

KITTY MEWS!!

The Ginger Cat House

Quarterly Newsletter February 2022



June and her late husband Ian (Cat Daddy) started the GCH rescue 15 years ago, and she has been rescuing and rehoming cats and kittens in need ever since. June has a dedicated team of volunteers, an amazing website, Facebook/ Twitter and Insta pages, some wonderful foster parents, and superb support from Voo Vets. Starting with two cats June now has 14 permanent rescue residents, as well as 8 cats of her own, and 4 in long-term foster care. In 2021, there were 145 cat adoptions and 75 kittens. This year so far there have been 13 cats and 14 kittens adopted. The rescue work is 24/7 and it thrives thanks to June's commitment, expertise, care and love of our feline friends, along with fantastic support from our amazing followers. Thanks to June and all of you, GCH really is a very special place: a cat sanctuary.

Pitter-Patter



Since Pitter Patter came to us as an orphan in August last year, he has been non-stop fun. Hand-reared by June, with his siblings Splash and Splosh, he stole June's heart early on and became a permanent resident just before Christmas. He was the Christmas Day cat on our 2021 Advent calendar because he is so popular. Pitter Patter has free rein in Kitty Palace during the day and then comes downstairs for 2-3 hours a day, where he causes complete chaos. He climbs everywhere with his huge polydactyl paws: the cat trees; visitors' shoulders, backs, legs; he even recently sent an email from June's keyboard which read '666'!!! Pitter Patter loves to play with Bodhi and

recently introduced himself to Ellie May – she is tolerating him! All the cats like him, even Marty! He loves his fishing rod toys, particularly the ones with feathers and he also likes to open packets of treats and spread them everywhere. His latest trick is trying to open doors – he is very smart!! Eventually he gets tired and sleeps on the window beds or in the top cupboards upstairs. He is a mini-tornado but we love him!! One day he will want to go outside, but we're keeping him close for now!



Hope



When Hope came to us only a few weeks old, having been abandoned at a train station, she had a severe pelvic deformity, very little movement in her back legs and was incontinent. She also has the sweetest nature and an indomitable spirit, so we decided to keep her. Three months on, her top half has grown but her bottom half has not, so she can no longer use her back legs at all. She has a litter tray for disabled cats with a section missing so she can get in; she has partial control of her bowel and bladder. Hope loves company and she enjoyed being in with Wilton before she was adopted. We then had her in with Jiminy, but her recent tummy bug meant we had to separate then again. We have bought her a wave scratcher, which she uses to climb into her cat tree where she loudly greets all visitors to Kitty

Palace. There is nothing she loves more than a cuddle from the daily volunteers, who all adore her. Ultimately, her pelvis is slowly crushing the nerves in her spine so when she is old enough, we hope for a specialist referral to explore her options. In the meantime, she just wants to play and be loved, so she is in the right place.



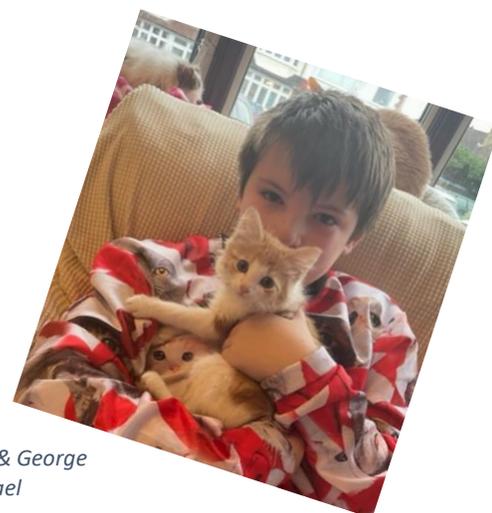
Georgina & the George litter



Georgina

We were delighted when our pregnant stray Georgina gave birth to four kittens at the rescue in September. We named her and her babies after our wonderful old boy Sir George who went over the rainbow bridge that same month. Although the four kittens had coronavirus, Georgina was a wonderful mum who nursed them back to health. Georgia, Georgio, Boy George and George Michael grew up into wonderful kittens, whose condition now just needs to be managed. George Michael was adopted by our foster mum Mel (who looks after Kentucky for us) as a Christmas gift for her son Zach – he was over the moon when he got his surprise on Christmas morning – it reduced us all to tears! The other three kittens and Georgina herself have all gone to wonderful new homes. We love a happy

ending! Sir George would be proud.



