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Moggery Diary

March 1st

Despite the snow three valiant volunteers struggled into H/Q this morning.

March 2nd

Even worse conditions today. Deep snow meant most of the buses weren't running. One determined volunteer walked for one and a half hours to feed and clean our cats in care. The Moggery depends on such dedication to continue its work.

March 3rd

A total stranger offered to use his 4x4 to bring in any emergencies we had. How amazing! I've compiled an emergency list of intrepid local volunteers prepared to defy the elements if/when the blizzards occur again. A determined family arrived to keep their lunchtime viewing appointment. Socks immediately jumped down and rubbed against them the husband-good boy! The teenage daughters both loved him on site. The family then met Turkey (a second black and white) who was very talkative. A short while later both cats left for their new home.

March 5th

My group of ferals at home have been hibernating since the big freeze began. They have been slumped on the living room radiator for four days. (I've been leaving the heating on at night to prevent frozen pipes.)

March 9th

Well, it's started already despite only being March. I had the following 'phone call this morning from a vet in South Bristol.

"A kitten has been brought into us which was found in a wheelie bin. Can you take it in?"

Obviously I agreed straightaway to admit her, but while I was contacting a volunteer to travel to collect her apparently one of the vets saw her and decided to give her a home. All kittens are beautiful but I'm dreading the impending kitten season because of the number of abandoned animals we will need to admit. They will be the lucky ones-who have been found in time.

March 10th

Cracker, the black allotment kitten sits up in bed asking to be stroked, then panics if anyone tries to pick him up. All volunteers spend time socialising him at the end of their cleaning shift. He needs a patient, permanent home.

March 14th

I contacted all the newspapers and radio stations who had featured our Black Cat Neutering Campaign in February to report that 58 cat owners had taken up the offer. I was asked by a local radio station if I thought black cats would now be in danger of becoming extinct!

March 17th

A wonderful couple came to adopt who eleven years ago had chosen a one eyed mature cat. He had a wonderful life and they were now looking for another hard to home cat. I introduced them to Cracker and a short while later he left H/Q (with his bed, which is his security blanket)

March 20th

An unneutered black and white stray has been tormenting the pets of one of our volunteers. I loaned a trap and he was caught last night. This morning I rushed him to vet Julie for neutering, chipping defleaing and worming. He has a very wide face which is a physical characteristic of an older unneutered male. I wonder how many years he has been wandering and fighting? Julie suggested Quinn as his name as we are now entering the Spring Equinox.

March 22nd

Admitted an unwanted black and white adult male who had been turned out by his owner in central Bristol. Naming him after his rescuer Julian turned out to be a nervous but grateful for food, new inmate.

March 23rd

Collected a brother and sister who had been left in a friend's safe keeping for two weeks. However. The owner had not come back for them. Black and white Domino and tabby sister Athena had a wonderful new home waiting for them in Downend. Their new owners were thrilled to receive them when I delivered them this afternoon. The pair checked out their new room and ate the hearty meal that had been put down for them.

March 24th

Admitted a fluffy, bright ginger boy who I named Aslan. His elderly owner was being admitted into sheltered accommodation and couldn't take him with her. I had a new home lined up for him when he arrived. His perspective new mother came to H/Q, loved him on sight signed for him and took him home. (His new mother rang his original owner to reassure her he was going to be well loved.)

March 26th

"My landlord won't allow me to keep my cats. I need to relocate them." I rang back to make

arrangements for the mother cat and two youngsters to come in. "What colour are they?" I asked with my pen poised. "Turquoise" was the reply. (I'm looking forward to meeting them on Saturday)

March 28th

"I'm expecting a baby. Can you take my black kitten?" This youngster is being taken by his owner to Julie for neutering on Thursday morning. I'll collect him from the surgery in the evening. (I'm using names from children's TV programmes as a theme at the moment, so I'll call him Shep after the Blue Peter dog)

March 29th

A warehouse worker rang to say a feral cat they had been feeding for two months had had three kittens amongst the forklift trucks. I offered to lend a trap to catch mum and then the new kittens and their mother could be admitted to H/Q. The trap was collected and set but the mother was not caught.

March 30th

The warehouse manager locked the mother cat in the building for the four day Easter Holiday leaving lots of food and water down.

March 31st

Volunteer Anthony drove to collect the three 'turquoise' cats from Hotwells. On opening the baskets I discovered they were all friendly tabbies! With Magic Roundabout as a theme christened mum Ermintrude and her youngsters Dylan and Florence.

Two black and white felix type kittens also arrived today. Sadly their young owners had split up and neither owner could take the kittens to their parent's homes. They are two boys but one is much too pretty to be a boy so I've named them Rosie and Jim.

Shep was adopted by the first couple to view a friendly black boy this lunchtime, but the record for the quickest adoption this year, so far goes to Elsa. I brought in this friendly stray this morning and rushed her straight to the vet surgery for an emergency dental as I had been told she was dribbling seriously and feared a mouthful of rotten teeth. The vet found a set of perfectly clean healthy teeth in the fluffy ginger female so I rang the person who had been feeding her. "When does she dribble?" I asked "When she's sitting on my lap" was the reply! (I then explained she had been drooling with pleasure as she was kneading her feeders lap)

Half an hour after returning from the vets (and before she could finish her lunch) Elsa was chosen and taken away to her new forever home.

April 3rd

Kittens Patrick and McGinty left for a new home in Staple Hill and Rosie and Jim left with a family of girls for a new home just around the corner from H/Q. Four new volunteers started this morning all equally keen.

Cracker, who was adopted two weeks ago had discovered a tiny hole in the floorboards in the hall of his new home! His new owners had taken up several floorboards and created a ramp for him to get back to floor level. Thankfully today I was told he was back on ground level and the hole was filled in!

