
NEWSLETTER

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Christmas 2024
Number 77

Dear Friends,

It has been a very exciting year for all of us here at The Trust. As we were packing The Big Walk goody bags, The Sunday Times contacted us to say that we were one of The Best Places to Work in 2024 and what a buzz that was! And what a walk it turned out to be! We had good weather in Cornwall, following the very wet walk we had in 2023. Around the country over 40 walks took place, with dogs of all sizes led by our wonderful Volunteer leaders in weathers of all sorts too!



Next year, 2025, we will be celebrating 40 years of The Cinnamon Trust. It's hard to believe that four decades have passed since Averil and friends were seated around the kitchen table in Poldarves Farm, starting the charity that has helped thousands of people with their beloved companion pets. We hear stories everyday about the profound difference that The Trust and our fabulous volunteers make on a daily basis, supporting pet owners with everyday tasks and it's this team of volunteers that embodies the spirit of community and compassion.



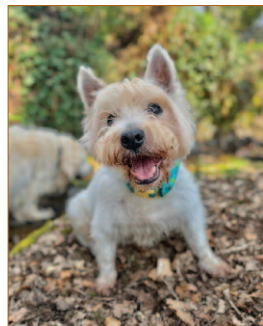
Tilly



The ducks



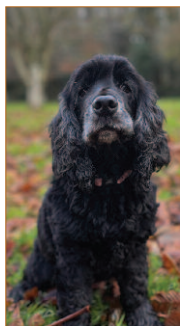
Rita



Andy



Jake



Bon Bon



Zoe



Dermott



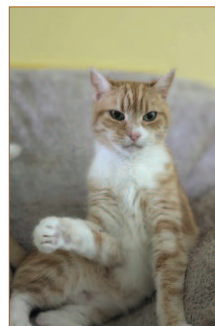
Flora



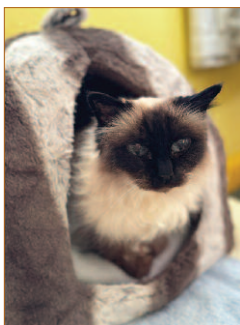
Deliah and Edna



Doris



Thomas



Daisy



Meg



Barney



Sash and Mab

CT '100' Club

Our winners for 2024 to date are: January **Malcolm & Evelyn Stacey** (Berkshire), February **Trevor & Edna Ellery** (Buckinghamshire), March **David & Joan Lloyd-Jones** (Anglesey), April **Roberta Sellwood** (Cornwall), May **Donald Stoyle** (Dorset) and June **Annie Doggett** (Essex).

Forms for the new start are enclosed. If you pay by standing order and wish to continue, just send the form back marked "Standing Order" and we will send you your new lucky number by post!



For nearly 40 years, our newsletters have been a cherished part of our history and since day one, our mission is to be there to support, wherever we can. To do that we need more volunteers and the best way to get more is to share our wonderful stories.

If you know someone who can help us out, please ask them to give us a call.

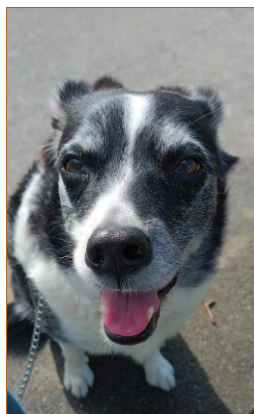
Smile with us and inspire others to get involved. Bring hope to those who need us and help us give them a big hug!

Let's start off with some lovely dog walking stories and **Jane** from Gwynned, is first...

I have been a volunteer with the Cinnamon Trust for nearly five years. I am currently walking Dylan and Ringo, two gorgeous Border Collies, who are 11 year-old brothers and inseparable.



Dylan



Ringo

My journey with The Cinnamon Trust began back in 2019. We had semi-retired up to North Wales and I was getting the urge to have a dog or dogs to walk! Our circumstances weren't really suited to having a dog of our own so I began to look around for opportunities to walk other people's pets. I didn't really want to be paid for my services because that felt a bit too much like a job and I liked the idea of doing it to help someone out, as well as satisfying my own dog walking yearnings.

An online search led me to The Cinnamon Trust which, I admit I had never heard of before. However, the more I read the more excited I became! It appeared to 'tick all the boxes' as an animal lover.

The application process was straightforward but thorough and very swift and before I knew it, I had received my volunteer's badge and was ready to go! I was so excited! After a short while I was sent an email from The Trust asking if I would be able to provide holiday cover for three weeks for another volunteer. This was the perfect opportunity to be shown the ropes but also dip out after three weeks if I decided it wasn't for me after all. Suffice to say, I loved it and after the three weeks were up I asked, or one may say, begged Cinnamon Trust to allow me to carry on walking Sooty once a week. This was readily agreed to! It was my utter pleasure and joy to walk Sooty every Sunday morning until 2022, when very sadly his owner died and Sooty went to live with a family member.

When you become a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust the emphasis is very much on doing only as much, or as little as you want, travelling only as far as you want and ensuring that you can fit the volunteering into your own lifestyle and other responsibilities without it becoming a chore. After Sooty's owner died I decided to take a break. I had not long started a new part time job with changeable rotas and felt I needed to get to grips with that before taking on more dog walking. The Cinnamon Trust were very understanding and put a note on my file to that effect. I did however, help out one weekend at a local Dogfest event at which The Cinnamon Trust was represented.

After a few months I was beginning to get the dog walking urge again and felt sufficiently settled in my job and other areas of my life to take on a new dog or two as it turned out! Within about two days of contacting The Trust I was asked if I would like to walk Dylan and Ringo, two 10 year-old Border Collies, whose owners due to health reasons were no longer able to take them out for the long walks they needed. I was apprehensive having never walked two at a time, but was assured by The Trust who had already sent a volunteer to meet and walk them, that they were very well behaved, the only problem being when they occasionally became entangled in each other's leads! I agreed to go and meet Tony and Sylvia, Dylan and Ringo's mum and dad, as well as Dylan and Ringo to see how we all got along.

It was honestly love at first sight with those two gorgeous boys! I took them out for a short walk, no entanglement occurred and we returned to Tony and Sylvia's where we all sat around talking for about another hour.

Since then I have been walking Dylan and Ringo every Friday morning and they really are a pleasure to take out. They are so good natured; neither is distracted by other dogs or people so I always feel in control. That said they have totally different

personalities from each other. Ringo sets his head down and just walks. He knows where he wants to go and is not put off by anything or anyone. Dylan on the other hand, likes to stop and sniff and he generally takes in what's going on around him. This can be a bit of a challenge when I have one straining on the lead to just keep going and the other resolutely taking his time to have a good sniff and christen various stopping points. We have the best time on the beach where they can be let off the lead to have a run around and play with the ball. Again, different personalities collide. If Dylan gets to the ball first he is very good at retrieving it and bringing it back to me. Ringo, not so much. If Dylan gets to the ball first Ringo barks and tries to harass him into giving it up (it doesn't work). If Ringo gets to the ball first he either runs off and deposits it, usually in a clump of grass where it can't be seen or, more usually stands with one paw on it while he systematically shreds the cover then the ball itself. We get through a lot of balls! Occasionally, when the ball is looking a little worse for wear with bits hanging off, Dylan will get to it first but Ringo will manage to grab a bit of shredded cover in his teeth. Here commences tug-of-war! We return home tired but happy; it is a lovely start to my Friday.

Inevitably, volunteering can be tinged with sadness due to the nature of The Cinnamon Trust's work and the people who use its service. I am heartbroken when I have to say goodbye to my dogs either because of the death of the owner, or the dog itself, or perhaps because the owner has moved away or into care. It doesn't take long to become attached to the dogs and I also value and cherish the friendships I have formed with their owners.

The Cinnamon Trust does amazing work in bringing together people who need help walking their dogs with people who are only too willing to walk them. Through its work, many people are able to keep their beloved companions with them, maintaining strong bonds and reducing the risk of loneliness and isolation. The Cinnamon Trust is also very supportive of its volunteers and there is always someone available for volunteers to talk to if an emergency occurs, or if you are not sure of the protocol in a particular situation.

I have written this from the point of view of a dog walker but Cinnamon Trust's services are not limited to dogs, support is available for owners of all companion animals! I would urge anyone thinking of becoming a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust to give it a try. You have nothing to lose and lots to gain!



Volunteer **Katy** from Hampshire writes:

Seamus is a Jack Russell who will be 14 in May; that's 91 in dog years! I help walk him for a bright and energetic lady who has some visual impairment. We walk

through the fields and woods at the back of the house. He loves it when we get to an open space where he starts running - so I have to run too! A walker we once met asked who was having more fun! If it's a bit wet or boggy, Seamus will look at me as if to say 'really!' but he's fine once we get going. He just needs a bit of reassurance. Janet his owner has become a dear friend, I care fondly for them both.



Seamus

Jasper is a 14 year-old Collie who loves water! He will go out of his way to walk through puddles, ditches and make the most of ponds. His owner fractured her pelvis last year so needs help to get him enough 'mileage' which I enjoy - I take him walking on a big loop from the house. He's a 'celeb' in the area; everyone knows him. We once met the local vet who happened to have a treat in his pocket for him. The last time I picked up Jasper he was waiting in the front garden as if he knew I was coming and gave a yelp of delight to see me. What joy that brought me too!



Jasper

The Cinnamon Trust is a wonderful concept which helps so many keep their pets well and happy, and that means the owners too. I have made friends in animals, their owners and those we meet along the way. Selfless service in life is a gift and one which The Cinnamon Trust gives us.



Devoted owner **Bob** from Suffolk writes about his companion **Paddy** and the volunteers who help with his walks:

I am 77 years old and live in Kessingland, Suffolk. Unfortunately, following a bad fall I developed a condition called Peripheral Neuropathy. This condition damaged my nervous system leaving me with severe balance issues and unable to take my dog Paddy for his walks.



Paddy is a six year-old Cocker Spaniel whom I adopted from the FAITH rescue centre two years ago. Initially, he was quite a handful. He had never been inside a house before, was not house trained and had a strong will of his own. For two months he constantly sought escape routes and avoided eye contact. Having owned Labradors in the

past I thought I was good with dogs, but Paddy quickly made me reassess that belief. Gradually however, he came around and has become a wonderful companion. He is clever and will do anything for me. Although he doesn't get along with other dogs this is manageable with vigilance.

Due to my balance issues I soon realised that I could not safely take Paddy out for walks. He was accustomed to being on the beach twice a day and I had to face the difficult realisation that I might need to find him a new home. I found a private walker Duane, to take him out every day but I knew this arrangement wouldn't be affordable in the long run.

In January I contacted The Cinnamon Trust. They promptly arranged for someone to meet Paddy and assess his needs. This was done with minimal fuss and arrangements were made for Samantha and Sheila to start walking Paddy. Samantha walks him once a week and Sheila walks him three times a week. They are both brilliant with him and he quickly adapted to this new routine, eagerly anticipating their arrival each day. Duane continues to take Paddy out on the other days and he has been invaluable.

I am extremely grateful to the team at The Cinnamon Trust. They acted swiftly and professionally, gathering the necessary information and setting up the arrangements. Despite the frequent rain since the ladies started walking Paddy, they remain cheerful and never complain. I would be lost without their help.

A big thank you to everyone at The Cinnamon Trust. Without you, I would have had to part with Paddy and that would have been just awful!



Heidi writes with the help of mum **Debbie** from West Sussex:



Heidi with volunteer Elke

Hello everyone, my name is Heidi and I'm a salt and pepper Miniature Schnauzer. My mummy can't walk me right now as she is not very well and has bad arms and will have to go into hospital for an operation. My mummy has got in touch with The Cinnamon Trust so some people can take me for walks. I really miss my walks as mummy liked going out and I would go out three times a day. I used to go everywhere with mummy as we had a car and I loved going out for rides.

I love everyone and love little children and big ones too! When we went to town and the village, people

would ask mummy if they could stroke me and if their children could too, I really loved this. They would say I was pretty or even beautiful - I kind of miss that. Now I can go for walks again, this is great as I can meet other dogs, I love to say hello to them very much. I love to run and sniff the ground and the bushes, trees and grass.

I'm very lucky I have Ann that comes on Tuesday morning to walk me and Nikki that walks me on a Wednesday afternoon, sometimes with her daughter Alice. This is great and now I have a new lady called Elke, she is very nice. I'm so lucky that I have great lovely walkers and all thanks to mummy for asking The Cinnamon Trust.

I have my toys - I like my soft Peter Rabbit and Teddy Tiger. I like toys that squeak. I have a piggy, a cow and bones and a ball but I don't like it if anyone throws my ball, only if I do. I'm very lucky, I have a big chesterfield doggy sofa, its brown and has big cushions and a little armchair too. Mummy lets me sit on her sofa so I can see out of the window and I bark when people go by. I like to say hello but I don't like it when the fox comes and sits outside our big gates.

Well, I'm going to say goodbye for now as Elke came today and we went for a walk so I'm going to have a long sleep. Bye bye from me and my mummy, her name is Debra but everyone calls her Debbie.

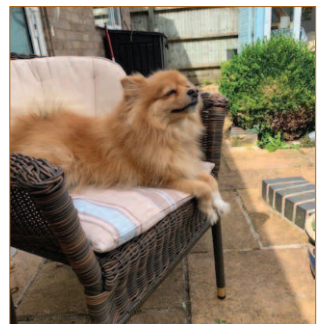


Loki Green from Oxfordshire writes:

Hi Readers

I am a 5 year-old Pomeranian cross Sheltie called Loki and all my walkers love me! Every day of the week I wait by the window, eagerly looking out to see who is coming today. As soon as they drive in my tail starts to wag with excitement. It must be time for "walkies," as they say!

Maybe they'll take me to see the waterfall or down the footpath where the sheep jump when I arrive. It's so much fun with so many hedges to sniff. I cock my leg at every opportunity and pull on the lead when another dog tries to pass by. Making sure every plant, dog and human could see or smell that Loki has been here! Sometimes I get a treat – I think it's for being good – but hey, it's not about the food! I can't believe how much my life has changed since allowing all these fans of mine to spend some time with me.



Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust I am looked after ever so well by Jane, Tonja, Liz, Morwenna and Ann. I get loads of exercise, have a bustling social life and get to stay at home content with my dad. Happy days!

Love & Licks – Loki



From Shropshire volunteers **Jonathan** and **Victoria** write:

We first heard about the work of The Cinnamon Trust through our late neighbour Sylvia Tipton. She adored her dog Tilly and it was through the dedicated ladies visiting and walking Tilly that allowed her to keep her beloved companion at home with her. We saw firsthand how impactful The Trust can be, combatting loneliness and alleviating some of the worry that the most vulnerable of pet owners face.



Following the passing of Sylvia my partner and I were inspired by the ladies who so dedicatedly visited to walk Tilly. We signed up ourselves and hoped to help out a person and pet in need in our community. We were promptly matched with Mrs Roberts and Gypsy, her black Labrador.

It has been a pleasure getting to know Mrs Roberts and we can see how much her dogs mean to her. We hope that even just the small contribution we make by walking Gypsy (and sometimes Dora, her guide dog) helps to keep them together for as long as possible. She has an established team of walkers that do a great job giving the dogs plenty of exercise. Relieving the anxieties of Mrs Roberts as she knows that her companions never go without their walks.

There is a lovely tribute to **Sylvia Tipton** later on in the newsletter.



One of our Long Service Award volunteers, **Jeanette** in Gwent tells her story:

In 2012, I volunteered to walk 'Georgie Girl' a beautiful boxer dog in Pontllanfraith for her elderly owner Margaret. From 'the off' it was a delight to walk her! Georgie loved walking of course, but also the little things. She loved riding in the car; on warm days we had the roof down and she loved feeling the wind jiggle her droopy chops!

She passed away in February 2019 and I follow up now with the news that her mum Margaret has joined her over the rainbow bridge. She had been battling cancer since the beginning of 2023. As she got weaker she needed help at home and moved in with her older sister, her nephew and his wife. They looked after her really well and despite the move I kept in touch, often going to visit them all—such lovely people. Her nephew even took a moment to thank me at Margaret’s funeral, saying ‘they don’t know what they would have done without me’.



When I first started to walk Georgie I also took up the opportunity to walk Prince, a gentle, mature black labrador for his mum Ivy in Pengam. Both parties did not mind me walking the dogs together. I would first pick up Georgie then Prince and very quickly the pair forged a wonderful friendship. The two dogs loved each other; near Ivy’s house there was a lovely walk along country paths adjacent to a small river where the pair would paddle. As Prince was older Georgie would run back to him when he needed some encouragement and say, ‘come on, Auntie J has treats’. Prince would always find his second wind and pick up the pace once more. We would go back to Prince’s house and have a coffee with Ivy while the dogs had a play or lay down and slept off their walk. Then back to Margaret’s to drop off Georgie, finishing up with a second coffee and a catch-up.

Prince and his mum Ivy died some years ago now. Prince passed first, but I carried on walking Georgie near Ivy’s house as it was a lovely place with a lot of good memories. Ivy could continue to get her 'doggy fix' and we continued to call in until she passed on as well.

I got to know many of the local people who walked our route. I never had to tell Georgie to stop at the kerb, she just did. We had a lot of laughs together; it was always a pleasure. Margaret and her family treat me like family. I think myself lucky to have known all these brilliant people and to call them my friends. I thank The Cinnamon Trust for asking me to walk Georgie and for the irreplaceable journey that followed.



From North Yorkshire volunteer and owner **Pam** writes:

In retirement we relocated to North Yorkshire seeking a mellow way of life, leaving most of our family and friends behind. Despite the initial solitude we quickly discovered the charm of our new surroundings and embraced the peaceful countryside.

Life took an unexpected turn when hospital appointments started to become more frequent and potentially lengthy, that's when we remembered The Cinnamon Trust. We decided to register as members and volunteers thinking it would be a great way to give back. I was particularly excited about becoming a dog walker for this wonderful cause in my spare time.

We didn't anticipate needing their help ourselves but life has its surprises. We adopted two affectionate Miniature Schnauzers, Poppy and Pepper. They are quite vocal due to their nerves, but are all bark and no bite. During a routine optician appointment last year I was advised to have cataract surgery on both eyes or I would have to give up my driving license. The thought of the operation filled me with dread. How would I get my husband to his NHS appointments? What would I do with the "girls"?

Enter The Cinnamon Trust. They sprang into action, conducting all necessary checks and introducing us to potential dog walkers. Their dedication and love for dogs were evident. Could I trust anyone with my "girls"? Could they handle their vocal nature? The answer was a resounding yes!



Soon we had volunteers ready to provide wonderful walks for Poppy and Pepper. When my operation date arrived everything went smoothly. Now, with one operation done and recovery going well, I'm looking forward to the second one with confidence. My husband often says, "God bless The Cinnamon Trust" especially since his health isn't great and winter has been tough on him. Knowing that Dawn or Chris will walk the dogs when we can't is incredibly reassuring.

I encourage anyone with pets to consider membership with The Cinnamon Trust. As we age, we can't control the ailments we might face but having such support is invaluable. Plus we've made new friends along the way! Keep up the good work, Cinnamon Trust!



Gary and **Marilyn** from Oxfordshire tell us about their canine carer Izzy:

We cannot tell you how much The Cinnamon Trust has impacted our lives, without first introducing you to the reason of our initial contact, Izzy.

Izzy is our adorable rehomed little lady who has been a true blessing. She joined our

family over ten years ago and though she was shy and hesitant at first, we've watched her blossom beautifully. The first year of training was a bit challenging but we both came through stronger and closer. Looking back, it's like watching a flower open up. These days, seeing Izzy in her playful mood, happy and smiling fills our hearts with joy! Who could resist a game with her fluffy chicken and rabbit toys?

Izzy has taken on some important jobs. Her dad has a chronic illness and she keeps a loving eye on him. Her mum has had several eye operations and Izzy, without any formal training has become her guide in poor light, even stopping her when needed. Izzy is truly amazing.



We three are getting on, but not yet old. Someone constantly moves the goal posts on the 'old' diagnosis, they move further and further into the horizon. We realise that dog ownership is only going to get more challenging the older we become.

Izzy has risen to the challenge of caring for us poorly 'parents'. Continually loving, patient and gentle with us and gives us plenty of cuddles, so we must ensure that we do all we can to guarantee the same for her, whatever happens.

I am Izzy's main walker. So you can imagine our horror, as now our household has a crisis as I undergo treatment for illness, at the thought of not being able to care properly for Izzy for a couple of months. We would not want Izzy to become upset, frustrated or distressed through a lack of exercise. We thought of the options, but at times like these you have to question 'are we caring for her as we should?' or more to the point 'are we meeting her needs?' The short answer to this was no. We knew we had to contact The Cinnamon Trust.

We are incredibly grateful to our Cinnamon Trust volunteers: Lesley, Pauline, and Alison (with her handsome and gentle labrador Kipper.) They have been a godsend for Izzy. Despite Izzy's initial reluctance to leave her caring duties at home, these wonderful ladies have managed to get her out walking. This has been fantastic for Izzy, expanding her world and bringing more joy and energy into our home after her walks.

Knowing I can face what the future holds with the knowledge that Izzy will be fine has taken a huge burden off us both. You cannot imagine the joy of The Cinnamon Trust calling us with the names of the aforementioned lovely ladies. And it's been all smiles ever since! It has given us cause to hope that we can keep our Izzy with us at home until the very end.



And this lovely story comes from East Sussex:

The Cinnamon Trust has made a tremendous difference in my life, especially for my two small dogs. Three years ago I was living an active and full life having adapted to neuropathy that caused balance issues. I walked the dogs, worked and enjoyed being out and about. However, I began experiencing falls—tripping over my own feet, my balance becoming increasingly erratic and a wave of exhaustion and fatigue overwhelming me. By March 23 I could no longer walk properly. My movements became stiff and jerky and I fell frequently. Each day became a hazardous challenge. The locum GP had no credible suggestions and after three consecutive falls left me lying on the ground, immobilised and terrified, I realized I could no longer walk my dogs. This realization left me effectively housebound.

My dear little dogs love their walks, especially our trips to the seaside. The word "seaside" sparks a flurry of jumping, yelping and excited running until we reach the front door. They would eagerly jump into the car at any opportunity, filled with hope. Faced with the inescapable reality I considered giving them away but with one being 15 and the other 11 I convinced myself that no one would take them. Their misery at not having walks was heartbreaking.

My GP diagnosed Parkinson's and while the medication has helped significantly my confidence was shattered, leaving me housebound. Then I was unexpectedly hospitalised for ten days instead of the planned one day surgery. During this time my beloved dogs were alone, without me or anyone who truly knew their needs, a desperate situation.

A wonderful lady, an acquaintance from Tai Chi classes came to the rescue. She and her supportive husband, along with their kind and well behaved Spaniel took my dogs into their home. She sent me photos and waited an extra day to help me settle back in at home. I was extremely weak and relied on a walking frame to move around.

While in the hospital a nurse told me about The Cinnamon Trust and gave me a leaflet. I had never heard of The Trust or any volunteer dog walking group. If I had known about The Cinnamon Trust earlier I would have gladly been a volunteer walker. This exchange, unbeknownst to me would be the start of something great.

Now, thanks to The Cinnamon Trust my dogs enjoy their walks and much anticipated fuss, new experiences and valued walks. I couldn't have chosen better families for them. I feel completely at ease and confident in the care, professionalism and organisation of The Trust.

My little companions are so enthusiastic and know when their walk is coming.

They are much happier and visibly healthier. I also cherish the chance to chat and have made new friends through this experience. I no longer feel anxious about what will happen to my dogs as my condition worsens or if I require sudden hospitalisation. I am deeply grateful to my lovely walkers and to The Cinnamon Trust. Thank you, all of you, from the bottom of my heart.



Zoe from Merseyside tells us about **Lucy**

Poppy (my Chihuahua) and myself first met Lucy and Jill in January 2023. Straight away Lucy was so friendly; she sat on my knee like she'd known me much longer than 5 minutes! Now, when we arrive at Jill's house Lucy can be heard barking away to tell Jill we've arrived and the front door can be seen almost vibrating as Lucy runs back and forth along the hall in excitement for her walkies!



Lucy is a ball of energy when we collect her, jumping up and down the stairs and on and off Jill's chair! Once the lead is attached and I have detangled my feet from being circled ten times we are out the door to walk off some of that energy. In the winter months along the pavements and in the lighter months in the local park sniffing the grass and flowers. As time has gone on I have let Lucy off the lead in the park. Lucy is fully aware of the 'treat tin' - when I give it a little rattle or just have it visible in my hand, Lucy's head turns and looks up expectantly! When I first offered Lucy a 'low fat kibble' (Poppy has chronic pancreatitis and I have to give them the same!), Lucy turned her nose up but now can't get enough of them!

When we can, we will take Lucy out on little trips at the weekend. Lucy has joined us on a visit to a pumpkin patch, a private hired dog field, a local cafe for brunch and the 2023 Big Dog Walk! My parents have met Lucy and I have met Jill's daughters. Jill and I enjoy a little natter and recently along with two of Lucy's other volunteers we had a good natter and a drink to kick start the Easter weekend!

There hasn't been a visit or phone call made to Jill and Lucy without being thanked by Jill. Yet I gain just as much from volunteering as they do. We meet Lucy once a week after work and even after the hardest, tiring days her energy and enjoyment lightens up the day. Lucy, you are a pleasure.



Mother and son volunteers **Becky** and **Jacob** from Staffordshire:



My son and myself have worked with The Cinnamon Trust for two years. It has been a privilege to meet people's loved ones and share walks with them weekly. My son Jacob is doing it for his DOE Bronze and now Silver Awards. We consider it a privilege and enjoy these walks. Last year we enjoyed our time with Harvey.

We recently met Skyla for Jacob's DOE silver she is a gorgeous girl and so friendly. When she first met us she immediately jumped on my son's lap for cuddles. She loves a long walk and when its muddy she loves to roll in the mud, which with her lovely white coat ... you can imagine shocked us at first until her owner confirmed she loves to do this. What we love about Skyla is she is so much fun to walk and run with, but after she just loves to jump onto your lap for cuddles. Myself and my son look forward to our weekly walks with her.



Owner **Carol** in Kent writes:

The Trust consistently check in on me and ensure that my girls are safe and well cared for. The kindness and dedication of the staff are truly remarkable. Without their help I don't know how I would have managed.



For the past two years my current volunteer dog walker Doris, has been an enormous help to me and a joy to my dogs. They get tremendously excited whenever she arrives. Doris has worked wonders with them, improving not only their fitness but also their lead etiquette and general walking behaviour. Mia and Nellie go for a walk first and then Doris takes Tisha out for a more leisurely stroll. We also have another walker Shirley who is lovely and comes on a Thursday.

Each of my girls has a unique personality. Mia, a 10 year-old Cavachon is a bit of a diva. She loves attention and cuddles but can be quite stubborn and demanding. Tisha, an 11 year-old Yorkie/Westie mix adores her toys and loves her walks. Four years ago she suddenly went completely blind which was devastating. Miraculously, after a couple of months she began to regain her sight, although not fully. Lastly, there's Nellie a 6 year-old who is supposedly a Pomeranian-Poodle

mix though we're not entirely sure. I recently applied for a DNA test and it will be interesting to see the results. Nellie is highly intelligent and very sensitive, a true mummy's girl. When people ask her breed we say she is 100% Nellie because she is truly one of a kind. They are all adorable and I love them dearly.

I cannot thank The Cinnamon Trust enough for all their support. The staff are incredibly helpful and understanding providing invaluable assistance to people who, through no fault of their own, find themselves unable to care for their beloved pets. The services offered are irreplaceable.

From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of my girls, thank you Cinnamon Trust.



Judith in Hampshire shows us it's a small world:

As a lady in my late 70's living in rural Hampshire (and in declining mobility) I had increasing concerns over my ability to keep walking my dog Faith. Faith came to me three years ago via Greyhound Protection who had caught her after three weeks of her evading capture and living wild in the hills of Malaga.

I decided to contact The Cinnamon Trust for help, however living in such a rural location I had very little hopes that they would be able to find someone nearby who would be able to walk Faith.

However, in just a couple of days they contacted me to say that Rachel would be in touch to arrange an initial "meet and greet".



As soon as Rachel called we realised that we knew each other! In the past, Rachel had lived a few houses away from me and we had spent many happy times talking on the corner of our road and admiring each other's dogs. She had two lurchers at the time, I had a pug and a greyhound.

Rachel moved away from the area eight years ago and we lost touch, that is until The Cinnamon Trust sent her to me! She has been walking Faith for two hours a week, a great help to feel she is getting two long walks a week. We have also been helped by volunteer Diane who walks on Thursdays and Fridays.

I wish I had known about the work of The Cinnamon Trust years ago, I certainly would have joined and helped walk dogs when my health would have permitted it.

Thanks very much to The Cinnamon Trust and all the volunteers who go to help people and their animal families.



Pauline from West Sussex about **Bess** who puts the spring into Springer Spaniel:

Bess is a rescue dog who was used for puppy farming and rescued by Allsorts Dogs in Brighton along with her sister, when she was 2. I had retired and was looking for a dog to get old with! Having had Spaniels before, when I saw her on their site, I knew she was the one!



She was a true Springer from the start and totally nuts, very pleased to get into the big wide world having been kept in a kitchen since she was little. Despite her rocky start she has a wonderful, happy and affectionate nature and loves everybody. She's a terrible flirt and prefers men over women and SELECTED large male dogs only! As I live by the sea the beach was her favourite and many nail biting times were

had "as she made off for France", leaving me shouting on the beach and wondering if I should call the RNLI!

As mentioned, the plan was we would get old together. However, I got old and she didn't and Bess now aged 13 (going on 2) still requires a lot of exercise. So, about four years ago when I couldn't keep up with her anymore or make the park or the beach, I realised I needed help but where from? One day we met a gentleman in the park who stopped to give her a fuss and we got chatting about my predicament. He asked me if I knew about The Cinnamon Trust. No I didn't, but got on the phone to The Trust next day and the rest is history!

Cinnamon were enormously nice and helpful and we soon had dog walkers for England! Some have come and gone over the years due to lifestyle changes, but every single one of them have been lovely doggy friendly people who love to go walking, but usually can't have a dog of their own right now because they are working. If someone has had to step down The Trust has always been absolutely on the ball and found a replacement very quickly. I can't thank Cinnamon enough for all their kind help in making sure young Bessie gets the exercise she still needs, that I can't give her. This has enabled me to keep my lovely dog and enjoy her companionship in my old age.

Bess has a better social life than I do, and even has her own diary so I can keep

up with her and our current Cinnamons, Sara, Gemma, Heather and Dave who take her to the beach, the parks, the shops, the pier and sometimes in the car, further afield. A big THANK YOU to them all for giving up their time and invaluable help and to Cinnamon for making it all happen.



Owner **Pauline** from Surrey shares her story and gratitude to our volunteers in Surrey:

Callie is a Macnab Californian short-haired Border Collie who had a very rough start in life. We adopted her in 2018 and found she had also been debarked, but she can make appreciative noises to me. She spent two years sitting behind my chair staring at the cupboard not acknowledging anything or anyone. With two years of TLC she is very different now.



We took her on holidays with us as Callie's wellbeing and walks were as important to us as they were to her. Two years ago, my husband passed away. Since my husband's death, this quiet and gentle dog devoid of love in her early life, has stepped up to give me comfort. She does not ask for fuss but just comes and sits by my feet—my new best friend. I have continued to enjoy walks with Callie, but last year I realised that I was not able to walk as far as we did before and was concerned that I was not being fair to my best friend. I decided to ask for help, hence my call to The Cinnamon Trust. Two lovely ladies contacted me soon after my call and in six months our weeks are transformed. Callie has two wonderful walking friends and the long walks she craved.

We don't have set days, we are flexible to fit in with all of our lives but Callie now has the long walks she needs—2 or 3 quality exercise walks a week. Callie loves her new friends and has regained her figure! I am so grateful to Sian and Marcia who sometimes accompany them. And also to Pip and Spencer, Marcia's Spaniels who have allowed Callie to accompany them on their excursions.



Callie and I cannot thank The Cinnamon Trust enough for enabling us to form these connections and to Sian and Marcia for including me and Callie in their lives.

Diana writes from Cornwall:

My involvement with The Cinnamon Trust began when I was out in a howling wet gale walking my Cockapoo Harry across a moor. I tripped on a bramble and shattered my right shoulder which then needed a replacement. Living alone, being 79 and unable to drive for a few months I was unable to walk Harry.



I contacted Cinnamon who put me in touch with my three wonderful dog walkers who have been our lifeline. He absolutely loves all of them, gets so excited when they arrive and they give him wonderful varied walks. One lady took him to her house, walked Harry with her dogs and introduced him to her horses! He came home so happy! Another takes him down to the beach where he plays ball and digs huge holes, he comes back nicely tired and content.

The walkers are always very respectful telling me where they are going and how long they will be. I am almost fully healed now so am back driving short distances. I will miss my lovely walkers very much but not as much as I suspect Harry will.

Thank you so very much Cinnamon for being there, I dread to think what I would have done without you. Sent with thanks and love from Diana x



From owner **Heather** in Hampshire:

When I lost my 16-year-old whippet in 2021, I was utterly heartbroken. After a year of feeling lonely and sad, a little black whippet popped into view and without a second thought, she came home with me. People said, "aren't you rather old to be getting a puppy?" I was 79 but walking without a dog seemed so pointless. I spent the next 18 months teaching Delphi good manners and recall, quite challenging in the New Forest with all the wildlife and animals! We became close and contented companions and she makes me laugh every single day.



Then came a challenge. On a walk with my friends in October their large dog was playing chase with mine, I was bowled over and broke my tibial plateau, a

complicated and painful break. Fortunately, Delphi was taken in by my friends and spent ten weeks with them while I was in the hospital (four weeks) and then home to recuperate. Those few weeks at home without her were unbearable but on Christmas Eve, she came home. I had a patchwork of friends and helpers to take her for walks but this was not sustainable in the long-term. For my mental health I needed my Delphi home.

I had heard of The Cinnamon Trust and contacted them to see if they could help with walks. After a 'meet and greet' with a local volunteer (she passed with flying colours, and we became friends with Jo and her dog), we were paired with two fantastic dog walkers, Sandie and Lesley and I got my life back. Delphi quickly grew to love and trust her new friends and greets them joyfully when they come to take her for her walk. And for me, they have become very dear friends.

Slowly, I began to go for short walks again, painfully and hesitantly and then came the moment when I could drive and take Delphi for a short walk myself. I was amazed at how sensitive she was and still is, to my slower and less secure pace. Regaining my independence we now enjoy lovely, leisurely (all be it small) walks together.

But my two wonderful Cinnamon ladies still take her out for longer and more active walks and The Cinnamon Trust continues to be a lifeline for me. I cannot express adequately just how significant they have been in my recovery and I am deeply grateful for this wonderful charity and the generous, caring people who volunteer for them. You are all stars!



Don't forget - Spread the word!!!

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we ensure that countless dogs stay active, healthy and happy even when their owners face challenges in getting them out for walks.

We dream of making our 40th year the brightest and most impactful yet. With your help, we can bring more volunteers on board, take more dogs on delightful walks and extend our support to more older and terminally ill people than ever before.



Volunteers **Lesley** and **Andrew** in West Yorkshire loved looking after **Rosie**:

Rosie arrived on 10th December 2023, for foster care while her mum was undergoing treatment in hospital. From the very start Rosie was a delight, settling

quickly into her new routine with us. She truly seemed to enjoy her walks at our local nature reserve and by the River Ure in North Yorkshire. Being ball crazy, she had a fantastic time chasing the ball at Thornborough Henges.



At home Rosie was a loving Border Collie, cosying up by the fire at night and relishing her cuddles and strokes. We were very lucky to have Rosie with us over Christmas, watching her devour her Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. She gave us the perfect excuse to get out and walk more, especially during winter when we often needed that extra push!

We even had the privilege of taking Rosie with us for a few days to the Scottish Borders. We stayed at a lovely cottage on the Neidpath Estate, near Peebles, where Rosie had a whole walled garden to herself for ball games. Together we walked down by the mighty River Tweed, spotting lots of herons and oystercatchers. Rosie even alerted my husband to a red squirrel darting among the trees!

We loved fostering Rosie; she truly brightened up the dark winter days for us. On 25th February, it was time for Rosie to return home to her mum and family. After a long journey back to health, you can imagine the emotion as they were reunited. It was wonderful to see them together again. Thank you Rosie and Susan!



A very special story from **Louise** in Oxfordshire:

I first met Wendy and her wonderful pets in 2021 when I started walking Bonzo, her Springer Spaniel as a CT volunteer. When collecting and dropping off Bonzo,



I would check in on Honey, the rabbit and have a chat with Wendy. Toby, her African Grey parrot would invariably join in on any conversation! Toby, who is 24 decided he liked me (he is quite choosy!), so with CT's agreement I took over his weekly cage cleaning. Each time I visited he would sit on my shoulder for a fuss. Sadly, Bonzo and Honey are no longer with us, but I have continued to visit Toby twice a week to clean his cage, have a chat and give him some out of cage time.

Toby is now staying with me on a short-term foster, with his mum facing a stay in the hospital and he makes me laugh every day with his antics and chatter. He has settled in well

and he enjoys exploring his new space. He is not very keen on healthy eating though and throws every bit of vegetable I give him out of the cage (a bit like a toddler!) However, he will grudgingly eat sprouted seeds provided they are the decent ones from Waitrose! He is surprisingly comfortable around my dog and cats although they do not reciprocate the feeling. He calls my dog 'Bonz' after his old dog friend (her name is Hettie) and on his second day with us he mimicked a squeaky toy to get her attention. When she ran in to get it he told her she was a 'good boy'! He repeated this each time she settled back onto the sofa; needless to say, she was not impressed and gave up after the fifth time!

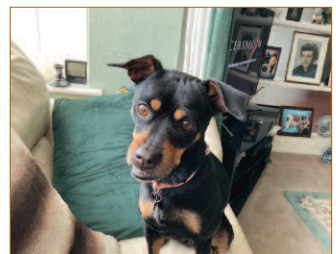
Each morning I am greeted with a chat, a whistle, or a tune; the McDonald's theme tune is a favourite of his! This morning he said "Hello, my darling" when I fed him, which was lovely, although he quickly followed it with the loudest burp and 'pardon me, Tobe'! Life will be very quiet when Toby goes home to Wendy and I will miss him and his quirks. However, I am pleased that I have been able to help Wendy keep her beloved pets with her as they provide so many benefits, not least of which is companionship and in Toby's case, a nice bit of chat!



Long Service volunteer **Anne** from Berkshire writes:

Since retiring in 1994, I have volunteered with Cinnamon as a dog walker. Over the years I formed wonderful and rewarding friendships with the dog owners I assisted. In addition to walking dogs, I served as a home checker and short-term fosterer and adopted two fabulous little dachshunds. So, it is safe to say that my involvement with The Trust goes back some way. My dear Daxi's seamlessly integrated into my existing Dachshund family and were deeply loved. However, time marches on and I lost my last two beloved boys just before Christmas last year.

Living alone with my family abroad I felt their loss massively. The house felt incomplete without a dog and I felt unfulfilled with so much of my life being oriented around my pets. So, I decided to adopt a little rescue girl, a beautiful 3 year-old Spanish Chihuahua cross. That is how Suki came into my life. She fit in right away and we enjoyed daily long walks by the river which she needed as a relatively young dog.



Unfortunately, I began experiencing dizzy spells. After one of our walks my phone rang, it was my GP informing me that my blood test results necessitated immediate hospitalisation and that an ambulance was on its way. I was in a total panic about what would happen to Suki. I called The Cinnamon Trust who calmed

me down, took control of the situation and sprang into action.

Lovely Julie, a volunteer short-term fosterer arrived even before the ambulance to take charge of Suki and brought her into temporary foster care for the following week. Suki had a wonderful time and was superbly cared for in Julie's dog loving home allowing me to recover without worrying about her wellbeing.

Upon my return home, Cinnamon found me two amazing dog walkers, Joanne and Niki. They have been giving Suki longer walks than I can manage and she adores them. Without Cinnamon's support I fear I would have had to give up my little companion who is such an important part of my life. My heartfelt thanks go to all involved. As a rescue dog the last thing I would want is for Suki to face another rehoming or end up in cages or kennels. Thanks to The Trust I can focus on spending quality time with Suki without worry and I am eternally grateful for that.



Written by **Annabel** in Devon shortly before she and her husband both sadly passed away:

What an amazing organisation The Cinnamon Trust is! We first came across The Cinnamon Trust in the 1980's through an advertisement at The Royal Free Hospital in London. The picture showed a number of cats and dogs living happily together in their Cornish Farm Sanctuary. Ever since then, we have supported The Trust.



This year, now in our mid-eighties, we decided that because our health was failing it was sadly time to find a new home for our two cats while we still had the capacity to organise it ourselves. As a couple we always liked to have a pair of cats—one for each lap. We had two Burmillas: Wyndhams, a 12 year-old male, and Nancy, a 6 year-old female. They have always been well bonded, and our biggest wish was to keep them

together. We were so relieved when, from the first few minutes of our initial phone call, Zoe told us that The Trust never splits up a family group unless the owner states otherwise.

Their names come from the musical comedy "The Boyfriend," performed at the Wyndhams Theatre in London in the late 1950's. A show that we loved as a couple; Nancy we named after one of the leading characters and Wyndhams after the theatre where we saw the show.

We were delighted to learn that The Trust would help us as we had made arrangements with them and fully understood that we were struggling with their care. The home they found for them, not at the farm sanctuary that we saw photographed all those years ago as we had originally thought, but with a foster mum whose previous pets had passed away a year ago. The Trust paired us with a real cat lover who was more than happy to take them both. We received our first photograph of them on their second day sitting together, looking incredibly happy and relaxed. They were surrounded by familiar items from home—rugs, cushions, and more—so they are obviously going to enjoy "club facilities" again. Though still feeling a bit sad we are very relieved and know we made the right decision with Zoe's help at The Cinnamon Trust. We could not have wished for a better solution. It is all we could have hoped for: they are together continuing as indoor house cats with everything they need and endless loving care.

