Ordinary turns extraordinary

On Thursday, 19 November 2009 the small Cumbrian town of Cockermouth experienced the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in Britain resulting in devastating floods. For dog owners Keith and Liz Fitton, and their neighbour Ken Sugden, it was all about the safety of their beloved pets.

Keith was at home with his dogs, Molly and Smudgy, and Ken’s dog Kerry, when the flooding took hold and forced the four of them to retreat upstairs to safety. The situation had a feeling of déjà vu about it; in 2005 the house had flooded and been under a metre of water. But this time it was much worse, as the water had breached the 1.5m flood barrier on the door and risen up the staircase, before stopping just three steps from the first floor.

After a night spent cuddled up with Molly, Smudgy and Kerry, Keith was airlifted to safety by an RAF Sea King helicopter the following morning, but not before he’d settled the dogs in a back bedroom with food, water and comforting words promising that he’d see them very soon.

Without delay the three frantic owners located the RSPCA Flood Rescue Team and were reassured the dogs would be fine until the all clear was given to enter the house. Once authorised to go, the team ‘swam’ the big dogs Molly and Smudgy out, while carrying little Kerry to dry land and safety.

“Seeing the dogs coming up the street was almost like a dream; life seemed to go in slow motion until they were back in our arms,” said Liz. “We are so grateful to the RSPCA team for making our families whole again, we just can’t thank them enough.”

“Being reunited with our dogs was amazing, the end of a really tense time – nothing else mattered.”

Ken Sugden

RSPCA ANNUAL REVIEW 2009

OVERJOYED: Keith, Liz and Ken were delighted to see Molly, Smudgy and Kerry again.

HEROES: The RSPCA Flood Rescue Team rescue Molly, Smudgy and Kerry.

FRONT COVER: Liz, Keith and Ken meet up with one of the rescuers, RSPCA Inspector Leanne Hardy.

2009 Getty Images
Look and you can find a hero in every one of us

What is a hero? The dictionary describes a hero as a person admired or idealised for their courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities. We are surrounded by heroes, but often we don’t recognise them because they are ordinary people – or animals. We are all heroes because our main concern is, and always will be, animal welfare. On the following pages you will meet some of the heroes that work for the RSPCA – staff and volunteers – and also discover the mutually-beneficial relationships that exist between people and animals.

This year’s annual review reminds us once again that the RSPCA only exists because of a fundamental human condition – compassion for others. We not only change animals’ lives, but also radically and positively affect the lives of individual people and whole societies.

China is a country that, until recently, seemed to lack compassion when it came to animals. But in 2009 something amazing happened: China drafted its first animal protection laws – a clear message to every citizen that animals matter. We have spent decades working in China and are often asked why we bother – surely we should boycott a country that has such a poor regard for animal welfare? But we refused to turn our back on China’s animals and this wonderful breakthrough goes to show that patience, understanding, perseverance and compassion pay off.

Although the recession found us struggling to raise funds in 2009, we still had to deal with several major incidents involving huge numbers of animals. The biggest was at a farm in Buckinghamshire, where more than 100 suffering horses, ponies and donkeys were removed in 2008. This continues to cost money as the prosecution goes through the legal system.

Elsewhere our undercover officers, working with the police and the BBC, smashed one of the UK’s biggest dog fighting gangs, resulting in 10 convictions.

These are major achievements, but every animal – from an adored pet trapped in floods to a bird caught in an oil spill – is just as important to us. We will continue to work to protect every animal that needs us – something we have done since 1824.
Our vision is to work for a world in which humans respect and live in harmony with all other members of the animal kingdom.

We believe that caring for animals is an essential part of any civilised life and how we treat animals defines us not only as people, but also as a society.

Together we can work to build a better world, where animal welfare is at the heart of everything we do.
OCTOBER

Winners of the fifth RSPCA Good Business Awards, which rewards companies that show innovation and excellence in advancing animal welfare, were announced at a ceremony in London.

Our circus campaign produced thousands of e-mails to Defra calling for a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Freedom Food launched the Simply Ask campaign, which urges restaurant goers to ask where the food they are about to order and eat has come from. The campaign also asks restaurants to commit to using only non-cage eggs in their meals.

