

Socalex

Newsletter Christmas 2020



**“Animals do speak, but only to those
who know how to listen”**

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.



At the sanctuary, we've had a very busy year helping even more animals and of a greater variety as well; from mice to the largest dogs, birds and bats. We've been operating as normal through the current pandemic and calls have been coming in thick and fast. We have had to perform our work with personal safety in mind at all times and although sometimes difficult, our team have carried on regardless.

Thank you all on behalf of the animals. Without our supporters and members, we could not do so much work for the animals. Our volunteers have put in so much work this year, it's unbelievable. Thanks to you all.

Let's hope next year is better.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year!

John

Little Bat

We were called by a member of the public that had found a young bat on his garden path, he was very cold, and his breathing was very shallow.

We slowly warmed him with a hot water bottle until he became more active, then fed him mealworms. After 24 hours, he was ready to be released back to the area he was found.



Fox Cub

We had a call from a lady that had been out walking and saw a tiny fox cub fall down the mountain onto the footpath. She had left the cub for a few hours to see if the mum would come for him but on returning he was still in the same spot, cold and shivering. We went to see the fox cub and we took him back to the sanctuary.

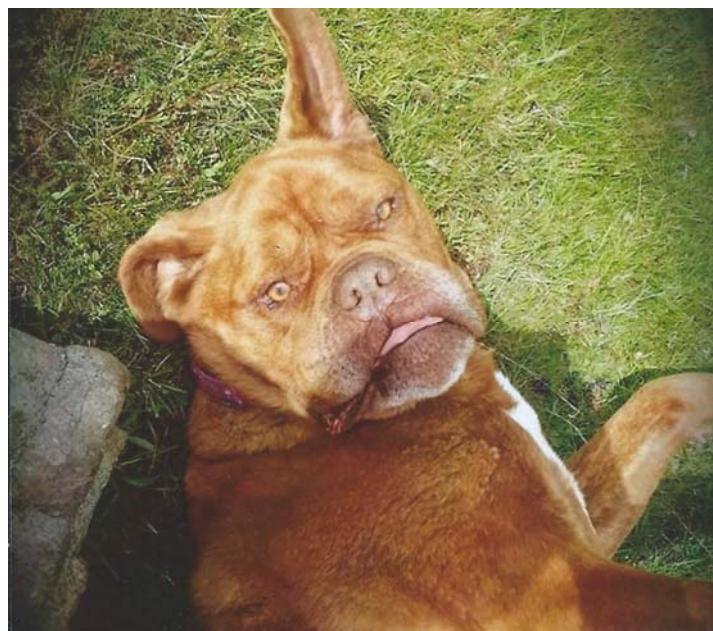
By this time, the little fox was very hungry so we put him in a warm bed and fed him. We called Evesham Wildlife Rescue later that day and drove the little cub up there the following morning so he could be rehabilitated with other cubs. A few weeks later, we spoke to the staff at the rescue and he was doing really well and had been moved out into the release area with the other foxes.



Amber

Amber came to us due to her owners not being able to care for her anymore. She is a very happy, loving dog but was very shy when first arriving. Over the next few days she began to play and bark for attention. Amber loves running free in our field and isn't at all phased by the other animals.

She loves cuddles but sometimes thinks she's a lapdog, her size shows that she clearly isn't. Everyone that meets her falls in love with her. She is such a beautiful loving dog.



Baby Mice

Three little mice were found inside a mattress during a clear out. Sadly, the mother had passed away so we were asked if we could take the mice in and give them a chance. We picked the mice up from Llangynidr and brought them back to the sanctuary; they were so tiny but able to eat by themselves.

The next day, we were asked to take in another baby mouse that had been caught by a cat. He didn't seem to have any injuries; he was just very quiet. We put all four baby mice together and they quickly became friends. They were all doing very well and will all be released in the spring.



Hedgehog

A little hedgehog was brought in after being found out in the daytime walking around in circles. After closer inspection, we could see he had a lot of ticks which we successfully removed and he was a lot more comfortable.

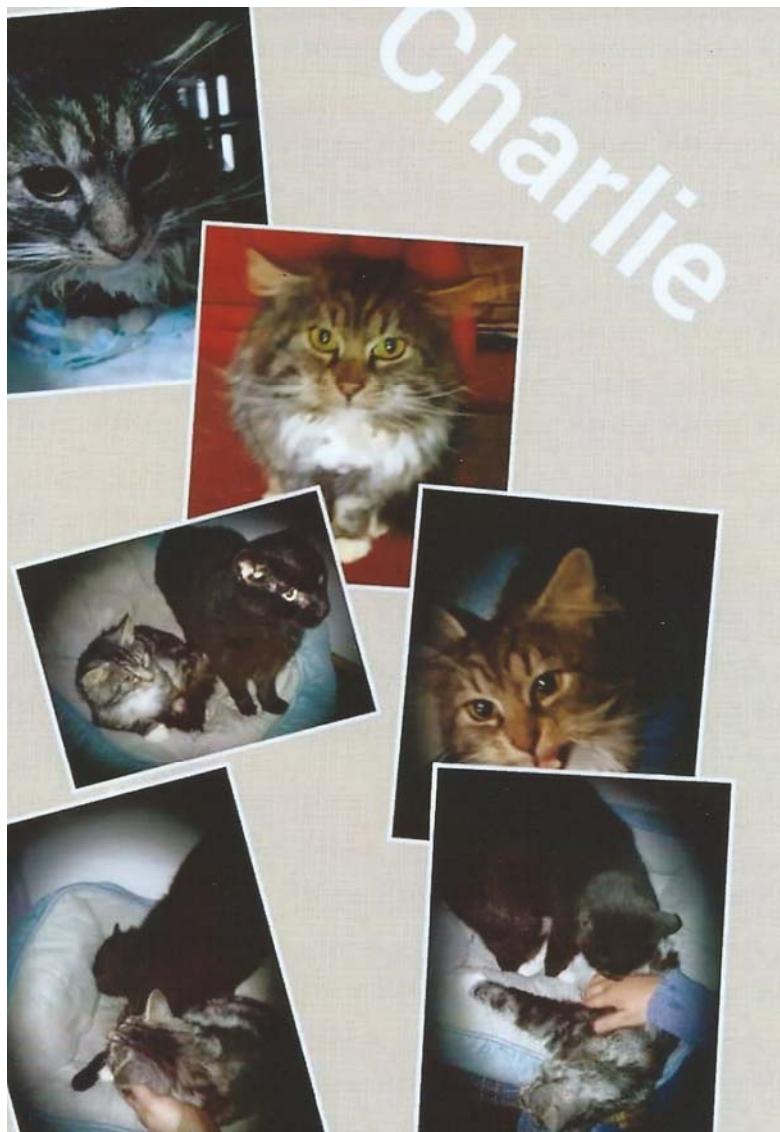
The hedgehog had a great appetite but we noticed he couldn't see very well; after a check-up at the vets it was confirmed he was blind. Sadly, he cannot be released into the wild, but we can look after him at the sanctuary; he'll have a safe environment to roam around in and will be well fed.



Charlie

Charlie was living as a stray for a long time but slowly a lovely lady called Charlotte earned his trust and was able to feed him and sometimes give him a little stroke. Charlotte reached out to Socelex to see if we could help him as he was in a pretty bad way. His fur was very matted and he was quite thin.

We took a cat basket up to Charlotte and asked her to try and get him to go inside to eat and close the door. Once she caught Charlie, we picked him up and he was taken to the vets to get his matted hair shaved and to be neutered. He then went home with one of our volunteers to recover. Charlie was very nervous at first and would try and bite and scratch but over the next few months he became such a loving cat. He now spends his day running around with his new friend Tommy.



Hope you enjoyed our animal stories.

Hope you all have a nice 2021.

John & Jen & Staff



Socelex

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 'Socelex' and quote your membership number on the back. Thank you.

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

Office Use:

