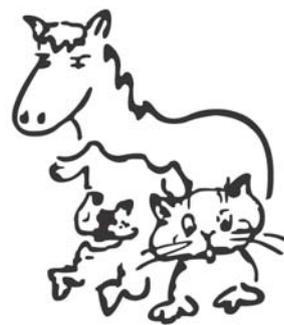


HULA tails

The Newsletter of HULA Animal Rescue



Summer 2009

Home for Unwanted and Lost Animals

HULA

- Has re-homed over 35,000 animals
- Microchips, worms and vaccinates all its animals
- Never puts an animal to sleep (unless medically advised)
- Helps animals *and* their owners
- Receives no funds from government
- Relies on volunteers
- Serves Milton Keynes, Beds., Bucks. and Northants.

Inside:

A life in a week at the Sanctuary

Winnie & Winston update

Zoe's Shocking New Lease of Life

Steve - The Sanctuary Manager

Caption Competition

Recession is Real and Right Here, Right Now

Unfortunately the news is currently dominated by the effects of the recession. A shrinking economy affects everyone and for the charity sector it is particularly acute - as people's income and circumstances change costs are cut - it is this that has an immediate impact on pets and HULA. The sanctuary is currently operating at full capacity and this situation presents many challenges.

A full sanctuary means higher care costs in terms of vet fees, food and bedding. Despite very stringent cost control HULA's operating costs are now nearly 6% higher than last year, with feed costs rising more than 30%. Vet

bills have risen over 48%, evidence of the sanctuary taking a greater proportion of more old and in need animals than would normally be the case.

However, while the situation is real and very difficult, there are some positives. HULA has always had a loyal and active volunteer and supporter base. Their combined activity has meant that current donations are just staying ahead of the rising operating costs. In addition the outside dog runs are being adapted to make four runs, foster homes have been found for some of the longer term residents and thankfully all the animals are in the best possible hands.



A consequence of the recession

Additional reasons to be optimistic are more people are visiting HULA, more people are raising funds, and the shop has maintained takings. While the future is going to be difficult, it is not as bleak as it could be.

Charity Sector Braces Itself

To put into context the current economic situation, it has been estimated that charitable donations will fall by more than £3bn as a direct result of the recession. The impact of this will be severe and be felt for a long time to come. What is not often reported is that the impact

increases because of the fact the demand for charity services increases during difficult times.

In a recent study 76% of charities expected demand for their services to increase, whilst 84% said income will fall. HULA is not exempt from this - the

effects on the animal care sector will quickly follow others dealing with the immediate impact of recession. The coming years will be a challenge for all, but with an active volunteer base, HULA is better placed than many other charities that carry larger overheads.



Safe, secure and happy, one of the rabbits recently cared for.



One of five very recent new arrivals

A Week in the Life of

With HULA the animals come first thanks to the staff's dedication, commitment and care. With four onsite animal carers, Steve, Debbie, Carly and Caroline, we thought we'd take a look behind the scenes at a typical HULA week.

Having always wanted to work with animals, Caroline Hodgkiss has been at HULA for just over three and a half years. Caroline's interest in animals from a young age was developed further at De Montfort university and a degree in Animal Science. Her desire was to work in conservation, but with limited opportunities, the world of animal welfare and rescue has been fortunate to secure her services. Three years at Wood Green Animal Shelter ensured Caroline was well up to the requirements of working with HULA. The sanctuary staff each have a specific daily area of responsibility that is rotated throughout the week. It was a Tuesday when we caught up with Caroline and it turned out this was 'dog day' for her.

At 8:30 Caroline was up and about on this breezy and bright day greeting the dogs. All are checked over, fed and cleaned, and in the afternoon they are let out into the yard for some exercise before

being fed again. Every day volunteers arrive to take the dogs out around the field, socialise with them and give them a well needed break from the kennels. Today happened to be a good day with five volunteers helping out, although, unfortunately, only one or two is the norm.

