

MannCat Sanctuary 2023



Rosie

Welcome.....

Dear friends and supporters

At last it is 2023 and thank goodness! Goodbye to the last two years which were devastating for so many people and they've taken their toll on our charity and so many others, it was particularly sad for us that we had two years with no visitors. Neutering over the covid period virtually came to a standstill and this gave many cats the opportunity to breed, we are now trying to pick up the pieces!



Since our last newsletter the island's cat problems have been enormous. Many people are surrendering their cats as they cannot afford to buy food for their cats and the cost of veterinary care has become impossible for a large number of the public, also causing so many un-neutered cats.

Many of the cats we have taken in throughout the last year were ferals, with a lot of them being female and quite often pregnant. They have then given birth here at the sanctuary and you can read about some of these stories in this newsletter.

Social media has become very important to MCS. It helps to keep our visitors and long-distance supporters up to date with the daily happenings. Our Facebook page is updated most days with photos of our residents and we have five live webcams which are available to view all day every day. On Facebook, as well as our main page, there is a 'Mann Cat Chatters' page where you can join the group and interact with fellow cat lovers and supporters and talk about everything that goes on here. Also on this group,

there is a monthly donation day and we are very grateful to all who donate to us every month this way.

There are many ways you can support the work we do here. You can sponsor a resident, this can be either for yourself or as a birthday, anniversary or general gift for a friend. We have also added four residents as sponsors and you can read about them later in this edition. You can buy items from our online shop, make a one-off or monthly donation, send us much needed items from our Amazon wish list or become a friend of the sanctuary. All of these options are available from our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and everyone that helps us continue our work. A big thank you to our vet, Dr. Ruth for all her sympathetic help and compassion shown all year round. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to welcoming you to the sanctuary in the near future.

Sue Critchley



Barlow



Cocoa



Olivia



Mann Cat's guiding principle



"Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace."

Albert Schweitzer

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Pixie and Pickle's story

We had received numerous reports that there was a young cat wandering around Port Erin, in the south of the island. She was cold and wet and constantly moving around, desperately trying to find a house or warm area. She was clawing at closed windows and doors, and going through cat flaps only to be chased back out. We went down on a couple of occasions to where she had last been sighted but by the time we arrived there she had already moved on.



Pixie

At last, the cat ventured into the garden of a property occupied by a caring elderly lady who began feeding her. The lady contacted us and after the cat had stayed at the location for a couple of days we were able to put her in a basket and bring her to the sanctuary. Once at the sanctuary and after she'd had some time to calm down, she wasn't feral at all and very domesticated. She had not been reported missing and wasn't chipped so we named her Pixie and she began to settle in. Pixie had a very large stomach which we were keen for Dr. Ruth to have a look at. Dr. Ruth saw her later

that week and confirmed our suspicions that Pixie was pregnant, which made us sad as she was only around four to five months old herself so we had a case of a kitten having kittens!

Around the same time, a feral cat, also very young, had made herself comfy in a stable on a farm not far from the sanctuary. The farm owner advised us that in her opinion, this cat was also pregnant and neither of us wanted her having kittens outside on the farm. The lady borrowed a trap and within a day the cat had gone in and was safely delivered to us. As the lady proclaimed, the cat had got herself into a pickle and so we said let's name her that, so she was now called Pickle! Pickle was indeed very young and pregnant and so we put her with Pixie and they both had plenty of space and their own hooded beds which are good for when cats give birth as the mothers feel secure in them. They both went into labour at the same time and we anxiously waited to see how it was all going to go.

As is normal when cats have their first litter, Pixie and Pickle had eleven kittens between them. The kittens all seemed ok and both mothers, although tired, also looked ok. Pixie was very friendly and was happy for



Pickle



Pickle & kittens

us to be around but Pickle was more feral so we would check on her from a distance but she would let us change her bedding and keep her clean. The kittens began to take their toll on Pixie and Pickle and things took a turn when Pickle developed mastitis, a common occurrence for mother cats feeding kittens. Pickle had to be admitted at the vets and so we prepared to help rear her kittens, however, Pixie accepted them and also allowed them to feed from her as well as her own! We were conscious this would be too much for Pixie and so we did bottle feed some kittens to help her out but Pixie did a terrific job.

