

**POLLY POCKET
LANDS ON HER FEET**



**NORM HEWITT TEAMS
UP WITH SPCA**



**CALL OF THE WILD
FOR ROGER RAMJET**

STARVING DOG RESCUED 'JUST IN TIME'

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A severely emaciated dog was rescued by Nelson SPCA 'just in time', according to a local vet's report.

The dog, a chocolate and black Staffy cross was found wandering in Nelson. A concerned member of the public phoned Nelson SPCA because of the dog's severely emaciated state.

SPCA Inspector Dan Auger who responded to the callout says he could immediately see that the 6 to 9 month old pup was severely underweight. He brought the dog back to Nelson SPCA where it was photographed before being taken to Stoke Veterinary Clinic.

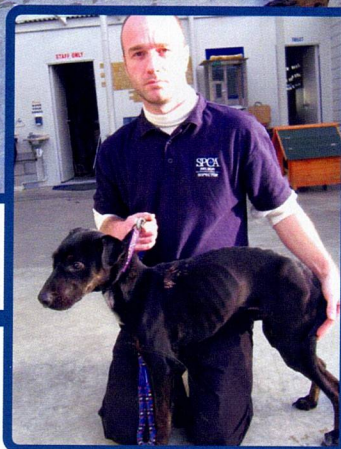
According to the vet's report, the dog should have weighed around 20kg, but

was less than half of that weight at just 9.9kg. The dog, dubbed Cody by SPCA staff had no body fat and severe muscle wasting. The report concluded that the dog would have been starved over a long period rather than experienced a sudden loss of condition. Cody had been kept in a run and was unlikely to have ever been exercised. The vet report concluded that the dog had been rescued by Nelson SPCA 'just in time', and would otherwise have died within a short period.

Within two days of being picked up by the Nelson SPCA and being properly fed, Cody had gained 2.7kg. He was surrendered to



Above: Cody now weighs a healthy 23kg and is about to be rehomed.



Left: SPCA Inspector Dan Auger with Cody when he arrived at Nelson SPCA.

Nelson SPCA and has been put up for rehoming. Since being found, Cody has gained almost 13kgs and now weighs a healthy 23kg. Cody is now enjoying being exercised twice a day and is loving having a proper healthy diet.

Cody's former owner was convicted of neglect and received a fine of \$400 + court costs.

Dan says "as inspectors, our job is primarily to educate people about animal welfare. However we are not afraid to take prosecutions when the circumstances warrant it, such as in this case. This was an obvious case of neglect and completely unacceptable."



Local Donors Offer Generous Support to Nelson SPCA as Economic Downturn Bites

Following recent publicity about how the country's economic downturn was affecting Nelson's animals, generous donors have made life a little easier for the animals and staff of Nelson SPCA.



Nelson SPCA centre manager Donna Stringer said winter was traditionally a quieter time for the shelter, however this year they had struggled to cope, particularly with the large number of dogs being surrendered. The Nelson SPCA

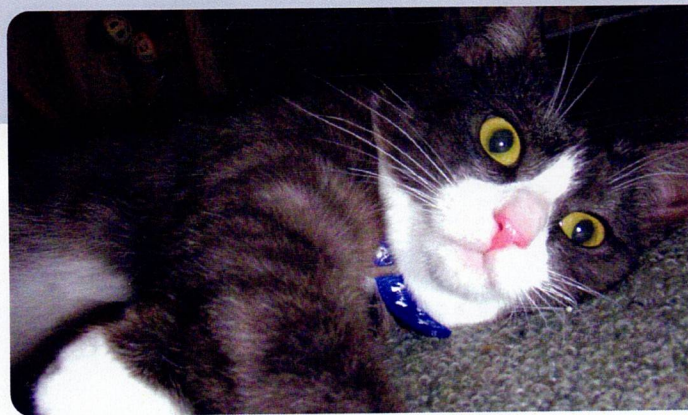
had also responded to a greater number of complaints than normal. Like other aid agencies, the Nelson SPCA was being hit with the double whammy of having to provide more aid in the face of rising costs for power, fuel and food.

