

Newsletter

ROCHDALE ANIMAL CENTRE

THREE VERY LUCKY KITTENS



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ANIMAL CENTRE

www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk

Animal care at the Centre



All our animals are regularly checked by independent vets.

Regular medical care is an everyday routine behind the scenes at Rochdale Animal Centre. Whilst we bring you stories from the front line, staff and volunteers are doing the unsung work of feeding, cleaning, socialising and giving medication to all the animals in the Centre.

Ill treated or traumatised animals can take a long time to re-adjust. Often mistrustful of people, and sometimes in pain, it can take many weeks before they are ready for a new home. Tender loving care makes the difference and this is just what they receive during their time with us.

Lets make sure our Centre stays open

Please join us as a Friend of the Animal Centre

The Animal Centre in Redcross Street costs a great deal of money to run.

Please Join

We rely entirely on supporters like you to keep the Centre open and ready to take in animals in desperate need.



You can make a huge difference just by making a small regular contribution

Please help if you can - ask for details at the Animal Centre or see our website www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk

Last year the Rochdale Animal Centre gave over 370 animals a second chance. Each one was found a loving home. Where would they be now without us?

Poppy gets a new home



Diane Hatton with Poppy

Diane Hatton knows all about the joys of giving a rescue animal a new home - she has been doing just that for many years and wouldn't have it any other way. Her newest arrival is

Poppy who she got from the Animal Centre in March. Poppy was only 3 days old when she was found in a cardboard box by a member of the public. It was mid-winter and we didn't hold

out much chance of this tiny little kitten surviving. However we did everything we could and one of the staff took her home each evening so she could bottle feed her through the night. Many weeks later, and now named Poppy, she has not only survived her ordeal but is developing a real character. The staff loved Poppy for her mischievous and comical ways and we all hoped she would be happy when she was rehomed.

We had no need to fear as Diane, who had offered a home to some of our animals before, wanted her. "I can't believe my luck. Poppy really is wonderful. I do have lots of animals but when I go into the field, it's

always Poppy who comes with me," said Diane. "It's not long ago that we got two puppies, Molly and Scamp, from the Animal Centre and I am absolutely delighted with both of them. Poppy was at home straight away in spite of Molly and Scamp's boisterous nature." "Adopting a rescue animal is the most rewarding thing you can do and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Rochdale Animal Centre. I will certainly be back".



Molly and Scamp

Could you offer one of our animals a home? Please contact us.

Freedom Food sales continue to rise



Freedom Food labelled products are available in all major UK supermarkets and demand is rocketing.

After recent high profile campaigns urged everyone to think about where their food is coming from, supermarkets have reported astonishing increases in

sales of Freedom Food labelled goods. Initially, there were doubts about whether consumers buying habits had really changed but the trend continues and supermarkets continue to introduce new lines.

Please look out for the logo in your local supermarket.

Partnership - the way forward

A recent report by the Charity Commission strongly recommends Charities form more partnerships and the Rochdale Animal Centre can certainly recommend this course of action. Our partnership with the Humane Education Society in Wilmslow, forged two years ago, brings us the opportunity, amongst other things, of rehoming more of

our animals. Many of our long-stay cats and small animals have found new owners in this way and their rural location is ideal for larger animals who need a permanent home. This helps the Centre to offer a better service. With the support of our friends at the Wilmslow Animal Sanctuary we are making the Rochdale Animal Centre the best in the North.

Please remember us in your will

Be sure that the causes you believe in are supported when you are no longer here

Most people agree that it's vital that we all have a will (and that someone knows where it is kept). It's easy to put off, but we know many people feel great relief when they finally get round to putting their wishes in writing.

A solicitor will be able to assist you with your will and ensure that it is legally correct and that your wishes are carried out, including whether you would like to leave a legacy to charity. It is not a difficult process and not expensive either.

