

Newsletter Summer 2011

Covering Rochdale, Heywood, Middleton, Littleborough
Whitworth and Todmorden

ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE

Run by your local RSPCA branch



www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk



...looking after animals throughout Rochdale and District

Front Cover: Vet at work

Every animal coming into the Centre is examined by a qualified vet working independently of the RSPCA. Very often, the animals injuries or other problems are serious and must be diagnosed quickly and accurately. Wendy Lane, of Wendy Lane Vets in Rochdale, has worked with the RSPCA for many years. "It can be very draining at times" says Wendy "but the staff at the Centre care for the animals with such passion, I feel humbled. Every animal here receives five star treatment until they are found a new home. The Animal Centre in Rochdale is an absolutely vital part of the community as a whole, Rochdale is very lucky".

Dear Supporter

As I'm sure you know, the Animal Centre is forever hovering on the financial brink. Whilst this keeps me on my toes, as Manager, it does exert considerable unseen stress on all the staff. With that in mind I would like to say a very deeply felt thank you to those of you who prefer to donate to us in complete anonymity, quietly and without fuss. I don't even know who many of you are but I know I speak for everyone here when I say thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Without you, I can't imagine where we would be?

Jean

Jean Spencer
Rochdale Animal Centre Manager

Meet the Rochdale team...

Deputy Animal Centre Manager, Chantal Taylor



Chan Taylor with her own dog 'Blue'

Regular newsletter readers will remember that last summer, dedicated animal lover Chan jumped out of a plane at 14,000ft to raise funds for the Centre. As she said at the time "I must be bonkers". Chan raised £2,700.

Chan helps Manager, Jean Spencer, to run the Centre at peak efficiency. Chan orders stock including all medication, approves rehoming requests, oversees volunteer placements and inductions and also works on reception.

Amongst Chan's many pets, Blue is one of her favourites. Brought to the Centre in a collapsed state through terrible ill treatment Chan nursed Blue back to health and then adopted him. It's animals 24 hours a day" says Chan, "but I wouldn't have it any other way".

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

RSPCA campaign

In our last newsletter we highlighted the work of local RSPCA branches because 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.

The more interest we can generate in the true value of the RSPCA the better. As I'm sure you know, the branches rely totally on donations from the public and the Rochdale Branch is no exception - we desperately need more funds to continue.

RSPCA Inspector Tony Woodley said: "I don't think people realise the full extent and variety of what the RSPCA does and I hope our national TV campaign helps to raise awareness".

"Whether it is an injured hedgehog in need of treatment, an abandoned kitten in need of a home, or a bedraggled, abused dog in need of rescuing from a cruel owner – the common theme is that they all need our help."

Every day throughout the country the RSPCA:
Rescues over 370 animals
Investigates nearly 400 cruelty complaints
Treats almost 600 animals in their hospitals
Gives almost 200 animals a new home

We in Rochdale run one of the biggest Animal Centres in the North of England and we are proud to have reached our 5th anniversary. The work never stops and hundreds of local animals are happily rehomed every year thanks to the efforts of the staff and volunteers of our Animal Centre and seven shops, and the many supporters across the district of which you are of course one.

Animals in the heat

Unpredictable weather is a problem for both us and our pets but summer is the worst season for hidden dangers. Here are a few steps you can take to keep your pets fit and well:

Make sure fresh clean water is always available to all pets - you may even need to take some on walks. Avoid walks in the heat of the day, particularly with old and overweight dogs with heart problems. It's much better to stick to early mornings and evenings.

Cats are natural sunbathers, but cats with white noses and ear tips are particularly vulnerable to sun burn and subsequent skin cancer. Apply sunblock to these areas during the summer months and try to keep them out of the sun as much as possible.

Watch out also for grass seeds (awns) of the meadow grasses. They commonly become trapped in dogs ears causing violent head shaking and sometimes get embedded in the feet or other areas.

