

KITTY MEWS!!

The Ginger Cat House

Supporters' Newsletter May 2021



June and her late husband Ian (Cat Daddy) started the GCH rescue 14 years ago, and she has been rescuing and rehoming cats and kittens in need ever since. June has a dedicated team of volunteers, amazing website and Facebook pages, some wonderful foster parents, and superb support from Voo vets. Starting with two cats Slinky and Rooney, June now has 14 permanent rescue residents as well as 7 cats of her own. So far this year there have been 56 cat adoptions and 18 kittens. 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.

Kentucky/ Stitch



In April we received a call from a vet in Beckenham asking us to take in a cat with a tail pull injury and bowel problems, who may have been injured in an RTA. They had named him Kentucky because the nurses were eating KFC when he came in! We were happy to take him, but an initial X-ray revealed that Kentucky had a pelvic fracture; a further CT scan showed that, in fact, he had 7 fractures. One of the nerves to his bowel was severed, the other is fine. As a result, Kentucky has to have his bladder expressed 4-5 times a day and only has sporadic bowel control, exacerbated by bouts of diarrhoea. He may have many issues, and had a useless tail, but he is the most adorable, sweet-natured cat.

We are very fortunate to have had the help of foster mum Melanie and her friend Lena, who have fallen in love with Kentucky and are experts at giving him the medical help he needs. He is a happy and chilled-out cat who adores his foster mum and her son, Zach. Melanie feeds him roast chicken and even sea bass, which he loves! There have been noticeable signs of improvement in his bladder control which is also very encouraging. Kentucky was due to have spinal surgery to pin his joints and remove pressure from his spine, in case he becomes



paralysed; and he also needed to have his tail amputated. The cost of the surgery was in excess of £3,500, and we are so grateful that our generous supporters rushed to raise the money for this in a matter of days. At the moment the spinal surgery has been postponed, as his injuries are showing some signs of healing, but his tail has been amputated. Melanie is just pleased to have her lovely boy home. He is a very well-behaved patient and she has renamed him Stitch in honour of his lost tail. It is likely that Stitch will take up to a year to recover from his injuries, so he will stay under our care as a long-term foster cat for the foreseeable future.

Koji



Koji is a Persian kitten and the latest addition to the GCH family. The runt of his litter, his owner had bottle-fed him from birth, but when he got to 10 weeks, she wanted him to go to a good home and surrendered him to us. June, of course, fell in love with him on the spot and decided to keep him! We toyed with many names for him including Yoda and Gizmo, but eventually settled for the Japanese name Koji which means 'little one'. When he came to us, Koji only weighed 300 grams, but we have been feeding him on Royal Canin kitten mouse and he is now 500 grams. He received his first vaccination (a half dose because he is so small) on 8 May and, despite a few eye issues, and a brief upper respiratory infection, he is now doing really well.

Koji is the most delightful kitten; he is extremely cute but also very chilled, like most Persians. Every evening, June brings him downstairs to cuddle him and play with him. We are very proud of him for learning to use his litter tray too! We are looking forward to integrating him with the other cats when he is fully vaccinated. He has another nickname too, 'small George', as they are facially very similar! Kym has also fallen in love with him!



Miss Disgracie!!

There was a time when Gracie was the good sister of our two Persian 'poopkins'. For two years Gabby has been the naughty one, and Gracie was the quiet, well-behaved one. Gracie's growth had been more stunted as a result of having coronavirus, and she had tummy, respiratory and



eye issues. After a recommendation, June switched Gracie's food to Royal Canin hypo-allergenic dry food which is soya-based and the results have been astonishing. Gracie has turned into a complete minx! She has put on weight, has a lovely bushy tail and a new-found confidence. It is lovely to see but has been driving June around the bend!

In the last couple of months Gracie has climbed onto the fish tank, knocked things off high shelves, got locked in the cupboard under the stairs and the larder, climbed into the dishwasher, climbed into the glasses cabinet and broken some glasses, and got paint in her fur when the decorators were in. Then she discovered the cat flap! It has been a delight to see how much

Gracie loves being outside. She runs up and down the garden with such joy, with her new friends Tammy and Ellie May and she loves exploring the garage. Unfortunately, there was a gap in the fence so she escaped but was rescued by June's neighbour, Jean, who had to climb over the fence two gardens down to get her! June has spent many an evening trying to catch Gracie and bring her in for the night – Gracie thought it was a hilarious game. Now June has new fences!! Thankfully, Gabby shows no interest in outside, but it is lovely to see Gracie with such a new lease of life. She has two years to make up for, so watch this space!!