Pickle improved at the vets and after several weeks she was able to return and be reunited with her kittens. As the kittens grew older we moved them all, along with Pixie and Pickle into a bigger room in the cabin and the kittens were now at the age that they were playing and causing havoc! They had some older friends in the cabin and we also had some more youngsters that came to join them. In the north of the island a lady had trapped a mother cat and several kittens. They initially went into a separate building but when all the kittens came to be

neutered, the feral kittens came into the cabin to make some friends their own age.

Once they'd all been neutered and were all getting along, we began to open the door on nice days and let them have some fresh air. They all had great fun outside and quickly learned to use the cat flap which we'd opened so they could freely come and go from the cabin. After a couple of weeks however, we had noticed that Pickle didn't seem to be around. She had remained timid so we were not too surprised but we were delighted to receive a call from the lady at the farm to say Pickle had returned there! Knowing that Pickle was spayed the lady was happy for her to be there but within a few days Pickle was back at the sanctuary and now she quite happily goes between us and the farm, which is safe as it's straight over the fields. Pixie has never ventured far and still resides in the first part of the cabin and is very content with life here.



Pixie & kittens

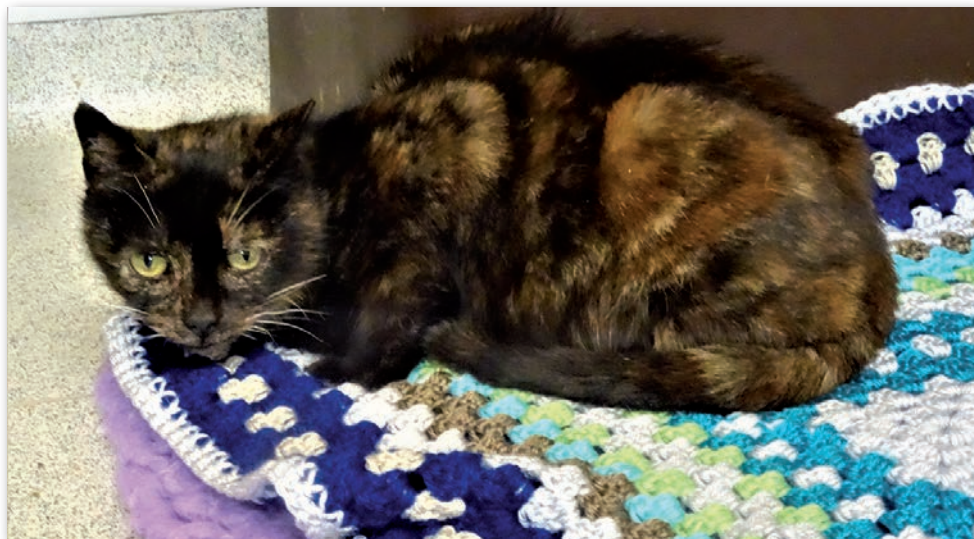
Michael's cats

Towards the end of 2022, we were contacted by a lady called Kate, who told us the sad news that a friend of the sanctuary, Michael, who was also her neighbour, had passed away very suddenly. Michael lived towards the west of the island and had a large outdoor space with his property and several cats that were now homeless. Kate asked us if we could help and of course, with the cats all being of an elderly age, we were more than happy to help with the situation and let the cats come to the sanctuary.

We had known the family for many, many years with Michael's mother being very much into animal welfare. After his mother passed away, Michael began to feed feral cats that were living around his area and things began to escalate quickly. Some ten years ago, there were in excess of at least fifty feral cats living in the grounds of Michael's property and none of them were neutered. At this stage, Michael decided with the help of friends, to neuter them all and over time this was achieved. Due to the cats being with Michael for a long period of time they had begun to trust him and then with the majority of the later ones

being born on the land, they were all quite domesticated. When Kate contacted us following Michael's death, there were nine elderly cats left at the property.

Kate advised us that the cats were not feral they were wary of strangers having only really known Michael and as such, she couldn't just simply walk up to them and put them in baskets. Another friend of ours, Richie who also lived close by, was helping Kate. The cats were all used to living outside which made it harder as the cats wouldn't go inside the property and were content to remain outside roaming the land. It became apparent that the only





way to catch the cats was to set traps and on this occasion we were content to leave Kate and Richie to it. Richie has experience in trapping cats and Kate knew the setup so we knew there was a good team in place.

