

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

Well, we had a really great time at Crufts this year because **Katie Young** who is this year's Young Volunteer of the Year brought with her **Maureen Rowark** whom she helps, and darling little **Smudge** who goes for walks with her three times a week, and goes home with her if Maureen has to go to hospital. Maureen regards Katie and her family as her own and this is very much reciprocated because they all take tea together every Sunday afternoon. We were thrilled that TV vet **Marc Abrahams** presented our fabulous trophy. Katie was the star, but Smudge stole the show! She is eight years old, a Shih Tzu/Maltese Terrier cross and everyone who saw her wanted to take her home - she knows exactly how to charm - you sit up, wave your little paws and smile!! Katie triumphed over 1,473 other young volunteers - a great achievement, a well earned accolade.



CT '100' Club

The big winner who received £100 in December was **Sheila Bland** (London). Winners who have each received £25 are: Oct: **Jessie Grove** (Essex), Nov: **Liz Evans** (Northamptonshire), Jan: **Duffy Bocking** (Northumberland), Feb: **Claudia Metters** (Cornwall) and Mar: **Kathleen Parsons** (West Midlands).



Fundraising Events

Christine Lawn (Yorkshire) and **The Lupset Park Group** have raised the stupendous amount of £1,098 with various events throughout the winter. **Kerri Holmes** (Norfolk) raised £63 on her stall at Narborough Village Community Centre Fair. **Vicki Brunt** and everyone at The Diabetes and Endocrine Centre at Northern General Hospital (Sheffield) raised £200 from a second hand book sale. **Lesley** and **Jarvis Turner** (Lincolnshire) raised £53 from their village fete. **Jean Romero** (Somerset) and friend **Eileen** held Afternoon Tea at Jean's home and raised £150. **Stella Smith** raised £38.30 from her events Party In the Park and Carmarthen River Festival. **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) raised £180 with help from **Sue Lowe** on their Bric a Brac stall at Aylsham Market and from pet sitting for friends. **Daphne**



One of Maggie Martin's events

Knapp (Isle of Wight) invited all her friends to join her for a buffet to celebrate her 90th birthday, she raised £385.50 in lieu of presents - fabulous Daphne! **Rhian Partridge** and everyone at **Bellevue Vets** (Somerset) raised a fantastic £759 at their Fun Day in July. **Maggie Martin** (West Sussex) with help from **Ruth Touhey**, **Jan Churchfield**, **Geoff** and **Shirley Weston**, **John**

Martin, **Inge-Lise Newnham**, **Pat Watson**, **Sue Flynn**, **Lorna Bolger**, **Angie Carter**, **Valerie Conway** and **Mike** and the late **Mary Solomons** raised a staggering £1,534.50 from various amazing events including a Sheet Fair and Sausage Sizzle! And a huge cheque for £800 from **Littlehampton Dog Training Club**. A special mention to **Sue Donaldson** who tirelessly knits hedgehogs, mice and pet blankets for all the events - thank you Sue. **Mickey Downing** raised £28 at Hayle WI. **Peter Hanson**, Director of The Cat Gallery (York) nominated us as their Charity of the Year and raised a fantastic £357.60 from their mail order catalogue. **Yvonne Joslin** (Hants) raised £57.55 at

Oakhanger Fun Dog Show. **Zoe Jenkins** and everyone at **Taverham Vets** (Norfolk) had a great day and raised a staggering £1,137.45 at their Charity Dog Show. This one is lovely! **Sally** and **Gareth Marland** (North Yorkshire) were married in May and raised a fabulous £345.00 in lieu of wedding presents - congratulations and here's to a lifetime of happiness. **Emma Greaves** (Staffordshire) who is doing her Duke of Edinburgh with friends had a great day at Sainsburys packing bags and raised £199.53. **Mary Ede** (Berkshire) with help from **Christopher Morris** and **Sandra Castleman** raised £122.87 from their stall at Paws in the Park run by **Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside Team** who sent £58.50. **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) raised £233.08 packing bags in Asda's Burgh Heath store and on her stall at the SCOLA event.



Sally and Gareth Marland



Christine Crewe's stall



Emma Greaves



Bracknell's Paws in the Park



Elaine Morgan (Cheshire) raised £125.00 by selling lots of yummy cakes and drinks during the break at Damian Riby's different dog training classes - from puppy training to top Kennel Club Gold Award groups. **Christine Sumsion** (Somerset) raised £170 from two stalls at RSPCA events, friends **Maureen** and **Zoe Berry** helped. **Broomhill Vets** (Yorkshire) had our collection tin containing £300 stolen, a good Samaritan wishing to remain anonymous replaced the £300, which had been raised from the sale of cakes, books and raffle tickets at their fundraising day - Incredible, thank you! **Abby Bryan** from **Pembrokeshire County Council** sent £70 raised from their Paws in the Park. **Marian Foers** and **Sue Howard** (Leicestershire) raised £192.50 from their table top and jam sales. **Sian Fletcher** (West Sussex) raised £70 from the refreshments she organised for the Ferring Walking Group. **Leanne, Jen** and everyone at **Endell Veterinary Group** (Wiltshire) chose us as their charity of



the year, they ran a photographic competition, produced a wonderful calendar and raised £287.28. **Jennifer Fairgrieve** (Stirlingshire) and her friend raised £137 from their Canine Capers day, in memory of her friend's boy **Ollie** and one of the dogs she had walked. **Diane Richards** (Norfolk) with help from friends, **June Banwell** and **Linda Massingham** raised £100 from their monthly quiz at **The Carpenters Arms**.

Ann Canfer (West Sussex) with help from **Cliff Kempshall** and **Tony Wells** raised £135.00 from their stall at Animal Antics and her dog show. **Angela Harris's** Summer Fete was cancelled. So, being resourceful she sold items to friends and raised £44 - perfect! What a star! **Diane Davis's** (Surrey) dog day event this year was a picnic! With hotdogs, cream teas, name the puppy and lots of entertainment she raised a tremendous £900.

Frances Rawlings (Dorset) celebrated her 80th Birthday and raised £70 in lieu of presents - many more of them Frances! **Vanessa Oliver** sent us a whopping £563.24 raised at Poundbury Food and Arts Festival (Dorset), **Christine** and **David Walsh**, **Alexandra Emery**, **Anne Frisby**, **Elizabeth Jackson**, **Pip Johns**, **Emma Le Roux**, **Suzanne Slight** all manned the watering station (all the water supplied by Waitrose)



Diane Davis's dog day event



Poundbury Food and Arts festival

and **Pam Clarke** (we walk Pebbles and Bam Bam) with help from her friend's son **Arthur** held a tombola. **Diane Andrews** (Isle of Wight) and everyone at **Vectis Equestrian Club** raised £191 from their dog show. **Christine Derham** (Suffolk) sold more of her wonderful peacock feathers and raised £60. **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) raised £170 from the sale of home-made dog biscuits at her village scarecrow festival - love that! **Chobham Road Vets** (Berkshire) raised a wonderful £375 from pet portraits. **Christine Layton** (Norfolk) and everyone at **Caister Dog Walkers** raised £100 from their weekly dog walking. **Fay Fitch** (Norfolk) raised a terrific £279.50 from her "pop-in" nail clipping service at her grooming business. **Betty Burns** (Buckinghamshire) made and sold lovely cards to raise £50. **Angie Parkin** from **Dunster Beach Holidays Ltd** (Somerset) sent £300.00 raised at their Bank Holiday Fun Day. **Victoria Jones** (Wiltshire) ran The Chippenham Half Marathon and raised £407 - that's brilliant, well done Vicky! **Daphne Devonshire** (Devon) auctioned stamps to raise £15.08. **Charlotte Harrison** at Room to Groom (Lincolnshire) ran an on line pet show and auction and raised £113 - brilliant! **Davina Mallinson** (Co.



Vicky Jones



Caister Dog Walkers



Jo Jarnell at Pan Park coffee morning

Durham) and her friend **Olga** raised £70. **Kathleen** and **Tom Upfield** (Hampshire) and **Dream**, who loves her walks, raised £205 by making hats and selling them - wow! **Mrs P J Jones** (Denbighshire) raised £350 from two car boot sales in memory of her dear mum **Ann Faulkner** and the help we gave by walking Jim for 2 years. **Jo Jarnell** (Shropshire) raised £45.50 from her stall at Pan Park coffee morning. **Helen Hulme** (Devon) cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats and raised £553 - fantastic Helen, well done! **The Engine Inn** (Cornwall) raised £26.20 from their Quiz Night. **Gill Duroe** (Northants) raised £220 from selling fingerless wrist warmers at her Dog Club which her wonderful neighbour **Marleen Freeman** tirelessly knitted! **Molly Smith** (Wiltshire) celebrated her 80th birthday, her granddaughter made a special collection box which attracted an amazing £350 for us. **Judith** and **Laura Dranfield** (Cornwall) collected 5 pence pieces and raised £10. **Katie Lynch** and everyone at **Your Vets** (Warwickshire) raised £55.23 from their raffle. **Michelle Milton** at Shilling Sweets (Devon) raised £24.00.

Lucinda Aldrich-Blake, **Molly McConkey** and **Mary Davice** (Herefordshire) sent £1,000 being residual funds from their Whippet Biennial which has sadly ceased publication after 30 years. **Carl Drinkwater** (West Midlands) has been busy again, with help from family, friends and work colleagues raised



Maldon Mud race

£214.74 from his recycling. **Carolyn Morris** (Cornwall) sold lovely home grown vegetables, plants and books outside her back door to raise £80. **Martin** and **Jenny Reed** (Essex) as well as their gorgeous lifelong foster **Kia** raised a stonking £500 from the ever popular Maldon Mud Race - this year Martin even gave entrants a medal and carrier bag, so they had something to show for their trouble - brilliant!! **Julie Aris** (East Sussex) raised £243.00 from her super quiz night at Westham Village Hall. **Kernowspa** (Cornwall)



Sharon Bolt

held an open evening and raised £124.00 from their raffle. **Joan Salamon** (London) celebrated a "rather big birthday" and raised £170.00 in lieu of presents! **Stevie Stephens** (Dorset) raised £101.00 from his raffle. **Janet Smith** (Essex) has been very busy again and raised £279.00 by looking after Snoop, Buddy, Jazz and Zoe. **Sharon Bolt** (Hampshire) completed The Great North Run (10 miles) and raised £55 - superb! **Christine Basey** (North Wales) celebrated her 70th birthday by walking up Mount

Snowdon and raised a fabulous £350 - way to go Christine! In memory of her beloved husband, **Richard** and a good friend of mine and The Cinnamon Trust, **Frances Langridge** (Lincolnshire) raised £170.42 at a memorial acoustic night. As well as being a brilliant artist, Richard was a talented guitarist. We also received £670.02 in lieu of flowers at Richard's funeral. A very sad day for all of us, but we will treasure him in our hearts. **Toni Deeves** and **Ray Kitchingham** (Norfolk), helped by **Bernice Miller, Les** and **Sheila Mitchell**, raised £570 from various market stalls through the summer months. **Pat Sanderson** (West Midlands) raised £22 at St Johns Fellowship in Shirley. We walk Becky & Poppy for **Marlene Austen** (Essex), in appreciation she held a Luxury Cream Tea afternoon at Paradise Wildlife Park, they had lots of fun with a face painter, caricaturist and magician and she raised an amazing £1,250 - thanks to **Sarah Lebertz** from the Wildlife Park who donated the room. **Judith Murdoch** (Hertfordshire) put on her walking shoes and walked 1,000 miles over hills and dale, through bracken and bog during the year to raise



St John's Fellowship



Marlene Austin



Judith Murdoch



Dee Gemmell



Lucy...



