

Toe Beans Cat Rescue

2021 Annual Review

Toe Beans Cat Rescue was started in January 2021. The aim was to provide a cat rescue service in the Uttlesford District, where there was a recognised need as rescues in neighbouring districts and counties were not able to operate in this rural area due to lockdown restrictions, COVID policies and/or because they do not cover this area.

Our charity number is 1194490, which was granted in May 2021 by the Charity Commission.

We have helped over 120 cats and kittens through lost and found, adoptions and microchipping. This does not include cats which do not come into our care eg cRTAs or found cats which are scanned and immediately returned to owners.

Treasurer's Finance Report

At the end of our financial year we had £4081.38 in our various accounts. This ranged from our current account, paypal, go fund me and cash which was generated by fundraising events and facebook sales.

Once we had our charity status granted we were able to open a bank account with Natwest. In the interim, the CVSU kindly offered to hold our monies for us. This was all closed on the 2nd September 2021.

For our first year, we had a total income of £17019.85, and expenditure at £13700.83. At year end we were still awaiting a cheque of £317.11 from a GoFundMe campaign.

Our biggest expense was in Vet bills, totalling £9043.97. Many of our Go Fund Me campaigns were to fund some of the largest bills and when our supporters saw the poor conditions the cats were in, they were very willing to help. At certain times we have had to buy medicines, food and litter, however the majority of these are donated.

We invested in some catios for our feral cats, which some of our foster carers were happy to have in their gardens.

We also invested in a gazebo, signage and logoed polo tops for volunteers when attending events. We had various monetary donations, from local businesses, councillor grants and another rescue which had disbanded. These were all put to good use with microchip training, and giving us a good amount in the bank for next year.

We will be applying for Gift Aid once our first year accounts have been submitted, which should generate another portion of income for us.

Here is our full expenditure and income breakdowns

Type	Item	Value
Expense	Advertising	-18
Expense	Office expenses	-62.75
Expense	Fees	-88.42
Expense	Equipment	-96.4
Expense	Medicine/flea etc	-102.36
Expense	Catio expenses	-103.15
Expense	Microchipping	-183.27
Expense	Tshirts	-239
Expense	Insurance	-327.45
Expense	Training	-420.48
Expense	Food/litter	-435.32
Expense	Catios	-492.99
Expense	Event Expenses	-499.01
Expense	Mileage	-957.03
Expense	Vets	-9043.97
		13069
	Total expenditure	.6
Income	General donation	6663.07
Income	Cat Donations	5949
Income	Fundraising	3335.5
Income	Go Fund Me	455
Income	FB sales	311.3
Income	Neutering deposit	120
		16833
	Total income	.87

Volunteers

We have had 64 people volunteer with us, bringing various skills, knowledge, and experience. We have a good team of dedicated (core) volunteers, particularly the foster carers as their voluntary work is full-on 24/7. Ten volunteers have left or resigned, for various reasons.

Our preferred method of communicating with volunteers is through What's App (Table 1). Many volunteers are in more than one Whats App group. Primary Role shows that Fostering and Lost and Found are the most popular voluntary roles.

Facebook Rooms was trialled once per week for a month but was unsuccessful at engaging volunteer attendance. MS Teams and Zoom have successfully been used for group meetings, particularly useful for Fundraising events and publicity due to volunteers being spread across the District.

Table 1. Volunteer primary role and What's App membership.

Volunteer Role	Primary Role	What's App Members
Trustees	5	5
Foster Carers	8	10
Fundraising	2	12
Lost and Found	7	12
Publicity	5	8
Homecheckers	2	5
Trappers	2	4
Advisory	3	
No specific role	6	
Total	40	56

Foster carers are subject to a vigorous homecheck and a Fostering Agreement must be signed before fostering is permitted. The Fostering Agreement was updated to prevent people from abusing the fostering system as it was seen as a quick way to adopt a cat.

There are five foster carers active now with a further two on break. There are three people wishing to start fostering in the spring which have been homechecked, and two more applicants to process. Five foster carers have left this year for various reasons, three of these adopted cats from us. One volunteer tried fostering but found her resident cats became very stressed by having a strange cat in their property.

The purchase of 4 catios meant that we were able to offer more cats foster spaces during the summer. These catios were made locally and delivered to foster homes by a Trustee.

