

# The Branch Catch-Up

## New Branch Chair

An update from Sophie

## Shop Roundup

Latest retail happenings

## Team Animal

Volunteer for us at the Lincoln 10k 2025



**RSPCA**  
LINGS MID, NE & LINCOLN



# A message from our Chair



Hi! I'm delighted to have this opportunity to re-introduce our branch newsletter! On behalf of the committee, we hope you have all had a super summer and are settling into cosy nights-in with the wonderful animals in your life or in your hearts.

A lot has happened as I look back over the last 6 months, when I was proud to take on the role of Chair not just of our already successful Lincs Mid and Lincoln branch, but our newly merged Lincs North-East area too! We are now working to rehabilitate and rehome animals in need from Grimsby to Woodhall Spa and from Gainsborough to Skegness.

I'm so lucky to still have previous Chair Amy Farrell as wing-woman, as well as so many other long-serving trustees including Vice Chair Dawn Fritzsche, who all help make what might otherwise feel a daunting responsibility a reality.

I've spent time visiting each of our shops, at Woodhall Spa and St Marks in central Lincoln and am looking forward to meeting our fosterer and home visitor volunteers as well as other shop volunteers and staff over the coming months. We've been pleased to welcome Gwendolene Coleman to the committee, a long standing Member of the Lincs NE branch, who will bring valuable support to achieve the spirit and vision of the branch merger. We've also welcomed a new branch office team member Liberty Price who is supporting our animal in-take and rehoming activities. Welcome!

I've been so delighted to see some fantastic animals go to the forever homes they deserve over the last months, with thanks to the efforts of our branch office team, volunteer home visitors and fosterers. As a dog-lover, I have to say that for me, long-termer Toppa and little TJ were particularly memorable.

While our new bigger branch brings challenges and new levels of ambition, as a board we have set our strategy as first and foremost prioritising animal voice for those in our care, and continuing to build sustainable income streams to ensure our long-term ability to provide that care. I'd love to hear from you, if you have suggestions or questions for how we can deliver more for our animals across Lincs Mid, NE and Lincoln! Do get in touch and thank you for your continued love and support.

**Sophie Easteal**, Chair and Trustee  
seasteal@rspca-lincoln.org.uk



## Meet Libby...

Libby is our latest recruit to the office! Here she is pictured with Luna the cat and she is also slave to Jay, the tabby!

Libby is a keen cyclist and enjoys throwing herself into nature, as well as being a hobbyist writer...handy for our social media posts and newsletter articles!

She applied to work with us as she has always loved animals and has been bringing them home for as long as she can remember.



**The RSPCA has recently celebrated its 200th anniversary with a big rebrand, which is why you may have noticed a new logo and colour scheme cropping up on our website and social media platforms - this will also be coming soon to our shops in the form of shiny new signage, so keep your eyes peeled!**



# Animal latest



## WINNIE THE WILY WARRIOR

Winnie came into branch care on the 24th September 2024 - 4 days earlier, she had been brought into a Welton vet after being clipped by a car.

She was far too young to be outside, and the vet bill was quite large as the vehicle had done some serious damage to her - she'd fractured her hip and even displaced the ball joint. We got a call from the vets asking if we had any space at our branch for her, as the owner was unable to pay and was considering euthanasia.

Luckily, we had room for a small one and brought Winnie into our care. She was transferred to a Hull animal hospital to have her surgery, which was a femoral head and neck excision. As she was so young, she was able to have the surgery and the vets were confident that she would recover and live a normal life.

Everything went well with the surgery and soon Winnie was recovering on strict cage rest so as not to agitate her leg. She had a check-up with the vets after this to see how she was healing - but she had been intent on breaking out of her cage and scaling the bars, and hadn't been doing much sitting still!

Winnie was prescribed a further 2 weeks' cage rest, and she has recently been allowed to have free roam of her pen and is loving it, and is most importantly using her leg again! The cattery have been helping her practise her stretching and she's looking like she'll be back to bouncing off the walls imminently.

