WINTER IS COMING

TIME TO SNUGGLE UP WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

SHOW SOME KINDNESS TO ANIMALS THIS CHRISTMAS
Firstly, I would like to apologise as this will be our only newsletter this year. Due to a change in the General Data Protection Regulations in May 2018, we had to ensure that all people who receive this newsletter were still happy to do so.

As is the norm in this first newsletter of the year, I will summarise our activities for 2017.

In round terms the branch spent £612K which equates to over £11.5K per week, an increase on 2016 by £1K pw. Through our many activities we managed to raise £871K, leaving us with a £259K surplus. However, our income figure includes £408K of legacies which we of course do not get every year and never have any idea of when we may receive these. We would have ended the year with a deficit of £149K if you exclude these legacies from our actual income figure. As you can see without these wonderful legacies we could not achieve as much work as we do, nor have the necessary funds to improve our boarding facilities at the Martlesham Animal Centre.

A special mention about our wonderful Safe Haven supporters who between them donated the magnificent sum of £14,573 (including gift aid) during 2017. The regular monthly support of these contributors is very much appreciated. If anybody else feels they can support us in this way please have a look at our website for further details or contact our Branch Administrator Kate Grimwood on 01449 614057 or kate.grimwood@rspca-ipswich.org.uk

The intake of animals was 497, up on 2016. Dogs homed at 113, very similar to 2016 and cats were 245 which was a massive increase of 26% on 2016. Well done to all the staff at the animal home and also the volunteer home visitors for all their hard work in achieving these rehoming figures.

Our three charity shops contributed the amount of £32,020 a slight decrease from 2016. It is getting harder out there and prices have had to be reduced. A huge thank you to our shop Managers, deputies and volunteers for this result. The shops play such an important role in raising funds for our work. Please do continue donating your unwanted goods to any of our three shops or leave at the animal centre.

Our clinic was as busy as ever with 1556 animals seen in the year, and we continue to offer our heavily subsidised cat neutering programme, which is run in conjunction with The Barn vet practice and every animal neutered is also microchipped free of charge. We also offer to fund neutering for dogs, up to 50% of the cost. We continued to offer vaccinations to animals up to 14 months of age, and medications plus flea and worming preparations at cost to the clients. The clinic is run by our clinic administrator who was ably assisted by volunteers. Thank you again to you all.

In April of this year we welcomed Kim Puttock as our Branch Manager. The branch has grown considerably over the past 5-10 years and it was felt we needed someone to manage all our outlets to ensure we run as efficiently as possible. Kim had previously been an animal centre manager in Cornwall and York so is well versed in the ways of the RSPCA.

Well 2018 finally saw the start in May of Project Winston, which is the replacement of 6 kennels plus a new support block which includes toilets, meeting room, sluice room, staff room and more and we have plans to improve our car parking facilities for visitors. The initial cost was projected at £420K but due to some punitive regulations from the Environment Agency the cost will now exceed £600K.

In September we finally completed negotiations to take on a fourth shop which is situated in the ASDA precinct in Stowmarket. We are currently in the throes of fitting it out and hope, fingers crossed, to be able to be open by the beginning of December. We welcome Julie Sommerville who is the shop manager and already involved in the refurbishment. Again, we would welcome volunteers who are happy to give a few hours to this new project.

I would like to say a belated thank you to Mr and Mrs Paul Skeels who for some eight years collected on our behalf at the Martlesham Park and Ride. During this time, they raised the magnificent sum of £6,254 plus 14,056 items of food, biscuits, chews etc. Wow, what an amazing contribution. Thank you from us all, humans and animals.

On behalf of the branch and all the animals that pass through our doors, I would like to say a huge thank you again to our staff, volunteers and supporters, for your continued support and enthusiasm to this branch which enables us to achieve all we do for animal welfare in this part of Suffolk. May I also take this opportunity to send you all the Season’s greetings, a bit early I know! Jean Short Honorary Chairman
HELPING PAWS

Buy one of our lovely paw plaques and help us complete Project Winston, the replacement of six of the Animal Centre’s oldest dog kennels with up-to-date facilities.

We have three types of Paws plaques available:
4” solid brass paw – minimum donation £250
4” blue acrylic paw – £50 minimum donation
2” blue acrylic paw plaque - £25 minimum donation

In celebration or in loving memory, each plaque can be engraved with a short message of your choice.
The plaques will be put on permanent display in a public area at our Animal Centre in Martlesham.

For details of how to purchase your Paw please go to our website www.ipswich-rspca.org.uk

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.

