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Moggerly Diary

1st August

A local resident with learning difficulties, whose cats I had neutered under our assisted scheme, rang to say his youngest cat had a patch on her side covered in flies. I suspected a wound and asked local volunteer Liz to call in and ring me from the house to tell me the situation. Liz reported the patch was heaving with maggots, so I rushed to collect the black cat, called Dana, and took her straight to Julie for treatment.

The wound must have originally been a burst abscess following a bite which the owner hadn't noticed. The poor cat was anaesthetised and the maggots, which were literally eating her muscle away, were removed by hand. The wound was flushed through from the inside to clear any remaining parasites, she was given painkillers along with a long acting, slow release antibiotic. I asked the vet to retain Dana for several days to enable the wound to heal, as an unhealed wound would attract more flies, who in turn would lay more eggs which would hatch out in hours in the terrific heat we were experiencing at the moment.

2nd August

"There's an injured pigeon in our back garden", a non-English speaking family from central Bristol were encouraged by me to take the bird to the nearest vet. I was passed from family member to member as my instructions were not understood. The youngest child understood me and I gave details of the nearest vet, which wasn't walking distance and the family did not have any transport. Finally, I asked them to call the RSPCA and gave them the emergency number after reassuring the family there was no charge. (Had the family lived nearby I would have gone to collect the injured bird – however the journey there and back, plus vet time would have left very little time for my main occupation – cats!)

4th August

"I found three kittens in a box in an alleyway by my house, I've brought them home but I cannot keep them"

I told this Southmead caller, I would be there in ten minutes. During the journey I was hoping none of the little ones would be black. All were black and what is worse than three black kittens? Three fluffy black kittens! The little souls were head butting my hands as I stroked them. I brought them to H/Q and gave them three helpings of Felix – I thought they would never be full! (as the road name began with 'AM', I called them AMBER, AMMON and AMAL.) They are very sweet natured, despite their experience.

5th August

Volunteer Anthony travelled to Staple Hill to collect ten kittens. I had an arrangement with the householder – if she handed all the kittens in the house to me, I would neuter all four of her adults free at her local vet. However, Anthony was only given eight kittens, the owner had decided to keep two and, wait for it, was expecting me to neuter those two free in three months' time!

I explained firmly she had broken the agreement by keeping two back and my offer was to neuter the adult cats in the house only. Oh, and the eight wereblack! (Eleven black kittens admitted over the weekend)

6th August

Although the eight black kittens weren't fluffy they were however obviously ill. Vet Julie confirmed cat flu and prescribed antibiotics for two weeks with daily eye bathing. The fur of all the kittens is dull and I can feel their little spines when I stroke them. Normally a group of kittens is impossible to hold on an examination table but these kittens just sat without moving – they've given up. (I rang their original owner and explained the two kittens she had retained needed urgent vet treatment.)

7th August

Despite all of the black kittens having mouth ulcers the gang of eight are eating for England. Hopefully, two weeks of antibiotics and good food will have them bouncing off the sides of their pen.

8th August

"I'm looking for a small lady dog for company for my little dog I already have"

"My dog is limping what shall I do?"

"My two male Staffies are fighting, I'll have to rehome one of them"

I encouraged the last caller to book her male dogs in for neutering and to muzzle them in the meanwhile.

I've given up saying "Moggery means cats", I suppose it's my own fault for not calling my charity "North Bristol Cat Rescue".

9th August

5 people came to decorate the stairs and the landing having arranged a Charity Volunteer Day with their employer. I was fortunate also to have four vet students eager for 'hands on' experience. I had a vet appointment at 4.15 and just as I was leaving, a foster home arrived to collect supplies, they were followed in by a retired couple who came by on the off chance of viewing an older cat. There was standing room only in the hall! Fortunately, a car driving vet student offered to collect the waiting cat from the vet for me so I was free to deal with all the callers.

12th August

All eight black kittens have big tummies and shiny coats now. As there were eight of them admitted, I endeavoured to give them all 'Oct' (Roman calendar) names. With vet Julies help, together we came up with Octopus, Octavia, Octivia, Octavius, October, Octopussy, Octella and Octine. (When there is a real need we just have to invent names!)

13th August

All the black fluffys have been chosen. One boy went to a home near H/Q where his new owner works from home. (AMMON is already busy eating the houseplants) his brother and sister AMBER and AMAL left for Central Bristol together.

15th August

Admitted two young females, MEL and KIM were due to be 'turned out' by their owner, who had posted the message on Facebook, because she couldn't cope with them. Tabby MEL is five months and tortie KIM just ten weeks. CAMI and CAMERON two desperately friendly young black and white adults arrived today also from a group of cats in North Bristol which an elderly lady was feeding.

