



Tameside Animal Shelter

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We are their shelter - You are their future





November 2010

Dear Friends

Welcome once more to the Christmas Issue of our Newsletter, which I hope you always find interesting.

I really don't know just where the year has gone!! One moment we are at the beginning of kitten season in the Spring and now we are almost at the end of it. The intervening months are just so busy, we almost meet ourselves coming backwards!!! As a shelter, we have always done our utmost to help any animal in distress and will always endeavour to do so. We have progressed so much as time has passed: in our methods of homing; the neutering of cats/dogs, because we are strictly against breeding and, of course, the animals themselves teach us something new all the time. Our homing policies are strict, because we will not rehome any animal in our care if we think a prospective owner cannot provide the love and care and realise the responsibility of giving one of our residents a home. We are looking for a new life for them all, but it has to be a good life, as so many come to us after much suffering and we must be sure that their future is going to be happy. Many times we are met with "emotional blackmail" and it is quite a common occurrence for someone to bring a dog or cat to the Shelter and say "If you don't take it, I will dump it in the canal/throw it out of the car" - these are just two of the excuses they give. So, because our first loyalty is to the animal, we have to admit them, even if we are full and cannot possibly see at that point where we are going to put them! Our heart goes out to them and this is where the strongest point of any Animal Welfare Office kicks in - and that is of compassion ... for basically this year has seen far too much of this type of irresponsibility.

Without YOUR kindness and donations, we could not continue to help these animals, whose only fault in life was to be born. A rejected dog/cat seems to have a sixth sense, for they always seem to be eager to please whoever takes an interest in them. This is especially so with dogs, for their eyes tell all, as if to say "What have I done wrong? Will YOU take me and give me a loving home?" it really is heart-breaking, however long one has done this type of work.

This past year has been no exception - in fact, I feel it has been worse than ever. Yet we always want to be able to say "Yes, we will help you" - but we can't do so without the financial funding necessary. So, especially at Christmas time, please, please do think of all the animals which will be in our care at this time of year. OK - they aren't as lucky as your own pet, but we will try to give them the happy ending they so rightly deserve and hopefully, with your help, we can do this.

If you can send a donation after you have read this letter, we would be so very grateful and you will be helping to save a dog's or a cat's life. Please don't forget them - they are innocent creatures who have not deserved what life has dealt them and now look to US. On their behalf, I am asking YOU to remember THEM.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this and may God Bless You All.

May you all have a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Jacqui
Founder





TAMESIDE ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

So many of you have asked when our new website will be up and running well, it's HERE!! Since last week, we have become famous again, due to the help and dedication of Christina and her lovely helpers. She has been responsible for the total construction and, along with her friends, they have given it their all, so we are really indebted to her for this.

Please do look us up (www.tamesideanimalshelter.org). The Official Tameside Animal Shelter website will be updated regularly, along with pictures of all our animals that need good loving homes. Your email enquiries will also be dealt with quickly too. Fantastic work, Christina!

We have recently taken delivery of a run of custom built cat pens and outdoor pens, which have hygienic wipe-clean interiors and are lovely and large - having an upper and lower level for cats to move around in. We purchased this very necessary cattery, which we have named Barratt Block, in memory of the late Marjorie Barratt, who left us a legacy and, of course, all monies from such are ploughed into the Shelter, as and when needed. The pens were made to Cats Protection League standards and we are very proud of them.

The next phase is for our dogs, where we are in the midst of obtaining quotes for new flooring, which will not only cover the main run of the kennels, but inside each dog pen too. This is very expensive, so we have to get it right and, at the time of writing, we are planning to do this after Christmas, when the Shelter is quieter.

*** We are desperately in need of a portakabin in good order. One of ours has begun to show bad signs of wear, so if you know of anyone who could donate to us, we would be so grateful. ***

Pooh - our lovely goat, who has been with us for over a year has gone on to pastures new. Pooh was so sweet, a fantastic nature and loved by all at the Shelter, but we felt we were not doing our best for him, as he needed more grazing and he was on his own. After enquiries, we found a lovely goat sanctuary at Alderley Edge, where he has loads of room to play, graze and be out there in the Cheshire countryside. Fred and Philip took him over and, from the minute he arrived, he adored it and was so happy. We love happy endings and none could be happier than this but we miss him so much. Good luck to him!!!





