

SANCTUARY NEWS

Irlam

Irlam has had a few problems with the vans. Oil was found in the radiator on one but it went back to the supplier a few times and as it is still on warranty they have fixed it for us for free. Unfortunately, we needed to hire a van which then added to running costs. Affording the diesel to run the vans at the moment for picking up the emergency animals is a struggle. We are finding everything to run the vans increasingly costly, whether its diesel, road tax, insurance, new parts, etc . This takes a big slice out of the funds that run the two sanctuaries.

We are appealing again for a sponsor for the vans that helps pay for the running costs while we advertise the sponsor around the clock on the side of the vans. If you know of a company that would like to do this ask them to give Mel a call on 01706 371 731. The highest cost for us has been vets bills soaring ever higher, due to the rising costs of everything else. It is getting harder for us to survive as everyone is now struggling due to their own costs through rising fuel prices and the credit crunch. This means less money is available for the charity.

Littleborough

Littleborough has been fixing the damaged stables and fencing due to the horses or the bad weather yet again. We are chasing people to come to fix the tractors as the barn needs digging and the fence posts and building materials need carrying around the fields. A gentleman has turned up who is very good with tractors. He has started it with a new starter motor, which he kindly supplied for free. So it is up and running but there is still a problem with the loader.

The pig fields have become flooded more than ever this year. The main problem is even though you fence the pigs out of the mud they break through the fence again to get back to it. We have made them a makeshift house on the walkway originally with straw and fencing. This did well while we waited for the weather to get a little better. Then we rebuilt the corrugated pig house again.

Gorton Shop

We have moved out of Gorton shop 652 Hyde Road for a while to 542 while it is redecorated and sorted by the landlord whether we will move back to that shop we are not quite sure yet at the moment as there is a lot of moving back and forth needed which takes up a lot of time so we will let you know as soon as possible.

Chairpersons Address

Dear Friends

Grateful thanks for your kind response to our last newsletter. Mrs Florence O'Brien who had been with us from the start of the charity, has sadly passed away. She was a very kind caring lady and over the years raised many thousands of pounds for the animals. We will miss her very much.

The winter months have been disastrous for us, the rising costs of food, fuel, lighting, heating and the latest veterinary costs going up considerably have left our funds much depleted. We are living in hope that the summer events will see us through next winter. The rescues still go on of course. These include abandoned newborn kittens on a pathway, a rabbit left outside the Swinton shop and a young deer that doesn't seem to want to leave us. Whilst they need us so badly, we must go on.

Yours Sincerely

Sylvia Durham MBE

Online Shopping

Thanks to our webmaster we have our very own Online Shopping Portal at www.helpinganimalsindistress.co.uk where you will find everything you want all in one place, all purchases made through our portal will earn the charity much needed funds. Please pay it a visit and let all your friends with Internet access know about it.

CharityDays

If you are still using Dial Up Internet access, why not use a service that helps us for free! Broadband is still very much the buzzword in the world of Internet Access. However, a huge army of people still use dial up (Pay As You Go) for their Internet access. This enforces the fact that a good proportion of people do not require the speed or "always on" features of broadband, especially when the cost of entry is over £180 a year.

We are asking all our supporters that use Dial up access to change their supplier to Charity Days as they donate money to us every time you connect to the Internet.

So, for the few minutes it would take to sign up for an account, you would be helping us every time you connect to the Internet without it costing you an extra penny!

For more information and to change your supplier, visit www.charitydays.net

eBay Auctions

We now have a charity shop on the eBay.co.uk site with regular auctions of items from our shops. Visit our page at http://www.animals-in-distress.net/ebay_page.htm to see what we are auctioning. If you have an eBay account and you log on via that page then each bid you make will earn funds for the charity. You can also sign up for an eBay account from that page.

EMAIL - As most of you know, it is now possible to have your newsletter sent to you by Email. This is quicker, cheaper, and easier for the charity. If you would like your newsletter this way, please send me your Email address to :-

The Field Of Dreams Leach Farm Swaindroad Lane Littleborough Lancs OL15 0LE or phone the Littleborough Sanctuary on 01706 371 731. Thanks to all of you who have decided to have your newsletter in this way. Please keep us informed of any changes to your email address.

