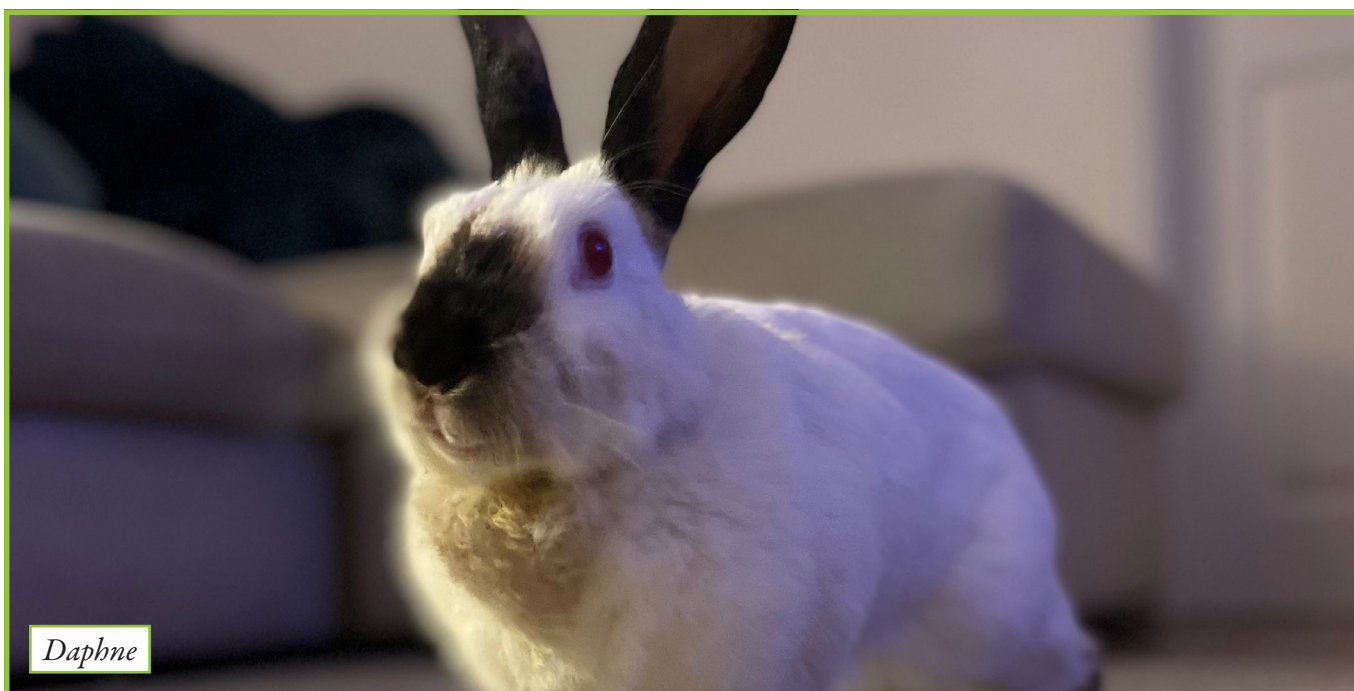


Triple Threat Campaign a great success.

THANK YOU, for making our Triple Threat Winter Appeal the most successful annual appeal we have ever had. We raised an outstanding £53,779.76.

We were overwhelmed by the support and generosity, particularly at a time when so many of us are feeling the pinch of the cost of living rises. Messages of support received with donations were heart-warming and we were touched by the real appreciation for all the work we do. This means so much to us and the animals, and your donations ensure that we can continue to be here and carry on our work.

Your money is already working hard. In this edition we share with you updates on some of the animals featured in our campaign



Daphne was rescued from the T&S fur and meat farm. The team noticed that something was wrong and found a lump in her cheek. Our little warrior Daphne went through a very invasive procedure to remove a protruding tooth that was infected. Her surgery had complications which meant that her wound had to be kept open. The team had to keep a very close eye on her, cleaning the wound several times a day. Since the procedure, Daphne has had round the clock care from the small

animal team. She spends her nights at home with them, making herself very cosy on their furniture! They have been getting up at 6am for her morning meds, but it has all been worth it to see her slowly improving. It has not been an easy process, with many ups and downs, but Daphne is a fighter and is not giving up. She is now maintaining her weight and has been enjoying her finely cut vegetables. The vet recommended giving Daphne apple juice, to help her move the food around her mouth. She has been

loving this and this has meant that staff are no longer finding as much food stuck in the back of her mouth - all good signs that Daphne is on the road to recovery and will hopefully soon enjoy life as a beloved family pet.

