

Patron
Jenny Seagrove



Anim-Mates

Registered Charity
No. 1098252

Helping animals in need in the South East

Friends of Anim-Mates Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2014

Young family of five rescued from a rubbish tip



WHEN young Kai Rann scoured a rubbish dump at a disused railway embankment for some old pram wheels he was in for a surprise.

The 11-year-old did find a couple of wheels but also found a young cat with four kittens who were living there.

His mother, Dawn Shuttlewood, a Friend of Anim-Mates, said: "Kai wanted to build a go-cart. He came home with a couple of wheels and told us he had seen a cat and kittens playing in the rubbish."

Dawn and her husband asked their son to show them where he had seen the cats at the spot in Northfleet.

Dawn added: "The tabby mum, who looked terribly thin, was still there alongside her two tabby and two

tortoiseshell kittens. They looked about eight weeks old."

Dawn quickly contacted Anim-Mates and we provided her with a cat trap so the family could be rescued.

"Before we had a chance to set up the trap," said Dawn, "a dumper truck turned up at the embankment and started removing the rubbish."

"My husband had a word with the driver and he agreed to delay clearing the area where the cats were until we had trapped them."

Continued on page 4 ►

See all our animals at anim-mates.org.uk



ANIM-MATES MARKET STALL



The Anim-Mates sales stall will be at the following Christmas markets:

- **Cliffe Woods**
Sunday 7 December

9.30am - 11.30am

- **Mockbeggar Farm Shop**
Saturday 13 December 9.30am - 4pm
 - **Higham**
Sunday 14 December 8.45am - 11.30am
- In 2015 the stall intends to be at Mockbeggar Farm Shop in Town Road, Rochester on the last Saturday of every month 9.30am to 4pm

LUCY In the last Newsletter and via our website we sought a retirement home for 16-year-old Lucy. She is deaf and hyperthyroid and needs daily medication.

Carole Maye who spotted the appeal on our website recently had lost her cat who also happened to be deaf and hyperthyroid.

Carole said: "I was used to giving my cat medication so I knew exactly how to care for Lucy."

Since she went to live with Carole and her husband Martin in New Eltham, Lucy hasn't stopped purring. They will do everything to make her retirement happy.

POISONOUS FOR CATS AND DOGS

A timely reminder that many plants associated with Christmas are poisonous for some animals.

These include poinsettias, mistletoe and holly berries.

As there is a lot of antifreeze around at this time of the year we thought it worth reminding everyone to keep it out of reach of your pets, as it too is poisonous.



MESSAGE FROM VOLUNTEER NATHALIE de CHIVRE

Would you like to run a fundraising table in your area in aid of Anim-Mates?



We have loads of donated items which are ideal to sell at car boot sales and fairs. The items are ready-priced.

I will be glad to meet you at our sanctuary to help you choose what you need.

If you are interested please email me at info@anim-mates.org.uk or call me on 07544 396113.



Some of the animals that have recently been rescued



LARA As her kittens on page 6 have been rehomed we are now seeking a home for their mother Lara, a sweet, gentle girl.



RAINBOW We rescued three female guinea pigs when their owner could no longer afford to care for them.



PIP While her sick owner was hospitalised young Pip lived alone.



Now rehomed

BAXTER This character came to us as an unneutered stray. He's a gentle, loving soul who craves attention and a home.



DASH This five-year-old male mini-Lop who has sparkling blue eyes is an indoor bunny.



Two rehomed

MANGO Their owner has poor health so we rescued Mango and friend Chutney.



Now rehomed

SPOT Once neutered we homed this feral lad to a stable yard.



Now rehomed

EMILY When this unwanted kitten was rescued from a neglectful household she was filthy, covered in fleas and trembling with fright. Whilst in our care Emily has blossomed beyond all recognition.



DAISY Formerly a pregnant stray, Daisy has been neutered.

Our Patron Jenny Seagrove's Christmas message

IT'S always a welcome duty for me to write a Christmas message to the many hundreds of Friends of Anim-Mates who have supported our lovely charity throughout 2014.

Thank you all for that you have done to help give the abandoned and unwanted animals that we have rescued a new and better life.

Whether you have adopted an animal, made a donation, helped at the sanctuary, fostered our animals, fundraised or undertaken any of the innumerable tasks it takes to run a successful charity, I want to thank you all for the time and effort you have given so freely to Anim-Mates.