OUR ANIMAL STORIES

Betty, one of our Volunteers and Animal Welfare Officer, writes:

Well, another year is nearly over and the Shelter has been as busy as ever, but this time I am going to write about a kitten and a dog, for my heart went out to both of them.

A few weeks ago, a young man came in with what looked like a day old kitten he had found in a garage. One of a litter of four, the other three were dead. To be honest, this little kitten's chances looked so slim, but we hand-fed him in turn and we gave him to one of our cats whose kittens were about six weeks old, hoping she would adopt him - and she did. This little ball of black and white fluff is now four weeks old at the time of writing and so full of fun. He really has beaten all the odds and we are so happy for our little "Miracle"!

Buster was a huge cross-Rhodesian Ridgeback, who had lived with us for around 12 months. He came to us from a farmer who had brought him in because of a bad ear problem. Standing almost six foot tall when he was on his hind legs, this beautiful dog was like my shadow and was great with some people, but would bite others. The ear problem worsened, despite visits to the vet and this too made him more aggressive as time passed - even though every effort was made to cure him. His biting became more frequent, so that when the RSPCA saw him, they said that his quality of life was impaired - his ear condition would never be treatable and therefore we had to let him go. It was with great sadness that we said our goodbyes and we all miss him like crazy. He will always be remembered with love and affection, but if we cannot maintain a good life for any of our residents, both physically and mentally, it is cruel to keep them any longer - not for our sake, but for theirs.

The old and the new - writes Sandra, Volunteer and Animal Welfare Officer:

My husband works for people with learning difficulties and in August, he had to find a home for a young man, who unfortunately could not take his nine year old cat, Lucky, with him. Lucky just wanted love, a warm lap and a fire to curl up to. I knew we would have a problem, as he was an old boy, but on 27 October, a lady came looking for an older cat for her father. I directed her to Lucky and she took him to his new home. I am so pleased, but we do have several older cats needing homes, so if you feel you could adopt one, please do come and see us.

At the other end of the scale was Twinkle, a kitten, who was not eating as she should. At four weeks old, this is when weaning starts, but she obviously was quite happy to still take milk, so was bottle fed for a further week. Now big and strong, she is fighting fit and waiting to be adopted.

The rewards of volunteering are immeasurable!

One of our Animal Welfare Trainees, Steven, would like you to know about the rewards his job has brought him during his first "kitten season" with us:

It was another hot, busy Summer's day at the Shelter. Kitten season still in full flow, when a knock came on the door and two gentlemen walked in holding a cardboard box.





The last word comes from Gareth, who now works at the Shelter after moving down here from the shop. He has a good knowledge of dogs, for when he came to us just over three years ago, he worked in the kennels for quite a while - so who better than he to adopt one of our dogs?

Archie - is the sweetest Blenheim King Charles Spaniel you could wish to meet. He was brought into us just over a month ago, with a history of health problems as long as your arm! A heart murmur, colitis, ear, nose and throat problems, to name a few, and his owner could not afford to treat them. At just four years of age, this little fella seemed to have a lot to cope with and we knew that he needed someone special to care for him. I took him to the vets and he was checked for the heart murmur, which is present, but not life threatening, but as he gets older, this may alter. Until then, he has to have 12 monthly check-ups to ensure all is still well. But the love he gives is second to none - he doesn't even know what his teeth are for except for eating and is no trouble whatsoever. Now he comes to work with me each day, proudly sporting his new doggie Winter-coat - in Manchester United colours!

They said they had found a mother and five tiny kittens dumped in the middle of Ashton under Lyne. We didn't know what to do, because our kitten room was full of nursing mothers and kittens - we just had no room. When I looked at them, they seemed so scared and neglected and the mother was very frightened. I instantly fell in love with them all, so within the next few hours, they found themselves in the bedroom at my house! The mum was still a bit scared, but seemed happier and I made them all comfortable. We called her Zoe. The days passed and I soon came to realise what a dedicated mother she was. Back at the Shelter, one nursing mother wasn't doing too well with her four kittens. She was only 10 months old herself, far too young to have a litter, so we had to take some drastic action for her offspring to survive. We fostered them out, apart from one, which I took home to see if Zoe would accept her - and within a day she became part of the family. She certainly had her hands (or, should I say, "paws"?) full and we called this little one Tillie. The weeks passed and the kittens grew stronger, playful and more mischievous and, thanks to Zoe (and my Mum for taking care of them when I was at work), they have now left and gone to lovely homes. As for Zoe, she is still looking for someone to adopt her - but her time will come.





