

INSIDE

Autumn 2020 Edition

All the latest news from INSIDE Woodside Animal Centre



HOWL-O-WEEN

Join us for our Online Halloween Pet Show

Leicester's Loneliest Dog : A Happy Ending

Online Auction Fundraiser : Support Us Today

Registered Charity Number: 222621



RSPCA Leicestershire Branch
Registered Charity No. 222621

WOODSIDE
ANIMAL CENTRE

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WELCOME



As the vibrant colours of autumn close around us, we had all hoped very much for better news in relation to getting our lovely volunteers back on site again at Woodside. It seems that Covid-19 is sticking around for far longer than anyone ever expected, and March, when lockdown started, seems an age ago.

We also wish we could open up for more visitors to come for a look around but we are having to stick to Government guidelines and drastically restrict numbers on site.

So this welcome comes with a message to say we are all missing you and to those of you who have volunteered here and wish to return, we are thinking of you and can't wait to get you back on board. The dogs and cats miss you too!

The good news is that we are managing to carry on with rehoming anyway so a lot of our long-stay residents have found their new happy ever afters during these past few months.

Please don't forget us and stay in touch, I can't wait to meet you all before too long.

Amanda Lovett, RSPCA Leicestershire Branch

Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Where
Woodside's Online Auction Full info on page 10.	2nd October - 30th October	Online Event - Facebook @woodsideanimalcentre
Howl-O-Ween Full info on page 16.	16th October - 31st October	Online Event - Facebook @woodsideanimalcentre

New Opening Hours

Pet Shop

Day	Time
Monday & Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday to Sunday	10 am - 4 pm

Animal Centre

Day	Time
Monday & Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday to Sunday	APPOINTMENT ONLY

If you wish to make an appointment to visit the Animal Centre, please complete the contact form on the profile page of the animal you wish to visit. If you have any queries regarding our new adoption process or you would like to find out more about an animal available for adoption, please don't hesitate to contact us.

What's New at Woodside Pet Shop?

Nutriment, quality raw food for dogs and cats, is now available to purchase from Woodside Animal Centre's Pet Shop!

Benefits of Nutriment, according to their customers:

- Better overall health
- Better digestion and less digestive upsets such as colitis, runny stools
- Fewer and better formed stools
- Better smelling breath, less tartar, cleaner teeth
- Glossier coats
- More stamina
- No itchiness
- Food enjoyment
- A calmer, yet more focused, nature

Visit us to browse our collection or call us to arrange delivery right to your front door.

Woodside Pet Shop is non-profit, so all proceeds made support the hundreds of animals that come into our care every year.



Nutriment raw dog food.



Nutriment raw cat food.

Finding Bully a Furever Home



Bully when he first arrived at Woodside Animal Centre.

9 years young Bully is possibly Woodside's sweetest resident, he stops to greet everyone who walks by, gives the best kisses and loves nothing more than a good snuggle on the sofa.

Bully's adoration for those who care for him is second to none, which is why our team are yearning to find him the best furever home the world has to offer.

Bully was taken into RSPCA care in December 2019, when he was found living in filthy conditions at a puppy breeding farm.

Our poor boy had conjunctivitis in both eyes, pressure sores on his legs and

as he was unable to stand up or even walk for more than a minute before needing to lay down, he desperately needed BOAS surgery! BOAS is a combination of upper airway problems seen in dogs that are bred to have short noses and high domed foreheads (eg Pugs, French Bulldogs, English Bulldogs). This breeding for short noses causes an excess of soft tissues in the upper airways that obstructs airflow and forces the animal to rely on open mouth breathing.

Bully also had some other health issues, such as infected ears and wobbly back legs, as well as needing vital vaccinations and worming treatment which he hadn't received at the puppy farm.

Despite all of the pain, suffering and long trips to the vet, Bully continues to be a loving, friendly, trusting and incredibly kind soul!

