

Newsletter

ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE

October 2008

Is cruelty on the increase in Rochdale?



www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk

Littleborough Gallery showed a collection of artworks entitled 'Animals in the Frame' earlier in the year to help boost funds for the Rochdale Animal Centre. The Gallery also donated some of the prizes for the raffle and these were presented to the winners by Emma Edmondson, who plays Mel in Coronation Street, at the occasion of the Rochdale Branch AGM.



Emma Edmondson presents first prize - The Aviemore Trophy by Lesley Howarth - to Janette Heywood of Littleborough

Thank's to all who supported the event and bought tickets. The winners were J Heywood (pictured above), E Lawrence, M Coupe , C Ledden and C Duffin.



David McCallam, Rochdale RSPCA; Artist Lesley Howarth and Gallery owner Liz White at the exhibition

Julie Rolls helps Meg



To help Meg recover from her trauma as quickly as possible, animal communicator and Reiki healer Julie Rolls, spent some time with her at the Centre.

Meg clearly got tremendous benefit from these sessions. It is almost unbelievable to see how happy and full of fun she is now. Julie helps many of our other traumatised animals, and during the summer took part in a documentary for the BBC programme Countryfile, part of which was filmed at the Rochdale Animal Centre.

Julie's work as an animal communicator is much sought after, particularly after being featured on the BBC. She still has time however to help at the Centre as a volunteer. She not only finds time to help the animals but during August gave an evening talk at the Centre donating all the proceeds. Many thanks to Julie for being such a great supporter.

This is happening in our

– we must

These are some of the animals that have come to the Centre recently

Meg, well known through having being in the national press had her quivering body repeatedly battered with sticks until her attackers were disturbed by a passer-by. The cat in the centre picture staggered through someone's door covered in blood and the puppy on the far right was discovered with terrible injuries – more animals than ever, throughout our district, are suffering alarmingly.

These are only some of the ones that were spotted, but how many more are going unnoticed?

It's worth repeating that in 2007 alone the RSPCA national call centre responded to a staggering **1.1 million calls!**

This shows that many people do care, and how important it is that our district has a good RSPCA Animal Centre to care for these victims of cruelty.

What you can do

Our concern is not the abusers but the defenceless animals themselves. Don't hesitate to call the RSPCA hotline if you suspect an animal is in difficulty or you can ring the local branch for advice.

Animals like the ones pictured are coming into the Animal Centre all the time and funds are required constantly for us to be able to deal with them. One thing that stands out when dealing with injured and abused animals is just how friendly and trusting they are and how strong is their will to recover. Once they are well again, we are proud to say the people of the Rochdale district have provided new homes for virtually every animal we help.

- **To help finance this work, please make a donation:** at the Centre, at one of the shops, by post, or on-line at www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk
- **Become a Friend of the Animal Centre** because a small amount each month makes a big difference to keeping the Centre open. Please ring us for an application form.
- **Become a member of the RSPCA.** The National Society provides the highly trained inspectors you may have seen having to deal with difficult situations and even more difficult animal owners. The National Society also lobby parliament to improve animals rights, take cases to court and much, much more besides.

* MIKA *

We thought you would like to know that Mika, pictured at the top of the page, is responding magnificently to treatment. That photo is horrific we know, so to balance things, we took another picture of her last week – just look at the difference!



Little Meg was savagely beaten by children until stopped by a passer-by.

But with love and care...

* MEG *



Picture: Rochdale Observer

Thank you, all those people who contacted the Centre after seeing Meg's plight in the media. We have been deeply moved by such kind response. She is recovering well and is bright and healthy but sadly one of her back legs has now had to be amputated. Meg had offers for rehoming from all across the British Isles after she hit the headlines in the press but having spent so long recovering with Jean, the Centre Manager and getting to know Jean's own dog Lass, it was thought in Meg's best interest to stay put so Jean has now adopted Meg.



Mika now!

home town

do all we can to help them



Alerted by a member of the public, Mika was found with her throat cut and jaw broken.

A 12 week old puppy found by a member of the public with injuries to the head and neck.

Rochdale Animal Centre

Volunteers are the life blood of the Branch



An open day for recruiting volunteers, held at the Centre in April

The Rochdale Animal Centre is completely self-supporting and apart from key management staff, the whole operation is run by ordinary people who can spare a little time from their busy lives to help animals in distress.

Could you help? Whatever your interests or skills you are needed.

Contact the Centre and come along. If you do, you'll find everyone is friendly and very welcoming. Everyone has a busy life, many of us work long hours and can't always contribute too much time but there is a place for everyone.

