

WISCKers

News for supporters of Western Isles Support for Cats and Kittens (WISCK) (Edition 2, Spring 2020)



Coping in an emergency

When we sent out our first newsletter just a few short weeks ago, nobody could have predicted the international crisis which now affects our island and our volunteers, as it does everyone.

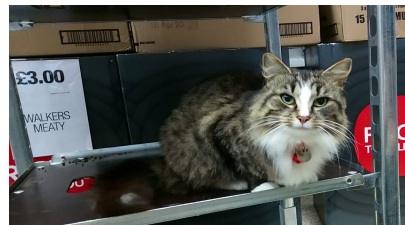
Our vet has suspended all but emergency operations, so spaying and neutering has stopped, and because of that and concerns about contact between volunteers we've also had to temporarily stop trapping all but badly injured feral cats - we can't keep them or neuter them.

We still have a few cats in care, like our star lodger Pier (see the story on the next page) and our fosters still look after kittens not yet ready for homes. We still have costs too - for food and litter and to get ready for a flood of essential neutering ops when the world gets back to normal.

But for now it's all on hold. We just have to sit it out and hope that, when life returns, our supporters will still be there for us, the way we are still there for our cats and kittens. Don't forget us and enjoy these positive stories in isolation!

Thanks to everyone who completed our tricky trivia quiz. Mrs A G Macleod of Newmarket in Lewis answered EVERY question correctly and won a night at Islebebythesea shepherd huts. We raised more than £170 from entries. Thanks everyone - we'll be back to fundraising events when social life starts again!

Stornoway celebrity cats

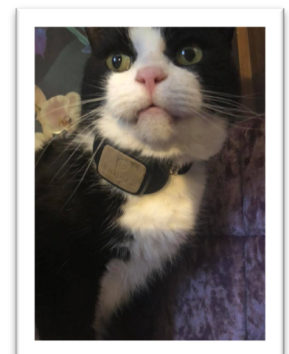


We have our fair share of town centre celebrity cats, like Mittens (left), a regular

at Stornoway Co-op, where she is friends with staff and customers alike. There's ginger and white Nemo, who patrols the streets of Stornoway town centre and pops in to favourite locations including Stornoway Police Station, where he recently presented himself for questioning at the front desk. And of course we have local hero Tommy Mackenzie, also known as Talking Tommy, who has his own Facebook page and has been sending out inspirational messages ever since the Coronavirus crisis hit his human friends.

Tommy is a former rescue cat with an urge to wander, so his Mum often fits him with a tracker and hurries out to retrieve him from the Post Office, the Chinese takeaway or wherever his latest travels have taken him.

With the streets of Stornoway quieter than usual, he's been enjoying the roads and directing traffic at Tesco's. He's pictured here wearing the tracker which keeps him under a watchful eye at home!



The story of Pier, the cat with a mat

One of the rescues from just before the shutdown came to us from the pier at Carloway, on the west side of Lewis, where a kind-hearted lady had been keeping an eye on him and felt that he needed our help.

Once he was trapped and taken to the vet to be de-matted we found he had been a pet at some point, as he was already neutered, but his coat was beyond saving and was removed by the vets in one huge, matted lump (below left).



Unsurprisingly Pier didn't like us very much after that and he felt the cold too. Our Facebook supporters were extremely generous and we were able to



pay for his treatment and then keep him warm and cosy in a fleecy bed, with his own heater. Jumpers didn't suit him, but his cosy igloo did!



Our cat care supremo Karen said: "It's going to take some time for this lad to trust us humans again, but we're determined he will be allowed all the time he needs so he can find a wonderful forever home when he is ready. It's the least he deserves after the trauma he's been through."



Meet the kitty committee

Ginger kitten Whisper is the latest member of our Kitty Committee, having arrived with committee member Kara when she was just 10 weeks old as a foster kitten. She was happy to give kisses straight away but took longer to trust her new family enough to allow stroking.

Now she's Kara's baby, cuddling all the time and playing with her new brothers as well as with other foster kittens that come and go. Kara says she demands attention and will bite noses and chins if she doesn't get the fuss she wants. Her newest hobby is curtain jumping - running and jumping as high as she can!

Here she is getting cuddles from one of her brothers, Romeo, obviously well-settled into the family.



We are a Western Isles-based group run entirely by local volunteers and serving the cats and kittens of the islands, with the help of an army of volunteer helpers and the goodwill of our local community. We'll get through this if we work together!