



# Helping local animals in need

**Spring 2009 Newsletter**

## To our Members and Supporters

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of the ARC newsletter. In this edition you will find a selection of recent rescue stories collected by our team, as well as tales from our foster carers and animal adopters, including our main story which features Bob the cat. On page 11 are ARC's annual welfare records for the financial year ending March 2008. I hope you enjoy reading our stories and – as always – if there is anything you would like to see in the next edition, please get in contact.

**With best wishes, The ARC Team**

### **ARC assists with major mouse rescue**

During November of last year, ARC was asked to help foster some mice that were taken out of a house in Wales. It is estimated there were around 900 mice at this one location, where breeding had got out of control. The mice were distributed between many rescues in the South of England and Wales. ARC were asked to take 11 adult females and 2 new babies, who were put into foster homes. Luckily none of the females gave birth, and they were all rehomed.

### **Twickenham Veterinary Surgery moves to new premises**

Our partner surgery in Twickenham has recently moved a couple of doors down the road to brand new, beautifully reburbished premises. The surgery is now vastly more spacious with all mod-cons, including x-ray machines and a much improved cattery



and kennels area, providing space for many more sick and injured animals than before. They have taken on a new full-time veterinary nurse, and a part-time vet who works at the RSPCA for the rest of the week, so animal welfare is top of her agenda! ARC's Chairperson, Donna, who also works at the surgery, says, "Everyone loves the new surgery. We now have the luxury of space so we can take on more staff, and with all the latest equipment we can ensure the animals receive the highest standard of care." Thanks go to Christabel and her team who do such a super job caring for all the many ARC animals who visit the surgery, with thanks also to PG Andre's in Richmond. Without both their help we would not be able to carry out the work that we do.

## Squires campaign

ARC has been campaigning for local garden centre chain, Squires, to re-consider its sale of small animals in its Twickenham branch. We recently wrote to several key members of the Squires management team and we are delighted to have had a very positive response from Sarah Squire, Director and daughter of Squires founder, Colin Squire.

In her letter she says, "We share your concerns that all pets should be well looked after. We only stock animals at our Twickenham and Badshot Lea garden centres... I should also like to let you know that we have stopped selling rabbits at Twickenham and now stock only guinea pigs and hamsters in the way of small animals." She goes on to say that they are currently working on producing clear literature to give customers additional information on how to look after the animals they sell, and invites suggestions as to other leaflets they could hand out to customers. We are delighted to hear this is the case and we will be looking to follow up on Sarah's letter shortly.

## Get your pet chipped... and keep it up-to-date

It recently came to ARC's attention about a story of a cat that was lost for months before being re-united with its desperate owner. Part of the reason it took so long to find the cat's owner was because, despite the cat being micro-chipped, the owner had forgotten to update their details on the central database when they moved house. We always recommend that any new owner consider micro-chipping their cat, dog

or rabbit, just in case the worst were to happen. If the animal is ever lost, the chip can be used to find the owner. Certain types of chip can also be used to take the animal's temperature during surgery or routine examination. Please speak to your veterinary surgery if you would like to find out more about micro-chipping your pet.



## 18 dwarf hamsters rehomed

During September last year, we were asked to help with a number of litters of Campbells Dwarf hamsters which had been born as a result of accidental breeding due to a mistake in sexing by a major pet chain. ARC sexed all the hamsters and put them in groups or pairs to give to a number of foster homes, so that they could be looked after until they were rehomed. Thankfully it only took a few months to home all the hamsters, which were a mixture of colours. Unlike Syrian hamsters, Campbells Dwarfs usually enjoy living in same-sex pairs or groups if they grow up together, however it's essential they are correctly sexed to prevent unwanted litters.

## Rabbit saves couple from fire

A pet rabbit has been hailed a hero after saving a couple from a fire as it swept through their home. The Metro newspaper reports that the family pet scratched at the couple's bedroom door as they slept, waking the husband up. The man then discovered a fire in a back room of the house in Melbourne, Australia. Thanks to the actions of the rabbit, the couple was able to escape unharmed. Metropolitan Fire Brigade commander Mick Swift said: "The rabbit saved the couple from injury."

Source: [www.ananova.com](http://www.ananova.com)

## Setting a good example

The other day I was in a pet shop in Bromley. It was the best pet shop I think I have visited with lovely big cages for sale. But the best thing of all was when a customer enquired about purchasing a pet, a member of staff explained that they didn't sell animals and that he would recommend going to a rescue because animals would be vaccinated, properly cared for and assessed. I could have kissed the member of staff. If only other pet stores could give the same excellent advice.

