



Registered Charity No 232219

WAIFS AND STRAYS

Harrogate and District Branch Newsletter

OVER TO YOU!

We would love to include your stories and experiences in our newsletter.

Have you adopted a rescue animal?
Have you organised an event which was particularly successful?

Do you have a pet with attitude who would love to have their photo in print?

Please send your contributions to Sally either via email or post before **16th March** to have them included in the next edition of "Waifs and Strays".



www.rspcaharrogate.org.uk

SNOWY'S STORY

BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

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To report an animal in distress or to ask for advice,
please contact the
RSPCA's 24-hour Cruelty and Advice line
on 0300 1234 999



Snowy and his two siblings came to us as tiny kittens (4 weeks old) early last year. Their mum had been involved in a road accident so they all needed to be hand reared. All the kittens thrived and his brother and sister were quickly re-homed as soon as they were old enough. Snowy took a little longer to find the right owner but in the meantime caused chaos—he was very vocal in voicing his opinions if he was not getting the attention that he wanted, failure to pick him up for a cuddle resulted in him climbing up your back to sit on your shoulder. All our family members wore Snowy's claw marks for several weeks. He loved company be it human, dog or other cats. I'm not too sure what my own cats thought of a small white kitten with attitude following them everywhere! After several weeks a lovely family came along who wanted a long haired white cat and off he went. I've seen Snowy several times over the last few months and he has turned into the most beautiful cat and is a much adored family pet.

Jill

ANIMAL UPDATES

“Slim Jim” is very LARGE neutered black and white cat. We think that he is about 5/6 years old. He loves being fussed and stroked and has a huge personality. He is on a diet and is slowly losing weight. This diet will need to be continued in his new home to avoid him having weight related health problems later in life. He has lots of love to give and will make a fantastic pet.

“Portia” is a small, neutered, black cat who we think is about 1 year old. She is quite shy but loves being cuddled. Ideally, she needs to go to a home where she will be the only pet and will be given lots of attention.

All of our cats are fully vet checked, micro-chipped, wormed, blood tested, vaccinated and neutered in addition to having routine flea treatments. If you are interested in adopting a cat please contact the branch for further details.

BRANCH NETWORKING CONFERENCE

The conference will be held on Saturday 7th March at Liverpool Town Hall. Up to three delegates from each branch can attend. This is open to committee members, staff and volunteers. Travel expenses are paid and lunch and refreshments provided throughout the day. The day usually runs from 10.00 am—4.30pm and includes presentations and workshops facilitated by both the National Society and branches.

If anyone would like to attend, please contact Jill as soon as possible.

BRANCH UPDATE

2008 was a very busy year for the branch. We re-homed 37 cats and kittens throughout the year, as always as soon as we re-home one animal another one is waiting to come into our care. I would like to say a big “Thank You” to Harlow Cattery and staff who support the branch by allowing us to use some of their pens on a permanent basis to house cats and kittens until they find new homes.

The branch held a very successful micro-chipping campaign in September in conjunction with the following veterinary practices, whose support for the campaign was invaluable;

Vets4Pets, Harrogate

Forest House, Knaresborough

Hutchinson, Dunlop and Baird, Wetherby

Bishopton Vets, Ripon

Westwood Veterinary Practice, Boston Spa

Rae Bean and Partners, Boroughbridge

The promotion of micro-chipping for all animals is something that we feel very strongly about. The branch campaign for 2009 will again be held in September and I hope all the vets will participate again. 2008 also saw two members of the branch being trained to microchip which now means that we can offer micro-chipping at events.

Despite the withdrawal of The Dogs Trust from the joint RSPCA/Dogs Trust Neutering Scheme, the branch was able to provide neutering vouchers for 25 dogs in 2008. We were able to do this with the support of Vets4Pets, Harrogate and hopefully will be able to continue in 2009. In addition, the branch supplied neutering vouchers for 45 cats in the District.

Best wishes for 2009

Jill

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Here are a few dates for your diary

April

Saturday 4th—Spring Fair at Hampsthwaite Memorial Hall
Jumble, Bric-a-brac, Books, Plants

May

Friday 1st— Golf Day at Rudding Park
Luxury prizes needed

Friday 1st - Collection at Morrisons in Wetherby

Monday 4th— Knaresborough Pet Day
Stall and Chocolate Tombola

Sunday 17th— Nidderdale Walk

Walkers are needed to do the 7, 15 or 22 mile routes and collect sponsorship in aid of the RSPCA. The entry fee will be paid by the branch. Dogs are not allowed on the walk due to the number of people taking part. Please contact Sally if you fancy the challenge!

June

Friday 12th— Collection at Morrisons in Ripon

A full list of events is available on our website as dates are being arranged all the time. Please contact Sally if you are able to help at events, even if it is only for a hour or two. We also need good quality goods to sell and prizes for raffles.

If you are also able to organise your own event, such as a coffee morning, please let us know so that we can advertise it online and in future newsletters.

FRIENDS' MEETINGS

Everybody is very welcome to come along and meet other volunteers at our Friends' Meetings which are held bi-monthly. The meetings are very informal and it is a good opportunity to find out what is happening within the branch and to share ideas for future events. Meetings are held at **The Kestral** on Wetherby Road, Harrogate in the Charles Dickens Room and start at **7.30pm**. We are hoping to have some guest speakers throughout the year talking about a range of issues relating to animal welfare and conservation. Here are the dates for 2009. Please check the website for confirmation of speakers nearer the time.

Tuesday 27th January—Talk and Slides by 2 volunteers from the RSPB Fairburn Ings Reserve

Tuesday 24th March

Tuesday 26th May

Tuesday 28th July

Tuesday 29th September

Tuesday 24th November

RABBIT AWARENESS WEEK

(30th March-5th April)

At a recent regional board meeting, it was agreed to put together a campaign to highlight the plight of domestic rabbits, to educate people about their needs and to raise awareness about owners and prospective adopters' responsibilities. Rabbits are now the third most popular choice as pets but unfortunately are frequently neglected and ill treated. There will be number of initiatives planned for the week and I am delighted to say that students at Harrogate College will be holding an event for us on Monday 30th March—final details are still being arranged but the day promises to include lots of bunny outfits! There will be more information on the website over the coming weeks or come along to the Friends' Meeting on January 27th to find out how you can get involved.