

Tails to Tell



ERIC during his many weeks of cage rest which he coped with really well.

Eric came into RSPCA care after a member of the public took him into a local vet who then called us for assistance. He was only 5-6 months old and was unable to walk. He was not neutered or microchipped and we were unable to trace an owner. It is possible he had been abandoned.

After a general check-over, blood tests and initial observations, it was clear this kitten was unable to put any weight on his hind legs but would drag them along when he tried to walk. The process was pitiful to watch as he could manage no more than short bursts of energy before collapsing exhausted from the effort. Naturally, like any young cat, when he wasn't sleeping, he wanted to play but he couldn't run around and behave as he wanted. Following a period of assessment and time for him to gain some strength, he was x-rayed and diagnosed with luxating kneecaps, a condition where the structure around the knee will not support weight or keep the kneecaps in the correct position.

The opinion of the vets was that he needed to have surgery on both of his back legs in order to enable him to walk properly. This was a specialist orthopaedic operation and not without

some risks, but Eric was a young cat and otherwise fit and healthy and the longer term prognosis was that he could lead a normal life if the operations were successful. The operations were going to be very expensive and Eric would need many weeks of cage rest and time to rehabilitate thereafter. After a great deal of consideration, this Branch decided to go ahead and commit the funds and time to give this little chap a chance at a normal and happy life.

It wasn't as straightforward as we had hoped and Eric had a bit of a setback needing another operation on one of his legs, but after 6 months in Branch foster care, three ops in total, and our usual neutering, microchipping and vaccination course, he was eventually ready for rehoming.

Angela, our fosterer, cared for him, encouraged him and with her commitment and love, the expertise of the vet, together with all important branch funds and support, Eric was able to recover and grow in strength and comfort. Now happily settled in his new home, he is a cheeky young man - as the email below from his new family shows!

"Hi Angela,

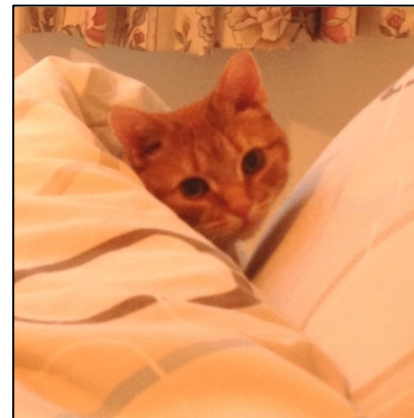
What can I say! The little man arrived home with us 23 December and has complete taken control of the house!! The humans are just visitors in the house and he owns it. We took on board the advice about keeping him in one room ...for 5 minutes ...as he then stormed around the house; wrecked the Christmas tree and completely took over the entire house. He then persecuted my mum who is 80..her knitting all went to pot!!

There is no privacy, he comes to the toilet, lies in wait to attack us when we get dressed and when we shower he tries to get in with us.

He has also been on the computer as you said and lost all of my daughter's work and blown up Andy's computer and it has had to be rebuilt. The red wine you mentioned is all about "the lights and shadows"....he is a complete and utter nutter over this and we spend hours playing shadow games. We got him a

load of toys and a bed etc. for him coming home...all of which he will not play with or sleep in. He loves the laces you gave and we find them dragged all over the house..4am lace playing is a common feature now...it's like having a baby! Night-time is great, he has only slept with us once and all other times he sits on the bedstead and then jumps at great height onto our stomachs! This is anytime from when we go to bed but his favourite time is between 1-4am, then he crawls around our heads and sucks my hair! He regularly gets himself under the duvet and lies in wait for a little bit of human flesh to arrive to attack it...time is not a consideration so if that's 1am then so be it.

Angela, he is totally spoilt. His nickname is "The Baby" and The Baby always gets what he wants. Probably wrong but he is so cute with his big pleading eyes. He has



had a health check-up at my vets and they love him to bits and think he should have been born a girl, but apparently he is a bit plumpious!

Today he finally ventured into the garden for 2 minutes! Miracles do happen eventually and it is a big milestone for Eric. Trust me he will always be pampered, loved and protected, but we want him to have his independence as well.

