

Paw Print Newsletter



March 2017



**38 DOGS LOOKING
FOR HOMES**



**27 CATS LOOKING
FOR HOMES**



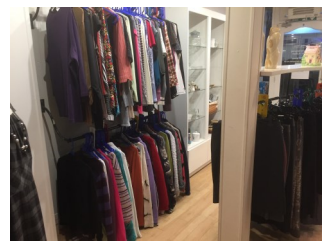
**31 RABBITS AND
RODENTS LOOKING
FOR HOMES**

The Animal Care charity shop has been up and running for just over 3 years and has proved to be a very popular and much needed asset to the charity. All the funds made at the charity shop helps to care for all the animals we have on site.

The shop is always fully stocked and has a very friendly atmosphere.

You will always be guaranteed to find a bargain and be able to feel happy your donation is going towards a local and much needed cause

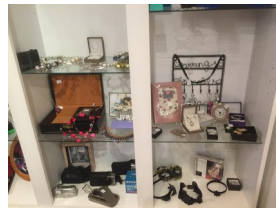
We always have a large selection of clothes



DVDs, books and children's toys



Jewellery, shoes, handbags and lots more



All dogs are very
welcome into the shop

The Animal Care charity shop in Lancaster welcomes all visitors Monday—Saturday
9.30am - 4.30pm

Address - 61 Market Street, Lancaster,

LA1 1JG

Tel : 01524 840673

The charity shop is an essential part of the charity and we are always in need of donations to keep the shop fully stocked.

Donations can be made to the animal centre any day of the week. Animal Care takes :
clothes ,shoes, DVDs, books, toys, CDs, bric a brac
and handbags.

For any information about the charity shop please
call Sue the shop manager on 01524 840673

Thinking about getting a Hamster as a pet for your child?

Thinking about getting a Hamster as a pet for your child? Please think again! I'm sharing my thoughts on the "unsuitability of Hamsters as pets for children". Yes, they're cute.. yes, sadly, some bite! It's no wonder some bite! Naturally, Hamsters are nocturnal... problem starts when your child comes home from school and wants to play with their new pet... I know how I'd feel in the middle of the night if somebody plucked me from my bed and wanted to play!! Hamster bites child = child is scared of hamster and wants nothing more to do with it... an all too common problem, resulting in many animals suffering rejection & neglect.. the lucky ones are rehomed/go into rescue - I dread to think what happens to the rest :(

Other factors you should consider before taking on a Hamster as a pet are:

HOUSING: I recently rescued a hamster, who came in a totally unsuitable enclosure (see attached picture), far too small, a tiny (unsuitable) wheel, with no enrichment... apparently bought as a starter kit from a well known pet store... It's no wonder the poor thing was angry, being kept in such a barren environment.. Hamsters in the wild travel vast distances at night, foraging for food – an enclosure like this couldn't be further from their requirements. When I took on Daisy, I went to the pet store straight away & spent just over £20 on enrichment. She arrived 2 days before Christmas, so I had to improvise somewhat! The same trip to the store highlighted just how ill-advised they are about the requirements of these chubby little creatures! No enclosure I could have bought there, money aside, was close to the size she needed.. After Christmas, I ordered a more suitable enclosure from "Pet Planet" (costing me £50) – which to get the size she needed, I had to order an indoor Guinea Pig enclosure (which I add that I certainly wouldn't keep a Guinea Pig in size wise!) – then buy some smaller wire to "hamster-proof" the top!

WHEELS: Often, pet stores will only sell a standard size wheel – sadly, these are too small for Syrian (standard pet shop hamsters) and have huge potential for back problems... Larger, more suitable wheels aren't generally available in pet shops, but can be bought online.

BEDDING: Hamsters are very susceptible to respiratory problems & need dust-free bedding,.. Sadly, this doesn't include your 99p sawdust block from Wilkos! To keep your Hamster happy & Healthy, you need to invest in "dust free" chippings/bedding & these don't come cheap! From selected "Just for Pets", a bag of dust free chips will set you back £6, bedding £3 a bag..

