



**THORNBERRY**  
**ANIMAL SANCTUARY**

For the neglected we care

# 2024 NEWSLETTER

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# UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, JANE SARA

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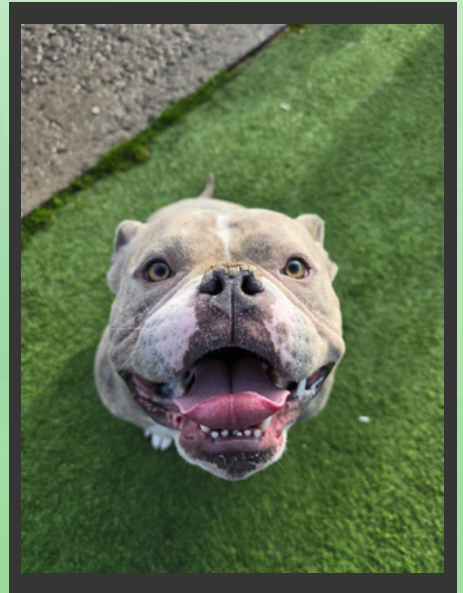
Let me wish a warm welcome to all of our supporters in whatever role or capacity you help us to save animals in need and give them a brighter future. Thank you from the whole Board of Trustees for all that you do. 2024 has been a busy and successful year in many ways, with challenges faced and overcome. We should all be proud of

what we achieve, whilst of course always wanting to do that bit more.

One major change last year has been on the Legal and Governance front. The legal status of the charity has changed this year from that of an 'unincorporated charity' to that of a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation', registered as before with the Charity Commission.

This change of legal entity makes no difference whatsoever to the running of the charity. Its aims, its people, its ethos, all remain the same charity as before. The key difference is that individual trustees are no longer personally

liable for any debts that the charity might incur, whilst of course remaining fully responsible for how it is run. This is a protection for trustees which makes it easier to recruit new ones as and when needed. Many charities have long since adopted this structure.





Supporters may notice just two differences: the charity number which you can see on the Charity Commission website and in future letterheads has changed from 1018048 to 1205405, as the former charity has in effect merged with the new one on September 4th of 2024 . The number (and official status) has changed but we remain the same charity. A second difference is for those of you kind enough to donate directly by standing order or direct debit to our HSBC bank account. At some point within the next three or so months, HSBC will open a new bank account with a new sort code and account number for us and then close the current one.

Current donations will cease to be processed. HSBC cannot legally transfer donations automatically to the new account and donors are therefore asked to set up a new mandate for donations using the new account numbers.

We have no choice in this but nonetheless apologise for the inconvenience to donors. The moment HSBC provides us with new bank details, we will advertise them. We would love to be able to inform each donor individually of the new bank numbers, and to thank you for your generosity at the same time, but unfortunately we have no way of knowing for certain who each donor is, nor, of course, your contact details. If you would like to email T.A.S. with your contact number or email address we will be glad to let you know directly the new bank details as soon as we have this information (Please contact me, Jane Sara on: [admin@thornberryanimalsanctuary.org](mailto:admin@thornberryanimalsanctuary.org)). I apologise for the inconvenience once again and request your understanding.

A lot of business for a Christmas Newsletter but this is an important change to protect our future.



# UPDATE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

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As 2024 draws to a close, want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your incredible support throughout the year. Your kindness and commitment have been the driving force behind everything we've achieved.

I'd also like to recognise our amazing team, whose hard work and dedication have ensured the best possible care for all our animals. It's been a year filled with challenges and triumphs, and we couldn't have done it without you.

This year, I personally took on a significant challenge—climbing Mount Snowdon with a wonderful group of staff

and volunteers. As

someone who underwent a partial lung resection in 2011 following my battle with cancer, this was no small feat for me. I am thrilled to say that I reached the summit



and watched the sunset on the beautiful Welsh Valleys.



