

# Catch And Treat Strays C.A.T.S.

We help stray and feral cats and kittens by neutering and obtaining Veterinary treatment where needed, before returning them to, or finding them, suitable homes or placements.

Charity number 1153666

## C.A.T.S. NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023, No.10

### CATS' CORNER UPDATE

Some eighty cats and kittens were helped by Catch And Treat Strays in the last year. After the joys of finding the right home for a rescued cat or kitten comes the tears of those that don't make it. There were two, in particular, in the last six months: **Pearl**, an older feral cat that featured in the last newsletter, made a great improvement after a considerable amount of care, time and treatment, was later found to have an inoperable condition. Whilst a dear little kitten, that was found dumped in the middle of the countryside, was rescued, diagnosed with suspected poisoning, suffered the most severe epileptic fits, had a host of other problems and, in the end, **Pepé** had to be relieved of his suffering. Doreen had grown extra fond of these two in their time with her and it was very hard to say goodbye.

On the other hand there are two particularly heart-warming stories. **Bronson**, who featured in the last newsletter, was a stray, named by the vets, who needed help to find a very special person and home. A widow, who had recently lost her dear husband, fell in love with him and, by coincidence, her husband was often mistaken as Charles Bronson. What a perfect match. And then there was sweet little **Tess**, a tiny kitten clearly in distress, who was spotted by the bridge over the River Wensum in Fakenham and popped into a Tesco's bag for life. She was rushed to The Grove vets with a host of problems. Barely alive, she had cat flu, ulcers on her eyes but had a fighting spirit to survive. With Doreen's loving care, little Tess made a remarkable recovery albeit her eye is still not perfect. One of the kind people involved in her rescue got in touch and offered a home. Tess joined her new family on 3 March 2023 and settled in remarkably well.



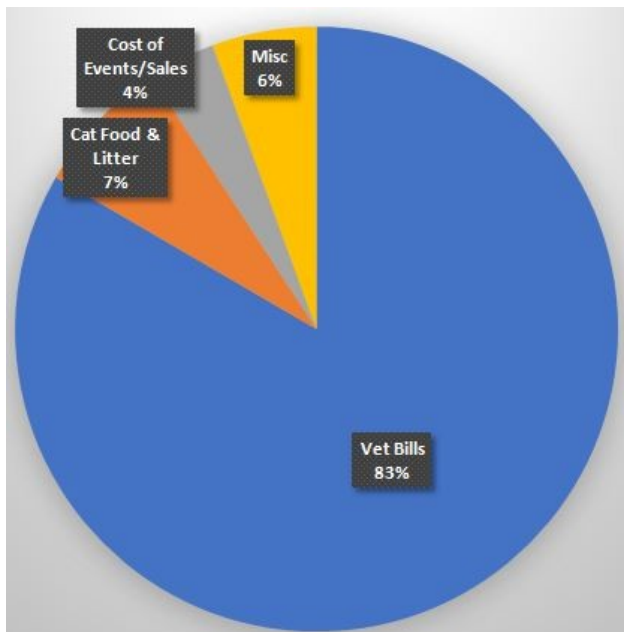
Tess, 20 January 2023



Tess with her new mum, 3 March 2023

So welcome to our latest newsletter and thanks to everyone who has helped us. This includes those who have donated money, gifts for sale, and cat-related items, or who have run stalls, held collections (including penny pots), and fund-raising events, or sent cat food and, of course, thanks to the many kind volunteers who have donated their time and energy to help the cats and kittens. We were overcome with gratitude for the quantity of cat food delivered after we put out an emergency appeal on Facebook for cat food for the ferals we supply with food. As you will remember, there was an exceptionally cold spell in the winter and the feral cats needed food more than ever.

In case you are not aware, our charity has no paid staff, receives no government grants, and our income arises from public donations and events. Every penny raised goes to help the cats. Vet bills made up 83% of our expenditure in the last year financial (1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022) as our pie chart on the next page demonstrates.



Expenditure from 1/10/21-30/9/22

We have cat food collection points at **Morrisons** and **GJL** in Fakenham and are very grateful to them for providing the facilities and to the shoppers who use them.

