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**Established 1997**  
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## **Moggerly Diary**

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

Admitted two unwanted females, Whisky is black and short haired whereas Soda is white with a black tail and black on top of her head. They are both very friendly and gentle. Their owners have separated, and neither is able to keep the pair. So, they have ended up at HQ.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May**

A young couple from Shirehampton loved Whisky and Soda on sight. The wife had wanted a cat that would sit on her lap which Soda immediately did! I explained that after the cats are taken home, she would have to ensure before she sat down that she had a drink, a snack and the TV remote because once a cat is on your lap you can't move for the next 2/3 hours!

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

A young black and white cat has had digestive problems since he was a tiny kitten. He was one of 17 cats and kittens brought in from a household in Kingswood. Shaq (aka Buddha) has had many different diets and antibiotics and so far, nothing has worked. Vet Julie suggested it may be a parasite called Trichomonas and the new treatment seems to be working. The little cat no longer needs a bottom and tail wash every morning!

### **5<sup>th</sup> May**

Two of our 'reindeer cats' were chosen today. Black and white Rudolph and his little brother Blitzen who came in in December were chosen by a middle-aged couple from Ashton. The two cats were headbutting their new owners, so they seem to approve of them.

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

Bank Holidays are usually quiet because the public think we are closed, however, a woman rang up to say her son's landlord had discovered he had a cat and the cat was now with her and being attacked by her dog, could we take her? Banksy arrived about fifteen minutes later. She is a chocolate brown Siamese who is very vocal.

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

The doorbell rang and a man was on the doorstep with a cat basket and a carrier bag, I thought he was donating equipment after his cat had been put to sleep and I was just about to thank him when I realised the basket was occupied. "My partners got COPD and the cat's

hair is aggravating it” he said. I had no choice but to admit the cat in his black mesh basket. I questioned the owner as I filled in the Rehoming Request Form.

How old is she?

“Well we got her from our daughter when she split from her boyfriend.”

How long ago was that?

“Oh, about ten years now.”

What colour is she? (please, don't be black, I was thinking)

“Black.” he replied

Long or short haired? (please, don't be longhaired)

“Longhaired.” he replied cheerfully

Suitably named ‘Surprise’ I put the fluffy black, OAP cat into our emergency pen in the office. She has as much chance of finding a home as winning the lottery, but we will feature her on our Facebook and Website. Hopefully there is a kind person out there.

### **8<sup>th</sup> May**

“Do you know much about ducks?”

This caller had seen a baby duckling on its own in Bristol Harbour, but while he was on the ‘phone to me the Harbourmaster had picked it up. Slimbridge perhaps will help now.

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

“There's a cat and kittens in a warehouse in Bedminster where my friend works.”

I contacted the manager who is feeding the family until I can trap them.

Last night I took two more traps down to Avonmouth Industrial Estate where a mother and two older kittens have appeared in the Amazon warehouse. I set traps and left my work and home phone numbers, but the warehouse is the size of an aircraft hangar so trapping the family will take some time.

### **10<sup>th</sup> May**

A black and white boy came into HQ with a social worker. His owner couldn't cope with him. He seems harmless enough. I named him Archie after the new Royal baby.

At 3.30 pm I had a call from the Amazon warehouse. The mother cat was in a trap. Sadly, the site manager had forgotten to check the traps first thing in the morning, and it was now too late to take the female to be spayed. Vets don't operate at weekends unless it's an emergency so I will have to keep her at HQ until Monday. I didn't want to take the mother without her kittens but only the cleaning lady has seen them, and she wasn't in work to show me where they were.

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

A very quiet morning. There were no Duke of Ed students! Usually there are 12/14 and the hallway is dark with them all.

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

“We've found one of the kittens.”

I had a call at home at 10.30pm. I asked the night manager, Tom, to put the little soul in a container with some soft material and leave him/her at the Reception Desk. I will come

down very early in the morning. At 11.30pm I had a call from a Security Officer on the desk demanding to know what would happen to the kitten. As I was in a deep sleep when he 'phoned I wasn't prepared to be interrogated and I told repeatedly I was going back to bed and would collect the kitten early in the morning.

