



WORCESTERSHIRE ANIMAL RESCUE SHELTER

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Charity Number - 517872

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2016

A YEAR IN REVIEW

A BUSY YEAR AT WARS

2016 has been a busy year here at WARS. We wanted to start 2017 with giving all our supporters an update on the goings on at the shelter and an insight into what we have planned for this year and beyond.

Keep reading to hear about Taz, our long stay dog being re-homed; the excess of kittens who came into our care; read about our amazing staff and volunteers; and find out about our plans for a new extension on site and much more.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The demand for the charity's services is constantly growing. To aid us in moving with the times, we have devised a plan to extend our current office block.

The extension will incorporate a brand new reception area, providing visitors with a more professional first impression to the shelter.

Off the reception, will be a multi-function room. This will be a space where we can hold small events for fundraising; such as coffee mornings; somewhere to hold talks and workshops with small groups from local schools or community groups; allowing us to educate people in responsible pet care; animal welfare and the work we do at the shelter.

We will have a room which will be a dedicated area for veterinary visits and bathing/grooming of our animals. This room will provide a safe space and provide fewer distractions and hazards for the animals during vet visits. We would also look to install a bath to allow us to bathe any animal that is in need of a bath.

Finally, we would have four rest rooms (chill out rooms) for our dogs. This will give staff rooms to place dogs in during the day to give them time out of their kennels, especially when certain dogs find the kennels a stressful and upsetting place to be. These rooms will be a comfortable and quiet environment where they can relax, volunteers can sit in with them to keep them company, and we can also do 'meet and greets' with potential new families.

The existing rooms within our current building will be re-purposed. The current reception area will become a meeting room for staff and committee meetings, also giving us another space to process 'meet and greets' and animal intakes and assessments. The current office space will become an archive room and general staff office. If successful, in the build, we will turn the current dog chill out room within the kennels, into a dog walking station for our volunteers. A place where we can store bibs, leads, boots and somewhere they can rest and have a well-earned cup of tea if they wish.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

- Claire Tregunna is due to complete her course in Dog Behaviour, Psychology and training.
- Congratulations to Ned Cotton for completing his COAPE course for a Certificate in Canine Health & Welfare, at distinction level
- Congratulations to Chris Hermiston for completing his BSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare.
- We welcome Carolina Formigão as a full time member of staff, after completing her Level 2 apprenticeship in Animal Care and Welfare.
- The entire WARS team have been nominated for an Animal Charity Award with Pet Plan for the 2nd year running.
- Ned Cotton has been nominated in the Employee of the Year category, and Jennifer Taylor has been nominated in the Volunteer of the Year category in the Animal Charity Award with Pet Plan.
- A huge thank you to all our staff and volunteers for all they do for WARS. You help make the charity what it is.

FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS

• Coffee mornings	£2575.50
• Dog shows	£6876.26
• Shelter shop	£2039.95
• Collection tins	£1440.35
• Grants	£15,500

We could not do the work we do without the generosity of the public through attending our events and giving donations.

It costs in excess of £150,000 to run the shelter every year and with costs of food, utilities, wages and other things on the rise, it is vital that we do all we can to continue to bring in regular funds to enable us to run the shelter.

There are many ways you can help us raise fund for WARS:

- Sponsor a kennel or cat pen
- Become a member
- Attend our events
- Create your own event and get sponsorship
- Donate via Justgiving, via text or direct to the shelter
- Consider us in your will

To name but a few.

Thank you all for your continued support!

TAZ FINDS A HOME

We are pleased to announce that Taz has found his forever home.

Taz came into the shelter as a stray in January 2015. Being an Akita X he is a big boy, which sadly put a lot of people off offering him a new home. People did not get a chance to see what a loving boy he really is. He showed himself to be a bit of a clown, enjoying nothing more than running around with a football, occasionally throwing it in the air or over the fence.

After a few tentative interests, a perfect family came along who wanted him to join their family. He got on brilliantly with their other dog and went out on a month long foster to get acquainted with his new home, due to him thinking of the shelter as his home. He settled in well and his new family fell in love with him instantly.

On Monday 19th September 2016, WARS held a leaving party for Taz as he finally, and officially, went to his new home.

