

The Branch Catch-Up

Fundraising

All the latest activity

Animal latest

Stories of successful rehoming!

Shop Roundup

New High Street store set to open!

A message from our Chair

Happy new year! We are so excited to start 2025 with the news that our new shop in Lincoln High Street (261 High St, Lincoln LN2 1HW, to be exact!) is coming together nicely - and with preparations already underway, we're hoping to launch soon!

Our new shop will be another source of sustainable fundraising for the branch, with all income generated allowing us to help even more animals in our branch area find their paws in their forever homes.

However, that's not all - our third charity shop will also house our Branch Hub, which is set to be an amazing resource for both our members and supporters! We're envisioning that it will act as a focal point for our fundraising efforts, office team and also promote responsible pet ownership across our branch area.

Updates will be found on our social media (RSPCA Lincolnshire Mid, North East and Lincoln branch on Facebook, and @rspcalincoln on Instagram!) and if you'd like to propose an event or activity, do contact our office.

Hang on, there's more! We've also been able to formally complete the merger, dissolving the North East branch of the RSPCA for good and merging its area of coverage under our operations. Interim Trustees from Head Office decided that the best way to ensure a sustainable future and continued deliverance of animal welfare for the RSPCA in the Lincolnshire North East branch area would be to merge with a neighbouring branch, meaning we are now officially integrated as the Lincolnshire Mid, NE and Lincoln branch!

The expanded area will include locations such as Cleethorpes, Louth, Grimsby, Gainsborough & Mablethorpe. We're looking forward to expanding the fundraising and animal welfare activity we're already proudly a part of into the north of our branch area. If you have ideas for how we could support these areas and ramp up our activities, or want to get involved, please contact our office on office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk and have your say!

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



Meet Emily...

Following the theme of new beginnings, we're so pleased to welcome our new shop manager, who will be at the helm of our new High Street shop. Emily Knapp has had previous experience in the retail industry as a shop manager, making her the perfect fit to lend her expertise to the new shop and its employees - here's what she has to say!

"Having just begun my journey with the RSPCA in January 2025, I am over the moon to drive profits and donations from our new Hub on Lincoln High Street! It is immensely fulfilling to work for an organisation dedicated to preventing cruelty to animals as I am an animal lover myself. I currently have two cats, Salsa & Pico de gallo."

The RSPCA celebrated its 200th anniversary with a big rebrand in 2024, 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



GORGEOUS GRACIE - HOME AT LAST!

Originally coming into our branch on the 2nd July 2023, Gracie had been found in a bad way along with fellow stray Frankie. Both cats were in very poor condition and it was discovered they both had Giardia, a nasty parasite that attacks the intestines. At first, their progress was incredibly slow but eventually they started to eat again and started feeling much better.

We couldn't advertise Frankie or Gracie until they were well enough to go to new homes, so a lot of their time spent with us was a slow and steady process of treatment for the parasite. Luckily, they were both able to get rid of their giardia, but unfortunately something still wasn't quite right.

Gracie was very timid at first - with a lot of animals coming in we have very little indication of their background so we took things slowly and focused on getting her feeling better before anything else. Frankie unfortunately took a turn for the worse and the decision was made to separate them into different pens as he required more TLC such as special food and observation.

As with all our animals, we regularly take them for vet check-ups to ensure that we are aware of any medical conditions they have - and it was also discovered that both cats have Feline Coronavirus, which is highly contagious to other cats, so they would need to be rehomed as the only pets in a house and indoor only. Gracie was unhindered by her illness, and as she was diagnosed with enteric coronavirus, which means that it is likely she won't show any symptoms or she will have occasional flare ups that die down just as quickly.

Unfortunately Frankie is still currently with our branch as we try every option under the sun to get him in a rehomed condition, however with a new medication he has been prescribed we have already started to see improvements so are hopeful he will soon be feeling better.

As for Gracie, we're pleased to announce that after a year and 5 months in our care, she was rehomed in December 2024 and is ruling the roost! Her adopters tell us that "She is very much a diva and knows what she wants - which we love!"

REHOMING SUCCESS

Just some of our animals that have found their forever homes in early 2025



BELLA



BLUEBELL



COCO



FUDGE



TRUFFLE

Adoptions in 2024

2024 was a busy year for the branch, but it was all worth it as we welcomed and rehomed a record number of animals! In total, from the 1st January to the 31st December 2024:



The Branch took in 111 cats...



...and rehomed 109



The Branch took in 49 dogs...



...and rehomed 54



The Branch took in 2 guinea pigs...