Co-op Store collections for 2019

We wish to thank East of England Co-op at Wherstead and the Managers of the above stores for allowing us to collect at their stores again next year. We are always looking for people to help us with collections. If you can help with any of these please call 0300 999 7321. Option 4. Ian Hendry Organiser
In May this year at Mendlesham Primary School, Suffolk County Councillor Andrew Stringer presented a projector to Gill Hendry, the Branch’s Education Officer. Thanking Councillor Stringer, Gill said the equipment will help her greatly with her work promoting the welfare of animals to organisations in the community who do not have access to a projector.

Ian Hendry, one of the Branch trustees, also thanked Councillor Stringer for supporting the Charity by obtaining the funding of £400 from his locality budget.

If there is any organisation in the local RSPCA area who feel they would benefit from a talk about animal welfare they can contact Gill by email education@rsPCA-Ipswich.org.uk or 01473 623280

CAN WE BUILD IT – FOR WINSTON?

Help us complete Project Winston, a building project at the RSPCA Animal Centre at Martlesham, which will replace six of our old dog kennels with new, up-to-date blocks, as well as improving staff, volunteer and visitor facilities.

Half of the new kennels will be bigger than normal to provide better accommodation for bigger dogs, like Winston. Winston was a sweet Newfoundland dog who came into the Centre as a cruelty case but he finally found his forever home with a family that loved him dearly.

Work began in May 2018, and the new isolation block is now complete and the support block is almost finished. The new four kennels are underway and the walls are beginning to rise. Unfortunately, due to new Environment Agency rules, our old cesspit and soakaways need to be replaced by a new sewage treatment plant this has pushed the total cost to just over £650,000. On a brighter note, the Branch already has £466,586 in grants, donations and legacies, including a magnificently generous £258,380 from the Dr Millar Danks Charitable Trust and £100,000 from RSPCA HQ. The Trustees have been very pro-active in seeking funding and we would very much welcome any donation as we still have some way to go. Fundraising activities include collections, events, and asking our supporters to organise fundraising events on our behalf. For more information on how to make a donation and some fundraising ideas, please go to the Branch website: https://ipswich-rspca.org.uk/

This project is for Winston and all the animals that are still looking for the thing they want most – a loving forever home. Mary Taylor Hon Branch Treasurer

REYNOLDS ROAD SHOP

Reynolds Road has had a very busy year so far with lots of donations and good sales too. We are however, very short of volunteers. Various time slots are available and there is a volunteer discount on purchases. We’re a small, friendly out of town centre shop that would love to see some new faces so if you can spare a few hours you’d be very welcome. You can contact Debbie on 01473 714482

Debbie Wright Manager

SAFE HAVEN

Launched at our Open Day in 2005, our Safe Haven scheme is an important part of our income. In 2017 our wonderful Safe Haven sponsors provided just over £14,573 towards the costs of running 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 kate.grimwood@rsPCA-Ipswich.org.uk and from our Animal Centre on 0300 999 7321 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.
THE THREE STAFFIES

Scooby, Lana, and Ginge came in to our care after being removed from their owner due to the cruelty inflicted upon them in the home. All three dogs were removed by our local Inspector Natalie Bartle on the grounds of starvation. Our kennel supervisor Natalie Wood and I accepted the dogs into our care and from the moment we saw them we were horrified by their condition. Scooby especially was one of the skinniest dogs I have ever seen. We knew we had our work cut out to get them back to full health and we started straight away to help them overcome their past. It didn’t take long to see what beautiful dogs they were and it always amazes me when dogs that have been through so much trust in humans again.

Lana is the oldest of the three Staffordshire bull terriers, and we believe her to be 10+. On the day the police arrived at the property to assist the RSPCA in this case, Lana was reportedly thrown against a wall in anger by her owner.Already suffering from unstable back legs due to her age, and with a huge growth under the stomach Lana’s health was always a concern of ours at the beginning. Lana was also bred at an old age which can have ill effects on dogs. Despite the odds and after undergoing surgery Lana is as healthy as she can be for an older girl and we have no ongoing concerns about her health. With a chilled out, laid back personality Lana would make the perfect addition to someone wanting a companion dog, who only really wants to walk out to go to the toilet and then quickly scurries back in to sleep in a cosy bed. The staff have absolutely fallen for Lana; she has the face on an angel and the personality to match.

