

NEWSLETTER

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Registered Charity No 1134680



Spring/Summer 2012
Number 52

Dear Friends

Wonderful to meet so many of you at Crufts and to be able to welcome new friends so enthusiastic about helping! Someone who has helped every week for over five years is our Young Volunteer of The Year, **Jenny Whelan** aged 16 from Sussex. She was presented with her award at Crufts by Sonila Shah from More4 TV, a justifiably proud moment for Jenny and her parents. Without Jenny's help, Peggy may not have been able to keep her beloved Mitzi. Jenny and her mum, Paula, have become great friends with Peggy (92) and of course Mitzi, who loves her walks. Jenny says "Mitzi is fun to walk and loves her cuddles. Being a young volunteer is such a great way of helping people as well as having a great time with dogs. It also reassures the elderly people you help that their beloved pets are receiving such great care. If it was not for Cinnamon Trust their lives would be a lot harder."



CT '100' Club

The big winner in December who received £100 was **Joan Carter** (Oxon). Winners who have each received £25 are Oct: **Mary Demuth** (Herefordshire), Nov: **Elaine Webb** (Lincs), Jan: **Peter Snelling** (Lancashire), Feb: **Alison Darch** (Devon) and Mar: **Elizabeth Brownhill** (Yorkshire).



Short Points

Geraldine White found this from **M. K. Warner** in the Bristol Evening Post - perfect for us.

1. My life is likely to last 10 - 15 years, and any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my wellbeing.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as a punishment.
5. Talk to me and even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I am not having the proper food, I may have been in the sun too long or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old or weak. You, too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you.

Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them.

Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's creatures.

Now please pass this onto other pet owners. We do not have to wait for heaven to be surrounded by hope, love, joyfulness etc. It is here on earth and it has four legs.



Fundraising Events

Diane Leach raised £55.57 from the sale of goodies at Alphapet Dog Show in

Bognor. **Jo Jarnell, Dereth Heighway** and **Anna Drinkwater** (Staffs) raised £341.05 from various stands and from the launch of *Legally Blonde* at The Regent Theatre.

Staff at **Elm Veterinary Group** (Devon) raised £180 during National Veterinary Nurse Week from a sponsored walk across Dartmoor dressed as “nuns on the run”!

Ian Wright (Herefordshire) raised a fantastic £538.50 running The Edinburgh Marathon. **Dave Elliott** (Cornwall) as Captain of **Treloy Golf Club** together with members raised £100 by charging 20p to any member who landed in the 'Doggie Bunker' - great one Dave! **Dora Delf** (Cornwall) raised £33 on her stall, **Yvonne Joslin** (Hants) and everyone at Oakhanger Fun Dog show raised £100. **Joy Purser** (Middx) raised £100 on a dog walk in Trent Park.

Denice Caulfield (Ipswich) raised £100 from the sale of her scrumptious homemade preserves and homegrown veg. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) has been busy! She raised £105.68 from Bleasdon dog show, East Huntspill church open weekend and Theale flower, dog show and Christmas Fair. **Lynne Grace** (Cornwall) held a fete in her garden and raised £90 from homemade cakes, jams, books, knick knacks and a raffle. **Irene Jones** (Cornwall) raised £175 at her table top sales. **Fleur Baxter** and everyone at **Wallace Veterinary Centre** in Carnoustie raised £50. **Bernice Miller** (Norwich) and her son **Stuart** held two car boot sales and raised £100. **Kathy Lansksheer** organised a “Pool Shoot” in memory of **Ken Springham** as part of a clay pigeon shoot at Housham Hall, Essex and raised a magnificent £500. **Lorna Hill** and everyone at **The Barn Veterinary Practice** (Suffolk) raised £250 from their Open day. **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) held a very successful garden fete and raised £309. **Marsha Brett** (Hants) despite the wet and windy day, raised £38.28 from her table top sale. **Julia Dallosso** and everyone at **Kenley Holiday Workshop** raised £250 from a raffle at their production of 'Oklahoma'. **Sheila Hamilton** (Berks) raised a fabulous £500 from a closed bid auction at her show. **Charlie Sampson** and all the staff at **AlphaPet Veterinary Clinics** (W Sussex) held a fun dog show and raised a



Lola “Diva at the press desk” at the Regent Theatre



Nuns on the Run! Elm Vet Group



Copthorne Vet Clinic

stunning £1,000. **Jackie Gordon** (E Sussex) raised £30.05 from **Elstree Court Nursing Home's** garden fete. **Christine Lawn** and **The Lupset Park Group** have been wonderful again and raised a stupendous £1,337 from their monthly events. **Copthorne Vet Clinic** raised £94 from 'Guess the name of the veterinary nurse bear' competition - love it!

Jeanne Thomas (Pemb) knitted quite a few little mice she sold at 50p a time and raised £20 - lovely one. **Jennifer Woodland** (Essex) sold greetings cards, gift wrap and accessories and raised £25. **Emma, Nicole** and everyone at **Axe Valley Vet Practice** (Somerset) raised £40 from their dog show. This is a brilliant one - **Cyd Casados** (London) held a Pooches Parade and raised £133.76 - they all looked stunning!



Cyd Casados' Pooches Parade



Janet Morgan (Worcs)

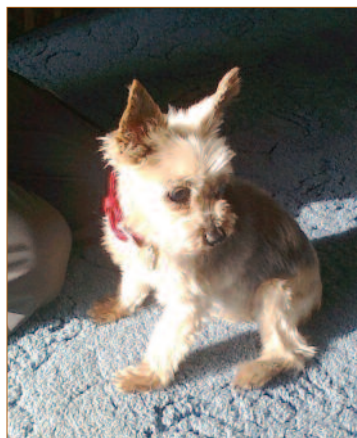
with help from **Wendy Ralphs**, **Kevin** and **Chris Hyde** and **Anita Moore** raised a most excellent £298.94 from various events. **Elsbeth Cargill** (Edinburgh) and everyone at her sheltered housing complex held a bottle tombola and raised a wonderful £172. **Colin Kidd** and **The Brea Gardening Club** (Cornwall) raised a staggering £881. **Paula Hill** (Glocs) and 13 Golden Retriever owners held a trimming demonstration and raised £70 from their raffle. **Carmarthen Vet Centre** raised £140 for us and **Amanda Arme** and all the staff at **Vets4Pets** (Notts) held an open day and raised £135. **Rod Woodward** (Herts) raised £268.45 from a street collection with help from **Christine Hood**, **Ann Dehnel**, **David Mabbutt**, **Lindsey Kirrane** and her **GSD 'Bean'**, who was irresistible rolling on his back to have his tummy tickled. He also raised £67.50 from walking 'Pickles'. Then he sold his family piano to raise another fantastic £50. **Lewis Harris** (Cornwall) raised £49.20 from raffles at local care homes. **Eileen** and **Pat Ellice** with friends and neighbours (W Sussex) raised £50 from their coffee mornings and table top sales. **Louise Matlock** (London) raised £190 in lieu of presents for her 60th birthday - many more of them, Louise! **South Moor Vets** (Devon) held a dog

show and a sponsored swim to raise £267.23 - very well done! **Freda Bumann** (Glos) is amazing! At the age of 90 with help from our volunteer **Renata Mauri** she raised £95.07 at her table top sale. **Carl Drinkwater** (W Mids) recycled tins, foil, scrap metal and unwanted clothes collected from friends and family to raise



Freda Bumann's stall

£314.30 - fantastic! **Pat Sanderson** (W Mids) raised £50 from her table top sale, **Rita Curtis** (Cornwall) raised £30 at their local horticultural show. **Sue Poulton** (Glos) raised a fabulous £315 in lieu of gifts at her retirement from Fidelius - a very happy retirement Sue! **Sarah Graham** (Herts) held a dog show at Highfield Park, St Albans. Much fun was had by all and a magnificent £270.81 was raised. **Janet Smith** (Essex) did some more doggie sitting whilst owners went on holiday, with help from Troy, CD, Louis, Bella, Zoe and Snoop she raised £175. **Silver Bay Holiday Park** (Wales) held a fun dog show and raised £50. **Suzanne Pashley** (Devon) gave a "Happy Dogs Talk" to Friday Friends (Sidmouth) and raised £30. **Carol**



Zoe, one of Jan's little helpers!

Wyatt as Master of the Lodge of Truth (Lady Freemasons) raised an unbelievable £755 throughout the year from their fundraising activities. The congregation of **Fellowship on The Rock**, a lovely little church on Portland raised a fantastic £200. The Tenant Panel at **West Devon Homes** raised an amazing £500. **Bleadon Country Sports** (Somerset) raised £400 - excellent. And a special one, all the students and staff at **Haslingden High School** (Lancs) raised £100 from their annual 'Charity Day'. **Pat Shaw** (W Sussex) raised £50 at a car boot sale, in memory of her best friend **Jennie Docherty** and her beautiful white cat 'Mitzi' who is now in lifelong foster with us. **Mrs D Bowen** (Essex) celebrated her 80th birthday and raised the amazing sum of £265 - a very happy day! **Sean Phillips** and everyone at **Dunster Beach Holidays** (Somerset) raised £130 from a number of fundraising events. **Liz Cooke** (Hants) raised £30 from her coffee morning. The Stourport-on-Severn practice of **Vale Veterinary Group** opened their doors for a bit of informal fun and raised a wonderful £125. **Sarah Steventon** and The Ladies Committee ran a charity golf competition at **Royal**

