

Kind Homes Needed for Rescued Animals

Cats	Valerie Wagland	01474 703906
Rabbits	Gwen Weeden	01474 879154
Domestic Birds	Wendy	01474 823306
Bric-A-Brac	Valerie Wagland	01474 703906
Treasurer	Joan Seaman	01732824850
Branch Co-ord	Valerie Crosford	01474 703542

Have you thought of becoming a member of Animal Samaritans?

Your Annual Subscription entitles you to:
 Four copies (quarterly) 'As News' post free,
 a car sticker, badge and membership card.

APPLICATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Date.....

What type of pet(s) do you have.....

I enclose a cheque made payable to ANIMAL SAMARITANS for £.....

Membership Fees: £8.00 per year - Child/Senior Citizen £5.00 per year

Donation £.....

Please return to :
 Animal Samaritans c/o Mrs Val Croxford
 'Teal', Berrylands, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 SA

Newsletter

NORTH WEST KENT BRANCH

No. 29



SPRING 2003



Registered Charity No. 295345

OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL

In this issue of the newsletter, we have given space to some of the many letters we receive from the members of the public who have given a home to animals at a time when they desperately needed some tender, loving care. Many of them were older animals at the time of adoption and you can see that their owners have lavished great love and kindness on their pets.

SASHA

You could not be happier than "our Sasha". She is a lovely, well behaved (most of the time) dog and a wonderful companion. As promised, I am enclosing a photo that you may like. You can see what a lovely condition she is in. Mind you that was in August, whereas just now we both seem to have most of our walks in the rain and come home from the park covered in mud. Hope all is well with you and your dogs.



Dear Val

In July 1996 you and a friend of mine brought to us a West Highland Terrier for adoption. We named her Bonnie and she became a wonderful companion and part of the family.

I am very sad to have to tell you that Bonnie passed away this morning after a short illness. She developed a cough about three weeks ago so I took her to a new vet last week, where I was told that Bonnie had heart problems which was causing her lungs to get congested. The previous vet I used to take her to never mentioned this even though two years ago I told her that Bonnie was having a petit mal, where she would shudder and lose consciousness for a fraction of a second, this may have been due to low blood pressure. Unfortunately I left it too long before changing vets, which I will always regret.

Unfortunately she was alone when she collapsed, I was on a course and my mother was at a hospital appointment. My mother came home after about three hours and found her near the front door I came home shortly after and found Bonnie gasping for breath. I tried to give her the kiss of life, but without success, and she was gone.

At least Bonnie was happy and pain free until a week before the end; it looked like she was perking up yesterday, but it wasn't to be. Thank you for bringing Bonnie into our lives. She gave us a lot of happiness and pleasure and we're going to miss her terribly.



NOTICEBOARD

PET PALACE

Pets looked after with Tender Loving Care

HOLIDAY HOME FOR BIRDS

AND SMALL CAGED ANIMALS

Contact Irene Russell

01322 385639

Charges £3 per day - £20 per week - £30 for 2 weeks

"Loving & Gentle Pet Care"

Holiday home for dogs - Walks and special outings

£7 per day - bring own food - Treats **provided**

Hextable 01322 663322 or email: jeanphillips@cwctv..net



Answers to quiz

AFFENPINSCHER
CHIHUAHUA
FOXHOUND

ALASKAN MALAMUTE
DACHSHUND
SIBERIAN HUSKY

BASENJI
DOBERMAN
GREYHOUND

As a charity, Animal Samaritans aim is to help with domestic pets and small animals, but we often receive calls from the public because they have seen or heard about horses in distress. We were, therefore, very pleased to be approached by a charity set up to deal with equine matters, and one of the volunteers has given us the following information. Their situation is not dissimilar to ours and other small charities who have to rely on public support. It seems we all have to do without any government grants or assistance and find we have to be self supporting. We are pleased to be able to liaise with other groups to help each other.

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

"Hello". My name is Lynda and I am a voluntary helper for Brownbread Horse Rescue, a small registered charity run by Dinty Steans and her husband Tony in Ashburnham, Sussex. The charity rescues equines in need and also rehomes animals that can no longer be cared for by their owners for various reasons. For the last 15 months we have been heavily involved in rescuing 15 ponies kept in cages by their owner, without proper care and handling. Most of these have now been rehomed, and the owner banned for life from keeping horses. This has taken up a great deal of time and the charity's money, the vet bills were tremendous.

