

# ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE

Run by your local RSPCA branch

## MICROCHIPPING DAY

**11**  
**MAY**

Sweet dreams

## TWO NEW VENTURES A GREAT SUCCESS



# ROCHDALE LEADS THE WAY

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



...caring for animals throughout Rochdale and District

## “Pet insurance? - it’s worth every penny.”

## ...MAILBAG...



This is Frankie on the mend after major surgery to his brain – the cost of his treatment to date is just over £7,000! “If he hadn’t have been insured I wouldn’t have been able to afford his treatment” said Shirley

Don’t be tempted to go without pet insurance - that’s the message from Shirley Mellor, Retail Manager at the Rochdale Branch.

When Shirley adopted her dog, Frankie, as a 10 week-old puppy she never imagined that under a year later her strong, young, intelligent dog would have to have life saving surgery to his brain. Often, owners put pet insurance to the back of their mind, thinking it won’t happen to their pet, but Shirley thought it was a necessary expense. “I dread to think what would have happened if I didn’t have insurance” said Shirley. “Frankie was referred to a specialist because he was having problems with his balance and things just got worse from there. He needed an MRI scan to begin with and by the end, his treatment had cost over £7,000. I couldn’t have afforded to pay it”.

“Also I remember the graphic story of a cat jumping off an icy surface, losing its footing and being impaled on railings. The unfortunate owner was faced with a bill for £5,000 for major surgery! I recommend every pet owner to have pet insurance.”



Dear all, I thought I’d send you a quick pic of Blanche (now called Daisy).

Daisy’s been with me about two months now and, after a timid few days, has settled in nicely. She’s got a big brother, Felix, whom she follows around the house. Daisy spends most of her time in the house playing with her feather-stick and when it’s not wet and cold she does like to go exploring outside – but I expect she won’t really spend much time outside till the spring now.

Daisy’s been ‘helping’ me with some gift-wrapping this week as you can see in the pic attached! All in all, she’s a very happy little cat, and enjoying her new home. Kathryn



### Christmas Appeal

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas appeals - at the Animal Centre, in our shops, by post or on-line. Once again our Tree of Remembrance was popular with many of you and we look forward to making this a bigger and better feature in future. Thank you all once again.



# Rochdale leads the way



Jasmine

Rochdale RSPCA is at the forefront of two pioneering ventures both of which aim to help abandoned animals.

## 1. RSPCA and Pets at Home

Rochdale RSPCA is at the forefront of a pioneering venture to rehome abandoned animals through retail giant Pets at Home. Hundreds of animals come through the doors of the Rochdale RSPCA and at such a traumatic time in their lives they need to find a new loving home as quickly as possible. To find new owners and to make their move to a new home more quickly the RSPCA and Pets at Home have come together in an exciting new project to lead what will hopefully be the first of many joint ventures between the two organisations. Pets at Home have created a purpose built home environment within its Stockport branch and a selection of fabulous cats will be available there each day supplied by Rochdale RSPCA. As well as choosing a new pet, customers can get pet advice from RSPCA staff who will be at the store.

Jean Spencer, Manager of Rochdale RSPCA said "this is a fantastic project and will help to rehome our animals so much more speedily. It's been a lot of work to get it off the ground but we knew it would work. We have just rehomed our 30th cat this weekend! The project has been organised by Jean Spencer together with Anne Corbishley, RSPCA

branch support specialist and supported by Suzi Hughes, Branch Manager of Manchester and Salford RSPCA and Vicky Walsh, manager of Oldham RSPCA Animal Centre."

The project has been enthusiastically welcomed by Gavin Grant, Chief Executive of the RSPCA and Nick Wood, CEO of Pets at Home, both of whom gave their full support to the Official Launch at Stockport on 26 November. Nick Wood said "We are passionate about pets and their welfare. We've been working hard to develop Pets at Home and RSPCA joint branded pet care literature and to ensure customers are making the right decision when introducing a new pet to the family."

As we went to press and Jean announced the rehoming of her 30th animal she said "She was one of our longest-stay cats too, the project has worked better than we ever dared hope."