Cromer Golf Club, the ladies had a fantastic day - the sun shone, the course was wonderful, the food excellent, competitors came from far afield and they raised a stonking £1,115.06. **Sarah Brown** (London) organised a quiz night at her local church, this was a roaring success and she raised £205.50. **Kylie Jones RVN**, the staff and clients at **Ian McConnell's Veterinary Practice** (Lancs) raised a fantastic £325 from their table top sale during BVNA week. **Donna Lewis** (Kent) raised £65 from selling goods. **Katherine Ashby** (Cumbria) won her company's charity crossword and raised £50. **Beryl** and **Suzanne Rowley** (Surrey) raised £50 from her car boot sale and her company matched this - brilliant! **Beryl Newnham** and **Northallerton and District Lioness Club** raised £50. **Elizabeth Townsley** (Surrey) held a cake sale at her work, Royal Sun Alliance and her husband contributed to raise an amazing £500 in memory of their dearly loved foster cat 'Red'. Over the summer, **Katie Nebel RVN** and colleagues at The Plympton Branch of **The Veterinary Hospital Group** raised £100 from Merial's "Paws for a Cause" campaign. **Christine Harrison** (Midlands) held several car boots over the year to raise £150. **Marylyn Elphick** (Sussex) made jewellery from reused beads to raise £50, **Christine Barnicoat** (Cornwall) raised £70 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Jenny Osborne** (Cornwall) had to clear her dear friend Sal's flat when she passed away and held many car boot sales to raise £80 in Sal's memory - a lovely tribute. The parishioners of **All Saints Church**, Little Totham (Essex) raised £40 at their pet service. **Sandra Pridgen** (Lincs) and her mum **Margaret Scott** baked scrumptious Christmas cakes and goodies to raise a marvellous £68 - sadly they also had to wash up! **Ron Turner** and **The Alfresford Bridge Club** raised £50. **Jo Watson** and everyone at **The Vet** in Rothwell raised a fantastic £332 from their Christmas raffle and tombola. **The**



Leonard Brothers Vet Centre quiz night

Inner Wheel Club of Bude raised £40. **Elizabeth Bull**, **Anne Tuppen** and **Celia Blake** held a stall in the churchyard of St Mary's Putney called 'Every Little Helps', they raised a fabulous £345. **The Congregation of Withycombe Methodist Church** (Devon) held a Festival of Nativity Triptychs and raised £70. **Hazel** and **Clive Elrick** (East Sussex) together with **Faye**, **Jim**, **Marianne**, **Brenda**, **Eve** and **Liz** of **The Bagatelle Club** raised £80. **Susan Wade** (Warks) held a "choose the name" competition for a soft toy and raised £40. The volunteers at **The Crossing Charity Shop**, Kirby (Notts) raised £475 throughout the year - superb! **Janet** and **Allison Dyte** (Yorks) sold lovely handmade cards to raise £150. **Kim** and everyone at **Leonard Brothers Veterinary Centre** (Shropshire) held a quiz night, with

more than double the amount of teams they expected, they had a fantastic night and raised a staggering £1,023.18. And I just have to quote **Abbeydale Vetlink** who raised a spanking £1,941.01 for us. "A tandem skydive was organised by Abbeydale Vetlink Veterinary Training director and tutor Kirsty Gwynne for students and friends in aid of The Cinnamon Trust. It was a crystal clear and beautifully sunny day which was perfect for the skydive at the Silver Stars Parachute Display Team of Royal Logistic Corps at South Cerney. The skydive centre and the instructors were fantastic and gave us all a wonderful experience which was one that we all want to do again! Everybody was enthusiastic about the jump which

was fun, exhilarating, amazing and quite strangely peaceful and tranquil. The day provided a wonderful opportunity to raise money for a superb charity."

Belinda Newman (Surrey) raised £90 on her stall, **Wakefield Vets4Pets** raised a brilliant £330 from their sponsored walk, **Kirstie Shield** (Wiltshire) ran the Chippenham half marathon to raise £30 - Kirstie is BVNA secretary, more



Abbeydale Vets sky diving team



of them later! **Amanda Bond** (Sussex) ran The London Marathon and raised an incredible £506.01. **Suzy Lockwood** (London) scaled Mount Kilimanjaro to raise a stupendous £1,075. What a feat! **Wilmington Ringcraft Club** (Kent) raised £160 from their Christmas raffle. **Belmont Veterinary Centre** (Herefordshire) raised £100 from clients purchasing a certain flea treatment! **Paul Perkin** (Warwickshire) and his family did their lovely Christmas Sleigh again, and raised £326. **Rhyl High School** raised £50 from the School's Tuck Shop - lovely one! And another lovely one, the **2nd River Brownies** (Kent) raised £66.75 on their Laser Walk - sounds great fun! **Flo Croucher** (Somerset) raised £150 from the sale of her hand made mittens, and delicious preserves. **Mary Smith** and **Barbara Smith** (Kent) raised a fantastic £650 from trading on E-Bay. **Katz Kiddell** from Krefeld generously added to the total once again! Members of the **Falmouth Church** congregation gathering for a cup of coffee after morning mass, raised £50. **Judy Westacott** was Mayor of Totnes last year, but still ran her Elizabethan Market Stall and raised an amazing £500. **Taunton Ambulance Station** raised £155 for us from their Christmas raffle. **Janice Nuttall** (Sussex) raised £169.79 from the Occasional Carol Singers. The late **Mrs Jean Laurence**, who loved all dogs, no matter what breed raised a very special £700 through the efforts of her much loved husband, **Harry**, auctioning her prized collection of silver. **Ruthin Social Services** (Denbighshire) annual raffle and associated 'games' raised £160. **Val Rainbow** (Warwickshire) and the **Bastet Belly Dance** group raised £70 from their end of term party raffle. **Mary Roberts** (Suffolk) raised £40 from her fortnightly tea dance. **Margaret Staveley** (Somerset) and her Yoga Group raised £25. **Highcroft Vet Group** (Somerset) raised £84 from a hospital open day and their Staff Christmas Raffle. **Mr and Mrs Newell** (Cambridgeshire) raised £60 in lieu of Christmas presents. **Katherine Collyer** (Durham) and **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** raised £70 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Preston Goldburn Solicitors** (Cornwall) raised £23 In lieu of sending Christmas cards and **Marion Day** (Somerset) and **The Canine Capers Dogs Training Club** raised £110 from raffles and in lieu of sending Christmas



Eastern Sway Belly Dance Party

Cards. **Helen Smith** and everyone at **Abbey Vet Centre** (Lancs) raised £121.58 from the collection box and in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Sheila Buchanan** and Belly Dancers from all over Devon and Cornwall raised £134 from the Eastern Sway's annual Charity Belly Dance Party - A Shimmying Success!

Liz Canham (Norfolk) raised £10 from the sale of her hand-made cat nip toys. **Caroline Stroud** (Bedfordshire) raised £70 from a bridge tournament and supper event. **Veronica Grassley** (Suffolk) raised £120 from her sales at a farmers market and a tombola. **Avonvale Vets** (Warwickshire) chose us as their charity of the year, and raised a stonking £1480.21 from various events throughout 2011. **Struthers and Scott Veterinary Practice** (Scotland) raised £102 through their fundraising, **Virginia Water Veterinary Clinic** (Surrey) raised a magnificent £492 through their pet photo shoots. **Marilyn Bickham** and **Taunton Limited Reformed Church** raised £25 at their Christmas tree festival. **Sam Wade** and her friend **Sarah** (Warwickshire) raised £250 from their terrific coffee morning. **Hird and Partners Vet Surgeons** (W Yorks) raised £30 in lieu of sending Christmas cards, **Shaaron Jeffery** (West Midlands) raised £30.65 from a coffee morning at Wylde Green Library. **David Godrey** ran the Nottingham Marathon in 4 hours, 54 minutes & 41 seconds, and raised £336.20 - well done David, that's fantastic!



David Godrey at the finishing line

Helen Vandenberghe (Essex) raised £54.50 from Christmas Fetes, **Bernice Lewis** (Cornwall) raised £22 on her table top sale. **Christine Sumsion** (Somerset) organised a charity quiz with the Londonairs and raised £205. **Elizabeth Beets** (Essex) and **St Cecillas' Church Prayer Group** raised £50. **Tina** and **Bruce Newman's** son (Cornwall) did a concert with their band 'Push' in Helston and raised £198. **Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association** sent £50 from a new member of a Flatcoat puppy, **Lark Agility DTC** (Suffolk) members **Joanne & Andrew Blazey** held a Garden Tea Party on their wedding anniversary and raised £200 from competitions and a raffle - superb! We were their charity of the year. **St Edward's DTC** (Kent) raised £200. **West of England and South Wales Airedale Terrier Club** raised £200 from their club's fun day.



Airedales having fun!

Skernedale DTC (Co Durham) raised a magnificent £600 from their Companion Dog Show - a great turnout and a wonderful day! **Cheltenham and District DTC** raised £224 from a tombola and practice ring at their Open Dog Show. **Paws in Motion** (Kent) raised £50 from canine performers(!) selling dog treats at Paws in the Park. **Woburn DTC** raised £140 from a raffle and book stall at their Championship Show. **Brook DTC** raised £100 from their Summer Party raffle. **Windsor Gundog Society** raised £35 from a raffle at their Open Show. **Hatfield Peverel DTC** (Essex) raised £100 from a raffle and quizzes at their Christmas party. **Snoopy DTC** (Herts) raised £200 for us and **Woodbridge and District DTC** (Suffolk) raised £50. **The Whippet Club** (E Sussex) raised £100. **Chelmsford DTS** (Essex) raised £40 in lieu of sending Christmas cards and **Plymouth DTC** raised £100. **Dogsbody** (Cornwall) raised £126 from a collection box and sale of Christmas cards, **Donyatt DTC** (Somerset) raised £130 from their Christmas Party and **Farnham DTC** raised £95 from a raffle at their Christmas party. **The Manchu Shih Tzu Society** (W Midlands) raised £20, **Springers Agility and Flyball Club** (Yorks) raised £175 through various events throughout the year. **Brook DTC** (Sussex) raised £100 from their Christmas raffle, **P.E.T DTC** (Hants) raised £120 at their carnival and Christmas party. **Fleet and District DTS** raised £183.50 from various events including skittles night and bring and buy. **Animal Magic Dog Club** (Norwich) held a raffle at Jonet Restaurant and raised £86. The staff at **Fine Tubes Ltd** collected weekly, the company matched the total and we benefitted by £100.

As a result of being **The British Veterinary Nursing Association's Charity Of The Year**, we received a whopping £4,010.32 from all their different and very energetic fundraising for us. Add to this all the separate events that happened at vet surgeries up and down the country, the total we received was an unbelievable £9,042.66 - absolutely brilliant!!

You've all been truly marvellous, and apart from paying the vet's bills (huge!), buying the winter coats, heat pads, scrumptious ingredients for even more scrumptious meals, replacing worn out beds etc, you've helped buy a new central heating boiler for Hillside, new cat room heaters for Poldarves, not to mention bunny tunnels and fun balls! Thank you so very much and please, don't stop!