Ginge is Lana’s son, and we believe he is around two years old. Ginge was very underweight when he arrived. It was very clear how hungry he and the other two dogs were when they had their first feed and the bowls were empty in less than 3 seconds. Ginge was also suffering from a skin complaint which seemed to irritate him. He is having regular medication and tests to help treat the condition and keep it at bay. Despite his past, he loves human company, lots of cuddles and lots of tummy rubs! He is such a clever boy and is brilliant at learning new skills. One of our volunteers has even taught him to walk backwards!

Understandably Ginge can be a little nervous in new situations but we know once he has a stable home and loving owner he is only going to grow in confidence. Another amazing dog who made his way out of the darkness and into the light surrounded by people who will always look after him – and he always repays us with lots of kisses.

Last, but certainly not least, Scooby, who is Ginge’s dad. Scooby is a 4 year old Staffordshire Bull Terrier, who has grown into the biggest of all three dogs despite being the skinniest by far. Scooby’s starvation was painful to see, and to stroke him was not only uncomfortable for him, but for us too due to the sheer amount of bones on show. Due to his poor treatment and lack of food in his early days, Scooby tends to be very food-orientated and can become fixated on food very quickly – wouldn’t you be too if you’d been so starved you were almost at the point of no return? Scooby learned to trust us very quickly and knew we were there to help. He has repaid us by being such a lovely, playful dog that brightens up our day. 9 months in a kennel is a very long time, and despite daily training sessions Scooby has struggled to control his frustration from being in this environment and therefore would need a new owner who has some experience with bull breeds. Scooby is a very clever boy who learns really quickly and is very proud to know ‘sit’ which he even does without being asked now! I can’t wait for his adoption day to come along, because I can already see what an amazing dog he will be for one very lucky owner.

Cont……...
All three of these dogs came in to our care on 14th January 2018 – almost 10 months ago. As the dogs were removed from their owner and not willingly signed over, our Inspector Natalie Bartle had to endure numerous court cases for each dog to provide evidence of their suffering in order to have them signed over into our care. A very long process.

This was a very tense time as we waited for the verdict, and contemplated the possibility of these dogs having to be returned to their owner who so wrongly neglected them. Luckily in this case the courts agreed that the owner had caused unnecessary suffering and we were finally given the go ahead to find them new forever homes.

And The Three Staffies now…………….

Three dogs, three harrowing stories, now we are longing for three very happy endings

Zoe Barratt Animal Centre Manager

CHRISTMAS AT THE FELIXSTOWE SHOP

Hello from Cathie, Joanne and all our lovely volunteers at your Felixstowe charity shop. We wanted to say a huge thank you to all our donors out there who support us throughout the year and always respond to our pleas for more stock. This year has been a bumper year and we have bucked the trend of the high street by increasing our sales by an average of 5%. Unfortunately, the holiday makers who buy a lot of our stock don’t replace anything so once again we are asking for your help. We desperately need ladies clothes, handbags, books and bric-a-brac before Xmas! If you are in need of an idea for a present what about giving a Gift Voucher (£5 or £10). These are now on sale in the shop as are RSPCA Christmas cards.

So finally may we wish you all the very best for the Christmas season. Do call in and say hello and we will be bribing you all with Joanne’s famous mince pies!

HOLBROOK ACADEMY

In 2017 the students of Holbrook Academy donated all their old uniforms for recycling to raise much needed funds for our Branch. Their support has continued with donations of towels, lost property and recently the proceeds from the sale of uniforms. In December some of the students will visit the Animal Centre to meet the animals their generosity has helped. Big thank you to everyone involved.

One student from the Academy had a work experience placement at the Animal Centre last year and at the end of her placement decided to continue as a volunteer for a while. She has since found a permanent job working with animals. A second student is due to start work experience at the Centre in December.

Sue Southgate  Branch President
NEW DISPLAY BOARDS

On Saturday 1st September, at the Old Schoolroom, Mendlesham we were presented with display boards bought with a donation of £100 from the Mendlesham Internet Sat Caf. Before the presentation Branch Chairman Jean Short and Ian Henry one of the trustees were warmly welcomed with refreshments. We would like to thank John Player, Chairman of Mendlesham Sat Caf and his wife Brenda for their generosity.

WELL DONE IRIS

A very big thank you to Iris Bloomfield who raised an amazing £700 at her recent fundraising event on 20th October in aid of the Branch. She organised various stalls and a wonderful raffle. Iris is a lifelong animal lover and started fundraising for them when she was in her twenties. After a lot of hard work fundraising for the Blue Cross over the years she moved to our Branch in the early 2000s and started helping us. It would be wonderful if Iris could inspire you to help raise funds for the Branch!