Trapping

We always advise finders of stray cats to follow a procedure to find an owner prior to trapping a stray cat.

It was planned to create a dedicated trapping team. However, this has not yet come to fruition. We do have some volunteers who do regularly offer to help with trapping. All the main trappers have scanners. Online training via Community Cats (America) was offered to trappers but was only taken up by one volunteer.

We have purchased one trap and been donated a second trap. A Trustee loans a personal trap out to us when needed. We have one transfer crate which has only been used once. The total number of scanners available is six, of which four are held by trappers.

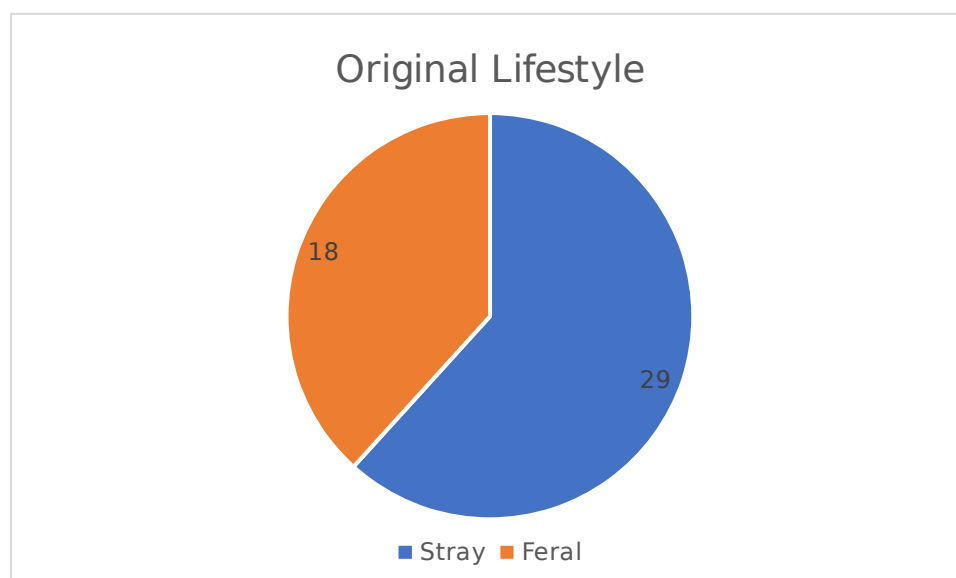


Figure 1. Original lifestyle of outdoor cats admitted.

The majority of trapped cats admitted are strays (*Figure 1*). Wherever possible we try to locate owners of stray cats through the Lost and Found team (see Lost and Found). We have trapped two feral family colonies and received one feral family for domestication from another rescue. All feral and stray cats and kittens are neutered, microchipped, dewormed and deflead before being returned or rehomed. Kittens are domesticated wherever possible and vaccinated from August upon agreement with our vets. We have had help from other rescues with neutering costs for ferals when requested.

Outcomes of strays and ferals are quite varied (*Figure 2*). Twelve have been rehomed to domestic homes. Of the current stray cats in Foster (5), one is to be returned to the Rescue he came from in January and three are not in optimum health to be rehomed yet. One is proving difficult to rehome through no fault of her own. Cats presumed Missing after release to new homes (7) are a concern. Owners have kept the cats contained for the recommended period yet inexplicably there is no evidence that the cats are remaining on site. Working

cats (9) have usually been relocated to farms, smallholdings, or stables to continue their outdoor lifestyle. RIP (5) includes cats which have died through Road Traffic Accidents (cRTAs) and found cats which have been euthanised for health or welfare concerns. Cats Reunited with families (8) (see Lost & Found).