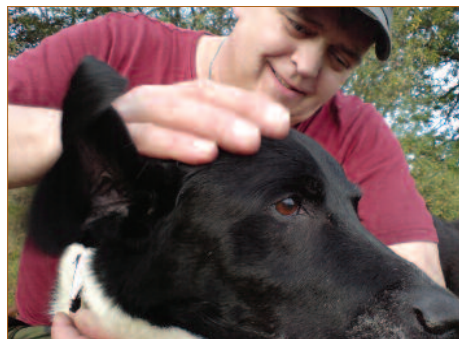


Volunteer View

Our first view is from **Steve Smith** in West Sussex who regularly walks **Data** for his owner, **Elizabeth Wakefield**.

"Data the dog is quite a unique individual. One of his characteristics is that when he comes across a pond, a river or a stream, he jumps straight in the water and

goes up to his waist, and then proceeds to bark nonstop, wagging his tail violently and appears to be quite happy with what he's doing. Sometimes you can persuade him out of the water with a treat, in which case he will quite often eat the treat and go straight back in the water and commence barking again, even if you lure him away from the water with a treat for say 500 yards. He will still at times eat the treat and run as fast as he can back to the water and commence barking again. People I have met whilst out walking Data don't know his name but they know him as the dog that barks in water - why he does this, neither his owner nor I know, but would love to hear from anyone who can explain!



Steve Smith and Data

Data is a great chasing dog, he loves to chase anything that moves, at times he will disappear from sight in pursuit of a squirrel or rabbit and maybe gone for 10 minutes sometimes. Once he's spotted movement in the bushes he just goes and there's no stopping him, however if I get worried about where he's got to I sometimes use my whistle and a dog treat to tempt him back. Quite often Data would have done a complete circle in the woods and end up standing behind me quietly while I am blowing the whistle and calling his name

and trying to get him back. All of a sudden I look behind me and he's looking up at me as if to say "what's all this noise about and where's my treat?". Data is such a clever dog that it would not surprise me if this was not a deliberate ploy to make me blow my whistle so he gets a treat.



When I was fostering Data for a week and a half, he slept on the bed with me all night. I tickled him, stroked him, scratched his ribs, and he was a most affectionate dog, making all kinds of satisfying throat noises or growls indicating his happiness at being stroked. He is a very affectionate dog and very gentle at times, although sometimes I woke up in the night to find him lying on top of me

with his chest on my chest and his head on my head, and at this point I realized how heavy he was and it was a struggle to get him off. And sometimes he would put his paws on my chest or on my face and sit with his head above my head, panting and oblivious to the fact he had just woken me up, when all he wanted was a stroke and a tickle.

Dear Data was a street dog for a while and as such dogs do, he learnt to eat anything and everything in his path. Old instincts die hard and in the park, which is often used by students at the local college for their lunch and breaks, he is incredibly good at finding their left overs like half eaten burgers or discarded packets of chips, and he is a wonderful scrounger of food. He seems to be able to eat almost anything. The other day we walked past a tree stump and Data must have smelt the bread that someone had left on the tree for the birds and with his characteristic determination to find and consume any food possible, he managed to get the food on the tree stump. He was determined to have the bread despite my best efforts to stop him!

As a foot note to this I have had so much pleasure out of spending time with Data and have found him to be a fascinating and very interesting companion. I am always surprised as to what he can get up to and how clever he can be at times. An affectionate and loyal friend, to me personally, Data is almost proof of intelligent design in himself because I can't imagine such a wonderful creature being a mere matter of evolutionary chance, he is too wonderful for that, as it seems to me dogs are."



Geoff Weston is also in Sussex. He walks **Whisky** an Australian Silky Terrier for **Arthur** and **Mercy Woolsey**. Geoff writes with a wonderful dry humour!

"I'm a newcomer to the Cinnamon fold but have happy memories of having my own dogs "years ago in a galaxy far, far away".

My wife and I both love all animals, particularly dogs, but a small house with a miniscule rear garden would not be fair to the creatures which need a bit of space.

Having noticed one of the Trust's yellow posters in my GP Surgery, I checked that my wife would be happy, were I to pursue becoming a volunteer. She was and I requested the necessary paperwork from Hayle. Having sorted it out, I persuaded a friend (a retired vet) amongst others to become sponsors and submitted it. There then only seemed to be the twinkling of an eye before I acquired two new little friends Whisky and Pebbles along with their walking schedule.

It all fits together rather well, I walk one of my two new pals at a time and we enjoy

spirited if somewhat one-sided conversations. We amble along the beach or in a local park, they make or remake the acquaintance with other dogs while the owners/walkers talk to each other in a fashion unusual for the normally non-committal English.

Yes, small plastic bags from the supermarket find their way into my jacket pocket for “the usual offices” but that is no big deal.

Most other dogs met are friendly but the occasional aggressive mutt can be easily avoided with care.

The maintenance costs if we were to have a dog of our own are avoided which is an important factor when on the limited funds of someone no longer working.

Overall, the effort is even more rewarding than at first it seems. My two charges are fun, they enforce an exercise regime which is beneficial to all parties and accept my moans about politics, the economy, inflation and other incendiary topics without demur. Their tolerance in this respect is something that members of homo sapiens find difficult to replicate.

So, all in all, a worthwhile project that I hope to continue until anno domini supervenes.”



This is to tug at your heart strings from **Helen Brewster** in Worcestershire.

“It is with a sad heart that I write these words, as Dot and Sophie have been a huge part of my life for over six years, but sadly Dot passed away on 11th September after a short hospital stay. I first started volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust in 2005 after almost a year of travelling the world with my husband. I felt after such a wonderful adventure it would be good to give something back, I am also a veterinary nurse so The Cinnamon Trust fitted the bill perfectly! I was soon put in touch with Dot and Sophie, upon first meeting I was amazed that such a little lady of 86 would have such a young, large and lively Airedale dog, but Dot had always had Airedales and saw no reason to change just because she was older. Dot may have been a small person, but as anybody who knew her would verify, she was a huge character!



Helen with Sophie

Sophie was lively and could become almost overcome with excitement when I arrived and I soon looked forward to our regular walks. When she was young, my husband and I would take her out in the car for long walks that always ended in a pub lunch, where Sophie would always manage to snaffle a few crumbs off us! It didn't take long for Dot and I to become firm friends and as Sophie got older and she began to suffer from arthritis, the walks became shorter and the tea, cake and gossip more important. In 2007, when Evesham suffered terribly from flooding, Dot was badly flooded and she and Sophie had to be rescued by boat and taken to the local leisure center for two nights, where everyone fell in love with Sophie! Dot was advised to move out into temporary accommodation, whilst repairs were undertaken, but when she was told Sophie would have to go into kennels, she refused point blank to go anywhere and continued to live in the house, despite the damp and chaos, at the age of 88! Sophie gave Dot a reason to continue to fight, gave her company, security and most of all love. I shall miss them both with all my heart. Sophie has gone to live with a relative in Oxfordshire".



Dawn and Mike Harris in Cheshire say:



Molly and Major

"Through The Cinnamon Trust connection we walk Molly the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel for Reverend Lewis on a Monday morning, which we enjoy tremendously not only because our dog Major the English Bull Terrier and Molly get on so famously! Molly follows in Major's footsteps for the complete walk - he is obviously her big brother! Reverend Lewis of Macclesfield is such a happy man even though he has his ailments, he never fails to make us both laugh with some little 'ditty' or joke that he has remembered or even mentioned at his Sunday services.

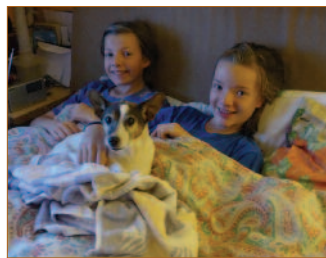
The dogs always have a little snack together which they enjoy. We have enclosed photos of them taken on last Monday's walk which we thought The Trust would like to share. We have given Reverend Lewis a copy of the photos and I am sure he would be pleased if a mention could be made of the two dogs and himself in one of the newsletters at a convenient date. Thank you very much in anticipation."



Rachel Hook In Northants fostered **Dolly** while mum, Helen was in hospital.

"Thank you to Cinnamon Trust for accepting us as fosterers. Dolly was our first

short term foster and came to stay with us for a few days and we loved every minute. As a 15 year old Jack Russell she knew what she liked. She trotted around the whole house and garden before quickly claiming her own spot on the sofa. She was eager to greet everyone she met (although our foster guinea pig wasn't keen to make friends and the hamster was out of reach).



I made sure I got the best bed

We didn't know enough of her background to be sure she would settle around children but she soon gained a crowd of admirers when she came on the school run. If the girls had homework to do she had to have her own chair at the table to keep an eye on proceedings before sitting by the door to ask for her afternoon stroll. At night Dolly managed to convince everyone that it was their bed that she would be on for the night, she must have kept busy moving around because all claimed that to be the case in the morning.



Need a helping hand on walks

Dolly kept in touch with her mum by daily texts (other pets staying with us have used e-mail, blogs and one even sent a postcard). She liked her naps and, like my husband, found it hard to stay awake long enough to see all of Last Night of the Proms on TV!"



Helped out with school work

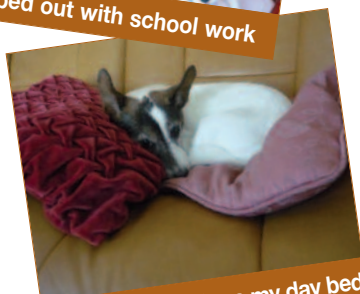
And here is Dolly's illustrated holiday diary



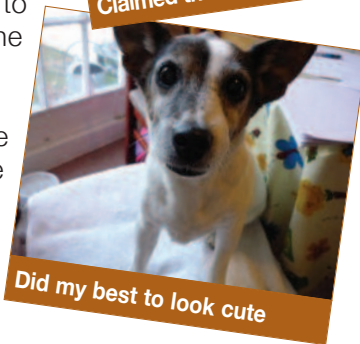
Jill Cox is in Middlesex and she writes:

"I hope that the following gives a little idea as to how much I enjoy my contact with The Cinnamon Trust.

Retiring from a frantic job in the health service and being an animal lover, a notice about The Cinnamon Trust sounded a lovely start to my retirement. I little realized how many friends I would make and how rewarding walking dogs would be.