Loki



Loki with Blossom & Lexi

After the tragic loss of Baloo, Sara's family has been adjusting to life without him, but her daughter Amelia was struggling. June decided that she would find another kitten for Amelia to love, to help with her grieving, and after a careful search she found the right one. Loki is the most adorable and sweet-natured kitten and he took to Amelia straight away. He was only 4 months old when he went to live there, but he has slotted into Sara's household and has made friends with Blossom, Lexi and Archie the dog. Loki sleeps in Amelia's room at night and she carries him around in her pouch. Loki also comes to stay at June's for a treat and we thoroughly enjoy having him; he boarded with us when Sara's family went on holiday. He is totally at ease with all the GCH cats, but at first we did have some trouble



telling him and Lily apart! These days though he has put on a bit of weight, as he does love his food. He loves to play with Bodhi and Gabby. While Baloo can never be replaced, Loki is helping to ease the pain of his loss, and he has put a smile back on Amelia's face, which is worth its weight in gold. He is a testament to the healing power of pets!

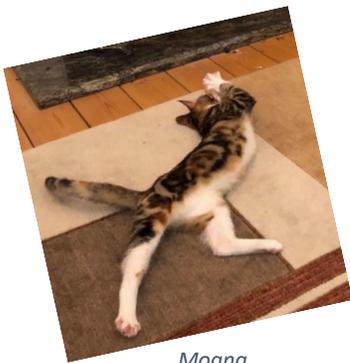
Lord Roscoe of Ham House



Lord Roscoe has had a number of visitors from GCH supporters in recent weeks – thank you for sending us your photos of him! He has been spotted checking out the scarecrows, and packing up the National Trust van. When some core volunteers went on a daytrip in April, he was taking a well-earned nap in the gift shop (it was a very cold day!). The staff kindly brought him out to us and it was lovely to see him and feed him Dreamies. He is a little plumper these days, so we're guessing he gets a lot of treats. What a wonderful rehoming it has been for him. We can't wait to go back when the weather is better to see him again. The beautiful house and grounds are an added bonus! We highly recommend that you put Ham House on your outings list for the summer.

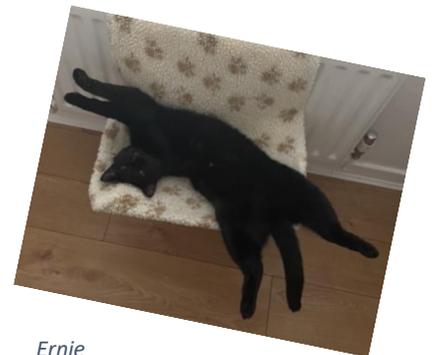


Bodhi Yoga competition!



Moana

In honour of our Bodhi's advanced yoga skills, we decided to hold a Bodhi Yoga competition in March. After numerous impressive entries and over 1000 likes, we finally picked Moana as the winner (she received a goodie box for her trouble), and Ernie as the runner-up (he received a box of Dreamies). Thank you for all the entries - we hope you enjoyed it, and we'll run another competition soon.



Ernie

Adoptions 2020-21

In 2020, we had a record breaking 206 adoptions (117 cats and 89 kittens). So many people have been unable to keep their cats as their circumstances have changed during the pandemic but kittens have been changing hands at ridiculous prices online. Potential adopters must now apply for a home check via email: adoptions@gingercathouserescue.co.uk and the details of available cats are on our website: www.gingercathouserescue.com. Currently our kitten list is closed to new applications. We have already adopted 56 cats and 18 kittens this year, so the good work continues.

Cat Chronicles: while kittens may have been in short supply, there has been no shortage of cats needing our help, including quite a few bonded pairs. Among those adopted in the last three months are: Tiggy & Peppa, Stevie, Rupert, Harvey, Helga & Sniff, Fred & Barney, Max & Mittens, Haylee, Trixie, Sasha, Maisie, Ollie, Mary, Max & Bella, Jonesy and Nala.

'Holby Kitty'

Many of our recent rescues, such as Kentucky, have had complex medical needs and we have relied on the generosity of our supporters to get our cats the help they need before they can go to their forever homes. At times, GCH has seemed like a hospital drama all of its own! Here are some of our other recent medical tales:

Valentina/ Valentino: when Valentino first came to us as an abandoned stary in very poor health, we were told he was a girl! Suffering from Calicivirus and severe neglect he had to have an operation to remove 11 of his teeth (adult cats have 30), but he started to fade on the operating table so they had to bring him round with only 9 teeth removed. It was after the operation that the vets realised that 'Valentina' was in fact 'Valentino'. He has been coming on in leaps and bounds ever since. He has now had this other two teeth removed and has gained 1kg in weight. His mouth will take a while to heal, but he already loves his biscuits. His very smelly and matted fur had to be shaved off, but now is now growing back and he spends his days on his heat mat, eating as much food as he can and playing with his cigar toy! He is a lovely old boy, we think about 14 years old, who is just grateful to have a warm pen and food to eat. When he is completely clear of calicivirus, we shall start to integrate him with the other cats, he doesn't seem to mind them!