Teresa and Steve continue to house and run our sanctuary based at their St Mary Hoo home and surrounding land. They, like everyone in Anim-Mates, are volunteers and care for over 100 Care For Life animals 24/7.

I must mention Linda and Dave Thorburn who retired earlier this



Photo by Andy Newbold

year after a decade of fostering hundreds of kittens, dogs and pups in their home.

Whether hand-rearing, nursing them through sickness, domesticating petrified little ones or just simply enjoying their antics, Linda and David gave over 300 animals care and completely sacrificed their home and life to them.

Thank you Linda and Dave for your tireless efforts. I am pleased that you continue to be very active Anim-Mates volunteers in many other ways.

Our motto 'Saving just one animal won't change the world, but it surely will change the world for that one animal' is as relevant today as it was 12 years ago when Anim-Mates was founded.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and may 2015 be a better year for the animals.

Continued from page 1 Kai spotted mum and her kittens on the tip

The Shuttlewoods quickly caught three of the kittens and later that day rescued the mother.

Our volunteer cat catcher Bobbie Bajwa, came off her holiday to help catch the fourth kitten who managed to evade everyone for another 24 hours.

Twinks and Maybelle the two tortoiseshell girls have since been rehomed, as has Tabbs one of their tabby sisters.

That leaves young mother Prissy and her other tabby daughter Wilky needing a home where they can spend the rest of their lives together.

Prissy has now been neutered and both she and Wilky have been vaccinated and microchipped. Wilky must be neutered by the time she is six months old.

The photograph here is of young Kai cuddling Pepsy, his family's cat.





Care for Life Newcomers arrive at our sanctuary



Jenny

AT St Mary Hoo we have been caring for Jupe a healthy neutered rabbit who is in our Care for Life scheme because he is unsuitable for rehoming - he likes biting people.

Jupe became lonely after his companion died.

In Croydon an animal rescue group were caring for Jenny, a rabbit who they deemed was unrehomeable too.

We invited Jenny to come over and meet Jupe in the hope that Cupid might work his magic.

It was well worth the trip, as when they met Jupe and Jenny absolutely adored each other, solving two problems in one go.



Jupe



Quail boy

A WOMAN asked us to rescue four quails whom she no longer wanted to keep as she thought they were too noisy.

Quail are essentially a ground-dwelling bird like partridge and pheasant, all coming from the same family.

The quartet have settled in very well and, compared to some of the other birds at the sanctuary, are very quiet.

LOOBY-LOU, on the left, lost an ear when a dog viciously attacked her. To add insult to injury her owner left her at the vets.

She is in long-term foster care with volunteer Michaela Hoults.

Lobby-Lou still suffers from painful flare-ups around a damaged ear canal.

Michaela said: "Looby-Lou is enjoying lots of love and attention from us and our own rabbit, Pikachu, who loves her with all his heart.



Animals who cannot be rehomed because of age, infirmity or care needs, live permanently at the homes of our fosterers, where they are treated and cared for as their own pets.

Kittens and mum left home alone when their owner moved

LYNN YARD, a Friend of Anim-Mates, was surprised when she saw a pair of cute looking kittens crawling out from underneath the Wendy house in a neighbour's garden.

She knew they had a young cat but was unaware they also had two kittens.

It was then that the penny dropped; the neighbours had suddenly moved from Walderslade and left mum and her kittens behind.

With the help of another neighbour Lynn managed to catch the kittens and handed them over to Anim-Mates fosterer Bobbie Bajwa.

Bobbie said: "They were tiny and thin, and I would have guessed their age as about four weeks, but the colour of their eyes was already changing so I knew they were about six weeks old."

"At first both were terrified. I spent a lot of



time with them, caressing and hand feeding them and gaining their confidence."

"Their mother Lara was caught the next day."

"When she was reunited with her kittens they were visibly relieved to see each other."

"The kittens soon put on weight and became healthy and chubby. Lara has, of course, now been neutered."

The kittens have been adopted by Feliks Fraser in Whyteleafe who has named them Alabama and Clarence.

• **We are now seeking a calm, quiet home for the kittens' gentle mother Lara.**



From Christine and Terry McCann

We adopted little Leo in 2012. Not so much a little kitten now, he's two years old and weighs 7 kg of pure muscle. He is definitely akin to the Spartan Warrior he was named after – King Leonidas.

Early on in his life Leo's inquisitiveness got the better of him when he swallowed a 1p coin which got stuck in his intestine. In true Spartan spirit he sailed through the operation to remove the coin. Leo is a loveable rogue who loves teasing Susie, our 10-year-old cat.

More letters on page 10

ANNUAL REPORT

Our annual report for 2013 has recently been published.

If you would like a copy, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope marked 'Annual Report' to our address listed on page 11.



You will also find the report on our website by clicking the News button at anim-mates.org.uk.



Some ideas for your Christmas shopping

IF you would like to play Santa to our animals you'll find plenty of Christmas presents to choose from on our Amazon Wish List.

Whether its pet food, toys for rabbits or stable matting for the ponies, there are over 30 Wish List items to choose from, ranging in price from £3 upwards.

If you would like to take a look at the Wish List, simply visit our website and click on the photo shown here. You'll find the photo in the right hand panel of our home page.

All gifts are delivered direct from Amazon to our sanctuary.



SPONSOR AN ANIMAL FOR CHRISTMAS

Seeking a small gift for your animal-loving friends? You can sponsor one of our Care for Life animals for them for a minimum donation of £10.

We'll send you a sponsorship pack which contains a personalised certificate plus a report and photo of your chosen animal.

To sponsor a Care for Life animal go to our website and click on *Sponsor an animal* or see page 11 of this newsletter.

SHOPPING ONLINE FOR PRESENTS?

Prior to shopping online please go to our website and click the bar below on the homepage. It will take you to all your favourite online shops. They will donate a percentage of your spend to Anim-Mates.

easyfundraising

Raise funds for us when you shop



ANIM-MATES CAT ON TV?

No, it's not the famous Whiskas advert. This is a photo of Garfy taken in our sanctuary by our photographer Bobbie Bajwa a few days before he went to his new home in Bromley.

Abandoned when his previous owners moved away, handsome Garfy was found living under a bush.

Fundraising news

Raising money to help the animals

IN her school holidays young Amber Matthews decided to raise some money to help the animals at our sanctuary.

With a little help from her mother Amanda, and neighbour Julie, six-year-old Amber set up a cake stall on the driveway of her house in Hoo.

Dressed in her waitress outfit Amber served teas, homemade cakes and biscuits and raised the magnificent amount of £100.

When Amber and her mother took the money to Teresa they met some of the animals there including goats Billy and Edward, some of the cats and Charlotte the chicken. Daisy-May, the three-legged Border collie, particularly caught Amber's attention.

On their way home Amber asked her mother: "Can the money be used to put Daisy-May's leg back on?"

Amanda said: "We hope to hold the cake sale every year now as it was such a success. I was very proud that Amber wanted to raise money for rescued animals in particular, and a cake sale in our village seemed like a good way to do it. Neighbours donated generously, and were all in support of the cause. They also really enjoyed our homemade cakes."

"Amber and I were so impressed with the care given to each and every animal at Anim-Mates. All the animals seemed relaxed and happy, and were clearly loved by Teresa and the volunteers."



PETS AT HOME

Anim-Mates has been kindly supported by the Chatham branch of Pets at Home for quite a few years.

Recently the Support Adoption For Pets charity, in conjunction with the store, held a fundraising drive and presented us with a big cheque for the wonderful sum of £3,049.47.

TWO FUNDRAISING SUCCESSES

O u r second Roaring Forties Night held at High



Halstow Village Hall in October raised almost £1,000.

In November our Fun Auction in Hoo Village added £1,300 to our funds.

Thanks go to the many volunteers who helped to ensure that both events were very successful.

JEWELLERY Do you have any unwanted items of jewellery that we can sell on to help raise funds? Please post any items, no matter how small or large, complete or



broken, to Nathalie c/o Shakespeare Farm House, Shakespeare Farm Road, St Mary Hoo, Kent, ME3 8RS or call Nathalie on 07544 396113.



Photos of your Anim-Mates pets



Top left Meg is a New Zealand White house rabbit who was adopted by Callum Simpson and his partner. Their apartment in Charlton has a lovely view of local parks which Meg can see when she relaxes on the sofa.

Bottom left Joanie and Flo are wonderful company for their adopter Maree Reilly in Rochester. She tells us that Joanie talks to her all the time, while Flo, who Maree calls Fluffy, likes to sit on her lap.

Top right Sam and Richard Cruttwell absolutely adore their guinea pigs Violet and Bluebell and took to Facebook to wish them a Happy 1st Birthday in November.

