

SIAMESE WELFARE CHRISTMAS MEWS 2022

MERRY CHRISTMOUSE TO ALL

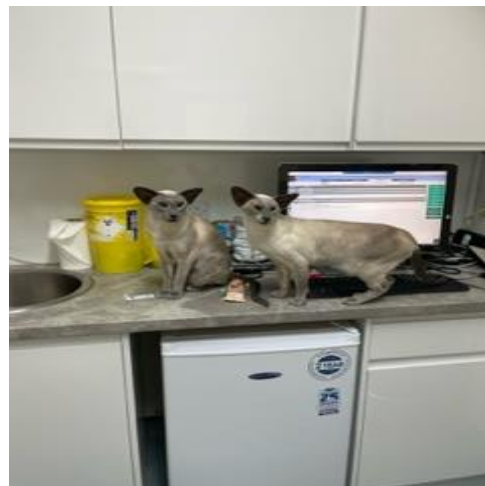


Kevin

2022 has been exceptionally busy for the Trust and we have homed and assisted well over 120 cats to end of October, and the flow of those needing help continues. We often have a waiting list of cats to take in even though we have expanded our fostering places with a friend of the Trust Linda offering extra assistance and her cat pens to house cats adding to the Trustees cat houses giving us up to 13 heated cat houses at our disposal and luckily some houses can take pairs and family groups as required. Other wonderful supporters have temporarily loaned cat houses and cared for cats when we were too full, so thanks to Stella at Copdock Cattery and Kennels, Jane at her rescue cattery in Wales, and Lesley from Old Style Siamese Rescue in Suffolk. Working as a team we have managed to rehome most of the cats who came in, and those who have a limited life expectancy have all been settled into the household of Brigid, Eileen, or Niki as much loved family members until the time comes when they pass. We are not able to carry on this work without your support and offers of places in loving suitable homes. If you are reading this Mewsletter you too have played a vital part in this process by supporting the Trust and / or offering loving homes so, Thank you.

Christmas Photo Competition - While you have the decorations out take the opportunity to take festive photos of your rescues and their animal family. Send photos to Niki on or Whatsapp to 07936136417 or email nikihill@btinternet.com. All photos will be entered into a competition to feature as the Christmas photo in the 2023 Mewsletter, and others will feature on the website for our Christmas 2023 montage. Remember to let us know the name of the featured cat and animals, and your name. Judging will take

Vets Trips - Not every cat enjoys a trip to the vets as much as Amira and Bukie rescues from Hampshire who decided to assist with the admin. Trustees are regular visitors to their local vets as all cats we take in have health checks and about 90% need dentals before they are re-homed. In these difficult times we are also assisting some Siamese owners with unexpected vet's bills. Owners ring asking to give up their cat simply because of a lack of funds. We offer funding because when the cat already has a good home we would rather fund treatment than take the cat in and re-home simply because the owner has fallen on unexpected hard times, plus if we took the cat the required procedure would need completing before homing anyway.



Amira & Bukie

Use of Flower Remedies in Cat Rescue – As Siamese are intelligent and determined of character they quickly work out solutions to problems often leading to extreme behaviour when unhappy. They can react badly to the usual medical solutions, so the Trust often use complimentary medicines including Flower Remedies a gentle, natural, therapy which works well in conjunction with mainstream therapies. The worst that can happen is that they do not work. Flower Remedies are kept in ‘stasis’ by being suspended in alcohol. Initially you need a few drops added to drinking water to activate the remedy, in this ratio most animals do not notice the taste and the alcohol does no harm. This makes it extremely useful for treating animals which prefer not to be handled or take tablets. Sometimes you notice changes within days, but generally we look for noticeable differences by 3 weeks.

Soraya Porter is an experienced Siamese owner and qualified Flower Remedy Practitioner who works in conjunction with Trustee Niki. We observe the cats in rescue or consult with owners of cats with issues to establish history, behaviour and what ongoing or completed medical treatments are in place. This helps create a three-dimensional picture of the cats’ state of mind, helping Soraya decide which mixture of remedies to create. Emotions in animals are layered like an onion, often the first emotions shown are fear and anxiety which need to reduce so you can see what the next strongest emotion is and keep working until you have hopefully addressed everything.