Taz and his new family were joined by staff and volunteers, all wanting to say a sad but happy farewell to him and wish him well in his new home.

There was tea, biscuits, cake and barely a dry eye in the house. We still get regular updates and he is coping brilliantly well, even getting bossed around by the cat.



Taz, with his new best friend off to his new home.

STRAY DOGS AND MICROCHIPPING

We are pleased to report that we had fewer stray dogs come into our care in 2016. We had 52 come in last year, in 2015 we had 80.

We are sure you all know about the new microchipping law that came into effect in April of 2016. Has this affected the number of stray dogs in the Malvern area? It is hard to tell. But only 8% of the stray dogs that came into our care in 2016 went unclaimed. In 2015 it was 20%.

Our doors are always open to take in stray dogs from the local area, offer them care and do all we can to reunite them with their owners. We hope that compulsory microchipping will help reunite more dogs with their owners.

Did you know we offer microchipping as a service at WARS for dogs and cats? Contact us on 01905 831651 for more information.

CARE FOR POOR MEISHA

We are sure some of you are aware of Meisha's story.



the most. *Beautiful Meisha*

She came into WARS after being rescued from a home. She was very thin, her skin was in a poor condition, she was wheezy and very weak. We had her seen by our vet straight away, who then carried out blood and urine tests to see what may be wrong with her. She was diagnosed with severe malnutrition. With some TLC from the staff and the care of foster carers, we hoped she would soon be the road to recovery.

Sadly her wheezes never cleared up so we had an x-ray done. This showed she had a large mass growing in her chest. We are now doing all we can to keep her comfortable, for however long she has left.

We have started a JustGiving campaign to help pay for her care and have been overwhelmed by people's generosity. So far we have raised nearly £2000 to help her in her quest to be well again. Thank you to all who have supported Meisha when she needed help

SMITTEN WITH THE KITTENS

Over the course of 2016 WARS were inundated with kittens.

In total, we had in excess of 30 kittens come through our gates, all of which, we ensured were neutered, vaccinated, chipped, treated for fleas and worms and, of course, found loving forever homes. We even had some kittens born on site, with the staff caring for them and mum as they grew and developed.

Whilst it is fun to have kittens at the shelter, (who can resist a kitten cuddle?), we cannot ignore the ongoing problem of unwanted kittens coming into rescue.

To care for them costs the charity in excess of £3500, just for the kittens. This is why we encourage everyone to neuter their cats (and dogs), both male and female. Not only will this help lower the numbers of kittens (and puppies) being abandoned or taken to a rescue, it can also help the animal in the future, with regard to health issues.

Please help your animals by getting them neutered.

"I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR WORK ON ENRICHMENT AND REHOMING, YOU SEEM TO HAVE A GREAT TEAM AROUND YOU TOO."

MANDY JONES, DIRECTOR OF REHOMING SERVICES, BLUE CROSS, BURFORD



*Cobweb
born at WARS on Halloween 2016*

OTHER HEADLINES

- We found that we were in need of a sheltered area to exercise our stray dogs when they came into the kennels. This proved to be an expensive project but we were very lucky to receive a grant from Pet Plan and also a donation from a local business lady, in memory of her late husband. This allowed us to build the enclosure, and gives us a safe, secure area, away from the public, to exercise any stray dogs whilst they are with us for the statutory 8 days.
- Baz, a Staffie cross, who has been with us over a year, is currently going out on regular foster to a young couple who have fallen for him. This has given us a great insight into what he will be like in a home, and so far he is doing well. He is also undergoing regular training sessions to help him in his search for his forever home. Watch this space! You can also follow his story via his blog at www.bazelboy.wordpress.com
- Did you catch Liz Hallam, one of our Trustees and our very own Ned Cotton, Shelter Supervisor, on Radio 5 Live on Christmas Day? They gave an interview bright and early in the morning, alongside Chris Hermiston and one of our volunteers. The talked about rescue work, the struggles we face and how the public can help. It was great national coverage for us.
- We are currently in the process of revamping our membership scheme. We will be offering different levels of membership, giving our followers a different way to support our charity. Watch this space!
- We are happy to welcome Philip Serrel to the charity as our new patron, alongside Lady Morrison. You will know him from various antique shows on the BBC. He is a big animal lover and is very happy to be joining the charity to help us raise our profile.
- We are pleased to welcome Joel to the team as our new apprentice. He has already made his mark in helping introduce dogs to potential owners and helping dogs with their basic training. We look forward to seeing him grow in the role over the next 18 months.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday March 10th
*Coffee Morning, Guildhall,
Worcester 10 - 12pm*
- Saturday March 11th
*United Reform Church Hall,
Malvern Link, 10am - 2pm*
- Friday April 28th—Sunday 30th
Arc Fest, various locations
- Sunday June 4th
Dog Show at WARS
- Saturday June 24th—Sunday 25th
Bromyard Festival, Bromyard
- Friday July 7th
*Coffee Morning, Guildhall,
Worcester 10 - 12pm*
- Sunday September 3rd
Dog Show at WARS
- Friday October 6th
*Coffee Morning, Guildhall,
Worcester 10 - 12pm*
- Friday December 8th
*Grand Christmas Coffee Morning,
Guildhall, Worcester 10 - 12pm*