The charity funds itself by selling second-hand donated tack and rugs, open days, raffles, tom bolas, etc. plus an annual subscription of Friends, which entitles you to four newsletters a year and sticker. I am the local "postman pat" for this area, and can collect anything saleable, so please give me a call.



Lynda Webb- 01474 874978

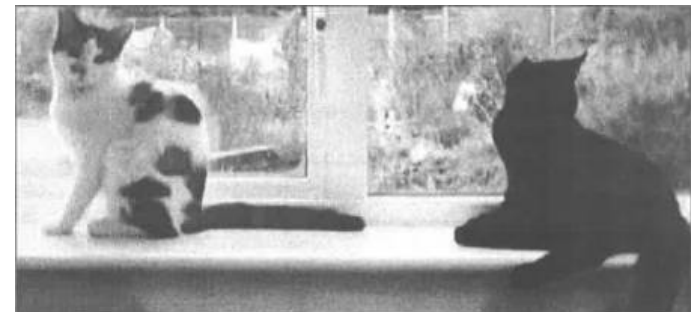
BENJI

I hope you and your animals are well. Benji is fine in himself but his arthritis is now quite bad, one leg in the front and one at the back is quite painful for him. I will try and keep him going as long as possible. He is a very happy dog and he looks quite cute in his red raincoat. He also has a thick padded one, so he is well looked after and loved. I think he loves me too. I've taken the big cushions on the settee off so he can easily get up and down. I will try and get a nice photo of him so the magazine can print it.



MAX AND CHLOE

Thought you might like a picture of Max and Chloe. I don't think we could have had more affectionate or loving cats. Max is huge now, spends a lot of time on laps and purrs continuously. Chloe is more dainty and very adventurous. Two very much loved cats.



WARNING

Certain foods fit for human consumption can be deadly when eaten by animals.

Chocolate that we normally eat is harmful to domestic pets and ONLY products specially manufactured by the pet food industry should be given.

It has come to our attention that an article first printed in Our Dogs magazine was from a reader in America who wrote that 10 dogs in the States had become very ill, suffering Acute Renal Failure, after eating grapes or raisins and 5 of these had died.

We have also learnt from an article in an Agility magazine - "The Voice" of a similar disaster in the UK. The dog's owner gives a full account of how her dog had died after stealing a bag of raisins. All efforts by the vet failed to save this dog who was just five years old and otherwise a fit and healthy dog. The owner went on to say in her article that all she can now do is try to make as many people as possible aware of the dangers of grapes and raisins to dogs as many people feed them as treats.

If you know your dog has been at the chocolate or eaten grapes or raisins and is being sick or shows any signs of distress, do not hesitate to get veterinary assistance. The above owner also found information on the web to provide further insight into Acute Renal Failure and blood tests can reveal whether the kidneys are functioning as they should be. Your vet can do these for you.

PET BEREAVEMENT

If you need to talk to someone about the loss of your pet, Angela Gatfield would be pleased to speak to you. Angela knows what a lonely experience this often is and has given over 26 years to the pet bereavement service.

Telephone: 01634 253195
or email: gordons@taransay.fslife.co.uk

*If you wish to read more about coping with the loss of a treasured pet, **Absent Friends** written by Laura & Martyn Lee, published by Henston Ltd., covers all aspects of pet loss.*

THOMAS (a member's cat)

Our much loved Siamese, Thomas, died on the 9th January. He was 19 years old in October, and we must be thankful that he had a long and happy life. Our home is so quite and sad without him. We are going for a short holiday in May and then perhaps we can find an older Seal Point in need of a home. We have had Siamese for the last forty years and as we are getting older, it really would not be fair to have a kitten. We know from experience how boisterous they are.

Good wishes to you all at Animal Samaritans and thank you for all the good work you do.



QUIZ

Crufts 2003 has opened its door once again to a great variety of dog breeds and some happy breeders have gone away with the top prizes. In the quiz below we have jumbled up the letters of well known breeds for you to unravel.

CHERFENAFSPIN	SKANALA LAMEUTEM	JISBAEN
AUHUAHCCI	HUNSADDCH	MANDOREB
HOODUNXF	EBIARSAN YHSKU	OGREYDUNH

To find out how well you have done please look elsewhere in the newsletter for the answers.