

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

We've had an incredibly busy and exciting summer, not least when BBC Countryfile came to visit. The whole crew with presenter **Jules Hudson** were lovely and often moved to tears, especially at Poldarves. First thing in the morning they visited **Barry Livingstone** in Redruth, his gorgeous Boxer **Max** and **Cadi Penny**, one of our young volunteers who walks Max regularly. Jules and Cadi took Max on the beach and both Cadi and Barry did us proud when Jules chatted to them. After lunch, they came to Poldarves and it is safe to say they were blown



L to R: Emma with Patrick, Jess with Spud, Jules with Dolly and Leo, Emma (Senior Manager) with Lulubelle, Livvie with Jonas

away! All the residents enjoyed showing them round, Emma demonstrated a roast chicken dinner, and the residents showed them how to eat it! And I got to have Jules put the microphone wires in my back pocket!! We had a wonderful day, albeit a very long one and their reaction to all that we do and our very special, and unique, sanctuary has kept us on a high to this day! The programme was quite good too – hundreds of phone calls, thousands of posts on Facebook and even 200 new volunteers! Lots more to share with you, so here goes....



Catalogue

Lots to tempt the palate and plenty to wash it down with! Some really lovely gifts for everyone and, aside from food and drink, I love the notelets – really unusual, and the scented candle is gorgeous! And, of course, our exclusive Christmas card, once again a super original watercolour by Linda Rush entitled Cinnamon Christmas Stocking – it's a lot of fun! Here are the stars:



Pebbles (15)



Tilly (17)



Charlotte (16)





Ben (14)



Lulubella (14)



Leo (21)



Carla (11)



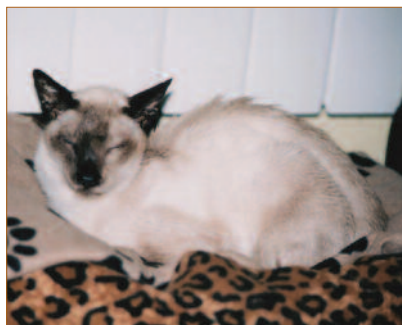
Bilbo (12)



Mitzi (10)



Bryher (15)



Chant (16)



Archie (12)



Chloe (14)



Gracie (13)

CT '100 Club

Winners who have each received £25 are: Apr: **Janet Christie** (Somerset), May: **Georgina Gibson** (Bedfordshire) June: **Maureen Coomber** (Cambridgeshire), July: **Patsy Barber** (Gloucestershire), Aug: **Karen Alderson** (North Somerset) and Sept: **Doreen Jablonski** (West Yorkshire). Forms for the new start are enclosed. If you pay by standing order and wish to continue, just send the forms back marked 'existing standing order' and we'll send you your new lucky number.



Fundraising Events

Julia Mewes and the team at **Mewes Vets Ltd** (West Sussex) designed and sold calendars featuring some of their patients, they raised a fantastic £800!



Julia Mewes and Carla Hudson

Megan Qua (Somerset) works for HSBC. They have again matched the time she spent volunteering for us with a donation and we have received a stunning £860. **Rita Skipper** (Suffolk) wrote a book of her life story and sold it to friends and family to raise £200. **Vilma Morris** (Herefordshire) raised £100 selling her lovely handmade cards.

Jane Hugill (North Yorkshire) and team at **Dunslow Vets** had a sale of Christmas cards to raise £69.07. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £103.36 with the sale of pens and handmade greeting cards and her stall at the 'Secret World' wildlife rescue. **Caroline Uff** (Buckinghamshire) raised £60, saving 5p pieces and giving chair-based exercise classes to some elderly residents at a local scheme. **Maggie Evans** (North Somerset), with help from **Judith** and **Mark Mantell**, had a tombola stall at a fun dog show and raised £130. **Jess Lumbard** and the team at **Northdale Vets** (West Sussex) held a Christmas Fancy Dress and Raffle to raise £245.90. **Barbara Marshall** (Hampshire) and everyone at **The Squirrel** held a dog show, with some super classes such as 'best sausage catcher' and 'waggiest tail'. They added to the fun with a raffle, BBQ, Pimms and Prosecco bar and raised £240. **Heather Cogan** (Essex) raised a terrific £310.91 at her quiz night. This is so sweet – **Jody Davie** (Devon) tutors the Otters group at **Lampard Community School**. They chose to raise funds for us at the school's Christmas market and we received £82.20, along with a lovely card featuring some of the students' artwork of their pets and favourite animals! **Sian Wade** (Warwickshire) held her ever-popular coffee morning and raised £377.50. **Christine Lawn** (West Yorkshire) and **The Lupset Park Group** raised a brilliant £312. **Alison Barnham**

(West Sussex) of **AliKazam**, a shop raising funds to support a variety of charities, held an online sales evening to raise £50. **Michael Bull** (London) and the congregation of **St Mary's Church**, Putney have an 'Every Little Helps' stall at the church on the first Saturday of every month. They chose us as their charity for 2018 and we have received £102. **Margaret Armstrong** (Essex) has been knitting her beautiful Fair Isle gloves once more to raise £214. **Alice Stoker** (Buckinghamshire) sent us £40 raised by her children who walked dogs during their Christmas holiday – lovely! **Rachel Gowshall** and the team at **Eastcot Veterinary Clinic & Hospital** (Wiltshire) held a variety of fundraising events during the year, the main one being the Lydiard Bark Charity Dog Show, and raised a stupendous £2,376.16! **Lands' End Europe** (Rutland) run a program which rewards employees' volunteering with a donation to their choice of charity, **Christine Townsend** chose us to receive £100. **Debra Thaine** (Essex) and everyone at **TLC**, a special needs learning centre, raised £100 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **SEIB** (Essex) are part of the **Ecclesiastical Insurance Group** which gives employees the opportunity to nominate a charity of their choice to receive a gift from the company's charity initiative. **Sue Robb** chose us, and we received £125. **Wendy Francis** (Devon) had a stall to sell her wonderful hand-knitted creations to raise £365. **Sandra Willetts** (Devon) and **Halwill Community Market** raised £50. **Jenny Corrall** and the team at **Eye Veterinary Clinic** (Herefordshire) raised £50 from hot drinks for their clients. **Christine Leonard** (Kent) and the members of Gravesend Library Creative Writing Group created and sold a book of stories at Christmas to raise £140. **Brinny Lister** (Oxfordshire) raised £100 with cat feeding and dog walking. **Kathalyn Hamilton** (Gloucestershire) is an astrologer and card reader. She does not make a charge for her readings, but her clients make donations and we received £90. **Rosamund Bryer** (Middlesex) attended an information day at the University of Middlesex with her lovely Labrador, **Bailey**, and raised £25. **Debbie Bridge** (East Sussex) held a cabaret evening in celebration of the love of dogs and raised £32.50. **Paula Hoskin** and everyone at **Williams Travel** (Cornwall) raised a fantastic £1,847 with their 'Coach Seats for Causes' campaign, donating £1.00 for every seat booked on one of their tours during the summer. **Amy Holloway** and the team at **Clent Hills Veterinary Group** (Worcestershire) raised £163 with the sale of air fresheners. **Kerry Robinson-Payne** (Norfolk), just ending her term of office as Deputy Mayor of Great Yarmouth, chose us as one of her charities of the year and raised £500. **Dusty Miller** (Norfolk) wrote and sold a lovely book 'Words are Things', reflections on her life in verse and prose, to raise £500. **Leah Jones** and the team at **Monkton Elm Garden and Pet Centre** (Somerset) chose us as their charity of the year and raised a brilliant £600 in a variety of ways, including sale of a 'craft pack' featuring Cinnamon the Corgi! **Vets4Pets**, Street (Somerset) raised £100



Rosamund Bryer and Bailey

with their coffee and cake morning. **Sheila Walker** (Dorset) set up a sale table in her hallway with some unwanted Christmas and birthday gifts and raised £100 – great idea! **Barbara Tyler** (Berkshire) celebrated her 80th birthday and asked for donations in lieu of gifts, raising a fantastic £510 – her cat **Henry** was on her cake!



Orchard Vets cakes



St Richard's Festival



Alan Holmes with Evie, Geoff Weston and John Martin with Rosie enjoying a Maggie Martin event

Sue King (Norfolk) held a lovely coffee morning, everyone enjoyed a super get-together and raised £345.31. Another coffee morning – **Caroline Stevens** and everyone at **Orchard Vets** (Somerset) held theirs as part of their Senior Partners' (**Niall** and **Alison**) retirement celebrations and raised a terrific £430.18 with some delicious looking cakes! **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) has been a star again. She gave a talk to St Stephen's Women's Fellowship and sold some of our Trust goodies, had a stall at St Richard's Festival and gave a talk to Ledbury Ladies Welcome Club, to raise £300. She was helped by **Cathy McLeod**, **Jean** and **Chas Wesley**, **Kevin Leneghan** and **Pam Chadaway**. **Norma Iles** and the members of **Square Pegs** (Merseyside) raised £350 with their fundraising efforts. **Maggie Martin** (West Sussex) has been brilliant as usual with a variety of events!

With her helpers, she braved howling gales to serve some yummy soup at their 'Winter Warmer' event; held a lovely tea in **June Munro's** beautiful garden; Lamb to Loom's Coffee Morning was held in Maggie's local village hall and the team had a stall at East Preston Dog Show! A fantastic total of £960 was raised – help came from Maggie's husband **John**, **Jan Churchfield**, **Inge-Lise Newman**, **Janet Woodford**, **Mike Solomons**, **Judith Davis**, **Ann Ferris**,

Catherine Gear, **Sue Schiff**, **Sue and Richie Line**, **Alan and Gay Holmes**, **Geoff and Shirley Weston**, **Valerie Conway** and **Lorna Bolger**. **Jill Rasmussen** (Surrey) had a birthday meal with friends to celebrate her 'platinum jubilee', asked for donations instead of gifts and raised £80. **Jennifer Whitehorn** (Hampshire) and the members of her local club enjoyed a super bingo night and raffle and raised £273.50. Another birthday celebration – **Corrine Walton** (North Yorkshire) asked for donations instead of gifts and raised £275. **Veronica Toft**

(Cornwall) and the villagers of St Just in Roseland enjoyed a village film night and raised £148.10. **Jane Jackson** (Cornwall) and members of the **Friends of Minack Society**, which celebrates the wonderful works of Derek and Jeannie Tangye, raised £35. **Becky James** (Cornwall) and the team at **Imerys Minerals Ltd** held a post-Christmas raffle to raise a terrific £350. **Gail Palmer** and everyone at **Easter Hall Park Stables** (Devon) enjoyed a great dinner and dance, which included a raffle, and raised £101. **Joyce Shacklock** (Derbyshire) held a boat trip, with a raffle and delicious refreshments, on the beautiful Peak Forest canal and raised £186. **Anna Shapter** (Dorset) and fellow volunteers **Liz Tripp**, **Helen Johnston** and **Lisa Walder** had a stall at Weymouth beach for the big 'Doggy Walk' and raised £66. **Linda Curry** and **The Bourton Players** (Dorset) raised a dramatic(!!) £400 with their



The big doggy walk on Weymouth Beach

pantomime production. **Rachel Duncan** and the team at **387 Veterinary Centre** (Staffordshire) held a sale of delicious home-baking to raise £225. **Barry Bowden** (Norfolk) and his indoor bowling team came top of the 2nd division and chose to send us their cash prize of £100. **Louise Matlock** (Norfolk) has been making her fantastic handmade crackers once again to raise a terrific £457. **Angela Rampley** (Cambridgeshire) and everyone at **The East Cambs Planned Care Team** held a chocolate draw and sent us the year's profits of £100. **Margaret Pengelly** (Cornwall) held her ever-popular annual coffee evening and raised £36.20. **Corrine Walton** (North Yorkshire) and the organisers of **Richmondshire Animal Antics Charity Dog Show** raised £90. **Cherrill Holmes** (Essex) raised £35 at her local disabled club. **Laura Preston** (Cheshire) and fellow volunteer **Wendy Simmons** raised £7 on their stall. **Angela Harris** (Sussex) with help from **Jackie Gordon** and **Diane Croxford**, had a stall at the Bishopstone May Fayre and raised £195. **Phyl Willis** (Hertfordshire) knitted some cute Easter Egg Bunnies and raised £20. **Roz Walters** (Dorset) raised £137 with her stall and contents of her collection tin. **Wendy Ralphs**, **Cathy McLeod** and **Pamela Chadaway** (Worcestershire) had a table at their local 'Guide Dogs Go Walkies' event and raised £10.50. **Mike Griffiths** (Worcestershire) a zoopharmacognosy practitioner, gives presentations about his incredibly interesting



Phyl Willis's Easter bunnies



Carla Lane dog show entrants



Dorothy Ellis's stand



Alison Wheeler



Gaynor and friends with their cakes

work. He was given £60 at a recent engagement and sent this on to us. **Elaine Philpot** (Norfolk) sold catnip mice in her local shop and raised £15. **Paul Swannell** and the congregation of **West End United Church** (Buckinghamshire) enjoyed a lovely craft day and raffle, organised by **Jenny Royal**, and they raised £132.14. **Caroline Hendra**, **Pauline Grimes** and **Sylvia Cottle** (Lancashire) attended the West Lancashire Dog Show and the Carla Lane Dog Show and raised £155 on their stall. **Dorothy Ellis** (Norfolk) held a sale of her ever-popular baking plus a tombola to raise a terrific £600. **Dawn Riddle** (Bedfordshire) raised £250 at a super coffee morning in perfect weather, everyone enjoyed the delicious cakes! This is very touching. **Jan McLean** (Hampshire) one of our volunteers, walked a lovely Labrador, **Lollipop**, for **Moya Sims**. Sadly, both Lollipop and Moya have passed away and Jan attended some car book sales to raise £500 in their memory. **Sarah Franks** and everyone at **The Maltsters Arms** (Cornwall) enjoyed some terrific weekly quizzes to raise £211. **Mary Coleman** (Norfolk) was Deputy Mayor of Great Yarmouth until May and chose us as one of her charities for the year, members of the **ICCM Recycling of Metals Scheme** offered to make a contribution toward one of her charities. We were the very lucky recipients, and local volunteer **Dusty Miller** sent us their incredible £8,000! **Barbara Smith** (Norfolk) raised £200 at her wonderful coffee morning. Groomers '**The Dog House**' (Norfolk) raised £75. **Alison Wheeler** (Essex) raised £116.72 on her stalls. **Gaynor Latham** and **June Andrews** attended a lovely event in Llwynfedw Gardens with delicious cakes on sale, along with some fantastic knitted gifts by **The Woolly Wednesday Knitters'** group, good friends and good weather helped to raise £350. **Fay Fitch** (Norfolk) at **The Grooming Room** offered a 'pop-in' nail cutting service

and raised £106. **Zoe Mensing** (Dorset) raised £35.85 on her stall. **Julie Aris** (East Sussex) raised £250 from a terrific quiz night at Westham Village Hall and in lieu of gifts for her 60th birthday. **Sandra Mills** (Nottinghamshire) raised £10 with the sale of Christmas cards. **Huguette Savoie** (East Yorkshire) works at the Department of Chemistry, Hull University, and runs a 'Cake Club' featuring her very own home baking, everyone enjoyed her scrumptious goodies and she raised a terrific £472. **Stevie Taylor** (Pembrokeshire) and her husband **Vaughan, Gill Phillips** and **Nigel Cawdron**, raised £20.62 on their stall. **Sharon Marks** (East Sussex) and the **Community Service Fundraising Team** at **Brighton College** raised £45.80 on their Easter Egg hunt. **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) sold her yummy home-made dog biscuits to raise £41. **Marilyn** and **Tony Baker** (East Sussex) raised £50 at their beach hut plant sale. **Rev. Tom Pritchard** and everyone at **Mount Hawke Methodist Church** plus the members of the **Rotary Club of St Agnes & St Piran** (Cornwall) held a musical extravaganza. A great time was had by all and they raised a stonking £901. **Fiona Walsh** (West Sussex) raised £40 with her garage sale. **Gill** and **Rob Berry** (Cornwall) of the St John Inn in Torpoint raised £153 for us with a collection bottle at the bar and presented a cheque to volunteer **Mary Rogers** who walks **Joey** the Collie. **Carol** and **Brian Greening** (Tyne & Wear) held a coffee morning to raise £240 – **St Lawrence the Martyr church** kindly allowed the use of their hall for free! **Mady Gerrard** (Gwent) crochets wonderful blankets for the pets at our sanctuaries and when celebrating her recent birthday asked for donations in lieu of gifts and we have received £271.50 **Heather Watson** (Cheshire) works for **Airbags International Ltd**, they raised £70. **Diane Richards** (Norfolk), along with friends **June Banwell** and **Linda Massingham**, organised a quiz night at The Carpenters Arms in East Winch to raise £100. **The Rotary Club of Maldon** (Essex) held a fireworks display. Our volunteer, **Martin Reed**, was involved in the overall running of the event and the Club wished to express their thanks with a donation to a charity of Martin's choosing, Martin chose us and we received a fantastic £500. **Maggie Forbes-Buckingham** (Dorset) held a street collection in Sherborne and raised £140. **Jo Watton** tutors the music class at **Perton Middle School** (Staffordshire) they held a Summer Concert and raised £125. **Alexandra Rutherford** (Surrey) raised £140 on her stall at the Esher May Fair. **Lynne Lewis** (Torfaen) held a coffee morning plus a Bring & Buy sale and raised a brilliant



Stevie Taylor



Mary Rogers and Gill Berry



Ann Beard and customers

£338.28. **Elizabeth Stevens** (Devon) is Snowy Owl to her local Rainbows (pre-Brownies) group, they held a sponsored walk and raised £55. **Angela Dockery** and the customers of **The Old Plough** (Cornwall) enjoyed a quiz night and raffle and raised £53. **Ann Beard** (Dorset) had a stall at Durlston Dogs' Day and raised £45. Amanda Newton (Norfolk) raised £52 on her stall at Holcome Dog Show. **Pat Davies** (Glamorgan) sold some Cinnamon Trust goodies to raise £20. **The Phoenix Singers** (Glamorgan) chose us as one of their charities of the year in 2018 and raised a superb £325. **Marie Landau** (Devon) had one of our collection tins

and also sent us the tea/coffee donations from her book club members, a fantastic £500! **Dr Mark Battle** (Cornwall) chose us to receive the leaving collection organised by his work colleagues and sent us £130. **Diana Rowe** (Devon) raised £50 on her Bring & Buy stall. **Valerie-Jean Ehret** (Devon) held a delicious cream tea garden party, plant sale and raffle to raise £270. **The Companions of Emmaus Village Carlton** (Bedfordshire) a supported housing community, raised £250 with the work carried out in their social enterprises. The congregation of **St Mary's Church**, Quantoxhead (Somerset) enjoyed an Animal Blessing service and raised £100. **Joan Rivett** and **Chapelfield Knit and Natter group** (Norfolk) raised £100 at their gatherings. **Fleet & District Dog Training Society** have had another busy year with raffles, bring & buys, a quiz night, canine first aid and sale of club calendars to raise £270.59. **DJ Dog Training** (Wiltshire) raised £300. **Tiverton & District Canine Society** chose us as their charity of the year. They delivered a lovely parcel of toys and treats to the residents at our Hillside Sanctuary and raised £262 with two companion shows. **Gainsborough & District Dog Club** held a Christmas raffle and raised £22. **Exeter & County Canine Society** raised £76.50 with their stakes classes at their March and September open shows and selling odds and ends! **Swansea Dog Training Club** raised a terrific £500 for us with weekly raffles and sale of refreshments at their club nights. **The Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain** (Lancashire) raised £100. **Alpha Dog Training** (London) raised a fantastic £500. **North Dorset Canine Ringcraft**



CHeWs best in show - Cimba



CHeWs best veteran in show - Kai

raised £74 with their Christmas raffle. **Worcester Agility Society** raised £66 at their AGM raffle. **CHeWs Dog Training Club** (London) chose us as their charity of the year again.

They held quiz nights, raffles, dog shows and sales throughout the year and visited us at Crufts to present us with the stunning total raised of £3,386!

Southern Parson Russell Terrier Club (Oxfordshire) enjoyed a fun day (held on the only wet day in 2018's scorchers of a summer) and raised £100. **Bowow Dog Training Club** (Cornwall) raised £252. **Isle of Wight Dog Training Club** chose us as their Charity of the Year once again, volunteer **Natascha Nelson** attended a cheque presentation for a fantastic £1,000! **Itchen Valley Training Society** held a



CHeWs best puppy in show - Harry

number of different events during the year, including raffles, and raised £200. **South of England Airedale Terrier Club** (Buckinghamshire) raised £50. **The Dachshund Club** (Lincolnshire) raised a huge £500. **English Shetland Sheepdog Club** (Chilterns Branch) raised £100 with their Bring & Buy and cake stalls. **The Cocker Spaniel Club** (Wiltshire) chose us as their Charity of the Year for the second time and sent us a whopping £1,000. **The Norfolk Terrier Club of Great Britain** (West Yorkshire) raised £50. **The Wonky Dog Club** (Cheshire) enjoyed an Easter dog walking event, including a fairy pony trail, pop-up café and various stalls to raise £110. **Woodman Dog Obedience** (East Sussex) raised £100 at their annual show. **Eastern Counties Dachshund Association** (Lincolnshire) raised £25. **Harrogate Road Safety Dog Training Club** raised £200 from their puppy and basic training classes. **Hastings, St Leonards and East Sussex Canine Society** held a variety of fundraising events to raise a brilliant £450. **Medway Dog Training Club** held a quiz and raised a fantastic £600. **Felixstowe Dog Training Club** raised £250. **Folkestone Hythe and District Canine Society** raised £100, **Enfield Chase Dog Training Club** (London) sent us £150 they received from the Hertfordshire Heavy Horse Show as a thanks for arranging a display and the fun dog show.



Volunteer Views

This is a goodie to start with from **Caroline Gibson** in Kent:

"The Cinnamon Circle"

"I was reading The Folkestone Herald winter 2015 and saw an advert from The Cinnamon Trust asking for volunteers. I had just finished working as a carer for a gentleman of 95 who had passed away. So, I decided it was the perfect time for me to volunteer for you. I registered and started just before Christmas 2015. Your office phoned me and asked if I could help a lady named Audrey Small who was

living alone and was struggling with her little Jack Russell, Daisy. So, off I went to meet them both.

Audrey had been used to having dogs all her life and walking them herself, but was now unable to walk very far at all. I said I would help for as long as she needed me. I would pop round to see her often during the week and weekends, even walking Daisy on Christmas Day.

I then found a lovely job as a Home Help a year later, but still walked Daisy after work, if possible, and on Fridays. I loved Daisy and she was so excited to see me. We would walk down to Folkestone Harbour looking at the sea and boats, then some days we walked through the farm fields in Hawkinge where she lived. Great fun and great memories. I took this photo of Daisy in the farm field while she was looking at something with her hunting look on her face.



Daisy

Audrey and I became friends; we would chat about animals, go to the vets occasionally and she even came for a little drive in my car once or twice. She turned 90 and I sent her a card and popped round to see her.

One day I turned up at Audrey's house to collect Daisy for our normal Friday walk and her neighbour came out and said Audrey had been rushed to hospital. Daisy had been placed by The Cinnamon Trust with a lovely family who were looking

after her while Audrey was away. The lady looking after Daisy was a volunteer, and also named Caroline, so at least I knew she was safe.

A couple of days later, I went to the hospital to visit Audrey to see if she was ok and unfortunately she wasn't herself and had a major stroke that night. She passed away shortly afterwards. Luckily I had sat with her before she died and she told me that she was worried about Daisy. She held my hand and said "please make sure Daisy stays where she is with Caroline, she is happy there". So, I promised Audrey I would speak to The Trust and Caroline and make sure she was safe.

I spoke to The Cinnamon Trust and told them what Audrey's last words were and they asked if I would like to go and visit Daisy at her new home and do the home check for Caroline, which I did. When I walked in Daisy went mad, licking me and jumping all over me. Bless her! Caroline welcomed me, and I completed the home check form supplied by The Trust. I then left Daisy in her new home and left

the rest in the safe hands of The Cinnamon Trust to fulfil Audrey's last wish."

And **Caroline Auten** (also in Kent) Daisy's forever foster writes:

"Daisy first came to us in 2017 when her owner went into hospital. Our dogs welcomed her, after a few sniffs and sulks from one of our older dogs! She settled in very quickly, although we had to teach her not to chase our chickens, ducks and cats. Our Jack Russell, Alfie, immediately took a shine to her. This was especially expressed when she left to go back to her owner and he followed her to the car, protesting his unhappiness! We tried to get her to sleep downstairs with our other dogs but she was having none of it. Being slightly soft, we let her sleep upstairs with us, which she has done almost every night since we got her. We had a few short sleepovers with her, as her owner was back and forth into hospital.

In September 2017, her owner Audrey went back into hospital after being incredibly unwell and, sadly, Audrey died later that month. After a thorough home check by one of Daisy's walkers, also called Caroline, Daisy came to stay with us permanently. Alfie was delighted!

Daisy has settled in incredibly well, and has gone from being an only dog, to one of a pack. She is far more confident on walks, hopping through the long grass, sniffing out interesting smells, rolling in badger mess, enjoying a stroll down the garden in the sun (and rain), and standing up at the window when someone returns home or comes to visit.

Although training her not to chase the chickens, rabbit, guinea pigs, ducks, next door's cats, the budgie, and various wild birds that live nearby was difficult, we achieved it. Most importantly we worked on her recall, and she has become very responsive to it.

She spends most of her days in the garden keeping busy, following my mum around, and most evenings sleeping on the sofa, or taking herself to bed early.

We are incredibly grateful for her being allowed to come and live with us, and we love her as much as we love our other dogs.....which is a lot!"



Barbara Back writes from Suffolk:

"I have been a volunteer dog walker for The Cinnamon Trust for many years. About 13 years ago I was asked to walk a Cairn Terrier for an elderly gentleman with a heart condition. I was happy to do this, and I walked Jerry for a couple of years. One day, on visiting to take Jerry out, it was apparent that the owner was unwell,

so I called a doctor. The owner was hospitalised and I took Jerry home with me. Sadly, Jerry's owner died in hospital, and it was agreed with The Trust that Jerry should stay with me. Jerry and I had a wonderful time together and had many adventures spanning his remaining 9 years, before he left me aged 15+ years.

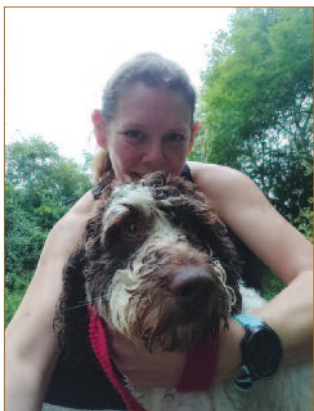
One of his enduring legacies was a friendship that was made through him and dog walking. We used to walk in a wonderful Victorian cemetery, where we would meet Sara and her Welsh Terrier called Gryff. As we walked and talked we became firm friends. Before Jerry passed, we were separated by circumstances leaving Sara in Birmingham whilst Jerry and I were in Suffolk. This did not however dim the friendship, but resulted in much travel to each other's houses for regular visits. Sara is a crazy dog lady like me, and since we have known each other we attend Crufts together every year and we help out on the 'Discover Dogs' section. Jerry was too old then to take an active part, but I would promote Welsh Terrier ownership with the aid of Sara and Gryff.

There are many benefits to being a volunteer dog walker for The Trust, however without The Trust and my having Jerry, I would never have met one of my dearest friends and have the pleasure of looking forward to a lifelong friendship. Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust for giving me such a wonderful gift."



Rachel McQuillam sends this view from Oxfordshire:

"I've been volunteering with The Cinnamon Trust since about 2007 and in that time have enjoyed walking six dogs. I am still in touch with one of the owners whose precious Jack Russell, Billy, kept us all amused right up until he sadly had to be put to sleep about four years ago. The Cinnamon Trust brought Olive, his owner, into my life and for that I will always be grateful as I am proud to count her now as a very dear friend.



