

# Members Newsletter

## December 2009

As this is our last newsletter for the year the MSPCA Board of Management, staff and all the animals wish all our members a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

### Cattery News

During the summer months the Cattery had its existing roof replaced, along with new lighting. The wooden dividing framework that ran along the main walkway, inside the Cattery, has been taken down. This has made Cattery far more spacious inside allowing members of the public to view the cats/kittens with far more ease. It has also has given the cats/kittens more space to be able to run and play during the day, when we are closed to visitors.

The Cattery roof has been tested to extremes with all the different types of weather that we have had since summer. A number of modifications are under way at present to eliminate some of the problems that have arisen.

### Kennel News

The Kennel Reception area has recently been painted which has given it a much fresher look. Suggestions have been made to paint the individual pens that the dogs are housed in while they are with us. It has also been suggested that they are painted in calming colours instead of the stark white we have at present. We would welcome members views about this.

At present a number of the dogs within the MSPCA are attending weekly evening training classes. The dogs that are attending are Kirk & Pal both Rottweilers and Jessie & Ben, both Border Collies.

Members of staff and one of our volunteer dog walkers take these dogs to their classes. All the dogs are doing extremely well and have responded really well to their training, not only are they being able to meet other dogs but also lots of different people too. This will give them a head start when they are adopted.

If any member would like more information about the evening training classes or may be able to assist and take one of the other dogs then please contact the Sanctuary.

Also within the Kennels we are using different methods to give a much calmer environment for the dogs for example soft music is played to them instead of very loud pop/rock music. We now play calming Compact Discs and the dogs have responded so well to this change we will be introducing this same music to the Main Cattery.

If any members have Compact Discs with calming music, they no longer play, we would really appreciate them for the animals at the Sanctuary.

Another new venture we have started with the dogs is to take them swimming. We have been using the facilities at Hounds Hydro, which is based in Castletown. The dogs that have been and are still swimming are Pal, Kirk & Jake (Retriever X who has since been re-homed).

Hounds Hydro is run by a lady called Pam and she very kindly allows the dogs to use the pool free of charge.

Pal in the Hydro-Pool



## Small Animal Unit

The Small Animal Unit is extremely busy at present with many rabbits and guinea pigs all looking to be adopted. We now have a number of volunteers who come and sit with the rabbits & guinea pigs. This really helps in socializing them and will benefit them in finding a new home.

## Seals

The MSPCA have rescued and admitted 5 seal pups since October and with the high winds that we have had recently this number could increase.

The seal pups have been a variety of ages and sadly a couple of them were seriously ill when they were admitted.

The theme for naming the seal pups this year is on different types of fish and we would welcome members suggestions for different species. We would also like to ask members to suggest a theme for 2010, this can be any thing from food, films, countries, flowers/plants, the list is endless. If your theme is chosen for 2010, we would ask you to name the first seal pup admitted within the new seal pup season, which runs normally from June.

The seal pups we have at present are called Bolan, Coley & Haddock, they are all grey seal pups.

Bolan is the most recent to be admitted, he was rescued from Port Erin Beach. When found he was totally exhausted and was showing symptoms of starting a cold, his eyes and nose were very runny and a slight mucous discharge was coming from his nose. He is aged at approximately 5 weeks and is able to eat whole fish on his own. The medication he is on at present is discreetly put in his fish, he is totally unaware of this as he enjoys his fish so much.

The other two seal pups, Coley & Haddock, were both admitted due to them both being extremely underweight for their age and like Bolan they were totally exhausted. Coley was rescued from Fenella Beach, Peel and is just over 6 weeks old and Haddock was rescued from Derbyhaven beach and is just over 8 weeks old.

Haddock the seal pup



Sadly two other recently rescued seal pups have passed away. They were

both extremely ill and had severe respiratory problems. Neither had the strength to fight their illness and despite being on medication they were unable to pull through.

## “Friends” of the MSPCA

The Sanctuary is delighted to inform members that a new fund raising group has been formed. The group is called ‘The Friends of the MSPCA’ the group’s main aim is to hold events to raise monies for specific projects that the Sanctuary may have.

‘The Friends of the MSPCA’ have already held a number of fund raising events since they formed in June of this year and they are busy setting out dates for fund raising events for 2010. All the forth coming events and dates will be shown on our web-site [www.mspca.im](http://www.mspca.im).

All monies currently being raised by the ‘The Friends of the MSPCA’ will go towards a covered dog exercise area that is to be built at the Sanctuary. This will be a portal frame building to sit alongside existing kennel block to provide a large covered dog exercise area and community meeting room.

The main body of the building would be used during the day to provide an intensive indoor training and exercise area. This would provide staff with a covered area to work with dogs to improve problem areas and thus help to make them ready for a successful and lasting adoption. This same area would also be available for meetings, fundraising events and dog/animal shows. Additionally, it is our intention to use this area as an educational facility for visiting school parties and out of school groups such as Scouts, Brownies etc.

Anticipated costs for this building are in the region of £150,000 of which £50,000 has been promised by an off island benefactor.

If you would like to become a ‘Friend of the MSPCA’ then please contact the Sanctuary.

## Donation

Stephanie Morrell, Small Business Manager with Barclays Wealth recently visited the sanctuary and kindly presented a cheque for £1,000 towards the covered dog exercise area project.

Pictured below is Steph presenting the cheque to Vice Chairman Ann Vickers and Sanctuary Manager Lyn

L-R Ann, Steph and Lyn



## Annual Subscriptions

To help cut down on administration time and postage we would like to encourage all annual members to consider paying the annual subscription by Standing Order. These can easily be set up by your bank and to help we enclose a Standing Order form and details of subscriptions. Simply complete the form and send to your bank. As your bank statement will show payments made we will no longer send formal receipt of payment

## Christmas

Did you know we have a nice selection of Christmas cards available for sale, just pop into the sanctuary where we will be pleased to serve you



*Merry Christmas*



*Have a Jovial Christmas*



*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year*

## And Finally

Don't forget to view our web-site [www.mspca.im](http://www.mspca.im) this will show you many of the animals that are looking to be adopted, we also welcome you to come and visit us too.

During the Christmas & New Year period the Sanctuary suspends the rehoming of animals, this year it will be effective from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, rehoming will resume from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2010.

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With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year