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**TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND MAIDSTONE BRANCH**  
incorporating the Headcorn Cattery  
registered charity no 210635  
email: maidstonerspca@hotmail.co.uk  
website: www.rspca-tunbridgewellsandmaidstone.org.uk

Hello to all our readers and welcome to our bumper Autumn/Winter newsletter.

Sadly we are unable to bring you one of our beautiful calendars again for next year because of Data Protection issues so at the end of this newsletter you will find just a simple month by month picture gallery of our delightful animals for you to enjoy. We hope you enjoy looking at them through the long winter months into Spring and Summer next year and that you enjoy the stories/information we have for you.

## HEARTWARMING STORIES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

### HI I'M MAX please read my story

I'm 12 years old and have had a pretty hard life. I only have one eye, I have a heart murmur, my tail has been shortened and I poke my tongue out! Not to be rude you understand but all part of my traumatic past. But I have a truly loving nature!!



My friends at Headcorn reckon I had a road accident at some time in my life. Unfortunately I can't actually tell anyone what happened to me so you will just have to guess. *Thing is - with all my problems I didn't think I would ever get a new and loving home which made me feel rather sad. My friends here have been great but it's not the same as a family of your own.*

**BUT GUESS WHAT.** Kate and Tony came for a visit one day looking for a new friend because they had lost their lovely pet. I made a real fuss of these two and it paid off!! I have a new home now and am **soooo happy and very spoilt**. I have had to get to know their dog but that's working out pretty well - soon showed her who was boss!



My new owners say I am such fun to have around. That I'm so loving and funny. So **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE EVERYONE** remember that **us cats of a certain age have sooo much love to give**. Don't just pass us by - just give us the chance to have a happy life in a loving home - **you really won't regret it - just ask Kate and Tony**. Love, purrs and kisses - Max xx

### THE TOUCHING STORY OF MILES by Chris Newstead

Miles appeared one October morning in our tiny maisonette back garden, sitting under our garden bench. Black and white DSH he was a big boy, large round head and bright eyes. He was timid and would not come to me so I started to feed him outside. We tried to bring him inside but he was too afraid. We put a plastic crate with blanket and towel in it under the bench to keep him warm. He was a gentle giant and soon liked cuddles. Despite best efforts no-one knew where he came from. Meanwhile, our older RSPCA rescue cat was getting crotchety and unwell due to old age, About this time Miles seemed to be having problems breathing. He still would not come indoors. I called Daphne Harris for advice re this stray cat in the garden who we had been feeding for about 3 weeks and explained he was having trouble breathing. Daphne advised me to take him to the vet for treatment which I did that very day.



An X Ray revealed that he had, but not recently, possibly been hit by a car which had pushed his diaphragm up into one of his lungs. He needed an operation quickly. I was devastated. He was about 7 yrs old. Daphne informed me that the RSPCA would pay the vet bill but the cat would have to come to the Cattery after the op to be kept in the warm during recovery. Of course I agreed.



On leaving the vets one of the nursing staff asked what name to give him ? I thought for a moment then mentioned that as I did not know where he had come from, call him ' Miles ' .

The operation was a success. I was so worried about him that I visited him whilst he was recovering. A few days later he was taken to the Cattery for rehoming. My friends at the cattery, where I used to work, kept me updated on Miles. They said, he was

gentle with other cats and humans.

About 3 weeks later we sadly lost our older cat Basil we had had a long time. So distressing. Miles is still here I was told !! Two days later he came to me., He settled in straight away. loved cuddles and slept on our bed. He went out but always came when called.

My husband had a holiday home in Spain and we had decided to retire there. 2 years later we arranged to move out to Spain and include Miles in our retirement plan. He arrived with us safe and well 4 days later.

Miles continued a well, happy and much loved cat, He would lay in the sun, run around the adjoining solariums, much to the neighbours delight but always came when called. Miles befriended a street cat who had adopted us. We had him neutered and they would curl up together and wash each other.

As he aged Miles' health started to fail but he was happy. He would still slowly go upstairs to the solarium for the sun and want more cuddles than usual.



On 18th June 2019 Our friendly street cat, Miles's friend, 'Blaze' died in a road accident. About this time an abandoned cat adopted us. THEY KNOW where to come !

A sleek ginger and white boy with folded down ears ( As in a Scottish Fold) about 1 year old. He was friendly, very vocal and not m/chipped or neutered. He is now and is called Scotty. Miles happily tolerated Scotty.

On 27th June 2019 Miles passed away peacefully overnight in his sleep at nearly 18 years of age. As I write this I am tearful as I still miss him of course. Hopefully

he is reunited with Blaze. Without knowing it at the time, I gave 'Miles' the correct name as he travelled Miles for a long, happy and loving life. I have his ashes now, some in earth with a red rose growing, some in a little box in our bedroom.

