

Animal Matters



March 2012

Hants & Surrey Border Branch

Registered charity no. 201291

www.rspca-hantsandsurrey.org.uk • Email: info@rspcahantsandsurreyborder.org.uk

Tails to Tell

Rehoming of rescue cats at the Hants & Surrey Border Branch continues to go from strength to strength and as you would expect there are always 'tales to tell'. Every cat has a background and a story which makes each rehoming very important and very individual.

Some stories are sad – the cats who test positive with feline leukaemia or feline AIDS and don't have a good future; the kitten we saved who lost an eye due to insufficient medical treatment by an owner; the cat who is frightened and flinches when someone stands up in the room, or the numerous lost cats that come into our care whose owners we just can't find.

Thankfully, the majority of our rescue cats, with or without a known history, but with the help of medical attention and lots of love from our volunteers, can eventually be given the opportunity of a second chance and a new home.



In the past 6 months we have rescued a family of seven adult cats, known to us as the 'Tatty cats' (*Harvey above;*



Junior left) all of whom, despite their unfortunate circumstances and very poor physical condition were, in fact, the most sweet natured and affectionate cats

and after a period of intensive feeding and attention, have all been happily rehomed and are proving to be the most fantastic pets.

They are so grateful for their second chance.

More recently 'Sparky' (*right*) the feisty stray ginger tom cat who had been terrorising a local neighbourhood, causing damage and fighting with other cats. Once caught and handed to us for a health check and subsequent neutering, he miraculously turned into a big softie and was rehomed within a few days!



Also 'Mary', (*above with two of her kittens*) the pretty female cat of unknown age, exhausted from multiple litters of kittens and with a personality that was totally shut down. She was given medical treatment, nurtured by our fosterers and has blossomed into a playful, loving cat with a home of her own. We will never know how old she is, but she is probably younger than she first appeared!



Whilst this branch doesn't normally rescue and rehome rabbits, on occasions, when animal centres and other branches are full, our Inspectors

ask us to help out with taking in rabbits. Often these animals have been removed from their homes because they have been neglected or badly treated. Within the last year this branch has fostered several rabbits that have been the victims of severe neglect.

One of these was Betsy. She was delivered to one of our fosterers for much needed care and rehabilitation. After a week or two of good food and a clean warm hutch, Betsy was well on the road to recovery. Shortly after this, one morning, our fosterer Alison, opened the hutch to feed Betsy and to her complete amazement, found her snuggled up with six babies contentedly feeding them!

Betsy was a good mum and cared for her offspring beautifully and after 8-10 weeks in our care, all rabbits were successfully rehomed.

Pet Appeal

"Home Wanted"



Maisie approx 10 yrs old, is looking for a new home with plenty of love and attention. Despite her age she can be playful but also enjoys peace and quiet. She is fit and well but due to her age is available for adoption with the reassurance of our Senior Years Vet Support Scheme (*see website for details*).

Please contact Geraldine on 07880 547502 if you are interested in giving Maisie, or one of our other cats or kittens a new home.

Animals we've helped in 2011

As an independent branch of the RSPCA, like all RSPCA branches, we are a separately registered charity operating under the umbrella of the national society and are responsible for raising our own funds to provide for local animal welfare. We successfully raise a substantial level of funds each year through our three charity shops and other fundraising events with the commitment to spend a considerable amount of money in helping to prevent animal suffering. In the past three years the total amount spent by this branch in helping needy animals has been more than £300,000.



In 2011 alone our financial spend on direct animal welfare amounted to over £130,000. This included:

Rehoming 128 cats

Welfare neutering of 305 dogs and 398 cats. Some of these pets were also microchipped.

Providing £26,500 in financial assistance towards vet bills for families living in our branch area whose pets had been injured or were sick.

RSPCA Week 2012

RSPCA week is being held from 30 April to 6 May this year when we will be collecting money and donations of pet food at Tesco in Hook. Also, for the first time, at Tesco, The Meadows store in Sandhurst. Donations will be used to help our rehoming work and also towards veterinary bills for pet owners on low incomes.

If you are able to spare 1-2 hours to help as a collector we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Please contact Joy on 07579 001459
or email admin@rspcahantsandsurreyborder.org.uk**

“Help a Donkey Day”

Supporting the RSPCA
Lockwood Centre



This branch has committed to help the national society's specialist equine centre based in Wormley, near Godalming. The RSPCA Lockwood Centre, located on a peaceful 35 acre site in the Surrey hills, cares for rescued donkeys, horses and ponies that have been abandoned or abused. The Centre provides a forever home for all the donkeys, and the horses and ponies are available for rehoming, once they have been rehabilitated.

It costs around £800 a day to run the Centre and in order to help Lockwood in their fundraising, this branch has offered to donate one day's proceeds from our three charity shops once every quarter and is promoting each event as our “Help a Donkey Day”.



Our first “Help a Donkey Day” on 17 December last year raised £956 from sales across our three charity shops. The money raised has been used to pay for a harness and cart for the donkeys and ponies at the Centre, the balance going towards their running costs.

Our next “Help a Donkey Day” on Saturday 17 March has been specially chosen to coincide with Mother's Day (Sunday 18th) when shoppers will get the opportunity to win a Mother's Day hamper. By spending £5 or more in our shops during the week of 12 March shoppers will be entered into a free prize draw to win a hamper containing some lovely gifts and the star prize of a Lockwood donkey adoption.

Lockwood Centre is open to the public every Wednesday from 11.30am-4pm and you can visit for free to see the donkeys, horses and ponies.

For more information on the Lockwood Centre please visit www.rspca.org.uk/Lockwood

Fun Dog Show at Hartley Wintney Festival



Come and join us at the Hartley Wintney Festival on Saturday 9 June and enter your dog in one or more of six classes in our Fun Dog Show starting at 2pm. Classes include Handsomest Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Best Junior Handler and Dog in Best Condition. Further details are available from our website.

At our last dog show at the 2010 Festival we raised several hundred pounds for local animals and we hope to do the same again this year.

**Helping us
to do more....**

giftaid it

**now at our
Farnham shop**

This means we can claim back from HMRC an extra 25p for every £1 we sell of your donated items. During the course of a year this additional income will amount to £3,000 - £4,000.