



Working hard to find homes for cats in need

A small independent rescue centre in Shropshire that has been up and running for less than a year has already helped around 100 local cats

BY EMILY FOWLER

despite the fact it only began around a year ago (a relatively short time in the rescue world), TabiiCats Cat Rescue Telford has accomplished an amazing amount in that time in terms of feline welfare and saving the lives of cats in need. As a local, independent rescue, it helps stray, abandoned and neglected cats and kittens within Telford and the surrounding areas.

Run completely by volunteers, it works as a foster care network system, providing safe home environments and veterinary care to cats in need before rehoming them into suitable homes. TabiiCats is run with exactly the same levels of professionalism as any of the bigger rescues and cat rehoming charities, with all cats vaccinated, microchipped and neutered, if at the right age, before being rehomed. Thanks to the great relationships TabiiCats has built with organisations like Pet Plan and Royal Canin, their cats are also rehomed with 4 weeks free insurance and a Royal Canin starter pack.

How TabiiCats began

The rescue was founded in 2015 by Tabiitha McGladdery, who had previously worked at a veterinary practice in Birmingham and used to take the odd stray cat here and there into her home – though there was never an urgent need for another cat rescue because there are branches of some of the larger rehoming charities as well

as a number of independent rescues and sanctuaries in the area.

After moving to Telford then not working after becoming pregnant with her son, Tabii was alerted by a local community group to three feral kittens roaming around next to a busy road. She immediately went to the area where the kittens had been spotted and managed to catch them, all in poor condition and suffering from cat flu. When the local community wanted to donate items like food and bedding for the kittens, Tabii did some research and discovered that there were no other cat rescues in the centre of Telford, only on the outskirts, so she realised there was a need for a central rescue – and TabiiCats started from there!

In a short space of time she was able to start building a dedicated network of fully vetted foster carers and volunteers, as well as forging a brilliant relationship with Haygate Veterinary Surgeries where cats in TabiiCats' care are treated and where Tabii now works full-time as well as running the rescue and looking after her young son.

It's not only rescuing, fostering and finding permanent homes for cats in need that are important to TabiiCats – they also aim to increase awareness of feline welfare and the steps responsible cat owners need to take to ensure their pets are happy and healthy – things like vaccinations, neutering and microchipping. All foster carers and potential owners are thoroughly

vetted and the cat lovers who volunteer to help TabiiCats Cat Rescue also fundraise, transport cats and kittens, and collect donations. As a rescue they rely completely on volunteers and are always looking for more help, particularly for fundraising.

Foster care

Foster homes are used instead of a shelter so the rescued cats and kittens can experience home life with a family before they get adopted; it also gives TabiiCats the opportunity to fully assess the personalities and behaviour of each cat, as well as how well they cope with different set-ups, whether that's living with cats, other pets or children. Not only is it a less stressful environment for the cats, it also makes it easier to match each individual cat with the perfect owner and ensure the right cat goes to the right home first time round, as much as possible.

TabiiCats' main aim is to completely rehabilitate each and every cat that comes into their care and sadly the volunteers have to see cats and kittens in some terrible conditions. For example, a litter of kittens came in from someone who had tried to hand rear them but without the appropriate knowledge of young kitten care they ended up in a bad state and covered in urine burns. Sadly not all survived – which as Tabii and the volunteers know is the most difficult part of rescue.

They're also contacted by the local



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council to take in cats and kittens from heart-wrenching situations, which is where they recently rescued a cat whose owner had left a huge bite wound untreated, so the poor cat was left with a nasty weeping abscess.

Can you help?

TabiiCats Cat Rescue's mission is to help as many cats in need as they possibly can, from pregnant strays and their subsequent kittens, to older abandoned pets and cats given up by their owners due to difficult circumstances.

If you think you could help fundraise for TabiiCats or offer a local foster home for cats in need, contact 07772 307063 or visit Facebook by searching TabiiCats Cat Rescue Telford. There are also donation points in and around Telford for always much needed food and litter and their PayPal email address for direct donations is tabiicatstelford@gmail.com

