

VOLUME  
02

ISSUE  
04

WINTER  
2010



# WOODSIDE NEWS

RSPCA LEICESTERSHIRE BRANCH  
REG. CHARITY NUMBER 222621

## Highlights This Issue

- 1 Christmas At Woodside
- 3 Open Gardens 2010
- 6 Fostering
- 8 Tommy
- 9 Woodside News
- 12 Six Months On...
- 13 Fundraising
- 15 Buddy

### 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@rspcalleicester.org.uk

## Christmas At Woodside 2010



*Christmas  
at Woodside*

Victorian Market followed by  
carols around the tree  
Admission 50p, accompanied  
children (under 14) free.

RSPCA Woodside Animal Centre  
Scudamore Road  
Leicester  
LE3 1UQ  
Saturday 4th December  
11:00am - 6:00pm

For more details contact Steve on  
0116 2324932  
steve.sellars@rspcalleicester.org.uk



## Christmas Wishes

Here's a Christmas Wish list from the residents of Woodside!

Christmas is a time for giving, so the residents at Woodside thought they would ask a human friend to write a wish list for them:- "Hello folks! We would be incredibly grateful if you were able to make any of our wishes come true. Please remember that there are a range of different animals here at Woodside!

A new loving home to call our own  
New bed or blankets  
Pyramid beds for cats  
Chews  
Toys or things to keep us busy....

.....And if anyone feels especially generous we, the canine and feline residents, would particularly appreciate a Turkey (or two!) that our human carers will happily cook for us so that we can have Turkey as a treat on Christmas Day!.....

Our carers do come in on Christmas Day. They cater for our every need, take us for walks, clean out all of the residents on site and give us some extra TLC. Are you able to give a little to make our Christmas even more special.....

With love from all of the residents at Woodside xx"

## Seasons Greetings

Everyone at Woodside Animal Centre would like to take this opportunity to wish all of their supporters a very Festive Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## A Christmas Gift That Will Make A Difference.

Struggling to know what to buy a loved one or friend for Christmas? Why not sponsor a dog kennel/cat pen/rabbit or ferret pen and dedicate it to a recipient?

At the same time, it will help us look after the 3,500 plus, stray, unwanted and sadly often neglected animals that we care for each year here at Woodside.

We will send the recipient a gift pack, which includes a certificate, window sticker, the Woodside News and we will display their name on the chosen accommodation. To find out more please contact Jade on 0116 2324933 or see enclosed leaflet.

Please help to make a difference to an animal's life today!

## EBAY HELP NEEDED

Can you help? Do you have a couple of hours to spare each week? Or do you know someone else who would like to help us? We are currently looking for someone with experience to sell goods on eBay for us.

Woodside has a number of donated items that we know will raise more money on eBay than if we sell them through our charity shops. What we don't have is the time to do it ourselves.

We are looking for someone to come to the centre each week to photograph, list the items for us and keep us up-to-date on eBay all to help us raise extra and much-needed funds for the centre.

If you can help, please phone Steve Sellars on 0116 2324932 or email him: [Steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk](mailto:Steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk)

Thank you.

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



*Lady*

*Lady came to Woodside as a home wanted dog along with her 4 pups. She was understandably protective of the pups when she first arrived but she was very affectionate with people she knew. Now that the pups are weaned, she has blossomed into a girl who adores company. It can take her a while to bond with someone and she occasionally displays typical terrier traits. She will therefore need an adult-only home with owners who will continue with her training*



*Huckleberry Finn*

*Huck came to us as a stray. He can be headstrong and will need owners with previous Rottie experience. Training classes will be needed to help him reach his potential and Huck will need to go to an adult-only home.*

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



Pedro came into the centre as a stray. He is a very handsome boy, a larger than life character who would prefer to be the only cat in the house. He has a gorgeous long haired coat that needs regular grooming. Overall, Pedro is a lovely chap who needs that special forever home!



Rosie had babies and is now looking for a kind, older family to call her own. She likes her ears to be tickled. She also likes her scratch tower!!



Flo is a lovely, sweet girl who had babies and has been left behind. She is very affectionate and deserves a loving home.

## Christmas Craft Fair

Sunday 21st November 2010

*Christmas  
Craft Fair*

In aid of Leicestershire RSPCA Woodside  
Animal Centre

Groby Village Hall  
Sunday 21st November 2010  
10:00am - 4:00pm

Admission - £1  
Accompanied Children (Under 14) Free

For more details contact Steve on  
0116 2324937  
steve.sellars@rspcaleicester.org.uk

RSPCA



## Oscar

Just wanted to let you know that the Oscar is doing very well. He has settled into his new home extremely well. He is very chatty and is starting to get used to us handling him. Just wanted to thank everyone at Woodside for looking after him.

## Open Gardens 2010

Well it's been another record breaking year for the totals raised through the two Open Garden events this year! Over the last few years we have stopped setting ourselves any new targets as we feel at some point the event will either go out of fashion or the regular visitors will get bored! NO WAY OF IT!!!

Opening your garden is actually something that keeps you on your toes all year round as you tend to work at keeping everything on your patch up to date and tidy. So it's good from the point of view that it keeps you organised! It can, however, also make you eat, sleep and constantly breathe the fact that twice a year your garden will be on show for all to see and you want it to be perfect even though you know that gardens are not things of perfection as they are constantly changing. It's the extras that we lay on that need to be added to the "to-do-list" and take as much planning and fore-thought!

