

Animal Matters



October 2015

Hants & Surrey Border Branch

Registered charity no. 201291

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Tails TWO Tell



This gorgeous girl, at the time of her plight, obviously had no home of her own. One day, much to a local resident's surprise, she climbed through her window and took refuge under the dining room table where she gave birth to four kittens! Unfortunately, possibly due to the stress of her situation and being not much more than a kitten herself, she didn't know what to do with them so rejected them from the outset.

Clearly Mum and the kittens couldn't stay where they were so the owner called our Rehoming Manager, Geraldine, who arranged straight away for the four kittens to be collected by one of our Inspectors who took them to Millbrook to be hand-reared. Fortunately, there was a pen available at our Cattery for Mum, which is where she was taken. Once there it was found she was badly flea ridden, very thin, weighing only 2 kgs when she should have been weighed more than that at her age, which was assessed to be about 8 months. Once settled, with shelter and regular and much-needed food, she turned out to be a very vocal; sweet and friendly little cat that the staff named SWEET PEA.

After Sweet Pea had had her kittens she was in no hurry to be caught so had been 'out & about' for a time, which, although unlikely meant she could have got pregnant. As is common practice, it was necessary to get her neutered as soon as possible. Unfortunately, it turned out it was not a straightforward op as the wound bled very badly afterwards and was not easy to stop. This meant when she was back at the cattery she had to go into a special 'convalescence pen' that's very small so that she couldn't move much and risk bursting the stitches. She also

had a very large but tight bandage round her middle; all part of preventing any further bleeding.

When it was time for her to have a vet check-up our Rehoming Manager took her. The outcome was the wound had healed well enough so the bandage could come off which must have been a great relief for Sweet Pea to have her corset gone! During the return journey from the vets, noises started coming from the back of the van so in order to offer some comfort, Geraldine spoke soothing words, hoping to calm her. Shortly after, to her complete disbelief and shock, the next thing was Sweet Pea appeared at her side, where she sat happily on the passenger seat, looking around. On arriving back at the cattery Sweet Pea decided it was time for a cuddle so she curled up on the readily available lap purring like crazy and went to sleep! This meant Geraldine was trapped as things were so had to phone the cattery reception to ask them to come to her aid!

No one could believe how she must have escaped from the cat carrier. (A metal one with hinged top lid and a rod that goes through two hoops to keep the lid closed). Afterwards on checking, the carrier's lid was still closed and the rod fully in place! All it could have been is that she pushed so hard with her head and being tiny managed to squeeze through a very small space, despite a sore side and loads of stitches, all of which were undamaged.

On the same day of Sweet Pea's 'adventure' a young couple who had not long lost their beloved cat had decided to adopt another and had fallen in love with Sweet Pea at first sight.

Her new owners say what a character she is. She is clearly adored and has a wonderful home with a big garden, lots of other animals as companions, including chickens, rabbits and two other cats; but Sweet Pea is definitely the boss!



We don't often get the chance to tell equine tales because their rescue and care is a specialist area of the RSPCA, handled by specialist Centres or hospitals. However, on this occasion we are bringing you an endearing story about a Shetland foal, found in a field in our Branch area, all alone. An Inspector responded immediately to the call and found a foal, only a few weeks old and the size of a small dog. She was taken to Liphook Equine hospital where she spent the night and then a lady called Caroline, who heard about her from one of the nurses, took her on to hand-rear.

Caroline gave her adopted pony the lovely name of TWIGLET. During the many months of hand-rearing, which involved bottle feeding every 2 hours 24/7, Caroline slept on the sofa. She had lots of advice from the Inspector about what to do, who reports that Caroline did a great job. The hand-rearing went on until she was 6 months old when she was able to feed herself.



It transpired this Shetland pony was destined to do more than just live in a field.

Instead she serves a lovely role within the community as a "PAT PONY"! This means Twiglet has the accolade of being petted and fussed over by the elderly residents in local nursing homes. When she visits it is such a boost for these ladies & gents and can often make their day. She's been trained to use a lift and seems to instinctively know what's expected of her by being well behaved and well mannered. Caroline also runs children's 'PAT Pony Parties' where she has become a real favourite. Overall Twiglet is fantastic with everyone. If a pony can find a vocation, then Twiglet has certainly found hers!

If you care about the welfare of animals why not help us in the many ways that are not just about giving us money?

Sponsorship Fundraising

Do you enjoy a physical challenge?

Running, hiking, cycling, swimming; what do you enjoy? There are so many other sports or activities that you may like to have a go at. Sometimes we just need a bit of motivation to get going and what better reason than to raise funds for the local animals we help?

IT'S SO SIMPLE TO SET UP YOUR "MYDONATE" SPONSORSHIP PAGE. THERE ARE NO FEES AND WE WILL PROMOTE, SUPPORT & HELP YOU.

Once you've decided on your challenge, then is the time to tell US so we can help you set up your fundraising page, especially if you've not done anything like this before. Your friends, family & colleagues will need to be told so you can inspire them to sponsor you. Facebook, Twitter, work's Intranet; posters (that we can help you design). There's your email address book; and of course, word of mouth. It doesn't take long for donations to roll in and you find you're raising hundreds of pounds! What about 'Group Raising' ideas too, eg a 24 hr cycle challenge at your gym?



This is Silke. In July this year she raised **£532** by taking part in a Sponsored **Swim** of 1.5km around Brighton Pier. 41 friends, family & colleagues helped to make up this sizeable sum with their donations to Silke; with this Branch the ultimate, and very grateful beneficiary. Silke said "There are two things I really adore: to swim & animals so what better way to raise funds for the charity I volunteer for and love."

For all you eager runners, there's Fleet's 10km Run on 25th October and in March 2016 Fleet's Half Marathon. Or how about something else you'd like to have a go at? For ways we can help you, contact Joy ☎ 07579 001459 or Email: info@rspcahantsandsurreyborder.org.uk

GIVING US YOUR TIME... is one of the greatest ways you can help us.

Every volunteering role we have helps us to raise money, one way or another or it helps the animals we help. For everyone these days time is precious and we are always looking for people willing to help us. We are always in need of:

- Shop Assistants for our North Camp & Farnham Shops
- Event Fundraising Assistants
- 'Special Projects' Collectors
- Drivers
- Admin and/or PC help

For more information on each role, please ☎ 07579 001459 or Email: admin@rspcahantsandsurreyborder.org.uk

Charity Shops News

All donations gratefully received at our shops. If you have lots but transport is an issue, then we may be able to collect (no guarantees). ☎ 07579 001459.

Help us to start our new range of "Designer & Vintage" clothes. Please check your wardrobes for those special outfits, shoes, bags and accessories that you no longer wear. Please ask friends and family to help too. Again, for home collection enquiries please call us.

Would your Workplace consider allowing us to collect from your work colleagues? See opposite.

Sign up for 'Gift Aid giving' at our Farnham shop and know your donations are making even more money for us by an extra 25p in every £1. Watch out for our North Camp shop to start their Gift Aid scheme later this year.

Our Charity shops are in:
Ash Vale, Wharf Road
North Camp, Camp Road
Farnham, The Woolmead

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Easy Action BY YOU.

Easy Money TO OUR CHARITY

Thousands of well known retailers offering on-line shopping, eg. M&S, Boots, Tesco, Argos, Amazon, Next, choose to support charities through **easyfundraising**. The retailers commit to give a donation of a certain percentage of any purchase that you make when you sign up and choose the Charity you wish to give to. To choose us as your 'Good Cause' you must search & select "**RSPCA Hants & Surrey Border Branch**". Please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and find out how easy it is to donate to us. They provide a simple, easy to use 'Donation Reminder' option or a "Find & Remind" toolbar. This way you never forget a donation each time you go on-line to make a purchase; whether that be car insurance, groceries or a holiday.

Our "Donation Stations"

We've recently introduced an even easier way for people to donate to us, meaning no packing up the car and driving to one of our shops when time is precious. If the company you work for are willing to have a "Donation Station", perhaps in Reception then staff can bring their donations to work and pop them into our purpose-made collection box. Once full and we're notified, we'll empty it.



More details from Catherine on 07483 167 718

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