

Wadars News

January 2024



www.wadars.co.uk

Emergency Rescue & Rehoming Service 01903 247111

Welcome to Wadars News, and on behalf of everyone here at Wadars, a belated Happy New Year.

This month sees the 55th anniversary of the beginnings of Wadars (yes, we actually started rescuing animals in need in the same year as the first moon landing!), and we are planning to celebrate our birthday throughout the year, so do watch out for a range of events and activities that you can get involved in.

One such event is our annual *Walk for Wadars* sponsored walk, which is taking place on Sunday 12th May. The walk starts at Goring Gap Green and runs right along the prom to Worthing Pier and back. See page 3 for further details about the walk and how you can enter.

On page 2 you'll find a round up of just some of the things that your support made possible last year, as well as some of the challenges that we faced.

Speaking of challenges, if you are thinking of making 2024 the year that you tackle a skydive, bungee jump, or maybe even a wing-walk, then why not use the opportunity to raise funds for Wadars? See page 3 for more details.

On the back page of this newsletter we are featuring a number of animals, including the beautiful Inka (pictured right) as well as a number of cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and gerbils that are looking for new homes. If you would like more details about any of the animals featured, visit www.wadars.co.uk and click on 'animal adoption'. If you don't have access to the internet then do call the office on 01903 247111 and a member of the team will complete a form over the phone for you.



Why not book a Wadars talk for your local group or club?

To help celebrate our 55th birthday, members of our animal welfare team will be coming out into the local community to give talks about their day-to-day work in our cattery, our small animal unit, and our mobile wildlife rescue service. There's no charge for these talks, although a donation towards expenses is always most welcome!

If you would like to book a talk, please call us on 01903 247111.

A new challenge facing animal rescue centres

The numbers of dogs being brought into the UK from abroad has dramatically increased in recent years and along with it an emerging problem of diseases being brought in, often without dogs displaying symptoms. Diseases such as Canine Brucellosis and Leishmaniasis can be transmitted to the UK dog population but also in some cases to humans.

Any dogs coming into Wadars that have lived abroad will require negative blood tests before we are able to accept them. If you are considering rehoming your dog and it has previously lived or travelled abroad, then contact us so that a member of the team can discuss the process with you.



How to get in touch

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Registered charity (number 1149884)

What your support helped us to achieve in 2023

As we move into 2024 we wanted to take a look back at what your support has enabled Wadars to achieve over the last 12 months.

In 2023 our mobile animal rescue team responded to more than 1,200 calls for help from members of the public who were concerned about sick or injured wildlife. That number included calls to rescue more than 430 garden birds; 150 foxes; 100 hedgehogs and 400 seabirds.

Swans also featured quite heavily in our wildlife rescue work last year. Luckily a number of swans were only in need of feeding up and a bit of rest and recuperation, and after a veterinary check up were transported up to the Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton, Middlesex, where they stayed until they were ready to be released again.

During the drier months (yes, believe it or not there actually were some!) we were called out to numerous swans and cygnets that were struggling to find water sources after their usual haunts had all but dried up.

One case in particular involved this family of swans in Lancing who, in their search for water, ended up in a back garden swimming pool!

Animal rescue officer, Billy, and animal welfare supervisor, Emily, attended and managed to corral the birds into a paddock area before catching them up and releasing them on the nearby River Adur where there were no other swans.



We opened our small animal unit in early 2023, and having the unit has enabled us to care not only for rabbits and guinea pigs, but also a range of smaller animals including hamsters (like little Ziggy pictured right), gerbils and rats. The facilities also enabled our animal welfare team to successfully bond a number of pairs of rabbits before finding new homes for them. On the back page of this newsletter you will find some of the small 'fluffy' animals currently in our care that are looking for their forever homes, so please do take a look if you are thinking about adopting a new pet.



One thing that we definitely struggled to keep up with last year was the increase in the numbers of animals that we have been asked to take in for rehoming. Between January and December 2023 we were asked to take in close to 1,000 companion animals that people could no longer keep, which was up almost 200 on the previous year. Sadly a fair number of people stated that they were no longer able to afford to keep their pets due to the cost of living crisis. We also saw a dramatic increase in the number of large dogs that we were being asked to take in, as well as many more dogs that had either shown some form of aggression or actually bitten people or attacked other animals.

We couldn't do a round up of the year without mentioning the devastating outbreak of avian influenza that occurred at our Centre at the end of June, which resulted in the closure of our wildlife unit. After almost six months of hard work and much expense we are thankfully now out the other side of the whole ordeal, and were officially 'signed off' and had all restrictions lifted by Defra just before Christmas. A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated to help us recoup some of the money lost as a result of the outbreak.

Prior to the outbreak, our wildlife staff and volunteers cared for almost 270 casualties including a number of orphaned ducklings, who were successfully hand reared before being released back into the wild.

Sadly, our wildlife unit at the centre will remain closed for the time being until we can build our new specialist unit, but our mobile animal rescue team continues to work in the community responding to literally hundreds of calls from members of the public where animals are sick, injured or in peril such as foxes who are suffering with mange or appear to have the fatal Leptospirosis disease.



If you are concerned about sick or injured wildlife call our Team on 01903 247111.

Having a Spring Clean?

If so, did you know that it's really easy to raise funds for Wadars at the same time by selling your unwanted items on eBay and donating part or all of the proceeds to us?

It's really simple to do just by listing your items and then clicking on a link and selecting Wadars. eBay does the rest and the funds come direct to us. And, as a well-known supermarket chain says - **every little helps!**

Are you up for the challenge?

Why not take on a personal challenge this year and help raise vital funds for our work with animals in need?



You could choose from treks, runs, abseils, skydives or even create your own challenge event - the list is endless.

