

# HULA tails

The Newsletter of HULA Animal Rescue



Spring 2010

Home for Unwanted and Lost Animals

## HULA

- Has re-homed over 35,000 animals
- Microchips (cats and dogs), 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 Sunday

### Open Days

13th June, 1pm  
38th Birthday

11th July, 1pm  
Children's Open Day

8th August, 1pm  
Summer Open Day

12th Sept., 12 noon  
Summer's End Fete

10th October, 1pm  
St. Francis Open Day &

14th November, 1pm  
HULA's Winter Warmer

## Special Homes for Special Dogs

It is a fact that not all the HULA dogs are able to be re-homed as quickly as we would all like. Building on the success of the training initiative for some of our more long-term dogs, a Special Dogs programme is being planned that provides a better quality of life while at HULA and a better chance of finding a special home.

It is intended to become a standard feature for dogs that have been with HULA



Karl - a special dog for someone special

for a specified amount of time and will cover a different approach to the key welfare areas of :

- Accommodation and welfare
- Exercise and mental stimulation
- Socialisation and behaviour
- Special opportunities for sponsorship and support
- Criteria for finding that special owner and home for them

The Sanctuary Operations team is busy working through some of the details and requirements necessary for the programme to be implemented.

One of the areas that will be important is a specific care programme that will provide for a programme of daily care and stimulation designed to be as close to a 'home-from-home' experience for the dogs as is possible to create. It will also speed up the chances of these special dogs being found a home.

One of the dogs special to HULA is Kaiser who, since excelling himself at training and socialisation classes and working on his Kennel Club Citizen awards, has seen the amount of interest in him rise considerably, and who would now be in a special home but for some unlucky circumstances.

Full details will be announced when they are finalised and the lives of these special dogs can be followed on the web and through the newsletter.



Kaiser - a proud owner of a Good Citizen Bronze Award

## Micro Chipping Pays

If you ever wondered whether it was worth micro-chipping then consider the case of a Burmese cat brought to HULA a few weeks ago.

She had been chipped and when scanned at HULA it transpired that the cat had been reported missing four years earlier! The cat had gone missing shortly after the original owners moved

and was taken in by a new family, only three miles away.

She is now reunited with the original owner and, commenting on the case, Sanctuary Manager, Steve Price, said, "It is important for cats to get used to a new area and it is best to keep them in for at least four weeks". So, micro-chipping pays and, if you weren't aware, you can

help HULA a little and have your pet chipped at HULA for only £15.



A chipped pet always has a chance of coming home

## Steve @ The Sanctuary

### Outside Events

Volunteers Roy & Hazel Mather are the face of HULA fundraising at outside events. 2009 was their first full year pitching up with a camper van full of HULA goodies.

*"..some are more successful than others but all are good for networking. The events we attend, the tin collections and car boots have raised more than £1300. Tombolas are the best fund raisers, so a big thank you to fellow volunteers and friends for their contributions and help - keep the prizes coming as more are always needed. Dunstable Downs was the only wet and windy day so hopefully we'll be spoilt again this summer."*

*With thanks*

*Roy and Hazel.*

"With the turn in the weather it is hard to remember the recent cold spell. It didn't really affect us too much and, unlike much of the country, the staff and most volunteers made it in. We also had a few water leaks but nothing that required a plumber.

The animal houses were kept warm enough and the farm animals are pretty hardy creatures, apart from a few of the old timers. Two of the sheep are really old now and didn't venture outside much and Chloe, the pot bellied pig, suffers a little from arthritis and chose to stay in her pig hut underneath her heat lamp.

Sheep seem to be the topic of the moment – we re-

cently rescued a farm sheep at the request of an RSPCA officer. She had been on her side for most of the day and, unable to contact the owner, the officer asked for our help. Thankfully a vet gave her the OK and after an overnight stay she was collected by the farmer fit and well. Sadly,

*"After a slow winter adoptions are now picking up."*

Papa Stour, our 17 year old ewe, became lame and wouldn't eat and had to be put to sleep. She had a great life at HULA and will be missed.

Other news. We welcome Jenny to the animal care team. She replaces Carly

and comes to us from a London farm. Donations of food and bedding have continued regularly and this really has helped us save a lot of money. After a slow winter, adoptions are now picking up which is good for everybody and I'm pleased to say we are moving ahead with plans to both improve the lives of those dogs who have been with us for too long and make better use of our space to improve the care and lives of all our animals. If you have signed up for our eNews then you'll be hearing a lot more about life at HULA and thank you to everyone for your help which allows us to continue with our work."

Steve

## Jumble Sales & Shop Wins Award

To make up for the January open day that was cancelled due to the weather, a group of volunteers, led by Joy and Hazel, decided to hold a last minute jumble sale at the Sanctuary. Over £400 was raised and it proved such a success that

they are planning to hold one every quarter.

The HULA shop won the Woburn Sands' Best Dressed Christmas Window competition. The traditional nativity was blended with a "you know it's Christmas

when the Easter eggs are in the shops" theme!



## HULA Alumni - Jake



*Jake - a credit to all involved in his transformation.*

Jake, a 2 year old Border Collie, came to HULA with what has been described as an 'interesting' background. Considerable commitment is needed when homing this breed given the physical exercise and mental stimulation needed. Jill and Peter took the challenge.

With HULA's help, they were able to take Jake home after a period of introduction and intensive con-

tact and, according to Jill, "it soon became clear that Jake was very insecure, nervous of everything and a true Collie in that he took responsibility for the whole world!"

Coping with the socialisation challenges of daily life was a considerable problem, however, with the advice of Lynne Davies, Jake's aggression was calmed through an under-

standing of who is boss in the house, and the use of a crate and spray collar.