You may have seen on our website that Bully was cleared as ready for adoption earlier this year but after some further treatment was needed, we wanted to keep him in our care for just a little longer.

However, after 9 very long months, thousands of pounds raised and spent on medical treatment, Bully is finally able to say goodbye to kennel life and begin his search for a pawsome companion and home.

We won't sugar coat it, Bully will need a very specific home with adult only companions, no other pets and a snuggly couch to snooze on is a must! He will also require on-going medication and there's a possibility that he will need further surgery in the future. All of this can be discussed in greater detail with our team by contacting our Animal Centre. Bully will without a doubt, need his forever companion to be experienced with his breed, this is due to his on-going health problems which are sadly inevitable with some Bull breeds.

Despite all of Bully's health issues, he is now pain free and is simply dreaming of a fresh start in life. If you can open your heart and home to our beloved Bully, contact us today using the following link or call our centre for more information:

<https://www.rspcaleicester.org.uk/pet/view/bully/>



Bully during recovery from BOAS surgery.

Sweet At Heart

We are very lucky as a registered charity to receive support from incredible companies throughout Leicestershire and Rutland, who enable us to achieve our fundraising goals. As a self-funded branch of the RSPCA, we are truly grateful for the support which aids us to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome dogs and cats in need throughout the county. This autumn we are very excited to announce a brand new supporter of Woodside, Sweet at Heart.

'Sweet at Heart was formed by a couple of 90's kids who have a passion for Pic 'n' Mix sweets since the demise of Woolworths. Our purpose is to provide all of those secret sweet tooth lovers with a wide range of products, that are relevant to both the youth of today and those who want to turn back the clock to the 'good old days' for others.'

- Louis and Baylee, Sweet At Heart



A selection of the many sweets available to purchase.

Louis contacted Woodside during the ease of lockdown, after his beloved Border Collie Jess passed away at the amazing age of 16. Jess was adopted from Woodside by Louis and his family and quickly became a much loved member of the household. To honour his memory, Sweet At Heart are now proudly supporting Woodside by ensuring we receive a donation every time they make a sale. The whole team at Woodside think this is just fabulous!

So, how does it work? Well, for every bag of sweets you buy, Sweet At Heart will donate £1 to Woodside Animal Centre - RSPCA Leicestershire Branch.

With tons of options to choose from, not only do you get to enjoy a tasty treat but your well spent money ensures that the animals in our care also get to enjoy a tasty meal, a warm bed and expert care until they are able to find their forever homes, just like Jess.

If you're looking to support your favourite animal charity and treat yourself while you're at it, then head over to:

<https://www.sweetatheart.co/>



Louis and Baylee visiting Woodside.

Winston, an Elder's Story

I have always been a cat person and we've had a number of cats over the years. The last one we had, Roo, we adopted as a kitten from a shelter (along with her sister) died in July at the grand old age of almost 21 years! So she shared a big chunk of our life and we were devastated when she passed away. We then turned our thoughts to adopting a new cat. No cat is the same, they are all unique and we were not looking to 'replace' Roo but just to start a new adventure with a furry friend. We knew we would adopt a rescue and we would go to Woodside as it is very close to our home. Initially, we were not sure who to adopt, we just knew we didn't want kittens as we don't have the energy any more!!

One of the wonderful things in lock down is that during our walks we came across one of Woodside trustees Ruth, who happens to live very near us. She was selling plants to raise money for the charity and we ended up sharing our thoughts on animals and gardening. This was a few weeks before we lost our Roo but when we did lose her, I told Ruth I was interested in adopting again. In one of our conversations, she mentioned Winston, an elderly cat of 15 who was at Woodside and had no luck in finding his forever home. I then went on the website and saw a picture of him and we fell in love!



Winston enjoying his new garden.

I also feel I had no choice in the matter as we immediately fell in love with him and within a day, he was part of our little family.

We do not know all of what he went through or even how long we will have him in our life but this is true even of younger cats, you cannot know how life will pan out. The shelter was very open in sharing what they knew about Winston and gave us his medical file, so we were reassured he was in good health for his age. Plus, he came with 4 weeks free health insurance. The shelter will give you lots of information about the animal you wish to adopt and answer all of your questions. Elderly cats deserve a second home and the feeling that you are helping such a gorgeous animal is really nice.

Winston has already rewarded us with many many cuddles and his lovely nature. I would encourage anyone to consider adopting an older animal. They are often overlooked and yet they do make the most wonderful pets. We certainly do not regret opening our hearts to Winston.

Marie (Winston's human)

I asked for more information and Woodside was so helpful. Despite lockdown, the process was very easy, they really did go out of their way to help us. Winston has now been with us a week and we could not be more delighted. He is beautiful, very cuddly, easy going and a great fit for us.

So why did we go for an elderly cat?

Firstly I think having looked after an elderly cat before helped, we knew how to look after a cat in their final years so were confident we could do this again. Elderly cats tend to be calmer, more easy going and they do love a good snooze near their favourite humans. No hyperactivity or scratching at furniture for them, well in my experience. They are wonderful stress busters, I have quite a stressful, busy job and my favourite part of the day is to sit on the sofa when I come back, a cat on my lap purring and it instantly takes the tension away.



I think it is fair to say he has settled very well and has forgotten about his chequered past. - Marie

Crazy Kitten Lady Chronicles The Good, The Bad and The Snuggly!



Woodside Animal Centre's cattery.

Hi, I'm Anna, I'm also well known by the nickname 'The Crazy Kitten Lady' and I've been fostering at Woodside Animal Centre for the past 4 years. I've had over 50 kittens come into my home before leaving to find their forever families and each kitten has been a joy, they've all had their own personalities and quirks and I have fallen in love with every single one!

So join me, as I give you all a sneak peak into my life as a hand-rear fosterer. You'll learn all about my routine, some of the common issues I face, obviously see some adorable kittens along the way and maybe learn some interesting facts you never knew.

What does hand rearing really mean?

Hand rearing is a term that's used when discussing fostering new born kittens up to the age of around 4 weeks old.

If a kitten has been orphaned then it's my job to become the kitten's surrogate mum and do everything for them that she would usually do.

With over 8 million cats in the UK, it's not surprising that the number of stray kittens needing our help has grown dramatically over the years. That's why Woodside is passionate about educating people and re-enforcing the importance of neutering pets!



Albi, 3 days old.

Kitten routine – newborn to 3 weeks old

Hand-rear kittens need feeding around the clock with specialised kitten formula and bottles.

- This starts with 2 hourly feeds, day and night and gradually increases as they grow. (I don't get a full night's sleep until the babies are around 3 weeks old.)
- With every feed I have to stimulate the babies to help them go to the toilet. Mum would usually lick at their rear ends, however I personally opt to use tissue or cotton-wool (I might be a crazy kitten lady but I'm not that crazy!)
- Weighing the kittens is the most important part of the routine. A daily gain equals a healthy and happy kitten
- Then a little brush with a babies toothbrush to help teach them to clean themselves and bring up any wind they may have and it's back to bed they go!



Luna, 7 days old.

- The kitten's sleep area needs to be cleaned at least once a day, but this varies dependent on if the kittens make any mess. Everywhere needs to be washed down with specialized disinfectant and all blankets removed and replaced.
- The kittens need somewhere comfortable to sleep. Half of their enclosure needs to be heated so that they can keep warm but they need to have the option to move somewhere cooler too.

Kitten routine 3 weeks to 6 weeks



Jasper, 3 weeks old.

- From around 3-6 weeks old the kittens start to move around a lot more and become much more interested in interacting with their siblings and with you.
- Supervised time with small, plush toys or babies teething rings help the kittens with their newly growing teeth, a great way to discourage them using your fingers. (A habit you really don't want them to pick up.)
- A litter tray is now introduced into their enclosure and they are encouraged to use it when ever you stimulate them, teaching them exactly where they should go when they need the toilet.

