



Suffolk Central Branch
Registered Charity No.206269

Summer 2023

NEWS



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Tell us what matters to you

Could you help with the cost of vet care?

www.rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk





Welcome!

How lovely it is to be surrounded by sunshine at last! Winter was a tough time for all of us with rising energy and food costs, so the warmth of spring and summer is a welcome reprieve to both our wellbeing and our wallets. We know that many pet owners continue to experience financial challenges, sadly not aided by rising veterinary costs, which have impacted us here at the Animal Centre as well.

No one should feel torn between feeding themselves or their pet, so we have introduced some new initiatives to help people on low incomes provide for their animals. From food banks to assisting with the cost of urgent veterinary care, we aim to be there for pets and their owners in Suffolk. You can read more about our efforts in this issue of our newsletter, which is dedicated to supporting people and their pets.

With very best wishes

Gemma

Branch Manager



Helping people and pets

We've included a Welfare Postcard detailing the services we offer for low-income pet owners. If you know someone who could benefit from our services, please pass it on.





Supporting pets in low-income homes

RSPCA Suffolk Central Clinic

One of our branch's USPs is our Clinic in Ipswich. The clinic has been running for over 60 years providing basic treatments from the building in St. George's Street, Ipswich every Tuesday and Friday. Our humble facilities make a life-changing difference to thousands of animals each year.

New Clinic at Stowmarket Football Ground

We have partnered with Bury St Edmund's Veterinary Centre to offer low-cost veterinary consults, vaccinations, and health checks from their mobile clinic at Stowmarket Football ground. 'Walk Up Wednesdays' welcome pet owners on benefits and low incomes between 1pm and 3pm with no appointment needed.

Financial Support for Urgent Veterinary Care

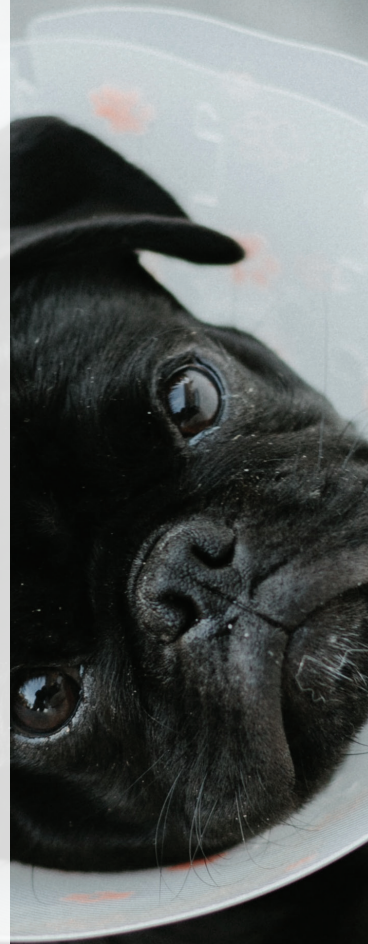
Working with vets throughout our branch area we contribute towards the cost of urgent and emergency veterinary care where owners simply can't afford treatment. One recent example was a young dog who needed her leg amputated after being hit by a car. We were able to fund a third of the cost to ensure a happy outcome for both the pup and her owner.

Pet Food Banks

Thanks to a donation, we were able to provide over 100kg of dog and cat food to local food banks to issue on our behalf. We also match-funded the donation to distribute further supplies through foodbanks in the community and at our Ipswich shops and clinic.

Did you know?...

**In the first four months of this year we helped
738 pet owners on low incomes access subsidised
veterinary care.**





Long Stay Animals

Introducing two of our long stay animals, this cute pair have been in our care for over 700 days. If you think you can find room in your heart and your home for these special characters or any of our other ferrets please drop us an email to info@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk.



Kian and Mark

Kian and Mark are two lovely boys who have been on the lookout for their forever home for some time now. We're really hoping their luck will change and that their new home is just around the corner.

Kian and Mark were removed from a property with a large number of ferrets and initially lacked socialising and handling. When animals come to us under-socialised, it becomes our priority to do our very best to help them trust people and no longer fear them. Our team has worked hard to gain the trust of the boys and they are now confident around their human friends and love to cuddle up and share some tasty ferret malt paste. They will often run up their ramp to greet us in the morning.

We're looking for a lovely home that can provide Kian and Mark with plenty of secure space to explore, and someone who can continue patient and positive reinforcement to ensure the boys continue to feel comfortable and safe. In case you've never owned a ferret, or don't know much about them, here are some fun facts for you:

- A group of ferrets is called a business
- Ferrets spend much of their day in a deep sleep and are often only awake for between 4 and 8 hours a day

All the ferrets in our care are trained to use a litter tray, making their daily clean super easy!





Rehomed at last!

You may remember Cody, our longest stay dog, having spent 621 days in our care before finding his perfect home. We're overjoyed to say that Cody has settled in brilliantly with his new family; despite a few initial teething issues which were fully supported by our dedicated team.

We know it can take six months or more for a rescue dog to catch up on sleep, and settle into their new home after being in kennels and we're pleased to report that Cody's patient and dedicated new owners are putting the time in to make sure he is a comfortable and happy dog, whilst continuing his training and behaviour support. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect outcome for our little terrier!

Save the date - Open Day and Fun Dog Show

Saturday 3rd September 11.30am - 3.30pm
at Martlesham Animal Centre

Meet the Team **Animal Centre Receptionist**



Emma Sharman

I have worked with animals for over ten years now and in that time I have been a Rehabilitation Groom for the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare. Working with these charities has been an amazing experience and led me to study Veterinary Physiotherapy.

I now run my own business called EJS Vet Physio and Horsemanship and work part time as a receptionist at RSPCA Suffolk Central. Here I work with a fantastic team and I love being part of rescue animals finding their new forever home.

My favourite part of the job is the excited faces that come in to pick up their new family members and watching the poor animals that didn't have a good start in life go to their new home.





Happy Tails

Here's a story to put a smile on your face!

In March, we saw the arrival of four nine-day old puppies and their wonderful mum, Rosie. Rosie and her pups were removed from unsuitable conditions, along with Rosie's brother, Buster, who is also the puppies' dad. We were concerned over the high possibility of in-bred complications but excited at the thought of little white fluff balls resembling marshmallows wandering around.



Luckily for the puppies they were all in great health, apart from a couple of extra hind dewclaws which they seemed to have inherited from mum. And marshmallows they were!

We set up a large pen in the comfort of our socialising room, a drastic upgrade from the tiny crate Rosie and the puppies had previously called home, and began to settle them into their new but temporary surroundings. It's easy to forget how fast puppies grow, but boy did they grow quick! Before we knew it, we had four strong, loud, playful and curious puppies to contend with.



Then came the fun part, what do we call them? Mum has such a lovely name, so perhaps sweet, nature-themed names? Posie, Autumn, Daffodil? Not on this occasion! Our animal care teams love coming up with interesting and adorable new names, and this time we decided to have a little fun!

Meet Potato, Gravy, Onion, and Sprout. A boy and his three sisters who are named after a British favourite... a roast dinner.

Potato, Gravy, Onion and Sprout are learning so much about the big wide world, and we're helping to set them up for an anxiety free, confident and happy life, by using the very best of our experience and knowledge. There is something quite refreshing about being given the opportunity to develop a young pup into a confident adolescent dog, instead of the tiring (but rewarding) work we do so frequently with dogs who are well into their adult life with ingrained phobias and worries about the world.

By the time this story reaches our newsletter, the puppies would have likely flown the nest on to their forever adventure. We can only hope the start we've been able to give them thanks to your support is enough to help them be happy-go-lucky dogs in the future.





Animal Care Tips:

Microchipping for cats becomes law!

New rules mean cats must be microchipped before they reach the age of 20 weeks, and that **all owners must have their cat microchipped by 10th June 2024**. Owners found not to have microchipped their cat will have 21 days to have one implanted or may face a fine of up to £500.

