

❖ BRANCH NEWSLETTER ❖

Issue 5

May 2000

Contacts

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Mid & North Wales Dog Show

On 2 July the first RSPCA Mid & North Wales Dog Show will be held at Bryn-y-Maen. A collaboration between all the Branches in these areas, the dog show will be a qualifying heat for the RSPCA Dog of the Year 2000 Show to be held at Manor Heath, Halifax on 3 September.

Previously known as Scruffts, the show is aimed mainly at non-pedigree animals with fun classes such as "Dog with the Waggiest Tail", "Best 6 Legs" etc. All dogs, and especially those rehomed from Bryn-y-Maen, are invited to what should be a fun day for all the family, with stalls, entertainment, refreshments and a band. There will also be an opportunity to meet the animals and staff at the Animal Centre.

Come meet the "Stars" of S4C's production of *Bryn-y-Maen* shown on Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m. (with English subtitles).

A car park will be available on site with a £2 charge per car (including admission). Event charges will be £1 per class or £3 for entry to all classes. Proceeds will be used to build a pool and enclosure for the rehabilitation of swans, ducks and other waterfowl brought to Bryn-y-Maen. Registration starts at 11:00a.m., with the show starting at mid-day through to 4:00p.m. If you can help on the day, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you there ! Come join the fun !

To get to Bryn-y-Maen, from the A55 follow signs for the Welsh Mountain Zoo, but continue up the hill past the last right-hand turning for the zoo. Follow signs for B5113 to Llanrwst. The Animal Centre is in the village of Bryn-y-Maen at the top of the hill on the left.

Can you help us this year ?

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Mon	1 May	Antur Waunfawr	Sat	5 Aug	Porthmadog Flag
Sat	6 May	Petworld, Bangor	Fri	18 Aug	Caernarfon Stall
Thu-Sun	11-14 May	TESCO / RSPCA Week	Sat	19 Aug	Bangor Safeway
Sat	1 July	Bangor Flag day #2	Thu	24 Aug	Criccieth Flag day
Sun	2 July	Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show	Sat	30 Sept	Râs Antur Waunfawr
Sat	15 July	Caernarfon Flag day	Sat	21 Oct	Bangor Flag #3
Wed	26 July	Pwllheli Flag day	Fri -	24-25 Nov	TESCO C'fon
			Sat		
Thu	3 August	Ysbyty Gwynedd stall	Sat	9 Dec	Bangor Safeway

New Ways to Support Your Branch

If you donate regularly to the RSPCA by standing order or credit card, do you know that none of this comes to your local Branch ? If your donations are supplementary to your membership subscription, you can change your standing order to support RSPCA West Gwynedd Branch without loss of membership rights. Should you wish to make such arrangements, our bank details are:



Bank: Lloyds TSB
Address: Eastgate Street
Caernarfon Branch
11 Eastgate Street
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1AH

Account Name: RSPCA West Gwynedd
Sort-code: XX-XX-XX
Account No: XXXXXXXX

Contact Alun on 01248 671304 for info.

If you are connected to the web, you can now safely donate by credit card, from our new website address:

www.RSPCA.West.Gwynedd@care4free.net

Cat Tales

An anxious cat-owner phoned from Caernarfon claiming that a recently arrived stray was terrorising her own pets. Two Branch volunteers went along to investigate and were greeted by the lady clutching the offending cat. After a brief struggle, the cat was transferred to a carrying cage and removed from the premises – the lady wanted nothing more to do with the intruder. Then came the difficult part; what to do with the cat ? It was decided that veterinary examination was necessary before going any further, so cat and volunteers made a trip up to Hubbard & Williams. By sheer good fortune, Emma Cohen happened to be on duty, and on examination, she proclaimed “I recognise this cat, I neutered him 3 weeks ago, and the bill was paid with one of your vouchers”.

Further investigation corroborated the story, and the stray cat which had originated from Llanfaglan had been neutered and rehomed at Llanberis. He clearly felt that he belonged back by the sea and was making his way there. The lady who had originally taken the cat to Llanberis was so moved by the story that she decided to keep him.



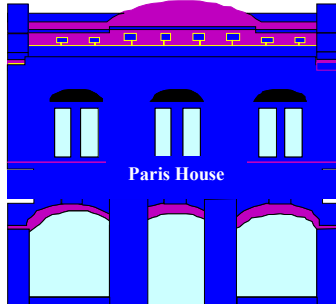
A small feral cat colony comprising 2 adult males, an adult female and 3 kittens living at a

local golf course was successfully neutered and released. Unfortunately, in the process, 1 cat-trap was stolen. As these essential items of equipment cost over £80.00 to replace, this proved quite a setback. The steward and his wife very kindly made a donation towards the cost of replacement.



A dispute on a Council housing estate in our area required intervention by West Gwynedd Branch. The peace and quiet of an elderly couple, their dog, and 2 cats aged 14 and 15 were severely disrupted when a new family were moved in next door. The newcomers apparently took against the animals and persecuted them with buckets of water and other missiles. Things came to a head when the older cat was found covered in ashes or cement-dust. On presentation to a vet, a tumour was found and it was decided that rather than stress the cat further by trying to clean him, the kindest thing would be to have him put to sleep. At this stage the owners contacted the Branch and begged us to foster the remaining cat, “Sammy”, as they would rather he spent his last days peacefully, even if they would be unable to share them with him. It was a very emotional and tearful farewell, but “Sammy” is now happy in his retirement home.

