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Caversham Kitties Mewsletter

December 2024

Welcome to the third edition of the Caversham Kitties Mewsletter!

Every month, you will receive an update on our local kitty pals, look ahead to what's coming up soon, as well as a few other bits and pieces we hope you'll enjoy!

Tails from last month

Greetings from down under!

As you read this, I am heading to New Zealand, having spent a bit of time visiting friends in Western Australia celebrating my upcoming 40th birthday ☺

Did you know there is a Caversham in Western Australia, and it's home to a wonderful wildlife park? I visited once before in 2017, but I had to pay the critters another visit this time around!





There is also a Caversham suburb of Dunedin, New Zealand, which we will be passing through in a few days, I'll hopefully get a photo!

November is typically a very quiet month for me, which is why I tend to take my own holidays around this time of year.

Nevertheless, you still kept me busy in the first three weeks of the month: I visited **53** different kitties over **248** visits! I think I've earned a little time off!

Dalton celebrated his 4th birthday at the beginning of November, and was thoroughly spoilt, not only by us but by some of my clients too! I really do work with the most generous community of cat-lovers ❤️



Planning ahead



December is here! I hope you're all looking forward to Christmas and are well underway with your planning and shopping! The rest of 2024 is **FULLY BOOKED**, but if you're planning ahead for some winter sun in January, February or March, my books are now open!

I will be back in operation from the 16th December, so apologies if I take a little longer than usual to reply to any enquiries!

Don't forget, I upload my latest availability regularly on social media, so give us a follow to make sure you never miss out!

Welcome to the Club

This month we welcomed three new members to the Caversham Kitties Club! Say a big hello to Daphne, Munchkin and Lychee, we hope we get to see them all again very soon.

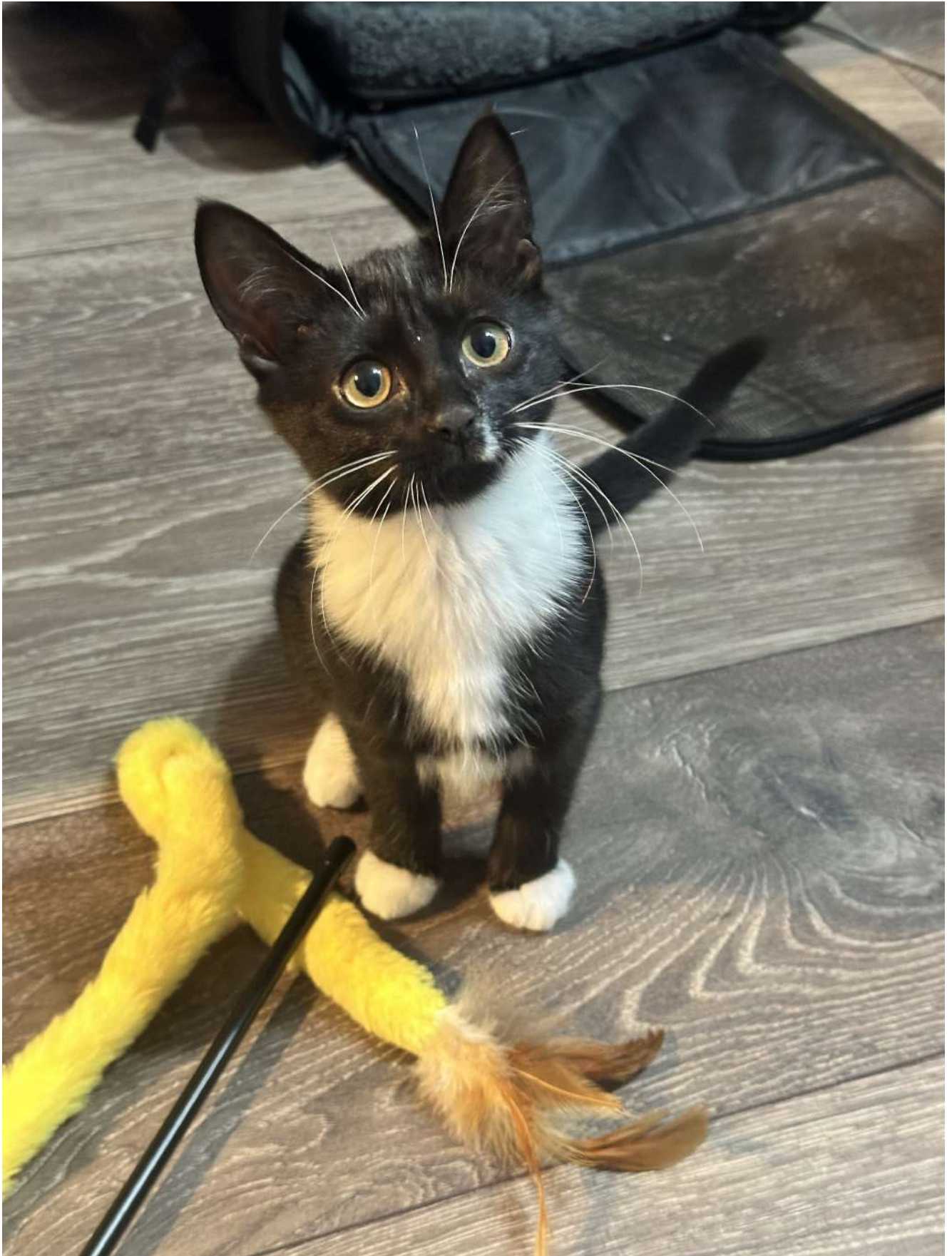
Daphne



Munchkin



Lychee



Co-MEW-nity News

Lucky became a big sister to Dini last month! They took a bit of time to get used to one another, but I'm pleased to report they are now friends!