Rachel and Buddy

My current charge, Buddy, is the youngest one yet and so is up there as one of the most energetic. He absolutely loves going out, meeting other dogs and humans. He especially loves children and I'm pretty sure he thinks they are other, bigger dogs! His favourite things seem to be running - anywhere, anyhow but at top whack speed wherever possible; paddling in the stream, especially if there's some thick, black mud he can get involved with and gate crashing people's picnics/BBQs/quiet dates (obviously that's the most embarrassing for me!). Luckily, everyone seems to see how super cute he is and let him off. I try and walk

him around three times a week, maybe twice after work, and then we go exploring for longer on a Sunday. I'm getting to know some of the beautiful footpaths and villages which we are so lucky to have here in West Oxfordshire and have been enjoying some sunny five milers with him. He's also enabled me to discover that you can run with a dog and he has been on a few 5k jogs with me and seems to love that too - when we do the same route, walking rather than jogging, he always seems to be wondering why he has to wait for me to catch-up!

His owner is grateful because she was worried he was putting on weight and she wants him to have the walks he loves, but is unable to take him herself.

The Cinnamon Trust is absolutely fantastic and I am forever explaining about it when I am out with Buddy, to my family and friends and to colleagues. I managed to inspire at least one other person to get involved, and he just messaged me today with a photo of the dog he is walking in Bristol!"



From Warwickshire, the **Madden family** say:

"My two daughters, (Mae 12, Tilly 7) and I, have recently become volunteers for The Cinnamon Trust and we are all enjoying every minute.

Their father, my husband, passed away 2 years ago from cancer at the age of 45 which has been a challenging and sad time for us as a family. I wanted to try and make sure we spend time together doing different things and this included helping others. The girls are desperate to have a dog in our family, but I work full-time so that is not an option.

Therefore, I suggested volunteering and our first assignment was for a gentleman called Alan and his gentle giant, Barney. We now walk Barney once a week which helps his owner who is unable to walk him due to health problems, as well as helping us as a family. He is already getting to know us and anticipates us walking him. He is a large dog, and strong, but he settles into the walking quickly and Mae loves taking the lead - as you can see from the picture.



Thank you, Cinnamon Trust".



Linda Ling writes from Norfolk:

"I started walking Mitzi and Carla for Renate about 6 years ago. As always, when you start a new walk, you never know what to expect when you first knock on the door.



Carla and Mitzi

On this occasion, I found a very tall (6') German lady with a very strong character, who clearly had mobility problems caused by severe arthritis in her hips. She had taken her two dogs on from the RSPCA where they had ended up after being dumped by the people who owned them, as they were no longer suitable to use for breeding

purposes. They left them tied to a fence in the middle of nowhere when they moved on.

On that first walk, Renate asked me to take the dogs to a particular wooded area that I was not familiar with, but she told me to let Carla have a long lead and to just follow her as she would guide me, and that is exactly what happened.

We became good friends, our mutual love of dogs being at the centre of that friendship.

For the first year, I used to walk the dogs 3 or 4 times a week. I was totally besotted by Mitzi and Carla and wanted to do my best for them. Later on, two other walkers arrived, and I cut my walks down to twice a week.

Not long after I started walking, Renate expressed concern over the welfare of Mitzi and Carla should anything happen to her, as she felt that her executors would not be sympathetic. By that time, another operation was looming (under a general anaesthetic), and this was clearly worrying her. On my next visit, I decided to mention The Cinnamon Trust's Pet Profiling Scheme, and I left her to think about it.

Lo and behold, when I next visited she had picked up this idea and run with it. She had spoken to The Cinnamon Trust and the relevant forms were in the post to her. The forms arrived, were completed and I found myself running to catch the last post with them on the eve of her operation, so that they were in The Trust's hands the next day - how wise that was!

The years went by, and my friend Carol started to join me on my walks which meant we could often take my own dog, Dottie, with us so that we all walked together.

Last summer, it became clear that Renate was unwell and she was sent to the

hospital for tests. Carol and I accompanied her on many of her hospital visits and we were with her when she got the cancer diagnosis. A major operation followed, which she seemed to handle well, but sadly cancer has a habit of coming back.

To cut a long story short, Renate became very unwell towards the end of May and telephoned us in some distress. We went to her house and it was clear we needed to call an ambulance, which duly arrived and took her to hospital. I promised her there and then that I would keep the dogs safe but she would not let the ambulance leave until she had taken our hands and said “thank you”. I knew then that I had to get the dogs to safety, so Carol and I took them to a friend’s kennels that Renate used whenever she had hospital stays. We both knew Andrea, the owner, and knew she would love and care for them.

Renate died the following week, we were able to get to the hospital twice to see her and were there with her in her final hours. The hearing is the last sense to go, and knowing this we were able to get right up close to her ear and tell her the dogs were safe and happy and that they were going to live at Poldarves Sanctuary in Cornwall. You could see then almost immediately that she relaxed, her breathing changed and she died that evening.

Renate’s dogs are now living happily at Poldarves Farm, I have received lots of updates and photos of them and I can see that they are loved and being cared for. The Cinnamon Trust have been wonderful in the way they have treated these two little sweeties; Renate would be so pleased she made that decision to profile them. It was the right decision, and I am just glad that I was able to guide her in that direction.

We miss all three of them greatly.”

PS – Mitzi and Carla both star on our Christmas card this year.



Another “before sanctuary”, this time from **Pauline Giddings** in Kent:

“David, my husband, and I have been walking dogs for The Cinnamon Trust for many years but it was just over 5 years ago that Tilly came into our lives. David was asked if he could trial walk Tilly as she was a new dog to the charity and being a fair size, a German Shepherd/Labrador cross, they wanted him to check her out to see how well she walked on the lead, what she was like with children and other dogs etc. To cut a long story short, David was smitten and so we both walked her the following week. From that day on we walked Tilly practically every weekend, sharing her with another volunteer who walked her during the week.

It was a half hour drive to pick up Tilly, but we felt she was worth it as she was an absolute delight. At that stage she lived with Fred, who was in poor health and pretty much restricted to his bed, so Tilly, as you can imagine, was excited beyond belief when her walkers turned up. After greeting us enthusiastically, she would then roll onto her back for a vigorous tummy rub, all part of what became her routine. It would then be an energetic walk to a grassy area at the end of Fred's road where she would do her business, and then settle down and walk with us to some lovely, local woods.

Tilly was about 10 years old when we met her, originally being rescued by Fred and his late wife when she was 2 or 3, but we always referred to her as an overgrown teenager. She's so full of life and energy and lapped up all the fuss we made of her. Her most favourite game, however, is 'fetch'. She has her favourites to fetch – rubber bones, small sticks, enormous sticks, but never balls; she just never wanted to stop! Even at the age of 15 she still wants to play constantly, but with arthritis developing in her back legs we had to restrict her fun a little – much to her disdain. Her other favourite game, in the woods, was chasing squirrels. Luckily she never 'fetched' any of these!

In December 2017 Fred sadly passed away but, luckily, his loyal sister Val, who lived just over the road, took Tilly into her home and Tilly then had to live with a cat. Suffice to say Tilly had most of the bungalow and Pippa, the cat, got restricted to a bedroom. That way, they managed to live together in relative peace. We all carried on walking Tilly until just over 2 months ago when Val was taken into hospital and Tilly and Pippa were moved into kennels and cattery. We all hoped this would be a very temporary arrangement until Val moved back home but, sadly, this was not the case.

We felt so sad thinking about Tilly being in kennels. We were advised by them not to visit as she was apparently coping well, but a visit by us would more than likely distress her considerably. It was heart breaking. The Cinnamon Trust felt the same and, to cut a long story short, when it became apparent that Val would not be going home, Tilly left the kennels!



Dave with Tilly at Hillside

Her forever home is an amazing place called Hillside Farm, The Cinnamon Trust's sanctuary in South Devon. As soon as we heard Tilly had a place there, and that it was just a matter of arranging her transport, we unanimously agreed to drive her ourselves from Kent to Devon the very next day; well, I have to admit, David did most of the driving! It may sound an unselfish act but we had been suffering from Tilly withdrawal

symptoms and were only too pleased when The Cinnamon Trust agreed we could drive her to her new home.

We were thrilled to see her again and, as we expected, Tilly was a brilliant back seat passenger, just demanding the odd head scratch now and then and a few stops to stretch her legs and relieve herself. We arrived at Hillside Farm early in the afternoon and were greeted by Julie, the manager, and her many other lovely members of staff who work there looking after dogs, cats, birds and ponies. Tilly was introduced to her new housemates – 12 of them – ranging in size from a Dachshund to a Bull Mastiff. Other dogs never fazed Tilly and so she was quite happy to say hello and, keeping an eye on us, explore her new surroundings.

Hillside Farm is a retirement home for animals set in the fabulous Devon countryside with acres of land and a purpose-built building where Tilly and her new friends can wander around with complete freedom. It has to be seen to be believed and I'm not sure I can do this wonderful place justice, but I'll try. Inside, it is spotlessly clean with rugs on the floor, countless beds and sofas, with lovely, soft brightly coloured blankets, water bowls everywhere, toys galore and even ramps to help our short-legged friends reach their chosen sofa. A door, left open, leads to a garden so the dogs can go out at any time and, beyond that, a spacious area of land where staff take the dogs to exercise. Tilly soon found herself a sofa, covered in a lovely soft purple blanket, and seemed quite settled until warm, freshly cooked, chicken lured her off.

We made our exit whilst Tilly was enjoying her lunch – yes they have 3 meals a day these lucky dogs, and all home cooked – and although we will miss her terribly we feel so lucky to have had her in our lives for those years. We are very grateful to The Cinnamon Trust as she will now live out the rest of her life in a wonderful place where we know she will get the very best of care and attention, which she so deserves.

She very quickly found a place in our hearts and I'm sure she will do the same for many who work at Hillside Farm."



This is fun! **Stuart Gough** writes from Cambridgeshire:

"My musings on Juno.

Let me admit straight away that German Shepherds are not my favourite dog breed.

I am a retired teacher, and as part of a school display some years ago I agreed to

allow myself to be chased (well protected) by a guard dog from the local prison (Health and Safety? What Health and Safety?). The general feeling amongst the students was that I didn't run very far, or very fast, and gave in far too easily. It was almost as if they wanted to see me brought down and pinned to the floor.

Oddly, some of the staff expressed similar disappointment.



So, when Liz phoned and suggested I might like to foster Juno for three weeks, I was a little apprehensive. Liz was at pains to point out that Juno was 'big, very big, but gentle, very gentle'. My own last dog was a Staffie (another dog with an entirely undeserved bad reputation) and on speaking to Juno's neighbour, who had known him from a pup, I was told that he was 'big, very big, but gentle, very gentle'. I was beginning to get the picture.

When he was brought to my house (my car was far too small) I realised that Liz and the neighbour had a rather limited vocabulary. Did they not know the words enormous and massive? He was big, very big. Happily he was also gentle, very gentle.

I sometimes look after a friend's two Labradors, Laurel and Shilling. Comparisons are interesting. The Labradors have their main meal at 6pm, and from about 4.30pm they try to persuade me that my clock is slow; has stopped; that I didn't change it to summer time, or that a shift in the space time continuum means that it's way past tea time. The moment I approach their bowls, they follow my every move and can't wait to be fed. A very hurried 'wait, good girls, OK.' before they dive in means that I keep some shred of credibility of being in charge.

Juno, on the other hand, showed no interest in his food and would, I'm sure, have waited forever to be told to eat. In one respect however, all three dogs were similar - hair! You hear of owners knitting coats out of dog hair. I didn't go that far, but the local bird population will have had very cosy nests this year.

Happily, Juno's owner came out of hospital, and they were reunited before I had to go away, so another foster home was not needed.

Did Juno change my mind about German Shepherds? Partly, but only if they have the same training as he has had.

Would I do tickle tums with the prison dog? Same answer."

And Joyce Pluck, Juno's mum who is 93 says:

"When I joined The Cinnamon Trust quite a few years ago, I never thought I'd have to call on it like I did as I never expected this to happen to me - I broke my leg and had to go into hospital. I was worried about Juno, as he is not everyone's choice due to his size. I mentioned it to my friend who got in touch with The Cinnamon Trust for me, and she thinks you did a marvellous job to find someone to take him on. We were impressed with how thorough you were with getting details about Juno and his character etc. It is very, very reassuring.

The updates on Juno when I was in hospital really helped. When I came home from hospital, I was concerned Juno would be overexcited, but when he came home he strolled in, made a little whimper and licked my hand. After an hour it seems he realised he was home, relaxed, and has become my shadow more than ever.

I think The Cinnamon Trust do a fantastic job. I've belonged to many animal charities over the years, but The Cinnamon Trust is the exception. You know your dog will not be in a kennel, which if they are not used to can be distressing for them.

I have recommended The Cinnamon Trust to many people. I cannot thank you enough. Absolutely marvellous. "



Sara Quinlan in Greater Manchester writes a great view!

"Well there I was fully registered, and approved, by The Cinnamon Trust with an ID card and ready to go when I got a call to action!

I leapt into action like something out of 'International Rescue' and hot-footed it to Flixton to fetch Vita. Well, actually I waited for my husband to come home from the gym and asked if I could use his car.

Vita's dad, Peter, had been taken ill the day the before and ended up in hospital. He had tried to tell the staff there about Vita at home alone, but the staff were busy and no one took the trouble to listen to him until the following day, by which time poor Vita had been alone for 24 hours. Had Vita been a vulnerable human, this may have made headlines of the local paper, but that's a whole other story and I'll settle for the newsletter.

Anyway, Vita already had a Cinnamon Trust walker who she was comfortable with, and although Wendy was not able to look after her at home this time, she was



good enough to go to Peter's house and wait with Vita until I could get there. I arrived and swept Vita up into the car and took her to the other side of Manchester before she had time to register what was happening. We got home in the dark and snow so poor, disorientated Vita had a mooch around the garden in this strange white stuff she hadn't seen before, full of strange smells of other dogs and hedgehogs (yes, mine have visited throughout winter this year). She must have thought she was on another planet.

Vita had a lot to contend with as I have two dogs of my own, so rather than two dogs ignoring each other and each wishing they were an only dog, there were three. After a sniff around and reassuring herself that my two were no threat, she lay down on the rug and had a little sob. I swept her up for a snuggle on my knee and suddenly it didn't seem too bad for her. Heks, my Dutch Herder (yes, it is the Dutch name for 'witch', and she is thoughtfully named), and Gary-Baldy, my hairless Chinese Crested, gave Vita a sense of routine and reassurance and she was happy to settle down to sleep in the kitchen overnight as part of the gang.

