



Charity Reg. No. 1172317

# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2021

It was lovely meeting some of you at the Lightbox Christmas Fair on 29th November and reminded us just what we've been missing. We hope before long we can share our work in person again, fundraise and hear your heart-warming cat stories.

It has been a tough year, starting with us overwhelmed with requests for cats but as predicted the pendulum has swung. It has progressively become more difficult to find homes and we have a waiting list of cats needing our help. We are in the process of recruiting additional fosterers, looking at building some garden pens and recruiting administrative help. In addition we are creating a new section on our website to enable us and the public to better care for stray cats. Watch out for news in the Spring!

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## Dali the houseboat cat!



Sosa (now named Dali after the Spanish painter) came to us with his brother Reggie and friends Brian and Teddy. The brothers weren't close and had different personalities so Reggie, who was very needy, joined a new family of his own.

Dali was the shyest of the four cats. His owner had created private space for him by allowing him to sleep and hide away in a kayak stored in the corridor. This seems relevant when you read about his new home!

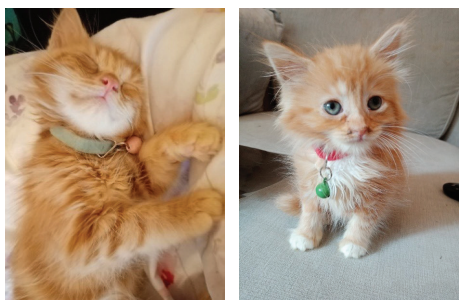
A lovely couple fell in love with his photo. They live on a house boat and were worried they would not be considered as adopters. We talked it through to make sure it might work for Dali and visited the house boat which was beautiful. We felt sure it was a great match! The boat is permanently moored and has a cat flap to outside space. They are experienced cat owners and were able to provide lots of hidey spots and higher up comfy window seats. This was important for Dali to get used to his new environment at his own pace. Access to private spots for a litter tray and sleeping is important for every cat. Keeping Dali safe inside for a month was key before allowing him access on and off the boat using the same route as his adopters to start with.

Dali is now more confident than we'd ever seen him in our care. He hid for just 24 hours before jumping onto their laps for a fuss and to gaze out of the window. We know he'll be a very happy houseboat cat.

Dali's wonderful adopters told us 'Dali was shy and nervous when he came to us. A couple of days later he came out of his shell and is now a cuddle champion and purring machine!'



## The gingernut kittens we named Pistachio, Pecan, Cashew, Walnut and Almond



We collected a litter of five tiny fluffy ginger kittens from a garden shed in October. All did really well with their foster mum who loved her kitten mum duties and nursed them back to health following their initial sticky eyes and sniffles. They needed antibiotics and eye drops, were underweight and all had fleas.

Once strong and healthy, they were all neutered and have joined their new families with new names of Maud, Mabel, Aslan, Juno and Phoenix!

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## Venice and Sorrento - This young pair were part of a colony

We took in eight stray cats from a garden, a hot spot where local residents lack an awareness of neutering and over time a colony had formed which included kittens. The feeders were feeding the cats in their garden though realised that the situation had become out of control. Allegedly, one of the neighbours would breed from the cats and any that were not sold would be put outside. We neutered and returned three very timid adults, put three ten week old kittens into foster and placed a pair of six month old cats who we named Venice (the black one) and Sorrento (black and white) into another foster home. Venice, the friendliest one, we discovered had been shot with an air rifle at some stage, probably because she

would come much closer to humans and just wanted some love and attention. She also has an old eye injury from some form of trauma resulting in a slightly glazed eye. They have found a lovely home together and are beginning to settle into their new lives.



Freda

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## Alternative homes for cats

Since we took part in International Cat Care's (ICC) 'Cat Friendly rehoming' course, we've been doing our best to be very open minded about those cats needing something other than a domestic home, either due to the circumstances they have lived in or their lack of socialisation with humans as kittens.

Those cats we would now class as 'inbetweeners', where their behaviour has shown, during a period of assessment that they would be happier in an alternative lifestyle. Food and shelter is provided though human contact is minimal. This may be in a private garden, on a farm or stables or any other safe situation. Of course given time and kindness such cats may become friendlier and even move 'indoors', the choice being theirs.

With these criteria in mind we helped find Connor, who was quite withdrawn and could get aggressive, a lovely barn on a farm to live on in the countryside. His owners keep an eye on him using CCTV! We also helped Freda, who spent most of her days hiding on top or under kitchen cupboards in her previous two homes. She now lives in acres of space in Somerset with rescued cows for company.

With the help of the RSPCA in London, we were able to re-site three very scared feral kittens onto a farm where they are now living without fear. All of these cats were neutered by the charity and are now much happier living their best lives.

If you feel you can offer a home to an 'inbetweeners cat' please contact us. You will need to be able to provide food and shelter as well as a safe haven away from busy roads.

