

# SIAMESE WELFARE CHRISTMAS MEWS 2024

## WRECK THE TREE AND BLAME THE DOGGIES

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA...



2024 has been even busier than ever with over 100 cats helped. There have been the normal rescues when owners have died or have gone into accommodation where they cannot take their cats. This year we have had an increasing number of Siamese turned out onto the streets, often being rescued by kind members of the public handing them into vets who contact us, or the finders call us directly. In addition to this several older breeders have exhibited bad judgement, kept breeding until they could no longer cope, or experienced bad health leaving multiple cats in need of medication and assistance. In common with all animal rescues the pandemic fallout and people going back to full time work is still being felt. Siamese demand attention and sharing with too many other animals is not acceptable to them, neither is being left alone for long hours when they were used to constant company. Luckily, we have had many wonderful homes all over the country offered and these needy cats have been adopted and their needs exceeded. Thank you to all who have taken on or supported Siamese Welfare this and every year, we cannot do it without you.

## Lucky Cat

*My eyes are getting heavy now, my time has come to leave,  
But one thing I must tell you as you stay behind to grieve,  
You always did your best for me, your love knew no end,  
I really was a Lucky Cat to have you as my friend.  
I see how much you miss me now; your days seem bleak and bare.  
I know you too well, your heart is big you still have love to share.  
So please don't sit and cry for me, we'll meet around the bend,  
Til then another Lucky Cat is waiting for a friend.*

Author unknown



**Queenie** was a found wandering in Suffolk in her late teens, very thin and unclaimed. When tested we found she had extreme thyroid issues, so she was settled into Niki's home for her last few months to live a pampered life

**Microchip Law** – All cats over 20 weeks must now be microchipped, and your vet should check every new cat they see. We have reviewed and updated the details of all cats we have rehomed if we have the chip number on record and contacted owners where they are not known. We have direct access to chip company records and can update your details whenever they change so you do not need to pay or upgrade your chip registration as suggested by the chip companies. Let us know any future changes by emailing your new details to [sccwt@siameserescue.org.uk](mailto:sccwt@siameserescue.org.uk)

**Rocky's Story** - Sometimes the cat gods work in mysterious ways. When he was too young to leave his mum Rocky was given to a large noisy family. It was a warm home even if it was unsuitable with lively children who viewed him as a toy, sometimes they were kind but he learnt to hide up and sleep in corners. He always had a tummy upset and was eventually taken to a vet. While in the waiting room a kind lady called Bij was waiting with her Oriental. She observed what a sweet seal point Siamese kitten they had, the mother was surprised, she did not know of Siamese. The children continued to poke at a frightened Rocky. The vet prescribed medicine and advised neutering, but his owner declared she would not pay and would 'give him to anyone on the street'. Bij interceded saying she could take him if they did not want him and supplied her contact details. The mother and children left in a hurry but thankfully called Bij arranging to hand him over the next day. Bij, a Trust Facebook follower contacted us, and we agreed to take him so Bij brought a very subdued small Rocky to Niki. He was about 6 months but was handed over with kitten milk and little else so we were worried about his previous nutrition. After a blood tests, neutering and jabs his tummy upset was diagnosed as Giardia and treated successfully. Once healthy he was introduced to the Welfare Household and probably for the first time in his life learnt to play with other cats. He felt safest sleeping on the floor but gradually learnt to come onto laps. He wrestled and chased around with the other youngsters in care and enjoyed exploring the house and paddock. It was at this point he introduced himself to Rachel who was viewing another rescue at Niki's. She had recently had the terrible experience of having her previous free roaming rescue killed by a car. Devastated by this loss she had cat proofed her garden and wanted an indoor Siamese to avoid similar heartbreak. We decided the cat she had planned to take was not the right partner for her Oriental Girl. Rocky was bombing about the paddock playing in the sun and came over to make friends. He was limping slightly which Niki thought was due to the increase in exercise. Rachel and her daughter immediately fell for him so it was agreed they could have him on the condition he would see the vet if the limp was not gone in a few days. They knew he was still under assessment but did not live far from Niki. He settled in quickly but was still reluctant to jump onto laps and beds. He explored his new safe territory but was cautious about coming downstairs and seemed to have poor close sight, not noticing treats put immediately in

