

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

Upon exiting the Covid restrictions, like most people, we couldn't wait to return to near normality.

Cat Welfare Sussex had been resolute in keeping our telephone advice lines open throughout Lockdown. We felt that it was really important be available, at the end of the phone, for those that needed our help.

Cat Welfare Sussex provide advice, help and information regarding general cat issues to members of the public. We promote the benefits of neutering and responsible pet ownership. CWS also rescue, rehabilitate and re home stray and unwanted cats in the Sussex area. Please note that we are not permitted to give medical veterinary advice.

We had continued to take cats into our care during the Covid 19 crisis and were now looking forward to carrying on with our rescue work without the restraints and limitations of the pandemic. However, there were still many challenges ahead.

As well as requests for help with street strays and feral cats, we started to see an increase in the number of people needing to re home their pets. During Lockdown everyone seemed to want an animal companion. Cats and dogs were selling for phenomenal prices on internet selling sites but with the return to work all those pet owners were suddenly forced to rethink their circumstances. Those gorgeous, appealing fluffy friends had suddenly become a problem as the outside world beckoned once more. The bubble had burst. The gilt had fallen from the gingerbread and all our fears surrounding 'Pets are for Life and not just for Lockdown' were now becoming a worrying reality.

Worst than that - animal traders, who had earned fortunes during Covid, were now being left with unsaleable kittens and puppies that were growing bigger week by week. Breeding females were also becoming redundant as the demand for pets decreased. As usual it is the animal charities and rescue organisations who are left to pick up the pieces.

As the cost of living crises deepens and as everyday food, energy and mortgage costs increase even more owners will be relinquishing their pets or even abandoning them completely as hardship starts to bite. The cost of pet food, veterinary fees and pet insurances have all risen significantly. Certain cat foods have doubled in price and with little sign of improvement on the horizon we must prepare for difficult times ahead.

Over the years there have been numerous economic crashes, recessions and financial meltdowns but we have always stood strong, weathered the storms and continued to provide safety and shelter for the abandoned cats that so need our help. We at Cat Welfare Sussex are ready, willing and able to do so once again.



Fund Raising is always difficult especially in busy cities like Brighton & Hove. There are so many charities, societies and community groups all clamouring to raise much needed funds for their different causes.

It can be really hard for our smaller, local charities, that do not have salaried fundraisers and professional social media platforms, to keep pace with the larger organisations.

In store tin collections have now resumed but stores are prioritising Hardship and Family Support charities at the moment.

As usual, voluntary fund raiser Keren O'Mahony and her helpers have worked hard to raise money for the animals throughout the year.

Thank you to Tesco Stores Boundary Road Portslade, The Co Op Blatchington Road, Hove and Pets Corner, George Street, Hove for supporting Cat Welfare Sussex.

Grateful thanks to all our Friends and Supporters for all your contributions of cat food, toys and treats, for your generous donations and regular Standing Orders. Your loyalty and kindness is appreciated by all at CWS.

**Veterinary surgeries are now operating fully and outdoor 'car park consultations' have become a thing of the past. It was so good to be back sitting in waiting room with our cats once again. It felt just like coming home.**

We are ever grateful to our vets and staff at the New Priory Hospital and indeed to all those veterinary practices, in our area, that continued to provide such dedicated care for their patients and clients.

Thank you all for your professionalism, patience and kindness during the most difficult of times.





## CATS IN CARE

**Tulip** - A young tabby Bengal X female came into our care when her owners no longer wanted her. Tulip was unspayed and had already produced several litters of kittens. She was thin and shy when she first came to us but very quickly responded to lots of TLC. Once spayed and vaccinated Tulip was lucky enough to find a wonderful, forever home where she has since blossomed (excuse the pun) into a happy, confident and loving companion to her devoted owners.



**Rufus** - A mature ginger feral cat who had been living on the streets. Rufus had a very nasty wound on the back of his neck which required deep cleaning under a general anaesthetic. He also needed neutering and had severe dental problems. All four canine teeth had been shattered resulting in tooth resorption. These injuries were caused by direct trauma to the face (most likely from a kick) The poor little chap must have been suffering excruciating pain for months and eating would have been agony. After a very intense dental operation Rufus came home to us for rest and recuperation. Day by day he improved, his wounds healed, his matted fur became soft and glossy as he could now groom himself. Rufus has fully recovered and eats well despite the loss of his teeth but he is still nervous and wary of people so will need a very understanding and patient owner.



**Storm** - 5 year old British Blue, neutered male who came to CWS as his owner could no longer keep him. It was apparent that Storm had dental problems and would need treatment asap. He also had a large swelling to the side of his face. X-rays and scans revealed this to be a Salivary Mucocele (damaged salivary gland) A very rare condition in cats. Storm would need to undergo intricate surgery to remove the offending gland. If left untreated, breathing problems and infections would occur in the future. Storm had his operation yesterday and as I write this newsletter I am happy to report that he has recovered well and has eaten all his breakfast this morning. The vets are really pleased with his progress so, hopefully, he will be back home with us soon.



**Clementine** - 7 year old tabby/tortie, long haired, spayed female. Sadly, returned to CWS as her owner became unwell and, reluctantly, had to part with her. Clemmie is very friendly and would love a quiet home (without other cats or children) where she can be cosseted, groomed and be the centre of attention.



**Hunter** - 7 month black male. CWS were asked to help as Hunter's owner could no longer cope with him and his veterinary needs. He was purchased as a kitten and was very nervous even at the sellers home. It seems as though he hadn't been properly socialised with humans and was yet another kitten being bred and sold purely for profit. If you have any doubts, whatsoever, when buying a pet do not complete the purchase. Report any suspicions that you may have to the RSPCA / your local authority animal welfare department and to the company where the advertisement was placed i.e online advertising site, newspaper etc.



**Fulling Mill Cottage - 16th Century Grade 11 Listed property bequeathed to CWS and currently being restored for private visits, open days and charity events.**



During the summer heatwave the gardens resembled the Serengeti National Park as opposed to the South Downs National Park. Fortunately, there is a stream, drainage ditches and a very high water table so there was still plenty of water for the wildlife. There was also a good crop of fruit and berries for the birds and the badgers enjoyed the early windfall apples. Thankfully the adjacent woodland offered the creatures a respite from the sun with the beech, oak and chestnut trees in full leaf.

We were delighted to participate in the Fittleworth Garden Trail in May. Many visitors attended over the bank holiday weekend and enjoyed the orchard, gardens and grounds of the property.

Also in May The Old Shops of Fittleworth event brought more visitors to Fulling Mill to view the old market garden shed known by the village residents as The Sweet Shop. In days gone by the little shop sold sweets, cigarettes and garden produce.

**We are looking forward to more events in 2023**



*THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
CAT WELFARE SUSSEX*

*WISHING YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
From all at CWS*

**Please pass our newsletter to a friend  
in order to publicise the work of CWS**



If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter please complete the Opt Out form and return to the charity address. We will then remove your details from our mailing list.

Please note that CWS DO NOT market sell or share personal information with external parties.

Tick box - I DO NOT wish to receive charity information

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Trustees: Mrs J Grant, Mrs A Tines, Ms G Bristow, Mrs D Walton. Patron: Marc Abraham OBE BVM&S MRCVS  
Charity Address: 164 Mile Oak Road, Portslade, East Sussex, BN41 2PL Telephone: 01273423861 Email: Julie@catwelfaresussex.com**

**Please make cheques payable to: Cat Welfare Sussex or bacs to Cat Welfare Sussex,  
Barclays Bank Sort Code 20 12 75 · Account No: 90052582 (using your surname as a reference)**