

## Over 25 years of Catworking



### **Catwork has been a sanctuary for cats with special needs and began in 1995**

There was no formal 'launch date' for Catwork, but we erected our first cat chalet at the end of our garden in Nether Stowey in 1995. After 1997 we found ourselves increasingly specialising in cats with FIV (*Feline Immunodeficiency virus*) and FeLV (*Feline Leukaemia Virus*).

One of the earliest cats who came to us in 1995 was a little black female stray, brought to us by a policeman from Carhampton, near Minehead. We called her Millie. We actually built the first enclosed pen area around the chalet with her inside. There was little else there, just a bale of hay, which Millie hid behind, and which gave her the fragrance of hay whenever we went in to her.



Millie (left) joined Bill and Ben, our 'original' pet cats

Millie became a firm favourite, and we soon brought her into the house as a companion to the then house cats, two Burmese, namely Bill and Ben (William and Benjamin, as they were 'posh' cats).

Millie also became the inspiration for the Catwork logo, so she was very much part of the establishment of 'Catwork'.

In those early days we were mainly just helping to find homes for the cats who came our way. However, we soon realised that we were not really cut out for 'moving them on', so it was no surprise that Catwork became a sanctuary for cats who needed long term care.

As more cats seemed to need our help, we were concerned about the cost of their care, so thought we should use the cats as a means to support themselves. In 1996 we produced some greetings cards, having found a couple of artists to produce four 'cat' designs each; both quite different styles, so we had a selection of eight cards to sell.



*Our first, and last, foray into greetings card publishing!*

We found some agents to help sell them into shops across the country, and felt we might be on to a way of funding Catwork. We even attended the major 'International Gift Fair' at the NEC in Birmingham, looking for all things cat related, thinking that we could produce a Catwork Cat-alogue of cat-related gifts.

We soon realised that we were out of our depth, and when the shops started asking for new designs long before we had sold our first range, we had to rethink!

Bob remembers well reading a 'how-to' business book, which had one section which stuck in his mind. It said that for a really successful venture, you should "forget about the money", and concentrate 100% on doing the very best job you can, then "the money will look after itself". In essence, that is exactly what we did with the cats who came to us, and, lo and behold, the money has more or less looked after itself ever since - thanks to our wonderful band of supporters who have joined as sponsors over the years!

It was in 1997 that the direction of Catwork was decided for us. We met Harry, our first introduction to the world of FIV (the feline equivalent of the human HIV).

Harry was the beginning of our dedication to helping and discovering all we could about cats with FIV, and also those with FeLV (leukaemia virus). Once word got out that we were taking FIV cats, we seemed instantly to be cast as 'experts', or more likely: "the only mugs to take them in"! Back then, almost all cats who tested positive for FIV or FeLV were being put to sleep. They were very much in need of sanctuary.

Bear in mind that we never planned any of this; we simply concentrated 100% on doing the very best we could for every cat who came our way. There just seemed to be more and more of them, coming to us from all parts of the country, which is why Catwork sanctuary kept growing, and we kept building more and more areas and chalets, and adding the facilities as they were needed, all completely cat-led.

It is still a bit of a shock when we look back at how little we knew what we were letting ourselves in for, but we just dealt with every day, and each cat as it arrived. At one stage, in 2005, we had well over 50 cats to care for (47 in the sanctuary and 7 as pets in the house). It makes us wonder how we coped, but we were younger then! Also, by then, we had met so many good people who wanted to support what we were doing that, even then, despite a few worries, the money somehow managed to "look after itself"; we really do think there has been a guardian angel looking out for Catwork!

Now, after more than 25 years, we are closing the sanctuary and the cat numbers are down to single figures. We still keep busy with communicating with cat owners across the world who find our website and ask for advice. The hands-on experience we are able to share, together with the collection of experiences of FIV cat owners across the world through our "1000 FIV cats project" which, incidentally, is still growing and has passed our original optimistic target and now has 1125 FIV cats listed, seems to have real value to those looking for real-life information as opposed to academic theory.

