



North Devon Animal Ambulance **NEWSLETTER**

Number 40 : Summer 2015

Your gift goes to animals, not salaries

Charity No: 1106314

Visit our website: www.northdevonanimalambulance.co.uk

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However good our intentions are the date for the next newsletter seems to suddenly be upon us and catches us unawares.

The high pressure of calls has continued throughout this summer, for both domestic pets and wildlife, creating very long days for Diana and Mick. I am sure Mick could drive blindfold to the RSPCA Hospital at West Hatch, often dashing there before they close at 9 o'clock and then having the hour's journey home; while Diana is pressurised to produce stories for the newsletter in between

her numerous call outs, dog shows and talks, not forgetting the care of their own animals and the need to eat and sleep.

We are very excited to be in the process of setting up a new shop in the High Street in Bideford. The Lease for the Grenville shop terminates in the autumn and it was decided that a larger premises more central would be beneficial. Another change is the closure of the Barnstaple shop in July which for a couple of years had not shown sufficient profit to make it worthwhile. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Mr Andre Potier who has always been a sympathetic and supportive landlord. More details under "Shops" further in the newsletter.

For the past year we have had two ambulances on the road and odd days when Mick's car has once again been made use of, such has been the demand that we have needed three vehicles. As you may remember last year the new ambulance was financed by Support Adoption for Pets and they have continued to give us their support this year by giving us a substantial grant to

be ring fenced for veterinary fees. This is in addition to the Pets at Home Barnstaple shop's "MakesMeSmile" fundraising drive in May during which over £1,600 was raised We are very grateful and appreciative of their generous support.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Paul Marder, Manager of Barnstaple Pets at Home, who has recently carelessly fallen out of a tree and sustained leg injuries. Mend quickly Paul we shall miss you.

This year it has been regretfully decided, due to a very busy period and the opening of the new Shop in September, not to hold the annual Dog Show and Barbecue.

We continue to try and help as many distressed owners and sick pets as possible, but the number of cries for help are increasing in number largely due to the general practice of vets no longer offering extended payment schemes even to their regular clients. The client is suddenly quoted an enormous amount to find immediately or else face the terrible decision of having to put to sleep a beloved pet through lack of money.

Jane D-S Treasurer

Willow (not weeping)

The voice was familiar, for the carer had rung us on quite a few previous occasions to say that her patient had once again been admitted to Hospital as an emergency and could we collect his beloved dog for temporary care.

As usual Beau/Willow was a perfect guest at our Special Care Unit and seemed to always accept that this was a fun holiday, for her owner, due to age and illness, could not give her the exercise and fun she really needed. But of course as with all dogs, when she went home again her dog's inherent loyalty came uppermost and she was overjoyed to see her owner.

However, this time things were not as before. Her owner's health had deteriorated considerably and his future was uncertain. With considerable courage he put his beloved companion's future before his own and asked us to find her a new home.

You will see once again from the photos that this has indeed been achieved. "Willow" is now training Julie to run for charities (marathons?) and on her (Willow's) days off she keeps Fred company showing him how to look at the inside of his eyes.

Her previous owner can have peace of mind knowing his beloved old companion is happy for the rest of her life.



Front cover:

Wedding Day Baby kestrels - see p7

Mission Impossible?

As is so often the case it was immediately obvious that this incoming call had taken considerable courage on which to embark.

The lady's voice trembled with tears as she begged our help and as usual the story was one that could not be ignored

Severely disabled and not a little lonely as her husband was at work all day, they decided to get her a little dog as a friend and companion. The ensuing visit to a Kennels resulted in the purchase of an adorable little Chihuahua. But as they left the establishment, complete with new tiny family member, the lady espied a pen in the corner with a sad dejected little group of unkempt Yorkshire Terriers living in less than desirable conditions. They did not rush forward to greet the visitors as many of the other dogs had, they just sat in a pitiful huddle in the corner eyeing her without interest.

Upon gaining their vehicle the lady began to cry thinking more of the sad little group left behind than her own new companion.

Eventually, due to her distress, her amazing husband returned to the Kennels and at great expense purchased all four of the little group plus another in the same pen, a Jack Russell Terrier, and brought them home.

This indeed was a wonderful and compassionate deed, but it was not a wise one as far as the household circumstances were concerned. The lady is disabled with carers who are only allowed, quite rightly, to care for her. Her husband has to work all day to support them and she is certainly too unwell to care for six dogs, small as they are. For four months they struggled on and the little dogs learnt to be loved, to play and to be house trained. Nevertheless the danger increased daily as the dogs became agile and playful; the likelihood of her either falling over or on them increased and they were not getting the exercise, interest or individual attention they needed without it causing greater strain upon everyone. Something had to give.

