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# 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 – 4.00pm

### 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 – 5:00pm.

Woodside Animal Centre  
190 Scudamore Road,  
Leicester LE3 1UQ

Tel: 0116 233 6677

Fax: 0116 233 0953

E-mail:  
info@rspcaleicester.org.uk

**RSPCA Woodside Animal Centre**

## Family Fun Day

“Dogs R Us”



**Dog Show & Agility!**

**Children's Games!**

**Bouncy Castle!**

**Beer Tent**

**Sunday 7th August 2011**  
11am - 4.30pm  
Judging starts at 12pm

**Dog Show – for all ages, breeds and sizes, lots of classes to choose from.**  
Have a go on our dog agility course.

**Reduced price Micro Chipping for Cats & Dogs – £10 (Proof of ownership required)**  
**Children's Games, Stalls & Refreshments.**  
Hermitage Radio Mobile Unit.

Entries for dog show taken on the day.  
All animals brought onto site must be fully vaccinated

**Adults £2, accompanied children (under 14yrs) FREE**

RSPCA \* Woodside Animal Centre \* 190 Scudamore Road, Leicester \* LE3 1UQ  
Tel: 0116 2242432

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

## Bonnie the Border Collie

There were a couple of newsworthy articles in May 2011 that put Woodside in the papers and on TV, none more so than the story of Bonnie, the Border Collie who was viciously stabbed and left to die. Bonnie came to Woodside after spending a week at a local vet. She had been savagely attacked and stabbed 13 times. She was left to die alone and in pain in the street. Working for the RSPCA, whether you're a volunteer or paid staff, you unfortunately encounter cruelty and neglect on a regular basis. However, it's very rare that you see such brutality and viciousness, particularly when it is concentrated on a defenceless animal. In most cases we vent our anger internally and just thank god that the animal was brought to us so that we can rehabilitate, nurture and eventually re-home them. This was not one of those cases. As animal lovers we could not comprehend how anyone could do such an appalling act of cruelty and thankfully we were not alone as there were various posts of the same vein on the Leicester Mercury forum. Bonnie had been through such a horrific ordeal. Her fur on her back and tummy had been shaven off to get access to her wounds so that they could be stitched up. She was a real mess. Despite all of this, she has a wonderful personality, she is very trusting, loving and enjoys lots of cuddles, but of course she is still slightly nervous of people and it will take a bit of time for her to learn to trust people again completely. When such cruelty and neglect come to the fore and people become aware of such things, everyone wants to adopt the dog and give them a new home because they feel sorry for them. Sadly, each animal at Woodside have their own stories to tell and just because it doesn't make front page news, doesn't mean to say that it's not an ordeal, it's just that the media cannot possibly report on each and every case. So please, spare a thought for all the animals here at Woodside who all need loving forever homes, regardless of how they found themselves here. If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of Bonnie's treatment please text BONI21 to 70070 with the amount you would like to pledge.

Written by Becky

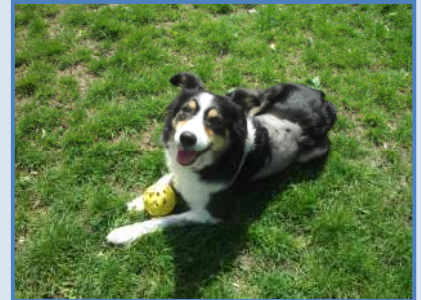
## Opal



Hello there. My name is Opal – this is a picture of me sitting on my Nan's lap having some fuss. I am a very cheeky house-rabbit living with 2 other house bunnies, Archie and Smudge, and my pet owner Michelle. My life didn't start out so happy though. I was found as a stray and brought into the RSPCA.

I was first kept at a fosterer's house for a few weeks because they thought I was pregnant and then I was taken to Woodside RSPCA. Unfortunately I was in there for months; I was always overlooked by the public possibly because I didn't do much, I was very fed up. That was until Michelle, a volunteer, finally gave into my charms and decided she couldn't leave me in there any longer. She adopted me and it was the best thing that ever happened to me. I have been living here for over 4 years and I am so happy – I get the freedom of the house but I also get to run and bounce around in the garden and eat lots of grass when the weather's nice. I am so happy now and I am very lucky to have such a nice loving home. I really hope all those other bunnies waiting in the RSPCA for new homes will get one soon and are as lucky as I am.

