

KITTY MEWS!!

The Ginger Cat House

Supporters' Newsletter November 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 15 permanent rescue residents, as well as 8 cats of her own, and 2 in long-term foster. So far this year there have been 138 cat adoptions and 64 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.

Pitter-Patter



The flood litter was born on a compost heap on Monsoon Sunday in Woking. Abandoned by their mum, June began hand-rearing them from 8 days old to 10 weeks. Sadly, we lost Splish to a virus, but Splash, Splosh and Pitter-Patter have thrived and now form the 'mini Mafia'. All three kitten are polydactyls and have enormous paws! Pitter-Patter was the last kitten to be weaned, he was reluctant to make the transition to solid food as he loved being bottle-fed by mum June too much (and went through tons of teats!). Now he loves his Encore and Applaws. He is a little whirlwind and completely fearless. He had a small blip with his health early on, which turned out to be constipation, but now he runs around

madly when he is allowed out of his pen with his siblings. It was clear from early on that June had fallen in love with him, many visitors at the cafés noticed it! Pitter-Patter will be staying with us at the rescue as a resident; he is utterly adorable and very naughty, and he has stolen all of our hearts. He has razor sharp claws though!



Koji



Now nine months old, our lovely Koji's health continues to cause us some concern, but he has never been 100% healthy. We were delighted when he reached his target weight of 1 kilo, and he seemed to have more energy and was integrating well with his new chum Bodhi. Recently, though, he began losing weight again and seemed subdued, so he went back to hospital for tests. We thought it might be a liver shunt or a urinary infection, but it was neither of those things. He has also had a couple of small fits, but thankfully June was on hand to help him. Sadly, it turns out he has Pituitary Dwarfism (Munchkin syndrome) for which there is no cure; he may also have hyperthyroidism. His life will be shortened, but we shall make sure it is also very good. Koji is a great hit at the cafés as he is more than happy for visitors to cuddle him; his favourite is still

Zach, though. One good thing is his appetite, which remains enormous – he is always first in the kitchen for food, following in the footsteps of his mentor Sir George!! Despite his health issues, he is still a firm favourite with all our visitors, and he would love to see you!!



Newborns at the Rescue!



In September, we were asked to take in a pregnant stray cat who had been sleeping under a bush, by a lady who had been feeding her. We name her Georgina in honour of Sir George, our beloved Persian who passed away on the day we took her in. In early October, Georgina gave birth to four lovely kittens in her pen in Kitty Palace; it was a privilege to watch them being born. We named them Boy George, George Michael, Georgio and Georgia; four healthy, beautiful kittens. Georgina is a good mum who loves them and feeds them well, though she struggles a bit with washing them! The kittens are all friendly and playful, and they have just started eating solids. It is so

wonderful to have been able to give Georgina sanctuary so she could safely give birth. We shall be looking for homes for all of them in the New Year.



Over The Rainbow Bridge

In the last three months, four of our lovely cats have passed away. Here are their stories:

Sir George



When Sir George was taken in by June and Cat Daddy in January 2017, he had been a stray on the streets for two years and was close to death. Miraculously, he clung on to life and after 6 months in their loving care, had recovered. He was about 13 years old then. George transformed into the Gourmet cat we knew and loved so well. His appetite was insatiable, as if he never fully believed he would always get fed. He would eat anything but particularly loved Steve's sausages, Chicken Tikka Masala and steak (which June would always bring home in a doggy bag whenever she went out to eat). June would even set a place for him at the Christmas dinner table. George had the most gentle nature and just loved to be around people. He also loved to wee on black bags, in anyone was foolish enough to leave one

lying around! Both Symon and Bodhi have learned this clever trick from him! George was always plagued by eye infections and had to have his eye removed in the last year of his life, but we think he looked rather dashing! In the late summer, George began to lose weight despite his eating, and it transpired that he had cancer. Eight weeks later at the end of September, Sir George died peacefully at home, lying in the sun under the cat tree by the back window. He was 17 years old and had spent his last four years living like a king. RIP George, we miss you terribly!



