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Moggerly Diary

1st June

Tabby Diamond Lil was chosen today by a Henleaze family – all well and good **but** I was also asked to take in four unspayed females! 1 out, 4 in, we are not doing so well.

Tabby and white June with daughters, black fluffy Colby and tabby Coleen arrived, followed on an hour later by Jessica a black and white fluffy friendly youngster.

3rd June

Collected a grey and white female, for spaying under our assisted scheme, from Sea Mills. Her sister sadly was heavily pregnant and will have to be rebooked after she has had her kittens. (If the owner had 'phoned earlier in the year I could have spayed both then – this is a road I have leafletted and canvassed for 3 years.)

4th June

The three babies belonging to BMX mum, Penny Farthing, were cuddled for the first time by volunteers today. Mum growled when she heard them squealing but after a few minutes when her kittens were returned, she was calm again. We will gradually increase the cuddling time each day so that the youngsters will be able to be normal domestic pets and will then have a much happier future than they would have had in the warehouse where they were born.

6th June

3 tabby and white little sisters arrived today, a week earlier than expected. Their owner is having her mother cat spayed under our assisted scheme and she felt the babies were independent enough to leave home. (As it was D Day, I called them Juno, Utah and Omaha.)

7th June

The little sisters potential home arrived expecting to adopt just two but couldn't leave one little soul to cry on her own. All the babies left snuggled together in one basket an hour later. (Their new owners work from home, but I can't see much work being done in the next few weeks.)

8th June

A young couple from a village near Bristol chose friendly Jessica who will now be called Copernicus (yes, right)

10th June

Monday volunteer, Lily, arrived with the first batch of a large feral colony living by her home in Wiltshire. Three dark torties who look about five weeks were living at the back of Rose, Lavender and Ivy cottages (so were appropriately named). Two black little spitters came in with them also, obviously a different mother. (Honeysuckle and Clematis will suit them).

11th June

Tabby June was adopted today by a young couple who had just moved into their first home. Her daughters Colby and Colleen had been chosen on Saturday. (I tried to persuade the Saturday family to take all three).

12th June

While flea combing the Wiltshire kittens, I discovered that they were all carrying ticks. (these creatures attach themselves to the host animal and suck their blood until they are the size of a grape. They then drop off and live on their blood supply for a year or two.) In the office I keep a small bottle of vodka. (Primarily for tick removal but also if I have an exceedingly bad day) Soaking cotton wool in alcohol I squeezed the vodka onto the area where the ticks were gripping each kitten. After a few moments the ticks are drunk and can usually be just tapped to fall off. The smallest black kitten had 5 ticks the size of broad beans on her lower abdomen and she was fighting and biting me as I removed them one by one. The students today were fascinated to see these parasites swimming around in the vodka dish – they died very happy.

13th June

Storm force rain today so the two young sisters I admitted were christened Puddle and Brolly.

14th June

“Can you help please, my mother’s cat had kittens and they are now eight weeks”

“I’ll find homes for the kittens and spay the mother cat” I said,

A few minutes later after booking in the female cat to be spayed and arranging an animal ambulance to collect the patient from Bishopsworth I rang the caller back.

“Please keep the mother cat in until she’s spayed”

“Ok she’s been kept in since she had the kittens, is the operation for the female cat?”

“Is there another cat in the house then?”

“Yes, my mother has a male cat also who is unneutered”

I rang the vet surgery back and added the male for the same day. What good is it keeping the mother in when there is an unneutered male in the house!

Volunteer Mandy left HQ to collect the five assorted kittens. (Fortunately, only 3 of them are black) Incessant rain inspired me and the student volunteers to call them Noah, Drip and Drop, Varsha and Baarish. (Hindi names for rain)

15th June

Sisters Puddle and Brolly left with a family of three very excited boys.

16th June

Our spitting Wiltshire babies have been handled hourly and have now discovered the joys of tummy tickles and ear scratches. They have divided their day into sleeping in a bundle sessions, stocking up with food sessions followed by five in one battles until they are exhausted again and fall asleep in a heap.