The A4 animal writing paper

depicting dogs, cats or horses has been so popular that we have ordered more! This can be personalised for you with your name and address in fancy writing in the top right hand corner. There is plenty of space for the writing connoisseur and all the proceeds will go to Animals in Distress, which will be printed on the bottom of the page. Ten pages with envelopes cost £4.00 inclusive of postage and packing to members and £4.50 to non members.

Also available are trolley coins, pens and lapel badges at £1 each plus P+P of 70 p

We have small calculators for £2.99 +70 pp Send your requirements to :-

Field of Dreams

Leach Farm

Swaindrod Lane

Littleborough

Lancs

OL15 0LE

Telephone: 01706 371731 for more details.

Important Notice

The Sanctuary operates due to your important support. We have no government funding. Without this support we could not afford to help the animals that are mentioned in this magazine. These are only a few of the animals you have helped us to save, return to good health, neuter and find loving homes for. Please keep your donations coming to us, even a donation of £1 will help us pay a bill. The increasing cost of fuel is making everything more expensive. Just running the emergency van is extremely hard on our resources. We know there are so many charities out there, worthy of your money. However, this charity puts donations directly into animal welfare and you can visit us to see how your money is spent.

Please Check Out Our Web Site on

www.animals-in-distress.net

Shops

Animals In Distress have a new shop in the Withington area. We are desperate for someone to put some hours in each day. The shop in Gorton is in need of some help. If you could give a few hours a day this will be helpful. If you think you can help in any way, either helping in the shops or fund raising, we would be glad to hear from you. Please ring Pauline on 07921 099875.

A New way to help us

If you have any unwanted or old CDs or Dvds. Scratched or broken are fine. The ones that you get free in the papers or magazines or the ones that you can copy with I am afraid we cannot use. We will send these CDs or Dvds back to a company where they will be recycled. The charity will receive some money back per weight of discs that are sent to them. This will then go to help pay for food, transport or vet bills. You can post them to Animals in Distress Field of Dreams Leach Farm Swaindrod Lane Littleborough Lancs. or give them to either sanctuary or the shops if you are passing them.

***** **HELP** *****

We always need your help in any way you can. This can range from collecting aluminium cans to running your own charity event or entering a sponsored event. Every little helps, as we have been saying for 41 years! Most goods can be turned into cash to help to fund the Sanctuaries and the Animal Ambulance. We are always in need of the following: clean clothes and rags, used mobile telephones, empty printer cartridges, old DVDs (but not copies), furniture, bric-a-brac, clean newspapers, aluminium and warm blankets. Do you have any new ideas for fundraising? We always need volunteers to help at the Open Days and anyone who is able to set up and run a stall will be very welcome. Any offer of help is always gratefully received even if only for a few hours.

Please call Mel on 01706 371 731

Urgent

If you are paying tax and are sending the charity a donation at anytime or have a standing order with us please fill in a gift aid form. This means the charity can get back off the government 28p for every £1 you donate. **This is at no cost to you** but this is a very helpful way for the charity to survive. You can fill in a gift aid form and we can go right back to the 2001 accounts and trace your donations to receive this important gift off the government.

Grey Spirit

We homed grey Spirit the pony at the end of last year. We miss her terribly but she now has a one to one home. If we had listened to the vet at the beginning when she arrived at the sanctuary she would have been put to sleep. Our own vet at the time was on holiday and we had another vet look at her due to her being an urgent case. She came in to the sanctuary with her mother as a starvation case. The first vet that saw her said she was not in pain but would never be ridden due to her legs that were not quite straight due to the lack of important vitamins from starvation. At the time we looked at the other equines and said to the vet "but most of the horses at the sanctuary cannot be ridden?" We decided we would hang on to her while she was happy. After giving her the important vitamins and feeding her properly she soon became a strong very pretty girl. At the end of last year not only could she be ridden but she was broken and re homed (put on loan). She is doing so well at her new home but after nearly 4 years with her in our care we miss her. She is a very gentle girl with a little cheekiness. We have a trainer that is carrying on with her training with her new owners and the picture that we have just had back from the new owners is wonderful.