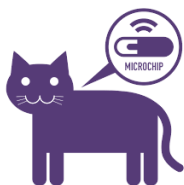
**The charity couldn't keep going without your support. THANK YOU.**

### THE CAT BILL

The compulsory microchipping of cats came into law on 13 March 2023. All cats must be chipped before 10 June 2024 and by 20 weeks of age. Hurrah! A fine of £500 will be imposed on owners of unchipped cats. Under discussion is a legal requirement for motorists to report traffic incidents involving cats and for cat fatalities to be scanned and owners informed. Cats will then have the same status as dogs in these sad situations.

### MICROCHIPPING

There is some peace of mind in the knowledge that your beloved pet has been microchipped, but it is vital that you keep the registered microchip information up-to-date. If you move home, or change your email address or telephone number, do contact the company with whom the chip number is registered. So often lost, injured, and deceased cats are brought to the vets but the owner cannot be contacted because the chip information is wrong. This is just sad for everyone. So do get your cat microchipped now, and update the registration information as necessary.



### CATS & KITTENS TO REHOME

At the time of going to press our main concern has been finding homes for feral cats that have been neutered but which cannot be returned to where they were found. There is one in particular, a female tortoiseshell short-haired youngster, called **Stripe**, who needs a cosy barn/ out-building to call her own with someone kind to help her with food. She would need to be kept secure within the barn for a couple of weeks to know that she was safe.

Please phone Doreen on 01328 878517 if you can help.



Stripe

**LETTER FROM A FERAL CAT...**

I may never be a lap cat,  
or one who comes when called,  
I may resist the hand that tries to touch,  
And some may think I'm flawed.  
I may prefer my freedom,  
To your warm and cozy house,  
I may reject the bowl of finest foods,  
For the chance to chase a mouse.

But the box you put out for me,  
Feels safe and warm and dry,  
And I raise my eyes to thank you,  
When I see you walking by.  
And I eat the food you give me,  
And I listen to your voice,  
I may never be a lap cat,  
But you offer me that choice.

One day I'll see the winter,  
One day I'll see the rain,  
I may grow old not knowing,  
That there is freedom from this pain.  
But I know you try to help me,  
And although my days will end,  
I may never be a lap cat,  
But I know you are my friend.

G.C.C.  
CAT MAN  
CHRIS



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please support.



**Easter Sunday 9th April 2023**  
**Charity Tractor Road Run 10am start**  
Weasenham Manor, Weasenham Saint Peter  
PE32 2TF Tel: 07769322228

Raffle 1st prize Toolbox & Tools  
(BBQ included in entry fee)

In support of C.A.T.S  
(Catch And Treat Strays) and Y.A.N.A.

£10 Tractor Driver, £5 per Passenger

C.A.T.S. has an indoor and outdoor table at the Car Boot Sales at Hempton Memorial Hall (8am-1pm) on Bank Holiday Mondays of 10 April, 1 & 29 May, and 7 & 28 August. Plants will be on sale outside, along with bric-a-brac indoors and delicious home-made jam.



We are delighted with our beautiful banner made by Lesley. You can find our stall more easily now!

## FABRIC SALE



Getting ready for the fabric sale last year.  
The event raised £1,809.

This year the fabric sale and other stalls at Hempton Memorial Hall will be raising funds towards the veterinary treatment of a large colony of feral cats in Hempton. The cats (about twenty in all) are being trapped, neutered and chipped to control the colony size. We need to raise £3,000.



**Catch And Treat Strays**  
**C.A.T.S.**

01328 878517  
catchandtreatstrays@btinternet.com  
<https://catchandtreatstrays.com>

**HEMPTON MEMORIAL HALL**  
The Green, NR21 7LG

Saturday 10 June 2023  
10.30am – 2.00pm

# FABRIC SALE

Quality Cottons & Fabrics

Blinds & Curtains  
(Ex-display/New/Re-cycled)  
*bring your measurements*  
*also*

Haberdashery—including Buttons, Threads etc.  
*plus*

Teas, Coffee, Cakes & Cream Teas

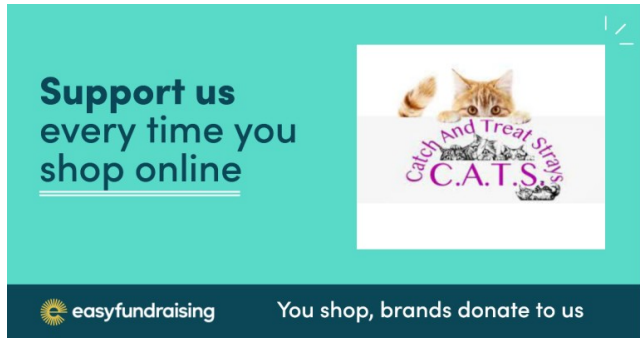
In aid of Hempton feral cat colony: trap, neuter and return

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The theme for our Christmas Tree entry at Fakenham Parish Church last Christmas was Dick Whittington. Thanks to all who donated. The event raised just over £560. Added to that our Christmas Fayre at Hempton Memorial Hall raised £1500.

