



Wednesday 17 August 2016

Baby vole rescued, rehabilitated and released by RSPCA staff

Wildlife experts managed to get the little vole fit and healthy for release



Animal-loving sisters who stumbled upon an underweight, vulnerable baby vole got to see the wonderful work of the RSPCA first-hand as the little rodent was rescued, rehabilitated and released.

Megan Hayes, 13, and her nine-year-old sister Daisy were on their way home from school when they found the little bank vole - later named Alex (*pictured left*) - in Holbeach, Spalding, in Lincolnshire, on 11 July.

They were worried about the tiny vole, who was so young he still had his eyes closed, so they moved him out of the road in the hopes his mum would return. But, when she didn't, they scooped him up in a box and took him home to call the RSPCA.

Inspector Justin Stubbs collected Alex the following day and took him to East Winch Wildlife Centre, in Norfolk, for expert care.

Inspector Stubbs said: "Megan and Daisy almost certainly saved Alex's life by finding him and taking him to a place of safety so I'd like to say a big well done to them all.

"If anyone comes across a wild animal they believe is injured or sick then we would advise them to call the RSPCA's emergency 24-hour line for advice on 0300 1234 999.

"There is information on the [RSPCA website](http://www.rspca.org.uk) about which animals it may be safe to capture and contain.



“Sometimes it can be faster to take the animal to a vet or local wildlife centre yourself, as our officers may be tied up dealing with other calls. However, if you can’t transport the animal, please get in touch.”

Wildlife assistant Alice West spent almost three weeks caring for little Alex until he weighed a healthy 15g and was well enough to be released.

Alice decided she had to invite his rescuers along to see Alex return to the wild, so Megan and Daisy (pictured right with friend Katie McKewoun) watched as he was released.

Alison Charles, manager at East Winch Wildlife Centre, said: “The girls decided to call the vole Alex and very kindly sent in a donation to cover the cost of his care, which was really sweet.”



“So it was only right that they - the people who undoubtedly saved his little life - got to see him released back into the wild.”

Megan and Daisy’s mum, Paula, said: “Alex was very wet and bedraggled when we found him. We called the local vet and they told us to get in touch with the RSPCA.

“It was fantastic for the girls to be able to see him released into the wild.”

The RSPCA is a charity which relies on public donations to exist. To assist our inspectors carry out their work please text HELP to 78866 to give £3 (Texts cost £3 + one standard network rate message).

Ends

Notes to editors

- More photos are available from the press office on 0300 123 0244 or press@rspca.org.uk.
- For advice on what to do if you find a wild animal which may be sick or injured, visit our [website](#).

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