Jake is now a devoted and giving companion who has "relinquished his responsibility for the world", lives with 2 kittens and is soon heading off for a seaside holiday in Cornwall.

He's a fantastic example of how lives can be positively changed with the right commitment from all.

## HULA Site Improvement Plans

As previously reported, there are some very exciting things happening at the Sanctuary at the moment. The Sanctuary Operations team are addressing the buildings and site management.

As well as a host of immediate problems such as roofing, drainage, sewerage and the access road being improved, there are plans being developed to look at how the site can be best used in the long-term. A site review has been undertaken and some recommendations are being drawn up

to look at how existing facilities can be used for up-graded kennels, improved insulation and housing for the small furry animals and cats, re-routing of mains water, and providing better storm drainage to overcome the problems caused by excess surface water. Some of the plans involve making far better use of the current Dutch barn to alleviate the pressure on some of the original temporary buildings.

A lack of development plans restricts access to grants for infrastructure

improvements so it is important that the site is considered as a whole, rather than addressed in a piecemeal fashion and, while HULA is facing severe financial constraints at present, it is critical for long-term survival to be able to compete for these funds.



*A new look at the site*

*HULA dog walking volunteers attended an evening with Angela from Dogs in Training to pick up some tips on dog handling and behaviour - all to ensure the out of kennel time for the dogs is improved.*

**Thanks to Bailey's Travel Agents of Leighton Buzzard who kindly gave four trolley loads of food and accessories - all donated by their customers.**

## Help HULA as you Shop. For FREE!

If you are an internet shopper, did you know you can donate money to HULA and it won't cost you a penny?

'Easyfundraising' is a shopping site that connects good causes to over 2000 online retailers and all will provide a donation to HULA if you shop via easyfundraising. Just register once and then shop - it is so simple and effective and it costs you absolutely nothing.

Is it only for small and specialist stores? No—there is literally something for everyone and shops are easily found through categories and shopping type. Here's

a selection of some of the big names and their donations:

- Amazon - 2.5%
- ebay - 12.5%
- PetPlan - £12.50
- Aviva & Direct Line - up to £30
- Play.com - up to 3%
- M&S - 5%
- Tesco - £2.50, 3% Tesco Direct
- Dominos - 4%
- Sainsbury's - 25p, 1.5% non-food
- Majestic - 2%
- Boots - 3%
- The Body Shop - 5%
- Dixons, Comet - 1.5%
- Green Flag - £15

- John Lewis, Habitat, House of Fraser - 2.5% and so on for over 2000 retailers!

So, wherever, whenever and for whatever you shop online one thing is guaranteed - you can help HULA and it costs you nothing. Kat Smith, a dedicated HULA helper, has raised over £80 just by shopping online as normal and for no extra effort "it's a no-brainer and 'free' money for HULA" she said.

To register just visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) Happy shopping and HULA helping!



**Did you know?** Every night and morning the main gate is checked for unwanted animals?

*During the cold weather a cardboard box containing 16 hamsters was left there - it was -2°C at the time! All are well and in the process of being re-homed*

## With Thanks to .....

HULA is indebted to many individuals and organisations for their support. Special thanks to those who have helped with the essential site improvement:

- Bert Petty - Lee Roofing
- Nick Higgs - Travis Perkins
- John Freeman - JF Building Services
- Stuart Tompkins - Tompkins Plant Hire

HULA supporter Zoe Furlong organised much of the recent Bunny Bonanza and our thanks go to her and to Pets at Home, Waggy Foods, Supreme Petfoods, Burgess Pet Care, Burns Pet Nutrition and Ark House Vets.

Did you know that HULA's fundraising is UK wide through collections organ-

ised by long-time HULA supporter Avis Ainsworth and her organisation Animal Fundraisers? They collect, sell HULA merchandise and collect food from many Pets at Home stores in the UK.

Also, many thanks to the Diamond Theatre Group for braving the elements and entertaining us at the Christmas open day.

## 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](mailto:hularescue@tiscali.co.uk)

## Donations Online Public Love Open Days

HULA is now fully able to accept donations and, if you want to fundraise, you can create your own pages online at:

- JustGiving.com
- VirginMoneyGiving

Simply go to the sites and search Charities for HULA. Online donations save HULA a lot of administration time and money because the Gift Aid is processed automatically and paid to HULA far more swiftly.



The HULA open days continue to draw the crowds. Who would have thought that HULA would be such a romantic draw as the Valentine's Day for animal lovers attracted record numbers on a fabulous sunny day?

Thankfully, apart from a frozen January, the weather has been kind enough to allow the field to be used for car parking and the recent Bunny Bonanza proved a big hit



with lovers of all things rabbit. Christine from Ark House vets gave a talk about looking after rabbits and things to watch out for, as well as invaluable dietary advice.

The rabbit costume competition saw some lovely entries and generally the day hopped along nicely.



The popular Fun Dog Show on May 9th proved to be just that with record attendances, of people and dogs, and takings for HULA. Full details in the next edition, but thanks to all who came.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.hularescue.org)



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## HULA eNews

Would you like to get updates and news of what's happening at HULA more frequently?

We are putting in place an eNews programme for our members and supporters - this means you can keep up to date with the special dogs for example, and all the exciting plans being put in place. If the answer is "yes" then drop the editor an email and keep an eye on your Inbox.

### and finally ....

*Did you know that HULA is a member of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes? It is a body set up to promote and develop good practice, exchange and share knowledge, provide a voice for the rescues etc. It's good to know that HULA is at the heart of it.*