Valentino



Valentina, as she was then, was found on the streets of Epsom in a terrible state in February of this year. Her finders couldn't bear the thought of leaving her on the street so contacted us. She was matted, wet, filthy and very unwell. It turned out she had calicivirus and rotten teeth, but she was just so happy to be in the warmth. We fell for her straight away. When she went to have 11 of her teeth removed, we found out that 'she' was a 'he', and he was at least 15 years old!! We renamed him Valentino. All Valentino wanted was his warm heat mat and food to eat. His health was never very good, but he was perfectly happy in his pen, and he was so

sweet and grateful. When we opened the door, he would venture out for a little while and then head back in where he felt safe. We realised quickly that he would never be well enough to be rehomed, so he became a GCH resident, and he fitted in perfectly. Valentino always had some weakness in his



back legs, but this became increasingly worse over time. In his last few weeks, he had a couple of mini strokes, his back legs stopped working and he became incontinent, but he refused to give up the fight. Eventually, we made the hard decision to have him put to sleep, and June, Lee and Mel all went with him so they could say goodbye. What a lovely old boy he was, and how lucky we were to have him in our lives! RIP, Valentino.

Pye



When Pye was first surrendered to us, she was adopted by a lovely lady called Dee. Sadly, Dee became unwell and Pye developed diabetes, so we decided to place her in long-term foster care with Linda, who was better able to cope with her ongoing medical needs. Fortunately, Dee lived nearby to Linda so could still get regular updates on her beloved cat. Linda took amazing care of Pye for us. This summer, Pye's diabetes became increasingly difficult to manage. She had irregular glucose curves, which led to an insulin overdose in August; having recovered from that, the glucose curves didn't settle down and she kept crashing, which became very distressing to witness. Linda was distraught but, in the end, she had a vet come out to her home to put Pye to sleep, so that Pye didn't

have to make a final stressful journey to the clinic. Pye was an adorable old lady of 15 years when she passed and was very lucky to have both Liz and Linda who loved her so much. We are very grateful to both of them. RIP, Pye.



Sheba



Sheba was a much-loved cat who came to stay with us temporarily so that we could wean and then rehome her kittens, before sending her back home. To our great surprise, when she arrived, we realised that she was pregnant again so she was going to be with us longer than we first thought. Sheba was a stunning looking cat, and her first litter of kittens all took after their mum, so we called them by designer names: Armani, Gucci, Paco, Louis and Prada. The second litter was equally beautiful but not very well, and Sheba rejected them all shortly after birth, which is not uncommon. The survivors were Freddo, Santos and Kopi and we had to hand-rear them from about 10 days;

it was touch and go for a while, but they thrived. Once all the kittens were well and rehomed, it was time to neuter Sheba and send her home to her family who were missing her. Tragically, within hours of returning home on Halloween, Sheba was found deceased outside the family home, the victim of an unexplained accident. The family buried her at home the next day. We are so sorry for their loss, but Sheba's legacy lives on in her beautiful babies. RIP, Sheba.

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.

Memma



When senior foster mum Julie went to pick up surrender cat Summer, she was also unexpectedly given Autumn and a tiny kitten Memma (as she looks like a mini-Emma!). From the beginning it was clear that adorable Memma wasn't well. At first, we thought it was a prolapse, but it turned out to be a perineal hernia. When the surgeons took a closer look, it transpired that her internal plumbing (colon, intestines etc) was all congenitally in the wrong place. It took two surgeons to completely rearrange her insides, using some muscle from her stomach wall. It is remarkable that she survived, as she was only 4 months old and weighed 900g. Memma is currently on the road to recovery, but she is not out of the

woods yet; she has a urinary infection and a very sore bottom! Julie is looking after her, and she is likely to be under our care for a long time. We are so grateful to everyone who donated towards Memma's huge vet bill, particularly our guardian angel John in America. Without the operation, and your support, she would not have survived. She's a little fighter though!



Piper



When Julie went to collect Sabrina, she was surprised with sisters Prue and Piper (this is not uncommon for us!). While Prue was perfectly healthy, Piper had sustained an unexplained leg injury across her growth plate, which X-rays showed to be very serious. At first, the options presented to us were either amputation or pinning the leg. We took the vets' advice that amputation would be the best option for her, as it was too late to repair the damage with pinning. However, when Piper was on the operating table the surgeons realised that nature was healing the wound better than they thought, and so amputation would not be necessary. Piper's body is compensating for the injury, and though she will always have a limp (and will have to be an indoor cat),

she will be a healthy cat. Nature can be a wonderful thing! Piper is a beauty, and the right owner will have a lovely indoor cat to treasure.