Now we don't want this to start sounding like it's become a chore because that's definitely not the case. It's just become so HUGE! In the early days we probably had 6 or so helpers on the day. There were also the people up at Woodside who provided the support and of course Su who cooks the cakes that everyone comes back for! Following this July's Open Garden we sent out 27 thank you letters to the team we now have behind us! You see, just like a garden, this event can take over a bit!!!!!!

We are sure that there will be people who visit who are oblivious to all that goes on in the background. They may pop along on the day, pay the £1 entry and while away an hour or so completely unaware that the "graceful swan" image they are admiring actually has a team of people frantically operating the "legs" just out of sight!

We are very grateful to everyone who turns up to support Woodside through the Open Garden Events. We hope that you enjoy the visit, spend money you feel is worthwhile, enjoy the refreshments and the garden and find that the company is as pleasant as you would want it to be! We are very relieved when our efforts are rewarded by a good turn-out of people and although our regulars do tend to come whatever the weather, we are very reliant on the weather being settled and without rain!

At the Open Garden we now have the ever-growing plant stall taking up most of the drive, the fund-raising and the donations stalls in the garage and the tombola stall under the gazebo if it looks unsettled in the weather department or along the fence in the back garden if the weather promises to be dry. This is the preferred spot! Then we have the refreshments served from the conservatory and lounge, we have a roving competition, a congenial host on the lawn to answer any general queries and to ensure we have everything in place and we run a trail to occupy the children. We ask people to sign the visitors' book and we do love to pore over this at the end of the day as we know that we have missed speaking to people as we are so busy. We also like to see where people hear about the event as it's vital that we get the advertising right (and as cheaply as possible of course!)

SO! It was a record breaking year again! We had people QUEUING at the gate waiting for it to open! On the 18th July, the queue actually had to endure a shower of rain but it didn't put them off thankfully! SO WHY DO PEOPLE DO THIS CRAZY THING? WAS IT ALL WORTH IT? What did we raise this year? Well in May our total was £1400.38.

## Safe Haven



### A Christmas Gift That Will Make A Difference.

*Struggling to know what to buy a loved one or friend for Christmas? Why not sponsor a dog kennel/cat pen/rabbit or ferret pen, dedicate it to a recipient?*

*At the same time, it will help us look after the 3,500 plus, stray, unwanted and sadly often neglected animals that we care for each year.*

*We will send the recipient a gift pack, which includes a certificate, window sticker, the Woodside News and we will display the name of your recipient on the chosen accommodation, to find out please contact Jade on 0116 2242433.*

### 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 2242433.*

*Jade.burton@rspcaleicester.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.*

## Open Gardens 2010 - Continued

In July our end-of-day total was £1622.49 and then we've sold a further £100 of plants at the gate. So this year we have been able to hand over a total of £3122.87 to Woodside.

YES it's worth it! 146 people came through the gate in July: In July 2002 we had 86 people and we were excited by that level of support. In total that year, the first year we opened our Glenfield garden, we raised £630.00 and each year the event, as we said earlier, just gets bigger! If you came along thank you for being there. To our Open Garden Team A HUGE THANK YOU for your continued and hard-working efforts over 2 very long but satisfying days.

Already we have the beginning of the May 2011 tombola ticketed and boxed up in the loft and we have 6 "green prizes" growing nicely on in pots and tubs on the patio. This sort of brings us round to the fact that we ARE going to be doing it all again! SO a couple of dates for your long-term diaries: **Sunday 8th May and Sunday 17th July 2011** - do please make a note and come along and join us if you can. Your impending visit is already getting us planning and organising! If you would like to offer us help in any way shape or form please don't hesitate to volunteer. We would be happy to have you on board. We provide you with tea as a thank-you at the end of the day and you can be assured that Woodside will benefit hugely from the time you give.

Well, must go out and do some dead-heading and check the perennials in the growing-on area while the rain has stopped. Must keep it all tidy!

Ruth Lane and Sue Dewick  
Trustees for Woodside

## Update – Libby's Story

In the last newsletter, we reported on the story of Libby. To remind everyone Libby was in an extremely fragile way. She had been starved and when brought into Woodside she was very close to death. There were also signs that she had been abused as she had scratches and wounds around her gums and mouth. It was distressing for everyone who came into contact with her to see that such a lovely dog had been mistreated and neglected the way that Libby had been. It was also obvious that this dog did not have a bad bone in her body and just craved the security and love that she deserved. However it brings everyone at Woodside much joy to learn the news that Libby is now on the road to full recovery. In May, Libby was adopted into a loving home. After much care and love she is now her target weight of 19kg. She is a happy and loveable dog and in the words of her new owners is 'so obedient, it's a joy'. Her owners have cared for many dogs throughout the period of 30 years and recognise that Libby is extra special. She is a completely different dog to the one that was found wandering the streets and brought into Woodside a few months ago. Unfortunately we can't change the cruelty and misfortune that Libby faced previously but now can be confident that she has a safe and happy future ahead of her thanks to the great family she is now part of. Everybody who was part of Libby's recovery should be proud that she is now living well and has been given the life she so truly deserves. Libby was lucky to be found when she was or it could have been a completely different story. Unbelievably there are many cases similar to this happening around Britain today.

If you suspect any act of neglect or cruelty, please contact the RSPCA Inspectors on 0300 1234 999.

## Fostering

"At the beginning of this year I had to say goodbye to my very good friend, my tabby cat Max. He was an adorable cat who I originally took home from an animal charity having been told he had an enlarged heart and would probably only last six months and it would be better if he were to 'pass on' in a loving home rather than a cattery. Max was having none of this and decided, much to my delight, to live for a further nine years.

