

RSPCA West Gwynedd

❖ BRANCH NEWSLETTER ❖

Issue 11

April 2007

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Branch Neutering Campaigns

Neutering of both dogs and cats became West Gwynedd Branch's main campaign during 2006. The RSPCA advocates the neutering of domestic cats and dogs and other domestic animals as an important part of responsible ownership. It makes your own life easier – amorous cats and dogs can be a real handful and no-one enjoys having to confine their pet. There are already too many unwanted kittens and puppies who have to be destroyed. The least a responsible owner can do is not add to their number. In addition, the frustration of hormone activity in a pet often leads to it having mental and physical problems.



Neutering removes the source and hence the problem.

In July 2006, West Gwynedd Branch enrolled in a joint neutering initiative with the Dogs' Trust to neuter dogs of both sexes. So far 51 dogs have been neutered and micro-chipped. The Branch also launched its own cat neutering campaign in November.

Cats belonging to people on means-tested benefits or retirement pension in postcode areas LL49, LL51-57 inclusive can be neutered free of charge. So far 71 cats have been neutered and the campaign will run until the designated funds have run out.

TESCO Collection Week April 23rd – 29th

Again this year TESCO will be supporting the RSPCA across the country during RSPCA week - April 23rd – 29th by allowing fund-raising collections to be made at its stores. This has become West Gwynedd's most successful fund-raising event and in 2006, £1,402.19 was collected at the Bangor store, £1,029.83 at Caernarfon and £412.13 at Porthmadog. This gave an amazing total of £2,874.15 towards Branch funds.

We are hoping to beat last year's success but **WE NEED YOUR HELP !** In order to provide cover throughout the week at Bangor, Thursday to Sunday at Caernarfon

and Friday to Sunday at Porthmadog we desperately need collectors. Even an hour of your time would be invaluable. The collections are made inside the store at Caernarfon and under partial cover at Bangor and Porthmadog. Chairs can be provided for those unable to stand for long periods. If you are unable to help Branch activities in any other way this year, please volunteer for this. The more hours we can cover at all three stores the more money we make to help the animals.

**PLEASE CONTACT
FREDA ON
01758 750356**



The Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Animal Welfare Act marks a milestone in animal welfare legislation. It brings together and modernises more than 20 pieces of welfare legislation relating to farmed and non-farmed animals, some of which date from 1911. Among other things it introduces a duty on owners and keepers of all vertebrate animals - not just farmed animals - to ensure the welfare of animals in their care. It will mean that, where necessary, those responsible for the enforcement of welfare laws can take action if an owner is not taking all reasonable steps to ensure the well-being of their animal, even if it is not currently suffering. The new law has been effective from 28 March 2007 in Wales and 6 April 2007 in England.

The Animal Welfare Act is an enabling act, which means that as well as the main current offences, enforcement and sentencing powers, there are provisions for the making of further regulations and the issuing of codes of practice on welfare issues in the future. As animal welfare issues will then be devolved to the National Assembly in Wales, the law here may vary from that in England. There are already plans

to prohibit the use of electric-shock dog collars, and to remove the exemptions from tail-docking of dogs in Wales.

Details of the legislation can be seen on:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/bill/index.htm

To understand the basic needs of your pet, free Pet Care booklets are available from RSPCA West Gwynedd, or log on to www.rspca.org.uk/petcare,

Basically it is as easy as A,B,C,D,E.....

A is for Activity

- allowing animals to express normal behaviour



B is for Being Well

- protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease.



C is for Companionship

- any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals



D is for Diet

- a proper diet (including water)



E is for Environment

- somewhere suitable to live



Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show

2006 saw one of the hottest summers for years. Unfortunately, Sunday May 21st must have been one of the wettest days in months, following an extremely wet Saturday when a stalwart group of volunteers put up the tents and set out the rings for the Bryn-y-Maen Dog Show in the rain and the mist. Amazingly, many loyal supporters and their dogs turned up on the day despite the

conditions. Nolan, a 2-year old collie re-homed from Bryn-y-Maen won the heat for Dog of the Year to the delight of his owners from Blaenau Ffestiniog who entered him in the contest at the last minute.

The show raised £700. This year's show will be held on Sunday May 20th. Let's hope that the sun shines for all concerned this time.