Barbara and Lucy meet Ben

£625, mirroring the support of Great Hadham Ladies Golf Club and **Dee Gemmell** (Hertfordshire) raised a magnificent £3,290.11 during her year as Captain of Great Hadham Ladies Golf Club. **Jenny Osborne** (Devon) celebrated her 70th birthday and raised £210 in lieu of presents, many more of them Jenny! Another lovely one, **Bridget Christophers** (Cornwall) as Ladies Captain of **Launceston Golf Club** raised £1,163 during her year - brilliant! **Barbara Badland** and **Lucy** (Aberdare) raised a wonderful £115 from their sponsored walk - Lucy is blind but had a great time especially with the ducks. **Suzanne** and **Martin Pashley** (Devon), from 'Happy Dogs' raised £40 at Yarcombe Tuesday Club. **Rosie Frost** (Dorset) raised £14.63 from her stall and **Jan McLean** (Hampshire) raised £87.28 from a couple of car boot sales. **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) held a very happy summer garden party, and then she ran a tombola at the Nice Green Cafés Dog Show to raise a whacking £439 - special thanks to **Helen**, her family and staff. **Susanne Cooke** of Paw Pals



Susanne Cooke with Moe

(Wiltshire) completed the Great South Run and raised a brilliant £355 - well done! **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £100 on her stall at the dog friendly Laburnum House Lodge Hotel. **Lisa Freeman** (Worcestershire) sold some of her son's old books to work colleagues at Malvern Police Station and raised £15! **Alice Warden** (Essex) at Bupa Hearts House Nursing Home raised £30 from her card making **Tracey Stubbley** (Gloucestershire) raised £80 from her pub quiz at **The Bathurst Arms**. **Marion Hines** and everyone at **Manor Vets** (Kent) raised £200.25 from their cake sale and homemade dog treats a client makes - scrummy!

Judith Westacott (Devon) organised a Summer Cabaret for fellow councillors at Totnes Town Hall and raised £150.

Richard Beckingham and everyone at **Planters Coffee Shop** (Kent) raised £100 from the sale of books, CD's, DVD's and jigsaws.

Bernice Miller (Norfolk) raised £66 from the sale of Cliff Richard memorabilia. **Cindy Parker-Sami's** husband **Sam** and the committee of **Almondsbury Gymkhana** (Bristol) raised £100 throughout the year. **Jay Popplewell** (Worcestershire) "decluttered" her home and raised £150 from selling items. **Carol Sutton** (Essex) raised £50 in lieu of sending Christmas Cards. In appreciation of our help, **Sandy Mulholland** (Cheshire) hosted a coffee morning for neighbours, which she thoroughly enjoyed, to raise £125.60. **Barbara Harrison** (Gloucestershire) raised a magnificent £1,437.85 from the Mad Dog Jog - a 6K forest trail and canicross event, all off road and lots of mud!! Special thanks to **Eddie Edwards** who presented the prizes.

Cathy Care (Sussex) raised £90.81 selling handmade cards on her stall at an Animal Charities Fair. **Sheila Purnell** (West Midlands) with help from friends, family and local shopkeepers raised £433 from her sales and tombolas. **Ellen Herring** (West Sussex) and friends, **Livvy**, **Beth** and **Chantille** all from the Angmering School ran a stall at their



Very happy Mad Dog Joggers!



Ellen, Livvy, Beth and Chantille



Janet, Sunny and Dawn

Christmas Fair and raised £25. **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) raised a staggering £5,555.56 from various events through the year including skittles, fetes, dog show and the brilliant Animals R Magic with help from:- **Carol and Paul Lyn, Chris Hyde, Cinth Warren, Emma James-French, Heather Earp, Helen West, Hilary Maddison, Jackie Murrall, Jacque Gordon, Jane and Michael Barstow, Jane Simons, Jean and Chas Wesley, Jean Smith, Jenny Bull, Joan Westwood and Sandy, Kevin Leneghan, Kim Danks, Lynda Matthews, Sandra Hill, Lynne Warren, Pam Chadaway, Pam Holliday, Pam Jameson, Sandra and Brian Hill, Sheila Clifford, Sue Bradford, Sue Spencer, Sylvia**

Whittaker, Val Rowlands, Wendy Ralphs. The Independent Financial Management Services (Cornwall) team held a Christmas Jumper Day and raised £17. **Muriel Sibree** (Norfolk) made and sold blue poppies to commemorate the sacrifice animals made and raised £61- what a lovely idea! **Flo Croucher** (Somerset) has kept knitting and making delicious jam, marmalade and chutney to raise £150. **Patricia Hopkins** (Gloucestershire) raised £102.36 from various stalls in her area and she didn't let her lack of transport stop her!

Muriel Robinson (Cumbria) raised £202 from her monthly Coffee Mornings. **Sandra Pridgen** (Lincolnshire) and friends **Margaret Scott** and **Steve Mason** and raised £75 from their Christmas Charity Bake.

Dorothy Chadwick (Derbyshire) makes catnip toys which she sells in **Dorothy Mason** (Kent) made and sold her fabulous homemade Christmas decorations to raise £50. **Senlac Veterinary Centre** (East Sussex) held a Christmas Jumper Day and raised

Clowes Chemist, Buxton to raise £40. **Senlac Veterinary Centre** (East Sussex) held a Christmas Jumper Day and raised

£32. **Patricia Downward** (Devon) raised £25 on her stall. The ladies of **BB Hair Salon** (Berkshire) raised £200.00 from their annual raffle. **Joy Hogarth** and everyone at **Ancliffe Care Home** (Lancashire) raised £75 from their Christmas Tombola. **Pam Murphy** (Kent) and the **Deep South Line Dancing Club** raised £50 in lieu of sending Christmas Cards. **Alyson Rumsey**, a friend of **Rhodri Thomas** (USA) completed a 100 burpee challenge and Rhodri sent £50.83 - wow that's different! **Bellevue Veterinary Clinic** (Somerset) raised £50 with a photographer at their open evening. **Maria Brett** and everyone at **Downwood Veterinary Centre** (Sussex) raised £212.15 at their Christmas open evening. **Abi Zachari** (Hampshire) was commissioned to make 50 bags of homemade Christmas Dog Bones, she raised £25. **Bryony** and **Bob Bruce** (East Sussex) sold surplus apples and their neighbour **Marion Green** sold strawberry plants and raised a total of £20. **Oakhill Veterinary Centre** (Lancashire) raised £45 in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other. A client at **Emscote Vets** (Warwickshire) sold homemade lavender bags and raised £10. **Tuffley Agility Club** (Gloucestershire) raised £100. **Skernedale Dog Training Club** raised a fantastic £500 from their Companion Dog Show. **Darlington Dog Show Society** raised £75 from the caravanners at their Championship Show quiz night. **Cheltenham and District Dog Training Club** raised £250 from a tombola at their annual Open Show. **Jane James** and the **Swan School of Dog Training** (Buckinghamshire) raised £100 from various raffles. **West of England Corgi Association** raised £41.77 from exhibitors at a recent show. **Bronwen Bell** of **Animal Magic Dog Club** (Norfolk) raised a sparkling £460 from the sale of jewellery! **Chippenhams and District Canine Society** raised £138.55 at their annual Companion Dog Show. **Barbara Taylor** and **One to One Dog Training** (Isle of Wight) held a Talking Dogs Rally with an American style BBQ for lunch and a Grand Raffle, they raised £55. **Bleadon Country Sports** (Somerset) raised £150 at their



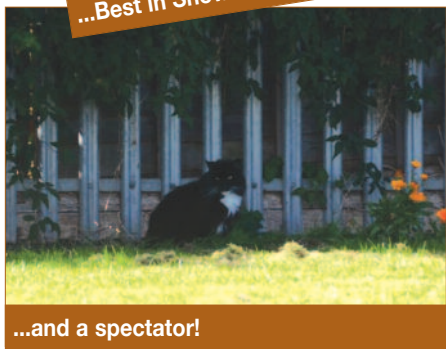
One to One DTC



St David's DTC...



...Best in Show



...and a spectator!

August Show. **Clacton And District Dog Training Club** raised £150. **St David's Dog Training Club** in Colwyn Bay raised a stunning £1,000 at their Companion Dog show. **Theresa Webb** (Lincolnshire) sold eggs from her rescue hens

and apples from her orchard to **Chestnut Farm Agility** participants and raised £150. **Elvenhome Dog Training Club** (West Sussex) raised £65.00 from their Christmas Raffle. Sad news - after 25 years **Redbridge Ringcraft Association** (Essex) have closed and sent £629.00 to us. **The Malmesbury and District Dog Training Club** sent £60. **Brook Dog Training Club** raised £150 from their Christmas Party Raffle. **Plymouth Training Club** raised £300 from their Christmas Party - must have been a good one! **Smarty Paws Dog Training Club** (Cornwall) raised £50 from their Christmas Party raffle. **The Bedlington Terrier Association** (Surrey) held their 90th Anniversary Fun Day and raised £200 - fantastic!. **Canine Performers Dog Club** (Kent) raised £61 from their Christmas Raffle. **Canine Capers Dog Training Club** (Somerset) raised a brilliant £300 from raffles and doggie

dancing demos at care homes. **Tiverton and District Canine Society** nominated us as their Charity of the Year and raised £505.00. **Fleet and District Dog Training Society** nominated us as one of their Charities of the Year and raised £240.88 from raffles, bring & buy sales & a quiz night. **East of England Ladies Kennel Society** raised £50 from the Charity Class at a show in Newmarket. **Cheltenham and District Dog Training Club** raised £35 in lieu of sending Christmas Cards. **Littlehampton Dog Training Club** chose us as their Charity of the Year after a talk from **Maggie Martin** and they raised an amazing £800.00. **Exeter and County Canine Society** raised £72 from two stakes classes at their Open Shows in March and September.

