

# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09



Welcome to the Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue Newsletter for July. Firstly we must apologise for the lateness of this particular Newsletter. Life at the Harbour has been exceptionally busy this year and we have already dealt with a massive number of cases, 71 in total.

Cases have come from a wide range of sources and we have had some heartbreaking stories, comical characters and thankfully some very happy endings.

At the current time the Harbour is jam packed full of cats and kittens and unfortunately we have had to put a hold

on cats coming in, with the exception of emergency cases, due to absolutely no space to house them.

We hope that this will not be the case for long but with it being the holiday months homing is, as always, slower than the rest of year so cats are generally with us that little bit longer.

That said, phones are still as busy as ever with people looking for kittens to adopt and the Advice Line has been very busy with lots of new cat and kitten owners seeking advice and assistance as well as the usual summer increase of reported potential stray and lost cats.

Please remember that if you are looking for a kitten to adopt check out our earlier newsletter that has details on thing to look for and what to ask.

You may also notice that we now have an official logo as shown at the top of this page! This coincides with updates to our headers on our website and E-Newsletter and we are very thankful to Lisa Ross for donating her time and skills in producing a logo for the rescue.



One case we have had recently which has been difficult for everyone involved is the case of Joey, an adult cat who came to us in shocking condition. On answering a call regarding a stray with a broken leg we weren't sure what we would turn up to find. What we did find was a little fella, bald, covered in sores from head to toe, skin red raw and extremely emaciated, eye infection, overhung jaw, broken teeth, foot infections and generally exceptionally poor condition.

# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

We brought Joey back to the Harbour and he was seen by our vet. He was put on an intense course of antibiotics and steroids in conjunction with treating each of his problems and symptoms. We also put Joey on a special, recovery diet so that we could build him back up slowly as he had been without food for a very long time.



He certainly had the fight and spirit to go on and for as long as he continued to do so and he was not suffering we would continue to provide him with treatment, love and care.

Unfortunately despite our care and attention life was to be short for poor little Joey and on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> July little Joey passed to join Colby and the others at Rainbow Bridge. A valiant fight by such a wonderful, loving and cheeky character we just wish we had got to him much sooner. Joey has been buried with Colby at the Harbour.

## Fundraising Events

We had 2 events this year which were great fun for all involved. We ran a combination of Tombola and items for sale which helped us to raise £500 to help boost funds for the cats and helped towards veterinary costs for June & July.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Lyndsey Taylor, Jenny King, Mary Armit and Caroline Carroll for their support and manpower on the day. They were a great help and we couldn't have done it without them.

If you know of any local events in your area that you think may be a fundraising opportunity for the rescue then please do contact us with details. We are always on the look out for Car Boot Sales, Fayres and Gala's to attend to help with our fundraising efforts.

## Volunteering

We have recently been asked about volunteering opportunities at Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue.

We are always on the look out for people to come in and help with socialising the cats and spending time with them to help bring on their confidence and also to help in exercising the cats. Referred to by us as Cat Cuddlers, this role is very important and can be as much or as little

# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

time as you can manage. If you would like more details please contact us.

## Bedding & Bric a Brac Appeal

With so many cases this year so far our supplies of towels, linen and bedding have become very depleted. Therefore we are asking if anyone is having a clear out of their airing cupboard??

Towels, sheets, blankets, pillow cases, etc can all be used regardless of condition and help us to provide a soft comfy bed for our charges.

We would also be very grateful indeed for any bric a brac or items that you no longer require to help us in raising funds for the cats and kittens. We are grateful to all those who have donated items in the past and if you have items you would like to donate they can either be dropped off at the rescue or we can arrange pickups for larger collections.

Please note that the only items we don't accept are clothes and shoes but we are most grateful for any other items such as books, games, DVD's, etc.

## Cat Safe Gardens and Runs

We are asked regularly on how people can make their gardens cat proof therefore ensuring that your cat(s) can have access to the outdoors but without having to worry about them getting out of the garden and into danger.

There are a number of options open to you regarding this. You can invest in a cat proofing system such as SecuraCat or Purrfect Fencing, build a custom fencing or provide your cat with access to secure run area linked to the house.

There are a number of cat proof fencing manufacturers on the market and you must take time to review the options open to you, your garden and the cats to identify which is most suitable and what you can afford.

