

**DONATE TO OLDINGHAM CATS AND DOGS
HOME AND WIN CASH PRIZES**
FREE Phone Donation line:

Dear Pet Owner

Abandoned And Mistreated Animals Need Your Help

Cruelty. Pepe, a sweet natured Cocker Spaniel was left tied to a lamppost with two dislocated kneecaps. He was in excruciating pain and needed emergency orthopedic surgery, which we provided. He now has a country home and loves long walks.

Dumped. Bagpuss was left in a zip up carrier bag on the A13. Luckily she was found by a passer by and now has a wonderful new home and loving owner.

Rescued. Mitzi and her pretty tabby kittens had made their home inside a derelict vehicle that was due to be crushed. They were rescued and have all been rehomed.

You can make a real difference to the welfare of animals like these. Simply call the **Free Phone Donation Line on**

OR

Send a cheque in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

CASH PRIZE LUCKY DRAW. When you make a donation to Oldingham Cats and Dogs Home your name will be entered into our prize draw. 1ST PRIZE £750. 2ND PRIZE £500. 3RD PRIZE £250. The draw will take place on 29th July 2005. The prize money has been specifically donated by one of our supporters.

At Oldingham we are constantly busy. Our day-to-day tasks involve rescuing injured strays, trapping feral cats for neutering, collecting pets for neutering or treatment from people who can't come to the clinic and dealing with cases of cruelty and neglect.

- With your help we care for 800 animals each year.
- There are rarely less than 100 cats and dogs in our care at any one time. All need feeding twice a day, as well as gentle handling and veterinary attention.
- We are a charity and depend on charitable donations to survive. Our annual costs are £150,000.

Unwanted

We take in numerous unwanted domestic cats, kittens, dogs and puppies, many of which have been threatened with violence, abandoned or have suffered cruelty. Many are small kittens, (some of which are nervous), friendly young adult cats, battle scared old toms, cruelty cases and elderly cats. We are also taking in an increasing number of dogs with serious injuries.

Abandoned Animals

Sometimes we know nothing about the animals at all. Sadly, animals are still left on our doorstep and are discovered in the morning, or there is an extra basket on the bench at the end of a vaccination clinic. Rarely is a note left with these animals, so we can only guess their history. We have a notice on our front door, pleading with people not to leave animals outside, but to come inside or ring us, no matter what the time. Our main concern is what happens to the animals if we are not the ones to find them, or if they escape from their containers.

Rescue and rehoming

There is a steady stream of requests from the public to rehome their unwanted pets. Some cases are genuine – the death of an owner, a new baby being allergic etc. However, the majority of requests are the result of an irresponsible decision to acquire a pet in the first place. The message that 'a cat or a dog is for life' needs to be constantly reinforced.

The Kitten Season

During kitten season, we have to cope with numbers reaching between 160-200 cats. Caring for this number of cats is a huge task. Some cats and kittens arrive needing intensive care. Tiny orphaned kittens need careful hand-rearing, feeding and toileting every two hours, day and night. Sick and injured cats and kittens also need care around the clock.

A feral future?

A few weeks ago, we discovered an empty taped up cardboard box with a hole ripped in it. We left food out for several days just in case, but saw no cat. Five days later, a very frightened tabby was discovered hiding in an alleyway close by. It turned out she had not been neutered, so if we had not found her, this act of abandonment could have resulted in a new feral colony. Several feral colonies are reported to us each week and approximately 30% of the cats in our care at any one time are adult feral cats seeking new homes on farms or stables in the region.

Neutering

Through neutering clinics we attempt to bring the unwanted animal situation under control. We have neutered over 110,000 and vaccinated over 157,000 animals since launching in 1980. We feel we really have seen an overall improvement – however, while there are irresponsible pet owners, there will always be unwanted and abandoned animals needing help and we must be there for them.

Low cost treatment

Our clinic provides low-cost treatments for clients who cannot find help elsewhere. There are many pet owners who fall just outside the benefit requirements to be able to use the PDSA or RSPCA and cannot afford private veterinary fees and there are always uninsured pets in need of help. Consultations are held every day with many different medical and surgical cases being treated.

Does animal cruelty and neglect make you angry ? Here's how YOU can help

Please contribute

- By making a one-off donation to help fund our rescue and rehoming work.
- By supporting our neutering programme with a donation. It costs us £15 to castrate a male cat, £20 to spay a female cat and from £40 to neuter a dog. Please remember one female cat can produce 21,000 kittens over seven years and one bitch can be responsible for 4,500 pups. By simply 'paying for a spay' you will be making a major contribution to animal welfare in the future.

Make a donation now on FREE Phone

OR

Send a cheque in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Thank you

Without the unstinting support of animal lovers such as yourself, we at the Oldingham Cats and Dogs Home could not continue to help the hundreds of animals that need our care each year. We are very grateful to all our supporters. By donating to our charity we hope you can join in our sense of achievement when we see rescued animals restored to health and happily settled in new homes. Your support will always spur us on to continue our essential work. We know you will not let us, and the animals down.

Yours,

Mike Blatch
Managing Director, Oldingham Cats and Dogs Home

PS. Remember, by making a donation you could win up to £750