

Please don't throw in the towel - give it to the RSPCA!

RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre has launched an appeal for towels as they get through huge numbers each year caring for sick and injured wildlife

Staff at the RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre have launched an appeal for towels, facecloths and sheets which are vital for the daily care of the seals, hedgehogs, ducklings and many more animals in their care.



In order to prevent the spread of disease, a fresh towel is required every time a seal in the centre's isolation unit is given medication or food. And as most seals require a long-period of rehabilitation - one seal alone can get through more than 50 towels, during their stay. Already this year the centre has cared for 134 seals (49 greys and 85 commons).

Tiny hedgehogs also need a clean face cloth every day as they are used to keep them warm and comfortable. So far this year the centre has cared for 548 hedgehogs.



Alison Charles centre manager at East Winch said: "I know the residents of Norfolk are probably wondering what on earth do we do with all these towels, given we have run appeals

like this in the past, but the truth of the matter is we actually get through thousands of towels every year.

“Whenever possible we wash and reuse them, but we have to be so careful preventing the spread of disease, so sadly in most cases we can only use a towel once - so you can understand how the figures add up so quickly.

“While the towel might just seem like a common everyday item for many people, for us they are like gold dust and are really important for our day to day work at the centre.

“Sadly though, the generous supplies we have been given have dried up, so I am once again calling on the help of the kind-hearted residents of Norfolk and further afield to donate their unwanted towels.

“We want to stress that we just need old towels, so would urge people to have a look in their cupboards to see if they have a few old ones kicking around that they can send us. In the past people have been so kind and sent us lovely new towels, we once even had 100 new John Lewis face cloths donated, but an old towel works perfectly fine and as we only use most of them once, it’s best to just send over your old ones and it’s also a great way to recycle as well.”

A number of collection points for towels have kindly been set up at Tesco stores in Norfolk, these include the stores on the King’s Lynn Hardwick Estate, in Swaffham and also at Dereham.

The towels can also be placed in a special yellow bin located outside the wildlife centre in East Winch, Norfolk.

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