

# Wadars News

## Spring 2021



[www.wadars.co.uk](http://www.wadars.co.uk)

Emergency Rescue & Rehoming Service 01903 247111

### Welcome to the Spring issue of Wadars News

It has been a little while since our last newsletter during which time our staff have been busy continuing to run our vital services, both on our site and out in the community.

For the last few months our wildlife unit has been temporarily closed whilst we carried out some much needed refurbishments, but it is now back open and we have recruited a wildlife manager, Hannah Stainton who joined the Wadars team in late February.

Hannah is a Registered Veterinary Nurse who has had a passion for wildlife since volunteering at a rescue in East Sussex where she gained knowledge and experience over a period of 4 years there in various roles. Hannah is currently completing a research project as part of her Bachelor's degree at the Royal Veterinary College which focuses on the treatment of lungworm in hedgehogs.



Our wildlife supervisor Katherine is now on maternity leave and her role is being covered by Paula Carroll, who for a number of years has been volunteering, fostering small animals (baking cakes with her 'foster charges' on!), and more recently working for Wadars, including a spell in the wildlife unit last year. To complete the team Hannah and Paula will soon be joined by a part time wildlife assistant and together with some of our volunteers, will be getting the Unit back up to speed in time for the busy Spring and Summer months ahead.

The Team is looking for help with the release of wildlife once it has been rehabilitated in our Unit and is appealing for people to provide a 'soft release site' for wild animals which for various reasons can't be returned to where they came from. This would involve providing some space (either a garden or land) for us to put an aviary of approximately 2x3m. This is where animals will be placed for a short period of acclimatisation and then the doors will be opened to release them into the surrounding area. You would need to feed the animals daily for approximately 2-4 weeks at a time, with food provided by us, as well as monitor them and clean the cages when necessary.

Species which are likely to be released in the aviaries depends on what already lives in the area, but could include; songbirds, corvids, pigeons and occasionally some small mammals. If you think you can help, please email Hannah via [wildlife@wadars.co.uk](mailto:wildlife@wadars.co.uk)

Whilst for the time being our site remains closed to visitors we are very much still rehoming cats, dogs and small animals so please do get in touch if you are interested in adopting an animal or need to find a home for your current pet. Whilst we can't always promise to be able to take them in ourselves, we will always try to offer advice or suggest other organisations that might be able to help.

As ever I would really like to thank everyone that has supported us in whatever way over the last year. With your help we have continued to run our vital services throughout the difficult times. We hope that with restrictions easing over the coming months we can welcome more volunteers back and in time, see many of you at events and activities around the county.

*Tracy and the Team at Wadars.*



### How to get in touch

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Wadars is a registered charity (number 1149884) and a company limited by guarantee (number 8273985).

## Wadars helps in the bid to find homes for hundreds of guinea pigs!

Back in December Wadars got involved in the homing of a large number of guinea pigs following the death of their owner. The owner was in fact a breeder who originally had 80 guinea pigs, but following her death, when family members cleared her property, unfortunately the guineas were all put together in a large barn and eventually there were literally hundreds!

Various charities got involved and took on the task of caring for and eventually rehoming the guinea pigs, and whilst Wadars only took in a relatively small number, they were the boys that no one else wanted as they can often be more difficult to find homes for.

Many of the chirpy little characters were suffering from skin conditions or had wounds when they came to us, but after many weeks of treating their various ailments we eventually found lovely new homes for them.



## Wadars supports British Hen Welfare Trust



For the first time in many months we were recently asked to once again support the British Hen Welfare Trust (BHWT) by hosting hen homing days for them, and have helped with the homing of almost 550 ex-commercial laying hens that would otherwise have gone for slaughter.

Whilst many of the hens are missing feathers and looking a little scruffy, after some good food and plenty of daylight and space they soon perk up and most even supply their new owners with the odd egg too!

To find out more about adopting ex-laying hens contact the BHWT on 01884 860084 or email [info@bhwt.co.uk](mailto:info@bhwt.co.uk)

## Tougher sentences for animal cruelty as Animal Welfare Sentencing Bill passes

We were absolutely delighted to hear that the Animal Welfare Sentencing Bill had been passed by the Lords recently and was at that point about to become law once signed off by The Queen. The new law will mean that the maximum sentence for anyone convicted of animal cruelty rises from six months to five years. Huge congratulations to everyone that has campaigned for this long overdue change.

## Volunteering opportunities - can you help?

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing restrictions we have only been able to bring in a very small number of volunteers to help staff, and sadly whilst this is still the case for many of our volunteering roles, we do currently have three opportunities that we are recruiting to.

- **Wildlife drivers** – *This role involves collecting contained (ie already in a box) sick or injured birds or small mammals from either a vet or member of the public and transporting it to our site or other wildlife centre. We are currently looking for drivers every day of the week, especially through the summer months, so plenty of choice re when you can help! This could involve using your own vehicle to drive the wildlife for which mileage can be claimed*
- **Wildlife volunteers** – *This is a hands-on role supporting the work of our Wildlife Team in the cleaning out and caring for wildlife casualties at our Ferring site. We currently have some morning and some afternoon slots available – 8.30am-12pm or 3.30pm-5pm – so please contact us to discuss availability (this is likely to initially be once a fortnight)*
- **Indoor fostering of small animals** – *this role involves caring for rabbits or guinea pigs in your own home until a new permanent home can be found for them. Wadars will provide all equipment needed for this role but fosterers do need to have their own transport in order to be able to take animals to vet appointments.*

**To find out more about any of these roles please contact our Fundraising & Volunteer Coordinator, Sophia Wilks, on 01903 247111 or email [sophia@wadars.co.uk](mailto:sophia@wadars.co.uk)**

## Thank you for the ongoing support!

**Fundraising has been incredibly challenging since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic, with all community events, challenges and collections being so abruptly halted. There are however some amazing supporters who have been able to continue to raise funds for us and for that we are very grateful. Here are just a few examples of recent support.**

Wendy and the team at the Worthing's Lyons Farm branch of Pets at Home have been supporting us with donated goods and campaigns such as 'Santa Paws' and the Summer collection for several years and despite the pandemic they have continued to support us and have raised thousand of pounds to help us care for our animals. Wendy told us; "We think you are a fantastic lifeline to pets in and around Worthing. You are incredibly respected and loved by our customers and we know just like us, the pets in your care come first". A huge thank you from Wadars to everyone at Pets at Home Lyons Farm as well as their customers who continue to support us.