Turtles

Irlam received two turtles from a lady that could no longer look after them. They went straight to the reptile vet as they did not look very well. They had no life in them and did not want to eat. One of them spent its time with its eyes shut taking no interest in anything at all. The other turtle looks like its exploding from its shell. All of its skin is very baggy and blown up. The vet has been treating these reptiles weekly but one of the turtles has now unfortunately passed away. The other turtle seems to be getting better but it will be a long uphill haul. Reptiles are cold blooded and treatments to them are very slow acting.

Cross Dane was a canine “Houdini”

We have had a cross Great Dane in at the Irlam sanctuary called Porcha with a lump on the end of her tail. The vets decided to remove this lump when they spayed her. Unfortunately she decided that her bandages and stitches were not allowed on her tail so took them out! She had to go back for re-stitching to the vets and came back with a plastic tube on the end of her tail and a buster collar around her neck. That night she had again taken her stitches out and the tube and bandaging off her tail even though the buster collar was in place. Back she went again to have her tail re-stitched and re bandaged and she came back wearing two buster collars from the vets. Guess what? the monster did it again. Off came the bandage and out came the stitches. By now the staff and vets were getting worried as they could not keep putting her under an anaesthetic. The sanctuary staff decided that in the end for her own good she would have to wear a muzzle. Unfortunately with the cloth type muzzle and buster collar she managed to pull the stitches out yet again. So they tried the basket muzzle. The staff won for a short time. She soon worked out how to pull off this type of muzzle. Success was achieved with two muzzles and two buster collars. She is now on the road to recovery as this seemed to solve the problem and we think that we have a home for her. Someone keeps phoning daily to check on how she is doing and keep coming to visit her.

Python

One of our drivers at Irlam had a emergency call out for a python. He was rather worried as he was not so keen on snakes. A landlord had been called to his property as the tenants had found a python slithering around the house. The tenants were terrified and the landlord was not very pleased at all. The landlord thought that his ex tenant had put the snake through the letter box to cause trouble for his existing tenants. He tried calling a number of animal organisations to take the snake in but no one was interested. He was that angry at the time that he was going to throw the hungry cold snake in a cardboard box, then put it in the dustbin. Lucky for the snake he made his last call to our emergency phone and the driver agreed to come out and pick it up. At the vets it was seen to be a little under weight but it should be okay. The driver then called the Littleborough sanctuary and we made space for the python. The snake is doing very well now and put some weight on.

Hand Reared Kittens

The emergency driver had a call out for six kittens that had been found in a park. Upon arrival, he was handed 6 baby kittens which were only about 3 days old. After a visit to the vets they were taken back to the sanctuary and the Jo volunteered to hand rear 2 of them. Hand rearing any baby animal is very stressful hard work with very long hours. The kittens at the beginning had to be very closely watched and fed every two hours night and day. The kittens are even helped to go to the toilet. Jo named the two kittens Soshar and Skittles. Although hand rearing is hard work, she enjoyed being the first to see them open their eyes for the first time and taking their first wobbly steps in life. Kittens grow very fast and by five weeks they did not need a surrogate mum any more as they were eating, drinking and playing on their own. They have now both been neutered and rehomed together to a lovely couple who send Jo regular updates and photos. Before they left Jo paid for both kittens to be micro chipped in the hope that they will never get lost in the future.

