

# Animal Affairs

Reading with Oxon Border Branch – April 2011



www.rspca-reading.org.uk Email: volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk  
Registered charity no. 251482

**RSPCA WEEK : 2 MAY - 8 MAY 2011**

*Why not join us?*

## A Well Travelled Moggie!

Mel Ivey-Michie

Fundraising and Volunteer Coordinator



**Blackie – Mistook a warm engine for a comforting lap!**

Blackie is a five year old black female cat. She had a lucky escape after being found in the engine of a hire car travelling from London. Luckily for Blackie the driver stopped in Reading after hearing meowing coming from the car engine. They called the fire service who were able to dismantle part of the engine and free Blackie.

Despite our efforts we were unable to trace her owners from London so she is looking for a loving new home. Her two day ordeal does not appear to have affected Blackie; she is a very friendly and affectionate cat and would make an excellent pet with quite a story to tell!

**Can you help with fostering or give a cat a new home? PLEASE CONTACT JANE.**

Jane Griffiths - 0118 901 0701

## Owning Pets is a Serious Business

Sandra & Steve Ayers - Rabbit Rescue

When people contact us to adopt a rabbit, the first thing we assess is how much they already know about rabbit welfare issues.

Rabbits are not a cheap-pet option. They need spacious accommodation, a protective run so that they can graze on the grass and simple toys to keep them occupied. More people are keeping them as house pets so the need for stimulation is very important or else

they could end up chewing your cables !

Excellent welfare information is available on many web sites (including our own [www.readingrabbits.org.uk](http://www.readingrabbits.org.uk) ) so there is little excuse for people not to have researched rabbit requirements before they come to choose a rabbit (or two!)

We were impressed with two young ladies who recently visited us. They came prepared with a series of queries that showed that they were interested in much more than simply having some fluffy animals to cuddle. It was clear that the whole family were not taking pet ownership lightly.



**L to R: Katherine & Rocket / Lucy & Alfie Cuddles all round!**

Lucy aged 12 said "It was really exciting when we went to go and choose our rabbits. My rabbit, Alfie, was part of a litter of 4. Alfie stood out to me the most. The hardest part about having your first pet is all the attention they need. They need to be groomed, checked over to see if they're healthy and their hutch needs to be cleaned out regularly.

My favourite part about having a rabbit is when they are in the run outside and they do funny little bunny hops over each other."

Katherine aged 10 said "I picked a girl called Rocket who I'd loved from the start. It has been great having them but the only difficulty is trying to catch Rocket, she isn't called that for nothing! I enjoy having her on my lap and brushing her (especially her mane as she is a lion-head breed rabbit.)"

**Our AGM is on Thursday 26 May 2011 at 7.30pm at the RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS**

The home check revealed that they were to share a 6ft double storey hutch and a 6ft x 4ft run which allowed the girls to sit-in with their rabbits. Alfie & Rocket were adopted in early January, and we've heard that Lucy & Katherine continue to adore their rabbits even when it is cleaning-out time!!

**For all enquiries about our Rabbits, please contact Sandra or Steve at:- [www.readingrabbits.org.uk](http://www.readingrabbits.org.uk)**

## Do you have any spare time to help volunteer with your local RSPCA branch?

Mel Ivey-Michie

Fundraising & Volunteer Coordinator

We are in desperate need of new volunteers to help us to continue the important work that we do. Even if you can only spare an hour or two to help collect, or if you think you could help us arrange fundraising events, we would love to hear from you.

Without help from volunteers we simply cannot function as a branch and we will not be able to help animals who so desperately need treatment or need to find new homes.



**Mel Ivey-Michie and Nicole Gillham (Chairman) Fundraising at the Farmers Market**

Fundraising is incredibly rewarding, even an hour or so of your time can make a huge difference to us. We would love to find new ways of raising money for the branch so if you feel you might be able to help out or have new ideas for fundraising we would love to hear from you.



### Our Upcoming Fundraising Events and Dates

#### RSPCA week – 2<sup>nd</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> May

We will be collecting outside Tesco Extra in Napier Road, Reading and Tesco in Henley-on-Thames.

