

# NEWSLETTER

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## Dear Friends

There's light at the end of the tunnel! Lighter mornings, lighter evenings, signs of spring everywhere to gladden every heart! And there's certainly a spring in the step of all our four-legged friends which is lovely.

Our Young Volunteer of the Year, presented with his award at Crufts just a couple of weeks ago is **Daniel McGuire** from Kent. Daniel is 17 and he registered as a volunteer as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award over two years ago - he said "I liked it so much I carried on. I do it for Belle, it's good for her and Mrs Cripps is a very nice lady. I'm glad I can help".



Joyce has dementia and while she adores Belle and benefits so much from having her at home, she can't take Belle for her walks. Daniel, as part of a team of volunteers takes Belle every Tuesday and Saturday without fail. It is his reliability, dedication and commitment that tipped the balance in his favour - there were a number of strong contenders! Well done, Daniel!

## CT '100' Club

The big winner who received a £100 in December was **Mabel Tollitt** (Oxfordshire). Winners who have each received £25 are Oct: **Yvonne Smith** (Nottinghamshire), Nov: **Pamela Riddle** (Derbyshire), Jan: **Rita King** (Essex), Feb: **Edward Cinnamon** (Co. Antrim), March: **Denise Williams** (Cornwall).



## Fundraising Events

**Shirley Beer** (Devon) celebrated her 70th birthday with a party and raised a wonderful £325 in lieu of presents. **Karen Taylor** and colleagues at Trading Standards and Licensing Team at **South Gloucester Council** raised £20 from a dress down Friday and vegetable sale. **Pat Sanderson** (W. Midlands) raised £50 from her car boot sale. **Joy Richardson** (Worcs) held an afternoon tea party for 12 ladies and raised £50 in memory of her dear King Charles, Rosie. **Maureen**



Margaret Goaman, North Park Vet Group stand

**Narraway** (C'Wall) and friends held a whist drive and raised £100. **Margaret Goaman** and everyone at **North Park Veterinary Group** had a stand at Okehampton Agricultural Show, they gave away buns and tea/coffee and held a raffle to raise £115.02. **Sheila Hurst** (Devon) raised a staggering £726.34 from recycling cartridges, selling her scrumptious jams and chutneys and a sale. Volunteer, **Ann McGivern** (Gtr Manchester) is one brave lady! She



Ann McGivern skydiving



Ann McGivern, Norman and Rhea

raised a fantastic £516 from a tandem skydive - Ann is also a regular walker for the lovely Rhea.

**Diane Davis** (Surrey) held a 'dog day', with help from many friends, **Chad, Marion, Elaine, Jenny,**



**Diane Davis's dog day**



**Stuart, Sean, Rachel** and, of course, her husband **Peter**, she had a grand tombola, sold hot dogs, Pimms & cream teas (scrummy!), a bar, games and an auction to raise a stonking £960. **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) raised £360 from a bric-a-brac and cake stall (cakes expertly provided by **Trudy**) as well as extra dog-walking, offering B&B for neighbours' dogs plus garden-sitting and manning the watering cans during this very hot summer (!?!), - brilliant! **Jackie Gordon** (E Sussex) with help from a friend of **Angela Harris** raised £51 from their stall. **Christine Sumsion** (Somerset) raised £51.60 at Vets 4 Pets event and from her copper and loose change tin! **Christine Lawn** and everyone at **The Lupset Park Group** (W. Yorkshire) raised a breathtaking £1,060 from various events including a summer party with a visiting ferret!! Yet again amazing results Christine..... **Lisa Hyland** (Manchester) and everyone at **Your Housing Group** raised a magnificent £525 from the sale of Bake-Off Calendars. **Rita Curtis** (C'Wall) and everyone at Latchley, Chilsworth & Cox Park Horticultural Show raised £20 from the sale of miscellany items at their July show. **Karen Sandler** (Cheshire) raised £92.50 from her car boot sale. **Martin Hoyland** (Somerset) raised a very well earned £40 from his cycle ride from England to Istanbul, it took 22 days to get there - and he doesn't even like cycling! Despite heavy rain **Carol** and **Brian Greening** (Tyne and Wear) raised £80 from their car boot sale - well done! **Maria Aherne** and everyone at **Royal Bank of Scotland's London**



**Martin Hoyland's cycle ride**



**Carol and Brian Greening car boot**



**Charities Committee** raised £433 from their Charity Dress-Down Day - fabulous. **Rosemary and Chris Bradley** live in The Netherlands but chose to celebrate their Golden Wedding with a few friends at an Italian Restaurant in Didcot. They raised £215.44 in lieu of presents. Many congratulations! **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) raised £163 from her Garden Party. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £37.62 with North Park Vets at Devon Oakhampton Show and at Laburnham House Lodge Hotel. **Dora Delf** (C'Wall) raised £35 from her little stall. **Rod Woodward** (Hertfordshire) held a street collection, with help from **Beryl Bhumel, Christine Hood, Carol Lambert, Sue Punter, Katherine Rudd** and GSD **Beau** they raised a wonderful £274.47. **The Silver Bay Holiday Park** (Isle of Anglesey) raised £35 from their summer fun dog show. **Carol Payne** and **Lynn Hopkins** (Norfolk) raised £30 from a "name the dog" competition at the Organic Event at Wolterton Hall. **Jeanne Thomas** (Wales) with help from **Sue Biddiscombe** raised £54 from their stall at an unexpected carnival at Haverfordwest! **Jean** and **Roy Diprose & Dot O'Shea** (C'Wall) held



**Stella and Pauline's stall in the rain!**

a Bring and Buy Coffee Morning and raised £150. **Bertie Starr** (Norfolk) raised £170 in lieu of presents for his Diamond Wedding - more congratulations! **Beatrice Screen** (Worcester) celebrated her 70th birthday and raised £50 in lieu of presents. **Stella Smith** and **Pauline Cooper** (Carmarthenshire) raised £64 at their Dogs' Day Out in spite of awful weather. **Alicja Klamann** from **Bupa Ancaster Court Nursing Home** (E. Sussex) raised £450 at their fun dog show last summer. Bupa matched it so we received a magnificent £900. **Caroline Still** (W. Sussex) and everyone at **Baker Tilly** held a Dress Down day to raise £160. **Simone Parker** (Derbyshire) sent £250 for **Jan Grigg's** charity solo motorbike ride from Derbyshire to Gibraltar and back, in memory of a friend who died recently from cancer.



**Marian Foers and helpers at the Fox and Hounds fete**

**Marian Foers** (Leics) raised £575 from a very successful fete in the grounds of her local village pub, The Fox & Hounds in Rutland, along with other CT Vols **Sue Howard** and **Hilary Wallace** who helped, and a hog roast organised by the supportive pub owners. **Emma Helyard, Sandra Braunig** and everyone at **Ipswich Vets4Pets** raised £112.41 from their collection tin, open day and a fantastic £45 found by one of the vets outside their practice - which was never claimed! **Carl Drinkwater** (W. Midlands) raised another superb £315.58 from recycling. **Neil Fishlock** (Dorset) raised £13.48 from a visually

impaired club charity bazaar and coffee morning. **Raphaela Summers** (W Yorkshire) and the upper Calder Valley Cinnamon Group raised £212.75 from their bric-a-brac stall at Gordon Riggs Garden Centre.

**Jean Romeo** (Somerset) and friends held a couple of table top sales and coffee mornings to raise £150. **Val Bethell** (Shropshire) held a lunch party at Lake Vyrnwy Hotel to celebrate a rather belated Golden Wedding Anniversary, she raised £102.50 in lieu of presents. **Jenny Eason** (Norfolk) knitted gorgeous dog coats which she sold in her friend's pet shop and raised £250. Lovely to know that they end up all over the place as holiday makers buy them and take them home!

**The Paws Organising Team** at Pembrokeshire County Council raised £100 at this year's Paws in the Park held at Scolton Manor. At **Steve Woolstenhulme's** request, **Kathie Davies** from **Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust** sent £50 in lieu of a retirement present for Steve. **Patricia Fennell** (Hampshire) sent £285 raised under the Waitrose Green Token Scheme at Waitrose Stockbridge Road. **Ian McKillop** (Northumberland) completed the Great North Run and raised a wonderful £251. He ran a gruelling 13.1 miles in a dog costume - very well done! **David Ball** (Nottinghamshire) and the volunteers of **The Crossing Charity Shop**, Kirkby in Ashfield, raised £195 throughout the year. **Chris Dawson** (Norfolk) knitted mice from donated wool, which she sold to raise £100. **Maggie Martin** (Sussex) sent £50 raised at her friend Ruth's coffee morning. **Helen Tuthill** (Berkshire) held a competition at a local dog show to match the celebrity dog to their owner and raised £15.50 - lots of fun! **Graham Pound** (Sussex) and the parishioners of **St Mary's Church** held a pet service and raised £40. **Teresa Webb** (Lincs) raised £100 from selling her rescue hens' free range eggs to her devoted dog handlers at Chestnut Farm Agility - nice one!

**Stephen Moore's Grandfather** (Somerset) celebrated his 100th birthday and **Nicky**



Raphaela Summers, Anne Jackson and Pat Ansley at Riggs Garden Centre



Ian McKillop's Great North Run



Stephen Moore's Grandad



Janet Morgan's spiritual event



Carmarthen "Supavets" - Thunderwalk 2012



Sally Field and Katy Mayne reaching the summit of Pen Y Fan



Melanie Brown's fitness walkers

(Papillon) raised £40 in lieu of presents - magnificent! **Beryl and Peter Lappage** (Somerset) from **Exmoor Masonic Lodge** held a dinner and raised £200. **Margaret Barton** (Devon) raised £50 from a Whist Drive. **Janet Morgan** (Worcs) has again been very busy, with help from **Amanda Sunter, Chris Hyde, Anita Moore, Wendy Ralphs, Pam Jameson, Jennifer Bull, Sheila Clifford, Sue Barnett, Pamela Yates, Jean Wesley, Jane Simons, Heather Earp, Emma Brochie, Sylvia Nash, Rachel Wilkes** she raised a staggering £1,304.67 at a variety of events including a day at Sanders Park, a day of Kindness Event and **Natalie Lenton's** Canine Massage Workshop. **Penny Ayling** with **Alun Evans, Katy Mayne, Helen Scott** and **Sally Field** from **Carmarthen Veterinary Centre** (Supavets!) completed the

Thunderwalk - a gruelling 56 mile trek in 24 hours across the highest peaks in the Brecon Beacons. They had great support from **James Field, Adrienne Mackintosh** and **Milo** and raised a staggering £2,326.95, they all completed the challenge and were still smiling despite some extremely impressive blisters bordering on trench-foot! And **Katy Mayne** held a car boot sale as well. **Melanie Brown** (Norfolk) organises Fit Together - they held a

charity walk at Felbrigg Hall and sold birthday cakes to celebrate their 5th birthday walk and raised £90 - well done! **Jo Jarnell** (Staffordshire) raised £44.60 from Lawton Manor Christmas Fair. **Susie Cooke** (Wiltshire) of Paw Pals (UK) Ltd, delighted but slightly scared, took part in the Great South Run, a 10 mile road race around Portsmouth in 1 hr,