We have spent a couple of hours with the new foster carer and are glad to say we were really on the same wavelength. Our cats are truly going to have a home away from home. We are delighted with the care and attention Zoe at Cinnamon HQ took to ensure that Wyndhams and Nancy were matched to the perfect home and will remain in loving hands. We can now sort ourselves out and not feel worried. It is important for everyone to plan and make decisions well in advance, even though it is hard.

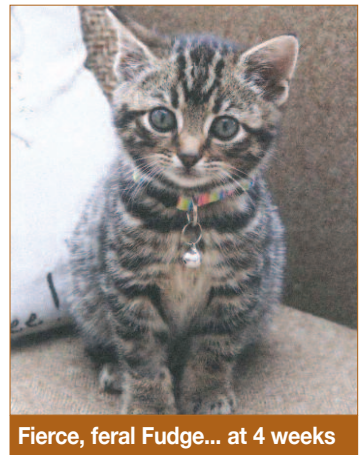
Thank you Cinnamon Trust, you are very special.



From County Durham **John** and **Carol** write about Fudge:

Dear Cinnamon Trust—Someone from your office phoned the other day to ask if I would be willing to write a little piece about how we found out about your organisation and why we have registered our much-loved cat Fudge with you. I hope the following is something along the lines of what you were wanting!

When we were aged 60 our lovely cat 'Holly' died aged 20. We decided against getting another as we realised that we could be in our 80's when it died. Then when we were 70 we found a tiny, starving, feral kitten abandoned in our garden. Within 24 hours she had firmly implanted herself into our home and our hearts - we named her 'Fudge'. Then came the realisation that she could very well outlive us! Whilst not an active worry at present, it has



Fierce, feral Fudge... at 4 weeks



..and all grown up at 4 years old!

nevertheless lurked at the back of our minds. Who knows what lies ahead; our age, infirmity or deaths could put an unwanted obligation or responsibility onto friends or family to undertake her care.

Then “The Cinnamon Trust” came to our notice in that stalwart magazine ‘The Oldie!’ We contacted The Trust and underwent the registration process for Fudge. We were so impressed by the depth of detail about Fudge that was asked for on the form - her routines, her likes, her dislikes, her food preferences and even her favourite toys! It has given us a great peace of mind to know that her needs will be met whatever circumstances should arise in the future. I would urge anyone worried about the future care of their pets to spread the word about The Cinnamon Trust, and equally importantly, to become a member and to donate to this remarkable charity.



Profiling your pet is so important!!

The Trust has grown year by year, improved our services and we always see it as a privilege to be able to give reassurance about the future of people’s pets. Our pet profiling service is better than ever and as our stories say, we do everything we can. We find the perfect foster homes for pets whose owners have either passed away or moved into residential care. We take note of every detail that you provide and use it to make the perfect match for your beloved pet’s unique character. Our aim is to maintain the love, care and comfort that you have always provided and ensure that we continue that love as we support pets in long-term foster care.

There is no time like the present to make lifelong provisions for your companion pets. We want to support you and your companion to be together until the very end, but in the event of your passing, let us ensure the ongoing safety and loving care of any pet left behind.

For more information about profiling your pet call Wendy on 01736 758706 or email petprofile@cinnamon.org.uk.



We now hear from some of our Long-term Foster volunteers.

Stephen and **Lorraine** from Norfolk write about Eric:

Eric was a puppy when his mum bought him. He was 18 months old when we first

met him; it was during the time of the Covid lockdown. Although his mum was disabled and could only walk a few steps on two walking sticks she had trained Eric to sit in the footwell of her disabled buggy. Together, they were able to drive to the nearby lifeboat car park where Eric would dismount and run freely over the adjacent beach and sand dunes with his doggy pals. Eventually, when he was ready, Eric would return to where his mum was sitting at a picnic bench and then he'd climb onto the buggy for the short journey home along quiet residential roads. This was a routine I witnessed happening twice a day—come rain, hail, gales, or sunshine—from my painting studio window.

It was on one of the return journeys on a bitterly cold and wet day that the disabled buggy broke down outside our house and it would not restart. I was upstairs making the bed when I saw their distress. I rushed out to see if I could assist. A low loader van was unable to travel down our narrow street without moving the buggy. Luckily, the driver and his mate kindly offered to put the disabled buggy on their low loader and deliver it home. I was able to give Eric and his mum a lift, and as they only lived a few streets away we were all soon at Eric's house. I took the opportunity to explain the wonderful help that The Cinnamon Trust could offer and I also mentioned that I, together with my husband Steve were Cinnamon Trust volunteers and that we would be more than happy to help out when needed. Eric's mum contacted The Cinnamon Trust and that is where our involvement began.

At first Eric was quite a challenge to walk as he had not had any lead training. However, he was quick to learn new commands without treats as a reward! We were very proud of him. He now has a wide understanding of words and phrases including knowing his right from his left. This has been very useful when throwing his ball. When there are other dogs who are also keen to play along we can tell Eric which way the ball is going to be thrown so that he gets a head start and can be there first.

There were some surprises in store for us. We were soon to discover that Eric is well known in our village and is treated like a 'celebrity'. At first, when we walked Eric we were shocked and often surprised when so many passersby would ask, "Is that Eric?" We are now used to people crossing the street to come over and stroke him, cars that pull up alongside us or folk open their front doors and rush to the gate for the children in the household to greet Eric. Eric is always keen to be stroked and loves being fussed. The postman regularly stops his van alongside us when we are out walking; he gets out to stroke Eric and to offer him a treat. Even returning holidaymakers at the local caravan park know Eric.



Eric's popularity started as he lived on the High Street and could regularly be seen sitting at his front gate canvassing the praise of the local school children on their way to and home from school. People getting off at the nearby bus stop would stop and say hello; even the local community police knew Eric—for good reasons, of course!

On the days we walked Eric we would call his house phone to let them know we were leaving our house, meaning that 5 minutes later we would be at Eric's door. Apparently, Eric would hear the phone ring and then run through the house barking madly. When we arrived, he would be dressed in a collar and harness and expectantly standing up at the gate. He would be concentrating hard on the spot in the street where we would appear. Once he saw us approaching he would bark and bark with excitement while running around in circles!

Over time, we were walking Eric more frequently as Eric's mum's health gradually changed for the worse. Sadly, her health deteriorated, and she was hospitalised in the spring of this year. We then became short-term foster parents of Eric in hopes of providing a safe, comforting home for him bridging the gap between his mum's return home. It was a very sad day for us all when we were informed that, unfortunately she would not be returning home. Instead, we were invited to take Eric to the hospital to say his goodbyes. It was his mum's wish that The Cinnamon Trust rehome Eric; her relatives tell us that she was overjoyed when she learned that he would be fostered long-term with us.

We stay as faithful as possible to the wishes of his mum and maintain the routines that she had put in place. We are pleased that Eric has settled in well and we think that, in part, it is because he still lives in the vicinity of his home where he is still in contact with many of his admirers. We have met so many lovely people through knowing Eric and his mum, and to this day, a few of Eric's admirers continue to stay in touch and pop in and visit Eric at home with us.

We dearly love Eric and he brings us endless joy. Eric has had a lot of new experiences as we have been able to take him to local parks, woodlands and even into shops and cafes, something his mum was unable to do. He is extremely obedient and well behaved but I think his favourite outing this year was when we all ventured down to the village pub to watch the World Cup. He thoroughly enjoyed the fuss and attention of the locals and spent most of his time lying on his back with his feet in the air being fussed.

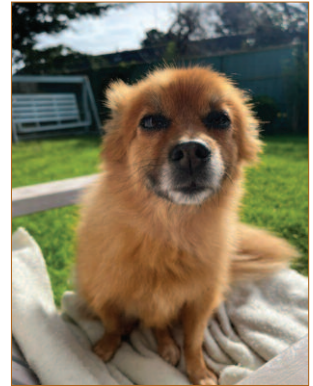
We feel blessed to have Eric in our lives and we are doing all we can to give him the loving home he deserves, with lots and lots of fun. We look forward to a bright future with Eric!



We now hear from our Big Walk Ambassadors **Jessie** and **Loxie** who live with their mum **Caroline** in Cornwall:

At long last the rain has ceased and the sun is shining brilliantly. This weekend I had the pure joy of working in the garden, my two delightful Cinnamon Trust dogs by my side offering their unique form of "assistance." Their help, if you can call it that, mainly consisted of them being underfoot (or should I say underhand) as I meticulously weeded my way through the flower beds. Were they helpful? Not exactly. But their antics were endlessly entertaining.

Loxie the Pomeranian has been with us since the middle of March and she is adjusting beautifully. She's an affectionate, loving little ball of fluff and beneath that voluminous fur she weighs less than Jessie the Jack Russell, a similar size but distinctly less fluff! Loxie came to us from a heart wrenching situation—her previous owners rapid decline in health and imminent need for full time care meant he needed to find a loving forever home for his companion. A brave Loxie left her previous life and stepped into a bewildering prospect of a new, unfamiliar home with strange humans and another dog. We made sure to keep everything calm and quiet allowing her the time she needed to explore and feel safe in her new surroundings. Now, she thrives. She plays a pivotal part in the gardening and is an enthusiastic companion to me and Jessie on our long walks.



Jessie, on the other hand has been my loyal companion for over two years. She too came to me under similar circumstances, her owner moving into residential care. Despite the upheaval, Jessie adapted quickly. A regular routine of two meals a day, a good long walk and ample laps to sit on seemed to be all she needed to feel at home. The dynamic between the two dogs has been nothing short of fascinating. Jessie and Loxie are so different in character yet they are forming a bond that warms my heart. Loxie might be the more intelligent of the two (apologies Jessie) and she has a knack for playfully teasing Jessie, especially when it comes to their shared love for balls. Despite having a dozen balls scattered around it's always the same ball that both dogs want at the same time!



Their playful rivalry and heartwarming companionship brings immense joy to my life. Watching them grow and bond has been an unexpected delight. Thank you Cinnamon Trust for making this possible. Your unwavering support and dedication

have not only brought these wonderful dogs into my life but also filled my home with laughter, love and companionship.



From Oxfordshire **Bob** and **Kim** write:

With an empty house after losing my beloved dogs to cancer, Toby has filled a massive gap. Losing our dogs left us with so much love to give and adventures to be had—adventures that felt like a waste to go dogless.

Sadly, Toby's owner had passed away and this special little man was in urgent



need of a home. Jo from The Trust called to see if we would like to long-term foster him. She let us know all about him, his loves, his hates, his charm and his character. I must admit I was sceptical at first, Toby a Collie x Terrier. Being a huge Labrador fan, it was difficult to picture anything else, but then the pictures arrived and how adorable he was! That face, along with the detailed description provided by Jo, the “yes” simply leapt out. We couldn't miss such an

opportunity when we were so desperately longing for some canine company.

Toby promptly arrived. He was such a happy chap, super friendly with everyone. He waltzed into our lives like he had known us for years. Trusting, relaxed and ready to go! He's taken to country life so well and spends most of the day chasing rabbits or with his head down a fox hole! The land lends itself to curious Terriers and job seeking Collies so his mixture meant that Toby became one with his new home very quickly and has no end of opportunities to scratch his doggy itches. He especially likes to 'scratch' his itches by rolling in the muck heap. Such fun! Obviously, just for him, not so much for us dog washers. The rest of the time is spent upside down on the sofa. The indoor-dog side of him takes over on impact with the sofa as quickly as it leaves upon seeing a rabbit.

He's fitted into the family so well; I can't thank The Cinnamon Trust enough for entrusting us to care for Toby. I now have my "shadow" back and the house feels right again. All pet lovers know the deafening silence of a pet-less home. Now the panting, the tapping of nails, the buzz, and I suppose... the smells have reawakened our happy home.

Thank you so much!



Beth from Cumbria writes about our Grand Dame **Bea** who is 19:

Meet Bea a world-class, stubborn-as-a-mule ‘naughty torty’. We affectionately nicknamed her ‘NutNut’ because of her habit of headbutting furniture whenever she was stroked! Bea and her sister joined us eight years ago when they were both 11 years-old. Sadly, we lost her sister Patch (aka FatCat) in 2020 but Bea is soldiering on and is now a remarkable 19 years old.



We weren't sure we'd be allowed to foster after the home visit. They asked where the cats would sleep and without thinking, I said “all the cats I've ever had have slept wherever they've wanted and I've not had much say in the matter!” I got that ‘look’ from my husband and thought maybe I'd blown it but the lovely folks at Cinnamon Trust clearly understand cats as well as we do. And after the fact, we found out that this answer actually went in our favour.

Despite being the more nervous of the two when we first got them, once she had her bearings, Bea showed us that she was very strong-willed and full of character. She knows what she wants and is very persistent about getting it whether it's food, cuddles or an endless supply of Dreamies.

We used to take them both on adventures in our campervan and they loved it. Although Bea has always been a house cat and never looked out of the windows at home, she was glued to the windows in the van, watching the world go by and shouting at the occasional passerby. Agile and inquisitive Bea found all the hiding spots in the campervan and particularly enjoyed leaping into the over-cab bed and snuggling in the duvet.

Of course she's much older now and has a list of ailments as long as your arm. Camping days are long behind us as she suffers from epilepsy triggered by sound. Things like tapping on a computer keyboard, the click of the gas cooker lighting, and the rustle of crisp packets can set it off. I'd like to say it's done wonders for our diet but we've just gotten used to opening packets in a different room—a small price to pay for our girl.

Although she's blind and growing increasingly deaf, Bea is really happy in her little world. Her nose still works perfectly—she can smell a slice of ham at 40 paces and can home in on a single treat in her bowl. She totally adores my husband and spends every evening curled up beside him snoozing away.

Bea has also proven that you're never too old to learn something new. We have an odd upside-down house with a balcony off the lounge (it sounds a lot posher than it actually is!) The balcony had been out of commission for many years, but late last year we got it fixed. Now we've discovered that Bea loves nothing more on a sunny day than plodding around the balcony taking in the smells in the breeze and basking in the warm rays.