So the dreaded call to NDAA was made and answered by me with a heavy heart, five dogs in one hit! No small request. As always when the need is greatest, the volunteers at



the Special Care Unit came up trumps and a whole room was transformed for all five to stay together and dog walkers enlisted on the rota. All was ready. The actual collection of the little group was heart rending, for the lady, despite repeated reassurance, was devastated.

In fact the little group were a credit to her and her husband for they were now confident, happy, little dogs. In addition to purchasing them initially at great expense, they had also had all the dogs vaccinated, neutered and micro chipped.

With Jeff and the volunteers taking them for four or five walks a day, the enquiries started to come in. Many were the kindly well meaning ones who, despite good intentions, did not have quite the right environment or facilities. Then there were the ones who only wanted them un-neutered (Breeders?), or with the paperwork for pedigrees (we shred these and only home on a basis of a pet or companion home).

Eventually, after many home checks, a short list was compiled and as you will see the outcome is a joy to all of us as well as the dogs and their original owner. It just goes to show that no matter how impossible the task may seem on that initial phone call, it can be resolved. We will make sure of that.



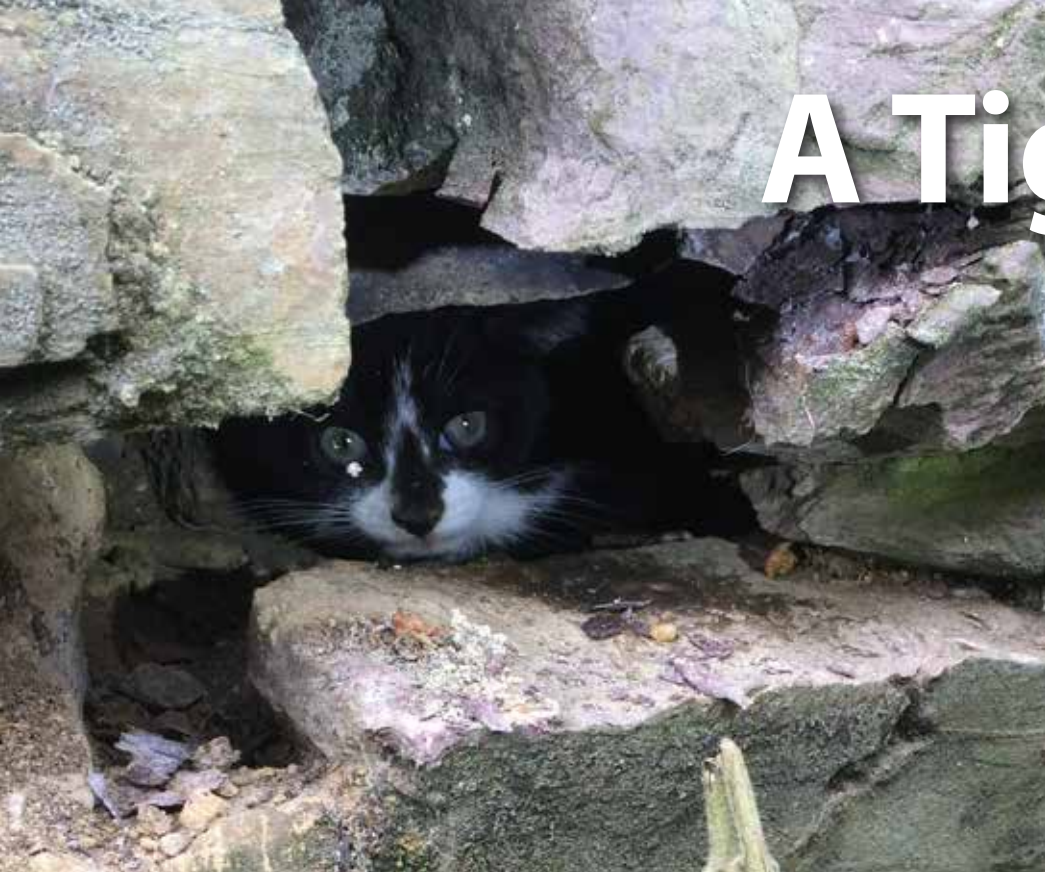
The lady lived near Exeter and was desperate for help for this baby little Owl. The dog had found him wet and cold. She took him home and rang various agencies for help. She was told to take him and put him back where he was found. She did and two days later found him almost dead at the same place. She asked us for help and drove to meet us at Umberleigh Bridge. At first we thought it was too late, so cold, thin and wet he was. We raced him to West Hatch and with intensive care he is doing very well.