They started the only way possible in this situation, which is to not feed them for a couple of days and then they set the traps with some strong smelling food. On the first day of setting the traps they caught two which was a great start. We had set a place aside in the cabin for them to go in together and luckily they weren't frightened at all. We were able to handle them, flea and worm them and then leave them with food, warmth and comfort to

settle in. They carried on as they started and within a week they had managed to trap eight! All eight were doing well here but the last one was proving very elusive but we weren't too worried as it seemed to be a little younger and stronger than the rest. A few days later the last remaining cat turned up in Kate's garden and once it started eating there, she decided to see if the cat would settle with her and indeed it did.

The eight cats that we have here all settled well, they're very sweet and no trouble at all. We're sure they are going to enjoy their golden years here thanks to Kate and Richie.



Home sweet home

As we experienced a huge influx of kittens, volunteer Judy writes about some of our recent homing successes.

As many of you know, due to the restrictions placed on vets during the covid lockdown, many cats were not neutered and therefore many, many kittens have been born which under normal circumstances, wouldn't have happened. During 2021 and 2022 we were inundated with kittens, and last year at one stage we were looking after over fifty kittens and for the majority, this included their mums as well. You can imagine the extra costs that this placed on the sanctuary.

One day a lady brought in a heavily pregnant cat into us as she didn't feel she could keep her any longer and the next day, the cat gave birth to four kittens. The mother cat was not much more than a kitten herself but proved to be an excellent mother to her kittens. There were three long-haired tabby kittens and one short-haired black one.



Some young friends of mine were looking to give a home to a kitten, so I asked Sue about the lovely four kittens that I'd taken a shine to. Sue said that I could ask them to pop up on a Saturday afternoon and they could have a look. This they did and fell in love with all four of them, and as such, they couldn't decide which one to have. In the end they decided they didn't want to split the siblings up so they asked if they could possibly have all four of them. We were very happy about this as it's lovely when they can all be kept together as most of the time this isn't always possible.

During the next few weeks the young couple came up every Saturday afternoon, to play and spend time with their future family and both the young couple and kittens became attached to each other. Unfortunately one of the tabby kittens started to become quite lethargic and quite poorly. Although everything was done to help it, it sadly passed away. During this period all the necessary arrangements were





made by the couple. They registered with a vet, bought three litter trays, lots of kitten food and kitten milk, blankets and dozens of toys for them. When the time came for the kittens to go to their new home, the proud parents took time off work to settle the little darlings into their surroundings. Now they are growing fast into very beautiful cats and are much adored. We are kept up to date with their progress and are sent regular photos of them, some of which are included here.

Another one of our homing successes, came when a lady who had a cat from us about twenty or so years ago, phoned up to say her beloved cat had recently died.

She wondered if Sue had a kitten that she could adopt. As it happens there were two kittens at the sanctuary that hadn't been there too long and we thought because their owner couldn't afford to spay them and feed them. The lady came down with a friend to look at the kittens and they couldn't make up their mind which one to have so they decided that she should take both of them! They were both climbing all over her and didn't want to let her go.

I love happy endings, and these are certainly two very happy stories and endings for the cats and their new families.



Welcoming our new Cyprus residents

In the spring of 2022, we were contacted by a lady called Rachel who explained to us that she was part of an organisation that were looking at bringing cats from Cyprus to the island.

There was a particular area that had many street cats and many of them were disabled and needed care and attention. Rachel advised us that the organisation, called Hope's Cat Colony Welfare & Adoption, had a group of cats they were hoping to rescue and that these would need more care and wondered if we could take them. They would all need medication regularly, one was blind, another deaf and a third had some sort of a brain injury.

Although we don't like to make a habit of taking cats in from abroad there are always exceptions that can be made. Our followers will recall that we have assisted with a group of cats from Qatar and more



Aspen



Loucy meeting St Francis

recently a cat called Socks came to us from Afghanistan when Nowzad had to withdraw from there. In total, Rachel asked if we could take seven cats in and arrangements were made for them to make the journey to the sanctuary. They all had to have passports and meet the requirements to travel and once all of this was completed, their trip to the island began! The cats came by plane to the UK and arrived in Manchester where Rachel collected them and they all travelled on the ferry from Heysham. Several weeks before the cats arrived, a project that we'd had running for a few months to erect a new building to replace our feral house was completed. The old porta cabins had lasted well but were falling to bits and not secure and so the new building was very much needed. It has three individual rooms and we named the complex 'The Rowanberry'.



Tigger

We decided that the end room was to be home to the new Cyprus cats and the room included new chairs, bunk beds with ladders and views looking out to the fields and even the sea in the distance!