*Zach & George
Michael*



Georgia



Georgio



Boy George



George Michael

Over The Rainbow Bridge

Koji



Our 'pocket Persian' came to us in April last year at 10 weeks old. The runt of his litter, June named him Koji meaning 'little one' and we all fell for him straight away. He was so tiny, weighing only 300g, so our first battle was to get his weight up to 1 kilo. He had ongoing eye issues and an upper respiratory infection, but he loved cuddles and always wanted to play. Over the summer, he enjoyed running up and down the lounge with his new friends Bodhi and Gabby; he would get up on the sofa for cuddles, constantly get under our feet and then fall asleep under the table. Koji was a huge hit at the cat cafés, as he loved being cuddled by visitors and his favourite human was Mel's son Zach, they formed a very close bond. He wasn't able to reach a kilo yet, but he was



eating for England, but he also had a couple of fits which was a worry. In November, he finally made it to 1 kilo, which was amazing, but shortly after his weight started to fall back again and he became increasingly subdued. Hospital tests showed the Koji had pituitary dwarfism and hyperthyroidism, which had no cure and would shorten his life. This explained his enormous appetite at least! We nicknamed him mini-George in honour of the infamous Sir George who had passed away that month and also loved his food. Over time, Koji



became less keen to be handled by people and was generally a bit unwell and sometimes growly, but he was still adorable and had his favourite cat bed on

the windowsill where he would fall asleep on his precious heat mat. After Christmas, Koji was even more subdued. At one point he fell over in the front room and just lay there, so we rushed him into hospital, it was yet another upper respiratory infection. At first in January, he was still eating really well, then suddenly he stopped eating, so we knew something was badly wrong. On the second day we rushed him back to the vets at Surbiton and, out of the blue, he crashed; his tiny little heart just stopped. We were all devastated. He has left a huge Koji-shaped hole in all of our hearts, and we miss him terribly. RIP, 'little one'!



Mac



Eleven-year-old Mac came to us just before Christmas when he was found, having been missing for over 3 years. He was a lovely old boy, but he had a few medical problems that needed sorting before he could go up for adoption. Firstly, an eye infection, which turned out to be more serious than we thought so he had his eye removed. Then he had some lumps on his spine and tail, which thankfully weren't cancerous, so they were easily removed. All was well, until the side of his face began to swell, and the vets discovered an infection behind his cheekbone. When he went in for his third operation, the



surgeons discovered it was hemangiosarcoma (cancer of the blood vessels) which is very rare in cats, but it meant that they could not operate because of the risk of bleeding. Tragically that meant that Mac would stay with us for palliative care, and we were happy to care for him. However, within a few days, he was back at the vet with his face swelling again and unable to eat. As he was in pain, we made the difficult decision to have him put to sleep. He was the most gentle-natured and adorable cat, who loved to potter in and out of his pen in Kitty Haven. All our volunteers (especially Margaret) and the nurses and vets at Voo adored him. We are going to miss him terribly. RIP, Mac!

Piper



When foster-mum Julie rescued Piper and her sister Prue before Christmas, there was no indication of the troubles ahead. Lovely Piper did have an unexplained leg injury which, at first, seemed so serious that it might require either amputation or a leg pinning operation. As it turned out, nature took over and started to heal the wound so neither operation was necessary. We were delighted that Piper would only have a limp to deal with and, when she got a clean bill of health from the vet, she was rehomed to lovely owners. All seemed well at first, but within a couple of weeks Piper started losing weight, was lethargic and wasn't eating well. After extensive testing, it transpired that she had a low red and white blood cell count, but her condition was still unexplained; we suspected she might have a liver shunt. Then Piper had a seizure, so

she had a CT scan and a blood transfusion from Julie's cat, Poppy. The scan showed that Piper in fact had FIP, which is usually fatal for cats. At the vets, she was started on a course of the new radical drug Remdesivir to see if it could save her, but overnight her heart just stopped. Piper was only 7 months old. After a difficult start she had known great love with Julie and then her new parents, who were all devastated at her loss. She went through so much in her short life, but she was cherished and loved. We wish we could have saved her, but it was not to be. RIP, Piper.