Merlin, Basil and Kizzy

At the Littleborough site we took in two donkeys and a horse from the same home. The ex-owner loved these three very much. Unfortunately due to changes in the family the animals had to move to a new home. The two donkeys, even though they are 10 year old, are very naughty. We are teaching them how to lead. One of the staff is working on getting down the back legs of Merlin as he does not like you touching his legs at all. He is a very naughty kicker. Basil behaves much better but unfortunately for him he is badly overweight. Every time Kizzy, the horse, could not see the donkeys she became over excited and stressed. We were worried about this, as they would not be allowed to graze in the same field throughout the summer. The donkeys needed lower calories due to weight problems. The grey donkey, Basil, had already had laminitis so we wanted to make sure that it did not happen with us. The mare, Kizzy, was going to need much richer grass. We have managed now to get her to be friends with a group of horses and she does not bother about the donkeys anymore, which is a great relief. The donkeys were never bothered about being with her as they had each other. We found that at the beginning Kizzy started to leave her breakfast when the other horses went out in the morning. This was something she could not afford. So we taught her that unless she ate her breakfast she did not join the other horses in going out. She picked up on this very quickly. She has now put on quite a bit of weight and looks very well for her age.

Our new driver and wildlife

We were recently called out to a very large house in Timperley where we had a report of a squirrel trapped in a bird feeder! On arrival there was a family barbeque taking place in the rear garden. All were sitting eating burgers and drinking beer whilst watching this poor little creature dangling helplessly in mid air! (they hadn't even taken the feeder down from its line!). Obviously that was the first thing the driver did. The squirrel was well and truly wedged in, probably because it had just eaten its own body weight in bird nuts and was a little swollen around the midriff! Whilst trying to free him the driver was inundated with questions from the now slightly tipsy party! In between answering questions ranging from "do you not have a camera crew following you like the RSPCA do?" to "would you like a beer and a burger?" he was trying his best to keep hold of each end of this squirrel and gradually feed him back through the wire the same way he got in! After 30 minutes of trying he was just doing his best to keep him calm. Eventually he managed to free him and took him to the vets for a check over. He was given the all clear by them and was released back to where he came from the following day.

Winnies Story

The driver received a call from a lady in the Winton area about a young cat which she was rather concerned about. He arrived at the house and the lady brought out a beautiful, friendly, smokey grey tabby cat who was very thin. When the vet examined the cat he thought that she was feeding kittens or had had kittens due to the fact she was producing milk. The driver went back to Winton but a thorough search revealed nothing. The cat was christened Winnie. A few days later the same lady called to say that she had found two kittens. These kittens were very like Winnie but were they hers? Watching carefully the two kittens were put into the cage with Winnie who promptly lay down and began to feed them. Wow! They were hers. They are now grown up and after neutering all three have been homed.

The Whiskers family

The driver was called out to a call, which was to be known as the beginning of the “whiskers family”. The cat the driver had picked up was not very well at all. He had a severely injured leg and an eye infection. He was a typical moggy; a black and white old tom cat that was scruffy with old fighting scars. The eye infection seemed to have permanently affected his eyes, which made him look like he was scowling. The lady who made the call had named him Sunny Whiskers after the Street name that that he was found at. Sunny after two weeks was still at the sanctuary. By this time his eyes had been treated successfully, but the vet’s advice for cage rest did not seem to be working for his leg. When he went back for his check up they were suggesting that his leg may need to be amputated. It was permanently curled under from his elbow downwards and he walked using only his three good legs. After yet another visit we were advised by the vets to go ahead with the leg amputation. They decided that the injury was an old one that had gone untreated for so long that it was now untreatable. The vets booked Sunny in for the op the following week. He was a real gentleman when treatment was given to him for his eye. He was never aggressive and the staff had become quite attached to him. So the thought of him loosing his leg was very upsetting to the staff. The day the operation arrived the staff sadly got him ready but there was a phone call from the vets they had had staffing problems and all operations were cancelled. So he would be booked in again for the next week. A few days later, one of the staff who was playing with him came into the office to say that Sunny had extended a claw onto her hand. All the staff went upstairs to check and he did it again. They rushed to speak to the vets to see if his leg could be saved. The vet said that it was more than likely an involuntary reaction. His operation date still stood for the end of the week. On the Wednesday after feeding the cats one of the staff was giving Sunny a fuss. This member of staff shut his cage door to turn and speak to another member of staff. While having her back to the cage something pawed her from behind. When she turned around Sunny had straightened his injured paw through the bars to grab the attention of the staff to be stroked a little more. His operation was cancelled immediately and he had cage rest for quite a few weeks more. He made a full recovery and he now lives back with the lady who made the initial phone call. He is now healthy, neutered, vaccinated and is by all accounts completely spoiled!

