



Socelex

Christmas Newsletter 2012



Blaze

Blaze was rescued by our volunteers, a growling mess, just 18 months old. He was in a very bad state of health and messy, his coat was matted and dis-coloured due to lying in his own mess, the coat was badly stained yellow and brown with bald patches. Clearly, the first thing he needed was a nice bath and another bath and another bath and another... Gradually, he was changing colour, it was like developing a photograph, until Blaze was a white dog. While being washed, it was apparent just how much underweight he was, painfully thin. For a big dog, you could see all his ribs and vertebrae, his head looked far too large for his body. But he was lovely, really happy to be clean, we could now see the real dog developing.

Next was a visit to the vet to see why he was so much underweight. He was given a thorough examination. No medical problems were found, except for a blocked anal gland, lack of muscle tone and a spine complaint. It affected Blazes tail, it was just hanging down lifeless, the vet assured us that this would correct itself as Blaze got back to condition. So he was flea treated and inoculated and put on a special diet to build him up.



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Food was to be little and often for the best results, Blaze loved his food so that was easy, put the food down and it was gone. The improvement was amazing; his attitude was getting better day-by-day. Being hand fed was good for his people responses; gradually Blaze was becoming a good boy. We think he really appreciated what was being done for him. Slowly, he started putting on weight and filling out. His coat was getting better and better, his ribs and bones started disappearing. Blaze was becoming more alert to what was going on around him. It was about this time that he started playing with a ball, running after it, but getting him to bring it back took much longer. One day, he worked it out, if he brought his ball back, you'd throw it again and again and again. This was all part of his training: getting him to come to his name, sit, heel, rollover were all new to him. We don't think he'd ever seen a lead in his life, more things for him to learn. Lots of leads wrapped around legs later, he worked it out, it was better to walk tidily.

Blaze had to go back to the vets for a check up, they were really pleased with his progress, he had put on weight and looked great. The vet said "you've got a good-looking Husky Mute there, a handsome dog" and recommended Blaze to be neutered in order to help with his weight problem but otherwise he was given a clean bill of health.

Blaze is now a loving family pet, part of a family that loves him. He can look forward to a long life with his new people.

Good Boy Blaze.

Claude

Claude came to the sanctuary after falling fowl of his neighbours. He's a good-looking cockerel, small but perfectly formed. Claude was meant to be part of the good life for his owners. The crowing got too much for people around where he lived so he had to go.

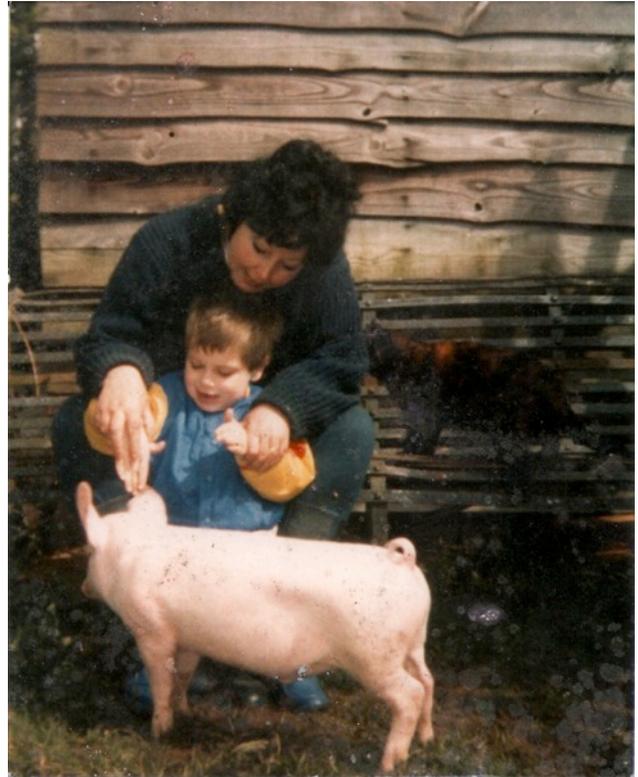
We've given Claude a permanent home here at the sanctuary where he can crow as much as he likes. We rather like to hear him, a great sound of the countryside.



Looking through some old photo's recently, I came across this one of Cleo the cat, Ben, Luke & Maria. It must be from the 1980s, it looks as if Ben and Luke are about the same age. Ben was the famous Socelex pig; he was on television and had a write-up in 'Bella', a woman's magazine. Luke is the grandson of Christine from Interaid.

Interaid in Cryws Road, Cardiff has been an important part of Socelex for over 30 years. Many of our members have taken goods and pet food to her, thank you all.

Interaid will always welcome good saleable items to raise funds for Socelex. If you're in Cardiff, have a look in there, there's always a lot of interesting, good quality articles for sale. Plenty of tapes, CD's, DVD's, books and clothes as well as lots of bric-a-brac and more. Buying, selling or donating, Interaid is the place.



At Socelex, we've had another busy year, it seems to have gone by so fast and plenty of animals needing our help.

The weather has been bad, no summer to speak of, I just hope we have an easy winter and a nice spring.

Best wishes to you all and thank you for your support.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to you all from the animals, John and the team.