

Patron  
Jenny Seagrove



# Anim-Mates

Registered Charity  
No 1098252

Helping animals in need in the South East

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2012

## Forget the winter weather and remember the sunny days



**WE thought you would like to see how Beryl and Mr Amber, two of the many feral cats who roam freely around our sanctuary, spent the sunny days of summer. Seen here relaxed and snoozing on a lawnmower, they enjoy a safe, healthy and well fed life.**

We have a large number of feral cats who are all vaccinated, neutered and microchipped. It can certainly be fun trying to coax them into a cat basket when they need to visit the vets for treatment.

Our volunteers go to great lengths at this time of the year to ensure that the needs of all the outdoor animals in our care - feral cats, ponies, goats, sheep and birds - are met. They have to be fed, watered and sheltered in all weathers.

Deliveries of feed stuff, hay and straw can be disrupted in bad weather. Prices of the goods often increase out of all proportion. Nevertheless, our volunteers battle through all the good and bad days to ensure the best care for the animals.

**A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to all Friends of Anim-Mates**



**See all our animals at [www.anim-mates.org.uk](http://www.anim-mates.org.uk)**



**NEWSPAPER CHANGE** Our search for new homes for unwanted animals is never ending.

To find new adopters we use many different avenues including photos and articles in local newspapers, our website, Facebook and posters.

One of the most successful ways for over eight years was Help A Pet, a cost-free weekly appeal in the Kentish Times (KT) newspapers. This resulted in many hundreds of KT readers adopting Anim-Mates animals.

This summer the KT series underwent a complete redesign and became more of a magazine than a newspaper. This resulted in many of its regular features, including Help A Pet, not having a place in the new publication. This resulted in a dramatic drop in the number of animals being offered new homes.

We are relieved to report that two papers, the Medway Messenger Monday edition serving the Medway area and the News Shopper which covers south-east London, have since come to our rescue by featuring our weekly articles in their publications.



# 10th

## 10th ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to the many Friends who kindly sent in messages of congratulations and extra donations for our 10th anniversary.

## ANIM-MATES STALLS

- The annual Hoo Christmas Fair in Hoo Square is on Saturday 8 December, 12 noon to 4pm. Come and support the Anim-Mates stalls taking part.
- We are having a stall at the Homeleigh Nurseries in Ratcliffe Way, Hoo at weekends in December.
- Three of our volunteers have started up a monthly fundraising stall at Strood Market.



**BEHIND THE SCENES** One of the vets, who treat our animals, is having an Open Day for people to see behind the scenes and to welcome new clients to the practice.

The Medway City Veterinary Centre, George Summers Close, ME2 4FF is opening its doors 10am to 2pm on 9 December.

All the money made on the day will be shared between Anim-Mates, Persian Rescue and South East Dog Rescue.

**SPONSOR FOR CHRISTMAS** Still seeking a small gift for your animal-loving friends?

Consider sponsoring one of our Care for Life animals for them. For a minimum donation of £10 our sponsorship pack contains a personalised certificate, report and photo of your chosen animal.

To sponsor an animal go to our website [www.anim-mates](http://www.anim-mates) and click on *Sponsor an animal* or go to page 11 of this newsletter.



**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING** Thanks go to the many Friends who are doing their shopping online and helping Anim-Mates at the same time.

Visit our website to click through to over 2000 retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S and John Lewis. Whenever you buy something, the retailer gives us a small donation.

Just go to [www.anim-mates.org.uk](http://www.anim-mates.org.uk) and scroll down to the Easyfunding panel on our homepage.



## Some of the animals who have recently been rescued



### **COCOA and CHOCOLATE**

When they grew bored with their new guinea pigs, two children dumped Cocoa and Chocolate on their 86-year-old grandfather who didn't know how to care for them.



**ESTA, her kittens BARNEY, FRED and WILMA** This family were left to fend for themselves when their owner moved home.



**SEAMUS** No one wanted Seamus after he was abandoned at a vets. Due to be put to sleep, we went to his rescue. This strikingly handsome boy can be temperamental, which may be due to bad treatment in this past.



**FLOPPY and RYGEL** These lovely male rabbits, who are two years old, came to us as their owner moved from a house to a flat. We will rehome them as a pair.



Now rehomed

**JAK** A two-year-old Schnauzer-cross was returned to us as he hated being left on his own. We will find him a home with another dog.



Now rehomed

**WILL and GRACE** They may be lovely, but these 5-month-old brother and sister were found dumped in a box outside a vets. They are both friendly, though still a bit shy after their traumatic experience. We will find them a home together.



