

# CARE 4 CATS – IBIZA.

**SUMMER 2011.**



An interim report on Summer activities:

Since our neutering visit in February 2011, when we neutered around nearly 300 cats, the work continues. Summer on the island is the main 'kitten' time and though we strive to neuter as many street cats as we can, inevitably there are still many kittens born. Some do get homes with people who find them on the streets or they get themselves adopted by hanging around gardens, many just have to survive. In the summer this is where much of our effort is concentrated as often these people are willing to give the kittens a home (and often with the mother too) but of course cannot afford the full price of having the cats neutered. The cost is now a horrendous €115+ for each cat.

Care4cats steps in and with people donating as much as they can afford we negotiate a discounted price. So far this year around 80 cats have been neutered this way and we feel that this is another arm to the charities work in rescuing cats. These cats otherwise would be living as feral cats and producing yet more kittens instead they have a home, a comfy bed, and regular food.

This work will now continue until October/November when the teams visit the island.

We also have occasions when people call us about sick animals they've seen in the streets. They've no where to turn because the police or authorities here have no facilities for dealing with ill cats, and of course even if they're taken to the vet then costs are involved and the cat must either be found a foster home or be kept in until it is well enough to be released back on the street (more cost).

One instance of this was a cat that was living in a car park at San Jose. It had been fed by tourists and the supermarket owner but we were alerted to it by some German tourists who were concerned about its health. They had been feeding it all week but were returning home. Luckily for us they told Vera who works in the office that runs the complex they were staying on. Vera knows C4Cs well and got in contact with one of our resident volunteers who went to find and trap the cat. It was indeed quite ill and the shopkeeper told us that even though it was given lots of food it still remained thin and weak. So poor ill Tom was rushed off to the vets and tests were done. Sadly it turned out he had AIDS and was too sick to continue on. So the decision was made by the vet to put him to sleep. Thankfully the charity was there to help. It would be awful to think of him continuing to suffer.

## **P is for Preparations**

Although the October trapping visit is a fair distance away flights are already being booked by our fantastic volunteers. Care4cats just couldn't exist without these animal lovers who give up their holidays and pay their own flights to come here and work all hours in all weathers to trap and neuter the cats we know about.

Our announcement about the visit will hit the press and veterinary clinics in September as we hope to get calls in advance of the trip. There is nothing more frustrating than having to tell someone they've called too late and we can fit no more jobs in. We then carry them forward to February when hopefully we have money to afford a follow up trip.

Many of the volunteers are regulars but only 2 of them are actually from Ibiza. It would be so much easier if we had more local volunteers as the work does often continue throughout the year.

Visiting from South Wales we have Sue and her son

Steve. Both work for the Cats Protection there, with Sue having many many years experience. She has



**Trapping cats on the coast**

been volunteering for Ibiza trips since the beginning 10+ years ago! Now she has roped in Steve along with his work colleague Katie, and Jill...another die hard volunteer who again has many years of working with C4Cs under her belt. Finally Simon comes from London where he works as a full time trapper for Celia Hammond Trust. He's happy to work alone in the more difficult environments and, like the others, he's now been over to Ibiza several times. Together they make up several teams who cover all the jobs along the East coast of the island, and inland. Kerry, who is resident in Es Cana, organises the job schedules and appointments and traps also.

From the North West will come Tracey, Debs and Sue. They work full time but also run a small charity that rescues all types of animals. Since Debs brought Tracey on holiday 3 years ago and got her involved in trapping here, she's never looked back and is now on a mission, along with Sue, to trap as many cats as can be afforded. They work the West coast and inland, including San Antonio which has a huge amount of stray and feral cats. Jaki, who is resident, deals with the callers desperate for help and traps too when needs be.

If you know anyone who is feeding feral colonies, or needs help in trapping cats for neutering then please email us at [care4cats1@aol.com](mailto:care4cats1@aol.com) We have to work on a first come, first served basis because at the end of the day we always run out of money!

## **W is for the Fabulous White Island Corner Shop**

As with all charities, donations are our lifeblood. Without them, and our wonderful volunteers, we simply could not do the work we do on the island of Ibiza.

We're trying to get more and more collection tins out with businesses, but because we're such a small team with work and life commitments, it is slow going. However a wonderful success we've recently had is our 'charity' library that we set up in a very popular business in Sta Eularia.



**Rod and Sophia outside their shop**

The White Island Corner Shop is run by Sophia and Rod Ellington. Both are devoted cat lovers and have always supported the charity by hosting a collection tin. Gina, our finance volunteer, asked Sophia last year if she'd consider having a small library of books that people would then pay €1 to buy, or 50 cents to swap. All the money collected would be donated to Care4cats.