On arrival the cats quickly settled in, they were all very friendly and all very different in appearance, which makes it easier for us to identify them and begin to know them! Some are short haired and some long and they are all different colours. Olivia is a very attractive torty, with the other torty being Shaolita who is the blind one. Aspen is long haired and all white, he is the deaf one and has one blue eye and the other one green. Tigger is Tabby and Loucy is all grey with very distinctive yellow eyes. Grace is a tri colour but predominantly white and finally Joel is tabby and white. They all enjoyed their new surroundings and Rachel visited them regularly. We also moved a webcam into the room which is listed on our website as Rowanberry and our viewers enjoyed watching their progress.

As usual, once the cats had been here for several weeks we began to let them have some time outside. We opened the end door of their room whenever the weather was fine and when we did this,

as Shaolita was blind, we moved her next door to be with Walter, who is the blind cat that came here from Qatar. The cats that wandered outside quickly had great fun investigating the area, they went in the field and introduced themselves to the sheep, goats and ponies, and then ventured round to the main buildings. They always stayed close to the Rowanberry area and at night they'd all go back in and then Shaolita would join them overnight once the door was closed. Whilst some still live in the Rowanberry, others started to have sleepovers elsewhere, with Aspen now permanently residing in the main cattery and he is very noticeable on the lounge or conservatory webcam with his long haired white coat.

One day a friend of ours was on the island from another part of Cyprus and whilst here at the sanctuary he went to see his compatriots. He spoke to them in their language and they responded which was a nice moment. These cats are great characters and have been a good addition to the sanctuary and we're sure they're going to enjoy the summer months.



Olivia

Please sponsor one of us...



Chloe

A gentleman contacted us advising us that his female cat Chloe, was pregnant and asked if she could come to the sanctuary. He said that she was young but had already had several litters beforehand and he couldn't cope with her having another litter. We didn't hesitate to say that Chloe could come here. We prepared a room in our Rowanberry building ready for her. In one corner we put a hooded bed which pregnant cats always like to give birth in as they feel safe and secure. It wasn't long after her arrival that Chloe went into labour.

All went well with her birth and she gave birth to three kittens. Having had plenty of experience she was an excellent mother and reared her kittens without issue. Once the kittens had reached a suitable age, we took Chloe to Dr. Ruth to be spayed. We believed this was her seventh litter and she had spent her entire short life having litter after litter. The kittens turned into very attractive ones and after several months we homed them as a trio to someone who has had cats from us before and they are all doing very well and enjoying their new home and life. Chloe is a very sweet girl and has adapted to life here well. She still sleeps in the room in the Rowanberry building where she reared her kittens and now has some friends in there with her at night. She enjoys being outside and playing in the fields.



Daisy

Daisy's life here at the sanctuary began in September 2020. It started with a call from a dog walker. Whilst walking her dog, she heard the faint noise of kittens crying. After some searching, she found two very small kittens that were cold and frightened and not in a safe area. Of course, we advised her to bring them to the sanctuary immediately.

They were indeed cold, and dehydrated. Both were Manx and we named the white girl Daisy and the Tabby boy, Thomas and they were only a few days old. We had to bottle feed them and during the next few weeks, they were looking much better.

Thomas was always the strongest kitten of the pair, however, one day we noticed he wasn't well and suddenly, he had become flat and lethargic. He had developed Peritonitis and sadly passed away. Daisy missed Thomas but she was becoming a strong kitten and so we introduced her to Olive, another of the sanctuary's characters who was a similar age.

Olive was great with Daisy and definitely helped her through her time as a kitten. They played, slept and ate together, with Olive just letting Daisy know every now and then who was in charge! Daisy has now had a very trouble-free time and really enjoys the outdoors roaming around the pond area. She has turned into the character that we saw was in her during her early days, she is extremely pretty and very wilful.

There are many cats at the Sanctuary in need of a kind sponsor. You can visit the Sanctuary, fill out the form on page 18 or visit our website www.mannecat.com for more cats awaiting sponsorship.



Rosie

Rosie is one of our three-legged residents, as well as being a very pretty long haired fluffy one! She came to us in very sad circumstances and has had a difficult few months. In her household with a married couple, Rosie was very much a man's cat and spent most of her time with the husband. Very suddenly, the husband died which left Rosie very distressed.

After giving it time, Rosie wasn't responding to any attention from the remaining family members and they reluctantly called us.

