



Essex & Suffolk Annual Branch Report

2022

Group Statistics

- Incidents completed 4790
- WO's 11217, 2509 of which were collections and rescues
- 38 Cases submitted for consideration of prosecution where severe breach of the law has occurred.

2022 was an incredibly busy year for the society nationally with low staffing issues and experiencing the aftermath of the pandemic. There had been a large number of people taking on new pets which saw an increase in calls for people wanting to rehome their animals in 2022. There was a noticeable increase in dogs with behavioral issues coming into our care and we also saw a number of dumped puppies as the sales market dropped. Then to add to that later in the year we were faced with the cost of living crisis. There were a lot of animals coming into our care and one of the biggest challenges was housing them all. This had an impact on the frontline with us having to find alternative solutions to taking in animals which was challenging, especially when the animals were no longer wanted.

Ultimately 2022 was another year where the team worked tirelessly for animal welfare continuing to deal with Collections, Rescues and Enquiries into welfare. There was a lot of frustration involved where we struggled to get to as many animals as quickly as we would have liked due to the workload but they persevered achieving some great results along the way.

As the year went on we adapted to cope with the pressures and senior management incorporated a summer action plan. This amended our opening hours which allowed more staff to be able to cover the work coming in during the busier periods of the day for both field staff and NCC. We operated from 8am to 9pm in the summer and led to 8am - 8pm in the winter.

In March 2022 we had our new starter Animal Rescue Officer Suzi Fothergill complete her training and join the field for the first time. Suzi had worked at the RSPCA Harmsworth Hospital in Finsbury Park and brought a lot of experience from that role. Suzi has fit into the team well and crucially positioned in South Essex where there was a noticeable shortage in officers.

We continued to build the team to cope with the high workload and we welcomed new Animal Rescue Officers Enola Evans, Emma Baker, Jo Thorpe and Jen Richardson who started their training in May 2022. All four officers joined the field in September and were supported on their field training by the rest of the team.

In December Inspector Jess Bush went on maternity leave and welcomed her first child. Congratulations to Jess, we all wish her well and hope she enjoys 2023 with her daughter.

Our current Essex and Suffolk team is:-

Chief Inspector Adam Jones 16179
DCI Caroline Richardson 12755
Insp Natalie Bartle 837
Insp Jen Wildman 16994 (maternity leave)
Insp Jess Bush 15976 (maternity leave)
Insp Nicky Thorne 881
Insp Emma Beynon 15972
Insp Jason Finch 735
Insp Sian Ridley 14606
ARO Amy Marjoram 13704 (maternity leave)
ARO Natalie Read 11613
ARO Rebecca Yarrow 10322
ARO Suzi Fothergill
ARO Emma Baker
ARO Enola Evans
ARO Jen Richardson
ARO Jo Thorpe

As 2022 concludes we must reflect on some of the great achievements with some many animals rescued, many lives now improved by the actions and advice of our officers and some successful results in court getting justice for the animals who were severely mistreated.

This year also saw some amazing collaborative working and we continued working with branches and other agencies to deliver the best we possibly can for animal welfare. We really

couldn't have made such an impact without the support of all the branches, Police, Fire and Rescue, local authorities, partner charities and vets. Whether its support with taking on animals, transport, using their powers / skills we really couldn't do the work we do without the support of others and we are grateful for that support.

Stories in Essex/Suffolk

In yet another busy year on the frontline, here's a few stories we've shared this year.

Scared of heights?

Good view up there?!



Inspector Jess was called to the rescue of silly Loui the ragdoll cat in Colchester who had got himself stuck on the neighbours roof. Thankfully Colchester fire and rescue assisted and he was safely brought down to his family who were very worried about him.

Prickly Situation

Family of Prickles

Inspector Caroline Richardson collected these most adorable tiny hedgehogs. Their poor mother had got trapped in a fence and gave birth there. The caller put the babies in a box and released the mother, but on Carolines arrival she was able to find the mother hedgehog so they could all be reunited. Thankfully the mother accepted the babies back and started feeding them, as they were so tiny it was really for the best for mum to look after them. Reunited, they were all taken to South Essex Wildlife Hospital for lots of rest and TLC.



One Fun Day

Inspector **Nicky Thorne** attended the Suffolk central branch open day at the start of the summer. It's always great to chat to an inspector about all the interesting things they get to do in their job. Everyone of all ages loved having a peek into an inspector's van. What equipment can you see, and do you know what it's all used for?



