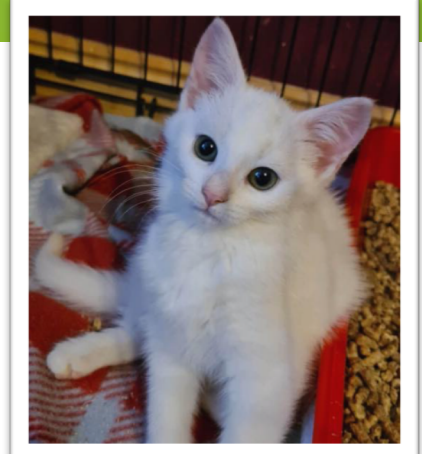
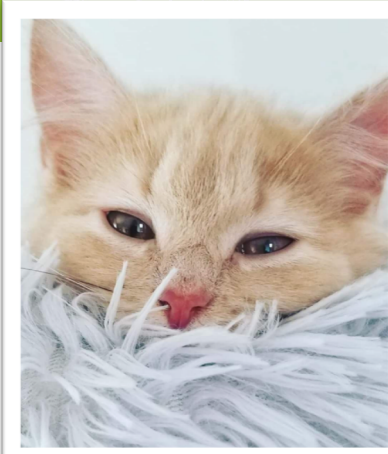


Merry WISCKmas

News for supporters of Western Isles Support for Cats and Kittens (WISCK) (Edition 5, December 2020)



A furry festive season to all our supporters!

Every single one of us has had a lot to contend with in 2020 - and the volunteers, committee, cats and kittens of WISCK are no exception. During the autumn we've had a seemingly unending series of sickness and crises with the cats and kittens in our care, from parasite infestations to sore eyes, runny bottoms and heart-rending breathing difficulties. Our fosters have been up and down the road to the vets and the kits have had to put up with injections, tablets and the repeated stress of being caught and put in a basket.

None of that makes good pictures, or a very cheerful read, so we're determined in this last WISCKers of 2020 to show you some of the good stuff and put you in the mood for a bright and cheerful start to 2021.

Inside we have a flurry of snow-white kitties, some good advice on how to get cosy and nap the dark nights away, and a few moments of laughs provided by lodgers and live-in housecats belonging to our volunteers.

WISCK would like to end 2020 with our heartfelt thanks to all the supporters, volunteers and suppliers who have got us through our launch year against the odds. Stay safe, stay warm and get yourselves ready for better times to come - and for more news of our cats and kittens in the New Year.



DONATE: PayPal: wisck2020@gmail.com | RBS SC:83-27-12 | AN: 15988656

AMAZON WISH LIST: <http://bit.ly/wisck-wishlist>

EASY FUNDRAISING: <http://bit.ly/WISCK-ef>

Any donation, big or small is hugely appreciated!



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram to keep up to date with our work & fundraising events:
[@westernislessupportforcatsandkittens](https://www.facebook.com/westernislessupportforcatsandkittens)

We currently have several cats in care who would make **AMAZING** mousers for a barn or stable.



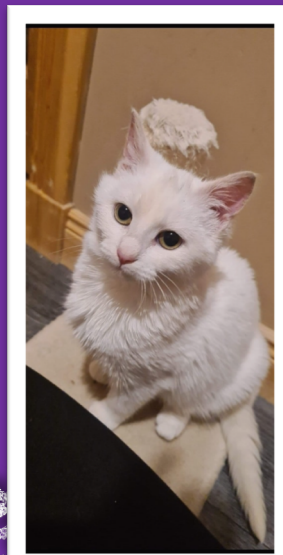
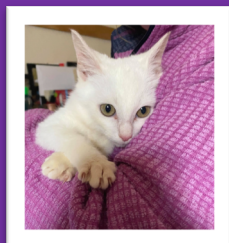
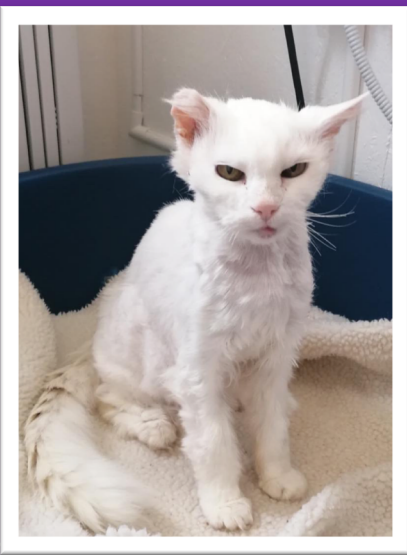
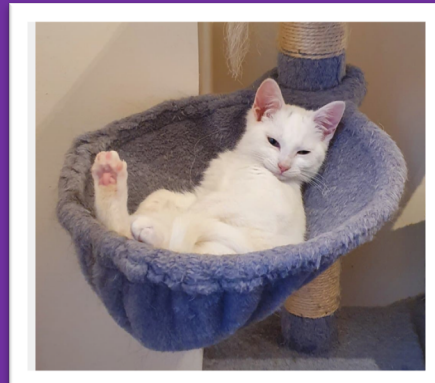
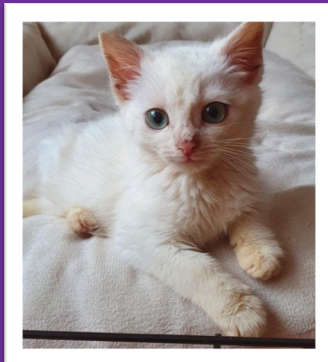
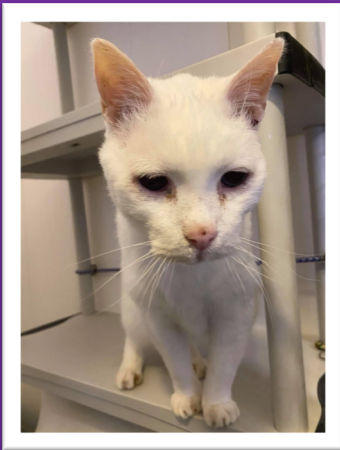
Time for a new calendar...

One of our volunteers had the genius idea in September of pulling together some of the numerous brilliant pet portraits we have and creating a 2021 WISCK calendar to raise funds. Trying to whittle down the hundreds of candidate pictures was a job in itself, but with one for each month and ten on the cover, at least we gave it a fair crack! We're delighted to say the calendars sold out at the beginning of December, topping up our funds and convincing us that next year we'll need a bigger print run. Get your order in early for 2022!



Dreaming of a white kitmas?

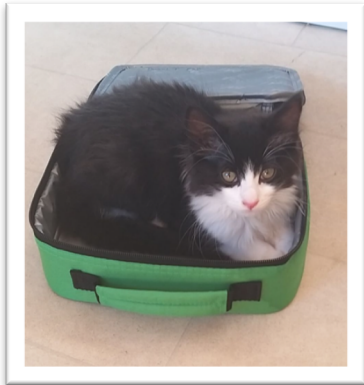
It's not your imagination, this blizzard of furries really did all come into our care in 2020. They arrived as strays, were left behind by owners or were born to feral mums, and every one of them now lives safe, comfortable and loved in a new home, after having their health and confidence boosted with love.



Confidence boosted.

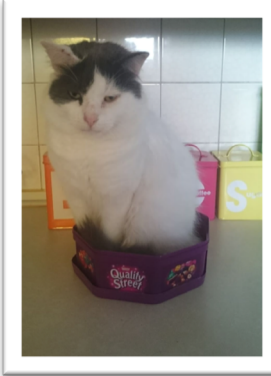
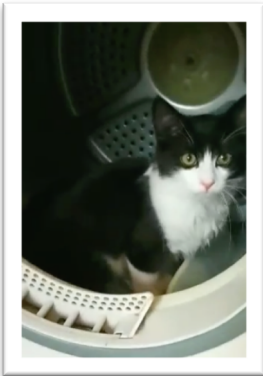
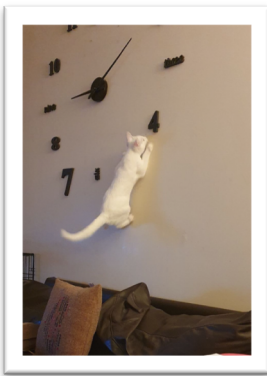
We know where you're hiding....(usually)

Anyone who has ever owned a cat knows how good they are at finding weird places to sleep, sit and hide. The cats we foster - and those our volunteers have as their own house pets - are no exception. The rule is 'If I fits, I sits' and, let's face it, it doesn't even really have to fit....



Clockwise from top left:

- You weren't thinking of going without me, were you?
- Right, now everybody sit perfectly still....she'll never spot me.
- I am quality, and I am street - this is my box.
- Yep, just as I thought, fluff filter not working.
- Oh come on! Tea is at 4 o'clock!



The secret of 'The Burrito'

In the world of WISCK, the word burrito has a special meaning. It's the way we describe wrapping up a terrified, angry or aggressive cat or kitten to protect ourselves and to calm them. Swaddling them in a thick towel or fleecy blanket covers their claws and SHOULD (in theory) put them into a warm, calm trance while we hold and talk to them. Sometimes it works immediately, with purrs and relaxation. On other occasions - let's just say it's worth trying, but not failsafe.



A volunteer uses the burrito on a recently-caught adult feral cat.

Meet the kitty committee



This edition we'd like to introduce you to publicity cat Tui, who fulfills an important role supervising our PR. Here she is in her office basket keeping an eye on the production of this newsletter. Her favourite piece of office equipment is the printer - she'll run from anywhere in the house when she hears it being switched on.

Tui came to live with committee member Annie as a foster kitten, along with her brother, when they were just four weeks old. She demonstrated her initiative by breaking out of her pen on the first day (double doors, luckily) and has continued to be her own cat ever since. When her brother was adopted she decided to stay and became part of a three-cat family.

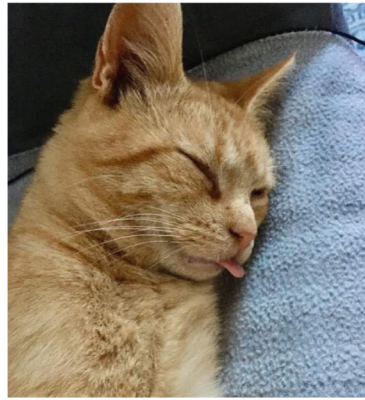
She's never grown very big, but Teeny Tiny Tui makes up for that by being fearless, even in the face of quite big neighbouring cats - she discovered that fluffing up and running straight at them usually works. She loves visitors, horses, Dreamies and all-day naps, especially when she can get under the bedcovers and make herself a warm, dark cave beside her snoozing mum.

Who's your new friend?

We see the start of some beautiful friendships when we're fostering and, although some of them are destined to be short-lived as cats and kittens move on to new homes, other pets and children in foster homes really do help scared kittens to settle down - they realise things might turn out all right after all. Here's just a few of our 'foster friends' from 2020.

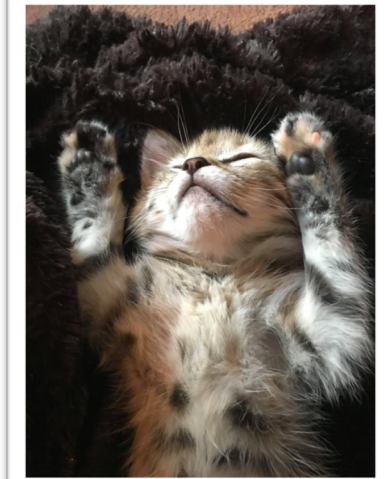


Just a catnap



It's the key to surviving through the winter

One thing you can certainly say for cats - they know how to sleep. We hope these cosy, contented images will persuade you to snuggle up and dream away a few hours while the weather does whatever it wants outdoors. Happy winter!



All the images in this newsletter, as in all the editions of WISCKers, are genuine snaps of cats who have been in our care, looked after by volunteers without any thought of reward. No studio pictures, no paid image creators - just real cats, really loved by real people here in the Western Isles of Scotland.

Finally, as well as wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year, we would like to thank all our volunteers, supporters, suppliers and anyone who has donated towards the care of our cats and kittens. Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr, nur a thig i. Ceud Mile Taing!

