

Covering Rochdale, Heywood, Middleton, Littleborough, Whitworth and Todmorden

# ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE

Run by your local RSPCA branch

Newsletter Spring 2011



## SOLD ON THE STREET

SEE INSIDE

## RABBIT AWARENESS WEEK

### 23-29 MAY 2011

[www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk](http://www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk)



...looking after animals throughout Rochdale and District

## Happy and contented!

### RABBIT AWARENESS WEEK

#### 23-29 MAY 2011



Brad and Angelina taking it easy. These two long haired rabbits came to the Animal Centre in January and, as you can see, don't intend to let anything disturb them.

A healthy lifestyle is essential for rabbits just as it is for us, **Rabbit Awareness Week** aims to promote just that.

Lots of exercise, appropriate diet and mental stimulation will all help to ensure that your rabbit is fit and healthy."

Make sure your rabbits are happy bunnies - drop into the

Animal Centre 23-29 May for help and advice. We will be giving away vouchers for a free rabbit health check at a local vets and (on a first come first served basis) vouchers for £25 towards the cost of neutering. Also, we will microchip your rabbit for only £5.

## ...Mailbag...

Dear all, I know it is very early days, but thought it would be nice to send some pictures of Alice and Freya to show how they are already settling in to their new home.

It was all very daunting for them at first. 3 children, 2 adults and a big house to explore so for the first few hours they stayed in the kitchen, but they have now discovered the conservatory and spent most of yesterday moving around in order to lie in the sun. Upstairs is still a mystery and they remain very vigilant but am sure this will change very quickly. The move certainly hasn't had an impact on their eating though. I have never seen two pouches of Felix eaten so quickly.

We thought Alice would be the quiet one and Freya more dominant but currently it seems to be the other way around. Alice acts like the cheeky toddler she is, wants to nosy at everything, zooms around at top speed and is starting to follow us around to be stroked. Freya is more reserved, loves being stroked and fussed over, appears every time the fridge is opened and so far sits with the kids in the conservatory watching the world go by. They are both fitting in very well and can't believe it's only been a few days.

Will keep you updated,

From all at the Sharp Household x

Let us know what your pet is getting up to. Send us a picture, write to us, or send us an email



For all the latest information - [www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk](http://www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk)

# The RSPCA - 2 organizations in 1

Your *local* RSPCA works as a fast, effective task force to help animals in distress and, with animal's lives in the balance, *local* teams can deal with problems quickly and efficiently. Like all local branches, Rochdale has to finance itself which is where we turn to you for help.

There is of course another side to the organization. The national RSPCA has the task of co-ordinating all branches in order to create a nation-wide force. It also does other things like lobbying parliament, creating national campaigns and fighting for animal rights worldwide.

The national RSPCA looks after all the country-wide aspects of the organisation. It provides Inspectors for every part of the country. It campaigns for changes in the law. It prosecutes offenders (2,579 convictions were made in 2009). It sends out appeals to the public - you may have had them yourself.

It's work is crucial but very different to that of local branches. That's why we say it's two organisations in one and why we need to campaign to promote our local branch.

It is at local level where things move the fastest, where rescues are made and where the long slow job of rehabilitation and eventual rehoming takes place. Please support the RSPCA through your *local* branch.

## Animal Centre's 5th Anniversary

Five years ago, in May 2006, after a very successful fundraising campaign, the Rochdale branch of the RSPCA re-opened the doors of it's Animal Centre on Redcross Street. Rebuilt, equipped with all the latest facilities and with a dedicated and enthusiastic full-time staff, the Animal Centre has achieved great things for the area.

Everyone in the Rochdale district should be proud that this amazing Centre, one of the best in the north of England has been created through the support and financial help of local people. Some of the things achieved in the last five years:

- **2,275 - the number of animals we have taken in from inspectors and the public** - some literally starving to death. Imagine Rochdale with animals in distress where ever you looked? There are many places in the world where this is still a fact of daily life. In Rochdale we have taken a very active role to keep this situation under control.
- **Education in schools.** We have a constant rolling programme to educate young people in the importance of animal welfare.
- **Advice.** Pet owners in Rochdale should be some of the best informed people in the country judging by the amount of advice we are constantly asked to give - and are always delighted to do.
- **Rehoming.** Almost all animals make a full recovery - so strong is their will to live. Our rehoming figures show how many animals have found new and caring owners. Over the last five years this has averaged over 330 a year.



Pet treats

## All £1 and under

We are often asked to recommend toys and treats which are totally safe for your pet. They can sometimes be difficult to find but we now have a small selection in our shops. They are all £1 or under so please buy from us and support the RSPCA.



## More news from our shops

The seven shops play a big part in keeping our animal welfare activities running. Please support them whenever you can.

All the profits stay here in our area and it's local animals who benefit.

Contact your local shop whenever you have any item which you could usefully pass on.

We take anything in good condition and will collect from you if you prefer.

A coffee morning in **Middleton** in March raised £90, thanks to all.

**Rochdale** shop staff sold raffle tickets and raised over £100 after customer, Michele Beach kindly made and donated a Valentines Day hamper.

Rick Stirrup and Carol Merriman from the Rochdale Shop show off the hamper.



### Bigger and better

You are sure to see our new van around the district.

Mark and Stefano who do deliveries and pick-ups are overjoyed with it and delighted with how much it can carry.