Kitten routine 6 weeks to 9 weeks old

- At 6 weeks old the weaning process begins and bottle feeds are slowly reduced. Instead of their bottles, milk and meat are mixed together into a slurry and poured onto a shallow plate. Using a small plastic spoon or even your fingers you help the kittens to taste their new food and get accustomed to lapping from a bowl. (Smelling of cat meat and sour milk quickly becomes 'the norm'!)

- Every couple of days less milk's added to the mix and the texture of the kitten meat is slowly increased, until the kittens are happily eating basic meat pouches. (change in diet makes for a change in toilet habits and can often cause you to yo-yo between stages.)

- TOYS, TOYS AND MORE TOYS – the kittens are playing and they need to chase, climb and run around with every toy they can get their paws on. A group of kittens will tussle and play fight whilst a single kitten will play alone or want lots of your attention.

- At 9 weeks old the kittens are usually given their first vaccination and health check by the vet and they're ready to find their forever family. After second vaccination at 12 weeks old we say a fond goodbye to the babies as they begin their new adventures in their forever home.



Roo, 9 weeks old.

It's a very bitter sweet moment but it has to be done. Seeing them survive and live wonderful lives is our reward and if we kept every kitten we fostered we wouldn't be able to help the other kittens that desperately need our help.

As a hand-rearing fosterer, the kittens in my care are extremely young and fragile. They often have many complex medical issues and require specific supplies for them to thrive, not to mention around the clock care.

I know that 2020 has been a tough year for everyone and appreciate that during these uncertain times we've all worried about what the future might hold for us, but during this past year Woodside Animal Centre has struggled tremendously due to the effects of Covid-19. Our Fun packed family events and fundraising opportunities have been cancelled and we have seen a drastic decline in donations.

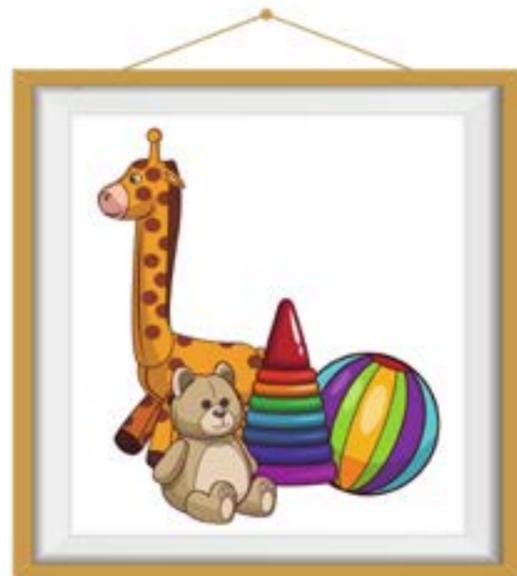
Without the help of our fantastic, kind and generous supporters Woodside would not be able to rescue, rehome and rehabilitate the hundreds of animals that it does every year. So please consider supporting this fantastic charity today!

Thank you, Anna.



Adoption photos of (left to right) Roo, Jasper, Luna, Albi.

Charity Auction
Starts 8 am, 2nd October | Ends 11 pm, 30th October



Join our online auction to help raise funds for Woodside Animal Centre. We have a large range of items for sale, suitable for the whole family.

Simply Go To: @woodsideanimalcentre on Facebook to start bidding.

Full details and T's & C's can be found on our website:
www.rspcaleicester.org.uk/fundraising-events/



RSPCA Leicestershire Branch
Registered Charity No. 222621



Online Charity Shopping



Woodside's ebay page.

You can now shop online from the comfort and safety of your home at Woodside Animal Centre's ebay charity shop. Grab a bargain, raise money and help support animals in need.

All proceeds made go directly towards funding our animal centre, which rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes over 800 cats and dogs every year. Our dedicated team work 365 days of the year to ensure every single animal that enters our centre, receives the care they need to have a long and fulfilled life.

Please be aware that we are only responsible for items posted by this account and not those fundraising on our behalf. If you're unsure, we will always promise to give 100% of the money made to Woodside Animal Centre - RSPCA Leicester Branch.

From stylish clothes, shoes, accessories and home furnishings, to toys, gifts and collectives. We sell a large range of items suitable for the whole family, including our furry friends, all available at affordable prices.



A large selection of items available for you to purchase.

Support us today by searching 'rspcaleicester' on ebay or click this link:

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rspcaleicester?trksid=p2047675.l2559>

Leicester's Loneliest Dog



Bull lurcher Wolverine came into Woodside's care in 2018 at just 4 years old, when an RSPCA Inspector rescued him from a cruel life of badger baiting. Scared, confused and covered in scars, Wolverine wasn't sure about his new environment. However, after realising he was now safe and most importantly loved, he quickly became one of the team.

Wolverine's cruelty case took a lengthy 16 months to go through court at the end of 2019, we received the fantastic news that Wolverine had won and he was now free from a life of cruelty. Now signed into our care, the difficult journey of finding his forever home began.

In September Wolverine celebrated his 2 year anniversary of coming into the care of Woodside. Although it has been awesome living in a safe environment with a warm bed and nutritious food, he wanted nothing more than to say

goodbye to kennel life and find his forever loving home.

Our excitement soon started to end when the months passed and no adopters came forward. In the 2 years Wolverine has spent with us, we have seen hundreds of dogs and cats leave to begin their new lives, which made it even harder to wonder just why no one was interested in our gentle boy.

He wasn't fussy and could live with children older than 11, he was eager to learn new tricks and worked really hard on learning how to be polite in a home environment. He didn't really like other animals, so this made it a little more difficult to find an adopter. However, he loved to snooze and spent much of his day snuggled up on the sofa, greeting people as they entered our centre. Due to his history and apparent chase drive, Wolverine needed to wear a muzzle when walking in public; he loves humans and will greet anyone who passes by but we can't say the same for wildlife. Thankfully, he is very comfortable wearing it and it hasn't stopped him from giving kisses and honorary face licks.



Not only did the 'no young children and no toher pets' rule set us back but Wolverine also faced some minor medical issues and the harsh reality of Covid-19 restrictions meant that adoption was off the cards for at least 2 months.

So, we put our thinking hats on, used all the resources we had, gathered our team and began operation rehome Leicester's Loneliest Dog!

We contacted radio stations, news outlets, shared his story with thousands of supporters on social media and had a wonderful photo shoot with one of our volunteer photographers Emily Reed.

<https://www.emilyreedphotography.com/>



Despite having a team of caring humans at Woodside to keep him company, Wolverine longed for the day he would say goodbye to kennel life and hello to a second chance in the big wide world.

