

Collaborative projects

The new dog exercise barn at RSPCA Bryn-y-Maen part-funded by RSPCA West Gwynedd is now being put to good use as an all-weather exercise and training area for dogs. It is anticipated that the official opening will take place soon. Pop over and have a look.



Over the years, a number of branches in North Wales have generously provided funds for the operation of the seal rehab unit at the Welsh Mountain Zoo. It has traditionally been here that seals collected by the Inspectorate across the whole of the North Wales coast have been taken for treatment, rehabilitation and ultimately release. Unfortunately, the unit temporarily closed to allow for much needed repairs to be completed including the roof and filtration systems for the pools. At present, any seals being picked up are being transported to other facilities in Stapeley, East Grinch or West Hatch. The current 'seal season' started on 9 September and in the first month 27 grey seals were collected in Wales (only 4 were collected in the same period last year). The need for rehab spaces is therefore urgent. The 4 North Wales Branches with a coastline – Ynys Môn, West Gwynedd, Aberconwy and Clwyd & Colwyn all contributed towards the repair and maintenance.

Another major joint project has been the purchase of a new replacement mobile clinic (largely funded by a legacy), and the acquisition of a joint garaging and storage facility. This is work in progress but all 5 Branches are committed to it, with an anticipated completion before the end of Summer 2018.

Rehoming Bruno, Salad & Charlie

Most of our rehoming successes are of cats, but during the last 3 months we have successfully rehomed 3 dogs with very different stories after fostering by Branch volunteers.

Bruno was a six month old staffy / lurcher cross (we are guessing) and through no fault of his own he needed a new forever home. He was a typical excitable six month old puppy but quite big from arrival. Following a lot of hard work by Keymar and publicity via facebook and the RSPCA website he was found a good home.



Salad came to us via Charlotte's relative, whose circumstances had changed. Salad generated a lot of interest on facebook immediately, though at a youthful 10 years old there was some reluctance to take her on. Eventually she won the hearts of her new owners with her charm and wide range of tricks such as sit, lie down, roll over and paw (she can even do it with your feet).

Charlie was basically dumped on us by his owner at a visit to our mobile clinic in Caernarfon. A characterful Jackapoo, he was snapped up via facebook within days. After his first weekend with his new family he'd been groomed and house-trained and was learning lots of tricks. What a transformation.

All animals rehomed by the Branch are neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and subject to a home visit. An adoption fee offsets against some of the fostering costs.



Best takings EVER at Pwllheli shop

Our shop in Pwllheli had a record-breaking year in 2017 raising over £34,000 from sales and a further £343 from the collection box. Due to all the staff being unpaid volunteers and all other costs being kept to a minimum, the profit margin was **68%**. This compares with just 17% for the national average according to a 2016 report. Thanks to shop manager Freda and her band of helpers, and our landlords Paul & Michelle.

In September 2017 RSPCA West Gwynedd were runners up in Asda Pwllheli's Green Token Giving vote and received a cheque for £200. Thank you so much Asda Foundation and the shoppers who voted for us!



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

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 2017

Animals given veterinary treatment funded by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
994	583	7	7	1,591

Animals neutered by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
87	350	-	1	438

Animals re-homed by Branch

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
5	268	-	-	273

Total spent on vet bills (inc mobile clinic): £62,523

Total spent on fostering: £2,671

We receive no lottery, nor government funding

nor grants from RSPCA HQ.

An incredible journey



Our involvement in the remarkable story of a cat began with a phone-call about a stray tabby cat appearing in Cyttir Lane behind Tesco Bangor. Though friendly with humans he was terrorising the

caller's cats. We trapped him and scanned him for a chip without success then took him to be neutered and placed him on facebook for rehoming. Local advertising did not generate any interest so via our friend Emma we advertised wider afield. Amazingly Emma got a call from a lady saying she thought the cat was hers, and he had disappeared from Amlwch (19 miles from Tesco) 12 months previously.

The rest of the story is in his owner Shelley's words.

"Here's a picture of Toby (aka Cyttir) and Thomas when they were kittens and called Tilly and Tink because we were told they were girls, hence the pink and lilac collars. LOL. X.

"We lived in Penysarn near Amlwch and lots of people had Tesco deliveries but we didn't much. His brother Thomas disappeared a year ago and Toby was really upset and pining for a week and then he disappeared too. We were absolutely heartbroken.

Thomas came back to the house after 5 months. By that time we had moved back to Manchester, but a friend contacted me and we immediately drove back to Anglesey to get him."

After spotting Toby (aka Cyttir) on a facebook post by Emma, Shelley continued:

"We are absolutely over the moon!! It's exactly a year this week that he went missing and today we have finally brought him home thanks to this post and these lovely people looking after him. Now have both our Lost Boys back. Never thought we'd see the day!! Our little family is complete again. We were



really worried if they'd even remember each other, and if we'd have wars, but they had the most adorable reunion ever! We were very close to tears!! Lots of face kissing! They soooooo remember each other, as now we're at the swiping (without claws) stage and who can get away with more sneakiness!!"

A week later Shelley wrote:



"Hi guys, just a quick update, we've been walking Toby round the garden on a lead for the last week (we did the same with Thomas when we got him back) and reluctantly let him out properly yesterday! We are so proud, he just loved rolling around in the garden and after he wandered off only once over the backs, Thomas went after him and brought him back!! They are so close, back to how it used to be, I can't thank you all enough!! We opened the door this morning and he went out for 5 mins and came straight back in, I guess he's spent enough time outside to last a lifetime

already anyway. 😊😘😘 XX "

Robert Alan Lewis RIP

Alan – dog-lover and a well-known runner and WRU referee from Caernarfon sadly passed away on 19 October 2017. He kindly left his house and estate to be shared jointly between the RSPCA and Dogs Trust, and the contents to RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch which raised around £2,000. Thanks to Meirion & Helen (executors) for all your help.