

### News hounds trip – St Francis animal shelter

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December the News Hounds went on a special trip to St. Francis animal shelter to bring in all of the donations from Ludlow Junior School. The News Hounds were given the opportunity to see various different animals such as: Rabbits, Cats, Dogs, Turkeys, Lizards and so much more. Dannie gave us a detailed tour of the entire shelter and we asked many questions.



It all started with a group of enthusiastic animal lovers who formed the shelter and named the charity after the patron saint of animals in 1953. They rescue and rehome animals such as cats, dogs, gerbils, bearded dragons and other animals but they do not rescue wild animals. Sometimes people give in their animals as they cannot look after them.



St Francis Animal Shelter haven't really had any financial problems in the past, but rely heavily on the generous donations given by fellow animal lovers. They would have to shut down if they could not attain enough money or supplies to keep the shelter operational. If they were looking after one animal for one year, then counting the vaccinations, which cost over £100, it would amount to around £450-£500 a year. At a time, they can take 120 animals, and are always looking for the right home for the animals. They take incredibly good care of the animals in the shelter and search thoroughly for the right person to collect them.

Now of course since this is an animal shelter if you want to adopt an animal you will need to pay the cost for different animals they vary between £5-£200 if you want the animal with least cost that would be a chicken or a hamster. The animal with the highest price would be the dog with a price of £200 and cats being the second highest with a price of £60. Some people have come back to reclaim a rescued animal because they were not ready to part with their beloved pet and have regretted their decision about parting ways. Sometimes the centre rejects an adoption in order to keep the animals safe as some people live on

main roads. That is a hazard to the animal's lives and especially cats because cats tend to wander around the streets and could possibly walk into a road and could potentially be run over by a car. If you would like to adopt an animal, then you have to fill out an important form then the workers will decide if you are qualified to adopt an animal.



Dannie, who was our tour guide, told us all about the shelter and her experiences with it. Firstly, Dannie informed us that she previously had volunteered on the weekends when she was only fourteen but had gotten offered a paid job when she had gained enough experience to become a full-time worker. Additionally, she now works there five days a week. As well as this, we were told a rather curious story about an intelligent German Shepherd dog. The German shepherd, who had been at the shelter for a very long time, was finally rehomed and the shelter was very happy for the dog. This was until they got a worrying call from the owner, saying that the owner's car had been stolen with the poor animal inside. Despite all of this, the remarkable creature managed to find St Francis from miles away. After what he had been through, he was finally taken back to his home and looked after again safely at home.



St Francis have five paid staff and different volunteers depending on the time of year. Most staff claimed that they always build up a relationship with the animals and then get emotional to see them go to a new home. Not like many other shelters, they don't include any wild animals, only animals that need rescuing and rehoming. In order to keep them safe, the workers have to visit the according house. Due to this, the animal can stay happy and feel secure. Some animals don't get along and can get quite feisty and aggressive. Therefore, some animals have to stay put in separate areas. Although some animals don't

get along, most get along and can play together peacefully. There were lots of lovely animals that all deserve a new home and a nice family. Our donations meant a lot to the shelter as it saved them lots of time and money. This trip helped us learn lots and understand why it is so important to help animals in need. We thank the shelter very much and we hope that in the future they will receive a lot of volunteers and donations.



By the Hamish News Hound squad; Megan , Rosina , Layton , Isabelle and Lola 😊