Together we raised nearly £3,000 for Thornberry! It was a deeply rewarding experience that I'm proud to have been a part of. Additionally, our focus on sustainability continues with the growth of our retail operations. We're thrilled that our new shops in Fox Valley, North



Sheffield, and Rotherham Town Centre are now up and running, supporting the Sanctuary's future. Thank you, once again, for your unwavering support. Together, we've made this year a great success, and we look forward to achieving even more in the future.



We were also overjoyed to welcome baby Myla into our Thornberry family this year! Zoe, our Kennel Manager, gave birth to her beautiful daughter in February. Living on-site, Zoe and Myla have already spent time with many of the animals, and we're excited to see Myla grow up with a close connection to our residents.





# UPDATE FROM OUR ON-SITE VET TEAM

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It's been another exciting year of progress for the on-site veterinary practice at Thornberry! A lot of you will be aware that last year saw the completion of our brand new purpose-built veterinary practice. Facilities include a prep area for surgical preparation and dentals, theatre, isolation, recovery ward, consult room and spacious reception area.

A year later, we have expanded and improved our facilities yet again, allowing us to offer even more extensive treatments and diagnostics, all in aid of improving the level of veterinary care we can offer on site. We have recently installed a state-of-the-art x-ray machine, allowing us to provide faster, more accurate diagnoses for our furry friends.

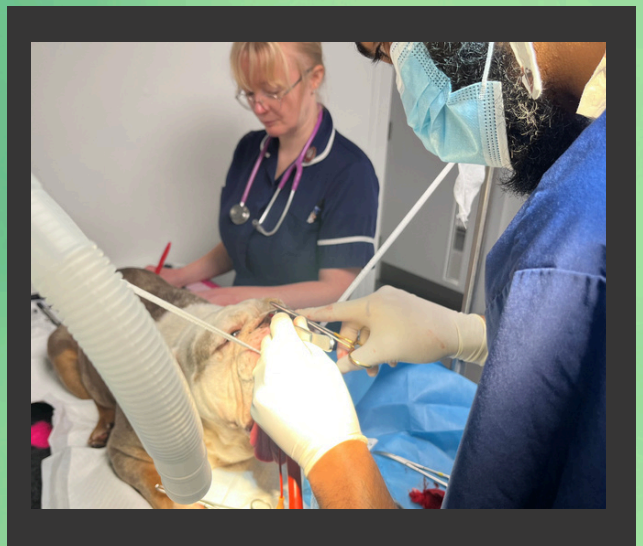


The technology allows us to detect injuries and illness sooner (from broken bones to internal health issues), all whilst reducing the cost of sending patients to external vet clinics for diagnostic radiography - our patients don't even need to leave the site. Another exciting addition are our new IDEXX haematology and biochemistry machines! Previously, blood samples would need to be sent to an external laboratory, but thanks to the money invested in these machines, we are able to produce rapid results in a cost-effective way. Our blood machines aid our vet in diagnosing anaemia, infections, clotting disorders, kidney and liver function, pancreatic health and electrolyte imbalances, plus a whole lot more!

Our new equipment has proved useful with our brachycephalic patients (flat nosed breeds such as pugs and bulldogs). Last year our vet performed many BOAS (Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome) surgeries to open up the airways of

these dogs; this year has been no different. Now we can take x-rays of the thorax in order to evaluate their respiratory and cardiovascular health, which are often compromised in these breeds. With our new blood analysers, we can perform

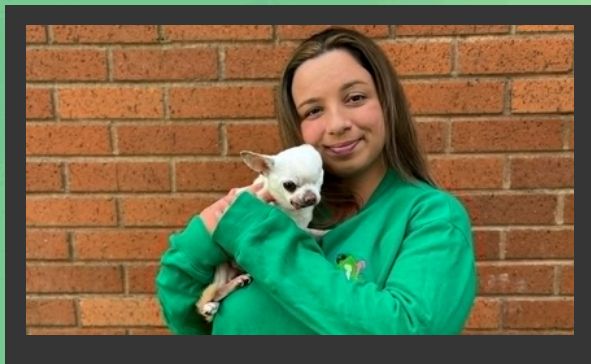
pre-anaesthetic blood tests that give us an indication of any potential risk factors that are not apparent on the physical exam.