front of him. As he was still limping Rachel took him to the vet as agreed and when Rachel mentioned the stair issue his eyes were checked and did not seem to react correctly to light. Rachel and Niki decided a specialist referral was required to address our concerns which could have a neurological or nutritional cause. A week later Rocky marched round the specialist's surgery with no hesitation, the limp had all but gone plus he had doubled in weight since coming to rescue, but did have an unusual gait. His sight was checked, and they told us he was blind with little other explanation. This was a complete surprise as he had navigated all new environments with no obvious problems, he also chased balls and caught crane flies in the garden so definitely had a degree of sight, so we consulted Elle the eye expert at Niki's vet who gave a proper assessment, and guidance. He had retinal degeneration and although he had distance sight and could see light and shade at the moment, she confirmed that he would eventually go blind. He also had luxating knees which explained the unstable gait. As he was now on a good diet and had a safe quiet home and cat safe paddock it was agreed that we were doing everything possible to give him a good life. Rachel loves this courageous little boy and with the support of the Trust wishes to keep him and do whatever is required for him. It is expected that he should live a normal life and adapt well to his decreasing sight.

An unusual and sad outcome medically but, in many ways, we believe he has several Guardian Angels. Firstly, Bij our Facebook follower happened to be waiting at the vets that day and had the kindness and courage to speak up and rescue him from a totally unsuitable home. Knowing the Trust could help handed him to Niki ensuring he had the benefit of our nursing, experience, and support for life. Then Rachel, after heartbreaking circumstances now had a perfect safe house and new cat proofed garden arrived in his life at just the right moment for both of them. He is now looking forward to a loved and hopefully long life in the best home for his needs.



**Vet Clubs Versus Insurance** - We are sure you have noticed rising vet fees and insurance companies putting limits and exclusions on policies. If you have insurance, make sure you are aware of this and that they are acceptable. Several companies do not cover dentals which are the most common maintenance treatment which your cat will need apart from annual boosters and regular pest treatments which are also not covered.

Many vets now run Pet Clubs where you pay a monthly subscription of about £20 which covers regular health checks, flea and worm treatment, and often a percentage of money off treatment procedures and prescriptions. This is usually a good deal and less than an annual insurance and is worth considering especially if you have a cat who does not roam free as their chance of injury is less. If you are switching from insurance to a Vet Club, or going without any financial safety net it is worth considering paying the money you would have paid into a savings account for your animals to cover any unexpected vet treatment.

Help from the Trust can also be applied for if you should have an unexpected large vet expense for your Siamese which you cannot easily afford. We would rather pay one-off invoices than need to rehome a cat who is otherwise in a good home where finance is unexpectedly short.

### *Giftaid it*

Why do we value Gift Aid? As a registered Charity, it allows us to claim the basic rate tax paid by UK taxpayers on their donations. This means that for every £1 donated, the charity can claim an extra 25p if authorised by the tax paying donor. This allowed the Trust to claim back £7727.87 for the financial years 2021 to 2024. As Trust supporters we are sure you can appreciate what a difference this additional amount can make in funding our work. If you want to know more about Gift Aid go to: <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/gift-aid> further details supplied by our Treasurer can also be found on our website.

### **Sponsor-a-Cat Scheme and our New Cat Paddock**

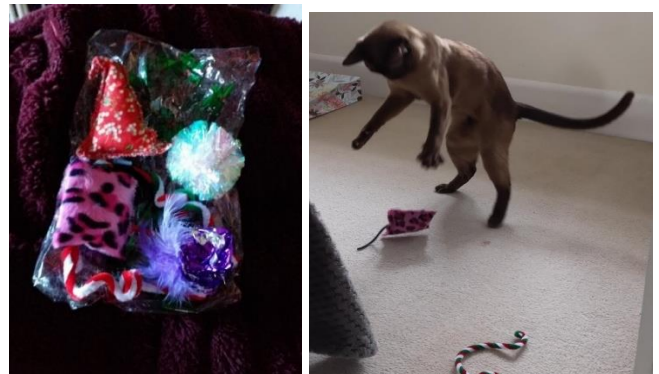
We find homes which match cats' individual needs but occasionally we have characters who cannot be re-homed due to unbreakable behavioural issues, so they stay as long-term residents with Trustees. So often, they do not like being with humans or use fabric rather than litter trays it is not wise to settle them into our homes. Those personalities have heated

cat houses with covered runs to live in. This year we have set up our first cat safe paddock with a large heated cat house and small separate external insulated hutches so they can choose to have their own space or be in the communal cat house. This gives them a safe enriched life. The cats in the paddock are not suitable to run free as their distrust of humans would result in them 'going wild' and avoiding humans completely. Being in the paddock allows a large play area (the size of the average small garden) while being cared for. They can be handled by Niki, but need sedation before any vet treatment. The paddock has been a great success with four cats resident, Juliet, Paddington, Herbert and Larni. Their pictures and stories can be seen on our website. The paddock has released cat house space which is always at a premium for those who need rehabilitation or medical care before being re-homed. If you would like to sponsor any of our long-term residents' further details can be found on our web page.