It is heart-warming to receive some of the emails from those who have found our website helpful and, indirectly, saved the lives of many FIV cats, and helped their owners to understand the true implications of the virus.

It is amazing that the experience of a couple of old codgers in Somerset can have a positive influence for cats and their owners in far-flung places all across the globe - all thanks to the cats, who have taught us so much, and the support of our sponsors who have enabled Catwork to do it.

## Meet the Catwork cats...

On the following pages you will see the cats who have been here at Catwork over the past 27 years. For each cat, we show their status: FIV, FeLV or special needs (SN), followed by the years they spent at Catwork. There are a few missing from the early days, for whom we cannot find photos, but these are the bulk of those we have known.



Bertie  
SN  
1995-1995



Millie  
Rescue-Pet  
1995-2015



Ginger Tom  
Rescue-Pet  
1996-2009



Bobby  
SN  
1997-1997



Harry  
FIV  
1997-2005



Captain  
FIV  
1997-2011



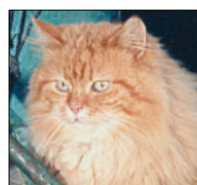
Nelson  
FIV  
1998-2005



Henry  
SN  
1998-2003



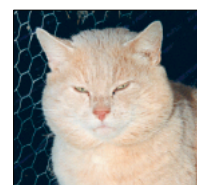
Georgie  
SN  
1998-2001



Patrick  
FIV  
1999-2005



Oliver  
FIV  
1999-2003



Sandy  
FIV  
2000-2003



Foster  
FIV/FeLV  
2000-2004



Gemma  
FeLV  
2000-2002



Fitz  
FIV/FeLV  
2000-2002



Billy  
Rescue-Pet  
2000-2013





Pepper  
FIV  
2001-2002



Fluff  
FIV  
2001-2010



Ginger  
FIV-homed  
2001-2002



Teddy  
FIV  
2001-2004



Giles  
FIV/FelV  
2001-2009



Percy  
FIV  
2001-2009



Travis  
FIV-homed  
2001-2001



Dodie  
FelV-homed  
2001-2001



Travis  
FelV  
2001-2002



Fred  
FIV  
2002-2002



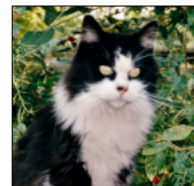
Oscar  
FIV  
2002-2002



Cecil  
FIV  
2002-2014



Seamus  
FIV  
2002-2006



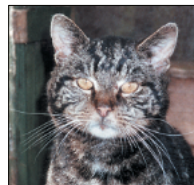