Even though they were short of space Rod and Sophia gave us the go ahead and one was set up. We're very thankful that they did as it's proved to be a resounding success and we're very happy to report that over the last 12mths they have raised over **€1097** - what a fantastic result!!!!

We are so grateful to this lovely couple that we can't thank them enough. That amount of money will help nearly 40 cats have a better life through being neutered.

**THANK YOU SOPHIA AND ROD!**

If you live in Ibiza you can help support the three libraries we have operating, one is at White Island Corner Shop, one at the Tall Ships bar in Sta Eularia and the other is at Thomas Greens British Supermarket. Buy any book for 1 Euro or swap one of yours for 50 cents. At Thomas Greens you need to choose to support us as your charity as he has 4 different boxes available.

## **Change to the UK Quarantine Law**

In June DEFRA announced that the UK quarantine laws would be harmonised with the rest of Europe from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. No longer would a blood test be needed and the 6 month wait (which was actually 7 months by the time you waited for the blood test results) would be abandoned. Now any pet being taken back to the UK from Ibiza simply needs to have the chip (first), rabies injection (second), passport issued and tapeworm treatment prior to travelling. Then the pet can be transported back to the UK 21 days later. Here at Care4cats we think that it is wonderful news, as



**Kittens waiting for their passports!**

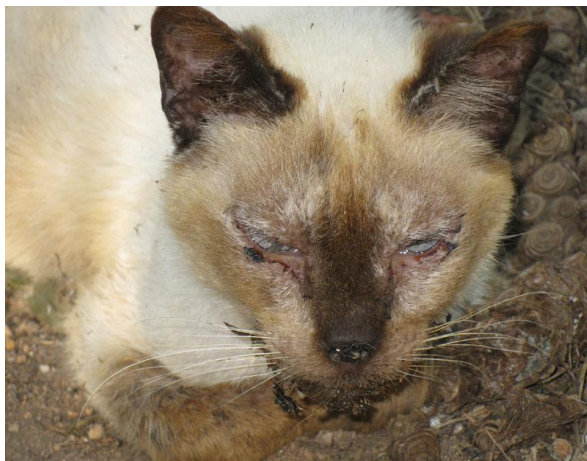
we know that so many cats get abandoned by people who decide to return to the UK but cannot wait the 6/7 months required. We also know that many people who fall in love with a stray cat whilst on holiday are willing to take them to the UK until they realise the time-scales, and costs, involved.

More information can be found on the DEFRA website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/> where it is fully explained but we hope that the reduced cost and time-scales will help in reducing the number of abandoned cats.

## **A is for Angela Collins (Founder)**

We're getting more well known now in Ibiza which of course brings more calls for help. Also a lot more people are now finding us on Google after their holidays in Ibiza especially if they are looking for help for a cat they left behind.

One such call last month was about a Siamese, very feral and scared, and he was thin and very dirty, meaning that he was probably ill. Some tourists were back in the UK and worried that no one would feed it as the villa they rented was, they thought, going to be empty. So three of our volunteers in Ibiza, Monika, her daughter Bettina and Angeles, went to find it. However it was no-where to be seen in the garden they were told it visited. So Angeles decided to put a trap there in the evening and leave it overnight with a cover on top of it. She hoped he'd come around during the night, take the food in the trap and get caught. In the morning, when Monika and Bettina went around, there he was. He was taken to a vet that works with C4Cs, Toni at Clinic Kans in Puig den Valls, and after tests, he went home with Angeles who said that she would take care of him. As



**Please help us help these cats.**

he was feral he was put in a very large cage, with a comfy bed, and she took care of him for the weekend. However on the Monday he was very ill and vomiting his food so he was taken back to the clinic where he died soon after of kidney failure. All we can say is that we are relieved that he had some loving care at the end of his unfortunate life as a stray.

Another call concerning a cat was from a couple that had returned to the UK and wanted a friendly black cat neutered who they thought was pregnant, and hanging around a restaurant every night. To save her the ordeal of giving birth to kittens in a dangerous place, we have asked someone who loves cats and who lives nearby to find her and trap her for us and take her to our vet and then we will put her back as she has lived there I believe for some time and is getting food regularly from someone. If we don't manage to get neuter her she will be having at least two sets of kittens a year and we can't bear to think what happens to them.