Without support from you we couldn't continue with any of our vital rescue work. Thank you doesn't seem enough: it means so much to us and we are very grateful to have you on our side.

Animal Rescue a Community Achievement

Update on our Ozzy

Oswald was abandoned with another piglet, found wandering on a road near the rescue last year. On admittance we had to treat him for ear mites and give him medication for his skin. We monitored him closely to ensure that he would make a full recovery. Sadly Toffee the other piglet he was found with didn't make it, the neglect was so bad that we couldn't save him.

Oswald was living with another rescued piglet Otis and they were getting ready to go to a new forever home together in February when tragedy struck. Otis suddenly became very unwell. The vet came out quickly and told us that this was very serious and that he was in

a lot of pain so the best thing to do would be to let him go.

This was so hard and it breaks our hearts that the chance of a home was taken from Otis. We took comfort in the fact we had been able to care for him for the short 20 months of his life, which he did live to the full with his best pal Oswald.

Thankfully, Ozzy is keeping his spirits up. While he does miss Otis, he is enjoying the extra attention he is getting from all the staff.

At time of going to print we are hoping he can befriend our pig Skye and still go off to his new home which would be great for both of them.

It doesn't always go as planned with pigs and we don't want to rush anything so we will see how things progress, and keep you updated.



Oswald & Otis



Oswald

Did you know our farm animals are available for adoption? Could you give one a home? Visit our website: freshfields.org.uk/freshfields-residents/

Spring into life!

Its always so lovely to see the signs of spring and we enjoyed beautiful



early flowers in our Wildlife Garden as it began to wake up from the winter.

With the weather warming up, the team have started releasing hedgehogs that have been overwintering here. 35 hedgehogs have been released back out into the wild - which is amazing! It is such a rewarding part of the job, seeing individuals that have made it through injuries and illnesses and are now back out thriving in the wild.



We Couldn't Do It Without You

Arthur

Arthur was found wandering on the drive at our Wales rescue. He was a very affectionate cat but he didn't look in a good way and had wounds to his face.

We discovered he is FIV positive. Arthur settled in quickly and enjoyed being warm and cosy. However after a while he began to scratch at his face and overgroom. He has seen our vet several times to try and come to a prognosis and had several tests. The vet came to the conclusion that he had possibly got into the habit of doing this to himself, together with the stress of being in rescue.

With Arthur being FIV positive, and unlikely to find a home, it was a difficult position, knowing that keeping him at the rescue could be detrimental for his mental health.

We then had an enquiry about him from a lovely couple. We explained about Arthur's health issues, and we hoped that Arthur would improve in a home setting.

It was agreed that they would foster him on a trial basis. Arthur left for his foster home in January. His foster parents are great with him and he has constant company. They have built up quite a bond. His health has improved he is enjoying playing with toys and generally has a new lease of life.

We are keeping in constant communication with his foster parents, and they are happy that