# UPDATE FROM ZOE OUR KENNEL MANAGER

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I will start by thanking the most amazing Kennel Team for their incredibly hard work and for adapting so well during my maternity leave this year. Colm, Hannah, Sophie, Michael, Cole,

all of our dog walking Volunteers & work placement Lewis, your efforts and hard work is so appreciated. You are amazing.

Also a thank you to my partner Jack, as living on site with a new born baby has been challenging as we learned to navigate the care of animals and the care of our daughter Myla.

When 7 spaniel puppies were abandoned in a crate we spent our first Fathers Day as a family creating an isolation area for them, washing away their faeces and fleas and seeing them eat their first good meal in what looked to be a very long time. 2024 has been the best year of my life, and I look forward to what 2025 has to bring.





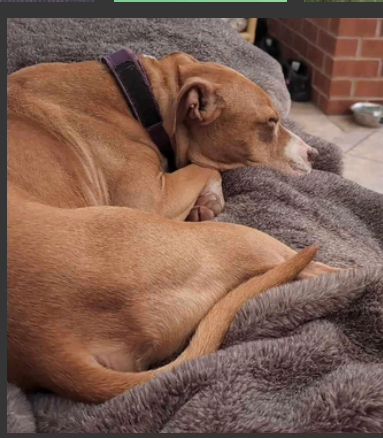


What better success to start the year than waving goodbye to our long term resident Rennie, who was waiting for his forever home with us for 346 days.

Steven and Chloe fell in love with Rennie instantly and we cannot thank them enough for opening their home and hearts to such a deserving boy. 10 months later he has proven to be the perfect match for them. "Hi Zoe, Rennie is definitely a firm part of our family, he loves snuggling up on the sofa at the weekend and having lots of naps. Rennie has loved the recent snowfall we had, it didn't phase him, he thought the snowballs were actual ballshe is still ball obsessed and loves his set of chuck it balls, whenever someone comes over he always greets them with a waggy tail and a ball.

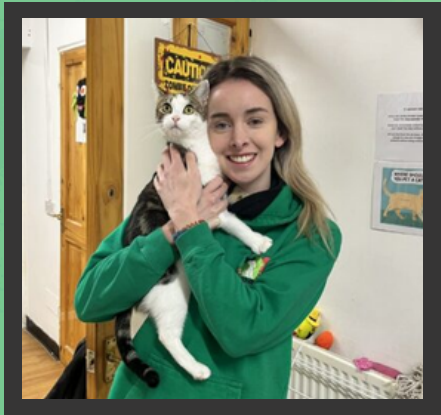
We treated him to Mutts Go Nuts a secure field for his birthday and I've never seen him happier.

We are so happy we chose Rennie and he chose us, we couldn't imagine life without him and we have Thornberry to thank for that."



# UPDATE FROM OUR CATTERY MANAGER

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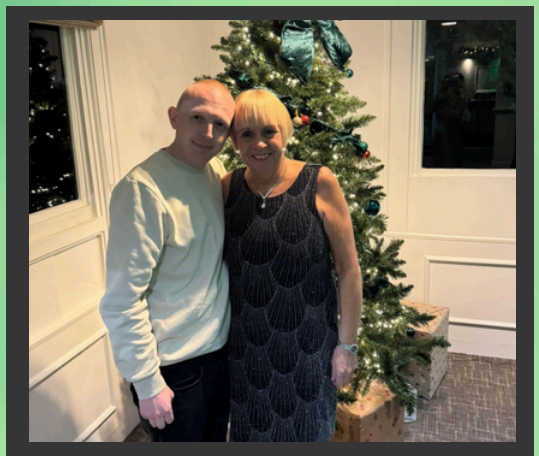


We had a record breaking month in October 2024 with 61 cats adopted out compared to 39 in October 2023. This has really set the bar for the next coming months as we now move into the festive period. We are already achieving above what we hoped to achieve for this year as we currently have adopted 355 animals since January to now.