We're absolutely desperate for more people to come forward who live in Ibiza and help us in their own area; to trap the occasional cat throughout the summer and take it for neutering. So many tourists find them and ask for help but our network is very short of any willing cat lovers to help us and as our few volunteers all work in the summer, often we're not not able to help as much as we would like. So if you would like to get involved please email Angela on [care4cats1@aol.com](mailto:care4cats1@aol.com) Don't worry about having no experience. A love of animals is all it takes and we will show you the rest. It's very easy to pick up.

### **A plea:**

We need new 'friends' to support our work so if you're not a member, please think about joining us and paying the annual fee. We now have 150 supporters who receive our newsletter but not all pay to be a member. We need many many more paying members as each year costs go up. We are the only charity operating on Ibiza that can help cats like the poor sick Siamese (photo above) and the tomcat with AIDS. Please help us by becoming a paying member. It is only a small amount (£20/€25) but we spend everything we can get on the cats. Contact me by email (above) and/or go to the website and donate direct.

Thanks.

Angela.

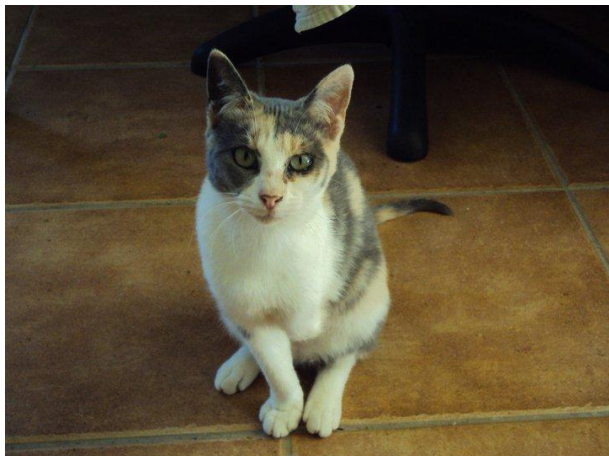
[www.care4cats.eu](http://www.care4cats.eu)



**Now online!**

## U is for Update on Peggy Sue, Bertha (now called Sweetie) and Gerald

If you regularly receive our newsletter then you will have heard all about little Peggy Sue who was rescued from the streets in San Antonio with a broken leg. Unfortunately she had to have it amputated but we managed to find her a 'forever' home with Jack Yap in Portinatx...so a wonderful end to what could have been an unhappy story.



**Peggy Sue – isn't she cute?**

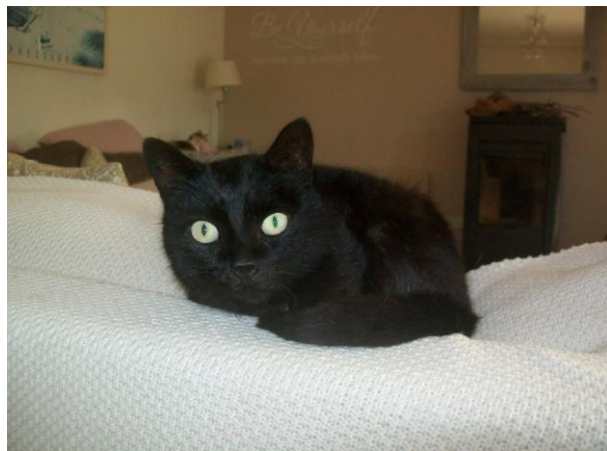
Jacky keeps us up to date with Peggys progress (which you can follow on our Care4cats facebook page) and we're delighted to say she's doing wonderfully. She's been adopted by one of Jacky's older cats who makes it his job to look after her, plus she now has a young playmate too.

Take look on our Facebook page where you can see a video of her playing and photos of her trying to catch her first lizard!

Our other successful story concerned 'Bertha' a black cat that had been abandoned in San Antonio when her owners had moved out of the house and simply left her behind. Spotted by Debs and Tracey whilst on holiday she then went on the list for re-homing. She was such a lovable cat and living in the centre of San Antonio on the busiest road, we feared for her safety.

She was eventually re-homed by one of our volunteers, who regularly fed her, when she arrived one day to find the house being bulldozed. So Bertha, now called Sweetie, was taken to join the other 5 cats owned by our volunteer.

Interestingly enough, Sweetie always had a breathing problem. Originally we'd thought it was rhinitis and tried to give her a regular dose of anti-biotic. Almost impossible with a street cat. Once she was re-homed she was taken to Toni at Puig d'en Valls for a thorough investigation and it was discovered that she had a de-formed ribcage. Obviously this was from birth, but it meant her ribcage couldn't expand enough to take in the breath needed, hence her breathing difficulties. Oddly for a cat she has adapted to breath through her mouth (cats breath through their nose) so she copes well. She is now truly happy in her new home and feasting on sausages and cheese which are her favourite treats!