Do you enjoy working with animals or would you prefer to work with people? You might enjoy working in one of our shops? There are many openings for you to become involved and you are sure to find it very worthwhile.

WE NEED YOU

“ many people are unaware that the branch is run mainly by volunteers who have a busy working life outside the RSPCA ”

Siobhain



Siobhain Cunnane, volunteer and trustee

Siobhain Cunnane, currently Branch Treasurer said " many people are unaware that the branch is run mainly by volunteers who have a busy working life outside the RSPCA".

Please get in touch with us for more information, the animals of our area need you. Tel 01706 861897

* UPDATE - CHICKEN CAMPAIGN

Our last newsletter highlighted the promotion of welfare-friendly chicken by TV chefs Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. The RSPCA too, has been pressing supermarkets to stop selling intensively reared chicken. All this publicity has had a marked effect - the Co-op for instance has seen sales of free range and organic chicken increase by over 50%. It's great news that both customers and now retailers are united in wanting this change to take place.

Rochdale Animal Centre

Future developments

Plans have now been made by the trustees to take the Animal Centre up to 2011. The Branch supports the aims of the RSPCA as fully as possible and with many keen, youthful supporters, pursues animal cruelty issues with a great deal of vigour. However, further development of the already successful Animal Centre is crucial to meet the demand of the Rochdale area. A realistic, careful but bold approach to financial planning is required and we feel confident this has been achieved. The objectives of the plan are set out below and are effective from 1 July 2008.

- a) To increase the animal welfare work that can be achieved by specifically increasing the Centre capacity in terms of support systems and accommodation including:
 - Increase in kennel capacity to six kennels, of which one would be an isolation kennel and five would have sufficient capacity to take two dogs each.
 - New high quality provision for rabbits and other small animals. (A benefit of this would be to present the animals more effectively to potential new adopters and to make it easier to undertake routine welfare tasks).
- b) To develop the human resource aspect of branch activities and encourage further staff training.
- c) To expand income generation and fundraising activities and increase the number of shops from 5 to 7.
- d) To further develop partnership working with the national society, local RSPCA branches and other animal welfare charities.

Trapped in a storm drain

The job of getting this young Alsatian cross out of a storm drain in Rochdale turned into a bigger job than we expected. We were unable to reach her and needed the assistance of the Fire Brigade who in turn had to send for the Water Rescue division. Although in shock initially, 'Storm' as we now call her, is a lovely friendly dog and soon settled down in the safe surrounding of the Centre. She was not tagged or microchipped and all efforts to find her owner failed. Storm has now been adopted and her new owner is keeping her well away from water for the time being.



Centre gets new animal facilities

We have had more dogs needing help in the past few months than for a long time, the terrible case of Meg, highlighted by the local and national media is just one case in point.

Up to now, we have not been licenced to keep dogs except in emergency situations, but thanks to the WG Harvey Trust who were keen to remedy the situation, the Centre has been able to build a first class facility for short-term dog care. Our grateful thanks to the Trust who also, jointly with the RSPCA National Society, funded a very much needed Queen and Kitten unit.

Rochdale Animal Centre



Please can you spare some food for us?

You can now donate pet food for us at LIDL off Red Cross Street, and WILKINSONS in the Wheatsheaf Centre as well as MORRISONS in Kingsway and Heywood. Look out for our new containers in all these stores. Just drop some pet food in once you are through the check-outs. It really is a very big help to our finances and our animals always look forward to meal times when they hope they are going to get some tasty treats!

RECYCLING MADE EASY

Bought a new item of furniture?
Wonder what to do with the old one?

WHY NOT RECYCLE IT? Give us a call and we will happily collect - anything, any size as long as it's in good condition.

Our Heywood shop, and **NEW SHOP** at 12 Old Hall Street, Middleton are centres for the re-use of all kinds of large and small households items.

RECYCLING MAKES SENSE AND THE MONEY RAISED HELPS THE ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE.

Ring 0161 654 7755

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

How to find us



Directions to the RSPCA Rochdale Animal Centre:

St Mary's Gate (A58) runs across the top of the town centre towards Littleborough in the north east, and Heywood and the M62 in the west. Redcross Street is easily accessed from the A58, from either direction, or on foot directly from the town centre.

Limited free car parking is available for RSPCA visitors opposite the Centre, plus 'Pay and Display' car parking.

We are open every day including weekends, except Wednesdays 11.30am - 3.30pm.



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