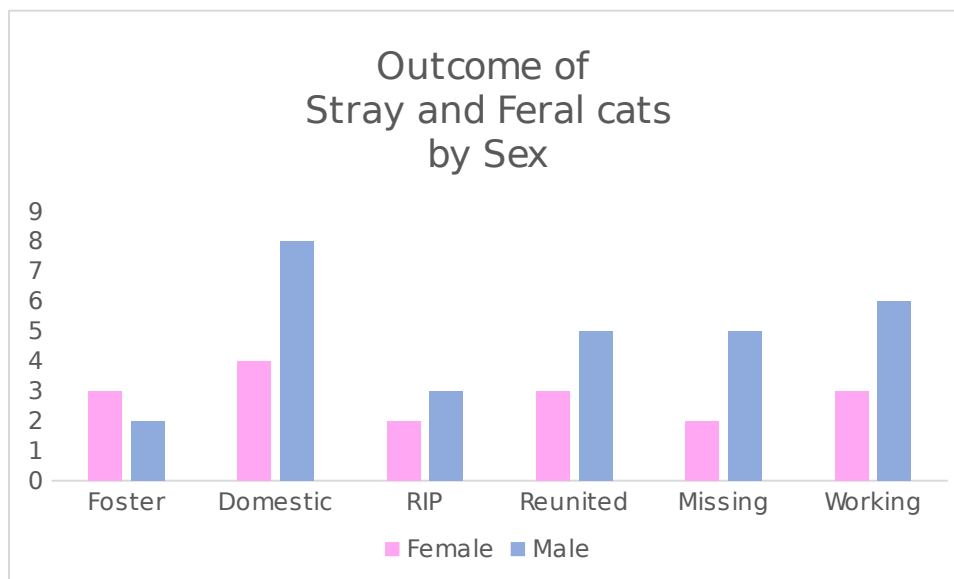
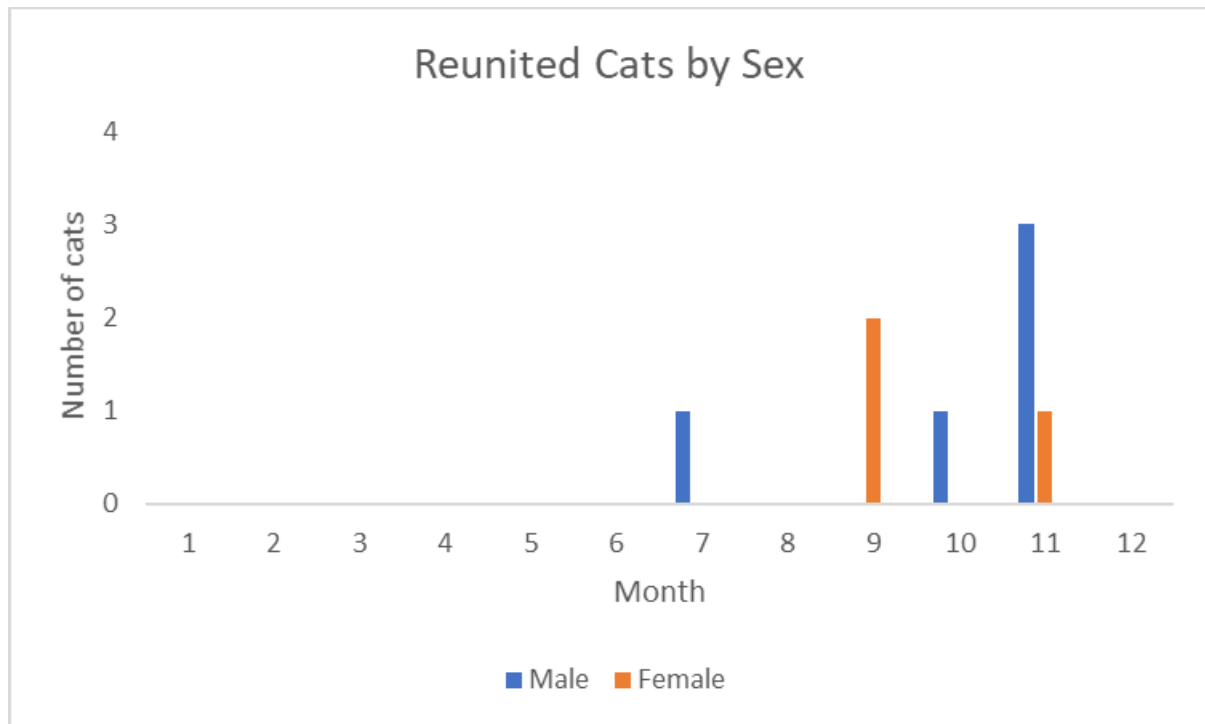


Figure 2. Outcomes for stray and feral cats by sex.