To find out more, get in touch with our fundraiser Jenny by emailing jenny@wadars.co.uk

Get creative this February!

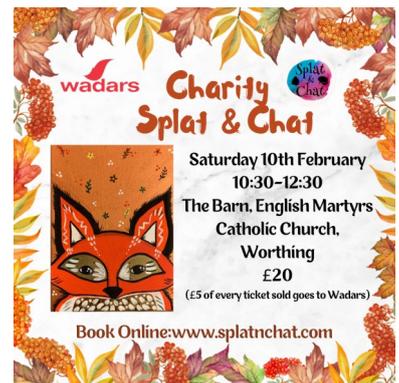
Chloe from West Sussex-based 'Splat & Chat' is holding an exclusive fun painting class in aid of Wadars on Saturday 10th February at The Barn, English Martyrs Catholic Church, in Goring by Sea.

The Splat & Chat paint party will be approximately two hours long and you will receive step-by-step tuition with Chloe. All materials and equipment are included.

Everyone paints the same design, which in this case is an art deco style fox designed especially for Wadars (see image below) and you will have a canvas to take away at the end of the session.

You don't need any previous experience or even to be particularly artistic to take part as everything is broken down into simple to follow steps.

The event starts at 10.30am and is open to anyone aged 8 years and over (children must be supervised by a paying adult) and the cost is £20 per person with **£5 from each booking coming to Wadars.**



To book please visit www.splatnchat.com

Enter our special 55th birthday Walk for Wadars

Our annual Walk for Wadars event is back once again, and this year will take place on Sunday 12th May.

Walk for Wadars is our popular fundraising walk which starts at Goring Gap Green and goes right along the prom to Worthing Pier and back. The completely flat route is suitable for people of all ages, and whilst well behaved dogs are very welcome, you definitely don't need to have a dog to take part!

There's a choice of either the full five mile route, or for anyone who finds the thought of that a bit daunting, or for families with young children we have a shorter, family-friendly two and a half mile option.

Entry is by minimum donation of £10 for a single adult or £20 for a family group of one or two adults plus up to four children. As 2024 is our 55th anniversary, if you are able to help make the event extra special by raising some additional sponsorship that would also be very gratefully received.

To enter Walk for Wadars 2024 complete the online form via the Wadars Events page on www.wadars.co.uk or contact us for a hard copy of the form, and you will be sent details of how to make your entry donation.

If you have any questions about the event please contact our fundraising manager, Jenny, on 01903 247111 or email jenny@wadars.co.uk



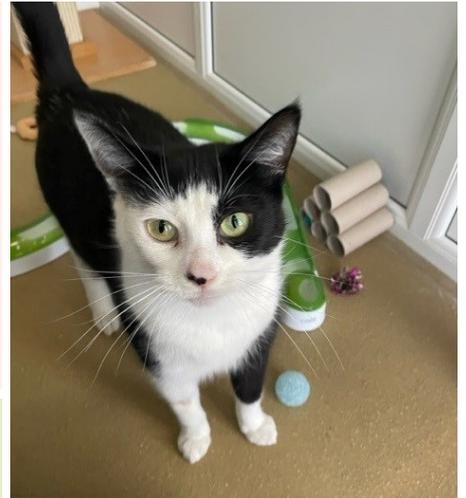
Could you offer a home to any of these cuties?



Inka is a young, friendly female Lurcher. She is also rather excitable and has bundles of energy! Inka needs a home with someone experienced enough to train and guide her through her teething phase.

Millie is a friendly and sociable young cat who is always looking for affection.

We are looking for a home for Millie with no other pets, but she could go with older children.



Young cats & kittens. We currently have a number of young cats and kittens ready for adoption.

To find out more about adopting a young cat or kitten, please visit our website and fill out an adoption application form.

Kiki is in need of a neutered and vaccinated bunny friend to be her lifelong companion and we believe she would be okay around young children. Please get in contact for more details about Kiki and for information about bonding rabbits.



Mamma & Scruffy were not handled much in their previous home so need someone with time to socialise them. Scruffy (the brown angora cross) is the more confident of the two and will come up to you to investigate if you have any food for her and will stick around for a quick head tickle. As Scruffy is so 'scruffy' she will require regular grooming sessions.



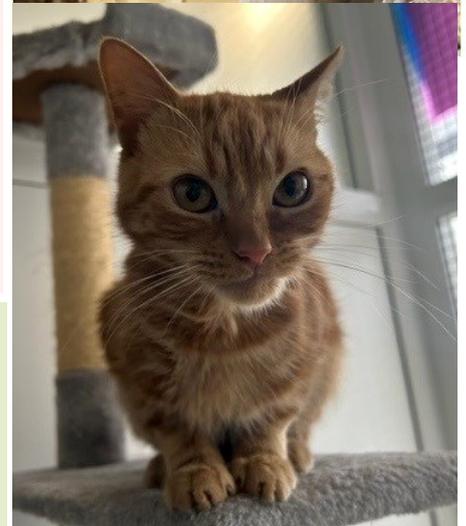
Wilbur & George are a bonded pair of male guinea pigs and we are looking for a home for them where they can stay together. They can be a little nervous at first but once they get to know you are friendly little lads.

Sid & Wigan are a pair of lovely male gerbils who came into our care after their owners were no longer able to look after them. Being young they will need a regular routine to get them used to being handled.



Bisket is a sweet cat who is looking for someone who will give her time to settle. We are looking for adult-only, quiet household, where Bisket will be an only pet.

Simba is still young and has lots of energy, so will need to be kept entertained with plenty of playtime and cuddles! He is likely to need time to gain confidence with his new forever family as he can be wary of new people.




wadars

To find out more about adopting any of these animals, visit www.wadars.co.uk