



West Gwynedd

❖ BRANCH NEWSLETTER ❖

Issue 3

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Contacts

Complaints:	0990 555999	Bangor (Hilary):	01248 353383
Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre:	01492 532780	Caernarfon (Alun):	01248 671304
		Pwllheli (Freda):	01758 750356

Money Raised and Money Spent

Fundraising

1997 was a very busy year for the Committee, Branch Members and Friends as we again took to the streets to raise money. Flag Days were held at Bangor, Caernarfon, Criccieth, Porthmadog and Pwllheli. Stalls selling new goods and bric-a-brac were held at Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Porthmadog, with an extra special plant stall at the latter adding substantially to the takings. Later in the year we had a jumble sale in Pwllheli, and ventured into new territory by organising an indoor boot sale at Llanbedrog. The event proved successful and may encourage further such novel ideas in the future.

On invitation we were present at Antur Waunfawr's annual race again. We are always pleased to receive such offers from other local organisations.

Two supermarkets were willing to have us collect at their store, Safeway (Caernarfon) and Tesco (Bangor). Tesco sells a wide range of Freedom Food products, and Safeway stocks Freedom Food eggs. This scheme was devised by the RSPCA to give assurance that the products have been produced from animals that have been reared to the highest practical standards of animal welfare. These events not only raised funds, but gave us a marvellous

opportunity to advertise this admirable scheme.

With the approach of Christmas, RSPCA catalogues selling cards and goods were mailed to new Branch members and supporters from previous years. This project is becoming increasingly popular as no postage and packaging costs need be paid. It also has the added bonus that the Branch receives 20% of the order value towards its own funds as well as giving us the opportunity to meet members when delivering goods. For the first time we were able to offer bilingual Christmas cards. **Anyone wishing to receive a catalogue this year should contact Ann on:**

01248 671304.

The total raised from fund-raising events was in the order of £7,100. 1998's calendar of events is given on page 2. **If anyone can help at any event, suggest new ideas for making money, or offer goods for selling, please contact us at the telephone numbers given above.**

Money spent

The Branch has once again helped with numerous bills covering both simple and complex problems. We can offer vouchers towards the cost of neutering both dogs and cats belonging to individuals on some form of State Benefit, and in 1997 we helped to pay for 92 dogs and 171 cats to be neutered. In addition, feral cats continue to be a great problem in the area and together with the help of local volunteers, 77 feral cats were humanely trapped and neutered last year. In doing this we are helping towards reducing this perpetual breeding in unowned cats.

As a branch we also helped financially with the veterinary treatment of 86 dogs and 38 cats.

Several cats and dogs had been involved in fights and road traffic accidents; a number of cats needed their tails amputating due to damage and disease, and many animals needed treatment for gum disease and tooth problems. Veterinary treatment for broken bones often proves expensive and many of these are caused accidentally through someone falling on the animal. Another very expensive operation, where we provided financial assistance, was when a dog needed its spleen removed.

A recurring problem, with which we were asked for financial help on four separate occasions, was a dog that kept picking up sticks and where the stick unfortunately penetrated the dog's throat. This has proved most painful for the dog and expensive for both the owner and the Branch. The vet has now suggested the owner invests in some safer toys for her pet and desists from the game of throwing sticks in the future!

Other veterinary bills paid are for injured wild animals taken into the vets by the public.

Many of these are seabirds, as the Branch area covers a long coastline but we also become involved with the costs for other birds and animals as well as cases picked up by the RSPCA Inspectors that require veterinary attention. In

1997 inspectorate generated vet bills for our area came to over £2000 with other vet bills amounting to in excess of £10,000.

The Branch makes an annual contribution towards Inspectorate services. Last year we also made a donation of £500 to Bryn y Maen Animal Centre in order that they could purchase a moveable exercise pen for puppies and kittens. This donation was given in memory of Liz Carter who left a considerable legacy to the West Gwynedd Branch in her will.

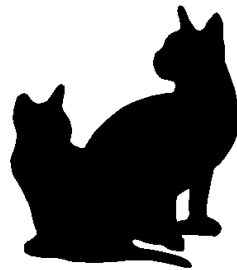
<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Fri	20 Feb	Bangor Safeway	Sat	22 Aug	Caernarfon flag
Sat-Sun	14-15 Mar	Ysbyty Gwynedd #1	Fri	28 Aug	Criccieth Flag
Mon	13 Apr	Nefyn Show	Sat	5 Sep	Bangor flag #2
Sat	2 May	Bangor Flag #1	Sat-Sun	10-11 Sep	Ysbyty Gwynedd #3
Sat-Sun	6-7 Jun	Ysbyty Gwynedd #2	Fri-Sat	18-19 Sep	Bangor Tesco
Fri	31 Jul	Caernarfon stall	Sat	26 Sep	Antur Waunfawr
Sat	15 Aug	Porthmadog Flag & stall	Sat	21 Nov	Bangor Flag #3
Wed	19 Aug	Pwllheli Flag	Sat	5 Dec	Caernarfon Safeway

The Cats That Didn't Get Away

A couple returning from an army posting in Northern Ireland to the South of England decided to allow their two cats to travel roaming free in their car. 3 miles east of Bangor on the A55 dual carriageway, one of the cats decided it could hold on no longer and had a little "accident". Stopping to clean up, both cats escaped from the car, dashing across the highway, luckily avoiding the heavy holiday traffic.