...and rehomed 1



The Branch took in 2 rabbits...



...and rehomed 4

A TOTAL OF 164 ANIMALS!

A TOTAL OF 168 ANIMALS!

Our longest stay animals that found their forever homes in 2024 were:



GRACIE
(533 days)



TOPPA
(363 days)



TJ
(235 days)

We really appreciate all of our lovely fosterers, cattery/kennel staff, trustees, volunteers and everyone else who had a part in our branch goings-on during 2024. We all pulled together and achieved some truly wonderful things!

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. 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 2025...
SO FAR**



**14
CATS**



**3
DOGS**



**0
GUINEA PIG**



**0
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 or
dfritzsche@rspca-lincoln.org.uk

Around the shops

As you will be aware, we have 2 (soon to be 3!) charity shops manned by our wonderful staff and volunteers, the money we get from our shop sales goes straight towards looking after the animals in our care.

WOODHALL SPA

Woodhall Spa got all loved up for Valentines, offering a blind date with a book. Romance novels were gift wrapped with a teaser, giving customers a fun 'novel' experience. Great initiative, well done Kim and Angus!

SPORTING SUCCESS!

Our very own Angus recently went on a trip to France with Jaguars WCB to compete in a massive wheelchair basketball competition!

Jaguars WCB is one of the top tier wheelchair basketball teams in the country (at the moment the VERY best!) and they were recently invited to play as a guest team in the IWBF (International Wheelchair Basketball Federation) in group B of the EuroCup 1 group stages.

It was a totally new experience for a lot of the members of the Jaguars, and the team of underdogs played to an extremely high level in all of their 4 intense games. Up against names like Les Aigles En Velay, the Rhine River Rhinos, 8TF Flinkstones Graz and Beit-Halochem Haifa, they earned a win early on and finished fourth overall - their battles were often single-digit losses, showing just how hard they fought and how tough it was!

Similar to football, wheelchair basketball games take place in a premier league format, which was why the Jaguars' fight was so spectacular as they are an amateur UK team, squaring up against more established clubs. They set off on Thursday 13th Feb 2025, battling against Canadian, Austrian and teams from Israel too across their 4 days, coming back on Sunday feeling mightily pleased with themselves!

The Jaguars' line up consisted of 2 ex-GB players, and a current GB women's player - but the club has contained lots of big names and nurtures young talent, too. Angus remarked that it was a bucket list opportunity for him - he'd wanted to lead the team to a European Competition right at the start of his 15-year wheelchair basketball career, and he was overjoyed to see the club reach those dizzying heights with him at the helm! Angus is dutiful, working hard to ensure the logistics, player classification and transport were all suitable for them to travel to the South of France for the competition, alongside his usual duties of sorting the fixtures and bookings.

Previously, another team highlight was when the Jaguars played against the London Titans in 2024 and got the chance to battle against superstar Ade Adepitan! The team is going from strength to strength, striving all the time to get to this level and are currently topping the premier division within their different offshoot teams: their womens' team and youth development teams are also smashing it!

Angus tells us "wheelchair basketball is one of those sports that everyone can take part in, it's one of the biggest disability-friendly team sports in the world, and everyone can join in!"



ST MARKS

Heart-ly one to be beat, St Marks was all-dressed up with lovely decorations and the staff were feeling the love, too! There was a display set up at the front of the shop with Valentines' cards available to purchase. That handmade frame is Barbara's doing - isn't it beautiful?!



NEW RETAIL SUB-COMMITTEE

To strengthen our approach, the Trustees also decided to establish a formal sub-committee to hold important discussions about our retail approach and activities, bringing key decisions to where they're needed most.

Rachel Wilson was voted the Chair of this sub-committee, who has been a Trustee since 2019 and is a guiding light to our new retail goings-on. Whilst the initial focus will be on launching our High Street shop, we also held a retail strategy meeting in January with the Shop Managers of our shops to identify key activities for 2025. This enables us to focus on relevant goals that each shop will strive for to grow their income generation and promote the branch activities, as well as ones they'll work on together. **Watch this space...!**



RACHEL

HIGH STREET SHOP

Our new shop is taking shape, driven by manager Emily. Fixtures and fittings are ordered, social media campaigns are under way...and a grand opening is planned for March! Whilst we wait for the all important signage, local artist Denise Dean volunteered to go in and draw some animal themed artwork in the window to attract interest from the passing public. Between the artwork and the life-size tiger toy donated by trustee Preston, it certainly has been a talking point!



LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION!