They explained that they also had dogs in the house, which Rosie was now becoming aggressive towards and they felt that Rosie couldn't carry on living there. We agreed that Rosie may be better away from that environment and which held memories of the husband. She went into our 'Willows' cabin and didn't settle well at first, as we expected. Despite trying to tempt with her all types of food, she wasn't interested in anything and although we could sit with her and stroke her, she wasn't very responsive to us either.

We have taken in many cats as a result of a family bereavement and in some cases, the cats never recover and nothing can be done for them. Rosie, however, is not one of those cases and as the weeks went by, she began enjoying her food, drinking well and greeting us whenever we entered The Willows! She loves attention and has now settled into her life here very well. She's a very sweet girl and would love a sponsor or two!



Tabatha

Tabatha came to us with a sad but familiar story. We were contacted by a lady who explained that her new partner wasn't accepting of her cat and that he was making life very difficult and unhappy for the cat. Tabatha would be confined to single rooms and the man would lose patience with her very easily. We agreed that Tabatha could come to the sanctuary.

On arrival, Tabatha was very upset and frightened. She would not allow men near her but to an extent, was tolerant of women. For the next few days only women went in the room with her and she was starting to calm down. When we thought the time was right, Darryl and Warren started to go in to the room to clean it, feed her and calmly talk to her. Previously, she would shout and growl at them, whereas this time, she was remaining calm. They'd also sit in there for a period of time talking and reassuring her and eventually when she was eating, they began to stroke her and she allowed them to. This was a good breakthrough and showed us that Tabatha had realised that she was now in a safe place.

Tabatha is very comfortable with life here and has a regular routine that suits her. She lives in the cabin and enjoys pottering around outside on sunny days and is very happy to have fuss from anyone who is offering!

Bailey's story



A call came in one day from a local garage to inform us that a feral cat had found its way into the garage and was hiding and very frightened but not in a hurry to leave.

The people running the garage were very kind and fed the cat, telling us that it was very hungry. Obviously the cat couldn't remain there and so we made arrangements for the cat to come here. We arranged for them to collect a trap so that they could bring the cat to the safety of our sanctuary.

Several days went by and although the cat was still hanging around it wouldn't go in the trap and one time even managed to sneak some food out of the trap without setting it off! After a week they had caught the cat and it was brought to the sanctuary. Although the cat appeared feral it was apparent it was just very frightened. We

were able to handle it out of the trap and see that it was a male cat. We called him Bailey after one of the workers that helped catch him and quite soon Bailey settled down.

As he was settling in, however, it was clear that something wasn't quite right. He was booked in to be neutered with Dr. Ruth later that week and when she saw him, she advised that Bailey had very little sight. This was a shock as he was fairly young and seemed healthy, Dr. Ruth advised that it was temporary and could improve but that he was to stay inside longer than the 4-6 weeks duration we keep new cats in for.

Dr. Ruth kept checking on him when she visited and a few months later, his sight had improved but was as good as it was going to be and we were then able to let him out. He is still partially visually impaired but enjoys his time outside and has latched on to Warren and follows him about when he's doing his morning jobs!

Woody, Willow and Harry

Sue Reynolds updates us on her new family.

“I’ll just go for a look” I said. Meet The Fluffies. Woody, Willow and Harry. Feral siblings from a litter of five born at Mann Cats on 13th April 2022 and twelve weeks old when I brought them home.

Five minutes after arrival, one of them had become wedged behind the fridge freezer but luckily my friend Steve had come with me and managed to pull the fridge out and let the kitten out.

Since then they have thrived and are now three healthy and beautiful young cats. They have all been neutered/spayed and recovered very quickly thankfully, with some good advice from Sue.

They are all different: Harry is very affectionate and has long fur and an enormous tail and is very chatty; Woody is chunky and is the biggest and is a face planter; Willow is sweet and loves to lie on my lap.

They are house cats but are walked separately outside on a harness. I tried all three together once, but that was like a jigsaw on legs!



I’d forgotten what a lot of work kittens are as my last two were nineteen when they passed, but we are in a good routine now. Up at 6am (yes really) for breakfast, then treats and litter tray then play – for at least six hours, before sleeping until teatime when it starts all over again.

I work from home so this helped to form the bond we have. They are into everything of course, and particularly like to catch the paper as it comes out of the printer! How many times it has been jammed as their little paws stop it coming out.

Animals make a house a home, and I can’t imagine life without these beautiful babies.