It's not only humans that wasps and bees sting; some pets are allergic to the stings so be watchful - they may need prompt veterinary attention.

Don't forget to keep treating your pets regularly against fleas, ticks and worms.

Make sure your pets are up to date with vaccinations if they are going into kennels whilst you are on holiday.

THIS BABY GOOSE DIDN'T SURVIVE



The dangers of used fishing line to wildlife have been well documented in the past but it doesn't seem to have had much effect judging by the number of animals still finding themselves caught up in it. Earlier this year we had a spate of wildlife suffering the most terrible injuries. Some of those injuries were too bad to show here, in fact some animals very sadly gave up their fight for life. The poor baby Canada Goose, pictured above, was one of those. Its leg was caught in fishing line which had caused more serious problems. Those that survive initial emergency treatment are transferred to the RSPCA's Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre in Cheshire. We hope that putting this article in the newsletter goes some way to increasing awareness of this problem.



Lady's story is a sad one - but with a happy ending. Pregnant with six kittens, she decided to give birth in what seemed a safe and sheltered garden. However, this wasn't the case. A cat from the house next door attacked Lady, wounded her and immediately killed three of her brood. When the garden owner discovered the scene, she contacted the RSPCA who rescued them and brought them to us. Understandably, Lady was highly traumatised and was in such a state that she was unable to properly care for her kittens and two more died that same night. We did all we could for her and put a small cardboard box inside her cat pen facing the wall with just enough space to squeeze in through. Thankfully, once left alone, she went in with her one remaining kitten and began to mother it. Eight weeks later she is just regaining her confidence and, as you can see - she allowed us to take her picture.



TRAPPED INSIDE A WALL

Rush

This young cat had a very lucky escape. RSPCA headquarters received a call from a diner at a Manchester restaurant reporting noises coming through an outside wall. An Animal Welfare officer investigated and sure enough a cat was definitely inside the wall but with no visible means of entry or exit. The only course of action was to clear tables and chairs and knock a hole through to the cavity. What lay behind when this was done was a very frightened and dehydrated kitten desperate to escape to the outside world. Rush, as we have named him - after Rushholme in Manchester where he was found, wouldn't eat so we bottle feed him. It's very time consuming for us but he loves it and he has started to relax and to trust us. It's very rewarding for us but we will miss him when it's time for him to go to his new home.



"I CAN NIBBLE THROUGH ANYTHING"

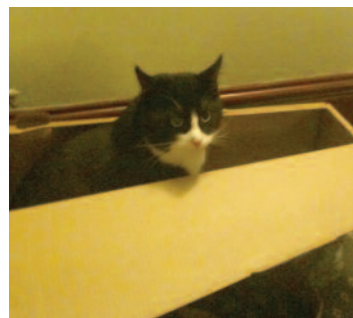
Inquisitive and ever-hungry. That just about sums up a Degu. We have currently got three which is good because they are very intelligent and social animals too. Actually, they are a real handful for us because not only do we need to keep them stimulated with lots of playthings, but we have to be ultra careful what they eat. They will have a go at anything - wood, plastic, breeze blocks. In fact they are diabetic, so no sugar and no fat. They have a boisterous nature but when handled mustn't be picked up by their tails - if they are, their tail will drop off and not regrow. However, in spite of all that, they are very rewarding pets to keep. We are endlessly fascinated by them and we know plenty of people who think they are totally wonderful. Very soon, probably before this newsletter goes to press, our chipmunks are being rehomed and so we will have a much larger cage for the Degus to play in.

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



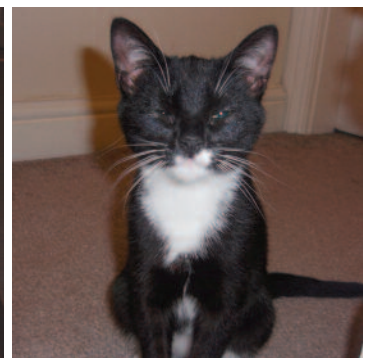
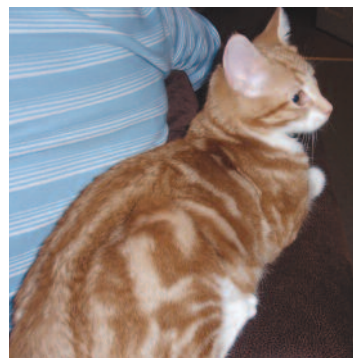
...Mailbag...

Dear All at Rochdale RSPCA. Just a note to let you know that Dean the hamster (a.k.a. Teeny Weeny Deeny) is settling in well in his new home with us. He was a bit nervous at first, but has settled down. He loves his exercise ball and doesn't want to come out of it at the end of a play session. My 8-year-old daughter Mary thinks he is the cutest hamster ever. On Wednesday night he showed us he had discovered how to swing upside down on the bars of his cage. He fell off backwards and looked very funny, then got straight back up there again.... and again.... and again... Good job the sawdust is thick and soft! He's lovely - thank you so much for him. Photos attached. All the best, Jo, Paul and Mary.



Hello all. Just a quick email to let you know that Mr and Patch are settling in really well and we are very happy to have them. Please see the photos above of them making themselves at home. I'll send a few more emails with other photos as well. Thanks for giving us our moggies and keep up the good work. Katie and Andy.

Hello, Im just writing to let you know that Spot (now renamed Smudge!) is very well and has totally settled in! She and Rufus are so happy together it just makes you say awwwwww! Regards, Ann.



Hi there. Hope all is well at the RSPCA? Just dropping a line and some pictures of Oscar and Star as promised. They are part of our family now and have taken over the house with all their toys and playthings. Because they are still kittens they run around catching each other and are full of mischief. Here are some pictures of them and how they have grown, as they are well fed and LOVED. Many thanks, xxx. Simon, Jean and Terry.



Please remember us in your will

Gifts in wills form the foundation of charities in the UK. Many charities depend on legacies and without them they would not exist. Britain is a charitable nation - almost three in four of us support a charity in our lifetime. Just think of the events you might have helped to support, from local galas to national TV shows.

But, while 74% of the UK population support charities, only 7% currently leave a legacy to them. We just don't think of it! The organisation Remember A Charity was formed in 2000 to

encourage more people to consider leaving a gift to charities in their will, after they've looked after their family and friends. It aims to do what no single charity can do alone, making legacy giving a social norm.

This year's Remember A Charity Week will be held from 12 to 18 September 2011 and there will be events throughout the country. The RSPCA will be actively involved in raising awareness of the issue throughout the week so keep an eye on the news.

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

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.

Rochdale Animal Centre

Fashion show

**RADCLIFFE ARMS
GRIMSHAW LANE
MIDDLETON M24 1GQ**

A fantastic and fun evening is promised on 20 October when Fizz and Jazz Fashion Events host a sparkling fashion show with proceeds going to the Rochdale Animal Centre. Top fashions from River Island, Miss Selfridge, Top Shop, Marks and Spencer and many more will be modelled and available to buy at great discounts. Tickets £3 each available from any of our shops or the Animal Centre from the end of August.

THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2011

Thank you

A big thank you to the staff and volunteers who have helped with collections at **Aldi** Middleton, **Morrisons** Todmorden, **Sainsburys** Littleborough and **Dunnes Stores** Heywood. Thanks also to the staff and management at these stores for allowing us to collect.

Our volunteers also did street collections on 30th July in Rochdale, Littleborough, Heywood and Middleton and raised £520!

Devoting time to do collections for the animals at the Centre is deeply appreciated. A special thank you to everyone involved and especially Jackie McKay, her husband and her 4-legged volunteer, Zebedee the Great Dane – people really flocked round Zebedee to drop coins in his collecting pot and stroke him. Well done Zebedee.

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

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