Claimed the sofa as my day bed



Did my best to look cute

At the moment, I walk two dogs. Zac is a laid back Spaniel with a wonderful temperament for whom an hour's walk is just one long sniff and if dirty water can be found to paddle in, it is doggy heaven.

The other dog is an Airedale called Holly. Unlike Zac she does not like rain but living nearby, I can dodge the showers to give her a walk sometime on a wet day. She has a great interest in ball games in the local park. During the summer when young cricketers were practicing with a tennis ball, she leapt up and caught the ball to loud cheers of 'howzat' and much clapping. Her owners, Mr and Mrs Saxby are avid cricket lovers and much appreciated the tale of Holly's catch.

I feel privileged to be trusted with two much loved dogs and look forward to walking them."

Roxanne Levy also walks **Holly**.

"I love Holly! She is one of a kind and very funny and lovable. When we go for a walk, she is in charge and tells me which way she wants to go! If I want to go in a different direction she puts her paws down and won't move! She gets on well with all the dogs that we see and she is very inquisitive and likes to see everything that goes on all around her. She even participated in a cricket match and caught a ball, although I wasn't there on that particular escapade!

Holly, who is an Airedale is like a big teddy bear, and has such a lovely face, she is irresistible. I look forward to seeing her and miss her when I don't see her. When I take her home after her walk she has something to drink and then she goes straight to bed! She is very particular about her bed and moves the blanket around until it's just as she wants it!! It's funny and lovely to watch her make her bed! When she wants something to eat, she barks and is treated to a biscuit. She will even put her paw in your hand or on to your lap if you say to her "say please"! She is so clever.

Dorothy and Andrew clearly adore and love Holly. She is a big part of their life.

After walking Holly, I sit and chat with Andrew and Dorothy and I enjoy hearing about their lives and previous adventures as well as previous Airedales that they have had.

Holly has brought something special into my life. I started walking dogs as a volunteer as I love them so much and wanted to help someone who needed their dog to be walked. I love it and feel privileged to have met Holly and her owners. I am also an amateur dog photographer, I have always loved photographing dogs and capturing their funny characters. Holly is very photogenic!

I think The Cinnamon Trust is a wonderful charity and hope to continue dog walking Holly and other dogs for a long time!"

And **Dorothy** says:

"I discovered the wonderful work done by The Cinnamon Trust by accident when I was spending the day in the Michael Sobul House, where I go each Friday. One of the helpers there asked me why I looked so sad. I told her I was very worried about my lovely dog Holly not having her usual walks each day. Since I've had cancer my muscles are very weak and I can't walk her. My usual walkers have either moved away or become ill themselves, she said "what you need is to be put in touch with The Cinnamon Trust". This she did and within a few days I had three lovely dog walkers who all live very close to me. They are really lovely with Holly and she loves them all - standing by the door 10 minutes before they are due. All three are so very kind and helpful to me and we have become good friends.

Holly is a rescue Airedale reputed to be about 11 now. We have had her for about five years. She is extraordinarily kind, knowing and gentle. She craves company of humans and other dogs. Everyone in this area knows and loves her - she's great with children and babies.



Alison, Jill and Roxanne with Dorothy and Holly

I'm enclosing a snap of us all taken opposite the house as I can't walk any further."



Bruce lives with **Eileen Burgess** in Surrey who is disabled and her 90 year old mum. **Heather Jones** takes him for his walks, and she writes:

"Several years ago, my Nan had to move into a nursing home and was forced to part with her beloved dog, Gem, a very boisterous 6-year-old German Shepherd cross (she had bought him as a seven-week-old 'border collie' puppy, but that's another story!)

Prior to moving, Nan relied on various members of the family to take Gem for 'walkies', and although I did my fair share, I wish I had heard about the Cinnamon Trust at that time, because we would all have benefited from their support.

No one in the family was able to have Gem, and it was heartbreaking to have to make the decision to re-home him. Eventually we did find him a good home, but it was a very stressful time for all of us.

I vowed there and then that one day I would volunteer to work for a charity that supported and assisted animals and their owners.

I first heard about the 'Cinnamon Trust' about a year ago, through a friend of a friend. What attracted me to work for the Trust was the fact that I love animals, and that I could fit in my volunteering with my regular full time job. I also liked the fact that the Trust helped its clients in a practical way, for example walking a dog for a housebound owner, or driving an elderly person to the vet's.



Bruce

Bruce was my second doggy client and it was clearly 'love at first sight' for both of us! When I was introduced to him by his owner, Miss Burgess, I immediately fell for Bruce's shaggy good looks and chocolate brown eyes, coupled with a charming confident manner. It obviously didn't matter to him that I was a teeny-weeny bit scruffy and that he had never seen me before; he very graciously accepted a chew stick and then gave me a quizzical look as though to say "well, are you here to chat up my Humans, or can we go and play in the park?"

Bruce is one of those doggies that everyone recognises, and we are constantly approached by people who address him first (before saying 'hi' to me as an afterthought); he has made me quite a few friends in the park (both 4 and 2 legged).

One of our favourite games is me chucking him his 'Good Boy' tennis ball on a rope which he will run and catch. He then sits about 20 feet away with his back to me completely ignoring me (but I can see under his shaggy fringe his eye are checking out where I am). I will walk up to him and reach down and just manage to touch the rope before he snatches his ball from under my nose at the last second and turns his back on me again. Sometimes, I get one over him by stretching out my hand as if to grab the ball but at the same time I place my foot firmly over the rope (sneaky!) so that when he grabs his ball he can't run away with it! Then it is down to a battle of wills before one of us (usually me) gives in and let's go.

Sometimes he will be just as sneaky and walk away from the ball, daring me to go and grab it. So I will. But he will still be there before me, a triumphant look as he whips the trophy away just as I am bending down.

After about 25 minutes of strenuous exercise (!) we will walk to my favourite area of the Park and I will collapse on a bench for a 10-minute breather. While Bruce sits underneath the bench with a chew stick, I will chat to him about what I have been up to and ask his advice on life in general. In between gnawing his chew stick he will carefully consider my request and look at me with infinite wisdom, like he understands everything in the universe (which he probably does); and I almost hear his voice in my mind telling me not to worry about daft things that I cannot change; that everything will be okay.

The time I am with Bruce is the time I get to know myself, spiritually and mentally. If I have been in a bad mood, or little things have nagged or worried me, these are lost in the moment, when it is just me and Bruce and this great big park with its winding pathways and rustling trees. Time stops. Nothing else exists. It is my favourite place in the whole world.

Finally, we meander lazily back through the park and I remark on the changing seasons; the sprouting crocuses, the conkers in their spiky coats, the flurry of winter snow. Each time we go to the park it smells and looks different. It changes. Bruce and I are the only elements that remain the same. We have our own little routine, and we are happy.

There is always a warm welcome when we get back and from this point onward, Bruce is fairly anti-social. He sits under the nearest chair and ignores everyone. Well, he has got what he wanted, and he is always more tired than he lets on!

Until the next time, I bid 'goodbye' to everyone and drive home with a smile on my face, happier and less stressed than when I arrived. Who gets the most out of the experience? The Charity? Bruce? His owners? No - me. I would recommend volunteering for the Cinnamon Trust to anyone.



Anne Fittell in London walks **Oscar** and **Toby**.

"I became aware of The Cinnamon Trust while working in a hospice where some loved pets had to be re-homed and wonderful pat-a-Dogs lifted the spirits of patients and staff alike. After retirement however I witnessed a scene that still haunts me.

Returning home on an unfamiliar route I saw an elderly dog slowly approaching, stiff limbed, with clouded eyes and sores all over her body. She was followed by an even older gentleman in nightclothes, on a walking stick which he used to try to knock her droppings into the gutter. The dog walked perhaps thirty yards, the gentleman could only manage ten. He said briefly, "She is a good dog but I can't



**Mrs Hussein with Ann,
Oscar and Toby**

take her far these days". They struggled back indoors together. The scene so upset me I failed to remember the name of their road or house number. I applied to become a Trust volunteer the next day.

Happily I was linked in weeks to Oscar and Toby, two beautiful westies, and their owner, Mrs Hussein. We are now in our third year of shared walks. It has been a privilege to be part of all their lives. Mrs Hussein has made me so welcome. This year we celebrated at Toby's 10th birthday party, a great mix of various dogs, family and friends - one of the nicest parties I've ever attended.

Toby is energetic, exuberant and fearless - a small dog with great courage. He once defended Oscar, me and several other people in the park from an anxious Rottweiler who was either lost or abandoned. Toby looks like a teddy bear but defends his and Oscar's territory like a lion. Both dogs watch out for each other.

Oscar is 8, gentle and more nervous. His passions include chasing squirrels and cats and sitting very close to the electric fire at home. He is distressed by loud noises, especially motor bikes and police cars, which makes for unpredictable walks on south London streets. If he hears an ice-cream van he sits down and howls to the heavens. At first I thought he wanted an ice-cream, but learned better!

Oscar and Toby are happiest scuffling through leaves and undergrowth, heads pressed close together as they sniff the latest offerings in the park. They have many friends and admirers. I am just grateful to be one of them and a part of their lives, thanks to Mrs Hussein and The Trust."

And owner **Mrs Hussein** says:

"I have been working in Peckham for over 25 years and have met so many good people, inspiring organisations and community groups, but I can honestly say that no-one has impressed me more than Anne and The Cinnamon Trust and the wonderful work that they do, they walk my dogs, Oscar and Toby who love Anne very much indeed. I am so grateful."



Jenny Thornton in Coventry walks **Finnigan** (Finnie) for **Beryl Saayman**

"My dog walking with Finnigan is going brilliantly! In fact, although I don't usually do any fostering because we have three big German Shepherds of our own, a police brood bitch and we also do puppy walking for West Midlands Police, Finnie

is actually staying with me this week while his Mum is on holiday with her son.

Finnie is quite relaxed with the German Shepherds and poses no risk to my elderly cat, who now appears to have adopted him as her New Best Friend! That was the last thing I expected, as she is a very timid little creature.

Going back to when I first met Beryl, it was around the time my Mum died, leaving a big gap in my life. Beryl and I have lots in common, and she's also a fantastic listener, so we seemed to hit it off immediately. All the bits of news and anecdotes that I would have saved for Mum now get poured out to Beryl and we have at least one session a week where we put the world to rights!