Thank you Sue.



Polecat attack

Earlier in this newsletter, you'll have seen our main feature story about Pixie, Pickle and their kittens. This is now a story featuring their kittens which was a traumatic experience for everyone.

When Pixie and Pickle's kittens had been neutered and spayed, we started to let them out of the Cabin where they had grown up. There is a cat flap to the porch area and then a locked door in to the main part of the Cabin but we were worried they wouldn't learn how to use the cat flap straight away. Due to this we wedged the main door open and left it slightly open overnight. This was during the winter period where the nights were becoming dark early and very cold. After what was only a few days, we went into the Cabin one morning and walked into a scene of horror.

Firstly we were confronted by lots of blood, the kittens were all in the room and we could see that many of them had open wounds. Whilst some of them only had small wounds, mostly on their feet, some were worse and one in particular was very nearly dead. There was no time to waste for this kitten and we had to rush her as an emergency to a vet closer to us. This was arranged and whilst we were checking the other kittens, there was another kitten who had a big open wound on his chest and so he was also rushed in. They began operating on the



kittens immediately and we were very sceptical of their outcome. For the remaining kittens that had wounds, these were manageable at the sanctuary. We bathed them and cleaned them thoroughly and began them on antibiotic medication.

As we cleaned the wounds and could have a look at them, it was apparent that there looked to be small puncture marks. Our immediate thoughts were that a rodent of some sort had come in through the open door, perhaps looking for warmth and food and inflicted these injuries whilst the kittens were sleeping. To our delight, the two kittens that had surgery at the vets pulled through and began to improve, the vet there also confirmed they had identified puncture wounds. The most likely rodent which we thought could have done this, is a polecat which is a wild, ferret type animal. To confirm our suspicions, a country park not far from the sanctuary, posted on their social media page that they had suffered a polecat attack around the same time and several of their geese, ducks and turkeys had been injured and killed.

The two kittens recovered at the vets and were able to return to the sanctuary several weeks later. We named them David and Venus. Sadly one kitten that remained here didn't respond to the antibiotics and passed away but all the others made a full recovery. We never had any more problems or 'attacks' and the kittens now continue to make good progress.



Standing order mandate

This standing order cancels any previous instructions to make payments quoting the Isle of Man Bank Account number shown.

TO (BANK)

ADDRESS (OF YOUR BANK)

Please pay to Isle of Man Bank, South Region Isle of Man,
Sort Code: 55-91-04 for the credit of 'MANN CAT SANCTUARY',
Account Number: **13066633**

THE SUM OF* (IN FIGURES)

(AMOUNT IN WORDS)

THE FIRST PAYMENT TO BE MADE ON ** (DATE)

and thereafter ANNUALLY/MONTHLY (please delete as appropriate)
until cancelled by me/us in writing.

NAME OF ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED

ACCOUNT NO.

SORT CODE

SIGNATURE(S)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

DATED

*Minimum payments – Monthly £5/Annually £50 or become a Friend of the Sanctuary for £75 a year.

** This date should be at least ten days from the date of sending this form.

Please return the completed form to:

MANN CAT SANCTUARY, ASH VILLA,
MAIN ROAD, SANTON, ISLE OF MAN IM4 1EE

Sponsorship scheme



There are many permanent residents at the Sanctuary and we operate a sponsorship scheme with 12 monthly payments of a minimum £5 per month or an annual payment of £50.

If you would like to help these animals, please fill in the form below or become a Friend of the Sanctuary for an annual payment of £75 (or more if you wish!) by cash, cheque or standing order (see form on the previous page). You will receive a sponsorship package. For even more cats to choose from please visit us online at www.mannecat.com or look through the sponsor book if visiting the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary welcomes visitors during the summer (1st May – 30th September) Wednesday and Sunday 2-5pm.

Thank you.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

ANIMAL'S NAME

SPONSOR'S NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL

MOBILE

AMOUNT £

CHEQUE ☐

POSTAL ORDER ☐

STANDING ORDER ☐

SIGNED

DATE



Jacob & Isaac

A friend of the sanctuary bought two little goats on island, thinking they would act as lawnmowers and keep their grass down.

Much to her surprise she found that they liked everything else but grass, and were impossible to contain, often escaping and pestering the neighbours! She realised quite quickly that she hadn't got the correct environment and surroundings to keep them and asked us for help. Having had goats here at the sanctuary previously, we offered to house them here in our field thinking we had strong, sufficient fencing to keep them in. How wrong we were!