I was not looking to replace him immediately but did enjoy the company of pussy cats and had a spare bedroom which was generally used for storage. Having fostered cats in the past I decided this might be the best option for now and volunteered my services and my humble but cosy room to the RSPCA. Naturally enough, given that most charities are struggling with re-homing, they were only too happy to accept my offer and within a fairly short space of time I was playing host to a momma puss and her 6 kittens. They were quite happy to be in a confined space as the fostering is only for a few weeks until they are old enough to be wormed, micro-chipped and ultimately re-homed. The food and litter is provided, all the fosterer has to provide is TLC and regular feeding plus litter tray emptying service!

The fostering is an invaluable service to the Leicestershire Branch of the RSPCA as generally speaking the cats which are fostered are, due to various circumstances, not yet ready to be re-homed and would only "block the system" were they to remain at Woodside. Furthermore some of the cats and kittens are a little unused to being handled and it is good for them to experience living within a home situation with normal sights and sounds before their eventual re-homing. Since I have three dogs the cats in my care are confined to the spare bedroom as apart from the odd 'bombproof' moggy they would probably take fright not to mention flight were they to meet my three dogs. My dogs are 'cat friendly' but of course the cat is not to know that! However, other fosterers could of course allow their temporary charges the run of the house should they so wish, provided they had no resident pets to object to the newcomers.

I am currently playing host to a momma cat and her three six week old kittens who will be returned in three weeks' time, only to be replaced by yet another momma and kits (it's that time of year!!). Although I have yet to look after an injured cat I am told they sometimes need fosterers for such animals which cannot yet be homed, sometimes due to injuries which take a while to heal. Fostering is a very rewarding experience and is of invaluable assistance to Woodside for the reasons given above. The obvious (and as far as I can see the only) downside is that you may become rather fond of the animal and be unwilling to return it. Of course, if you are currently looking for a new pet this is the ideal way to find out if it would suit you therefore it would not present a problem, however, if this is not the case it is sometimes necessary to experience a pang when returning them but this should not last long since you know that they are safe and well and will be going to loving new homes, also the chances are you may well be leaving with a replacement!!

Fostering is a very rewarding and useful means of assisting the RSPCA, particularly during this busy time and I would recommend the experience to all, particularly those with an unused spare room.."

Karin.

## Thank You

*On behalf of the Trustees, Staff and all of the animals at Woodside Animal Centre, we would like to say a massive "THANK YOU" to everyone who have helped us in 2010.*

*Thank you to all of the volunteers who have generously donated their precious time, to the hundreds of people who have given a donation and to those who have supported our events. As you can imagine, every penny really does count! Thanks also go to the companies who have given their support this year, whether through sponsorship, financial support, services or through food donations. Every single donation has been invaluable to us.*

*Woodside Animal Centre is completely self funded, which means, we get no money from the government, from the lottery or our own headquarters.*

**THANK YOU!**

*From all of the residents, Trustees and staff at Woodside.*



## Fundraising

*Do you have a fundraising idea that could raise money for Woodside Animal Centre? If so, please contact Steve on: 0116 2242432.*

### Woodside Wonders!!

*Here is a list of some of the people who have made donations to Woodside in 2010 so far! This is only a small proportion of those who have donated, but our heartfelt thanks go to you all.*

*Mr Atton*

*Mrs Hawkins*

*Mrs Smith*

*Mrs M Pickard*

*Mrs S Morrell*

*Ms J Watson*

*Mr Mott*

*Ms F Moir*

*Ms C Willis*

*Miss Luetchford*

*Mrs K Faulkner*

*Mrs V Johnson*

*Miss Hallam*

*Mrs S Farrer*

*Mr and Mrs Musgrave*

*Mr and Mrs Peachey*

*Mr M Sharpe*

*Julie and Elizabeth Hampson*

*Kirby and West*

*Mr Welbourne*

### Need To Purchase A Christmas Present For Your Pet?

Why not visit our new on-site shop at Woodside? The shop is crammed with gift ideas and everything else your pet could desire. We cater for dogs, cats, rabbits, small furies, ferrets and birds (pet and wild).

Also available (for humans!) is a wide selection of fundraising goods which make ideal presents for animal supporters. We also stock a good selection of calendars, Christmas cards and festive wrap.

All of the proceeds generated from sales in the shop are used to help us to look after all of the unwanted animals currently in our care.

### Recent Addition

A new arrival to Woodside was an apparently stray cat who, upon examination, had recently given birth. As she had arrived at the centre alone the whereabouts of her kittens was unknown.

As luck would have it, about three days after her arrival, we received three little kittens. They were very young, just a few days old and motherless. So, our new mummy cat kindly became a foster cat. She quickly took to motherhood and is doing an excellent job. Both mum and the kittens are now doing really well.

To make a perfect end to a wonderful story, the owner of the cat has been found. Not only that but they have agreed that she can continue her new mummy job at the centre until the kittens are weaned!

### WELCOME TO .....

.....Mr Ken Schofield!

Yes we know! He's been an important part of Woodside for many years.... but he retired as a Trustee you see! We couldn't allow his knowledge and expertise to just disappear and we wanted to acknowledge the valuable contribution he has made to Woodside over the years. So we asked him to become one of our Vice-Presidents and he's agreed. The role is an Honorary one, but we know that Ken is keen to continue to help us with key events when he can so we are very pleased to welcome him back in this new role!

### Rusty



'Our bearded collie cross, Rusty, who we got from the RSPCA in September 1995, was put to sleep on Monday 2 August at the age of around 15 years and 4 months. Over the last 6 months of his life he developed a problem with his liver and lost a lot of weight. He then lost the use of his back legs and was in some distress. He was a lovely chap, good natured and well mannered with other dogs - but some noises, such as bird scarers and metallic clangs, absolutely terrified him. He then had a habit of bolting for the nearest stream and refusing to come out. The photograph was taken near Little Stretton, on 31 May when he was 15 and a bit.'

