

Spring 2025



In this issue:

Meet your new Branch Manager • Welfare Clinic renovations
Skydive event report • Sensory garden update • Happy home story

Welcome from your new Branch Manager

Hello! I joined RSPCA Suffolk Central as the new Branch Manager in March, and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of it.



My professional/working background has been spent enjoying senior roles within retail, charity, tourism and the hospitality sectors, spanning over 30 years (gulp!) The transition into my new role has been made seamless due to the passion and commitment throughout the organisation from the trustees to our Animal Centre colleagues, our shops, our clinic and to the incredible volunteers.

I am proud and honoured to lead the RSPCA Suffolk Central Branch forward, and this is by no means a straightforward task. As we know, the financial challenges for us all continue with no end in sight, and for our branch, which depends on 95% of income being generated by our local community, the way ahead can sometimes feel uncertain, especially for the large number of animals still sadly needing our assistance.

However, with your support, knowledge, passion and drive to succeed, we can look towards a bright and sustainable future.

Best wishes

Terry Cleaver

Wildlife awareness

Spring is a time to help our wildlife thrive. Here are some top tips:

- All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected. Avoid cutting back bushes, trees and hedgerows during breeding season.
- Juvenile seagulls fledge from the floor, which can take a number of days. Seeing a young gull on the floor doesn't always mean they need help.
- Help hedgehogs prepare for the harsh winter months now! Prepare food and shelter in your garden. Small acts of kindness can help increase the hedgehog population.



Happy home update



Lully came into our care as she was finding her previous home stressful and not getting along with the other cats in the home. We knew the cattery environment would also be a worry for her, so we tried our best to find her a forever home as soon as possible. Luckily for Lully, it was only 28 days until her adopter fell in love, and although we miss her affection and cuddles, we know she's landed herself the purrfect home! Her new owner said:

"Lily (was Lully) is absolutely adorable and so affectionate. The whole process of adopting was so easy, and the staff and cat mummies at the RSPCA were so helpful. Definitely to be recommended!"



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Our Volunteers are vital to the Branch, and their help allows us to raise funds to care for and support animals in need within our community.

We are looking for volunteers who can help at our events and store collections a few times a year, mainly at weekends, and especially in the Bury St Edmunds area. If you could help with setting up/dismantling stands, manning stalls (raffles, information, selling products, etc.), or helping with car park marshalling, we'd love to hear from you!



Scan here for more info



Our shops are an important way we raise money to support our work. Our shop in Tacket Street, Ipswich, desperately needs volunteers. If you have a few hours a week you could spare, we would welcome your help. The team needs help on the shop floor, creating window displays, and sorting/steaming stock behind the scenes.

If you are interested in these volunteering opportunities, please visit our website to fill out a volunteer application form or email us at volunteering@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk. If you'd prefer to speak to someone, please call or text Jane on 07592 517836.

Our first skydive event raised over £7,000!

A team of 20 brave and daring supporters took on our skydive challenge this April, jumping from 13,000 feet to raise funds for animals in need.

Not only did five members of our branch team take part, but we also received support from the veterinary nurses at the Woodbridge and Ipswich branches of Ryder-Davies Vets, as well as Wendy Bones at Woodward Markwell Financial Advisers, who selected us as their charity of the year.

We were lucky to have a lovely sunny day at Beccles Airfield and everyone had an amazing time and landed safely. The whole team managed to raise an incredible £7,400 that will help us continue to deliver our vital animal welfare services across Suffolk.



If you fancy taking part in any of our upcoming fundraising events or challenges, visit rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk/news-events or scan QR code.



SENSORY GARDEN UPDATE

After a long time in the making - starting as an idea over five years ago, followed by fundraising last year, and finally meticulous planning of each element over the last 12 months - we're proud to be almost finished with our sensory garden project!



Having a space for our rescue dogs, the team, and volunteers to explore, decompress and learn has been invaluable.

It's no surprise that the behaviour of the dogs we see coming into our care is getting increasingly worse, as abuse and neglect towards animals is still on the rise, accounting for many of these behaviours.



For this reason, we needed to create a space that served a purpose beyond just being an exercise area - a space that could help dogs from troubled backgrounds learn, develop, and progress through to rehoming in a safe and controlled environment.

The sensory garden is filled with new smells, textures, doorways, digging opportunities, training equipment, and so much more. Our team individually selected every aspect based on the lack of 'real-world' experiences that many of the dogs coming into our care often lack.



We hosted a grand opening party in April to thank the volunteers, sponsors, supporters and wider team involved in making this project happen and we are overjoyed to have completed such a fantastic space for all to enjoy.

We look forward to giving you the 'full tour' in due course (keep an eye on Facebook and Instagram!)



Summer of fun for our canine friends

We are delighted to be running a series of fun dog shows across our Branch area this summer, raising awareness of our animal welfare work along with much-needed funds.

The organisers of the Stoke by Nayland Resort Fun Day on Sunday 29 June and Martlesham Heath Fete on Saturday 19 July have asked us to run a fun dog show at their events; and we've added a new event at Aldeburgh Rugby Club to our schedule of established fun dog shows.

