

TWINKLE TRUST ANIMAL AID®

Established in 1995

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2014

Twinkle's Mini Campaign – March 2014

We had a very successful 'mini-campaign' covering the entire island, from Gran Tarajal in the south to El Cotillo in the north of the island. We neutered **89** cats in total, over a 6 day period. Whilst on our travels looking for stray cats to help, we became aware of Flossie in Correlejo.

Unfortunately Flossie was born with a deformed back leg, x-rays confirmed that she can use it like a normal leg and it doesn't stop her getting around and she isn't in any pain. Flossie is a very loving cat and is desperate for someone to give her a home and lots of love and cuddles.



Flossie, rolling on her back, waiting for a cuddle.

It's been a very busy year so far and it looks like things are not getting any quieter. We have a lot more kitty tales than in this newsletter but here is a brief update for all our friends and supporters. In the last 6 months we have sterilised 196 cats, provided emergency care to 53 cats and kittens and in the last 12 months we have been able to rehome 48 cats and kittens. We are not a rescue centre, Twinkle was established almost 20 years ago to help the homeless cats by humanely neutering them, but we can't leave an animal in an unsafe environment and we help whenever we can.

Changes to Caleta de Fuste Harbour

Anyone living or visiting Caleta de Fuste at the moment, will be very much aware of all the building work going on at the harbour. Whilst we are sure it will enhance the area in the long run, it has caused Twinkle a few problems, namely the temporary removal of the cat cafe and the noise and dust that the poor cats have had to endure. Not only have the cats lost their cat café, they have to endure the large and very dangerous trucks and machinery.

The cats who have been very much dependent on our cafe for food and water, are now relegated to living in the rocks and our volunteers are having to leave bowls of water and food amongst the rocks to ensure the harbour cats don't go hungry or thirsty. Hopefully this will be a temporary measure until all the building work is completed.



Food for the Homeless - at our Cat Cafes

Typically we supply 280 kilos of dried food every month at the cat cafes which are dotted around the island in hotel complexes. We are constantly on the lookout for people to help us and we always need volunteers to look after some of our cafes. This could be for just an hour or so each week, keeping one of the cat cafes supplied with food and water, or being prepared to make a monetary donation towards the cost of the food or even buying a bag of cat litter, as we use at least 20 bags a week.

Sara's Story

On a blazing hot day we heard a car pulling up outside our gate and without even ringing our door bell to check if we were in, the vehicle sped away, leaving a little cat in a basket with just a bin bag in it and no cover from the extreme sun and heat.

In the basket was a young (about 6 months old) long haired, multi-coloured cat we have since called "Sara". We watched speechlessly as the vehicle just drove off, ignoring our shouts to stop. After notifying the police of the vehicle registration and description and what had just happened, we had to immediately get Sara to the vets as it was clear she was sick.



Sara had to spend the next 3 days in the vets. She had a very high temperature of 40 degrees, was unable to walk because her back leg was so swollen, her fur was very knotty and her back end was covered in faeces. After leaving Sara in the care of the vets we went out looking for the vehicle and person that had done this.

However whilst looking for the owner of the vehicle, we came across 27 cats living in a garden of an almost uninhabited complex in Nuevo Horizonte. Thankfully these cats were being given food each night by a very kind elderly man. The cats were not his but he couldn't bare to see them



starve. All the cats needed neutering and we knew if we didn't get this done immediately, within 3 months there would be another 27 born. All of these cats were very wild.

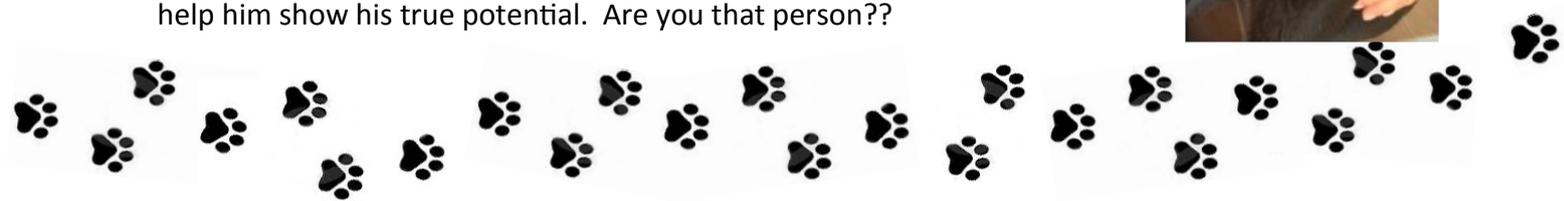
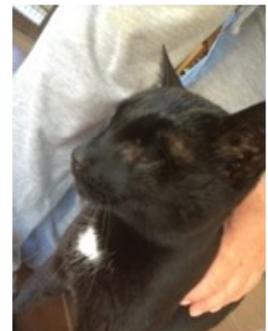
It took 4 days and nights to catch them all and get them to the vets to be neutered but thankfully we managed it. This was a big job and an expense we could not afford but it had to be done in order to stop an otherwise inevitable explosion of cats in the area.

