

LUCY & SARAH'S ADVENTURE TO TIGGYWINKLES &



BLACKBERRY FARM



9/10/13

FIRST DAY AT TIGGYWINKLES

9:50am – Arrived at Tiggywinkles Wildlife Centre.

We went in to reception, spoke to the receptionist. After a few moments we met Dot, who is the Lab technician. Dot explained to us where she worked, which is in the Lab, and what she did there, she will explain and show us in more detail this afternoon, she then gave us a tour of the site and introduced us to the staff members as we went around.

After the tour it was break time (11:10), where we met all the staff, all seem really nice and friendly.

Once break time was up, we went and worked in the Hedgehog department, which is where Dot works as well as she gives the hogs their medication and health checks. We helped to clean the (approx) 150 hogs (200 total on site). We thought this amount was a huge amount, but it is actually considered as their quiet time, as usually they have around 400-500. The most they have had in at any one time was 600!

Cleaning – Get a clean bowl and fill with diluted Anigene. Move the hog into a free pen (if there is one – if not into carrier/cage), remove all paper, food bowl and towel. Then spray the pen with Anigene then using a scourer, scrub the inside, top and bottom as well as the bars on the front of the door. Dry the inside, put 8 sheets of newspaper in the pen, put a clean towel (not shredding as they do enough digging with the paper) on the left side, put hog back in. The pens are aluminium, so when you are cleaning, it does take the silver off of it. The cages are quite small, but as they get so many in, they just do not have the room for bigger cages.

Whilst we were cleaning and Dot was doing the meds/health checks, we were talking to Dot, asking questions, and learnt about the Medications they use, including the dosages. She spoke about all the different parasites and faecal testing, which we will learn about in the afternoon and tomorrow.

Feed – Any tinned dog/cat food mashed up with powdered Vitamin + Zinc supplement. Biscuits are left soaking overnight then mashed in with the tinned food (to bulk it out). 2 heaped tablespoons put in a twin bowl, water in the other side and a small handful of dry biscuits scattered in the cage.

We then had lunch (1:20), we ate quickly and then went to have a look around the site and take some photos, and we also went around the Visitor Centre, which is an area of the site in which the public can view.

After lunch we went and cleaned out the last few hog pens. Once they were all clean and the room tidy, we went off with Dot into her Lab, she talked in depth about the process of checking for parasites under the microscope. She told us about finding worms and mites and showed us loads of different worms we should look out for.

Dot finished at 5:30pm, the same time which a rescued deer had just come in, they asked us if we wanted to watch them treat him, of course we said yes. The deer was very weak, and young. They had already put a mask over his face to cover his eyes so he wasn't so stressed, they then proceeded to put him on a stretcher which had holes in for his legs, One of the nurses then started shaving one of his legs so they could insert an IV drip, she attempted to put the needle in the vein, without success due to the deer being so weak, another nurse then proceeded to start shaving his back right leg, then after a couple of attempts managed to insert the IV to get the fluids desperately needed into the deer. They also gave him some painkillers as well as other meds to hopefully stabilize him overnight. They don't think he will survive the night, we will find out in the morning.

We left at 6:15pm.

10/10/13

SECOND AND LAST DAY AT TIGGYWINKLES

7am – Left hotel to get to Tiggywinkles in time to start at 8am, but due to traffic and getting lost, we didn't arrive until 8:30am.

Started the day cleaning out the hogs, we found it much easier and quicker today as we knew what we were doing. We carried on cleaning until break time (11am).

After break we went and shadowed the Vet, their vet comes in twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. We watched her gas a fox so she could assess him and clean up his wounds, she cleaned them and decided she didn't need to stitch it, as it was already starting to heal. Once the fox was taken back to his pen, they brought a young squirrel to get checked, the squirrel, in their terms, is a strange one, the ears/body/fur/tail are all odd. The vet said just keep an eye on his skin.

The squirrel was taken back, then Emma brought in a Kite and asked if we wanted to release it, we said yes, we went outside and Emma explained what to do, Sarah then threw the Kite up in the air and he flew off with no problem.

KITE – Kite's play dead when being handled so no gauntlets needed. When releasing, you must throw them up as high as you can.