Now rehomed

**JULIET** (left) an unwanted guinea pig. **TANGO and CASH** (right) These kittens were spotted innocently playing under a country hedge.



## Our Patron Jenny Seagrove's Christmas message

**ANOTHER year has flown by and here we are again with Christmas just a few weeks away. I always look forward to sending my traditional message to all our supporters and Friends of Anim-Mates, as it enables me to thank you all for what you have done to help give the unwanted and abandoned animals that we have rescued a better life.**

Whether you have made a donation, helped at the sanctuary, fostered our animals, fundraised or undertaken any of the innumerable tasks it takes to run a successful charity, I want to thank you for the time and effort you have so freely given to Anim-Mates.

I despair when I read the articles in our newsletters about the callous cruelty that some animals have been subjected to before they are rescued. In turn I am cheered when I read about the new homes

they are offered to start a fresh life. Our help may only be a small drop in a very large ocean, but we are trying to make a difference for as many animals as we possibly can.

Animal charities up and down the country have struggled to keep their heads above water during 2012. Tragically, many have had to close. But with continued support let's all hope 2013 is a better year all round for Anim-Mates and other animal charities.



Jenny Seagrove with a rescue pony

### Sienna gives ponds a wide berth

SUE and Frank Beresford adopted Sienna in September and have found her to be a real character.

On her first venture into their West Wickham garden Sienna climbed all the trees, got stuck on the roof of one neighbour's shed and then fell into another neighbour's pond.

"Since then she has found all the ways down from the various shed roofs and trees and gives ponds a wide berth. Sienna is a joy to have in our house," say Sue and Frank.



<p><b>Want to get rid of an old car?</b></p>  <p><b>will take it away free-of-charge</b></p> <p><b>+plus they will give Anim-Mates a donation of £40 (minimum)</b></p>	  <p><b>Call GIVE A CAR on 020 0011 1664 and mention Anim-Mates, or go online at <a href="http://www.giveacar.co.uk/charities/anim-mates">www.giveacar.co.uk/charities/anim-mates</a></b></p>
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**TWO** of our Care for Life residents have been offered homes by long-term fosterers. They will be cared for as their pets for the rest of their life, with Anim-Mates meeting the costs of any vet treatment they may need.



**Polly** As she came to us quite elderly and in need of daily medication for a hyperthyroid condition, we couldn't rehome Polly in the normal way. We managed to find her a temporary home on a houseboat, which she thrived on.

Now back on dry land, Polly is in the care of Claire Snepp in Dartford.

Claire tells us: "She is such a little treasure and seems very happy - and I love her so much. Thank you for letting me have her."



**Badger** When this frail, elderly stray was rescued we discovered he had a bowel condition which requires constant medication. Despite this, Kristy Kelly and her family kindly offered Badger a retirement home in Herne Hill.

Kristy writes: "We all love Badger and couldn't imagine life without him. He has a good appetite and loves regular cuddles. He is a delight to have and a credit to Anim-Mates."

#### **Polo**

**It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Polo, one of our lovable Care for Life dogs, who was a permanent resident at our sanctuary in St Mary Hoo.**

**Polo suddenly collapsed and, despite immediate vet treatment, could not be revived.**

**Polo came to us as a diabetic, which for many years necessitated twice daily injections. He was also almost blind due to cataracts in both eyes; his diabetic condition preventing any operation to restore his sight.**

**Despite his illnesses, Polo was always a very happy, carefree dog who enjoyed the company of the other dogs in Teresa's care. Polo also loved human beings. And we all adored him, too.**



**We have also recently said goodbye to Annie and Seren, two of our dear feral cats who lived at the sanctuary.**

## Anim-Mates has a 'Wish List' at the world's biggest store

**SIMILAR** to a 'Wedding Gift List' operated by John Lewis and other stores, Anim-Mates now has a 'Wish List' at the world's biggest online store, Amazon, where anyone can choose a gift to be donated and sent to our sanctuary. Our 'Wish List' contains lots of much needed items which will help us care for the many animals we have rescued.



Brush and pan £3.75



Cat food £13.19



Grassy Hut £6.60

Teresa Bloomfield said: "It's a fantastic idea that means anyone, anywhere, can donate a gift with just the click of a mouse - from something like a Chill 'N' Chew Mat for our rabbits and guinea pigs at £2.45 to, say, a 10 kilo bag of James Wellbeloved Dry Cat Food for our moggies at £37.33. All the orders are delivered direct to our sanctuary."

People have been very generous - in one week we received five lots of cat food, a top range water heater and chew mats; all donated by kind people.



