

## The great mouse escape

Even the North Devon Animal Ambulance's new volunteer copywriter, Cheltenham-based Al Hidden, got involved in a 'hands on' animal rescue recently.

### A noise outside the window

While copywriting for the new NDAA website, Al, who works from the basement of his Victorian terraced home, heard a noise outside the window. Leaving his computer to investigate, Al realised that a house mouse had fallen down the converted coal chute outside the basement and was now trapped.

### A knotted 'rope ladder' made of tea towels

Despite trying very hard, the little mouse couldn't escape by jumping between the access steps built into the former coal chute. Rather than try to catch the mouse (it might have come inside, which wouldn't have pleased Mrs Hidden), Al used typical resourcefulness to create a Colditz style 'rope ladder' out of knotted tea towels. Moments after the escape device was dangled down, the smart mouse was climbing to safety – and Al was heading for the washing machine!

Speaking about the episode, Al says: 'When I offered to help the NDAA with their copywriting, I didn't realise I'd be involved in an actual animal rescue so soon. In future, to help any other mice, we'll be suspending a strip of hessian down so they have something to climb if we're not there to help.'



Picture by Al Hidden

**Copyright © North Devon Animal Ambulance (NDAA) 2007.** This article may be reproduced provided it is not altered in any way, that the NDAA is fully acknowledged and that a link is provided to the NDAA website.

---