**Susie Cooke and Moe**



**Jitka Weatherburn and her biscuits**



3 mins and 5 secs and raised £580 - fantastic! **Jitka Weatherburn** (Surrey) raised £82 at two events selling her gorgeous traditional Czech Christmas spiced honey biscuits, beautifully decorated. **Beryl Conway** (Northampton-shire) raised £25 at her craft stall. **Pamela Gamon** (C'Wall) celebrated her 90th birthday and raised £140 in lieu of presents. **Pauline Hawkins** (Somerset) sold flowers from her garden to raise £34. **Margaret Cook** (Norfolk ) raised £20 from her stall. **Jutta Steffens-Carter** (Somerset) raised £10 from the sale of handmade catnip cat toys. **John Ashworth** (Surrey) and his wife celebrated their ruby wedding and raised £50 in lieu of presents. **Laurie Moya** (Worcs) and everyone at **Ledbury Quakers** raised £50 from their monthly collections. **Vanessa Oliver** (Dorset) held a table top sale and raised £50. Everyone at **Fine Tubes Ltd** (Devon) raised £100 and Fine Tubes Charity Committee matched this - excellent! **A Torjussen** and everyone at **Elstream Ltd** (Hampshire ) raised £100. **Bellevue Veterinary Clinic** (Somerset) raised £47.10 at their local show. **Sandra Pridgen** (Lincolnshire) together with her mum, **Margaret Scott**, cooked Christmas cakes and raised £67. **Pat Hopkins** (Glocs) raised £105.25 from a couple of fairs. **Invesco Perpetual** (Oxfordshire) sold tickets for their Christmas party to raise £250. **Barry** and **Linda Nobbs** (Norfolk) have run Animal Welfare Norfolk for over 10 years, as they are closing down they donated £2,500 of their fundraising to us- (very sad news). **The Inner Wheel Club of Penzance** raised £50. **Valery McConnell** and everyone at **Yours magazine** abstained from sending Christmas cards and raised £175. **Angela Hubbard** and **Catherine Care** (Sussex) raised £104.02 at The Animal Charities Christmas Fayre. **Phil and Eleanor Stubbs**



**Phil and Eleanor's wedding**

(London) celebrated their marriage and raised a fantastic £580.01 in lieu of wedding presents - very many congratulations and many happy years together! **Louise Scott** and everyone at **Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre** held a cake sale and raised £238 - they were very good cakes indeed! **Mrs M Sadler** (Kent) raised £50 at her morning line dance club. **Sadie Carmichael** (Isle of Man) raised £309 from two agricultural shows - brilliant and I hope Jenny is doing ok. **Martin Furminger** and the parishioners of **Withycombe Methodist Church** in Exmouth held "Pop-Up-Carols" over three days and raised a wonderful £120. **Margaret Pellow** and **The Summercourt New Memorial Hall Committee** (C'Wall) held a coffee morning, despite dreadful weather they raised £160. **Mr Reg Demuth** (Herefordshire) retired as a volunteer for **Leominster Tourist Information Centre** after 23 years and raised £70 in lieu of presents. **Holly Glazer** and staff at **Richmondwood Care Home** (Dorset) raised £21 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Sherry Shaw** (Cheshire) and 5 friends and dogs "The K9's", meet once per month for lunch and raised £60 in lieu of gifts. **Dr John Frank's** wife, **Helen**, (Essex) celebrated her 60th birthday and raised £100 in lieu of gifts. This is lovely - **Jane Brandon** (Yorkshire) sold 'reindeer food' to friends and colleagues over Christmas to raise £17! **Donna Sanderson** (Gtr Manchester) sent £83.24 raised at mypetstop Manchester prior to the shop being closed. **Janet Nuttall** (E Sussex) raised an incredible £325.26 during a group carol singing session. **Irene Jones** (C'Wall) sold cards and patchwork items at her table top sale to raise £150. **Marina Paton**, and



**Louise Cambourne's New Year Ball**

**Medway On-Call Care** team raised £53. **Louise Cambourne** (Wiltshire) a ballroom dance teacher, held her annual New Year Ball, had a wonderful evening of dancing and a buffet and raised £100 from her raffle. **Cheryl Beddows** and everyone at **Mildmay Veterinary Centre** (Hampshire) raised £64, **Avalon Veterinary Clinic** (Glasgow) raised £75 and everyone at **Abbey Veterinary Centre** (Lancs) raised £40 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Elisabeth Swan** (Devon) and all at **Peter**

**Tavy Scottish Dance Club** held a raffle at their annual "Christmas Ceilidh" to raise £50. **"The Smiths"**, **Elisabeth** and **Mrs B** (Kent), raised an amazing £614.90 selling garden produce and transactions on ebay. **Carnon Downs Garden Centre** (C'Wall) had a wish tree in their restaurant at Christmas time and raised £60 - that is lovely! The members of **St. Cecilia Church Prayer Group** (Essex) raised £50 and **Judy Westacott** (Devon) raised a terrific £450 from her Elizabethan market stall. **Ellen Guyver** (Warwickshire) made and sold some lovely lavender bags when she was ill, they went like hot cakes to raise £40. **Helen Charman** (W. Sussex) held her annual Christmas quiz, her family, friends and work colleagues all joined in to raise £40. **Jitka Weatherburn** (Surrey) and



her colleagues at **Red Hot Yoga** raised a stunning £781 from their group's karma class. **Mrs Jackson** and the catering staff at **Pall Hydraulics** (C'Wall) raised £138 from a raffle, all prizes were donated by Pall. **Pamela Pulley** (E. Sussex) held a carol "bottle and plate party", there was musical instruments, carol singers and the old favourites mulled wine and nibbles to raise a wonderful £500 - sounds perfect! **Mrs Hussain**

(Oxon) raised £119 from sales of her monthly quiz sheets and **Steven Parkin** (Dorset) held a quiz at his local pub, had a great night and raised a wonderful £202.20. **Nigel Orrett** (W. Midlands) raised £220 which included sales of some devilish pickled onions which Paula helped to sell. **Sian Wade** and friend **Sarah Brunson** (Warwickshire) held an extra super coffee morning to raise £420. **Caroline Stroud** (Bedfordshire) raised £112 at her annual Bridge and Supper Evening and **Dr Fiona Thompson** (Yorks) raised £25 in lieu of Christmas cards. **Lorna** and everyone at **Physio-Vets** held a charity open day, volunteers **Dereth Adams-Heighway**, **Anna Drinkwater** and **Paulene Southwell** joined them, they raised a wonderful £161.86 from their dog show and Barclays Bank matched this amount for a grand total of £323.72. Take 6 volunteers in London who never met before, **Martin Bleach**, **Pam O'Toole**, **Sarah Bryant**, **Heather Dorricott**, **Terry Garrett** and **Susan Squire**, arranged to do a stall at Chiswick dog show, one brought the literature, Pam and Martin brought and put up the gazebo, and you have fun in torrential rain as well as raise £40! **Angela Horsley** and everyone at **The Friendly Dog Club** (Dorset) raised £150 from their raffle. **Malmesbury DTC** sent £100, **Snoopy Dog Club** (Herts) raised £300, **Brook DTC** raised £100 from their raffle at their summer party. **Pam Emmerson** and



**Red Hot Yoga!**



**Paulene at Physio-Vet open day**



**The Stand at Chiswick Dog Show**



**Mavis Wrightson accepts a huge cheque from Skendale DTC**

everyone at **Skerndale DTC** (County Durham) raised a stunning £600 at their Companion Dog Show. Despite a wet day everyone enjoyed themselves, volunteer **Mavis Wrightson** attended and accepted a “fun cheque”. **Sandra Sinclair** and everyone at **Kirk DTC** (Ayrshire) held their first ever fun show. They had lots of sunshine, a large turnout and raised a staggering £1,100. **South Eastern Hound Club** (East Sussex) raised £57 from their annual Premier Open Show. **The East of England Ladies Kennel Society** raised a wonderful £232.50 from their Companion Dog Show held in conjunction with their main dog show. **Elkhound Leisure Klub** (Worcestershire) held a “Fun” Pet Photo competition and raised £71.50 - it was a great success, so will be the first of many! At the **Windsor Gundog Society Open Show** they held a raffle to raise £30. **The Whippet Club** (Derbyshire) raised £100. **The Basset Fauve De Bretagne Club** (Northamptonshire) held an auction at their championship show to raise £15. **Altrincham & District DTS** raised £200 and **North West Working Trials Society** (Cheshire) raised £50 at their recent working trial. **South Bucks Agility Club** raised £50, **Hatfield Peverel DTC** (Essex) held a raffle at their Dogs' Christmas party to raise £100. Although **South Eastern DTS** had to cancel their Annual Obedience Dog Show due to extreme wet weather, everyone's generosity in donating their entry fees enabled them to send us £200 - incredibly kind! **Exeter & County Canine Society** held stake classes at their two Open shows and raised £62. **Chelmsford & District Canine Society** held a charity raffle and raised £30. **Canine Capers Dog Obedience Club** (Somerset) held two raffles and abstained from sending Christmas cards to raise £180. **The Inner Wheel Club of Bude** raised £40 and **Fleet and District DTS** raised a terrific £338 throughout the year from raffles, bring and buy sales and a collection tin.



## Volunteer View

Our first view is lovely from **Lindsey Charlton** in Clwyd:



**Mrs Griffiths, Daisy and Brogan**

“Last year my 8 year old daughter Brogan really felt that she would like a dog!! I adore dogs but I work long hours that are not that sociable which would be unfair on the dog so I was between a rock and a hard place!

Anyway, as if it was meant to be, a few weeks later, I saw a poster in my local post office for The Cinnamon Trust and thought 'Eureka!!'

We waited with bated breath to be assigned a dog to walk and along came 'Daisy' who is quite simply the most adorable, sweet, clever little thing. She was understandably wary of us at first especially my daughter as poor little Daisy had been teased by children, however, after 2 walks Daisy was running up the path to welcome us!!!.

Brogan and Daisy have really got a very special bond, it's so lovely to see, she looks upon Daisy as a little foster dog. We go on different routes each time we walk (usually decided by Daisy!!!). It's the highlight of our week.

Mrs Griffiths tells Daisy just before we are due to arrive and Daisy jumps up and sits on the back of the sofa looking out of the window waiting for us to pull up. When it's a wet day that little face is like a ray of sunshine as we go up the path and she runs to greet us.

Daisy recently discovered how much fun it is to run across a nearby green with Brogan, Brogan laughs her head off as they run together and Daisy actually looks like she is laughing too, which I'm sure she is in her doggy way!!

Mrs Griffiths is such a lovely lady and we look forward to having a little chat before and after our walk and Mrs Griffiths always makes sure that there is a bar of chocolate for Brogan to take home which is really kind, but it's hard to hide from Daisy!

I recently had a car accident, no one hurt thank goodness although the driver who ran into me then drove off!! It was on the way to walking Daisy and Brogan was quite shaken by the experience, but walking Daisy that day took her mind completely off what had happened and Mrs Griffiths rang me up the next day to see if the police had caught the person, which was so thoughtful of her.

The Cinnamon Trust has helped a lot more than one person in our case ... it solved my dilemma over not being able to get a dog ... Brogan loves Daisy to bits and now feels she would be disloyal in a way if she had one of her own ... Mrs Griffiths is happy and always very pleased to see us, and Daisy is one very happy little pooch."

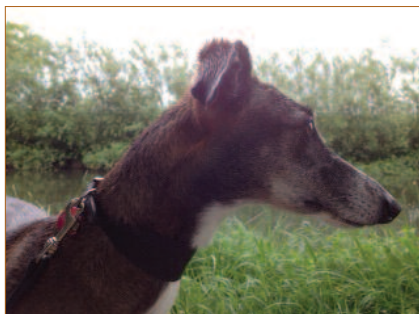


From London, **Laura Nicholls** writes:

"I met Lady in the spring of 2012 through The Cinnamon Trust and it was love at first sight, or maybe that should be laugh at first sight! She's such a comical soul!

Lady is a beautiful girl, a Lurcher/Whippet, with a wonderful character. Whenever





Lady

I arrive at the house I can see a pointy nose making the net curtains twitch and hear Lady “singing all the way up the scale” as Shirley says!