Lost and Found

We have created a dedicated Lost and Found team. Lost and Found has a separate email address (toebeanscrlostcats@gmail.com) and associated online storage facility. Cats which are brought into our care are added to the lost and found database.

We have helped cats through either trapping and/or using the lost and found procedure (figure 1).



Admissions

Admissions have come in from Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex. Many from built up areas. Most have been one or two admissions, but there have been two instances of multiple cats needing to be rehomed.



Admissions seem to come in waves depending upon how many foster spaces we have available. During our busiest times we had to suggest cats go through the Home 2 Home process or recommend other local rescues to enquirers.

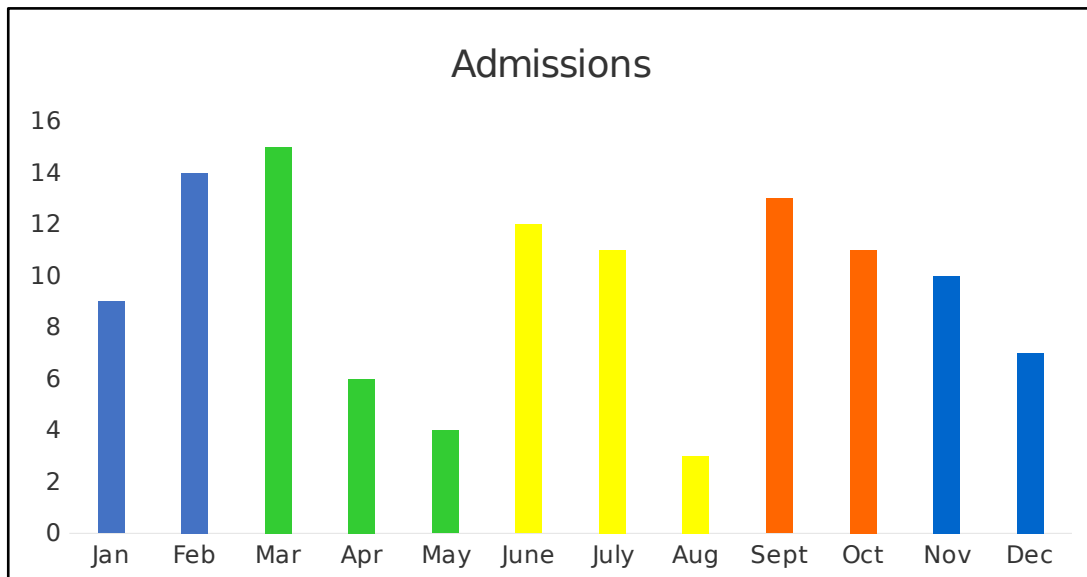


Figure 3. All admissions by month.

There have been 21 cats admitted through the Home 2 Home process. This is where cats are kept in their current homes whilst we find suitable potential adopters and is the preferred method for domestic cats unless there are health or welfare concerns which force them to come into foster. Owners frequently use other rescues when their cats are put through the Home 2 Home service in the hope they are rehomed quicker. We have successfully rehomed 11 cats, 4 were rehomed by other rescues. Most of the cats in this service are seniors (10-15 years old) (8) and geriatrics (+15 years old) (4). No kittens have been admitted on a Home 2 Home basis. We currently have 6 cats looking for homes through this service.