Sara is now fit and healthy. She's a very beautiful girl, very loving and adores people and cuddles - she is still looking for a loving family to adopt her.

Update on Benny

Benny is a very lonely cat. He is blind and although he shares a large covered outdoor cage with Flossie and Carlos, because of his blindness he is living in his own little world.

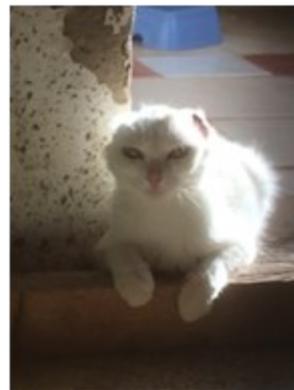
He needs a very special person who could give him the time and patience to help him show his true potential. Are you that person??



Just some of the new additions to Twinkle

We recently had to take in 3 mums and between them, their 8 kittens. The environment they were living in was not safe as there were 3 dogs that would have killed the young kittens if the Mummies had not kept them hidden and protected, so in order to ensure the safety of the kittens, Twinkle took them all in.

Two of the mums were very feral, therefore after being checked over and neutered by the vet they were eventually released back into the wild as they had not been happy in the safe environment that Twinkle was offering. Of course we made sure they were safe from the dogs.



However, the third mum (Penelope) is a pure white cat and although just young herself she had developed skin cancer of the ears, so besides being neutered and micro-chipped, she has also had an operation to take her ears off to stem the cancer and she now has a healthy future to look forward to.

Penelope is a brilliant mum to all of the kittens but once again we are desperately seeking homes for them all. The kittens are about 6 weeks old, mainly black and white, with just one kitten which is a very pretty white tortoiseshell mix. They are all very friendly.

Summer mini-campaign

Twinkle is currently preparing for another capture, neuter, release campaign commencing the week of 9 July. As always we will endeavour to reach out to as many cats as we possibly can taking into account the time we have and the cost involved for each cat that goes to the vets.

We already have a big list of homeless cats in need of neutering, that are waiting for our help in Lajares, Caleta and El Cotillo.

Projects – old and new

Twinkle would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to Dave and Ben who gave 5 days of their time and supplies free of charge to roof our large cat lodge in order that the cats are protected from the sun in summer and the rain in winter. It is now a brilliant space for the cats to get used to indoor/outdoor living in a safe and comfortable environment.

Twinkle's next project is to hopefully tile the foster cages. This would improve hygiene levels and will make the cleaning out of the cages so much easier. We are looking for any offerings of spare non-slip floor tiles as well as tile adhesive and grout. So if any of our readers have any tiles that are just taking up storage space, we can find a good use for them!



Biscuit's story

Biscuit is a little 2 year old, ginger cat that's had a very raw deal in his young life. The first time we met him he was brought into us during our neutering campaign last December. He was from Nuevo Horizonte, suffering from a really bad dose of cat flu.

Twinkle treated him with antibiotics and also neutered him. The people who initially found him and brought him to us agreed to home him, however in February we were very surprised to find him eating at one of the cat cafes in Caleta where once again he was showing signs of having cat flu. Yes – he had been left there for us to help him – yet again.

After lots of medication he is still suffering from mouth infections so on the 12th June little Biscuit had all of his back teeth taken out to hopefully stop his re-occurring flare ups of gingivitis.

Although he has had regular treatment for his cat flu, the flu virus cannot be cured but the symptoms can be treated and kept at bay. He is one of the most lovable, friendly cats that **Twinkle** has had the pleasure of knowing but once again we are asking someone out there to open their heart and give Biscuit the loving home he needs and deserves.

We know he has been left homeless at least 4 times already in his young life. He is brilliant with other cats and so happy to be given cuddles, he actually cuddles you back.



Thank You

We would like to thank all our supporters for their donations and support. Our work is only possible thanks to you. Thank you also to Worldwide Veterinary Surgeons for their continued support with our neutering campaigns and tremendous thanks for the substantial bequest from The Shuman Animal Welfare Trust.



Please help us to carry on helping the homeless cats of Fuerteventura.

You can make a donation to the address above or via our web site or via our Twinkle Trust Animal Aid Facebook page. You can also print a standing order mandate from our web site/donate page. If you would like us to post you a mandate then drop us a line. That way we can plan ahead and reach out to even more cats.

Thank you.

