

Bedfordsire South Branch Newsletter

Dec 2011

registered charity number: 259020

WELCOME. SUCCESS STORY Left out in the cold

As we approach one of the busiest times of the year we are pleased to report a very successful November with lots of our foster animals finding permanent new loving homes. A recent influx of multiple animals from single households has meant we are busier than ever as we try to find space for as many animals as possible before we close for the Christmas period.



Bramble was one of our case rabbits that came into our foster scheme as a very shy but friendly bunny after being

abandoned by his owners, Bramble

was in foster for a long time whilst his case went through the court. His fosterers became very fond of him as he developed into a very affectionate rabbit that loved attention and his food. It was great news that he was adopted into a family as an indoor house rabbit and to live the rest of his life in a family environment where he will be loved and given everything we all know he deserves and hoped he would find.

LOVE ME Will you care for me



Marbles is a lovely 2 year old boy, who as a result of an accident, had to have his rear right leg amputated. Marbles has a good temperament and is a very friendly and affectionate cat who has adapted extremely well to walking and playing on three legs! We would love to find a home where Marbles can safely play and run about indoors, living a happy life with the love of a family that this brave little cat really deserves.

CAN YOU HELP We need a new family

Jinny and Jenny are both friendly rabbits and are always pleased to see you. They are not keen on being picked up but with the right handling and time their confidence will grow.

The type of home Jinny and Jenny would be suited to would ideally be an adult home or a home with adults and maybe older children.

These rabbits are being adopted as a bonded pair to be homed together.



FOSTERERS A day in the life of

When I started fostering, I don't think I really knew quite what I was getting into. I volunteered to foster one, maybe two cats at a time and entertained delusions of my two female tabbies becoming friends with the needy felines passing through.

It hasn't quite worked out like that. Most of the time the minimum number of houseguests has been two; but on one memorable occasion I had a new Mum with two kittens shut in one room and another Mum with three kittens shut in another room, my own cats shut away from all of them as they just don't get on with the visitors after all!

So, there is no typical day, though every day involves feeding and litter clearing. In the course of the past year I have acquired extensive experience of a range of cat litters, trays, baskets and food types. There have been cats of all types and temperaments and wrapping kittens in towels because they fight like firecrackers when being wormed has become a regular occurrence.

Every cat I've fostered has been adorable, but the best part of looking after them is when just the right person turns up to take them home permanently. Then there's a lull before the storm hits again.

Muire Creed

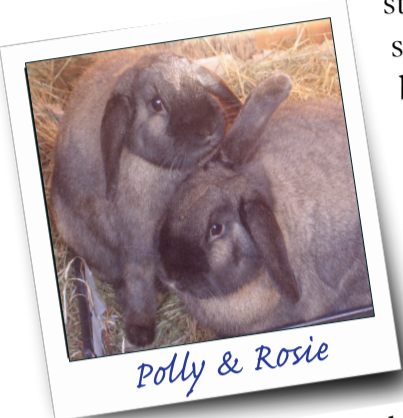
ADOPTION

Sisters need home

Polly is a lovely bunny who likes to be stroked but at the moment is nervous of being picked up. Rosie is also a lovely bunny who likes to be

stroked and the same as Polly, because she has not been handled very much she is also not yet very comfortable with being picked

up, she loves her food and is very happy to be living with her sister. As both of these bunnies are still very young their handling issues can be overcome and improved when they find a loving home where somebody has the time to spend getting to know them more and give them the care they need.



CAT RE-HOME

In need of a new home

Tabitha is 2 years old.

When she came to us, she was pregnant and had six beautiful kittens. They have all now been re-homed, so now it's Tabitha's turn to find a loving home of her own. Tabitha is a very quiet and affectionate girl who loves to sit and be stroked. She would settle into any loving home where she is the only cat and therefore get lots of love, fuss and attention!

FOSTERING

What you can do

We provide all equipment and pay for all vet bills incurred by our animals while they are in foster care, and in return our fosterers provide a warm and loving safe haven for their small furies whilst we find them a permanent home.

Home Visitor

If you are not able to provide a temporary foster home, but would like to contribute to the re-homing of our animals, you might like to consider becoming a home-visitor for the branch. Homevisits are carried out for anyone interested in adopting an animal from the RSPCA, and are arranged at dates and times convenient to adopters and homevisitor (including evenings and weekends should you wish). Becoming a home-visitor can therefore be a good way to volunteer and with full training courses being provided, you have no reason not to find out more



'If you are interested in caring for a foster animal we would love to hear from you'.

RWAF's Rabbit Awareness Campaign

The Rabbit Welfare Fund is a charitable trust fund Registered as a charity in March 2001.
Registered charity number: 1085689

A Hutch is Not Enough

SPACE and EXERCISE

Rabbits are active animals, they need to run, jump and dig, they can't do this in a hutch. Daily exercise outside of the hutch is vital to allow them to display their natural behaviour. They can develop painful skeletal problems if kept permanently caged. Accommodation options range from a traditional hutch and run, to a purpose built paradise, and anything in between. When it comes to exercise, rabbits often enjoy running loose around the garden. This is ideal for them but please remember that they will need supervision as there are risks to the rabbit, and of course to your plants! You should never keep your rabbits in a hutch permanently. They need daily exercise, ideally 8 hours per day in a large run or garden. However, you should still ensure that their hutch is large enough. Always think bigger is better

STIMULATION

Rabbits need things to keep them occupied, such as plastic tunnels; large plant pots; hay-filled litter trays and planters of earth to dig in. so use your imagination when feeding your bunny. Scatter food on the floor of the hutch/run rather than feeding in a bowl, and provide constant access to hay. A huge amount of rabbit toys are available in pet shops and online, but even shredding an old cardboard box will give them hours of fun!

COMPANIONSHIP

Rabbits are social animals. They love to snuggle together, groom each other and keep each other warm, so they should be kept at least in pairs. A male/female pair is easiest, but don't forget that both rabbits will need to be neutered, and introductions carefully supervised!



You can find more advice by visiting the RWA/Rabbit Welfare Fund website at www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk

Help Out.

fostering/homevisiting fundraising

Our focus for 2012 is to establish a team to help raise funds to support the valuable work carried out by our volunteers on behalf of animals in need. If you would like to help out with any aspect of raising funds for our branch, from helping out with the running of a stall at a local fete to researching and co-ordinating larger events we would love to hear from you. Previous experience is not required, just enthusiasm and some spare time (however small!) to help out.

To offer your services or simply to find out more, please e-mail, sam@rspca-online.co.uk or visit us on the website, The web address can be found at the bottom of this page.