We spent the following few days walking in the local countryside, playing in the snow, swimming in the stream (well, Vita did), and sitting in the local dog friendly pub - OK that last one was more for me. All of these were new experiences for Vita, and full of exciting smells and treats and new friends. She had her moments of missing her dad and would have a little sob, but a snuggle was a useful distraction and she would quickly settle down again (with a smug glance at my dogs confirming that she had prime position of 'the knee'). It seemed like Vita had always been part of the family.

After a week I had a call that Peter was home and ready for Vita to be returned. "But it's only been a week" I wailed..... "We've planned a route for tomorrow"

I took Vita home that day. She was so excited when I got her out of the car on her driveway, and when Peter opened the door I saw both of them light up; it was quite moving to see such a bond between them. I knew that whilst I had been fun for Vita and a change of scene, she loved and truly belonged to her dad.

I updated Peter about our adventures and learnt a little about him. I discovered I had met a lovely gentleman who owned a lovely dog. At one point whilst we chatted, Vita came and sat to attention next to me. Peter asked if I had been training her, but I had to admit that I just had a pocket full of Aldi air-dried sausage!

Later, as I drove away, I felt a little smug and privileged that for a short moment I

was part of their special relationship and it was because of me, and all at The Cinnamon Trust, that they could stay together.

I wonder if I could get a blue light for my car in anticipation of the next call.....”



In Lancashire **Margaret Holmes** cared for Greyhound Lucy for a bit, she writes:

“Joan was admitted to hospital a few weeks ago and she was very poorly. I arranged to collect Lucy a couple of days before she was admitted because Joan was too ill to get up and let Lucy out. The following Monday, after Joan had been in hospital for three days and not seen Lucy for nearly a week, I received a phone call from the hospital asking if I'd take Lucy for a visit. My heart hit my feet, I feared the worse but I agreed..

Later that day we arrived as arranged and Joan was asleep. The nurse gently woke her, the look on her face was a picture, and I swear it was seeing Lucy that started her back on the road to recovery.



Joan and Lucy

Over the next week, we visited together another three times. On the last visit, Joan's face said it all when we walked in - she was back on her feet on the ward. A couple of days after this she was allowed home, but was still very weak so I kept Lucy for another week or so until she was able to cope again. Lucy is an absolute dream to look after and gets on with my two dogs, Heidi and Hollie, and my cat, Joey. Lucy's now been back home for almost 2 weeks and it's great to see her and her mum back together again. “



Barbara and **Hugh Peddie** in Dorset are caring for The Two Hollies while their owner is in hospital:

“We first looked after the two Hollies a few months ago, when their owner was admitted to hospital and their usual foster carer, the lovely Sally, was going on holiday and needed cover for looking after the girls.

Holly 1 is a beautiful little Sheltie, and Holly 2 is a gorgeous tiny Terrier. They love belly



rub and curling up on rugs near peoples' feet for maximum comfort. When in active mode, Holly 2 chases tennis balls, and Holly 1 chases her.

They both enjoy a walk, trotting along and then screeching to a halt and having a good sniff. The Cinnamon Trust are great at keeping in touch, asking about how the dogs are doing, and giving updates on progress as to when they might be able to go home. We sadly lost our own dog, Riley the black Labrador, on 13 June this year, and the planned visit of the two Hollies has been a welcome distraction.

It is such a pleasure to have the company of dogs who need help and support whilst their owners are temporarily unable to look after them. We know that if we cannot help with a short term foster, then that is not a problem for The Trust, but it is always great to be able to say we can take a dog or two into our home for a while. The Hollies are great company and full of personality. We hope that their owner will be well enough to have them home soon, but we will miss them when they go."



Zoey Cope in Hampshire writes:



Poppy and family and fosters

"Our beautiful Weimaraner Poppy is very sociable with other dogs and loves children. She lives at home with us, mum and dad, and 4 brothers and sisters - Chloe age 16, Chris age 14, Kyla age 5 and Kameron age 4. Poppy loves cuddles and human interaction, walks in the woods and playing fetch. We call Poppy our human dog as she even sits at the dining room table on the chair alongside us!

We approached The Cinnamon Trust to help us look for a foster place as our youngest son has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. He has been an inpatient at either Pam Brown in Southampton General hospital or Starfish Ward in Queen Alexandra hospital in Portsmouth. But we still needed to come to hospital at least twice a week for his chemotherapy and monitoring as a day patient

In short, we were facing a few months of the unknown as we didn't know how frequently Kameron would need his chemotherapy; it all depended on how he responded to treatment in the weeks to come. So, we desperately needed help to find Poppy a caring family to help care for her while we go through this unknown period. The Cinnamon Trust did a Facebook appeal and within a week Poppy was in her foster home with wonderful people who had another Weimaraner, called Luke. We were so grateful and had no hesitation about leaving Poppy with them

which was such a relief.”

Volunteer **Karen Kelly** in Berkshire takes over the story:

“It was a regular Thursday afternoon when I saw an appeal pop up on my private messenger from another of my doggie friends. It was an appeal from The Cinnamon Trust looking for a foster home for a young Weimaraner bitch, Poppy. I had not heard of The Trust before, but felt immediately that we should reach out and offer some support to this young family. Having owned Weimaraners for over 25+ years and also having been engaged in a lot of rescue activities previously, including fostering for the breed, my husband and I were happy to offer our support and experience.

After doing some investigating into The Cinnamon Trust and feeling very comfortable with their work and achievements, we emailed The Trust offering our help and support. The response was immediate and very professional. We had a home visit from a member of The Trust on the Saturday. The home visit was very thorough and clearly the objective was to ensure our home environment would be suitable for Poppy.

Poppy arrived the following Monday and she was brought to us by her family. We were delighted to meet the family who would be entrusting us with her care for the foster period. Poppy and Luke, our own Weimaraner of almost 13 years of age, got on immediately. It has also brought a spark to the eye of our boy after losing our last bitch, Lizl, two years ago - she was 13 years of age. We felt very privileged to have Poppy stay with us. She integrated amazingly well, enjoyed her group walks with all of the other local dogs in the woods and surrounding countryside here in West Berkshire, and was an absolute joy to have around us.

The Cinnamon Trust have been amazing. We have regular contact from our dedicated co-ordinator to make sure all is ok, and out of hours contact details if there are any problems at all. All in all, I cannot sing the praises of The Cinnamon Trust more highly. A lovely charitable trust, very professional and doing great work for those most in need.”



Trevor Richardson in Cumbria cared for Toby when owner Alan Moore went in to hospital. Sadly we now know that Alan won't be going home, so Toby will stay with Trevor. Here's Trevor's view:

“Toby arrived on a Sunday in August and was brought here by friends of the owner, Mr Moore. I



suppose it was a change of environment for Toby after having lived in Barrow in Furness.

This was a learning curve for both of us as my only experience was with Labradors, mostly ex Guide dogs or gun dogs, and here I was faced with a Shih Tzu. My first thoughts were what were my friends going to say when they first saw me with Toby after years of just having large dogs? To save face would I only be able to go out at night?

Together, we faced up to it and we went on my normal walks and, before I knew it, Toby became known by lots of other 'dog walkers'. I was warned by the people that brought him not to let him off his lead as he would run off. But, after a while, I asked my walking friend did he think we could catch him if he did run away. He said "I'm no use as I have a bad leg". I thought "I can't be walking a dog in this lovely area and keeping him on a lead". So, I dropped the lead and as he got a few yards ahead I spoke his name and he stopped. So, I picked up the lead and walked on a short way before I took the lead off altogether and he's never had it on since. Then there was the question could he be trusted to be left in the house if we went out, so we left him for a short while and he was just pleased to see that we came back.

He loves running in the long grass which in places is twice his height and I'm sure he feels he's playing 'peek-a-boo' with me. By this time, he was used to traveling in the car, he sits in the back seat and looks between the front seats to watch the road ahead. He is now used to meeting lots of other dogs, most he will bark at when he first meets them and as I don't understand "doggie" language I don't know what he's saying - but it can't be aggressive as other dogs take no notice of him! If any do get close he will come and stand behind me, he has no aggression whatsoever, but he is a bit nervous in some situations then he will retreat and stand behind me.

Every day we walk the Railway Walk and at times we do the Poetry Walk, (he's like me and finds it hard to understand it) but the huge rocks that have these inscriptions carved in them are nice to climb on. Each of these twelve rocks depicts a month in the farmer's year and, as well as the poetry, there is a tiny carving of a farmer carrying out some task for that month. Lots read the large inscription and miss the small carvings. Toby sees them as a 'watering post' if he hasn't run dry before that.

I'm sure Toby feels at home here. I only wish he wasn't such a fussy eater, having had Labradors which can and will eat at any time! Toby is finding other tastes which are probably new to him, and he certainly knows how to ask for more when he finds one that he likes. Toby gave me a very good reference and he's going to stay with me!"

From Somerset, **Mike England** writes:

“On Sunday we said goodbye to Lexi when we took her to her new permanent home in Devon.

Lexi, a six and a half year old Boxer arrived here in Wells on 3 October, our fifth Cinnamon Trust short term foster dog this year (plus one cat). She was a bit sad looking, underweight with an obviously bad eye and a bit smelly! She had a plastic bed but no bedding, a couple of small toys, some helpful notes from her previous owner's daughter (now back home in Canada) and six pages from her previous vets listing her ailments and allergies. There was also a lead, a lovely coat, food and some food dishes.



We gave her some food, which she gobbled down and we settled down to read the vets notes. There was not a lot that she was not allergic too, grain of any sort, chicken and all sorts of meat. All the treats we had bought in readiness were no go. Down to the pet shop for fish based ones.

Over the next couple of days. Lexi settled in, enjoyed her short walks and was so good that we could let her off the lead when away from the roads. Always friendly with other dogs and she even ignored cats, until they ran!

The Cinnamon Trust told us to take her to the local vets for a MOT! Underweight, yes, skin problems, paw problems, ear problems and the eye. A photo was taken and sent to a specialist who asked to see her. An appointment was made and off we trekked to Newton Abbot, eighty miles away. An operation was needed - at least it was done on the same day, but we had to hang around for six hours. Takeaway pizzas for tea!

A second visit was required for a check-up ten days later, and would you believe that on the way back we got stuck behind a traffic collision on the M5 between Wellington and Taunton. Nothing moved for nearly an hour.

In the meantime, we continued with Lexi's various treatments. Her medicine box would not have looked out of place in a chemists shop. I can say that in the mornings it took twenty minutes to administer everything and in all this time Lexi just sat there, completely uncomplaining, except for the cream in the ears. She did not really appreciate that.

We had by now taught Lexi how to climb stairs and enticed her into the shower for a shampoo. Smell - virtually gone

We went back to the local vets for a check-up. It made us both very pleased by the praise she gave us for the vast improvements in Lexi's condition. Yes, some treatments will continue, but we ourselves knew that she was becoming a lively, sometimes boisterous, Boxer. Walks got longer and she would seek out other dogs to play with - even if they were only little Yorkshire Terriers!

In the house she wants to know what is going on, but is a wonderful sleeper. She can be left whilst we are out shopping, or walking another two dogs for The Cinnamon Trust.

She has become a lovely, loving, friendly and trustworthy dog. We were extremely sad to see her go, but her new Long Term Fosterers will have a wonderful and loyal pet who, when the mood takes her, is full of mischief and a bundle of fun who will bounce up and down with all four paws off the ground. Oh yes, she has put on a couple of kilos too."



We have 895 pets in lifelong foster homes, let's catch up with a few.

First, **Pebbles** in Yorkshire with **Victoria Gatenby**.



Victoria, Sophie and Pebbles

"Our relationship with Pebbles started in the summer of 2017. Pebbles was already being walked by a volunteer from The Cinnamon Trust but her dad, Peter, needed more help. The Cinnamon Trust contacted me and asked if I could help. Pebbles lived 20 minutes away, so I offered to go over on a Saturday morning with my daughter, Sophie, and give her a walk.

Pebbles is a Kerry Blue terrier and was 11 years old when I met her. She was a bit on the cuddly side, to say the least. The walks we went on were very slow and, being a stubborn old lady, could take quite a while. Peter was really grateful to us for taking her and she looked forward to our visits. I tried to persuade Peter that sausages for breakfast every morning might not be the best thing for Pebbles, but he insisted that she liked them very much, and with her mum in a home, felt that it would be unfair not to let her have her daily treat.

In September my life got very hectic and I had to stop going to walk Pebbles for

a while, but kept in touch with her other walkers to see how she was doing. At the beginning of December, I got a phone call to say that Peter had had a fall and needed Pebbles to go into temporary foster care. I assured my husband that it would be for no more than a week, and went over to collect Pebbles from Peter's son, who was staying with her until he could get sorted out.

Unfortunately, Peter wasn't able to care for Pebbles after his fall and moved into a care home that couldn't take pets. He did however join his wife Ruth in the care home which was nice for them both. I offered to have Pebbles as a permanent foster. My husband was a bit reluctant to start with, but now loves her as much as anyone.

We got Pebbles' health issues sorted and she quickly lost 10kg. Her energy levels increased and she started to enjoy longer walks, when the weather was to liking! She likes to put her nose out first to check she approves, and if she doesn't, she turns paw and goes back to bed.



Peter and Ruth with Pebbles

The other thing she had to get used to was our elderly cat, Milo. She thought he might be fun to chase until she got a couple of whacks around the nose. A year on and they sleep on the sofa together, though Milo does occasionally like to lie in wait for her and then pounces, just to see her scarper.

Every couple of months we like to go and visit Peter and Ruth, and their joy at seeing Pebbles is very moving. She goes to one of the other volunteer dog walkers, Dee in Darlington, if we are going away and goes walking with her old dog friends.

Our lives are so much richer for having Pebbles. I have made lots of new friends from our walks and she always gets a huge welcome in our local care home when I pop in to see my old neighbour. She's very much part of our family and I'm not sure what we did without her.

The Trust has been so supportive and provides all her medication and supplements. I would recommend a long term foster to anyone; it's a very fulfilling role."



Rosie Earl in County Durham writes:

"Poppy and Harley came to live with me back in September as their owner had passed away.