CooleBevis<sup>LLP</sup>

We are delighted to announce that we have been chosen as one of three charities to be supported by Coole Bevis LLP for a three-year period. We are very excited to see where this journey will take us, so as they say 'watch this space...'

Joe Greaves is a local young man who came up with a fun way to support us as well as complete a section of his Duke Of Edinburgh award. He designed, printed, and sent out some fantastic drawings for children to colour in during lockdown. Raising money for us and keeping children occupied.

Joe said; "I chose to support Wadars, as I love animals and think it's very important to support animals that might not have a loving home. With the nationwide lockdown, it was difficult to think what I could do to support Wadars, while not being allowed to leave the house. My mum is a childminder and I often draw pictures with the little ones, and then thought I could continue drawing and fundraise at the same time!

My mum also told me smaller charities, were struggling to raise funds during the pandemic as all their events were cancelled and so far I have raised £114". Great job Joe!



**Now that lockdown restrictions are gradually being eased, there are more ways that you can support Wadars and help enable us to look after animals in need of rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming. Here are just a few suggestions to get you thinking....**

- If you fancy taking part in a challenge event and want a great cause to benefit, we can support you all the way, just let us know how we can help!
- If you fancy something a little less extreme you could have a cake sale, tea party or video quiz night, anything to celebrate getting together (when restrictions allow) with friends, family, and the local community
- If you work for a local company, could you encourage them or their employees to support us?

**For any help or advice contact Sophia on 01903 247111 or email [sophia@wadars.co.uk](mailto:sophia@wadars.co.uk)**

*Please do remember that however you plan to support Wadars, to stay safe and follow government guidelines.*

## Vets urge dog owners to ensure their pet's vaccinations are up to date

Veterinary surgeons in different parts of the country have been reporting a worrying rise in cases of canine parvovirus, a potentially fatal disease that causes dogs to have severe vomiting and diarrhoea. It is thought that the rise is linked to the fact that many dog owners had been unable or in some cases unwilling to get their dogs vaccination boosters done during lockdown. All dog owners are being urged to ensure that their pet's vaccinations are brought up to date as soon as possible to prevent more cases of the highly infectious disease.



## Focus on Elaine Sinclair - Wadars Animal Rescue Officer

Elaine Sinclair has been involved with Wadars for more than 20 years, originally as a volunteer and Committee Member and since 2014, as a member of staff. It was whilst volunteering at a local wildlife rescue that Elaine first heard about Wadars and decided that she wanted to get involved.

When asked what a typical day as an Animal Rescue Officer (ARO) involves, Elaine replied "There certainly isn't a typical day in this role! We can be called out to rescue a seal on the beach; a fox that has got itself caught up in netting; swans that are fighting over territory; gull chicks that have fallen from roof tops, and pretty much anything in between. To be honest the variety is what I love about it, and there certainly isn't time to get bored."

The Wadars AROs have continued to provide the Charity's vital wildlife rescue service throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and whilst lockdowns have prevented their volunteer drivers from assisting them, the work has actually increased. In 2020 the AROs responded to hundreds of calls from concerned members of the public, resulting in over 2,000 wildlife casualties being rescued, and many of those then being cared for by our wildlife team.

Elaine's favourite part of the ARO role involves the rescuing of sick and injured wildlife and seeing it cared for until it is well enough to be released back into the wild. The hardest part is seeing the sadness in people that are having to give up their much loved pets for various reasons such as ill health or moving home. Elaine commented; "That side of the work never gets any easier, but to be honest it probably never should."

***Next issue to include a day in the life of a Wadars cattery assistant.***



**Wadars Animal Rescue charity is on the prowl for outdoor homes for cats....**



We currently have cats looking for 'employment' as rodent controllers or as companions in your outdoor areas.

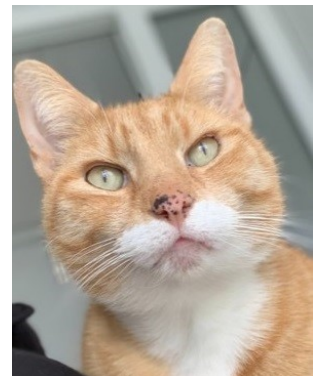
If you own a farm, livery yard, stables, smallholding, or even if you have a garden with a spare shed and could offer a special home to one of these cats, we would love to hear from you!

**Call Wadars today on 01903 247111**

## Is Rupert the boy for you?

This handsome chap is Rupert and he came to us as sadly he was not happy with the new baby in his home.

He is an absolute character and knows exactly what he wants and when he wants it. He has his moments of being super affectionate and loves nothing better than to curl up on our laps.



Rupert is also very intelligent and can get easily frustrated as we are finding recently due to an on going infection in his toe needing vet treatment.

We have recently been trying some clicker training with him where he is learning to sit to help him use his brain a bit more whilst he is still in our care, and it certainly seems to be helping.

We are hoping that Rupert will soon be ready to find an adult-only home where he can also be an only pet.

***If you think that you might be able to provide the home that Rupert needs please call us on 01903 247111 for an initial chat.***