

# Helping animals in Scotland for over 175 years



**SCOTTISH SPCA**  
Scotland's Animal Welfare Charity

## About the Scottish SPCA

**As Scotland's animal welfare charity, we rescue, rehome, rehabilitate and release animals across Scotland.**

2018 is proving to be a busy year for our Society and we're continuing to build on the successes of last year.

Demand for our services is growing, and with the recent hot weather we've seen a worrying increase in the number of calls about dogs being left in hot cars. A common misconception is that Scotland doesn't get hot enough to cause any discomfort to our beloved pets but this is simply not true. So far this year we've received **571** calls, which is an **80%** increase from last year. You can help us spread the message about the dangers of hot weather by promoting **#DogsDieInHotCars** on social media.

Raising awareness is a core element of our work and we truly believe education is the key to preventing animal cruelty in the years to come. This year we launched our **Animal Guardians** programme in the Edinburgh City Council region with the ambition to extend this free service across the whole of Scotland.

The programme helps support children who have already committed, or have been identified as being

at risk of committing an act of animal cruelty. Through offering one-to-one support, playing interactive games, and delivering a bespoke programme designed around each child's needs, we hope to break the cycle of animal cruelty and violent crime. To date, every child who has been referred to the **Animal Guardians** programme is suffering from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Together with other agencies we are determined to raise awareness of the link between animal cruelty and violent crime, how early intervention is key and encourage all to be **#traumainformed** and **#AceAware** to help break the cycle. As the programme develops it will be evaluated by the University of Edinburgh to ensure that we are truly having an impact on these young people's lives.

We are extremely proud of the work of all our teams, from the inspectorate to our veterinary department. We are gearing up to celebrate all things Scottish SPCA during Scottish Animal Week, 3 - 9 September, and we would be delighted to welcome you and your teams to come and visit us.

## The Scottish SPCA and Fife

In **your area** from January to June 2018: ▼



**1,236**

Incidents attended



**11**

Animals reunited with their owners



**100**

Animals rehomed



**4,147**

Supporters



**12,956**

Children who took part in our free education programme



**57**

Primary schools attended



**41%**

Primary schools benefited from our programme



**4**

Inspectors working in your area



**4**

Animal rescue officers working in your area

# A spotlight on...

## #SayNoToPuppyDealers

One of our largest ongoing campaigns is around our fight against the illegal puppy trade. Our undercover Special Investigations Unit spearheads Operation Delphin, a multi-agency taskforce dedicated to detecting offenders, disrupting the illicit trade and reducing animal suffering at source.

Committed to educating the public on this important issue we launched a new website, [www.saynotopuppydealers.co.uk](http://www.saynotopuppydealers.co.uk), in April.

Designed to inform the public around the dangers of the illegal puppy trade we are aiming to reduce the number of people falling victim to this immoral industry. The launch was supported by the Scottish Government and a number of key animal welfare organisations who all share the same common goal to see an end to this trade in misery.

We will continue to disrupt illegal puppy trafficking and are working closely with researchers and organisations across the UK to best utilise intelligence and resources to create a robust response to these unscrupulous traders. Our recent collaborative research with the University of Edinburgh on the impact of breeding conditions on dog's behaviour has now been published in the Applied Animal Behaviour Science journal and is available in full online.

Since the launch of the website we have received over 170 calls to our animal helpline from members of the public reporting suspected puppy farms or dealers, compared to only 36 calls from the same period last year. We have been delighted by the support from MSPs across Scotland, who have shared the website, the hashtag and encouraged members of their constituency to sign the pledge. We hope you will help us keep **#SayNoToPuppyDealers** at the forefront of the public's mind in your local community.

## Our National Wildlife Rescue Centre

Our National Wildlife Rescue Centre is now one of the largest and busiest centres in the UK where we continue to establish new rehabilitation techniques and diets for the patients in our care. Many of these techniques are now being adopted by other rescue centres.

Between the 2-8 July we celebrated our annual **Wildlife Week**. With almost 5,000 wild animals being cared for at our National Wildlife Rescue Centre in Fishcross during the first six months of 2018, and no sign of this slowing down, we were keen to highlight the expert work of our incredible animal care team.

We are currently dealing with an influx of calls from members of the public about fledglings. During June alone we received 3,888 calls concerning fledglings which is an increase of 45% on last year. Sadly, a large number of these calls are about birds that are simply learning to fly and should otherwise be left to their own devices. You can help us spread the word about fledglings by following the hashtag **#SSPCABabyBirds** and sharing our infographics on your own social media pages.

## Prevention through Education

**Pathhead Primary School** was one of **57** primary schools our education officers have visited in **Fife** so far this year. Our free prevention through education programme reaches over **275,000** school children every year and encourages children to be responsible animal citizens.



## Contact us

If you'd like to find out more about our work or help support our Scottish Animal Week, 3-9 September, we'd love to invite you to meet with our Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn and Chief Executive Kirsteen Campbell at a location convenient to you. Or, if you'd prefer, we can organise an opportunity to shadow a local animal rescue officer, visit one of our centres or attend one of our education workshops in a local school.

## Dates for your diary

- **Rabbit Awareness Day:** 8 August
- **Human-Animal Interaction conference:** 3 September
- **Scottish Animal Week:** 3 - 9 September
- **Staffie Awareness Week:** 12 - 18 November

03000 999 999  
[scottishspca.org](http://scottishspca.org)



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