

ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE

Newsletter Summer 2010



WORKING HARD FOR ANIMALS

www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk

...looking after animals in Rochdale and District

Results of RSPCA Week

Thanks to all who helped with this year's event - to the stores who allowed us to collect and to the staff and volunteers who worked so hard and also ran the Spring Fair at the start of the week. A total of £3,700 was raised.

A heart-felt thank you

20th May saw the Animal Centre hosting a very special Awards Evening. The Awards recognize the outstanding work, regularly undertaken, by staff and volunteers, who make our branch so very effective. Guest speaker RSPCA Chief

Inspector Cathy Hyde gave a video presentation and talk about the work of the RSPCA inspectors and certificates and prizes were presented for outstanding merit. Over seventy people attended the event.

Another popular AGM meeting

The Branch AGM was held on 29 April and, as on previous occasions, was extremely well attended. Rochdale has one of the best equipped and best managed animal centres in the North of England and the event of the AGM is always eagerly anticipated. RSPCA Regional officials gave short talks about activities in the area and local vet Wendy Lane

commended the Centre staff for their professional approach when dealing with animal emergencies. Centre manager Jean Spencer complimented the staff for their dedication and urged everyone to remember the hard work done by the volunteers and those who work in our shops. The evening ended with a tour of the Animal Centre.

Meet the Rochdale team...

Shirley Shops Manager



With over 100 animals in at any one time the Rochdale Animal Centre has to work like a well oiled machine 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our 7 shops are vital to supply funds to keep the Centre open and Shirley has the task of managing this complex operation.

Shirley is responsible for making sure they are fully staffed everyday and have enough stock! She also supervises deliveries and collections and works with the Probation Service for leaflet and bag distribution. Shirley is keen to integrate the shops into the community as much as possible "We have lots of volunteers in our shops and we offer them

the opportunity to do an NVQ in retail - level 2 and 3". Shirley is an avid recycler too and will always accept phones, stamps, coins, ink cartridges etc.

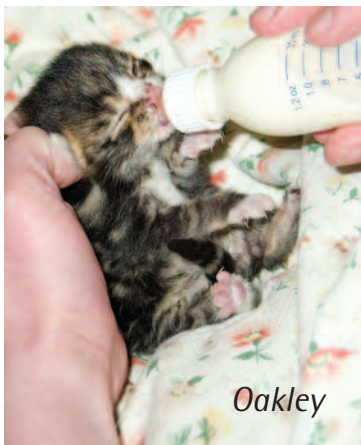
"I also organise most of the fundraising events - jumble sales, book sales, spring and

Xmas fairs, fashion shows, stands in shopping centres, collecting in supermarkets...the list goes on". says Shirley "there isn't much I wouldn't do to make money for the Branch".

"Above is a picture of me with my 4 dogs - Billy, Stanley, Poppy and Star. All rescue dogs and I also have 6 cats. Some people look shocked when I tell them how many pets I have but they are part of my family, and my home would feel empty without them. They are some of the lucky ones and it's the ones that aren't so lucky that motivate me to work hard and raise as much money as possible so the Rochdale Branch can continue its good work.

RSPCA Week 2010 - a total of £3,700 was raised in Rochdale

For all the latest information - www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk



Oakley

During a very cold spell in March, three tiny kittens were noticed sheltering in an allotment without a mum to care for them. We were quickly

on the scene, but not quick enough - as we arrived a magpie was just leaving - with one of the three. The two survivors were very cold and badly dehydrated and we took them straight to the vet.

Despite intensive 24-hour care, one sadly gave up the fight for life the following day.

Our efforts were now focussed on the one survivor and we took the plucky boy back to the Centre where he had to be bottle fed every two hours day and night. We have called him Oakley and at the time of writing he is doing fine.

A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY

We never cease to be surprised and delighted by the variety of birds, animals reptiles and insects that people in this area keep as pets. On the other hand, we are constantly surprised at how uncaringly some owners treat their 'friends'. Many are regularly hit, starved and worse. The lucky ones are noticed and we are alerted to their plight. (Last year the RSPCA call centre handled over a million calls). A few years ago, frustrated by not being able to properly help some animals due to our town centre

examples have been a young pony (which had been badly treated), a pig, a peahen and just recently, a very large, very comical and friendly duck! All needed our help at the Rochdale Animal Centre and were then able to enjoy longer term rehabilitation at the Animal Sanctuary. Centre manager Jean visits the Sanctuary regularly and keeps us all informed of progress. Jean says "the partnership has

made a real difference to us being able to help more animals". We wouldn't have been able to help Pedro the duck before. As it was, he had to spend his time with us accommodated in the dog shower, but it wasn't for long and now he is in his element and able to wander around the sanctuary at will".



