



# Rochdale Animal Centre

Winter 2014

Covering Rochdale, Heywood,  
Middleton, Littleborough,  
Whitworth and Todmorden

[www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk](http://www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk)



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RSPCA Rochdale Animal Centre

TO REPORT AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS PLEASE CALL 0300 1234 999

## Meg and the Loft Kittens



*Hero Meg takes  
care of one of  
the rescued  
kittens.*

*(Photo courtesy  
of Joel Goodman  
M.E.N.)*

*Happy now -  
Willow, one of  
the rescued  
kittens (now 4  
months old).*



I was on night cover and on my way to bed on 7th August. Meg my dog sat under the hatch to the loft space at the bottom end of the corridor and cried, barked and whined and looked up to the hatch in the ceiling. It was about 10.30pm. She would not move no matter how much I called her and her behaviour had now become a concern. I got a ladder and a torch and lifted the hatch. The space between the hatch and the roof was only about 8 inches. I turned on the torch and there in the darkness were 5 little faces looking at me, 5 gorgeous kittens. I could see a black face two tabby's and two

black and white. They were about four feet away from me. There was no space to climb in to get them. Earlier in the day we had caught a queen with milk and looking at her she had kittens that were about 4 to 5 weeks old. Could this be the mum to the kittens in the loft?

I tried to think of ways to get the kittens out. I tried with some food but they just sat and looked at me. I rang Chan the Deputy Manager and she offered to come and help. Chan rang Ruth and they both arrived at the animal centre around 11pm. We had a chat and decided the only way to free the kittens was to remove part of

the ceiling. Permission was sought from our Chairman David who said "just do what ever you need to get the kittens out". David then rang Stuart, who also came to help. Rescuing the kittens caused a lot of damage, but we got them all down safely, even the one that had fallen down the wall cavity. We were featured on Granada Reports and as a result local builder Stephen Walmsley generously repaired the ceiling and wall for free. Meg has now been nominated for the the Animal Hero Awards as best rescue pet for all her hard work. The kittens are all very well now and have found loving forever homes.

# Neutering - Pass the word on

**I**t is so important to get your animals neutered not only for health reasons but to stop the ever increasing population of unwanted animals.

We are aware that most of you reading this new letter will already have your pets neutered, especially cats. We are appealing for your support to help educate friends, family, work colleagues on the importance of neutering cats. A female cat can have up to 3 litters a year and once the kittens are 5 weeks old she can get pregnant again. Once the kittens are 6 months old they too can reproduce. One un-spayed female cat and one un-neutered male cat and their offspring can result in 420,000 kittens in 7 years. A female cat can have 29 litters in 10 years. A male cat can sire as many as 2,500 kittens in a single year.

This year once again we have been inundated with cats and kittens and the requests for help just keep coming in. Each kitten we rescue costs us approximately £200 if we re-home the kitten at 12 weeks old. The longer we keep the kitten the more it costs. This figure is for a healthy kitten that requires the basic worm, flea, vaccination, neuter, micro-chip, feed. Any additional medical conditions are on top of this cost.



*Brenda gave birth to her 3 kittens in a garage and hid them in the engine of the car.*



*The 3 kittens that were left in a shoe box along with their Mum Minnie.*



Brenda (below left) gave birth to a litter of 3 kittens in a garage and hid the kittens in the engine of the car parked there. The owner of the car saw the cat so did not move the car for 4 weeks. The elderly lady fed Brenda and kept an eye on her but could not take on the cat and kittens as she already had cats of her own. She rang the centre for help and a team of 3 staff went to collect the cat and kittens. This proved to be a bigger challenge than first thought. The car was in the garage with not much room at either side or at the front and back. Mum was caught very easily as she was friendly and used to people. The kittens were a different story, they had not been handled before so were very scared. After two hours of crawling under the car, trying to get hands in small spaces in the car engine, getting stuck between the wall and the car the kittens were all caught. They were brought to the centre and after a lot of time and patience spent with them, they soon became very friendly and they have all now found a forever

home with a family who will look after them and care for them.

Above is a photo of Minnie and her 3 kittens. The kittens are about 6 days old in this picture. They were dumped in our reception in a shoe box. The kittens were only 2 days old when dumped. What that poor cat must have been feeling after giving birth, put in a shoe box and dumped. She deserves so much better. She is a sweet natured cat that is very trusting and loving. She is a fantastic mum to her litter of cute kittens.