The following website is a good balanced view of someone's experiences in purchasing, installing and using cat proof fencing.

<http://www.mycatfence.co.uk/choosing.php>

# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

The method used here at the Harbour for our permanent residents is that of a run attached to the house as that is what works best for us due to a lack of an existing fence and the practicality and cost implications of cat proofing a very large garden.

By making use of an area of the garden that is not particularly well used we gave the cats the ability to gain fresh air and additional exercise. Our own run is attached to a window which is the main point of access for the cats.

Sized at 3m x 3m x 3m it is probably much bigger than you would ever require. Our own particular choice was to construct the run of a wooden CLS frame covered in welded mesh wire. A point of note is that chicken wire is not a good option as it is very easy for cats to make holes and escape routes.

The run itself can then be left as is, or can be structured internally with ramps, climbers, and raised sleeping platforms. Always try to remember to fit the run with an alternate access door so that you can gain access to it from the outside for cleaning out and repairs, if needed.

If you would like more information please contact us.

## Resident Updates

Some of the little ones we have helped into their new forever homes over the last few months include;

### Sapphire & Amber



Sapphire & Amber were relinquished to Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue after their owner was no longer able to care for them. Both were Persian / Persian X cats with big thick coats that had become very very matted causing skin sores and limited mobility for both cats.

After settling the girls in we begun the arduous task of shaving both girls down to remove the 1 – 1 ½" matts from their stomach, legs and chest which took just over 4 hours.

Following this rather stressful ordeal for the girls, their purrsonality blossomed and they started to show their true characters. Shortly after

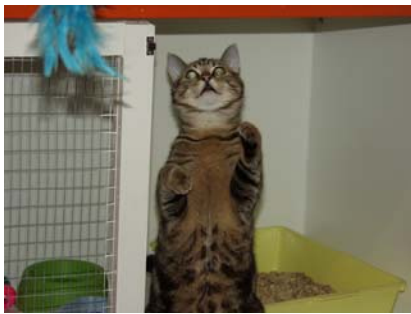
# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

them going live for adoption they had a lovely couple visit them with a view to adopting them as part of their existing Persian loving family.

We were thrilled to see the girls take to their new 'family to be' instantly sharing lots of love and cuddles. The girls are now exceptionally happy in their country home with the ability to venture into the outdoors and thoroughly enjoy grooming and cuddles and life with their new brother Alfie.



## Chico



Chico was a bit of a surprise for us all. Originally we were called out to collect a heavily pregnant and unwanted cat by the owner. We arrived to discover a very wormy, un-neutered male!

A very cheeky little chap we knew that once neutered and de-wormed and flea'd he wouldn't be with us long and true to form he wasn't.

## Henry

Some of you may remember Henry from our February Newsletter. He came to us after being taken to a veterinary surgery following a traffic accident that left him with head trauma.

Recovering well he had shown himself to be a gentle wee soul, however he had very much lost his trust in humans. We were asked if we could help Henry and shortly thereafter Henry came to live with us at Sunny Harbour.



We spent a lot of time with Henry gaining his trust and boosting his confidence in the hope that we would be able to place him in a quiet, loving home. We were thrilled when in April of this year Henry was finally ready to be adopted and found himself a wonderful new home where he is very much mummy's little boy.

# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

## Amy



Amy was a lovely little girl who had been living on a construction site for 6 months. Through a friend of ours we heard purely by a chance mention that Amy was living under a storage container on a construction site being fed the workmens food scraps.

Arrangements were made to collect Amy and get her to Sunny Harbour Cat & Kitten rescue as soon as possible. The next morning we received a phone call to say that Amy was on her way.

She arrived a very dirty, bedraggled looking girl heavily infested with worms, exhausted and very much in need of some TLC, good food and a safe place to sleep.

It didn't take long for Amy to settle in and was soon on the mend. She has since found a new loving family where she is very happy and thoroughly enjoying an abundance of cuddles on demand and now goes by the name of Millie.

## Storm

Storm is a beautiful tabby / tortie mix (torbie) cat that came to Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue late at night after being found by a member of the public lying at the side of the road. This beautiful little girl had been struck by a car and endured several surface wounds, a dislocated hip and suffering from shock and dehydration.