Bailey

A new dog was due in and the staff had been advised on the ‘phone that it was a Staffie mix. Around lunchtime a lady came to the yard with a very large dog. Thinking she had found it as a stray and needed help a member of staff approached her and asked how they could help. She announced that she had phoned earlier and the dog was the staffie mix. The dog’s name was Bailey, a bull mastiff cross. She was the size of a Great Dane and brindle in colour. She was a very happy dog whilst at the sanctuary always wagging her tail. She picked out one of the members of staff as a favourite often refusing to play with anyone else out in the run. She is brilliant with children and went to live with a large family who is familiar with the mastiff breed. They have phoned a few times to tell the staff how wonderful she is and how great she is for walks and how happy they are to have her in their lives.

Annie

Annie taken the place of grey Spirit, who was rehomed late last year. Annie is a 15hh mare that has been aggressive to her ex-owner for nearly 9 years. They took her on and tried to tame her nasty habits of biting and kicking for a long time. The owner loved Annie and although she gave her grief and lots of it, she tried to carry on caring for her as she loved Annie so much. Eventually she pushed her owner too far and ended up coming to the Littleborough sanctuary. Her ex-owner comes regularly to make sure that Annie is okay. We have been working on her for a while now and she is slowly becoming better behaved. We don't think she can understand why we keep grabbing her muzzle to stroke it and rub it when she expects a smack but she likes it when it happens. She has had her nosed smacked so much by other people that she expects it. When they walked past her stable they smacked her "just in case" Sometimes she still turns her back end towards staff when they are bringing her in or going into the stables. She does not like being told to "go away" so soon changes her mind and turns around. Putting rugs on and off was hard at first as she attacked with her teeth but we worked a way around this so she just could not reach us. She does not bother to attack now and just stands there instead. She is so used to to having the rug put on and off now that she she does not bother to attack. We think that maybe when the grass comes through that she will be a bit more naughty again and start threatening us with her back legs. We have now solved this problem by putting her into the fat girl field. This field does not have a lot of grass so she is quite happy to come in for her dinner. This way we can get her into a routine she is used to before putting her onto the better grass.

Recharged Battery hens

Every 18 months or so we take on some ex-battery hens at Littleborough and find them new homes. Battery hens are not wanted after 18 months as their egg supply has dropped due to the weight loss of the chickens. These are the chickens that are not supposed to be battery hens. They let are let out for an hour a day so are called "free range". They have to be kept inside for the constant supply of light. If they are not then they don't think that it is the summer and they do not lay. Chickens only lay in the summer months due to the light being around till late evening. This is the largest number we have been able to save in one go. The Animal Action group brought us 240 hens. People were waiting on the day and some people came the next day. When unloaded there were crates of chickens all over the car park. Some of these chickens were rushed to the stable block. Whilst others were taken out of their crates and passed onto waiting new owners. We emptied the chickens out as fast as we could so they could get to water and food. These chickens look better than the normal battery hens. They have most of all their feathers. They are just still a bag of bones. All of their framework pokes through their skin as you pick them up. We had some of the chickens dropped at Irlam sanctuary the next day. Some people lived in the Manchester area who wanted them. Just about all these chickens have been dropped off now to their new abodes and we only have a few still awaiting delivery to their new homes. Unfortunately we lost 3 chickens between the delivery to us and the next day but the rest are all doing fine. These chickens have now all been rehomed.

Garfield

The driver received a call from the Swinton shop about a cat which was in the area and seemed to have a large growth on the back of its neck. The lady that found it had managed to coax it into a cat basket with a little food. The cat was taken to the vets for a check up and the vet immediately reached for his clippers. The mysterious lump turned out to be a series of very large and matted hair clumps. Once removed, the extremely thin looking, nervous cat seemed to recover its poise and attitude. Nothing within a radius of three feet was safe. Everything that he could reach was shredded. Maybe the matt balls were stopping him from free movement and the hair was pulling against his skin. Garfield, affectionately named, was a feline terrorist. He attacked anyone he could. Some cats will swipe with their claws when they are nervous and scared. Not Garfield. He came at you and kept coming with everyone having scratches to prove it. It took many weeks of lifting him out of his cage wrapped in a towel and slowly exposing his head so we could stroke it. It took much longer to be able to stroke his back without him shredding us. Soon the staff were able to lift him up and stroke him he soon realised he adored this. When he was eventually rehomed he was a magnificent cat. Garfield's hair had grown back and he had turned into a very loving affectionate cat.

Swans' catch and release

A call came from the Walkden area about a swan stuck in a lady's back garden. The new driver was a bit daunted by this. He had never faced one before and felt like this was one of his bigger tests yet. On arriving in Walkden, he was faced with the world's biggest swan. Actually, it was a year old with cygnet feathers still showing and not quite full grown but it looked massive. After following the swan around the garden (don't mention wild goose chase) he managed to trap it and put the swan into the swan sleeve. This is a bag that slips over the swan's head and stops wings and feet from flapping around and getting damaged. Sitting in the vets with a swan does tend to draw some strange looks from people. The swan was ringed and a phone call revealed that it was originally ringed and released locally on Black Leach not too far from where it was found. After feeding and watering the swan the driver headed off to Black Leach later that evening and gingerly carried it across the pathways. A few minutes later the swan's neck arched and pointed off in the darkness. Heading in that direction the driver soon came to the actual lake. He released the swan and it headed off towards the lake, half flying half running too fast for the driver to keep up. When he got to the lake there was no sign of the swan at all but using the large torch he not only located the swan out on the lake but also a family of swans heading towards the newly released swan. The reunion was peaceful and he swears to this day that he heard a swan shout, "Where have you been to this time?"

Orphan Ducklings

At Irlam they have been called out to a large number of ducklings this year. They have been raised at first at Irlam and as they have got larger they have been moved on to the Littleborough site were they had more room. When the ducks have grown their adult feathers and become waterproof they have been taken down to Hollingworth lake to be released. The ducks when released were very excited and kept flying and skating across the lake surface. Hollingworth lake is a very large lake and the public feed the ducks and geese through the winter and summer so we know they will be well fed.

Members Letters

Dear Lorraine,

Just to say thank you for your lovely jam. It has been very much enjoyed. My mum has it every morning on her toast. She loves it. She used to make her own years ago so if she says its good its a very big compliment. Please accept this donation for your animals with love

Norma

Hi,

We just wanted to let you know that the cream female hamster that we adopted from you a few weeks ago has settled in really well. She was friendly from the start and we're really glad that we decided to adopt her. She's too fast to get a good picture, but I've attached one of her on her wheel. She seemed to be too big to run inside it, so took to running on top of it instead, but it can't have been comfortable so we've now got her a bigger one!

Many thanks for your help,

Rebecca & Matt

Dear Animals in Distress

A photocopy of Stitch's vaccinations card and a few pictures as requested. I really couldn't have hoped to have adopted a better dog than Stitch. He's a wonderful companion and has settled in with great ease. What he loves most is being either at the local park or Blackpool beach running after a frizzbee! He 's got lots of toys and sleeps in his favourite place in the spare room on an armchair! He's doing great! He loves going for his walks. The more the better! Many thanks for allowing me to adopt Stitch I cannot imagine life without him.

Miss C Pierce

Dear Sir/Madam

Just Thought I'd send you a couple of pictures of Cleo. You'd be glad to know she's a healthy cat. She's managed to put some weight on. She's a joy to be with, everyone that meets her loves her to bits.

Love Nush

To all at Animals in Distress

I am enclosing a photo of Bobbins our naughty tortie adopted Nov 91 then known as Jane and who's been ruling the roost ever since Thank you for rescuing her and all the other wonderful work you do.

Best Wishes

Erica Sutton

Hello All

I have finally got around to sending you a photo of Charlie (was Teddy when he was at AID). He settled in nicely when I lived in Urmston and is completely at home now here in Eccles! The last person I spoke to was David. He asked me to send a photograph of my cat, so hope you like the photo. Keep up the good work!