This is all thanks to our amazing cattery team Beth and Clara as well as our ongoing support of our dedicated volunteers. Ann and Joel are just some examples of our longstanding volunteers who go above and beyond daily.

We heavily rely on volunteers to assist with day to day tasks at the cattery and without them it would not be possible for us to reach such numbers.

We have been inundated with pregnant females and nursing mums this year which has put a huge amount of stress on the cattery isolation periods. Relief of this came from our few dedicated fosterers we have that has helped us throughout this



period by offering them a safe environment to nurse their kittens, and in turn keeping pens free so we are able to help other cats in our care.

We have also taken on a few other palliative care cases which have now found amazing foster homes with some wonderful people, these include cases of hyperthyroidism, mammary carcinoma and a femur fracture needing an amputation.

Going into 2025 we expect another busy year of cats needing help as the process is never ending of welfare concerns. If anyone is considering volunteering or in a position to help foster a cat/kittens it is always welcome as we can help as many cats as possible.

One of our stand out cases for this year is Kitkat, who is one of our geriatric palliative care cats that came into us later this year after their elderly owner passed away at home. Sadly Kitkat was not discovered at her home until many days later without food or water.

When she came into our care she was very dehydrated and severely matted and in need of some much needed TLC. Our vet team ran in house bloods on KitKat which showed she had hyperthyroidism (An overactive thyroid condition) which meant

She would require treatment for the rest of her life to stabilise her thyroid. She also underwent sedation to de-mat her coat. Due to her thyroid issue, she was underweight & very hungry, so it was important to get her the right treatment as soon as. Since then, her

thyroid levels have been balancing, and she is much happier. She has found a wonderful foster home, and we regularly see her back for routine blood tests.







# UPDATE FROM OUR EQUINE CENTRE

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We are pleased to share that as of October 2024, we rehomed 20 Horses/Ponies, 4 Goats, 1 Pig, 2 Ducks, 17 Chickens, 8 Ferrets and 1 Turkey. We rescued 4 young colts who were far too young to be taken from their mothers, They were very malnourished with matted coats, full of lice and had a high worm burden for animals so young. 3 of the 4 had locking stifle; one also had it in both hind legs (a condition that occurs when a horse's kneecap gets stuck in an extended position on its thigh bone.)



Over the next few months with the right feeds, care and TLC they started to thrive, and have found loving homes.

Sweet Maxwell spent 18yrs with his previous owner and returned to Thornberry in 2019 along with his long term girlfriend Whinny (who sadly passed the year after). He was invaluable as he helped so many people gain their confidence around horses, also how to groom, tie up, pick feet out and lead, because he was such a gentle soul.



One example of his amazing nature (one of my many treasured memories) was when a totally blind volunteer came to help with her ray of sunshine support worker.

On her first visit, I gave her Maxwell to groom. He stood calmly like a sentry, and she laughed and smiled the whole time.

Afterward, she hugged him, and he wrapped his head around her shoulders in a touching, silent embrace. Sadly at the ripe old age of 34 in July we had to make the heart breaking decision ( but the right one) to let him cross the rainbow bridge where he was reunited with long term girlfriend Whinny. He is sadly missed by staff and volunteers alike.

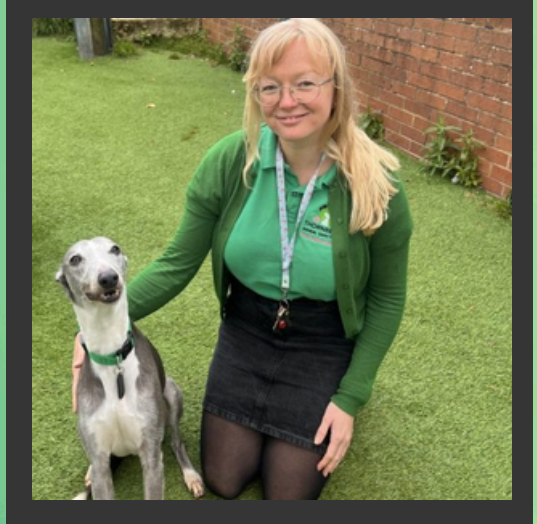
Even after nearly 11yrs I still feel honoured and privileged to work among these amazing animals who learn to gain your trust for the first time or perhaps for a second time after losing the trust of humans through abuse or neglect.