100 Club Winners

Here are the latest 100 Club results. Congratulations to all our lucky winners!

Apr 2015 No. 69 - **Mrs S Portsmouth**
May 2014 No. 5 - **Mr Alan Biggs**
Jun 2015 No. 25 - **Mrs BJ Hayman**
July 2015 No. 84 - **Mrs J Lefever**
Aug 2015 No. 42 - **Miss D Baxter**

A Tight Fit!



Not to be outdone by “Chips” the kitten in the last newsletter who survived a terrifying ordeal in a woodchip lorry and nearly ended up as part of a wood pellet consignment, “Fitz” found himself sandwiched inside a stone barn’s cavity walls.

For three days the lady heard pitiful mewing and searched in the garden, garage, hedgerow and woods to no avail. Help in the form of Mick late one night still could not identify where the cries came from. On

day four the lady rang to say that at last she knew where kitty was, but oh what to do, for it was trapped deep inside a cavity wall. It had almost certainly fallen from a beam in the roof. When I arrived to investigate, I could indeed hear the now weak little cries and in fact, through a little crack, could see two sad frightened eyes. But a stone barn was not something I could take on.

Once again our wonderful network of North Devon helpers was to come to the rescue, as I made yet another ‘Mayday’ call to builder John Barry. Within half an hour John was on sight unloading tools and kit. Its not an

undertaking for amateurs to tackle a stone barn demolition!

As Fitz hissed and mewed, alternately trying to get out of the slowly enlarging escape route and then retreating in terror, John worked away. At last we were able to grab him and get him into a cage and finally take him to our Special Care Unit for ongoing care ready for a new home. For yet again no one ever came forward to claim him.

Our thanks to John Barry who always receives our ‘Mayday’ calls for help without batting an eye and never charges us a penny for his help.

A Family’s Generous Contribution

We are so excited to be offering in our new Bideford shop a range of the most attractive and beautiful greetings cards and jewellery handmade exclusively for NDAA.

They are the brainwave of Abbie Stevens who produces them with the help of her daughter Ria, with husband Roger going out to work to provide the capital to invest in his girls’ venture!

We are enormously grateful to the three of them for so generously donating the cards and jewellery completely free, with the proceeds going to the welfare of the animals in the Charity’s care.

The Bideford shop in the High Street is now open and is well stocked with Abbie’s cards. Abbie and Ria are already working hard on the production of a range of Christmas cards, so do keep an eye open for them in the autumn.

STOP PRESS!

The Bideford NDAA Shop is now Open!

Appeal for Help

Would our loyal and generous supporters that donate by standing order each month kindly inform the Treasurer if they are Tax Payers and resident in the UK, so that we can claim the 25% Gift Aid on their donations from the Inland Revenue. Gift Aid can make a considerable increase to the value of donations.

To Abbie, Roger and Ria a big big THANK YOU

All Creatures Great and Small

The afternoon was warm and sunny as the waggy tails, various cages and containers, along with smiling owners gathered in the churchyard of St Branock's Church, Braunton. It was that much looked forward to event "The Pet Service".

As they all filed into the Church greetings were exchanged by humans and animals alike as they remarked on new pets or those no longer with us. Rabbits, hamsters, chickens etc., were placed at a safe distance from eager interested dogs and kittens and calm descended.

The service was a real joyous occasion with the Reverend Ann Thorne officiating. The hymns were enthusiastically sung and given a helping hand (or voice) by various canine choristers. Then it was time for the blessing of the pets both present and absent. It never fails to amaze me how at this point in the service a total peace descends upon the whole Church and participants.

The mewling, squeaking, quiet groans (from dogs not owners) become silent as they file



along the aisle for Reverend Ann's laying on of hands and blessing. We all remember that not all animals are as fortunate as those present and we pray for kindness, peace and compassion for all creatures everywhere, especially for those suffering cruelty or neglect. Then Diana gave a short talk on the work of the North Devon Animal Ambulance, many of whose re-homed animals were present in Church.

It was then time for more enthusiastic comparing of notes as owners told their many stories, sad and glad, of their beloved pets and after a photo call everyone filed out into the late afternoon sunshine. The many dogs looking especially happy at being free of the requirement for specially good manners for the previous hour.