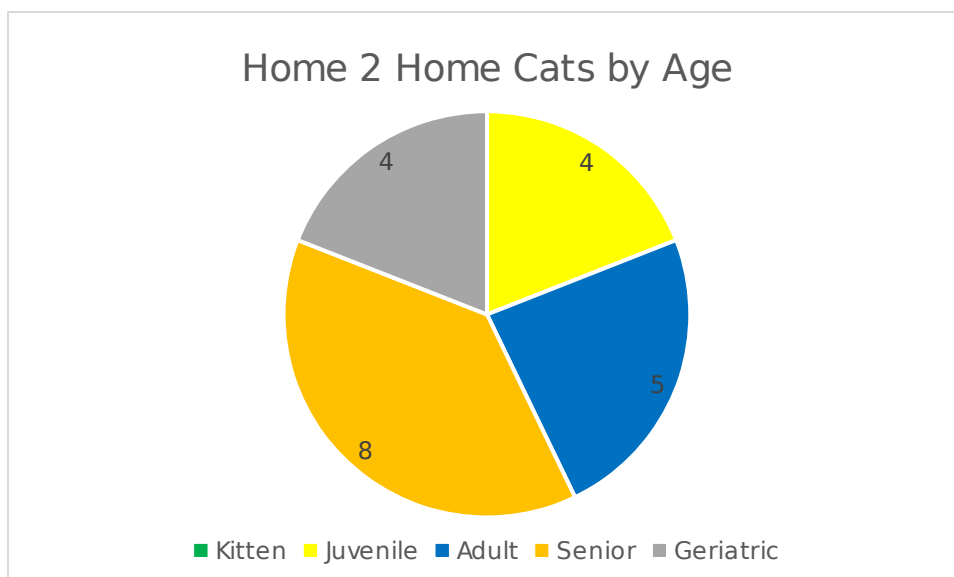
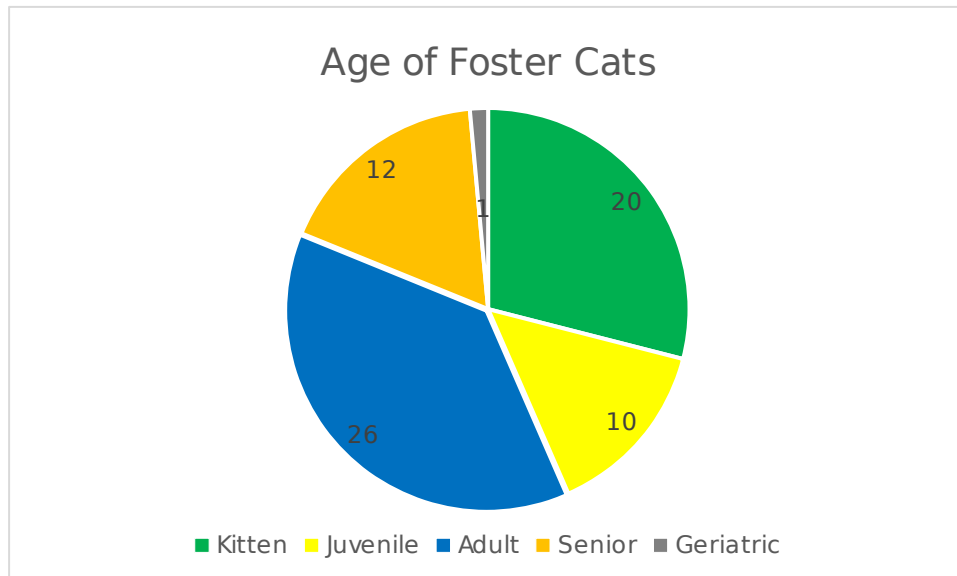