Lorraine

Hi All

Twizzle we re homed from Silver street 12 years ago when she was two years old. She is a real fireside cat. She is now 14 years old. Spooky is a black cat we re homed from you 2 years ago. She is very bouncy and not very affectionate but spends hours playing with us and “chats” all the time. She is now 2½ years old

Best Wishes from Twizzle and Spooky

To all who looked after me at Irlam

Thanks to you I have a great life where I get love and affection but more importantly-I get plenty of food.

The downside is that I have been poked, prodded and injected with all sorts of stuff, but hey-what the hell, the vet has to live as well.

I should be saying M-e-o-w but, at the moment, I am big enough to say “Ho-Ho-Ho!”

Diet for me in the new Year!!

PS. They want me to go outside but I can't be bothered at the moment and besides, do they know how cold it is out there?

Cheers to all

Love Oscar XXX

Dear All

Here is a photo of Rosie, our dog who we got from you a few years ago. She was called Kia. She is a wonderful friend, one of the family and we think the world of her. Enclosed is a small donation to help you continue your good work.

With very best wishes

Sincerely Mr & Mrs Bradshaw

Dear Animals in Distress

Thank you very much for looking after me. I think our plan of pretending that I was really shy has worked really well. We really fooled them didn't we. As soon as I got home I dropped the act straight away and I had the flat explored in five minutes. Because I act so cute I get loads of attention. The people I live with are always playing with me and stroking me. I've even got a little bed of my own tucked away in the corner of the room. When I'm not playing or running around I like to sit on the window sill and watch squirrels. Its not a bad life!

Hope you are all well there.

P.S. Keep up the good work and thanks for everything

Loads of love Esme

Dear all

Have been meaning to write to you for weeks. As you can see since we adopted Betty in November she has made herself at home with us! She is an affectionate talkative and very inquisitive character and we love her to bits. She has beaten up a couple of tom cats who dared to enter into our garden so she has not changed character completely!!!

We are so glad we chose her. All the best to you

Mr & Mrs Perival

IRLAM SANCTUARY

Animals in Distress, 55 Silver Street, Irlam, Manchester M44 6HT.

Open 10 am - 4 pm daily Telephone:- 0161 775 2221 9 am - 5 pm

Leave the M60 Motorway at exit 11 for Irlam and Eccles, take the third left from the roundabout heading towards Irlam and Cadishead, straight on past Makro, then take right hand fork to Irlam, carry straight on until you come to the pub on the right hand side called the Nags Head, and the Late Shop. Turn immediately right between the two, straight up the street until you come to a thick privet hedge on the left hand side and there you will find the Irlam sanctuary.

LITTLEBOROUGH SANCTUARY

Animals in Distress Retirement Home, Leach Farm, Swaindrod Lane, Littleborough, Lancs OL15 0LE

Open 10 am - 4 pm daily Telephone:- 01706 371 731

Leave the M62 motorway at exit 21 for Milnrow and Shaw, straight over the first two roundabouts, first left from the third roundabout onto Elizabethan Way, right at traffic lights, left at mini roundabout into Kiln Lane, left fork following signs for Littleborough and Hollingworth Lake, at mini roundabout turn right, drive around Hollingworth Lake bearing left at the Wine Press, follow the road until the T junction, turn right onto the A58 out of Littleborough, drive up the hill for one mile until reaching the Moorcock Inn on the left hand side, turn left and take the bridleway at the end of the car park, drive straight on the track do not turn left or right. The farm is one mile away from the Moorcock Inn. The bridleway is quite passable at a slow speed.

Please do not leave your car at the Moorcock Inn car park.

Shop Addresses

Gorton Shop 542 Hyde Road, M18 7EE

Telephone: 0161 231 7450

Swinton Shop 177 -179 Station Road, Swinton, M27 6BU Telephone: 0161 793 1771

Irlam Shop 549 Liverpool Road, Irlam, M44 6ZT

West Didsbury Shop 124 Burton Road, West Didsbury, M20 1JQ 0161 434 4276

Not Open yet as we are desperately looking for someone to run the shop