Since starting dog walking for Beryl, I've known her first two dogs (Boris and Hilda) and the little cat Lilibelle, followed by her tiny black cat (Abigail) and, of course, Finnie. Beryl is extremely conscientious about caring for her pets, so we are often at the vet's, either for treatment or advice, and between us we struggle with the computer to order bags of food. There is never a dull moment.

Occasionally we even go shopping, but our most memorable outing was to Crufts for a celebration of Averil's wonderful Cinnamon Trust.

Last year we experimented with having Finnie at my house while Beryl went away on holiday, and that was a great success, so when she was taken ill recently, it was an easy decision to whisk him back to me for a couple of weeks' respite. My husband has a special way with dogs (I think it's his smell!!!) and they got along famously.

All in all, it's a very happy relationship we've got, and long may it continue."

And **Beryl** says:

"Jenny has been a dog walker for me for nearly five years. She comes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, whatever the weather, is always on time, and never misses. It is no mean feat to give hours of time so regularly, and it is very comforting to me to know that when I have been ill, and unable to take my dog out, he has not been totally housebound with me.



Finnigan

Jenny is always on hand for a trip to the vet (and when dogs get old, they seem to need a lot of these), and will transport Abbi, the cat, too, if necessary.

I have recently been ill for a few weeks, and Jenny has been a wonderful friend. She has collected prescriptions, fetched shopping, boarded Finnie and taken me shopping when I began to feel better. Also, she cared for Finnie last week when I went away for a few days.

I greatly value the chats Jenny and I have after Finnie's walk. I do not have much of a social life, and it is lovely to have friendly contact several times a week.

I can't adequately thank Jenny for all she has done for me, and would like to add my thanks to Cinnamon Trust. I first read about you in a leaflet I picked up from the vet many years ago. You are doing a wonderful job, thank you so much for being there."



The view from the other side...

Elsbeth Cargill in Edinburgh writes:



Judy and Charlie

"I thought I would write prior to the next newsletter.

Judy is doing so well and enjoying her three walkers - Caroline, Penny and Janice. She also has an 'honorary CT walker' since Penny adopted Charlie, a rescue dog, pictured here on the left.

She has never before seen as much of Holyrood Park in her eleven years as she has in the last six months. She has been to the beach several times. She cuddles into Charlie as she's still nervous in a car, but is more confident around other dogs once again.

The girls have made such a difference to Judy's life which was restricted due to my disability and a worry has been lifted from my shoulders.

Thank you again for stepping in and overnight having help at hand."



And **Vicky Tod** (West Midlands) says:

"Many years ago when I was helping to organise a bereavement service for pet owners I heard about the Cinnamon Trust. It sounded such a good idea but I was able to walk my dogs and didn't see myself needing such help.



Several years later when I was facing spinal surgery and was no longer so active I remembered and contacted them, not really knowing what they could do. Unfortunately Birmingham seems to be a blackspot for finding volunteers for anything and I fully expected I would be told they couldn't help. How wrong I was. From that phone call I have felt supported and cared about and it is as though the dogs and I have become part of a family.

In the past 5 years there have been so many changes. The dog walkers have often been students happy to give some time to walk my dogs as a counterbalance to their studies. Many of them after leaving the city keep in touch and will visit if they are in the area though I am under no illusion it is to see the dogs and have a cuddle rather than see me! This year for the first time I'm very fortunate in having 3 dog walkers who are working or retired and who will, I hope, be able to keep the special relationship with Pippin and Izzy for many years to come.

Norwich Terriers are delightful little dogs who love people. Pippin is now 11 and has arthritis which limits his walking. He is small and square and looks like a teddy bear. His friend Izzy, now 5 who came to live with us when Pip's granny, Story, died is quite a different character. She isn't keen on walking where there is traffic as she is very small and has a mind of her own about who she likes, but she is great fun and has Vincent, Catherine and Ann doting on her. She isn't happy to go for walks without Pippin, so the three volunteers who each come once a week take Pip's pram so when he tires he can ride in state whilst madam enjoys the admiration of any passerby.

Not only has Cinnamon relieved my anxiety about the dogs having exercise, I have made new friends who have all been different and delightful, and I hope that they gain something from my 2 'mini monsters' who enjoy all their aunties and uncles.

Long may the Cinnamon Trust flourish."



Colleen Turrell in Lincs is having a tough time:

First I wish to say a Big Thank You to each and everyone involved in helping me with my Sophie. I dare not think how my life would be without your help. First you found foster carers which enabled me to go into hospital and have my operation

without worrying about Sophie - I knew she was in good hands. Now with the help of Helen and Annette who take her walking, I find it has eased my mind and my life so much.

Before this help I was at my wits end as I really thought I would have to find her a new home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you. I cannot thank you enough."



Paddy Jefferis (Dorset) adores **Scamp**, and she writes

"I was in my 80s when my lovely Honey died and I felt I was too old to have another dog. I am completely deaf and live alone and I missed her so much - the companionship and the walks. A friend told me about The Cinnamon Trust and when I contacted them they said they would always help if and when I needed it, either with walking or fostering. Then I was offered a dog who needed a home, having been found on the streets of Weymouth. He was filthy, emaciated and flea ridden, but the vet assured me he was a lovely little Lhasa Apso about 2 or 3 years old. I pictured long hair and a bow on the top but he said 'No, you can have the pet trim'. When his fur eventually grew I had him properly groomed and he became my handsome fella as he is today.

Just a few years later my health deteriorated and I contacted The Cinnamon Trust and true to their word they have introduced me to some lovely people who not only come regularly to walk him, they stay for a chat which is kind as anything they want



Scamp with a young fan

to say to me has to be written down as I cannot hear. They often also offer to do a small job for me or post a letter or go to the shop.

Andrea comes twice a week promptly at 9.18! She gives him a good walk and very often takes him visiting at a local Residential Home where the old people love him and feed him too many biscuits. She also took him to a few Dog Shows - I have a photo of him in the arms of Paul Martin of Flog It fame. Scamp has won 4 rosettes but I think they were booby prizes as he was bored and showed it, which is a shame as he has a lovely tail to wag!

Joyce is another super person, always

willing to help with odd jobs or shopping when she has given Scamp a long walk. She comes on Wednesdays and last week brought her 2 small grandsons. When they came back they each presented me with a bunch of buttercups and clover, I was so touched I confess I shed a tear! It is Joyce who took the lovely photo of Scamp and gave it to me for Christmas that year, beautifully framed.

Edith comes on Friday morning early, which is kind of her as I know she is a busy person with her Theatre School, but she always gives him a good walk and we have a cheery chat when she is back.

I am nearly 92 now with thoughts of having to go into a residential home, but so few take dogs. Scamp also is getting old and has had health problems, and as we live alone together I don't think he would be happy if we were separated. So all the time I have my lovely walkers we two old fogies will battle on together. If it wasn't for the Cinnamon Trust we would not even be able to do that, so my gratitude is beyond expression.

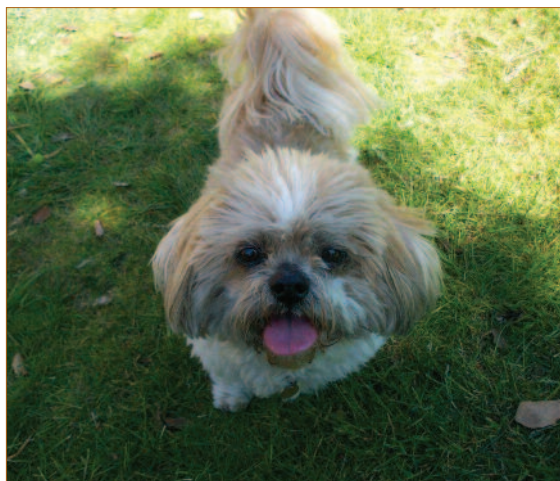
Thank you Cinnamon Trust.”



Let's catch up with a few of our 806 lifelong foster pets.

Cindy has **Wendy Keiller** in Somerset wrapped all around her little paws! Wendy says:

“I first heard of The Cinnamon Trust through a retired minister at my church who was long term fostering. I thought what a good idea and decided to apply. After waiting 2 years I was beginning to think it wasn't going to happen. Then out of the blue late on a Friday afternoon Moira rang to ask if I would take on a 10 year old Shih Tzu called Cindy. There was no time to dither as arrangements had to be made with volunteers to bring her from Kent to Somerset on the following Sunday afternoon. My lovely Cindy has now been with me for almost 18 months and I can't imagine life without her. For a few weeks I was very anxious (never having cared for a dog before). She has



Cindy

various health problems and it meant quite a few 16 mile round trips to the vet, but it has certainly been worth it.

When Cindy came I was quite definite she would not be allowed into the bedroom. Well that lasted all of 2 days - she sleeps on the bed (one morning I woke to find her lying next to me head on the pillow and a paw on my shoulder!). She has full run of the house, takes my seat as soon as I get up and has completely taken over. Cindy is extremely stubborn, often ignores me and then for no reason will lick my hand or rub her head against my leg. She has a beautiful face and big brown eyes and when she talks to me I just can't resist her! As I told Moira if the Trust ever ask for her back, they will have to take me as well!

It is so special the bond we have built up. I know she is completely spoilt, but as long as she has a happy, contented and comfortable "retirement" that's all that matters. She has changed my life."



Bob and **Iris Ford** in Norfolk enjoy the company of **Budley** whatever they're doing! Bob writes:

"The sudden death of our beloved golden retriever Polly in August 2010, only a year or so after the death of her lovely sister Pippa, filled us with so much grief that we decided 'No more dogs, ever!' However, by October, we realised that we could no longer bear being without a canine companion to share our life and we started contacting every re-homing agency we could think of.

Being rather long in the tooth ourselves we didn't feel it fair to take on a young dog for, not only could it not be adequately exercised by us, but we wouldn't want to leave it behind needing another home after we had gone. So we deliberately



Budley

looked for an older dog, to finish his/her time with us. Any new dog had to be tall as we were no longer very good at bending low to pat a small dog.

Staying north of Manchester with friends for the 2011 New Year we recounted to them the many stories of false trails that had yielded no doggie companion. Our hostess, being an indomitable 'Miss Fixit' said "Leave it to me" and promptly disappeared with her laptop. A few hours later she announced "I have found a golden retriever for you, down near Worcester. You have to ring the Rescue Co-ordinator of the Midland Golden Retriever Club, Ingrid Pinfield."