All your time, dedication, ingenuity and enthusiasm deserves more than thank you but I'm sure you know how heartfelt this thank you is, and I hope you know that every penny is well spent to the benefit of all our animals which in turn ensures we keep our promise to those who entrusted them to us - a promise we hold sacrosanct.



Volunteer View

Our first view is from **Laura Fraser** in Glamorgan:

"I have been walking Bichon Frise, Daisy May and Border Terrier, Herriot for a year. My own rescue dog Hector had spent less than a month mourning for his companion Tina, who he had known all his life, when I introduced him to his friends. Hector has embraced company on his walks once more. Every morning he barks and pleads with me to please pay a morning visit to his friends then spends his walks running alongside Daisy May as her ears fly up and down.



Laura Fraser with Herriot

During the hot summer Daisy would often halt the walks for a little lie down. Penny always provided me with a well-stocked walking bag which included a portable water bottle to ensure regular refreshment breaks. The truth is I did not mind the stops because there is a certain elegance about Daisy May lying in a field of daisies!

In the goody bag we (I never have any shortage of volunteers to accompany me - sister, brother, father, mother) discovered Webbox. I am sure fellow dog walkers are aware of these meaty treats. Daisy performed without prompt or hesitation a tip toe begging party trick whenever she ever sensed them near her.

Herriot was very arthritic when I first started walking him. Herriot's arthritis has meant I have always lifted him over steps. His eyesight is failing so tree roots have become a problem and he can trip so I always lift over these as well. The truth is I just enjoy the excuse to lift him up. Hector is too big a dog to lift and I enjoy cradling little Herriot close so that he feels cherished and knows he can trust me. I think the building of trust is even more important with a blind dog and his walker. He is full of character and Daisy and I are happy to act as his guides.

One of my fondest memories as a volunteer came from a wet December morning. I returned Daisy May and Herriot from their walk as usual when Penny handed me a large Christmas present wrapped in gold with a red velvet bow in its centre. When I opened this gift it was a hand painted Christmas tree with its own Santa with reindeer that Penny had crafted. It was on this day that I discovered Penny shares my love of craft and anything artistic. Penny has since loaned me discs providing graphics, handed me materials to use and invited me to her house for a demonstration of techniques of card making. I never send a shop bought card any more only those I have made with my own hand!

Penny thanked us all by inviting us over for a Sunday lunch. Penny is always warm, kind and funny and I look as forward to seeing my friend as Hector does seeing his."



Ilana Diamond in London writes:

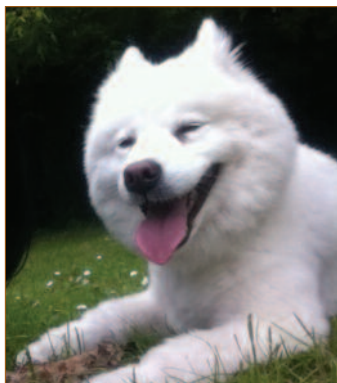


Ilana Diamond with Snowy

"I became a volunteer in April 2012 after seeing an appeal in my local paper from The Trust looking for walkers for Snowy.

Our first meeting was a weekday evening, which also happened to be my birthday. I fell in love with Snowy straight away and made a friend for life in Chris Diomedous, his owner. What a gorgeous dog Snowy is. We did a quick trial walk that evening, Snowy and I had an understanding

straight away and things went from there.



I initially walked Snowy on the weekend and one evening during the week. Snowy and I have a routine, we go to the local park, we usually do two laps of the park which lasts about an hour. I always take dog treats with me and if she is good and listens to me I reward her. She knows when we have gone round the park twice, she waits for me to put her leash back on and she gets treats. After our walk, Snowy hates for me to leave and I usually stay for a while for a coffee and to catch up

on news with Chris.

I now only walk Snowy on the weekends, as the last Guy Fawkes Snowy was so spooked by the fireworks, she refuses to walk once it is dark outside.

I have so many funny stories about Snowy, here are a few:

Snowy surprisingly loves going in the car, on the odd occasion I take her for a few hours to a different park in London, her favourite seems to be Hampstead Heath. As I said she loves going in the car, so if she sees an open car door, there is a good chance she will jump on in. This is exactly what she did one day on the way back from the park. One of Chris's neighbours had left the passenger door of a new mini open to take something inside, before I could react Snowy was in the car, happily sitting in the drivers seat. I was calling her to get out and the owners came running to see what was happening. When they saw Snowy, they broke into laughter. I'm not sure if they were laughing when they discovered the seats coated in Snowy's lovely white fur!

Every now and then I take or fetch Snowy from the dog parlour or the vet. Snowy knows where the parlour is and nothing except a bit of trickery will get her in the shop. On one occasion she happily followed me in and then froze realising her mistake and tried every trick in the book to escape, including waiting by the door to try and slip out, climbing on a shelf in the shop and digging her way out. I have to pick her up and carry her into the dog grooming section, not even treats are good enough to bribe her in! The end result is always amazing and she gets admiring glances from everyone on the street when we leave. I did take Snowy to the vet once, she refused to go into the vets room, instead she hopped up onto the couch in the waiting room and the vet examined her there!

Snowy being a snow white American Eskimo is a nightmare to keep clean in the muddy parks, twice she has mistaken a green or muddy pond edge for solid ground and found herself tail deep in dirty water. After the initial shock (for both of us) she thought it was most funny, I was not amused at all. This required a shower and a hosing down once she gets home and Snowy is not fond of water, so I come out the wetter of the two!

Snowy has the most amazing disposition around people and animals, I actually think she prefers people to other dogs. As she is a furry, happy dog, both adults and children love to stroke her. Often children are a bit nervous at first but she walks calmly up to them, allows them to stroke or hug her and nothing is more rewarding than the children's happy smiles and laughter. Snowy thinks it's all great fun and comes running back to me with a big smile on her face for a treat, she deserves it as she was a good girl.

I realised this year how many people watch Crufts dog show as on our walk, they all get so excited when they see Snowy and the first thing they ask is “Is she a Samoyed?”, I have to explain that she is an American Eskimo. The other question asked is how old she is, when I say she is almost nine, people are amazed as she has the playfulness and energy of a puppy.

Snowy is a very strong dog, at times she mistakes me for a sled, as she takes off running at full speed, only a sprint from me lets me keep up. Our other favourite is to chase each other across the wide grass bank in the park, while Snowy will not chase a ball, she is happy to chase just about anything else, a stick or a squirrel (a few nearly met an untimely end). Thanks Snowy for helping keep me fit!

If I am in London over the Christmas period, Snowy comes to stay with me overnight on Christmas day, as this is Chris's birthday. Snowy doesn't like to be left alone for too many hours at a stretch and if I take her overnight, Chris can enjoy Christmas and his birthday with his family and I get to spend Christmas with Snowy, such fun!

In the time that I have walked Snowy most of my close friends and boyfriend have joined me for a walk. As my family are far away, Chris has become a close friend to me and my boyfriend's family; we often go out for a meal or attend each other's parties. At Christmas time, Chris does a get together for all the walkers and his family; we all get on well and tell our stories about Snowy.

The most important part of being a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust is that while I am so happy to be able to help Chris, and in this way he will be able to keep Snowy, I have also gained a friend and the chance to have a dog in my life again. I grew up in a home with dogs, however when I came to live in London and work full time in the city, it makes it very difficult to keep a dog, I won't have a dog if it is locked up all day. Snowy gives me my doggy fix of unconditional love.”



And from **Brian Rowe** in Cornwall:

“I have been a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust for more years than I care to remember, and have walked a number, and a variety of dogs. In May last year we lost our beloved “Ozzie”, a rescued boy of dubious parentage, but such a character. He was well known to all the local dogs and their owners, Ozzie was that laid back he would have fallen off the proverbial log. Ozzie was always happy to have other dogs walked with him, though “Tigger” the greyhound always had a special place in his heart. Both my daughters are dog

owners and Jenna my youngest joined The Trust as a volunteer a couple of years ago. Shortly after, we had a call regarding “Alfie” who lives very close by and was in need of walkers. Jenna and I met up with Eric and Jean, Alfie's Mum and Dad, and the boy himself, who presented us with the entire contents of his toy box. It was obvious Alfie was a much loved boy with a great home life, but would benefit from an off the lead walk every day. I retired from teaching 4 years ago and now work on a part time basis which gives me free time in the afternoons, so Alfie is assured of his daily walks. Jenna, and Simon



Alfie and Mila

her husband, also take Alfie out whenever possible with Mila their own dog. Herein lays another story, from day one Mila and Alfie hit it off, and think the world of each other, watching them playing together is a real treat. Jean refers to Mila as wifey as they are very close, Mila objects to walking past the turn down to Alfie's if she is going in any other direction.

Whether we are on the beach, walking in the woods, in the fields or on the coast path, Alfie thrives on it, and as any dog person knows the pleasure and fun that's running through their veins feeds back to us and makes for happy people.

Of course by the time we get back to Eric and Jean, Alfie is normally coated in mud, sand, seaweed, you name it, here I take my hat off to Eric, who showers the boy off, prior to him gaining second wind and running riot around the bungalow.

To Cinnamon Trust I say keep up your fantastic work, I am sure all volunteers will agree, we get a great deal of satisfaction ensuring our canine buddies are happy.”



Wesley and Jodie Taylor, also in Cornwall, write:

“We were devastated when we lost our rescue dog we had for 15 years but



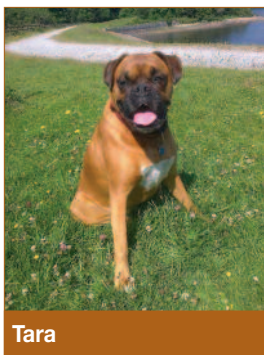
Jodie and Wesley Taylor and Sam

knew it wasn't fair to get another at this time as we work full time. After reading an advert in the paper about help wanted to walk a dog (Sam) we decided this really suited us as we love walking and dogs. It was perfect for us as we can still enjoy our walks and spend time with Sam but don't have to leave a dog at home all day!

Mrs Bettles, Sam's mum, is always very grateful of our help and so happy to see us for a little chat too! We have built up a good relationship now as we've been walking Sam for over a year. We have a laugh about things and even a cry sometimes! We recently had a baby but nothing stops us helping with the walking. We take our baby along too, which he loves and he always cheers Mrs Bettles up with a smile. We all benefit from the walks!"