Sue Baker

### Tommy (A.K.A Fat-Boy-Slim)



To all my wonderful friends at Woodside Animal Centre!

I am writing to let you know I'm very happy in my new home and I'm loving life!!!

And I have all of you lovely people to thank for that!!!

My new family loves me to bits and say I've really helped to heal the loss of their previous dog (who also came from the RSPCA). The first day they brought me home I leapt onto the sofa and snuggled up under my new Mummy's arm with my head on her lap. I settled in straight away and if you didn't know otherwise, you'd have thought I'd always lived there! My family and I have lots of big 'bear' hugs and go out 3-4 times everyday! We walk along the River Trent where I have a wonderful time sniffing bushes, meeting new friends and paddling in the water! When I first joined my new family, I didn't have a clue what 'walkies' meant. However, I soon learnt that magical word and can now pick up on its sweet sound if whispered by my owners! I was a big boy when I came into Woodside as a stray - I weighed a massive 42.5kg! But my new family have kept up with my exercise and diet regime and in 5 months I've lost a whopping 7.5kg! I mainly eat dry food and snack on raw carrots – I hold them between my front paws and eat them whole as if they were bones. I have the occasional treat and, being a Labrador, I have a good nose so sometimes I'm able to snaffle the leftovers from a picnic when my family aren't looking! Hee! Hee! Don't tell them! I have much more energy now I've slimmed down and sometimes my family struggle to keep up with me. I'm shaping up to be a very fit and healthy mutt! And, of course, I get more handsome each day! My family took me to South Wales for a week and we all had sooo much fun together. I travelled really well in the car and was on my best behaviour for the whole holiday. I loved running up and down the dog beach and paddling in the sea. But sometimes I was a bit frightened when a large wave came into shore - which just shows what a big, sappy baby I am at heart! We were lucky with the weather – some days were that sunny that my family had to get my parasol out of the car to keep me cool!

My family and I also enjoyed a day out at the RSPCA Fun Day at Wollaton Park and we raised £28 from taking part in the sponsored walk. Again, it was a scorcher but I managed to find a way to keep cool!

At the age of 11 years, I have learnt how to play for the first time in my life. My favourite games are chase and tug-of-war with socks. I've built up quite a collection of socks that I've pinched off the drying rack! I also interact a lot more with my doggy pals from down the Trent and love to go up to friendly strangers for a fuss! I even have a new girlfriend! Belle the Beagle is 8 years old and came from another animal rescue in Leicester. We walk on a double lead and look very cute together. I come to Belle's rescue when we're out by barking off any dogs that she doesn't like. I'm also proving to be a real gent – sometimes Belle pinches my food while I'm still eating it but I don't mind and would never pinch any of hers! In the evenings, we cuddle up together on the sofa and sometimes touch noses! Aww! So as you can see I'm living life to the full and having a wonderful time! My family would like me to thank all the amazing staff at Woodside for doing such a good job in re-homing all us fabulous doggies! They say I have brought so much happiness and fun into their lives, and love the endless showers of affection and the giggles I provide everyday!

I hope this letter shows other families how rewarding it is to give a pooch like me a second chance in life!

Lots of love and sloppy kisses  
Tommy

### We named her Tillie.

We already had 2 male ferrets that she was going to live with and they all seemed to get on when they 1st met. But then the boys kept trying to attack her! So I had to rush out to get an emergency house for her that night! And the boys never accepted her. But Tillie LOVED them! She just wanted to play! But they didn't.

So, after a while of trying to get them calm around her (but failing) we realised she would have to carry on living separately from them permanently.

Tillie seemed to be quite bored and due to now accepting they wouldn't get along, we sorted out a bigger house for her and got 2 new friends for her who don't want to kill her :D Ellie & Chilli. We had Ellie 1st out of the 2 then ended up with Chilli a couple of weeks later because she was being picked on where she was so I said I'd take her.

Here's Tillie now:



*We always have a selection of rabbits all suitable for rehoming to loving homes.*

*Call 0116 233 6677*



*Ashley*

*Ashley is a brown and white adult male domestic rabbit. He has a lovely inquisitive nature and is very friendly.*



*Cadbury*

*Cadbury is a brown/black adult male lop rabbit. He is very confident and enjoys human companionship.*



*Elsie - Female. Adult. Albino.*

*Elsie is a very pretty little rabbit with fabulous pink eyes.*

*She's a real lady and keeps her pen as clean as a rabbit possibly can.*

*She is still a bit shy of new people but gradually relaxes as she becomes accustomed to you.*

## Woodside News

The Hunting Act is hanging by a thread.

It is vital that those of us opposed to the cruelty of blood sports let our MP's know how we feel about repealing the ban on hunting. This is a crucial time. The League Against Cruel Sports has launched a campaign to let every MP know that 3 out of every 4 people want hunting to remain illegal.

Opinion Polls show that 75 per cent of people do not want fox hunting to be made legal again, and 72 per cent of people living in the countryside don't want fox hunting restored either. And the figures, for activities like deer hunting and hare coursing, the percentage point soars into the mid eighties.

Opponents of the ban claim the ban is ineffectual but the latest figures from the Home Office show that there are over 130 convictions under the Act. This is 130 individuals who now have a criminal record to testify how successful the Hunting Act has been.

Cut backs in enforcing the law.

