

Work continues to improve our facilities to enable us to help more animals and to do it better!

As you would expect the dogs at the rescue are given love, compassion and medical care. However, we also have a strong focus on regular exercise, enrichment activities and fresh air to keep them physically and mentally happy and healthy, while we search for their forever homes.

Following the transfer of our farm animals to our Wales rescue, we were able to change the use of the farm field and create more secure spaces for our fabulous dogs. We have also taken the opportunity to make some changes to existing exercise areas maximising the space and giving the dogs opportunities to learn and build valuable socialisation skills.



Dogs socialising in sensory area

We have installed fencing to create a whole new exercise and training area on what previously was farm field. Refurbished the existing larger exercise and agility field, creating access and use of the sensory area of the field separately, or together if we choose.

In addition, we have installed a fence corridor to enable access to each of the exercise yards

individually. These were previously accessed only by passing via the



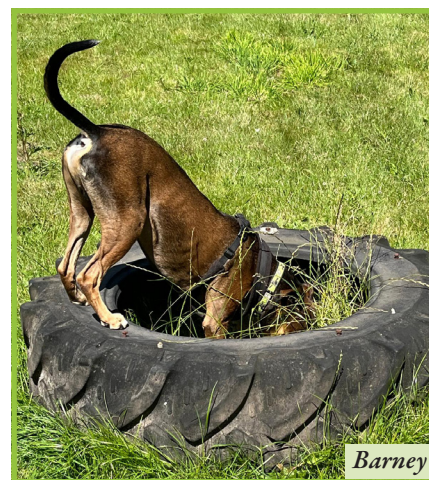
Training & socialising

yard before, limiting the use and number of dogs that could be out at any one time. The new



Agility field

configuration enables dogs to be out at the same time and be able to access each section to maintain it, while still having use of the others so the dogs don't miss out and the facilities are kept in great condition.



Barney

We now have six exercise areas that provide variety to maintain the dogs welfare and improve their chance of securing a home. These include the physical exercise areas, sensory and agility area, relaxation space, and we hope for a puzzle trail soon! These new spaces will all have equipment, toys, scented plants and other items to form points of interest.

Some work is still ongoing, but we are already seeing benefits to the dogs.

Thank You - We Couldn't Do It Without You

Kittens - breeding out of control!

In the 3 months April to July over 140 kittens, and 81 cats including pregnant mums, passed through our two catteries. Every year we are inundated with pregnant mums, newborn kittens, injured and fighting Toms and unneutered and harassed female cats.

Our staff and wonderful foster families are also busy hand rearing kittens who have ended up being abandoned by mums, left behind, or orphaned. Kittens as young as a few days old and as small as these need round the clock care when they don't have a mum there for them. For the first few weeks they need hand feeding every 2 hours! Yes, that means all through the night too!

Hand rearing is hard going and a difficult job. Sadly at times it's very emotional one too. Luckily our committed staff are up to the task of trying. They don't get paid for this extra time, or the lack of sleep, and they still turn up day after day to put in the work at the rescue too. They do it for the pure love of the animals, the reward is seeing them healthy and happy in their own homes.

Rosemary came into rescue as a heavily pregnant stray, completely shut down, and traumatised. We can't imagine what she had been through before being admitted to us. Although a foster place was arranged for her, Rosemary gave birth to 3 tiny, premature kittens before we could get her there. Sadly, the tiniest kitten, who we had named Thyme, died within the

first 24 hours.

Rosemary did not seem to be able to feed the kittens. She was taken to an emergency vet, they confirmed the kittens were premature, and Rosemary was not producing any milk. She was given a shot of Oxytocin to help bring her milk in, but the vet warned that the kittens may need hand rearing, and their chances of survival were not good. A member of staff took the other two kittens to hand feed over the next 24 hours. Thankfully Rosemary started producing milk and they were reunited in foster with the staff member who could closely monitor them.

Over the next few days, the kitten's weight went up and down, they were feeding, but not settled. Rosemary did not seem to have any maternal instincts, and was not even looking after herself, let alone her tiny babies. This was so concerning. Sage was really struggling, the decision was made to hand rear him, but he did not thrive. He could not feed well and was very distressed. We were heart broken when our vets advised that it was kinder to help him pass, he was just six days old.

The remaining kitten, Parsley, was still with mum, but things were not

going well.

It is always the last resort to remove kittens from their mum, as it is the best place for them to be. However, it was clear mum was not able to care for the kitten properly, and hand rearing was the only option. Over the next few days it was touch and go with Parsley too, she was feeding well, but not gaining weight, the outlook was not good.