JUNE

Two men were convicted of badger digging offences after being filmed by an undercover RSPCA inspector.

Political agreement was reached on the European Slaughter Directive, which accepted many RSPCA demands on improving slaughter for Europe’s millions of food animals.

JULY

A bird expert was convicted for illegally keeping rare wild birds, after being prosecuted by the RSPCA.

An RSPCA campaign generated 8,500 responses to a government consultation asking for improved conditions for greyhounds in races.

AUGUST

RSPCA International helped with a clean-up operation after a massive oil spill in Norway endangered the lives of thousands of birds.

SEPTEMBER

After decades of RSPCA work, China drafted its first animal protection law – a message to every citizen that animals matter.

Our Special Operations Unit worked with the police and BBC to smash one of the UK’s biggest dog fighting gangs.

DECEMBER

Freedom Food announced that a record-breaking 532 million animals are being reared under its scheme to the RSPCA’s higher welfare standards – nearly 170 million more than in 2008. Salmon went up 56 per cent, from just over 281 million in 2008 to nearly 440 million fish in 2009. Pigs showed a 23 per cent growth from nearly 1.6 million in 2008 to more than 1.9 million in 2009.

The RSPCA funded a three-year research project to create a new electronic system for collecting, analysing and reporting data on inherited disorders in dogs and cats.
A typical day will include collecting and rescuing animals, which the Animal Collection Officers and Animal Welfare Officers also do. I also investigate allegations of animal cruelty and neglect. You have to reason with people. It’s my job to do my best for the animal, so if it’s warranted I’ll persuade them to sign him or her over to us for rehoming.

The saddest case this year was an elderly, bedbound lady who kept cats. One had a very nasty tumour which completely disfigured it – the cat’s head was twice the size it should’ve been. The owner’s vet had twice told her the cat should be put to sleep. But the lady refused. She’d no family, so a colleague and I asked the manager of her carers to be present while we talked through the problems with her.

She listened and after much discussion realised that it was the kindest thing to do. We could’ve used the animal law we work with, the Animal Welfare Act, and called the police but that would’ve been a last resort.

Days later my colleague got a call from the owner – she wanted the cat’s body to bury. So he took it back and buried it in her garden – that’s typical of the unseen kindness that goes on in the RSPCA every day.

I’m also one of four regional trainers for rope rescue work. I take the lead role in rescues and carry out refresher training for inspectors.

This year we’ve had seven or eight cliff rescues. We get help from the Cornwall Fire Brigade, the coastguard and a naval helicopter. A sheep can be brought up with an animal bag strapped to you, but a 450kg steer stuck 60–80 feet down a cliff poses a problem. One steer rescue in July took eight hours and involved 40 firefighters. There’s a lot of goodwill there!

Earlier in the year, I coordinated a rescue at Bosrigan Cliff. Three sheep had gone over the 180-feet high granite cliffs and were stranded on a tiny ledge near the high-tide mark.

When our Animal Collection Officers abseiled down, the sheep ran to a ledge further down. It took hours to get the first one up, but the tide was coming in fast and they were getting their toes wet – we also had three men down there, it was getting risky. So we put the other two sheep in one bag and hauled like mad to get them up. It was exhausting, physically and mentally. It took all day with a dozen RSPCA inspectors and Animal Collection Officers involved. But the sheep were safe so it was all worthwhile.

In 2009 we investigated 141,280 cruelty complaints and secured 2,579 convictions

135,293 animals were collected and rescued in 2009

Paul Kempson

INSPECTOR
SOUTH WEST REGION

Our inspectors, Animal Collection Officers (ACOs) and Animal Welfare Officers (AWOs) are our frontline men and women, working around the clock championing animal welfare. In 2009 the new AWO role was introduced, enabling them to take on some aspects of the inspectors’ role.

Inspectors in our Special Operations Unit (SOU) carry out undercover investigations into illegal acts of cruelty including dog fighting and badger digging.

The RSPCA’s inspectorate is made up of our 300 plus inspectors, ACOs, AWOs, SOU officers and our inspectors’ training school.

www.rspca.org.uk/rescue
The RSPCA has four animal hospitals in England, a companion animal clinic in Wales and four satellite clinics in London.

