



**AUTUMN WINTER NEWSLETTER 2013**  
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**WE FOUND OUR FOREVER HOMES!**

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND MAIDSTONE BRANCH AND THE HEADCORN CATTERY**  
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WELCOME once again to our latest newsletter which we hope you will enjoy reading.

We offer our grateful thanks once more to all those people who support us in so many different ways and without whom we could not continue to do the good work we do. Please don't forget if you are having a 'turnout' we have a shop at 72-74 Wheeler Street in Maidstone which relies on good quality items to be donated and which supports the work of the branch.

Since our last newsletter we have had some excellent results on homing our animals, some of which have been elderly, and the rest of this page is dedicated to just a very few of these lucky animals whose owners have sent us information about their new and loving pet. This is what we are all about!

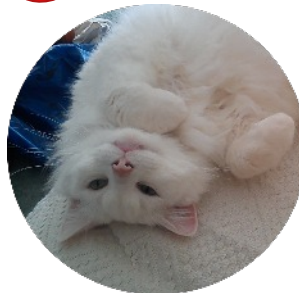


**JEREMY** - Jeremy was one of our older residents who came into the branch in a poor state having been a long-time stray. His new owner Ilsa says: Jeremy is such a lovely boy and is doing so well. He has lots of funny little ways, as they all do, he even meows in his sleep! It's really lovely to come home to such a loving and affectionate friend. He loves attention and is particularly fond of a massage - and you were right about his appetite!!

Ilsa says: \*\* I would urge anyone thinking of giving a cat a home to pick an older one. I've had two old boys from the RSPCA now and it's been the right decision for me as someone who works full time. \*\*

Comment: Thank you Ilsa - our older cats often get overlooked and you are right - they can bring so much love and pleasure

**JEMIMA** - Jemima had a few health problems when she came in but she is now doing well with her new owner Debbie who says: Jemima has changed so much over the past few months and is really, really settled now. She found going out hard at first, was still scavenging everything, and shredding paper (including the seals on the patio doors!) but she is now much much more chilled out. She plays a lot with the kids, chases them around the garden, sleeps on our bed and is totally clueless about many things including how to catch things. She sits on the rabbit hutch and they seem to like each others company - perfect!



**ALFIE** - new owner Stefanie says: 'He's settled in so well without any problems whatsoever. We are all happy to have him here'. All the best to you and everyone at the RSPCA. You all work so hard and make a real difference to the animals that you care for.

**MR. PICKLES** - Rachel the new owner of Mr. P says: Just wanted to drop you a line with regard to Mr. Pickles. He is settling in so well - we really love him to bits. He's such an affectionate chap. I think I might have to rename him Shadow ha ha because he follows me around everywhere. We will keep you posted on his progress. He is very special to all of us and we wouldn't be without him.



**POPPY & ALFIE** - new owner Tracy says: They are little rascals, extremely energetic and very confident. They love their food, especially Alfie and whenever I tap their bowls they come running!



**CHARLIE BEAR** - his new owner Neil says: 'He is getting brave now and has a little route he likes to take.....he's not the most graceful cat and you can always tell he's on his way over the fence with the crashes and thuds! He loves talking to us and being with us for his chin rubs!

**A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS GIVEN A LOVING HOME TO ONE OF OUR ANIMALS**





You may remember in the last newsletter that we briefly mentioned the sad plight of wild-caught birds and the desperate need for something to be done about it. Your branch is well known for its work with cats and small animals but we do help in many different ways with the welfare of other animals. Following discussions with RSPCA Mallydams Wildlife Centre in East Sussex it was agreed that the branch would fund the building of a new and much needed aviary to provide safety for wild-caught birds in particular, but any birds in need. It is our pleasure to tell you now that the aviary was officially opened at the Mallydams Wood Open Day on 10<sup>th</sup> August by Bill Oddie who was a guest at Mallydams for the day.

After lunch Bill held a question and answer session which was both very informative and humorous. As always his knowledge and experience were of great interest to everyone who listened.

We wish Mallydams all the very best for the future with the aviary and hope that it will help many birds in distress in the years to come. Our thanks also must go to Bel Deering, Manager of Mallydams and Bill Oddie for making the formal opening of the new aviary so special. A commemorative plaque for the branch has been placed by the entrance to the aviary.



Bel Deering & Bill Oddie get ready to cut the ribbon



Bill officially cuts the ribbon



2 of the aviary runs viewed from inside through the small viewing holes in the doors

#### SEASONAL CANINE ILLNESS (SCI)

A branch member went on holiday to Suffolk and was notified that the above illness was prevalent in the surrounding forests and country parks. Never having heard of it before she made further enquiries. Apparently this illness is at its worst between August and November and as yet the cause is not really known although studies have been put in place since 2010. If infected the dog can become very sick very quickly showing signs of listlessness, diarrhoea and sickness. In the event this happens veterinary advice should be sought with immediate effect. Not to do so could result in the death of the animal.

