



# Welfare & Rescue Officer's Report 2025

## January - Welfare Case

Otto and his brother Arlo came to us as a welfare case when their owner was at breaking point. Otto was spraying constantly, and nothing appeared to resolve the issue. With Arlo recovering from injuries and Otto's stress escalating, the situation had become unmanageable. This was an ongoing case from 2024.

We carried on supporting the owner closely during the first 6 months of 2025 to find a way forward through a combination of veterinary input, behavioural adjustments, and time.

The owner reported in June that both cats are doing well, with only the occasional spat. Otto is continuing his medication and has a follow-up veterinary visit scheduled for further blood and urine tests. Arlo has been seen spraying on a couple of occasions, but this is now infrequent and manageable. The owner expressed gratitude for the club's support.

## March - Adoption

Following the sudden passing of their owner, two Tonkinese cats, Beau and Minou, required urgent rehoming. The club was contacted by a family member seeking a safe and suitable solution. At the same time, Jenny Shannon had contacted the club expressing an interest in rehoming one or two Tonkinese following the loss of her own cat.

The cats were initially placed in a cattery before being fostered by volunteer Jenny Shannon, who provided a stable and calm environment during the transition period. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Jenny Shannon for her efforts in caring for them over an eight-week period prior to their permanent home being found.

They were rehomed in June to a suitable and caring home. The new owner has provided an excellent environment for both cats and remains in regular contact with Jenny and the previous owner's mother, sharing positive updates and photographs. Both cats have settled well, and this case reflects the value of coordinated efforts between family, foster carers, and the club.

## April - Adoption

Gracie, a 12-year-old violet Tonkinese, required rehoming due to changes in her owner's circumstances. She was described as a highly people-oriented and affectionate cat. A suitable match was identified quickly from the club's waiting list, and the placement was successful from the outset. Gracie has settled well in her new home, demonstrating the benefit of maintaining an active and appropriate waiting list.

The new owner, a retired lady in her mid-seventies living on her own, provides regular updates and occasionally contacts the club for support and advice, as well as to share her deep affection for Gracie. She describes Gracie as a wonderful companion who has brought both comfort and enjoyment to her daily life.

## May - Welfare Case

Marsellus' owners contacted the club for support due to ongoing spraying behaviour, which had become severe and was affecting both the home environment and neighbouring properties. They were considering rehoming. As part of our standard approach, veterinary investigations were recommended prior to behavioural intervention. These identified urinary crystals, and appropriate dietary management was introduced alongside prescribed medication. Additional environmental and behavioural recommendations were provided, and the club continues to support the owners as they work to improve the situation.

## June - Member Support

We were contacted by retired, very experienced cat owners and longstanding members of our club, hoping to welcome a Tonkinese kitten after the loss of their previous cat. Having not sought a kitten for over 16 years, they found the process more complex than expected. With assistance from the club, they were introduced to a suitable breeder and support was provided in arranging transport. Although they had initially reserved one kitten, they ultimately chose to take two Tonkinese boys (Max and Louie). Both have settled very well into their new home. The club received updates in autumn 2025 expressing appreciation for the support provided, along with photos showing the cats thriving in their new environment.



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## July - Adoption

Leo, a seven-year-old red Tonkinese, required rehoming due to ongoing incompatibility with another cat in the household, which was causing significant stress. He had originally been rescued at the age of three from a group of cats following the passing of his breeder. Despite being a well-loved and well-cared-for cat, he had never fully settled due to the ongoing incompatibility within the home environment.

A new home was identified with Jenny Shannon, who had fostered Beau and Minou a few months earlier, providing a calm and compatible setting alongside her beautiful and calm red Birman girl. Leo has settled very well and is now enjoying a controlled outdoor life, as well as positive interactions with neighbouring cats. He has clearly found the right home and is thriving.

## October - Adoption

In early October 2025, we were contacted by an owner seeking a new home for her much-loved Tonkinese, Gustav, a 13-year-old chocolate point. Gustav was described as having no behavioural or health concerns and as being excellent with children, other cats, and non-aggressive dogs. He is an affectionate cat who enjoys close companionship and attention. The owner's circumstances had changed, with a busy family life and work commitments meaning that she was often away from home. She felt that Gustav would benefit from a home where he could receive more time, interaction, and companionship, as he was frequently seeking her attention.

As Gustav is a senior cat, it took some time to identify a suitable match. Although there was interest from homes on the waiting list, finding the right environment was prioritised over speed. The club remained in regular contact with the owner throughout this period.

We are pleased to report that Gustav has now been successfully rehomed with a retired couple who had lost their Tonkinese the previous year and were looking to welcome a new companion. He settled quickly into his new home and within a few days was comfortable, affectionate, and exploring both the house and garden. He has become a much-loved companion, and the placement represents a very positive outcome for all involved.

## January 2026 – Welfare Case

In January 2026, the club was contacted by a member seeking to rehome one of her two neutered male Tonkinese, Ronnie and Reggie, born in 2020, due to escalating conflict within the home. From the initial email correspondence, it was clear that the situation had become very difficult, with incidents of aggression resulting in injury, and both cats appearing increasingly stressed.