Pictured: Iris in the middle presenting her cheque to our Animal Centre Manager, Zoe on the left and our Financial Administrator, Trudi on the right.

IT’S WINTER AT TACKET STREET SHOP

Here at Tacket Street it’s off with the bikinis, swimsuits and summer dresses and back to hats, scarves and winter woollies on the rails. We have a lovely stock of winter clothing to keep you warm on those frosty days and we have lots of boots and slippers to keep your toes snug. You may of course be organised enough to be thinking ahead to Christmas, we have a lovely range of RSPCA Christmas cards, calendars and diaries and for those special Christmas parties we have frocks, heels and accessories for all you ladies and a good range of shirts and trousers for the gents so come along and have a browse. Don’t forget you can bring all those unwanted Christmas gifts to us in the New Year!

We do a roaring trade in small electricals so please remember us when you buy replacements, we are quite happy to take your old items as long as they are in working order of course.

I would like to wish all our lovely donors, customers and of course my merry band of volunteers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year - A huge thank you to you all for your continued support throughout the year. Sue Smith Manager

HELPING GARDEN BIRDS

Helping garden birds by giving them food can be as rewarding for you as it is for them. By using bird tables and hanging feeders to provide a range of seed and other tasty morsels, you can bring wild birds right up to your windows!

Birds will benefit from being fed during some of the hardest times of the year – not just in the winter months. Feeding in spring helps provide good food for adults while they’re working hard to find insects and grubs for their growing young. During summer, when the ground begins to get hard and ground-dwelling prey often goes deeper underground, garden feeding stations can provide a welcome respite. The extra food will help the birds prepare for their autumn moult - when they renew their feathers - and the oncoming winter. The winter, of course, brings its own set of hardships from freezing conditions to floods and strong winds. So whatever the season, you can be sure that birds will be grateful for a little extra help!

Our Autumn Fair at Holbrook raised a magnificent £1,272 for the animals in our care. Thank you to our volunteers, stallholders and everyone who came along and spent their money with us.
RSPCA SUFFOLK EAST & IPSWICH BRANCH CONTACTS

Hon Branch Chairman  Jean Short  jean.short@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Hon Branch President  Sue Southgate  scsouthgate@outlook.com
Hon Branch Treasurer  Mary Taylor  mary.taylor@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Hon Branch Secretary  Lesley Newton  lesley.newton@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Branch Administrator  Kate Grimwood  01449 614057 (Office hours)  kate.grimwood@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Branch Manager  Kim Puttock  kim.puttock@rspca-ipswich.org.uk

Animal Centre, 2 Mill Lane, Martlesham IP12 4PD  0300 999 7321
Animal Centre Manager  Zoe Barrett  martlesham@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Phone lines open:  9am – 4.30pm
During the building of the new kennels the Animal Centre is working on an appointments only system.
Appointment only hours are Sundays 1.30 – 3.30
Monday to Saturday 11.30 – 3.30  CLOSED Wednesday.

Felixstowe Charity Shop  01394 275350
Manager  Cathie Livesey  felixstowe.shop@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Deputy Manager  Joanne Emmerson
144a Hamilton Road  felixstowe.shop@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Open Mon – Sat 9am – 5pm

Ipswich Charity Shop
Manager  Sue Smith  01473 253420  tacketstreetshop.ipswich@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Deputy Manager (Hon)  Alison Brookes
1-3 Tacket St  tacketstreetshop.ipswich@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Open Mon – Sat 9am-5pm

Reynolds Rd Ipswich charity shop
Manager  Debbie Wright  01473 714482  reynoldsroadshop.ipswich@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
Deputy Manager  Anna Waks Malecka
15 Reynolds Rd  reynoldsroadshop.ipswich@rspca-ipswich.org.uk
IP3 0JL
Open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Stowmarket Charity Shop (Opening December)
Meadow Centre
Wilkes Way
Manager  Julie Sommerville  stowmarket.shop@rspca-ipswich.org.uk

RSPCA Clinic (open to people receiving benefits)
35a St George’s Street Ipswich  Open: Tuesday 12 – 1pm  Friday 12 – 1pm
Clinic Administrator:  Rebecca Moll  clinic@rspca-ipswich.org.uk

Newsletter Editor  Mo Reid  01394 276678  mo.reid@btopenworld.com

Why not recycle this newsletter by forwarding it to a friend. If you wish to cancel the newsletter you can contact me on the above phone number or email. 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.

24HR EMERGENCY, CRUELTY AND ADVICE LINE 0300 1234 999