

# Socelex

Newsletter Winter 2011

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## A Brief History of Socelex

Maria Hennessy loved animals and as a child, dreamt of running away to join a circus. After found a job at a circus, her dream soon became a nightmare as she discovered that the elephants were being grossly mistreated.



After leaving the circus, Maria hitchhiked to Nepal and India with her son Shane, to monitor the treatment of elephants and then to Japan to tend sick circus elephants before hiring a Jumbo jet to fly them to a safari park in Argentina. Later, in Afghanistan, she persuaded army guards to let her into a compound to help an injured elephant. It was thus that Maria founded Socelex (the Society Against Elephant Exploitation).

Maria found that other animals needed her help and Socelex expanded to include any animal that needed care. Maria learnt a great deal about animal medicine and nursed many of the animals herself but Maria had cancer and she sadly died in August 1996. Her brother John and son Shane, together with a small team of helpers were left to carry on her work.

In 1996, Diane Allen visited Socelex through her work with the Cat Protection group and fell in love with the place. She had many years experience fund-raising for the cats and turned her skills to help the Socelex animals.



Diane helped out with the daily duties involved in running an animal sanctuary as well as producing the newsletters. Latterly, her mobility was impaired with osteoarthritis but she carried on working

Diane was diagnosed with cancer in 2006. She tried to help where she could but the hospital visits and chemotherapy made this increasingly harder. Diane died on May 16th 2007. Maria & Diane are greatly missed at Socelex, their good works have helped many animals and that work continues in their memories today.

After a very mild autumn at Socelex we are getting ready for the winter, stocking up with hay and pet food for the animals. After three bad winters, we have to make sure we have plenty of bedding: straw, duvets and blankets; Rabbit food and corn for the birds and nuts for the sheep. Then comes cat litter and big bags of shavings. Everything our animals need has to be in stock before the real bad weather starts.

## **The Wild Bunch**

At Socelex, it's been a busy year again with lots of animals needing our care. We've had a lot of kittens and young cats in a very bad condition, with fleas and eye problems, the cause is usually because they simply haven't been looked after properly, or because they were taken away from their mother too soon.

A few of the litters we had in are also wild which makes everything that much harder to do. Just washing and de-fleaing becomes a battle, however, the rewards are good for them and for us; except for a few scratches, everything is ok.



## Jason

It's really nice when we can find a new home for an animal that comes our way and we can be sure that they'll have a good life in front of them. All the new homes are selected with special care to make sure the home and owners are the best and that the new pet is going to be cherished and loved by all the family.

A kitten is for life, some cats live way over 20 years which is a lot of care. Here's a photo of Jason, he's 23 years old, Jason is still fit and healthy and very wise. He knows that if he sits in a barrow long enough somebody will take him to where he wants to go, it's easier that way.



## Dave Dee Dozy

Three lambs came to us in July. Most of the time they are playing around in the field with not a care in the world. Here they seem to be playing 'king of the castle', that's Dave on the rock. They will live at the sanctuary permanently now, we know they will be very happy at Socelex.



As 2012 begins, we're hoping for a mild winter, with not too much snow (even though it looks nice in photos).

We wish a very happy New Year to all our members and supporter's, we thank you all for your continual support of Socelex, we could not do our work without you all.

Thanks from John and staff