7th May	Caversham town centre collection
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Woodley Carnival
6 <sup>th</sup> July	RSPCA Open Evening Woodley
9th July	Henley town centre collection
16th July	Reading town centre collection
13th August	Woodley town centre collection

If you feel you could help out on any of the above dates...

#### PLEASE CONTACT US:

volunteers@rspca-reading.org.uk

### RSPCA Open Evening 6 July 2011 – 7pm until 9pm

The branch is hosting an Open Evening and we would love to see as many of you as possible.

The event is being held at Woodley Library, Crockhamwell Road, Woodley on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July between 7pm and 9pm and it looks to be an enjoyable opportunity to chat with our volunteers and learn a little more about all the work we are doing to support our animals.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be joined by one of our Inspectors who will be available to answer your questions.

If you have any questions or would like to support this event please contact us.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US:- 07853 892884

### Food for Thought

*The Dog Rehoming & Fostering Team*

Every responsible dog owner would agree that nutrition and diet are very important for our dog's physical health. However, is mental health being given the same consideration?

With the growing number of obese dogs being put on diets by vets it's perfectly normal to worry about the quantity of food we are giving our dogs. I believe the quality of the food we are providing is equally important and often gets

overlooked, particularly when dealing with behavioural problems.

The basic concept is that what goes in (calories) must come out (exercise) in order to maintain a healthy waistline, keep the digestive system flowing and ensure the body efficiently rids itself of waste products.



*Lucie - Owned and loved by our volunteer Nadine. Glossy coat and strong teeth... Lucie that is!*

While there is no definitive research to prove that protein can remove unwanted or undesirable behaviours, it can assist in reducing the intensity of behaviours like hyperactivity. A working Border Collie can perform his tasks very well with 18% of good animal protein yet many commercial brands of dog food contain at least 22%, with some as high as 70%. Just think how this affects our domestic companions that go out for one daily walk at the local park!

A cereal based diet is not ideal for an omnivore that has full equipment to tear skin from bone and meat from a carcass with very little effort and needs animal protein to maintain a shiny coat, healthy teeth and gums, nails and hair.

As a puppy a high protein diet is essential for growth and development. When a bitch is in pup the extra nourishment helps her to support her pregnancy and nurse her litter. During old age, dogs need less energy-giving food. So, whilst protein is essential at all times, the quantity does need to be reviewed in order to give our dogs the optimum fuel for his or her engine.

#### For further information on dog nutrition, please contact Lindsay.

Lindsay Mills - 07853 892884

### Please take me home... purrrrrr

*Jane Griffiths - Cat Rehoming*

We would like to introduce you to a few of our lovely feline friends looking for new homes.

### Tootsie

is approximately two years old. She is a very friendly tortoiseshell female. She was abandoned by her owners so is in need of a loving new home.



### Snuggles



is an 18 month old long haired tabby female. She has always lived inside and never been out. She has a lovely nature.

### Sootica

A beautiful 5 year old black female.

### Murphy

A lovely, friendly three year old male cat. He came to the Reading branch of the RSPCA with a bad collar injury, this has now almost healed and we are very pleased with his progress. Murphy has an affectionate nature, loves his food and loves lots of attention.



### Willow & Sasha



Two Bengal cats, 2 years of age and came into care through no fault of their own. They are small in size for the breed and are very friendly.

These beautiful cats can be rehomed as a pair or separately.

#### Can you offer a forever home?

*Jane Griffiths - 0118 901 0701*

### New Branch RSPCA Website

Please take a look at our brand new branch website, there's lots to read: [www.rspca-reading.org.uk](http://www.rspca-reading.org.uk).

The website includes details of how to support, foster and adopt our wonderful animals in need of love and a home.

### Useful contact Information

**Guinea pig rehoming:**

[www.readingguineapigrescue.co.uk](http://www.readingguineapigrescue.co.uk)

### REPORT CRUELTY

TELEPHONE: 0300 1234 999