However, enforcing the law is not easy when the police, like everyone else, will be under severe pressure to cut back on costs. Budgets for wild life crime will suffer. LACS will therefore rely greatly on members of the public informing them of suspected law breaking.

Hunters and shooters see the Hunting Act as being the death knell for their bloodsports. As long as setting dogs onto animals for sport remains a crime, support for traditional hunting of foxes, deer and hares with dogs will gradually fall away, because most reasonable people do not want to be involved in a criminal activity.

Once it becomes established that cruelty to wild animals remains socially and legally unacceptable, the Act will not be repealed. Once the bloodsports lobby know that they cannot turn the social clock back by repealing the act they will lose what little support they have and more and more of their bloodsports will be legislated against on animal welfare grounds.

It took decades of campaigning before the Act was passed in 2004, making it illegal to hunt wild animals with packs of dogs. If the Act is repealed after just seven years, it will become harder to pass any future legislation against animal cruelty: The chance of re-introducing a ban on hunting will be even smaller. But if the Hunting Act is defended successfully based on public support then the hunt defenders will have missed their chance!

If we fail!

If we fail, it will be defenceless animals that suffer. Hunters will again be free to terrorise foxes and their cubs, deer and mink in the name of 'sport' and hare coursing will be back. In the face of overwhelming opposition from ordinary decent people, a bloodthirsty few will be free to torment animals for fun.

Continued on page 10.

## Woodside News - Continued

If you support this campaign to Keep Cruelty History, you can register your support at [Keepcrueltyhistory.com](http://Keepcrueltyhistory.com)- and why not write to your MP and let them know that you are opposed to the repealing of the ban? It only takes a few minutes to do this and will add to the growing number of people who care about animals and do not wish to see this barbaric pastime return to our countryside.

The bloodsports lobby are loud and well funded and own and control a lot of land but they are not the majority and should not be able to dictate to the majority who oppose cruelty to animals for what they call sport.

LACS needs more money to fight this campaign against the wealthy backers of the repeal. Please send donations to them at New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QZ.

If you can.

If you can start the day without caffeine.

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains.

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles.

If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it.

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time.

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment.

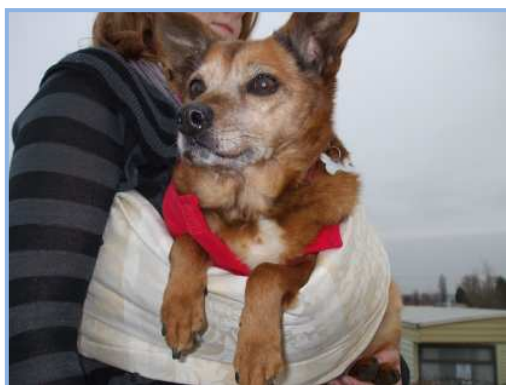
If you can conquer tension without medical help.

If you can relax without alcohol.

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs.

Then you are probably - the Family's Dog!

## Lady



We adopted Lady about 2 yrs ago - she belonged to an old man and was found in his home when he had died. She was 15 and she looked like her heart was broken, sitting helplessly in her kennel.

We fell in love with her and took her home - we never regretted it.

Although she was very arthritic and couldn't walk far, she came everywhere with us. We made a sling so we could carry her for long walks in the countryside. When she had a bath or was feeling frisky, she would run around the house like a puppy! She always used to look at a comfy chair in the lounge with longing, until one day she determinedly took a running jump and landed on the chair - she had chosen her spot so we made a step so it was easier for her to climb up onto it!

This was Lady's chair and no one wants to sit on it now she is gone. We miss her so much, I keep listening for the tapping of her claws on the tiles as she plodded into the kitchen to see if I had any goodies for her. Lady was so special, we would encourage anyone who is looking for a rescue dog, to please consider an oldie - they just want someone to love them and they will give you so much in return.

## Christmas Wishes

*Please don't forget our Christmas Wish list for the residents of Woodside!*

*Christmas is a time for giving, so we would be really grateful if you are able to make any of the Christmas Wishes come true:-*

*A new loving home to call our own*

*New bed or blankets*

*Chews*

*Toys and things to keep us busy*

*Pyramid Beds for Cats*

*And if anyone feels especially generous, a Turkey (or two) which will be cooked and served to the cats and dogs in our care on Christmas Day as an extra treat.....*

*Our staff and volunteers do come in on Christmas Day. They exercise the dogs, clean out all of the residents on site and ensure that they all get a bit of extra TLC too. Are you able to give a little to make Christmas at Woodside for the animals in our care just that little bit more special?*

*With love from everyone at Woodside xx*

## Seasons Greetings

*Everyone at Woodside Animal Centre would like to take this opportunity to wish all of their supporters a very Festive Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## Leicestershire Charity Shops

Can you help our Charity Shops? The RSPCA Leicestershire Branch currently has four charity shops. All of our shops are looking for 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

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## RSPCA National Call Centre

If you suspect an act of neglect or cruelty, or have found a injured domestic or wild animal, please contact the RSPCA Inpsectors on 0300 1234 999.

## Goodbye my beloved Jasper



Jasper was rescued from a garage along with his brothers and sisters in June 1996. We adopted him and his brother Oscar who sadly died at less than a year old.

Jasper was a fantastic cat who loved nothing better than sunbathing and sleeping with the occasional hunting trip.

He moved with us from Derby, Leicester, Grimsby and finally to Wootton Bassett. He survived being attacked by a dog and being in intensive care for a week. He really did not like going to the vets and thought that if he hid under my arm and he could not see them, they really could not see him!!!

At the age of 14 he faced 1 last battle which unfortunately he could not win and after spending time with his family we took the very hard decision to let him go. It was the hardest thing to do but the last act of love we could show him. We will miss him every day.

