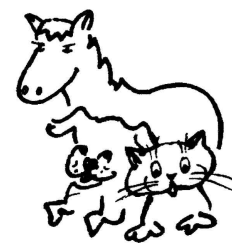




# HULA TAILS

(The newsletter of HULA Animal Rescue)



Autumn/Winter 2008

Reg. Charity No 1094115

## Credit Crunch Hits Animals Too!

As the credit crunch begins to bite it is not only people that it effects but animals too! In the last few months it has become apparent that the charity is being handed in many more elderly animals with ongoing health problems because their owners cannot afford vets fees and others due to owners going into rented accommodation where pets are not allowed or they just cannot afford to keep them any more.

HULA's policy has always been that no animal that comes into the charity's care and has a a quality of life should be put down. We would like to think that it will remain that way.

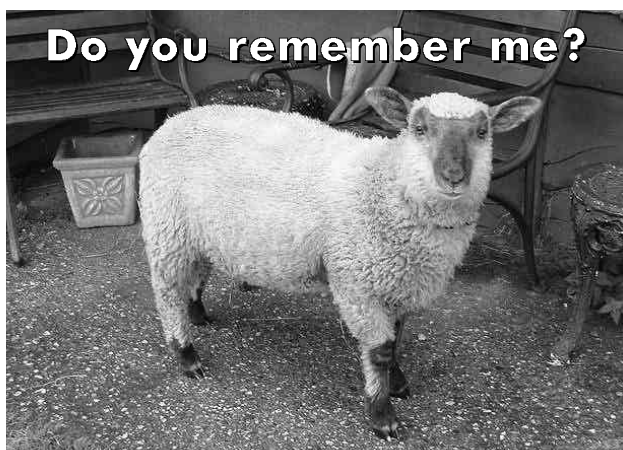
Up to now we have been very lucky in finding caring people willing to take on these older animals and their medical problems but they are few and far between.

In the current climate of economic downturn, which looks as if it will be going on for some considerable time, we along with other smaller

charities with limited funds are going to find it a struggle.

HULA depends on its members, supporters and friends for its survival. Your help is needed now to ensure our future and we would ask you to please dig deep in your pockets this Christmas . Enclosed with your newsletter there are various ways in which you can help during the coming year. Your support at our Open Days and Fetes in 2009 will be very much appreciated.

The Trustees, Committee and staff would like to thank everyone particularly the volunteers who give up their time to help in the charity shop, walk dogs, assist with the cats and small animals, as well as helping at the monthly Open Days and Fetes for all their help and support during 2008. The animals that come into care for no fault of their own depend on you! *On behalf of them we sincerely thank you and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.*



In the Spring Newsletter I was featured on the front cover! Yes, I am Samson, and what a handsome boy I have turned into! I have now joined the pack. I can be seen out and about at the Sanctuary with Carlos, the donkey, Fonzi, the goat and my fellow sheep.

### Animal Stars

You may see some of HULA's residents in childrens books in the near future! In July we had a photographer and two representatives from Priddy Books, a division of Macmillan publishers, come down to the Sanctuary. Photos were taken of nearly all our resident farm animals – so we might soon have a famous sheep, pig or cow etc.!!

## September Fete Day

Unfortunately the lead up to and the day before was at the time when we were being deluged by heavy rainstorms. Although the Sunday of the Fete was relatively dry it had put many people off coming which included the cancellation of a number of the events planned as well as stallholders.

However the Companion Dog Show went ahead and although numbers were greatly down on other years an enjoyable afternoon was had by all and even the sun came out in the afternoon!

Our thanks goes to Judith Armstrong who judged the pedigree classes and to her friend Cathy who judged the novelty classes. We much appreciated them giving up their time!



## ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING

At the beginning of June this year HULA was contacted by Companion Care veterinary practice which is located within the Pets at Home store in Milton Keynes, asking for our assistance in re-homing an 18 month cross-breed dog called Milo. He had been treated by Companion Care for a skin complaint and unfortunately his owners had made the difficult decision that they could no longer afford to pay for his treatment.

Whilst Milo was at the practice a number of the Pets at Home staff saw him and were touched by his plight and they have since started a fund-raising appeal to help Milo with any further treatment he might need whilst he is in HULA's care for which we are extremely grateful.

Luckily we had space to accommodate Milo in our isolation unit as we were unsure whether his condition was contagious. Companion Care with the help of the RSPCA kindly carried out some tests and it was discovered that Milo's condition was not contagious so he was moved into the main kennels. Milo has been treated with antibiotics and a fungal shampoo and we are pleased to report that his fur has grown back and he is now available for re-homing. Milo is a very friendly, affectionate dog. Interest is already being shown in him and no doubt by the time you read this he will be happily settled in a new home.

*Staff from Pets At Home presenting their cheque to HULA's Manager, Steve Price at a recent Sanctuary Open Day*



Thank you to everyone who sponsored me for the Charity Cycle Ride which took place on Sunday 14th September. You may have seen me on the HULA web site. The cycle ride was organised by Tony Round of the MK YMCA for local small charities, like HULA, to raise money. Tony said that there were many

Charity Cycle Rides organised for large charities but never any thing for the small charities that need the money more. Although I had not ridden my bike for about 3 years I thought it would be good fun to enter. There were 3 Routes, 2 of 12 miles and 1 of 15 miles. I was going to do the Ouzel Valley Circular route as I thought that would be flat but on the day I joined a couple with their 2 children who were doing the Newport Pagnell & NE Circular Route. I joined them as I thought I may get lost on my own, not being very good at map reading. As we introduced ourselves, we realised that we had met the Sunday before at HULA's Summer Fete so we had lots to talk about on our ride. The weather was great and we all had a very enjoyable time so anyone who is thinking about getting on their bikes I say just do it.

## Klagger

I must have found HULA by accident but it was certainly fate when I found Klagger (formerly known as Clyde) in the last room on the right.



He came home with me on the 3rd July and things haven't quite been the same since. I have to sleep with my feet tucked well into the bed in case he decides my toes are fair game in the middle of the night. I have to wear wellies round the house for fear of stepping in the assorted giblets left on the stairs. I have given up all hope of ever wearing anything that is not covered in long ginger hair. I have to play British Bulldog in order to get up the stairs without being ambushed. I now realise that I have to give up my lap on demand and that nothing other than those expensive round foil sealed cat food will suffice and that, if I don't buy the gourmet option then some other form of wildlife will be sacrificed on the kitchen floor and its beak nailed to the fridge door.

My life has changed somewhat! Would I change it??

Not a chance!!

# SANCTUARY NEWS

## SHETLAND SHEEP



Eight new animal residents at the Sanctuary – Aspen, Omega, Willis, Fir, Firethorn, Hibiscus, Hickory and Papa Stour came to us on 3rd June 2008. Their future seemed bleak when their previous owners were moving to premises where they could not take them. They are all quite elderly aged between 7 and 16 years. They are not used to much human contact and feel more secure in a flock. These Shetland sheep can be seen in their paddock behind our Dutch barn.

## GEMMA



Three cheers for Gemma, HULA's disabled dog [has three legs] who was featured in the Spring/Summer HULA Tails. She has now found a lovely home. The least this resilient girl deserves.

## NIGEL



Nigel, a Border Collie of approximately 8 weeks, was found in a hedgerow by a dog walker on the Sanctuary's border. We presume he was abandoned since no one has come forward to claim him. We have already found him a nice home with experienced Border Collie owners. He will be re-homed when he has had all his Puppy vaccinations, micro chipped and has been given a clean bill of health from our vet.

## AMY



Amy is a very sweet Yorkshire Terrier who was brought into HULA on 24th July 2008 as a stray having been found abandoned in a car park. It was evident when she arrived that she was not in good health. Apart from rotten teeth and over grown nails she had a bad cold which later developed into pneumonia. With medication and plenty of TLC Amy recovered but unfortunately though Amy has another problem – congestive heart failure. The vets tell us that this condition can possibly be regulated with medication and Amy can still have a good quality of life for years to come. We have now stabilised her condition and the vet has given the OK for her to be rehomed but she will be on medication for the rest of her life.

**STOP PRESS NEWS:** Following an appeal on the 'Oldies Club' website we had a call from a couple who already have two dogs but had recently lost an old yorkie with similar problems. They live near the New Forest but were prepared to travel to HULA to meet Amy. They fell in love with her and she got on well with their other dogs. Of course, references need to be followed up as it is too far for a home check but as long as everything is alright they will be coming back to collect her. By the next issue of the Newsletter we hope to have a follow-up story.



Support HULA and win up to **£100,000** in the new weekly Friday draw for just a £2.00 per week. Its good fun and for every person that signs up HULA earns money. Please help us in participating.

Further details of this and an application form may be obtained from the HULA website at [www.hularescue.org](http://www.hularescue.org)

Alternatively leaflets are available at the Sanctuary office. **GOOD LUCK!**

## Maggie and Millie



Thought we'd let you all know how we've settled and are getting on.

We settled in and felt at home instantly, and are getting lots of attention, cuddles and play times.

Not long after we arrived we were given run of the upstairs - it's here we started the intros with one of the existing cats. These intros are going Ok and both of us aren't too fazed there was another cat. The other existing cat is taking a little longer to come see us but is making small appearances from afar, we didn't really know she existed at first! Things are still going slow introduction wise

but we are having fun with full run upstairs during the day and supervised run of the living room downstairs occasionally. We've seen some funny caged birds; and ran away from them when one started to flap their wings. But now it looks like a tasty meal and I like to stalk it while Millie hides upstairs, she's still a little scared to come down, you see.

The best thing of our time here is the slippery floors, it makes GREAT fun for running round and chasing each other!! But, all of that running round tires us out and we then spend the rest of the day sleeping on whichever bed, windowsill, floor, blanket, pillow etc. we want; it's pretty much like heaven I guess.

The TV is still amazingly fun for Millie and she sits and watches it once it's been turned on after coming bounding in the room.

Thank you for looking after us both so well when we were at HULA.

We're told we're lovely cats and very very pretty. Well, the very pretty part is true in the highest form!

Lots of head-butts and purrs

Maggie and Millie

## LINSLADE OBEDIENCE AND RINGCRAFT CLUB



On 13th July this year, the Club held a Companion Dog Show in aid of HULA and St. Barnabas Church Hall Restoration Fund. A few volunteers with the aid of Roy and Hazel Mather's wonderful camper van, set up a stall to promote HULA's work and to sell our promotional items, Hazel's knitted gifts as well as other various other bits and pieces. We were lucky enough to have one of those rare beautiful summer days and raised £81.36 from our sales. A big Thank You goes to all that helped on the day!

The LORC very kindly topped up the amount they raised from the show and donated £500 to HULA to put towards much needed equipment for the rescued dogs. Some of the Club's members and committee came along with their canine friends to the St. Francis Open Day and Pet Blessing on the 12th October to present the cheque to Debbie

Cannon, Deputy Manager. We hope they enjoyed their time with us. Our very grateful thanks go to them all for supporting HULA in this way and we hope to see them again soon.



## Grateful Thanks to Flitvale Garden Centre

HULA supporter, Marion Laurence, recently visited the above at Flitwick Road, Westoning to buy some bird seed for 'Holly' her rescued budgerigar she had from HULA. She found herself leaving with her car literally weighed down with cat and dog food!

Flitvale have been very kindly donating large amounts of food for HULA for quite some time now and it is very gratefully appreciated by the staff and, enjoyed by the residents. We are so grateful for their ongoing support!

## Flitwick Lower School - Fun Day

HULA were kindly invited to have a stall at their Fun Day in July to raise money and promote the work of the charity and the animals in its care. A flurry of e-mails went around and yes, we had enough helpers to take us through the day and into the evening, so were all set – or so we thought!

Our British weather had other plans and the heavens opened just as we finished setting up the stall – everything was soaked and we packed it all away wet, having raised just £7.35! Pam and Leanne did a brilliant job of drying it all out in readiness for our next event two days later in Linslade, when as you will see from the article, the sun shone brightly for us.

Apparently they are a hardy lot at Flitwick Lower School and some brave souls stuck with it until 10pm – well done to them and thank you all so much for inviting us. Let's hope they will invite us back next year and that the weather will be kinder to us!



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## RAISING MONEY FOR HULA

11 year old Heather Mather, loves animals but unfortunately her family is unable to have pets. The family regularly donate items to the HULA shop. Heather very much wanted to do even more to help the animals at the Sanctuary. She decided she wanted to do a sponsored walk so in the summer holidays accompanied by her father they walked the length of Hadrian's Wall.

This is her diary:

**Day 1** Wallsend – Heddon on the Wall, 13.3 Miles, Weather Very Hot and Sunny, Walking Time 9 hours

This was the start of the walk, I sat on the wall outside the Roman Fort at Wallsend. This was a boring day mainly walking on the long tree lined former wagon ways with a hard climb up to Heddon from the river at the very end! Phew!

**Day 2** Heddon on the Wall – Portgate, 9.5 Miles, Weather Cloudy and Warm, Walking Time 8.5 hours

We stayed overnight in a really nice B&B at Houghton North Farm in Heddon. We didn't see the wall all day! The walk was better than yesterday as we walked through fields. We stamped our passport outside the Robin Hood Inn.

**Day 3** Portgate – Housesteads, 15.2 Miles, Weather Heavy Rain all morning, Walking Time 9.5 hours

We stayed overnight in Corbridge, a taxi took us back to where we finished yesterday. The cows were really bad today as one giant cow started to follow us! Luckily dad scared it away. My boots were soaked as soon as we started but I didn't get a blister. We climbed over 300 metres from Chesters Roman Fort to Housesteads.

**Day 4** Housesteads – Gilsland, 13.2 Miles, Weather Cloudy but Dry, Walking Time 8.5 hours

The countryside at this part of the wall is very beautiful. Last night's B&B was called Beggar Bog it was really nice – thank you for having an outside toilet! The route was very hilly we passed sycamore gap which was used in a Robin Hood film.

**Day 5** Gilsland – Walton, 7.3 Miles, Weather Cloudy but Dry, Walking Time 7 hours (including a detour to see Lanercost Priory that added another mile to the walk!)

This was a short walk we visited Birdoswald Roman Fort.

**Day 6** Walton – Knockupworth (Carlisle), 13.3 Miles, Weather Heavy Rain, poured down until lunch, Walking Time 8.5 hours

The muddiest wettest day of all ugh! So many cows and bulls in fields and lots and lots of rain. The only place for lunch (a pub) was closed so we couldn't even get warmed up!

Heather raised £500 for the charity. The picture below shows her with her father presenting a cheque to Debbie Cannon, HULA's Deputy Manager, at the Sanctuary's St. Francis Open Day in October.

What a wonderful effort.! Well done Heather and a big thank you from all the animals at the Sanctuary!



Hello my name is Oscar and have a new forever home with my friend Maureen. We met at HULA where Maureen is a volunteer helper. Maureen says that I am very special and that she really felt that she could help me find a loving and happy home with her and her family.

The people at Hula had noticed that my eyes were very red and they were very worried that I may have a serious eye condition. Maureen loved me so much that she would have been prepared for any special needs that I may have required and very much wanted to help me through them. I also had a bad tummy and my toilet was loose and uncomfortable for me.

Maureen took me home with her while we waited for a special man who knows all about dogs eye conditions to check mine. When the appointment day came we both went to HULA where I was examined by a very nice kind man. He talked to me and told me not to worry, when he shone a bright light into my eyes, it seemed to take a long time and I was scared but Maureen cuddled me all the time and talked to me and that helped me through. After the man had finished shining the light in my eyes I could tell that everything must be OK, as everyone seemed to be happy and smiling.

My tummy continued to be uncomfortable and we saw another nice man and a lady who Maureen

## Oscar's Story



calls "the Vet" They pressed my tummy and asked Maureen lots of questions about me and what I liked to eat. I remember that I had to try some different foods for a while until one did not make my tummy feel bad.

I am so glad to say that thanks to HULA and Maureen I am in very good health now.

I have a lot of fun and do lots of running in the park near our

house. There are some friends that I have made at the park and sometimes I chase the birds off of the fields I never catch them as they just fly away before I reach them. I like a paddle in the stream. One of my favourite things to do is run and catch my ball on a rope. I also love to roll on my back on top of the ball.

I love being out in the garden with my family, there are loads of interesting smells out there and so many bees and other insects to watch!

Yes I have a great time. I have had a lovely holiday on a farm where we went on lots of different walks.

I am going on another holiday soon with my family.

Message from Maureen & John.....

Thank you very much to HULA for all their kindness in helping us give Oscar a loving home. He means so very much to us.

We have had a number of comments from members of the public visiting the Sanctuary about the new HULA van that was acquired earlier this year.



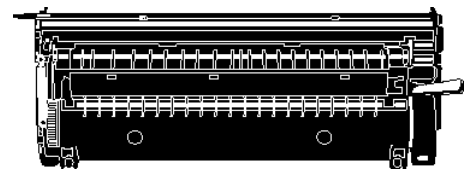
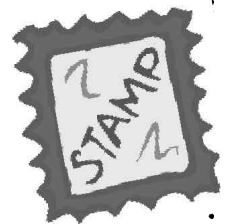
The two vans previously owned by HULA were old and very unreliable and were costing a lot of money to keep them roadworthy. Every week at least one if not two or three trips have to be made to the vets, either taking dogs and cats for neutering or for sick animals in need of medication which involves a forty mile round trip. A reliable vehicle is essential!

The main priority is the safety of the staff and the animals in our care. A decision was therefore taken by the Committee to look at leasing one as we could not afford to buy one. A very good deal was done with a local garage.

If anyone should be interested in sponsoring it we would only be too happy to acknowledge it by having their name sign written onto the side of the van.

## WANTED

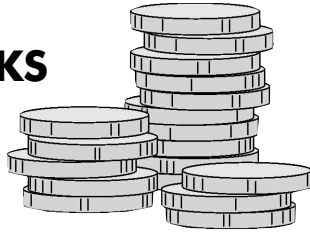
Used postage stamps, old mobile phones and empty inkjet cartridges can all raise money for the animals.



Please either send them to:  
HULA at Glebe Farm, Aspley Guise  
Milton Keynes MK17 8HZ  
or bring them to the Sanctuary  
where there are appropriate  
collection boxes in reception.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Our grateful appreciation for all the donations of money and pet food received in the last six months goes to the following individuals, organisations and companies:



The Great Weather Lottery  
Nomad Fly Fishing Club  
Mr Richard Freeman  
The Open University  
The Executors of the late Nora Thompson  
Beds HULA 50-50 Club  
The Executors of the late Barrie Minton  
Leighton Buzzard Dog Walking Club  
Mrs B.A. Warrington  
Up N'Over Dog Agility Club  
Mr and Mrs G. Reach  
Mr and Mrs M. Webb  
3m Bedford  
Milton Keynes Community Raffle  
Mrs P. Penn  
Messrs Shoosmith & Harrison (solicitors)  
Cedars Upper School, Leighton Buzzard  
Mr and Mrs R Mather  
Avis Ainsworth and her team of Animal Fundraisers

### WONDERFUL GIFT FROM CUSTOMERS OF DOVART PET SHOP AND KENNELS!

Dovart Pet Shop and Kennels - situated on the Woburn Road, Millbrook, Ampthill - have been donating food, and other useful items such as towels, blankets, etc to HULA residents for a long time now, and it is always very gratefully received, by staff and residents alike.

However, on my recent visit to them, I was amazed to receive a further very large supply of goodies - but this time, from the CUSTOMERS of Dovart! It had been decided to display a large bin, asking people to buy something extra for animals not yet lucky enough to have their own home, when they were buying for their own pets.