Not so ugly ducklings



Inspector Nicky Thorne was called out to these adorable young cygnets in Leiston. Sadly the mother swan had died, and other adults were trying to drown them. So they were scooped up and taken to the wildlife hospital where they were very well looked after.

Suffolk Show

This Summer inspector Natalie Bartle attended the Suffolk show along with Suffolk rural police. Some of our jobs heavily rely on the services of the police to assist us, so it was a great chance to broaden our work with Suffolk rural police and for the two agencies to engage with the community in a positive way as well as highlighting the importance of partnership working. It was a Fantastic day, Natalie enjoyed chatting to all the show goers as well as all the children who were also very excited to see an RSPCA Inspector as well as Suffolk Rural Police.



Stoatally Adorable

Flowerpot stoat



Inspector Natalie Bartle collected this Stoatally adorable little stoat which was found lethargic and orphaned, curled up in a plant pot. Needing specialist rehabilitation, it was taken to our wonderful wildlife centre.

Spikey Blockage

Trapped hedgehog



Inspector Jess Bush came to the rescue of this poor hedgehog which had fallen down a drain. The drain was full of dirty smelly water, which the hedgehog would have been inhaling. So the hedgehog was taken to Wildlives, in Thorrington, where it was warmed up. It was confirmed that the hedgehog was a lactating female, so it was likely she had babies. She was given a long lasting antibiotic injection and quickly returned back to the location. The drain was also

covered up to prevent any future accidents.

Police open day

Fun day out for Lady



Inspector Jess Bush, Animal Rescue Officer Jo Thorpe and Lady the British Bulldog had a fun time at Braintree Police station open day. They engaged with lots of people and they were a big hit with the children. They were also able to give out lots of Advice, as well as leaflets and even received some donations for Danaher Animal home. It was a Great day all around!

Giant Gannet

Something unlikely in the Carpark



Gannets are such impressive beautiful birds, especially when you get up close to them. This awesome Gannet spent the day in a very busy car park in Dunwich. Inspector Nicky Thorne came to its rescue and he got some better accommodation in the form of RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre. The Gannet was underweight and had lice but had a good prognosis. These guys have great big beaks, perfect for catching fish. This however also means they have an attraction to shiny things, including eyes, so eye protection is a must when working with Gannets!

Poor Prince

Are you okay down there?

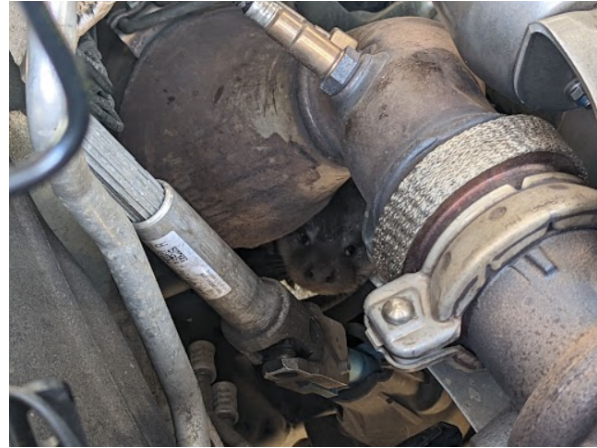
Double ARO team Jen Richardson and Natlie Read were stumped when they were called to this poor cat in Chelmsford stuck several metres below ground level. Local residents had concerns as he was so far down no one could get to him and he couldn't climb out. No one was able to gain entry via the property and he was too far down for the reach and rescue poles. Luckily with help from Essex fire Service Prince was rescued, having been stuck down there for two weeks! Thankfully Prince was microchipped, so it made for an even happier ending as Natlie and Jen were able to reunite Prince with his owners who lived very close by. Now please no more getting stuck in holes Prince!
Thank you Essex Fire service once again!



Otterly Cute!

Otter pup trapped in Tesco van

Inspector Caroline Richardson attended this super cute rescue of an otter pup! The pup had taken refuge inside a Tesco delivery truck and needed some help getting out. Luckily Caroline was able to rescue her and she was taken to a wildlife centre until she's old enough to be released. The twist to this story is Animal Rescue Officer Jen Richardson rescued a different otter pup in the same area a couple of days before and it was discovered they were siblings so were happily reunited at the wildlife centre.



Rare Rescue

Hare caught in netting

This was a very special job for Inspector Caroline Richardson who rescued an adult hare from being tangled in football netting. It was her first adult hare in the 12 years she's been working for the RSPCA! Unfortunately it did have a sore leg from being tangled but it was taken to South Essex Wildlife Hospital for rehab and they were also excited to be working with a hare. Unfortunately wildlife getting caught in netting is a common occurrence!



