



# Little Valley animal shelter

Issue 61

June 2021



Celebrating 30 years of helping  
Devon's most needy animals

Black Hat Lane, Bakers Hill, Exeter EX2 9TA T: 01392 439898  
[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk) Charity No. 205154



## **IN THIS ISSUE**

<b>From the CEO.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Retail News.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Shelter News.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Special Appeal for Foster Homes....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Busy Bunnies.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Thank You from Gyp.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Little Valley and the RSPCA.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Animal Behaviour.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Full on the Ferret Front!.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Animals for Adoption.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Happy Home Stories.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Corporate Fundraising.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Leave a Legacy.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Help Little Valley Today.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Summer Raffle.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Goodbye from Jill Brush.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>eBay Volunteers Needed.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Could you be a Trustee?.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>And Finally.....</b>	<b>27</b>

I hope you enjoy reading our summer bulletin which explores, explains and reflects on life at Little Valley during the last few months as we religiously followed the government's roadmap out of lockdown and slowly and very cautiously emerged into a different, but hopefully more normal world.

What a year it has been for us all. Desperately sad, worrying and very uncertain but hopefully we can now all begin to move forward again. This is certainly the case for Little Valley as our animal numbers have dramatically increased, all our shops have re-opened and numerous projects that were mothballed during the pandemic are being moved forward again (more on this below). In short we are once again a hive of activity on all levels with almost all our staff being un-furloughed and our army of wonderful volunteers at last returning to the shelter. It is all very exciting!

Our raft of new projects is directly linked to our strategy of making sure that we make full use of Little Valley (both the site itself and all the buildings/kennels/pens), and that we reach out and help even more animals across our area that need our care and support.

One of the many internal projects that we will be undertaking on site is a significant investment in ICT and training in order to ensure we capture more animal care data and model and use that productively in order to improve our services and make more informed decisions. Better ICT will also enable us to communicate more effectively virtually, both externally and internally, and perhaps most importantly ICT investment will ensure that we become even more efficient and effective in the ways we work and will better prepare us for the many changes and challenges in future years.

Externally we will shortly be pressing ahead with the creation of an animal collection officer post which will cover all our patch and also help to raise our profile and our brand. We also hope to be pressing ahead with the North Devon Branch merger, thereby enabling us to better reach out and care for even more animals across Devon as well as provide a more seamless, joined up service.

Finally, over the next year we plan to be much more active outside the shelter with events, education and training days, and potentially pop in animal care pod clinics that will offer advice and support for pet owners.

We also desperately want to celebrate our 30th Anniversary with our many supporters and have tours of our new dog kennels (finally completed in the middle of the pandemic just under a year ago) and our wonderful site here at Little Valley which would include our small animal pens, extensive cat pens and buildings, and our many green spaces where we walk, train (with the help of our new animal behaviorist) and generally exercise our dogs (and staff!). Sadly however because of the pandemic and all the rules and regulations around large gatherings and social distancing, the many events and tours we had planned (including our customary shelter day) have all had to be postponed. However rest assured not cancelled, and we hope to be able to run an events program very soon.

In closing I would like to thank all of our amazing supporters for their letters, telephone calls, emails and social media platform comments that have been full of encouragement and support for Little Valley during the pandemic - this really makes all the difference to us and has kept our spirits up during such a difficult time. Your kind and generous donations also made a huge difference. We really could not have survived without your support and we owe you a huge debt of gratitude. Thank you. Keep safe, keep well ... and please keep supporting Little Valley ☺

### **HUGH LOWSON, CEO**



## RETAIL NEWS

Following the easing of lockdown restrictions, Little Valley's charity shops finally re-opened on 12 April 2021. We are delighted to report that in the first few weeks of trading our loyal customers flocked back and we achieved record sales for which we are truly grateful, the income from our shops helps to meet Little Valley's running costs.

Although our shops continue to be profitable, footfall and customer numbers have fallen away slightly in the last few weeks. We are hoping this is only a temporary blip. Please don't forget to visit our shops because we need your support more now than ever before. Due to the devastating impact of the pandemic, it has been an extremely challenging year for both Little Valley and our retail shops.

We have however been blessed with a record number of stock donations which has enabled our managers to update and rotate the goods on the shop floor far more regularly. This is another good reason to visit our shops, as new stock is added daily and treasures await!

To help ensure this refresh practice continues we always welcome donations of quality stock, so what better reason do our supporters need for a good old clear-out at home?