*Pictures of Bonnie  
The Border Collie who  
came into Woodside as  
she has been stabbed  
13 times.*



## Rabbits for Rehoming



*Pudsey and Ollie are the new guys on the block. They are brothers and have never been parted from each other; ideally we would want them to remain together. They are both friendly and playful, but like to get to know and trust you before they relax.*

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



*Ruby is a lovely active dog who will be best suited to an active owner who will be able to take her to training classes. She knows the basics and has the potential to make a first class companion. Ruby dislikes cats and would probably get on with a calm laid back male dog.*



*Ebony is a beautiful young terrier cross with bags of character. She can be choosy over which dogs she likes but seems to prefer the company of larger breed dogs to smaller ones. She settles well in a crate and currently enjoys spending her time with the staff in reception. Ebony walks beautifully on a head collar; she is very bright and eager to learn though she will need work on her recall before being let off of her lead. Ebony will suit an older family in a cat free home who are looking for a bright and active young dog.*

### Cat fostering for Woodside.

At this time of year at Woodside we often experience a rise in the number of pregnant cats and those with kittens that come through our doors, this is known as "the kitten season". As a way of creating space for those cats that can be put up for rehoming, we are regularly looking for people who can foster the cats and kittens that are too young, recovering from injury or who have lost their mother.

Right now we are looking for experienced cat people to foster some of our cats and young kittens and this can be a very rewarding experience. Fostering kittens, pregnant cats, old cats and those awaiting or recovering from surgery can all require a great deal of patience and we need people with time and energy to spare.

We are ideally looking for foster carers who have owned and looked after cats before. In particular if you have experience of looking after pregnant cats and kittens then we'd love to hear from you. It is best if you also have a spare room to put to use, particularly if you are looking to foster kittens with or without mums.

The biggest proviso is that if you have other pets then they must be fully vaccinated. The most demanding type of fostering is of young kittens, and there are many reasons why kittens are put out to foster. These include orphaned kittens, those whose mother is too ill to look after them or those that have been rejected by her.

Very young kittens may need up to 10 feeds in each 24 hours and hygiene is of the utmost importance, both in terms of all the kittens' feeding and measuring equipment and the carer's personal hygiene in preparing feeds and toileting kittens. We will provide food, litter, bedding and medication where needed and of course ongoing support and advice. So, if you feel that you have the qualities that go to make a good fosterer, that is time, patience, stamina and a desire to help then please get in touch with us here at Woodside.

### Harry



Dear All at the RSPCA

I know a lot of you were sad to see Harry go as he was such a lovely little chap so I thought I would let you all know that he is fine and loving his new home. He is a lovely little dog and after only a couple of days it seemed like he had been with us for years - I couldn't have wished for a nicer dog. You will see in the picture below that he has a new best friend called Hollie the Border Collie. She loves him loads and looks after him. Thanks to all at Leicester RSPCA - you do a fab job.

Keep up the good work!

Best wishes

Laura and Harry

## Why does my dog pull? – Part 1

Nothing takes more fun out of walking your dog than being pulled along down the road with your dog choking itself.

So why do they pull? Well the reason is simply because they want to move forward to see what is interesting ahead, nothing too insightful there but the fact that we move forward when they pull, fully reinforces the dog's behaviour and rewards the value of pulling. So whose fault is it that they learn to pull on the lead? – You guessed it!

In the past many people turned to so-called 'choke chains' as a means to discourage lead pulling. Through concerns of potential discomfort or damage to the dog if misused, methods like this have been replaced with more positive and reward based techniques. There are various different types of walking aids you can use to stop your dog pulling on the lead. Examples of walking aids are listed below:-

### **Gencon all-in-one head collar**

The Gencon consists of two loops, one goes over the nose and the other over the head which also has a lead attached which clips to the dog's normal collar. When the dog pulls, both loops tighten restricting the movement of the whole head. This keeps the dog under control and stops them pulling. The action is very gentle and doesn't pull up into the dogs eyes. The Gencon can fit any size dog as it is fully adjustable.

### **Canni Collar**

The Canni-collar fits around the dog's neck like a normal collar with an extra loop which goes over the dog's nose. The lead is then attached onto two loops above the collar. The Canni-collar works by pulling the nose gently down when the dog pulls which will stop the dog pulling and keep them under control.

### **Classic Step-in-Harness**

This harness is very easy to fit, sturdy and puts no pressure on the dog's throat. These are best suited to toy/small breeds.

### **Stop Pull Harness**

When your dog pulls, this harness gently tightens and lifts, reducing traction and encourages your dog to stop pulling. It has two faux fur sleeves which sit under the dogs armpits for added comfort and to prevent rubbing. Best suited to small/medium breeds.

