



## **ASSOCIATION OF DOGS AND CATS HOMES**

### **ADCH HOSTS 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON JERSEY**

This year's annual Association of Dogs and Cats Homes conference will take place at the Hotel de France, St Helier, Jersey on 21st and 22nd April 2010. Over 200 delegates are expected to attend the event.

Delegates and experts from across the animal welfare industry will be in attendance with speakers including Caroline Kisko of The Kennel Club, Major Chris Ham of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and Pet Behaviour Counsellor Vicky Halls. The conference will be opened and chaired by Clarissa Baldwin OBE and Nick Blampied, President of the Jersey SPCA.

The event will include talks on a variety of highly topical issues including how to control infections in the kennel and cattery environment and the difficulty of maintaining your income during economic uncertainty.

Major Chris Ham will also talk on the use of rescue dogs in the armed forces. Despite many advances in technology, the military working dog is still very much at the forefront of modern military operations. Major Ham will discuss the canine recruitment processes and the reward-based training methods that are used to shape a dog's natural behaviour to suit the intended role of the military working dog.

Clarissa Baldwin, Chairman of the ADCH, comments:

"The ADCH annual conference is an excellent opportunity for animal industry experts and interested parties to hear from and confer with top UK experts. It also enables delegates to meet other personnel from all sectors of the animal rescue industry including veterinary services, environmental health and local authorities. As always, we look forward to seeing many familiar faces at the event and hope to welcome many new ones too."

Tickets for the two-day event are priced at £50 per delegate, which includes one night's hotel accommodation, and can be obtained by visiting [www.adch.org.uk](http://www.adch.org.uk)

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editor:**

### **The Association of Dogs and Cats Homes**

The Association Of British Dogs Homes was founded in 1985 by Mr Tom Field-Fisher, who at the time was the Chairman of The Committee of The Dogs Home Battersea. Through the Association members would exchange ideas and information about the collection, shelter and re-homing of lost and unwanted dogs. In 1999 the Association changed its name to the Association of Dogs & Cats Homes due to the large proportion of members who were also dealing with the welfare of cats and to include rescues from outside Britain. Since its birth, it has grown immensely and now has four very productive meetings and a conference each year. There are now 56 members of the Association with new applications coming in all the time. The members comprise charities of all sizes situated throughout England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Channel Islands. The Association acts as a platform for identifying and disseminating information on best practice and for raising the standards of animal welfare.

The purposes of the Association are to:

1. Develop good practice and influence others working in the rescue and/or rehoming of dogs and cats.
2. Address common problems and issues.
3. Explore and, where appropriate, negotiate price reductions through economies of scale.
4. Exchange information and provide mutual support.
5. Combine resources to encourage workable, welfare enhancing legislation.
6. Exchange knowledge in construction and refurbishment of facilities.
7. Where appropriate and agreed, represent the views of members in furtherance of the work in the dog and/or cat rescue and rehoming community.

On the 19th July 1984, Mr Field-Fisher chaired a meeting of interested parties to discuss the idea of setting up an Association. The rest is history and from a simple but inspired idea, the Association has grown from strength to strength.

**For further press information, photos and interview requests please contact:**

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