Jill Eagleton in Devon writes:



Tara

"I had been aware of The Cinnamon Trust for some time and then saw an appeal in our local paper for a volunteer needed to walk a dog for an elderly couple who lived very near to me. Having two dogs of my own I know how worrying it is if I can't take them out so, realising that I could offer a couple of hours a week to help, I replied to the appeal. Tara is such a sweet dog and seeing her get so excited when I arrive to take her out is so rewarding. She has got to know the sound of my car and her mum tells me that Tara knows I am coming even before I have parked outside. I know how much Tara's mum and dad appreciate having someone to help with taking her for a walk and would urge anyone with a little time on their hands to think about how much it means, not only to the owners but to the dog as well. I hope when

and if the time ever comes that I am unable to walk my own much loved dogs that there will be someone to help. It's lovely to take Tara home knowing she has enjoyed her time out with me and I have enjoyed seeing her so happy.”



And this is from **Karen Taylor** in Somerset:

“I joined The Cinnamon Trust as a volunteer just under 3 years ago. I was working in the NHS within Community Services one Christmas Eve and took a call from a GP who wanted to admit a lady to hospital, however she would not leave her beloved Golden Retriever over the Christmas period. She agreed to be admitted once she found a dog sitter. Regrettably the lady died in the early hours of the morning, alone with her dog. From that day I looked for service and organisations who could support such people. I soon found 'The Cinnamon Trust'. I signed up as a Dog Walker, Short Term Fosterer and Fund Raiser. Since joining I have walked 2 dogs and have had a 5 week short term foster dog, while her Daddy was recovering in hospital.



Tilly

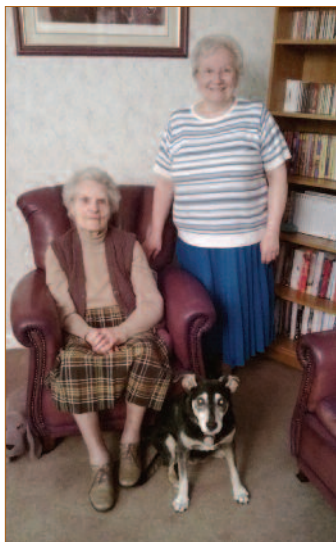
I currently walk a little Border Terrier called 'Tilly'. She is so much fun. Her Mummy is no longer able to walk her due to her mobility. I work full time and have my own dog to look after. I am one of two walkers that look after Tilly, I only need to walk her on weekends (Friday-Sunday). Tilly is very happy to hear my voice when I arrive, and for the first time this week she cried with excitement, so sweet. We go for a 20-45 minute walk to the local park where she snuffles around in the bushes and gallops around on her flexi lead. I love the relationship I have with Tilly and her Mummy, I never feel pressured to do any more, and her Mummy is always so grateful to see Tilly go for a walk. I text to say I am on my way, and just pop in when I can. I can always find a spare 20-45 minutes over the weekend, and when I have my niece to stay she comes with me.

I work for social services now and have met so many people who can benefit from The Cinnamon Trust, we just need more volunteers!”



Penny Morton in Midlothian writes:

“I have been walking Judy for her owner for just over three years now. Judy is



Elspeth, Penny and Judy

a lovely terrier cross, who is getting on in years - fourteen on her next birthday in September. She is very independent and extremely intelligent. This combination can make her quite naughty at times - she keeps me on my toes! Judy has suffered a lot in her life, with lots of trips to the vet's, but she is always very brave and stoical when in pain. I got Charlie, my dog, a few months after I started walking Judy. They get on well (this mostly consists of ignoring each other, other than when one thinks the other is in danger from another dog, when they rush to their companion's defence) and Charlie always accompanies Judy on her walks.

Judy's owner, Elspeth Cargill, is extremely generous to me and the other dog walkers, giving us tea and cakes, buying us birthday, Easter and Christmas presents and even getting us tickets for a show! Elspeth's mum Peggy lives with her, and I feel like an honorary family member. I really enjoy my times walking Judy, and chewing the fat with Elspeth and Peggy, and think that The Cinnamon Trust do a fantastic job."



A moving tribute from **Sylvia Cottle** in Lancashire:

"The first dog I walked for The Trust was Mitzi, a black Labrador. She was owned by Irene, who was in her eighties and lived alone. Both of them have now died and while Mitzi has a special place in my heart this tribute is for Irene. While she could still live alone with daily visits from carers one young male carer expressed disapproval of her smoking in his working environment! I don't smoke but I felt I should point out to him that it was her home and asked if she had ever told him about her wartime service. She hadn't and warming to the task I suggested that we mightn't be here and able to speak our minds if it hadn't been for the Irene's of this world.

She didn't boast about her life. She just thought she had done her duty for King and country. She was a teenage volunteer at the beginning of WW2 and spent the war driving lorries. As she said, sometimes there was ammunition in them and sometimes bodies and she always had a rifle in the cab! Anything mechanical interested her and it was wonderful to see her reaction to the Activities Organiser in the Care Home where she lived her last year. She was asked if she would like to make fairy cakes but that was dismissed along with knitting as "too girly".

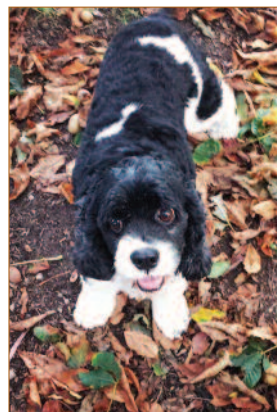
Before she had to move into care she lived opposite a church furnisher and one day they flew the Union Jack upside down. She rang and told the baffled receptionist that the standard was being incorrectly displayed. It was good to see that, at her funeral, her coffin was covered, as she had always wished, with the flag.

I miss her and it was a privilege to know her. Thank you to The Trust for introducing me to her.”



Trudie Heywood in Devon says:

“My house wouldn't be a home without my pets. My two little cats bring laughter and love into my life every day, and offer me comfort and companionship when I'm having a tough time. The thought of ever having to give them up would break my heart. I've always loved dogs too, but never been able to have my own due to my working hours, and often begged friends to let me borrow theirs for the afternoon. When I read about The Cinnamon Trust in my local newspaper, I knew I wanted to help.



Millie

I was soon allocated two very sweet and very different dogs to walk on Saturday mornings. I start by walking Millie (6) the cocker spaniel. Millie is an absolute delight. She is a bundle of excited energy, and walking her for an hour on a Saturday morning means that my weekend always starts with a smile. She adores her tennis ball, and as I have been walking her for some time now, when we are in the middle of the park I let her off the lead and throw the ball for her, which she never tires of. She also loves mud, so after a messy incident on one of her early walks I always pick the least mucky route when the weather is wet! She can sometimes be a little bit growly towards other dogs, but only when she is on the lead... this little fighter is not so brave when she's free to roam, and merely greets other dogs with a quick sniff and a friendly gaze from her chocolate brown eyes. I am stopped every Saturday when walking Millie by other dog owners who compliment her gorgeous looks, and it always makes me giddy when I see her tail wag when she sees me!

After taking Millie back to her lovely owner Mary, I make my way to see Pepe (15) and Maureen. Pepe can be a temperamental little thing, he is very protective of Maureen, so it took a few visits to earn his trust, but he will now happily let me stroke him, as long as I don't get too close to Maureen! He



Pepe

struggles with arthritis in his legs so our walks tend to be very short, but very happy nonetheless. The best thing to have come out of volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust for me is the friendship with Maureen. All week I look forward to my Saturday visit, when we swap stories for hours and often laugh until we cry, over a coffee or sometimes a glass of wine. She tells me stories from her fascinating life, and loves to hear about my adventures. She even has a picture of me on my graduation day on her mantelpiece, which is a testament to how close we have become. My love of dogs is what brought me to The Cinnamon Trust, and I could not have imagined that it would have brought me such a dear friend with two legs, not four.

I have recently been recovering from an operation on my foot which has left me unable to walk the dogs. I can honestly say that Saturdays without Millie, Mary, Pepe and Maureen just aren't the same, and I am counting the days until I can get back to dog walking. I have no doubt that the dogs, and their owners, will help me recover to full health."



Jan Voisey in Somerset sent this:

"Little did we realise when we moved here three years ago and went to the volunteer centre what we were letting ourselves in for! We had decided not be tied down by any more pets and The Cinnamon Trust seemed ideal; dogs, but not all the time. After walking and fostering several dogs, once again our sofa has a canine resident and we are getting to love another doggy character.

Tina had moved from her home in France to the lovely pet friendly care home, Dunster Lodge, and was just settling in when her Mum, Rosemary, had to go into hospital. As one of Tina's dog walkers I offered to have her and as soon as she had shown us where she wanted to sleep (the best seat) and when she needed to be fed and walked, she settled in.

Tina is well-trained and wants an hour and more off lead a day. The moment she is let off she vanishes up the hill into the trees and never stops running. Every now and again she checks back to see where I am and if she is away too long, a blow of the whistle brings back our mud and tan hound!

Tina is no respecter of gardens, but earned her keep on a visit to the shed on our community allotment. As I opened the door she dived in, dragged out a rat and very efficiently killed it.

Every dog is different but this is the first who completely ignores fireworks and the vacuum cleaner and whose only worry is when she'll get her next walk; dancing up and down in front of me on her long legs, tail going furiously. I know her Mum will love to have her back but we'll certainly miss her."



Tina

And from **Ian Amos** in Staffordshire who is dedicated to birds...

"I wish to thank everyone at The Cinnamon Trust for giving me the chance to become a foster carer. Parrots and birds need quality care and I am truly grateful to The Trust for giving me the opportunity to help. Without their support I would not be able to dedicate so much time and love to their care. Birds have been a part of my life for a very long time. I can assure you that all of the parrots and now a lovebird that I have fostered for The Trust are given my utmost attention as birds are my passion and joy. They receive the best quality food such as fresh fruit, veg and the occasional treats such as biscuits and toast alongside their fresh water with calcium and vitamins. I even gave them a version of a Christmas dinner! All of the birds are cleaned regularly and their cages cleaned three to four times a week. Those on short term foster get special attention and I leave their cages open so if they wish to explore the room and free fly they can. Those I have permanently have access to an 18 foot aviary in my garden. Also I provide warmth in the cold weather as they have internal heating within their housing section. My most recent foster is an African Grey called Jacko whose best friend and companion is a lovebird. Their owner suffers from multiple sclerosis and is currently in hospital. I will keep my fingers crossed that he makes a recovery but if he doesn't come home at least he will know that I will love and care for his birds. I thank you once again Cinnamon Trust and also Moira Butler for spending her time and effort to transport these birds to me and pay for all the things they need. I hope to continue with foster caring with all of the passion and dedication I have for the birds. I hope the previous owners of Barley, Jacko, Arnie and Lovie the lovebird know they are all fine and happy."