Brilliant Barbara Brophy has been volunteering at St Marks for 8 years! We want to give her a huge thank you for her dedication, tireless cheer and beautiful shop-dressing skills! We're so grateful for your time and expertise, customer service and knack at keeping our stock fresh and fabulous!

Barbara says "Volunteering is such an important part of my week, I am able to give what time I'm able, and it's lovely to have the support of the St Marks team around me. I wanted to give back because I think animal welfare and the work of the RSPCA branch is so important".

Victoria from St Marks has also recently hit her 8-year milestone as shop manager - both ladies started at our Lambeth House RSPCA shop and have seen it all over the years! Firm friends throughout, they regularly chat outside of work too, declining to comment further on the hijinks they get up to, Barbara's off relaxing with a good old glass of wine, she says cheers everyone! To give Barbara & Victoria a run for their money, find out about our volunteering opportunities here: <https://rspca-lincoln.org.uk/volunteer/>



SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHERS

As you'll be aware, our first volunteer and staff get togethers were held just before Christmas. Post-COVID, we've got a bit anti-social, and this is something we want to change.

It's so important we are able to connect with our volunteers and staff, whether they are assisting us with retail, fundraising or our animals, because whatever the contribution, it all adds up to help make our branch a well-oiled success!

We're looking forward to continuing these get-togethers in 2025 and already have some planned around Easter - **Woodhall Spa**, Wednesday 9th April at 1.00pm, **St Marks** Tuesday 29th April 2.30pm. **Come along, all welcome!**



Fundraising events

CITY OF LINCOLN 10K



It's not long now until the fantastic Lincoln 10km race, which takes place on Sunday, 6th April 2025!

Our branch has been a charity partner for the Lincoln 10km since 2022 which means having our name on the advertising materials and being able to sign up runners and stewards.

Events like the 10k are extremely important for our branch, as they are a great way of boosting our reach and raising more money for the animals in our care. Follow our social media to find out who is running, how much we've raised, and to see photos from the day. If you're able to support us by being a race marshal for the event, please contact our office. You'd only have to give up a morning to cheer on the runners, as well as keeping an eye on the event and making sure it runs smoothly.

We are also very proud to have been selected as a charity partner for the new Lincoln Half Marathon, which will be taking place on 5 October 2025. If the 10km is no longer a challenge for you, please contact our office about running for us in the half marathon - we also need race marshals to direct runners!

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS - THANK YOU!

To everyone who donated pet items and contributed to the shoebox appeal in time for Christmas, thank you so much! Our animals were overjoyed to receive your kind gifts, as you'll see in these pictures!

We were absolutely inundated with presents from local organisations as well as kind members of the public - Dunelm's 'Delivering Joy' initiative filled up our storeroom!



A DIFFERENT WAY TO FUNDRAISE - THE LINCOLN COMMUNITY LOTTERY



Did you know that our branch has been supporting the Lincoln Lottery run by Lincolnshire County Council since 2018, which is when it was first launched? The Lottery supports 80 different local causes with 50p going towards your favourite charity for every ticket purchased and 10p going towards the general charity pot. Tickets start from just £1 a week, with big prizes available! They also run Super Draws which have prizes of £1,000 or special prizes, and referring a friend to join the Lincoln Lottery will enter you BOTH into their prize draw!

Find out more here: <https://www.lincolnlottery.co.uk/support/rspca-lincolnshire-mid-and-lincoln-branch>

MORE EGG-CELLENT DONATIONS FROM OMLET!

Omlet, the premium pet product manufacturer, has once again donated a whole host of goodies to our Branch!

As well as the range of cozy dog and cat beds they donated before Christmas, Mel & Dawn went down to their Lincoln warehouse in early February and filled up their cars with nearly 300 blankets of all colours and descriptions! Amazing how much you can fit in a Mini!

We are hoping these can be sold in our shops to raise some funds for the Branch.



Thanks Omlet!

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



GWEN



Our latest Trustee - Meet Rosey...

At our January board meeting, we welcomed our newest Trustee, Rosey Norton to our committee - Rosey has a wealth of background in charity retail operations and a passion for animal welfare, making her a great fit for our ambitious new shop launch! We are incredibly lucky to have her on-board as part of our mission to grow our retail activity, a vital part of our sustainable fundraising goal.



LEND A

HELPING PAW!

We are seeking volunteers to help out in our charity shops and make a difference to the lives of local animals. For more information on being part of our team pop into a shop or email: office@rspca-lincoln.org.uk.

 **RSPCA**
LINGS MID, NE & LINCOLN

www.rspca-lincoln.org.uk