Poppy

Poppy wasn't keen on me at first. She spent a long time hiding under the sofa and the kitchen table, only emerging for food, and sitting on the sofa bed in my spare room. She didn't like being fussed or petted.

Sadly, It wasn't long before we suffered a tragic loss.

Harley died from a collapsed lung six weeks after they came to live with me, and Poppy really struggled without her little brother. I had another cat, Ace, and adopted a kitten, as I had room in my heart and home for three cats, and Poppy coped very well with the new addition - although

she doesn't always appreciate that she has to share the food!

Now, Poppy is much more of a fussy diva. She sleeps next to me on my bed most nights, and knows when it's time to wake me up for breakfast (with a husky meow or a paw to the face!) She loves being groomed and having her tummy tickled. Her favourite place to sit is on the kitchen window sill, enjoying the sunshine and telling off the birds in the back garden.

I am so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for their help with both Poppy and Harley. Harley was a lovely, brave boy and got poorly and passed away so quickly, but The Trust was there for me and very supportive. Also, Poppy and Harley were my first cats, and I was given lots of fantastic advice to help me as a new cat mum.

I hope Poppy and I will have many lovely years together, sharing ham slices, sitting in the sunshine and having our tummies tickled (the last one is mostly Poppy!) I would recommend fostering through The Cinnamon Trust to anyone, as you not only get a beautiful, loving pet, but also a lot of support when you need it most."

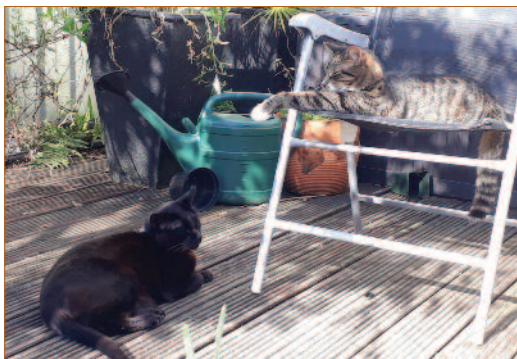


Ebony and **Jim** are enjoying life in Cornwall with **Claire Broadhurst**:

"I have been a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust for several years as a dog walker. This gives me the opportunity to spend time with the animals I love without the commitment. I find it so rewarding to be of assistance to their owners to ensure they are able to keep their well-loved pet in their homes.

When our last cat (at the grand old age of 19) sadly passed away, we weren't initially looking to take any more animals on. However, fate had other ideas. I saw

a post on Facebook requesting a foster home for two cats aged 2 and 17 in Chorley, Manchester. Although this caught my eye, due to them being 300 miles away from me in Cornwall, I dismissed the idea. Two weeks later a further plea was made as the cats were in urgent need and this time it stated that if the right home was found they would be transported anywhere in the country. I showed



their photos to my husband and the rest, as they say, was history. Two weeks later, a man arrived at my door and said "I hope you are expecting two cats" and in came Ebony and Jim.

Ebony was the 17 year old and was inquisitive from the start. He is a real lap cat and after a couple of days was happily sat on my husband's knee. This is much to my husband's delight when it is his turn to wash up, as he will declare he can't possibly disturb Ebony! Ebony had some health problems when he arrived but our lovely vets were able to assist and now his daily medication keeps him happy and healthy. The Cinnamon Trust covering vet bills certainly helps! Apart from an occasional stroll round his neighbourhood to check all is well, Ebony likes nothing more than snoozing in the sun or on the nearest lap, that is apart from the daily licky-lix treat that he very vocally insists on!

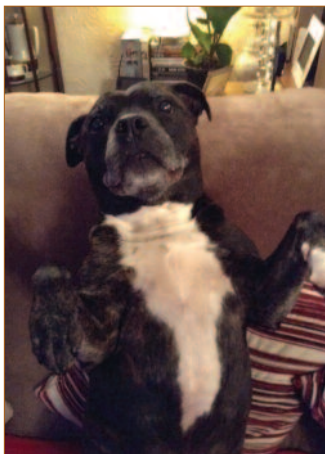
Jim came from the same household as Ebony, but we were told that he was a very timid and shy cat and we were preparing for it take several months for us to win over his trust. However, in only a few weeks he was charging round the house and sitting next to us on the settee. Jim is now a very content and confident cat who, after starting life as a city cat, has adapted to his countryside surroundings very well. Some would say too well as he unfortunately gets a bit too close to the wildlife. He has brought us many presents, including a bat which luckily was only slightly injured and so, after a call to the bat protection people, a man in his bat mobile collected it to nurture it back to full health and release it. Jim is quite a cuddly cat now and loves to sleep on our bed with us every night; unfortunately he takes up far too much room which leaves my husband and I clinging on for dear life, but we wouldn't dream of moving him!

Ebony and Jim have been with us for two and half years now and they have brought a lot of joy and happiness to our lives. It has been so lovely to see Ebony now healthy and Jim so content. It is such a rewarding experience to give these two previously well-loved cats a home. Their owner passed away before she knew they had come to us, but for many owners I am sure it is a huge comfort to know loving homes are found for animals in these circumstances. The Cinnamon Trust

provide an amazing service which I don't think is recognised enough and I am proud to be part of it."



Busa, also in Cornwall, is with **Sheila Clemo**.



"Busa is a Staffordshire Bull Terrier and he came to us 9 years ago at the age of 2 years. He belonged to a young lady called Zoe who was living in Peterborough, who also had a 2-year-old son. Sadly, Zoe had cystic fibrosis and was given only weeks to live. At that time my husband Dave and myself were grieving the loss of our beautiful Bull Terrier bitch; she was pure white, gorgeous, loving and our pride and joy. She died suddenly at the age of 12 years, yet so active the day before. After she was taken from us, we vowed not to have any more dogs. I'd had dogs all of my life but at that time being 68 (and my husband 71) we thought it best not to have any more dogs. This left me feeling lost, so went out and bought a hamster.

The family kept on to us to have another dog as they couldn't imagine us without one. I kept saying no, and whatever will be will be. Strangely, at that time, there was an advert asking for elderly people to give a home to elderly animals who had lost their elderly owners. This seemed like a sign to me. I phoned my daughter at work to ask her to look into it for me. Half an hour later she phoned me to say she had been speaking to someone at work about it who told her his wife worked at The Cinnamon Trust and why don't I give them a ring. I phoned them to see if there were any Bull Terriers which needed a home and was put through to a lady called Moira. Moira told me about Zoe's story and the fact that she would soon receive information from the owners of Busa looking for a good home for him before Zoe was cruelly taken from them. This was certainly 'That Sign' and we agreed to have him.

Firstly, we had to be vetted, which went well and one day in September 2009, Busa arrived. We had been so excited waiting his arrival! We left all the doors inside the house open upstairs and down, also the door to the back garden so that he could have a good look around. Well, he certainly did! Every room and nook and cranny and back garden, the only thing that fazed him at first was the stairs which we had to coax him down, then we found out he had been living in a bungalow. Busa still is a very inquisitive dog, we often say he would have been a good sniffer dog. From that day on he made himself at home, he looked at us so understandingly as if to say, "well here I am and here I will stay, thank you very

much". I made a video of our new family member every day for a week - everything he did. Then I sent the video to Zoe who phoned me up to say thank you. That dear young lady told me she was so happy that Busa had settled so well and was happy. Zoe died a few days later, leaving us with our beautiful new family member.

Busa had never been trained on a lead and was very uncontrollable when taking him out, also he would have a go at any dog he saw. This was his downfall - but I was determined to change him. We tried three so-called dog trainers, which I soon said goodbye to as I didn't like their methods. I told the last one not to come back, I would train him myself. It took me a while but I did it! Now, you couldn't have a more well behaved dog when he's out with regards others dogs. Even when other dogs have a go at him, he just walks past them. Also, he will walk properly on the lead. When Busa first came to us he had a few belongings, amongst them was a muzzle, which I put on the fire that same day. Busa has turned out to be the best behaved, intelligent and loving dog, he gets a bit hectic when he's somewhere strange to him but that is because he wants to have a snoop. He loves to run freely on a closed in field (unfortunately he has no road sense) he also loves to run on the beach (times and tides permitting, of course). He loves exploring the rocks and caves and paddling in the water, but not swimming. I could carry on and on telling you all about this boy's character, but I would finish up writing a book.

Thank you to The Cinnamon Trust. Busa has given us so much pleasure and love. He likes to share the couch with us and if you ask him for a cuddle, he will sit up throw himself forward, putting his paws around your neck and then you get a kiss on the cheek!"



Sue Dent in East Sussex recounts the hilarious antics of **Beau and Ben**:

"I have been a supporter of The Cinnamon Trust for several years, assisting with dog-walking and short-term fostering on a number of occasions. I have not had a permanent pet of my own for many years but, courtesy of The Trust, I recently found myself looking after two boisterous dogs - Beau, a tiny 6 year old male Jack Russell/Chihuahua cross, and Ben, who is a tall 11 year old male Lurcher/Collie cross.

The chain of events started in late March, when I received an urgent phone call from The Trust. Apparently, Beau's long-term fosterer (an elderly lady who lived only a couple of miles from me) had died suddenly that morning, and she had no family who could look after him. I was asked if I could take Beau for a few days, while The Trust attempted to find a new long-term fosterer for him. I drove

immediately to Beau's house, with my husband Graham in tow, and we collected Beau and brought him home with us.

We had only intended to look after Beau until a more permanent arrangement could be found for him, but he settled in to our home almost immediately. He had gone through a traumatic time - his fosterer had died in front of him, and he stayed by her side until help arrived. But, despite this, he seemed relaxed and affectionate with us from the outset. Within a couple of days, he had made himself completely at home in his new surroundings. Graham and I had also become quite attached to him and we decided we didn't want him to go through the disruption of another move. We felt we wanted to offer him a permanent home with us, so we agreed with The Trust that we would keep Beau, on a long-term fostering agreement.

We live on the edge of Eastbourne in East Sussex, and we have the coast and the South Downs virtually on our doorstep. Beau soon came to love his daily walks on the rolling Downs or through the local woods and forests, or along the sea front. He is also fascinated by our rear garden, which is large and completely secure, and backs onto a woodland area of the South Downs National Park. Every evening, Beau likes to patrol the entire boundary of the garden, marching up and down until he is satisfied that everything is in order. He then adopts a sentry-like position on the patio, watching out over the woods, no doubt checking out woodland smells and sounds that only he can detect, and occasionally barking at some perceived threat on the other side of the garden fence.

We were aware of a potential dilemma as we had promised to look after another Cinnamon Trust dog in April, under a short-term fostering arrangement, while his regular fosterers went on holiday. This was Ben, the Lurcher/Collie who we had looked after on two previous occasions when his fosterers had gone on holiday - he had come to enjoy his 'summer holidays' with us. Ben and Beau are generally quite tolerant of other dogs, but we had been advised that they both prefer not to share a home with another dog. We spoke to The Trust and to Ben's fosterer about this, and we all concluded that the two dogs were pretty "laid back" characters and they would be able to tolerate each other's presence in the house for a few weeks.

So, Ben came to join the happy household for most of April. By the time Ben arrived, Beau had been with us for two weeks, and he already seemed to feel that this was his home. Initially, Beau was a little jealous of his new, temporary housemate, and he would attempt to boss Ben around and start growling if he felt that we were giving Ben too much attention. Given Beau's diminutive stature and his squeaky bark, he often looked quite comical when trying to assert his authority over the much larger Ben, but Ben took it all with his customary good grace. However, we became careful to ensure that we treated both dogs equally.

Having a second dog in the house seemed to bring out a competitive edge in Beau - he was always determined that he shouldn't miss out on anything Ben was having. Beau had been a fussy eater in his early days with us, and did not seem to have a big appetite. Even his freshly-cooked ingredients (as recommended by The Cinnamon Trust) couldn't tempt him to eat much. But, when he saw Ben enthusiastically tucking into his food, Beau began to copy him. Consequently, Beau developed a healthy appetite, and would even try to steal any of Ben's leftovers if he could get away with it. Beau had never been very keen to have his fur brushed, whereas Ben enjoyed it. When Beau realised that Ben was having a pleasant experience, Beau then barked to let us know that he now wanted brushing as well. And, if Ben decided to go for a wander through the house, Beau would leap up and follow him, to make sure he wasn't missing out on something.

Beau and Ben soon got used to each other, and were happy enough to share the daily walks on the Downs, or along the beach, or through the local woodlands and forests - although they seemed to have different ideas about what they wanted from a 'walk'. Ben was energetic and loved to chase a ball, or splash about on the beach, or run along the Downs, his long legs sprinting away at speed - while Beau, with his tiny little legs, preferred a sedate wander, regularly stopping to sniff anything he came across. Sometimes, when walking (on their extended leads) along the promenade above Eastbourne beach, both dogs would suddenly decide to break ranks and walk in opposite directions. This often forced Graham and I to skip over (or duck under) the criss-crossed leads, side-stepping past each other, while trying to avoid slapping each other with fully-loaded 'pooh-bags'. We must have looked like we were performing some strange Sussex-style 'Morris dance', much to the amusement of the other promenaders.

When out walking, we often found that other walkers would regularly stop us and make a fuss of the dogs, commenting on Beau's pretty little face and Ben's large, friendly features. The two dogs were, of course, quite happy to play up for their new admirers.

In the evenings, Ben began to accompany Beau on his late-night patrol and sentry duty in our back garden. It was like having our own 'Home Guard', constantly on the lookout for a potential invasion force coming over Beachy Head. Our two Home Guards even started to develop the personality traits of a couple of 'Dad's Army' characters. Beau fancied himself as the 'top dog', and he would sometimes behave like a little Captain Mainwaring, strutting about with his chest out in a self-important manner, and yelping in an authoritative way. Ben would then adopt Sgt Wilson's persona - tall and languid, always seeking to calm things down with his relaxed, easy-going charm.

The photo shows the two dogs in an 'off duty' moment, in a country pub on the



South Downs. Beau ('Captain Mainwaring') is the small chap on the right, with Ben ('Sgt Wilson') in the red collar on the left.

