

Animal Affairs



November 2008

Reading with Oxon Border Branch

Registered charity no. 251482

www.rspca-reading.org.uk • Email: volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk

Welcome!

Welcome to the first Branch newsletter for the RSPCA Reading with Oxon Border Branch. The Branch is run by a committee of seven unpaid volunteers covering the following roles; Welfare Assistance, Cat Rehoming Co-ordinator, Secretary, Chairman, Dog Rehoming Co-ordinator, Website Manager, Fundraising Co-ordinator and Treasurer. Each Branch is a separate charity, receiving no government funding. We rely entirely on donations, fundraising activities and the kind help of volunteers.

This newsletter is designed to share news and information relating to the work and successes of the RSPCA in our area and will be published on a quarterly basis. We also need a permanent name for the newsletter and would like your help to find one! Please email your suggestions to volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk and the trustees will choose their favourite for the next issue. We are also interested in any other suggestions and ideas you have for the newsletter, so please send them to the same address.

Natasha Staley, newsletter editor

Latest News

Fundraising – The Reading Town Centre collection day on 13th September raised a total of £402.78. All money raised will go directly to help fund local animal welfare. We rely heavily on volunteers to support both our fundraising efforts and to help organise events. If anyone would like to volunteer – even an hour of your time would be great! - or has any ideas to help us raise funds we would love to hear from you! Please contact Mel Ivey at volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk

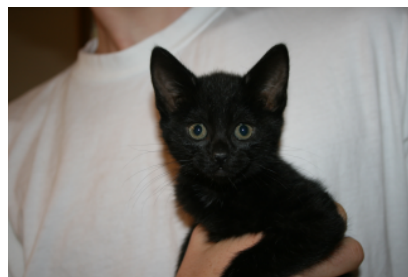
Success stories

When three male kittens were taken into Castle Vets at just two days old it was doubtful whether any would survive. They were three of four kittens born in a shed, and although the mother moved one of

the kittens she didn't come back for the others. All three were very small and quite poorly. Receptionist Fran Snow from Castle Vets offered to hand-rear the kittens on behalf of the Branch, feeding them every two hours, day and night. Thanks to her fantastic efforts all three of the kittens survived and have been successfully rehomed. One of the kittens, named Ziggy, has been found a loving home alongside fellow survivor Zoey...

One of a litter of five cared for by Elaine Groves, Zoey's mother was involved in a road traffic incident when she was heavily pregnant and suffered a badly broken leg. No owner could be traced, but thanks to Elaine's care the mother and five kittens all survived. Three of the kittens have been rehomed, one of them being Zoey who is settling in well with her new companion Ziggy.

If you are interested in adopting one of Zoey's siblings (Zoey is pictured below), please contact Jane Griffiths on 0118 901 0701.



Protecting pedigree dogs

The BBC recently ran a documentary called "Pedigree Dogs Exposed". The programme contained strong evidence that the welfare and quality of life, of many pedigree dogs is seriously compromised as a result of established breeding practices driven primarily by the rules and regulations of formal dog showing and pedigree dog registration. Radical steps need to be taken to protect registered pedigree dogs and the RSPCA

is actively involved in trying to change the situation.

One of the breeds often affected is the West Highland Terrier (or Westie). Over / in-breeding can mean that these dogs suffer from serious skin conditions. We have recently taken in a Westie with a serious skin complaint, requiring medication for the rest of her life. These pictures of Misty show her when she first came to the RSPCA and the outfit made by her wonderful foster mum Wendy Jex to prevent her from biting her legs. Things are now improving but it will take some time before the hair grows back.

It should be pointed out that there are many responsible pedigree dog breeders whose primary concern is the health and welfare of the dogs.



Anyone interested in either adopting or fostering a dog should contact Lindsay Mills: 0785 389 2884.

Homes wanted!

