

### Giving a Rescue Pet a Christmas Dinner

**S**upport Adoption for Pets nominated RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch as their chosen charity partner again last year. Following on from the success of the Christmas 2014 collections at Pets at Home, Bangor, they requested our presence at the Bangor store on at least two days between December 1<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Named the SantaPaws Appeal, Support Adoption for Pets provided all Pets at Home stores with a festive array of items to help them and us host a jovial fundraising event. Customers were asked to consider buying a Christmas present for a homeless pet and a pet food bin, appropriately decorated for the festive season, was left in store.

Keymar, Sam and Richard were present at the store on several occasions during December and a phenomenal amount of food and gifts were collected. Cat food donations came to the Branch for cats in our care, all dog and small animal food, treats, toys, blankets and equipment were transported to RSPCA

Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre in Colwyn Bay.

A cheque for £455.30 was also received by the Branch (see photo below) from Support Adoption for Pets, which will be used to support animals in RSPCA care. We are extremely grateful to Support Adoption for Pets and the staff at Pets at Home, Bangor for their continued support.



### Pudsey Finds a Loving Home

**C**athy and her children Richard, Morgan and Bethan wanted to give a rescue dog a chance of finding a loving home and so they visited RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen Animal Centre. There they found a rather bedraggled Bichon cross and the whole family fell in love.

They filled in the relevant paperwork and visited quite a few times for familiarisation and fell in love even more. Peter, a committee member and experienced adopter of several dogs, was asked to call on the family to carry out the necessary home visit. Although the front of the house opened onto a rather busy road in Pwllheli, the family had previous dog experience and confirmed that they only ever used the back door, which had access to walks through open land towards the Golf Club and beach.

Cathy reassured Peter that Pudsey would not be left alone for any length of time as she would be taking him to work with her. So, Pudsey came home the following week.

Cathy works at the Penrhos Polish Care Home, Pwllheli and Pudsey swiftly became a favourite with the residents.

He seemed to know he had to be on his best behaviour with the older, frailer residents and adapted quickly to the situation. He now has lots of aunties and uncles and probably understands more languages than most of us.

From his beginnings as an RSPCA case dog from a multi-rescue situation this is one well-behaved and truly loved little dog.



### Could you Become a Branch Fosterer?

**O**n 3<sup>rd</sup> February, committee members Phil and Kath had a knock on their door at 10:00 p.m. from a cat owner living nearby, saying that her cat had given birth to kittens. Unfortunately being only young herself, the cat had rejected her kittens and was refusing to nurse them. One kitten had already died and the other two were struggling. Kath decided, there and then, that she would take in the two remaining kittens for hand-rearing. The kittens needed 24 hour care at the beginning with syringe-feeding every 2-3 hours with kitten formula milk. It was touch-and-go for a while but with Kath and Phil's love and care Leo and Panda were reared successfully and recently found their "forever home".

Could you foster cats and kittens for the Branch? Please contact us if you feel that you could.



## 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 & Ann)

Email: [Enquiries@RSPCAWestGwynedd.org](mailto: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 2015

#### Animals given veterinary treatment funded by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
894	456	18	10	1,378

#### Animals neutered by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
115	656	10	2	783

#### Animals re-homed by Branch

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
-	223	-	-	223

**Total spent on vet bills (inc mobile clinic): £54,418**

**Total spent on fostering: £2,154**

**We receive no lottery, nor government funding**

**nor grants from RSPCA HQ.**

## Dog Microchipping Becomes Law in April 2016

From April 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 the microchipping of dogs is required by law in the UK. Dog owners can be fined £500 for failing to have their dog microchipped and/or failing to keep details updated on an approved database.



In order to help pet owners conform, the Branch has held two microchipping sessions to date – one at Pets at Home, Bangor in May 2015 and the other at Noddfa, Caernarfon in March 2016. At the Bangor event 57 dogs were chipped over 2 days and 186 at Caernarfon in 5 hours! Keymar is a trained microchipper and coped on her own in Bangor with Sam as her dog handler. Luckily, for the Caernarfon event, we had vet Jim Mason in the RSPCA Mobile Clinic as well as Keymar chipping, together with 6 committee members and 2 Branch Friends (Gwyn and Sara), to do the administration, dog handling and cleaning. What a day that was!

## Rob & Margaret Retire

It was quite a shock to members of RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch committee in 2015 when Rob & Margaret Eaglestone announced that they had decided that they were retiring from the committee. Both had been stalwart members for many, many years and such an integral part of the workings of the Branch. However, despite attempts at persuasion to stay both were adamant that due to deteriorating eyesight they considered it time to hand on the baton - or rather the gavel.

Margaret has been involved with the Branch committee since 1977 having been Hon. Secretary from 1983 to 1982 and Branch Representative on the Wales Regional Board. In 1986 Rob was persuaded to join in, perhaps not having much choice in the matter as he chauffeured Margaret wherever she needed to go! They often made a weekend of their meetings down to Llandrindod Wells or Shrewsbury by going camping or visiting family. Rob became Chairman of the Branch in 2004, a post he held with charm, commitment, skill and diplomacy.

Margaret was awarded a Silver Badge and certificate of merit in 1997 in recognition of her service to the RSPCA. At last year's AGM Rob was awarded the

Silver Badge and bar and Margaret the bar to her previous Silver Badge for their service to the RSPCA. The Branch also decided that they couldn't let them both get away that easily, so they were asked to be Branch President and Vice-President, posts which they graciously accepted. They also continue to support us at fundraising events.

Thanks Rob & Margaret from all of us.