We didn't give up on her and by some miracle, she started to gain weight. She needed feeding every 2 hours initially, in order to gently build her up, then she went to 3 hours between feeds, and so on to 4 hourly, before then weaned onto solids.



Hand feeding Parsley



Rosemary and Parsley



Parsley

Parsley, against the odds, went on to be a lovely healthy kitten and onto a loving forever home. Rosemary, clearly traumatised, went to stay with one of our fab foster homes for some much needed pampering and tlc. She was then spayed and is now in a loving, permanent home.

It is during this time of the year that the desperate need for cats to be neutered is even more apparent. We can't say it enough **the ONLY**

Thank You - We Couldn't Do It Without You



Parsley healthy

solution is to neuter your cats. Kittens can be pregnant at 6 months old and still babies themselves this can create even more complications, such as premature or still birth and birth deformities. There simply isn't enough rescue space or loving homes in the world to cope with the number of cats that can be

produced from just one unneutered cat and all their offspring in their lifetime.

We have been able to partner with Cats Protection to assist with the cost of neutering your cat. If you are in receipt of benefits, or earn below £25,000 a year then you may be eligible



Rosmary in home

for help. Please email us, cattery@freshfields.org.uk and provide your telephone number. We will contact you to discuss this further and hopefully then refer you for support.

The Life of Riley

Riley and his brother Bando came into our care back in 2020, just 6 months old. The two boys didn't see eye to eye and had to be separated due to fighting. Bando soon found a home with the beautiful Elouise, one of the rabbits we had rescued with her mum on the closure of T&S meat and fur farm. We were over the moon for Bando and Elouise to find a lovely home together.

Riley had a tougher journey. He tried bonding a few times, but things just didn't click and at times his behaviour was unpredictable. We later discovered a jaw condition that required daily pain medication and a lot of TLC. His moods often reflected his discomfort but with the right care, patience and love, we

were able to manage it.

Years went by, Riley waited for someone who would take on his medical needs. We had improved his condition with the correct diet, and he only needed pain medication when a flare up occurred. Riley was ready for another chance at a home.

And then... a twist of fate. Sadly, earlier this year, Bando passed away, leaving Elouise on her own. Their lovely parents realised Riley was still at the rescue four and a half years later and they simply couldn't leave him behind.

In July bonding day arrived. Elouise clearly worked her magic - cuddles, grooms, and bunny flops galore! It was love at first sniff. Riley went home with Elouise!

He settled in right away, like he had always belonged. Even better to discover their garden is full of mint, his absolute favourite. Thank you to his amazing new family for giving Riley the life he deserves.



Riley bonding

Walking back to happiness

27 year old Chestnut Cob cross Bobby was admitted in June this year. Although he was very much loved by his elderly owners, he had spent most of his life in his field without other horse company.

As he wasn't too far from the rescue centre we arranged to collect Bobby. Unfortunately the unfamiliar horsebox and him having to leave his field became a little too much for him and he wouldn't get into the horsebox.

As his field entrance was on a road edge we were concerned about him or anyone else being injured. We didn't give up though; our wonderful caring equine staff decided the best and least stressful way for Bobby was to walk him to the rescue centre!

Even though he wasn't far away, they took it at Bobby's pace and embarked on a few hours walk but got him to the rescue safe and sound. Bobby was amazed and very inquisitive with every new thing he came across, from different smells to passing pedestrians, cars and the odd dog, he was an absolute star and remained calm and was obviously enjoying his new experiences.

Walking up the track to the rescue centre attracted the attention of our horses, who ran straight to the fence to say hello to our new handsome horse.

After quarantine, Bobby was introduced to our herd with Cymro, Skye and youngster Sage. He settled in very quickly and has developed a special relationship with 2 year old Sage. It is amazing to see them both playing in the field, Sage has given Bobby a new lease of life, he gallops around the field like a horse half his age!!

We are hoping that Bobby will be lucky enough to find a home, but in the meantime, he is living his best life and enjoying the company of other horses. He certainly did walk back to happiness!



Bobby with staff walking home



Bobby meeting herd at fence



Bobby & Sage



Bobby

- This has been printed on paper which is sustainably and ethically sourced and printed using vegetable based inks -

Freshfields Liverpool: Head Office & Fundraising: East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool L29 3EA, Tel. 0151 931 1604
Freshfields Wales: Bryn Melyn, Lon Pant-y-Gog, Nebo, Caernarfon LL54 6EA, Tel. 01286 880808
Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1160348

freshfields
animal rescue