I have a lot of treasured memories (and unfortunately sadly some not so treasured) but I realise this is part of the job. To see a horse who's only given a 10% chance of survival bomb round a field bucking and rearing with his playmate who was given only a 30% chance, it makes your heart skip a beat as you know now they are hopefully over the worst and will be able to have a lovely future ( in this case they both have). And finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank my great team, all our volunteers present and past, our adoptees and dedicated supporters, and not forgetting our board of trustees , without whom my role would not be possible.

# UPDATE FROM OUR SMALLS MANAGER

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Hello I'm Amy the smalls manager & registered vet nurse. I work alongside our wonderful volunteers who are dedicated to the rabbits and smallies. Sadly there's a new VHD2 strain, which currently there's no vaccine for in the UK. To keep our bunnies safe, we have had to implant tighter bio security. This includes two weeks of quarantine for new bunny arrivals.



A few of our dedicated volunteers, who do not currently own rabbits are helping us with this by kindly fostering new arrivals at home. A huge thank you for this and to all the fabulous 'smalls' volunteers, you truly are wonderful with our Degu's, rats, guinea pigs, gerbils, African soft furs and lots of rabbits. Rabbits, just like dogs and cats have their own unique personalities and each one that comes into Thornberry makes me smile for different reasons. One bunny that brings a big smile to my face is Susan; she was with us for nearly a year.

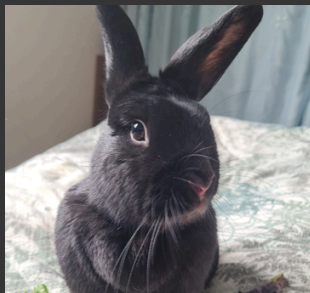
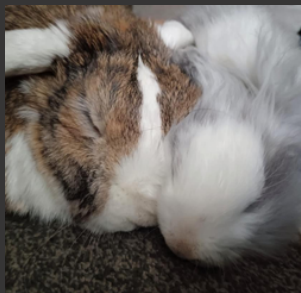
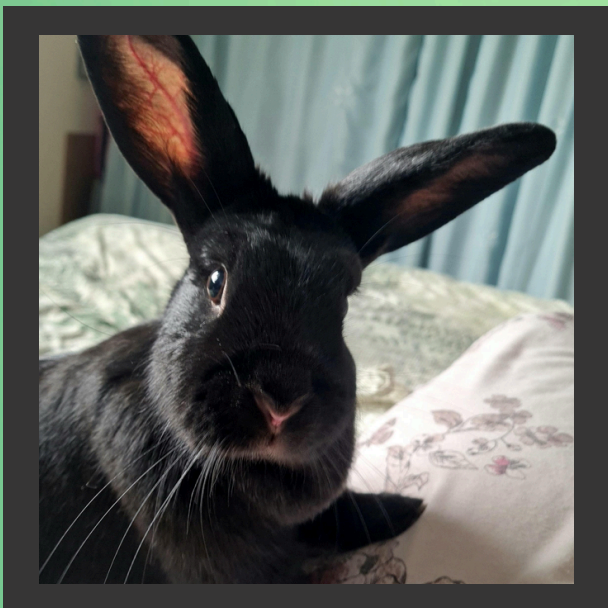
During this time, many rabbits came and went, but Susan never got a chance. Susan is black and quite a big character. We never will understand why black animals are harder to rehome; we think they are just as beautiful! Thankfully Susan got her happy forever after. Here is an update from Susan's bunny dad.



"Hello, Suzie is doing really well; we have nicknamed her Sassy suzzie or suzzieboozie. We're massively impressed at how well she has bonded with our black Labrador Trixie; they're best friends and often play together with Suzie binkying round the room. She has the full run of downstairs,

enjoys the fresh air from time to time and loves weekends when she gets a feast from my partner's mum, giving her lots of fresh vegetables from the garden."

All our smalls at Thornberry get health checked, vaccinated and neutered. Neutering is important to stop unwanted breeding and to help with bonding and prevent uterine tumours in female rabbits, which is very high risk. A bunny is so much more than just a bunny. Thank you very much to every adopter that has given one of our bunnies or smalls their happy ever after.



# UPDATE FROM OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM

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2024 has been a whirlwind of activity at Thornberry Animal Sanctuary. We kicked things off in style with our Easter Fair, which was packed with family-friendly fun, stalls, games, and, of course, a chance to meet some of our animals. As the warmer months rolled in, we hosted our ever-popular Summer Fair, drawing in crowds eager to enjoy the sunshine, live entertainment, and refreshments.

We had our biggest event of the year Pooches in the Park and raised a huge £5000 for our sanctuary! Halloween brought a spooktacular twist with our themed Halloween Fair, which delighted attendees of all ages. Finally, our Christmas Fair is just around the corner, promising festive cheer, gifts, and treats for all.





Beyond our seasonal fairs, Thornberry has also been proud to participate in a variety of other fundraising activities. This year, a group of dedicated supporters climbed Snowdon, braving the elements to raise funds for our sanctuary. Others faced their fears and took on an abseiling challenge, demonstrating the incredible lengths people will go to for the animals in our care.

Community events have played a significant role in our fundraising efforts. Sheffield Wednesday fans may have spotted us outside



Hillsborough Stadium, where we held bucket collections that raised much-needed funds and introduced us to new supporters. These events and fundraisers are more than just enjoyable days out; they are essential to keeping Thornberry Animal Sanctuary running.

Every pound raised helps us provide food, shelter, medical care, and enrichment for the animals we care for.

As we look ahead, we invite you to join us at our upcoming events or consider supporting us in any way you can.

Whether it's volunteering, attending a fair, or even organising your own fundraiser, your involvement means the world to us.



# VOLUNTEERING AT THORNBERRY

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Here at Thornberry Animal Sanctuary the work never stops, so we absolutely rely on our dedicated team of volunteers. These heroes give up their time, working tirelessly all year round, to help care for our furry friends. Without them we would not be able to help as many animals as we do. So we wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteers, from all the staff at Thornberry.

However, we always need more volunteers and there are so many ways in which you can help.

Our animal care volunteers turn up 365 days a year (including Christmas day!) to make sure our animals are well taken care of. They feed the animals, clean the pens, sweep the corridors, wash the pots, walk the dogs and many other jobs.

Our retail volunteers help to keep our four shops running which produce the all-important funds needed to maintain such a busy sanctuary.



There are a wide range of jobs that need doing, including sorting donations, hanging clothes, pricing items and working on the till.

We also have volunteers who do site maintenance, deliveries, admin and fundraising, which are often overlooked roles but are equally as important.

Do you want to make a real difference to the lives of our animals?

Do you have a few hours to spare?

Do you want to join a friendly community of like-minded animal lovers?

The application process is simple: Fill in the online application form on our website, come to an informal induction, and then get stuck in! We look forward to welcoming you to Thornberry!





# RETAIL TEAM AT TODWICK ROAD

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Greetings of the Season to all of our Customers and Supporters from the staff at Todwick Road Charity Shop!!

Our work in retail is about supporting the charity to support the animals in sanctuary. We could not do this without the help and dedication of our amazing volunteers who offer their time for free to receive donations, organise our stock and serve in our shop. A massive and heart-felt thank you to our Volunteers who turn out come rain or shine!!

2024 has been a good year for us we now open 7 days a week from 9am to 3pm working alongside the team in the Thornberry Cafe and Deli. We aim to make Todwick Road a friendly place to shop pre-loved and to reduce textile waste by donating unwanted items.

