



fat fluffs
Rabbit Rescue & Rehome



Issue 13

November 2011 Newsletter

www.fatfluffs.com

Registered charity no 1124870

Thank You's All Round!!

These past few months have seen quite a bit of change and we are really delighted to be seeing so many new people coming on board to support us. I would particularly like to mention Sarah, who is our new foster co-ordinator and Jackie, our new re-home co-ordinator. They have already made a big impact on the running of Fat Fluffs and been a great support to the team. We are really excited to welcome them on board! A massive thank you to you both!

With our foster mums and dads back from their summer holidays the number of bunnies coming into rescue has increased significantly and we have been really busy. Nosey, Arnold and Dawn have been introduced to the sanctuary buns and are now officially Fat Fluffs and are fitting in really well.



We were delighted to be awarded a grant by the Animal defence trust earlier this year to help towards the renovating of our HQ and work has started on giving the tired place a face lift. Again, thank you to those who have lent a hand doing this - Jackie and Jo in particular. There is still work to be done so if you have a spare few hours we have a spare paint brush and kettle is always on!!

Chloe Fluff

Fat Fluffs is a rabbit rescue and sanctuary based in Solihull in the West Midlands. We take in all sorts of rabbits and, as far as possible, we find them loving forever homes. For those with more challenging personalities, or continuing health problems, we provide sanctuary for them here and they stay as part of our family.



Events Update

September and October have been busier than ever for Fat Fluffs events! It started with a successful and fun weekend at The Black Country Boating Festival at Netherton, raising £350 for the buns. Our events shelter was admired by many and bunnies Mokka and Macy certainly had lots of admirers! It's always good to spread the rabbit rescue and welfare message a little further across the West Midlands!

On September 18th we hosted our 3rd "Love Your Bunny" event of the year, welcoming vet Claire Davies to give all the visiting bunnies an MOT! Again we had lots of new visitors bringing their rabbits for a health check, nail clip and lots of advice about diet, housing, vaccinations and more. We look forward to another LYB, provisionally scheduled for 12th February 2012.

Friday, September 23rd brought our annual "Shizzle& Stuff" tabletop sale, this year at Olton Friary. A wide variety of stallholders supported this event alongside our own Fat Fluffs trading, tombola and refreshments. Some people started their Christmas shopping early (or treated themselves!) resulting in £505 takings for the buns – which was a great result!



The highlight of our recent events though has to be our first Fat Fluffs' Charity Quiz on Thursday, October 13th. Dave at 'The Highwood' in Solihull had kindly donated us the venue and quiz prizes whilst husband-Fluffs Julian and Ross wrote and delivered the quiz. The room was absolutely packed with eager quizzers who also tried their hand at the Irish Bingo and raffle. At times you could definitely hear the cogs whirring (!) but there was lots of laughter too and a great atmosphere, added to by a delicious buffet supper during the interval. Congratulations must go to Dianne's team "Universally Challenged" who were triumphant and a big thank you to everyone who supported the event, resulting in a profit of £326 for the Fluffs. We have already made a provisional booking with 'The Highwood' for another quiz on Saturday, February 4th 2012 – so make sure it's in your diary!

And as 2011 comes to a close we would love to see friends old and new at our, now traditional, Fat Fluffs Festive Fundraiser (FFFF) on Saturday, December 3rd at FFHQ between 12 noon and 4pm. Come along for a cuppa and a catch-up! The decorations will be up in the barn and conservatory, the burgers on the BBQ, the tea urn on the boil and the sanctuary and rescue bunnies ready for lots of fuss in the garden and barn. Add to that our fundraising stalls, toys and treats for your furry friends and the ever-popular tombola. Please submit your RSVP at: www.tinyurl.com/FatFluffsRSVP2011 so that we can cater for the BBQ and prepare for the number of visitors expected. Thanks! If you need the full address of HQ then don't worry, you will be given it when you submit your RSVP. Looking forward to seeing lots of you on December 3rd!

Abi Fluff

Dates for your diary

December

Saturday 3rd Fat Fluffs Festive Fundraiser @ Fat Fluffs HQ, Solihull

February 2012

Saturday 4th Charity Pup Quiz (provisional) @ The Highwood, Solihull

More dates to be confirmed

If you know or hear of any events we could attend we'd love to hear from you. Please contact abi@fatfluffs.com

www.fatfluffs.com

Please remember to check out our website and blog for regular news and updates. We also have an online shop



Recycle your Mobiles & Cartridges



As well as helping the environment, Fat Fluffs can benefit from recycling your mobiles and printer cartridges.

Contact vickie@fatfluffs.com for more details



Please support Fat Fluffs on ebay

ebay sellers can support us by donating a percentage of the item sale to support FF. We now have official charity status through 'Mission Fish'



www.twitter.com/fatfluffs

Welcome To Our New Fosterers...

Fat Fluffs would like to say a big thank you to our newest fosterers Debbie Court and Chrissy Erskine! If you too are interested in fostering bunnies while they wait for their forever homes please contact foster@fatfluffs.com.