We have received a new application for her and things are looking like she'll be happily in her new home soon enough!

## REHOMING SUCCESS

Just some of our animals that have found their forever homes in 2024



TOPPA



TJ



RINGO



FETA



BRANDY

# Around the shops

As you will be aware, we have 2 charity shops manned by our wonderful staff and volunteers, the money we get from our shop sales goes straight toward looking after the animals in our care.

## ST MARKS

We are so excited to announce our new Christmas room, which has gone down a storm! Full of lovely gifts & trimmings, it's been a massive hit. We are also organizing another raffle: we have 3 lovely hampers ready to go, which were painstakingly put together by our lovely volunteer, Barbara.

## WOODHALL SPA

Our decorations and party wear have been on sale since early November and have been flying off the shelves! We will be opening for late night shopping this year on the evenings of Dec 8th, 12th and 19th from 4pm-8pm.

Woodhall Spa also underwent a revamp this summer, having the front windows and door replaced. Looking very smart I'm sure you will agree!



## Christmas Get-Together!

*Come join our Christmas get-togethers for all staff and volunteers!*

### Woodhall Spa:

Wednesday 18th Dec & Friday 20th Dec between 2.00pm and 4.00pm

### St Marks:

Monday December 16th, 3.00pm onwards

Contact [office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk) to confirm your attendance

## XMAS RAFFLE

Currently, we have a Christmas Raffle at £1.50 per strip to be drawn on 18th December. Contact the office to get your ticket!



# STOP PRESS...!

**We are delighted to announce that our Branch is growing!**

We are soon taking up residence in a beautiful building on Lincoln High Street which will become a new charity shop and branch hub. A newly renovated property, we are excited to have this opportunity to build on our established charity retail activities, which generate vital, sustainable funds for our branch activities.

Spanning 3 floors, we are already planning ways to establish a branch 'hub' to drive awareness raising, animal welfare activities, and fundraising opportunities for the branch.

Do get in touch with our office to find out how you can be part of this new ambitious phase of our branch.



# Adoption - How it works

To adopt one of our animals, please complete a Perfect Match application form in respect of the animal you would like to adopt – if you aren't sure who you would like to apply for, or if you have a couple you are interested in, please mark that on the form! They're available on our website: <https://www.rspca-lincoln.org.uk/animal-adoption-how-it-works/>

Then, send your completed form to our office at [office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk). At this point, our office will consider your initial application and identify whether you would be a "perfect match" for that particular animal, or one of our choosing if you aren't applying for someone in particular. Sometimes, our office will discuss the possibility of another animal should we feel your circumstances would match a different animal's needs better. We'll then have more of an in-depth conversation to provide you with the ability to ask questions and for us to get more of a feel of your suitability.

After this stage, you will be invited to meet your new furry friend, and will be provided with details of where they are currently staying in order to make those arrangements. Once you have met your potential new family member, and have let us know you'd be interested in continuing, we will place a reserve on them for you to stop any additional applications coming in.

At this point, our office will allocate a home visitor to you, who will shortly be in touch to arrange a visit to your home. These home visits take place either in person or virtually (by way of video calling) and is an opportunity for our team to ensure your new family member will have the space they need, and is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions about how to set up your home ready for your new arrival. We aim for all home visits to be allocated and completed within a week of your reserve, but at busy periods this may be a little longer.

Once your home visit has been carried out, our home visitor will contact the office with the relevant paperwork, and you will be contacted by the office to confirm this. If your home visit is a success, you will be invited to pay the adoption fee and to make arrangements to welcome your new family member into your home! You will also be provided with some handy guides about how to ensure your furry friend's transition into your family is a success, and the office, kennels/cattery or fosterer is available post-adoption would you need support.



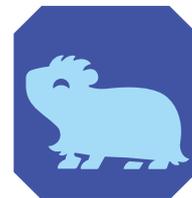
**ANIMALS  
REHOMED  
IN 2024...  
SO FAR**



**95  
CATS**



**40  
DOGS**



**1  
GUINEA PIG**



**4  
RABBITS**

Comments on this newsletter?  
Anything you'd like to see featured?  
Get in touch and let us know.

Email:

[office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk) or  
[dfritzsche@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:dfritzsche@rspca-lincoln.org.uk)

# Fundraising events



## CITY OF LINCOLN 10K

At the end of 2022, the branch was approached by the organisers to ask if we would be interested in becoming a Charity Partner for the 10k – and we couldn't refuse! Being a Charity Partner means that our branch has been included on the advertising materials for the 10k, and those signing up will be given the option to raise money for us – or one of the other three Charity Partners.

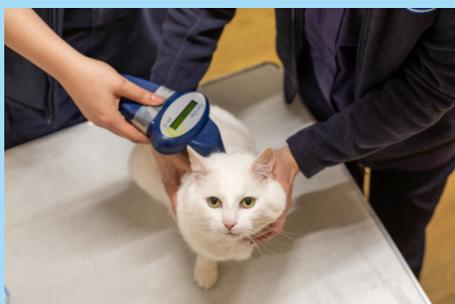
As a runner, you will not need to pay an entrance fee to register for the 10k. We will register your email address on our charity portal, and you will receive an invitation to complete your details to register. In addition, the branch will provide you with a running vest to wear on the day of the 10k, to help raise awareness for our local branch. We do ask that our runners raise a minimum of £100 in sponsorship each, in order to cover the costs of your entry fee and your vest – with the additional funds going direct to where they are needed most – our animals!

This year, kind members of the public volunteered their time to run on behalf of the RSPCA in Lincoln's 2024 10k race, raising a whopping £4,393 total! We thank all of this year's runners for their dedication and commitment for choosing to support us: and we're pleased to say we're now taking applications for the 2025 10k; please email [office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk) if you'd be interested or keep your eyes peeled on our Instagram (@rspcalincoln) or Facebook (RSPCA Lincolnshire Mid, North East and Lincoln branch) pages where we regularly post about the upcoming race!



## MICROCHIPPING AT ST MARKS

At St Marks, we ran 4 microchipping days which generated a total of £1,089 and helped members of the public to microchip their pets more easily – these events were a great success and we had to create a cancellation list due to the interest received!



## RAFFLES FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

We have held 2 raffles so far this year. Staff and volunteers donated Easter eggs and then Halloween themed treats which allowed us to hold an Easter & Halloween Raffles. So far, our raffles have generated £475!



## WOODHALL SPA COUNTRY SHOW 2024

The Woodhall Spa Country show, held on the 19th May 2024, generated a brilliant £401, thanks to the efforts of a teddy bear tombola and a water/wine raffle too! Toppa, one of our longstay dogs, also attended (but he was mostly watching the world go by!) as well as staff and volunteers.



# Fancy volunteering for us? Read on...

We have many voluntary positions open, and are grateful for each and every one of our volunteers. Without them, we wouldn't be able to run the branch as efficiently or help out as many animals as we do: it really is a team effort! If you're thinking of volunteering for us, please see some more information below on what you can do to help:

## BECOME A HOME VISITOR

Please download and complete a general volunteer application form, and send your completed form to our office at [office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk). At this point, our office will request your two references, and consider your application to become a home visitor. You will also need to arrange to provide a passport sized photograph for your ID badge – fancy!

Once your references have come back, our office will contact you to invite you to undertake a short online training course on how to be a home visitor and enrol you onto the two short courses on the Hive e-Learning platform. A confirmation email will then be sent to you with your username and a temporary password.

