

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND MAIDSTONE BRANCH AND THE HEADCORN CATTERY

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Autumn winter 2014 sponsored by Seaward Copy Shop Broadstairs

Greetings to all our Members, Friends, Sponsors and Supporters - without you we could not carry on. It has been an incredibly busy year (more about that later) and we thank our lovely staff and volunteers without whose hard work and dedication our animals would certainly not be as well off. The work sometimes is stressful and almost overwhelming but nothing is ever too much trouble for them to deal with. We hope that you have all had a good and trouble free summer with your pets. As we look towards winter we are reminded of the need for heating in our animal pens with the ever rising costs that this involves. But rest assured, none of our animals will go cold this winter - whatever it costs us. Don't forget that if you have any goods in good condition that you want to move on our shop in Wheeler Street is always grateful for donations.

## TRULY HAPPY ENDINGS



**MEET SOOTY.** Sooty was one of our long term residents. She had lived a lovely life with her owner but sadly her loving owner had to go into a home and Sooty came to us. A sweet, shy but friendly girl she often got overlooked. She was totally traumatised by the change in her life but thanks to the encouragement of the staff and volunteers Sooty started to get back to normal. She has finally found a new and loving home with Jan Crittenden & family. Jan said "she has really settled down, goes out in the garden and sits by my side on the settee. She is very much loved". **GOOD LUCK SOOTY**

**MEET ARCHIE.** Archie came to us via the Inspectorate in a bad way following an attack. He suffered neurological problems as a result but with lots of love and care he has taught himself to walk again until he could walk up the slope to his sleeping quarters and climb on a chair. He is a truly amazing chap. Archie just adores people and finally he has found a new and loving home in which to enjoy the rest of his life with Patricia Rutherford who says "he is an adorable, friendly, naughty cat just like any other! He loves nothing more than to lie on your chest and his walking is improving all the time." **GOOD LUCK ARCHIE**



**MEET JAKE AND GEORGE.** These two lovely boys have been with us for ages. They were rehomed by us but sadly after a few months had to come back through no fault of their own. Very bonded together as brothers it was essential to try and keep them together. We have done everything we can to find them a new and loving home but as an adult pair that is not always easy. It therefore gave us enormous pleasure when finally these beautiful boys found a new and loving home with the Hepburn family. Cheryl said "They both charge around enjoying the space and have lost a little bit of weight!. They are very much loved by all and enjoy sleeping on the beds". **GOOD LUCK JAKE AND GEORGE**



## WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE INSPECTORATE



Many people do not understand the complex nature of how the branches and Inspectorate work together. It is a very special relationship that works very well but branches are also the front line for taking any animals that the Inspectors may pick up. These can be strays, animals injured on the roads, cruelty cases where animals are in a dire state, plus possibly large numbers of animals taken in at the same time from a house over-run with, say cats, which has to be cleared. Unlike some charities who can choose what they take in, we cannot. Not only do we not deal in one specific breed but we also take some of the most poorly and ill-treated animals to nurse back to care. We do not have the luxury of choosing which ones we take and which ones we don't. Nor would we want to. For us **EVERY** animal is important.

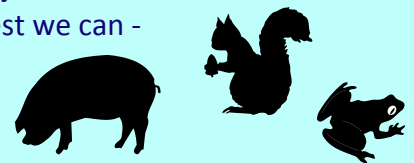
When an Inspector picks up an animal their first port of call is to a vet. The Society then pays the initial amount required to make the animal comfortable or, in the worst case scenario, put it to sleep. After that the animal is then moved on to the local branch or wildlife centre or Society home. In many cases it is the branch that is the first port of call and wherever possible the branches take the animals. The care, veterinary treatment, food and shelter then becomes the responsibility of the branch. In the case of an injury it can mean possibly a leg has to be amputated or urgent surgery for some other problem. It can just mean love and TLC until a new and loving home is found.

This can all cost a lot of money so you will appreciate that when we constantly get phone calls for help we do our best to accommodate **but it just isn't always possible**. What is becoming increasingly distressing is the **verbal abuse** we receive when we cannot just take in animals at the drop of a hat because people want to get rid of them. Nor do we have a bottomless pit of money. Our duty is to all those animals who DON'T have an owner, who are totally DEPENDENT on the Inspectorate and branches for help. The stress caused to our staff and volunteers by the ever increasing abuse is extremely upsetting, especially as they work so very hard in the name of animal welfare, often working beyond the call of duty to ensure an animal's safety and comfort.

The RSPCA National Society and Branches are taking a lot of stick and abuse from the public at the moment but you can all rest assured that EVERYONE is working exceedingly hard for animals. We are flooded out with the every increasing numbers of unwanted animals. Last year the number of unwanted cats alone rose by 24%!! Your branch currently has 40 kittens and 75 cats in total - way more than we should be dealing with but we do our best to NEVER turn away an animal in need. That goes for the Inspectorate, the Society and all branches so please, if you do hear people criticising us perhaps you could just refer them to this article from your newsletter and tell them that we are **ALL** really are doing the very best we can -



for ALL animals



## LIVE EXPORTS

At the Regional Board Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Horsham it was announced that there is to be a **rally at Ramsgate Port on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**. Anyone who feels strongly that this awful trade should be abolished is welcome to come along.

Daphne Harris, your Chairman and her daughter Katie have long championed this cause and she will be speaking at the port on the day.

Sadly so far, because this appalling trade is essentially still legal it is difficult to change things but that doesn't mean that the fight to stop it and change the law should not continue. These animals can suffer appalling injuries, severe distress and even death on these journeys. **In the 21<sup>st</sup> century this kind of transport is totally unacceptable and the fight will continue until changes are made.** Some progress has been made in that the Inspectorate are now able to intervene if they have cause for concern i.e. if they actually see a sheep's leg hanging out of the lorry or other signs of distress but even they are limited in what they are allowed to do. We need to bring more attention to this continuing trade **so please, if you can, spread the word and help campaign against it. Thank you.**



**Our grateful thanks to Val Cameron for the photos. These were taken from the last shipment on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. These animals were exported for slaughter for halal meat for the Eid Festival**





## HAPPY DOGGY REHOMES



LUCY

MAJOR

RONNIE

ECLIPSE

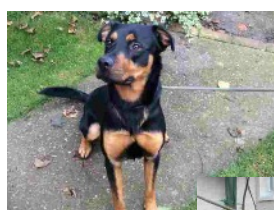
MAY

PERCY

HARVEY

BRUNO

## WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR OUR FOREVER HOMES



Max

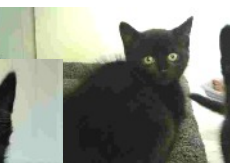


NORMAN

(HAS BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME!)



Mango, Lime  
Chutney and  
Piccallilli



Mr. Chops



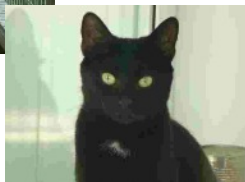
McTavish



Mickey &  
Minnie



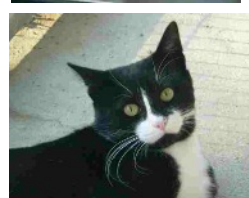
Holly



Shadow & Muffin



Milo

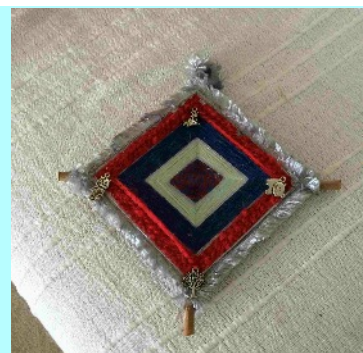


Wally (I only  
have 3 legs  
but I'm just as  
lovely)

These are just a few of our beautiful and loving animals who are in need of new and loving homes. We are taking in more and more animals but unless we can move others on to new homes we will be unable to help those still in desperate need of shelter. Do you know anyone who might be looking for a new dog or cat? An older person living alone who might enjoy the company of a pet, especially during the long winter nights ahead? If not please help us to spread the word. If you would like a card to put up in your local newsagent or supermarket advertising our branch please call Daphne on 01622 892191. We would be happy to send you a card. Despite what some members of the public think our policy is NEVER to put down a healthy animals. They stay with us until their forever home is found - however long that takes.

## EVER THOUGHT OF FUNDRAISING FOR THE BRANCH?

It doesn't have to be a huge effort. Perhaps a coffee morning with your friends, what about sewing, knitting, crochet? Would you like to make blankets to keep our animals warm and snug in winter. This was exactly what JAN AND TREVOR WILLIS decided to do just 3 years ago. They make lovely Brigit Crosses which can be personalised by using favourite coloured yarns and adding special wishes and Tibetan Silver Charms. Their crosses are now sold through various outlets they have built up in the UK and USA. To date they have raised a staggering £3,943.89 for the branch since they started. I don't think even they thought it would take off so well but it shows how chipping away at something can grow and the money raised for the branch is as always invaluable. Our grateful thanks to Jan and Trevor for all they have done for the branch animals. Let us know if you would like to start something yourself.



RAISING FUNDS FOR THE BRANCH  
THROUGH EASYFUNDRAISING.ORG.UK

Many people generously donate food and other goods through the website, much of it through Amazon. Easyfundraising.org.uk is featured on the front page of our website alongside Ebay and Amazon. However, we would like to clarify that if you want to support us in this way when you do any online shopping you need to go through the Easyfundraising button in order to get the percentage payment offered by respective companies for goods bought. If, for example you want to order anything from Amazon, be it a food donation or something for yourself, try going through Easyfundraising on our website. By going through the Easyfundraising button instead of directly through the Amazon button you can fulfil your order and Amazon will donate 1.5% of the total price to the branch. This may not seem a lot but it really does add up and it costs you nothing. There are many firms signed up to Easyfundraising so please consider doing any of your online shopping this way and you will be helping the branch as well. To join Easyfundraising is easy. Just log onto the button and set up a free account. Just follow the simple instructions and away you go!

***A Christmas Message from Daphne***

***I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all our Staff, Volunteers, Members, Friends, Sponsors and Supporters for their hard work and dedication to the branch this year. It goes without saying that we just could not do what we do without you all. The number of animals coming in has risen alarmingly but we have also been successful in finding lots of new and loving homes for many. I would like to wish EVERYONE AND YOUR PETS a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We look forward to your ongoing support in 2015. A BIG THANK YOU FROM US ALL AT HEADCORN, ESPECIALLY THE ANIMALS!***