One evening (after Ben had tired himself out chasing a ball on the Downs or splashing about in the sea) Beau decided to carry out his patrol of our back garden on his own. Once he was satisfied that all was quiet on the western front, he came indoors to re-join Ben. But,

shortly afterwards, we spotted a fox in the garden, helping itself to the mealworms I had put out for the birds. Beau spotted the fox through the patio windows, and immediately went into a frenzy of excitement. Our little Home Guard was having his first encounter with an invader, and he was eager to spring into action. He jumped up, yelping furiously and literally spinning on his axis, and bounced off the patio doors as he tried to get outside to 'engage the enemy'. The fox seemed completely unconcerned, but we felt it prudent to keep Beau indoors (if it had come to a fight, my money would have been on the fox.) Ben briefly roused from his slumbers to see what all the fuss was about, but he seemed to find the whole thing mildly amusing and soon went back to sleep.

After two weeks together, the two dogs seemed to have accepted each other, and had started to do things together, rather than behaving like two individuals that happened to be in the same place at the same time. After three weeks, the dogs seemed quite happy in each other's company, and Ben would occasionally nuzzle Beau's ear - and Beau actually allowed this, which was a major breakthrough. Beau would still get a little jealous if he felt Ben was getting too much attention, and there would occasionally be a barking match (usually instigated by Beau) when the dogs were competing for my attention. But, on other occasions, when I was stroking Ben, Beau would attempt to snuggle up alongside Ben to make sure they were both sharing in any stroking or cuddles, rather than trying to exclude one another. And Ben became quite caring, in a big-brotherly type of way: for example, Beau picked up an eye irritation and we had to get some eye-drops from the vet. Beau was very nervous when having his drops put in, but Ben would come and stand over him in a protective manner, to make sure Beau had some support by his side.

Shortly after Easter, Ben's foster-family returned from holiday and came to take him home. The two dogs seemed to have bonded nicely by then, with Ben constantly keeping a look-out to make sure his 'little brother' was alright. It might be exaggerating to say they had become best-friends, but they had certainly become

like siblings - sometimes showing solidarity and affection for each other, while at other times arguing and competing for my attention. We wondered if Beau would miss Ben; we noticed that, for the first couple of days after Ben had gone home, Beau seemed a little quiet and subdued and was often looking towards the front door, as if he expected Ben to come back. But, after a couple of days of having our undivided attention, Beau soon cheered up and reverted to his normal self. At the moment, he is on his evening patrol in our back garden, carrying out his Home Guard activity, so all seems to be well.

It was a lovely experience having the two dogs with us for a few weeks. Ben has gone home, but we hope to look after him again the next time his fosterers go on holiday. And we have never regretted offering a permanent home to Beau. The whole experience has reinforced what we already felt - that The Cinnamon Trust plays such an important and worthwhile role in arranging temporary or permanent homes for pets in need."



Charlie Brown has been an inspiration for **Nettie** and **Audrey Iles** in Kent.

"Intrepid Charlie Brown travelled virtually the width of the country, from Cornwall to Kent, to arrive at his new home in May 2018. A traumatic time for any Yorkshire Terrier after his brother and his beloved owner died, but the Gods were smiling when The Cinnamon Trust looked around for 15 year old Charlie.

He was scrawny to say the least and it was soon established that he had Pancreatitis – low fat diet required. But, with excellent veterinary care, he was soon putting on weight and displaying those puppy-like traits that are so endearing in that feisty little breed.

I had this great idea that whichever dog I adopted would be small enough for me to take to work and sleep under the desk, greeting the odd well-favoured customer. Charlie had other ideas. I live right next door to my Mum and before long Charlie made it very clear whose company he preferred. He was oblivious to my three cats, but one took exception to him, bopped him on the nose and since then he has kept a very respectful distance. He soon had my 84 year old Mum well trained – meal times to his very own timetable and outings in the car a favourite treat.



Being now virtually blind and very deaf (the crinkling packet of his low-fat treats an

exception), his great joy in life is sniffing. Give him a path, not sniffed for 24 hours, or a hedgerow of autumn leaves and his little snout doesn't leave the ground all the while he's ambling - very contentedly - 'til his little legs give out. He loves company and draws himself up to his full 10 inches as he issues his solitary 'gruff' in welcome, front paws flying off the floor; he looks almost as surprised as we are!

My friend has 5 boisterous Border Collies and Charlie's latest triumph is to weave his way through the mirage of legs as they all race through the kitchen – sniffing as he goes of course.

One of our lovely customers in our art gallery told us about The Cinnamon Trust and about the fabulous work being done by them. We have spread the word in Rochester and have heard about more volunteer dog walkers coming forward and, with Charlie being our Champion, raised £2,500 for The Trust with our 'Art on a Postcard' charity fund raising last year.

He's an inspiration."



Kendra Bourner in Dyfed is charmed by **Blossom** and **Blaze**

"The Cinnamon Trust - what a fabulous, well organised and caring charity. Thank you for bringing new friends into my life.

I was at Crufts, the Russian Toy Terrier stand, saying "I would love to rescue a RTT" thinking that it would be close to impossible. Then I heard "The Cinnamon Trust have two". I left the stand, straight on my phone and, yes, it was true - not one, but two RTT's! Within an hour I was phoned to arrange a home check and this was organised while driving home for, believe it or not, the next day. All was approved in about a week – fabulous! The owner was dying at home and did not have very long. She needed to know her beloved pets Blaze and Blossom were going to be safe.



Blossom, Blaze and Ziva

It was a 9 hour drive to Cornwall to collect two scared and confused dogs. My beautiful Doberman is a gentle soul and when they arrived she welcomed them with open paws. Blossom had other ideas and wanted Ziva to know who was

going to be boss. If you have ever seen the cartoon, she resembled a scared Scooby-Doo walking on tip toes past her.

When rescuing you never know what you're going to get; but two months in and time spent on manners, rules and consistency, I am lucky to have a pair of very loving, much better behaved dogs. The training will continue and the rewards of improved behaviour will be reaped.

They are now living in harmony with their big sister, the beautiful Doberman Ziva, and settling in to good walks and fresh Welsh air daily. Thank you so much."



Lily makes sure she's into everything with **Frances de Swardt** in West Sussex – great pics!!

"I have had Lily for nearly two years now, she was brought to me last bonfire night. As soon as she got out her basket, she came straight and sat on my lap and settled down, content in her new home.

Since then, she has brought me so much joy and happiness. I'm studying Veterinary Medicine at university and Lily especially loves it when I have exams because I am home all day revising. She lounges across pages of revision and often knocks all my notes off the table! She loves to fish in the pond and to sleep in the sun, but she's a little bit clumsy and it's always a bit of a crash when she jumps onto the garden fence. My dad came to visit and put some wooden steps for her to use getting in and out the garden!

Last year my boyfriend proposed to me; he also adores Lily and certainly knows the way to my heart, so the proposal didn't just involve a ring but also a packet of Dreamies for Lily to eat!

Of course, when it came to the big day we had to nip home between the ceremony and reception to get a couple of wedding photos with



Lily



Mr and Mrs de Swardt and Lily

her in! She is delighted to have another person to spoil her the whole time, and my husband knows that having her on his lap is the best way to avoid being asked to do housework! I am so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for sending her to me for long-term foster, she is the loveliest cat!"

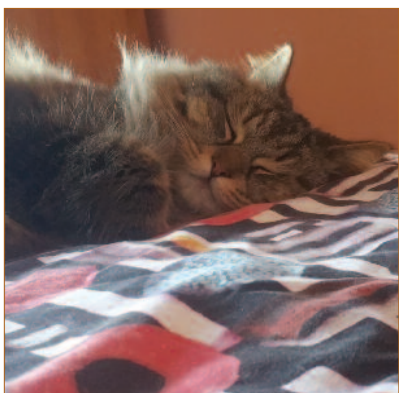


In Hertfordshire, **Millie** is ensconced with **Diane Siracusa**.

"After a bit of online searching for rescue cats to adopt, and losing a beloved cat when he was seventeen years old, I came across The Cinnamon Trust. I liked the thought of taking on older cats that had lost their human carers. A home visit was arranged and I was excited to hear I was approved to be a long-term fosterer.

I was asked to take Blacky first, he was a shy boy but turned into a real 'cuddle bunny' with a lot of personality. A month later we welcomed Millie into our lives, a long haired cat with a gentle nature. She and my husband, Joe, took to each other instantly and she slept on his bed, cuddling up close to him. Life carried on with the two cats claiming their own territory - Blacky downstairs and Millie upstairs, with the garden shared equally.

Sadly, we lost Blacky eighteen months later to cancer. A sad day for us all.



Since then, Millie has become queen of the castle, sleeping wherever takes her fancy and pushing between me and Joe on the sofa! She has developed into a bit of a diva - she only likes one type of cat food and is quite demanding.

I love the way she growls at the doorbell and any loud noises that disturb her peace. She is so loving and friendly to all our visitors and purrs all the time, which gets her a lot of attention. She is good with children and adults alike, which is great.

The Cinnamon Trust has been an amazing charity to deal with. Everyone has been friendly, helpful and caring whether a vet visit was needed or just for advice. I have been impressed with the regular contact they make, you certainly feel supported every step of the way. I have recommended the charity to all my friends looking to care for a pet and a couple have even enquired about becoming long term fosterers themselves."



Roberta Collins writes from London about **Jack**.

“My brother, Alan, and I live together and have always loved cats. I know it sounds like a cliché but after our last cat, Kiki, died, our flat didn't feel like a home anymore. However, over our retirement years, we had found the vets' bill very expensive and as we both have a low income we wondered if we could afford to get another cat. But then, my friend, Joy, told me about the Cinnamon Trust and straight away we applied to be fosterers.

It wasn't long before we got Jack. His owner had had to go into a home and he had given his cat into the care of The Cinnamon Trust. Then a very nice man, a Cinnamon Trust volunteer, drove a long way and delivered Jack to our flat. What a handsome, big black and white cat he is. We were delighted!

At first Jack was so nervous he hid, lying on the bottom shelf of the bookcase behind my brother's armchair. We didn't disturb him but just let him get acclimatised to his new home in his own good time. Then he ran upstairs and hid behind a bookcase in my bedroom. However, after a few hours, he came down again, ate some food we had left out for him...and started to purr!



Jack has made such a difference to our lives. He is so gentle and loveable and always purrs when you stroke him. He really is very affectionate; whoever says cats are cold and aloof should meet Jack. He sleeps on my bed and every morning when I wake up and get out of bed he starts to purr even though I haven't even stroked him yet.

Recently, my brother bought Jack a climb and perch cat scratch post but Jack wouldn't go near it. Then a woman on a bus recommended I try some cat nip on it. So I bought some cat nip spray and sprayed a little on it. I only had to do it once and it did the trick; Jack now loves the climb and perch! He sits on the top level and looks out the window at the world and after a while he curls up inside one of the boxes on the post and sleeps.

I know I sound like a proud parent but Jack is such a well behaved cat! And he is so funny! For example, whenever a programme about birds comes on TV, Jack's ears immediately start to twitch and he comes up and sits in front of the TV and watches the birds avidly....and then stretches out a paw and touches a bird on the screen and 'catches it'!

Every morning as I sit and read, I first spend some time stroking Jack until his little

'emotional tank' is full and he purrs loudly the whole time. Then later he goes into my brother's room and sits on his bed, his little front paws neatly tucked under him, and purrs away.

Last November when Jack had to have some expensive dental treatment we were so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust who paid the whole bill!

I have told so many people that the next time they are going to get a cat or a dog they should foster one from The Cinnamon Trust. Because Alan and I are so thankful to The Trust to be given Jack who is such a blessing to us and really enriches our lives."



Wenda Lampl in Cornwall sent fabulous photos of **Bobby** (and Max)!!



"These photographs show Bobby and Max the sheep going on our morning walk. We had Bobby from The Cinnamon Trust six months ago. He took the place of our old Jack Russell who died in December. Max the sheep grew up with Jack and so is used to dogs and, for some amazing reason Bobby, decided he was ok with sheep too.



We are delighted with Bobby who loves to cuddle up and is getting used to sharing life with a sheep, 3 cats and 13 chickens. He is an old dog gradually learning new tricks."



Charlie with a little help from foster-mum **Tatjana Marsden** in Hampshire writes:



Charlie, Burt and Lilly

"When Chris and Tatjana first brought me home I didn't know quite what to expect I thought I better take them in hand pretty sharpish (it's always better to lay down the law early on in these sorts of situations).

The first evening I stayed pretty quiet so I could get the 'lay of the land'. I met Lilly and Burt, my new fur brother and sister, who seemed nice enough but not all that smart. When Chris and Tatjana fed me, I pretended I wasn't hungry to

get some sympathy – although, secretly, I was starving. It paid off though, as they gave me some of my favourite chicken treats so I'd eat something (note - this tactic has continued to work well for me and I often get special extras).

Anyway, fast-forward almost a year and I've got things how I like them. I carried on insisting I was 'scared' to sleep alone so now I pretend to get into my bed (which is in Chris and Tatjana's room) and then the minute they shut their eyes I hop up onto their bed. There was a bit of an incident where I fell off one night but the less said about that the better.

Burt and Lilly are no trouble. They are absolutely HUGE but, like I said, not that smart, and I found a few well-placed nips to the ankles and some high pitched barking got them listening to me. Sometimes I get Burt to fetch me things off the countertop and then if we get caught I can blame him as Chris and Tatjana know I couldn't POSSIBLY reach. It's also quite nice to have pals to play with and they know not to touch my special tennis balls. In fact, after they've gone to bed I get to play with all my other 'soft' toys and Chris and Tatjana play football with me.

The other thing I'm quite proud of is that because I 'don't like being left alone' I get to go to the pub a lot, which is great. Everyone makes a fuss of me and tells me how handsome I am, and there are always chips.

So, I wanted to share my experience and tell any pups out there who might be moving humans that The Cinnamon Trust are lovely people and it really is worthwhile seeing the enjoyment some new humans can get from your company. Just don't let them make you sleep in a crate."



Kassie living in Devon with **Eileen Bissett** also has something to say!

"My name is Kassie I am a Patterdale/Staffie cross and I would like to tell you my story.

I was born in January 2008 and when I was 2 months old I went to live with a lady named Jill, who from now on I will call Mum. Mum has a daughter called Louise and two grandchildren called Lucy and Charlotte, who will come into the story a little bit later on.

Mum didn't like my name very much so she decided as I was still very young she would change it to Kassie, after her favourite place, Kassiopi in Corfu. To tell you the truth, Kassie seems to suit me better. I had a wonderful life with my mum, we would go for lovely long walks and travel on the buses together, and we were very close. I was allowed to sleep on her bed at night which was

very special to me. We had a remarkable friendship for many years.

