

VOLUME  
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2011



# WOODSIDE NEWS

RSPCA LEICESTERSHIRE BRANCH  
REG. CHARITY NUMBER 222621

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### Animal Viewing Times

Mon – Fri 11:00am 4:00pm  
Tues – No Animal Viewing  
Sat & Sun – 11am – 3.00pm  
CLOSED Christmas Day,  
Boxing Day and New Years  
Day. Open all other Bank  
Holidays between  
11:00am – 1:00pm.

### Shop & Reception Times

Mon – Fri 9:00am 5:00pm  
Sat & Sun – 9am – 4.00pm  
CLOSED Christmas Day,  
Boxing Day and New Years  
Day. Open all other Bank  
Holidays between  
9:00am – 1:00pm.

Woodside Animal Centre  
190 Scudamore Road,  
Leicester LE3 1UQ

Tel: 0116 233 6677

Fax: 0116 233 0953

E-mail:  
info@rspcaleicester.org.uk



## Quiz Night

# Quiz Night ?

? Come and test your general knowledge ?

Thursday 24th March 2011

Arrive at 7.30pm - Quiz starts at 8pm

Groby Ex-Servicemen's Club

Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0DJ

'Bar table service throughout the night'

£4.00 per person

Max 5 per team

**LOTS OF PRIZES & RAFFLE**

To register your team, please call Steve  
on 0116 2324932, or email  
steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk



All proceeds to RSPCA Woodside  
Animal Centre



Visit our new website

[www.rspcaleicester.org.uk](http://www.rspcaleicester.org.uk)



Car Boot Sale

# Car Boot Sale!

(Licensed with Leicester City Council)

**Woodside Animal Centre**  
Scudamore Road, Leicester

**Saturday 26th March 2011**  
11am - 3pm

**Admission 50p – accompanied children free**

**Cars/Estates/Small Vans - £12 (£10 if pre booked)**

**Large Vans/Transits - £25**

**No Trailers**

**- NO NEW GOODS -**

**Refreshments – ices – RSPCA shop – toilets –  
Lots of bargains – kennels/café open!**

**\* We receive no state aid or lottery money \***



## 26th March, 2nd July and 17th September - CAR BOOT SALES

Come to bag some bargains and help us to raise much needed funds at our 3 Car Boots of 2011. There is always plenty of choice with a fine array of booters on site to tempt you! These are all on a Saturday!  
11.00 - 15.00

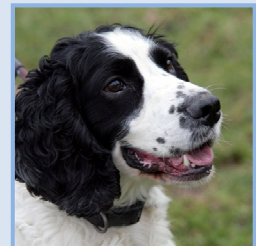
Venue – Woodside Animal Centre, 190 Scudamore Road, Leicester, LE3 1UQ

We have approximately 60 dogs suitable for rehoming to loving homes.  
Call 0116 233 6677



Bugalugs

Collie Cross, 12 years old. Bugalugs has a great deal of personality, he is great around other dogs and should be fine around cats that are used to dogs. Bugalugs would suit a family with children around 8 years.



Max

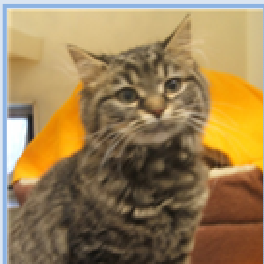
Max Max is a lovely young dog that is very friendly. He does have a bit of separation anxiety and will howl when left alone, would do well with a family where someone is mostly at home. Could live with a youngish playful dog.



Wesley

Wesley is a very nice boy; he loves food and knows many basic commands. He loves a cuddle and would benefit from going home with experienced Rottie owners. Wesley would suit a calm environment and requires a good diet to help him with his weight. He would do well in training classes and this would help him with his socialisation around other dogs

*We have approximately 80 cats all suitable for rehoming to loving homes.  
Call 0116 233 6677*



*Whisper a beautiful 4 month old girl that is quite bold and enjoys human company. Doesn't like children who are too young that will irritate it too much but slightly older children are fine. Enjoys a nice fuss and will settle nicely and become a great part of your family.*



*Tiggs, Domestic Short Hair, 2 years old . Tiggs is a quiet, reserved girl who would like to find a home with plenty of quiet warm places where she can watch the world go by. She has begun to come out of her shell a little since she has been with us and this should continue as she becomes more comfortable in her new home. Tiggs would suit a home that was not too busy or loud.*



*Stella, Domestic Short Hair, 12 years old. Stella can be quite timid but loves to have a fuss and scratch under her chin. Loves human company and gets on well with children. Would make a lovely pet in any home*

## New Apprentices

A warm welcome to our new apprentices.

