

Animal Matters

June 2009



Hants & Surrey Border Branch

Registered charity no. 201291

www.rspca-hantsandsurrey.org.uk • Email: info@rspcahantsandsurreyborder.org.uk

Tails to Tell



Tigger, a 4 year old ginger and white male cat and Daisy, a 4 year old tabby and white female cat, came to our attention via a local RSPCA Inspector, Dave Johnson. He phoned the branch looking for an immediate foster home as he had them in the back of his van and nowhere to put them! After a rush of phone calls a space was found with one of our fosterers but she was not available to take the pair for a couple of days. The Inspector by this time had taken the cats home with him and agreed to keep them in his kitchen for 2-3 days until we were able to accommodate them.

And then the snow began to fall.....

A week later, during which time Dave had been snowed in and was forced to carry the cats to his nearest vet on foot to be checked over, Tigger & Daisy were very keen to get to their new, if temporary, foster home.

Tigger and Daisy although not siblings, had been together since they were little and were the best of friends.

Daisy had a nasty injury to her back foot and was feeling sorry for herself, but Tigger never left her side in those few cold, miserable days.



He cleaned her, cuddled up with her in their cage and even let her eat food before him. A real gent and a good friend!

Finally the Inspector was able to deliver the cats to our fosterer and so began a long series of visits to the vet. Daisy's foot needed dressing every 2-3 days for several weeks but she was incredibly tolerant and by the 3rd or 4th visit was most obliging, lying straight down on the vet's table and proffering her leg in the air to be treated!

Daisy's foot healed naturally with time, she needed no antibiotics or stitches and was an ideal patient. Both she and Tigger made the most of their comfortable, warm surroundings and after only 4 weeks were well enough to be re-homed. They are now living with a young family in the local area and are enjoying a happy and contented lifestyle with lots of well deserved attention.

Charity Shops Recycling

Charity shops are all about recycling. Customers who kindly donate goods are the starting point. Rather than throwing their possessions away, they are passing them on for potential further use by those customers that buy goods in charity shops. This is helping to keep down the amount of waste that goes into our country's landfill sites.

When donations reach our two charity shops, all items are carefully checked before being selected for sale or for recycling, and the good news is, that not only are we helping the environment but also adding to our income because we are paid for 99% of the items we recycle. Therefore the majority of donations received by this Branch are of benefit to us in a monetary way.



In our Ash Vale and North Camp shop we recycle:

- Books and magazines
- Clothing and soft furnishings
- Soft toys
- Handbags, shoes, belts, hats
- Jewellery, any type including broken items
- Mobile phones
- Electrical goods

In the last six months, our recycling has included:

Approx 1,282 large bags of clothes, soft furnishings, toys, handbags etc.

More than 13,300 books.

More than 150 electrical items.

From recycling alone, this has raised £3,164 for this branch.

So the next time you have a sort out at home or work, stop to think before you throw things away, and remember that your unwanted items may be something that we can sell or recycle and get money for. That in turn, will mean an animal somewhere will benefit.



Whilst we recycle a high percentage of our unsaleable items, we are constantly striving to recycle more and we hope to soon be able to recycle plastics such as videos and CDs, vinyl records and PC games. Of course it is unrealistic to expect that everything we can't sell can be recycled but we certainly make great efforts to THINK GREEN!

A Day in the Life of our Cat Fostering Coordinator

By Geraldine Pearse

It's 9 am and the first task of the day is to check the branch mobile and log the messages left.



....A call reporting a lost cat and another from a local vet asking me to ring them. On calling back, the missing cat has happily turned up overnight. The vet practice (one I am in regular touch with) tells me that a member of the public has brought in a young male cat with an injured tail.



Are we willing to take responsibility for him once they have assessed his needs? They will keep him for a couple of days to sort out

his injury, so I have that time to make some enquiries, report him 'found' to our National Control Centre and find a foster space in case he needs it.

....I take a few more routine calls. The post arrives and will need my attention but I need to go out on a couple of errands, so the paperwork can wait! I am visiting two of my regular fosterers who have recently taken on rescue cats. 'Sidney' a male stray has been 'in the wars' and is still very frightened, although we will never know what he has been frightened by. The fosterer will give him time, patience and lots of TLC which, together with regular food and a comfy home, will hopefully get him on the road to recovery. The second, 'Jack', is very laid back and has made himself at home already! We had taken him



on from someone who needed reluctantly to re-home him due to a change in circumstances. Once his vaccinations are up to date he will make someone a lovely pet.

....On the way home I pop into another local vet who has offered us some donations of cat food which will come in handy to give to the fosterers.

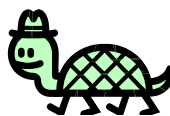


....Checking the RSPCA email on my return I have a request asking if we have kittens for re-homing and another for

rabbits. Also I have been sent lovely photos of another foster cat we have who is ready for re-homing. She will go onto our website and hopefully generate some interest and ultimately find a new home.

....I have a long conversation with a lady interested in taking on a new cat. This is good news as potential adopters are always in short supply. Her enthusiasm spilling over means I get to hear about all of her numerous previous cats in graphic detail! She seems an ideal and experienced owner and I suggest one or two of our cats she could visit and after a few more questions offer to refer her for a home check. She seems pleased and anxious to find a new companion soon.

....A final flurry of calls at the end of the day helps one of the local Animal Collection Officers to reunite a lost and elderly tortoise with his owner – somehow or other he has travelled several miles in the course of a week! 'Cat Fostering Coordinator' is just a title – a pet is a pet after all and we are the RSPCA!



Amersham Horses Appeal

Very few of us can have missed the shocking news in January 2008, when RSPCA Inspectors rescued 111 horses, ponies and donkeys, after being found in appalling conditions on a Buckinghamshire farm. Kirsty Hampton, one of the RSPCA Inspectors involved said "This case was distressing beyond measure".

The cost to the RSPCA of caring for the equines involved in this case over the past 14 months has now reached over £850,000. We desperately need financial support to continue to feed and care for these animals.

If you would like to help the national society by making a donation – no matter how small – you can do so by:

Sending a cheque to RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Horsham, RH13 9RS.

By calling 0300 123 8000 (lines open 24 hrs).

Or by donating online, by visiting www.rspca.org.uk and click on Amersham Horses Appeal.

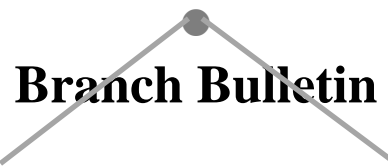
Waitrose Community Matters

Waitrose staff in Farnham, Yateley and Frimley all chose to select this Branch as one of each stores' three local organisations to be promoted in their recent monthly 'Community Matters' campaigns. Community Matters is a giving initiative where each month stores are given £1,000 to divide between local organisations. Shoppers to the store are given a token each time they shop and are requested to vote for the organisation they most wish to support by placing the token in the corresponding perspex tube.

At the end of the month, the tokens for each organisation are weighed and the beneficiaries then receive a proportion of the £1,000.

From each campaign we have received £460 from Yateley, £416 from Frimley and £175 from Farnham, making a grand total of £1,051.

To all those shoppers who used their tokens to vote for us – a very big thank you.



Branch Bulletin

RSPCA Week

27 April to 3 May

Tesco, Hook collections raised £1,398 and 7 trolley loads full of cat and dog food.

Tesco, Aldershot collection raised £642 and 3 trolley loads of food. To all our volunteer collectors – a big thank you for making it so successful.

Gala Day & Dog Show

Sunday 28 June, Mytchett

Volunteers still needed desperately for help setting up and for car park marshalling. If you are able to spare a few hours on the day, please contact Liz on 07799 103851.