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The Moggerly Diary

1st Nov

Several surprises this morning. Pumpkin had a chip and when I rang Pet Log I discovered 'he' wasn't a neutered male but a very well preserved twelve year old female! The registered address was approximately a mile from where he was found so I rang the registered phone number which turned out to be unavailable. I called at the house this evening and as there was no reply I left a letter asking the occupant to call H/Q.

3rd Nov

I made a second visit to Pumpkins old home but could find nobody in. I noticed a ramp and rail against the front door but a trampoline and lots of toys in the garden. I surmised that Pumpkins elderly owner must have died and an obviously younger family were now in residence and not bothering to replay to my letters.

4th Nov

"We're looking for a cat to sit on our laps. Have you got anything suitable?"

I invited the retired caller to visit H/Q with his wife and meet Pumpkin. She immediately rubbed against their legs and left with them half an hour later for a new home in Henleaze. Pumpkin realise what her duties were because within half an hour I had a call to tell me she was curled up on the wife's lap and they were very happy.

5th Nov

I dread bonfire night because of the noise so I had my television on almost full volume and kept feeding Dreamies to distract the cats from the battlefield noises outside.

7th Nov

"I've found a kitten in the lane behind my house can you take it in?" A short while later volunteer Jill arrived with a little grey and white kitten who had been called Turnip by her finder. She was frightened and burrowed into my elbow as I held her. A few days of good food and she'll be ready for a new home.

9th Nov

A couple in Shirehampton had been feeding a stray ginger cat for a month and were going away in two days. All their neighbours had large dogs and didn't want to continue feeding the stray while they were away so I offered to admit him. A large, fluffy, very handsome cat arrived an hour later. Lewis Hamilton was on the news as he arrived so Hamilton became his name. He was desperate for cuddles and rolled over to have his tummy tickled.

10th Nov

Little Turnip was adopted by Wednesday volunteer Emily. She'll be very loved.

11th Nov

Black kitten Macey left H/Q for a new home in Westbury-on-Trym where she'll have a big sister.

18th Nov

Hamilton was viewed by a family from South Bristol. He rolled over to have his tummy tickled within half an hour he was signed for and taken away to his new life.

19th Nov

A rare occurrence! An elderly black cat was chosen, Zsa Zsa had been with us for years and was always overlooked. However her new 'mother' was determined to adopt a black cat and a mature cat to boot. Zsa Zsa left to live appropriately in Mogg Street!

20th Nov

"There are a group of feral cats on my allotment can you help?"

The caller was loaned two traps and two crush cages and set off hopefully, following my instructions.

21st Nov

Vet Julie was greeted by 5 cats in traps when she arrived at the surgery this morning. The cats in the traps were all black and very fierce. The three youngest I have admitted as I'm hoping to tame eventually. (Even though all three had managed to bite Julie through her gauntlets) All have been neutered by Julie who found air gun pellets in the two oldest so there was no question of returning them to the allotments.

I frantically called a family who had adopted Oscar in Bridgwater. I knew they had many outbuildings and five acres of land. I begged them to consider taking the two older cats as stable cats. After an anxious ten minutes I received confirmation that the family would indeed take on the two ferocious adults, I placed them in the office and covered their baskets with a bath towel.

22nd Nov

With secretary Jenny, I travelled to Chedzoy near Bridgwater and carefully settled the cats into two puppy pens inside a shed. After three weeks they will be let out to roam their new manor. They will have ducks and pet lambs for company. Oscar looked fat and well and was in the kitchen by the Aga.

25th Nov

OAP Jordan had become too weak to follow me to the front door in the evenings. His kidneys had been failing for some time and he had been on medication and a special diet. Today I realized it was time for his final injection. I spent a quiet half hour with him before his journey to the vets. Julie gave a very gentle injection and he was purring as I was stroking him while he closed his eyes for the last time.

26th Nov

"There's a ginger stray in a very bad way outside the block of flats where I live" I travelled to buildings near the Downs and talked to passing residents. There was no sign of a cat but I discovered several feeding bowls. I traced the owners to a row of townhouses in a gated lane. Apparently the cat is 21 years old and has a thyroid condition causing him to be thin. (If it was my cat I would be keeping him in for the final part of his life)

27th Nov

Six little friendly fat kittens arrived today from Yate. The Duke of Edinburgh volunteers had the chance to cuddle them first. Two black, two tabby and two tortie. Rudolf, Vixen, Dancer, Prancer, Blixen and Donner began tucking in on arrival.

28th Nov

Ginger feral Marmalada was bleeding from the mouth this morning. Volunteer Jill and I cornered her in her room and slowly encouraged her into a crush cage to enable vet Julie to examine her. Julie gave her a sedative and came back to me in the waiting room shaking her head. There was a tumour in her throat. I asked Julie to give her a final injection while she was still asleep to end her pain.

There is never the opportunity to grieve in H/Q because the phone never stops and someone is always ringing the door bell. As I got back from the vet surgery I had a very familiar call "My neighbour moved away two days ago and left her cat" I went to collect the cat from Henbury who had been brought in and shut in the bathroom by the caller to protect him her two dogs. As I carried him onto H/Q a couple were on the doorstep looking for a friendly male cat. (During my journey a news item gave the message that Prince Harry and Megan were engaged, so Harry seemed a suitable name for him)

I booked two cats in for neutering under our assisted neutering scheme. They live in a high rise flat in North Bristol and the cats owner has recently bought a kitten for her daughter. Three cats in a flat? Why don't the flat dwellers

realise that at least one of them is likely to fall off the balcony next year?