RIP Jasper Cat  
May 1996 - September 2010

## Oscar

My name is Oscar (originally I was called Sam by the staff at Woodside) however, as my new family had already had a dog previously called Sam, they wanted to give me a different name. I didn't mind as I was just really pleased to be given a new home.

I am a blue and white Staffordshire bull terrier and I came to Woodside when my previous owners couldn't look after me anymore. Living at the kennels was okay but I wanted to be part of a family as I was lonely. Then along came my new humans and it was great to be part of a pack again. In my new family I had two young male humans to play with and I love nothing better than to settle down with them on the sofa for a cuddle and fuss. I feel like I'm in doggy heaven!

It hasn't taken me long to settle into my new home and I take my humans for a walk twice a day which is wonderful. When we go to my young humans' school I get a lot of attention from the other young humans too and they enjoy giving me treats and fuss.

I have made some great doggy friends and enjoy walking with them and chasing them around my humans' smallholding on the weekends.

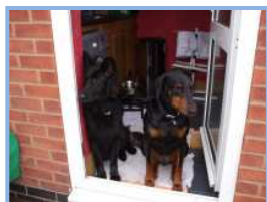
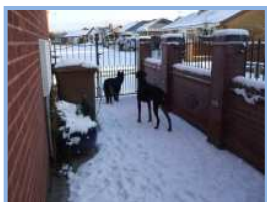
All I can say is that I'm one lucky dog and I only wish other humans could give other Staffies a chance and see that we are not all bad. I'm so fortunate that my new humans came to Woodside and chose to give me a forever home.

With licks and wags  
Oscar Bishop

## 14th February 2010      Six months on...

Peaches Belgian Shepherd (crossed with a little something special)  
(Nee Casper – RSPCA - Animal ID: 1003440 German Shepherd Cross)

Adopted from the RSPCA Woodside on 14th August 2009 now residing with Jeff, Brenda and of course her playmate Solo (The Doberman) in Hinckley, Leicestershire. She came to us having already known two families and homes, a young, high spirited, extremely hairy 2'ish year old with a big fluffy tail. This was completely alien to us being a devoted Doberman couple, though with constant grooming she tidied up, we got to know her and she got to trust us. The bond had started. With time and attention she has lost most of her 'puppy' white/grey mane and 'trousers' and her sleek black hair now shines. This process has helped her to adapt to the comforts of home. She would tend to prefer the garden in the cold and even the dark, could this have been what she was used to, as in the beginning she had some pretty bad breathing events in the warmth of indoors. Her other sad imperfection was her exceedingly upset tummy which made cleaning up after her a real test of endurance. No odd treats and sole food of James Wellbeloved has eventually, very almost, cleared the problem. This year both Solo and Peaches now eat IAMS large breed, and can have treats too, provided Peaches is monitored. Due to the fact that Peaches was all hair and bones Solo had a pretty easy time at first to hold his domain, his territory, his empire. Well he had had it all to himself for 4 years and would have to 'give up' a lot for his new playmate, but we hoped it would be worth it to him. Now that dear Peaches is 'filling out' nicely her health, strength and confidence is thriving too. Poor Solo is on the retreat, he does not get it all his own way though he always has taken her presents/toys to play with, and he has always shared with her. So sweet. It was always expected that Peaches' potential size, strength and advantage of youth would one day make her top dog, that day is certainly coming as she confidently prances around their garden head and tail in the air. Solo has shown Peaches 'the ways at Thistleadoo' (what happens when, how to get what he wants or needs etc...) and Peaches has shown Solo – well.... how to open doors.... how to jump up at the kitchen worktop... how to get 'under' the bed.... how to play 'nicely' with another dog.... how it is OK to go out in the rain and get wet... but the very best thing... probably is.... how to have fun in that cold, wet, freezing, white stuff called snow; they have had a ball. Something they are both absolutely brilliant at is sensing there is a squirrel or two, in their garden and making sure that the squirrels leave – immediately. Such teamwork is truly commendable. Young Peaches is an extremely cautious, clever, cute, cuddly great big ball of fluff, with a tail; she is so content when she is licking and dobbing. Probably translated from an earlier phase as a tiny puppy as ....PLEASE (the paw or the dob) KISS (the lick), her way of asking for something. We just call it "licky doobby, doobby lick", and sort of hope it will eventually stop. We have put Peaches birthday as May by judging her identity chipping etc... and made it 23rd as we put Solo's birthday as 23rd but of October when he came to live with us, going by the vets age estimation of 15 months, so Solo is now just over 6yrs. This will mean that Peaches is nearing her third birthday (21 in doggy time). She has a home and family to help her celebrate her 21st, (though she does not need the key to the door).



### Can you give the lovely Lily a Home?

Lily is a 7 month old Black and White Cat.



Lily playing in the grass



Lily asking for her dinner.



Lily is very loving and likes to spend most of her time sitting on your lap suckling.

She is very playful and is used to other cats. Lily would suit a home with older children with cat/cats of similar age or younger.

She is currently in foster care. If you are able to offer Lily a new loving home, please contact Woodside.

### Volunteering Opportunities here at Wooside.

#### **Van Driver - 2/3 days per week.**

We are looking for an extra van driver to help with the ever growing workload here at the centre.

*Duties will include –*

Drop off and pick up animals at local vets.

Deliveries to our charity shops.

Pick up donated items.

Sorting items for delivery from our donations shed.

All that we ask is that you are over 25(for insurance purposes) & hold a clean driving licence.

#### **Woodside Shop Assistant - 2/3 days per week.**

Woodside Shop has really taken off since we extended it last year.