**Sponsoring a Siamese as a Christmas or Birthday Gift is worth a thought, please visit our web site for details of the long-term cats needing financial support**  
[SPONSOR A SIAMESE \(siameserescue.org.uk\)](https://www.siameserescue.org.uk)

### **Have you bought your cats prezzi yet?**

Why not go to our web site [www.siameserescue.org.uk](http://www.siameserescue.org.uk) or contact Niki on 01473 830894 to order a selection of 5 toys in a cellophane bag with ribbon ready to give £6.00 including postage.



*Happy cat playing with catnip pouch and pipe cleaner twizzle last Xmas*

**Homing Forms** – If you are looking for a new or additional Siamese please email Niki and complete a Homing Form available on our website. Priority is given to past / current owners and those completing forms. Adverts only go out if the cats needs are not met by current homes offered. We assisted over 100 cats in 2024, - good homes always welcome.

## The Happy Christmas Tail of Toby and Hissing Sid

In October we heard of an entire chocolate point Siamese who had been hanging around over the summer being fed by several people. He would not let them handle him and was christened Hissing Sid, having been seen repeatedly crossing a busy road and fighting with other cats, with winter coming the lady regularly feeding him contacted SCWT, she had a cat and could not take him in. A local rescue scanned him, but he was unchipped, and no one had responded to social media posts or local enquiries. SCWT agreed to take him, so a trap was borrowed and deployed. Within an hour a quite annoyed large entire boy was collected by Trustee Paula. He is now safe, neutered and being rehabilitated.

When Hissing Sid was reported, Paula recognised the area he was living in. In February we had a report that two young Siamese were wandering in that area, but unfortunately, one had disappeared, so we feared the worst, the other chummed up with a Moggie and was being fed by a couple who contacted us. He was caught and Paula took him in. That was Toby and you can read his story on our website. We were understandably over the moon when we heard about Sid. He was only a postcode away from where Toby had been caught. He must have been his friend, plus when we saw his pictures he was practically identical and the right age.

This is a very happy ending both Toby and Sid alive and safe. Toby is now very happy in his new home and Sid is currently being brought back to normality by Paula. Certainly, a happy ending although how or why two small healthy Siamese boys ended up on the street is anyone's guess. They are both used to humans and have a good temperament so are unlikely to have been born other than by a planned pregnancy and probably had a good start in life up to abandonment.

Toby on arrival

now in loving home



Sid on arrival

## Dates for your Diary in 2025

**The Summer Fund Raising Afternoon Tea** will take place on Sunday **21<sup>st</sup> July 2025** at our Suffolk homing base in Gt Blakenham, Suffolk. Come and enjoy the stalls, amazing food, and visit the cats in care.

**Cat Show** - Would you like to visit a **Cat Show**? The Lilac Pointed Siamese Cat Society are running their annual show on Saturday 16th August 2025 in Hertfordshire open to the public from 13:00 hours. Come and see a variety of Siamese, visit cat-based stalls including the Welfare Trust Stall. Further information will be posted on the website next year.

## Christmas Treats for your cat and cautionary advice

Obviously they will all appreciate treats available from shops such as Dreamies, meaty sticks but keep to the ones you know they like as Christmas is no time for a tummy upset. There are also other items of Christmas food you may let them have such as Turkey, Fish, Sausages and more to replace a meal perhaps?

We are all busy over the festive season and do not need an unplanned vets visit so please take care. Do not allow your cats access to cooked poultry bones, plastic meat wrappers, cocktail sticks, tinsel etc. It is also wise to shut the door on any room which has a buffet laid out, unless of course you want to greet your guests with a cat on the table tucking in, strangely not everyone will find it amusing! Defrosting items or leaving uneaten food out can also be risky. I was once rung by a worried owner who found her boy in the middle of a cream pavlova she was defrosting, most of which he had eaten. She asked what she should do? my reply 'wait for him to be sick!' and then just give him just water for next 12 hours and keep me updated. Another time I heard of a particularly generous Siamese found throwing freshly baked cakes and biscuits down to very happy dogs sitting below!

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