Following a detailed phone conversation with the Welfare Officer, a fuller picture of the situation emerged. Ronnie and Reggie are litter brothers who had a challenging start in life due to poor early socialisation but had previously formed a close bond and coexisted well. Over time, Ronnie had developed stress-related behaviours, including spraying within the home, which had gradually intensified.

During the discussion, it was established that the situation had worsened following the introduction of outdoor access, with the presence of a neighbouring cat acting as a significant trigger. This external stress was being carried back into the home, resulting in redirected aggression towards Reggie and culminating in a serious altercation. Importantly, it was also evident that their underlying relationship remained intact, and that the behaviour was stress-driven rather than a true breakdown in their bond.

Following this conversation, the owners were provided with a structured protocol and practical guidance, including managing external triggers, restoring a sense of security, and supporting a gradual behavioural reset. A veterinary check was also advised to rule out any underlying medical factors.

We are pleased to report that the owners fully engaged with the advice provided and implemented the recommendations. Subsequent updates indicate a noticeable improvement in behaviour, with reduced tension and better overall harmony within the home. The owners expressed their gratitude for the support received, describing it as reassuring and invaluable. As a result, they decided not to proceed with rehoming, and both Ronnie and Reggie remain together.



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## February 2026 - Welfare Case

In February 2026, the club was contacted by a member who had recently purchased a Tonkinese kitten from a breeder not on the club's recommended list. Shortly after arrival, the owner experienced difficulties, as the kitten showed clear signs of poor socialisation. He was hiding, reluctant to come out, and displaying defensive behaviours such as growling and hissing. The club provided guidance and ongoing support to the owner, focusing on gradual socialisation, building trust, and creating a calm and secure environment. The owner was committed to working with the kitten and did not feel able to return him, recognising that this would not be in his best interests. A recent update indicates that the kitten is making steady progress, beginning to show increased confidence and trust. This case highlights the importance of early socialisation and the value of continued support.

During the same period, the club successfully rehomed Louie, an eight-year-old Tonkinese, to a suitable and caring home. His previous home included two female cats, a Devon Rex and a Maine Coon, and over the past year the relationship had become increasingly stressful, particularly as the Devon Rex was unwell with IBS. This placed strain on all the cats within the household, and the owner felt that Louie would benefit from a home where he could relax and receive more focused attention.

## February 2026 - Adoption

Louie is a gentle and affectionate cat with a sensitive nature who thrives in a calm environment with consistent routines. Due to his temperament, a home as the only pet was considered most appropriate. He is an intelligent and active Tonkinese who enjoys interactive play and benefits from regular mental and physical stimulation.

Louie is a sensitive Tonkinese, and the club feels that his new family's extensive experience with the breed will provide an ideal environment for him to thrive. His new family had lost their 14-year-old Tonkinese in October 2025 and were looking to welcome another companion. It is still early days, as he was rehomed in mid-March 2026, but initial indications are very positive.

## April 2026 - Adoption

During April 2026, the club has been supporting the rehoming of two nine-month-old Tonkinese sisters, Sasha and Kleo. The girls are a closely bonded pair and it is essential that they remain together. They are healthy, fully vaccinated, already spayed, and have been well cared for in their current home, living as indoor cats with access to a secure, cat-proof garden. Sasha and Kleo are affectionate, sociable, and people-oriented, with a playful and active nature typical of the breed. They enjoy close companionship, often curling up together, and are confident within the home environment. Both are interactive and curious, enjoying toys and engagement, while also appreciating cosy resting spaces.

The reason for rehoming is due to significant stress experienced by an older resident cat within the household. Despite considerable efforts to manage the situation, it was ultimately felt that the kindest and most responsible decision was to prioritise the wellbeing of the older cat.

We are pleased to report that a suitable home has now been identified, and the club is currently in the process of finalising the adoption arrangements. This case remains ongoing at the time of writing.

## In Memoriam

During the year, the club was contacted by members sharing the sad news of the loss of their much-loved Tonkinese companions.

Natalie Borman wrote to let us know of the sudden passing of her beautiful Mimi, a much-loved and cherished companion. Joan Russam also contacted us following the loss of her dear Sophie after a cancer diagnosis, sharing how deeply she is missed both by herself and Sophie's long-time feline companion.

We recognise how profound the loss of a Tonkinese can be, not only for their owners but also for any feline companions left behind. We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to both Natalie and Joan and thank them for taking the time to share their stories with us.



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## Rehoming & Welfare

The cases highlighted this year reflect the wide range of situations the club continues to support—from complex behavioural challenges and medical-related concerns to sensitive rehoming decisions and ongoing guidance for owners.

A consistent theme throughout has been the importance of understanding each cat as an individual, taking the time to assess underlying causes, and supporting owners with practical, realistic advice. In several cases, early intervention and structured support have helped avoid rehoming altogether, allowing cats to remain in their original homes with improved wellbeing.

Where rehoming has been necessary, careful matching and ongoing communication have remained central to achieving positive outcomes. It is particularly encouraging to see how well many cats have settled into their new homes, and how supportive relationships often continue between previous and new owners, often staying in touch to share updates, photos, and milestones.

As always, we are grateful to our members for placing their trust in the club during what are often very emotional situations, and for their willingness to work alongside us to achieve the best possible outcomes for their Tonkinese cats.