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

Got up at 5.30 am to rush down to the Amazon warehouse to collect the kitten. Horrified, I discovered the worker who had called me last night at 11.30 pm had taken the kitten home. The mother cat is full of milk and I had planned to reunite them once I had given an emergency feed with the milk mixture I had prepared. I asked the day site manager to call the night worker and tell him I was waiting for the kitten at the warehouse. The worker was not prepared to bring the little soul back. He will not survive and there is no sign of the second youngster. I drove away both very angry and very depressed.

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

I drove to collect the first cat of the day for neutering under our Assisted Neutering Scheme. When I book the vet, I impress on the owner the need to starve the cat overnight and to keep him/her in ready for me to collect the next morning.

"He's out." said the first owner (who had been reminded I was coming today.)

"I'll wait while you call him." I said. In the front garden was a table and chairs. I settled on a chair and read the old paper I had used to line the basket. I wasn't prepared to leave without a cat. After about half an hour of his owners calling, the tabby cat strolled into the garden.

I called at the second household....

"He's run out." I was told

"I'll wait while you call him." I replied again.

There were 11 cats in the kitchen "are they all yours?" I asked.

"Some of them are" was the reply. I could see some were unneutered males so I will have a lot of work to do. After ten minutes the missing cat appeared, and I was on my way to the long-suffering vet. Ten years ago, I would have left the houses, apologised to the vet and rebooked the cats neutering for another day, but I've learned that the following week the same scenario would be repeated. Sadly, when I carry out a 'door to door' service for cat owners, they can become very casual about taking up my time and causing me to make two or even three return journeys.

On a more positive note, Banksy left HQ today for a new home in the Chew Valley. Her new owner had previously kept a Birman and understood how vocal Orientals could be!

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

"Were on our way to you and we've got lost"

"What's the purpose of your visit?" I asked, because I didn't have any viewings in the diary.

"Were coming to see if there's a suitable dog for us"

I directed the caller towards Holly Hedge sanctuary in Barrow Gurney.

No, we don't have dogs, ducks, spider monkeys, horses, pygmy goats or the many other creatures I've been asked for!

## **16<sup>th</sup> May**

The Amazon warehouse mother was spayed, defleaded and returned to the site tonight. I know workers are feeding her and she will survive. In the circumstances 'it's the best I can do for her as she was frighteningly ferocious. Had I obtained the kittens as planned – I would have kept mum until the kitten was weaned at 8/9 weeks.

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

Travelled to the BMX warehouse in Bedminster where the mother and kittens were sighted that I was contacted about on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I was shown the site of the three tiny black and white babies, who looked around two weeks old and I set a trap amongst the equipment and tyres surrounding the birthplace. Volunteer Andrea and I left to check out the newly refurbished UDL store next to the warehouse and returning half an hour later we were greeted with the news that mum cat was already caught. With the help of the warehousemen the mother was easily transferred from the trap into a crush cage basket and then I was able to pick up the squealing babies (who were photographed by the workers, both from the warehouse and the office) and put them in a second basket next to mum in the car.

The journey home was uneventful as the babies slept and mum had been covered with a towel which kept her calm. I had prepared a large mum and baby pen at HQ before the outward journey, so the kittens, now named B, M and X were placed protesting on a soft towel. Mum was more difficult as she was completely wild, so I placed the crush cage basket in the corner of the pen and wearing welding gauntlets I gingerly lifted the 'portcullis' type end of the basket while holding the pen door semi closed. (Usually a terrified wild cat will remain in the basket for several hours being too frightened to venture out) Mum cat shot and leapt up the side of the pen and I just managed to retrieve my arm and close the pen door in time. I covered the pen with a sheet and left the little family to adjust to their new surroundings. I can't think of a more girly like name for mum cat, so I've settled for Penny Farthing.

## **18<sup>th</sup> May**

"My sister emigrated, and I offered to take her two cats, but I don't want them so can I come by and drop them off?"