Our animal hospitals, clinics and branches treated 217,497 animals in 2009, providing care for pets belonging to people who cannot afford private veterinary treatment.
We're a very big, busy animal hospital. I’m one of 30 vet nurses here; we’ve got 10 vets and two operating theatres.

During the course of an average day we neuter 11 cats, dogs and rabbits, and perform six major operations, with strays and emergencies doubling that.

Recently a dog was brought in after becoming impaled on railings; he was left hanging upside down by his hind leg. Luckily no major arteries were hit, we stitched him up then reunited him with his owners.

We get quite a few animals brought to the hospital that are house fire victims. One poor cat had all her pads burned off earlier this year. We really didn’t think she’d make it, but over a few weeks her wounds healed.

She made a full recovery, except that she can no longer retract her claws so occasionally gets stuck to the carpet! I fostered her for a while, now my sister’s adopted her.

Unfortunately, we get a lot of dogs coming into the hospital who have been attacked in staged dog fights. Some have quite extensive injuries and even broken bones where their owners have beaten them. I do get really upset.

Although we always muzzle these dogs, most of them are fine with people. It makes it even more upsetting that the owners treat them like that.

But that’s why I’m here, to help animals. I do a lot of fostering and rehoming outside work – it’s important to me, giving animals a new home and family.

Sometimes I wish more people would appreciate what we do. We work hard here, save a lot of animals’ lives every day, and offer an affordable service. People should feel privileged and lucky they can come here, but it can be taken for granted. Of course there are also many people who really couldn’t be more grateful for what we’ve done to help their animals – they make it all worthwhile.

In 2009 I received the RSPCA’s Queen Victoria Bronze Medal, recognising the 180 plus cats and kittens I’ve fostered and rehomed. During high kitten season I’ve had up to 12 cats and kittens at home. I’m known locally as ‘the cat lady’ and Redditch Borough Council presented me with a Local Hero Award.

Naomi

www.rspca.org.uk/vetcare
Wendy Burrows

At RSPCA Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre we cover a wide patch in the north of England. There are 13 hands-on wildlife staff with many different areas of expertise. We work extremely closely – I think that’s why we’re so successful.

April to September is always busy for us. June was one of the busiest months, we had 847 admissions. We see all sorts of animals at this time of year – garden birds, hedgehogs, mallards and cygnets.

We usually have up to 500 hedgehogs in throughout the year, which is split into two litter admissions – one in June and one in September. The young hedgehogs have to reach a certain weight before they can be released and if this isn’t achieved for the September admissions they will be kept over the winter period.

For me the most challenging area to work in is the isolation units. It’s mainly swans that we have to weigh every day (see the picture right), recording their weight is a good indication of how they’re doing. Swans come here for many reasons including injuries caused by traffic accidents and discarded fishing tackle, and sadly we also see a number of swans that have been shot. Each year we admit about 400 swans, so we have a wealth of experience in treating them.

In January we had a bittern in, a very rare British bird. It was thin and in poor condition. After a month of intensive care we released it to a nature reserve and it’s been spotted lots of times since. Releasing rehabilitated animals is a lovely moment, it’s one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

From time to time we also offer our assistance to the cattery helping to hand-rear kittens until they are old enough to be rehomed. Sometimes I do get attached to the kittens I’ve looked after, but it’s nice to see them go to loving new homes.

Together the RSPCA’s four wildlife centres take in some 14,000 wild animals a year – about 75 per cent birds, 24 per cent mammals and one per cent everything else!

The wildlife centres conduct research into the best ways to treat wild animals. Centre staff work closely with the scientists in the wildlife department at HQ, who have specialist knowledge and expertise in a range of scientific, animal welfare and ethical issues.

www.rspca.org.uk/wildliferehabilitation
WILDLIFE ASSISTANT
RSPCA STAPELEY GRANGE WILDLIFE CENTRE
I’ve done home visits, fostering and reception for 16 years since retiring as a health visitor and district midwife.

We’ve had a busy 2009; we’ve upgraded our kennels, built a cat isolation unit and small animal unit. And we’ve merged with Huddersfield Branch – one big branch will benefit the animals.