Rabbit tunnel £6.05



Storage box £19.78

Click here to donate needed items from our wish list



Look for the above link on our website. It takes you direct to our Wish List



Washing cat beds £19.99

## An invite to share your Happy Ending stories with the world

Charlie



Since adopting Charlie about 2 years ago our lives have changed. He's a wonderful companion and such a friendly, playful cat.

**WE'RE** always delighted when our rescue animals find new homes and we also love to hear how they are getting on.

We hope that reading about the joy rehomed animals can bring will inspire more people to welcome an Anim-Mates animal into their life and generate yet more happy endings.

So, we are launching a new feature on our website for adopters, new and old, to share their Anim-Mates Happy Ending stories.

You can have a whole page devoted to your Happy Ending story, which friends and family can see from anywhere in the world.

Please email your story to [info@anim-mates.org.uk](mailto:info@anim-mates.org.uk). We welcome not only your story, but any photos and even videos of your pet that you want to share.

## Jocelyn's tail amputated after a door was slammed on it



**Annabelle**

**TWO tiny kittens have been nursed through separate traumas they experienced when just a few weeks old.**

Jocelyn was originally bought for a child as a playmate. Within days the child slammed a door on the kitten's tail and it had to be amputated.

Subsequently the kitten was let out in the garden whilst still very tiny and was attacked and seriously injured by an older cat.

Annabelle was about six weeks when she was picked up straying on a busy road where she crying for her mother.



**Jocelyn**

As they have become such firm friends while in our care Jocelyn and Annabelle, who are now about five months old, will be rehomed together to a home without young children.

Teresa says: "As young children cannot always be expected to treat delicate kittens with the utmost of care, we usually play safe and insist that a new home should be child free. Better that than have a regrettable accident occur."

## Diabetic John gets a Dear John letter from Teresa

*Dear John*

*Sorry John, but we cannot go on living together.*

*I would like to say its not you, its me, but I can't - it is you.*

*I know that now you are out of your pen you have got your feet under the table so well in so many ways at the sanctuary, but you are really upsetting a couple of the other permanent animals here with your tormenting ways.*

*They mean you no harm and were living in harmony together but now a few are very unhappy.*

*I know all of the people here will miss you dearly as you are such a lovely, friendly boy to all but a few.*

*As I write this letter you are doing your level best to convince me otherwise, while sitting on my lap purring - but blackmail won't work.*

*You are a star at having your injections twice a day and you do not even flinch or run off, but when you go harmony will be restored.*

*Lots of love, Teresa*



**WE are looking for a permanent foster carer for John, aged 8 years.**

He cannot be rehomed in the usual way as sadly he has been diagnosed with diabetes, which means that he needs injections twice a day, 12 hours apart.

If you feel you could take on the responsibility of injecting John twice daily and caring for him in your home as your pet, then please get in touch with Teresa on 01634 271456

Due to his condition John will remain in the Anim-Mates Care For Life scheme, and we will meet all his vets bills.

**Fundraising news**

**10th Anniversary Dinner raises nearly £400**

**OUR 10th Anniversary Dinner and Social held in October was a very enjoyable and successful evening.**

It took place at the Deangate Ridge golf clubhouse in Hoo and was organised by one of our volunteers, Sue Perkins.

The surprise of the evening was the presentation of a lovely celebration cake. Our thanks to Ann Smith in High Halstow who kindly baked and decorated the cake as photographed here.

Music of bygone years was by provided throughout the evening by volunteers Sue and Roy Swift who brought their disco from Harlow.

There was also the traditional raffle, which included some attractive prizes donated by Friends and five Hoo businesses.

Our grateful thanks go to Co-Op Food, the Pharmacy, the Spar store, T M C Motor Parts, Taggs Coffee Shop and the Vouzon Indian Restaurant for their generous support.



**Can you spare a couple of hours?**

WE have two Saturday fundraising collections, one in December and one in January for which we need people who can spare a couple of hours to rattle our collection pots.



On 29 December collectors will be needed at Gillingham Football Club when the home team will be playing Northampton. In between collecting you are welcome to watch the match.

On 26 January we will be collecting at the **TESCO** Strood Tesco supermarket.

If you would like to join our small teams of collectors on either of the above dates Sue Perkins would love to hear from you on 07989 617676.

**Thanks for £200** EACH year we appeal to Friends to send in any odd money they may have left over from their foreign holidays and overseas trips.

This summer you kindly sent in notes and coins from 41 different countries which netted us nearly £200.



If you still have any odd notes or coins, please continue to send them to our address which is on page 11.

**Avon calling** A group of volunteers who regularly attend our sanctuary have been organising Avon sales between themselves, friends and families and have recently added £180 to our funds.