My mum was diagnosed with a terminal illness and she died in June 2018 (I was totally devastated) so I went to live with her daughter Louise and her two children. Louise already had a dog called Ted, this was when I became a bit of a rebel. I wanted to be top dog, as I had been all my life, and Ted would submit to my behaviour (I know... I was naughty). My mum had been involved with The Cinnamon Trust for some time, so Louise rang and asked them if they could find me a good home to go to as Ted was getting very upset (that will teach me).

Now I come to the second part of my story.

Apparently, a lady whose name was Eileen had phoned The Cinnamon Trust to say she would like to foster a dog and would prefer one that was more advanced in years, didn't bark too much and liked to travel in the car. It wasn't long before The Cinnamon Trust got back in touch with Eileen as they thought I would be perfect for her. Fortunately, she only lived 12 miles from where I was living so arrangements were made for her to come and visit Louise on the 6th July 2017.

When she arrived, I gave her a halfhearted wag of my tail and she came over and stroked me. I think she fell for me straight away (I'm not surprised as everyone tells me I have beautiful eyes). I couldn't hear what they were saying as I was having a drink in the kitchen. It was arranged between them that I would go back to Eileen's house, as Louise wanted to see Ted back to his old self and she was sure that I would have a good life with Eileen. I said goodbye to Louise, Lucy and Charlotte and of course Ted (I'm sure I saw a wry smile from Ted) and I left the house, as you can imagine, quite confused. On the way to Eileen's we stopped off at a pet shop where I was bought a new bed, new lead and collar and toys and treats.

For the first few days I was very quiet and trying to gather my thoughts as to what was happening. I wouldn't sleep on the bed Eileen had bought me (I preferred the sofa). I still managed to eat well though. It took us about a week to build up our confidence and trust in each other. I realized that this was my new home and we began to bond.

We have been to lots of places, one of them being a Fun Dog Show run by Animals in Distress. Mum 2 (as I now call her) put me into the older dog category with 15 other dogs and I came second, we were both delighted at that result. I think the rosette I won went to her head because then she decided to take me to see two ladies named Sheila and Rachel at Sheila's Happy Hounds near where we live. I took to them both straight away so Mum 2 decided to put me on a course for six weeks (every Monday evening) to see

if I could pass the Bronze Test for the Good Citizen Dog Scheme (does Mum 2 know I am 10 years old!!?).

Anyway, on the 15th October 2017 I passed the exam and received a certificate and a bronze rosette presented by a member of the Kennel Club.



Now, wouldn't you think that was enough? Oh no - because she said she was so proud of me she decided to go for another 6 week course for the Silver award! Although I found this course a lot harder, I put all my effort into it and on the 17th December 2018 I passed the Silver Test and received another certificate and a silver rosette!

We are not going in for any more awards and now just go for lovely long walks and having fun together.

I tell you my story to give you reassurance that when you can no longer be with your family, there is someone out there that will love you and give you a good home".



Caroline Jones and **Lisa Bradshaw** help **Mary Hull** and **Missy** in West Sussex. Mary says:

"I am forever grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for their very valued support and for the introduction of my two wonderful dog walkers. They are not just dog walkers but have become valued friends. We often have a cup of tea after Missy's walk and we all seem to have the same sense of humour which is great as we always end up having a good laugh. Lisa, when not working, takes Missy out on Monday and Tuesday mornings and Caroline takes her on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

As you know, Lisa's work is airline cabin crew and sometimes her shifts get moved around, but Caroline is always willing to change things about and they work very well together. So far they haven't both been on holiday at the same time so everything has worked out very well.

From my own personal point of view, it is nice to see someone every working day. They both have personal contacts of mine that they can phone if anything happens, and of course at weekends my family are about.

What do I say about Missy? She is a joy and both Lisa and Caroline agree. She is intelligent, you only have to show her once and she gets it, if you know what I mean. She is very manipulative, looking at you (with soulful eyes) for a treat as if she is starving. She's very well behaved, most of the time. There is one thing I have never been able to get her out of, she will grab letters from the letter box and tear them to shreds if I don't get there quickly enough. I have overcome this (mostly) by putting up a post box on the wall outside my flat. I say mostly, because I am sure that some people can't read, so the odd letter gets through. She hates the noise the letterbox makes and if people (in their wisdom) will put boxes at floor level, how is a dog to cope? Missy actually dislikes ANY strange loud noise and I think her reaction is instinctive.

Sorry I've gone on a bit, but as you can see I love Missy to bits and if it wasn't for your wonderful charity I would not have her now, she would have had to be rehomed.

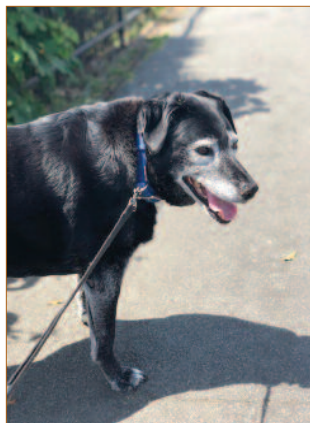
Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart”.



And **Heather Tyrrell** in Kent is helped by **Christine Hughes, Caroline Gibson** and **Jade Tickner**.

“I would like to complement The Cinnamon Trust on the wonderful service they provide for dog and cat owners like myself, who for reasons of ill health are just not as active as they once were. We are able to access an organisation that offers valuable help in the form of dog walking, pet fostering (if their owners go into hospital), all free of charge.

I myself used to take dogs out for owners that could not manage a regular walk and on one occasion took a dog in for several months while the owner was in hospital.



Now I am older and have suffered some heart problems, I have asked The Cinnamon Trust if they could help me with my elderly dog who still loves her walkies. They have pulled out all the stops and I am fortunate to have three kind ladies who take Bree out to keep her in touch with the outside world rather than being a couch potato.

The Cinnamon Trust is a miracle come true for animal lovers and should be given its own special place in the top charities list, it is without doubt an

animal lovers champion, and ranks best in its class.

Thanking you once more for your help.”



And **June Croft**, a VERY longstanding member in Shropshire wrote this lovely letter:

“I have been a member of The Cinnamon Trust since about 1985 under my maiden name originally, and have been a life member for many years.

I just wanted to write and say what a wonderful organisation you still are. Although thankfully a great deal larger now, still the personal touch and tender care. When I got married in 1991 and notified you of my change of name, I received a lovely letter. When our last darling dog died on 7th January 2016, as I had bequeathed him to you, I let you know, and received a lovely card. This year, again, as a participant in the CT100 for 2019, I have received a personal letter with my lucky number.

I have watched The Cinnamon Trust spread and develop and flourish under the amazing care and love of your founder Averil Jarvis MBE, and you still treasure each individual member of The Trust and every single pet that passes into your care or that you support in its own home.

The newsletter gives me such joy. Firstly, to read about all the ways in which your supporters are raising funds in so many ways, and all over the country now. To read about the sheer joy that comes from helping a needy person and their precious pets to stay together, how both recipients and donors benefit so much, is such pleasurable reading, and I always pass on my newsletter to people who may either be interested in helping or people who feel they are ‘too old’ to have a pet.

I keep little cards on me with your details on to hand out to people I talk to who admire my own little dog, and who express regret that they have no pet now. The work you have done to encourage care homes to allow people to keep their pets is laudable. One can only imagine what it is like to have to give up one’s independence, but to have to give up the pet who is central in a life, the reason to get up in the morning for some people, is so very sad.

I greatly enjoy reading about life at the two sanctuaries, and the pieces that come at the end about the pain that we find when the journey with our pet ends can be very comforting.

I am writing because the letters this time seem to have been particularly absorbing and moving.

I am something of a silent member. I have never been in a position to offer help by walking, but I do wave the flag quite vigorously!

I do hope you don't mind me rambling away. Our charity has expanded, yet remained caring of all individuals, and each precious pet. In today's hi-tech world it is a wonderful reminder that life can be steady, gentle and loving.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

With love, June Croft.

(My husband and I have a 15½ year old cat, who has congestive heart failure and a wonderful 7½ year old Papillon, a former show dog/breeding dog, who has enjoyed a pet home with us for the last 2½ years; they both make our lives complete)"



Volunteers who have received a **Gold Certificate** for exceptional service are:

Suzanne Ruff (Hampshire), **Anne Pewsey** (Somerset) and **Joan Lowe** (Cheshire).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Tricia Jobling (Sussex), **Linda Wainewright** (Dorset), **Karen Needs** (Devon), **Wendy Gates** (Devon), **Lucy O'Mara** (Sussex), **Valerie Cole** (Derbyshire), **Linda Ling** (Norfolk), **Carole Jones** (Yorkshire), **John** and **Margaret Andrews** (Kent) and **Pauline Dyer** (Dorset).

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

Carol Knott (Kent), **James** and **Emma Allchurch** (Gloucestershire), **Stefanie Heydecke** (Tyne and Wear), **Claire Holland** (Buckinghamshire), **Caroline Mitchell** (Lancashire), **Mark Taylor** (Cornwall) and **Deborah Peacock** (London).



To every one of our 16,237 volunteers, thank you. Thank you for bringing love and sunshine in to so many lives – 141,634 people with 155,256 pets this year

alone. We couldn't do what we do without you, our fabulous ambassadors.



Pet Friendly Care Homes

We now have 663 care homes and 664 retirement complexes on our register and our assessors are currently on their bi-annual rounds so we keep information and pet friendliness up to date. Here are a few stories from the homes:

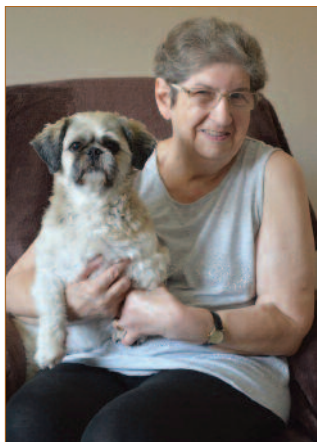
Roger and **Rabbit** are Flemish Giants who belong to **George**, a resident of **Cedar Court Care Home** in Abbeywood, South-East London. When George needed to move into a care home, his family called us to ask for a list of pet-friendly homes, as George was more worried about finding a home that would take the rabbits, than him! They were all so relieved when they found Cedar Court on the list, and manager, **Richard White**, assured them that of course George could bring his rabbits! The staff feed Roger and Rabbit and keep their enclosure clean, and have recently taken them to have their nails clipped. When George requests 'rabbit time', they bring the rabbits to him for him to hold. George said "I am very happy I got to keep my rabbits; they are very important to me". Richard White told us "I feel the animals we have are very important to our residents - they help them to settle, and make it feel like home. The animals also help with the distressed reactions that our residents with advanced dementia can face daily. I accept pets as I think why should someone lose the pet that they love, just because they have to move into a care home?" As well as Roger and Rabbit, Cedar Court is home to two Chihuahua/Jack Russell crosses who belong to a resident; Meg and Mog the cats; two micro pigs called Edward and Misery and 5 Peking ducks and 5 chickens. Richard also brings his teacup Chihuahua, Pepsi, to work with him each day - Richard told us that he really wants a donkey next, so watch this space!



George with Roger the rabbit



Buster and **Molly** live with their owners at **Montgomery of Alamein Court** - an independent living retirement complex owned by Housing21 in Bracknell, Berkshire. Molly the Shi Tzu is such a loveable character and is renowned within the court, where everyone loves her! Her owner, Marion, has had Molly from a puppy, and she was such a comfort after her husband passed away.



Molly with her owner, Marion



Buster

Marion told us that she wanted desperately to move into the court, but was so nervous that bringing Molly to live with her would be a big issue, however the housing managers had ensured that moving into the court with Molly had been a smooth, stress-free transition.

Buster the Cairn Terrier came to live at Montgomery of Alamein Court with resident Sheila, after his dad (Sheila's son) sadly passed away. Sheila is in the process of profiling Buster with The Trust, so she has peace of mind that if he were to outlive her, he will always be loved and cared for. Buster is a charmer and he's given Sheila a new lease of life as she takes him out for 3 walks a day, which she says has increased her social activities as well as her fitness. Shortly after Buster moved into the court, he managed to break free of his lead and went missing – a number of the residents joined in the search for him, and then thankfully, due to his microchip, there was a call from the vets to say he had been found, and they were soon happily re-united.



Claire Turner, manager of **The Old Vicarage** care home in Staverton, Wiltshire writes:

"We have 3 ducks called **Donald**, **Daffy** and **Jemima** that we reared from



Donald helping a resident at her assessment interview

eggs in an incubator in the lounge. One of our residents has difficulties with speech following a stroke, but we realised that when she held the ducklings, her words became clearer. The lady was struggling to communicate during a recent meeting she had with Wiltshire Council, and became very frustrated and distressed that she could not get her words out; I asked if it would be ok to try a different method - I brought Donald in and placed him on a chair next to her, and she instantly relaxed and started to stroke him. The ladies from the Council were shocked at how clear the lady's speech became – she told the guests at the meeting "I love them all. I love watching them from my room".

Louise Laudat, Estate manager at **Fiske Court** in Sutton, Surrey tells us “One of our residents, Doreen, sadly had to have her elderly dog, Blue, put to sleep and could not bear coming back to an empty home.

Thankfully, Anchor Hanover’s pet policy allows residents to replace pets, and so she was able to take on a little dog called Kizzi who has brought so much happiness into her life. Doreen says “Kizzi gives me something to wake up for in the mornings, and I receive the most wonderful welcome home when I’ve been shopping. She’s a clever little dog, and seems to understand every word you say to her”.



Doreen Bennett with Kizzi

Doreen added “I am so happy we are allowed pets on the estate as I would be so empty without my little girl. She was a bit apprehensive of people to start with, but she now knows everyone by name and reacts when I say each one - especially when I say Louise (our estate manager’s name) but she is loved and welcomed by everyone on the estate”.



We have a fantastic new Pet Friendly Care Home section on our website, with an interactive map which pinpoints the homes and independent living retirement accommodation on our register. If you click on the pins, it shows you the contact details for the site and a brief description of our findings of how pet-friendly they were when we last visited them – why not take a look!