**Karen Hide, ARC Treasurer**

## Poppy and Coco saved from plastic bag

Thanks to ARC, our little girls, Poppy (*left*) and Coco (*right*), were saved from a Tesco carrier bag with their mum in Twickenham when they were about 4 days old. Look at them now! **Kate Heron**



# Tinkerbell comes out of her shell

by Rachael Bower



I decided to get another cat as a play mate for one of my cats as he was pestering the others to play all the time.

Lucy (former ARC trustee) put me in touch with a foster home in Barnes and I went to see this very timid cat who had come from Ireland. We took her home where she hid for many months. After about 6 months she would stay in the room with you but that was it. During those 6 months she forged a solid friendship with Felix, the cat I had originally got her to be with, so all was well. The two of them would fly about the house playing rough and tumble with each other and then Tinkerbell would stop and demand that Felix lick her. The pairing had worked out perfectly until she started making demands on me and my daughter, wanting to be stroked but only on the

head, then she would let you stroke her back. It didn't take long to work out that if you stroked her on her shoulder she would roll over letting you rub her belly.

Over the next few months her personality really came out. She's a gentle girl with an exceptionally sweet, loving and loyal temperament. It took about a year for her to completely relax but now she has she is perfect. Although I love all my cats, my Tinkerbell is the special one without doubt. I have since heard from the original foster home that when she first came into ARC she savaged the foster carer's hands and arms as well as her daughter's! This I cannot believe as she is such a gentle cat. I'm positive the foster home have got her confused with another cat as my Tinkerbell is far too well behaved and loving.



## Bob the cat

by Karen Hide

Bob arrived in my care at the end of June 2007. Two kind neighbours had been feeding and keeping an eye on a pure white cat who had been visiting their gardens for several weeks. They were worried about him as he seemed thin and they had been unable to locate an owner. They contacted ARC and I arranged for them to bring him to me one Friday morning.

As soon as I took Bob out of the carrier in which he arrived, it was apparent that he was an old boy with serious health problems. His ear tips were covered in black scabs, which I suspected was skin cancer, and he was blind in one eye. I had intended to put Bob in the cat house but it was obvious that this poor old boy would probably need some nursing, so he was settled in my daughter's bedroom and named Bob.

The next day I took Bob to the vet so that he could have a thorough check up and diagnosis of his problems. Liz, the vet on duty that afternoon, confirmed that Bob was indeed old, probably around 14, that he had skin cancer on his ear flaps, an ulcerated eye which would need removing and that he was in need of an urgent

dental on his bad and broken teeth. I duly booked Bob in for an operation early the following week so that Christabel could attend to his many problems. When I picked Bob up that evening I was warned that he 'looked a bit of a state' but I was unprepared for the reality of Bob with stitches on both ears where most of the ear flaps had been removed, stitches where his damaged eye had once been and blood oozing from his mouth where most of his teeth had been removed. On the journey home I wondered if I had gone too far and rather than let Bob have so much surgery whether I should have had him put to sleep. However, Bob soon put my mind at rest when he completely cleared a whole bowl of food on his arrival back in the bedroom. The pain killing injection which Christabel had given him was clearly doing its job and with the help of daily antibiotics and daily painkillers Bob made a swift recovery. After a week or so, I took Bob back to see Christabel and she was able to remove the stitches from his ears and eye socket. Bob was declared medically fit and ready for homing.

As he started to trust us and gain confidence, Bob was proving to be a really lovely fellow. My daughter Emily, who keeps the cats needing homes up-to-date on the website, put some details and pictures of Bob on the website and also on the 'oldies' section of





the Cat Chat website, and we waited to see if anyone would take on this old boy. Because he was old I suspected that Bob would be with me some time so I started to let Bob out and after an initial sortie down the road, he was quite content to spend his days sitting in the sun by our pond or trying to catch the fish in that same pond. To our delight, after only a couple of weeks, we had an enquiry from a lady called Kirsty who with her husband wanted to adopt Bob. The relevant checks were done and Kirsty was quite obviously going to provide Bob with a superb home. My only concern was Kirsty's other male cat. My own cats had not taken well to Bob and I wondered if it was because he looked rather strange and was concerned that Kirsty's cat would also react in the same way. Kirsty and her husband came round to meet Bob and it was love at first sight. Bob took to them immediately and they to him, so it was arranged that Bob would be picked up the following weekend.

Bob has now been living with Kirsty for seven months and he is a very happy

boy. After some initial reservations Kirsty's other cat soon got used to Bob and the pair of them spent the summer enjoying the garden. Now it is winter Bob prefers to stay inside in the warm where he sleeps on Kirsty's bed every night and receives all the love and attention he could possibly want from his wonderful new owners. In mid January 2008 Kirsty contacted me to let me know that Bob had a scabby area on his back that would not heal and so her vet had taken some of the cells for analysis as she suspected a recurrence of the skin cancer. To my delight, a week later Kirsty rang to report that the tests had revealed that Bob did not have skin cancer again and the skin was healing with the help of some cream dispensed by the vet.