Congratulations to all of those kitties who are celebrating anniversaries of being members of the Caversham Kitties Club this month!

Clovis & Figaro (1 year)

Gizmo (2 years)

Ted & Tonks (2 years)

Pippin & Nelly (2 years)

Carrie & Daisy (2 years)

Cheeto (3 years)

Do you have news you'd like the rest of the club to know about?

Email hello@cavershamkitties.co.uk or send me a message on 07967305562!

What's going on

Keeping your cat safe over Christmas



Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate with your whole family and pets! Here are a few tips to ensure your furry friend stays safe during the festive season.

Decorations

- Real Christmas trees produce mildly toxic oils which can irritate your cat's mouth and stomach, so consider getting yourself an artificial tree
- Avoid using fertilisers or plant feeds on real trees as many are toxic to cats and can leak into water trays
- Secure your tree with a heavy base to avoid it toppling over if (when!) a cat decides to climb it
- Tidy up any sharp needles as these could injure your cat if swallowed

- Avoid using tinsel as cats can become entangled in it or can swallow it
- Glass decorations are irresistible to cats who think they are toys! If they shatter, they could injure their paws. Choose soft or plastic baubles which are more likely to withstand playtime!

Plants

- A number of seasonal plants are toxic to cats, including poinsettias, holly and mistletoe berries, and amaryllis
- If you are gifted any of these, store them safely out of kitty's reach

Food

Christmas time may be a time of indulgence for us, but some Christmas staples are highly toxic to cats, including:

- Chocolate
- Onions, including onion gravy which could be licked off a plate after dinner
- Garlic
- Raisins and grapes
- Alcohol

The Blue Cross has lots of tips for keeping your furry family members safe and well during the holiday season. [Click here for more info.](#)

Looking after community cats in winter



Do you feed stray and community cats?

As the weather gets colder, it might be worth considering putting together a shelter for them to hunker down and stay warm. There are lots of ready-made shelters you can buy on the market, but it's just as easy to provide your own.

What makes a good shelter?

- A shed, outbuilding or garage is a great place for stray cats to keep warm and dry (make sure you put any chemicals away securely)
- A simple cat carrier, lined with straw or shredded newspaper which won't freeze, and covered with a tarp, bin bag or roofing
- A small recycling bin or storage box
- An unused rabbit hutch or dog kennel
- A shelter with two entry points is ideal as the cat won't feel trapped

Where to put the shelter?

- Place the shelter somewhere that is familiar to the cat, ideally in a quiet area that is as out of sight as possible
- If you or your neighbours have dogs, ensure the shelter is somewhere they can't access
- Face the shelter doorway away from the wind, for example facing a wall
- The shelter needs to be protected from the weather, e.g under a bush or overhanging roof
- Keep the shelter off the ground to prevent it from freezing or flooding, for example on wood pallets or bricks. Keep it level so the shelter doesn't wobble
- If the shelter has only one entry/exit point, place it somewhere the cat can escape quickly and easily. This will help them feel more secure

Once your shelter is being used, make sure to change the bedding and insulation regularly to make sure it isn't wet or frozen.

Cats Protection provide some great information and resources for helping stray and community cats during the winter. Read more [here](#).

Mews of the world

[Cornwall family 'overjoyed' after cat returns eight years after disappearing](#)

[Cats are better at word association than human babies are, study finds](#)

[Cats basically are liquid after all – pet owners already know that](#)

[Cat brains age like ours – and could help scientists to understand cognitive decline](#)

Google reviews



If we've looked after your cat recently, why not leave us a Google review?
Reviews are the lifeblood of our business, and a lot of our new enquiries come through recommendations!
We would be thrilled if you could leave us a review to let others know how you got on using our service.

(And we hope you give us 5 stars!)

[Leave us a review here!](#)

Gone but never forgotten...

We're really happy to report that none of our furry friends left us to cross the Rainbow Bridge in November, but we would like to remember someone who continues to mean so much to Caversham Kitties.

Rowley



Most of you will be familiar with Rowley in one way or another: as the tabby in our logo,
or as our beloved original boy.

We adopted Rowley from Cats Protection Newbury in January 2014. He was a scrawny
4-year-old, riddled with fleas and arthritis, but we knew he belonged to our family the
moment we saw him.

Rowley struggled with his health throughout his life, but he never let it slow him down, and even managed to get himself stuck up a very tall tree in our garden!

Rowley let us know he was ready to cross the bridge on the 23 December 2023, at the age of 14. We had spent nearly 10 wonderful years with him, but of course it would never be enough time. Rowley was our prince, our bub, and as this first year without him comes to an end, we want him to know, more than ever, how much we still love and miss him.



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