At 19, we really don't know how much longer we'll have with her and we know we'll be heartbroken when the time comes to say goodbye. But we take comfort in knowing she's had a very happy life and still finds the energy for new adventure, albeit more sedate ones than in her heyday.



A moving story from **Stephen** and **Carole Curley** in Sussex:

Tinka the Terrier, affectionately known by his various nicknames such as Tink, Tinky or Winky is a delightful Yorkshire Terrier. Now 8 years-old Tinka has been part of our family for the past 4.5 years, living with my husband Steve and me.



Our journey with Tinka began under bittersweet circumstances. I was walking Tinka as a Cinnamon Trust volunteer for his original owner, his beloved mum when she tragically passed away. Tinka was there by her hospital bed to bid her farewell; he meant everything to her. In her will she entrusted Tinka to The Cinnamon Trust. Steve and I having formed a bond with Tinka through his previous stays with us and dozens of weekly dog walks offered him a loving home. Supported by The Cinnamon Trust forever more it felt like an unmissable opportunity for us and the best possible next step for Tinka. Familiar with us Tinka quickly adapted and settled in seamlessly.

Tinka is a cheerful little boy and his life is filled with simple joys. He delights in having a selection of soft day beds watching the world go by from the lounge window, basking in the sunlight or by the fire, enjoying his meals and playing with his soft toys. He has a penchant for cuddles and kisses and loves catching the attention of people in the park who often can't resist giving him a cuddle and complimenting his cuteness.

At night, Tinka sleeps snugly between our pillows wrapped in a teddy bear blanket and sometimes with a little hot water bottle for extra warmth. If he gets cold he slips under the duvet to warm himself against us. As you can tell he loves being warm, cuddling and being close to humans. His mornings start with breakfast and

a walk followed by a leisurely nap to while away the morning hours. Waiting for his next meal, a bit of play, perhaps another walk and looking forward to bedtime!

Indeed, Tinka enjoys the epitome of a dog's life! A life filled with love, comfort and happiness. It was a pleasure to be a part of his life before he lived with us and to help him through the daunting transition of life beyond his first owner. Now we get to enjoy a future together and it's as if he's always been with us.



A thank you from **Anne-Marie**:

We lost my dad last year to dementia and since then it has been very lonely in the house for my mum. She signed up to The Cinnamon Trust as she has always loved dogs and now with it being just her felt that this was the right time to be able to open her home up to a dog who had also lost someone and in need of a loving home.



That's when Dougal came along. At 13 years-old we were imagining an old man wanting to spend his days on the sofa being cuddled, this is quite the opposite and we love it. He is like a puppy playing with his toys, chasing around, going for walks in the park 2 or 3 times a day and wagging his tail at anyone and everyone.

Dougal has settled in really well and brings a smile to everyone's face as soon as they see him. He's great for my mum and gives her that reason to be up in the morning. Watching them go for a walk down the park together looks like Dougal has been in our lives for years, not weeks.

Dougal is very much loved and a part of our family now. Fostering him was one of the best things my mum could have done and we can't imagine life without him.



Foster mum **Diana** who is in Sussex writes:

I have been the fortunate recipient of two previous Cinnamon Dogs. Each time I have benefited from contact with the original owner, which has allowed me to help each dog settle in and to reassure their previous owners that their much loved companions will be well looked after. This is a very special thing to be able to do for a worried owner. However, it is often not possible with Cinnamon pets as many need new homes after their owners have passed away.

I have always had dogs in my life but at my age, I feel it would be unwise to have



a puppy. A more mature dog is perfect for me. Each dog I've had I have loved and enjoyed until the sad time came to say goodbye. One of my dogs had such exemplary calmness and gentle nature that she became a 'read-to' dog for children with special needs. My lovely George, my field Springer Spaniel, died in March of this year, and the thought of going through the winter without a companion filled me with dread so I called The Trust and then came Mollie. I received the call and couldn't believe how perfectly she 'fit the bill.' It felt ordained that she should come to me! The first dog I ever owned with my husband was a Papillon and Mollie's breed, Phalènes, are the flat eared sister breed

of the Papillon. It is fitting that I now have the wonderful Mollie to enrich my life and keep me company.

Mollie, at 12 years-old had always lived with her previous owners since she was a puppy so I wanted to make this huge transition for her as smooth and comfortable as possible. I kept in contact with Mollie's previous owner and had the knowledge of Mollie's little quirks, habits and funny ways. It was clear from our telephone discussions how dearly loved Mollie was and it is a great privilege for me to be an extension of that love and keep their devoted connection to each other.

Mollie is now my sole companion and a wonderful addition to my life. We were included in an oil painting by Tony Parsons while walking on the seafront and I now have a print of the original in my drawing room. This reminds me of the first time I took Mollie to the seafront, where she fell in love with the sights and smells of the coast. The joy of this moment captured in paint has stayed with us as the months tick by. We continue to grow together as an inseparable pair.

Every day, she makes me smile. For such a little girl she fills a room with warmth and joy. As a beneficiary of Cinnamon I wholeheartedly recommend them to anyone unable to manage their pets needs due to age or infirmity. Likewise, I encourage anyone able to offer a loving home or caring hands to an older person and their much loved pets to consider supporting this wonderful cause.



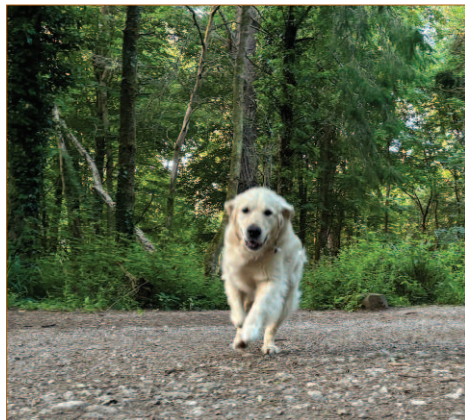
*"My name is **Ollie**, nice to meet you"* (like the famous Olly Murs sings)!

My mum was very poorly and my walks were restricted until The Cinnamon Trust sent along a wonderful volunteer to help and boy didn't I love my new adventures. I also had a wonderful private walker called Claire who loved me very much, she was the nice lady who rang The Trust when my mum passed away. I was 'profiled'

which meant that my mum had made a plan for me. When her time came I would find another family to love and care for me, and my mum could have absolute faith that I would have my every need met forever more.

I have been living with my new family for four months now and I have to say, they really haven't turned out too bad! I have another four legged friend Barney who is also a Cinnamon Trust long-term foster pet and has been featured in a previous article. He has been with my family for just over three years so I had to win him over as his paws were well and truly under the table. Well of course that didn't take long, with a face like mine, who could resist.

My goodness me, it was a shock getting up at 6am to go for our walks before heading off to the office. But now I understand the routine, I long for it! We have lots of nice walks to go on but my favorite place for sure is the beach. It is said I can get a bit 'vocal' and over excited, but I disagree. I don't know what mum's problem is. I just like to show everyone how happy and excited I am! And my brother Barney doesn't like to admit it when he's excited so I do his shouting for him too!



I now have a wonderful new waist line thanks to my exercise regime, good diet and the support of the wonderful welfare team at The Trust. I think I am on track to soon overtake my new friend Flash, he's a slippery speedy Spaniel and I can't keep up with him yet – just give me time!

If you are worried about what is going to happen to your pets should the time come, please put provision in place with The Trust, if my mum hadn't done this, I would not be with my new family enjoying the best life.



Martin tells us his story from Cambridgeshire:

Tommy came to me in early December 2020, just a few weeks before his 8th birthday. He was born on December 22 2012, making him a Christmas kitty. I was introduced to The Trust by my long-time friends Helen and Darren who often provide animal transport services to Cinnamon. This introduction came after the passing of my treasured Cavalier Jamie. I longed for a companion to share my home with and made my interest known to The Trust in taking on a bereaved pet.

In came Tommy! A red and ginger British Shorthair and quite a chunky chap at almost 6 kilos—nearly a stone in 'old money.' The moment his transport carrier was opened, he checked out my lounge and promptly settled on my lap. I certainly didn't expect that! We bonded very quickly and he's been my best pal ever since. He's an indoor/outdoor cat depending on his mood. He loves being outside meeting his feline friends, visiting the neighbours or greeting children on their way to and from a nearby school. A very sociable fellow.

Indoors, if he's not on my lap he's sleeping somewhere—that's his default position really. There are specific places I look when I can't find him: a box under my bed, the laundry basket and on one occasion the tumble dryer, now I always make sure that I never forget to close the door! I was informed before he arrived that he doesn't use a cat flap so I haven't installed one. Instead I've become his doorman.



I can't imagine life without him and consider myself very lucky to have such a lovely cat—calm, very affectionate and occasionally vocal when he wants something. Now, as he approaches his 12th birthday we recently discovered a problem with his gums. Our amazing vet practice Oakdale Vets (a big shout out to them) removed all his back teeth. Remarkably, this resilient cat was back to eating normally again within days of his procedure. All supported by The Trust's Animal Welfare team, with the vet bills all taken care of.

As I write this I have no idea where he is at the moment but I am confident he'll make himself known when he wants my attention.

Thank you to everyone at the Cinnamon Trust for trusting me with the care of this very dear cat Tommy—or Thomas when he's not behaving. Ah, he's just coming over the garden gate.... I must prepare myself for butler duties!



A story we can all relate to from **Alvin** and **Cindy Blench** in Surrey:

When Pepi our first Cinnamon Trust dog arrived in May 2019, he was a Chihuahua with thug-like front legs, wonky back legs and a very dubious personality. I thought, "goodness, what have we done?" However, I fell in love with Pepi very soon after and he was with us for four wonderful, albeit too short years. Pepi came with all sorts of allergies and sadly, an enlarged heart. I cannot stress enough how wonderful the Welfare Team of Sarah and Natalie were during all the trials and

tribulations. They kept us sailing straight and true despite the choppy conditions. They are truly the best!

My beloved Pepi achieved so much during our short time together. When he came to us, he didn't know how to cock his leg as he had been trained to squat on cat litter. After three years the big achievement happened: he weed like a big boy! He loved The Green, enjoyed going on a paddle boat to Windsor and had endless visits to the River Thames. We loved each other completely and were never apart for more than 15 minutes at a time for his whole life with me. Finally, his little heart was failing fast and the heartbreaking decision had to be made. He was put to sleep in March this year. The end for me was utterly devastating. Dogless, I felt lost, the absence of my constant companion left me with a large black cloud looming over me.



The clouds finally lifted when Moira asked if we would consider short-term fostering for another Chihuahua, and we agreed. Sadly, Mini's owner passed away on the day Mini was due to arrive and what was intended to be a short-term stop gap for Mini became a need for a long-term home. Without hesitation we offered to long-term foster Mini for the rest of her life.

Mini is the total opposite of Pepi. Whereas he was aggressive Mini is sweet and gentle. Whereas Pepi was overly confident, Mini is quiet and timid. When we took Pepi out for walks he would terrorise any dog, cat or interesting looking creature. Our postman was so terrified of Pepi that he never put a letter through our door for four years. Mini on the other hand is very polite, ignores all dogs, keeps to herself and in fact, loves our postman! The biggest change in our lives is that after four years of Pepi treating my poor husband with total disdain and regularly trying to nip him, household peace has returned as Mini loves my husband and wouldn't dream of doing such a thing!

I know comparisons are odious – I would have my grumpy, badly behaved Pepi back in a heartbeat and watching him grow and change was a daily joy. Mini with her gentle nature is a different kind of wonderful. She's slowly coming out of her shell and every day with her feels like a precious gift.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible care, support and kindness from everyone at The Cinnamon Trust especially the fantastic Moira, who was always there for us. Thanks to them we've experienced the joy of loving not just one, but two incredible dogs. It goes to show, love has no limits when it comes to our furry friends.

From Somerset **Gill** writes

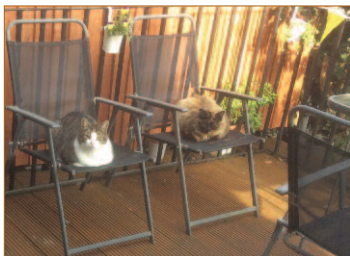
In the midst of Covid, three furbabies descended upon us

In February 2020, we lost our lovely rescue cat Maisie Moo who died too young at 10 years of age. Then lock down hit and everything went very quiet. We really missed Maisie so we began thinking of giving a home to another rescue cat and happened upon The Cinnamon Trust. On their website we came across a group of three cats who needed a home together. My wife looked at me and I knew I had to make a decision.



Topsy on Gill's lap

Yes, of course we had to take them all, so in June 2020, they came to stay. Topsy the eldest an all-black lady of 18 who was definitely the Matriarch of the family with a very loud voice. Then came our big boy at 8kg, Sam has a handsome tabby and white coat and was aged six years and last but not least came 5 year-old Sally who was a gorgeous fluffy tortie who we discovered had had some previous trauma and was extremely timid and shy. A baptism of fire springs to mind but we loved every minute of it.



Sam and Sally

Here we are four years later. We lost our lovely Topsy aged 21 last year the day before the King's Coronation Day and the house seemed very quiet for quite a while. Sam and Sally remain very much part of our family. Sam is a very chilled lovely boy and loves a cuddle. Sally has definitely come out of her shell although she runs a mile if the doorbell goes, but she loves strokes and head butts and has

a very sweet miaow and in her own way, she shows us that she is quite happy to be part of our family. She does draw the line at being picked up, however we live in hope that this might still happen one day.

So if anyone is thinking of long-term fostering we would highly recommend The Cinnamon Trust as the arrival of these fur babies has brought much happiness to our lives.



A story from **Angie** in East Sussex:

Meet Oscar the delightful foster dog who's bringing boundless joy into our lives! From the moment he arrived Oscar has settled in wonderfully. He's a true foodie,

eagerly anticipating his meals and his enthusiasm for walks and cuddles is simply heartwarming. It's so easy to understand his needs; he's an open book.