There have been a number of changes here at Woodside over the past year. One of the most recent is that we have been able to recruit four apprentices. Apprenticeships are a great way for people to gain qualifications and workplace experience. An apprentice is able to earn as they learn and can gain practical skills from hands on learning opportunities coupled with college based work.

We have a number of areas where we were keen to increase our staff numbers. Apprenticeships have allowed us to bring in new people with new ideas.

The reception and the animal centre have both benefited from this; our new reception apprentice is proving to be a great benefit to the smooth running of the administration side of our work. In addition we have three apprentices in the animal centre who are learning all aspects of the work involved in animal care.

This is proving to be a terrific benefit for Woodside and for our animals, so I would like to say a warm welcome on behalf of the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers to our four new apprentices. Welcome on board to Amy, Louisa, Lara and Leanne.

By Mark Wiggins

## A Career With Animals

I started doing voluntary work at the RSPCA following a two week work experience through Groby College. I really enjoyed the work and decided I wanted a career working with animals. When the apprenticeship was advertised I applied and was lucky enough to get the job. I started my apprenticeship in November last year and have been working with a supervisor and sometimes alone or with assistance from another member of staff. I work in all areas at Woodside Animal Centre. I have also been on training days to expand my knowledge of animal care and attend Brooksby Melton College one day a week. I really love the job and find it very rewarding, especially when a sick animal is brought in and we help it recover and then see it re-homed. All the staff are very supportive and we have a good social life outside of work. My future goal would be to work at the RSPCA permanently when I finish my apprenticeship.

By Lara Marlow

## Primary School

I did a talk at a primary school at the end of last year. I always start my talk by asking the youngsters what the letters RSPCA stand for. I chose one of the many hands which were waving eagerly at me and to my delight I got the reply

“Rescue... Safety... Protection and... Care... for Animals”

Not quite the answer I was looking for but if I was giving marks out of ten she would have got ten with bells on! It certainly gives a flavour of the work the RSPCA does on a daily basis, 365 days of the year!

Sue

## Benny & Megan

Benny: White/grey, Adult Male, Neutered.

Megan: Black, Adult Female, Neutered.

Benny and Megan met here at Woodside after being neutered. They have formed a very close bond with each other, which we do not want to break. It's difficult to say which is the more confident of the two, as they seem to take it in turns. If Benny is in the right mood and has had his meal he will allow you to pick him up for a short while. Megan on the other hand prefers to keep her feet on the ground while being stroked. Both rabbits can be a little defensive of their possessions at times, so are better suited to experienced owners rather than young children. They are much more settled when in larger accommodation. They like nothing better than to be snuggled up close to each other, albeit in their litter tray!! Benny and Megan have made a lovely pair who should be out there enjoying a loving new home together.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations and a fond farewell to Laura Jennings, who has left us to have a baby. We wish her all the best and hope all goes well. Further congratulations go to Ricky Jones who has worked for Woodside For many years. He has taken over Laura's role whilst she's on maternity leave. Ricky is a valuable member of staff and we wish him well in his new full time role.

## HELP OUR ANIMALS & HELP THE PLANET!!

Did you know that we can recycle?

- STAMPS
- MOBILE PHONES
- PRINT CARTRIDGES

We can get money back on these items. All money raised goes directly to our animals at Woodside. Obviously recycling also helps the planet, so you are doing your bit to help both our animals and the environment! So if you have any old mobiles, used stamps or print cartridges, instead of throwing them in the bin, please consider donating them to Woodside. Any donation, small or large would be most welcome.

## Safe Haven



*As part of our fundraising activities we offer the opportunity to sponsor a kennel or animal pen by means of a monthly standing order from your bank or building society.*

*In return for helping us to feed and care for un-wanted animals, we will reward your kindness by displaying your name on a plaque attached to the kennel or pen and we will send you a special safe haven certificate.*

*Please make a difference to our animals lives today. If you are interested, please contact Jade on 0116 2324933.*

### Newsletter Suggestions

*Are there topics you want us to talk about in this newsletter?*

*Would you like to know more about our work at woodside?*

*Would you like to hear more animal stories with happy endings?*

*Whatever your suggestions, please let us know by emailing or telephone 0116 2324933.*

*Jade.burton@rspcalleicester.org.uk*

*We always have a selection of Small Animals and Birds all suitable for rehoming to loving homes.  
Call 0116 233 6677*



*Gerbils & Ferrets*

*We have lots of small furry animals looking for new homes. Please visit or give us a call on 0116 233 6677.*



*Rabbits*

*We have 12 rabbits, all looking for new loving homes to call their own. Don't forget, rabbits are very social creatures and do need the company of another rabbit. Please give us a call on 0116 233 6677 with any queries.*



*Birds*

*We currently have lots of birds looking for new loving homes to call their own, please call the reception team on 0116 2336677 With any enquiries.*

## Beth

It is four years since Malley, our rescue collie x staffie, died at the age of about eighteen. We knew her health was deteriorating and had introduced into our family another dog to soften the emptiness for Frank, our lurcher, when the inevitable happened. We adopted Beth, our gorgeous lurcher x pointer, and she seemed to fit in well and apart from a couple of occasions when Malley had to pull rank, which was perfectly natural, all was peace and harmony. After Malley died a subtle change came over Beth. She became naughty and bossy and showed signs of being dominant. Malley had clearly been the matriarch, keeping the equilibrium in the household. It took a while to wake up to the change, by which time Beth was quite out of control. She had already done her bronze and silver citizenship training at Woodside and had passed. She is a bright dog and we knew there was a good character inside but I had let things get out of hand and I began to dread walks. When she was on her lead she pulled, having me over more than once and off the lead she was completely out of control. I was forever apologising for her behaviour. Having sought advice (AGAIN!), we joined another silver training class up at Woodside and things seemed to calm down a little. However, I had lost my confidence and Beth soon picked up on that and once again took over as leader of the pack. We completed the silver training and went on to do the gold, which she passed. However it was one dog in the training class and a completely different dog out walking! She was still a nightmare to walk on the lead and a bigger nightmare off it. The times I felt like giving up but I knew that the fault lay with me and I had to regain my control over our pack. Again I asked advice and this time, with a few different techniques, things began to improve. I had to lead walk her for about 4 weeks and then gradually let her off the lead for short periods, recalling her and praising her. All of the training we had done before but this time it seemed to make more sense to both of us. It has been a long haul. Beth is now six and she still has her moments but I am more relaxed and am certainly in control (for the majority of the time!) Beth has never been aggressive in her behaviour, just boisterous, "in your face" and over the top. I am not surprised that people were not too pleased when she bounded up to them quite out of the blue. She still isn't perfect but she's lovely and I am now so proud of her when we are out. What sort of impact did all this have on Frank? To start with he would tell Beth off in a kind of older brother sort of way. But when I was at my lowest he seemed to join in with Beth's over-boisterous mannerisms when we met dogs and their owners, just to protect me (I think!) Thankfully those days are over. When we meet other people, with or without dogs, we say our "Good-days!" then continue on our way. This is so different to how it used to be. So my message is don't ever give up on your best friend. You sometimes adopt "baggage" from the previous owners and this has to be undone or redirected. Certainly Beth had had no training in her previous home so it was rather like taking on an unruly teenager. However, the after care and advice available from Woodside has been great. If this tale rings a few bells, remember that the staff at Woodside are always there to help and don't be afraid to ask. The training classes are worth attending to give you basic handling techniques and will boost your confidence. Advice is always geared to your personal circumstances. So my advice is: Don't give up!

Sue Dewick

### The Tails of two very mischievous Chinese Hamsters....

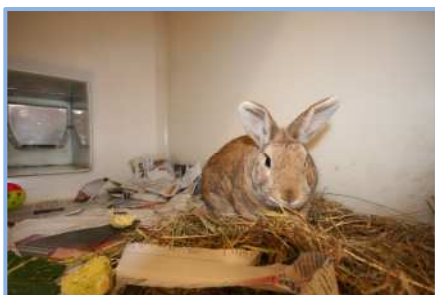


You may recall in an earlier newsletter the story of "Buster" the hamster with unfeasibly large testicles.... Well the drama didn't stop there! Buster was joined by Bob, his brother at Woodside. They are two very naughty Chinese hamsters who are now settled and very happy in their new home.

They have two separate cages so they have plenty of room (and so they don't fight) which is full of toys, bridges, hanging things, wheels and ladders – they are the most spoilt hamsters in the whole world, I'm sure. They have occasional treats of carrots, cheese and peanuts which they take from my hand and then scamper away to stash for later! We bought them a cardboard castle to play in (separately of course) which they absolutely love – Buster gnaws the edges in a bid to escape - the little beggar, so one of us has to keep a watchful eye at all times! Bob is constantly moving house and wins hands down in the most messed up bedroom competition – we never know where he's living and we end up guessing as to where his bed is: Is it the house, the mound of bedding, the toilet tube or the bridge – where oh where can he be? Buster continues to strive to get into the Guinness Book of Records for, what we think, is the first flying hamster. He gets onto his wheel and starts to spin – all we can see is a blur of fur and hear the spinning of the wheel and then bump, spin and bump (the bump is Buster falling out of the wheel at speed!) We ended up lowering it so he wouldn't get concussion!!) Bless him! Bob & Buster have never given us a dull moment since we brought them home last year. They are so funny and are fantastic characters with wonderful personalities. They certainly are very different to each other and they have us in stitches with the things they get up to. Having a hamster is great; they are such fun and are very entertaining. They make great pets for young and old alike.

Becky

### Bramble: Are you able to offer Bramble a new loving home?



Bramble is a lovely little chap who's yet to find some luck in his life. Shortly after arriving at Woodside and having been neutered, he was paired with a Doe, Tink, whom he formed a very strong bond with.

Tink has recently found a new home but in spite of the new

owners wanting both rabbits Bramble could not accept their existing male and reluctantly he was returned to Woodside. Bramble is nervous of strangers and, like most rabbits, does not like being "grabbed" and picked up. Once he becomes accustomed to you he likes to be stroked whilst keeping his feet firmly on the ground. Bramble would do best with an experienced owner (Not young children) who possibly has an existing doe to bond him with. Bramble really deserves to find that loving new home

### Thank You

*This is a large "thank you" to the many people, volunteers and companies that offer their time, effort, services and money to enable Woodside to save the lives of literally thousands of animals every year.*

*Without you, without your support, we would not be able to achieve this mammoth goal.*

*It is your donations that enable us to feed stray and unwanted animals, it is with your help we are able to offer our animals a warm and safe environment at Woodside and it is your support that enables us to source new owners who will both love and care for them.*



### Fundraising

*Do you have a fundraising idea that could raise money for Woodside Animal Centre? If so, please contact Steve on: 0116 2324932 or email on [steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk](mailto:steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk)*

### National Call Centre

*If you suspect an act of neglect or cruelty of a domestic or wild animal, please telephone the call centre on:-*

**0300 1234 999**

## Woodside Wonders!!

Here is a list of some of the people who have made donations to Woodside in 2011 so far! This is only a small proportion of those who have donated, but our heartfelt thanks go to you all.

*Kirby & West*

*Wilfords Shoes*

*Westerby Investment  
Management*

*EGP Building Services*

*Miss M French*

*Miss A Bilson*

*Antalis*

*Mr T Coates*

*Hayley Mitchell*

*Mrs J Tomsley*

*Mr Atton*

*Mrs Morrell*

*Miss S Clough*

*Mr K Hughes*

*Mrs J Green*

*Mrs V Johnson*

*Mr and Mrs Mandelia*

*Metalfacture Limited*

*Ms J Stapleton*

*Miss Taylor*

*Miss Byart*

*Mrs M Hall*

*Mr Holt*

*Mr Butterfield*

## Minstrel and Revel



Females spayed approx 12 months old.

Minstrel and Revel are sisters so are looking for a loving new home together, they have a natural close bond and we would not want to separate them. Revel is the mainly white sister, minstrel the black and white.

Minstrel has shown signs of being the most confident of the pair but Revel is never too far behind her.

They came to us last September because their previous owners were no longer able to care for them. We really want to find them a permanent new home as they've been here so long.

They love their carrots and cabbage like most rabbits do. They do not like being "grabbed" so it's probably not a good idea to give them to young children. They really are smashing young rabbits and deserve their very own home. They are both spayed and ready to go home.

## PIPKIN

Pipkin, a six month old terrier came to us as a stray. She had a very badly damaged right front leg and problems with her hip. We believed she had been knocked over by a car, but couldn't be sure as we had no information to confirm this. She had obviously been through a terrifying experience but despite this she was bright-eyed, loving and extremely trusting. When I saw Pipkin her leg was bandaged and appeared to be a real hinderance to her. It made it difficult for her to walk properly as it just hung dangling at her side. Who knows, if she had been treated earlier, she may have been able to keep the leg, but at the point she came to us, it was just too far gone. After my initial shock of seeing her sitting there, I realised how absolutely beautiful she was. She had the most lovely eyes that just made your heart melt. Even though she was in a lot of pain and discomfort, she just wanted to be everyone's friend and this little dog blew me away with her fantastic personality and good nature. Shortly after she arrived, she was assessed by the vet to see if her leg was salvageable. Sadly it was beyond help and Pipkin was scheduled in for surgery to have the leg amputated. The approximate cost of this surgery and rehabilitation was over £1,000 and although Woodside could meet some of the cost, it was impossible for us to find all of the money needed for Pipkin. A huge campaign went out to the people of Leicester via the Leicester Mercury for help. The response was massive. So many people gave donations, small and large and we also had lots of wonderful letters wishing Pipkin a speedy recovery, which was very moving. It was amazing that this little dog had made such an impact on the people of Leicester. In fact, following the article, so much money was donated that it covered all the costs needed for her, so Woodside did not need to add to it which was really fantastic. Her surgery went without a hitch and her leg was amputated. She also had an x-ray which showed that she had a fractured hip. Every so often, a case like Pipkin comes along and your faith in fellow man is renewed as people come together and help an animal in need. I think that it's at times like this, you realise how important the work of the RSPCA is, as without them Pipkin would not have survived. The staff at Woodside have been overwhelmed with the response to help this little dog and it's wonderful to be a part of it. I saw Pipkin the other day, she was visiting with her foster mum. I had to do a double take and count how many legs she had to be sure it was her. I couldn't believe how well she looked and how happy she was, she was full of beans. I think if she could speak she'd say a huge thank you to everyone who helped her.

## Forthcoming Events

### **30th April & 1st May Loughborough Canal Festival:**

The Loughborough Canal and Boat Festival takes place over the May Day weekend each year and has been in existence since 1997.

Hundreds of boats and thousands of people throng Loughborough's waterway to experience the unique atmosphere the festival generates. This free admission event boasts music, exhibits, all day entertainment, crafts, food, vintage vehicles, demonstrations and displays, boat trips, canalware ... and with three pubs on an extensive, safe and wheelchair friendly site, is arguably the largest community/boating event in the East Midlands. Do come to have a look & help us raise some much needed funds.

10.30 - 17.00

Venue - Grand union canal, Loughborough

### **2nd - 8th May RSPCA Week:**

This is a week long instore collection at Local Tesco stores around Leicestershire. This is part of a nationwide campaign enabling the RSPCA to raise awareness & for the Branches to raise much needed funds. Volunteers are urgently needed to cover the stores so if you are able to spare Woodside Animal centre a couple of hours please call Steve Sellars on 0116 2324932 or email on [steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk](mailto:steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk)

### **8th May - Ruth and Sue's Open Garden**

This is the first of these Open Garden events for 2011, where our Chairman Ruth Lane & her mother Sue open their beautiful garden for all to enjoy. There will be lots to spend your money on in the way of fantastic home grown plants, fundraising goods and a chance to enjoy a cuppa with a slice (or 2) of some wonderful home made cakes.

11.00 - 17.00

Venue - 44 Triumph Road, Glenfield, Leics, LE3 8FS

### **22nd May - Sponsored Dog Walk**

Come along with your four legged friend and help raise much needed funds for Woodside Animal Centre

From 09.00.

Venue - Thornton Reservoir, Reservoir Road, Thornton, Leicestershire, LE12 9YD

### **26th June - Burbage Common Fun Day**

Come and visit for a fun day out. There will be lots to see & do, we will be taking our famous travelling Dog Show & 'have a go' agility course. There will also be dog displays, craft & charity stalls & our Pet Tombola.

Hot food will be available plus cakes, ice cream & refreshments from the visitor centre.

There will also be a chance to get your Dog or Cat microchipped free of charge (proof of ownership and some form of ID required) 11.00 – 17.00  
Burbage Common & Woods, Off Leicester Road, Burbage.

If you have any questions or you are able to help out at any of our events, please call Steve Sellars on 0116 2324932 or email [steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk](mailto:steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk)

## Leicestershire Charity Shops

*Can you help our Charity Shops? The RSPCA Leicestershire Branch currently has four charity shops, all shops are looking good quality clothing, bric a brac, shoes, books, DVD's, Videos, etc. Sadly, the law prohibits us from accepting electrical items.*

*RSPCA Charity Shop  
48 Market Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 3EB  
Tel: 01509 231812*

*RSPCA Charity Shop  
89 Sibson Road  
Birstall, Leicester  
LE4 4NB  
Tel: 0116 2672242*

*RSPCA Charity Shop  
45 – 47 Sherrard Street  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire  
LE13 1XH  
Tel: 01664 565262*

*RSPCA Charity Shop  
41 – 43 Bell Street  
Wigston, Leicester  
LE18 1AD  
Tel: 0116 2880764*