Sarah Burford in Warwickshire writes:



Pippa

"In early January I had a call from The Cinnamon Trust asking if I'd be able to foster a 15 year old cat with one tooth and a liver condition! Sadly her owner had recently suffered a stroke and had been in hospital for the last three weeks. Her cat Pippa had spent this time at a local cattery and was in need of some TLC.

I was delighted to take her in, although I was perhaps a little concerned regarding her age and ailments.

Pippa arrived the next day... On opening the basket, Pippa gingerly peered out into my living room and despite her age, she dashed out and under the nearest hiding space she could find!

I left her to explore the place for a few minutes, fully expecting not to see her for a few days while she sussed out me and her new home. However, to my surprise that evening she couldn't resist the temptation of a warm lap and some fuss and she was soon out of hiding and curled up, purring contentedly in front of the TV.

Sadly, the events of the last few weeks had brought on an episode of cystitis. Having gained her trust in the first week I was a little concerned about taking her to the vets - fearing that would unsettle her again. But, despite a little car sickness the trip was a success, we came home with some meds and Pippa seemed undisturbed by the visit.

The meds worked within a few days and Pippa was soon back to health and the change was considerable. She was noticeably more perky! I'd thought due to her age she was perhaps a little slow and unsteady - but by week three she has been following me round the house, running up and down the stairs and playing with her toys just like a kitten. She's now much more confident in exploring new things. She's even gained a friend through the patio window - the local neighbourhood cat!

Pippa now seems fully at home. She's no longer spooked by any sudden sounds, in fact she recently sat and inspected some DIY I was doing in the house and she was keen to explore the banging going on and weaving and rubbing in between all the half assembled Ikea furniture - clearly marking it as her own. She's great with visitors - and truly loves the attention she gets. She

never seems to tire of some fuss!

She's definitely got a good appetite despite the struggles of eating with only one tooth!

Her liver condition doesn't seem to cause her any concerns (you wouldn't know she had a problem at all). But she sneakily eats around her special food that is meant to help support the liver. Luckily The Cinnamon Trust have now given me some easy to administer homeopathic pills to help, which Pippa has been lapping up unaware in her treats.

In Pippa's case age is definitely just a number - she can chase a toy and jump a good height if she fancies - although she much prefers to curl up and snooze on someone's lap."



Melanie Lear in Essex writes:

"I have been walking Timmy for a year and half for Pat now. I walk him 5 mornings a week before I go to work. He is an adorable 7 year old Yorkshire Terrier and loves his walks with me as much I love giving them. On Christmas Day I had a call as Pat had collapsed at home and an ambulance had been called. They were eager to transfer her to hospital, but Pat was refusing to go until Timmy had been sorted out. The ambulance drivers were very keen to get Pat to hospital as she really was very unwell and were about to call the RSPCA to take Timmy away. Luckily Pat's son, who unfortunately doesn't live local to his mum, was aware of me walking Timmy for The Cinnamon Trust and called me in the hope that I may be able to help. Although I was

spending Christmas Day with family I was close enough that I could drive to Pat's and speak to her before she left and reassure her that I would take Timmy to my home and look after him until her return home. Pat was so relieved knowing that Timmy would now be cared for that she immediately relaxed and let the ambulance people take her to hospital. It turned out Pat had pneumonia and was very unwell for a while. Timmy stayed with us until Pat returned home and was a perfect house guest. He knows my dog Pip as they are often walked together and he had also met my two cats before so everything was fine. I can only imagine how worrying it is for owners who need to have a stay in hospital wondering what will happen to their beloved pets if



Timmy

there is no family or friends to look after them. When I signed up as a volunteer for the Cinnamon trust I had said that I would be prepared to offer fostering for pets if required and I am so pleased that I had. Pat recovered well in hospital and was soon home and Timmy enjoyed his stay with us and was thoroughly spoilt. I would not hesitate to do this if the need ever arose again."



And from Yorkshire, **Zoe Jones** sends this:

"I became a volunteer in November last year and put myself forward as a short



term fosterer. Very quickly I was asked to take in Gilby and Muffin who had sadly lost their owner. I was a little nervous about their arrival but nowhere near as nervous as they were. As soon as they arrived they bolted and hid. Muffin hid under my bed and was frozen to the spot for hours. I couldn't find Gilby and I truly thought I had lost him despite there being nowhere he could escape, forward a few hours and getting back in from work I was two cats down. I couldn't believe that I had

lost two cats in less than 24 hours. Of course I hadn't lost them, they had just found the smallest most perfect hiding place in the bedroom behind the wardrobe, both huddled together.

After a few days they came round and I then had the opposite and they were stuck to me like glue, but we soon got into a routine and they gained in confidence. When they were found a forever home, part of me was really sad to see my boys go, but I felt so proud of how far they had come. And I was so pleased to hear they were ok with their new forever fosterer. I was offered the chance of long term fostering them, but as much as I loved them, I want to be able to do this for many Gilby and Muffins. My next guest is due to arrive in a couple of days and I look forward to giving her lots of TLC and being a stepping stone to Polly finding her forever home."



So now let's catch up with a few of our 960 Cinnamon Pets in lifelong foster homes.

First, with the help of **Gillian Soper** and **Christine Massey**, **Millie** and **Maddie** in Devon write ...

"We are Maddie and Millie, we are sisters and have to wear different coloured collars to make it easier for people to tell us apart. Millie wears a red collar and Maddie wears the purple.



Kane, Maddie and Millie

Just before Christmas 2012 our mum came home from hospital in Wales and had to find us a new home because she was dying. We were very sad and worried because we could not bear to be separated. Anyway, The Cinnamon Trust stepped in and found us a new home in Devon on the edge of Dartmoor. We live with our new aunties Christine and Gillian. Sometimes they go away on holiday and again The Cinnamon Trust stepped in and found us auntie Angela and uncle David to stay with and we take their home as our home too. In February 2014 we were blessed with gaining a new friend who had just arrived from Middlesex. He's a Westie like us and is called Kane, he had found a permanent home with auntie Angela and uncle David as his mum had also died.



Gillian, Chris, David, Maddie, Millie and Kane at Trengwainton Gardens

We now go on lovely walks with each other, stay with each other and exhaust ourselves playing with each other much to the delight of the grownups. We are writing this while we are all on holiday together in Hayle, Cornwall and we are looking forward to seeing all our friends at The Cinnamon Trust.

Thank you Cinnamon Trust for helping us at a difficult time."



Eileen Foster in West Midlands is so proud of **Minnie**:

"It's been a long time since I have contacted you, but the happenings of the last 10 days have made me so proud of darling Minnie that I feel I should let you know about her. I was taking her for her usual little walk to a nearby field one morning last week, when quite suddenly I fell heavily, it was awful, no one was about, I struggled to my feet and dragged myself back home, blood streaming, Minnie was on her lead but I had dropped it, she walked slowly by my side back home, a neighbour had seen us and came running over the



Minnie

road, I've got an emergency help phone and he pressed the button, they said an ambulance was on its way, Minnie excelled, the paramedics arrived, I was spread out over an armchair while they both lent over me to try and stop the bleeding, Minnie just sat by the chair looking anxious you wouldn't believe, every so often nudging my hand, as if to say "don't worry I'm here". I could weep when I recall how lovely she was. Another neighbour came in, Steve a retired policeman to find out what had happened, it was decided to wait a

while because they were queueing the ambulances at the hospital, then we set off, I told Minnie "be a good girl, Mom will not be long". Quite some time later it was decided to send me to the now famous Queen Elizabeth Hospital, to the Maxillofacial Clinic, it's often mentioned because the critically injured in Afghanistan are treated there. Well I had a lot of injections and 16 stitches about and below my left eye which was totally closed, Steve came back and stopped overnight with Minnie and since then various neighbours have been taking her out and each has remarked how well behaved she is. Once the stitches were out I felt much better and am now fully recovered.

I've loved my little Min since the day she came to me, but I feel overwhelmed about her right now, especially when I recall her troubled start, she is a star."



For **Joyce Gentle** in Hertfordshire and **Benji** it was love at first sight:



Benji

"Seeing the CT leaflet in my local vets, I took it home and after reading it I became a foster mum for the first time!

I first of all took in Dingo, who came for 2 months when his owner was ill in hospital. Sadly he didn't recover and so Dingo ended up staying for 6 years. During some of this time he was great company for my Cairn Terrier, Robbie who loved having Dingo around. Unfortunately over the following years

I lost them both. It was just too heart-breaking so I decided that I couldn't go through all of that pain again!

However after just two months without my dog, my life had seemed so dead!

Fortunately Moira said that she had just the dog for me - “Benji” and before I knew it he arrived. I couldn't believe it! He came running in and looked all around the house and that was it! It was love at first sight! He just took over.

Benji is a real charmer and everyone loves him. Whatever the weather, when it's time for his walk, he just can't wait to go! (How does he know the time?). I get so much pleasure from him. He has really opened up my life again!

Thank you Cinnamon Trust for finding me such a great companion!”



Also in Hertfordshire with **Elizabeth Head** is the gorgeous **Misty** and her lifelong friend **Sadie**:

“My husband bought me a wonderful cuddly ball of fluff called Bramble in 1992, she was a Lhasa Apso and we had her for 17 delightful years, she brought love and happiness to so many people. After her passing I was totally devastated.



Sadie and Misty

We retired from fulltime employment and moved to Hitchin from mid Wales, once we were settled and all the boxes emptied I was reading a magazine and was fascinated about an article on The Cinnamon Trust and all its works. I couldn't wait to speak to Moira the following day.

Moira told me about a little boy Shih Tzu called Simba who needed a forever home. After a few days my hubbie and I were on the motorway to meet him. It was love at first sight, and he sat quietly on my knee all the way home. Simba settled in very well, no accidents in the house and he seemed to know automatically where he went to the toilet where he ate etc. Dave went back to work (200 miles away) and so we were on our own during the week, but we enjoyed lovely long walks round the golf course and to the shops. He was such a beautiful boy shopping took twice as long because everyone just wanted to stop and stroke him. He was my beautiful shadow.

My grandchildren adored him so much that when holiday time came they were determined to have him stay with them. My daughter and her husband plus two boys so thoroughly enjoyed having him that they decided to invest in a

puppy (a CockerPoo) called Skittles.

We knew Simba had dry eyes, but putting a couple of drops in was no problem, a nice piece of ham or cheese eased the situation!

But as the months went on a slow deterioration of his eyes was evident. As his sight worsened his confidence seemed to diminish too. The Trust paid for a cataract operation, which restored sight to one eye. The other sadly could not be saved.

Many more months were enjoyed together, and all three of us holidayed in France and in the UK, I just couldn't bear to leave him. Eventually, all too soon he was diagnosed with epilepsy and his health took a long slow downturn. He was still my lovely beautiful boy.

Eventually the end came, the only help to me was to know that his final few years had been truly happy and he knew he was well loved. He died a lovely peaceful death in my arms being loved to the end.

