

CATCUDDLES S.O.S.



BACKGROUND

The Catcuddles Sanctuary is a registered charity founded in July 2009 by Evina Koroni, who registered it from her own home at Howarth Road in Abbey Wood, Greenwich.

The charity has grown and now has a fostering network in and around Abbey Wood, with a volunteer team in excess of 40 people, all of whom help care for, rescue, rehome and rehabilitate abandoned, unwanted and stray cats.

Today Howarth Rd., Greenwich remains as the charity's fostering hub as well as Evina's private home in a residential street.

The Greenwich hub consists of a 12 sq metre purpose built heated unit in the garden, and 6 custom-made cat chalets (an area of 18sqm). All units are heated, lit, double-glazed and fully insulated both for the comfort of the cats, and to ensure there is no disturbance to the neighbours.

Catcuddles has been featured in the local press several times, once when visited by the local MP, Teresa Pearce, who also features the visit on her official Website (<http://www.teresapearce.org.uk/2012/12/teresa-offers-support-and-cuddles-to-local-cat-charity/>)

Catcuddles believe we offer an invaluable service treating and rehoming the unwanted, abandoned and stray cat population of the communities we serve, and promoting responsible and compassionate cat ownership at every opportunity. The charity also has close relationships with local vet practices, often rehoming cats left on their premises. Catcuddles also neuters hundreds of stray cats in the area to help to keep their numbers down.

CONCERN

Last year, Evina was directed to gain retrospective planning permission for fostering cats. There was every indication that this was a mere formality, as Evina had been peacefully fostering for such a long period of time. However, to the shock and dismay of Evina and the Catcuddles team, this application was declined on February 1st 2017.

The main reason given for refusal was 'excessive noise and odour' impacting negatively on neighbouring properties, despite a visit from the Environmental health department finding no issues and one immediate neighbour expressing full support for the charity.

The second reason claims that the 'retention of the cat sanctuary would result in the loss of the property as a 'dwelling house', despite the clear fact that this is Evina's home.

The third reason states that 'numerous structures in the rear garden have a detrimental impact in terms of design appearance and scale', even though they would clearly fall within permitted development and are patently not out of place in the landscape design of the garden (image above)

Further to this refusal, with surprising urgency, the charity has now been issued with a letter demanding that they cease 'use of the sanctuary' within 7 days.

If forced to cease fostering, the total number of cats that Catcuddles can help will hugely diminish, and the charity's presence in Greenwich may be reduced permanently. To appeal the council's decision will cost upwards of £2500 from charity funds.

HYGIENE & NOISE

Cleanliness and hygiene are essential both for the welfare of the cats in care and for the sake of the local community. A team of 12 volunteers cover a 365-day rota of hygiene duties.

Volunteers clean all cat hosting facilities every day starting at 10a.m. and running through to mid-afternoon. Cats are clean animals by nature and groom themselves but daily checks are made on each cat in care to ensure cleanliness and wellbeing and all waste material is removed and double bagged. Bedding is washed weekly and every time there is a changeover of cat.

Cats that are relocated, unwell or new to their surroundings, as a rule, keep quiet in an attempt not to appear vulnerable. There is therefore no noise pollution, especially as they are all kept in closed, insulated and ventilated suites.

Prospective adoptive homes are invariably inspected pre-adoption by the key volunteer team and post adoption checks are carried out to ensure care is satisfactory. No cat is rehomed without being neutered, vaccinated, parasite-treated, health checked and micro-chipped.

If you would like any further information regarding the charity or the circumstances, please let us know and we will be happy to provide it. We would urge you to visit the fostering hub personally so that you can see for yourself that we are a genuine cause looking for nothing more than the right to continue our good work.

We appreciate your time and look forward to hearing your response.

CONTACT

<http://www.catcuddles.org.uk>

<https://twitter.com/catcuddles>

email@catcuddles.org.uk

Text: CACU16 £5 to 70070 to donate