Hope



Hope is now 10 weeks old. She was found abandoned at a railway station in the rain. Clearly not a feral cat, we fear she may have been dumped because of her disability. X-rays have shown that she has no hip joints, a severe pelvic deformity and she has 4 abnormal legs (she is paralysed in 1 back leg and has only slight movement in the other). She is partially incontinent but has learned to use a puppy pad instead of a litter tray, which she has difficulty climbing into. Hope is a bright, sweet and affectionate kitten who is desperate to play with all the others. We think she is inspirational (hence the name) and so she will be staying with us as one of our resident cats. She has more X-rays in 3 months and she will need ongoing medical care. We adore her already; she has fitted right in to the GCH family. Welcome, Hope!



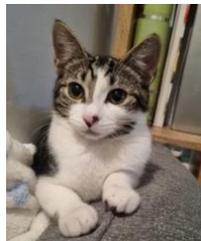
Kittens Galore!

We have been lucky to have a number of beautiful kittens brought to us but also some born at the rescue in the past few months. Most of them have now gone to their forever homes.

Sheba's first litter (Armani, Gucci and Paco) were all sent out to our foster mums Lindsay and Mel. The second litter (born at the rescue!) Freddo, Kopi and Santos stayed with us. They have all now been rehomed.



Armani



Gucci



Paco



Freddo



Kopi



Santos

The Marvel litter (Bucky, Drax, Falcon & Sylvi), Bear and Poppet who were all fostered with Lee also found their forever homes:



Bucky



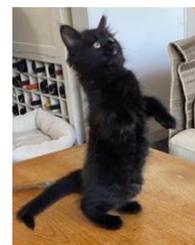
Drax



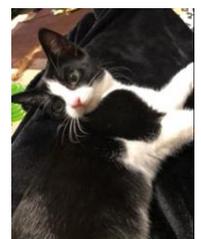
Falcon



Sylvi



Bear



Poppet

At Julie's, we had the lovely Mickey and Coco's babies Zebedee, Brian & Florence:



Mickey



Zebedee



Zebedee & Brian



Florence & Brian

Snoopy was here with us at GCH. As I write we still have Wilton, Dorri and Roo; Baby is with Mel:



Snoopy



Wilton



Dorri



Baby



Roo

Double Trouble!

We have also been fortunate enough to have a number of bonded pairs to go out to some lucky owners!

Sheba's kittens Louis & Prada were fostered with Mel; at GCH we had Kukui & Pecan; Krishna & Rama; Rani & Kali; Joy & Wren; Jasper & Theo.



Louis



Prada



Kukui & Pecan



Krishna & Rama



Rani



Kali



Joy & Wren



Jasper & Theo

Next up for adoption as pairs will be the madcap Splash & Splosh and Cate & Lilith (currently fostered with Nina). Our newest bonded pair at the rescue are Whispa & Ash, who will be with us for a while because of health issues.



Splash & Splosh



Cate & Lilith



Whispa



Ash

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 Romania, through our contact Rebecca, we rescued Thea & Lozi, Champ & Oreo, Alfie & Alvin:



Thea & Lozi



Champ



Oreo



Alfie & Alvin

From Xristiana in Greece we had Hans & Tommy, Athena was fostered with Mel and Sissy went to Steve:



Hans & Tommy



Athena



Sissy

From Bulgaria, via new contacts Sarah-Jane and Karen, we have received River, Yurka, Lara and Daisy who are all now in their new homes:



River



Yurka



Lara



Daisy

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. Here at GCH, we welcomed Bolan, Sparkle, Betty and Doris:



Bolan



Betty



Doris



Sparkle

With our foster mum Julie were some lovely ladies: Lady Grey, Coco, Summer, Autumn, Sabrina, and Prue – all now in great, new homes:



Lady Grey



Coco



Summer



Autumn



Sabrina



Prue

Lindsay is another very experienced foster mum who looked after Tabitha and Merlyn, and currently has Magic (Dorri & Wilton's mum).



Tabitha



Merlyn



Magic

Some of our more nervous cats, such as Mimi and Sid, do very well with foster dad Steve. Steve is currently looking after Rocky. Fosterers Amy & Will did a great job for us with Lola (mum of Lemur, Loris & Possum) and the lovely Fred.



Mimi



Sid



Rocky



Lola



Fred

Nina has done great work with Saffron and Tiffany, and our new foster mum Keeley looked after the gorgeous Abbi. All now gone to great homes.