So... PLEASE consider the above factors before buying a Hamster from a pet shop.. consider if you can offer them what they require for a happy and healthy life – if you can, please consider adopting from a rescue centre <3

(written by Jo – RSPCA Branch Trustee)

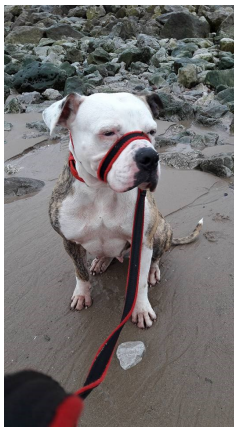


Lexi finds a new home

Lovely Lexi has finally found a place she can call home. After months of waiting she is at last happy. Thank you so much to Karen for making her part of your family.

Karen says: Me & Lexi get up early and love going down the prom onto the shore at Hest Bank we also met lots of lovely dogs and their owners in particular a lovely lady and her 18 month old German Shepherd & a couple with a very lively 20wk old Vizler Pup.

Lexi is so well behaved and really enjoys her walks.



Staff's fun run for the animals

Staff members Faye, Rachel, Toni, and Michael will be taking part in the Colour Obstacle Rush UK. On 15th July the staff members will be completing a 5k course with 20 thrilling obstacles.

Donations can be made via our Just Giving page via the website or donations can be made via the Txt code Text PETS20 with amount e.g. £10 to 70070



Animal Care were asked to comment on the on-going concerns about dog fighting in the north west area. The article below was featured in the Lancaster Guardian and the Evening Post.

LANCASTER GUARDIAN

LANCASHIRE Evening Post

Almost 150 calls about organised fighting were made to the RSPCA in the county since 2006, according to new figures.

But during that period there were just 137 convictions nationally, with experts fearing it is difficult to bring about prosecutions. The maximum sentence for offenders is six months in prison and/or an unlimited fine, but campaigners want that to be increased. Abi Sadler, animal manager at Lancashire rescue charity Animal Care, said the centre saw dozens of animals with “unexplained scars”, with some of those believed to have been used as bait, used to train fighting dogs. She said: “It’s absolutely heartbreaking. “They train the dog up to be as strong as possible, they do all sorts of things - in the house they will tie a rope to the ceiling so the dog jumps up and grabs it, making its neck stronger. “Then they go on to live bait. This is where we have real concerns over social media - people selling pets over it, rabbits, kittens, guinea pigs, they are the first thing they practise on.

“Then they start practising on other dogs - it’s thrown into a ring and the dog is persuaded and encouraged to nearly kill that dog.” Abi said the dogs used could be all kinds of dogs, but were often Staffordshire Bull Terriers. She said: “Staffies can be absolutely fantastic - it’s the person that has the lead and trains and encourages them to do this. “They are encouraged to do it, they are not born bad, no dog is born bad. “The ones we have had in used for dog bait have been small Staffies - they have literally been ripped to pieces and they are absolutely petrified.”

Abi said, while such dogs later tended to be terrified of other dogs, they were often forgiving of humans and could be rehomed. She said: “They are petrified of other dogs, so it’s about working with them teaching them not every dog they meet is going to kill them.” Abi said animals came to Animal Care in Lancaster every week from pounds all over the North West, with about one in 10 having unexplained scars. The most recent case the centre had of a dog used as bait was Staffordshire Bull Terrier Daisy, who left the centre about seven months ago. Daisy, who vets estimated was about 18 months old when she arrived, almost bled to death and was saved just in time, and is now in a wonderful new home with other dogs after being looked after at Animal Care.



Staffordshire Bull Terrier Daisy, who was cared for at Animal Care in Lancaster after she was used as bait in dog fighting

Abi said dog fighting seemed to be on the rise and said: "I honestly don't know why, I don't know what goes through people's minds to think that's okay." But, despite the apparent rise in cases, the number of prose cautions remains relatively low. Abi said: "It's finding the person that actually owns the dog. Not every dog is chipped so it's hard to find the owner, so there's no one to prosecute. The dog is removed by the authorities and put to sleep – that's the dog's life. The owners get away scot-free and then they go on Facebook, get another dog and it's an endless cycle.