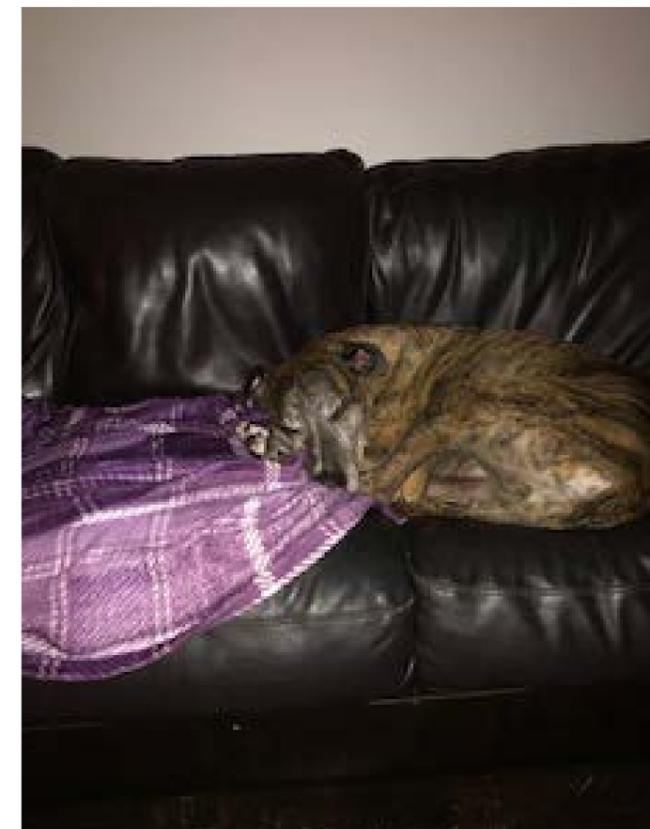
After more than 2 years at Woodside Animal Centre, thousands of pounds worth of grooming, medical and basic care costs and countless memories made, that day finally came!

In September 2020, Wolverine was finally adopted at 6 years young and his adventure has begun in his loving forever home.

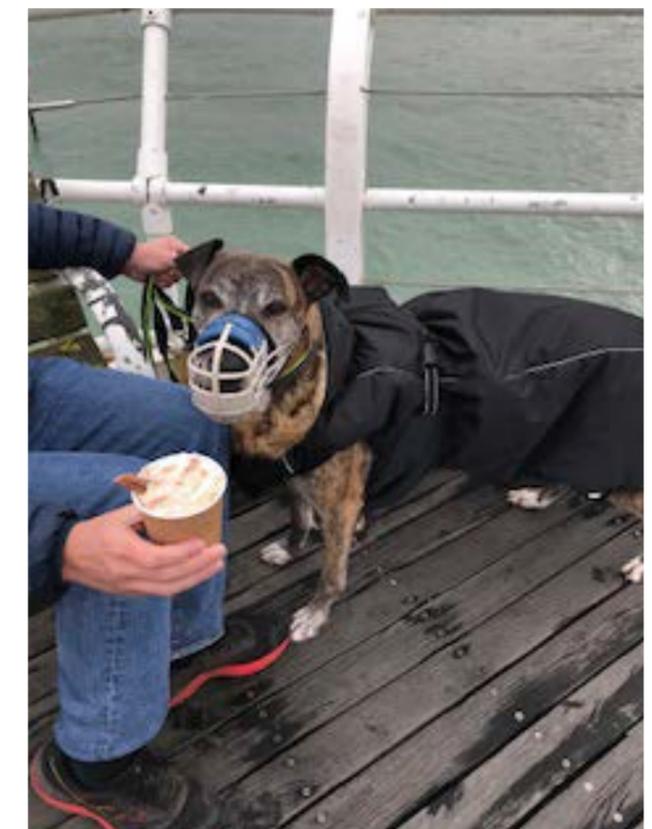


Wolverine saying goodbye to the team.

Hello to all my friends at Woodside. I'm enjoying my first holiday at the seaside. I love being with my new mum and dad and they really love me. I miss you all but I'm very happy, content and living my best Life! lots of love, Wolfie xxx



The snuggly sofa he's only been able to dream of.



Wolverine's first ever holiday, a trip to the seaside.



Our events have been spirited away by the ghoulish Covid-19, so our fundraising teams are trying not to be spooked by the loss of funds and instead are cooking up a storm of ideas, including a treat for Halloween.

Join us from Friday 16th October to Friday 31st October for our online fundraising event, Howl-O-Ween!

How To Join:

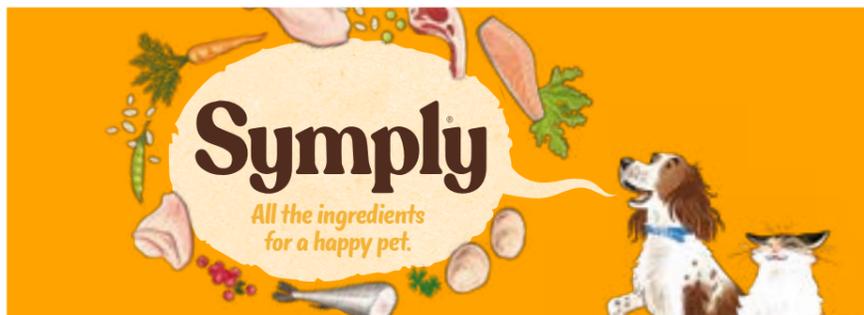
- Head over to our Facebook page from Friday 16th October: @woodsideanimalcentre to enter a class and pay your entry fee, which is just £4 per class. Once entered, you'll compete in a regional heat, against other animals and humans across Leicestershire & Rutland.
- On Friday 30th October, runners up and winners will be announced and prizes will be presented thanks to Woodside's non-profit Pet Shop and our wonderful sponsor Symply.
- On Saturday 31st October, winners will from regions across England & Wales will be entered into a live national final, hosted by RSPCA. Throughout the day, they'll get to meet winners from other regions, take part in super fun events, meet our fabulous celebrity supporters and finally, they'll compete to be crowned the winner of their class.

So don't be sad if you're missing out on the usual, same old, boring Halloween activities. Join us in raising money for Woodside Animal Centre - RSPCA Leicestershire Branch and see if you're in for a trick or treat.

Classes:

- **Trick and Treats** - Upload a video of your clever pet doing their best trick. All animals welcome.
- **Howl-o-Ween Pets** - All animals welcome and remember, we're judging your pet, not your photography skills.
- **Wise Wizards** - An all animal celebration, submit a picture of your pet in their elderly years.
- **Pumpkin Spiced Baby** - Hey cutie, feeling spooky? We can't wait to see pictures of your younger pets.
- **Spooky Art Class** - A class for the humans. From pet portraits to wildlife photography, sculpture or crafts this is a chance to get your talented talons working on a magical masterpiece. 3 winners will be crowned; age 0 to 9, 10 to 15 and 16+. Upload a picture or video of your artwork.

All proceeds made from this fundraiser go directly to Woodside Animal Centre - RSPCA Leicestershire Branch and remember, HAVE FUN!



Before & After

In July 2020, 9 Shih Tzus came into our care after their owner sadly became ill. Despite most of them being in moderately good health, some had minor health issues and all 9 desperately needed extensive grooming.

All 9 of our furry friends had severely overgrown, matted and tangled hair, which caused severe discomfort and additional medical issues.

The dogs had to undergo lengthy visits to the vets, to carry out the de-matting process, all under general anaesthetic.

In addition to the grooming, the dogs received vaccinations, microchips and neutering. After a few weeks of TLC and medical care from the vet and our wonderful animal care team, our group of Shih Tzu's have now begun the next chapter in their lives and are leaving us, one by one, for their forever homes.



BEFORE, extremely overgrown and tangled.



BEFORE, painfully matted.



AFTER, playful, happy and pain free.



AFTER, feeling loved and free.



Fireworks frighten animals

Fireworks can be a source of fear for many animals but it doesn't have to be that way. Don't ignore the problem – follow our top tips to make fireworks celebrations less frightening for your pets.

Keeping pets secure

Give your cat or dog somewhere to hide that they have access to at all times, e.g. under furniture or in a quiet corner.

Walk dogs during daylight hours. Keep dogs and cats indoors when fireworks are likely to be set off.

At nightfall close windows and curtains. Put on music to mask the sound of fireworks.

Make sure your pet can't escape if there's a sudden noise. Have them microchipped just in case.

Never punish your pets when they are scared as this will only make things worse in the long run.

It's fine to comfort your pet if it helps them relax, or leave them alone unless you think they will harm themselves.

