

## **Animal stories based on real-life RSPCA animal rescue**

*Little Lost Hedgehog*

*Puppy Gets Stuck*

*Lamb All Alone*



The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales. Registered charity no. 219099.



**For every book sold, a minimum of 15p will be donated to the RSPCA to help continue saving the lives of animals in England and Wales**

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is the UK's largest animal welfare charity. They rescue, look after and rehome hundreds of thousands of animals each year in England and Wales. They also offer advice on caring for all animals and campaign to change laws that will protect them.

Their work relies on your support, and buying these books helps them save animals' lives.

Find out more about the RSPCA on their website:

[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

Each fiction title is based on a real-life animal rescue experience from an RSPCA Inspector. The books have beautiful foiled covers, and they all feature extra content including interviews with RSPCA inspectors, animal fact files and advice on the topics relating the particular story.

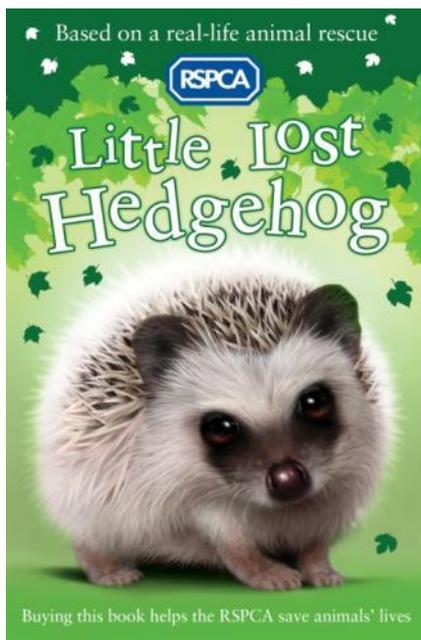
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## Little Lost Hedgehog

Grace has found a tiny hedgehog in her garden – it's all alone, lost and hungry and needs urgent care. Grace's mum calls the RSPCA who she knows will be able to help.

The RSPCA advisor tells Grace's mum to bring the hedgehog indoors, whilst they wait for an inspector to turn up.

The RSPCA inspector is able to take the little hedgehog to one of their centres, where they can nurse it back to life until it is ready to return to the wild.

## How To Make Your Garden Hedgehog-Friendly

If you want to encourage hedgehogs to visit your garden, there are a few things you can do to make it a more attractive place for them. Remember to always check with an adult before you do anything on your own.



Food will encourage visiting hedgehogs to return regularly. You could ask an adult to leave out food such as minced meat, tinned dog food (not fish-based), or chopped boiled eggs. There's also hedgehog food available, which can usually be bought from garden shops.



Never leave out milk for hedgehogs because it's bad for them, but a saucer of fresh water is a good idea.



Ask an adult to create a home for a hedgehog – it's as simple as creating a hedgehog-friendly area with a pile of leaves, or even putting a piece of board against a pile of bricks at an angle. Hedgehog homes can be bought from garden shops.



When it comes to hibernation, hedgehogs like to bed down in piles of leaves and brushwood. You can help by leaving areas of the garden "wild" to encourage a hedgehog to nest there.



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Here are some things that you can do to protect hedgehogs in your garden, to prevent them from becoming sick or injured. Remember to always check with an adult before you do anything on your own.



Remove any litter or garden netting (especially if it's tangled up) as a hedgehog might get trapped or caught up in it.



Drains and similar open holes frequently trap unwary hedgehogs. Ask an adult to keep all drain covers in good condition and cover any open holes.



If you have a pond, ask an adult to build steps (using stones or bricks) out of the water so hedgehogs can climb out if they fall in.



If someone at home is having a bonfire, ask them to check it for wild animals before they light it.



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## Puppy Gets Stuck

Emily has a naughty new puppy called Pickle, and he's very mischievous.

One day Pickle gets stuck in an old mineshaft, and he needs to be rescued. Through the combined efforts of Emily and her family, the RSPCA and the local fire brigade, Pickle is pulled to safety.

### Extract

"Hello, Pickle!" It was Friday afternoon, and nine-year-old Emily Wilson had run straight out of school and down the drive to the gates. There was her gorgeous spaniel puppy waiting for her, his feathery white tail beating with delight, his huge brown eyes round and bright as he saw her coming.

