Bertie's Bulletin
October 2026
A Second Chance at Freedom

Remember all those little fox cubs we told you about in the Spring Newsletter? Well, they have all grown and, having received two rounds of vaccinations and parasite treatment, they are now in tip-top condition and approaching the size of an adult fox. To date, we have released 16 juvenile foxes back into the Wild.



Once the cubs were healthy and putting on weight, our sole aim was to get them ready to be released. And this is where we stepped right back from their lives…they needed to learn to be foxes and to be wary of humans. The cubs were grouped into 4 "family" groups of between 3-5 cubs as soon as they were ready to be introduced and moved to outdoor pre-release enclosures.



This meant they could enjoy a relatively natural upbringing; learning fox skills from each other, interacting with the sights and sounds and smells of the outdoors and eating raw prey. They seem to have done well on it and when the time was right we opened the pre-release enclosure doors and let them leave of their own accord and in their own time. The timing of their late Summer/early Autumn releases was carefully planned to coincide with the natural Cub Dispersal season. This is when many of the juvenile foxes in the Wild leave their families and strike out on their own. At this time, territories are a bit more fluid whilst everyone is jostling for their own space and this gives our released juveniles a bit more of a chance to get themselves established.

Cub Dispersal means that there are currently a lot more lone smaller foxes exploring our local area and wandering around where they haven't previously. If you see one and it looks healthy (full coat, good weight, bright eyes, walking well) and isn't in a dangerous situation, we recommend you just leave it to go about its important fact-finding mission…









A Spotlight on Jim



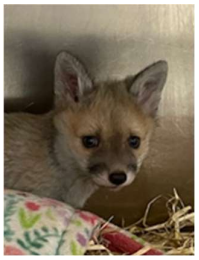
8 March - Jim was our first cub in for 2026. He was discovered cold and calling out under decking in a garden. We installed a wildlife camera to see if the vixen was returning, but after 48 hours of no show it became evident he was orphaned, and that something must have happened to mum. Jim was tiny, fitting comfortably into the palm of your hand and he needed bottle-feeding every hour or so, throughout the day and the night.



7 April - By now, Jim was moving towards more solid food, enjoying puppy mousse and a bit of chopped up carrion. He also still enjoyed his bottle to fill him up and was putting on weight quickly. Look at that little fat belly! He had a try at moving in with another cub of a similar age, Joan, but she was too bossy for him, so they were separated again.



Mid-April – Jim continued to gain more weight and looked much more like a fox now. He moved in with Phoebe and they became instant kennel buddies. They loved a bit of rough and tumble and enjoyed playing in the cardboard boxes we put in the kennel.



Mid-May - Cub Group 1 (CG1), comprising Jim, Phoebe, Millie and a slightly more mature and subdued Joan, moved into the outdoor pen at the Centre. They loved it in there, playing hide and seek behind the blanket. All 16 cubs, including Jim, had their first vaccinations - you can only imagine what the back of our ambulance looked like on the way to the vets! A second round of vaccinations followed a month later to further boost their immunity.





Mid-July - CG1 headed to the off-site pre-release enclosure, to enjoy a larger living space with grass and trees surrounding them. Jim took it all in his stride but “the girls” were really not sure initially. Can you see Phoebe and Joan peeking out here?



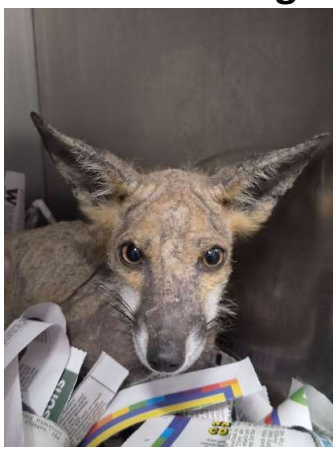
Mid-August - It was finally time for release, so we left the enclosure door open and Jim was first out and off to explore his new surroundings. He and Phoebe haven’t gone too far to set up home though, so we still see Jim from time to time hanging around. It is so difficult to just ignore him but we must.
Good Luck, Jim!



Kennel Updates

Thank you for sponsoring the kennels at our Centre. Recently your donations have specifically helped to rehabilitate these beauties:

Kennel 1 - Widget



Recently moved to Kennel 1 - we caught Widget in a trap after a homeowner spotted him and realised that he really needed help. He had clearly been suffering with mange for a long time and was bald all over. It is highly likely that he has had the infection since birth. We have him now, and we are confident we can turn things around for little Widget. It is likely that he'll be with us at the Centre for some time but when it's all over he will feel the wind in his fur again, and for the first time in his life, he will be burden free.
For now, the treatment is working and Widget is quite happy with the dinner menu!