On a Wednesday Caroline will be with the large animals, letting out the barn animals, changing feed and water, mucking out, trimming hooves and then getting all in for 5:30. Twice a week each member of staff has an evening stint of putting the chickens and pigs in, letting the dogs out again and checking everyone else is fine. Thursday and Saturday sees a repeat of dog duty and Friday is small animals. Sunday and Monday are her days off.

Caroline's greatest satisfaction is seeing the animals return for a visit. When Louis, a Staffie, first returned, she was delighted to see how well and happy he was. Having arrived at HULA in a very poor state following a car accident and with a shattered pelvis, he was nursed back to health and he now regularly pays return visits to his nurses!



Unsurprisingly it is the poor treatment of animals that Caroline least enjoys, one example being the recent arrival of two rabbits. Even though the small animal house was full and the owners were provided with other care options by the staff, the rabbits were abandoned at the door of the sanctuary house as they left. A bout of intensive care ensued and they are now thriving and gaining in confidence thanks to Caroline and the other animal carers, including the volunteers. And isn't that the essence of HULA? Looking to help both animals and their owners, but if all else fails then the animal comes first. On a final note – when asked what one thing she would like, she replied "People to come and socialise the cats and small animals".



Volunteers Needed - Something for Everyone

HULA survives thanks to its volunteers and volunteering with HULA is a very rewarding and fulfilling activity.

However, there is no such thing as a standard HULA volunteer - HULA has pretty much something to offer everyone. Animal carers are always required to help out with the care of the animals and there are specific volunteer groups for the dogs, cats and small animals. If you are a quali-

fied tradesperson or have good DIY skills and have some hours to spare, then we desperately need building and shelter maintenance.



Perhaps raising funds is more your thing? If so, we are always looking for

people with the skills to help in this area and, if you have good retail skills, our Woburn Sands shop is always happy to have some help.

It doesn't matter how much or little time you have - the main thing is commitment and a desire to help HULA help animals.

See www.hularescue.org for how to apply or pop into the Sanctuary for a form and some advice.



"I'm sure some of you people can spare some time to help me. Please."



"Don't forget me old chap!"

Sanctuary Manager, Steve Price

"People often say to me 'Isn't working full time at an animal rescue centre too emotionally draining?' My answer to them is that I have never had a job that provides so much job satisfaction. The pleasure of helping and looking after the animals at the sanctuary makes any frustrations and disappointments totally worth it.

"I am fortunate to have a great, dedicated team to work with which helps make my role as Sanctuary Manager a lot easier. As we entered 2009 we had, like all other charities, real concerns about the effects of the financial situation on our work and future. With costs going up and income vulner-

able, it's been a really tough year so far. However, I'm pleased to say that there have been many successful rehoming this year, with some animals being placed into foster homes, and all the sanctuary's permanent residents doing well. We are running



most of the time at full capacity and there is a steady increase in people wanting our help to re-home their pets. If this continues there will be a need for HULA to expand to cope with demand.

"One final thing, whilst we are desperate for more volunteers, the sanctuary team really appreciate our fantastic network of volunteers and supporters. Without their help and commitment the sanctuary would simply not exist. Also, one thing to be aware of, HULA's trustees and executive committee all give their time and resources for free, a luxury that some of the larger charities do not have. It also can be very humbling when people are struggling themselves yet still contribute when they can. So, despite the circumstances we are in, the animals are getting the best care from a great team and we all look forward with hope"

"It can be very humbling when people are struggling themselves yet still contribute"



"You go your way, I'll go mine!"



"Who loves ya baby!"



"Hey Denzil, any idea where the remote might be?"

Patches Ruling the Roost?