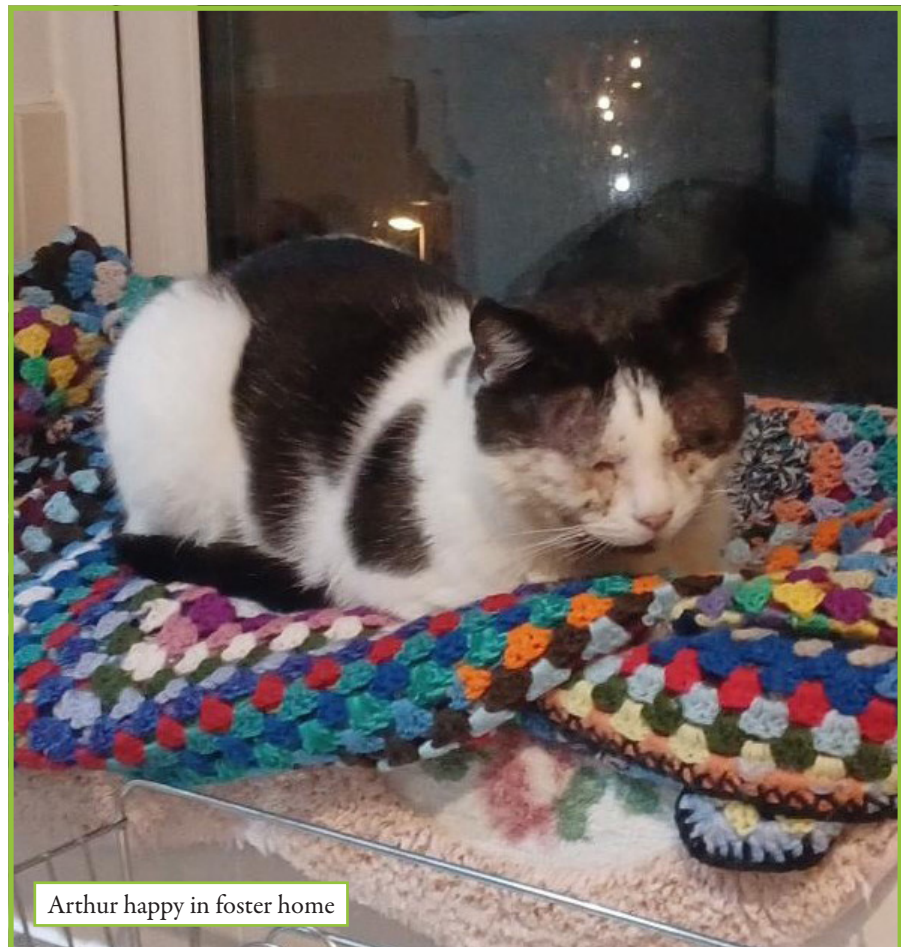
Arthur is loving his new home. He snuggles up to them, plays, is bright and alert and eating well.

Probably for the first time in his life Arthur has his own family to love.

Foster homes needed for cats & dogs. Fosterers provide temporary homes for new arrivals. It can be for a few weeks or longer term. If you think you could help please email Foster@freshfields.org.uk



Arthur had clearly had a hard life, but was so affectionate and loved being in from the cold.



Arthur happy in foster home

Education the key to saving FIV+ cats

FIV - Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

We know that FIV is a much-misunderstood virus and this has resulted in many otherwise healthy cats being put to sleep unnecessarily.

FIV is a virus that affects the cat's immune system, it acts very slowly, and it is often several years before the cat shows any signs of ill health or a damaged immune system - many do not suffer at all!

In time, FIV can make a cat more susceptible to other infections, however these can be treated in just the same way as with any other cat. FIV itself is not life threatening.

The immune response varies in effectiveness depending on their general health, just like humans. FIV cats can live a healthy life but there is a risk of a slightly shortened one if they have other health issue that compromise their immune system. With good care, good food, security, and preventing stressful circumstances, FIV cats can recover

from most secondary infections just like non-FIV cats. So why is it so misunderstood?

Simply because we hear about the cats that do suffer. The ones that often find themselves being brought into rescue, or presented at vets, these however are likely long-term strays. They have

survived on a poor diet and been involved in fights with injuries often going untreated. The most common way for FIV to spread is through biting. Fighting is more likely in unneutered toms so rarely an issue if neutered, and never an issue if you keep your FIV cat indoors.

Some other common misunderstood FIV facts:

- FIV is not 'Cat AIDS'.
- FIV is not typically transmitted through general contact actions such as socialising, grooming or sharing food bowls or litter trays.
- FIV does not necessarily shorten life expectancy.
- FIV cannot be transferred to other (none cat) species or humans.

Most FIV cats live happy lives in homes, they are not unwell and therefore not under vet care. FIV positive cats can have, and deserve to have, a long and healthy life. They need attention to their general health and diet, but no more than any cat deserves. There are too many cats overlooked unnecessarily because humans have over-dramatised the condition. We would like to encourage all cats lovers to accept these lovely cats into their homes.



*Help us to help these cats.
Spread the word, increase awareness, share this knowledge FIV is not a death sentence. Let's prevent more cats from being put to sleep when they can, and should be able to live happy contented lives.*