Our expectant mum Lizzie gave birth in the early hours. There are three or four wriggling babies in her birth box, but I cannot see them clearly. Fortunately, Lizzie is well. (This mother was living with a feral group in the grounds of a care home)

An elderly couple in Patchway, North Bristol had been feeding a fluffy grey stray for three months. I offered to catch him to neuter however, the couple who are nearly ninety begged me to find a home for him as although they had grown to love him, they realised he would outlive them. I set a trap in the shed where he was sleeping and asked them to call me at home when he was caught. Shortly after arriving home I had a call from the tearful wife who had gone in the shed and accidentally sprung the trap. I reassured her I'd be back in the morning.

17th June

Went to a home in Filton to collect a young tortie mother and her three kittens. The owner was ill and worrying about the cats was making her anxious. I went straight to the vet with Kira and after booking her in for spaying I went to the Patchway cottage to reset the trap for the grey fluffy stray. Travelling back to HQ the kittens were crying. Heavy rain fell, so I switched on the windscreen wipers and then there was silence. The kittens in a basket on volunteer Andrea's lap were moving their heads with the wipers – they were fascinated! The rain stopped after a few minutes, but I kept the wipers on for the kittens.

Back at HQ I continued the rain theme and named the ginger bot Rainbow and his black brother and sister McCloud and Splash.

This week we have a group of very motivated vet students and when the morning cleaning round is finished, they indulge in some very serious kitten cuddling. At 1pm the phone went – the grey fluffy stray was in the trap! On reaching the shed and seeing him for the first time I realised he was a perfectly tame domestic cat who had been enjoying the elderly couple's hospitality (he had been served boiled fish for breakfast every day). A scan revealed a chip and his delighted owners claimed him in the afternoon. He had travelled around two miles from his home – perhaps after climbing in the back of a delivery van.

My last call of the day was from a woman whose husband had recently started work in a warehouse in the Avonmouth Industrial Estate. He had found three tiny kittens amongst large machinery and the mother cat was hovering around.

I offered to bring a trap and was asked to arrive after 7pm when the workforce had left, and

everything was quiet. I travelled down to the estate where I have been trapping and neutering for eighteen years and after the trap was set, I sat in the car outside and waited and waited. As darkness fell, I travelled home hoping the mother would be caught overnight.

18th June

A lunchtime call told me the white and black mother was in the trap and the young babies were in a box ready for me to collect. The family were given a soft bed, more food than the mother had ever seen and as I left HQ everyone looked calm and settled.

20th June

The Avonmouth family are now calm and the babies have already been cuddled (and kissed) by volunteers. Mum cat no longer spits so I'm hopeful she will become homeable in time and not need to join our gang of permanents.

22nd June

A day of surprises!

An elderly man 'phoned to say Bonnie was his cat whom he had been searching for, for the past three weeks. I explained if she had only been chipped, he would have had a call on the first day. I asked him to bring a photograph to prove ownership. The photo matched her markings and she was taken home with the promise that a chip would be fitted the following Monday.

A mother and young son came to choose two of our kittens. I showed them all the babies with rainy names and after a black and white girl and her sister were chosen, I checked the admission book for their names which were, Noah and Drip.

I put these names on the adoption form and the mother was startled. Her son had been born when there were floods in Bristol and had also been called Noah!

What are the chances of that happening?

Friendly Alvin was chosen and was also wanted by the next family who arrived early. I could have placed him several times this afternoon he is so sociable.

25th June

Collected an unwanted Siamese who was already in her third home. Glynis is a seal point with freckles on her ears – very unusual.

27th June

A local family in a high rise flat had realised their black cat, whom they had had since a kitten, was unhappy and desperate to go out. I drove to collect Sally who appears to be gentle and friendly.

28th June

One of our foster homes came to collect Lizzie and her babies. The foster home has a lot of experience with semi feral cats and will enjoy the challenge of domesticating her further. When transferring the family, I realised the little bundle of box babies were six not four!

(Three were black like mum and three must follow dad as they are Felix types.)

29th June

A young local couple came with the idea of choosing two cats whom The Moggery would find hardest to rehome. I took them to meet our two young black cats, Elmo and Sally who are both friendly and I was sure they would learn to live with each other quite quickly. The couple loved them both and have gone home to make a final decision over the weekend. (Fingers and toes crossed!)

30th June

Yes, Elmo and Sally are wanted – two black cats leaving HQ in one day!