This year (30 November to 5 December 2023) the theme of the tree will be 'The Owl and the Pussycat'.

## FUND-RAISING

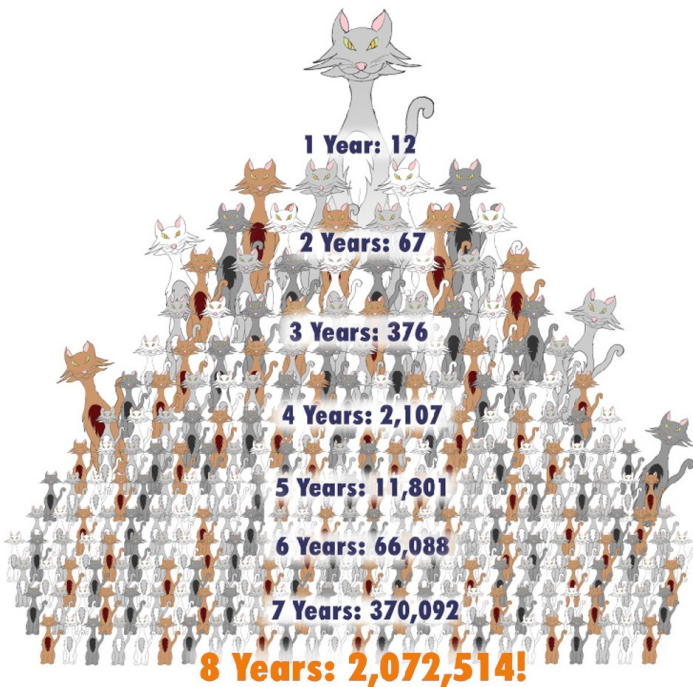


Amazon has stopped its donation scheme through Amazon Smile. So if you shop online please use **Easy fundraising** that has over 8,000 big-name retailers who donate when you shop with no cost to you. So far £474 has been raised since C.A.T.S. joined the scheme.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cats1/>

## DID YOU KNOW?

This chart represents one unspayed female cat, a mate and all her offspring producing only two litters of kittens a year, with 2.8 kittens per litter surviving. This is an underestimate. By spaying and neutering just one male and one female cat, more than 2,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just four years—and more than 2 million in 8 years.



**PLEASE GET YOUR CAT SPAYED OR NEUTERED**



## WANTED

**Foster Homes.** We occasionally have cats and kittens that need a temporary home rather than wait in a pen until they are adopted.

Requirements: a quiet spare room or space where a cat can get used to normal life in the home like the TV, phone and the dreaded vacuum cleaner. Foster homes also free up pens required for urgent new arrivals.

We also need **Volunteers** willing to go out trapping—a challenging but rewarding job. Traps are fairly heavy—it needs someone fit, patient and not afraid of the dark! We also need odd-job helpers from time to time.

## CATS LOST OR FOUND

If you have lost or found a cat and would like to advertise it on our Facebook page please contact us with details and pictures. Send to [catchandtreatstrays@btinternet.com](mailto:catchandtreatstrays@btinternet.com)

## CONTACTS

Secretary: Brenda Duggan. ☎ 01328 701556  
email: [catsrescuekettlestone@gmail.com](mailto:catsrescuekettlestone@gmail.com).

Founder: Doreen Smith. ☎ 01328 878510

## FOLLOW ONLINE

Website: <https://catchandtreatstrays.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kettlestonecats>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/cats\\_norfolk](https://twitter.com/cats_norfolk)

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/catchandtreatstrays/>

**If you can spare any donation**, please send a cheque made payable to 'Catch And Treat Strays' to 80, The Street, Kettlestone, Fakenham, NR21 0AU, or donate online on our website or just come along to an event and support us.



And if you are a tax payer, please **Gift Aid** your donation and let us know. Thank you.