## Pete's Story

Pete, a charming male tabby, came to us following a road accident which caused injuries to his face and sternum. Whilst clearly an older chap, he was unneutered and also in need of a dental so we arranged for treatment by our vets and placed him with a fosterer for care and comfort. In spite of his handsome, but slightly rugged appearance, Pete was overlooked for re-homing for some months until we received a call from Nikki, a potential adopter. Nikki's much-loved 14 year old cat had sadly passed on and she was looking for a new companion to keep her company as she worked from home. Nikki thought Pete sounded like a good potential match so she swiftly arranged to meet him with his fosterer. Pete allowed Nikki and her friend to stroke him for some time and it was a love match!

Once in his new home, Pete's confidence grew and he has become a wildly affectionate lap cat, much loved by his owner Nikki. However the poor boy has struggled with several health issues. He has been reluctant to jump, had ongoing tummy troubles and a blocked bladder. He has also been diagnosed with advanced spondylosis, where the vertebrae grow and fuse together, reducing a cat's ability to jump and cause pain. Recently Pete received a ground-breaking pain relief injection for his back which already appears to have helped relieve some of his stiffness and is expected to last for around a month. Under our Golden Oldies scheme, Here For Cats are sharing his vet fees, so if you would like help us to help him on his road to becoming pain free and bouncy again, and help him live his best life please DONATE on our website.



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

### SEE HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT US

#### BY DONATING

*To help fund a pen at Five Acres Cattery or to help Pete*

- Consider becoming a **Regular Donor**. No amount per month is too small to contribute towards this much-needed shelter and care.
- Give a **One-off Donation**. All donations continue to make a huge difference to our cats' lives.

To offer your support please click on the DONATE button on the homepage of the Here for Cats' website, [www.hereforcats.org](http://www.hereforcats.org) or send a cheque made payable to 'Here for Cats' to: PO Box 338, Hampton TW12 9DS.



#### BY BUYING

*A shelter cat a toy mouse and dinner for Christmas  
DONATE £4 via the website*

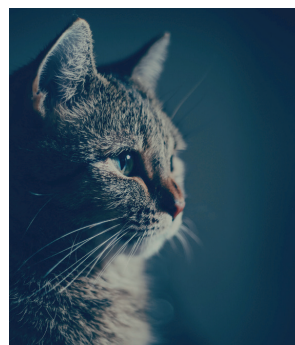
#### BY FOSTERING

If you can offer a short-term quiet home for cats in need of a little TLC whilst they await their forever homes AND you live within a 20 minute commute of Bagshot, Surrey - we need you on our small and friendly team!

Applicants must have their own transport and ideally be available for an induction in January 2022.

Complete an application form TODAY! or email us as below:

[www.hereforcats.org/foster-a-cat](http://www.hereforcats.org/foster-a-cat) or email us at [info@hereforcats.org](mailto:info@hereforcats.org) for more information.





## A special home required for Bert and Ernie



We have yet to find that quiet retirement home for Bert and Ernie this handsome pair of 13- year-olds. They are being reluctantly rehomed as their owners have moved abroad. Bert is the chatty one who likes to visit neighbours and spend time outdoors. His early adventures led to him losing a leg but this doesn't hinder him at all. Ernie is the sensitive one who prefers to be indoors close to you and chirps for attention.

The boys are vaccinated and microchipped. They need a quiet adult home with a safe garden and could suit a working family as they are used to being left during the day, although of course they would appreciate company! They do not want to share with either dogs or other cats.

If you think you could give Bert and Ernie the loving home they need to replace the one they have lost please fill in the adoption request form on our website [www.hereforcats.org](http://www.hereforcats.org)

## Are you looking for that special Christmas gift or pet memento?

If you have been considering buying a stunning print or piece of artwork we recommend Natalie Mascal, our award-winning and superbly talented artist and Here for Cats' Ambassador.

Natalie is a full member the Society of Feline Artists (SOFA) and specialises in Fine Art; realistic wildlife, birdlife, feline, canine and people portraits. She has a broad selection of prints and artwork to buy and if you mention Here for Cats, she will make a generous donation to us! Visit: [www.nataliemascal.co.uk](http://www.nataliemascal.co.uk)



## An exciting collaboration – PetRehomer.org

We believe that cats and kittens deserve better than being listed on commercial pet trading sites such as Gumtree and Pets4Homes so we are delighted to be working with Charity Buddy, a registered animal welfare charity who plan to launch their innovative national pet rehoming platform, PetRehomer.org in early 2022.

PetRehomer, modelled on successful schemes in the USA and Australia, will offer a charitable alternative by adding additional verification to the process to help the public to safely rehome pets directly from one home to another. This should avoid the pitfalls where cats end up in the wrong hands. Here For Cats will provide post-adoption support for cats in our area in those worst-case situations where rescue back up is needed. By offering a safety net it helps rehoming and adopters to feel confident in using the platform. We will continue to offer our own direct rehoming service where appropriate.

Thank you all once again for your support through difficult times. We would not be able to do it without you! Whether you support us financially, with foster care, homechecking, fundraising, transport, the many admin tasks or just share our posts on Facebook to find the cats new homes, you all play your part in helping the charity to be successful.

We hope you have the best Christmas possible and look forward to working together in 2022 to give all cats their best lives possible.

The team at Here for Cats