Patches is no ordinary rabbit. With his two new friends, rough collies Dizzy and Denzil, he is certainly making the most of his new home. Sitting on the sofa watching TV and nose kissing are just two things the three friends do together and as well as being very affectionate and constantly wanting to be stroked, Patches has even got new owner Heather

Spragg a little confused – "I am sure he thinks that he is half cat, half dog, not a rabbit, as he is such an endearing little thing!". With a great new hutch and large outdoor run, guinea pigs for company in addition to the collies and lots of affection, Patches is certainly enjoying his new home, although as Heather adds "I feel really privileged to

be the one chosen to give him a loving home".



Patches, feeling right at home!

In brief

"Shaun the sheep passed away peacefully at the sanctuary"

Holly the budgie has unfortunately died. She was very special to Marion who has planted a holly bush, replete with bird feeder in Holly's memory.

Jack & Ginger's new owner, Tracey, is delighted and was full of praise for HULA.

Dusty is a joy to Richard and Vanessa following the sad death of Oscar.



Winnie & Winston - True Winners

In February the story of Winnie and Winston won a place in many hearts. Unfortunately Winston recently succumbed to his cancer and passed away. Foster carers, Sharon and Stephen, provided a loving home over the past months and the lovable pair (Winnie & Winston!) certainly welcomed their new surroundings.

Winnie has recovered her appetite to the point of eating as much as her big pal Winston did and has

more than one bed around the house. If she found Winston in one the odd sulk ensued and being the recipient of lots of hugs and encouragement she is beginning to really settle and shine.

And Winston? He was at home straight away once he realised he had a new pal, Markey, a sofa and fire to call his own, and walks and smells (even local llamas) galore. He also found his voice "Boy, did he nag. When he wanted something he'd

bay and bark, getting louder and louder if we didn't take him seriously enough" says Sharon. Winnie is still thriving and Winston won over all he met, thoroughly enjoying his last few months thanks to Sharon and Steve.



Winston - thoroughly at home



Winnie getting her bearings

Zoe's Startling Experience Helps HULA

HULA supporter Zoe Furlong took action in response to the effects of the economic situation and its impact on animals. Zoe has cerebral palsy and an effect of the condition is the brain can't control the startle response we all have and lose as we grow. Balloons and corks popping, flashes and, worst of all, fireworks, all contribute to a situation that "can be

embarrassing, extremely painful and cause a real phobia."



Zoe's best friend suggested going to the MK fireworks, so with support from her sister, the media

and others, she set about overcoming her life-limiting situation. After a couple of drinks, she faced her lifelong fear. "The first bang made me nearly fall out of my wheelchair, but after a while the fear subsided and the music helped it become uplifting". Zoe conquered her fear, changed her life and raised £600 for HULA. Thank you!



Smiling for the cameras Alison makes time for the auto-graph hunters!

London Marathon - 26 Miles and More

HULA was the fortunate recipient of a £2,000 donation raised by two HULA supporters, Lindsay Stanborough and Alison Ashbolt who ran this year's London Marathon.

Lindsay was running in memory of her dog Pele and wanted HULA to

benefit. Both runners had rigorous and intensive training schedules, however, what is little known is just how grueling the day itself is. A very early start and a late arrival home with a 26 mile run in between is very punishing. Alison's comment gives some insight "It's tough enough

doing the distance, add in thousands of people, some dressed as liquorice allsorts, looking out for your granny at mile 14 and drums banging everywhere, it's a total assault on the senses and body!". 19 hours later and sleep was very welcome indeed.

"Pam and Sheila from Leighton-Linslade U3A donated over 300 cans of pet food and 100kg of dry in 2008"

With Thanks to

HULA depends on many people and organisations for services, supplies and funds. Our thanks go to, among others:

1st Harlington Brownies; Agria Pet Insurance; Asda; Aston Lee Vets; Avis Ainsworth and Animal Fundraisers; Baileys Travel; Barbara Wicken; Burns Pet food; Cedars

School; Chris Rolland; Christina Ling; Diamond Theatre Group; Dogs in Training; Dovart Kennels; Great Linford Water Festival; Happy Days Nursery; Home Retail Group; Icknield Vets; J White; Jackie Dewhurst; John Lewis P'ship; Julia Doherty; Manitowoc Crane Group; Moore Place Hotel; Mr & Mrs Curwen; Mr

& Mrs Galloway; Pet Plan; Pets At Home; Robert Knight; Sainsburys; Scott Vets; Supreme Petfoods; TC Feeds; Great Weather Lottery; Walnut Tree Vets; Yolands Soliva. From family and friends, in memory of the late Mrs Yvonne Webb, Mrs Gillian Scott and Mr Gordon McLaughlin.