Dougal  
FIV  
2002-2007



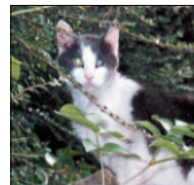
Louis  
FIV  
2002-2005



Romeo  
FIV  
2002-2003



Sid  
FIV  
2002-2002



Lionel  
FIV  
2002-2002



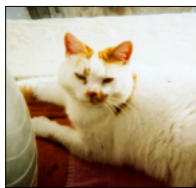
Jimmy  
FelV  
2002-2008



Marmaduke  
Rescue-Pet  
2002- 2022



Henry  
FIV-homed  
2003-2003



Curly  
FIV-homed  
2003-2003



Tiny Tim  
FIV  
2003-2003



Mr Chips  
FIV  
2003-2008



Bruce  
FIV  
2003-2013



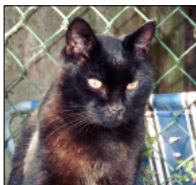
Bootsy  
FIV  
2003-2010



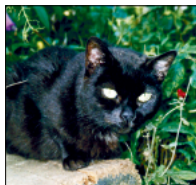
Ben  
FIV  
2003-2005



Jake  
FIV  
2003-2006



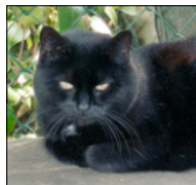
Percy Pollen  
FIV  
2003-2010



Tigger  
FIV  
2003-2005



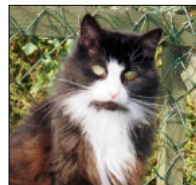
Donny  
FIV  
2003-2012



Molly  
FIV  
2003-2009



Benson  
FIV  
2003-2005



Florence  
FIV  
2003-2009



Jemima  
FIV  
2003-2008



Thomas  
SN  
2003-2006



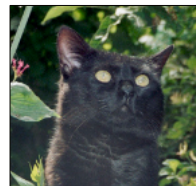
Reggie  
FIV  
2004-2006



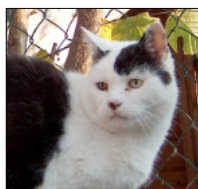
Bruno  
FIV  
2004-2005



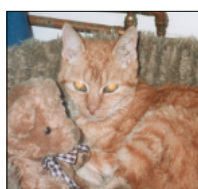
Billy Dulverton  
FIV  
2004-2005



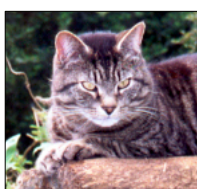
Nick  
FIV  
2004-2010



Tutts  
FIV  
2004-2009



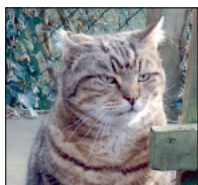
Granny  
FIV  
2004-2005



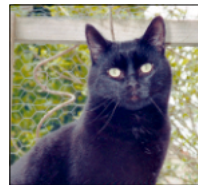
Guy  
FIV  
2004-2015



Kitty  
FIV-homed  
2004-2005



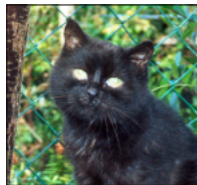
Dylan  
FeLV  
2004-2008



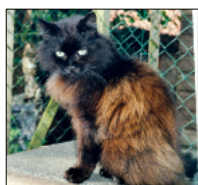
Jordan  
FeLV  
2004-2010



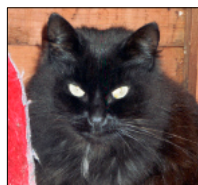
Gabriel  
FeLV  
2004-2005



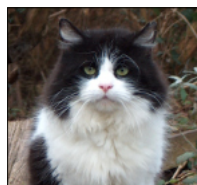
Rani  
SN  
2004-2008



Davey  
FIV  
2005-2005



Charlie  
FIV  
2005-2007



O'Mally  
FIV-homed  
2005-2006



Batty  
FIV  
2005-2012



Cicci  
FeLV  
2005-2005



Sandy  
SN  
2005-2007



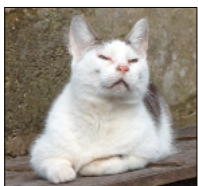
Penny  
SN - homed  
