

RSPCA SUFFOLK EAST & IPSWICH BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

Reg charity no 206269

www.ipswich-rspca.org.uk



THIS STYLISH YOUNG FELINE IS JESSIE.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HER INSIDE

RSPCA SUFFOLK EAST & IPSWICH BRANCH CONTACTS

Hon Branch Chairman	Mrs Jean Short	✉ jeanshort@suffolkonline.net
Hon Branch President	Mrs Sue Southgate	✉ scsouthgate@outlook.com
Hon Branch Treasurer	Mrs Mary Taylor	mary@hedgehogco.demon.co.uk
Hon Branch Secretary	Mrs Lesley Newton	✉ lesley1204@gmail.com
Branch Administrator	Mrs Kate Grimwood	☎ 01449 614057 (Office hours) ✉ kategrimwood.rspca@btinternet.com

Animal Centre, 2 Mill Lane, Martlesham IP12 4PD ☎ 0300 9997321

Animal Centre Managers: Becky Fox
Zoe Barrett ✉ martlesham.rspca@btconnect.com

Phone lines open: 9am – 4.30pm

Centre open: Sun 1.30 – 3.30 Appointment only

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 11.30am – 3.30pm Closed all day Wednesday

Felixstowe Charity Shop ☎ 01394 275350

Manager Cathie Livesey
Deputy Manager Joanne Emmerson
144a Hamilton Road
Open Mon – Sat 9am – 5pm

Ipswich Charity Shop
Manager Sue Smith ☎ 01473 253420
Deputy Manager (Hon) Alison Brookes
1–3 Tacket St
Open Mon – Sat 9am–5pm

Reynolds Rd Ipswich charity shop
Manager Debbie Wright ☎ 01473 714482
Deputy Manager (Hon)
15 Reynolds Rd
IP3 0JL
Open Mon–Sat 9am–5pm

RSPCA Clinic (open to people receiving benefits)
35a St George's Street Ipswich Open: Tuesday 12 – 1pm Friday 12 – 1pm
Manager: Position vacant

Newsletter Editor Mo Reid ☎ 01394 276678
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If you wish to cancel the newsletter you can contact me on the above number. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please send me your name and address with 'subject' RSPCA Newsletter and if you're a Member please add this after your name. Editor.

Well the summer is over and I hope you all enjoyed the lovely weather when it finally got here. Autumn has been good so far and the colours of the trees are a joy to behold.

As usual it has been a busy summer for the branch with lots of animals needing to come into care and of course all the kittens are so delightful and thankfully find new homes very easily. Please don't forget the older animals that still need to be given a second chance.

Our rebuilding plans are moving slowly forward and all the paperwork as I write is at RSPCA HQ waiting for the go-ahead from a meeting that will be held on the 22nd November. The total cost of our plans is £404,980, which includes new drainage (we are not on main drainage), 6 replacement kennels, staff room complex and extending/resurfacing our car park.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we had already earmarked £192,000 towards this project and following a recent amazing donation from the Millar Danks Charitable Trust this figure has now risen to £266K. This sum is sufficient for us to complete the first stage of our plans, the essential drainage works and the 6 kennels.

Fund raising will start in earnest early in the New Year and we will also apply to HQ for a grant towards the kennel re-build. Any donations specifically for this project will be very gratefully received at our Martlesham Animal Centre and ear-marked accordingly.

Our 3 charity shops are all doing their best to raise funds for the branch and we are currently exploring the opening of a fourth shop in Stowmarket. We are awaiting a decision from the Landlord. Please do support our shops in whatever way you can, either by donating those unwanted items, purchasing goods from our shops or even offering to be a volunteer. You will be made most welcome. All contact details are in this newsletter.

Our clinic has continued to see an increase in people needing our assistance and I have been holding the fort there since the end of March. It is such an important part of our welfare work and all clients appreciate what we are doing for them. We continue to run dog and cat neutering programmes which are heavily subsidised by the branch. I would like to say a big thank you to Robert and Lorna Hill of The Barn Veterinary practice who have supported our work at the clinic for the last 30 years.

On behalf of the branch and all the animals that pass through our doors, I would like to say a huge thank you to our staff, volunteers and supporters for their continued support and enthusiasm for this branch. May I also at this time of year send you Seasons Greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

Jean Short - Honorary Chairman



COULD YOU HELP FUNDRAISE FOR THE BRANCH?

