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## **Moggerly Diary**

### **March 1<sup>st</sup>**

I took a large basket down to Avonmouth Industrial Estate tonight because the security guard Royston feels confident, he can catch the tabby stranger without a trap. I sat in the car and watched as the large cat followed the guard everywhere. Huge container lorries swung passed me as I waited by the entrance to the estate and each time, I held my breath and hoped the cat was on the pavement. After 45 minutes I left for home asking Royston to call me up to 11.30 pm if the cat was in the basket. I had just opened my front door when the phone rang "he's in the basket" was the message. I went straight back down (the car knows the way after 12 years!) and the huge tabby was loaded into my boot.

### **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Naming him Royston (after the guard) I took the big cat in for neutering and chipping. He's nervous but perfectly tame. I wonder what his origins are. Was he abandoned? Did he climb into the cab of a lorry in the Midlands? How sad that his owner hadn't chipped him.

### **March 4<sup>th</sup>**

I had examined Alice on Saturday and she wasn't shaped like a pregnant cat usually is, so I took her to the vet for further examination. Two vets examined her and could not feel kittens, so they suspect she's a spayed female who just likes her food! I'll watch her closely over the next two weeks to see if she starts 'calling' (making chirping sounds saying "I'm over here boys")

### **March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Just when I thought I could close the book on the Avonmouth Estate I had a call from another warehouse which has a family of cats one of which is sick. I took two traps and pilchards and went to meet the workers who were feeding the family. I had been very impressed by the cat house provided by the workers at the Avonmouth Recycling Plant (a composter had been given a roof and filled with a duvet) but the workers at the new warehouse had really raised the bar! On pallets (to prevent water seeping in) there were two wooden blanket type boxes, each box had been insulated and carpeted and a hole cut in the front for access. A wildlife camera had been set up to film the comings and goings and the workers had bought a feeding bowl with four sections and a timer so the cats would have food on Sundays! In my twenty-two years of cat rescue I have not come across such a well provided for feral group!

### **March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Nothing was caught early morning so the traps will be set again.

### **March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Admitted a young 'Christmas Pudding' type tortie who is unwanted due to her owner's daughter developing a severe allergy. (She's already named Kitty so I'll lengthen it to Kitty Pudding.)

A wonderful local family adopted Jinglebelle and her last baby Mel. This kitten had nearly been killed to death as she was the only youngster at HQ. (Winter kittens are extremely rare which gives young adults

the chance of adoption between November & April.)

There were many days in January that I dreaded opening the door of Jinglebelles room in case her last kitten had died in the night. Mel had to have weeks of syringe because her Mother's milk was too poor quality to sustain her. Although Mel is half the size she should be, she is heavy now and very confident. Her new Mother loved her on sight, and she will be kept in until spaying as with all our kittens. In Mel's case this could be as late as 7/8 months as she is so stunted.

### **March 11<sup>th</sup>**

An early call informed me the first cat, a very aggressive black male, had been caught in the Avonmouth trap. I gingerly decanted him from the trap into a crush cage and whipped him off to the vet for chipping, defleaing and neutering. Sadly, he is too wild to domesticate but he will live his life out at the warehouse with regular feeds. (I christened him Molson after the firm.)

### **March 12<sup>th</sup>**

More success! A huge tabby male was in the trap at 7am. He had a large open wound on his chest from fighting. Vet Julie cleaned the wound while neutering him and gave him an injection of Convenia (a slow release antibiotic) I explained to the workers when I returned him at 3pm, Convenia was the best treatment as giving antibiotic tablets would not be a good idea unless they wanted to lose a hand!

### **March 13<sup>th</sup>**

"A cat has had kittens in my garden and I don't know what to do?" Volunteer Mandy C left HQ to collect the little family of black and whites from Kingswood. Fosterers Tom and Jackie came to collect later in the day.

### **March 14<sup>th</sup>**

"I'm in a block of flats and my cat needs a garden"

Admitted a gentle tabby called Lola. I have several families waiting for a young friendly cat, so I immediately contacted the first one at the top of the list.

### **March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Lola was viewed and adopted by the chosen family. If only cat rescue was always this easy!

### **March 17<sup>th</sup>**

A group of law students from Bristol University have formed a Cat Club and visited to help in any way that was needed. They helped today by assembling adoption packs, moving furniture and socialising our feral kittens. Some of them will be back in their summer holidays.

### **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Admitted Roxy, an elderly one-eyed cat who is very loving. I had a perfect indoor home waiting for her but sadly when her prospective home visited, they had just been told the management committee of their flats had decided to ban pets. Previous owner occupants had owned both cats and dogs, so the couple are appealing against the decision. Meanwhile poor Roxy must wait for her forever home.

### **March 21st**

"I've found three young tabby and white cats in a box. Can you take them?"

I rang this caller back to find out more details and assured her I would admit the three cats as a matter of urgency.

### **March 23rd**

A family with an eight-year-old son have been waiting for two young friendly cats. They are keen to meet the tabby 'box' cats so I will take them in on Saturday 30th and their new family will arrive three hours later to meet them.

### **March 25th**

“There’s a cat and kittens in my shed, one kitten is dead, and the others are dying” This caller left a number which I couldn’t decipher so I pressed ‘0’ which dials the caller without having a number. After an hour of attempts the phone was picked up. The kittens had all died, apparently, they were very under developed and very premature. The mother cat belonged to a neighbour who had many unneutered cats. I asked for an address so I could offer help with neutering, but the caller refused to get involved – however she did eventually disclose the name of the road in North Bristol. I’ll be able to canvass house to house and offer help to every householder and there by hopefully discover the household with the large number of unneutered cats.

“I work away a lot and I have no time to look after my cats and it would be a shame to put them down!”

This call is another example of the emotional blackmail I receive on a regular basis. I had a home waiting for two cats over 3 years, so I arranged for these cats who were both 8 years to also be brought in on Saturday.

### **March 30th**

Volunteer driver Anthony brought in the first two ‘box’ cats. The young brother and sister look about 6 months. The girl enjoys cuddles and ear scratches whereas her brother is reluctant to engage with anyone at the moment. He’ll need a few days to realise he’s safe. The prospective new owners visited at midday and loved the youngsters immediately. The family’s young son stroked the cats solemnly and told his father he wanted to take them home. The youngsters have been booked in for neutering and chipping on Monday and will be going to their new home two days later.

Anthony then journeyed to South Bristol to collect the pair of eight-year olds. Their prospective home visited late afternoon but this time the outcome was unsuccessful. One of the older tabbies is slightly fluffy and the husband felt this was unacceptable. Finding a home for two eight-year olds will be very difficult if not impossible.