2005-2005



Lucky  
SN  
2005-2010



Jack  
Rescue-Pet  
2005-2015



Conner  
FIV  
2006-2008

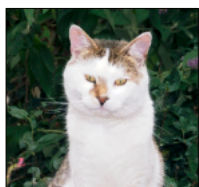


Ginge  
FIV  
2006-2006



George  
FIV  
2006-2007





Jasper  
FIV  
2006-2016



Beau  
FeLV  
2006-2007



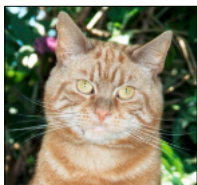
May  
SN  
2006-2011



Polly  
Rescue-Pet  
2006- 2022



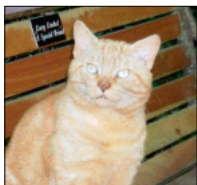
BT  
FIV  
2007-2017



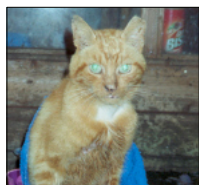
Thomas Cornwall  
FIV  
2007-2016



Blackie  
FIV  
2007-2010



Woody  
FIV  
2007-2014



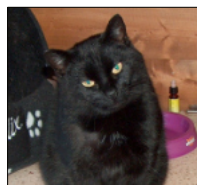
Fred  
FIV  
2007-2007



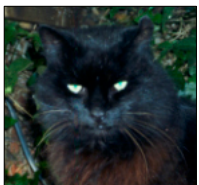
Jim  
FIV  
2007-2011



Joseph  
FIV  
2007-2009



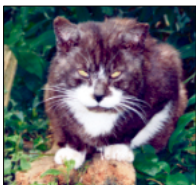
Mary  
FIV  
2007-2009



Spider  
SN  
2007-2010



Oliver  
Rescue-Pet  
2007- present



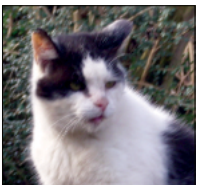
Sam  
FIV  
2008-2008



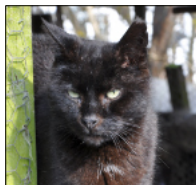
Badger  
FIV  
2008-2009



Roger  
FIV-homed  
2008-2008



Sammy  
FIV  
2008-2010

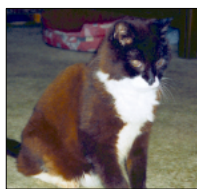


Bertie  
FIV  
2008-2016



Billy  
FeLV  
2008-2010





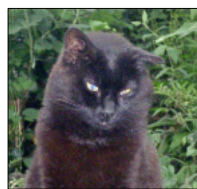
Teddy  
SN  
2008-2010



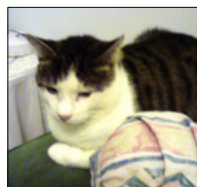
Sandy  
SN  
2008-2014



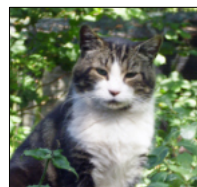
Thomas Redruth  
FIV  
2009-2014



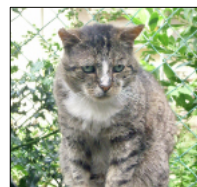
Ralph  
FIV  
2009-2017



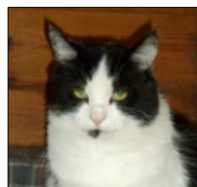
Oscar  
FIV-Fostered  
2009-2018



Big Boy  
FIV  
2009-2013



Ruffles  
FIV  
2010-2010



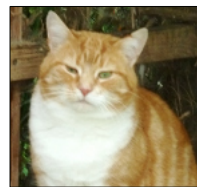
Bear  
FIV  
2010-2013



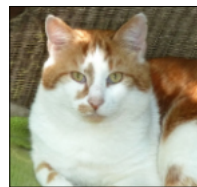
Minstrel  
FIV-homed  
2010-2010



Lucy  
FIV  
2010-2012



Harry  
FIV  
2010-2017



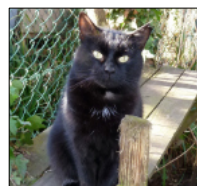
Barley  
FIV  
2010-2013



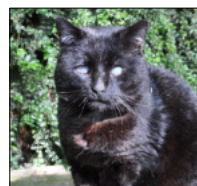
Fizz  
FeLV  
2010-2011



Danny  
FeLV  