With our Customers' support we have had success with our general sales, our yard sales and other fundraising efforts. We have welcomed new volunteers into our team and benefited greatly from many corporate volunteers who have spent many an hour helping us organise our main shop and our other sales areas that include our pet shop, our bric-a-brac and our bookshop.

Next year we are planning to refit our main shop to improve the shopping experience and our offer to our Customers. Your support means so much to us and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Ailish and Jane  
Retail Team - Todwick Road

# A NEW LIFE AT THORNBERRY

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2024 has been an incredibly busy and heart-warming year at Thornberry Animal Sanctuary, with numerous births bringing new life and hope.

We've welcomed a huge number of kittens born both in foster homes and on-site, a direct result of the significant rise in stray cats in our area.

In addition to our feline arrivals, we've also seen seven dogs give birth at our sanctuary. These proud mums have ranged from smaller breeds like Jack Russell's to larger breeds, including the lovely Holly and her two sisters, Elsa and Belle, who are Husky X.

Each birth has been a reminder of the importance of our work and the dedication of our team and foster carers in providing a safe, loving environment for these vulnerable animals.



# THORNBERRY CAFE

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We have had a wonderful and busy year here at Thornberry Cafe and Deli .

We have hosted a psychic evening, wreath making, 4 coffee mornings, and a Christmas cake decorating evening.

Plus a few baby showers for some of our lovely customers. We look forward to seeing you all this year in 2025.



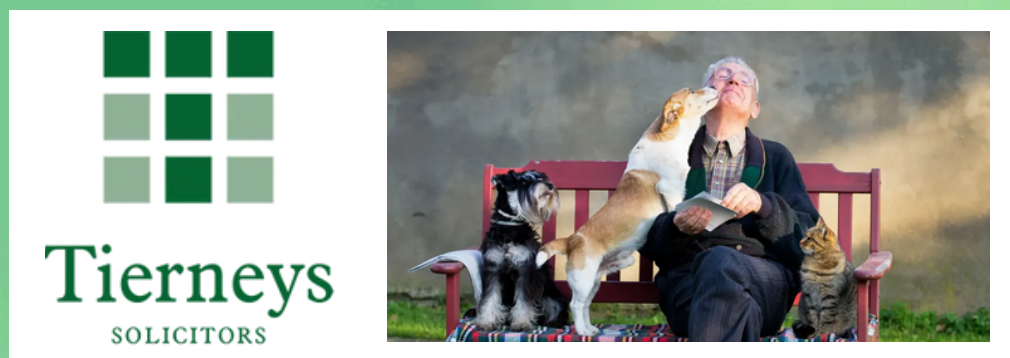


# LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY AT THORNBERRY ANIMAL SANCTUARY

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At Thornberry Animal Sanctuary, we know how deeply our supporters care about the animals we rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome. By leaving a gift in your will, you can ensure that your compassion and love for animals continue to make a difference for years to come.

We're delighted to share that Tierneys Solicitors, specialists in will writing, are offering our supporters the opportunity to write or update their will. To make this even more accessible, we'll be hosting our first Free Will Writing Event at our Thornberry Café.



Tierney Solicitors will be on hand throughout the event to offer guidance and expertise in a relaxed and friendly environment. Whether you're considering writing your will for the first time or updating an existing one, this is a fantastic opportunity to take that important step.

Join us on 23rd of January at 15:00 at the Thornberry Café and let your love for animals become part of your legacy.

Together, we can create a lasting impact for animals in need. We look forward to seeing you there!





**THORNBERRY**  
**ANIMAL SANCTUARY**

**For the neglected we care**

## **Trustees:**

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**Jane Sara**

**Joanne Brunt**

**Courtney Berry**

**Paul Pashley**

**Lisa Kitchen**

**New Charity Number: 1205404**

**Thornberry Animal Sanctuary**

**The Stables, Todwick Road, North Anston,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S25 3SE**

**[www.thornberryanimalsanctuary.org](http://www.thornberryanimalsanctuary.org)**