Figure 4. Age of cats admitted through Home to Home Service

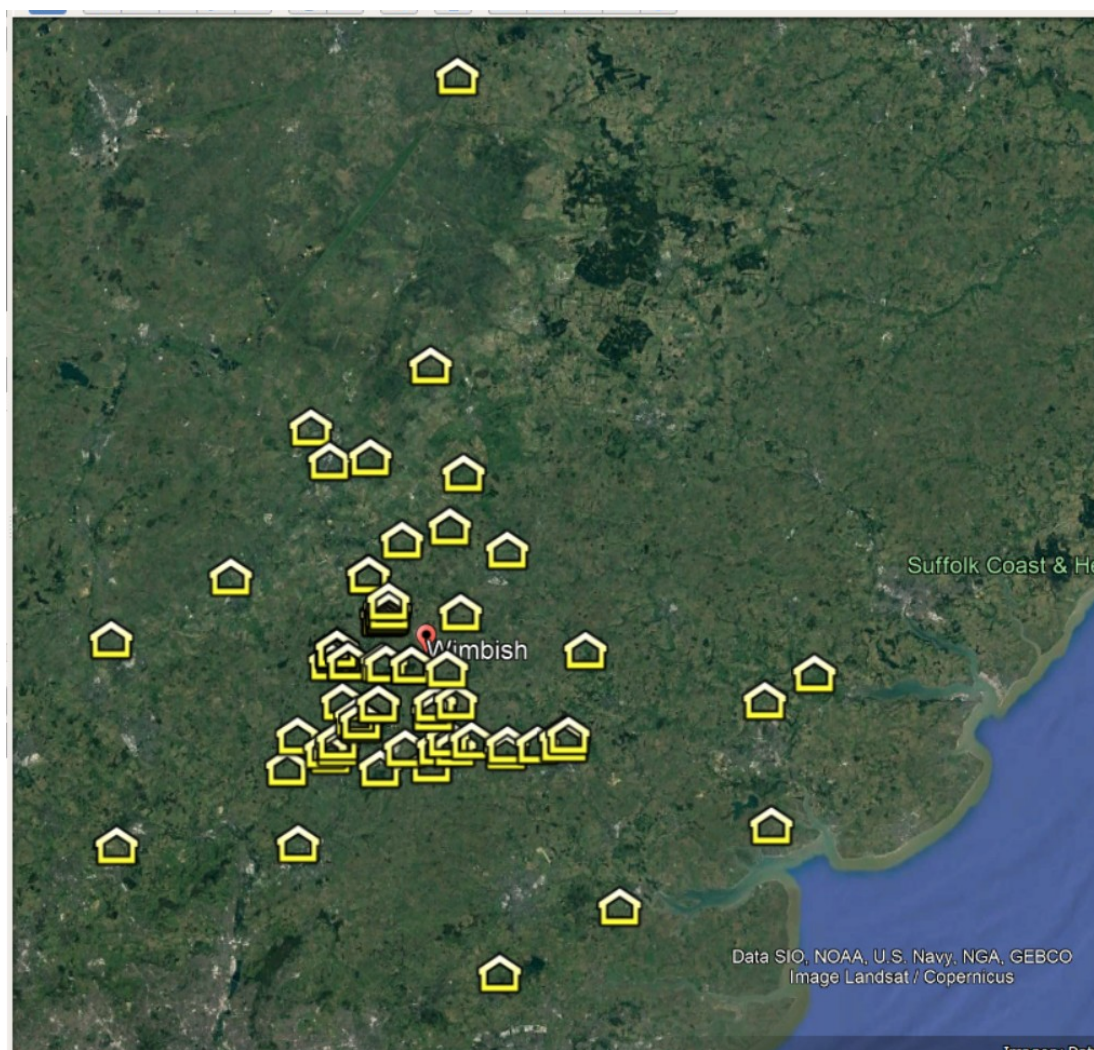
We have had 69 cats admitted into fostering. This is where cats are cared for by our Foster Carers in their own homes. Half of the cats admitted into foster care

are adults (26) and kittens (20) combined. Geriatrics are least likely to be put through foster (1) (figure 3). We currently have 9 cats in foster. We have successfully rehomed 51 cats through the fostering service.



Homing

Most of the cats and kittens we have rehomed have been to homes within the Uttlesford District. However, we have rehomed some cats to people living in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Often this is one cat being rehomed into a single cat household. Kittens have either been rehomed in pairs or into a home which already has a resident cat.



We have rehomed 108 cats and kittens since inception, with slightly more males than females requiring new homes (see table 1). We have helped 18 cats and kittens from other rescues, either by offering a foster space or helping to rehome. Other rescues have helped to rehome 9 cats in our database. Twenty seven cats have not been rehomed, this is due to reunification with owners, owners finding a new home or from euthanasia.

Table 4. Rehoming Statistics for 2021.

Detail	Total 2021
Cats admitted to foster	69
(Males	35)
(Females	29)

Cats requesting Home 2 Home	21
Cats rehomed from other rescues	18
Cats rehomed to other rescues	9
Total rescue involvement	115
Cats not rehomed (PTS/ owner rehomed/ owner found/ other)	27

Microchipping

At inception, we did not have any trained microchip implanters and we were being charged full rate by vet surgeries due to not having charitable status.

Two volunteers were trained in May 2021 through grant funding provided by a large company in Shire Hill, Saffron Walden and a District Councillor. Since then, we have microchipped 33 cats and kittens prior to rehoming and 10 owned cats. Due to three chips failing to be scanned at a later date, we have now started re-scanning chipped cats to ensure chips are still in place and operational.

