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Moggerly Diary

7th Oct

Tabby Tilly gave birth to three healthy youngsters in the night. Mum and babies are well and thriving. One tabby, one black tortie and one black kitten make up her family.

9th Oct

Black mum Jane was spayed today, ready for her new home at the weekend. Her kittens are annoying her and she will be glad of some peace!

10th Oct

Admitted 6 more kittens today. The mother cat is being spayed under our assisted scheme. Autumn is harvest time, so six English apple species provided inspiration, namely, Brambley, Jazz, Russet, Kanzi, Cameo and Zari. They are all fluffy except one. Sadly, black and white Russet has been born without one of his back paws. His leg ends on the hock joint. In 21 years, I've only admitted two cats born with a missing lower limb. He is very fast chasing a ping pong ball but he will need a very special home.

16th Oct

Received a call from a Welsh resident, asking me to admit three older kittens as local rescues had no space. I rang back to obtain further details of colour and temperament and was stunned to discover the kittens originated from Croatia! The caller's family have a holiday flat and during a holiday the caller had found three kittens on the street. As the local Croatian rescue had no room for them, their finder had made several vet visits to chip, neuter and obtain Rabies cover for them before bringing them to the UK with Pet Passports.

18th Oct

The Croatian youngsters arrived today. I gave them popular Croatian names namely Branko, Kata and Ana. Branko is a handsome and gentle black boy, the two girls are both torties and very friendly.

20th Oct

Black and white Porridge was adopted lunchtime and Secretary Jenny had received a photo of him lying on his owners' bed within an hour. Tabby and white Toby also left with a family with older children this afternoon.

The doorbell rang unexpectedly "We've brought you a stray cat" said the first man as he stepped in the door. "And she's having babies" said the second man proudly. The stray pregnant tabby was installed in the pen that Toby had just left. Savannah seems a nice name for her.

21st Oct

"I saw two kittens advertised free on Gumtree so I went to get them quickly. Can you take them then?" I received a fluffy black and white brother and sister naming them Eugenie and Jack (after the royal couple) they are safe now.

Kittens advertised free can end up being collected by python owners.

22nd Oct

"I bought two kittens but my older cat is upset and pulling his fur out – can you take them in!"

"Of course," I said (and under my breath I said "Please, don't let them be black")

Two tiny black kittens arrived an hour later. They are much too young to be away from their mother so with the purchaser's help I traced the family their mother was with and offered to give her a home. Anthony went to collect their black mother who I hoped would be thrilled to see her children, but no she spat at them. They obviously smelt different now and she rejected them. Fuji and Gala were upset at their mother's hostility.

"Have you got room for two rabbits?" This call came from a police station in Central Bristol. A short while later two police officers brought in two lop eared rabbits. Jill christened the black one Honey and the speckled one Clover.

"My budgie is lonely" I couldn't help with this problem so I directed the caller to a local bird rescue.

Years ago, a supporter offered to adopt anything that came in that wasn't a cat. Over the years Jean had taken in a succession of rabbits (all left in police stations) Russian gerbils, hamsters and mice. I rang Jean, and as her rabbit family was down to seven, she immediately agreed to give a home to Honey and Clover. They will be well loved.

The two tiny black kittens called Gala and Fuji are sleeping in a round food dish. Mum, Rosa is still cross but hopefully will become nicer natured soon.

24th Oct

"I've split up with my boyfriend and left my kittens behind in Bedminster. Can you take them in?" Volunteer Anthony brought in the 10-week brothers who I've named Smith and Jones. They seem very friendly.

29th Oct

I was going around tonight feeding all the cats in the house when I heard squeaking in the Alice Baker Room. Savannah was washing two new born tabby kittens as I opened the door. I sat by her and dried off her third baby, a black boy and she lay down contentedly by them. I stayed on at H/Q in case there were additions and as the evening volunteers arrived Savannah produced three more dark tabbies like herself. All looked fat and healthy. After giving her a clean bed and telling her she was a clever girl to have such beautiful babies we all left the room for mum and babies to sleep.

30th Oct

The babies have filled out overnight. Mum, Savannah only has to get up to eat her food and all the tribe squeak in protest loudly I can hear them downstairs in the office!

31st Oct

Pretty Kata was chosen by a family today. This little tortie has a split face – half ginger and half black – very distinctive. This little cat has gone from scavenging on the streets in Croatia to being in a lovely new home.

Nov 1st

One of Savannah's babies was cold and still this morning, Secretary Jenny rubbed her to warm her and bring her back to life but she died in her hands.

2nd Nov

A second baby was dead this morning. Savannah had been living rough and had only had nine days of good food and warmth before giving birth. Perhaps it's a miracle any of her family were born alive.

3rd Nov

Brothers Smith and Jones left together for a new home in Kingswood and a massive 6-year-old tabby came in from Yate, due to his owners' separation. Pumpkin seemed an appropriate name for this new boy who was almost too heavy to lift off the ground!

5th Nov

"I'm ringing from a vet in Newport, an old black cat has been left with us. Can you take him?"

Croatia, Wales – same difference. I agreed to admit the old boy and the vet nurse will use her day off to bring him to Bristol tomorrow.

6th Nov

Pumpkin was chosen by a mature woman living alone who was looking for an older tabby. He fitted into her wire basket but only just!

