

“We are having to turn cats away”

“It’s heartbreaking” said Animal Centre manager Jean Spencer. RSPCA inspectors, who are dealing with cruelty cases every day need to pass injured and cruelly treated animals to centres like Rochdale for rehabilitation. But when every centre is full these animals have nowhere to go.

Rochdale cattery has 70 places and until some are found new homes, just can’t take any more. “It takes its toll on the staff emotionally too” said Jean. “It’s bad enough having to turn animals away but when we are so full, feeding the ones we have becomes a problem too”. “Usually our donated cat food keeps us going but this year it’s literally hand to mouth”.

The Centre is really desperate to find new homes for its cats. “We have some real beauties in at the moment” said Jean. Anyone interested in adopting one should come into the centre and have a chat with me as soon as possible”.



Evie and poor deaf little Pearl, lets hope that they can be rehomed together.

Rochdale Animal Centre has a large modern cattery, fully equipped to provide 70 cats with all they need to get back on their feet and ready for a new owner.

During the summer and autumn this year, 70 places have not been enough and the Centre has been turning cats away at the rate of 4 or 5 each day. “This is the worst I’ve ever known it” said manager Jean Spencer. “I dread to think what winter will bring”.

PEARL - ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES

Little Pearl, only 4 weeks old, was noticed by Dorothy, an RSPCA volunteer, being offered for sale in a Rochdale car park.

Dorothy brought Pearl to the Centre and gave her a good clean and feed. She was found to be badly underweight, had chronic diarrhoea and was also profoundly deaf.

To add to her problems she was depressed and craved some companionship. At the time, Frankie, a bull mastiff belonging to shops coordinator Shirley, was in the Centre most days and he and Pearl - an unlikely pair, got on great together.

Later, when Pearl was a little stronger we introduced her to Evie, a kitten of the same age, very playful and full of life. Evie has become Pearl’s guide and best friend and the Centre hopes to rehome them together.



Frankie looking after Pearl soon after she arrived at the Centre.

GET A PROFESSIONAL PICTURE OF YOUR PET

Our picture of Pearl, (and the one below) were taken by professional photographer Anthony Molyneux

Anthony will be at our **OPEN DAY** on the **23 NOVEMBER** all ready to take your pets picture- don’t miss him!

that some were very young so could be housed together - which would make a big difference. In total we managed to prepare accommodation for 18 animals. Yes, 18! (If people would only get their cats neutered this situation would not arise).

All 18 had a veterinary check first and apart from a few fleas and worms seemed fine. They ranged from 7 weeks old to 2 years.

We were then completely full but later in the day, a lovely family came in with two kittens that they had found at Rochdale railway station. Getting off a train they noticed an old man looking in a wicker cat carrier - inside were two kittens. The girl rang her father who came to collect both his family and the kittens and they came straight to us. The kittens looked to be about 5 weeks old and although we were full, as they were so tiny, we found a small space

for them. We have called them Flash and Squiggle. They seem in good health but not quite eating solid food yet. They will make fabulous pets when they are old enough to be homed. The cat crisis never seems to end.



Flash and Squiggle

HENRY

Henry came to us to be re-habilitated after the RSPCA prosecuted his owner. Very unusually Henry has an extra toe on each foot. Whether this contributed to his owners cruelty towards him we don’t know but we know he had to have one leg amputated it was in such a state. Henry turned out to be very soft and playful and, as his confidence returned, very adventurous too. Henry has now found a new and loving owner.



CAT-ASTROPHE continued

Full to bursting

As an example of a typical day at the Animal Centre, the following story shows our problem with the number of cats we are expected to deal with.

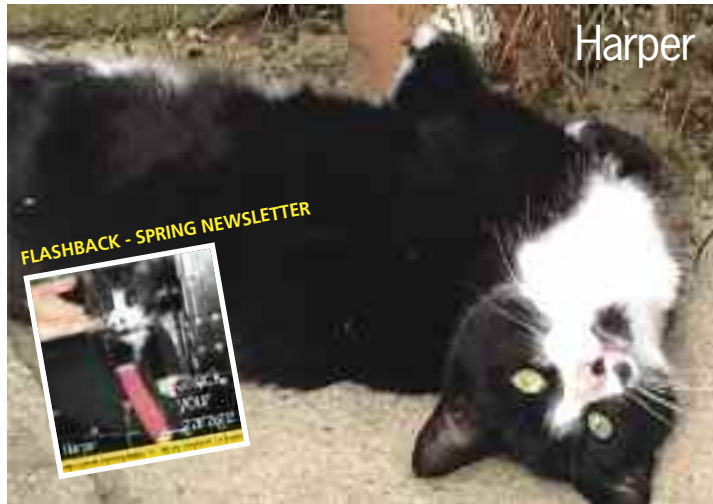
Recently, we took a call from an RSPCA Inspector who had been called to what we term as a multi-cat household. The Inspector needed to remove all the animals immediately and wanted us to find space at the Centre. We prepared to pull out all the stops and we were told

2 more happy endings ...MAILBAG...