I have a couple of lovely cats at home, but am unable to keep a dog of my own because I work long hours as a teacher. After a hard day, I look forward to my evening walk and I have found that spending time with Lady is a great cure for stress.

During school holidays and on Saturday mornings, Lady and I take long walks together. We like to stroll along the local canal and say hello to our friends at the rowing club. Lady loves to run in the park and, luckily for me, she has a fan club (human and canine) ready to help her exercise by playing chase ... chase the ball, chase the pigeon, chase the squirrel, chase the duck, chase each other! On one memorable occasion, she chased a huge heron and my heart was in my mouth as I willed it to take off in time and not peck her! She's a cheeky girl, but always comes back when I whistle.

Best of all, we love to ramble on the local Walthamstow marshes. We have watched the seasons change in the area and I've taken many photos of the plants and animals we've seen, including a beautiful pair of kestrels hunting and a herd of rare breed cows grazing in the frosty morning. Living in London, there is something magical in these experiences.

An unexpected benefit to walking Lady has been getting to know her owner. Shirley is an inspirational woman and I have great respect for her. She is naturally cheerful and has a wonderfully dry sense of humour. It is always a pleasure to spend time with her and we have become good friends. Shirley is not able to get out much, but we have taken Lady to a park together once; although it turned out to be a bit of a muddy disaster and all three of us came home looking like bog monsters!

Volunteering to walk Lady has enriched my life in many ways and I want to say a big thank you to The Cinnamon Trust for bringing us together.”



And **Bill Pringle** in Devon says:

“When I was asked to walk a dog on behalf of The Cinnamon Trust, I expected it to be little more than a straightforward exercise. I was pleasantly surprised to find

that there was much more to it than I imagined.

First, I found a heart-warming story, an illustration of the difference that a determined and loving pet owner can make. Margaret had had dogs most of her adult life. When she lost her beloved Staffie, Buster, ten years ago, she decided to get another one. Although she was well into her seventies, Margaret had no worries about having a new dog - she was extremely fit and healthy and

regularly enjoyed long walks over the hills of Dartmoor. She contacted a Staffie rescue trust and, before long, welcomed Jasmine into her home.



Jasmine

Jas - as she is usually known - was not quite what Margaret was expecting and was very different from dear, departed Buster. Jas was just a year old and came with a shocking story. She had been bred and trained as a fighting dog and had been extremely badly treated before she was rescued. As Margaret says: "she was a pathetic bundle of skin and bone, her body covered in sores and scars." Jas wouldn't let anyone touch any part of her, except the top of her head, and she showed extreme aggression towards any other dog.

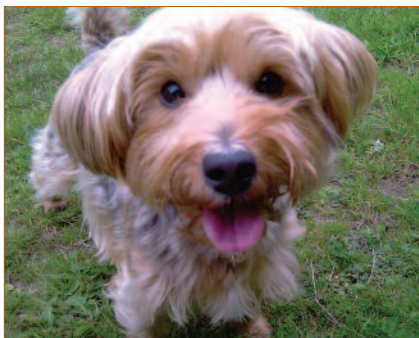
Jas was seven when I met her - and Margaret - for the first time. She had been transformed into a picture of glowing health, bursting with energy and with the totally affectionate nature which is the true hallmark of staffies. Sadly, the passing years had not been so kind to Margaret. She had developed serious problems with arthritis and Jas's powerful enthusiasm on the end of a lead was more than Margaret could manage. Hence the call to The Cinnamon Trust for help with dog walking.

It was good to be able to help someone who had herself done so much to help a dog in distress - and someone who has been a keen supporter of The Cinnamon Trust for many years. However, the real and most pleasant surprise for me was that, in Margaret, I found a new and treasured friend. On the very first day, she invited me in for a cup of tea after I'd walked Jas and we quickly found we have numerous interests, experiences and opinions in common. We also share a dry sense of humour. Now we both keenly anticipate our regular chats and thoroughly enjoy each other's company.

The Cinnamon Trust has been able to help Jas and Margaret in many ways over the years, providing the kind of care and support which are bread and butter for The Trust. The icing on the cake for me has been the personal pleasure of seeing a dog transformed beyond belief and finding a new and valued companion."

**Gavin Missons** in Kent is quite smitten by Georgie Girl:

"I joined the Cinnamon Trust in 2010 and was soon paired up with a gorgeous little bundle of fluff named Georgie - a sweet natured Yorkshire Terrier. I was to be the weekend helper as there were already volunteers in place for the week



**Georgie**

days, so it fitted in well around my work. I quickly fell in love with my new friend and it was definitely reciprocated. I also became very fond of her mum, Dolly, a lovely lady who is 96-years-old (not far off 97!) and lives just down the road from me in Sevenoaks, Kent. Georgie and I have a routine which includes a walk around one of our favourite neighbourhoods or in the local park, which she absolutely adores. She also loves to fetch a tennis ball, though completely ignores sticks! Our play time is interspersed with a

few pit stops where she chomps on one or two of her favourite doggy treats. Georgie always lets me know when she's ready for another by jumping up and down at my pocket as if she's on a bungee cord! Having both walked, jogged and run together, we return home and I make all three of us a cup of tea - in a teapot, of course! Just like her mum, Georgie has a sweet tooth and takes two-and-a-half sugars! I then help Dolly with any chores and explain letters etc; if she needs me to, and this makes things a bit easier for her. I've also arranged for hearing tests so we can hopefully get Dolly a hearing aid. She will then be able to listen to the radio, which should help with her boredom and loneliness. Dolly loves to knit and has made me some lovely presents including a scarf and some bedding for my cat. She now has a picture of my cat on her sideboard! By the time I'm ready to go, little Georgie is nicely tired out and Dolly is a whole lot brighter. You can really see how these visits lift her spirits. I then head back home and we all look forward to the next weekend when we do it all over again. I'm eternally grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for all it does for people and their pets, such as Dolly and Georgie, and I'm so glad I can help out in a small way. I find it hugely rewarding and can see, first-hand, just how valuable and important The Cinnamon Trust's work is. Georgie is completely central to Dolly's well-being."



In Essex, **Penny Foster** needed a little help herself...

"After going through a particularly difficult bereavement, I decided that I needed something on which to focus my attention. I was sitting in my doctor's surgery one day and picked up a file giving information for carers and various volunteer work to help those in need. I found a leaflet on The Cinnamon Trust and knew



immediately that this was just what I needed.

It did not take long before I was introduced to Mr and Mrs Busby and the delightful Daisy and Alfie, two wire haired dachshunds. Due to their problems, Mr and Mrs Busby were unable to take their beloved pets for walks so they had called The Cinnamon Trust.

Alfie was a slimline young man, just slightly on the timid side, always with his tail between his legs ready to hide if needed. Daisy was a lady with the figure of a mum having given birth to a number of youngsters. Both had a history of coming from a less than happy background before they found comfort with Mr and Mrs Busby.

Initially the walks were just that - exercise for both me and the dogs, but as Daisy and Alfie grew in confidence so did their attitude on what they wanted from our outings. Our run around the local playing field is restricted now to "once around the track". Any attempt to encourage another go at a run is met with a dogged "no way". The rest of the time is taken lounging on the back seat of the car - the dogs that is, not me!!! But there is no tail between the legs now for Alfie, and Daisy is equally excited when I arrive to take them for a "walk".

In addition to the dogs I have become friends with Mr and Mrs Busby and they know that they have someone to fall back on if they ever need it. Likewise they are good to me too. Without all of them my own journey would have been longer. There is nothing like confiding in an animal when you need a good listener ...."



**Eleanor Mogridge** in Sussex helps not one, not two but three people!

"I've always loved walking dogs. I first started taking my family friend's cocker spaniels round the block once a week at the age of 8, and have never looked back since. As I got older, I used to join their owners up on the South Downs every Sunday, and then began to learn the beauty of bonding with a canine.

When these spaniels passed away, after walking them for over 7 years, I felt lost



**Daisy and Alfie**



**Ghillie, Solly, Bobby, Sonny with Eleanor**

without somebody to walk. At this point I was studying for a degree in Animal Science at Plumpton Agricultural College in Sussex, and a rep from World Wide Volunteering came to speak to us about voluntary projects being run at the time. From tracking Whales in Tenerife to gardening in Hampshire, the opportunities were endless with this organisation. I put my name on the mailing list, and soon enough I had a database of voluntary work at my fingertips. I didn't have the time or money to go abroad for a project, but I spotted The Cinnamon Trust asking for dog walkers. Brilliant! Without hesitation I applied, and before I even had my welcome pack through the post I had been assigned to two Westies, Solly and Ghillie. Their owner Mrs Owen told me how Ghillie, age 12 at the time could be a little slow at times (which turned out to be the understatement of the year) and that they were very friendly and walked well off the lead. My first walk with them went well, and we've been good pals ever since. After a few months I was the only volunteer left available to walk them, so we go out every day, whatever the weather, and have lots of little adventures - including Ghillie falling in a pond, and Solly coming face to face with a cow without realising!

After a few months, I was asked to help another lady, Mrs Thurston, with her Jack Russell Bobby. From pretty much the word go he was joining in with me and the Westies, and being half their age livened up the walk somewhat. Even old Ghil likes to try and start a game with him, but sadly he is usually ignored for a tennis ball. Mrs Owen gets lots of slobbery kisses from Bobby if ever he pops into their house at drop-off time, typically followed by the Westies having their toy box emptied all over the floor, with me following behind him putting it all back in again...

As if our little pack wasn't enough, Mrs Thurston's sister needed help with her Whippet called Sonny. Who best to help but me?! There was still room in the car for one more dog in the back (even if it involves one Westie sitting underneath the Whippet...) Poor Sonny had only recently been seized by the RSPCA from a house with too many dogs, so was very nervous of anything outdoorsy involving other four legged friends. After a couple of months of one-to-one walking with me, taking it slowly into little quiet parks and building upwards to busier places, he got better and better each day. About 5 months after I started walking him, he was happily meeting Bobby and the Westies and hopping in the car with them, meeting all dogs off lead and acting like a proper dog. Very sadly, his owner Mrs Langford passed away recently, leaving Sonny bereaved and confused. With a moderate amount of persuasion, my mum agreed it was best he came to live with us, as I was the next most stable human in his life at the time, and being a nervous dog it wouldn't be fair to put him with strangers. So he is now a resident hound in our household...! Mum has fallen in love with him, and is currently knitting him a woolly jumper to stop him getting cold in the winter (bless'er.)

And that is how me and my Cinnamon Trust gang have evolved. The four dogs

and I go out for an hours walk every day together, come rain or shine, and have great play times. After a long day at university or work, it's lovely and refreshing for me, and I would recommend it to anybody."



**Carol Knott** in Kent is also making four dogs very happy!

"I've been a Cinnamon Trust dog walker for six years now. When I gave up work, I wanted to do something useful with my time. I was looking for something that got me out of the house, preferably with animals, so walking dogs seemed to fit the bill. Inevitably I've lost some good friends over the years; Bella and Jimmy, Gulliver and Flora, Jasper and Fizz - all gone, but definitely not forgotten.

At the moment I walk four dogs. Zinnie the Lurcher and Bea the Staffie live together and are my Saturday morning "dates". After an ecstatic greeting, with lots of barking and tail wagging, it's off to the local park. Zinnie is extremely elegant and has long legs that would be the envy of a super model - one of her many admirers described her as the Claudia Schiffer of the dog world! A quick dash around, then she's content to wander round investigating all the interesting smells, unless another dog wants to play, then it's time for a game of chase. Bea's totally different; she's like a wind up dog, always on the move! Totally oblivious to other dogs, providing she's got her ball in her mouth, she never stops. When it's time to go home Zinnie is quite happy to go back on her lead, but Bea's a little tease! She'll come up to me and just as I reach for her, she gets a wicked glint in her eye and she's off. It's all a game and after a couple of times she gives in, especially when she realises a doggie treat is on offer!

