keep a close eye on them. When he is on your lap or close to you and if he lets you, then check his claws to ensure they aren’t getting too long. If you notice he is catching his claws as he walks on carpet then it is time to clip them. If you’re not confident about doing this yourself then you can take him to your veterinary practice. They will happily do this for you and show you how to do it yourself if you feel it would be better for Tiger in the long run.

Susie Phillips is a Registered Veterinary Nurse and has completed the ISFM Advanced Diploma in Feline Behaviour. Susie has volunteered for Shropshire Cat Rescue with her mum for over 5 years and loves it. She has 5 Rescue Cats, Pippin, Gizzmo, Bob, Tyrian and Alice the newest addition.

Susie would love to hear your questions or queries. Email info@shropshirecatrescue.org.uk quoting “Your Cat Questions” in the subject line or write to Shelter Manager, Shropshire Cat Rescue, Windy Ridge, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0AU. We will try to respond to as many queries as possible, but it may not be possible to answer all questions we receive.
When I tell people I supervise teenagers at a cat rescue, I get mixed responses. Some think I must have the greatest patience in the world whilst others think it’s great and tell me what I do is wonderful. But it’s the students on the shift that are wonderful and make it so easy for me to enjoy what I do.

I have a team of young volunteers that are so committed and passionate about the work they do for the charity it’s so lovely to see. But as much joy as the shift can be, we have had our share of sad stories. This is when the true meaning of team work shines through. Last year, when my Dad was in hospital, I continued to volunteer. My head was not 100% in the game but, this just showed me how strong the team was, with everyone just naturally stepping up making sure everything was done and letting me know that I had nothing to worry about.

We have a high turnover of volunteers due to the nature of the DofE programme being for only 12 weeks, so training is of the utmost importance. We have an ethos of acceptance to all and this has never faltered, not once. I have a wonderful team and I am forever proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you to Lauren (Student Vet Nurse and amazing young lady), Patrick (Student Pilot and jester of the group), Harry (soon to be student of engineering and the most intelligent person I know) and Katie (studying Animal Care at university and all round joyful yet a little scary young lady). They have been with me on this journey for over 3 years now and with Jayde, Liv and Liz joining the team since, I know that we will be doing this for many years to come.

More information about the DofE award can be found at www.dofe.org or contact the Rescue Shelter on 01743 872857.

Photographs supplied by Liz Darby - Sunday Assistant Shift Leader
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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