Pedro

location, we formed a partnership with an animal sanctuary in Cheshire. This arrangement has worked well and we are now able to help animals who need open space in which to recover. Recent

Poor Ellie needed treatment

The plight of King Charles spaniel pup Thank you to everyone who responded



Leo and Ellie

The plight of blind Ellie, featured in the local and national news recently, has touched many hearts across the country and indeed the world. Donations to help with her treatment and messages of support have poured in from as far away as America, Canada and Hawaii. Pictured here with her new friend Leo, who has become her eyes, little Ellie is just waiting to be able to see again. Jean

THE SAD CLOSURE of the Three Owls bird sanctuary is causing us problems as some people are bringing wild birds to the Animal Centre. Unfortunately, we have no facilities for wild birds.

If you find a fledgeling and are, understandably, worried - just leave it where it is, mum or dad will come for it.

More advice can be found by ringing 0300 1234 999.

I jumped from 14,000

"Wow - what an experience!" Chan Taylor, our Centre's Deputy Manager, decided to help raise funds by doing a sponsored parachute jump, jumping from 14,000 feet. "I must be bonkers" said Chan. "but I really want to help our animals. The event took place



FROM FRONT COVER

You've certainly got to 'lovebirds' to put up with 26 of them chattering away non-stop! Good job then, that most of us in the Centre think they are wonderful. Actually we have rehomed almost all of the twenty six love birds we got - yes, that right, twenty six! the story started when the RSPCA asked us casually

if we could help with 'a few birds'. We will always try and help if we can but before we knew it we had a Centre full. RSPCA Inspectors had found a man with ninety seven lovebirds and budgies in his house in the most terrible conditions and needed to remove them all immediately. We were slightly apprehensive at first as we don't have specialist

facilities for birds but it was an emergency situation. Amazingly, we've managed to get the numbers down to manageable proportions very quickly and the ones still with us have become a delight to have around. If you could take some - they have to stay in pairs obviously (they're in love) - we would be keen to hear from you.

Could you offer one of our animals a home? Please contact us

ent to improve her sight ppy Ellie touched everyone's hearts. d to our appeal.

Spencer, our Animal Centre manager, says: "Ellie has cataracts on both eyes and is only aware of shadows. Fortunately, one of our volunteers, Julie, has taken Ellie under her wing and put her with her own dog Leo. It's touching to watch them together - Ellie follows Leo around everywhere and snuggles up to him." Thanks to all who donated. Ellie has had two visits to the vets so far and is having drops to maximise her eye health prior to further investigations.



These cavalier King Charles Spaniels were amongst nine litters rescued from a puppy farm where they were found in the most depressing conditions, having to live with no heat and no light. One poor puppy was blind (see across). Although we have no long term facilities for dogs in Rochdale we did press into service our emergency

isolation kennel. The puppies were lively, cute and quite healthy and we knew they would soon be found new owners. Even before the first week was out, all the puppies had been offered homes. Julie Lander, a volunteer at the Centre, was the first to offer a home and the story of Ellie and her new friend Leo became national news.

Out and about

Engaging with children is an important part of our work as we strive to develop children's natural compassion for animals. Staff from the Animal Centre regularly give talks, both at the Centre and across the district, in schools, libraries and churches. Recent venues have included Brownie's at Littleborough; Brownie's at St Michaels, Bamford; Millshill school and Millshill Baptist Church at Chadderton; Wardle Library; Syke Youth Group; Matthew Moss High School and Spotland Primary School.

Animal Centre manager Jean Spencer and Julie Lander, foster mum of Ellie (see across) visiting the children of St Barnabas Church, Littleborough. The children had helped to raise £100 for the Animal Centre and presented the cheque to Jean.



Mills Hill school – some of the children in year 4 picked us for their charity raising £77.14 by making and selling koinobori (Japanese kites). They also collected £17.50 – making a total of £94.64.

Front cover Picture: Pupils, Chloe and Shannon from Matthew Moss High School who raised £71.44 selling RSPCA erasers and badges at school. Well done everyone.

Please remember us in your will

Be sure that the causes you believe in are supported when you are no longer here.

Most people agree that it's vital that we all have a will (and that someone knows where it is kept). It's easy to put off, but we know many people feel great relief when they finally get round to putting their wishes in writing.

A solicitor will be able to assist you with your will and ensure that it is legally correct and that your wishes are carried out, including whether you would like to leave a legacy to charity. It is not a difficult process and not expensive either.