Please keep an eye on the events page of our website for more events.



2016 REHOMING FIGURES

We are really pleased to say that we have had one of our most successful years in rehoming in 2016.

- Dogs 114
- Cats 108
- Total 222

A DAY AT WARS

Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to help all the dogs and cats in need who come through our doors. We thought you may like a small insight into what a day can be like at WARS.

Our Manager Claire wrote a diary for a day for you all to see.

"I got into work today at 7.45am, first things first, put the kettle on. With my tea swigged I go out to help in the kennels. Today we don't have many volunteers so I don my wellies and start walking the dogs. The staff soon join me and we have the dogs walked by 8.30am. As we are a bit short of hands today I start cleaning the isolation kennels, whilst the dogs get their breakfast. First hosing, changing blankets and bowls and then disinfecting. The staff are doing the main block a lot quicker than me, they are much more efficient than I am; I keep forgetting my clean bowls. But I crack on and we are all cleaned by 10am. The staff have a well earned tea break whilst I run through with them what is happening today and any tasks I want them to do, it's going to be a busy day.

The phone begins to ring off the hook, someone wanting to rehome their dog, another with a cat they can't keep, someone wants to donate a duvet, the calls keep coming. I sit at my desk to start my staff appraisals but I know I have 2 dog meets and a cat rehome today. The kennel staff do a great job in getting the dogs out for their walks, I watch some of them in the playpens working with the dogs, getting Mac to sit, focus on them, great job. The dog interests come in so I give them some history on the dogs they want to rehome, then my staff do the meet, looks like it's going well. We have lots of visitors today, asking about our animals or wanting to volunteer, fantastic!

Lunchtime comes and goes, I start my sandwich at 12.30pm, it's half eaten by 2pm, my stomach grumbles. But no time for that, Storm is off to his new home. 3pm rolls by and the shelter closes but the phone keeps ringing. The staff take the dogs out for their last walks of the day whilst I deal with calls and continue trying to write appraisals. It's suddenly 4.45pm, what a day! 2 dogs find great families to go to, a dog and a cat booked to come in and a cat gone home. I lock up the shelter at 5.15pm, great day by all my staff and volunteers, let's do the same tomorrow."

Claire Tregunna, Shelter Manager

Please return below to WARS and we will do the rest. Any cheques payable to WARS

I would like to make a regular monthly donation of

£10 £15 £20 Other Single donation of

Title First Name Surname

Address

Post Code

Email I would like to be added to the WARS mailing list YES NO

Standing Order

To the Manager

Bank Address

Account Name Account Number

Sort Code Payment start date

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If you pay tax, ticking this box will enable WARS to gain an extra 25p extra for every £1 you donate.

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and I have paid or will pay an amount of UK income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6th April to 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities or Community Amateur Sport Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. Please notify WARS if you want to cancel this declaration, if you change your name or address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

Sign Date

Please pay to Barclays (Sort Code - 20-98-61) (Account Number - 90988804) (Account Name - Worcestershire Animal Rescue Shelter)