## 2. Rabbit Welfare event

For a variety of reasons, many pet rabbits become unwanted and owners are then left with a bit of a problem. Putting aside the rights and wrongs, the RSPCA recognises that this is a fact of life and are keen to do something to help. Rochdale branch has pioneered a new scheme - a Rabbit Amnesty where, for two days in the year, unwanted rabbits can be brought into the Centre and signed over to the RSPCA. Manager, Jean Spencer, who is a self-confessed rabbit fanatic said "This scheme will hopefully go a long way to giving unwanted pet rabbits a better life. We know there are a lot of rabbits out there living a life of loneliness and misery and we hope people will recognise that this is a great opportunity for us to help them."



Attending the launch from Rochdale RSPCA were David Canavan, Jan Canavan, Janet Colter, Jean Spencer and Shirley Mellor with RSPCA Chief Executive Gavin Grant pictured in the centre.

**STOP PRESS.** The first Rabbit Welfare event was held on 26 and 27 March and was pronounced a great success. 26 pet rabbits and 2 guinea pigs were brought in to the Animal Centre. 11 owners came for a health check or to get their pet microchipped, 13 came to sign their pet over to the RSPCA and sadly, (with the owners consent) we had to put two rabbits to sleep.



**MICROCHIPPING DAY Saturday 11 May 2013**

Call in anytime 11.00am - 3.00pm. Only £6.00 per pet. No need to make an appointment

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



# Another happy ending

Taylor is a very lucky dog indeed. Just before Christmas an RSPCA Inspector had been invited to visit a house where six young puppies and their mother had all died of Parvo. The owner had been left with only two puppies who he had been giving medication to on the advice of a vet. Unfortunately the cost of continuing the medication was above the owners means and he had stopped it. For Taylor and his sister Hannah both their lives hung in the balance. The owner agreed that the best thing to do was to sign over the two puppies to us. Both Taylor and Hannah received a clean bill of health soon after coming to the Animal Centre and, much to our delight, we found them new owners almost immediately. We have put Taylor on our front cover because it's such a good picture and shows him relaxed and happy. The picture was taken by his new owner and is just one of many showing Taylor at his most relaxed.



Taylor



Harper



Check your garage

Cat owners in the OL12 area of Rochdale  
We are having a free cat neutering week 13 -17 May.  
Please pass the message to cat owners in the area. Call the Centre to book your cat in.

**Jean Spencer Centre Manager.** "11 February started off just like any other day... routine jobs - nothing special. But things were about to change - we never know what's going to happen next. The door opened and in walked a man with a cat in his arms. He didn't need to say anything - the animal looked like it had passed away. It actually wasn't (although the vet said later death was only hours away). The poor man was distraught and recounted a truly astonishing story. He had found the cat, emaciated and unable to stand, in his garage that morning. What was so surprising was that he said the last time he had been in his garage was last November!

As he recounted his story, the staff were busy preparing an emergency visit to the vet. I knew the situation rested on a knife edge. The cat looked to have been well kept by someone but disappointingly it wasn't microchipped. If it survived it would need a new owner but that was going to be a long way off, if at all. Once at the vets it was hooked up to drips, wrapped in bubble wrap and given round the clock care. Luckily, and amazingly, the cat survived and is now back at the Animal Centre with us. See just how well she looks in our picture. This is an opportune time for me to say - before closing your shed or garage, just check that there are no 'Harpers' in there. Dealing with another Harper is a shock we can all do without." Jean.

## Learning about Animals with courses at the Centre



COURSE  
First Aid for Dogs

Could your dog be a BLOOD DONOR?

We always thought that running a course on First Aid for dogs might prove quite popular. Veterinary nurse Rachel Bean, who is also an animal behaviourist, offered to run the course and the idea received a positive reception from our staff. To our delight, the idea has really taken off and now we are on our third event, two of which have been open to the public. Rachel has been really pleased with the response and has enjoyed each one. Centre manager Jean, whose dog Meg has become a 'model' for budding first aid students to bandage said "This idea has really taken off and people are learning something really useful. We will certainly do more in the future. These courses are part of our overall education programme which includes, 'Looking After Exotic Creatures' run by our Deputy Manager Chan Taylor. For those who would like an Animal First Aid Kit, they are available at the Animal Centre, price £9.99.



