

Fife Cat Shelter Winter Newsletter 2021

2021 has been another challenging year for people and animals alike as the pandemic has continued to be prevalent throughout this year.

Again, grateful thanks to our vets for their continued support, help and treatment of the cats which have come into our care, their commitment to animal welfare is so much appreciated and has been invaluable.



We were sad to see Carol and Tommy retiring from their cattery at Gairneybridge. We offer them every good wish for a happy retirement and a more relaxed lifestyle. They have been a pair of stars, their knowledge and experience and commitment to helping our mother cats and kittens over the last few years has been second to none. They will be very much missed, but we have given them the titles of “consultants” so we can ask their advice, and of course they will be encouraged to come and help us at our fund-raising sales!

Fund Raising

Fund raising has again been more difficult this year, but our Facebook auctions have been very successful and seem to be enjoyed by the bidders.

Kirsten and her helpers have managed to fit in a couple of soft toy tombolas in November, these too have been very successful and enjoyed by the participants and by winners of soft toys. Hard work to organise and man, but great results.



Treatment Stories - Vera

This fund raising goes to the care and treatment of all the cats and kittens in our care, but there have been several cats which have needed more specialised care and treatment. One of these cats is Vera. Vera was found with her 3 kittens in a garden shed. Once she was in our care, it was discovered she had a massive hernia.



Vera had obviously had this for some time, and once the kittens were weaned, she had a complex operation carried out by Cameron & Greig vets in Milnathort, to insert a mesh in her abdomen to keep everything where it should be inside. Vera is recovering well and should get her stitches out very soon and be ready for a new home.

This photo gives an idea of the size of the hernia.



Treatment Stories – Zebedee

Another wee fellow who required a long course of treatment was Zebedee.

Zebedee had been attacked by a dog. His wounds were extensive, and it took several operations, and swab samples to be sent away before the bacteria in the wound could be identified and treated appropriately with the antibiotics specific to the bacteria. He has now fully recovered and is in his new home. In this photo he is wearing his “babygro” suit to stop him biting at his stitches.



Kitten Fosterers

Pat and Michelle who run Catnip Castle Hotel Cattery just outside Cleish have taken over as our fosterers for mother cats and kittens. They have done, and are doing, a sterling job with the mums and kittens, of which we have had a great number this year. We have had sadly, the usual abandoned pregnant cats, some found with kittens, some who then go on to have their kittens with us.

Pat and Michelle did a remarkable job and created a real success story with the two kittens pictured below. They were found, only days old, in the paper recycling container at a recycling yard. These two kittens had to be fed night and day every 3 hours for several weeks, Pat and Michelle must have suffered from sleep deprivation, but they would say it was definitely worth it when you see the end result, two happy healthy kittens.





Neutering Amnesty

We have carried out our neutering amnesty for most of this year, where people on low incomes can have their cats neutered for £30. This has been very popular, and we have neutered over 200 cats in this scheme, that does not include the normal neutering we do for cats who are handed into the Shelter.

Kittens

Kittens are a huge responsibility and great fun, but can be expensive when you factor in vaccinations, neutering etc, we would suggest that people think very carefully before offering a kitten a home. They are playful but can be destructive and may not be ideal companions for very young children.

A number of kittens bought on social media have been subsequently handed into the Shelter for rehoming, when people realise the work and expense involved, or perhaps they are not suited to their lifestyle, as kittens do like company and attention.

Cats can become pregnant at 6 months or indeed father kittens at that age, so it is so important to have kittens neutered at the 6-month mark. We have also found that owners do not always realise the importance of worming and flea treatment. We have had a couple of instances this year of young kittens dying because they have been covered in fleas, resulting in anaemia. A flea product should always be obtained from a vet. We have found that some kittens have had an extremely bad reaction to flea products not prescribed by a vet, which have resulted in burns on the skin.

We are delighted to hear from new owners how their cats and kittens have settled in and enjoy seeing photos sent to us. Cats/kittens can get on well with dogs, as you can see, but they have to be introduced gradually.



Kittens also need time to settle in with older cats and vice versa, but time and patience are usually rewarded.

Many of the cats we take in are very shy and take weeks to become confident and come out of their shells. Many cats we take in are in dreadful condition and need long term vet care.

Some just need time to settle...



Thank You!

We could not rescue and help the cats and kittens we do each year (around 400 this year) without the help and generosity of our supporters.

Thank you to Sandy and Rhonda at Causeway Cattery who always accommodate our never-ending stream of cats coming in, who are happy for us to hold fund raising events at the Cattery and give the cats the best of care. Thank you to Pat and Michelle who offer our mums and kittens excellent care and cope with unexpected phone calls to say, 4 kittens coming in now or a mum with kittens found in a garden. All of these folks are so good natured about what is asked of them, it is the key to the Shelter's success.

We must also give sincere thanks to Judi and Sarah who drive all around Fife to collect abandoned, stray or owners' cats to bring to the Cattery or to the vet.

We simply could not manage without them. As they say, we do it for the cats, that's what it's all about!

Thank you to all who have supported us financially and who have donated items.

Thank You to our Vets!

Thank you for the continued support & care throughout 2021 for our cats from:

- **Lomond Hills Veterinary Clinic, Leslie**
 - lomondhillsvets.co.uk
- **Albavet, Kirkcaldy**
 - albavet.co.uk
- **Cameron & Greig, Milnathort**
 - cameronandgreigvets.co.uk



We wish everyone a happy, health and a good 2022!

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