### **Halti Harness**

The benefit of a Halti harness is that it gives the handler total control over the dog's chest and shoulders and so sets the direction in which the dog can move. Best used with a double ended lead clipped to both the chest and shoulder rings on the harness. Best suited to medium/large breeds.

### **Training your dog to wear a head collar.**

Some dogs will need training and encouragement before they will walk nicely on a head collar. The best and most effective way to train your dog to wear a head collar is simply through positive reinforcement.

First get your dog used to having the head collar over their nose. Ask your dog to sit then place the loop over the nose, give a treat, remove the loop.



*Jodie had a bake off recently in aid of Woodside Animal Centre.*

*Her cakes were a huge hit and she raised a whopping £138.73 for the animals!!*

*As you can see she really worked hard and her cakes were delicious.*

*So a huge thank you from all of the animals at Woodside.*



*We always have a selection of dogs suitable for rehoming to loving homes.  
Call 0116 233 6677*



*Rooney is a wonderful affectionate lad, he is a typical lurcher who takes great comfort from being around people. He gets on well with other dogs, particularly other lurcher and greyhound types, however due to his strong chase instinct he will need to go to a home without cats or other small animals. Rooney is looking for owners who will be able to provide him with safe opportunities to run and express his natural lurcher behaviours.*



*Simba is a lovely lad, he is very friendly but can get a little excited at times. He knows some basic commands and has been sociable with the other dogs he has met. Simba would benefit from training classes and would suit an active home, with a family with older children. Simba would need to go to a cat free home.*

## Why Does my Dog Pull?- Part 2

Repeat this several times extending the time you leave the loop over the nose, then put the head collar on fully, treat, clip the lead to the rings above the collar if using a Canni collar, or clip the attached lead to the regular collar if using a Gencon, treat again. Always ask your dog to sit before putting a head collar on.

If your dog tries to scratch at the head collar, turn in the opposite direction, ask for sit then treat. Do not try to fight with your dog, this will only frustrate him more.

All harnesses and head collars should be properly fitted to ensure they are being used correctly and effectively.

If you are struggling with your dog and are unsure of the right walking aid for you and your dog, we are always here to help. You can bring your dog in for a fitting. We sell a range of harnesses and head collars in our on-site shop or you can call the centre for advice.

Written by Christine

## Loughborough Canal Bank Festival

Picture this... a warm summer day by the canal, the sun shining, pottering along in a barge then suddenly.....OMG!!

I was a first timer at the Loughborough Canal Festival this year, so I wasn't sure what to expect. However what I didn't anticipate was the sheer volume of people who came and the number of barges moored up along the canal for about a mile stretch. It was great! The atmosphere was one of camaraderie and friendliness. People from all walks of life were there selling all manner of things; bric a brac, food, hats and knick knacks. There were also face painters, canal faring folk and even a steel drum band! Fun, fun and more fun!

Our stall proudly flew the RSPCA flag. On one side we had our fundraising stock – figurines, address books, door stops, trays, mugs and much much more. On the other side we had our famous pet tombola – a pound a go, a prize every time. I was hoarse after the weekend from shouting it out to anyone within earshot. Steve said never mind bringing the foghorn when we've got me – cheeky beggar!!

On the Sunday we decided to take some dog and cat food to sell which went down really well (pardon the pun). By lunchtime we had sold it all. Unfortunately the pet tombola still had some goods left, so we decided to knock everything down to 50p. An absolute bargain!! This sold the majority of stuff but we found we had two things left.... a bag of mouse food and a bag of gerbil food. By Sunday late afternoon it was winding down, the punters went home and we packed away. I knew I was going to ache the following day but it was all worth it. We raised a whopping £688.72 which was fantastic.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped at this event, namely, Joyce who fed, watered and generally looked after us all. Vic for his wonderful tents/gazebos and toilet(!) as well as helping on the stalls and Sally and her husband Mark for all their help with setting up, selling and packing away.

Last but by no means least, thanks to Steve for providing comedy value, for never giving us a dull moment and for your selling ability – Most of all a big thanks for organising the motley crew of volunteers!

Roll on next year!  
Written by Becky

## Dogs die In Hot Cars!

Here we are in the middle of a British summer, and as I write this it is around 17 degrees outside, not exactly balmy, but even so a car parked in the sunshine can become very uncomfortable in a very short space of time. It is on occasions like this that a trip out to the park or a day out in the car with your dog can end with serious consequences for all involved.

We have probably all, at some point or another, been aware of the campaigns and horror stories reported in the media, yet still people need reminding that dogs die in hot cars. So as the weather begins to get warmer here are a few things to bear in mind to help you avoid your dog becoming another casualty.

Don't leave your dog alone in a car. If it's very warm outside and you're going out in the car, think very carefully about what you are going to do with your dog. It can get unbearably hot in a car on a sunny day, even when it's not that warm. In fact, when it's 22°C/72°F outside, the temperature inside a car can soar to 47°C/ 117°F within 60 minutes. Unlike humans, dogs pant to help keep themselves cool. In a hot stuffy car, dogs can't cool down – leaving a window open or a sunshield on your windscreen won't keep your car cool enough.

We also need to be aware that under the Animal Welfare Act everyone has a legal duty to care for their animals and if they were to put an animal at risk, they could face prosecution. If you see a dog in a car on a warm day please call the Police on 999. The biggest danger to a dog in this situation is heatstroke, which can be fatal. Do everything you can to prevent it. Some dogs are more prone to heatstroke, for example, dogs with short snouts, fatter or heavily muscled dogs and long-haired breeds, as well as very old or very young dogs. If dogs are unable to reduce their body temperature, they will develop heatstroke. There are some signs to look for:

- Heavy panting
- Profuse salivation
- A rapid pulse
- Very red gums/tongue
- Lethargy
- Lack of coordination
- Reluctance or inability to rise after collapsing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- A loss of consciousness in extreme circumstances.

If your dog shows any symptoms of heatstroke, move them to a shaded, cool area and ring your vet for advice immediately. Heatstroke should always be treated as an emergency. Dogs suffering from heatstroke urgently need to have their body temperature gradually lowered. Immediately douse your dog with cool (not cold) water, to avoid shock – you could put your dog in a shower and run cool water over them, or use a spray filled with cool water and place your dog in the breeze of a fan.

Let your dog drink small amounts of cool water. Continue to douse them with cool water until their breathing starts to settle – never cool your dog so much that they begin to shiver. Once you have cooled your dog down you should take them straight to the veterinary surgery.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Laura and Gray on the birth of their beautiful baby boy!

## Goodbye

Goodbye and good luck to Debbie and Kay, both of whom have been at Woodside for many years. We wish you well for the future.

## Warm Welcome

A very warm welcome to Christine, our new animal care assistant who joined us in May and to Richard Robinson Pyatt who has joined us in July as our Birstall Charity Shop Manager.

We wish you every success in your new roles.

## Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to DHL and MARS for spending a day volunteering at Woodside. The difference they have made is amazing, they have undertaken, Gardening Tasks, Painting, Dog Walking and Grooming and Fundraising set up.

If your company would like to spend a day volunteering at Woodside, please contact Lisa Smith (Branch Manager) on 0116 2324931 or email her on [lisa.smith@rspcaleicester.org.uk](mailto:lisa.smith@rspcaleicester.org.uk)



## 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)*

## 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.*

*Mrs Tovey & Family  
Ms V Robinson  
Mr and Mrs Garner  
Mr and Mrs Patel  
Mr D Howard & Miss Howard  
Anne and Oliver Murrily  
Mrs Taylor  
Mrs Ellsdon  
Mrs Burton  
Miss Swithenbank  
Miss Potter  
Ann and Daniel Raven  
Mrs P Marsland  
Mr L Mayes  
Ms J Potter  
Mr G Heggs  
Mrs B Boston  
Mrs V Johnson  
Mr J Williams  
Mrs Rushin  
Ms Rattenbury  
Ros and Rod Adam  
Mrs S Morrel  
Mrs A Donaldson  
Mr B Pankhania  
Mrs M Slater  
Mr Walton  
Mr Atton  
Mrs Jones  
Miss Hallam  
Ms J Hutton  
Mrs B Westley  
Mr Morton  
Maureen Hodgson  
Elizabeth Woodville Primary School  
Frisby CE Primary School  
Mr Lakhani, Costcutters.  
Leicester.  
Mollie Jane Herbert  
Mr N.J Irons  
Doreen Hutchinson  
Alec Purcell & Henry Straw.  
Jodie Friend  
Harlie Richardson, Hebe Jackson, Emily Langley, Hannah Harvey & Baily Richardson.  
Blaby Pet & Garden Centre.*

## Missing Cats – Report them, even the oldies

The older a cat gets, the likelihood of its disappearance being reported to an animal sanctuary should that cat go missing dramatically falls. This is due to the common thought among cat-owners that cats will often run away to die. This however, is not always the case as the disappearance of a pet may be due to the fact that they have got lost and cannot find their way home or they may have been involved in a road traffic accident. Should this have happened, the cat will often be handed into an RSPCA animal shelter, in the hope that the cat's owners can be located and the cat can be returned home. For this reason, animal centres are urging cat owners to report their cat's disappearance as soon as they are aware that the cat has gone missing. The age of the animal should not be a reason to prevent the report of its disappearance. Once the animal centre becomes aware that a cat is missing and the owners have given a description of the animal, then the centre will be able to contact the owners should the cat be handed in. To help improve the success rate of animals being safely returned, all pet owners are advised to have their pets microchipped.

If you are interested in having your pet chipped, please contact us on 0116 2336677.

## Volunteering at Woodside

Ever wondered what it's like to be a volunteer? Well I've been volunteering here at Woodside for the past two years and I don't regret a single moment.

The staff are all friendly and are really appreciative of you giving up your free time.

I'm affectionately known as "Poo" at the centre. I'm constantly asking questions, coming up with fundraising ideas and challenging decisions. I know they miss me when I'm not in!

What do I do as a volunteer? Quite a lot actually! I started with walking the dogs and have since helped clean out kennels on Christmas Day and New Year's Day and helped with weighing, grooming and microchipping.

I socialise puppies and adult dogs and have cared for new dogs who struggle on entry to the centre. I deal with dogs that have been mistreated and of course cleaned up after them, hence the nickname!

I've managed to match dogs to the right family, answered the phones and also helped on reception.

There have been tears and lots of laughs. My highlight of last year was appearing on East Midlands News!

The centre holds lots of fundraising events throughout the year which are great fun. I've helped at the Christmas fairs and sponsored dog walks and come the summer I've asked if I can do a sponsored "sit" in / sleep over in the kennels to help raise desperately needed funds.

And what's next? Well the centre is also desperate for home visitors so I've started training for this job too.

Volunteering is demanding but so very rewarding and it's all worth it when you watch a dog go home. Would I ever stop? No way. Sometimes you have heart breaking days, but you just have to look into the dog's eyes and they tell you please don't give up.

Unfortunately not every dog's tale has a happy ending but with an increase in volunteers these animals' chances increase.

Written by "Poo"

## Forthcoming Events

### Knighton Park Family Fun Day

**Sunday 4th September 2011**

11.00 - 17.00

Knighton Park, South Kingsmead Road, Knighton

We will be travelling to Knighton Park with our 'fun' dog show, our agility equipment and various side stalls to raise awareness and much-needed funds for Woodside. This is one of the biggest park events held within Leicester and attracts a great number of people. There is a fantastic array of entertainment & things of interest to see and do.

So if you want a fantastic day out, do come and give your support. You will see us in the centre of the field with our gazeboes, our stalls and the bunting flying proudly!

### Car Boot Sale

**Saturday 17th September 2011**

11.00 – 15.00

Woodside Animal Centre, Scudamore Road

Come and grab some bargains and give Woodside your support at our last Car Boot sale of the season. As usual there will be hot and cold food available all day and there are lots of interesting stalls to peruse.

## Previous Events

### 24th March - QUIZ NIGHT

A great evening was had by all at our first quiz night of the year! There were lots of fun prizes & the added bonus of 'waiter service' to table so that our quizzers could concentrate on using that grey matter! Many thanks to Groby Ex Servicemens club for supplying the venue.

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

We had a good response to our week long instore collection at 5 local Tesco stores around Leicestershire. This was part of a nationwide campaign enabling the RSPCA to raise awareness and for the Branches to raise much needed funds.

Our fantastic collectors did sterling work and we managed to raise just under £2000. Our thanks go to Tesco for allowing us to collect and of course to their generous customers who took the time to have a chat and drop something into our collecting tubs.

### 22nd May - Sponsored Dog Walk

Lots of you came along with your four legged friends and helped us raise much needed funds for Woodside Animal Centre. The event was held again at the beautiful Thornton Reservoir and our grateful thanks go to Severn Trent Water for allowing us to use this fantastic venue.

The total raised will be somewhere around £1500 by the time all sponsors have collected. This event will be best remembered for the strong winds that blew through our gazebo and across the reservoir, carrying a pile of paperwork with it, just a little bit reminiscent of the Colin Firth scene from "Love Actually"!

## 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*