**We do not wish to scare everyone from taking their woodland walks** - a great pleasure for all dog walkers - but merely advise that this information has been given to us to pass on! However, it is worth discussing with your own vet or, if you have a computer, type in Seasonal Canine Illness where you will find lots of information regarding this strange occurrence on the Animal Health Trust site and other related information.



#### FRIENDS OF HEADCORN



We are pleased to say that since launching this scheme several people have joined us as 'Friends' and we hope that many more will gradually come along.

By becoming a *Friend* you are helping specifically towards the upkeep and care of animals at Headcorn, plus you are kept up-to-date with anything that we are currently doing.

Our *Friends* are also very welcome to visit the Headcorn Cattery at any time and bring along friends/family during working hours but please bear in mind that all visits must be by appointment to comply with our planning consent.

For more information please contact us on 01622 891222 or email [maidstonerspca@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maidstonerspca@hotmail.co.uk)

# NEUTERING - WHY DOES IT MATTER? ONE TO 50 MILLION IN 10 YEARS!

People are not neutering their cats as often as they used to despite many organisations offering cut price neutering to help those people on low incomes. WHY? There are probably many reasons -



Scarlett's kittens, born in our care, currently looking for homes

- o money is tight and people don't feel it is a priority
- o some people see it as a way of making money by selling the offspring
- o some people, especially men, don't like the idea of neutering, especially dogs
- o some people mean well but just 'don't get round to it' until it is too late

UN-NEUTERED MALES will wander far and wide, fight, spray and probably sire many unwanted litters in their neighbourhood

UN-NEUTERED FEMALES will roll and call when in season and can have several litters a year producing many unwanted and sometimes sick kittens as well as becoming poor in health themselves, sometimes with serious results which can result in either the death of the animal or expensive veterinary treatment. e.g. pyometra in female dogs.

BOTH MALE AND FEMALE CATS are more content, wander less, males smell much less if at all, and BOTH SEXES are generally much healthier, much happier and less likely to develop certain ailments in later life.

You might be saying to yourself 'I have had my animals done so I'm OK' but do you know anyone who **isn't** doing the right thing by the animals and allowing them to breed out of control and become a nuisance? If so think of the welfare of those animals, cats in particular, and contact your local RSPCA or another organisation in your area, including the local council that can help. ALL PETS, including rabbits, should be neutered.



Ruby: neutered and rehomed

The animal overflow is running out of control with many charity groups including your branch having to turn animals away - **there just isn't any room at the inn!!**

We, and other groups, operate **low cost neutering schemes**. Your branch helps **anyone on benefit or low income to get their pet neutered**. Your branch also runs a **cut price Staffy and Staffy X Neutering Scheme** which has been very successful but it is still not enough.

**PLEASE - HELP US ALL TO CLAMP DOWN ON UNWANTED ANIMALS - GET THEM NEUTERED - YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!**

## FOREVER HOMES WANTED

Camilla

Dusky

Millie

Scarlett's Kits

Zena

Bluebelle

Tabitha

Benni

Duchess

Fluffy

Oliver

Megan

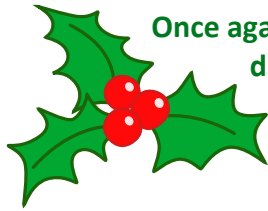
Lottie and Lydia

Scarlett

Prince George

Flick & Flounder

Socks



Once again a very big thank you to EVERYONE that has helped us through another difficult year of rising costs and increasing numbers of animals in need of our help. We really couldn't do it without you! A big thank you must also go to our staff and volunteers who work tirelessly for the benefit of animals throughout the year, sometimes in the most difficult of circumstances.



After many years of Christmas Bazaars the Branch has decided on a change. We are holding a COFFEE MORNING AND BRING AND BUY sale at the LONGMEADOW VILLAGE HALL, HEADCORN on SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER from 12.00 pm-2.00pm. If you have any quality goods you don't want please bring them along. You may find something to your liking to buy! *Christmas cards and calendars* will be available *plus gifts, coffee & cakes, a raffle* and more.....Please come and introduce yourselves to us - we really would like to meet you.

On behalf of the Trustees, staff and volunteers we wish you and your animals a peaceful and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Daphne Harris

*WANT TO HELP US INTO 2014?*

You could help your local branch by:

**STANDING ORDERS:** a standing order for as little as £2.00/month will help to feed an animal

**SPONSOR A PEN:** by sponsoring a pen you play a large part in supporting the animal in that pen for as long as it stays. We will provide you with a certificate and your name will be held in a book or a plaque can be placed on the pen you are sponsoring.

**LEAVE US A LEGACY:** A legacy will go a long way towards supporting the future running of the branch centre thus ensuring we will always be here to help animals.

Our bank details are: HSBC, Week Street, Maidstone. Sort Code: 40 31 06, Account Number: 01 46 72 98. Thank you for thinking of us!

