

Tails to Tell



BoBo, a little Terrier cross breed was recently involved in a road accident when she sustained a horrific injury, which ran from the side of her neck down to her mid stomach, leaving a wound of about 30 cm in length. One of our RSPCA Inspectors took her straight to a local vet for emergency treatment. As a young dog, believed to be not yet 3 years old, it was decided that she stood a good chance of surviving her injury – there were no broken bones and no internal organs had been damaged. Once she had been stabilised, she had one major operation to repair the damage to her skin and surrounding tissue and for several weeks afterwards had to undergo many minor procedures as part of the treatment to the wound.

One of the veterinary nurses caring for her said of the injury, "I had never seen anything like it before". Every day, twice a day, for several weeks the wound, which healed slowly had to be treated and dressed and once BoBo was well enough, she needed the added attention of being walked, played with and loved.



This scruffy, little dog, dressed in an old red kiddies t-shirt (to stop her from licking her wound), went through such a horrific ordeal and yet despite the

weeks of vital nursing care, she took it all in her stride. Veterinary nurse, Nicky commented, "Despite everything that BoBo has been through, she is a happy, friendly little dog that loves her cuddles and being played with and it is a great testament to her character that she has taken it all so well".

It is thanks to the dedication and care of everyone involved in her rehabilitation that she made such a marvellous recovery. Happily, after exactly six weeks in veterinary care, she started a new life with a family who were looking for a Terrier to adopt and keep their other two dogs company. Her new owners report "BoBo has settled in really well and rules the roost! We love her to bits".

An Inspector's Story

A couple of months ago, RSPCA Inspector Dave Johnson received a message from one of Aldershot Barracks' dog trainers saying that a badger was trapped in a drainage access point in the dog training enclosure. This drainage point gave access to one of the drainpipes and was fairly large - set into the ground about 4 ft deep and 12 ft square. The badger had obviously fallen into the brick-built pit, presumably at night when it was very dark and unable to see properly where he was going. When Dave arrived he was confronted by a very distraught and poorly badger that had obviously been trapped for several days as he was suffering from exposure, aided by the fact he was partially immersed in cold, stagnant water that had flooded the area from all the heavy rain that had fallen recently.

Despite his poor state of health and obvious fear he still managed to give Dave the run around as he tried to fish him out using his heavy duty grasper. Once caught Dave realised, apart from the evidence of exposure to the cold, he

had damaged his claws and his paws were bleeding, where he had clawed at the concrete base and sides so frantically in his obvious desperation to get out.

Once the rescue was complete, Dave took the badger, nicknamed Bertie, to Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead where he stayed for two weeks for the treatment of his injuries and exposure. Once he had fully recovered, Dave and one of the RSPCA's Animal Collection Officers, Pete, returned Bertie to Aldershot and released him back to his set without any problems.

Dave is happy to report that the Army is now looking at putting ramps into the drainage point so that if any wildlife becomes trapped in the future, it will have an easy means of escape. Dave commented, "For Bertie, his escape involved the intervention of the RSPCA, but luckily for him, it came in time so he is now well and back where he belongs".

Loving Homes Wanted



Little Sue, one of two kittens, born on 2 April, is now ready for

a loving home. Can you help?

Stray cat, Lewi, having been in foster care for a while now, is desperate for a new home.



If you are interested

in adopting either Sue or Lewi or one of our other cats or kittens currently in our care, please call 07880 547502.

RSPCA Rescue Facts

The RSPCA recently released the rescue figures for 2007, which sadly, make for worrying reading. For the second year running the Society was responsible for rescuing nearly 150,000 wild, exotic, farm and domestic animals from dangerous and distressing situations.



These figures include a 23% increase in the number of animals abandoned by their owners from just under 6,000 in 2006 to 7,347 in 2007. Almost half of these were cats.

