



Chairman's Report Tim Bray



As you will read in Anne's report our branch AGM is coming up in May and shortly thereafter members will receive voting papers for the election of Council members for 2009/2010. This year there are 3 candidates from the North Region and I urge you to vote for them – the more sensible northerners we have on Council the more resources we can try to allocate for this part of the country. For too long the RSPCA has had better and more national society owned facilities in the southern half of England

and we must try to redress the balance. The statistics clearly show where there is the greatest need for the work of the RSPCA.

Many of you will know our Regional Superintendent, Dave Millard, a long serving member of the Inspectorate who has attended many functions in Huddersfield over the years. I regret to advise that he has been diagnosed with inoperable cancer and has just started a course of chemotherapy. Our thoughts are with him and his family at this time and let's hope the treatment at least slows down the disease.

I have just received the first draft of the 2008 branch accounts and despite increased shop takings and

only a small increase in costs, we shall be reporting a deficit of £18550 *before* losses on investments – i.e. we have spent more than our income. Luckily we have healthy cash reserves to enable us to carry on our work but if income continues to fall over the coming years we shall be monitoring our expenditure carefully and looking to make savings.

I look forward to seeing as many members and supporters as possible at our AGM – remember we need a minimum of 10 paid up members to be quorate. You can put yourself forward as a trustee if you have been a member for 3 months or more and feel you can contribute to the running of the branch.

Secretary's Report Anne Lucas



Spring finally seems to be around the corner after what has been rather a long winter. Unfortunately we had to cancel our February Branch meeting due to the snow which meant that our speaker was unable to get to us and we anticipated that people in general might find travelling awkward. I did contact as many of our regular attendees as possible to advise

them but if anyone did turn up I can only apologise for circumstances outside our control. However that meeting's speaker - Pat Hampshire of "Riding for the Disabled" - has kindly agreed to come along and talk to our August meeting.

Now to the AGM which this year is to be held on the Monday 11th May at the usual venue (now re-named Kirklees College) at 7.30 p.m. The speaker will be Samantha Hannay from RSPCA International who will be talking about

the department's work and the four projects on which they are focussing this year supporting animal welfare work/groups overseas. Talking at an AGM also gives them the opportunity to say thank you for the invaluable support a branch gives towards helping them continue their work overseas improving animal welfare work at international level. Following the meeting there will be the usual light refreshments and the opportunity to chat to the speaker and other branch members.

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Special points of interest:

- Reports and updates from your officers
- Shop Update News
- "Snip & Chip" for bunnies - Rabbit Welfare
- Check out the fundraising events
- Read "Life in Spain" by ex-fosterer
- Remember Branch AGM 11th May
- RSPCA Week 27th April - 3rd May

Secretary's Report continued

Also enclosed with this Newsletter, for each member, are the usual Calling Notice and Nomination Form. Please give thought to standing as a Trustee (committee member) for the Branch. Those branch members wishing to propose a resolution, seek election to the committee, propose or second a nomination for election must appear on the membership list at least three months before the date for the close of nominations/resolutions (i.e. have been branch members as at Sunday, 1st February, 2009)

In Christine Hirst's report later in this Newsletter you will read about the cat with an injury caused by getting its paw stuck in its collar. We have come

across several instance of this type of injury and would advise anyone wishing to put a collar on their cat to make sure that it is one of the now readily available quick release ones to prevent such an occurrence and, therefore, injury to the cat. I remember only too well many years ago seeing one of our cats staggering along the lane with only 3 legs or so I thought! I quickly realised what had happened and took action. Our current cat Barney kindly "tried" one of the quick release collars - he went out with it on and came back several times without it, proving that they do work. Fortunately a hunt round his territory produced it on each occasion.

I'm sure we have mentioned recycling

as a way of raising funds for the Branch but it doesn't do any harm to remind people of this. If you have a redundant mobile phone or empty print cartridges you can help us and the environment by recycling them. You can do it directly in which case call Janet Walter on 01484 329255 who can supply you with one of the special envelopes for sending the items to the organisation we deal with (the envelopes have a code on them that ensures the money raised comes to our branch), or leave them at the shop and we will send them off.

Finally we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM and possibly to seeing some new faces on our committee!

SHOP REPORT

The shop volunteers have coped very well with the snow and very icy pavements at home and outside the shop. We have been closed for a total of two days due to the bad weather, in fact we opened when there were no customers to buy anything!

The credit crunch has hit sales of clothing during January and February as our customers bought new clothes at knock down prices. However sales of other goods held up well and as a result we are in desperate need of donations. Those of you who are spring cleaning please bear us in mind!

Jenny Madden

Rabbit Welfare Campaign Jane Robinson



This is taking place from 30th March to 6th April 2009

Northern branches have been asked to promote Rabbit Welfare and responsible pet ownership during this week and Huddersfield branch is pro-

moting a "snip & chip" offer.

£20 discount plus free microchip for any rabbit neutered during this week at any of the following vets:

Anrich - Aspley

Donaldson & Partners - all 3 Huddersfield Branches

West Mount - Paddock

We will also be promoting our ongoing Free Rabbit Neutering Scheme for people on benefit. Please spread the word to any of your bunny owning friends, family or colleagues.

For further information please phone Jane Robinson on 01484 603488

Cat Fostering News Christine Hirst



I am, as usual, getting lots of calls from people wanting us to rehome cats. Some are strays or abandoned cats, but quite a lot are their own cats, and quite a few recently have been in pairs, which are more difficult to find foster homes for and more so to rehome. Not everyone wants two cats. There have not been any pregnant cats yet, but soon there will be, and this year

I won't have Rene Dunbar to come to the rescue. If anyone could foster a pregnant cat or a cat with tiny kittens I would be most grateful, as when they do start coming there are usually quite a few round the same time.