The collection was taken in aid of the North Devon Animal Ambulance.



The worry each newsletter is to find something new and interesting to say. This is difficult for the very nature of our work is repetitive. Every week, every month, every year, we deal with the same problems - unwanted animals, situations where animals genuinely can no longer be kept due to changed circumstances, abandonment and neglect of helpless creatures, stray animals, and wildlife in a thousand different situations of need; calls from the public, from the Police, Hospitals, Social Services, Housing Associations, Bailiffs, Local Councils, and businesses, all with an animal needing help at the end of the call. Only the individual call has a slightly different twist each time.

Frequently we are left feeling sad or angry, but never able to reveal these feelings as our role is to be there for the animals' future and to ensure that whatever the reason. Then for the newsletter, we have to select a tiny tiny number of stories for you to read without bringing too much distress to our readers, and reassuring you of the many happy ones, at the same time trying to give you some idea of the work we do as a team. That team includes you, the reader, for it is your interest in us and our work, along with the lovely letters and cards we receive and the donations that pour in, that keep us going

In addition we have Colin Munday's fantastic work on our website which has become very popular and, indeed, attracts a large interest from businesses and press and therefore boosts our donations so vital to keep us functioning. On two occasions I have been told by a media executive that our website is better than those of most companies. That is praise indeed and our unending thanks to Colin who does all of this free of charge.

Another indispensable member of the team is Barry, our relief driver, who is able to give Mick and me a day or two each week for Mick to get all the cages, equipment and ambulances up to scratch and home checks up to date. Barry has proved to be a calm, kind and practical animal ambulance driver



Diana's Report

dealing with any emergency or situation in exactly the competent manner we knew he would. Twenty-three years as a Metropolitan Police Officer was training for far more than we could ever throw at him. Equally on days when Mick is doing the routine calls but a job needs two of us, Pauline will down tools and accompanies me, such as a recent eviction. The premises were in an unbelievable state of squalor and when the Bailiffs had gained entry, we found five cats, one dog and a snake left in the premises. The poor little cats were terrified, the snake in a container far too small and the dear Staffie dog bewildered, but so glad to see us. The sad thing is that this is the norm for us and for so many many animals. It is the ones we don't know about that give one nightmares. The ones we are called to have a safe future, but what of those in other areas about which we do not know.

If I was ever granted one wish it would be that people would set up small caring animal ambulance charities all over the country, run on the same lines as NDAA; no one paid, all money donated for the animals and the team working solely for animal welfare.

In the case of the above, all the animals concerned are now in our safe hands, their future assured. And as I said at the beginning of this article, the same problems exist to be faced again and again. But then that is NDAA's promise.

Diana & The Animals

Integrity & Compassion



It is sometimes a pleasant surprise at the real courage and honesty of individual people that brings back a little belief in humanity.

A lady arrived at Torbridge Vets distraught with a dear little cat that her own dog had chased and badly injured. She had no idea to whom the cat belonged, but just needed help for it. Most people would have said that it was another dog or that they had just found it. This lady had no thought other than to get help and take responsibility for her dog's actions.

The little cat had severe puncture wounds all over her abdomen and back and for some days it was unsure whether there would be repercussions from internal injuries. Meanwhile enquiries from the lady, Torbridge Vets and NDAA threw no light on an owner. "Chewy" as puss became known, recovered slowly and was transferred to our Special Care Unit for convalescence.

Staff members of Torbridge Vets had been so fond of this dear little cat that they contributed to her veterinary fees and care. With her wounds now healing well, we will soon be looking for a loving home for Chewy; but one well away from dogs as she understandably shows a definite reluctance to be in their vicinity.

Small Deeds – Life Saving Outcomes

The little pigeon covered in the rain and dark under a car outside of Bideford Police Station. How easy it would have been for the two Police Officers, about to head out on their duties, to ignore it and its broken foot. But they popped it in the Police car and as they passed Torbridge Vets dropped it in to safe hands. They then contacted us to collect it and, with our other wildlife casualties, take it to West Hatch.



The lads at Oakhampton Military Training Camp have many terrible incidents to face in their jobs, yet it was not too much trouble, nor were they too macho in their characters, to ignore the nest of little swallows collapsed and in need of help. They called, we responded.



The farmer was devastated when he saw beneath him and his forklift truck the broken nest amongst the silage he had been moving. A quick call and we were on the scene to find the little family carefully wrapped and kept warm on a hot water bottle - All doing well at Secret World.



