



Deb's Editorial

I've been thinking of the theme for my editorial this time and it has naturally evolved by witnessing a mini-miracle at the Animal Centre over the last couple of weeks. A dog was recently brought into the Centre by one of our great inspectors – she's a 1 year old cross who had been systematically beaten by her male owners. When she first arrived she was terrified, however, as time has moved on she has learned to cope by being cared for by our female staff, but then came the real break-through. She seemed to be relaxing and beginning to accept men more and more and over the last week this has culminated in two incidents which have reminded me how special our team are at Derby RSPCA.

I went for a walk around the Centre at the end of the day to find her in the yard with one of our male members of staff. He was sitting on the cold concrete floor with his arm around her and she was leaning against him with her two front paws across his lap having her head tickled. A few days later she was in the exercise yard with one of our male volunteers and had fallen asleep on his lap. What a spectacular turn around—I am so proud of this achievement and particularly proud that this isn't an isolated incident.

People often say to me I couldn't do your job – well why not when you witness things like this happening? Yes we see some seriously upsetting things, we don't win every battle as some animals are just too poorly by the time we get them, yes we meet people who see their animals as accessories and when they are bored with them or they are too much trouble or they decide to start a family, then they want to get rid of them, but for all of these negative experiences we meet so many lovely people who just want to rescue an animal and make it an integral part of their lives. To those people we salute you!

None of this would be possible without the dedicated team here at Abbey Street. Ok, we aren't perfect, which of us are? We don't always get it right, but then who does? But we try hard! We clean, we feed, we medicate, but above all else we care and the staff and volunteers alike try to spend as much time as they can with the animals to try to ensure as smooth a transition as possible to their new home. We try to help them get over their fears, to learn to trust again.

We have dedicated staff and volunteers at our Long Eaton charity shop who put all their energies into helping raise vital funds to support the work at the Animal Centre. We have Karen who exhausts herself trying to raise funds and spread the word about our Centre and the work we do. We have a very merry band of volunteers who are there for us time and time again to help us in so many ways. Well that leaves me – I'm just so very proud of the whole team who quite simply just do their best for all the animals in our care. I would particularly like to thank the team at Blagreaves vets for all their support and our corporate sponsors who make such a difference to us. And of course, if you are receiving this newsletter then it means we are already in your hearts and you support us, so thank you all very much indeed.

It just remains for me to wish you all a festive time with your family, friends and pets but above all else, happiness and good health in 2012.

ANIMAL WINTER VIEWING TIMES

FRI-MON -12.00PM-4.00PM

WEDS- NO ANIMAL VIEWING

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

OPEN ALL OTHER BANK HOLIDAYS
12.00PM-4.00PM

SHOP, RECEPTION AND PHONELINE TIMES

FRI-MON -10.00AM-4.00PM

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Animal Re-homing Success

Lennox

As I write this Lennox is pulling his 5 ½ stone new best friend around the room, quite worrying really because he's only 5 months old and already a large 25kg. He's going to be a big boy!

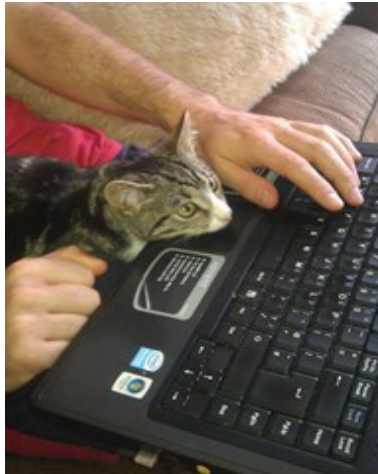
From the minute I set eyes on him I knew he would be coming home with us; he was stunning and such a strong minded character. He was going to fit in perfect with our three German Shepherds, Kaiza, Dooley and Roe-z.



Lennox is the most loving puppy, and also extremely bright. He is currently in a puppy training class which he is on track to pass on the 30th November. In the five weeks he's been with us he's learnt so much—from basic commands such as sit, stay and stand, to perfect recalls and heel work off lead. We are so proud of him!

Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea's mum, Mittens, was brought in to the Centre heavily pregnant and she gave birth here. Sweet Pea was unfortunately born with a disability but this hasn't held him back and he quickly found a new home. Here's what his new owners have to say: 'We fell in love with Sweet Pea as soon as we saw him, especially because of his twisted back leg. He has settled in with our other 3 cats brilliantly and doesn't let his disability stop him in any way. He greets us at the front door every day and is a bundle of purring affection! Thank you all at Derby RSPCA for letting us have Sweet Pea!'



Freckles

We adopted Elton, now Freckles, on the 29th September. When we brought him home he came straight out of his cat box and walked around his new home - he is a very confident little man! He climbed onto the sofa, sat beside my dad and was watching TV for the first 10 minute. He comes up to bed with me every night and sleeps on my pillow. Freckles has even made friends with my 2 rabbits. We would like to thank the RSPCA and the vets as without them we wouldn't have our little lovely Freckles!



Anti-freeze poisoning

Most people are unaware of the hidden dangers to pets from antifreeze. Unfortunately many animals like the taste but ingesting even a small amount can lead to kidney failure and death, especially in cats.

Accidental poisonings due to spills and leaks from containers, as well as leaking water coolant from cars happen every year and result in the death of pets.

If you suspect your pet has ingested anti-freeze or water coolant, or if they show any of the following signs, take them to a vet immediately:

Vomiting
Depressed/sleepy
Lack of coordination
Difficulty breathing
Increased thirst & urination

Signs of poisoning can start to show very quickly, but it can be two or three days before there are signs of kidney failure. The sooner you act, the better your pet's chance of survival!

Re-homing Statistics

We are really pleased with our rehoming successes this year. To the end of October we are 25% up on the same point last year.

We have rehomed 145 Dogs, 285 Cats, 42 Rabbits and 51 Small Furry Creatures.
So far we have rehomed 523 animals this year!

If we can't find a home for an animal and it has been with us for a long time, we will take it to another RSPCA Animal Centre and you can almost guarantee they will find a loving new home within weeks, if not days.

Re-homing update

Boo came into the Centre after being found abandoned by a member of the public. We desperately needed the right home for Boo and appealed to the local media. It worked, and not only did Boo get into the Derby Evening Telegraph but also onto Radio Derby and East Midlands Today. John and Joan Shipley saw the lovable character and couldn't resist her. Boo is now happily living with John and Joan and this is what they had to say about her.

She's smelly, slobbery, farty.....but adorable! We are not sure whether we adopted her or she adopted us. She loves long walks, especially if they require trips in the car so she can visit new places! She is very happy, affectionate and we love her so much. How anyone could have abandoned her goodness knows.



Re-homing focus

Rocky



Rocky is a male adult lop eared rabbit. He is a nice boy but at the moment doesn't like other rabbits so he would need to be rehomed by himself. He is a big rabbit so will need a nice big run to hop around in.

Brian



Brian is a mouse who loves to play on his wheel and snooze the day away. He is a lovely friendly chap who will make an ideal pet.

Safe Haven

Would you like to do more to help the branch? Why not join our Safe Haven scheme to sponsor a kennel/cat pod/rabbit pod for the year. It would also make a meaningful gift, so if you don't know what to buy a loved one for Christmas, why not join the Safe Haven scheme on their behalf?

We will send the recipient a gift-pack which includes a certificate, letter of welcome, stickers, Animal Times etc. To find out more please contact Karen on 01332 344620 or email her at karen.carter@rspcaderby.org.uk.

By joining the safe haven scheme you will help us look after more animals, especially those that have been rescued by our inspectors from cruelty.

Thank you!

If you have any ideas about what you would like to see included in the newsletter, please get in touch!

Roving Reporter Brenda—an interview with Mandy Jordan, one of our very valued fosterers

For many, Mandy Jordan and her family are living the life that many dream of but never quite manage, not least when you live in suburbia, a few miles from Derby City. But in the 1/3rd of an acre plot in Spondon Mandy shares her home with parrots, cats, kittens, dogs, chickens, ducks and pygmy goats – more of them later - not forgetting of course her husband and daughter!

Mandy runs a small dog boarding/grooming business but she has put her animal husbandry knowledge in which she is largely self taught to help the Derby RSPCA with their fostering programme. In fact she couldn't quite believe herself how many animals she has fostered so checked back through her records and has recorded 150 cats and kittens and a miscellaneous number of rabbits since May 2008.

For Mandy fostering is a natural extension of what she does for her own animals but with the knowledge that the relationship with these animals will only be temporary. She has been called upon to foster rabbits, adult cats, and female cats with nursing kittens and kittens with no mum at all. The orphan kittens demand the most patience and certainly the most time, with a constant regime of feeding and cleaning just as their own mother would have done and giving medication when appropriate. Mandy has also taken on the challenge of socialising feral cats. It is due to Mandy's expertise, patience and diligence that she could only recall 3 animals which succumbed to illness and had to be put to sleep. That's a pretty good track record!

Unsurprisingly the most difficult thing for Mandy, as a fosterer, is to pass the animals she has cared for back to the Centre as a bond is always formed. Nonetheless she is clear about her role and the best outcome is when she is informed that one of her foster animals has been rehomed – this is the ultimate reward. Sometimes however Mandy has added to her owned menagerie and decided to adopt a few who started out as foster animals: Edgar and Jerry were somewhat feral and wary of people but Mandy brought them round to be friendlier. She decided, as she had them for quite a time, that she could not part with them and they remain with her to this day. She also went on to adopt two more cats Sardine and Wit. If that isn't enough her daughter too has adopted from a litter of kittens which Mandy also fostered.

When thinking back to her first job she recalled being a kennel maid – not a term used now of course. So a desire to work and now of course to live with animals goes right back to when she was young. For many years though she worked at Cromford Cables and it was after she married and had her family that the opportunity arose to buy a strip of land a few doors away and that's when shades of The Good Life began. She got her first chickens and ducks and grew vegetables. When the house adjacent to the land they bought was up for sale, they purchased it thus increasing the size of their plot. She has never had any escapees and good relations with the neighbours are essential – this question was prompted by the sound of a cock crowing in the background during the interview only to be told this was the ringtone on her mobile phone!

With all the demands of running her own business, acting as foster parent to all and sundry and understanding the somewhat precious nature of pygmy goats who she tells me have all sorts of dietary do's and don'ts, Mandy appears to take all this in her stride and is never happier than when she is at home. She accepts each animal and its character for what it is. Some will always give more back than others and respond better than others to human intervention, but this is what keeps her interest – they are all different. It is thanks to fosterers such as Mandy, who help Derby RSPCA by providing a temporary place of respite, that the animal in question has the best opportunity to settle, recover and develop and ultimately be put up for adoption to secure a permanent and loving home.

If you feel this could be for you, then please get in touch with the Centre on Abbey Street as they always need new fosterers.

Interview with Mandy Jordan by Roving Reporter Brenda Shore

KITTENS

Kitten season used to be Spring through to late Autumn but it is all year round now. Literally hundreds of kittens and their mums have come into our Centre over the past year. They come in mainly from RSPCA inspectors when they have been rescued or abandoned. Members of the public bring in mums and kittens that are strays and have given birth in their garden sheds or garages! We take in from the public where we judge litters are vulnerable or at risk. This is why neutering your cat is very important to prevent thousands of unwanted kittens from being born.

All of our kittens are microchipped, flea and worm treated and vaccinated. They will also have a vet check and will come with a neutering voucher for use at our vets when they are old enough. If you wish to adopt a kitten pop down to the Centre or ring us on 01332 344620.

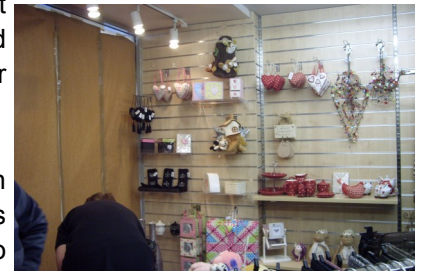


Long Eaton Charity Shop

Our charity shop on High Street, Long Eaton has recently undergone a long awaited refurbishment. Our shop manager Gill and her team of volunteers have worked hard to get the shop up and running and it is looking fabulous. As Christmas draws near why not pop into our new look shop as we have an exciting range of new goods, gifts and toys. We also have a good selection of quality clothing at very reasonable prices. All proceeds from the shop come directly back to Abbey Street to help us care for the many abused, mistreated and abandoned animals that pass through our Centre each year.



So if you are thinking of making space with the run up to Christmas please don't dump, donate to us instead. If you are unable to take your donation to the charity shop please pop it into our Centre on Abbey Street and we will do the rest!