Ash & Whispa



When Ash & Whispa came to us at the end of November from a breeder, they were emaciated and very poorly, but we fought as hard for both of them as we could. Ash was always the weaker of the two, and he was very subdued from the start. June bottle fed them both, trying to get their weight up. We ran many tests but to no avail, then at the beginning of January, Ash suddenly collapsed. When he got to the vets, he had no blood pressure at all and had to be intubated with oxygen. Despite being on a drip, he passed away at 03:20 am on 3 January. A post-mortem showed that he had Coronavirus, FIP and Panleukopenia. His brother Whispa seemed to be doing well at first, he got his weight

up to 1 kilo and was taking 2/3 of a bottle of milk, but suddenly he too started to fail. On 22 January, he was also rushed to the vet to have his B12 injection, but his core temperature dropped dramatically and he fell into a coma, from which he did not awake. The poor little babies were only 6 months old but were riddled with illnesses from birth. They didn't stand a chance, but they were loved in their short time with us. RIP, Ash & Whispa.



Kaspar



Kaspar and his brother Kamran came to us in mid-December from a breeder. They were beautiful, cuddly Persian boys but both had very bad tummies when they first arrived. Both of them seemed well apart from that at first, but their tummies did not improve so we decided to get the full range of tests done. We had to wait a long time for the test results, and in the meantime, Kaspar suddenly became very ill. In mid-January he was rushed to the vets, and he was put in intensive care on oxygen. Unfortunately, eventually he became unresponsive and passed away on 17 January. His test results showed that he had Coronavirus, Herpes Mycoplasma, Clostridium and pneumonia. RIP, lovely Kaspar.

Holby Kitty

We have so many cats and kittens through our doors, that inevitably from time to time we come across some serious and unusual health issues. We are fortunate to have access to excellent surgeons at Voo Vets and generous supporters who help out when we need extra assistance for such unexpected and difficult circumstances. As you all know, vet bills are our biggest source of stress. Last year we ran up £50,000 worth of treatment! This year, we have already had a number of issues to deal with, here are some of our stories:

Memma



When Memma came to us as a tiny kitten, what was initially thought just to be a perineal hernia turned out to be far more serious. Poor Memma had to have extensive surgery to rearrange her colon, bowel and intestines which were all congenitally in the wrong place, using the muscle from her stomach wall. It was a miracle she survived the surgery but she's a resilient little girl. Now 8 months old, we had thought Memma was a lot better and her bowel and bladder control had improved slightly so we sent her in to be spayed and to look at her prolapse. It was then that we discovered she has no uterus, and since then we have found that she has testicles

and may be a hermaphrodite!! Her lymph nodes are also swollen by her colon and so the vets have taken biopsies, and she has lost a lot of weight. Memma is taking it all in her stride but foster mum Julie is very worried. We have our fingers crossed that Voo vets are able to solve the mystery soon!! Whatever happens, Julie loves her and will look after her.



Memma & Emma at Julie's

Kamran



When Kamran (7 months) came into us from a breeder with his brother Kaspar, both cats were unwell with a host of illnesses. Kaspar sadly passed away, but Kamran had initially seemed to overcome his coronavirus and cryptosporidium and was doing really well. He was loving being out of his pen and playing with the other cats. However recently he then began to vomit and was passing clumps of blood, so we rushed him back to the vets for emergency investigation. It turned out he had a nasty bout of gastroenteritis, which will take a few weeks to get over with the help of antibiotics. Thankfully he is back in good spirits and being his adorable self.

