

HULA tails

The Newsletter of HULA Animal Rescue



Winter 2009/10

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.

HULA Open Days

13th December, 1pm
Xmas Get-Together

10th January, 1pm
New Year Get-Together

14th February, 1pm
Animal Lovers & Winter's
End Get-Together

14th March, 1pm
Spring Open Day and
Bunny Bonanza

11th April, 1pm
Easter Get-Together

9th May, 12 noon
Doggie Fun Day

HULA Helps Dogs' Prospects

It is an unfortunate fact that, whilst HULA's re-homings are very successful, some dogs have been 'resident' for too long and further action has been required. A number of staff, volunteers and Angela Wilkins from Dogs in Training devised a training programme for Molly, Karl, Luke, Nuggets, Holly and Sam with a view to improving their chances of finding a loving new home. Each dog was allocated a trainer who



Holly taking a well earned break

would dedicate the time to help with the dog's specific training needs under the guidance of Angela.

After two weeks in the programme, the results have been encouraging. Whilst most dogs at HULA have had a degree of basic training, unfortunately there is often little opportunity to assess and reinforce this individually.

Nicola, who has been working with Karl, has commented, "given his background our main aim is for Karl to learn to look to his handler for guidance on how to behave". He has since made great strides with basic commands, walking to heel and past other people and dogs, so much so that in his last lesson "he was so well behaved we didn't need the time-out post at all".

Molly's trainer, Heather, noted that Molly "is always looking to find something exciting, so her mind is everywhere except with her handler." She now has grasped most things and Heather said "on Sunday she was excellent at remembering all we've done" adding "like most dogs consistency and practice are key".

The others on the programme have also made



significant progress and, with Nuggets finding a new home the signs are that the initiative is set to be a great success.

Building for the Future

HULA has re-organised the Committee so that its members have key areas of responsibility, ensuring the voluntary time of the post-holders is used to best effect in ensuring HULA achieves its aims.

The areas are: Sanctuary Operations; Volunteers; HR; Marketing & Fund-raising; Shop Operations;

Finance and Governance and Policies.

A key appointment in Sanctuary Operations is someone highly experienced in building and construction. He has advised on many aspects of the Sanctuary infrastructure. A comprehensive site maintenance and improvement plan has been

drawn up and the effects are already being felt with many essential repairs being made through Richard engaging many of his contacts to provide services and materials free or at greatly reduced cost.

The foundations for HULA are now strengthened and the future of HULA is in good hands.

From the Sanctuary - Steve Price



Louis, a shy Staffy who came to HULA after a road accident, was re-homed over a year ago with David and Kayla and, after a dose of Dog Bortol training from Lynne Davies, is now firmly a part of the family and "loved to bits". He still "runs down stairs and bashes head into the door", has a penchant for pinching sandwiches and has yet to figure out his tail is his!

"HULA always needs to make improvements at the Sanctuary but the size of everyday running costs often restricts what can be done.

As the winter approached it was necessary to upgrade some of our less efficient heaters in the animal houses - making the animals cosier during the colder weather and saving on our energy bills. In our main kennels, the back walls have been tiled, making them easier to clean and more hygienic for our dogs - all done by volunteers to help keep costs down. A kind business donation meant we have managed

to provide new dog beds with legs which, being raised off the ground, will prevent any damp coming through from the floor.

Two extra dog runs have also been erected alongside our others next to the ponies' grazing field.

"It's a good feeling knowing that HULA has so much support."

Essential roof repairs, drainage works and making safe some of the Sanctuary's electrics have also been undertaken. We have been very fortunate in getting most of these essential

jobs done at very reasonable cost and in some cases for free.

Voluntary help at the Sanctuary this year has been fantastic and public donations of all kinds have increased substantially. It's a good feeling knowing that HULA has so much support for the work that we do, enabling us to continue to offer a high standard of care for the animals at the Sanctuary. With more people year after year needing our help to re-home their pets, or simply just requiring advice to remedy an existing problem, the need for HULA has never been greater".

Legal Aid & the Domino Effect!

As well as individual voluntary contributions, HULA is fortunate to receive help from the corporate marketplace. A team from law firm, Shoosmiths, swapped suits for decorating gear, wood stain and paint to

clean, decorate and maintain the goat sheds, surgery and reception.

A team from Domino's Pizza did likewise, giving the kennels a thorough facelift and fresh coat of paint.



Shoosmiths legal aid for HULA

HULA Alumni



Maggie (or Millie?) in control?

HULA's measure of success is providing loving homes for the animals, so it is heartening to hear how they're getting on.

Maggie and Millie a year on seem more than nicely settled in the Edwards' family. Seemingly having the run of the house with two big fluffy cats, they seem to be able to determine not only when to be

cuddled but how as well!

Kiera was recently rehomed with Sarah who says "she is brilliant with the children and all the



dogs we have met ... is very good natured and eager to please."

Smokey, adopted by Christina Ling, is now called Poppy and has overcome her health problems to enjoy life in Redditch with Raffles, and the wild open space behind the pond in the garden "where she loves to go frog-watching".

Kaiser Gets Bronze!

One of HULA's long-term dogs, Kaiser, has "flown through" his Kennel Club Good Citizen bronze award. Kaiser has endured much during his stay at HULA, in 2008 he was 'refused entry' to a class because of his behaviour, but his achievement is testimony to the work done to help all the dogs and not give up on them.

Kaiser was assessed by an ex-Police dog handler for: lead walking; behav-

our with dogs; sit, wait and stay; doorway behaviour and returning when off the lead. "It is great that a dog that has been in a rescue all this time has achieved bronze" the examiner said.



Kaiser would not have been able to prove his worth without the help of all at HULA, and especially Karina Collins, whose belief has been unwavering, Debbie, Steve and Caroline at the Sanctuary, Angela from Dogs in Training who gave all her time for free, and dog buddies Macy and Polly who helped Kaiser at HULA and off-site. Kaiser's hard work means his future now looks a lot more assured.



Agria Pet Insurance held a dress down day and animal harvest appeal for HULA

Harvest Festivals for HULA

Dog food is a big cost for HULA so an appeal was made to local schools to see if they would like to help the animals for their traditional harvest festi-



vals. The response was fantastic and several schools took part and dedicated assemblies and class-work to animal welfare and looking after pets. Presentations about HULA were made and relationships for the future were forged. Our thanks go to Marston Vale Middle, Wavendon Gate Combined, Leedon Lower, Alameda Middle,

Cranfield Lower and Glastonbury Thorn schools for their enthusiasm and generosity for donating several weeks' food, treats and bedding for the HULA animals.



**Trans Haul of
Leighton
Buzzard have
donated many
hundreds of
cans of dog
food!**

With Thanks to

HULA is always indebted to those who donate time, services, materials and money to help us. Needless to say, there are always more than space allows, however, our thanks go to:

John Lewis Distribution for a contribution to re-vamp Reception with some HULA information panels. *Nick Higgs* at *Travis Perkins* for supply-

ing materials at cost and free delivery, *Bert Petty* of *Lee Roofing* for roof repairs, *John Freeman* of *JF Building Services* for ditch clearing and *Tompkins Plant Hire* for digger work.

Leanne Graham for her photography swap on Dogpages. *Sally Machell* for her talk on Responsible Pet Ownership at our Summer Open Day.

And to all the volunteers without whom HULA couldn't exist - those who help the animals, who make the open days happen, ensure the shop can open, help with the Sanctuary, attend meetings and events, raise money, get things printed and produced and assist with HULA in all the wonderful ways they do to make positive things happen.



Oscar with new friend from HULA, Ruff

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 a donkey, 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 further help please call between 1pm and 3pm any day or email HULA on hularescue@tiscali.co.uk



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HULA Shop

The HULA shop on Woburn Sands High Street continues to provide a valuable source of funds for HULA.

As a reminder - good quality items are always required but please do remember not to leave them outside the shop when it is shut. We care for our neighbours as well as our animals!

"pop in for a bargain"

and finally

....helping HULA need not involve spending. Heather Spragg gets newspapers from an old folks home and work, and excess veg from local allotment holders, all meaning the money HULA raises can be spent on better helping the animals.

50-50 Club

Forget the lottery - your chances of winning in the HULA 50-50 Club are much higher and the surplus each month only goes to one very good cause - HULA.

Simply 'purchase' units at £1 per unit, each month there is one draw for 50% of the club fund, and the other 50% goes straight to HULA to help fund the Sanctuary operations. Forms are available from HULA or can be downloaded from the website.

Once complete, sit back with fingers crossed and know a really good cause is being helped. Good luck!

Open Days Break Records

The 2009 HULA events record number of people attend the dog show and take part in the fun and games. Several HULA dogs came back to visit and some of those requiring new homes were on their best behaviour in the ring and mingling with potential adopters. October saw animal blessings with Revd. Chris Beales.



weather throughout the year, even the Summer Fete escaped the rain. The open days are an essential part of HULA's fundraising and public engagement plans.

Summer's End fete saw a

record number of people attend the dog show and take part in the fun and games. Several HULA dogs came back to visit and some of those requiring new homes were on their best behaviour in the ring and mingling with potential adopters. October saw animal blessings with Revd. Chris Beales.



Don't forget to pop a date in your diary early next year to come and see how we're progressing.

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