If you've adopted and wouldn't mind sharing your story, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your story and, if possible, a photo to abi@fatfluffs.com. It would be great to hear how your buns are doing. More stories can be found at fatfluffs.com/articles.



Zoe

One Friday afternoon after returning home from work, we came across a rather wet and sorry looking rabbit in our garden. Attempts to find the owner came to nothing, so we unexpectedly became the owners of a bunny who became, in the absence of any sort of creativity on our part, Mr Bunny. This name was quickly regretted by us when called out by the vets in a crowded surgery!



On reading what we should do with our new pet, we found that he should really have a bunny friend, so one internet search later, we contacted Chloe at Fat Fluffs and arranged a bunny date with Zoe (now Mrs Bunny, the light brown one on the pic shown).

It wasn't love at first sight (more like bite and scratch at first sight...) but after just a couple of days, Mr and Mrs Bunny were like an old married couple! Like all good wives, Mrs Bunny gives the orders and Mr Bunny follows blindly in the hope of a quiet life!

Both bunnies have a very happy life and enjoy such worthwhile pastimes as eating Stuart's herbs, avoiding the cat next door and chillaxing in their hutch. Watching the bunnies binky around the garden and run around like lunatics has quickly become our favourite pastime.

Sandra & Stuart

Rehoming Co-ordinator

When I adopted my pair of gorgeous rex rabbits from Fat Fluffs I was so impressed with the team I offered to volunteer for them. I felt welcomed by Fat Fluffs and have helped in a variety of ways from manning stands, fostering, home checking, vet runs and even helping paint the bunny shed.

Recently I was offered the role of Rehoming Co-ordinator and was happy to accept, although immediately surprised at the amount of work which goes on behind the scene! Homechecks are an essential part of the rescue to ensure that when our rabbits go to new homes they will have the love and care they need and to help ensure the adopter knows what is involved in caring for a rabbit.

I aim to arrange homechecks promptly and let the prospective adopters know the outcome as soon as possible. Part of my role is educating potential adopters so sometimes I need to discuss amendments they need to make and offer them support in carrying them out. No one is perfect but the main thing is people are willing to learn.

We couldn't cope without the help of kind volunteers who give up their own free time to carry out the homechecks and I do all I can to support them. Homecheckers gather the information we need and feedback to us so we can then make a decision on whether or not the potential adopter can give a Fat Fluff a suitable home.

The most rewarding part of being the rehoming co-ordinator is knowing I have helped in the process of finding a forever home for one of our bunnies which also helps free up a space for another one to be rescued.

Jackie Fluff

Unwanted Gifts Always Gratefully Received!

Please think about donating any of your unwanted gifts or other items to the Fat Fluffs tombola as this is a very successful fundraiser for us. If you have anything you can donate please e-mail Vickie@fatfluffs.com.

Thank you!

Can you spare a little time?

We have lots of events planned. If you could spare us an hour or two to rattle a tin or help support the team, please email abi@fatfluffs.com and we'll be sure to put you to good use!

Raise funds as you search

Use easysearch every time you search the web and Fat Fluffs will get 50% of the fees paid by sponsors.
fatfluffsrr.easysearch.org.uk



As Chloe mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we have some new residents in the Fat Fluffs sanctuary, unable to be rehomed for medical reasons. Nosey, Stripe, Arnold and Dawn have also joined Laurel, Beckham and Charlie Too as buns that are looking for generous people to sponsor them through our "Sponsor-a-bun" scheme.

To sponsor a long-term bunny we ask for a £24 donation for the year – this can be a one-off payment or you can set-up a standing order for £2/month. You will receive a welcome pack including a 2012 FF calendar, details of your chosen sponsor bun, a coaster, a keyring and a FF badge plus your bunny will send you a surprise on your birthday and at Christmas. Throughout the year your chosen bunny will then e-mail you new photographs and updates of what they have been up to

Sponsoring a bunny makes an unusual gift for someone who has everything – and they're always very welcome to come along to FF and meet their bun!

For more details click on 'Sponsor a Bun' on the website menu or go to: www.fatfluffs.com/donate/sponsor





Pasteurella in Rabbits – Not To Be Sniffed At!

By Cat Henstridge BVSc MRCVS

Pasteurella is a bacteria which is fairly common in rabbits and it can affect them in a variety of ways. Many rabbits will carry Pasteurella in their systems without any problems for years but in some it can cause problems and become ingrained so they require long term treatment.

The symptoms of Pasteurella will vary depending on where the infection is. The most common problem it leads to is a nasal infection called 'Snuffles', the symptoms of which include a snotty nasal discharge and sneezing. Sometimes the rabbit will clean the snot away as soon as it appears, so you have to look for the telltale signs of dry crusting on the front paws where they have wiped it away. It can also spread to the chest and cause pneumonia.

Middle ear infections caused by Pasteurella can be particularly distressing; giving them a head tilt and balance loss. Abscesses caused by the infection can appear anywhere on the body but they are most often seen in the tooth roots, causing significant dental pain and loss of appetite.

