

INSIDE



Summer 2020 Edition

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RSPCA Leicestershire Branch
Registered Charity No. 222621

WOODSIDE
ANIMAL CENTRE

MEET OUR NEW BRANCH MANAGER



This is a massive hello and a ‘Woodside Welcome’ to all supporters and friends as we hit the middle of summer in what can only be described as a memorable year nationally, and sadly, a very difficult one for many.

As this newsletter gets circulated, I will be starting in my new post as Branch Manager, which I expect will be a hugely rewarding yet challenging role. I have already been very impressed by the staff, led by Woodside’s Operations Manager, Jade, who have managed to keep all resident cats and dogs safe, comfortable, and happy despite the lockdown limitations. This has been made harder since our countless volunteers have not been able to come in to support us. This determination to put animal welfare first has been what attracted me to the RSPCA as a career, which started back in 1990, and I have been working for, or alongside, the charity now for 30 years.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months and years, as well as hearing about and getting to know your ex-Woodside four-legged friends!

As I write this, I am crossing fingers and paws that we will be able to fully re-open Woodside and the shops very soon after the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

We have some very exciting ideas and plans to share for Woodside and the charity shops over the coming months - watch this space!

In the meantime, enjoy this Summer Newsletter and please keep supporting us and spreading the word in any way you can.

Amanda Lovett

KEEP YOUR PETS COOL THIS SUMMER



I remember June 24th as it was a very hot day and I was in my car with my cat. We were waiting to see the vet, with the cool fan on it was cooler in the car than outside. Never the less my cat was panting heavily. Cats don't often travel in cars but dogs do and I am amazed that dog owners still leave their pets unattended in cars in hot weather. It takes only six minutes for a dog to die in a hot car.

Cats and dogs can suffer from heatstroke. The symptoms are heavy panting, distress and dribbling or foaming at the mouth. Dogs and cats can only sweat through their paw pads not through their skin and this plus their fur coats makes them prone to overheating. They should therefore be kept as cool as possible.

Always have plenty of drinking water available for pets and replace it frequently during hot weather. Add a couple of ice cubes especially if you are going out. Create a cooler room in the house by closing curtains and open windows to assist air circulation, remembering security. A cardboard box is a cool retreat for cats. Close the box completely and cut out two holes at either end for an entrance and exit.

Replace fleece or fluffy bedding with cotton towels or old sheets and pillow cases.

Special cooling mats can now be bought. Groom pets more often especially those with thick coats and stroke them with a damp cloth which can first be placed in a refrigerator.

Dogs still need exercise so take them for walks early or later in the day when it is cooler.

Set an easy pace. Dogs can't foresee the consequences of energetic exercise such as overheating. Breathing problems can be exacerbated especially with flat faced breeds and they may find panting difficult so don't wear them out! Very large breeds or overweight dogs also react adversely to heat so try to walk in shaded areas. Pavements and roads can get very hot so 'test' the temperature with your hand to avoid painful paws.

Just like humans, cats and dogs can develop sunburn and skin cancer. This is especially relevant to pets with fur that is white or pale; thin or patchy and pets with pink skin that is exposed on ears, nose or belly. Apply sun cream to these areas. Dogs, unlike most cats, like water so a paddling pool would be appreciated.

With a little planning and by observing our pets for unusual behaviour we can have a safe and enjoyable Summer with them.

Liz Allison

OPEN GARDEN & PLANT SALE

Lockdown has been difficult for us all but it has made fundraising extremely difficult for Woodside as we are unable to hold any of our scheduled events this year due to the imposed restrictions.

Supporters have been brilliant and have sent us donations, joined the Woodside Lottery or responded generously to our social media call-outs. Throughout lockdown, we have held a socially distanced plant stall at their gate at their Glenfield home. This has proved to be a very popular local destination point as more and more people have had time to tidy their gardens and then have found it difficult to find plants to display in the newly cleared patches.



Families have taken to their outdoor activities and have started to grow vegetables and to encourage wildlife into their gardens and have valued the opportunity to chat at the gate then taking home tomato plants, pumpkin plants, plants to encourage butterflies and bees and to put up a bat box, bird feeder, bird nest box or a bug hotel thanks to Bruce's continued production of these items. Locals have stopped and bought a range of things after seeing the stall when on their walks, jogs or when cycling by.