We are looking for an enthusiastic person to assist in all areas of this fabulous facility.

Ideally you would have previous retail experience but if not, full training will be given.

If interested in either position, please contact

Steve Sellars on  
0116 2324932

### FUNDRAISING

We have had a busy 'mid season' on fundraising. The weather has been generally kind to us so all events went ahead this year!!

#### FUNDRAISING IN AUGUST - Dogs R Us

Our biggest fundraiser of the year 'Dogs R Us' took place on Sun 8th, the weather was great on the day attracting a crowd of around 1500 people. The main event was, of course, the dog show. We had a fantastic amount of entrants this year with classes being held in 2 judging rings with classes such as prettiest bitch, most handsome dog & best veteran culminating with an overall winner of 'Best in Show'. Local celebrity Monica Winfield from Radio Leicester kept all under control with her judging expertise. We had lots of other attractions to keep people donating in the way of craft stalls, games & of course lots of refreshments from our BBQ/beer tent & Café Yum Yum. Thanks to all who attended for your continued support & of course to our loyal band of volunteers without whom we couldn't put on events like this & raise over £7,500.

#### FUNDRAISING IN AUGUST - Burbage Common

We were asked to attend an event at Burbage Common organised by the dog wardens at Hinckley & Bosworth council on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. Primarily it was aimed at dog/cat microchipping where members of the public could bring their animals & have them microchipped free of charge. To add an extra draw, we included our travelling dog show/agility which were very well received, we also had our famous Pet Tombola & a stall selling donated food/treats. The wardens & rangers from Burbage Common also sold homemade cakes & biscuits with all the proceeds coming to Woodside. All in all we had a great day & raised a magnificent £975. Thank you to all the helpers on the day & of course to Hinckley & Bosworth council.

#### FUNDRAISING IN SEPTEMBER - Knighton Park

We went on the road again with our travelling dog show & associated stalls & attended the large event at Knighton park organised by the park/dog wardens from Leicester City Council. It was unfortunately one of the coolest days of the month but that did not affect the attendance with well over 2000 people. We had advertised extensively around the park to encourage as many dog show entrants as possible & it certainly worked with a record number of entries, 72% up on the previous year! We also did very well on the pet tombola/fundraising goods & donated treats all helping us to reach a total of just under £1,200 for the day - up 30% on the previous year.

#### FUNDRAISING IN SEPTEMBER - Car Boot sale.

We held our final car boot of the year on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>. We maximised our booter potential by using our large paddock as the weather was fine & dry. A good day was had by all that attended & we had our best ever attendance for Sept' raising a magnificent £1,700 20% up on the previous year.

#### FUNDRAISING IN SEPTEMBER - Rutland Dog Day.

On the road again on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> to Oakham in Rutland with our pet tombola, fundraising goods & a selected range of pet shop items. Rutland Dog Day is a celebration of all things 'Doggy' with demonstrations by prison / police service dogs, dancing dogs & they also run their own fun dog show. The weather was unkind on the day being cold & windy with a little rain in the air. This really affected the turnout with roughly half the attendance of the previous year. But it was still worth us driving all the way out there as we managed to raise just under £300. Even so, we all hope for better weather next year!

## FUNDRAISING - CONTINUED

### FUNDRAISING IN OCTOBER - Quiznite

We held the second of our bi-annual quizzes on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> at Groby Ex-Serviceman's Club. We had a good attendance (although it was half term week) & a great night was enjoyed by all.

We had 12 teams competing in 2 halves for a winners prize of £50. There were lots of general knowledge questions interspersed with the odd sport/picture round, teams were also asked to come up with an 'interesting' team name which also won them a prize. (winners – "The Disasterminds").

We also held a raffle on the night helping us raise over £300 in total. Our grateful thanks go to Hazel for setting the quiz & to Steve Smith who did a fantastic job as quizmaster.

### Friday 29th October

We had a new event this year aimed at the younger element with our 'Ghosts in the Woods' evening. This included a fancy dress competition, pumpkin carving competition, a tour of our 'Ghostly' woods, apple bobbing etc. Gates opened at 17.30 & closed at the witching hour of 21.00! There was an excellent turn out and the youngsters seemed to really enjoy the chance to dress up.

## Forthcoming Events

### Sunday 21st November.

We are once again holding our popular Christmas Craft Fair at Groby Village Hall. Doors open at 11.00 & we close at 16.00.

There are plenty of stalls with crafts/cards & lots of fantastic Christmas present ideas to choose from. We also have our tearoom with homemade cakes & biscuits and a range of other interesting and tasty refreshments. There will also be our ever popular pet tombola and this year we will have a wonderful stall selling 'handpainted' glass along with our regular fundraising items.

So do come along & get some great Christmas presents & help us raise valuable funds for Woodside.

### Saturday 4th December.

We have switched our Christmas at Woodside event to the Saturday this year to enable us to run a Victorian style market during daylight hours & have our usual carols around the tree as a finale.

We will have lots of stalls selling Christmas present ideas, festive foods, fundraising goods & of course our Centre & shop will be open for viewing. It would be great to see as many people here as possible to enhance the festive atmosphere!

Finally many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help at this years events & of course our most grateful thanks go to all who have attended & helped us raise valuable funds for Woodside.

Steve Sellars  
0116 2324932

## Put Animals First

Every year the RSPCA deals with hundreds of emergency calls reporting acts of blatant cruelty and terrified pets during the firework season.

