

Animal Sanctuary & Wildlife Rescue. Pet Rescue and Emergency Care across the UK.

SAFE AT LAST

The Magazine for Pet Lovers from the Pet Samaritans

Winter 2017

Christmas Kitten
Maternity Unit Appeal

Adventures of Perry
the Blackbird

Hedgehog
Hospital



www.petsamaritans.co.uk

Lifetime residential cat, dog and pet care service. Tel: 01246 455777 / 07872 421878

The Pet Samaritans

We're open

Every day between 11am and 3.0pm. We spend a lot of time with animals so other times it's by appointment. We don't have any full time reception staff, so please bear with us if it takes a while to get to you.

Address

We've been here for over twenty years, the sanctuary has been established for a lot longer - we were rescuing worn out horses as far back as 1954.

Our address is:

Pet Samaritans, Broomhill Mews,
Broomhill Road, Old Whittington, Ches-
terfield, S41 9EA.

We'd love to hear from you. You can reach us on the Dog and Bone on 01246 455777 / Mobile 07872 421878.

Donations

We need your help. Fund raising and regular donations help us to keep going. Without your support we wouldn't exist. A one off donation or a regular monthly contribution goes a long way to helping us with vets fees, food bills, heating and water for the animals. All funding goes directly to the care of the animals. Find out more ways you can help at www.petsamaritans.co.uk.

Paw prints on my heart.....

You came into my heart one day, so beautiful and so smart
A dear and sweet companion I loved you from the start,
And though I know the time will come, when we will have to part,
You'll never be forgotten, I have your paw prints on my heart.



In this issue, we remember the life of Joan Bentley, founder of the Pet Samaritans. She passed away last November after a long battle with illness. She was an animal lover and devoted her life to rescuing, campaigning and caring for all creatures great and small. She was particularly fond of cats and was rarely seen without some feline companion in her arms or resting on her lap. In 2013 she was recognised for her service to the local community by winning the PeakFM Local Heroes award.

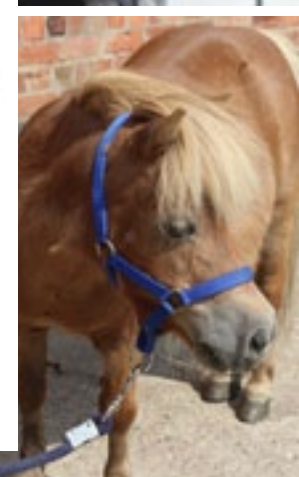
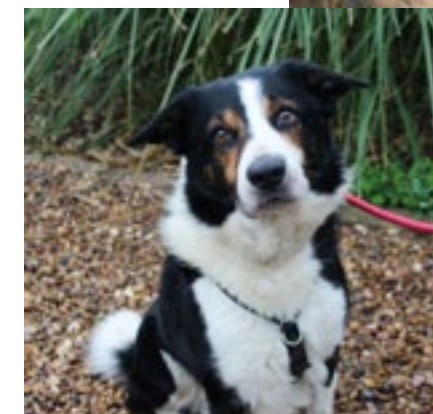
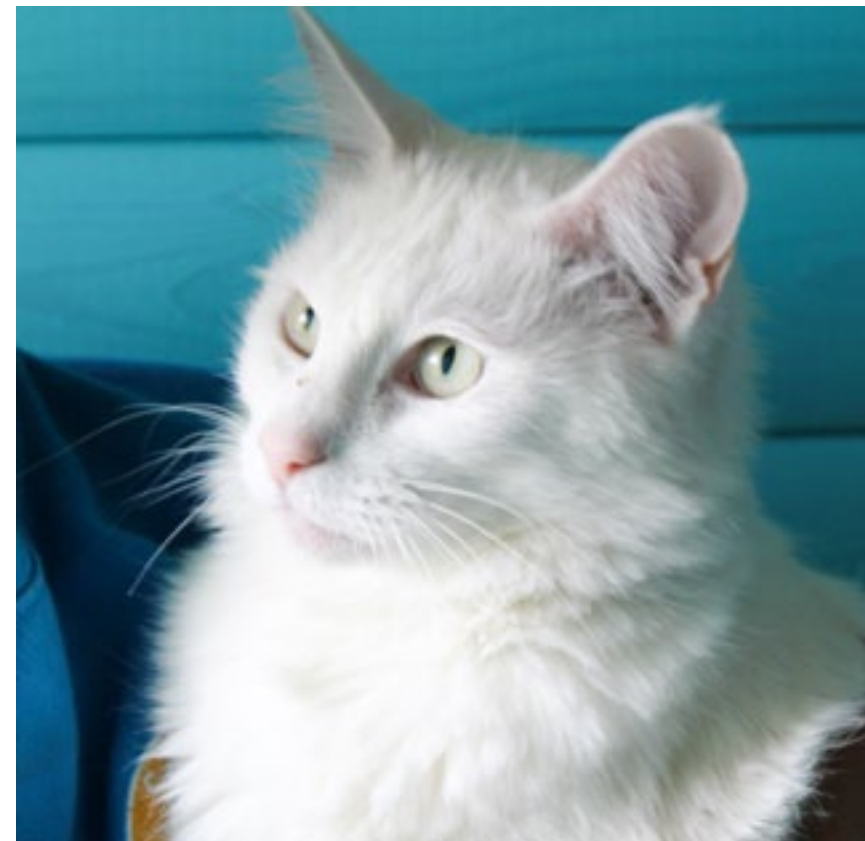
In memory of Joan and her last wishes before she passed away, we rebuilt the Cat Cabin where she spent most of her days tending to cats and rescued animals. She was particularly fond of log cabins having visited Canada and so we re-created a one for the sanctuary cats based on plans she had drawn. It's been a great success and enabled us to help a great many more cats this year. Many thanks for all the people who made it possible. She would be proud of you all.



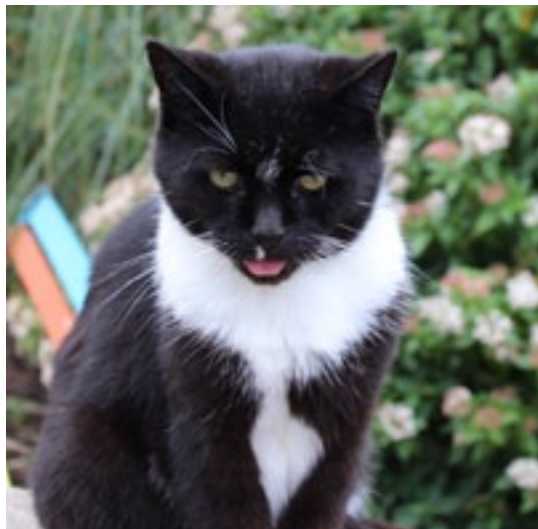
Best wishes

Laura, Dan and all the team
at the Pet Samaritans

Sanctuary Life



Welcome Friends



We care for creatures of all kinds from tiny gerbils to large horses. While we try to find homes for the animals brought in, there are inevitably some who can't go on to a new place. It's rare that we find a home for an old horse or pony. They've usually been through such a lot of trauma before they come to us, that a home for life at the sanctuary is the best outcome. If we didn't exist many of them would end their days at a market. A sad end for a noble animal. We take in injured wildlife and hedgehogs all year round. Hedgehogs are quirky and amazing little creatures but their numbers are in

decline. We save as many as we can, it would be a sad world if there were no more hedgehogs. Our campaigns for animals continue and our school visit and out reach community programs have been a great success this year. The demand for us to take in dogs and cats increases every year. We provide emergency pet care - sometimes it's for life. It's the happy endings that keeps us going.

Thanks for all the support this year. Without fellow Pet Samaritans like you, we couldn't do what we do.

It's all about kittens

We've had lots of kitten rescues this year and pregnant cats who've turned up in boxes at the gate, so we're always busy vaccinating and doing health checks. Most of the kittens have settled in with new families. It's been a great success. Others are still too young and need a bit of socializing before they can find a family to love. Kittens shouldn't be spayed or neutered before six months but we have the adult cats done as soon as they have said goodbye to their little ones and are fully recovered.

If you have some time to spare, come along and help us socialize the kits. The more they are handled, the less afraid they become. When they hiss and spit, it's not because they are aggressive, just that they aren't familiar with the giant humans who pick them up. After a few sessions of fuss and cuddles, they soon come round. If you can bring kitten biscuits, formula kitten milk and kitten pouches that would be great. Some of these babies have huge appetites.



Please help us raise £4000 for a new maternity unit

Kitten Appeal

Every year it's the same. Requests for help with pregnant mums and feral kittens found abandoned. We never turn them away. It's been busier than usual as we have received a lot of referrals from the larger organisations. We love them all but looking after them is quite a challenge. Special accommodation is the ideal solution. The kittens are usually frail and in poor health and vulnerable to infection in the early days. Pregnant ladies need privacy. There are sometimes complications and a few days of intensive care is necessary. Our cat cabin has been a huge success and we've helped a lot of cats as a result but we need a specialist maternity unit to help with the young ones. A little poorly kitten came to us and was so dirty, numerous baths were required. The water looked like tea after cleaning. The poor thing was full of worms and fleas and needed intensive care. This is just one of many cases we have seen this year.

We need better facilities with washing, heating and space for the mums so we're launching a winter appeal to raise £4000 to convert an existing building for the pregnant cats and kittens that come in. It will transform our ability to help them. If you can help in any way, please send a donation marked 'Kitten Unit' directly to us at **Broomhill Mews, Broomhill Road, Old Whittington, Chesterfield, S41 9EA**. Cheques and postal orders made payable to the Pet Samaritans please, or you can donate online via Paypal at www.petsamaritans.co.uk website. Thank you!

Adventures of a Blackbird

Perry came into the animal sanctuary as a very young fledgling. He was ever so tiny and we didn't know if he would pull through. After round the clock care and a few sleepless nights, he slowly improved and adapted well to his new mums Jo and Kate. He's turned into quite the character and loves to throw a strop at the pigeons that come into the center. We've released him back into the wild but he still hangs around the sanctuary and follows us on the morning rounds taking great interest in the new arrivals. At night he pops himself back into the sanctuary wildlife house. He's even learning how to make cups of tea!

Wildlife rescue is very important to us at the Pet Samaritans. We are the main wildlife care center for hedgehogs, wild birds, pigeons, ducks and the exotic in Derbyshire. If you do find

The blackbird is the most numerous breeding bird in the british isles with a population of around 6 million pairs

any wildlife in distress or need of help, do give us a call. We'll do our best to help. Running our wildlife facilities and being able to offer help requires lots of resources. We receive

no state funding and rely entirely on the generosity of folks just like you to keep going. It's a struggle at times but we keep going so we can offer this vital service. If you can make a regular small donation each month, it would help us we continue our important work.

Just a few pounds can help with our veterinary and food bills and allow us to care for more birds just like Perry that are brought into the sanctuary on a daily basis.

If you are visiting and spot Perry doing the rounds, don't forget to say hello.

The song of the blackbird is arguably the most beautiful and best-loved of any British bird, as well as being the most familiar. The first blackbird song of the year can usually be heard at the end of January or early February, though urban birds often start earlier. Blackbirds typically like to sing after rain. The song period continues well into the summer, but it is unusual to hear sustained song much after the middle of July.



Puddle Duck Ranch

Our new duck enclosure made a splash with our feathered friends. The mandarin ducks rule the ranch with Duck Norris, Quacky Chan, Quack Sparrow, Duckleberry Finn, Daisy Duck, Peekaboo and Puddles taking centre stage around the pond. It's amazing how these little guys get on so well with our large Cayuga and Indian runner ducks. They even looked after our little orphan ducklings brought into the center and adopted them into the Mandarin family ranks. They enjoyed the summer months with them before going back into the wild.

Horsewatch

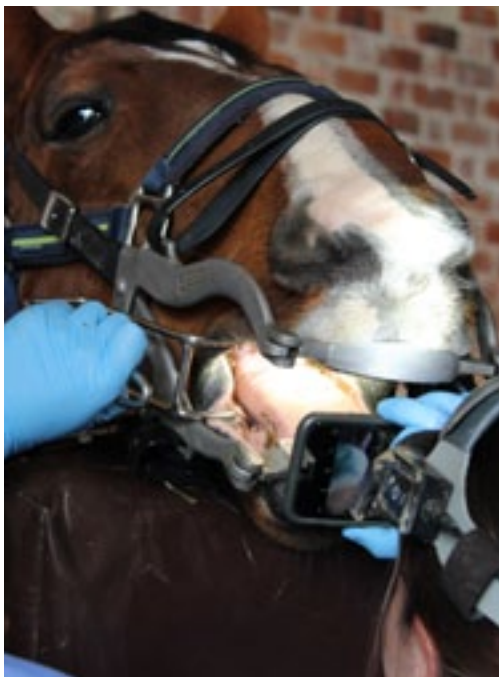
An elderly racehorse and his long time companion recently came into the sanctuary. We received a phone call regarding two large horses whose owner could simply no longer look after them. One of them was an elderly ex-champion racehorse and quite famous in his younger days. Looking after horses is a big financial commitment for an animal sanctuary but we simply couldn't turn them away as the only option left for the old one was to be put to sleep if we didn't take him in. It would have been a sad end for such a fantastic horse.

Operation horse rescue sprang into action and after some transport was arranged, the boys arrived a little sweaty but in good spirits after their long journey. They both behaved fantastic and seemed to enjoy all the fuss and attention. We turned them straight out into the fields and they had a good roll and started to eat grass. It was as if they had come home, safe at last. Sorting feet out was first priority as they had become very overgrown and cracked. The blacksmith was booked and after a trim and check, they were starting to look much better.

Laura, our sanctuary horse expert noticed their teeth looked very sharp and they weren't eating properly. A horse teeth dentist was booked. Regular teeth checkups (every 6-12 months) are essential for horses mouths just like in humans. Without regular treatment it can lead to all sorts of problems especially in older horses. It was a good call as their teeth were in really poor condition with mouth ulcers and a huge build up of plaque. No doubt it was uncomfortable for them but the good news is the dentist thought we had just caught it in time to prevent permanent damage.



Looking after horses is expensive. Many of them have health problems or are too old to be re-homed and so they stay with us for the rest of their natural lives at the sanctuary. If we didn't rescue them they would most likely be put to sleep or sent off to market. An awful end for a horse after years of service. Blacksmiths, horse dentists, vets, horse food, fencing, field maintenance, hay and bedding. It all adds up and we struggle every month to raise enough funds for them.



Sponsor a pony

We've been rescuing little and big horses for many years, when they've gone lame, been neglected or cruelly treated. Caring for our resident animals and continuing to rescue ones in need is all part of sanctuary life. Although we have to deal with cruelty cases, we do have a great many happy endings. Your support can make the world of difference and allow us to never have to turn a horse or pony away.

It costs £25 a week to feed a horse with enough hay and feed over winter months. Our elderly horses and ponies require special supplements and additional horse food to keep them well. Every 6 weeks they require a hoof trim and every 6 months they need a dental check up. Some of our horses and ponies are better being out in the fields due to health problems with breathing and behavioural problems. They require all year round turnout. If you'd like to sponsor one of our ponies or elderly horses, give us a call or visit our website to make a donation directly to them.



Sponsor a pony on our website
www.petsamaritans.co.uk
or send a cheque / postal order to
Pet Samaritans, Broomhill Mews, Broomhill Road,
Old Whittington, Chesterfield, S41 9EA.

Hedgehog Hospital

Our hedgehog hospital has been busier than ever this year. Most people rarely see them these days but you might have heard them at night when they are mating, they can be extraordinarily noisy. We've made lots of trips to local schools to talk about these wonderful creatures and continue to promote and educate through our Wildlife community programs.



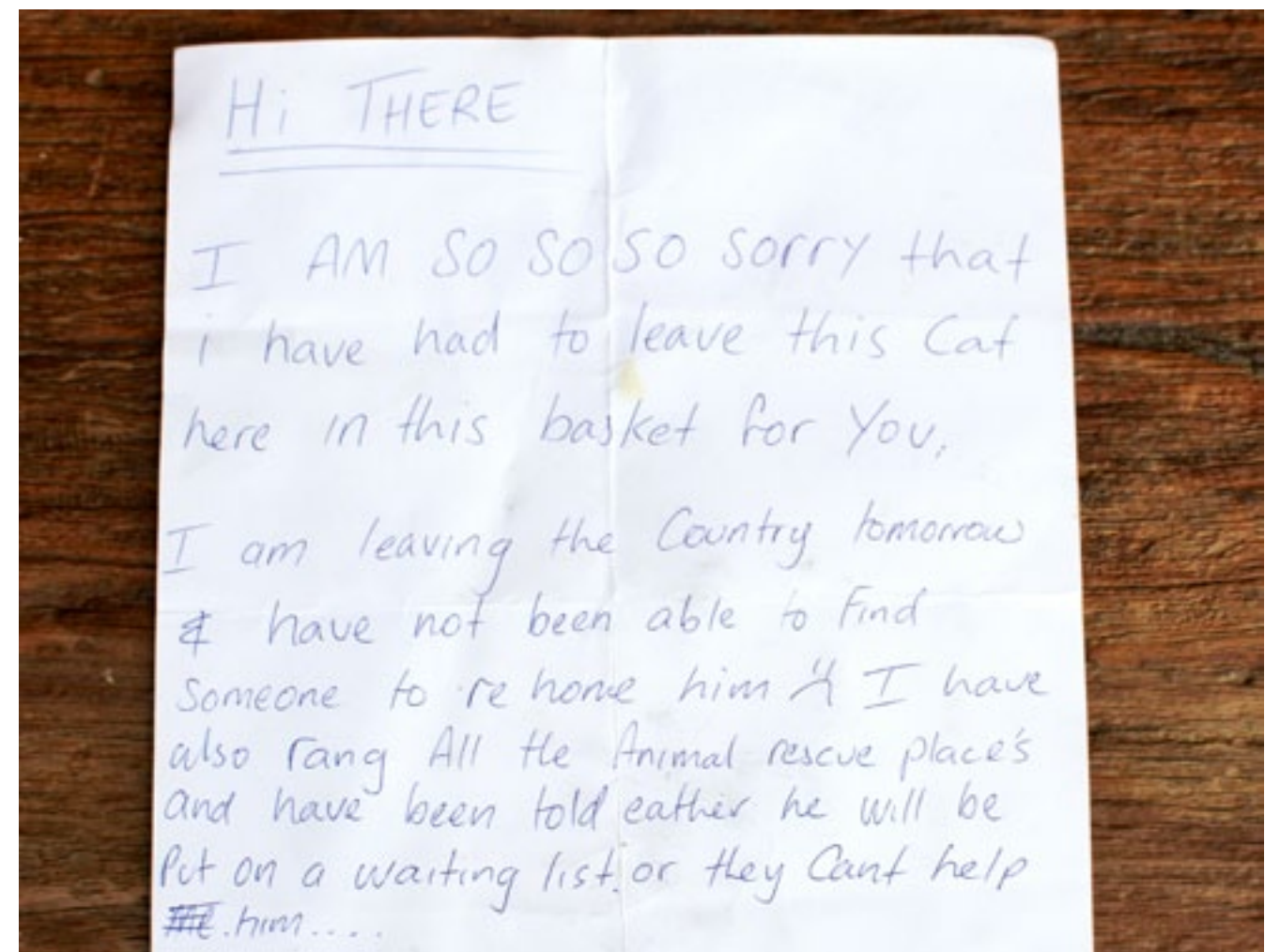
How do they mate with all those spikes? Very carefully you might joke. In fact it's quite true. Mating is full of problems in the hedgehog universe. It's not surprising to find that hedgehogs have a long and elaborate courtship ceremony involving much circling and display while the male persuades the female to lower her spikey defenses. After they mate, they part ways and the male has no involvement in the rearing of offspring.



We've had an influx of baby hedgehogs (hoglets) at the animal sanctuary. Lots of young ones are being found out during daylight hours. Most of them are hungry and vulnerable, so it's important they get the help they need as soon as possible. Without it they probably won't survive the winter months. Hedgehog babies can be born anytime between May and October. Peak time for births is June but mature females can have a second litter around September. We found one little hedgehog that had collapsed at a riding school. Poor little thing was starving. He's still under intensive care but we are pleased with his progress. A hedgehog came to us with one of the worst infestations of ticks we have ever seen. We removed over 80 ticks from him. Thankfully, he made a full recovery and was released back into the wild.

Many of the hedgehogs brought to us are underweight, so they stay with us over the winter months and are released back into the wild when spring comes around.

If you see a hedgehog out and about and something looks amiss, pick them up using gloves and pop them in a little box with air holes – shredded newspaper makes a great temporary nest. We find an old tea towel is ideal to use to inspect them and they love to bury into it. Give us a call and arrange to bring them down to our Hedgehog Hospital. If you would like to sponsor a hedgehog over winter, give us a call, pop down to the sanctuary or visit us online to sponsor one through our website.



Letters from the past

We were going through the dreaded paperwork the other day when we came across this letter. It brought back memories of the cat dumped in a basket on a cold night outside our gates. The poor thing was in a bit of a state. It's just one of the many sad cases we see. Over the years we've had all sorts abandoned on our door step. It's worrying to think if we didn't exist what would happen to these pets? It's a daily struggle just to keep going, we never have enough funds to cope with demand. Still, we perform miracles when no one else can help. Safe at last, it's our sanctuary motto. Dogs, cats, goats, ponies, wildlife, farm animals, horses, ponies. how did it all begin? The roots to the sanctuary were planted just after the second world war by a Sheffield man called Colin Bentley. He'd been in the Medical Corp and was sickened by the carnage in North Africa and Italy. While he was horrified by human suffering, he was also haunted by the plight of the animals, especially the horses and mules who were killed in their thousands. When he eventually made it home, he devoted his life to saving animals. Over the years the sanctuary has evolved to become the Pet Samaritans, with the

aim to educate, campaign and provide a safe refuse for animals. You might be wondering whatever happened to the cat in the basket left out on that cold night. We are happy to say we found him a lovely home and he lived happily ever after.



Please complete your contact details



Name: _____
Address: _____

Postcode: _____
Tel: _____ Email: _____

Yes, I would like to help the Pet Samaritans with a donation

I would like to make a gift of £

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to Pet Samaritans

Please tick here if you wish to receive our acknowledgement of your gift ☐

To make a donation by phone, please call 01246 455777 or 07872 421878
or visit us online at www.petsamaritans.co.uk



Paypal donations can be made directly to: donations@petsamaritans.co.uk

If your donation is in memory of a pet or person, please tell us their name: _____

Your relationship to them: _____

***Please stay in touch:** Thank you for your support. It really makes a difference. As a charity we'd like to contact you from time to time to tell you more about our work, fundraising and campaigns. It's often cheaper for us to contact you by email and allows us to spend more money on charitable activity. If you're happy for us to contact you this way, **please tick** the relevant boxes to let us know (you can tick more than one):
By email ☐

We'd still like to contact you the more traditional ways, but if you'd prefer that **we didn't**, again just let us know by ticking the relevant boxes:
By post ☐ By phone ☐

Don't worry, you can unsubscribe at any time and we won't send you spam or junk mail or give your details to anyone else.

Join us and make a real difference to animal welfare.

Rescue, re-homing, re-hab, residential long term care, campaigns, education,
information, community involvement, newsletters, help, advice.

**"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions,
and the roots spring up and make new trees"**

Fundraising is an essential part of sanctuary life – without your help we wouldn't exist. We receive no state funding. Many of our rescued animals are unsuitable for rehoming. They stay with us for life, we never put any healthy pet to sleep. We have large vet and food bills but lots of happy endings. Your donation will help us make a real difference to Animal Welfare and the pets in our care. Your contribution is much appreciated.



Gizmo came to the sanctuary earlier this year as a little pup. His owners could no longer look after him due to a change in circumstances. He was ever so tiny when he first arrived but soon settled in to Sanctuary Life. He came with us everywhere and all he wanted was to be cuddled and loved. Such a gentle soul. We found him a lovely new family and he is doing well. We've had lots of success rehabilitating dogs with behavioural problems and helping them to find new homes. If we can't find them a home, they stay with us for life.



Please return this form with your donation to: Pet Samaritans & St Bernards Animal Sanctuary,
Broomhill Mews, Broomhill Road, Old Whittington, Chesterfield, S41 9EA
W: www.petsamaritans.co.uk E: info@petsamaritans.co.uk



Heaven

by
Rupert Brooke

Fish (fly-replete, in depth of June,
Dawdling away their wat'ry noon)
Ponder deep wisdom, dark or clear,
Each secret fishy hope or fear.
Fish say, they have their Stream and
Pond;

But is there anything Beyond?
This life cannot be All, they swear,
For how unpleasant, if it were!
One may not doubt that, somehow, Good
Shall come of Water and of Mud;
And, sure, the reverent eye must see
A Purpose in Liquidity.
We darkly know, by Faith we cry,
The future is not Wholly Dry.
Mud unto mud!-Death eddies near-
Not here the appointed End, not here!
But somewhere, beyond Space and Time,
Is wetter water, slimier slime!
And there (they trust) there swimmeth One
Who swam ere rivers were begun,
Immense, of fishy form and mind,
Squamous, omnipotent, and kind;
And under that Almighty Fin,
The littlest fish may enter in.
Oh! never fly conceals a hook,
Fish say, in the Eternal Brook,
But more than mundane weeds are there,
And mud, celestially fair;
Fat caterpillars drift around,
And Paradisal grubs are found;
Unfading moths, immortal flies,
And the worm that never dies.
And in that Heaven of all their wish,
There shall be no more land, say fish.



Herbie Dog Biscuits Recipe

Try one of our favourite doggie biscuit recipes for weight watchers. We are often asked for advice on overweight dogs. While exercise and a balanced diet are the two key ingredients to a lean fit hound, if your dog isn't losing weight even after you have cut down on the amount you're feeding, a vet check is recommended.

2 and half cups of whole wheat flour
1 and quarter cups of cornmeal
2 teaspoons garlic powder – helps with itchy skin and health
1 teaspoon dried rosemary
1 teaspoon dried parsley – great for fighting infections and overall health
1 teaspoon dried mint – great for doggie breath! Add more if you like.
1 teaspoon oregano
1 and quarter cups water
1 egg white for glazing

Preheat an oven to 190 degrees celsius, 375 degrees Fahrenheit
In a large bowl, blend all the dry ingredients together. Add water and make a bread type dough. Turn the dough out onto a light floured surface and roll to about quarter inch thickness. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters or try some freehand shapes if you are feeling creative. When done, place cookies on a baking sheet covered with non-stick foil, glaze with the egg whites. Bake for 25 to 35 minutes or until the tops are golden. If you want the biscuits to be really crispy, a good tip is to turn the oven down to a low heat, say 90 degrees celsius and bake for another hour or so.





Safe at Last

Pet Samaritans

St Bernards Animal Sanctuary & Wildlife Rescue. Broomhill Mews,
Broomhill Road, Old Whittington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 9EA.

Visit us online at www.petsamaritans.co.uk