I explained to this caller that The Moggery like all rescue centres has a waiting list. I gave him all the other rescue numbers in the wider Bristol area and once I had details of the cats, put them on our waiting list. I impressed on him strongly to add his sister's cats to every charity waiting list not just ours.

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

Volunteer Anthony collected two beautiful Ragdoll brothers from a household near Chipping Sodbury. The owner was too ill to cope with them any longer. Fortunately, I had a lovely home waiting. After the cats were settled in HQ their prospective new family arrived and loved them on sight. (Their new mother works with Ian Fergusson our local Patron)

In the middle of the afternoon I had a strange conversation with a caller from Bradley Stoke

(North Bristol). “We’d like to foster.”

“Wonderful” I said, “How soon can you have a family?”

“We don’t want a whole family; we just want one kitten for my six-year-old son.”

“Then why not adopt, you’re in a nice quiet road?”

“We don’t want to, we just want a kitten for a few weeks.”

“Well I don’t rent out kittens” I explained patiently “Why don’t you call at your local vet, pick up some leaflets and enquire about neutering and vaccination costs and decide with your husband if you want to make a commitment for a possible eighteen years.”

“We don’t want a cat for eighteen years we just want a kitten for a few weeks.”

My ‘phone was ‘bleeping’ indicating other callers were trying to get through and I realised that I needed to terminate this call because I wasn’t getting anywhere!

“Why don’t you just buy your son a soft toy instead?”

“He will know it isn’t real.”

“I’m sorry but I honestly can’t help you and I must help other people.”

After 22 years I still have situations I don’t know how to deal with and nearly half an hour had been wasted.

### **21<sup>st</sup> May**

Returned to the BMX warehouse where the dad of the little family had been trapped. He was a huge fluffy black cat with white paws (just like the twins in the litter) after neutering I had to return him to the site as he was too wild to rehome. He weighed a huge 5.8 kgs so he’s obviously eating well on more than one site.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Secretary Jenny took a call asking The Moggery to take in a very young kitten whose mother and sister had been killed by a dog. The kitten was in an area called Avonmouth and was therefore christened Avalon by Jenny and Team Leader Jill on his journey back to HQ.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Back to Bedminster, this time to try to catch a young pregnant black cat who was being fed by several residents of a care home which backed onto the industrial estate where the BMX family were trapped. Within an hour a ‘thumbs up’ sign from the porter signalled we had the targeted cat in one of the traps set in the care home grounds.

Residents told me of a very large black cat with white paws and I realised they were describing the BMX dad who I had neutered two days before. (He was apparently living between the two sites.)

### **24<sup>th</sup> May**

All of Tom and Jackie’s foster family were adopted today by two different households and little black and white Avalon was chosen by a local Bishopston family. The father arrived wearing a t-shirt with the logo ‘REAL MEN LOVE CATS!’

### **25<sup>th</sup> May**

Several people asked for help with neutering this week as cat owners who have been helped in the past are sharing the news on Facebook.

### **26<sup>th</sup> May**

BMX mother Penny Farthing is eating for England as is Lizzie the little black cat from the care home. As BMX dad was being fed on both sites it is likely he is the daddy of both mother's kittens. (If the expected kittens are black with white paws, I will know which name to give to the Child Support Agency.)

### **27<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday**

Quiet day – the public think we are closed.

### **28<sup>th</sup> May**

Black and whites Shaq's (Buddha) bottom has continued to improve daily so I made the decision to stop his new treatment after 29 days. (As well as antibiotics, he was having Kaolin paste and probiotics.) Originally his course was for 14 days but the results were not satisfactory for some time, so his treatment was extended indefinitely. Hopefully he can soon have a home.

### **29<sup>th</sup> May**

Admitted a real beauty. Bonnie is a Snowy Bengal with blue eyes who has decided she no longer likes her brother and wants to be an only child!  
(We've had a lot of pedigree cats in this year and they are very difficult to rehome – despite being beautiful.)