She was rushed to the rescue where she was stabilised and transferred to the vets first thing the next morning where they were able to x-ray her hip and provide her with stronger painkillers and there she stayed for the next couple of weeks.

Storm spent a total of nearly 5 months with us at Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue as we worked to try and stabilise her hip and get it to stay 'in place'. This was not meant to be however Storm was very lucky to find herself a very loving indoor only home. Though she will always suffer with a limp and slight limited mobility she is leading a perfectly normal life and was lucky to find a wonderful family who love her just the way she is.



# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

## Sheba



Sheba came to Sunny harbour Cat Rescue after her family were no longer able to care for her. On arrival we discovered she was suffering with a dental problem and had an air gun pellet lodged in her jaw.

Sheba was a very sweet little girl and felt much better after we got her teeth cleaned up and the pellet removed. With such a sweet little nature we knew that Sheba wouldn't be with us for long and true to form within just a few weeks we had found her a new loving home, where she is settling in fantastically well.

## Albi

At 15 years of age most places passed Albi by as unhomeable and a lost case. Thankfully Albi found Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue and on coming to stay, he was here just a few weeks when he found a wonderful new home. He has settled in so well and showed his cheeky little nature just minutes after arriving. He is now companion to his new elderly sister and loving life.



## KT

KT was dumped in a rubbish bag with the rest of the trash and fortunately was lucky enough to be found and brought to Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue where she has remained for the last 4 months. On arrival KT was terrified of humans and despite a friendly appearance even just going towards her pen turned her into a raging, hissing, scratching, terrified little cat.



KT was very traumatised from whatever experience she had been through and as a result we have had to work extremely hard to rebuild her trust in humans and give her confidence back to be a cat again.

We are very happy to be able to say that after 4 months at Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue KT is finally ready to leave us

# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

and has found a wonderful new home. She will be joining Roxy, a previous charge of the Harbour where we hope she will be very happy with her new family.

## Sooty & Sweep



These 2 girls are little gems who have had a rough time of things. Dumped in a box at Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue both were traumatised and in a terrible condition.

Suffering from what should have been a simple case of flea allergy it had been left untreated and both of the girls were now suffering with large sores all over their body

and severe hair loss.

Both girls have since been treated for their condition and we are working to rebuild their confidence prior to finding a new loving home for the girls together.

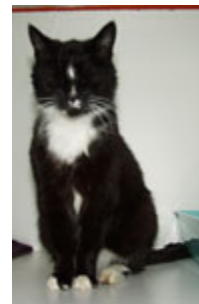
## Smudge & Puss Puss



Smudge & Puss Puss were 2 very cheeky little chaps who were a pure joy to look after. They weren't with us for long before they found their new home and are currently settling in very well.

## Jynxy

We were notified of a case where a cat had been put out on the street after a tenant and her previous owner moved away leaving her behind 8 months ago. Once notified we made arrangements to have Jynxy, a black and white female of around 5-8yrs of age, brought into us so that we could feed her up and give her much needed wormer and flea treatments.



Despite being thin and in very poor general condition Jynxy was otherwise healthy and is now seeking a new loving home.

# Sunny Harbour Cat Rescue – Newsletter July 09

## Jessie



Now isn't Jessie a very very sweet pretty little girl? She had been wandering the streets for several weeks and after local people couldn't trace her owners we were called in to look after her and see if we could have any luck.

Sadly we have never been able to find her owners and she is now looking for a new forever home.

Please remember that if you have adopted one of our previous charges we love to hear how they are doing and of course, pictures are fantastic too. It always makes us smile to read the great stories of how happy our babies are now, especially when we deal day in day out with the hardships they face.

Remember to send us any questions or comments for Inclusion in our Newsletter

Well that about wraps things up for this issue of Sunny Harbour's newsletter so until next time please take care and keep safe!

Hugs n Purrs

*Sarah, Paul & The Gang*

P.S. We have a number of new items in stock including a range of safety cat collars and the new product from Catit Senses range The Cat Play Circuit.



This carries a retail value of £15 - £20 and we have some in stock which are available for purchase for only £10. Orders can be placed over the phone, by email or in person.

**Tel:** 01592 783732

**Email:** [info@sunnyharbour.org.uk](mailto:info@sunnyharbour.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.sunnyharbour.org.uk](http://www.sunnyharbour.org.uk)