

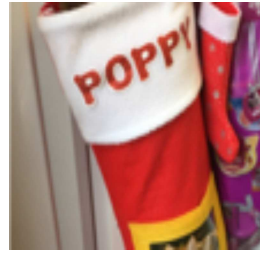


## TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND MAIDSTONE BRANCH

incorporating the Headcorn Cattery  
registered charity no 209365

sponsored by the Seaward Copy Shop,  
St. Peters, Broadstairs

### POPPY'S CHRISTMAS STOCKING



All our animals  
were very spoilt  
this Christmas by  
public, sponsor  
and friends and  
Poppy was no  
exception!!

Thank you so much to everyone that  
contributed gifts etc. More inside

## Hi Everyone

Welcome to the Spring/Summer newsletter 2017

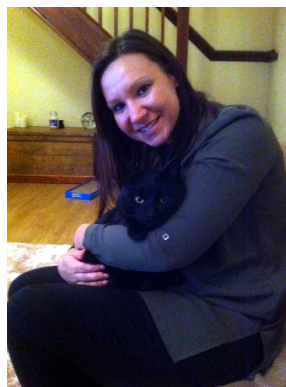
### REMEMBER BARRY???



This beautiful boy has epilepsy and spent a long time in kennels where he was very well looked after. He started out with us and was then moved to Danaher where they were able to give him more space and treatment than we could but we continued to support him financially. At this point we must thank Elizabeth Benning who continued to sponsor Barry financially to help us until he found his new and loving home. Well finally this beautiful boy has found his forever home. Barry caught the eye of a man who is well used to German Shepherd dogs and was prepared to deal with his medication.

His daughter apparently is a vet so between them Barry has a great future. We understand that he has been able to run with other German Shepherds and has settled in really well. **We all hope you have a very happy life Barry you deserve it! Thank you too to his loving new owners.**

### LOVELY CHARLIE LOST HIS LEG



But he has found a loving home with new 'mum' Emma and new friends to play with! Charlie seen on right in top left photo, reclining on bed and with his new 'mum' Emma. Emma says "Charlie, now know as Mack is settling in really well with us and his brothers Arfur and Uno.

As you can see from the photos he loves to play and his strength and speed is improving every day aided by high speed games of chase and playing with his beloved table tennis ball. He loves his sleep and a cuddle and can often be found stretched out in the conservatory or snuggled up on the bed. In such a short time he has made us fall in love with him and we could never imagine life without him. **Our boys are now affectionately known as the 3 Mouseketeers!**

**Thank you Emma for sending in this lovely news and pics of our boy.**



## JAMES SUFFERED HORRENDOUS INJURIES

James was taken to a local vet in October 2016 in an appalling state by a kind passerby who found him by the roadside. He had terrible injuries to his head and neck. The vet who treated him felt that these had been caused by fire or some sort of chemical and was almost certainly deliberate. He had been living as a stray, was underweight and un-neutered. He is estimated to be about 4 years old. After treatment James came to the cattery in November and since then has been gently nursed back to health. By January James was ready for rehoming but overlooked because of his appearance



Julia Laidlaw and her husband had sadly lost their beloved 17 year old cat in December 2016 and were thinking of another cat and James needed a home. They decided he was perfect for them and adopted him on 20th January. Since then James has learned how to go in and out of a catflap encouraged by a few treats and made himself fully at home. Julia says 'Despite his terrible experiences he is the sweetest natured cat - he settled very quickly and is an absolute gentleman. He is also loving and so grateful for regular meals, a safe home and a lap to sit on!

BARRY, CHARLIE AND JAMES are just 3 of the animals that needed long-term love and care during 2016/17 that went on to find loving and caring new homes.

The number of animals coming into the branch in need of maximum help and veterinary care is sadly on the increase. We felt it was important to re-iterate here that, despite rumours and bad press the RSPCA DOES NOT put a healthy animal to sleep unless it's on the advice of a vet and sometimes, even then, we think twice about it before acting.

At the beginning of 2017 we want to say a very BIG THANK YOU to EVERYONE who has taken one of our beautiful animals and given them a new chance of life. We also say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone that contributes to the branch be it financially through donations, membership, donations of goods for the cattery and the shop, or just by giving some of their time to help us.

We appreciate every bit of help we get but we would like to add a special thankyou to **Stephanie Webber** who comes to us on a Sunday whenever we need her and patiently and quietly makes her way round the cattery and site with her camera taking photos for us to use as publicity. This can sometimes take time and patience as some animals are a bit camera shy. Thank you Steph for your help.



## ABOVE AND BEYOND.....

*Jan and Trevor Willis have now raised over £6,000 for branch animal welfare through the sale of their beautiful crosses. More recently they have had a stall at Dobbies, on two separate occasions, to raise funds. We would like to thank Dobbies for allowing Trev and Jan to use their lovely premises. Our thanks also to Trev and Jan for all the support.*



## MORE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

On page 1 we featured the beautiful big stocking sent in by a member of the public just for Poppy. These photos show the overwhelming response to our Facebook request for gifts for our animals. As you can see we have enough goods here to treat many cats over the coming months which will bring them comfort and fun. We can't thank all those people who contributed enough for their kindness and generosity.