Gaynor, from the warehouse arrived with a ferocious, trapped, tabby mum and three tiny kittens. Amazingly the kittens went straight to the food dish and one even used the litter tray. I then realized that they were much older than they looked. They are the size of two week old kittens but they are obviously five even six weeks. (When the mother cat has little food during pregnancy the litter is born stunted but will catch up by six months) Tabbies Finbo and Florrie and black and white Baby Pom are being cooed over by the volunteers. (very little work is being done in their room)

I made four trips to the vet surgeries today in between training the four new volunteers, greeting three 'would be' adopting families and answering the phone. Typical, quiet day at H/Q then.

April 5th

As I expected, all the 'turquoise' cats were chosen very quickly. Mum Ermintrude left for a road near H/Q after rubbing against her prospective owners legs and rolling over to be tickled. Her youngsters Florence and Dylan left together for a new home in Little Stoke today.

April 6th

Just as I was leaving tonight a call came from a woman in North Bristol who had left a violent partner and taken her two small girls with her to a refuge. She had left a pregnant cat behind and feared her partner might harm her. I put the 'phone down and went straight to pick up the friendly ginger cat. Miss Piggy seemed an appropriate name for this expectant mum who quickly scoffed her tea.

April 7th

I rang our list of Foster Homes to try to persuade one of them to take on our expectant mum and amazingly one of our fosterers had just returned from a holiday in New Zealand and was willing to come for her within hours. Miss Piggy left with ample amounts of food and bedding for her maternity home.

April 8th

Collected a tabby and white brother and sister whose owner was moving into a smaller home. The friendly pair Kermit and Rizzo were snapped up by a family from Compton Martin.

April 9th

A mother with two very quiet children came to view a prospective pet this afternoon. Ollie wasn't friendly to them but the children were attracted to a nervous black cat who answered them when they spoke to her and came forward to be stroked.. I hadn't thought to suggest

Vinnie because she was so shy but amazingly she was the pet the children wanted and she left with them half an hour later.

April 10th

I was asked to admit a pregnant female today. Although only two years old she is expecting her fourth litter. Apparently she was given as a surprise gift to a lady who didn't realise that there was such an operation as spaying. Fortunately her daughter, visiting from London had come to hand the pet over to a rescue.

April 13th

Pregnant Yolanda arrived. She's what I call a 'Frisian Cow' type black and white i.e. equal amounts of each colour. She checked out the maternity suite I had prepared for her and settled on the windowsill.

April 14th

Foster home Emma 'phoned to say Miss Piggy had had her kittens safely this morning. Emma is a doctor so was not phased by assisting at the birth. There are four ginger babies (like mum) and one tabby. Five is a good number as two pairs can go together and one of the girls with mum.

April 15th

Several years ago I had a lean to conservatory built for my home ferals. I put in a radiator and lots of beds and tied open the cat flap until they had all learned to use it. Over the next six years the ferals are one by one becoming brave enough to come into my living room through the house cat flap and the conservatory wasn't being used. This morning I thought I had a large black and white stranger cat in the bed by the radiator. (I didn't have my lenses in) When he lifted his head to look at me I realised I now have a resident badger!

April 16th

Brett, my badger had a lie in this morning so I went around downstairs very quietly so as not to wake him.

Collected a female cat from Southmead for vet Julie to spay her under the Assisted neutering Scheme. (Each one has to make a difference)

April 18th

Yolanda had her babies today. The poor girl had four breech births. After struggling to produce the first one she was taken to vet Julie just in case she needed to do a caesarian to produce the rest. With receptionist Tracy helping Julie the family of four were all born by mid afternoon. Three tortie girls and one black and white boy like mum.

April 19th

Another sad day at H/Q OAP Velvet had been quiet for a couple of days. She was usually the first to greet visitors and climb in their bags looking for treats. On examination she was found to have a tumour growing under her tongue. Vet Julie gave her a gentle injection and I held

her as she went to sleep. I don't know how old Velvet was but I had trapped her in Bedminster 14 years ago.

April 20th

A local man 'phoned to say he had found three kittens in a grit container near his home. He had watched all day to see if the mother cat was around but there was no sign so he concluded they had been put there. Two darling tabbies, a brother and sister were brought to me at 6pm. (There black sister is being adopted by the finders family)

I immediately rang the first home on my approved list and the family are coming in the morning to meet tabbies Bean and Gonzo.

April 21st

The adopting family loved the little tabbies on sight and they went off to a new life in a barn conversion near Bath.

Volunteer transporter Anthony brought in a ginger pair of brothers from Central Bristol whose owner's landlord had found out about the forbidden pets and an unwanted black pregnant cat from Oldland Common.

The brothers are now Elmo and Wardorf and expectant mum has become Madame Cholet.

April 23rd

Secretary Jenny featured the ginger brothers on our Facebook/Website and several families wanted the friendly pair.

April 25th

Elmo and Waldorf were collected by an excited new family from Bath.

April 26th

A new foster home came and collected pregnant Madame Cholet. (she'll have a double bed all to herself in her private room)

April 27th

A pretty little tabby/tortie stray was brought in from Fishponds. Adelaide will be snapped up I'm sure.

A rough looking black and white stray has been wandering the local street. Today with volunteer Siobhon's help this battered looking cat was enticed into H/Q. He'll be at the vets on Monday to have a thorough MOT. Siobhon chose Tomsk for his name.

Whilst I was cleaning my desk ready to go home I spotted not one but two foxes through the back door. I then saw two little cubs with them. So not content with cats-we now have a fox family in H/Q garden.

That's all for now see you next month.

