

CAT AND KITTEN RESCUE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016

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Patches always like to help at Christmas!

Welcome everyone to the Cat and Kitten Newsletter for 2016, a busy year as usual and we could not keep going without your help and support. Each and every donation from so many of you kind people, be you individuals, businesses or groups and whether said donations are in money, food, sale goods, time or anything else no matter how small is vital to us as it all adds up and is very much appreciated.

There are so many kind supporters that to mention you all individually would be impossible, however the following gives a flavour of the range of support. Again this year we have been fortunate to have support from several large local stores. ASDA Chandler's Ford for a food drop, Sainsbury's Badgers Farm a food donations trolley in store and this year we were able to partner with Pets at Home in Leigh Road, Eastleigh. All this activity has generated substantial donations. We were also nominated for a green coin collection in the Chandler's Ford

branch of Waitrose. Other regular supporters include pet suppliers, hairdressers and other organisations with the on-going lotto bonus ball scheme continuing to work well.

As ever we are extremely fortunate to have the continuing support of our marvellous Vets. With many older and/or very young cats, their vital support makes health matters much less stressful and easier to deal with.

There have been an even larger number of fundraising events/sales for us this year. These include Winchester Coverts (4 more than last year), and additionally several outdoor shows/fairs. All of these were very successful despite at times the vagaries of the English weather (Littleton and Harestock show being wet for the 3rd year out of 4). We have also had several other thankfully indoor sales (Otterbourne, Southampton University and Ordnance Survey), much warmer at this time of year and no need to hastily throw plastic covers over things to keep them dry.

As for the actual residents of the pens the No Vacancies sign seems to have been up for most of the year with at times all pens being in use plus a waiting list. Recently large number of Mums with kittens or kittens to be hand reared arrived. Due to their age and feeding schedule at times a kitten has had to come to shows but the public seeing them has helped publicise the Rescue. In fact several people at the most recent Covert enquired after Tom Kitten who they had seen a couple of months ago and were very pleased to hear that he is now in his new home.

Below are some of the luckily short-term residents who are now in lovely forever homes. All these kittens were born at the rescue during 2016 usually after their mum arrived.



The reason cats need our help has varied from ferals requiring trapping and taming, through domestic strays to those who are homeless, due to their owners' change of circumstances (illness or moving to sheltered accommodation). In the last case the cats tend to be older and may have on-going health issues but their owners are often so relieved that their companion can come somewhere where they will be well cared for and hopefully found a new loving home.

During the year we were asked to help with collecting some of a colony that were living wild. These were then vetted and neutered before going back home so there will be no more kittens there and the population will be under control. The owners were pleased to contribute the money but needed our help to handle the animals.

We rehomed a good number of cats and kittens secure in the knowledge that they were in the best health we could manage (often much better than when they arrived). By the time they were rehomed all had been neutered if not already the case when they arrived. Unfortunately I am sure that the numbers requiring help from us and the other Rescues we deal with e.g. RSPCA will not diminish in the near future so our work will need to continue as we hope so will your kind support.

We already have 10 Winchester Coverts booked for next year and are negotiating with ASDA for a food drop in March so the team of around 8 volunteers who man the stalls at these events will no doubt be busy.

Helen and Janet who carry the main weight of looking after the residents really do an amazing job and I could not close this without adding a vote of thanks to them without whom the rescue would be unmanageable and not a thriving ever changing organisation.

So thanks again from all of us to all of you and may we take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May 2017 be a good year for everyone, no matter if they have 2 feet or 4 paws.

Additions

The bonus ball game is your chance to win £30 every week of the year and now raises £1,500 a year for Cat & Kitten Rescue. Since it started in 2001 the Bonus Ball Game has raised over £19,500 in total and given out over £20,000 in prize money. One bonus ball number 52 is currently available. If interested please contact Maggie Marsland by phone on 023 8027 0205 or by email on maggie.marsland1@gmail.com

To save on postal costs, we are setting up an email group to use for sending out newsletters etc. electronically. If you have received a hard copy of the newsletter but would like to be added to the electronic group, please contact Helen.

PROVISIONAL DIARY DATES FOR 2017 (NB: these may be subject to change)

(all Covert Sales are held in St Maurice's Covert, Winchester)

January:- Monday 2nd Antiques Fair, Riverside Leisure Centre, Winchester (to be confirmed)

February :- having a rest from sales this month

March :- First weekend Food Drop at ASDA (TBC), Thursday 23rd Covert

April :- Sunday 2nd Antiques Covert, Thursday 13th Covert

May :- Monday 1st Nursling and Rownhams May Fair, Sunday 7th Antiques Covert, Thursday 18th Covert, Saturday 20th North Baddesley Village Day.

June :- Thursday 1st Covert, Sunday 4th Antiques Covert

July :- Sunday 2nd Antiques Covert, Thursday 27th Covert

August :- Sunday 6th Antiques Covert, Thursday 24th Covert

September :- Saturday 2nd Littleton & Harestock show, Sunday 3rd Antiques Covert

October :- Thursday 12th Covert

November :- Friday 10th Covert, Thursday 30th Covert

December :- Friday 8th Covert