We had a nice happening recently. Debbie, our fosterer in Holmfirth was fostering a cat with a collar injury caused by getting its leg stuck down its collar. When this happens, they struggle to get it out and it then starts to dig

into the flesh. Debbie advertised this particular cat on the Internet and someone from Barnsley rang to say it looked like their cat which had been lost. We didn't hold out much hope with it being so far away from home but it turned out to be their cat. Debbie said there was no doubt at all when they saw the cat's reaction. It went straight to them and made a real fuss. They were delighted to have him back and we were just as pleased to have reunited them.

Fund Raising & Forthcoming Events Janet Walter

FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISING

COFFEE DAY - HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL, SATURDAY 28th MARCH

We will be having the usual stalls at this event e.g. Tombola, Cakes, Bric-à-Brac, Raffle. Helpers needed throughout the day, please, plus home baking for the Cake Stall. Please support our Coffee Day in anyway you can – drop in for a coffee and buy a cake or a raffle ticket.

FLAG DAYS

As most of you are aware Greenhead Park is undergoing restoration work and therefore we are not holding a Dog Show there this year. We will need to raise funds by other means to support our animal welfare work, so I have booked some extra collection days in Huddersfield Town Centre, but of course these will only be successful with more volunteers.

Some of these days we will only be al-

lowed to collect on King Street and so we will need to have a rota on those days to make the most of volunteers' time.

The dates are as follows:-
2nd May and 15th August:

Full town centre

6th June, 4th July, and 19th December:
King Street only

RSPCA WEEK 27th APRIL – 3rd MAY

Collection at Tesco's Supermarket on Thursday 30th April & Friday 1st May

Collection at Morrison's, Waterloo on Friday 22nd May

Please let me know if you can spare an hour or two on any of these days and what time will be most convenient for you. There is always a shortage of volunteers for Collection Days, so please spare some time if you possibly can! We **really do need** the income from these days.

THE EXAMINER CHARITY WALK - SUNDAY 17th MAY

Don't forget you can take part in this event and raise funds for the RSPCA Huddersfield & District Branch by getting sponsors and nominating our charity as the beneficiary on your entry form.

ROTARY CHARITY MARKET – OPEN AIR MARKET - SUNDAY 14th JUNE

Good quality bric-à-brac required for this event.

APPEAL - We always need raffle prizes and tombola prizes, so if anyone has any suitable, new, unwanted presents that they would like to donate please contact me.

Would anyone like to hold a Garden Party or Coffee Morning at their home with our support? Give me a ring if you would like to hold a fundraising event.

Janet Walter Tel. 01484 329255

Email: janet.walter@ntlworld.com

Life in Spain Ex-cat fosterer Linda Rane

After having made the decision that we were going to move lock stock and barrel to Spain, the next problem was "What about the animals?"

At that time I owned two dogs, six cats, a cockatiel, a mouse and a goldfish! To get the dogs and cats pet passports was going to cost £200 per pet!!! I decided to get the dog's passports and four of the cats.....

My neighbour across the road wanted to take one of my cats, Oscar. He always used to sleep in their garden and try and get into their house anyway so I was happy to let them look after him.

I managed to find a good home (through the RSPCA cat fostering service) for my ginger and white cat.

The other four I started to go through the process of the pet passporting.... Unfortunately one of the cat's rabies results got lost in the post so she didn't have her pet passport by the time we were due to leave. A friend of mine looked after her until such time as I could get back over to the UK by road but the cat had different ideas and strayed one day, away from my friend's house. She was picked up and rescued by the RSPCA and they found her a good permanent home so I decided to leave her there.

So I left the UK with two dogs and three cats. The mouse and fish found homes with friends and Woody, my cockatiel went to another friend who kept him for a year until I got back to the UK to collect him. (He, the cockatiel that is, also now lives with me in Spain after I collected him last summer)

I live up in the hills/countryside, or campo as they say here in Spain, above the town of Almunecar which is situated about an hour's drive South of Granada and an hour's drive East of Malaga.

We arrived at the end of the August 2007 summer holidays as my two boys were due to start at their new schools in September. We all settled down surprisingly quickly, animals included. Our house is on quite a big plot with olive trees so it is ideal for the animals, who can just wander outside whenever they want with the benefit of good warm weather most of the year.

The plight of animals over here is pretty poor with lots of stray dogs wandering around. There seem to be more stray dogs than cats up where we are. I did manage for a while to resist acquiring any of them, as long as they looked fairly healthy, I left well alone. The rule of thumb here is that if dogs have a collar on, it generally means that someone owns them or did own them once! The Spanish seem to have a totally different view to animals than the British. They spoil their little "lap type" dogs (lots of Yorkshire terriers here) and leave their big dogs out in the campo to fend for themselves and come up once or twice a week to give them food and water.

Just before Christmas last year we spotted a little brown puppy running up and down the main road near where our house is. So guess what??? I picked him up and he is now our third dog! Then this year in September we were down in one of our local towns, Salobrena, at the supermarket and I found a

little ginger and white kitten in the engine of a car parked next to us. So guess what??? I collected him and he is now our fourth cat! No More!

Vets charge just as much over here as they do in the UK (if not more)! Plus dogs and cats all need the essential rabies injection on top of all the normal boosters AND they need a special worming pill. Apparently there is a disease over here, which if they get bitten by a mosquito, it inserts a little worm into their blood which goes to their heart and causes a most unpleasant death. So all in all it's actually more expensive over here to keep pets. Perhaps that's why the Spanish don't bother getting their animals injected or neutered!!!

We are all very happy over here and the only thing that I really miss about the UK is my job as a cat fosterer for the RSPCA! It was a really rewarding job and was lovely to see cats find good homes.



Linda with Tom, Lucky & Napoleon