I help run our award-winning Elderly Animal Rehoming Scheme (E.A.R.S.), which enables elderly cats and dogs – that tend to be difficult to rehome – to find new homes, usually with older people. I do E.A.R.S home visits. It’s quite involved, and is as much about people as animals – social welfare, finance and also health. My nursing experience helps me assess situations.

I’m an emergency phone holder; clients can call us day or night. They might go into hospital suddenly, so we’ll collect their pet. If they’ve run out of pet food, or it’s too icy to walk the dog, we’ll go and sort it out.

It’s incredible the difference an E.A.R.S. pet makes. You see a sad, depressed person transform into someone with a reason to live. And the animals – they arrive in kennels, often when an elderly owner’s died, may even have sat with them until discovered. They’ve been a star in their owner’s eyes, then they come to us bewildered, lost. It’s so nice to see them blossom again.

Two years ago I took in Pepsi, an E.A.R.S. dog, who’d been abused. He became a Pets As Therapy dog, visiting a hospice. He has a heart problem caused by inbreeding and is already on borrowed time. In May, Molly came into E.A.R.S. with another inbreeding problem. She’s expected to deteriorate within a year, and I was asked to adopt her. I know they haven’t got long but this way they can live out their days loved and happy.

Mary Healey

>> www.rspca.org.uk/branchtrustees
12 million animals are used in experiments each year across Europe.

**SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER**

Barney Reed

Our ultimate aim is the replacement of animal experiments with humane alternatives. Until this can be achieved, we work hard to help ensure that each animal used experiences the minimum of suffering and has the best possible quality of life.

Laboratory animals are used for many different purposes and each raises specific ethical, welfare and scientific issues. We take a practical, constructive approach, judging every issue individually. There are many difficult dilemmas. Ensuring that the necessity and justification for using animals is always critically questioned and raising the priority given to animal welfare is the main focus of our work.

We liaise with those involved in the regulation, care and use of laboratory animals, both nationally and internationally, to develop and promote practical measures that will help animals. Much of this work takes place behind the scenes, providing scientific evidence and argument, and influencing those in industry, governments, the scientific community and others.

And it’s not just about what happens during experiments. It is vital to consider the entire lifetime experience of each and every animal. This starts at the place where the animals are bred and includes transport to the research establishment, and how animals are then housed and cared for.

Working on this issue certainly poses many challenges. Progress with replacing animals can be frustratingly slow, but I can also see so many examples of where our work is having a really positive impact for animals.

Since 2002, we have been working towards achieving new laws for the 27 member states of the European Union (EU).

In December 2009, the legislative bodies involved finally agreed the main principles, which, if rigorously implemented, should mean an improvement for laboratory animals in many countries across the EU.

In 2009 we also celebrated the coming into force of European-wide laws banning the use of animals to test cosmetics ingredients, and the sale in the EU of cosmetics containing ingredients tested on animals anywhere in the world.

The use of animals in research and testing is a global issue, and attitudes to animals, and the legislation in place regarding their use and welfare, vary widely between countries. We work closely with RSPCA International to take our message to other parts of the world.

In 2009 we delivered workshops in Croatia, Taiwan and China, where we are now starting to see increased understanding of the importance of considering ethics and animal welfare. We also participated in the biennial World Congress that brought together 950 people from more than 40 countries to promote ways of hastening the replacement of animals and reducing animal use and suffering.

I’ve always had a desire to help improve the lives of animals. It is very fulfilling to think about what we have achieved in this respect, and to work with a team whose knowledge and professionalism is so widely recognised and respected.

Barney

» www.rspca.org.uk/researchanimals
I always wanted to work with animals and seven years ago I took the plunge and gave up my job as a fork lift driver to come here; now I’ve just achieved my NVQ level 2 in animal care.

In the spring, 30 rabbits came in to the centre as the result of a big prosecution case. We only have six rabbit runs here so we set about converting the aviary and dog isolation huts to accommodate them all.

Many of the rabbits had teeth so overgrown that they couldn’t eat. We syringe-fed them for four weeks; the problem is that once they stop eating like that, it can take weeks for them to get their appetite back.

In the cattery we’ve had masses of kittens in this year, many orphaned or rejected by their mothers. We take them home to hand-rear. They need syringe-feeding every couple of hours through the night – it’s tiring after working all day, harder work than my young son was as a baby, but it’s worth all the effort to get them through those crucial early days!

We get lots of big dogs, Rottweilers and Staffy-crosses come in here. It’s such a shame because they’re more difficult to rehome and it’s hard seeing them confined to kennels. However we’re pleased this year because we’ve had a big increase in rehoming – 50 more dogs than in 2008.

Some of the dogs arrive here in terrible condition: they’re skinny, their hair is falling out, their nails are overgrown, and they can be very nervous. It’s challenging trying to bring them round, getting them to trust you.

On the assessment block, you spend all day with them over the course of 10 days. Seeing a transformation is fantastic. Then you move with them on to the adoption block – that’s great because you know them well and that really helps when you’re talking to potential adopters.

It’s sometimes sad to see them go, especially those who have been here months and you’ve become attached to them, but that’s what we’re here for. It’s a fantastic feeling to know you’ve done the job – a dog that’s come in with almost no chance, you’ve worked on him, turned him round and he’s going back out there to live a normal family life. And you know it’s going to be a mutually beneficial relationship – the dogs give so much back when they’re happy and settled. It’s a win-win situation!

David
www.rspca.org.uk/rehoming
Kate Parkes

I’m known as the resident ‘pig person’ in the department. We provide scientific/technical information on all aspects of livestock farming and welfare, although we focus on the nine major farmed species.

I specialise in pig production and welfare. My role involves developing the RSPCA welfare standards used by Freedom Food and others, liaising with other NGOs, the food and farming industries, government (UK and EU) and scientific researchers.

In January, we launched our Rooting for pigs! campaign. The first phase involves ensuring labelling terms for pork production methods are properly defined. We’ve worked with the UK pig industry to develop definitions for ‘free-range’, ‘outdoor bred’ and ‘outdoor reared’, and supermarkets are keen to work with us. We want it made clear on products how the pigs were raised.

We were invited by the BBC to talk about the campaign on Panorama, and advised the television production team that made Jamie Saves our Bacon, featuring Jamie Oliver. Having his support has put the issue in the public domain and complemented the RSPCA’s work on raising awareness.

The programme showed how some pigs are reared in ways that fail to meet their needs: in pens with fully slatted floors and no suitable material to root and forage in. This can lead to boredom and frustration for pigs, and can contribute to tail biting. Most sows kept indoors give birth in farrowing crates without space to turn around and often no straw to make a nest; they stay there until the piglets are weaned at about four weeks old.

Thanks to our welfare standards, pigs on Freedom Food farms have freedom of movement to allow exploration and exercise, a comfortable solid lying area with dry bedding, and enrichment material such as straw so they can express natural foraging and rooting behaviour and pregnant sows can nest build.

Most people have no contact with the animals that produce the food they eat. In supermarkets when they choose meat they often don’t know how the animal was reared. We work to ensure people are given clear information so they can make informed choices. Every year more shoppers are prepared to pay a little more for higher welfare food. Once they know how an animal is reared, it hits home. It’s rewarding to know that our work really makes a difference to the lives of farm animals.

www.rspca.org.uk/farmanimals
This year saw two major changes to the pig standards, phasing out of close confinement at farrowing and new, more in-depth veterinary health plans, both of which will come into force in 2010.
Freedom Food is the only scheme of its kind dedicated to improving welfare standards for the 900 million-plus farm animals reared for food each year in the UK.

There are 2,800 Freedom Food members, including farms, hauliers, processors and abattoirs.

FREEDOM FOOD ASSESSOR
POULTRY SPECIALIST
Heather Rose

Freedom Food’s sole aim is to improve farm animal welfare, right across eight species. I spent 10 years in the poultry industry before joining Freedom Food and my experience helps me enormously. When assessing I use my on-farm knowledge to help communicate with producers using industry terminology, understand the farm’s practices and observe the poultry flock in its environment.

I usually assess two poultry farms a day. Bio-security is key to my work so I take the utmost precautions when moving between farms. I use disposable overalls, boot covers and disinfectant.

The assessment involves checking the hens’ environment is being maintained in line with RSPCA standards. The birds give you a lot of information, they should be exhibiting natural behaviours such as feeding, drinking, foraging, dust-bathing, perching and, in the case of laying hens, laying eggs.