Harley:

Harley (9 months) came to us in the New Year with her sister Mika. Both are beautiful cats, but Harley had a leg injury from being caught in a sofa bed. When we took her in for further investigation, it transpired that the hip joint on her other leg was dislocated and needed to be pinned. Surgery would then be followed by 8-week pen rest. As Harley is bonded with Mika, we would need to find a patient owner for the pair! During her surgery, the surgeons realised that Harley has a condition affecting her growth plates which makes her bones brittle and prone to fracture. She may need her other hip operated on in six months' time. So far, she is recovering really well, and will soon be ready to join Mika, in their wonderful new home.



Daisy:



Daisy came to us just after Christmas with her daughter Cilla, when her owner sadly died. She has two broken teeth which need operating on, but she also has a grade 3 heart murmur, which means that she is at high risk if she has an anaesthetic. Daisy had a heart scan so that we could better assess the risk for her, and it showed that she has an enlarged heart. We are waiting for a specialist report and, in the meantime, she has been put on a blood thinner to give her heart a bit of a rest. Her teeth will have to wait. Poor Daisy!

Kitty Blood Donors

On more than one occasion, our vets have asked for our help with providing blood donations to help cats on the operating table to survive. One such occasion was when our Piper had her recent emergency surgery. Foster mums Julie and Lee have both offered their cats in the past and Julie's Poppy was a match for Piper. Blood donation is an amazing gift if your cat is a match and Julie is working with Lydia at Voo to create a cat donor register. These are the criteria: your cat must be fit & healthy; 1-10 years old; weigh more than 4kg; be up-to-date with vaccinations, flea & worm treatments; not be on any medication; never travelled abroad; never had blood transfusion; indoor or outdoor cats; friendly and ok with being handled. Email at felinedonorregister@gmail.com, if you feel your cat could be a suitable donor. Some of our supporters have already done so. Your cat could save lives!!

Julie's Poppy, George and Ollie were able to help Piper with her FIP, and another cat with pancytopenia. Lee's Scorpio donated blood to help a cat named Thomas who had many issues, but was too far gone, and he was also a match for Mac.



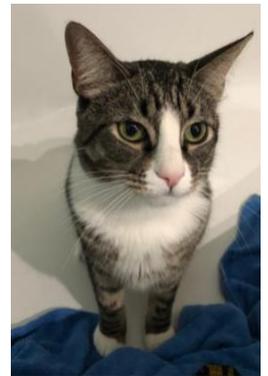
Poppy



George



Ollie



Scorpio

Kittens Galore!

Surprisingly, given that we are out of kitten season, we have had a number of kittens through our doors in the last 3 months. All of them now have lovely homes, except Skye who is still not quite ready at Julie's. We were lucky that Mel fostered Baby, and Lee fostered Poppet and the Christmas litter. Fostering kittens can be hard work, particularly if they need bottle feeding!



Baby



Poppet



Wilton & Dorri



Roo



Cracker



Holly



Jingle



Noel



Tinsel



Danny



Sandy



Rizzo



Zuko



Jiminy



Dolly



Skye

Double Trouble!

Once again, we have also had a few adorable, bonded pairs, whom we have been fortunate enough to home together. Cate & Lilith were fostered by Nina, Cilla & Daisy were with Lindsay as was Mika, while her sister Harley recovers from surgery at GCH, and will soon join her at their new home. Splash & Splosh ran riot at GCH and had great fun at the cat cafés with their brother Pitter Patter!



Cate & Lilith



Splash, Splosh & Pitter Patter



Daisy & Cilla



Harley & Mika

Adopted Cats

While there has been a focus on kittens these past few months, we have also had some wonderful cats here at the rescue and with our fantastic foster parents. Steve had Rocky, Tilly & Purdy; Lindsay had Magic, Molly and Soot Soot; Nina had Honey; Keeley had Lulu; Amy & Will had Stormzy and Smithy; Tom and Maria had a 'foster fail' with Alfie whom they decided to keep – it does happen sometimes! Most of these adorable cats are now in their forever homes.



Rocky



Magic



Molly



Honey



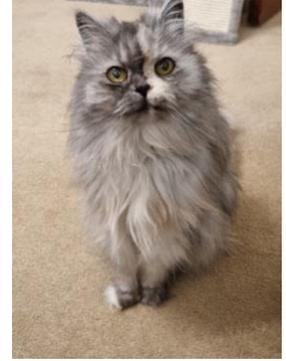
Lulu



Stormzy



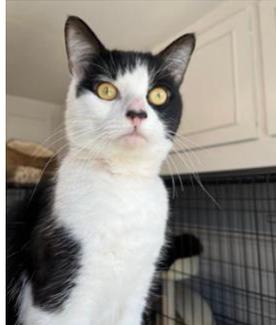
Tilly



Soot Soot



Alfie



Jaspar



Fifi



Purdy



Isla



Teddy



Star

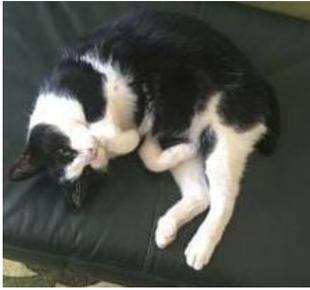


Smithy

GCH International

We are very proud of our collaboration with international rescues, and we have had some wonderful cats and kittens from Europe in recent months. From Bulgaria, we have had Daisy & Lara, and Louis (fostered by Steve and Keeley) and we are looking forward to welcoming Mungo

& Jerry shortly. From Xristiana in Greece we have had Otto and Lia, and we'll be getting three more lovely kittens in early March.



Daisy



Lara



Otto



Lia



Louis



Mungo & Jerry

Sponsorship

Some of our cats cannot be rehomed because of illness, old age, disability, anxiety or the difficult circumstances from which they were rescued. They all live under the permanent protection of GCH and there are currently 14 with June and four (Emma, Memma, Barclay and Kentucky) in long-term foster care with Julie, Linda and Mel. Thank you to those of you who sponsor them monthly. Please see the website if you are interested in sponsorship: www.gingercathouserescue.com. Here are the cats you can sponsor for a recommended minimum of £5 a month:



Symon (7)



Millie (5)



Bonnie (18)



Charlie (9)



Shiloh (4)



Gabby (2)



Gracie (2)



Ellie May (3)



Benny (7)



Lily (3)



Lizzie (6)



Salzi [12]



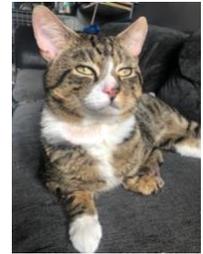
Hope [6 months]



Emma [17]



Fudge [15]



Kentucky [4]



Barclay [16]



Memma [8 months]

Fostering at GCH

We are always interested in meeting new potential fosterers. If you live within 5 miles of the rescue in Worcester Park, work mostly from home, have access to a car, and have no dogs or any children under 8, you may be the person for us. It is preferable (but not essential) for fosterers to have a spare room, and you would be expected to keep your foster cat indoors. We pay for

food and any medical treatment at our local vets, Voo. If you are interested in fostering, please fill out the application form on the 'Fostering' page of our website (www.gingercathouserescue.com) and email it to us on team@gingercathouserescue.co.uk.

We are so grateful to our current wonderful fostering team. Huge thanks to Julie, Lindsay, Steve, Lee, Mel, Amy & Will, Nina, Linda, Keeley and our new foster mum Cathy.

Fundraising & Support

Fundraising is a huge part of the work we do at GCH. Last year alone we had over £50,000 of vet bills and the work and day-to-day care is ongoing. We have a number of initiatives, such as Ping A Pound, which enable us to keep looking after our feline friends 24/7 all year round. We are so grateful for the fantastic support of our followers who are incredible generous with their financial donations as well as food, toys and cat furniture & treats. We couldn't manage without them.

Cat Cafés

We had two cat cafés in December which were both very successful. It's lovely when followers are able to come to the rescue and meet the cats they read so much about online. It's also great for us to put faces to names and to get to know our extended family. There will be more cat cafés this year, so please come along if you can! Keep an eye on the Facebook page for details.