He still has some throat problems and it will be a while before he is back to full health, but we all adore him so he can take his time!



Mary: Mary came to us at the beginning of March from Dubai with a bad eye due to cancer. Straight away she went into long term foster care with Steve, as we knew that she would have to have her eye removed and would then take a while to recover. At first, she was very timid and would hide away but she became more adventurous, and even thought about venturing out of her room! Mary is a good-natured little cat who loves her routines and, though not a lap cat, she knows how to demand



attention and fussing. She likes to sleep on the bed beside Steve or in her red soft-carrier, which she remains very attached to. She loves to eat Encore and biscuits and to play with her little white mouse. Now that Mary's eye has been removed, she is in good health and we found a wonderful home for her with Lorenzo & Sabina. She was an outdoor street cat back in Dubai, so can take care of herself, but also likes a lot of fuss. Steve was just the man for the job!

Cola: not all of our stories have a happy ending. Cola was surrendered to us at 11 months because she had chronic diarrhoea and little bowel control. Despite numerous tests, we were at a loss as to what the issue could be. Poor Cola was an adorable little girl but she ended up in intensive care twice as we tried to find a solution to her illness. Sadly, during her second intensive care visit she passed away during the night; the nurses were all devastated. We had a post-mortem done and Cola had died of septicaemia brought on by the fact that her bowel had just disintegrated. It was a condition she had since birth and there was nothing that we or the vets could have done to save her. It was so tragic that such a dear little girl suffered so much, but she is at peace now. RIP, Cola.



Emma: Emma is 17 years old and in long-term foster with Julie, where she rules the roost. She has one tooth, arthritis and chronic diarrhoea. Recently the vets have also found a large mass but have yet to determine what it is. We are waiting for the results of further tests. Emma is quite happy in herself, and goes to the vet monthly for steroid jabs. She likes a fuss, and dribbles all over Julie. She loves roast dinner, her toys and her favourite of Julie's cats is Bailey. She can be grumpy when she is hungry though!



Pye: Pye has been living the good life with her long-term foster mum Linda, but she does have diabetes, which recently has been a bit unstable. She recently became very ill the day before Linda was due to go on holiday, so we brought Pye in to GCH. As we were unable to get Pye to eat, we could not administer her insulin, so we had her admitted to hospital. It was touch and go for a day or two, but the wonderful vets at Voo now have her diabetes back under control and are testing for other conditions such as hyperthyroidism. Pye is back with us and eating again; Linda is looking forward to getting her little girl home.



Gabby: on a less serious note, we had been worried about Gabby's sluggishness and the arching of her back so sent her off for some tests. It transpired she had severe constipation and needed an enema to solve the problem! Suffice to say she is now a lot happier (and lighter!) and is back to tormenting the other cats, in particular Bonnie!



Kittens!!!

With kittens selling for hundreds of pounds on the internet, we were not expecting to have quite so many as last year. However, we do currently have two litters + mums with us, as well as one new kitten with Julie. We now keep kittens all till they have had their second vaccinations so they will be with us until 12 weeks old:

Beatrix Potter litter: Tabitha Twitchett had her 4 kittens in a shed during a recent cold spell. Unfortunately, one died, but Steve and Lee were able to rescue mum and the other three kittens who were a week old at the time. Mum Tabitha is very protective over her three babies and hisses at visitors until she gets to know you, but she does like being stroked. The kittens are absolutely gorgeous, still with blue eyes, and are called Tom Kitten, Samuel Whiskers and Jemimah. They all love to play and like lots of cuddles. The kittens have all now been reserved to lucky families.



Peter Pan litter: Wendy was a stray cat, being fed in a garden while she was pregnant, who came into the house one day and gave birth to five kittens under the bed! Her finder called us when the kittens were two days old, and we brought in mum with her 5 healthy babies. They have been named Peter Pan, Tinkerbell, Tiger Lily, Cecco and Wibble, and they don't give their mum a moment's peace. Wendy is a gentle supermum, who likes to trash the pen at night. The kittens are so playful and are always playing together in a big scrum! Lee has totally fallen in love with them! These kittens have all now been reserved to lovely homes.



Noodle: we were recently alerted to Noodle being sold on Gumtree, so Julie went to his rescue and he is now staying with her. Noodle will be up for adoption shortly as soon as his vaccinations are done.



GCH International

For the last two years, June has been working with Kristiana who runs an amazing rescue in Greece. We are very proud of our international links and are keen to take more cats from Kristiana in the future. She takes kittens from the streets, socialises them and sends them over here to wonderful new homes. Mandy & Sam help with the transport and arrangements from this end.