“Ginge” - the bird-table cat

We were contacted this summer about a ginger and white cat that was acting most peculiarly. Aptly called “Ginge”, this semi-feral tom-cat had taken to both feeding and sleeping on someone’s bird-table. Unfortunately he appeared to have severe wounds to both ears and neck, thought to have been the result of fights with other toms. As he was semi-feral his new adopters could not handle him and were becoming increasingly concerned about his welfare. Branch volunteers Ann & Alun were called in, and armed with stout gloves, a top-opening basket and grim determination, Ginge was caught and taken to Ciblyn Vets. Whilst under anaesthetic, Ginge’s ears were found to have a deep-seated mite infestation. The damage to his neck and ears had been made by his own



attempts to rid himself of the itching by persistent scratching. The ears and wounds were cleaned, and he was neutered whilst under anaesthetic. However, the treatment was not over, ear-drops had to be applied and the wounds washed three times daily. A smart Elizabethan collar prevented further self-inflicted damage. There was a further visit to the vets for deep-cleaning of the ears followed by more drops. During this time of containment and handling, Ginge decided that being domesticated was no bad thing and slowly he lost his wariness. He also had visits from his adopters who agreed to have him back and had already built him a posh new shelter next to the bird-table. Eventually, about 6 weeks after capture, Ginge was returned to his adopters and when last heard of was trying to move into the house !

Give a cat a home

This year the Branch re-homed 200 cats. The majority of these were kittens. Kittens are fairly easy to re-home as they bring out that “awwwwwwww” factor - who can resist that adorable bundle of mischief? Older kittens and cats tend to stay with fosterers longer, sometimes indefinitely. An older cat can make just as good a companion, is lots of fun and creates less havoc to curtains and upholstery! All our cats are neutered, de-fleaded and wormed. We are currently looking for good homes for the following:

Gabby

A long-haired female tabby, approximately 12 months old. She has only one eye but is otherwise in good health.

Smudge

A long-haired female tortoiseshell, approximately six years old.

Bobby

A two-year old male black and white cat, short-haired, very affectionate. Bobby was taken into the vets as an unwanted pet to be put to sleep, but was rescued by the nurses at the vet practice who contacted the Branch.

Olly

A two year old male black cat, short-haired, originally from Penygroes.



Cadi

An adult short-haired female tortoiseshell. At present nursing a broken leg, but expected to make a full recovery. A very loving little cat.

Eenie, Meenie, Miney & Mo

Four semi-feral cats suitable for re-homing in two pairs to a protected outdoor environment e.g. small-holding. All four are very pretty cats. Please note that if these specific cats have been re-homed, others are always available.

National Cruelty Hotline
08705 555 999

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 Mon, Tue, Wed & Friday

Phone: 01758 750356 (Freda)
01248 671304 (Alun)

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

Branch Statistics for 2006

Animals given veterinary treatment funded by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
134	155	3	2	294

Animals neutered by Branch voucher

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
103	207	3	2	315

Animals re-homed by Branch

Dogs	Cats	Rabbits	Other	Total
4	200	-	-	204

Total spent on vet bills: £29,333

Total spent on fostering: £3,770

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.

Fostering – Could YOU do it ?

Fostering is the temporary accommodation of leaflets to read and explain about entering into animals, prior to transfer to other RSPCA the RSPCA Fostering Agreement. You may need facilities or re-homing. Freda, Phil & Kath are a visit from an RSPCA field officer to determine our main Branch fosterers and in 2006 they the suitability of accommodation and numbers fostered and re-homed 200 cats and kittens and 4 before fostering begins. If you have pets of your dogs. Fostering occurs at the fosterer's own home own you will want to consider how foster but the animals remain under the ownership of animals may affect their lives. the RSPCA until re-homed. All attempts are Fostering is a very worthwhile way of getting made to re-home animals within three months involved with the RSPCA and the Branch. It is precluding strong bonding between fosterer and also hands-on animals. When fostering for a Branch, the Branch animal care trustees are ultimately responsible for the care of which is often the fostered animals. Food, litter etc will be paid what volunteers at the expense of the Branch, and veterinary costs really want to will be covered. do. Give Freda a

How do I become a Branch fosterer?

Contact Freda, Branch Secretary on 01758 that you can 750356 to discuss fostering and the facilities that help. you have available. She will provide you with **THANK YOU.**