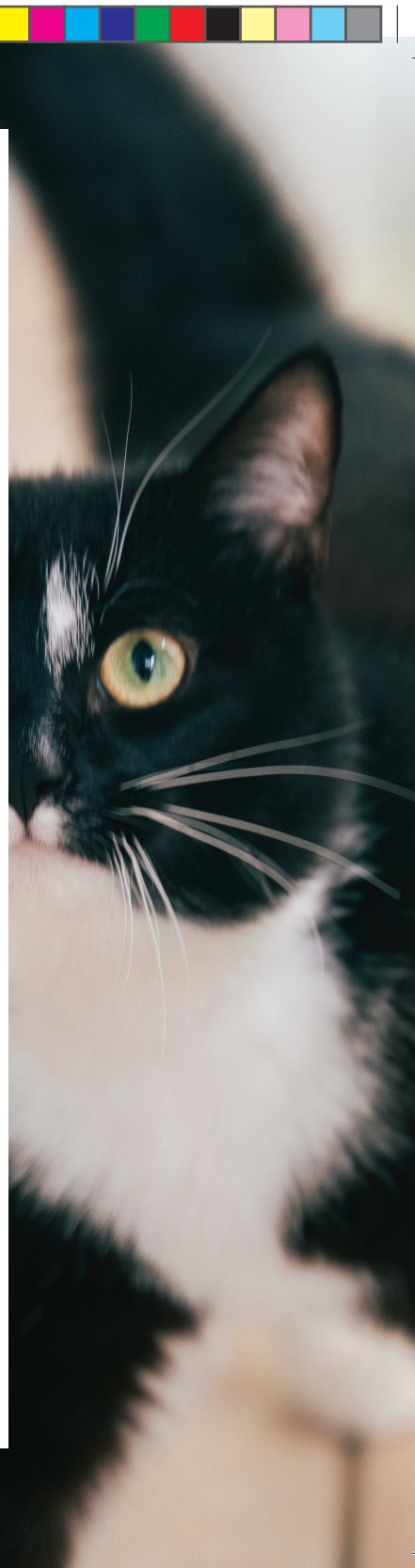
I have a cat, what do I need to do?

- If you have rehomed your cat from RSPCA Suffolk Central or another registered charity, your cat should already be microchipped.
- If you are not sure if your cat is microchipped, ask your vet to scan and check next time you take your pet for a check-up.
- Ensure your details are up to date. If you have moved house or changed your contact details, it is essential you update them on the microchip database directly or through your vet.
- It will not be compulsory for free living cats that live with little or no human interaction or dependency, such as farm, feral or community cats to be microchipped. However, if you care for a feral or semi-feral cat we would still recommend you have them microchipped.
- If your cat is not yet microchipped, book an appointment with your vet, or at our Animal Centre at Martlesham as soon as possible to ensure you comply by June 2024.

What is microchipping?

Microchipping involves the insertion of a small chip, around the size of a grain of rice, under the animal's skin, usually between the shoulder blades. Each microchip has a unique serial number that is registered on a database. If an animal is found lost or injured, the microchip can be read with a scanner so the pet can quickly be reunited with the owner, so it is always essential that you keep the database up to date.

Contact the Animal Centre for more details on our microchipping service, info@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk





Events

Thank you to everyone who supported us by attending our Family Fun Day and Quiz Night which raised thousands of pounds to help rescue and care for animals in need in Suffolk.

There is still plenty of opportunity to join in the fundraising fun this year by joining us as we attend (or run!) the following events. See our website for more details of how to get involved as a visitor or volunteer.

Kesgrave Family Fun Day – 8th July
Martlesham Village Fete – 15th July
RSPCA Earl Stonham Fair – 23rd July
Gainsborough Community Fun Day – 30th July
RSPCA Open Day & Fun Dog Show at Martlesham Animal Centre – 3rd Sept
Suffolk Dog Day – 10th September
RSPCA Christmas Fair at Holbrook – 18th November
RSPCA Autumn Quiz Night – 25th November

Author's New Book Supports RSPCA Suffolk Central

Local poet and author Elaine Coltham has kindly chosen to donate 50p of every copy sold of her new novel. 'Relda and The Runaway' is an intriguing and emotional journey of a desperate runaway teenager, Micki, who fears she will be placed into care following the death of her guardian grandmother. Elaine said, *"I have a real love of animals and totally respect the dedicated work of the RSPCA. My vision for my work is for it to be enjoyed and make a difference in some small way to the charities I choose to help."*

You can buy a copy from Amazon or Waterstones.



Contact Us

General Enquiries	0300 999 7321 (9am - 4pm)	info@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk
Financial Assistance	0300 330 1406 (9am - 4pm)	welfare@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk
Animal Centre	0300 999 7321 (9am - 4pm)	info@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk
Welfare Clinic	01473 231972	clinic@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk

(Tel answered Tues and Fri 10.30am - 1.30pm. Clinic open 11.30am - 1pm)

RSPCA Emergency Cruelty & Advice line 0300 1234 999 (8am - 8pm)



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