East Midlands Ferret Rescue

East Midlands Ferret Rescue is here today by sheer chance and thanks to Lynn's husband Charlie. It all began 13 years ago when Charlie decided it would be nice to have a ferret as a pet. Lynn wasn't too sure as she didn't really like ferrets and thought they were smelly.

They eventually came to a compromise and bought their first two ferrets Polly and Oscar. The ferrets went everywhere with them (even on a camping holiday!) and Lynn became a converted ferret fan, attending ferret shows around the country.

They came across many unwanted ferrets and slowly the ferret numbers began to grow. As the years went by and with over 100 ferrets in need of a loving home Lynn and Charlie decided to set up East Midlands Ferret Rescue.

All her ferrets are neutered and vaccinated before being re-homed and Lynn also does a home visit to see that the ferret has suitable accommodation.

Are you interested in adopting a ferret? Then please contact Lynn at East Midlands Ferret

Rescue on 01332 233216 or 07855 983726 for more information as they have a wide variety of ferrets for viewing.

Derby RSPCA Animal Centre Shop

We have a "One Stop Pet Shop" at our Centre on Abbey Street and stock all that you need for your furry (and feathered) friends. Someone once commented that it was like an Aladdin's Cave and was very surprised with the amount of good quality merchandise we have. Please pop in and take a look in our shop as we have our new collection of pet Christmas goodies and gifts available. With the cold months now upon us why not treat your pet to a new cosy bed? We have the cutest tiny hamster bed!



Our shops play a vital part in our income and all proceeds from our sales go back into our Centre helping us to carry on our valuable work.

We have a special 10% off voucher below which is redeemable at either shop until the end of December. Please cut out and take with you when you visit.

This voucher entitles you to 10% of all items purchased at Derby RSPCA charity shop, Long Eaton and our Pet Shop on Abbey Street.



Voucher valid until Sat December 31st 2011.



Volunteering and Fundraising



Polly is a 6 month old cat and she came to us from an RSPCA inspector. She is very loving and such a beautiful girl who will make a great addition to any family. She loves other cats and would be fine with dogs. PURRFECT!



Bertie the Budgie is a handsome chap who came into the Centre after being found by a member of the public. He is a little Prima Donna who likes to look at himself in the mirror. Can you give little Bertie a tweet this xmas and adopt him?

I did promise that I wouldn't 'wine' on about our recent fundraising event at Derby County Cricket Club but it was such a phenomenal success that needs to be shouted from the rooftops!

Over 200 corporate people attended our Wine Tasting Quiz at Derby County Cricket Club in the Marquee. The great facilities were donated by the DCCC including the staff on the night, the wine was sponsored by Paladin Capital and the cheese and nibbles by Beechdale Motor Group.



Deb and Sly from Paladin Capital

The evening started with a short speech from Deb followed by the first of 10 bottles of wine to taste! We ran a raffle at half-time and then the grand finale was an auction. Thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers, the evening ran like clockwork.

We raised a phenomenal £10,251!



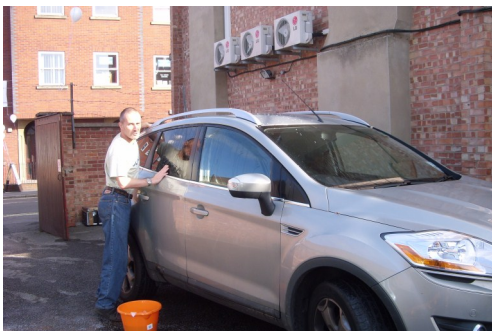
The evening in full swing



Karen (right) with the adopters of Bruce

Community Car Wash

Our community carwash at Wathall's on Macklin Street in October raised over £250. I think the funniest part of the morning for me was seeing 2 of our volunteers washing their own car and then putting a donation into our collection box. We all had a great morning and I would like to say a big thank you to Wathalls for organising the car wash for us and not forgetting the doctor's surgery for organising their flu jabs on the same day!



Christmas Events and 2012

Christmas Events

As the year comes to a close we are still keeping busy and looking forward to our Christmas collections. We will be in Westfield Shopping Centre on the 10th December (in the warmth!) and at St Peter's Street in Derby on the 17th December. Frosty has shaken his cobwebs off once again and will hopefully be making an appearance. We would like these collections to be the best ever and would love it if you (and your pooches) are able to help us.

