

Oxfordshire Branch

September 2009



Congratulations to Doug Davidson on 30 years of service to the RSPCA



I hope you will join me in wishing Inspector Doug Davidson the warmest congratulations on his incredible 30 years of service with the RSPCA.

Doug has regularly appeared on the news and in newspaper articles, both locally and nationally, and is often the first point of call with animal emergencies in the Oxfordshire area.

Doug has often gone beyond the call of duty in his role with the RSPCA, most notably with his dedication to both animals and humans in the wake of the major flooding in Oxfordshire in 2007, and with the recent Amersham horse cruelty case.

Congratulations again, Doug, on your dedicated service, and here's to the next 30 years!



We have monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month in Woodstock Church hall from 7pm – All are welcome.

**Is your school having a charity fundraising day?
- Please think of helping your local RSPCA (please contact Elaine on 07791 292635 for balloons, posters, banners, etc. to help advertise the charity)**

If you would like to take part in a charity or sponsored event, such as a fun run, sponsored silence, pub quiz, coffee morning, or tombola please contact Elaine for more information or to obtain a sponsor form for your local RSPCA.

www.rspca-oxfordshire.org.uk

US 'ambassador' cat baffles RSPCA



Jasper the cat, held by RSPCA Inspector Doug Davidson

It is not yet known how Jasper came to be in Britain

A black tom cat from the US has baffled RSPCA experts by turning up without his owners in a British city.

The long-haired cat, which has been nicknamed Jasper, was found roaming the streets of Oxford by the charity.

A microchip scan revealed that the cat, which was found in Campbell Road on 28 July, had been registered in the US.

The RSPCA failed to trace the cat's owners through records in the USA. They now hope someone will recognise pictures of Jasper and contact them.

RSPCA inspector Doug Davidson said he had three theories about how the cat had made it to Oxford.

He joked: "The first is that he's a strong swimmer.

"The second is that he belongs to Americans living in Oxford and the third would be that it was a British family in the USA who adopted him and then brought him back."

Mr Davidson said Jasper was a friendly cat and "a good ambassador for the USA".

He is being cared for at the Firs Cattery in Farmoor until his owners are traced.

Duck freed from Fishing Line in Oxford Lake

The RSPCA and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service rescued a duck yesterday (Thursday 13 August) after her wing became trapped in fishing line.

The mallard was suspended by her left wing from a branch over the lake off Woodstock Road in Oxford.

RSPCA animal collection officer (ACO) Dennis Lovell attended and realised he would need a boat to rescue the duck. However, as the RSPCA boat was unavailable, he requested the help of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue who launched one of their boat to help him rescue the distressed bird.



ACO Lovell removed the line from around the duck's wing and took her to St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital to recover. He said: "The rescue went smoothly thanks to the fire service who were a great help to us as they are on many rescues.

"However, these incidents are all too common and could easily be prevented by anglers and fishermen just clearing up discarded line and taking it away with them. Anyone using waterways and lakes must remember their responsibilities to wildlife."

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RSPCA Encourages Clergy to Highlight Climate Change in Animal Services

The RSPCA is asking clergy to begin planning animal welfare services that will increase awareness of the effects of climate change on animals.

Both the RSPCA and the Church of England are highlighting the effects of climate change on biodiversity, and Animal Welfare Sunday (Sunday 4 October 2009) is a perfect opportunity to hold services with this theme.

Oxford theologian the Revd Professor Andrew Linzey said: "This is a prime example of how human and animal causes are interrelated. As Noah would have said, 'We are all in one boat together'.

"I urge clergy and congregations to start preparing prayers and readings from the RSPCA's Service for Animal Welfare and to include discussion on the effects of climate change on animal welfare."

Earlier this year, new information on the effect of climate change on farm animal welfare and the spread of disease in dogs, and effects on wildlife was released as part of an RSPCA conference on the issue.

RSPCA head of external affairs David Bowles said: "As reported at the RSPCA conference on this issue, there is a predicted increase in the spread of infectious diseases to dogs from the continent.

"In fact, the south east of England has already seen cases of heartworm, a parasitological disease spread by mosquitoes which thrives in warmer conditions and can kill unvaccinated dogs. It's important to raise awareness of the disease and let dog owners know that there is a vaccine available."

The Church of England has also launched a campaign 'Shrinking the Footprint', which encourages action on climate change.

To help clergy prepare services on animal welfare, the RSPCA has published the Service for Animal Welfare, written by Professor Linzey, complete with prayers, readings and liturgies, which is available to download from the Society's website: www.rspca.org.uk/animal-welfaresunday

FUNDRAISE FOR THE RSPCA!!
Like pub quizzes? Coffee mornings? Tombolas? If you have a good idea and enjoy fundraising for a good cause then the RSPCA need you! For more information on how you can help us please telephone Elaine on 01235 816441 or 07791 292635.

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If you require information about caring for any pet please look at the 'advice for pet care' on the national web site www.rspca.org.uk.

www.rspca-oxfordshire.org.uk



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RSPCA Oxfordshire Branch

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Providing Care and Welfare Services for Animals in Oxfordshire



Willow Farm Open Day Safe Haven Sponsorship Launch



**Donkey Rides - Craft Stalls - Face Painting
Refreshments - Raffle - Tombola**

*Car Parking a short walk away at Chilton Garden Centre (OX11 1QN)
by kind courtesy of Wyevale Garden Centres Limited*



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**Animal Cruelty Helpline Number
0300 1234 999**