

# RSPCA West Gwynedd

## ❖ BRANCH NEWSLETTER ❖

Issue 7

May 2003

### Microchipping

#### Special points of interest:

- Dog microchipping
- Mobile neutering clinic.
- Supermarket savers.
- Friends of Bryn-y-Maen.

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Branch events towards the end of the year tend to slow down, but October 2002 saw the Branch venturing on a new enterprise – microchipping of dogs. Every year, thousands of pet animals are lost – this can happen to even the most careful and loving owners. Sadly, many of these animals and owners are never re-united.

The RSPCA supports the PetLog scheme – a national microchip identification database for animals (see <http://www.petlog.org.uk> for details). An animal with a microchip – about the size of a grain of rice – inserted under the pet's skin at the back of the neck, can be identified by its own unique code number using a special scanner. Vets, Local Authority Dog Wardens, RSPCA Branches and other animal organisations usually have these



scanners, so your pet can be identified and returned to its rightful owner.

The Branch's microchipping event in October was held at Tesco (Bangor) car park. The 'chipping' was done by Mair Eluned, our Branch Development Adviser who has been trained in the procedure involved. She was ably assisted by several Branch volunteers who handled the dogs and

helped with the paperwork. Despite the wind and rain, 44 dogs ranging from a miniature dachshund to an Old English Sheepdog were successfully microchipped, at about half the cost of veterinary surgery prices.

Some of the Branch committee and volunteers will soon be attending microchipping training courses. Look out for future events in the local press. Ensure the safe return of your pet should it go missing.

### Could you be a " Foster Parent" ? Do you live in the Bangor/Bethesda area ?

With the continuing support of our cat fosterers Clive & Shirley and our new fosterers Phil & Kath, last year the Branch re-homed 103 unowned cats and kittens. Some Branch committee members also take in animals short-term in emergencies. However, the need for fostering volunteers, pending rehoming is ever increasing with the demands to take in animals, particularly cats, and especially so in the **Bangor/Bethesda** areas.

Could you help ? If you feel you can, please phone Freda on 01758 750356 for a chat on what's involved.



## HQ lends a hand with a “vet in a van”

The newly established £50,000 Mobile Cat Neutering Clinic spent RSPCA Week 2002 in Caernarfon. The HQ-funded scheme is touring much of England and Wales, and is available on request to visit Branches. Having previously covered much of the North East of England, followed by 1 week each in Wrexham and Prestatyn, we were fortunate to have it in our area. A total of 37 male and 31 female cats from as far afield as Porthmadog to the south, Holyhead to the north, Llanfairfechan to the east and Pwllheli to the west were neutered in just 5 days. The clinic proved so popular that Branch vouchers for a further 13 male and 13 female cats were issued for animals that could not be accommodated during the week, so that the owners could take their pets to a vet of their choice. The fully equipped clinic comes with a caravan which acts as a reception area for booking the cats in and out.



It also has a series of secure cages where post-operative cats can recover in a safe warm environment.

Lucia and Malcolm travelled all the way from the RSPCA clinic at Manchester in order to staff the Mobile Cat Neutering Clinic. The cold wet weather did not really suit Lucia who qualified as a vet in Lisbon University, Portugal, in 2001. Despite the adverse conditions, she and vet nurse Malcolm did an excellent job.



Technical expertise was also supplied by Michael Lambert Jones of Gwynedd Council who organized access to the car park, and the electrical supply for the air-conditioning, autoclave and lighting. CCTV surveillance was co-ordinated to safeguard the equipment.

Back-up veterinary services were kindly provided by the Hubbard & Williams practice at Caernarfon.

Thanks are also due to our Branch Development Adviser (BDA) Mair Eluned for providing excellent advice, practical and administrative assistance during the week.

The event was such a success that it is anticipated that the clinic will return for another week in 2003.

## Freda's Elkhound Pups

“Freda, can you help?” asked Inspector Wiramanaden a week before Christmas last year. 3 elkhound x collie pups desperately needed accommodation, Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre being full to the brim with the approaching festive season.

Freda (our Branch Secretary) agreed that she would house the 13 week old female pups in her garage temporarily, until space was available at Bryn-y-Maen. Unfortunately, a few days later it was discovered that the pups had been in contact with another dog suffering from *Campylobacter*



infection. As campylobacteriosis can be infectious to other animals and humans, the pups, although showing no symptoms themselves, had to be treated with antibiotics for 7 days and kept isolated from other animals. So, a Merry Christmas was spent in Freda's care and 4 weeks after their arrival they were transferred to Bryn-y-Maen and successfully re-homed within a fortnight. Freda was sad to see them go despite the chewed-up contents of her garage.

Oh the joys of being an RSPCA volunteer!