GCH Advent Calendar



Pitter Patter

Our daily Advent calendar goes live early every morning in December on Facebook and we all wait with bated breath to see who is the Christmas Day cat! Perhaps this year it was no surprise to see that it was Pitter Patter, who has dominated the headlines since he first came to us. All our other residents get a day to themselves too, so make sure you check it out in December 2022. Your favourites will all be there!



Symon

Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas online raffle was hugely successful this year because of the fantastic luxury items donated by all of our followers. There was an incredible array of prizes. We were able to raise an amazing total of £1800. Thank you so much!!



Christmas Photo competition



Ollie

We also really enjoyed our Christmas photo competition, where we asked you to send in pictures of your festive felines. In first place was Ollie (owned by Uta) and in second place Thunder (owned by Jessica). We really loved looking at all the photos – there were so many good ones, it was really difficult to choose!



Thunder

GCH 2022 Calendars

We were so pleased with our GCH Christmas calendars this year. We were able to sell 280 of them at £10 each which was a great help toward our fundraising. We also loved being able to put 12 of our followers' cats on the cover. They were: Vera (Annalise); Ollie (Michaela); Mojito (Harry); Pebbles (Stephanie); Lennon (Alison); Midnight (Alan); Max (Emma); Marianne (Kate); Gabriel (Christine); Lozzie (Julia); Hendrix (Maria) and Georgie (Hannah).



Online Sales

We have been delighted by the success of our recent online sales. In January we made £1112 from regifted items after Christmas, and we also made a total of £1355 on our designer bags sale. More of those to come in March!! Thank you so much to all of you who donated such lovely items.

Sponsors' Days



Jiminy

At the end of February, we had our first sponsors' day of the year. It was so lovely to invite sponsors to come to visit their cats. Sponsors keep our rescue running on a day-to-day basis, and so we enjoy the opportunity to welcome them to the rescue. Everyone had a great day cuddling Hope and Jiminy, as well as watching Pitter Patter run around like a whirlwind. Mel was also on hand to take people who sponsor Kentucky to see him. There will be more of those to come throughout the year. This time we had a Young Reporter named Imogen present who wrote a lovely article about us for This Is Local London.

<https://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/19956118.welcome-ginger-cat-sanctuary-safe-place/>



Hope

Socials

We are very lucky to have over 10,000 followers on Facebook, but we have also recently started accounts on Instagram & Twitter. Nina, our social media guru, regularly updates both sites with photos and news. Please follow us!

Facebook: @gingercathouse118

Twitter: @ginger_rescue

Instagram: @thegingercathouserescue



Core volunteers

On a day-to-day basis we are so grateful for the daily help from our core volunteer group. One of them comes in every morning to help June with the cleaning of pens, litter trays, general tidying of Kitty Palace and Kitty Haven and helping with the rescue cats. It's not glamorous but it is essential work and invaluable to June. The daily volunteer group is run by Kym, who comes herself on a Friday, and includes Amanda, Margaret, Joanna, Gaynor, Karla, Lynn and Nadia. We also have a bank of reserve volunteers who will step in to help us if needed. Here are some photos they have taken recently while at the rescue.

Joanna is also one of our official photographers along with Colin. Pauline is our groomer who comes to make the Persians look presentable! Anne looks after all our electrics and Steve is the rescue handyman. Nina runs our Instagram page. Thanks to all of you.

The core team which assists June with admin, rescuing, fostering, fundraising, car boot sales, vet runs, cat care, events, social media and odd jobs is Lee, Steve, Julie, Kym, Mel, Nina, Margaret and Brenda. More about us on 'Meet The Team' on the website www.gingercathouserescue.com.

Dates for your Diaries:

There will be a number of fundraising events coming up over the next few months so please look out for them. So far:

- Sponsors' Day 5 March
- Online Handbag Sale 6 March
- Cat Café 26 March
- Easter Bazaar 9 April (Willow Tree Pub)

We also hope that Car Booting will recommence at Hook Road Arena in March, every Sunday morning from 7.30-midday. Hope to see you there!