## OUR SHOPS:

### BRIXHAM

1 Market Street, Brixham TQ5 8EU  
Tel: 01803 859695

### BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

46 High Street, Budleigh EX9 6LJ  
Tel: 01395 442349

### COWICK ST, EXETER

31 Cowick Street, Exeter EX4 1AL  
Tel: 01392 213847

### SIDWELL ST, EXETER

150 Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6RT  
Tel: 01392 210691

### NEWTON ABBOT

49 Courtenay St, Newton Abbot TQ12 2QN  
Tel: 01626 330716

Our eBay retail sales remain buoyant, and as a result of the pandemic promoting changes in shopping habits, our eBay presence is an area that we will be developing further in the near future, with much more offered online on the eBay platform. In addition, we are investigating the possibility of creating a virtual shop. Both these concepts will potentially help to generate much needed income for Little Valley, however they are dependent on the recruitment of more volunteers to join our existing, much valued volunteers (based at Little Valley) to help us develop and grow these areas - more on page 25.

In closing we'd like to pay a special tribute to our shop volunteers and retail staff who diligently, professionally, and most importantly, safely kept all our shops operating (when we were allowed to be open) throughout the pandemic.

## SHELTER NEWS

The sun is shining again! Let's hope summer is on its way at last. Sadly we feel it is too early to have an event but we are doing a summer raffle. More about that on page 23.

As many of you know we are in a lovely valley with a stream running through it. Downside is it is always quite wet so the grass is always growing. The wild rabbits help to keep some areas down but the recent wet weather has made everything jump.

We are therefore looking for an active volunteer to help mow/strike the grass and perhaps help with a few maintenance jobs where two pairs of hands are needed. If you are interested in helping please give me a call on the reception number to have a chat.

Animal numbers are picking up and our appointments only system is still working well for both animals and staff. Inspectors are visiting more homes and supporting both the public and animals once again.

With our numbers rising we have welcomed a handful of volunteers back to the fold recently.



Fair to say both animals and staff have missed their help and smiley faces.

As you can see from the pictures a couple of staff have received some belated long service awards. Supervisor Becki (lower pic) has been with us for over 15 years and Deputy Anna (top pic) has been with us for over 10 years. They are pictured alongside Carol, our Branch Chairman adhering to social distancing.

We hope everyone continues to remain well and hopefully sooner than anticipated will have had both vaccinations. Hopefully in the next newsletter we will have more news about what's going on later in the year.

JO EVANS, SHELTER MANAGER

## SHELTER INFO

Telephone opening times:  
6 days a week (Closed Wednesdays)  
11am - 4pm  
01392 439898

Shelter currently closed to visitors.  
(Open by special appointment only)

**RSPCA Cruelty & Advice Line:**  
**0300 1234 999 (open 7am-10pm)**

## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FOSTER HOMES

Adopting an animal into your household is a wonderful and rewarding process and without our adopters we simply wouldn't be able to function. Our goal for each and every animal we take in is to find them loving forever home as soon as possible.

But sadly, this process is harder and lengthier for some animals than others. Normally this because they exhibit behavioural issues derived from being subject to abuse or neglect in their past lives. Or because they arrive to us pregnant or with serious health conditions meaning they cannot be rehomed right away.

Some animals can become accustomed to the routines of shelter life very quickly and then struggle to adjust when a home is finally found: others simply do not adjust to life at the Shelter and need some respite in a home environment. We don't want to see animals spending longer in kennels and pens and away from the loving homes they need to thrive than absolutely necessary.

### **This is why we are appealing for special foster homes to help us bridge the gap between shelter life and forever home.**

For the most part, these foster homes will need to be adult only (although please do still get in touch if you have older, sensible children) and without other pets.

You'll need to be at home most of the day and be happy to report back to the Shelter regularly on an animal's progress.



**Handsome Keith was fostered last month and is making great progress.**

For dogs who go into foster care, a secure garden is essential, as it allows them space for some off lead freedom. We'll also ask that you work with our dog team at the Shelter to implement training and socialisation techniques to help increase the dog's confidence.

For pregnant animals, mother cats with kittens and injured or unwell animals who would recover better away from a shelter environment you'll need to be happy to attend vet trips where needed (costs will be fully covered).

If you feel you have the time and environment to offer one of our special animals a foster home then we'd love to hear from you. Even if you can only offer a home for a short period you could make a real difference. Please contact the Shelter on 01392 439898 or [info@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](mailto:info@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk) for more info.

## **BUSY BUNNIES AT LITTLE VALLEY**

**This year's Rabbit Awareness Week is just around the corner and with that in mind we wanted to talk about the lives of rabbits in rescue shelters (such as Little Valley).**

Rabbits are often seen as 'fair-weather pets' and because of this often spend long stints in shelters, particularly during the wetter and colder months.

Good news though, rabbit rehoming season has started! This means many of our long-staying rabbits have at last found happy and loving homes. We'd love it if more people saw the importance of rehoming rabbits all year round but right now, we're just happy to see our rabbits finding new homes and getting the chance to start afresh as much-loved pets.

The majority of the rabbits we care for end up at Little Valley because their owners sadly lose interest, not realising the commitment needed to look after them for their long lives (rabbits live to an average of 8-10 years old). They also come in as strays, found abandoned by members of the public, and because new owners have unknown allergies.

Rabbits are highly intelligent and curious animals, making wonderful pets with distinct personalities and the capability to bond with their owners similarly to cats or dogs. We put lots of effort into keeping them busy during their time here, especially as many of them will stay with us for several weeks. We provide enrichment such as chew toys, cardboard boxes, toilet roll tubes stuffed with hay and tasty treats and tunnelling and hiding opportunities for those who love to explore.

The rabbits here at Little Valley also have access to outdoor grassy compounds as soon as they are fully health checked and vaccinated. We generally rehome rabbits singly to new homes who already have a neutered rabbit (of the opposite sex) and occasionally have bonded pairs looking for homes. If you can offer a rabbit a 'hoppy' home, come rain or shine, please don't hesitate to check our website for details.

**Rabbit Awareness Week 2021  
28th June – 4th July**



## GYP'S BACK ON ALL FOUR PAWS – THANKS TO YOU!



Many of you might remember Gypsy, the terrier cross who came to us with a broken leg which her owners were unable to afford to have mended. The operation she needed was urgent, and expensive, but thanks to the generosity of our incredible supporters we were able to arrange for little Gypsy to be operated on almost straight away.

After her operation Gypsy went into foster care to recover but, unsurprisingly, her fosterers Harriet and Tim fell under her spell and adopted her shortly after getting her home, renaming her Gypsophila (Gyp for short). Gyp's life has been a bit of a rollercoaster since then.



After she was given the full bill of health by our vet she had two glorious weeks of freedom, where she bounded through paddocks and played with other dogs in the park.

Then she came the second phase of a split heat (this is quite common for small dogs who are having their first season) and so she had to be put back on her lead and to her horror, be put in pants to save the cream carpets at Harriet's work!

She's still making the most of life though, her routine consists of a morning bark in the garden, a day spent at work where she loves nothing more than rooting out all the best smells in Harriet's workshop. The evening always consists of many snuggles on the sofa.



She's made some firm doggy friends and is adored by all the neighbours, as well as family and friends. She walks without any sort of limp and her scar is almost invisible. She's just worked out how to lie down on command and according to Harriet her favourite thing is leaping off anything she can find! Her leaps have become so long in fact, that when she extends her back legs out fully she looks like she's flying!

It's only thanks to people like you, who were so generous in your support of Gyp's operation, and her wonderful new owners who have been so careful in getting her safely through recovery, that little Gyp can enjoy her life at last.



**Your generosity  
raised the £1,000 we  
needed to operate on  
Gyp when she  
needed it most!**



## LITTLE VALLEY AND THE RSPCA, HOW ARE WE LINKED?

Our supporters, adopters and donors often ask us how we are linked to the RSPCA and how our relationship with the national charity affects our work and how we are funded.

The simple answer is, whilst we are proud of the connection we have the RSPCA, and pleased to be able to offer a safe haven for the animals collected by RSPCA inspectors, we are, in fact, a completely separate and self-funded charity.

We are dedicated to improving the lives of animals in Devon, offering advice, microchipping, neutering and subsidised animal treatments, as well as rehabilitating and rehoming animals brought into our Shelter.

Each year we are grateful to receive a small amount of money directly from the RSPCA, which is collected in our local area by RSPCA representatives. However, this accounts for only 5% of the money we need to provide our life saving services. The rest is raised by Little Valley's staff and volunteers in our charity shops, at fundraising events, through adoption fees and thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Our affiliation with the RSPCA gives us recognition, authority and regulation. It means we are governed by certain overarching rules ensuring the quality of care and animal advice we give is second to none.

We are though, fully responsible for our own governance and management, meaning every decision made about how Little Valley Animal Shelter is run is made on site by our own Board of Trustees. You can read more our Trustees on page 26.

We are proud of this autonomy and will continue to run our Shelter so that it meets the needs of local people, local animals and their future owners, always remembering that we can call on the RSPCA for guidance as and when we might need it.



**Here's RSPCA Inspector Steve. He's a regular face at Little Valley, attending rescues in our local area and often bringing neglected, unwanted or stray animals back to our care for rehoming.**

## ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR - WHY DO CATS PURR?

Like us, cats have unique personalities. Because of this, whilst there are many common feline behaviours there is no complete list of what constitutes "typical" cat behaviour. Here at Little Valley we tell all new cat owners to keep in mind that each cat is special and may act in ways that are slightly different due to their personality, environment or mood.

The most frequent cat behaviours include purring, grooming, kneading and climbing. But every cat will engage in these activities to different degrees. Cat owners must pay attention to their moggy's daily routine and determine what is "normal" to them so that any usual behaviours can be investigated.

Purring is perhaps the most universally acknowledged 'cat behaviour' so we thought we'd look into this sound in a little more detail. Some of you might be surprised to hear that purring is much more complicated than just the sound cats make when they're contented or happy.

Of course, many cats do purr when they're enjoying a tickle behind the ears or a snooze



in the sunshine, but purring is the communication tool used by domesticated cats to express many other emotions too.

Purring can be a sign of stress due to unfamiliar surroundings or situations and some cats purr when concentrating on exploring new environments. It can also be a signal that a cat is in pain or discomfort.

Kittens begin purring at a few days old to let their mums know they need feeding, and this can continue well into adulthood with some cats purring loudly to let their humans know it's dinner time.

What's important when considering your cat's behaviour is to look at the bigger picture and pay attention to the frequency and pitch of your moggie's purr. Are they tucked up on their radiator bed purring gently? Best guess is that's one happy kitty. Are they alert and awake and purring frantically? It might be time to pay a bit more attention to other aspects of your cat's health and wellbeing to make sure nothing else is at play.

**For the most part, big cats (lions, tigers, leopards, and jaguars) can roar, but they can't purr. Cougars and smaller cats (bobcats, ocelots, lynxes, and house cats, among others) can purr, but they can't roar.**

## FULL ON THE FERRET FRONT!

In 2020 we had a grand total of three ferrets come into our care. So far, not quite half way through this year we have already had fourteen so it looks like 2021 may be the year of the ferret!

Ferrets have an unfortunate reputation for being smelly and biting, even their scientific name translates as 'weasel-like smelly thief!' In reality ferrets make brilliant pets that are full of fun and energy.

They do have a unique smell but once neutered this smell is reduced significantly. Ferrets also have magnificent canine teeth but a well socialised ferret is not likely to use them to bite their owner – they are much more likely to use them to steal your socks and stash them in their bed!



On average ferrets live for 8-10 years in the UK. They need spacious accommodation and plenty of enrichment to keep them occupied. They are generally highly social animals that like to live in pairs or groups – snuggling up together in a messy pile once they have exhausted themselves.

Ferrets can be trained to wear a harness and lead so can go for walks with their owners – although we recommend doing this in safe areas away from other animals and dog walking areas. They are true carnivores needing a high protein, high fat, low carbohydrate diet so a good quality commercial ferret kibble supplemented with fresh meat on the bone is the ideal nutrition for them.

Ferrets approach life in a joyful manner, everything is to be explored and everything is a potential source of fun, keeping ferret owners all over the world smiling at their antics.

**ANNA JAMES, DEPUTY MANAGER  
(AND FERRET LOVER!)**

## ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION



### MAYO

Mayo has been with us since November 2020 and is very much hoping her forever home will come round soon. She struggles with initial introductions which has made her difficult to rehome, but has proven herself to be affectionate and loving to the staff at the Shelter who have been caring for her since she arrived.

If you have time to give to Mayo, she'll reward you with fun a-plenty. She'll need a quiet rural home and walks where she can be kept separate from other dogs.

[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/dogs/mayo/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/dogs/mayo/)



### DEE DEE

10 year old Dee Dee is currently in a short-term foster home as she wasn't coping well with life at the Shelter.

She's been looking for a permanent home since January but sadly isn't great with other dogs so it's been difficult to place her. She's also been left alone for long periods of time so gets anxious when by herself.

She's a very sweet natured dog though, who absolutely loves people and getting lots of fuss. For more info about her, and to express your interest please visit:

[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/dogs/dee-dee/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/dogs/dee-dee/)

## ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION



Django (left), has a sad history of neglect and has been waiting patiently for his new home for almost 2 months.

He's a sweet and friendly cat but does take some time to get used to new places, finding them scary at first. He's looking for a home with understanding owners who will let him take the time he needs to adjust.

[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/cats/django/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/cats/django/)

Nacho (right) has struggled during his time at the Shelter. He's nervous around people and sadly we have no history of him so no way of knowing whether he'll be able overcome this in a home environment.

He still needs a warm and loving home to call his own though, so if you'd be willing to let him share yours please do get in touch.

[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/cats/nacho/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/cats/nacho/)



Handsome Hawkins is 8 years old and is looking for a new home in a rural environment. He loves to play with his toys at night so we think it's likely he's a keen hunter.

If you are willing to let Hawkins settle in your home at his own pace please do contact the Shelter - we'd love to see him get the second chance of happiness he deserves.

[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/cats/hawkins/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/cats/hawkins/)



## ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION



Meet TimTam (left), a big rabbit with a very big heart! TimTam is an intersex rabbit, meaning they have traits of both male and female anatomy. They have been neutered and our vet has advised us they'll be happiest with a female companion rabbit. If you think you could offer lovely TimTam a happy home please contact us.

[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/rabbits/timtam/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/rabbits/timtam/)



Carlos (left) and Boris (right) are both young neutered male rabbits looking for their forever homes with a young female rabbit for company. Carlos will need a large outdoor home and owners who are willing to respect his space. Boris will also need a lovely large run and hutch set-up.



[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/adopt-a-rabbit/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/adopt-a-rabbit/)

Bob, Larry and Jeff are three active gentleman who love to play with toys and sunbathe. They're quite shy and not used to being handled so would need an owner willing to respect this.

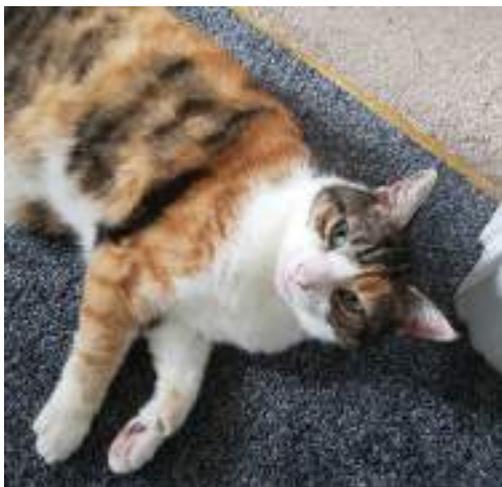
[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/rodents/bob-larry-and-jeff/](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk/rodents/bob-larry-and-jeff/)



## CONTENTED CATS



Here's Donald (once known as Stephen). He was adopted around a year ago and, as you can see has settled in a treat! He's been nothing but affectionate, playful and full of character and his new owners are so happy to have him.



Whisper was adopted in January, and despite her calm looking demeanour in this picture, keeps her new family thoroughly entertained with her hijinks! Her favourite pastimes include night-time zoomies and telling the neighbour's tom cat that she doesn't like him - very loudly.

Happy cats = happy us. Thanks to everyone who has sent us updates and lovely pictures of cats they have rehomed over the past few months. It's wonderful to see how well they're doing!



It's been 15 months since Otis and Shaggy went to their forever home. And what a happy home it is. The boys haven't quite grown up yet and spend most of their days playing like kittens, finally settling for a lap snuggle most evenings!



Achilles was rehomed in September 2020 with a broken leg. He had to stay in a crate to help it heal but thanks to the patience and care he received from his new owners he's now stronger than ever, making the most of his life and saying hello to everyone he meets!

## DELIGHTED DOGS



It's hard not to smile when an adopter sends us snaps of their rehomed pooch loving their new life. Whether they be bouncy young pups or slow old mutts we love hearing about them all - thanks for the updates!



1 year old Loki has kept his new owners busy since they took him home in February. He's had lots to learn, but has turned into a wonderful and good natured companion who loves his food and cuddles on the sofa.



Cheeky and fun loving Bow has been enjoying life to the max - he's learned lots of new skills - sit, give both paws and lie down. He also knows how to open his owner's bedroom door to jump on the bed and gaze out the window with his chew toy!



Here's beautiful Beau showing off her best side. Since she was rehomed in May, Beau has been making the most of lovely long walks in the woods - nose to the ground, tail wagging, true spaniel style!



Despite still being a little wary around other dogs, Tilly has settled into her new life very well and loves playing with her soft toys. Here she is enjoying a visit from Suzie - don't they look a happy pair?

## BLISSED-OUT BUNNIES



It's a hard life being a rehomed rabbit. Days consist of exploring, snoozing, nibbling through the dandelions and sunbathing. Oh okay, maybe not so hard after all! Here are some of our fave pictures of recently rehomed rabbits living their best lives.



Loki (left) and Marshmallow (right) were taken home in at Christmas time last year and are two very much loved bunnies. Here they are having a good munch on the fresh new spring grass.



Here's Joey living the life of Riley in his new garden on his third birthday. His owners say he's a lovely friendly and gentle boy; his bunny wife Jessica would agree, as would his Labrador bodyguard Meg!



Carenza, also known as the Duracell Bunny, loves the great outdoors and spends her days enjoying her garden to the max! She's even made her new best bunny friend Terry braver and he's started to explore with her.



Finetta (right) started life as a teeny tiny baby rabbit at Little Valley. She's recently been rehomed and found a companion for life with male rabbit Sylvester who was quick to show her all the best hidey holes in his garden.

## AND THE BEST OF THE REST!



Pets come in all shapes and sizes, and we're proud that we can care for and rehome so many different species. Here are a few of the menagerie we've been able to find loving forever homes for - yay!



This pair of super cute ferrets (Sprite and Brownie) were rehomed in April. Their owner Kayleigh says they sound like a cross between buzzing bees and chickens as they bounce around play fighting!