The following day was their wedding, but despite the frantic preparations, the young farmers found the time to rescue the three beautiful (angry) Kestrel chicks, whose mother lay dead leaving them helpless and vulnerable. Amid marquees and bunting they had found a quiet box and fed them steak until we arrived to take them to West Hatch



Poor little Jack fell down a lighted chimney. The very quick thinking owner of the property grabbed him, at no small risk to himself, and called us. It was truly his lucky (after a very unlucky) day for only the tips of his wing was burnt and the flight feathers will grow again.

Alone and helpless the tiny signet faced the rats who had killed all five of his siblings. But help was at hand, the gardener/caretaker at Kenwith Nursing Home plunged in to save him and get him to safety and warmth until we arrived to collect him. The parents had abandoned the signets due to the Water Rats – even an angry Cob is no match for rats - they can swim and are fast and have very viscous teeth. He is now safely at West Hatch where he will remain until old enough to be given a partner and safe home.



Peg Legs



During the past decade or so it has become a common sight to see a three legged dog out for its walk or chasing a ball as agile as any four legged one.

Three legged cats can be seen leaping onto walls or wardrobes as rapidly as a cat with a leg at each corner. Calls for help have become weekly requests for dogs and cats that have had serious injuries resulting in complicated fractures of limbs.

Years ago it would have resulted in most cases in an animal being put to sleep. In recent history, pins, plates and screws for such injuries followed quickly in the veterinary world after the success of such human surgery. Now many many thousands of cats and dogs inhabit our towns and countryside bearing as diverse a selection of metal craft as any engineer could visualise with very successful results.

However, this comes at a financial cost, frequently more than many people have immediately available when confronted out of the blue, due to road traffic accidents etc.; several hundred pounds or more in many cases. What are the options when a plea for help to a charity such as us, local and small, is

made? We have to weigh up the alternatives as our remit is "to do the very best, for the most number of animals, with the money we have available".

Certainly there is no justification to put to sleep an animal if it simply has a badly broken leg. However, cost wise we cannot afford the pins, plates and screws etc. for every animal. So we are left with the option of amputation, which we know to be very very successful. As you will see from the photos, Jack, the Jack Russell Terrier, and only this week, two cats, otherwise perfectly healthy, now have a long and happy future.

"Jaffa" was dumped on a Vet's counter with instructions to Put to Sleep due to broken leg. "Mrs Threepence" was stamped on (accident?) and leg severely broken with gangrene set in. In both cases NDAA paid for their amputations and on going care and convalescence in the Special Care Unit. Both cats, as with Jack and the many many other animals who have had this done, are doing very very well and will eventually be found suitable quiet homes. Anyone who has to deal with such an issue can talk to our own colleagues all of whom have already taken on one, two or three such animals already and know how very successful and rewarding it can be.

Shops Update ...

Barnstaple - The shop was sadly closed at the end of June due to the fact that for a couple of years it had been struggling and some weeks had only covered the overheads. The difficulty in obtaining sufficient volunteers to keep the shop open enough hours to make it worthwhile and the decline in the quantity of donated goods finally determined the course of action taken by the Trustees. Our sincere thanks to the volunteers who continued to the bitter end and to Kay and Mandy for their hard work in sorting, packing and storing goods for future use and ensuring that the shop is left in a good condition. We are pleased that Carole Silk is happy to transfer to the Bideford shop and help Mandy with the setting up of the new shop. In future any donations will be gratefully received and may be left at the Special Care Unit in River View Commercial Centre, Riverside Road, Pottington or telephone Kay on 07929079531.

Braunton - Carolyn Greaves and her volunteers have been doing a marvellous job producing steady takings each week. We are very grateful for their hard work especially as they have been rather neglected by the Trustees of late due to heavy work loads. If you have any goods to donate these will be gratefully received at the shop.

Bideford - NOW OPEN! - It had been decided by the Trustees not to re-new the Grenville Street Lease which terminates this autumn, but to look for larger and more central premises. By the time this goes to print we hopefully will have signed the Lease for premises in the High Street which has a larger sales area and also two storerooms at the rear. The additional store space will enable the Online shop to be managed from there and give us more room for the sorting and storage of goods. Mandy Smith, with Kay's help, will organise the transfer from Grenville Street to the High Street and will continue to be manager of the Bideford shop.