The RSPCA has a simple guide to safeguard animals:

- Never let off fireworks near any animals
- Ensure all pets are kept indoors after dark
- Seek veterinary advice about sedating your pet
- Take rabbits and other outdoor pets into a garage or outbuilding
- Close curtains and leave a TV on to camouflage the noise
- Check bonfires to make sure hedgehogs and other creatures are not inside
- Make sure pets are properly identified by means of a collar, disc and a microchip in case they get frightened and run off.



Megs is a 10 year old female DSH cat looking for a loving home to call her own. She would like to live with a family with older children. Please contact Woodside on 0116 2336677



Woodside Animal Centre would like to welcome aboard:-

**Amy Coombe** joined Woodside in September as a Reception Apprentice. She will be assisting our fantastic front-of-house team in dealing with the running of Woodside's reception.

**Louisa Wood** joined Woodside in August, as an Animal Care Assistant Apprentice. She will be working closely with our exceptional animal care team, who work tirelessly to ensure the welfare of our animals here at Woodside.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish them both well in their new roles.



## BUDDY

What can I say about a five year old black and white Staffy cross Labrador called Buddy? He was funny looking with pointy ears and a stubby tail, he loved playing "flick ball", loved eating venison ears and he was my best friend....

Buddy came to Woodside in April. He was in a sorry state with scars on his face, he had pointy ears and a stubby tail – to some he looked (and acted sometimes) like a devil dog but I could see through him to the dog within that craved love and devotion and wanted to give love and devotion back. I first became aware of Buddy when I worked in the office with Jade. Buddy was our constant companion in the day as he was very kennel stressed. Buddy would self harm, biting the kennel door and pawing at it until his feet bled. He was moved to a quiet block to see if that would help, but in the end, it was better for him to be with people during the day so they could keep an eye on him and Buddy was a lot happier around people too.

I must confess when I met Buddy, I was smitten. He was always so good with me, he had a way of wagging his stump so much that his whole bottom would wiggle, he seemed so pleased to see me and I looked forward to seeing him too. I spent most of my days, in-between working of course, taking Buddy for walks and playing flick ball with him. There is nothing better than to see a dog running free with wild abandonment chasing a ball – the silly grin on their faces and sheer delight of playing is a wonderful sight. These were my favourite times with Buddy and he was so happy, which of course made my day. To know you make a difference to a rescue dog's life is one of the best feelings in the world.

Buddy was my "loan dog" for the sponsored walk at Thornton Reservoir earlier this year and initially I thought I was going to have trouble but he was as good as gold. Great at travelling, he went straight into the car, no trouble, he walked well on his lead... that was really the beginning of our friendship. When we got tired of flick ball and the weather was nice we would sit together under the tree or in the paddock and I would stroke him while he happily lay at the side of me... absolute bliss – he really loved kisses and cuddles – he was a very affectionate dog (I don't know who got the better deal, me or Buddy!!) Other times he would lie in the office munching away at a venison ear but it was best to vacate the room as soon as possible afterwards as he suffered from flatulence!!

Buddy was misunderstood. He was dog aggressive and that put some people off but I have to say that Buddy was very loyal, devoted and protective of his "family". He was really no different than a human in that not everyone likes everyone – you pick and choose in life based on looks, personality or whatever if you like someone and based on that decide whether they be a friend or foe. That's just what Buddy was doing in "Buddy's world".

Three weeks ago, Buddy found his forever family and left Woodside. I was devastated... He meant so much to me. I just wish with all my heart that I could have had him, if possible I would have, in a heartbeat – he was a really special dog and I loved him very much.

I do hope he is happy and content. When he left Woodside he never looked back and I'm glad because he has a new life now. Woodside was a necessary chapter that is now over. Buddy came into our lives and now has a fresh start, a chance to show that special side of him that I was privileged to see and, as a volunteer, as painful as it may be for me, that's all we wish for- for all our animals here at Woodside.

Written by Becky

### Abandoned Kittens Futures Are Finally Looking Bright

In July 2010 a worker at the recycling centre in Loughborough was emptying the bins when, to his surprise, he saw some movement in the rubbish.

After closer inspection he was shocked to find that the cause of the movement was three tiny kittens who had been thrown a considerable distance into the garden waste bin.

After narrowly escaping being crushed in the compactor with the grass and garden waste, the kittens were rushed to the RSPCA Woodside Animal Centre in Leicester in a worrying condition.

Due to the fact that the kittens had been separated from their mother at such a young age, regular feeding and around the clock care was essential if the kittens were to survive their traumatic ordeal.

Woodside have dedicated foster carers for such situations and animal carer and experienced cat fosterer Kerry devoted all of her time and effort into looking after the kittens who required 24 hour care.

They needed to be fed every two hours which meant that she had to get up through the night to feed them. This carried on for several weeks until they became stronger and gained enough weight. They were then able to be weaned off milk onto solid food. Three months on, the kittens are now growing at a fast rate and have almost trebled in size.

This means that they are finally beginning to recover and return to good health. They have become very close as they have obviously bonded due to their distressing situation; however they are now recovering and are starting to behave like regular cats, playing and getting into mischief. The kittens are due to have their first vaccinations and have already found new owners, so they are well on their way to a well deserved loving home. This is obviously a vast improvement to the conditions in which they were found earlier this year.

If it was not for the hard work of Woodside staff and Kerry, these tiny kittens would not have survived. Sadly this case is not unique. Woodside continues to care for neglected and unwanted animals and are dedicated to rehabilitating and re-homing them with new loving forever families.

If you suspect an act of cruelty or are concerned about the well-being of an animal, wild or domesticated, please contact the RSPCA Inspectors on:

0300 1234 999 (24 hour).



BEFORE:



AFTER:

Further "after" pictures of the kittens:-

