

Socelex

Newsletter Winter/Spring 2020



A Helping Hand

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.

Another year has passed, where does the time go? The saying is 'Time goes quickly when you're enjoying yourself'. At Socalex, we certainly do that. We are always busy at the sanctuary, looking after our needy animals but we do get a lot of pleasure and satisfaction from our work. There's no better feeling than seeing an animal improving day-by-day. Our work is only possible through your membership fees and donations to Socalex. Thank you all.

John, the animals and volunteers thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Here are some of the animals that you've helped this past year.

Missy

At the start of 2019, a gentleman brought a cat to us called Missy. Her elderly owner had sadly passed away and there was nobody to look after her. Missy is 16 years old and we were concerned how she would cope with the change of coming from an indoor life to live in a cattery. But to our surprise, she settled in very quickly. She loves her food but most of all she loves cuddles and doesn't stop purring. Her favourite thing to do is sunbathe and explore her surroundings at the sanctuary. She also loves chasing and pouncing on her toys. Missy is a very happy cat, beautiful as well.



Hedgehog

Over the summer, we received a call from a lady regarding a hedgehog she had living in her shed. She said she was going away for a while and was worried about him not surviving without her to feed him. So, we went over to collect the hedgehog and brought him back to the sanctuary.

We housed the hedgehog in an outdoor rabbit run with an indoor area filled with straw to keep him warm. He had a very good appetite and loved a treat of mealworms. After a few weeks of him settling in and getting used to his surroundings, we started to leave the run open and he would eat his food and leave through the night making his way back before morning. This went on for a few more weeks; he's now left the run and has found a more suitable home inside one of our log piles. He visits every night for food along with the other resident hedgehogs.



Silver

Silver was found as a kitten inside a factory and was rescued and brought to Socelex. He was very frightened at first but soon came round after lots of love and attention. He wasn't with us at Socelex for very long as he quickly found a loving home with a lady and her family in Blaenavon.



He now enjoys his time with cuddles and playtime and shares his home with a few other cats. He has grown into such a handsome boy.

Jack

In the spring, we received a call from a gentleman that had a fledgling jackdaw. So we picked him up and he spent the first few weeks at home with one of our volunteers. He was very hungry and started on a mixed paste of dog food, berry suet and mealworms. After a week or two, he was managing to eat by himself and began enjoying dried mealworms. The next step was teaching him to bathe himself. So, with a little encouragement and a spray bottle, he started hopping into a tray of water and splashing around having a great time.



Jack was taken to the vets for a check-up which brought up that he had a deformity on his foot which meant that he could not be released. But he is thriving well and is living with us at Socalex with his own indoor area and outdoor aviary. Jack has since made a friend at Socalex, Roly the Tumbler pigeon and they spend most of their days in the aviary together..



Felix

Felix started visiting Socelex a few years back. He would turn up for food and once he had filled his belly, he would be off on his way. Over the last few months, he has started spending more and more time at the sanctuary becoming more and more social with us all. He even allows us to pet him now for a few minutes. He loves laying on the patio chairs chilling out in the sun waiting for his next feed.



Where's my dinner?' One of a family of robins that nest at the sanctuary. Best wishes to you all.



Soccelex

Date: _____ Membership No.: _____

Checklist / Membership / Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Tel. No.: _____

Please tick in box or underline as appropriate:

I want to collect 1 tin / or more of pet food a week and have it collected / can deliver approximately every 3 months (please include your phone number)

Please send me information about legacies

Membership @ £5 per year

Donation

If sending a cheque, please make it payable to 'Soccelex' and quote your membership number on the back. Thank you.

Please return to: Soccelex Animal Sanctuary
Temple Cloud Farm
Crumlin
Gwent NP11 3BD
Tel. No.: 01495 211 401

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