We have had a lovely cat and her kittens (pictured below) brought into reception in a box. The young man who brought them in, first said they were his cat and kittens, then he said he had found them. We had no option but to take them in.

These are just a few examples of the cats and kittens we have had to take in. We have had around 100 kittens in this year that have either been dumped, or picked up by the inspectors. If only the queens to these kittens had been neutered.



*Abandoned by the young man who kept changing his story.*

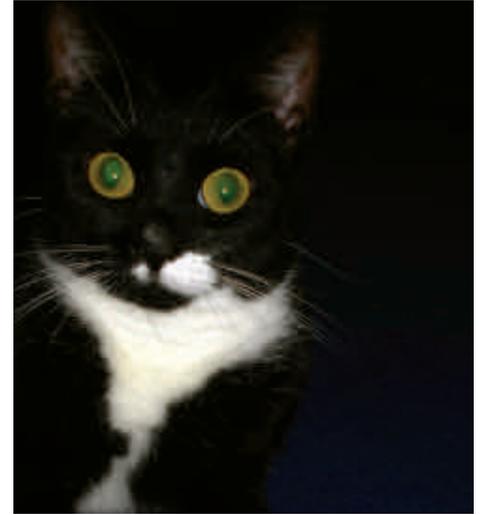
## Stephen and Annie

These are two rabbits that came to us in different circumstances. Annie (right) was the subject of a prosecution case and ownership was awarded to the RSPCA. Stephen was dumped in a cardboard box. They are two lovely rabbits that have formed a bond and are now inseparable. They sit and wash each other and snuggle together when having a sleep. It is important to understand a rabbits needs before adopting or buying a rabbit. It is important to feed them the correct diet as this not only keeps their digestive system work-



ing it also helps with their teeth. Rabbits are social animals and need to be kept in neutered pairs, they also need lots of space to exercise.

## Tazmanian devil on the loose!



We get lots of messages of support at the centre and thought this would be a nice one to share with you. It comes from Alan McDonald who had previously adopted a cat called Ellie from us. Ellie unfortunately got runover and Alan was distraught when she died. Alan said "she was a credit to all rescue cats that just want loving". Alan has since gone on to adopt another rescue cat and this is the comical tale he has shared with us.

"Just thought I would bring a smile to your faces. I asked for a cat with character and you suggested Panda, a Tazmanian Devil that shredded my arm when visiting. The ride home changed her in to a lovely cat, as I have previously told you. Four weeks ago we let this darling little cat out on her own. For two to three weeks we remained blissfully ignorant. Here comes the fun stuff. She has explored six houses (uninvited), been found on a neighbour's bed asleep, terrorised a neighbour's rabbits, sits on a neighbour's wall everyday to tease their Alsatian, been stuck on an outbuilding roof, which involved me, a set of ladders and a tightrope walk across a high wall to get her down and tonight she got herself stuck up a tree. That was me again with the ladders. With one hand on her neck and the other under her stomach I had to descend with no hands and no idea where I was going because she swiped and cut my face and knocked my glasses to the floor. You've just got to love her haven't you. Take care, all the best and keep up the great work you do."

## Collar Danger

It is not law that a cat has to wear a collar with ID on like it is for dogs. If your animal is micro-chipped and providing your details are up to date all vets and rescue centres will scan an animal when it arrives.

Darcey was picked up as a stray. She had a cat collar on, the type with elastic near the buckle. She had managed to get her leg through the collar and had been like this for a while before being found. The collar had cut into her armpit causing a very deep infected wound. Vets cleaned the wound and started treatment. Poor Darcey's deep wound was so infected it was not healing even after surgery. Eventually, after a long discussion with the vet it was decided it would be better to let Darcey go as her prognosis and her chance of recovery was very poor.

Please think twice before putting a collar on your cat. Save their pain and yours - get them microchipped.



## Please remember us in your will

Without your generosity the Rochdale Branch could not survive. For us, a legacy is a precious gift.

If you would like to support us in this way your wording will need to include .. to the Rochdale and District Branch ...

## Reception re-vamp



We have had a re-vamp in our Reception, we have had some new shelves and some new stock, we have lots of toys and pet treats for cats, dogs and our small furry friends. We still stock World's Best cat litter cheaper than other stores. We now have RSPCA pet food and wild bird foods for sale. Why not pay us a visit when looking for that special treat for your pet?