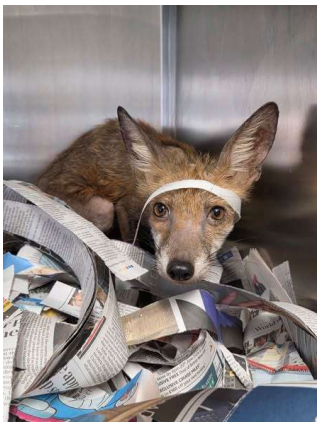
Kennel 2 - Rodney



When we picked poor Rodney up, he was in a terrible state. He was disorientated and had lost the use of his back legs. He was covered in flystrike (fly eggs which turn into maggots and eat away at the fox's flesh). To be honest, we didn't think he was going to make it. But with first class care and lots of medication to deal with his parasites, infections and neurological issues, he has really perked up. He is mobile now, eats well and generally looks like a much happier fox all round.

Kennels 3 & 4 – Freja & Rosie





Freja and Rosa are sisters who were caught when we attended a call about an adult fox with mange in a local garden. Upon arrival, the reported fox was sitting, waiting, and wondering what all the fuss was about. This fox was still fully mobile and made off as soon as we entered the garden and so, as planned, we set a trap to catch her when she returned. After a little inspection of the garden, we found 5 juvenile foxes hiding under some push bikes in a shed. We managed to gain entry without any escapes and caught 4 of them, but the 5th gave us the slip. We treated 2 of the juveniles for mange on-site and released them there and then. Freda and Rosa, however, we admitted to the Centre, due to the severity of their mange infection. They have responded well to treatment and are on track for release any day now.
Update: Juvenile Fox Sibling #5 has recently been sighted, so the traps are out again…

And in other news…

Fox Ambulance Appeal



Well, we've only gone and done it! Our Fox Ambulance Appeal was a massive success and we raised over £16,000 towards buying a trusty, reliable, well-equipped rescue vehicle. We recently received the keys to this fabulous ambulance. We are so grateful to every single person who donated to the Appeal, thank you!

Special thanks go to The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, Mayfields Woodland Burial Ground, everyone who walked the Wirral Coastal Walk for us, the Dee View Inn and Heswall Tesco. We also couldn't have done it without the generosity and kindness of Wirral Vans, Bromborough who helped us find the perfect van and the perfect deal. As avid fox-lovers, they also threw in this magnificent panel wrapping for free!

Wirral Coastal Walk



What a fabulous day! The weather was kind to us (not too hot!) as a merry band of 30 volunteers and supporters set out to walk the 13 miles from New Brighton to Thurstaston to raise funds for our new ambulance. Thank you to the Rotary Clubs of Wirral for organising such a great event and enabling us to raise a total sponsorship amount of over £2,500! And the icing on the cake? We won the prize for the Best Charity Theme Fancy Dress.

Eco Schools Project and Community Engagement



With a busy end to the Summer Term, you'd think the Eco Schools Team would have taken a well-deserved break over the Summer holidays… Far from it… Bertie and the team were out and about with foxy activities for children and their tales of Ember the Lost Fox Cub, at Wirral Environmental Network and Ness Gardens Nature Day.

The Team has also been giving talks at community groups, like Irby Gardening Club. If you would like us to visit your group, please contact us on events@wirralfoxrescue.co.uk

Event Dates for your diary

Friday 23 October	**Halloween Extravaganza - Quiz, Bingo, Disco and much more at Bromborough Social Club**. Tickets now on sale, either at the Magic Fox Pre-Loved Charity Shop in Bromborough or following this link https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/halloween-extravaganza
Sunday 22 November	**Foxy Fashion Show at Bromborough Village Hall -** Tickets on Sale soon
Tuesday 22 December	**Tesco Heswall** - Fox Chat and a chance to buy last minute stocking fillers

Kennel Sponsorship – we hope you are enjoying it!



If your kennel sponsorship is coming to the end of its first 12 months and you'd like to consider extending it into next year, or maybe buying one for your friends or family (they make great Christmas gifts), please contact us on events@wirralfoxrescue.co.uk or head to our website www.wirralfoxrescue.co.uk for more information. Still only £30 for a year.