Lindsay - mile-munching for HULA



"Remember, don't feed the people!"

"HULA's animal feed costs have risen over 30% and vet bills over 48% in 2009"



"Where's that tale gone then?"

HULA Open Days Draw More and More

This year's HULA open days have been very successful. In addition to our regular friends we have seen a rise in the number of new visitors and, with the exception of February, the weather has been very kind.

Our March Bunny Bonanza was a huge success, thanks to Zoe Furlong, and featured the Rabbit Welfare Assoc.,



Christine Dunsby from Ark House Vets (Leighton B) enlightening all on all



things bunny and the Rabbit Costume Competition. Winnie and Winston also paid a welcome visit.

April saw the sun shine on the Easter bonnets, egg hunts and the heelwork to music display by the Linslade Obedience and Ringcraft Club.

Doggy Fun Day in May was set to be a shocker with black skies, fierce winds and driving rain, until ten minutes before opening when the clouds

broke. Then the dogs all mingled, wagged and growled, some winning rosettes, others happy to have a day out. Old friends of HULA reacquainted themselves with the staff and volunteers and thanks to everyone a record £3,515.28 was



"Grrrrr, gissa rosette"

BBC Dog Borstal John Tees off for HULA

March saw Lynne Davies from BBC Dog Borstal talk to a packed hall in Woburn Sands. Advice on nutrition, breed specifics, behaviour, the law and much more was imparted and a much needed £750 was raised.

Yet to find an owner or dog she can't help, if you want to find out if Lynne can help you call 01280 821988 or go to:

www.lynnedavies.co.uk

John Miller of Milton Keynes Village teed off at a corporate golf day, won the 'nearest the pin' competition and with it £250 which he donated straight to HULA. "Animal welfare needs help in the current climate" commented John who, with his wife Barbara, has been keen to help HULA for a while and became members and applied to be volunteers all at the same time. As John, rather optimistically said

"To help HULA more I now need to practice golf more". Barbara was unavailable for comment!



Steve receiving a cheque from John and Simply-Health, the golf day spon-

Fancy a HULA Ruler?

A new range of HULA merchandise is now available. Whether you fancy a:

- Mug
- Pen
- Recycled tyre coaster
- Bag reflector
- Note block or
- HULA ruler

they're all available at the HULA shop in Woburn Sands, the Sanctuary in Aspley Guise, or from

Roy and Hazel at one of the many outside events they attend for HULA.

One thing's for sure, with every purchase, you'll 'help HULA, help animals'.



From the HULA Vet

The Vet Clinic in Leighton Buzzard warns dog owners to be on the lookout for the potentially fatal **lung-worm**. Carried by slugs and snails it is on the rise. Diagnosis isn't easy so watch for - coughing, reluctance to exercise, depression, weight loss, fits, vomiting, diarrhoea, weakness and paralysis or persistent bleeding from minor cuts.



"Watch out for signs of lungworm - it could make me very ill"

Want to quit smoking or change a habit? Self Help, Helps HULA!

Ever *really* wanted to quit smoking, shed a phobia, lose weight, boost your self-confidence or deal with other emotional or life issues?

HULA's Chairman, Robin How, is an accredited Clinical Hypnotherapist and has agreed to provide his time free of charge by donating his

fees to HULA for a limited number of sessions. Hypnotherapy is completely safe, but note, it is only effective when you have a real and serious personal desire to make a change.