Following stories in the local papers about how animals were being affected by the downturn, Donna said many people had come forward with offers of support - either financial or through donations of food and equipment.

"Our food bins were full to overflowing, and many generous people dropped in literally ute loads of food, others dropped in generous donations which helped us purchase other necessary equipment," she said.

The SPCA is purely a voluntary organisation, receiving no Government funding whatsoever, nor is the organisation eligible for lottery commission grants. It relies solely on donations, bequests and fund-raising efforts.

A big thank you to all of the generous donors who offered their support.



POLLY POCKET LANDS ON HER FEET

In June this year, we had a very cute smoky gray and white kitten brought into the Nelson SPCA that had been trapped by a concerned property owner. Although the kitten was showing some signs of being wild and feral, we hoped she was young enough that with the right care, we'd be able to change her attitude so she could be re-homed. The kitten was put into our quiet isolation room so she could get used to being around people. Our feline attendant Carmen dubbed her 'Polly Pocket' as she spent a great deal of time socializing the kitten by putting her into her jacket pocket and cuddling her to give her confidence.

It took time but eventually Carmen felt Polly Pocket was able to be put in a larger pen as she had gained confidence and would come forward to greet people. Polly made great friends with another kitten in her pen so they were good company for each other. When Krystal and Aaron came into the centre looking to adopt a kitten from us they just fell in love with Polly and decided that they had to have her. They had to wait a few days as she had just been spayed and was on medication.

Polly (now called Milly), is now living in a loving home with Krystal and Aaron. It was hard for her at first getting to know them and her new surroundings, she is now having great fun jumping all over the house and there's no doubt she loves her new family! This is a really good result as not all wild kittens can learn to trust and love people. It takes plenty of patience and love here at the Centre as well as at her new home. Our thanks go to Krystal and Aaron for taking the challenge on and to all our generous supporters whose donations enable us to help cats like Milly.



ANIMAL DESEXING CLINIC VISIT A HIT WITH LOW INCOME EARNERS

Nelson SPCA is hoping to see the first ever reduction in the number of stray and unwanted animals this kitten season, following a visit by a mobile animal desexing clinic earlier this year.

The mobile animal desexing clinic operated by roving vet Alistar McKellows, and his vet nurse wife Sue, was in Nelson between February 2 to 21. It was the first time that the mobile clinic had been to Nelson and its first visit to the South Island. During the 20 day period, Alistar and his wife

performed 426 free desexing operations, (310 cats and 116 dogs) for pet owners on low incomes.

Now well into its second year of operation, the SPCA mobile clinic has achieved more than 5000 free desexing operations for animals of low income owners around New Zealand.









Donna Stringer says spaces at the mobile clinic were fully booked weeks in advance, and the turn out rate was also very high, showing the demand locally for desexing.

"It was a huge success, it was the most animals they had ever done over that time period. We're now hoping it will lead to a reduction in the number of animals coming through the shelter," she says.

Donna said because of the huge demand for desexing, the SPCA committee was now investigating ways to be able to continue a reduced cost desexing initiative, in conjunction with local vets.

"De-sexing gets right to the source of the problem. Its definitely something that we would like to continue," she says.

Nelson SPCA WISH LIST

-  Dog kennels for puppy pens 2 needed (approximately \$120 each)
-  Small Animal Food Storage Bins 2 needed (approximately \$150 each)
-  Gates for secure dog paddock (approximately \$150)
-  Alpaca shelter (approximately \$500)
-  New isolation cages - 13 needed (approximately \$900 each)
-  Storage Shed for animal equipment & supplies (approximately \$4,700)
-  Secure dog exercise paddock (approximately \$5,000)
-  Website Upgrade (approximately \$5000)



If you can help by donating any of the above items, or would like to make a donation towards their purchase, please contact the fundraising team on (03) 547 7171 or email Donna Stringer at spca.donna@xtra.co.nz





Norm Hewitt and Tammy from Nelson SPCA deliver their anti-violence message to Nelson students.