Alternatively, if you would like a list of pet-friendly care homes or retirement complexes for your county, we can send these by email or post – please call Donna or Ellen at Head Office (01736 757900), or email donnatucker@cinnamon.org.uk. There is no charge.



From our veterinary nurses, **Emma** and **Sarah's**, casebook:

Dallas is a six year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who has had an ongoing problem of leaking urine on his bed. All of his urine and blood tests were normal. Since adding dried agrimony into his food, his bed stays nice and dry and he has had no urine leakage since.

Penny, a fourteen year old Jack Russell Terrier, unfortunately tore her cruciate ligament. It was advised that surgery would be necessary. Penny began treatment with laser therapy straight away, which she responded to very well; so much so that surgery wasn't necessary.

Cassie is an eight year old West Highland White Terrier, who had very itchy and sore skin. She started a regime of daily garlic and fenugreek, green relief tablets, salmon oil and vitamin E. She was also bathed regularly with oatmeal and lavender shampoo. She is no longer itchy and has a beautiful, thick and shiny coat.



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

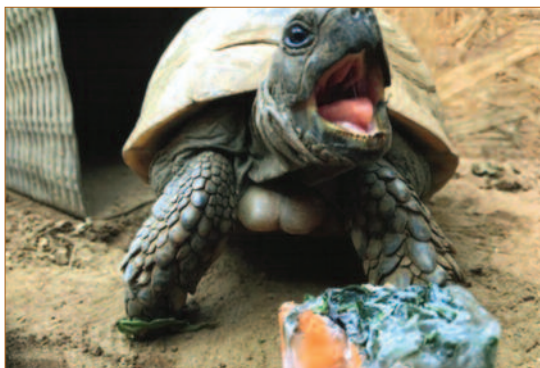
It's been full on through summer! There was all the excitement of the Countryfile visit which everyone really enjoyed, and slept very, very well after a long day when nothing could be missed! Not long after that, when we went to give **Gemma** her breakfast (she's the little cat who demanded her very own bespoke house), she was curled up on the carpet. And in the chair? A baby fox - so we fed him too. Minutes later, **Peppa Pig** came out of her house for breakfast, closely followed by another baby fox, so we fed him as well. Both little foxes stayed for about a week and then, stronger and with full tummies, they went their own way. Neither Gemma nor Pippa seemed to mind in the least their little visitors!



Then, one morning, a call from our vet – six, probably only two or three days old, baby pheasants had been brought in – found by a passer-by on the road beside their mother, sadly dead, run over. Could we raise them? Of course!! They needed a heat lamp and we fed them as we would newly hatched chicks. They progressed to having access to a small outdoor pen, then to sharing the squirrels' large, safe 'garden', then at about 3 months old we set them free. They come back for breakfast and supper and will come running when we whistle! They are staying on our land which is great.

We've had lots of fun on the beach, in the river and paddling pool, we took **Spud** (the Pug), **Leo** (Poodle) and **Lizzie** (Poodle) to a local show and they all won their class! Leo (age 21, don't forget) was Best Veteran, Lizzie was Prettiest Bitch and Spud was the Dog The Judge Most Wanted To Take Home; he also won in the Junior Handler Class with **Kerensa** aged 9.

We made ice lollies for everyone when it was really hot – carrot and kale flavour for the tortoises, mealworm flavour for the chickens, apple and carrot flavour for Peppa Pig and the ponies, watermelon for the squirrels. Yogurt and liver flavour for the dogs; the cats didn't like them at all!



Sad times came with the loss of **Chant** (15) Siamese cat, **Tim** (17) ginger and white boy, **Max** (15) Westie, **Sophie** (11) Bichon Frise and **Kubwa** our African Goose. More special memories to store....

And then came **Fred** (16) – he's blind but he uses his ears like propellers or a "white stick" depending on circumstances, so he's very clever at finding his way round. Fred knows what he wants and you can tell because he wags his tail a lot, but when the tail goes still and straight up, he is displeased – stop what you're doing! He's a ladies' man, loves all the girls and pleads for a cuddle, he also loves the universally loved Spud but he doesn't like Jonas – our other



Fred

blind Dachshund! Fred likes to sleep under a blanket or tucked into an igloo bed, and then he is quite adamant that he is not to be disturbed! Fred has a great appetite and super acute hearing – open the fridge door and he barks, and won't stop 'til he gets a sausage! Well, he's sixteen after all!

Mitzi (10) and **Carla** (11) came together. Mitzi is a sweetie, very playful. She empties all the toy boxes at every opportunity, eats the boxes then plays with the toys. She also loves to dig very big holes which she then lies in, perfectly



Mitzi

camouflaged, except when the holes are on the beach! Mitzi loves children, either visitors or those we meet on walks and she loves to come and feed the pheasants, never chasing them – or anything else for that matter. She does like to help with the chores around the place – cleaning the ducks' 'swimming pool' for example! She's a good little eater but toys and her busy life come first.....



Carla

Carla, a very gentle girl, on the other hand loves her food, you would not believe how fast a dog can get from sound asleep on the sofa to wide awake at your feet at the very slightest hint of food! We changed all the water bowls so she can drink without getting her ears wet – the Daxies took a while to get used to them! Carla loves to be groomed and pampered, she stays right beside you on walks and when we get back she likes to sleep with darling Bryher (in bed on our Christmas card).



Stan

Stan (13) The Man is very, very sweet – he has a love heart on his head, a perfect marking for this gorgeous boy! His new best friend is Patrick (16, Shih Tzu) who he follows everywhere and will guard him. Patrick is not particularly impressed but takes it in his stride. Stan is interested in absolutely everything you've got, be it a biscuit or a toy – until you give it to him, then he isn't! He loves to paddle in the river but not the sea. He is particular about his food – chicken is best! And he's particular about where he lays his head – on his paws on a cushion. Always on a cushion whether in a bed or on a sofa. He's very sure of himself and he's a very kind boy.

A lovely family of six cats have joined

us. **Tilly** (17), **Lulu** (14), **Sheena** (14), **Archie** (12), **Gracie** (13) and **Kitty Kitty Puss Puss** (10). Tilly is the boss, she sings very loudly at anyone going past, she'll eat for England and she likes her comfort. Lulu is a busy girl, very sweet, but busy! She runs down the corridor at full pelt coming to a spectacular sliding stop! On vet's visits she follows Jonathan wherever he goes and sits in his box of tricks whenever it's opened. She has a great appetite – as a result of all her busy-ness no doubt! Sheena is a sweetheart but very shy. She loves the gardens and especially the catnip plants. She especially loves fresh fish for dinner and she will come for a cuddle but doesn't stay long, yet.... Archie is a big, lovely, cuddly, friendly boy who likes to pick up toys and walk around with them! He's polite and friendly with all the other cats and although he loves his food, he'll let anyone share. He never misses out though – seconds are usually required! Gracie is also very friendly and very sweet. She exudes a calming Zen like influence that's difficult to describe, but lovely! She loves to watch the world go by from a vantage point in



Tilly



Sheena



Archie



Kitty Kitty Puss Puss



Gracie



Sam

the garden, high enough to see the chickens, ducks and geese, or, if inclement weather, the kitchen work top, or a window sill. She's very fond of her food. Kitty Kitty Puss Puss is tiny – she thinks she is a kitten and she's nuts! Adorable but crazy! Loves to play with foil balls flung all over the place, she bounces on all the furniture, squeaking all the while, and then starts on the toys. She also leaps onto your back for a piggy back ride and she grazes all day rather than eat a proper meal – everything on the extensive menu has to be tried in turn.

Sam (17) is gorgeous. A really laid back, big, big boy who smiles a lot. He's chilled out in every respect but he prefers not to share his chosen favourite chair with anyone! He'll eat anything, cuddle forever – incredibly loveable.



Tiffany

Tiffany (13) is quite aloof but very sweet, and she knows what she wants and when. She does like a cuddle and a shoulder ride when the mood takes her and she sleeps on a favourite climbing frame. Tiffany loves the sunshine – a sunbeam on the carpet, or full-on in the garden – she doesn't go out if it's not sunny. She likes all her food but on 'her' climbing frame and she's always waiting for her bedtime treats before she settles for the night.

And now the nights are drawing in apace to remind us of the changing seasons and, still to come, cosiness, stews for dinner, log fires, extra cuddles, indoor games and.... Christmas, turkey, presents, happy smiling faces and wrapping paper everywhere magic!



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

We have pheasants too! Not babies, but grown-ups who come every morning to gather round the chicken run awaiting the food delivery service which now has to include them in the portions prepared! Once they've had their fill, they go about their business until the next day.... And we have a visiting hedgehog who is very shy, but more than welcome. We've planted a vegetable garden,

so this year we have had fresh, organic broccoli, beans and tomatoes for the dogs with more planned for next year. And, our chicken population has grown – the dogs do love egg breakfasts!

We all enjoyed evening BBQs with yummy burgers or sausages and afternoon picnics by the stream with ham and cheese or custard creams! Homemade ice cream – pate flavour for the dogs and clotted cream flavour for the cats were all consumed with great gusto, especially the dogs, all of whom wanted seconds. Trips out around Roadford Reservoir, Abbeyford Forest and Lydford Forest had the dogs all excited with new sniffs and trails. And **Vanya** (9) Swedish Vallhund, came second in the veteran class at the local show, while **Billy** (15) Terrier cross, came second in the most handsome class! We've regenerated the cats' gardens with lots of sensory herbs which are great fun to sit on/roll in/head butt!

Awful days came when we lost beloved residents. **Amy** (19) black cat, **Tabitha** (16) ginger cat; **Lenny** (15) black and white cat, **Moss** (11) Jack Russell cross, **Jenny** (15) Westie, **Wally** (13) Dachshund and **Ruff** (16½) Japanese Chin/Jack Russell cross. We're here to make sure they have the time of their lives, wrapped in love and they enhance every moment of every day for us, but when their time comes, it is so very hard.

New arrivals help to fill the gaps and add their own magic as has **Tilly**, German Shepherd cross aged 12¾. She's a beautiful, bouncy girl full of life, energy and mischief. Loves to play chase with us and the other dogs and playing tuggy is a favourite game. She's into all the toys – some survive her ministrations.... And Tilly is a gardener – she pulls up tufts of grass and tosses them in the air and throws them at you so you can tell her what a good girl she is for helping with the weeding. She loves her walks and likes to shepherd everybody to keep them moving and she really loves and enjoys her food – once she tasted home cooked food she could not get enough and given an inch will try to help herself to everyone else's too! After all that, she stretches out on the biggest sofa and if you happen to be sitting there, too bad, she makes it clear you have to move!



Tilly

Rubi (14) is a very happy, gorgeous girl who takes life at her own pace – she does like to meander on a walk taking great care not to miss a single sniff. She very much enjoys her tummy rubs and she's a morning girl – she has to



Ruby

greet all of us individually for multiple cuddles! She wasn't allowed on the furniture at home but she was double quick to learn, with the help of a ramp, how to get comfy on our sofas! Rubi keeps alive the Labrador reputation for food. She is beside herself when (especially) roast chicken is being prepared, barking in anticipation and she too would help herself to anyone else's breakfast, lunch or supper in the blink of an eye!

Matilda (16) is stunningly beautiful and still looks like a kitten. A great favourite with visitors, she knows just how to charm them; she meows or twists around their legs until they sit down, then she settles on their laps purring very loudly whereupon said visitors don't like to stop fussing her for fear of upsetting her! She's definitely a 'cosy lap to snuggle on' cat. But, she also enjoys exploring the gardens and sunbathing – on cold and wet days she tucks herself underneath the throw in her favourite armchair. Matilda is very selective with her food, but she is rather partial to some roast chicken....



Matilda

Winter wonders beckon – Halloween, pumpkin pie, fun and games like 'hunt the treat' with the staff dressing up! Games of chase with fallen leaves, collecting pine cones, blackberry picking to make apple and blackberry pies. Crisp and bright frosty morning walks with snuggly woolly jumpers on and seeing the tracks of visiting wildlife in the frost (and snow?). Sunny afternoon

walks on the beach. Cosying up with cuddles and snacks by the open fire. Hanging the stockings, wrapping the presents, joyful decorations, Christmas trees and a scrumptious traditional Christmas dinner of roast turkey and all the trimmings.



Poetry Corner

I think we should dedicate our first poem, sent in by **Lisa McCaskie**, to our lifelong fosters, and everyone at our Sanctuaries.

One by One

One by one, they pass my cage,
Too old, too worn, too broken, they say.
Way past his time, he can't run and play,
They shake their heads and go on their way.

A little old man, arthritic and sore,
It seems that I am wanted no more.
I once had a home, I once had a bed,
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.

Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail,
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong,
I got in their way, my attitude wrong.

Now I sit in this kennel, where day after day,
The young ones are chosen and taken away.
When I had come to the end of my rope,
You saw my face and again I knew hope.

You saw past the grey, the legs wobbly with age,
And felt I deserved life beyond this cage.
You took me home, gave me food and a bed,
You gently stroked my poor tired head.

We snuggle and play, you talk to me low,
You love me so dearly, and make sure I know.
Although I have lived most of my life with another
You outshine them with a love so much stronger.

I promise to return all the love I can give,
To you my dear friend, as long as I live.
I may be with you for a week, or for years,
We will share many smiles and a few tears.

When the time comes, that God deems I must leave,
I know you will cry and your heart it will grieve.
When I arrive at the Bridge all brand new,
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.

And I will brag to all who will hear,
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

And this one is from **Ken Bawden**.

Our Loved Ones

For our loved ones, up above,
God give them your peace and your love.
They are missed by us each day,
All are loved from far away.

They did not know they had to part,
Leaving us with a broken heart.
Please keep them safe in your care,
So we know they are still there.

We will always love them and we cherish
The love they gave us, will not perish.
For their kindness and their care,
We offer up this little prayer.

Grant them peace and grant them love,
God bless our loved ones, up above.



And Finally.....

I told you it has been busy! There's been sadness as there always will be, but that we can, mostly, turn sadness into happy endings is such an enormous privilege.

Autumn is upon us with shortening days, falling leaves, and winter fast approaching with Christmas and its eternal message of love and peace. So, with that in mind, as the year closes and we all reflect on times past, I ask you, as always, to raise a glass and remember with everlasting love and gratitude, absent friends.

Happy Christmas and may 2020 be kind to us all.

God bless, everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive