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Moggerly Diary

October 1st

Collected two more cats from Lawrence Weston in North Bristol to neuter under our assisted scheme. Each person tells their neighbours and friends, so neutering is spiraling and is now seen as 'normal'. When I started The Moggerly in 1997 many cat owners felt they should 'let' their cat have five, six or in one case 12 litters before spaying. An encouraging trend is people approach me now before their cat is pregnant for the first time.

October 3rd

Very sadly, today was the last day our very supportive vet Julie Lawrence worked within Filton Vets4Pets. Julie is moving back to her original vet practice in the Cotswolds where she has been asked to take over the surgery. Our loss is their gain, but Julie will continue to help us by featuring Moggerly cats in her surgery as there are no local rescues nearby. With the Severn Bridge toll abolished, hopefully Julies clients will become future homes. Julies first assignment will be to find a home for unpredictable George!

October 5th

Today we had a Moggerly January Sale!

Four of Wendy's kittens left to be loved with local families, Felicia was chosen within minutes, Brandy was reserved and will leave H/Q after spaying and chipping.

I was celebrating our reduced mouths to feed when all white 'Elsa' arrived at the door. Her owner had placed her with a friend who had passed her onto a third party who had sold her on again. Her original owner saw her on Facebook and went to collect her and found she was very thin and with a dreadful skin condition. She has been fattened up but will need further vet treatment before a new and permanent home can be found.

Volunteer Mandy then turned up with a tabby kitten from Barton Hill, apparently an abandoned cat has had three litters this year in a garage so full of rubbish that Mandy couldn't get in to find the latest newborns. In one afternoon, Mandy managed to trap two of the second litter (they look about 12 weeks) and one of the first litter (that looks about 8 months).

Several weeks of trapping will be needed to catch all the original cat's offspring before rubbish can be moved to pick up Mum and the newest litter. Kind neighbours have been feeding the original abandoned Mum and they had contacted two large charities for help.

Sadly, the first charity classed the cat as 'feral' because she was living outside and although the second charity offered to admit the first litter the neighbor was expected to catch them herself and had no means! If only we had been approached in January, we would have taken in just one distressed pregnant cat.

I was just about to leave H/Q and shut up shop' when a family appeared on the doorstep with a cat basket. The family from Chepstow had been attending a family celebration in Backwell (a village near Bristol) and an extremely thin old tabby cat had walked into the hall. She didn't have a chip and had a voracious appetite. I suspected she was an OAP with a Thyroid problem. Secretary Jenny will feature her on our Facebook page in case she has a caring family who are treating her for her condition.

Oh well, six out but five in – were still winning!

October 7th

The OAP was claimed today 😊 Apparently, she is 20!

Mandy caught another first litter tabby and a third 12-week kitten. Fortunately, the younger kittens are nervous but handleable. (Slowly but surely all the tabby colony will be caught)

October 8th

"I'm moving to London and was hoping to take my cat, but my landlord won't allow pets"
A pretty friendly tabby arrived with the usual assortment of toys and bedding. This little cat, who is originally from Portugal, also came with her own little box of contraceptives!
(Floozie, I decided was the most suitable name for her)

A little while later, up the path came five people carrying two cats between them. (they had been neglected by a family member). I admitted black female Branka and a tabby male Branko (Croatian names because today is Croatian Independence Day). The transporter then asked me if I would neuter two of her cats. I promptly booked them in at the Highcroft Wells Rd Surgery. The friend who had accompanied her to H/Q then asked if I would admit 'some' of her cat family. I got a notepad and began taking details. All in all, there were 5 mostly unneutered cats to come in. Then I asked if I could neuter the two cats being kept. I contacted Highcroft again and booked another two neutering's under our Assisted Neutering Scheme. My head was spinning by the time the group of people left!

October 9th

Foster home Kate came to collect our seven little dwarf kittens plus their mother. (Kates remaining mother and baby were adopted yesterday so a quick disinfecting of all the equipment after they left, and she was ready to receive her next family today)
Elsa and Brandy were spayed today and are now ready to go to new homes.

October 10th

This morning I had arranged to collect a three-month kitten from Shirehampton, in North Bristol, to admit her, as her owner was moving to London. I then planned to travel on to the next area Lawrence Weston to pick up three cats from neighbouring friends for neutering

under our assisted scheme. As always I 'phoned to say I was on my way. The first port of call wasn't in her house and explained she was in Brislington (about an hour's drive away) and she had taken the kitten with her. Would I go there to collect the kitten! I don't say 'no' very often, but this seemed a ridiculous situation as I had three more cats to pick up locally. The first house didn't have a bell or a letter box flap, so I had to resort banging on the door with my fist. Eventually a bedroom window opened, and I waited while the householder got up and opened the door with a wriggling cat under her arm.

I pushed her back into the house as I feared the cat would run off down the road (as happens on a regular basis when I am met at the door). The first cat was loaded into a basket safely and I proceeded to the next road to collect the next two cats for surgery. Again, no bell or letter box flap, so I had to thump the door, tap windows with my key and 'phone repeatedly leaving messages that I was outside please open the door! After ten minutes I had to give up. The bedroom curtains remained closed. I couldn't wake the cat's owner.

I arrived at the surgery with just one cat not three.

October 11th

Branko, Branka and Barry were all processed today ready for their new homes.

October 12th

"I've found a tiny kitten in a cardboard box under a bush"

A half hour later the caller walked up the path with a tiny 7/8 week black and white kitten. The kitten was found in Emerson Green, so Emily seemed a nice name for her. Her kind rescuer, Alex, explained he had been walking past a bush and he had heard crying. The box she was in was soaking wet and falling apart. Why in 2019 are people still abandoning animals?

Was she an unwanted surprise present? I'm baffled.

An hour later the twelve-week kitten from Shirehampton arrived at H/Q by taxi. She will make a nice companion for Emily.

October 14th

I was answering the 'phone this morning and I saw a man walking up the path with a tortoiseshell cat wrapped in a blanket. Apparently, the very thin cat had been found outside a pub in Warmley. She didn't have a chip and I rang the vet immediately because I could feel every bone in her body.

An examination showed she had a very high temperature and shrunken kidneys. She wasn't an OAP as I first thought but she had been extremely neglected for a long time. After antibiotics and a pain killer I brought her back to H/Q where she just sat with her head down on the floor.

Tonight, as I was leaving, I checked on her and she was sitting up and looking around the room. Griffin (after the pub where she was found) must have been feeling a little better. Hopefully tomorrow she will want to eat and build herself up.

October 17th

“There’s a ginger cat in my garden and he’s just skin and bones, he’s been hanging around for a few days now”.

The caller confirmed she had asked around the neighbouring houses and nobody had claimed him.

“Please take him straight to our vets at Filton and I’ll pick him up after treatment”.

A couple of hours later I called at Vets4Pets to bring Manfred home. He had been given antibiotics, a pain killer and flea and worm treatment. He now needed lots of TLC. He was an unneutered male whom I suspect had wandered miles from his original home. (He was much too weak to be neutered at the surgery, so I’ll return him to be processed when he is much stronger).

October 18th

“I’m staying with my grandmother and she’s been feeding a very weak stray. I’m going back to London today – can you take him in?”

Again, I asked the caller to rush him into Vets4Pets Filton for urgent treatment. I rang the surgery to explain another unplanned sick cat was on its way, please could he have any treatment necessary.

This evening I brought back to H/Q a quiet, black, one eyed cat I called Nelson.

(I can’t find homes for healthy two eyed black cats what chance has this one of finding a home?)

October 19th

The first two kittens from Bedminster found a home today. Ash and Aston are eating very well and pestering mum Ashleigh, so she will be glad of some respite with two less children to torment her by jumping on her tail.

Two people whose cats are on our waiting list to come in, rang to ask how far up their pets are on the list. The truth is, every time there is a space, several unplanned admissions happen, and I can’t get to the list. Just this week Emily, Griffin, Manfred and Nelson have all jumped the list because they were in danger of dying within days.

October 21st

Five new volunteers arrived today. A Vet student, two Animal Care students completing a two-year course, and two young people who are in between jobs. Their help is desperately needed.

October 22nd

Returned to Lawrence Weston to collect two cats for neutering which had been rebooked from last week. I had ‘phoned last night to say I would be there at 9.45.