If anyone feels they would like to help us further in any way be it by donating or simply giving of your time, then please do get in touch using our contact details in the newsletter or on our website.



Christmas gifts with a difference

If you feel able to help with the animals that we will be looking after over the Christmas period then please see the enclosed sheet for ways of providing them with a nice Christmas dinner or a little bit of extra comfort over the festive season and what a great gift or stocking filler for someone. We will send you a special certificate of thanks from the animals to give to your loved ones on Christmas day.



Looking Ahead

Its our 140th birthday next year and we are certainly going to celebrate! One of our main events of the year will be taking place at Carsington Water on Sunday June 3rd. The morning will start at 9am with a sponsored 8K run around the reservoir for serious runners followed by the novices at 10am either walking, skipping, jogging, jumping or cycling or any other strange of making their way around. There will also be a kiddies Triathlon type event so it really is a Fun Day for the whole family! Food, drink, stalls and games are also planned .

And Finally

My heartfelt thanks go to our dedicated team of volunteers for all their hard work and commitment during this last year. My message is simple: "without you it wouldn't have been possible to have such a wonderful year"

KIDS CORNER

As you sit snugly by the fire this winter, spare a thought for our feathered friends. Their survival skills are tested to the limit when winter tightens its grip and food becomes hard to find. Here is a simple recipe to help our little friends during the cold winter months.

Please make sure you ask an adult to help!

Cone Bird Feeder

Things You Need:

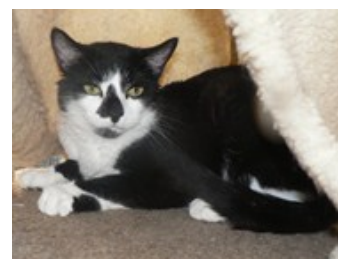
- A large, pine cone
- Peanut butter mixed with margarine
- Bird seed
- A few feet of string

How to Make:

Tie the pine cone to a few feet of string. You can do this by attaching the string to the pine cone and then tying it around a few sections from the top . Now place the pine cone over a piece of paper towel and using a butter knife spread the peanut butter mixture on the edges of the cone. Now sprinkle the birdseed all over the pine cone until it is covered. Place your pine cone bird feeder outdoors and watch with satisfaction as the birds enjoy the pine cone treat you have put out for them.



Meet Tia and Benji. They love going out for long walks, best suited in a home with no young children or other pets. They are both very loving and will make great companions for anyone.



Tilly (top picture) came to us via our RSPCA inspector with her friend Jess. Tilly is approx 7 months old and Jess is 4 years old. They are a very affectionate pair and It would be great if they could be rehomed together.



Harry is a 2 year old German Shepherd cross. He is an adorable and lovable fella who loves going for walks and playing with his ball. His favourite trick is to tip his bowl over and chase it around the exercise area. When he eventually picks it up he loves to come and show you what a clever boy he is!



Holly is a lovely 5 year old female cross breed. She came in as her owner could no longer keep her. Holly is an affectionate dog and she is a joy to be around. Her tail is constantly wagging and she is always happy to see you. She likes other dogs and may be ok with older children.



Spitz is a 1—2 year old female cat. She came to us with a litter of kittens which have all found homes now, but she is left alone! She is a very friendly, loving cat who will get on well with another cat



Heidi came to us as an unwanted pet. She is a 5 year old cross breed that loves fuss and cuddles and at the moment will be noisy until she gets attention. She is quite a character and likes nothing better than going out for long walks. She is ok with some dogs and would be ok with older children.



Alfie is a male Lurcher and is about 7 years old. He came to us as a stray so we don't know much about his history. He is a very calm dog that loves to be made a fuss of. Please contact the Centre for more details.



Oscar is a male tabby cat who is about 2 years old. He came in with his sisters as they were found as stray's. He is a timid cat so he would need a quiet home with no children or dogs. He does however like other cats so he would make a great companion. He is a handsome cat and just needs lots of love and affection.



We have two lovely male guinea pigs in at the moment. They are very friendly chaps and love to be fussed and would be ideal for children as a pet. Please pop down to the Centre if you are interested in giving then a home