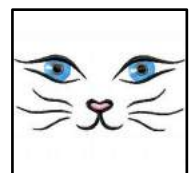
**Never Forgotten- My Special Furry Friend**

*The last picture shows Chris' delightful memorial to her animals whose names are on the bowl. Thank you Chris for this touching story.*

## MICROCHIPS - CATS

MAX' story not only highlights the plight of older cats but also the problems involved with microchips not kept up to date.

Microchipping is vital if you want your pet to be safe and for someone to be able to notify you should it get lost, or worse, injured. Unfortunately however people are not always keeping their microchips up to date.



Max was microchipped. Despite best efforts to contact his owners no-one ever answered the phone or returned calls made by Inspectors and Branch alike. We can only assume that the people had either moved and not updated his chip or, even worse, just didn't want him back.

Either way some form of notification should have been given to the microchip company, or Max could have been handed in to a rescue centre and maybe saved a lot of suffering. His microchip was changed to Headcorn while he was in care and has now been transferred to Kate and Tony.

## MICROCHIPS AND ID DISCS - DOGS



The same concerns exist with dogs but there is an added problem. Again microchipping your dog will make sure that if found or injured you can be contacted provided your details are up to date. However there seems to be some confusion surrounding ID Discs. By law your dog must also wear an ID disc on its collar when in public places. Microchipping on its own is not enough. Unfortunately some people appear to be unaware of this.

The grey area is what happens indoors. Some dogs wear house collars with ID disc permanently attached, others don't (especially if they are very small). Not a problem in itself but if your dog manages to escape into the street it is effectively breaking the law without a disc. More importantly a disc with a phone number is still the quickest way of getting your pet back.



### CLOCKS GOING BACK

Whilst talking about microchips and discs it is becoming more of a problem with dogs escaping or just being let out loose and not only causing accidents but also getting injured, or worse. WE HAVE NOTICED AN INCREASE IN WELFARE COSTS relating to injured dogs. With the dark evenings approaching it is vitally important that ALL dogs are kept safely indoors unless under control. We are asking everyone to be aware during the long winter days.

So in conclusion please make sure that whatever happens your beloved pet is safe and secure. Maybe consider getting a thin house collar and tag for your dog so little mischief can't break the law if it escapes, and make sure your cats details are up to date.

And finally - please tell friends and relations how important it is to follow these simple rules.



## THE STORY OF THE CROSSES

I have mentioned these Crosses in previous newsletters. Now I am delighted to give you the full story from Jan and Trev themselves.

Trev and Jan have been making these beautiful Crosses for approximately 10 years. Initially they just gave them to friends and family. They then thought of making them for the RSPCA to sell at various events but decided ultimately to keep sales in-house. They did exhibitions and went around shops to see if there was any interest in sales. We are pleased to say that there was and the rest is history.

Jan and Trev also produce these Crosses by way of commission. They need reasonable notice but if any branch members or friends are interested you can contact Jan and Trev by email at [trevandjan666@gmail.com](mailto:trevandjan666@gmail.com)

Some of the things they have produced Crosses for:

Small Crosses for Christmas dinner place settings. Each Cross is in a different wood so information on each is different and prompts much discussion.



Large and small Crosses for home and/or car or both  
 Large 'specials' which can be themed with colours and charms to match various anniversaries/requirements  
 Mobiles in a vast array of different Crosses combinations and sizes.



The most dramatic mobile they produced was a set of 9 x 6 inch Crosses in a straight drop depicting the seven chakra colours plus pure white at each end. People have said these Crosses are 'little jewels' and 'heirlooms of the future'

This is a truly amazing success story from which our animals have benefitted hugely. Thank you Jan and Trev. We are truly indebted to you. Long may it continue.

Photos show just a small selection of the Crosses and a picture of Jan and Trev they think was taken at about the time they first started making the Crosses.

All the proceeds from these Crosses go directly to the branch.

To date Jan and Trev have raised an amazing £7,511.03 towards the care of our animals.

### BANK DETAILS FOR THE BRANCH

Unfortunately MyDonate is no longer available which means that people can't easily donate if they wish. Until this is sorted therefore please note that anyone wishing to donate to the Branch can do so through our bank, details below:

Sort Code: 403106, Account No. 01467298. The Bank is HSBC, Week Street, Maidstone.

### IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - 30TH NOVEMBER

The Branch is holding a COFFEE MORNING on the above date at **HEADCORN VILLAGE HALL**. Everyone is welcome. If anyone wishes to donate items for the raffle etc please contact Daphne on 01622 892191

### CALENDAR

Unfortunately we have not been able to issue a calendar again this year due to problems over data protection issues. However, please find at the end of this newsletter a small selection of our beautiful animals spread over the months of the year for you to enjoy. We think they are all gorgeous!

Our grateful thanks once again to all **STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS** for all the help and support we have had during this year, and to the **COPY SHOP** in St. Peters for their ongoing support and sponsorship.

**It just remains to wish everyone and their pets a happy Christmas and healthy and enjoyable 2020**

Edited by Kate Matthews  
 (and yes, I'm MAX' new mum!)

