

Socelex

Newsletter Christmas 2016



Hello from Tommy

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year!

A Brief History of Socelex

As a child, Maria Hennessy's dream was to run away and join the circus. When she grew up, she got a job in London before landing her dream job; however, the dream became a nightmare when she found how badly the circus elephants were being treated. Angered by this, she began to collect evidence of their mistreatment. Her



quest led her to hitchhike to Nepal, India and then on to Japan to tend sick circus elephants where she hired a Jumbo jet to fly them to a safari park in Argentina.

In 1975, Maria went to Afghanistan and persuaded army guards to let her into a compound to help an injured elephant. It was then that she founded Socelex (the Society against Elephant Exploitation). Maria soon found that other animals needed her help and Socelex expanded to include any animal that needed care.

Maria learnt a lot about animal medicine and was able to nurse them herself but in August 1996, Maria died of cancer. Her brother John and son Shane, with a small team of volunteers, carried on her work but running a sanctuary is a full-time job so they had little time for fund-raising.

In 1996, Diane Allen visited Socelex through her work with the Cat Protection League and fell in love with the place. She had a lot of experience fund-raising for the cats and turned her skills to help Socelex. Diane helped out with the daily duties involved in running the sanctuary as well as organising the fundraising. Later on, her mobility was impaired with osteoarthritis but she still carried on her work. In 2006, Diane was diagnosed with cancer, she still tried to help where she could but her hospital treatments made that difficult. Diane died in May 2007, she is greatly missed by everyone at Socelex.



The year is now coming to an end, where does the time go? The summer flew by. No sooner did the leaves sprout than we seem to go in to autumn. Just now the trees look great: reds, golds and greens.

We've had another busy year at the sanctuary. Coping with the rain made it very interesting; mud, mud and more mud, not too good for the animals or humans. Still, we all came through it ok and we've had some lovely animals to look after. At the moment, we are looking forward to the Christmas holiday which is normally a bit hectic with vet cases. We normally get a few cases of pets with problems due to eating bones or rich food.

We hope it will be a nice Christmas for all pets and owners. Please take care.

Sid

We had a call from an animal lover about a seagull that had landed in a car park, it was in danger of being hit by a car so we went to pick it up. When we got it back to the sanctuary and looked at it, there was nothing wrong except it was very young, probably on its first flight (not very successfully). We decided to feed him up as he seemed very light. It was a job to get him to eat at first. We had to syringe feed him for a few days with liquid food. He soon got the idea and started to open his mouth to eat and what an appetite he had.

Very soon he started to brighten up and take notice of what was going on. He soon began eating without any help, Pilchards are one of his favourite foods. Sid has doubled his weight since his arrival at Socelex, he looks bigger and brighter. It should not be long before Sid flies away. At the moment, he is living in a compound with our geese. When he's ready, he will go when his wings are strong enough. Sid exercises them all the time, rehabilitation prior to release. He knows what to do.



Charlie

When we first met Charlie, he was in a very sorry state with a severe leg wound. In shock and in a lot of pain waiting for somebody to help him. At the time of his accident he was living under a garden shed, being fed by a nice lady and gentleman. Charlie had turned up at breakfast time at their back door with horrendous injuries and crying out in pain. They went to the back door to find him there and were both shocked as he was fine a few days before.

They telephoned Socalex for help, giving us all of the details. John went to get Charlie straight away. He was rushed to our vets for emergency treatment. Within thirty minutes he was being examined by a vet and nurse. You can't believe it but Charlie was purring like anything. Unbelievable, I think he was glad that he was being helped.

The vet, nurse and John were trying to work out what had happened to Charlie. Between us we came to the conclusion that his foot had been caught in a wire trap, maybe a snare because of the hair that had been stripped from his leg. We will never know for sure that caused the injuries to the cat but we know that he went missing for some time. Thankfully, he made his way back to where there were people to help.

At the vets', Charlie had to be sedated for the wounds to be treated. He was then hospitalised for a few days to recover. We picked him up and took him to Socalex for convalescence. Charlie was on a special diet for some time to get him back on his feet. After a few days, he started washing and grooming himself. This was good but unfortunately it led to him removing the dressing on his leg so we had to take him back to the vets for a new dressing.





The girls at the vets loved seeing him and I think he liked seeing them too. He removed the dressing three times but the wound healed nicely. He was walking normally after three weeks, putting his foot to the ground. After four weeks, he was booked off by the vet.

He was then looking for a nice home and the lady who telephoned Socelex about him called to see how Charlie was. She was told he was good and then she asked whether a home had been found for him yet. I told her we were looking and arranged to take Charlie to see her. She was amazed how friendly he was. "I will look after him" she said and it could not have worked out better. Charlie now has a lovely home with two nice people to look after him. At the sanctuary, we missed Charlie but that is what we do.

Here's Charlie at his new home looking very good. The lady said he's settled in very well. He loves the garden and has his own chair. I've visited him a few times and it's nice to see him. Best of luck Charlie.



Muma

In April, a pet Ewe gave birth to twin black lambs but the mother would not feed them. We had to feed them with a special milk, they were no trouble to feed. They soon emptied the bottle and they kept on saying "Maw, Maw, Maw". Very soon they were out of danger and putting on weight.



The next job was to get the mother to feed them herself. We spent hours massaging the mother to get the milk to flow. We collected some milk and then fed it to the lambs. We laid the ewe on her side and rubbed the lambs mouths on her teats hoping that they'd get the right idea, but then Muma gets up and runs away. Time to try again. First one lamb started feeding and then the other got the idea. Soon they were both feeding. Muma turned out to be a really good mum, always keeping her babies with her and they are both doing really well now. The twins are nearly as big as their mum. Strong and healthy, they can now look forward to a long life at the sanctuary.

It's 20 years now since Maria passed away. For our supporters who knew her, she was the lady that started Socelex. I hope she is pleased with the way we are running the sanctuary and that all her friends are still with us, giving Socelex a helping hand. It's the members and supporters that give us the funds to keep us going so we can help the animals like little Jimmy here. Abandoned and alone, he was sickly and starving. We got him back on his feet and after five weeks he went to a nice new home with someone to love and take care of him.

On behalf of Jimmy, the animals at Socelex, John and his staff and helpers - A Merry Christmas to you all!

