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MOGGERY MONTHLY 175

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Moggerly Diary

January 1st

FRANK, our friendly young black cat with a handlebar moustache left for a new home today. A good start to the Moggerly year.



January 2nd

I was asked to take in a Christmas present rabbit this morning, but the family changed their mind when volunteer Tom went to collect him.

January 3rd

Sadly, someone closed the trap I set last night at the garages due to be demolished next week. I have seen three cats on site that need catching before work takes place. I am baffled why some members of the public think it is better for cats to die of hunger or cold rather than be admitted into a rescue to be neutered and rehomed.

January 4th

Tabby GABBY was chosen by a family with teenagers. This friendly soul has a lovely new in Horfield.



January 6th

HARPER and her baby ATTICA left for their wonderful new home in Henbury where a nursery has been prepared for them.



January 7th

“I’ve a cat with two kittens and her sister – can you take them?”

This caller from Hartcliffe had baskets but no transport. I rang Gerry our weekday transporter and his car was in the garage being repaired. I searched for a taxi firm which would transport animals if they were in secure baskets.

I called the cat owner back, but she couldn’t load the cats in her baskets because the shed door was frozen where the baskets were stored.

Finally, I managed to track down Anthony, our weekend transporter and plans were put in place for a Saturday collection.

January 8th

“There is a cat living in the cemetery where I walk my dog.”

This St George caller described the cat as dark grey and explained he had been there for six months. He would run after people for food.

I rang Hazel our volunteer in Long Ashton and with her husband they searched the cemetery to no avail. (Today was freezing so I expect he had found a warm spot and didn't want to leave it.)

January 9th

Anthony collected and brought to H/Q a black and white mother, two ten-week black kittens and their auntie, who is also black. This family from Hartcliffe will be named ASTRA, ZENECA, PFIZER and MODERNA.

I settled them in Room 1 (Our Maternity suite.) where the adults were nervous at first, but the babies were keen to check everything that was in the room.

HARPER and ATTICA'S mother came back lunch time to claim Peace, who had been convalescing after her spaying. (Two large cysts had been found in her uterus which explains why she had looked heavily pregnant on arriving at H/Q) I waited two months before spaying her because I expected her to give birth any day. Fortunately, the cysts though uncomfortable for her were not malignant growths as I feared. Peace left to join her daughter and granddaughter in the specially prepared nursery.



This afternoon I collected a young black and white male cat from a High-Rise flat in Henbury. This cat had been left with a friend 'for a few days' and the owner hadn't come back. How often I have heard that same story over the last 23 years.

Fortunately, MORRISON (I'm using company names this year as my theme) is calm and friendly.



January 11th

HARPER, ATTICA and PEACE are now all sleeping together on their own double bed in their own specially prepared nursery. Secretary Jenny received a lovely photo today of all 3 looking very content. What a wonderful home they have!



Hazel arrived with the cemetery cat who is a short haired grey female.

I had put GOMEZ down as the admission name so she will have to have a boy's name now. She is extremely nervous at the moment but I'm sure she will relax soon and enjoy being in the warm.

January 12th

Collected a male cat for neutering under our Assisted Neutering Scheme.

(I now leave an open basket on the doorstep and 'phone the owner who baskets up the cat and leaves him/her back on the step.) At the vet surgery, all clients wait in their cars after checking in by 'phone, until they are called to the back door. Covid has slowed everything down – but if neuterings don't take place the kitten situation will be horrendous this Summer.

This afternoon I collected an unwanted black and white female who has been on our waiting list for some time. She's friendly so I have arranged for a waiting family to view her on Saturday. (Keeping with the company theme I've named her DARBY after the firm who built the first iron bridge in 1779.)

January 13th

"My two cats are fighting all the time; can you take them in?" When I questioned the caller, I discovered she had an older female cat and she had introduced a young male. Although both cats were neutered it was obvious their original cat was not prepared to tolerate a young newcomer. I advised her to give up the youngster and volunteer Gerry brought in a very friendly young black cat who I christened LOUIS VIUTTON.



January 14th

Our little babies, PFIZER and MODERNA are now eating well and climbing into the big, hooded litter tray (intended for their mother and auntie).



I rang several families who have been waiting for kittens for months and thought they would have to wait until Spring for young kittens. I thought they would be thrilled at the prospect of kittens "ready to go" I was deeply shocked when each family immediately asked their colours and instantly rejected them for being black and black and white! One person also added he didn't want 'mud' coloured kittens either! (I presume that is how he

views dark torties) I thought each family was a wonderful home when I compiled my Homes Offered list. I'm flabbergasted.

January 16th

A wonderful adoption day. MORRISON was loved immediately and went away to Bradley Stoke. LOUIS V rubbed against all three children of his new family and after a few minutes when I asked the mother if they wanted him the little boy looked up at me and gave me a thumbs up sign!