The Branch has a number of kittens and cats in need of permanent, loving homes. The kittens include two at approximately 8 weeks old, who were found abandoned in a garden. There are also two kittens at 12 weeks old; and two slightly older at approximately 16 weeks, taken in having been taunted by a young child at home. In addition to the above are two feral black & white kittens who are being tamed ready for rehoming.

Adult cats include Tooty the tortoiseshell, a female black & white cat called Jasmine, two friendly black male cats named Abel and Long John Black, and an abandoned female black cat called Mary. All of these cats and kittens would be suitable to go homes with children and potentially other cats. If you or someone you know is interested in offering a home to one (or more!) please contact Jane Griffiths: 0118 901 0701

Events

Goring & Streatley Christmas Fair: The Branch will be holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday, 22nd November from 10am to 1pm in the Belleme Room, next to Goring Village Hall. There will be Christmas tree decorations to buy at bargain prices, an exciting tombola, two craft tables and refreshments with home made cakes. Please come and support us, and go home with some early Christmas presents!

Saving money ...and the environment

Sending information via email instead of post allows us to reduce postage and printing costs which can then be used to help local animals in need. Not only this but it also supports the environment as fewer natural resources are consumed.

If you would be happy to receive RSPCA communications via email in the future, please send an email to: volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk

Turning pets into stars this Christmas!

The RSPCA recently invited anyone who adopted an animal from the Reading with Oxon Border Branch during 2008 to take part in its **Christmas Calendar Competition**. Entrants sent in photographs of their pets enjoying their new homes and the 12 winners have been selected to appear in the RSPCA Reading with Oxon Border Branch 2009 Calendar for all to see!

The calendar will make an ideal Christmas present for family and friends and all profits will be used to help animals in the local area. If you are interested in purchasing one or more calendars please email volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk. The calendars are A4, in month to view format, with photos approximately postcard size and will be sold at a very reasonable **£3.00 including p&p**. Or take advantage of our special offer and purchase **5 calendars for the price of 4, at only £12.00 including p&p**.

Keep pets safe on Bonfire Night and beyond

Bonfire Night is fast approaching, and although their owners might enjoy fireworks, many animals are frightened by them. Not only this, but nowadays fireworks feature at all kinds of celebrations - not just Bonfire Night.

If your pet is frightened by loud noises, don't ignore the problem. You should always seek advice from your vet who will, if necessary, be able to refer you to a professional animal behaviour counsellor.

There are also many ways in which you can help your pets. For further advice please visit www.rspca.org.uk/fireworks, or request the leaflet by emailing campaigns@rspca.org.uk, or calling 0300 123 0355.

Meet the team...and their pets!

The Reading with Oxon Border Branch of the RSPCA is run by a team of volunteer committee members - every one of them passionate about animal welfare. Each

issue we will feature a brief introduction to one of the trustees and their pets.

Treasurer: Ann Dunmall

Ann has acted as Treasurer for the Reading with Oxon Border Branch of the RSPCA for eleven years. She has three dogs of her own; Alfie (below left) who was taken from his mother at 4 weeks old and put onto normal dog food which made him very ill, Phoebe (below centre) whose tail was cut off with kitchen scissors when she was just 4 months old resulting in an infection that nearly killed her, and Millie (below right) who was part of the first litter to be rehomed by the Branch.



Useful contact information

Cat rehoming/fostering:

Jane Griffiths - 0118 901 0701

Dog rehoming/fostering: Lindsay Mills - 07853 892884

Guinea pig rehoming:

www.readingguineapigrescue.co.uk

Karen@readingguineapigrescue.co.uk

Rabbit rehoming:

www.readingrabbits.org.uk

reading_rabbits@btinternet.com

Websites: www.rspca.org.uk (national) and www.rspca-reading.org.uk (branch)

To report any act of cruelty please contact the RSPCA 24 hour Cruelty & Advice Line on **0300 1234 999**. Please DO NOT call any other number to report cruelty.

Thank You!

The Branch would like to take this opportunity to thank all of its volunteers, supporters and adopters. Without your help we would only be able to achieve a fraction of what we do. Thank You!