**AMBER PETS** of Cutgate, Rochdale now have a bin for you to donate pet food for the Centre. Every item of food you donate means so much to us.

**All profits raised in our shops STAY IN OUR AREA**



Jean Spencer, Rochdale Animal Centre manager

## Watch Out! A message from Jean, our Animal Centre manager

**Cat litter deodoriser? Please don't use it!**  
The dangers were highlighted in dramatic fashion a few weeks ago when someone brought a cat to the Centre with dreadful burns on its tender underside. With the best intentions, they had wanted their house to smell clean and fresh and bought this product - a well known brand - and sprinkled some on their litter. The next time their cat used the litter tray she received severe burns - and not just to her tender parts but to her legs too. The damage was so

extensive that skin grafts would not have been successful and very sadly, and after much discussion with the vet and all concerned, the poor innocent cat was put to sleep.

This is not the first time we have come across problems with this leading pet care brand. Our advice is to purchase any pet product with extreme caution.



I would also add that with summer coming please be aware that commercial mulch products made from cocoa shells can, in the same way as chocolate, be highly poisonous to your dogs.

Jean

**RSPCA WEEK 2 - 8 May 2011** Spare a thought for the many thousands of animals needing our help each year. We will be collecting outside the **Tesco Rochdale** and **Tesco Middleton** stores.

### Elvis and Marvin

Can anyone offer a home to a pair of adorable chinchillas? They came to the Animal Centre as a result of an RSPCA cruelty case and we have christened them Elvis and Marvin. A little bit nervous, probably because they are not used to so many people peering at them, but friendly and very cute.



Elvis



Marvin

### Am I only worth £10?

This is Roland. He's only 6 months old and he's very friendly. Roland came to us a few weeks ago after being offered for sale and then dumped.

Two men had been noticed trying to sell him on the street. They eventually gave up and hurled Roland into some bushes where he was recovered by a passer-by. We scanned him for a microchip but, yet again, found nothing. Roland is an adorable cat - it won't be long before he has a new owner and from now on he is definitely microchipped!



Roland



Lucy

### Lucy, or Looseeey (to be pronounced with a French Accent)

Lucky to be here - that's Lucy. Having spent most of her young life in France, she returned with her owner to this area but due to personal circumstances needed to be rehomed.

After trying to rehome her through friends, family and local animal charities, the owner asked her vet for advice. The vet contacted us to see if we could take her. Fortune smiled on Lucy - a space in the cattery had become vacant that day. Lucy is now looking forward to life with a new owner.



Hannah

### Hannah needs a calm and patient owner

Hannah has a damaged wing. It's an old wound which doesn't cause her any problems but she is nervous in the bustle of the Centre and would appreciate a quiet home.

Could you offer one of our animals a home? If you could, we would be delighted to hear from you.

### Harry the amazing escapee

This is another story of an animal without identification. Cats can be easily spooked - all it takes is an open window and they are gone! In Harry's case the window was in a vehicle in the Asda car park in Rochdale. How he managed to cheat the jaws of death by charging across the road we will never know. He ended up darting under a moving car but fortunately the lady owner saw him and was able to stop. Luckily, he stayed put and she was able to retrieve him - via the engine compartment (don't ask how). She brought him to us to scan for a microchip, but, well...you can guess the rest! We were unable to find his owner but happily for Harry, his 'saviour' has now adopted him.



Harry

# 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.



## New homes for the guinea pigs

The housing boom might be over for most of us but for our guinea pigs it's only just begun. It's a problem - keeping an constantly varying number of animals in hygienic and also pleasant accommodation. We think we have got the answer with our new guinea pig housing. For the staff they are easy to clean, for visitors, the animals are easily accessible and as for the guinea pigs themselves.. well you have never seen more contented little animals - we must have got it right!

## Rochdale Animal Centre

### Home for Life You don't have to worry about what may happen to your pets if you die

Our **FREE** Home for Life service gives you peace of mind. If you pass away we will take care of your pets and do our very best to give them a loving home.

**Please contact us for more details of this free service.**

### Buy your pet products from your local RSPCA

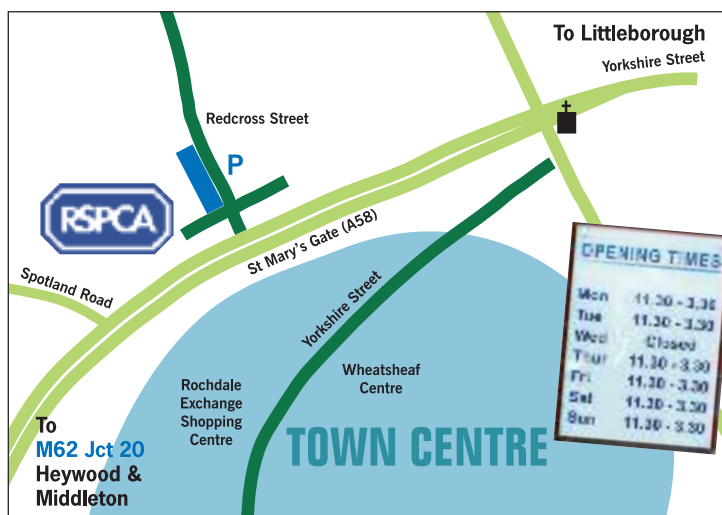
AVAILABLE IN OUR SHOPS (except Rochdale)

**£1 or less**

Every penny helps us to keep the Rochdale Animal Centre running



## 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