Many rabbits are infected with the Pasteurella bacteria but show no symptoms at all as their immune system keeps it in check. However, if they become stressed or ill for another reason, for example poor diet or housing, the infection can flare and take hold. Most infections can be successfully treated with anti-biotics and your vet may want to do tests to find out which one will be the most effective.

In some bunnies the infections can never be cleared (especially in Snuffles or tooth root infections) but regular or continual use of antibiotics can keep them under control.

It can be difficult to stop a rabbit picking up Pasteurella and many will come to their owners already with an underlying infection. However, keeping a bunny well fed, healthy and happy can keep their body strong enough to prevent it from causing problems. One final thing, Pasteurella can, rarely, infect humans, especially if they are immunosuppressed, so any bunnies suspected of having an infection, should be kept away from people who are ill, the very young and the very old.

FSI's Great Big Small Charity Car Draw

After 4 months of selling tickets for the FSI's Great Big Small Charity Car Draw the 2011 draw came to an end on the 16th September.

After all our volunteer sellers returned their tickets in a timely manner Sally Fluff worked her magic and ensured that the sold tickets and the all-important cheque from the paper ticket sales reached the FSI's headquarters well within the deadline for returns.

I am pleased to report we were only 8 tickets short of our target of 788. We managed to sell a whopping 706 paper tickets and 74 online tickets. Although we didn't quite reach our target of 788 tickets we did manage to sell 117 more tickets than last year.

This year's ticket sales have raised a fantastic £1485.12 which will be going towards a much needed Bunnymobile

for Fat Fluffs to help with chauffeuring bunnies to and from the vets safely and securely and for taking our ever-expanding events equipment to the numerous events we attend throughout the year.



Out of 193 charities taking part we were in the top 23 for ticket sales which is fantastic for a small rabbit rescue.

This year's draw took place on 25th October but sadly the winning ticket was not bought from Fat Fluffs. The winner was a lady supporting the 7th Dudley Scout Group and she got to drive away the Fiat 500.

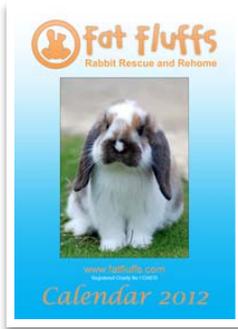
I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to everyone for getting involved and selling raffle tickets on behalf of Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue and to everyone that brought tickets. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated and it really helps to make a difference to the lives of all the bunnies that come to Fat Fluffs. A special mention must go out to Claire Sturrock and her team at Blush Beauty who managed to sell over 130 tickets!

Carrie



Fat Fluffs Trading

Fat Fluffs have opened an eBay Shop. Over the next few months you will see our shop expand so you will be able to buy Fat Fluffs items on eBay. To access it just search for Fat Fluffs on www.ebay.co.uk



Our 2012 Calendars are out! Priced at just £8.50 the calendar features rabbits who have been through the FF rescue and remained close to our hearts. Is your adopted rabbit a star?

The Fat Fluffs Christmas Cards are just £1.80 a packet on our shop and eBay. Available in 2 designs - Snow pals and Christmas trees.

Our new clothing range has just been launched featuring ladies' and men's fleeces and gilets. They will be coming soon to our website and available at our FF Festive Fundraiser. If you would like to pre order items before the FFFF, please drop Sarah an email on sarah@fatfluffs.com



Sarah Fluff



Everyone knows it's a hard life being a bunny and everybun needs a holiday now and again, be it a romantic weekend away or a few weeks in the sun...



If you need somewhere for your rabbits to put their paws up for any length of time and for whatever reason, why not give Fat Fluffs a call?

We provide expert care for your rabbits. Experienced staff are on hand at all times to tend to their needs and you can relax knowing they will be well cared for.



Giant breeds and groups are all welcome and will enjoy a relaxed stay with time in the sun and space to kick up their heels!

What are you waiting for? Pack your bunny bags and call Fat Fluffs!

For more details about our Bunny Boarding service, call 07737 218 035

For any other info visit the Fat Fluffs website.



For more information visit our website or email us on team@fatfluffs.com

www.fatfluffs.com

Registered Charity No. 1124870

Thank you for helping our rabbits

Some of the rabbits that come to us are either too unwell to be rehomed or have some emotional scars that just won't heal, so they stay here to be looked after and live happy lives. They are all neutered, as long as they are well enough, vaccinated routinely and given the vet care they need.

If you would like to help support us in looking after these bunnies then please consider sponsoring a bunny for a year. It only costs £24.

It is easy to do, just hit the donate button at the top right of the home page at www.fatfluffs.com.

Alternatively, please complete this form and send it to us together with your donation. It could also make a great gift for someone who loves bunnies or for someone who already has everything!



- I enclose a cheque for £..... as a donation.
- I would like to fundraise for Fat Fluffs. Please contact me.

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Signature Date

- I wish to gift aid this donation and any further donations to Fat Fluffs.
- If you do not wish to receive any future Fat Fluffs information please tick here.

Please make your cheque payable to 'Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue' and send it to :
Fat Fluffs Rabbit Rescue. 9 Moat Lane, Solihull, West Midlands. B91 2LN

Donate today