A couple of real examples are detailed below to give an idea of the more complex cases the Trust has dealt with:



ZeeZee

After trying every other option on the market over 2 years with no success the Trust felt we had no answer for ZeeZee, a particularly troubled young Siamese. Niki happened to discuss him with Soraya who agreed to help. ZeeZee was already with his new owners Lesley and Clive after being

rescued by Siamese Welfare from a dreadful situation where from kitten to 3 years old he had been tied to furniture to restrain him, isolated, pulled around and even branded on one of his pads. Mentally he was quite disturbed, unable to cope with changes in his environment or unexpected noises. His wonderful new owners knew they were taking on a difficult cat and they adored him in spite of all his strange ways. He was spraying regularly and unpredictably, attention seeking by biting and being naughty, pacing, was submissive and fearful. It took several consultations to gradually strip away his layered issues to get him to the point where most problems are no longer too evident, and those left are manageable. He is now 13 years old and thanks to many specialised mixes of Flower Remedies and his owners ongoing support he is having a full happy and loved life.



Reggie is another Siamese who remains etched in Soraya’s mind a young Siamese who when discovered by a kind lady was handed to the Trust because he was running alive with fleas. He had given up, was very under-weight with no interest in food or drink as can be seen in the above photo. He was anaemic from flea and worm burden and had been bullied by other cats over a long period of time. His digestive tract was inflamed, as was his skin, giving rise to a general puffiness and severe flaking of skin. It was an extreme immune reaction to long term allergy, although strangely it did not cause the usual hair loss. Our vet was confident that they could treat him successfully, but the poor lad was so sore he had given up and had no will to continue, so they were unsure if he would live long enough for treatments to work. The flower remedy mixture Soraya made up restored his will to live, he started to drink, eat again and groom himself. We gave him washes and vet treatments. And are very pleased to say he made a full recovery and is now very loved in his new home with Shelagh & Garry and another lovely Siamese Rescue Oriental girl



Foster Carers or Special Slaves Required - Sometimes Cats come in who are nervous of humans, but are fine with other cats and otherwise have no bad behaviour. They may never be cuddly cats but when paired with a confident cat they can decide humans are not so scary. They often need indoor homes with no access to outside unless it is in a Catio. Normally Brigid and Niki bring these cats to a point where they can be handled and taken to the vets if required but choose to distance themselves from humans on a daily basis. If you feel that you could take on a cat as a companion to yours and have the patience to let them, eventually come to you and just sit on the end of the sofa or bed, but perhaps never get much closer please let Niki know. Sometimes they surprise us and develop into loving cats who trust but this can take years in some cases and Niki & Brigid only have limited space and time so patient suitable long-term fosterers are welcomed to help these mentally damaged rescues. The Trust will fund any vets fees and will always be available for support.

Christmas from a Cats point of view - Every year my Humans go a bit mad, it all starts when they get home later than usual bringing lots of shopping bags which they hide away. They spend evenings writing on piles of cards, this seems a stressful process so I help distract them by whizzing through the envelopes and hiding pens. They bring a tree into the house and spend time putting balls and sparkle all over it. Then they find the bags they hid up and cause a great mess using paper and ribbons which are great fun to run through and steal. My help is not always appreciated so I am shut out of the room but that's not a problem as I have the important job of removing the balls from the tree so they can assist me to look for them later. To my disappointment they have learnt not to add the strings of twinkle which I find yummy (although it did give me an upset tummy). The other really good thing is a succession of new stuff to eat coming out of the kitchen, sometimes I am accidentally let in and can steal

my favourite sausage rolls. I seem to get told off quite a bit and threatened with not seeing Santa whomever he is....

At last all gets less frantic, old friends come to see me often bringing toys and treats to add to my hoard. Everyone relaxes in the warm and the boxes and paper are brought out again, this time they encourage me to rush through the paper and steal the ribbons. Lots of food is left lying around so I help myself and they laugh at my antics. They are less pleased if I sit on the dining table and tuck into the Turkey, but I always get some later anyway so why I just cannot help myself I do not understand. Later everyone is sleepy so I can do whatever I wish. We have several days of this excitement until the tree disappears, although the shiny balls are often found much later accompanied by the exclamation of not another one, how did that get under the fridge????

Have you bought your cats prezzi yet? Why not go to our web site www.siameserescue.org.uk or contact Niki on 01473 830894 to order a selection of toys in a cellophane bag with ribbon ready to give £5.00 for selection 5 toys including postage.



Cats In danger from curable issues - We occasionally take on cats which are very poorly due to incorrectly diagnosed issues. This year we had two cats from different parts of the country both suffering from prolonged and intractable diarrhoea and large intestine colitis diagnosed by vets as sensitive tummies as standard tests were negative. Mycroft was confined to a utility room because of uncontrolled bowels, and Hugo was taken to the vet weighing less than 2kg unable to stand and jump. Luckily in both cases Niki was consulted and immediately recognised the possible cause as an infection of a microscopic parasite called *Tritrichomonas foetus* She and Brigid have over the years nursed cats with these symptoms (see Mia one of Brigid's Sponsor cats). The misdiagnosis of

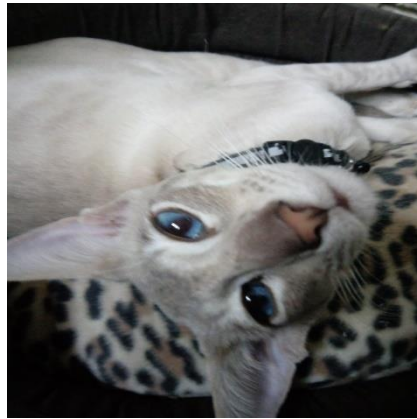
food allergies, led to months of expense and suffering as the cats did not improve, understandably families cannot cope with the resulting mess and distress so rescue is called or vets suggest euthanasia.



Hugo recovered

Both cats had been treated by vets so were not neglected. Luckily Mycroft was normal weight and healthy to look at but had a very inflamed gut so Niki took him on. Unfortunately, Hugo was on the verge of collapse when he was taken a vet in Wales for euthanasia. He weighed under 2kg and could barely stand. Jane a friend of the Trust who helped the vets with another abandoned Siamese was asked if she could help Hugo. Both boys were young adults with no other symptoms. After Niki advised which test was required both cats showed a positive result. A simple course of 14 days of specially ordered Ronidazole tablets the only agent with proven efficacy in around two thirds of cases was administered and alongside careful barrier nursing by Niki in Suffolk and Jane in Wales the boys improved within a week of taking the tablets after years of suffering. Once the course was completed action was needed to repair the gut health using sensitive probiotic food and supplements. It can take up to a year to recover good gut health but the runny tummy calms almost immediately. Hugo travelled to Niki in Suffolk once he gained enough strength for continued nursing and both cats have made a full recovery although will probably always be a little softer in their box and more sensitive to food changes. Soraya took on Mycroft and Hugo has a willing slave in Natalie Both cats are now at normal weight around 5kg and living their best life. The vets were astonished with their recovery.

Soraya recommends keeping a bottle of Bach's Rescue Remedy in the house as part of your first aid kit. This off-the-shelf mixture available from most good chemists relieves fear, anxiety, terror and trauma. You simply add four drops in drinking water, it can also be used for Humans If you wish to consult Soraya direct email her on sorayaporter369@gmail.com supplying your email address and / or telephone number. She also treats any other animals which are having problems.



Mycroft recovered

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Trackers - Something we would recommend if your cat goes out freely and you worry about where it roams, especially if you wait up until they decide to come in or you are moving to a new home is a tracker which you can fix to their collar. We have several owners who now use these. They are managed by an App on your phone or computer. A recommended brand is Ubeequee with an easy to use App with current cost of less than £40 and sim subscription is £4.50 a month. It has a 2 day charge which only takes 40 mins to charge back up. They come in a waterproof pouch and seems to be the smallest & lightest tracker Siamese rescue owners have found although others are on the market..



**AND FINALLY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY
NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT SIAMESE CAT
WELFARE TRUST**

Regd. Charity No. 1072366 formed in 1998