Then a hog was brought in, they gassed her to check her over, once she was asleep the vet wiped her gunky eye then checked it, but found no eye there, she said just to keep an eye on it and wipe it daily with a bit of saline. Then they brought the hog back around. Just as she was bringing the hog around, Emma brought in another kite she had just seen with a new injury to its wing from outside in the aviary, the vet and nurse checked the wing to find that the Kite could not extend its wing to be able to fly, they came to the decision to euth it. They always gas (when possible) before they euth.

The kite was the last animal needed to be seen by the Vet, the vet then went off. It was now lunch time.

During our lunch, Emma came into the staffroom with a Kite to ask if Lucy wanted to release one as well, of course she said yes, Lucy released the Kite with no problems, and the Kite flew off, looking very strong and healthy.

Once we went back and finished eating our lunch, we then went and finished our tour of the Visitor Centre. Took lots more pictures.

After lunch we went off with another staff member to the bird nursery, where she talked to us about the baby birds they have, all bar a couple are Woodys, she explained what and how they hand feed and also talked to us about Canker (trich).

Hand Feed – fed four times a day, with a huge syringe that has a tube on the end, they put it straight down into the bird's crop and fill it up. They are fed on a baby bird feed powder mixed with water.

Canker (Trichomoniasis) - is a parasitic organism that infests the upper gastro-intestinal tract (oesophagus, crop and proventriculus), mouth, oropharynx (throat region) and upper respiratory tract of a range of different bird species. Is treated first with a tablet Harkers or Spartrix when they arrive, then a daily course of Stronorgyl until the bird is clear, then another tablet just before they are released, just in case. During the birds stay at Tiggywinkles they are tube fed so they don't starve, they use a catheter attached to a syringe and poke it down the bird's throat, very carefully until they feel a hole then push down and fill the crop.

Once we had finished all in the bird nursery, we went and saw Claire (Head Nurse/Rescue Officer). She talked to us about their past emergencies, how they deal with them, showed us pictures including a badger on a train track, deer trapped in fencing plus more. She said if they have any rescues they get called out for today they will let us go with them. Sadly to say, they didn't have any call outs.

We then went and helped Emma with a bit of cleaning, she showed us how to clean the baby badgers outside pen (Sarah cleaned) as well as the swan room (Lucy cleaned). Once we had both finished cleaning, we went and asked Emma to check we had done it correctly, which she said we did, she then asked us to go and get 94 chicks for feeding the birds of prey, unfortunately there was not enough defrosted, so the frozen ones had to be put in a bucket of water to defrost. While they were defrosting we went for break.

After break Emma asked us to quickly clean the outside pen that housed a Mummy hog and her 3 babies, it was just a quick hose and scrub. We were then asked to get the food for the baby Badgers and hogs.

Once we had fed them, we went and sorted out the now defrosted chicks, we counted out the right amount for the right birds. We had just finished when Emma came to tell us Siobhan wanted to see us as she had found something interesting under the microscope, we went straight to the Lab, Siobhan told she had found a lungworm from a hogs faecal sample if we wanted to have a look, which of course we did, we were very excited to see it, we couldn't believe how transparent it was, it was great to finally see one alive.

After we had finished in the lab, we went back outside and fed the Eagle Owls and Buzzards the chicks. Then we were asked to get the Fox's food ready, meat with chicks on top, we started getting it ready when there was a call to say a Swan (Signet) had just come in and could Emma go and get it to put in the swan room, we got the swan and went and put it in the newly cleaned out pen (by Lucy), put some food in with him, once he was settled, he was put to bed. Then we went to finish getting the fox's food ready, and then fed them.

After that we went to see if anything else needed doing and was told everything was ok and we could go and take more pics. We went around the site for a last look and to take some more pictures.

Said a sad goodbye to everyone, was told it was a shame we weren't there for longer as so much more to show us and teach us. They invited us to go for a week next year in June/July time when there will be loads of baby wildlife. Said we would ask our boss if we could get a week off as holiday and go over at our own expense.

