



## The Bristol Cats Study Newsletter

### Autumn 2011

**788 cats have been registered with the Bristol Cat study so far.**

We are unable to give you detailed results at the moment, as we are still recruiting cats and their owners onto the study. However, we have included a few facts and figures that we hope you find interesting.

**70% of Bristol Cats owners reported that their cats are happy to be picked up**



- 70% Like being picked up
- 26% Don't mind being picked up
- 4% Dislike being picked up

**78% of 'Bristol Cats' kittens were reported to be very calm and appeared not to be bothered by visits to the vet.**

**One of our Bristol Cats has his own webpage!** You can follow the story of 'Monty Choco Rowe' on <http://www.aiclassinfo.co.uk/kitten.1.htm>. Monty has just been joined by 'Ringo Star' for some extra company at home. The website includes photos, videos and reports of the kittens' progress.

**The most popular names of cats registered this year:**

- Oscar /Oskar
- Lola
- Bella
- Maisy/Maisie
- Alfie
- Lilly/Lily
- Willow

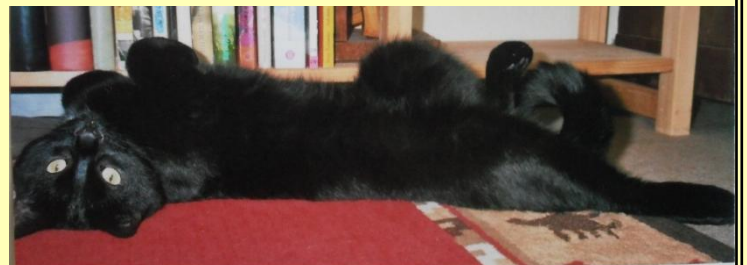
### Contact Details

Freepost RSHR-AGRJ-UABZ  
Bristol Cats, Dr Jane Murray  
University of Bristol  
Langford House  
Langford  
BRISTOL  
BS40 5DU  
Tel/text: 07827 981412

[www.vetschool.bris.ac.uk/cats](http://www.vetschool.bris.ac.uk/cats)  
Email: [cat-study@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:cat-study@bristol.ac.uk)

**Would you like your cat's photo to be considered for our 2011 Christmas Card?**

If so, please send them by email or post them on Facebook, before 1<sup>st</sup> November. We won't be able to acknowledge receipt of photos, due to the expected numbers...., but we would like to thank you in advance!



### **How have we been recruiting kittens onto the study?**

We have used a variety of methods, the most successful of which have been:

- Advertising on the internet (through Cats Protection, FAB, Pet Forums, Facebook)
- Recruiting through vets and rescue organisations
- Word-of-mouth has also been very effective.



**Bristol Cats have been recruited from all over the UK, including: the Shetland Isles, Cornwall, London, Belfast, Cardiff and Norwich.**

### **Are we still recruiting?**

**Yes.** We were initially going to recruit until the end of 2011; however, we are working on plans to continue recruitment during 2012 and to develop questionnaires that will enable us to gather information about Bristol Cats when they are aged 2.5yrs and 3.5yrs....Watch this space!!! We hope you will wish to continue your involvement with this unique study and will soon start to see the benefits gained by your form-filling!

### **What do Bristol Cats like to do?**

**68%** of owners 'strongly agreed' that their cats like to **sleep on the furniture!**

**30%** of owners 'strongly agreed' that their cats like to **sit on people's laps**

**8%** of owners 'strongly agreed' that their cats **sleep a lot.**

**16%** of cats had been **missing from their home/garden all night**

### **Summer student – Alexandra Jones**

Alexandra is a student at the University of Bristol, who spent 8 weeks working in the Animal Welfare and Behaviour group on a study investigating feeding behaviour of cats. Thank you to all those who helped Alexandra by allowing her to visit their homes in order to video their cats at feeding time! Her results were interesting and now need to be confirmed on a study including more cats.

### ***Finally, please remember.....***

If, for whatever reason, you no longer want to take part in our study, then please tell us, so we can update our records. In particular, if you need to withdraw from our study because your cat is no longer with you, please could let us know the specific reason (e.g. cat went missing, new landlord does not allow pets, cat died due to a traffic accident). This is important information for us and will help us report accurate statistics.

Email/postal reminders for questionnaires are currently being sent to cats aged: 6-7 months, 12-13 months and 18-19 months.