Look at this cutie!

Cost of living crisis

This beautiful chap is Shadow, a 9 year old Shepard Cross. It was discovered that Shadow was given away for free on the internet to an unsuitable home. It was also his 3rd or 4th home in 6 months after his initial owners gave him away as they couldn't afford to carry out investigations into a health issue. Shadow was taken into our care to find a new home.



Abandoned piggies

Guinea pigs found in isolated wood

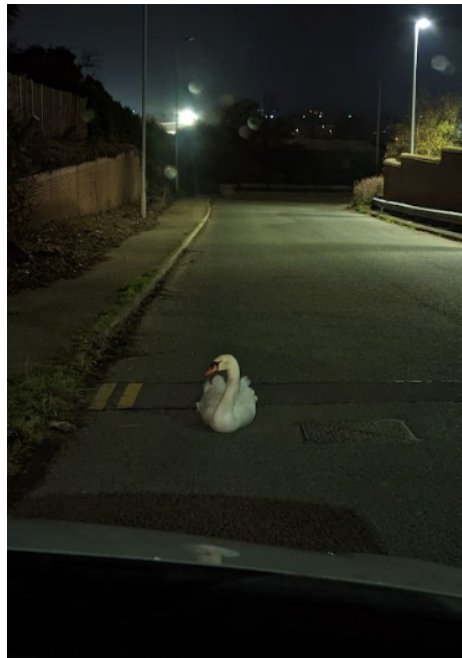
Animal Rescue Officer Suzi Fothergill was called to help these 2 guinea pigs after they were found abandoned in a wood. They were found in an isolated area of the wood and still in their cage. It was not known how long they were there for until they were found. Luckily they are both healthy and friendly and were bought into our care for rehoming. This year we have seen a rise in abandoned animals, most likely due to the cost of living crisis.



Parking ticket

Swan landed on double yellow lines

Inspector Nicky Thorne was called out to this swan that had crash landed next to the only double yellow lines on the road! The swan wasn't injured and was probably just embarrassed it had landed on the road by mistake. Nicky took it to the closest body of water and released



it

Caught on the Aerial

Gull hanging on the tv aerial

Inspector Caroline Richardson was called to this poor gull that had gotten caught on the tv aerial on someone's roof. Unable to access the roof herself, she called Colchester Fire Service who sent out their aerial platform to help rescue the bird. It turns out the bird had a fishing line wrapped around its leg which had gotten caught on the aerial. Unfortunately on closer inspection it was found that the leg was badly broken and the kindest option was euthanasia.



A difficult situation

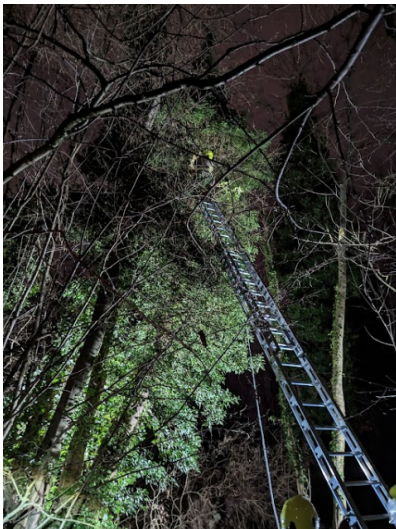
Two stags attached together



Animal Rescue Officer Jen Richardson had a call about this difficult deer rescue. A member of the public had spotted this fallow deer stag in a bit of a situation. The stag had gotten caught in rope and had somehow managed to attach itself to another deer. Unfortunately this other deer had not survived the ordeal which left this stag stuck to the body. It was quickly realised the stag would need to be sedated so one of our firearms team, Inspector Mitch Smith, came out to assist. The darting was successful and with some additional help from Suffolk Fire Service the deer was cut free from the body and all the rope was removed from its antlers. Thankfully the deer recovered from sedation and after resting for a little while, it ran off without saying thank you!

Christmas Adventure

Scared of heights Simon?



Animal Rescue Officer Jo Thorpe was called to help rescue Simon the cat after he had gotten stuck up a tree. He was found up the tree on Christmas Day and after several days of trying to coax Simon down with food, his owners rang us for help. Thankfully Essex Fire Service were happy to come out and assist us in bringing Simon down. We were able to reunite Simon with his family. Hopefully he won't go back up the tree anytime soon!