30th Nov

"I've been feeding a stray and I'm moving out tomorrow, can you take her?"

This caller from Winscombe was willing to bring her up to Bristol. I asked him to call at his local vet and have her scanned as I didn't want her taken out of her area if she was someone's lost cat and had a chip.

1st Dec

Good news- the Winscombe stray was chipped and had been missing since March. She was reunited with her owner today who had been celebrating her 85th birthday! (What a perfect present)

2nd Dec

A mother cat and 3 kittens had been seen on the allotments but they are now missing. The traps are still in place and I hope they can be caught before they die in the bitter cold! The three ferocious youngsters caught last week all remain huddled together in a box. They are warm and well fed at H/Q (I wish all the feral family had been caught)

3rd Dec

An amazing adoption day. Harry, Eliquis Blue and kittens Vixen, Donner, Dancer and Prancer left for new caring homes. (Little kittens always leave in pairs for company)

A very kind young girl called Emilia arrived with £91.7p being the proceeds from the sale of her paintings. Emilia's family had adopted Gillette a few months ago and the father of the family took part in the local Arts Trail so Emilia joined in and painted also and raised funds for The Moggery.

4th Dec

"I've found one of the kittens under a different shed-the mother cat had moved them"

The allotment holder rang me this afternoon and then drove over with a frightened little soul of about ten weeks. I thought Cracker would be a suitable name and installed her with Rudolf and Blixen so that she would become tame quickly. "The next one can be Tinsel" I said as the allotment holder and his teenage daughter left.

5th Dec

"I've got Tinsel" a voice said at 8.00 this morning "Well done, bring him to H/Q and I'll meet you there". Another frightened, spitting black kitten came in through the front door to join his sister Cracker. By lunchtime, Rudolf, Blixen, Cracker and Tinsel were all snuggled together in a new fluffy bed I found for them.

7th Dec

This morning I had a call to tell me that Chubby (who had been adopted in October) had had a stroke overnight which had left her blind and the new owners' vet had advised the kindest thing was to call time on her. At least the old girl had had two months of being spoiled after her thyroid operation.

8th Dec

A fund raising and awareness day at Tesco, Golden Hill. Freezing weather with light snowfall. Many past adopters came up to us to donate and share memories of their cats. At the end of the day we had raised £470 and been given two trollies of donated food.

9th Dec

Our Christmas Volunteers Meal at Zest in Gloucester Road. A good chance for the evening volunteers to meet the morning workers. Needless to say we talked 'cats' throughout our meal. This evening, friendly black and white Dunlop was adopted by an Almondsbury family. "She's going to be very spoiled" said their teenage daughter as they left.

11th Dec

Cracker and Tinsel have stopped leaping away when they are stroked but still give a quiet hiss.

12th Dec

A suspected pregnant female which I've been trying to catch for weeks, arrived in a trap and under examination at the vet proved to be a neutered male!

14th Dec

Another sad day. Rudolf and Blixen had lost a lot of weight and following a vet visit were being syringe fed. However, they were vomiting up their food. A phone call this morning informed me their adopted sister had died two days ago and a post mortem had revealed thickened intestines. This afternoon I returned to Rudolf and Blixen to the surgery and vet Julie could feel that their kidneys were enlarged and they also had thickened intestines and therefore weren't able to digest their food. They were gently put to sleep as I stroked them. (There is a strong possibility their mother may have had Feline Leukaemia)

16th Dec

Another fundraising day at Tesco in Golden Hill. Today we were bag packing. We were indoors in the warm standing by the checkouts. Volunteers, Jill, Kim and Fauke joined me in helping customers with their shopping in return for a handful of change. Many customers preferred to pack their own groceries so I held their bags for life open and sang them a carol to earn the donation! We raised £210 during the day.

18th & 19th Dec

Training mornings for the new group of Duke of Edinburgh students beginning in January and working for their Bronze Award.

20th Dec

The six tiny kittens brought in from Lawrence Weston in October are now very friendly and fat. They had been very underweight and ill and I feared I would lose them all. Weeks of antibiotics, eye cream and syringe feeding has resulted in fat youngsters with very soft fur who love to play. Atkins eyes are clear now despite being very inflamed. I expected him to lose his sight in at least one eye. He's a very handsome tabby now.

24th Dec

Lots of people have arrived with food donations during the past week and I have received a flurry of donations from long term supporters.

Unplanned admission tonight of a gentle black and white female whose owners had threatened to "turn her out". Gabrielle seemed an appropriate name.

25th Dec Christmas Day

Valant volunteers Jenny, Jill, Anthony and Liz helped me feed and clean all the inmates who had treats of chicken and prawns.

26th Dec Boxing Day

Only one phone call today –the public think we are shut! (No unwanted kitten presents-yet)

27th Dec

Kissed the second pair of fat soft furred kittens goodbye as they left with wonderful new owners.

28th Dec

Stacey and Stan were chosen by a family living in the road next to Moggery H/Q. This friendly mum had been overlooked due to being black. Her day has at last come.

29th Dec

The father of a new volunteer had been pestered by his daughter to adopt one of our unwanted. He visited at lunchtime and loved Gabrielle on sight. She has a new home for 2018.

30th Dec

"I took in a cat from someone who was ill-treated her and she had kittens last night"
Volunteer Anthony arranged to collect the new family tomorrow afternoon.

31st Dec

Black mother cat Eve arrived with three fat black and white kittens. Nova, Noel and Godina. What was this mother thinking of having kittens in Winter?