**JEWELLERY** Do you have any unwanted items of jewellery that we can sell on to help raise funds? Please post any items, no matter how small or large, to Sue Perkins at 31 Church Farm Close, Hoo, Kent, ME3 9AY. Thank you.





## Photos of your Anim-Mates pets



**Top left** Adopted by Sandra Gallier seven years ago, Buddy is a lovely friend and companion to Sandra and her family. Buddy was one of five puppies born ten days after their pregnant mum was due to be put to sleep.

**Top right** Maggie Kiss took this photo of Duchess exploring her Bexleyheath garden. Rescued when she was taken to a vet to be destroyed just because she had scratched someone, Duchess is referred to by Maggie's little daughter as 'her sister'.

**Bottom row** Five years ago when his mum Jacqui adopted kittens Tango, Luna and Sushi, Dane Farley enjoyed playing with them. Now a photography student doing a BA Hons at Bournemouth University, Dane has found them ideal subjects for his projects.



## Your letters and emails to Anim-Mates



**From Neil Luxford, Chatham**



*Romeo settled in straight away and is great with my girls at the weekends and they love him.*

*He is very friendly and follows me around like a dog most of the time.*

**From Helen and Tim Hoffman,  
Stoke Newington**



*When we got Hammie home she ran around then made a bee line for the bathroom, where she took shelter under the loo ...of all places. We left her for a while, then with encouragement, she came out and found a cosy space between the sofa and television stand.*

**From Tricia Ghatauray, Eltham**

*Widget has settled in well. He's much calmer now, and comes and goes in and out of the house as he pleases.*

*He's filled out a bit and we've discovered the hard way that he'll eat anything he comes across, including scrambled eggs, rice, chicken in tarragon cream sauce, and yoghurt. So now, we know not to leave anything out while he's about.*



**From Julie Akers,  
Richmond**

*We are so utterly happy to have Wilfred as a member of our family; he's the cat we've always wanted. Thanks for the wonderful work you do .*



**We love getting photos and news of your pets**

**Please email them to [info@anim-mates.org.uk](mailto:info@anim-mates.org.uk) or pop them in the post to our address which is in the Contact panel on the next page**

## Multi-use form for New Friends / Donations / Sponsor an animal

✓ Please tick the relevant boxes below

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

- I wish to become a new Friend of **Anim-Mates**, for a minimum donation of £10 for a year, to support animals in need, and to receive a quarterly Newsletter.  
Please do not use this for renewals

Name.....

.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

\*Tel.....

Signed .....

Date.....

- I wish to make a donation to **Anim-Mates** to help animals in need. I would like to receive a Newsletter which will show what my donation can achieve.

- I wish to sponsor a **Care-for-Life animal** for a year. I will receive a certificate, a report and photograph of my chosen animal for a minimum donation of £10.  
*\*Anim-Mates will call you about which animal you wish to sponsor*

I enclose a donation of £..... payable to **Anim-Mates**  Or if you prefer to pay by Standing Order, please tick the box and we will send you a form for your bank

### Make your donation worth an extra 25% to Anim-Mates

- Please tick the box if you would like Anim-Mates to reclaim the tax you have already paid on the above donation and any future donations you may make. Your annual income tax and/or capital gains tax must be more than the tax all the charities that you donate to will reclaim in the current year. Anim-Mates will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that you have donated.



Please post this form to: **Anim-Mates, Shakespeare Farm House**  
**Shakespeare Farm Rd, St. Mary Hoo, Kent ME3 8RS**

## Contact Anim-Mates by phone, letter, email and on the web



**General Enquiries** 01634 271456

### Animal enquiries



**Post** Anim-Mates  
**Post** Anim-Mates  
**Post** Anim-Mates  
Shakespeare Farm House  
Shakespeare Farm Road

### Cats, Kittens, Dogs and Puppies

Teresa 07743 331397  
01634 271456



**Email** info@anim-mates.org.uk

### Rabbits

Julie 07958 031884



**Website** www.anim-mates.org.uk

### Guinea Pigs

Teresa 07743 331397  
01634 271456



**Animal enquiries**

## These are some of the animals recently found new homes



**Jinxy and Teddy**  
play in Shattering



**Pinky and Perky**  
now live in Grain



**Wilfred**  
relaxes in Richmond



**Figaro**  
loves living in Hoo



**Mr Benn and Sophie**  
are in Longfield



**Ginger and Coco**  
are happy in Swanscombe



**Kenny and Molly**  
cuddle up together in Higham



**Jak**  
adores Eltham



**Harvey**  
twitches his nose in Sidcup



**Gigi**  
loves High Halstow



**Glennie**  
is in Stoke Newington



**Fergal and Harriet**  
have started a new life in Sidcup