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Bacchus is back! International Cat Rescue saves the day

Vishay Naidoo was left heartbroken by his beloved Bengal cat Bacchus going missing shortly after they moved to East Finchley and his sister Tash-mika was desperate to help. Trouble was, she lived 8,000 miles away in Cape Town, South Africa. Undeterred, she jumped online and discovered an amazing network of helpers ready to join the search. Here, Tash tells the story of an international cat rescue operation with a happy ending...

When it was confirmed that my brother's Bengal, Bacchus, had gone missing shortly after their move from Queens Avenue in Muswell Hill to Aylmer Road in East Finchley, I joined online

community groups in both areas to create awareness.

My brother and I followed all the advice tips: litter box outside, used clothes in a box outside the old home... we even

set a trap in the garden of one of the cats he used to know. With no luck but unquenchable hope, we forged on.

On the way I befriended extremely kind people such as Russell Topalensky Turner who, with his wife, walked Muswell Hill's streets relentlessly in search of Bacchus. In the East Finchley group I came across the most amazing woman, Celia Green, who led me to two more wonderful souls, Ramu Karunakaran and Zara Lim. Their tenacity and immense kindness was truly profound.

From Cape Town on the other side of the world I felt quite useless in the situation but they got together to print pamphlets galore, dividing and conquering distribution across East Finchley and Muswell Hill. I, myself, have never been to East Finchley so they educated me on their routes and relevant roads through Google maps over our group Facebook chat.

In contrast, might I add, I also came across a strange man who, amid my distress, suggested my friends and I video call to watch him run up and down his passage in his underwear. No joke. However, he too distributed my poorly designed pamphlets and, for that, I am grateful.

Myself, Celia, Ramu, Zara and my little brother Mikarl (the poor pamphlet designer



Never gave up: Tash-mika Naidoo co-ordinated the search from her home in South Africa

I roped in) endured many false leads including tabbies, collarless cats, dead cats, a dead fox who

in Eastern Road and Lynmouth Road, N2, terrorising the neighbourhood cats and stealing their food, much in line with the new outlaw life he must have become accustomed to.

But then another four months passed and we began to resign ourselves to the possibility of Bacchus being too wild to capture. Regardless, we set up a cat trap at the house in Lynmouth Road. Bacchus actually managed to get into this cage for food numerous times without setting it off, then one night at 9.30pm South Africa time we were finally told he'd been caught.

Thank you to Ruth and her parents for never giving up on the cat trap, and to Celia for assisting to bring him home. My brother has never been happier. Bacchus fended for himself for seven months but he's absolutely thrilled to be home. Vishay says he's never seen him so grateful for food.

We could never have found him without the kindness, help and support of the East Finchley and Muswell Hill community. Sending you all so much love from Cape Town, South Africa. We pulled off a cat-finding campaign, two continents apart. That is pretty amazing!



Reunited: Vishay Naidoo and his beloved Bacchus back together

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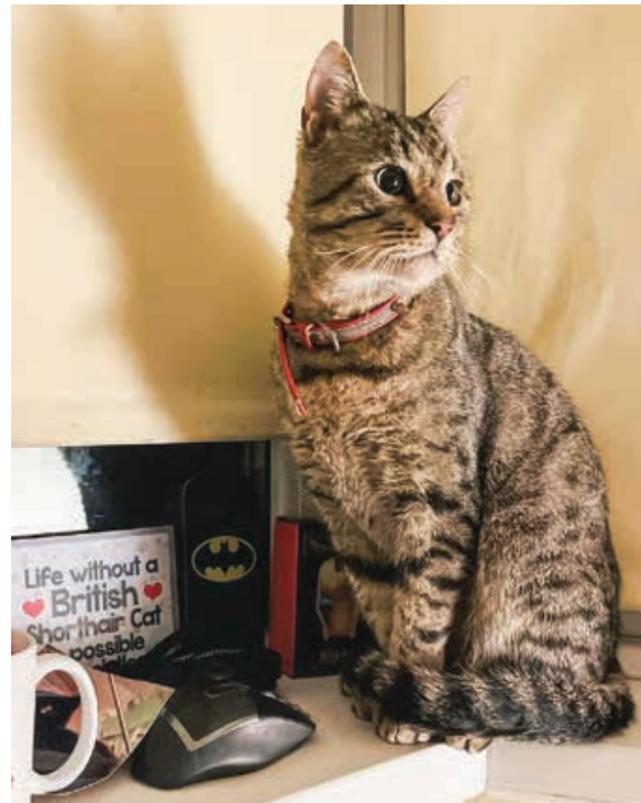
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Missing for months: Bacchus is glad to be home again

someone thought was our cat, and a cat who looked exactly like our Bacchus but, alas, wrong collar.

Whilst we knew he would likely be alive as he is extremely capable outdoors, we had no idea if or when he'd ever be home. Needless to say a feeling of hopelessness did arise as the weeks and months passed.

It was in May, two months after Bacchus went missing, that we got our first and only two real leads. He was confirmed through clear images to be frequenting two homes

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