I just had time to disinfect Pumpkin's bed, dishes and pen when Emlyn arrived. The old boy from Newport has overlapping Dracula type teeth and sits with his tongue out looking gormless. His black fur is turning rusty with age. He definitely cannot be offered up for rehoming. He'll live out his retirement in the OAP lounge and I'll try to find a sponsor for him.

7th Nov

George, a handsome white cat with tabby tail and head, had been brought in after biting the small children in his home. Today a 'would be' adopter came looking for a 'character' cat. Her last cat Connie had been fierce and was the scourge of her local vet. I introduced her to George. She stroked him and he responded by biting her. That was his chance of a home gone I thought. I was amazed to receive a phone call a few hours later – George was wanted!

9th Nov

George was collected lunchtime. I felt it was only fair to show his new owner his biting score so far. I had been putting a stroke for each volunteer he had bitten and there were now twenty-one strokes on the volunteers' notice board. Despite this score, George was still wanted, so after the adoption papers were signed, I gingerly loaded him into his basket and waved him off – wishing his new owner the very best of luck!

10th Nov

"My 87-year-old grandfather can't cope with his kitten; can you take him? The kitten that is, not the grandfather.

"I haven't been able to get rid of my last lot of kittens, can you take them in?"

"My daughter has become allergic to the two kittens I bought – can you admit them?"

I admitted seven youngsters today (fortunately only three are black) I arranged for the mother and father of the small kittens to be neutered next week under our assisted scheme and discovered

the relative who brought in her grandfather's cat had an unneutered male in her house so he was booked in for next week as well.

Kittens Bolt and Storm were chosen today by a Longwell Green family, but seven in and two out – I'm fighting a losing battle!

13th Nov

Black sisters Einstein and Faraday were chosen today by a family living two streets away from H/Q. Admitted a fluffy ginger long term stray who was chipped. The registered owner had sold her years ago and can't recall the details of the person she sold her to. Goldilocks may need to have a new home.

15th Nov

A local family who came for one pet, saw brothers Darwin and Hawkins. The brothers climbed all over the parents and the two children and purred loudly. The father needed only a little amount of persuasion to adopt the two youngsters who went off happily to their new home.

17th Nov

Admitted a beautiful fluffy tortie who was one of a large group living under a hedgerow in Emerson's Green. Apparently, someone must have abandoned a pregnant cat and the resulting family are now living rough. They are being fed by a kind neighbour whose feisty cat won't admit another into her garden. All are now being trapped and neutered and any cat that is 'handleable' at the vet surgery, I am admitting. Emily is the first of the family to reach H/Q. Shelters lined with bedding have been put in the hedgerow and in time even the ferocious members of the family will have calmed down enough to be rehomed even if only as 'barn cats' with shelter and regular food provided.

19th Nov

"I've lost my job and now my home. My two cats are living with me in my car. Can you take them?" The two cats were unneutered males, so I booked both in for neutering at Filton Vets4Pets and a foster home was going to collect them from the surgery.

20th Nov

The homeless man rang back today to say his brother in North Bristol was going to look after the two cats until he could find a new home – the caller couldn't bear to part with them. (a prospective landlord is much more likely to agree to housing neutered male cats than unneutered, so the operations are going ahead). The caller himself is going into a hostel in Central Bristol.

21st Nov

Sadly, George has been returned to H/Q. His new owner was aware that he was a biter (as her last cat had been) but she received such a serious bite from him that she felt faint with the pain. George is his own worst enemy as he is desperate for affection. He will remain in The Moggery and we will aim to find a sponsor for him.

22nd Nov

We have a wonderful new volunteer called Andrea who came for two hours and stayed all day! (Andrea has volunteered for other animal charities and knows a great deal about caring for cats.)

24th Nov

Unbelievably the homeless man did not turn up with his two male cats at the vet surgery today. The Moggery had arranged to neuter his cats for free. With two unneutered male cats he will have

great difficulty finding a tolerant future landlord but could not be persuaded by the vet nurse to bring his pets in for a very quick and simple operation!

26th Nov

A retired woman rang wanting to adopt. Her home was in a quiet road and she had a cat flap already fitted. She seemed a perfect home and then she explained she owned a retired racing greyhound. These dogs are gentle with humans but sadly they have been trained to kill. Two Moggery cats have been killed by greyhounds jumping into their gardens and a third pet was killed last year when a passing greyhound on a lead snatched her from her garden wall and shook her. I had to explain to this caller that I couldn't risk placing one of our precious cats with her.

29th Nov

Friendly Guy was adopted today. This handsome grey and white boy had come into H/Q because his elderly owner was going into a care home.

30th Nov

"I've been feeding a stray cat for twelve weeks now. I can't have her in the house because my dog attacks her. I'm worried about her being out in the cold weather. Can you take her in?"

I decided this cat should jump our waiting list and come in today.

"Please tell me she isn't black" I said

The caller from Kingswood was silent for a few seconds before saying quietly "Well, yes she is"

An hour later Andrea arrived. (I named her after St Andrew's Day).

"She was stick thin when she first came into my garden, so I've fed her up. I think I might have overdone it."

He wasn't joking – I could hardly lift the ginormous black cat out of her basket. Obese doesn't come close to describing her!