The goats arrived, they were two small males, one long haired and the other short. We called them Jacob and Isaac and introduced them to their new 'patch' in our field. This included a shelter with a nice thick bed of straw, a play bench, hay to eat and plenty of briars and nettles to munch on. We thought and hoped that they'd be very happy with that, however, within one hour they had escaped and were running up the lane! We couldn't make out at all where they had escaped through but that didn't matter as we had to run off after them! We managed to catch up with them and bring them back. After a good look, we thought we'd found their escape route and secured it, however, this carry on continued! On one occasion, a neighbour was watering his garden in the dusk and was aware he was being watched. He turned around only to see Jacob and Isaac stood in his garden! He carried them back to us under his arm and thankfully saw the funny



side. Eventually someone had to sit all afternoon and watch where they were escaping through and it was literally a space of eight inches which had to be seen to be believed.

Once the field and all escape routes had been sealed, they did begin to settle down. Some of the cats wander into their area and play with them and our new Rowanberry building that is mentioned in this newsletter, was being built next to them so they had the entertainment of watching that and receiving plenty of fuss from the workers. After several months we extended their area with more strong fencing and in the day-time they venture into this area and mix with the sheep, ponies and turkeys. We are sure now that they have realised they live here and appear to be quite happy with that and we're sure the visitors will enjoy seeing them during the summer.



Sight difficulties

Whilst an influx of feral kittens isn't unusual here, what has been unusual is that a vast majority of them have had severe eye problems.

The first group arrived when we took a call from the company who delivers our oil. They advised that a feral cat had reared her kittens near their offices. They advised us that they were happy for the mother to remain with them and that they would have her spayed, however the kittens were evidently unwell and in some distress. We said that if they could catch the kittens they could bring them here and we could try and find out what was going on. Once caught, it was apparent that all the kittens had serious eye issues, with ulcers completely covering their eyes and none of them could see.

We started them on a treatment course prescribed by Dr. Ruth but their eyes were some of the worst we've seen and far too graphic to photograph. They were on eye drops every other hour and although no improvements happened quickly, Dr. Ruth advised us not to give up. In the litter, there were two torty kittens, two ginger and a tabby and white. The two torty's eyes were the worst and it was evident that they had other conditions and although we did all we could they both passed away several weeks after they arrived. As Dr. Ruth suggested, with perseverance, the three remaining



kittens all improved and their ulcers disappeared. They have partial vision now but they will be permanently visually impaired.

Around the same time, a single feral kitten had been wondering around the north of the island and also appeared to be in distress. We managed to trap it and once again, this had severe ulcers on both eyes. This kitten began the same treatment and we put her with the other group, she was a little more wild but we were able to administer the drops and over time we began to see improvements. As with the other kittens, the ulcers disappeared and she now has slight vision. She can find her way around and plays with the other kittens that she has grown up with.

Our final case came early in 2023 when a worker on a building site called us to say they had a feral cat with two kittens which they had been feeding but they couldn't remain there. So we loaned them a trap and they caught the mother and were able to put the two kittens in a cat basket. The kittens were old enough to eat on their own and we put the three of them into the back of our cabin area. The mother cat seemed more frightened than feral but when we saw her up close, she only had vision out of one eye. We're not sure what has happened but it is obvious she hasn't received any treatment for the bad eye so we were very relieved that she is now safe here at the sanctuary.



Webcams

Are you one of the many viewers tuning in to our five webcams? They play on a live feed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and you can view all five feeds at www.mannecat.com/live-webcams and join in with the webcam chat on our Mann Cat Chatters Facebook page.

1. Lounge

There is always plenty of activity to be seen and enjoyed on the lounge webcam. The lounge, joined to the conservatory, houses the majority of the residents and on open days is the main entrance to the sanctuary.

2. Rowanberry

The Rowanberry complex has replaced our twenty year old porta cabins, one of which was the feral house, and this is one of the rooms from the Rowanberry. This room is presently occupied by a group of cats that came to us from Cyprus and during the day-time they can come and go through the open door.