Once you have completed the courses, you will be invited to meet our branch administrator to discuss branch specific aspects of the position and to go through any paperwork. You will then be invited to attend a home visit with an experienced home visitor so that you can experience a live visit being undertaken before going independent!

## BECOME A SHOP VOLUNTEER

Please download and complete a general volunteer application form (or collect a hard copy from one of our shops!) and send your completed form to our office at [office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk) or hand them in to the shop manager at the relevant shop. At that point, you will be invited to come in for an informal chat with the manager at your specified shop about volunteering with us. If you would like to proceed with your application, we will request your two references. You will also need to arrange to provide a passport sized photograph for your ID badge which you will need to wear when volunteering in the shops – this helps our customers know who they can approach if they need assistance.



Once your positive references have come back and you have been approved as a shop volunteer, you will be sent a link to complete online Health and Safety training and a medical questionnaire for you to complete. Once you have completed your health and safety training, and you have submitted your medical questionnaire, our shop manager will contact you to arrange a start date!

## BECOME A FUNDRAISER

Please download and complete a general volunteer application form, and send your completed form to our office at [office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk). At this point, our office will request your two references, and consider your application to become part of our fundraising events team. You will also need to arrange to provide a passport sized photograph for your ID badge – which you will need to wear when representing us at local events!

Once your positive references have come back, you will be sent a small training presentation to consider – this will go through helpful information not only regarding fundraising events, but also our branch to help you when representing our branch in the community.

When you have completed that training, our Fundraising Events Coordinator will be in touch to arrange an informal chat to introduce the role and to go through any questions you may have regarding the training presentation. If you are happy following that chat, you will be added to our fundraising events team database where you will be notified can volunteer to attend!



## BECOME A FOSTERER

So, you've decided that you would like to open your home to become a fosterer – firstly, thank you! The process to apply to be a fosterer is a little different than the process to be a trustee, or even a shop volunteer, so please continue reading to find out what will happen!

Please complete a Perfect Match application form in respect of the animal you would like to foster, and also complete a general volunteer application form. Please then send your completed forms to our office at [office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk](mailto:office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk). You will also need to arrange to provide a passport sized photograph for your ID badge. At this point, our office will request your two references, and consider your application to identify whether you would be a "perfect match" to be a fosterer!

Once your positive references have come back and you have been identified as being a perfect match on paper to be a fosterer, our office will pass on your application to our fostering co-ordinator to undertake a home visit and go through the requirements of being a fosterer. Our home visits take place either in person or virtually (by way of video calling) and isn't anything to worry about. The home visit is an opportunity for the fostering coordinator to ensure any animal you foster will have the space they need, and is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions about how to set up your home ready for your new charge.

Once your home visit has been carried out, and our fostering coordinator is happy with how that went and you are happy with what will be expected of you, our office will make contact with you to determine the next steps. You will need to complete the relevant sections of the 'fostering contract' which sets out what is expected of you, and what is expected of the branch.

For more information, please visit the volunteering page here: <https://www.rspca-lincoln.org.uk/volunteer/>

## Meet the Trustees of your Branch

We are always needing new trustees. Do you want to be more active and have a say on how your local Branch is run? If yes, why not consider becoming a Trustee? The Trustees make extremely important decisions for the branch, for example deciding on how to raise income, as well as meeting in sub-groups to consider important subject matters with recommendations being made to the full board of trustees. Apply on our website!



SOPHIE



DAWN



AMY



PENNY



DEBBY



LEWIS



RACHEL



PRESTON



CARLA



JO



## Our latest Trustee - Meet Gwen...

I have been a Trustee with the Branch since October 2024, having previously been a member of the North East Branch. I am humbled to take on this role and work alongside such a committed and experienced team. I am passionate about the welfare of all animals and will do whatever I can to help and volunteer my time. I work in the health and social care sector supporting older people. It always warms my heart to see a cat or a dog in a care home bringing joy to people lives. I share my home with four rescue cats who keep me very busy and exceptionally happy!