I cannot thank Kirsty and her husband enough for taking on an old cat and providing him with such wonderful and loving home. I am so glad that ARC was able to help this lovely old cat on his journey from a stray struggling to survive on his own and with serious health problems, to a new and wonderful life as a much loved pet.

# Bunny Tales



## A close shave *By Karen Scott*

I got home about 8pm one night to

discover we had been burgled. They had kicked in the panel in the conservatory door where the rabbits are kept. This meant I found Rufus and Milly sitting among broken and splintered wood with a big gaping hole in the door to the garden. The garden is not secure so they could easily have completely escaped.

Much to my relief they were calmly eating their hay and had obviously decided they couldn't be bothered to make a dash for freedom. I can't tell you how relieved I was to find them safe and sound!

## Aubrey & Lola



Aubrey is much more confident now he has a large wifebun. They get on really well. Aubrey has a thing about eyes, and is always washing Lola's along with the rest of her face. He is really cute with his punky hairdo and doesn't mind being stroked until he finds something more interesting to do... They look really sweet when lying next to each other – Aubrey uses one of Lola's ears as a blanket, and tucks himself underneath!

Lyn

## Harriet and Riley



I adopted my first two bunnies from ARC. They were great and really helpful after I'd been having problems contacting another rescue and had been waiting about three months to adopt some bunnies. My other half saw Harriet on the website and was so taken with her so I went to see her at Karen's and then went to Donna's where I met Riley. Janice kindly bonded them for me a week later and I picked them up on my birthday.

Caroline

## The sayings of a wise rabbit

*By Stella Cowmeadow*

"All hay is good but Timothy hay is best."

"All rabbits are territorial. Make sure you get there first."

"There's a fine line between friendship and control."

"Tolerance of your companion is an invitation to be groomed."

"Don't let the dandelions grow under your feet."

"Trust your owner, even though she does not trust you."

"Some plants are poisonous. If you don't have internet access, trust your nose."

"Beware of the fox; he too lives to eat."

"If in doubt, thump."

### ARC Photo Gallery



## Another successful Richmond May Fair



ARC once again attended the Richmond May Fair on Richmond Green during May of last year. It was a lovely warm day with a busy crowd, all looking for a bargain. The ARC stall was pitched near the corner of the green near to The Cricketers pub, and was manned by an enthusiastic crew of ARC volunteers all dressed in their white and green ARC tee-shirts. On sale was everything from home-made cakes, books and videos to children's toys, hand-knitted jumpers, hand-made cards and pet products, as well as the usual selection of knick-knacks and bric-a-brac. After a very successful day, we raised a grand total of £1,148. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the stall or helped on the day, and to Joss for organising.

## Whitton Fair raises funds despite weather

We followed the Richmond May Fair with a stall at Whitton Fair on the high street on Sunday 30 November. The

weather could not have been more in contrast with the warm day we spent on Richmond Green back in May. Just about everyone and everything got rained on, nevertheless we still managed to raise a healthy £320 from Whitton's high street shoppers. Thanks to everyone who helped on the stall with cold fingers and toes, and to Donna for organising the rota.

## Other fundraisers

£200 and some donated pet food from the Sainsbury's collection, Hampton.

£165 from the sale of Christmas cards and cat & dog goody bags at the surgery.

## Appeal for help

If you would like to help make cat and dog goody bags, hand-made cards or other craft items for our fundraising events in 2009, please email [arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk](mailto:arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk)

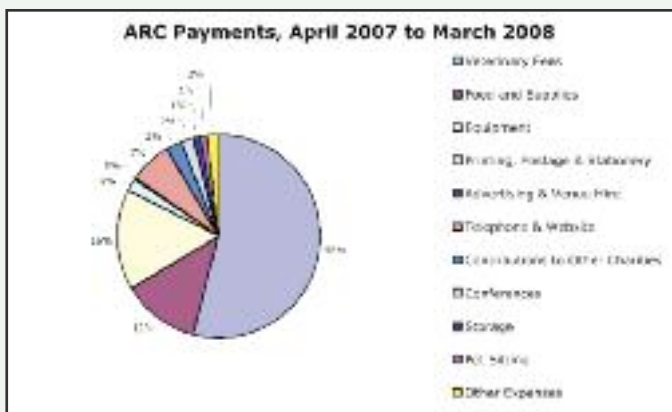
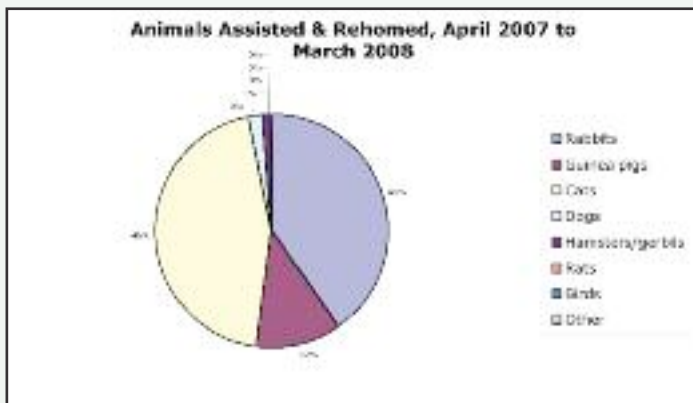


### Remember to Gift Aid it!

ARC participates in the Government's Gift Aid scheme, whereby the charity gains an additional 28p in every £1 donated by UK taxpayers. We cannot claim on our fixed adoption charges or profit from our sales, but all other voluntary contributions are eligible.

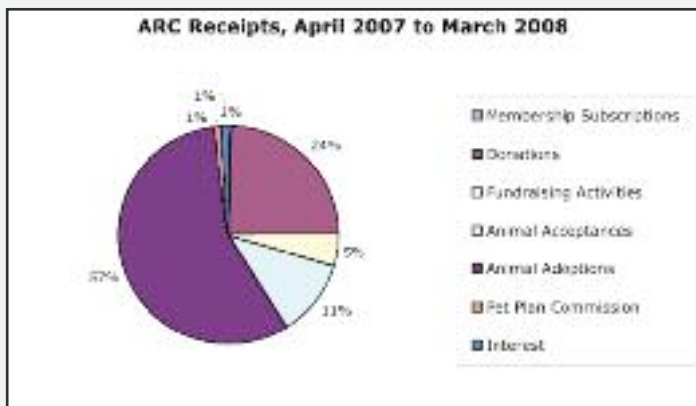
## ARC's welfare records 2008

1). In the financial year ending March 2008, ARC assisted and rehomed a total of 485 animals, including 195 rabbits, 58 guinea pigs and 216 cats. This was an increase in cats and rabbits from the previous year, and a decrease in guinea pigs.



2). During the financial year ending March 2008 ARC purchased a number of new hutches, significantly increasing equipment costs from last year's figure. We spent slightly less on veterinary fees than in the previous year, as well as slightly less on print, postage and stationery, telephones and website.

3). There has been very little change in incoming funds for the financial year ending March 2008. We have received slightly less in donations, but slightly more in fundraising and animal acceptances. Incoming funds from animal adoptions remain largely the same.



# Thank you's

ARC would like to thank the following people for their help and support over the past year.

**Rebecca and Matt Ross** of Edenbridge, Kent, who have donated £303 to ARC in place of wedding presents. They are the proud owners of Bumble and Pebble, who they adopted from ARC.

**Joan Grimley** for her £100 donation which came with her Christmas card.

**Charles and Karen Jay** for their donation of £200 at Christmas.

**Christabel and staff** at Twickenham Veterinary Surgery for allowing us to sell fund-raising goods.

**Jocelyn Herridge** for donating £300 from a sponsored event she did.

**Alice West** who donated £158 from her birthday money last year.

**Robert Kolaczynski** for his donation of £350. Robert has given a loving home to several ARC bunnies.

All the people who donate monthly by standing order.

Everyone who has donated via the Rabbit Rehome website.

And finally...

Good Luck to **Becky Craven**, **Linda Chadwick**, **Emma Clark** and **Ben Yerby** who are all taking part in fundraising events for ARC in 2009

## In the next edition

If there is anything you would like us to include in our next newsletter, please send by post or email to ARC, PO Box 46, Twickenham, TW1 1WG. Or you can send an email to: [arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk](mailto:arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk)

## Contacts

General enquiries (including dogs), Donna: 020 8607 9902

Adoption enquiries (cats), Rachael: 020 8894 4508 or 07971 199 179

Adoption enquiries (small animals), Donna: 020 8755 1807

Financial enquiries, Karen: 07944 232 063

Membership enquiries, email: [arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk](mailto:arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk)

Email: [arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk](mailto:arc@animalrescueandcare.org.uk)

Website: [www.animalrescueandcare.org.uk](http://www.animalrescueandcare.org.uk)

Address: ARC, PO Box, Twickenham, TW1 1WG

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