

Animal Matters



September 2009

Hants & Surrey Border Branch

Registered charity no. 201291

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

Gala Day & Dog Show Review - June 2009

Our Gala Day and Dog Show this year was another successful event raising several thousand pounds in support of local animal welfare.

The packed programme included two excellent displays – one from Richard Curtis of K9 Freestyle who, with several of his dogs give various heelwork to music routines, and later in the day Paws for Thought, a dog display team from Hereford gave an entertaining line up of various displays with their dogs.

176 dogs entered our novelty dog show classes with a total of 320 entrants across the seven classes including RSPCA Best Rescue Dog. Thanks go to our three judges on the day, Tracey Manning MRCVS from Hook Veterinary Centre, Susan Foch-Gatrell MRCVS from St Kitts Veterinary Centre and Emma Vigor from Theravets.

Hartley Hounds a local dog agility training club organized and ran a separate "Have a Go" mini agility ring for dog owners and their dogs to have a go at, which proved very popular.

The Show incorporated many trade, craft and charity stalls to interest and amuse visitors – something for everyone including a double decker bus kitted for kid's entertainment, as well as bouncy castles and sumo wrestling suits.

Thanks go to the many volunteers and our shops staff who helped on the day and also to those organisations and individuals who supported the event, either by attending, through sponsorship or monetary donations; by donating goods or services or who made monetary contributions from their day's attendance.

Here is a selection of photos from the day – more are viewable on our website www.rspca-hantsandsurrey.org.uk



Tails to Tell



Tinker Tom on the day he was discovered.

Tinker Tom, believed to be a Norfolk terrier cross came into this branch's care, a frightened, injured little dog that had been tied to a post and abandoned some time during the morning of Saturday 25 July at Bramshill Quarry near Eversley on the A327 Reading Road.

A motorcyclist driving past noticed the little dog all alone and stopped to see if he was all right. Horrified to see Tinker Tom's facial injuries, he flagged down a passing car and enlisted the drivers help to take him straight to the nearest vets which was St Kitts Veterinary Centre in Hartley Wintney.

The veterinary surgeon, Justyn Loveridge, who treated Tinker Tom as soon as he arrived, said his injuries appeared to be the result of bite wounds that were at least 3-4 days old, meaning he had been left untreated and in pain for that length of time. This branch believes he may well have been used as bait in an organised dog fight or even illegal animal blood sports.

The extent of his facial wounds meant he needed an immediate emergency operation and there was some doubt at that stage whether or not his eye could be saved. Thankfully, with a further op and reconstructive surgery, his eye has been saved, although we don't know how much he can actually see with it. All of Tinker Tom's veterinary care, which amounts to several hundred pounds, is being paid for by this branch.

Tinker Tom has been in foster care in Yateley with Bob and Karen for the past few weeks and they report, "He is an affectionate, friendly and amenable little dog, who despite a horrible ordeal, has bounced back very quickly.

He likes people and most other dogs but hates cats! He will need some training. He will make the right owner a super pet and he deserves a good home".

This little dog has been the victim of a cruel and heartless owner who cared nothing for the suffering of an animal and subsequently abandoned him in an utterly irresponsible way. Whoever did this could be prosecuted and anyone who may have some information about Tinker Tom's past or what happened to him should contact our National Helpline in confidence on 0300 1234 999 quoting log number 888/25/7/9 or ring this local branch on 07880 547 502.

We are pleased to report that Tinker Tom is now ready to be re-homed so if you think you may be interested in giving him a loving, new home, please contact Geraldine on 07880 547502 or email geraldine@rspcahantsandsurreyborder.org.uk



Tinker Tom four weeks later.

Strutt Your Mutt for the RSPCA



Help to raise funds for this branch by joining us for a sponsored dog walk on Sunday 27 September at Frimley Lodge Park any time between 11am and 3pm. All the money raised will go directly towards local animal welfare.

Supporting us on the day will be various local pet related businesses. Refreshments will be available in the park.

A sponsorship form is enclosed and further copies are available from our website.

'Victims, not Villains' ...

Staffies – The most misjudged dog in Britain



The Staffordshire bull terrier has a long and noble history as a devoted, loyal and loving family pet. It has been specified in its breed standard as "good with children, affectionate, highly intelligent and totally reliable". Why is it then, that this ideal family pet has become so misjudged that it is now the most unwanted dog in England and Wales according to a recent RSPCA survey?

The staffie now has a reputation as a "job dog" and fierce fighting machine, often brandished at the end of a chain in the hands of irresponsible owners.

The reason is two-fold and largely a case of mistaken identity. Staffies superficially resemble pit bull terriers which were banned in 1991 under the Dangerous Dogs Act but there has been a craze among mainly urban youths for using staffies and staffie-crosses as macho status symbols. Secondly, irresponsible owners are crossing staffies with pit bull types but calling them staffies to get around the Dangerous Dogs Act. Invariably it is these pit bull types that are responsible for fighting and the attacks but because the media tends to call them 'staffies' it has damaged the true staffie reputation.

Rescue centres across the country are inundated with these abandoned dogs in record numbers, and because of their now tarnished public image, no one wants to adopt them.

If you are thinking of adopting a dog, please consider giving one of these much misjudged dogs a deserving second chance. Reputable animal centres will know which dogs will make good pets and will match the right dog to the right owners.