And so we met Budley a large, light cream Golden approaching his 11th birthday. His owner since puppyhood had tragically died a week earlier and the family didn't want to keep him. Budley sensed the situation and was keen to come with us there and then. However, Mrs Pinfield explained that he was now owned by The Cinnamon Trust who would insist upon a satisfactory outcome of his prospective home and keepers before he could be handed over for care. Formalities dealt with, we collected a grateful Budley eleven days later, when he took the first opportunity to leap into our car enthusiastically.

Initially, Budley was hard work, being almost 'manic'. The principle reason for this was traced to pain caused by a massive infection right through one 'wrist'. It took a vet and nurse two hours work under anaesthetic to clear out the infected mass; followed by two weeks of daily cleaning and re-dressing. More recently the poor chap suffered a very bad haemorrhoid necessitating further surgery.

The outcome is that we now have the company of a healthy and happy if very noisy companion. Noisy, because every want, including 'I want my tummy rubbed' is vocalized at foghorn loudness! He loves doing what we love doing, frequent holidays in our caravan coupled with pub lunches where Budley knows that he will be fussed over by many people.

We are most grateful to Cinnamon Trust for their financial support during Budley's illnesses for the cost of veterinary treatment would have seriously hit two people living on a meagre pension. The Trust's ethos is so commendable as to be beyond praise. May it continue doing its good work forever.

P.S. Our afternoon walk takes us past the village school just as the children are coming out. They crowd around Budley to cuddle and kiss him - all of which he loves. He cannot understand why there are no children during this holiday!



Tallie, a Staffie/Labrador mix has made **Nettie Suder** in Hampshire very happy

"I had been without a dog for some months, waiting for the right one for me. Tallie had been with foster carers when her owner became ill and unable to care for her any longer. They brought her to me, with her bed and bowls and a bag full of toys and chewies. She was quiet and subdued. I guessed she was confused about what had happened to her over the previous weeks. She had been with her original owner all her life.



Tallie

She is eleven years old and very overweight. A fat old lady, just like me! A marriage made in heaven. I think that she was used to a bungalow as my stairs were a problem for her. She went up after my aged mother, she took to her straight away, but had difficulty in getting down, more of a free fall than a controlled descent. She had some problem getting into the car. I had to lift her considerable rump and sort of shovel her in. She enjoys her walks and likes to talk to anyone she can. I learned that she had 6 grandchildren in her family before and as I have just become a grandmother that meant that she would be good with the new baby and she has been perfect. Gentle but interested, lying nearby but not interfering.

She is absolutely no trouble, liking to spend her time lying on her bed (I have found some deep cushions put together so she can stretch out comfortably). She snores like a drunken sailor but I don't mind. We spend our days together, when I need to go out and leave her for an hour or two she doesn't complain and is pleased to see me on my return. Even my cat has taken to her, Tallie has graciously allowed him to be boss.

She is beginning to play with toys now and is showing signs of a sense of humour. She is the sweetest dog I have ever owned, and there have been quite a few. I have seen not a hint of aggression, not one bark, even when the postman comes.

She is not demanding in any way. Is happy to see any visitors. I can't think of any problems. Everyone likes her. She waddles in and out of the garden, sitting in the sun occasionally rolling on her back. She comes when called. Will take her tablets, for arthritis, when they are disguised with Philadelphia cheese and chicken roll!

I have her on a small meal diet, with some delicacies for interest and she is losing weight and can now get into the car unaided and copes with the stairs with no trouble. She can jump up onto my bed and chooses to do so quite often. I like the company as I live alone, except for these animals.

In short the decision to take on an elderly dog has proved totally successful. I will endeavor to make her life as happy as she has already made mine."



A doggy view from **Sandie** who lives with **Edna Mapstone-Jones** in Herefordshire...

"This is me with my master, Derek. Sadly he became ill last year and had to go into a nursing home - at least that's what I think they said. I found it tough in the beginning, but my mistress Edna does a great job of looking after me. In fact, if I'm honest, I'm rather spoilt! She gave me some lovely walks around the lanes, but oh, I did miss my runs. There's nothing better than jumping over styles,

running across fields, diving into hedges and hunting out anything that moves.

One Sunday earlier in the year, two volunteers from the Cinnamon Trust came to the house and we all went into the living room. I had to introduce myself, but I had no idea why. They talked with Edna for a while; not sure what it was all about but I did catch some of my favourite words like sausages, walks and television! Before I knew it my collar and lead appeared and I was being taken for a walk.



Derek and Sandie

Almost every other day since then, they've come back and I've got to know Pauline and Mac very well now. We have a great time as they take me for a different walk every time and I can run as much as I like.

A few weeks ago I had a little operation on my eye, and, trust me, I couldn't leave it alone! So I was made to wear an awful Elizabethan collar. I tried my best to get it off and succeeded once or twice but it was always put straight back on. Of course it put paid to my runs off the lead and curtailed my rummaging in the undergrowth so I had to make do with digging holes and splashing around in puddles until I found a wonderful new game. I discovered quite by chance that the collar could be used rather like a JCB digger. All I had to do was scoop up as much soil as I could in the collar and then fling it out as far as possible - what fun! I ended up with a face like a chimney sweep but who cares! Anyway all that is in the past now and I'm back to my normal runs in the country then back home for my tea, maybe a sausage or a faggot and a little nap. OH LIFE IS GOOD! I wonder what is on TV tonight.

Both Edna and I would like to say a big thank you to the "Cinnamon Trust" for sending along our new friends Pauline and Mac."



All our registered volunteers are wonderful ambassadors for The Trust and as you've seen over and over again, make an incalculable difference to thousands of people and their little furred and feathered heroes every day so, thank you to each and every one of you for your kindness and enthusiasm.

Volunteers who have received Gold Awards for exceptional service are:-

Elizabeth Hodgson (Sussex), **Lynda Perrier** (Surrey), **Vivienne Hazell** (Suffolk), **Helen Whitfield** (Newcastle Upon Tyne), **Vivienne Goldberg** (London), **Ifor**

Morgan (Mid-Glamorgan), **Jeffrey Dessant** (Glamorgan), **Judith Dawson** (Dorset), **Elaine Baker** (Devon), **Violet Foster** (Devon), **Dirk Grant** (Devon), **Jean Armstrong** (Cheshire) and **Celia Doyle** (Berkshire).



Pet Friendly Care Home of the Year 2011

The award ceremony was held in London on 12th October 2011, at The Lanesborough Hotel, and what a marvellous afternoon we had with so many dedicated people from across the spectrum of care and pet related organisations and charities. We were delighted to welcome Pam Rhodes to present the awards and help with the judging which was proving to be so difficult with all six 'homes' deserving top marks. Pam apart from being a very familiar face on our TV screens, is a dedicated cat lover and has her own rescue cattery. We were also delighted to welcome Jenny Seagrove.

It was a very difficult decision for our panel of judges; Pam Rhodes, Beverley Cuddy, Editor of Dogs Today and Niamh Richardson, Cinnamon Trust volunteer, to decide between the six care home finalists who had been whittled down from 860 nursing and residential homes throughout the UK, however, they were finally unanimous in their decision.

And the winner is ...

Owls Barn, Lincolnshire.



Owls Barn is owned and managed by Loraine Olsen. It was clear that all animals are welcomed by Owls barn, the pile of Pugs and Chihuahuas gleefully milling among the residents is a big clue! One of the residents, John made his home there 25 yrs ago, he has severe special needs and his constant companion is an adorable Staffie called Pagan. John suffers from seizures but

also needs to enjoy a sense of independence and so a new shed has been built for John in the grounds, Pagan takes on the role of carer, should John have a seizure Pagan alerts staff and stays by his side until help arrives. This home is all about recognising the special qualities that animals possess and that the quality of life can be enhanced by the inclusion of companion animals. Clearly, Loraine works very hard to ensure both safety and independence for her residents, a balance of a life well lived.

The five runners up ...

Elizabeth Court Nursing Home, East Sussex.

Elizabeth Court is owned and managed by Carol Robinson and Mandy Dade. They are enthusiastic about allowing pets to be part of daily life for their residents. Carol explained that because the pets also felt at home if their owner sadly died the pet would, surprisingly quickly, attach to another resident, there is never a doubt about what will happen to a beloved pet and that gave comfort and consistency to all of their resident's lives. One of Elizabeth Court's residents Elaine, was very isolated when she first came to stay. She refused to talk or interact, Carol and Mandy made the bold decision to bring in a rescue dog as a companion to Elaine. The magical empathy between human and dog worked its wonders and soon Elaine was keen to go out shopping and walking to exercise her new friend, this dog had literally, changed her life.



Applegarth, Berkshire.

Applegarth is managed by Jenny Poole, a small home that opened its door to pets some 10 years ago, they often hold a "Pets Day" in the grounds of the home, encouraging local contact and new experiences for the residents. Senior care worker Michelle Johnson thinks that it's important that residents can choose if they want to be with the many pets or they can rest quietly away from them, again the importance of choice and respect in later years. Judge, Niamh Richardson praised the home for its "wonderful connection with the animals" no wonder one of the residents called it "heaven on earth".



Neuadd Drymmau, Port Talbot.

Neuadd Drymmau is owned and managed by Rosie Valler who is no stranger to rescuing animals and so it was a natural extension to welcome resident's pets into her home. Bringing plenty of amusement to the residents is the mix of animals including Betty the goat and Minty a sheep that wandered in one day and stayed! Rosie has plenty to say about those in high places that say that animals in a care home are a problem, she



sees the benefit to those in her care in so many ways, and the animals encourage those who are in danger of isolating themselves to look outside their world.

Rotherbank Residential Home, Hampshire.



Rotherbank is owned by Christine Hillyer and managed by her son James Casseldan and between them their enthusiasm is infectious. The Commander is very much at home there with his Chihuahua Lottie, as is Elsie with her much loved Lurcher Daisey - not forgetting their own dogs John the Boxer and new arrival a Jack Russell puppy. As James said “having a pet provides a purpose for every day” and even those for whom dementia has taken away easy communication the stimulus of animals or the calming quality of a large tank of fish gives focus.

The Old Vicarage, Dorset.