NORM HEWITT TEAMS UP WITH NELSON SPCA TO TACKLE ANIMAL CRUELTY

Former All Black and Dancing with the Stars winner Norm Hewitt recently teamed up with Nelson SPCA to help tackle animal cruelty.

Norm Hewitt delivered a presentation on the link between family violence and animal abuse to Nelson Intermediate and Broadgreen Intermediate pupils in August this year as part of the nationwide 'One of the Family' campaign.

Norm Hewitt said New Zealand had an unacceptable rate of family violence and when he heard about research that linked family violence to animal abuse, he realised that he had something in common with the SPCA and decided to step up and do something about it.

"The SPCA's annual 'List of Shame' has

example after example of young New Zealanders torturing and abusing animals. They could be our next generation of violent criminals. But just like abusing animals is a precursor to a life of violent crime, treating animals right can have the opposite effect.

"It's proven that teaching children kindness and empathy towards animals, shows them how to treat each other the same way. And that's exactly what I am doing," he said.

Nelson SPCA centre Inspector Craig Crowley said it was a sad fact that many of the complaints of animal cruelty and neglect received by the Nelson SPCA were at the hands of children or teenagers.

"Through showing how caring for a pet can be a joyful experience, the 'One of the Family' programme aims to shift children's behaviour to being more positive

and thoughtful towards animals and others.

We hope the presentation will help to enforce the message that cruelty, in any form, is unacceptable," he says.

Broadgreen Intermediate teacher Craig Maybee said it was a thought provoking and worthwhile experience for students.

"It's just a shame that not all of our students were able to attend. We hope Norm will be able to return again next year so that all students get a chance to see it."

A key part of the 'One of the Family' campaign is assessing its effect as it is introduced to students around New Zealand. This is achieved through ongoing feedback between participating schools and the SPCA. For more information on the 'One of the Family' campaign, check out www.oneofthefamily.co.nz



CALL OF THE WILD FOR ROGER RAMJET

STORY BY
GWENDA HULL



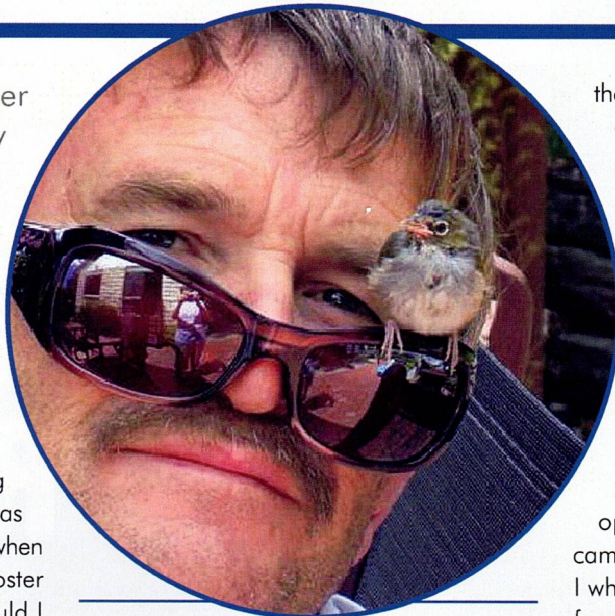
Nelson SPCA provides shelter for thousands of animals every year. While cats and dogs make up the majority of the animals surrendered, the shelter occasionally deals with other animals as well such as 'Roger Ramjet'.

'Roger Ramjet' as he came to be known, arrived at the Nelson SPCA one morning as an orphan in a cosy nest of fluff. I was going about my business as a volunteer when asked if I'd like to take him home on foster care. When I looked at him, how could I say no? As a baby waxeye he was very tiny but had a few feathers so wasn't entirely naked!