Oscar's intelligence shines through in the funniest ways. He knew exactly what carrots were from the get go and wasted no time letting us know he fancied a chomp on one! Recently, when I had to take Poppy our other dog to work for a dental appointment, Oscar's reaction was precious. We returned home and he greeted Poppy first just as our other dogs used to do. It was such a touching moment - checking she was okay and seeing if he could notice what's changed before coming to me for a loving embrace.

Oscar has also developed his own quirky habits. If we're working on the van outside he'll quietly take himself upstairs to bed. He's got a unique toileting preference too—he insists on doing his business in the garden rather than on walks. The moment we get back from the park he heads straight for the garden. We guess he prefers his own house for such intimate moments.

He is a text book case for doggy body language, he is so expressive and he's very responsive to our guidance. He seeks reassurance from us and loves being around us, although he does enjoy some alone time too. Mainly taking himself off to the kitchen despite dinner still being an hour away, just to check!

One of Oscar's favourite pastimes is sitting on the sofa watching the world go by. He's an absolute dream to walk and a fantastic travel companion in the front of the van, secured with his seatbelt harness. We're thrilled at the prospect of going on adventures together.



We were prepared for potential challenges and a period of adjustment but Oscar has exceeded all our expectations. We're not rushing him into anything like being left alone and it helps that Poppy, the most relaxed dog ever is a great influence on him. He's quickly adopting her laid-back attitude.

Thank you Cinnamon for allowing Oscar to become a part of our family. He has brought so much love and happiness into our home, and we can't wait to make more wonderful memories as a family!



A view from **Sue** in Somerset:

In 2008, I retired from Cornwall College. Having a lifelong love of dogs I deeply missed walking one. I heard about The Cinnamon Trust and decided to speak with them about volunteering. Over the next eight years we walked and fostered various dogs for The Trust on a short-term basis. In 2010, we moved from Cornwall to Somerset and decided it was time to have our own dogs to care for. We adopted two adorable 12 year-old Daxi crosses through a local rescue. We enjoyed four wonderful years of laughs, love and many walks before they both passed away: Jessie in 2019 and Sasha in 2020.

Being 2020, the pandemic was raging and after six months of lockdowns and restrictions I desperately wanted another dog to care for. Our house just wasn't the same without a dog in it. I thought of The Cinnamon Trust again and wondered if we could do a long-term foster. Volunteering and getting a short-term fix was one thing, but we wanted something a little more. After contacting Debbie and



discussing our situation, we were offered the chance to look after two small dogs whose mum was terminally ill. Bonnie, a 7-year-old Jackapoo and Poppy, a 9 year-old Jorkie joined our family. We met their mum and after showing her photos of where they would live and assuring her we would love to look after them, she sadly let them go, shortly after passing away herself. It was clear from

the start that they had not had much exercise recently given their mums poor health, as they were both full of energy and ready to go.

Over the next year we spent lots of time getting to know them. They had very distinct personalities and took it upon themselves to decide which one of us they would like to attach themselves to, to ensure a lap to always sit on. Bonnie chose Martin and Poppy chose me. They had a few issues such as not liking long car journeys and barking at almost everything, but these small hurdles were simply challenges to work on. As we were retired we could spend all day with them and they quickly formed a strong bond with us. With the help of treats, advice from a behaviour expert and twice daily walks, they soon started to settle down. They love the woods, the beach and open meadows.

Bonnie is full of curiosity, loves to meet people and other dogs and explore new places like coffee shops. Her naughty side loves to chase cats and squirrels. We've had many hilarious moments when she encounters fearless neighbouring cats. Poppy is a very nervous little dog, having been in and out of vets since she was a puppy. She hates the car and is very frightened of loud noises but she is absolutely fearless when confronted by other dogs. When we see another dog approaching Bonnie waits for Poppy to say hello and if it's safe, she rushes up to

join in. Poppy loves her evening cuddle with her dad and is the most efficient timekeeper I've ever met. She knows exactly when it's time for breakfast, dinner, tea and cuddles. Bonnie's only fear is flies in the house so all windows and doors have to be covered to keep them out.

Sadly, Bonnie developed Cushing's disease in April 2023 and has to be on pills for the rest of her life. One of the main benefits of long-term fostering from The Cinnamon Trust is knowing there is a team of people in Hayle who are willing to listen to concerns, give advice, support and help alleviate any worries. Being able to talk to a Vet Nurse and discuss physical symptoms and conditions has been a great relief. I had a previous dog who developed Cushing's so I know what to expect, but having someone to talk things over with is very comforting. The financial support from The Cinnamon Trust also makes a huge difference as treatment is very expensive. This, being entirely alleviated by the long-term support with vet bills that The Trust offers, was a tremendous help.

They are both nearly four years older than when we first met them and are understandably beginning to slow down. They both remain very vocal and communicate in a variety of barks. The girls are certainly full of character and each has their own set of traits. We now have our routines and are devoted to each other. They follow us everywhere, are very obedient when required and are an endless source of fun, love and long walks. What a great decision it has been to foster through The Cinnamon Trust and long may it continue.



Four times Life long fosterers **Roger and Christine** from Devon write:.



Whizzy bounded into our lives on February 19, 2022, a little timid at first, but full of potential. The transition from his previous home where his owner could no longer care for him due to illness, must have been daunting. However, it didn't take long for Whizzy to adjust and start thriving in his new environment.

We lavished him with cuddles and endless reassurance and it was heartwarming to see him become more lively and spirited each day. His appetite picked up and he eagerly anticipated his daily walks, exploring with boundless enthusiasm. Whizzy now enjoys the comfort of his own soft bed and delights in his basket overflowing with toys, especially his cherished yellow ball. This ball came with him from his original home and is his absolute favourite possession. Every evening he throws it about, joyfully retrieves it and realistically blows off some steam having a good old play, filling our home with his enthusiastic energy.

Whizzy has become an inseparable part of our family, showering us with love and affection. His charming personality and loving nature have endeared him to everyone we meet, spreading joy wherever he goes. We are profoundly grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for bringing Whizzy into our lives. He has filled our home with happiness, laughter and boundless love and we can't imagine our days without him.

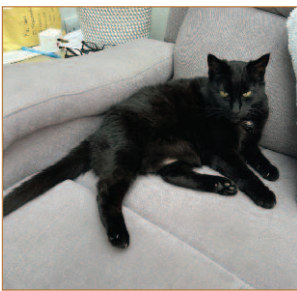


Let's hear from the **Parr Family** from Cornwall:

As a family we had tried our hardest to get used to life without a pussycat in the house after losing our beloved Biffy, earlier in the year. After some time, we just felt as though something was missing. After much deliberation, we agreed that we were in a position to offer a warm, loving home to another furry friend and our lives were much improved with the pitter patter of tiny paws.

We began following The Cinnamon Trust on social media to get a feel for what they do and whether this would be the right path for us. After a couple of weeks, we could see that a lot of care and attention was given to ensure that the right pet was homed with the right family.

Initially we made contact with The Cinnamon Trust regarding a little black cat called Martha. However, after chatting with Zoe a volunteer coordinator at Cinnamon head office, it was clear that even if we were not the right family for Martha they could certainly help find us the purrfect pussycat that would not just fit into our daily lives but bring with them enrichment and improvement.



We were soon matched with another black cat called Smudge. Once our home checks came back, we were ready to meet Smudge and as you can imagine, it went well. The matchmaking process being as thorough as it is, led to such a brilliant fit for both us and Smudge. We loved Smudge right away and Smudge... Well, she agreed to us! She shot out of her cat carrier without hesitating, bold as brass and has been running the household ever since!

We cannot thank the Cinnamon Trust enough for their care and attention to detail as they led us by the hand through the process of finding a new furry addition to our family. Smudge has settled incredibly well and now we can't imagine life without her. She has become woven into our family fabric.

Thank you to everyone involved! Becoming a fosterer for The Trust has been much

appreciated by us and of course by Smudge, who is far too busy sleeping on the sofa to offer her own thanks right now!



We would like to take a moment to remember some dear friends of The Cinnamon Trust.

Veronica Morris, Conwy, Wales

We were very sad to hear of the passing of our dear friend and volunteer Veronica Morris. A volunteer of over twenty years with The Trust, she had helped us with dog walking and fostering both short and long-term. She left behind her last foster Meg who now resides at Hillside Farm.

We will miss you very much but know you will be reunited with all your loved ones over the rainbow bridge.



Ronald Boylett, Surrey

This is a tribute to both Ronald and his beloved dog Toby. Ronald had been a keen supporter and friend of The Cinnamon Trust for nearly fifteen years and he shared much of his life with us. He lost his dear wife and dog in 2020 and was truly bereft. The following year he got Toby an older rescue dog who he immediately adored. When he told us he had a new dog we celebrated with him and sent fruit cake for Ronald and some dog treats for Toby. Our hearts went out to Ronald when we heard about Toby's passing and we were deeply saddened to hear that Ronald had passed away a few months later. Bless you Ronald, we will think of you often and imagine you reunited with your loved ones.



Our **Syl** (The life and times of an international heroine)

My cousin Sylvia Valerie Muriel Tipton, was born on 18th June 1937 in a little cottage down Longden Common Lane, which stands today and is around 150 yards away from Number 2 Royal Oak Cottages where she peacefully passed away on 29th November 2022.

Initial thoughts might lead you to think that this was a lady who didn't go far, who perhaps, had a narrow sheltered experience of life living in the place she called home, the place she loved for all her life. "Never make presumptions" is what my

old Grannie used to say and my old Grannie knew a thing or two, I can tell you!

Sylvia grew as children tend to do, becoming inseparable from her 'very best friend' Jean Edwards who lived just down the road. Jean and Sylvia remained 'very best friends' all their lives and Jean still lives just down the road to this very day.



Sylvia's Dad was a Staff Sergeant in the RAF and at one time was posted to Egypt where he was accompanied by Sylvia and her Mum, Peggy. Sylvia loved it there and never tired of telling tales of the pyramids, camels and the people who cared for their every need. She retained a great love for the 'Land of the Pharaohs' and her cottage contained many mementoes of her time there.

Eventually though, the time came for them to return to the UK. So back to Longden Common she went, living with her Mum, Dad and her grandmother and the inevitable dogs that formed such an important part of Sylvia's life.

At the age of only 16 years Sylvia was granted a scholarship at 'The Royal Academy of Music' and went to live in London for the next three years, which was no mean feat for a young lady of such tender age.

After finishing her studies Sylvia decided to make a momentous decision, and that was to travel to Australia as a 'Ten Pound Pom' after being offered a position at the New England Girls School.



Thus, she set off for a new life thousands of miles from where and whom she knew and loved, to travel halfway across the world, to who knows what.

We all imagined Sylvia settled in a new life where the world was her oyster. However, sadly and suddenly, came news from home

that her darling Daddy had suffered a heart attack and had passed away. She made her way home as soon as possible to be there to help her mother cope with her grief, as well as her own.

Sylvia had to work as her Mum's only income was from the piano lessons which

she gave which supplemented her late husband's pension. A position for music teacher became available at Adcote, a private girl's school outside Shrewsbury. Sylvia remained at Adcote until retirement.

Sylvia spent a very happy retirement with a constant succession of dogs which were always rescue animals. Dogs were so important to Sylvia and she was never without a furry companion.

One New Year's Day Sylvia had a serious accident, she was badly injured and became disabled, meaning the very worst thing, she could never walk her dog again. People rallied round to help with the walks and The Cinnamon Trust supplied her with two lovely volunteers to exercise Tilly. Tilly was to remain her purpose for life and her companion until the day that Sylvia left us. Faithful Tilly went to live with Gill, who used to walk her and was a lovely friend to Sylvia.

So, is that the end of the story or not?

You may recall that I told you that she returned home when her father died and made a great sacrifice, she gave up the wonderful life which she had found in Australia and she gave it up for the sake of others, namely her mother and grandmother.

That act serves to illustrate the nature of commitment of the lady to the needs of others, both human and animals alike. This was never more evident than in her commitment to charitable causes and this was something which she did throughout her life. At the time of her passing she supported fourteen different charities every month and that was apart from her responses to special appeals for disasters and such. Sylvia's attitude was 'if they need it and I can give it, then so be it'.

However, her main love in life and her mission was to the cause of animals, whether it be her own or other's dogs, badly treated working animals around the world, or the birds outside her window on whom she spent countless amounts on feeding them. Sylvia just loved all animals and would do literally anything for them and that had been her attitude throughout her life.



I could go on and on with tales of my cousin Sylvia and I really wish that I had managed to convince her to get somebody to write down her life story. I believe that it was a life well lived and one that truly affected the world in the way that the fluttering wings of a butterfly reverberate around the planet.

So, well done to you my cousin, thank you for all that you were and all that you did and thank you, on behalf of everybody who has ever benefited and will continue to benefit from your generosity and sacrifice. Cheers, and here's to you Syl, thanks for the ride !!

Jeff xx

We are very grateful to Jeff for this story which outlines not only the difference our Cinnamon Trust volunteers made during Sylvia's life but also the legacy she leaves behind which will enable us to continue our work in her name.

With almost 40 years of cherished memories, over 20,000 dedicated volunteers, and more than 150,000 pets supported every year, we have so much to be proud of. This incredible journey wouldn't have been possible without the generous individuals who have included us in their wills. Their kindness has made a profound impact, helping older and terminally ill pet owners stay with their beloved pets and ensuring that pets left behind are lovingly cared for, with no expense spared, when their owners can no longer do so.

Your support is what keeps our mission alive. Through your donations, we maintain our purpose built home-from-home pet sanctuaries and provide lifelong care and financial support for thousands of foster pets. Every penny truly makes a difference!

Now, it's easier than ever to create your will, and The Cinnamon Trust offers a free will-writing service to help you. To learn more or to start making provisions, call Caroline on 01736 757 900. Your legacy can ensure that the love and care we provide continues for years to come.

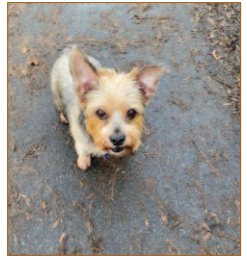


Our volunteer **Caroline** from Middlesex wrote this before **Muffin** passed away:

We decided to include the story as a tribute to him. Our heart goes out to Sue, Muffin's Mum and our grateful thanks go to Caroline who made such a difference to Muffin and Sue's life.