The Old Vicarage is owned by Annie and Ian Sinnott. Annie Sinnott is a remarkable lady having been awarded the MBE in 2007 for her commitment to the care industry, she is mortified at the level of general care in many homes and makes no bones about demanding that rights of older people should be upheld and the purpose of care home staff is to be absolutely devoted to the care of the individual. The home manager Natalie Adams shares this unswerving loyalty to the residents, great effort is made to involve the surrounding villages in the home, encouraging a sense of community for all. The residents still talk about the Dog Show held in the grounds two years ago. The presence of animals can jog memories of animals from the residents past and conversation can flow when the subject is so different from the daily health checks. The warmth and family home feel of the Old Vicarage is like settling into a much loved chair, the animals are not an extraordinary addition but part of the fabric of the place.

Do look on our website www.cinnamon.org.uk, click on the events page and down at the bottom is a link <http://www.justfilm.co.uk/Cinnamon.html> to view the marvellous films of the finalists' care homes and their pets.

This year for the first time we have a separate section for Retirement Housing and from a slightly different criteria choose the top four complexes.

And our very deserving retirement housing winners are...

Hanover Walk (West Sussex) Our assessor said....

"I couldn't have received a warmer welcome from the manager who loves the work of the Cinnamon Trust and regularly enlist help from CT volunteers for dog walking. Hanover Housing really is haven for animal lovers". (Hanover Housing)

Penstones Court (Oxfordshire) Our assessor said....

Lovely managers who have been here for 18 years and obviously love what they are doing. Very pet friendly I'd love to live here with my pet!" (Cognatum)

Richmond Painswick Village (Gloucestershire) Our assessor said....

"I found the place charming and friendly, reminiscent of a luxury cruiser. Pets and owners will enjoy living here - truly luxurious environment." (Barchester)

Sydney Hall Court (Flintshire) Our assessor said....

"I was very taken with the manager's concern and awareness of the pets within the complex. Knowing each pet instantly by name and any little foibles. Very pet friendly!"



Norma McNichol, Volunteer, Barnsley, South Yorkshire writes

Many years ago I read an article in a magazine about a charity that believed in keeping pets with their elderly owners for as long as possible by using volunteers to help with the care of the pets. I thought what a brilliant idea this was, because my husband and I have had dogs for 35 years or more and we cannot imagine life without our pet. I filled in the forms and became a Cinnamon Trust volunteer.

My most recent involvement was when I was contacted about a lady with a dog who had just moved into a care home in a nearby village. The home is on the Cinnamon Trust Pet Friendly Care Home register and has a circular sticker on the front door that makes this clear to all visitors.

The lady is called Phyllis and her dog is Tia. Tia is a gingery coloured Staffie and she is like a little barrel on legs!! I meet Phyllis in the lounge and Tia is always lying under Phyllis's chair until I appear. Then out she comes with her tail wagging ready to go out into the grounds. Tia loves sticks and the grounds are littered with them after all the stormy weather we have had, she loves a game of "get the stick" which she always wins. We stay out for about 20 minutes or so, then I have to give her a treat so she will drop the stick before she goes back in to Phyllis.



I think it is so important for Phyllis's wellbeing and happiness to have Tia with her in the home. It's important for Tia too that she can stay with Phyllis and be cared for in the home. Care staff work so hard, sometimes under difficult circumstances so it is important that Cinnamon Trust volunteers can help in this vital role.

Jane Davies (Home Manager), Burntwood Hall, Barnsley, Yorkshire replies....
Burntwood Hall welcomed new resident Phyllis Philips and her Staffordshire Bull Terrier Tia on the 6th December 2011.

Tia had been looked after by a family member while her owner was in hospital. Home Manager Jane Davies writes; It was a joy to see the pair reunited, and both settled into Burntwood life from the start. Tia has the run of the extensive grounds and is walked by her volunteer (Norma) from the Cinnamon Trust. Tia is such a lovely natured dog and all the residents love having her here; however, the staff have to try and discourage them sharing their biscuits with her!

Tia's only real competition is our budgie called Billy and she enjoys sitting near him when the sun shines on his cage. We also have seven canaries that are nesting so we may have babies very soon! These new arrivals will also be looked after with the help of the Cinnamon Trust as they kindly advertised for a volunteer to help clean and maintain them on a weekly basis.



Kathleen Rayner Barnsley, Yorkshire writes

I have recently become a volunteer thanks to my niece Janet who has a Cinnamon Trust lifelong foster dog called Misha, she comes here every day with Janet and



when Janet is away she stays with me, she actually chooses who she wants to stay with, if she doesn't want to go home she runs up stairs to bed, she's her own boss.

I am a big bird lover and also have other small creatures such as degus, gerbils and a guinea pig, Janet noticed on the Cinnamon web site they were looking for volunteers to clean birds out, I was very interested so I applied to become a volunteer, once my paperwork was in order I was asked to help an elderly gentleman who lives in a nursing home and has six canaries. My first meeting

with Jim was great, he told me things about canaries I never knew and I thought I knew everything about canaries, it just goes to show we are never too old to learn something new.

It is a lovely set up at the Burntwood home, there's a little dog roaming around and on my way to Jim's room I saw a cage with a lovely blue budgie in it, also a fish tank, when I got to Jim's room he never stopped talking about the birds, I thought to myself 'what would Jim do without these birds'. I didn't think anyone loved birds more than me but Jim does. I go to see Jim once a week and look forward to having the half hour with him to clean his birds out and chat, thank you Cinnamon Trust.



Stonehouse Close (Hanover Sheltered Housing) - Redditch, Worcestershire.

Resident Mrs Wilson phoned Cinnamon Trust earlier last year concerned over what would happen to Joey (her budgie) if she became ill. We reassured her we would do our best to be there for Joey if needed. We sent her a 'Pet Profile Pack' and the estate manager Rod Mackenzie helped her to fill in the required details, an 'emergency card' from the pack was attached to Joey's cage - should the need arise.

Sadly it was not long before Mrs Wilson had to go into hospital as an emergency, however as she was being helped into the ambulance she said "I won't have to worry about Joey as the Cinnamon Trust will look after him".

Rod kindly made sure Joey was fed and watered while we looked for a suitable Short Term Foster home. Within a few days Joey was settled with our volunteer waiting his owner's return. We kept in touch with the hospital and reassured Mrs Wilson Joey was fine and would be there for her when she returned to her home.

Joey is home again now with Mrs Wilson and we have arranged for a volunteer to call in and clean out his cage for her. Rod, who previously kept a watchful eye on them both, is very pleased to have our help in caring for Joey. Mrs Wilson has gained a new friend and peace of mind.



Just a few of our many emails and letters of thanks

Janet Jones - Social Worker writes

I have managed to find a placement for my Client along with her two pet dogs. I

was very surprised at the amount of residential homes which would consider pets. I have now made a list of the ones in our area of Aldershot & Farnborough, Hants and updated all my Team members this afternoon, so they too are aware, placements do exist for our Clients who would like a pet to stay with them in placement etc.

Thank you so much for your support and the list which you forwarded.

Sally Nemenyi called to say

Thank you for helping her with a PFCH for her mother and her cat. They are all absolutely delighted.

Jan Elson looking for a placement for her 100yr old mother and her cat writes

I wanted to say how heartening it is to see so many places that are glad to take small animals. This must be due in part at least to the Trust, so good wishes for your valuable ongoing work.



Full circle

Sophie

Sophie came into our care almost 10 years ago when her mum died. An elderly lady (Mrs Barbara Scott-Brown) had expressed an interest in having a Life Long Foster cat from us and within a very short time Sophie and Barbara were enjoying each other's company; Sophie snuggling up for the night on Barbara's bed, comfort for both, and spending her days lazing in the sun (Cornish weather permitting!) and of course daily grooming for that beautiful long coat and lots of treats, cat heaven. This continued for many years until very recently, when unfortunately Barbara had a fall and had to be admitted to hospital. Of course we were there for Sophie to find her a suitable short term foster home and we kept in touch with Barbara to give her peace of mind that Sophie was safe in our care waiting her return. However, it was decided that Barbara should now sit back and let others take care of her, and so our Pet Friendly Care Home register came to the rescue. A home was required in the Hayle to Penzance area of Cornwall and before too long a very suitable placement for Barbara and Sophie was found at The Downes, Hayle. It was agreed that Barbara would move in first and Sophie would join her a few days later which she did, and both are now happily settled.

Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

Primroses are everywhere with daffodils playing catch up and even tulips joining in, Poldarves is looking lovely! We've let the chickens out of their run much to the excitement of dogs and cats alike - the chickens are everywhere during the day and the parade back to their house in the evening is quite comical! At this point those lagging too far behind the rooster are chivvied along by any dog or cat that chooses to help. All are very kindly disposed and it is good fun!

Winter has been so kind to us that we've managed lots of outings to the beach which the dogs absolutely love, but, every time, we just can't help remembering our beloved **Max** (16), the happiest, funniest Labrador and **Daisy** (15) his lifelong friend (mostly Labrador) who took one look at the sea and just **had** to go in We lost them both within a week of each other. We've also lost darling little **Amy** (17) toy poodle and superstar. **Holly** (15) gentle Corgi with a huge heart, **Tess** (15) golden retriever, the matriarch who loved to play hide and seek, **Tigger** (20) beautiful ginger cat and **Silk** (15) Siamese, handsome and very talkative. Memories to treasure

Not a lot of time for reverie when **Little Dorritt** (13) arrived! She'd led a very sheltered life and never been off the lead. She looks half her age and acts like a puppy! Dorritt's enthusiasm for life is boundless, add to that her very happy gentle nature, her incredible intelligence and her absolute insistence on joining in with everything and you have a real little poppet. She does like to be busy - once we've arranged the throws on the sofas, plumped up the cushions and made all the beds, Dorritt comes along and rearranges to her personal satisfaction. Within two days she was running free and racing back to us the minute we called, she talks on command, but no command needed when meals are being prepared, after all it is her job to muster all her new best friends in the kitchen. Needless to say she is very enthusiastic about feeding the chickens - and rounding them up!

Dorritt is always in the lead on a walk and it's Woody that helps with pacemaking, a very happy spring in his step. **Woody** (12) is a tall, handsome greyhound made to melt hearts. He's gentle, quiet, easy going but in his own way, quite determined - the open fire on an evening is his cue to stretch out in front and no-one gets past! He's



Little Dorritt

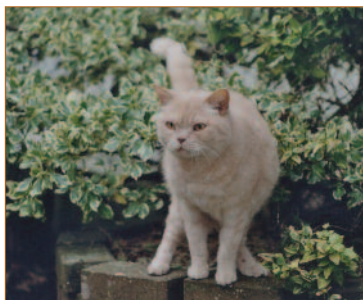


Woody



Jamie

friendly with everyone - cats, dogs, people, chickens, but does like some sport with the pheasants! A highlight of our day is seeing Woody dance for his dish at tea time - the evening meal being his favourite, he always has seconds!



