

RSPCA receive over 7000 phone calls a year about litter related incidents.

RSPCA officers regularly have to save trapped animals including pets injured on broken glass bottles, hedgehogs trapped in empty cans and birds choking on elastic bands.

Many of these incidents can be easily prevented if everyone disposed of their litter correctly.



In a research project conducted by Keep Wales Tidy it was found that 50% of people in Wales were littering as they admitted to dropping rubbish instead of using a bin at least once in the last year.

The research also found that more young people were litterers (16-34 year olds) than older people (55+).



Litter can attract and increase the number of pests in an area including rats that feed on the rubbish.

Rats can be good for wildlife as they help with seed dispersal for some plants and provide a source of food for some predators such as owls.

But rats also carry a number of different parasites and diseases that can effect human health. They also prey on small mammals, insects and ground nesting birds.



Illegally dumped waste and litter can build up in rivers. As well as affecting wildlife, the rubbish can potentially cause blockages in the river increasing the risk of flooding in certain areas.

In 2011 Fly Tipping Action Wales removed over 1 tonne of waste from rivers Lleidi and Dafan in Llanelli. As well as household litter other items were removed including mattresses and old bikes.



When balloons are released, they float back down to earth, either whole or in pieces. They are dangerous for wildlife as they can be mistaken for food causing blocked digestive systems leading to starvation.

Strings on balloons can entangle and trap animals.

If pieces of balloon were dropped directly on the ground you could be fined for littering. If they are released they are not classed as litter under current legislation.

