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THE BLUE CROSS

*Britain's pet charity*

21 May 2010

PATRON  
HIS GRACE  
THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER KG CB OBE TD CD DL

Cllr Jeremy Exley  
Chairman  
Northiam Village Parish Council  
3 High Park Close  
Dixter Road  
Northiam  
E Sussex TN31 6PH

Dear Councillor Exley,

I wrote to you earlier in the year in regards to proposals we made to close our animal adoption centre and equine retirement centre in Northiam and I am writing to you now to update you on those plans.

In the last few months we have been in consultation with our staff about the proposals and have listened to the feedback from the local community.

At the end of April, our Board of Trustees and Executive Team met together to review the proposals and feedback and I'm pleased to tell you that we agreed that the charity is committed to remain in the area.

Sadly however our current site at Northiam is not suitable as the buildings need significant refurbishment and investment. We will therefore begin to search the South East area for a more appropriate location where we can deliver our services for cats, dogs and small pets more effectively.

The current site at Northiam will remain open until a new small animal facility has been established at the alternative location. The small animal activity will then relocate to the new site.

At this time, the equine facility will also close and the retired horses and ponies will be transferred to our Burford centre in Oxfordshire and our Rolleston centre in Staffordshire. Horses and ponies in the South East that need our help to be rehomed will continue to be assisted through these two centres.

The future of our land at Northiam will be decided once the new small animal facility in the South East is found.

We are sad to be leaving the village of Northiam where support for our activities has been overwhelming and we are extremely grateful for the dedication and passion of our staff and supporters. I hope that you will continue to support our work to help needy animals in the South East.

Kind regards

Kim Hamilton  
Chief Executive

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