Left at 6:10pm

11/10/13

DAY AT RSPCA BLACKBERRY FARM

7:30am – Left hotel, arrived at 8:10am

We arrived at Blackberry farm, found the Manager who introduced herself and took us into the staffroom, where we waited for the staff members to arrive, at 8:35 everyone had to go into the reception area for morning briefing, which was very brief and consisted of the Manager saying 2 cats are going to new homes today and a home check was being done, she then introduced us, saying we were there from the Guernsey SPCA, and there to learn how they do things and to be their slaves for the day.

Once the briefing had finished, all the staff members went off to start on the departments, we were then told we had to watch a Health and Safety video on the computer. Once we had finished watching it, we were then told to sign in and get keys for the pens (all pens are locked). We were then told one of us would be on cats, and one on dogs. Lucy went to cats and Sarah went on to dogs.

WHAT SARAH DID ON DOGS

Sarah got there just after the morning feed had been done, so it was time for the cleaning to begin.

After the cleaning was finished, it was break time.

As it was Vet visit day (2 vet visits a week), Sarah got to sit in while the vet did checks on a few dogs, 1 dog had skin scrap done on a sore above her eye. Turned out to be Mange.

Got shown around where all the dogs were and what each section was, there are 3 sections:- Case, ISO and Adoption. After that we walked some dogs, they have a huge field (like our dog run – but the size of a field), which you can let dogs off the lead and mix together to play.

Lunch time at 12pm

WHAT LUCY DID ON CATS

As Lucy got there after the feeding had been done, it was straight on to the cleaning, they have an inside pod which connects to an outside run by a cat flap. The pod is at body level so no bending, it's all plastic so very easy to clean. It was only a very basic clean, a quick wipe down of the pod, top up the water and do the litter trays. We worked our way down through all the pods. Cleaned the floor and made sure everything was put away.

The vet came in to recheck a couple of cats, one was for a skin condition which was resulting in him having to have a bath once a week, the vet checked him and said skin was looking good and they could stop giving the baths, which would very much please the cat.

At 10:20 it was break time.

After break, we went back to cats, went in to the kitchen where the feeding schedule was explained as well as assessments, medication was also explained, we had to give a couple of cats their pill, which is given whole with the tiniest bit of meat on, given by hand, if the cat does not eat it, then it is put down their throat. Any liquid medication is put on their breakfast.

We then restocked the trolley ready for the next day.

As cats were finished, Lucy went on to help in the Miscellaneous Animals department, where she helped clean a couple of rabbit pens, as well as help move some, then cleaned out the chicken/cockerel house.

She was then shown around the department and all the rats, hamsters and ferrets.

Time for lunch at 12pm.

Cleaning – They do a deep thorough clean on a Monday, which consists of everything being changed and scrubbed and disinfected. Apart from Mondays it's just a basic quick clean, bedding changed if poo or wee on it. All cleaning needs to be completed by 10:15am (break time), due to the public going around the site from 10:30am. If the cleaning is not completed by break time, then it **MUST** be finished by 11:45am at the latest.

LUCY AND SARAH'S AFTERNOON ON DOGS

We ate our lunch quickly, then went and had a wonder around the site and took pictures.

Once our lunch was up, we went over to dogs, as cats didn't need any help, there wasn't really anything that needed to be done on dogs as every dog had been walked, so Charlie took us over to the ISO block that has got a 10 week old puppy in that had been abandoned tied to a lamppost, Bugle (staff have called him) was put in ISO due to kennel cough going around the dogs. We played with Bugle for a while, then we went and took a couple of double dogs into the training barn and played ball.

We helped Charlie do a couple of health checks on dogs.

Vaccinations – They use slightly different procedures to our practice.

It was then 3pm, feeding time. They didn't want us helping prepare the food, so we had to wait while they sorted it, 3:15pm we helped give the dogs their food. The dogs are all fed outside in there runs, which the doors are shut so the inside can be cleaned, we cleaned the insides, then the dogs are shut inside for the night, we then cleaned the outside runs.

Once they were all clean and locked in for the night, it was time to go.

We went and said thank you to all the staff for having us, said we had a great day and learnt a lot. Said our good byes.

Left at 4:45pm