If you've recently rehomed from us and would like your new furry or feathered friend to feature in our next newsletter please send us some pictures, along with a little bit about how they've settled in to: [info@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](mailto:info@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk)



Elderly ladies Asia, Kira and Lola have certainly handed on their paws in this retirement home with new ratty pal Guinness!



Jack and Jill were adopted together by one of our lovely volunteers back in August 2020. Since their first journey home together they have been a happy couple, with Jill making sure to keep Jack in his place!

## CAN YOUR COMPANY OR WORKPLACE HELP DEVON'S ANIMALS?

In recent years, companies have started to see the many benefits arising from supporting local charities as part of their wider business strategies. Social responsibility is at the forefront of the consumer's mind and companies who give back to charity are seen as a positive force in communities.

As stated in an article published by Forbes in November 2020: "For their loyalty, consumers expect brands and businesses to not be all about making a profit, but to give back to society."

Aside from this, an employee or team being allowed to dedicate some of their working week to a charitable project close to their hearts can serve as a real morale booster, building stronger employee relationships and creating a more positive general attitude and work atmosphere.

Organising or offering to sponsor charity fundraising events, volunteering, including charity promotion in regular marketing and promotional materials and donating a portion of profits to charity are all fantastic ways companies can help support charity through their everyday work.

We are already so grateful for the help of several fantastic companies who support our cause.



**Your support could help dogs like Bramble find happy forever homes.**



For instance, WonnaPrint, an Exeter based ink cartridge supplier, have supported us for the past year with donations totalling over £400. Sean from WonnaPrint had this to say about his company's decision to support us;

**"We have adopted pets from this Shelter for as long as I can remember and know first-hand how well these animals are looked after in their care. It is so important for companies to donate to charities such as RSPCA Little Valley, to ensure the protection of these animals for many years to come."**

If you own or work for a company and your staff and colleagues care passionately about improving animal welfare in Devon, we'd be so happy if you considered Little Valley as your charity to support.

Please contact our Community Fundraiser Megan on [mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](mailto:mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk) for a chat.

**We also have a large meeting room available for corporate hire; for more information, please do contact us.**

## WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR LOVE FOR ANIMALS TO LIVE ON AFTER YOU'RE GONE?



We'd love to say a day will come when animals will no longer be mistreated and no longer need our care. We'd love to be able to shut our doors, safe in the knowledge that people will see animal welfare as a priority and treat pets with the love and compassion they deserve.

Sadly, this might not happen in our lifetime, and so we must continue to plan for a future where Devon's animals need our help.

Leaving a gift in your Will to RSPCA Little Valley Animal Shelter (officially known as RSPCA South, West and East Devon Branch) will not only allow us to help every animal who ends up in our care, but also look for new ways to tackle animal abuse in Devon.

If you would like to see animals helped in your memory please contact our Community Fundraiser Megan Holland on [mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](mailto:mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk) who will be happy to help or call the Shelter on 01392 439898 to request a legacy leaflet.



**It's likely cats like Dolly will continue to need our help long into the future.**

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP TODAY

### SEND OUR ANIMALS A GIFT THROUGH AMAZON WISHLISTS

Amazon Wishlists are a great way to directly improve the lives of animals at Little Valley in a few easy clicks. We keep regularly updated lists of items we know our the animals we're looking after need, or more importantly, would love on our Amazon Wishlist webpage.

You can find the lists by heading to our website and clicking on the support tab. After that, all you have to do is select the item/s you'd like to send, pay for them through your Amazon account and they'll be delivered straight to the Shelter.

Right now, the types of items we're seriously in need of include Kong toys and strong tug toys for the dogs, catnip and special dietary food for the cats, hay and grass foods for the rabbits and guinea pigs and avian bird grit and rodent playhouses for the small animals and birds.



Before she was rehomed lovebird Nora loved playing with the toys in her aviary.

### JOIN FRIENDS OF LITTLE VALLEY

The Friends of Little Valley are a group of dedicated supporters, who care passionately about giving improved care to the animals of Little Valley.

They help plan and run fundraising events and are the first to shout about the work we do to people they meet. We think they're amazing, and we need more people like them!

If you'd like to join, please visit [www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk) for membership details and to download a form.



### SET YOURSELF A SUMMER CHALLENGE

Is there something you've always wanted to do, but never taken the plunge? If so, why not consider fundraising for Little Valley to give you that little bit of extra motivation?

Whether your challenge is running a marathon, skydiving, swimming the channel or walking the Devon coast path, you can ask for sponsorship to help more animals in need. Just head to [www.justgiving.com/rspcaexeter](http://www.justgiving.com/rspcaexeter) to set up your sponsorship page, or contact Community Fundraiser Megan on [mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](mailto:mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk) for paper forms if you'd prefer!