Please remember to keep your will up to date with changing circumstances. If you have already made a will and would like to include a legacy to the Rochdale RSPCA then all you have to do is contact your solicitor who can then make the addition – this is known as a Codicil. If you need advice, just give us a call and we will be pleased to help.

Without your generosity the Rochdale Branch could not continue. For us, a legacy is a precious gift. No matter how small, it will be put to good use.

Your solicitor will advise on the correct wording, which must be quite precise - see example below. Remember also to state 'RSPCA Rochdale Branch'.

EXAMPLE: I wish to bequeath the sum of

£ _____

to the RSPCA Rochdale Branch, 1 Redcross Street, Rochdale OL12 0NZ. Registered charity No 232257.

All profits raised in our shops STAY IN OUR AREA

0 feet - what am I?

at the Black Knights Parachute Centre in Cockerham on 23rd May. (Chan's original date had to be cancelled due to the volcanic ash). Said Chan "In a moment of madness I committed myself to doing a tandem skydive to raise

money. Please donate if you can, every penny is essential to the wellbeing of the rescued animals in our care". Chan has raised £2,700 so far and the appeal is still open. Call the Animal Centre or go to www.justgiving.com and enter 'Chan Taylor'.



Flash earlier this year examining his new bed

Sadly, we have to report that our faithful friend Flash the ferret has passed away. Flash had become part of the family, a familiar face in our reception and a star performer on our many school visits. His inquisitive nature and acrobatics brought a smile to many people's faces over the four years and we will miss him terribly.

Summer's top fashions



A sensational fashion show was held at Royton Band Club during July and raised £539.

The fashion show was organised by our shops manager Shirley - see page 2, and our willing models (RSPCA staff and family

members) were, from left; Maria, Nadia, Julie, Nicky, Linda and Ruth. Over 100 people attended and everyone had an enjoyable and very fashionable evening!

(cut here)

Please help us Just £3 a month will help to keep our animals fed

From as little as £3 a month you can become a Friend of the Animal Centre, helping to play a vital part in keeping the Centre running

Your donation is important to us, and in return we would like to give you some privileged member benefits. As a **Friend of the Centre** you will receive a Paw Badge, a certificate, regular copies of our newsletter and an invitation to visit the Centre to look behind the scenes.

(You can donate £3, or any amount of your choice each month).

Yes! I'll help to keep the Rochdale Animal Centre running

Title _____ Your name _____

Your address _____

Postcode _____

Your donation

I wish to pay RSPCA Rochdale, £3 each month or: Other £ _____
I would like my donation to be made on the _____ day of each month
starting from _____ (month).

Please indicate a date at least one month later than today's date

Gift Aid

The government will increase your donation by up to a third if you complete this section.

I want the RSPCA to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations hereafter as Gift Aid Donations.

I confirm that I am a taxpayer.

Please remember to notify us if you cease to pay income tax.

Your Bank details

Your Bank name _____

Your Bank address inc. postcode _____

Account Number _____ Sort code _____

Please pay to RSPCA Rochdale as instructed above

Signature _____ Date _____

Please detach this page and send to
RSPCA Rochdale, 1 Redcross Street, Rochdale OL12 0NZ

Biffy comes clean



We all know that pets, even the ones looking the most fit and healthy need to visit the vet regularly. Pet rabbits in particular seem to suffer a great deal of neglect. We think that very often, after the first flush of enthusiasm for a new pet, the rabbit gets largely left to its own devices. This one - Biffy - was in a very neglected state when he was brought into the Centre. As well as his overgrown nails he had, very unusually, got cat fleas! We see lots of animals in this condition (although



Biffy

Biffy was worse than many) and it's heartbreaking to think of the loneliness and neglect he had to live with for so long. There was a real character under all that matted, flea-ridden fur and we soon brought it out. With luck he will find a new owner very soon.

Let us know what your pet is getting up to. Send us a picture, write to us, or send us an email - our contact details are at the foot of this page.

Rochdale Animal Centre

Directions to the Rochdale Animal Centre



St Mary's Gate (A58) runs across the top of the town centre towards Littleborough in the north east, and Heywood and the M62 in the west.

Redcross Street is easily accessed from the A58, from either direction, or on foot directly from the town centre.

Limited free car parking is available for RSPCA visitors opposite the Centre, plus 'Pay and Display' car parking.

We are open every day including weekends, except Wednesdays 11.30am - 3.30pm.



Registered Charity 232257

TO REPORT AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS: TEL 0300 1234 999

CALLS TO OUR CRUELTY AND ADVICE LINE ON THE NEW 0300 NUMBER WILL COST JUST THE SAME AS A NATIONAL NUMBER

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the RSPCA