16th August

A young couple arrived unexpectedly with a mother cat and two kittens they had spotted by the side of the road close to Longwell Green. The little family were loose in the hedgerow. On examination the kittens were found to be between ten and twelve weeks and old enough to leave mum, so the young couple decided to adopt them. I admitted the beautiful tabby and white mother and christened her BURKA as that was the topic that was on the news at the moment.

17th August

Two pedigree Siamese kittens had been given as a surprise present to an elderly lady who couldn't cope with them. GALLIO and GARBO were admitted today, both desperate to be cuddled.

18th August

"Will you come and collect Fluffy and her kittens, my two-year-old won't leave them alone" Fluffy turned out to be a short haired Felix type black and white (the children chose the name Fluffy because they liked it) the three kittens were black and white also. Renamed Fluffy – SWAN from the road she was living in and the babies after their original owner GALLI, FORD and LENA. Settled the family in and then left to bring in another family from Southmead whose owners had just separated and neither could take their pets. Surely these wouldn't be all black and white as well? Worse – mum and her five tiny month-old babies were all totally and utterly black. Not even a white paw amongst them! (Nobody will want them)

19th August

Sadly, little FLEEGLE, who was approximately six weeks but half the size she should have been, had died in the night. She was eating, using the litter tray and sleeping next to mum

SNORKY, but failing to grow was a sign there was something wrong internally. Her mother had had very little good food to eat while she was pregnant and three of her kittens had died before we admitted the family. At least FLEEGLE had several weeks enjoying her mums' company.

20th August

This morning I took our eight 'Oct' babies for their two week check-up. The identical black kittens have been in separate two pens to make medicating easier over the last two weeks. However one little monkey discovered if he did the limbo under the bottom row of bars, he could escape and skip around the room.

I heard piteous crying from their room as I walked up the stairs yesterday and discovered three escapees skipping around the room and the fourth kitten was crying because she couldn't understand how to escape and join them!

Fortunately this morning they were all given the all clear by the vet Julie. Their gummy eyes are clear and they have all gained a lot of weight. At the surgery they would not keep still when being examined individually compared to their first visit, when all eight lay lethargically on the examination table in a heap. Now all we need are good homes for them.

21st August

"Were trapped inside the Kittery!"

A phone call from upstairs sent me rushing up with a screwdriver. The handle had come off the door of the attic and three volunteers were inside unable to get out.

22nd August

MARGARET HUNT had kindly requested donations to The Moggery instead of flowers at her funeral, so a £120 donation was received in her memory today. What a kind thought.

23rd August

Our three mouse sized babies, who had been born with paralysed back legs, have made huge advances. Last week they were able to sit up and tap each other but now they can run and rugby tackle. Next week they should be able to kick each other in the head as all self respecting kittens do. They are, however, still half the size of normal seven week kittens.

24th August

Volunteer Anthony brought in a handsome ginger boy who had been fed as a stray by a family in Knowle West for the last month. I scanned him and found a microchip.

After ringing Petlog and obtaining his owners address and phone number, I contacted his astonished original home. He had been missing for four months!

His family of four came straight away to collect him. They were baffled how he had travelled the four miles from his home to his new location. Perhaps he had jumped in the back of a van?

25th August

Two of Swan's babies left today together and even better her remaining baby will leave with Mum next week after she has been spayed.

28th August

A 7am call at home sent me rushing round to a young couple in my road who had adopted two black and white siblings from H/Q two weeks ago. The girl had broken her leg inside the house and was hiding behind the kitchen unit where she had been joined by her brother in sympathy. I shone a torch and could see them sitting together with the girl holding up her broken leg. I suggested a dish of Dreamies might tempt them out.

The dish was pushed under the unit and I could hear them both crunching. I then reached in and pulled the dish slowly towards the front until it was outside. Both kits followed and the owner was able to grab the patient and place her in a basket.

I gave the owner a lift to the vet, who confirmed after an x-ray that her left front leg was broken and needed to be pinned. However, recovery can be complete with such a young animal. Last week her brother had developed a mystery wound on one front leg, although there was nothing in their bedroom or on the stairs he could of harmed himself on. (The owners just have to accept they have two Kamikaze youngsters!)

30th August

“My cat had four kittens. I've got rid of two, can you take the other two?”

I went straight to a house in Filton and brought in two friendly black and white siblings.

I settled Hansel and Gretel into the Kittery and then rang the vet and arranged the spaying of their Mother for next week.

31st August

An extremely busy adoption day. Mel and Kim left together, two of our new foster home babies were signed for, the first two of our eight black kittens – Octopus and Octella left for Hawkesbury Upton and unbelievably, Hansel and Gretel were loved on sight!