



Welfare & Rescue Officer's Report

Adoption: Nattie – March 2024

Nattie, a 6-year-old Blue Mink female, was rehomed due to changes in her owner's personal circumstances. A lovely new home was found, but the five-hour distance posed transport challenges. With help from a TCC volunteer, a multi-leg journey was arranged to ensure a smooth handover. Nattie has now settled well into her new home, where she enjoys life with a catio and two feline companions.

Adoption & Welfare Case: Hester & Minky – April 2024

The Club was contacted by the owner of two 13-year-old female Tonkinese cats, Hester and Minky, seeking advice on rehoming due to toileting issues and the challenges of managing a household with a crawling toddler. Advice was given on possible causes of Feline Inappropriate Elimination (FIE), and a vet check was recommended, although this was not confirmed.

By Easter 2024, the owner made the difficult decision to rehome both cats. A loving retirement home was found with a kind, retired couple, who had recently lost their own Tonkinese. It turned out that Hester required urgent veterinary care shortly after arrival due to severe constipation. With the support of the Club and costs covered by Agria insurance (with the excess paid by the Club), she recovered well and settled in alongside Minky.

Sadly, in February 2025, Hester passed away from a sudden and aggressive form of cancer affecting her eye, leaving her new owners heartbroken. The Club provided advice and emotional support throughout and also sent a condolence card and a personalised snuggle blanket for Minky.

Minky continues to do well and has stepped up to offer comfort and companionship.

Welfare Case: Souki, Taboo & Nova - May 2024

We were contacted in early May 2024 by a member whose elderly Tonkinese, Souki (15), had developed sudden neurological symptoms, including loss of balance and seizures. The owner was understandably very distressed and reached out for urgent welfare advice. Souki was also under veterinary care during this time, and the club's support was focused on guiding the owner through her options and helping her feel confident that Souki was receiving the best possible care and treatment.

Sadly, Souki passed away at the end of May. The owner had recently reserved a new Tonkinese kitten, Nova, to join her home as a companion for her other senior cat, Taboo (17). The transition was emotionally difficult, coming so soon after Souki's loss. We continued to offer support throughout the grieving process and the early days of Nova's arrival. This case highlights the importance of our welfare support and reassurance through times of grief.

Welfare Case: Otto & Arlo - June 2024

In June 2024, the club was contacted about two 5.5-year-old Tonkinese brothers, Otto and Arlo, who had been exhibiting ongoing inter-cat aggression since adolescence. Despite periods of affection, their fighting had become more frequent and severe, resulting in multiple vet visits. Otto also developed stress-related spraying behaviour, further escalating tension in the home.

The owner reached out for support and advice, as rehoming Otto was being considered with great reluctance. The club worked closely with the owner and her vet to identify sources of stress and implement changes. Otto was prescribed calming medication and is now monitored regularly. We are pleased to report that both cats remain in the home, and the situation has greatly improved with continued support and commitment from the owner.

Update – 21.04.25: The owner reports that both cats are doing well, with only the occasional spat. Otto is continuing his medication and has a follow-up vet visit scheduled for further blood and urine tests. Arlo has been seen spraying on a couple of occasions, but it is now infrequent and manageable. The owner expressed gratitude for the club's support, describing it as "a godsend."



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Adoption: Obi & Aggie – August 2024

In August 2024, the Club was contacted by a dedicated and loving owner seeking a new home for her 4-year-old Tonkinese siblings, Obi and Aggie. Wanting the pair to have more space and access to a garden, she made the difficult decision to re-home them. The Club successfully matched the cats with David and Jo, who provided a wonderful new home. They continue to update both the Club and the previous owner with regular photos and news of Obi and Aggie settling in beautifully.

Adoption: Coco – December 2024

The Club was contacted by an owner who, due to unforeseen circumstances, needed to find a new home for her 6-year-old Tonkinese boy, Coco. He was healthy, up to date with all his checks, and insured with Agria.

We were able to match him with a lovely retired couple who had plenty of experience with cats, including a Tonkinese in the family before. Their quiet countryside cottage, with a large garden and no other pets or children, made it the perfect fit. The handover went smoothly, and the Club has remained in touch to offer any support needed as he settles into his new home. The Club and previous owner continues to get regular updates about Coco's new adventures.

Rehoming & Welfare:

These cases highlight the emotional journey many owners face when having to make the difficult decision to rehome their beloved Tonkinese cats. We recognise that rehoming is never easy, and as part of the adoption process, we aim to offer not just practical support, but emotional reassurance too.

Ongoing updates from adoptive families help guide previous owners through the grieving process, offering comfort and peace of mind. In many cases, lovely friendships have formed between previous and new owners - often staying in touch through WhatsApp to share photos, stories, and milestones.