Focus on the Branch Shop



August 23 1999 was an eventful day for the West Gwynedd Branch with the opening of its first long-term shop, on Snowdon Street in Penygroes, near Caernarfon.

Following the kind offer to run an establishment by June and Peter Storer, and June's brother Rennie Whiteley, the Branch Committee agreed unanimously to open the shop for a trial 6-month period. The shop was decorated, fittings purchased and installed in under 2 weeks.

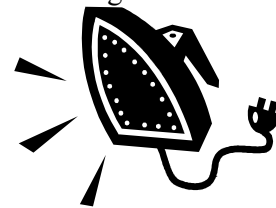
The opening ceremony was performed by Terry Phipps of Champion FM, and trade was brisk on the first day.

The shop sells donated goods including clothes, bric-a-brac, toys, small household items and books. Trade has continued to be quite steady with many local regulars and a few traders returning several times a week in search of a bargain. Many call in for a chat, a browse, or to talk about their pets.

Such has been the success of the venture that space soon ran out making it difficult to store donated goods and allow sufficient browsing space. As a result, in February this year, the shop was moved across the street to Paris House, a double-fronted premises with slightly larger storage facilities.

The shop is staffed entirely by volunteers and is open 4 days a week. Rennie and Branch secretary Freda Holme, together with a few helpers staff the shop Monday to Wednesday,

and Friday. All clothes are checked for cleanliness and obvious defects. Clothes suitable for selling that do not appear clean are washed and ironed by Freda before being returned for sale. Other Branch Committee members help with sorting, ironing cleaning and window-dressing at the weekends.



Donations of clean, good quality clothing and other saleable items are always welcome. They may be taken to the shop, or collection arranged by telephoning Freda Holme on 01758 750356. The continued success of the venture depends on such donations and volunteer help.

**Opening hours are
10:00 – 16:00,
Mon – Wed & Fri**

Branch Rehoming

Most of the Branch rehoming of animals is done via the HQ-run Animal Centre at Bryn-y-Maen, Colwyn Bay. Last year however, due to the sustained efforts of a single pair of fosterers we were able to rehome 23 cats locally to good homes. Many others were fostered until space became available at Bryn-y-Maen.

All cats taken in by the Branch are unowned animals with no persons to care for them. We are not in a position to take in unwanted or feral cats as space is very limited. All cats are health-checked, neutered if old enough and assessed for behavioural problems and temperament. Any potential new adopter is home-checked in accordance with RSPCA policy.



Bilingual Christmas Cards

For the past few years the Branch has offered its members the opportunity to purchase goods from the RSPCA Christmas catalogue without having to pay postage and packaging. In doing so, the Branch benefits by receiving 25% of the order value for its own funds.

Requests have often been made for bilingual (Welsh / English) cards, as these are available from other charities. RSPCA HQ at Horsham were reluctant to commit to such requests without proof of demand. West Gwynedd Branch decided to tread where others would not, and as a result 1,000 cards each of 2 designs available in English-only in the catalogue were over-printed at Bethesda.

Demand was high with other Branches throughout Wales requesting supplies. As a result, HQ have agreed to trial a bilingual card in 1 design for the RSPCA 2000 Christmas catalogue. Please support this initiative when the time comes to buy your cards.

Dog Case Histories

Among the many interesting canine cases given assistance over the year were a dog with an ulcerated eye due to in-growing eyelashes and another which fractured its pelvis having jumped over a wall only to find a long hard drop on the other side.



Another dog was bitten by an adder. Should your animal ever be bitten, the recommended first-aid is to minimize the animal's movement, keep it calm, and if the bite wound is visible, it should be washed thoroughly with cold water to get rid of any surface venom. If the bite is on a leg, keep it below the heart and apply an ice-pack, if possible, bandaging the limb tightly.

Tourniquets are not as effective as pressure bandages in slowing the spread of poison, and on no account should the wound be cut to suck out the poison. The animal should then be taken to a vet without delay for anti-venom and/or cortisone injections. All these dogs made a full recovery.

Cat Case Histories

Problems have included treatment for a cat that had burned its feet after jumping into some type of acid. Another cat had a claw pulled out from its paw, and the pad became infected. The owners delayed seeking veterinary treatment and as a result the infection spread and the poor animal had to have the leg amputated. Luckily both cats survived. On a happier note, a kitten found trapped within the engine compartment of a car in a supermarket car park was rescued, found to be uninjured, and was happily rehomed. Let's hope that it enjoyed its adventurous ride and has learnt its lesson.

The "Dog" with a Docked Tail

On-lookers in Bangor High Street last year must have been amazed to see a large hairy "dog" wearing an RSPCA sash hurtling up the street in hot pursuit of a couple of teenagers. The event occurred during a flag-day collection, when observant passers-by would have noticed that the "dog" had no tail. The poor animal was of course the Branch's fundraising mascot and the boys had decided to have their fun by ripping off its tail. Imagine their surprise when the dog gave chase and caught up with them. Dog and tail have happily been reunited, as it is of course now considered unethical to dock dogs' tails without veterinary reason.

1999 Branch Statistics

280	cats neutered	167	cats treated
118	dogs neutered	128	dogs treated
2	other neutered	8	other treated
44	cats rehomed	3	dogs rehomed