We offer a microchipping service to the public in their own homes. This is evenings and weekends only. The Governments decision to make microchipping of cats mandatory has not resulted in an influx of enquirers yet. The total number of scanning devices available is six, distributed across the District and surrounding areas.

Microchipping is part of the health and welfare of cat ownership, along with neutering and vaccinations.

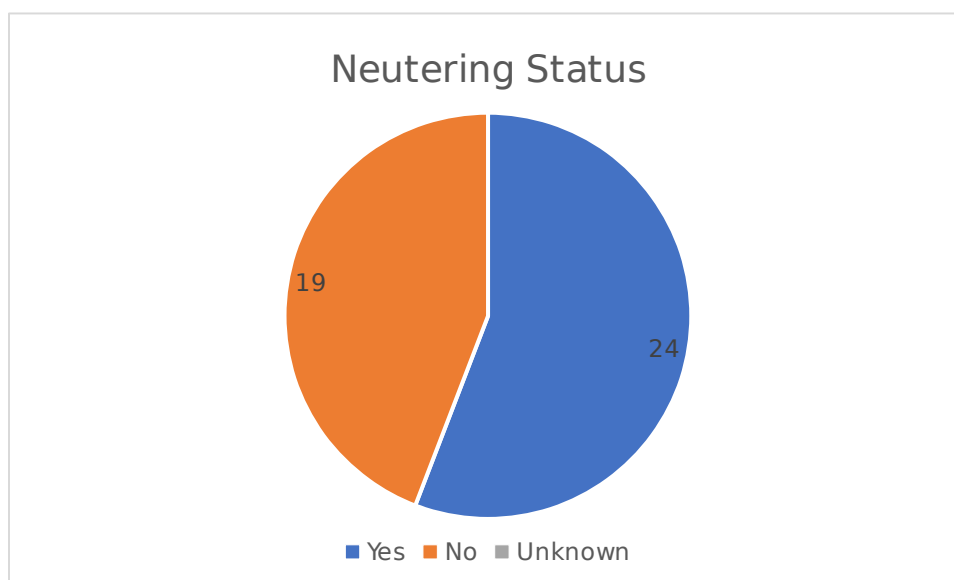


Figure 6. Neutering status at time of microchipping.

The neutering status of all cats microchipped is known. Where cats have not been neutered at time of microchipping it is simply because they are too young, showing the discrepancy between microchipping age (from 10 weeks) and neutering age (from 16 weeks).

Vaccination status is known for most cats admitted through the foster and Home 2 Home services, but not for strays or ferals. No data has been collected on owned cats. Due to a shortage of vaccine, only kittens are being vaccinated by us at the present time.

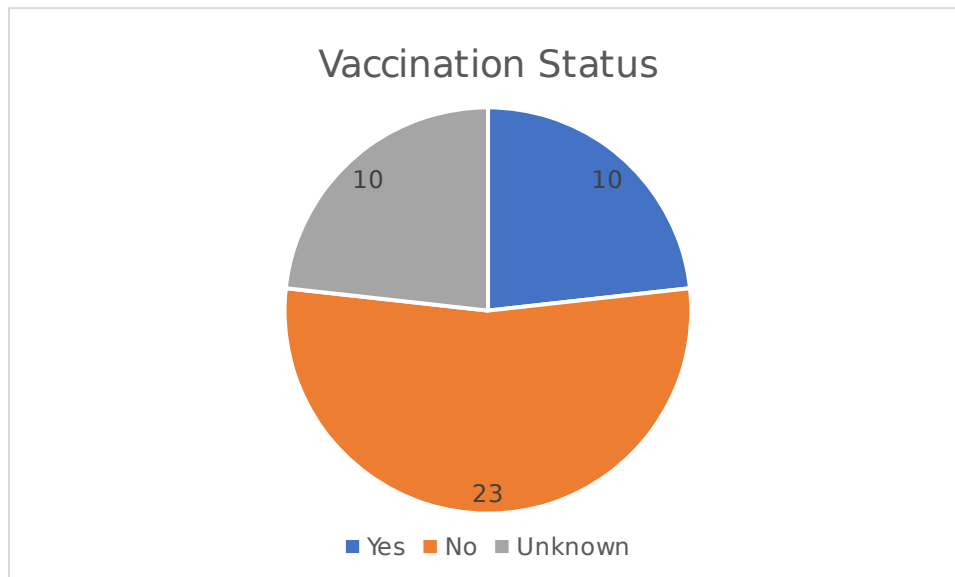


Figure 7. Vaccination status at time of neutering.