## Focus on: Pet Insurance – is your pet covered ?

As veterinary costs continue to rise, many pet owners are shocked when presented with the bill from their vet. Pet owners on certain benefits may be helped by the Branch, but even then, with all the calls on its resources, it is rare that the Branch authorises more than £50 towards the bill. In 2002, some pet owners sought financial assistance for huge bills. These included an annual bill of £650 for a collie with chronic back and heart problems; £470 for a cat with eye cancer and dental problems; £400 for a German Shepherd suffering from poisoning and £1000+ for a labrador requiring specialist treatment at Liverpool. Some owners are



even having to take the agonising decision of continuing treatment or having to have their pet put to sleep.

If your pet is ill or has had an accident, the last thing you want is to be worrying about the cost of the treatment to make him/her better. So please, consider getting your pet insured and take away those extra worries and give yourself peace of mind.

The RSPCA offers insurance, premiums starting at £6 per month for cats and £9 per month for dogs. The insurance company donates 10% of the monthly premium to the

National Society.

For further information telephone **0870 2426242**,  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays.

## Supermarkets do their bit for the Branch

**B**oth Tesco and Safeway stores locally are contributing towards Branch activities. For the past few years, the National Society has succeeded in arranging for Tesco stores in England and Wales to collaborate with local Branches during RSPCA Week. This has meant that we have been able to approach the Tesco stores in Bangor and Caernarfon to arrange fundraising events during that week. Last year, Hilary, Branch Chairman, managed to arrange volunteers to collect at Bangor throughout the week – no mean feat. Volunteers to man the Caernarfon store are more difficult to find but still we managed to do Friday and Saturday.

Collections at Bangor amounted to £2,226.67, with Caernarfon raising £658.46, making an amazing total of **£2,885.13**. The other big bonus of course is that the collections are made inside the stores,

making it far more pleasant than collecting in the cold, wet outdoors of many other flagdays. If you feel you could spare an hour or so at one of these events do please contact any of the numbers on the back page of this newsletter.

In addition to collecting money, Tesco Bangor allows the collection of donated pet food at their store during RSPCA Week. Safeway stores at both Bangor and Caernarfon have for many years allowed boxes to be left in their foyers, all year through, so that people can donate pet food. Thousands of cans have been donated over the years, all being used to feed dogs and cats (and even hedgehogs and seagulls) in the care of the local Branch or at Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre, awaiting rehoming. Thanks to all those animal-lovers who put in a can now and then and to the supermarkets for their continuing support. Remember, every tin helps !

## Caernarfon School's Christmas Present for Animals

Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen, Caernarfon, collected animal food again this year, in the run-up to Christmas. The cat food collected was given to the Branch's rehoming cattery and the dog food was delivered to Bryn-y-Maen. The Branch is most grateful for such donations.

A "design-a-poster" competition emphasising the care of pets over the festive season was also held in Ysgol

Syr Hugh Owen Isaf. This competition was very well supported and the standard very high. The prize for the two winning entries was £10 each with 4 runner-up prizes of £5 each.



## RSPCA WEST GWYNEDD BRANCH

Shops at: 115 High Street, Bangor  
Open 10:00 - 16:00 except Wednesday & Sunday  
Tel: 01248 351354  
44 Snowdon Street, Penygroes  
Open 10:00 - 16:00 Monday - Saturday

Phone: 01758 750356 (Freda)  
01248 671304 (Alun)  
01248 353383 (Hilary)  
Email: Enquiries@RSPCAWestGwynedd.org



### West Gwynedd Branch Reg Charity 226126

*We do what we can to help*

*We're on the Web!*  
[www.RSPCAWestGwynedd.org](http://www.RSPCAWestGwynedd.org)

## Branch Statistics for 2002

### Animals given veterinary treatment funded by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
165	285	5	3	457

### Animals neutered by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
85	335	3	2	425

### Animals re-homed by Branch

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
2	103	-	-	105

**Total spent on vet bills: £27,407**

**Total spent on fostering: £2,284**

**All money spent locally has to be raised locally.**

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

If you can give some time to help RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch in ANY way, check out our website for a full calendar of events, or contact us by e-mail, or phone any of the numbers given on this page and elsewhere.

## Friends of Bryn-y-Maen

The Friends were formed in 2001 to raise money to buy equipment which will make life more comfortable for the animals in the care of the RSPCA Animal Centre at Upper Colwyn Bay. Members from RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch assisted in a microchipping day held at Bryn-y-Maen in 2002, and will also be at the forefront of the **Bryn-y-Maen Companion Dog Show** to be held at the Centre on **Sunday May 18, 2003**. It is hoped that the weather at this year's show will be kinder, as the wind played havoc with some of the marquees last year.

We are also providing a PC for the Centre to deal with e-mail enquiries, and to maintain a website (still under construction) which is being created for them by the West Gwynedd Branch.

Details of the dog show and the rest of the website may be seen at [http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/rspca\\_fbym](http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/rspca_fbym). If you want more details of activities, or would like to join, please phone Bryn-y-Maen on **01492 532780** or Mair Eluned on **01978 721086**.