If you have that desire to tackle smoking, weight loss, phobias (heights, spiders, animals, nee-

dles, etc.) or other problems such as grinding teeth, biting nails and lack of self-confidence then contact Robin directly on 01582 571664 or via his website www.robinkhow.co.uk

Places are limited so if you want to make a real positive difference to your life then act now.

"Stumpy the Shetland pony had a major operation and has fully recovered"

HULA Shop Comes Out on Top

It's been a busy time for Mandy and her team at the Woburn Sands shop. One of the effects of the recession has been a reduction in the quality of items donated, so while it's reported that more people than ever shop at charity shops during difficult times, a clear fact is less saleable items get donated. Despite this,

the retail team are delivering a great performance by keeping our takings for the first five months of the year on a par with last year. In terms of what sells - "We can never have too much bric-a-brac" says Mandy, who recently appeared on TV and in the press receiving a donation from local resident Jon Mat-

thews who won his bet to still be alive in June!



Mandy and volunteer Kate - part of the team ensuring the shop's valuable contribution continues.



"Hmm, come on eyes, work"



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 Aspley Guise
 MK17 8HZ
 Reg. Charity 1094115

01908 584000

hularescue@tiscali.co.uk

www.hularescue.org

HULA Open Days

"Come and visit us one Sunday"

13th July 1pm-4pm
 Children's Open Day

16th Aug. 1pm-4pm
 Summer Open Day

13th Sept. 12-4.30pm
 Summer's End Fete &
 Companion Dog Show

18th Oct. 1pm-4pm
 St. Francis Open Day

15th Nov. 1pm-3.30pm
 Winter Warmer

13th Dec. 1pm-3.30pm

"Hope to see you there"

Oops. Heather Snook walked Hadrians Wall with her dad. In the last newsletter we referred to her as Heather Mather. Sorry Heather.

help HULA, help animals

HULA Aims

To relieve suffering & distress, by providing refuge and care to unwanted domestic animals until suitable permanent adoptions can be found. To provide help and advice to pet and animal owners or their families, who are unable to cope due to a change in their circumstances.

HULA: receives no Government funding; is volunteer dependant; has re-homed over 35,000 animals; is an independent charity; will never to put an animal to sleep (unless under medical advice); survives on donations and legacies.

HULA takes in unwanted and abandoned small animal pets (cats, dogs, rabbits, gerbils, birds etc.) for re-homing, but also rescues large animals and has goats, pigs, Shetland ponies, chickens, ducks, geese, sheep and donkeys as well as two very lively cows which will stay with us for the rest of their lives.

HULA is open to the public every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 3pm for viewing the animals. For other help please call between 1pm and 3pm any day or email HULA on hularescue@tiscali.co.uk

Competition Ways to Help HULA

What do you think may be going through our resident goat, Fonzi's, mind?

Email your entry to:

mkdon59-hula@yahoo.co.uk

Or alternatively send us a postcard with your suggestion on.



We'll publish the best and funniest in the next edition of 'HULA tails'.

Some don't even cost anything. Here's a quick list:

Volunteer - very rewarding and immensely helpful to HULA.

Shop online - through www.easyfundraising.org and get up to 15% of your purchase given to HULA. Over 600 retailers including Argos, Next, Debenhams, John Lewis are involved.

Give to the Shop - unused or unwanted items.

Donate food or bedding - currently we are very

short of tinned dog food so all contributions are welcome.

Become a Member - or make a regular donation.

Get sponsored - to do things via Justgiving.com.

And don't forget, whatever you do



.... where possible for at least an extra 28% to be donated by the Government.

Stories, news, and all things HULA

Have you got anything you'd like to see in the newsletter - your own story, pictures or news relating to your adopted animal, perhaps something you are doing or planning on doing to help HULA, or just any ideas? Then email the editor at:

mkdon59-hula@yahoo.co.uk

and don't forget you can stay up to date with what is going on at HULA by visiting our website www.hularescue.org