Please remember to keep your will up to date with changing circumstances. If you have already made a will and would like to include a legacy to the Rochdale RSPCA then all you have to do is contact your solicitor who can then make the addition - this is known as a Codicil. If you need advice, just give us a call and we will be pleased to help.

**Without your generosity we could not continue
For us, a legacy is a precious gift.
No matter how small, it will be put to good use.**

Your solicitor will advise on the correct wording, which must be quite precise - see example below. Remember also to state 'RSPCA Rochdale Branch' and not the Rochdale Animal Centre.

EXAMPLE: I wish to bequeath the sum of
£ _____
to the RSPCA Rochdale Branch, 1 Redcross Street,
Rochdale OL12 0NZ. Registered charity No 232257.

Everyone's a winner

The Rochdale Animal Centre has joined forces with the probation service's Community Payback scheme.

The scheme supports offenders to carry out tasks for the Branch, such as bag and leaflet drops, sorting and cleaning second-hand clothes and painting and decorating.

"If we were to pay for this service, it would cost over £200 a week," says Shirley Mellor, branch shops co-ordinator.

"This is a good example of how we can work with other agencies to benefit the branch and local animals."

"The offenders have really taken to the task because the work needs doing, and the Branch provides a valuable service," says the Community Payback supervisor.

"We can help offenders reform and also carry out work for deserving organisations such as the RSPCA."



Three lucky kittens

Linda, our senior animal care assistant, received a strange phone call at the end of August. The person on the phone described a situation and then said "The queen has died and we are feeding the kittens on powdered milk". Linda had a feeling that there was something wrong. Although our cattery was full and we didn't really have much space Linda told them to bring them in.

Linda was on duty when this person came in and very delicately opened the box offered to her. Inside were four kittens laying still, one was very flat, not moving. Jean, the Centre Manager, was also on duty that day and immediately took the kittens to the vet for an emergency check up. All four kittens were found to be anaemic, emaciated, dehydrated, and absolutely covered in fleas. After some emergency treatment, the vet released the kittens but they needed 24 care so Linda offered to foster

them and to bottle feed at home during the night. All three had gone through a de-fleaing process at the vets but, in spite of this, when Linda tried to feed them she couldn't get the bottle in their mouth for more fleas. Linda tried another tactic, putting some cimi cat on a plate, hoping the kittens would lap but no sooner had she put the plate down than it was swimming in fleas.

That first day was a real trial for Linda - she de-fleaed them again, and decided to give them all a good bath. To her horror, the water went immediately red with blood from the flea dirt. Before coming to the RSPCA Linda had worked for many years with cats in rescue centres and has never seen a case quite so shocking on tiny kittens.

With Linda's tender care 24 hours a day, the kittens are now really improving. They are not quite out of the woods yet but with luck should make a perfect recovery.

Princess is a great mum



It was 8pm at night and there was a knock at the Animal Centre door.

Standing in the doorway was a young couple with a cat and five tiny kittens. They said they had found the cat in a play tunnel giving birth to kittens and they didn't know quite what to do.

We took the little family from them and had a closer look. We could see the kittens had only just been born and the mum was still loosing a little blood. Thankfully they were in quite good condition. We took mum and kittens into

our care and can report that they are all doing really well.

We have called mum Princess and she is a very good mum and very protective towards them.



AS WE GO TO PRINT WE HAVE 65 ADULT CATS AND 36 KITTENS UNDER NINE WEEKS READY FOR ADOPTION

RSPCA Week 2009

Results of RSPCA week 2009 show that a total of £302,000, countrywide, was raised, 10% up on 2008. £4,046 was collected by the Rochdale and District Branch - thanks to all of you who contributed and thanks to all those staff and volunteers who did the

collecting - it can be a hard slog standing in a draughty doorway with a collecting tin for hours at a time! The results make it all worthwhile though. Dates for next year's RSPCA Week are Monday 26 April-Sunday 2 May 2010

RSPCA Week 2009 - a total of £4,046 was raised in Rochdale

Human medicines -toxic to pets

This sad story shows how easy it is to think you are doing the right thing by giving an animal medication intended for humans.

Recently, a cat was brought in by someone who said they had found it on their doorstep and, thinking it had perhaps been hit by a car, gave it some Calpol to calm it down. After a few doses of this, the poor cat went into spasm and the alarmed lady came to us.

As we looked down at this poor animal, with its legs now rigid we knew we had to act fast. We immediately went to the nearest vet where, thankfully, we were given priority. Paracetamol was thought to be the likely cause so contact was made with the National Poison Unit to find the correct antidote.

The next problem was finding someone who had some. After a few hasty calls we were successful - Armac in Bury had some in stock. Our cat was getting paler by the minute so we dashed back to the car, put the cat on our lap, bandaged the drip to the sunvisor and set off once again. Armac were waiting for us and quickly added the antidote to the drip and put the cat into an oxygen tank. We all kept our fingers crossed. The antidote seemed to work at first but the vet suspected that the Calpol might have done too much damage to reverse the effects.

Very sadly, this little cat slowly lost the battle for life and died five days later.

Medicines intended for us really are deadly to pets so keep yours out of harms way and make sure all the family knows too.

Nora battled to the end



This thin tabby cat was called Nora. When she was brought to the Centre she was the same size as in the picture but had five kittens all feeding from her.

She was badly under weight and so were her poor kittens. We supplemented the kittens feeds and gave Nora five feeds a day to try and keep her weight stable, we couldn't afford for her

condition to worsen.

Sadly, two of her kittens died and we decided to separate Nora from her kittens sooner than we normally would because, even though we were trying our hardest, her condition was deteriorating.

The three remaining kittens immediately improved, and Nora also started to respond to our attention, gaining a little weight. Sadly, for Nora, it was not to last. As the days went by it became clear she couldn't go on and shortly after, she passed away.

The Centre staff tried their very best and Nora's death has affected each of us. However, her memory lingers on and we are pleased to write this small piece about her.

Rochdale Animal Centre

Buy your pet products from the Animal Centre

We have a great range of pet products on sale at the Animal Centre and every penny helps us to keep the Centre running.

World's best Cat Litter



Without doubt the best cat litter there is - and at an unbeatable price!

Small **£7.00**
Medium **£18.50**
Large **£32.50**



Applaws
99p/63p

£5.99 This delicious range of flavours will make your cat love you more than ever

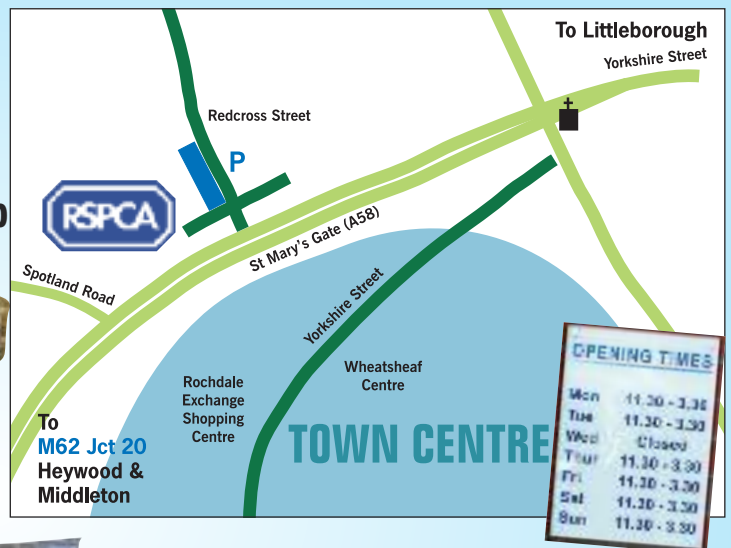
£2.89 **£2.59**



Toys and Treats

For Rabbits, Guinea Pigs Gerbils and Hamsters who enjoy a bit of pampering

Directions to the 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.

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

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



Registered Charity 232257