No reply again as I knocked, so I ‘phoned the householder to say I was outside, please could she let me in? She replied that she had gone out!

A neighbour saw me by my car and came over to ask if I would neuter her male cat at the same time. The neighbour offered to convince the original cat’s owner to both stay in for me and get up to let me in! I’ve rebooked the original two and added the extra one for

tomorrow morning – but I'm not holding my breath!

October 23rd

Success! I collected the neighbour's male cat first and she then knocked on the next door with a knock that was recognised and the door was opened within minutes. I was on my way with three cats to the vet surgery at last.

At this point I found out something extremely sad. The neighbour's black and white male cat was deformed. He couldn't lift his head or lower his jaw and the only sound he could make was hissing. An examination by the vet confirmed abnormal neck vertebrae. I discovered there had been a deformed male cat in the area two years ago who had impregnated the female I took to be spayed today.

She had apparently produced several litters of malformed kittens, some of which had been born dead. Although the deformed cat had now left the area with his owners, there were now several malformed cats in the area.

I plan to canvass in the immediate area offering free neutering to try to prevent this defective gene affecting any more generations of local cats.

October 24th

A couple came to view cats this afternoon but there wasn't anything in H/Q that appealed to them. (I always feel that cats know when they are being rejected. They work hard to be rehomed by rubbing against prospective owners' legs)

Volunteer Mandy trapped another of the Barton Hill tabbies. We now have 9 in care.

October 25th

Gentle black and white mum Wendy was chosen today along with her last baby, Welly. Our last two Bedminster kittens also left to live in a small village. These brothers were born black but have gradually turned a darker brown!

October 26th

I was expecting a tabby brother and sister at 4pm and was frantically making room for them when a thumping on the front door brought me downstairs.

"Do you take in cats?" said a tall man, struggling to hold a black and white cat in a broken plastic basket. I could hardly turn him away as the cat was three quarters out of the container. Khalid, an eight-month black and white, took the pen I had prepared for the brother and sister.

The friendly youngsters arriving at 4pm were from Chipping Sodbury so I called them Biff and Chip (from a reading scheme I had used when I was teaching). They had to be housed in a stainless-steel recovery pen. (Normally kept for post op cats).

October 27th

"I've been feeding a very thin black cat and today she turned up with a kitten in her mouth" This caller was from Backwell, a village outside Bristol. Volunteer Anthony drove swiftly to collect Mum and baby. The owner convinced me there were no other babies. Mum now Maureen, after her rescuer and baby Panini (my lunch today).

October 28th

“My neighbour heard crying in her shed and we found a second kitten!”

Another call from Backwell, this time vet student Roxanne rushed to collect a dear little dark grey and white female kitten who had the same face markings as Panini. Given the name Bagel by Roxanne, I put her with her mother and sister.

Bagel was very agitated and circled her mother and sister crying for several hours only stopping to snatch at food as she passed by the dish.

After three hours or so she pushed against her mothers side looking for ‘milk.

This upset Panini who had been an ‘only child’ and didn’t want to share the ‘milk bar’. The little kittens faced each and had a fist fight over the same teat, until Bagel relented and moved to the left. Mum cat, Maureen, was relieved when they settled down to feed peacefully.

When I left H/Q at 7pm both babies were engaged in rugby tackling each other and all crying had stopped.

October 30th

‘Box’ kitten Emily left for her new home today and Biff and Chip were chosen by a family who loved them on sight. (At the vet surgery on the 28th this brother and sister had purred so loudly the vet couldn’t hear their heartbeats).

October 31st

“I was walking in a country lane near Weston-Super-Mare and a kitten ran out of a bush towards me”

‘Rocky’ was admitted. This black youngster had obviously been abandoned because there were no houses in the area. He’s eating for England now.

Today Secretary Jenny and Team Leader Jill took two of our ferals to a stable in Devon. They travelled with lots of food and bedding and were installed in a puppy pen designed for a Great Dane. The family only adopt rescued animals and in their huge grounds they had a rescued racehorse, dogs, ducks and ex-battery hens who came over to eat from the litter tray being prepared for the cats (We use chick feed as litter).