

Bun on the Run

We were about to set off to a Branch Friends meeting in Bangor when I heard Alun take a phone call about something to do with a rabbit on the loose. The conversation ended with *"We're on our way to Bangor now; we'll see what we can do"*. Having been involved with West Gwynedd Branch for 20 years, this happens quite often in our household and I start wondering what we've committed to now! On this occasion, a domestic rabbit had been wandering about on a new estate in Bangor for a couple of days, nobody was claiming ownership and it was at risk from traffic. Now neither Alun nor I are the nimblest of people but a promise is a promise, so we set out with a net and a basket and met the person that had reported the straying rabbit. There followed what is best described as something of a cartoon chase as the three of us tried netting the rabbit, with the rabbit dodging under parked cars. Fortunately, along came a very athletic young man and between us we cornered and caught the rabbit, without injury to any party. Amazingly both the original caller and the captor had rabbits of their own.

Luckily, when we got to our meeting Jo, who owns rabbits and at the time worked with rabbits at Pets at Home, agreed to take our stray home with her until we had made every effort to find the owner. The rabbit, now named Cass, was micro-chipped but the chip hadn't been registered to the owner and despite putting up posters, putting her on our website and facebook, no owner came forward. Cass was health-checked, given a clean bill of health and after two weeks was put up for adoption. Enlli, who also works at Pets at Home had, by this time, fallen for Cass's big eyes and ears and decided to give her a forever home.



Beware - Dangers of Houseplants & Cut Flowers to Pets. A personal story

In our 2012 Newsletter we warned of the dangers to pets from garden hazards including plants and flowers. Since then I've avoided giving Henry, our indoor cat, access to any houseplants and cut flowers. Like most cats, Henry has a curiosity about greenery and anything new in the house. He's denied access into the dining room where we have a few houseplants and where I put any cut flowers.

I'd had some roses and lilies at Christmas and somehow Henry managed to get access to the dining room. Half an hour later and to my horror, I found the vase overturned, the flowers scattered and Henry cowering under the table. I checked him for signs of lily pollen but he appeared unstained. We breathed a sigh of relief thinking we'd got away with it, until I checked the leaves and found that he'd chewed on two lily leaves. We called our vet immediately on out of hours service and were told to bring him down straight away. We were told that lilies cause irreversible damage to cats' kidneys and that Henry's only chance of survival was to be put onto a drip immediately to try to flush the toxins from his system. Despite having got him into the vet's surgery within three hours of him chewing the leaves, blood tests taken over the next few days showed that he had sustained kidney damage. Luckily for us, Henry rallied and was allowed home four days later but with a recommendation that he eats a special diet to support his kidney function for the rest of his life. We've learnt our lesson and will never have lilies in the



house again. Advice on plants toxic to pets is available on the RSPCA's website at

<http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare>

Never 'watch and wait'. If you suspect your pet's been poisoned, contact a vet immediately.

**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 **urgently** 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?

Branch Statistics for 2014

Animals given veterinary treatment funded by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
692	479	8	12	1,191

Animals neutered by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
125	467	3	2	597

Animals re-homed by Branch

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
-	256	-	-	256

Total spent on vet bills: £47,197

Total spent on fostering: £3,308

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

facebook & website

Social media is becoming increasingly important for communication to the masses or individuals in so many areas. It tends to be less formal than a website, easier to update and maintain and allows direct interaction with followers via messaging, sharing photos & stories and publicising events. It is also a very quick way to share information on lost and found animals and some groups are extremely effective e.g. Lost Dogs North Wales Area. We now have 466 friends though everything is shared with the public. Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/rspca.westgwyneddbbranch>.

Launched in 1998, we were one of the first RSPCA Branch websites in the UK and the first in Wales. We've finally given it a much needed make-over. Come and see the changes at www.RSPCAWestGwynedd.org.



Charity Partnership

In 2014 we were nominated Charity Partners with Support Adoption for Pets in conjunction with Pets at Home. This allows us to have a regular presence in Pets at Home, Bangor promoting adoption of Branch cats and Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre dogs, cats and small furies. It also provides a venue to fundraise, promote responsible pet ownership and the work RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch do, together with recruitment of new volunteers.

Thanks to the valiant efforts of Linda, Richard, Sam, Keymar, Nicola and Jo we've been able to hold events or have our information stall in store most months throughout the year, including during Rabbit Awareness Week and Santa Paws Fundraising Appeal. For the second year in succession our Christmas appeal brought in lots of food, treats and toys for animals in RSPCA care, so thanks to everybody for their Christmas generosity. Support Adoption for Pets also run a raffle twice a year at the store with the proceeds donated to the Branch. Pets at Home staff encourages customers to buy raffle tickets and the Branch can also sell tickets in-store, at stalls and in our shop. Linda and

Jo sold tickets enthusiastically on the charity stall at Pwllheli market on one occasion too. The Spring Fundraising Drive raised a fantastic £2,164.54, the Summer Drive £650.82. In total, £3,700.22 was raised last year at Bangor Pets at Home and we are very grateful to the store manager, Barry Stevens and his staff for all their support throughout the year.

Linda decided to leave the Branch at the end of the year to concentrate her efforts on supporting Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre. We will miss Linda's enthusiasm and drive and thank her for all her efforts during her time with the Branch. Keymar has volunteered to become her successor in liaising with Pets at Home on behalf of the Branch and is already proving to be a great asset with lots of new ideas and energy too.

If you can help us in anyway please come over and have a chat when we're in store or contact us via our website at :

<http://www.RSPCAWestGwynedd.org> .

We love new volunteers!