Mimi is a little Griffon and she's a real mummy's girl. She loves her walks to the sea front and will run round and round in circles as soon as she's let off the lead. We amble along beside the sea and she enjoys chasing backwards and forwards and meeting her regular friends - Marco the Bichon and Pronto the Greyhound are particular favourites. But



**Carol with Toby**



**Bea**



**Mimi**



**Zinnie**



after a while she suddenly decides it's time to go home and check on mum, a really faithful little girl.

Toby the Poodle is the baby of the bunch. He's so full of life and gets extremely excited when his owner gets his lead out and he realises it's "walkie time!" The beach is his paradise and he likes nothing better than investigating all the interesting things that have been washed up by the tide. Toby thinks that everyone has been put on earth to be his friend and can't understand when his charm fails to result in a fuss being made of him. Luckily, very few people are able to resist his waggy tail and smiley face!

Thank you, Cinnamon, for introducing me to such characters. I've made some really good friends, both canine and human; chats with the owners are almost as much fun as the walkies themselves!"



From Bedfordshire, **Vera Turner** writes:

"In October 2011, my husband was reading the local paper and came across an article for The Cinnamon Trust. They were looking for volunteers in the Luton area to walk a little Jack Russell for an elderly lady. I have a dog called Chewie who is my best friend and we do lots of charity walks and runs. We go everywhere together. My husband thought this was a very good idea for the two of us, and after showing me the article I contacted The Cinnamon Trust.



**Alfie smiling at Chewie**

After all my paperwork was completed, I was accepted as a volunteer. I was totally over the moon and could not wait to start. I met Alfie and Mrs Holloway and we agreed the days and times that I would walk him. Chewie and I have now been walking Alfie for a year - they are great buddies and have lots of fun. On numerous occasions the two of them have run off chasing birds and I go into a mad panic because I can't see them. But they always come back looking totally innocent, and I can't manage to tell them off

because they are too cute!!! Alfie is a great little dog who always manages to stay clean whatever the weather and the amount of puddles around, whereas my dog Chewie always gets dirty and goes into every puddle of dirt that he sees!! But we all always have lots of fun.

Chewie and I love volunteering; we are now really good friends with Mrs Holloway and Alfie. We always have lovely chats after our walks. Everybody involved is really happy."

**Linsey Moore** in Surrey is a very brave lady, this is her blog ...

"Some people like to be centre of attention, others hate it. I have always liked to be "in the action but slightly off-centre", but having cancer puts a spotlight on you whether you like it or not. It's all about me, me, me. Doctors, nurses, friends, family, everyone wants to know how I am and what to do. Now on the whole I can't complain about this because with the doctors and nurses it's keeping me alive and with the friends and family it's true that I am more limited than others in what I can do; for example, I have to be careful about not catching infections and I do get more tired now that I'm on chemo number five. But still, there are times when I want to shout "CAN WE JUST TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE PLEASE?!!!" I am so utterly bored of having cancer and so utterly bored of talking and thinking about myself.

Pretty early on I read a great article in the New York Times about six ways to cope with cancer. One of the ideas was to "do something for someone else", which the writer said, "makes me feel like I am capable of helping and not just being helped" and shifts the focus off you. Being a management trainer, my version of this is looking for a win/win opportunity; something I can do to help others whilst also getting something out of it too. A quick internet search later and I found The Cinnamon Trust. They're a lovely charity who match volunteers with elderly or terminally ill people who can no longer look after their pets (I know, how ironic that I'm helping terminally ill people). For me, this means I walk Rosie the German Shepherd once a week but you can also foster animals when people go into hospital or help take animals to the vet or lots of other things.



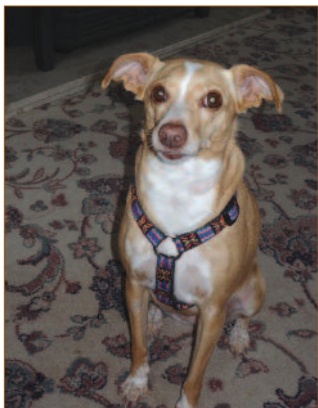
**Linsey Moore**

I am really, really, really enjoying this. Once a week I'm guaranteed an hour's exercise and an hour of thinking about something else - "Is Rosie going to swerve in front of me again and trip me up on her own lead?" for example. After four or five walks Rosie and I are building up a good relationship; she won't go where I don't go and comes back when I call her - so I guess I'm her centre of attention but only when there's nothing interesting to sniff. She does like me but ultimately it's still "her, her, her"! We did consider getting our own pet when I was re-diagnosed but life has just been too hectic, so this hour is a good substitute. I also know I'm helping Maureen, Rosie's owner, who is pretty much housebound and seems to enjoy the five minutes we spend chatting at the door and is so grateful her dog gets some exercise. In fact, I'm enjoying it so much that the week my white blood cells weren't playing ball and my chemo schedule went haywire I really missed it. And last week, when I was feeling low with a cold,

walking Rosie was the one thing I still felt like doing. It is lovely to officially be the helper and not the helped, even though I'm getting so much out of it too..."



This has to be super-intelligent! **Tara** is clearly bi-lingual and she writes (with a little help from **Sian Williams** and **Rosie Bailey-Clark** in Cornwall)...



**Tara**

"Hola, my name is Tara. I come from the Spanish mountains. My mum is called Ria and she saved me from a 'bucket' when I was only 2 weeks old. I am now 11 years old and have lived in Cornwall for 5 years.

Ria is hard of hearing so I tell her if we have visitors, the phone rings etc. Last year she was very poorly and I had to stay with friends, they were very nice but we missed each other lots.

Recently, mum has had an operation and was unable to walk me. She was given the contact for The Cinnamon Trust. They were very helpful and introduced me to two wonderful volunteers that shared coming to walk me every day. They kept me very happy and fit, were great company and we had lots of fun. I even met their families and we are still good friends.

The Cinnamon Trust enabled mum and I to be content. She reckons that she got better much quicker due to not worrying about me or missing me, as I was able to share our love and help her.

MUCHAS GRACIAS, Cinnamon Trust, Sian and Rosie (Thank you very much)

CON MUCHO AMOUR (with lots of love). Tara xxx"



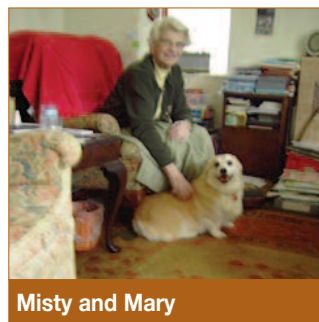
**Misty** visits her mum, Mary, in Cheshire, who is now very sadly confined to bed and terminally ill, but **George Lowe** and family adore Misty and she will now be staying for all her days. George writes:

"I became a volunteer in early September 2013. My intention had been to be a volunteer dog walker; however this was not to be as I was diagnosed with a DVT in my left leg only days after being registered as a volunteer. After a chat with my wife we decided that I should offer myself as a short term fosterer.

Within weeks I was asked if I could foster Misty, an old Pembrokeshire Corgi, whose owner had suffered a bad fall and had been hospitalised as a result. Arrangements were made for me to collect Misty from her home. I must admit I was a little apprehensive, mainly because this would be my first case of fostering but also because for over 20 years we had German Shepherd rescue dogs as pets, never a dog as small as a Corgi!

On meeting Misty for the first time all my concerns evaporated, she was wonderful and it is true to say that we fell under her spell at once. She made herself at home in the car and was no trouble at all on the way home. A concern we had on arriving at home was how would Misty manage with the stairs as she was used to living in a bungalow? The answer was very easily!!

We were amazed at how well Misty adapted to her new surroundings. We put this down to the love, care and training she had received from Mary. Misty has a lovely personality, she just loves company and is wonderful with children of all ages. She gets on well with other dogs - big and small and has no interest in cats or squirrels! It is true to say that everyone who meets her falls in love with her. One thing has amazed us about her, her appetite - she could eat for England (should that be Wales?) if given the chance. She has now taken to placing herself in front of the door as soon as she suspects that we might be going out, it is as though she is thinking "not without me you're not"!



Misty and Mary

We are in regular contact with her owner, she is at home but receiving round the clock care and will not be able to look after Misty again. We have taken Misty to see her owner at her home and the visit went very well indeed. After having Misty for only a short time we can understand why she misses Misty so very much, having had her as a companion for so many years.

We did have a problem early on with Misty having 'accidents' (of the wetting type) in the house. After talking with The Trust it was decided that due to her age she should be seen by a vet. Thanks to Deborah Man everything was arranged for Misty to attend our old veterinary practice and after various tests it was determined that her kidneys were not functioning to their full capability, and we are working with The Trust to make sure she gets what she needs to stay healthy, and I'm very pleased to say that it appears to be working, the results from her last test were very encouraging.

Summing up, we could not have wished for a more docile, friendly, loving and lovable dog, one who is so well behaved both on and off her lead. I would like to thank her owner, Mary and her niece Elizabeth for their help and the trust they



have placed in us while we look after Misty. A very big thank you to Deborah Man and all the staff at The Trust for their support and help and for being there when I needed them, that comes from Misty as well!!!!"



Now, to catch up with some of our life-long foster pets...

First, **Minnie and Tootsie**. When Mr & Mrs Appleby had to move into a specialist nursing care unit, they could take only one pet, and they took their very elderly cat with them. Worried and heartsore they came to us for help. The White



family wanted to foster, the connection was made:

"It was 29th December 2010 that the White family set off from Cornwall to Utttoxeter to pick up Minnie and Tootsie, two Shih Tzus needing a long-term foster home - we wondered what on earth we had let ourselves in for, and sure enough, life hasn't been quite the same since!

**Minnie and Tootsie with Molly and Jenna**

The "ladies" as they are affectionately known, have settled into Cornish life and love nothing more than running along the vast open beaches with Jenna (aged 13) and Molly (aged 11). Minnie, despite having only one eye, particularly loves her new found freedom and holds her tail high in the air as she bounds along - making other walkers laugh out loud.

Tootsie has got used to paddling through the rock pools but still picks her feet up and gives us a look that says "REALLY!!"

We are often joined by Pippa, a 5 year old Border Collie whose elderly owner is unable to get out, and Monty, another long-term Cinnamon Trust foster dog that lives in the village.

We send regular updates and photos to Mrs Appleby, Minnie and Tootsie's previous owner, and we are very grateful to her and The Cinnamon Trust for choosing us as suitable foster carers.

Our second anniversary of "fostering" is rapidly approaching and we have been reflecting on the laughter and fun Minnie and Tootsie have brought to our lives.

We simply can't imagine life without them and would like to thank The Cinnamon Trust for all their support."

Now, **Sascha** and **Sophie**, beautiful lilac point Siamese cats. Owner **Christine Pack-Davison** in Liverpool passed away from cancer in 2008. Sascha & Sophie had a brief sojourn with volunteer **Mary Hennesey** who was close by & then the perfect life long foster in the shape of retired RSPCA inspector **Ron Simpson** in Hull took the girls home.

Ron writes:

"I had to pass on the news to you of Sascha's departure from our lives last week. It had been my intention to write you a full account of Sascha's life here with Sophie and I but I am afraid I still don't seem able to settle myself to do that.

What I can say, for now, is that Sascha's presence in my life has been nothing less than inspiring and a total delight. From her first day here, when she was reluctant to do any more than stay away from any kind of activity and merely watch from a distance to her last days when she was a fully integrated and pivotal part of our family (Sascha, Sophie and myself) she has been simply a joy. A joy to see every step in her beginning to trust through to being simply the epitome of calm and contentment in her life. This little old girl's fortitude and bonded friendship with Sophie and myself has been a lesson in how to live life. I cannot as yet go through all the many memorable times and steps she took on her journey to recapture her trust in a human. Each one causes me tears as I recall them yet they are each beautiful and such positive steps that she was able to continue to take throughout her life here. I have simply been blessed with her presence.