I borrowed a cage from the SPCA, put his makeshift nest into it and adopted him - little was I to know just how much he would come to adopt us as well! The next week or two was a feeding and cleaning frenzy as every time I passed his cage he appeared ravenous... and it exited just as frequently! I have newfound respect for the dedication of parent birds - it must be exhausting - and I only had the one to care for!

I made up a mixture of pharex, fruit, bread, water and anything else I figured could be mildly nutritious and mixed it to baby food consistency, feeding it to him on the end of a toothpick. I was very careful putting water down his throat as I had read somewhere that you can get it down the wrong canal very easily with birds. We put him in the hot-water cupboard at night for warmth.

Somehow Roger Ramjet survived my amateurish attempts at being bird mother and as he got stronger, I put a few branches in his cage to tempt him to sit on them but it soon became apparent that he needed a bit of tuition in this also. He slowly gained his balance and his confidence and progressed



"We missed him when he went but it was really satisfying to see him go. Now, when the waxeyes return to the garden we often wonder if there is a wee 'Ramjet' among them"

to looking like a real bird. We had practise sessions in flapping wings by him sitting on my finger and being raised up and down to get the feel of it. The next advance was to trying insects and larger pieces of fruit placed in rungs of the cage to encourage him to peck at food himself. The only insects I could find in abundance in our garden were ground dwellers and exceptionally fast! I would present my meagre offerings and Roger would come and take them out of my fingers. He was now quite adept at pecking large pieces of pear, apple and banana.

Insect catching was time consuming due to the fact that I was terribly inefficient, so I started scooping quantities of insect rich earth into an ice cream container and sat Roger in it in the hope that he would get interested in helping himself to a meal... but he was obviously very comfortable in his full-service hotel and took a wee while to catch on to the idea. However all things come to

those who wait, and one day the light went on and he suddenly began catching them himself - Eureka! This made life a whole lot easier... I could go to town and leave him to feed himself - yippee! He was so much quicker and a far more efficient insect catcher than me.

We took his cage outside during the day to get him acclimatised to 'weather' and the other bird noises etc, then one day I accidentally left the cage door open after cleaning it out and when I came back he was gone - but not for long, I whistled and there he was at my feet and from that time, he came and went in and out of his cage. He still followed me around to find his insects for him.

I decided one day that as Roger was a big boy now, it was time to leave home, so I put him up in a tree for the evening. I went out to check on him and found him snuggled up next to another waxeye. Yay! I thought, he's found a friend to teach him the ways of the big wide world but unfortunately his choice of friend was flawed as he was obviously sick and died the next day, so Roger came back to his human parents. He continued to stay out at night now though and spent longer and longer up in the trees but he still came down to sit on our shoulders, heads, or glasses. We often had a flock of waxeyes in the backyard and I was hopeful that he would hook up with them when they finally arrived. I could hear them twittering up in the trees and I would eagerly point them out to Roger. Over the next few days he spent more and more time with them and less with us until he finally graduated with flying colours and went off with the group having learnt that he was a waxeye after all and not a human - mission accomplished.

We missed him when he went but it was really satisfying to see him go and now when the waxeyes return to the garden we often wonder if there's a wee 'Ramjet' among them.





Volunteers

The first question we ask ourselves is: "If we had enough money to pay everyone for all the work that our volunteers do, would we still have volunteers?"

The answer is of course YES. We as an organisation need volunteers to help us achieve our aims and aspirations. We need a broad cross section of the community to work with us and provide feedback on animal welfare issues. Our volunteers are people with a passion for

animals, who see the need for welfare conditions to continue to improve. Volunteers want to give their time and effort freely to ensure animals are treated better.

We need this enthusiasm and encouragement. We need volunteers.

We all take our hats off to those that give their time so freely. Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

HELP WANTED

Kitten Fosterers

We need volunteers to foster mother cats and their kittens. This is an extremely rewarding way of experiencing the joys of raising kittens. It is preferred if you have a spare room for them to stay in during their time with you. Fostering is often for around 6-8 weeks, depending of the age of the kittens. We provide food, litter and everything you will need for this wonderful experience. Please call the Centre for more information.

Dog Walkers

Do you have some time on your hands and/or need some exercise? We are looking for dog walkers to offer our energetic canines some added exercise and entertainment during the day. If you have experience walking or training dogs, that is an added bonus. You must be over the age of 16 (or be accompanied by an adult). We provide leads and doggie doo bags. For more information please contact the Centre.

Dog Fosterers

We always need more people to foster our dogs on weekends. Most of our dogs go and stay with families on weekend to offer them some socialisation, exercise and just a good break from Centre life. You need a fully fenced section, landlord permission (if required) and lots of love to give. We provide all food, leads, beds and toys. If you have an occasional weekend spare, but don't want the commitment of owning a dog, this might be just what you need. Please contact the Centre for more information.

\$2 RAFFLE



WIN

a KING size bed worth \$2,100
supplied by The Linen Press

Plus loads of other prizes!

Please support the Nelson SPCA



A Mama Cat's Tale

On the 30th September I was hiding under the boardwalk in Faulkners Bush Wakefield. I'd just given birth to 4 kittens (even though I'm only a baby myself). It was very cold and wet and I was so scared, I didn't know what to do.



Suddenly a big black dog and an even bigger golden dog smelled me and started trying to get me! Their owner yelled at them to stop, and next minute this kind face peered under the boardwalk and said "It's OK, don't be scared, I'll help you". Then she disappeared, and returned a little while later with some delicious smelling cat food. I was so hungry I leaned forward and started gobbling it up, then suddenly the lady grabbed me by the scruff of my neck, gave me a big cuddle and put me gently in a cat cage. Then she reached under the boardwalk and picked up my kittens. Now this is the sad part because I thought they were dead, they were so cold & wet, and they wouldn't move. Anyway she put them in the cage with me, and carried us to her car.

We stopped at the vets and the vet came out and looked at my kittens and told the lady to go home and bury them because they were dead. Well this lady didn't believe her because she thought she had seen one of them move its tongue. So off we went in the car again, and then I was inside a lovely warm house being given a huge bowl of food.

The lady took my kittens and wrapped each one in a warm towel and started rubbing each one very gently, and she kept saying to herself "Come on, breathe, you're not going to die, you're not going to die" - then suddenly I heard the faintest little squeak from one, then another, and then another! So I started miaowing and before I knew it I was lying in the sun and my kittens were cuddled up with me and 3 of them were alive! I started purring very loudly, and the lady kept telling me how clever I was and how beautiful my babies were.

Now this lady was supposed to be packing because she was moving house in 2 days time, but she kept stopping her work to

come and check on us. She kept saying "I wish I could keep you but I'm sorry I can't as I already have 3 cats". So the next morning she gave us to her friend who works at the SPCA, and we had to say goodbye.

I'm sure you're wondering why I'm telling you my story. Well the lady who saved us heard that you might be in need of a special new furry companion, and I thought "Well how can anyone be more special than us?" We're being fostered at the moment but when we're ready to be adopted please come & visit us at the SPCA, I would love to show you my beautiful kittens, and perhaps you might decide that the time is right to give one of us a home.

The End
(or perhaps a beginning)



SPCA

NELSON



CONTACT DETAILS



Nelson SPCA

379 Waimea Road
P O Box 50
Nelson 7040



Phone: (03) 547 7171

Fax: (03) 547 7959

Emergency After Hours:

Ph: 027 436 9243

Email: nelsonspca@xtra.co.nz

www.nelsonspca.org.nz



Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday: 10.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday: Closed

PLEASE NOTE THAT DOGS
MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE
FOR VIEWING OR ADOPTION
AT WEEKENDS




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