I love meeting people, farmers with a passion for their work. Whether they are keen beginners or have a lifetime of experience, I tend to find that keeping the flock to the best welfare standards is high priority for the farmers. For me it’s rewarding to know that being part of Freedom Food makes a difference to the animals’ lives.

I work with laying hens, chickens, turkeys, pullets and the companies that provide the catching and transport for these species. Every day is different and I really enjoy being there at the frontline of Freedom Food.

This year is Freedom Food’s 15th anniversary. It’s good to be part of that, to reflect on where we’ve come and what we’ve achieved since it was just a concept.

Heather

www.rspca.org.uk/freedomfood
They are all our have-a-go heroes

They come from all walks of life. Some have two legs, some four and occasionally they even have three legs! Our have-a-go heroes can be found far and wide doing what they do best for us day in day out. We couldn’t survive without them and what they do for us, and some of them couldn’t have survived without us. Thank you for being you – you are our heroes.

Find out how you can volunteer and help animals at: www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved
FINANCE

RSPCA GROUP (excluding branches)

SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The summary financial information set out on this page has been extracted from the full consolidated annual financial statements which exclude branches and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in February 2005, together with all subsequent amendments.

INCOMING RESOURCES

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All costs include applicable support costs.

¹ Income from charitable activities includes: rehoming, boarding and veterinary income; prosecution and other costs recovered; sponsorship and advertising income; other fees and charges received; goods sold; Animal Action Club subscriptions.

² This figure includes costs for animals boarded during a prosecution.
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ STATEMENT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent auditors’ statement to the Trustees of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

We have examined the summarised financial information of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the year ended 31 December 2009, set out on the opposite page.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial information in accordance with RSPCA Rule XVI and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial information within the Annual Review with the full annual financial statements and Trustees’ Report and its compliance with RSPCA Rule XVI.

We also read the other information contained in the Annual Review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial information.

Our report has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the RSPCA Rule XVI and for no other purpose. No person is entitled to rely on this report unless such a person is a person entitled to rely upon this report by virtue of and for the purpose of the Charities Act 1993 or has been expressly authorised to do so by our prior written consent. Save as above, we do not accept responsibility for this report to any other person or for any other purpose and we hereby expressly disclaim any and all such liability.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 ‘The auditors’ statement on the summary financial statement in the United Kingdom’, issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the Society’s full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements and on the Trustees’ Report.

OPINION

In our opinion the summary financial information is not inconsistent with the full financial statements and Trustees’ Report of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the year ended 31 December 2009, and complies with the RSPCA Rule XVI. We have not considered the effects of any events between the date on which we signed our report on the full annual financial statements (28 April 2010) and the date of this statement.

BDO LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, Epsom, United Kingdom. Date: 6 May 2010
BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305327).

EVERYDAY HEROES
Every single thing the RSPCA does in the battle to prevent animals from suffering costs money. Over the past 185 years much of our work has been funded by animal-loving individuals just like you. Quite simply we couldn’t function without your vital support.

We particularly wish to express our appreciation to The Tubney Charitable Trust, The Katherine Martin Charitable Trust, The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust and Eric Lea’s Charitable Trust for their significant contributions.

THE MARCHIG ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST
RSPCA International appreciates the invaluable contribution made by The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust towards the cost of its groundbreaking Animal Welfare Education project in China. The project is part of a wider programme to encourage a change in attitude towards animal welfare in China.

The education project is a major undertaking that will have far-reaching consequences for the development of positive attitudes towards animals across China’s school systems and into later life.

THE TUBNEY CHARITABLE TRUST
In September, we received a substantial grant from The Tubney Charitable Trust towards our higher duck welfare programme of work, which aims to develop a commercially-viable system of production that satisfies the water-related behaviour of farmed ducks. The release of funds from the Trust allows the work to move forward into the second phase towards its ultimate goals – development of a suitable open water facility and consideration as to how that facility might be best provided on commercial duck farms.