Having arrived home, the distraught owners contacted the RSPCA, local catteries and vets in the area hoping for some news. Luckily for them, the owner of a cattery (and a great cat-lover herself) decided to set out in search. Against all odds, she heard reports of strange cats having been seen around bins at the nearby Services café. Through her concerted efforts over the next two weeks, together with the help of Branch volunteers and the loan of a Branch humane cat trap, both cats were eventually caught safe and well, though a little thinner. They have since been reunited with their much-relieved grateful owners.

Needless to say, having used up a few of their nine lives, these two cats will travel in their baskets in future !



Focus on RSPCA Inspectorate

At the front-line of tackling animal cruelty are the men and women who make up the RSPCA Inspectorate. There are over 300 uniformed RSPCA Inspectors, making up one of the largest non-governmental law enforcement agencies in the UK, and this alone makes the RSPCA stand out amongst all the animal welfare charities.

All RSPCA Inspectors are expected to possess the three C's - Communication, Compassion and Commitment. They undergo an intensive training programme including animal welfare legislation, basic veterinary training, investigation skills, interview techniques, court work, animal handling techniques, media training and public speaking. Having completed the training, student inspectors

take written examinations before starting 12 months' probation before becoming part of a permanent team.

1997 saw Inspector Steve Brown join the permanent team of 22 Inspectors in Wales and he is to be stationed within the West Gwynedd Branch area. This filled the void left by Insp. Lynn Williams's promotion to Chief Inspector and his move to Cardiff. We warmly welcome Insp. Brown to the locality and wish him well in his new position and recent marriage.

We asked Insp. Brown to give an insight into his work with the RSPCA and as you will see overleaf, an Inspector's life is a very busy one.....

"An Inspector's Calls"

- 08:45 Phone Voicebox in London: 4 messages & 5 complaints.
- 08:50 Phone solicitor to set up a meeting for 14:30.
- 09:05 Commence duty. Switch on mobile phone.
- 10:15 Complaint from Llangian: pony in flooded field. Trace owner. Animal must be moved to higher ground. Dealt with by verbal warning. This has happened before.
- 10:45 Mobile call from our RSPCA Control Centre at Brecon.
- 11:20 Complaint from Pwllheli. Terrier on short chain. Emaciated. No shelter. Dog found to be underweight. Tangled in 4foot long chain. Animal covered in mud and excreta. Take photographs. Call our Control Centre for police assistance. Owner not at home.
- 12:00 Arrival of WPC 234 Jones. Dog removed and RSPCA pro-forma left for owner.
- 12:35 Arrive Chwilog Veterinary Surgery. Dog examined and found to be 50% underweight. Vet will support case.
- 13:05 Mobile call to Bryn-y-Maen RSPCA Animal Centre.
- 13:30 Call via Control Centre about a road traffic accident near Caernarfon. Motorist staying with cat.
- 13:45 At accident scene. Long-haired male tabby with head wound, possible broken left hind leg.
- 14:00 Veterinary Surgery, Caernarfon. Board cat. Surgery very busy but will attend to cat a.s.a.p.
- 14:15 Phone Voicebox in London. 2 further complaints. Phone solicitor to postpone meeting until tomorrow. Mobile.
- 14:40 Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre re: Board Case dog. Complete necessary forms.
- 14:55 Mobile. Stop at Black Cat services, Llandudno Junction. Buy sandwich. Phone vet in Caernarfon - cat will be O.K. - nothing broken. Has been scanned and microchip detected so should be able to re-unite with owner.
- 15:20 Complaint from Pen-y-Groes. Smallholding. Goat with head-collar too tight and tethered. Owner located and advised to check animal several times daily.
- 16:10 Complaint from Lley. Woman over-run with cats. Some in terrible condition. Locate owner - ann O.A.P. Feral colony. Approximately 30 animals. She has been feeding them for the past 6 years. Signs of in-breeding. One litter of sickly looking kittens located under shed. Owner given very strong advice regarding getting colony under control. She can afford to pay for neutering and veterinary care of kittens, and is given a pet carrier to take kittens to the Chwilog vet.

- 16:45 Mobile. Phone Voicebox. Confirm that I am on Standby tonight. 2 more non-urgent complaints.
- 17:35 Base. Phone calls. Update Voicebox. Phone and inform complainants.
- 18:05 Start Standby duty. Quick evening meal.
- 18:55 Phone Control Centre at Brecon. Seal pup in distress at Aberdaron.
- 20:15 Locate seal pup. Grossly underweight with wound near tail.
- 21:45 North Wales Mountain Zoo Seal Unit, who board seal pup.
- 22:30 Update Voicebox. Complete notebook.
- 23:00 and finally to bed, still on duty.