Finally, mid afternoon a woman from South Bristol arrived at H/Q. She had been on our approved list and when I told her over the phone, we had kittens she didn't ask "what colour are they?" but she asked, "can I come right away?" I took her into the room where the little family were and immediately the little black and white baby was playing with the toggles on her coat. She commented "these kittens are just like the cats we had when I was growing up." She loved the friendly mother and auntie too, and I could see she was on the verge of offering to take all four. Now that is what I call a genuine cat lover.

January 18th

"A couple have brought in their 8-year-old ginger cat to be put to sleep. She is healthy so we don't want to do it. Can you take her?" This 'phone call came from a vet in North Bristol, so I immediately offered to admit her. The frightened ginger and white arrived about twenty minutes later and immediately hid in the cardboard box I put for her. TIFFANY seems a nice name – in keeping with our company theme this year.

January 19th

"I got a kitten on Christmas Eve, but I can't cope with him. "Volunteer Gerry left for South Bristol and returned with a little tabby and white baby now named OCADO. (He is only 10 weeks, and this is his third home)

As he is the only kitten at H/Q at present he is likely to suffer death by kissing!



January 22nd

ASTRA and ZENECA were snapped up by a local middle-aged woman and OCADO went away with a family who adopted from H/Q last year. He will have a boisterous brother to run up and downstairs with.



January 23rd

Lots of 'phone calls in response to our "Free Black Cat Neutering" scheme for February.

During Lockdown, each vet is operating differently – some keeping a waiting list for neutering others accepting one booking a week from H/Q.

A lot of organising will be necessary to address every request.

This year Langford Vet School are offering free neutering for several weeks as they need cats for their senior students to operate on. I will need to collect the patients and bring them to H/Q where an ambulance will take them to Langford each morning.

January 25th

A caller from Hartcliffe rang to ask for help under our Free Black Cat Neutering offer. As always, I asked "What other cats are in the house besides the black one?"

It transpired that there were four unneutered adult cats in the household. The callers cat basket was broken, and she didn't have transport to get to a local vet. With some pushing she agreed she did have a police officer friend who would drive the cats and she could borrow baskets from relatives and friends.

I arranged for these four adults to be the first neuterings for Langford.

The police officer will bring all the adults to H/Q and they will be kept overnight before being transported to the vet students the next morning.

January 27th

A non-English speaking mother and daughter rang from Central Bristol. They struggled to ask for help but eventually I realised they had bought brother and sister kittens online and one had gone down a hole behind the toilet and appeared trapped. I suggested putting smelly pilchards or sardines by the hole to attract the kitten out. I also offered help with neutering using a variety of words to enable them to understand.

"Oh no, we want them to have babies" was the response.

I explained using a variety of words that the resulting kittens would be deformed, if not externally e.g., only having three legs but internally having perhaps only one kidney. I failed today but I will continue trying to convince them to accept help.

A few years ago, I admitted some beautiful, fluffy, ginger and white kittens who were a product of incest. I thought all was well until they reached eight weeks they died, one every other day.

The vet I used at that time explained their internal organs were deformed and couldn't support their physical growth.

January 28th

Volunteer Rose made a ball for AMY from her sandwich wrapper of aluminium foil. AMY carried it around in her mouth and took it back to her cardboard box bed. Later she was chasing it around the room but every few minutes she would hit it behind a piece of furniture and then look to Rose to pull out the object and hand it back to her.

Many cat owners spend a fortune on deluxe beds and plastic toys but when all is said and done, they choose cardboard boxes to sleep in and silver paper balls!



January 29th

Friendly, black and white DARBY was chosen today by a retired couple who had recently had an old pet put to sleep. She will enjoy a nice quiet home now after leaving a very noisy household.



January 30th

Today I found a new home for ERIC.

Amanda his owner rang to say that although she loved him, he was annoying the neighbours and he needed a new home. I asked her what he was doing that was annoying. Her 'phone cut out as she replied, and I had to ask her three times before I could make out her reply – CROWING! The reception improved and she explained she was in the kitchen with him and I could clearly hear him loudly in the background.

Yes, ERIC is a Cockerel.



Apparently, he wasn't just heralding the dawn, he was crowing continuously.

(Despite the name 'Moggery', I have been asked over the last 24 years to admit a horse, pygmy goats, a pig, orphan shrews and a golden eagle but this was my first cockerel.)

Fortunately, a few months ago a kind family who had moved to a large house in the country asked for two of our neutered ferals to live in their stables. They also had some rescued farm animals including some ex laying battery hens.

I rang the mother of the family who immediately offered ERIC a home and by 4.30 he was on his way to his new life.

What's coming next? An elephant?

Here are some other photos received this month.





The biscuits are now 6 months old. Bourbon and Figgy, Crumble and Garibaldi, Tennaya and Cookie and Ginger nut and Abernethy. Just look how they have grown.