*Woof!* he went, tugging at the lead as if he just couldn't wait another second to be with her. *Woof, woof!*

Dumping her school bag on the grass, Emily crouched down and threw her arms around her puppy, making an enormous fuss of him. She cuddled him and fluffed up his soft brown and white fur and scratched him behind his long silky ears. Pickle, meanwhile, kept licking her face, his wet black nose cold against her cheek, his tail wagging even faster. He really was the cutest puppy ever, and her best friend in the whole world.

"Hello to you too, Em," came Mum's amused voice, and Emily looked up with a smile to see her there with Jack, Emily's brother, who was five.

"Hi, Mum. Hi, Jack," Emily said, getting up and hugging her mum. "Can I take Pickle's lead now?"

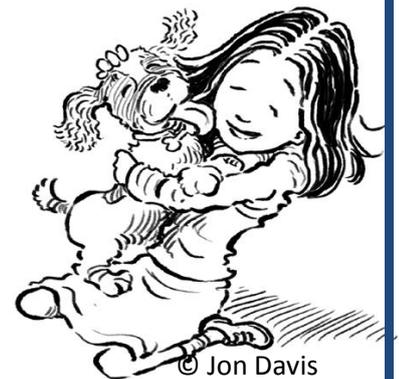
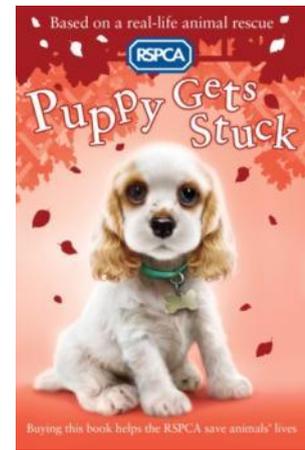
"Of course," Mum said. "I thought we could go to Albany Woods for a walk."

"Yay!" cheered Jack, and Pickle immediately started barking and leaping around at the word "walk" as if he agreed.

Emily grinned. "You know what *that* word means, don't you?" She laughed, reaching down to pat his side. "Your favourite word of all!"

"I think he's learned some new favourite words today," Mum said as they set off down the road. "Cheese straws." Pickle woofed immediately.

"What do you mean?" asked Emily.



“I baked some cheese straws this afternoon,” Mum explained, “and had just left them cooling on the table when the doorbell rang. . .”

“Uh-oh.” Emily laughed. She had a pretty good idea of how this story might go.

“And guess who scrambled up to the table while I went to answer the door. . .and ate *four* of them?” Mum finished.

Pickle gave another woof as if he were proudly saying, *Me! I did it! That’s how clever I am!* and Emily giggled. “Pickle by name, pickle by nature,” she said affectionately, watching as he stopped to sniff a lamp post.

Jack looked worried. “Are there any cheese straws left?” he asked.

Mum ruffled his hair. “There are plenty left,” she said, “and they’re safely in a tin now, well out of reach of greedy pups. Apart from these two, which I brought along just in case there are any hungry children. . .”

“Me!” cried Jack at once.

“Thanks, Mum,” said Emily, munching hers. She gave the lead a gentle tug. “Come on, Pickle, enough sniffing.” He was so inquisitive that he liked to stop and smell *everything*: a nettle, the wall, a piece of litter. . . He’d often swerve right in front of Emily’s legs to get to a particularly exciting gateway or hedge, and had nearly tripped her up several times in his eagerness.

Emily didn’t mind. Pickle was so funny and lovely, she could forgive him anything. Ever since she’d first seen him, when they’d gone to the rehoming centre on her ninth birthday, she had been totally smitten. Back then, he’d been no more than a handful of brown and white fur with a soft round tummy and a fluffy tail. Emily’s heart had simply melted when he’d gambolled over to her with a little yip of excitement, his big round eyes shining.

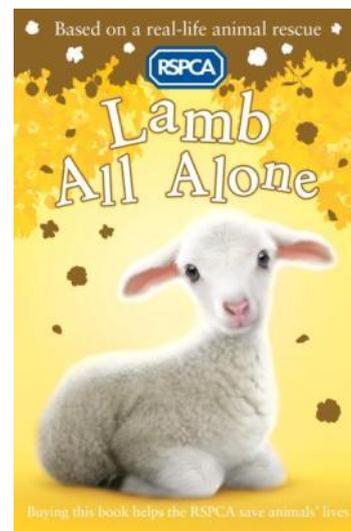


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## Lamb All Alone

There's a flood in Ben's village, and the sheep in the field at the end of his garden are in danger. Ben's family call the RSPCA who come to help transport the sheep to safety.

