

Hello everyone.

Since writing my last column, I have been getting much more involved in cat rescue through contacts I have made via the magazines and my Facebook and Twitter presence. I'm pleased to say that I have managed to save the lives of a good few comrades who were in danger. November was 'Adopt a Senior Pet' month and the staff



took this to heart when we rescued Teddy who has now joined 'the gang' permanently. He is a very dignified cat and for some reason, we all pay him a great deal of respect.

The next thing of course is Christmas and I have decided to get my staff a copy of my friend Patchy Meow's new book. While I was making the purchase online, I thought I might ask Patchy to tell her story for this column and here is what she had to say:



Hello I am Patchy and I would like to introduce myself to you. I was one of five cats, collectively known as "The Five Cats." I have two sisfurs; Blackie and Gingy, and I have one brofur Sooty. I had another brofur Scratchy, sadly he passed away in May, but we still keep the name The Five Cats in



his honour. We live on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, along with our human mum and dad and their daughter.

I am the unofficial spokescat for feral cats. Feral cats have a very hard life; their life expectancy is four - five years, which is about one quarter of that of a domestic cat. They also have the added perils of dehydration, starvation and becoming victims of poisoning, shooting and being run over by cars. There is a large population of feral cats in Cyprus, unfortunately there are humans who think that the above methods are a good way of reducing the population of feral cats, and are ignorant of the fact that there are Trap, Neuter and Release schemes available. The schemes are funded by government grants, but many rely on donations and are usually run by animal shelters.



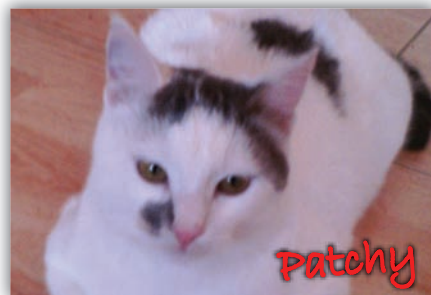
All the felines in my family were feral. We were born in May 2010, my mother was feral and our paternity was of a dubious nature; we had no idea who our father was. Originally there were the four of us, myself, Scratchy, a sister Dory and our mother.

We were abandoned by our mother when we were four months old, but we were lucky enough to find a nice human family who fed us and eventually adopted us. In February 2011 Dory ran away and we never found out what happened to her.



For a while there was just Scratchy and me but then Blackie joined the family in April 2011. She had a nice little surprise for us; she gave birth to two kittens in our garage. They were also adopted by our family and named Sooty and Gingy.

At the beginning of this year I was sitting doing my solitary musings, and I came upon the idea to tell the world about our story. I started to write a blog called the Five Cats Chronicles, and whilst on this media journey, I also wrote a book called The Little Book of Cats, available from Blurb.com. The book is a celebration of all things feline. We also started a YouTube channel, so you can see the humorous things we get up to. (The web addresses are below)



Since I have joined Facebook and the #wlf on Twitter I have met many kindred spirits, and none more so than Mr Tibbs. I would like to thank Mr Tibbs for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself and my cat family to you.

<http://patchy-thefivecatschronicles.blogspot.co.uk>

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/3092872>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PatchyMeow>

Well, thanks Patchy. Don't forget you can follow her blog and order your own copies of her book.

Now it's time for me to wish all my readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all in 2013.

Mr Tibbs