Sophie is certainly feeling the separation a lot. Thank you so much for sending the Ignatia Amara. My days have been filled with care for her in diversion, sleeping together and trying to distract her in her emotional times. She is not a cat who can live happily without feline companionship. I have, prior to Sascha's passing and also constantly since, done little other than try to facilitate a plan for her. There is no doubt whatsoever that she needs another companion yet at the age of 16, and with the Siamese temperament "in spades", I know that the introduction of another cat will not be easy in any way. I have, however, discovered a local oriental cat of 18 weeks who seems to have a temperament which may be the best match I could envisage, and being still very much a kitten may not carry the threat which an adult may in the eyes of Sophie. I intend, therefore, to introduce them very soon under controlled circumstances to begin and see what develops. I am very hopeful but I am also very aware that the cats will make their own minds up regardless. At the very least I hope that Sophie may trade some of her concerns of loss and wondering to concerns of a more physical and immediate nature. For me, alone, Sophie would be perfect but for Sophie there needs to be another feline presence therefore I am doing what I believe to be the best I can for her. She also gives me such joy and I will always strive to give her what she needs in return.

My own health is fairly stable at the moment and my stroke legacy has not worsened. I have no imminent serious healthcare clouds on the horizon but one never knows. I hope, that if something happened to me and Sophie has indeed accepted her new proposed companion that you would view them both as continuing in your care for the future.

These two girls, and The Cinnamon Trust, have brought love into my life and intimacy beyond any I have experienced for many years. Looking after the girls has given me a true and wonderful purpose to my life. Physically, I can no longer do things I used to do but you have allowed me to be useful once more. Looking at it all from the other direction too, the girls have provided me with structure and focus and have been a huge influence in getting my life back on track. The healing power of touch is not a new concept to me. I have always held it to be a real positive. I now know it from personal experience too.

My thanks again to you all, not only for your support and the opportunity you gave me to help these girls, but for all the others to whom you give such comfort and happiness”.



**Kato** and **Daisy-May** both Shih Tzu's are in Somerset with **Pam** and **Gordon Pugsley** but there's ten years between their arrival.....

In 2002, Kato suffered a double tragedy, first his mum died of MS and shortly after his dad also passed away with lung cancer - very much a daddy's boy, he and Gordon are inseparable. When Daisy-May's mum went into nursing care in 2012, she was the perfect addition to this happy family.



**Daisy-May, Kato and granddaughter Erin**

Pam and Gordon say:

“We are so pleased we made the journey to Camelford last January to collect “Daisy-May” she is so good and Kato is lovely with her.

Despite Kato having two strokes last year he is fine now and we are sure having Daisy-May has helped him, we take them on the

hills each day, Daisy-May goes for a longer walk and when we meet Kato on the way back she runs up to him and kisses him.

They sit side by side in the car with their seat belts on and love to visit our grandchildren with whom they are a great hit!

Kato is such a darling and Daisy-May should be called “Angel” because she is! All the things we had concerns about like the car, Kato, the grandchildren came to nothing, she is so good & such a sweetie.

We are so pleased we have them both and enjoy every single day with them”.



**Alan** and **Lisa McMillan** in East Lothian have a happy home with **Bracken**.

They write:

“In June 2011, a chance trip to a farm shop in East Lothian meant we became aware of The Cinnamon Trust through a poster campaign looking for volunteer dog walkers.

At that point we did not have a dog but we had both been 'dog mad' for years having had a number of terrier types as family dogs.

We duly applied to be dog walkers and after a couple of months were put in touch with a lady in Cockenzie (East Lothian) that had a dog called 'Bracken'. He is a Border Collie/Retriever cross.



**Bracken**

From August through until the end of 2011 we walked Bracken three or four times per week and we all enjoyed it immensely!

His larger than life character and enthusiasm for seaside walks was infectious. When his owner sadly died between Christmas and New Year we were able to foster him at a crucial time. Since that time, he has gone from strength to strength. As he was quite a large dog and a bit overweight we focused on lots of walks and sensible dinner portions until his weight came down.

Here we are a year down the line since we “adopted” him and he is happier than ever. We have also just moved home and are now in a more rural location with a large garden where he enjoys playing football and catching his American baseball!!!

For a 12 year old he is extremely agile and runs with the young pups; many passers-by cannot believe his age. He has had a couple of health scares but is currently thriving and enjoying life to the limit.

He has a lot of fans amongst neighbours, family and friends with people lining up as volunteer dog walkers/sitters!



Interestingly, we now live just a short distance from the farm shop where this adventure started which seems to be a fitting way to end this short tale of a happy dog!!”



**Patricia Smith** was in failing health when her daughter who lived with her died suddenly - and suddenly **Hughy** needed care that Patricia couldn't give. **Kat Bergzoll** a vet at Paignton Zoo enters and sent this:

“We have had Hughy for just over 6 months now. He is a Mediterranean spur thighed tortoise who is at least 35 years old which makes him the eldest in our household but probably still only a teenager in tortoise years! The first thing we had to do was tortoise proof our garden to make sure he could not escape. We also made sure he had plenty of options for shelter and built him a shallow pool so he can drink and bathe which he likes to do fairly frequently as it helps get his bodily functions going! Hughy has quite a set routine; he wakes up at about 8am and goes and sits in the sun (if there is any) until about 11am every morning and once he is warmed up he goes for a little stroll around the garden and has some



**Hughy with Tom**

food. On a hot day, he'll go under a bush where it is a bit colder because as a cold blooded animal his body temperature is dependent on his environment. And he will normally put himself to bed under his favourite bush at about 6pm. He has a love for dandelion flowers as well as the occasional strawberry but generally we offer him a variety of green leaves and weeds dusted with a calcium supplement to make sure he has nice strong bones, helped along

by plenty of Devon sun. We also built him an indoor enclosure with a heat lamp and a UV lamp so we can bring him inside when the weather is bad. He is hibernating in a specially maintained area at the moment where he will be safe and well and will soon be back out in our garden again, even though our cat Tom is enjoying getting most of the attention right now!”



**Billy** is enjoying life with **Rebecca Cillo** and family in Cornwall.

Rebecca says:

“As I am writing to you this evening Billy is sitting next to me. He is a very loving cat and likes to be around you most of the time, we have moved as I told you on

the telephone but we haven't allowed Billy out as yet as its only been 2½ weeks! It's a big house with a huge garden so I think he will love it when he gets to go out (I have carried him around the garden so he can get used to it).

When Billy first arrived I said I wouldn't allow him to sleep in bed with us but that lasted all of a week so now he either chooses to sleep on my daughters bed with her under the duvet, or in with my partner and me!

When he is awake and ready for breakfast he headbutts your head and nibbles your hair!



He isn't as agile as he was when he first arrived but he is doing very well for an old boy!

We are so very grateful that we were the ones chosen to give Billy a home as he has made our family complete we love him very, very much and now can't imagine life without him!

Thank you for this opportunity, we are all very happy”



I think you can tell how much joy our lifelong foster pets bring to those that now love and care for them. If you'd like to join this happy throng, please get in touch, we'd love to have you and remember we pay all the vets bills!



We help about 20,000 people a year at the moment and receive many appreciative letters. I'd like to share a fraction of these with you.

We've been helping **Barbara Brook** and **Bramble** in Abergavenny since 2007.

Barbara writes:

“I would like to say a huge thank you “THANK YOU” for all the help I have received from your organisation. When I was admitted into hospital and had to have care for my constant companion Bramble, who is 15 years old, a cross breed corgi x collie and the love of my life, none of my friends could look after Bramble for any length of time for various reasons and 'Cinnamon' stepped in. Found a home that would look after her until I was home again. Now as I am unable to walk Bramble they have come up with a lovely lady who comes to take her out most days. I am

so grateful to Cinnamon for helping me out. I am a pensioner on a fixed income and now due to Cinnamon I have peace of mind that my physical problems don't affect Bramble's life. Thank you once again from my dog and myself."



**Chris McIver** in West Drayton says:

"I am so glad I have found The Cinnamon Trust and that you were able to help me find a responsible volunteer to help me look after Quaser. Quaser is a chocolate Labrador and is 2½ years old. He is still only a baby at heart; he gets so excited when he sees Rachel. I think you made a good choice in pairing them up they are a good pair. Quaser needs regular exercise as he works hard for me. He is an assistance dog and does all the things that I find difficult, like taking my socks off, takes my coat off, shutting doors and opening them, he also takes the washing out of the washing machine - so many tasks I can't remember them. As I am always dropping things he thinks it a game, but to me it's a very special task. I have always worried about his walks as they are a vital part of this routine. Rachel is a treasure and in walking Quaser she always knows Quaser is a "working dog" who needs to play. The Cinnamon Trust has been a Godsend to me and Rachel is terrific and reliable. I only wish I had found you earlier."



And **Kathleen Harley** in Haverfordwest with the adorable **Benji** and **Angel** writes:



**Angel**

"I took my dogs, Benji and Angel, for their check up, and was then told they were overweight. I told the vet that I was now unable to walk them very far, due to worsening health problems, and felt that I was being unfair to Benji and Angel. She then suggested I 'ring this number', which was The Cinnamon Trust, of course.



**Benji**

I had never heard of The Cinnamon Trust, but I decided to phone and explain the situation.

Within a week of ringing, I had a call to say that someone would be in touch, and true to your word, I then had two phone calls. The first was from Ann Tyler, and the second from Helen Hibberts.

A few days later, Benji and Angel were going off for

'proper' walks, with tails wagging, and I swear they were smiling from ear to ear! We also believe that Angel can hear Ann start her car two miles and begins singing and dancing until Ann gets here. I confess to feeling a little sad and redundant, but my dogs are very happy with the new arrangements. They now have a good walk three days a week, which is more than I hoped for, and Benji and Angel seem to be much happier. I can do the other things that are part of owning dogs, taking them to be clipped and showered, brushing and feeding etc. and now they are walking regularly.

I was healthier when we first had them, but I had reached the stage where I even contemplated re-homing them, for their sakes, but this would have broken my heart.

On a happier note, I now consider Ann and Helen friends, and find myself looking forward to their visits, to catch up on whatever has been happening in their lives!

Thank you Cinnamon Trust for introducing two new and special people into our lives, I am convinced that Benji can talk, and he said the same!

A huge thank you also, to Ann and Helen for making it possible for me to keep my dogs."



**Sheila Santer-Reid** in Wiltshire writes:

"I heard about Cinnamon via info at Macmillan Trust, also news posted at our vets surgery. Once again I thought about something which seemed too good to be true, but info about Cinnamon Trust and other organisations was on a desk at my regular church - St James in Trowbridge - another prompt! Over the last 3½ years since my son died of lung and associated cancers I have had increasing medical problems - my biggest worry being walking my dog.



**Rusti**

After contacting Cinnamon I was put in touch with Catherine who lives quite near. This means I have a regular walk weekly and an option if I can't manage in the future. Rusti and I look forward to the visit, and this service is a brilliant life saver for dogs and people, long may it continue. Catherine is a lovely, smiley, kind lady, just right in her approach and attitude. She did say she was new to this and we all miss her when she can't come. I now don't feel I'm struggling



alone, as before it was often a real effort to walk anywhere, it's difficult to emphasise enough the difference this clever and original organisation makes.”