The stall has successfully raised, to date, £1600 for Woodside and although there are more places open where purchases for the garden can be made as restrictions have lifted, we now have a group of "regulars" who drop by to discuss their improved gardens, animals, wildlife and how the lockdown has affected us all. Issues such as pet health and the new ways we have had to deal with taking our pets to the vet and how to cope with having to make the awful decisions about an elderly beloved pet and not being allowed to be with them at the end. All at a socially distanced plant stall!





Someone else who decided to help Woodside was Irene in Cropston.

She has supported the work of Woodside for some years now arranging for talks about the work of the RSPCA as Snowy Owl for her Brownies.

Annually she opens her garden as part of the Cropston and Thurcaston Open Gardens weekend and having got her garden visitor ready with the extra time she had spent through lockdown, she decided, rather than to waste an opportunity, to hold a socially distanced Open Garden Event for Woodside.

Despite the inclement weather and on the Sunday the football, we are very pleased to say that she raised over £500 which is amazing!

Talking to the visitors, there was a clear indication that everyone who visited, appreciated the opportunity to wander around Irene's garden and to pick up plant bargains and to talk to fellow animal supporters. We'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks Irene for having the courage to hold this "socially distanced" 2-day Open Garden event in aid of Woodside.

As Woodside has been closed to the public during these unprecedented times, this has made any form of fundraising difficult so we are particularly grateful for the generous support of those who have donated. It costs £20,000 each week to run our Branch home and without generous support from people across the Leicestershire and Rutland area, we have found it a struggle to plug the gap as we have not been able to hold the planned events due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

Ruth & Sue
Woodside Trustees



FINDING FOREVER HOMES

Misty



Beautiful 2 years old Misty was left tied to our gates at the start of 2020. After winning her cruelty case and a long wait for lockdown restrictions to ease, she was finally adopted by her wonderful forever family.



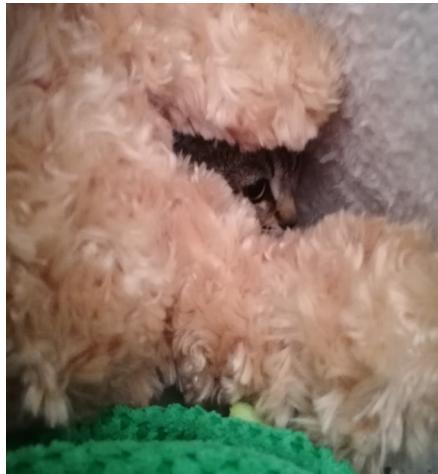
Solaris

After spending over 17 weeks in our care, sweet Solaris was able to say goodbye to the stray cat life and join her forever family.



Instagram @woodsideanimalcentre
Facebook @Woodside Animal Centre - RSPCA Leicester

SAY CHEESE



12 week old Cheese is semi feral and came in with an inspector after being found stuck behind a fence panel. She spent a few days in the cattery but was absolutely terrified so I took her home to foster.

She spent the first 3 days hiding behind a crate in my spare room and hissed and spat at me whenever I approached her. I spent the evenings sat in the corner of the room ignoring her and after a couple of days she started creeping around the room whilst I sat there.

She started playing with toys so rather than trying to handle her I played with her using fishing rod style toys which let her stay at a distance she was comfortable with but helped her relax and start forming positive associations with people.

She also loves food so I encouraged her to explore the room and interact with her surroundings by hiding treats around the room and leaving her to find them. A couple of days later she started approaching me, which I rewarded by throwing treats away from me whenever she came towards me.

She would sit next to me and wanted company but didn't want to be handled so I just sat with her for a few days without actually trying to touch her. Now she comes over and initiates contact by rubbing against my hands. She loves a chin rub and has started purring (she scared herself the first time she purred)!

She's still really nervous and hissy if startled by sudden movements or noises and she doesn't want to be picked up or handled much but she's making definite progress.

We're looking forward to Cheese continuing to progress into a happy and confident cat and we're sure the perfect home is out there when she's ready to find it.

Paisley Drescher
Animal Care Assistant



RSPCA Leicestershire Branch
Registered Charity No. 233621



Woodside Lottery



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