They have been incredibly generous, supplying many different types of food for HULA animals. THANK YOU SO MUCH! Your support is really appreciated.

*Marion Laurence*

## HULA SHOP



The shop is doing well with its team of willing volunteers who have been so helpful in covering extra hours while the Manageress has been away. We could still do though with more helpers so if you could give a few hours each week please telephone (01908 587401) or call in to see Mandy, the Manageress, to discuss the matter with her.

We were lucky to have had a beautiful Grandmother clock donated to us with a wonderful chime. It was sold within two days and has greatly added to our coffers!

We are always in need of good clothing, bric a brac, silver and jewellery. Unfortunately we are unable to take in any electrical items.

Just one other request. Could you please keep your boxes small and light. We are not getting any younger and lifting heavy things can be difficult and inadvisable to us 'golden oldies'!

### Staff Team Project



A big thank you to Bovis for supplying a group of staff to help with our sheep paddock extension. They not only provided the manpower but also the stock fencing and a badly needed larger field shelter. This will now provide comfort and extra accommodation for the eight Shetland sheep that came into HULA earlier in the year.

## WHY NOT BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

I and my wife Hazel decided to become volunteers in January of this year. We are currently without any pets of our own and have time on our hands. After filling in the application form and having an induction morning at the Sanctuary we were 'taken on' by HULA. We said that we could commit to two mornings a week and it was agreed that Hazel would clean out the cattery and I would walk dogs whilst she was doing it

The dog walking side of things starting in the middle of Winter - not the best time of year to be going around the field, but the dogs did not seem to object, so long as they got out. Going into the kennels, the noise is unbelievable, with lots of tail-wagging, jumping up and down and smiling, expectant faces, that could be saying 'me please'. Once the lead or harness is put on, we are off and, in most cases I am being dragged along to the pens where they can have a good free run, play and fetch toys, and hopefully get rid of some of their energy. Sometimes this works, but not in all cases, as the walk round the field can still be quite hard at times. After the walk, some tlc and maybe a biscuit treat and it is time to go back inside. Most of the dogs go back quite happily to their kennel but you know that they really would prefer to be out and about!

The cats are also very rewarding. The cleaning of the cattery takes two to three hours, depending on how many cats are in. If more than one cat comes in together, the staff always try to keep them together and rehome them together. The majority of them sit and wait patiently for their turn, just a

few make sure that you know they are waiting! It's great when you clean out a cage and get a gentle pat on the shoulder, as much as to say, 'don't forget to feed me'! Some of the cats like to climb on top of the cages, normally food entices them down. If not, it's a pair of longer arms than mine that are needed to reach them. Sometimes it is not easy top stay detached from the animals especially ones that come in in a bad condition or with some abnormality but it is really satisfying to see them recover and go out to new homes. Having had pets all my life it is nice to give something back to the less fortunate ones.

We have also become involved in the fundraising side of things and now find ourselves on the Fundraising Committee. We attend meetings to discuss ideas on how to raise money and to organise the monthly open days and fetes. Hazel runs a handicraft stall and I help with the car parking. Additional time has also been spent helping to sort out items donated for sale in the charity shop or Sanctuary Bazaar. We have recently been asked if we would like to undertake some home visits to check if applicants who want to give an animal a new home are suitable.

So as you can see a lot of our time is now taken up with HULA work but we are in a position to do so. Not everybody is so lucky but whatever spare time you can give it is very much appreciated by the staff and, of course, the animals who do so enjoy human company. We both find it most enjoyable and rewarding.

*Roy Mather*

# HULA ANIMAL RESCUE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

Sunday 18 Jan	New Year Get-Together	1pm - 3.30pm
Sunday 15 Feb	Winter's End Open Day	1pm - 3.30pm
Sunday 15 March	Spring Open Day & 'Rabbit Special'	1pm - 4pm
Sunday 19 April	Easter Get-Together Easter Raffle Draw	1pm - 4pm 3.45pm
Sunday 17 May	HULA's Hound Hullabaloo & Fun Dog Show	12noon - 4pm