2010-2015



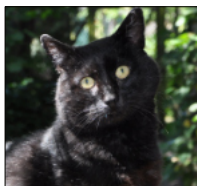
Timmy  
FeLV  
2010-2011



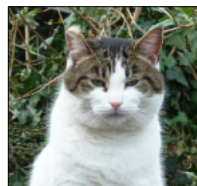
George  
FIV  
2011-2014



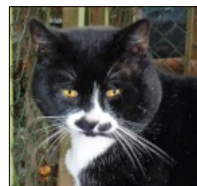
Toby  
FIV  
2011-present



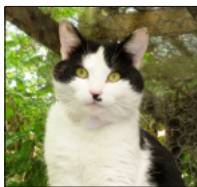
Sam  
FIV  
2011-2016



Mr Mog  
FIV  
2011-2018



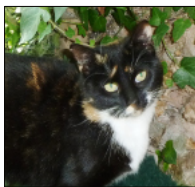
Trevor  
FIV  
2011- 2022



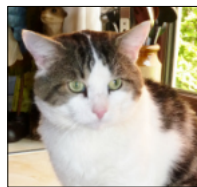
Charlie  
FeLV  
2011-2015



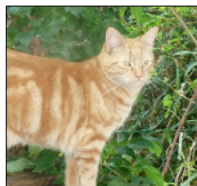
Bonnie  
FeLV  
2011-2011



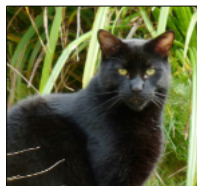
Bella  
FeLV  
2011-2012



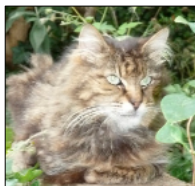
Joey  
FeLV(false)-homed  
2011-2011



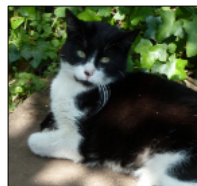
Tommy  
FeLV  
2011-2013



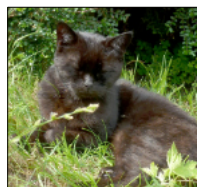
Coco  
Rescue-Pet  
2011- 2021



Thomas W.  
FIV  
2012-2016



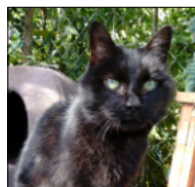
Davey  
FeLV  
2012-2013



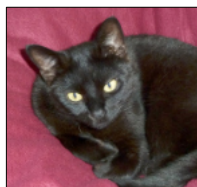
Sooty  
SN  
2012-2015



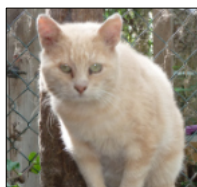
Baggy  
SN  
2012-2018



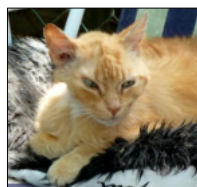
Jemima  
SN  
2012-2013



Little Man  
SN  
2012- 2022



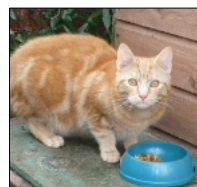
Fudge  
FIV  
2013-2013



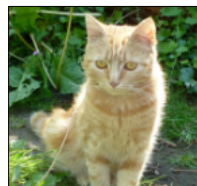
Plucky  
FIV  
2013-2015



Buddy  
FeLV  
2013-2013



Oatsie  
FeLV  
2013-2013



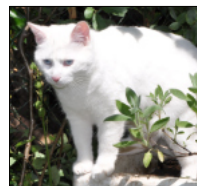
Tiny  
FeLV  
2013-2013



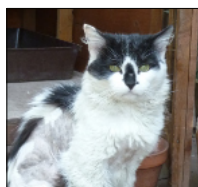
Puss-in-boots  
FeLV  
2013-2013



Willow  
FeLV  
2013-2013



Bluey  
FeLV  
2013-2013



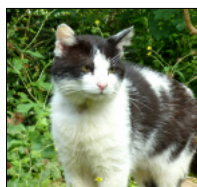
Jack  
FIV/FelV  
2013-2014



Brandy  
SN  
2013-2015



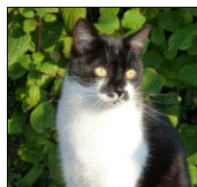
Chris  
FIV  
2014-2016



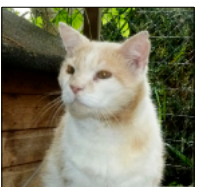
Elvis  
FIV  
2014- present



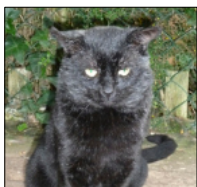
Lenny  
FIV  
2014-2019



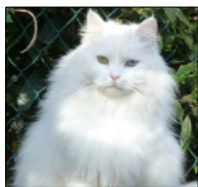