"I was introduced to The Cinnamon Trust by a friend Julie Hill, who was walking Saffy a lovely Staffordshire Bull Terrier. I always had dogs as a child and have

been doing dog walking and dog sitting for a local agency for a number of years but wanted to do something more.



I went to meet Sue Hall and Muffin at their home and from the minute I arrived, I knew it was going to be a success. Sue's mobility has gradually deteriorated but despite being nearly 11 years old, Muffin is still full of life. Muffin is ball mad - he has a row of them lined up by the front door and they're all different colours - one for each day of the week perhaps? He will decide which colour he's going to play with on which day and woe betide if you try to pick another one!

I have now been walking Muffin for nearly two years and he is just so easy. For a long time I did keep him on the lead but he so wanted me to throw the ball to chase, so with Sue's permission I let him off. We have never looked back. If he's had enough of running Muffin will simply keep the ball in his mouth until he's ready to run again and if it all gets too much, he'll find a spot and lie down.

There is a huge park opposite Sue's flat which we often use but some weeks we venture further to Crane Park - I have a doggy seat belt in the back of my car so with his harness on and safely clicked in, we can walk along the river and Muffin enjoys a little paddle whatever the weather. Being so small though it's not just his feet and legs that get wet but his whole lower body so there's a towel on the back seat ready to wipe him down.

When I arrive on a Sunday morning, Muffin is normally at the window and the minute he sees me he's off and I can hear him barking madly, ready to go. A quick chat with Sue and we're off - me and my mate Muffin".



A heartwarming tribute to **Trudy** written by our volunteer **Jane** in Cumbria:

The 12th December was a very sad day when beloved Trudy (Springer/Pointer cross) passed on to doggy heaven after a wonderful life of almost 17 years. Quite a milestone in itself to reach such a grand old age and particularly with a heart condition being diagnosed as a puppy. She didn't let it stop her one bit and lived life to the full right to the end.

I became one of her many devoted walkers after responding to an ad in our local paper appealing for help. I had never heard of The Cinnamon Trust but after routine checks were complete, I was soon signed up and ready to go.

Trudy and I hit it off from the start and after a few do's and don't's from Mum



Cobi we very carefully set off on our way. This became a regular thing, two afternoons a week for almost eight years. We enjoyed so many varied walks together and in her younger days Trudy always demanded a stop at some point en-route for a game of tug ball. She was so enthusiastic and agile and made our walks so entertaining. She was full of fun and mischief. Another of her demands was to pull towards certain benches where we would sit as she knew there would be a tasty treat for her. She knew exactly which owners gave her a treat and would spot them at a 100 paces. At the age of 15 Trudy got herself a toyboy, a big boisterous red labrador called Jasper, 2 years old. They got on famously which was quite

bizarre as she was always so cautious with other dogs. They would spot each other at some distance even when they hadn't met for several weeks. I would return home telling Cobi that Trudy had seen her boyfriend again, we did laugh. Trudy reached celebrity status having out lived all the local contemporaries.

One favourite place to walk was a local area known as The Helm, a bracken strewn hillside overlooking the town of Kendal. A few years ago it was Cobi's wish to return there with some assistance for a final time. She enlisted the help of another friend who walked slowly with Cobi using her crutches towards a bench half way up the hill. Trudy and I led the way but not too far ahead as Trudy was constantly looking over her shoulder to check mum was still following, she was.

Being a Cinnamon Trust walker has been the most rewarding experience. I feel quite privileged to have been given the opportunity, it's such a good feeling to be able to help the owners and their four legged friends stay together. It's also perfect for anyone who loves fresh air, exercise and meeting other like-minded people. I'd thoroughly recommend it to anyone whatever your age if you have a little spare time to give.

As the days pass the pain of losing Trudy gradually eases. She was one very special lady with a big personality who will never be forgotten and leaves us with some very fond memories in our hearts.



In Memory Of:



Oska Mills-Farinas (Age 15)



Riminy Bowden (Age 15)



Suzy Hodgkinson (Age 13)



Toby Sanders (Age 13)



Amber Clark (Age 14)



Misty Urquhart (Age 17)



Lucy Anderson (Age 16)



Kiki Fothergill (Age 10)



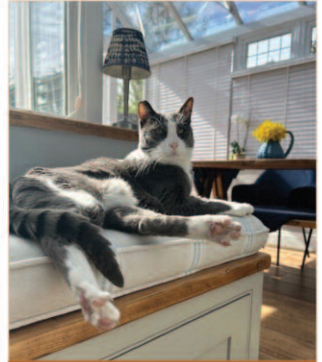
Bella Child (Age 16)



Misty Mason (Age 15)



Sassy Anderson (Age 11)



Sami Beasley (Age 14)



Suzi Reeder (Age 11)



Phoebe Bailey (Age 14)



Rascal Wilson (Age 14)



Katie Davis (Age 13)



Tepi Barnett (Age 10)



Benji Booth (Age 13)

We are sending our love and condolences to anyone in our community who has experienced loss this past year. Here we display a collection of photographs of Cinnamon pets that we have lost over the last 12 months. There are, of course, many more that passed over the rainbow bridge, and we must take a moment to make it clear that those not represented are no less loved, appreciated, or respected as the pets seen above.

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

Jeanette Withey (Gwent), **Louise Cotterell** (Oxfordshire), **Graham Card** (Hampshire), **Jarvis Turner** (Lincolnshire).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Antonia Harmer (Surrey), **Fay Stanley** (Kent), **Linda Clark** (Essex), Helen Blundell (Devon), **Peter & Ruth Ananicz** (Cambridgeshire), **Penny Germon** (Bristol), **Maria Smith** (Somerset), **Veronica Ace** (Yorkshire), **Lisa Jones** (West Midlands), **Lynda Lunn** (West Midlands), **Eleanor Perry** (Somerset), **Sian Fletcher** (Sussex), **Angie Tinkler** (Sussex), **Lynne George** (Sussex), **Marilyn Wright** (East Sussex), **Tim & Sarah Spurry** (Nottinghamshire), **Rosalind Baillie-Sparkes** (Norfolk), **Hilary Cook** (Lincolnshire), **Chris Perry** (Hampshire), **Wendy Hills** (Surrey), **Sheila Thomson** (Mid Lothian), **Jim & Jan Mitchell** (Sussex), **Judith Mantell** (Somerset), **Louise Steward** (Cheshire), **Harriet Nott** (Cornwall), **Jenny Cross** (North Yorkshire), **Margaret Jones** (Staffordshire), **Maureen Nicholas** (Cornwall), **Jennie Sutton** (Northamptonshire), **Gillian Barnfather** (Surrey), **Celia Holder** (Sussex), **Susan Ferrier** (Mid Lothian), **Ruth Armstrong** (North Yorkshire), **Margaret McDove** (Lanarkshire), **Joan Cuthbert** (Lancashire), **Jackie Shaw** (Shropshire), **Cynthia Foster** (Yorkshire), **Linda Simanis** (Surrey), **Steve & Susan Hussey** (Warwickshire), **Diana Watson** (Staffordshire), **Rosemarie da Costa** (Lincolnshire), **Louise Robertson-Cooper** (Northamptonshire), **Lucy Marr** (Hampshire), **Elizabeth Barber** (Yorkshire), **Yvonne Gray** (Kent), **Natalie Brown** (Hampshire), **Val Wagner** (Gloucestershire), **Jennifer Weekes** (Hertfordshire), **Joanna Pease** (Buckinghamshire), **Lindsay Henry** (West Midlands), **Mary Dawson** (Middlesex), **John Wells & Eliza Lawler** (Devon), **Jacqui Hall-Palmer** (Somerset), **Janette Rose** (Norfolk), **Margaret John** (Essex), **Katie De Cruz** (Hertfordshire), **Laura-Jane Sheridan** (East Lothian), **Cheryl Manning** (Devon), **Charlotte Mapp** (Cheshire), **Stella Crennell** (County Durham), **Lesley McKenzie** (Lanarkshire), **Rowena Cartwright** (Yorkshire), **David Paull** (Somerset), **Ann Potter** (Merseyside), **Jo Clewlow** (Warwickshire), **Christine West** (Norfolk), **Elizabeth Hill** (Derbyshire), **Irene Crisp** (Norfolk), **Nigel Hopkins** (South Yorkshire), **John Magill** (Devon), **Sharon Solomon** (London), **Jillian Davis** (Nottinghamshire), **Helen McBride** (Essex), **Louise Morgan** (London), **Susan Crocker** (Kent), **Mary Ede** (Berkshire).

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

Rachel Ashley-Caunt (Cambridgeshire), **Janet Carrod** (Cambridgeshire), **Vikki Clark** (Suffolk), **Doris Lockey** (Kent) and **Shirley Sinclair** (Kent).

Hillside Farm Sanctuary

We welcome some new friends



Daisy

Daisy 19yrs (cat) Seal Point Birman - Daisy is a sweet, noble lady who knows what she wants and is not afraid to ask. She settled in easily and quickly made herself Queen of the cattery. From her sofa she eagerly calls the staff to do her bidding, either for food or some fuss. Daisy is not afraid to ask for what she wants!

Tanya 13yrs (dog) Labrador x Collie – Tanya is such an easy-going soul. She likes nothing better than the chance to snooze in her favourite spot, right in the middle of the main lounge! Don't let this snoozing pooch fool you, she has a radar for a rustling packet, quickly jumping into action. She's an absolute softie and took Sanctuary life in her stride.



Tanya

Sandy 15yrs (cat) Ginger DSH – Sandy is a very handsome and reserved gent. He keeps to himself but will happily accept any fuss you might have to offer him. Quietly confident, we have no qualms that he will easily find his place in the cattery, having already found a place in all of our hearts.

Bear 4yrs (dog) Rottie – This absolute chunk of a lad arrived on a short- term basis while he was waiting for his long-term foster parents to be ready to receive him into their new home. He needed some serious TLC after having entropion surgery, which we gave him in abundance. Such a champ, he has barrelled his way into our hearts and it was an absolute pleasure to care for him for the short while he was here. Bear is now happily settled with his new family and we couldn't be happier for him!



Sandy

Meg 15yrs (dog) Mini Jack Russell – What



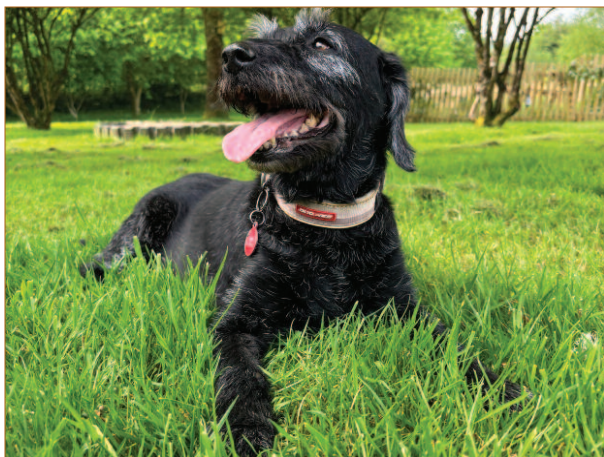
Bear



Meg

a little firecracker this lady is! Meg had no trouble settling in, acting like she owned the place from day one. She might be fifteen and small, but my goodness is she mighty! Loves nothing more than a free lap to sit on, she's an absolute gem.

Betty 12 (dog) Labradoodle – Betty is a really fun character. She's interested in everything and given the chance she will open the fridge and help herself. Likes to charge down the grassy hill full speed and then slide the rest of the way on her belly. What a wally!



Betty

Chalkie 12 (dog) Bichon Frise x Westie – Chalkie is a lovely boy, taking sanctuary life into his stride. This curly cutie will charm you with his big brown eyes and quickly demand belly rubs and fuss. He does have a penchant for



Chalkie



Barney

chewing on your boots or the cuffs of your clothes... Lovingly of course!

Barney 15 (cat) DSH Black and White & **Lou-Lou** 18 (cat) DSH Tortie. These two are already firm favourites. Such a charming pair, they love any and all fuss and love you can give them. We look forward to learning more about them as they settle in to sanctuary life.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to some of our dear residents: Each and every one will be missed and leave a hole in our hearts.

Charlie 16yrs (cat) 29/01/24 – Our dear Charlie Boy. The cat with legs all the way up to “here”, he strutted around the cattery, shouting for his supper and commanding cuddles. A soft, special soul, he is deeply

missed by all who knew him.

Rosa 20yrs (cat) 23/02/24 – This lady was a real character. Arriving in a great group of kittens; Jumbo, Lenny and Dolly, she was every inch the matriarch of the cattery. A beautiful lady, we miss her every day.

Rose 15.5yrs (cat) 26/02/24 – As pretty as her namesake, this lovely girl had such a kind, strong but soft soul. Was most likely to be found holding court in the garden with her chatty sister Fleur.

Daisy 19.5yrs (cat) 01/03/24 – This crown jewel was queenly in every sense of the word. A gentle but mighty character, she made her presence known and we will never forget it.

Tigger 17.5yrs (cat) 05/03/24 – Our rumbunctious ginger boy. A playful and mischievous character, he would wait for the fridge to be opened, ever the opportunist for some freshly cooked fish or chicken that might be leftover.

Milly 16yrs (cat) 16/04/2024 – Our long-haired beauty. Mum to **Bonnie** and **Bella**, arrived with a similarly long-haired lion, **Ferdie**. She would do anything for a small slither of chicken skin. A real diamond of a cat, we still find ourselves looking out for her even now.

Monty 19yrs (cat) 24/05/2024 – This cheeky chappy will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege to meet him. The cattery won't be the same without his

attempts to bat you as you walked by. Never to be fooled by his sassy exterior, this lovely puss was a real softie at heart and loved his fuss and cuddles as much as his housemates.

As usual its been a busy time at Hillside. It was a wet and windy winter for everyone, so we were so relieved to swap wellington boots for... well... wellington boots! But at least our socks, fur and feathers are dry.

We never let Pancake Day pass us by without flipping a few for the dogs and then Valentine's Day is a great excuse to shower our residents with love. We gathered together to gift some hampers to our furry friends.