3. Conservatory

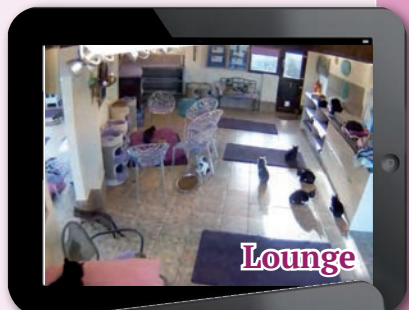
The conservatory adjoins the lounge and again, there is always plenty to be seen. At the far end of the room is our tree of life, where leaves are bought either online, or while visiting the sanctuary and placed on the tree. These are often done in memory of a sponsored resident, or a supporter's own cat that has passed away.

4. Thie Noa

Thie Noa is Manx for new house. This building was our aviary for some years and we had to convert it due to our ever increasing numbers. Some new residents are initially put in here and also a few oldies like to live in here as well, as it is quiet for them. The useful factor with Thie Noa is that it has a cat flap to an enclosed outdoor area, allowing the cats free access to fresh air.

5. The Willows

The Willows is a new area that has replaced our ancient aviary, we were desperate for more peaceful space to keep our cats that are blind, very elderly, take fits, or have medical problems that make them unsuitable for an outside life. This area is perfect, and the answer to our prayers. Thank you to Enid from America for all her help and also for naming the new room after her precious cat Willow, who she lost recently, and also thanks to the Kaiser Trust for all their help.



Our online gift shop

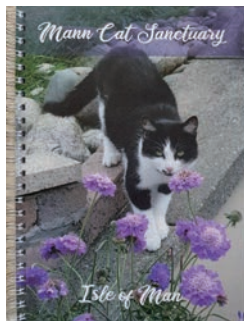


Below is a selection of the gifts available on our website,
to view all our products and to order online, go to:
manncat.com and look for Gift Shop.

Cat Designed Apron
– £15.99



A5 Wiro Bound Notebook – £8.99



A6 Wiro Bound Notebook – £4.99



Leather Purse – Small Coin – £12.99



Purr-fectly Manx China Mug – £8.99



'Cozy Cat' Rug – £5.00

Hand crochet, each with a unique design.



Cat Toy With MCS T-shirt
– £4.99



Yoshi Midnight Cats Zip Purse – £24.99



Yoshi Party Cats Zip Purse – £24.99



Yoshi Midnight Cats Cross Body Bag – £49.99

This leather cross body handbag is finished in a distinctive brown leather which contrasts the applique detail on the front.



Yoshi Party Cats Multiway Grab Bag – £74.99

This zip top flap over bag features the Party Cat Squad ready to party!



Yoshi Cat Nap Flap Over Glasses Case – £14.99

Protect your glasses or sunglasses with this leather glasses case which has been finished in a brown and green leather. This leather glasses case is fastened with a magnetic fastener. Available in pink, purple or black.



Yoshi Cat Nap Card Holder – £9.99

This leather credit card holder has RFID Protection, two back card slots, and a middle slip pocket for storing extra cards and folded notes etc.



Visitor's information

Mann Cat Sanctuary
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Santon
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IM4 1EE



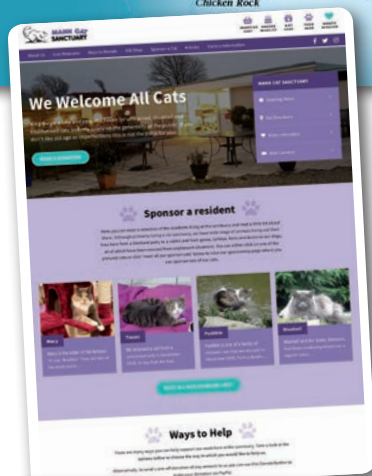
Isle of Man



steam-packet.com



easyjet.com
loganair.co.uk
aerlingus.com



Throughout the summer, we welcome visitors every Sunday and Wednesday afternoon between 2pm and 5pm. Entrance into the Sanctuary is free, however we do expect visitors to bring a six pack of Whiskas for the cat's tea.

During your visit, you are able to sit with our many cats who will want to make friends with you and say hello to our pony and donkey, or meet our feathered rescue friends. Sponsor a resident and maybe take a souvenir or two back to wherever you visit from! We look forward to meeting you one day...



SPONSORED BY THE KAISER TRUST



This edition of the newsletter is supported by The Kaiser Trust as an acknowledgement of the important and excellent work of the Mann Cat Sanctuary.
"Supporting the Community" – Charity Reg in England 1097171

At Mann Cat Sanctuary, we ensure that all the cats in our care receive compassion, understanding and the ability to roam free.

How to contact Mann Cat Sanctuary

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