We would like to welcome Gill Hodge to our team as the IT expert setting up and running the online shop and sponsorships. Gill has

worked very hard and efficiently and now it is up and running Kay and Mandy have taken on the collection and dispatch of the goods for sale. We are most grateful to the three of them for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Online Shop - Although it is early days, it was only started in May by Gill Hodge, the number of sales are steadily increasing and the future looks bright. Gill has also set up a sponsorship scheme online whereby you can sponsor one of the animals in our Special Care Unit for as little or as much as you wish. Donations and payments can be made online through JustGiving or PayPal. The Trustees are very appreciative of Gill's tremendous input and her many fundraising ideas.

Collections Boxes - After many years of exemplary work we regret that David Estall has resigned and will no longer be organising the collection boxes. For all future collection and delivery of boxes please contact Kay Johnson on 07929079531 (if she is not available please leave a message and she will get back to you). We thank David for his support and loyalty in the past.

Otter Cub

The Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny, not a good omen if we were thinking it might be a fairly quiet day.

On that point we were definitely correct. Before 10 am five calls for baby birds in distress, a hedgehog poisoned with slug pellets and an unwanted dog had come in, then came the real distress call. A baby otter cub with an injured leg was lying on the bank of Braunton's river Caen behind St Mary's Church. The mum had been killed on the road and the cub was in great distress.

A rapid response was definitely required. It was not long before I was at "Iron Mills" being lowered into the river along with Carol Ely's neighbour Gary Clarke, carrying a basket and blanket and trying hard not to slip on the weed covered rocks and ending up having to be rescued instead of carrying out the rescue. Alongside the little shivering creature we could see his hind leg was swollen and with great care I wrapped him in the blanket and placed him gently in the basket; then Gary carried him back through the river and the basket was hauled up with a rope onto the bridge by Carol and Gary's wife Lisa. Then it was the turn of Gary and me to be hauled out of the river. It was then time (no getting dry and clean) to race to rendezvous with Mick in the other ambulance who transported him straight to West Hatch for emergency care.

At West Hatch "Caen" (named after the river) was given intensive veterinary care for a few days and then handed to Arminel, the West Hatch wildlife manager, for fostering. For an otter cub this requires very intensive 24 hour dedicated care. Six weeks later we received a call from West Hatch to collect Caen and transport him onto the next stage of his care.

This means he goes to the Owl & Otter Sanctuary near Lyndhurst in the New Forest for a further 15 months care and highly specialised rehabilitation, so that he can be paired with a female otter and be able to survive in the wild.. This is an extremely skilled and long term conservation programme needing both the Otter Sanctuary and RSPCA's specialised knowledge and facilities.

We set off from West Hatch at 8.30 am with Caen in his own special box, thankfully on a cool damp morning and three hours later were unloading him at the Otter Hospital. Despite looking very cross and not a little fearful after his long journey, the staff said he had travelled well and was looking good. Our bit of the story was over and we left Caen in the caring capable hands of the Otter Hospital staff.

Knowing ones limitations is the most important part of any agency, be it a charity, a commercial venture, or an individual person. Wildlife is particularly vulnerable and needs only experts in its care and rehabilitation. We do the easy bit "the rescue and first aid"; then we hand over to the experts for the creature's best outcome.



Volunteers and quality donations needed for the new Bideford shop! Please contact Kay on 07929 079531

Victorious Survival



Once again it is the kindness of strangers to whom a little animal owes its life.

The Council workers in Victoria Park, Bideford were horrified to find a little black cat that they at first believed to be a kitten, then quickly realised it was an emaciated adult cat so weak he could barely stand.

They rushed him to Torbridge Vets who, after examination and tests which were all negative, said he was suffering from simple starvation. "Victor" was about 2/3 years old, but weighed only 1.5 kilos! Torbridge rang us asking if we could care for little Victor

and find him a loving home if no one came forward to claim him.

For nearly three months Pauline had him at our 'Misty Unit' on a very tightly controlled diet to get his weight slowly up. Too quick or overfeeding would almost certainly have made him very ill and possibly killed him so emaciated was he. Slowly the ounces added on and little Victor showed his gratitude by becoming the most loving little cat ever.

When Victor was up to almost 3 kilos he was seen by Nick and his partner who were at the cattery to choose another cat. They fell in love with Victor at first sight and he with them. There is certainly no danger of Victor ever being hungry again. The danger lies in his owners' having broken legs or arms as they trip over his weaving little body as he circles round and round their legs in gratitude.

Jack's Story

Is it coincidental that 'Jack Russell Terriers' seem to end up as our most common and dramatic features; or is it perhaps their happy indomitable character and tendency to trouble that finds them in so many of the wrong places at the wrong time?