ERIC LEA’S CHARITABLE TRUST
Thanks to financial support from Eric Lea’s Charitable Trust, in memory of Mr Lea a Shropshire farmer, we were able to fence off under-utilised land at RSPCA Gonsal Farm Animal Centre to create additional paddocks for the horses and ponies in the centre’s care. We were also able to provide field shelters and water troughs, so that the fields have a fresh water supply and can be used in all weathers. All of this work has enabled the centre to provide better facilities for the many abandoned, abused and neglected horses they care for each year.

KATHERINE MARTIN CHARITABLE TRUST
Support from The Katherine Martin Charitable Trust has enabled RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre to embark upon building a large flight aviary for birds of prey in its care. The aviary will mean that these birds can gain the fitness and proper pre-release assessment necessary to increase their chances of survival when they are released back into the wild.

LEAVING A LEGACY
The RSPCA receives about 2,500 legacies every year. You can help the RSPCA continue its vital work for animals by leaving us a gift in your will.

OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS IN 2009
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**COUNCIL AND STAFF DIRECTORS**

The RSPCA Council provides leadership and direction, and comprises up to 25 members who are legally responsible, as charity trustees, for using the Society’s resources to meet its animal welfare objectives. Fifteen are elected by RSPCA members nationally and 10 regional representatives are elected by the Society’s branches. Members of Council are not remunerated.

**PATRON**
Her Majesty The Queen

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**
(appointed for one year from 2 July 2009)

**CHAIRMAN**
Mrs Daphne Harris – Member for the South East

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**
Mr Michael Tomlinson – Member for East Central

**TREASURER**
* Mrs Margaret Baker

**DEPUTY TREASURER**
Mr Tim Bray FCA – Member for Yorkshire and the North East

Council officers are appointed at the first meeting of Council after the Society’s AGM and retire at the conclusion of the next AGM.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**
Who served during 2009
* Mrs Kathryn Airey FRSA
  Mr Bob Baylis – Member for the East
* Mrs Kay Bluett – Member for the South West
* Mr John Bryant (from 27 June 2009)
* Mr David Canavan (from 27 June 2009)
* Mr Paul Draycott – Member for the North West
* Mrs Barbara Gardner BA (Hons) FCA
* Mr David Hinchcliffe (to 27 June 2009)
  Ms Sally Hyman – Member for Cymru Wales
* Mr Raymond Ings MSc
  Mr Ken Instone – Member for South Central
** Mrs Allie Kelly – Member for West Central
* Mr David Lawson
* Mrs Sally Phillips
* Mr Joseph Piccioni (to 27 June 2009)
* Dr Richard Ryder
* Mrs Patricia Slim
  Ms Jill Thompson – Member for London
* Mrs Christina Tomlinson
* Ms Jane Tredgett (from 27 June 2009)
* Mrs Elly Unmack MA
* Ms Angela Walder
*** Mrs Anne Wignall BA FRSA

**VICE-PATRON**
His Grace The Archbishop of Canterbury

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**
Mr Norman Baker MP
Mr Ian Cawsey MP
Mrs Angela Cope OBE
The Baroness Fookes of Plymouth DBE DL
Jill, Duchess of Hamilton
Dr Bill Jordan OBE PhD MVSc BSc MRCVS MIBiol
Mr Lou Leather MSc FCIEH DMA DipEH
Dr Caroline Lucas MEP
The Rt Hon Elliot Morley MP
Mrs Sheila Parness
Sir Patrick Moore CBE FRSA
Mr Julian Richer Hon DBA
Professor Peter Singer
Professor Sir Colin Spedding CBE MSc PhD DSc
CBiol HonFRS FRhort FRAgS Hon Assoc RCVS
HonDSc (Reading)
The Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS
The Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe MP

**STAFF DIRECTORS**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
Mark Watts FCA

**DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL WELFARE PROMOTION**
John Rolls BA MA

**DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES**
Nigel Yeo MA (Cantab)

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**
Huw Davies BSc FCCA

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**
Brian Millar BA Chartered FCIPD FRSA

* National members   ** Resigned from Council 26 November 2009   *** Resigned from Council 2 March 2009
You too could be our hero

Your generous donations of time, money and support mean we can plan ahead and work out how best to use our resources to continue our vital work of promoting kindness and preventing cruelty to animals.

VISIT: www.rspca.org.uk  PHONE: 0300 1234 555
TO FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME OUR HERO.

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