Taylor

Jamie (16) has also joined us. A quiet, sweet loving boy who takes everything in his stride and is happy to try anything once - but if it isn't to his liking, his mind is set! Jamie absolutely loves the beach and would stay all day if he could, trotting along, meeting and greeting But then back home, he's a perfect cuddle and he absolutely loves that, too! He was very thin when he arrived, partly due to his kidney problems, but his love of good food, especially any rice, noodle or pasta dish we cook, together with utter contentment and supportive medication means he's put on weight beautifully. Darling boy also likes Brie and he points at the fridge to let you know he fancies some!



Harvey

Taylor (13) came when his owner died and just settled in, immediately. Such an easy going boy and so very, very handsome. He doesn't miss a thing, always ready for his meals - roast chicken a particular favourite and always especially ready for his bedtime treat of Dreamies! He head butts for a cuddle and the more you cuddle, the more he head butts! He hasn't ventured outside very much yet but when the sun is warm again, we're sure he will - Taylor does like to be warm and comfortable, clever, I call that!



Jez

Another clever cat to join us is **Harvey** (9) accompanied by **Jez** (14). Harvey is a great explorer and socialiser, wandering from room to room saying hello to everyone before sitting outside on a log watching the chickens or whoever is going past. Cuddling Harvey always ends with a tummy tickle and a contented purr!! The smile comes when he uses the massage pad making sure every inch of his body has had a go. He enjoys a good groom and will arch his back to

meet your stokes and curl his tail around your arm. Harvey will come when you call him or even when you just beckon him with your hand, very clever cat. He can smell the warm mackerel coming and is always there to greet you with a lick of his lips. The secret to Jez's heart is roast chicken! He was a little bit fussy at first but as soon as he tasted roast chicken, he was off! He's another great cuddle, a very talkative cuddle - conversations get quite deep at times And funny boy, he splashes his feet in the water fountain and seems absolutely fascinated by it. We have this great toy - a lazer bee and he'll chase that forever!

A first for Poldarves which is quite something after 24 years three rabbits have joined us. **Thumper**, **Arthur** and **Snuggles** (age unknown) Thumper is a girl and truly lives up to her name, boy can she thump!! She is quite a sociable little girl and likes to be groomed, she also likes the top of her head kissed. She enjoys running through the tunnels we have for them and messing up her bed, each time we put fresh straw in, she pulls it all out and puts shavings in there. She loves a variety of foods and enjoys the fresh fruit and veg they get daily, favourite snack is rabbit popcorn and fruit!



Thumper



Arthur



Snuggles

Arthur is very cute and has beautiful eyes, he likes to hide in the tunnels and chew the ends of them. He is very brave and will go to greet the dogs when they visit, even letting Blossom lick him. He likes to run around the garden and leap through the air, then back in for a munch on his favourite chamomile hay.

Snuggles by name snuggles by nature!! He is always snuggled up to Thumper and seems very fond of her. Snuggles was the first one to learn to use the litter tray and work out the roll-a-ball snack toy they have, he seems to be the brains of the three. He is very cuddly and relaxes on your lap for a cuddle. His favourite food is always fresh apple and carrots.

Can't wait for Summer to see everything we planted last year blossom and flourish and bring the garden to its full beauty. Add to this all the fantastic birds that visit and their wonderful song. Mix in happy dogs and cats, chickens, rabbits, horses and ponies and what do you get - heaven on earth!

Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Each and every day here is exciting and/or eventful in it's own way - nuthatches visiting for the first time, the river flooding the bottom fields (big swimming pool for Labradors!), a diamond dove baby hatched, an invasion of Persian cats, the washing machine breaking down, but when the dogs' central heating boiler started smoking, it took "eventful" to another level! The plumber summoned, he arrived in double quick time and declared the boiler past resuscitation - perfect for the middle of winter, albeit mild! We had a new one up and running in three days which is now fantastic, teething troubles having been sorted out...

And other eventful days we could do without are those that bring the heartbreak that comes with loss. **Popsy**, mini smooth dachs and poster star was only 11, so full of courage and personality you'd never imagine she had heart problems. **Jock** (17), handsome, gentle Patterdale terrier; darling tiny Shih Tzu **Lewis** (17) who loved sunshine and sausages in equal measure; **Ben** (16) gorgeous, gentle Border Collie whose smile would brighten everyone's day. **Miss Tiggy** and **Pansy**, both 18, both tortie both feisty - Pansy mellowed with age, Miss Tiggy developed attitude! All deeply loved and so greatly missed.



Sam

Excitement mounts as new residents are expected and all is made ready. And then comes the paradox of a cuddly hurricane in the shape of Collie cross Husky **Sam** aged 14.

As if to make up for all the years he's only had walks on a lead, he never stops running - absolutely loves the freedom he has found here. In all he does, Sam is happy, exuberant, enthusiastic and talkative, but for all that, he is a gentle boy and he adores a cuddle. He's amazing for his age, impossible not to love.



Barley

To balance the scales, we have **Barley**, also aged 14, a beautiful, serene and also gentle Rough Collie. She is a classic beauty with impeccable manners and oodles of grace. She always manages to stay clean and immaculately turned out, even when everyone else comes in all muddy from a walk, and even when she's been having a romp with her new best friend, **Lily** the Greyhound - so sweet to see the two old girlies playing their version of chase. Barley is very loving and a perfect cuddle.

Scampie (12) arrived in a very frail state, weighing only 3.1kg having been through some very difficult times. She's doubled her weight in just a few weeks which tells you all you need to know about her appetite! And she has developed character and attitude way beyond her size. She'll take on anyone who messes with her, in no time she claimed Linda's sofa as her own! She is such a sweetie, in her little blue coat she toddles around, her eyesight not quite what it was but her grey cells right on the button!



Scampie

Minor Royalty came in the shape of three very beautiful princesses, **Nina** and **Naomi**, twin Persians aged 11½. Nina, big white and gorgeously fluffy with a big voice and character, Naomi petite silver perfection, and **Aisha** (11) a fabulous (and she knows it) Chinchilla with eyes like deep azure pools that could melt an iceberg at twenty paces!



Nina

The twins made themselves at home very quickly. Aisha was more reserved. They're known collectively as the "Posh Paws". Aisha has become a diva with attitude who takes no prisoner! She dished out smacks as she did her Royal walkabout of all the rooms, and if any other cats feel the urge to visit her, she demands they seek an audience through her private secretaries, Nina and Naomi! Nina lets the side down a bit, she's a tomboy who is fascinated by water and just has to put her whole face in the water fountain which turns her beautiful snow white coat into a soggy mess Naomi's behavior is more appropriate and infinitely more dignified. They are adorable, as are two more Persians



Naomi

Blackie and **Silver**, twin brothers aged 15 and nothing could have prepared us for such wonderful characters. No settling in needed for these boys - ten minutes after entering the building they demanded to be let out of their room to meet the others. So calm and friendly, they showed not one worry about their new home and strutted around as if they owned the place. They are so chatty and loveable, and both



Aisha



Blackie

stick their little tongues out which is just so adorable - everyone melts when they see them. Both are very active and both are outrageous flirts who entice as many girls as they can into the gardens - they've only had the occasional rebuff, such is their charm!

Snowdrops, daffodils, a dawn chorus you have to hear to believe, foxes calling for their mates, all signal the changing seasons, soon the trees will leaf and already there is excited anticipation of all the fun, the barbeques and picnics to come - we hope!



Poetry Corner

I have two tear-jerkers that are nonetheless full of hope for all of us but first, **Sylvia Fullerton** in Essex sent this native American saying in memory of her beloved Miniature Schnauzer, Ralph which sets us up perfectly!

Don't walk behind me;
I may not lead.

Don't walk in front of me;
I may not follow.

Walk beside me that
we may be as one.



And now make sure you have your tissues handy for this from **Beryl Shepard Leece**.

Fidelity

You came to me uncared for
An unloved little mite.
They said no one would have you
You were such a wretched sight.

With fur all knots and tangles
And O' such dark sad eyes,
A little lost heart breaking
And whimpering, helpless sighs.

But I saw more than many
That tiny heart so brave.
Those eyes with wistful longing
A tail to wag and wave.

We've a long time been together
And loved each other dear.
My treasured loyal companion
My comfort thro' the years.

And when we come to parting
This joy I know for sure.
In the beautiful hereafter,
I'll hold you close once more.



Steve and **Diane Bodofsky** have set The Rainbow Bridge in verse, it breaks your heart and lifts it high all at the same time

The Rainbow Bridge

By the edge of a wood, at the foot of a hill
Is a lush, green meadow where time stands still.
Where the friends of man and woman run,
When their time on earth is over and done.
For here, between this world and the next,
Is a place where each beloved creature finds rest.
On this golden land, they wait and they play,
'Til the Rainbow Bridge they cross one day.
No more suffering pain or sadness,
For here their whole lives are filled with gladness.
Their limbs are restored, their health renewed.
Their bodies have healed, with strength imbued.
They romp through the grass, without even a care,
Until one day they start, and sniff at the air.
All ears prick forward, eyes dart front and back,
Then all of a sudden, one breaks from the pack.
For just at that instant, their eyes have met;

Together again, both person and pet.
So they run to each other, these friends from long past,
The time of parting is over at last.
The sadness they felt while they were apart,
Has turned into joy once more in each heart,
They embrace with a love that will last forever,
And then, side-by-side, they cross over together.



And Finally

This is always an exciting time of year, trees and plants coming back to life, Spring flowers, the ever increasing crescendo of bird song and the promise (and hope and fingers crossed) of a lovely summer. This year we even have an excuse (if needed!) to party! Lots of Jubilee fundraisers already planned and more to come, so very good luck with all of that - we promise to make very good use of the proceeds!

Have a wonderful summer

God Bless everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive



PS. Look who has just arrived....



Toadie, Lola, Alfie, Gem, Lizzie, Twiggy and Pepsi