And from **Belinda Lancing** in Cumbria:

“I write to tell you how grateful I am to The Cinnamon Trust for the very great service you provide for dogs with incapacitated owners. I once had the joy and pleasure of taking my dog for daily exercise, but now I am unable to walk without the aid of walking sticks it seemed I would have had to have my beloved dog put down, but I then heard about you, and now I have a very reliable man who comes almost daily to take Zara for a walk. She loves him, and I am so very relieved for I felt so guilty about not being able to walk her, and she is such a lovely girl.

I HAVE to have a dog for companionship and protection; I could not live my life without an animal.

You cannot know what a difference you have made.

Just to say thank you seems inadequate, I wish I were in a position to do more, but alas, such is not the case. However, I remain convinced that you are doing a very worthwhile job for which a great number of people are grateful.”



**June Pemberton** in East Sussex:

“The day my friend Annie introduced me to The Cinnamon Trust was the best ever. As I was unable to walk Ollie my little Westie it was a great worry to me, I love him so much. Then along came two people, David and Geraldine who walk him for me. They are so kind and love him. Ollie is happy to go with them and is a very happy dog I am so grateful to everyone for their kindness. Thank you to The Cinnamon Trust for all their help.”

Friend **Annie** Said:

“I knew June was very worried about Ollie's welfare as she couldn't walk him and I live too far away to help. However The Cinnamon Trust had helped another elderly lady with her little dog Millie and were wonderful, so I suggested June ring you and ask if you could help. I think what you do is absolutely brilliant, not only are you so caring with animals but are a life line to the elderly or sick people who love their animals.

Well done.”

**Julie Squire** in Devon says:

“Where would I have been without The Cinnamon Trust? In real trouble I can tell you. I have a young black Labrador called Max who was only nine months old when I had my accident at the end of March. I managed to break two bones in my foot when attempting to climb onto a chair! The chair tipped over and hit my foot.

I am in my sixties and live alone since I was widowed 12 years ago. How on earth was I going to manage a dog of this age when I couldn't walk? Friends kindly helped for the first few days, then a kind friend, who had contemplated being a dog walker for The Trust advised me to contact them. I had my accident on the Friday and by the following Wednesday the pressure was off, Marsha saved both our lives, she walked him almost every day and made it possible for me to concentrate on recuperating whilst knowing that Max was getting plenty of exercise.

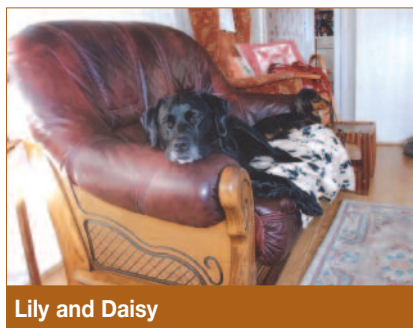
Thank you Cinnamon Trust for existing, for being so caring and efficient and also for finding me such a wonderful dog walker when I really needed one.”



**Sue Heal** in Somerset writes:

“Lily, my black Labrador is nine years old. She is very intelligent. She knows my every word and every move. We love each other very much.

Daisy is four years old. She is a miniature long haired Dachshund. She is quite a character, very willful and very noisy. She belonged to my mum and came to me when mum died.



**Lily and Daisy**

Lily has not really come to terms with this little “whirling Dervish” and tries to avoid the hassle!

The Cinnamon Trust were introduced to us by a friend and what a difference they have made to us. My dogs have different needs. I only have a small garden and Daisy is happy there - barking a great deal. Lily enjoys her “long Cinnamon walks”.

I have three walkers and Lily actually cries with delight when she sees them arrive. Daisy stays behind and enjoys her “me” time - just the two of us.

I'm 66 years old, a disabled widow with two grown-up daughters. I have times when I feel lonely but knowing The Cinnamon Trust volunteers are around gives me times to look forward to.

To know that my dogs are happy and occupied, to know that my Cinnamon friends will come in and put the kettle on is a huge comfort.

Many thanks to you all."



**Jenny Wystawnoha** in Rhos-on-Sea also wrote to us:

"My mum has leukemia and therefore is susceptible to infections. Over the last few months she has been in hospital for a week here and there, leaving her much loved diabetic cocker spaniel in distress. We have tried to look after him in kennels and family but really they both need each other!!! The local vets recommended The Cinnamon Trust to us and it has really been a fantastic weight off all our minds and a real treat for Monty!!

My mum is now back at home and Monty has a reliable dog walker every day. Monty has settled into the routine amazingly well and looks forward to his 10am walk with glee. This has given mum time to look after herself and try to get back on her own two feet. We as a family can relax a little in knowing that both my mum and her beloved dog are being looked after.

Sometimes you don't realise what a difference someone (Terence) and something (The Cinnamon Trust) can make. Thank you once again for being there at such a difficult time."



**Morven Proctor** in Somerset writes:

"I was diagnosed with epilepsy 18 months ago and am unable to drive and take Midas out for exercise. He is full of life and loves to play so needs plenty of stimulation and I felt I was letting him down.

With your help you found two wonderful ladies, Caroline and Anne who come to take Midas out for me throughout the week. As he has been obedience trained he is equally happy with both of them and they tell me he is very well behaved.

Caroline and Anne have a wonderful relationship with Midas and they have become great friends to me. When they arrive, Midas gets so excited and goes

over the top with his welcome, he is so happy and completely at ease, he jumps into their car with his 'birdie' in his mouth, he loves this bird and even falls asleep with it in his mouth.

Caroline has her own family and is a very busy lady but gets so much pleasure taking Midas out (in all weathers). Caroline says Midas cheers her up and now she has decided to buy a puppy Jack Russell for herself and family. I will help her all I can with advice and training as she has been so kind to Midas and myself and is always there if I need her.

I cannot thank you enough for the work you do, you are a lifeline to all owners of pets, they know they will be well looked after in your care.



Midas, his birdie and Caroline

We all love our own pets, they give so much joy (and heartache) but we would not be without them.”



And **Gail Harrison** in Stockton says

“When I became disabled, my worst fear was what would happen to Marcus, now I could no longer walk him. A dear friend looked up the internet and saw an entry for the Cinnamon Trust. With a shaking hand I dialled the number. The receptionist was so very kind, she said I was not to worry.

Two weeks later a magical Mary Poppins and an angel sent by The Cinnamon Trust turned up at my door. These two wondrous souls are called Sheila and Anne.

Marcus adores them and his joyful woofs now echo throughout the land. The Cinnamon Trust, Sheila and Anne, prove love and kindness still flourish within this material world of ours. Thank you Cinnamon Trust. You waved your trusty paw and now our days are oh so bright!!!”



Marcus



**Alison Stokes** in Birmingham wrote this very moving piece.

“My sister Deb was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1983, at the age of 21.



From a very early age Deb showed a love for dogs. During her 24 year marriage she had 3 dogs in total, the latest edition being Harry. A short haired blue merle border collie, a rescue dog aged 6 months. Harry was full of love and vitality, although he did have a timid side to his character. Deb spent many hours in her wheelchair throwing the ball for Harry, in her 2 acres of land. Sharing a big hug and kiss after, when Harry would jump onto Deb's lap.

When the marriage broke down in November 2006, Deb took full custody of Harry. He was Deb's life. The sign in the porch of her new bungalow read, "The dog and his staff live here."

Over the last 2 years Deb became bed bound, requiring 24 hour care, totally reliant for her every need. On the two occasions she was admitted to hospital, she was more concerned for Harry's welfare rather than her own. She often worried that she would die before Harry. Mom and I would try to reassure Deb that Harry would be well looked after if this was to happen, but to no avail.

Due to Debs debilitating illness, she was no longer able to throw the ball for Harry or take him for walks around the reservoir. However they still shared hugs and kisses, now carried out on the bed rather than in the wheelchair.

In March 2012, on a regular visit to the vets, to have Harry's claws clipped, the vet mentioned to Mom about the charity "Cinnamon Trust" which may be of some benefit for walking Harry.

After lengthy discussions with Deb, I rang The Cinnamon Trust to make some enquiries. Our main concern was for the people Harry may come into contact with, as he had been known to nip. They were really helpful and suggested they send someone to assess Harry, before making any commitments. The assessment went well and within a very short time, The Cinnamon Trust set up three absolutely wonderful, caring, loyal volunteers to walk Harry.

The very kind act of walking Harry, not only gave Harry a new lease of life, it also gave Deb peace of mind, knowing Harry was once again receiving the exercise he needed and loved. Deb also stopped worrying about dying before Harry, because she now knew, ALL of his needs would be met. It was arranged that in the event of Debs death, Harry would be going to live with Mom and Dad.

On May 23rd 2012, Deb sadly passed away peacefully at home, with Harry and her family by her side. Harry was taken to live with Mom and Dad.

I rang The Cinnamon Trust to inform them of the circumstances. Once again they were absolutely fantastic. Due to Mom and Dad being in their 70s and not in the greatest of health, they suggested keeping the voluntary dog walkers for Harry.

Harry misses Deb like we all do, but he has settled very well into his new life style, with thanks to the walkers who have continued to be absolutely amazing, turning up in all weathers, always with a smile on their faces. They are rewarded with a big smile and a crazy wag of the tail by Harry.

My parents and I fully appreciate the excellent service The Cinnamon Trust have given us all. Without such charities, people like us would find our situations in life so much harder to bear. Thank you ALL so very much."



**Sylvia Hooper** in Bournemouth writes:

"This is from the three of us - Bonnie, Cassie and me.

I do feel we should write and thank you for all the wonderful help and kindness The Cinnamon Trust gave all three of us last year. For a long time I've been a volunteer for many, many years and have also fostered. I've always had King Charles Spaniels. Sometimes two and even three rescues, mainly from puppy farms in Wales that had never been in a home or with people.

Last year I did renew my membership with you and just after that I found out I would be needing to stay in hospital. I got in touch to say that I would be needing your help. Things were put into place quickly.

You found me a wonderful volunteer called Mary who took my dogs into her home. I was a bit worried as my Cassie (a rescue dog) had never been apart from me in 2½ years, but when Mary came to see me in hospital with some snaps, well, it was home from home - no worries at all, happy snoozing on the settee, just like home, wonderful just to see them!

They had to be moved out to Blandford as I was still not at home after 2 weeks, but everything was put in place. A nice man with a van arranged to take them. The volunteer, Shirley and her lovely dog took over. Again, home from home. Plenty of TLC. It was wonderful. Two weeks later I came home. The man with his van came with my dogs, plus boxes of food so I didn't have to sort that out either. The three of us all together after many, many weeks!

I was still not able to go out, but not to worry, as Mary was on hand to walk the dogs for me, plus helping out with many other things for us all like shopping etc.

Now, I did not know that in the very near future I would need your help again. I knew I had bowel cancer but had not received a date for it to be sorted out. I told you all about it and when my date did arrive you had already sorted out for

Mary to help again. The dogs were very happy to get in her car with their tails wagging, not even a look to see if I was going with them as well - wonderful to see them so happy.

When I came home again I was still not able to do much so could not have them at home for another three weeks, but Mary kindly brought them to stay for a few hours, plus she did lots of other very helpful things for me. I never had to worry about anything at all, only to get stronger and fit again. Who could ask for more! Even when I said that I could start to walk and take the dogs with me, Mary kept popping in just to see if I needed anything or any help.

We are all now very good friends. Mary still pops in as she does not live far away. We are always very pleased to see her. The dogs then have lots of cuddles. So I do hope you will choose this very happy tale for your next newsletter as a very happy story. I just love to read about all the wonderful volunteer helpers, plus all the other tales!"



And from **Mia Thittichai** in Sussex:

"I called The Cinnamon Trust on Monday morning at 9.30 with a general enquiry as to how The Trust might help my Mum who was terminally ill and worried about her elderly Miniature Schnauzer called Max. Sadly, both my brother and I work and I have cats which is a big no no for Max. Max also has special needs, he has limited eyesight and likes to have a lot of company, which would also be a problem because of us working. My Mum and Max are devoted to each other and have been inseparable for the 13 years they have been together. I spoke to Deb from The Trust who explained how CT works and said she would like to have a chat with Mum to reassure her and give her peace of mind. She explained to me that The Cinnamon Trust could provide short term care as well as lifelong care for Max when the time came. She also said dog walking could be offered. I could not believe it and instantly knew we had come to the right place.

Deb then spoke to my Mum at length about Max's likes/dislikes and the sort of home she felt would suit Max. Mum was more animated than I had seen her in a long time and was very definite about what Max needed. When she came off the phone she was reassured that despite Max being elderly The Cinnamon Trust had volunteers who would help whilst she was in the hospice but more importantly they could find Max a home when the time came. The Cinnamon Trust even paid all the vet bills!

We then got a call just a couple of hours later saying that The Cinnamon Trust

had found a couple who lived in our area, Lance and Laura Richards who were looking for a little companion dog. We could not believe it! They were happy to short term foster Max, and then long term foster when needed. Mum was told that Laura and Lance had a bungalow, so no stairs to negotiate with his eyesight, a lovely big garden and Laura is home all day so Max would never be left on his own.

Mum was so relieved to have the call, I don't think my brother and I had understood how important finding a good home for her beloved Max was until we saw her reaction. We went to make a cup of tea to celebrate and when I returned I thought Mum had fainted, but she had in fact passed away. My brother and I got great comfort knowing that she passed away with the knowledge that Max would be going to Lance and Laura where he could remain if needed. Obviously knowing he would be safe for the rest of his life meant so much. Max has been collected by Laura and Lance not 24 hours after Mum had passed away, they are lovely people and I know Max will be very happy with them.

Thank you Cinnamon Trust."



That we can turn so many very sad, sometimes dire situations around is a privilege. We can only imagine the depths of despair but, with our amazing volunteers, we can change lives - how wonderful to be able to say that and so in the same breath I must say thank you to our own VIPs, our volunteers - each and every one. Thank you.



Volunteers who have been awarded our Gold Award for outstanding service are:-

**Carol Birch** (Kent), **Michael Connor** (Surrey), **Jacqueline Millard** (Hampshire), **June Christie** (Lancashire), **Marjorie Evans** (West Midlands), **David Ollerenshaw** (Derbyshire), **Wendy Gates** (Devon), **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire), **Lucy Harvey, Sally Warren, Sophie Chambers** and **Gerald Puttock** (Glamorgan), **Heather Watson, Amanda Craker, June Rose** and **Geoffrey Radford** (Cheshire).



## **Pet Friendly Care Homes**

We have been busily visiting over 1,000 homes and retirement complexes



throughout the country to compile our fourth edition of Pet Friendly Care Homes Star Rated! What a task it has been and what wonderful caring managers our assessors have met on their journeys. Heartening words like “we would do everything we could to keep owner and pet together” and “Their pet is their life whatever it takes we will manage” are just some of the wonderful remarks we hear.

It has been a mammoth task with numerous unforeseeable happenings along the way but we personally visited all the homes available to us and the fourth edition was launched at Crufts.



We received this tribute from **Tenterden House Nursing Home** - St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Tribute to our best mate, **Rebel** 14/10/1998 - 27/12/2012

It is with great sadness we wish to inform you of the passing of our 'best friend' Rebel, our yellow Labrador. He was induced to sleep at home by our vet on 27 December 2012 due to a chronic arthritic condition which disabled him.



**Rebel**

I could write volumes on his antics, sense of humour and demeanour. Rebel ticked all the boxes with flying colour and enhanced our lives no end .... What a character! The 'big white dog' had a great appetite for life (and food!) in fact he was larger than life itself - rewarding us with unconditional love and affection.

We took care of Rebel at just seven weeks old and gave him years of security, dedication and most of all love. Our home is now empty, void and far too quiet and still. Rebel is so missed, 'the going' was so difficult, the 'gone' is unbearable.

May we thank all the well wishers on the Common who knew of or saw Rebel's struggle. There was no need for comments, most smiled or gave Rebel a treat



- Thank you again. Lastly I need to thank my wife who looked and cared for him equally.

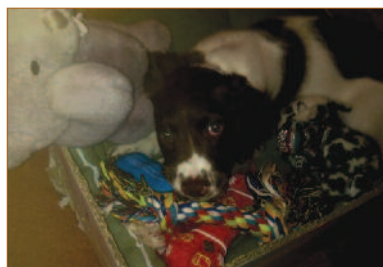
If you have a 'glass' nearby raise it towards heaven and propose a toast to a wonderful dog.

Rob, Tenterden House Nursing Home



This touching article was sent to us from the proprietors **Sue and Adrian Butler** of **The Homestead** - Bridport, Dorset.

Animals are such agreeable friends, they ask no questions and pass no criticism. They offer unconditional love and ask for little in return. There has been a lot of research into Pet Therapy helping autistic children or lower stress levels or anxiety in adults. My experience of having animals in a Care Home for the Elderly has shown a dog, cat or even budgie can relieve loneliness, increase well-being and evoke smiles and laughter.



**Zebedee**

We have always kept English Springer Spaniels. Zebedee lived to be 14½ years, he was always a popular companion who was most happy being cuddled all day. After Zebedee's death which was rather a heart wrenching time as he had grown up with my children and was a large part of our life and the residents many of whom had memory problems and would incessantly ask for Zebedee. Each time we said he had died it was as we had told them for the first time, and there were a lot of tears (on both sides).



**Sooty**

It was then we decided to purchase a puppy, not to replace Zebedee, but to provide unconditional love on his terms. A few weeks later a Springer pup became our new pet. He was an instant success despite the odd accident. He was never short of a lap to snuggle down on. As he grew up he was enrolled at a dog training club and achieved his 'Bronze Good Citizen Award' and has even learnt to not pull on the lead!

Sooty our black and white farm cat had extra toes on each paw, he liked to sit

on the back of a particular resident's chair, he would play with her shoulder length hair and every now and again she was heard to say "dratted cat", I would ask her if she needed me to remove the errant moggy and she would always reply "Oh no, leave him here with me!"

Pets are also comforting to elderly people who are unwell or even dying. Sooty always seemed to know who was unwell and would spend time on their bed. This trait was also seen touchingly when we had our regular visit from the Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary. Mary a small white juvenile donkey was lead into a lady's bedroom who had end stage Parkinson's disease. Mary was seen very gently putting her nose on the ladies hand, and she did appear to be kissing the very ill lady. This evoked tears not only from the carer but also from the donkey handler!

This is why we encourage where possible a new resident to bring in a loved pet, as it would be heart-breaking not only to give up your home but to have to give up your pet at the same time. We became members of The Cinnamon Trust as this gave the residents peace of mind that should they die before their pet, The Cinnamon Trust would always help out.



### **Jan Voisey** - Cinnamon Trust Volunteer and **Dunster Lodge**



Our thanks go to volunteer Jan Voisey for her dedication in walking not one but three dogs living with their owners at Dunster Lodge Residential Home, Minehead, Somerset. Come rain or shine Jan is there to walk Nellie the handsome whippet, Mac the chatty collie and not forgetting overall boss Angus. Jan has just had a much deserved holiday and the volunteers who helped out during her break are keen to carry on helping her.

We would also like to say well done to Dunster Lodge for their sterling work making sure all three dogs live happily together with their owners.



### **Ancaster Court Nursing Home**, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex.

Ancaster Court held their usual annual dog show and very kindly donated £450 to the Cinnamon Trust, this was matched by Bupa.

**Ferendune Court,** Faringdon,  
Oxfordshire

When they held their annual summer show they invited us to have a stall there. This was 'manned' by our volunteer Marion Holly and raised £60.00. Everyone had a brilliant fun packed day.



Just two of the many emails and letters of thanks we get from our Pet Friendly Care/Retirement Homes and enquirers for information

**Sue Cairrao** from Croydon NHS

Thank you so much for all this information and so quickly, I didn't realise there were care homes like these so am very interested.

**Dawn McGinley**, Estate Manager, Hanover House, Henley on Thames.

One of my Residents, Mrs Dorothy Wood, has used your services and we cannot praise you highly enough. Thank you.



STOP PRESS! There are some very exciting things happening at Hanover Housing who are aiming to be the most pet friendly company in the sector and we are working alongside them - more next time!



## **Hillside Farm Sanctuary**

It's been a soggy winter - where we prepared for snow, instead we got howling winds and never-ending rain, mud, puddles, a flooding river. Not that the adventurers minded much - what fun to play in mud - don't worry the humans will clean us up - or else we'll clean ourselves up on the furniture - we may do that anyway just for fun! Several of the muddy paws were lucky enough to be sporting great little boots which helped protect tender toes from too much damp and mud - but which allowed play to continue longer.

Not possible to escape the sad times, we have said goodbye to some long standing, much treasured friends .....

**Cheetah** (13) the cutest Spaniel, bright as a button and mischievous to boot.

**Lady (Bug)** (15) a constant companion of mixed lineage and loyal friend for many years. **Vicksey** (13) The most lovable Labrador who lived and loved life with abundance. **Katy** (15) Patterdale, a tough cookie with a soft centre, brave, strong and determined. **Chay** (12) Greyhound, lithe and loving - a real gentle giant, a true gentleman. **Sam** (16) Husky/Collie, a gorgeous boy who ran like the wind, free and uninhibited, full of beans. **Nipper** (15) gorgeous ginger boy. **Sambo** (18) the once bully boy who turned into a gentle lamb. **Leni Lenope** (15) as unique as his name - he beguiled us all with his character and vocals. **Millie** (19) a feisty Tortie girl who went after what she wanted and got it every time! **Casper** (22) a respected and well-loved ginger boy - the elder statesman. **Jake** (12) a soft black boy who loved water and being carried like a baby. **Beattie** (14½) Lakeland Terrier/Patterdale - a girl who liked to enjoy your supper as well as hers, who could wake from a sound sleep at the slightest rustle of paper or clank of a dish. Who would hog a sofa even though she was small - just in case a Labrador chose to invade. She has left her own special mark on Hillside and in our hearts. Thirteen precious souls that have helped shape Hillside and us with their inimitable characters and generous spirit. Bless them one and all.

There has to be a balance - happily achieved by a real assortment of personalities who have joined our Hillside family. September was a busy month, we welcomed a family of four felines **Jiminy** (12) a gorgeous peachy tabby girl, with lots of confidence and very sharp claws which she loves to sharpen on your leg as she jumps on your lap for a cuddle you can't deny. Her gorgeous fluffy black sister **Amber**, feisty and gregarious always having to be "in the picture" making sure she is not missing anything, **Felix** (18) a charming boy who looks extremely good for his age, friendly and playful but in a more refined way and then the shy one of the family **Tiger** (12), at first very quiet and unassuming,



Tenners

now a favourite with the girls and full of playful mischief! The whole family are very loving, they didn't need settling in - they were keen to meet and greet the others straight away and by the second day they were already part of the family! Then a fabulously fluffy female Norwegian called **Dushka** (10) as unique and beautiful as her name. Aloof and reserved at first but she is such a cuddle and she's a comedienne who has us in stitches each night as she clowns around with the laster mouse!

