



One Long Hot Summer....



The weather brought us all many blessings last summer, and we committed ourselves to some new ventures, to further raise our profile and awareness of the RSPCA's animal welfare issues. The RSPCA National Society has agreed to work collaboratively with Pets At Home. This year, thanks to Linda Jones, a new and enthusiastic committee member, our Branch developed that partnership at a local level with our store in Bangor. Barry Stevens, store Manager and his team agreed to us setting up our stall there on the first Saturday of each month. This gave us the chance to chat with people and provide information leaflets if needed. We also met some new 4 legged friends too!

In July we had a stall at the North Wales Agricultural Show, where Linda and team baked in a marquee! We met many lovely people and it was good to say hello to our MP Hywel Williams and AM Llyr Gruffydd. Linda was invited to lunch in the Farmer's Union of Wales tent. Very nice it was too, as was the conversation. Clearly many had worked very hard to pull this day together.

Also in July, Bodrwnsiwn Vets invited us to have our stall at their Open Day and Dog Show at their Llandegai practice. It was good to be with them, and they were kind enough to donate half the proceeds of the day - over £200 - to our Branch.

As ever we supported our animal centre at Bryn-y-Maen having a stall at their Dog Show in May, and yes, for once, the weather was good! Linda was involved in organising their first ever Cat Crazy Day too, and running the tombola. The weather continued to be kind and Linda baked in a marquee, in late September.

In September we held our first Animal Awareness Day outside the Pets At Home store, with the RSPCA Mobile clinic and vet Jim Mason in attendance. Jim was able to offer free health checks for 20 dogs. 3 dogs were micro-chipped by Scott, Deputy Manager at Pets At Home. Carl Lloyd, our Branch Support Specialist came to sign up some much-needed new volunteers. Alun and Ann Rees were on hand to issue neutering vouchers and to chat about what the Branch does. The sun shone then too!

Please visit our website www.rspcawestgwynedd.org for details of our planned activities for 2014. Watch out for us this year, come and say hello and if you wish to join our sunbathing team we would be happy to hear from you.

Good Reasons to Neuter Your Pet

In 2013 RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch paid for 467 cats to be neutered and in collaboration with the Dogs Trust, for 140 dogs to be neutered too, by local vets. All for **free** for pet owners on means-tested benefits, low income or retirement pension. The pet owners only had to make arrangements with their vet to take their pets into the surgery and then collect them the same day. The Branch committee is very happy that so many pets were neutered but in 2014 we will be campaigning for many more to be done, by targeting areas within Gwynedd that are known to have lots of breeding cats and dogs.

Here are just some of the best reasons to neuter your pet:

- Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life – neutering helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, fatal in about 50% of dogs and 90% of cats. Spaying before your pet's first heat (season) offers the best protection;
- Neutering your male pet before 6 months of age prevents testicular cancer;
- Female cats go into heat for 4 to 5 days every 3 weeks during the breeding season. They'll yowl and urinate more often (sometimes all over the house) in order to attract tom cats;
- Female dogs have heat periods twice a year, lasting about 3 weeks. During this time they will be receptive to all un-neutered male dogs in the area, making it a very hazardous exercise to take your dog for a walk;
- Intact male dogs and cats will do just about anything to find a mate and roaming pets are at increased risks to traffic accidents and fights with other males;
- Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. Early neutering avoids many aggression and house training problems;
- Neutering will NOT make your pet fat! Overfeeding and lack of exercise causes weight problems – not neutering;
- Neutering your pet is good for the community. Stray animals pose a real problem, causing traffic accidents, frightening children and fouling;
- Pet owners think their pet need to have a litter before it is neutered. Letting your pet have a litter that you have no intention of keeping is not a good decision for you, your pet or the offspring – especially when so many unwanted animals end up in rehoming shelters, on the streets as strays or euthanized.



National Cruelty Hotline
0300 1234 999

RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

Shop at: 54 High Street, Pwllheli
Open 10:00 - 16:00 Tue, Wed, Fri & Saturday

Phone: 01758 750356 (Freda)
07900 597891 (Freda)
01248 671304 (Alun)

Email: Enquiries@RSPCAWestGwynedd.org

We **always** need fundraisers to help out on collection days and to organise fundraising events, people willing to work on a regular basis in our shops, home-visitors for animals being adopted, people willing to help trap and to transport feral cats to veterinary surgeries. We also need regular donations of good quality clothes and bric-a-brac for the shop and temporary fosterers for cats and kittens.

Can YOU help in any way?

Happy Outcome

Freda received an anxious telephone call from a person at Llangwnadl who had found a young kitten with serious injuries. It appeared that the kitten may have been hit by a car leaving it with damage to its front and back legs on one side of its body. The wounds had become infected and maggoty. Unfortunately the hind leg had to be amputated. This was a spirited kitten who continued to play even whilst in bandages and soon found a loving home. She copes fantastically well on three legs.



Branch Statistics for 2013

Animals given veterinary treatment funded by Branch voucher

| Dogs | Cats | Rabbits | Other | Total |
|------|------|---------|-------|-------|
| 857 | 432 | 9 | 5 | 1,303 |

Animals neutered by Branch voucher

| Dogs | Cats | Rabbits | Other | Total |
|------|------|---------|-------|-------|
| 140 | 467 | 2 | 1 | 610 |

Animals re-homed by Branch

| Dogs | Cats | Rabbits | Other | Total |
|------|------|---------|-------|-------|
| - | 256 | - | - | 256 |

Total spent on vet bills: £43,037

Total spent on fostering: £2,442

All money spent locally has to be raised locally.

**We receive no lottery, nor government funding
nor grants from RSPCA HQ.**

Thank You Original Factory Shop

The Original Factory Shop in Pwllheli made us their nominated charity for 2013. Our Branch Secretary Freda became quite a regular feature at the shop, sometimes dressed up as a cat, fundraising and selling RSPCA logoed goods. All proceeds from the sale of carrier bags also came our way. Altogether £715 was raised and we thank the shop Manager, Helen Pluhar and her staff for their support.



Winter weather turned a little 'otter too?

A male otter cub was discovered by a member of the public after they heard loud squeaking noises while out walking near the village of Talsarnau in Gwynedd on Boxing Day 2013. When there was no sign of the parents returning and as the cub was becoming increasingly distressed he was taken into the care of a local vet before being transported to the RSPCA Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre in Cheshire.

Rob Scrivens, wildlife supervisor and otter rehabilitation co-ordinator at Stapeley said: "This youngster is around 9-10 weeks old and is a really feisty character, which is a very good sign. He is currently eating well and seems bright and healthy. It is unclear why he was separated from his parents but the recent bad weather could be to blame". The little cub was aptly named *Storm*.

By coincidence a 12-week old otter cub christened *Santon* was found along the River Irt at Santon Bridge in Cumbria following a massive storm just after New Year 2014. Rob added:

"The raging river must have washed the cub downstream following the heavy rains, separating her from her mother. The cub was found in a barn at the back of a pub all forlorn, cold and shivering.

The owners of the pub took her in and cared for her over the next couple of days before calling the RSPCA. The chef was preparing her dishes of herring and salmon while she was there".

The cubs were introduced at Stapeley Grange and they were doing really well, albeit a little nervous of each other. They were both on a diet of trout and really enjoying it.

The next stage was to send them to the New Forest Wildlife Park where they will remain until they are big and independent enough to fend for themselves. When ready they will be returned back to the wild.

We would like to remind people that before touching any baby wild animal, we always advise monitoring first to check that it is genuinely orphaned or abandoned, as mum is often nearby and waiting for you to leave.