Many thanks to P&R Locksmiths in Martlesham who have kindly donated wonderful rosettes for each class, as well as a special rosette and trophy for the 'Dog of the Day' for each show!

Interested in a stall? Email mary.taylor@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk

Want to help? Contact volunteering@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk

For more details, see the events page on our website or scan the QR code.

We look forward to seeing you and your pups!



Grant awarded for new Ipswich Welfare Clinic waiting room

We have been fortunate enough to secure a grant from the Michael Guest Charitable Foundation, enabling us to proceed with a project at our Ipswich Welfare Clinic, which involves converting a disused garage into a new waiting room and education centre.

The cost of living crisis has meant we are seeing more families in need than ever before, meaning our Clinic is incredibly busy and our waiting room is often full to bursting. With lots of animals in a small space, which is not ideal for their wellbeing, often causing them stress and anxiety during their visit. This exciting conversion project will provide a calm, safe space for anxious and reactive dogs to wait before they see the vet.

We hope to include an educational area where we can display literature and materials promoting our branch, as well as animal welfare advice and details about all our services.



LONG STAY ANIMALS

Introducing three of our long-term residents. If you think you can open your heart and home to these special animals, please reach out to our team at the Animal Centre on info@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk. For details on all animals available for adoption visit our website or scan the QR code

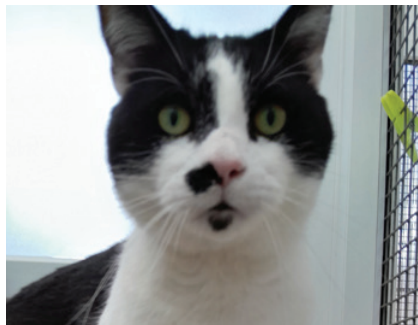


Coco & Shadow

Coco and Shadow came into our care individually, but they were from the same home, each of them had been kept in small accommodation and had health concerns. After they recovered from their neutering operations, we thought they'd make the perfect match and began their bonding journey. Just like that, they were in love!

Coco and Shadow enjoy spending their days hopping around, engaging with new enrichment and grazing on hay. They enjoy their digging tray too. Both have times when they are confident, but can also be shy of people. They do not like being picked up (like most rabbits) but tolerate it when necessary for vet visits, or health checks. Coco requires frequent grooming due to her long coat, which is essential to prevent discomfort from matting.

They have been with us patiently waiting for a new home for over 560 days and are so ready to find a loving family to care for them, where they can enjoy the rest of their life together.



Buttons

Buttons came into our centre after his previous owner sadly passed away.

When Buttons first arrived at the centre, he found his new surroundings very overwhelming and scary; so he would spend his days hiding in the safety of his igloo bed. With a bit of time and hands-off socialising, Buttons soon realised we're friendly, and now all he wants is lots of strokes and attention! Buttons does have his nervous moments, so would benefit from having patient owners, who will give him the time and space he needs, to continue to blossom into the affectionate cat we know he is!

After a vet check at the centre, it was found that Buttons has the very early stages of heart disease but does not require any treatment at the moment but will need to be monitored throughout his life to make sure he doesn't need any medical intervention.

Do you have the right home for this lovely chap?

EVENTS DIARY 2025:

We've been busy planning an exciting range of events for this year, including:

Family Fun Day

Sunday 25 May 2025, 11.30am - 3.30pm

RSPCA Martlesham Animal Centre, IP12 4PD

Aldeburgh Fun Dog Show

Sunday 8 June 2025, 11.30am - 3.30pm

Aldeburgh Rugby Club, King's Field, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY

One Fun Day

Saturday 14 June 2025

Coffee & cake with rescued animals (12noon - 3pm):

RSPCA Animal Centre, Martlesham, IP12 4PD

Creative craft sessions (11am - 3pm):

Bury St Edmunds RSPCA shop, IP32 7BE

Instore and pop-up events being held at:

RSPCA shop, Felixstowe, IP11 7DS

RSPCA shop, Reynolds Road, Ipswich, IP3 0JL

RSPCA shop, Tacket Street, Ipswich, IP4 1AU

RSPCA shop, Stowmarket, IP14 1DE

We're updating our events listings all the time, so keep an eye on our website and socials.

Or scan here



Run or Walk the Orwell Challenge

Sunday 29 June 2025, from 7.30am

Starting from Gainsborough Sports Centre, IP3 0SP



Earl Stonham Fun Dog Show

Sunday 6 July 2025, 11.30am - 3.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Martlesham Open Day & Fun Dog Show

Sunday 7 September 2025, 11.30am - 3.30pm

RSPCA Martlesham Animal Centre IP12 4PD

Ipswich Half Marathon

Sunday 21 September 2025, 8.30am for 9.30am start

Portman Road Stadium, Ipswich IP1 2DA

Contact us

General Enquiries
Financial Assistance
Animal Centre
Welfare Clinic

0300 999 7321 (9am - 4pm)
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(Tel answered Tues and Fri 10.30am - 1.30pm. Clinic open 11.30am - 1pm)

www.rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk