

Don't it just drive you *mad...*

How many of you have pets? I have had many over the years including hamsters, gerbils, rabbits, budgies, terrapins and the list goes on. The gerbils came from a friend who had considered setting them "free" in a field. Where do people get these ideas? If you take on the responsibility of a pet, it is for life, too many people buy pets and are surprised that it is hard work and can be expensive. So many animals are dumped or left in sanctuaries due to a lack of forethought and commitment.

I have two dogs, two goldfish and five horses (hence the E-mail address) I love animals and I am forever rescuing something from the side of the road. My long-suffering friend (her words) Rebecca, has known me over fifteen years, when she's with me and I see an animal in distress, she glances at me with a resigned look. On a jaunt across the country to DIY stores, looking for, something, we do this lot trying to decorate our houses, it's a long and painful state of affairs, anyway that is another story. We went to Botley, as we arrived this small fluffy pigeon was meandering across the road, with my usual disregard for anything else; I stopped the car in the middle of the traffic and jumped out. The pigeon had gone under a van and I told him not to move (the driver, not the pigeon) we were then blocking both lanes of traffic. Rebecca stoically sat in the car leafing through her paper and paying no heed to the possibility of my imminent demise. As by this point, I was risking life and limb by crawling on the floor, (in the road) to get the pigeon out from under the van. Finally I wrapped it in my coat and returned to the car. A quick visit to the vet and I was directed to Little Foxes, who specialise in rehabilitating wild animals. He was young and undernourished but recovered.

Shortly after, I was in Abingdon and this black and white pigeon appeared looking bedraggled. I tried to be inconspicuous with all the people milling around so as not to look like a complete fool (I think I failed!) I was running around with a coat and the pesky thing refused to be cooperative, it weaved all round the place avoiding me. I tried to swoop upon it, while it was looking in the opposite direction; of course I missed and tripped over, at which point I abandoned all pretence of being subtle. Eventually I grabbed it and took it to the same place, they guessed he had fallen into cooking oil left out by one of the shops. Someone said that people are moaning about the number of pigeons in London and what is to be done about them and I am off saving them. Well as to that, whether you consider them vermin, rats with wings or just a general pest, I would never leave an animal suffering. The biggest hate I have is animal cruelty; it is so unnecessary, what kind of contemptible, worthless excuse for a human being, believes that it is acceptable? As I always say, to anyone who will listen, if you don't want to look after an animal properly, then don't have one, it's not compulsory and they are NOT accessories! I have great respect for anyone who works on the front line of animal rescue, whether here or abroad. I support Hillside Animal Sanctuary in Norfolk and I can only glance over the newsletters they send. When you see what people do to animals, it's hard to believe we are supposedly a nation of animal lovers!

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