SPECIAL THANKS THIS CHRISTMAS TO THE FOLLOWING - for dedication to duty against all the odds:

Sandra - who many of you will know at our Shelter. Sandra has been fighting a serious illness, but her determination, thought for others and love for all our animals, have been inspirational to us all. She is a lovely lady and has the respect of all who know her. Her illness has responded to treatment and we all think she is over the worst but the help she has given us under such circumstances needs far more acknowledgment than a mention in our newsletter but our Sandra is not one for fuss and we are always there for HER if ever she needs US.

As mentioned in our News page to **Christina** and her friends for the construction of our website. This has been like winning the Lottery and we are most grateful to her, her friends and helpers for their professionalism and help in whichever way is needed. Thank you again, Christina - we couldn't have done it without you.

To all our volunteers at the Shelter and both our shops - without your help, we could not continue and these people turn up in rain, cold, heat and snow each week of the year. A huge "Thank You" to every single volunteer!!

To our darling four legged volunteers, **Pippa** and **Willow**, famous at our Fairs for usually wearing ribbons around their necks along with a collecting box and asking visitors to "Pat us for a £1". They are such beautiful dogs in both looks and nature and Sue and Mark are rightly proud of them. They usually raise between £60-£70 on Fair Day, so if you see them, please do help our cause by giving them a snuggle (no extra charge!!)

To everyone, too numerous to mention, who have sent us donations, food and goods for our shop. Without your support, our Shelter could not continue. Thank you all so much.

To all who give to us via **Standing Order**: this is now becoming a more popular way of contributing and can be done from as little as £1 per month. Our list of Standing Order donators has increased and we are so very grateful for your support. **THANK YOU FOR HELPING US IN THIS WAY.**

... and last, but never least to **Sara**. Sara has been a friend of our Shelter since Day 1 almost and she is responsible for putting together our all-important Newsletter. She is brilliant at setting it out in the format which is so pleasing to the eye and without her and her support, our Shelter would be at a loss. A very popular lady whom everyone likes, she too is one of our "life savers". **THANK YOU SO MUCH, SARA.**

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For many years, two special people have arrived at our Shelter each Saturday without fail bringing in carrier bags of dog and cat food. **Althea** and **Brian**, one of the most devoted couples one could hope to meet. They have always been our friends, but during the past few years, Brian has had more than his share of ill health and now is rather poorly. It is upsetting for us all, because we miss them so much. Always happy, both of them spread kindness and happiness to us all.





* It is with much regret that Bran sadly passed away on Nov. 19th. Our thoughts are with Althea at this time.

As always, we are so grateful for the tremendous support you give us and also that which comes from shops, supermarkets and the many companies who hold fundraising events for our Shelter. To all involved, I would like to say a huge "Thank You", for your help is never, ever taken for granted. We know there are a lot of other extremely well-meaning causes for you to donate to, but there HAS to be a place within that frame for animals too, because they just CANNOT care for themselves. Every little face we see has a different story to tell and if only they could, what would they say? Perhaps it may go something like this: "Please look after me always, long after I have passed the stage of being a cute little kitten or puppy. If I am ever ill, I can't really tell you, so help me, won't you? When I am fully grown, all I want is for you still to love and want me, to give me cuddles and affection - and perhaps a special food treat once in a while would go down very nicely. Please don't let me have kittens or puppies, because this is not what I have been born for. I am one of God's creatures and, as such, I will always be loyal and forgiving to you, for I want very little out of life. Warmth, food and kindness will make me a very happy pet and, in return, I shall be your friend for life. When I am very old, please don't let me suffer - give me my dignity - and if you do all this for me throughout my life, I couldn't ask for better. Please remember this long after the festive season has gone - for it is true - an animal IS for life, not just for Christmas."

Jacqui
Founder