Georgie  
FIV  
2014- present



Barney  
FIV  
2015-2017



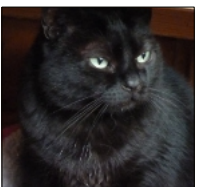
Eric  
FIV  
2015- 2022



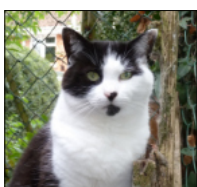
Solo  
SN  
2015-2020



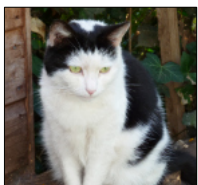
Jason  
SN  
2015-2019



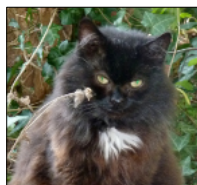
Marmite  
SN  
2015-2016



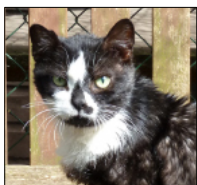
Fidget  
SN  
2015- 2022



Bubbles  
SN  
2015- present



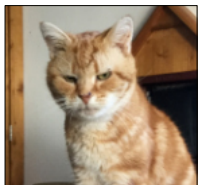
Shadow  
FIV  
2016-2019



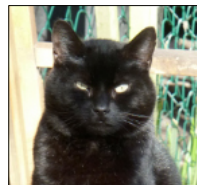
Pepperpot  
FIV  
2016-2018



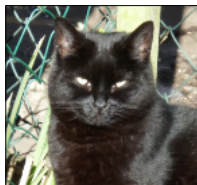
Holly  
FIV  
2016-2018



Ginge  
FIV  
2016-2018



Justin  
FelV  
2016-2019

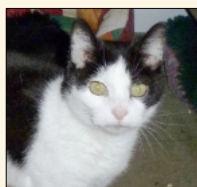


Jemma  
SN  
2016- 22021



Hattie  
SN  
2016- 2021

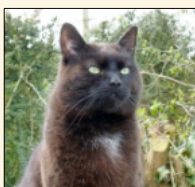




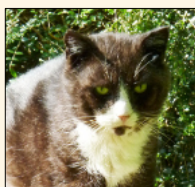
Albert  
SN  
2016-2018



Toby Tonk  
SN  
2016- present



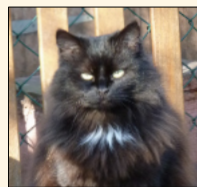
Johnny  
FIV  
2017- 2021



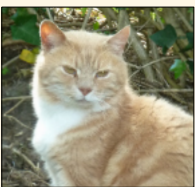
Rocky  
FIV  
2017-2019



Sid  
FIV  
2017-2020



Puss  
SN- homed  
2017-2020



Herbie  
SN  
2017-2020



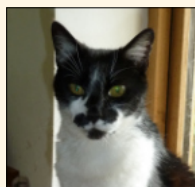
Eddie  
FIV  
2018-2019



Louie  
FIV  
2018-2020



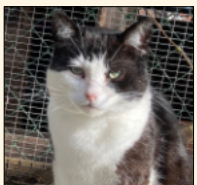
Macavity  
FIV  
2019- 2021



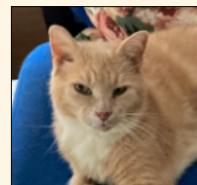
Mikey  
SN  
2019- 2022



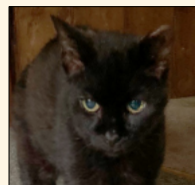
Gizmo  
SN  
2020- 2021



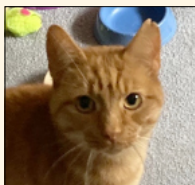
Larry  
FIV  
2021-present



Frankie  
House pet  
2022- present



Gerry  
House pet  
2022- present



Fred  
House pet  
2022- present



Catwork is a sanctuary for cats with special needs

Email: [info@catwork.co.uk](mailto:info@catwork.co.uk)

Web: [www.catwork.co.uk](http://www.catwork.co.uk) and [www.FIVcats.com](http://www.FIVcats.com)

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