It's becoming an issue that we can't really keep an eye on." She urged anyone who thought a dog may be being trained to fight to contact the police, RSPCA or dog warden. According to the data released by the RSPCA, Lancashire was the seventh highest county in the UK for calls to the charity for dog fighting with 2014 and 2015 some of the worst figures to date.

In 2014, 24 calls were made and in 2015, 19 reports were logged with the RSPCA in the county. The charity listed Lancashire's population as just more than 146,000 and said there were 10 reports of dog fights per 100,000 people. Preston Council says it is no longer able to visit schools to talk about responsible ownership of dogs due to a lack of resources. Its dog wardens now mainly focus on dog fouling and micro-chipping.

A spokesman said: "Any dog deemed dangerous or that we suspected of being involved in organised fighting would be referred to the police for them to deal with." A Lancashire Police spokesman said: "All organised dog fighting is both cruel and illegal. If you suspect that dog fighting is taking place, contact either the police or an animal welfare organisation such as the RSPCA. "For more information about dangerous dogs, go to the Lancashire Police website." RSPCA chief inspector Mike Butcher - recognised as one of Britain's leading experts on dog fighting - said: "We need new deterrents to tackle the brutal spectacle of fighting two dogs in a pit, which continues to be an increasing problem despite it being made illegal more than 180 years ago. "England has fallen behind other countries, including Northern Ireland, in its sentencing for dog fighting.

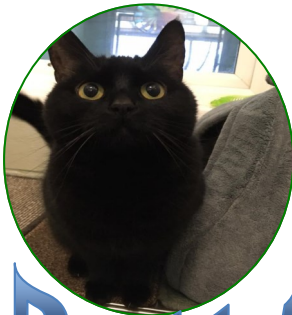
We welcomed the announcement by the Government in 2015, that dog fighting is a serious offence and that sentencing needs to be increased and hope they will announce measures to rectify this. "I've seen footage of dogs gasping for life, covered in blood, as people encourage another dog to inflict yet more suffering upon them. Even after more than three decades investigating organised animal crime, I still find it shocking to actually think someone could gain so much pleasure from something so cruel."

Jeremy Cooper, chief executive of the RSPCA, added: "Day in, day out, our inspectors deal with animals who have been scalded with boiling water, stabbed, shot, poisoned or forced to fight to the death. It's absolutely heartbreaking. "We would like to see a further review of sentencing under the Animal Welfare Act to allow magistrates to give stronger sentences to those guilty of the worst animal offences. "This could bring sentences for animal welfare cruelty and neglect in England and Wales into line with Northern Ireland where the maximum sentence is five years in prison."



Appeal for 3 misunderstood, lonely cats

Tinkerbelle, Betty and Mario are finding cattery life very difficult. All three love being outside and exploring. We are appealing to anybody who has a small holding, livery yard or farm type place as these three really would benefit this lifestyle over being in a pet home. They have struggled finding homes as all three can be unpredictable at times. Each of them do have their sweet moments where they want a love and a fuss but being cooped up makes them stressed. They are looking for homes separately so if you feel you have the right environment for any of them please get in touch. All three are keeping their paws crossed for a new life where they feel free.



Betty



Mario



Tinkerbelle

Foster homes needed for 3 very sweet boys

All 3 cats have different issues which require a special diet and medication.

We feel in all 3 cases the cats health would improve in a more relaxed environment. If your thinking of becoming a foster home please call us for more information about any of our boys. Or please pop in and chat to the cattery staff and meet the boys.

Ideally all 3 cats need a home as the only animals and with no young children. Any foster home would need to be confident giving medication and make visits to the local vet if required



JOE



Smudge



Smokey