Our fundraisers play a vital role in keeping the work of the Branch going. As a self-funding branch we have to do our own fundraising to continue the vital work of helping animals in need; animals such as those rescued from abandonment, abuse and neglect. There are lots of ways you could get involved – from helping out at an event or open day to designing or distributing posters or even contributing your own ideas as a member of the fundraising committee. However much time you have and however you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. As a fundraising volunteer you could develop new and existing skills, meet like-minded people committed to animal welfare and have fun. To find out more and to arrange a visit to the animal centre where you can meet the team, contact Kate on 01449 614057 or kategrimwood.rspca@btinternet.com or the Animal Centre on 0300 999 7321 / martlesham.rspca@btconnect.com.

JESSIE'S NEW HOME



Jessie is the third cat we have adopted from the RSPCA, though she is the first to have actually been born there and she is an absolute joy to share our home with. So far she is living life as a house cat, she will occasionally pop out the cat flap, but only usually for ten minutes (if that). She is much happier following us around the house and stealing plastic bottle tops from the recycling. Jessie has brought so much fun not only to our lives, but our other cat, Inkie's too. Inkie is also an RSPCA cat and after the sudden loss of her adopted brother, Cubbie, she was very down. Jessie is such a sweet little girl, Inkie couldn't help but be won over by her and the two are now great friends. Jessie has got Inkie playing with toys and chasing again. The photo is of Jessie in her lovely red post-surgery 'cat suit', looking very pleased with herself for pinching my chair.

We honestly cannot imagine life without our sweet little Jessie, when we adopted her we were told what a loving little cat she is and they were right.

Lindsay Pollard



HIBERNATION



Hibernation is a response to a shortage of food in winter. Hedgehogs usually hibernate between November and mid to late March. But if the weather is mild and food available then hedgehogs may remain active into November or December.

Try to set aside a hedgehog-friendly area of garden where you can leave welcome heaps of leaves and brushwood. If you have to light a bonfire using one of these heaps, always check to make sure there are no animals sheltering in the middle of it. Food and fresh water (not milk as it can cause severe diarrhoea when drunk by young hedgehogs) at any time of the year will encourage visiting hedgehogs to return regularly.

You could try leaving out food such as minced meat, fresh liver, tinned dog food (not fish-based), or even chopped boiled eggs. Small quantities of bran or crushed dog biscuits can also be used to provide bulk.

Animals must have enough fat reserves to survive hibernation. Young hedgehogs born late in the season will have insufficient fat reserves to survive hibernation. So any orphans found weighing less than 500g at the end of the autumn will need help in putting on weight to get them through the winter. If you think this might be the case with the 'hog in your garden, contact us and we'll advise you what to do.

If the hedgehog is sick or injured then contact the RSPCA 24-hour cruelty and advice line 0300 1234 999.



FETTUCCINI & TORTELLINI
FEMALE FERRETS



DAISY 14YR OLD FEMALE



SASHA FEMALE 1 YR
OLD AMERICAN AKITA

BALLOON & SKY LANTERN RELEASES THREATEN WILDLIFE

Thousands of balloons & sky lanterns released into the sky can make an impressive sight but what goes up must come down. The impact of balloons and sky lanterns on animals and the environment can be grave – often even fatal.



THE THREAT TO WILDLIFE AND OTHER ANIMALS

Deflated balloons or balloon fragments can look very attractive as food to many different animals and any fragments left on the ground or floating in water can easily be eaten. Ingesting balloons can cause death by blocking the digestive and/or respiratory tracts, and is likely to be slow. This has been witnessed and documented in marine turtles, dolphins, whales and farm animals.

The RSPCA urges people planning balloon releases to reconsider the following points.

- ☒ What goes up must come down – all balloons released will fall back to earth either semi-deflated or in dozens of potentially tiny and hard to retrieve fragments, constituting a real hazard to both animals and their environment, both marine and terrestrial.
- ☒ It is estimated that only five per cent of all balloons released will return intact.
- ☒ While the known instances of ingestion are relatively few, compared to other known causes of animal mortality, it is likely that these are representative of a greater problem.
- ☒ Because we don't know the true extent of the threat posed by such activities a precautionary approach should be adopted i.e. don't do it.

HOW DO LANTERNS HARM ANIMALS?

- ☒ **Ingestion:** Animals can eat lantern parts through curiosity or because lantern litter is hidden in the vegetation they are grazing on. When lanterns fall into fields the frames can become chopped into silage and hay during harvest causing needle like splinters to enter animal feed. Ingestion can tear and puncture the animal's throat, stomach and internal organs leading to internal bleeding and a slow and painful death.
- ☒ **Entanglement & entrapment:** Animals are at risk of becoming trapped and/or entangled in lantern frames and parts that have fallen into their habitat. Once trapped animals become panicked and sustain injuries trying to free themselves. Entanglement and entrapment can lead to stress, injury and death.
- ☒ **Splinters & embedment:** Lantern debris and splinters can become embedded into an animal's skin and cause wounds that may become infected leading to illness and fatality.
- ☒ **Fire:** Lanterns can cause fires to farm buildings that house animals and destroy habitats that are vital to wildlife. This can lead to displacement, injury and death of the animals there.