A trio of stylish sophistication came next in the form of the "Orientals". A very close family unit. **Tenners** (9) sleek but solid, a coat of black velvet and a well chiseled face. His partner in crime, the





Jiminy



Felix



Amber



Tiger



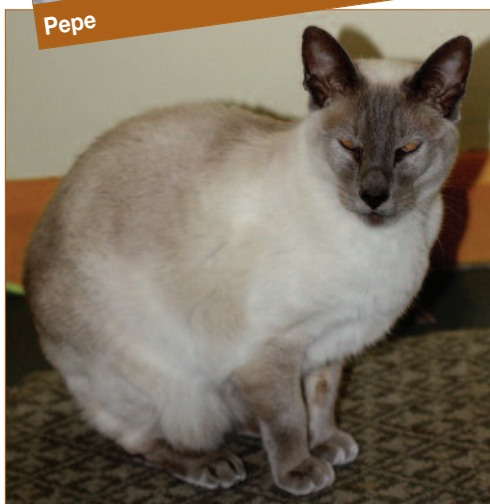
Dushka





Pepe

youthful **Pepe** (4) together these two boys cavort and chase each other in wild abandonment all over the cattery, causing wide eyed spectators to take cover. More distinguished but equally impressive is **Benny** (15) who can really talk! He tries to maintain order amongst the chaos the two unruly youngers create but with little success. So he disowns them until bedtime when they all cuddle up together.



Benny

We also welcomed the delightful **Lily** (11) a Collie cross who looks more like an English Bull Terrier but is the most gentle, loving, funny girl ever! She is diabetic, but you would never know apart from the fact that she has an infallible body clock that alerts you to not only the exact time to feed her but also when her insulin injections are due. She takes it all in her stride and has so much energy when out for a walk she just runs and runs. She loves to chase pheasants (without success) diving straight through hedges, plunging into the complete unknown. She squeals with such excited delight you would think she has caught something but it's just her joy at having flushed it out.



Lily

In October we welcomed a family of six "feral" cats - the Heely Gang as they became known. The youngest was **Smokie** a beautiful British Blue only 18 months old. The tamest and most confident of the family, he soon found himself a forever home close

by. **Ollie** and **Sonny** (9 and 11 respectively) - both handsome tabby and white boys (possibly related), **Paddy** (14) a chunky black and white boy with a kink in his tail and a twinkle in his eye and two little girls **Dolly** (9), tabby and white and **Gemma** (3) a black and white girl with dazzling eyes and not much confidence. They settled in remarkably well for “feral” cats and with a lot of love and patience they began to trust us and show their own individual characters. The boys pretending to be tough, but just struggling to resist the temptation to play. They soon took to the creature comforts and the good food, especially the ham! When the time came to let them sample the big outdoors - they refused - thinking perhaps they may be forced to take to the streets again!?!? All fit, fat and flourishing now - they are all so friendly and content. Dolly and Gemma have just moved to their forever home in Redruth.



Ollie



Sonny



Paddy

In November our little **Kandi** 15 year old Whippet Cross trotted into the Hillside garden and immediately had herself surrounded by eager boys “checking her out”. Though senior in age she has more stamina than most and spends hours in the garden and paddocks enjoying the smells and wildlife. At first a little frail she has grown in confidence and in inches, eating hearty meals with gusto and meeting each new experience with curiosity and enthusiasm and when it's time for a rest she chooses the biggest bed to make room for you to sit right



Kandi

there with her and just cuddle and tickle ... Around the same time two little Westies joined us. **Hamish** (14) a real tough little boy who is aspiring to be the top dog without realising at the moment he doesn't have any competition! He struts around puffing himself up, baring the odd canine, making the most noise, looking quite comical though he's trying to be taken seriously! He insists on being in the kitchen when food is prepared and is the only one allowed to lick the bowl! He sports a very posh McTavish tartan coat, so has picked up the nickname "McTavish" which he likes as it makes him seem important! Darling, cute as a button **Molly** (11) arrived just before Hamish and we all thought there might be a chance of romance ..... But she is such a lady and he is such a rogue - great friends are what they are - but Molly prefers the company of the Labs! They both enjoy going for walks, but in the present weather system that entails walking on water and wading through mud in most of the paddocks - they dive right in but look a sight on their return, happy and muddy! Both are such a joy - when they get going they are like little torpedoes dashing through the grass. Late November, Santa arrived early in the form of **Dee** (9) Chocolate Labrador. Like most Labradors she has the energy of a puppy and the sassiness too. She is such a happy go lucky girl loves EVERYONE and is ALWAYS EVERYWHERE! Never missing a thing. She bounces and careers around normally with something in her mouth, a cushion from her sofa, or a toy, tail going a million rotations per second! On the walks she whizzes between each participant checking to see they are all okay and greet them. Then came **Tammy** (14) Golden Labrador a soft natured, ever smiling, bright eyed girl with her little friend Jenny (11½) a wire haired Jack Russell. Little and large, they are the greatest pals, **Jenny** being very protective over Tammy and ready to put down anyone who tries to get too close. She sorted out Hamish when he tried to introduce himself and got a little too familiar. She, in true terrier fashion is a great hunter and adventurer and loves being amongst all the action on the walks. And as with all pint size dogs has a personality larger than life. She also snores louder than anyone else at night! Tammy has a weak back leg so she can't do much but she still enjoys tottering around the paddocks at her own pace enjoying foxy smells and lying out in the winter sun!

The wildbirds and squirrels have come in abundance and feasted well throughout the cold and wet, now there is birdsong, pairing up and the snowdrops and daffodils are up. Our family of foxes have started to reappear as the days are getting longer, three of them vying for a share. The vixen who has been slightly injured comes first, hoping to beat both the males and the rooks. We are now just longing for the paddocks to dry out, and Easter to come so we can have our Easter egg hunt again - hopefully not in the pouring rain like last time! And then to summer ..... bliss?!!



## Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We can now set our clocks by the arrival of our two foxes for supper! Except





Hamish



Jenny



Dee



Tammy



Molly



one day when one was bold enough to walk in and pick up a chicken - Michael was right there and took the chicken out of his mouth!!

The chicken had a slight puncture wound which quickly healed but basically she just shook her feathers, clucked and walked off. We actually think this may have been an expectant mum who couldn't wait for supper - but had to anyway!!

Despite the awful wetness of winter, we have had lots of fun and games and fireside cuddles and warming stews have kept everyone well and happy. But of course, having said that, we have lost dear old friends - heartbreak days. We've said goodbye to our most senior pussycat **Jazz** at 23 years, **Micky** who'd been with us for over 10 years, aged 19; **Mindy**, beautiful and tiny aged 17½; **Caster**



**Penny**

and **Pollux** who came together and went a month apart to the day were 15; **Jez** was also 15. And **Beren** (Min Poodle) who could bounce for England was 14; **Tammy**, little Westie 15; ray of sunshine **Purdy** (Collie) age 14 and the end of an era came when **Mopsy**, aged 17 told us she couldn't go on anymore. All never to be forgotten.

And then **Penny** (16) and **Ruby** (17) arrived. It soon became very clear that all was not well with Ruby, so loving, so tiny. It transpired she had a massive abdominal tumour. She needed round the clock nursing so both came to live in the house - Penny stayed close to Ruby 'til the end, then she took over! An amazingly placid pussycat who doesn't take any notice of dogs! She loves to sit on the windowsill which now sports a comfy bed and a supply of snacks! She likes to lean down

and gently bat any passing canine and all are indulgently tolerant. At bedtime she races upstairs ahead of anyone else to make sure she gets her favoured position in bed ... Oh and she doesn't like cat food, she'd rather have the dogs' menu!



**Shelby and Tibby**

**Tibby** (13) and **Shelby** (14) came together and they are always cuddled up together, so very sweet. Tibby very gently nibbles your fingers when you stroke him,



slightly more insistent if he thinks you might stop - very friendly with all the other cats and an amazing appetite - his increasing waistline (which needed to) bears testament to his appreciation of the fresh menu here. Shelby can be very playful when she's in the mood but she has a way of sitting with her paws crossed that clearly indicates "do not disturb", a fondness for mackerel being the exception and she does like a saucer of cat milk after dinner .....



Tinker

Oh happy day when **Tinker** (17) came - he talks! At every turn Tinker is urging you on - breakfast time, lunchtime, suppertime, doing the chores. Each morning he checks on every room to make sure everyone is present and correct and all is in order. Call his name and he races to you, absolutely adorable and he has an almost prehensile tail which us uses when climbing trees. He is fascinated by the chickens and takes up a prime position high enough to watch the cabaret uninterrupted!



Bobby

**Bobby** the lion head rabbit came just to have cuddles really! He comes up to the house lounge for playtime, grooming - and more cuddles - much excitement for the "safe" dogs. So funny to see them playing together. He'd **really** like to get close to Thumper our girl rabbit but she would not reciprocate at all!!



Honey

And **Honey** has joined us. She is a people dog, loves everyone she meets and wants to be doing everything you do with you. She loves to be helpful when you're hanging the

washing, cleaning the rabbits, feeding the ponies, sorting the chickens - anything! She sleeps with her legs in the air in her bed or on the sofa and she's a mistress of distraction, if any other dog has something that she wants she'll start barking 'til everyone's come to see what's up and join in, then she just sneaks in and steals that which she had her eye on. Bright as a button .....

The last couple of weeks, we've had a taste of spring sunshine and river walks have come back on the agenda much to everyone's absolute delight. Fingers crossed for a lovely warm, dry summer - longing for the beach and picnics and barbecues .....



## Poetry Corner

Our first poem by **Anne Chelton** (York) articulates one of the prime heartbreaking fears that led me to found Cinnamon Trust.

### Kitty

I've had so many different cats,  
While living in this house,  
Almost fifty years of love,  
And hardly seen a mouse!!

I've lost them in so many ways,  
And many tears I've shed,  
Each personality shone through,  
Each one I've loved - I've said ...

But now I reach my final year,  
I've one who shares my heart,  
We've been together sixteen years,  
And hardly far apart.

The time I've spent in hospital,  
I knew she grieved for me,  
And I in turn I grieved for her,  
For she is part of me.

She is the one who knows my pain,  
And I in turn know hers,  
I fear that I will lose her,  
I fear that I go first ...

She shares my bed, and when I wake,  
She reaches out a paw,  
And looks with love into my eyes,  
What love could ask for more?

You hear of cruelty to cats,  
How ignorant is man,  
They know not of a cat's love,  
As so many of us can ...

But KITTY - my devoted friend,  
My confidant and pal,  
I pray that when I leave this earth,  
God takes us BOTH - Somehow ...



And this from **Chrys Aitken** (Devon) is just lovely.

### **For Gem**

Outside, the wind is howling  
And I'm sheltered from the sleet,  
Yet this little house seems empty:  
Someone's missing at my feet.

No longer does a furry head  
Move over on my shoe.  
No longer a contented sigh  
Tells me she loves me too.

Yet memories are flooding back  
Of golden, happy days  
When my dog and I went walking  
Through the woods and quiet ways.

Gem, my German Shepherd Dog,  
A gallant, loyal friend,  
Has left me for a little while-  
Yet this is not the end.

Gem is in another place,  
As Luther has foretold:

In peace and pain-free happiness  
She wags her tail of gold.

Her spirit is still with me  
Her wisdom lingers on  
She knows that I am lonely  
She knows that love goes on.

And yesterday, a little dog  
With nowhere else to go,  
Came to ease my loneliness  
That matched her own somehow.

She'll run, she'll play, she'll have her fun  
Where all our dogs have been  
And there, in spirit, they go too,  
With us yet unseen.



## And Finally .....

There is so much doom and gloom around at the moment, that it is truly wonderful that we are able to realise our purpose for ever increasing numbers of amazing pets and the people that love them and make sad times better, bring happiness, purrs and tail wags when it matters most, peace of mind when it's crucial - and all because we have the best volunteers, the best supporters. There'll be much more as the year unfolds and perhaps there'll be a heavenly blessing too - sunshine! Good luck with all that you have planned .....

God Bless everyone.

**Averil R. Jarvis MBE**  
**Founder and Chief Executive**