But one tiny lamb is left behind! Ben has a brilliant idea of how they can save it – but he and the RSPCA need to act quickly to rescue the lamb.



### Meet a real RSPCA Inspector: Inspector Tony Woodley



The story of Lamb All Alone is based on a real-life animal rescue. RSPCA Inspector Tony Woodley talks about what happened when he was part of the team who rescued a herd of sheep who were victims of a flood.

**Ben's story is based on a real-life animal rescue. Could you tell us about a similar rescue you were a part of?**

I was involved in the rescue of a sheep from a flooded river near Exeter. I was able to rescue it with the help of the local beach lifeguard team as the Fire Brigade were on strike. Both the lifeguard and I received an RSPCA medal for animal rescue bravery.

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### **How do you prepare for a flood rescue?**

You are normally working as part of a team of flood-trained officers. The safety of yourself and the team is of utmost importance. Once you get to the site you carry out a risk assessment and then work out the best way to help the animals. You have lots of equipment like a dry suit, a helmet, a buoyancy aid to keep you afloat, rope to hold on to when you're in the water so you can pull yourself back to dry land, boats, etc.

### **Why did you want to become an RSPCA Inspector?**

I had worked with animals and people for many years but also have an interest in the law. The unique role of the RSPCA Inspector was one I had wanted to get into and I was delighted that I managed to successfully apply as I know it is very competitive.

### **Could you describe what a typical day is like for an RSPCA Inspector?**

No day is the same for an RSPCA officer. You never quite know what to expect on the next call you attend. You could be rescuing animals from danger or investigating complaints about animals not being cared for properly. The role is all about working with people to ensure the wellbeing of animals.

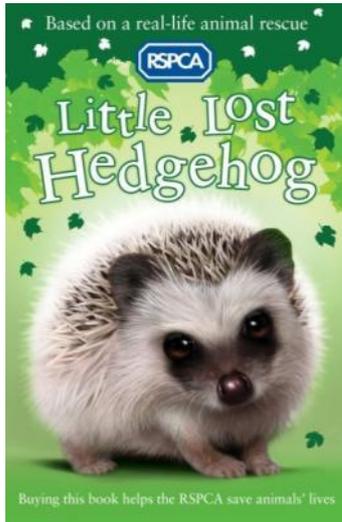
### **What is the best thing about being an RSPCA Inspector?**

The best thing is getting home at the end of the day and knowing that you have improved the lives of animals either by rescuing them from danger or by advising an owner how to look after their animal or even by acting to prevent an animal being cruelly treated any more.



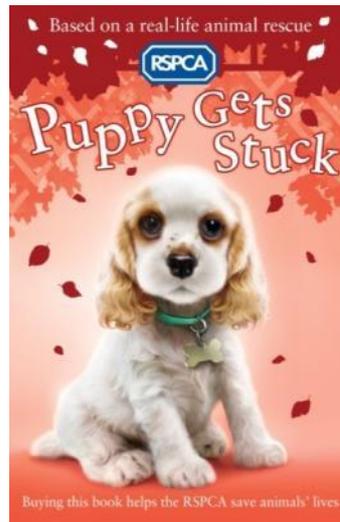
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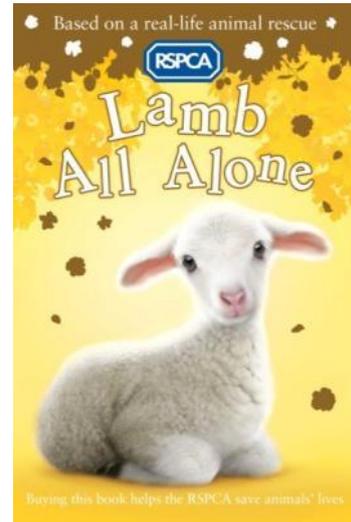
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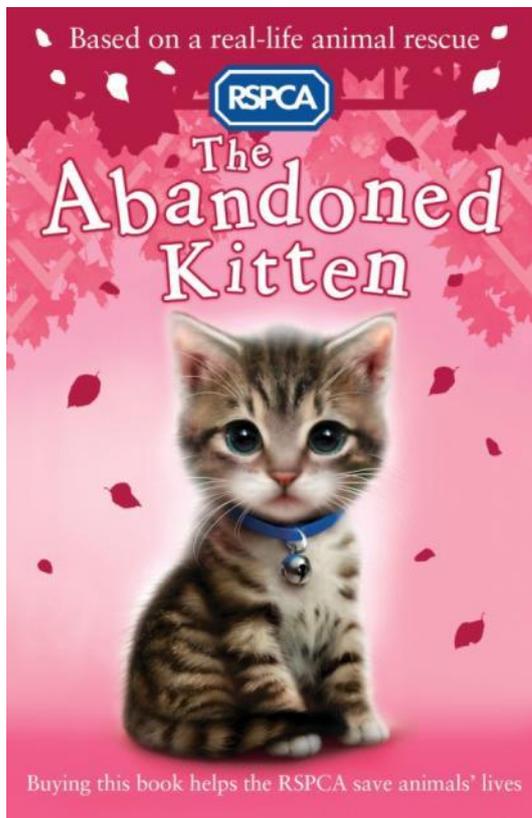
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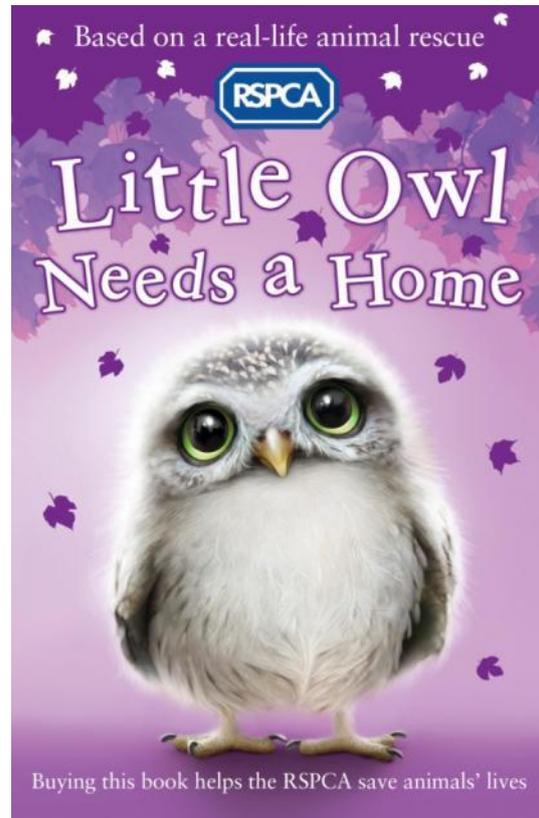
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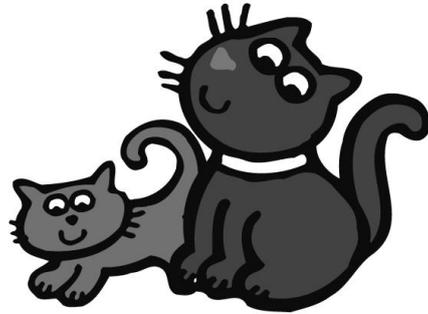
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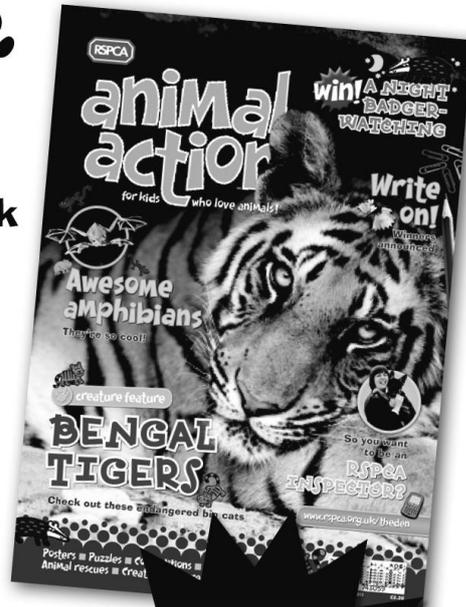
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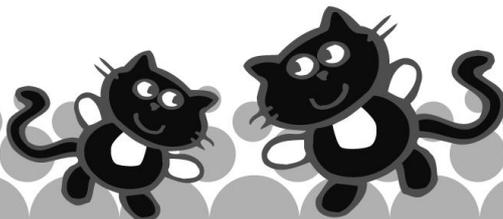
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