Saffron



Tiffany



Abbi

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 two (Emma and Kentucky) in long-term foster care with Julie 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 (17)



Charlie (9)



Shiloh (4)



Gabby (2)



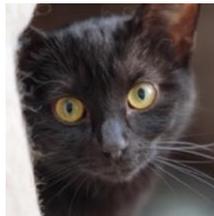
Gracie (2)



Ellie May (3)



Benny (7)



Lily (3)



Lizzie (6)



Salzi [12]



Hope [10 weeks]



Emma [17]



Fudge [15]



1Koji [9 months]



Kentucky [4]

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, Nina, Linda and Keeley. We also have a new foster mum, Cathy, and we look forward to working with her soon.

Fundraising & Support

This year we have had a lot of expensive vet bills and so our fundraising efforts have been more important than ever.

Car Boot sales

Poor weather meant that we didn't have as many car boot sales at Hook Road Arena this season as we would have liked, but our intrepid team including Margaret, Helen, Louise, Michaela, Siobhan, Vanessa, Yvonne, Sally and Elaine went out whenever we could up until mid-October. On a good day we would make £200.



Cat Cafés and Sales

The cat cafés of the summer were so successful that we had another in early October and one at the end of November – it has been so wonderful to see supporters, especially children, playing with the cats and kittens. We also had a jewellery sale which raised £900 from donated gold items from generous followers and, so far, we have made over £500 on the donated designer bags.



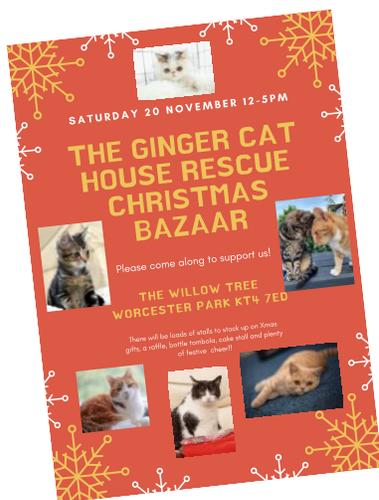
GCH Calendar



One of the things we love doing in October is creating the Cat Calendar, it's so hard to pick only 12 of our GCH cats (one for each month of the year), but great fun. This year we also held a competition to pick another 12 cats to feature on the front cover. We received so many wonderful photos from our supporters and it was really hard to pick winners but, in the end, we chose: Vera (Annalise); Ollie (Michaela); Mojito (Harry); Pebbles (Stephanie); Lennon (Alison); Midnight (Alan); Max (Emma); Marianne (Kate); Gabriel (Christine); Lozzie (Julia); Hendrix (Maria); Georgie (Hannah). Calendars are still on sale for £10 + postage (bank transfer or PayPal), please PM on Facebook Messenger.



Christmas Bazaar



Our Christmas Bazaar was on Saturday 20 November at the Willow Tree pub, and it was a phenomenal success! We had stalls for Cakes, Beauty, Home, Cats, Jewellery, Xmas items, £1 table, Plants, Bottle Tombola, Raffle & calendars. We were so lucky to have such wonderful donations of high-quality goods, so there was something for everyone and great Christmas gifts to boot! Steve was there as Santa, and there was a Christmas Lucky Dip. The Bazaar was busy from 12-5pm, and it was great to meet so many of our supporters. We raised just over £6000, which is amazing!!! Huge thanks must go to all the volunteers who gave their time to look after stalls on the day: Kym, Fran & Maureen; Michaela & Louise; Vanessa, Lynn & Gaynor; Keeley; Margaret & Anita; Steve; Lee, Taylor & Fleur; Nina, Yvonne & Fiona; Mel & Jade; Julie and of

course June. Thanks also to the management at the pub (Tasha, James & Johnny) for being so welcoming and allowing us to take over for the day!





Christmas Raffle

On 12 December we shall be making the draw for this year's raffle. We have over 50 amazing prizes. Tickets are available online (see our Facebook page), £1 per ticket, please pay using PayPal: junefraser@mac.com, or PM for more information.



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 Jani. 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. Thanks to all of you.

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

Dates for your Diaries:

- This year's Advent Calendar will begin on Wednesday 1 December on our Facebook page. Look out for our daily post early each morning!
- We have two more Cat Cafés on 4 and 11 December and there are still a few tickets left for the later one.
- Online Xmas sale of lovely goods which will make great gifts – details soon!
- In the New Year, we plan to have an online sale, a Designer bag clearance sale and hopefully a couple of events to say thank you to our sponsors.
- All being well, we shall also plan an Easter and a Summer bazaar in 2022.