**Sweetie in her new home**



**Gerald looking sad at the vets**

Do you remember Gerald? He starred in our last newsletter and was taken off the streets hungry, weak and with terribly matted fur. He was such a gentleman that he couldn't survive on the streets of San Antonio and was constantly being chased off by the Tom's and not allowed to eat.

Sissy, who has been rescuing kittens on Ibiza for many many years, came to our rescue by taking him in with the aim to build him back up to full health (and fur!) and then re home him to Germany. The good news is that Gerald is now enjoying an idyllic life in the countryside of Bonn.

If you travel to Ibiza from Germany we are always looking for flight partners to take cats and kittens back to Germany were we re home them. It is a wonderful way of giving these cats a chance. If you think you can help then get in touch at [care4cats1@aol.com](mailto:care4cats1@aol.com)

## GENERAL UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES:

### F is for FACEBOOK

If you have a facebook account then come and join us on there! We have nearly 400 followers and it's a great way to keep up to date with our activities, our re-homed cats and also other followers. We have lots

of news, video clips and photos so it's a very friendly page. We also find it's useful for people who do need help with cats to find us and contact us quickly.

WEB SITE - [www.care4cats.eu](http://www.care4cats.eu)

We now have donations on line (please take a look – it's so easy to now donate!), we have a blog that keeps everyone up to date on stories, cats in Ibiza and of course our trips, and now we have the website in German too (thanks to Sabine).

As we are looking for homes all the time for abandoned cats in Ibiza we hope to start to use our Face book page by posting photos and information on all the the cats that are waiting for homes, in Ibiza.

We also use the **White Island British Supermarket** in Santa Eularia has said they're happy to advertise any cats looking for homes in their shop.



**Now online!**

## **D** for **DONATIONS**

Our costs now are so high that we have to ask everyone requiring our help to donate a minimum amount to help keep us going. Obviously a high proportion have no money to spare and we accept this, as it's important that the cats are neutered regardless. Also we support many people feeding feral colonies who, after spending money all year on food, have no funds available for donations. In some cases we are given the full amount for neutering and we are very grateful for this.

We are now trying to get more and more collection boxes out in to businesses on the island. These boxes are so important to us raising money. If you or your friends know, own or work in a business that would be willing to host a box then do let us know (email [care4cats1@aol.com](mailto:care4cats1@aol.com)) we'd be eternally grateful.

**T is for THANKS** - We'd like to thank the many people that help us in all sorts of ways with time, money and support:

Angela Lackenby at the Tall Ships for all her help and continuing support. Sophia at the White Island Shop and Joe at Thomas Greens who raise money for us through offering to run a charity library.

All the people and businesses who host collection boxes.

Angeles, Sissy and Agnes who have worked for years rescuing kittens and cats on Ibiza and are a vital link in helping to rescue vulnerable cats and kittens.

Thanks also to the 75 people that receive our newsletter, we are very grateful for their donations.

## NEXT VISIT

To be announced in the local press in September:

The weeks are **October 15<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2011**

## **SUPPORT & DONATIONS**

If you would like to support the work of Care 4 Cats in Ibiza – you can help by: becoming a member of Care 4 Cats at £20 or €25 annually Fund-raising on our behalf

- 1 Making a donation either once or as regular bank payment – Donations can be made on the web site.
- 2 Remembering Care 4 Cats in your Will
- 3 Becoming a volunteer trapper or general helper in Ibiza.
- 4 Frequent travellers to Germany from Ibiza could deliver a cat for re-homing talk with Monika on 971 190706 who will explain how easy it is.

- 5 Anyone resident in Ibiza – help us by volunteering.
- 6 Donating cat food.
- 7 Becoming a short-term Fosterer
- 10 hosting a box for donations of cat food
- 11 raising money through selling items on Ebay

**UK Account Name:** Care 4 Cats

**Sort code:** 40-43-51

**Account No.:** 91102508

**Bank:** HSBC Bank PLC, 21 High St., Storrington, RH20 4DR. Cheques to be made out to Care 4 Cats

**DONATE ON LINE:** **Web Site** [www.care4cats.eu](http://www.care4cats.eu)

**Care 4 Cats, Brimar House, West Chiltington, West Sussex, RH20 2JY**

**Tel:** 00 44 7803 605475 (UK) **Email:** [care4cats1@aol.com](mailto:care4cats1@aol.com)

**Charity Registration Number:** 1106345