To find out more about this threat go to <http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter> or <http://www.mcsuk.org/campaigns/dont-let-go>



PIPPA & MOLLY 10YR & 13YR OLD
FEMALE CROSSBREED



GEORGE & WORZEL
MALE GUINEA PIGS



GARFIELD
7YR OLD GINGER MALE

SEASONAL ADVICE FOR WINTER

A British winter can be tough on animals, but there are plenty of things you can do to help. Sometimes it's the smallest things that can make a big difference.

Ways to help wildlife this winter

We can all struggle when the weather takes a turn for the worse, and our wildlife friends are often the most vulnerable to the extremes the elements take. They just need a bit of a helping hand sometimes.

FROZEN PONDS

If you have a pond, check it every day for ice as toxic gases can build up in a frozen pond and may kill fish or frogs hibernating at the bottom. If a pond freezes over, carefully place a saucepan of hot water on the surface to melt a hole. Never tip boiling water onto or break ice with force, as this can harm fish.

FEEDING BIRDS

Birds may have difficulty finding normal food in winter. Feed the birds a range of seeds, unsalted peanuts, and table scraps such as cooked pasta or rice, boiled potatoes, cheese, uncooked and unsalted bacon rind, raisins and sultanas. Net-free fat or suet balls attract a wider range of bird species and provide a great boost of calories.

BADGERS

Badgers don't hibernate, but they do sleep through most of the severe weather, and have a tough time finding their favourite food of earthworms when the ground is frozen. Nibbles such as lightly cooked meats, cheese, peanuts and fruit would be welcomed.

SQUIRRELS

Squirrels 'cache' (store) food when it's in good supply to eat when food is scarce. To help squirrels survive the coldest times of year offer nuts such as hazelnuts, walnuts and almonds, plus some chopped apple, beans, carrots or spinach.

KEEPING PETS SAFE IN COLD WEATHER

DOGS



You may not feel like going for a walk in winter, but the exercise will keep your pet happy and healthy. You and your dog should wear reflective clothing to ensure your both visible.

Keep your dogs away from ponds and lakes that are iced over. Thin ice may break under a dog's weight. Also watch out for dogs' paws becoming impacted with snow, which can cause discomfort.

HORSES AND PONIES

If kept outside they'll need to have access to shelter, constant fresh water and some may need a rug. Small outdoor pets

Keep an eye on outdoor pets. Provide extra bedding and be prepared to move them into a shed or unused garage for shelter.

Don't house animals, including birds, in greenhouses due to the temperature changes. Caution must be taken if they are housed in conservatories - it must be a suitable temperature.



OTIS 3 MTH OLD MALE
STAFFIE



MILLY ADULT FEMALE



ROSIE FEMALE BUNNY

FELIXSTOWE SHOP NEWS

A massive thank you to all our loyal donors who have responded to our pleas for more paperbacks, jigsaws, kids games etc. We were able to sell lots of toys and games during half-term week so do need more for the Christmas holidays please. Our "Smartie Challenge" meant we gave out tubes of smarties and asked the children to fill them up with 20p pieces, our local Crafty Coffee shop joined in too, if they all get filled and returned it will make an extra £400 for the branch. If anyone out there would like to help fundraise for us, by holding a coffee morning, making greeting cards for us to sell, knitting dog blankets, toys etc. we would be very grateful. Don't forget we will welcome all your unwanted Christmas presents with open arms come January.

We have lots of Christmas jumpers in stock and lots of "stocking fillers" all starting at 30p so do come and visit us, there's a rumour Joanne maybe supplying us with her famous iced ginger cake over the Christmas period too! So Happy Christmas to everyone out there and do remember, our rescued animals all need your help. We couldn't continue without your fantastic support.

Cathie and Joanne



SAFE HAVEN

Launched at our Open Day in 2005, our Safe Haven scheme is an important part of our income. In 2016 our wonderful Safe Haven sponsors provided just over £15,044 of the £494,000 plus that it costs to run our Animal Centre and Clinic. The scheme offers our supporters the opportunity to give a regular amount of their choice to sponsor a dog kennel, cat pen, rabbit run or Critters' Corner. Our Safe Haven leaflet, can be obtained from our Safe Haven Co-ordinator, Kate Grimwood on 01449 614057 or kategrimwood.rspca@btinternet.com and from our Animal Centre on 03009997321 or martlesham.rspca@btconnect.com. The leaflet can also be downloaded from the Safe Haven page of our website at www.ipswich-rspca.org.uk. Our heartfelt thanks go to our Safe Haven sponsors who help us continue our vital animal welfare work.