Valentino & Arthur were the two most recent cats we helped with. Despite hold ups at Calais over new paperwork regulations, we rehomed this lovely 7 month old bonded pair with Charlotte and her family and they are now called Foxy and Badger. We were also able to help Kristiana when her lovely hand-reared kitten Angelos was taken seriously ill upon arriving in this country on his way to his new home. We rushed him to our emergency vets at Voo and, thankfully, they were able to treat him back to full health. Angelos was able to go on to his forever home shortly afterwards.

We have also worked with Flavia at Cat Rescue UK to adopt two cats from Dubai. You have already met Mary, who was fostered by Steve, but we also helped with Sasha whose planned home had fallen through. Sasha was very beautiful but also very loud!! Suffice to say she was keen to get to her forever home but she had FIV, so we had to choose her new owners carefully. Sasha was very chatty and wanted a lot of love, we were delighted to home her to Marcelle and her family, and she is settling in brilliantly.



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 16 with June and three (Emma, Kentucky and Pye) in long-term foster care with Julie, Melanie and Linda. Thank you to those of you who sponsor them monthly. Please contact us for details if you are interested in sponsorship. You will receive a quarterly newsletter via Dropbox. Here are the cats you can sponsor for a recommended minimum of £5 a month:



Symon [6]



Millie (5)



Bonnie (16)



Charlie (8)



Sir George (14)



Gabby (2)



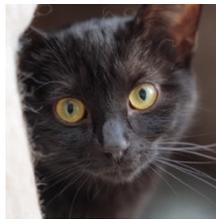
Gracie (2)



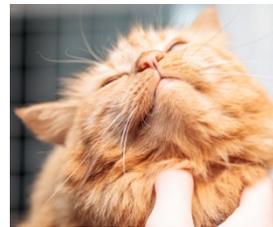
Ellie May (2)



Shiloh (4)



Lily (2)



Lizzie (6)



Salzi [7]



Benny (6)



Emma [17]



Fudge (14)



Pye [13]



Valentino (14)



Koji (14 weeks)



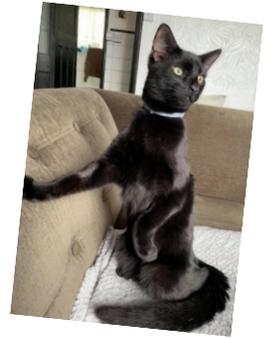
Kentucky/ Stitch (4)

Fostering at GCH



Rolo

We are so lucky to have such wonderful foster parents to help us out. At the moment, we have Emma, Ollie, Rolo and Noodle living with 'super foster mum', Julie. Pye is living with Linda, Stitch (Kentucky) is with Melanie, and Peaches is with our newest foster mum, Lindsay. 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 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 contact us on Team@gingercathouserescue.co.uk.



Ollie



Peaches

Fundraising

GCH is totally self-funding and relies on donations and sponsorship from our generous supporters to keep going. We were delighted to make over £3300 with our online Easter Bazaar, Raffle and Flash Sale. Our first yard sale made £400 and, so far, we have exceeded £300 with each of our car boot outings at Hook Road Arena. We were able to raise more funds with our "Guess Stevie's weight" competition. He was a rather impressive 8.92 kilos!! Our supporters have been so generous with 'Ping a Pound' particularly for Kentucky's operation. When part of his operation was postponed, we were able to use the funds for Pye and Koji's emergency care.



Stevie is 8.92 kilos!

Dates for your Diaries:

Hopefully some of you will have been able to visit the latest Yard Sale this Bank Holiday weekend. Coming up in June are the Sponsors' Saturdays, when sponsors are invited to visit the cats they look after, and to have tea and cake with us in the back garden. In July, if regulations allow, we plan to have a big garden party so everyone can come to say hello! Fingers crossed! xx



Peter Pan



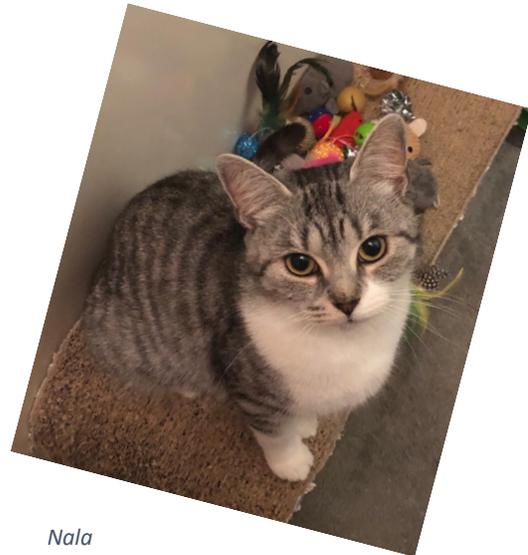
Tiger Lily



Cecco



Jonesy



Nala