# SUMMER RAFFLE

We are sadly not able to commit to holding a summer open day at the Shelter this year. We will however, still be having our raffle draw which will be held at the Shelter on 21st August to recognise International Homeless Animals Day.

Please buy tickets if you can and support our important work finding homes for Devon's animals in need.

**1st prize - £250**

**2nd prize - £200**

**3rd prize - £150**

**Winners to be drawn on August 21st and will be contacted shortly after.**

**Tickets can be bought by contacting the Shelter on 01392 439898 or asking in any of our charity shops.  
Tickets = £1 each**

## GOODBYE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Over the years, the Friends of Little Valley scheme has been managed by many different kind animal lovers. Each of them have done their bit to make sure we keep in touch with our warmest group of supporters; inviting them to events and engaging them in fundraising activities. In this issue of our newsletter we're saying goodbye to Jill Brush, our Membership Secretary for the last 12 years who, along with her husband Phil, have been no different.

We thank Jill wholeheartedly for her dedication to Little Valley, and look forward to working with her at events and other goings on at the Shelter. Here're a final few words from her about her reasons for leaving and plans for the future:

### "Greetings to all Friends of Little Valley.

I regret to tell you that after 12 years I am handing the friends scheme back to the Shelter, where it will be watched over by Community Fundraiser Megan Holland, a lovely lady who has recently joined the office staff at the Shelter.

Data Protection rules mean that all records should be held in one central point which means I could not continue to work from home. Sad but this is the way of the world we now live in.

However, on a more cheerful note I will continue my close association with Little Valley by helping with any events and collecting/receiving/sorting any donations I receive for our shops.

Thank you all for your wonderful support and lovely messages over the years."



**JILL BRUSH**

**Jill with her gorgeous cat Henry Bean.**

## LITTLE VALLEY EBAY – A CHARITY SHOP WITH A DIFFERENCE

When we first started selling items on eBay we hoped for a few sales here and there, a way to top up the profits we made through our charity shops by selling more specialist items via auction. What we didn't expect was a busy and constantly evolving marketplace, selling items ranging from smart watches to antique cellos.



We're now in a position where we'd like to see our eBay shop grow even bigger and are on the hunt for volunteers to help us.

The job involves working alongside staff and other volunteers at the Shelter to sort, research and decide on appropriate items to sell, taking photos and listing items, monitoring our eBay store for sales and packing up and posting items to customers.

So, if you have an eye for a real treasure and are happy and comfortable using a computer and smart phone to research and list new items we'd love to hear from you! Just a few hours a week could make a real difference to the profits our eBay shop can make, and the animals we can help.

Please email Megan on [mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](mailto:mholland@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk) for more info.

### MEET DI, EBAY VOLUNTEER

"A couple of years ago I called into Little Valley to drop off some dog food and saw a poster in the reception window advertising for an eBay volunteer. As I had some spare time and was a keen eBay, I thought I'd give it a go. I was delighted when I when my application was accepted and since then have been helping on a regular basis.

The main part of the job is to photograph and value the donated items and then write up & post the listings. Sold items also need to be packaged and posted. We have lots of donations, from haute couture clothing via collectibles, paintings, musical instruments and even vintage opera glasses! I love researching the value of the more obscure items and it's exciting to track the bids as they go up and up. The Shelter does a fantastic job and it's great to feel that I'm making a contribution. "

## COULD YOU BE A TRUSTEE AT LITTLE VALLEY?



**Our current Trustees at our May board meeting (from left to right); Jackie, Tony (Treasurer), Elaine, Angie, Carol (Chairman) and Evelyn (Secretary) - sadly our 7th trustee Margaret could not attend this meeting.**

The RSPCA, South, East and West Devon Branch is an independently registered charity, although it runs under some rules set up by the central RSPCA.

This means we are responsible for looking after the Branch's strategic development. Trustees look at development of the Shelter site, including animal accommodation, manage the shops, look at ways of generating income generation, employ staff and prepare strategic plans for the next five and ten years.

We do not get involved in day to day management of the Shelter or shops,

although we visit them frequently.

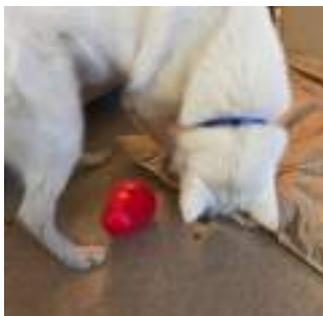
We have 7 trustees at present, but need more people who are interested in the growth of the Branch. We would like to recruit people with specific areas of expertise, e.g. HR, legal, finance, animal welfare. We normally meet once monthly.