*The animals all say PURRRRRFECT!*

**TRACTOR FEST -  
A DATE FOR YOUR  
DIARY**

CAROL JACQUES has arranged for the branch to have a stall at this summer's TRACTOR FESTIVAL to be held on **19th/20th August in Biddenden**. This promises to be a really good weekend with lots of entertainment so if you can, please come and support us.

Carol is looking for new or nearly new goods for sale so if you are having a clear out and have some good items please call the **HEADCORN CATTERY** on 01622 891222 to arrange for them to be taken there or call **CAROL** on 01622 831786 if you need them collected. Your help will be appreciated. Even if you haven't any goods please do come along and support us if you possibly can. We would love to see you there.

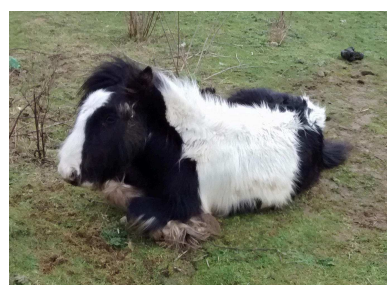
## **WHY DO WE HAVE SUCH APPALLING CRUELTY?**

In this newsletter we have been highlighting the problem of animal suffering, treatment, care, love and adoption. Sadly the situation with HORSES does not get any better and we make no apologies for enclosing this report from our Branch Support Specialist Becky Kenny with regard to the appalling situation in Kent which is one of the worst areas in the country.

**SOME PHOTOS MIGHT CAUSE DISTRESS** but we hope you will understand why they have been included here. These poor animals have been found **ON OUR PATCH** and our **LOCAL INSPECTORS** are faced with heartbreaking and distressing situations that have to be dealt with on an almost daily basis



**found dead at Watlingbury**



**Found in Yalding. So bad had to be put to sleep at the scene by a vet**

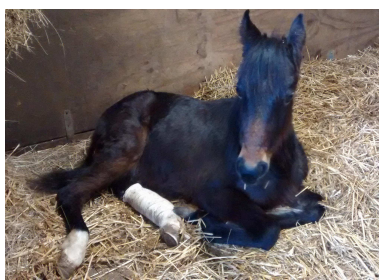
## PLEASE READ BECKY'S REPORT

In recent years we have seen a massive increase in the number of calls relating to horses, with Kent being a particular hotspot. In the period November to February alone, 13 horses were found dead and a further 25 found dying - sadly 6 of these were too ill to save and had to be put to sleep, but we did manage to save and rehabilitate 19 of these poor animals. In the same period over 250 other complaints were dealt with regarding horses. A hotspot for "dumping" has been Watlingtonbury and more recently we are seeing an increase in Kingshill.

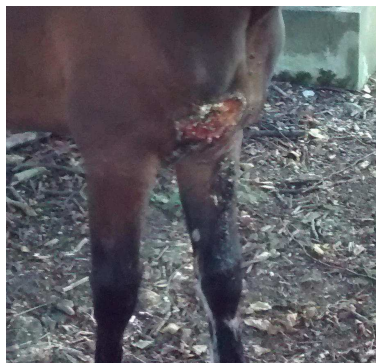
Two of these were "Woody" and "Buzz". They were found in Watlingtonbury. Buzz was estimated at 5 months old and was found in someone's garden with one of the worst wounds on his leg that the vet and Inspector had seen - down to the bone. Woody was nearby in a copse of woods with a less severe, but still very nasty large chest wound. It was uncertain if Buzz's wound would heal, but he had such spirit it was decided we would try. It took the Inspector, vet and 2 PCSOs from the local police to physically lift him down some stairs and get him safely to the horsebox.

5 months later and Woody has made a full recovery and is currently looking for his forever home. Buzz's wound was healing well, but had a bit of a setback and required a second surgery however he has now nearly completely healed and become a very cheeky chap and will be looking for a home soon!

We currently have 55 horses in private boarding in Kent alone; many of which are looking for homes and others still rehabilitating.



Buzz' leg wound (left)  
and in recovery (above)



Woody's chest/leg wound  
(above). With Inspector  
Rosie Russon on the mend



We always like to finish on a positive note!!! Buzz and Woody are recovering well. Both will be looking for caring new owners to really love them and give them the future they so deserve.

If anyone ever sees or suspects cruelty please get in touch with us or the Inspectorate. We might just be able to prevent another shocking incident like those featured here.

The RSPCA gets a lot of criticism in the press and media. We want to say a big thank you to our team of Inspectors who have to deal with atrocious situations like these daily. They are truly dedicated and caring people.

**Thank you for reading our latest newsletter and for your continued support of our work.**

Editor Kate Matthews

**Once again we sincerely thank the Seaward Copy Shop for their continued support of our work**