COURSE  
Looking After Exotic Animals

As part of our last 'Looking after Exotic Animals' course Sally held this Californian King snake, Abi played with a tarantula and Jackie allowed a giant millipede to wriggle up her arm.



Help other dogs get through major surgery or accident trauma by allowing your dog to become a blood donor. If your dog is in good condition and over 17kg, please get in touch with your local vet.





# Enthusiastic fundraisers help the Centre

Our fundraising team is out and about all the time - In February we had collections at **Pets at Home, the Exchange Shopping Centre, Rochdale and Todmorden market** - where we also had a stall. We will soon be collecting at **Morrisons** in Heywood and Rochdale too.

**RSPCA Week** - Our Rochdale shop in Yorkshire Street will stay open until 6.00pm each evening. The shop are also holding a Grand Raffle. On 30 April we have a stall on Middleton Market and in the Middleton shop window Nathan will have his head shaved for all to see!

## School makes us their Charity of the Year

Council members of **Tonacliffe School** have voted Rochdale Animal Centre the school's Charity Of The Year and plan to put on lots of fundraising events. The school has a very progressive council made up of children from every class and they are very keen to support the work of the Centre. Jean, with her dog Meg, visits the school and has done assemblies with them too. We hope to report more as the year progresses.



Lois, Charlotte and Daisy of **East Crompton St Georges Girls Brigade** have been learning all about rescued animals and the work of the RSPCA. In February they presented us with a cheque for £127. Well done girls.

Louise Kowalczyk with Jean and Meg at **Matthew Moss High School**. Louise had made animal calendars and sold them to raise money for the branch.



## RSPCA WEEK STARTS 29 April 2013 See us at Tesco in Rochdale and Middleton from Friday 3 May

**This is a very popular FREE SERVICE - we have some lovely cats with us at the moment**



**Please remember**

# ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE in your Will

The Rochdale Animal Centre cares for hundreds of animals every year. Please help us to provide for them.

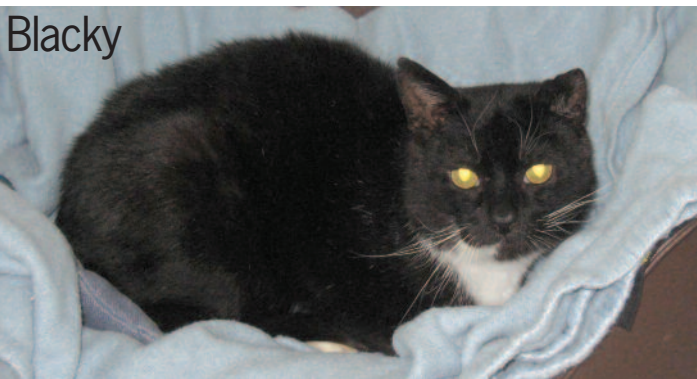
Large or small, a gift in your will is a precious gift indeed. Please contact us for more information either through our website or on 01706 861897.

## Home for Life

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

Our 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. More details pick up a leaflet at the Animal Centre or go to [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

We have small number of cats with us at the moment from the Home for Life scheme - all are wonderful cats and we are taking very good care of them. They are mostly older cats and come to us needing minor veterinary attention but are soon ready for adoption. Older cats make the most adorable companions, see the picture of Blacky below - a six year old, very friendly boy. He is a little frightened at the moment as he is unsure of his new surroundings but we know he will make a wonderful 'lap cat'.



We recently had a very distressing case of having to go and recover a dead animal in a discarded bin in one of Rochdale's public parks. The animal, a dog, had evidently been well kept and its owner had put it very carefully in the bin with a few of its toys.

If your pet dies and you don't know what to do **PLEASE RING US** - we can help. 01706 861897.



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