The last newsletter featured little 'Jake and also 'Mylo', both fortunately with happy endings. Jake's in particular due, in a huge part, to your, the readers', generosity with the wonderful help you all gave financially towards his Vet's bills. Jack's story too has a good outcome, again due to the kindness of strangers who read his horror story in the Press.

Chapter 1 - Jo Gellier, Jack's owner, answered her door to men seeking casual gardening jobs. Their persistence in looking around alarmed her, as happy little Jack danced and pranced around them in his usual friendly manner. She told them she had no need or finance to give them work.

Chapter 2 - The following morning Jack was let out into his secure garden for his normal constitutional, but within 20 minutes he had disappeared – Panic!! Searches and more panic as the morning progressed and no sign of Jack.

Chapter 3 - Three hours later and 65 miles away Mr Wilson from Bratton Fleming, an elderly gentleman, was driving his car down a tiny lane and saw what he thought was a dead dog covered in blood at the roadside. Thinking of some desperate owner he went to pick up the apparently dead dog only to realise he was in fact still alive – Just. He made a call to me and I asked him if he could possibly rush the little dog straight to Market Vets, as his description of the terrible wounds and state of the dog meant time was of the essence. Despite his own vehicle being covered in blood he never faltered. His quick action without doubt saved Jack's life.

Chapter 4 - On arrival at Market Vets (and believe me the N.H.S. could learn some lessons) Jack's condition was critical and shocking. He had what can only be described as a huge gash from under his chin along the chest and abdominal area. A straight line of a highly suspect nature – a knife wound? No one was prepared to answer and the important thing was to save Jack's life. But there was no known owner; so NDAAs once more stepped in.



Chapter 5 - Later that night Mr Wilson (Jack's saviour) was telling his disabled wife and her visiting carer the story. A little red flag went up in the carer's mind. She had seen on social media a desperate plea for lost Jack and being an unusual colouring, which matched



84 stitches through chest and abdomen

Mr Wilson's description, she decided to contact them. Certainly everything matched, but how had Jack come to be 65/70 miles from home in this state in a matter of only three hours? Definitely the Vet confirmed that the injuries were NOT from a road traffic accident. Jo Gellier was put in contact with me and I was able to assure her everything possible was being done to save Jack's life

Special Care Unit & Clinic Update

SCU - Once more we come to the second most dreaded time of the year (first is just prior to Christmas). Now it is holiday time and out go the resident cats and dogs as people prepare to go away for a few weeks and happily ask us to re-home their dog/cat/rabbit!! Could they not ask a friend, neighbour or family to care for it? No they are going away as well!!! Perhaps put it in a cattery/kennels – no can't afford it, anyway the children want a new puppy/kitten when they get back!

So the Special Care Unit is totally and absolutely full to capacity with extra cages set up in the cats' playroom, the re-homing Misty Unit bursting at the seams and our volunteers working flat out. Without this amazing group (40+) we could not take in any of these poor unwanted creatures. The dedication, commitment and kindness of them all is heart warming; without their care we could not do anything. I can collect the animals, but at the end of each day I have to have somewhere to take them for a better future. It is these regulars who without reward or recognition keep the show on the road.

Clinic - As with the SCU, the Clinic is responsible for the relief of so much suffering. Each Friday at our donation Clinic Heather Hammond, our resident Vet, along with her team, work tirelessly to see the animals, which frequently are at the end of life needing peaceful euthanasia or urgent medical care. There are many happy outcomes, but so also there are many sad distressing Fridays. Yet this team along with all our colleagues and volunteers stalwartly carry on giving their time and care totally free of charge. Thank you all.

and agreed to meet her the following day at the Vets for her to see Jack.

Chapter 6 - Jack's injuries and surgery were so extensive, due to vital nerves having been severed, that his right front leg had to be amputated, along with stitching from throat to lower abdomen. Watching the little brave dog licking away his owner's tears as she saw him for the first time was heartbreaking; she distraught, he concerned not for his own dreadful state, but for his owner's distress; while the rest of us had tears of sadness and worry for his future.

Chapter 7 - Jack's owner returned home to



the north of Somerset leaving him in our care, but very very concerned as to the huge bills accruing, although we assured her Jack would have everything possible done to save him. But Jo wanted to help us as a charity as well as save her dog. So she told her story on social media and asked people to help us pay Jack's bills by sending money directly to the charity via "JustGiving".