In 2007 rescue figures showed:

- Farm animals rescued - up 96%
- Horse and pony rescues - up 66%
- Rescues of wild mammals - up 21%
- Number of dogs rescued - up 20%
- Rescues of exotic animals - up nearly 20%
- More wild birds were rescued than any other species, followed by cats
- 23,758 more cats than dogs were rescued

And the worrying trend could be continuing. Just four months into 2008 the Society has already rescued 2,621 abandoned animals.

An Adopter's Anecdote

This account of Patch and Tilly has been kindly submitted to us by Martin Howard and Richard Purcell who adopted them a few months ago from the RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre. The home visit was carried out by one of our Branch's volunteers.

Moggy Madness!



"Our cats, Patch and Tilly have a seemingly enduring fascination with the kitchen sink, or more particularly, the mixer tap. Each week they spend hours sitting beside the sink waiting for the tap to drip so they can attempt to catch the water. When it disappears

down the drain, they peer into the sink often putting their heads right inside as if waiting for the water to somehow rise up again. Recently they have discovered that by flicking their tongues across the end of the tap, they can sometimes persuade the water to fall and these days, washing the dishes can be a real challenge. They take no notice of how wet they get and more than once have had to be dried off with a towel. Lifting them down to the floor is an often repeated exercise, for no sooner are they down then they are back up.

But their water adventures are not confined to the sink. Given half a chance, Patch will jump in the bath, when empty, to slide around, chasing his tail and looking like some strangely designed penguin on an ice floe, whilst Tilly sits in the hand-basin watching his antics with Victorian-like disdain. Oddly, this event seems to require a quantity of mud from the garden to be applied to the paws beforehand!

It is a shame that neither has yet learned to mop up afterwards, although I do have hopes for Tilly. She has developed an attachment with the dishcloths. No matter how often we place a dishcloth in the pot beside the sink, Tilly will find it. In fact, she has now taken to checking the pot as she heads to or from the tap. If she finds one, she will carry it off. Sometimes, she will simply drop it to the floor as if she has decided that is where it rightly belongs. At other times, she will take it and put it in the old washing-up bowl, both have a fancy for, or carry them under the dining room table.

Most of this is carried out in silence, but if the dishcloths have upset her, she will treat them to a vociferous telling-off and place them in an old cardboard box she sometimes lies in.

Patch on the other hand, is less inclined to such domestic trivia. He has a fondness for pens and paper. So great is his liking for pens, he has been known to remove one from between fingers whilst in use, which is distracting for the user and also painful if his claws catch the skin.

The use of paper towel is best done surreptitiously. If he sees it being used, he will attempt to take it. This has caused me to be scratched so often that I now find it easier and safer to give him a sheet to "kill" whilst I get on with my task unhindered by a marauding cat.

They are both young and the garden, which they now have access to after

their initial confinement, is a place of adventure and curiosity. Tilly has investigated the roof of the greenhouse, an experiment which she has not repeated since sliding unladylike down the glass and ending up nose first in the gutter. We wait with baited breath to see what other moggy madness develops now that the summer is here and they can spend more time in the garden!



certainly added a new dimension to our lives!"

It just goes to show, when you take a cat home you never know what's in store for you and these two have

Charity Shop News

Our Ash Vale Charity Shop won first place in the RSPCA's 2007 Christmas Shop Window competition.

Thanks to the talents of the Shop Managers' window dressing skills, we are often complimented by our customers on the attractiveness of our window displays. Indeed, the North Camp shop regularly wins local Council window display awards.

Well done to all the staff involved.



Quiz Night Report



Our second Branch Quiz Night with Ploughman's Supper on Friday 18 April at the Mytchett Centre was another great success. Thanks go to our Quiz Masters, Terry and Sandie who again waived their usual fee in support of our charity and were key to the success of the evening, along with everyone who supported us. Tickets sold out three weeks before the event and we made a profit of just under £400 from ticket sales and a raffle.

We hope to see you at our next Quiz Night later in the year.