THANK YOU HOLBROOK ACADEMY



Zoe Barrett deputy manager (centre) with students Kia Smith, Lily Hary, Freya Howlett, Dylan Palmer, Owen Fletton and Donny Lee with the donated uniforms

When Holbrook Academy decided to upgrade their uniform for next year the pupils didn't want the redundant uniforms to go to landfill. Sarah Cook, Assistant Head of pastoral is a biologist and so animal charities are close to her heart so it was agreed that redundant uniforms should go to the local RSPCA. A call went out for unwanted uniforms and they were swamped! The uniforms were taken to Martlesham Animal Centre where they were passed on to the Ipswich charity shop to be recycled.

At the end of term the school also donated their lost property to the shop along with items donated by students and their parents. It's estimated that around £500 has been raised. The school is now collecting old towels for use at the Animal Centre and RSPCA East Winch Animal Centre in Norfolk. Many thanks to everyone involved.



THE GENERAL



CHARLIE MALE BUDGIE



SUGAR AND SPICE
FEMALE GERBILS

GET YOUR WINTER WARMERS AT REYNOLDS ROAD

With the dark nights and colder weather, give yourself a treat with something new at Reynolds Road shop; we've winter coats and scarves, woolly jumpers and that bit of sparkle to lighten those winter blues.

There are road works at the junction of Clapgate Lane that look like they're going to be with us until Christmas. They're causing some traffic hold ups, but please don't be put off coming to see us. And if you're having that pre-Christmas sort out, we'd love to have your donations, especially children's clothes and toys, and small electrical items. We start our Christmas raffle on Friday 24th November, so don't forget to buy a ticket for a chance to win a magnificent hamper, as well as other lovely prizes.

We're still in need of new volunteers to help out, so if you can spare some time, please drop in and have a chat with Debbie. As always, a huge thank you to all our volunteers, customers and donors, and here's wishing you a joyous Christmas and an uplifting New Year. *Mary Taylor Branch Treasurer*



QUIZZING TONIGHT

Despite illness depleting our volunteer helpers, the November Quiz Night (18 Nov) was a grand success, taking almost £1,000. Providing a stimulating quiz for twenty teams and hot jacket potatoes for over 100 people, the night was a busy one. Many thanks to Stephen for writing and hosting the quiz, Dawn for the raffle and Ray for rubbish collection and checking Stephen's adding up, and especially to Laura, our newest volunteer, for her energetic and cheerful help from set-up to packing away. Despite the success of the event, it did highlight how thinly our fundraising volunteers are spread and how vulnerable we are to cancelling events or missing out on opportunities because we don't have enough people to help. The money we raise through organising our own events, taking the RSPCA stall to outside events and doing collections goes to supporting the animals in our care – paying their vet bills, heating their pens and providing food, treats and toys, plus much, much, more. So if you are thinking of volunteering for us in the New Year, please consider becoming a fundraiser. Contact Kate on 01449 614057 or email kategrimwood.rspca@btinternet.com



PET BEREAVEMENT

Our pets are often seen as part of the family. So, when it comes to saying goodbye it can be an extremely tough and emotional time. Rest assured there is pet bereavement support out there.

Here are some of the organisations you can contact for advice and help.

RSPCA: www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/bereavement

Blue Cross Bereavement service: www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-bereavement-support or call in confidence 0800 096 6606

Cat's Protection, "Paws to Listen": www.cats.org.uk/grief or call their free and confidential phone line Mon-Fri, 9-5, 0800 024 94 94

British Horse Society "Friends at the End": www.bhs.org.uk/welfareandcare

Some people may not understand the intense feelings of sadness you may feel after losing a pet, but please remember there are people out there who do.

REMEMBERING MURPHY



In August our much loved cat Murphy died at the grand age of 21. The vet discovered a growth in Murphy's bladder. He deteriorated very quickly leaving us with the heart breaking decision to end his suffering. It was a dreadful day. The days following were filled with constant reminders of his life with us and sometimes I would wake in the night thinking I'd heard him meowing. There were lots of tears.

Now, as time moves on we remember him as the lovable character who made us laugh and who wrapped us round his little paw. We remember when he would somehow get onto our conservatory roof and then we had to get out the ladder because he couldn't get down. Remember how as soon as you sat down he would jump up on your lap but within minutes he'd be squeezing behind you to get you out of your chair. Remember finding him curled up inside a suitcase we were packing to go on holiday.

There are still occasional tears and probably will be for some time because he was a huge part of our lives and how dull it would have been without him. *Mo Reid Newsletter Editor*