Over the next weeks, as Jack lay recovering and learning to walk, the money poured in. The Press took up the story and more money came via PayPal and JustGiving. All this time Jo was visiting our Special Care Unit encouraging Jack to get better and Vet staff and volunteers were giving him the love and care for which they have become renowned.

Chapter 8 - Finally the day came for Jack's discharge. It was surely one of our happiest days at the Special Care Unit. The little family arrived, Jo, her Mum and the two children. Out came our volunteers and Vet staff to wave him off. The reunion, with the children presenting Jack with his brand new special harness, Jo sitting on the floor being licked to death, and our volunteers grinning from ear to ear, was yet another example of why we all do this.

P.S. The final sum raised for Jack was well beyond his actual cost, but the excess will go to all the other Jacks that are constantly coming our way. It is what we do.

As we go to press the most recent update on Jack left everyone a little concerned. As the photo shows his facial muscles on the left of his head have all collapsed due to the nerve severances of the massive gash. Vets were at first concerned that swallowing would become difficult, but fortunately this has not happened and Jack continues to make slow progress, although at 12+ years he tires quickly. We will update his continued progress in future newsletters.



Muka Rides Again



Once again last May Muka Hillings bravely took to the saddle and completed the Golden Horseshoe Ride in aid of NDAA and raised the astonishing amount of just under £1,000.

We sincerely hope that the after effects were not quite so painful as last year and that he was able to straighten his legs and walk upright (that is before the celebrations). Our sincerest thanks to Muka for his continuous support of the Charity, we shall be eternally grateful to him.

Special Donations

Alexandra Social Club: £152.58

Mrs R Speare (Birthday Party Collection):
£240.00

Nicky Brooks, Northwick, Cheshire: **£500.00**

Mr & Mrs A D L Robinson: £500.00

Mrs C E Keast: £1000.00

Mrs D L Pearl: £250.00

Generous Monthly Standing Orders:

Charlie Dixon - a longstanding and loyal supporter

Rafael Morante - In memory of his mother, Paula Morante, a great supporter who we shall dearly miss.

Awarded Grant:

After donating the second ambulance last year, Support Adoption for Pets has generously donated the charity a substantial grant this year. Our thanks to Paul Marder at Pets at Home, Barnstaple for his enthusiastic support.

Important Contact Numbers:

Diana Lewis Mobile : 07817 995751

Cat Rehoming: 01271 323740 **Mrs. Pauline Bussell, Chairperson**
Dog Rehoming: 01271 858952 **Mr. Chris Steer**
Special Care Unit: 01643 831592 **Mrs. Jane Dennis-Smith**
Treasurer: 01643 831592 **Mrs. Jane Dennis-Smith**
Animal Collection: 01598 740603 **Mrs. Diana Lewis, Ambulance Driver**

Postal Address:



All correspondence to:

North Devon Animal Ambulance
c/o Market Veterinary Centre
River View Commercial Centre
Riverside Road, Pottington,
Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1QN

Donation Slip

Week by week and month by month our work continues. Can you make a regular donation that is secure funding for us? Standing orders are a safe, cost effective and easy way to make a regular donation towards saving animals. Regular monthly donations enable us to plan ahead and also respond rapidly to calls for assistance and help with rescuing animals. If you already have a Standing Order with us - **THANK YOU!** If you would like to set one up please contact us.

If you are a standard tax payer please also complete the form below in full including your signature. We can then reclaim the tax on your donation as Gift Aid (25p for every £1 donated).



I/We enclose a donation in the sum of £ for the North Devon Animal Ambulance (please make cheques payable to **NDAA**)

First Name: Address:

Surname:
.....
.....

Signed:

Date: Postcode:

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✍

Please tick this box if you are a standard tax payer and would like the charity to treat all donations that you make on, or after the date above, as **gift aid donations** unless you notify us otherwise. Please note that you should notify the charity if you do not pay an amount of tax at least equal to the tax deducted from your donations.

Monthly Standing Order Form

Please complete the form and send it to us at the address below. We will forward it to your bank.

TO THE MANAGER

Bank: Branch:

Please arrange for the sum of: £
to be paid on the first day of each month from:

Account Holder(s):

Account Number:

Please start payments on:

Signed:

Full Name:

Please make payments to: **North Devon Animal Ambulance**

Bank: **Santander UK plc** Account No: **06316158** Sort Code: **09-07-20**

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Please tick this box if you are a standard tax payer and would like the charity to treat all donations that you make on, or after the date above, as **gift aid donations** unless you notify us otherwise. Please note that you should notify the charity if you do not pay an amount of tax at least equal to the tax deducted from your donations.