Publicity

We have submitted articles to local newspapers in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow, and to Twelve town and village magazines. One newspaper company wished to charge us £500 to run an article to make readers aware of our existence in January 2021. We declined this offer as we did not have sufficient funds at the time.

Online, we have accounts on Facebook and Instagram, have access to Next Door app and use a Google Business page.

Facebook

Page

This is a business page, which we use to engage with potential adopters and supporters. We currently have 1,133 Facebook likes and 1246 Followers.

VIC Group

This private group has 203 members. The main purpose is to allow foster carers, finders, previous owners and adopters to keep in touch through posting updates on cats and kittens which have been through our system. A few adopters have posted updates of the cats in their new homes. Other updates come via fosters.

Fundraising Group

This private group has 174 members. The primary purpose is to provide a platform for selling donated items and raise awareness of fundraising events (both online and real world).

Instagram

The Instagram account is connected to the Facebook account. We follow local businesses, other rescues worldwide and pet accounts (see table 2). A large donation of Christmas dinners were supplied through the generosity of one of our supporters and their followers.

Table 5. Data for Instagram since creation of account.

	August 2021	December 2021
Followers	413	518
Following	1014	1190
Posts	295	400

Google

The Google Business Listing is a free add on with the Gmail account. The address is toe-beans-cat-rescue.business.site. This has the capacity to create posts, events and offers whilst advertising our services (see table 2). The Google account can also direct enquirers to our website.

Table 2. Data from Google Business Listing.

	August 2021	December 2021
Found us on the Google Business Listing	4790	4266

Used the "Call Us" function	13	15
Asked Google for directions to us	22	28
Visited the Google Business Listing/website	295	377
Interacted with the Business Listing	781	1150

Fundraising

We do not currently have a designated fundraising team; however, we do have volunteers who help at real world events and supporters who regularly share events on social media. Funds have come from a variety of sources including grants, donations, and adoption fees.

Events

We have organised four events so far, three in the real world, one online. Further events are being planned (see table 3).

Table 6. Approximate money raised through fundraising events.

Event	Approx. Money Raised (£)
Coffee Morning	300
Summer Sale	500
Pop-up Gift Shop	170
Online Plant Sale	100

Donation Tins

We have purchased some charity boxes which have a two-fold purpose. Firstly, to raise awareness of Toe Beans as a new cat rescue charity operating in this area, and secondly for fundraising (see table 4).

Table 7. Locations of donation tins.

Manzil Indian Takeaway Saffron Walden = removed November 2021 due to closing down.	Pharmacy, Stansted	Nisa Thaxted	The Bell Pub Wendons Ambo
Nigel Quiney Publications, Saffron Walden. Removed November 2021 for use at Christmas fundraising	Nisa, Saffron Walden (Cromwell Road)	Wimbish Garden Centre	Animall, Littlebury

events.			
Ish and Chips, Saffron Walden	Sparrows End Farm Shop	Arts Decoratif, Saffron Walden	
Deja Vu, Saffron Walden	Shop, Audley End Station		

Collection Points

We have successfully gained 3 food Collection Points, located at Saracens, Thaxted, Lowes, Thaxted and Robsons Feed, Clavering. Other businesses have been asked but have declined for various reasons.

Online Fundraising

We have a Go Fund Me page, which was used to help generate set up funds. We are signed up to easy Fundraising and have an Amazon Wish List.

Equipment

Equipment can be hired out, which we keep a record of.

Health and Safety (Accidents)

5 incidents of a cat biting or scratching 5 individuals were reported, all involving the same cat. One victim approached the cat despite a warning. Awareness of cat body language, and need to label baskets/warn vet staff when an aggressive or unpredictable cat is at vets were highlighted (a vet nurse was bitten).

The other reported incident was unrelated to specific rescue activities and involved a fall when the volunteer was delivering leaflets about an event.