Easter signaled a real change in the seasons, although someone forgot to tell the rain clouds that. We are never deterred by a bit of drizzle (or a downpour) so we moved our Easter egg hunt indoors. The team enlisted the help of some curious kitties to discover all the hidden eggs in the cattery. There was no chocolate inside, it was even better than that; each egg held a number of crunchy cat treats and some held a few dog treats to pocket for their canine neighbours.

The team battled it out, bagging points for each egg found and after judging some delicious Easter bakes, the grand winners were announced. All that excitement was topped off with a picnic in the dog building sparking the age-old debate... Scones: Cream first? Or jam?

Taking advantage of some dry weather we descended upon Strawberry Fields, a local farm shop, en masse to take part in their Spring Trail Walk. It was a lovely outing for humans and dogs alike, with lots of activities to take part in along the way. We were lucky that it was so quiet, as it is known to be a constant crowd pleaser. It gave the dogs more space to explore and sniff and even a chance for some of the team to jump in the ball pit! Although climbing out for some of us "elder" team members proved a challenge.

Birthdays are always celebrated and each animal is given the full royal treatment. Sometimes that means a trip with their favourite person to Roadford Lake for a cheeky chippy or two, or a wander and woof in the woods. For those less mobile, we make sure to pamper them right here at home with their favourite toys and treats. If the weather is on our side we might even get to fill the paddling pools for a garden splash party!

Now that the Summer is here we look forward to more drier adventures and time spent in the fields sniffing and snuffling in the bushes. The wildlife is clearly enjoying the season as our hedgehog family have returned and the squirrels are very busy swinging off the bird feeders and jumping from branch to branch.

None of it would be possible without our dedicated team. Each one gives the residents all of their love, time and support when they need it and the happy lives each dog, cat, tortoise, pigeon, duck, chicken, quail, finch, horse and sheep enjoy here is a testament to that. We are all truly honoured and blessed to be able to share in the care of so many lovely pets.



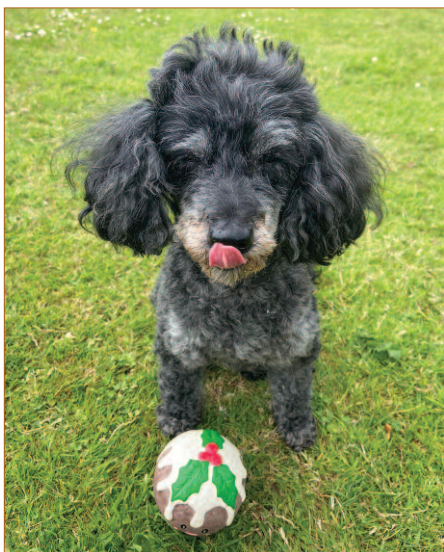
Poldarves Farm Sanctuary



Freddie

Welcome to our new friends:

Freddie (12) West Highland White Terrier: Freddie is a fantastic little character. He came to us after having surgery on his ear canal which means he can't hear out of one ear. This does give him a good excuse to have selective hearing when you call him, especially if he is having fun doing something he shouldn't like eating someone else's dinner! As soon as he sees a lead he knows it's fun time and his little tail will wag frantically and he will bounce, spin and squeak until it's time to go. Freddie loves nothing better than to snuggle up to his favourite human in bed at night, this can be any human, if you are in bed, you are his favourite human. He celebrated his 12th birthday with us in March and the very talented Rory made him a fabulous, dog friendly birthday cake which was shared by all the dogs they had a fabulous time with games etc at his party.



Marco

Marco (12): black toy poodle - Marco is a very fun loving boy, he loves to be occupied and needs attention at all times and will shout loudly until he gets it. It is very easy to shower him with love and attention as you get it back tenfold. He never goes far from his best buddy Cody but is very adventurous and loves his walks, the best bit is when he has a ball thrown for him, he will bring it back but

isn't so great at giving it up and can't understand why you won't throw it when it is still in his mouth. When he isn't displaying his high energy antics he will happily snooze on the nearest lap.

Cody (14): black toy poodle – Cody loves his brother Marco and although not joined at the hip they will snuggle up together at nights. Cody is a gentle soul who is extremely polite, will wait until invited to jump on your lap and wriggles down for a snuggle when he gets there. He loves his walks and is very active, belying his years. His favourite place is the beach with the woods a close second. But really anywhere will do but if a car ride is involved he knows he is going somewhere special.



Cody

Chloe (16): Long haired Dachshund – Chloe loves everyone, two and four legged. She will snuggle up to anyone and will tell you loudly when she wants to be lifted and carried around or just given a hug, which is a lot of the time. She likes to go out with the others on a walk and have a good sniff, this dear old lady is such an elegant little princess that you just can't help falling in love with her. Another little girl that demands to go to bed with her human at night and woe betide if you don't put her on the bed first you will get a very stern look and a big thank you kiss when you pick her up.



Chloe

Tink (9) and **Roo** (9): Chihuahuas these litter mates are very entertaining. There is a lot of sibling rivalry between them especially where a lap for cuddling is concerned. They are very energetic girls and are always on the go. Wherever Tink goes Roo is never far behind. Although there's a bit of rivalry they are always



Tink, Roo and Amy



Dizzy

together and will be found sleeping in the same bed or on the same sofa. They are real sun worshipers and no matter how hot it gets they will bask in the summer rays. Both of these girls will vie for attention and can quite often be seen on their back legs, shouting me, me, me..... They love to go for a walk and are into absolutely everything. Whether woods, beach or fields they just love to go exploring, together of course! Tink and Roo sometimes believe they are on the x factor as they perform some very nice operatic sounds. They sometimes have a third member of their group as Marco will join in with the tune. You will have a dawn Chorus, a lunchtime Chorus and even a midnight Chorus.



Daisy

Dizzy (16): When Dizzy arrived she wasn't the slimmest of ladies. She has lost some weight through being active in the cattery. She is a bit of an aristocrat and expects everyone to move out of her path. If not they get a little nudge. The only exception being her daughter Daisy who gets away with taking liberties with her mummy. Dizzy is quite comical as she sits upright when she grooms herself and looks like a cat version of Buddha. A very loving girl she is a pleasure to have around and loves a scratch and cuddles.



Prince

Daisy (14): Daughter to Dizzy she is much more active than her mum and can be seen going from garden to garden exploring and loves to watch the geese and ducks frolicking in the sun. She is a very playful cat and enjoys running after toys and catching anything that moves quickly.

Prince (12): A very sleek and beautiful boy. Prince is well named and his regalness is there for all to see. He commands attention and strokes from anyone passing by and will use his handsome big head to butt anyone who dares to ignore him. His huge big paws are perfect for kneading. Very loving and friendly to everyone. He loves to hide behind the curtain and peep out the window watching everything that is going on.

Sandy (15): Such a pretty girl, she is the belle of the ball and is a very happy but shy little girl. Always purring and very pleased to see you, loves to be stroked and is quite partial to a few dreamie cat treats. She does her best to hypnotise you by staring directly into your eyes and she will hold the stare until you break the bond.



Sandy

Sadly, we have said farewell to **Rufus** (18) Ginger and white DSH cat and **Marion** (21) Black miniature Shetland pony

We have been very busy at Poldarves. Spring seemed to have erupted in a blaze of colour, growth and warmth which has seen the tortoises come out of hibernation, squirrels being more active and lots of sunbathing.

Valentine's day was fun for staff and residents alike, we had dates to Marazion beach with the fabulous backdrop of St Micheal's Mount, Helston's Coronation Park for ice cream to name but a few places and lots of kisses and licks of course.

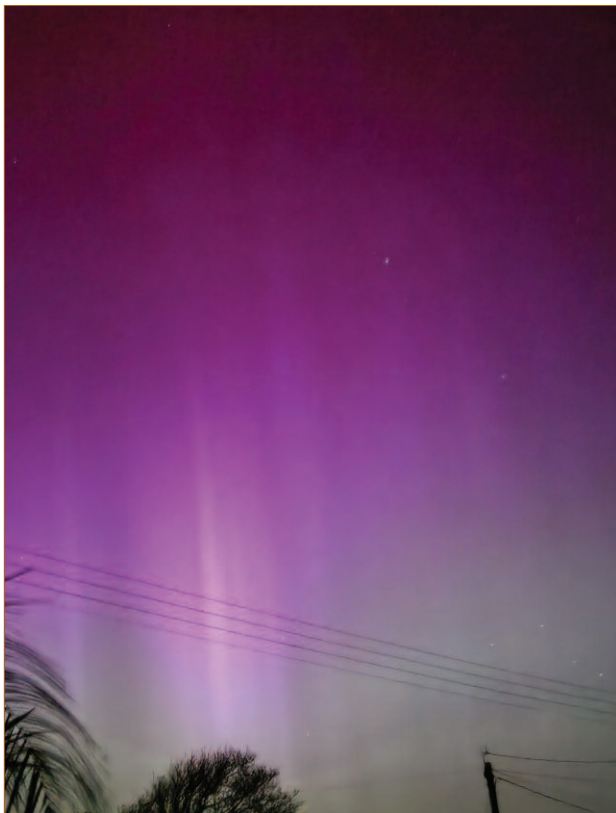


Valentine Ming and Georgie

St Piran's Day (Cornwall's Patron Saint) gave us a great excuse to make dog friendly pasties for the residents, whilst Shrove Tuesday was a pancake fest.

Easter saw egg hunts with doggie and cat treat hunts which was rather fun. Whilst the staff had a great fun competition to see who could make the best egg artwork.

On the 10th May nature gave us a stunning display of the Northern Lights and as Poldarves is fortunate enough not to be polluted by light it was just mesmerising.



The Northern lights

Next on the agenda was a trip to a local dog show which was great fun and of course our little ones strutted their stuff and came home with rosettes, making us all very proud.

Birthday parties happen throughout the year but we have had extra special cakes made by staff member Rory who is a very talented baker.

With a fairly wet start to the season grass has been flourishing. This has enabled us to have a jiggle around with the fields. The ponies have now moved in together to form a big herd of little people. They are really enjoying this and Bella and her mum Bridget are happy to be in the same



Tara and Freddie at the Dog Show



The local dog show

field. We can now rotate the fields ensuring daily fresh grass for all, but not too much for little fat tummies.

Baby has been given access to longer grass which she loves and she can be seen curling her big tongue around it and scooping it into her mouth. Her big soft eyes seeming even softer as she munches on big mouthfuls.

Pepper is enjoying her wallow and Suzie the poodle decided that she would quite like a mud bath too and jumped in. Every time she is in Pepper's field she makes a beeline for it, but after the first lot of muddy paws we now re-direct her.

As the sun comes out and the flies with it, it was time for our herd of sheep to be shorn. The sheep were all very relieved to have their winter woollies removed in the heat and were gambolling about like lambs afterwards. A local lady has had some of the fleeces to spin and make woollen rugs from.

The sheep have also had some extra grass near the squirrels which is providing extra shade and scratch areas. They did however, dash back to their original paddock every time the squirrels made a loud noise but they have soon come to learn that they are not sheep eating squirrels and have now settled.

We have had lots of visits so far this year including Evie's mum and dad, Julie and Eddie. Lucy's mum, Hilary came to see her girl who was delighted as usual and staff member Jess, who is on maternity brought her new baby Jax to meet all the residents.

We have had lots of lovely adventures to the woods, nearby National Trust properties and local beaches. The beaches have now been closed to dogs during the day in July and



The pony herd



Baby



August but we can still go for some lovely evening strolls. We are all really looking forward to lovely Summer picnics and even more adventures. The summer is bringing our wildlife out and we have seen bats, mummy and baby foxes who seem to take great pleasure of walking in front of the dog's window and teasing them, pheasants, swallows nesting in the stables and lots of species of birds including woodpeckers. We are looking forward to long summer evenings for extra walks and some more sunshine so that the dogs can get back in the paddling pool.



Julie and Eddie, Lucy's mum and dad



Hilary



Jess and her son Jax



Poetry Corner

Sheila Robson wrote the following poem after her dog Dougie's mum, **Josie**, died last year

Josie has crossed the rainbow bridge
The one that is up in the sky
That all dogs have to cross
When their time is up & they die

Josie was sad to leave her friends
And her owner who loved her best
But Josie had been very ill
And she badly needed to rest

She said she'd wait by the pearly gates
And there she would remain
Until she could meet with her owner
And they'd be together again

A Farewell To Hobbit from Lorraine Eggleton.

Hobbit was a tiny, homeless kitten
Found under a tree in a church yard
Abandoned in Wales he was alone and forlorn
But kind Kay rescued him and gave him a home

He had an adopted brother
Who came home with Hobbit too
Sadly, Oliver as they named him
Was taken away by God far too soon

But Hobbit thrived, cossetted from the start
Always embedded deep in Kay's heart
Some say he was just a common cat
But me? Well I never really believed that

Maybe it was the look in his eyes, the shape of his face
The disdainful turn his head but always full of grace
Somewhere buried deep many generations before
A well-bred cat came to the surface once more

The love between them grew strong and fast
But as the years went by the time came at last
When poor Kay had to face her worst fears
Knowing that nothing could stem her flow of tears

A decision was reached and as any animal lover will tell you
To help them on their journey is the kindest thing to do
So a very kind vet came in as Hobbit lay in his favourite bed
And in no time at all Hobbit started his journey to what lay ahead

So don't cry any more Kay, Hobbit is out there still having fun
Maybe at the caravan basking in the seaside sun
Maybe he is playing with Ollie again as only kittens can
Tumbling and fighting as around the paddock they ran

So keep the faith Kay it's not the end but just a new start
Hobbit will remain forever in your loving heart



And Finally....

This year has brought its own set of challenges and triumphs, but through it all, the commitment of our supporters, volunteers and every member of staff has remained steadfast. Together we have achieved remarkable milestones and I am filled with hope that as we start our fortieth year, with your continued support, we will be able to reach even greater heights and help even more people and their pets.

Let us raise a glass to celebrate all those who have continued to support us throughout the year, remembering those who are no longer with us but will remain forever in our hearts.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Take care.

Patrick Williams

Chief Executive