HARPER

Do you remember Harper, the garage cat featured in our Spring newsletter? Harper had been trapped in a garage for weeks during last winter and was almost dead when discovered. After she had recovered with us, she went to a new home in Manchester and we were delighted to hear that she has settled down well and is having a fabulous time.

Hi, sorry we haven't sent a picture sooner. We adopted Harper in June, she had been with you a while. We think she has been here before, she settled straight away and is very loving and confident. She has a great relationship with our Border Collie, Pearl. She is gentle but loves a good play! The Hill Family, Manchester.



Harper

JOEY

Hello everyone. I just wanted to contact you to give you a little story about Joey, my little baby cat that I adopted from RSPCA Rochdale. Joey, who was originally named Sam has now really become quite the explorer!

I moved to England two years ago and adopted Joey almost straight away. We have developed a really strong and loving connection and when I realised I was going to have to move home to Sweden again I was pondering my options regarding my cat.



Joey

I did some research and when I learned I could fly to Sweden with him in the cabin I decided I was going to bring him with me. The choice wasn't hard because when I adopted him I made a commitment and I wasn't prepared to give up my

little boy. The bond we had forged had grown so strong and I felt that if we were together everything would be fine.

The day of the journey I was very nervous. I had woken up at around 3 am from a nightmare about missing our flight and couldn't stop thinking about it. I could go on about my stress during the trip as I hate flying, but all I want to say is that Joey, although he wasn't entirely pleased with the noise from the plane, was a real trooper through it all. All the way to Sweden he slept the entire flight and the passenger next to me was really impressed!

He has made me so proud and as we arrived at my parents house in Stockholm he had a nosey around in the house and then had a meal and a drink, washed himself and fell asleep on the chair next to my bed.

I questioned myself if this was the right thing to do and he has proved that cats are strong and resilient animals and that the trip was worth it. We are now spending our third day in Sweden and he is walking round the house like a king!

Thank you for letting me adopt this amazing cat! Madeleine

OPEN DAY

FREE
Coffee and a cake

23
NOV

TOMBOLA
PET TREATS
RAFFLE
RSPCA GOODS
STALLS, BOOKS
THE BODYSHOP
CUPCAKES

Invitation

The trustees of the Rochdale Animal Centre warmly invite you to visit the Centre on 23 November 2013.

There will be plenty to see and do, and we look forward to seeing you.

Redcross Street, Rochdale Open 11.30am - 3.30pm
Entry only £1 each

Become a valued member of the RSPCA Your branch needs YOU!

Without our generous supporters there would be no RSPCA. You make the RSPCA what it is!

All the rescues, the rehoming, the campaigns and the prosecutions are only possible because of our supporters. During this difficult economic time we rely on your support more than ever to cope with an increase in animals that are being abandoned. At the same time we are suffering a drop in donations as many of our supporters face difficult times themselves.

Much of the direct animal welfare work is carried out in the branches. These, like Rochdale, are separately registered charities, self funding and raise money locally to support the animal welfare work they do. We are fortunate in Rochdale to have our own animal centre and offer advice, microchipping, neutering and rehabilitation and rehoming of animals but this comes at a cost.

We are proud to support our highly qualified and very dedicated RSPCA Inspectors and Animal Welfare Officers who work round the clock. They need to have somewhere to take the animals that they rescue, often from appalling conditions. We urge you to become a member of the RSPCA to help pay for the services they give. For more information on the work of the RSPCA and what it means to be a member, check the website www.rspca.org.uk. You will be allocated to the Rochdale branch and in addition to the material you will receive from the national society you will also receive our newsletter and information on our local events.

We are enclosing membership forms with this newsletter and urge you to become a member. If you are already a member please pass on this form to a friend, relative or a work colleague who may be interested.



Rochdale
Animal
Centre

**There is so much that can be done
Please join as a member now.**

You will then be a full member of the most powerful animal welfare group in the UK as well as a warmly welcomed member of the Rochdale and District branch.

Simon Danczuk MP visits new shop at 856 Manchester Rd, Castleton



Charity shops, once the orphans of the retail world, have now come of age and take their rightful place as part of the fabric of society. Recycling is now not just accepted, but actively pursued by almost all sectors of the community. Shirley Mellor, who coordinates the shops activities, has seen the change happen and works hard to ensure that our RSPCA shops have maximum appeal and are able to take full advantage of this trend. The popularity of the branches' seven shops have encouraged the branch to open one more - this time in Castleton. Said Shirley "opening a new shop is always a risk and we are all a bit nervous as well as excited. We hope and pray that people will come and visit us"

The shop was opened on 23 September and is being managed by Katie Clarke, who has two years experience working with the RSPCA. Katie said "It's going great so far. One of the first customers through the door said "It's about time Castleton had a charity shop for animals". "I think it's going to be very popular".

The shop was visited by local Member of Parliament Simon Danczuk who is a great supporter of animal welfare. Simon said "I am delighted to be here today at this new RSPCA charity shop. The

RSPCA does such wonderful work to help all those animals which suffer abuse or ill treatment and I know that the people of Rochdale will value this opportunity to contribute to the future success of the Rochdale Animal Centre. I believe that a civilised society is often judged by the care it takes of innocent and vulnerable animals and it is a cause that I wholeheartedly support. Thank you for inviting me and I wish the shop and Rochdale RSPCA every success in the future". Simon, who came along with his wife Karen wished everyone luck with the venture and said he hoped it would be a positive step for both Castleton and for local animals. Please visit the shop - it's easily found at 856 Manchester Road. Tel. 0797 0111885.



Left: Shop Manager Katie Clarke. Above: Volunteer, Carrie; Shop Manager, Katie Clarke; MP Simon Danczuk; Donna Holt AWO; Branch Trustee, Jan Canavan.

Also call at our other shops:

Rochdale: 97 Yorkshire Street,
Todmorden: 27 Burnley Road,
Milnrow: 84 Dale Street,
Heywood: 36 Market Place.

Middleton: 1 Middleton Gardens,
Middleton: 12 Old Hall Street,
Littleborough: 23 Harehill Road,



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

RSPCA Rochdale Animal Centre

This is a very popular FREE SERVICE - we have some lovely cats with us at the moment

Fundraising news

Our fundraising team is out and about all the time; £143 was raised during the summer at the **Alan Bracewell Big Band Night** held at the **Pack Horse Inn**; In August/September, £350 was raised at a Coffee Morning and Auction at **our shop in Old Hall Street, Middleton**. We had a fun day at **Todmorden**, where we raised £300 in the shop and also manned a market stall, (one in August and one in September) which raised £450 and we collected at **Pets at Home** in Bury raising £167.



Our 2013 Tree of Remembrance

Our Tree of Remembrance was very popular last year and everyone has voted to make it a regular feature each Christmas. Visit it at the Animal Centre on Redcross Street.

Help us to raise funds - Just use our recycling collection envelope for unwanted jewellery or foreign banknotes

An RSPCA recycling envelope will have come along with this newsletter. If not, or to obtain another one, please ring the Animal Centre.

Thanks to everyone who took part, the funds you raise are absolutely critical for us to carry on the work we do.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS TO COME
16 November at Gordon Riggs Garden Centre, Todmorden.
7 and 8 December at Gordon Riggs Garden Centre, Rochdale.

Please check our website and facebook page for up to date information, as further events are being planned before Christmas.

OPENING TIMES	
Mon	11.30 - 3.30
Tue	11.30 - 3.30
Wed	Closed
Thu	11.30 - 3.30
Fri	11.30 - 3.30
Sat	11.30 - 3.30
Sun	11.30 - 3.30

Home for Life

You don't have to worry about what may happen to your pets if you die

Our Home for Life service gives you peace of mind. If you pass away we will take care of your pets and do our very best to give them a loving home. More details **pick up a leaflet at the Animal Centre or go to www.rspca.org.uk**

We have small number of cats with us at the moment from the Home for Life scheme - all are wonderful cats and we are taking very good care of them. They are mostly older cats and come to us needing minor veterinary attention but are soon ready for adoption. Older cats make the most adorable companions.

COLLECTING TINS

A big thank you to all of you who have a collecting tin for the Animal Centre. Regular amounts of income no matter how big or small is what the Centre relies on all year round and the proceeds of collecting tins are always very gratefully received.



RSPCA Rochdale Animal Centre

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Keep up to date with news at the Animal Centre by following us on Facebook. You can also help to promote the Centre and our shops, by clicking 'like' on our page. Find us by searching 'RSPCA Rochdale Animal Centre'.

Thanks to all of you who donated cat food following our appeal on our facebook page. It was very gratifying to know that so many of you follow our page and that you were able to act so quickly.

The newsletter of your local RSPCA branch WINTER 2013
Covering Rochdale, Heywood, Middleton, Littleborough, Whitworth and Todmorden



ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE

MP VISITS NEW CASTLETON SHOP



RSPCA Rochdale Animal Centre

OPEN DAY
Your invitation is enclosed



CAT-ASTROPHE LOOMS

www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk



...caring for animals throughout Rochdale and District

Pass on your love and passion for caring for animals who can't look after themselves.

We care for hundreds of animals every year. Please help us to provide for them.

Large or small, a gift in your will is a precious gift.

Contact us at the Animal Centre for more information on 01706 861897 or through our website.

WILL YOU REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL?



Help us to save money

Please let us have your email address

Costs are spiralling and it would help us a great deal if we had your email address so we could email your copy of the newsletter. This would also enable us to send you information directly about forthcoming events or other news about the animal centre.

Just send a brief message with your name and contact details to rspcarochdale@btconnect.com



Registered Charity 232257

TO REPORT AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS: TEL 0300 1234 999

CALLS TO OUR CRUELTY AND ADVICE LINE ON THE NEW 0300 NUMBER WILL COST JUST THE SAME AS A NATIONAL NUMBER

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the RSPCA