Thankfully Moira didn't let me be lonely and doggy free for too long. A telephone call told me of two little ladies who need a home. Two little girls, a Chihuahua called Misty who thinks she is a Rhodesian Ridgeback and a Yorkshire Terrier called Sadie. They have been together since wee pups, owned by two sisters who registered them to the Trust prior to passing away.

To say that my life is a doggy heaven is an understatement. They are such delightful girls very loving and have fitted into their new surroundings beautifully. Misty has just two teeth so her tongue pops out of the side of her mouth all the time; it makes her look even more cute. Sadie loves to bury into the cushions on the couch or the duvet, if allowed!! Misty is far too ladylike for such behaviour! They love their walks in the woods off lead. Sadie is exceptionally friendly and will talk to anyone canine or human. Misty doesn't stray far from me unless we play ball. She hasn't quite got the confidence yet to play with other dogs, but Sadie loves to run and play with all-comers and everyone loves her. However Misty does have the confidence to keep other dogs in their place (good manners), if any dog dares to sniff her bits she immediately puts them in their place. She is such a little lady and a great guard dog (her bark sounds like a Rottweiler!).

When they first came they slept in the kitchen, however when Dave started to work away they obviously decided I needed company so now they sleep cuddled into my side, which is lovely.

I feel totally blessed to have two such lovely canine friends as my responsibility.

What life would be like without them I cannot contemplate? We may even increase our doggy numbers in the future! Another telephone call to Moira!!”



All our Cinnamon pets are little heroes - they've made someone's life worth living right to the end and after that, they just keep on giving as **Diana Carpenter** in Hertfordshire has found:

Goodbye Bryn

You have been a wonderful dog. From the day you arrived, a little nervous but friendly and sat beside my sick husband's chair you have been my friend and helper. You kept Philip company when I was out and were a comfort to him and you cheered me when you dragged me out on walks in rain, wind, snow and sun and I wept for my loss and then you made me laugh at your antics.

There were many days when your gentle lick on my elbow and the look in your big brown eyes forced me out of bed when all I wanted was to stay in the dark under the covers all day and mourn.

How you loved your walks in the park. You found friends and so did I. Your cheekiness embarrassed me sometimes. You would charge across the park, eyes shining, wild ears flying to join any dog, known or unknown who was “sitting” waiting for a treat from its owner; you too sat, up came your paw, your eyes pleading, one of those ears up, one down. Few resisted you and the treat was gracefully accepted.

I remember the anti GM crop demonstration on a fine sunny day. You joined the picnicking protesters under the trees and received pats, strokes and snacks. When I, apologetic, retrieved you - your usual obedience having deserted you - your jaws were working rhythmically and you were smiling. Then you went up to the line of policemen and received more pats and a sweet or two. At least you weren't partisan and no one seemed to mind on a warm summer day being distracted from serious matters.

The big dark bass baritone bark, surely not a border collie characteristic, belied the joyous welcome you wished to give all who called at the house and deterred those callers who were unwanted (as long as they never met you).

I've never had such an intelligent dog and the looks you sometimes gave me were reminiscent of those Gromit gives Wallace when the latter proposes to do something particularly silly.

You loved almost everybody, even the vet but took a strong exception to cats. You were afraid of traffic and the sea and cows and bouncy Labrador puppies and small bouncy children, oh yes and the dark outside but thunder didn't trouble you much as long as I was near.

You went uncomplainingly to short term foster carers when I was on my travels and I think enjoyed their company. They certainly enjoyed yours. One lady who looked after you described you as a "real gentleman" and you were; funny and loving and gentle and polite. I am sure you had been well loved by your owner and you had a long and happy life.

Thank you Cinnamon Trust for letting me share the last five years of that life. Bryn seemed to enjoy his time with me. I feel bereft but honoured.

Goodbye Bryn you will live on in the memories of all who loved you."



Isabel and Susie

In Essex **Isabel Davie** aged 10 has been moved to write:

"My mum has long-term fostered a dog named Susie. At first Susie was timid and shy. She was unlike other dogs, frightened of children and crowds. But over two years we have taken good care of her and she is now a fun playful dog! I thoroughly enjoy looking after her.

Thank you for giving us this wonderful experience."



Dorothea Howman in Berkshire loves **Mindy** and **Woody**:

"I first knew of The Cinnamon Trust many years ago through reading an article in "Woman's Weekly". At the time we had our own animals, so I stored the knowledge away for the future. Years went by and I was alone. First of all I thought of dog-walking. That didn't happen, so I commenced my career "making a home for elderly cats".

First of all I had Suzie, a dark grey cat with lovely eyes. At first she was very aggressive, but when she felt safe she was a lovely cat and we built up a happy relationship. I had her for four years; sadly she was quite ill for much of the time, eventually losing her sight. I have a lovely photograph of her in front of me now, taken when she was at her best.

Next game ginger sisters, Pinky and Amber. They soon settled happily, and I thought we were going to be happy together for many years. Unexpectedly Pinky became ill after only a year, so I lost her. I did find that when Amber was alone, she came out of herself more, so Pinky must have been the dominant one. As her sister, after a few months Amber became ill so I didn't have the peaceful years I had hoped for.

Almost a year ago Mindy and Woody arrived. These two are half-brother and sister, Mindy being the elder. She has a lovely nature, not a lap cat but very loving and happy, purring, purring and purring until she falls asleep, then snoring, snoring. This is natural for her. Not at all interested in the outside, rarely has she stepped out, even then it appeared to have happened by accident. Usually she is very quiet, but when she feels something needs to be said, she has a very raucous voice, incongruous.



Mindy

Woody is a different character altogether, a large tabby. Long body, long legs, with huge white paws. Underneath white with beautiful patches. He is a lap cat, misses no opportunity to jump up and settle down, quite companionable, with a quiet meow, often no sound actually happening. He does enjoy the garden, where there is plenty of cover, which he needs, as he is not very brave. Three young cats live next door, sometimes they come over the fence or through the hedge just to be friendly, but Woody is wary. He is a good boy at coming when he is called. Until recently he has been very afraid of visitors, rushing upstairs and under the bed, on hearing the door-bell. Now quite often he creeps down and is much admired.



Woody

Unfortunately he is not the kindest of brothers to Mindy, who sometimes loses patience and spits at him.

Two very different cats, but I love them both and hope to be a good mum."

Two very different cats, but I love them both and hope to be a good mum."



This is a lovely tribute from **Susan**, **Donald** and **Glen Robinson** and **Katie Gibson** in Tyne & Wear:

A Tribute to Maggie

(Also known as Mags 'The Magster' and on Sundays 'The Little Miss Margaret').

"Maggie came to us on the 4th May 2012 as a short term foster because her owner had been in hospital for several months and his family were struggling to care for her as they all worked full time.



Maggie

Sadly she had only spent three months with him prior to his hospitalisation as he had rehomed her from a rescue centre where she had been classified as a 'stray Belgian Shepherd cross'. Her age had been guessed at about 9 or 10 years although our vet believed her to be slightly older. We were told that she had a cough but that it had worsened since she had been rehomed. On investigation by our vet it was found that she

had 'speckles' on her lungs, probably scarring from an infection when she was young. After lying down for any length of time she would have a good old cough and hack, a bit like an old man on 40 woodbines a day, and then she was fine. Unfortunately it was discovered that her liver was not functioning as well as it should and she was put on lifetime medication to help.

Maggie came into the Trust's care in July 2012 as her owner realised that he could not give her the life he felt she deserved due to his ailing health and she became our Life Long Foster on 1st August. We celebrated by buying her a basket. She arrived with a large cushion to sleep on and, as we believed her to be here for just a short while, we didn't like to change anything but now she was staying we felt we could make the change. (We live in a very old house and are always wary of draughts!). Maggie absolutely adored her basket. A quilt in the bottom, then a fleecy blanket, then Maggie with her chin resting on the edge and one paw delicately dangling over the side. Her default position during the day! Head and all paws tucked firmly into the quilt for night times.

Maggie was one of God's sweetest, gentlest creatures with not a single bad bone in her body. She was extremely well trained but a little submissive. A ten second stroke of her head resulted in her rolling on her back, legs akimbo, waiting for her tummy tickles. No-one could resist! She was soon welcomed into our dog walking community but was not interested in running after balls she just liked to run for the sheer pleasure of running. She liked a nice game of chase but also quite happy to race around on her own. She made friends with an elderly Lurcher called Meg, who shared a similar nature, and also Archie, a younger Westie. But she found love in the autumn of her life with

Sam, a very young Springer Spaniel, her 'toy boy'. She bounced around like a puppy when Sam was around and flirted shamelessly with him! His house was next to the field where we walked and on finding the back door open one day, she went straight in to look for him. Fortunately Sam's owners saw the funny side.

The only 'thing' Maggie liked better than her basket, was children. She would stand about two meters away almost willing them to speak to her and the second they did she immediately went close enough for them to pet her. She spent many an hour lying in the garden watching the children next door playing, (and watching out for their cat, also called Maggie, so that she could bark at it). When she wasn't on child watch she would be chasing the birds out of the garden or 'guarding' Donald or as we worked in the garden. She was never more than two feet from us and as we moved down the garden she moved too.

Maggie also liked the seaside. The first time we took her to the seaside she went charging down the beach like Red Rum and straight into the sea. We raced to catch up with her AND its hard work running on sand AND we're not exactly in the first flush of youth and by the time we reached the water she was galloping along the water's edge towards the part of the beach where dogs are not allowed. It was not OUR most successful visit but it WAS Maggie's. We were better prepared on subsequent visits!

Very unusually for a dog Maggie was not motivated by food! Treats and biscuits?! She could take them or leave them and usually left them. She was a picky eater but was extremely partial to roast chicken. She loved to investigate the shopping bags every Thursday morning and then waited, not so patiently, for her own chicken to be cooked. This was portioned out for her daily lunch time snacks and I received some very frosty looks on the rare occasions that I forgot to get it out of the freezer and she had to 'make do' with commercial dog food for lunch.

And then the sad day arrived when the chicken was refused and we knew that we were all in trouble. Maggie's health took a sudden decline and, after discussions with our vet, it was agreed that it was time to say our goodbyes. We spent one last quiet day with her and then helped her on her way to the Rainbow Bridge.

We are grateful to her previous owner for his very brave decision to surrender her to The Trust and to The Trust for their advice and financial support.

Run free our Little Miss Margaret. You were much loved and will never be forgotten.”.

Katie Orrett aided and abetted by **Nigel** and **Sue** has her own views:

Katie's story

"My name is "Kaivy-Taey" (Katie) and I am a Parsons Terrier. I come from Wednesbury; so you might say that I am a Black Country Girl! I lived with my human in Windmill Lane until I was seven. I was his faithful companion until my man had to go into hospital. My world fell apart. Neighbours took me in but I was so distressed they could not cope. This was when Sue and Nigel, volunteers for The Cinnamon Trust, came to my aid. They took me and my small bundle of belongings to stay with them in Solihull and this is where my new life began.



In the Stag with Nigel Orrett

Sue taught me to write and I sent letters, cards and photos to my man, telling him about my new adventures with my new friends. I hoped that he would get better but sadly, after nine weeks he died. I was very sad. After nine weeks, I had wormed my way into Nigel and Sue's hearts and after talking to the lovely Wendy at The Cinnamon Trust, they decided to become long term foster carers. I was safe. I won't ever forget the years with my old chap but I decided to embrace my new life with Sue and Nigel.



In pensive mood on the beach

I had a lot to learn.

I transferred my affections onto Nigel straight away. As you can see from the photo, our feelings were mutual. Although Sue took great care of me and my welfare, it took me a while to get to know and trust her and her species!

Going out and having fun in the snow; meeting new people; learning about other creatures; walking to heel, socialising - they were all on my curriculum. I learnt my P's and Q's when walking in the park with Whiskey. She and Nigel walk him for his Mum, five days a week. He is very interesting. He is an American Whippet and he lives with three very vocal parrots. He has taught me to pee like a boy and I have taught him to sniff every single delicious smell in the park. We make an unlikely pair but people always stop to look at the white star on his back and ask if I am called 'Patch'.

I have come a long way in my training and I have lots of achievement badges including the following:-

- Hogging most of the bed at night
- Mouse hunting in the garden
- Helping Nigel on the veggie plot
- Holidays in the camper van
- Good girl in hotel and holiday cottages
- Classic car driving
- Dancing with Aunty Jackie
- Being brave at the vets
- Being cute and getting my own way
- Exploring and poking about in new places

Although Whiskey and I have our health problems we enjoy our time walking together and we are so grateful that the Cinnamon Trust and its volunteers are there to support us.

Thank you.

Love Katie xx”



In Surrey **Bernie** is having so much fun with **Tina** and **Eric Henderson**:

“I've had dogs for more than half my life now and they have all been great friends and very much loved. All but one has been rescued or re-homed. We lost our beloved Collie-cross in 2011, having been found as a pup in a box and much loved for 14 years until heart disease took him after a lengthy illness. Being by now late middle-aged, we didn't want another puppy and particularly liked the idea of taking on an older dog. My veterinarian suggested I contact Cinnamon as she felt we'd be perfect long-term fosterers and The Trust quickly and efficiently approved us.



After we lost the lovely Yoda (our first Cinnamon foster) it was a few months before we felt ready to take on another old boy (or girl!). When we were, Moira quickly knew which of the candidates it should be and when I saw a photograph of what seemed to be a teddy bear pop up in my email inbox, I was immediately sold! Bernie's human Mum was very ill. We later learned that she died the day we collected Bernie (an 8 year old Lakeland Terrier) at the end of July 2014 from his excellent short-term foster home with Andy and Jean. I hope his Mum knew he was going to a loving forever home, where he would be taken care of.

The journey home by over-ground tube and train was eventful; Bernie was fascinated by the experience and almost too friendly as he rolled on his back legs akimbo, every time anyone made a fuss of him! And he still does that but now with added Bernie kisses, especially with children for whom he just loves putting on a performance. On first arrival at our house, Bernie was a bit subdued but quickly seemed to know it was a 'doggy home' unearthing balls and toys hidden in the garden (and other rarely explored places) by the previous canine incumbents. As we were told by Jean and Andy, he loves balls in particular; sometimes a bit too much! Walks in our local park past the tennis courts can be quite entertaining as Bernie hares up and down the fence following the rallies in the hope of a stray 'out' heading in his direction. A recent walk in our local woods (which borders a golf course) ended in near disaster when he escaped onto the tee and purloined one gentleman's putt.... Luckily he charmed the golfer in question and I'm much more careful on Croham Hurst now. He is also quite a dribbler - with a full-sized football! David Beckham has nothing on Bernie. A hedgehog family in our garden proved deeply fascinating. Spiky balls! (An accommodation was eventually reached with Bernie barking and the hedgies ignoring him completely).

Cheese and sausages are much appreciated 'human' treats, chews are okay but gravy bone dog biscuits top the doggy snack charts. What's in your pocket?

Bernie is a real personality; affable, nosey, cheeky, smart, swift, gentle, affectionate and very entertaining! He loves smaller dogs but isn't afraid to tell a big dog off when they're overstepping the 'playful' mark. He'll walk and walk; fields are great but watch out for woods and badger setts! Ponds and dirty water are a big attraction but mention a bath and he'll disappear upstairs quicker than you can say 'shampoo and set'. He loves a cuddle too (especially if there are fireworks or a storm) and happily lazes around when the grooming brush comes out.

Bernie is a joy to have around and Eric and I just love our 'badly knitted' friend!"

Lynne Slater in Hampshire fell in love (and who wouldn't?) as soon as she saw **Cleo**:

"I've been lucky enough to grow up with lots of pets in my family all my life and cannot imagine my life without them.

I had three beautiful male rescue cats, Merlin, Garfield and Bramble.

Very suddenly Bramble, my 8 year old black long haired cat developed bone cancer and tragically was put to sleep in June 2012.

I was shocked and devastated at losing him so soon. After a few months I heard about the Cinnamon Trust and felt I wanted to help someone who adored their pet but was sadly unable look after them through ill health so I got in touch and applied to become a foster carer. Home checks completed, I received a phone call, Cleo's owner Keith, only 58, was dying of throat cancer and wanted her settled in life long foster before he died.



Cleo

We drove to collect Cleo from her temporary foster carer and from the moment my husband and I held Cleo we fell in love with her. When we went to leave, Cleo did something amazing.... She walked straight into her cat carrier without being prompted! I felt this was a lovely sign, not only of her placid nature, but that she had chosen us to look after her.

Cleo came home with us and settled in straight away with Garfield and Merlin. She loves to spend time in the garden and laze in the sun. She is incredibly affectionate and has beautiful green eyes and white cotton wool soft fur that is so lovely to stroke. She likes to groom us too by licking our hands and faces!

She loves to give all the family cuddles and everyone adores her. A perfect day for me is relaxing at home with my family, having cuddles with my cats".



Our **Gold Award** for exceptional service has been well earned by:-

Bobbie-Marie Lovell in Devon.

Long Service Awards go to:-

Susan Burton (West Midlands), **Heinz Wechsberg** (Sussex), **Catherine Care** (Sussex), **Gillian Crisp** (West Midlands) and **Michael Austin** (Kent)

And **Special Owner Nominated Awards** to:-

Andrew Stanger (Cambridgeshire), **Joan Seeker** (Cheshire), **Helen Walton** (Hampshire), **Rebecca Jelf** (Somerset), **Margaret Godwin** (Hampshire), **Rachael Aspey** (Somerset), **Melanie Lear** (Essex), **Victoria Pearson** (West Midlands), **Tracy Kimberley** (Devon) and **Valerie Spencer** (Cheshire)



Thank you to each and every one of our registered volunteers for all the sunshine you bring into the lives of thousands of people & their beloved pets, for all the friendships you forge that mean so much, for being the best ambassadors we could possibly wish for.



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Splashing in puddles and walking in frosty grass are, hopefully, receding attractions of the great outdoors and as our wild birds prepare their nests, some intrepid felines venture forth but most gather on the windowsills where the sun is warmer indoors. The sheep, ponies and goats have extra “mad moments” and the dogs too sense Spring is in touching distance!

Winter sadness came with the loss of **Benny** (16), beautiful, regal lilac point Siamese; **Jenny** (12) feisty, characterful Jack Russell; **Scampi** (17) beloved Toodle Poodle; **Misty** (14) sweet, shy tabby girl with a stubby tail; **Perry** (17), firecracker tortie, the last of her family; **Talli** (12) gorgeous, handsome Doberman, a gentle soul with a glint of mischief in his eye; **Hamish** (16) our delightful McTavish - a Westie with the heart of a lion; **Pepe** (8) fabulous blue point Siamese - lost too soon; and **Sophie** (22) our grand old matriarch tortie who was with us for six years, sweet as candy but strong when it mattered!

Nine more stars shine brilliantly in the night sky, nine more angels watch over us as they join with their beloved owners.

Then there was a whirlwind as **Jack** and **Dougal** 13 year old Cocker Spaniel brothers arrived with a “whoopee” and a “wha-ho!” any available lap was

commandeered, nice tidy beds turned inside out and a terrific menu to be downed at break-neck speed!! Lovely, happy boys who shower us with affection, they are devoted to each other but enthusiastically include Lola in their games - well, she is one of them - Jack has diabetes so he tires before Dougal, then Lola throws in the towel but Dougal never stops so a human has to do, he's very good at giving little dog lost looks that are irresistible! They both love to be groomed but Dougal shows it by "oohing" and "aahing" all the while, Jack rolls over for a tummy tickle instead. On walks, they are very much a couple and spend considerable time pouncing in the long grass hunting... anything (without success!), then they suddenly realise they're being left behind and race to catch up before repeating the whole exercise. It's fantastic to see them so happy and so enjoying all that Hillside has to offer. They'll love summer.....

We have also welcomed a little darling, 18 year old Cairn Terrier, **Foxy**. She is quite frail but that doesn't stop her having "mad moments" when she gets the wind up her tail and skips and jumps like a bunny on the front lawn. Foxy is quite fond of our Rupert Poodle and often seeks him out and if any of our bigger dogs stand still for too long she does like to rub herself up against them! This is a girl who loves her food. If anything can put a spring in her step it is the sound of a dinner dish or the smell of anything edible. From the moment she opens her eyes she is ready to eat. She eats very fast and makes a lot of noise for a little thing and she chases her bowl around to make sure it's empty. Foxy can smell a morsel of food or a hidden treat ten miles out! She is adorable, never more so when, with the unique little skip in her walk she decides to go on a mission to find out what's happening over there. She loves it when you tickle her ears and her tummy, and a nice, soft brush.

A family of three gorgeous cats in the shape of **Heaven** (11), **Holly** (12) and **Jenny** (12) have



Jack and Dougal with little Foxy checking proceedings



Treble trouble! Jack, Dougal and Lola



Foxy with Isabel



Heaven

also joined us. Heaven is a big, handsome, loving boy. He loves people and likes to help with the chores but, really he is an outdoor boy and gardening chores are best. He also rather likes to spend time chatting to the goats at the fence and he is the only cat we have that will actively see off the dogs who venture too close to the cat gardens - he is not at all frightened by dogs and will always stand his ground when they mock charge. He does like to cuddle up with Holly and they often share the same bed.



Holly

Holly is a real tomboy into everything and needs to know what is going on everywhere all the time, forever sticking her little nose into everyone's business. She loves being groomed and will keep pushing in and coming back for more if you try to walk away and do something else. She eats well and anything, but salmon is a favourite along with fresh diced beef. Holly and Heaven both go nuts over the cat nip toys and

treats.



Jenny

Jenny doesn't find outdoors as fascinating and is content to sit on the step and watch Holly and Heaven playing in the garden. She has an afternoon stroll to make sure she's not missing anything but Jenny loves people and loves a fuss and knows just how to get it - she pulls faces like a clown! She likes to play hide and seek, so her Christmas present of a soft, fleece lined sleeping sack is perfect - if she's not there, she'll be very

close to, or on, a radiator - perhaps she'll be a sun worshipper? Jenny adores fish, any fish but freshly cooked, still warm mackerel will see her pushing Heaven and Holly off their dishes if they're not quick enough! She demands to be groomed and gets quite ratty if you stop too soon - she'll grab your hands and the brush and pull you back. All in all a wonderful, characterful family.



Tiger

We have two Tigers now. Our new **Tiger** is 13, gorgeous chunky boy with slinky dark stripes. If he were a big cat, he'd be a leopard - stealthy, precise in his movements, not wasting any energy. He loves to watch the world go by from his heated blanket on top of the cupboard. He ignores all the other boys but has an eye for the ladies. He is a beautiful cat and for the most part keeps himself to himself but he loses control the minute he smells cat nip and spends ages rolling

in it. Doesn't like fish but loves chicken and loves a fuss and a groom but only after dinner!!

Maddy (14) bless her, this dear girl would ideally be in a foster home all of her own because she doesn't like other cats but her complex medical needs made this well nigh impossible. She has problems with her heart and she has diabetes which has proved difficult to stabilise. For all that she purrs very loudly when she's gently groomed or stroked and she goes crazy for catnip. She has us wrapped tightly around her little paws when it comes to food - one day something is



Maddy

just so delicious and the next, "oh I couldn't possibly eat that!" You can imagine the fun and games when she has to take her heart meds or have her insulin injection - we just have to find something that will take her fancy..... Catnip treats always do but that's not enough and often a game playing with pheasant feathers will hone the appetite. You just can't help loving her and admiring her stubborn little ways and her determination to LIVE.

We're hoping summer will be as exciting and adventurous as last year and we're sorting the sun beds in readiness for the times when there are no dogs and no cats indoors - they've all decamped to the sunshine!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

Before winter really set in we bought some super new rugs for our little Shetland ponies which kept them toasty when it was cold and their huge new shelter was there for the asking when it was getting wet and you should see the mad dash - they don't like getting wet! The rabbits have enjoyed a variety of games and treats like carrot trees!! and as many fun activities as we could dream up to keep them happy indoors while their enclosure was made... rabbit proof! Bobby discovered he could dig his way out and enjoy all the field had to offer. As soon as he was rumbled, he'd make his way back in as fast as his little legs would take him and then look completely innocent, this was fun for all of us but we didn't want him to end up as fox lunch, so now he'll be seriously challenged! We took the opportunity to build in new tunnels as well, so more fun for them.

While winter has been relatively kind, time has not and our roll of honour grows even longer with the loss of **Zebbie** Collie (13), **Rosie** Cavalier x Collie (13), pretty little **Jess**, Collie x GSD (15), **Jodie** Shih Tzu (15), **Joe** Jack Russell (14), and **Buster** (16) ginger & white cat, **Topsy** (14) lovely long haired black cat and our

grand tabby and white **Tippy** who was 23. Each one remembered for their own irreplaceable specialness.



Sparky



Benji

For specialness read attitude that can only come in the shape of a Shih Tzu - absolutely adorable, you just can't help smiling, and we've added three to our family! Joy unconfined! First **Sparky** (15) is actually a Poodle x Cavalier and an honorary Shih Tzu and **Benji**, they are devoted to each other but have very different attitudes to life, Benji loves his walks and runs alongside Sparky, little legs going every which way! On the whole though he prefers home comforts and having cottoned on fast to the home cooked menu three times a day, now demands his diet is nicely varied thank you! Sparky on the other hand loves the great outdoors - he is A HUNTER. By day he hunts mice in the fields - can't catch them but pouncing is fun! As dusk approaches he's more ambitious and one day, he assures us, he will catch the fox that comes to dinner! When the towel comes out to dry him off, it's time for a game - he plays and pulls and helps to dry himself! All this activity hones the appetite and Sparky will eat for England. Come the end of the day though, the intrepid hunter and his comfort loving friend seek each

other out, choose their settee and blissfully curl up together for a good night's sleep - after Sparky's had his bourbon biscuit (nothing else will do!).

Next came **Pollyanna** (15) and her son **Gizmo** (12). We would describe Pollyanna as a laid back, new age, brown rice, love and peace kind of mother who does



Pollyanna



Gizmo

occasionally look despairingly upon her son and his REAL BOY antics which mostly consist of what mischief he can get up to next and with whom! No one takes offence because it's all so, well, innocent! He loves to cuddle up with you and watch TV of an evening, but then Pollyanna takes her chance and consorts with Benji - this gets Gizmo quite hot under the collar and wrecks his viewing. He is a boy and therefore has to defend her whether she wants him to or not! Both enjoy their walks - even more so when these involve a ride in the van to reach river, beach or woods - they can't quite see the point of getting out because a drive round sightseeing is SO good! Both love their food, chicken casserole is tops and at night Gizmo serves as Pollyanna's pillow. So sweet, they curl up together and she rests her head on him - or is it maternal control at last?

Tabitha (15) has joined us and she could almost rival a Shih Tzu for attitude! Very affectionate and demands to be carried - we have little choice in the matter as she climbs up and settles herself on your shoulders to accompany you in whatever you're doing ... She has a new best friend in our Fluffy who happily reciprocates as they groom each other. Tabitha **has not** ventured outdoors and is not tempted but, perhaps when the sun is high and warm? There is a fascination outdoors though - but you can enjoy that from inside, chicken watching! She seems mesmerised sitting in the window, eyes riveted upon chicken coming and goings.....

Lastly came a lovely family of five gorgeous cats **Pebbles** (13), **Chloe** (11), **Alfie** (14), **Panda** (11), and **Lizzie** (15). Pebbles is very chatty, never more



Tabitha



Pebbles



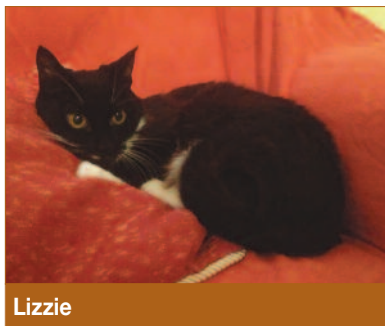
Chloe



Alfie



Panda



Lizzie

so than when you engage her in conversation - it's hilarious! She loves to be warm and persuading her not to hug the radiators is an art form and from this you might guess she does not like outdoors and absolutely hates getting wet - if by chance she is caught out and it's wet, she complains loudly shaking each paw in turn to leave you in no doubt as to her displeasure. Pebbles, in common with the rest of her family, loves her food and she also loves to be groomed. All in all a sweetheart who is very affectionate as is her best friend Chloe, who is in ecstasy when she can get tummy tickles. Luckily Chloe also loves to be groomed because she does like the great outdoors - so much so that after a day helping to do the gardening or generally exploring everywhere, she brings half of it back with her in her coat! Alfie is a very confident boy, he's best friends with, and gives the lead to Panda. Alfie loves to play with feather toys - we have to keep replacing the wrecked ones! He's very handsome and a brilliant cuddle. With his soul mate Panda they spend a great deal of time on their verandah watching the dogs with huge interest. Panda likes to chase balls made of tin foil - he brings them back to you! And although

he's the less confident of the two - he'll steal Alfie's dinner if he can! Lizzie is a shy girl and nocturnal. She will only eat if you're not watching her and does most of her eating through the night. By day, she sleeps - peeping out occasionally - but by night she comes alive and does her thing when everyone else is fast asleep. Lizzie mostly lived outside in her previous life and she knows what she wants, so she can do that but we hope, one day, she'll come for a cuddle ...

We're looking forward to everything that summer means, lazy days by the pool, beach days and river days, barbecues and picnics and will our newly taken up residence barn owl have babies?

Oh, and STOP PRESS, we have a family of twelve rescued squirrels on their way. We're busy building a squirrel palace and pleasure garden while the necessary permits etc are sorted - they are all tame, all have vet records and all, of course, have names. Their mum died leaving them and her eighteen rescued cats to us. The cats have all been placed in life long foster in twos and threes. All the squirrels and cats have been beautifully cared for and much loved - so great excitement and who'd have guessed!

An Epitaph

Sheila G Gladwell in Sheffield sent this from a biography of Lord Hailsham who translated an ancient Greek, poem on a dog's tombstone - probably written in the 5th Century BC.....

Laugh if you must,
But when you die,
Will you be mourned
As much as I?



Poetry Corner

Our first poem this time is from **Miller Caldwell** in Dumfries

Penny

At close of day I wandered home
With worries which were many.
My work encompassed grief and strife
But there to greet, was Penny.

She never spoke nor could she
Nor were her signs misleading
We always knew what she would mean
Through loving eyes just pleading.

Her golden coat and soft brown eyes
Made Penny so appealing
To see her sit and guard "The Grange"
Was a reassuring feeling.

Her pains are over, she's earned her rest
Our sorrows are so many
Yet all our lives are truly blessed
For sharing it with Penny.



And **Sue Key-Stone** in Cornwall wrote our second poem. How many of us, I wonder, can identify with this?

Whisper Goodbye

The echo of the seagull as it
Skims across the bay
The flicker of the sunlight as it
Tries to light my way
The crashing sound of sea waves
As they break against the rocks
The fury of the racing wind that tugs
At me and mocks
As the tears that keep on coming
Which nothing seems to stop
For your dying left a chasm and a
pain that won't let go
And though I have sweet memory
Yet still I miss you so



And Finally

Our extension to Headquarters is all but complete, just a few finishing touches and then the furniture people move in to create all the work spaces. It's looking terrific - I'll have a photo for you next time when sunshine will add sparkle.....



The days are lengthening and the proclaimers of spring in the shape of snowdrops, crocus, daffodils, tulips, primroses and of course beautiful bird song all combine to lift the heart and raise the spirit. A glorious summer to follow would be just perfect, so, here's hoping the heavens will look kindly on us. Good luck with all your events which I know will be as successful as ever!

Have a wonderful summer and God Bless

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