Bottom right It's nearly 10 years ago that Toby, right, was adopted by David Tidman. Six years ago he was joined by Paddy, left. The two, who are inseparable, enjoy long walks in the woods by their north Devon village of Welcombe.



Your letters and emails to Anim-Mates @



From Sarah and Michael Mitchell, Hawkhurst

We adopted Felim and Sheridan, two of your beautiful rabbits.

We collected them from Julie, who was very welcoming and gave us lots of information on looking after the bunnies.

We had previously bought

a 6ft hutch and built a large permanent run, with wire mesh dug into the ground, a wire mesh outer skirt and a secure roof/lid, so the bunnies are never confined to the hutch.

They have settled in well. They come when called and take their cabbage leaves from our hands.

Felim is quite adventurous, he loves hopping onto the roof of the hutch and surveying his kingdom.



From Carol Sholl, Gillingham

We were feeling sad as our beloved old cat had just passed away.

We read that Pip was feeling lost as her owner could no longer care for her.



When I entered her pen at Anim-Mates Pip jumped up on my lap. I knew we could offer her the love and new home she deserved.

Pip is very affectionate, she sits on our laps while we watch TV and rolls around the floor asking for her tummy to be rubbed. She is quite vocal and chatters as she roams around, running up and down the stairs.

From Dawn Pearcey, Orpington

Nearly 10 years ago we adopted our beloved Button Moon from one of your lovely rescue ladies called Teresa.

It has been a match made in heaven and we still absolutely adore our wonderful cat.



We love receiving photos and news of your Anim-Mates pets

**So please email them to:
info@anim-mates.org.uk
 or pop them in the post
 to our address which is
 listed opposite on page 11**

From Nina Jones, Biggin Hill

Poppy and Reuben love snuggling up together. Reuben doesn't mind being handled so much now, but Poppy still fears me.

She is a lot better than when I first got her though. She allows me to touch her and stroke her, which was a no no before, but still no picking up.

I recently bought an outside playpen for them and they have been playing in it whenever it has been nice weather.



Multi-use form for **New Friends/Donations/Sponsor an animal**

✓ Please tick the relevant boxes below

I wish to become a new Friend of **Anim-Mates**, for a minimum donation of £10 for a year, to support animals in need, and to receive a quarterly Newsletter.

I wish to make a donation to **Anim-Mates** to help animals in need. I would like to receive a Newsletter which will show what my donation can help to achieve.

I wish to sponsor a **Care for Life animal** for a year. (Minimum donation £10) I will receive a certificate, a report and photograph of my chosen animal.

I wish to sponsor.....

We will call you about which animal you wish to sponsor. Alternatively, please go to anim-mates.org.uk/sponsor_an_animal.html to choose an animal to sponsor.

I enclose a donation of £..... payable to **Anim-Mates**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Tel.....Email.....

Signed..... Date.....

Make your donation worth an extra 25% to Anim-Mates

Please tick the box if you would like Anim-Mates to reclaim the tax you have already paid on the above donation and any future donations you may make. Your annual income tax and/or capital gains tax must be more than the tax all the charities that you donate to will reclaim on your gifts in the current year. Anim-Mates will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that you have donated.

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Please post this form to: **Anim-Mates, Shakespeare Farm House**
Shakespeare Farm Rd, St. Mary Hoo, Kent ME3 8RS

Contact Anim-Mates by phone, letter, email and on the web



General Enquiries 01634 271456



Post Anim-Mates
Shakespeare Farm House
Shakespeare Farm Road
St. Mary Hoo
Kent ME3 8RS

● **As our sanctuary is based in a private home, any visits must be arranged in advance**



Email info@anim-mates.org.uk

Care for Life animals

Teresa 07743 331397
01634 271456

Rabbits

Julie 07958 031884

Trapping of feral cats

Bobbie 07808 625519



Website www.anim-mates.org.uk

These are some of the animals recently found new homes



Clarence and Alabama
are relaxed in Whyteleaf



Meg
is happy in Charlton



Maybelle
enjoys life in Bexleyheath



Cleo
adores Beckenham



Felim and Sheridan
are together in Hawkhurst



Garfy
has moved to Bromley



Frankie
is in Twydall



Tabbs and Twinks
have settled in Cobham



Pip
loves Gillingham



Winnie
is comfy
in Swanley

Rainbow
rather likes
Walderslade



**Saving just one animal won't change the world,
but it surely will change the world for that one animal**