Finally Angela, I just want to thank you for being such a good Mum to Eric, without all of the good work you did as well as the RSPCA, we would not have our little baby. Others may think he is a little monster at times... but to us he is the best thing ever and we love him to bits."

2012 Branch Review



This branch had an unprecedented year's performance in 2012. Our level of income was the highest it's ever been and the same applied to our level of expenditure on animal welfare, which is great news as, after all, that's what we are here for.

Our income was £320,247, which was approximately £38,000 more than 2011. The majority of this is from our three very successful and well supported shops. We also receive funds from other fundraising activities and legacies.

As a result we are able to spend substantial sums of money each year to help local animals that are sick, injured or homeless. Some of our welfare work helps local families who are struggling to care for their pets. For pet owners who meet our criteria, our Welfare Assistance Scheme provides financial assistance toward vet bills for pets that are sick or injured. In addition, we provide free neutering and microchipping for cats and dogs to families on low incomes. In 2012 we spent in excess of £93,100 through this Scheme - 70% of this was on neutering more than 600 pets as we believe it is vital to reduce the number of pets being born each year, so many of which end up unwanted.

On the rescue and rehoming side of our welfare work, we spent just over £55,700. We currently only rescue and rehome felines and in 2012 we found new homes for 162 cats. We accomplish this through a number of volunteer fosterers, (like Kathy, pictured here with a rescued litter of kittens), who willingly care for the cats in their own home, but the majority are cared



for in a local, privately-owned cattery where we pay for self-contained pens allocated exclusively for RSPCA cats. The service works well and it gives us greater capacity to rescue more cats.

Sometimes the cats that we rescue might be sick or injured and need more money to be spent on them than just routine vet treatments like neutering, microchipping and vaccinations. In a few exceptional cases, the Branch may spend large amounts of money to help one cat – Eric featured in our "Tails to Tell" is one such example.



In addition to our expenditure to support local animals, we are also in a strong position financially to be able to make discretionary donations to other charities. In 2012 we donated nearly £25,000 in total to help other parts of the Society including the RSPCA Liverpool Branch and the RSPCA Lockwood Centre. This was in addition to the support given to the latter through our shops' "Help a Donkey Days" that took place during the year.

Overall, the branch's performance for the year was excellent and for those of you who support us; we would like to thank you. We can't achieve our animal welfare aims without you!

RSPCA Week 29 April to 5 May

**Volunteer collectors
needed**

RSPCA Week is an annual event when Tesco allow us to collect money and pet food outside their stores.

This year we have arranged collections at the Hook, Aldershot and Sandhurst stores and we are in need of people willing to give one to two hours of their time to help us.

Aldershot - Friday 3rd May, Sat 4th and Sunday 5th
Hook - Friday 3rd May, Sat 4th and Sunday 5th
Sandhurst - Friday 3rd May only

**If you can help us, please contact
Joy on 07579 001459 or email
admin@
rspcahantsandsurreyborder.org.uk**

RSPCA Fun Dog Show



**Join us at the
Hartley Wintney Festival
Saturday 8 June**
**Enter your dog in one or more
of six novelty classes taking
place from 2pm onward.**

We start the Show with 'Best Rescue Dog' (open to any rescued dog no matter where it was rescued from) in order to celebrate the wonderful dogs that have had a second chance at a new life.

Dog owners joining us on the day may be delighted to know they will have the opportunity to have a professional photo taken of their pet. This is being provided by Shotz Photography in their mobile studio which will be located right next to the Dog Show arena. For every photo sold, Shotz Photography will donate £1 to this Branch.

Check out our website for more details.

Rabbit Awareness Week

'Because rabbits get a RAW deal'



Taking place during RSPCA Week, RAW is aimed at focussing on the plight of so many rabbits

in this country that get a raw deal in life. Hundreds lead a life of misery in hutches that are too small, not given enough exercise or the correct diet or social interaction of other rabbits. For further general advice on keeping rabbits check out www.rspca.org.uk

**During RAW, rabbit owners can
take advantage of a free health
check at participating vets.
Further details at
www.rabbitawarenessweek.co.uk**