If you would like some more information, please do contact me on [callan@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](mailto:callan@rspca-littlevalley.org.uk). There is a person specification on our website and a volunteer application form.

**CAROL ALLAN, CHAIRMAN**

## AND FINALLY.. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SIMBA!

After a good nights sleep guarding the bedroom I get woken up at 6am when the radio alarm kicks in (don't know why they wake up that early!!) I jump up on the bed - and say; "WALK TIME"! Mummy kicks Daddy out of bed to get dressed and take me out. We go for a good walk round the local fields (lovely scenery)!



**Well, I've been in Wales just over 8 weeks and now I have overcome the language barrier I'm getting my new Mummy & Daddy trained up nicely.**

**This is a typical day in my new life!**



It's back for a breakfast of kibble, rice and Chappie - only took a few days of turning my nose up at plain kibble to get to this combi!

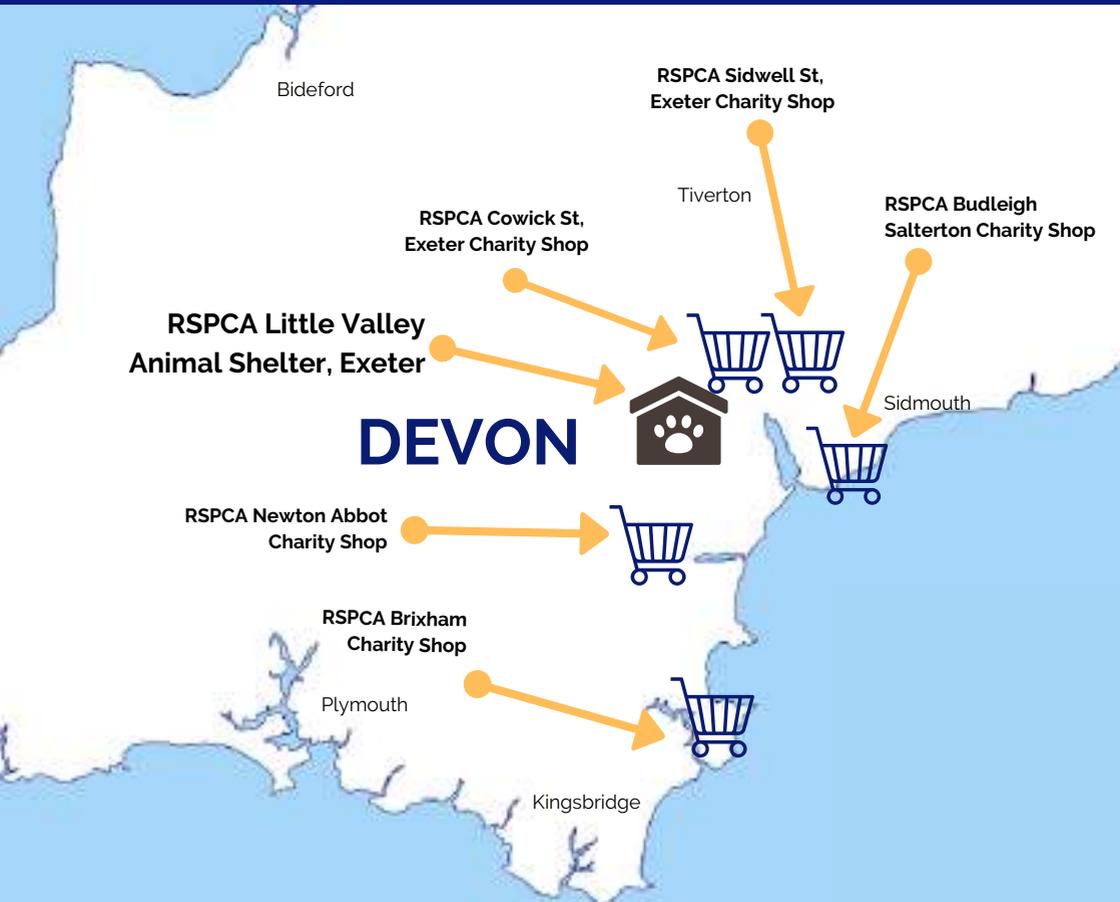


After breakfast I spend a quiet morning having a nap or two ready for lunch where I look forward to one of mummy's home made treats - it's a toss up between marmite crunch or banana and apple balls... mmmmmm tasty!



In the evening it's either a walk or play after dinner (I keep shouting at them until they understand what I want) then I get them to fill my Kong (as couple of times)for an evening snack before bed. Then onto next day for more of the same - HOW LUCKY AM I??

# RSPCA LITTLE VALLEY - KEY LOCATIONS



 @rspcalittlevalley

 @rspcaexeter

 @rspcalittlevalleyexeter



 Little Valley  
animal shelter



[www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk](http://www.rspca-littlevalley.org.uk)