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Registered Charity  
No. 1070330

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## **Newsletter No 100 Sept 2011**

Dear Supporters

As I write this there are over 100 cats and kittens on the waiting list to come in. Tragically many of those waiting may be abandoned and left behind when their owners move.

I cannot stretch the available space to take in any more cats.

Please, please, everyone who is reading this, consider fostering. There is no expense – all equipment is provided by The Moggery. All that's needed is a spare room and loving care. Please call me on 0117 9243128 and discuss the possibility.

I very much hope to hear from you!

*Christine*

## June 19

Two callers today asking me to rehome due to allergies of family members. I told them of Petalcleanse, a solution made by a Welsh firm called Bio-Life. If this solution is wiped on the cat's coat twice a week it removes the allergens that cause problems. Both callers were genuinely grateful as they didn't want to lose their pets.

## June 20

A Westbury-on-Trym resident had five kittens left on her doorstep over the weekend. She is happy to act as a foster home for the tabby family until I can find homes for them.

## June 23

A depressing call this morning. A woman in St George asked me to take in four adult cats and two kittens due to her son's allergy. She knew my number because I had neutered her two older cats last year. Why did she obtain two more cats after having the original two neutered and why didn't she ask for help in neutering the two younger ones before they got pregnant?

## June 24

Admitted a young male black and white cat who had been living in a plastic cat basket on the balcony of his owner's new flat for three days. He came in with the name Snowman.

## June 26

As I put food down for the Avonmouth ferals this afternoon a small black cat appeared out of the side of a warehouse. I noticed she had a tipped left ear and therefore was one of the cats I have trapped and neutered. She looked well.

## June 27

Today, Room 1 cats had a new floor fitted. At 6am I cut up their old lino and swept and disinfected the floorboards. I placed their food dishes and litter trays on the top landing so they had access while the workmen first nailed plywood sheets then heat sealed the new industrial strength flooring down. The cats normally enjoy running up and down the stairs but because they were locked out of their bedroom as the work progressed they were desperate to get back in. When the work was completed they refused to go in because the room smelt different but by the evening they followed their food dishes in.

## June 28

Room 2 was fitted with new flooring today and as I suspected, whereas most of the cats ran from the worksite, Spud insisted on helping then workmen, checking on the cutting and gluing throughout the day!

## June 29

The office fitting proved a greater problem today as five youngsters hid under the bed and refused to come out so the bed was moved with them across the room and back. All three rooms look beautiful, with sand coloured vinyl which should last 20 years and is far more hygienic than the previous floor coverings. Mary Stirk, a resident of Almondsbury, left The Moggery the necessary funding for the new floorings.

## July 10

I had been told by the gate security staff of a mother cat and kitten by the entrance of the Chittering Estate, so tonight I set a trap (as always with pilchards in tomato sauce) at 10pm. I returned home and within minutes was informed that Mum cat was in the trap. I decanted her into a restraining cage and reset the trap for her baby.



At midnight another phone call informed me that the kitten was caught so I returned to Avonmouth to collect it.

## July 11

The youngster appears to be about 4 months so both cats were taken to Companion Care vets today to be neutered and ear-tipped.

## July 13

Returned Mum cat tonight and left a week's food for the security staff to put down night and morning.

## July 14

The neutered youngster was returned tonight.

## July 19

Admitted two black kittens from Portbury after spaying Mum under our assisted scheme. Portia and Portland have huge ears but are very friendly.

## July 20

Orly came into care today. He had been found playing with traffic on the main road through Lawrence Weston. Much too young to be out on his own this 'Felix' type kitten is now safe.

## July 21

Foster homer Kelly called to say she had seen a "Pregnant cat free to good home" advert on Gumtree. I asked her to please bring her in as soon as possible as the motive of any prospective home may be to profit from the sale of her kittens and then turn her out. We don't have the space but we can't leave her.

## July 22

Kelly persuaded a friend today to act as a foster home for the expectant mum.

## July 23

Cinders, a very sweet white cat with a smudge on her head, had a return visit to the vet today. In 16 years she has been the worst cat to give tablets to. Normally I 'bundle' the patient in a towel and follow the tablet with a swish of water from a syringe – it always works. Last week I had 12 attempts in one evening with Cinders before conceding defeat as each time she spat the tablet out before it could be rinsed down with the syringe. The locum vet today was confident we could tablet her if we worked together. I wrapped her in not one but two towels and battle commenced. The tablet was in; she spat it out, reinstated and spat out again. I leaned over the table, Cinders freed her hind legs, scratched the vet who pulled her hand back sharply, punching me in the mouth causing me to bite her (the vet not the cat) but the tablet was still lying on the table. The vet and I agreed on a different kind of treatment – by injection.

## July 24

Gypsy Moth has been enjoying the great outdoors for several months now. This black cat from Avonmouth had looked out of the cat flap for years but couldn't work out how to open it. He progressed to having his head out looking but it was months before he understood the principle of following through. Last Monday while he was in the garden the people who live behind The Moggery HQ took down their old fence panels. This must have confused him as he didn't come home that night or the next. I was told he was spending his time looking through the neighbour's French windows, but kept running off if I approached him. So tonight I set two traps for him and just before midnight he was in one of the traps. He didn't know me and hid behind the living room curtain.



## July 25

This morning Gypsy Moth was eating breakfast with the others – his big adventure forgotten. I've read of cats walking miles to their old homes but Gypsy Moth couldn't find his way home from 20 metres away!

## July 26

I think today's story is the most callous I have encountered. A small dark tortie was left behind by her owners outside a block of flats in Henbury. Another resident in the block took her in when she realised the cat was pregnant, sold her kittens and turned her out again. I have to remind myself – for every person that acts so callously there are a thousand who feel very angry about it. Rumble is now safe.

## July 27

As I came in the door from yet another vet run the phone rang. The owner of a takeaway in Stapleton Road asked if I could take in a small cat who had walked through their open back door yesterday. I took down the details and the phone rang again. A black and white cat had been spotted in the bushes around the car park of the local Tesco – could I go up and collect her. I left for Tesco with a scanner hoping the cat had an Identichip. I walked round the car park hedges calling hopefully and spotted a group of staff outside the staff entrance having a smoking break on the steps. In the middle of the group, being stroked and fed ham sandwiches was a very fat black and white cat. I scanned her and recorded her number. She's probably a local cat and I'll check when I get back from Stapleton road.

I parked behind the takeaway and went inside to ask for Jhavid who had made the call. I was taken to the back of the shop and given the "small cat" which turned out to be an eight week old kitten! Where were her mother and the rest of the litter? Jhavid (after

her rescuer) was taken protesting to HQ, but when I added her to a pen of similarly aged kittens she went straight for the food dish. The other kittens were fine about having an extra sister.

I called Petlog and the Tesco cat had a local home. I expect she's bored during the day and visits the store to find company. I left a message for the owner asking if she would equip her cat with a collar and disc to save her being reported to me in the future.

Another call today was from a woman in Little Stoke who had taken in a kitten from a friend who had bought it and who "couldn't cope". The seller of the kitten wouldn't take it back. Once money has changed hands the damage is done. That breeder now won't spay the mother cat because she has made a profit. The Moggery will now have to 'mop up' after her by admitting the unwanted kitten when space is available.

## July 28

Last week I removed three of Dee's five kittens and transferred them to their own pen. Dee was trapped in Bedminster in June with the plan to spay and return her to the feral colony she is in (the group is being fed regularly by householders in the road). However on viewing her in the trap it was obvious that she was heavily pregnant and she was admitted to The Moggery only to give birth the next day to five kittens. The kits were now eating well, so using an aptly named 'helping hand' and wearing protective clothing I was able to lift out three off the kittens with a view to taming them by handling them to enable them to have a normal domestic home. Dee could then have the final two to feed and her milk would begin to dry up naturally before her eventual spaying and return.

All was going well until this morning when I found one of the remaining kittens lying dead by the food bowls. I removed the body and saw fleas around it so I checked her gums.



They were as white as her teeth which signified anaemia which can be induced in kittens by fleas. (Adult cats can survive a flea infestation but fleas can actually kill young kittens.)

## July 29

Dee had known her remaining kits were weak because she would lie on them protectively and growl if I approached her pen; however I had to remove the remaining baby to give it the chance of life. Again, wearing gardening gloves and covered arms I used the 'helping hand' gripper to hold her back enabling me to extract the last of her offspring. I rang the vet and went straight down with the black kitten who was given a cocktail of antibiotics, vitamin B and fluid under the skin. 'Lucky' seemed an appropriate name for her. She hasn't got much of a chance of surviving but everything possible will be done for her. I left her sleeping on her side this evening and hoped for the best.

## July 30

Lucky was still alive this morning and so was given more fluid by the vet. She is having regular mushy food by syringe and can hold her head up now and take an interest in her surroundings.

## Aug 1

Dee was taken in for spaying today and while asleep will be treated for fleas and combed. Lucky has started to feed herself and walk unsteadily around her pen.

I set a trap tonight to catch a stray cat in a garden in Brentry.

## Aug 2

"There's a porcupine in that trap you left last night". I went to Brentry and released a fat hedgehog whose movements were being watched by the stray cat I was trying to catch.

Tonight Lucky ran across the carpet. Her back legs collapsed from time to time but she is obviously feeling much stronger.

## Aug 3

A vet in Bath rang to ask if I could take in nine cats from one of their clients. I have over a hundred cats and kittens already on the waiting list to come in.

## Aug 5

"I've been advertising my kittens and nobody wants them. Two of the ones I've sold have been brought back." This morning's call clearly illustrates both how serious the over population of kittens in Bristol is and how irresponsible the people are who answer "kittens for sale" adverts. A cat is an eighteen year commitment – like a child – not something to cuddle for a day or two then taken back if they puddle on a carpet or scratch a family member.

## Aug 6

Lucky is now chasing flies!

A tabby kitten was caught today in the Bedminster garden where Dee lives. Hopefully she's young enough to tame.

## Aug 7

An early evening call came from a shopper at Morrisons. She had seen two kittens near the recycling area at the store. I took a trap and within minutes a kitten of about ten or eleven weeks had been caught. I waited another hour but there was no sign of any others. I'll try again tomorrow. I took the trapped kitten, who looked half Siamese to the caller's home in Horfield at 10.30pm. The caller's daughter was used to ferals and the family were prepared to put in the time necessary to tame her.



## Aug 8

Another tabby kit was caught today in the Bedminster garden. Sadly this one has a badly infected eye. As he is feral, Piper will need anaesthetising to be treated.

## Aug 9

Vet Paul Guckian at *Companion Care* was able to examine and treat new kitten Piper by giving him a whiff of anaesthetic. His eye has been cleaned out and filled with antibiotic cream and he has had a massive dose of antibiotics and painkillers. As he is feral I can't get near him to continue treatment of his eye so I'll have to corner him in his pen and take him to the vets for further treatment under anaesthetic. Meanwhile his sister Pip who was trapped last week is pleased to have him with her.

## Aug 10

"I'm being evicted by court order today and I've got two cats". I rang larger organisations in the Bristol area during the day – begging them to take these two. Finally, at five to six, as a van came to collect her possessions, I took in the two cats from this caller. There is no room *anywhere* as nobody is adopting in August the main holiday month. The vet surgery kindly agreed to hold them overnight for me. (Unfortunately they are completely black – nobody will want them.)

## Aug 11

"A basket of kittens has been left on my doorstep. They seem to be about twelve weeks". I asked the caller to care for them as we have no room. The Moggery will give her a month's food.

## Aug 12

Lucky is as strong as her sisters now and able to chase and play rough.

## Aug 13

Three weeks ago, Pelican, a black and white long-termer was adopted by a local couple. Her new owners were aware that they needed to be patient with her as she had been here over six years and would need time to adjust. However, she is still hiding under the bed in their spare room, so I'm going to the house in the evenings to do 'training sessions'. This involves lying on my stomach under the bed tickling her as she purrs and rolls over with happiness – but she still won't come out! (I'll have to persist as she has a lovely home in a quiet road if she only knew it).

## Aug 16

Piper had treatment for his infected eye while asleep last week but today I was able to stroke him and pick him up. He has become tame very quickly. I took him to the vets for further treatment today.

## Aug 17

Three weeks ago someone moved out of their Southmead home leaving behind a cat and three kittens in an outbuilding. I went to the house as soon as I heard but there was no sign of any of them. A neighbour thought the owner must have come back for them that afternoon. Today I heard that the mother and kittens were still in the garden so I returned with a trap to catch them and left it overnight with the usual pilchard bait.

## Aug 18

This morning I arrived at the house to find the end of the trap broken. One of the council workmen in the house managed to straighten the sides with pliers so it's still functional. I spent several hours in the car outside the house where I could view anyone entering the garden who might be intent on breaking the reset trap.

